

News Release

City of Cottage Grove

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Cottage Grove, MN

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For Immediate Release

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Cottage Grove Resident Satisfaction Ranked in Top Quartile

At their February 20, 2008 meeting the Cottage Grove City Council received results from a survey conducted in December by Decision Resources Limited (DRL). The results, presented by DRL President Bill Morris, revealed that 95% of Cottage Grove residents rated the quality of life in their community as “excellent” or “good.” It was further reported that 81% of respondents believe things in Cottage Grove are headed in the right direction.

Not everyone supported every decision made by the City over this past year, however. Six percent of respondents reported that they don't like the Jamaica Avenue Roundabout which is the same percentage that reported they had not used the Roundabout since its completion last fall. Of the 94% of respondents reporting that they had driven the Roundabout 67% stated that they found it easy while 33% found it difficult to navigate.

Fifty five percent of respondents approve of the job the City Council is doing, which is the same percentage of respondents reporting they know a fair amount or a great deal about the work of the Mayor and Council. According to City Administrator Ryan Schroeder “we have been told by DRL that as compared to ratings across the Twin Cities this level of support of Council actions is a good rating and above that in most cities.”

Roughly two-thirds of respondents had used the parks and trails during the past year with over 90% rating the quality of these amenities as excellent or good. “We have been putting a lot of effort into improving and updating our parks and trails” stated councilmember Myron Bailey, “it is nice to see that 75% of respondents were aware of these improvements prior to the survey and that 80% of the people support continued use of City funds for park improvements throughout the community.”

Councilmember Fred Luden added that “I’m pleased that 76% of respondents agree that they are getting a good value for the quality of services they receive. However, it is apparent that the citizens continue to look for more entertainment, retail, and dining establishments along with job creation within the community. It is also interesting” he reported, “that there are concerns about the pace of growth, at least some of which would provide these amenities and jobs that people seek.” City Administrator Schroeder further commented that “we will have to take a look at the growth concerns which are up slightly since our last survey in 1996. We need to ask why these concerns have increased as our pace of residential growth has actually declined by 40% since 1996.”

Mayor Sandy Shiely suggested that “this survey is one tool that we will use as we make decisions for the future. As we move into what we expect to be a difficult couple of budget years it is good to know where the citizens suggest we place our priorities.”