

WAUSHARA COUNTY GROUP C QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS SUMMARY
Town of Deerfield, Town of Hancock, Town of Oasis and the Town of Plainfield

The following report is a summary of the group C questionnaire results. A complete copy of the report is available for review at the respective town halls and the Waushara County Zoning Office.

A questionnaire was conducted for the towns of Deerfield, Hancock, Oasis and Plainfield Land Use Plan Committees to gather opinions from the town residents and landowners regarding land use and development issues. Each household was asked to complete one questionnaire. One Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Eight questionnaires were distributed between the four towns and 750 were returned, resulting in an overall response rate of 40 percent.

Table A-1. Waushara County Group C

Town	No. of Questionnaires		Response Rate
	Sent	Returned	
Deerfield	665	291	44%
Hancock	552	209	38%
Oasis	337	132	39%
Plainfield	344	118	34%
Total	1898	750	40%

The questionnaire contained 16 questions in the Town of Deerfield and 15 questions in the Towns of Hancock, Oasis and Plainfield. A few of the general information questions were worded slightly differently between the towns and the Town of Deerfield asked an additional question about minimum lot size. There were five multiple part questions and two open ended ones. Some respondents did not answer all the questions.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- Half (49.7%) the respondents were residents of their respective towns while half (50.3%) were nonresidents.
- Over one third (37.8%) of the residents who responded lived in their respective towns for more than 20 years and over half (52.1%) resided there for more than 10 years.
- More than half (54.5%) of the survey respondents own less than 10 acres.
- Preservation of farmland (70.1%), wetlands (74.7%), forestland (78.8%) and open space (70.8%) was supported by over 70 percent of all respondents.
- About 40 percent of the respondents did not support large livestock operations (42.3%) or natural resource extraction (44.8%).

- In excess of 80 percent (85.2%) of the respondents supported small business opportunities.
- People value environmentally sensitive resources and about 70 percent (68.9%) of the respondents felt that protection of wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, natural springs and wildlife habitat was very important.
- Protection of natural areas, including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes, woodlands, open spaces and groundwater resources was rated the number one local comprehensive planning goal by all the communities.
- Protection of economically productive areas, including farmland and forests was rated the number two local comprehensive planning goal by all the communities.

CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

About fifty percent of the people who responded to the questionnaire were residents of their respective communities. Of the respondents who were residents, over one third (37.8%) lived there for more than 20 years and over half (56.8%) lived there for more than 10 years. More than half (61.1%) of the total respondents owned property in the towns for more than 10 years. Over three-quarters (76.8%) of the respondents were 45 years old or older. Except for the Town of Plainfield, residents tended to be older than nonresidents (part-time, other). Three-quarters of the respondents indicated that their property could best be described as General Residence, Recreational Land or Lake, with the majority or about a third indicating General Residence. Finally, about 70 percent of the respondents indicated that there was a home on their property.

EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

Respondents were asked how they felt about the following: residential development, commercial development, industrial development, agricultural development and recreational opportunities.

While the majority of the respondents indicated that there was the right mix of residential (65.6%) and agricultural (72.1%) development and recreational opportunities (61.6%) a notable amount of respondents (29.2%) felt that there was a need for more recreational opportunities. Respondents were in less agreement regarding the amount of commercial and industrial development. Even though the majority of the respondents felt that the amount of commercial (45.2%) and industrial (47.7%) development for the area was about right, a significant portion of the respondents indicated that more was needed (37.5% and 33.7%, respectively).

LAND PRESERVATION AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

People were asked if they supported or did not support the following: managed forest law, farmland preservation, wetland preservation, forestland preservation, park and open space, Ice Age Trail, historic/cultural site preservation, public hunting grounds and snowmobile trails.

Over 70 percent of the respondents supported farmland (70.1%), wetland (74.7%), forestland (78.8%) preservation and park and open space (70.8%). With the exception of farmland preservation, respondents in the towns of Deerfield and Hancock were more supportive of these issues than respondents in the towns of Oasis and Plainfield. Managed forest law (63.1%), historic and cultural site preservation (64.5%) and public hunting lands (60.8%) were supported by over 60 percent of the respondents, respondents in the Town of Hancock being slightly more supportive than respondents in the other three towns. Although Ice Age Trail garnered support by only 57 percent of the respondents, a notable portion of the respondents or (17%) failed to express an opinion. While managed forest law and historic and cultural site preservation received less overall support than farmland, wetland and forestland preservation, it should be noted that for these items no opinion or no response was noticeably higher.

DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

The questionnaire asked if respondents supported or did not support the following development issues: single family housing, multi-family housing, mobile homes, hunting cabins, small business opportunities, large livestock operations and natural resource extraction.

The overwhelming majority of respondents supported (77.7%) or accepted (10.1%) single family housing in the area, while respondents' support of multi-family housing (20.3%) and mobile homes (16.1%) was lacking. Support (44.8%) and acceptance (29.3%) of hunting cabins was lower than single family. Variations were evident between the different towns, respondents from the Town of Plainfield were more supportive of every housing type including multi-family, mobile homes and hunting cabins than any of the other towns.

Small business opportunities garnered high support or acceptance from 85.2 percent of the respondents. People were generally unsupportive of large livestock operations and natural resource extraction. 42.3 percent of respondents did not support large livestock operations, while 44.8 percent of the respondents did not support natural resource extraction.

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Respondents were asked to rate the following public facilities and services: town roads, maintenance and condition; town roads, snow removal; public recreational land; garbage and recycling; county roads; fire protection; law enforcement; and emergency medical services (ambulance).

A significant number of nonresidents (greater than 20 percent) either indicated on the survey that they did not use this service or facility or simply did not respond to questions concerning garbage/recycling and emergency medical services. Residents and nonresidents alike felt that

public services and facilities were above average or acceptable. When no response or not used were removed from the percentages, acceptance ratings of all respondents ranged from the high 80's to mid 90's for all public facilities.

LAND USE ISSUES

The relative importance of the following land use issues were rated by respondents in the towns of Deerfield, Hancock, Oasis and Plainfield: protection of environmentally sensitive resources, such as wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, natural springs and wildlife habitat; preservation of farmland and avoidance of conflict between agricultural and residential uses; preservation of natural areas and open spaces; promotion of compact residential growth by discouraging scattered subdivision and scattered lots; promotion of compatible land use patterns by discouraging the location of conflicting land uses adjacent to each other, such as residential and industrial; and cooperation between the town, village and Waushara County when making land use decisions.

68.9 percent of all respondents' felt that the protection of environmentally sensitive resources, such as wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, natural springs and wildlife were very important. A total of 63.3 percent of respondents indicated that preservation of natural areas and open space was very important, respondents in the Town of Deerfield (72.9%) were more likely to support this issue than respondents in the Town of Plainfield (48.3%). Farmland preservation and conflict avoidance between agricultural and residential uses was very important to just less than 60 (57.2%) percent of the respondents, again respondents in the Town of Deerfield (63.9%) feeling that this was more important than respondents in the Town of Plainfield (48.3%). Of slightly less importance by all respondents was the promotion of compact residential growth and promotion of compatible land use patterns. Just over 40 (41.2%) percent of the respondents rated the promotion of compact residential growth as very important and a third (35.2%) of the respondents rated the promotion of compatible land use patterns as somewhat important. Most people (68.5%) indicated that intergovernmental cooperation was very important.

MINIMUM LOT SIZE

The question of minimum lot size was exclusive to the Town of Deerfield. A third of the people in the Town of Deerfield indicated that the minimum lot size should be one (32.6%) acre while another third felt that it should be five (36.4%) acres. Residents and nonresidents were in agreement on this issue.

LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING GOALS

Respondents were asked to rate the 14 local comprehensive planning goals that were established by the state to guide local governments when making planning decisions. These goals, while not required in a land management plan, provide a framework that can be used by local communities in establishing specific goals to meet their community needs.

Table A-2 indicates the overall combined ranking of the goals and the ranking of the goals by individual town. The respondents were in agreement on the top three local comprehensive planning goals and in basic agreement on the importance of the remaining goals as well.

Table A-2. Ranking of Local Comprehensive Planning Goals

	Combined	Deerfield	Hancock	Oasis	Plainfield
Goal 1	8T	8	7	9	8
Goal 2	14	14	14	14	14
Goal 3	1	1	1	1	1
Goal 4	2	2	2	2	2
Goal 5	4T	5	4	5	5
Goal 6	4T	4	5	3T	7
Goal 7	3	3	3	3T	3
Goal 8	10	12	9	10T	12
Goal 9	12	13	12	12	11
Goal 10	11	10	11	10T	9T
Goal 11	7	9	8	7	6
Goal 12	6	6	6	6	4
Goal 13	8T	7	10	8	9T
Goal 14	13	11	13	13	13

The goals below are listed in order of importance, to the respondents as whole, the rating of the goals by the respondents from the individual towns vary slightly.

- 1) Protect natural areas, including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes, woodlands, open spaces and groundwater resources. (Goal 3)
- 2) Protect economically productive areas, including farmland and forests. (Goal 4)
- 3) Encourage coordination and cooperation among nearby units of government. (Goal 7)
- 4) Encourage land uses, densities and regulations that promote efficient development patterns and relatively low municipal, state government and utility costs. (Goal 5)
- 5) Preserve cultural, historic and archaeological sites. (Goal 6)
- 6) Balance individual property rights with community interests and goals. (Goal 12)
- 7) Promote expansion or stabilization of the current economic base and the creation of a range of employment opportunities at the state, regional and local levels. (Goal 11)
- 8) Promote the redevelopment of lands with existing infrastructure and public services and the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing residential, commercial and industrial structures. (Goal 1)

- 9) Planning and development of land uses that create or preserve varied and unique urban and rural communities. (Goal 13)
- 10) Build community identity by revitalizing main streets and enforcing design standards. (Goal 8)
- 11) Provide an adequate infrastructure and public services and an adequate supply of developable land to meet existing and future market demand for residential, commercial and industrial uses. (Goal 10)
- 12) Provide an adequate supply of affordable housing for individuals of all income levels throughout each community. (Goal 9)
- 13) Provide an integrated, efficient and economical transportation system that affords nobility, convenience and safety and that meets the needs of all citizens, including transportation-dependent and disabled citizens. (Goal 14)
- 14) Encourage neighborhood designs that support a range of transportation choices. (Goal 2)