

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

➤ Schoolcraft Township surveys returned – 41. Total surveys returned, Houghton County – 1,936.

1. Developers should be allowed to develop with little or no restriction because it helps the local economy.

- Louie’s Super Value [744]

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

- Does “big city” mean “modern” or “good selection” or “glittery but having no substance”? [443]*
- If you don’t like it, don’t use it. [492]

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

- Lack of skilled/trained youth is a problem, at least presently. [443]

9. Tax incentives, such as tax abatements, should be used to attract new businesses.

- Right types of business [1537]

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

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

- ❖ teen activities/recreation - 3
- ❖ hiking trails - 2
- ❖ cross country skiing areas - 2
- ❖ dog sledding - 2
- ❖ picnic areas - 2
- ❖ Lake Superior access/public land - 2

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

- for teens and younger [443]
- Young kids need more to occupy them besides walking the streets & parties with alcohol. [1582]
- Teen age recreation [1611]
- hiking trails, Lake Superior access [974]
- More cross country ski areas, dog sledding, hiking/camping areas[1537]
- not snowmobiling, not jet skiing; yes—cross country skiing—trails, races, events, dog sledding [1244]
- recreational areas/parks/picnic areas closer to town [1311]
- Boat dock in Hubbell, picnic tables etc. at Jacobsville park & a caretaker. [1414]
- State owned land on Lake Superior [1640]
- miniature golf course (inside one) for winter months [301]

17. Some open space and undeveloped land should be protected from future development.

- Natural controls will do this to some extent. [443]

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 follow):

- ❖ all/most roads (some specified especially in Keweenaw County) - 6
- ❖ Gay-Lac La Belle - 4
- ❖ US 41 - 4
- ❖ to Copper Harbor (including U.S. 41 and M-26) – 3
- ❖ Bootjack Road – 2

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

- All those along Lake Superior in Keweenaw County [974]
- All roads! There is no road in the county that we should allow to become any more degraded than it is. [1244]
- Keweenaw County especially. [1256]
- Any secondary road [1414]
- all scenic roads [1581]
- All Keweenaw County roads [1704]

- Gay-Lac LaBelle Highway [1311]
- Gay to Lac LaBelle [1695]
- To Copper Harbor & Gay-Lac LaBelle, etc. [747]

- US 41 [744]
- US 41, 5 Mile, M203 [1813]
- US 41 to Copper Harbor [1898]
- Copper Harbor US 41 [1678]
- M26 from Eagle River to Copper Harbor [1694]

- Bootjack, Traprock & Gay areas [1611]
- Bootjack Road—Jacobsville [1635]

- 203 north from Hancock as a scenic route into the Keweenaw [1537]

- But they must have basic safety features, including shoulders! [443]
- Rice Lake Road [473]
- the covered road to Freda & Waterworks Road in Calumet [1539]

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

- bad question [1244]

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

- What the “movers and shakers” want, they get! [473]
- My future is quite short. [744]

25. Neighboring townships, cities, and counties should identify and work together toward shared goals.

- Difficult to know what this means on the concrete. [1244]

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

- How about private deep wells, who protects the source of water? [744]

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

- A concerted effort should be made to help keep our talented youth close to home and family by creating jobs, youth training/vocational programs and recreational activities to make this area attractive for future generations. [1311]

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

8. Mining

- The solution mining of copper at White Pine should not be allowed period!! Pumping acid underground so close to the Great Lake system is indeed very dangerous because of the potential for leakage into Lake Superior. Please concentrate on stopping this project! Thank you. [1652]

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

10. Development in Calumet/Laurium

- The Calumet Mine Street development has seriously degraded Calumet & the county and should be halted. [1244] #11, 31

11. Development on M-26/ Sharon Ave.

- Development like that on the M26-Sharon Ave. corridor should never have happened and should be halted. Development on Quincy Hill should not go forward. The only person this development benefits is Tom Moyle!. [1244] #10, 31

13. Waterfront development and public areas

14. Property values and taxes

15. Planning

16. Cooperation among units of government

17. Lack of public input in development decisions, favoritism

- If the people who do not live here would not interfere in how we live we would be better off. Too many out of towners have too much say in the progress & too much money. The local older people who have been here forever never get to say what they want. [1539]
- Teach citizens how to hack into financial records to expose drug payoffs, illegal contributions, kickbacks to politicians, bankers, and corporations. [1813]

18. Zoning, ordinances, building permits

19. Balancing environment and development

- Proper zoning and preservation of our historical heritage and protection of our natural scenic beauty would all be in the best interests of our economic development. [1537]

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

- #1, 20, and 21 are a real paradox. How do you define and regulate “reasonableness”? [443]
- The best way to ensure environmental quality is to protect private property rights. When the government inhibits or takes away the individual’s right to stewardship, huge abuses follow. Consider the worst abuses in this country, which are on former military bases, not on privately-developed land. Trust the people to take care of what is rightfully theirs to keep. [492]
- Bureaucrats should stay out of our business. [1393]

26. Road maintenance, traffic control, and safety

27. Snow removal

28. Zoning, ordinances, building permits

29. Tax Incentives

30. Government and public services

31. Recreation

- Snowmobiles/jet skis are producing serious noise pollution (and regular pollution) that should be taken seriously. The County should do a study—a real study of their effects—on noise, pollution, accidents, incidental negative economic benefits, disruption to the environment. [1244] #10, 11

32. Survey

- Very glad to see such a survey made—our only chance to speak out on these items. [1414]

33. Miscellaneous