

2017 Bismarck Livability Survey Results

SWOT: Arts, Humanities, & Recreation

Strengths

The Missouri River

Parks

Being the Capitol City, having beautiful landscape, the Missouri River, and the downtown potential.

Natural beauty along the Missouri River

It's well kept up, medical, arts, location

Natural landscape

Outdoor activities

Missouri river

The closeness to the river and its state capital

Missouri River

The Missouri River

The river, downtown, an apparent growing population and economy.

It's people and it's parks system

Bismarck's greatest strength (of the towns of North Dakota) is the parks district and nature. People tend to think North Dakota is one big flat plain but Bismarck is a hidden gem with hills, trees and the river.

River/capitol

The landscape and access to the river

Location to river

Location of State Government / Missouri River Access

Parks/trail system

river

access to the river

Great school, parks, trail system. Safe community.

The Missouri River. Access to outdoors. Laud back culture.

Missouri River

Missouri River

Missouri River

Green space and parks

Wide range of things to do.

Missouri river

Size, location, parks

Missouri River

Location and natural beauty

Proximity to hunting and fishing areas

Clean safe parks

Capitol city, access to missouri

Places to ride dirtbikes.

Missouri River

I love the city parks, like Sertoma and others, with lots of walking paths. Also not feeling big, while still having amenities.

Parks and rec

Trails

It's the seat of state government which ensures public and private sector jobs and associated economic impact. Citizens, recent growth in small business development, parks and recreation opportunities, increase in dining options Great parks & the Dakota Zoo.
Recreation
The Missouri River
River
River
Parks and recreation facilities activities and opportunities.
Parks and rec
Missouri River
It's people and the natural resources (river, green spaces)
Recreation - Missouri River
Missouri river recreation
Parks and trail system
Size and outdoor activities
Things to do.
unique neighborhoods. good schools, proximity to outdoor activities,
Location in the state, along with jobs, housing, and the river.
Missouri River access.
Missouri River
Missouri river
Activities for children.
It's location for those who love the outdoors and hunting.
The natural landscape (river)
The parks and recreation
Natural beauty
Missouri River
Parks
Missouri River
Summer recreation
Our People. We are stubborn and difficult to work with, but we are dedicated, caring people who will make this city a beautiful place to live.
Beauty and recreation
Missouri River
It's a small town with the culture, recreation, and events of a larger city.
River
Missouri River
Proximity to the Missouri river and the adjacent parks.
Missouri River
It's beautiful surroundings (river, hills, trees)
recreational activities
Parks and recreational activities
natural elements, river, terrain
Pheasant hunting & Missouri River. People know these two things nationally.
Great views/outdoor recreation + small town feel with city resources.
A small but big city - the local citizens, business owners, etc. are very "North Dakota nice" but their is still plenty of big city opportunity and entertainment here as well
Missouri river

Pat Buchanan wrote about Bismarck in one of his books, saying people like to live with others who share their values. That's Bismarck in a nutshell.
The Missouri River
The river, parks and trails. (outdoor recreation)
High quality of life - great PRIVATE and public education. Safe, nice parks and recreational opportunities
Great summers on the river
Access to the Missouri River and other national parks in close proximity
Missouri River
Access to the Missouri River, good economy, great place to start a business, safe, good neighborhoods and school system.
Safe communities. People feel comfortable living here. There is always something to do related to outdoors.
The river
its size and entertainment value
Missouri River recreational opportunities
Parks, trails and connection to the River
Missouri River
It's a safe place to live with lots of recreational opportunities.
Beautify city with river access.
The River?
Outdoors
Safe community with a variety of options for work, recreation and positive growth
The Missouri River and the outdoor/recreational opportunities it provides.
Green Space, Cleanliness of the City
The Missouri River and kind people
River
Recreation
Proximity to open spaces and the river
Potential of downtown and proximity to the river.
River and mid-state location.
Diversity of things available to do.
Bismarck has a lot of community events, more than where I previously lived.
It's natural spaces along the river.
Our location and the Missouri River.
The Missouri River
Beautiful location along the Missouri river with great access to outdoor rec. opportunities.
Recreation - walking paths and biking paths; variety of employment opportunities; and educational opportunities
It is a community that offers a lot of opportunities for families in terms of career, education, and recreation.
Festivals in the summer (folk fest etc), the Bismarck co-op, and all the locally owned shops!
Safety for the most part. Up until recently anyway. The homeless needs more places to go so they don't fill up the parks in town. This is huge down at Sertoma. Lots of homeless down there in the summer. Not a good place to be at dark or early in the morning.
The river
Weaknesses
No affordable, good entertainment at the Bismarck event center and too much crime in the past 4 years
No night life
Need more disc golf courses and bicycle friendly
Hesitation to build a sports commission.

racism
racism
racism!!!
Outdated ideas for rules governing business, and development. Also A lack of entertainment not preparing for a younger generation, lack of quality housing within reason to downtown.
racial prejudices
Certain people of Bismarck is the biggest weakness. Too many cliques and not enough positive forward moving people.
Lack of entertainment/diversity
the cultural of nonacceptance.
Not enough community events to bring young people together
Not having more businesses and recreational access along the river
Needs more diversity in shopping/dining/recreational activities. Also the climate :/
Cultural boredom that drives people to smoking and drinking
High cost of living and limited entertainment options
Cost of living
People with different religious or political beliefs are not welcome.
The lack of public transportation, also the conservative culture.
Lack of stuff to do, youth doing tons of drugs
Needs more opportunities for the arts. While the Belle is a nice facility it is not big enough for larger events like dance competitions that don't work well at the events center.
activities for families
Nothing to attract middle age families
Attracting and retaining young professionals
lack of opportunities and recreation for young professionals
Lack of teen activity outside of school activities.
Limited bikeability
Currently I would say snow removal. I would also say the "clicky" feel that people have when they move here. And the city is way to conservative! We need to take chances and move forward. I don't like to compare us to other cities because each city is unique in their own way but...Fargo is way less conservative and they are way ahead of us with new businesses coming to town, entertainment at the Fargo Dome, their great downtown area. It just seems move upscale there then it does in Bismarck.
Too many bars not enough diversity.
Sometimes slow for new ideas
Lack of diversity.
Lack of vision for the future, people only interested in status quo, the city needs a modern performing arts center (not the Events Center, a real auditorium)
Entertainment/restaurants/retail
Favoritism with tax breaks. Just give tax breaks to ALL new or expanding businesses. Also, we need better concerts
low entertainment
Lack of diversity
Arts & entertainment.
retaining young professionals
Not enough culture and German stubbornness
Not enough variety of stores and restaurants
Culture and lack of things for children to do especially during the winter
Not really enough to do inside in the winter and housing is way too expensive.
No major convention center
Crime and drugs; inadequate indoor ice facilities to serve the community needs
Entertainment, given the unchangeable factor of weather
Our malls need to be updated, more activities for kids in the winter months.

Need more popular retail stores
Lack of ice skating facilities
Not enough to do - besides bars
Lack of entertainment opportunities
lack of diversity: catering to many cultures/activities
Very limited family indoor entertainment especially in winter months
Not enough family recreational places/activities
Not enough restaurants in the North part of town.
Bismarck has been described as a great black hole when it comes to arts and community. The current face of the city reflects that.
Five years behind Fargo's downtown, events, and retail. We need more!
Lack of cabs, lack of adult restaurants, lack of winter kids recreation places, besides the parks and rec stuff.
Lack of winter indoor activities
Lack of diversity, lack of things for families to do during the winter (that are budget friendly), it's scary to walk downtown (I have lost count of how many times I have been nearly hit by a car), not very supportive of small, local businesses, not open to new ideas, lack of affordable housing, boring architecture...people are afraid of color here
Retail & Restaurants
Too much money spent on parks and bicycle paths
Lack of things for teens to do that are not sports related, awful medical care, not much for affordable housing
No great venue to attract many people here for concerts. One of the city council members made the comment a few years ago well when was the last time we sold out a concert. Well 1 we have a old out dated venue no one wants to go to so they go to Fargo. By the way we have sold out 3-4 concerts in the past year or two since that comment one sold out in a few hours. Just imagine if we could draw in more intertainers with a nice new venue how many concerts we could sell out. Just look at how busy the restaurants,hotels and bars are the night and weekend of concerts from people in surrounding areas coming to town. It would be interesting to find out how much money was brought to the Fargo community when Garth Brooks had 3-4 sold out concerts in 2 days in Fargo. Why couldn't he come here for 1 concert. Cause we have an old outdated venue. So why would he.
There is nothing to do
A lot of times people will talk about how there is nothing new to do
Lack of entertainment things to do
Entertainment opportunities 4 older adults 8:35 and up and not enough public transportation opportunities with in Bismarck
Few family opportunities for entertainment
Would benefit from more things to do for young people
Needs more green. Don't look like Minot, all cement.
More things for families to do and an improved Parks and Rec.
Not enough options for entertainment/things to do around the community (especially in the winter months).
A big weakness is the lack of venues for different events at reasonable prices. We pretty much only have the event center and that just isn't enough.
Night life or entertainment
Alternatives to weather when it comes to things to do; lack shops and restaurants usually found in other cities
state budget, creating an environment where young individuals will want to stay and make a home, cost of housing, more and better jobs, more white collar higher paying jobs. More availability to arts and entertainment.
Few entertainment and dining opportunities
lack of musical, arts, and cultural opportunities
Shopping and restaurant options
entertainment
Lack of culture and diversity, in restaurants, events, stores, entertainment...
lack of public green space and outdoor entertainment
Not a lot to do for young adults.
pay scales and entertainment
not enough nice restaurants

Lack of artistic offerings. High cost of living compared to salary increases.
Recreational facilities
Lack of walkability, I would also love to see neighborhood coffee shops, bar/restaurants and small grocery stores.
Places people could walk to
lack of activities for families and young adults
Integrating new residents into community
Lack of cultural diversity and acceptance of diverse people.
Growing population
Those that move in especially from out of state don't necessarily feel 'welcome' into the city. I have heard from several young professionals (especially those without kids) that they have a hard time getting involved or meeting people. There is a definite lack of awareness of all the opportunities such as parks and rec intramural, the different networks in town, the available events to attend, etc.
Lack of diversity which leads to a high amount of racism.
Bike and pedestrian opportunities to work
Too conservative, too much religion forced upon everyone.
Intolerance. We need events that appeal more to the new community members rather than only but of course still respecting our traditional heritage events.
not a lot of attractions
Activities other then the bar scene
diverse industries
no decent events center large enough for major events. traffic flow north to south
Bismarck is going through an identity crisis of what it should look like.
There are many long-time residents who grew up here and have their fixed set of friends. Being a newcomer is tough - people are "ND nice", but don't invite you to gatherings or work to include you. Also, there is not enough unique entertainment options - local sports, a movie, dinner out.
Culture not keeping up with the opportunities for advancement
Need to expand upon unique experiences to get people out and active. More festivals, weekly happenings, special events.
Downtown is vastly improved, but still could use attractions for the 20 - 40 years-of-age.
Lack of entertainment for young people under the drinking age and even over the drinking age. It would be nice to have more opportunities to gather without the focus being alcohol.
Not a lot of well salaried work opportunities for young adults who have bachelor's degrees. Also a need for more young adult events in the community.
A willingness to try new things-- not necessarily of the City but the community as a whole.
Not enough to do for kids / families
Inhospitable environment for Native Americans.
Flow of city traffic across town, snow removal/ice removal from streets and entertainment - let's build a big facility, if Grand Forks can do it, we sure can.
Long-time citizens opposed to growth and taxes to pay for amenities.
Focusing on only certain groups of people.
Too conservative and not progressive
Lack of diversity and the weather.
Need to make the city more visually attractive, especially in the main shopping areas--too much tarmac, not enough trees, too many billboards.
Racism against Native Americans
Lack of diversity and acceptance of diversity.
residents scared of change
lack of arts, culture, and downtown activities
old attitude and unwillingness to change-doing it the way you have always done it
Making the transition from small town to a larger regional center requires letting go of some old ideas and looking proactively to address the challenges of growth. Many residents seem to be resistant to this and oppose taking the leap of faith that is required to embrace the future.

Probably the biggest is entertainment. There is little for people to do in their spare time here in the winter, unless they like drinking.
Entertainment options
Need more free activities for kids like a splash pad
Lack of diversity
We aren't drawing the same business / entertainment that Fargo and Minot do. Expensive air travel from here. Poor planning has created 3 separate shopping/commercial areas and it's not an easy drive between them.
Communication to the community about local events & happenings in the area.
People's fear of change. The old guard population doesn't want Bismarck to change. They see small improvements as a threat to their status quo. Take the Main St traffic diet for example: it was an improvement that made sense but the general public didn't accept it.
discrimination
Shopping, Restaurants
Being a follower among larger communities in North Dakota; only making changes after other communities have done them first; not being progressive--being afraid of change.
Change. Some fear it while others embrace it. We need to continue moving forward by listening to the COMMUNITY, not to private land developers with their own money-making agendas that fatten their pockets at the expense of others.
Inability to attract residents with no prior connection to the city or area.
Lack of diversity. Heavy government and healthcare influence sometimes prevents innovation.
Not enough diverse things to do
Opportunities
Coming up with something to better utilize one of our greatest assets, The Missouri river. It is something we have to offer that most communities dont
More green spaces, parks and trails (unpaved). Increased walkability and recreation. Better architecture and landscaping. Multi-use buildings: Retail on street level, office/residential 2-4 floors. Less sprawling strip mall lots - Where people drive 100 yards to the next shop (even though it takes longer).
Equestrian center
Bismarck is perfectly situated to make the right decisions concerning increased density, walkability, and technology. We haven't made a lot of irreversible mistakes yet, but we are close. The biggest opportunity for Bismarck right now is to spread the truth about sprawl, and promote and assist downtown core development in the areas of technology, affordable studio housing, and entertainment and culture.
Better indoor archery range that anyone can go to
Capitalize on the existing natural coulees at the north edge of town to create an extensive single-track biking and hiking trail. Create our own identity. We're located in the heart North Dakota with incredible natural features. Think globally; act locally: lift some bans on urban farming (specifically chickens and bees) within city limits, but within moderation. Provide grants and incentives for xeri-scaping, rain gardens, and natural grass restoration. Focus efforts on an athletic event to bring in visitors (marathon, triathlon, cycling) Utilize the Community Bowl for music/entertainment events.
problem not just for Bismarck - people are so passionate and unopen to any other view than their own caused by the rise of social media (where people only look into one side of the story) and the dapl protests
cultural appreciation
Great base of people that are highly educated
Build a sports commission to help bring more events/ people to the area that will in turn stay the night and or spend money in the community.
community awareness
embracing diversity
Adding public beach access to the Missouri River.
Additional entertainment venues such as another event center for concerts/shows and a better facility for Bobcat's hockey team.
More events and things to do for adults
Attracting a younger group of residents.
NBA Developmental Team
A complex like the Pentagon in sioux falls. There are so many sporting events that could be had a event center like that. There are so many traveling basketball, hockey, soccer teams the could use a complex like that.

Promote and accept diversity.
need to take more advantage of giving people access to enjoy the sandbars on the river
Drawing in young professionals
To stand strong with moral values and common sense as an example to the nation.
The community is growing in diversity - yet our representation remains old, white, Christian males. I understand that we vote these people into office; but we could make a change and make the community more welcoming.
Needs more recreation/ culture
Arts and culture
Recreation
Make it attractive for younger people to move here and WANT to stay.
Great recreation with the parks and river
Hiring a part time New American service coordinator. Or full time minority coordinator.
Good time to carefully plan out the future path of Bismarck. Embrace the history, add more arts and have more interesting attractions that will bring more tourism and not just food fairs. Research other similar towns that have evolved into really interesting and prosperous cities.
I like the idea of bring in some sports teams, I like the Broadway shows at the civic center, I guess-really just remember who lives here , what is there income, I am open to five south, but if it is just going to be marketed to a certain income level, I don't think there are enough people around at that level to support it. There is the theory build it and they will come ,I get that but remember all income levels in your city when planning opportunities for different things.
Strengthening families.
Improvements to downtown, and improvements to our music scene.
Develop the riverfront to attract visitors
More arts and culture.
Lots of newcomers who are looking for reasons to stay.
more public art
increase of culture
River
To find a way to grow closer to our Native American Neighbors.
Attracting young professional people away from Fargo/Grand Forks area.
Higher profile events
The chance to become a modern midsize city that is also a destination.
Keeping the young generation here to help the economy
Outdoor recreation, young professionals
I think we should do more to get more family things here for them to do year round
Native Americans
Welcoming diverse populations!
More music venues
Bismarck has potential to develop into the cultural center of the region.
could be an entertainment hub
More recreation opportunities related to the river
Growth for indoor ice and recreational center to encourage health and wellness did our youth
Secure large events/concerts, similar to what Fargo and Grand Forks do. The impact would drive revenue for the entire city.
Activities for young families
The arts
Improving art, entertainment, activity, and aesthetic beauty.
Roller skating rink, a better movie theater,more public garden space
Need a building like Ralph Engelstad civic center is junk and for a capital city it's embarrassing we don't have a staple building
Growth with economy, restaurants, shopping centers, and entertainment.

Growing restaurant/entertainment opportunities and options for kids.
If our event center could get more of a variety of popular musical acts it would bring more people here instead of always to Fargo. Also a larger variety of grocery stores would be nice.
New young fiscal conservative leadership
Retail, restaurants and recreation, also need to keep pulse on schools to keep classroom sizes manageable
Sports arena to draw in bigger things
Capitalize on outdoor opportunities
Diversity
With a growing population we need more entertainment opportunities. The civic center needs to have a system of checks and balances in place. The employees there don't care when it's vacant, they still get their salary. Do an audit of how often it remains empty. The people who run it are a joke and they could care less if any shows ever go on.
Rebuild Bismarck's strong traditions.
Motocross tracks
More choices for outings. Like a cheaper movie theater.
Young people wanting to raise their families here
Strong community bonds between all residents
River, health care, workers
Build more sports/activity facilities for youth and family use
Growth in schools, housing, recreation, to name a few
Growing arts and events for ages.
Invest in unique housing, incentivize local shops and dining
Missouri River
Prioritize parks and pedestrian/biking opportunities. Personally I would also like to see more off road mountain biking opportunities and more and better disc golf opportunities.
Outdoor recreation
Expanding family entertainment
Expansion, allowing now new businesses and entertainment to come.
Multi use facilities at the Missouri River complex.
Need space for kids to play basketball, hockey. STOP taking space with drunk adult sports. Kids need gym space not adults
As Bismarck is growing, more young people are choosing to stay in town and start their families.
Increasing our cultural impact on all residents
Our new Governor has this "Mainstreet initiative" that we could get behind and work with for our betterment. I think Bismarck has a lot to offer, if it would only offer it up...
The river
Large waterpark would be a good investment...or a new mall.
Healthcare, technology and natural resources, such as the river
Indian food
Bismarck could become more culturally well rounded.
Encourage people to ride bike and walk more. It'll reduce traffic and make healthier citizens who are more engaged in the local area.
Find some way of attracting young people to ND to fill all of the jobs.
Make the Missouri River water front area a tourist hotspot. The Missouri River is great, if you own a boat but if you are visiting all you can do is ride the river boat, yawn. The river needs cool bars and restaurants (think Zorbaz esk), tourist attractions (think of Stillwater MN) and events. I think it should be located at the Keelboat part.
Better facilities for all sports and things for families to do.
Bismarck could become a hub for concert activity by being in the central part of ND. But, if we continue to think the Event center will fit those needs we are crazy!! We need a new facility. Even Fargo realized a new facility was needed and with NDSU the Fargodome was born. We need a large dome type building that can easily house a great concert and provide parking at the facility. Event center can become a small event venue, but we need a large event venue.
To be a destination point for vacations and businesses
A new motocross complex

Bringing in semi professional sports teams like the Bismarck Larks is exciting for families who enjoy being outdoors.
Allowing diverse retail.
more music, arts, and cultural opportunities
Younger professionals and families moving in...We have the money to spend on entertainment and specialty (e.g., vegan) shops and restaurants. However, little opportunity to spend it...
lots of open space to the north of Haycreek Shopping District. Put in a large playground, trails for walking/biking, and that will bring more shoppers to that area.
Continue to build the arts and restaurant scene
more entertainment places
Become an oasis from the oil activity, yet a staging area for recreation, shopping and transportation for people involved in oil activity,
Reverse snow bird opportunities. It is NOT fun to be in the south when it's 110. If we provided a place for people to "summer", I think they would come!
To be become center for artistic/cultural events.
Bringing people together to learn about and from each other-cultural diversity
Expand outdoor recreation opportunities - year round.
Improved race relations with Native Americans
unlimited opportunities with the quality of schools and balance of events and activities
Continued growth
Parks and trails
Building a stronger more inviting downtown. I would love to see a splash pad park for kids, with a small amphitheater for performances and concerts. More restaurants along the Missouri River would be great and so well
strengthening downtown, more parks, hiking trails
Other types of entertainment for college aged students other than the mall or movie theater.
More public parking to encourage downtown business. Also more activities for tweens & teens that are not sports leagues.
affordable activities for kids
Public river access
There is a dire need for the beautification of our city. Streets need landscaping, attractive lighting, many signs are faded and rusted (i.e. the Lewis and Clark Trail sign on Exit 159 heading west).
Being able to live, work, and play downtown.
to improve transportation opportunities (fixed-route bus service and bike & pedestrian) and green space
The capital city is one big opportunity to keep young professionals in this area to raise their families.
the artistic scene
More artistic opportunities.
Developing paths/bike lanes
Thousands of people just came through our town. Rather than figure out a way to send them all home with good memories of Bismarck, we shouted at them to go home. We accused them of being cop haters. Our newspaper allowed people to say they hoped the outsiders would all get arrested, drown, get hit by cars. It would be a heavy lift, but I think we should look for ways to embrace people who come here for reasons other than to work in resource extraction. We blew it. How can we do better next time?
We need more toddler parks and better enforcement of pet control laws.
expanding tourist attractions or restaurants and entertainment maybe even adding another museum or aquarium semi professional sports anything!
Involving 18-25 year olds in the work place/social scene
Recreation
To expand and be a welcoming community.
Encouraging walkability, redevelopment/revitalization of some areas - find ways to maximize existing footprint instead of increasing it all the time.
Tourism
build a new and better events center on the outskirts of town. The civic center is becoming a dump and very dated
Revitalize downtown and provide more public access to the River
Downtown. More cultural events, make this a fun place to live.

To open it's arms to diversity
Need to develop more activities and business closer to the river. This could be a fantastic draw for tourism.
Improved accessibility for bikes, especially with left turn lights and lanes.
Now that the money has been already spent on the Civic Center expansion/remodel, we should make sure it is "booked" at all times with opportunities for everyone in the City and surrounding areas.
Take advantage of the diversity we've experienced more of lately to help grow our cultural side.
Water quality and use of Missouri River.
Increase development along the river.
Entertainment, infrastructure and street maintenance whether for snow or just keeping them smooth in the summer.
To move ourselves to a community that uses more walking, biking and public transportation to minimize vehicle use and uncrowd the roads and parking.
Better use of green spaces and trails.
A current opportunity would be to invest in a new event center in the north away from downtown where parking is not an issue and won't have to deal with the 5 south boondoggle. Build a venue to attract acts and events like Fargo and Grand Forks. This would actually pay for itself.
Take advantage of being a regional hub for entertainment and shopping for people.
More places for local bands to play, more support for teachers.
Natural setting is amazing. Anything the city does should look to enhance that. Increasing the connection to the outdoors.
The opportunity to grow its green spaces in conjunction with the Missouri River to attract people to the area
Our ever increasing diversity in our local demographic should lead to increased opportunities to diversify our local economy
Cultural expansion.
The ability to expand and add affordable housing that young people can afford without making six figures. The ability to actually have things to do for people who aren't alcoholics.
Improve relationship to river. Possibly the creation of a larger 'beach' destination. Creating opportunity for more destinations along the river, such as public property with a operational lease for a restaraunt (think Tin Fish on lake Calhoun in Minneapolis)
A river walk type area
More green space and venues for families with children.
Building and preserving natural spaces and presenting Bismarck as a mecca for human-powered outdoor recreation.
Should be the art and culture hub of the city but sadly isnt. The arts 'leadership' in the city could do with some shaking up.
Reduce property taxes, special assessments, school bonding, and park bonding.
Continuing to keep a foot in the past as a spring board for our direction today and tomorrow. Showing historic connection between the Missouri River and the historic core and suburbs of the city, then and now.
Should have much more available being the capital city
Better recreation opportunities for kids in the winter, better connection to the river.
grow into a more foodie and artsy city
Entertainment
More green space and new schools
arts and culture
Threats
ignoring millenniums
losing youth to more progressive markets
Not prepared to deal with our growing and diverse community.
Lack of progressive thinking people who want no diversity
Current racial tension.
Unconscious efforts at cultural isolation; resistance to embracing diversity.
Racist acts or hate crimes

Racism
not embracing diversity
The biggest threat is not attracting young people to stay/move to Bismarck.
I think if Bismarck doesn't start doing more to embrace the young people in this town, then there won't be much attraction for them to stay around. Young people are drawn to big cities.
Lack of a large enough venue to attract entertainment.
I have always felt its homogeneity is its biggest threat, as it drives out creative, smart, people, and stifles innovation and beauty.
Lack of considering beauty and art in urban planning. Our main drives are ugly and commercial with no concept of beauty or nature
lack of artistic culture and poor public service
Dissent over the DAPL protests. Seriously, there are a large number of people supporting a law allowing you to run over protesters.
Opposition to change
People fearing change.
Narrow minded people
Close mindedness.
Leadership not willing to adapt to new cultures
Resistance to change
Keep putting money in the event center with no parking.
New people that lack values
too many racists and bigots
Regressive residents and bad weather
growing number of people who don't have the best interest of the community in mind
growing number of people moving here that seems to not have the communities best interest in mind. (Protestors)
Outsiders taking advantage
rece relationship
The close minded people
Poverty
At the moment, the media coverage of DAPL and a group of bullies trying to oust the mayor.
Current tense relations in the community due to the DAPL situation.
Close mindedness.
Not having a sports arena or event center bigger than what we have because we cater to the downtowners
Protesters, also too many people on welfare
Protesters
Misplaced priorities, favoring downtown cultural ambitions over other needs
Not diverse enough.
I would say a shortage of individuals wanting to be leaders in this Community.
Outward migration of our youth.
Too conservative. No room for economic diversity.
Young people moving away.
Not much for kids to do in winter months
Influx of people.
Out of staters
the lack of cultural events and the city itself doing a better job of making ppl aware of the events going on in the community.
The homeless
Protestors that have n clue about our community and how we have gotten along...
Out of staters

Protesters not being held accountable for their actions fully. Traffic is not very safe, I notice a large number of motorists who do not follow traffic signals and drive in ways that come close to causing accidents.
Losing sight of the North Dakota work ethic and trying to make Bismarck into another city entirely.
Its inability to deal with threats to its people. The majority of people I know feel threatened and have now begun to carry a something to protect themselves with. Neither state or city officials did much to stop the "protesters" from violence and threatening presence from the "water is life movement!"
Unwillingness to change and grow with the times. Smaller cities have food trucks downtown, services like Uber, more entertainment options, etc.
out side groups influence on the city
That we don't have enough fun things for our young people to do so it forces them to move to other places.
Lack cultural and authenticity
Influx of out of state people with crime
lack of involvement by the citizens.
Young people leaving
People want to leave to bigger cities with more things to do and more opportunities outside of work.
Commuity
Lack of imagination
Losing our sense of community
Protesters need to go.
Protesters
The threat of the NoDAPL protestors. They make us feel unsafe and use resources that could go to better our state.
Protests
Influx of new residents who aren't used to the culture of the city.
Reluctance to acknowledge social change and people who are different
Lack of improved cultural awareness
DAPL rioters... SEND THEM HOME
THE PIPELINE PROTESTORS! ESPECIALLY THE OUT OF STATE PEOPLE!
Influx of new people
Increased population. Too many people with little space and then problems with pulltion.
Selling out to Big Money interests, losing our will to make a decent life for all, regardless of wealth or color, or sexuality....
We need a class for people coming in so they know how to work and how to treat their neighbor. Gangs need to be abolished. There are more issues there than most know. Parents need to keep parenting. Thats not a teacher's job. Breakdown in the family leads to indifference towards life itself. They dont have to be traditional families either.
If the city only appeals to white, middleclass, traditional families- then that is all who will stay here.
lack of openness to people from outside the state
A small group of people not wanting to listen about the necessary changes that need to happen in the area.
Safety with the lack of control of DAPL protestors
Doing the same old thing over and over...more banks, more churches, more of the same restaurants and shops. The young professionals need seek more variety in entertainment, commerce options, green spaces, art/culture in any form. Thank you for listening.
people trying to make it a big city
I've witnessed a lot of fast growth because of the oil boom, but now that production has decreased we do not have the people to sustain that growth.
Some of the people moving into the community and the safety of others.
"Change agents" who want to disrupt the beautiful place we love.
Losing our parks and green spaces.
Cost. Overpopulation.
Racial prejudice and fear of "the other"
The fact that most people have a negative perception of Bismarck just due to location and weather.
Influx of undesirables and unemployed

Losing it's feeling of being a friendly place that accepts people of all types.
The protestors - if this is allowed to go on, it can ruin the reputation of our community!
Cost of living and race relations...
concern for recent area protests
Racism brought about by the reaction to protest activity.
rioters
People only living out here for a short amount of time
Out of state residents changing the dynamics & safe feeling that is so important to life time residents.
Lack of good communication and coordination (planning) between the city and the county.
Lack of local involvement.
people not from North Dakota
People taking advantage of gullible citizens from out of state
Protestors
Foreigners
Losing the momentum from the last few years. Also, not listening to "both sides" of the arguments. Whatever side of the fence, let's not let Bismarck get as bipartisan as the rest of the country.
A small group of vocal people who turn everything into a ridiculous fight. For instance, the ridiculous movement to recall the Mayor, because he is not extreme tea party right wing enough. I love that we have a progressive mayor who "gets it." I certainly don't agree with him on a lot of things, but I think it's great to have someone middle of the road looking out for the best interests of ALL Bismarck residents. Also, the biggest threat is that the legislature and the state government will keep trying to pass backwards, racist laws that take away rights from citizens, the large chunk of us progressives that live here strictly for family will finally hit the last straw and move away.
lack of entertainment
arrogance
Land developers with deep pockets, bad attitudes, and self serving agendas disguised as the public's best interest.
Inclusiveness. Us and us only attitude, especially towards people from out of state.
Not looked at as a "destination" anymore. More people from Western ND continuing to drive to Fargo for events and weekends.
youth moving away, elderly dying
Inappropriate level of diversity in state government
Infrastructure needs to meet demand for transportation, economic development, schooling, parks & rec. etc.
Lack of acceptance for new community members
The extreme conservative nature of leaders in Bismarck.
lack of communication
KKK
The handful of developers and crabby folks that taint everything that is positive or progressive.
crime/the type of people arriving for work in the oil fields.
Protestors
Increased problems due to population diversity. Don't mind others moving here, but do mind them bring their problems and problematic behaviors with them.
The standing rock/DAPL protest. Make it stop.
Not being able to keep the middle class located here
The community's fear of change.
Pipeline protest.
new people
Attracting talent and keeping people who relocate here.
The resistance to embrace change, or realization that just because things have worked like this for the last century doesn't mean we should settle for status-quo.
Lack of recreation for young people

The willingness to try to please everyone. Everytime some negative news coverage occurs, the city spends large amounts of taxpayer money to fix complaints that should sometimes be ignored. Treating certain groups differant than others.
Young People exiting like they did in the 70's and 80's.
Older generation, not a lot of younger people living here.
CAVE people (Citizens Against Virtually Everything)
Not having a 4 year college.
changing population dynamics
The DAPL protesters have made it look like we are a bunch of backwater country people. We need to overcome this impression.
Systemic discrimination against Native Americans, LGBT, women, and immigrants
The lack of diversity and single adults drives people in their 30s out. The culture is not one of acceptance and tolerance. Many young professionals I know were severely troubled by the government response to the DAPL protest including myself. ND is a monoculture in values, politics and lack of diversity.
Closed mindedness to new ideas and diversity.
Not being open to change or trying new things.
DAPL idiots and the leftover rift raft that won't are aren't able to leave, getting to big and will loose the small town feel.
Lack of taking care of people in need
The naysayers - a small, outspoken group of people who say "No" to everything.
Not properly managing rapid growth by ensuring there are such things as adequate storm/drainage systems in place, adequate parks and green spaces ...
new iceage
Transient workers who stay after losing their jobs.
crime - drugs, weapons, violence; spending on major projects against the vote of the people
lack of diversity
Drugs and crime. Take a lesse from Fargo, which has an immigrant population now needing so many resources, more taxes, more crime than ever before. No longer the city I used to know. Political correctness is ruining that city. Beware of Lutheran Social Services.
Immigrants
Need for more community innovation
focusing on the wrong priorities / not completing current priorities well
Political Climate
I'm disheartened by what I perceive to be a recent increase in overt racism and I've felt that divide our community in some ways
Protest aftermath and trying to maintain/rebuild a relationship with our neighbors to the south.