

## **“Shaping the Future” Survey Comments from South Range 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 Laird Township. All local governments and libraries received full survey results in 1998 (also available at <http://emml.mtu.edu/gem/community/planning/planning.html>).*

South Range Village surveys returned – 29. 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 on p. 3):*

- ❖ non-motorized path - 3 (2 cross-country ski trail, 2 walking path)
- ❖ teen center - 3
- ❖ activity to keep the youth occupied - 3
- ❖ skateboard ramps/facility - 2
- ❖ bowling alley, snowmobile clubs, roller rink, winter sports, senior citizen activity center, large recreational complex – 1 each

### **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 on p. 3):*

- ❖ routes up to Copper Harbor (including M-26 and/or US-41) - 9
- ❖ covered road in the Freda area - 7
- ❖ roads from Gay to Lac LaBelle - 3
- ❖ M-203 out to McLain - 2
- ❖ lakeshore roads - 2
- ❖ Brockway Mountain, US-41 from Hancock to Calumet, North Superior Rd., ones for tourist trade, county roads (not highways), and secondary – 1 each

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

- This suggests that a property owner could pollute, create hazards, destroy anything on his/her property. This would be unacceptable. On the other hand, the “state” should not have absolute—or even primary control. I prefer the Native American philosophy that we cannot own the earth, that we are only permitted to use it and that it must be respected. That philosophy does not give absolute rights to anyone. [1390]\*

## **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 am 20 years old, have grew up in Houghton County, and am currently going to MTU for a civil engineer. My concern is if there will be a job that fits me when I graduate in 2000, a job that will keep me in the area. [827]

### **2. Business and economic development—general**

- I support small cottage industries as opposed to large industries such as paper mills. [819]
- There is a need to develop our natural resources: farmland, timber, and mining. Also skilled crafts, woodworking, fabrics, etc. may prosper with good marketing pipelines. People are a great natural resource. [1483], #6
- It’s important to mesh both development and preservation in a way that the people can feel like they are gaining in both situations. [1505]

### **3. Concerns about development**

- The area needs more businesses (shopping/restaurants/recreation, etc.) both for people to use & enjoy and for jobs to stimulate the economy. This should be balanced, however, with preserving the small town atmosphere & the scenic environment. Some “big city” development is good as long as the area doesn’t become overrun with development. [1199]
- When is enough... enough re: development attracting more tourists, selling off the land to those “with money” from outside the area. Haven’t we learned from the other “development” pitfalls in other areas? Let’s cut back a

\*number assigned to survey when received; comments by the same person in response to different statements are followed by the same number. 1

little. For example, snowmobiling seems (to me) at a maximum right now. We're ruining our area for those who live here in several ways. [1380]

- New business, development, etc. are important in our area—TO A POINT—but along with that comes more people, crime, and increases in cost of living and housing. If property keeps on rising as it has been, the people that were here first won't be able to own any land. I wouldn't like to see what happened to California happen to this area. [1924]

#### **4. Chain retailers vs. locally owned shops**

#### **5. Shopping/entertainment/restaurants**

#### **6. Tourism**

- Tourism is fine, it provides jobs, but they are minimum wage jobs. [1483], #2

#### **7. Logging, timber industry, and wood products**

#### **8. Mining**

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

#### **10. Development—Calumet/Laurium**

#### **11. Development—M-26/Sharon Avenue**

- It is important to plan new development in advance. Example—M-26 “corridor” is really quite ugly! [1686]

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

#### **13. Waterfront development and public access**

#### **14. Property values and taxes**

#### **15. Planning**

- Proper long range planning is not only needed to preserve and protect our natural and historical resources but to enhance our quality of life. [462]

#### **16. Cooperation among units of government**

- Each township should have a member on Houghton County board. This five member panel gets nothing done for the area. Waste of time and good money. [530]

#### **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**

#### **26. Road maintenance, traffic control, and safety**

#### **27. Snow removal**

#### **28. Public and non-motorized transportation**

#### **29. Tax incentives**

- The local person does not receive tax abatement when he builds a new building/parcels, which is not fair. [829]
- I do not agree to tax incentives and abatements. [979]

#### **30. Government and public services**

- Something needs to be done to clean up wooded areas where trash has been dumped. Free or affordable pick up of these items should be available to everyone to prevent future abuses. [1063]

- More housing for senior citizens, like Arbor Green or nice apartments or reasonably priced condos for widows like me. West Houghton area, with nice view. I wish to sell my home here in South Range. No mail service to the house, no mini-bus service. Nothing like Roscommon, MI, has—nice condos and services. [982]

### **31. Recreation**

### **32. Survey**

### **33. Miscellaneous**

- riding on a limited express [536]

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

- X country skiing [462]
- Walking/running trails [1359]
- Ski trails, walking path and/or trail [1381]
- teen center [534]
- teen center [798]
- Teen center [1686]
- Something to keep kids occupied—summer sports programs, e.g. also weekend programs in winter [1390]
- Anything that might get the kids off the streets [1505]
- something for the young people to do—somewhere for them to go instead of hanging out on street corners [1924]
- bowling alley [530]
- roller rinks, skateboard ramps, snowmobile clubs [976]
- I'm not sure. [1199]
- One large recreational complex which would be for all the counties and for all ages. Something on the order of the Eagle River, Wisconsin Complex. Also included would be facilities for skateboards. We need something for the kids. [978]
- Senior citizen activity center [1384]
- Promote winter sports [1483]

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

- 41 to Copper Harbor [534]
- Copper Harbor, Calumet [827]
- US 41 by Copper Harbor and roads through Eagle Harbor/River, roads out to Lac LaBelle [1199]
- M-26 to Copper Harbor, US 41 to Copper Harbor, M203 to McLain, US 41 Calumet to Hancock (Quincy Mine, etc.) [1924]
- Covered drive, Liminga, North Superior Road [976]
- The covered drive [1359]
- Covered drive, Gay-Lac LaBelle Rd., shoreline drive Eagle River to Calumet and Eagle River to Ahmeek [1390]
- The covered road [1505]
- Covered road to Freda, etc., 41 to Copper Harbor for example [1686]
- Gay to Lac LaBelle—US 41 to Copper Harbor, covered drive to Redridge [529]
- M-203, “covered road” to Freda [1381]
- Those (especially) next to water (Lake Superior & Portage Canal) [1380]
- Near lakeshore [819]
- Brockway Mt., lakeshore drive to Copper Harbor [798]
- the ones for tourist trade [536]
- Most County roads, not US or State highways [1063]
- Secondary [1384]