

“Shaping the Future Survey” Comments from Residence Unknown

The following comments (except summaries) are reproduced exactly as written by respondents to the 1997 Houghton County "Shaping Our Future" Land Use Survey who did not identify their place of residence.

- Unknown residence surveys returned – 10. Total surveys returned, Houghton County – 1,936.

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

- more ice arena [535]*
- activities for teens in Laurium, teen centers [864]
- somewhere for teens to go without drugs or alcohol/dance hall [1084]
- outdoor ice rinks [1124]
- respectable dance club, a hangout place for minors, mini golf [1236]

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

- to Cedar Bay [1124]
- Lac LaBelle-Bete Gris road [1377]
- All roads [1507]
- M-26 [1509]

23. Property is becoming unaffordable for local residents.

- #23 is a loaded question which can be manipulated by the survey sponsors. [535]

C. Comments

1. Jobs

2. Business and economic development—general

- See [1377] #8

3. Concerns about development

- Commercial development must be controlled (our area is over-retailed with everyone fighting for the same dollar). [1303]

4. Chain retailers vs. locally owned shops

5. Shopping/entertainment/restaurants

6. Tourism

7. Logging, timber industry, and wood product

8. Mining

- Like to see more industry in Houghton County and other towns in area. There is a lot of copper left in old shafts of Wolverine No. 3 shafts, and Kearsarge mines were rich in copper. [1377]

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

10. Development—Calumet/Laurium

11. Development—M-26/Sharon Avenue

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

- Why does M-26 & US 41 need industrial development or commercial? Why not develop the existing mining sites? That way you preserve what’s there and still gain new for same price. [1507]

13. Waterfront development and public access

14. Property values and taxes

15. Planning

- Common sense planning by our elected leaders and not greed is what decisions we need. (Example hospital put on Quincy Hill totally asinine). [1509]

16. Cooperation among units of government

*number assigned to survey when received; comments by the same person in response to different statements are followed by the same number.

17. Lack of public input in development decisions, favoritism

- We need the locals to make more decisions in our area. I'm tired of out-of-town hot shots taking over and running the show up here. The locals are just as capable of these positions that are given to out-of-area people. [864]
- The above sounds like an attempt to put the power of authority where it belongs. In the hands of the local citizens. The voters. They are the true Experts. Not someone who lives hundreds of miles away from the area in question. It is wonderful to have public input at meetings. And to run surveys on different articles of public concern. But in the end I believe most things should be decided by secret ballot. Yes; I think the voters of the county should have a lot to say about how the county is developed. Or left undeveloped. (DON'T YOU THINK) (50 years in Houghton) *[separated from rest of survey]*, #25, #26, #27

18. Zoning, ordinances, building permits

19. Balancing environment and development

- Get rid of environmentalists in Houghton and 90% of all problems would be solved. [999]

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

- Should the voters of Houghton County decide the Richard Delene case? Has he hurt or improved the area? The DNR has developed many ponds, or lakes, throughout the Upper Peninsula. Very much in the same manner Mr. Delene used. I believe it has been a benefit to wildlife. Including the creature known as man. The DNR complained that sediment was deposited in the stream below Mr. Delene's project. I don't believe the DNR had a fine screen in place to stop all sediment from going downstream from their projects. Once Mr. Delene's project was completed, there would be almost no sediment going downstream for many years to come. In the spring, when there are sudden thaws, or when we have heavy rains, that is when a lot of sediment is washed into the streams. But with his controlled flow the sediment would remain in the ponds. The DNR said his ponds would attract non-native birds. I have not seen any signs at DNR projects warning non-native birds that they were unwelcome. The Seney National Wildlife Refuge is a good example. The DNR also asked how much tag elder was destroyed. One EXPERT asked what tag elder was. They need not worry. Tag elder will not become extinct in their lifetime. The DNR built many ponds at the taxpayer's expense. Mr. Delene was building ponds at his own expense. The DNR has so far stopped Mr. Delene at his expense. And the taxpayer's expense. I am not making this comment because Mr. Delene is a friend. I met the gentleman only once. But my vote would go to Mr. Delene. *[separated from rest of survey]*, #17, #26, #27

26. Road maintenance, traffic control, and safety

- The first priority is to build a second bridge! [1078]
- Should we raise the speed limit on certain highways to 70 or 75 miles per hour? Some years back, the government reduced speed to 55 mph. To save gas. Then later the government mandated that automobile manufacturers produce cars with a certain increase in gas mileage. Every few years they mandated another increase in gas mileage. As a result, cars were built smaller and lighter, to meet the increased mileage. That was fine with the 55 mph. But many small cars are not ideal for traveling at 70 or 75 mph. I don't believe deer are going to be more cautious when crossing the highway. Many drivers can tell you it is bad to hit a deer at 55 mph. Others are not around to tell about it. Think of hitting a deer at 75 mph. And there are a few moose around. *[separated from rest of survey]*, #17, #25, #27

27. Snow removal

- Should we petition the federal government for more research on snow removal? There has been little change in design of snow removal equipment in the last fifty years. Or how the equipment is used on our highways. *[separated from rest of survey]*, #17, #25, #26

28. Public and non-motorized transportation

29. Tax incentives

30. Government and public services

31. Recreation

32. Survey

- On the whole I am proud & pleased with this area. [1124]

33. Miscellaneous