

## 1.0 ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

### 1.1 CHAPTER SUMMARY

The purpose of this section is to provide basic background information for the comprehensive planning process and general demographic characteristics for the Town of Hickory Grove. More specifically this section includes information from the community survey and visioning sessions, community profile and projection data including population trends, age distribution, and population projections.

### 1.2 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICY AND PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are the Issues and Opportunities goals, objectives, policy, and program recommendations for Hickory Grove. The essence of these recommendations is reflected throughout the entire document.

1. **Protect and improve the health, safety, and welfare of residents in the Town of Hickory Grove.**
2. **Preserve and enhance the quality of life for the residents of the Town of Hickory Grove.**
3. **Protect and preserve the community character of the Town of Hickory Grove.**

Note: The above policy recommendations are further explained in other elements of this comprehensive plan. This section provides background information and overall direction. For example, the above recommendations may be carried out by implementing recommendations in other sections such as housing, economic development, and transportation.

#### Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001(2)(a)

##### **(a) Issues and Opportunities**

Background information on the local governmental unit and a statement of overall objectives, policies, goals and programs of the local governmental unit to guide the future development and redevelopment of the local governmental unit over a 20-year planning period. Background information shall include population, household and employment forecasts that the local governmental unit uses in developing its comprehensive plan, and demographic trends, age distribution, educational levels, income levels and employment characteristics that exist within the local governmental unit.

### 1.3 COMMUNITY VISION

A vision statement identifies both where a community intends to be in the future and how to meet the future needs of stakeholders: its citizens. The vision statement incorporates the community's shared understanding of its nature and purpose and uses this understanding to move together towards a greater purpose. SWWRPC, in conjunction with UWEX-Grant County, sponsored visioning sessions for each jurisdiction in the autumn of 2007. The Town Planning Commission utilized the visioning information from these sessions to create their formal vision statement:

*In 2029, the Town of Hickory Grove is comprised of a community, productive farms, and natural and cultural resources and a well maintained land use plan. It is an appealing place to live, work, and visit. It maintains farms and forests as working resources. Hickory Grove preserves and enhances open spaces, natural areas and trout streams. The Town government oversees orderly change within the town.*

**1.4 BACKGROUND AND PLANNING AREA**

Under the Comprehensive Planning legislation, adopted by the state in October of 1999, beginning on January 1 2010, if a local governmental unit engages in any of the actions listed below, those actions shall be consistent with that local governmental unit’s comprehensive plan.

- Official Mapping
- Local Subdivision Regulations
- County, Town, Village or City zoning Ordinances
- Zoning of Shorelands or Wetlands in Shorelands

Comprehensive plans are a blueprint for how a community will develop and grow. Their purpose is to provide communities with information and policies that they shall use in the future to guide planning and community decisions. The Comprehensive Plan includes nine elements: Issues and Opportunities, Utilities and Community Facilities, Agriculture/Natural/Cultural Resources, Housing, Transportation, Economic Development, Intergovernmental Cooperation, Land Use, and Implementation. In addition, the Comprehensive Planning legislation establishes fourteen planning goals to guide planning efforts. The fourteen goals, along with other planning policies and objectives created during the planning process, appear throughout each chapter in this document.

Grant County, together with thirty-six (36) jurisdictions, including the Town of Hickory Grove, applied for a Comprehensive Planning Grant through the Wisconsin Department of Administration in the fall of 2006. In the spring of 2007, the thirty-month Comprehensive Planning Grant was awarded. Grant County and the jurisdictions within it contracted with the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC) to complete individual comprehensive plans for each of the forty jurisdictions (Grant County, Cities, Towns, and Villages) in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001. The only jurisdictions in Grant County that did not participate under the multi-jurisdiction grant were the towns of Beetown, Boscobel, Castle Rock, Fennimore, Glen Haven, Marion, Millville, Mount Ida, Muscodia, Paris, Patch Grove, and Platteville, the villages of Livingston, Potosi, and Tennyson, and the cities of Fennimore and Platteville. These jurisdictions either chose to complete their comprehensive plans using other resources or had already done so. The following is a list of all of the jurisdictions participating under the grant.

Grant County	Village of Bagley Village of Bloomington Village of Blue River Village of Cassville Village of Dickeyville Village of Hazel Green Village of Montfort Village of Mount Hope Village of Muscodia Village of Patch Grove Village of Woodman	Town of Mount Hope Town of North Lancaster Town of Potosi Town of Smelsor Town of South Lancaster Town of Waterloo Town of Watterstown Town of Wingville Town of Woodman Town of Wyalusing
	Town of Bloomington Town of Cassville Town of Clifton Town of Ellenboro Town of Harrison Town of Hazel Green Town of Hickory Grove Town of Jamestown Town of Liberty Town of Lima Town of Little Grant	City of Boscobel City of Cuba City City of Lancaster



**1.4.1 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The following indicates the roles and responsibilities of each entity involved in the comprehensive planning process.

- **Southwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC)**
  - a. Provide staff services and project management for process.
  - b. Produce written plans and supplementary documents.
  - c. Plan, coordinate, and staff joint-jurisdictional meetings.
- **UW-Extension, Grant County**
  - a. Assist in developing and coordinating public participation plan, press releases, survey, visioning and education processes.
- **Grant County Zoning and Land Use Department**
  - a. Provide information, direction, and feedback to SWWRPC on process and plan development.
- **Town, Village, and City Planning Commissions**
  - a. Provide feedback and direction to SWWRPC in developing plan policies, information, and implementation measures.
  - b. Hold meetings to discuss comprehensive planning issues.
  - c. Develop comprehensive plan and recommend it to the governing body for adoption.
  - d. Represent the jurisdiction at joint-jurisdictional planning meetings.
- **County Zoning and Land Use Committee**
  - a. Provide feedback and direction to SWWRPC in developing the plan information, policies, and implementation measures.
  - b. Hold meetings to discuss comprehensive planning issues.
  - c. Develop comprehensive plan and recommend it to the governing body for adoption.
  - d. Represent the jurisdiction at joint-jurisdictional planning meetings.
- **Town, Village, City, and County Boards**
  - a. Appoint plan commission members.
  - b. Provide funds for the process.
  - c. Provide notice for and hold local meetings and hearings for the adoption of the plan and implementation measures via ordinance.

**1.5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

As part of the Comprehensive Planning legislation, every community must develop a public participation plan at the beginning of the planning process. The Town of Hickory Grove Planning Commission has developed guidelines for involving the public as part of the requirements of the Comprehensive Planning Process (Section 66.1001(4)(a), Stats.). The goal of a public participation plan is to promote awareness of the planning process, to keep the public informed and educated, and to obtain input and participation from the public in order to create a plan, which reflects the vision and goals of the community.

Southwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC) and UW-Extension were involved in a variety of outreach activities throughout the planning process. SWWRPC conducted informational meetings on each of the elements throughout the planning process. The variety of outreach methods either SWWRPC or UW-Extension used to publish the dates, times, and locations of informational meetings are listed below under the appropriate organization.

<b>SWWRPC</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey</li> </ul>
<b>UW-Extension</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UW- Extension Newsletter</li> <li>• UW-Extension Webpage</li> <li>• Press releases to appropriate news mediums for SWWRPC sponsored meetings.</li> </ul>

The Planning Committee will use the following methods as ways for public participation throughout the planning process:

1. *Post agendas and meeting minutes in the Fennimore Times and Boscobel Dial one week prior to meeting.*
2. *Post agendas and meeting minutes at 3 designated posting locations one week prior to meeting.*

Both community planning meetings and SWWRPC facilitated meetings served as the methods for public participation throughout the entire Town of Hickory Grove Comprehensive Planning Process. Methods of public participation used to notify the primary audiences are listed above along with any other community members including property owners and persons with a vested or leasehold interest in property allowing the extraction of nonmetallic mineral resources in which the intensity or use of the property may be changed by the comprehensive plan. The success of the public participation plan is measured by the extent to which progress has been made towards the achievement of this plan's goals.

During the implementation phase of the project, the Planning Commission adopts, by majority vote, a resolution that formally recommends the adoption of the comprehensive plan (and any future plan amendments) to the Town Board. CD copies of the recommended and adopted plan will be sent to the clerks of the towns of Watterstown, Castle Rock, Marion, Fennimore and Grant County. (Section 66.1001(4)(b), Stats.) In addition, a CD and a paper copy of the plan will be sent to the Wisconsin Department of Administration and to the Public Library serving the jurisdiction. Paper copies will also go to the Planning Commission, Town Board, and Town Clerk.

In order to comply with Act 307 regarding nonmetallic mining, the Town of Hickory Grove will also send a copy of the plan, per a written request, to any operator who has applied for or obtained a nonmetallic reclamation permit; a person who has registered a marketable nonmetallic mineral deposit; and any other property owner or leaseholder who has an interest in property allowing the extraction of nonmetallic mineral resources.

Prior to adopting the plan, the Town of Hickory Grove Board will hold at least one public hearing to discuss the recommended plan (Section 66.1001(4)(d), Stats.) and provide an opportunity for written comments by the public and respond to such comments through review and discussion at a Town Board meeting. At least 30 days prior to the hearing, a Class 1 notice will be published that contains, at a minimum, the following:

- The date, time and location of the hearing
- A summary of the proposed plan or plan amendment
- The local government staff that can be contacted for additional information
- Where to inspect and how to obtain a copy of the proposal before the hearing

The Town Board, by a majority vote, shall enact the ordinance adopting the recommended plan (Section 66.1001(4)(c), Stats.). The adopted plan and ordinance shall be distributed to the aforementioned parties in Section 66.1001(4)(b), Stats. The plan shall contain all nine elements identified in Section 66.1001(2), Stats. If the Town Board asks the Planning Commission to revise the recommended plan, it is not mandatory that these revisions be sent to the distribution list. However, in the spirit of public participation and intergovernmental cooperation, revisions constituting a substantial change to the recommended plan may be sent to the distribution list.

## **1.6 COMMUNITY SURVEY**

In the fall of 2007, the staff from SWWRPC distributed a countywide survey to all property owners in Grant County. The purpose of the survey was to provide participating planning commissions with community feedback regarding key elements in the comprehensive plan. A total of 16,491 surveys were sent to property owners in Grant County. The University of Wisconsin River Falls (UWRF) Survey Research Center was responsible for tabulating and analyzing the survey responses. (See Issues and Opportunities Chapter Attachments for your jurisdiction's survey results.)

### 1.7 COMMUNITY PROFILE AND PROJECTION

The following displays the population statistics and projections that were prepared as part of the requirements of the Comprehensive Planning legislation. Other demographic data and statistics, such as employment characteristics, are in their corresponding chapters.

Table 1.1 Population Statistics (Source: DP-1,DP-2. 2000 U.S. Census)

Population	Town of Hickory Grove Number	Town of Hickory Grove Percent	Grant County Number	Grant County Percent	Wisconsin Number	Wisconsin Percent
Total Population (1970)	444	100.0%	48,398	100.0%	4,417,933	100.0%
Total Population (1980)	423	100.0%	51,736	100.0%	4,705,767	100.0%
Total Population (1990)	409	100.0%	49,264	100.0%	4,891,769	100.0%
Total Population (2000)	443	100.0%	49,597	100.0%	5,363,675	100.0%
<b>SEX AND AGE (2000)</b>						
Male	239	54.0%	25,164	50.7%	2,649,041	49.4
Female	204	46.0%	24,433	49.3%	2,714,634	50.6
Under 10 years	66	14.9%	5,738	11.6%	721,824	13.5%
10 to 19 years	93	21.0%	8,490	17.1%	810,269	15.1%
20 to 34 years	63	14.2%	9,995	20.2%	1,063,460	19.8%
35 to 44 years	71	16.0%	7,096	14.3%	875,522	16.3%
45 to 59 years	101	22.8%	8,533	17.2%	985,048	18.4%
60 to 74 years	37	8.3%	5,918	12.0%	560,306	10.4%
75+ years	12	2.7%	3,827	7.7%	347,246	6.5%
		100%		100%		100%
<b>Median Age (2000)</b>	<b>34.9</b>		<b>35.9</b>		<b>36.0</b>	

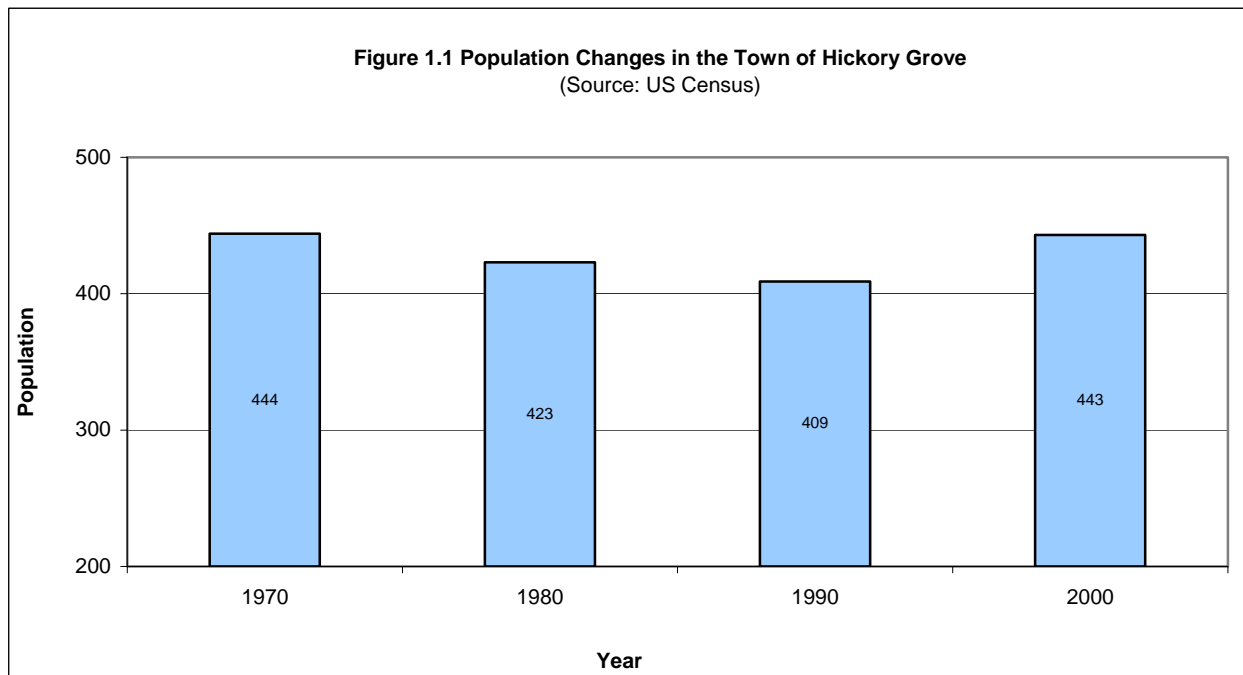


Figure 1.1 shows that the Town of Hickory Grove experienced an overall population decrease from 1970 to 2000 of 0.2%.

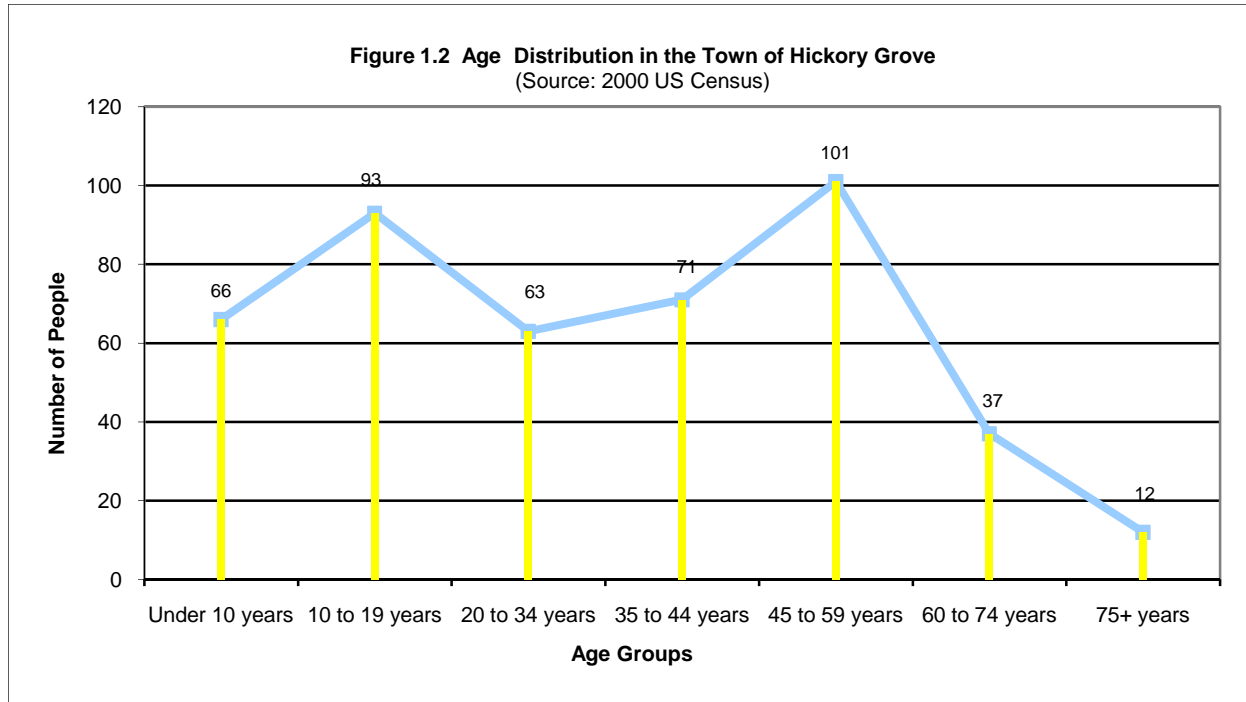


Figure 1.2 shows the population of the Town of Hickory Grove by age distribution for the year 2000. The largest group is ages 45 to 59 (101 people) making up 22.8 % of the population. The second largest age group of 10 to 19 contains 21.0% of the population with 93 people. The town’s median age is 34.9.

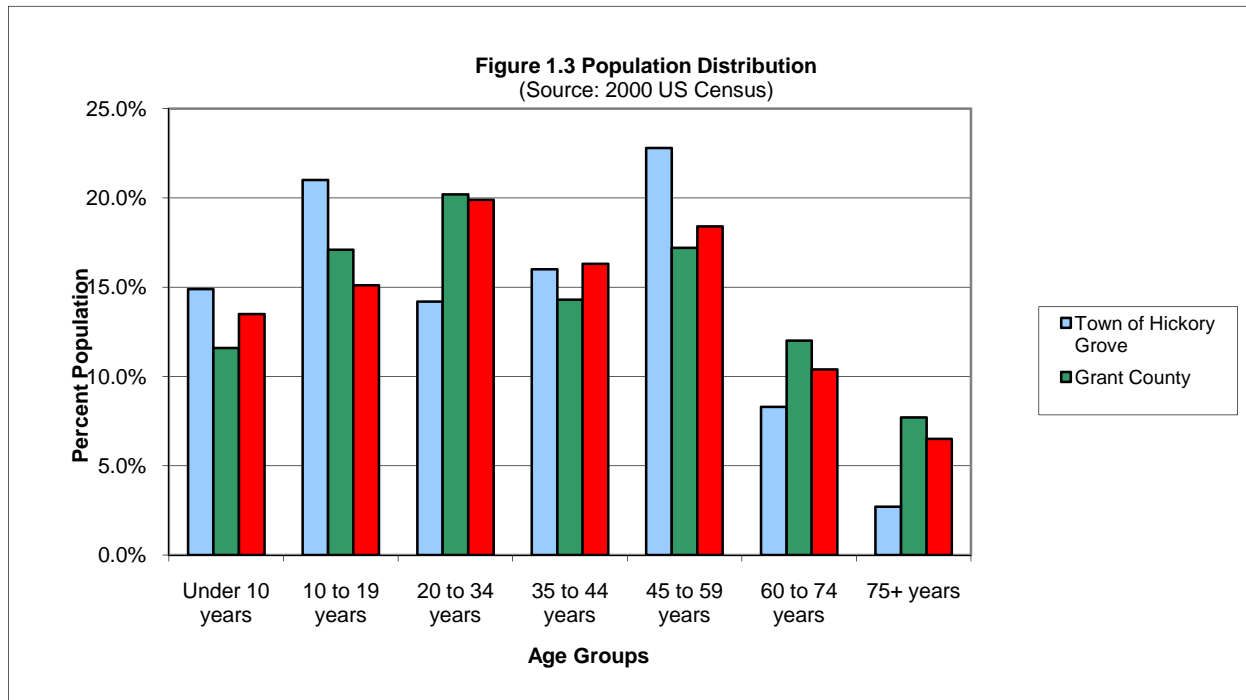


Figure 1.3 compares the population percentage by age group for the Town of Hickory Grove, Grant County, and the State of Wisconsin.

Table 1.2 Population Projections (Source: 2007 SWWRPC)

Age Group	2010 Low	2010 High	2020 Low	2020 High	2030 Low	2030 High
Less than 10	49	54	43	54	47	64
10 to 19 Years	87	97	65	81	57	79
20 to 34 Years	78	87	78	96	70	95
35 to 44 Years	38	42	55	68	52	71
45 to 59 Years	106	118	65	81	62	85
60 to 74 Years	53	60	80	99	60	81
75+ Years	20	22	32	39	57	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>553</b>

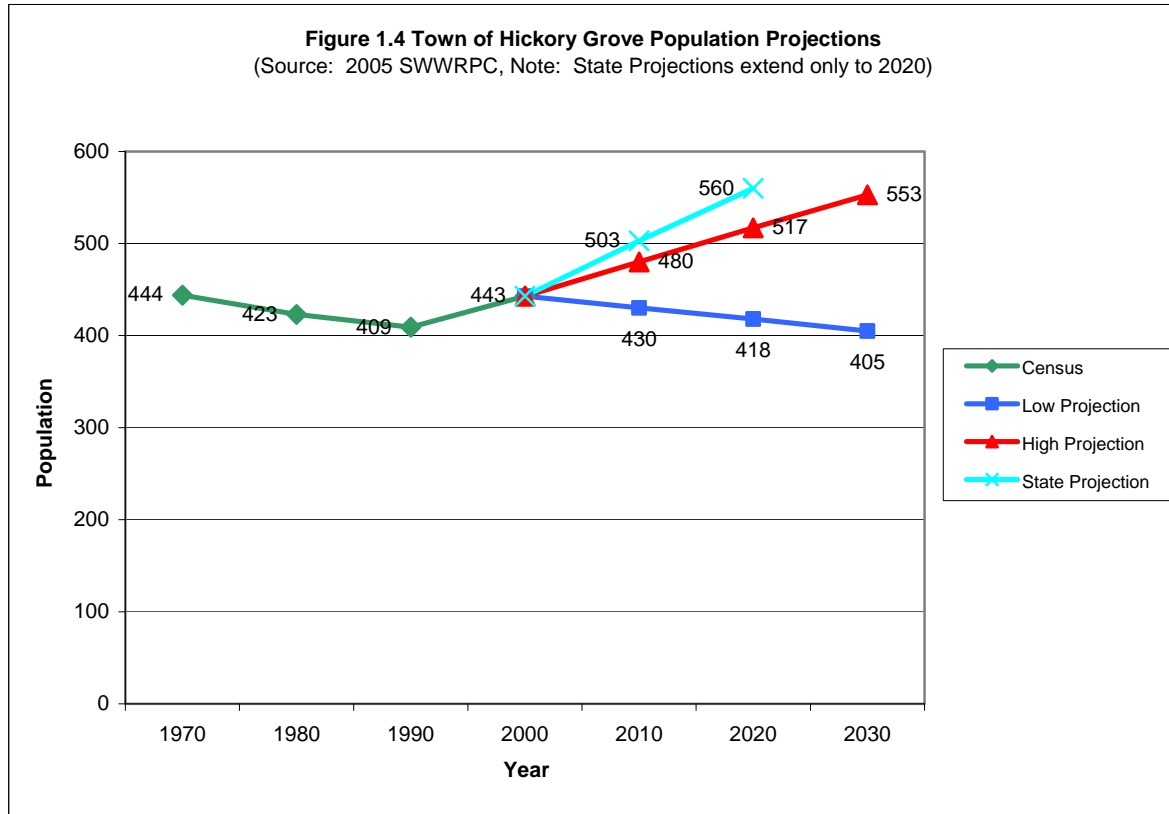


Figure 1.4 shows the projected populations for the years 2010, 2020, and 2030. The red line indicates a future high projection, while the blue line indicates a future low projection. The State projection trends higher than the SWWRPC high projection.

Table 1.3 Educational Attainments (Source: DP-1,DP-2. 2000 US Census)

Educational Attainment	Town of Hickory Grove Number	Town of Hickory Grove Percent	Grant County Number	Grant County Percent	Wisconsin Percent
Less than 9th Grade	36	14.6%	2,346	7.7%	5.4%
9th to 12th No Diploma	19	7.7%	2,713	8.9%	9.6%
HS Grad	97	39.4%	12,255	40.0%	34.6%
Some College	39	15.9%	5,828	19.0%	20.6%
Associate Degree	35	14.2%	2,230	7.3%	7.5%
Bachelor's Degree	13	5.3%	3,332	10.9%	15.3%
Graduate/Prof. Degree	7	2.8%	1,921	6.3%	7.2%
Percent High School Grad or Higher	77.6%		83.5%		85.1%

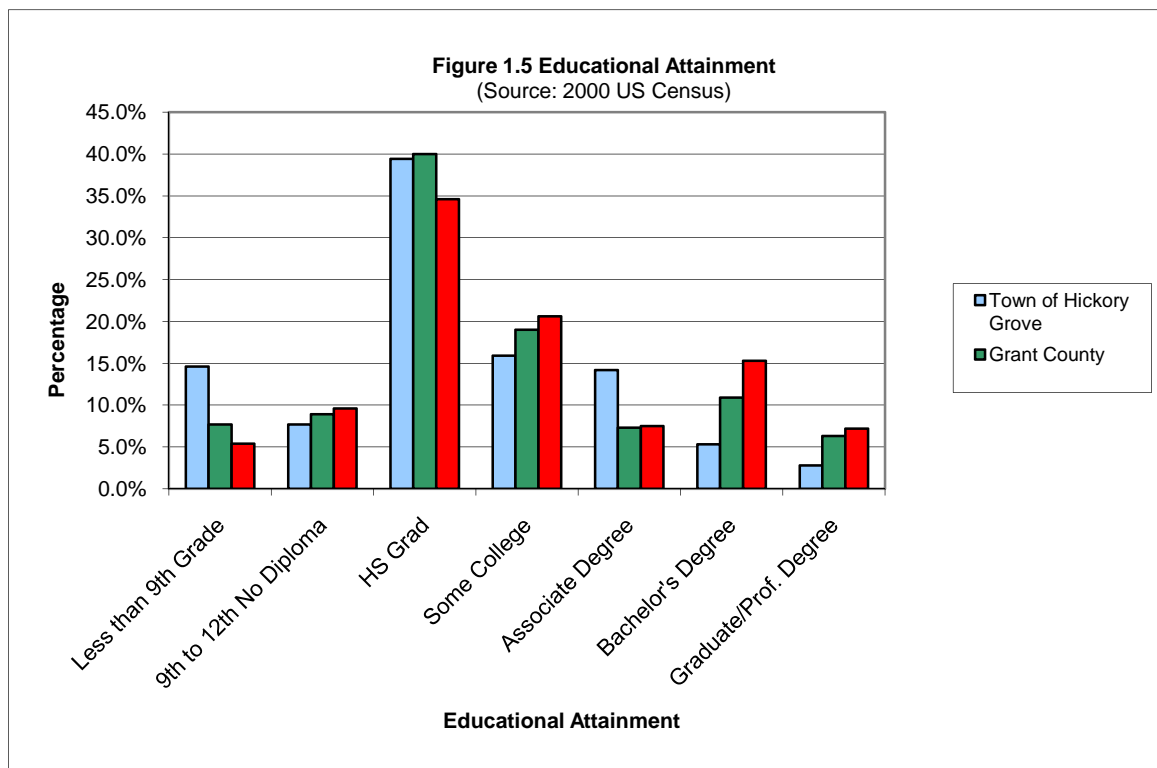


Table 1.4 Occupations (Source: DP-1,DP-2. 2000 US Census)

Occupations	Town of Hickory Grove Number	Town of Hickory Grove Percent	Grant County Number	Grant County Percent	Wisconsin Number	Wisconsin Percent
Prod, Trans & Mat. Moving	32	15.4%	4,981	19.9%	540,930	19.8%
Const, Extraction & Maint.	29	13.9%	2,294	9.1%	237,086	8.7%
Farm, Fishing & Forestry	13	6.3%	753	3.0%	25,725	0.9%
Sales & Office	39	18.8%	5,524	22.0%	690,360	25.2%
Services	20	9.6%	4,025	16.0%	383,619	14.0%
Mgmt, Prof & Related	75	36.1%	7,511	29.9%	857,205	31.3%
Total	208	100%	25,088	100%	2,734,925	100%

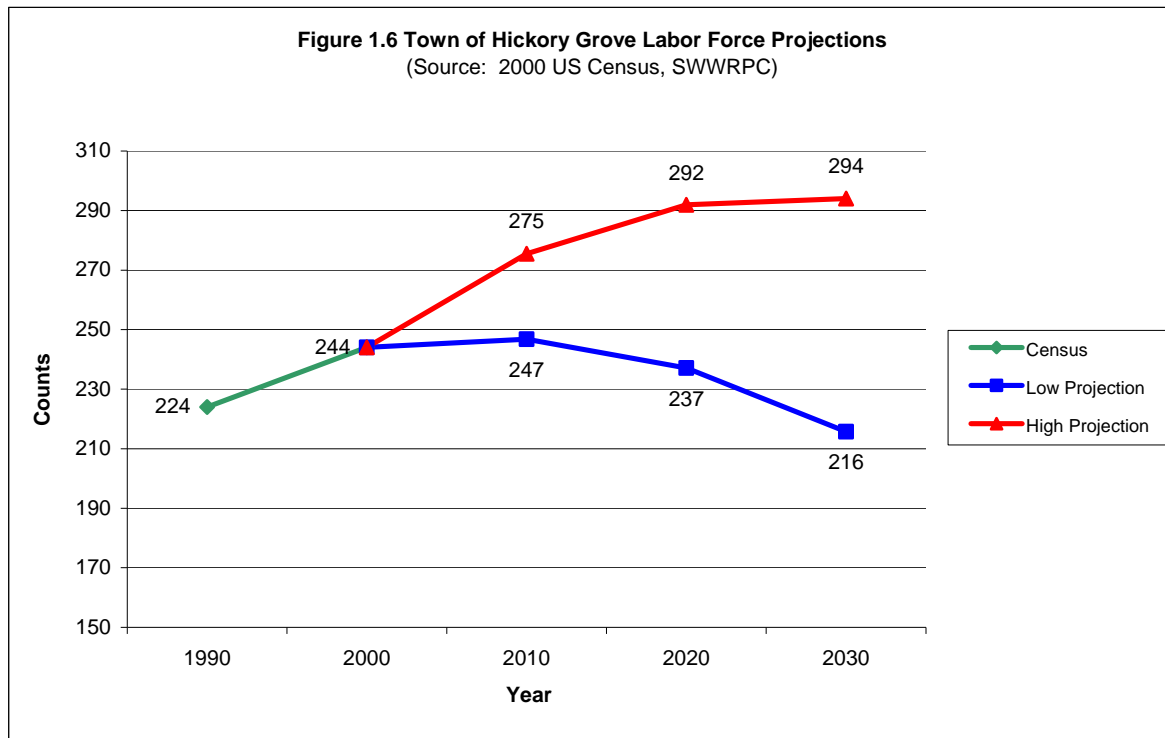


Figure 1.6 shows the projected labor force populations for the years 2010, 2020, and 2030. The red line indicates a high projection, while the blue line indicates the low projection. Labor data was not available for 1980 or 1970.

### 1.8 ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS

At the end of each chapter of this comprehensive plan is a section that lists some of the state and federal agencies and programs that exist to help communities: it is not an exhaustive list. Many of these agencies and programs (a brief program description and contact information is given) can provide expertise or funding to help implement some of the recommendations of this comprehensive plan. Your community should contact the agency of interest to obtain the most up-to-date information. Grants.gov (see below) is one source that could be used to accrue funding for all types of projects.

#### GRANTS.GOV ([www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov))

Grants.gov allows organizations to electronically find and apply for competitive grant opportunities from all Federal grant-making agencies. Grants.gov is the single access point for over 900 grant programs offered by the 26 Federal grant-making agencies. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is the managing partner for Grants.gov.

**ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES  
CHAPTER ATTACHMENTS**

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## Town of Hickory Grove

During September and October of 2007 a total of 214 questionnaires were sent to households in the Town of Hickory Grove. A total of 43 questionnaires were returned for a return rate of 20 percent. This number of returned surveys will provide estimates that are expected to be accurate to within plus or minus 13 percent.

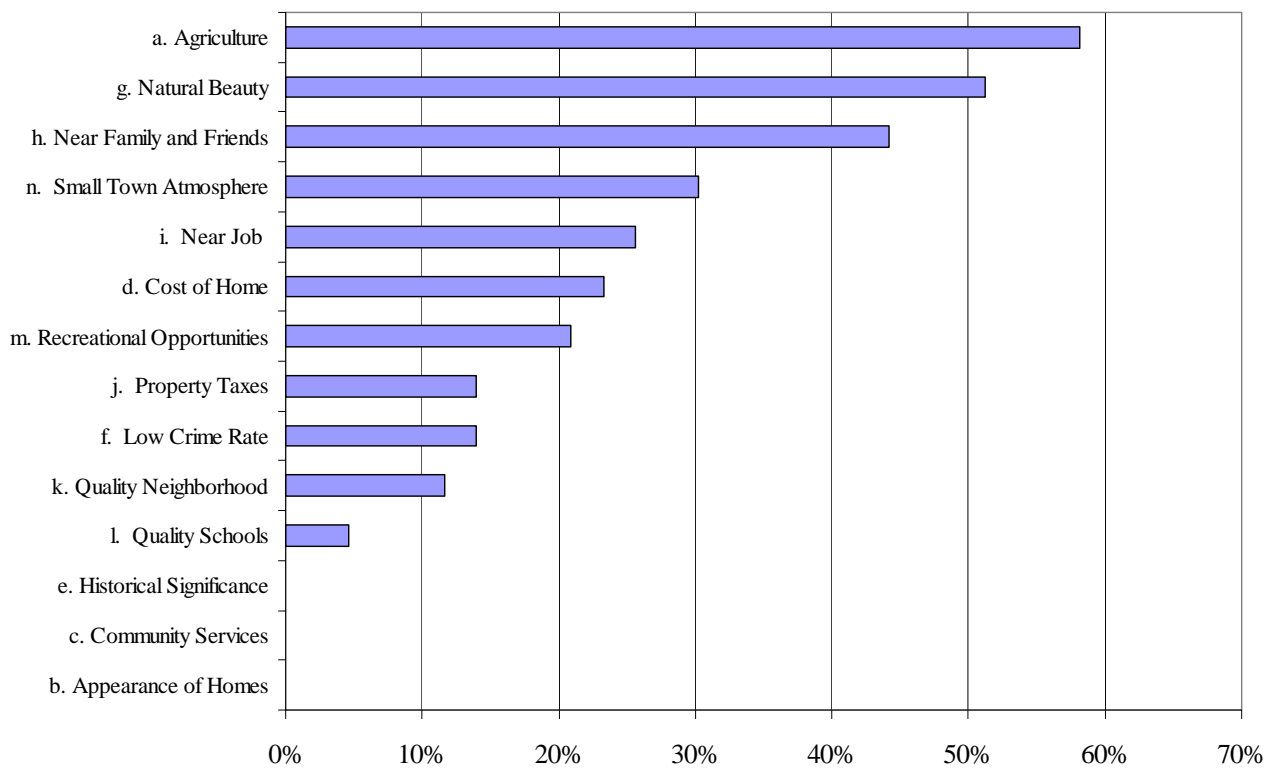
Key results of this survey include:

- Agriculture and natural beauty are the top reasons Town of Hickory Grove residents choose to live in Grant County. The importance of agriculture to residents of the Town of Hickory Grove comes through in several portions of the survey (importance of ag businesses, preservation of farmland for ag, etc.).
- Substantial majorities of residents feel that fire protection, ambulance service, snow removal, street and road maintenance, public library, police protection, recycling programs, park and recreation facilities, and the public school system are “excellent” or “good”.
- All Town of Hickory Grove residents regard the protection of groundwater as “very important” or “important”.
- A majority of Town of Hickory Grove residents think the Town should focus on improving existing housing quality.
- Residents of the Town of Hickory Grove, overwhelmingly favor a cluster design (smaller lots with more shared open space) to the traditional design (larger lots with no or little shared open space) for housing developments.
- A majority of Town of Hickory Grove residents do not agree that landowners should be allowed to develop land any way they want.
- Town of Hickory Grove residents favor a minimum lot size for rural housing of ten acres or less, with most of those choosing a minimum lot size of one to five acres.
- Most residents own 11 acres or more of land in Grant County.
- Residents of the Town of Hickory Grove feel strongly that productive agricultural land should be allowed to be used for agricultural use (100 percent “strongly agree” or “agree”).
- A large majority of residents of the Town of Hickory Grove feel that the overall road network meets their needs and that the condition of local roads and streets is adequate for intended uses.
- Residents of the Town of Hickory Grove prefer to receive information about comprehensive planning via direct mailings.
- All residents in the Town of Hickory Grove either “strongly agree” or “agree” that Grant County jurisdictions should pursue wind energy as a form of economic development.
- All residents in the Town of Hickory Grove view agricultural related businesses as either “very important” or “important” to Grant County.

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – QUALITY OF LIFE**

- *Agriculture (58%) and natural beauty (51%) are the top reasons Town of Hickory Grove residents choose to live in Grant County.*
- *Being near family and friends was the third highest reason at 44 percent.*
- *There is a substantial drop to the second tier of reasons why residents choose to live in Grant County. Behind the top group are the small town atmosphere (30 percent), being near their job (26 percent), the cost of homes (23%) and recreational opportunities (21%).*
- *No residents chose the appearance of homes, community services, or historical significance among their top three reasons they choose to live in Grant County.*

Quality of Life Factors



**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – QUALITY OF LIFE (COUNTY COMPARISON)**

- *Compared to Grant County as a whole, Town of Hickory Grove residents’ quality of life is more affected by agriculture and natural beauty but less influenced by the small town atmosphere and being near their job.*

**1. What are the three most important reasons you and your family choose to live in Grant County?**

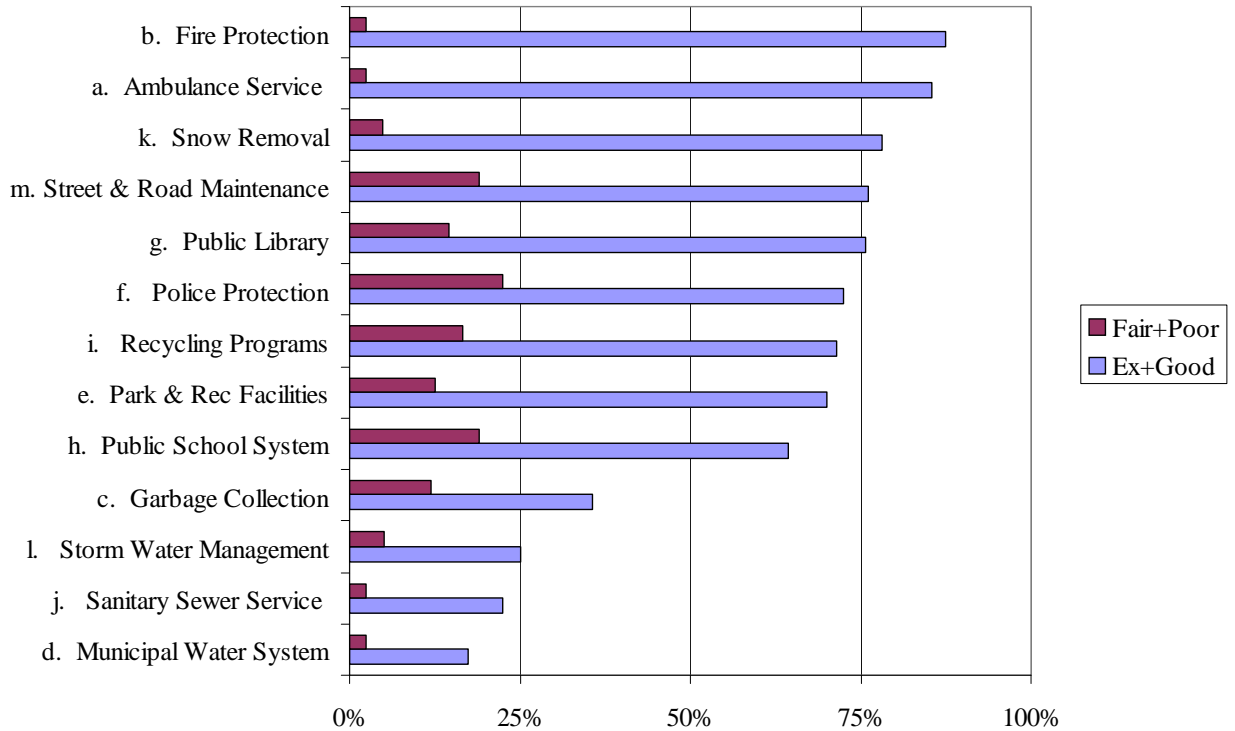
	Hickory Grove	County		Hickory Grove	County
<b>a. Agriculture</b>	58%	17%	<b>i. Near Job</b>	26%	40%
<b>b. Appearance of Homes</b>	0%	2%	<b>j. Property Taxes</b>	14%	6%
<b>c. Community Services</b>	0%	3%	<b>k. Quality Neighborhood</b>	12%	10%
<b>d. Cost of Home</b>	23%	17%	<b>l. Quality Schools</b>	5%	18%
<b>e. Historical Significance</b>	0%	2%	<b>m. Recreational Opportunities</b>	21%	9%
<b>f. Low Crime Rate</b>	14%	20%	<b>n. Small Town Atmosphere</b>	30%	58%
<b>g. Natural Beauty</b>	51%	24%	<b>o. Other</b>	2%	5%
<b>h. Near Family and Friends</b>	44%	56%			

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

Residents of the Town of Hickory Grove generally give high ratings to their community facilities and services.

- Substantial majorities of residents feel that fire protection, ambulance service, snow removal, street and road maintenance, public library, police protection, recycling programs, park and recreation facilities, and the public school system are “excellent” or “good”.
- Storm water management, sanitary sewer service, and the municipal water system, which are presumably not relevant to the Town, received one-fourth or less “excellent” or “good” ratings.

Rating Community Facilities and Services



**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES (COUNTY COMPARISON)**

- In comparison to the overall County ratings for community facilities and services, Town of Hickory Grove residents rate street and road maintenance higher than the County average.
- They are noticeably less satisfied with the public school system; a substantially lower proportion of Town residents said it is excellent.

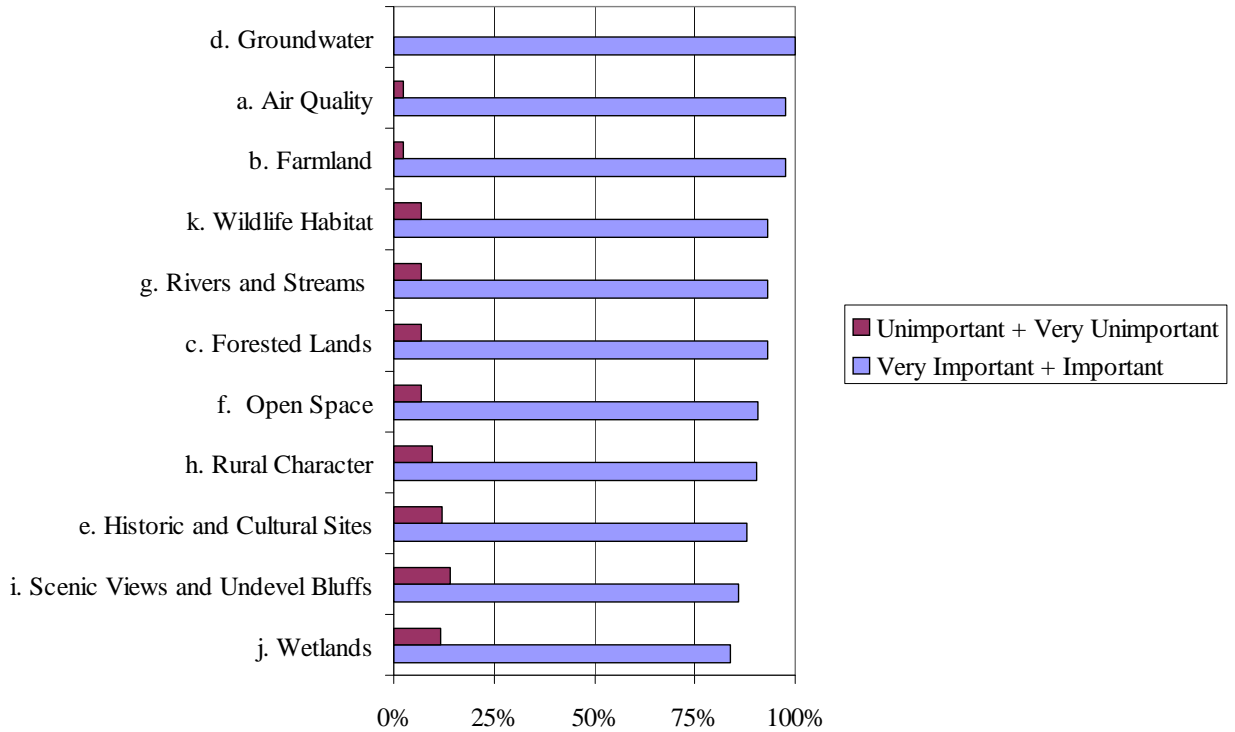
**2. Rate the following local services:**

	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Not Applicable	
	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
<b>a. Ambulance Service</b>	54%	54%	32%	35%	2%	6%	0%	0%	12%	5%
<b>b. Fire Protection</b>	55%	54%	33%	39%	3%	4%	0%	0%	10%	3%
<b>c. Garbage Collection</b>	12%	39%	24%	39%	7%	9%	5%	2%	52%	11%
<b>d. Municipal Water System</b>	5%	23%	13%	38%	3%	10%	0%	2%	80%	26%
<b>e. Park &amp; Rec Facilities</b>	18%	30%	53%	47%	13%	13%	0%	2%	18%	7%
<b>f. Police Protection</b>	13%	27%	60%	45%	18%	20%	5%	4%	5%	4%
<b>g. Public Library</b>	20%	33%	56%	46%	15%	11%	0%	2%	10%	8%
<b>h. Public School System</b>	10%	30%	55%	49%	19%	13%	0%	2%	17%	6%
<b>i. Recycling Programs</b>	19%	31%	52%	51%	17%	12%	0%	2%	12%	3%
<b>j. Sanitary Sewer Service</b>	10%	25%	13%	42%	3%	8%	0%	1%	75%	24%
<b>k. Snow Removal</b>	32%	27%	46%	47%	5%	17%	0%	2%	17%	7%
<b>l. Storm Water Management</b>	5%	16%	20%	43%	3%	16%	3%	3%	70%	22%
<b>m. Street &amp; Road Maintenance</b>	21%	16%	55%	46%	17%	28%	2%	8%	5%	2%

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

- The combined responses in the “very important” and “important” categories exceed 84 percent for all resources listed.
- Town of Hickory Grove residents have unanimity (100 percent) regarding the importance placed on protecting groundwater.

Importance of Protecting Natural & Cultural Resources



**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES (COUNTY COMPARISON)**

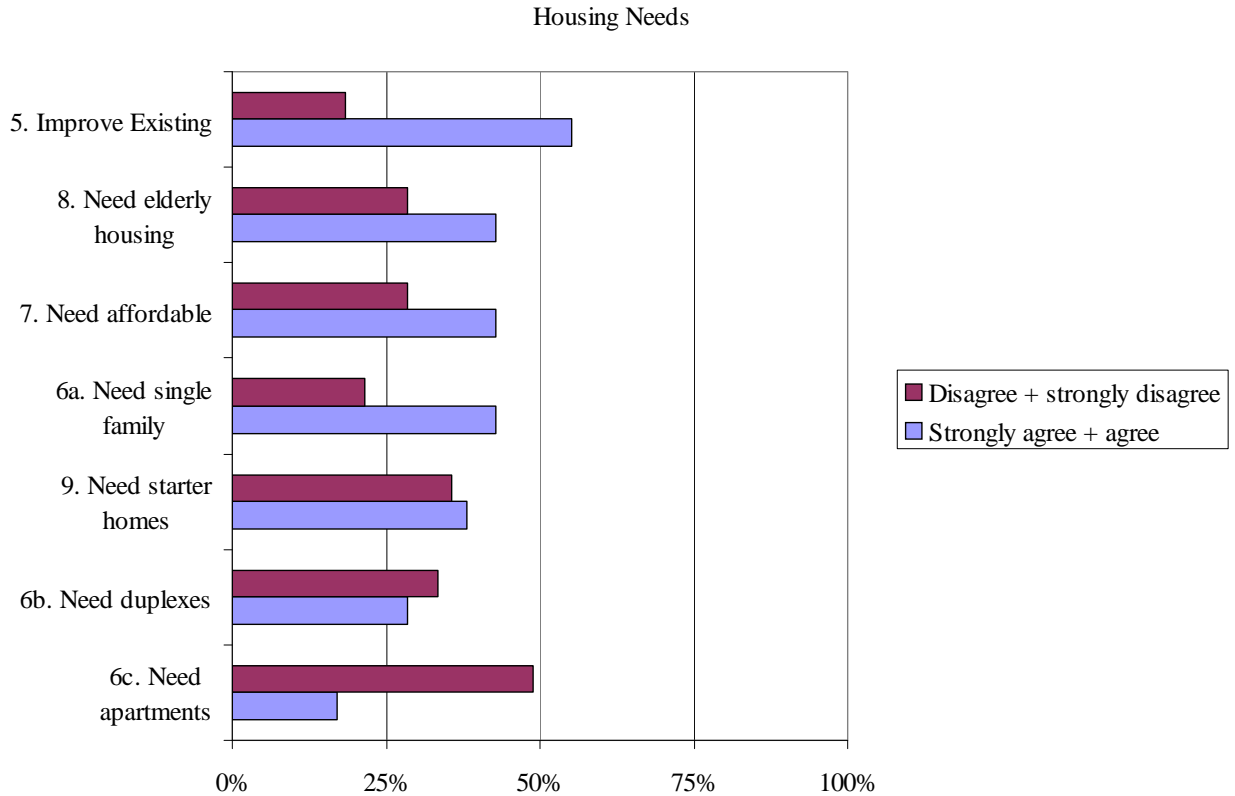
- Similar proportions of residents of the County and of the Town of Hickory Grove said that protection of natural and cultural resources is important or very important. However, for virtually all of the items listed in the following table, substantially higher proportions of Town residents said protection is very important. This suggests that preserving natural and cultural resources is a higher priority for Town residents.

**4. It is important to protect the following:**

	Very Important		Important		Unimportant		Very Unimportant		Not Applicable	
	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
<b>a. Air Quality</b>	77%	68%	21%	29%	2%	2%	0%	1%	0%	1%
<b>b. Farmland</b>	86%	59%	12%	37%	2%	3%	0%	1%	0%	1%
<b>c. Forested Lands</b>	67%	54%	26%	40%	7%	3%	0%	1%	0%	2%
<b>d. Groundwater</b>	77%	73%	23%	25%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>e. Historic and Cultural Sites</b>	26%	27%	62%	57%	10%	13%	2%	1%	0%	2%
<b>f. Open Space</b>	47%	34%	44%	53%	5%	10%	2%	1%	2%	2%
<b>g. Rivers and Streams</b>	77%	64%	16%	34%	7%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>h. Rural Character</b>	57%	39%	33%	47%	7%	12%	2%	1%	0%	2%
<b>i. Scenic Views &amp; Undeveloped Bluffs</b>	63%	46%	23%	42%	12%	9%	2%	2%	0%	1%
<b>j. Wetlands</b>	49%	40%	35%	41%	12%	12%	0%	2%	5%	4%
<b>k. Wildlife Habitat</b>	58%	47%	35%	43%	5%	7%	2%	1%	0%	2%

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – HOUSING**

- The following figure suggests a great deal of ambivalence about additional housing units in the Town of Hickory Grove given the relatively low proportion who agree that additional units are needed and the relatively high proportion who disagree.
- It appears that a majority of Town of Hickory Grove residents think the Town should focus on improving existing housing quality.
- Many believe that there is a need for single family housing, affordable housing, and elderly housing.
- At least one-fourth of residents stated “no opinion” to each of the housing questions asked on the questionnaire.



**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – HOUSING (COUNTY COMPARISON)**

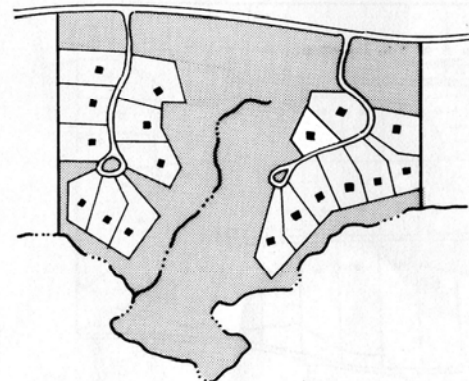
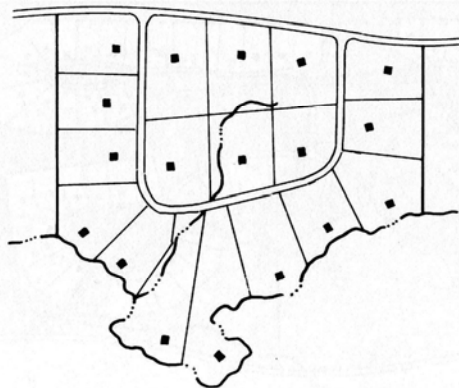
- Relative to the County, residents in the Town of Hickory Grove are generally less enthusiastic about focusing on the improvement of existing housing or the need for more units of the types of housing listed.
- Like the County, Town of Hickory Grove resident’s highest combined ratings of “strongly agree” and “agree” was for improving existing housing quality.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
<b>5. Improve existing housing quality.</b>	8%	24%	47%	44%	11%	16%	8%	3%	26%	13%
<b>6. Need following housing types:</b>										
<b>a. Single Family Housing</b>	14%	19%	29%	40%	12%	15%	10%	5%	36%	21%
<b>b. Duplexes (2 units)</b>	2%	8%	26%	33%	19%	25%	14%	9%	38%	25%
<b>c. Apartments (3 or more units)</b>	2%	7%	15%	24%	29%	31%	20%	12%	34%	26%
<b>7. Need affordable housing</b>	7%	31%	36%	36%	12%	14%	17%	6%	29%	13%
<b>8. Need elderly housing</b>	7%	20%	36%	43%	19%	19%	10%	4%	29%	14%
<b>9. Need starter homes</b>	7%	19%	31%	37%	26%	23%	10%	4%	26%	16%

As with the County, Residents of the Town of Hickory Grove, overwhelmingly favor housing built in a cluster design (smaller lots with more shared open space) over the more traditional design (larger lots with no or little shared open space).

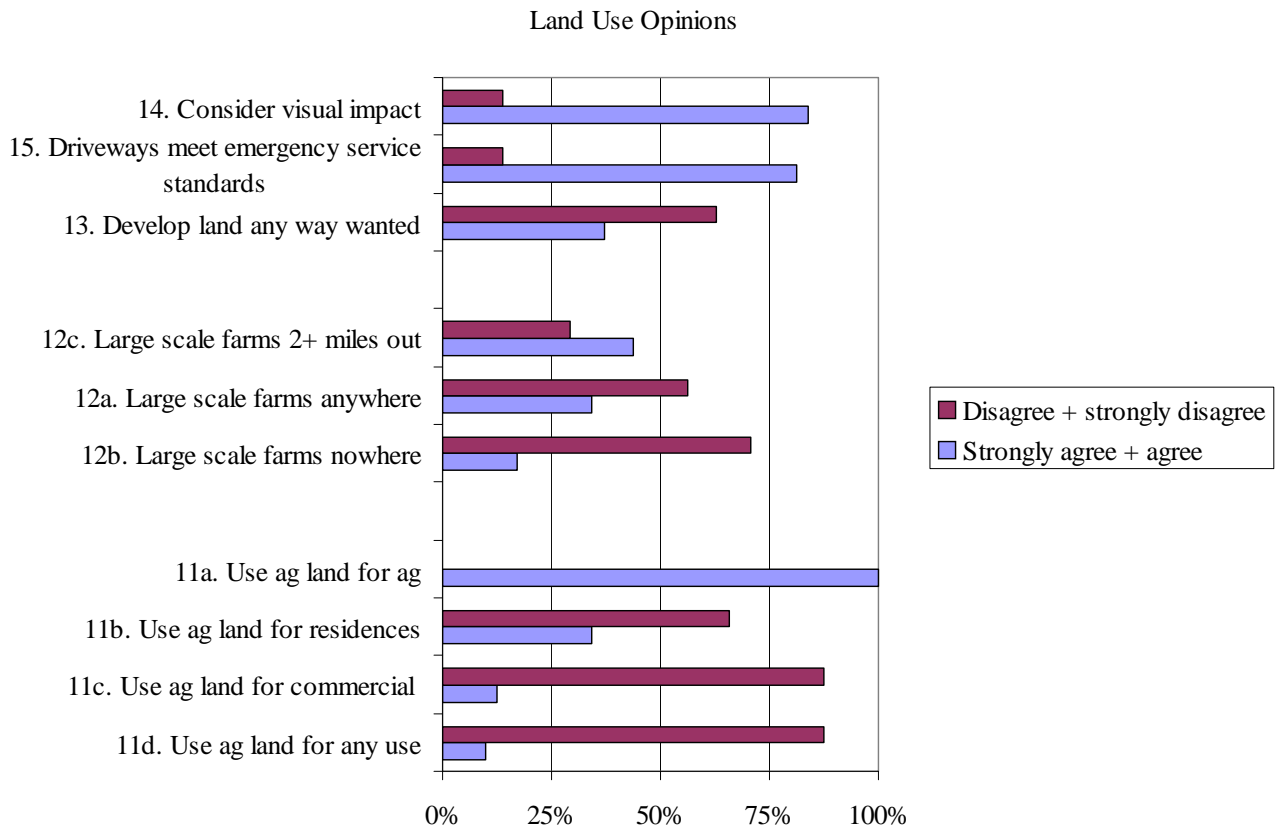
**10. Would you prefer housing built in a traditional design (Option A) or a cluster design (Option B)?**

OPTION A Traditional Design		OPTION B Cluster Design	
Hickory Grove	County	Hickory Grove	County
37%	39%	63%	61%

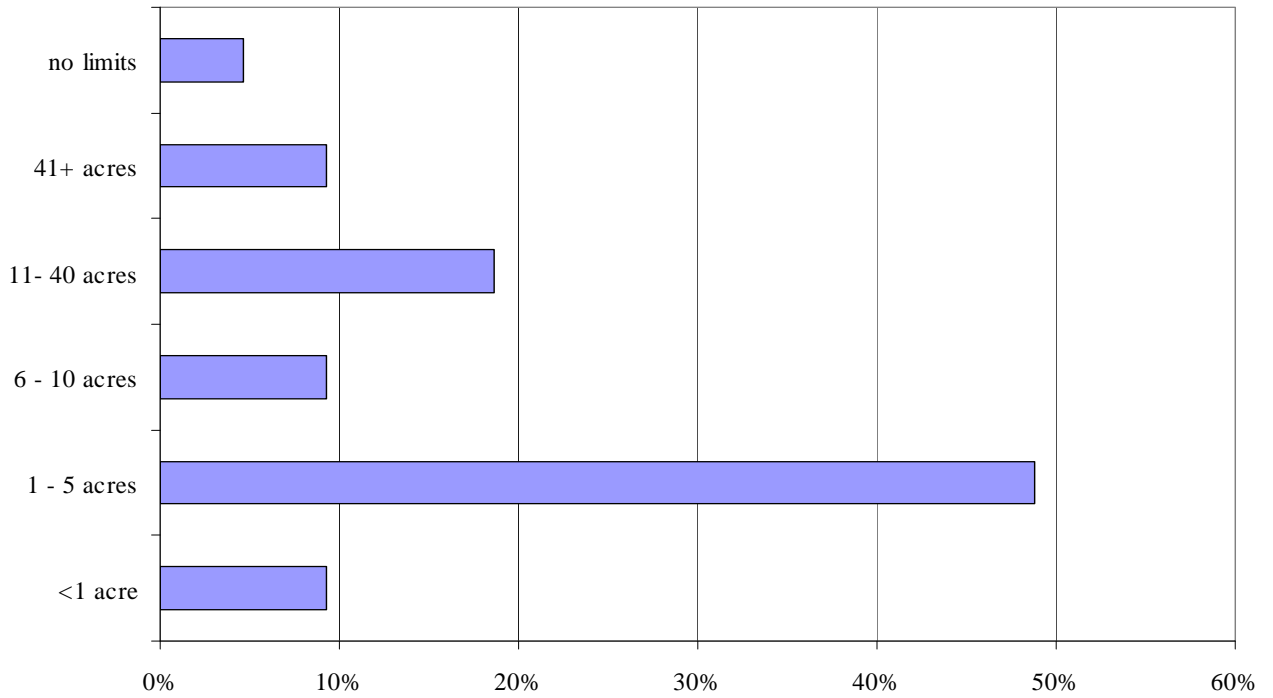


**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE**

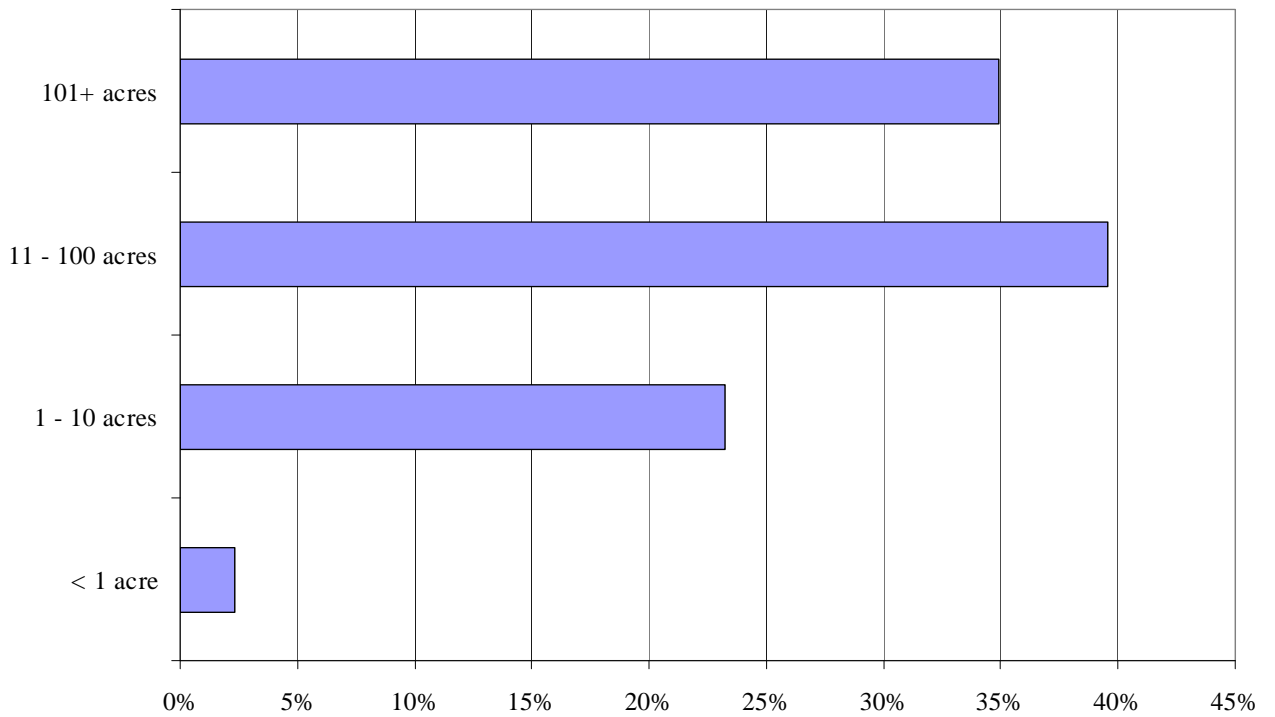
- A majority of Town of Hickory Grove residents do not feel landowners should be able to develop their land any way they want.
- Very solid majorities feel that the visual impact of developments should be considered and that all driveways should meet emergency service standards.
- Surprisingly, none of the options for expanding large scale farms were deemed acceptable by a majority of Town respondents.
- Residents of the Town of Hickory Grove feel strongly that productive agricultural land should be used for agricultural use (100 percent “strongly agree” or “agree”).
- Town of Hickory Grove residents favor a minimum lot size for rural housing, with most of those choosing a minimum lot size of one to five acres.
- As the graph shows on the following page, most residents own 11 acres or more of land in Grant County.



Preferred Minimum Lot Size



Acres Owned in Grant County



**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE (COUNTY COMPARISON)**

- Residents of the Town of Hickory Grove are less enthusiastic about allowing large scale farms to expand outside a 2 mile radius of incorporated areas than the County average.
- Town residents are more likely to “strongly agree” that there should be a minimum lot size on residential development in rural areas than do County residents as a whole.
- There are more large land holders in the Town of Hickory Grove (11 acres or more) and fewer small land holders (less than 1 acre) than the County average.
- There are more residents that actively farm their land than the County average. For those residents that own farmland, a higher proportion believes their land will continue to be actively farmed in the future.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
<b>11a. Use ag land for ag</b>	91%	76%	9%	21%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%
<b>11b. Use ag land for residences</b>	10%	4%	24%	28%	24%	44%	41%	17%	0%	7%
<b>11c. Use ag land for commercial</b>	3%	3%	10%	19%	40%	45%	48%	26%	0%	7%
<b>11d. Use ag land for any use</b>	3%	4%	8%	8%	30%	40%	58%	36%	3%	12%
<b>12. Expand lg farms (500+ an. units):</b>										
<b>a. Anywhere in Grant County</b>	12%	9%	22%	17%	29%	42%	27%	23%	10%	8%
<b>b. Nowhere in Grant County</b>	5%	12%	12%	14%	39%	44%	32%	19%	12%	12%
<b>c. 2 miles outside inc areas</b>	20%	23%	24%	39%	15%	17%	15%	9%	27%	12%
<b>13. Develop land any way wanted</b>	12%	11%	26%	17%	44%	52%	19%	18%	0%	2%
<b>14. Consider visual impacts of devel</b>	26%	28%	58%	57%	9%	9%	5%	2%	2%	5%
<b>15. Driveways meet EMS standards</b>	35%	38%	47%	52%	12%	6%	2%	0%	5%	4%

**16. There should be a minimum lot size on residential development in rural areas.**

Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
45%	24%	36%	48%	12%	16%	0%	5%	7%	8%

**17. In your opinion, what should the minimum lot size be for rural residential development?**

Less than 1 acre		1 to 5 acres		6 to 10 acres		11 to 40 acres		41 or more acres		No Limitation	
H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
9%	19%	49%	49%	9%	13%	19%	5%	9%	4%	5%	11%

**18. How many acres of land do you own in Grant County?**

Less Than 1 acre		1-10 acres		11-100 acres		101 acres or more	
H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
2%	60%	23%	17%	40%	10%	35%	13%

**19. Do you actively farm the land you own?**

Yes		No		Not Applicable	
H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
46%	14%	46%	55%	8%	31%

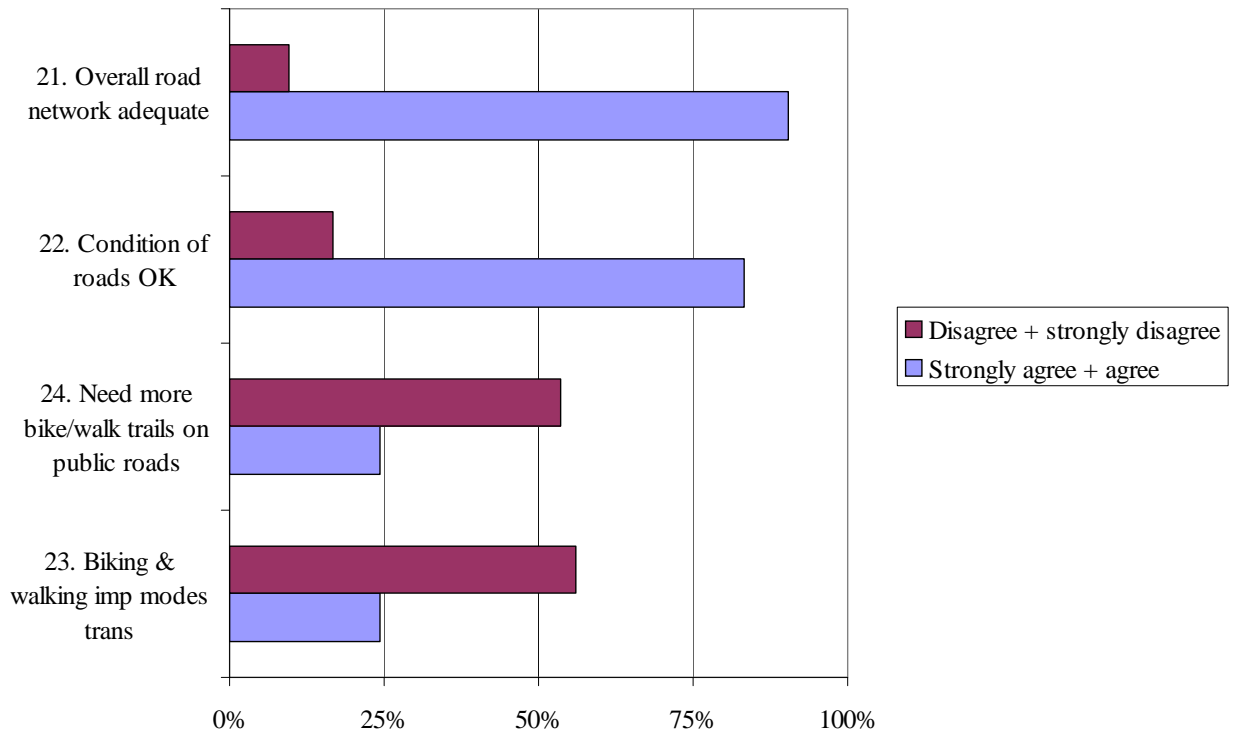
**20. Do you think your land will be actively farmed (by you or someone else) in the next:**

0-5 years		6-10 years		11-15 years		16-20 years		Not Applicable	
H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
23%	10%	12%	6%	14%	6%	26%	13%	40%	74%

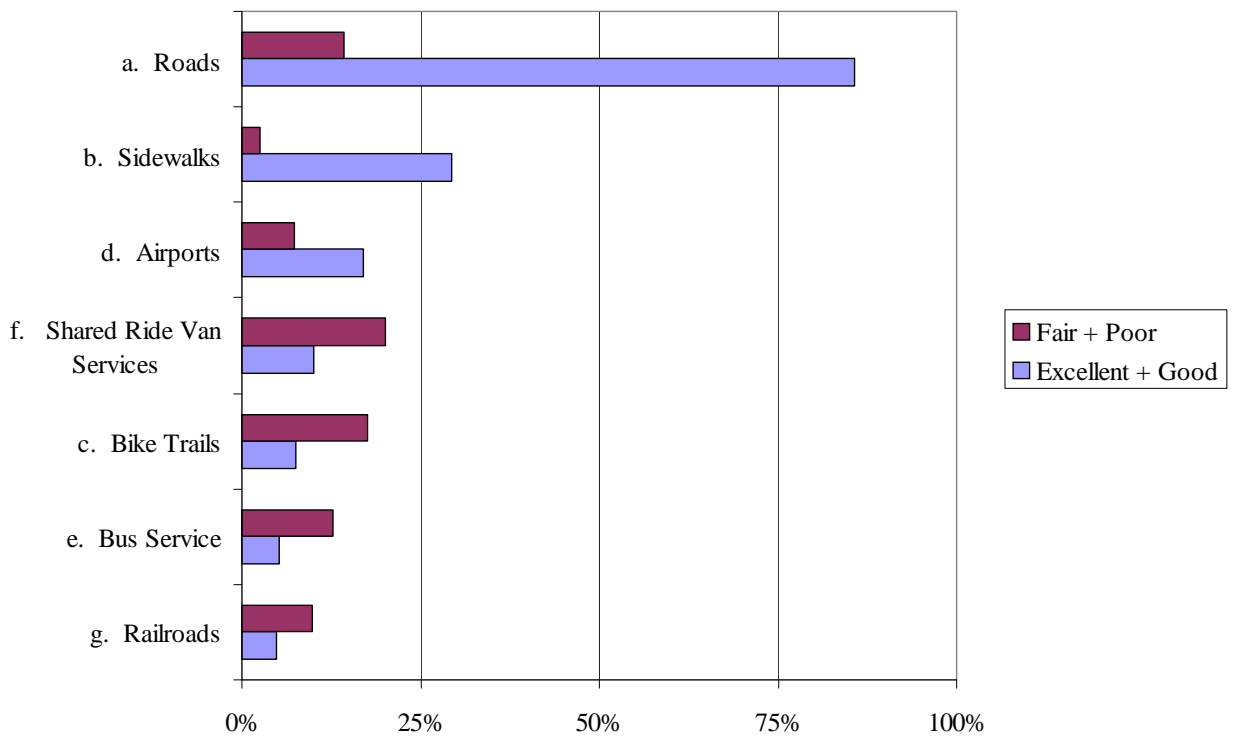
**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – TRANSPORTATION**

- A large majority of residents of the Town of Hickory Grove feel that the overall road network meets their needs and that the condition of those roads is adequate.
- A majority of residents of the Town of Hickory Grove do not believe that biking and walking are important modes of transportation, nor do they believe more biking and walking lanes along public roadways are needed.
- Overall, residents feel that the roads are “excellent” or good” but substantial numbers did not rate other transportation modes.

Transportation Opinions



Transportation Quality in Local Jurisdiction



**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – TRANSPORTATION (COUNTY COMPARISON)**

- Compared to the County, residents in the Town of Hickory Grove are less likely to agree that biking and walking are important modes of transportation in their jurisdiction and are less likely to see a need for more biking and walking lanes along public roadways.

**21-24. Transportation issues**

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
<b>21. Road network meets needs</b>	19%	14%	71%	74%	10%	9%	0%	2%	0%	1%
<b>22. Condition of roads adequate</b>	14%	11%	69%	64%	17%	20%	0%	3%	0%	1%
<b>23. Biking &amp; walking imp modes trans</b>	2%	18%	22%	44%	44%	22%	12%	5%	20%	11%
<b>24. Need more bike &amp; walk lanes on pub roads</b>	7%	24%	17%	34%	37%	23%	17%	9%	22%	10%

- Compared to the County, residents of Hickory Grove rate their roads higher.
- With the exception of roads, substantial proportions of residents in the County, as well as, residents from the Town of Hickory Grove did not rate the transportation items listed; comparisons between the County and Town responses are, therefore, not particularly meaningful.

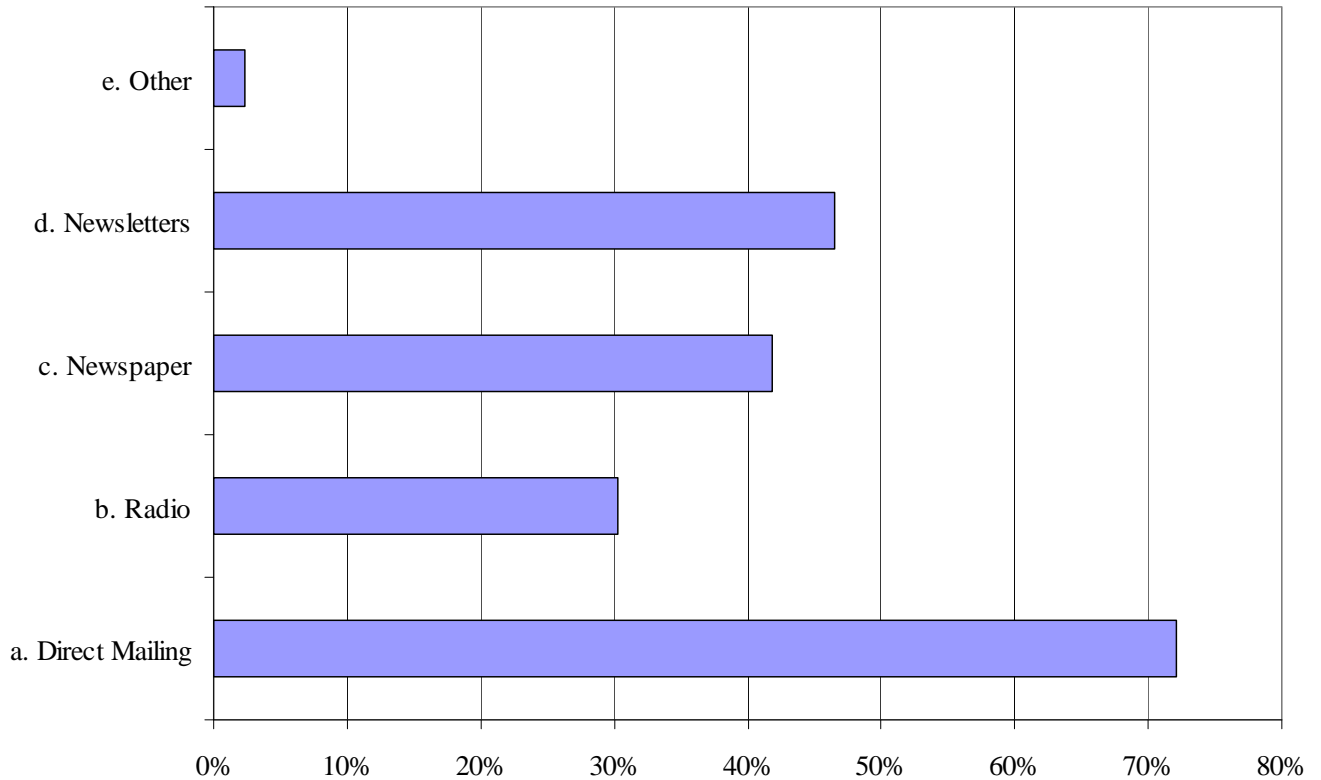
**25. Rate the following in your local jurisdiction:**

	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Not Applicable	
	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
<b>a. Roads</b>	17%	12%	69%	59%	14%	22%	0%	6%	0%	0%
<b>b. Sidewalks</b>	2%	6%	27%	39%	2%	28%	0%	6%	68%	22%
<b>c. Bike Trails</b>	3%	3%	5%	17%	10%	19%	8%	16%	75%	44%
<b>d. Airports</b>	5%	6%	12%	30%	7%	16%	0%	4%	76%	43%
<b>e. Bus Service</b>	3%	1%	3%	4%	3%	3%	10%	20%	82%	72%
<b>f. Shared Ride Van Services</b>	3%	0%	8%	9%	8%	11%	13%	16%	70%	64%
<b>g. Railroads</b>	2%	2%	2%	11%	5%	10%	5%	13%	85%	64%
<b>h. Other</b>	0%	3%	0%	9%	10%	1%	10%	12%	80%	75%

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS - COMMUNICATION**

- Residents of the Town of Hickory Grove prefer to receive information about comprehensive planning via direct mailings.

**Communication Preferences for Comp Plan Info**



**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – COMMUNICATIONS (COUNTY COMPARISON)**

- In comparison to the County, residents of the Town of Hickory Grove hold fairly similar views about the most effective ways a jurisdiction could provide comprehensive planning information to its landowners and residents. Direct mailing was the most preferred method for receiving comprehensive planning information, with newsletters second.

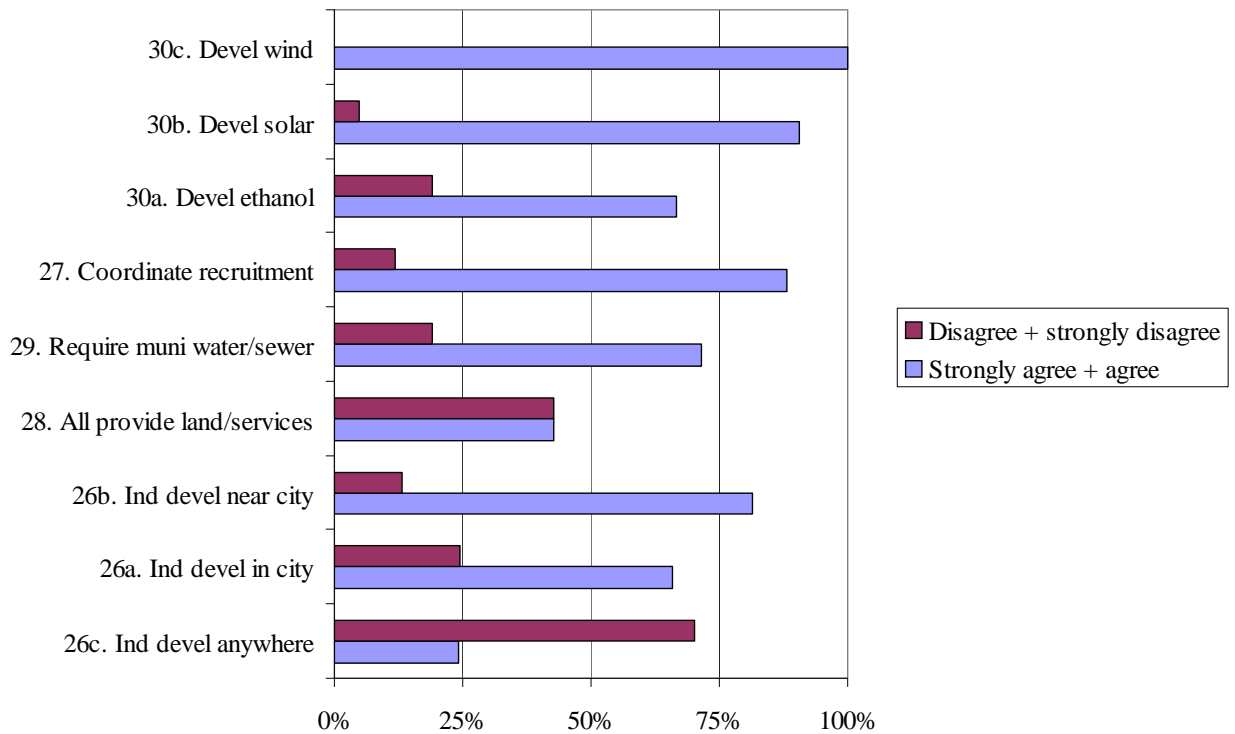
**3. What are 2 most effective ways your jurisdiction could provide Comprehensive Planning information to landowners and residents?**

	Hickory Grove	Cnty
<b>a. Direct Mailing</b>	72%	70%
<b>b. Radio</b>	30%	21%
<b>c. Newspaper</b>	42%	44%
<b>d. Newsletters</b>	47%	56%
<b>e. Other</b>	2%	4%

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

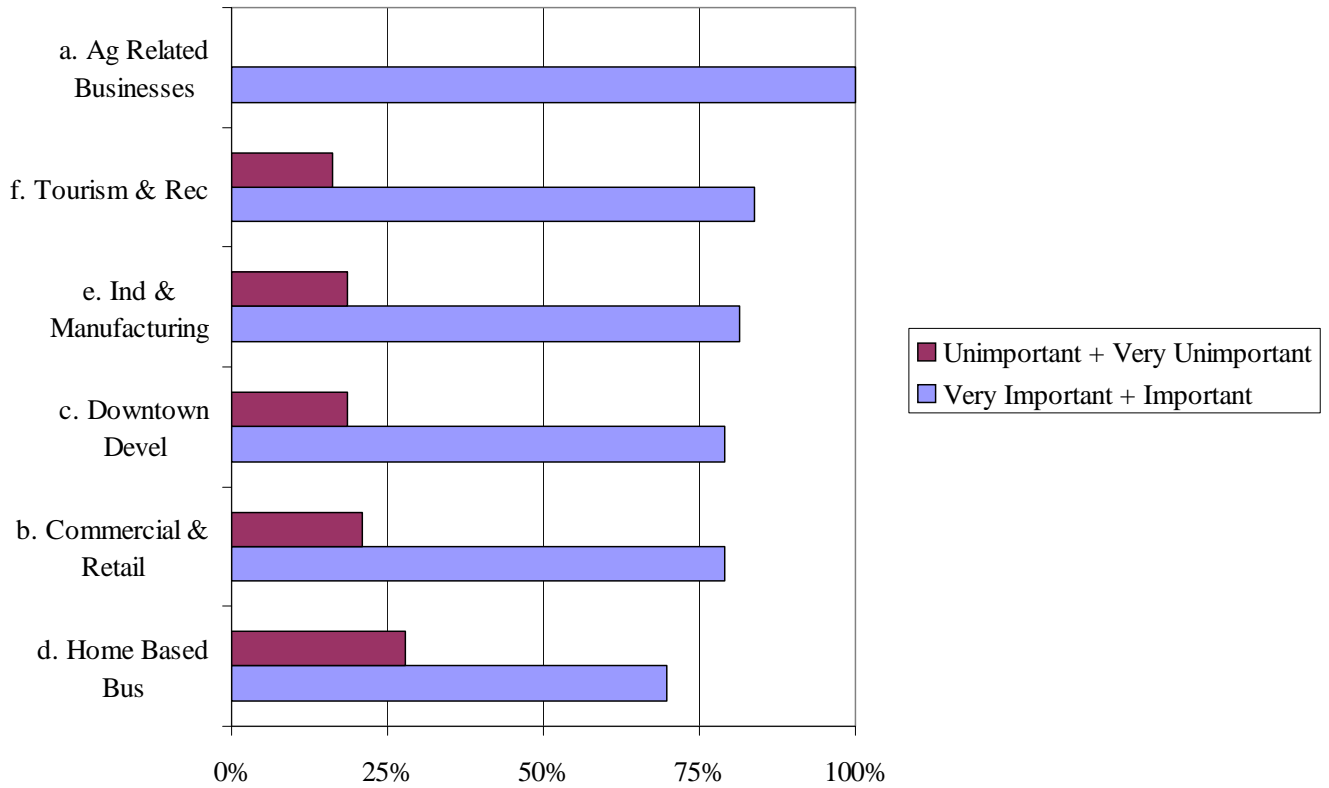
- All residents in the Town of Hickory Grove either “strongly agree” or “agree” that Grant County jurisdictions should pursue wind energy as a form of economic development.
- They would like to see commercial and industrial building and activities involving truck traffic and manufacturing be in or near a city or village.
- Almost three-fourths of residents believe that development at the edge of cities and villages should be required to have municipal water and sewer services and that business recruitment efforts should be coordinated across the County.

Economic Development Opinions



- All residents in the Town of Hickory Grove view agricultural related businesses as either “very important” or “important” to Grant County.
- Each of the six types of business development described in the questionnaire had at least 70 percent of Town respondents viewing it as important.

Importance of Business Development



**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (COUNTY COMPARISON)**

- Town of Hickory Grove residents were generally more supportive of commercial and industrial development in an existing city or village.
- Residents of the Town of Hickory Grove feel slightly less strongly that jurisdictions should provide at least some land with infrastructure for industrial and commercial uses.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
<b>26. Commercial or industrial buildings and activities involving truck traffic and manufacturing should be located:</b>										
<b>a. In an existing city or a village</b>	27%	14%	39%	39%	20%	28%	5%	7%	10%	12%
<b>b. Near a city or village</b>	8%	16%	74%	63%	11%	8%	3%	3%	5%	10%
<b>c. Anywhere in Grant County</b>	5%	7%	19%	19%	43%	38%	27%	20%	5%	16%
<b>27. Coordinate business recruitment</b>	48%	53%	40%	40%	12%	2%	0%	2%	0%	3%
<b>28. Provide land &amp; infrastructure for industry/commerce</b>	5%	16%	38%	43%	33%	19%	10%	7%	14%	15%
<b>29. Required muni water &amp; sewer</b>	10%	26%	62%	45%	17%	11%	2%	4%	10%	14%

- Residents of the Town of Hickory Grove give similar high support of pursuing alternative energy as do County residents as a whole. Town residents are, however, less likely to “strongly agree” that these are important economic development strategies.

**30. Grant County jurisdictions should pursue the following energy alternatives as a form of economic development:**

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
<b>a. Ethanol Plants</b>	14%	22%	52%	33%	10%	23%	10%	9%	14%	13%
<b>b. Solar Energy</b>	31%	39%	60%	45%	2%	5%	2%	1%	5%	10%
<b>c. Wind Energy</b>	44%	48%	56%	43%	0%	2%	0%	2%	0%	6%
<b>d. Other</b>	29%	28%	14%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	57%	63%

- Residents of the Town of Hickory Grove are somewhat less interested in commercial and retail business development than the overall County average.

**31. Rate the importance of the following:**

	Very Important		Important		Unimportant		Very Unimportant		Not Applicable	
	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
<b>a. Ag Related Business</b>	67%	59%	33%	38%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%
<b>b. Commercial &amp; Retail</b>	26%	33%	53%	59%	21%	7%	0%	1%	0%	1%
<b>c. Downtown Devel</b>	19%	31%	60%	52%	16%	11%	2%	2%	2%	4%
<b>d. Home-Based Bus</b>	19%	17%	51%	54%	26%	22%	2%	3%	2%	4%
<b>e. Ind &amp; Manufacturing</b>	40%	40%	42%	50%	19%	8%	0%	1%	0%	1%
<b>f. Tourism &amp; Rec</b>	44%	36%	40%	55%	14%	7%	2%	1%	0%	1%

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – DEMOGRAPHICS**

The demographic profile of Town of Hickory Grove residents matches the County in many ways, with a few differences:

- The Town of Hickory Grove has more households with no children.
- The Town of Hickory Grove has less long-term residents (25 year or more) than the County average.

**35. Gender**

Male		Female	
H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
59%	53%	41%	47%

**36. Age**

18-24		25-34		35-44	
H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
0%	0%	5%	7%	7%	13%
45-54		55-64		65 and older	
H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
33%	23%	26%	22%	30%	35%

**37. Employment Status**

Emp Full Time		Emp Part Time		Self Employed	
H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
47%	44%	11%	6%	18%	10%
Unemployed		Retired		Other	
H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
0%	1%	24%	37%	0%	1%

**38. Place of Residence**

Own		Rent		Other	
H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
100%	99%	0%	1%	0%	0%

**39. Number of Adults (18+) in Household**

0		1		2	
H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
		21%	20%	71%	71%
3		4		5+	
H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
2%	7%	2%	2%	2%	1%

**40. Number of Children (under 18) in Household**

0		1		2	
H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
87%	67%	11%	14%	0%	11%
3		4		5+	
H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
0%	7%	0%	1%	3%	0%

**41. Household Income**

Under \$15,000		\$15K - \$24,999		\$25K - \$49,999	
H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
3%	7%	20%	14%	25%	33%
\$50K - \$74,999		\$75K - \$99,999		\$100,000+	
H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
28%	25%	10%	15%	15%	6%

**42. Years Lived in Grant County**

Less than 1		1-4		5-9	
H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty
7%	1%	5%	5%	10%	9%
10-24		25+			
H Gro	Cnty	H Gro	Cnty		
24%	14%	54%	71%		

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**Town of Hickory Grove Written Comments****32. Is there anything about living in Grant County that you don't like?****Transportation Issues (3 comments)**

- Drunk drivers
- Many gravel roads in our township. Back roads need posted speed limits-people drive like maniacs.
- Traffic speed on narrow township roads. Tailgating.

**Jobs (2 comments)**

- Job pay scale too low on average.
- Not enough employment for a young family.

**Lack of Shopping/Restaurants (2 comments)**

- Limited restaurants, limited shopping.
- There does not seem to be any good shopping base in any of the towns.

**Social Issues (2 comments)**

- % of population needing public (taxpayer) support or supervision AND willingness of the gov. to expand to meet the needs instead of focusing on encouraging practices that will reduce the need - too many gov. workers with a vested interest (employment) in the continuation of social services.
- Lack of diversity.

**Taxes (2 comments)**

- Grant County is a great county, but we think taxes are too high.
- My taxes go up EVERY year meaning it is unlikely to stop any time soon.

**Economic Development (1 comment)**

- The attitude that doesn't allow progress because it may harm existing business.

**Land Use Planning/Zoning (1 comment)**

- Urban sprawl from Madison/Dodgeville

**Like County (1 comment)**

- So far, so good.

**Nothing/no (1 comment)**

- None

**School Issues (1 comment)**

- K-12 systems need to consolidate so the students can access more AP classes, foreign language, etc.

**Utilities (1 comment)**

- Lack of internet access via telephone (DSL) because lines are not

**Miscellaneous (3 comments)**

- -40 degrees below and lower weather.
- Hard to move many off of square one. Often not open to new ideas.
- Hmm?

**33. If you could change one thing in your local jurisdiction, what would it be?****Transportation/Roads (7 comments)**

- All roads would be paved and have posted speed limits.
- Have all roads seal coated.
- Road Maintenance personnel.
- The way the roadways are maintained. Better control on noxious weeds and more use of native vegetation for road bank stabilization.
- Update roads and bridges.
- We have a lot of Amish in our neighborhood and horse and buggies and other machinery breaking up our black top roads. There should be a license or fee charged per buggy to help keep the roads up, like we do on our vehicles!!
- We need to expand/widen the roads to accommodate a buggy/horse lane - see much more of those than bikes

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**Environmental/Cultural/Recreational Issues (3 comments)**

- Better weed control when you have places that look like they are growing lots of weeds and when the wind blows you end up with the seeds on your land.
- Like to see and participate in a wind farm.
- More alternative energy sources such as ethanol, solar, and wind-powered.

**Jobs (2 comments)**

- More jobs for young family people to keep them in our area.
- More jobs with better pay.

**Land Use Planning/Zoning (2 comments)**

- Make the minimum lot requirement to build a house in the country 100 acres.
- Not let people in a zoned township slip through the paper work and buy less acres than the township is zoned for.

**Nothing/no (2 comments)**

- N/A
- None

**Appearance/Upkeep of Buildings/Residences (1 comment)**

- Get rid of junk around residences.

**Governance (1 comment)**

- Get rid of career politicians.

**Police/Safety (1 comment)**

- Better police service.

**Public Facilities (1 comment)**

- To have a town hall for meetings and a town shop with water.

**Miscellaneous (1 comment)**

- Barking domestic dogs and feral dogs.

**34. Other Comments:****Governance (1 comment)**

- Hmm? Get all government out of our lives.

**Jobs (1 comment)**

- Too many young people leaving the rural area for jobs.

**Nothing/no (1 comment)**

- None

**Miscellaneous (2 comments)**

- My wife and I own land in Grant County but live in Dane County. Property is used for strictly recreational purposes. Property is maintained for wildlife habitat. Thanks for the survey.
- This is one of the most beautiful spots in the entire state- more people need to be made aware of it.