

Shaping the Future Survey Comments from Calumet Village

The following comments (except summaries) are reproduced exactly as written by respondents to the 1997 Houghton County "Shaping Our Future" Land Use Survey who said they lived in Calumet Village. All local governments and libraries received full survey results in 1998 (also available at <http://emml.mtu.edu/gem/community/planning/planning.html>).

- Calumet Village surveys returned – 72. Total surveys returned, Houghton County – 1,936.

7. Lack of jobs, especially for young people, is a problem in our area.

- But jobs at places like Shopko, Wal-Mart are not the answer. We need more professionally tracked job opportunities. [1430]*

11. More recreational opportunities are needed in my township/city/village. If so, what kind?

Summary (verbatim responses on p. 3-4):

- ❖ swimming pool (one specified indoor) - 6
- ❖ park/playground - 6
- ❖ theater - (movie - 4, dinner theater and summer stock - 1) - 6
- ❖ non-motorized trails (walking - 3, biking - 3) - 5
- ❖ activities for children (activities for the whole family - 1, equipment for low-income children - 1) - 3
- ❖ golf courses (mini golf - 1) - 3
- ❖ skating (skateboard park - 1, roller rink - 1, outdoor ice rink - 2) - 3
- ❖ something besides hockey - 2
- ❖ picnic tables, areas - 2
- ❖ auditorium, better shows at Calumet Theater, sing-alongs, clubs, tennis, Moose Tracks, target shooting range, physical training, "village is too small" - 1 each

18. Some roads should be designated as "scenic" and should retain their natural character. If so, which roads?

Summary (verbatim responses on p. 4):

- ❖ M203 - 6
- ❖ M26 (Phoenix/Eagle River/Harbor to Copper Harbor - 3, Eagle River-Eagle Harbor only - 3) - 6
- ❖ US 41 (to Copper Harbor - 3, Quincy Hill - 1, unspecified - 2) - 6
- ❖ roads next to lakeshore - 3
- ❖ 5 Mile Point Road - 3
- ❖ roads to Copper Harbor (excluding those who said M26 or US 41 specifically) - 3
- ❖ Cliff Drive - 2
- ❖ roads in Keweenaw (one said "as long as they are a safety hindrance) - 2
- ❖ Tamarack Waterworks, Lake Medora, Betsy to South Point, covered road (Freda?), none in mind - 1 each

26. Long-range planning is needed to manage growth and to protect our environment and natural resources such as drinking water.

- #26 is the most important item to consider. Disposal of garbage, building materials, trash from destruction of old buildings, etc. should be a matter of utmost importance. Roads/streets/highways can't handle future developments as they are now. [1538]

C. Comments

General comments not identified with any survey statement were sorted into 33 categories during survey analysis (survey respondents were not aware of these categories). Some general comments that address more than one topic are divided into the appropriate categories, e.g., [251], #25 means that another part of survey 251's comment is found under category #25. Wording was not changed.

1. Jobs

- It is very important that jobs should be available to our youth, so that they stay in the area in which they went to school and developed as adults. [1147]
- Being overrun with small business in downtown Calumet isn't going to be sustainable to our youth. We need to attract big business outside in areas such as US 41. [1207] #13

2. Business and economic development

- As an employer in the manufacturing area, I can say that we do not have enough kids coming out of school that know any amount of trade knowledge. [1857]

3. Concerns about development

- Don't make money your main incentive or goal when planning your (our) future (in regards to development). Mental contentment (peace of mind) and spiritual development have to go hand in hand with material development. Too much materiality can bite one's peace & happiness. More money is not the secret of happiness. [565]

4. Chain retailers vs. locally owned shops

5. Shopping/entertainment/restaurants

6. Tourism

7. Logging, timber industry, and wood products

8. Mining

9. Development location— downtown, renaissance zones, etc.

10. Development-Calumet/Laurium

- Calumet is a far cry from what it used to be— & not run today as it could be. Mistakes such as 4th St. never should have occurred. Following “code” is almost unknown. [1094]
- Not allow foreign ownership. Get more space from Agissiz Park along 4th St. for 1 lane of angle parking plus space for backing up. Fix up entrances (stores) to 4th St., plant more flowers. More young people should get involved with care of community. [1206]
- I'm against the stripping of blacktop on the streets of Calumet to reveal the old brick roads of the past. I think it is a waste of taxpayers money. I also think 4th Street in Calumet from Oak Street to Redjacket Road should be reverted back to the way it was. It is too hazardous in the winter with rutted narrow lanes for traffic. [1343]

11. Development—M-26/Sharon Avenue

12. Future U.S. 41 development, Hancock to Calumet

13. Waterfront development and public access

- Because I don't make enough money to own lakefront property, I cannot enjoy the lake. Public access is definitely becoming too limited. [1207] #1

14. Property Values and taxes

- I don't know what can be done, but I feel cheated when large land companies and developers buy up all the property and make it unaffordable for local residents. This increases land value and taxes. I know of local people that had to, or will give up their property because of this. [1858]

15. Planning

16. Cooperation among units of government

- See [404] #30

17. Lack of public input in development decisions, favoritism

- Voters' rights have been taken away in the Calumet Village. This does not bode well for a good community. We are allowing the greedy & uneducated egotistical to steer our future. We must stop putting square pegs in round holes. [1095]
- There should be more open meetings when development is even considered (instead of a group of property owners making a decision and then informing the public, and the meetings should be highly publicized). [1887] #22
- I feel that my area is disadvantaged by a restrictive state government which is “distanced” both by physical miles and political majority. Decisions which are made to suit the needs of urban areas are not in our best interest. [861] #32

18. Zoning, ordinances, building permits

19. Balancing environment and development

20. Cultural history/community character/appearance/signs

21. Small town feeling/quality of life

22. Historic buildings/improving existing properties/blending old and new

- Businesses should be prodded to make their establishments presentable. [1887] #17

23. Open space, undeveloped land

24. Drinking water, wastewater, and health concerns

25. Property rights and regulations

- I think property owners should have the right to their land they bought and worked hard for. Nobody should be able to tell them they have to sell their land unless they want to. [1745]

26. Road maintenance, traffic control, and safety

- Just work on fixing our roads & I'll be happy! [1859]

27. Snow removal

28. Public and non-motorized transportation

29. Tax incentives

30. Government and public services

- Utilities are too high for us that are on a fixed income. I think the water & sewer is way too high. When you have to pay to leave your water run when it freezes stinks. [394]
- I also believe that Calumet, Laurium and Calumet Township should consolidate. We are supporting too many public services and not really affording any one of them. I serve on the Calumet Downtown Development Authority, and we are a nothing organization. [404]

31. Recreation

- We need places like a theater, swimming pool, & more things for our youth. Also a large building which could be used for wedding receptions, dances for our youth & others. Older people can make it, but we must think of our young people. We need our young people involved in more physical things. [1194]

32. Survey

- I would like to see more of these surveys if money permits it! [861] #17
- This is a good idea, but knowing how things usually go - This will be published - but totally disregarded when money flows in. [1032]

33. Miscellaneous

- My answers are intended to indicate a generally positive attitude! [458]
- John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but will have everlasting life. [1354]

11 (recreational needs) verbatim responses, grouped generally from most common topic to least:

- swimming facility [1646]
- indoor swimming pool, auditorium [1726]
- swim pool [1185]
- swimming, open outdoor skating, playgrounds without broken glass [1356]
- swimming pool, theater [1194]
- another swimming pool—besides one at AmericInn Motel, a movie theater—better shows at the Calumet Theater [1196]
- playground for small children [1893]
- village park with playgrounds & picnic areas close to town [861]
- Playgrounds - peaceful areas - clean areas [1032]
- play areas [1147]
- things for young children [1745]
- activities for the whole family—teens, children, middle-aged, senior citizens, that they all would enjoy [1887]

- equipment furnished or loaned for all children very vital to help low income children to feel worthy and involved [1728]
- parks, walking, biking trails [1430]
- walkways, some sports, picnic tables, sing-alongs with music, harmony [1206]
- Nonmotorized dirt bike trails, skateboard park, roller rink [494]
- bike lanes for bicyclists [565]
- maybe a cinema, clubs [1859]
- indoor type stuff—movie theater, or mini golf course [1563]
- recreational-type facilities besides for hockey—not all young people play hockey [1300]
- Something besides hockey. [480]
- Golf, tennis, dinner theater, summer stock [1095]
- more golf courses, walking trails, Moose Tracks, movie theaters, outdoor ice rinks, target shooting range/sportsmen [1207]
- physical training [884]
- The village is too small. [404]

#18 (scenic roads) verbatim responses, grouped generally from most common topic to least:

- M203, parts of US 41 [404]
- M-203, US 41 to Copper Harbor (Tamarack Waterworks?) [1094]
- M-203 outside Calumet, Lake Medora Rd. [1151]
- M203, 5 Mile Point Road [1520]
- US 41/203 [1430]
- M-102, Cliff Drive, M-41 (Hancock to Copper Harbor), M-26 (Phoenix to Copper Harbor) [1356]
- M-26 from Eagle River to Copper Harbor, US 41 Quincy Hill lookout [494]
- Betsy to South Point, Eagle Harbor to Copper Harbor [1858]
- road between Eagle River & Eagle Harbor, M203 [1880]
- Eagle Harbor Dr. —no more building [1207]
- sand dunes drive from Eagle River to Eagle Harbor [861]
- All roads with water views [1095]
- Those near the lake [458]
- 5 mile point, lakeshore [1032]
- Five Mile Point Rd between Calumet & Hancock [1300]
- Copper Harbor [1726]
- roads to Copper Harbor [1147]
- Keweenaw arboreal road [1646]
- roads in Keweenaw County, as long as they are a safety hindrance [1887]
- Those in Keweenaw [1373]
- covered road & roads to Copper Harbor & Calumet [565]
- the Ahmeek-Phoenix Road along the Keweenaw central ridge (runs from Ahmeek and joins US 41 south of Mohawk) [884]
- None in mind [1342]