

2006

Town of Washburn Community Survey Results

177 questionnaires returned: 319 distributed = 55% response (28 FEB 2006)

Note: Rounding percent values may show results slightly greater or less than 100%.

Please complete and return this survey in the enclosed, postage paid envelop on or before **February 1, 2006**. If there is another adult household member who would like to receive his/her own survey to complete, please contact Town of Washburn Comprehensive Planning Committee member Bruce Hokanson at (715) 373-0404. Your answers are ***completely confidential***. The information you provide will be very helpful to the Town as it plans for the future.

Respondent Information

- Are you a Town of Washburn? (check one) 0% No response
72% Year-round resident 7% Seasonal resident 20% Non-resident landowner
- If you own vacant land in the Town of Washburn, within the next 10 years are you planning to build a:
Year-round residence on it? (check one) 14% Yes 25% No 38% Does not apply 23%No Resp
Seasonal residence on it? (check one) 6% Yes 25% No 36% Does not apply 33%No Resp
- How long have you owned property in the Town of Washburn? (check one) 1% No response
16% Less than 5 years 28% 5 to 15 years 54% More than 15 years
- What is your age? (check one) 0% No response
1% Under 25 16% 25 to 44 66% 45 to 64 18% 65 or older

Planning Issues and Opportunities

- How would you rate the quality of life in the Town of Washburn? (check one) 3% No response
40% Excellent 49% Good 2% Fair 1% Poor 5% No opinion
- In planning for the future, how should the Town of Washburn act on the following?
(check one per category)

Category Areas	Encourage	Take No Action	Discourage	No Opinion	No Response
Residential development	<u>34%</u>	<u>37%</u>	<u>16%</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>2%</u>
Commercial development	<u>25%</u>	<u>23%</u>	<u>40%</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>3%</u>
Industrial development	<u>14%</u>	<u>20%</u>	<u>58%</u>	<u>6%</u>	<u>2%</u>
Public recreational development	<u>49%</u>	<u>23%</u>	<u>19%</u>	<u>4%</u>	<u>5%</u>
Forest/greenspace preservation	<u>67%</u>	<u>20%</u>	<u>7%</u>	<u>4%</u>	<u>2%</u>
Farmland preservation	<u>69%</u>	<u>21%</u>	<u>3%</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>2%</u>

(continued on the next page)

Housing

7. How would you rate housing availability in the Town of Washburn? (check one per category)
- | <u>Housing Category</u> | <u>Need a Lot More</u> | <u>Need a Little More</u> | <u>Don't Need Any More</u> | <u>No Opinion</u> | <u>No Response</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Single-family homes | <u>5%</u> | <u>50%</u> | <u>19%</u> | <u>21%</u> | <u>5%</u> |
| Second/vacation homes | <u>1%</u> | <u>21%</u> | <u>48%</u> | <u>24%</u> | <u>6%</u> |
| Condominiums/townhouses | <u>1%</u> | <u>14%</u> | <u>59%</u> | <u>21%</u> | <u>6%</u> |
| Rental housing/apartments | <u>2%</u> | <u>17%</u> | <u>54%</u> | <u>21%</u> | <u>6%</u> |
| Low-priced housing | <u>6%</u> | <u>22%</u> | <u>41%</u> | <u>25%</u> | <u>6%</u> |
| Moderately-priced housing | <u>10%</u> | <u>42%</u> | <u>20%</u> | <u>24%</u> | <u>5%</u> |
| Higher-priced housing | <u>2%</u> | <u>24%</u> | <u>46%</u> | <u>23%</u> | <u>6%</u> |
| Elderly/assisted living | <u>14%</u> | <u>30%</u> | <u>24%</u> | <u>28%</u> | <u>4%</u> |
| Mobile homes | <u>2%</u> | <u>6%</u> | <u>63%</u> | <u>26%</u> | <u>4%</u> |
8. Single family residential development in the Town should be required to have a minimum of: (check one)
- 46% 5 acres 12% Other minimum size __ acres = 9% <5ac + 3% >35ac
(please specify)
- 14% 10 acres 11% No minimum acreage requirement
- 10% 20 acres
- 5% 35 acres
- 3% No response
9. The Town should support the clustering or grouping of single family residences on a large acreage with a common driveway link to a main road in order to conserve wooded areas, open space or scenic views, and provide for the efficient provision of public services (check one)
- 19% Strongly agree 36% Agree 15% Disagree 16% Strongly disagree 11% No opinion 3% No response

Transportation

10. How would you rate the overall condition of the roads in the Town of Washburn? (check one)
- 12% Very good 49% Good 29% Average 6% Poor 2% No opinion 1% No resp
11. Overall the road shoulders in the Town are adequate. (check one)
- 4% Strongly agree 48% Agree 29% Disagree 13% Strongly disagree 6% No opinion 0% No response
12. The proportion of the Town's roads that are blacktopped is (check one)
- 50% Just right 28% Not enough 5% Too much 16% No opinion 1% No response
13. Most Town roads should continue to be open to ATVs. (check one)
- 25% Strongly agree 29% Agree 18% Disagree 22% Strongly disagree 6% No opinion 0% No response
14. Adequate opportunities exist for safe bicycling in the Town. (check one)
- 10% Strongly agree 32% Agree 24% Disagree 16% Strongly disagree 16% No opinion 1% No response

(continued on the next page)

Utilities and Community Facilities

15. The Town of Washburn should provide some financial support for the following facilities.
(check one per category)

Community Facility	Strongly			Strongly		No Response
	Agree	Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion		
Washburn Public Library	<u>32%</u>	<u>51%</u>	<u>9%</u>	<u>3%</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>1%</u>
Bayfield Recreation Center/ Swimming Pool	<u>7%</u>	<u>18%</u>	<u>39%</u>	<u>19%</u>	<u>14%</u>	<u>3%</u>
Washburn Soccer Fields	<u>12%</u>	<u>45%</u>	<u>19%</u>	<u>8%</u>	<u>11%</u>	<u>4%</u>
Big Top Chautauqua	<u>5%</u>	<u>29%</u>	<u>34%</u>	<u>18%</u>	<u>11%</u>	<u>4%</u>
Washburn Recreation Program	<u>19%</u>	<u>50%</u>	<u>11%</u>	<u>8%</u>	<u>9%</u>	<u>3%</u>
Other _____	<u>3%</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>93%</u>

(please specify): "Valhalla" "Mt Ashwabay" "Town Park" "N. Visitor Ctr" "Shooting range"
"Cultural Events" "Economic Development" "Barksdale ice rink" "Tennis courts"

16. How would you rate the following services in the Town? (check one per category)

Category	Excellent	Good	Average	Below		No Opinion	No Response
				Average	Poor		
Fire protection	<u>8%</u>	<u>41%</u>	<u>22%</u>	<u>1%</u>	<u>1%</u>	<u>24%</u>	<u>2%</u>
Ambulance service	<u>12%</u>	<u>42%</u>	<u>19%</u>	<u>1%</u>	<u>1%</u>	<u>23%</u>	<u>2%</u>
Zoning ordinance enforcement	<u>6%</u>	<u>24%</u>	<u>28%</u>	<u>4%</u>	<u>4%</u>	<u>33%</u>	<u>2%</u>
Garbage disposal	<u>6%</u>	<u>28%</u>	<u>21%</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>8%</u>	<u>25%</u>	<u>2%</u>
Recycling	<u>7%</u>	<u>27%</u>	<u>25%</u>	<u>13%</u>	<u>6%</u>	<u>21%</u>	<u>2%</u>
Snowplowing	<u>23%</u>	<u>35%</u>	<u>18%</u>	<u>6%</u>	<u>3%</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>2%</u>

17. How would you rate the quality of education provided by the Washburn public schools? (check one)
- 1% No response
11% Excellent 38% Good 19% Average 4% Below average 3% Poor 23% No opinion

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources

18. It is important to try to preserve the remaining productive farmland in the Town of Washburn. (check one)
- 0% No response
45% Strongly agree 34% Agree 10% Disagree 3% Strongly disagree 8% No opinion
19. It is important to try to preserve large tracts of private forestland in the Town of Washburn. (check one)
- 1% No response
42% Strongly agree 36% Agree 10% Disagree 6% Strongly disagree 6% No opinion

(continued on the next page)

Economic Development

20. How important is it for the Town to promote the following types of businesses in the Town of Washburn? (check one per category)

<u>Business Category</u>	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Not Important</u>	<u>Should Not Promote</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>	<u>No Response</u>
Service businesses	<u>11%</u>	<u>40%</u>	<u>21%</u>	<u>9%</u>	<u>12%</u>	<u>7%</u>
Home based	<u>17%</u>	<u>49%</u>	<u>12%</u>	<u>6%</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>6%</u>
Recreation based	<u>14%</u>	<u>49%</u>	<u>12%</u>	<u>11%</u>	<u>9%</u>	<u>6%</u>
Commercial/retail	<u>8%</u>	<u>26%</u>	<u>29%</u>	<u>20%</u>	<u>8%</u>	<u>8%</u>
Light manufacturing	<u>6%</u>	<u>28%</u>	<u>27%</u>	<u>24%</u>	<u>8%</u>	<u>7%</u>
Agriculture based	<u>29%</u>	<u>47%</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>6%</u>	<u>8%</u>	<u>5%</u>
Tourism based	<u>15%</u>	<u>35%</u>	<u>22%</u>	<u>14%</u>	<u>8%</u>	<u>6%</u>
Technology businesses	<u>11%</u>	<u>38%</u>	<u>22%</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>14%</u>	<u>6%</u>
Forest based	<u>25%</u>	<u>44%</u>	<u>9%</u>	<u>8%</u>	<u>8%</u>	<u>6%</u>

Land Use

21. Development should be restricted near sensitive and fragile environmental areas. (check one)
45% Strongly agree 32% Agree 11% Disagree 2% Strongly disagree 6% No response
3% No opinion

22. It is important to develop guidelines in the Town of Washburn for (check one per category)

<u>Commercial Businesses</u>	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>	<u>No Response</u>
Signage	<u>42%</u>	<u>34%</u>	<u>12%</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>6%</u>	<u>4%</u>
Exterior lighting	<u>37%</u>	<u>38%</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>3%</u>	<u>8%</u>	<u>4%</u>
Noise	<u>42%</u>	<u>38%</u>	<u>8%</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>6%</u>	<u>3%</u>
Vegetative screening	<u>32%</u>	<u>37%</u>	<u>12%</u>	<u>4%</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>5%</u>
<u>Residential Development</u>						
Signage	<u>32%</u>	<u>37%</u>	<u>13%</u>	<u>4%</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>5%</u>
Exterior lighting	<u>29%</u>	<u>39%</u>	<u>14%</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>8%</u>	<u>5%</u>
Noise	<u>39%</u>	<u>38%</u>	<u>11%</u>	<u>3%</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>3%</u>
Vegetative screening	<u>21%</u>	<u>35%</u>	<u>18%</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>6%</u>

(continued on the next page)

Implementation

23. The Bayfield County zoning, subdivision and related ordinances have been effective in the Town of Washburn in ... (check one per category)

Category	Strongly		Strongly		No Response	
	Agree	Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion		
Regulating building	<u>4%</u>	<u>45%</u>	<u>12%</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>33%</u>	<u>5%</u>
Protecting property values	<u>5%</u>	<u>40%</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>1%</u>	<u>34%</u>	<u>5%</u>
Regulating land divisions	<u>4%</u>	<u>41%</u>	<u>16%</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>34%</u>	<u>4%</u>
Controlling signs	<u>5%</u>	<u>41%</u>	<u>16%</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>30%</u>	<u>6%</u>
Controlling junk vehicles	<u>4%</u>	<u>25%</u>	<u>24%</u>	<u>11%</u>	<u>31%</u>	<u>4%</u>
Controlling nuisances	<u>3%</u>	<u>28%</u>	<u>23%</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>36%</u>	<u>5%</u>
Protecting the environment	<u>5%</u>	<u>44%</u>	<u>14%</u>	<u>3%</u>	<u>30%</u>	<u>5%</u>
Regulating communication towers	<u>6%</u>	<u>33%</u>	<u>12%</u>	<u>6%</u>	<u>39%</u>	<u>4%</u>

24. The Town of Washburn should investigate establishing a voluntary purchase of development rights program to be used to protect farmland and important environmental areas and scenic vistas. A purchase of development rights program is a voluntary land preservation tool that compensates the landowner at fair market value for permanently retaining the land for agricultural or open space or forestland use. (check one) 3% No Response
25% Strongly agree 33% Agree 16% Disagree 12% Strongly disagree 11% No opinion

Other

25. What do you think are the **three** most **important issues** facing the Town of Washburn in the coming years? (check **only three**) 1% No Response

34% Maintain public services

29% Improve Town roads

12% Promote business growth

30% Minimize forest fragmentation (breakup of large forested land parcels)

27% Preserve farmland

16% Increase the tax base

32% Manage residential growth

11% Preserve scenic views

10% Expand recreational opportunities

24% Preserve sensitive environmental areas

53% Maintain the Town's rural character

6% Provide adequate housing

5% Other (please specify) _____

3% Other (please specify) _____

2% Other (please specify) _____

“Keep government unobtrusive”

“Keep controls to minimum”

“Minimize land use regulation”

“Avoid becoming 2nd home community

“Population control” “Not becoming Bayfield”

“Control high speed traffic” “Junk cars” “No fees”

“Keep land affordable” “Increase property values”

“Sediment flow to streams” Garbage disposal”

“Town road maintenance” “Keep property tax low”

“Stay out of others business”

(continued on the next page)

26. What is the ***one*** best way to notify you about Town of Washburn issues and concerns?
(check ***one only***)

 7% No response

55% Direct mail postcard or letter

23% Email

 3% Newspaper notice ad

11% Newsletter

 1% Posted announcements at Town Hall

 0% Other (please specify) _____

**Thank You for Completing This Survey and Helping the
Town of Washburn Plan for Its Future**

Please return your completed survey by ***February 1, 2006***