COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

SURVEY RESULTS 2025

Green Lake Residents

- Total responses: 107
- Average years lived: 18.3 years
- Quality of Life ratings:
    - Excellent: 50
    - Good: 45
    - Fair: 3

Non-Residents (Property Owners)

- Total responses: 122
- Average years owning property: 17.7 years
- Quality of Life ratings:
    - Excellent: 52
    - Good: 48
    - Fair: 9

Key Takeaways

- Most respondents rated quality of life as “Excellent” or “Good.”
- Green Lake full-time residents reported the highest share of “Excellent” ratings.
- Non-residents (property owners/second-home owners) gave strong ratings overall, with a nearly even split between “Excellent” and “Good.”

What Drew People to Green Lake

The most frequently mentioned reasons include:

- The Lake – by far the dominant draw (118 mentions).
- Family connections – moving here because of relatives or growing up in the area (52).
- Small-town atmosphere – appreciation for the town/community feel (32).
- Beauty and nature – “beautiful,” “scenic,” “peaceful” were common descriptors (38+ mentions).
- Community – people were drawn by friendliness, neighbors, and sense of belonging (22).
- Home roots – many noted they “grew up here” or “this is home.”

Community Character

Respondents described Green Lake most often as:

- Friendly (73)
- Quiet/Peaceful (42)
- Charming/Quaint (37)
- Small-town (29)
- Welcoming & Relaxing (23)
- Safe (19)
- Beautiful (16)
- Also noted: clean, active, caring

Key Takeaways

- The lake itself is the strongest identity marker and attraction.
- Family ties and heritage play a major role in why people settle or return.

- The community character is consistently seen as friendly, safe, charming, and small-town - traits that resonate with both residents and property owners.
- Many also value the peaceful and beautiful environment, making Green Lake attractive both as a year-round home and a seasonal destination.

Main concerns and suggestions

Downtown & Tourism

- Downtown investment – Many support funding for capital improvements such as updated streetlights, benches, sidewalks, planting/flowers, and public art.
- Tourism growth – Calls for more events and festivals year-round, and sports tourism opportunities (triathlons, fishing, baseball, etc.).

Building & Zoning

- Several noted that the zoning and permitting process can be difficult or unclear.
- Requests for simplification and better communication in applications, pre-design steps, and variance approvals.
- Concerns about protecting neighborhood character (building height, density, and land use).

Lake & Environment

- Some mentioned the need for lake protection and environmental stewardship.
- A recurring theme is balancing development with preserving the natural beauty that draws people to Green Lake in the first place.

Community & Amenities

- Respondents want the City to continue fostering a welcoming, vibrant community through events, beautification, and inclusive planning.

- Calls for more community gathering spaces and amenities that serve both residents and visitors.

Key Takeaways

While the overall sentiment is very positive, residents and non-residents alike want:

1. Downtown revitalization (streetscape, beautification, public art).
2. Expanded tourism and events that support local businesses year-round.
3. Streamlined zoning processes that protect community character.
4. Lake and environment protections to safeguard the community's biggest asset.