

“Shaping the Future” Survey Comments from Duncan Township

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 Duncan Township. All local governments and libraries received full survey results in 1998 (also available at <http://emml.mtu.edu/gem/community/planning/planning.html>).

- Duncan Township surveys returned – 20. Total surveys returned, Houghton County – 1,936.

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

Summary (with number of responses indicated; verbatim responses below):

- ❖ anything/everything - 3
- ❖ place for seniors - 2

Verbatim responses (grouped generally from most common topic to least):

- Anything [253]*
- Everything or anything [249]
- Every kind [1011]
- Senior [488]
- Place for seniors and students [1691]
- Water access associated facilities—not just ramp on trail but not big time place either [1233]
- Ice rink would be nice but unlikely [1602]
- Campgrounds improved, restaurants, motel accommodations, etc. [251]
- X-country ski trails [411]

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

Summary (with number of responses indicated; verbatim responses below):

- ❖ FH-16 north - 3
- ❖ Sturgeon River Road - 2
- ❖ Brockway Mountain Drive - 2
- ❖ US 41 - 2

Verbatim responses (grouped generally from most common topic to least):

- F16 north & Sturgeon River Road [249]
- Brockway Mt. Dr., Forest Hwy. 16 N, Sturgeon River [251]
- US 41, 203, FH-16 [411]
- US 41, M 28 [586]
- Brockway Mt. Dr. [701]
- Kitchie Road (Kitchie Town) [970]
- M26 south [1602]

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

- I think you put too much emphasis on tourism & environmental impacts instead of good-paying jobs for the majority of the people. [284]

- We are very concerned about our small community of Kenton in which businesses are closing and jobs are being lost. [251], #25

2. Business and economic development—general

3. Concerns about development

4. Chain retailers vs. locally owned shops

5. Shopping/entertainment/restaurants

6. Tourism

7. Logging, timber industry, and wood products

- Forest-related industries such as logging and milling of products should be encouraged. [250]*, #26

8. Mining

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

10. Development—Calumet/Laurium

11. Development—M-26/Sharon Avenue

- Lived in Houghton City for 20+ years—recently moved. M26 corridor was not planned well for visuals or retention of small town character. Prime example of heavy handed—everything for the business attitude. [1233]

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

13. Waterfront development and public access

14. Property values and taxes

- Property taxes are rising too rapidly. In my area, we have no police protection—no help for seniors, but pay the same taxes. [249]

15. Planning

16. Cooperation among units of government

17. Lack of public input in development decisions, favoritism

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

23. Open space, undeveloped land

24. Drinking water, wastewater, and health concerns

25. Property rights and regulations

- We feel with 6 acres we should be allowed to develop a small wildlife pond on our property without adverse affects. [251], #1
- The county should not tell private property owners what they can or cannot do with their property—zoning laws cover this. [253]
- The DNR has too much power to deprive property owners of their rights of land ownership. A case in point DNR versus Richard Delene. Delene was doing an excellent job of land development and the DNR wrongfully accused him of trumped up charges and bankrupted Delene with court costs. I sincerely hope that Delene wins his case against the DNR. The power of the DNR should be strongly curtailed. [586], #33
- Property rights must not be allowed to be infringed upon by the state or federal governments (i.e. Dick Delene squabble) [701]

26. Road maintenance, traffic control, and safety

- (2) All the county-maintained roads in Duncan Twp should be blacktopped or chip-coated. [250], #7

27. Snow removal

28. Public and non-motorized transportation

29. Tax incentives

30. Government and public services

31. Recreation

32. Survey

33. Miscellaneous

- One more item. I think the chickadee should replace the robin as the Michigan state bird. [586], #25