



Portage County
Comprehensive
Planning & Zoning
Survey

Final Report

December, 2001

Town of Sharon

Prepared By:

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Sharon Planning Survey

County Trends and Land Use

1. From the year 2000 to 2020, Portage County's population is projected to increase 21 percent from 67,182 to 81,242. At what rate would you like to see growth occur?

	Responses	Percent
Faster than projected	8	4%
Present projected rate of growth	53	28%
Slower than projected	81	43%
No growth	31	16%
Don't Know	17	9%
Total	190	100%

2. The following types of growth should be encouraged within Portage County

Single family residential

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	13	7%
2-Disagree	10	5%
3-Neutral	47	25%
4-Agree	67	35%
5-Strongly Agree	50	26%
DK-Don't Know	4	2%
Total	191	100%

Valid cases 187

Average 3.7

Multi-family residential

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	35	19%
2-Disagree	47	25%
3-Neutral	47	25%
4-Agree	40	22%
5-Strongly Agree	10	5%
DK-Don't Know	6	3%
Total	185	100%

Valid cases 179

Average 2.7

<u>Rural residential</u>	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	36	19%
2-Disagree	28	15%
3-Neutral	41	22%
4-Agree	54	29%
5-Strongly Agree	25	13%
DK-Don't Know	3	2%
Total	187	100%
Valid cases	184	
Average	3.0	

<u>Family farms</u>	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	10	5%
2-Disagree	4	2%
3-Neutral	15	8%
4-Agree	64	33%
5-Strongly Agree	96	50%
DK-Don't Know	3	2%
Total	192	100%
Valid cases	189	
Average	4.2	

<u>Small businesses</u>	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	12	6%
2-Disagree	5	3%
3-Neutral	30	16%
4-Agree	72	38%
5-Strongly Agree	65	35%
DK-Don't Know	4	2%
Total	188	100%
Valid cases	184	
Average	3.9	

<u>Hobby farms</u>	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	21	11%
2-Disagree	14	8%
3-Neutral	62	34%
4-Agree	52	28%
5-Strongly Agree	32	17%
DK-Don't Know	4	2%
Total	185	100%
Valid cases	181	
Average	3.3	

<u>Large corporate farms</u>	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	75	40%
2-Disagree	36	19%
3-Neutral	46	25%
4-Agree	19	10%
5-Strongly Agree	7	4%
DK-Don't Know	4	2%
Total	187	100%
Valid cases	183	
Average	2.2	

<u>Large retail outlets/centers</u>	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	44	24%
2-Disagree	34	18%
3-Neutral	49	26%
4-Agree	31	17%
5-Strongly Agree	24	13%
DK-Don't Know	5	3%
Total	187	100%
Valid cases	182	
Average	2.8	

<u>Light industry</u>			<u>Heavy industry</u>		
	Responses	Percent		Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	17	9%	1- Strongly Disagree	43	23%
2-Disagree	10	5%	2-Disagree	17	9%
3-Neutral	43	23%	3-Neutral	53	28%
4-Agree	65	34%	4-Agree	37	19%
5-Strongly Agree	50	26%	5-Strongly Agree	34	18%
DK-Don't Know	4	2%	DK-Don't Know	6	3%
Total	189	100%	Total	190	100%
Valid cases	185		Valid cases	184	
Average	3.7		Average	3.0	

3. Local units of government have the responsibility to protect property owners and the community by regulating land use.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	8	4%
2-Disagree	18	9%
3-Neutral	36	18%
4-Agree	91	45%
5-Strongly Agree	46	23%
DK-Don't Know	2	1%
Total	201	100%
Valid cases	199	
Average	3.7	

4. The use of zoning regulations is beneficial.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	6	3%
2-Disagree	12	6%
3-Neutral	31	15%
4-Agree	104	51%
5-Strongly Agree	43	21%
DK-Don't Know	6	3%
Total	202	100%
Valid cases	196	
Average	3.8	

5. People should be allowed to develop their property any way they see fit.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	44	22%
2-Disagree	66	33%
3-Neutral	36	18%
4-Agree	25	12%
5-Strongly Agree	29	14%
DK-Don't Know	2	1%
Total	202	100%
Valid cases	200	
Average	2.6	

Housing

6. Ideal urban neighborhoods would include homes as well as:

<u>Apartments</u>			<u>Shopping</u>		
	Responses	Percent		Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	19	10%	1- Strongly Disagree	7	4%
2-Disagree	30	16%	2-Disagree	10	5%
3-Neutral	36	19%	3-Neutral	22	11%
4-Agree	71	38%	4-Agree	91	47%
5-Strongly Agree	30	16%	5-Strongly Agree	58	30%
DK-Don't Know	3	2%	DK-Don't Know	4	2%
Total	189	100%	Total	192	100%
Valid cases	186		Valid cases	188	
Average	3.3		Average	4.0	

Employment

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	5	3%
2-Disagree	10	5%
3-Neutral	31	16%
4-Agree	73	39%
5-Strongly Agree	66	35%
DK-Don't Know	4	2%
Total	189	100%
Valid cases	185	
Average	4.0	

Parks

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	4	2%
2-Disagree	2	1%
3-Neutral	25	13%
4-Agree	84	45%
5-Strongly Agree	71	38%
DK-Don't Know	2	1%
Total	188	100%
Valid cases	186	
Average	4.2	

Sidewalks

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	13	7%
2-Disagree	22	12%
3-Neutral	39	21%
4-Agree	59	31%
5-Strongly Agree	50	27%
DK-Don't Know	5	3%
Total	188	100%
Valid cases	183	
Average	3.6	

Schools

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	4	2%
2-Disagree	8	4%
3-Neutral	23	12%
4-Agree	82	44%
5-Strongly Agree	66	35%
DK-Don't Know	3	2%
Total	186	100%
Valid cases	183	
Average	4.1	

Alleys

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	24	13%
2-Disagree	50	27%
3-Neutral	50	27%
4-Agree	28	15%
5-Strongly Agree	27	15%
DK-Don't Know	6	3%
Total	185	100%
Valid cases	179	
Average	2.9	

7. Other than farm residences, what types of housing would be appropriate in rural areas

Single family (2+ acre)

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	20	11%
2-Disagree	11	6%
3-Neutral	23	12%
4-Agree	63	33%
5-Strongly Agree	72	38%
DK-Don't Know	1	1%
Total	190	100%
Valid cases	189	
Average	3.8	

Single family (<2 acre)

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	45	24%
2-Disagree	45	24%
3-Neutral	30	16%
4-Agree	44	24%
5-Strongly Agree	21	11%
DK-Don't Know	2	1%
Total	187	100%
Valid cases	185	
Average	2.7	

Duplexes

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	63	34%
2-Disagree	47	25%
3-Neutral	47	25%
4-Agree	20	11%
5-Strongly Agree	6	3%
DK-Don't Know	4	2%
Total	187	100%
Valid cases	183	
Average	2.2	

Multi-family apartments

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	81	44%
2-Disagree	65	35%
3-Neutral	26	14%
4-Agree	5	3%
5-Strongly Agree	3	2%
DK-Don't Know	4	2%
Total	184	100%
Valid cases	180	
Average	1.8	

Mobile home parks

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	92	51%
2-Disagree	49	27%
3-Neutral	32	18%
4-Agree	4	2%
5-Strongly Agree	4	2%
DK-Don't Know	1	1%
Total	182	100%
Valid cases	181	
Average	1.8	

No new non-farm housing

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	27	14%
2-Disagree	56	30%
3-Neutral	46	24%
4-Agree	24	13%
5-Strongly Agree	28	15%
DK-Don't Know	7	4%
Total	188	100%
Valid cases	181	
Average	2.8	

8. My city/village/township has a need for more:

<u>Moderately priced homes</u>		
	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	21	11%
2-Disagree	19	10%
3-Neutral	55	29%
4-Agree	57	30%
5-Strongly Agree	30	16%
DK-Don't Know	8	4%
Total	190	100%
Valid cases	182	
Average	3.3	

<u>Higher priced homes</u>		
	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	54	29%
2-Disagree	51	28%
3-Neutral	53	29%
4-Agree	13	7%
5-Strongly Agree	5	3%
DK-Don't Know	8	4%
Total	184	100%
Valid cases	176	
Average	2.2	

<u>Manufactured(mobile) homes</u>		
	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	73	39%
2-Disagree	57	31%
3-Neutral	34	18%
4-Agree	11	6%
5-Strongly Agree	5	3%
DK-Don't Know	6	3%
Total	186	100%
Valid cases	180	
Average	2.0	

<u>Public/subsidized housing</u>		
	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	67	36%
2-Disagree	48	26%
3-Neutral	40	22%
4-Agree	13	7%
5-Strongly Agree	6	3%
DK-Don't Know	11	6%
Total	185	100%
Valid cases	174	
Average	2.1	

<u>Multi-unit rental housing</u>		
	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	65	35%
2-Disagree	63	34%
3-Neutral	41	22%
4-Agree	6	3%
5-Strongly Agree	3	2%
DK-Don't Know	7	4%
Total	185	100%
Valid cases	178	
Average	2.0	

<u>Housing for seniors</u>		
	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	23	12%
2-Disagree	18	9%
3-Neutral	52	26%
4-Agree	52	26%
5-Strongly Agree	41	21%
DK-Don't Know	11	6%
Total	197	100%
Valid cases	186	
Average	3.4	

9. The overall quality of housing in my city/village/township is good.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2-Disagree	6	3%
3-Neutral	29	14%
4-Agree	133	66%
5-Strongly Agree	30	15%
DK-Don't Know	4	2%
Total	202	100%
Valid cases	198	
Average	3.9	

10. Government should provide financial assistance for lower income residents to maintain and improve their homes.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	29	14%
2-Disagree	37	18%
3-Neutral	53	26%
4-Agree	58	29%
5-Strongly Agree	24	12%
DK-Don't Know	2	1%
Total	203	100%
Valid cases	201	
Average	3.1	

Utilities & Community Facilities

11. New homes and businesses should be encouraged :

11a. Primarily in communities where sewer and water are available...

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	6	3%
2-Disagree	13	7%
3-Neutral	25	13%
4-Agree	91	48%
5-Strongly Agree	50	26%
DK-Don't Know	4	2%
Total	189	100%

Valid cases 185

Average 3.9

11b. Next to communities where sewer and water could be extended...

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	13	7%
2-Disagree	33	18%
3-Neutral	42	23%
4-Agree	83	45%
5-Strongly Agree	11	6%
DK-Don't Know	4	2%
Total	186	100%

Valid cases 182

Average 3.3

11c. Anywhere in the County, with or without sewer and water services...

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	51	27%
2-Disagree	49	26%
3-Neutral	37	19%
4-Agree	33	17%
5-Strongly Agree	18	9%
DK-Don't Know	2	1%
Total	190	100%

Valid cases 188

Average 2.6

12. Future boundaries should be established for municipal water and sanitary sewer systems.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	10	5%
2-Disagree	12	6%
3-Neutral	53	26%
4-Agree	88	44%
5-Strongly Agree	34	17%
DK-Don't Know	3	2%
Total	200	100%

Valid cases	197
Average	3.6

13. The boundaries described in Question 12 should be

	Responses	Percent
Very inflexible, essentially stopping development outside of the boundary.	57	30%
Somewhat flexible, allowing for some development outside the boundary	117	61%
Very flexible, allowing anyone who asks for sewer and water to get it wherever they are.	19	10%
Total	193	100%

14. How would you rate each of the following local services.

Sanitary sewer

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	0	0%
2-Poor	2	1%
3-Average	21	11%
4-Good	35	18%
5-Excellent	9	5%
DU-Don't Use	126	65%
Total	193	100%
Valid cases	67	
Average	3.8	

Police protection

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	2	1%
2-Poor	3	1%
3-Average	55	27%
4-Good	100	50%
5-Excellent	28	14%
DU-Don't Use	14	7%
Total	202	100%
Valid cases	188	
Average	3.8	

Ambulance service

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	1	1%
2-Poor	5	3%
3-Average	47	24%
4-Good	95	48%
5-Excellent	30	15%
DU-Don't Use	21	11%
Total	199	100%
Valid cases	178	
Average	3.8	

Municipal water

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	0	0%
2-Poor	3	2%
3-Average	21	11%
4-Good	30	15%
5-Excellent	7	4%
DU-Don't Use	135	69%
Total	196	100%
Valid cases	61	
Average	3.7	

Fire protection

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	1	0%
2-Poor	7	4%
3-Average	56	28%
4-Good	94	47%
5-Excellent	27	14%
DU-Don't Use	15	8%
Total	200	100%
Valid cases	185	
Average	3.8	

Social service

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	2	1%
2-Poor	5	3%
3-Average	54	28%
4-Good	58	30%
5-Excellent	12	6%
DU-Don't Use	64	33%
Total	195	100%
Valid cases	131	
Average	3.6	

Garbage collection

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	1	0%
2-Poor	2	1%
3-Average	35	17%
4-Good	115	57%
5-Excellent	42	21%
DU-Don't Use	7	3%
Total	202	100%
Valid cases	195	
Average	4.0	

Library

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	1	0%
2-Poor	3	2%
3-Average	24	12%
4-Good	102	51%
5-Excellent	40	20%
DU-Don't Use	30	15%
Total	200	100%
Valid cases	170	
Average	4.0	

Parks

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	0	0%
2-Poor	4	2%
3-Average	37	18%
4-Good	111	55%
5-Excellent	27	13%
DU-Don't Use	24	12%
Total	203	100%
Valid cases	179	
Average	3.9	

Recycling program

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	3	2%
2-Poor	5	3%
3-Average	40	20%
4-Good	103	52%
5-Excellent	38	19%
DU-Don't Use	9	5%
Total	198	100%
Valid cases	189	
Average	3.9	

Education

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	2	1%
2-Poor	8	4%
3-Average	39	19%
4-Good	81	40%
5-Excellent	34	17%
DU-Don't Use	37	18%
Total	201	100%
Valid cases	164	
Average	3.8	

Recreation programs

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	3	1%
2-Poor	5	2%
3-Average	50	25%
4-Good	73	36%
5-Excellent	16	8%
DU-Don't Use	54	27%
Total	201	100%
Valid cases	147	
Average	3.6	

Agricultural, Natural, & Cultural Resources

16. Portage County should work with farmers to identify and protect productive agricultural regions.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	3	1%
2-Disagree	3	1%
3-Neutral	12	6%
4-Agree	87	43%
5-Strongly Agree	95	47%
DK-Don't Know	1	0%
Total	201	100%
Valid cases	200	
Average	4.3	

17. Local units of government in Portage County should address the issue of development in productive agricultural regions by:

17a. Preserving farmland at all costs

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	10	5%
2-Disagree	28	15%
3-Neutral	40	21%
4-Agree	52	27%
5-Strongly Agree	61	32%
DK-Don't Know	0	0%
Total	191	100%
Valid cases	191	
Average	3.7	

17b. Protecting productive farmland, but allowing growth in areas not suitable for agricultural use.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	10	5%
2-Disagree	29	15%
3-Neutral	23	12%
4-Agree	90	47%
5-Strongly Agree	39	20%
DK-Don't Know	0	0%
Total	191	100%
Valid cases	191	
Average	3.6	

17c. Not protecting farmland, let owners develop as they see fit

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	84	46%
2-Disagree	41	22%
3-Neutral	29	16%
4-Agree	15	8%
5-Strongly Agree	12	7%
DK-Don't Know	2	1%
Total	183	100%
Valid cases	181	
Average	2.1	

18. The rural economy of Portage County should be protected by having growth directed into and around existing developed areas.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	4	2%
2-Disagree	10	5%
3-Neutral	43	22%
4-Agree	85	43%
5-Strongly Agree	47	24%
DK-Don't Know	7	4%
Total	196	100%
Valid cases	189	
Average	3.9	

19. My city/village/township should make an effort to identify and protect the following:

19a. Woodlands

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	5	2%
2-Disagree	11	5%
3-Neutral	21	10%
4-Agree	67	33%
5-Strongly Agree	95	47%
DK-Don't Know	5	2%
Total	204	100%
Valid cases	199	
Average	4.2	

19c. Open spaces

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	5	3%
2-Disagree	13	7%
3-Neutral	51	26%
4-Agree	51	26%
5-Strongly Agree	74	37%
DK-Don't Know	5	3%
Total	199	100%
Valid cases	194	
Average	3.9	

19e. Endangered species habitat

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	6	3%
2-Disagree	12	6%
3-Neutral	39	19%
4-Agree	63	31%
5-Strongly Agree	77	38%
DK-Don't Know	4	2%
Total	201	100%
Valid cases	197	
Average	4.0	

19b. Wetlands and floodplains

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	5	3%
2-Disagree	8	4%
3-Neutral	35	18%
4-Agree	57	29%
5-Strongly Agree	87	44%
DK-Don't Know	7	4%
Total	199	100%
Valid cases	192	
Average	4.1	

19d. Lakes, rivers and streams

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	3	2%
2-Disagree	5	2%
3-Neutral	12	6%
4-Agree	70	35%
5-Strongly Agree	107	54%
DK-Don't Know	3	2%
Total	200	100%
Valid cases	197	
Average	4.4	

19f. Parkland, existing and future

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	4	2%
2-Disagree	4	2%
3-Neutral	41	20%
4-Agree	79	39%
5-Strongly Agree	68	34%
DK-Don't Know	5	2%
Total	201	100%
Valid cases	196	
Average	4.0	

19g. Historic and cultural sites

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	5	3%
2-Disagree	12	6%
3-Neutral	50	25%
4-Agree	62	31%
5-Strongly Agree	64	32%
DK-Don't Know	6	3%
Total	199	100%
Valid cases	193	
Average	3.9	

20. The following represent a threat to the quality of Portage County's groundwater:

20a. Residential runoff

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	4	2%
2-Disagree	24	12%
3-Neutral	43	22%
4-Agree	70	36%
5-Strongly Agree	45	23%
DK-Don't Know	10	5%
Total	196	100%
Valid cases	186	
Average	3.7	

20b. Agricultural pesticides and fertilizers

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	6	3%
2-Disagree	5	3%
3-Neutral	31	16%
4-Agree	75	38%
5-Strongly Agree	75	38%
DK-Don't Know	7	4%
Total	199	100%
Valid cases	192	
Average	4.1	

20c. Manure and liquid waste application

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	6	3%
2-Disagree	13	7%
3-Neutral	49	25%
4-Agree	85	43%
5-Strongly Agree	35	18%
DK-Don't Know	9	5%
Total	197	100%
Valid cases	188	
Average	3.7	

20e. Sewage holding tank and septic tank spreading

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	11	6%
2-Disagree	29	15%
3-Neutral	66	34%
4-Agree	43	22%
5-Strongly Agree	24	12%
DK-Don't Know	20	10%
Total	193	100%
Valid cases	173	
Average	3.2	

20g. Industrial waste land spreading

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	1	1%
2-Disagree	7	4%
3-Neutral	35	18%
4-Agree	68	35%
5-Strongly Agree	62	32%
DK-Don't Know	19	10%
Total	192	100%
Valid cases	173	
Average	4.1	

20d. Commercial/Industrial storm water runoff and infiltration

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	4	2%
2-Disagree	7	4%
3-Neutral	38	19%
4-Agree	83	42%
5-Strongly Agree	49	25%
DK-Don't Know	16	8%
Total	197	100%
Valid cases	181	
Average	3.9	

20f. Improperly abandoned wells

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	4	2%
2-Disagree	14	7%
3-Neutral	69	35%
4-Agree	59	30%
5-Strongly Agree	28	14%
DK-Don't Know	22	11%
Total	196	100%
Valid cases	174	
Average	3.5	

20h. municipal waste and sludge land spreading

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	1	1%
2-Disagree	11	6%
3-Neutral	47	24%
4-Agree	67	35%
5-Strongly Agree	46	24%
DK-Don't Know	21	11%
Total	193	100%
Valid cases	172	
Average	3.8	

21. The following represent a threat to the quantity of Portage County's groundwater:

21a. Municipal wells

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	10	5%
2-Disagree	37	19%
3-Neutral	68	35%
4-Agree	37	19%
5-Strongly Agree	16	8%
DK-Don't Know	28	14%
Total	196	100%
Valid cases	168	
Average	3.1	

21c. Drinking water bottling plants

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	7	4%
2-Disagree	14	7%
3-Neutral	43	22%
4-Agree	62	31%
5-Strongly Agree	49	25%
DK-Don't Know	24	12%
Total	199	100%
Valid cases	175	
Average	3.8	

21e. Private wells

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	35	18%
2-Disagree	85	43%
3-Neutral	38	19%
4-Agree	19	10%
5-Strongly Agree	4	2%
DK-Don't Know	16	8%
Total	197	100%
Valid cases	181	
Average	2.3	

21b. Agricultural irrigation wells

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	8	4%
2-Disagree	19	10%
3-Neutral	60	30%
4-Agree	58	29%
5-Strongly Agree	32	16%
DK-Don't Know	22	11%
Total	199	100%
Valid cases	177	
Average	3.5	

21d. Industrial water users

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	3	2%
2-Disagree	10	5%
3-Neutral	64	32%
4-Agree	66	34%
5-Strongly Agree	31	16%
DK-Don't Know	23	12%
Total	197	100%
Valid cases	174	
Average	3.6	

Commerce and Employment

22. What types of new development do you believe would be good for Portage County to attract?

22a. Retail development

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	18	9%
2-Disagree	35	18%
3-Neutral	49	25%
4-Agree	57	29%
5-Strongly Agree	34	17%
DK-Don't Know	5	3%
Total	198	100%
Valid cases	193	
Average	3.3	

22b. Service Development

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	26	13%
2-Disagree	50	26%
3-Neutral	61	31%
4-Agree	39	20%
5-Strongly Agree	13	7%
DK-Don't Know	6	3%
Total	195	100%
Valid cases	189	
Average	2.8	

22c. Office Development

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	27	14%
2-Disagree	50	26%
3-Neutral	56	29%
4-Agree	43	22%
5-Strongly Agree	13	7%
DK-Don't Know	6	3%
Total	195	100%
Valid cases	189	
Average	2.8	

22d. Industrial Development

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	22	11%
2-Disagree	32	16%
3-Neutral	35	18%
4-Agree	55	28%
5-Strongly Agree	49	25%
DK-Don't Know	5	3%
Total	198	100%
Valid cases	193	
Average	3.4	

23. New retail or commercial businesses should only be located in cities or villages

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	11	6%
2-Disagree	35	18%
3-Neutral	27	14%
4-Agree	74	37%
5-Strongly Agree	47	24%
DK-Don't Know	5	3%
Total	199	100%
Valid cases	194	
Average	3.6	

24. There are enough job opportunities to make a living in Portage County.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	20	10%
2-Disagree	43	22%
3-Neutral	39	20%
4-Agree	62	31%
5-Strongly Agree	20	10%
DK-Don't Know	13	7%
Total	197	100%
Valid cases	184	
Average	3.1	

25. Tax dollars should be used to develop new jobs in the County.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	19	10%
2-Disagree	46	23%
3-Neutral	56	28%
4-Agree	44	22%
5-Strongly Agree	28	14%
DK-Don't Know	6	3%
Total	199	100%
Valid cases	193	
Average	3.1	

Transportation

26. Local roads in my city/village/township are in good condition

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	3	1%
2-Disagree	26	13%
3-Neutral	26	13%
4-Agree	125	62%
5-Strongly Agree	21	10%
DK-Don't Know	2	1%
Total	203	100%
Valid cases	201	
Average	3.7	

27. Portage County Highways are in good condition.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	2	1%
2-Disagree	5	2%
3-Neutral	25	12%
4-Agree	147	72%
5-Strongly Agree	23	11%
DK-Don't Know	1	0%
Total	203	100%
Valid cases	202	
Average	3.9	

28. Local units of government in Portage County need to provide:

28a. more bicycle routes

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	17	8%
2-Disagree	35	17%
3-Neutral	67	33%
4-Agree	49	24%
5-Strongly Agree	23	11%
DK-Don't Know	11	5%
Total	202	100%

Valid cases 191
Average 3.1

28b. more pedestrian routes

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	16	8%
2-Disagree	38	19%
3-Neutral	70	35%
4-Agree	42	21%
5-Strongly Agree	22	11%
DK-Don't Know	13	6%
Total	201	100%

Valid cases 188
Average 3.1

29. Local units of government should provide connections to regional trail systems.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	13	6%
2-Disagree	34	17%
3-Neutral	68	34%
4-Agree	52	26%
5-Strongly Agree	20	10%
DK-Don't Know	14	7%
Total	201	100%

Valid cases 187
Average 3.2

30. How would you rate the following transportation-related services in Portage County:

Road maintenance

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	1	0%
2-Poor	10	5%
3-Average	45	22%
4-Good	121	60%
5-Excellent	25	12%
DU-Don't Use	1	0%
Total	203	100%
Valid cases	202	
Average	3.8	

Public parking

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	5	2%
2-Poor	19	10%
3-Average	81	40%
4-Good	82	41%
5-Excellent	8	4%
DU-Don't Use	5	2%
Total	200	100%
Valid cases	195	
Average	3.4	

Bicycle/pedestrian facilities

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	3	2%
2-Poor	13	7%
3-Average	63	32%
4-Good	58	30%
5-Excellent	7	4%
DU-Don't Use	51	26%
Total	195	100%
Valid cases	144	
Average	3.4	

Snow plowing

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	3	1%
2-Poor	15	7%
3-Average	28	14%
4-Good	124	61%
5-Excellent	31	15%
DU-Don't Use	1	0%
Total	202	100%
Valid cases	201	
Average	3.8	

Bus / Taxi / etc.

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	1	1%
2-Poor	15	8%
3-Average	48	24%
4-Good	41	21%
5-Excellent	4	2%
DU-Don't Use	88	45%
Total	197	100%
Valid cases	109	
Average	3.3	

Transportation for seniors

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	0	0%
2-Poor	13	7%
3-Average	41	21%
4-Good	45	23%
5-Excellent	7	4%
DU-Don't Use	93	47%
Total	199	100%
Valid cases	106	
Average	3.4	

<u>Transportation for disabled</u>			<u>Airport facilities</u>		
	Responses	Percent		Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	0	0%	1-Very Poor	6	3%
2-Poor	13	7%	2-Poor	23	12%
3-Average	45	23%	3-Average	39	20%
4-Good	38	19%	4-Good	49	25%
5-Excellent	9	5%	5-Excellent	9	5%
DU-Don't Use	94	47%	DU-Don't Use	72	36%
Total	199	100%	Total	198	100%
Valid cases	105		Valid cases	126	
Average	3.4		Average	3.3	

Issues and Opportunities

31. My preference for development in rural Portage County in the year 2020 is:

	Responses	Percent
Preservation of the existing rural landscape with limited amounts of new development.	115	58%
Preservation of the existing landscape with moderate amounts of new development.	73	37%
Unrestricted development in rural areas.	11	6%
Total	199	100%

32. my preference for development in urban Portage County in the year 2020 is:

	Responses	Percent
Infill and redevelopment with no outward expansion of existing urban areas.	62	31%
Some outward expansion of existing urban areas with a focus on infill and redevelopment.	123	62%
Unrestricted growth of the urban areas with a focus on outward expansion.	12	6%
Total	197	100%

33. As Portage County and local government units plan for future development, should they discourage, encourage, or remain neutral regarding each of the following:

33a. Environmental preservation

	Responses	Percent
Encourage	161	81%
Remain neutral	33	17%
Discourage	1	1%
Don't Know	4	2%
Total	199	100%

33b. Farmland preservation

	Responses	Percent
Encourage	164	81%
Remain neutral	30	15%
Discourage	3	1%
Don't Know	5	2%
Total	202	100%

33c. Industrial development

	Responses	Percent
Encourage	91	45%
Remain neutral	57	28%
Discourage	45	22%
Don't Know	8	4%
Total	201	100%

33d. Residential development

	Responses	Percent
Encourage	54	27%
Remain neutral	97	48%
Discourage	45	22%
Don't Know	6	3%
Total	202	100%

33e. Retail development

	Responses	Percent
Encourage	70	35%
Remain neutral	77	38%
Discourage	43	22%
Don't Know	10	5%
Total	200	100%

33f. Tourism facilities

	Responses	Percent
Encourage	75	37%
Remain neutral	76	38%
Discourage	39	19%
Don't Know	11	5%
Total	201	100%

33g. Vacation homes

	Responses	Percent
Encourage	27	14%
Remain neutral	82	41%
Discourage	80	40%
Don't Know	10	5%
Total	199	100%

Demographics

36. How long have you been a resident in Portage County?

	Responses	Percent
Less than 1 year	1	0%
1 - 5 years	8	4%
6 - 10 years	13	6%
11 - 20 years	23	11%
over 20 years	150	74%
Not a resident but own land	9	4%
Total	204	100%

38. I currently

	Responses	Percent
Own	197	98%
Rent	4	2%
Total	201	100%

39. Please indicate your gender:

	Responses	Percent
Male	108	54%
Female	93	46%
Total	201	100%

40. What is your age:

	Responses	Percent
under 18	0	0%
18-24	2	1%
25-34	18	9%
35-44	42	21%
45-54	59	29%
55-64	45	22%
65-74	18	9%
over 75	19	9%
Total	203	100%

42. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

	Responses	Percent
some high school	12	6%
high school graduate	87	45%
technical college	27	14%
junior college	3	2%
college	42	22%
post graduate	22	11%
Total	193	100%

43. What is your employment status:

	Responses	Percent
employed	121	61%
unemployed	4	2%
self-employed	28	14%
student	1	1%
retired	37	19%
do not work	6	3%
Total	197	100%

44. What is your field of employment?

	Responses	Percent
Agriculture	22	15%
Wholesale trade	4	3%
Manufacturing	23	16%
Finance/Insurance/Rael Estate	14	10%
Government	14	10%
Retail trade	9	6%
Transportation/Public Utilities	2	1%
Services	42	29%
Construction/Mining	14	10%
Total	144	100%

41. How many people live in your household, including yourself?

	Responses	Percent
0	1	0%
1	30	15%
2	79	39%
3	42	21%
4	28	14%
5	17	8%
6	5	2%
7	2	1%
8	0	0%
9	0	0%
10	0	0%
Over 10	0	0%
Total	204	100%

41a. number under 18 years old.

	Responses	Percent
0	97	60%
1	29	18%
2	17	11%
3	13	8%
4	5	3%
5	0	0%
6	0	0%
7	0	0%
8	0	0%
9	0	0%
10	0	0%
Over 10	0	0%
Total	161	100%

45. Where do you work?

	Responses	Percent
Portage County	65	44%
Stevens	56	38%
Point/Plover/Whiting/ParkRidge		
Marshfield Area	0	0%
Wisconsin Rapids	1	1%
Mosinee/Wausau Area	7	5%
Waupaca Area	2	1%
Outside Central Wisconsin	16	11%
Total	147	100%

46. What is your approximate gross (before tax) yearly family income?

	Responses	Percent
under \$15,000	19	11%
\$15,001 to \$29,999	26	15%
\$30,000 to \$49,999	53	30%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	66	37%
\$100,000 or more	15	8%
Total	179	100%

15. One recreational program or facility that my family or I would like to see provided somewhere in Portage County is:

T. Sharon

1. skating-ice
2. concerts, flea markets
3. Teen Activity Center
4. None
5. I'm a farmer NO time for recreation!
6. I don't go to rec. facilities
7. "dog parks"
8. Trails for 4wheelers
9. polka dance hall
10. good wayside
11. dont know
12. n/a
13. n/a
14. ATV Trails
15. NONE
16. more diverse sport activities in rural schools
17. Place for teens to dance. play
18. Environmental studies for kids
19. 4 wheeler trails
20. bike lanes on roads/wider shoulders more biking/ hiking trails
21. athletics of all kinds
22. More Horse Back Riding trails with Available Parking for Trucks/Horse Trailers
23. athletic health oriented
24. Teen center
25. more affordable camp for kids rather than offered at YMCA program
26. ?
27. more equine riding trails
28. none
29. dont know
30. ATV trails
31. SKATEBOARD PARK
32. more campgrounds
33. none
34. Large convention center to help businesses and attract entertainment for the public (not a casino)
35. ATV trails
36. dog parks
37. nudist colony
38. Bike routes off the road they are danger to motorists and themselves.
39. Ice Rink
40. youth center
41. more access hours for shooting range
42. More cty involved in sports to lighten school districts budgets- education lot for schools.
43. Quite satisfied
44. you can play at home
45. wayside toilets
46. "Activity" center for all ages

47. another community pool
48. more activities for kids
49. ?
50. Parks
51. Nature Trails
52. MORE CAMPING FACILITIES
53. in-door swimming pool for all
54. Large convention center
55. More bicyling paths
56. none at this time
57. curling
58. NONE
59. Improve boat landings
60. adult volleyball leagues at high schools
61. something for high school students where they could dance for nominal fee
62. Youth Activities
63. NONE-ENOUGH PROVIDED
64. Teen/youth center
65. showers at campgrounds
66. swimming pools
67. safe bike trails/walking/cross country ski trails equestrian riding trails
68. public hunting areas

34. Please tell us the SINGLE greatest problem or concern you have regarding your city/village/township.

T. Sharon

1. Making the property owner bear the cost of zoning regulation
2. none
3. too high of taxes
4. SCHOOL TAX
5. Water quality
6. Destruction of wetlands
7. NEED MORE BUSINESS
8. AMBULANCE SERVICE
9. road maintenance
10. Snow plows need to be off the roads and done working before morning rush hours (5:30 A.M. - 8:30 A.M.)
11. No big concerns
12. Exorbitant Real estate taxes resulting from urban sprawl
13. Land development
14. taxes
15. School tax too high
16. Destruction of "fence rows"
17. too much new houses
18. Many new house being built
19. Water quality
20. would like to see more retail stores
21. abandoned old farm buildings falling apart because no one can afford to farm anymore
22. don't want people to buy large parcels of land to sub-divide
23. lack of effective leadership

24. Having to put in village sewers
25. Stop drug traffic & break-ins.
26. town roads need repair & brush cut away from road
27. our roads
28. tax to high
29. none
30. urban sprawl
31. loss of Farm land
32. need water and sewer
33. location of Highway 10 by pass
34. high taxes
35. UNPLANNED GROWTH
36. NO PROBLEM
37. Grading gravel roads in Town of Sharon
38. Grading of our gravel road
39. subdivision on farm property into 2 acre home sites
40. To much growth that would destroy the area and cause pollution.
41. water quality
42. Township - plowing our town road - Poorly done
43. snow plowing & development are evenly of great concern
44. Urban sprawl
45. building/development
46. road repair
47. too many new homes in rural areas
48. Losing our rural way of life
49. Ongoing development - never ends
50. Expansion/development
51. loss of rural land to development
52. Property tax
53. SPRAWL
54. All existing bldgs. sitting empty while new ones are built!
55. To much rural residential development.
56. To many new homes, to many septic systems
57. None
58. to much traffic, for biking, walking, etc.
59. water quality, esp. nitrates & too much development- residential (even though a min. of 10 acres is req'd to build)
60. younger generation members on town board
61. Too many homes and businesses being built near farms. (Hwy 10 east)
62. Fire Department is a long distance away-
63. Sharon township fire protection is in Rosholt- too far away!
64. It isn't safe to ride a bike on the road anymore.
65. BUILDING UP TO FAST
66. Homes sprouting up all over the place in rural areas.
67. I think we have too much government now.
68. continued subdividing of country side resulting in loss of rural character
69. none
70. urban sprawl
71. small businesses going under
72. Safe drinking water
73. Sprawl from city

74. The loss of family farms - Quality of hospitals and Drs. not mentioning in survey - Also amount of GOOD medical care available
75. too many new houses going up in the country
76. need more police protection
77. To many homes, to close together, septic system problems
78. traffic & road repairs
79. Subdividing farm land
80. Don't want development in our rural area- which would further increase the high tax we pay on property.
81. Too much development in rural areas.
82. SNOW PLOWING NOT TIMELY
83. Development of sub-divisions i rural areas
84. Ron Borkski
85. urban and rural sprawl
86. more police protection
87. Everyone seems to want our property. For what reason?
88. not enough people take care of their property
89. Don't have one - that's why we like it here
90. Growing faster than I would like. Would like zoning to be more restrictive on acreage size to build homes.
91. dying mall
92. RAMPANT GROWTH - AS IN FORT COLLINS COCORADO.
93. Too much development.
94. school taxes too high
95. urban sprawl
96. Better fire protection and First responders program.
97. tax rate
98. Police and fire protection in the remote area
99. Rural sprawl and loss of natural habitat.
100. Residential growth
101. Having horses and bicycles on the road.
102. Cars speeding through town (village)
103. Taxation of vacant people based on potential use rather than present use
104. Too much local government control!! DNR
105. urban sprawl continuing on Hwy 54E & 10E in Plover & St. Pt. respectively
106. high taxes
107. too many zoning laws
108. taxes
109. Rural areas being crowded with too many houses.
110. Increased taxes to cover some un-needed & some duplicate laws and requirements.
111. Good road to my Timberland blocked off
112. property tax relief
113. can't afford to fix town roads
114. taxes too high
115. Too many young kids running around late at night.
116. Employment
117. During the winter our road could be plowed more often or sooner
118. none
119. To much government more like Russia.
120. Taxes are to high
121. High taxes !!

122. Taxes. That you be very careful how the transportation dept builds hwys on prime land such as Hwy 10
123. The family farms that are disappearing
124. ?
125. None
126. Over Crowding/Noise
127. THE LOSS OF LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESSES.
128. pollution prevention (ie ground water, crop dusting, etc)
129. wind erosion
130. maintaining existing small businesses & services
131. Loss of open space & single family development
132. Portage County needs a good business manager, not the CHAIRMAN
133. Zoning conservancy land, rural areas less than 4 acres
134. residential development
135. to much zoning
136. the disappearing farm land
137. It is so great I don't want other to know
138. urban sprawl
139. Don't snow plow driveways/ undemocratic government.
140. Want it to remain as rural as possible
141. more adult recreation
142. The Stevens Point airport!
143. Too much residential development. A lot of farmland being lost.
144. Lack of continuity
145. Land use-loss of farm land
146. High Taxes! Poor services.
147. Ground Water
148. Representing all economic levels for residents.
149. LIMITED COMMUNICATION ON TOWN ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS
150. New housing/neighborhoods, destruction of nature
151. poor walking conditions
152. Lack of speed control- lack of street lighting.
153. speed limit through town 35, should be 25
154. We will soon have a house sitting on every acre with no open land for recreation, wildlife, & environmental concerns. People move out into the country necessitating the need for expenditures for extra roads, school bussing, sidewalks, etc. Perhaps developments with homes closely spaced, but open areas might fulfill the needs of some people to live in the country. Concern about environment, encroaching residential development, lack of vision by leadership about environmental concerns & land use
155. sewage (septic)
156. loss of woodlands and wetlands
157. None
158. Too many new homes

35. Please share with us the best part of living in your city/village/township.

T. Sharon

1. Freedom of individual choice
2. peaceful
3. undeveloped, good chairpersons, and "good clean livin"
4. OPEN SPACE

5. "Rural" Quality or Nature
6. It's not too crowded.
7. Rural settling
8. LIKE THE COUNTRY
9. QUIET - PEACEFUL
10. Quiet & Peaceful.
11. rural living
12. Rural character
13. serenity
14. no close nosy neighbors
15. Best part of living in my township is right from birth.
16. Trees-for shade, for quiet, for clean air and water.
17. Like rural life
18. It is peaceful
19. friendly people and healthy atmosphere
20. small community
21. Lot size has finally been reduced to accommodate dense housing/preserving more land.
22. Privacy
23. Rural life
24. Nearest neighbor is ¼ mile away.
25. More Private
26. Garbage pickup
27. Piece & Quite
28. n/a
29. small town feel with rural setting
30. living on my Farm
31. quite
32. quiet and peaceful
33. peaceful and quiet
34. sm town quality - I know my neighbors, I can get involved in community planning and have a voice
35. PEACEFULL RURAL LIFE
36. LIVING CLOSE TO NATURE
37. Living in the country is peaceful.
38. the peacefulness!
39. clean air, clean water, peace and quiet
40. Quiet Peaceful a nice vacation spot.
41. Being a part-time resident (mostly summer), peaceful quiet, serenity.
42. Beautiful place to live
43. Scenic beauty & wildlife
44. the diversity of the area
45. Country living with small city
46. rural/small town atmosphere
47. country living
48. Rural beauty
49. a lot of green space
50. Country setting - not a lot of homes or people - wildlife!
51. Rural atmosphere
52. Clean environment, peaceful neighborhood
53. wide open spaces
54. peace & quiet, safety
55. not having to deal w/ urban development
56. Fresh air and sunshine and room to roam.

57. Nice rural area
58. The beauty of an undeveloped countryside.
59. friendship
60. no neighbors
61. ITS A BEAUTIFUL AREA - HOPE TO KEEP IT THAT WAY
62. Wild areas.
63. The personality of the people.
64. rural character
65. Land owner
66. -privacy-
67. Small, clean, good water
68. the peacefulness of country living but there are too many new houses going up
69. Country living & friendly people
70. rural landscape and low population density
71. low crime and quiet
72. Peaceful beautiful area
73. Quiet & relatively safe
74. BEING OUT IN THE COUNTRY
75. Good environmental conditions
76. Beautiful green rolling hills without homes!
77. open spaces and fresh air, no pollution
78. quiet, respect toward others - family type living
79. small quiet township
80. Quiet, wild life, good neighbors
81. Lots of wildlife
82. RURAL WISCONSIN LANDSCAPE-
83. undeveloped country living
84. remote location
85. taxes are reasonable
86. easy access to the city
87. Quality of life: low crime, good education
88. my privacy
89. Allowing input like this survey- voice at county level.
90. Services
91. country living
92. Being left alone, no horses on the road, or bikes
93. Living in the woods, no people around!
94. rural open areas
95. Quiet, Low crime, Clean air & water, hunting, etc.
96. quiet, low crime, good roads & schools
97. privacy
98. we are away from the city, but still have neighbors close by
99. access to many and varied outdoor activities
100. close access to Stevens Point and it's services
101. Peaceful- cared for land v homes- open spaces.
102. Not too crowded
103. Joy of open and wooded lands - no homes next to us
104. its not to far from town
105. clean living
106. Peace and quiet in the country.
107. Not overpopulated

108. We live in a rural area, the kids have room to run and play and you don't have to worry what a neighbor says about what you do on your own land.
109. quiet rural life
110. plenty of open space
111. comfortable place to live
112. Safety
113. Wooded area Park like
114. We like the area - not a large city
115. things being kept up
116. Country Living
117. Closer to Nature
118. CLEAN AIR, NATURE, QUALITY OF LIFE
119. quality of life
120. rural atmosphere
121. Clean air good neighbors & great schools
122. Rural atmosphere
123. We try to work out township issues
124. quality of life
125. country living
126. fresh air
127. Parks and Lake
128. Clean air, clean water
129. relatively low population
130. good neighbors
131. Rural
132. peace and quiet
133. I feel relatively safe here as opposed to larger cities
134. Love country living and wide open space.
135. Having my own space in nature
136. Good gov-great people-quality of life!
137. Peace and quiet.
138. Hometown Atmosphere
139. Open space
140. RURAL, TRANQUIL SETTING
141. quiet, low traffic, space
142. privacy
143. solitude- peacefulness
144. peace & quiet
145. Beautiful surroundings
146. clean air
147. laid back small town feel
148. Quiet Neighborhood
149. quiet living
150. rural, open areas, farms