

A Survey of Elected Officials

In recent decades, rural Wisconsin has experienced development patterns resulting in the subdivision of larger land holdings into smaller ones, also known as *parcelization*. This trend increases pressure on Wisconsin's working landscapes and agricultural lands. A land use planning class of 23 students with the Center for Land Use Education (CLUE) at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is conducting a survey to identify trends in parcelization and the factors that stimulate it.

This survey is designed to help us better understand your attitudes on rural development and help us understand possible factors influencing parcelization.

This survey will be completed by elected County, Town, City, and Village officials. Please read questions carefully and make responses clear. Answers will remain confidential. This survey will take you approximately 15 to 20 minutes to complete.

Check the appropriate circle to indicate your agreement with the following statements.

Please indicate the type of community you represent:

- County City Village Town

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General Impressions - Development/Economics/Social Impacts

The next few questions focus on your thoughts toward growth in your community. We would like to learn about your views of current growth patterns as well as what you feel would be the best pattern for future growth.

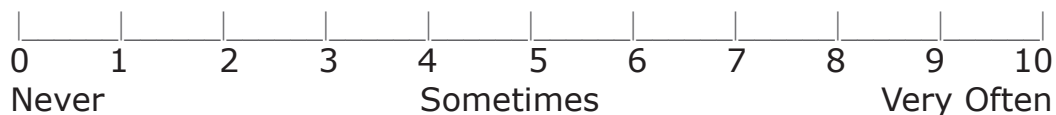
What is the biggest reason drawing people to move to this area?
(check only the most important)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Agriculture/forestry | <input type="radio"/> Business/jobs |
| <input type="radio"/> Low taxes | <input type="radio"/> Affordable housing/building units |
| <input type="radio"/> Enjoy area natural resources/
general lifestyle | <input type="radio"/> Other _____ |

Are you in favor of seasonal home development?

- Yes No No opinion

Since you have been living in your community, how often have you been witness to landowners selling small parcels of their land to different buyers? (Please place a dot along the scale)



People visit your county most for: (check only one)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Nature recreation | <input type="radio"/> Business |
| <input type="radio"/> Tourism | <input type="radio"/> Oddities (i.e., world's largest frying pan) |
| <input type="radio"/> Historic attractions | <input type="radio"/> Other _____ |

In your opinion what are the major drivers or factors contributing to land development within your county?

Views on development and planning issues in your community

Check the appropriate circle to indicate your agreement with the following statements.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Industrial development has benefited our economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New commercial development has benefited our economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Second homes are an important part of our community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development pressures have increased greatly in the last 10 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The changes I have seen in my community are, on balance, for the better	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Residents in my community need more education concerning land use issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New residential development is helping to lower taxes for existing residents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
County zoning staff are doing a good job of enforcing current rules and regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Towns and the county usually see eye-to-eye on land use issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall, the existing policies are doing a good job of protecting sensitive natural resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Most development pressure in our community comes from outside the county	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our community would be involved in comprehensive planning even without any state requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Most community members are in favor of residential development within the county	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would like to learn more about the local zoning/planning issues and processes and their impacts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning committees are vital in determining the best interests for a community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increasing development and parcelization (subdividing) leads to greater benefits than costs throughout the county regarding tax revenue issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If the next 50 years are like the last 50 years, development will undermine the natural resource components of our local economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Plan Implementation and Policy Enforcement

Constituent support for specific policies

In your opinion, how strongly would your constituents support or oppose the following:

	Strongly Support	Support	No Opinion	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
Permitting the same rate of development experienced in the past 10 years?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Raising local taxes to purchase development rights from willing sellers?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using state and federal grants to purchase development rights from willing sellers?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Establishing a cap on the number of new residential lots permitted annually?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Requiring conservation subdivisions that provide one acre of open space for every new acre of development?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing local land use regulations to the minimum required by state law?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promoting and facilitating an increase in residential development and construction?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Requiring all land divisions to be reviewed by a local plan commission?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Level of government responsible for subdivision enforcement

Which of the following units of government should have review and approval authority of new residential parcels?

(check all that apply)

	Federal	State	County	Towns	Cities/ Villages	No Regulation
Land in floodplains	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Land 1000 feet from lakes and 300 feet from rivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Private land within national forest boundaries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Land in prime agricultural soils	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Land adjacent to city limits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Land adjacent to a freeway or US highway	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Land adjacent to a county highway	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Land adjacent to a county park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you feel that the local economy is most dependent on: (*check only one*)

- Year round citizens
- Seasonal citizens
- Recreational visitors
- None of the above
- Other _____

What actions has your community taken to control residential development on the outside of urban areas in the past? (*check all that apply*)

- None
- Zoning regulations
- Tax Incentives
- Conservation Easements
- Other _____

Are you familiar with current development laws?

- Yes
- No

Would you like to see further legislative efforts to regulate development?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

What do you, as an official, base your decisions on when faced with a challenging planning issue? (*check only one*)

- Personal opinions/values
- County citizens' majority opinion
- Political opinions
- Other _____

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Minimum Lot Sizes

Indicate the minimum size you think should be required of new residential lots in the following locations:

(check the one that applies)

	1/4 acre	1/2 acre	1 acre	2 acres	5 acres	10 acres	20 acres	40 acres	Should not be permitted
Prime agricultural soils	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Open space/non-prime soils	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forested areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Areas adjacent to cities and villages	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Areas adjacent to public lands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On the shore of lakes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On the shore of rivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Second and third tier areas near lakes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Second and third tier areas near rivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments:

Education/Information

We would like to assess your educational experience concerning land use practices and development issues. We are also interested in the public's access to information and education concerning land use planning and development.

Where do you receive the information you know on development issues?
Check all that apply.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Meetings | <input type="radio"/> Books |
| <input type="radio"/> Internet | <input type="radio"/> Pamphlets/Brochures |
| <input type="radio"/> Magazine | <input type="radio"/> Academic Institution |
| <input type="radio"/> Newspaper | <input type="radio"/> A land use planner |
| <input type="radio"/> Other _____ | |

What types of programs are currently offered in your area about land use planning and development? *(check all that apply)*

- None
- UW-Extension programs
- State/Federal programs
- Online courses
- Town/County programs
- Other _____

How would you prefer to learn more about formal land use planning? *Please rank your preferences with (1) being most preferred and (7) being least preferred.*

- _____ Information booklet
- _____ State/Federal Agencies
- _____ Public speaker
- _____ Newspaper
- _____ Internet site
- _____ Course offered at local University
- _____ Other planning officials

Which of the following land use concepts and ideas are you familiar with?

am familiar <i>(check all that apply)</i>	<i>3(mark both colums)</i>	would like to know more <i>(check all that apply)</i>
<input type="radio"/>	GIS (Geographical Information Systems)	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	Smart Growth	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	EIS (Environmental Impact Statements)	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	Conservation Subdivisions	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	Farm Conservation Programs	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	Maximum Lot Size	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	Density-based Zoning	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	Comprehensive Planning	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	Transfer of Development Rights	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	Purchase of Development Rights	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	Subdivision Regulations	<input type="radio"/>

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Views on Planning

How active is your community in developing a comprehensive plan for your area, regarding future zoning issues and area growth?

- Very active
- Active
- Neutral
- Inactive
- Not pursuing a plan at all

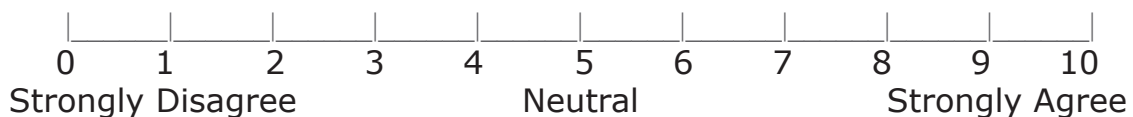
Does your municipality currently have a comprehensive plan?

- Yes
- No

When was the last comprehensive plan for your municipality/county updated?

- 1970s
- 1980s
- 1990s
- 2000s
- Never
- Do not have a comprehensive plan

Planning is necessary in your community. *Please place a dot on the scale.*



When you ran for election, how important to you were the topics of land use planning and zoning?

- Very Important
- Important
- Relevant
- A Little Important
- Not Very Important

Plan goals

From the following list, indicate (1) how important each goal is for you as an elected representative and (2) the success of your town/county in reaching that goal.

Importance					<i>(mark both columns)</i>	Success				
Highly important	Unimportant					Complete success	Complete failure			
←—————→						←—————→				
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Attracting quality jobs to the area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Promoting farming on productive lands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Protecting sensitive resources from harmful land uses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Ensuring the supply of affordable housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Directing new development to areas with existing infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Preserving open space from development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Reducing local spending to lower taxes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Increasing the amount of recreation resources in the community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Increasing cooperation between municipal and county government	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Promoting forest management on private lands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Updating land use regulations to ensure they are consistent with comprehensive plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How would you describe the impact of a comprehensive land use plan or a county master plan on the community in which you are a part of?

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If you could improve the planning process in your county, how would you do so?

Agriculture, Natural Resources, Wildlife, Recreation

We would like to get an impression on how local government officials feel about land use practices regarding agriculture, natural resources, wildlife and recreation.

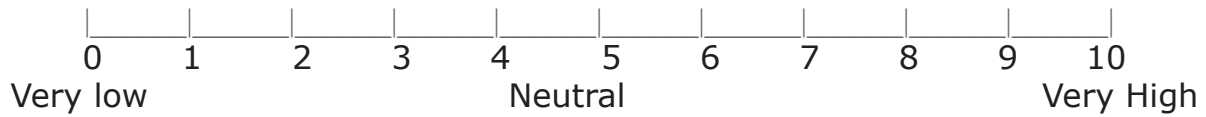
In your opinion, what are the three most important activities relating to natural resources in your area? *Check three (3).*

- Agriculture
- Cross Country/Downhill Skiing
- Camping
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Hiking/backpacking
- Forestry
- Wildlife viewing/bird watching
- Snowmobiling
- Boating (motor or paddle)
- Other _____

Are these natural resources taken into consideration when land use decisions are made?

	Always	Sometimes	Unsure	Rarely	Never
Preserving agricultural land	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preserving timber resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creating/maintaining recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water quality/wetland preservation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintaining wildlife corridors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting undeveloped land	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In general, how much does your community value its agricultural, forested land, and other natural resources in your area? *Please place a dot on the scale.*



What do you wish will happen to area natural resources over the course of the next ten years?

- Preserved with no access or use
- Preserved with limited access and use
- Full access and use
- Open to development
- Increased development
- No change

What natural area do you think has taken the biggest loss due to development?
(*Check one*)

- Agricultural lands
- Forested Areas
- Land near recreational areas
- Wildlife habitats
- Wetlands/Shorelines
- Other: _____

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Personal Data

What is your age?

- 18-30 years 31-40 years
 41-50 years 51-60 years
 61-70 years 71+ years

Gender:

- Male Female

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- High School Associate's Bachelor's
 Masters Doctorate Other _____

While growing up, did you visit wilderness areas?

- Often Sometimes
 Seldom Never

How long have you been a member of the community where you currently reside?

- 0-5 years 5-10 years
 10-20 years 20+ years

How long have you been a town, village, city, or county elected official?

____ years

Thank you for your participation!

This survey is funded in part by USDA-CSREES award No. 2005-35401-15924