



THE NCS

The National Community Survey

Ferguson Township, PA

Dashboard Summary of Findings

2019



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Summary

The National Community Survey (The NCS™) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality research methods and directly comparable results across The NCS communities. The NCS captures residents' opinions within the three pillars of a community (Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation) across eight central facets of community (Safety, Mobility, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement). This report summarizes Ferguson Township's performance in the eight facets of community livability with the "General" rating as a summary of results from the overarching questions not shown within any of the eight facets. The "Overall" represents the community pillar in its entirety (the eight facets and general).

By summarizing resident ratings across the eight facets and three pillars of a livable community, a picture of Ferguson Township's community livability emerges. Below, the color of each community facet summarizes how residents rated each of the pillars that support it – Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation. When most ratings were higher than the benchmark, the color is the darkest shade; when most ratings were lower than the benchmark, the color is the lightest shade. A mix of ratings (higher and lower than the benchmark) results in a color between the extremes. This information can be helpful in identifying the areas of community strength or areas that may merit more attention.

Broadly, ratings across most facets of community livability tended to be similar to the national benchmarks. Within Community Characteristics, ratings for Natural Environment were higher than average. Levels of Participation within the facet of Built Environment were higher than the benchmarks, while those within Education and Enrichment, as well as general aspects, were lower.

Table 1: Dashboard Summary

	Community Characteristics			Governance			Participation		
	Higher	Similar	Lower	Higher	Similar	Lower	Higher	Similar	Lower
Overall	12	40	0	5	41	0	3	25	8
General	2	5	0	0	3	0	0	1	2
Safety	1	2	0	2	5	0	1	1	1
Mobility	3	5	0	1	7	0	1	2	0
Natural Environment	2	1	0	0	6	0	0	3	0
Built Environment	0	5	0	0	7	0	1	1	0
Economy	2	6	0	0	1	0	0	2	1
Recreation and Wellness	0	7	0	1	3	0	0	5	0
Education and Enrichment	2	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	3
Community Engagement	0	5	0	1	7	0	0	10	1

National Benchmark	
	Higher
	Similar
	Lower

The National Community Survey

Figure 1: Detailed Dashboard

	Community Characteristics	Benchmark	Percent positive	Governance	Benchmark	Percent positive	Participation	Benchmark	Percent positive
General	Overall appearance	↑	91%	Customer service	↔	85%	Recommend Ferguson Township	↔	90%
	Overall quality of life	↔	91%	Services provided by Ferguson Township	↔	86%	Remain in Ferguson Township	↓	68%
	Place to retire	↔	74%	Services provided by the Federal Government	↔	43%	Contacted Ferguson Township employees	↓	27%
	Place to raise children	↑	91%						
	Place to live	↔	92%						
	Neighborhood	↔	95%						
Safety	Overall image	↔	86%						
	Overall feeling of safety	↑	95%	Police	↑	97%	Was NOT the victim of a crime	↔	96%
	Safe in neighborhood	↔	99%	Crime prevention	↑	90%	Did NOT report a crime	↑	92%
	Safe commercial area	↔	98%	Fire	↔	98%	Stocked supplies for an emergency	↓	27%
				Fire prevention	↔	77%			
				Ambulance/EMS	↔	97%			
Mobility				Emergency preparedness	↔	66%			
				Animal control	↔	77%			
	Traffic flow	↔	50%	Traffic enforcement	↔	72%	Carpooled instead of driving alone	↔	44%
	Travel by car	↔	76%	Street repair	↔	42%	Walked or biked instead of driving	↔	54%
	Travel by bicycle	↑	71%	Street cleaning	↔	67%	Used public transportation instead of driving	↑	35%
	Ease of walking	↔	72%	Street lighting	↔	50%			
Natural Environment	Travel by public transportation	↑↑	68%	Snow removal	↔	64%			
	Overall ease of travel	↔	85%	Sidewalk maintenance	↔	66%			
	Public parking	↔	64%	Traffic signal timing	↔	54%			
	Paths and walking trails	↑	80%	Bus or transit services	↑	75%			
	Overall natural environment	↔	87%	Garbage collection	↔	90%	Recycled at home	↔	97%
	Air quality	↑	93%	Recycling	↔	71%	Conserved water	↔	75%
Built Environment	Cleanliness	↑	88%	Yard waste pick-up	↔	74%	Made home more energy efficient	↔	68%
				Drinking water	↔	77%			
				Open space	↔	72%			
				Natural areas preservation	↔	65%			
	New development in Ferguson Township	↔	53%	Sewer services	↔	90%	Economy will have positive impact on income	↔	29%
	Affordable quality housing	↔	33%	Storm drainage	↔	70%	Purchased goods or services in Ferguson Township	↔	94%
	Housing options	↔	62%	Power utility	↔	87%	Work in Ferguson Township	↓	29%
	Overall built environment	↔	71%	Utility billing	↔	78%			
	Public places	↔	78%	Land use, planning and zoning	↔	50%			
				Code enforcement	↔	60%			
				Cable television	↔	63%			

Legend

↑↑ Much higher ↑ Higher ↔ Similar ↓ Lower ↓↓ Much lower * Not available

The National Community Survey

	Community Characteristics	Benchmark	Percent positive	Governance	Benchmark	Percent positive	Participation	Benchmark	Percent positive
Economy	Overall economic health	↑	85%	Economic development	↔	64%	Economy will have positive impact on income	↔	29%
	Shopping opportunities	↔	54%				Purchased goods or services in Ferguson Township	↔	94%
	Employment opportunities	↑	60%				Work in Ferguson Township	↓	29%
	Place to visit	↔	64%						
	Cost of living	↔	40%						
	Vibrant downtown/commercial area	↔	44%						
	Place to work	↔	73%						
Recreation and Wellness	Business and services	↔	65%						
	Fitness opportunities	↔	75%	Township parks	↑	94%	In very good to excellent health	↔	61%
	Recreational opportunities	↔	72%	Recreation centers	↔	69%	Used Ferguson Township recreation centers	↔	55%
	Health care	↔	71%	Recreation programs	↔	73%	Visited a Township park	↔	91%
	Food	↔	64%	Health services	↔	72%	Ate 5 portions of fruits and vegetables	↔	82%
	Mental health care	↔	48%				Participated in moderate or vigorous physical activity	↔	89%
	Health and wellness	↔	80%						
Education and Enrichment	Preventive health services	↔	66%						
	K-12 education	↑	88%	Public libraries	↔	76%	Used Ferguson Township public libraries	↓↓	32%
	Cultural/arts/music activities	↔	59%	Special events	↔	50%	Participated in religious or spiritual activities	↓	25%
	Child care/preschool	↑	71%				Attended a Township-sponsored event	↓↓	21%
	Religious or spiritual events and activities	↔	84%						
	Adult education	↔	67%						
Community Engagement	Overall education and enrichment	↔	80%						
	Opportunities to participate in community matters	↔	69%	Public information	↔	70%	Sense of community	↔	58%
	Opportunities to volunteer	↔	63%	Overall direction	↔	66%	Voted in local elections	↔	81%
	Openness and acceptance	↔	68%	Value of services for taxes paid	↔	57%	Talked to or visited with neighbors	↔	87%
	Social events and activities	↔	56%	Welcoming resident involvement	↔	52%	Attended a local public meeting	↔	16%
	Neighborliness	↔	68%	Confidence in Township government	↔	58%	Watched a local public meeting	↔	22%
				Acting in the best interest of Ferguson Township	↔	60%	Volunteered	↓	21%
				Being honest	↔	69%	Participated in a club	↔	20%
				Treating all residents fairly	↑	69%	Campaigned for an issue, cause or candidate	↔	16%
							Contacted Ferguson Township elected officials	↔	9%
							Read or watched local news	↔	74%
							Done a favor for a neighbor	↔	75%

Legend

↑↑ Much higher ↑ Higher ↔ Similar ↓ Lower ↓↓ Much lower * Not available