

# CITY OF PORTAGE SURVEY COVER LETTER

The City of Portage has contracted with Vierbicher, a planning consulting firm in Madison, to update both its 2008-2028 Comprehensive Plan and its 2013-2018 Recreation and Forestry Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is required to be updated every ten years under Wisconsin Statutes, while the Recreation and Forestry Plan is intended to meet Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) requirements for stewardship grants through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). As someone who lives or works in the City of Portage, you are a key part of the Plan development process. Please take the time to provide your opinions on the City's overall future. It is very important that the survey receives a high response rate so that the City can create an accurate and useful Plan. At the end of each survey, you may enter your email, or name and physical address if you would like to be more involved in the planning process. Doing this will automatically enter you into a drawing for a gift card to a local business.

Entries will be limited to one per email or post office address. Winners will be notified via email or local address, and survey responses will be kept separate from email addresses and local addresses to ensure responses remain anonymous.

Two separate surveys are enclosed. The first is for the Comprehensive Plan, and the second is for the CORP. You may take either one, or both of the surveys. Survey responses will be collected until **March 15, 2019**. Electronic responses are preferred; however, paper copies of the survey are also available at City Hall, the Portage Public Library, the Portage Parks & Recreation office and local churches and grocery stores. The link to the online version of the two surveys is below:

<https://portage2019.questionpro.com>

Please return all paper copies to the City of Portage with attention to Marie A. Moe, City Clerk, at the contact information listed below, or at the designated drop box of any of the locations listed in the previous paragraph.

**Marie A. Moe**

City Clerk

RE: Comprehensive Plan and CORP Survey

City of Portage

115 W. Pleasant Street,

Portage, WI 53901

Thank you for taking the time to complete our survey. Your feedback is instrumental in helping the City of Portage plan for its future needs. If you would like to participate further in the plan development process, the City will address the Plan during some of the upcoming Plan Commission and Park Commission meetings. More information on Plan Commission and Park Commission meetings can be found on the City's website, or by contacting the City Clerk at the address above.

Sincerely,  
Rick Dodd  
Mayor

Marie A. Moe  
City Clerk



**City of Portage**

**Comprehensive Plan & CORP Public Survey**

**February 2019**

## Comprehensive Plan Questions

1. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. Please carefully read each statement before answering.

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Protection of the community's character and quality of life should be the City's top priority.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The City should not extend utilities such as sewer and water to undeveloped areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The City should put more effort toward attracting new businesses rather than toward expanding existing businesses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural resources should be protected from development pressures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The City should make efforts to preserve and protect historic structures and sites in Portage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The City should focus on providing more public transportation options.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are enough park sites in Portage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Portage needs more commercial activity - more jobs and shopping.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The City should enforce community-wide aesthetic requirements for development, such as landscaping, signage, lighting, screening, storage, and building exterior design requirements.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The City should limit its residential development to mostly single-family detached houses, and limit the development of apartment buildings.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The City of Portage should work closely with surrounding communities to share service costs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The City should focus more on providing bicycle and pedestrian facilities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are adequate housing choices at all price points.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The City should hold development at important entryways to Portage to a higher standard than other areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wetlands, wooded areas, steep slopes, and environmentally sensitive areas should be protected from development, such as landscaping, signage, lighting, screening, storage, and building exterior design requirements.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

City of Portage Comprehensive Plan & CORP Public Survey

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The City should extend utilities to undeveloped areas to encourage growth.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The City should promote the construction of more affordable housing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The municipal/community buildings and facilities in Portage are adequate (not including new County buildings along the Canal).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New development and growth in Portage should be accommodated on empty sites or new development areas around the City.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Post-secondary educational and vocational training opportunities in Portage are adequate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New cultural and recreational opportunities in Portage are adequate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sewer and water service in the City is adequate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The City should encourage a greater mix of housing types, including apartments, condos, row houses, townhouses, and single-family detached houses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The City should offer financial incentives to grow existing businesses and attract new businesses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The City of Portage should work closely with surrounding townships to preserve the City's character.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The City should make the development and construction process easier.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The City should make more sites available for manufacturing and light industrial businesses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is sometimes appropriate for commercial businesses and multifamily residential to be co-mingled.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The City has adequate mental health services to meet the needs of its residents.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The City has adequate healthcare facilities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The City should place a special focus on improving its downtown area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promotion of business and economic development should be Portage's priority.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Street and pavement quality in Portage is acceptable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The City needs to expand opportunities for home occupations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are enough good jobs in Portage for those who want them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Please select the **two** gateways into Portage which you think are most important:

- WI-33 west of the City – Wisconsin River Bridge
- WI-33 east of the City – Portage Canal
- WI-16 west of the City – Roundabout
- US-51 north of the City (New Pinery Road)
- US-51 south of the City (E. Wisconsin Street)

3. Vehicle traffic in Portage is:

- Light
- Acceptable
- Congested

4. Vehicles in Portage tend to travel:

- Faster than the speed limit
- At the speed limit
- Slower than the speed limit

5. If there were big box retail options (hardware, household goods, etc.) available in Portage, would you do more of your shopping in the City?

- I would do most or all of my shopping in the City.
- I would shop in the City more, but still frequent other commercial districts.
- This would not change my shopping habits.

6. If there were more local retail options (small, locally-owned shops, boutiques, specialty shops) available in Portage, would you do more of your shopping in the City?

- I would do most or all of my shopping in the City.
- I would shop in the City more, but still frequent other commercial districts.
- This would not change my shopping habits.

7. If there were more restaurants available in Portage, would you do more of your dining in the City?

- I would do most or all of my dining in the City.
- I would dine in the City more, but still frequent other communities for variety.
- This would not change my dining habits.

8. If there were more employment opportunities available in Portage, would you look for jobs in the City?

- I would actively seek employment in the City.
- If something came up, I may take a job in the City, but I would not actively seek employment in the City.
- I would not seek employment in the City.

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9. Please rank the most appropriate areas and corridors for general commercial development (1 = highest priority, 5 = lowest priority).

- \_\_\_\_\_ Downtown
- \_\_\_\_\_ W. Wisconsin Street
- \_\_\_\_\_ E. Wisconsin Street
- \_\_\_\_\_ New Pinery Road
- \_\_\_\_\_ E. Albert Street

10. Please recommend any improvements you would like to see in Portage with respect to new types of housing.

11. Please recommend any improvements you would like to see in Portage with respect to transportation.

12. Please recommend any improvements you would like to see in Portage with respect to utilities, such as water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, electricity, gas, or broadband internet.

13. Please recommend any improvements you would like to see in Portage with respect to community facilities. These may include schools, churches, government buildings, cultural facilities, etc.

14. Please recommend any improvements you would like to see in Portage with respect to arts and cultural resources.

15. Please recommend any improvements you would like to see in Portage with respect to recreation facilities.

City of Portage Comprehensive Plan & CORP Public Survey

16. Please recommend any improvements you would like to see in Portage with respect to business and economic development.

17. With which community institutions do you think the City should actively work to strengthen their partnerships?

**Thank you again for completing this survey - your input is valuable and appreciated!**

**If you wish to attend Plan Commission meetings, they occur on the third Monday of each month at 6:30. All meetings are held in the Municipal Building at 115 W. Pleasant Street in Portage. Please refer to the City's website ahead of each meeting for the agenda showing whether the Comprehensive Plan will be discussed.**

**If you would like to receive emails about upcoming public meetings concerning the Comprehensive Plan to provide further input and be involved in the planning process, please list an email address where the City can reach you:**

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## Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Questions

18. The following recreational opportunities and facilities are available in City parks, trails, and natural areas. Please indicate how often your household uses each of these amenities.

	Regular User (≥15 times per year)	Occasional User (<15 times per year)	Never
Soccer Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baseball Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Softball Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volleyball Court	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open Playfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disc Golf Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horseshoe Pits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnic Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cooking Grills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shelter Building	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shore Fishing Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gazebo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Garden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Concession Stands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bicycle Racks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skate Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boat Launches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Splash Pad	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playground Set (swings, slide, climbing equipment, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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	Regular User (≥15 times per year)	Occasional User (<15 times per year)	Never
Silver Lake Beach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Silver Lake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ice Skating Ponds/Hockey Rinks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fairgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ice Age Trail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Biking Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

19. The following recreational opportunities and facilities are available in City parks, trails, and natural areas. Please indicate whether or not you think the City needs more of these amenities.

	City Needs to Improve this Amenity	City Does Not Need to Improve this Amenity
Soccer Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baseball Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Softball Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volleyball Court	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disc Golf Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horseshoe Pits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnic Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cooking Grills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shelter Building	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shore Fishing Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gazebo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Garden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Concession Stands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bicycle Racks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skate Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	City Needs to Improve this Amenity	City Does Not Need to Improve this Amenity
Dog Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boat Launches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Splash Pad	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playground Set (swings, slide, climbing equipment, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Silver Lake Beach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Silver Lake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ice Skating Ponds/Hockey Rinks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fairgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ice Age Trail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Biking Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

20. If there are recreational opportunities or amenities that the City lacks and are not listed above, but you wish were available, please list them below.

21. If there are recreational facilities that the City lacks and are not listed above, but you wish were available, please list them below.

22. The Park and Recreation Board is working to make recreational facilities and amenities accessible to all citizens in Portage regardless of age and ability level. If there are specific facilities or amenities in the City that you think need to be made more accessible, please briefly list them below.

23. Please indicate how you think development of recreational facilities should be primarily funded.

- User Fees
- Developer Fees
- Taxes

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24. Please indicate how you think maintenance of recreational facilities should be primarily funded.

- User Fees
- Taxes

25. The Park and Recreation Board is working to obtain property easements in order to link existing recreational trails with parks, neighborhoods, and state trails. How important do you consider these efforts?

- Very Important
- Somewhat Important
- Not Important

26. The Park and Recreation Board is working to maintain open space, restore native plant communities, protect wildlife habitat, and preserve natural resources (natural areas). How important do you consider these efforts?

- Very Important
- Somewhat Important
- Not Important

27. The City is considering the development of new park space. If you could decide which kinds of amenities would be added to a new park, which kinds would you prefer?

- Natural (Wildlife habitat, wetlands, gardens, etc.)
- Active (Basketball courts, tennis courts, skate parks, ball fields, etc.)
- Passive (Walking trails, cross country skiing trails, picnic areas, gathering spaces, etc.)

28. Please indicate your overall satisfaction with the following City-wide parks and recreation facilities:

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Collipp-Worden Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veterans Memorial Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Silver Lake Beach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Little League Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor Pool at Rusch School	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pauquette Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

29. Are you interested in volunteering to assist with any of the following City activities? If yes, please indicate your interest level in the question below.

	Very Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not Interested
Help with maintenance of park amenities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annual cleanup of City-owned natural areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attendance at workshops on local history, conservation, and wildlife.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annual Arbor Day tree planting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	Very Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not Interested
Help with maintenance of trails.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adopt a park spot	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help identify and eradicate invasive plant species in parks and natural areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

30. Please provide your phone number or email address if you wish to be contacted by the City about the above volunteer opportunities you selected.

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**Thank you again for completing this survey - your input is valuable and appreciated!**

**If you wish to attend Park and Recreation Board meetings occur on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00. All meetings are held in the Municipal Building at 115 W. Pleasant Street in Portage. Please refer to the City's website ahead of each meeting for the agenda showing whether the CORP will be discussed.**

**If you have additional questions or comments concerning the topics covered in this survey and/or are interested in learning more about the Park and Recreation Board future plans, please provide your contact information (name and phone number or email address) below and someone from the City will contact you directly:**

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