



AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE CENTER

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EXTENSION • COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

BAYFIELD COUNTY LAND USE SURVEY

Executive Summary

Completed October 4, 2000

4,362 Completed Surveys

The Bayfield County Land Use Survey was developed by the Bayfield County Land Use Plan Steering Committee and mailed out to all county property owners and residents on April 28, 2000. A total of 14,175 surveys were mailed out and 4,362 surveys were returned for a return rate of 31%. David Kabes, research assistant, prepared this executive summary.*

When asked in **question 1** about the *importance of land use issues*, 80% of the survey respondents felt these issues were either *very important* or *important*.

The combined percentages for **Strongly Agree** and **Agree** responses to statements on **WATER RESOURCES** provided the following ranked results.

- a. Groundwater and clean drinking water protection are important.....98%
- b. The surface waters of Bayfield County (its lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands) should be protected from degradation.....95%
- c. Provisions should be made to preserve the aesthetic beauty of lake, river and stream shorelines91%

For the statements that addressed **ZONING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS**, the combined percentages for **Strongly Agree** and **Agree** responses for each statement are ranked below.

- a. New commercial and industrial businesses should generally be required to locate where there is adequate infrastructure (e.g., sewer, water).83%
- b. Land use regulations should be enforced.82%
- c. Development along inland lake shorelines should be regulated according to the characteristics of the lake.77%
- d. There should be aesthetic design standards for commercial and industrial developments.76%
- e. Land uses should be regulated by zoning.75%
- f. There should be design standards for manure storage facilities.74%
- g. Zoning restrictions protect areas more than they detract from them.73%
- h. Development along the Lake Superior shoreline should be restricted.61%
- i. Lakeshore minimum lot sizes should be increased.49%
- j. Rural residential lot sizes should have a larger minimum size restriction.48%
- k. Setback requirements for building on waterfront lots should be increased.47%

*Edited by UW-Extension Community Resource Development Agents Tim Kane and Lissa Radke

The percentages for **Strongly Agree** and **Agree** responses were combined for the section of the survey that dealt with **PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES**. The ranked results are listed below.

a. Preserving clean air is important.	95%
b. It's important to maintain county roads.	95%
c. Preserving the county's environmental quality is important.	93%
d. It's important to maintain town roads.	93%
e. It's important to preserve scenic views.	88%
f. Public lands are important to the county.	87%
g. The rural character of Bayfield County should be preserved.	86%
h. Preservation of the aesthetic appearance along roadways is important.	86%
i. It's important to preserve the county's forestry industry.	80%
j. The county should encourage the preservation of prime farmland.	77%
k. It's important to preserve the agricultural industry in Bayfield County.	77%
l. A safe, efficient transportation system is important.	75%
m. Developing new parks, trails and other public recreational facilities is important.	64%
n. It's important to attract new commercial businesses.	46%
o. It's important to attract new industry.	43%
p. The county should try to attract more tourists to this area.	39%
q. Additional marinas should be located on Lake Superior.	17%
r. It's important to increase the population of Bayfield County.	16%

The percentages for **Strongly Agree** and **Agree** responses to the different items under **RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT** were combined and ranked. Each item began with the words, "The County should place MORE restrictions on _____"

a. the location of landfills.	81%
b. the location of industrial plants.	80%
c. the location and size of billboards.	79%
d. logging practices along lakeshores and streambanks.	77%
e. drilling, mining and quarrying.	74%
f. the development on land with unique natural features.	70%
g. the location of campgrounds and RV parks.	69%
h. the location of retail and commercial enterprises.	69%
i. the location of factory farm animal feedlots.	69%
j. the development on wetlands.	69%
k. the development on floodplains.	69%
l. the location of electrical power transmission lines.	68%
m. the location of communication towers.	67%
n. logging practices along highways.	67%
o. where mobile homes can be located.	66%
p. the location of sand and gravel pit operations.	63%
q. where residential housing can be built.	53%
r. the location of wind farms (wind power).	43%

The section titled **RECREATIONAL USE ISSUES** provided the following combined percentages to the **Strongly Agree** and **Agree** responses to the statement, “There should be MORE restrictions on _____ on public land or water.” The items are ranked below.

- a. use of high speed boats78%
- b. use of personal watercraft73%
- c. use of all terrain vehicles66%
- d. use of snowmobiles60%
- e. recreational boating37%
- f. off road mountain biking37%
- g. hunting24%
- h. fishing19%

For **statement 60** in this section of the survey, 70% of the respondents **Strongly Agree** or **Agree** that the *use of snowmobiles should be restricted to designated snowmobile trails*. The results of **statement 61** indicated that 71% of the respondents **Strongly Agree** or **Agree** that the *use of all terrain vehicles should be restricted to designated all terrain vehicle trails*.

The last survey question, **question 70**, asked each respondent to rank from a provided list the *five most important land use issues facing Bayfield County* by assigning a rating from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important) to each. The top three number 1 rated issues were:

- a) Water quality protection, selected 1,225 times;
- b) Protection of natural resources, selected 1,030 times; and
- c) Maintaining rural character, selected 610 times.

END OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY