

Winterfield Township Master Plan Citizen Survey

Summary of Results - December 1, 2020

80 Responses

50 Respondents indicated they were Township residents

The Winterfield Township Master Plan Citizen Survey was made available during the month of October 2020. Surveys were mailed to all Winterfield Township residents. Respondents had the option to complete the survey online, return by mail, or drop off at the Township Hall. With 443 total full-time residents (as of 2018), the 50 responses represent 11.3% of all residents.

Q1: What are Winterfield Township's most important features that make it a desirable place to live?

Answered: 80 Skipped: 0

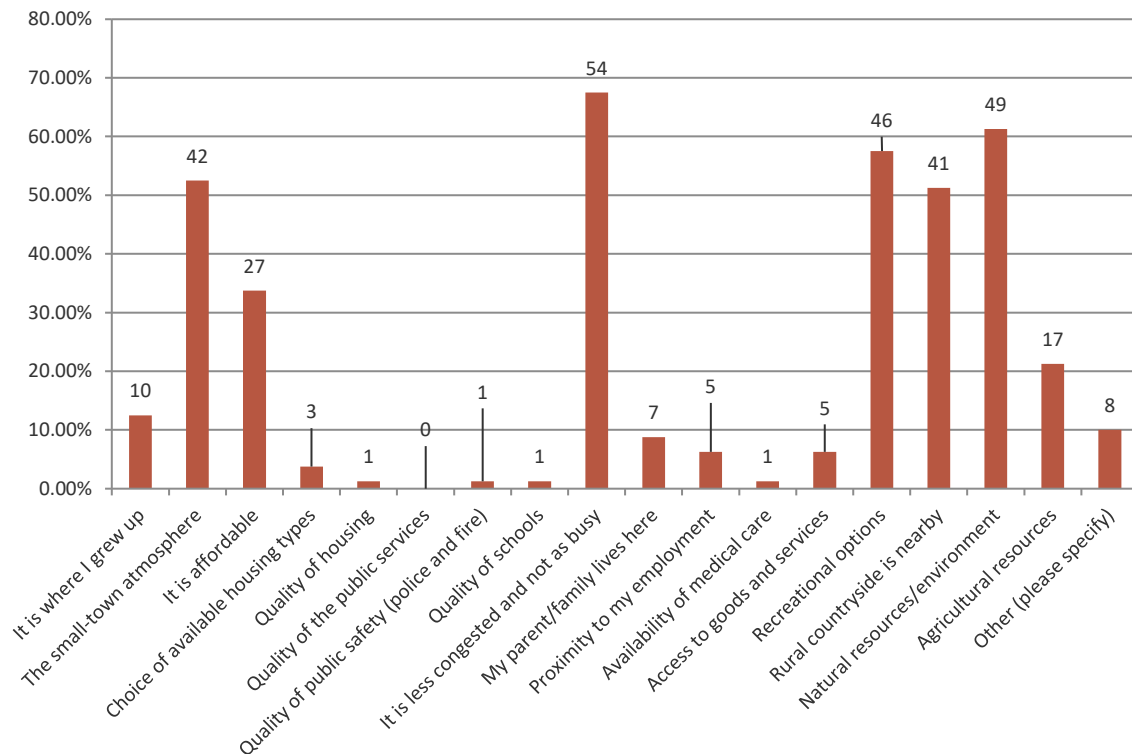
X-axis = answer choices

Y-axis = frequency (%) answer was indicated

Labels = total times (#) answer was indicated

Top 5 Responses:

- 1 - It is less congested and not as busy
- 2 - Natural resources/environment
- 3 - Recreational options
- 4 - The small-town atmosphere
- 5 - Rural countryside is nearby



Q1: What are Winterfield Township's most important features that make it a desirable place to live? (cont.)

Open-ended responses from the “Other (please specify)” category:

- Like all the State land
- Nothing
- Hunting property, no home
- This is home!
- Very nice people
- Need to have ambulance available to come from Marion. It takes 1/2 hour from Clare to get to our home and 5 minutes from Marion.
- I only have a hunting camp in Winterfield
- If I could convince the wife I would move up in a heartbeat. The only thing that is holding her back were we currently live is family and current jobs and school that the kids are in.

Q2: What are Winterfield Township's least favorable or appealing features?

Answered: 77 Skipped: 3

X-axis = answer choices

Y-axis = frequency (%) answer was indicated

Labels = total times (#) answer was indicated

Top 5 Responses:

1 - Blighted homes and/or yards

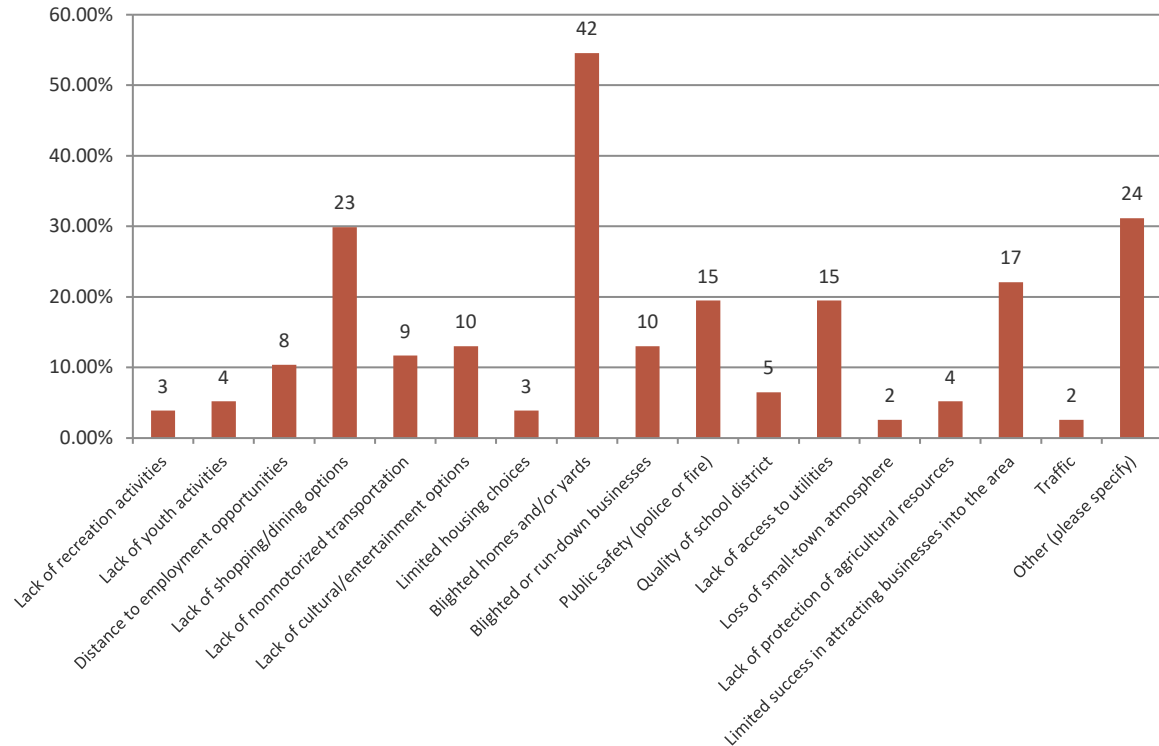
2 - Other

3 - Lack of shopping/dining options

4 - Limited success in attracting businesses into the area

5 (tie) - Lack of access to utilities

5 (tie) - Public safety (police or fire)



Q2: What are Winterfield Township's least favorable or appealing features? (cont.)

Open-ended responses from the “Other (please specify)” category:

- Road quality
 - Nothing!
 - The fact that fertilizer trucks congest traffic and don't clean up the muddy roads they cause
 - Ambulance service
 - Roads need repaired
 - Lack of decent roads - maintenance of existing roads
 - Litter and trash continuously thrown in ditches, etc.
 - Paving of Keehn Road impedes access to property
 - Paving of Keehn Road impedes access to my property
 - Crappy restaurants
 - Lack of landline services and also internet options. High speed internet options.
 - Not enforcing property lines and enforcing rights of way
 - In the 20+ years we have owned property in Winterfield Township, blighted home sites have not improved. If there are codes governing these, enforcement is needed.
 - Traffic - 4 wheelers. Lack of good accessible internet for all.
 - Lack of cell towers
 - Not a thing
 - deer poaching and trespassing
 - Need snowmobile trails/access to town
 - Internet options and cellular service
 - We are not able to access Winterfield internet tower.
 - no affordable broadband, should expand trash drop off to at least Saturday and start earlier.
 - Lack of affordable internet providers.
 - The gravel roads
-

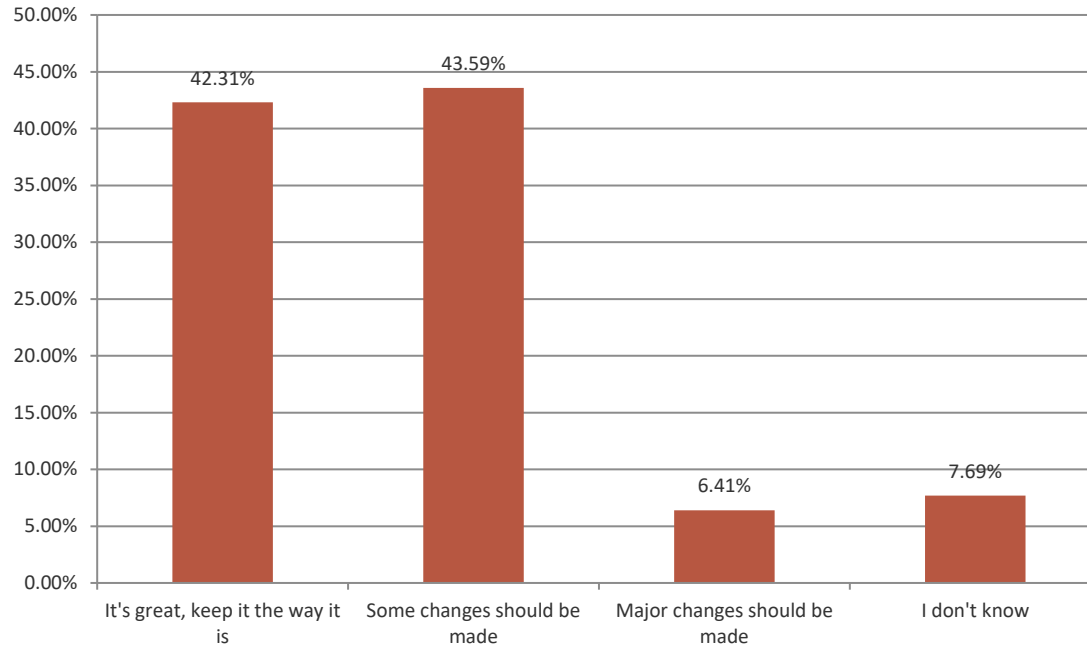
Q3: Overall, what is the state of the quality of life in Winterfield Township?

Answered: 78 Skipped: 2

X-axis = answer choices

Y-axis = percent (%) of total responses

Labels = percent (%) of total responses



Q3: Overall, what is the state of the quality of life in Winterfield Township? (cont.)

Open-ended responses when asked “Feel free to elaborate on your answer”:

- Better cell service and affordable internet
 - Too many trailers sitting on property. No control of junk in the yards.
 - Pave the waste station
 - We love the area, but believe it could be even better if we were able to bring in some business and we were able to connect the community even more
 - The clutter and or junk in front of houses is not only safety risk but a huge eyesore
 - The residential blight needs to be addressed - it ruins property values
 - Cell phone and internet needs to be better
 - Trash and litter management along roads
 - We absolutely love the rural and agricultural atmosphere of our township
 - The run-down buildings. Finally took down the old hotel
 - Blight laws would help property values
 - Better cell service and internet (affordable)
 - No official enforcing property lines or rights of way
 - Need cell service. Don't understand why I don't have cell service, or very poor at best.
 - Clean yards up. Stop visitors at homes living in travel trailers for years.
 - Blight is major
 - Attract business and industry. Increase tax base. Draw new residents and vacationers.
 - Lack of attention to road conditions, i.e., rutted dirt roads, insufficient plowing, Pierce Road, Kheen Road, McKinley Road
 - Great but always room for improvement especially in the areas of commerce
 - Our place is a family vacation place, 3season. Been here for years 3rd going on 4th generation. I don't feel that we're here enough to know what is needed. Glad to have Keehn Road improved.
 - Blight is the major problem we see. The lack of zoning enforcement is a big problem, especially the shipping containers on Keehn Road.
 - Blight is the major problem we see. The lack of zoning enforcement is a big problem, especially the shipping containers on Keehn Road.
 - I am here because of the rural natural atmosphere.
 - Attract more business: bar and dining options and stores
 - I believe it is what it is. Gee I've got wells all around me
 - Could use a general store.
 - Better option for internet and phone service
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Q4: What type of changes should be made over the next 5-20 years to increase the quality of life in Winterfield Township?

Answered: 75 Skipped: 5

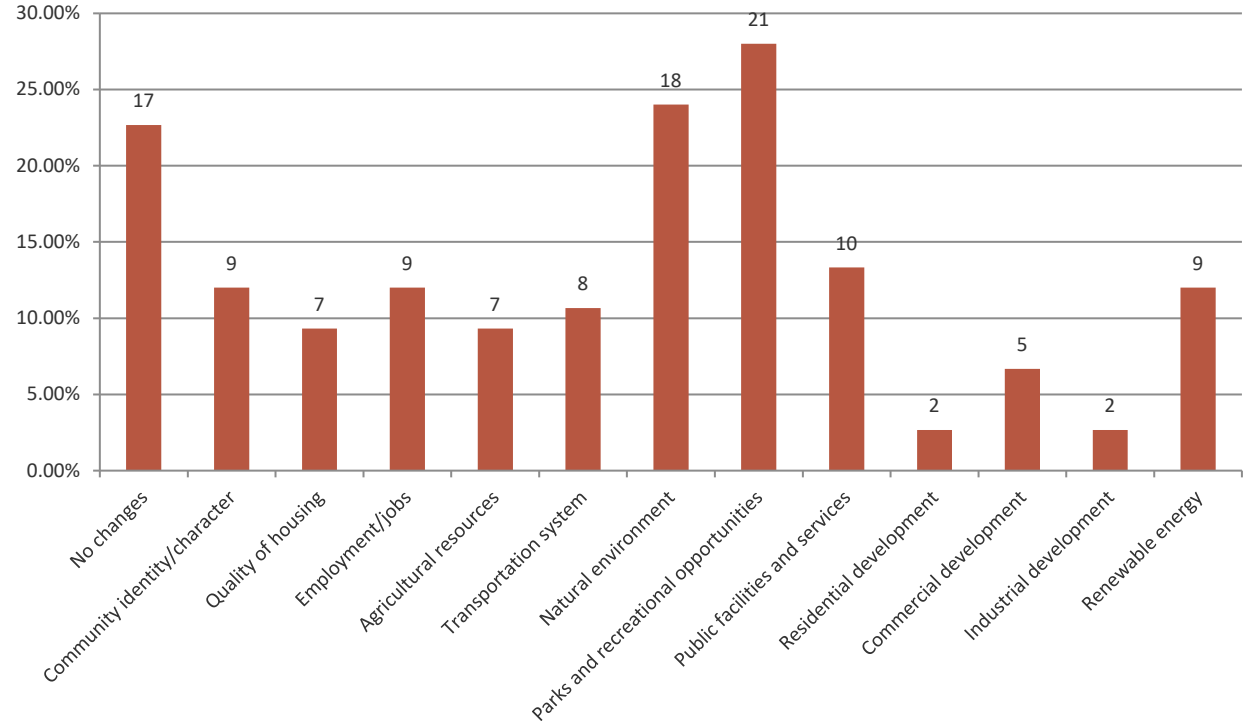
X-axis = answer choices

Y-axis = frequency (%) answer was indicated

Labels = total times (#) answer was indicated

Top 5 Responses:

- 1 - Parks and recreational opportunities
- 2 - Natural environment
- 3 - No changes
- 4 - Public facilities and services
- 5 (tie) - Renewable energy
- 5 (tie) - Employment/jobs
- 5 (tie) - Community identity/character



Q4: What type of changes should be made over the next 5-20 years to increase the quality of life in Winterfield Township? (cont.)

Open-ended responses when asked “Feel free to elaborate on your answer”:

- We need more cell service and internet
- The roads are bad. Need to work on improving them and maintaining what is here. Grading more often would seem to be a great place to start; and plowing in the winter more often to make them more accessible.
- Preserve agricultural resources and enhance natural environment. Add parks and recreation. Promote diversity in community identity and character. Improve cellular and wireless internet access.
- Enforcing property lines and rights of way
- Gravel roads need to be maintained consistently
- Now limited phone and internet
- Don't feel qualified to comment - not a permanent resident
- Not in favor of renewable energy
- Expand/Develop more ORV and Snowmobile trails throughout the township. Having world class access to ORV's and Snowmobiling activities will drive residential property sales, commercial (restaurants and shopping as long as access is available via trails/routes). Recent economic data shows that ORV sales are exploding and purchasers of these products are in a higher economic demographic. Furthermore the data shows that these enthusiasts have a propensity to invest and expend above average capital resources to further their interest in this activity. Winterfield township is uniquely positioned in an area where trail development can be accomplished with minimal capital investment. A well laid out and expansive trail system with easy access and proper mapping that is disseminated extensively will drive both transient business revenue as well as property investment. With its close proximity to adjacent and established DNR trails and Routes, a program of trail expansion is an economical, sound and cost-effective way to increase the townships quality of life, available activities, property values and economic prowess.
- Access to better and more affordable internet access.
- Public Services such as police, ambulance, and fire dept.
- Rural Michigan need to offer an affordable broadband
- The road system
- Bike and / or hiking trails.

Q5: In the next 5 to 20 years, what type of housing should be developed in Winterfield Township?

Answered: 64 Skipped: 16

X-axis = answer choices

Y-axis = frequency (%) answer was indicated

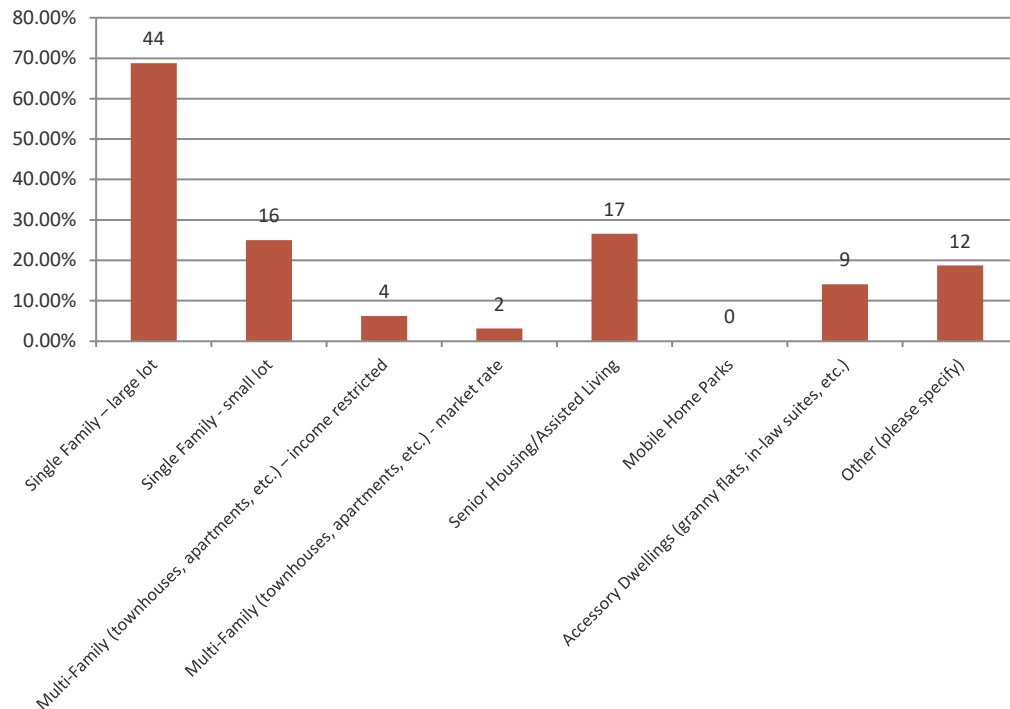
Labels = total times (#) answer was indicated

Top 3 Responses:

1 - Single family – large lot

2 - Senior housing/assisted living

3 - Single family – small lot



Q5: In the next 5 to 20 years, what type of housing should be developed in Winterfield Township? (cont.)

Open-ended responses from the “Other (please specify)” category:

- Would not like to see multi-family housing of any kind
- Don't know
- 1 acre
- 1 acre
- No preference
- None
- No multi-family
- This doesn't apply to our township
- Small homes welcome
- I enjoy Winterfield Township for recreational and hunting purposes.
- None

Q6: How important are each of the following development priorities for Winterfield Township over the next 5 to 20 years?

Answered: 63 Skipped: 17

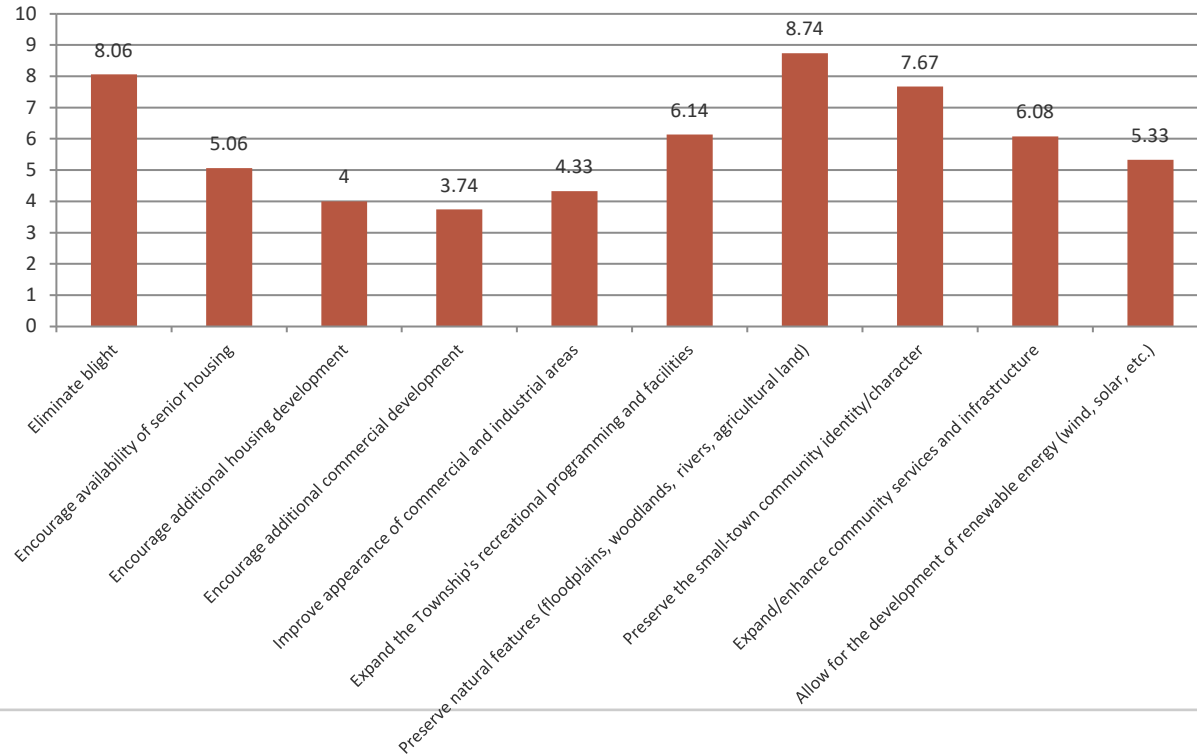
X-axis = answer choices

Y-axis = weighted average (higher = more important)

Labels = weighted average (higher = more important)

Top 5 Responses:

- 1 - Preserve natural features
- 2 - Eliminate blight
- 3 - Preserve the small-town community identity/character
- 4 - Expand the Township's recreational programming and facilities
- 5 - Expand/enhance community services and infrastructure



Q7: Do you have any additional thoughts or comments that you'd like to share regarding land use or future vision for Winterfield Township?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 53

Open ended responses (more on next slide):

- Please look into buying in to Osceola EMS. If we need a special millage to satisfy years back that we did not pay for service, so be it. Clare County's United Rescue or EMS takes forever to find a location in Winterfield Township. 48 minutes from Lake George to Strawberry Road and Keehn Road. Thankfully, Marion Fire responded in 16 minutes.
 - There is no reason for washer, dryers, nonworking vehicles permanently left on properties to decay
 - To make internet and cell service good at all locations
 - Didn't move here to encourage more people to live here. Moved here b/c we like it how it is. Without better management/maintenance on the roads, you will never see more people here - if that is your goal, better focus on them being able to travel in the area without difficulty and fear of actual damage to their vehicles.
 - Clean up community. Provide infrastructure spanning township that keeps pace with changing technology. Care for public lands, improve public lands.
 - Not at this time. Thank you for your time, energy, work and citizen survey.
 - Should be NO commercial development of renewable energy. Especially wind turbines and solar farms. Please keep these out of Winterfield Township. The number one aim of our Master Plan should be the preservation of the existing rural/agricultural character of our township. We are very blessed with an abundance of wildlife and natural beauty, and should do everything to preserve and protect it.
 - More community input - listen at meetings. Don't just already make decisions before input. Re: tower off of Cook. Still crappy internet.
 - Good internet at a reasonable price is needed for most people in our area. Our roads are being maintained well. Some gravel roads are very heavily traveled and need to be brined 3 times a year if possible. Unfortunately the farm equipment is very hard on the gravel roads.
 - I would encourage township planners to work on developing a theme for the township, something the township can become known for and citizens can be proud of.
 - Our elected officials that enforces township laws, do not do their job
 - I did check out the website and found the blight ordinance. The website is very well done and provides a wealth of information. Thank you for maintaining it and directing to it in the last box of the survey. We enjoy Winterfield Township immensely.
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Q7: Do you have any additional thoughts or comments that you'd like to share regarding land use or future vision for Winterfield Township? (cont.)

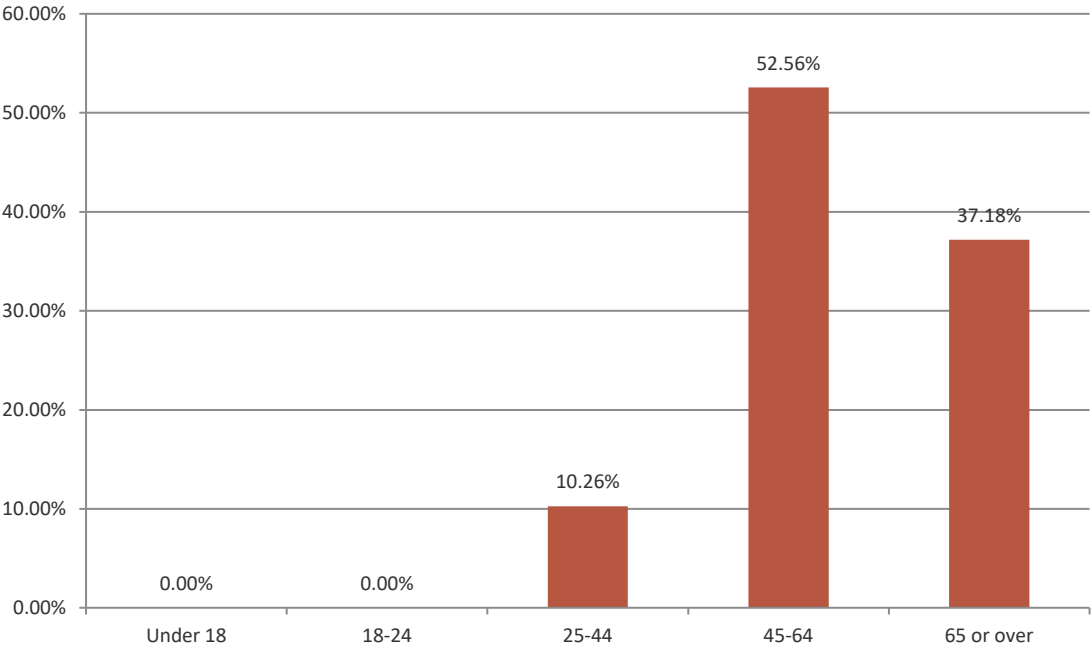
Answered: 27 Skipped: 53

Open ended responses (continued from previous slide):

- Stop the gas company from polluting our air
- My husband and I purchased a cabin in Winterfield Township to help a family member who was elderly. After 10 years we call this our second home and have come to love the area and its people. We have been a part of many beautification projects and will continue to do so when needed.
- More health care options in town
- Please provide us with empty dumpsters at the dump. They are full 90% of the time. Please and thank you.
- Preserve natural attractions
- Encourage small business development to support community - have to travel to Cadillac or Harrison for many services (medical, shopping, etc.)
- We moved here for the rural atmosphere. We want to continue that feel.
- Not in favor of wind or solar energy
- Kayak races on the Clam River
- The zoning in our township is not existent; therefore, blight is becoming a huge problem. Wind turbines and/or solar panels would be an eye sore for our township. Please do not put these near our homes.
- Don't want windmills in my front yard. Don't want restrictive zoning that discriminates against home type and size.
- Winterfield township is full of beautiful private and public woodlands and wetlands, which I would like to see preserved for future generations.
- "High speed internet access has always been an issue. Need more businesses (and jobs).
- Eliminate the trashy, junkie looking houses."
- I don't think charging into the 1990's is asking too much.
- Encourage more internet providers into the township. Stop large farms from outside the township from buying and renting current family farms in the township. There large tractors are destroying roads and they are putting too much manure into the ground they may hurt the ground water.

Q8: In what age range do you fall?

Answered: 78 Skipped: 2
X-axis = answer choices
Y-axis = percent (%) of total responses
Labels = percent (%) of total responses



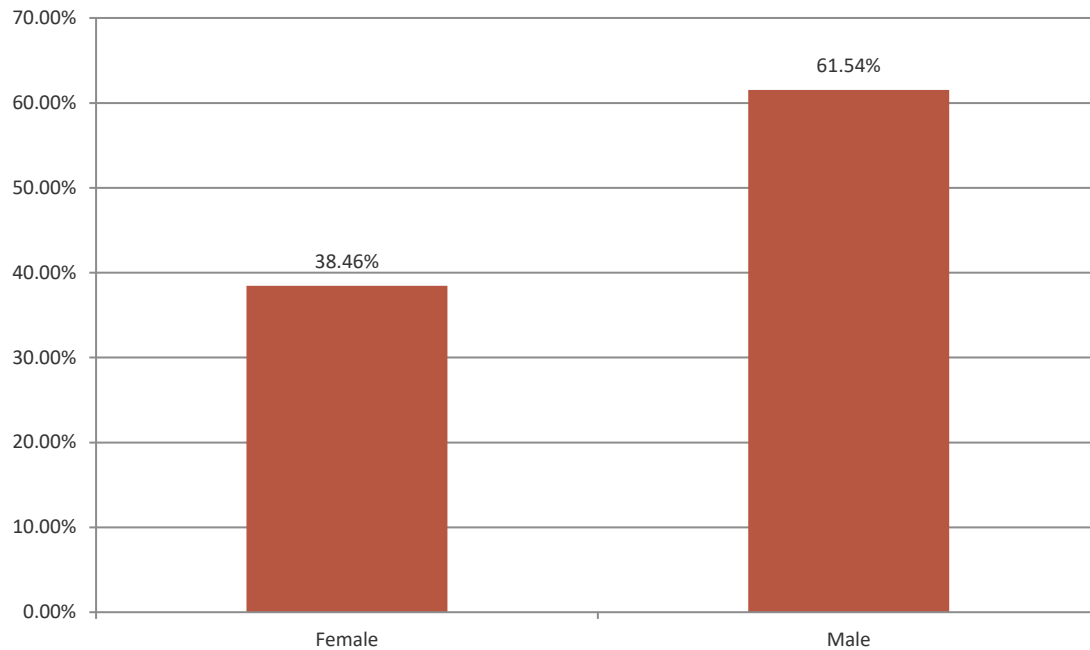
Q9: What is your gender?

Answered: 78 Skipped: 2

X-axis = answer choices

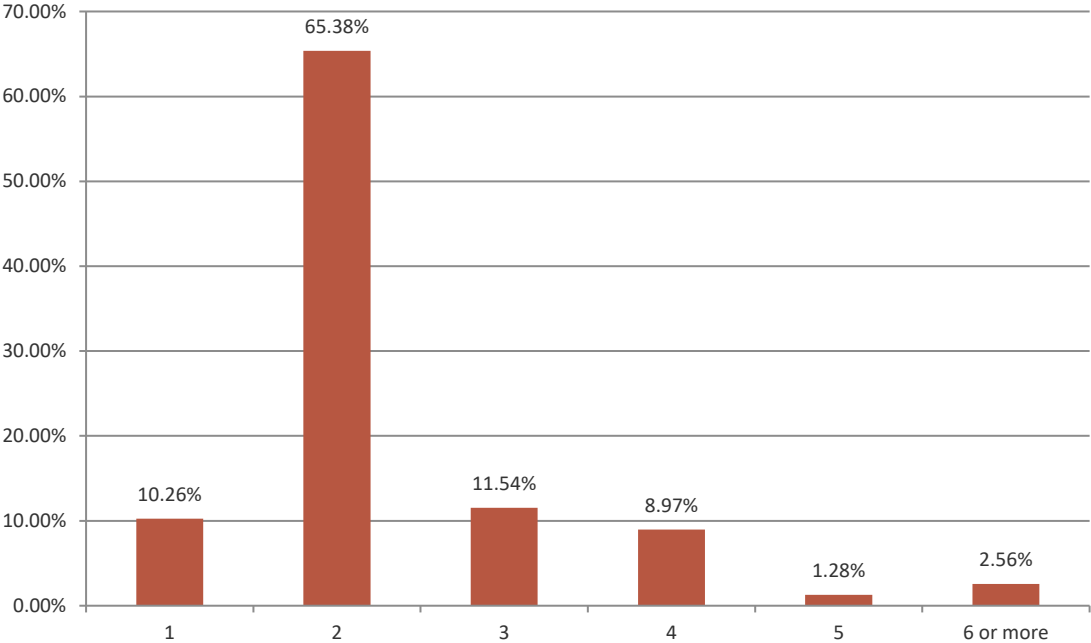
Y-axis = percent (%) of total responses

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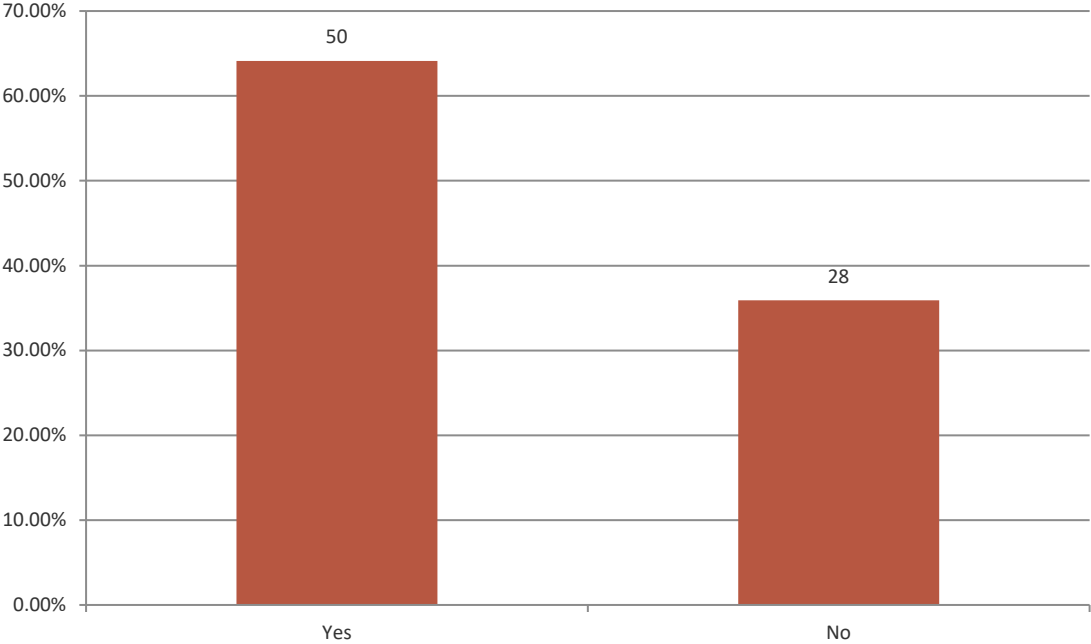
Q10: How many people live in your household?

Answered: 78 Skipped: 2
X-axis = answer choices
Y-axis = percent (%) of total responses
Labels = percent (%) of total responses



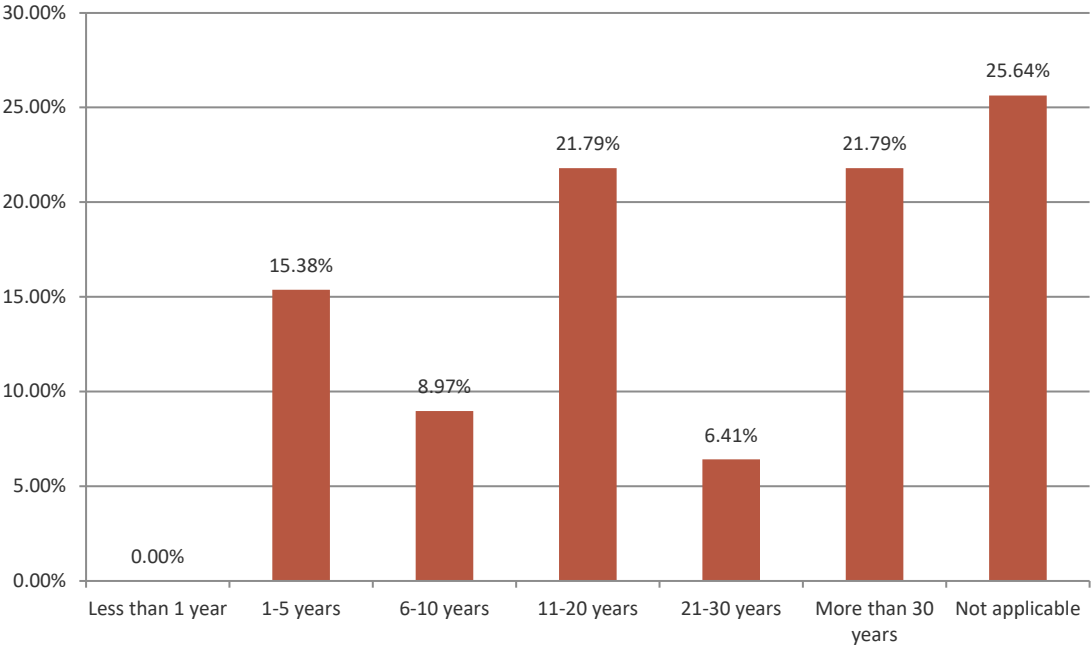
Q11: Are you a current Winterfield Township resident?

Answered: 78 Skipped: 2
X-axis = answer choices
Y-axis = percent (%) of total responses
Labels = number (#) of total responses



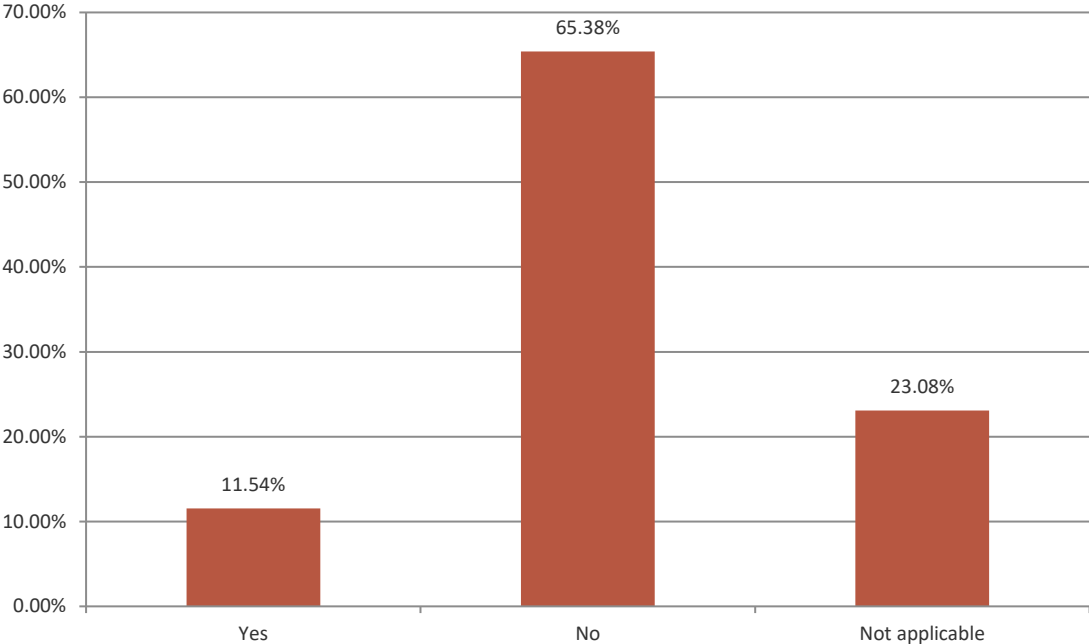
Q12: How long have you lived in Winterfield Township?

Answered: 78 Skipped: 2
X-axis = answer choices
Y-axis = percent (%) of total responses
Labels = percent (%) of total responses



Q13: Do you plan on moving out of Winterfield Township in the next 5 to 20 years?

Answered: 78 Skipped: 2
X-axis = answer choices
Y-axis = percent (%) of total responses
Labels = percent (%) of total responses



Q13: Do you plan on moving out of Winterfield Township in the next 5 to 20 years? (cont.)

Open-ended responses from the “If yes, please explain reason for moving” category:

- Selling after my husband passed away
 - Summer home I have for 45 years
 - Wish internet was good at all addresses
 - Maybe
 - Our residence is a second dwelling. It probably will be necessary to reduce to one dwelling. Winterfield Township is a beautiful, quiet peaceful corner of heaven to relax, hunt and enjoy nature.
 - Fracking. The smell is awful. The cost outweighs the benefit.
 - Possibly - not sure yet. Depends on jobs nearby among other things.
 - We have a part time home
 - At some time will be long in the tooth - won't be able to care for the place
 - I own recreational property in the township and have no intention of selling.
 - We are landowners and we come up to visit annually.
-