

Northern Door Visioning Summary

Assets Question – Voting Responses

“What are Door County’s greatest assets?” – Voting Responses

Participants were asked to write down their responses to this question on notecards and then rate their number one response. They were asked to share their top responses with the group which were written on a flipchart and voted on using adhesive dots. Staff later categorized the responses into the 10 categories noted in County Visioning Summary – Part A, which generally follow the comprehensive planning statute elements. The data presented below are the number of votes each flipchart response received when participants considered the question “What are Door County’s greatest assets?” The bold numbers next to the main categories and the italicized numbers next to the sub-categories are the total number of votes received within that category/sub-category. The non-bold numbers are the total number of votes received for that response.

Community Character - 52

People - 14

- 6 Social conscience – caring about each other, sense of community
- 4 Stable religious community
- 2 People
- 1 Good base of retirees to help with cultural and educational activities
- 1 Volunteerism

Visual - 22

- 13 Rural farmland and buildings
- 9 Scenic vistas and living

Quality of Life - 16

- 5 Diverse communities
- 5 Human service agencies
- 4 Low population density
- 1 Sense of peace
- 1 Small government footprint
- 0 Large tax base

Natural Resources - 47

- 13 Protected lands
- 11 250 miles of waterfront
- 9 High drinking water quality
- 7 Unique ecology, geology, climates, plants, and wildlife
- 5 Forests and rustic roads
- 2 Nature
- 0 Location within Wisconsin

Cultural/History - 25

- 16 Cultural assets: arts, music, theatre, galleries, authors, museums
- 6 History
- 3 Historic buildings

Northern Door Visioning Summary

Assets Question – Voting Responses

Community Facilities and Utilities - 21

Infrastructure - 0

Education/Libraries - 3

3 Schools

Health - 0

Social Services - 0

Parks & Recreation - 18

13 Sporting access: hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, water sports, snowmobiling, hunting

5 Large number of parks

Economic Development - 4

2 Unique businesses and owners

1 Good mix of industry

1 Green economy

0 Good base of service and tradespeople

0 Shops

Land Use - 2

2 Controlled development

0 Availability of places to stay and to eat

0 Availability of land for development

Transportation - 0

0 Improved road access

Agriculture – 0

Intergovernmental Cooperation – 0

Housing - 0

Northern Door Visioning Summary

Assets Question – Notecard Responses

“What are Door County’s greatest assets?” – Notecard Responses

Participants were asked to write their responses to this question on notecards and then rate their number one response. Staff later categorized the responses into one of the 10 categories and then counted the number of responses given in each category. The bold numbers next to the main category and the italicized numbers next to the sub-categories are the frequency of responses. The non-bold numbers in parentheses are the ranking that each participant gave that response on their notecard (some participants ranked more responses than just their number one response).

Natural Resources - 48

- 250 miles of waterfront (1)
- Natural beauty (1)
- Niagara Escarpment = diverse species, views (1)
- Unique ecological zone – climate, plants, geology, “natural areas” (1)
- Nature (1)
- Natural beauty – wildlife (1)
- Waterfront areas (1)
- Natural areas: water, protected lands, scenic beauty (1)
- Clean shorelines, clean water, good fishing (1)
- Natural environment (1)
- Forests (3)
- Interesting geological features (9)
- Geography – uniqueness
- Water
- Its geography
- Coastlines, beaches, bluffs
- Lake Michigan with long shoreline
- Beaches
- Undeveloped woodlands
- Ample Great Lakes shoreline
- Clean
- Unspoiled landscapes and rural areas
- Natural rock formations: bluffs, scenic views
- Lake and lakeshore
- Woods
- Water – Green Bay, Lake Michigan
- Protected areas: Mink River, Mud Lake, Toft Point, The Ridges, etc.
- Diverse wildlife
- Clear view of the night sky
- Variety of terrain
- Multiple natural areas, parks, open spaces
- The Ridges
- Unlimited water
- Manageable amount of snow
- Interesting shoreline (before cladophora)
- Our islands
- Lake, Bay, rivers, lakes, ponds, etc.
- Niagara Escarpment
- Beaches

Northern Door Visioning Summary

Assets Question – Notecard Responses

- Water activity (boating, fishing, other recreational opportunities) Wilderness areas with rare geologic, bird, and plant life
- Abundant wildlife
- Shoreline
- Diverse ecosystems
- Weather – and unique vegetation (plants)
- Location
- Rural nature – open spaces
- Open space
- Open spaces/conserved spaces
- Good balance of convenience (except internet speed at some locations) with preservation of “quality of life”
- Small town
- Low crime rate
- Wealth – large tax base
- Privacy
- Still limited number of people
- Good neighborhoods
- Sense of community

Community Character - 42

People - 21

- People (1)
- People who live here (1)
- Social conscience/consciousness (concern for each others’ well-being) (1)
- Its people, communities (3)
- Great leadership on county board (5)
- Diverse, unpretentious population (10)
- People, especially the children
- Environmental conscience/consciousness
- Sense of community – concerned citizenry
- Large pool of talented and experienced senior citizens
- Friendly, helpful people
- Good base of educated retired persons willing to participate in and direct cultural/educational activities
- Its elected officials
- Its citizens
- Character of year-round residents
- Strong leadership of caring elected officials who have concern for the future of Door County
- Generosity – people who will get involved to make improvements
- Mix of visiting people and families
- Diverse ideas – Southern Door, City of Sturgeon Bay, and Northern Door County are like 3 different counties
- Community involvement with school districts
- Naturalists

Visual - 15

- Scenic natural areas (1)
- Scenic vistas (1)

Northern Door Visioning Summary

Assets Question – Notecard Responses

- Rural farm land and buildings (1)
- Rural character (2)
- Tree-lined roads (rustic) (6)
- Rural character
- Diverse character of villages
- Small-town images – villages, not cities
- Beautiful orchards
- Scenic views
- Farmland, vistas
- Beautiful views of water
- Scenic landscape – tourism magnet
- Beauty as you drive around
- Scenic orchards

Quality of Life - 6

- Beauty and unique character, sense of peace pervades, multi-faceted facilities for family gatherings (1)
- Scenic living (1)
- Life pace and style of living (2)
- Availability of urban “assets” within a rural environment – e.g., performing arts, restaurants, stores, etc. (3)
- Quieter life-styles – can relax
- Low or small governmental footprint

Community Facilities and Utilities - 27

Infrastructure - 0

Education/Libraries - 3

- School districts - 1
- County-supported services: library, ambulance service, etc.
- Schools

Health - 0

Social Services - 1

- Human service agencies

Parks & Recreation - 23

- Many state, county, and town parks (1)
- Sporting access: hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, camping, walking trails, boating access (1)
- Access to Lake Michigan (1)
- Parks (7)
- Versatility (fishing, watersports, hiking, camping, etc. etc.)
- Parks
- Beautiful parks
- State parks, county parks
- Snowmobile trails
- Complete and beautiful snowmobile trail system traveling through all types of Door County lands: open fields, forests of different tree types, swamps, waterways, etc.
- Our parks are quite special
- Parks – state, town, and county
- Recreational opportunities: hiking trails, kayaking, cross-country skiing, etc.
- Number of parks

Northern Door Visioning Summary

Assets Question – Notecard Responses

- Recreational opportunities
- Good for boating, watersports, snowmobiles, hiking, climbing
- Great county parks
- State parks
- Parks and recreation
- State parks and protected lands
- State parks
- Water access
- Sensational water access and views

Cultural/History - 23

- Exceptional pool of artists, musicians, and authors (1)
- Historic buildings remaining from early development (4)
- Cultural attractions, i.e., art galleries, theatres (8)
- Congregation of artists and galleries, arts activities
- Large art and cultural base compared to similar populations
- Cultural offerings excellent
- Active art community
- Variety of musical and dramatic performances
- The arts – music and paintings
- Diversity of activities available
- Cultural opportunities – arts, entertainment, etc
- Ethnic heritage(s)
- Dining – drive-in to gourmet
- Arts and culture
- History
- The arts
- Our history/heritage
- The arts, music, theatre, galleries
- Learning opportunities through nature centers, Clearing, Bjorklunden, Crossroads
- Adult arts and education institutions, e.g., The Clearing, Bjorklunden, Peninsula Art School, etc.
- Typical Door County historic villages, architectural examples, and communities
- Lighthouses
- History of area and its people

Economic Development - 9

- Unique businesses and business owners (1)
- Green economy – e.g., no steel mills (4)
- The arts and its tourist-based economy (4)
- Quaint tourist industry versus modern, over-built Dells
- Tourism
- Industries
- The uniqueness of small family-owned businesses
- Shops
- Visitors that keep the economy going

Northern Door Visioning Summary

Assets Question – Notecard Responses

Land Use - 6

- Quaint villages and some attention to retaining the small-town look through architecture, narrow streets (5)
- Low density
- Large areas of undeveloped land
- Controlled development in many areas
- Improved road access from outside areas
- Rural nature, open fields, and orchards (threatened by development)

Agriculture - 2

- Farmland and old farm buildings (2)
- Agricultural assets, farm buildings

Transportation - 1

- Good transportation – Hwys 42 and 57

Intergovernmental Cooperation – 0

Housing - 0

Northern Door Visioning Summary

Vision Question - Voting Responses

“What words or phrases best capture your vision for the county’s future?” – Voting Responses

Participants were asked to write down their responses to this question on notecards and then rank their top three responses. They were asked to share their top responses with the group which were written on a flipchart and voted on using adhesive dots. Staff later categorized the responses into the same 10 categories used for the asset question. The data presented below are the number of votes each flipchart response (top responses) received when participants considered the question “What words or phrases best capture your vision of the county’s future?” The bold numbers next to the main categories and the italicized numbers next to the sub-categories are the total number of votes received. The non-bold numbers are the total number of votes received for that response.

Community Facilities and Utilities - 39

Infrastructure - 16

- 12 Renewable energy
- 4 Adequate emergency services during peak tourist times

Education/Libraries - 2

- 2 Ideal place to establish a Great Lakes and water quality research center

Health - 9

- 9 Large medical institutions, possibly government-funded, to serve as both tourism-enhancement and economic development tools

Social Services - 0

Parks & Recreation - 12

- 12 Save existing snowmobile system and develop into a multi-use trail system

Economic Development - 32

- 12 Economic development and affordable housing to attract and retain young families
- 7 Local living economy – economic self-sufficiency
- 4 Sustain tourism
- 3 Viable commercial shopping for local residents
- 2 Encourage and seek out creative and unique commercial ventures to attract tourists and create jobs
- 1 Diversification of economy
- 1 More cruise ships visit Sturgeon Bay
- 1 Service industry workers for the aging population
- 1 Creating a regional and national awareness of the area’s assets

Community Character - 31

People - 5

- 5 Support our residents as much as we do our natural resources

Visual - 0

Quality of Life - 26

- 9 Place to live that offers beauty, convenience, safety, and tranquility
- 9 Balance between growth and preservation of Door County’s natural and cultural resources, creating a sense of place
- 8 Diverse natural and human community that balances human needs/wants with environmental needs
- 0 Promote education, for all age levels
- 0 Excessive number of people in summer months

Land Use - 24

- 8 Long-range planning and “design” for town and village centers
- 5 Maintain open spaces and public access to natural areas
- 5 Protected from over-development in order to retain natural beauty

Northern Door Visioning Summary

Vision Question - Voting Responses

- 3 Emphasis on sustainability and conservation
- 2 Incentives for green construction and green land uses
- 1 Increased road setbacks
- 0 Cooperation of multiple land users
- 0 No loud trucks through villages

Transportation - 9

- 9 Improvements in public transportation within and to & from the county

Natural Resources - 6

- 6 Protected groundwater
- 0 Stabilized lake level, water quality improvements, clean beaches
- 0 Taking responsibility for mitigating Door County's contributions to global warming

Agriculture - 5

- 5 Save rural farmland and homesteads for future generations

Intergovernmental Cooperation - 4

- 4 Cooperation between local governments on planning and development issues

Housing – 0

Cultural/History - 0

Northern Door Visioning Summary

Vision Question - Notecard Responses

“What words or phrases best capture your vision for the county’s future?” – Notecard Responses

Participants were asked to write their responses to this question on notecards and then rank their top three responses. Staff later categorized the responses into one of the 10 categories and then counted the number of responses given in each category. The bold numbers next to the main categories and the italicized numbers next to the sub-categories are the frequency of responses. The non-bold numbers in parentheses are the ranking that each participant gave that response on their notecard (some participants ranked more responses than just their top three).

Community Character - 28

People - 1

- A county where we support residents more than the natural resources! (1)

Visual - 0

Quality of Life - 27

- “Town of Mayberry” atmosphere while providing high standard amenities and services (1)
- Too many people in summer (1)
- A place to live which offers: beauty, convenience, safety, tranquility (1)
- Emphasis on sustainability (1)
- A safe community with low or no crime rate (2)
- Maintain small-town mentality within large space preservation (3)
- Maintain natural areas and scenic vistas while promoting outdoor sports and development (3)
- Unite common interests/resources across the county, e.g.: conservation, education, volunteers, food banks, marketing (3)
- Increased number of year-round residents in both Southern and Northern Door County (3)
- A place where one can step out of the chaos of urban life into a nature-based tranquil life with a strong sense of community
- A community full of natural and cultural assets where people can develop their minds and spirits
- Stability
- Preserved
- Affordable
- Healthy
- Informed
- Educated
- Safe
- Caring
- Fun
- Accessible
- I envision an excessive amount of people in Door County in the future.
- A beautiful and healthy place to live with convenience and tranquility
- Attract young families
- The “Cape Cod of the Midwest”
- Mitigated global warming – community taking social responsibility, environmental responsibility
- A diverse natural and human community that balances human needs and desires with the needs of our natural environment.

Northern Door Visioning Summary

Vision Question - Notecard Responses

Land Use - 24

- Too much restriction on land use. Posted don't use my land. (1)
- Planned development – especially in Southern Door (1)
- Protect open rural areas from development by allowing landowners to save their land, pass it on to heirs, etc. Not having to sell it because they can't afford the taxes to keep it as it has been. (1)
- Protection of large-tract undeveloped lands, both private and public (1)
- Controlled growth – “Smart Growth,” sustainable growth (1)
- Conserved rural character (1)
- Long-range planning and “design” of town and village centers (1)
- Architectural standards and limitations enforced in village and town centers (1)
- Planned, clustered development with emphasis on preserved areas (2)
- Restricted development (2)
- Development planned and controlled better (2)
- Sustainable development: controlled development, possible increase in available housing for lower income population (2)
- Placement of new buildings so not obvious – further from roads, back in woods (2)
- Too much building, like by Egg Harbor (3)
- Stagnation of multi-family development (6)
- Controlled development in all areas
- We live in a beautiful place that needs protection from over-development. Door County will be developed – let's make sure it happens in a way that won't destroy its natural beauty.
- Maintain growth in clusters
- Direct growth/land use to areas that fit that use
- Limit development
- Decentralization
- Overdeveloped around some townships
- Balance between growth/development and the preservation of Door County's natural and cultural heritage
- Architectural review
- No loud trucks through Jacksonport and other villages, i.e., more peace and quiet

Economic Development - 23

- I envision a stable economy with well-paying jobs that will entice young families to settle here to raise their children (1)
- Growing economic base to maintain viable population (2)
- Seeking out and encouragement of unique, “creative,” but appropriate commercial ventures (shops, etc.) (2)
- Slow and steady growth of tourism (2)
- Sustained tourism (2)
- More foreign luxury ships coming to Sturgeon Bay and Green Bay (2)
- Local living economy – self-reliance community (2)
- Sustained growth and job base (3)
- Service industries to serve aging retirees (3)
- Development of a sound commercial business environment to provide competitive shopping businesses to keep residents at home (3)
- Regional and national awareness of the area's assets (3)
- A county where we support business (3)
- Clean industries with a skilled workforce (3)

Northern Door Visioning Summary

Vision Question - Notecard Responses

- Stagnation of shipbuilding activities (5)
- Diversification of economy in Sturgeon Bay (7)
- Continued support of diverse commerce
- Green industry in industrial parks
- Green destination
- Protect our small businesses so they can continue to make a living here.
- Economic stability
- International tournaments in sports: at the Sister Bay Sports Center, sailing regattas from Fish Creek to Menominee
- Protect and come up with a plan to save our snowmobile trails before all are lost. This brings much revenue to Door County winter businesses and Wisconsin tourism as a whole.
- Environment conducive for learning institutions and conventions

Natural Resources - 19

- Conservation of: land, resources (1)
- Clean beaches – controlled run-off (1)
- Protect groundwater (1)
- Natural assets preserved and respected (1)
- Maintain healthy and diverse ecology (1)
- Preservation/conservation (1)
- Preserve natural areas
- Control of invasive species
- Sustained water supply
- Warmer winters
- Environmental stability
- Natural beauty and landscape unchanged from 2007
- Lake level and water quality stabilized
- Protect our wetlands and natural areas from development.
- Water quality
- Protected areas expanded
- Preservation of undeveloped wild lands and beach areas
- Open spaces
- Low carbon footprint

Community Facilities and Utilities - 16

Infrastructure - 7

- Develop wise utility plans to maintain resources (2)
- Stringent control of electrical generating plants, commercial wind generators, etc. (2)
- Renewable energy (2)
- Opportunities – wind power
- Develop green energy options, e.g. solar pools, wind energy
- Adequate emergency services during peak tourist times
- Increased emphasis on alternative energy, i.e., wind/solar power

Education/Libraries - 3

- Develop water quality and use Research Center (2)
- Combine school districts
- Oceanography institute

Health - 2

- Large medical institutions for cancer research, convalescence centers, etc. (1)

Northern Door Visioning Summary

Vision Question - Notecard Responses

- Affordable health care for year-round population

Social Services - 0

Parks & Recreation - 4

- Not enough snowmobile trails (2)
- Recreation (3)
- Maintain open spaces and public access to natural areas (3)
- Grow biking and running events

Cultural/History - 9

- Support of cultural growth (3)
- Incentives for cultural activities (3)
- Preserve cultural heritage
- Preserve historical appearance of villages
- Historic preservation
- Save our historic places, buildings and our history.
- National recognition of arts community
- Providing cultural and outdoor educational/recreational opportunities to create a sense of place for youth and adults
- Continued support of the arts and educational opportunities

Transportation - 7

- Energy efficient, ecologically sound transportation options, i.e. public transport (2)
- Fewer cars – some kind of transportation service: bus, taxi, limo (3)
- Improvements in public transportation: Sturgeon Bay to Green Bay, Sturgeon Bay to Milwaukee (3)
- Possible public transportation – with alternative fuel – “dial a ride”, carpooling
- Needs public transportation
- Public transportation
- Public transportation system

Housing - 6

- Needs young families but lacks affordable housing (1)
- A place where young families can afford to live (2)
- A place with affordable housing and transportation options (3)
- Affordable housing for workers in tourist industries
- Diverse housing development (condos as well as affordable housing)
- Develop low-cost housing – mix development with planned trails

Intergovernmental Cooperation - 2

- Local governments that will cooperate in planning (1)
- Cooperation between northern and southern areas

Agriculture - 2

- Further decrease in agriculture (4)
- Help farmers and small agricultural businesses to stay in Door County.