

# 2024 Dunes City Survey Results

Population approximately 1374, total number of households = 780

Number of responses = 152 (about 20%) 257 residents

Margin of error is about  $\pm 7\%$

## Summary of Key Findings and Recommendations of the survey respondents:

1. The Dunes City population is mature, 80% are 55 or older, 71% are 1 or two person households, and 55% receive retirement income.
2. The Dunes City population is educated, 59% have a 4-year degree or higher.
3. We are stable, over 90% are homeowners and 70% plan to stay at least 20 years, most of us permanently.
4. The things we like most are the great community, small town feel, quite beautiful area.
5. Our biggest challenges in the future will be managing population growth, water and wastewater, road maintenance and preserving natural surroundings.
6. The issues the Council should address are speeding on Clear Lake, water and regulating short-term rentals.
7. About 1/3 support commercial development, 2/3 do not, 81% want the population to be 2000 or less in 10 years, low growth is the majority.
8. About 15% support a City Tax, 20% support user fees.
9. The residents are evenly split on law enforcement, about half want additional and half believe the Lane County Sherriff is enough.
10. A majority support accessory dwelling units, 28% as long-term rentals and 40% if used by friends and family only.
11. About 25% have signed up to volunteer for City events, 75% are not interested in volunteering.
12. The majority (68%) of residents want Dunes City to remain an incorporated city, 32% are in favor of disincorporation.

Not all residents responded and not all respondents answered every question, but the number of responses is sufficient to gauge the priorities and concerns of the community. The results and all comments will be posted to the Dunes City website. Not all questions add up to 100% due to rounding error.

# 2024 Dunes City Survey Results

1. What best describes you?
  - Resident/Homeowner 91%
  - Property Owner 6%
  - Home Rented or Vacant 3%
  
2. How many people currently live in your household?
  - 1 13%
  - 2 58%
  - 3 14%
  - 4 7%
  - 5 or more 3%
  - No answer 5%
  
3. What is the age range of each household member?
  - 0-17 years 7%
  - 18-24 years 2%
  - 25-34 years 2%
  - 35-44 years 6%
  - 45-54 years 4%
  - 55-64 years 19%
  - 65 and older 61%
  
4. What is your household's primary source of income?
  - Employment 24%
  - Business ownership 10%
  - Retirement funds 55%
  - Government assistance 2%
  - Other: combination of above 9%
  
5. What is the highest level of education attained by any member of your household?
  - Some high school 1%
  - High school diploma or equivalent 7%
  - Some college 20%
  - Associate degree 14%
  - Bachelor's degree 23%
  - Graduate or professional degree 36%

6. How long have you lived in Dunes City?

- Less than 1 year 3%
- 1-5 years 29%
- 6-10 years 23%
- Over 10 years 45%

7. How long do you plan to live in Dunes City?

- 0-9 years 4%
- 10-19 years 7%
- 20-29 years 4%
- 30-39 years 1%
- 40+ years 1%
- Permanently 64%
- Unknown 20%
- Other (please specify): None-ya

8. Rate what you like best about Dunes City? As ranked by responses

- Great community #1
- The small-town feel #2
- Quietness #3
- Natural surrounding/views #4
- Night sky #5
- Dunes City history #6
- Proximity to the Oregon Dunes National Rec. area #7

Other (please specify): see comments Q8

9. What do you like least? See comments for Q9

10. What do you think will be Dunes City's biggest challenge in the future? Check all that apply. Ranking by number of responses

- Managing population growth #1
- Constructing a municipal water supply #2
- Maintaining infrastructure (roads, utilities) #3
- Preserving natural surroundings #4
- Balancing development with small-town feel #5
- Economic sustainability #6
- Traffic and transportation issues #7
- Other (please specify): See comments Q10

11. Which, if any, issues would you like to see addressed by Town Officials? Please check all that apply:

ranking by number of responses

- Reduce the speed limit on Clear Lake #1
- Municipal water system #2
- Regulating vacation rentals (STR's). #3
- Road improvements #4
- Municipal wastewater system #5
- Allowing commercial business #6
- On-street parking #7

Other: See comments Q11

12. Rate what you'd like to see the City prioritize. As ranked by responses:

- Strengthen enforcement penalties #1
- Relax current land use codes #2
- Employing a Code Enforcement Officer #3
- Employing a Law Enforcement officer #4

Other: see comments Q12

13. Would you like to see commercial development in town?

- Yes 37%
- No 63%

If yes, please indicate where you would like it: ***of those that answered yes***

- Lake Front 5%
- Along 101 only 53%
- Large parcels throughout the City 10%
- Anywhere without restrictions 20%

14. What kind of commercial development would you like to see? See comments Q14

15. If you do not want to see commercial activity, how does Dunes City fund itself?

- Raise property taxes (a City over-ride) 15%
- User fees 20%
- Apply for grants 50%
- Other (please specify): See comments Q15 15%

16. Dunes City's current population is approximately 1374. What do you believe the ideal population for the city will be in **10 years**?

- 1374 or less 27%
- 1500-2000 54%
- 2000-3000 9%
- 3000-5000 3%
- 5000+ 0%
- Unsure 8%

17. What type of agricultural businesses would you like to see in Dunes City?

- Farmers' markets 32%
- Organic farms 19%
- Community-supported agriculture (CSA) 9%
- Greenhouses or nurseries 16%
- None 24%

18. Would you support having one unattached Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)

- On all lots if they meet setbacks 46%
- Only lots with at least one acre 23%
- Only on lots with at least 5 acres 8%
- No, I do not support unattached ADU's in Dunes City. 23%

19. Would you support owner-occupied Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) throughout Dunes City?

- Used as short-term rentals? 7%
- Used as Long-Term rentals? 28%
- Not rented but used as family only quarters. 40%
- I do not support ADU's in Dunes City. 24%

20. Should Dunes City hire or contract Law Enforcement within the boundaries of Dunes City?

- Yes, it is needed on an ongoing basis. 51%
- No, Lane County Sherrif is enough 49%

21. What could the Town do to encourage participation in these events? Circle all that apply, ranking by number of responses

- Increase event advertising and promotion #1
- Offer a wider variety of activities #3
- Schedule events at different times #4
- Increase community involvement in planning #2
- Offer incentives for attendance (e.g., raffles, prizes) #4

22. What additional comments or feedback do you have that can help Dunes City continue to improve and better serve its residents? We value your input and are eager to hear your thoughts on how we can make our town an even better place to live. See comments Q22

23. There is no question 23

24. Are you interested in being a volunteer for Dunes City community events and activities? By percent of responses

- Yes 23%
- No 77%

25. Are there questions you would like to have seen on this survey that we failed to ask? Do you have comments about this survey or other Town issues? Please tell us here: See comments Q25

26. Do you think Dunes City should be disincorporated?

- Yes 32%
- NO 68%

I want to thank everyone that participated in the survey, special thanks to Lila and Linda with Dunes City and Chris Clemons for helping create an online survey for no cost. Thank you to all the residents that took the time to complete the survey and add comments for the City Councils review and possible future action.

*Thank You*