

# WAUWATOSA SENIOR COMMISSION



WAUWATOSA  
SENIOR COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 2023



# PURPOSE AND DUTIES

Summary of Wauwatosa Senior Commission Chapter 2.28.020 of the City Municipal Code

- Represent and advocate for senior citizens.
- Bring focus to issues affecting the quality of life of seniors
- Serve as a connecting point between senior, the city, social agencies, neighborhood associations and other groups
- Continually monitor the needs of seniors and develop strategic recommendations to address identified issues
- Help establish Wauwatosa as a community recognized for welcoming and supporting intergenerational neighborhoods

## 2023 Members

Kathy Causier - Vice-Chair, Secretary, Resident  
 Dianne Dagelen - Resident  
 Rebecca Donaldson - Resident  
 Ernst Franzen - Alderperson Liaison  
 Kristen Hecht - Resident  
 Laura Laurishke - Police Department Liaison  
 Dain Maddox - Chair, Resident  
 Michael Meier - Resident  
 Julia Murphy- Resident, St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Older Adult Ministry  
 Carmen Pangilinan - Health Department Liaison  
 Elise Riepenhoff - Resident  
 Michael Savic - Resident  
 Jeanne Sidner - Resident  
 Kosta Zervas, Wauwatosa Senior Centers Director, Recreation Department Liaison

## Budget Report

City of Wauwatosa



### 2023 YTD BUDGET REPORT

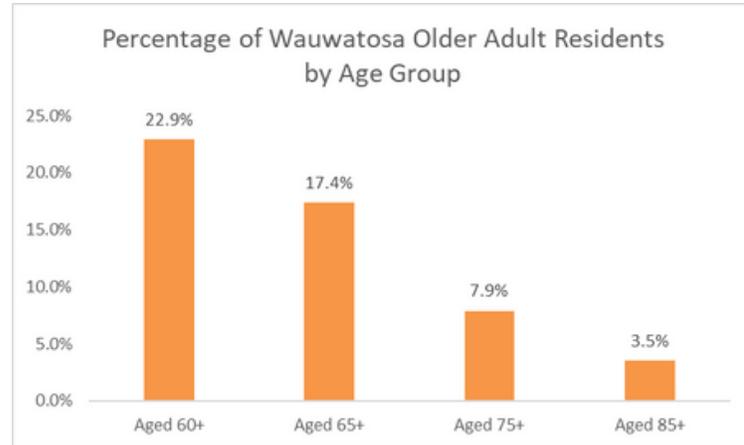
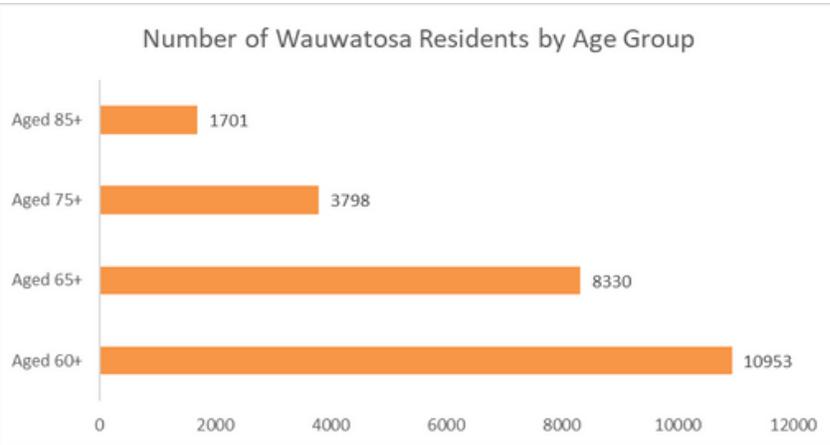
FOR 2023 13

	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USE/COL
<b>10115000 GF SENIOR COMMISSION</b>							
10115000 4812 DONATIONS/CONTRIB	0	0	0	-320.00	.00	320.00	100.0%
10115000 6013 POSTAGE	102	0	102	.00	.00	102.00	.0%
10115000 6099 OTHER EXPENSES	1,269	14,115	15,384	2,948.19	.00	12,435.71	19.2%
<b>TOTAL GF SENIOR COMMISSION</b>	<b>1,371</b>	<b>14,115</b>	<b>15,486</b>	<b>2,628.19</b>	<b>.00</b>	<b>12,857.71</b>	<b>17.0%</b>
TOTAL REVENUES	0	0	0	-320.00	.00	320.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,371	14,115	15,486	2,948.19	.00	12,537.71	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1,371</b>	<b>14,115</b>	<b>15,486</b>	<b>2,628.19</b>	<b>.00</b>	<b>12,857.71</b>	<b>17.0%</b>

\*\* END OF REPORT - Generated by John Ruggini \*\*

# DEMOGRAPHICS

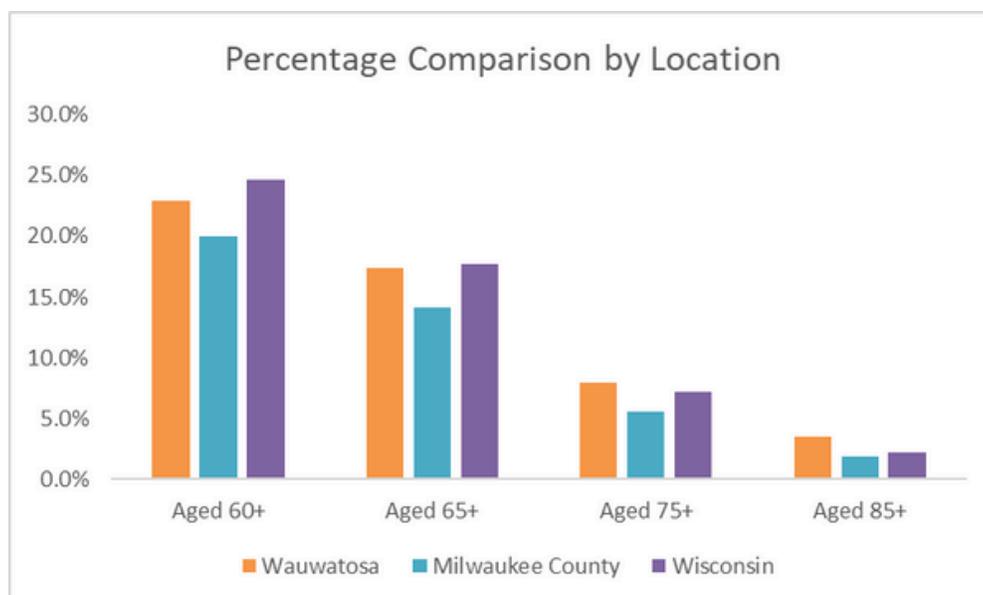
23% of Wauwatosa residents are aged 60 or over. Population projections indicate the older adult population will continue to grow well into 2040.



The percentage of older adult Wauwatosa residents is higher in every age category than that of Milwaukee County.

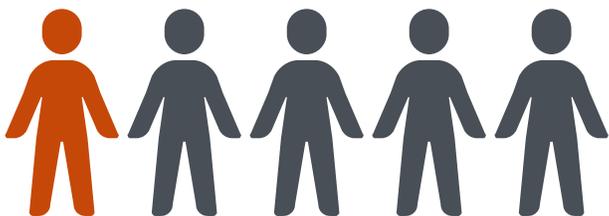
The percentage of residents aged 85+ is twice as high in Wauwatosa than Milwaukee County overall.

This is significant in that as we age we are more likely to be in need of supportive services to help us remain living independently in our homes.



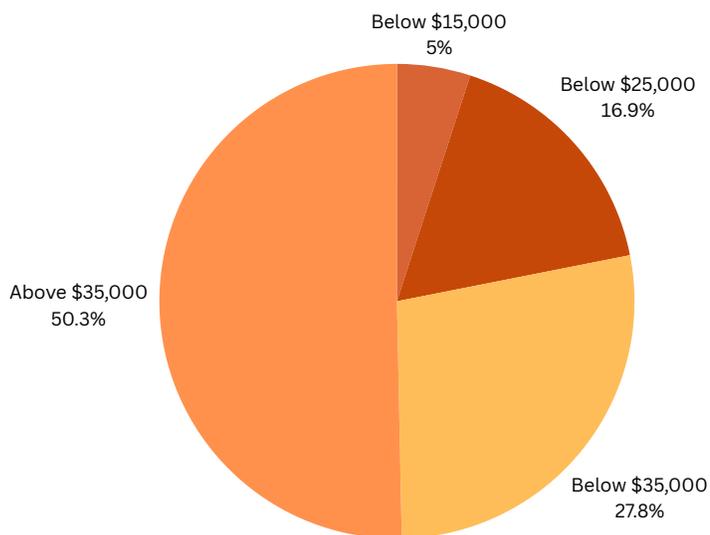
# DEMOGRAPHICS

## INCOME



In 2022, the most recent year with data available, one in five Wauwatosa residents aged 65+ has an income at or below 200% of the poverty level, which was \$27,180

As of 2022, there were 5,729 households headed by a resident aged 65+. Close to 50% of these households earn an income below \$35,000 a year.



## LIVING ALONE



**ALMOST 40% OF WAUWATOSA RESIDENTS 65+ LIVE ALONE**

- Living alone and being older are risk factors for loneliness and isolation. Social isolation, loneliness, and lack of social connection pose serious public health risks that affect a significant portion of the adult and youth population,
- People who experience social isolation and loneliness are at increased risk to develop cardiovascular disease, depression and dementia, and are at a higher risk for falls.

# HOUSING

## Challenges



- A household is cost-burdened when it spends more than 30% of its income on rent and utilities.
- 83% of Wauwatosa’s housing stock was built before 1979 and much of it lacks accessibility features.

Income	Expenses	Cost Burden
<p><b>\$93,812</b></p> <p>Median Household Income All Residents</p>	<p><b>\$291,600</b></p> <p>Median Home Value</p> <p><b>\$5,559</b></p> <p>Average Property Tax Bill (2023)</p>	<p><b>23%</b></p> <p>Homeowners Head of Household 65+ Cost Burdened</p>
<p><b>\$59,133</b></p> <p>Median Household Income - Head of Household 65+</p>	<p><b>\$1,312</b></p> <p>Median Gross Rent</p>	<p><b>63%</b></p> <p>Renters 65+ Cost Burdened</p>

Sources: US Census, American Community Survey, 2018-2022; City of Wauwatosa website, Wauwatosa Housing Study and Needs Assessment, 2023 Update

# ADDRESSING HOUSING

In partnership, the Senior Commission worked on the following to address the housing issues for older adults in Wauwatosa:

- Land Trust Fund
- Advertising of the Wauwatosa Home Loan Repair Program
- Advocacy for new housing development - with priority given to accessible and affordable developments
- Housing as a priority area in the City's Community Health Improvement Plan and Age-Friendly Action Plan

## Goals:

- Address funding gap to make below market housing financially feasible for developers.
- Increase housing options to include more "Missing Middle" housing.
- Work in partnership to host a Housing Week to highlight the needs and options for housing, as well as to dispel commonly held myths or misconceptions.
- Continue to publicize the availability of the Home Loan Repair Program.
- Support the efforts to bolster the volunteer base to help provide services such as snow shoveling and yardwork assistance.
- Protect and increase stream of funding to make sure ARPA funded projects are sustainable.

**Key Partners:** Wauwatosa Health Department, Age-Friendly Steering Committee, Joint Housing Coalition, Wauwatosa Development Department

**Asks:** Work together to advance and support efforts to expand housing options in Wauwatosa which will result in more affordable housing.

**Build on Wauwatosa's history of providing mixed housing options throughout the community.**

**Support efforts to provide volunteer assistance for yardwork and snow removal assistance for older adult residents.**

# KEY ISSUE: HEALTH AND WELLNESS

## Challenges



- **Falls**
  - Falls present major challenges to healthy aging. Falls are the number one cause of non-natural death in the City of Wauwatosa and typically involve older adults.
  - Wisconsin ranks worst in the nation for deadly falls at a rate of 143 per 100,000.
- **Social Isolation and Loneliness**
  - 1 in 5 Wauwatosa adults who completed the AARP Age-Friendly survey reported feeling a lack of companionship.
  - Risk factors for loneliness and isolation include being over the age of 50, living alone, and disability status.
  - 36% of Wauwatosa residents aged 65 and older live alone.
  - 30% of Wauwatosa residents aged 65+ have a disability.
  - Digital communication is the predominant way of sharing social connection opportunities offered in the City, which is not always the preferred mode of communication for some older adults.
- **Desire for expansion of health and wellness opportunities geared towards older adults**
  - The Senior Commission often receives feedback about the desire for more health and physical activity programming geared towards older residents.
- **Lack of awareness of available resources**
  - The community offers a large number of resources geared towards older adults, but often people are unsure as to what they are or where to begin to find them.

# ADDRESSING HEALTH AND WELLNESS

In partnership, the Senior Commission worked on the following to address the health and wellness needs of older adults in Wauwatosa:

- Advocacy for more of a coordinated response to falls. Wauwatosa Health Department nurses were trained in the Evidence Based Falls Prevention course, Stepping On. They regularly offer the workshops to the community.
- Inclusion of a priority area of Social Connection in the City's Community Health Improvement Plan and Age-Friendly Action Plan.
- Increase in number of Pickleball offerings.
- Creation and dissemination of Wauwatosa Senior Resource Guide available online and in paper format.

## Goals:

- Continue to prioritize falls prevention.
- Assist with planning of events and opportunities that allow for intergenerational collaboration.
- Support the development of efforts to provide technology training to older adults while simultaneously increasing the ways in which we communicate with all residents.
- Increase community knowledge of available resources by sharing Wauwatosa Senior Resource Guide.

**Key Partners:** Wauwatosa Health Department, Age-Friendly Steering Committee, Joint Housing Coalition, Wauwatosa Department of Public Works

## Asks:

**Work with community partners to support an update of the City's Block Watch Program so that it includes opportunities for social connection and information sharing.**

# KEY FOCUS AREAS: ADVOCACY AND COLLABORATION

- Two of the Senior Commission's main responsibilities are advocacy and collaborating with other groups to make life better for older adults in Wauwatosa.
- **Advocacy Priorities:**
  - Expanded health and recreation opportunities
  - Increase in affordable and accessible housing
  - Increased funding for the Milwaukee County Aging and Disability Resource Center
  - Caregiver support
  - Support for nutrition services
  - Repair and rebuild the Long-Term Care workforce
  - Reliable, Accessible and Affordable Transportation
  - Enhanced communication

## **Key Partners:**

- Age-Friendly Tosa Steering Committee
- Milwaukee County Housing Division
- Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network
- Wauwatosa Joint Housing Coalition
- Wauwatosa School District
- Wauwatosa Library
- Wauwatosa Community Health Improvement Plan Action Teams
- Wauwatosa Common Council
- Wauwatosa Commission for Persons with Disabilities
- Wauwatosa Equity and Inclusion Commission

## **Asks:**

- **Support efforts to provide more written information for those who are not connected digitally.**
- **Expand efforts to bolster the volunteer base to help provide services to seniors.**