

**Comprehensive Survey Towards Development  
of  
Atkins Community Recreational/Wellness Assets**

The following questionnaire is being provided by the

**Atkins Recreation and Wellness Advisory Committee**

in conjunction with the

**Atkins City Council**

*to assess the larger Atkins community in order to help meet the recreational  
and wellness needs/wants of the greater community's residents*

*Survey designed by*

*Chaffee Consultants  
Belle Plaine, IA 52208*

**Completing This Survey** - Please complete Sec. I, your profile, and Sec. II, your sense of your community of Atkins. Please leave Sec III & IV empty until you attend a neighborhood meeting. Yet, please feel free to read the entire survey through, and maybe even do some preliminary answers on another sheet of paper (or make a copy and work on answers there!).

**Please DO NOT fill out Sec III-IV in this survey until you come to one of the neighborhood meetings in this community-listening effort. Important information will be provided at these meetings to help answer questions in the above two sections.**



**Why a Survey?:** Atkins has grown significantly in the last 20 years. In 1990, Atkins was a small community of 673 people, while in the last Census of 2010, Atkins is recorded to have 1670 people...or 248% growth in 20 years...and we're still growing! For any community, that is rapid, stressful growth.

This growth is happening while many of Benton County's other communities have lost population across the same period, with rural resources like jobs and medical care disappearing at the same time.

Atkins has worked to meet some of the challenges of that growth through a.) retrofitting the sewage treatment facilities, b.) erecting a new water treatment facility, and is now in the process of preparing to c.) erect a new city hall and library.

Keeping with this effort to ensure a community of quality for all, we are now turning our attention as to how best to meet the growing recreational and wellness needs of our community. We are making that effort through our recently formed Atkins Recreation and Wellness Advisory Committee, with development support through consultant, Mark Chaffee. This survey is an important tool in this effort.

**Who is to answer this Survey?** – Any or all adult members (i.e., above the age of 18) of a household in the greater Atkins area who considers Atkins their 'home community' may answer this survey. That may include adults both in the town boundaries, but also in the surrounding countryside who both use Atkins resources (i.e., library, churches, Legion Hall, DJ's), and/or whose youth participate in some Atkins programs of whatever nature. More than one adult per household may fill out a survey. Feel free to make copies of the survey, or more copies will be provided in the neighborhood meetings so that all adults may participate.

**About the Survey:** You will find below, a comprehensive survey that will be reviewed with residents in a sequence of neighborhood meetings across the next several months. The survey is asking primarily questions regarding recreation and wellness, along with 'profile' questions so we understand a bit about who is filling out our surveys, and some questions regarding community life here in Atkins.

We are taking this survey approach to listen with you, our fellow Atkins residents, because we already know of growth-stress points regarding youth and senior programming needs. We seek your input to help ensure we maximize a balance between everyone's wants and needs with limited resources.

It is important for a community, just like its families and individual residents, to dream...to be the best community it can be for its residents. But 'best' always takes effort, and has to be measured in light of competing 'interests' as to what one considers...best. Listening with you helps all of us, both committee and residents, come to a better understanding of people's diverse interests and wants, capacities and possibilities.

**Survey Format:** This survey, as a joint project between the Atkins Recreation and Wellness Advisory Committee and the Atkins City Council, has been divided into four (4) sections. Each section focuses on a different dimension of your life here in Atkins. The four sections are as follows:

1. Household/Respondent Questions – Help us understand who is responding
1. Community Assessment – Helps the City Council understand some of how you view the community, its efforts, and its future
1. Recreational Programming Assessment – Help us understand how you see current rec-n-wellness programming and your involvement – current/future - with such programming
1. Respondent Support – Helps us understand some of the possible dimensions of your support

**SEC. I - HOUSEHOLD/RESPONDENT QUESTIONS**

Q1. Household Present: *(To be answered at neighborhood meeting)*

Please indicate how many members of your household are present at this meeting?

- A.  1
- A.  2
- A.  3
- A.  4
- A.  5 or more

Q1b. Household Questionnaires:

If there is more than 1, how many members will be filling out questionnaires for this survey?

- A.  1
- A.  2
- A.  3
- A.  4
- A.  5 or more

Q2. Atkins Regional Residence:

Please indicate approximately how many years have you lived in the Atkins area (in Atkins or within 6-7 miles)?

- A.  3 or fewer years
- A.  4-5 years
- A.  6-10 years
- A.  11-15 years
- A.  16-20 years
- A.  21-30 years
- A.  31 or more years

Q3. Atkins Residence:

Please indicate approximately how many years have you lived within Atkins city limits?

- A.  3 or fewer years
- A.  4-5 years
- A.  6-10 years
- A.  11-15 years
- A.  16-20 years
- A.  21-30 years
- A.  31 or more years
- A.  Don't live in Atkins

Q4. Respondent Age:

Please indicate what is your age?

- A.  18-21 years
- A.  21-29 years
- A.  30-35 years
- A.  36-44 years
- A.  45-54 years
- A.  55-64 years
- A.  65-74 years
- A.  75-84 years
- A.  85+ years

Q4b. Household Members Age:

Please indicate with a 'F' for female and 'M' for a male, the age of members of your household. Include only those who live there more than 50% of the time, or if less, participate in organized community activities. If two members of the family are in the same age bracket, (e.g. such as... two people 35-44 years old), please place a 'F-M' or '2F' or a '2M' in the blank provided...and so on.

- A.  under 4 yrs
- A.  4-6 years
- A.  7-10 years
- A.  11-14 years
- A.  15-18 years
- A.  19-21 years
- A.  21-29 years
- A.  30-35 years
- A.  36-44 years
- A.  45-54 years
- A.  55-64 years
- A.  65-74 years
- A.  75-84 years
- A.  85+ years

Q5. Respondent Gender:

Please place a check next to your gender?

- A.  Male
- A.  Female

**SEC. II - COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT**

Q6. Code Enforcement:

Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "very satisfied" and 1 means "very dissatisfied," please rate your satisfaction with each of the following items:

Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
5	4	3	2	1

- A.  Enforcement of the cleanup of junk and debris on private property
- A.  Enforcement of mowing and cutting of weeds and grass on private property
- A.  Enforcement of golf cart registration/ordinance.
- A.  Enforcement of pet ordinances.
- A.  Not an Atkins resident

Q7. Please indicate which TWO of the code enforcement services listed above should receive the most emphasis from City leaders over the next two years?

- A.  Clean up junk
- A.  Mowing weeds
- A.  Regulation and registration of golf carts.
- A.  Animal Control
- A.  Not an Atkins resident
- Z.  None chosen

Q8. Do you feel that codes are enforced in a fair and consistent manner? Please check the appropriate response.

- A.  Yes
- A.  No
- A.  Don't Know
- A.  Not an Atkins resident

Q9. Community Development/Growth.

Using a five-point scale where 5 means much too slow and 1 means much too fast, please rate the City's current pace of development in each of the following areas.

Much too slow	Too slow	Just right	Too fast	Much too fast	Don't know
5	4	3	2	1	9

- A.  Office development
- A.  Industrial development
- A.  Retail development
- A.  Single family residential development
- A.  Multifamily residential development

Q10. City Contact

Have you contacted the City of Atkins for something during the past year?

- A.  Yes
- A.  No

Q10b. Department Contact

[If YES to #10] Please indicate which City Department/Committee did you contact most recently?

- 01=City Clerk
- 02=City maintenance  
(water/sewer/streets)
- 03=Parks/Recreation
- 04=City Council
- 05=Mayor
- 06=Library
- 07=Fire department
- 08=Other
- 99=Not provided

Q10c. [If YES to #10]

Using a 5-point scale where 5 means "very satisfied" and 1 means "very dissatisfied," please rate your satisfaction with the City contact in the Department/Committee you selected above in Q10b with regard to the following:

Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
5	4	3	2	1

- A. \_\_\_ How easy they were to contact
- B. \_\_\_ The way you were treated
- C. \_\_\_ The accuracy of the information and the assistance you were given
- D. \_\_\_ How quickly City staff responded to your request
- E. \_\_\_ How well your issue was handled

Q11. Arts and Culture

Please rate your satisfaction on a scale of 1 to 5 where 5 means "very satisfied" and 1 means "very dissatisfied" with arts and culture issues.

Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
5	4	3	2	1

- A. \_\_\_ City-sponsored special events (not summer festival)
- B. \_\_\_ Watermelon Days (summer festival)

**Do you have any ideas for activities/events in Arts/Culture that you would like to see the city support?**

Q12. Overall Ratings of the City.

Using a scale of 1 to 5 where 5 means "excellent" and 1 means "poor," please rate the City of Atkins with regard to the following:

Excellent	Good	Neutral	Below average	Poor
5	4	3	2	1

- A. \_\_\_ As a place to live
- B. \_\_\_ As a place to raise children
- C. \_\_\_ As a place to work
- D. \_\_\_ As a place to retire
- E. \_\_\_ As a place to visit

Q13. Please indicate in which neighborhood you reside. (Facilitator will have this information)

- |        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| ___ 1  | ___ 11 | ___ 21 | ___ 31 |
| ___ 2  | ___ 12 | ___ 22 | ___ 32 |
| ___ 3  | ___ 13 | ___ 23 | ___ 33 |
| ___ 4  | ___ 14 | ___ 24 | ___ 34 |
| ___ 5  | ___ 15 | ___ 25 | ___ 35 |
| ___ 6  | ___ 16 | ___ 26 | ___ 36 |
| ___ 7  | ___ 17 | ___ 27 | ___ 37 |
| ___ 8  | ___ 18 | ___ 28 |        |
| ___ 9  | ___ 19 | ___ 29 |        |
| ___ 10 | ___ 20 | ___ 30 |        |

**SEC. III - RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING ASSESSMENT (Please wait to answer until mtg.)**

Q14. Household Number of Children:

Please indicate how many children live in your household 50% of the time or more?

- A.  0
- B.  1
- C.  2
- D.  3
- E.  4
- F.  5 or more

Q14a. If you answered "1" or more children in Q14 above:

Do your children participate in Atkins community youth sports/recreation programs, or are they on a team organized from Atkins that plays/competes elsewhere?

- A.  Yes
- B.  No
- C.  Don't Know

Q14b. Recreational Program Satisfaction:

If [YES] to Q14a, using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "very satisfied" and 1 means "very dissatisfied," please rate your satisfaction with each of the following programs:

Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Not applicable
5	4	3	2	1	NA

- A.  Boys Soccer
- B.  Girls Soccer
- C.  Boys Baseball
- D.  Girls Softball
- E.  T-Ball/ Coach-Pitch
- F.  Flag Football
- G.  Future Stars Basketball

Q15. Parks and Recreation.

Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "very satisfied" and 1 means "very dissatisfied," please rate your satisfaction with each of the following items:

Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
5	4	3	2	1

- A.  Maintenance and appearance of existing City parks
- B.  Number of City parks
- C.  Walking trails in the City
- D.  Parking for recreational events
- E.  Quality of outdoor athletic facilities (e.g. baseball, basketball, soccer, etc.)
- F.  Quality of City recreation programs and classes

1st Choice – General Wellness/Recreation Assets – *Things most likely to be enjoyed by all generations*

Q16. Please indicate which THREE of the wellness and recreation assets listed below should receive the most emphasis from City leaders over the next three years, with '1' indicating most important to you, and '3' the third most important. (Top 3)

- A.  Community Gymnasium/Rec Center
- B.  Indoor/Outdoor Swimming pool
- C.  Biking routes in the City of Atkins
- D.  Frisbee Golf Course
- Z.  None chosen

1st Choice – Youth/Family Wellness/Recreation Assets - Things most likely to be enjoyed by all youth and/or their family

Q17. Please indicate which THREE of the wellness and recreation assets listed below should receive the most emphasis from City leaders over the next three years, with '1' indicating most important to you, and '3' the third most important. (Top 3).

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| A. <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball Fields      | E. <input type="checkbox"/> Skate Park  |
| B. <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer Fields        | F. <input type="checkbox"/> Splash Pad  |
| C. <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball Courts    | Z. <input type="checkbox"/> None chosen |
| D. <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball Sand Pits |   |

1st Choice – Adult Wellness/Recreation Assets - Things most likely to be enjoyed by all adults

Q18. Please indicate which THREE of the wellness and recreation assets listed below should receive the most emphasis from City leaders over the next three years, with '1' indicating most important to you, and '3' the third most important. (Top 3)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| A. <input type="checkbox"/> 'Paved' Fitness Trail    | E. <input type="checkbox"/> Shuffleboard courts      |
| B. <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis/Pickleball Courts | F. <input type="checkbox"/> Rolle Bolle/Bocci Courts |
| C. <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball Pits          | Z. <input type="checkbox"/> None chosen              |
| D. <input type="checkbox"/> Horseshoe Pits           |  |

**SEC. IV – RESPONDENT SUPPORT**

*Community programs of all kinds work best with strong involvement from the community served. The involvement need take numerous forms, from volunteer time, to coaching and chaperoning, to 'marketing' programs, to helping financially support the programs.*

Q19. Program Participation:

Please indicate how many adults in your household participate (i.e., coaching, board service, concessions, etc.) in the current recreational programming in the City of Atkins?

- |                               |                                       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A. <input type="checkbox"/> 0 | D. <input type="checkbox"/> 3         |
| B. <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | E. <input type="checkbox"/> 4 or more |
| C. <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |                                       |

Q20. Program Volunteerism

Please indicate if you currently volunteer (i.e., coaching, board service, concessions, etc.) in the current recreational programming in the City of Atkins?

- A.  Yes  
B.  No  
C.  Don't Know.

Q20b. If [NO] was the answer for Q20, are you willing to provide volunteer time to assist in Atkins recreational programs, keeping in mind that could mean volunteering for youth and/or up to senior programming?

- A.  Yes  
B.  No  
C.  Don't Know

**If 'Yes', we encourage you to fill out a short Volunteer Profile before leaving the neighborhood meeting.**

Q21. Program Volunteerism

Please indicate what you have done prior to this survey to volunteer (i.e., coaching, board service, concessions, etc.) in the current recreational programming in the City of Atkins?

- A.  Coaching
- B.  Chaperoning
- C.  Umpiring
- D.  Field Maintenance
- E.  Concessions Stand
- F.  Car Pooling
- G.  Other (Please List)

Q22. Volunteerism Barriers

Do you feel there are any barriers to your participating as a volunteer in any Atkin's recreational programming?

- A.  Yes
- B.  No
- C.  Don't Know

Q23. Volunteer Training

Do you feel that the recreational programs currently offer enough training for and development of, volunteers?

- A.  Yes
- B.  No
- C.  Don't Know

Q24. Providing Training

Would you feel more inclined to volunteer if there was training provided?

- A.  Yes
- B.  No
- C.  Don't Know

***If 'Yes', what sorts of training would benefit you most to support your desire to volunteer?***

Q25. Development Support

Are you willing to volunteer to help develop new community assets, from recreational fields to recreational/wellness programming, to possible recreational facilities like a rec center. (i.e., think landscaping, construction, painting, raising money, etc.)

- A.  Yes
- B.  No
- C.  Don't Know

Q25b. Form of Development Support

If you answered [YES] to Q25 above, do you have a skill set or desire to volunteer in a specific area?

- A.  General Labor
- B.  Construction
- C.  Landscaping
- D.  Preparing Ground
- E.  Seeding Lawns
- F.  Planting Trees
- G.  Erecting Fences
- H.  Raising Money
- I.  Holding Fundraiser
- J.  Other (Please tell us how else you might volunteer) \_\_\_\_\_

Q26. Community Bond

Please indicate whether you think the community should consider a bond issuance to help finance the development of community recreational/wellness resources/assets.

- A.  Yes
- B.  No
- C.  Don't Know

Q27. Financial Support

While we don't know yet, exactly what recreation and wellness assets will be developed from this effort, we know that there will be some grouping of assets that will be developed/built. It is important to consider how these assets can impact each generation that lives and participates in Atkins, so that the 'community' benefits, not just youth. Not knowing what exactly will be developed, we don't yet know the cost of this effort. The 'what' and associated costs are being shaped by these neighborhood meetings.

Looking through the lists of assets/resources under consideration in Q16-Q18 above, do you see yourself contributing financially to this effort?

- A.  Yes
- B.  No
- C.  Don't Know

***Do you have any suggestions or ideas you would like to share with the Advisory Committee or City Council that might help benefit meeting Atkins growth challenges, now and into the future?***

***Thank you for taking the time and making the effort, to be a part of this important community assessment. Your input is vital to our understanding how to best meet the challenges offered by rapid growth and its imposed changes.***