

Washington Island 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 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 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

Natural Resources - 44

- 16 Natural beauty/scenery/open space (non-agricultural)
- 12 Location – unique destination as both a peninsula (county-wide asset) and as an island (Washington Island-specific asset); “island mystique”
- 10 Natural resources – clean water and air, clear night sky, birding habitats, etc.
- 4 Shoreline/waterfront resources
- 1 Town of Washington’s islands
- 1 Clean environment

Community Character - 22

People - 0

Visual - 2

- 2 Character of the original town centers (county-wide generally)

Quality of Life - 20

- 11 Small-town flavor – peaceful lifestyle (as opposed to hectic urban lifestyle), fellowship of community, people are supportive and close-knit, etc.
- 8 Slow population growth
- 1 Low crime rate/safety
- 0 Year ‘round accessibility – some islands are not (Washington Island-specific)

Cultural/History - 12

- 7 History – buildings, museums, shipwrecks, lighthouses, etc.

- 5 Arts and cultural resources – talented mix of people as well as places like Sievers, Peninsula Art School, the Clearing, the TPAC, Art and Nature Center, Fishing Museum

Community Facilities and Utilities - 9

Infrastructure - 0

Education/Libraries - 0

Health - 0

Social Services - 0

Parks & Recreation - 9

- 9 Recreational Areas – state, county, and town parks; opportunities for hiking, biking, canoeing, etc.

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Land Use - 8

- 8 Lack of large developments – condominium complexes, huge marinas, etc. (Washington Island-specific asset)

Agriculture - 5

- 4 Agriculture and related open spaces (also, Washington Island-specific asset is that the island is Zone 5, an advantage over mainland Door County)
- 1 Forestry potential

Transportation - 1

- 1 Airport (Washington Island-specific asset)

Housing - 0

Economic Development – 0

Intergovernmental Cooperation - 0

Washington Island 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 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 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 top three responses).

Community Character - 38

People - 9

- Fellowship of community (1)
- Small, caring community with good mix of talented people (1)
- Its people, who have similar, strong reasons for living here (2)
- Close-knit, homogenous community with strong mutual support – Washington Island (2)
- Concern for one another (3)
- Elderly (retired), educated population (3)
- Strong feeling of help = friends and families
- Friendly residents
- Has attracted a good level of retired persons who continue to enhance the level of cultural opportunities available

Visual - 5

- Natural beauty –scenery (1)
- Character of original towns (2)
- Scenic beauty
- Scenery
- Openness?

Quality of Life - 24

- Seclusion (1)
- Uniquely located so that it feels isolated yet is fairly easily reached from major population centers (1)
- Solitude/peaceful lifestyle (versus hectic urban lifestyle) (1)
- Generally safe communities – low crime rates (2)
- Rural atmosphere (2)
- Zero or small population growth (2)
- Sense of openness and countryside flavor due to its agricultural and natural areas (2)
- Busy, varied activities yet still possessed with broad vistas of pasture and woodlands (2)
- Pace of life is slow (3)
- Rural atmosphere (3)
- Peaceful environments far removed from hectic and stressful city influences (3)
- Safe environment (3)
- Washington Island’s location on the distant edge ref. (?) major metro areas (4)
- Small-town flavor
- Relatively low crime
- Washington Island’s slow, peaceful pace (like our internet connections)
- Quiet
- Family-friendly environment
- Serene and soft environment
- Quiet, serene, informal (on Wash. Isl.)

Washington Island Visioning Summary

Assets Question – Notecard Responses

- Accessibility
- Remoteness
- Unique character of the island (a refuge away from the mainland)
- Washington Island’s people, air, water, and weather

Natural Resources - 31

- Natural beauty – scenery (1)
- Clean water and air – natural resources (1)
- Natural beauty (1)
- Water/shoreline (1)
- Unique inland and shoreline undeveloped natural area ecosystems (1)
- Natural shoreline (1)
- Natural beauty (1)
- Washington Island (1)
- Open space (1)
- Clean environment (2)
- Clean environment (2)
- Forests (2)
- Natural beauty of land and water (2)
- Ecological and environmental resources (2)
- The lake and bay (2)
- Washington Island’s unique geographic location, structure, and the lake (2)
- Four distinct seasons – each having the best that season can offer anywhere in the continental U.S. (3)
- Rock Island (3)
- Clear night sky (3)
- Clean air (3)
- Abundant open space (on Wash. Is.) (3)
- Natural and relatively unspoiled beauty
- Wildlife sanctuary (on Wash. Is.), birding
- Wetlands
- Water
- Beaches
- Trees
- “Zone 5” – “warm” climate relative to rest of northern half of state
- Flowers and fauna
- Night sky
- Close proximity of beautiful shoreline and relatively unspoiled land-based nature preserves
- Washington Island’s five islands
- Low pollution

Community Utilities and Facilities - 12

Infrastructure - 0

Education - 1

- Small student/teacher ratio

Health - 0

Social Services - 0

Washington Island Visioning Summary

Assets Question – Notecard Responses

Parks & Recreation - 11

- Many scenic recreational areas for a variety of activities – hiking, biking, canoeing, etc. (1)
- Parks (3)
- Great recreational opportunities (3)
- Water access/shore accesses (3)
- Location and recreation (4)
- Public access points
- Nature trails
- Sailing/rec.
- Peninsula Park
- Parks
- Outdoor activity possibilities

Cultural/History - 7

- Many residents are accomplished artists and/or have great cultural and intellectual gifts (1)
- Washington Island's history/mystique (3)
- Lighthouses
- Historical places
- History
- History
- Strong art communities

Agriculture - 5

- Agriculture (large open spaces) (1)
- Some remaining arable land (agricultural) (2)
- Some forestry potential (3)
- Agricultural lands creating unique cherry and apple crops
- Viable agricultural cropland (Wash. Isl.)

Economic Development - 4

- Industry
- Tourism
- Strategic location for commerce and tourism
- Lots of attractions for seasonal visitors – shops, galleries, restaurants, water sports, arts and crafts fairs, gardens, camping, etc.

Land Use - 3

- Lack of commercialization (unspoiled) and condos (on Wash. Is.) and huge marinas (on Wash. Is.) (2)
- Undeveloped areas
- Non-commercial development

Intergovernmental Cooperation - 0

Housing - 0

Transportation - 0

Washington Island 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. 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.

Economic Development - 30

- 16 Increased employment opportunities to retain youth and attract young families – affordable/different housing options
- 7 Internet/cottage-based industry (rather than expanding tourism or construction industries)
- 7 Expanding tourism appeal to be year ‘round – promote eco-tourism

Land Use - 26

- 10 Development should be dense, contiguous to existing development – regulated, controlled development
- 8 Continued co-existence with and in harmony with existing natural resources
- 7 Size caps on houses to retain quaintness
- 1 Downtown architectural identity

Community Character - 15

People - 0

Visual - 0

Quality of Life - 15

- 15 Essentially same as now – limited growth, maintain rural atmosphere

Community Facilities and Utilities - 13

Infrastructure - 0

Education/Libraries - 3

- 2 Strengthening school district
- 1 Larger library/increased services

Health - 0

Social Services - 10

- 10 Increased/better support services for elders

Parks & Recreation - 0

Cultural/History - 9

- 9 More workshops/educational seminars, etc. (similar to Sievers’ model), particularly in fall/winter/spring

Agriculture - 5

- 3 Economically viable farms – small-scale, sustainable, value-added/specialty agriculture
- 2 Forestry – small-scale, sustainable, value-added/specialty

Natural Resources - 3

- 3 Healthier natural environment – shore, forests, etc.

Intergovernmental Cooperation – 0

Washington Island Visioning Summary
Vision Question – Voting Responses

Housing – 0

Transportation - 0

Washington Island Visioning Summary

Vision Question – Notecard Responses

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

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Land Use - 23

- Preserve clear night skies through controlled lighting
- Avoid over-development, large condos
- Regulated growth (buildings, development, etc.)
- County – stopping further development, especially of condos. Maintaining the flavor that brings people to the area.
- No or few chain stores
- Balanced growth that provides economic opportunities with preservation of agricultural, natural areas and cultural heritage
- Organized like the rings of a tree with the town being at the center
- Spacious living – not over-built and overdone infrastructure
- Downsize some large acreage
- Keep open spaces and agricultural land and large-lot zoning
- Restriction on size of houses to retain quaint atmosphere
- More attractive downtown
- Develop an “island identity” in architecture, especially in town core
- Size restrictions on housing
- Keep roads natural-looking by screening housing and development with trees
- Natural landscaping that’s visible to the public
- Quality habitat: not as “The Dells” – good design of all buildings in appropriate context (?) with individual locations
- Declare the island a noise-sensitive area through ordinance regulating jet-skis, ATVs and low-flying/circling planes
- However, with regulated growth, we need to try and control the natural beauty.
- Washington Island remains significantly unchanged, controls growth
- Door stops their unbridled growth
- Very limited growth
- Island vision – same; controlled growth

Community Character - 10

People - 1

- A community that values the competent professionals who move here instead of repeatedly railroading them out

Visual - 1

- Island – maintenance of the flavor of the island, i.e. small town. Un-manicured. Where a farm across the road from the PAC is acceptable.

Quality of Life - 8

- Retain rural atmosphere
- Retain small-town flavor
- Proportionate age distribution
- Denser concentration of population in some areas to conserve the open and natural feel of undeveloped areas

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Vision Question – Notecard Responses

- I would like the future for DC to be very much the same as it is today as far as appearance, i.e., parks, water access, historical places, forests, wetlands, etc. We need to protect what makes us special. But, we need to balance our income with housing costs so we don't become a Cape Cod. Affordable housing (rental availability). Attainable jobs. Plan for housing elderly.
- Still the same – yesterday, today, and tomorrow
- People, buildings, and infrastructures surrounded by and co-existing in harmony with our natural beauty – more simply put, “continued co-existence with and in harmony with existing natural resources.”
- Strong, healthy, self-sufficient community, multi-generational; strong school system with affordable housing and good jobs for young families; internet-based or cottage industries; environment.

Economic Development - 11

- Increased employment opportunities to retain youth, attract young families
- Promote eco-tourism and expand tourism year 'round
- We need to create jobs to keep younger people here. This encompasses affordable housing/real estate prices.
- Good employment options and opportunities
- More economic opportunities
- At least living wage for workers
- Vibrant and functional town centers (clustered commercial areas)
- New businesses that are in keeping with the quiet and rural character of the Island
- Minimum expansion
- Expanding appeal for tourism year 'round
- Fishing/fisherman are good tourist dollars – support our marinas

Community Utilities and Facilities - 7

Infrastructure - 0

Education/Libraries - 1

- Strengthening school district

Health - 1

- Medical facilities/services

Social Services - 2

- Increased facilities for seniors – visiting nurse – Meals on Wheels – physical therapy
- Support services for senior residents

Parks & Recreation - 3

- Preserve access to water and views of water
- Bike lanes expanded on major roads used by bikers
- Increased recreational opportunities to attract visitors and seasonal residents

Agriculture - 5

- Small-scale, sustainable agriculture, especially specialty or value-added crops
- Small-scale, sustainable forestry, especially value-added
- Utilize open space with agriculture
- Economically viable farm
- The lost fact that Door County is mostly farming and support industries so that there always is a tourist industry

Washington Island Visioning Summary

Vision Question – Notecard Responses

Natural Resources - 3

- Healthy environment: forest, shoreline, water quality, lake, ground
- Unique natural areas' ecosystems preserved
- Emphasis on the environment (recycling, clean energy, maintain or add parks)

Cultural/History - 2

- Historic landmarks, museum – big and small to educate about past lives and livelihood
- Workshops, retreats, institutes, and the like (similar to Sievers model) of week-long duration or more

Housing - 2

- Variety of housing options
- Island – slow growth and an attempt at developing affordable housing for young families.

Intergovernmental Cooperation - 1

- Positive working relationships between town entities and county and state officials

Transportation - 1

- Transportation – especially Island – affordable!

Housing - 0