

“Shaping the Future” Survey Comments from City of Houghton

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

➤ City of Houghton surveys returned – 305. Total surveys returned, Houghton County – 1,936.

3. Public costs for new water, sewer, and other services should be considered when any development is proposed.

- Developer should pay!! [41]*
- Water tastes terrible, have to filter [1062]

4. “Big city” shopping and entertainment benefit the area.

- ??? This ain’t New York by a long shot. [27]
- Define “big city” entertainment. [1910]

5. The benefits of recent commercial development along M-26 and Sharon Avenue outweigh any disadvantages.

- So far, I don’t know what the advantages & disadvantages are. [27]
- Most development seems to be more stores—I’m not so sure we can sustain what’s here. Initially a new store may offer more jobs, but if we can’t support them all there will also be loss of jobs (Copper Country Mall seems to have more and more empty spots). [180]
- Not any more [785]

6. Similar commercial development along US 41 between Hancock and Calumet would benefit the area.

- Not if it can’t support itself. [27]

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

- lack of good jobs [69]
- not so much anymore [785]
- Give them a reason/incentives to stay here & thus spend here, instead of else where. This would save more \$ because 1) Don’t ask for a high rate of pay 2) They are more eager to 3) have fresh ideas, & up to date technologies 4) Most are already trained on computer systems that are up to date & boost local ecologies ten-fold. [1062]
- Type of jobs available, many jobs—low pay [1567]
- Lack of reasonable paying jobs for young people [1620]
- I wish I made more money than teachers and mail persons and government workers. [1797]
- I’ve yet to see an outsider come into town and NOT find a job. [1928]

8. Environmental impacts should be considered when creating new jobs.

- The law requires this. [27]
- Question 8 is ridiculous! Houghton should encourage investment to create more job positions for young people via reduced taxes. Otherwise, only depending on MTU, the Houghton economy cannot be improved substantially. [107]
- We need to keep our area a clean, safe, affordable place to raise our children & assure them that it will stay this way so they can raise theirs here too! [183]

10. Tax incentives associated with land trusts, conservation easements, and purchase of development rights should be encouraged to help landowners keep their land in its present use if they prefer not to sell to a developer.

- Don’t understand this—need more info [907]

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

Summary (with number of responses indicated; verbatim comments on pp. 8-11):

- ❖ recreational trails (biking - 16, walking/hiking - 8, cross country skiing (new/improved) - 7, nature - 2) - 23
- ❖ activities/center targeted at youth/teens/young adults - 19
- ❖ new or improved parks (pavilion - 1, gardens - 1) - 12
- ❖ ball fields and courts (soccer - 4, baseball - 4, basketball - 4, volleyball - 1) - 10
- ❖ access to waterfront and waterways (beaches - 2, marina in Houghton - 1,) - 8

- ❖ recreation/community center, other than specifically for teens (replace Dee Stadium - 2; like Superior Dome, especially for seniors - 1; pool, health and fitness center - 1) - 8
- ❖ skateboarding (3) or rollerblading (4) areas - 6
- ❖ new or improved playground (snow - 1, indoor winter - 3) - 5
- ❖ music/dance clubs, night clubs -5
- ❖ sledding hill - 3
- ❖ more/better restaurants - 3
- ❖ shopping malls, miniature golf, campgrounds (one said rural-type < \$5), bike rentals, bike maps, museums, fishing, chalet like Swedetown - 2 each
- ❖ discourage motor sports; environmentally sound tourist attractions; nature center; canoe rentals; senior and preschool activities; community college; snowshoe area; no more jet skis; limit noise from jet skis and snowmobiles just like cars; yoga, arts/crafts, evening classes; aerobics; new hockey arena; pool hall tables > 10; bowling (smokeless); Alpine Slide; Mt. Ripley snowmaking and new chair lift; hunting; little league baseball; outdoor volleyball leagues; outdoor rinks; horseback riding; my ideas are probably illegal; have all we need; nice balance as is; new types of recreation - 1 each

13. The small-town feeling of the area is worth preserving.

- Isn't this somewhat idealized? [1670]

16. Improvement of existing properties, especially those of historic significance, should be encouraged as an alternative to developing more land.

- such as the Calumet Theater vs. the proposed MTU Performing Arts Center [304]
- saves tax payers money and maintains history simultaneously. [1062]

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 comments on pp. 11-14):

- ❖ US-41 (to Copper Harbor - 45, unspecified or “north” - 10, along Lake Superior or Keweenaw Bay - 7, Hancock to Calumet - 5, College Ave. - 2) - 60
- ❖ Covered Road (Freda-Redridge) - 49
- ❖ M-26 (to Copper Harbor - 26, unspecified - 8, south of Houghton - 7, Hancock to Lake Linden - 2) - 34
- ❖ roads along canal (Hancock/M203 - 23, Houghton (including Oskar) - 17, unspecified - 4) - 25
- ❖ waterfront or lakeshore roads, other than roads along canal - 10
- ❖ Gay to Lac La Belle/Bete Gris - 8
- ❖ Brockway Mountain Drive - 7
- ❖ road to Copper Harbor, unspecified - 5
- ❖ Cliff Drive - 3
- ❖ 5 Mile Point - 2
- ❖ Bootjack; Sturgeon River Gorge; 200-foot buffer on roads along timber harvests; Sturgeon River Road S. of Chassell; Jacobsville to Gay; logging trails, driveways, parking lots, bridges; all roads, avoid the strip mall mentality; less money on roads, more on people in need; Pike River Road; Paradise; Bridge St./Military Road in Houghton; let all Keweenaw roads remain scenic; as many as possible; fix road hazards - 1 each

19. Property owners should have absolute and final say about what happens on their property.

- Why should a property owner pay to build on their own property? Where does that [permit] money go then?[1062]

20. Private property rights are more important than public interest when a development is proposed.

- Depends on what the public interest is [1088]

21. We need to balance private property rights and public interest.

- Depends on viewpoint. [1928]

22. Public access to waterfront areas is becoming too limited.

- I don't know how limited it is. [27]
- Houghton waterfront development is wonderful for the public—don't know about other access. [180]
- Like Sunshine Beach [1527]

23. Property is becoming unaffordable for local residents.

- I do not know. I would like to see a study done. [1670]

24. I feel that I have a voice in shaping the future of my community/township/city.

- Not with Kestner around! [69]
- I'm leaving in 6 weeks. [100]

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

- This ought to be done in an informed, democratic way, not relying solely on “professional planners.” [1670]
- and many other things such as mineral resources, wetlands, flood plains, shorelines, etc. [1883]

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

- This is a beautiful part of the state but change is needed if this community is going to thrive. Lack of good paying jobs...Such is life in Small Town, USA especially with college kid (slave) laborers available to work for peanuts...[291]
- Instead of sprawl of consumer-driven retail operations with low-paying jobs, we should be leveraging off MTU to create higher-paying jobs that have value-added impact on economy & society, at minimal cost to environment. [1495] #15
- All these new centers are after the same dollars. Young people will still leave after more than the money these jobs provide. Go after manufacturing jobs if you want people to stay. [1926]

2. Business and economic development—general

- As Internet and other long distance access becomes mainstream, there is the potential for “soft” high-tech industries to replace traditional resource-based industries such as logging and mining. Such industries are compatible with Michigan Tech's mission. [20]
- Commercial growth and development helps the economy and can help Houghton stay up with the times and the national society. It would help us young adults to want to stay up here after graduation. [116] #21
- We need to build & save “God's Country” [350]
- Encourage small industries. I think we have got a good start. Let's keep on the lookout. Bill Musser is doing a good job. Maybe the Gazette could play a part in this informing the public the many small companies that are helping the economy. [740]

3. Concerns about development

- People who want to develop further into scenic, rustic areas should be requested to move to an area that already has these opportunities available—Marquette, Iron Mountain or maybe to the Lower Peninsula. [446]
- No more Wal-Marts! Houghton has it all, let's not lose it! [483]
- There's been too much new development!! Preserve and save the “Natural Beauty of the forests or wooded areas of the Copper Country”!!! [956]
- “Big City” development has no place in our future—or we lose the reasons to stay here in spite of harsh winters & relatively low incomes. [1141]
- Land speculation should be strictly regulated. So many areas around Houghton-Hancock have been despoiled by those purchasing with a view to sell in the future for profit. To date, most of these areas have not been developed, and what were once beautiful stretches of forest or wildflower meadows are now stretches of wasteland. I refer, for example, to a large piece of land on the south side of Sharon Avenue east of Sharon Center; to land west of Festival Foods; to the hillside east of the scenic lookout on Hwy. 41 above Hancock; and to once wild areas behind WalMart. To this list could be added areas being destroyed for no obvious purpose (the hilltop west of Shopko, for instance). Other outrages include the cutting down of trees on the hillside west of the strip on Hwy. 26 in order to put rocks there instead—and later, the removal of the rocks behind the new hotel—for fear, I daresay, of rocks falling on the buildings. The trees, had they been left, would have prevented erosion. All of this reflects absence of planning, and lack of input by residents. I could go on and on! [1758]
- The most important thing in Houghton is: being able to take care of what we have before we get bigger. If we can't take care of what we have, we shouldn't take more area to cover. [1928]

4. Chain retailers vs. locally owned shops

- We need more privately owned, local businesses to maintain our hometown atmosphere instead of all these national chains with their huge billboards that make us look like an exit road off the freeway. [183] #11, 19
- so-called new jobs have just put Mom & Pop shops out of business without adding new shopping—just more of the same. [843] #5, 9, 11, 22, 28, 31
- See [1477] #29
- Locally owned small businesses should be encouraged more—their profits remain in the area. We don't need more low quality national corporations like WalMart. [1756]
- See [1902] #20

5. Shopping/entertainment/restaurants

- I would like to see the city grow more. Possibly some more movie theaters, plays, ballets, concerts (instrumental). Definitely more restaurants are needed (Olive Garden, Boston Market, etc.) [339]
- We need: children/toy store, moderately priced shoe store & a home decorating store (NO MORE Wal-Mart/SHOPKO/KMART/PAMIDA!). [843] #4, 9, 11, 22, 28, 31
- Houghton County needs some developments such as another “medium” size shopping mall in order to boost up the economy and people have the chances to shop/go to different areas instead of just fooling around in Copper Country Mall during the weekends. Moreover, there are enough “scenic” areas in Houghton County, since the winter term is long enough, the “scenic” areas are only “available” during spring and summer terms. [936]
- I will only be living here for 2 more years. My husband attends MTU. The scenic areas of the Keweenaw are beautiful, but I think some more commercial development is needed, especially the night life. [1080] #27

6. Tourism

- Thought needs to go into why people come up here and not to develop too much to destroy the “nothingness” of the UP which acts as a magnet to many tourists. [239]

7. Logging, timber industry, and wood products

- See [74] #19

8. Mining

- See [74] #19
- Short term mining projects can leave us with expensive clean-ups. [1296]

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

- We don't need a new hospital—location chosen for Portage View Hospital is very poor planning & difficult access; [843] #4, 5, 11, 22, 28, 31
- Why should people have to listen to that high pitch sound from that auto repair business on Sharon Avenue? Why is that near people's homes? [1541]
- Build up & diversify downtown. [1840] #11

10. Development—Calumet/Laurium

- The new development (Pamida, etc.) in Calumet takes away from the historic beauty of the area. Future development like that should not be allowed. [1007]
- Developments like Sharon Ave mini malls & the Calumet Mine Street Station are ugly, cheaply built, not in character (esp. Mine St. Station where no historical architecture was used and will soon look tacky & bring down the character of the area. This is one of the last great unspoiled areas of the country but it is going fast and will soon end up with more ugly development (like around Bete Gris). Once it is lost, its gone forever. We need to save the area & the sooner the better. [1044]

11. Development—M-26/Sharon Avenue

- The M-26, Sharon Avenue development is impressive and a real achievement, but the Copper Country is known for its beauty, & this area surely cannot be called beautiful anymore. [183] #4, 19
- I do not believe development along Sharon Avenue is being properly managed. There is a cacophony of businesses sprouting up on available land, accompanied by unorganized denuding of vegetation (trees especially). [235] #32
- development of Sharon Ave. was poorly planned particularly traffic flow; M-26 (Sharon to mall) is an eyesore & looks like all the big cities—particularly poor was Perkins, WalMart, Holiday Express, & Century 21; [843] #4, 5, 9, 22, 28, 31
- See [1044] #10

- There should be (should have been) design requirements in place along M-26/Sharon Avenue leading to an attractive commercial corridor—as it is, the area is a garish, unattractive strip-malled blight on the area. [1799] #22
- The M26 corridor is an example of development gone bad. Sprawl, sprawl, sprawl. Looks like L.A. Junk jobs. [1840] #9

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

13. Waterfront development and public access

14. Property values and taxes

- Kestner & crew have run roughshod over our community for far too long. His window dressing projects are small return for the huge cost in taxes, i.e. water & sewer. We need a city council that will quit being a rubber stamp. [41]
- Taxes & high utilities—such as City of Houghton water—make it VERY hard for minimum wage earners to afford a home. It’s hard to look at the “long view” when the short one is all bills. [229]
- The future of Houghton County will also be shaped by taxes to run the government. To help from increasing tax, during the sheriff’s election, Dennis Borst identified fund sources outside the county, so I hope the new sheriff tries to take advantage of what Mr. Borst knows. [1297]
- More attention and more tax money need to be paid to developing and preserving downtowns—but (cynically) Houghton County voters will not vote for increased taxes, but are quick to complain about conditions which taxes would help to solve, as in county roads. [1396]
- See [1758] #3

15. Planning

- Since I’ve lived here less than a year, I found some of the questions tough to answer as I’m not familiar with the specifics. Many of my answers, however, would apply to any community that I live in. You may want to contact the folks in Ashland, Oregon. That community began long-range planning in the 1950’s and it really has paid off. They are fairly successful at dealing with questions of development (especially development on a grand scale) and the community feels that it has a strong sense of control and input over its destiny. [117]
- We need a Houghton County Planning Commission. [194]
- See [1160] #18
- Long term planning is essential if we are to retain the reasons we have chosen to live in the Copper Country—We can grow responsibly. [1165] #32
- Planning land use is critical to preserving quality of life here. [1495] #1
- See [1758] #3
- See [1762] #18
- I wish I owned all the land that is held by corporations. I would not encourage unplanned development. [1797]

16. Cooperation among units of government

17. Lack of public input in development decisions, favoritism

- See [41] #14
- I strongly believe that the public should have a larger role in planning the Keweenaw’s future—it should not be left up to a handful of elected officials or wealthy developers. I didn’t move here to see the area become a carbon copy of urban sprawl. [53]
- Special interests should not disproportionately influence economic development. [106]
- Tax payers in city of Houghton really have nothing to say about development or taxes. The only one listened to is college people. Not the tax payers. Even the police department gives them more say & complaint follow-through than the tax payers. [277]
- Forthcoming decisions should be explained and discussed more in the media (paper, TV, radio). Mistakes like the covered streets in Houghton and walkways across Shelden must be avoided in future. [306]
- New laws and public input are needed to protect the area (towns) and the natural environment from development. [894]
- May the voice of the “little guy” be heard over the strong handed maneuvers of self serving government/committee members or big business. [1192]
- All too often, land use deals have been made before the public is even aware of its implications—i.e. Eagle River Condo development and lack of endangered sand dune designation in that area. Abuses such as these have created

a lack of trust in state/local officials when “development” is presented. [1478]

- See [1758] #3

18. Zoning, ordinances, building permits

- Taco Bell’s sign is a pox on our landscape. Why have a sign ordinance if everyone can get a variance? Don’t like the ordinance? Tough—what are they going to do—not develop? Que sera!! [788]
- There should be stronger zoning & planning in all areas. [1160]
- We need city and county MASTER PLANS that have well defined zoning. Moyle Construction has done more to degrade the area than all other developers combined. [1762]

19. Balancing environment and development

- I do not agree with the environmentalists, who have fought paper mills and mining in our area. I believe in environmental preservation, but not to the extent of complete elimination of paper mills and mines which those groups advocate. [74]
- We need to maintain the business/land that we have & not become too big so that we are not able to handle ourselves financially or environmentally. [183] # 4, 11
- A wonderful part of living in Houghton is that it has abundant natural beauty without being too developed. But there is still the resources here to allow people to live in the “modern” society that is so desired. Over-development brings waste. (ex. The Shopko-type stores within a mile of each other. HUGE waste.) [848]
- The Copper Country (meaning Houghton & north) has been expanding/developing nicely. However, if preparations & research are not performed on environmental impacts, the natural appearance of this area will be ruined (as in the south). Take care of it!! [915]
- See [?] #21
- This is a beautiful setting. I would hate to see the environment lose out in a rush to overdevelop or have it looking just like every other small community as one travels across the U.S. [1909]

20. Cultural history/community character/appearance/signs

- See [183] #4
- Tall signs like the one above Taco Bell should not be allowed. [330]
- We have a unique area here and any development should see that it remains that way. [389]
- See [788] #18
- The new buildings, especially the chain stores and restaurants, are aesthetically ugly. They are an eyesore. More care must be taken to make them pleasing, especially since they are taking away natural beauty. The city/county must have architectural requirements that new businesses need to satisfy. [1902]

21. Small-town feeling/quality of life

- As a young adult, I love the small town atmosphere but Houghton could grow some more and it will still be considered a small town. [116] #2
- I think we should just have some feeling of a big city, but mostly keep our town the way it was—natural and beautiful. [387]
- Let’s keep Houghton small & lovable. Bigger is not better. [807] #24
- I decided to live in this area because of its small town feel & close to wilderness feel. Economic development is needed... but not at the cost of the area. [?] #32
- Small-town atmosphere is very important. Natural beauty should be protected. [1814] #22

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

- Houghton’s downtown is nice and reminds me of Ann Arbor. If we could follow Ann Arbor’s lead, and grow while retaining the small-shop feel (vs. Wal-Mart and malls), growth would be great. Don’t if growth means more ugly buildings towards the mall, like Detroit’s Ford Road, then let’s not go that path. [68]
- I feel strongly that (1) much substandard housing should be demolished; new development should go in those areas, and (2) the “lay of the land” should be returned as much as possible to the pre-mining days when & where development occurs. [329] #32
- Sidewalks in West Houghton should be repaired—or removed! It gives the appearance of a slum—regardless of how you fix your home up! [346]
- See [369] #23
- Need to develop downtown Houghton—it is in decay; [843] #4, 5, 9, 11, 28, 31
- See [1396] #14

- Natural & cultural character—I feel it is more important to blend new buildings & signs with the surrounding environment than to try to make all buildings conform to a certain time period. When those “historic” buildings went up, they were “modern.” Cities & towns are dynamic entities, not museum pieces frozen in time. Tasteful, lovely, timeless design will always blend in with historic elements. [1799] #11
- Frats & sororities should be required to clean up after themselves and do periodic maintenance on their structures. Rental units add a lot of blight to this scenic place as well. Make sure houses are at code. [1814], #21

23. Open space, undeveloped land

- We should keep the undeveloped land the way it is and put up new stuff where the old is to preserve nature.[369]
- We’ve been “spoiled” by years of full use of corporate land. For example, property such as Bete Gris could be purchased by local land trusts or by townships or counties (perhaps with special tax assessments). [1562] #28

24. Drinking water, wastewater, and health concerns

- Houghton’s water tastes bad! I can’t drink it, and don’t put any of that bitter poison fluoride in it, it’s bad enough! [807] #21
- 3) There should also be extensive studies on why so many suffer from cancer in the copper country. I believe it’s in direct correlation with the many abandoned mines, tailings in Lake Linden areas, Torch Lake, etc. etc. These studies could be completed by students at MTU under the supervision of professor’s and a couple of experts who are in the field of chemical engineering, industrial engineering & other related areas & majors, and publish the “unaltered” results in the gazette. This would save millions \$, teach the students & inform the public. It’s a win-win situation. Note: If contaminants are present, they should be cleaned up and disposed of properly. I can’t think of a more important study than would benefit this area and all inhabitants (people & animals)—can you? [1062] #30
- How about fluoride in our water? [1761] #26, 28
- Water quality is very important to me. Houghton’s water is very poor. With the expertise available at Michigan Tech, Houghton should be able to solve its water problem. [1764]

25. Property rights and regulations

- We have way too much government & regulations now. This survey is obviously slanted to get agreement that more government is needed. You will indeed succeed in creating more government. I will lead the charge to dump the tea in the harbor. Why do you think militias are growing? Because we are fed up with over-regulation. (PS. I don’t support militia movement, but am also rebelling against unnecessary government.) [968]
- Property owners should not be forced to sell or coerced to do things against their will by planners or developers. [1021]
- Let the voters of Houghton County decide the Richard Delene case. They are most qualified to determine if the area has been damaged or improved. Justice and common sense would prevail. And it would not cost the Delenes a fortune. Money that could be used to further improve the area. (Don’t you think?) [1525]
- See [1758] #3
- 15-18—My chief concern here is how this would be accomplished. Incentives and choice preferred over “big brother” approach. [1883] #32
- See [1902] #20

26. Road maintenance, traffic control, and safety

- Strict enforcement of drunk driving laws needed. [914] #29, 31
- See [1396] #14
- A solution to the interchange by the bridge? [1761] #24, 28
- They could stop “developing” now—traffic is a real pain everywhere—we’re big enough! [1845]

27. Snow removal

- I think more money should be spent on clearing the snow in the winter months. [1080] #5

28. Public and non-motorized transportation

- We need better air service (especially direct flights to Chicago and Lansing as well as rail service (especially businesses). [843] #4, 5, 9, 11, 22, 31
- Bus, train, or air service to down state, not just to Detroit. [1558]
- New commercial developments need to be more user-friendly for bicyclists & pedestrians. [1562] #23
- Sidewalks, at least by the elementary school? [1761] #24, 26

29. Tax incentives

- We cannot afford to give tax abatements to large corporations a la Kestner with WalMart & Shopko, etc. [914] #26, 31
- Tax incentives for new businesses coming into the area hurt the already established businesses! They can't compete, especially against the giants (WalMart, etc.), who can afford "normal" tax rates, they (WalMart, etc.) don't bring in new job growth, only competitive growth—and that can be very detrimental! [1477]

30. Government and public services

- More should be done to help the poor in the area; we have to wait outside in long lines in freezing temperatures, snow squalls and in the rain in order to get food & other items. Many can't afford a sitter for their children so they are forced to take them along. (they turn to DSS which is supplied/supported by tax paying dollars) Many become ill and have no medical insurance - It's not right. 2) There should also be shelter for those experiencing rough times along with soup kitchens i.e. - Houghton & Calumet. [1062] #24
- See [1396] #14

31. Recreation

- I know snowmobiling is prosperous commercially, but still resent seeing them running all over—i.e. streets by my home off limit areas—i.e.: I can't even cross country ski on golf course with my dog or anywhere without fear of snowmobiles for myself and (leashed) dog's safety [385]
- More recoverable spots during winter months for the young, super able closely watched [840]
- We should develop our recreational services like cross-country skiing. Improve trails & grooming (Maasto Hiito is poorly groomed) & attract more skiers. No more snowmobilers. [843] #4, 5, 9, 11, 22, 28
- More attention should be given to non-polluting winter recreation, i.e.. Cross country skiing & snow shoeing rather than the noisy, dirty, obnoxious snowmobiles. [914] #26, 29

32. Survey

- Please seek out the expertise of the graduate programs in Environmental Policy and Historic Preservation at MTU in the future; there's strength in numbers!; [by mailing label] not a sound strategy for survey veracity [22]
- These are unspecific and general questions that have borderline answers. This survey will not have any effect on anything. Please stop trying unless you really mean it. [195]
- This survey is an excellent idea. [235] #11
- This is a very good survey & touches most subjects. [261]
- Good questions. Please publish results in Gazette or other visible place. [324]
- Thank you for soliciting opinions. [329] #22
- Thanks for letting residents have a voice. [484]
- Wasted 5 minutes [733]
- This is a very good survey & I hope it can be used to its maximum use....This survey is all important from my point of view. Good luck with your work. [891]
- This is a very important survey from my point of view and I hope it will be useful to the maximum use. [897]
- See [968] #25
- Thanks for this effort & all the other efforts to plan wisely. [1088]
- Thank you for the opportunity to have an input... [1165] #15
- Thank you for all of your efforts!! This survey is GREAT! [?] #21
- I hope this survey actually makes a difference. [1458]
- I am happy to fill out such a survey. [1565]
- I hope those involved in decisions on land use will take responses to this survey seriously. [1825]
- I would not want to see this survey used to justify more intrusions by 'government' into our daily lives and our basic freedoms, or to justify state, federal expenditures in these areas. Also, I don't like the identification code(s) on the survey from mailing address. [1883] #25

33. Miscellaneous

- The people that have lived here for years need to think more about the university than themselves or the community will be in big trouble. [175]

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

- bicycle trail & cross-country ski area without snowmobile crossings that are dangerous like Calumet's Swedetown & Chalet [386]

- bike paths for bicycle riding—it's dangerous trying to get around Houghton-Hancock [484]
- recreational trails; discourage motor sports [69]
- more trails for hiking, walking or biking [53]
- Bike trails [989]
- Bike trails and paths, environmentally sound tourist attractions [1088]
- Bicycle paths, also paved lane along Hancock Canal to McLain Park; excellent grooming for Mich. Tech cross country ski trail, Maasto Hiihto cross country ski trail is necessary
- bike paths, walking trails, cross country skiing & snowshoe areas, waterway & lake access [1567]
- more bike & walking trails [1673]
- hiking, bike trails, grooming of existing trails, waterfront-public areas [214]
- would like maps of hiking & cycling trails [329]
- Bike rentals, map & accurate mileage markers on paved walking path between Houghton & Chassell [788]
- natural hiking trails [308]
- More trails, parks, public nature centers & open land for local public use [894]
- More hiking trails [1044]
- cross country ski trails, bike paths, public beach areas on Lake Superior shoreline—i.e. Bete Gris, Jacobsville [1478]
- hiking trails on the right of way to Chassell for one [1774]
- I would limit the noise from jet skis and snowmobiles just like cars. Fishing, nature trails, bike trails [1797]
- Hiking trails [1819]
- activities & recreation areas for youth—especially in winter months [1195]
- youth activities [1211]
- teen “club” to keep them off the streets [1396]
- something for teens—arts, dance [1595]
- for teens—skateboard park; putt-putt golf [64]
- target those between 12 & 18 years old [22]
- Anything that would steer kids away from drugs & alcohol. [196]
- places where teenagers can meet in a positive environment [406]
- for junior high [199]
- for older teens & young 20's to outweigh alcohol [290]
- More outreach groups for teens might just decrease crime rates. So many children are being raised in violence & single parent households; they need direction. (Maybe use an existing building to teach job training to troubled or “lost” teens) ((The Houghton County Skills Center) Then they'll be able to become employable and would lessen their dependency on social services, Medicaid, mental health, doctors, hospitals, tax payers & raise their self-esteem. They will spend more money & raise local economy. [1062]
- For teens [1107]
- something for 13-18 year olds to do
- parks for children, winter recreation facilities [80]
- public parks [194]
- beach, park [561]
- A nice park in Houghton City; Most of MTU students that I know keep looking for new ways to get rid of their boredom, especially people who came from bigger cities. [891]
- A nice park [897]
- neighborhood parks [1292]
- neighborhood parks [1501]
- parks, volleyball, basketball, etc. [1565]
- indoor recreation, improved facilities at neighborhood parks [1761]
- city parks/gardens [1909]
- community park with pavilion, swing set, jungle gym [184]
- better play equipment for very young children @ Houghton beach. Hancock beach & Dollar Bay, for example, are superior. [785]
- Snow playgrounds, bike rentals [865]

- Ball fields—soccer & baseball, teen center [843]
- soccer fields, new hockey arena [8]
- city of Houghton needs a regulation baseball field [74]
- sport fields/courts [186]
- Soccer fields; baseball fields; better maintained ski trails; summer use of ski trail—Alpine Slide [971]
- baseball fields, outdoor rinks & basketball hoops, etc. to keep the kids out of trouble! [1477]
- could use more access (for people, not powerboats) to Portage Waterway, not necessarily in Houghton-Hancock or Chassell. [265]
- waterfront access [1191]
- access to waterways [1243]
- canoe and non-motorized boat rental; no more jet skis [1756]
- More paths, marina area in Houghton [1814]
- community center building replacing Dee Stadium [73]
- community college, teen activities [106]
- community center—yoga, arts/crafts, evening courses [930]
- community center/pool/health & fitness center [1620]
- youth center [1845]
- More athletic facilities, perhaps a rec. center [866]
- Remodel/replace Dee Stadium [847]
- Indoor winter “playground” for younger children; activity center for pre-teens & teens [914]
- skateboarding area, basketball courts in area where kids would use them [1291]
- dance club with designated nights for different age groups; aerobics [116]
- dance club (other than bars) [263]
- dance clubs (for people >18 & <21) [281]
- Blues music; night clubs, singles activities [968]
- sledding hill, upkeep of present playgrounds & inside playground or discovery play area for winter; Winters are so long and limited recreation for younger children. [1156]
- sledding hills, ski trails with Chalet, biking trails [1562]
- sledding hill for kids [1672]
- bigger malls, more sit-down restaurants, ice skating rink [339]
- better restaurants/nightspots and an indoor play environment for kids [560]
- Shopping mall, franchise restaurant (Dunkin Donuts, etc.) [936]
- Place for kids to go, roller rinks, etc. [872]
- miniature golf, biking trail [384]
- adventure golf, more bike paths [1141]
- golf course & cross country ski trails & chalet like at Swedetown [1452]
- A good ice rink for children [1110]
- Basketball courts, roller-blading areas [1825]
- campgrounds [369]
- rural type camp sites that cost less than \$5 a night [330]
- activities for senior citizens and preschool kids [389]
- some like the Superior Dome so senior citizens can take advantage [740]
- museums? [1190]
- museums, places for biking, roller-blading, skateboarding [1767]
- plow sidewalks so people can walk [1527]
- publicly financed facilities available with little or no fees [1670]
- This can change at any time. New types of recreation or activity. [1928]
- Hunting fishing outdoor [844]

- little league baseball, soccer [70]
- volleyball leagues (outdoor) [100]
- pool hall tables >10 [291]
- roller rink, bowling—smokeless [307]
- Mt. Ripley—snowmaking, new chair lift [195]
- nothing specific... horseback riding maybe??? [45]
- I have some ideas but they are probably illegal. [27]
- Right now we have all we need. [306]
- Leave it the way it is!! [915]
- We offer a nice balance as is. [1838]

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

- US 41 to Copper Harbor. Road between Hancock and McLain State Park. Coal's Creek Road (covered road) [68]
- US 41 North, M-26 South of South Range, Gay Rd. [69]
- US 41 near Copper Harbor [79]
- US 41 along Lake Superior [110]
- US 41 north to Copper Harbor [113]
- US 41 between Hancock and Calumet [194]
- US 41 north, M203, M26 [205]
- US 41, M46 in the Keweenaw Peninsula [339]
- 41, the Brockway Mountain drive (golf course) [346]
- scenic 41, tunnel road [357]
- 41 to Copper Harbor [358]
- US 41 along Lake Superior [367]
- Misery Bay road (too late!), covered bridge road, US 41 & 26 in the Keweenaw [446]
- US 41 scenic to Copper Harbor [455]
- US 41 portions from Houghton to Copper Harbor, portions of M26 Houghton to Ontonagon [727]
- US 41 & M 26 between Calumet & Copper Harbor [406]
- Scenic 41, M-26 between Copper Harbor & Eagle River [793]
- US 41 Bootjack [840]
- US 41 to Copper Harbor & M26 to the "Porkies" [841]
- US 41 [912]
- US 41, "covered road" [914]
- cliff drive, Rte 41 north of the Portage Canal [1190]
- Us 41 north of Mohawk, M26 between Dollar Bay-Hubbell [1211]
- 41 south of Copper Harbor [1297]
- Upper US 41 in Keweenaw County [1396]
- Scenic 41 [1292]
- US 41 [1397]
- US 41 from Hancock to Copper Harbor [1495]
- US 41 north of Hancock [1526]
- Hwy. 41 to Copper Harbor, Lake drive, Copper Harbor via Eagle Harbor, etc., to Ahmeek, M203 to McLain Park & Calumet, Hwy. 41 to L'Anse, covered drive [1758]
- US 41 in Keweenaw County [1799]
- US 41 between Eagle River & Copper Harbor and 26 between same cities and also 26 between Lac LaBelle & Lake Linden [1802]
- US 41 to Copper Harbor, canal road, many others [1836]
- 41/26 [1840]
- US 41 near Copper Harbor, M26 along Lake Superior, covered road near Freda, Lac LaBelle & Bete Gris areas, Cliff Drive, Brockway Mountain Drive, L'Anse Bay, Sturgeon River Gorge, M104 along Lake Superior & Portage Canal, lower Sturgeon River road south of Chassell, canal road on Houghton side, US 41 along Keweenaw Bay [1883]

- M26—Painesdale to Ontonagon Co. line [333]
- M-26 from outside mall to South Range [384]
- M-26 [387]
- M26 Painesdale to Mass, US 41 Ahmeek to Copper Harbor, Bete Gris shoreline, M26 Eagle River to Copper Harbor, all of 203 north of McLain Park, any road & river crossing; 200' buffer zone on highways where timber cutting occurs; check the beauty of the Natchez Trace in Mississippi for their results!!! [389]
- M26 [807]
- M-26 north of Hancock, 41 north of Calumet, road from Gay to Bete Gris, covered road to Freda [843]
- M-26—The drive itself encourages people to go “Copper Country Cruising”. Without the scenic beauty, the drive would be much less peaceful. [848]
- M-26 [905]
- M-26 & US 41 North to Copper Harbor, Eagle Harbor/River area, Houghton & Hancock Canal Roads [907]
- M-26 between Eagle River & Copper Harbor [975]
- much of M-26 especially Brockway & lakeshore routes [1195]
- M-26 from South Range through Painesdale; Phoenix to Copper Harbor; Eagle River to Copper Harbor; road from Houghton to Freda, including “covered drive” road [1460]
- Covered drive in Stanton, roads leading to the Harbor, the canal roads, etc. [1477]
- M-26 shoreline, US 41 covered drive, Bete Gris, Gay Road [1478]
- M-28, M-26, Pike Lake Road [1565]
- M-26 along shoreline, covered road to Redridge [1670]
- M26 between Eagle Harbor & Copper Harbor, Brockway Mountain Drive, US 41 from Calumet to Copper Harbor [1767]
- covered bridge road, Brockway [1]
- covered road, Houghton & Hancock canal roads [8]
- covered road [10]
- “covered road” 41 north of Calumet [23]
- Obenhoff—covered drive [74]
- the covered road [184]
- covered road, roads along canal [187]
- Arboreal tunnel (covered drive) canal road—both sides [229]
- covered drive in Atlantic [277]
- covered road—Calumet to Copper Harbor [350]
- Covered drive [388]
- covered road, Gay to Lac LaBelle [481]
- covered road, Liminga to Freda [483]
- covered road, US 41 near Copper Harbor [560]
- Covered road [866]
- “covered road”, Redridge, US 41 Hancock to Copper Harbor, M-26 Phoenix to Copper Harbor [889]
- Covered road—Keweenaw County [966]
- Covered drive; US 41 & M-26 in Keweenaw County, M203 [971]
- Covered road, Stanton Twp. [989]
- US 41 not Calumet to Copper Harbor. Gay road N. to Bete Gris, and Freda Rd (covered Rd.) [1044]
- covered roads [1152]
- “covered road”, US 41 Calumet to Copper Harbor & M26 above Calumet [1165]
- Covered road, M-26 along lakeshore, 41 north of Mohawk [1358]
- Covered road & US 41 between Delaware & Copper Harbor & M-26 between Copper Harbor & Eagle Harbor [1452]
- Arboreal drive, the former Houghton Canal, Hancock Canal, US 41 to Copper Harbor, Lakeshore Drive, the road by Gay [1458]
- Covered road, canal roads [1515]
- The covered road Stanton Twp. [1562]
- Covered road, M-26 [1567]
- Covered road [1620]

- covered road, US 41 Calumet to Copper Harbor; Cliff Drive [1707]
- Covered road, Redridge, etc. [1814]
- Covered road [1825]
- covered road, road to Copper Harbor [1860]
- the “covered road” [1873]
- M206, covered road, Freda road [1926]
- “green cathedral” road to Freda [1676]
- Liminga road: Liminga to Freda, US 41: Lac LaBelle to Copper Harbor, covered road, M26: 5 Mile Point to Copper Harbor [1776]
- M203 near McLain State Park, the road between Gay and Lac LaBelle [20]
- canal, M203 to McLain State Park [100]
- M-203 [764]
- between Calumet & Copper Harbor [281]
- Going Copper Harbor, Eagle River [872]
- Anything north of Houghton [915]
- Roads going to Copper Harbor [928]
- Drive through Eagle & Copper Harbor, along Houghton Canal [956]
- north of Mohawk to Copper Harbor [1141]
- Calumet to Copper Harbor, Brockway, lakeshore roads, Hancock to Calumet, Lac LaBelle, Jacobsville to Gay [1160]
- road to Copper Harbor [1291]
- Eagle Harbor, etc. [1296]
- drive to Copper Harbor, Eagle River/Harbor, etc. [1909]
- shoreline; however turnouts and bike paths should be encouraged [106]
- Houghton, Hancock canal roads, Upper Highway from Hancock to Calumet [183]
- Canal roads. both sides of the canal [198]
- along Lake Superior & canal roads [261]
- Houghton and Hancock Canal Roads [306]
- any along waterway and lakeshores; covered road [117]
- Roads along the Portage Lake towards the canal. [390]
- Near water [732]
- Canal roads [844]
- Canal road [847]
- Canal road [865]
- Lake drive to Eagle & Copper Harbors, Back road to Freda from Houghton [1021]
- Hancock Canal & Houghton Canal Roads [1243]
- undeveloped lakeshore highways [1191]
- Canal Road (both sides), 5 mile point road, US 41 to Copper Harbor [1325]
- Superior lakeshore [1487]
- Canal road [1595]
- Lake Superior Circle Route [1672]
- Lake Avenue [12]
- use your heads, drive around, it’s obvious [41]
- I’d be more specific if I had a car & knew the names of the specific roads. [45]
- Oskar [64]
- logging trails, driveways, parking lots, bridges [188]
- Brockway Mountain, Umbrella rd. off Atlantic Mine [242]
- Hancock to Calumet, Hancock to Lake Linden, Hancock to McLain State Park [265]
- College Ave. [308]

- all roads: avoid the strip-mall mentality that plagues the Lower Peninsula; keep development from sprawling, they don't need to line every foot of road frontage. [324]
- Road through Bete Gris [372]
- Not familiar enough with area [408]
- Not sure [788]
- surprise me [891]
- No, new roads. [894]
- Surprise me [897]
- Why are more monies being spent on roads, instead of the people who are in need? So many are so concerned with the past. We need to look toward our futures or we won't have a past worth remembering. [1062]
- Pike River Road going through Houghton to Mall (Bridge St./Military), College Ave. [1088]
- keep the development in the towns—let all Keweenaw roads remain scenic [1226]
- Paradise Road [1270]
- as many as possible [1288]
- Some road hazards need to be fixed. [1797]