

# ELM RIVER TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN SURVEY

## Results Overview



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# Demographics of Respondents

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- **193** Total Respondents
  - 52% Male, 48% Female
- Household Income
  - 22% < \$39,999
  - 31% > \$100,000
- Education
  - 31% have a 4 year degree
  - 22% have Masters/PhD

# Demographics Cont..

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## ○ Primary Residence in Elm River

- 34% Yes
- 66% No

## ○ Lived at Primary Residence

- <5 years = 22%
- 6-15 years = 29%
- 16-20 years = 15%
- Over 20 years = 33%

# Demographics Cont..

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- ◎ Location of Primary Residence
  - 52% on lakefront
  - 8% on river or stream
- ◎ Location of Secondary/Vacant Land
  - 66% on lakefront
- ◎ Owned Secondary/Vacant Land
  - <5 years = 25%
  - 6-15 years = 20%
  - 16-20 years = 13%
  - Over 20 years = 44%

# Quality of Life

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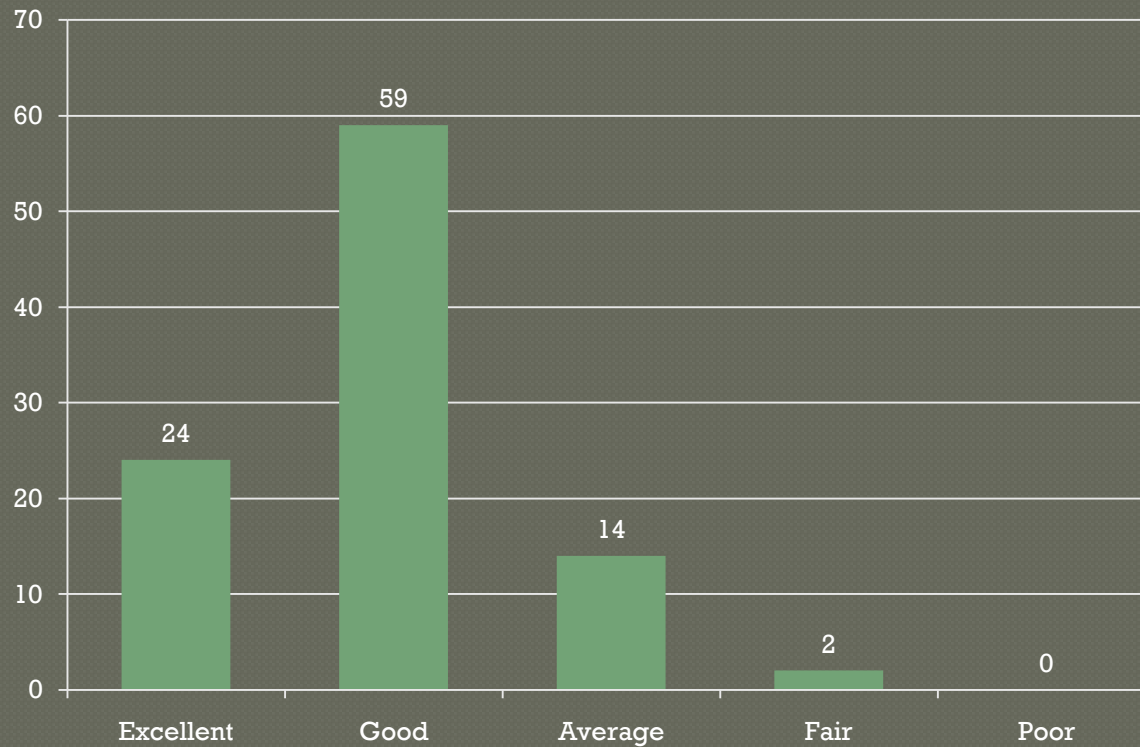
## ◎ Important/Very Important

- Lakes and rivers (99%)
- Safe environment/low crime (99%)
- Natural environment (98%)

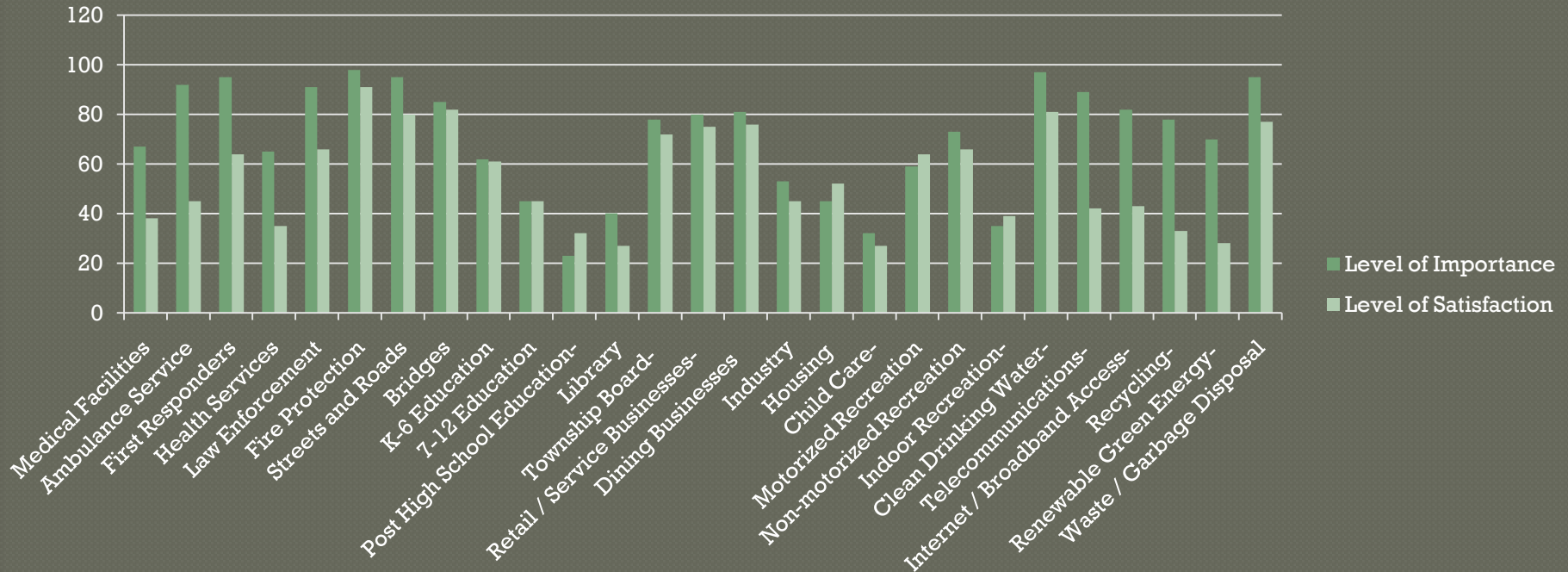
## ◎ Unimportant/Very Unimportant

- Public indoor recreation (51%)
- Proximity to jobs (44%)
- Convenience of Shopping (36%)

# Quality of Life Rating



# Elements of Life – Level of Importance



# Expanding Housing

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- Single-family
- **Mobile home (82% Disagree/Strongly Dis.)**
- **Multi-family (71% Disagree/Strongly Dis.)**
- **Low-income (65% Disagree/Strongly Dis.)**
- Senior
- Starter
- Cottage/second home
- Deer/hunting camps
- Rental homes/cottages

# Natural Resources

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- Are the resources being protected?
  - Lakes
  - Rivers/Streams
  - Groundwater
  - Wetlands
  - Farmland
  - Wildlife Habitat
  - Forest/Woodlands
  - Night Sky
  - Air Quality
  - Quietness
  - Residential Property
  - Commercial/Industrial

“Are they? How?”

# Cultural/Historical Resources

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## ○ Importance of Cultural & Historical

- 65% very important/important
- 26% unimportant/very unimportant
- 9% no opinion

## ○ Most Important

- Scenic Views
- Veteran's Memorial
- Rustic Roads

# Transportation

## ○ What's important?

- Highways
- County Roads
- Pedestrian Trails (83%)
- Bicycle Lanes/Trails (79%)
- Motorized Trails (71%)
- Public Transit
- Air Service
- Rail Service

Most



Least

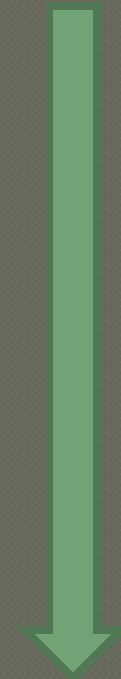
# Transportation Cont..

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## ◎ Level of Satisfaction?

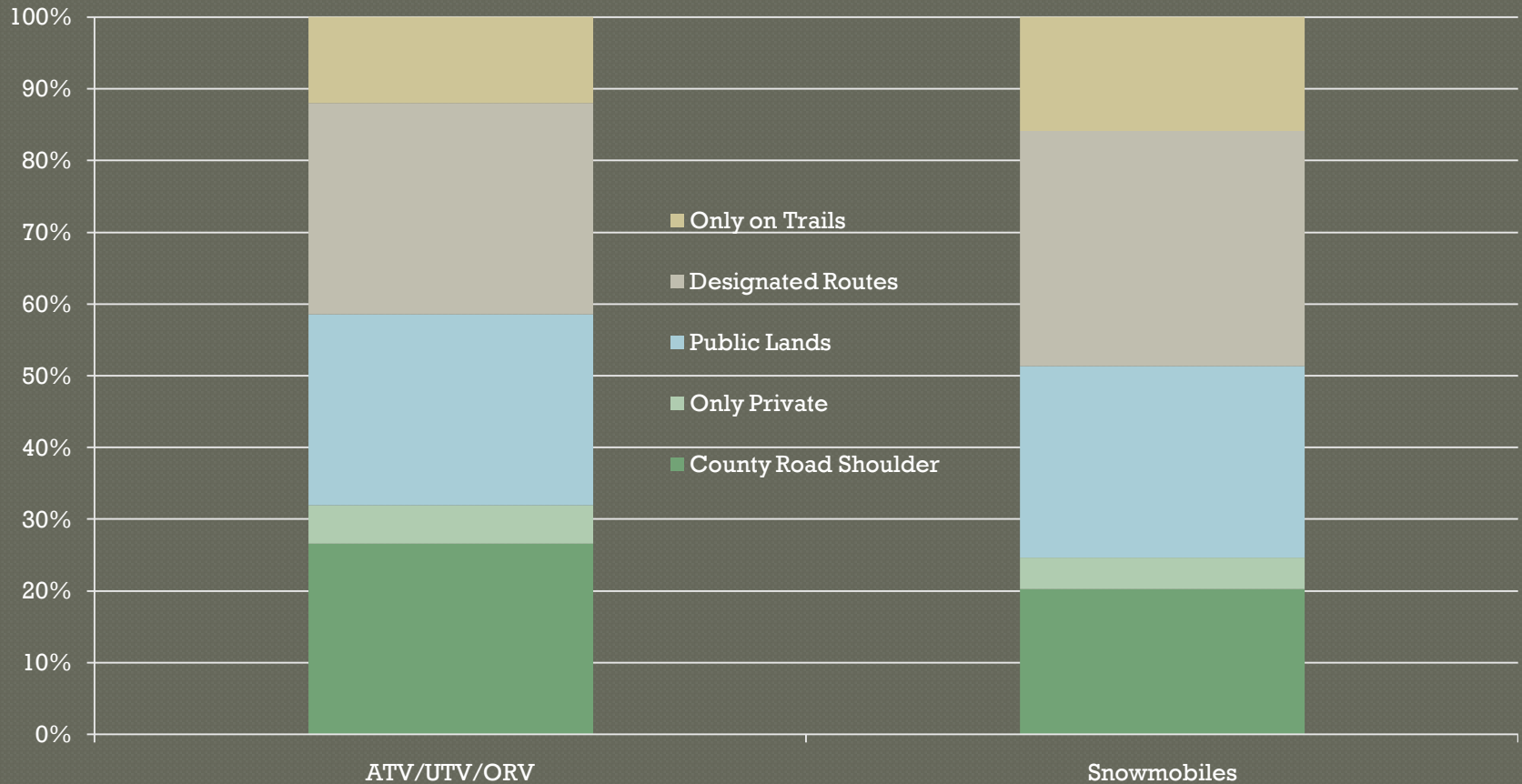
- State Highway
- County Roads
- Motorized (22% no opinion)
- Pedestrian (25% no opinion)
- Bicycle Lanes/Trails (24% no opinion)
- Air Service/Airport
- Public Transit
- Rail Service

Most



Least

# ATV, UTV, ORV & Snowmobiles



# Economic Development

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- Create new opportunities or retain existing jobs? Both (55%)
- Top 5 job opportunities most suitable for development in Elm River: **Education, Recreation, Tourism, Forestry & Wind Energy related.**
- Should Elm River offer Economic Incentives:
  - Yes (51%), No (35%), No opinion (14%)

# Utilities & Community Facilities

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- How would you direct local officials if they were given extra money?
  - **Reduce Taxes**
  - Put towards **First Responder Services**
  - Increase spending for **Fire Protection**
- If they were given less money, what services should be reduced?
  - **Public Transportation**
  - **Housing**
  - **Social Services**

# Land Use

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## ○ How adequate are:

- Land use vision, goals of future use and growth?

Adequate (37%) Inadequate (22%) No opinion (41%)

- Land use policies, laws and ordinances?

Adequate (40%) Inadequate (26%) No opinion (34%)

- Enforcement of policies, laws and ordinances?

Adequate (37%) Inadequate (30%) No opinion (33%)

# Should Elm River be Zoned?

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- Yes (34%)
- No (27%)
- Not Sure (39%)

**Zoning** is the process of planning for land use by a locality to allocate certain kinds of structures in certain areas. Zoning also includes restrictions in different zoning areas, such as height of buildings, use of green space, density (number of structures in a certain area), use of lots, and types of businesses.

Levels or types of zoning may include open space, residential, retail, commercial, agricultural, and industrial.

# New Housing Development

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- Where should it be located?
  - Adjacent to existing (52%)
  - On scattered residential lots (60%)
  - Anywhere suitable (38%)
  - Any undeveloped waterfront (27%)
  - Away from commercial forestland (43%)
  - Near commercial forestland but not affecting operations (54%)

# Three Primary Issues in the Future

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- ◉ Property Taxes
- ◉ Protection of Natural Resources
- ◉ Loss of Jobs/Businesses



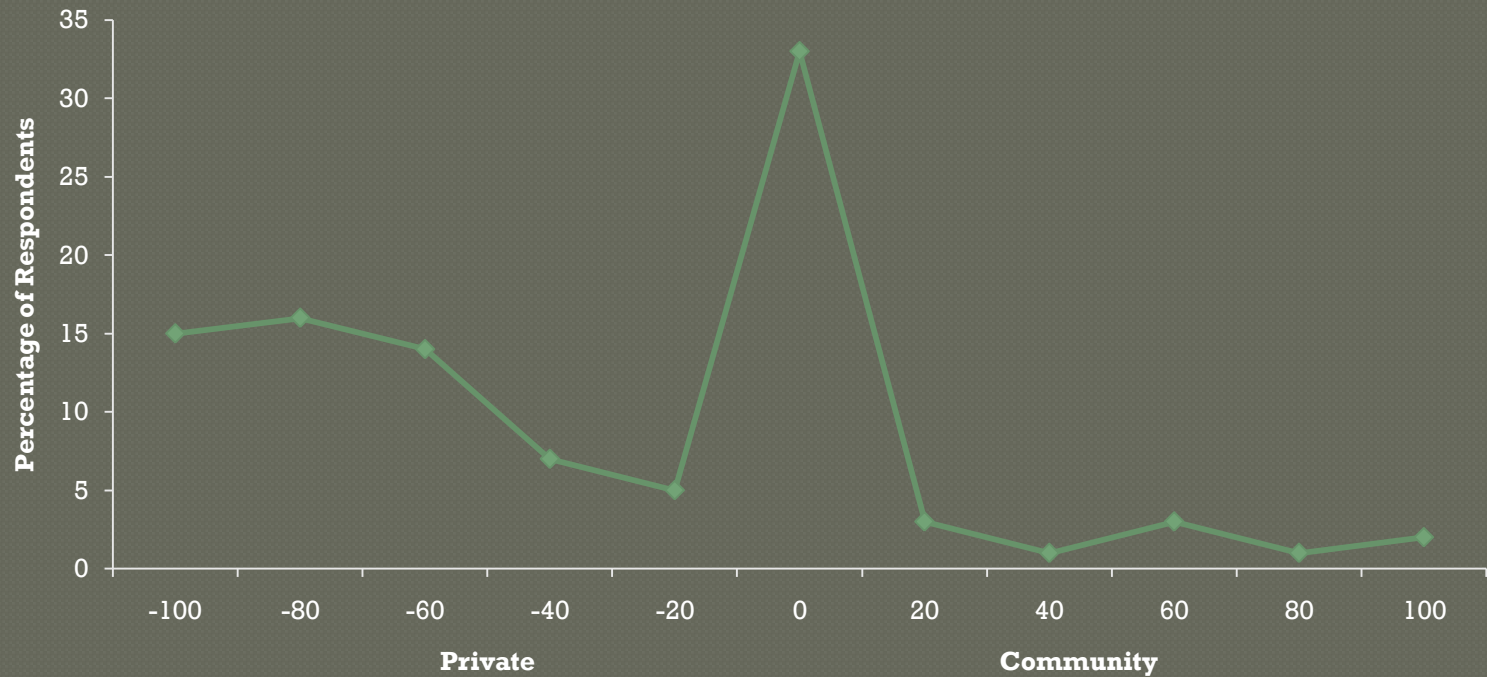
## Other

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- Should steps be taken to reduce forest fragmentation?
  - 51% agree
- Outdoor boilers should be allowed?
  - 80% agree
- Wind turbines?
  - Supported with appropriate considerations for small and large wind turbines

# Public vs. Private Property Rights

## Private vs. Community Property Rights



# Open Comments

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- ◉ What you value most..
  - “We value most the opportunity to spend relaxing time in a quiet, beautiful natural environment.”
  - “friendly, safe, quiet lifestyle”
  - “a great place”
  - “commercial forestland”
  - “small community with a lot to do”

# Going forward...

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- “If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.”
- Master Plan
  - Comprehensive long range plan intended to guide growth and development of the Township.
  - A Master Plan is a policy based document, it does not nor can it regulate land use.
  - Seeks to answer four basic questions....

# 4 Questions

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- ◉ Where is Elm River Township now?
- ◉ How did Elm River Township get here?
- ◉ Where does Elm River Township want to go?
- ◉ How does Elm River Township get there?

# Benefits of Plan

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- ◉ Consistency in decision making
- ◉ Ability to make informed decisions
- ◉ Achieve predictability
- ◉ Wise use of resources
- ◉ Preserving community character
- ◉ Produce positive economic development