

Appendix A – Non-Response Bias Test

Any survey has to be concerned with “non-response bias.” Non-response bias refers to a situation in which people who do not respond to a questionnaire have opinions that are systematically different from the opinions of those who do respond. For example, Question 2b asked Burnett County residents and property owners to rate the quality of County public health services. Suppose only strong supporters of County public health services completed their questionnaires, and those who are not chose not to respond. In this case, non-response bias would exist and the results would overstate the overall satisfaction with County public health services.

The standard way to test for non-response bias is to compare the responses of those who respond to the first mailing of a questionnaire to those who respond to subsequent mailings. Those who return subsequent mailings are, in effect, a sample of non-respondents (to the first mailing), and we assume that they are representative of that group. The County sample consisted of 261 respondents from the first mailing, and 113 from the second mailing.

Table A1 – Statistically Significant Differences Between Responses of First and Second Mailings			
Variable	Mean First Mailing	Mean Second Mailing	Statistical Significance
Q5b Joint community services for savings	1.90	2.17	.025
Q11a Septic system design/support guests	1.67	1.93	.027
Q11b Neighbors Access to Owner Contact Info	2.20	2.57	.005
Q13b Clustering of residential/forest lands	1.97	2.28	.023
Q23 Residential Status	1.57	1.75	.013
Q26a Seasonally use of Residence/months/yr.	5.83	5.37	.018

Out of 110 variables tested, we found six variables with statistically significant differences between the mean responses of these two groups of respondents (Table A1). As examples, respondents to the first survey, compared to later respondents, were slightly more likely to strongly agree to shared community services if savings occurred and service quality was maintained. They were also slightly more likely to agree that septic systems should be designed to support the number of residential guests. In short, while these items are statistically different, the differences are quite small and generally would not affect the overall interpretation of the results. **The Survey Research Center (SRC) concludes that non-response bias is not a concern for this sample.** This means that these data should accurately reflect the opinions of County residents and property owners.

Appendix B – Open-Ended Comments: Burnett County Sample, 2009

All comments are included as written with the exception of one comment where personal names have been marked out.

Question 1

Mark the three (3) most important reasons you and your family chose to live in Burnett County.

‘Other’ Responses (32 Responses)

- Born here (2x)
- Lake home (2x)
- Lake shore property (2x)
- Born and raised here
- Business opportunity
- Cabin owner
- Disabled and home is here. Can not relocate
- Employment requirement
- Family property
- Family raised here and passed land to their children
- Farm was willed to me
- Fishing
- Following my son, who was in NW Passage
- From Jackson Twn
- Grew up here, left and came back
- Grew up there
- Inheritance
- It's home. I've lived here most all my life
- Lake Cabin
- Lake, fishing, hunting, boating
- Lakes and rivers
- Lived here all my life
- Our job brought us here
- Passed down in my family
- Recreational cabin
- Retired
- Retirement Home
- Seasonal resident
- Second home on lake

Question 10

Historically, some recreational-oriented commercial uses have been allowed on waterfront property adjacent to residential development. Which of the following commercial uses may be appropriate in these areas?

'Other' Responses (11 Responses)

- Any commercial use
- Don't have an opinion
- In appropriate areas, all could be used if suitable.
- No comment
- No opinion
- No trailers
- Not even residential development. Keep waterfront for everyone's enjoyment, not just a few. Keep it wild/natural.
- Parks-public use.
- People own waterfront property to get away from it all. Why allow all sorts of businesses.
- Small cafes serving coffee beverage, wine, beer soda, snacks. NO liquor.
- Water for ag

Question 15a

Residential Density of Ag areas.

'Other' responses (6 Responses)

- 0
- 1/120
- 1/180
- 1/80
- 1+
- No subdividing farms.

Question 15b

Residential Density of Forest areas.

'Other' responses (11 Responses)

- 0 (2x)
- 1/120
- 1/180
- 1/2
- 1/4
- 1/640
- 1/80
- 2/20
- No subdividing forests.
- Owner option

Question 15c

Residential Density of Other rural areas.

'Other' responses (2 Responses)

- ½
- 80

Question 15d

Please provide any additional comments you have about residential density issues.

'Other' Responses (28 Responses)

- 2 homes on 20 acres. Leave wooded area alone if possible.
- Depends on the land.
- Do not raise taxes!
- Don't care how many if they are not "dumps"
- Don't understand issue.
- Encourage walking or bike trails or mutual commons area that is energy self sustaining (solar, wind, etc) with play ground, campsites, picnic tables, sheltered area for gatherings, dog runs, but only for people in that cluster, not open to general public.
- Family owned 40 or 80 should be able to build a home or homes without county, state or local governments dictating what they can do!
- Higher residential density, I believe, leads to more crime, ruins the rural image and I can't stand it.
- Homes with 5 acres or more must plant trees in yard.
- I believe the trend is to grow your own food and maybe some type of postage stamp farming
- I resent too many rules. If I own the land, I should be allowed to build where I'd like. Sell some if I like, etc. Anyway, doesn't young zoning take care of some of this? I can't really answer this question.
- In regards to 12, 1 or more in same yard.
- Increased density conserves all natural resources.
- It depends on how development is laid out (clustering better) and whether the land is managed with a healthy environment as a priority. Smaller organic farms could be better than a larger agricultural project that is managed with no regard for the environment. Larger parcels of forest are essential for wildlife.
- Just use common sense.
- Keep it in the village
- Less housing development-more conservation.
- Let the land owner decide
- Let the owner and buyers decide. Compact towns would be nice and S/B managed. However, a landowner should be able to sell for whatever purpose. Keep gov't small and off taxpayers backs.
- No greater development than I suggested above.
- Our lakes are now small cities. Eco systems are now failing. Just pick any lake in our community and do some tests. Now they are doing the same thing to our woodland etc with water sewer power lines etc.
- Preserve what cannot be built-LAND!

- Question 8 and 15 are out of my realm of knowledge.
- Residential development belongs to cities and villages with public sewer and water.
- Restrict/eliminate any further waterfront development.
- Voyager Village has a very high density. Major problems occur in this area, as people tend not to take care of their property. Bad deal!
- We have enough houses. Need to fill what we already have!
- You are too late on checking density. The county has already allowed lakefronts to become over crowded with cabins/homes piled on top of each other.

Question 16

As development occurs over time in Burnett County, the most important things to preserve are?

'Other' Responses (2 Responses)

- All important
- Fishing-eliminate spearing, it decimates game fish.

Question 17

How much would you be willing to pay annually to help preserve your selections in Ques. 16?

'Other' Responses (26 Responses)

- \$100 (6x)
- \$120 (2x)
- \$35 (2x)
- Not sure (2x)
- \$500
- \$60
- County board decision.
- Depends on my income.
- Depends on what happens.
- Developers user fees to finance
- How can one say? One dollar doesn't buy a thing these days.
- Money makes thieves and liars out of good people.
- None, you shouldn't have to pay anything to leave something alone.
- Pay too much now!
- Put our tax dollars to good use.
- Taxes
- Taxes are up enough already.
- Time

Question 18

What are your two preferred methods of receiving information from Burnett County?

'Other' Responses (15 Responses)

- E-mail (12x)
- Live here
- Not sure
- Word of mouth

Question 18a

If you chose radio in Q18, which radio station would you prefer to receive information from?

'Other' Responses (1 Response)

- WCCO 830 AM

Question 29

If you could change one thing about Burnett County, what would it be? (213 Responses)

- Lower taxes (7x)
- Lower property tax. (3x)
- Taxes (2x)
- A good fine dining restaurant.
- Ability to remodel/build a bigger cabin in the same spot as our existing cabin (within 75 ft of shoreline). ATV trails accessible from our property.
- Access to high-speed internet.
- Add a shooting range, pistols and rifles open 7 days a week, longer hours on weekends. More tornado sirens.
- Add countywide reasonable-priced WiFi access.
- Alcohol and drug abuse
- Align taxes for residence overall the county - not punish people who live/chose to live on lakeshore property.
- All those unpaved roads!
- Allow ATV's on the streets in Scott (town). Less Strict enforcement with ATV's.
- Allow me to build a small boathouse on my very steep shoreline.
- Allow seasonal residents to vote for county officials and township officials.
- An opportunity for assisted living services in the Grantsburg area.
- As non-residents, we should be given tax relief and hunting and fishing privileges as senior citizens and WWII veterans.
- Attract a retail store such as Target, or Wal-Mart in one of the small towns like Spooner, Webster or Siren.
- ATV and dirt bikes would not be allowed on public property, only on privately owned property.
- Ban ATV's completely.
- Best possible internet service.
- Better communications between counties for emergency services mainly dispatch.
- Better county roads-especially Co Rd Z

- Better fish management-that's your primary resource (lake/fish quality) for property valuation and economy of the area. PS After age 65, we should not have to pay for fishing license regardless of where our primary residence is.
- Better management of forest lands and lakes for wildlife
- Better rural animal (dog) control.
- Better township roads. Banning fireworks sale businesses. Tourists come and buy this stuff and shoot it off year round on lakes in the area. This disturbs people and wildlife in our area.
- Better water patrol.
- Bring in internet service so people can work from seasonal residences.
- Bring in more industry to provide more work for Burnett County
- Building codes relative to land amount.
- Cater more toward the tourism industry since many dollars for the area come from tourists seeking the areas natural beauty.
- Cell phone service. Lower taxes.
- Cell phone service. Otherwise, ATV crossing on roads to minimal. Pretty happy with all services.
- Clean up all the run down residences
- Cleaner lakes, less agricultural run-off pollution.
- Clear junk from people's yards.
- Camping (overnight) in county parks. Less DNR control over certain issues.
- Community pride-pride in our homes!
- County Board
- Covenants required to discourage abandoned vehicles, motor homes, trash unenclosed. Unfinished homes exteriors, loose dogs. People don't finish their homes because taxes are cheaper.
- Cut back on the number of bars. More enforcement of DWI laws.
- Cut way back on all the billboards.
- De-emphasize support for gasoline-powered recreational vehicles (ATV's, snowmobiles). Promote quiet, sustainable sports and recreation.
- Develop and encourage more family "nature type" activities (apart from Crex) in the center and east side of the county. Nature hikes, birding, wild edibles, snowshoeing, etc. programs would utilize the county's natural resources and abundance of state/public land. Too many folks think Burnett Co. is only about hunting and ATV's. Many people would like to learn more about nature but have no advocates to encourage them.
- DNR should make great effort to preserve the Yellow River and lakes/waterways from invasive species.
- Do NOT ever pay for new schools, etc. by raising real estate taxes. That is GROSSLY unfair to farmers. Instead of raising taxes about \$100 per household, like they said it would, it raises the taxes for farmers about \$1000 per year and that is a direct unfair tax on our job and the tools we need to do our job of farming. Should they put a \$1000 tax/year on the car or truck that each household uses to go to their job? How about a \$1000 tax/yr on the desk that business people sit at? Or \$1000 tax on the computer or phone used to do their job? Or how about just putting a \$1000/yr tax on their job? Yet, it seems like its O.K. to tax the farmers excessively on what they need to do their job. Our land is what we need to do our job of

farming, just as business people need a vehicle, phone, desk, computer to do their job. Instead of increasing real estate taxes, tax each household so that everyone, even renters, help pay for the new school. Or put an extra tax on the income of each household, or increase sales tax.

- Don't know!
- Economic development.
- Eliminate ATV use of ALL our roadways and curtail excess boat traffic on our lakes before they are ruined.
- Eliminate loud/noisy fireworks (big bangs)
- Enforce motorcycle noise to auto level
- Enforce ordinances to make homeowners clean up junk filled yards and land. 95% of county looks good to great, 5% looks like Ma & Pa Kettle live there and a lot of this junk blows into public and private woods.
- Enforce traffic laws, especially the speeding, tailgating, passing on yellow lines, etc. of our Minnesota visitors.
- Enforce zoning and building guidelines.
- Enforcement of ordinances preventing people from collecting old junk cars and machinery and leaving them exposed to the elements for all the passers by to see. Very unsightly!
- Invasive weeds in lakes are taking over and are out of control.
- Equalized taxation (property) among permanent residence and absentee residence (lake cabin owners). Eliminate state, county, township, town property discrimination! Include: A follow up result data letter.
- Fair use of building codes. Accurate measures for buildup on shoreline-should be "farthest" measurement, not the closest when shoreline irregular. Stop assessor from assessing same property three years in a row.
- Fairer tax on land/housing.
- Fewer swampies.
- Find a sheriff who is willing to cooperate with other law enforcement agencies and someone who the public can trust. The current sheriff appears to have problems being truthful.
- Find a way to attract business without disturbing the natural spaces-perhaps more "green-friendly" new businesses with emphasis on recycling and re-using materials.
- Fire xxxxxxx and hire a full time County Administrator. Don't just hire another xxxxxxx re-tread from Northwest Regional Planning.
- Game fish such as walleye and muskie have been greatly reduced because of spearing. These lakes are too small to sustain this activity. This needs to be stopped!
- Get all townships to agree to ATV use on all roads (no designated ATV routes). This would bring more recreational users to various townships and spread revenue throughout the county. This area is predominately recreational and this should be accommodated.
- Get more jobs in the county.
- Get rid of the drugs.
- Get rid of tourists and seasonal residents-Ha
- Good Job!

- Good survey keep up the good work. 2 years ago, many of the roads around the Yellow lake area were torn up (asphalt removed) for repair. It took about 12 months before they were resurfaced. Very poor planning.
- Grow bigger whitetail bucks.
- Happy with Burnett County! Love my cabin.
- Have better ordinances regulating dilapidated buildings and run-down, junk-like properties
- Have horse back riding available on the Gandy Dancer Trail.
- Help small businesses start and stay in the area.
- I like it!
- I live here because I like it here. As a Co. Board, don't get carried away with additional rules. They all need to be enforced which costs tax dollars. Trying to keep taxes under control should be your first priority.
- I love where I live-that is why I live here. No changes.
- I should not have to pay such exorbitant taxes for a property I've had for over 50 years! I pay more to visit 3 weeks in the summer than I do for my home all year! Stop discriminating against non-residents.
- I wish I could receive local TV without Dish or DirectTV. Our property is right on the boundary of Minneapolis and Duluth stations and we are not able to receive a TV signal. This probably only affects a small portion of Burnett Co.
- I would like some kind of public transportation for those who can't or don't drive any more because of age or other disabilities.
- I would like to see a universal no-wake rule from 6pm to 10am
- I would like to see more people involved in their communities through volunteering and networking their skills. I would appreciate more control of noise pollution from bars and noisy vehicles (loud motorcycles, jakebraking trucks, and fireworks at inappropriate times).
- I would live there full time. Farm runoff into river/lakes.
- I would not issue any building permits along lakes unless there was at least .5 mile of lakeshore between residences. I believe Century Owned Farms should enjoy certain taxable privilege if they have the original acreage and are practicing conservation and have no industrial business on the property, just original farm and forestland.
- I would send Minnesota people back home so local residents could control our own county, without illegal procedures or under table payoffs!
- I'd fix the roads outside of Siren (County). The only public library is 20 miles away (Grantsburg). I don't know of any other-NOT Siren or Webster. I do not oppose higher taxes if it's spent for education.
- If I could change one thing, it would be minimum lot sizes. I would go back to measuring lots by acres - not feet. Some of the smaller lakes are overcrowded by greedy landowners dividing shorelines into tiny lots. God, my grandparents didn't do that.
- Improve roads!
- Improved fishing. Property owners should get a break on hunting and fishing license fees.
- Increase commercial/manufacturing tax base through various incentives.
- Increase state/county owned land.
- Increase the rainfall!
- It's ok the way it is.

- Keep it natural-no big store such as Walmart.
- Keep it small town. No big box stores like Walmart, Menards, Home Depot, etc.
- Keep roads black topped.
- Keep rural
- Keep taxes down so family homes and farms can stay in the family. To make lake residents stay off road right of ways when riding bikes or walking in groups while they look to see what their neighbors have to steal. To keep our lakes and streams free from tourists that throw McDonald bags, cups, etc into the water. Our township is bad for all these things. PS To teach landowner how big an acre is etc.
- Leave lakeshore alone. Keep farming. Help lower taxes for schools. State has stopped helping with schools. Schools go too wild with enrollment dropping every year. Take better care of roads!
- Less taxes as there only 5 mo. Out of state fishing license should be same as residents year round.
- Less ticks
- Limit the amount of Government intervention.
- Local village boards that halt growth.
- Lock up all meth and drug sellers.
- Lower by 50% my seasonally used cabin! Give seniors a break! Since retiring, we can no longer afford Burnett tax for one bedroom 820 square foot cabin with 80X120' lot at \$4000 a year! We and several of our neighbors are waiting for market to change so we can sell and get out of Burnett County. No buyers at any price.
- Lower lakeshore property taxes. It is getting too expensive to justify ownership of a seasonal residence when the property tax is so high.
- Lower my real estate taxes!
- Lower property taxes on cabins.
- Lower property taxes, especially now that property values are down.
- Lower real estate taxes for all property owners (seasonal and permanent) starting with seasonal.
- Lower real estate taxes for seasonal residents. Currently paying an unfair percentage based on use.
- Lower residential property tax.
- Lower taxes by changing the budget spending.
- Lower taxes for fixed income.
- Lower taxes for seasonal property or lower cost for fishing licenses.
- Lower taxes for senior citizens! Many are being forced out of the community because of the high taxes due to the cost of new high school in Spooner-which the old could have been remodeled as they are doing that now for Jr. High School.
- Lower taxes on property
- Lower taxes, lower taxes. Another increase and I will be forced to sell my lake property.
- Lower taxes, more businesses to support employment
- Lower the taxes bring in more industry.

- Make the DNR give out lots more bear permits (for bow and gun). There are just too many black bears roaming everywhere!
- Make the natives clean up their properties. It shouldn't take 5 years to put siding on, etc. Junk cars, motorcycles, snowmobiles laying in yards etc. Money spent on cleanup programs would have a huge impact on values and image. The #1 complaint I here from guests is the messes in so many yards. Thank you.
- More blacktopping of gravel roads.
- More boating regulations to keep everyone safe on the lakes.
- More business to cut taxes, especially manufacturing and technical employment/companies.
- More cell phone towers.
- More companies with health care.
- More help for the elderly and better ways for them to find it.
- More industrial development.
- More industry
- More industry More jobs Less Poverty Less crime
- More jobs
- More protection of the environment, water quality, wildlife.
- More public access to lakes and rivers.
- More public campgrounds
- More resources available for small business. Small business is in trouble in this county. More incentives to have a small business.
- More set back rivers and lakes.
- More shopping facilities. Bigger stores are too far away.
- More stores/restaurants.
- More things to keep you busy.
- Move County Road A because there is little police enforcement. Trucks speed constantly and it's dangerous for adults, children, and animals.
- Movie theater in Grantsburg
- Need a barber in Siren.
- No big box stores. Keep it small town USA. Clean up storefronts and Main Streets.
- No fireworks sold in county!
- No more casino expansions.
- None
- Not have as many lake cabins or homes here. Have Burnett County further away from Minnesota.
- Nothing
- One school administrator for all schools in the county.
- Pave our cul-de-sac or grade more often.
- People who pay property taxes should be allowed to purchase hunting and fishing licenses at the resident rate.
- People who understand that quality of life is more important than making money. As in, loggers who refuse to clear-cut because they know it is a very damaging practice.
- Please lower property taxes.

- Poor logging practices-too much is being logged off too soon. When they do log, they do a bad job compared to the surrounding counties. Whoever is in charge of this public resource should be taken to task on this.
- Property tax equalization
- Property taxes are too high for lake property. We get very little benefit
- Property taxes are too high. Having the medical center is a really good thing.
- Property taxes too high on fixed income. Get more lottery taxes and from casino.
- Provide better fire protection! Rusk is part of Spooner fire district. It is 15 miles away!
- Provide better internet and wireless access.
- Provide sufficient Township and County information regarding building permits to avoid punishing the residents for making property improvements
- Provide tax break on seasonal properties
- Raise mean income via better jobs available from attracting industry/development.
- Reduce County Board size and elect county executive. Change board meetings to evenings only.
- Reduce non-resident fish licenses for property owners.
- Reduce property taxes.
- Reduce taxes-on woodland
- Reduce the lakeshore property taxes. The taxes are not reasonable!
- Remodel downtown Grantsburg
- Remodeling guidelines and taxes.
- Removal of the deerfly and the gnat in the Grantsburg area
- Rules and ordinances regarding shoreline use for seniors!
- Simpler surveys! Lower taxes.
- Stop the light pollution! Please.
- Stricter residential and commercial building codes/permits/enforcement, especially waterfront.
- Stricter rules and/or enforcement of shoreline preservation/restoration as well as banning or strictly controlling all lawn herbicides, fertilizers, and pesticides on lakes, shore property, as well as nearby lots.
- Take away the power of Polk Burnett Electric. Monopoly is not good-they are overcharging for the service provided.
- Taxes are too high
- Taxes-property has been in family 50 yrs and now we are taxed so high we cannot afford it as retired people-just because it is lakeshore land.
- That it wasn't getting so crowded and built up.
- That Siren/Webster schools combine. Not only would it benefit the funding, it would lower taxes and possibly entice more seasonal families to make BC permanent.
- The attitude of the "locals" toward the "tourists"- 3/4 of the property owners in the county are non-residents. They pay goodly amounts in taxes, non-resident licenses, not to mention spending a lot of money in the restaurants, groceries, boat dealers, bars, etc. If it were not for those people, this county would be a mega welfare community.
- The attitude of the people. A warmer expression of welcome.

- The attitude that if you're not born here you will never be considered a resident or member of the community. "Locals" are treated much better than transplants.
- The high property taxes.
- The policies of the cities that infringe upon tourism that directly affects businesses and local economy. (i.e. Gandy Dancer Trail)
- The poverty level of the residents is certainly a concern. Increasing tourism and jobs may assist with this issue and be a positive thing for the community.
- There is NO mention in this survey of the ARTS: Fine arts (drawing, painting, sculpture), performing arts (music, theater) and crafts (pottery, smithing, jewelry). The arts are a vital factor in attracting tourism, keeping youth active, providing an outlet for creativity and fostering a sense of community. Ten local businesses recently paid \$50 for a "patron" membership in the Burnett Area Arts Group-Indicative of the level of local support. Very disappointed that this "creative economy" aspect was not reflected in this survey. I would like to see communities coordinate on an annual basis to avoid conflicts when scheduling events.
- This is the poorest county in the state of Wisconsin. More money to help the poor-young and old.
- Too many RV trails, which cause erosion, destruction of wildlife habitat and the general serenity of the Northwood's atmosphere. Noise and air pollution and dust. They are destroying the county.
- Traffic pattern. Need traffic lights on Highway 35 & 70 north of Siren.
- Try and keep the same.
- Updated and improved EMS system county wide
- We don't need anymore non-productive people in the county. I would like the residents to have more common sense and work together.
- We feel that the taxes on lakeshore property are way too high.
- We have had rural recreational property in Burnett County for almost 40 years and the thing I have liked most is that the area has changed very little-mostly farms and hunting and recreational larger parcels. The fresh air and incredible birds and other wildlife have made it seem an Eden to us. That was starting to change during the real estate boom but now development has slowed. I hope in the future good community planning will help preserve this beautiful county. This survey is a good idea.
- We love Burnett County and love to bike and walk on the Gandy Dancer Trail. Please to not allow ATVs on the Gandy Dancer!!
- We need more working age people-less retired population.
- We need something for kids and young people; we have nothing but drugs and bars!
- We would have more retail shops and job opportunities.
- Would like to have a Menard's store!
- Would not change anything.

Appendix C – Quantitative Summary by Question: Burnett County Sample, 2009

BURNETT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

PLEASE RETURN BY xxxxx, 2009

Fill the circle that most closely describes your perspective toward the following statements:

Like this: ☒ Not like this: ☐ ☐ ☐

1. Mark the three (3) most important reasons you and your family choose to live in Burnett County:

(Mark (•) three only)

3%	Agriculture	0%	Community services and facilities	1%	Health care services
5%	Quality schools	7%	Near job/employment opportunities	23%	Near family and friends
12%	Cost of home	55%	Recreational opportunities	5%	Low property taxes
5%	Low crime rate	50%	Small town atmosphere/rural lifestyle	6%	Quality neighborhood
64%	Natural beauty	37%	Proximity to Twin Cities	8%	Other: See Appendix B

2. Rate the quality of the following services and facilities:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion
a. County parks	8%	52%	14%	2%	23%
b. County public health services	4%	30%	18%	2%	46%
c. County road maintenance	7%	47%	34%	10%	2%
d. County recycling programs	5%	34%	24%	9%	28%
e. County zoning code enforcement	2%	33%	25%	7%	34%
f. County building code enforcement	2%	39%	18%	8%	34%
g. County nuisance ordinance enforcement	1%	20%	18%	15%	47%
h. Emergency dispatch service (911)	12%	38%	10%	3%	37%
i. Police protection/law enforcement	9%	46%	22%	4%	20%
j. Fire protection	13%	43%	18%	3%	24%
k. Public libraries	8%	28%	17%	4%	43%
l. Local public school system	9%	29%	10%	3%	49%
m. Wireless telecommunication service	3%	16%	24%	33%	25%
n. Local Town/Village hall	4%	40%	21%	4%	31%
o. Local Town/Village road maintenance	5%	45%	30%	12%	8%

3. How would you rate the overall quality of life in Burnett County?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion
	9%	74%	14%	2%	2%

4. Which two of the following ways of paying for the costs associated with growth and development do you prefer? (Mark (•) two only)

	Development impact fees	User fees	Taxes	No Opinion
a. Paying for public infrastructure (e.g. roads)	28%	32%	36%	17%
b. Paying for public services (e.g. police protection)	16%	24%	54%	17%

5. Provide your opinion on the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
a. The location of new residential development should be managed to ensure efficient delivery of public services.	21%	53%	12%	3%	12%
b. Community services (schools, police, fire, etc.) should be provided jointly by communities if money can be saved & service quality is maintained.	31%	56%	4%	2%	7%
c. My community should coordinate with the county and neighboring communities to plan for an aging population's housing needs.	23%	51%	9%	3%	13%
d. Burnett County communities should pool resources to attract/retain companies that will create jobs.	36%	49%	4%	1%	10%
e. It is important to support the preservation of productive agricultural land in my community.	31%	48%	8%	1%	12%
f. There is too much farmland being converted to non-farm uses in my community.	12%	23%	29%	5%	30%
g. Ag uses should be restricted close to residences.	4%	23%	40%	11%	22%
h. New residential development should be located away from agricultural operations.	12%	44%	22%	4%	18%
i. Identifying and protecting historical sites and structures is important to me.	20%	55%	9%	4%	12%
j. Additional use of roads for motorized all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) is needed in my community.	16%	19%	23%	33%	9%
k. ATV infrastructure (trails, signage, maintenance, etc.) should be funded through user fees.	51%	41%	2%	2%	4%

5. Assume that you are in charge of allocating the county budget:

	There is a <u>\$100 surplus</u> . Distribute it among the following: AVERAGE AMT. WRITTEN BY RESPONDENTS	There is a <u>\$100 deficit</u> . Balance the budget by cutting it from the following: AVERAGE AMT. WRITTEN BY RESPONDENTS
Emergency services <i>Surplus count = 206 Deficit count = 109</i>	\$17	\$ 4
Recreation <i>Surplus count = 155 Deficit count = 233</i>	\$ 8	\$21
Environment <i>Surplus count = 169 Deficit count = 195</i>	\$10	\$14
Social services <i>Surplus count = 143 Deficit count = 192</i>	\$ 7	\$17
Economic development <i>Surplus count = 143 Deficit count = 202</i>	\$ 8	\$16
Roads and bridges <i>Surplus count = 190 Deficit count = 153</i>	\$14	\$ 8
Education <i>Surplus count = 173 Deficit count = 134</i>	\$13	\$ 9
Taxes <i>Surplus count = 159 Deficit count = 127</i>	\$23 (decrease)	\$11 (increase)
Total = must add to 100	\$100	\$100

6. The county is exploring strategies to improve the wireless communication network and recognizes that maintaining the "Northwoods Character" is central to the quality of life for its residents. With this in mind, it is more important to allow: (Mark (●) one only)

Fewer, but taller communication towers	More, but shorter communication towers	No Opinion
50%	26%	24%

7. With respect to internet service at your residence in Burnett County, do you currently have:

Dial-up modem	High speed/broadband (e.g. DSL)	None	Don't know
8%	37%	53%	2%

8. If you have (or could have) access to broadband internet service, how often do (or would) you work from home in Burnett County?

Wouldn't work from home	Less than 1 day/week	1 – 2 days/week	3 or more days/week
61%	9%	14%	15%

9. Historically, some recreational-oriented commercial uses have been allowed on waterfront property adjacent to residential development. Which of the following commercial uses may be appropriate in these areas? (Mark (•) all that apply)

55%	Restaurants and cocktail lounges	44%	Bed and Breakfasts	17%	Hotels/motels
46%	Sporting goods and bait sales	53%	Resorts	44%	Marinas
18%	None of the above are appropriate	3%	Other: See Appendix B		

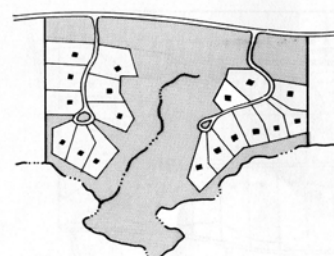
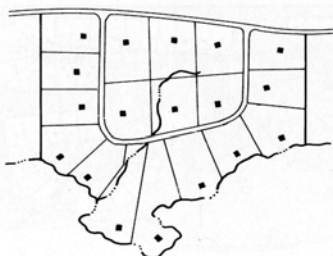
10. Seasonal residents are those that have their primary residence outside of Burnett County, but have a secondary residence within the County. In some cases, these residences are rented out on a short-term basis when not occupied by the owner. Please provide your opinion on the following conditions as they apply to short-term seasonal rentals:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
a. The septic system should be designed and maintained to support the number of guests	49%	39%	5%	1%	6%
b. Neighbors should have access to owner contact information	24%	45%	17%	6%	9%
c. Noise limits on outdoor use of the property should be imposed (late hours)	42%	41%	9%	3%	5%
d. Landscaping along side property lines should be required	11%	22%	36%	13%	18%
e. Reference checks of prospective renters should be required	22%	38%	23%	6%	11%
f. Short-term rental of residential units should not be allowed	10%	11%	49%	16%	14%

11. Traditionally, rural housing developments have been designed on large lots as in the diagram (Option A) on the left below. An alternative layout for rural housing is the “cluster” concept, which has smaller lots and permanently preserved open space as in the diagram (Option B) on the right below. Each option contains the same number of homes. Please mark which one you prefer:

31% Option A

69% Option B



12. Clustering of residential building lots should be required in order to preserve the following:





	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
a. Productive agricultural land	26%	41%	14%	6%	14%
b. Forest land	37%	42%	8%	5%	8%
c. Rural open space	31%	41%	11%	5%	12%
d. Natural and environmental features	38%	41%	7%	5%	9%

13. What types of businesses/industries do you believe are the most important for Burnett County to attract?

Please rate each of the following (5=High Priority to 1=Low Priority):

	5	4	3	2	1	No Opinion
a. Agricultural related businesses	20%	24%	29%	10%	6%	11%
b. Commercial, retail, and services	19%	33%	31%	6%	4%	7%
c. Health care services	29%	36%	23%	5%	1%	6%
d. Industrial and manufacturing development	25%	32%	22%	7%	6%	7%
e. Downtown development – “Main Street”	22%	33%	25%	7%	6%	6%
f. Home based businesses	10%	20%	29%	16%	11%	14%
g. Tourism and recreation	32%	34%	18%	5%	6%	6%
h. Tech related businesses (e.g. biotech, computers)	21%	30%	26%	6%	7%	10%

14. Residential density refers to the number of homes within a specific area and is usually expressed as the “number of homes per acre” or “number of homes/acre”. For instance, two (2) homes within a 40-acre area are twice as dense as one (1) home within a 40-acre area. Likewise, one (1) home within a 20-acre area is twice as dense as one (1) home within a 40-acre area. What is the most appropriate limit on density for each of the following non-waterfront areas outside of villages within the county? Mark (•) only one choice for each area described in a, b, and c. Use the table and diagrams below to answer the questions.

	More than 8 homes/ 40 acres	8 homes/ 40 acres = 1 home/ 5 acres	4 homes/ 40 acres = 1 home/ 10 acres	2 homes/ 40 acres = 1 home/ 20 acres	1 home/ 40 acres	Other Density: Specify	No Opinion
						See Appendix B	
	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
a. Ag areas - farming will be preserved & expanded long-term	6%	10%	14%	16%	31%	2%	22%
b. Forest areas -managed & harvested long-term	6%	10%	21%	17%	22%	4%	21%
c. Other rural areas	13%	22%	20%	10%	9%	1%	25%

d. Please provide any additional comments you have about residential density issues: **See Appendix B**

15. As development occurs over time in Burnett County, the most important things to preserve are: (Mark (●) up to three)

25%	Agriculture	51%	Large areas of contiguous forests	27%	Lakefront access
80%	Water Quality	28%	Views of the natural environment	61%	Wildlife habitat
1%	None	1%	Other: See Appendix B		

16. How much would you be willing to pay annually to help preserve your selections in Question 16?

23%	\$0	11%	\$10	32%	\$50
3%	\$5	23%	\$20	8%	Other: See Appendix B

17. What are your two (2) preferred methods of receiving information from Burnett County? (Mark (●) two only):

Direct Mailing	Newsletters	Newspaper Articles	Radio	Website	Other: See Appendix B
55%	49%	28%	7%	26%	4%

18a. If you chose radio in Q18, which radio station would you prefer to receive information from? (Mark (●) one only)

WHWC 88.3 FM	WOJB 88.9 FM	WGMO 95.3 FM	WJMC 96.1 FM	WXCX 105.7 FM	WCMP 1350 AM /100.9 FM	Other: See App. B
5%	10%	19%	17%	22%	18%	10%

DEMOGRAPHICS: Please tell us some things about you:

18. Gender:	Male	Female	19. Age:	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
	68%	32%		0%	2%	9%	21%	26%	41%

20. Highest level of formal education:	High school or less	Some college	2-year college degree	4-year college degree	Grad/Professional degree	
	19%	22%	12%	26%	21%	
21. Household Income Range:	Less than 15,000	15,000 – 24,999	25,000 – 49,999	50,000 – 74,999	75,000 – 99,999	100,000 or more
	4%	10%	24%	25%	13%	24%

22. Which of the following describes your residential status in Burnett County?

Full-time	Seasonal (primary residence outside Burnett County)	Non-resident
45%	47%	7%

23. How many years have you resided or owned property in Burnett County?

Less than 1 year	1 – 5 years	6 – 10 years	11 – 15 years	16 – 20 years	20+ years
0%	12%	17%	13%	9%	49%

24. Total acres owned in Burnett County:

Less than 1 acre	1 – 5 acres	6 – 10 acres	11 – 20 acres	21 – 40 acres	40+ acres
20%	40%	11%	5%	6%	18%

25. If your residence within Burnett County is used seasonally:

- | | |
|--|--|
| a. How many months each year is it generally used? | b. When occupied, how many people generally use the residence at any given time? |
| 3% Less than 1 month | 4% 1 |
| 3 % 1 month | 36% 2 |
| 4% 2 months | 7% 3 |
| 5% 3 months | 18% 4 |
| 10% 4 months | 6% 5 |
| 44% 5 or more months | 4% 6 or more |
| 30% Residence is not seasonal | 25% Residence is not seasonal |

26. Location of residence or land within Burnett County: (Mark (•) one only)

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 2% Anderson (Town) | 9% Jackson (Town) | 2% Rusk (Town) | 5% Trade Lake (Town) |
| 2% Blaine (Town) | 3% La Follette (Town) | 3% Sand Lake (Town) | 4% Union (Town) |
| 3% Daniels (Town) | 1% Lincoln (Town) | 8% Scott (Town) | 7% Webb Lake (Town) |
| 2% Dewey (Town) | 7% Meenon (Town) | 6% Siren (Town) | 2% Webster (Village) |
| 4% Grantsburg (Town) | 8% Oakland (Town) | 4% Siren (Village) | 1% West Marshland (Town) |
| 4% Grantsburg (Village) | 1% Roosevelt (Town) | 7% Swiss (Town) | 4% Wood River (Town) |

28. My residence within Burnett County is: (Mark (•) one only)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 12% Within a village | 5% A rural hobby farm residence (not primary source income) |
| 52% A shoreline residence | 3% A rural farm residence |
| 26% A rural non-farm residence | 2% No residence in Burnett County |

29. If you could change one (1) thing about Burnett County, what would it be? See Appendix B

Thank You for Completing the Survey! Your survey responses are anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

Please return your survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope by xxxxxx, 2009 to:
Survey Research Center
124 RDI Building
University of Wisconsin - River Falls
410 S. Third St.
River Falls, WI 54022-5001