



Experience **LIFE** in the Park

News Release

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Residents rate quality of life in the Park above the entire metro area, according to community survey

St. Louis Park, Minn. – A solid 97 percent of residents in St. Louis Park rated the quality of life in the city as excellent or good, according to a recently released survey conducted by Decision Resources, Ltd., on behalf of the city.

In addition to general perspectives about the city, the survey asked residents about public safety, city services, taxes, environment and energy issues, City Hall, community, neighborhood, diversity, transportation, parks and recreation, communications and more.

The survey was the most decisively positive survey Decision Resources has seen in the metropolitan area since the company's founding in the 1980s, said company president Dr. Bill Morris. The company completes dozens of surveys in the metropolitan area annually.

In fact, Morris said the 97 percent rating of excellent or good for the city's quality of life is the highest of any area suburb and represents a 40 percent increase since the city's 2006 survey. The 70 percent approval rating for the City Council is also far above average, Morris said.

Mayor Jeff Jacobs said the results of the survey confirm what he already knows about the Park.

"I'm glad that residents are seeing the value of this community that I see every day," Jacobs said. "But as I always say, now that we have received this high praise, what do we have to do

to continue to earn it? We must not compromise value in the face of challenging times. Our residents deserve this value.”

Among the other highlights from the survey:

- 96 percent of residents said they have an overall feeling of safety in St. Louis Park
- 75 percent of residents view city services as either an excellent or a good value for the property taxes paid
- 90 percent of residents think the city’s emphasis on environmental concerns is “about right”
- 97 percent of residents rated city staff’s courtesy highly
- 98 percent of residents think homes in their neighborhood are well-maintained
- 95 percent of residents take pride and ownership in their neighborhood
- 90 percent of residents leaving the Park on a daily basis for work, school or shopping rate the ease of their commute as excellent or good
- 93 percent of residents feel the existing recreational facilities offered by the city meet the needs of their household

“We are certainly very pleased with the results of the survey,” said City Manager Tom Harmening. “It’s no secret that this community has strong neighborhoods with active and engaged residents – residents who expect a great deal from their community. So, we’re happy to see that we’re performing quite well in terms of meeting those needs.”

The residents’ praise follows a successful year for the city in which it received more than two dozen awards and honors recognizing achievements in such areas as Parks and Recreation, community policing, crisis negotiations, housing programs, local government innovation, the city’s website, fighting graffiti and transportation. The city also earned a AAA bond rating, was named one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People for a third straight time and once again received the Tree City USA designation.

Survey methodology:

Decision Resources contacted 400 randomly selected households in the city. Residents were interviewed by telephone between Nov. 11, 2008, and Nov. 20, 2008. The average interview took 26 minutes. The results of this sample may be projected to the universe of all adult residents of the city within + or - 5 percent in 95 out of 100 cases.

Check out the full results on the city’s website

Visit www.stlouispark.org to view the entire 122-question survey or summary of the study’s findings. Also available on the website is a complete listing of 2008 awards and honors received by the city.

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