

## Municipal Survey 250+ Respondents

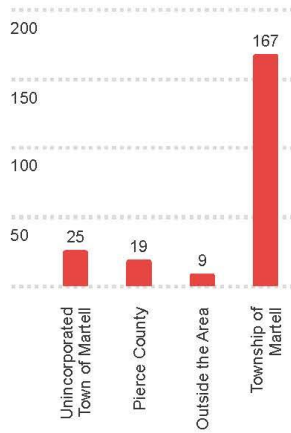
**Note:** These survey results contain comments from individual respondents and do not reflect the opinions of the committee, board, or others affiliated with the project. The committee did review the data and ideas presented, to find consensus, ideas they may have overlooked, and areas of concern identified by the community at large. The survey was a tool and was presented in its entirety, MRRPC apologizes for inappropriate language or opinions that do not reflect the consensus of the community. The comments presented in the survey were not edited.

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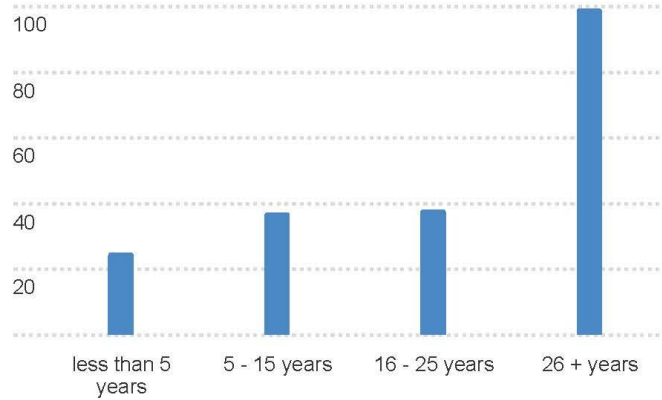
# Township of Martell Comprehensive Plan Survey



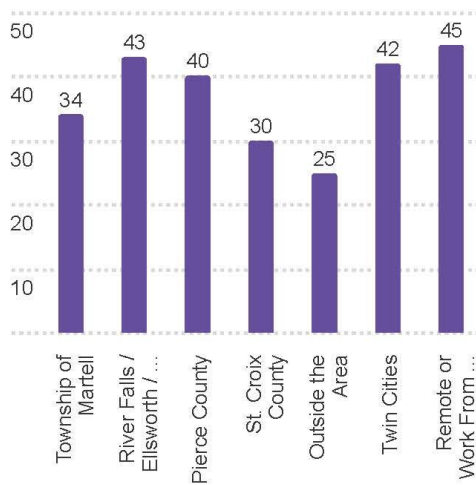
### 1. Where do you live?



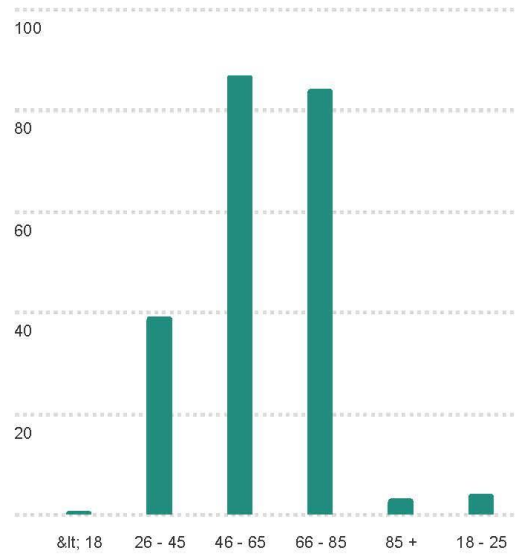
### 2. If a Township resident, how long have you been a resident of Martell?



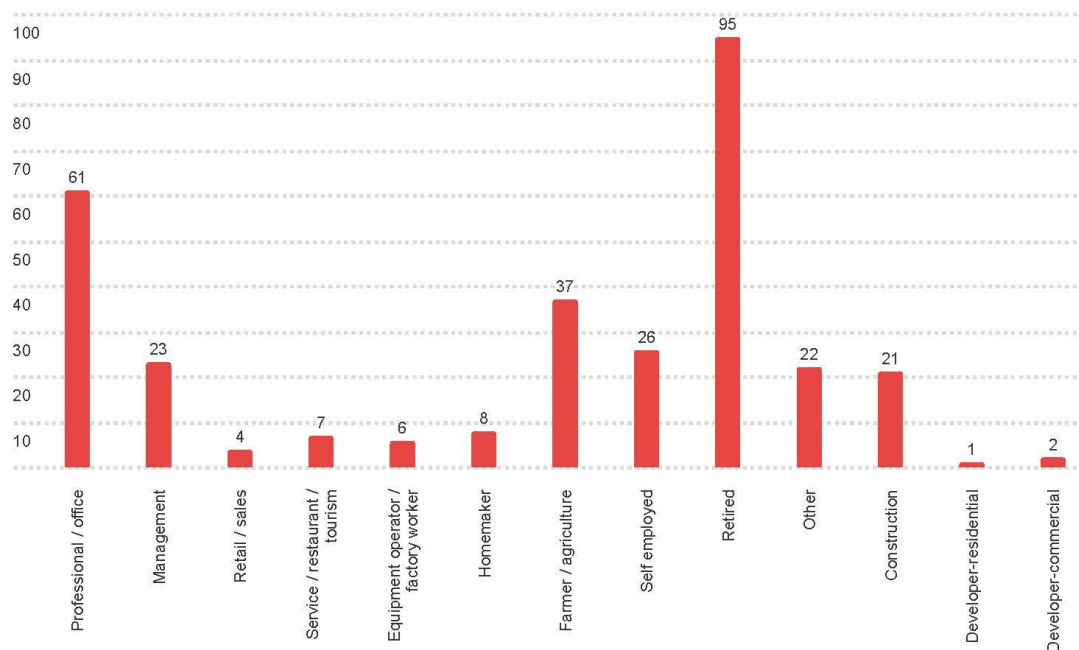
### 4. Where do you Work? (Check all that apply)



### 8. Your age?



### 3. What is your occupation? (Check all that apply) - Selected Choice



Other - Text

Education/Teacher

O.T.R Truck Driver

florist

Government

Educator

Manufacturing

Machinist, CNC Programmer

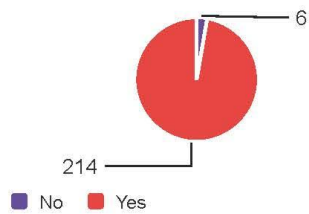
Healthcare

Journeyman Lineman

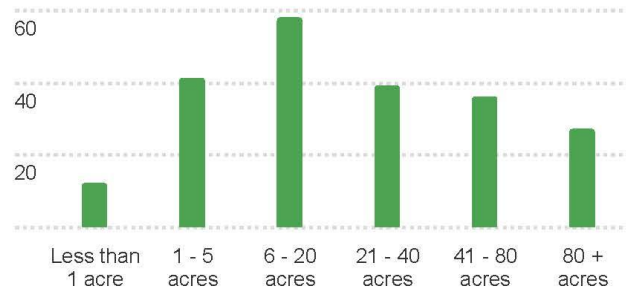
semi-retired cleaning person

Reading tutor

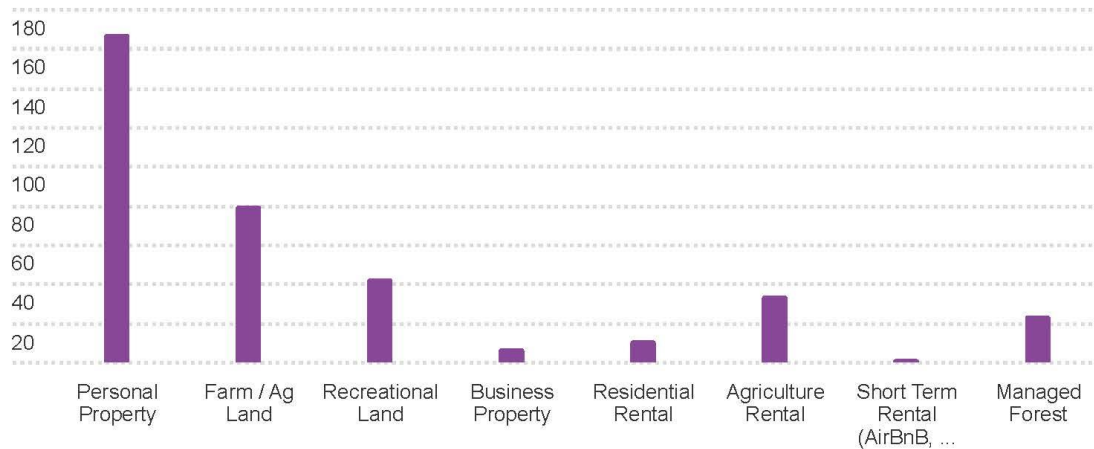
5. Do you own property in the Township of Martell?



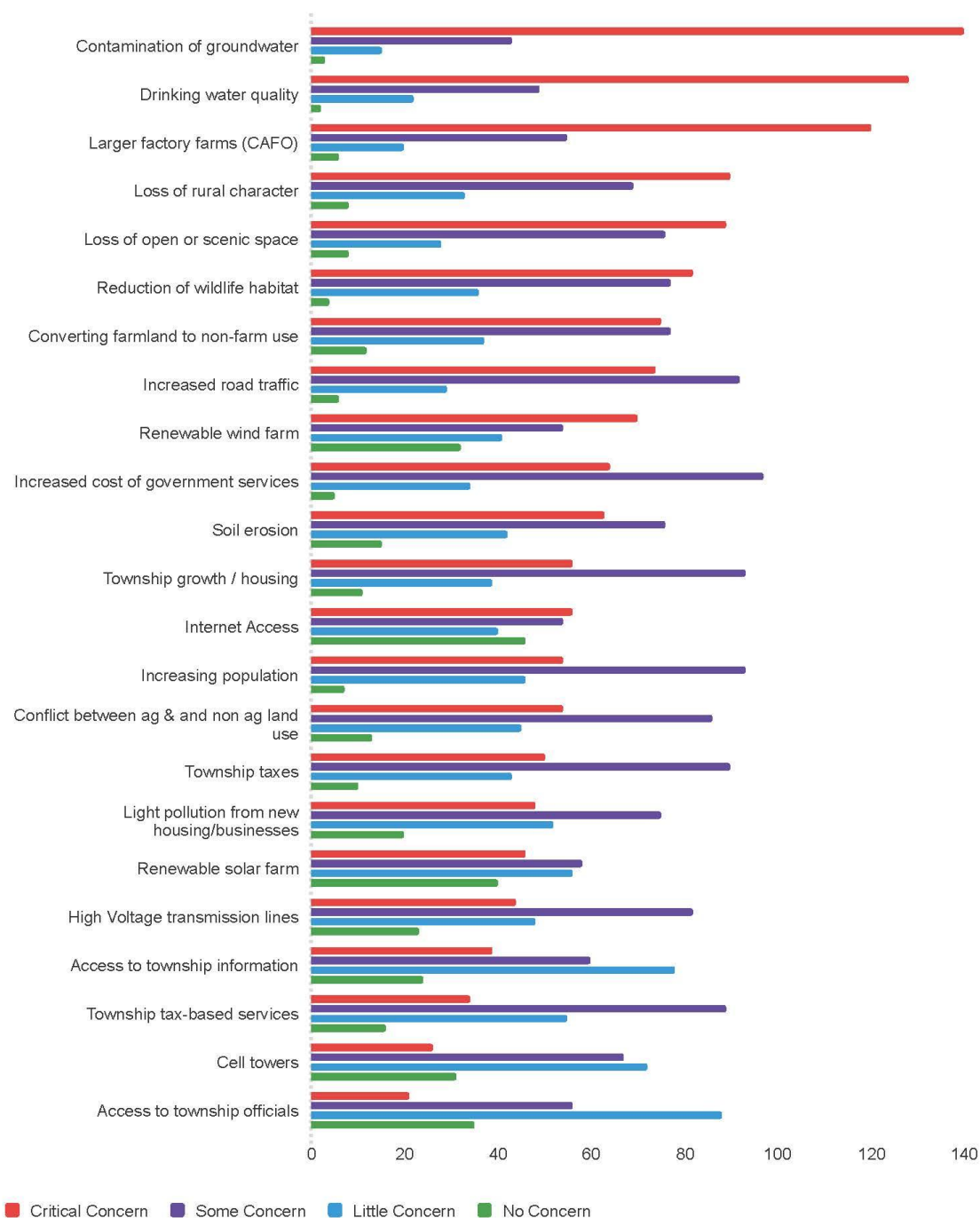
6. If Yes, how much total land do you own?



7. If you own property, how is it used? (Check all that apply)



## 9. Please provide your level of concern regarding the following items...



## Q12 - 10. Other Issues of Concern...

### 10. Other Issues of Concern...

Uncontrolled use of ATV vehicles. Our quiet road is now loud daily. Weekends horrible with them coming in bunches of 25-65, parking down a winding hill to party eat and drink. You didn't send residents any notification before you opened our road up to that traffic.

Spraying by farmers - drift of pesticides

Bees; we have Texas bees brought up to our township (rental by Radkes). My understanding is that it's too hot for them down there. Seems like there should be something formalized as they could negatively impact our local bees.

Wiff's corner is deadly and every time emergency services go by, I feel like there are heading there.

Transparency of what is happening in township and how to access information.

Dumping of large quantity of carcasses.

The spread of tree diseases.

Global warming.

Commercial airline flight pattern alterations and why.

None

ATV traffic, would like housing density to remain 2 per 40 acres, roadside sign hygiene (especially political; make it timely then remove), it was internet before but we love Swiftcurrent broadband

People's lack of interest in getting involved with township matters. Need some new faces on our town board but people don't want to be involved yet they are the first to complain about things.

The short-term rental of some properties; the increase in noise pollution

We were told 530th Ave is going to be blacktopped again after it was ripped up and 3 years later there is still none. We pay very high property taxes and would like it paved.

Neighbor shooting semi automatic weapons for hours straight, sometimes all day on a Sunday.

Taxes keep going up.

This survey is quite ambiguous. We feel more specific questions need to be asked in order to gauge true feelings regarding the issues addressed.

Traffic increases and high speeds. Animal kills.

Preservation of milkweed in ditches.

Could mowing occur late in fall to preserve habitat for monarch butterflies through summer and fall to allow completion of the reproduction cycle?

bad roads

None

I don't even know who the township leadership is and I never see them or know why they hold the position and what they do.

People using Tannerite, that is load and should be Banned from being used in the Township of Martell. People not taking care of there property, Not looking like a Junk yard. Wind Farm, No one likes looking at a Eyesore. They are load and can not be recycle. Light Pollution, bad need to look into dark sky plan.

Fix the roads priority 1

## 11. What do you like BEST about living in the Township of Martell...

11. What do you like BEST about living in the Township of Martell...

Community and Rural Space

Rural flavor

Small quaint area - let's not allow "new" home owners to forget what brought them here, and make our small community into a city and lose our farm land. Those newcomers moved here to find quiet, relaxing homes.

Pretty much everything.

Less people, ag land

The dark so I can see the stars, open spaces, Rush River, and the delicious water from my tap. Once the zoning issue came up, the town board jumped into action to get the comprehensive plan going with volunteers- we have a bias towards action!

Community, friendly neighbors, safety

I enjoy living rural, enjoying privacy and quiet and wildlife.

Rural, country feel. Space between neighbors. No developments. Accessible township officials.

Country living

Privacy with wide open, green spaces and rural environment that is within a commutable distance when I need to run to the cities. Also like not have a ton of bars out here. Seems like we are at the right amount.

The beauty, privacy and quiet life in living here and away from the cities. Close enough to travel to the cities but outside of the metropolitan bubble.

It's rural and quiet.

the scenic nature of the area

Peaceful, quiet, clean

Quiet peacefulness. Good neighbors.

It used to have cheap taxes not anymore

Lack of people

Open spaces

Still neighborly area, wildlife, dry township.

Living on our farm which is private.





## Q14 - 12. What do you like LEAST about living in the Township of Martell...

12. What do you like LEAST about living in the Township of Martell...

Tax zoning of property for Ag purposes vs. residential.

Loss of good farmland to housing. Cost of rented land.

ATV traffic

I'm fine I believe.

Encroachment of the cities

I think we should make efforts for it to be easier for the town officials to share information in a timely manner. The zoning exception this past year demonstrates that many folks want to be informed and provide feedback on the issues important to them.

Taxes in Pierce County are some of the highest in the state not sure where the division happens from county to township.

I hate all the semis on 29. And the speeding and disregard for wildlife that goes with it. The straight ways are abused passing zones.

Gravel roads. Light pollution.

Nothing

Gunfire and rifles during gun season. We are gun toting family but rifles scare the heck outta me during gun season with houses at such close range. Neighbors target shooting is pretty hard on our dogs.

Some people are opposed to change here and change is inevitable. Those who have lived here for "generations" don't seem to be very friendly to newcomers.

Flooding from the rush.

the increased local traffic, the increase in noise pollution

Out of state fisherman that come in in large numbers and trespass and fish illegally

People who shoot guns for fun and ride atvs at three in the morning. People who speed on 650th st between hwy 29 and co J. There are at least eight blind driveways, (one is mine). There has been a death at one driveway. We went to a board meeting years ago to get a speed limit, but were told it could not be done, because no one could enforce it.

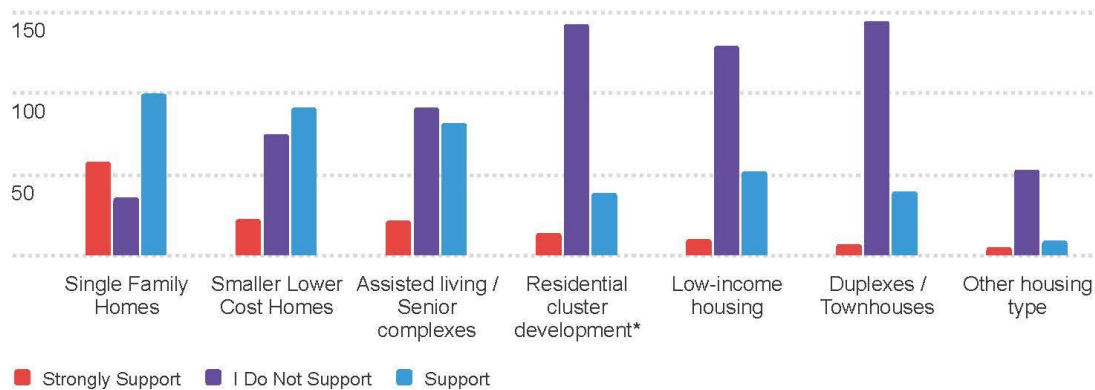
Taxes keep going up

Pot holes

People that let their homes (yards) look like dumps and no laws against it. (Not farms)

Increased housing

### 13. Which of the following types of housing do you feel are needed in Martell.



Other housing type - Text

Small Farms

Apartment complexes

Any of these in moderation or limited volume.

Trailer parks and campgrounds

no trailer homes

Support for people that are single and no family house is good. Not a trailer house or campers. NO 15 MIN CITIES.

I do not think housing is a "need" in Martell.

No other types. We have enough houses.

Single famiky

Accessory Dwelling Units

Trailer parks

House trailers

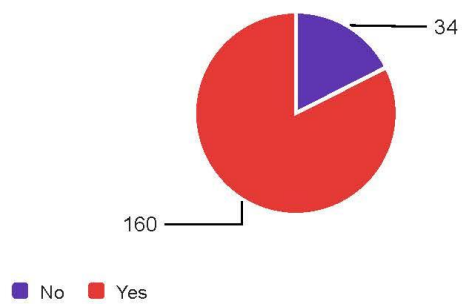
Tiny houses

Farmsteads

high-density apartment/condo

Rehab/half way housing

14. Surrounding communities have zoning ordinances to preserve high quality farmland (Class 1 and 2). Should the Township consider adopting similar restrictions on future housing and development on productive farmland?



#### 14-B. Additional Comments on zoning ordinances?

I'm not against cluster housing in non-agricultural land. Cluster housing should be consider municipal sewer treatment.

Small farms we need to have more of them not less!

If we don't have them already, setbacks and protections for our dry runs and rivers.

Need a plan to our on-going development. Should consider retail options in the actual Town of Martell as well as some growth in this area. But need to prevent or limit large developments in our rural areas..

Exceptions have been made to zoning; seems like we need to have a better handle on this regarding communication to residents IF it is even allowed. Prefer no exceptions in our house.

Not an ordinance but Center line markers or reflective markers on roads would be appreciated- like they do out West

The Farmers have too much influence on our zoning ordinances

Do not use eminent domain to take private farmland.

Maintaining as much class 1 and 2 farmland should remain a priority.

while development may be inevitable I believe large scale residential development could destroy the essence of Martell.

No 15 min city. No trailer parks. No big commercial real estate apartments.

Need to make sure DNR enforces action when manure spills occur

change to general rule of flex

Personally I'm supportive of restricting development, but I worry that the Town doesn't have the resources to administer a new ordinance. I'm sure too many people will argue that restricting class 1 and 2 farmland at this point would be a taking and want to fight it. Most soils in Martell aren't great anyways. Almost the entire town is currently primary ag and I think that is restrictive enough.

I've watched many areas in Pierce county and St. Croix fall to development. Prime farmland that's now lost to development and some of these developments bring in the worst people.

I do support minimum acreage type rules - 5 acre minimum? Let's not be chopping up farm land and woods.

I don't see where any high density housing is appropriate in any Martell location. No matter what amount of "incentive" in the form of other people's tax money is promised from state or federal government to "just include low rent/multi-family/high density housing" in our town plan, the residents will suffer loss of what makes Martell our home. There is not one example of the quality of life improving for existing residents when significant low-income/high density housing is introduced into a place like Martell. Not one. There are, however, a multitude of examples of families leaving due to increased crime, taxes, or just move to somewhere more like what they had... a peaceful rural setting... all because they were sold the promise of lower taxes, improved services, etc. by including subsidized housing in their plan.

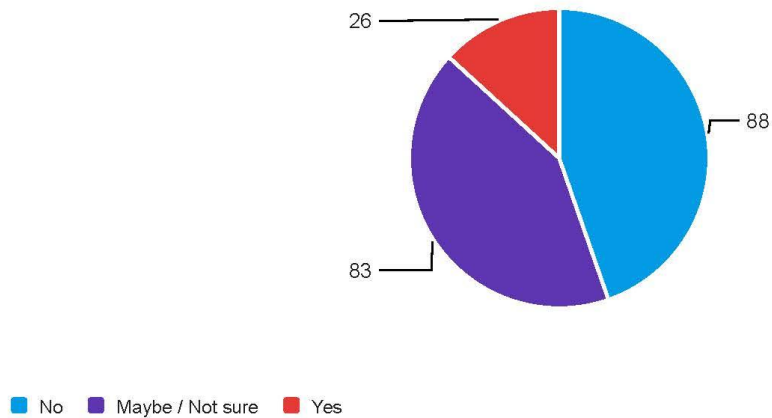
If we go to developments, they need to be well thought out and can't turn martell township into river falls. We need to continue to protect our rural way of life.

People should have larger pieces of land so houses aren't too close

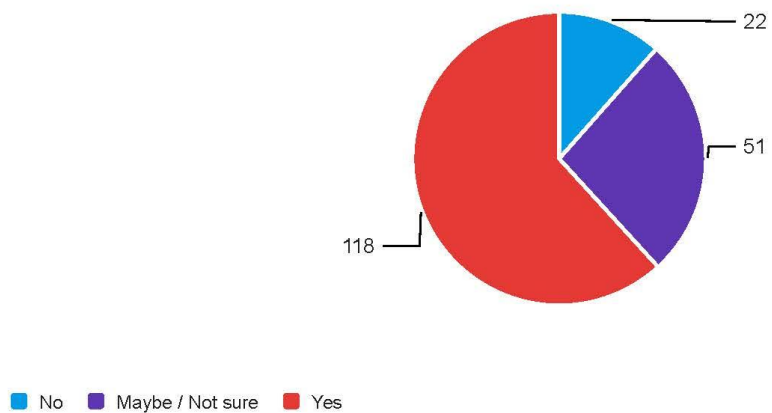
I love the farmers. I'd want to keep small farms thriving.

We need to protect lands from being chopped up into tiny lots. From loss of farmland to destruction of wildlife habitat, we need to protect what we have.

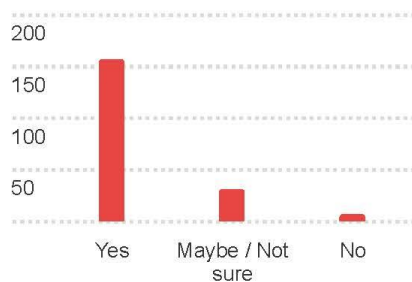
15. Should the Township consider planned higher density development where appropriate?



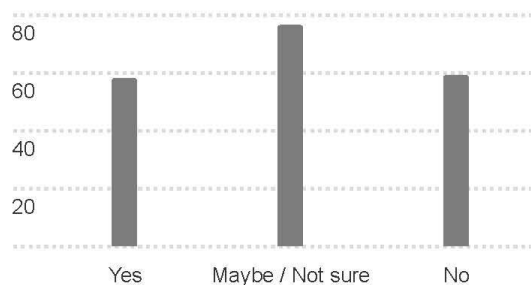
16. Should high density residential development be required to provide / preserve open space (parks, nature strips, farmland, wildlife sanctuaries, etc.)?



17. Should the Township charge developers impact fees to offset cost incurred by the Town?



18. Should your neighbors be able to use their property in any way they desire? You may add additional comments below.



18-B. Comments (Are there activities / uses you would like the township to restrict?)

Any development that would endanger water quality - in our highly fractured bed-rock or destroy the rural flavor.

Keep developers out of the area.

Depends on impact and how often the impact occurs.

Excessive noise or light pollution

Seriously consider the impact on any gun range requests use of automatic and semi-automatic guns. Light pollution guidelines including directional lighting with elevation in mind.

ATV traffic. Shooting- neighborly considerations

Garbage dumps

short-term rentals, unmonitored fires, noise ordinances

Only so many houses per 40 acres

When their use impacts neighbors in a negative way, that use has to be stopped, mitigated, or compensated. Commercial, large agricultural operations, cell towers, etc. , anything that changes the landscape or environment in a drastic way.

We do not need junk yards in the Town of Martell. There is nothing wrong with having more than one Wedding Venue in the Town of Martell.

If the property is zoned agricultural, it should be used for agriculture.

Depends, no dumps, no bars, no drug outlets

Those that damage environment and/or disrupt neighbors.

Tired of target practice, guns, so close to our house.

Of course restricting noise that would disrupt the peaceful rural area we all enjoy.

Shooting ranges and excessive shooting of guns

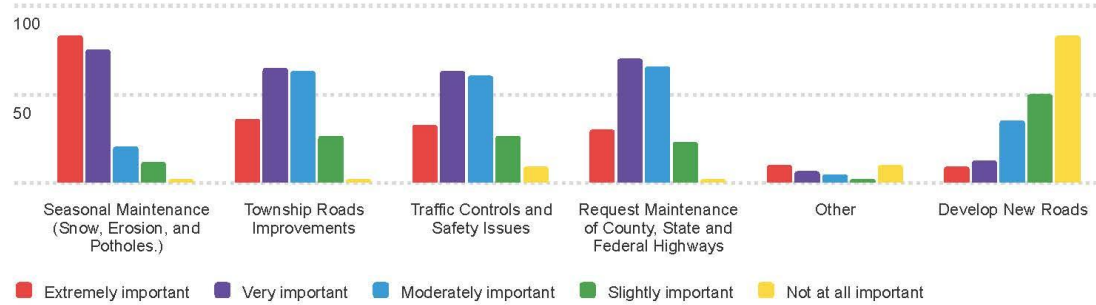
Solar and wind farms, factory farms

strip clubs, hate groups,

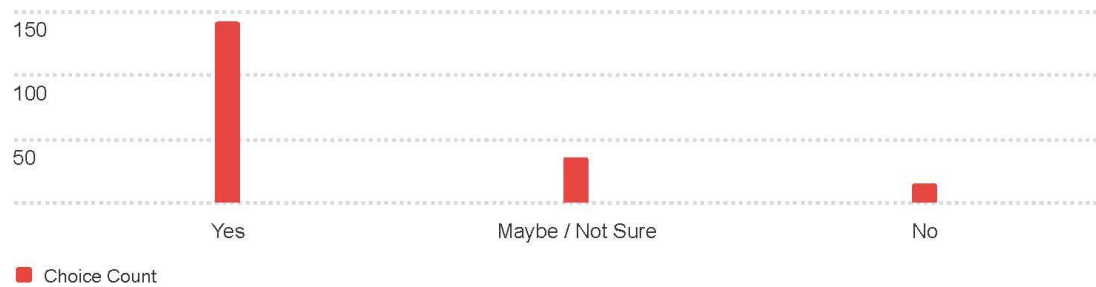
Factory farms

## Roads and Transportation

19. What Road and Transportation issues should the focus on...



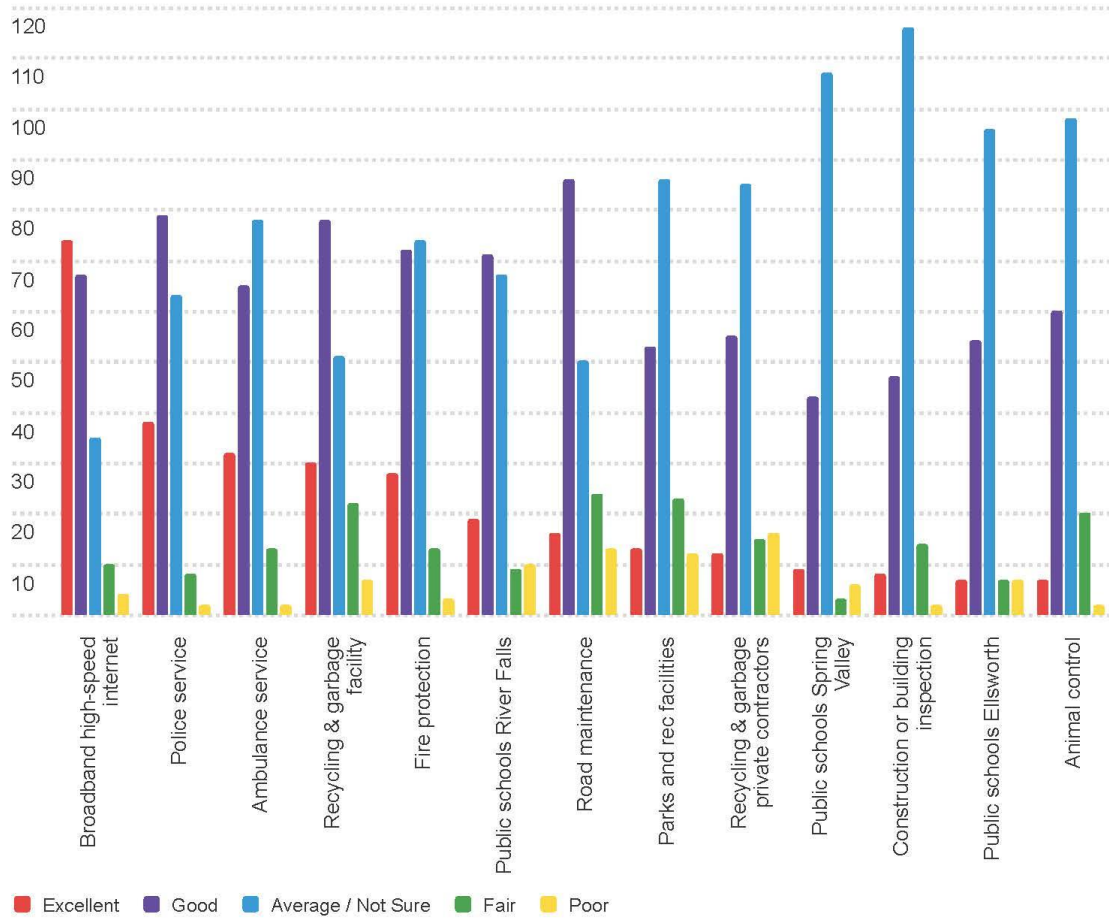
20. Do the roads and highways in the Township adequately meet your needs?







22. Listed below are several area community services offered in the Town, please rate...



## 23. Your comments on how can the township improve services?

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The roadside grasses on Highway 29 became dangerously tall for those entering from driveways or side roads. They need to be mowed back earlier in the season.

Repairs needed on roads "less" traveled. Spend money on keeping our township repairs and not on developing a new city.

Direct communication to residence of events, meetings, etc via email and possibly texts.

They are good

Doing a great job! Thank you!!

So much is based on the township's budget which is limited.

Coffee and doughnuts at monthly meeting. Have townships deliver gravel. Per cost or at least one load per address per year.

Speed bumps. More traffic signs - caution on roads.

No more new roads at all.

Keep improving Internet. Clean water.

Keeping community up-to-date on information that concerns us.

No shoulders on roads is a dangerous situation, plus one cannot walk or bike safely

Rural living means slower response time for emergency services, but we called an ambulance once and it took over 20 minutes to arrive. Thank god no one was bleeding out, but maybe that's why they took their sweet time.

I feel the township is providing good services within it's scope. The services that I feel need improving are outside of what the township can (or should) provide.

Need a good park for kids.

Plow 801st Ave sooner. Plow goes down the bare Hwy 63 many times a day without making the swing though our street until late afternoon. We need to leave early this year for necessary medical treatments and fear we will be snowbound.

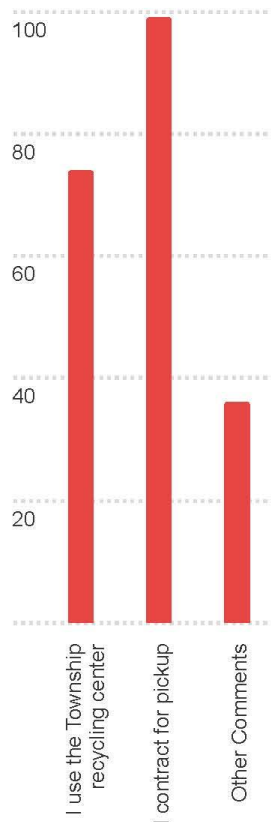
Develop and increase garbage/recycling facilities and services.

Answered "Average/ Not Sure" to a number of items above because haven't needed those services (no children in schools, haven't needed Animal Control or Police services, etc.)

As the population ages, elder housing should be encouraged so rural elderly do not have to move to 'town' in their last years, but can stay enlivened by birds and nature.

Make recycling pickup more accessible. we currently do not recycle at all because there is no pickup service available in our area.

## 24. How do you handle trash and waste?



### Other Comments - Text

I use the Ellsworth Recycling Center.

My mil has wast management and we drop our garbage at her receptical.

Randy is always a pleasure to work with at the center.

Thanks for those that serve on the township board!

The men who maintain the recycling center do an excellent job!

Recycle all.

use the recycling dumpsters in ellsworth

Take trash and recycling to a facility

Moved in two years ago and just found out about the recycling in Martell

I actually use Town of River Falls recycling center

We need to haul our garbage to Murtha— if my spouse were to pass, I would not have the strength to do that

Township does a good job at the recyling center.

Used to use recycling center but got annoyed with the bags and having to go there. Easier to pay for pick up

Haul myself. The service around here is t good.

I use Ellsworth recycling facility

We also bring recycling to Pierce County and River Falls drop-off bins

When GFL Environmental Services took over from P.I.G., the quality of our service went down and our monthly fees continue to go up. They made us sign a 5-year contract which I regret and will not be renewing if I can find another provider.

N/a

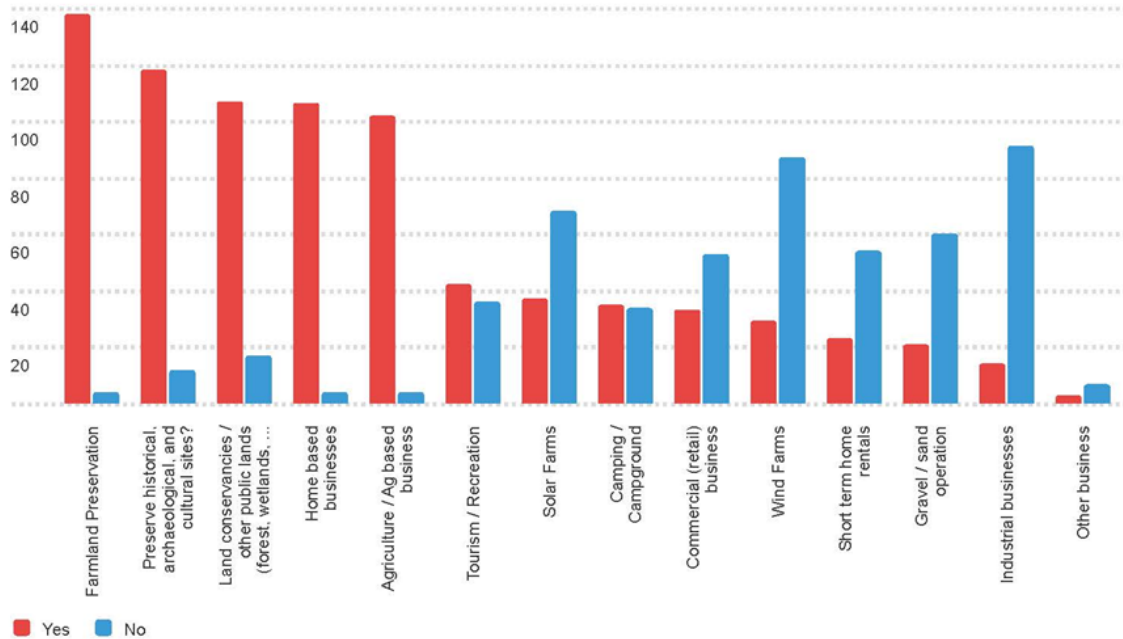
Haul myself

Move recycling to new town shop. Close old landfill site and confirm its not leaking. Encourage people to use Pierce County recycling center

## 25. Should Martell Township continue to preserve productive farmland?



## 27. Which of the following should be allowed / encouraged in the Township...



Other business - Text

Gun range

Trout farm(s)

NO Anaerobic Digester, meaning NO plant. NO big corporation farms. What i would like to see is strong Union Jobs.

Camping but only if policed

N/a

I like the idea of preserving farmland but I think it is unrealistic given the urban sprawl to our area.

Wind and solar should not be on a huge scale

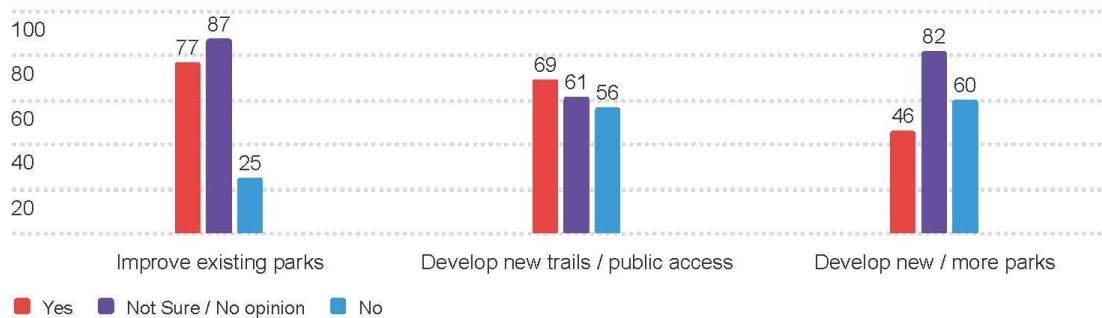
Regenerative farming

Encourage CSA farms, pick-your-own orchard, berry farms, farm-to-table restaurants

i am for things that will help cut down on property taxes

None

## 26. Should there be more township parks, and should the current parks be improved...



### Other ideas - Text

Have to run and cannot complete

Inform people of the existing parks before creating new. Once use increases consider additional needs.

Preserve old school house.

Make rush river more open to canoe, kayak.

Make stream improvements where needed

We don't need trails so the idiots from MN can come use them

ive never really taken advantage of any of the parks, so i really cant offer any opinions

The last 3 questions depend on who, what, when, where, how, and why.

Depends on how many people go to them.

Utilize the schoolhouse and the Heffner Park in more welcoming fashion. Agree no overnight camping but outhouse and events would be nice. Maybe put up an outdoor shelter. Schoolhouse is inaccessible.

Need more running/walking/bike trails.

Work to develop/enhance parks along river and river access

do not support the use of atv/utv trails on township roads

We are a rural area. Please be honest with how many people would actually benefit from spending on these parks. The number of users is likely quite small.

Sell Old School house and old Town shop making sure they are clean of hazardous waste. Develop trails that could serve housing. Limit ATVs ,snowmobiles encourage biking hiking along the Rush River and smaller streams

Develop trails along Rush River

I would like to see the town hall meeting to maybe rotate days or live stream them and/or make them available online (YouTube, Facebook, Twitter/X,)

I've noticed recently that private residential ownership along the Rush River has dramatically increased.

I would Encourage Preservation and Accessibility to the River by individuals where possible.

More pollinator planting

I don't think the parks listed are used much -- though they're nice to have. There is so much privately owned recreational areas that neighbors share.

Develop trails along Rush River

## 28. What "big Idea" would you like to see in the Township of Martell?

28. What "big Idea" would you like to see in the Township of Martell?

Don't turn our quiet community into an industrial area of any sort. Big business always tempts the farmers and locals with big money to let them in - always, always, always perhaps one farmer is paid well, while all those surrounding folks have to put up with what is brought in. Choose your committees wisely. That "growth" doesn't make one's community a happy one!

Small family farms.

Keep farmland preservation. Only let single-family homes be built

Establish standards for ease of fair implementation to all.

Implement a process and guidelines for any & all development with follow through on monitoring the progress of it all.

Create reasonable ordinances to maintain our current quality of life.

Disseminate information directly to all in the community to inspire participation.

Campground on the Rush and setting the example of how a little township can be an example of how government can keep people informed and engaged leveraging technology to move us forward.

Flood prevention of Rush river.

Noise ordinance/enforcement. Loud dogs constantly barking

530th Ave paved again

Use the old school house for events. Maybe rent it out for small venues. I loved when we voted there. So much nicer than a church basement.

I would like to see an ordinance restricting the "Super Big" dairy operations. I do not feel that the DNR is actually policing these operations very thoroughly at all. No Big irrigation systems on farms!

Make wise use of our tax dollars.

If it's not broken, don't fix it.

More communication to Martell landowners when and where and how some land may be changed (at monthly meetings).

Many have no computers/smart phones or Internet, email. Use Journal.

Begin to conserve all we have. Discontinue development where possible. Slow things down a bit.

Make better use of town hall and surrounding area.

Charge access fee to out of state fishermen

Leave things as is

wouldn't mind speed traps,

Peace and quiet.

Strong Union Jobs. Clean water. Nice clean Township. People need to be informed better with changes to anything. Well put together plan for the future of the township of martell.

I have lived in the township since 1991. Other than a few key locations, most outside visitors do not know how valuable the Rush River is for trout fly fishing. I have only seen one stream channel/habitat improvement project in 33 years. I would be willing to advise the township in working with WIDNR and groups like TU to improve township fly fishing tourism.

Dr. Joe Magner, Professor of Environmental and Ecological Engineering, University of Minnesota