



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
IRON COUNTY

2024 Mercer and Iron County Community Development Survey

The Town of Mercer Planning Commission and UW-Extension Iron County are conducting this community survey to guide planning and decision-making for the next 20 years. Responses will be kept anonymous and results will be presented as part of the Town of Mercer's 2025-2045 Comprehensive Plan.

Completing the survey takes approximately 20 minutes.

Please return completed surveys to one of the following locations:

Mercer Town Offices
2657 Railroad St
Mercer, WI 54547

Mercer Public Library
2648 Margaret St
Mercer, WI 54547

Mercer Chamber of Commerce
5150N US-51
Mercer, WI 54547

UW-Extension Iron County
300 Taconite St, Ste 118
Hurley, WI 54534



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1.)	<p>How do you feel that your community has changed over the last 20 years?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Improved for the better<input type="radio"/> Become more economically depressed<input type="radio"/> Become too developed<input type="radio"/> Has not changed<input type="radio"/> No Opinion/Don't Know
2.)	<p>How satisfied are you with the quality of life in your community today?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Extremely dissatisfied<input type="radio"/> Somewhat dissatisfied<input type="radio"/> Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied<input type="radio"/> Somewhat satisfied<input type="radio"/> Extremely satisfied
3.)	<p>I believe that my community is generally prepared to address challenges in the next 20 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Strongly disagree<input type="radio"/> Somewhat disagree<input type="radio"/> Neither agree nor disagree<input type="radio"/> Somewhat agree<input type="radio"/> Strongly agree
4.)	<p>I feel that I have a voice in shaping the future of my local community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Strongly disagree<input type="radio"/> Somewhat disagree<input type="radio"/> Neither agree nor disagree<input type="radio"/> Somewhat agree<input type="radio"/> Strongly agree



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- | | |
|-----|---|
| 5.) | I feel that I have a voice in shaping the future of Iron County.

<input type="radio"/> Strongly disagree
<input type="radio"/> Somewhat disagree
<input type="radio"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="radio"/> Somewhat agree
<input type="radio"/> Strongly agree |
| 6.) | The "small town feel" of my community is worth preserving.

<input type="radio"/> Strongly disagree
<input type="radio"/> Somewhat disagree
<input type="radio"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="radio"/> Somewhat agree
<input type="radio"/> Strongly agree |
| 7.) | The design and appearance of new buildings in my community are important.

<input type="radio"/> Strongly disagree
<input type="radio"/> Somewhat disagree
<input type="radio"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="radio"/> Somewhat agree
<input type="radio"/> Strongly agree |
| 8.) | The design and appearance of new commercial or advertising signs in my community are important.

<input type="radio"/> Strongly disagree
<input type="radio"/> Somewhat disagree
<input type="radio"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="radio"/> Somewhat agree
<input type="radio"/> Strongly agree |



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9.) The rural character of communities in Iron County should be protected by having industrial growth directed into and around existing developed areas.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

10.) Minimum lot sizes for new homes located in rural areas, not located on a lake or river shoreline should be:

- At least 1 acre in size
- At least 3 acres in size
- At least 5 acres in size
- At least 10 acres in size
- At least 40 acres in size
- Any size the owner chooses

11.) Minimum lot widths (frontages) for new homes located on lake or river shorelines should be:

- At least 100 feet
- At least 200 feet
- At least 300 feet
- Any size the owner chooses

12.) Do you think that the location and operation of the following uses should be regulated?

	Yes	Don't Know	No
Adult Entertainment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sand and Gravel Pits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Telecommunication Towers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Heavy Industry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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- 13.) My preference for development throughout my community in the year 2045 is:
- Preservation of the existing rural character with little new development
 - Preservation of the existing rural character with moderate amounts of new development in and around existing developed areas
 - Unrestricted development
 - No Opinion/Don't Know
-
- 14.) Is agriculture an important component of your community's rural character?
- Yes
 - No
 - No Opinion/Don't Know
-
- 15.) I would support agricultural expansion in my community in the following ways (Select all that apply):
- Additional community gardens
 - Financial support for early-stage farmers
 - Farmers market improvements
 - Farmland Preservation Zoning districts
 - Agricultural Enterprise Area petition
 - Purchasing an annual crop share from nearby farms
 - Other (please specify):

-
- 16.) I believe that it is important to better manage and preserve the following natural resources in my community (select all that apply):
- Wetlands and Forests
 - Lakes, Rivers, Flowages
 - Lake Superior
 - Groundwater Resources
 - Wildlife Habitats
 - Parks and Recreation Areas



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17.) Should the following cultural resources be preserved and enhanced and how would you support their preservation?

	Yes, support with local tax dollars	Yes, support with private dollars	Combined public and private dollars	No, not important to me
Historic and cultural buildings and sites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Farmers Markets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community events and festivals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Iron County Fair	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18.) Which of the following public resources do you believe need to have more public access?

	Needs more public access	Adequate public access	No Opinion/Don't Know
Lakes and Streams	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Woodlands and Forests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Waterfalls	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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19.) Which of the following public resources do you believe needs to have the condition of public access improved?

	Needs improvement	Adequate condition	No Opinion/Don't Know
Lakes and Streams	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Woodlands and Forests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Waterfalls	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20.) Development within the shoreline zone of lakes and rivers should be limited to single-family residential homes.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

21.) In general, how would you rate the water quality of your community's lakes?

- Poor
- Fair
- Average
- Good
- Excellent
- No Opinion/Don't Know



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22.) Are more restrictive development standards (such as lot sizes, setbacks, buffer strips) needed to preserve shorelands and protect the water quality of Iron County's lakes and rivers?

- Yes
- No
- No Opinion/Don't Know

23.) Does enforcement of Iron County's zoning regulations need to be improved to protect water quality in your community?

- Yes
- No
- No Opinion/Don't Know

24.) Which of the following sensitive environmental areas do you support being protected by additional regulations that would limit development occurring within them?

	Additional Protection Needed	No Additional Protection Needed	No Opinion/Don't Know
Critical Wildlife Habitats (deer yards, nesting areas, travel corridors)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wetlands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inland Lakeshores	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
River Shorelines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lake Superior Coastal Areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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25.) How would you rate the following transportation services in your community?

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor	Haven't Used/ Unsure
Road maintenance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snow plowing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Condition of local roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Condition of County roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bicycle trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pedestrian trails/walkways	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ATV/UTV trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snowmobile trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cross country ski trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Airport facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transportation for seniors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transportation for disabled persons	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transportation for education/extracurriculars	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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26.) I would support the following transportation service expansion options in my community (select all that apply):

- Rideshare service, fee-based (such as Uber/Lyft)
- Rideshare service, free (such as Wisconsin DoT RIDESHARE)
- Regional bus route
- Local bus route
- Shuttle service to Gogebic-Iron County Airport
- Car rental service, commercial (such as Enterprise/Hertz)
- Car rental service, peer-to-peer (such as Turo)
- None of the above
- Other (please specify):

27.) I would support additional development of more of the following on public land (select all that apply).

- Bike routes and trails
- Walking and hiking trails
- Cross country ski trails
- ATV/UTV trails
- Snowmobile trails
- Motorized trails designed for family use
- Motorized trails located away from public roads
- Horseback riding trails
- Skateparks
- Playgrounds
- None of the above



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28.) I believe electric vehicle (EV) charging stations are important to my community's future.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

29.) How has the availability of suitable housing in your community changed over the past 20 years?

- Greatly worsened
- Somewhat worsened
- Remained the same
- Somewhat improved
- Greatly improved
- No Opinion/Don't Know

30.) My community has a need for more (select all that apply):

- Single family homes
- Moderately priced homes
- Higher priced homes
- Housing cooperatives
- Duplexes
- Apartments
- Manufactured (mobile) homes
- Mobile home parks
- Housing for seniors
- Public/subsidized housing
- Rehabilitation of existing homes (weatherization, etc.)
- None of the above



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- 31.) Dilapidated/Abandoned buildings and houses are a problem in my community.
- Strongly disagree
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Strongly agree
-
- 32.) Efforts should be made to find funding to restore or demolish old, dilapidated public buildings.
- Strongly disagree
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Strongly agree
-
- 33.) New high-density development (subdivisions, commercial, and industrial uses) should be located:
- In communities where public services (sewer, water, electrical, roads) are already available.
 - Next to communities where public services could be extended relatively cheaply.
 - Anywhere in the County, with or without existing public services.
 - No Opinion/Don't Know



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34.) How would you rate each of the following local services and facilities in your community?

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Terrible	No Opinion/ Don't Know
Town/City Hall	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town/City garage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sanitary/Sewer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Municipal water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Police protection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire protection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ambulance service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health care facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Childcare facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Garbage collection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recycling program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Library	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Broadband internet service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mobile phone service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Zoning enforcement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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- 35.) My property taxes are reasonable considering the County and local public services and facilities that are available.
- Strongly disagree
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Strongly agree
-
- 36.) There are enough job opportunities that pay a sufficient wage to make a decent living in my community.
- Strongly disagree
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Strongly agree
-
- 37.) I would support Iron County's efforts to create new jobs throughout the County.
- Strongly disagree
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Maybe/Depends on type of jobs
 - Somewhat agree
 - Strongly agree
-
- 38.) I support the use of tax dollars to improve public infrastructure (sewer, roads, water) to help attract new development in my community.
- Strongly disagree
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Strongly agree



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- 39.) I support efforts to revitalize existing downtown areas in the County if these efforts are:
- Paid through public tax dollars
 - Supported by private business dollars and/or non-public contributions
 - Supported by a combination of public and private dollars
 - I do not support revitalization of downtown areas
-
- 40.) Please rank in order of importance (1 being *most* important, 10 being *least* important) the types of industry you believe are most important to your community's future.
- _____ Tourism businesses
 - _____ Service businesses
 - _____ Timber resource industries
 - _____ Retail development
 - _____ Agriculture (dairy, tree, and cranberry farms)
 - _____ Light industry/Manufacturing
 - _____ Heavy industry/Manufacturing
 - _____ High tech industries
 - _____ Public Sector, governmental
 - _____ Self-employed/Home tech
-
- 41.) How should possible changes brought on by economic development be balanced to preserve the local community's quality of life?
- Economic development is most important
 - Some loss of community character is acceptable for economic development
 - Preserving community character is most important
 - No Opinion/Don't Know
-
- 42.) Neighboring towns, cities, and counties should identify and work together toward shared goals.
- Strongly disagree
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Strongly agree



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- 43.) How satisfied are you with the level of communication between Iron County government and your community?
- Extremely dissatisfied
 - Somewhat dissatisfied
 - Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
 - Somewhat satisfied
 - Extremely satisfied
-
- 44.) Would you support sharing services with a neighboring community if it afforded a cost savings with no reduction in quality of services?
- Yes
 - No
 - Maybe/Don't Know
-
- 45.) Which Iron County Community do you reside in?
- _____
 - Do not reside in Iron County
 - Prefer not to respond
-
- 46.) Do you own or rent your Iron County dwelling?
- Own
 - Rent
 - Non-resident
 - Prefer not to respond
-
- 47.) Do you own property located on a lake or river in Iron County?
- Yes
 - No
 - Prefer not to respond



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48.) How many years have you owned property or lived in Iron County as either a permanent or seasonal resident?

- 0-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 16-20 years
- Over 20 years

49.) Is your current place of employment located in Iron County?

- Yes
- No
- Retired
- Unemployed
- Prefer not to respond

50.) What is your age?

- Under 21
- 21-30
- 31-40
- 41-50
- 51-60
- Over 60
- Prefer not to respond

51.) Are there children under the age of 19 living in the household?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to respond



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51b.) If yes, list the number of children in each age group.

- Under 5 _____
- 5-10 _____
- 11-18 _____

52.) Do you have access to the internet?

- Yes, at home
- Yes, at work
- Yes, at a public place (such as the library)
- Yes, at home and at work
- No

Thank you for completing the survey.