Community Survey Summary

TOWN OF SARATOGA, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN



In collaboration with:

Wood County Department of Planning & Zoning

SARATOGA EST 1857





INTRODUCTION

The Town of Saratoga began developing a Strategic Plan in the summer of 2018. The purpose of the plan is to define values and priorities of town residents that will guide the future of the community over the next several years.

A public participation strategy was identified early in the planning process to foster public involvement at all stages of the plan's development. Public involvement is important to assure that the plan truly reflects community needs and input from the public. Furthermore, it is essential to the overall success in the implementation of the plan. A community survey was one means of collecting public input. This survey was developed by the Town of Saratoga Plan Commission and Strategic Planning Committee.

The survey gathered information on community values, priorities and attitudes that will shape and guide the future of Saratoga over the next several years. The input collected through this survey will assist the Town of Saratoga in developing a Strategic Plan and guiding vision for the future. Additionally, results of this survey will provide guidance for current and future development decisions over the next several years.

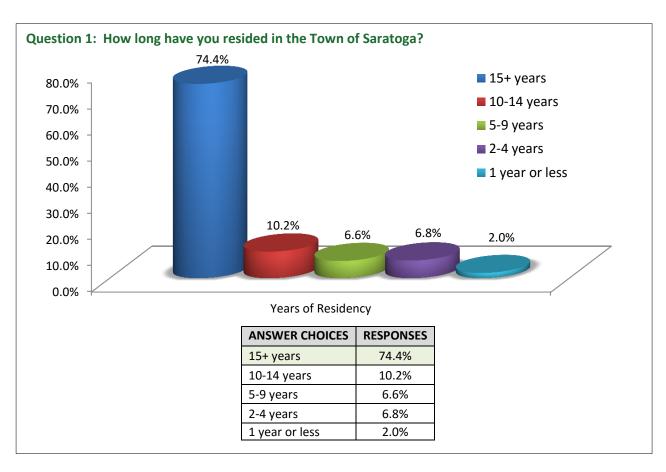
Groundwater
Saratoga
Keep
Commercial
Family Trees
Land Good Community
Residential Forestry Water
Need Desire
Need Desire
Need Desire
LiveRural Quality
Area Roads
Farm Town Zoning
CAFO
River County
Services
Wood

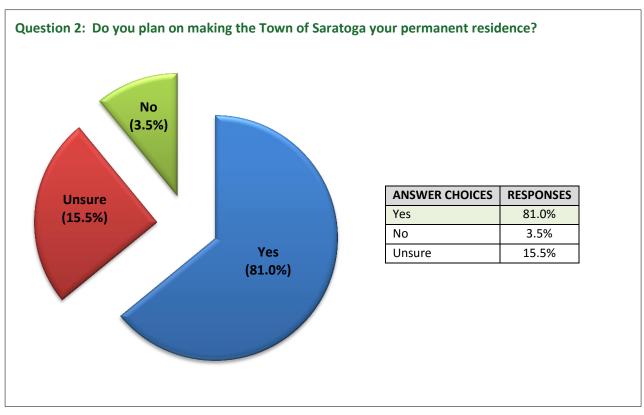
In July 2018, the Town of Saratoga mailed out 2,322 community surveys to each Saratoga household. Additionally, the survey could be completed online. After several weeks, 352 completed surveys were retuned by mail and 141 surveys were completed online – for a total of 493 completed surveys. This equates to a completion/response rate of 21.2%.

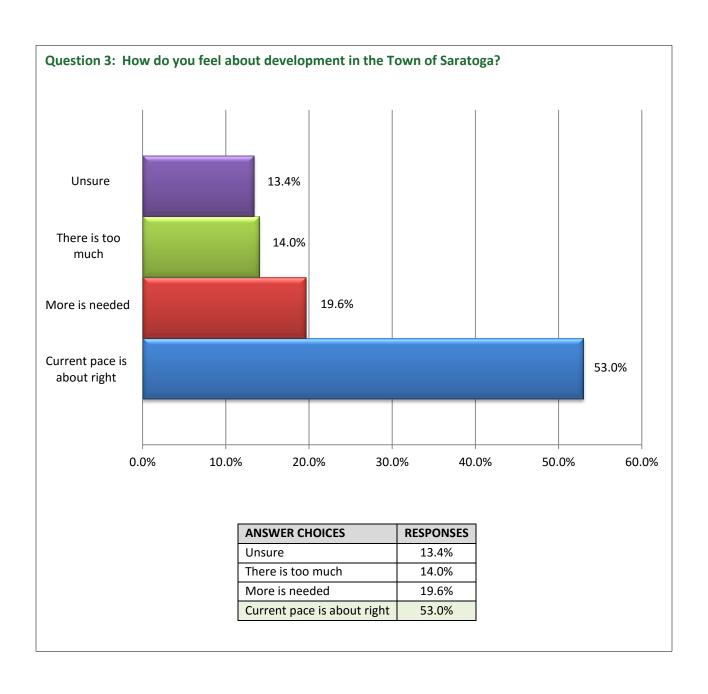
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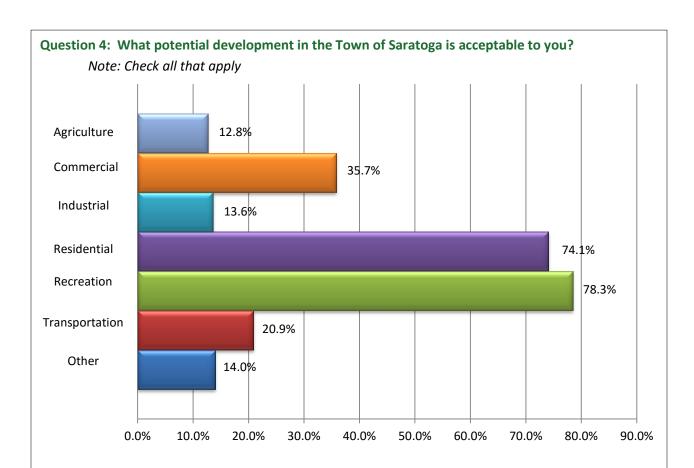
21.2% Total Completion/Return Rate

All survey responses were reviewed and the data was compiled into this survey summary report. The report presents numeric tabulation and graphic representation of the questions and answers in the community survey. In addition to numeric data, respondent's additional comments are provided.



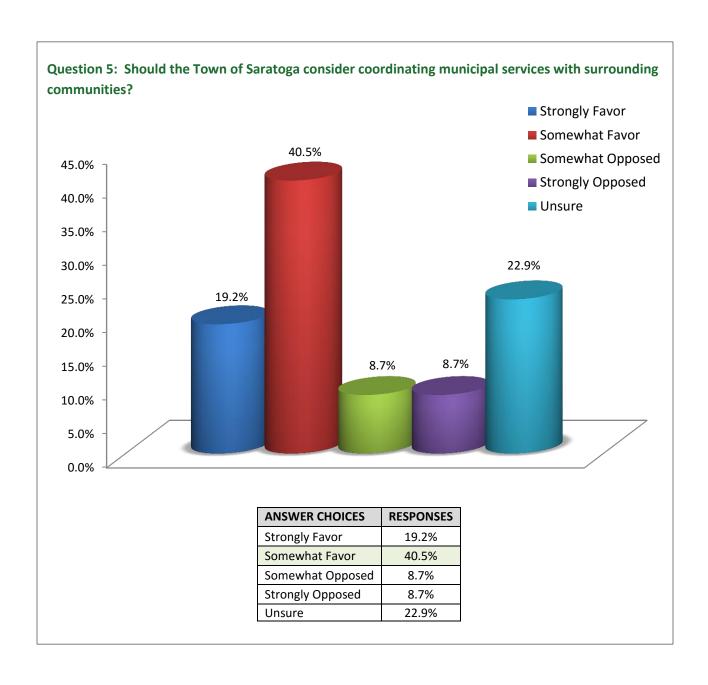


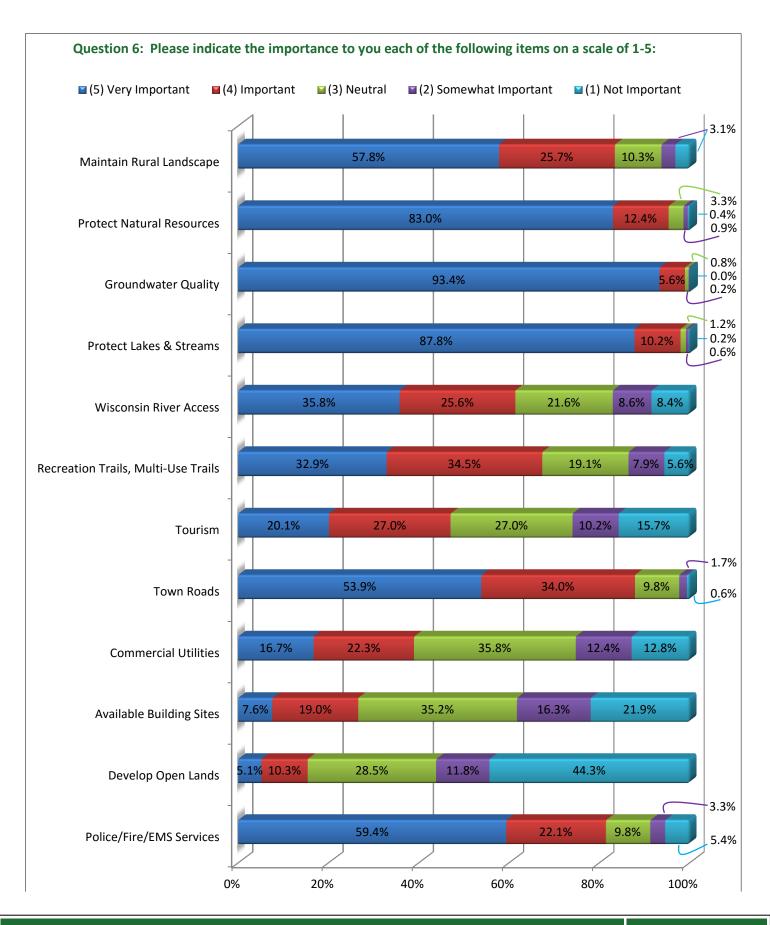




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Agriculture	12.8%
Commercial	35.7%
Industrial	13.6%
Residential	74.1%
Recreation	78.3%
Transportation	20.9%
Other	14.0%

*NOTE: Other comments/acceptable potential development included, but are not limited to: small/light agriculture, business, commercial, and industrial development; Recreation trails (ATV, pedestrian, skiing, etc.); retail; dog park; job center; golf course; motel; water park; industrial forestry; tree farms; hemp farms; forestry; senior center; anything; nothing; grocery store; and commercial development corridor along HWY 13.





Question 6 Continued:

	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
Maintain Rural Landscape	57.8%	25.7%	10.3%	3.1%	3.1%
Protect Natural Resources	83.0%	12.4%	3.3%	0.9%	0.4%
Groundwater Quality	93.4%	5.6%	0.8%	0.2%	0.0%
Protect Lakes & Streams	87.8%	10.2%	1.2%	0.6%	0.2%
Wisconsin River Access	35.8%	25.6%	21.6%	8.6%	8.4%
Recreation Trials, Multi- Use Trails	32.9%	34.5%	19.1%	7.9%	5.6%
Tourism	20.1%	27.0%	27.0%	10.2%	15.7%
Town Roads	53.9%	34.0%	9.8%	1.7%	0.6%
Commercial Utilities	16.7%	22.3%	35.8%	12.4%	12.8%
Available Building Sites	7.6%	19.0%	35.2%	16.3%	21.9%
Develop Open Lands	5.1%	10.3%	28.5%	11.8%	44.3%
Police/Fire/EMS Services	59.4%	22.1%	9.8%	3.3%	5.4%

Question 7: What future vision do you see for the Town of Saratoga?

*NOTE: Responses have been categorized.

Agriculture (126)

- Future vision is hard to foresee if this cattle farm and farming is allowed in the area that they want to do and build there. It will ruin our great tourist and recreation area and water quality that we now have. Where is "common sense." Have them move 15-20 miles to the east of our area where there already is more agriculture and swamp area that won't bother and air and water and recreation quality of life. So sad there just isn't common sense in the government instead of laws and money!! If we can keep this dairy and farming out we will have a "Good Future Here."
- ➤ Keeping the farm out and not crop farming/spread manure is a MUST. I have thought about Saratoga's future for years now (off and on), and if there is any chance I can help with ideas I feel the need to. I do see the need for some type of manufacturing or service that exports a usable product. KI Mobility would be a great example of what I mean. I would like to attend meetings that are working towards Saratoga's future.
- > To win the fight against the CAFO, continued emergency protection, improve town roads and maintain quality of area.
- No Dairy Cow
- Not good if farm comes in
- > If CAFO goes through there will be a great downfall in the Town of Saratoga
- ➤ Hire "BEST LAWYER" FIGHT!! Don't give an inch! don't sell to "CAPOS" they foul our water and air with nitrates.
- I see our township following Town of Grant large fields, no forests, ground water poor (nitrates and like) no farms many buildings taken down and Town of Grand Rapids Homes, big homes, higher taxes and the small township family friendships disappear
- I am opposed to developing more land for individual gain such as a dairy. I live right across the Ten Mile Creek and it would ruin any outdoor activities.
- None if the cows come in.

- > Will be moving if CAFO comes. To stay a "little piece of heaven" like it is now. Great place to raise a family and to be able to enjoy the outdoors.
- The Dairy Farm my 20' point. If water line drops what kind of water will replace what I have now. I believe where we are and heading looks good, can't please everyone. I believe this dairy farm is taking it's toll.
- If the farm goes people will move out, need to stop
- > We're very worried about corporate farming and it's impact on our way of life.
- ➤ NO CAFO #1
- Not much of a future with "Big farming In" not looking good!!
- My future vision is not to see agriculture develop in the Town Saratoga and vision to see a ordinance for lawn care in the Town of Saratoga.
- > Trees, lakes, animals in their natural habitat. Saratoga is a place I moved to be out in the "country" without full moving into the "country". If this mega farm moves in I don't know shat will happen to the beautiful landscape that I originally came to the area for.
- > Low Property taxes, No large commercial dairy farms, No high capacity wells, Protect our good drinking water.
- > Low Property taxes, No commercial Dairy farms, No high capacity wells, Protect our good water.
- No large dairy farms or factory farms as they are called.
- For the future, the Town of Saratoga should be primarily a residential area with good roads and services such as snow plowing, police, fire and EMS services. it should be the type of place where residents can safely walk their pets and babies. It should be zoned aso that residents cannot sell tires, boats, cars etc. from their front yards or driveways. There should be minimal agriculture (no CAFOs) and clean industry with a zoned commercial area. A competitive grocery store would be nice.
- Remaining a quiet, country area to reside in. clean water and air, not worrying about farms threatening why we all live here.
- ➤ Hopefully keep the Dairy Out
- ➤ No CAFO Farm!
- No CAFO
- ➤ I hate to say it but, we see our water being contaminated, and more cancer popping up because of crop dusting fields also the smells from a large farm. We'll be 21/2-3 miles from the farm site. Not looking forward to that. We have excellent water now.
- The township doesn't need a large farm. A campground, parks, along the river would be fantastic. Zoning should be done!! All commercial could and should be in one area. We have a beautiful township.
- ➤ No CAFO!
- ➤ The farm not coming in, I strongly oppose of the farm.
- Rural residential with no CAFO
- Stop the CAFO and save the water and land.
- If farm is allowed to go in our water will be of poor quality which can in turn lower our property value and cost us a lot of money to drill wells and put in water treatment systems. Don't care to see area become more populated.
- do not want to see CAFO Farm come in No big agriculture or commercial developments. Lets keep Saratoga like it is please.
- Dropping value because of cow barn and fields.
- If the CAFO can not be stopped I see No future for town. Question, would it help if homeowners had their wells depth determined before more high capacity wells are drilled?
- Not a CAFO!! With water protected I see noting but a beautiful town, growing and thriving!
- Unfortunately CAFO will hurt the future of Saratoga and surrounding area!
- Enjoying nature without a CAFO
- I would like to see it maintain its family friendly atmosphere. Keeping our natural resources from being polluted or destroyed is vey important. Will make Saratoga my permanent residence unless CAFO comes in.
- There should be a limit to how many dogs a person could have ! Not so much barking !! NO DAIRY FARM Clean Fresh Water more recreation
- Unsure of the future, CAFO scares us, High cap well scares us! Keep the out!
- Better roads, protect ground water. No big farms.

- I see water that will be undrinkable soon, with the farms taking over all available land. Look at (Flint Michigan) Walker will not care just like their governor.
- No CAFO. Rural living
- > If farm goes in not much of a future.
- We see a future of Saratoga without a CAFO or any agriculture that would pollute or deplete our resources such as air and water. If at all possible the land should be repurchased from Wysocki. I would think that the state offers incentives to offset some of this cost.
- > Unsure with Wysocki's fight. Praying they go away! then we can grow our town into beautiful things. Keeping if clean and neat with recreational opportunities to bring in out-of-towners and town residents is a wonderful choice to be used by all Hope to continue raising our kids here and them to always call this area our home. Unsure about permanent residence with the dairy farm.
- The smell of cow manure. lower water ground table high nitrates in well water, loss of wild forests, property values dropping, disinterest of families to reside near CAFO's
- we are very happy with the way our town is now. We DO NOT want the CAFO here. We have been living here for 26 years now and love the rural setting. We don't want our town to end up like the Town of Armenia.
- Not good if the farm goes in.
- > Possible sale of our home if CAFO comes in !!! :(
- ➤ No CAFO!
- ➤ Keep CAFO's out!
- > Bad if the Dairy Farm comes in our area! Hopefully they will not come here, we like it the way it is now!
- No Factory Farms
- If CAFO goes through we are doomed. I want things to stay the same as 30 years ago in that aspect. Plenty of land away from town they could have passed not our perfect water-air-soil. Many truck drivers in Saratogawe need parking for them, Saratoga Mini Mart is full. Accommodate them somehow.
- No CAFO
- > If we don't get this farm stopped I think Saratoga will fail and turn into a ghost town.
- continued growth at the pace it has been. The town seems to be evolving at a rate that it can handle currently having a CAFO or similar business come into town seems like it would upset the current balance.
- Future should be good as long as the CAFO is stopped. If it isn't stopped I see the town having no future. It will be destroyed and I see residents leaving.
- Stop Wysocki to save our resources !!
- > To keep Wysocki out this farming! Keep it as pristine as it is.
- ➤ Keep as is. Hopefully no farm Keep our trees and water clean.
- > CAFO free, with great drinking water, and fresh air!
- ➤ No commercial farms cows polluting our water!
- Future looks dim if the cow farm is built,
- Not very good if CAFO comes in !!
- Not good. The town should buy up some of the Wysocki farm land to keep out CAFO & could put land into stewardship program.
- Water issue (CAFO) very concerning !!!
- > Very worried about large dairy farming and high cap wells, want to protect land values and concerned about health issues such farming would impact.
- No CAFO clan air, clean water, peaceful environment.
- Worried about water quality (drinking & lakes and streams) if large farms come in.
- Hope fully no farm to turn the wood areas into prairie lands and maybe dry up or pollute or ground water wells
- I would like regulations enforces on clean up of junked years, vehicles not licensed and unable. Especially on Hwy 73 and some of the side streets. Need to prevent slum areas. Keep the CAFO OUT OF THE TOWN.
- Not good for the town if CAFO Farm is allowed to come in to build and clan all of the woodlands.
- ➢ No CAFO
- We don't need a CAFO (major farm) to disrupt groundwater and the environment.

- ➤ Because I live in the Southern part of Saratoga it all hinges on the CAFO. Every effort should be used to keep it out and I give a big THANK YOU to the town board for their efforts. I have lived here for 35 years but unfortunately will probably move it comes.
- Well if the shit farm goes in future vision pretty bleak. I will probably look for some other place to live. Not by any cow farm for sure.
- No ATV, UTV routes on roads designed for cars and trucks. Legal marijuana. No CAFO's
- Satisfied with status quo. Want to preserve our trees. If farm goes in very bleak, sad dangerous future Not my vision. If CAFO succeeds, all of the above is a mute point, but thank you for trying.
- The CAFO would be taking our reason to survive a normal life. Destroying resources, health, animals, recreation. Business coming in for hunting, fishing, license sports, skiing mostly clean air and pure water. CAFO would Kill it all by losing the value of our homes. Wearing roads down, knowing from many other CAFO's all in central Wisconsin
- > I would like to see it as a smaller, family oriented place. Not a large, corporate farm that pollutes my drinking water and destroys my life. Once the water is unfit to drink, there is no fixing it.
- > small family farms, clean air & water
- Keep Farm Out!
- ➤ Keep property taxes down watch our water quality especially with recent issues in Wood Necedah w-Wysocki Farms & high nitrate levels that causes cancer and homes cannot be sold - lost all their value. Keep clean - good roads.
- > Keep things as they are, a nice place to live with clean air, great drinking water, quiet, decent taxes and peaceful. Fight CAFO until all options are exhausted.
- Recreational trails (hiking, cross-country, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, ATV), small family farms-OK, woodlands.
- No CAFO. Splash pad/things to do with kids/as a family.
- The trend seems to be in recent years, is that people want to live in the country, but they don't want to live on a working farm. They want the peace & quiet & the recreational activities, but they don't want to be a farmer. Saratoga property used to be a hot seller. It could be once again, once the CAFO threat goes away.
- No large farms. Good drinking water. Keep it close to a rural setting. Let the other communities do the developing. I would rather see it as a residential place instead of commercial or farming.
- No CAFO
- No Factory Farms. A great place to live or visit
- Very concerned about the CAFO. I have been here over 40 years and very concerned about the water being contaminated, at 86 I am not sure I could afford a new well.
- No CAFOS or other devastation like them! If Wysocki land fall through and "If" that land is developed, hopefully, it could be promoted as a "9 mile forest" (Wausau) or Winter Park (Minocqua) type area winter activities, snowshoe, X-country, walking trails, fat tire bike trails, camping, Return to prairie land, "green burial" site area for model plane flying
- No CAFO
- No Factory Farms in our neighborhood
- Concerning the CAFO Farm There's lots being done about the water quality and quantity, but that's not everything. Let's inform the residents of the constant crop dusting planes that will be flying over our heads misting us with chemicals and pesticides. Also the stench of manure. When their fertilizing the fields on a warm summer night, we'll be in our houses with the windows closed. It happens in Armenia. One more topic that must be made aware to the deer hunters and deer watchers. If Wysocki gets his farm and its in his crops the deer will come to eat. He could go to the DNR and ask for AG tags and he will get them. Its happened in Saratoga before. Wolosek on Hwy 13 cut all those trees, put in crops and then cried to the DNR. He got his AG tags. He now has fences. I don't this it possible for Wysocki to fence in his proposed fields. I think these topics should also be brought attention to the residents of Saratoga. Keep up the field. Thank you.
- Gov. Scott Walker is for CAFO and Krug says nothing and does nothing. Yet Wood County voted Republican. Wise up! Lets hope CAFO is DEFEATED
- ➤ We will move out if CAFO is built
- A mainly residential town that gives an opportunity to residents to own a small business or hobby farm

- ➤ Hopefully no CAFO and constant vigilance on protecting our natural resources so they don't become less and unsustainable.
- Keeping out large scale business that threaten our ground water, lakes and streams and recreational area's. Cafo's, mining companies etc. Our community is very sought after for recreational play and country living. We have a new golf course in Adams County (Sand Valley) that is bringing in tourists with their own personal planes from all over the country. To allow any large company to come in and destroy that and the families in this township is unthinkable. We have the best of all worlds here, country living, close to larger towns ample water play...why mess with heaven..! I see Saratoga staying as it is....
- Wisconsin Rapids Ambulance being discontinued and Nekoosa Ambulance brought back response time to south part of Saratoga by WR ambulance is not acceptable and Nekoosa will have an ambulance in Rome in the near future. Keep the farm out and keep the area country it is why I live here. Recreation trails are okay. Don't develop commercially partner with Rome for more services/activities. BRING BACK NEKOOSA AMBULANCE!!
- A bright future unless the CAFO starts operation
- Maintain our rural character and allow small business's to start easily and flourish. No large farms or CAFO's.
- Nice place to live WITHOUT a CAFO
- We need to keep the CAFO out of Saratoga to protect our water and environment. I believe a lot of people will move out of Saratoga if the CAFO ever gets approved.
- > Small rural community with a healthy environment & good level of business activity. Clean air & water & recreation activities. Low taxes & sufficient services from the town. NO CAFO or other large farms or agricultural activities. Small hobby farms would be okay.
- Never really gave it much thought until the CAFO issue came up. Don't turn in the tourism similar to the Town of Rome. Keep residential, rural community. Small farming. Develop walking/bicycling trails in/around the Church/Ranger Rd area.
- To continue to be a peaceful community. Do not allow CAFO to put in a commercial farm. Will destroy the water and people will not want to move to our township.
- > One without a CAFO... I would like to see us work with the town of Rome to build hotel/motel and other possible business/retail situations. The addition of the trap shooting area and Sand Valley are huge and we are right in the way between the airport and their final destination..
- WYSOCKI-Free
- One without factory farms!
- No Commercial Farms to ruin our ground water
- ➤ No Wysocki CAFO!
- Rural recreational community, with good water and air, rural living amongst the natural amenities of this area. No place for polluting air fowling Mega farms. Those who think dust and cowshit smell and high nitrate water are a good diet, should move to Juneau County, Southern Door County or Southern Minnesota.
- > Not certain yet, do have concern how much "CAFO" will impact the entire region.
- Maintain current structure, no CAFO, build a Kwik Trip
- NO CAFOS & NO MORE HI CAP WELLS. Regulation enforcement for those wells already here. Regulation enforcement of agricultural lands already in use as it pertains to fertilizers, pest control, etc. They all seep into the ground and run off into the Wisconsin River. What good is Wisconsin River access if the water is so green you can mow it? It does no good for the counties and cities north of us to control runoff if Wood County and Saratoga don't follow along?
- Stay rural, farms and single family homes.
- ➤ Develop as it is. Keep small farms 80 to 160 acres no cafos and do residential development with large lots Commercial development should be towards tourism and service industry and shopping and restaurants. We desperately need a brush site on west side of town. Even if you staff it and only open once a week or two rimes a month for several hours and publicize and make show resident ID.
- Safe, healthy place to live. Without damaging CAFO coming in destroying our land and water
- > I do not want to completely discount Agriculture development, however, I am opposed to a CAFO in town boundaries. With the guiet rural life and guality of water here, I see the town's potential primarily in building

- more residential developments, along with increased recreational opportunities and some commercial business to support those recreational opportunities.
- I would like to see the Town of Saratoga stay pretty much the same or with gradual/limited commercial development. I definitely do NOT want to see a CAFO or farm fields in the center of our town destroying our pure water, water levels, air quality, roads, and landscape.

Environment (90)

- More tourism available. Keep our water attractions clean and all ground water systems clean and in tack. Keep the country atmosphere.
- No streams, poor water, smell of cow shit
- Maintaining and encouraging the natural health, beauty and diversity of the environment; air, water and forest quality. People are drawn to the natural wonder of WI, not bad air, polluted waters, clear-cuts. We deserve the right to a clean environment, not one polluted by a few who make a profit at our/natures expense.
- hopefully protecting our water.
- Good water, clean air, natural Landscapes are the Life blood of Saratoga and have "created' it! Loss of these desirable qualities will be it's death Knell, along with mass concentration of animals, manure, and decline of usable water. (Taking with it the polluting forces which caused it, for Lack of water and breathable air!) In West Texas, decades ago excess use of ground water caused ground water levels., of irrigation, to fall hundreds of feet in some areas. Lubbock, Texas's nearest source of water, even by deep well, was 50 miles outside of Town! It was not possible to produce & vertical turbine pump which could lift water to ground levels in existing 8" casings! Either 10" to 12" New wells, or then maybe still no water!!! Decline of ground water levels (in addition to pollution!) here might A) cease water for us with 25' deep shallow well pumps, We are many! B) Drilled wells, new would cost us \$7,000 to \$10,000 each at least and maybe still be polluted! C) If water levels decline, leaving empty underground cavities, sink holes would develop just as in Florida! Concentration of weight would cause collapse of structures: such as: 1) houses, grades, etc 2) barns (source ???) with cattle ! 3) buildings like a Town Hall ! 4) roads and bridges D) who? if any; would be financially (even morally) responsible for all this property damage; possibly Loss of Life ??!!! Where's the underground source of our Saratoga perfect water ???? Lake Superior? Lake Michigan? Mississippi? Natural glacial deposit? (NON replenishable!!!) Rain? (I don't think so!) Somebody better Know!!! (This response was also submitted on another survey)
- Saratoga is a great place to live! We should maintain our rural landscape, natural resources, ground water quality, keep up town roads. Think about getting our own police fire and EMS services. Our town board has bee doing a good job (for many years). I would discourage tourism, too much recreational items, and commercial utilities.
- I like the way things are now...would prefer to not see any future growth which adversely affects ground water
- rural foot print.
- Hopefully keeping the woods more.
- Much of the land remaining woods. Primarily residential with small businesses in proper locations.
- Hopefully a vision of clean water to encourage tourists and fishermen and also clean air.
- Keep as natural as possible protecting our natural resources. Recreation opportunities, keeping our area more about natural beauty, attracting tourists to visit area. Would like to see our homes (residential) fixed.
- I would like to keep our rural landscape as much as possible. recreational development is fine as long as the landscape remains beautiful Horseback riding trails, and canoe rides, golf courses are all great for tourism, which brings in revenue. I would like to see more family friendly things because this is a family oriented community.
- > I want Saratoga to stay this nice beautiful place to live. Let's keep up the fight to keep our resources in place.
- None we like it the way it is.
- Keep out town the same town it is now.
- > Leave our groundwater alone.
- Protecting our natural resources, water, lakes, and town roads. Town to own housing for seniors, make some money for the town so people don't have to move.

- Too protect our clean air and good water quality without either of these, a good life is not possible. The town needs to protect our property values as we pay quite high taxes!
- Keeping our water quality!
- Very disappointed we lost the fight for the cow situation on Hwy 13. I love my good water. So extremely important.
- > I see wells with high nitrates and chemicals or drying up, air pollution and poor quality of life.
- ➤ I (we) would love to see our rural community maintain the feel we moved here for. Growth must preserve our natural resources and suit the wishes of the residents. We would like to see an ATV/UTV park interlinked with surrounding communities. Residential development also. Saratoga as permanent residence; as long as land use change isn't detrimental to our quality of life.
- Hopefully a place to raise families in a clean unspoiled area.
- we would like to see Saratoga stay like it is because we were both city born and raised and we live the "country setting" such as it is.
- I would like it to remain as it always has been. A good place to live and raise your family.
- > Good drinking water, minimal population, protection for lakes and streams and trees.
- If wysocki's have their way the Town has no future with no good water, no one will want to live here. People will have to abandon their homes. who will buy them? With every breath, you smell manure. Wake up call for our Town Board Don't put off doing anything that's this important !!!
- I think it is important to maintain the wooded areas and not do a lot of subdividing like Grand Rapids. Growth in areas that support commercial land is fine as long as it doesn't impact the quality of living or everyone else. We live here because we enjoy nature and clean air & water. Having our own land to enjoy is important.
- Reason we located in the Twin of Saratoga was the quiet solitude nearby lakes, river, streams and woodlands. We also like the ability to snowmobile from our backyard to the main corridor trails. We have generous tourism to the south, golfing lakes, traps shooting heavy industry in Nekoosa and Wis. Rapids for job opportunity. Saratoga makes a great place to live with opportunities nearby. Leave it the way it is. County Law enforcement works well no reason to have local police enforcement. Contract EMS.
- We must keep our trees at all costs. We feel the Town of Saratoga is quite perfect as is. I know many residents would buy additional land around their property if they have the opportunity and the price was reasonable. Please continue the battle to save our town. Thank you.
- Maintain rural landscape
- > Maintain the rural atmosphere and the real estate values while providing services for residents.
- Maintain the rural way of life, but grow the community with new development that adds value while preserving the environment.
- ➤ 1. that we always have the purest and cleanest drinking water. 2. that we always have clean air to breath in. 3. that people stop throwing out their garbage on to the roadside. 4. That people keep better control of their barking dogs. 5. that our Real Estate taxes are more affordable How does this survey compare to the 2002 Saratoga Community Land Use Survey ?? What do people Want ??
- ➤ Keep the rural, urban setting. don't get too commercialized. Thanks for all the work you have done, esp. in the last 6 years.
- Keep it clean and organized.
- A nice quiet, clean (air & water) place to raise a family.
- Maintain the majority of the rural landscape and protecting our water resources while doing enough commercial development to enjoy some of the benefits that Rome is getting from their recreational opportunities.
- Protect our water, streams, and lakes. Also as stated above maintain rural landscape, protect our natural resources. Develop some recreation and tourism.
- Stay the same
- An attractive country living community that is safe and healthy for all. A fresh smelling environment that any person would be proud to call home.
- Nice quiet place to live where no one bothers you.
- Keep it the same as is.
- Comfortable safe !! quiet friendly healthy !! not busy ! Please
- > PRESERVE NATURAL RESOURSES, NOT OVER DEVELOPE.

- > COMMUNITY UNITED TO PROTECT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES, IN LEIR OF OVER DEVELOPOMENT.
- > clean air and water. No industrial or agriculture business, that will ruin our water and air. Nekoosa ambulance for people that live close to Nekoosa.
- Maintain rural landscape. Keep out agricultural & commercial big business.
- Keep it slowly growing no BIG (ugly) changes that jeopardize our current way of life here!
- Natural beauty keeping forests and lakes in similar state, quiet and not tourist filled.
- Continued rural residential landscape with good police/fire/Ems services and cleanup improvement, or removal of eyesore properties.
- > Keep it rural & protect the natural resources especially the drinking water. Peace & quiet for the people and the natural wildlife.
- Clean water, soil and air. Good place to live.
- > Staying as much as possible like it is now. Pine plantation average could be developed for archery range, walking trails, kite flying, model airplanes and drones, paintball gun fights or a landing strip and storage buildings for ultralight aircraft and powered paragliding.
- clean air clean water
- > to stay sort of Rural
- > To remain a country setting
- We built our home here 6 years ago because of the ability to dig our own pond and live in rural area with many natural resources also the great water quality. We like Saratoga the way it is quiet and great wooded area with lots of wild life and Great Water!!!
- Not sure what the4 need for #5 is? Like the town the way it is. Have growth in Rome, people can flow to Saratoga. Keep the trees and replace as in the past. Some bike trails or low key trails-not 4 wheeler to add noise.
- Ground water quality, save the 7 mile creek
- Residential/Recreational clean water and fresh air lots of trees maybe a little more about our streams, River, and Beautiful trails and Country landscape only a few minutes from shopping and restaurants MOSTLY CLEAN WATER AND AIR NO CAFO'S OR MANURE FIELDS
- Above all protect our Natural Resources!
- Maintain rural family community
- Maintain it as a rural residential area.
- I see it as a small rural community partnering with surrounding communities to cut cost of municipal services to lower taxes. It shouldn't be interested in further commercial development or government growth.
- rural area with peaceful streams, parks, forest. Good water and air quality.
- Continue with rural America. People choose this lifestyle for a reason. Bringing in businesses is not important if it disrupts the lifestyle that the residents of Saratoga want.
- A good and safe place to raise a family without oppressive regulations or taxation.
- For the groundwater to not get contaminated with nitrites or bacteria.
- > Environmentally clean place to live and play. Abundance of Recreational opportunity's available to everyone.
- Stay rural
- A safe place to affordably raise a family and retire.
- > stay the same
- Small community feel in an area close to Wisconsin Rapids, it would be good to maintain this feel.
- An environmental friendly destination highlighting the Wisconsin River asset, birding in forest and public lands, nature centers.
- Should stay as it is. growth and development is not necessary.
- A beautiful and safe rural township. Recreational trails for residents and visitors to enjoy nature. Clean drinking water!!
- ➤ I like Saratoga the way it is. We need to keep up with the times, but we don't need to lead the way. Keep it simple. Don't get silly ideas about providing services we don't really need--like the First Responders that are the last ones to the scene!!
- > clean, private, pristine, nature

- We are happy with the way it is. We like the rural/forested agricultural community that is what attracted us to the Town of Saratoga.
- We live in Saratoga because we do not want to live right inside the city with neighbors right outside our window. We want to keep it that way.
- Quiet, nature, forests, water ways
- Remaining a rural residential community with clean air, clean and plentiful drinking water, abundant wildlife, and a quiet peaceful place to live.
- ➤ Balanced and sustainable management of our natural resources in the township soil / water / forests supporting our rural quality of life and work. Intensive agriculture should be managed closely to protect groundwater resources. Balance is the key. Our sandy soils are much better suited for silviculture (growing trees) on large acreages than intensive agriculture on large acreages.
- would like to see a pleasant rural community
- > Keep it as country and natural as possible. No infrastructure development would be fine.
- To remain basically the way it is...
- Please keep our township of Saratoga just the way it is!
- I would like to see Saratoga remain a healthy, safe and small community. We would like to be able to trust our water is safe to drink and our air is safe to breath.

Town (56)

- Keeping a close eye Wysocki Farm. People who think they own the land right to the road. Putting stuff on edge of land and road so people don't come on their grass.
- Find someone who can enforce the noise and speed laws on Hwy 13 so.
- > I hope to see growth in positive ways, but maintaining production with healthy concerns to all citizens
- > Shouldn't have to go out of township to get rid of leaves and brush. Don't want any mega farms. Protect our water
- Start a sewage plant and eliminate all the septic tanks and mound systems. Could be done hooking up with Wisconsin Rapids sewer system by the airport.
- Maintaining current taxes and keeping water quality as it is currently.
- > We desperately require a brush disposal provision that is available at least one day a week. It should be monitored and provided through a minimal fee system. We live in wooded areas and brush occurs and requires removal for fire safety. Please help us.
- I would like to see our township relax more in regards to building standards allowing alternative building styles such as straw bale homes.
- They should join Wis Rapids, Biron, Port Edwards, Rome, Nekoosa to get things accomplished. It will help all the taxpayers in the area, the sooner the better.
- > To be a safe and efficient corridor to out adjacent communities.
- We love it here, but wish that some of the real bad looking yards and houses get cleaned up so this community stays looking nice! Our property values need to stay high! We have worked very hard on ours!
- Not very pretty Ranger Rd and Church Ave are slums need to clean up properties (looks like Milwaukee slums)
- ➤ Would like the culvert replaced between Evergreen and Mill on 64th Street.
- Like the way is now keep taxes low. Own 6 parcels do not live in Saratoga
- A smaller town with residents that can take pride in their surroundings and feel safe with the water quality that is great for all.
- > We see the town as staying fairly quiet and peaceful, were the air is fresh and the water is pure.
- Growth & development cheaper taxes
- Partnering/developing with Rome expansion to widen our tax base \$. Keeping water clean and available to all residents (CAFO-NO)
- > "no Joke" a lawsuit. More people are using Church Ave. as a commute. People walking, riding bikes, jogging. More vehicles are using Church Ave. within the last 4 years. It's only a matter of time that someone will get hurt or killed due to the ever increasing speeds that some vehicles attain. Semi-trucks are starting to use Church Ave. also (evening hours) Church Ave is not rated for semi use.
- I hope the community continues to grow. I hope that the area does't become undesirable.

- I think the Town should pay more attention to what goes on in the Township.
- If our Town board doesn't stay on their toes we will be seeing more challenges like the CAFCO deal which could have been avoided years ago if board would have implemented and passed regulations then.
- Saratoga is a crossroads for Rome Nekoosa Rapids. It would be nice to have services that people would want to stay in our area. Having the woods and wildlife, recreational venues, historical interests are all things that can make our town attractive to others.
- Basically to stay as is. We have a nice clean and quiet township. We have great town leaders and
- > BLEAK THANKS TO TOWN BOARD NOT ZONING WHEN THEY SHOULD HAVE!
- ➤ 1. I would like to see zoning. 2. Need to improve water quality. 3. Need a noise ordinance People who get up at 6 AM for work shouldn't have M80's exploding across the road at 1 AM on July 7.
- Wondering if I will have water enough to live here. Hate to move because my property will probable be worth less, have no equity, to be able to relocate. Board dropped the ball with the keeping of large industries out of our area.
- Set time limits on terms of officers and supervisors work with Wood County and adjoining municipalities follow existing and new ordinances equally for all spend tax income wisely - Support all taxpayers equally
- Looking at this town, I see a gradual morphing from a rural community into a suburban "thing". I do not know as encouraging development is good, ass the quality of life decreases concomitantly.
- > Please make it a quiet and pleasant town to live in
- > I would like to stay low tax while still having decent existing roads. Saratoga is a nice place to line and we would like it to stay that way. We are very much against the proposed CAFO or things like that
- > I think our vision goes hand in hand with the perception of the area when you physically drive/see the township. The WI DNR refers to the area as the "Southern Forest," the perception then is forested land and a sense of Wisconsin "Up North" to the southern WI and Illinois residents. The town is centrally located in the state with two major state highways crossing. Boarded to the west by the Is River, North by Nepco Lake, South by the Town of Rome vacation area, Saratoga Town is the connector The perception is forest, lakes rivers, creeks, paper manufacturing and Outdoor recreation. The vision is to maintain the perception and enhance the tourism offered to the south and develop the small retail and commercial services that complement the services offered by business in Wisconsin Rapids, and Nekoosa. *Develop the access points to Nepco Lake and the WI River for kayak and canoeing. *Promote canoeing of the WI River from Saratoga access to the boat landing on Z. *Partner with Wi River Power Company and improve the boat landing on Highway Z. *Connect the bike paths in Rome with the bike paths to Nekoosa and WI Rapids. *Town should research the land purchase of the former golf driving range on 13S and develop partnership with private sector for recreation development, residential area, or Business Park similar to what Town of Roam did. *Encourage development, work with developers to build larger 5 acre residential building sites. *Develop concept idea of Wilderness Park for the use of ATV, Hiking, Snowmobile, Hunting, ect. incorporating the CAFO land and the land along the WI river owned and managed by WI River Power Company. Look for private sector, state, and philanthropist funding. *Develop town identity and logo, install welcome signage at the 4 major highway entrance points.
- ➤ I'm a new homeowner (< 5 years) so I don't have all of the history and background; but I'm in favor coordinated growth in the area with Nekoosa and Rapids to support the new businesses including Sand Valley and the new residential growth at NEPCO. More jobs from new areas is good for the long term stability of the region, can't just be the paper mills and agriculture. A balanced approach with diversification feels best to me. Thank you for asking my opinion.
- ➤ a healthy community with plenty of healthy activities; a safe community economy of scale in sharing resources with other communities; a pleasant place to live without concern re environmental contaminants and other pollutions (including noise)
- ➤ The Economic development attitude of the Town of Saratoga has been and continues to be "you come to us" - "the Town does not seek you out" - the Town has no outreach economical development program to aggressively pursue residential and commercial development - having a Comprehensive Plan sitting on the shelf collecting dust is not economical development. The Town offers its citizens little or no amenities other than garbage pick up and a place to haul your brush. No boat landing or river access - not one family recreational area - not a single park - reminiscent of how our Town Board sat and watched while our neighbors developed and implemented land use programs and zoning - our lagging behind has cost our Town dearly. The scheduled Aug. 12 meeting ought to shed some light as to the future direction of the Town.

- South Wood county is on a path of decline to just holding it's own. The surrounding area is growing. Look at Point, plover, Marshfield and Wausau areas. We need good paying jobs and things to keep young people in the area.
- > stay a small town
- A moderately populated rural community with balance between homes/businesses and woodlands. Utilization of the highway 13 corridor for small low impact businesses that complement the surrounding rural setting without placing a strain on the available natural resources.
- I like things just the way they are....I moved out of town just for this reason, to watch the wildlife, the tranquility, and the quite neighborhood. My own little piece of heaven.
- ➤ I think we need a bike path on 64th st. and also 52nd. The traffic can be heavy at times and ALWAYS fast. I never see any sheriff cars checking for speeders. Very dangerous for people that try to go for a walk or bike ride:(
- > The most economical, efficient, and enforceable zoning is county comprehensive zoning. The Town of Saratoga does not have the resources to effectively administer zoning. Uniform county comprehensive zoning protects the health, safety and general welfare of all property owners while also protecting the environments physical and natural resources.
- ➤ Hopeful that our governance is able to work amicably with entities if future regulations are imposed on our town. Hatred is poison.
- I would like to see our town continue to be a safe place to live. It's country living but with the amenities we need nearby. I like not having the rules of a subdivision but I do want my air and water quality to be protected.
- > With the expanding of the golf course to the south, we need to do more to attract more business and offer residential housing.
- > Bedroom community for Wisconsin Rapids and Stevens Point. A a great place to raise children and to retire in. We do need excellent schools. Businesses should stay on 13 and 73.
- ➤ KEEP IT A CLEAN BEAUTIFUL RURAL COMMUNITY.
- ➤ Keep it simple and rural. Don't even think about connecting to city sewer/water. Don't start our own fire, police, EMS, etc.
- > If the Town could purchase the Plum Creek land and develop it into a subdivision area with lots for sale.
- An oasis from the development and commercialization of area. Keeping it a great place to raise a family and retire.
- As the 2nd largest township in the state, and as someone who grew up in the township, I believe it is important to sustain the rural landscape, but also be selective when it comes to commercial development. It will always be more fiscally responsible to regionalize in regard to emergency services, but the town's elected leadership must understand the differences in delivery systems and ensure citizens get the most bang for their tax dollar.
- > Develop multi compost site, walking/hiking/biking trails. Maintain our reasonable tax base, increase some for the above mentioned.
- Enact a plan including proactive policies, procedures, and ordinances to maintain the rural and natural feel while allowing for strategic and well thought out development that provides long term benefits and revenue to the community as a whole, not single business interests; jobs and revenue are great, but if no one can live here, there is no point and the business will ultimately fail. The may require additional permitting, access management (driveways), culverts, ditching, etc. to allow for controlled development yet preserving the environment and future flexibility as needs change. Exceptional police, fire, EMS, and transportation is key.
- ➤ We don't need our own EMS, fire, or police!!! What a waste of money. Nekoosa and wood count get there before our first responders do now.
- EMS/ Police/Fire services available for our town and lower tax rates.
- The trash around some residential homes on Church Ave, near HWY 13 are absolutely disgusting! HAVE THEM CLEAN UP THEIR YARDS!! I see some homes have newer/blue street addresses for the end of their driveways...why some and not others? Can you buy them?! Send out newsletters to keep us all informed...I feel like there is no communication between the town hall and residents-surprised to even get this letter in the mail! Thanks for our opinions though!
- A very good area for future homes & family's, and a perfect area for small to medium sized businesses, that will bring more income to our family's, and a better taxation base for our town. Forget the YMCA's and the

- playgrounds, that will come after the job market improves. The Town of Saratoga has the potential for business/job growth--promote it !!!
- Lower property taxes, better road maintenance- winter: snowplowing, summer: garbage, and lastly but most importantly: NO CAFO!!! and replace the board members that got us into this expensive mess! They should have foreseen this situation coming.

Recreation (20)

- More recreational development such as ATV trails, public fishing access, public golf course, camping sites along river. 2. Commercial growth so a person doesn't have to go to Rapids to shop. 3. Improve condition of roads 4. More residential development of available land.
- Recreational/residential tourism oriented slowly converting Norway Pine stands to natural forest. Getting Wysocki OUT OF HERE! Thank you Town Board and Protect Wood County. God Bless you.
- > Horse riding for public, water park for all ages, ATV park for public, hiking and biking trails
- Perhaps more recreation!
- ATV/UTV should be restricted further from roads. Wrong kind of tourist and trails. Need walking and bicycle trails in with development planning. Need to use other police/fire EMS services and not reinvent tax drains where it makes sense.
- A nice vacation area where hikers, fishermen, hunters, ATVers, snowmobilers can enjoy the rural landscape.
- > A indoor/outdoor swim center work out facility
- ➤ More ATV trails and routes
- > Public boat landing on West side Nepco Lake. complete ATV access. Bike/walking path.
- > Would like to see it as a recreational and retirement community.
- Like to see more rec trails, tourism.
- Simplicity- bike trails/walking trails wildlife refuge area
- Recreation tourism golfing hiking skiing cross country. Keep roads in good condition
- I can certainly see the Town of Saratoga extending the bike path from Nekoosa. There are some beautiful areas to share with enthusiasm and maybe finding an area along the Wisconsin River to rent kayaks and canoes. This could also help start a few convenience type stores in the area.
- Make a pistol and rifle shooting/training range to go with the trap shoot range in Adams Co. No CAFO
- Would like to see a park, ATV trails, Housing
- It would be good to have bike/walk lanes on roads like Church Avenue. Dangerous when you don't because of speeding cars.
- > ATV Park & Waterpark would be a great idea!
- > I'd like to see the development of more recreation and tourism in the area. I would also like to see better road maintenance as in fixing the rough roads and better plowing/sanding in winter.
- Misc thoughts... If a rec trail was designated non-motorized in summer, it would be ok. Example bicycle in summer... snowmobile in winter. Also when are we going to fix that rough bump in 64th St just S of Mill?

Residential (17)

- Residential, with access to trails, "keep the trees"
- Remain rural residential. Maintain beauty, quietness and water quality.
- I lived on Lake Camalot before I moved here to gods country. Heed I say more. The only thing wrong is the Wosakis looming over us.
- I would love to see nice homes and parks with good police, fire protection, our schools could consolidate. don't let people pile junk around their property we look at it every day.
- Remain as a residential retirement community with some recreational opportunities.
- Residential development, hiking, biking, and ATV trails.
- We want to see a calm, peaceful, mostly residential area with people spread apart enough to breathe. Saratoga has been our home for over 30 years and we want to keep it that way.
- More residential & recreation, with small businesses to serve our community
- More residential and recreational development
- Residential, Recreation with various scattered businesses thru out township.
- Residential development

- Residential, bedroom community only.
- Maintain the residential/recreational aspect of the town. Recreational/multi-use trails may be a good use of some of the available land. Outdoor recreational facilities may be a good fit to go with the development going on to the south of our town.
- A residential community with natural beauty, a focus on outdoor and recreational access and opportunities as well as adding some additional retail stores.
- > The best place for residential development
- Residential area with favorable property taxes to sustain current level of services
- ➤ I believe that the Town of Saratoga should remain mostly residential for several reasons. 1) Clean water and air is essential to all residents and the environmental natural resources. 2) Our roads are quite nice and thus should allow only a minimum of heavy equipment traffic. 3) I don't think anyone wants noisy crop dusters flying over us at 5AM. Plus where do all those pesticides and herbicides end up? 4) Our managed forest croplands are a necessary public hunting and fishing lands. Many people don't have their own hunting land and need the food from hunting. 5) We don't need any industrial area. There are plenty of industrial parks with all the public utilities available, including sewer and water, in the surrounding area. 6) High capacity have been shown to draw down several of our surrounding lakes. Some of our residents have shallow wells, which could also be affected. 7) For our children and their children, cherish and preserve our water, air, and land.

Business (13)

- Growing more industrial to lower taxes but not with Golden Sand Dairy
- Some commercial on main corridors but mainly rural.
- > Some small businesses coming in more new (nice) subdivisions. Keeping out mega farms. Keeping out Great water supply
- ➤ I'd like to see some industry come in that is going to help our town, but out municipal service (such as plowing for example) sucks royals. We need more improvement there more than anything. Other than that I like Saratoga the way it is.
- Find people to take over businesses that have tried and failed Clancyes'. for instance Sand Valley down the road, we could fill that venue with motel/convention center that would be great !! Maybe transportation to and from Sand Valley like Crystal Grand Theater in the Dells but with a motel attached, 23 acres right?
- Be more open for business's and promote them with less restrictions. Perhaps get on residence that have junk yards and leave the people alone who are trying to make a living.
- > Be more open for businesses and promote them with less restrictions
- I'd like to see more commercial development along our highways. I'd like to see green space preserved along the river. I'd like to see a park for a local gathering space.
- More commercial businesses in the area.
- Attract commercial business. Don't drive them away. This, in turn, will increase tax revenue and bring more people to the area.
- > Bring more small commercial development stores or Kwik Trip for convenience items.
- Commercial development along hwy 13 and 73 only. Agricultural development only with strict laws protecting water.
- > Put a fast food restaurant of some sort on 13 and 73 across the street from the new Kwik Trip.

Roads (6)

- All roads off Larry and Larry need resurfacing
- Put road weight restrictions on all side road protect my water, get rid of municipal court judge, EMS, police, Ideas. Less government add workers to plow my road on timely bases in winter put roads to gravel don't need repairs like asphalt
- Need to lower taxes! fix the bad roads, not repave the ones that are good! Clean up the houses on Church Ave! Dumpy
- MASTIC CRACK FILLING ON ROUGH RIDING TOWN OF SARATOGA ROADS
- I'd like to see the roads (snow) plowed back farther, especially in the intersections.

Other (27)

- This survey is to vague to be of use. I feel your are using this to justify spending more money and government growth. I move here to get away from big city politics and personnel micro management. In 2002 your budget was \$704408 and there was a surplus, very few fees. My taxes (not legible) was \$266, I tried and cannot even figure out your finances. Now But I Know your have run debits for years. When I read all the new fees my blood pressure went up. Last years tax fees \$445. I drive down the street and see nothing bu eyesore signs and it will never end. If your want to know what people really feel you need to survey that cannot be twisted to justify whatever you do, that's what this one does.
- Hopefully it will still be here when I go (die).
- New leaders with a brain
- ➤ I've lived here over 30 years and see my vision come true each and every year. I've seen two houses being built by my home and that just happened in the last two years. Safe, slow growth, good neighbors and quite living Love it!!!
- Questionable
- somewhat early in our (not legible) to assess
- Look like it will be just fine.
- Not sure
- To be more like the Grand Rapids
- ➤ Develop all areas of Question #4. Wysocki is here and it's best we work with them to protect air water and land use. We have no one to blame but ourselves for not listening to Wood County and getting our zoning in order 10 years ago.
- Good thing will happen
- Self-sustaining use wind/solar energy. Can people get most of what they need within the community?
- Growing fast
- Develop jobs so Saratoga doesn't become an old folks retirement community.
- Retirement
- I have land & buildings there (Saratoga) but live in W.R.
- To take care of all the above in order of importance as marked
- I would like Saratoga to become a retirement community. We do not need the city way of life. We don't need the garbage.
- Less Violence, in and around Saratoga. Less Drugs and drug dealers in and around our community for the safety of all. A place that we can all sleep at night without fear of theft, destruction of property or break-ins.
- ➤ Hopefully not showing the same signs of decline as Wisconsin Rapids.
- Continue being great. I love it here.
- A peaceful, co-cohesive township, but one that will keep the fight against the Wysocki CAFO. I am for almost any business, but do not want to see our resources be destroyed because of selfish companies.
- ➤ A laid-back community
- ➤ N/A
- I look forward to living in the township that people wish they would live in.
- What happens, happens
- No comment

^{*}NOTE: Word cloud on pg. 1 created by worditout.com.



Town of Saratoga Strategic Planning Survey

Your opinion matters. The Plan Commission and Strategic Plan Committee are asking for your input in helping define the values and priorities by which all of us identify as a Town. The results of this survey along with the goals and objectives stated in the Comprehensive Plan will guide the future development of Saratoga. The results of the survey will be revealed at a public meeting in the Town Hall on September 12, 2018 at 6:30 PM. Thank you for taking a few minutes to complete this survey.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN BY

OPTION 1: Complete online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZHLHPDT

OPTION 2: Drop off at Town Hall drop-off box

OPTION 3: Mail to Town of Saratoga, 1120 State Hwy 73 South, Wisconsin Rapids 54494

•	,	1 year or less					
Do you plan on making Saratoga	o you plan on making Saratoga your permanent residence?						
□ Yes □ No	□ Unsure						
How do you feel about development in the Town of Saratoga?							
☐ Current pace is about right	\Box More is needed \Box T	here is too much Unsure					
What potential development in S	Saratoga is acceptable to you	? (please check all that apply)					
☐ Agriculture ☐ Commercial ☐ ☐	Industrial Residential	Recreation Transportation					
☐ Other (please list)							
Should Saratoga consider coordinating municipal services with surrounding communities?							
☐ Strongly favor ☐ Somewhat fav	or \square Somewhat opposed \square	Strongly opposed Unsure					
Please indicate the importance to	ase indicate the importance to you each of the following items on a scale of 1-5:						
1=Not important 2=Somewhat important 3=Neutral 4=Important 5=Very Important							
Maintain Rural Landscape	Wisconsin River access	Commercial utilities					
Protect Natural resources	Recreation Trails, multi-use tra	ailsAvailable building sites					
Groundwater quality	Tourism	Develop Open Lands					
2 2	Town Roads	Police/Fire/EMS Services					

Thank you for supporting the planning efforts in the Town of Saratoga by completing and returning this survey

PLEASE COMPLETE ON LINE OR RETURN THIS SURVEY BY JULY 31, 201





The Wood County Department of Planning and Zoning along with the Town of Saratoga would like to thank all who participated in the community survey.



Wood County Department of Planning and Zoning

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https://www.co.wood.wi.us/Departments/PZ/ (715) 421-8466