

# 2017 Bismarck Livability Survey Results

**Question 16** What are some things that need the most improvement in Bismarck? (*Mandatory*) Answers: **1,238**  
100% Skips: **2**  
<1%

	0%	7.5%	15%	COUNT	PERCENT
▼ A range of housing choices at reasonable prices				500	15%
▼ Cultural, artistic and entertainment opportunities				498	15%
▼ A wide range of retail/restaurant services				298	9%
▼ High-quality/high income employment opportunities				295	9%
▼ Public transportation options				265	8%
▼ Reasonable traffic and commute times				224	7%
▼ Recreational opportunities/public parks/open space				189	6%
▼ Walkability				183	5%
▼ Safe neighborhoods and streets				169	5%
▼ City government provides a wide range of good public services				153	5%
▼ Other Option				100	3%
▼ Available employment opportunities				98	3%
▼ Good quality health care				87	3%
▼ Safe and academically successful public schools				85	3%
▼ Access to Technology				78	2%
▼ Access to Missouri River				62	2%
▼ Part of a stable/growing local area economy				55	2%
▼ Attractive setting/natural environment				54	2%

## Other Option Responses

- A better downtown
- Capital grounds; 4-year public University
- 4 year public university, more entertainment, cheaper flights,
- Better internet/FiOs. Midcontinent is terrible.
- Less active government and better public schools.
- Homeless Shelters
- Snow removal and maintenance
- New venue for concerts/shows
- Better leadership
- City budget.
- civility. The attitude, from civil employees through business and service organizations, is not good with regard to nonwhite residents.
- Needs more diversity: people, opportunities, ethnic restaurants, etc.
- Use of our money/taxes
- programs for diverse/disabled populations

More quality educational facilities for the growing number of children
More entertainment options for the 40-50 year olds. More concerts
Keep up with safety as we grow.
Don't know
Tolerance (or even support) for diverse social groups.
Variety of child friendly, budget friendly activities
we dont need 5 south
Streets
Too many uptight conservatives.
Parking in downtown. streets are for driving to and from work
More facilities for youth hockey
Greater variability in zoning code to allow for a wider variety of street and commercial conditions
Activities
More things or places for parents to take children.
None of the above stand out as a need
Infrastructure needs improvement/better maintenance
Less government. Get rid of TIF. Lower property taxes.
A new event center
News reporting influenced by companies and focused on profits not people or environment.
Working women work attire stores
I am satisfied with our great city.
Snow removal on residential streets
I can only see 1
You don't have listed this: spend less taxpayer money on parks and the downtown businesses. Put money into our schools and let teachers do what they are passionate about: teaching.
Josh Askvig needs to get off the city commission.
Fiscal responsibility
Trader Joes, Tuesday Morning
Street.
Better Community Center
Need more CABS!
Indoor recreational facilities specifically Soccer
Better control of traffic and snow removal
Affordable Child care
Downtown improvements and parking
Department stores, Law Enforcement
less criticism of those trying to improve the city. More cooperation with mayor's office. Fewer frivolous actios against the mayor at tax payers' expense.
Good access to effective mental health facilities and help with behavioral health.
Keep the motocross track at the missouri valley complex.
Traffic still moves at a snails pace on many streets. It's time to improve that
A city willing to invest in proper cleanup of roads and parks
More bike lanes or dedicated bike paths.
More snowplow for Pete's sake.
Idk
Motocross complex
City streets
Can Bismarck do a better job with snow removal and improving the safety of icy parking lots?

cost of living is high
Snow removal is slow.
Community kitchen lacking
Downtown Parking
Parking down town
The City needs to be better managed in both its operations and its financial management. It's ridiculous this isn't an option above. I'm not a wild, eliminate government person, but every single option above is an expansion. Your survey is inherently biased.
reasonable airfare
Better dust control getting to the baseball complex.
Community areas for meetings
Convention Center Improvement
Public participation with city government
Cheaper airfare
Get rid of specials
Public Relations, Branding of Bismarck
cheaper airfare, more pedestrian friendly.
closer interaction & cooperation with Mandan & sw communities.
Would be nice to have more entertainment such as concerts and events
A more welcoming community.
Kirkwood Mall
Continued development of downtown district
More diversity of thought
4 year public school
Cost of living
Need to stop checkerboard development patterns
County, Public Schools and City governments need to work together, not against, one another.
Selection of family activities
Drainage systems improved, heavy rains and melting; zoning, potholes in the streets
Uber
Better communication of happenings & city business
sale taxes to support recreational projects.
someone to actually MANAGE snow removal. Curbs in my part of town look like they are original...horrible shape.
Change main avenue back to multiple lanes of traffic.
Let free market principles drive development
Distribute taxation fairly across homeowners and businesses.
The urban sprawl needs to stop.
Shopping, Restaurants
Better city planning
1. better maintained streets 2. more responsive city government to the real needs of the people
Please put Main Avenue downtown back to 4 lanes! It is nearly impossible to pick elderly disabled people from the Patterson! Someone is going to get hurt there!
Too many ordinances, too much government control

**Comments**

they all need work  
 While there is a wide range of restaurant service and retail it would be nice to attract and support a step-up level department store like you would find in larger cities.

Necessary items for long-term community growth.
House prices have increased over the past 5 years or so. I'm not sure if job wages have kept up with house prices. Oil prices drove house prices and demand up. I'm not sure if community can sustain this. Also public transportation almost nonexistent.
Bismarck lacks a lot of entertainment options. The music scene majorly lacks variety and venues. This is the one thing that actually makes me sad to live in Bismarck. We have decent retail options but I am not a huge fan of all the large franchise businesses moving in to town and sprawling out up north.
Need more high quality employment, it is hard for a couple with BA/MA education to get a decent job. Snow removal has been horrible this year. And housing prices are ridiculously high
We need to support downtown. Work on additional housing in the downtown area for 18-35 market to live in.
I think one area Bismarck lacks is its downtown, its come along ways from what it used to be but still has a long ways to go. I would love to see more downtown housing.
Aesthetics + versatility. We need to consult someone who has turn a downtown like ours into one that flourishes. As a young person, I drive around Bismarck wishing the design of certain things was voted upon by the outsiders we wish to attract.
Bismarck is getting better but I would love to see more entertainment and food/drink downtown, as well as increased density instead of building on the fringe. Also important is incentives and assistance for attracting development in the technology sector. The cities that get this right will be the cities that are successful in the future
Public transport is non existent pretty much in Bismarck. The cat lets a lot to be desired
Traffic is getting ridiculous. Fargo is ten times faster to get around.
Infrastructure for roads is needed
These are some of the things a string downtown core will provide.
The public transportation network needs major improvements to efficiently connect between nodes of activity (downtown, corporate campuses, retail centers, schools, etc.) and to pockets of housing in neighborhoods. These are outside of the control of the City of Bismarck, however these are a few areas that could use improvement: Implementing a fully-designed network of well-lit, pedestrian accessible connections throughout the entire capital grounds with uniformly-designed interpretive signage, seating, lighting, audio, historic information would be a great improvement to an existing community asset. It would be a a memorable experience for visitors and a highly utilized landmark for the community. Bismarck State College becoming a 4-year college would have a significant economic impact to the community.
A 4 year public university would help our community most. Our families raise a lot of children that eventually move to Fargo or Grand Forks to go to UND and NDSU. If we had a comparable university they would attend college in Bismarck, and the type of jobs that they would be working during college (restaurant/retail) need more workers. After completing a 4 year degree, they would hopefully stay in Bismarck helping our community have a higher professional workforce. Event Center is pulling in better/more entertainment than in the past years. I'm really thankful for that. Entertainment could still be improved whether its through Bismarck Event Center or more private businesses investing in it. Cheaper flights isn't as important but I meet a lot of people from out of state and they are shocked how expensive it is to fly anywhere, and the huge cost that it takes to travel back home negatively affects their opinion of bismarck
Not enough homes \$125-225K. Home builders don't care about entry level people; they only want to build \$400+.
I think the greatest need is creating more communal spaces whether that be public transit, walking downtown, or entertainment. They don't necessarily need to be major encounters, but ones that happen frequently.
Washington is a nightmare, tiny cultural environment and not welcoming to new people for involvement, the downtown area is a hassle to get in and out of, parking is "creepy" and doesn't feel safe. Bismarck lacks in embracing diversity.
Bismarck is growing traffic needs work.
These are items that every citizen of Bismarck uses. I believe the resources for the city government are being used to attract a certain demographic to Bismarck. This is at the expense of the other demographic groups who called Bismarck home. We need diversity in age race income and our leaders are not addressing this
As a Pastor of students I hear there are. It a lot of things to do. As a father I wish there was more beach front accessible. Coming from Seattle we miss the different cultural restaurants.
Homes seem to be more expensive than other places
Hospitals are both messed up by CHI and Sanford
A public works department has absolutely no idea how to plow snow. Completely inept
Need affordable housing.
We need more restaurants in NE Bismarck!
Although Bismarck's diversity is improving slightly, it should appeal to all groups of people, regardless of race, religion, etc. Bismarck's residents would likely be much more accepting, open-minded and well-rounded if this were to happen. If you don't drink alcohol, there isn't much for night time entertainment. We need competition for Internet broadband providers to bring cost down and bring speed up

The honesty and professionalism is at an all time low. It is as if though it is 'a good old boy's club' running the city both political and business leaders. It is a shame that you have to be part of the club in order to succeed. The few get rich while the rest get the shaft.

Reasonable traffic times only applies to east/west traffic, north/south traffic can get horrendous because of navigating around the Capitol grounds.

I am not from the area. I graduated from a HS that consistently ranks in the top 50 for public high schools in the US. I feel like I am a lot smarter than people around here. But I never have been to a school here so can't comment on it too much. Some of the traffic lights are very poorly timed. Commute times could be improved if those issues are fixed. In terms of walkability, I think in downtown Bismarck things are pretty good. However, there needs to a massive overhaul for WINTER walkability. There needs to be an extensive system of underground tunnels or sky bridges or something. When windchills are consistently below zero and for a period of 6+ months there are frigid temperatures, more needs to be done to allow people to move around during the cold winter months. Plus of course underground and insulated walkways means no ice or snow for people to slip and fall.

I believe that wages are much too low for a person without a degree to be able to flourish in bismarck, it keeps people in the paycheck to paycheck cycle. I've personally looked into higher education, but can't seem to understand why I, as a single mom, would put myself further in debt. Safety in our community has become unreal. I have never felt so unsafe in bismarck. Housing continuously goes up due to people making absurd amounts of money. It only makes it that much harder to get ahead

I wish it were easier to walk to places and that housing had a wider range of options available for reasonable prices. I wish there was more to get involved in.

1.) Housing prices in Bismarck are outrageous. We built our home in 2007 and although our property value has increased purchase or upgrading to a bigger home or different location is impossible. 2.) The majority of the high quality/high paying with good health care plans are state or federal positions that are not stable. There are limited jobs outside of these positions. As an educator, I also feel there are few opportunities for recent graduates. Most jobs are low paying or don't offer the benefits needed to support a graduate out of college. Student loan waivers/forgiveness are offered at Sanford for nursing students that complete time after school. However, no other business (that I can recall) work with recent graduates to provide a financially stable base.

Better advertisement of all activities - I always find out the day of or after the event.

NEED MORE THINGS FOR KIDDOS (giggle bee's, arcade, laser tag, something)

I see alot more homeless people sleeping under trees nowadays.

Recreational opportunities/public parks/open space Access to Missouri River A range wide range of retail/restaurant services of housing choices at reasonable prices City government provides a wide range of good public services Working up in the new areas at the north end of town, the traffic lights are lagging much behind the new traffic related to office buildings. I am jealous of some of the ethnic cuisine available to other cities - let's keep building on our recent successes! Older neighborhoods are walkable, but retail areas like State Street - especially northern State Street - is terrifying.

A second venue should have been built to attract more concerts and shows. The event center has basically become a convention center and is not an attractive draw to entertainers. A second venue would allow multiple events at the same time.

I believe Bismarck has great potential for public transportation options. What we have now we do not utilize them very well. Bus systems should not take longer to ride than to walk.

Traffic has started to become a problem with all the new residents. I would also like to see less frivolous spending on things like the Civic center and more focus on dealing with the shrinking budget.

Sanford has too much of a monopoly on healthcare. Roads are starting to get too congested. Especially Centennial and Expressway. Too much left turning traffic by trucks top and lights too close together and poorly timed

Our city government caters to special interests

Traffic is fairly reasonable but as Bismarck continues to grow North the North-South bound traffic will get worse and Washington is the only major street that's directly N-S and it's not 5 lines all the way up. I see this becoming a serious traffic issue in the future. During growth a lot of high-end housing was built for oil workers working out of Bismarck, but that really doesn't help the people that came in to fill the low-income jobs that were also created as part of the boom.

it is expensive to live here and there isn't much to do here. same old restaurants and same old stores

A mayor/city commissioners that care about the entire city & not just downtown!

So far the biggest thing I see that could use improvement is during our biggest snow storms. I really think the city should prioritize making just a single pass effort on all streets as soon as possible. It took five days for my road on 10th to receive a first pass on the second big snow storm!

Lack of city vision and accountability to the citizens wishes curtails growth in both business and residential sectors. A singular focus on downtown businesses discourages businesses opportunities elsewhere around the city which prevents job growth. Curtailing residential development because of "Urban Sprawl" limits housing options, thus inflating housing costs.

Bismarck needs Uber or Lyft. Our public transportation is lacking, and our available options for taxi services are very limited. A wait for a cab can be hours around bad close which could make people want to drive home even after drinking.
We need more to do in Bismarck so we don't have to travel to other areas for entertainment.
Housing prices are out of control.
Most of the walking trails are along busy streets, and I've walked the ones that are away from streets enough times to be bored with them. The economy is tanking, making me feel insecure (my husband works for a state college.) There is very little food variety. There are not many local bands that are not mediocre at best. The farmer's markets are pathetic. I don't like bars and I don't smoke or drink, but what else is there to do? Also, I have had poor health care here. I live with chronic illness, spent \$8,000 at the hospitals, and was told they don't know what's wrong with me so they sent me to a psychologist. I ended up going to New Hampshire to see a naturopath and rheumatologist who were both able to find root causes in the first visit and actually helped me.
Need to do a better job with the monies received by current tax revenue to take care of the needs of Bismarck. Our roads need repair, schools need upgrades, need additional stop lights to help with flow of traffic. Money does not need to be given away as tax breaks for projects that either are not needed or the people investing in them do not need the tax break for the growth of the area.
Our city is becoming more and more populated. I think the time has come to rethink our freeway system. To be able to provide a more metropolitan freeway and interchange system is a must have. Also our city needs to consider a music/concert venue to be able to provide the options to have more artist come to our city at a convenient, and more feasible location.
Need better management in public works dept. And a better mayer to use our mony in better places
Housing / rent costs are high Competitive restaurants are beginning to cause a rise in variety and quality of available food, but still has improvement to reach the quality of Fargo dining Bismarck needs to push for more events and community-centered activities, and continue to support arts and entertainment as a priority
When people vote something down listen to them. Mainstreet is a joke right know and the civic center project was a huge waste of money.
Housing is too high for a young couple to afford. Need to stop the renaissance zone tax breaks, use those taxes for projects. Stop the city from doing things that have been voted down, such as the quiet rail and the Event Center.
Homes in the \$200000 range are limited. This is what most people buying their first home are looking for. Sprawl is terrible. Bus system is not good. There's plenty of open space but what to do here if you don't hunt or fish? Culture is lacking and walkability is terrible.
There are too few options for indoor recreational/cultural activities. Unfortunately, we live in a climate that forces us to stay inside frequently, and the few facilities we do have are so overbooked that children in sports are practicing late into the night, and there is little to no time for public access.
I tried to choose all the ones I wanted, guess I only getb3!
Commute times are terrible for this sized area. I've spent 10-20 minutes traveling 2 miles (from downtown to near Wachter Wave pool) almost every evening for the past couple of weeks.
Houses aND Apts are still too high
the transit is raising their rates so high it is impossible for Senior citizens to ride and that is what it was started for and rent if way overpriced in this town
I know the BPD is overwhelmed, but the realization that as Bismarck grows, so does the population of nepharious people as well. What was property crime when I grew up here has now turned into violent crime, drug crime and shootings. Bismarck was a place where we didn't lock our doors at night - now I lock my doors when I am home even during the day. Homelessness needs to be addressed. Violent crime. Mental health services. Diversity and a welcoming atmosphere (that frankly needs to start with the State Legislator accepting same-sex marriage is legal and amending the state laws to reflect the law of the land). A community within a state is not welcoming if the state itself is not.
Need more job that pay better and not dead end ones.
Homes are way over priced and taxes are too high
We need more diverse health care options. Also public transportation is not reliabile enough to use for a work commute.
There are bottlenecks on city roads where lights are not timed correctly for the flow of traffic, particularly on the bridge over I-94 on Bismarck Expressway during rush hour. This winter has shown that preparedness for heavy snowfall is lacking and the roads have remained treacherous for over a month. Roads are not treated or plowed prior to heavy morning rush hour traffic after a snowfall.
Entertainment opportunity for families with young children. VB city govmt needs to abide and listen to the voice of their voters. No means no, not find another way. There are many jobs available if you work in the service industry for peanuts. What about middle class jobs?
I wish there were more opportunities in the Information Systems field in which I work.
The uptick in crime needs to be dealt with, Cory streets need improvement (widening, new concrete, etc)

Less concerned about "attractiveness" of environmental setting than safety and cleanliness. Need improved health care for those without it. Need to link our schools in to the rest of the planet.
While I relax very strongly that the city provides a good range of public services, services for non English speakers and, Natives, the homeless, and teens are lacking
Crime seems to be increasing in the area. Housing prices are rediculous, even after the oil boom has slowed down. Bismarck is getting better in terms of restaurants/retail, but we need more, similar to Fargo.
Access to all- safety is a big one- always hear sirens
Support cultural events within the city.. provide space for groups to host ethnically friendly events - allow public to utilize the civic center spaces at a more reasonable rate for said events - wasted space if it can't be rented at a reasonable amount or time frame - big ticket shows don't always pay the bills let alone justify building such an eye sore Besides heritage center what else is supported to conserve our history or exude pride in our state and its residents?? Not the tourism bureau. That's just a sales pitch. Support growing arts for kids , a community showcase arena, events to encourage new productions. Support search for qualified physicians and programs that work for betterment of overall healthcare aids and clinics Schools- where do we begin?! staffing training parking safe zones programs to get parents involved hands on material on and on
None. We have it all.
Housing prices still reflect a booming economy which is not currently the case. We need better paying jobs for less levels of skills. Much work to be done on Transit system.
Housing seems quite high. It is very difficult for a single young professional to get into a house that is livable. When they come out of college their school loans are very high. They find a job but can't afford housing and end up having to live with parents to save up for something. It's a no win situation for them. Rent is high and will eat away any form of savings , they can't afford a mortgage due to school loans , they don't have income from a partner , they are single, there is nothing affordable for them. An uber thing would be nice for the city. High quality jobs that can afford the housing.
More indoor free events and athletics during the winter - mostly for adults because we have awesome activities for the youth even though many have fees. Arts have improved over the past 15-20 years but still need to have more that are influential & with a wider variety. Medical... we need a total revamp on all levels.
Need a Burlington store, Granite City restaurant, a Cajun restaurant, etc. Storybook Land, like Aberdeen, SD has. More diverse attractions. Gay Pride parade.
We are on our way as a community in these areas, but by 10 years from now should have better reasons for individuals 18-28 to stay in our community vs historically leaving to communities like Fargo, Minneapolis or Denver and maybe returning later.
seems like everything cardon says is b.s. city going to get stuck with it
It seems our cost of living is quite elevated.
It stinks to have to go to Fargo or MN or Denver for big name entertainment.
crime is on the rise. limited points to access the river, the streets are in need of repair
Many of these items are in the process of improving, especially cultural opportunities. Local food culture is in its infancy, but the Bismarck food coop is an important step and more farmers may arrive. The Heritage Center is a major achievement, and our family looks forward to the new Gateway to Science center. Non-chain restaurants and unique local retail are starting to be established, especially in the downtown area. Public transportation needs substantial improvement. I would use, but have not found an occasion when it has been convenient enough to do so. Walkability is decent, with a good and growing sidewalk network, but the downtown, where walking is most natural, lacks sufficient housing options.
For the size of our community the commute times and travel are unacceptable. Also, there is little planning for multiuse developments or connectivity of neighborhoods by paths, trails or sidewalks. Bismarck is a drive only community. Cost of housing is not in line with the wages paid.
Housing is expensive. High-income jobs are tough to come by unless you're a physician or an attorney for the most part. Far too many of the open job opportunity are low-wage service industry jobs. And traffic is horrible, at least compared to what it used to be. There was never any foresight about the potential growth of Bismarck. And when opportunities have come around to improve things, they were thrown away. (Washington-Cathedral District is a prime example.)
There are not many great options for the winter months for recreation or entertainment.
The housing market is improving but housing costs are still high.
Not sure why I got assessed for the new Washington Street project when people living north of there use it a lot more than I would ever dream of. 43rd Ave. North also needs major improvement. Should've been a four-lane road 10 years ago.
The biggest downfall to my family is the high cost of purchasing a decent home in a good price range.

I used to feel very safe in this town but have been the victim of a crazy person on drugs destroying my front porch (Atlas Drive) about 6 years ago. I no longer walk at night alone. I am fearful in parking lots and other places where I could be accosted. Our gun situation is nuts, especially in this right wing, red state community. To truly get good arts opportunities one needs to go to Minneapolis, or Chicago, or NYC. Our arts community is very selfish and not cooperative with each other. We have a limited number of retail and restaurant services. Fargo is far above in this category.

Housing is very expensive, the city infrastructure is poor during commute hours(especially when driving east to west), the city doesn't have a plan for snow removal for a town its size.

I feel south Washington could be widened to accommodate the apartment complexes recently constructed. Also the traffic control could be improved I think the city government should focus less on downtown projects/improvements and focus more on city wide issues

More walking paths within the city.

Housing prices were crazy... It's coming down, but that means folks are losing their jobs and moving and having to lose money on houses. With the pending merger, there will no longer be choices for healthcare. The lack of recycling program is sad as recycling has been elsewhere for 30+ years. The city doesn't care/promote recycling or have pick up often enough and the few drop off spots are usually full.

Need better options for getting North to South and vice versa.

Washington is the only north south road that goes thru town. We need a by pass. Technology nerds to be improved. A bigger event center needs to be built on the north side of town. I avoid going downtown as parking is bad.

Better services for the poor

These are "attraction" qualities that we need in order to keep young people here.

Compared to many other cities our size, we don't have quality cultural and entertainment

Housing has become ridiculously expensive!!

Hey how about restaurants downtown that actually cater to families and not just the 21+ crowd?

Bismarck used to be safe and travel was easier and not so excessive. We have grown larger than our streets and police can handle!

Having just recently gone through a prolonged job search, there are a lot of places who told me I was overqualified. The places I'd really like to have worked at weren't hiring, or hiring with reasonable pay. Rent in Bismarck is still absurd compared to places like Fargo, and quality entertainment is lacking, we need to make the Event Center a place that isn't nationally known for being a terrible place to stop (I've done a lot of work with production companies).

Bismarck isn't as safe as it used to be

Housing costs, especially rent, remain exorbitant; trail system is poorly maintained and desperately needs expansion to connect new neighborhoods so you don't have to walk/run/ride/drive between segments; music/entertainment options are awful; better gyms are needed (ever heard of a rock wall?).

Stop building on to that decrepit money hole you call a Civic Center until you tear down some buildings and create parking. Streets are for commerce, allowing people to travel to and from work to do it in a timely fashion, don't block, hinder or narrow up lanes as an experiment to support someone philosophy. streets are used for businesses to provide goods and services, that's difficult to do in a timely manner when you slow traffic down and narrow up streets. Traffic lights are to control traffic movement not to control speed !

Employment, schools, housing choice, and cultural amenities are generally the top criteria of location decisions for people who don't live in the area. None of these is satisfactory yet, when compared to similar places like Bismarck with better transit connections to other parts of the United States.

I have so much hope for this city... being 33 I would love to see Bismarck become a city that attracts a considerable amount of youth and young professionals

Schools have a good start, but really need to look at doing things different to meet individual student needs. More family friendly activities. Look at the Woodlands TX for ideas. Better use of outdoor spaces, i.e. concerts, shows, etc.

We lose out to Fargo, grand forks and sioux falls

I think we need more things for kids and young adults who don't drink or aren't old enough to do not just bowling and movies

Not much entertainment besides going to bars. Downtown traffic too congested.

Unless work for state, medical or own a business, job choices are lower paid service jobs. Housing is high. Culture and entertainment are, well, lame attempts.

High cost of living.

Refer to above answer

Public services help us to get around, and housing at reasonable prices I mention because I have my name in for a couple of retirement homes. I know how expensive some homes are as well.

I'm a New Yorker without a car here now and I'm concerned about the repeal of Obamacare ...

Traffic is continuously becoming a larger problem in Bismarck. Employment opportunities are on the decline since the drop in oil prices. Bismarck has always had a tough time with cultural, artistic or entertainment opportunities but it is improving a bit.
I believe with the oil boom that house and land values have become high. I also think the prices are coming down but it makes it difficult to purchase a home of the same size/quality as we had in MN. I wish we had a children's museum and more Broadway type shows come through.
Shopping/restaurants are lacking compared to similar sized cities in other states. Not enough grocery options
Traffic is what I mentioned previously. I just hate how the roads are set up here.
See above
A growing economy that is strong and diversified will strengthen the housing and education opportunities.
The cost of living, from rent, house prices to food in the grocery store is expensive. There are a lot of opportunities for people wanting to work \$12 to \$15 an hour, but that doesn't get a person very far.
We have great options here but I still find myself itching to get to Fargo or Minneapolis for shopping or entertainment. Love Fargo's downtown. Bismarck is certainly developing and heading in the right direction!
Middle class housing limited
Since Bismarck is the capital city there should be a decent department store at the mall. I really like what Fargo did to theirs downtown; Bismarck needs to use them as a model to follow.
The schools are okay. I would like to see more opportunities kids and sports.
For how large of a town we have the restaurant choices are dismal, there isn't much to do during the winter housing prices are outrageous for the lower middle class
cost of living too high, wages too low
Wish that I wasn't forced to pick three items above as I don't think any of the above need improvement. So ignore the 3 I checked above just so I could move on in this survey.
It's growing so I'm hopeful that eventually we'll be able to find a good home for a reasonable price, but I do have a very big problem paying \$300,000 or more for a 2 bedroom house that doesn't have a finished basement. And hopefully with community growth comes growth in retail and other services. More indoor entertainment would be nice, you can only go to the mall so many times before it gets old.
I love to hike and bike - lots of paths for that. The library has great ebooks and audio books as well as Internet and regular books. The schools seemed to serve my kids well enough. No complaints there. - the environmental concerns need to be addressed and the paper/legislature too narrow minded. I was surprised and embarrassed at the overreaction by the police to the protests at the bank, mall and Gov home. I was embarrassed by lack of real news investigation and coverage on both sides.
There is nowhere for working women over the age of 30 to buy quality clothes.
Need more indoor ice and large recreational facility for the community. All current locations are in residential areas with limited to poor parking. Difficult to attract large hockey tournaments, skating competitions. 3-4 teams are sharing ice at the same time. You should see the arenas in Dickinson, Fargo and Grand Forks. Makes us look like a joke. Our kids deserve better.
Housing prices are still high brought on by the flood and the oil boom. Until we get the protestors to go home and the low life that came with the oil boom, I pray we can be safe again. It took me 45 minutes to go from Wachter Middle School to Legacy High School, unacceptable
The things we cherish - safety and healthcare are changing. They used to be excellent but are declining due to population increase and a poor health care system and Obamacare and terrible reimbursement and insurance.
Indoor skating/hockey rinks are needed
Need more indoor hockey rinks
The apartment complex we live in is known for criminal activities. Drug dealers, prostitution, crime and violence.
The homeless population, especially around the library, are ridiculous. I'm all for helping the needy, but after being threatened and followed home by an individual, prompting a 911 call, just because I wouldn't give up a quarter that I was demanded to, makes me think Bismarck coddles certain individuals who can't and won't find jobs or housing.
I know that snow removal is difficult with the volume of snow we've received this year...but waiting 3-4 days for residential streets to be plowed is too long. I would be willing to pay slightly more in taxes to help alleviate this situation.
Housing is very unaffordable for our family right now. 3 bedroom rent prices are well over \$1000 and with daycare, student loans, utilities, and other misc bills, we're barely making it.
The increasing entertainment and dining options over past eight years have made Bismarck much more livable. Keep pushing!
Bismarck currently has THREE sheets of in door ice!! THREE!!! Grand forks has EIGHT and ELEVEN if you add the east grand forks rinks. Retail is getting better slowly, I understand the process it takes to get those businesses to pick this as a location.
Traffic in this town is absolutely horrible

Washington street is main access road and gets backed up making travel times a lot longer. Our students at public schools need more options for rides when their parent(s) do not have a car. I have witnessed many students not be able to take part in after school activities or sports because their parent(s) don't have a vehicle. The student does not qualify for the same transportation services a homeless student would qualify.

I think our city officials need to make sure they are keeping the big picture in mind when planning for our city's future growth. We need to ensure roads, schools, sewer, parks, public services are all planned well as our city continues to grow. We need to look at continuing to expand our cultural and entertainment options, with the caveat being that our residents continue to support such endeavors. I feel that the city and the BMDA does a nice job of looking for more retail options. I want to make sure that continues, as long as our city continues to grow.

Better restaurants and shopping centers are needed. The Dakota Wizards was a fun atmosphere and entertainment but no longer available.

I feel like there is a fair amount of opportunity for activities for children and families, and it's definitely getting better but the information for what's available isn't always easy to come by

Need parks in north part of town. City leaders need to get more aggressive in addressing the crime/addiction problem in Bismarck. I think because it is the state Capitol they portray it as the dirty little secret they can sweep under the rug. Also, traffic is getting horrible. Police need more resources to do a better job enforcing traffic laws. It is a well known fact Bismarck drivers are terrible.

Good, but appear to not be improving

Police dept and landfill are poorly ran.

We need to do a better job with affordable housing options. One of my closest friends is a single mom who did everything right. Had a bachelors degree, got a great teaching job and is pursuing her masters, and she can't afford a house, but has to rent an apartment at 1,200 a month. That doesn't make sense to me. I wish we had more entertainment opportunities, I think our downtown improvements are starting to contribute to this. Finally, I want there to be more stores and eating options.

Getting a variety of entertainment is always a challenge. In recent years, it has improved significantly. Hopefully that continues and the community continues to support it. Overall Bismarck is very walkable. There are still areas where pedestrians are forced to cross streets illegally in high traffic areas. For example, there is no safe way to cross the street between Siminon's north and K-Mart. I see people walking in traffic all the time even in the snow.

This place is growing like crazy, but the city and streets aren't growing with the population, it's almost as if the city didn't plan to grow at this rate and never planned ahead for this type of growth

We need more variety in stores, entertainment options, and outdoor and indoor options for kids. While visiting Denver I was stunned to see the number of outdoor parks and especially (free) splash parks for kids. We definitely need a couple of those.

We need more restaurants up north and less shopping. Also roads need to be expanded to make traffic from north - south to be efficient. Be more proactive about it.

Get someone else in here besides Midco.

Too much tax payer money being spent on unnecessary feel good artsy programs and lining the pockets of downtown property owners!

The job opportunities are numerous, but I could move away and make much more.

Commute times have been affect by growth. Needs to be reviewed

Housing appears to be very expensive, here. I don't think there is enough cultural opportunities especially for the young adults.

North end of Bismarck needs to continue to develop, we moved in 2011 and paid dearly to build our home which I love but it is average and the cost was way too much.

Housing is inflated. And new construction is not worth the price. Poor suburban sprawl

The local government is about promoting financial gain to those who don't need help. Crime has risen substantially everywhere. Jobs are open but they are not good jobs or not good places to work.

We have a lot of open positions here but they are all minimum wage jobs. The cost of living is too high to survive with a minimum wage job. There is nothing to do here other than go out to eat, go to a movie or go to the bar. We have too many parks and paths that are only seasonal. We do not have nearly enough local areas to go camping in the summer either.

More options for recreational activities for families.

Prioritizing downtown and Civic Center over the needs of the city

The housing options for big families is too expensive. I feel that is a big deterrent to staying in this city. All funds are used for housing with not much remaining for food, music lessons, family entertainment, etc.

I wish there were more pedestrian zones downtown and public spaces or walkable areas - a liveable downtown full of more housing and more life. I look at how much better Fargo's downtown has become in the past decade and I am envious. I wish there were more recreational opportunities and public parks in the city. The universal park is Mandan is incredible. I wish we had something like it in Bismarck. It would also be great to see more green spaces and less urban sprawl. To focus on building up the core and central neighborhoods of Bismarck to make them more desirable places to live and to do more to discourage urban sprawl. I commend the green spaces ordinance the Bis City Commission passed. I think our City Commission and Mayor Seminary have made many steps in the right direction with downtown, green spaces and curbside recycling. I wish we had vegetarian and more healthy restaurant options. We do not need any more "burger & steak" restaurants. We need more or a range, more diversity. For example, there is not a single vegetarian restaurant, vegan restaurant or Indian restaurant. It's not easy for healthy people to eat in this city and feel good afterward.

But more plows!

We need more arts and culture activities and opportunities in Bismarck including public art installations and larger entertainment venues. We also need a largemail community center, sports arena or other space available to the public. People should not have to go to mayo clinic because of the shortage of oncologist. Domestic violence is an issue in this community. Too many of our young people do not stay in Bismarck because of Low pay and available high-paying jobs.

Seriously the traffic sucks

Neighborhoods are either upscale or old. Monopoly healthcare.

Bismarck has employment opportunities, but not enough affordable housing. Relying on trailer parks does not help a community grow or help its reputation. Public transportation system is an afterthought.

The fact that the average house costs are pushing closer to \$250,000 and continue to rise without salaries being able to match lowers the incentive to stay. I make as much as the average family of four, and have a reasonable debt load, but cannot afford to own a house in a safe neighborhood.

We could use more parks east on highway 20. Seems like there aren't many parks for all age groups on this side of town

Housing is still quite expensive. In the Fargo metro area, I would make roughly \$5+ more an hour and my mortgage for a comparable house to the one I currently own would be the same or less.

Wages are low for professional jobs. Need to recruit our young people to stay in Bismarck

If you are disabled walkability is not an option. It would be nice if public transportation had more stop and longer hours. I do not see much affordable housing choices. They are all pretty high I think. Same as rental options.

Could always use more places to ride dirtbike, and less rezoning of land that puts residential zones next to the dirt bike track which will lead to people complaining and then eventually getting the motocross track shutdown. The motocross track needs to stay open.

There needs to be more affordable housing available so that those who want to move to Bismarck can do so without breaking the bank or having to be on a waiting list for a long time. While the public transportation options are good, you can always improve them so that more people can use them.

For a city which has cold temps 5-6 months of the year, the lack of indoor recreation is unacceptable. There is no soccer specific facility and virtually no indoor space available for soccer despite soccer being in this area for nearly 40 years.

There are parts of town that don't have sidewalks and that makes it difficult for people without cars to get around. The commute time through town at times is unreasonable. It shouldn't take 30 minutes to drive 5 miles.

My housing is secure but I feel for those who make minimum wage and can barely pay rent, buy food and clothe their children. I hope for higher paying jobs in Bismarck and higher end retail and restaurant choices.

Streets should be made to move more traffic through. Would also love to have access to larger closer to/in town.

The Missouri River is a great recreational destination, however, it has become crowded in the past few years and lost some of its appeal. There are available jobs, but for the cost of living there is a lack of high paying jobs. It would be great to have a large technology firm headquartered downtown.

Public transportation is getting better but still lacking. Entertainment lacks for family outings. People are working 2-3 entry level jobs to support themselves and their families.

For pet owners moving into Bismarck that want temporary housing while searching for a home, there are not many options, and fewer that are affordable. While employment opportunities are plentiful, there are not a lot of full time opportunities for people with no college degree. Unless both parents have high earning positions, childcare is not affordable for anyone working entry level positions, and not everyone qualifies or geeks comfortable with applying for assistance.

Would like to see Uber or Lyft come to Bismarck as the taxi service needs improvement. Would like to see more arts and entertainment come in to the community. Housing is expensive here compared to other parts of the country which make it difficult for the avg person to afford a quality home.

Let's talk walkability. I walk all over Bismarck. On a whole walking is not an issue...Easy to get around on foot...It is the nearly being hit by drivers running lights or ignoring marked walk ways. Don't know how to fix this. ND drivers need to figure out..You are not the only one on the road!

Not enough river access. We could use an upgraded and more extensive public transit program. Our schools STILL continue to push Common Core, despite what leaders say publicly. Our streets are not nearly as safe as they were 25 years ago. With in-migration has come widespread crime and stress on our social services.
I cannot think of anything we need except maybe a ski hill?
Unless you work for a large company or a hospital you don't have great health care. The restaurants low quality and management skills need improvement. As for technology most of the businesses are stuck in the past.
Housing (either buying or renting) is far too expensive for those in the middle class. Public transportation is poor, the bus system isn't great and the taxis are over-priced (I firmly believe this plays a part in the drinking and driving culture). If Bismarck was able to introduce Lyft or Uber, I think that would be a great thing for the city. I would love to see there be more live music and other entertainment options downtown and in other areas of Bismarck.
The internet options are dominated by Midco, and because of that their prices reflect not having any competition and are way over priced for their services.
Read it...
When I live there my vehicle got broke into 4 time I only live there 4 years
Housing is over priced here.
My interests only
I feel there are areas of town that are not safe and not patrolled enough. Housing in Bismarck has always been too expensive. In the summer it feels like there is very little that goes on in town. It's getting better but could be improved by a central location for performances like in Mandan.
I have a great job that I love but there is not many choices in manufacturing. If I were unhappy with my job, I could not leave because there is nowhere else that will pay the wages I make plus offer the medical benefits they offer. I am literally stuck at this job until I retire. The Healthcare options are horrible. They have awful bedside manner, do not care about the patient only the money. I would rather self medicate than be treated the way I do when I go to a medical center here in town. Besides they always refer you to another doctor in another city
Many stores see lack of availability of workers due to low unemployment. Need more manufacturing jobs. Without a engineering or medical degree, chances of finding a high paying job is not good.
Would love Amtrak to come through the city, good choice eateries, yet so many close and many stores close also.
We aren't nearly as well off as our leaders make us out to be. There aren't many high paying jobs. Our streets and neighborhoods are at risk of being not safe. Some areas of town are not safe already. Or police struggle to keep up with our sprawling city. I live on the north side of Bismarck, and it takes a few days to get a snow plow here, as all the equipment is on the SE corner of the city.
Similar to above...housing is extremely generic and similar house-to-house, majority of shopping and dining are chains ( you could be in any Midwest city to access those).
I do volunteer work with refugees and for them to get to jobs and English classes they need more reliable transportation. City government needs to hear all citizens and work with us in the county who they have jurisdiction over.
Our parks and rec only care about certain complexes. Softball field for fastpitch are null and no plans in the future to build them. But as soon as someone says baseball, another complex is made.
Bismarck is a growing town and many people tend to want to leave because they say there is not enough to do. It will take time to build up these things, but starting with building up downtown with unique shops and restaurants as well as new chain restaurants will improve what residents think about Bismarck. Then maybe look into expanding for opportunities such as indoor recreational activities due to weather in ND
More sidewalks and better paying entry level career jobs
City can design with more culture and art in mind. Not so sterile.
Need more and better culture and entertainment opportunities. There is little realistic public transportation. Could use more and better maintained parks and rec spaces, particularly disc golf and biking opportunities. Bismarck is off to a good start but with some additional improvements it could be awesome.
Good paying jobs that are more attractive than oil field work so men don't need to be away from their families to give them the best life.
I still feel safe in this town, but the current trend isn't good in regards to increased criminal activity and violent crime. Food trend has been good but always look forward to less chain restaurants and more diversity (ethnic food, i.e. Indian, Greek, etc).
Housing market is very expensive. Retail options are very slim compared to Fargo.
Our neighborhoods, while many are safe there are a few you wouldn't dream of walking in at night. I miss being able to walk in Sertoma Park in the evening. Now, with the homeless population, I wouldn't dream of doing that.

1st, I don't believe Sanford should be able to be a monopoly of Bismarck. I think that is not in the best interest of the city and should be stopped. 2nd, We have improved some as far as having the food Co op. However, we need more variety of grocery stores than just Dans- their prices are outrageously high because they have minimal competition. We need to get the big name brand stores in here. I have made several requests on company's websites including Trader Joes, Aldy, Whole Foods. Also for restaurants, I wish there was more variety. Recently the Mexican restaurants have been doing well. But we need for Thai, Indian variety. I really enjoy Avery's as it is a new breakfast location. However, the space is definitely not big enough. Lastly, there is a severe lack of entertainment for children in this area. With snoopers tons of fun being shut down, there was barely anything for children's activities. This is especially true in the winter. With the opening of sky zone, that has helped. Also, when the Mandan (I know it's not Bismarck) took out the go-carts and lazer tag, that was a big disservice to the company. What Bismarck really needs is an indoor go-cart track (Like the NASCAR go-carts that are popular in other cities). This will not only help the younger children, but the older ones as well. Again, we go back to the lack of things for children to do- increase in underage drinking.

Bismarck needs to get away from doing things or making things for the younger generation to be able to get around and when I say younger generation I mean ages 21 to 35. There is nothing for those people who are families for single individuals over the age of 35 to do you want to make places walkable however an elderly person is not able to go Walkabout town to get to places there's no decent parking the public transportation sucks there are blocks that some people have to walk in order to make the transportation for public people. The other is that cost 4 things are extremely expensive there is no competition the mayor and the majority of the senior Commission only seem to look at the younger generation when making decisions and they allow one individual who owns a couple of small businesses to decide what to do with the downtown area and in my opinion that's all they care about if you're not 21 or within the range of 35 if you are older or younger the Bismarck government could really care less about you which is very frustrating for a lifeline Bismarck citizen.

Providing more opportunities for families with young children

Would like more indoor recreation for children (long winters), family-friendly places for people to gather indoors that aren't stores of restaurants, would also like to see a place that celebrates the rich and diverse history of Bismarck

Housing and rent to too high. There are not many public transportation options for someone who cannot drive.

Motocross racing/riding is a great family event and is in a great easy to access location. With this location so close to the equipment dealership it helps us maintain and groom the facility due to the relationships I have made with the dealerships for equipment use which is less than a couple mile away from the track. This is one of a few riding areas for people who enjoy this type of activity.

Safety is always top priority. Education is a close second. Money should always go there.

Sanford has a monopoly on are health care and when I go in I feel like a number, hardly ever see a police officer or a cop in town not sure if we have a hard time staffing or what the issue is but you call in for a issue report time is a minimum of 10 minutes

This survey is a good place to start, and I truly hope you get some helpful answers, but you need to listen to the people. Why did we cut lanes on main street when the public was so against it? Why has protesting been allowed to disrupt daily life when the public has asked that it remain in the legal areas? Why did it take so long for the City to publicly respond to the snow crisis? People have pride in this town. We want to help, but we need you, our government, to respond to our inquiries and generally tell us what you are trying to do.

Public transit is poor compared to other places, and employment opportunities for a person with a AS in a particular field ate limited or low paying.

Housing prices very high compared to wages (from a healthcare employee perspective). Winter is so long (especially cold and snowy this year). I have 2 small kids too young for a lot of outdoor activity. Can't afford to pay \$50 every day so they can run around Sky Zone for an hour. A public indoor park (for all ages kids) would be amazing

Need more reasonable rental rates. More choices in cultural events. The bus service needs to improve

Crime is getting bad. Too many out of state goofs moving here.

Would be nice to have more local restaurants. I also think that the entertainment opportunities could be better or at least do more advertising as I feel I miss some events because I didn't know they were even happening.

**STOP DAPL RIOTERS**

something needs to be done about people running red/yellow light, especially on 83 corridor...

Driving in Bismarck can be very frustrating. Speed limits and the timing of lights need to be looked at and adjusted for the growing city.

These all go together and raise the quality of life for everyone.

Regardless of how much it snows in a season the roads are always bad in winter. Especially residential alleys. As the city grows more options for those who don't drive are needed. Bismarck has grown in regards to cultural offerings but it needs to keep pace with the growing population

The north side of Bismarck in particular is severely lacking in public parks and swimming pools. It is such a tragedy to have a beautiful river with no community beaches for sunning, sand sports, water access. The road system is not well planned (specifically, how are 43 and 71 street not double lanes?). North Bismarck needs a costco or super target!

Driving in this town is a nightmare! We breed the worlds worst drivers I believe. I've delivered goods in town from 7am-8pm for years. Every aspect of a North Dakota driver is bad. This is why the commute times in town are so bad. Living south of expressway and going north can be a real pain in the butt. Changing the lanes on Main Street was a waste in my opinion. There are parking garages for parking. Use them. You would in any major metropolitan city. Or you'd pay to park on the street. Public transportation is a joke! Our cab companies are terrible. Could be 10 minutes could be an you and a half. I've never used the bus because the stops aren't near places I need to go. It's easier to ride a bicycle. And homes are quite pricey here. Renting a decent apartment is way to expensive. 1000 for a nice 2 bedroom is just to much when you can pay 1300 a month and own a great home. And our restaurants are garbage and I eat out alllllll the time. We need some sort of incentives for unique eateries

What are some things that need the most improvement in Bismarck? Bismarck has poor transportation. No Uber, very limited taxis and Ive never once thought about using the bus. If it were possible I wouldnt even own a car and bike, walk or use a bus to get around town. But due to snow and poor transportation this isnt possible. I do own a house but for others houses are too expensive.

Affordable housing for senior citizens & other low income is needed.

There are a lot of good jobs here but the pay needs to be increased. I'm a student almost graduating and looking to live alone soon and I can't because nothing is affordable with what I get paid. Nurses are over worked with low staff and need increased pay. Health care is not safe. St Alexis is so low staffed that almost all nurses on medical are travelers. Sanford is needs updated so bad building wise. A studio apartment cost \$700 a month average, 1 bedroom cost \$800+, and 2-3 bedroom cost \$900-1000+ so how do u expect people to pay this cost when they are not getting paid enough. Living prices went up with oil but now that has slowed so the prices should too.

I am concerned about cutting back on bus routes....we need more, not less. If it needs to be subsidized for awhile...so be it.....it is more important than giving the oil companies more tax breaks.

Health care is a primary issue as I age. I rely on the hospitals and clinics to continue to provide good quality health care. Safe streets and neighborhoods is essential for everyone to feel safe in the community. We need technology to stay connected to every other area of the world.

My traffic commute time and risk has doubled as of the recent change. In addition, it has done away with the coolest thing Bismarck started to have going for it - Cruise Night. Shame on you, you greedy politician and business owners that think you can control what people have in Bismarck, regardless of what the public want.

Bismarck is behind the eightball on some high traffic areas that continue to cause congested traffic flow, and the recent traffic constriction on main st is deplorable

Traffic is becoming horrible. 45 minutes to get across town is not only stressful and taking time away from the family but costs money when it comes to business as well. Many years of poor arterial road planning and sprawl are catching up to us. It would also be nice if there were more parks or even just open space to recreate in. It does not need to have play sets just a nice open space maybe with a gravel walking trail. Colorado adopted such open spaces and they get used frequently and nicely break up developed areas.

All, again, lead to quality of place to retain and attract individuals to Bismarck and advance the community. STEM development opportunities and contributors like Heritage Center and new Science center.

The housing market here is too high.

Needs improvements and more space for parking.

Downtown is okay, could use a better parking solution. There are not many end-game jobs in Bismarck. As I progress in my field I will need to leave Bismarck to find better opportunities. Housing is rough for anyone starting out looking for a first home.

We would like to upgrade our house, market makes it difficult to buy at a reasonable price.

Although these were both high points at one time, there has been a decline in recent years.

I live in a fairly secure apartment building but I have not always felt very safe in stores near my residence due to the influx of non-Native Americans from other states who were paid to come here and make trouble under the guise of helping out the tribe. My apartment is very nice but I am paying a lot to live there. I think it is that way all over town from when we looked at apartments in August.

Bismarck along with the rest of ND needs to create more varied jobs outside the ag and oil markets, technology may be a good sector for us. Arts and culture, entertainment need to grow to create a more dynamic community experience.

There is a great lack of any sort of quality entertainment/social activities for young adults. The housing market is absolutely ludicrous. It is insanely hard to afford a decent apartment/house to rent while on your own. There is no way to purchase a house if you do not make a significant salary. Restaurant and retail options are simply a joke. If my job wasn't here, there is now way I'd live here.

Housing is very high in Bismarck and I believe that there are few opportunities for people to obtain jobs that pay livable wages

It's hard to find an affordable apartment. Also, it seems as if the roads could be better cared for during the winter. Finally, there's only so much to do for a night out (and it's all quite expensive).

I feel like culturally, the Bismarck area is very conservative and lacks diversity. Therefore, our concerts, plays, musicals, art exhibits tend to be conservative. I feel art and music should challenge us to broaden our views. For the size of Bismarck/Bismarck area, I feel the amount of sit-down, family-friendly restaurants lack diversity. There are many places that offer a "sports theme" where you can order burgers. As for public services, I lack the knowledge of what the area offers! I feel like there is little advertising/awareness of what is offered.

Employment opportunities that pay well enough to live in Bismarck are difficult to find. More crime since population growth. Type of crime is more serious. Apartment costs have not come down even though the oil industry has slowed down.

Public transportation could be improved if buses would come out to U-Mary. Students would be encouraged to spend more at local businesses if they had more opportunities to get into town. Some neighborhoods are not as safe as others, it's part of life, but they are in high traffic areas which is a concern. Open winter spaces are limited.

All of these things need to continue to grow as things change over time.

More local businesses, allow more to be open on Sundays, and before noon on Sundays.

I work full time (and even a little over full time) yet I can't afford the rent of low income housing. The apartments and condos are a good variety in style but the price tag on renting is quite astonishing. I'm also not interested in the apartments that have major accessories, like a pool. Being that I live alone, I think that's a safety hazard for myself. All I want is a simple, affordable and safe living space.

Growth can be good, but I'd like to see things a bit more restrained. Most of the growth (and housing) is for single residents or those without children--which slowly detracts from the family friendliness of the city.

Snow removal has gotta improve.

as for the transportation, I think Bismarck does a poor job of after hour transportation contributing to the high amount of consuming alcohol and driving

More bike paths More cultural events, venues, out-of-state music entertainment More engaging/ young professional downtown area I want to stay in Bismarck, ND, but have to entertain myself at home or at my friends' homes. Need more concerts, comedians, or other events at the Event Center, Belle Mehus, etc.

The greed of pricing in this market is just sad. Most embarrassing thing to tell people about moving here hands down. To me shows how material of a town it really is.

Traffic and commute times are incredibly slow and frustrating.

As a stay at home mom of 3 kids under the age of 4, I'm constantly looking for things to keep them busy, especially during the long winter months. During the summer, we frequent all the various parks and playgrounds, and would love more options of green space to be outside walking, biking, jogging, etc. We need more indoor choices for young people since our winters are so long and cold. Large, indoor playground facilities, for free or cheap to attend. We literally have no place to let our kids run around during the winter, except for the mall play areas and sky zone (which is super expensive).

One of the things I miss most about living in other cities is the limited amount of jobs available in my field of work (digital marketing/project management/ communications, etc.). It was very difficult to find a job at a company I was interested in. There were many, many opportunities in other cities (Minneapolis, St. Paul, Alexandria, Fargo, etc.).

reasonable traffic and commute times and walkability go hand in hand with the range of housing choices at a reasonable price. People cant afford to live near Bismarck so the travel times are absurd.

I would LOVE to see a Trader Joe's here--or some other unique grocery options.

the housing market has been way out of line and makes it difficult to purchase a home, which also has affected the economy and jobs available.

Housing is very high, whether rented or owned, it's very hard to access public transportation, and the information about good public services is lacking.

Personally I would like to see more concerts and shows, and entertainment available

Bismarck is a large area to cover by foot

Bismarck is changing and we appreciate the police work that keeps us safe, but it seems we have way too many SWAT team incidents. Can we keep the military aspects out of police work?

I live on a hill. With the Christmas storm, the plows finally did our street late on Thursday afternoon.

Bismarck has grown faster than the systems needed to support us. We have some areas of the city where traffic is not managed in an efficient manner. The locations of some things, particularly the universities, are not walkable distance from any of the services needed by the students.

A city this size should have Uber and a more effective public transportation network. Downtown's walkability is OK, the rest of the city is pretty terrible, especially the newer commercial developments. Bismarck needs to move beyond the national chains when it comes to retail and food options. Also, not a diverse list of jobs available.

Not thrilled about our city government and their use of tax dollars. Would like to see less waste and micro-management by the city.

Affordable housing and public transportation to improve access and quality of life for all people

<p>I would like to reiterate the need for quick and easy transport to out of state locations, namely via flights. As a young, single individual I want to travel the country for entertainment and to visit loved ones. Other than road-trips, there are few options available to me directly from Bismarck. For a longer trip, I would have to travel to Minot or Fargo or Twin Cities for affordable cross-country travel.</p>
<p>Walkability is an issue in our neighborhood (Highland Acres). It's a beautiful place to walk, but not close enough to any grocery or service outlet. We drive everywhere. Housing remains expensive.</p>
<p>Most of the time traffic is okay, but rush hour traffic needs to be improved.</p>
<p>Traffic is horrible and drivers are worse - always turning on red lights.</p>
<p>I'm terrified to have a real health crisis given the healthcare options in Bismarck. Friends who work at the hospitals here tell me that fear is not misplaced. The food and retail options here are far too chain-heavy. Need to make it easier for local, interesting shops to open and succeed.</p>
<p>Bismarck does have some accessibility to parks and spaces but it doesn't have enough choices - more access to the river would be great!</p>
<p>I can't believe that the Bis-Man Transit system has been allowed to continue to operate like they do. They need a great manager.....they are very undependable as to wait times - to make someone wait up to an hour for a ride is ridiculous!! When I say this, I'm thinking of my almost-90-year-old mother. They need someone to really manage and take the reins and figure out a better way to offer rides to the vulnerable population. this is totally operated with tax dollars, so please offer a better service to the community. I simply can't believe they've been allowed to operate like this for so long!!! Please continue to offer public access to the Missouri River rather than only the rich people who have private properties along the river!!!</p>
<p>We could always use open space and parks, particularly in the downtown area. While Bismarck has grown, the infrastructure to move traffic before and after work needs to be looked at. Not that it is bad all the time, but it is during critical to/from work times. Lastly, I believe accessible and affordable housing is needed to attract people.</p>
<p>Though there is a fair number of areas to walk after a few snows these seem to be unusable for the rest of the winter. A number of people leave pets out without proper care or continuously bark with little enforcement.</p>
<p>Health care has taken a major step backwards with Sanford's purchase of Mid Dakota Clinic, it leaves the residents of the area with no real options.</p>
<p>Housing prices are ridiculous.</p>
<p>Continued loss of parking downtown coupled with continued growth of downtown doesn't make sense when we have winter 6 months out of the year</p>
<p>Housing is relatively expensive currently. This is a major drawback. The safety and character of our local citizenry, while already good, could be better still. Schools are a major contributor to human formation, but the family is the most important foundation for this.</p>
<p>Wish there was more outdoor activities available</p>
<p>Public river access is highly limited. Parks should be 'winter friendly'; there are lots of nice days in winter, too. Place more emphasis on walking and bicycling as a community value.</p>
<p>The housing is overpriced in the city. There are too many chain restaurants, it would be nicer to see more locally owned places to eat.</p>
<p>There is no range of housing choices for first time home buyers. You can pick from something that you cannot afford or something you can afford but needs so many improvements it will not qualify for a first time home loan.</p>
<p>For this community to grow and retain people for unemployment they need to work on getting businesses and restaurants to move into our city. Bismarck is going to have a housing bust here soon and leave people in bankruptcy owing more than the house is worth. They also need to improve upon social activities for people besides the bar.</p>
<p><b>DOWNTOWN</b></p>
<p><b>NEED:</b> Higher quality (walls and floors are fully sound-insulated), reasonably -priced, privately-owned, condominiums/high-rises that are of modern design and don't look dowdy and low-income and have community gardens. Need more condo-housing priced around 150k with covered parking options, and groceries/dry cleaning/shops on 1st floor. Walk-enticing streets and events with public transit options.</p>
<p>Having easier access to the downtown area/night life/events without having to drive whether that is allowing Uber or a similar service in or more accessible/reliable/frequent public transport... I have not looked at housing in recent months so this may have changed but for a young professional looking to be within Bismarck, housing to own within city limits in a price range that is reasonable is very slim. I don't think there could ever be enough cultural opportunities.</p>
<p>Housing has gone out of control in price. It makes me want to sell my half-paid off house and buy a house with cash somewhere else in the country. The only places more expensive than us are huge cities with millions of people. Also, if we are trying to be a city, we do need walkability, as well as for our health to combat high levels of obesity and health problems related to lack of exercise. Additionally, I do not always feel safe here. The police force has become more terrifying here. I used to think of them as friendly protectors, but now some are overly aggressive and trigger happy. Jobs are important, but we need jobs outside of energy and ag, desperately.</p>

I was recently unemployed and I was only able to find a part time job. It's a great job, but lacks medical, vacation, and sick days. I'm highly skilled and hard working, so while there are many jobs, there are a lack of jobs for someone with my background. If I want to hear country music or heavy metal there is a plethora of opportunity, but there are a lack of other types of bigger named bands brought into the community. The city is not designed to be as walkable or bikeable as it could be. The weather hinders this process quite a bit as well, but other cold metros allow for that.

Arts suffers here, most of the plays I've seen here are terrible. Terribly acted, and directed. I think more attention needs to be paid to academia, rather than sports. Bismarck is much less safe than it use to be. A meth head tried to mug me downtown last November. People were shocked to hear it, the police got him.

I would like to see more ethnic diversity in restaurant choices. I think it's insane that I have to drive to Fargo (which I don't even like) and get Indian food. It breaks my heart! There has been some expansion, but do we really need another hibachi restaurant? I think there could be a bit more in the way of walking paths around town... There is always room to add more entertainment in Bismarck. The concerts we get here are a bit of a joke. Although, comedians are solid. Housing is outrageous. My husband and I just bought our dream home, and the increase of housing prices from 5 years ago makes me sick. I get it...supply and demand, but I'll never tell someone that we have great housing prices. Public transportation is severely lacking. If we are not going to fix it...we need a service like Uber. The amount of driving under the influence astounds me each night I work in the jail. There will always be people who break the law, but when you call a taxi and the ride shows up an hour (or more) after bar close...how do you not think that contributes to the problem. UBER! or Uber-like company!

Limited restaurants w recent closures of restaurants in downtown Bismarck within the last year, need more affordable apartments with multiple bedrooms, inc pet friendly rental options, home prices to purchase have stayed quite high, uncertainty w economic standpoint from changes in middakota/Sanford/chi st Alexius with health related employment opportunities

I have found most of the local work available to me to be low paying and uninteresting. Since I've come to Bismarck, I've largely worked for people outside the state. As for walkability--please somebody make all traffic engineers and city planners here walk to work one day a week! They can't possibly have ever tried to walk to the grocery store (Arrowhead doesn't count) or even crossed State Street on foot. I don't actually know much about the schools, but I'd like to see more intellectual curiosity across the board.

More activities like horse shoe. Volleyball other sports like that. Putting a dust control on these dusty gravel roads.

On our block we have a terrible problem with drainage from our alley (between 2nd and 3rd and between avenue D and E) we are always worried about flooding with heavy rain falls. Traffic is reasonable but also a growing concern as the town grows. My wife and I are new parents and have a draw to our artistic community but we also would love a venue that we could take our child.

Depending on the area you live in, there is only one cable provider or fiber provider. Midco has very ppor internet service compared to fiber (like Bek Communication). Housing affordability and housing options lacks big time. It seems like the city just has the same thing everywhere - single family home, duplex/triplex, and big apartment buildings. We need a better mix (i.e. cottage homes, townhomes, etc.).Affordability of housing is a BIG problem too. More than just providing sidewalks and trails, think about neighborhood and community design in terms of walkability.

The library hours do not always work and I facilitate family support groups and finding a comfortable, pleasant, low-cost location has been very difficult.

I am not sure if this is something that can be "fixed" there are numerous positions in retail and food but in other areas it's pretty much full. I have searched and searched and ap lied for as many as I can just trying to get out of my current retail position

My idea about Convention Center Improvements and Entertainment opportunities probably go hand in hand. The Civic Center is outdated and Bismarck continues to not compete with the Fargo Dome. I'd like to see Bismarck bring in more events on a regional/national scale. I'm not sure the Civic Center is competitive anymore outside of local/state events. Retail and Restaurants have improved over the past 10 years, but could do better. I miss Central Market grocery store.

Crime is out of control with no progress being made! City government operations are a disaster. The public schools are failing to provide meaningful education and are only worried about buildings.

The traffic and local commutes have really gotten bad over the years and need a definite improvement. I don't think the area has nearly as diverse dining options as Fargo, and the area features very low income housing options for the lower income residents.

Median prices of houses is very high - difficult to find a house that is reasonable within most budgets. Several arterial streets desperately need improvements - 43rd Ave is a prime example. This highly traveled roadway is still a rural road and needs to be upgraded to handle the capacity. It affects many commuters and has a chain effect on intersections and side streets throughout the area causing unnecessary congestion and safety issues. The walkability and connectivity between new developments is lacking leading to disconnected 'islands' throughout the Bismarck area.

Would like to see more manufacturing related organizations in Bismarck.

Housing is still expensive with a lack of rental laws often causing slum lord situations; although there is ample employment, the pay is often low when compared to the cost of living; the recent oil bust has somewhat stifled growth with budget cuts effecting both state and local governments, Bismarck needs more diversity in the industries located here, when you think of Bismarck walkability does not come to mind and I'm not sure if it's because it really isn't walkable or it's just not presented as a walkable city, public transportation is desperately needed this is a medium size city and should offer more routes, stops etc. A city cannot be great without decent public transportation, the snow removal is barely adequate and the city cannot attract or compete for new industries if employees cannot get to work after a major snow storm businesses frown when commerce is shut down due to weather related issues.

Our schools really need to look at keeping interested teachers and take comments and surveys from parents. There are quite a few teachers that should be replaced if not interested in providing a quality education for our students

Bring Uber to town. Better WiFi throughout the community. city should promote development not hinder it, such as longer than needed approvals for permits. Must also solve the infrastructure issue.

The choice I wanted was not on there--I don't feel like Bismarck has adequately planned for growth on the major roads and routes in Bismarck (especially north Washington area). I have been here 25 plus years and it doesn't feel like there is a vision for traffic flow for growth.

Bismarck needs more cultural, artistic and entertainment opportunities! The community would also benefit from improvements to public transportation. Our bus stops are so spread out.

Bismarck still lags in attracting popular restaurants / businesses which are prevalent in other communities much smaller than Bismarck (aka. Minot). Housing is still expensive along with expensive groceries given the income one can expect

Commuting is becoming a nightmare in town, especially North-South. I feel the city planning department has become too reactive instead of being proactive. Meaning: far too often in the growth of this city are we having to update, widen or add traffic lanes or lights, and much more. I feel much time and tax dollars are wasted because we fail to do things right the first time! We need more diverse and available entertainment and eating/drinking establishments. In order to attract the younger "Millenials", I feel this city needs to adapt better to the wants and needs of the younger generation.

City needs to look at the strain of continued growth in the counties and what that means for roads and public safety services. If we don't have the money for the roads quit letting the developers build. 43st is a prime example. Construction after the residential and business growth exploded in that area.

Need to develop a more effective route to move from north to south within the city.

The north-south roads are not adequate to handle the traffic, We need a new civic center with parking and room to host good size events. The current facility is terrible, no parking, poor access and needs to be relocated to an area with more room. We need more camping opportunities not nature areas my family has to drive over 100 miles on a weekend to camp

Minorities have a difficult time, getting into apprenticeships, and are unreasonably discriminated against till forced to quit the program

We can always use more entertainment/cultural/artistic opportunities. I don't think there's such a thing as too much of that in a community, especially if it brings out-of-towners into Bismarck to spend money and bolster our economy. Health care: Although we have a good amount of options, I've lost faith in our local healthcare systems after some personal experiences and often take my health care business out of town, specifically to Minneapolis or Rochester. Regarding "attractive setting," I wish ND put more effort into making things beautiful, instead of just building for economy/budget. I think of other cities that have interesting architecture and integrate public art into construction projects. It adds a lot of character and personality to a town.

A community can always continue to improve their recreational options. Housing options are limited and some areas of Bismarck are not the most traffic friendly.

It's hard to consider the economy stable when all we have are retails jobs and a lack of good quality high paying jobs. The good ole boys that have been here too long...have been here too long. Put the burden of specials and development on the developers. We must be nearing a breaking point in cost per sq foot of a new house and what the market will support.

By "range of housing choices" selection, I mostly mean that I'd love to buy a house that \*isn't\* a McMansion in the perimeter housing developments. It's impossible to find a newer home that is 2,500-3,000 square feet.

Everything that is discussed in the news, from the City, is negative, combatting the few negative folks that don't want any change.

Concern over the type of people the oil fields attract.

Medical care sucks for people with tramatic brain injuries.

I would like to see a Culvers and Sonics in Bismarck

There are limited cultural offerings here, they need more support.

Bismarck is a city that is just waking up to the need for expansive cultural opportunities in order to attract and retain a younger generation. Main street has seen major improvements since I first arrived in Bismarck and the additions of more minor league teams in multiple sports has started getting the community more involved. Bismarck faces a tough challenge in that it is still rooted in a much more reserved old world North Dakota attitude. If Bismarck is looking to expand to rival Fargo and maybe one day the Twin Cities it is going to require lots of activities that generate community involvement. Without community buy-in it is tough to get anything really going, and unfortunately culture takes time to shift. I believe Bismarck/Mandan can become a nice metropolitan area it needs to continue to expand its opportunities to its populace to allow them to express who they are and in turn will help drive an identity for Bismarck.

LHS, while beautiful and modern, is an absolute waste of taxpayer money. Stop experimenting with these kids...ACT scores will be falling. Apartment prices are starting to level off, but still unaffordable for a single worker. Crime rate rising, no longer feel this is a safe, small city. NoDapl protests and fall out have created a state of anxiety and disharmony in this community

Good to see new arts and culture developments recently, but we need more!

Traffic is terrible. The timing of lights in North Bismarck needs improvement. People also need to pay more attention behind the wheel.

Where as there is always room for improvement, I think we have a very accommodating city.

Bismarck has a lot of single parent families and they are struggling to stay afloat because of the lack of reasonable housing or limited assistance. Schools are getting crowded and students that require more one on one are slipping through the cracks. Bismarck has a very limited public transportation system with rigid hours. I have employees that can't work past a certain time as buses quit running and they have no way home.

Bismarck has a very expensive housing market. This needs to be more affordable compared to other cities. Public transportation really lacks. We need more manufacturing jobs.

These are all areas that can continue to grow and improve upon.

The city needs more protected left turn lights to help traffic flow more efficiently. Snow removal is a definite concern, and not just this year. As a MN native, the rate of snow removal of any kind, particularly downtown, is embarrassing. And trying to find a first home under \$200k or pet friendly rent under \$1000/mo was extremely difficult.

younger people need more affordable housing and public transportation; the arts/entertainment also attracts young people who will form the base of our economy and help us grow.

I think public transportation doesn't help those that work outside the normal hours and needs to be improved. Good paying professional jobs are hard to find here. The housing market is incredibly inflated.

Particularly bad winter, but there are many major roads that slim down to one or two lanes only. Traffic is a pain getting to and from work due to poor snow removal.

Renting is expensive and it is difficult to find a quality house or apartment in a price range that people can afford.

Bismarck is an expensive place to live. Public transportation can always be more viable.

Bismarck is really great but can be a bit close-minded at times. If you're not from here, it can be difficult to make friends easily. People are friendly but not necessarily welcoming.

it seem that Bismarck just doesn't want to become a city to gives to the older citizens only those in their 20's.

**MORE URBAN HOUSING & MORE DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES WILL ONLY MAKE THE CITY GROW STRONGER.**  
No more urban sprawl.

Compared to other states, high quality/income opportunities are not as good. Housing is high-priced as well as groceries.

Would love to see more tech startups/businesses move to town! Downtown could use some beautification, ideally without extreme spending.

Lack of sidewalks along 26th street and parts of Expressway and other smaller streets. Crime has increased somewhat since we moved here. I think more cab services are needed on weekends for the bar rush to decrease the number of drunk drivers on the roads.

City gov. is too big they need to trim some departments. City gov. doesn't listen to what the people want. If the city gov wants it, we get whether the citizens want it or not.

Housing is not affordable for young families. And the range of employment opportunities has become limited. There are also limited cultural, artistic and entertainment opportunities.

I think our public transportation could be improved upon for a city our size. Since our services are so spread out it can be hard for people without vehicles to get access to basic services like shopping, groceries, and medical. I've lived a city of a million people and I was able to get most anywhere in about 15 minutes. It takes way too long to get across town. Our Kirkwood Mall needs some serious renovations and a food court.

The city is extremely spread out so public transportation and walking routes could be better coordinated. The restaurants and retail spaces are getting better but still lack a strong market for a city that is a destination for many surrounding areas.

While a lot of park and green areas are utilized, there is considerable room for improvement and a need for upkeep on unmaintained trails such as Pioneer park mountain bike trail. This is used by hundreds of people weekly, yet maintained by the people who use them, not the city. I can't imagine tennis players, softball players or runners having to do upkeep on their facilities. It's a little ridiculous. Grassroots organizations, such as the Burleigh County Bicycle Cult, have formed to take maintenance, equipment and supplies into their own hands.

Prices of housing too high for our economy both renting and buying. Lack of manufacturing jobs for non educated people is lacking thus pay is small. Medical and professional jobs seem to pay well. Schools use to be on a good trend. Now we don't have grades for k-8 everyone passes, no homework graded or given, our ACT scores are down, and kids are no longer held accountable. Everyone passes, gets a "good job" even when it is terrible work. Our superintendent is a failure as is her secondary assistant superintendent. City leadership has their own myopic agenda. Serve the city's people not their want to be like other cities agenda.

Always grow the arts. More places to eat is always a plus

need a city nature center, also it feels like the city is growing faster than the police department

Walkability is important and denser urban development.

I would like to see more street lights at night, especially in neighborhoods near public parks. I think some recreational space for older kids, not just playground ages would be a good addition. I would like to see more routes offered on the CAT.

I was glad to hear about the revitalization project between the expressway and downtown. I was also glad to hear about plans for the historic depot. I would like to see more bylaws in support of urban farming (i.e. chickens), more access to fresh food (the farmers' markets are great! Keep them going!)

Housing continues to be too expensive for many first time home buyers. Owning your own home is the first step to building personal wealth and providing a stable learning environment for children. Our community needs to step up to the plate with an increased sales tax to continue developing and maintaining streets and roads. Our current sales tax rate is insufficient and we shouldn't fall behind if we want our community to grow and foster a diverse economy.

Public transportation needs to be improved and expanded for the city to function long-term. Buses need to run more often, have more routes, and be on time so that the public can trust the public transportation enough to use it.

Bismarck could use more alternative rock concerts. Driving to Fargo and Minneapolis for entertainment is a pain. All of our concerts here are for people who like heavy metal or classic rock. Yawn. Most of the grocery stores are too big and not close to homes to be in convenient walking distance. There are not a lot of job opportunities that allow upward mobility and growth. We need more parks to provide people with nice places to experience the outdoors.

Lack of manufacturing and engineering here is awful. So many traffic lights need new timing studies. Lack of decent parking in the downtown area. If you don't hunt or fish you're SOL in this city.

Bismarck has many many miles of paved trails. Bismarck needs more natural/ dirt trails. With an active population such as Bismarck this needs to be an area where resources are placed. Mountain biking and hiking will better serve a younger and more active population to go with Bismarck's overall growth.

Although downtown is great for walkability, many other areas are not. Sidewalks and bike trails sometimes start or end without a good connection to where to go next. I live in Mandan, but I bike to Bismarck and around the Bismarck trails often (in the summer). The attitude of drivers toward pedestrians also really needs to improve before I would give Bismarck a high walkability score. A large majority of drivers don't stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. Apartment rent in Bismarck is high, especially in the newer, safer complexes. My rent in Mandan is several hundred dollars less than an equivalent apartment in Bismarck. ...and the cost of buying a house: insane. Fargo has better housing at reasonable prices. And it's a larger city with many more Cultural, artistic and entertainment opportunities.

Resource in the community are limited, living expenses are extremely high (gas and food especially), not enough diversity of entertainment

Why can't sidewalks be included when developers build new streets

We need fewer chains and more local establishments - both retail and restaurants. Housing is expensive. Most areas in the city are not walkable and by that I mean services like grocery stores, retail, restaurants are not within a reasonable walking distance.

City, County and Public Schools governments seem to be at odds more often than not and should not be they ultimately all have the same overall goal. Urban sprawl, owner-occupied housing affordability and commercial development are able to exist and be available while not fighting against one another. However, the divide among these government entities seem to be growing. It is disappointing to see happen helps create an air of uncertainty which contradicts each of these entities overall goal(s).

We need more things to do, especially for young professionals and affordable housing.

housing has gotten out of control, not to mention special assessments being passed on to the buyers, this is not typical in other states. Makes it even more difficult for 1st time homebuyers or for those coming from other communities/states-complete sticker shock. There are not very many high paying job opportunities here-many comments on my resume regarding my experience and why I would apply for lower positions, no openings at the higher levels and very few other than Dr. positions, but a TON of retail and restaurant, hotel positions. Would rank cultural opportunities low, especially in comparison other communities of our similar size.

<p>The drainage systems are not adequate in many areas of town. After heavy rains or snow melts the streets are severely flooded and people are out fighting the water and later when it subsides shoveling silt.</p>
<p>I appreciate that new businesses are opening in Bismarck, but we are severely lacking retail shops that sell mid-priced business wear and children's clothing. I end up doing most of my shopping online. We do have some amazing restaurant choices here thanks to our local businesses. When I've been in the job market I struggled to find mid-level opportunities that fit my skill set (management, fundraising, event planning) that pay well. It limits my ability to grow in my career as it would be difficult for me to find something better than what I currently have for a job. The city needs to stop doing things "the way we've always done it" and start being strategic about their use of limited resources. Clearing the snow has been a nightmare this year and a lack of planning for a true ND winter, growth of the community and bad equipment is no excuse.</p>
<p>A better selection of entry level housing would help young families. The city has fallen behind on road way improvements on developing areas.</p>
<p>More and better choices of low cost homes (as opposed to mobile home courts and apartments) within core area of the city. The Infill &amp; Redevelopment Plan appears to have common sense options not found in the current building codes to inspire construction in and around downtown and near higher education facilities.</p>
<p>Funding for the arts to be able to share more opportunities.</p>
<p>There's not much to do, especially in winter. Housing prices are absolutely ridiculously overpriced. Its unreasonable and expensive.</p>
<p>While we do have a decent art community, you can never have enough of the arts. Being in music and art during school gave me so many life skills, and not continuing to foster opportunities for it outside of schools is a travesty. Housing prices are absolutely insane. My husband and I make much more than the average couple our age in terms of overall income, and we STILL feel like finding a home here (that isn't in desperate need of updating and repair) for a reasonable price is impossible for us. It's crazy. My parents bought their first home in Fargo for over 5x less in 1990 than it would cost us to buy our first home here. So instead we're throwing money down the drain in a ridiculously overpriced 2 bedroom apartment trying to save for a home we might not be able to afford for another 10 years. And we have seriously considering leaving because of it. If it weren't for our families here in town, we probably would have left already.</p>
<p>Not much lacking in a community of its size, limited internet options though.</p>
<p>As the city has expanded North, the streets and infrastructure has not kept up with the traffic flow. Commute from north to south Bismarck is 20 plus minutes. Main reason we do not shop or eat downtown. Challenging during peak working hours of 7:30-8 am and 4:30-5:30pm.</p>
<p>Traffic flow, especially north to south is a disaster. Slumlords have taken over what were once nice neighborhoods and filled the rentals with very undesirable residents, City government has turned a deaf ear to residents needs, wants and desires and has pretty much flipped the middle finger to them.</p>
<p>We need for variety for families and children. Examples: children's art museum, splash pads in parks, larger parks (similar to Mandan's). Adults - more bar/restaurants. Better entertainment-tends to be too country. More theater. More music with better venue space.</p>
<p>Only note about the public schools: they are plenty safe, but having been in them just a few years ago, I can guarantee that students do not know as much as their scores say they do. There is a desperate need for less standardized testing and a higher focus on students knowing what is important, instead of memorizing info for a good score only to forget it a week later.</p>
<p>The city is not walkable overall, I think we need to develop more wholistic neighborhoods to get there. Public transportation is lacking, I would take the bus but if I have to walk a mile to get to a stop and transfer twice I'm not going to. The Missouri River is a great asset for our community, could we leverage that relationship more?</p>
<p>Increase in crime is unacceptable</p>
<p>Bismarck is not pedestrian friendly</p>
<p>Traffic - There are not enough North/South or East/West through streets that are designed to handle the amount of traffic in Bismarck. Walkability - The older part of town is much more walkable than the new part. I love being able to walk to things instead of having to drive. It is also nice for children when there are ample things they can walk to. Healthcare - Bismarck needs to retain both Hospitals and find a way to recruit more quality doctors as it is very difficult to get in to see specialists here.</p>
<p>I feel my husband and myself are very underpaid for our careers. In similar markets, we'd both make several thousand more dollars. Traffic in Bismarck has changed dramatically. Sitting at street lights through 4 and 5 signal times is not acceptable. I also say access to the river because I would love to see a public swimming area on the river that's safe. A bay or something with some aquatic actives or rentals - like Harmon Lake but in Bismarck. The only "public" beach is not a safe place to swim and the beach is not big.</p>
<p>Traffic flow is becoming increasingly congested, and the population base isn't large enough to support good public transportation, especially for the handicapped and elderly.</p>
<p>I have heard poor reviews regarding the public transportation not being reliable, taking too much time, and not a good option for those who need it. I always like seeing new restaurants that are different.</p>
<p>I understand that the police department is under duress. 54 qualified people to fill 6 spots and only 7 apply.</p>

Love all the development on the North end!
Public transportation needs to be available for longer hours.
Downtown Affordable Housing (not age restrictive), better public transportation (more bus routes, bike share, etc.)
More Transportation Options like share ride companies or safe ride.
I feel there should be more venues and opportunities for families with children. With the continued growth of our school systems, there are many young families in the Bismarck-Mandan area; however, there are limited cultural, artistic, entertainment, and recreational opportunities for these young families. Thankfully the Gateway to Science Center is expanding, and the Heritage Center provides welcome cultural opportunities, however, there could definitely be more. A Children's Museum and/or more artistic and entertainment opportunities such as a year-round Children's Theater could be a wonderful and needed addition to our community. The market exists with the number of young families in this area; let's provide them with these opportunities.
Health care & traffic: see above; Housing/rental costs overall are excessive, not to mention taxes. The cost of living in Bismarck is higher than many areas/cities. This is particularly true when factoring the fact that a great deal of employment opportunities/current job openings are retail (part-time, no benefits).
I included access to the Missouri River on both lists because while I think this is a great asset to Bismarck, the public access to the river could be better designed/utilized. I would also love to see some more walking/hiking trails in natural areas. The ravines and drainage-ways that run through a lot of neighborhoods would be a great place for this. It would be so fantastic to not have to leave the city in order to connect with nature!
I'm not sure what the city provides in regard to public services, so maybe, we just need some marketing. We live south of Lincoln, which is considered Bismarck and there is a need for walking/bike trails in the area. Housing continues to be high for those with lesser incomes.
While the river is amazing and there's plenty of access, many of our public river bottoms, specifically WMA areas are totally trashed. I just walked down to the sandbars on South Washington by Sibley park. Wow. Broken bottles, burnt mattresses, even an abandon vehicle. It's hard to walk on a sandbar within 5 miles of Bismarck and not see trash. I say steepen the fine for littering. Run a ticketing campaign for a few weeks and word will get out - don't litter our river. I feel there's a housing gap existing for the average income first time homebuyer. It's still hard to find anything under \$200k.
I very much wish I was able to pick schools and artistic opportunities as a first choice for the positive but at this point I can't. I strongly disagree with many of the public school systems policies (absence policy, final testing policies, lack of arts accessibility) and don't feel as though artistic and culteral opportunities are celebrated and focus on enough in general. While there are more and more interesting restaurants popping up, the current laws about 21+ make it difficult for those with young families to visit these establishments. The cultural shift hasn't happened to make real changes in these areas.
Above listed items are acceptable currently.
I hope the transit services continue to be available, so critical a service for so many. Along with a growing city, a tough on crime approach is needed to keep citizens safe. Rent is still too high for a lot of people. One friend had to move to Fargo to afford rent as there's more competition for renters there.
We need to support our police. That means more than lip service. That means providing them the ability to deal with all drug related crimes in an aggressive nature. The Missouri River is Bismarck differentiating factor to all other communities in the upper Midwest, including Fargo and Grand Forks, and Minot. If we have quality private sector employment most every item will be addressed. The private sector creates wealth, the public sector spends. We need to continue to figure out more primary sector jobs; manufacturing, and other employment that expands our employment opportunities and does not compete with businesses that already have made an investment in the community. As an example all of the bars that have received tax exemptions because of the Renaissance Zone.
Our excellent schools need more money to keep up with enrollment growth Public Works services need to keep their current level of services. Police Station needs northern branch for response time.
The Missouri River is one of the greatest resources the city has, but not much is being done to protect it from development.
Although being safe in Bismarck has never been an issue, things are changing with the oil boom. This is not the Bismarck that I knew years ago. But the public is becoming more aware of the need to lock doors and cars. We are learning the cost of success.
They are lacking, compared to Fargo or other metropolitan areas
You don't need to get bigger to get better. Cut the emphasis on growth, and be happy with what you have.
Great place to live, but we could use improvement on the cultural and entertainment types offered here rather than just eating out and bar hopping.
I love Bismarck, but being an adult just out of college with a lot of school loans it is hard to be able to afford a safe place to live where I feel comfortable being alone at night or for long periods of time. While we end up paying over 1,000 a month for rent between that and student loans we have a difficult time saving for a house.

The housing prices are incredibly high for the compensation obtained from employment. It is very difficult to afford to rent or own a home in Bismarck, especially with the income levels where they are currently. For a capitol city, there is not a lot of draw for new residents to want to move in, Fargo is a larger community that offers higher wages for pay and rent/home prices that are more affordable. It would be nice to see Bismarck being a leader among progressive cities in North Dakota and not lagging behind, only changing current practices after other cities have pioneered them.

There are few renting or buying options in Bismarck. They fall within if you want to get something affordable, move to Mandan or Lincoln, or owning a \$300,000 home that is half the size of a similarly-priced option a few miles away. Public transportation in the community is pathetic. Unsure if the community is capable of producing a public transportation system that someone would want to use, and would be usable outside traditional working hours.

Various public access to the Missouri River is important. Affordable housing too: getting a start on that down payment of a mortgage just isn't gonna happen unless there are options in that \$250,000 range or lower.

I now need to commute using Washington Street from the YMCA to downtown area. Washington street is an ongoing problem(not enough lanes for traffic flow) for many many years that I have avoided up to now. It needs to be widened especially with the growth the city has seen.

Need more recreational options for kids and more childcare options for after school/non school days for working parents

It's not cheap living in Bismarck. There should be some type of incentive programs to help younger families purchase and improve homes in older, established neighborhoods. Without an influx of young families into these neighborhoods, we will continue to see public schools close or become less desirable. Instead of the public school system pushing the growth of the community to the fringes, they should be focusing on how to encourage reinvestment in the city's core neighborhoods. New schools will always have advantages over older schools. That playing field should be leveled to help control the sprawling community and stretching the resources of municipal government.

To be able to attract residents who do not have family ties or ties to the area in general it is imperative that Bismarck contains high-quality/ high income jobs. With a highly skilled work environment all other areas of the city will directly benefit as well.

I think not having access to the river be connected to the city is a huge miss. I think better city planning would avoid eyesores like the dilapidated trailer parks in the center of the city. Keep crime down with aggressive policing. It is good now, but things can get bad quickly.

Winters are long some years in Bismarck, and it would be wonderful to have more cultural, artistic, and entertainment opportunities to take advantage of, especially when it is cold outside. Low cost/free events presented by local artists/entrepreneurs are fun.

Long term plans for streets need to be looked at. More thru streets is not enough. Hwy 83 should be developed into a free way with overpass and on and off ramps. City planning is getting better but needs to be more concerned with the way of new building and current redevelopment looks (is it pleasing to the eye). For example more landscaping requirement, no tall large or overbearing signs on retail and restaurant, moving forward no new large flashing signage (like on the corner of State Street and Divide) they are eye sores.

We do not have much for public transportation, especially north of Century Avenue. Not always a ton to do...but that is getting better all of the time.

our housing market has gotten unattainably expensive, especially for first time home buyers. Our public transport is quite limited. My sister, for example, is mentally and physically disabled and cannot drive. She's recently been told she may lose access to the Transit, which is her only opportunity to maintain any kind of job or independence.

Because I'm a city person, I miss the diversity of people which creates an exciting dining and retail environment. Good public transportation would make Bismarck a unique stand-out amongst small cities.

Our current city government is out of touch with the average, middle to lower-middle income citizen of Bismarck; we make up the greatest portion of the citizenry. Stop corporate welfare/tax breaks for company's and chasing the desires of rich snobs.

I would appreciate additional cultural and artistic opportunities (especially music). The public goods that could be improved are better care for the trees on the boulevards. I've seen many in need of trimming and it would be tragic if historic districts with mature trees were to lose them. Some of the public parks are better maintained and cared for than others. Bringing them all up to the same level of quality would be good.

Washington Street needs to be widened and it is marked with too many potholes. The reduction of lanes on Main Street made the traffic worse.

Before teaching, I was a social worker, and lack of affordable housing and public transportation that is accessible and easy to navigate were enormous challenges for many of the families that I worked with.

Cost of living in north dakota has increased dramatically, but wages are not matching that. As a previous resident as MN I can say my decision to stay-at-home is because my wages as a registered nurse are dramatically less, and the cost-benefit ratio of what I get paid compared to what I would need to pay for child care don't match-u. I simply can't afford to work and be away from my family as much as I would be as a nurse who has worked in a hospital setting. Access to quality healthcare is also a concern. It's hard to get appointments, and I often question the expertise and experience of the providers I come into contact with. My family has even had to travel to the Twin Cities for care. I live near Wachter and Washington Ave, and have almost been hit by several cars when trying to walk to the park near the ice arena and wave pool. I do not find Bismarck to be a walkable community.

There are areas of town that are not safe to be alone, stores I won't go into with my concealed firearm. But I imagine that's the same in every town. Would like to see more entertainment options that are affordable for a family. And trying to find a livable home in an affordable price range as a single person is proving to be near impossible.

They are the most important to me

I don't feel safe after dark in this town now. I am very cautious when I go in public. I never go to the south mall-unsafe!!!

We seem to have plenty of open positions in town for service industry or if you are a computer programmer, but if you are looking for another type of job that pays well enough to be able to live, there isn't much out there- unless you are a nurse. Bismarck does not have stores, restaurants, or coffee shops/ bakeries in the neighborhoods that are close enough to walk to. We only have a couple of areas where a home owner can walk to these places. Although we have improved in the last few years, Bismarck is still lacking in artistic/ entertainment opportunities. Most of Bismarck's cost of housing is far above what one can pay if you work in the service industry- where most of the jobs are. We need more reasonably priced housing. We really don't have public transportation that has reasonable routes. It is hard to take the bus to Kirkwood from down south. First you go all the way up north and then come back down. It is a waste of time. Also, I recently worked at the University of Mary. There is no public transportation that is reliable for the students to get back and forth to town. If they could, there would be more students that could work in town. I do like that we are getting more restaurants in Bismarck, but right now there is still long waiting lines at the restaurants we have because there are more people living here than what our restaurants can serve.

To select three items would be to say that I think those areas are lacking. I'm truly happy with what is provided in each of these categories.

Concerned about the merging of the hospitals

Some areas of town are quite congested during peak traffic times. Washington Street. I think Bismarck is improving on the range of retail and restaurant services but there is still some room to improve here.

More restaurant/retail in downtown area. Designate more historic neighborhoods.