

Chocolay Township 2013 Master Plan and Recreation Plan Survey

The purpose of the survey was explained thus: “The Chocolay Township Planning Commission needs your input on several issues of importance for the Master Plan and Recreation Plan updates, but primarily issues related to future land uses, such as the raising of animals as an accessory activity at residences.” It was also explained that “this information will supplement the 2010 survey and will be used to guide Township policy. For this reason, it is important that we hear from as many community members as possible so we have a useful sampling of public opinion.”

Residents were notified and reminded of the survey by several means, including a postcard mailing, article in the Mining Journal, notification on the sign at Township Hall, and notification on the Township website. The postcard was mailed to every address in the Township (not to every owner/tax bill recipient), and was addressed to the resident/property owner. 3,167 postcards were mailed. In addition, 170 postcards were hand delivered to the Tribal housing and the mobile home park residents (who do not have individual addresses in Township records). This is a total of **3,337** postcard notices that were mailed or delivered. This was a sample of self-selecting engaged citizens.

Multimodal data collection methods were used. Respondents were given a choice of responding via online or paper version of the survey. They were instructed that multiple people in the household could take the survey. Questions were a mixture of multiple choice, rating scale, and open comment.

Postcards were mailed on September 4 and were collected through September 30. Multiple staff completed the tasks of entering paper responses in the online instrument on October 1 and 2. On October 3, staff completed a preliminary summary of the aggregate results to be distributed in the Planning Commission packet on October 4.

There were **600** presumed distinct respondents to the 2013 Master Plan survey (some exact duplicates were not included). 81% were submitted online and 19% by hard copy. Not all questions were answered by all respondents.

Considering 600 respondents to 3,337 mailings, response rate is **18 percent**.

Considering 600 respondents and 2,453 households (per the 2010 U.S. Census), response rate is **25 percent**.

Considering 600 respondents and 5,903 total population per the 2010 U.S. Census, response rate is 10 percent (includes even very young children). Considering 600 respondents and 4,549 people age 20 and above (per the 2010 U.S. Census), response rate is **13 percent**.

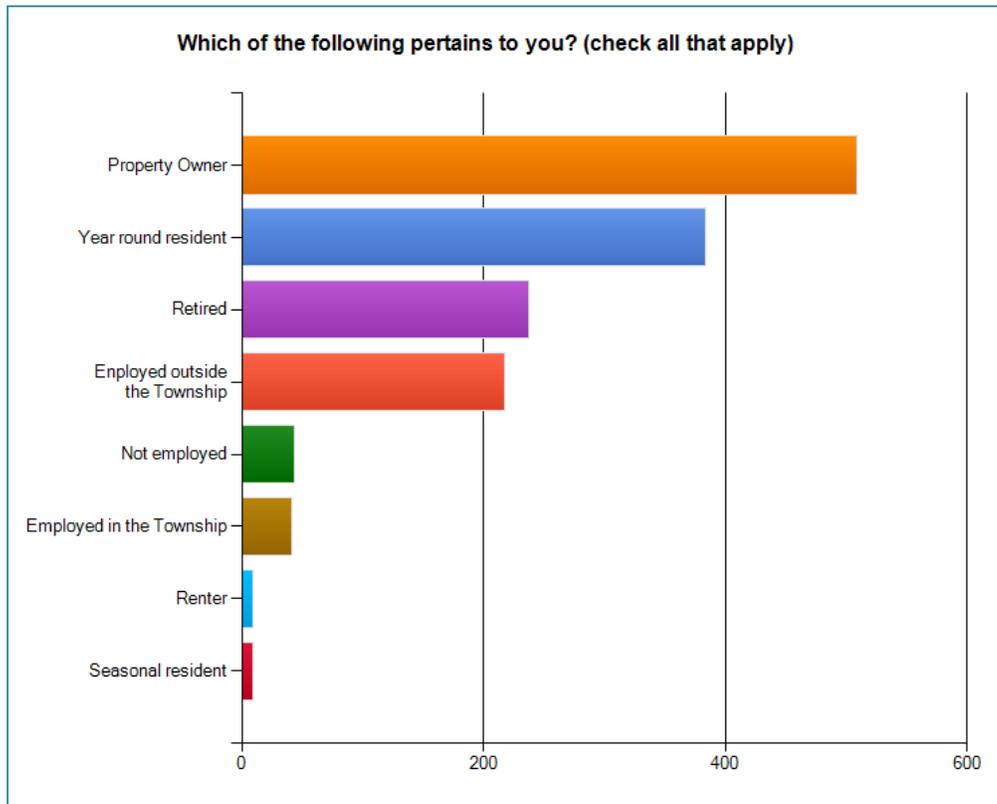
Although this would not be considered a statistically perfect survey, this survey produced the highest number of responses of any citizen opinion survey in Chocolay Township. Hundreds of people took the time to answer a very time-consuming and detailed survey, and to further share their ideas and opinions. **Their effort should not be taken lightly or be discounted in importance or relevance.**

It is intended that this survey be used as one source of information for use in formulating policy and regulations. Once the policy or regulation is formulated, it will be subjected to further public scrutiny before adoption, so citizens would be well-advised to stay informed about issues of concern to them. All decisions will be made with consideration of public opinion, but will also be consistent with the values, goals, and strategies of the adopted Chocolay Township Master Plan.

Detailed Results

1. Which of the following pertains to you? (check all that apply)

Most survey respondents are property owners (86%) and year round residents (65%). The 2010 U.S. Census indicates 85% of occupied housing units in the Township are owner-occupied. Prominently represented among respondents are retirees (40%) and those employed outside the Township (37%).



2. Please indicate your age group.

71% of survey respondents are 51 years of age or older. In fact, the largest age group among respondents is those age 60 and over (47%). **Young people are not well represented.**

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the **under-20** age group is 23% of total Township population. At 0.5% of total survey responses, this age group is vastly under-represented. The **20-40** age group is also under-represented. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, this group represents 20.5% of total Township population, but encompasses only 12% of survey respondents.

A more balanced representation of the mid-range age group is demonstrated. The **41-50** age group is 15.6% of total Township population, and 17% of survey responses.

Older age groups are over-represented. The **51-59** age group is 18% of total Township population, and 24% of survey responses. The **60 & over** age group is 23% of total Township population, yet 47% of survey responses.

3. Please help us by identifying the neighborhood in which your property/place of residence is located. If you own more than one property, choose your primary one. In which area is your property located?

There are two difficulties of note with responses to this question. The postcard that served as notification of the survey said that the Character Area number was listed on the front of the postcard. This was the intent, but this was not implemented. There was an alternative as mentioned in the survey - respondents could identify the character area for their property by viewing a map. The map that was included during the first couple days also included section numbers. Some respondents were confused and chose their section number, not their character area number. However, this was mitigated almost immediately by posting a revised map without the section numbers, and by publishing a list of every address in the Township along with the corresponding character area number. This assisted online survey respondents. People who requested hard copy surveys were assisted by office staff in determining the correct character area number.

115 respondents skipped this question. Of the 485 who answered, results are as follows:

- 22% (106) **Area 8** – Suburban residential
- 21% (101) **Area 7** – Water-oriented and recreational residential
- 15% (74) **Area 10** – Rural residential
- 9% (45) **Area 9** – Sub-Rural residential
- 7% (36) **Area 5** – Village residential
- 6% (30) **Area 6** – Transportation-Oriented residential
- 4.5% (22) **Area 11** – Country estate
- 4% (20) **Area 12** – Primary working lands
- 4% (20) **Area 13** – Natural preserve
- 3.5% (17) **Area 2** – Village mixed-use
- 1% (5) **Area 1** – Corridor strip commercial & mixed-use
- 0.8% (4) **Area 3** – Corridor cluster mixed-use
- 0.6% (3) **Area 14** – Recreational preserve
- 0.4% (2) **Area 4** – Isolated commercial

4. The Chocolay Township Planning Commission wishes to gain public input about the appropriate scale or intensity of animal homesteading activities (the keeping of animals) based on the information above. Please indicate your opinion about whether the following activities should be allowed in your neighborhood.

The majority (over 50%) **Agreed** with the following:

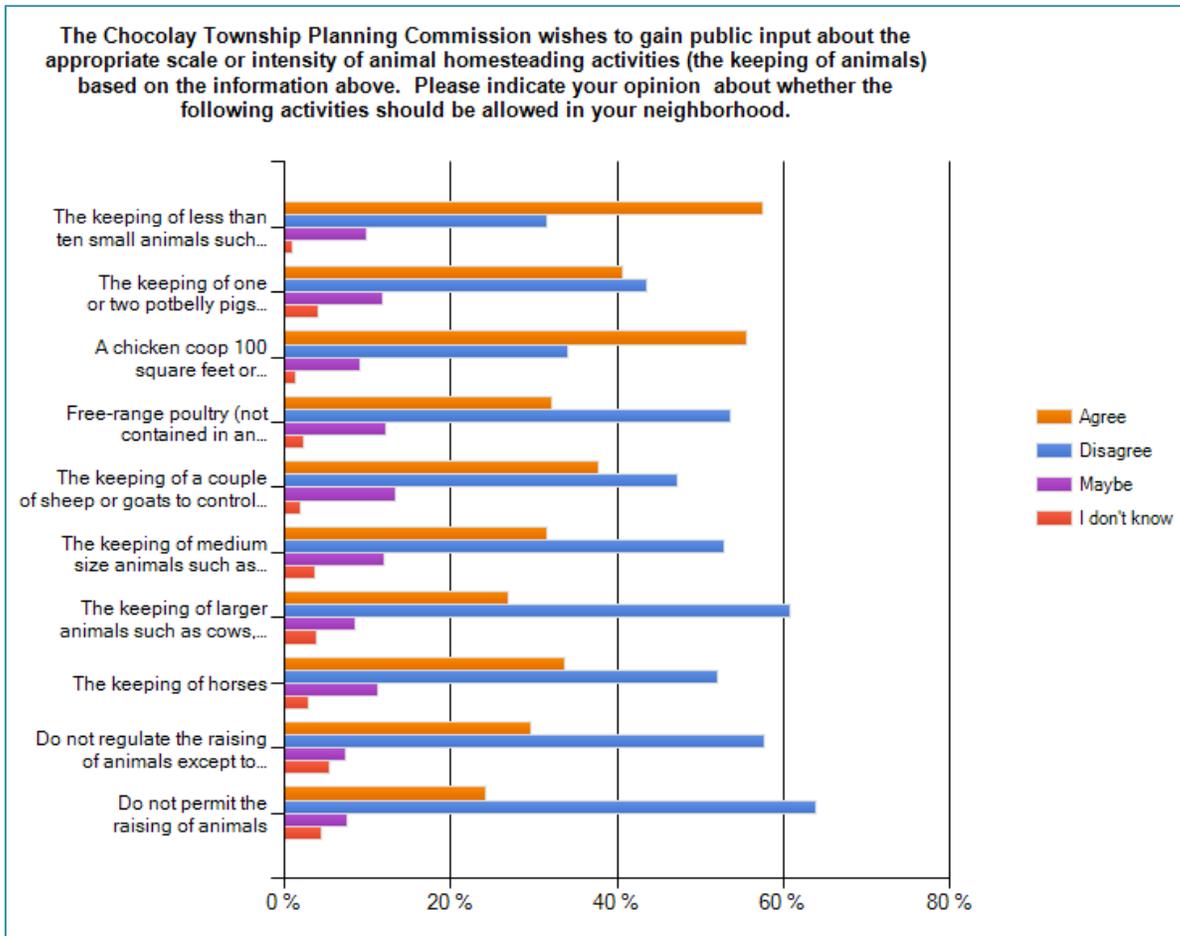
- *The keeping of less than ten small animals such as chickens, rabbits, turkeys, in a portable or fixed cage (similar to a dog pen with a shelter and run) – 57.5%*
- *A chicken coop 100 square feet or less (10' x 10') – 55.5%*

For the following items, a majority was not achieved by either those who Agree or Disagree. In this case, a decisive vote from those who said **Maybe** could indicate a majority either way.

- *The keeping of one or two potbelly pigs as pets like dogs – 201 Agree, 215 Disagree, 58 Maybe*
- *The keeping of a couple of sheep or goats to control the growth of vegetation – 185 Agree, 232 Disagree, 65 Maybe*

The majority (over 50%) **Disagreed** with the following:

- Do not permit the raising of animals – 63.9%
- The keeping of larger animals such as cows, pigs, llamas, and emus – 60.8%
- Do not regulate the raising of animals except to control general nuisance such as sanitation – 57.8%
- Free-range poultry (not contained in an enclosure at all times) – 53.5%
- The keeping of medium size animals such as sheep, alpacas, and goats – 52.8%
- The keeping of horses – 52.1%



In open comment, comments in support of raising animals include, for example, food security, freedom of lifestyle choice, sustainability, right to raise healthy food, local food, supplemental income, source of manure for the garden, better nutrition, and property rights.

In open comment, comments in opposition to raising animals include, for example, lack of confidence in enforcement, inappropriate in residential areas, noise, attraction of predators, poor or inappropriate soil conditions, appearance, odors, more neighbor disputes, waste, increased nuisance complaints, want a place to avoid animals, unfair to change the rules, property values, and impact on water.

Suggested conditions relate to location of property, size of property, scale, location of activities, noise, protection of well water, containment, sanitation, protection of predators, and no roosters.

One resident commented on keeping of bees, and another on dog kennels. Many said dogs should not be allowed to run loose or bark continuously. Some mentioned common sense and personal responsibility as necessities.

5. Which of the following uses do you think are appropriate for the neighborhood in which your property is located? Assume that there are appropriate regulations to reduce the potential for nuisance impacts (i.e. proper setbacks, buffers, appropriate scale or intensity of use) and there are appropriate septic/sewer and water facilities to support the development.

For the following items, a majority was not achieved by either those who Agree or Disagree. In this case, a decisive vote from those who said **Maybe** could indicate a majority either way.

- Vacation rentals of single-family homes (transient occupancy) – 47.4% Yes (225 Yes, 152 No, 90 Maybe)
- Seasonal occupancy of recreational vehicles on vacant parcels – 48.3% No (163 Yes, 230 No, 73 Maybe)
- Detached accessory housing units (second home on owner-occupied parcels) – 41% No (182 Yes, 195 No, 86 Maybe)
- Small manufacturing (indoor activity only) – 46.7% No (169 Yes, 223 No, 76 Maybe)
- Seasonal occupancy of recreational vehicles on vacant parcels – 48.3% No (163 Yes, 230 No, 73 Maybe)

The majority (over 50%) said **Yes** to the following:

- Outdoor wood boiler – 53.4%

The majority (over 50%) said **No** to the following:

- Six or more unit attached single-family (apartment buildings, condominiums) – 84.2%
- Three to five unit attached single-family (small apartment buildings, townhouses, condominiums) – 79.6%
- General manufacturing (indoor and outdoor activity) – 70.2%
- Buildings with retail or office on the first floor and apartments above (such as a live/work unit) – 67.9%
- Small local retail shops (convenience, gifts, food, beverage) – 61%
- Clustered cottage communities with internal roads and preserved permanent open space – 58.5%
- Two unit attached single-family (duplexes) – 52.8%

Comments opposed to **multiple-family housing** relate to insufficient water supply/septic capacity to support the development, insufficient lot size, inappropriate in single-family neighborhoods. Some said they would support them in the main business district. Another said there is a need for additional multi-family opportunities to help young people get established in the Township.

Open comment on proposed regulations for **outdoor wood boilers** relate to lot size, air quality impacts, nuisance smoke, odor, fire hazard, proper setback and location, storage of wood

supply, efficiency, visibility impacts, burning of trash instead of clean fuel, and a requirement to meet State air pollution regulations.

Open comment regarding **detached accessory housing units** includes support for families with children and people who want to age in place, and revenue potential for the Township. Some were supportive of guest houses on large lots or an RV plugged in during the summer for personal use. Some residents said yes as long as rural character, vacation setting, or wilderness feel could be maintained.

One person objected to the idea of occupancy of multiple **recreational vehicles** on a property (detrimental to property values), but thought you should be able to live in them while you are building a house. Others thought they shouldn't be used for a secondary residence, but are fine when used for visiting guests.

Another said it should be the property owner's choice whether to rent their home **for vacation rentals** or not. In a similar statement, some respondents asked government to allow people to use their properties to full potential, within reason, to create additional income and save money and therefore increase tax base.

Suggestions for regulations for vacation rentals include 2 week minimum stay, control the number of people allowed to stay, and no large events. One person said occupancy of recreational vehicles or vacation rentals might attract drug trafficking.

One person was in support of **clustering commercial development** to avoid sprawl and encourage better utilization of the existing vacant commercial areas, and similarly clustering residential development with preserved open space.

One person said **small indoor manufacturing** is ok if you can't tell, smell, or hear from outside. Others said yes as long as pollution or traffic increases are not an issue.

Objections to **retail** include increased traffic in neighborhoods.

Other concerns include **junk** and the **burning of garbage**. One person said you should be able to **store boats** on recreational properties.

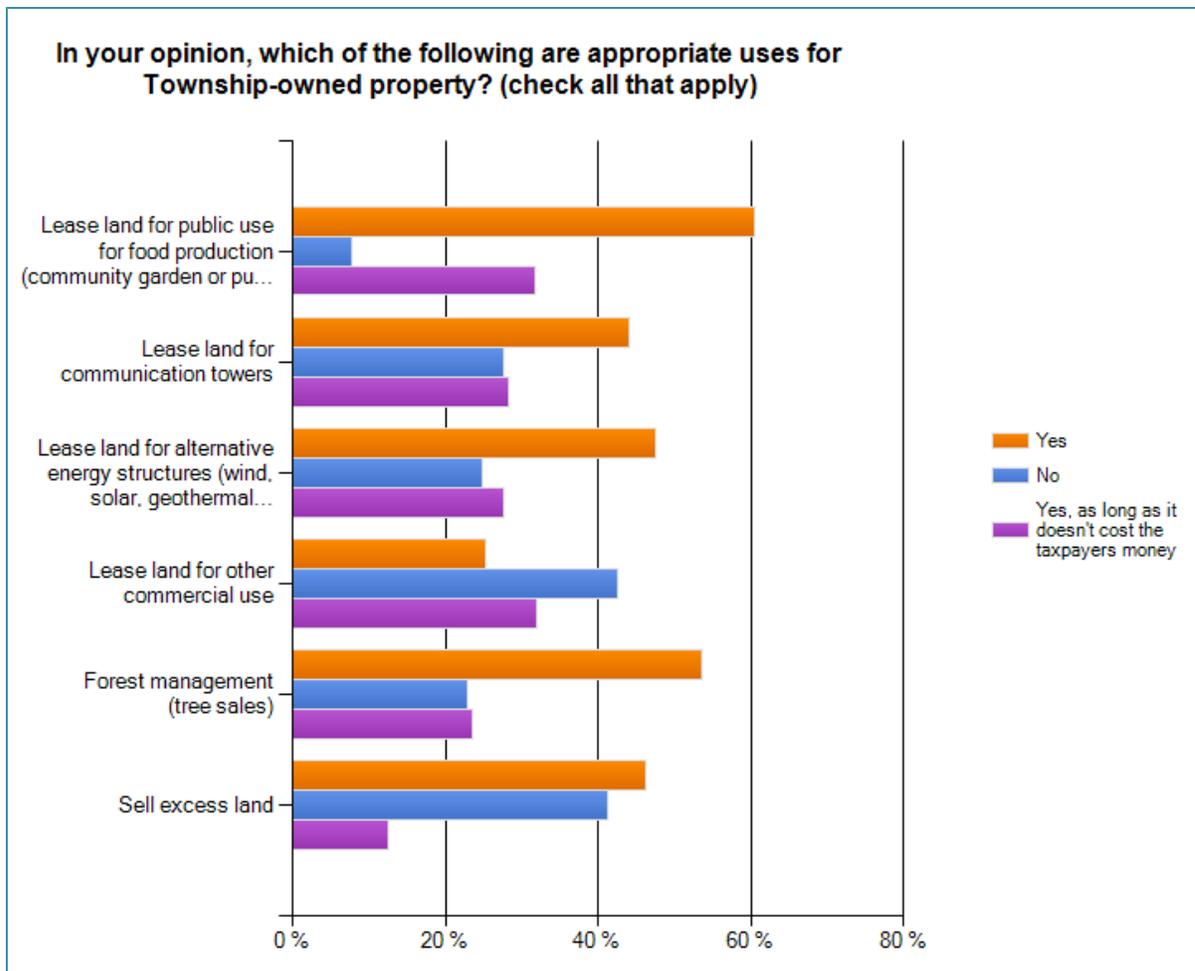
6. In your opinion, which of the following are appropriate uses for Township-owned property? (check all that apply)

The majority (over 50%) said **Yes** to the following:

- Lease land for public use for food production (community garden or public greenhouse) – 60.5% Yes, 31.8% Conditional Yes (no tax \$), 7.7% No
- Forest management (tree sales) – 53.5% Yes, 23.6% Conditional Yes (no tax \$), 22.9% No

The majority (over 50%) said either **Yes or a Conditional Yes** (as long as it doesn't cost the tax payers money) to the following (those who said No were not over 50%):

- Lease land for alternative energy structures (wind, solar, geothermal, etc.) – 47.6% Yes, 27.6% Conditional Yes, 24.8% No
- Lease land for communication towers – 44% Yes, 28.4% Conditional Yes, 27.6% No
- Sell excess land – 46.3% Yes, 12.6% Conditional Yes, 41.2% No
- Lease land for other commercial use – 25.4% Yes, 32% Conditional Yes, 42.6% No



“Lease land for other commercial use” was the least supported idea (42.6% No). “Sell excess land” was the second least supported idea (41.2% No). However, if you combine the definitive and conditional “yes” responses, they outnumber total opposed on all items.

One person said that protection of **local food supply systems** should be every bit as important and justified a governmental activity for protecting the public health, safety, and welfare as protecting water supplies, managing wastes, and providing for police and fire protection. They said local governments should provide an example and assist others to maximize opportunity for healthier food and local food supply.

One person said **leasing land for commercial purposes** would be ok if it promotes regional/neighborhood self-reliance. Another suggested the arrangement should generate money for the Township, not just spare costs to taxpayers, and that the lease opportunity should be advertised and equally available on a bid or proposal basis. Several said the use has to be compatible with the neighborhood and the environment.

Similarly, some suggested regulations to control nuisance impacts with **alternative energy facilities**. Several suggested caution for the impact of wind systems on wildlife, especially migrating birds. One supports land leases that benefit residents and otherwise are not likely to occur.

In general, the public wanted the opportunity for input before the **sale of public land**, and said approval would depend on the proposed use. One person said that sale of public land should be offered to local or community groups first before being offered outside the community. Another suggested a 10% discount for leases to residence owners/taxpayers (must be private entity). One supported land exchanges instead of land sales. One person recommended the purchase of 13 acres of vacant land adjacent to the Iron Ore Heritage Trail, Main Street, and the Chocolay River Bayou for an educational Nature Walk, perhaps by selling another property that is not centrally located or proximate to population density.

Several cautioned against clear-cutting, but supported using sustainable harvesting methods in **forest management**.

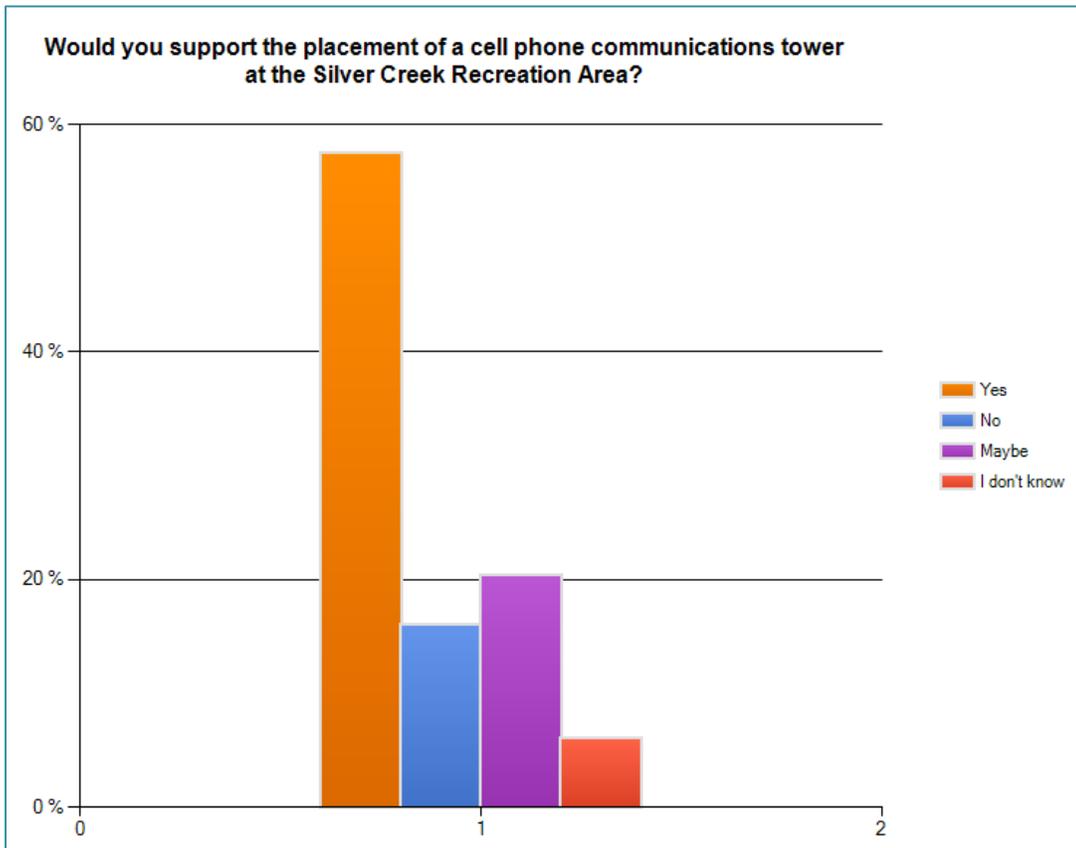
Communication towers generated concerns related to visual impact, location away from avian flyways and residences, and destruction of forests.

Several wanted more information, and said it depends on what is proposed.

One person wanted an ORV trail through the Township and said discrimination against these trail users would likely be challenged in court.

7. Would you support the placement of a cell phone communications tower at the Silver Creek Recreation Area?

The majority (57.5%) said **“Yes”** (276 respondents). 16% said **“No”** (77 respondents). 20.4% said **“Maybe”** (98 respondents).



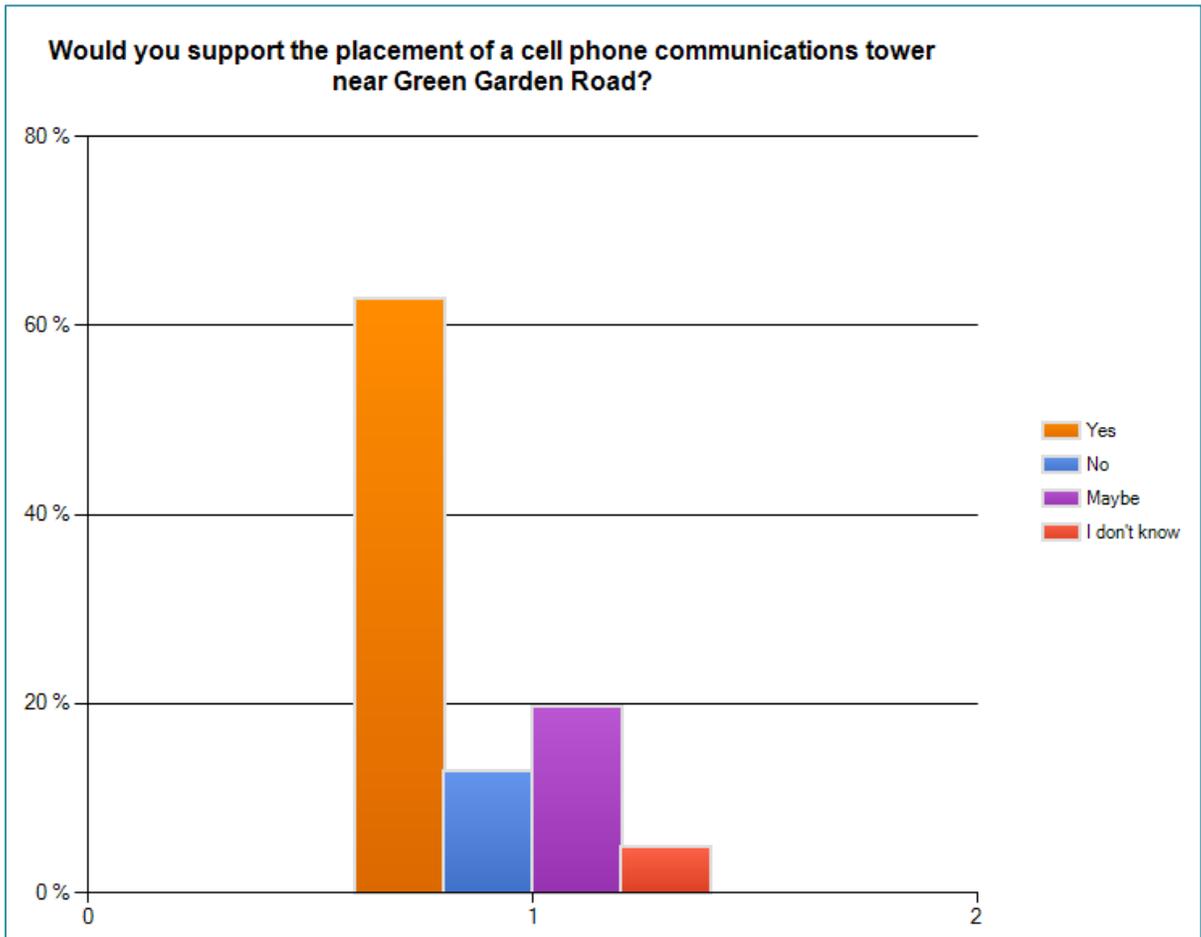
Many said they approve the tower because they have poor cell phone service. Others were opposed because they have good service already. One said it would be great if the new towers would allow access to NMU's Wi-Max so that residents can participate in Northern's curriculum.

Many said they need more information on placement, characteristics, and land and health impact, and urged the Township to do research on the issues before approval.

Many were concerned that the towers not interfere with surrounding residences or recreation uses, and not have negative visual impact. Some indicated a need for proper financial and ownership considerations. One urged people to realize that Chocolay Township and the areas adjacent to Marquette are growing communities on the outskirts of the city and not in the middle of nowhere, and therefore these kind of uses are appropriate.

8. Would you support the placement of a cell phone communications tower near Green Garden Road?

An even greater majority (62.8%) said "Yes" (301 respondents). 12.7% said "No" (61 respondents). 19.6% said "Maybe" (94 respondents).



Open comments were generally the same as the previous question, although one person said this location is better because there are less children in the area and less visual impact. A few disagreed and said this area is beautiful with spectacular views and this use would not fit with

the landscape. Some said cell phone coverage is needed for safety and in case of emergency. One person said there is good coverage already at the top of Green Garden hill. Others said reception is poor or spotty.

9. Please indicate your level of support for the following regulations. Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 equal to “Very supportive” and 1 equal to “Not supportive”.

For purposes of scoring the responses, the response categories were given various weights on a rating scale. For example, “5 – Very Supportive” has a weight of “5”, “4” has a weight of “4”, “3” has a weight of “3”, “2” has a weight of “2”, and “1-not supportive” has a weight of “1”. Comparison is based on average points received.

Regulations receiving average support scores of “4” and higher include the following:

- Require screening/fencing/vegetative buffers for outdoor storage of accumulated equipment, scrap metal, and junk (4.31)
- Require removal of dilapidated, unsafe structures (4.25)
- Control the number of inoperable cars and other scrap parts that can accumulate outdoors on a property (4.21)
- Limit outdoor storage of accumulated equipment and junk (4.08)

Regulations receiving average support scores between “3” and “4” include the following:

- Control alterations to the dunes along Lake Superior (3.96)
- Require basic property maintenance (exterior) (3.9)
- Require structures to be set back 100 feet from lakes and streams (3.81)
- Require larger lot widths along streams and lakes to limit impact on water quality (3.78)
- Limitations on the number of accessory buildings (3.21)

A number of people don’t want government regulation. Others wish there was no need for these regulations and that people would take responsibility for keeping their properties well maintained. Most people say that while they don’t want **excessive regulation**, they see a need for **reasonable regulations** to control the excesses. Many at least want people to “hide their messes”. Others are emphatic that regulations are necessary and will protect property values.

A number of people want **better enforcement**.

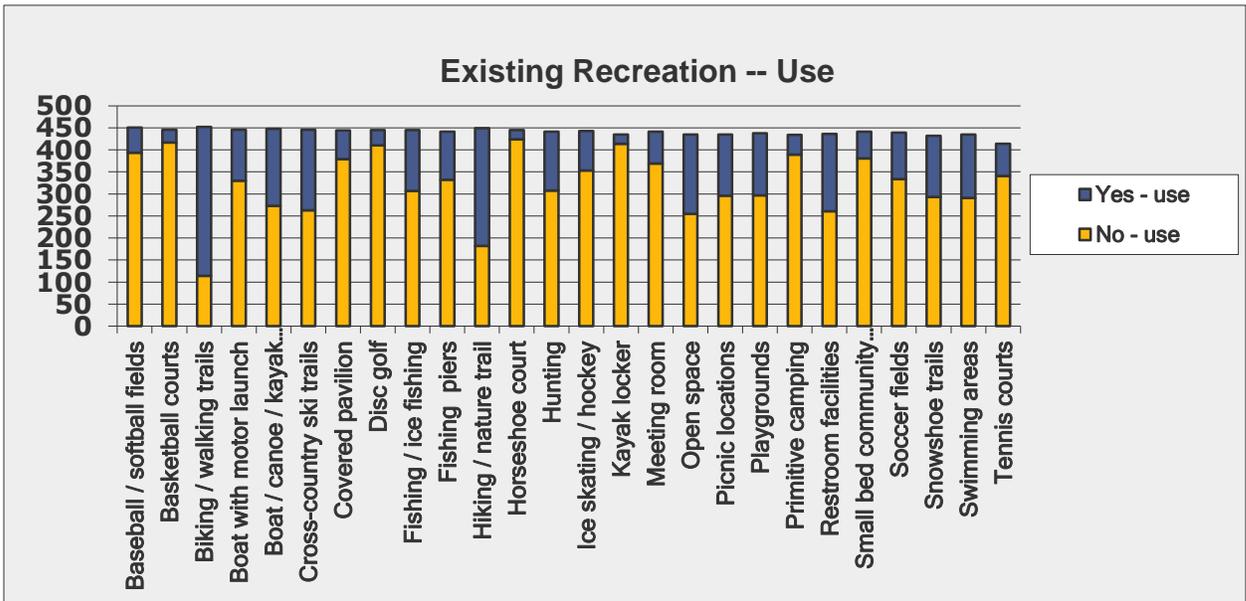
Some urged caution in enforcing **exterior maintenance** regulations so that people with low incomes are not forced from their homes. They urge community support and assistance to address this issue. One person is concerned that a requirement for removing **dilapidated structures** will result in the loss of historic barns.

A number of people said the limitation on the **number of accessory buildings** depends on size, use, design, placement, or other considerations. One suggested regulating required green space instead.

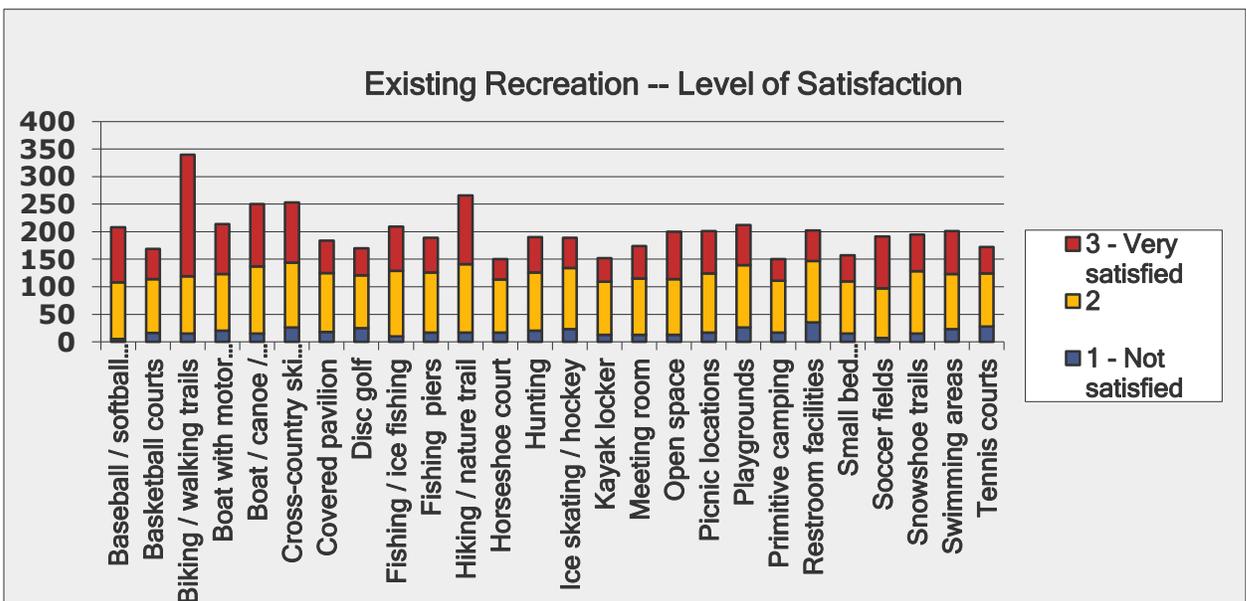
One wants a requirement for grass cutting once a month in summer. Another said all properties should have a native species plant area and a limit on planting non-native lawns.

10. Listed below are current recreation opportunities available in the Township. In the first two columns, indicate if your household uses the opportunity by checking either “Yes-use” or “No-use”. In the next three columns, rate your level of satisfaction with the facility on a scale of 1 to 3, with 3 equal to “Very satisfied” and 1 equal to “Not satisfied”. In the last two columns, indicate your support for funding improvements for an opportunity by checking either “Yes-fund” or “No-fund”. (**Note - Results for use, satisfaction, and funding are calculated separately, not as aggregated across rows in the raw results.)

The highest used existing facilities by resident respondents are **biking/walking trails** (75%) and **hiking/nature trails** (60%). Keep in mind this does not include regional users of the sports facilities or younger users who did not respond to the survey. 41% use the **cross-country ski trails** and **open space**. 40% use **restrooms** and 39% use the **non-motorized boat launch**.

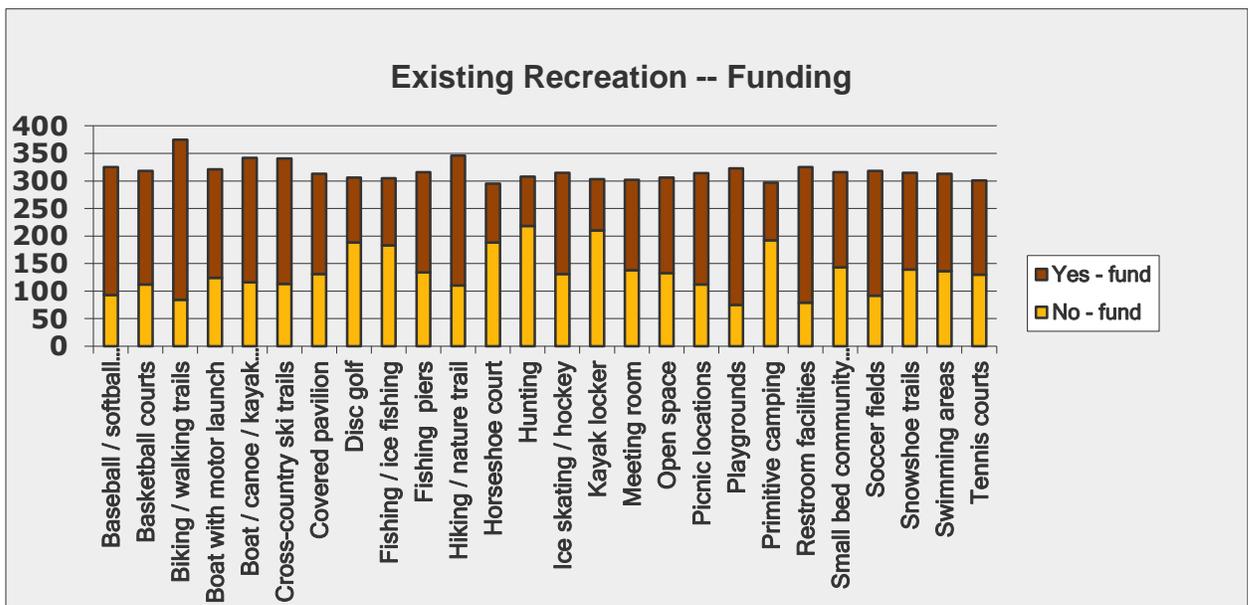


There were no strong indications of lack of satisfaction with existing facilities.



65% were “very satisfied” with **biking/walking trails** (221 of 340), and 31% (104) were moderately satisfied. 47% were “very satisfied” with **hiking/nature trails** (125 of 266) and equally 47% (124) were moderately satisfied. 43% were “very satisfied” with the **cross-country ski trails** (109 of 253) and 47% (118) were moderately satisfied. 45% were “very satisfied” with the **non-motorized boat launch** (113 of 250) and 49% (122) were moderately satisfied.

Funding was supported by a majority of respondents for many existing facilities, including biking/walking trails (78%), playgrounds (77%), restroom facilities (76%), baseball/softball fields (71%), soccer fields (71%), hiking/nature trails (68%), cross-country ski trails (67%), non-motorized boat launch (66%), basketball courts (65%), picnic locations (64%), motorized boat launch (61%). Other majority-supported items include ice skating/hockey (58%), covered pavilion (58%), fishing piers (58%), open space (57%), tennis courts (57%), swimming areas (57%), snowshoe trails (56%), small bed community gardens (55%), and meeting room (54%).



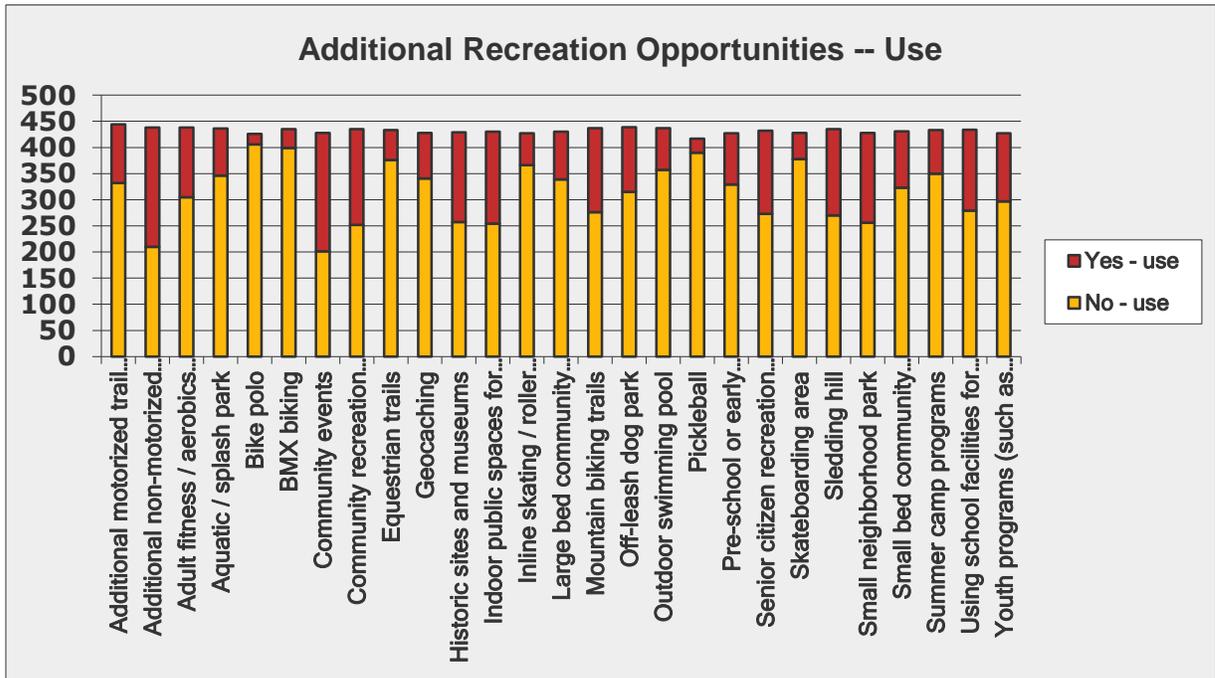
The common voice throughout the open comments indicates two general themes. One is that there is a lack of communication from the Township to the citizens about the recreational opportunities in the Township. This message indicates that the Township has the recreation opportunities available, but the residents do not know about those opportunities.

The second general theme indicates that Township respondents are willing to support the current recreation opportunities with funding, but they do not want to see a tax increase for maintenance or improvements on those facilities to accomplish that funding.

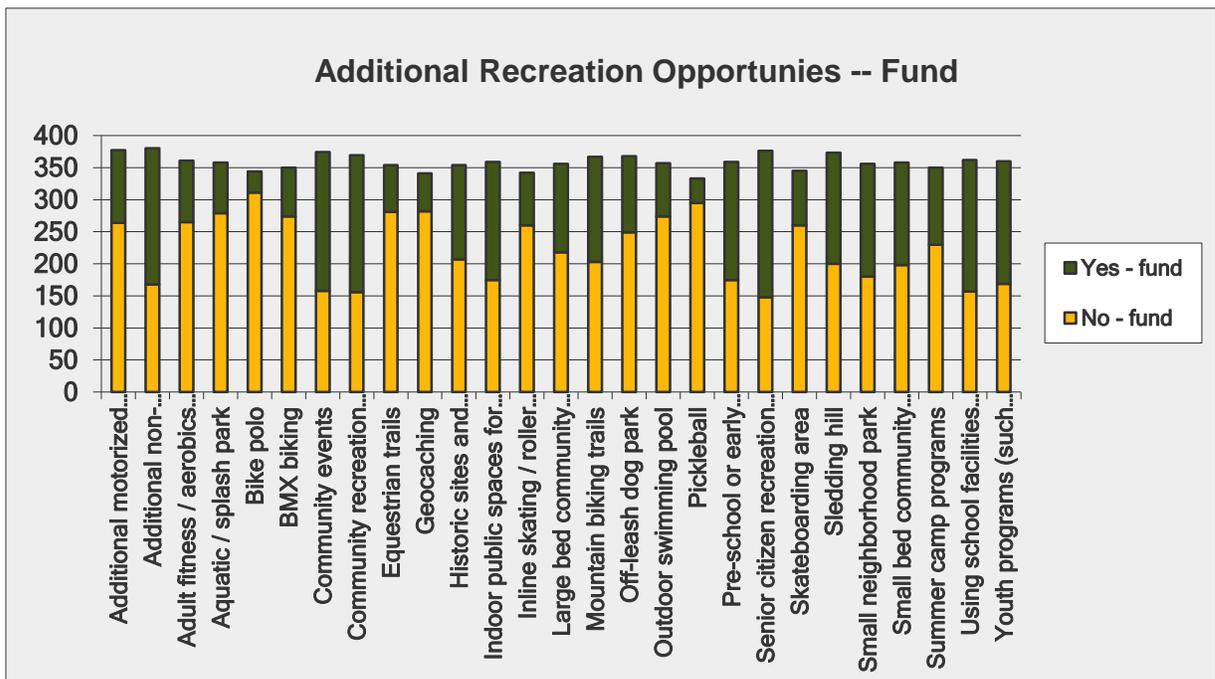
11. Listed below are recreation opportunities currently not available in the Township. Please indicate if you or any member of your household anticipates a use for the recreational opportunities by checking either “Yes-use” or “No-use” in the first two columns. Please indicate your support for funding of the opportunity by checking either “Yes-fund” or “No-fund” in the last two columns. (**Note - Results for use and funding are calculated separately, not as aggregated across rows in the raw results.)

The majority of respondents indicated they would use **community events** (53%) and additional **non-motorized trail connections** (52%). Between 40 and 50 percent said they would use a

community recreation center, indoor public spaces for community/private gatherings, small neighborhood parks, and historic sites and museums.



A majority supported funding for senior citizen recreation programs (61%), community recreation center (58%), community events (58%), use of school facilities (57%), additional non-motorized trail connections (56%), youth programs (53%), pre-school or early childhood recreation programs (51%), and indoor spaces for community/private gatherings (51%).

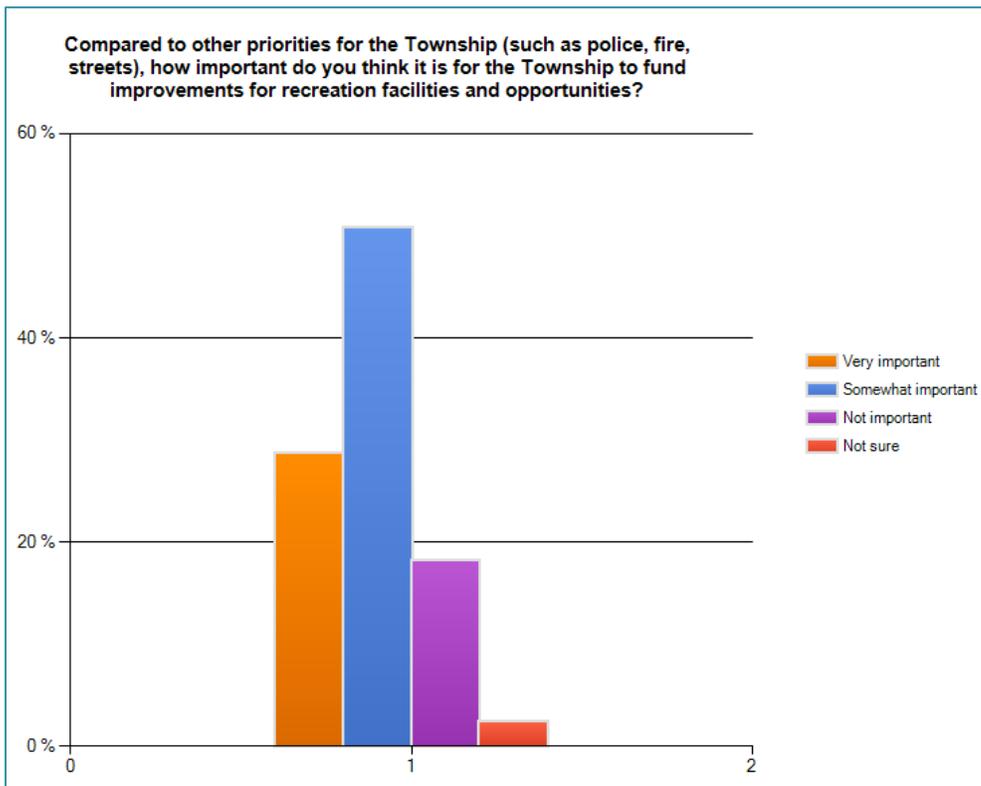


Again, a common theme for additional or new recreational opportunities is the willingness to see the Township fund additional recreation on Township property, but the residents want to accomplish this without increasing taxes. Several respondents suggested fee-based solutions for the funding of additional activities.

Another strong message was to provide more activities for seniors in a community-based environment (either in a community center or community events). There is thread throughout the comments that indicates more could be accomplished in this area to provide those opportunities. Passive recreation (such as non-motorized trails and community events) was supported as well. Again a reminder that most survey respondents are in the upper age groups.

12. Compared to other priorities for the Township (such as police, fire, streets), how important do you think it is for the Township to fund improvements for recreation facilities and opportunities?

The majority of respondents (50.8%) think funding improvements for recreation facilities and opportunities is **“somewhat important”** in relation to other priorities such as police, fire, and streets. 28.7% think it is “very important”, 18.1% think it is “not important”, 18.1% think it is “not important”.



13. Please enter your additional comments or concerns regarding recreation in Chocloy Township.

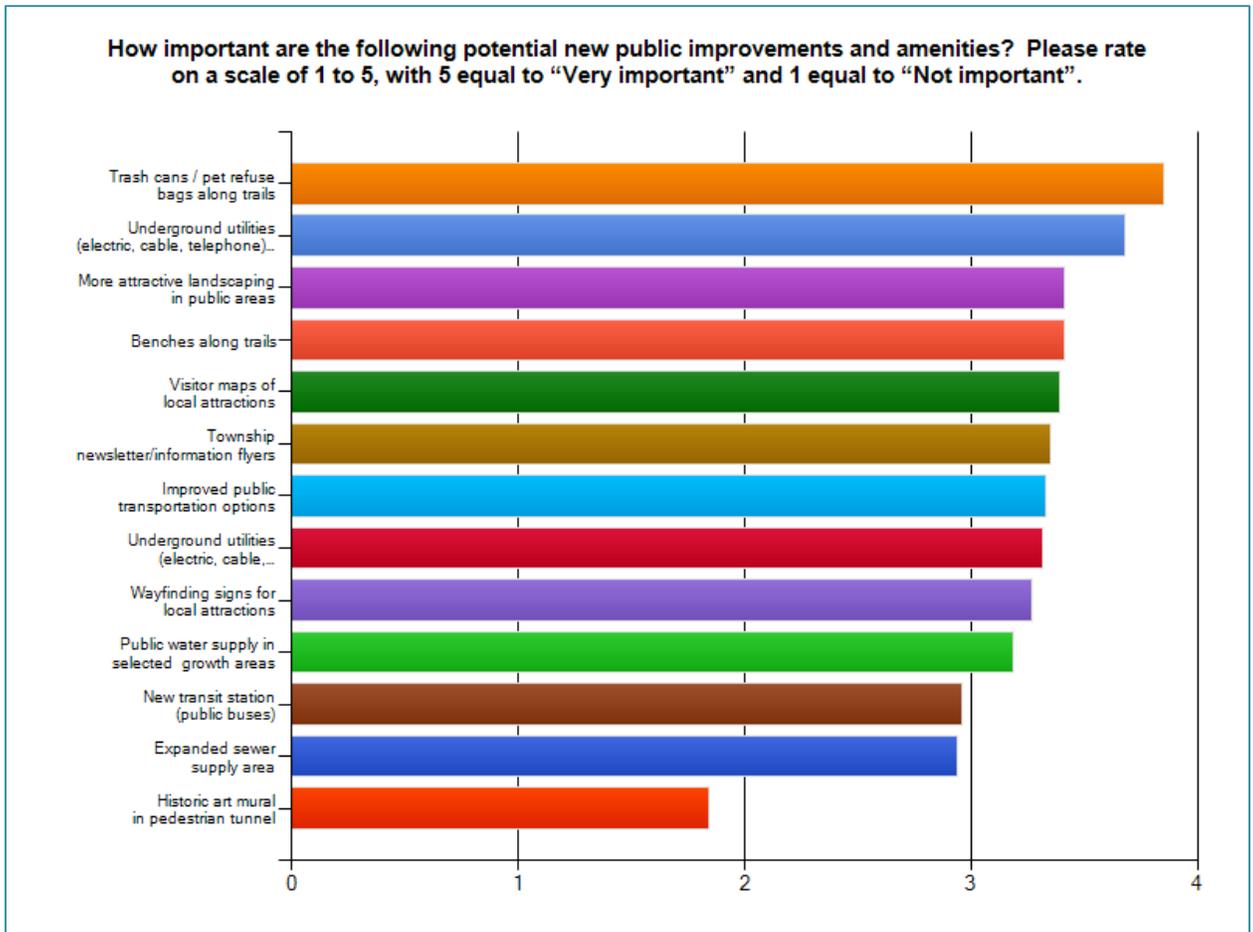
Many of the comments centered on the use of ATVs in the Township. There is a fair amount of support for the ability to ride anywhere in the Township. At the same time there are many who indicate they do not want additional ATV traffic in the Township, as they want to maintain the biking / hiking / non-motorized and “rural atmosphere” opportunities that currently exist.

14. How important are the following potential new public improvements and amenities? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 equal to “Very important” and 1 equal to “Not important”.

For purposes of scoring the responses, the response categories were given various weights on a rating scale. For example, “5 – Very Supportive” has a weight of “5”, “4” has a weight of “4”, “3” has a weight of “3”, “2” has a weight of “2”, and “1-not supportive” has a weight of “1”. Comparison is based on average points received.

Regulations receiving average support scores between “3” and “4” include the following:

- Trash cans/pet refuse bags along trails (3.85)
- Underground utilities with new development (3.68)
- Benches along trails (3.41)
- More attractive landscaping in public areas (3.41)
- Visitor map of local attractions (3.39)
- Township newsletter/information flyers (3.35)
- Improved public transportation options (3.33)
- Underground utilities along US-41 (3.32)
- Wayfinding signs for local attractions (3.27)
- Public water supply in selected growth area (3.19)



Many open comments were in support of **underground utilities** with occasional mention that it should be paid for by the developer. Some want **natural gas** provision.

Public transportation was mentioned as valuable for senior citizens. There was a suggestion for clear, fully enclosed shelters. **ORV travel** on paved road shoulders was mentioned.

Funding suggestions include community service (more attractive landscaping), probationers in District Court (benches), special assessments or user fees (water/sewer) and donations.

There was a reminder that not all citizens have internet access and are therefore excluded from information, with a suggestion to use normal **media**.

Public water supply was requested for areas with poor well water including Kawbawgam Road. It was noted that public water supply is also useful for fire protection.

15. How important are the following issues facing Chocolay Township in either the near or distant future? Rate on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 equal to “Very important” and 1 equal to “Not important”.

For purposes of scoring the responses, the response categories were given various weights on a rating scale. For example, “5 – Very Supportive” has a weight of “5”, “4” has a weight of “4”, “3” has a weight of “3”, “2” has a weight of “2”, and “1-not supportive” has a weight of “1”. Comparison is based on average points received. **All these items received an average support score over “3” except “Lower taxes and decrease services” and “Raise taxes for new/improved facilities or services”.**

Regulations receiving average support scores greater than “4” include the following:

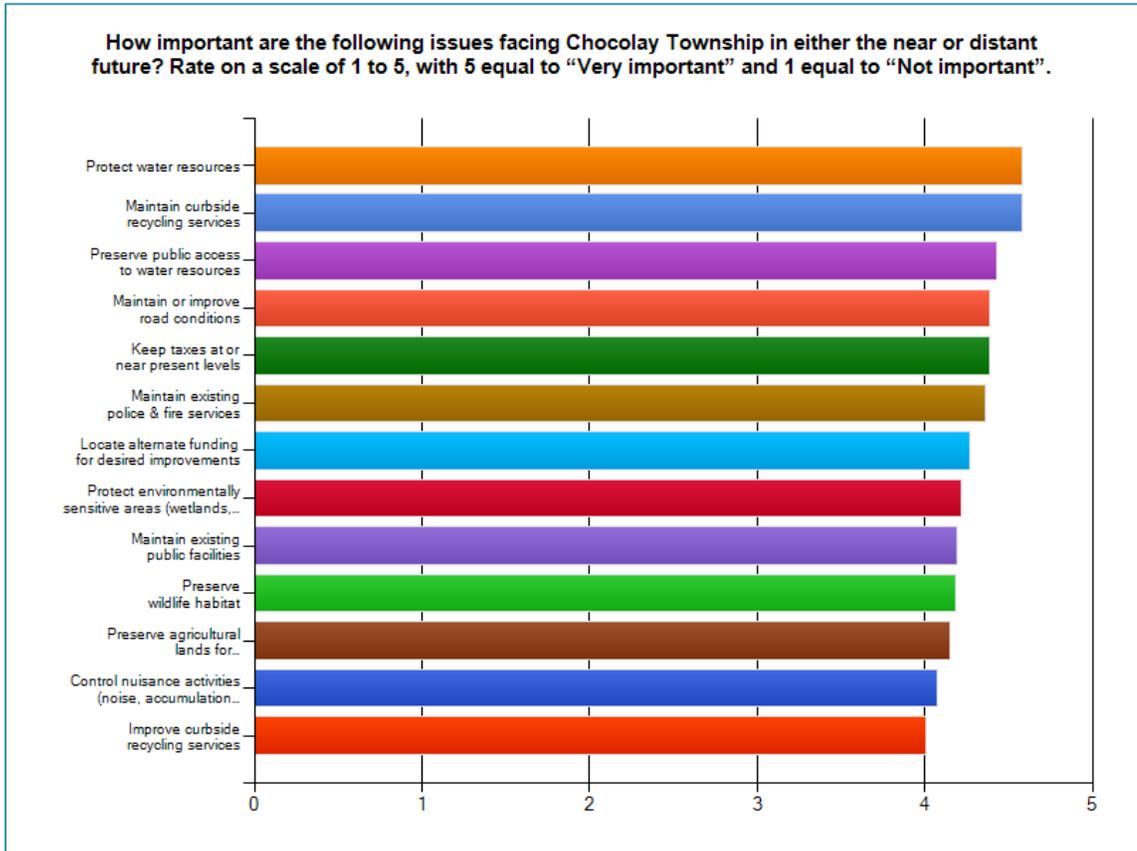
- Protect water resources (4.58)
- Maintain curbside recycling services (4.58)
- Preserve public access to water resources (4.43)
- Maintain or improve road conditions (4.39)
- Keep taxes at or near present levels (4.39)
- Maintain existing police and fire services (4.36)
- Locate alternative funding for desired improvements (4.27)
- Protect environmentally sensitive areas (4.22)
- Maintain existing public facilities (4.19)
- Preserve wildlife habitat (4.18)
- Preserve agricultural lands for farming activities (4.15)
- Control nuisance activities (4.07)
- Improve curbside recycling services (4.01)

Complaints include burning garbage, loose dogs, taxes, road quality, truck noise, light pollution, and unwise government spending.

Suggestions include automatic electronic notices for people who sign-up for them; funding from grants, community fund raising, private investors; and elimination of the police department.

Desires include ORV routes, senior citizen services, services to attract families, off-leash dog park, rubbish and metal pickup, road resurfacing, beautification of the highway corridor in Harvey, on-site recreation in the mobile home community, and collection of Styrofoam.

It was suggested that people would keep their properties neater if there was an easier way to get rid of excess items.

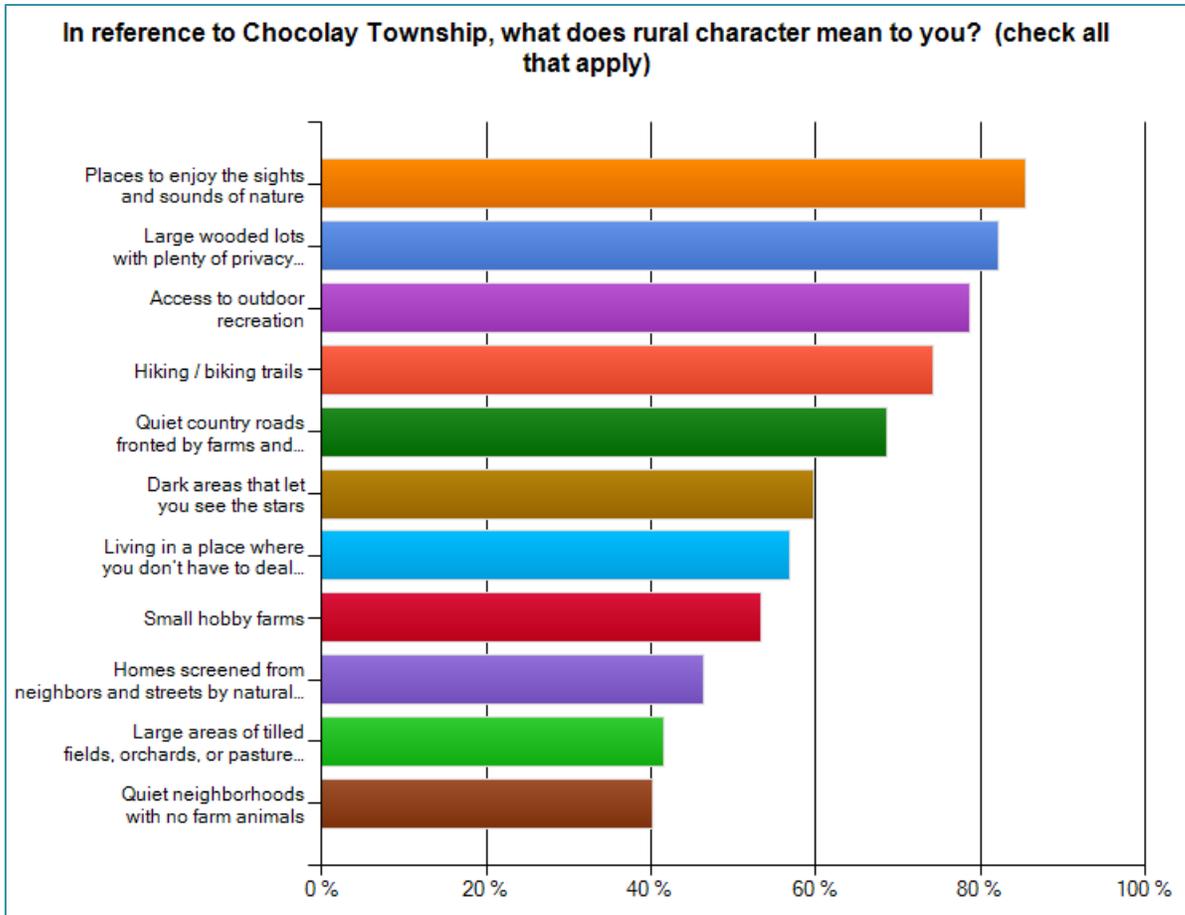


16. In reference to Chocolay Township, what does rural character mean to you? (check all that apply)

Items chosen by the minority as representing "rural character" include the following:

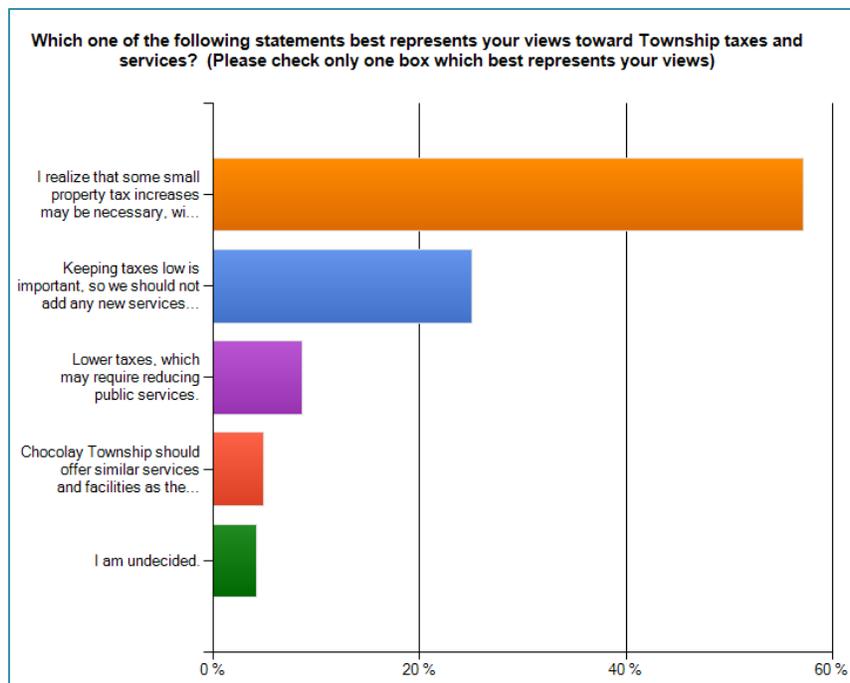
- Places to enjoy the sights and sounds of nature (86%)
- Large wooded lots with plenty of privacy (82%)
- Access to outdoor recreation (79%)
- Hiking/biking trails (74%)
- Quiet country roads fronted by farms and single-family homes (69%)
- Dark areas that let you see the stars (60%)
- Living in a place where you don't have to deal with a lot of government regulations (57%)
- Small hobby farms (53%)

All open comments can be reviewed in the raw survey results on the Township website. See chart on next page.



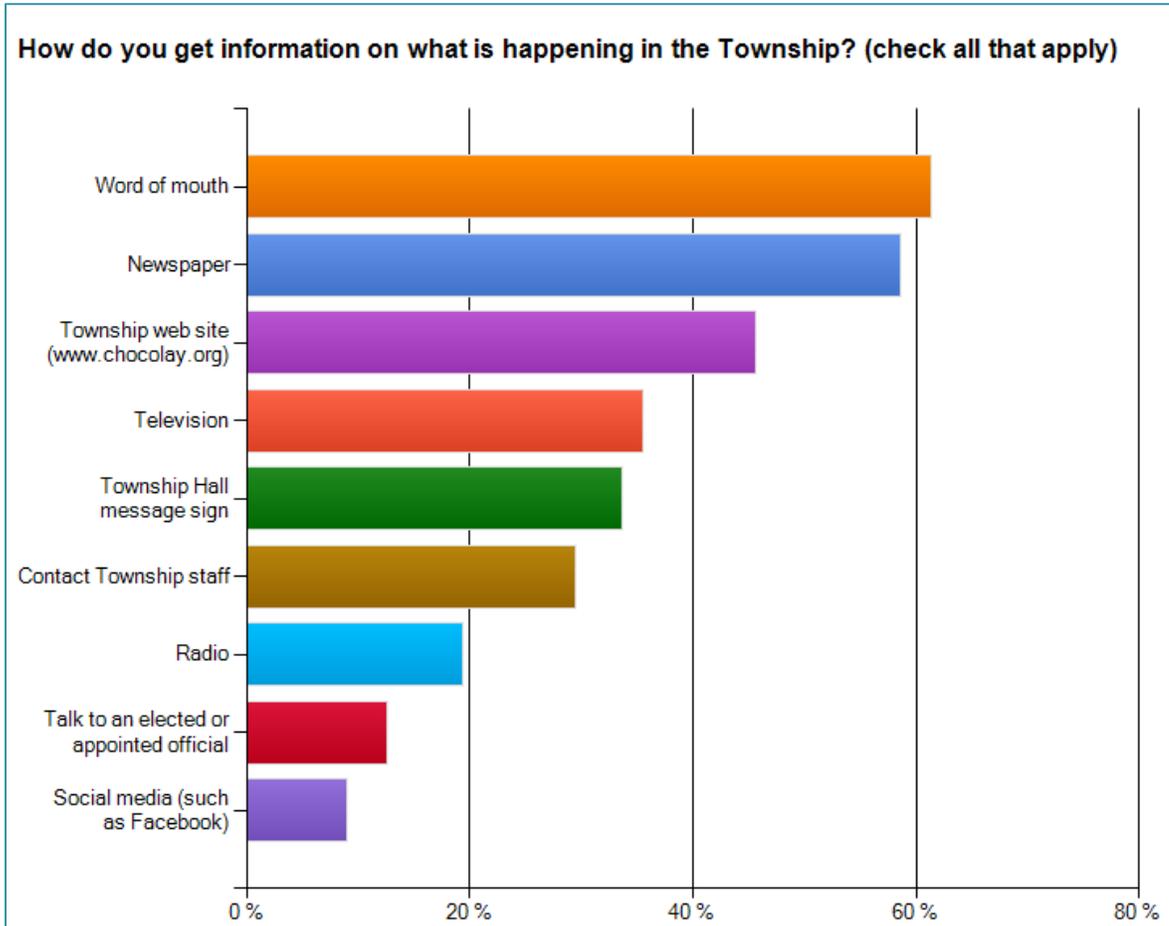
17. Which of the following statements best represents your views toward Township taxes and services? (Please check only one box which best represents your views)

Most respondents (57%) say they “realize that some small property tax increases may be necessary, within reason, to provide a few additional services or community facilities. 25% said “keeping taxes low is important, so do not add any new services or facilities if it means raising taxes.”



18. How do you get information on what is happening in the Township? (check all that apply)

The majority of respondents get information on what is happening in the Township by **word of mouth** (61%) and **newspaper** (59%). Next more frequent responses are **Township website**, **television**, and the **Township Hall message sign**.



This underscores the importance of ensuring that citizens are well-informed so that word-of-mouth news is accurate. Again a reminder that not all citizens have internet access.

Other suggestions include direct mail, CABA newsletter, Chocolay Quarterly, Township newsletter, social media, e-letters/subscriptions, and bulletin board in Township office.

19. Please add your additional master plan comments or concerns.

Complaints include government wasting money, dusk to dawn lights, dog related issues, taxes, difficult entry to Holiday gas station, regulations, high fees, junk, road conditions, un-mown road shoulders and ditches, and the US-41/M-28 intersection.

Requests include repave Ford Road, Ortman, Wildwood; improve website; extend city sewer and water to rest of Lakewood Lane; community center; revisit speed limits; better road connections; keep it rural; wayfinding signs; do not harass citizens and embrace creativity (Lakenenland); citizen access to new technology; beautification and face-lift for commercial

area; limit height and density; tax incentives for remodeling; ORV/ATV trails; better enforcement; control erosion along the Chocolay River; dog park with agility course (paid by user fees); improve township boat launch; less regulations; radio and tv announcements; collaboration with other communities – don't duplicate services; walking/biking lane on Lakewood Lane; encourage business growth; keep small town atmosphere; and "don't turn into Marquette Township vs. Why complain about Marquette Township - remember the business strip is a small part of Marquette Township and they also offer great recreational and wildlife viewing opportunities".

There are too many good comments to do them justice in the summary – please read the entire responses to **Question 19** in the raw survey results. And notice there are some very complimentary comments as well that are not summarized here!

The citizens of Chocolay (at least 600 of them) deserve a big thank you for taking the time to give their input! Hurray!