

TOWN OF MERRIMAC COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

This document compares results from the 2003-04 survey associated with Merrimac's *Comprehensive Plan* to the survey conducted at the time the Town's 1993 Development Plan was developed, focusing on comparisons based on GENERAL INFORMATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS, VIEWS TOWARD PRESERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DESIRED FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT, and VIEWS TOWARD LAND USE CONTROLS.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

	1993	2003-04
Primary or secondary residence	52.5% Primary 47.5% Secondary	58.6% Primary 41.4% Secondary
If secondary, intend to become year-round?		34.7% yes
How long have you been a property owner / lived in the Town?	0-2 years: 11% 2-4 years: 12% 4-8 years: 11% 8 + years: 65%	<1 year: 9% 1-4 years: 21% 5-9 years: 14% 10-25 years: 32% 25+ years: 25%
Employed in:	Sauk County: 24% Wisconsin (excluding Sauk): 20% Out of state: 29% Retired: 28%	Sauk County: 35% Dane County: 19.1% Columbia County: 1.4% Retired: 28.5% Other or not working: 15.9%

NATURAL RESOURCE VALUES

	1993	2003-04
Importance of preservation of scenic character	Very important: 86% Somewhat important: 13% Not important: <1%	Very important: 82% Somewhat important: 17% Not very important: 1% Not at all important: <1%
Importance of preservation of agricultural lands	Very important: 66% Somewhat important: 30% Not important: 3%	Very important: 56% Somewhat important: 38% Not very important: 5% Not at all important: 1%
Importance of preservation of Baraboo Bluffs	Very important: 86% Somewhat important: 12%	Very important: 80% Somewhat important: 18%

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Bluffs	Not important: 2%	Not very important: 1% Not at all important: <1%
Importance of preservation of marsh/wetlands	Very important: 75% Somewhat important: 20% Not important: 5%	Very important: 67% Somewhat important: 24% Not very important: 7% Not at all important: 3%
Importance of water quality of Lake Wisconsin		Very important: 95% Somewhat important: 5% Not very important: 0% Not at all important: <1%

DESIRED FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT

	1993	2003-04
Single-family, starter homes	n/a	37%
Single-family, mid-size homes	n/a	74%
Single-family, large homes	n/a	41%
Single-family, attached homes (townhouses or condominiums)	n/a	25%
Duplexes	24%	15%
Apartments, 3-4 units per building	10% (apartments, general)	8%
Apartments, more than 4 units per building	10% (apartments, general)	4%
Mobile homes	3% (trailer court, park)	5%
“Granny Flats”	n/a	10%
Senior/retirement housing	26%	34%
Seasonal housing		23%
Don't want to see new housing	n/a	12%
Neighborhood shopping & offices (convenience store, bakery, doctor office)	n/a	37%
Restaurants, tavern, bar	27%	32%
Home-based businesses	35%	23%
Grocery Store	39%	38%
Recreational and tourism related development	17% (motel)	27%

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(motel, resort, campground)		
Businesses related to farming	17% (farm supply store) 3% (field chemical store)	17%
Mining and quarrying	5%	<1%
Industrial Area or Park	25%	n/a
Other	n/a	2%

IEWS TOWARD PLANNING AND LAND USE CONTROLS

	1993	2003-04
Is a local land use plan desired?	Yes: 70% No: < 1% Maybe: 23%	
Town land use policies should be strengthened to better guide growth		Strongly agree: 36% Somewhat agree: 41% Somewhat disagree: 16% Strongly disagree: 7%
The Town should use standards for buildings and signs that make non residential development fit in with the rural community character.		Strongly agree: 51% Somewhat agree: 37% Somewhat disagree: 9% Strongly disagree: 4%
Land use conflicts between agriculture and residential development are currently a problem in the Town		Strongly agree: 20% Somewhat agree: 38% Somewhat disagree: 37% Strongly disagree: 5%
The Town of Merrimac should try to limit the amount of new housing development that occurs		Agree: 66%

SUMMARY

The above comparison suggests a great deal of consistency between the results of the current (2003-04) and past (1993) Town of Merrimac Public Opinion Surveys. These key findings indicate that the 1993 Development Plan continues to reflect the views of the Town's residents and landowners today. The current Comprehensive Plan will continue to forward the established land use objectives and practices set forth in the 1993 Plan.