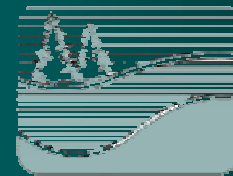


Visioning Summary Meeting



**R. CLARK
ASSOCIATES, INC.**

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS & LAND PLANNERS



Agenda

- Think Regionally!
- What Do We Need to Accomplish Tonight?
- Number of Participants
- In Case You Missed It – background update
 - Brainstorming
 - Community Assessments – Adult & Youth
 - OptionFinder
- Overall Findings
- Strategic Action – Interactive Feedback
- Wrap Up -- Handout

THINK REGIONALLY

WHY?...SUSTAINABILITY!

- *Natural Resource Management*
- *Industry*
- *Local community identity*
- *Government services*

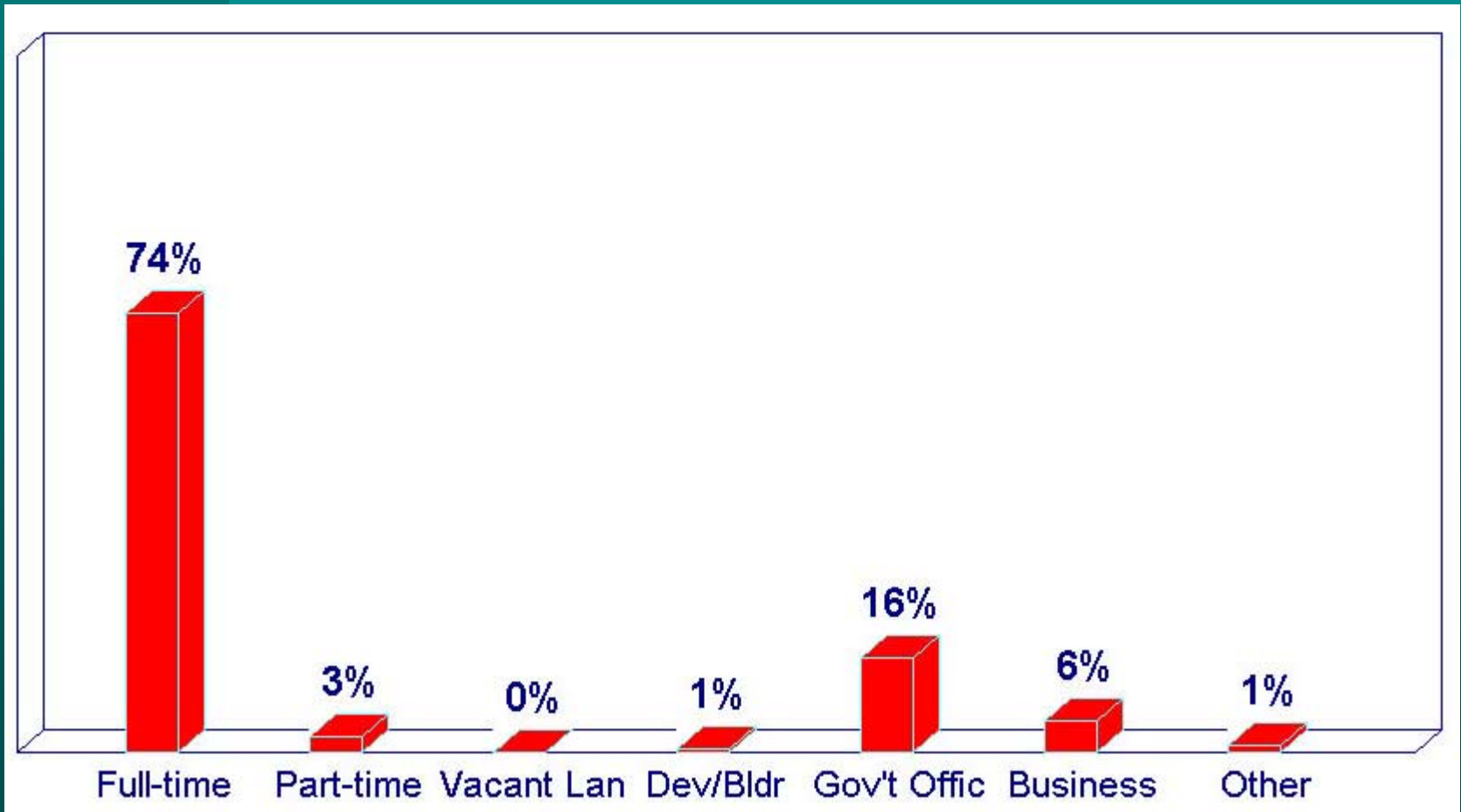
What Do We Need to Accomplish Tonight?

- **Present Compiled Information Gathered at the Visioning Sessions**
- **Present Draft Report Information**
- **Get Your Feedback on that Info**
 - This is your opportunity to discuss the content of your community report
- **Ask anyone with additional comments to take a response form & get it back to us**

Number of Participants

-
- Gaylord (5/3/04) 50
 - Elmira (5/5/04) 41
 - Vanderbilt (5/6/04) 17
 - Johannesburg (5/13/04) 24
 - Waters (5/27/04) 39
 - 171
 - Twelve people attended multiple meetings.
Which brings the number of participants to **159**.

Participant Mix

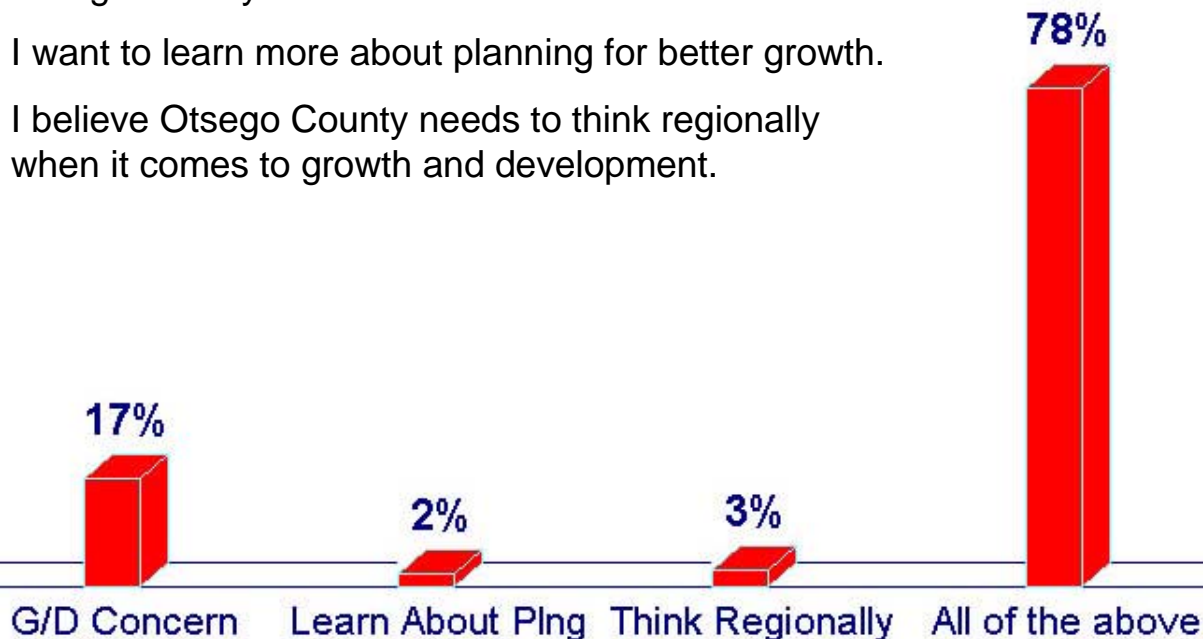


Why Did You Attend Visioning?

G- Why did you decide to attend this meeting?

The actual choices were:

- 1) I am concerned about growth and development in Otsego County.
- 2) I want to learn more about planning for better growth.
- 3) I believe Otsego County needs to think regionally when it comes to growth and development.



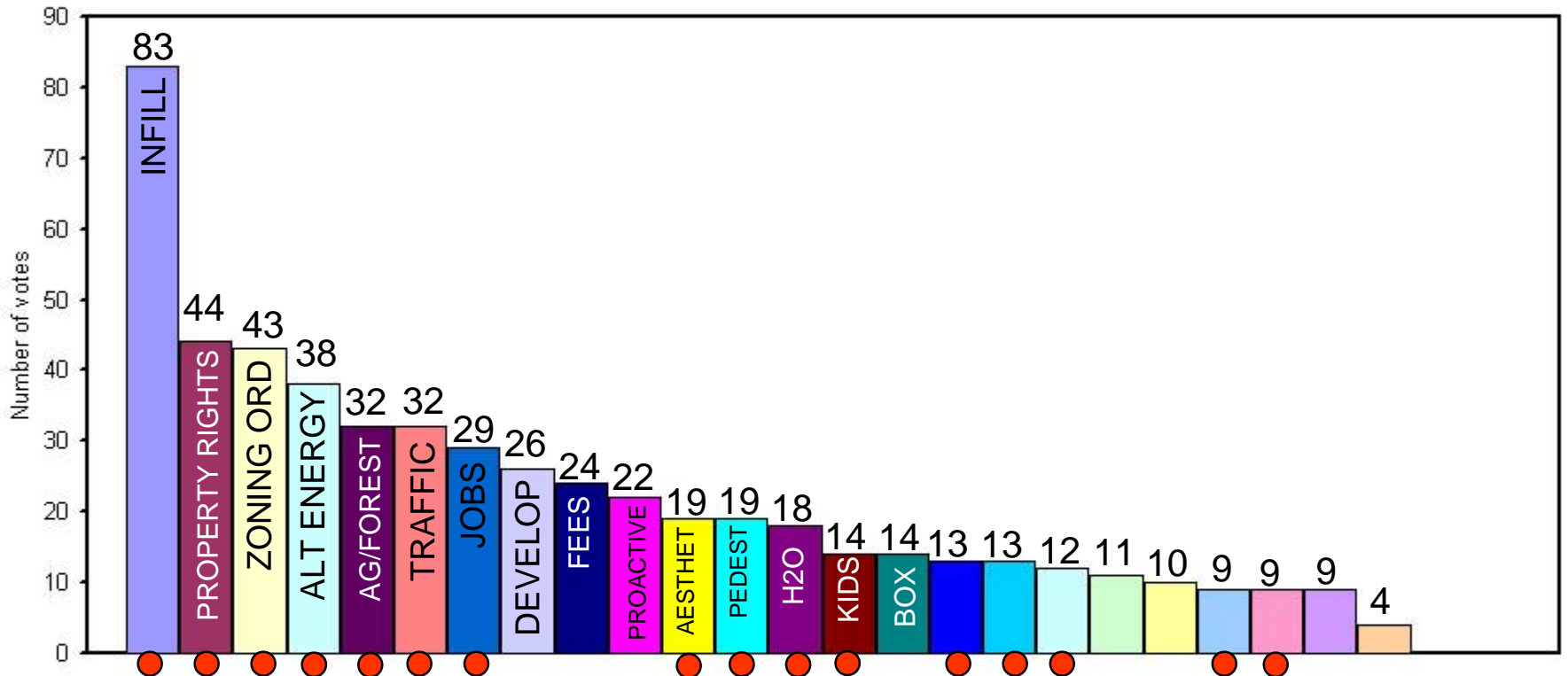
Recap

- **Brainstorming** – 110 People Voted
 - **You spoke – we wrote – you voted w/dots**
- **Community Assessments** - 134 completed
 - **Adult Community Members** – 43 (27% of 159)
 - **Government Students (10th & 12th grade)** – 91
- **OptionFinder** - 159 Participants

Overall Findings

- Combined Sessions – Brainstorming Graph
- Community Assessments – Compiled Chart
- Topics Comparison Chart
- OptionFinder Examples

COMBINED BRAINSTORMING RESULTS



- | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| ■ Infill | ■ Property Rights | ■ Zoning Ordinance | ■ Alternative Energy |
| ■ Protect agriculture and forest lands | ■ Roads/Traffic | ■ Jobs | ■ Development |
| ■ Impact/Infrastructure fees or tax | ■ Reactive not proactive | ■ Aesthetics | ■ Pedestrian Friendly |
| ■ Water (quantity and quality) | ■ Vision for our children/grandchildren | ■ No more big box retail | ■ Natural Resources 13 |
| ■ Recreation 13 | ■ Education 12 | ■ Wildlife 11 | ■ We want to live here 10 |
| ■ Better/Affordable Housing 9 | ■ Stop light pollution 9 | ■ Smart Growth 9 | ■ Sense of community 4 |
| ■ Infrastructure | ■ Tourism | | |
- = Mentioned at 4 or more visioning sessions

Community Assessments

Community Assessment Worksheet

(A) List three positive or attractive features in the County (study area).

Response	Community		Youth	
	Frequency of response	Percentage of community respondents	Frequency of response	Percentage of youth respondents
1 Natural features (forests, terrain, hills, vegetation, meadows, clean air, wildlife)	34	83%	23	25%
2 Downtown area/ Alpine theme/ central business district	14	34%	51	56%
3 Lakes	13	32%	18	20%
4 Close country living/ know neighbors/ close family units/ welcoming small town	12	29%	8	9%
5 Rivers and streams	9	22%	1	1%
6 Public parks and state land to play on, hike, bird watch, hunt/ Pigeon River country/	8	20%	23	25%
7 Golf courses and ski resort areas	5	12%	28	31%
8 Roads	4	10%	1	1%
9 Recreation opportunities--sportsplex, aspen park, golf courses, snowmobile trails,	3	7%	13	14%
10 Climate/ Weather	3	7%	7	8%
11 High school complex/ school system/ emphasis on youth	3	7%	4	4%
12 Rural character	3	7%	4	4%
13 The Pavilion/ walkway between parking area and Main Street	2	5%	11	12%
14 Civic activities/locations are good (Alpenfest, Ice Tree, Bells at the Glens)	1	2%	19	21%
15 Elk River wildlife area	1	2%	9	10%
16 Low Crime Rate	1	2%	1	1%
17 Otsego County Library	1	2%	1	1%

Community Assessments

Community Assessment Worksheet

(B) List three negative or unattractive features in the County (study area).

Response	Community		Youth	
	Frequency of response	Percentage of community respondents	Frequency of response	Percentage of youth respondents
1 Vacant/Abandoned buildings and malls	19	46%	43	47%
2 Traffic/ congested traffic corridor I-75, M32, downtown Gaylord at noon	19	46%	19	21%
3 Too much poorly planned growth (leading to sprawl)/ helter-skelter commercial growth/ strip and leapfrog growth/ unmanaged sprawl/ sporadic subdivisions, fragmentation/ too many and too easy to do site condo residential development/ other urban and rural blight	12	29%	17	19%
4 Box stores/ strip mall development/ uncontrolled retail development along M32	10	24%	5	5%
5 Large, unpleasant signs/billboards/ Arby's sign	7	17%	4	4%
6 Run down and deteriorating neighborhoods/ lower income areas, worn-down homes/ urban blight/ trash and litter/ waste materials at many homes not regulated well/ allowing large differences in home prices in one area/ little league fields run down	5	12%	13	14%
7 Air and water pollution/ unprotected groundwater aquifer	4	10%	13	14%
8 Poor road condition	3	7%	26	29%
9 Loss of trees in downtown residential areas/ clear cutting trees	3	7%	3	3%
10 Lack of culture (plays, alternative choices, "tofu" state of mind)/ culture and arts	2	5%	13	14%
11 Bldgs that do not comply with Alpine theme (with parking behind)	2	5%	2	2%
12 Gas prices higher than bordering counties	1	2%	14	15%
13 Old Wal-Mart Plaza	1	2%	7	8%
14 Too few parks	1	2%	1	1%

Topics of greatest concern among Otsego County residents

	Brainstorming Responses	Community Assessment Responses	Community Assessment Responses -- Youth
Affordable housing		X	X
Alternative energy issues	X		
Big-box stores and strip-malls		X	
Blighted, run down neighborhoods		X	X
Garbage dump			X
Jobs - meaningful employment opportunities	X	X	X
Large, unpleasant signs and billboards		X	X
Light Pollution		X	
Oil and gas businesses		X	
Parking lots -- too big		X	
Poor road condition	X	X	X
Possible use of impact and/or infrastructure fees	X		
Proactive planning	X		
Property rights	X	X	
Protection of agricultural and forest lands	X	X	X
Too few cultural activities		X	X
Too much "unplanned," sprawling development	X	X	X
Traffic congestion	X	X	X
Vacant, abandoned buildings (Infill)	X	X	X
Water (quantity and quality)	X	X	X
Zoning ordinance: application and enforcement	X	X	

Option Finder

Clustered residential developments (preserve agricultural lands and open space)

Commercial areas with parking behind and shared road access

Commercial areas with sign ordinances

Community character (sidewalks, light posts, front porches)

Corporate identity standards (building design and location to conform with locality)

Density

Landscaping provision (residential and commercial neighborhoods)

Streetscapes with landscaping, lighting, and defined pedestrian space

Vision Report Draft



Vision Themes

- How We Work

Economic and workforce development

- How We Play

Arts, entertainment, parks, recreation, etc.

- How We Learn

K-12 education, local colleges

Vision Themes

- How We Live

Residents, housing, & community involvement

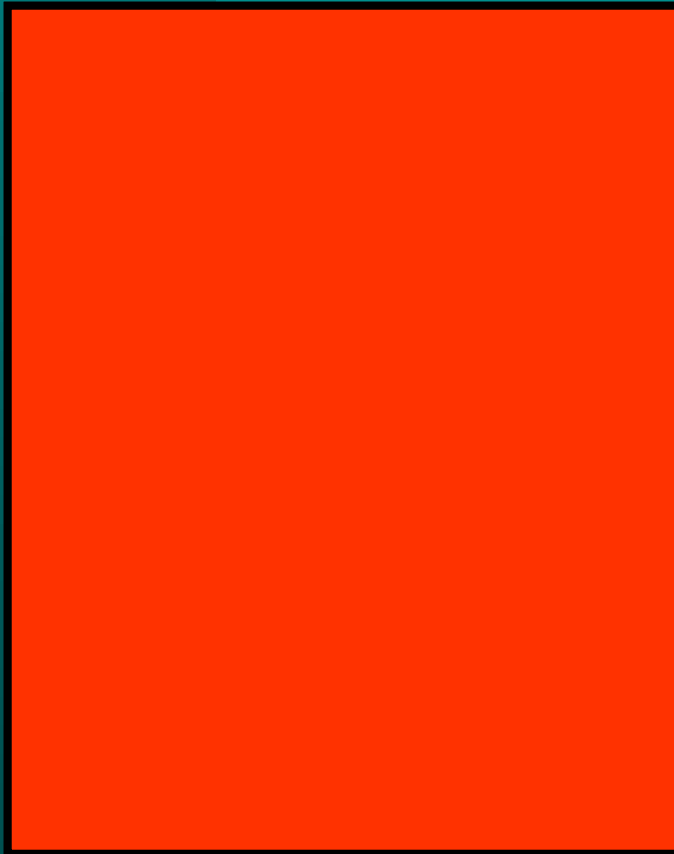
- How We Get Around

Transportation and land use

- How We Grow

Future development patterns

Audience Participation



- Strategic Actions will be shown
- Show **CONSENT** or **DISSENT** with your colored sign
- Any 'RED' issues will be pulled out to discuss at the end
- **FOCUS ON:**
 - DOES THIS SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY VIEW?
 - DOES THIS SUPPORT THE VISIONING FINDINGS?

How We Work – Strategic Actions

- ❑ Pursue a development policy for Otsego County that is proactive, sustainable, and beneficial to local residents and businesses.
- ❑ Develop and implement a program for recruiting companies which offer meaningful, employment to Otsego County residents
- ❑ Encourage sustainable, environmentally friendly tourism in Otsego County.

How We Work – Strategic Actions

- ❑ **Investigate policies to assist local farmers and entrepreneurs financially.**
- ❑ **Maintain a diverse employment base to stabilize the local economy, as well as provide enticing employment opportunities for local youth upon graduation from institutions of higher education.**
- ❑ **Focus on inter-jurisdictional cooperation, such that elected officials are able to formulate and implement policies that benefit Otsego County as a region.**
- ❑ **Promote a diversity of interests, fiscal responsibility, and accountability among appointed county officials.**

How We Play – Strategic Action

- ❑ **Build on the attractiveness of the natural environment. Promote sustainable tourist activities in specific areas, thereby protecting the aquifer and water quality and conserving woodlands and agricultural areas.**
- ❑ **Review the possible use of financial incentives for the preservation of wildlife corridors and maintenance of wildlife habitats.**
- ❑ **Improve recreation in Otsego County through the creation of a snowmobile overpass over M-27, public access to waterways (including boat ramps), and county recreation (soccer, tennis, etc.) and cultural (arts and theatre) facilities.**

How We Play – Strategic Action

- ❑ **Design a comprehensive countywide bicycle and cross-country trail system by extending existing bike paths and lanes in Otsego County to link parks and town squares. Review policies regarding shared use of paths/trails by motorized and non-motorized vehicles.**
- ❑ **Provide architectural design guidelines for communities within Otsego County to promote a pedestrian and bicycle oriented community.**
- ❑ **Increase marketing of civic events within the county and work to establish events similar to Alpenfest to promote Otsego County as a tourist destination.**

How We Learn – Strategic Actions

- ❑ Foster residents' and elected officials' support for bond initiatives for the improvement of Otsego County schools and educational facilities.
- ❑ Cultivate parental and community involvement in primary and secondary education through establishment of programs for students to volunteer with local businesses and organizations (and vice versa).
- ❑ Create age appropriate after-school opportunities for area youth. Utilizing senior groups, professional, volunteer, and faith-based organization provides a multitude of supplemental educational services (tutoring and mentoring) and enrichment activities that benefit the entire community. Promote programs that enhance the imagination, creativity, and self-esteem of area youth.

How We Learn – Strategic Actions

- ❑ Develop incentives for additional childcare facilities in neighborhoods and at local businesses.
- ❑ Encourage the expansion of the M-TEC Center and the possible establishment of university extension sites within Otsego County.
- ❑ Improve access to broadband to assist county residents interested in participating in on-line education opportunities.

How We Live – Strategic Actions

- ❑ Preserve the “small town” feel through maintaining and/or creating walk-able, pedestrian oriented central business districts in Gaylord, Vanderbilt, and the other villages (with parking behind the buildings); moreover, downtown development and re-development in Gaylord should be consistent with the Alpine theme.
- ❑ Development in Otsego County needs to adhere to design guidelines, as determined by county residents (year-round and seasonal), in order to ensure residents get the type of development they desire. Establish design guidelines to preserve the historical northern Michigan character of Otsego County and protect open space, forests, lakes, and streams.

How We Live – Strategic Actions

- ❑ Provide opportunities for discussion between summer and year-round residents to establish a clear vision for what the whole community desires. Furthermore, encouraging greater community involvement in this visioning process and other issues.
- ❑ Inventory the housing stock in Otsego County to ensure that proposed developments conform to the needs of residents. Establish and make known guidelines for all housing types, encouraging the creation of mixed income neighborhoods.
- ❑ Implementing a countywide recycling and garbage pickup service.

How We Get Around – Strategic Actions

- Work with state agencies to formulate solutions to long-term interstate and highway transportation issues, including access to I-75 and M-32.
- Review/consider public transportation possibilities – one of the few ways to really reduce traffic.
- Promote the creation of design guidelines for pedestrian friendly commercial areas to encourage people to “park once and walk” to shops.

How We Get Around – Strategic Actions

- ❑ Encourage the establishment of living-wage jobs within Otsego County to reduce the number of long-distance commuters (and there by traffic).
- ❑ Address traffic circulation through improving access management, synchronizing streetlights, repairing streets, and maintaining roadways—especially in winter.
- ❑ Given concerns about safety, improve street lighting and reduce speed limits along bus routes.

How We Get Around – Strategic Actions

- ❑ Design of new roadways should serve to connect the community by enhancing the existing transportation network.
- ❑ Review and update the county sign ordinance to protect scenic drives in the county. Pursue the establishment/designation of additional scenic corridors to preserve the natural aesthetics of Otsego County.
- ❑ Provide for coordinated development in Otsego County through updating and enforcing a clear and consistent countywide zoning ordinance. Inter-county collaboration among elected officials will improve the quality of development within Otsego County.

How We Get Around – Strategic Actions

- ❑ Encourage the use of infill, adaptive reuse (of empty big-box buildings), and brownfield development techniques/philosophies to minimize sprawling development in Otsego County.
- ❑ Take steps to establish guidelines for the use of alternative energy sources to protect the rights of those wishing to construct wind turbines as well as neighboring property owners.
- ❑ Explore possible scenarios for what will happen when oil and gas companies leave Otsego County.

How We Grow – Strategic Actions

- ❑ Implementation of a countywide vision to ensure Otsego County is a place residents are proud of and a memorable destination for visitors today and for years to come.
- ❑ Educate the community on development options, and come to a consensus on which locations should be preserved and which areas should remain available for development.
- ❑ Re-write ordinances to ensure they support the type of growth Otsego County residents' desire.

How We Grow – Strategic Actions

- ❑ Maintain community interest and involvement in the planning process to ensure follow through.
- ❑ Focus elected officials and community members on hot-topic items: water and sewer issues, transportation, sprawl, landfill, and alternative energy sources (wind turbines).
- ❑ Implement landscaping ordinances, green zones, and “green building” techniques.

THANK YOU

- **Please remind people to attend the next summary meeting – JUNE 29th**
- **Please return the response form if you have more input on the community's report.**