

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 Watterstown. 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 Watterstown. 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 Watterstown.**
2. **Preserve and enhance the quality of life for the residents of the Town of Watterstown.**
3. **Protect and preserve the community character of the Town of Watterstown.**

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 the year 2027, we envision the Town of Watterstown to be a beautiful scenic area with tourism and farming. There will be some small businesses, but not large manufacturing. Housing will be single-family units of modest expense. There will be good cohesion of citizens and government.

The Town of Watterstown has a rich cultural and agricultural history that is still evident and valued by the community today. It is comprised of productive farms, some small businesses and home to many people who work in the surrounding communities. Looking to the future, while considering our town's valuable natural and cultural resources, we strive for a well-maintained land use pattern that will:

- *Be an appealing and safe place to live, work, and visit.*
- *Create and maintain an environment that acknowledges and respects the rights of all citizens,*
- *Maintain, preserve, and enhance farms and forests as working resources.*
- *Preserve and enhance open spaces, natural areas, streams, rivers, and cultural resources.*
- *Foster, encourage, and oversee structured growth within identified areas of the town's infrastructure.*
- *Offer a range of economic opportunities, together with a viable travel and tourism industry for visitors and a healthy environment with effective public services for all citizens.*

1.4 BACKGROUND AND PLANNING AREA

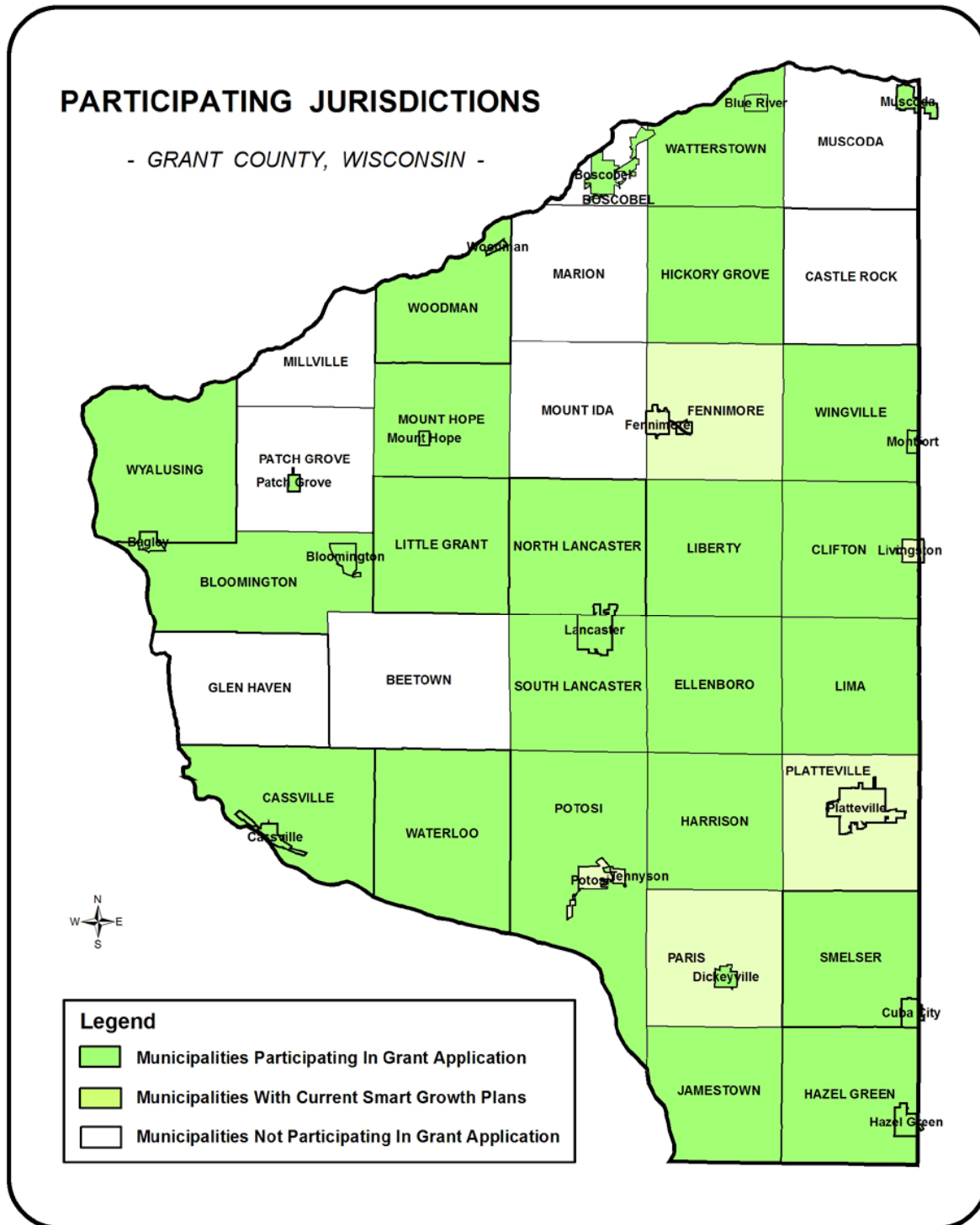
Under the Comprehensive Planning legislation, adopted by the state in October of 1999, beginning on January 1 2010, if a local governmental unit engages in any of the actions listed below, those actions shall be consistent with that local governmental unit’s comprehensive plan.

- 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 Watterstown, 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 Watterstown 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.

Below is a table that provides headings for five primary audiences for the jurisdiction's Public Participation Plan. Groups listed beneath each header were identified as being important to the comprehensive planning process because they reflect a variety of the community's diverse perspectives. These groups include the general public, legal boards/agencies, civic associations, businesses, and groups/individuals involved with land use issues. (*The category groups and individuals should include property owners and persons with a leasehold interest in property allowing extraction of nonmetallic mineral resources along with other community members having a vested interest in land use issues.*)

General Public	Legal Boards/Agencies	Civic Associations	Businesses	Groups and Individuals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers • Elderly • Other Town Citizens • Absentee Landowners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant Co. Housing Authority • Zoning Admin. • Grant Co. Zoning Board • Blue River Joint Fire District • Boscobel Joint Fire District • Lower WI Riverway Board • Wisconsin DOT • Grant County Hwy Commission • ASCS • Center on Aging • Grant Co. Forester • American Legion 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frazier & Sons Lumber & Log • Romanek's River Valley Motor Sports • Scenic River Energy Coop • CenturyTel • Richland-Grant Telephone Co. • Welsh's Concrete • Jeff Brownlee • Greg Brown Construction • Mike Baumeister Builders/Construction • Lonnie Zimple • F & M Sawmill • Alliant Energy • Thunder Valley Construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WI Land Conservation • DNR • Property Owners of Non-Metallic mineral resources (gravel pits)

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.

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

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

1. *Post agendas and meeting minutes in local newspapers (Dial & Progressive) prior to meeting.*
2. *Provide information through radio and internet: WGLR, WRCO, and Midwest Telnet.*
3. *Post agendas and meeting minutes at designated posting locations prior to meeting.*
4. *Provide information through mass mailings when plans are restrictive or expensive to landowners.*

Both community planning meetings and SWWRPC facilitated meetings served as the methods for public participation throughout the entire Town of Watterstown 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.

Listed below are groups the Town will target in order to encourage additional participation during the each stage of the planning process. Watterstown will use additional public outreach methods to ensure broad base participation from *specific groups* that may have vested interests in a particular issue or element being addressed in the planning process. **The Town will notify these groups listed in the table below by mailing them a copy of the vision statement and posting minutes in public locations.** When deemed appropriate, the Town of Watterstown will also organize an open house to encourage participation and feedback from the community and the specific groups listed below.

- *Agricultural & Cultural Resources: Grant Co. Zoning Admin., ASCS, and Grant Co. Forester*
- *Economic Development: Grant Co. Economic Development Authority*
- *Housing: Grant Co. Housing Authority*
- *Implementation: Watterstown Town Board*
- *Intergovernmental: Village of Blue River, Fire Boards-Blue River, Boscobel, and Muscoda*
- *Land Use: Grant County Zoning Administrator, Lower Wisconsin Riverway Board*
- *Natural Resources: Grant Co. Zoning Admin., DNR, Riverway Board*
- *Transportation: Grant Co. Highway Department, Wisconsin Department of Transportation*
- *Utilities and Community Facilities: Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperative, CenturyTel, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, and Alliant Energy*

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 Boscobel, Muscoda, Hickory Grove, Grant County, and the Riverdale and the Boscobel School District Administrators (Section 66.1001(4)(b), Stats.) In addition, a CD and a paper copy of the plan will be sent to the Wisconsin Land Council, Wisconsin Department of Administration, and 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 Watterstown 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 Watterstown 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 Watterstown Number	Town of Watterstown Percent	Grant County Number	Grant County Percent	Wisconsin Number	Wisconsin Percent
Total Population (1970)	255	100.0%	48,398	100.0%	4,417,933	100.0%
Total Population (1980)	348	100.0%	51,736	100.0%	4,705,767	100.0%
Total Population (1990)	361	100.0%	49,264	100.0%	4,891,769	100.0%
Total Population (2000)	362	100.0%	49,597	100.0%	5,363,675	100.0%
SEX AND AGE (2000)						
Male	193	53.3%	25,164	50.7%	2,649,041	49.4
Female	169	46.7%	24,433	49.3%	2,714,634	50.6
Under 10 years	46	12.7%	5,738	11.6%	721,824	13.5%
10 to 19 years	70	19.4%	8,490	17.1%	810,269	15.1%
20 to 34 years	34	9.4%	9,995	20.2%	1,063,460	19.8%
35 to 44 years	74	20.4%	7,096	14.3%	875,522	16.3%
45 to 59 years	75	20.7%	8,533	17.2%	985,048	18.4%
60 to 74 years	34	12.1%	5,918	12.0%	560,306	10.4%
75+ years	19	5.2%	3,827	7.7%	347,246	6.5%
		100%		100%		100%
Median Age (2000)	39.9		35.9		36.0	

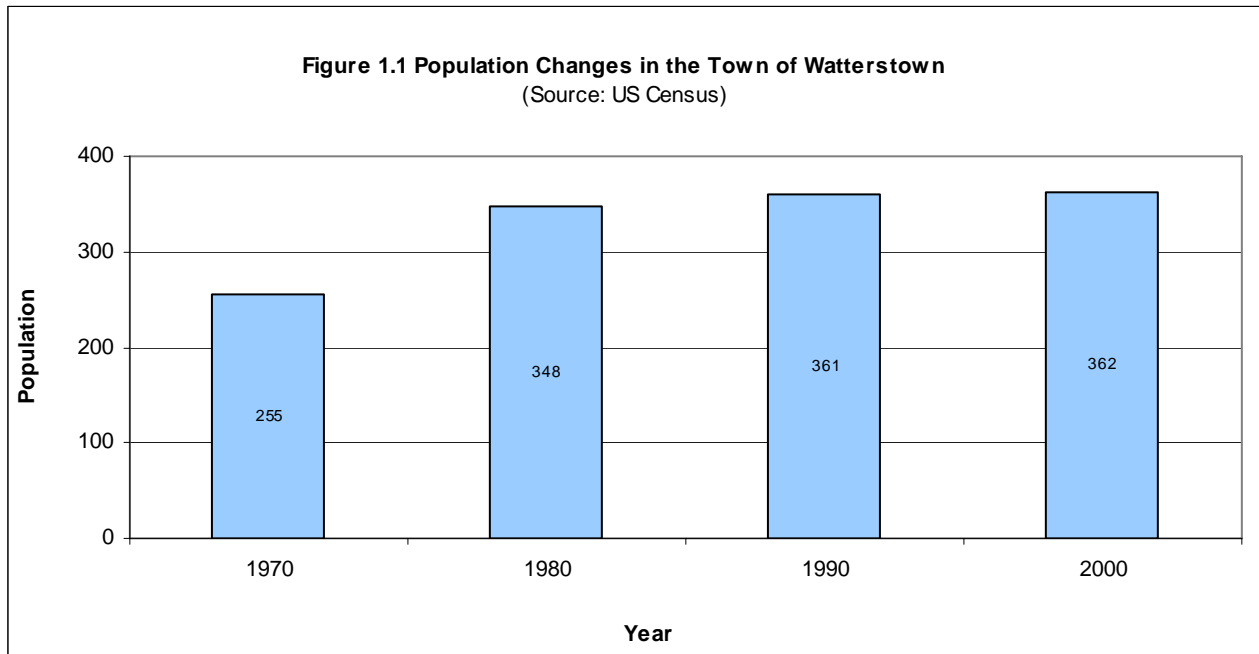


Figure 1.1 shows that the Town of Watterstown experienced an overall population increase from 1970 to 2000 of 42.0%.

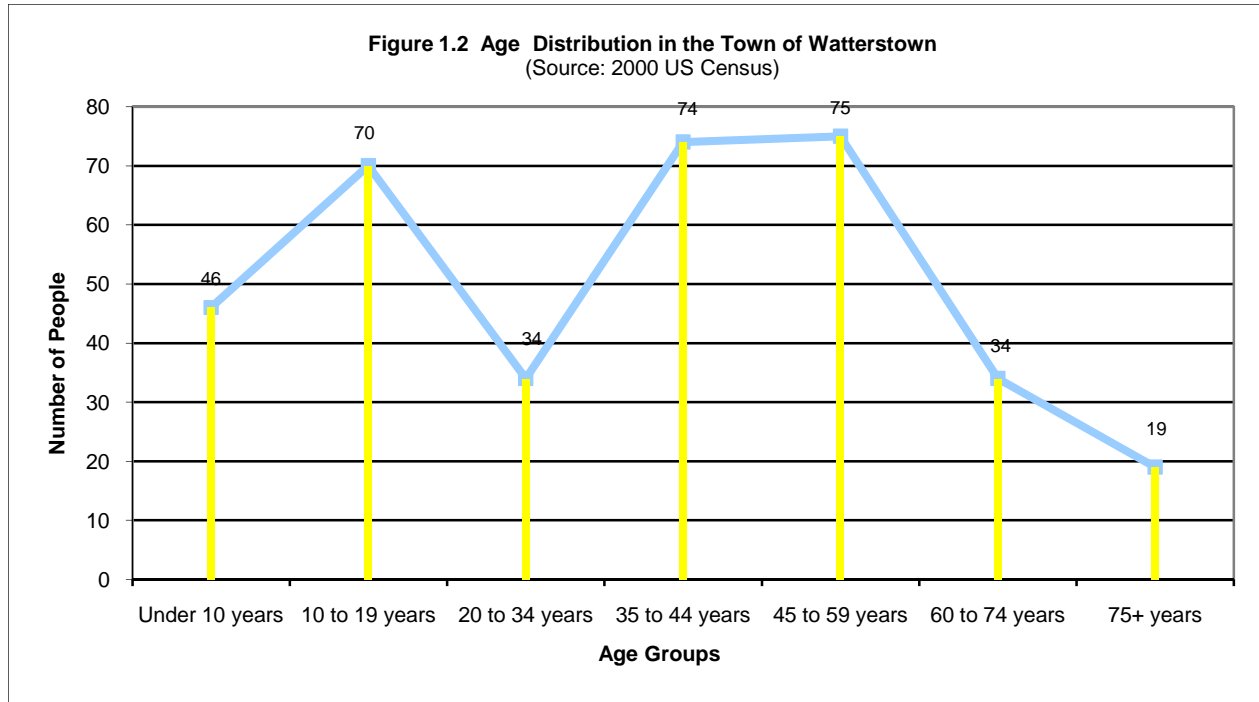


Figure 1.2 shows the population of the Town of Watterstown by age distribution for the year 2000. The largest group is people ages 45 to 59 (75 people) making up 20.7 % of the population. The second largest age group of 35 to 44 contains 20.4% of the population with 74 people. The town’s median age is 39.9.

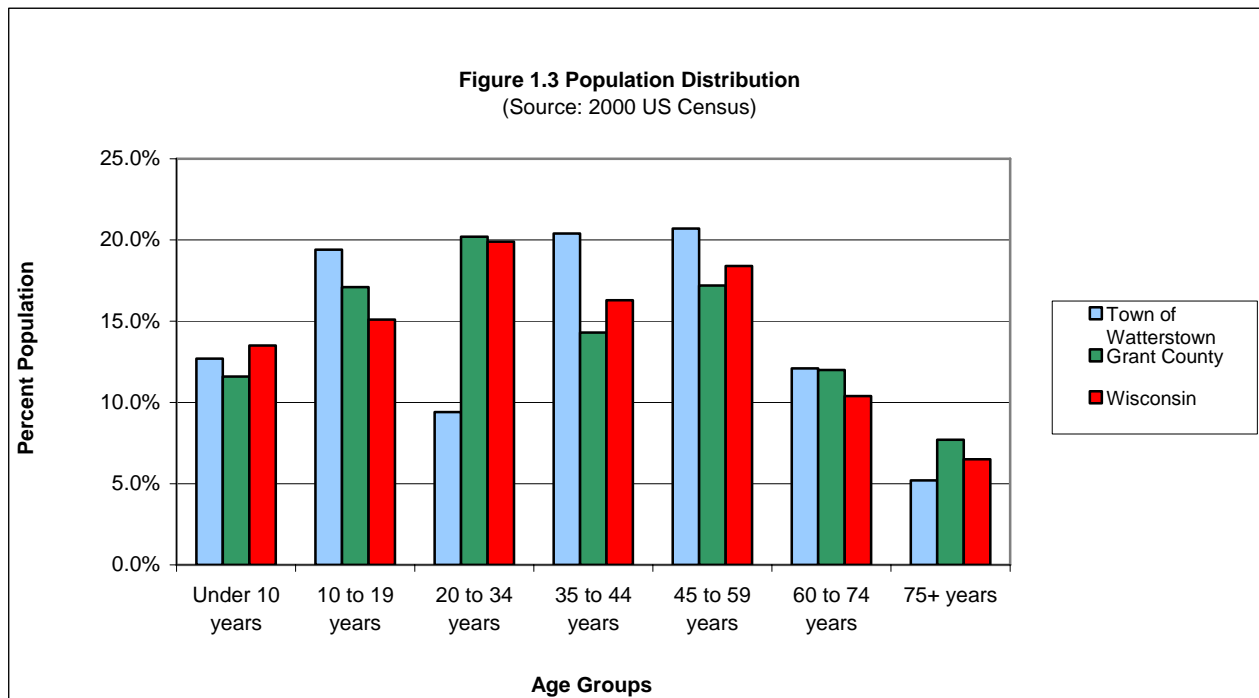


Figure 1.3 compares the population percentage by age group for the Town of Watterstown, Grant County, and the State of Wisconsin.

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	42	45	35	39	43	56
10 to 19 Years	63	67	59	68	55	72
20 to 34 Years	45	48	48	55	47	63
35 to 44 Years	22	24	34	39	39	53
45 to 59 Years	117	126	57	65	55	73
60 to 74 Years	56	60	118	135	99	133
75+ Years	25	27	27	31	48	64
Total	370	398	378	433	386	514

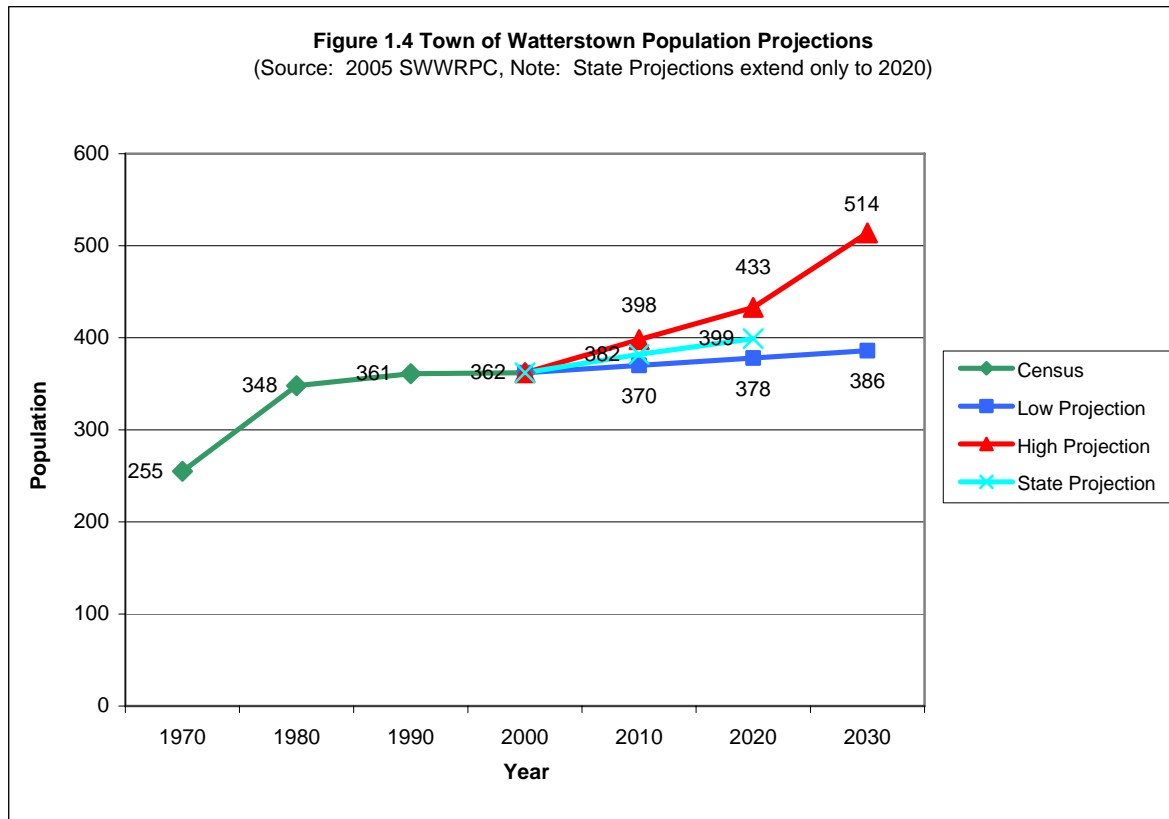


Figure 1.4 shows the projected populations for the years 2010, 2020, and 2030. The red line indicates a future high projection, while the blue line indicates a future low projection. The State projection trends between the two.

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

Educational Attainment	Town of Watterstown Number	Town of Watterstown Percent	Grant County Number	Grant County Percent	Wisconsin Percent
Less than 9th Grade	26	10.8%	2,346	7.7%	5.4%
9th to 12th No Diploma	36	14.9%	2,713	8.9%	9.6%
HS Grad	70	29.0%	12,255	40.0%	34.6%
Some College	49	20.3%	5,828	19.0%	20.6%
Associate Degree	23	9.5%	2,230	7.3%	7.5%
Bachelor's Degree	24	10.0%	3,332	10.9%	15.3%
Graduate/Prof. Degree	13	5.4%	1,921	6.3%	7.2%
Percent High School Grad or Higher	74.3%		83.5%		85.1%

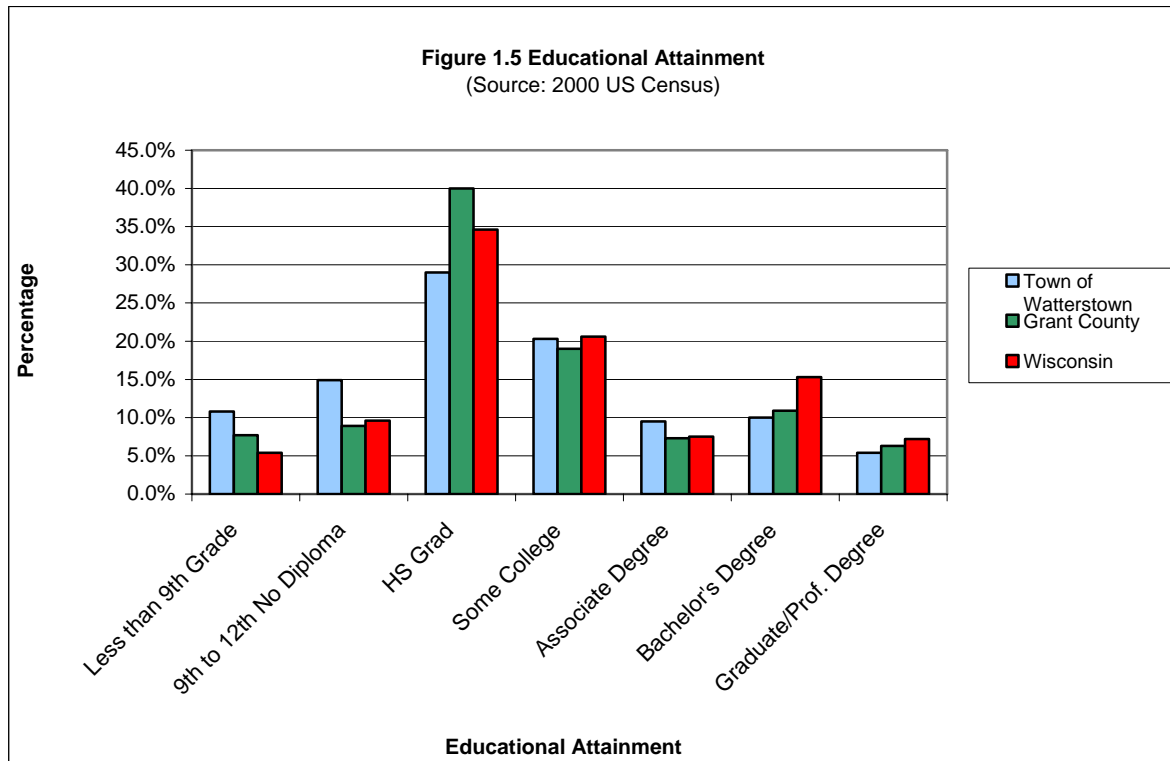


Table 1.4 Occupations (Source: DP-1,DP-2. 2000 US Census)

Occupations	Town of Watterstown Number	Town of Watterstown Percent	Grant County Number	Grant County Percent	Wisconsin Number	Wisconsin Percent
Prod, Trans & Mat. Moving	41	24.6%	4,981	19.9%	540,930	19.8%
Const, Extraction & Maint.	22	13.2%	2,294	9.1%	237,086	8.7%
Farm, Fishing & Forestry	7	4.2%	753	3.0%	25,725	0.9%
Sales & Office	20	12.0%	5,524	22.0%	690,360	25.2%
Services	12	7.2%	4,025	16.0%	383,619	14.0%
Mgmt, Prof & Related	65	38.9%	7,511	29.9%	857,205	31.3%
Total	167	100%	25,088	100%	2,734,925	100%

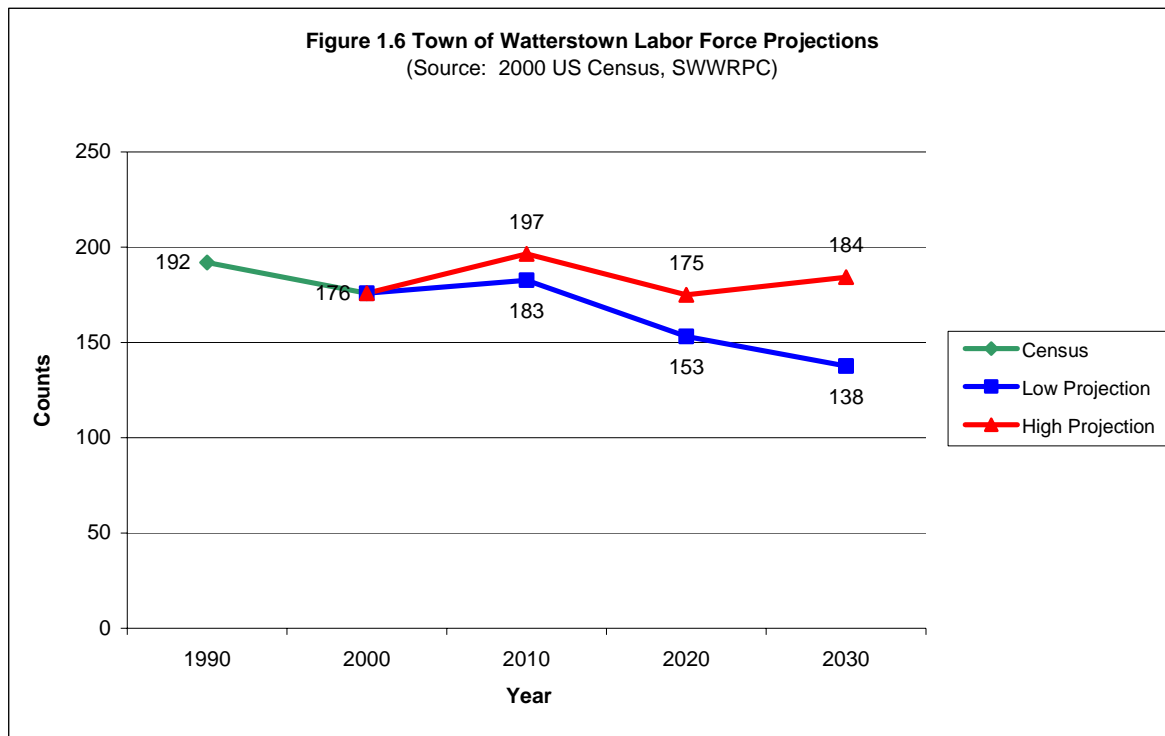


Figure 1.6 shows the projected labor force populations for the years 2010, 2020, and 2030. The red line indicates a high projection, while the blue line indicates the low projection. Labor data was not available for 1980 or 1970.

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)

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**

Town of Waterstown

During September and October of 2007 a total of 242 questionnaires were sent to households in the Town of Waterstown and 44 questionnaires were returned for a return rate of 18 percent. This number of returned surveys will provide estimates that are expected to be accurate to within plus or minus 12 percent. The demographic profile of Waterstown respondents matches that of the County in most ways except that Waterstown had more male respondents than the County average, a smaller proportion of residents who are employed full-time, and fewer respondents who have lived in Grant County for more than 25 years.

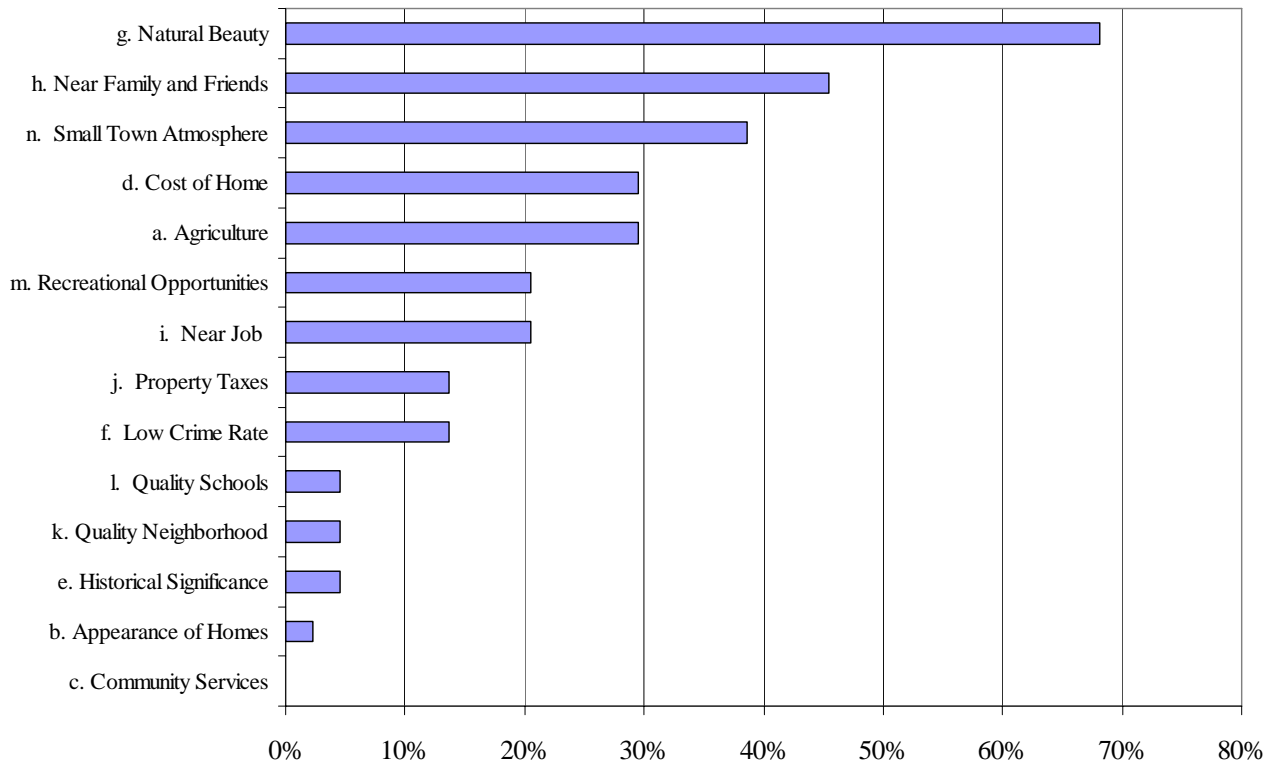
Key results of this survey include:

- Town residents have chosen to live in Grant County primarily because of the area's natural beauty, to be near family and friends, and its small town atmosphere. Compared to Grant County as a whole, Waterstown residents are much more likely to choose the natural beauty of the area as the reason they chose to live in the County.
- Residents of the Town of Waterstown give fire protection, ambulance service, park and recreation facilities and the public library good or excellent ratings. Compared to Grant County residents as a whole, Town residents give noticeably lower ratings to park & recreation facilities, police protection, the public library, the public school system, and snow removal.
- Very large majorities of residents in the Town of Waterstown place great importance on the protection of all natural and cultural resources.
- Waterstown residents think the focus of housing development should be placed on improving existing homes and development of housing to meet the needs of the elderly. Waterstown residents are generally less supportive of the need for starter homes than is typical for the County.
- A majority of Town residents prefer residential developments based on a cluster design (smaller lots with more shared open space) to the traditional design (larger lots with no or little shared open space).
- People living in the Town are unanimous in their belief that productive agricultural land should be used in agriculture. Majorities oppose the use of such land for other purposes (residential, commercial, or unrestricted use). Surprisingly, Town residents appear to oppose all options to expand large scale livestock operations in Grant County.
- Town residents do not believe that land owners should be allowed to develop their properties in any way they see fit, want all driveways to meet standards for emergency services, and feel that the evaluation of developments should consider its visual impact.
- A majority of Waterstown residents and the County agree there should be a minimum lot size on residential development in rural areas; the largest percent agreeing on 1 to 5 acres minimum.
- Waterstown residents own more land than the overall County average. Landowners are more likely to farm their land than the County average. For those Waterstown residents who own farmland, a larger proportion believes their land will continue agricultural use.
- More than three-quarters of Waterstown residents agree or strongly agree that the overall road network in Grant County meets the needs of its citizens. Waterstown residents are less likely to think biking and walking are important modes of transportation or to see a need for more biking and walking lanes along public roadways in the Town than the County sample.
- A majority of residents of Waterstown indicated that direct mail is their preferred method for receiving information about Comprehensive Planning.
- A majority of Town residents support developing alternative energy (wind, solar, ethanol).
- Like the rest of Grant County, residents of Waterstown believe that Grant County should coordinate efforts to recruit new businesses. They also share the opinion that local jurisdictions should provide land and infrastructure for business and industry and that new development on the edge of existing villages or cities should be required to connect to municipal sewer and water.
- Waterstown residents view a wide variety of type's business development as important in Grant County.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – QUALITY OF LIFE

- The three most important reasons most people have chosen to live in the Town of Watterstown are the natural beauty of the area, to be near family and friends, and the small town atmosphere.
- The cost of homes and agricultural opportunities were important to nearly one-third of Town residents.
- Five percent or less of residents indicates that historical significance, community services, and appearance of homes are among their top three reasons.

Quality of Life Factors



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

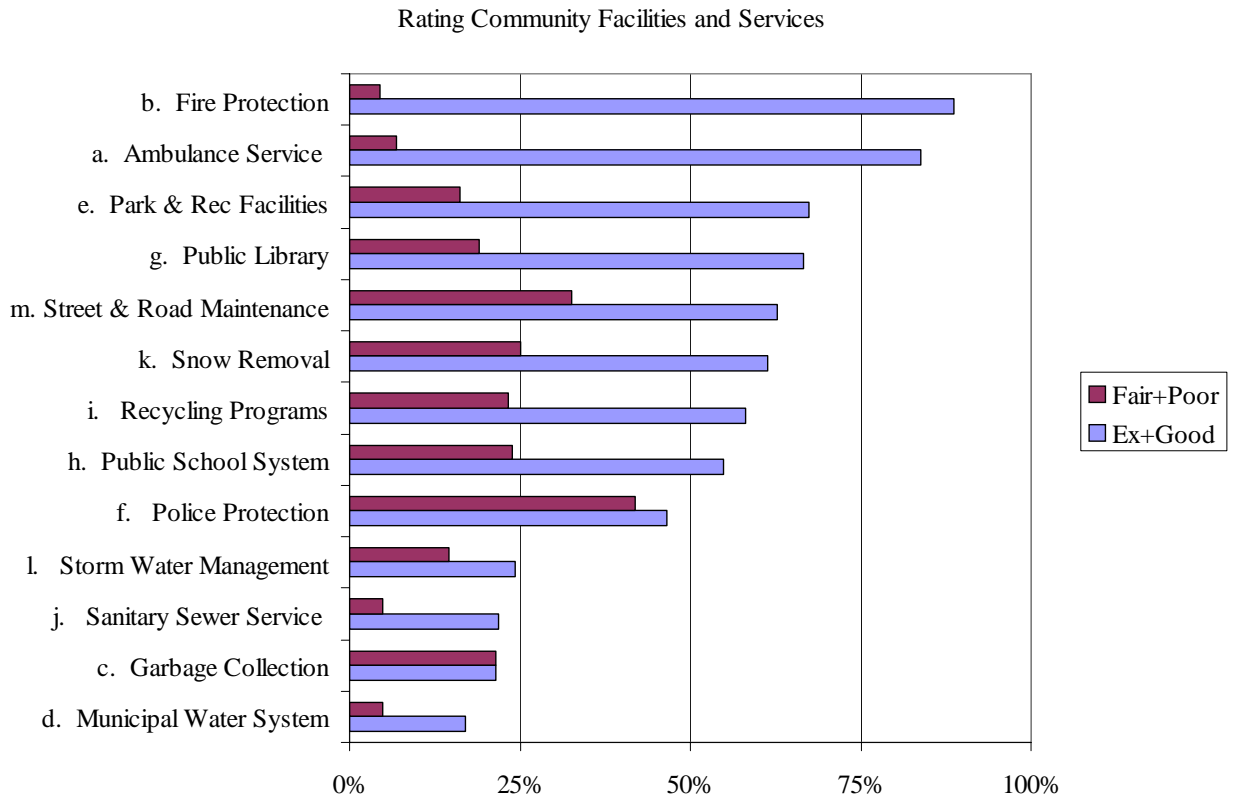
- Compared to Grant County as a whole, Watterstown residents are much more likely to choose the natural beauty of the area as the reason they chose to live in the County.
- They are less likely to choose the small town atmosphere and nearness to their job than the average Grant County resident.

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

	Watterstown	County		Watterstown	County
a. Agriculture	30%	17%	i. Near Job	20%	40%
b. Appearance of Homes	2%	2%	j. Property Taxes	14%	6%
c. Community Services	0%	3%	k. Quality Neighborhood	5%	10%
d. Cost of Home	30%	17%	l. Quality Schools	5%	18%
e. Historical Significance	5%	2%	m. Recreational Opportunities	20%	9%
f. Low Crime Rate	14%	20%	n. Small Town Atmosphere	39%	58%
g. Natural Beauty	68%	24%	o. Other	5%	5%
h. Near Family and Friends	45%	56%			

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- Residents of the Town of Watterstown give fire protection, ambulance service, park and rec facilities and the public library good or excellent ratings.
- Residents have mixed opinions about street and road maintenance, snow removal, recycling programs, and the public school system.
- Town of Watterstown residents are evenly split, however, on their satisfaction with police protection.



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

- Compared to the overall County ratings for community services and facilities, Watterstown residents tend to rate ambulance service and fire protection with nearly the same high levels of satisfaction.
- Town of Watterstown residents give noticeably lower ratings to park & recreation facilities, police protection, the public library, the public school system, and snow removal.
- Substantial majorities of Watterstown respondents indicated not applicable to garbage collection, municipal water system, sanitary sewer service, and storm water management. Comparisons for these services would be meaningless.

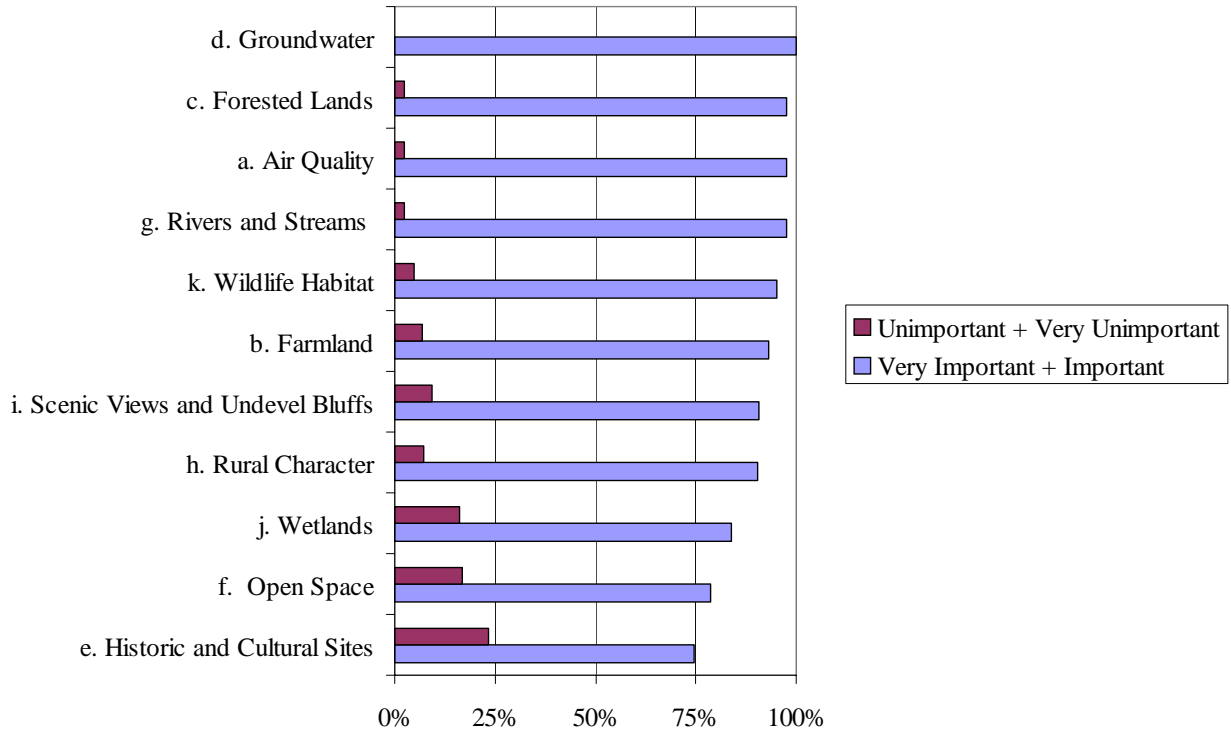
2. Rate the following local services

	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Not Applicable	
	Wttrs-town	Cnty	Wttrs-town	Cnty	Wttrs-town	Cnty	Wttrs-town	Cnty	Wttrs-town	Cnty
a. Ambulance Service	37%	54%	47%	35%	5%	6%	2%	0%	9%	5%
b. Fire Protection	41%	54%	48%	39%	5%	4%	0%	0%	7%	3%
c. Garbage Collection	7%	39%	14%	39%	14%	9%	7%	2%	57%	11%
d. Municipal Water System	7%	23%	10%	38%	2%	10%	2%	2%	78%	26%
e. Park & Rec Facilities	23%	30%	44%	47%	16%	13%	0%	2%	16%	7%
f. Police Protection	5%	27%	42%	45%	35%	20%	7%	4%	12%	4%
g. Public Library	24%	33%	43%	46%	12%	11%	7%	2%	14%	8%
h. Public School System	14%	30%	40%	49%	12%	13%	12%	2%	21%	6%
i. Recycling Programs	5%	31%	53%	51%	14%	12%	9%	2%	19%	3%
j. Sanitary Sewer Service	5%	25%	17%	42%	5%	8%	0%	1%	73%	24%
k. Snow Removal	16%	27%	45%	47%	18%	17%	7%	2%	14%	7%
l. Storm Water Management	2%	16%	22%	43%	10%	16%	5%	3%	61%	22%
m. Street & Road Maintenance	7%	16%	56%	46%	21%	28%	12%	8%	5%	2%

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Very large majorities of residents in the Town of Watterstown place great importance on the protection of all natural and cultural resources.
- They have unanimity regarding the importance to protect groundwater and near unanimity regarding the importance to protect forested lands (98%), air quality (98%), and rivers and streams (98%).

Importance of Protecting Natural & Cultural Resources



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

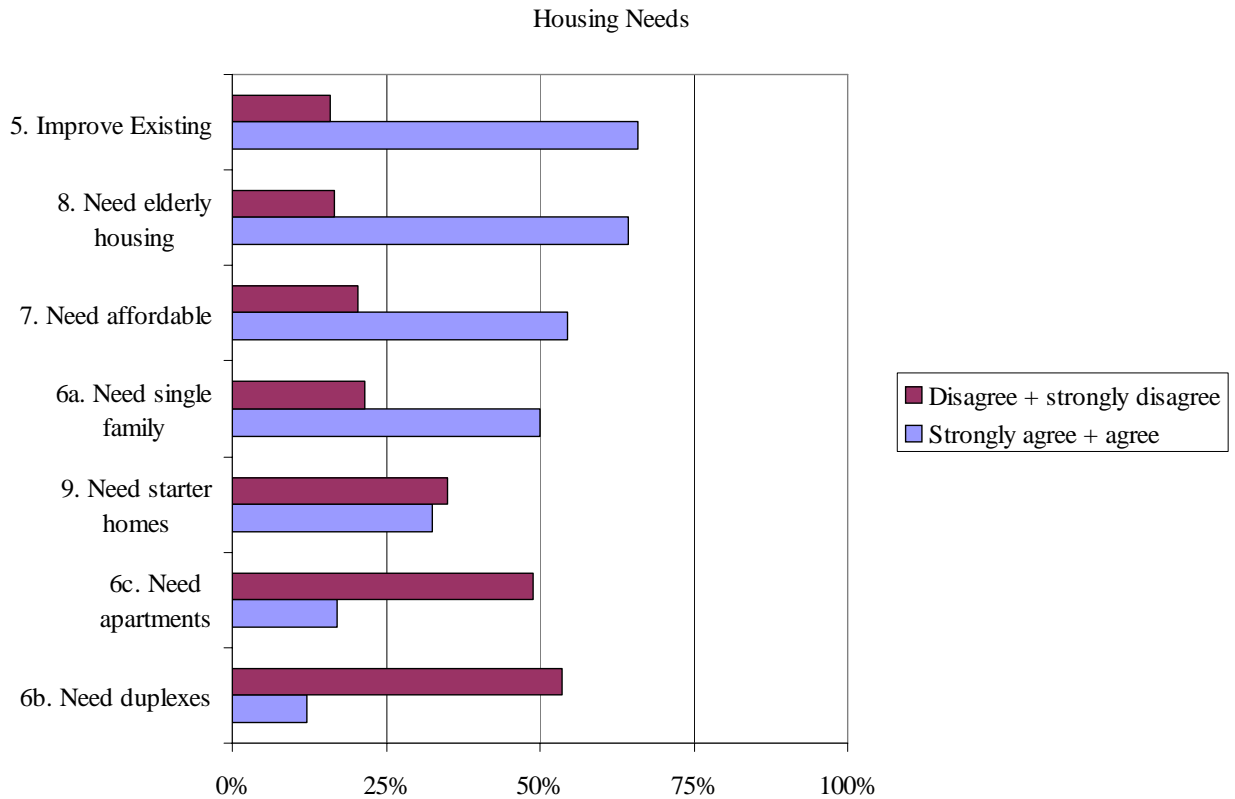
- Residents of Watterstown give a similar high level of importance to protection of natural resources as do County residents as a whole.

4. It is important to protect the following:

	Very Important		Important		Unimportant		Very Unimportant		Not Applicable	
	Juris	Cnty	Juris	Cnty	Juris	Cnty	Juris	Cnty	Juris	Cnty
a. Air Quality	70%	68%	27%	29%	2%	2%	0%	1%	0%	1%
b. Farmland	50%	59%	43%	37%	7%	3%	0%	1%	0%	1%
c. Forested Lands	52%	54%	45%	40%	0%	3%	2%	1%	0%	2%
d. Groundwater	84%	73%	16%	25%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
e. Historic and Cultural Sites	14%	27%	60%	57%	23%	13%	0%	1%	2%	2%
f. Open Space	33%	34%	45%	53%	14%	10%	2%	1%	5%	2%
g. Rivers and Streams	63%	64%	35%	34%	0%	2%	2%	0%	0%	0%
h. Rural Character	40%	39%	50%	47%	7%	12%	0%	1%	2%	2%
i. Scenic Views & Undevel Bluffs	53%	46%	37%	42%	9%	9%	0%	2%	0%	1%
j. Wetlands	40%	40%	44%	41%	9%	12%	7%	2%	0%	4%
k. Wildlife Habitat	53%	47%	42%	43%	5%	7%	0%	1%	0%	2%

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – HOUSING

- Watterstown residents think the focus should be placed on improving existing homes and development of housing to meet the needs of the elderly. Given that two-thirds of the respondents were 55 and older, the appeal of senior housing is understandable.
- Residents also favor expanding the stock of “affordable” housing and single family homes.
- They are less sure about the need for starter homes and generally do not believe there is a need for more apartments or duplexes.



SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – HOUSING (COUNTY COMPARISON)

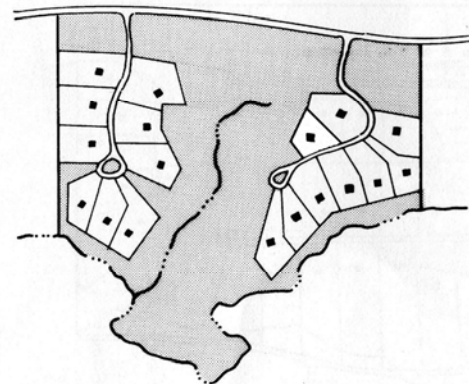
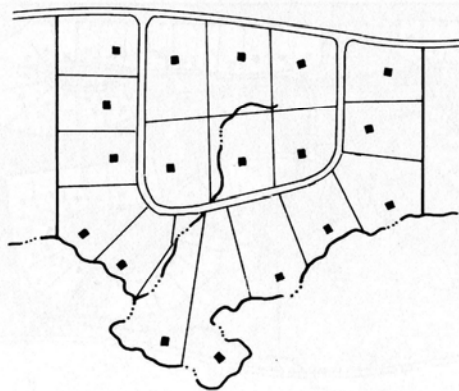
- Relative to the County, Waterstown residents are generally less supportive of the need for starter homes.
- Like the County, Waterstown residents do not see the need for more duplexes and apartments.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
	Wttrs-town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty
5. Improve existing housing quality.	14%	24%	52%	44%	14%	16%	2%	3%	18%	13%
6. Need following housing types:										
a. Single Family Housing	19%	19%	31%	40%	14%	15%	7%	5%	29%	21%
b. Duplexes (2 units)	0%	8%	12%	33%	29%	25%	24%	9%	34%	25%
c. Apartments (3 or more units)	2%	7%	15%	24%	17%	31%	32%	12%	34%	26%
7. Need affordable housing	20%	31%	34%	36%	11%	14%	9%	6%	25%	13%
8. Need elderly housing	17%	20%	48%	43%	17%	19%	0%	4%	19%	14%
9. Need starter homes	9%	19%	23%	37%	26%	23%	9%	4%	33%	16%

- A majority of Waterstown residents prefer residential developments based on a cluster design (smaller lots with more shared open space) to the traditional design (larger lots with no or little shared open space). The proportion of Town residents favoring cluster design is similar to the County.

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

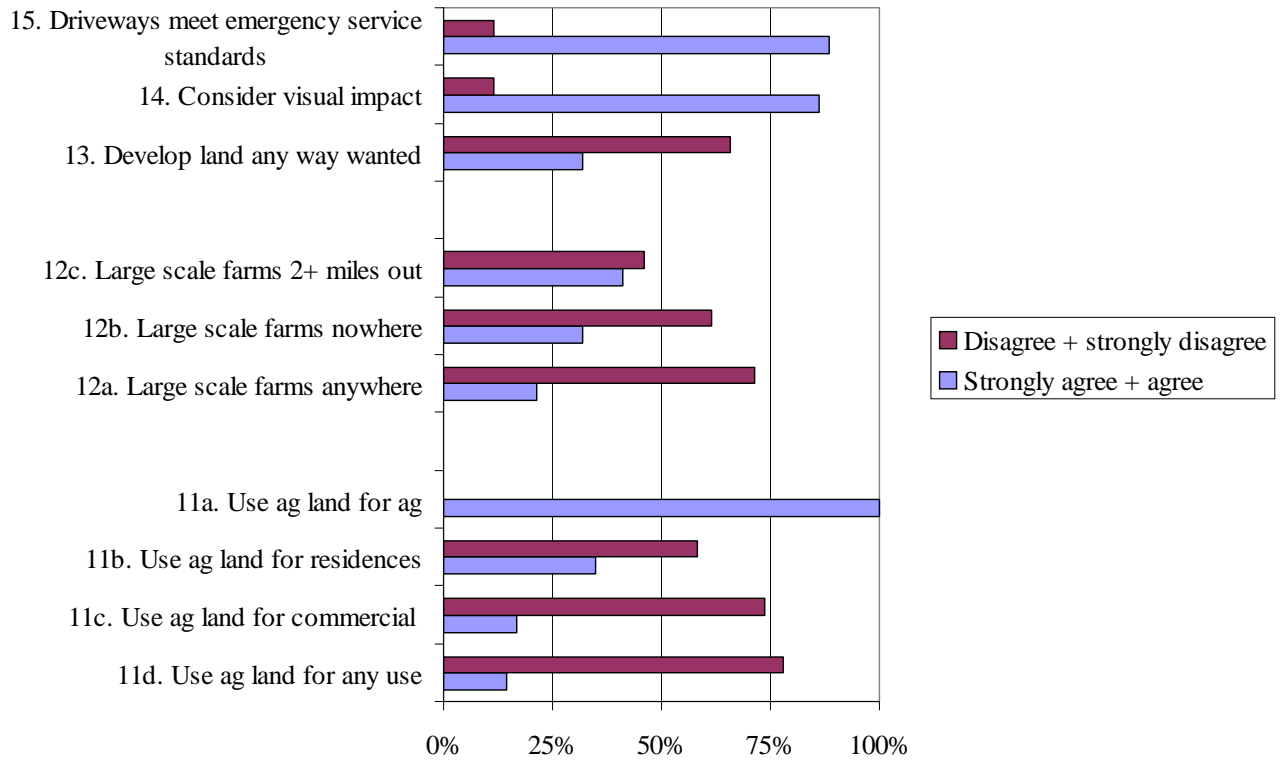
Traditional Design		Cluster Design	
Town of Waterstown	County	Town of Waterstown	County
28%	39%	72%	61%



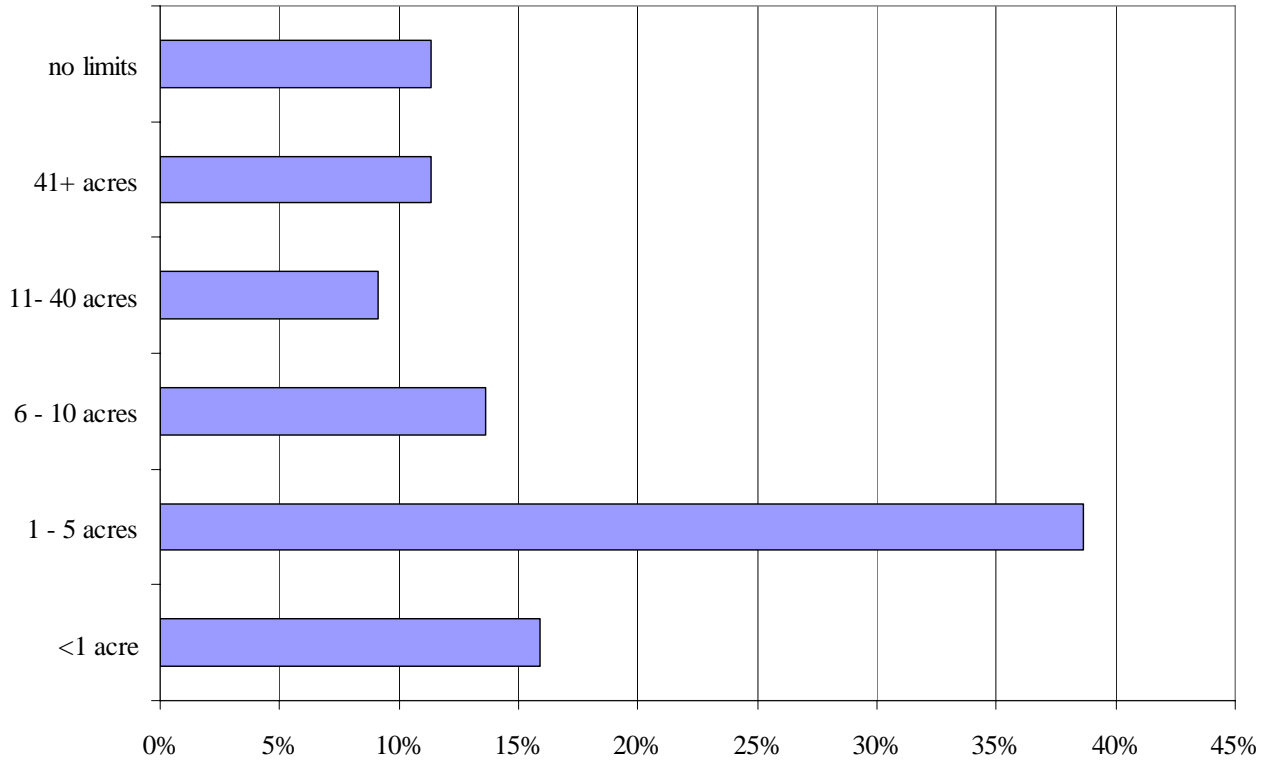
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE

- Residents of Watterstown feel strongly that driveways should be required to meet standards for emergency vehicle access and that visual aspects should be considered in evaluating a proposed development.
- Twice as many residents oppose landowners developing land any way they want as support it.
- With respect to the expansion of large-scale farms, those with more than 500 animal units, more Watterstown residents are opposed to both the most restrictive alternative (prohibiting their expansion anywhere in Grant County) and the most liberal option (allowing their development anywhere in the County) than support it. Nearly as many residents support (41%) as oppose (46%) locating large-scale livestock operations outside of a 2 mile radius from incorporated areas.
- People living in the Town are unanimous in their belief that productive agricultural land should be used in agriculture. Majorities oppose the use of such land for other purposes (residential, commercial, or unrestricted use). Although 35% of respondents support the use of ag land for residential purposes.
- Watterstown residents favor a minimum lot size for rural housing of five acres or less, with most of those choosing a minimum lot size of one to five acres.
- The size of individual landholdings varies. 45 percent own 10 acres or less and 45 percent own 11 to 100 acres.

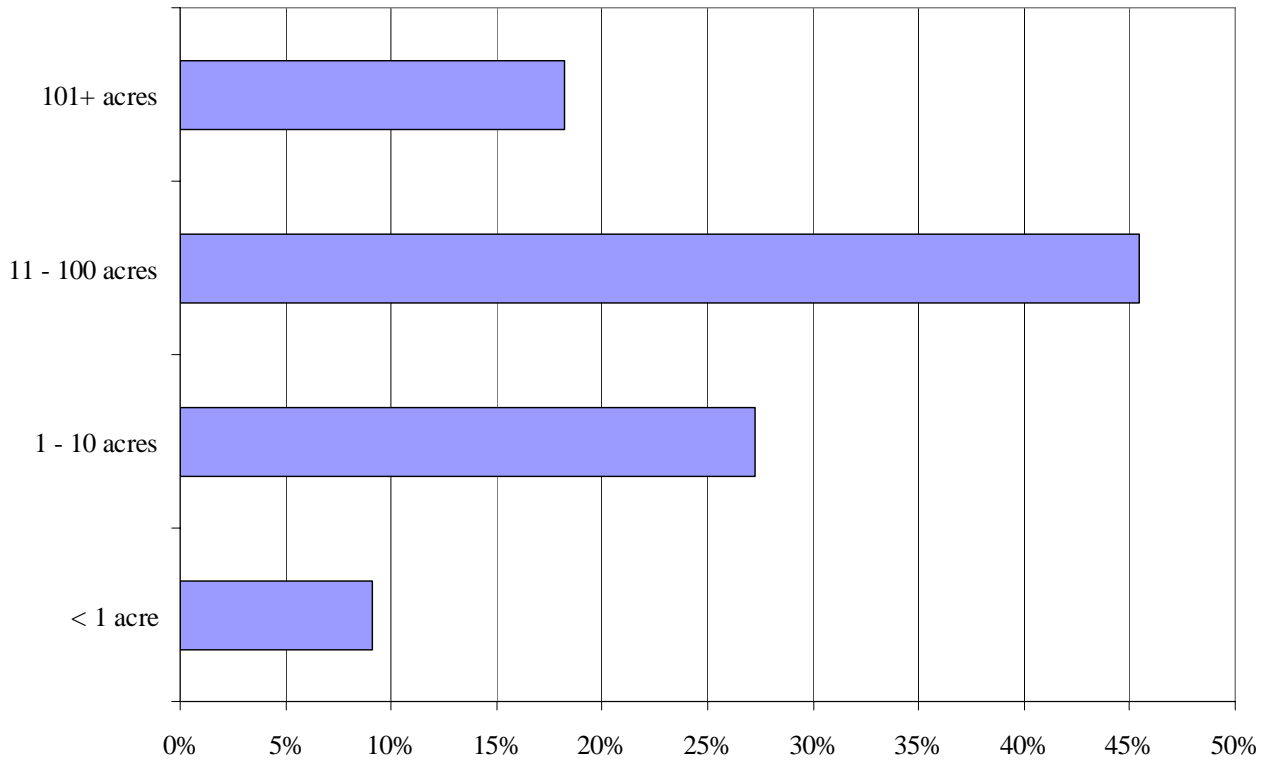
Land Use Opinions



Preferred Minimum Lot Size



Acres Owned in Grant County



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

- Residents of Watterstown share similar opinions with the overall County average in terms of supporting consideration of visual impact into the evaluation of development proposals and requiring driveways to meet standards for emergency access.
- They also share the same opposition to the use of productive farmland for non-agricultural activities.
- Watterstown residents are less supportive of allowing new large-scale livestock operations beyond two miles from existing villages or cities than the County average.
- A majority of Watterstown residents and the County agree there should be a minimum lot size on residential development in rural areas; the largest percent agreeing on 1 to 5 acres minimum.
- Town of Watterstown residents own more land than the overall County average. Landowners are more likely to farm their land than the County average. For those Watterstown residents who own farmland, a larger proportion believes their land will continue agricultural use.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
	Wttrs-town	Cnty	Wttrs-town	Cnty	Wttrs-town	Cnty	Wttrs-town	Cnty	Wttrs-town	Cnty
11a. Use ag land for ag	72%	76%	28%	21%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%
11b. Use ag land for residences	7%	4%	28%	28%	40%	44%	19%	17%	7%	7%
11c. Use ag land for commercial	2%	3%	14%	19%	40%	45%	33%	26%	10%	7%
11d. Use ag land for any use	2%	4%	12%	8%	34%	40%	44%	36%	7%	12%
12. Expand lg farms (500+ an. units):										
a. Anywhere in Grant County	5%	9%	17%	17%	40%	42%	31%	23%	7%	8%
b. Nowhere in Grant County	14%	12%	18%	14%	41%	44%	20%	19%	7%	12%
c. 2 miles outside inc areas	10%	23%	31%	39%	26%	17%	21%	9%	13%	12%
13. Develop land any way wanted	9%	11%	23%	17%	41%	52%	25%	18%	2%	2%
14. Consider visual impacts of devel	28%	28%	58%	57%	9%	9%	2%	2%	2%	5%
15. Driveways meet EMS standards	40%	38%	49%	52%	9%	6%	2%	0%	0%	4%

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

Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
Wttrs-town	Cnty	Wttrs-town	Cnty	Wttrs-town	Cnty	Wttrs-town	Cnty	Wttrs-town	Cnty
32%	24%	32%	48%	20%	16%	7%	5%	9%	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	
Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty
16%	19%	39%	49%	14%	13%	9%	5%	11%	4%	11%	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	
Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty
9%	60%	27%	17%	45%	10%	18%	13%

19. Do you actively farm the land you own?

Yes		No		Not Applicable	
Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty
39%	14%	50%	55%	11%	31%

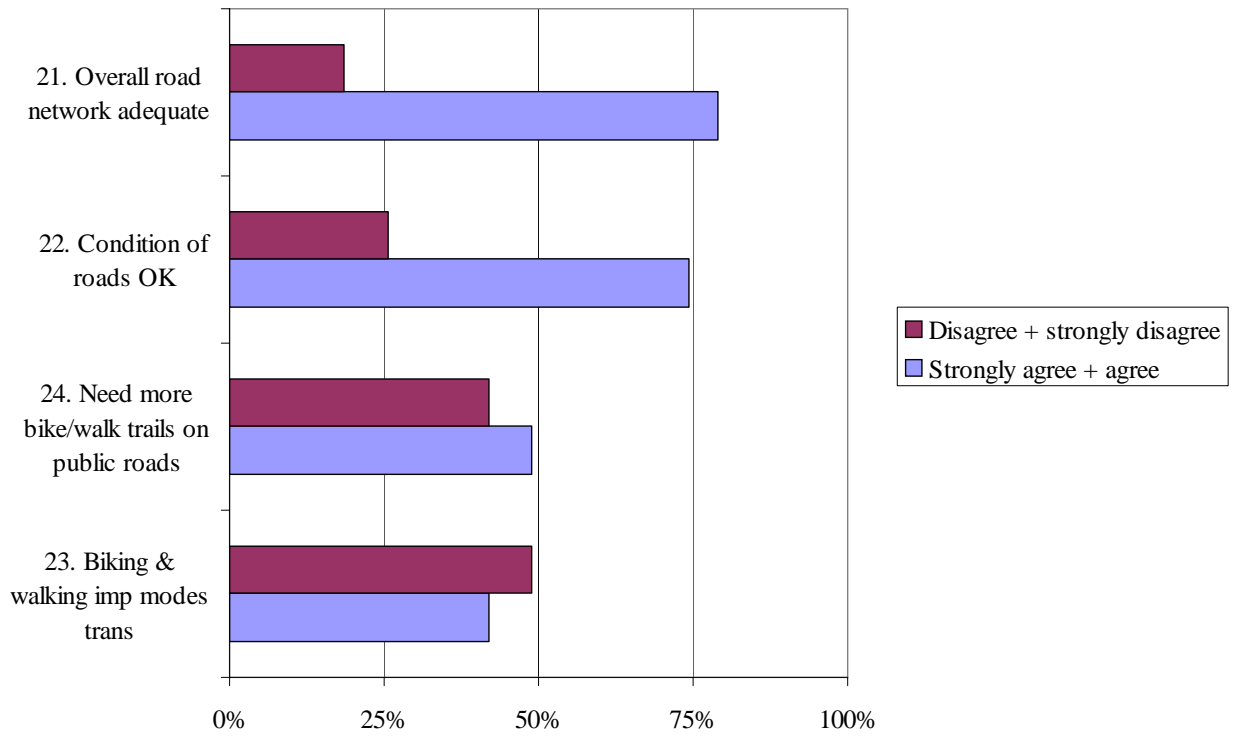
20. Do you think your land will be actively farmed (by you or someone else) in the next:

0-5 years		6-10 years		11-15 years		16-20 years		Not Applicable	
Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty
18%	10%	25%	6%	9%	6%	18%	13%	45%	74%

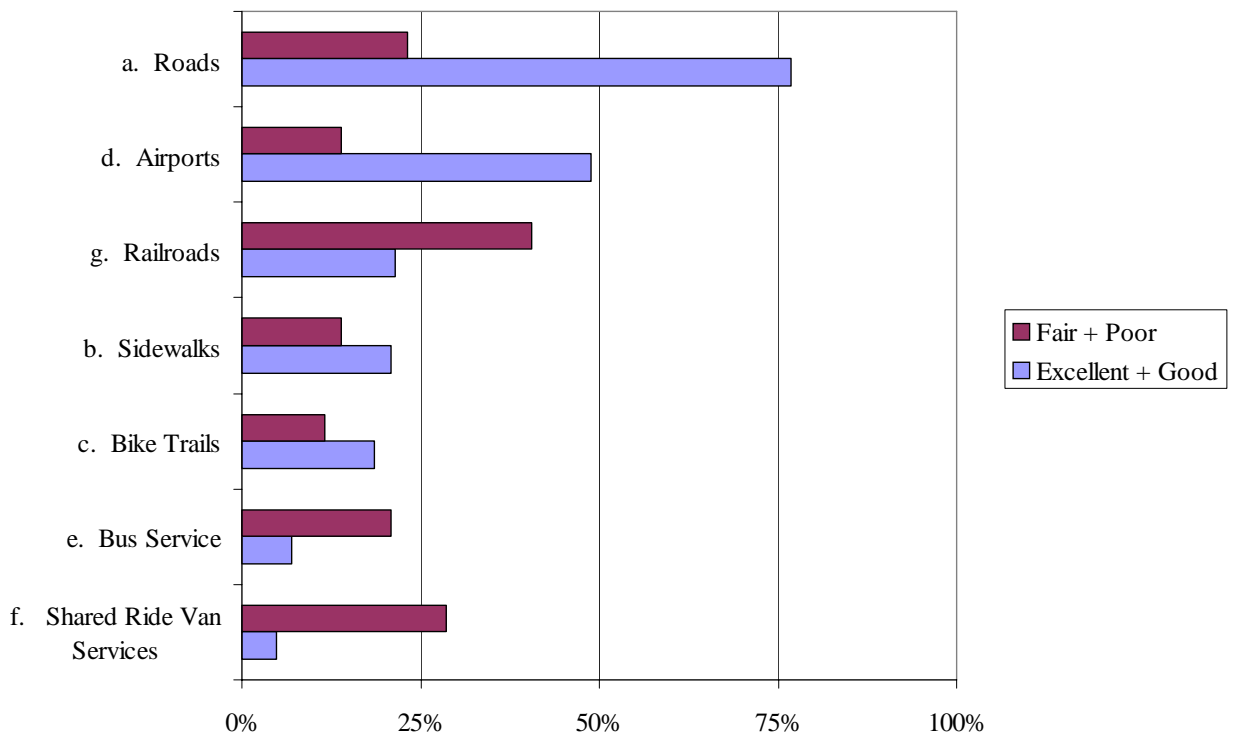
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – TRANSPORTATION

- More than three-quarters of Watterstown residents agree or strongly agree that the overall road network in Grant County meets the needs of its citizens.
- Although a majority (74%) of the Town residents says that the condition of the Town's road is adequate, more than 25 percent disagree.
- Town of Watterstown residents have split opinions regarding the importance of biking and walking as modes of transportation and the need for additional biking and walking lanes along public roadways in the Town.
- A majority rate the roads as excellent or good. Airport service was rated good or excellent by 49 percent. A large proportion of respondents did not rate railroads, sidewalks, bike trails, bus service, and shared ride van services.

Transportation Opinions



Transportation Quality in Local Jurisdiction



SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – TRANSPORTATION (COUNTY COMPARISON)

- Compared to the County average, Watterstown residents share similar opinions about the roads in their Town and about the overall road network in the County.
- Watterstown residents are less likely to think biking and walking are important modes of transportation or to see a need for more biking and walking lanes along public roadways in the Town.
- Since substantial proportions of respondents for both the County and Watterstown did not rate remaining transportation modes, comparisons are not meaningful.

21-24. Transportation issues

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty
21. Road network meets needs	21%	14%	58%	74%	16%	9%	2%	2%	2%	1%
22. Condition of roads adequate	12%	11%	63%	64%	21%	20%	5%	3%	0%	1%
23. Biking & walking imp modes trans	9%	18%	33%	44%	33%	22%	16%	5%	9%	11%
24. Need more bike & walk lanes on pub roads	16%	24%	33%	34%	30%	23%	12%	9%	9%	10%

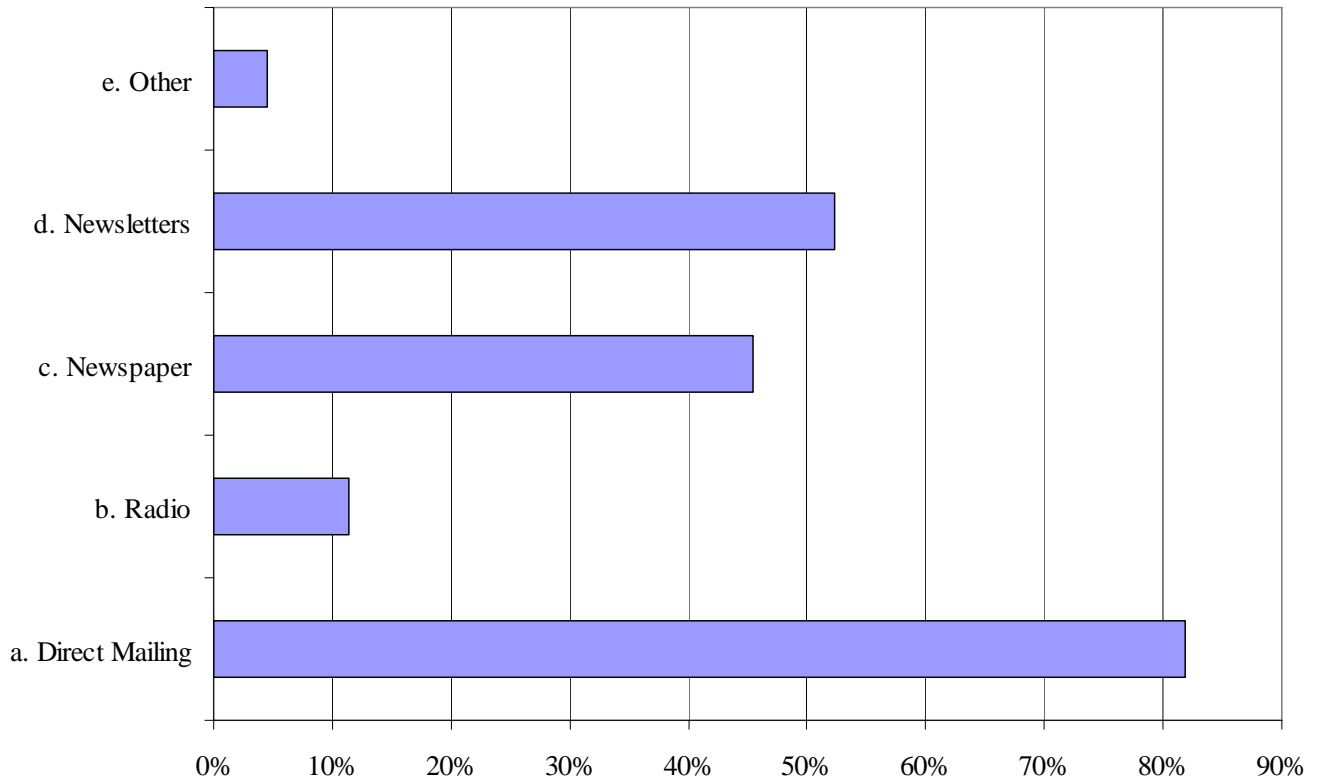
25. Rate the following for your local jurisdiction

	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Not Applicable	
	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty
a. Roads	14%	12%	63%	59%	14%	22%	9%	6%	0%	0%
b. Sidewalks	0%	6%	21%	39%	12%	28%	2%	6%	65%	22%
c. Bike Trails	2%	3%	16%	17%	7%	19%	5%	16%	70%	44%
d. Airports	9%	6%	40%	30%	14%	16%	0%	4%	37%	43%
e. Bus Service	0%	1%	7%	4%	5%	3%	16%	20%	72%	72%
f. Shared Ride Van Services	0%	0%	5%	9%	17%	11%	12%	16%	67%	64%
g. Railroads	2%	2%	19%	11%	19%	10%	21%	13%	38%	64%
h. Other	0%	3%	0%	9%	13%	1%	0%	12%	88%	75%

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS - COMMUNICATION

- A majority of residents of the Town of Watterstown indicated that direct mailing is the most preferred method for receiving information about Comprehensive Planning.
- Slightly more than half say newsletters are among their top two choices.

Communication Preferences for Comp Plan Info



SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – COMMUNICATIONS (COUNTY COMPARISON)

- In comparison to the County, residents of Watterstown share the same preference for direct mailings and newsletters as sources of information about comprehensive planning.

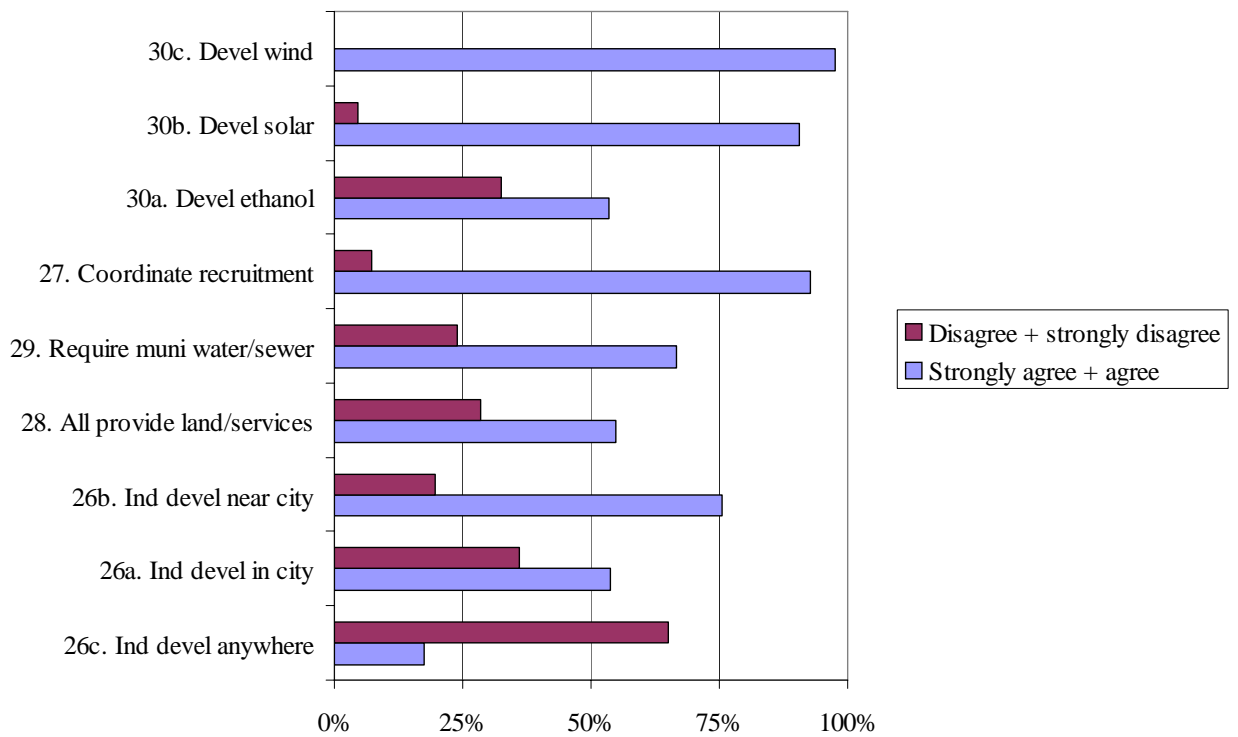
3. What are 2 most effective ways your jurisdiction could provide Comprehensive Planning information to landowners and residents?

	Watterstown	Cnty
a. Direct Mailing	82%	70%
b. Radio	11%	21%
c. Newspaper	45%	44%
d. Newsletters	52%	56%
e. Other	5%	4%

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

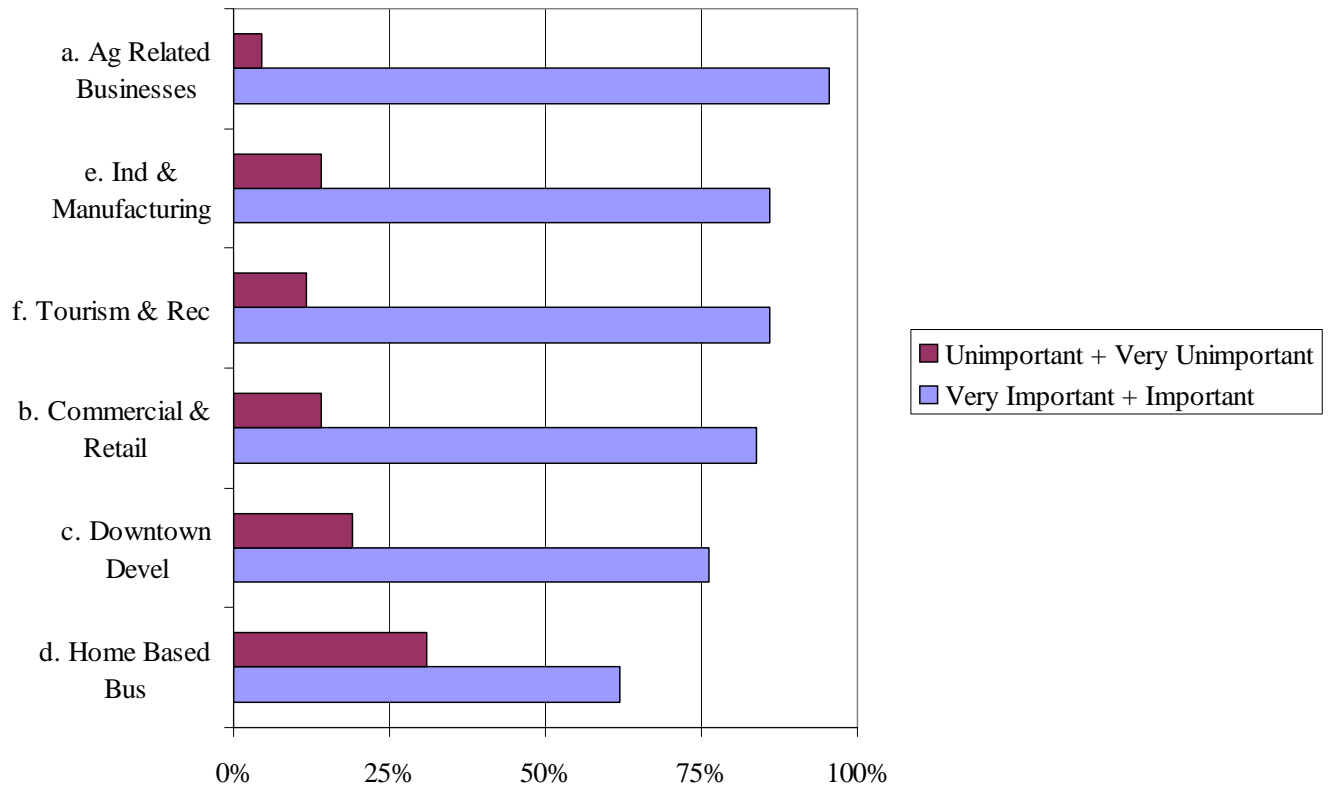
- A majority of residents in Watterstown feel that development of alternative energy (wind, solar, ethanol) is important. Support for wind and solar energy, however, is substantially stronger than for ethanol development.
- Residents overwhelmingly believe that Grant County should coordinate efforts to recruit new business and industry.
- A majority believes that new development on the edge of communities should be required to use municipal water and sewer services.
- A slim majority of respondents believe that all jurisdictions in Grant County should provide some land infrastructure for industrial and commercial development although a considerable minority opposes this.
- They prefer that manufacturing or commercial businesses that involve truck traffic be located near existing villages or cities (76%) or less so within an existing community (54%) rather than allowed anywhere in the County (18%).

Economic Development Opinions



- Watterstown residents view a wide variety of type’s business development as important in Grant County. 95 percent of respondents agreed that agricultural related businesses are important or very important. All of the other items (commercial and retail, industrial and manufacturing, tourism and recreation, home based business) gathered the support of strong majorities.
- Home based businesses had the lowest level of agreement that they are important or very important to the County’s economy and even this option was supported by 62 percent of respondents.

Importance of Business Development



SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (COUNTY COMPARISON)

- In general, Town of Watterstown residents hold views about economic development issues that are very similar to the overall County average.
- Like the rest of Grant County, residents of Watterstown believe that Grant County should coordinate efforts to recruit new businesses. They also share the opinion that local jurisdictions should provide land and infrastructure for business and industry and that new development on the edge of existing villages or cities should be required to connect to municipal sewer and water.
- Like Grant County residents generally, those in Watterstown feel that commercial and industrial development should generally occur in or near an existing city or village.
- Like the overall County sample, Watterstown supports alternative energy development.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
	Wttrstown	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs to wn	Cnty
26. Commercial or industrial buildings and activities involving truck traffic and manufacturing should be located:										
a. In an existing city or a village	18%	14%	36%	39%	31%	28%	5%	7%	10%	12%
b. Near a city or village	10%	16%	66%	63%	20%	8%	0%	3%	5%	10%
c. Anywhere in Grant County	8%	7%	10%	19%	38%	38%	28%	20%	18%	16%
27. Coordinate business recruitment	40%	53%	52%	40%	5%	2%	2%	2%	0%	3%
28. Provide land & infrastructure for industry/commerce	7%	16%	48%	43%	21%	19%	7%	7%	17%	15%
29. Required muni water & sewer	19%	26%	48%	45%	19%	11%	5%	4%	10%	14%

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

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrst own	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty
a. Ethanol Plants	26%	22%	28%	33%	21%	23%	12%	9%	14%	13%
b. Solar Energy	42%	39%	49%	45%	2%	5%	2%	1%	5%	10%
c. Wind Energy	49%	48%	49%	43%	0%	2%	0%	2%	2%	6%
d. Other	29%	28%	7%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	64%	63%

The proportion of residents in Watterstown and Grant County who feel that it is important or very important for the County to encourage agricultural related businesses, commercial and retail developments, downtown development, home based businesses, industrial and manufacturing, and tourism and recreation development are similar.

31. Rate the importance of the following:

	Very Important		Important		Unimportant		Very Unimportant		Not Applicable	
	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty
a. Ag Related Business	50%	59%	45%	38%	2%	2%	2%	0%	0%	1%
b. Commercial & Retail	26%	33%	58%	59%	14%	7%	0%	1%	2%	1%
c. Downtown Devel	19%	31%	57%	52%	19%	11%	0%	2%	5%	4%
d. Home-Based Bus	12%	17%	50%	54%	31%	22%	0%	3%	7%	4%
e. Ind & Manufacturing	21%	40%	65%	50%	9%	8%	5%	1%	0%	1%
f. Tourism & Rec	40%	36%	47%	55%	12%	7%	0%	1%	2%	1%

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – DEMOGRAPHICS

The demographic profile of Watterstown respondents matches that of the County in most ways, with a few notable differences.

- Watterstown had more male respondents than the County average.
- In comparison to the County average, there are a smaller proportion of residents in Watterstown who are employed full-time.
- Watterstown has fewer respondents who have lived in Grant County for more than 25 years.

35. Gender

Male		Female	
Wttrs-town	Cnty	Wttrs-town	Cnty
71%	53%	29%	47%

36. Age

18-24		25-34		35-44	
Wttrs-town	Cnty	Wttrs-town	Cnty	Wttrs-town	Cnty
0%	0%	5%	7%	5%	13%
45-54		55-64		65 and older	
Wttrs-town	Cnty	Wttrs-town	Cnty	Wttrs-town	Cnty
28%	23%	23%	22%	40%	35%

37. Employment Status

Emp Full Time		Emp Part Time		Self Employed	
Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty
33%	44%	15%	6%	13%	10%
Unemployed		Retired		Other	
Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty
3%	1%	38%	37%	0%	1%

38. Place of Residence

Own		Rent		Other	
Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty
98%	99%	0%	1%	2%	0%

39. Number of Adults (18+) in Household

0		1		2	
Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty
		20%	20%	73%	71%
3		4		5+	
Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty
5%	7%	2%	2%	0%	1%

40. Number of Children (under 18) in Household

0		1		2	
Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty
69%	67%	18%	14%	8%	11%
3		4		5+	
Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty
5%	7%	0%	1%	0%	0%

41. Household Income

Under \$15,000		\$15K - \$24,999		\$25K - \$49,999	
Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty
10%	7%	21%	14%	21%	33%
\$50K - \$74,999		\$75K - \$99,999		\$100,000+	
Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty
31%	25%	12%	15%	5%	6%

42. Years Lived in Grant County

Less than 1		1-4		5-9	
Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty
0%	1%	9%	5%	14%	9%
10-24		25+			
Wttrs town	Cnty	Wttrs town	Cnty		
20%	14%	57%	71%		

Comments

Q32. Is there anything about living in Grant County that you don't like?

Transportation Issues

- In accessibility via public transportation. In the good old days there were both railroads and buses. Affects economic development also.

Taxes

- High taxes
- Increasing taxes
- High taxes

Environmental Issues

- People dumping the trash along the roadside. Beer cans I suppose a lost cause.

Like it

- I'm happy here
- We should note however that Grant County is a great place to live. It is beautiful and is great for the sportsman.

Lack Shopping

- Not enough retail shopping

School Issues

- The Riverdale schools have very low test scores and low standards yet 3 administrators are paid over \$100,000 a year. There is an emphasis on sports and special education yet the education for the college bound students is poor

Land Use

- Conversion of mixed crop ground to cash grain crops and the loss of established conservation practices. Many farmers are no longer strip cropped, waterways are now cropped, terraces removed, etc, and there seems to be no effort to discourage this tendency in the area. I believe this trend contributed in part to the severity of flooding in the region this summer.

Miscellaneous

- Lack of respect for private property by some hunters.
- The road outside of our properties creating flooding
- Basic wage rates are low.

Q33. If you could change one thing about your local jurisdiction, what would it be?

Transportation

- Bring all township roads up to date with turn lanes
- Wider country roads
- Get the blue river area road work completed!

Governance

- Less outside control over us. We are very responsible, but outsiders want to tell us how to run our township and then they live elsewhere. Leave local control to local residents. People from the county, state, and elsewhere should not tell us how to run our lives
- Change acreage requirements from 35 to 20 acres.

Economic Development

- To have small milk factories and more small businesses,
- Bring more businesses to our county and homes, so we don't have to go too far

Taxes

- Lower taxes
- Stop the taxes from getting too high. So the farmers don't have to sell out to make money.
- The tax assessment structure- but maybe that not a local matter
- Taxes are climbing at an alarming rate. Reduce personal property taxes on business. Many people live in Watters Township because it's reasonable. This is fast changing. We have no garbage pick up no snow plowing. Basically no service at all. Yet our taxes have increased nearly 40% in last 2 years. Soon we will have to sell property that we are unable to pay the taxes on.
- lower taxes

Recreation

- More activities for our children/ teens to do. More community based activities for everyone everywhere (county wide).

Police/Safety

- More police
- Better (more) police protection.

Medical issues

- Better health care

School Issues

- Better, more qualified school administrators

Utilities

- Garbage and trash pick up.

Land Use

- Encourage more conservation farming practices

Q34. Other comments**Governance**

- Freedom should include land ownership in "fee simple" - the highest form of land ownership without all the restrictions and incumbersomes imposed on us by outsiders on our society

Economic Development

- Keep our businesses home. And we need to get more new and old commercial or industrial back in our county so we keep our people here to help pay taxes and all other
- We own and operate a concrete and excavating business in the county and have done so for over 35 years. In too many of our local counties people are in and out of businesses like flies. I believe a licensing system of sorts is in order and it would help bring some stability to the good contractors and help reduce the number of poor contractors. It may also help us to pay our people more. Most of the qualified construction people go to the cities where the wages are higher. This creates a poor environment for good quality construction practices.

Taxes

- Our property taxes keep going up, but this summer we were unable to get into our property, due to road work construction

School Issues

- We need help from the state to improve certification of school administrators. There seems to be no requirement for background knowledge in math or science. School administrators are making important decisions regarding math and science classes and curriculum and yet have never taken any upper level classes themselves. No wonder we have math and science teachers who are not qualified. Who have an elementary certification with a major in recreation. He was selected out of 50 applicants for the math/science position.

Land Use

- I hear the "35 acre rule" is going to be changed. That's good! It preserves neither farmland nor habitat. Infrastructure housing should be concentrated in small areas rather than tearing up large ones. Greater efficiency and less environmental impact

Miscellaneous

- Require town chairman to talk or by mail or telephone each land owner during storms to see any damage for the purpose of FEMA or help
- Questions 16 and 17 are impossible to answer. It depends entirely upon whether the cluster design is used (Q 10). If yes, there should not be a minimum in that situation. If no, or in general there should be a minimum of at least 41 acres
- Thank you for asking.