

Sturgeon Bay 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 - 58

People - 21

- 7 Volunteerism – caring community
- 5 People
- 5 People – diversity of skills and interests
- 2 Community pride
- 2 Work ethic

Visual - 21

- 19 Beautiful scenery, rural setting, natural/pastoral areas
- 2 Quaintness and uniqueness of villages

Quality of Life - 16

- 8 Big-city amenities in a small-town setting
- 4 Safe, healthy, tight-knit community
- 4 Diversity between rural and tourist areas
- 0 Low population density

Natural Resources - 23

- 14 Water for beauty, sports/recreation, and industrial usage
- 4 Shorelines and creeks
- 3 Climate: 2 growing zones
- 1 Industrial natural resources (sand, gravel)
- 1 Location
- 0 Washington Island

Cultural/History - 19

- 11 History and architecture: maritime, Belgian and other ethnic groups, Michigan Street Bridge
- 8 Agricultural heritage and setting

Community Facilities and Utilities - 16

Infrastructure - 0

Education/Libraries - 3

- 2 Outstanding educational system
- 1 Library system

Health - 0

Social Services - 0

Parks & Recreation - 13

- 9 Green space, state parks, wildlife habitats and access to them
- 4 Recreational opportunities

Sturgeon Bay Visioning Summary

Assets Question – Voting Responses

Agriculture - 2

2 Door County cherries & apples and cherry & apple products

Economic Development - 2

2 Shipbuilding

Housing – 0

Transportation – 0

Intergovernmental Cooperation – 0

Land Use - 0

Sturgeon Bay 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).

Community Character - 41

People - 23

- People (1)
- Our people (1)
- Volunteerism (1)
- Work Ethic
- Community spirit
- Wide variety of resources and expertise among citizens
- Diversity of skills and interests (wish I could say age groups) in population
- Groups willing to volunteer time and money to preserve/enhance historical and natural areas and educate others
- Caring community
- Friendly people
- People – involved, concerned, work ethic, ethnic diversity, etc.
- Volunteerism
- People
- Local people/leaders
- Community pride
- Acceptance of diverse livelihoods (i.e., agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing...)
- Rural values
- Community participation
- Pride in their individual communities
- Friendly, open people
- People that care about their community
- Friendly, open people
- Close-knit communities and strong relationships between community members – that home-y feeling

Visual - 5

- Scenic beauty and existing open areas (1)
- Beautiful scenery and a rural setting with lots of “natural” and “pastoral” areas (1)
- Beautiful villages
- Scenic beauty
- Agricultural setting

Quality of Life - 13

- Small-town atmosphere with larger community resources (1)
- Diversity in rural/business/tourism (1)
- Community Size
- Ease in getting around
- A safe, healthy living environment
- Economic wealth

Sturgeon Bay Visioning Summary

Assets Question – Notecard Responses

- Midwestern families and seasonal “arts” influx
- Small communities
- Mix of urban and rural
- Safe place to live
- Quality environment
- Low population density
- Low-key pace

Natural Resources - 41

- Environment, natural: shoreline, beaches and dunes, Niagara Escarpment, scenic views, wildlife (1)
- Environment – rural, natural, beautiful (1)
- Water and shoreline (1)
- Location (1)
- Water – shoreline, also inland lakes and streams (accessibility and length on Bay and Lake Michigan) (1)
- Shoreline and water (including creeks) (1)
- The beauty of nature, land, water (1)
- Natural beauty (1)
- Green space
- Water/Trees/Landscape/Scenery/Farms
- Natural Resources
- Natural resources (especially very limited)
- Non-metallic minerals
- Wildlife and its habitat
- Climate
- Wisconsin is in the Midwest
- Niagara Escarpment
- 2 growing zones (5 & 6) – vegetation and wildlife diversity and choice for home location
- Water – beauty and sports; choice of 2 bodies of water (Lake and Bay)
- Water/coastline – Lake Michigan and Green Bay
- Wind – good, clean, energy source
- Natural areas (caves, rock formations, woodlands)
- Wildlife areas
- Water
- Water/beaches
- Topography – cliffs/beaches/views
- Remote, wide open areas
- Our environmental resources
- Natural beauty
- Shoreline
- Washington Island
- Water
- Natural beauty
- Coastlines
- Habitat for wildlife and green spaces
- Expansive coastline and water-based recreational activities and industries
- Water

Sturgeon Bay Visioning Summary

Assets Question – Notecard Responses

- Parks, land conservation via Door County Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, The Ridges
- Environmental preservation
- Open spaces and natural resources
- Environmental organizations

Cultural/History - 16

- Museums
- Arts – theatre, galleries, fairs
- Cultural events – Hispanic, Scandinavian, Belgian, Threshere, Winter Games
- Performing and cultural arts
- Variety of ethnic communities and people, culture, buildings
- Cultural activities
- Lighthouses
- Plays/theatre
- Cultural resources
- A budding music and art scene
- Museums
- Learning institutions – The Clearing, Bjorklunden
- History/culture (maritime, architecture, early settlements, Belgian community) (1)
- Artists/artisans
- Restaurants
- An agricultural heritage and landscape

Community Utilities and Facilities - 14

Infrastructure - 0

Education/Libraries - 4

- Education – pre-school through adult
- Library system
- Schools
- Outstanding schools

Health - 0

Social Services - 0

Parks & Recreation - 10

- Access to green space (1)
- State parks (2)
- Many varied recreational opportunities
- Varied recreational opportunities
- Recreational opportunities
- Parks
- Parks – recreational opportunities
- State parks
- City parks
- Established access to extensive shoreland

Agriculture - 7

- Agriculture – orchards, vineyards, traditional crops, and animal production
- Agricultural land (and its fragility, i.e. thin soils)
- Agriculture – barns, farmland, orchards

Sturgeon Bay Visioning Summary

Assets Question – Notecard Responses

- Good agricultural land use
- Unique agricultural products
- Agriculture – fruit, crops, dairy
- Agricultural land use

Economic Development - 5

- Industry – shipbuilding, non-smokestack
- Shipbuilding
- Industry
- A thriving tourism industry
- Many small, locally run businesses

Transportation - 3

- Roads – main state roads, county “back roads,” other scenic roads
- Road maintenance – especially in winter
- Michigan Street Bridge

Land Use - 2

- Variety of green spaces: orchards, old trees, crops, “wild” areas
- Environment, “man made”: historic structures, buildings (bridge, etc.), parks (state, county, city, etc.), green space

Intergovernmental Cooperation - 1

- Government cooperation between some units

Housing - 0

Sturgeon Bay 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 Character - 38

People - 0

Visual - 0

Quality of Life - 38

- 20 Sustainable economy, environment, social system
- 4 Clean, safe, and pleasing environment
- 4 On-going communication between government and residents
- 4 Sense of individual as well as community responsibility
- 2 Excellent place to nurture soul, mind, and spirit
- 2 No poverty
- 2 Maintain blend of rural and urban
- 0 Greater representation of women in elected and appointed government offices

Community Facilities and Utilities - 22

Infrastructure - 9

- 8 Become more energy independent – electricity and transportation
- 1 Top-rated communications (internet) and other technological advances

Education/Libraries - 4

- 4 County-wide educational system for all age levels

Health - 7

- 7 Health care education for long-term wellness, as part of a universal health care system

Social Services - 2

- 1 Continue to enhance services for retirees
- 1 Adequately staffed and funded social services

Parks & Recreation - 0

Natural Resources - 12

- 5 Retain open spaces
- 4 Good water quality
- 3 Continued protection of the environment through non-profit organizations

Land Use - 9

- 6 Development that is intelligent, planned, long-term
- 3 Effective and efficient system of land management
- 0 Signage control – no large signs (billboards) and signs should be in similar styles

Transportation - 8

- 7 County-wide transportation system for motorists, bicycles, and pedestrians that is user-friendly, and scenic, with green screening/buffers of development along highways
- 1 Adequate planning for Highway 57 expansion

Sturgeon Bay Visioning Summary

Vision Question – Voting Responses

Agriculture - 7

7 Thriving agricultural economy that provides food security for the county

Economic Development - 7

5 Economic development that will attract and retain young families

1 Locally owned and operated businesses

1 Increased manufacturing base

Housing - 2

2 A place where the average citizen can afford to own his/her own home

Cultural/History - 1

1 Preservation of historic structures

Intergovernmental Cooperation - 1

1 City and county cooperation on development issues to ensure coordination

Sturgeon Bay 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). Based on the frequency of responses, the top three categories for the county’s vision of the future are Community Character, Land Use, and Economic Development.

Community Character - 27

People - 1

- Volunteerism

Visual - 0

Quality of Life - 26

- Nice blend of rural and urban (1)
- Safe, clean environment (1)
- Clean, pleasing environment (1)
- Ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable communities (1)
- Environmentally responsible (1)
- Sustainable (economic, social, environmental) (1)
- SUSTAINABLE – so we don’t lose our beauty and resources; so everyone, all socio-economic levels, can enjoy our county! (1)
- An excellent place to nurture the soul, mind, and spirit (1)
- Ideal retirement location (2)
- Sustainable (self-sufficient – local): agriculture (local and organic), industry, social policies, tourism, energy, transportation (2)
- Sustainable community (4)
- Decline in younger populations
- Excellent place to live, work, and raise a family
- A thriving rural community
- A clean, safe, pollutant-free environment
- A safe environment to raise a family (environmental and social issues)
- County-wide educational systems – cooperation among all for progress, priority for tax
- Diverse and balanced age distribution
- Washington Island – provision of basic services to an isolated population
- Socially responsible
- A leader in green building and business practices
- Open-minded and tolerant culture
- Individual and community sense of responsibility
- No poverty
- Greater evidence of women in representative/elected and appointed positions
- Maintain our small town quaintness

Community Utilities and Facilities - 19

Infrastructure - 6

- Top-rated communication network (2)
- Energy self-sufficient (2)
- Energy independent as a county (3)

Sturgeon Bay Visioning Summary

Vision Question – Notecard Responses

- Energy independent (wind, solar, biomass for electricity; biofuels, biodiesel, hybrids for transportation) (3)
- Completely (whole county) connected technologically (web, wi-fi, cable or satellite, etc.)
- High tech service

Education/Libraries - 3

- Consolidated schools (N. Door) (3)
- Declining school populations/consolidation of services/districts (4)
- Quality educational environments

Health - 5

- Sound, efficient, effective system of universal health care (3)
- Well-funded quality educational system
- Health facilities – availability
- Universal health care
- Healthy communities – address cancer/disease epidemics in a comprehensive way (ID toxin and water contamination sources)

Social Services - 2

- Growth of elderly population and needed services (3)
- Adequately staffed and funded social services support system

Parks & Recreation - 3

- County and state continue to have green/natural spaces that everyone has access to (2)
- Ideal recreation environments
- Public trails/bike paths/transportation

Natural Resources - 16

- Preservation of natural resources and rural areas (1)
- On-going environmental protection, by environmental organizations and community, of natural resources, especially water (1)
- Clean water and shoreline – management to ensure safety (1)
- Protect water (2)
- Surrounded by water (2)
- Preservation of our natural environment: parks, scenic vistas, beaches, water, etc. (2)
- Unique terrain of various elevations (3)
- Clean water supply for human consumption, agricultural use, and recreation, habitat, and industry
- Clean water
- Bountiful game and wildlands
- Protection of drinking water supplies
- Protected natural and scenic resources
- Natural resources protected/preserved, including agricultural
- Protection of natural and historic assets
- Open space
- The people of Door County take responsibility for their environmental footprint (3)

Land Use - 14

- Intelligent, long-term planning (1)
- Controlling growth to retain open spaces and charm of rural landscapes (1)
- Effective and efficient system of land management (1)
- Keep as much open space as possible (2)
- Planned development (2)

Sturgeon Bay Visioning Summary

Vision Question – Notecard Responses

- Highways without billboards and large signs – small sign system (2)
- Impact of 4-lane highway – Green Bay to Sturgeon Bay – on land use, population density, schools, water (2A)
- Green – even business; having plant buffers (3)
- Land use – preserve the present atmosphere, resources, heritage of the county’s acreage.
- Effective, efficient land management
- Consistent zoning with specific areas for industry giving them access to delivery systems – think safety for everyone
- Zoning – to control condo development
- Development of industries and housing that are most “protective” of our natural environment: high tech, communication, reverse urban sprawl
- Sustainable development

Economic Development - 13

- More full-time, better paying jobs with benefits (year-round jobs) (1)
- Increased manufacturing base (1)
- Creation of adequate jobs (pay-wise), year-round (3)
- Growth in economic opportunities (3)
- Lots of locally owned and operated businesses (4)
- Support an economy that will bring young people back here (after they leave for college) to start families
- Better wages (v. state and national averages)
- Foster a culture of entrepreneurship
- Diverse economic base
- A thriving economy to support an educated population
- Economic development – diversification, wage increases, job market “values”, work ethic
- Robust economy
- Sustainable/green building leader

Transportation - 3

- Transportation – especially in N. Door (2)
- Effective and efficient system of mass public transport
- Transportation – the easier and more pleasant it is to travel to a desired destination, the more likely a person is to make the trip. This reflects economy. A plan for the county’s roadways.

Housing - 3

- Diverse range of housing and job opportunities (2)
- Place where the average citizen can afford to own his or her own home (3)
- Affordable housing in good repair

Cultural/History - 3

- Preservation of our “man made” environment: historic structures, historic sites, other “significant” structures (3)
- Cultural resources – used and promoted, priority for tax
- People know and care about the county’s past

Sturgeon Bay Visioning Summary

Vision Question – Notecard Responses

Agriculture - 3

- Food security – more small farms growing food for the community, not commodities that yield low prices and need to be exported to be processed and sold – sustainable agriculture (2)
- Food security: a thriving agricultural community that provides for the county's food needs in an environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable fashion (2)
- Food self-sufficient (3)

Intergovernmental Cooperation - 2

- Community (municipalities) collaborative efforts and also collaboration of environmental orgs. (3)
- City and county working together for appropriate development