

# Resident Survey Executive Summary

The Brown Township trustees appointed an Agricultural Preservation Plan Steering Committee to study land use issues and make recommendation land regarding the need to update the Township Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

To help address these issues the Committee sent a survey questionnaire to all 745 residents and property owners in Brown Township. A random list of 254 addresses was generated and referred to as the " Randomized Attitudinal Survey" where follow-ups and an incentive were used to ensure a good return of the survey forms resulted in an 80% response rate.

This carefully controlled and scientifically controlled study allows us to generalize the results to the entire population of Brown Township with 95% confidence ( $\pm 4\%$ ) that this accurately represents the attitude of the Brown Township residents and property owners.

The remaining 491 residents and property owners were sent the same survey, referred to as the "general survey" where no follow-up or incentives were used and resulted in a 50% response rate. While the general survey was self-selecting and not generalizable to the population as a whole, the similarity in the results with the random survey supports the survey's overall findings (see data sheets).

The survey was used to determine the overall attitude of residents in six different areas or domains.

1. Support for development in the township.
2. Support for farmland preservation.
3. Support for protection of the natural environment.
4. Resident satisfaction with living in the township.
5. Support for a village center in the township.
6. Willingness to accept land use controls.

## Conclusions

The results of this survey can be used as a tool to advise the committee, the trustees, and various governing entities concerned with land use issues. It may also indicate the need for educational programming to accompany any land use decisions.

### Development

There is little support for the type of development found east of Alton-Darby occurring within the township. Residents and property owners are supportive of open space, the environment, and farmland preservation, however, there is a very strong concern for retaining property values and the right to sell to the highest bidder.

### Farmland Preservation

The residents and property owners are supportive of farmland preservation and are generally willing to live with general farming practices. However, there was weak support for the issuances of a tax levy to support a farmland protection program.

### Environment

The residents and property owners feel strongly about protection of the environment. Preservation of the Big Darby Creek in its natural state is a very high priority.

### Satisfaction

The residents and property owners are quite satisfied with living in Brown Township. They are especially satisfied with fire protection services. They do not mind traveling to commercial activities, are satisfied with road maintenance, but are concerned with bicycle traffic on the roads.

### **Village Center**

There was only moderately support for the village center or cluster development concept. Residents appear to be most comfortable with the 2.5+acre type development. More education on the concept of village center/cluster development will be necessary before residents will be willing to accept the idea.

### **Control Measures**

The Township residents generally seemed open to some form of growth or land use control measures. The residents appear to favor zoning as the most appropriate means to implement this form of control and are less supportive of options like density bonuses or cluster developments.



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