

# APPENDIX C

## CITIZEN SURVEY & RESULTS

2000 Survey information  
2005 Survey information

Township of Bridgewater  
 Citizen Survey  
 July 2000

359 Respondents out of 687

52% response rate

**A. General Information**

A1. What is your zip code?

48158	48176	48236	Other	Total
184	39	105	21	349
53%	11%	30%	6%	

A2. Please answer the following for yourself.

Age	<20	20-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+	Total
	4	24	54	77	75	78	288
	1%	8%	21%	26%	25%	26%	

Gender

Male	Female	Total
183	135	318
58%	42%	

# Yrs. As Resident  
 # Yrs. Prop. Owner

Less than 1	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	20+	Total
5	89	48	25	24	115	306
2%	29%	16%	8%	8%	38%	
4	102	62	27	27	123	345
1%	30%	18%	8%	8%	36%	

Renter?

Yes	No	Total
1	358	359
0.28%	99.72%	

A3. What school district do you live in?

Clinton	150	41%
Saline	55	15%
Manchester	143	39%
Don't Know	8	2%
Other	8	2%
Total	364	100%

**B. Residential Attitudes**

B1. Which of the following are reasons that you continue to live in Bridgewater Twp? (circle all that apply)

Like rural living/ nat. env.	306
Like the community	182
Close to family and friends	111
Quality of schools	84
Close to work	65
Low taxes	55
Affordable housing	47
Other	30

B3. Which lot size or density (# of houses per acre would you prefer for future development of agricultural/rural areas of the Township? (circle all that apply)

One house on 10 acres	90
One house on two acres	88
One house on 5 acres	66
One house on one acre	62
More than one house per acre	36
Other	36

B5. On what size parcel is your residence located?

Less than one acre	11	3%
One acre, but less than two	41	12%
Two to five acres	77	22%
Five to ten acres	68	20%
Over ten acres	147	43%
Total	345	100%

B7. As residential development continues in Bridgewater Twp., which of the following would you like to see? (circle all that apply)

Large parcel residential (as it is presently occurring)	159
SF homes clustered together, leaving open space undeveloped	117
Higher density res. dev. near the village of Clinton	85
Higher density residential development near Bridgewater	59
Other	35

B2. How do you feel about the rate of residential growth in Bridgewater Twp?

Much too fast	100	29%
A little too fast	105	30%
About right	121	35%
A little too slow	13	4%
Much too slow	7	2%
Total	346	100%

B4. Clustering houses on smaller lots should be permitted in exchange for preservation of permanent open space and/or agricultural land.

Strongly agree	100	29%
Somewhat agree	80	23%
Neutral/ no opinion	47	13%
Somewhat disagree	43	12%
Strongly disagree	79	23%
Total	349	100%

B6. If more single family residences are added, where would you prefer they be located? (circle all that apply)

Near the Village of Clinton	152
Near the Village of Manchester	118
Near the Hamlet of Bridgewater	92
Other areas	42
In undeveloped areas suitable for develop.	9

**C. Commercial Attitudes**

C1. Which describes how you view commercial (retail and service) businesses in Bridgewater Twp?

Not enough	77	22%
About right	281	74%
Too much	15	4%
Total	353	100%

C2. Where would you like to see future commercial growth located to serve the citizens of Bridgewater Twp? (circle all that apply)

Don't want more commercial dev.	142
Near the hamlet of Bridgewater	99
Near the village of Clinton	80
Inside the village of Clinton only	68
Near the village of Manchester	65
Inside the village of Manchester only	61
Other area	14

C3. Identify the village and city where you conduct most of your business

<b>Villages</b>		
Manchester	121	36%
Clinton	150	45%
Bridgewater	50	15%
Other	15	4%
Total	336	100%

<b>Cities</b>		
Ann Arbor	154	47%
Tecumseh	58	18%
Saline	33	10%
Adrian	80	25%
Other	6	2%
Total	325	100%

C4. How do you feel about a small shopping center (4 to 6 stores) located in the Township?

Strongly in favor	37	10%
Somewhat in favor	65	18%
Neutral/no opinion	54	15%
Somewhat opposed	48	13%
Strongly opposed	152	43%
Total	356	100%

**D. Industrial Attitudes**

D1. Which describes how you view industry in Bridgewater Twp?

Not enough	37	11%
About right	278	79%
Too much	37	11%
Total	352	100%

D2. Where would you like to see the future industrial growth in the Twp? (circle all that apply)

Don't want more industrial dev. in the Twp	183
Near the village of Clinton	97
Near the village of Manchester	84
Near the hamlet of Bridgewater	59
Other area	14

**E. Natural Resources/Environmentally-Sensitive Areas**

E1. Which of the following best describes how you perceive the Township's natural resources (woods, wetlands, creeks, steep slopes, wildlife habitats, etc)?

An asset to the community that should be protected by local gov.	180	52%
A limited resource of increasing value	67	19%
Solely the responsibility of property owners	37	28%
No particular value	4	1%
Total	348	100%

E2. Should the Twp. consider special protective measures for any of the following? (circle all that apply)

Groundwater	236
River Raisin	204
Natural Open Spaces	204
Lakes	197
Woodlands	196
Wetlands	181
Saline River	156
Other	30

E3. The Township should establish a program to acquire natural resources using an increased tax millage.

Strongly in Favor	Somewhat in Favor	Neutral	Somewhat Opposed	Strongly Opposed	Total
29	96	73	52	127	347
8%	19%	21%	15%	37%	

E4. The Township should work with local land conservancies to acquire natural resources through donations, not taxes.

Strongly in Favor	Somewhat in Favor	Neutral	Somewhat Opposed	Strongly Opposed	Total
131	111	70	19	13	344
38%	32%	20%	6%	4%	

E5. Property owners/developers should be given approval for higher develop. densities than currently permitted if they agree to preserve important environ. features

Strongly in Favor	Somewhat in Favor	Neutral	Somewhat Opposed	Strongly Opposed	Total
65	35	49	54	87	290
22%	12%	17%	19%	30%	

**F. Agricultural Attitudes**

F1. How many acres do you farm or lease?

10-39 acres	54	16%
40-100 acres	35	10%
100+ acres	34	10%
Do not farm	214	64%
Total	337	100%

F2. If you presently own 80 acres or more, how long do you plan to keep land in agricultural production?

1-5 years	6	10%
6-10 years	8	13%
10+ years	47	77%
Total	61	100%

F3. Bridgewater Township should consider special protection measures for agricultural land.

Strongly in favor	173	52%
Somewhat in favor	90	27%
Neutral/no opinion	40	12%
Somewhat opposed	12	4%
Strongly opposed	15	5%
Total	330	100%

F4. In your opinion, what do you consider needs more protection by the Twp?

Agricultural land	74	22%
Open space	25	7%
Both	200	59%
Neither 1 nor 2	40	12%
Total	339	100%

**G. Public Services**

The following services are adequate.

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total			
G1. Police protection	47	13%	162	45%	62	17%	32	9%	359
G2. Fire protection	74	21%	187	53%	63	18%	24	7%	356
G3. Roadway maintenance	39	11%	131	37%	33	9%	98	28%	354
G4. Traffic flow within Twp.	34	10%	181	52%	78	23%	35	10%	346
G5. Rec. facilities & programs	25	7%	100	29%	154	45%	52	15%	346
G6. Surface drainage	24	6%	106	28%	112	29%	61	16%	384
G7. Schools	65	19%	166	48%	63	24%	18	5%	347
G8. Drinking water quality	55	16%	179	52%	90	26%	15	4%	345
G9. Library services	56	17%	154	46%	95	28%	28	8%	336
G10. Overall Township services	39	11%	202	55%	94	25%	28	8%	369

**H. Miscellaneous**

H1. Which of the following identify where employed members of your household work? (circle all that apply)

Ann Arbor City	81	Lenawee County	21
Not employed	48	Chelsea Village	11
Saline City	47	Jackson County	8
Bridgewater Township	32	Dexter Village	5
Manchester Village	32	Oakland County	5
Wayne County	31	Monroe County	3
Other	27	Detroit City	3
Other Wash. Cty. Areas	26	Livingston County	2
Ypsilanti City	25	Milan City	2

H2. Are you in favor of sewer and water being extended from the Village of Clinton?

Yes	110	44%
No	138	56%
Total	248	100%

If you have been a Township resident for 5 or more years, please answer question H3. Otherwise proceed to H4.

H3. How do you feel the following categories have changed (don't answer if not resident for 5 years)?

	Much Worse	Worse	Same	Better	Much Better	Total
<b>Road Conditions</b>	17	37	86	52	9	201
<b>Privacy</b>	19	72	88	5	1	185
<b>Crime</b>	5	34	145	7	1	192
<b>Traffic</b>	50	105	43	6	1	205
<b>Natural Environment</b>	12	71	119	6	0	208

## **Survey summary**

The survey has been presented to both the Planning Commission and the Board by Gretchen Barr. The summary presented here is based on her work and presentation information. It is intended as an aid to the Master Planning process. Total response statistics were evaluated to draw summarization conclusions. For detailed information on any particular part of the survey, please refer to the presentation information and/or the raw data.

### **Character**

The majority of those responding to the survey question “Reasons to live in Bridgewater” listed “Rural Environment/Natural Living” and “Close to Family/Friends” as reason for being in Bridgewater. Across all demographics, one of these reasons was the most often selected.

The majority of those responding to the survey question “Most important reason to live in Bridgewater” listed “Rural Environment/Natural Living” by a wide margin across all demographics (61% to 71%).

The highest “Priority of Township Goals” was “Maintain Rural Character”.

A substantial majority of the residents of Bridgewater have clearly indicated that protecting the Rural Environment/Natural Living conditions of our community must be one of the primary goals of the Master Plan.

### **Growth Rate**

Overall there appears to be consensus that development is between a little to fast and about right.

### **Residential Development Type**

There appears to be mixed reviews in the area of single family home development style and lot size. There is a clear displeasure shown towards suburb style ½ acre lot development.

The actual development style preference is less clear. For the purposes of comparison, neutral is taken for neither for or against.

Single driveway on 2 acre lots along public roads splits about 53% opposed to 47% in favor.

Private road on 1 acre with preserved open space is split about 38% opposed to 62% in favor.

Single driveway on 5 acre lots along public roads splits about 40% opposed to 60% in favor.

## **Lot Size**

Lot size preferences can be split about evenly into the following categories: <2 acre; 2 acre; 5 acre; >5 acre.

## **Residential Development Summary**

The survey results show that lot size alone is not a determining factor in residential development.

A 5 acre lot on a private drive is a preferred development method.

The combination of smaller lot size (~1 acre) with open space preservation is a preferred development method.

While the statistics show 2 and 5 acre lot sizes are most favorable, the slight disfavor shown to 2 acre lots on private drives is anomalous. At best, the split is within the margin of error for the survey yielding a basically even split between those in favor and those opposed to 2 acre lots. Closer examination of this may be warranted.

## **Property Rights**

There is a balance between “Property Owners should be able to do what they want” and “Communities need land controls which manage land”. The balance tips in favor of some Community controls but is close enough to the middle that the operative word is some.

## **Protection thru taxation**

There is a clear indication that there is support for some taxation to support protection and preservation in the community. The amount the residents are willing to allocate towards protection/reservation appears to be approximately \$120/year. It is unclear from the survey or the survey questions whether that amount is per person or per property.

## **Comparison to previous years**

Minor changes are noted in the detailed presentation between the 2005 year and previous surveys. Resident’s responses to the survey show a consistent attitude toward planning.