

## 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 Mount Hope. 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 Waterloo. 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 Mount Hope.
2. Preserve and enhance the quality of life for the residents of the Town of Mount Hope.
3. Protect and preserve the community character of the Town of Mount Hope.

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:

*The Town of Mount Hope maintains its distinct rural character while fostering an environment where hunting, recreational and agricultural (both crop and livestock) usage of the land continues to be optimized. Maintenance of the unique community spirit (i.e. Old Friends Reunion and Dairy Days Parade) and spirit of enterprise is cultivated and encouraged. We strive to have all town roads paved and in good repair.*

**1.4 BACKGROUND AND PLANNING AREA**

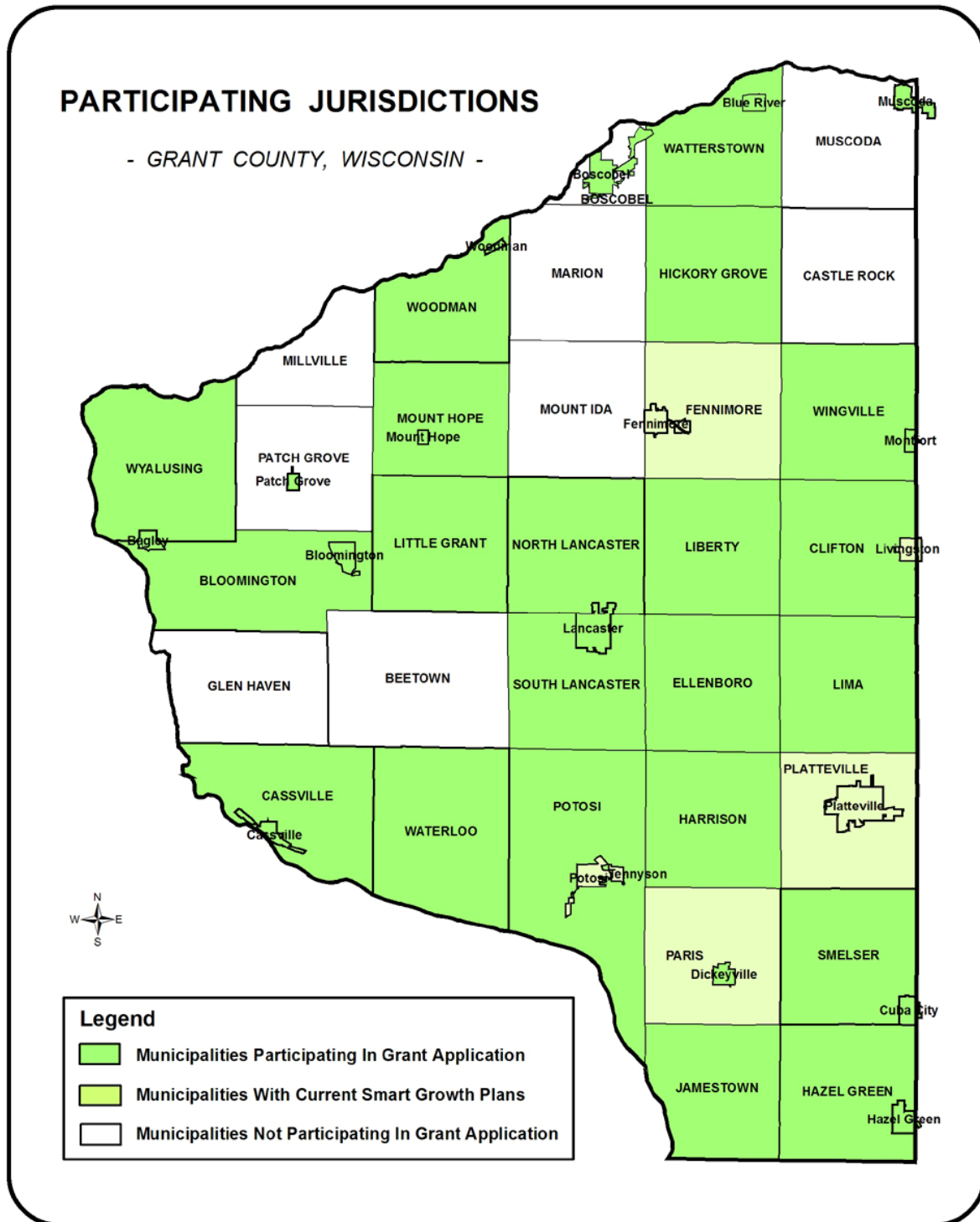
Under the Comprehensive Planning legislation, adopted by the state in October of 1999, beginning on January 1 2010, if a local governmental unit engages in any of the actions listed below, those actions shall be consistent with that local governmental unit’s comprehensive plan.

- 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 Waterloo, applied for a 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, Muscoda, 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 Muscoda 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



According to state statute, Class 4 municipalities have extraterritorial jurisdiction to the area 1.5 miles outside of the corporate limits. During the course of this plan, this area shall be considered as part of the planning area. Conversely, the extraterritorial area will also be considered as part of the planning area for jurisdictions that border municipalities. The inclusion of the extraterritorial area in two separate plans underscores the importance of these lands and the importance of intergovernmental cooperation (see Chapter 8, Land Use). The purpose of the extraterritorial zone is essentially one of coordination with adjoining communities in an effort to anticipate and mitigate any impacts stemming from the development in that area.

**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 Mount Hope 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. It is required by State mandate.

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>

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The Planning Commission will use the following methods to obtain public participation throughout the planning process:

***1. Post agendas and meeting minutes at 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 Mount Hope 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 Mount Ida, Woodman, Little Grant, Patch Grove, and Millville, Grant County, the River Ridge and Fennimore Community. (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 Mount Hope 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 Mount Hope 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 Mount Hope Number	Town of Mount Hope Percent	Grant County Number	Grant County Percent	Wisconsin Number	Wisconsin Percent
Total Population (1970)	308	100.0%	48,398	100.0%	4,417,933	100.0%
Total Population (1980)	343	100.0%	51,736	100.0%	4,705,767	100.0%
Total Population (1990)	240	100.0%	49,264	100.0%	4,891,769	100.0%
Total Population (2000)	225	100.0%	49,597	100.0%	5,363,675	100.0%
<b>SEX AND AGE (2000)</b>						
Male	116	51.6%	25,164	50.7%	2,649,041	49.4
Female	109	48.4%	24,433	49.3%	2,714,634	50.6
Under 10 years	26	11.6%	5,738	11.6%	721,824	13.5%
10 to 19 years	38	16.9%	8,490	17.1%	810,269	15.1%
20 to 34 years	27	12.0%	9,995	20.2%	1,063,460	19.8%
35 to 44 years	46	20.4%	7,096	14.3%	875,522	16.3%
45 to 59 years	50	22.2%	8,533	17.2%	985,048	18.4%
60 to 74 years	28	12.5%	5,918	12.0%	560,306	10.4%
75+ years	10	4.4%	3,827	7.7%	347,246	6.5%
		100%		100%		100%
<b>Median Age (2000)</b>	<b>39.8</b>		<b>35.9</b>		<b>36.0</b>	

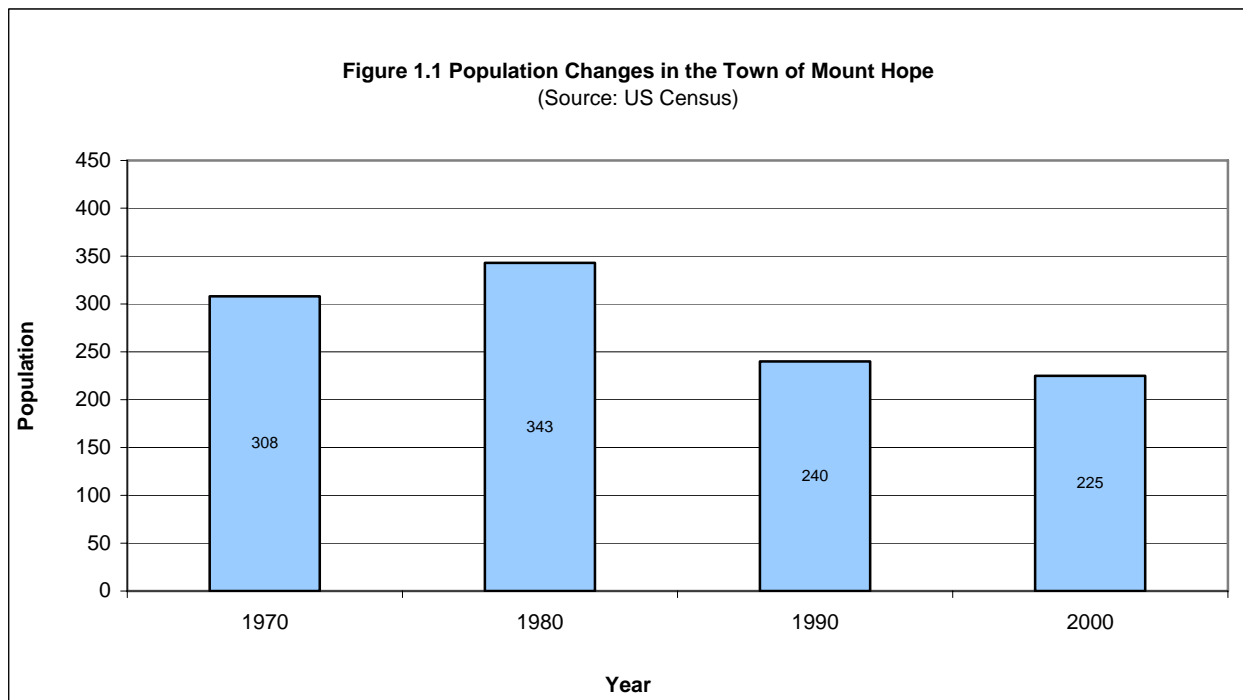


Figure 1.1 shows that the Town of Mount Hope experienced an overall population decrease from 1970 to 2000 of 26.9%.

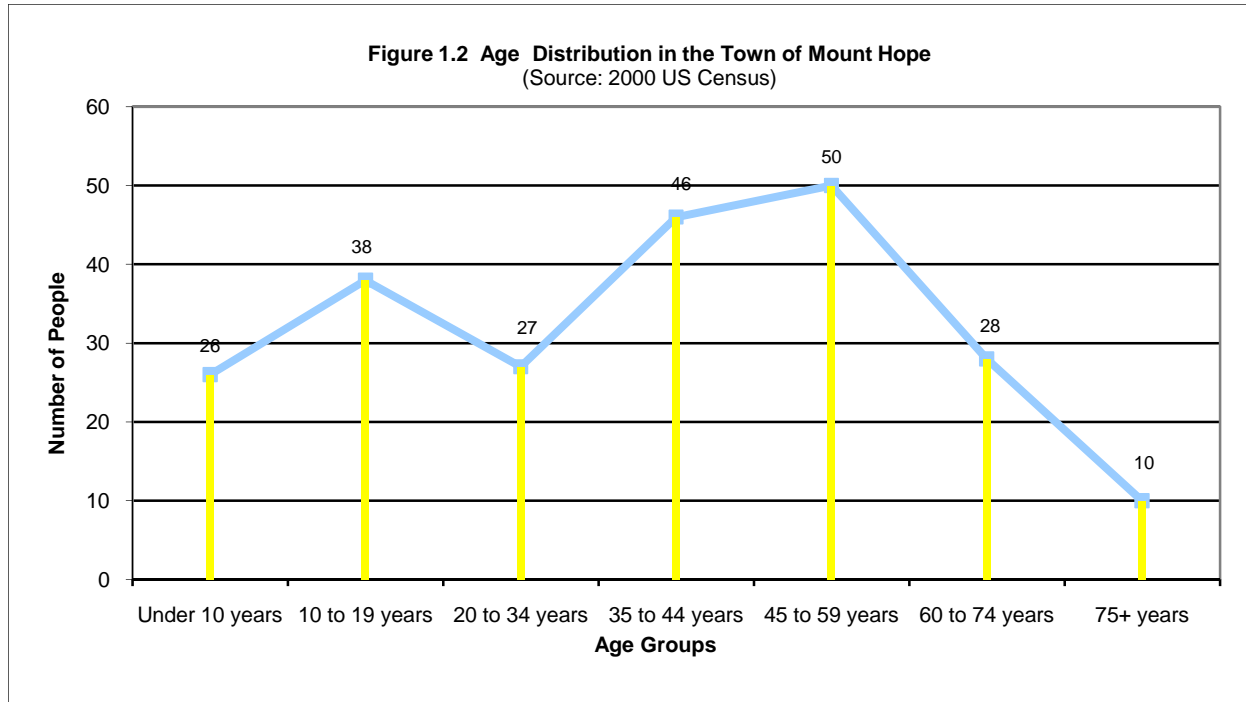


Figure 1.2 shows the population of the Town of Mount Hope by age distribution for the year 2000. The largest group is people ages 45 to 59 (59 people) making up 22.2% of the population. The second largest age group of 35 to 44 contains 20.4% of the population with 46 people. The town’s median age is 39.8.

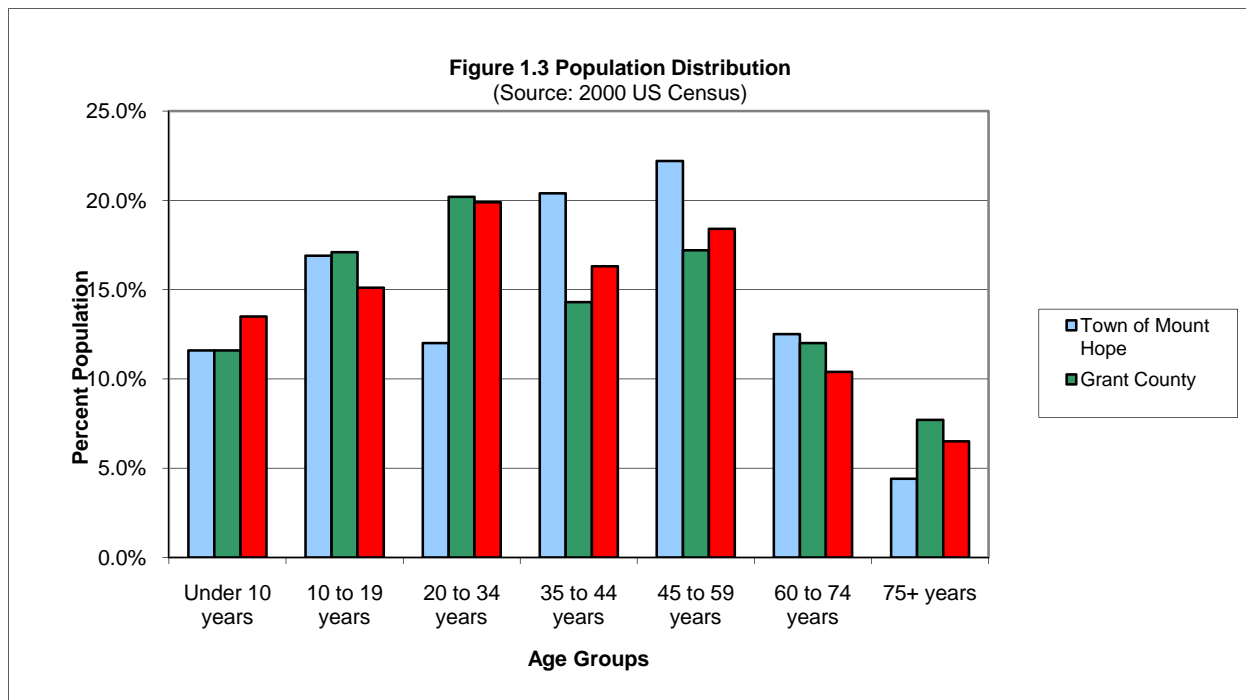


Figure 1.3 compares the population percentage by age group for the Town of Mount Hope, Grant County, and the State of Wisconsin.

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	20	22	16	21	16	23
10 to 19 Years	20	22	15	18	15	21
20 to 34 Years	24	27	13	16	10	14
35 to 44 Years	16	17	16	20	10	14
45 to 59 Years	81	90	51	62	35	49
60 to 74 Years	29	32	54	66	56	78
75+ Years	14	15	15	19	16	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>221</b>

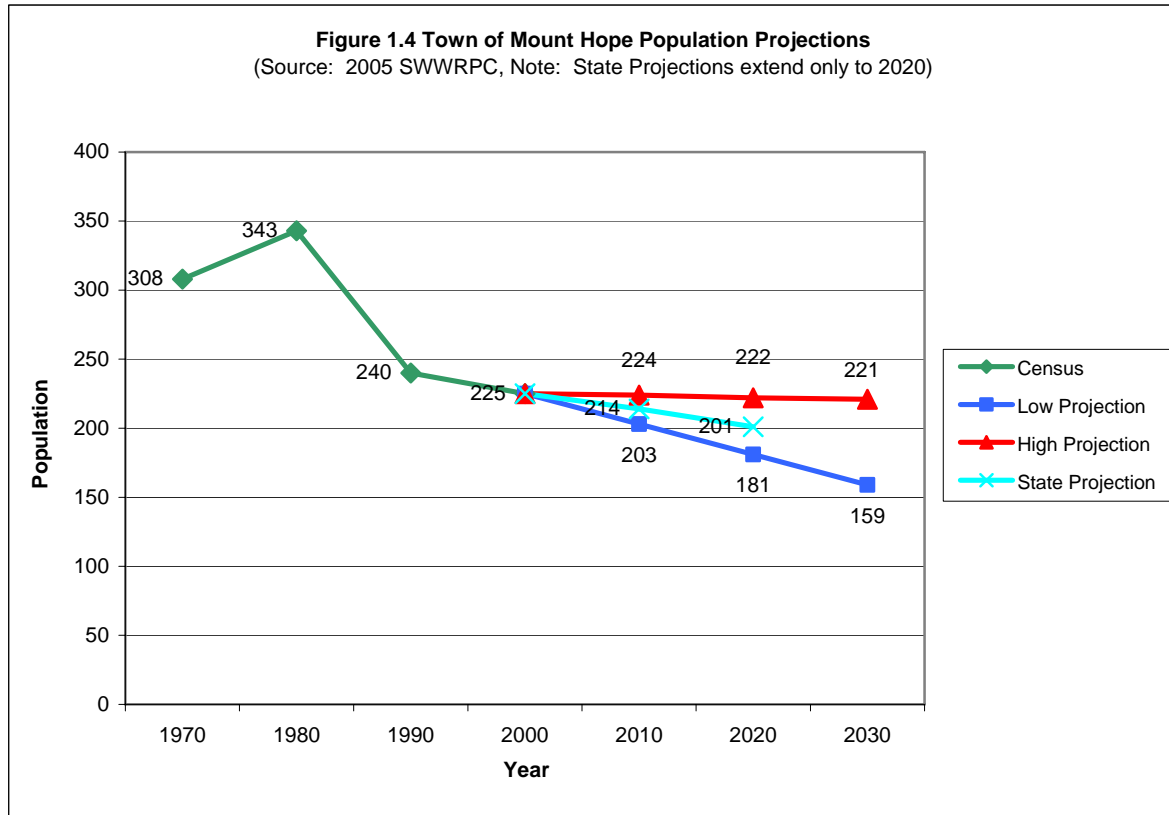


Figure 1.4 shows the projected populations for the years 2010, 2020, and 2030. The red line indicates a future high projection, while the blue line indicates a future low projection. The State trend line lies between the high and low projections.

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

Educational Attainment	Town of Mount Hope Number	Town of Mount Hope Percent	Grant County Number	Grant County Percent	Wisconsin Percent
Less than 9th Grade	9	5.4%	2,346	7.7%	5.4%
9th to 12th No Diploma	9	5.4%	2,713	8.9%	9.6%
HS Grad	75	44.9%	12,255	40.0%	34.6%
Some College	34	20.4%	5,828	19.0%	20.6%
Associate Degree	2	16.2%	2,230	7.3%	7.5%
Bachelor's Degree	8	4.8%	3,332	10.9%	15.3%
Graduate/Prof. Degree	5	3.0%	1,921	6.3%	7.2%
Percent High School Grad or Higher	89.2%		83.5%		85.1%

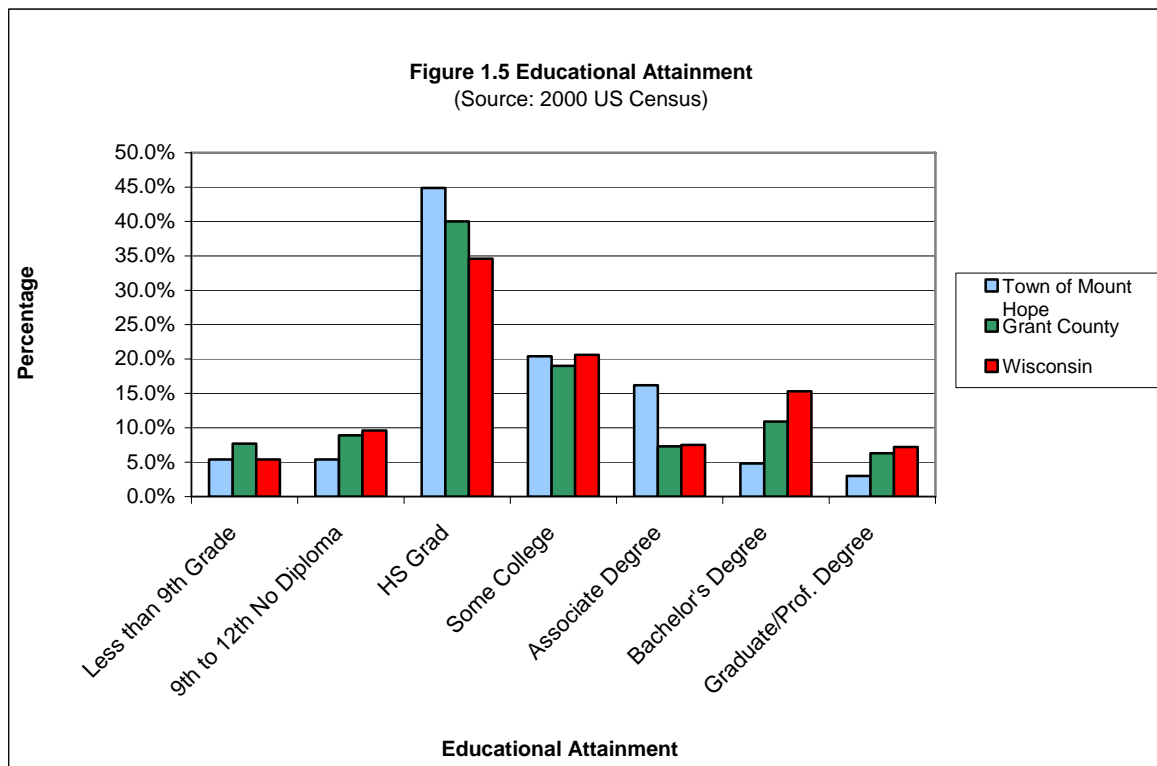


Table 1.4 Occupations (Source: DP-1,DP-2. 2000 US Census)

Occupations	Town of Mount Hope Number	Town of Mount Hope Percent	Grant County Number	Grant County Percent	Wisconsin Number	Wisconsin Percent
Prod, Trans & Mat. Moving	26	19.8%	4,981	19.9%	540,930	19.8%
Const, Extraction & Maint.	2	1.5%	2,294	9.1%	237,086	8.7%
Farm, Fishing & Forestry	9	6.9%	753	3.0%	25,725	0.9%
Sales & Office	25	19.1%	5,524	22.0%	690,360	25.2%
Services	18	13.0%	4,025	16.0%	383,619	14.0%
Mgmt, Prof & Related	51	38.9%	7,511	29.9%	857,205	31.3%
Total	131	100%	25,088	100%	2,734,925	100%

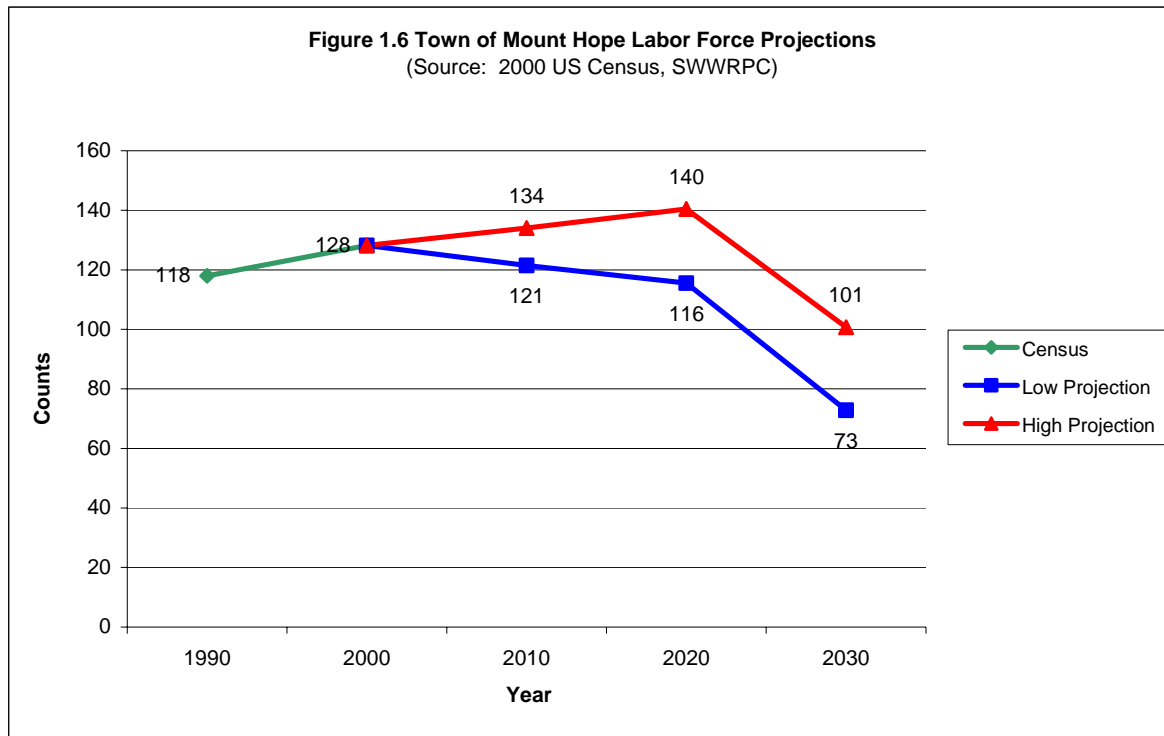


Figure 1.6 shows the projected labor force populations for the years 2010, 2020, and 2030. The red line indicates a high projection, while the blue line indicates the low projection. Labor data was not available for 1980 or 1970.

### 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. Communities 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 Mount Hope

During September and October of 2007 a total of 156 questionnaires were sent to households in the Town of Mount Hope. A total of 27 questionnaires were returned for a return rate of 17 percent. This number of returned surveys will provide estimates that are expected to be accurate to within plus or minus 16 percent. Because the number of returned surveys is so small and the resulting confidence interval so large, the results reported in this summary should be viewed as impressions rather than conclusions.

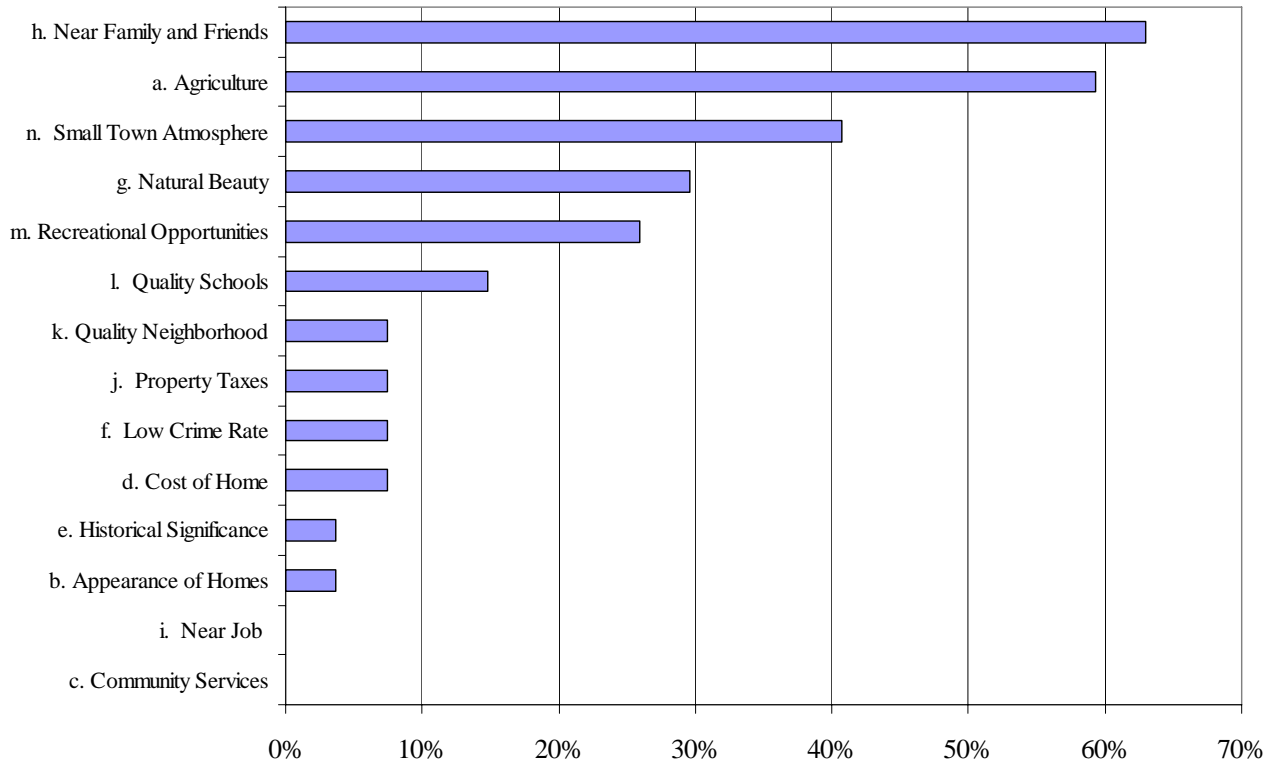
Key results of this survey include:

- *The top three reasons Town of Mount Hope residents choose to live in Grant County are being near family and friends (63%), agriculture (59%), and the small town atmosphere (41%).*
- Residents of the Town of Mount Hope generally give high marks to their community facilities and services. Top ratings went to fire protection and ambulance service.
- Large majorities of residents in the Town of Mount Hope place great importance on the protection of natural and cultural resources. Town residents are unanimous that it is important to protect farmland.
- Most Town of Mount Hope residents think the focus of housing developments should be placed on improving existing housing quality.
- A majority of residents believe that the Town needs additional units of affordable housing and single family homes. Town residents generally do not believe there is a need for more duplexes or apartments.
- A majority of Town of Mount Hope residents prefer residential developments based on the traditional design (larger lots with no or little shared open space) to the cluster design (smaller lots with more shared open space). This is an unusual outcome in Grant County and in Wisconsin more generally.
- Town residents are fairly evenly divided on the question, “should landowners be allowed to develop land any way they want?” By a slight majority the Town disagreed with this proposition.
- With respect to the expansion of large-scale farms (500 animal units or more), Mount Hope residents do not appear to support any of the three scenarios described. They are strongly opposed to both the most restrictive alternative (prohibiting their expansion everywhere in Grant County) and the most liberal option (allowing their development anywhere in the County). Fifty-two percent are opposed to allowing large farm expansion outside a 2 mile radius of an incorporated area. The bottom line is unclear – they don’t want to ban large farm expansions but they haven’t given directions as to where they should be located.
- Town of Mount Hope residents are unanimous in their belief that productive agricultural land should be used in agriculture. Solid majorities oppose the use of such land for commercial or unrestricted use. Town residents are fairly evenly split, however, on using productive land for residential use.
- Town of Mount Hope residents favor relatively small minimum lot sizes for residential developments in rural areas (55% would set the limit at 5 acres or less).
- Forty-eight percent of respondents own 101 acres or more in Grant County.
- More than three-quarters of Mount Hope residents agree or strongly agree that the overall road network in Grant County meets the needs of its citizens and that the condition of local roads and streets is adequate for intended uses.
- Large majorities of residents in the Town of Mount Hope feel that the development of alternative energy (wind or solar) is important. Ethanol plant development has less (59%) support.
- Citizens in the Town are overwhelmingly in favor of coordinating efforts within Grant County to recruit new business and industry.
- There is unanimity about the importance of agricultural related businesses to Grant County economic development.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – QUALITY OF LIFE

- Two reasons stand out as the top reasons Town of Mount Hope residents choose to live in Grant County. Each was chosen by more than half of the respondents.
  - Being near family and friends is the top reason and was listed by 63 percent.
  - Agriculture was the second place reason with 59 percent.
- There is a large drop to the next reason, small town atmosphere at 41%.
- No respondents chose being near their job or community services 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 Mount Hope residents are more likely to choose agriculture and recreational opportunities and less likely to choose being near their job among their top three reasons they choose to live in Grant County.
- Since many Town respondents appear to be farmers, the importance of agriculture and nearness of their job are difficult to separate. This may explain why no one in the Town identified being near their job as a reason for choosing to live in Grant County

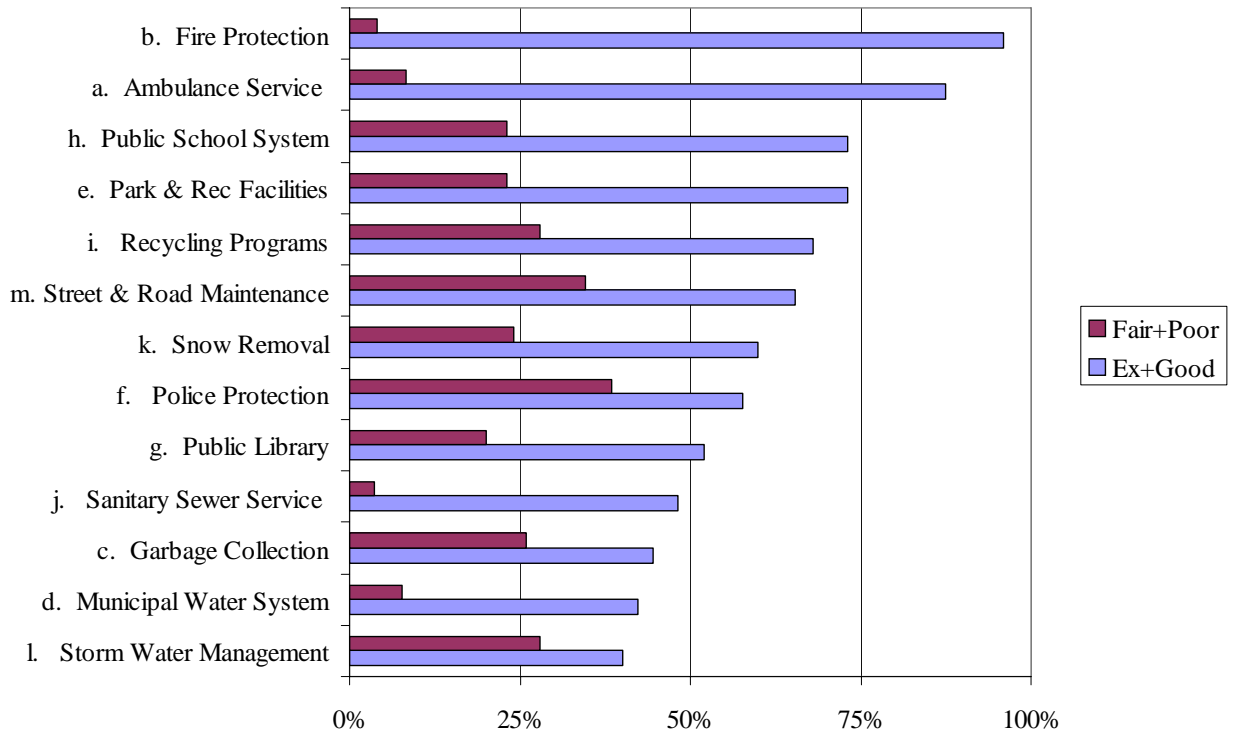
**1. What are the three most important reasons you and your family choose to live in Grant County?**

	<b>Mount Hope</b>	<b>County</b>		<b>Mount Hope</b>	<b>County</b>
<b>a. Agriculture</b>	59%	17%	<b>i. Near Job</b>	0%	40%
<b>b. Appearance of Homes</b>	4%	2%	<b>j. Property Taxes</b>	7%	6%
<b>c. Community Services</b>	0%	3%	<b>k. Quality Neighborhood</b>	7%	10%
<b>d. Cost of Home</b>	7%	17%	<b>l. Quality Schools</b>	15%	18%
<b>e. Historical Significance</b>	4%	2%	<b>m. Recreational Opportunities</b>	26%	9%
<b>f. Low Crime Rate</b>	7%	20%	<b>n. Small Town Atmosphere</b>	41%	58%
<b>g. Natural Beauty</b>	30%	24%	<b>o. Other</b>	11%	5%
<b>h. Near Family and Friends</b>	63%	56%			

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- Residents of the Town of Mount Hope generally give high marks to their community facilities and services.
- Majorities of Town residents give “excellent” or “good” ratings to nine of the thirteen facilities and services listed. Top ratings went to fire protection and ambulance service.

Rating Community Facilities and Services



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

- The following table indicates that residents of the Town of Mount Hope are generally less satisfied with their community facilities and services than are Grant County residents as a whole.
- Compared to the County, Town of Mount Hope residents give lower rankings to twelve of the thirteen items listed.
- Substantial proportions of Town respondents chose the “not applicable” option when asked to rate the municipal water system, sanitary sewer service, and storm water management, garbage collection, and the public library.

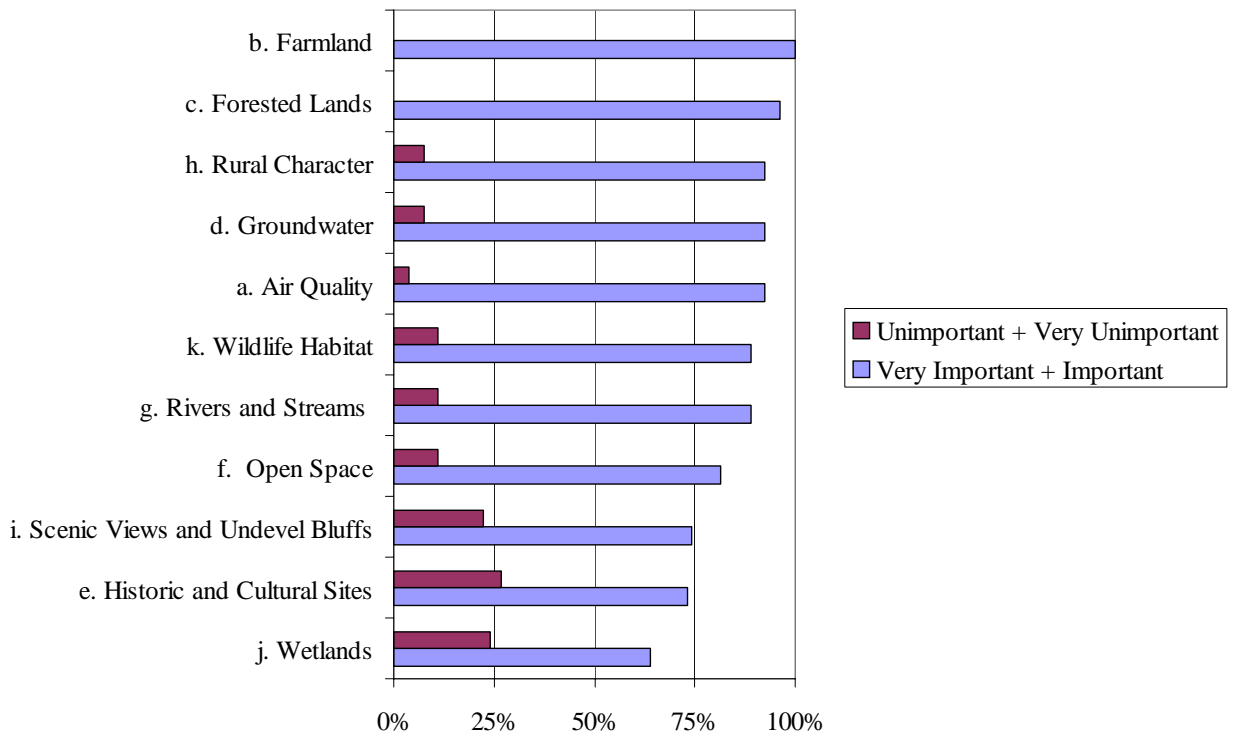
**2. Rate the following local services:**

	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Not Applicable	
	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
<b>a. Ambulance Service</b>	29%	54%	58%	35%	8%	6%	0%	0%	4%	5%
<b>b. Fire Protection</b>	44%	54%	52%	39%	4%	4%	0%	0%	0%	3%
<b>c. Garbage Collection</b>	7%	39%	37%	39%	22%	9%	4%	2%	30%	11%
<b>d. Municipal Water System</b>	4%	23%	38%	38%	8%	10%	0%	2%	50%	26%
<b>e. Park &amp; Rec Facilities</b>	8%	30%	65%	47%	19%	13%	4%	2%	4%	7%
<b>f. Police Protection</b>	4%	27%	54%	45%	27%	20%	12%	4%	4%	4%
<b>g. Public Library</b>	4%	33%	48%	46%	20%	11%	0%	2%	28%	8%
<b>h. Public School System</b>	12%	30%	62%	49%	15%	13%	8%	2%	4%	6%
<b>i. Recycling Programs</b>	12%	31%	56%	51%	24%	12%	4%	2%	4%	3%
<b>j. Sanitary Sewer Service</b>	7%	25%	41%	42%	4%	8%	0%	1%	48%	24%
<b>k. Snow Removal</b>	12%	27%	48%	47%	16%	17%	8%	2%	16%	7%
<b>l. Storm Water Management</b>	8%	16%	32%	43%	16%	16%	12%	3%	32%	22%
<b>m. Street &amp; Road Maintenance</b>	4%	16%	62%	46%	31%	28%	4%	8%	0%	2%

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Large majorities of residents in the Town of Mount Hope place great importance on the protection of natural and cultural resources.
- The combined responses in the “very important” and “important” categories exceed 63 percent for all resources listed.
- Town residents have unanimity regarding the importance of protecting farmland.

Importance of Protecting Natural & Cultural Resources



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

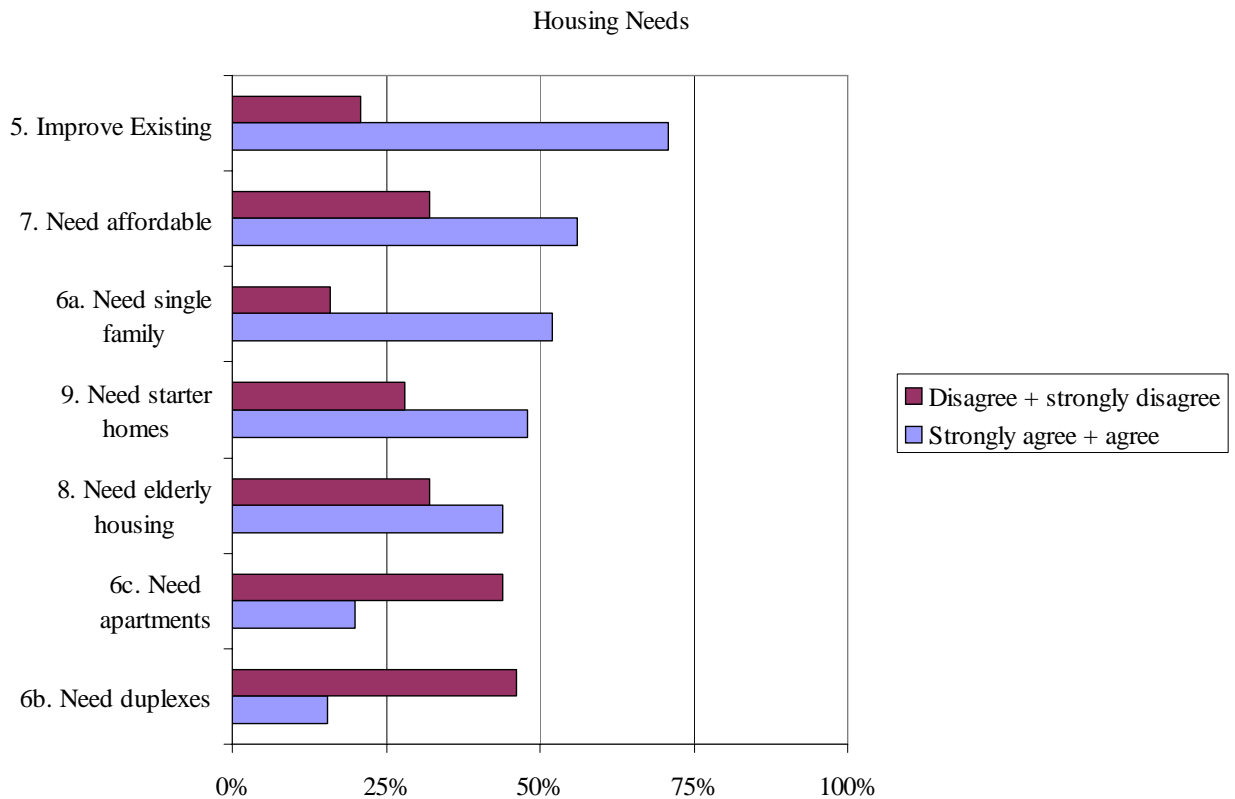
- Residents of the Town of Mount Hope place similar high levels of importance on the protection of natural and cultural resources as do County residents as a whole.
- Town residents are slightly less concerned about protecting scenic views and undeveloped bluffs and wetlands than the Grant County average.

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

	Very Important		Important		Unimportant		Very Unimportant		Not Applicable	
	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
<b>a. Air Quality</b>	59%	68%	33%	29%	4%	2%	0%	1%	4%	1%
<b>b. Farmland</b>	65%	59%	35%	37%	0%	3%	0%	1%	0%	1%
<b>c. Forested Lands</b>	48%	54%	48%	40%	0%	3%	0%	1%	4%	2%
<b>d. Groundwater</b>	63%	73%	30%	25%	7%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>e. Historic and Cultural Sites</b>	12%	27%	62%	57%	19%	13%	8%	1%	0%	2%
<b>f. Open Space</b>	33%	34%	48%	53%	7%	10%	4%	1%	7%	2%
<b>g. Rivers and Streams</b>	56%	64%	33%	34%	11%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>h. Rural Character</b>	37%	39%	56%	47%	7%	12%	0%	1%	0%	2%
<b>i. Scenic Views &amp; Undevel Bluffs</b>	30%	46%	44%	42%	11%	9%	11%	2%	4%	1%
<b>j. Wetlands</b>	28%	40%	36%	41%	8%	12%	16%	2%	12%	4%
<b>k. Wildlife Habitat</b>	37%	47%	52%	43%	7%	7%	4%	1%	0%	2%

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – HOUSING

- Most Town of Mount Hope residents think the focus should be placed on improving existing housing quality.
- Town residents generally do not believe there is a need for more duplexes or apartments.
- Opinions about affordable housing, single family homes, starter homes and elderly housing are not clear – more Town residents agree than disagree that more of each are needed but it isn’t clear if this is a majority opinion given the large confidence interval (plus or minus 17%)



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

- Relative to the County, Town of Mount Hope residents are less likely to agree that there is a need for more duplexes or elderly housing in the Town.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
<b>5. Improve existing housing quality.</b>	13%	24%	58%	44%	17%	16%	4%	3%	8%	13%
<b>6. Need following housing types:</b>										
<b>a. Single Family Housing</b>	8%	19%	44%	40%	12%	15%	4%	5%	32%	21%
<b>b. Duplexes (2 units)</b>	0%	8%	15%	33%	38%	25%	8%	9%	38%	25%
<b>c. Apartments (3 or more units)</b>	0%	7%	20%	24%	20%	31%	24%	12%	36%	26%
<b>7. Need affordable housing</b>	16%	31%	40%	36%	28%	14%	4%	6%	12%	13%
<b>8. Need elderly housing</b>	4%	20%	40%	43%	28%	19%	4%	4%	24%	14%
<b>9. Need starter homes</b>	20%	19%	28%	37%	16%	23%	12%	4%	24%	16%

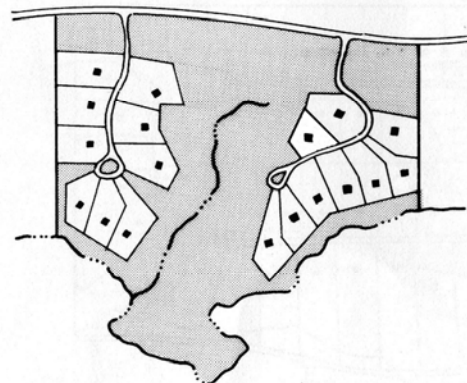
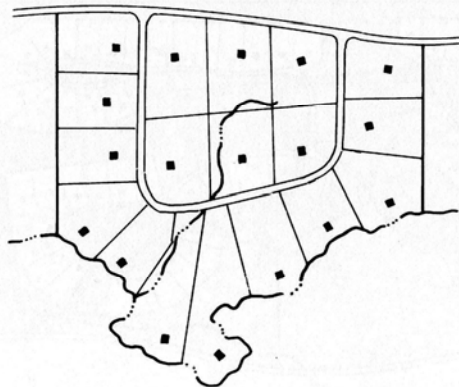
- A majority of Town of Mount Hope residents prefer residential developments based on the traditional design (larger lots with no or little shared open space) to the cluster design (smaller lots with more shared open space). County residents, respondents from most other jurisdictions in Grant County and in other parts of Wisconsin tend to prefer the cluster design of development.

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

**OPTION A**

**OPTION B**

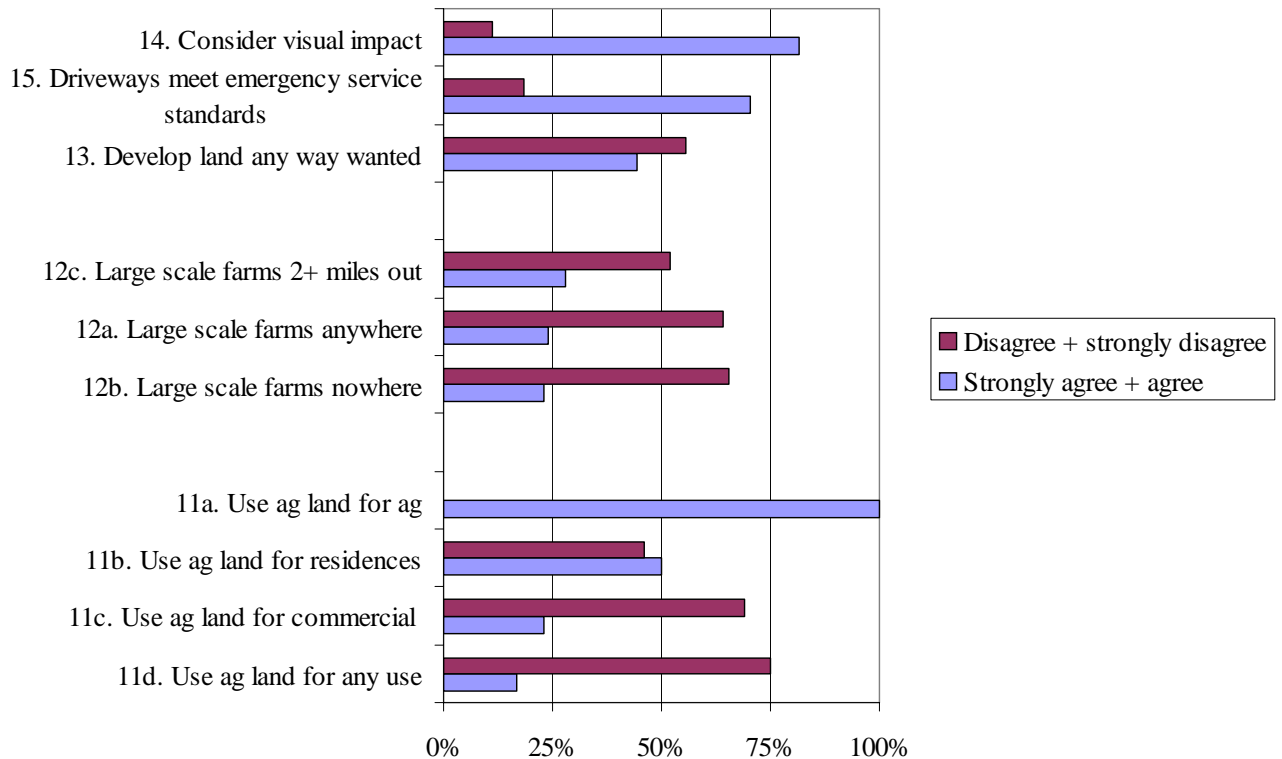
Traditional Design		Cluster Design	
Mount Hope	County	Mount Hope	County
53%	39%	47%	61%



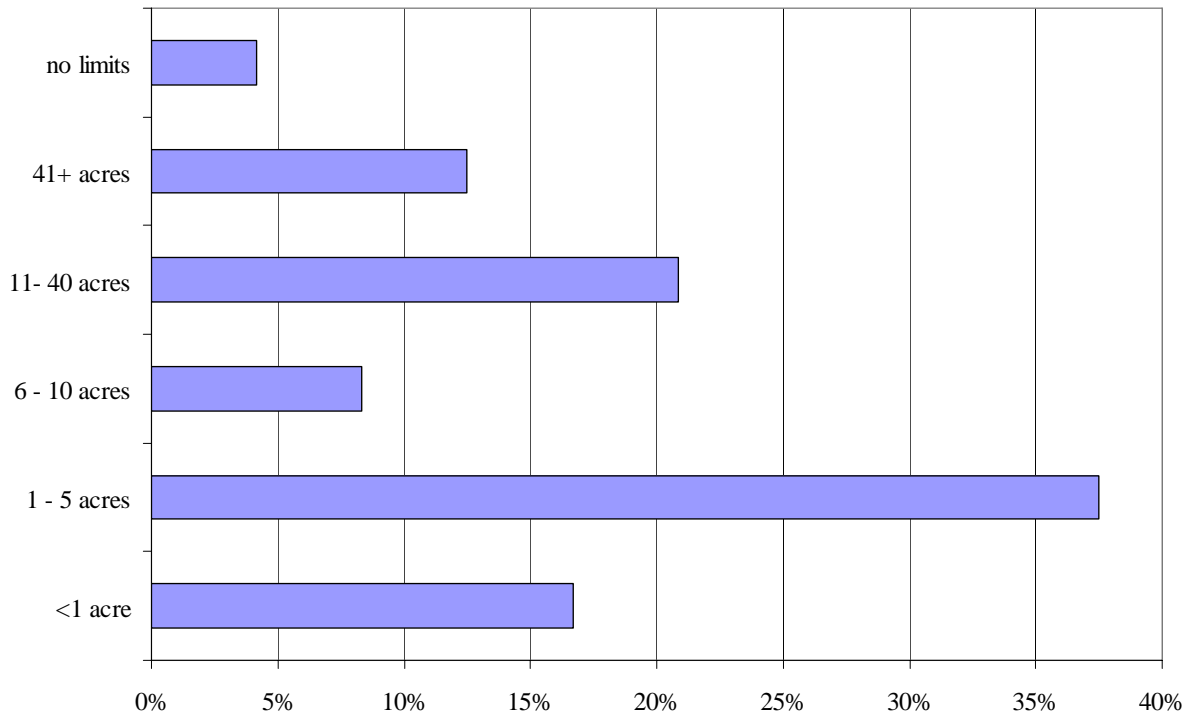
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE

- Residents of the Town of Mount Hope feel strongly that driveways should be required to meet standards for providing emergency services and that decision makers should consider the visual impact of developments in their evaluation process.
- Town opinions about whether landowners should be allowed to develop land any way they want is mixed, though a majority seems to disagree with this proposition.
- With respect to the expansion of large-scale farms (500 animal units or more), Mount Hope residents generally are not supportive of any of the three scenarios described. They are opposed to both the most restrictive alternative (76% oppose prohibiting their expansion everywhere in Grant County) and the most liberal option (64% oppose allowing their expansion anywhere in the County). Fifty-two percent are opposed to allowing large farm expansion outside a 2 mile radius of an incorporated area. In sum, Town residents don't appear to want to ban large farm expansions but they haven't given directions as to where they should be located.
- Town of Mount Hope residents are unanimous in their belief that productive agricultural land should be used in agriculture. Solid majorities oppose the use of such land for commercial or unrestricted use. Town residents are fairly evenly split, however, on using productive land for residential use.
- The graphs on the following page indicate that Town of Mount Hope residents favor relatively small minimum lot sizes for residential developments in rural areas (55% would set the limit at 5 acres or less) and 48% of respondents own 101 acres or more in Grant County.

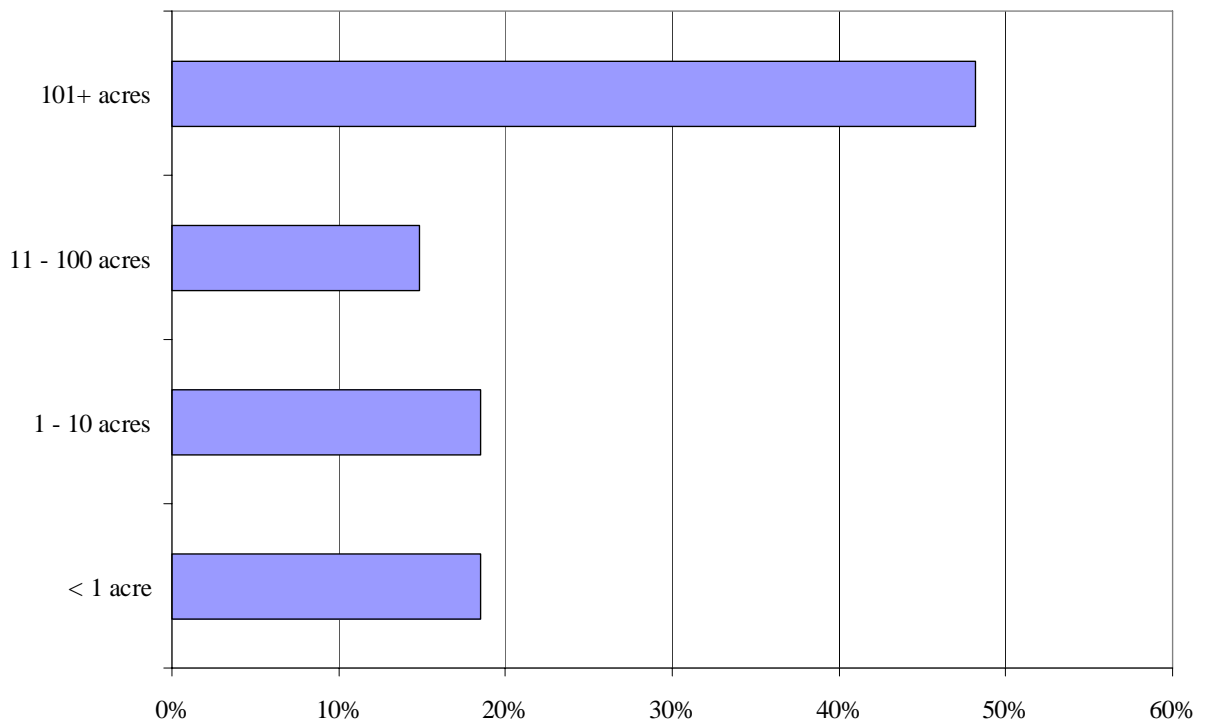
Land Use Opinions



Preferred Minimum Lot Size



Acres Owned in Grant County



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

- Town residents are substantially less likely than County residents to agree that large farms should be allowed to expand outside a 2 mile radius of incorporated areas.
- They are more likely than County residents to agree that land owners should be allowed to develop land any way they want.
- Residents of Mount Hope are less likely to agree that driveways should be required to meet standards for providing emergency services.
- There are substantially more large land holders in the Town of Mount Hope (101 acres or more) and fewer small land holders (less than 1 acre) than the County average.
- Compared to the County, there are more residents that actively farm the land they own.
- For those residents that actively farm their land, a higher proportion than the County average believes their land will be actively farmed in the future.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
<b>11a. Use ag land for ag</b>	70%	76%	30%	21%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%
<b>11b. Use ag land for residences</b>	4%	4%	46%	28%	23%	44%	23%	17%	4%	7%
<b>11c. Use ag land for commercial</b>	4%	3%	19%	19%	42%	45%	27%	26%	8%	7%
<b>11d. Use ag land for any use</b>	8%	4%	8%	8%	38%	40%	38%	36%	8%	12%
<b>12. Expand lg farms (500+ an. units):</b>										
<b>a. Anywhere in Grant County</b>	0%	9%	24%	17%	32%	42%	32%	23%	12%	8%
<b>b. Nowhere in Grant County</b>	12%	12%	12%	14%	50%	44%	15%	19%	12%	12%
<b>c. 2 miles outside inc areas</b>	12%	23%	16%	39%	28%	17%	24%	9%	20%	12%
<b>13. Develop land any way wanted</b>	15%	11%	30%	17%	44%	52%	11%	18%	0%	2%
<b>14. Consider visual impacts of devel</b>	11%	28%	70%	57%	11%	9%	0%	2%	7%	5%
<b>15. Driveways meet EMS standards</b>	22%	38%	48%	52%	19%	6%	0%	0%	11%	4%

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

Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
15%	24%	44%	48%	15%	16%	15%	5%	11%	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	
Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
17%	19%	38%	49%	8%	13%	21%	5%	13%	4%	4%	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	
Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
19%	60%	19%	17%	15%	10%	48%	13%

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

Yes		No		Not Applicable	
Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
52%	14%	37%	55%	11%	31%

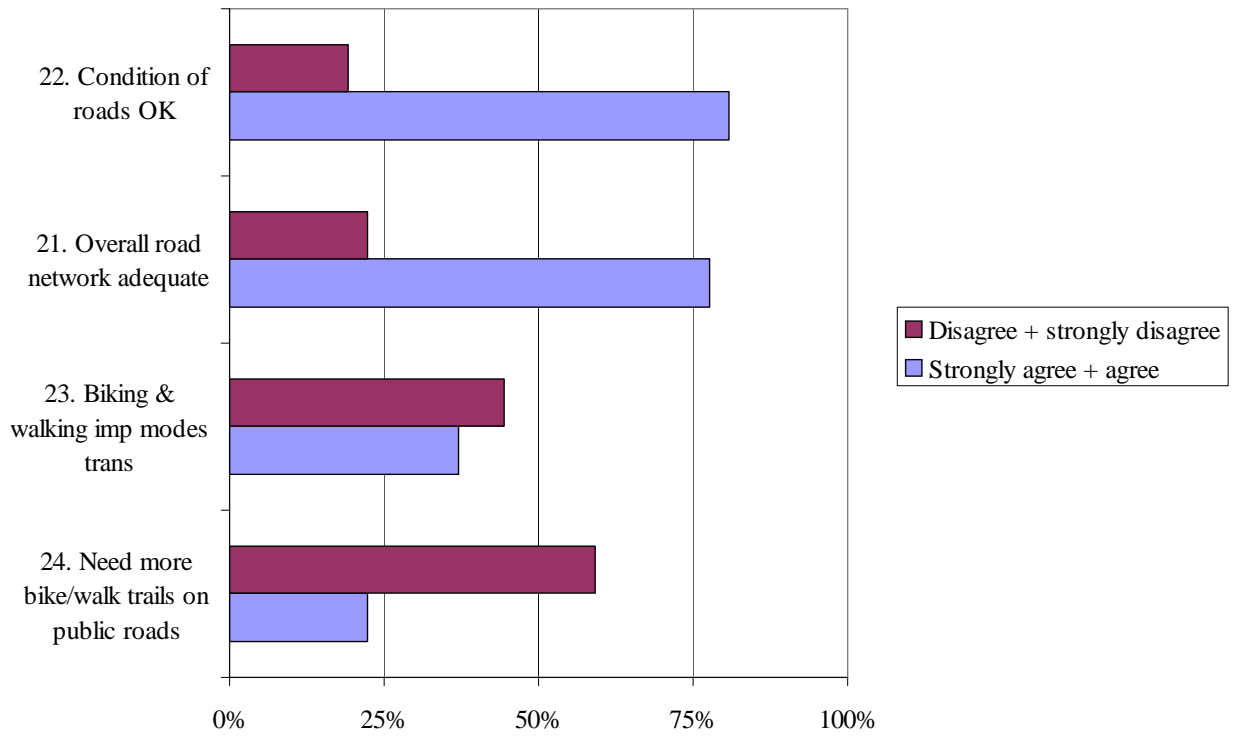
**20. Do you think your land will be actively farmed (by you or someone else) in the next:**

0-5 years		6-10 years		11-15 years		16-20 years		Not Applicable	
Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
26%	10%	26%	6%	33%	6%	48%	13%	33%	74%

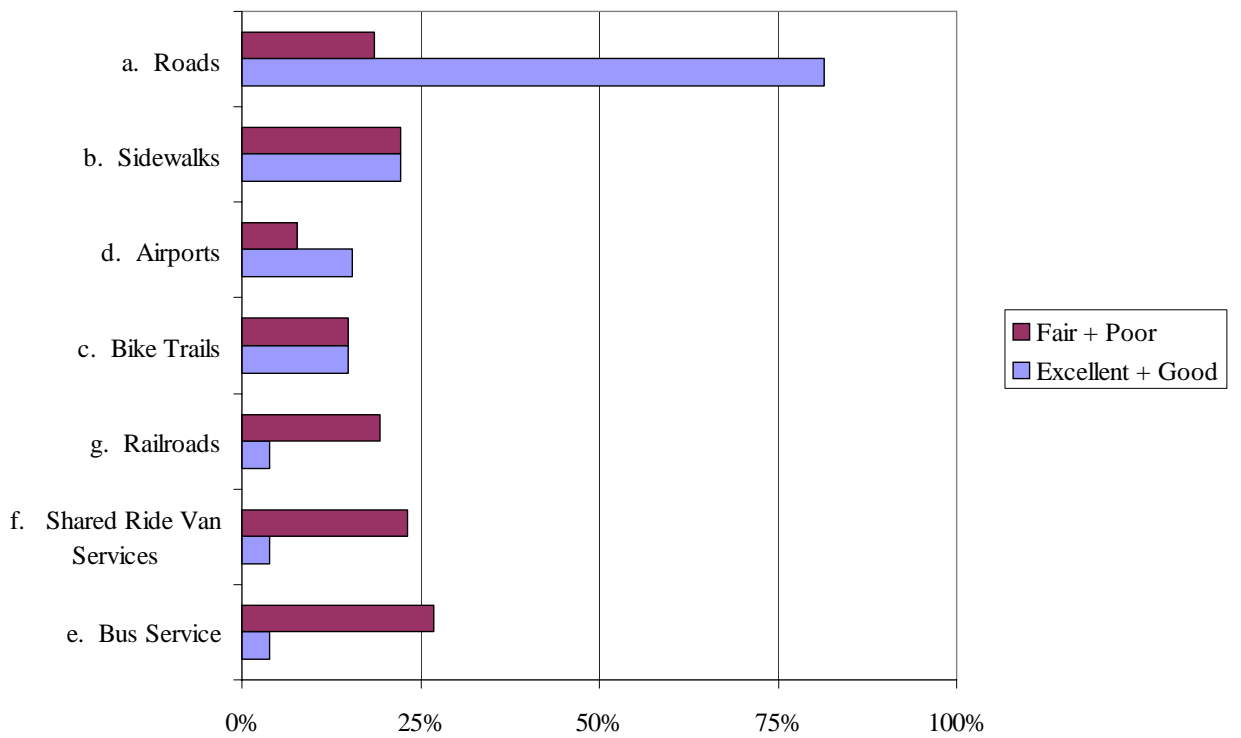
**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – TRANSPORTATION**

- More than three-quarters of Mount Hope residents agree or strongly agree that the overall road network in Grant County meets the needs of its citizens and that the condition of local roads and streets is adequate for intended uses (see graph on the next page).
- Residents slightly disagree with the sentiment that biking and walking are important modes of transportation in the Town.
- Over one-half of residents do not believe that there should be more biking and walking lanes along public roadways in the Town.
- 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)**

- Town residents are substantially less likely than County residents to agree that biking and walking are important modes of transportation in the Town and that more biking and walking lanes along public roadways are need in the Town.

**21-24. Transportation issues**

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
<b>21. Road network meets needs</b>	4%	14%	74%	74%	19%	9%	4%	2%	0%	1%
<b>22. Condition of roads adequate</b>	8%	11%	73%	64%	12%	20%	8%	3%	0%	1%
<b>23. Biking &amp; walking imp modes trans</b>	11%	18%	26%	44%	41%	22%	4%	5%	19%	11%
<b>24. Need more bike &amp; walk lanes on pub roads</b>	4%	24%	19%	34%	44%	23%	15%	9%	19%	10%

- With the exception of rating roads, substantial proportions of residents in the County, as well as, residents from the Town of Mount Hope did not rate the transportation items listed; comparisons between the County and Town responses are not meaningful.

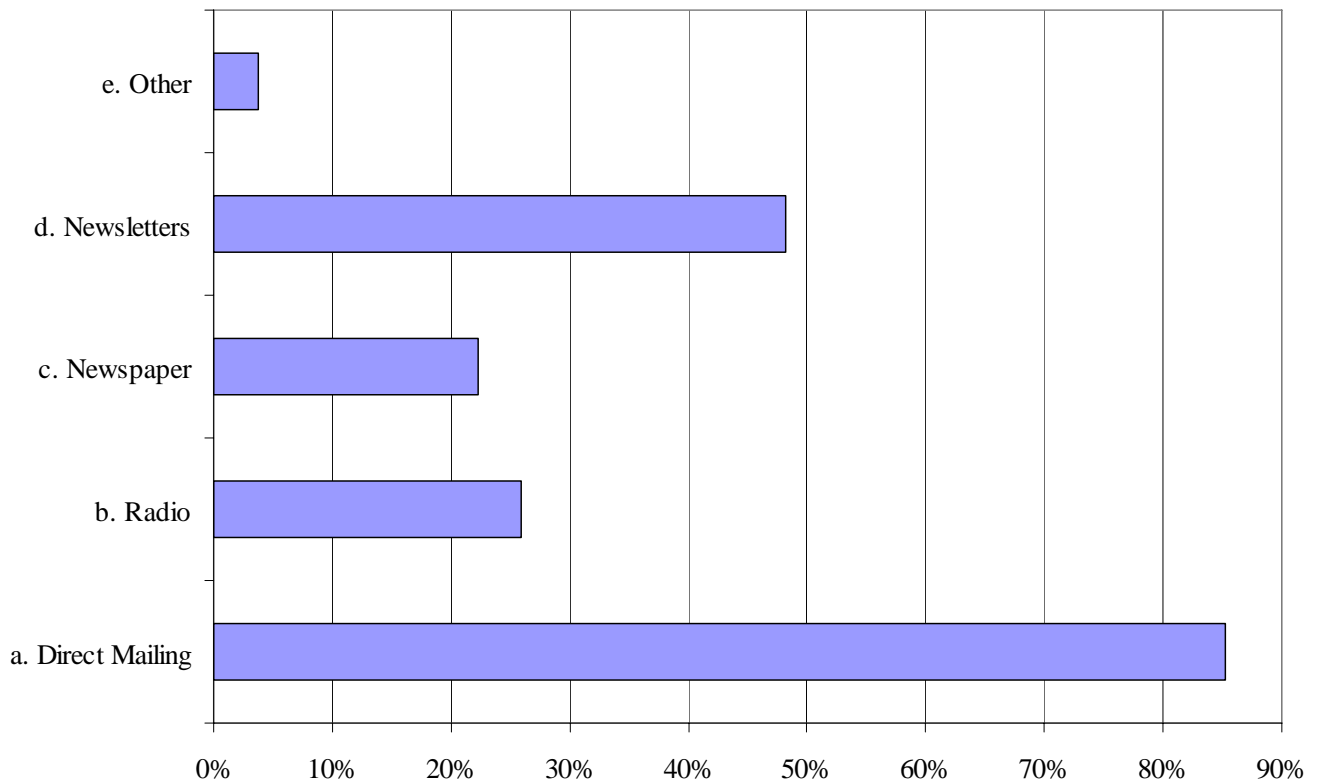
**25. Rate the following for your local jurisdiction:**

	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Not Applicable	
	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
<b>a. Roads</b>	4%	12%	78%	59%	11%	22%	7%	6%	0%	0%
<b>b. Sidewalks</b>	4%	6%	19%	39%	7%	28%	15%	6%	56%	22%
<b>c. Bike Trails</b>	0%	3%	15%	17%	7%	19%	7%	16%	70%	44%
<b>d. Airports</b>	4%	6%	12%	30%	8%	16%	0%	4%	77%	43%
<b>e. Bus Service</b>	0%	1%	4%	4%	4%	3%	23%	20%	69%	72%
<b>f. Shared Ride Van Services</b>	0%	0%	4%	9%	4%	11%	19%	16%	73%	64%
<b>g. Railroads</b>	0%	2%	4%	11%	4%	10%	15%	13%	77%	64%
<b>h. Other</b>	0%	3%	0%	9%	0%	1%	0%	12%	100%	75%

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS - COMMUNICATION**

- A large majority of Town residents (85%) indicate that the most effective way to provide comprehensive planning information to landowners and residents is via direct mail.
- Slightly less than half of residents say that newsletters are among their top two choices for comprehensive planning information.

**Communication Preferences for Comp Plan Info**



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

- In comparison to the County, residents of the Town of Mount Hope share the same preference for direct mail as their first choice among sources of information about comprehensive planning.
- Town of Mount Hope residents have a weaker preference for newspaper articles than the County average.

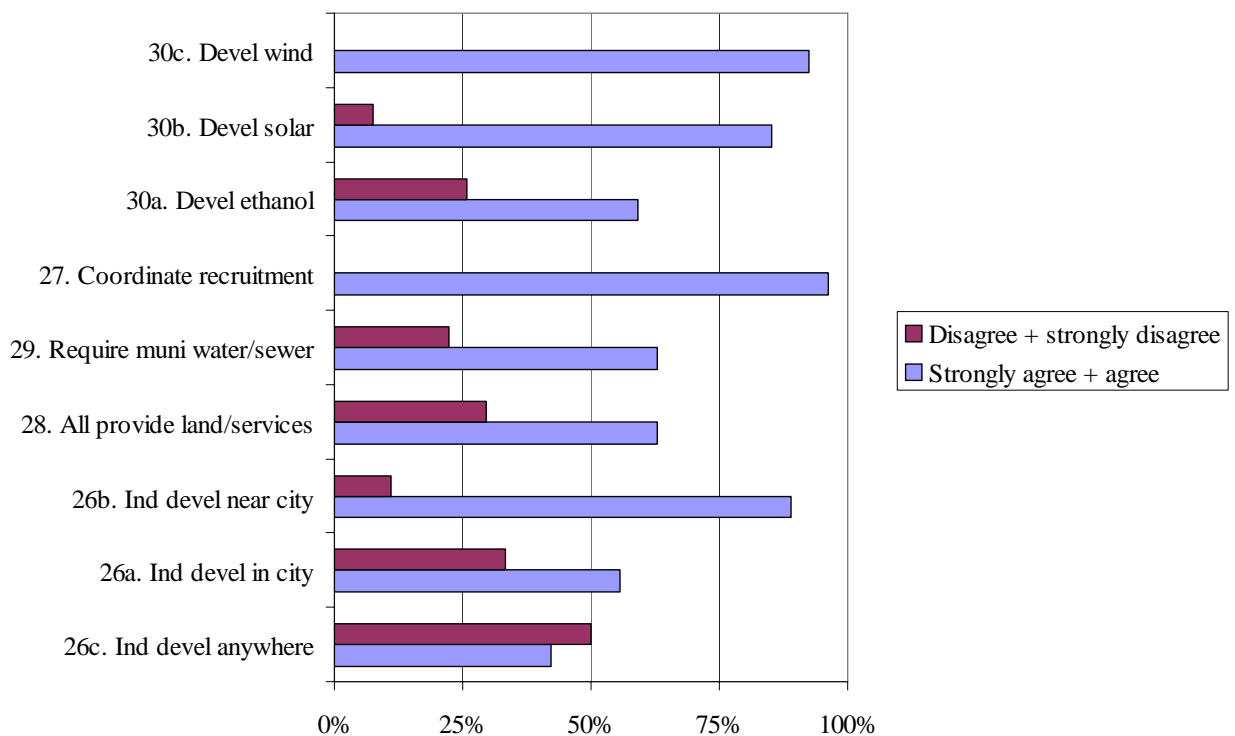
**3. What are 2 most effective ways your jurisdiction could provide Comprehensive Planning information to landowners and residents?**

	Mount Hope	Cnty
<b>a. Direct Mailing</b>	85%	70%
<b>b. Radio</b>	26%	21%
<b>c. Newspaper</b>	22%	44%
<b>d. Newsletters</b>	48%	56%
<b>e. Other</b>	4%	4%

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

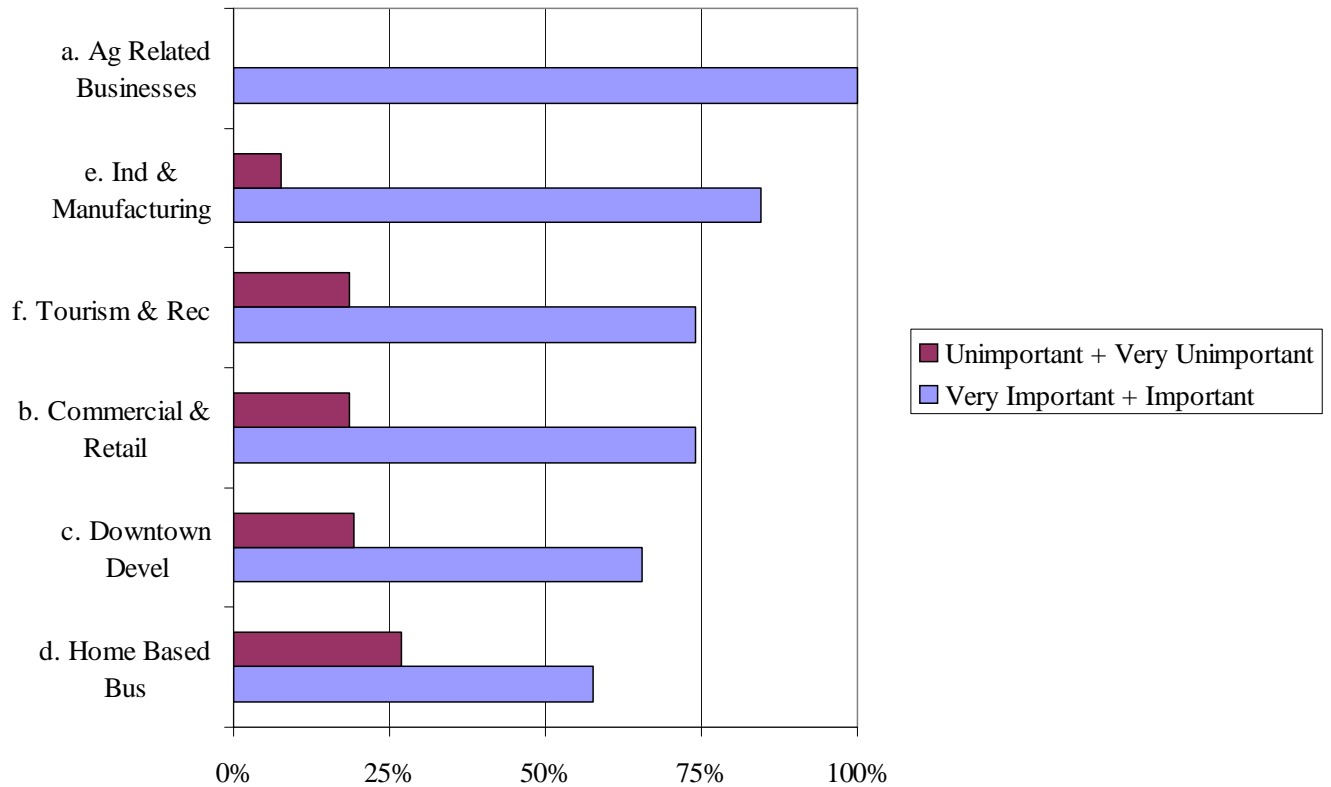
- Strong majorities of residents in the Town of Mount Hope feel that the development of alternative energy (wind or solar) is important. Ethanol plant development has less (59%) support.
- Citizens in the Town are overwhelmingly in favor of coordinating efforts within Grant County to recruit new business and industry.
- Over half of Town resident agree or strongly agree that all jurisdictions in the County should provide some land with infrastructure for public or private industrial or commercial development and that development at the edge of cities and villages should be required to have municipal water and sewer services (both at 63%).
- Town residents prefer that commercial or industrial buildings and activities involving truck traffic and manufacturing be located near a city or a village (89%) rather than in an existing city or village (55%), or allowed anywhere in the County (42%).

Economic Development Opinions



- There is unanimity that it is important or very important that Grant County encourage agricultural related businesses.
- Four of the six types of business development described in the questionnaire have at least 75 percent of Town respondents viewing it as “very important” or “important”.
- Over one-quarter of Town of Mount Hope respondents rated home based business development as “unimportant” or “very unimportant” in Grant County.

Importance of Business Development



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

- In general, Town residents hold views about economic development that are very similar to the overall County average.
- Town of Mount Hope residents feel more strongly than the average for the County that commercial or industrial buildings and activities involving truck traffic and manufacturing should be located anywhere in Grant County.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	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>	7%	14%	48%	39%	26%	28%	7%	7%	11%	12%
<b>b. Near a city or village</b>	11%	16%	78%	63%	7%	8%	4%	3%	0%	10%
<b>c. Anywhere in Grant County</b>	4%	7%	38%	19%	31%	38%	19%	20%	8%	16%
<b>27. Coordinate business recruitment</b>	26%	53%	70%	40%	0%	2%	0%	2%	4%	3%
<b>28. Provide land &amp; infrastructure for industry/commerce</b>	11%	16%	52%	43%	22%	19%	7%	7%	7%	15%
<b>29. Required muni water &amp; sewer</b>	19%	26%	44%	45%	22%	11%	0%	4%	15%	14%

- Residents of the Town of Mount Hope give similar high support to pursuing alternative wind and solar energy as do County residents as a whole. Town and County residents are both less sure about ethanol plants as a form of economic development.

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

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
<b>a. Ethanol Plants</b>	22%	22%	37%	33%	22%	23%	4%	9%	15%	13%
<b>b. Solar Energy</b>	41%	39%	44%	45%	7%	5%	0%	1%	7%	10%
<b>c. Wind Energy</b>	44%	48%	48%	43%	0%	2%	0%	2%	7%	6%
<b>d. Other</b>	29%	28%	14%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	57%	63%

- Town of Mount Hope residents' level of belief in the importance of commercial and retail development, downtown development, home-based business development, and tourism and recreation is lower than the County average but still are solid majorities.

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

	Very Important		Important		Unimportant		Very Unimportant		Not Applicable	
	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
<b>a. Ag Related Business</b>	70%	59%	30%	38%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%
<b>b. Commercial &amp; Retail</b>	19%	33%	56%	59%	19%	7%	0%	1%	7%	1%
<b>c. Downtown Devel</b>	15%	31%	50%	52%	12%	11%	8%	2%	15%	4%
<b>d. Home-Based Bus</b>	19%	17%	38%	54%	19%	22%	8%	3%	15%	4%
<b>e. Ind &amp; Manufacturing</b>	19%	40%	65%	50%	8%	8%	0%	1%	8%	1%
<b>f. Tourism &amp; Rec</b>	15%	36%	59%	55%	11%	7%	7%	1%	7%	1%

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – DEMOGRAPHICS**

The demographic profile of the Town of Mount Hope matches the County in most ways, with a few differences:

- A higher proportion of respondents from the Town of Mount Hope are self-employed, which is consistent with the relatively high proportion of respondents involved in agriculture.
- The Town has more households with annual incomes of \$50,000 - \$74,999 than the County average.

**35. Gender**

Male		Female	
Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
67%	53%	33%	47%

**36. Age**

18-24		25-34		35-44	
Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
0%	0%	7%	7%	15%	13%
45-54		55-64		65 and older	
Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
22%	23%	22%	22%	33%	35%

**37. Employment Status**

Emp Full Time		Emp Part Time		Self Employed	
Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
32%	44%	4%	6%	28%	10%
Unemployed		Retired		Other	
Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
0%	1%	28%	37%	8%	1%

**38. Place of Residence**

Own		Rent		Other	
Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
100%	99%	0%	1%	0%	0%

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

0		1		2	
Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
		20%	20%	72%	71%
3		4		5+	
Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
8%	7%	0%	2%	0%	1%

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

0		1		2	
Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
64%	67%	16%	14%	8%	11%
3		4		5+	
Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
4%	7%	0%	1%	8%	0%

**41. Household Income**

Under \$15,000		\$15K - \$24,999		\$25K - \$49,999	
Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
17%	7%	8%	14%	25%	33%
\$50K - \$74,999		\$75K - \$99,999		\$100,000+	
Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
42%	25%	4%	15%	4%	6%

**42. Years Lived in Grant County**

Less than 1		1-4		5-9	
Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty
4%	1%	7%	5%	11%	9%
10-24		25+			
Mt Hope	Cnty	Mt Hope	Cnty		
11%	14%	67%	71%		

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**Town of Mount Hope Written Comments****32. Is there anything about living in Grant County that you don't like?****Taxes (4 comments)**

- Property taxes on housing is too high
- Taxes
- The high real estate taxes are tough
- Yes, the taxes just keep getting higher and higher all the time and nothings being done to control all of them.

**Police/Safety (2 comments)**

- Lack of drug enforcement not the small druggies but the big drug dealers and drug labs.
- Meth labs by Bagley

**Transportation/Roads/Distance Issues (2 comments)**

- Bagley Road from Bloomington to Bagley (speeding and on yellow line)
- Illegal workers with no drivers license registration or insurance driving the roads daily. Amish and Bicycles on the roads without lights and license. They do not yield to motor vehicles, creating a bad hazard.

**Environmental/Cultural/Recreational Issues (1 comment)**

- Department of natural resources has too much power

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

- Land use planning should have been done decades ago. Recreational acres should not be left to chance developments. Right now the 600 acres where my cabin is located is unprotected because the Wis. Land Co. failed to put our restrictive covenants on out deeds. Getting 42 land owner deeds changed is the only way our properties can be protected.

**Miscellaneous (2 comments)**

- Also all of the new bugs. We have to do something about all the Turkeys. there will be an epidemic among them soon.
- Illegal workers period.

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

- All townships should seal coat roads
- Change gravel roads to blacktop/pea gravel coated on more rural areas or homes.
- Inconsiderate drivers on the highways when I'm moving equipment from one farm to another farm.
- New sidewalks and more. There are a lot of children in town that walk to the bus stop and they are walking on the road or very poor sidewalks, walking to and from the bus stop.
- Paved township roads
- Sidewalks in some improvements also
- Traffic on 35 through Bloomington. Parking problem in Bloomington on main street hurts business in village

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

- Let's get someone or something to reduce the deer herd by over half.
- Our park could use some improvements in Mt. Hope.
- Require building permits that would protect streams and wetlands

**Taxes (3 comments)**

- Lower real estate taxes
- Reduce taxes
- Taxes due to wasteful spending

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

- Somehow help young people buy farms instead of Amish and investors

**Social Issues (1 comment)**

- Also keep our seniors safe and let them stay in their own homes

**Miscellaneous (1 comment)**

- Garbage pickup

**34. Other comments:**

**Jobs (2 comments)**

- I would like to see more good paying jobs in Grant County with good benefits.
- We need good jobs.

**Economic Development (1 comment)**

- Get businesses to move here. Get ethanol plant and renewable energies here.

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

- The inclusion of set aside in combination of development to assure green space and maintain farm land is a very important tool that should be used in rural development

**Miscellaneous (1 comment)**

- Need 2 hour parking on main street