
Appendix B –Survey Results





TO: SRF Consulting, Inc.
FROM: Blue Earth County Planning & Zoning Staff
DATE: April 11, 2018
SUBJECT: Survey Results

Blue Earth County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey Results

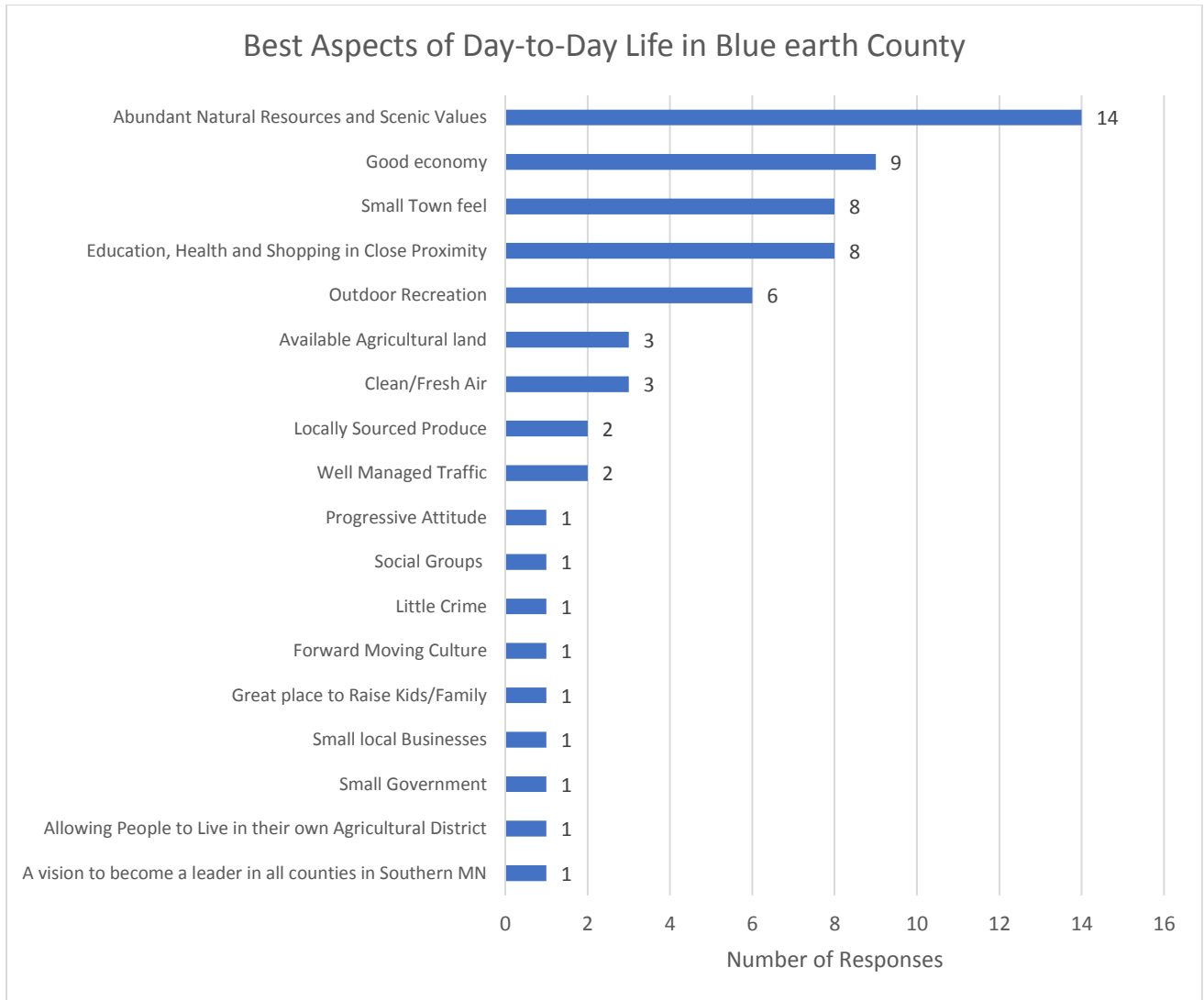
During the data collection phase of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update, a community survey was conducted to collect input from county residents. The survey aimed to collect residents' views on the future of the county which together with input of other support plans of the county were used to update the County's goals, objectives and implementation actions.

The survey was available online, via SurveyMonkey, with hard copies available upon request. Access to the survey was provided via the county's website and other printed materials. The survey was open from April to July 2017 and received a total of 44 responses. The following pages provide a summary of the responses received for each question. Also included in this technical memo is a Summary of Regional Meetings and Staff Input Meetings from the 1998 Land Use Plan and a comparison between the Survey Results in the updated plan and the 1998 Land Use Plan.

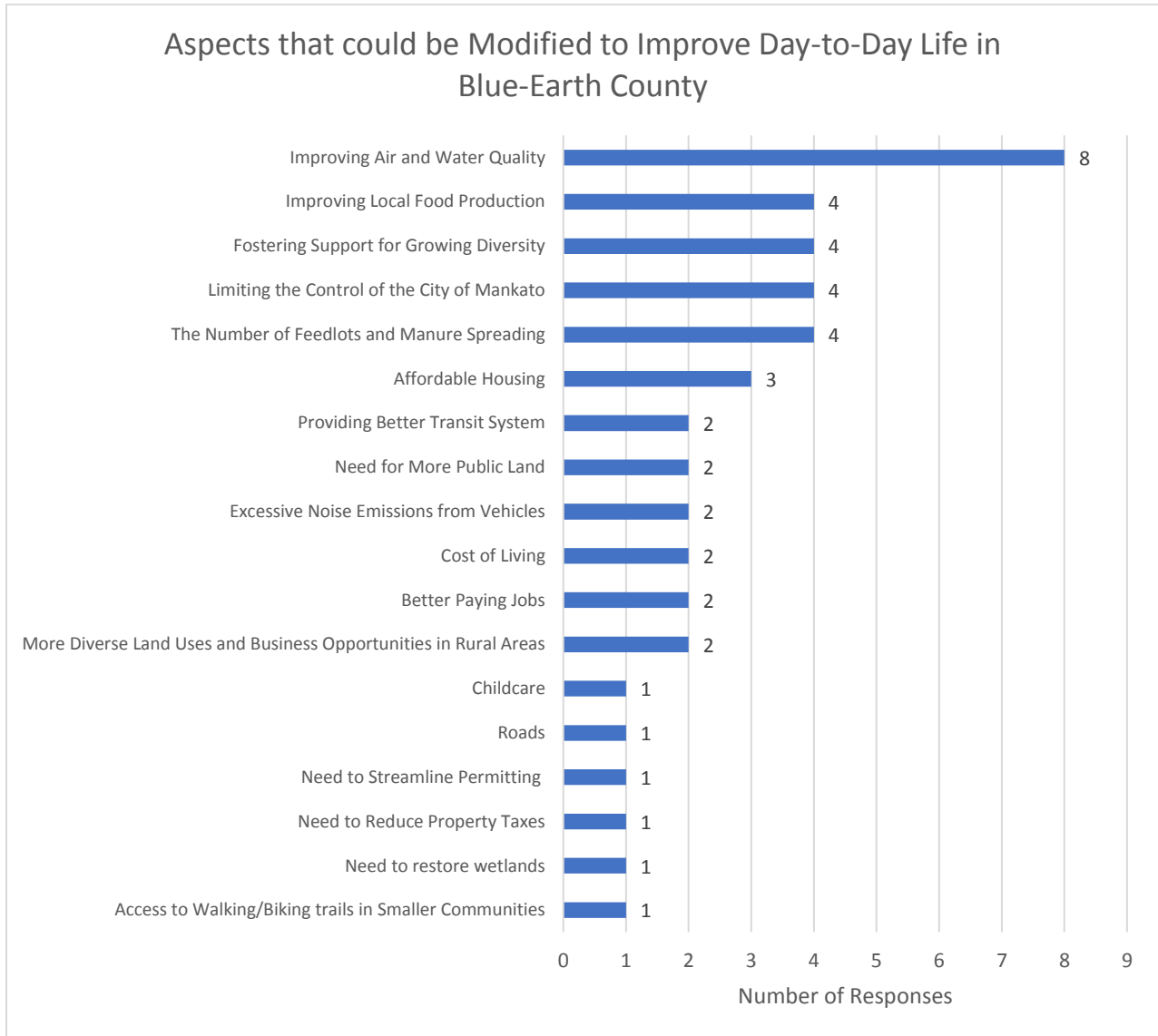
Responder Summary

- 54% live in townships, 46% live in cities
- 83% work in Blue Earth County, 17% do not
- 51% live in Region 2
- 68% live in an owner occupied non-farm residence
- 46% have lived in the county for over 20 years
- 44% are between the ages of 30 and 39

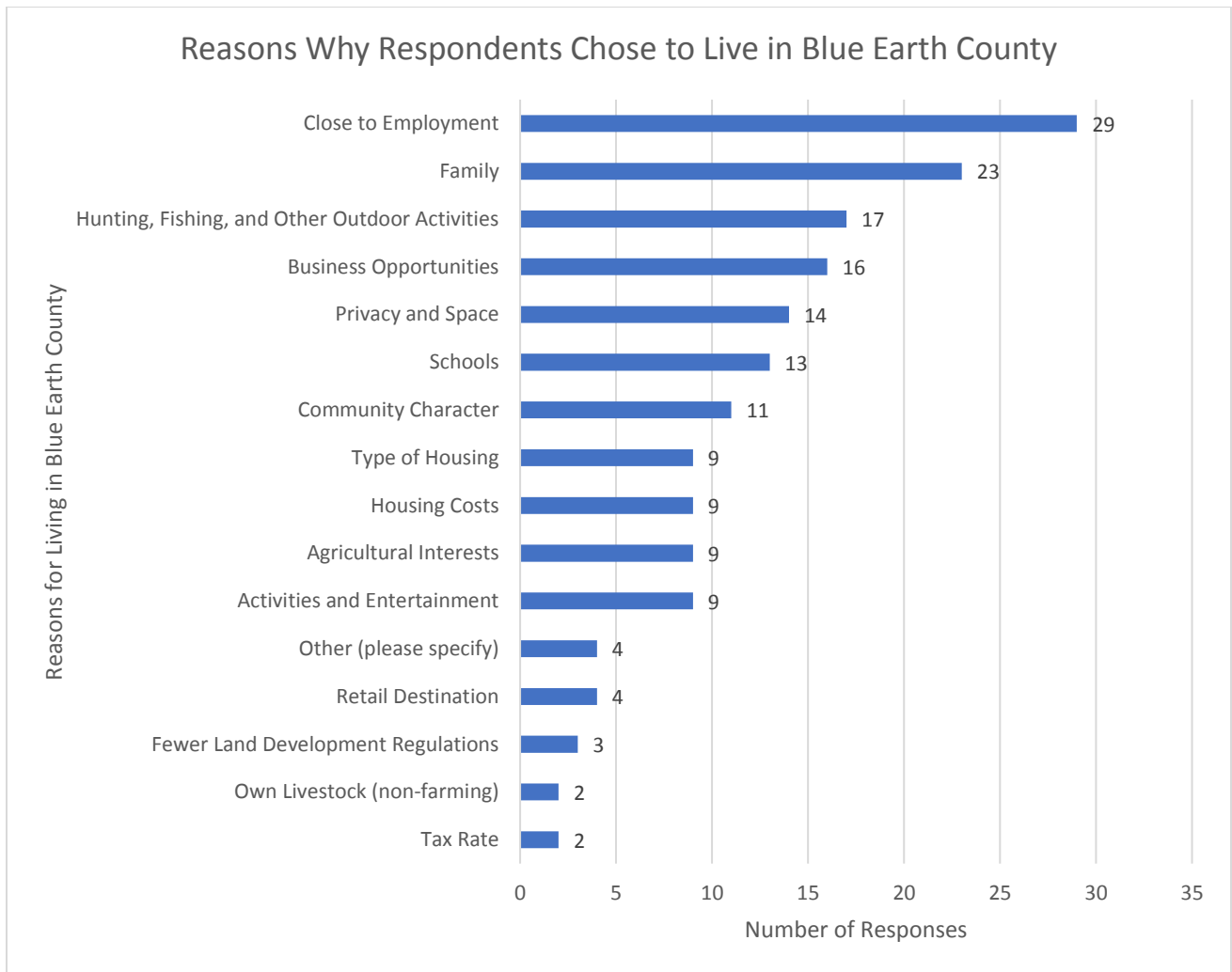
Question 1: What are the best aspects of day-to-day life in Blue Earth County:



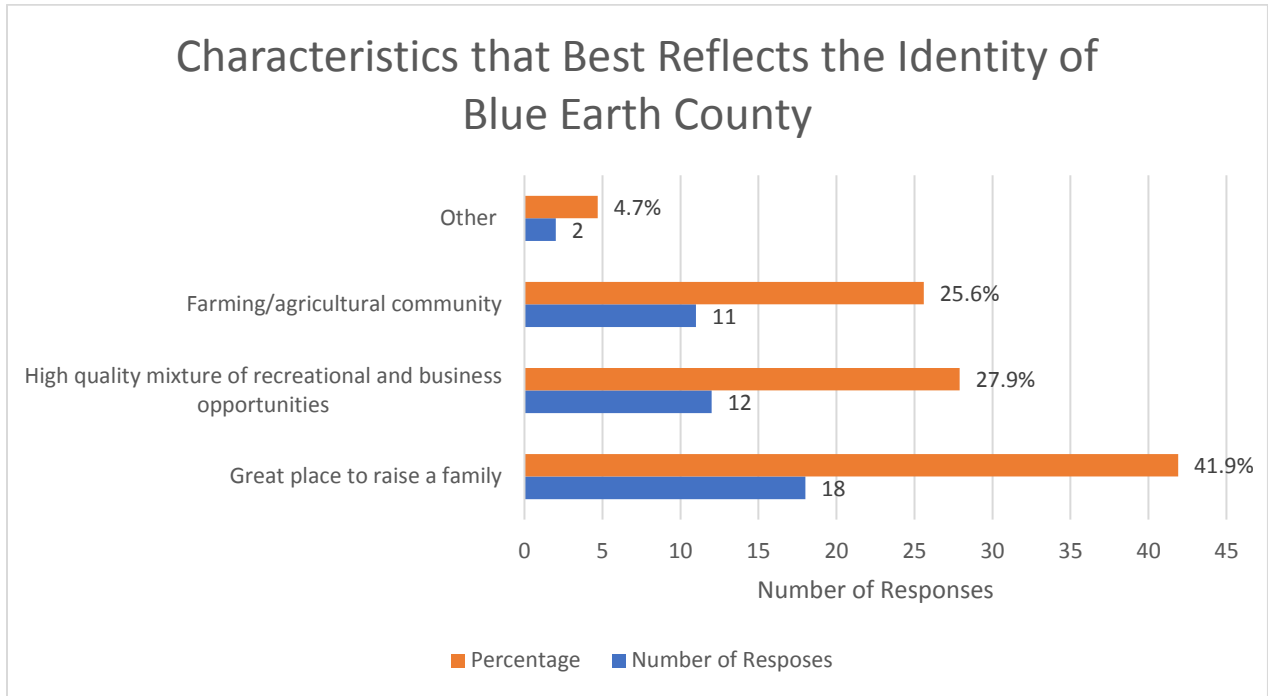
Question 2: What are the aspects that could be modified to improve day-to-day life in Blue-Earth County:



Question 3: Why did you choose to live in Blue Earth County?



Question 4: If you had to choose one characteristic that best reflects the identity of Blue Earth County, what would it be?



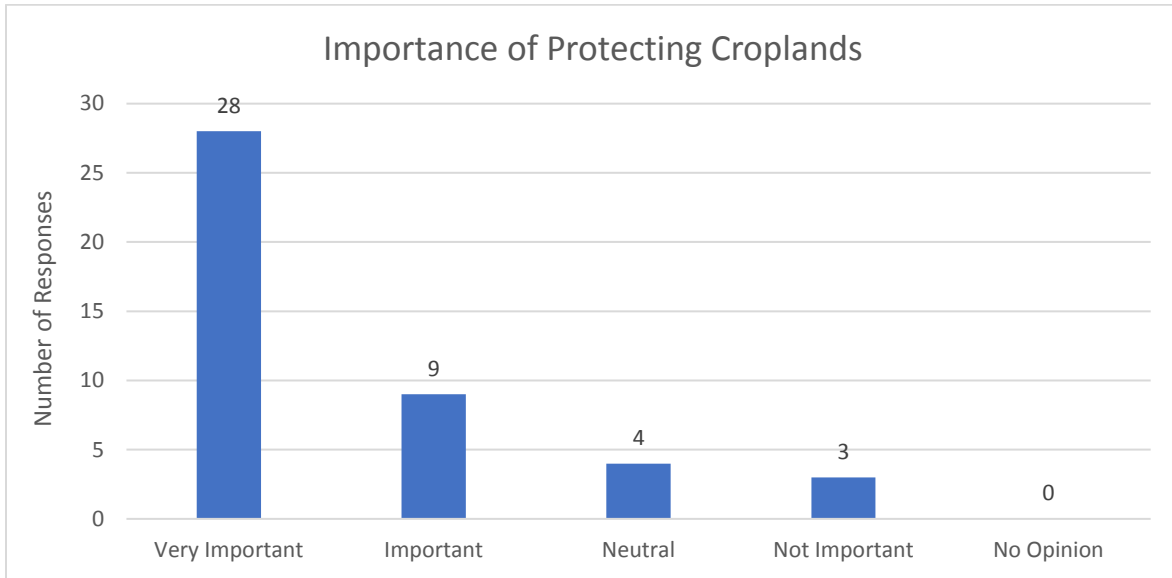
Other reasons stated by respondents include:

- There are many streams, rivers, lakes and bluffs
- That we can be from any city - closest town is 7 miles away.

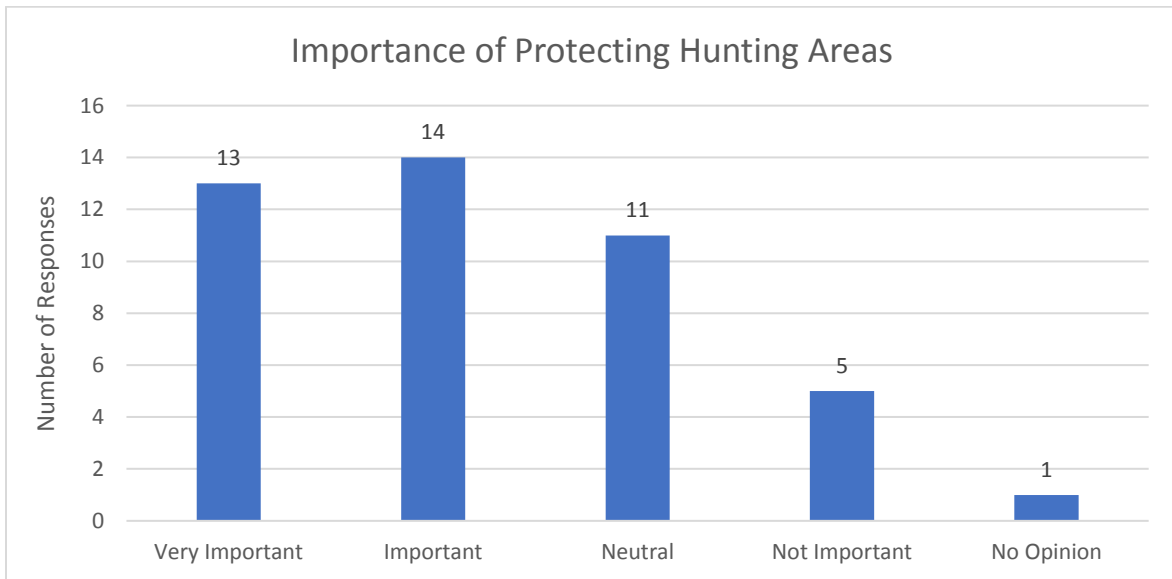
Question 5: Please rate how effectively and efficiently Blue Earth County delivers essential services.

Respondents provided a rating on a scale from 0 (poor) to 100 (excellent), and the average response was 59.

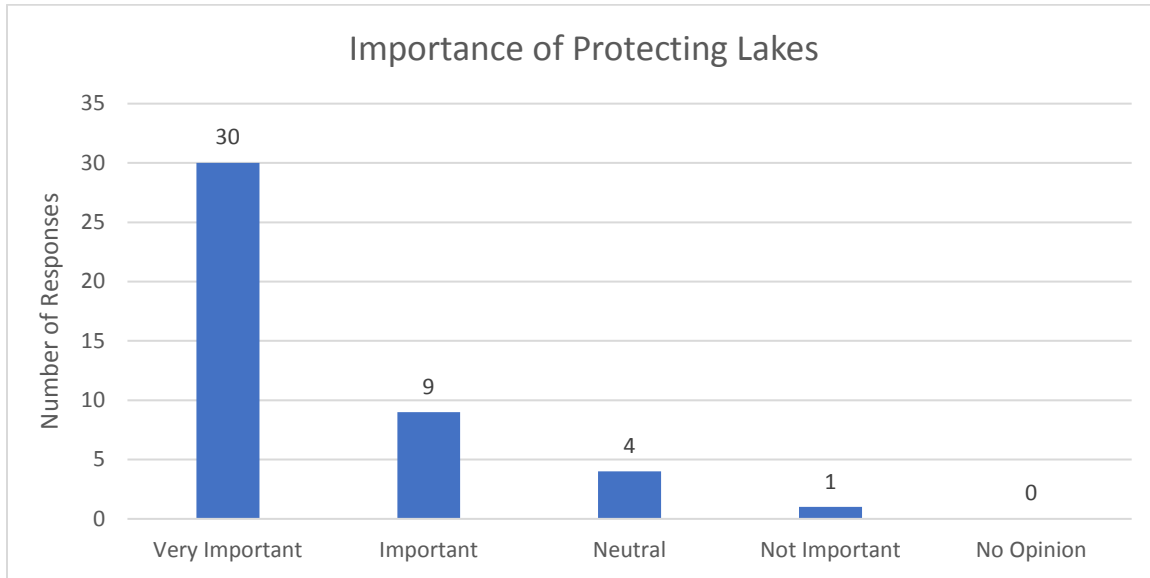
Question 6a: Rank the importance of protecting **Cropland in order to maintain and improve the quality of life in Blue Earth County?**



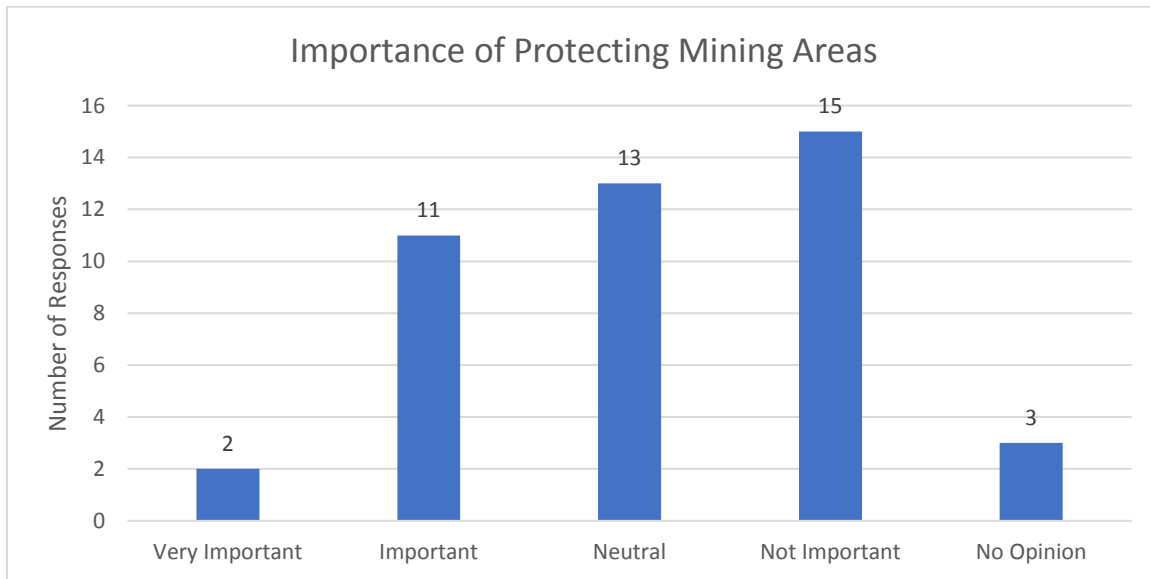
Question 6b: Rank the importance of protecting **Hunting Areas in order to maintain and improve the quality of life in Blue Earth County?**



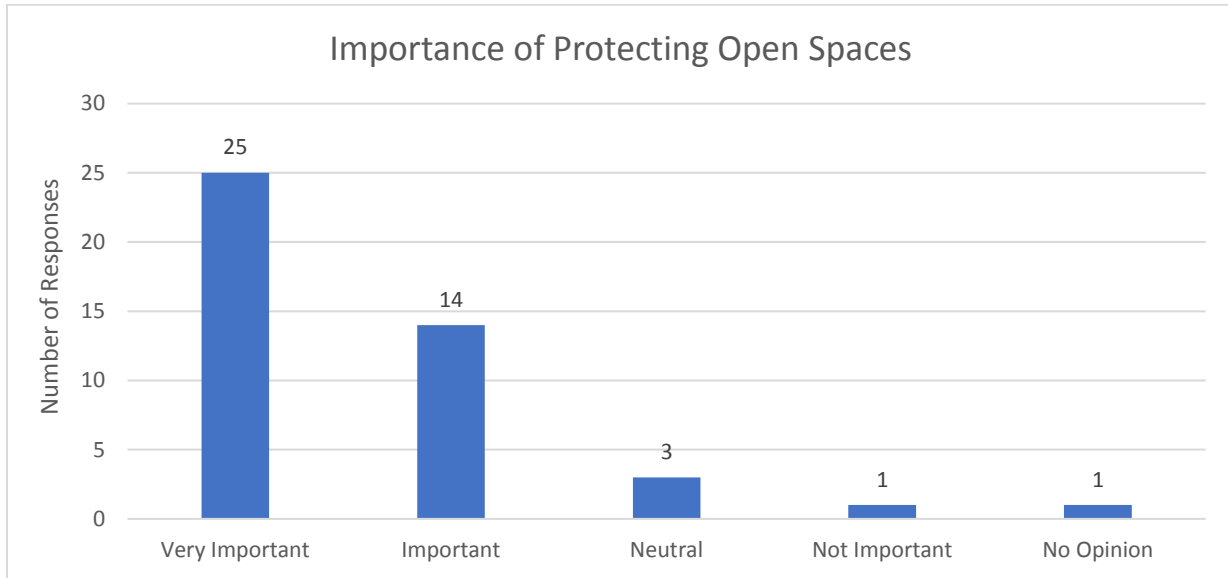
Question 6c: Rank the importance of protecting Lakes in order to maintain and improve the quality of life in Blue Earth County?



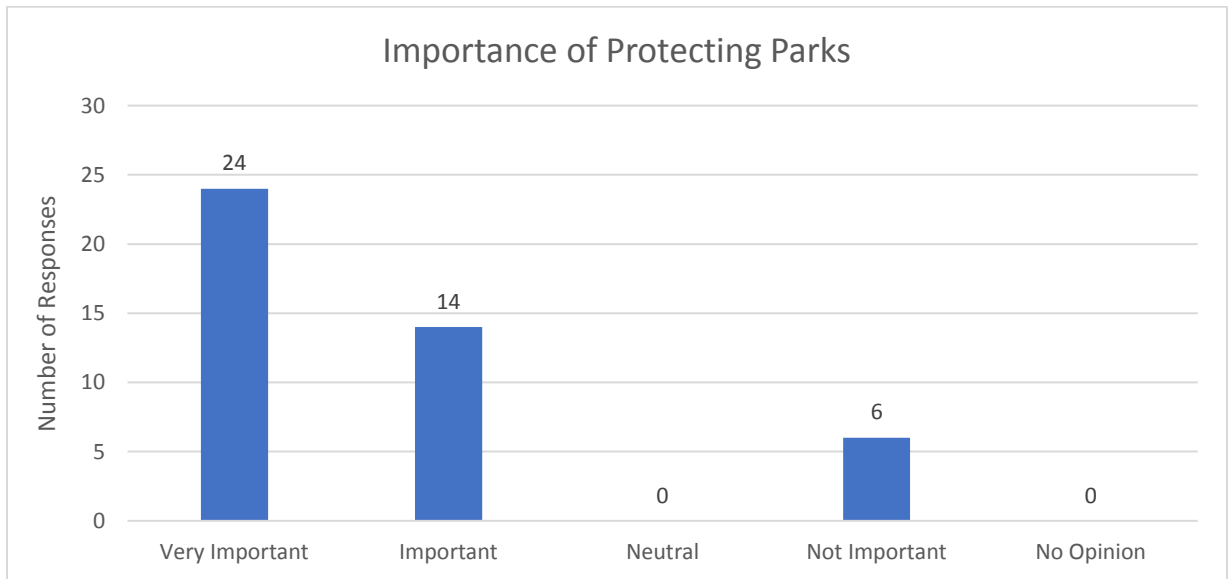
Question 6d: Rank the importance of protecting Mining Areas in order to maintain and improve the quality of life in Blue Earth County?



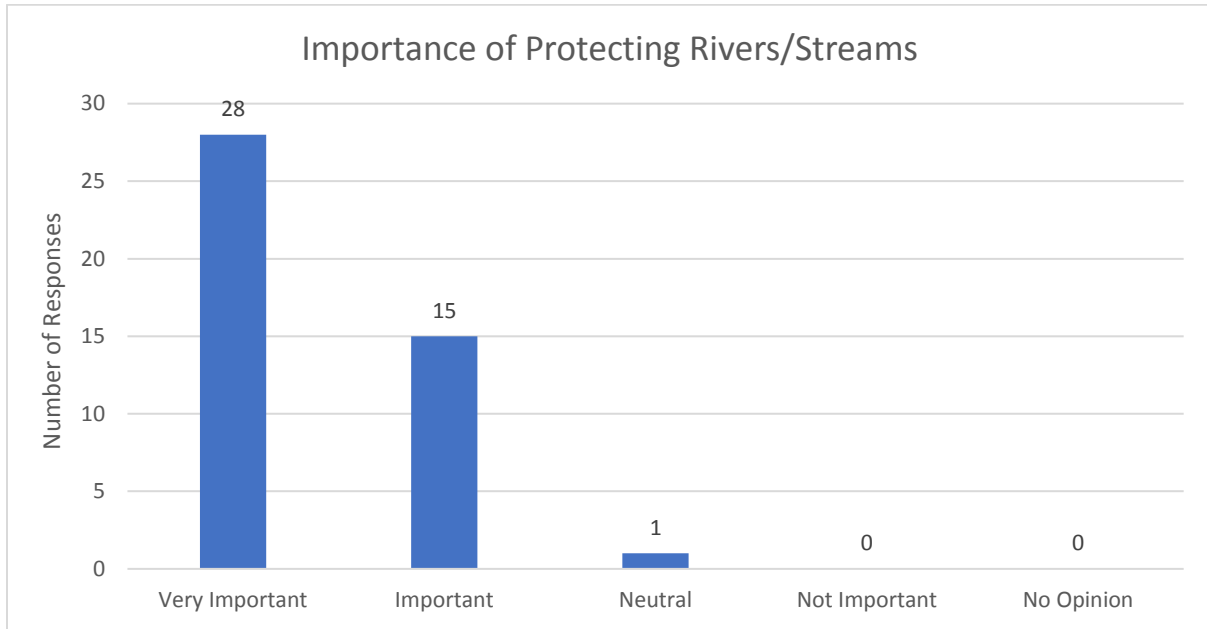
Question 6e: Rank the importance of protecting **Open Spaces in order to maintain and improve the quality of life in Blue Earth County?**



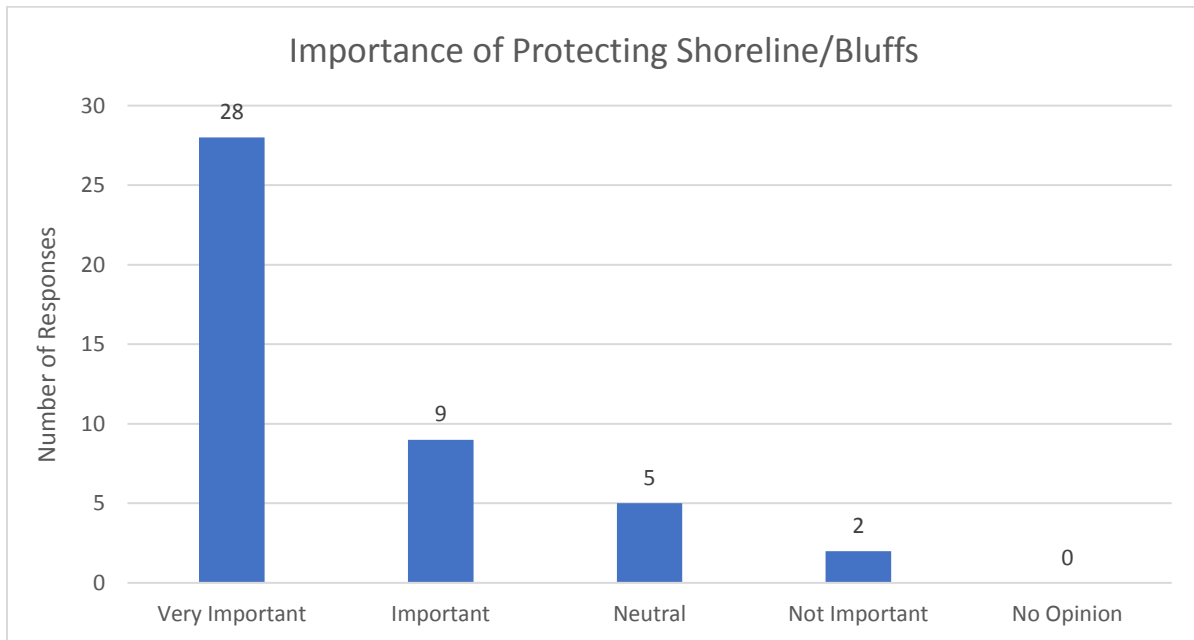
Question 6f: Rank the importance of protecting **Parks in order to maintain and improve the quality of life in Blue Earth County?**



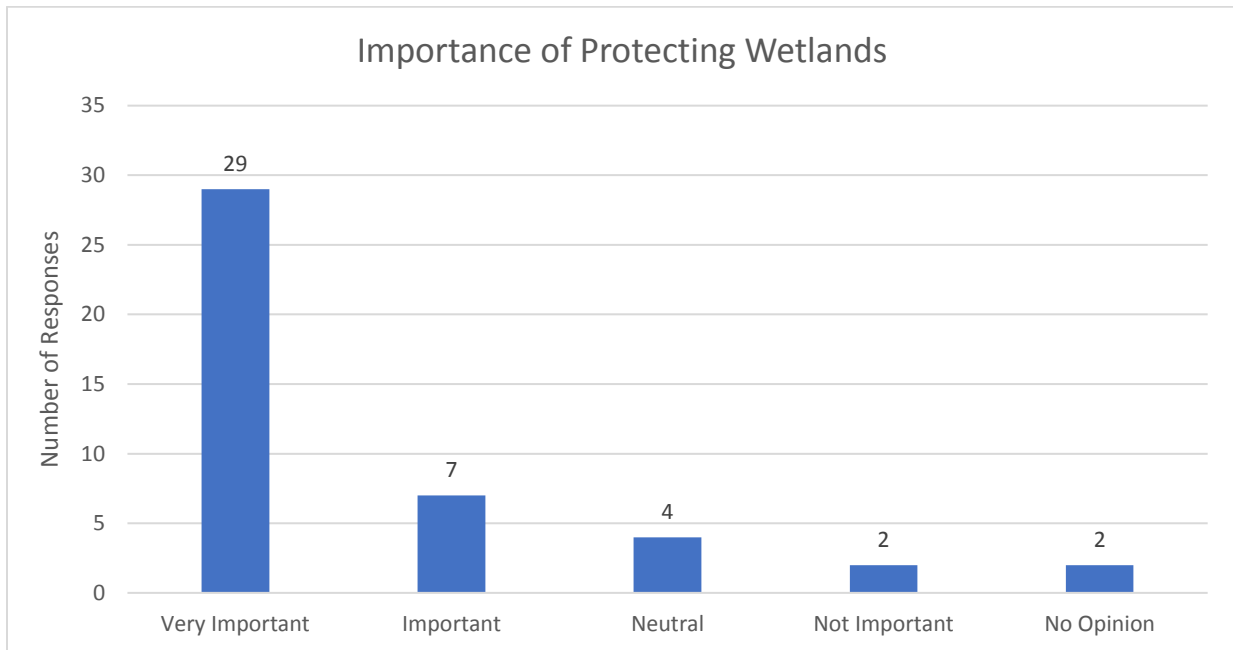
Question 6g: Rank the importance of protecting Rivers/Streams in order to maintain and improve the quality of life in Blue Earth County?



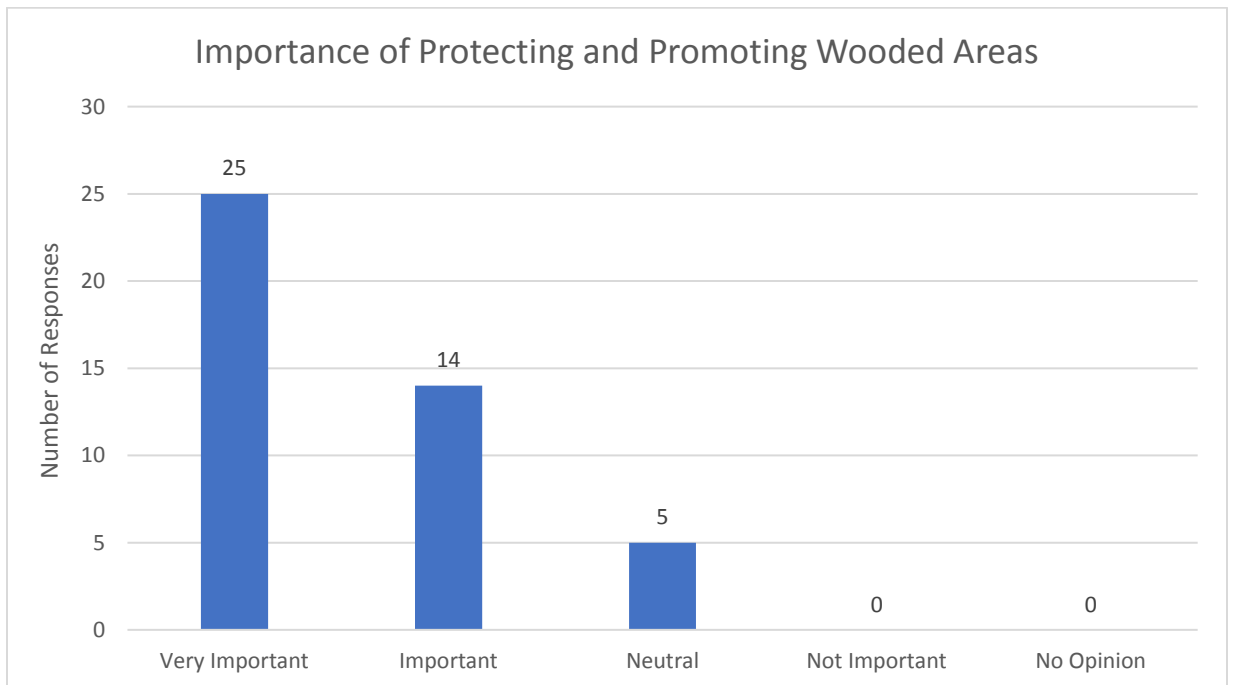
Question 6h: Rank the importance of protecting Shoreline/Bluffs in order to maintain and improve the quality of life in Blue Earth County?



Question 6i: Rank the importance of protecting **Wetlands in order to maintain and improve the quality of life in Blue Earth County?**



Question 6j: Rank the importance of protecting **Wooded Areas in order to maintain and improve the quality of life in Blue Earth County?**

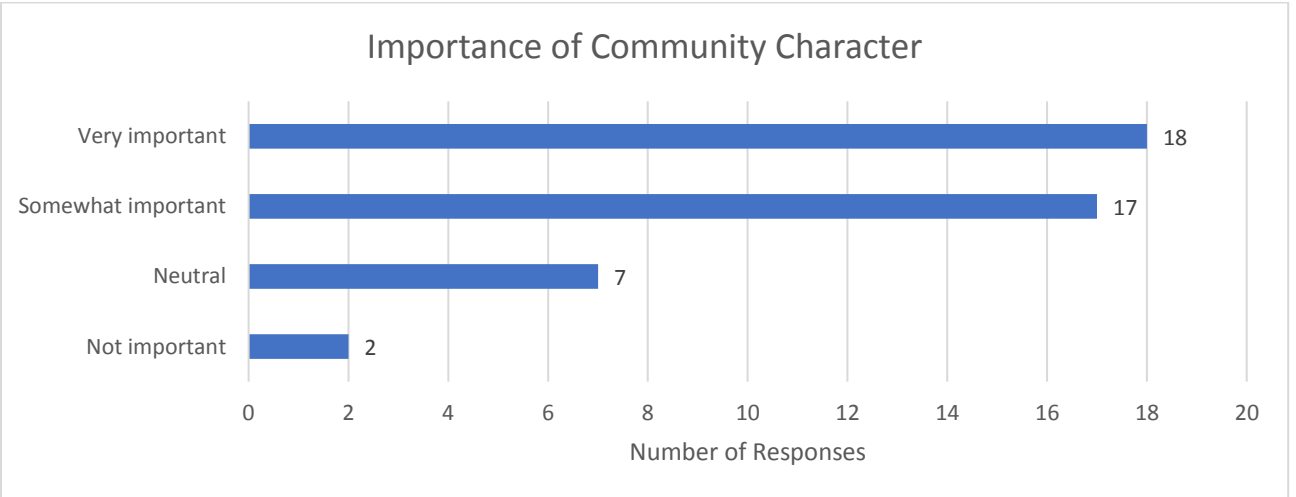
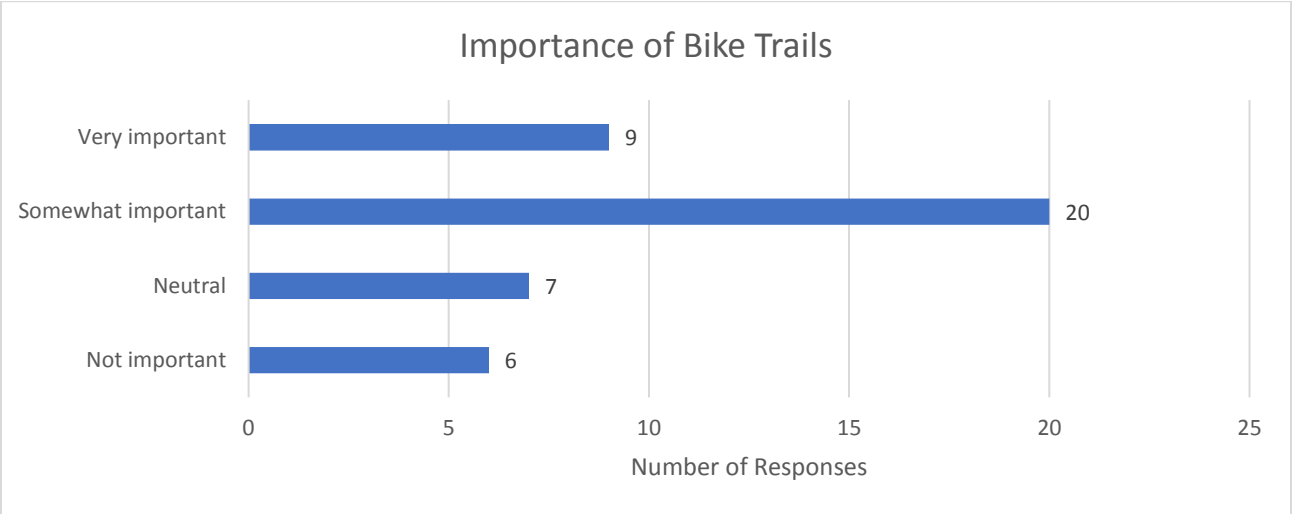
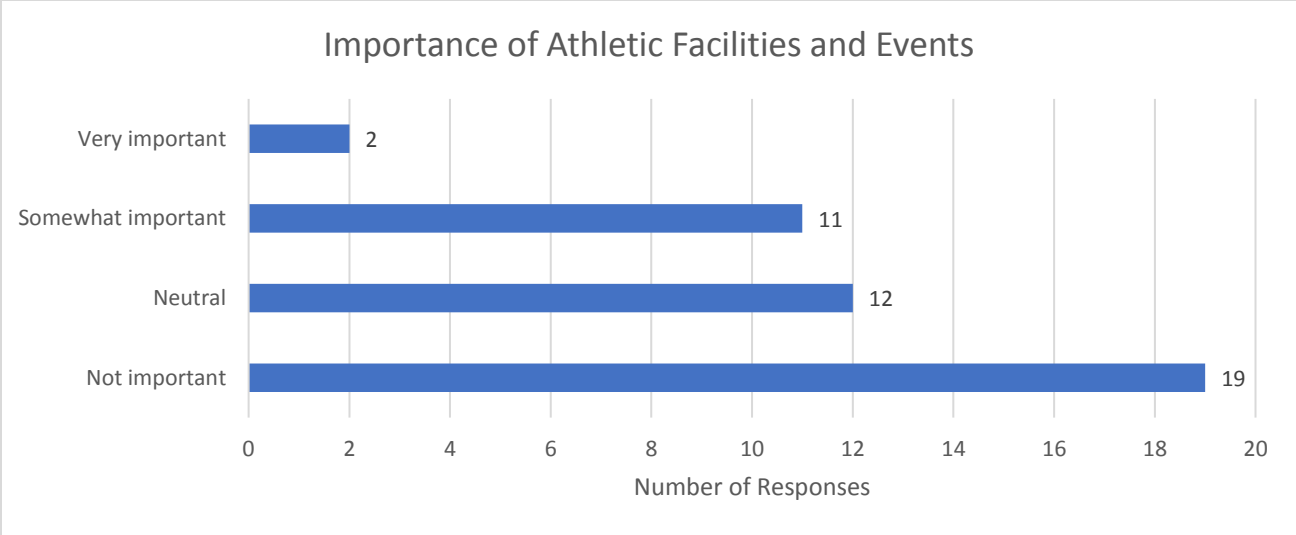


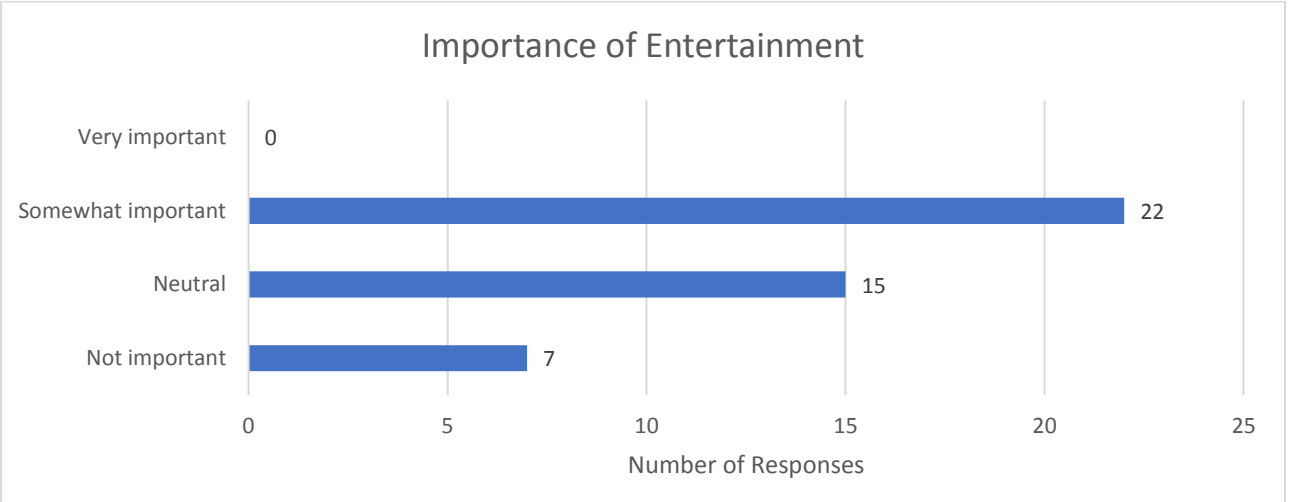
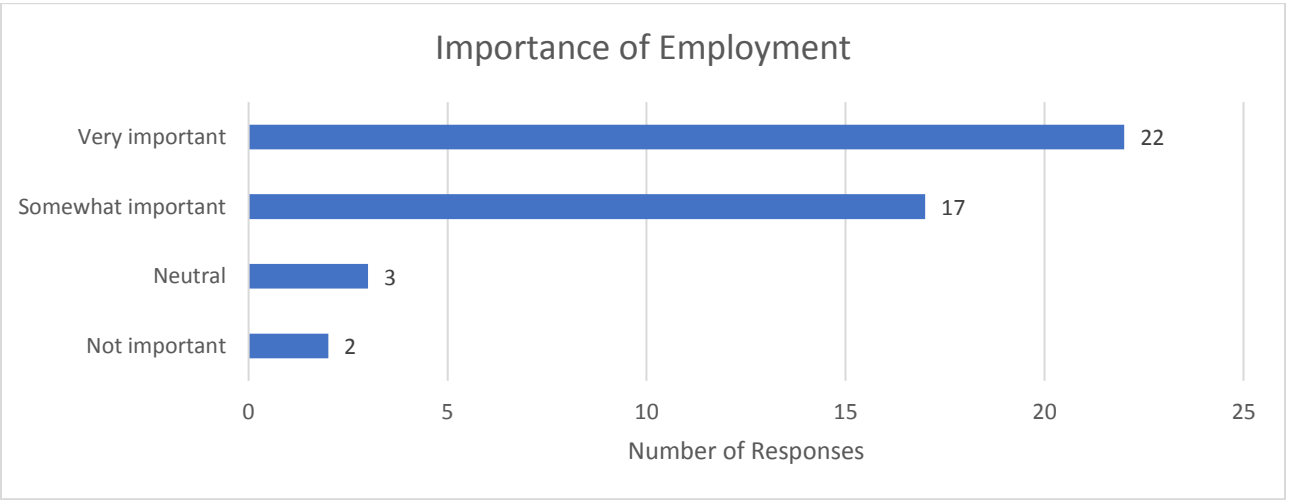
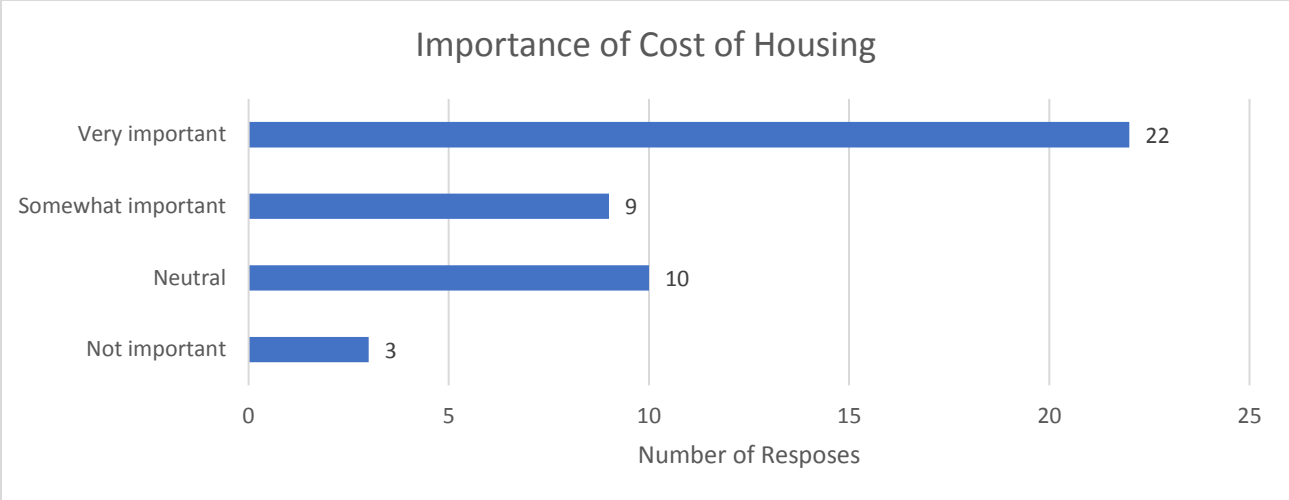
Respondents identified other resources or concerns they have in Blue Earth County:

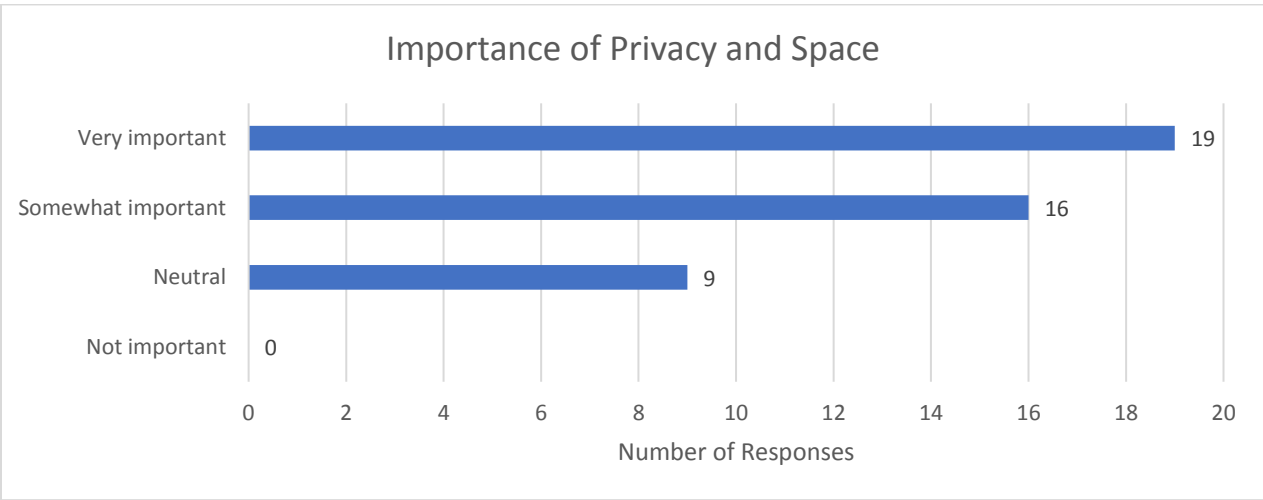
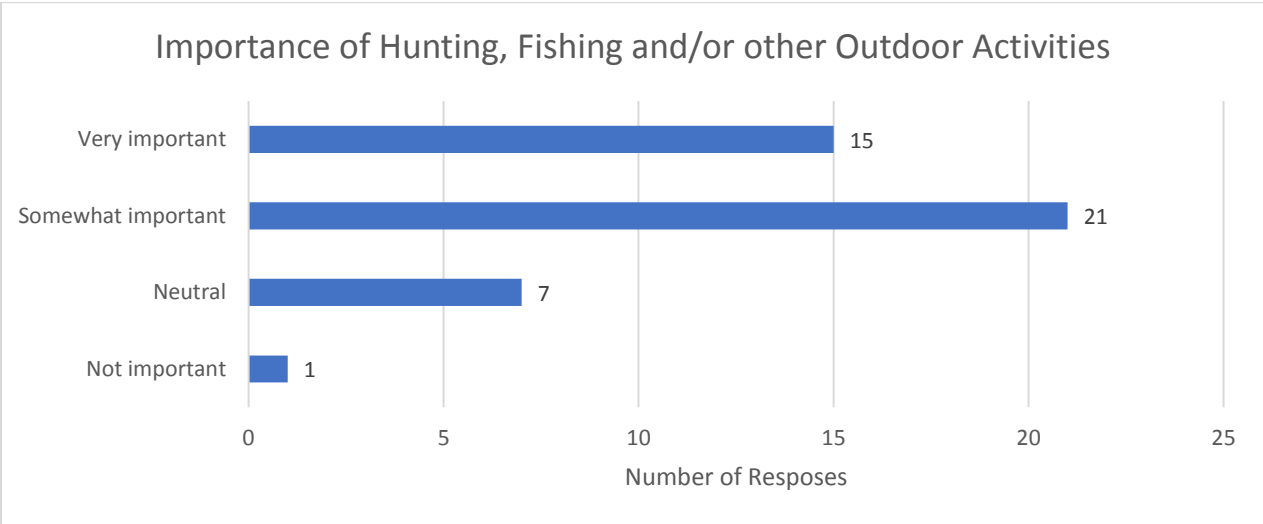
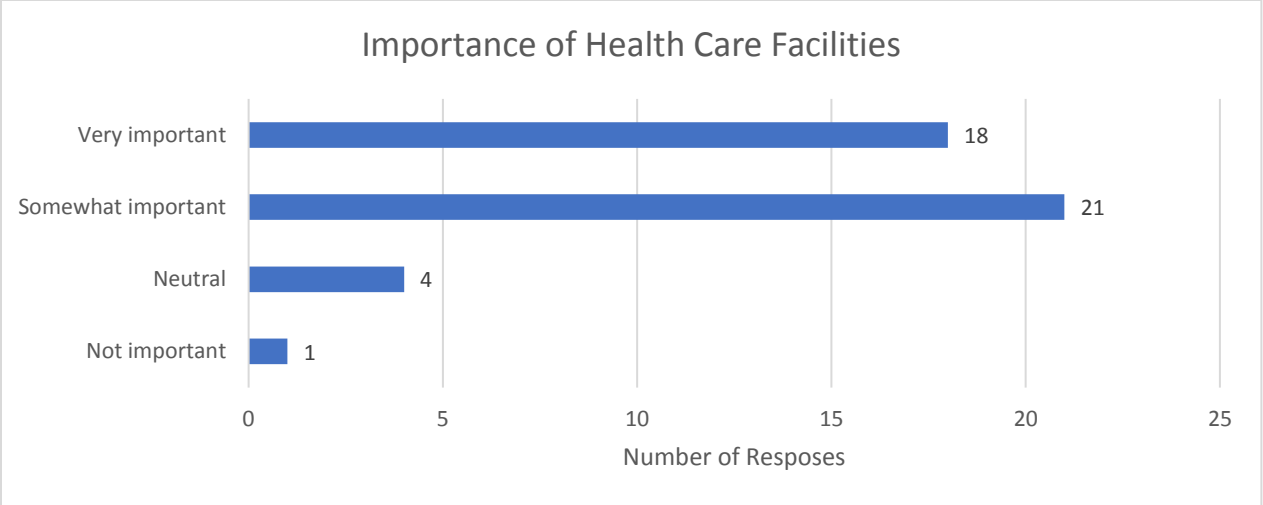
- To provide access to lakes, rivers, and streams and to maintain our parks
- Air quality bad in rural areas
- Limit "industry" farming to limit air, water ground water production
- For cropland - small and mid-size growers - VERY IMPORTANT
- Developed areas: should encourage greater biodiversity within cities as well as policy supportive of gardening and animal husbandry. Also, more permeable surfaces and bio-based storm water control
- Pro-businesses environment
- Groundwater and drinking water quality and quantity
- Smaller subdivisions

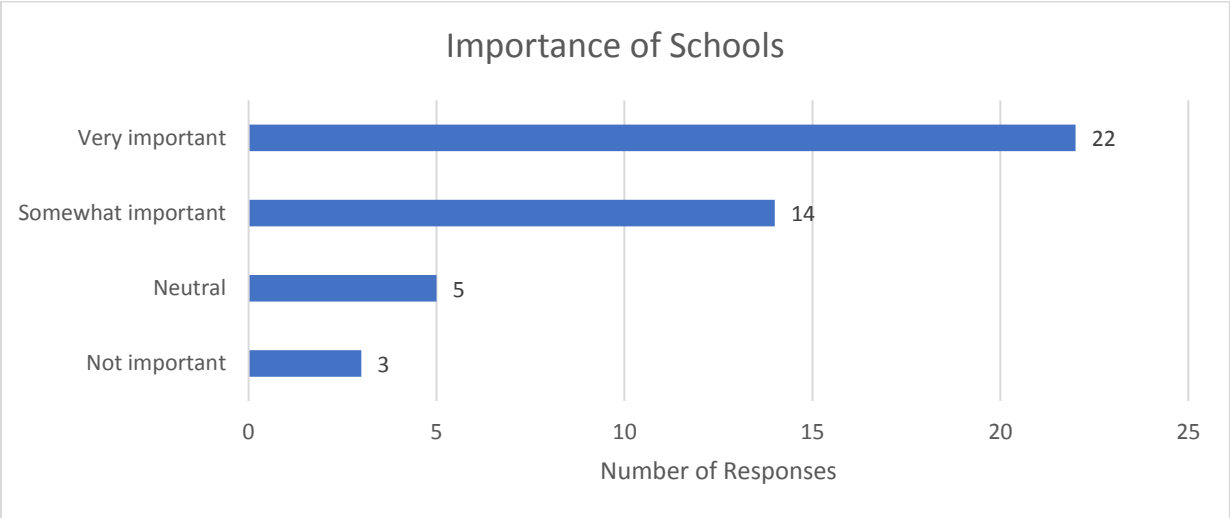
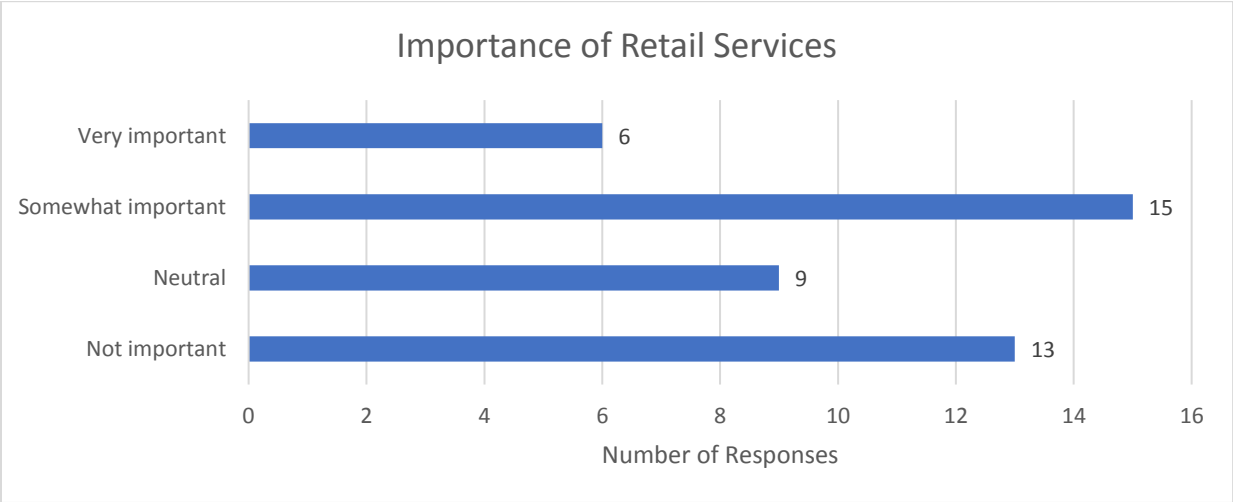
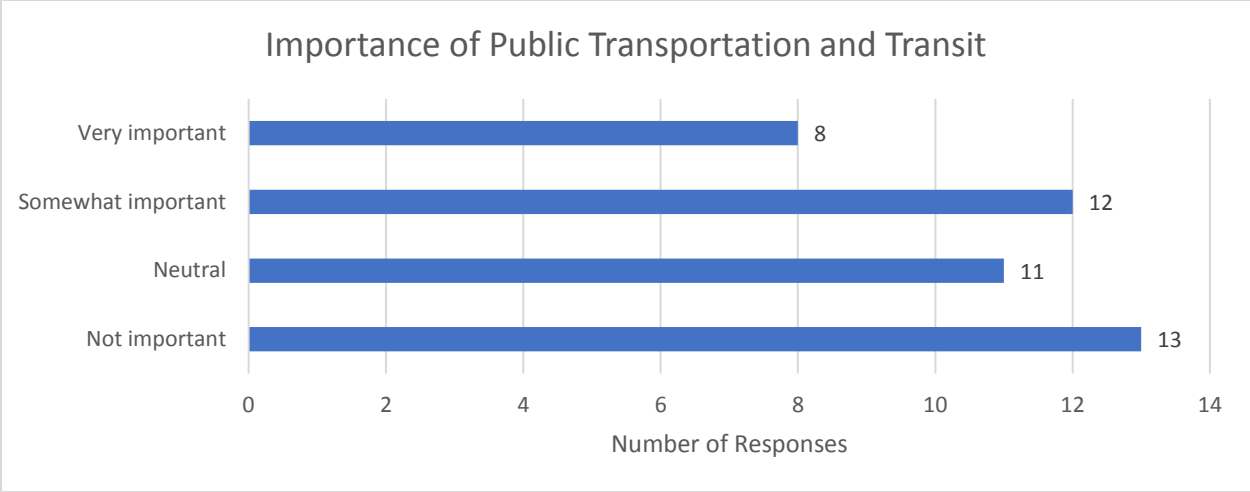
Question 7: How important are the following Resources to you?

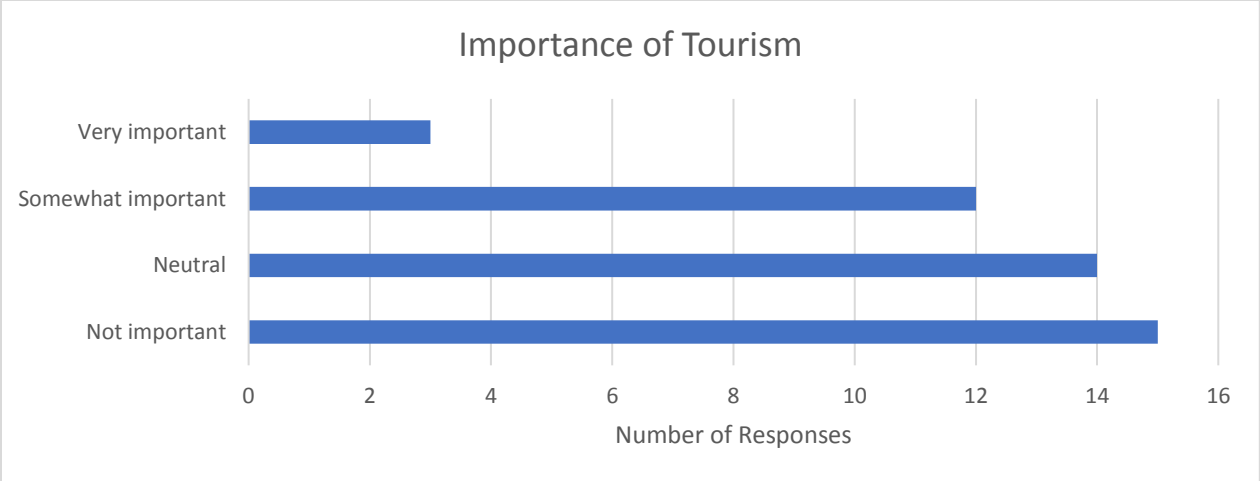
Answer Options	Not important	%	Neutral	%	Somewhat important	%	Very important	%	Response Count
Athletic facilities and events	19	43.2	12	27.3	11	25.0	2	4.5	44
Bike trails	6	14.3	7	16.7	20	47.6	9	21.4	42
Community character	2	4.5	7	15.9	17	38.6	18	40.9	44
Cost of housing	3	6.8	10	22.7	9	20.5	22	50.0	44
Employment	2	4.5	3	6.8	17	38.6	22	50.0	44
Entertainment	7	15.9	15	34.1	22	50.0	0	0.0	44
Health care facilities	1	2.3	4	9.1	21	47.7	18	40.9	44
Hunting, fishing and/or other outdoor activities	1	2.3	7	15.9	21	47.7	15	34.1	44
Privacy and space	0	0.0	9	20.5	16	36.4	19	43.2	44
Public transportation and transit	13	29.5	11	25.0	12	27.3	8	18.2	44
Retail services	13	30.2	9	20.9	15	34.9	6	14.0	43
Schools	3	6.8	5	11.4	14	31.8	22	50.0	44
Tourism	15	34.1	14	31.8	12	27.3	3	6.8	44





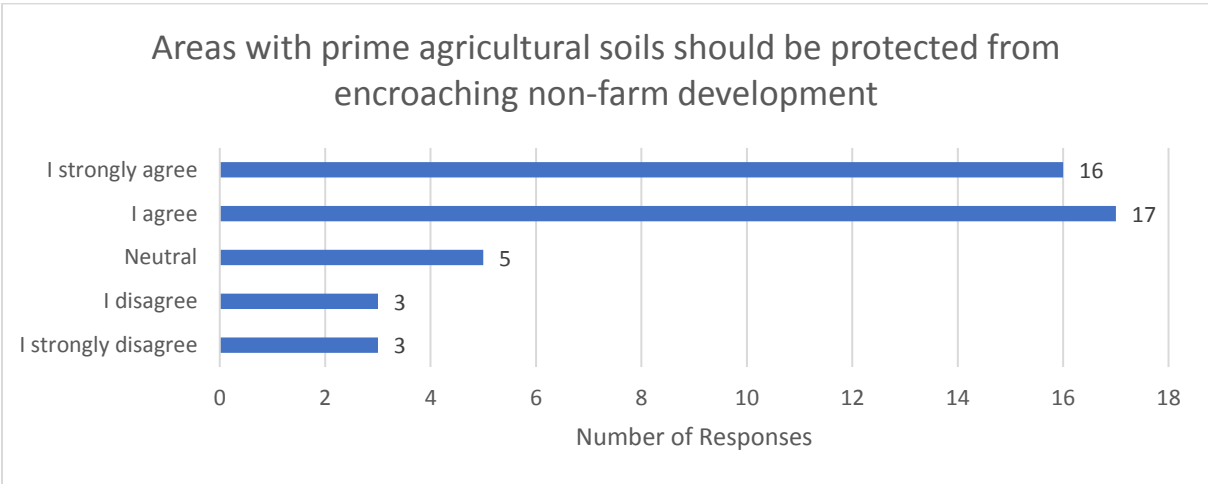
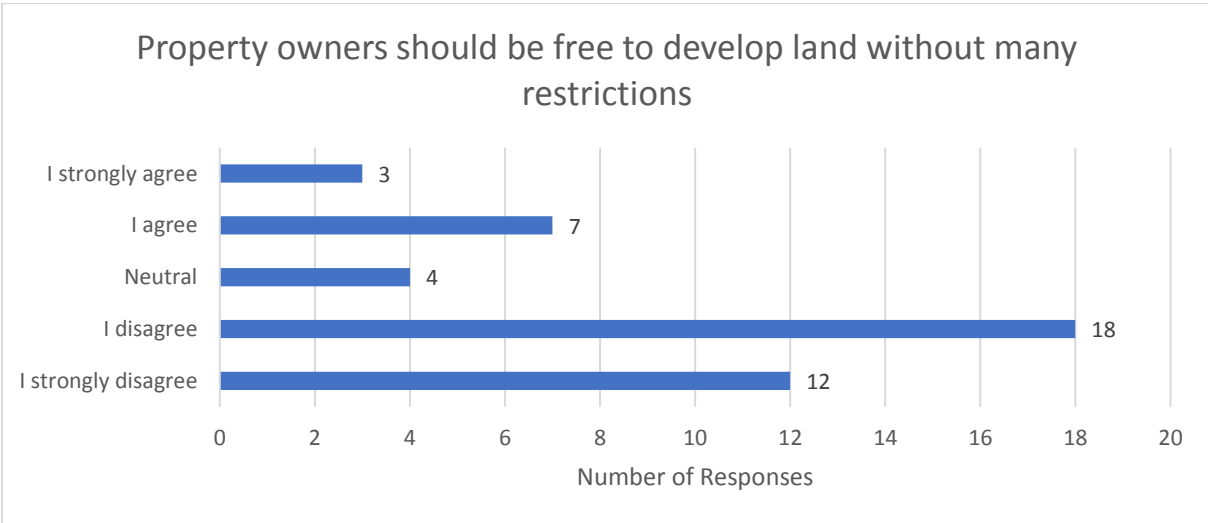
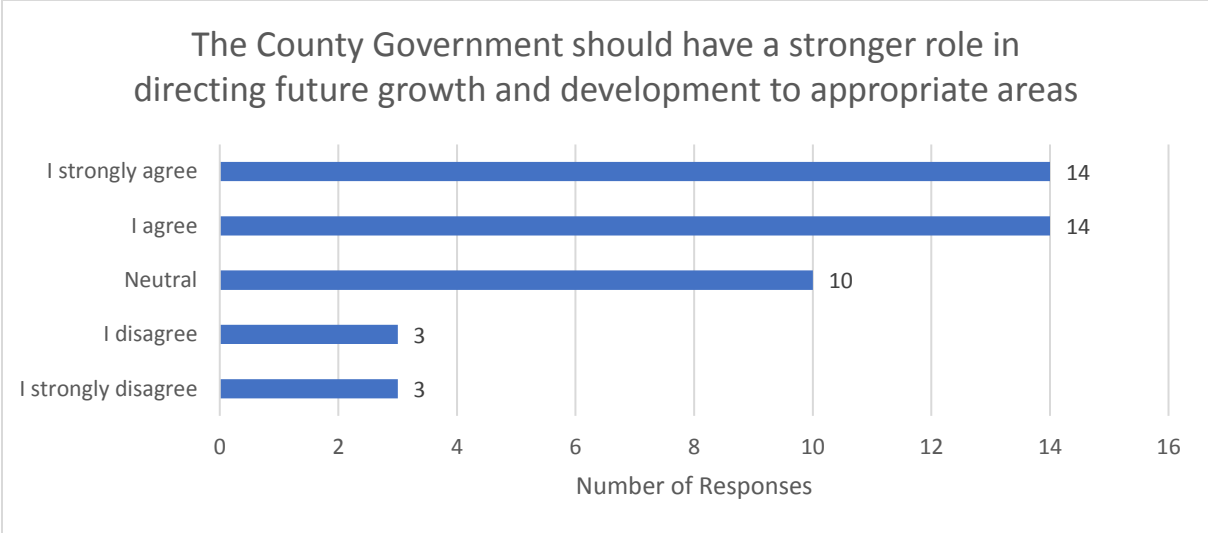


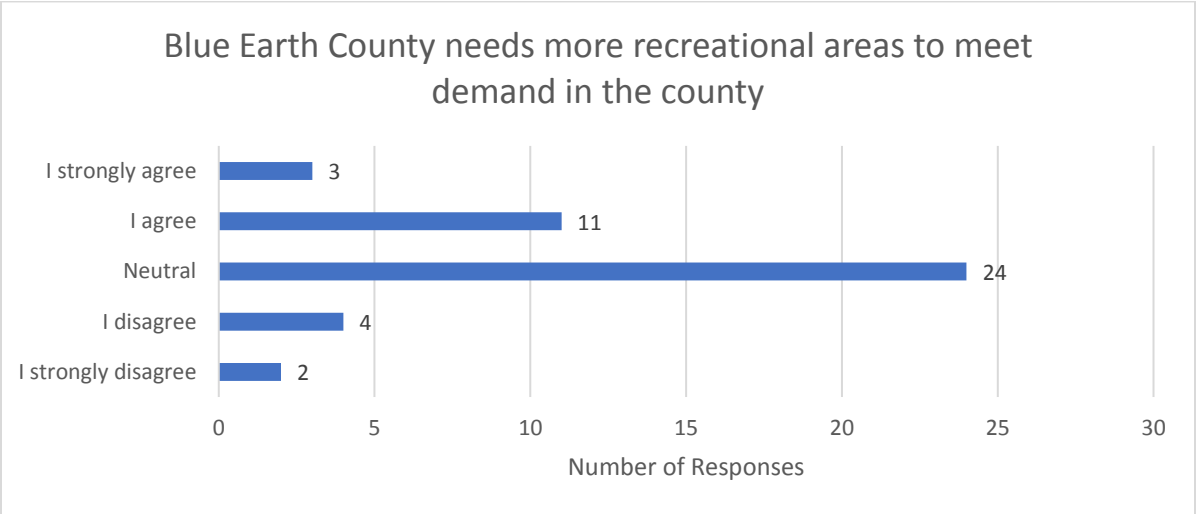
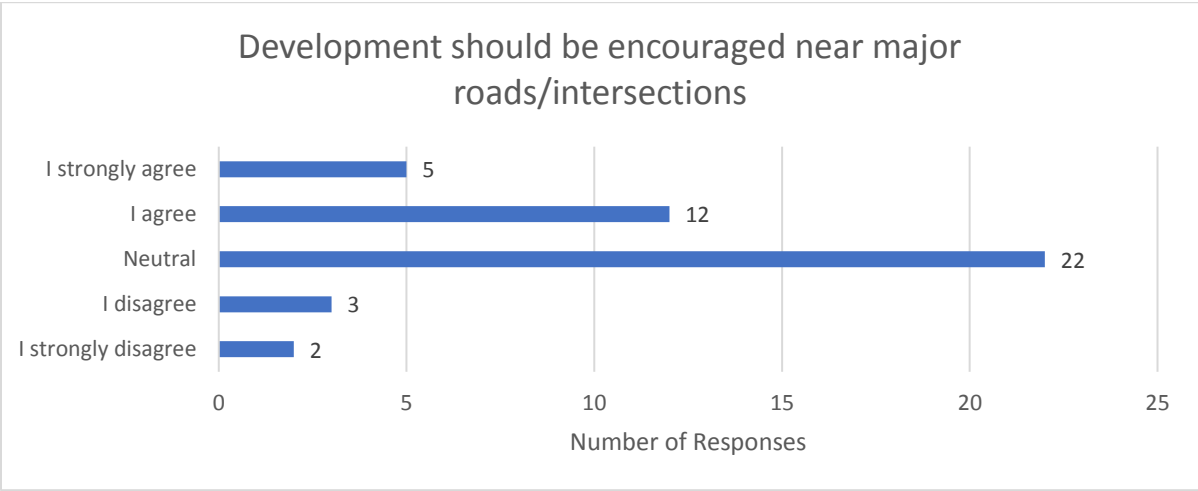
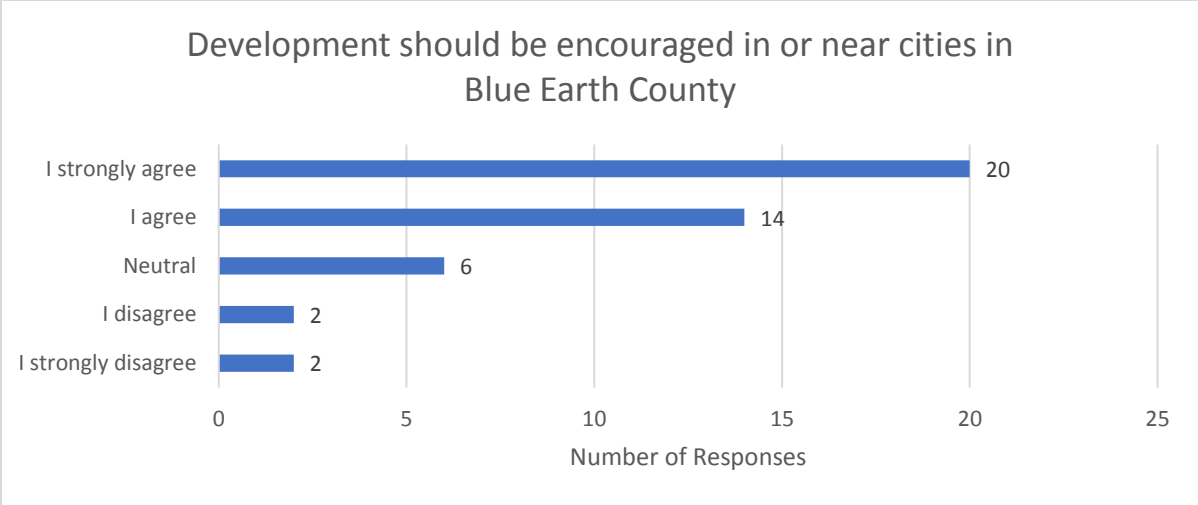


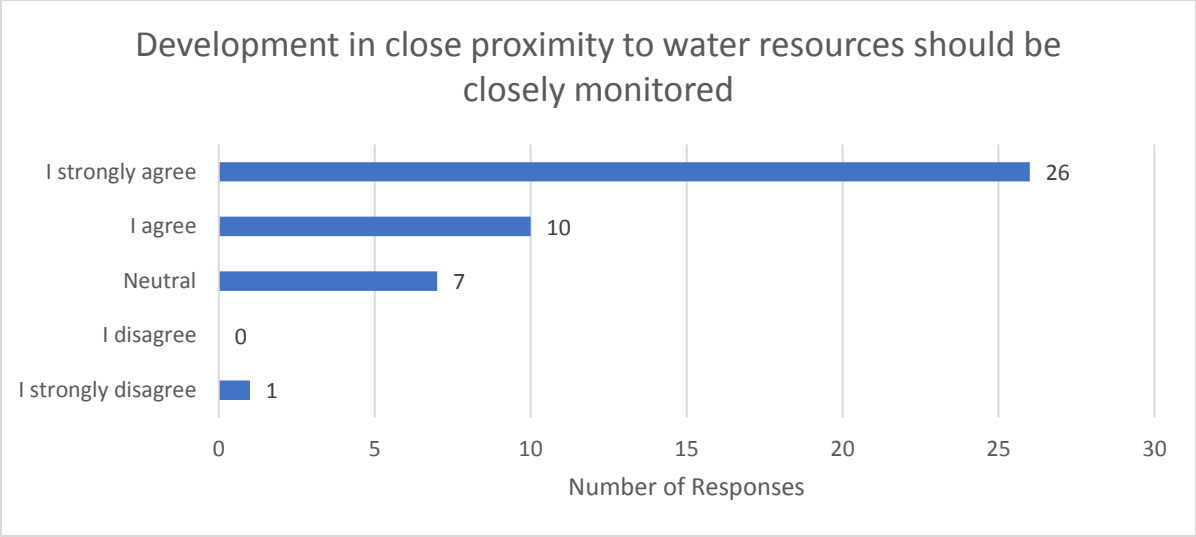


Question 8: What are your thoughts on growth and development within Blue Earth County?

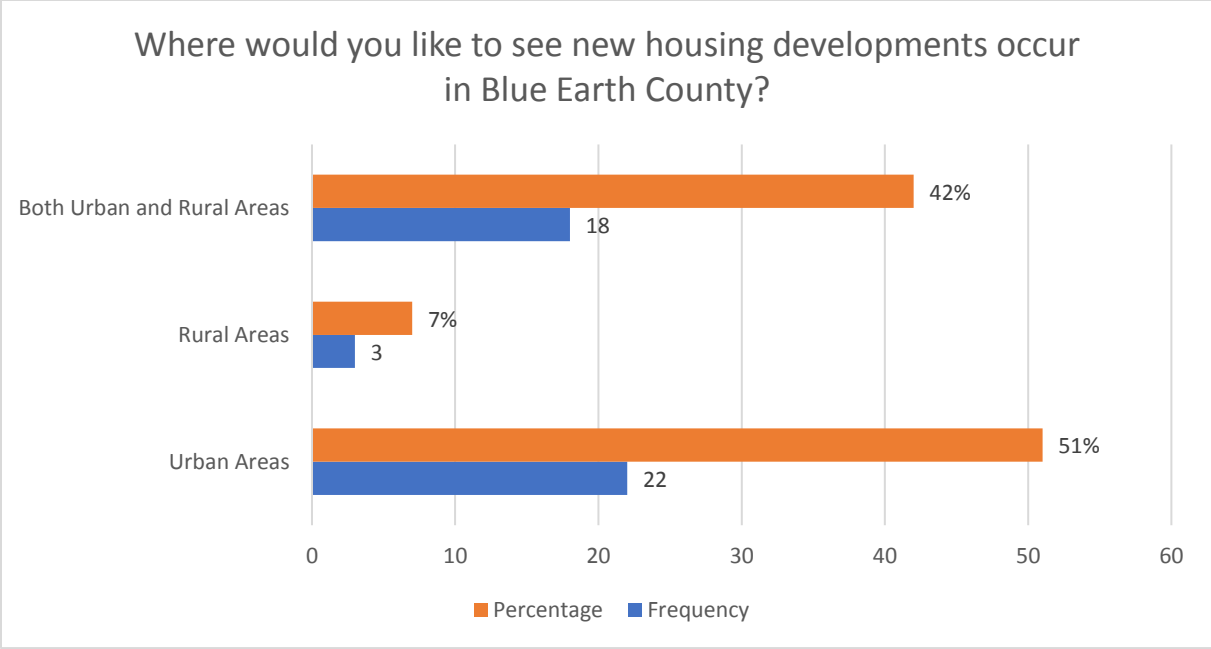
Answer Options	Strongly disagree	%	Disagree	%	Neutral	%	Agree	%	Strongly agree	%	Response Count
The County Government should have a stronger role in directing future growth and development to appropriate areas	3	6.8	3	6.8	10	22.7	14	31.8	14	31.8	44
Property owners should be free to develop land without many restrictions	12	27.3	18	40.9	4	9.1	7	15.9	3	6.8	44
Areas with prime agricultural soils should be protected from encroaching non-farm development	3	6.8	3	6.8	5	11.4	17	38.6	16	36.4	44
Development should be encouraged in or near cities in Blue Earth County	2	4.5	2	4.5	6	13.6	14	31.8	20	45.5	44
Development should be encouraged near major roads/intersections	2	4.5	3	6.8	22	50.0	12	27.3	5	11.4	44
Blue Earth County needs more recreational areas to meet demand in the county	2	4.5	4	9.1	24	54.5	11	25.0	3	6.8	44
Development in close proximity to water resources should be closely monitored	1	2.3	0	0.0	7	15.9	10	22.7	26	59.1	44





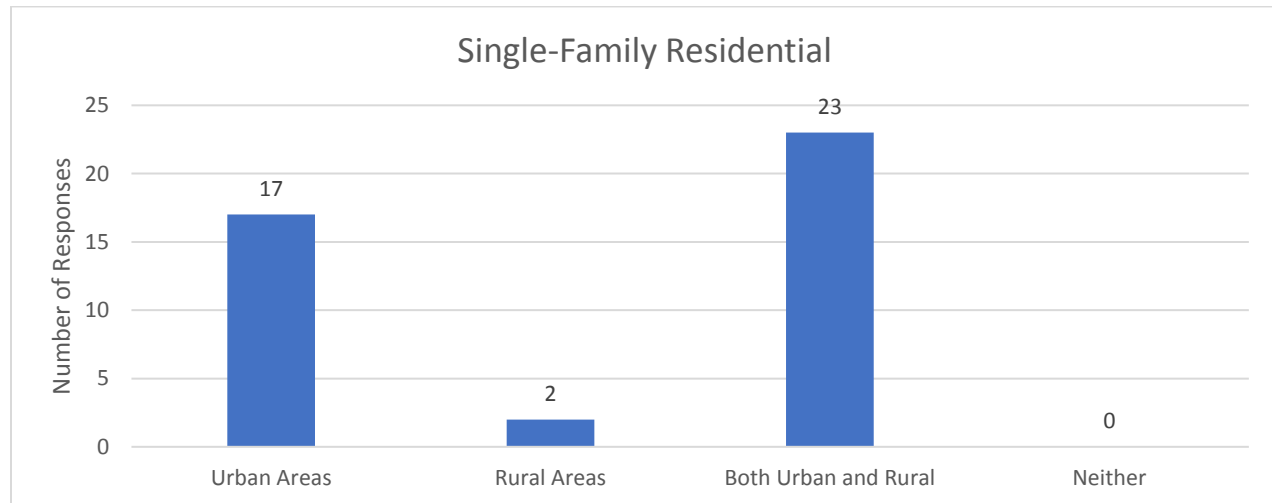


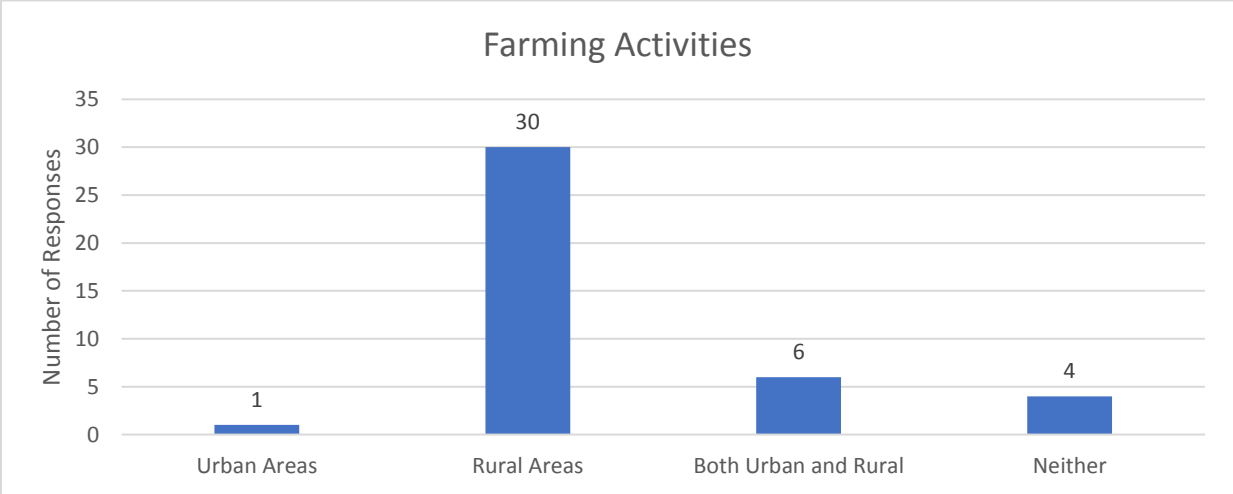
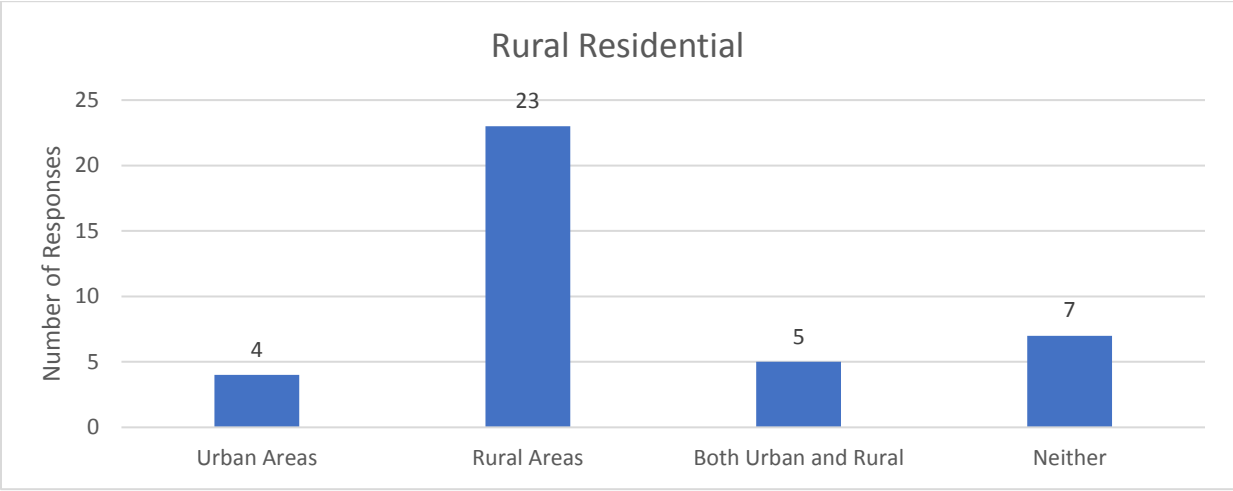
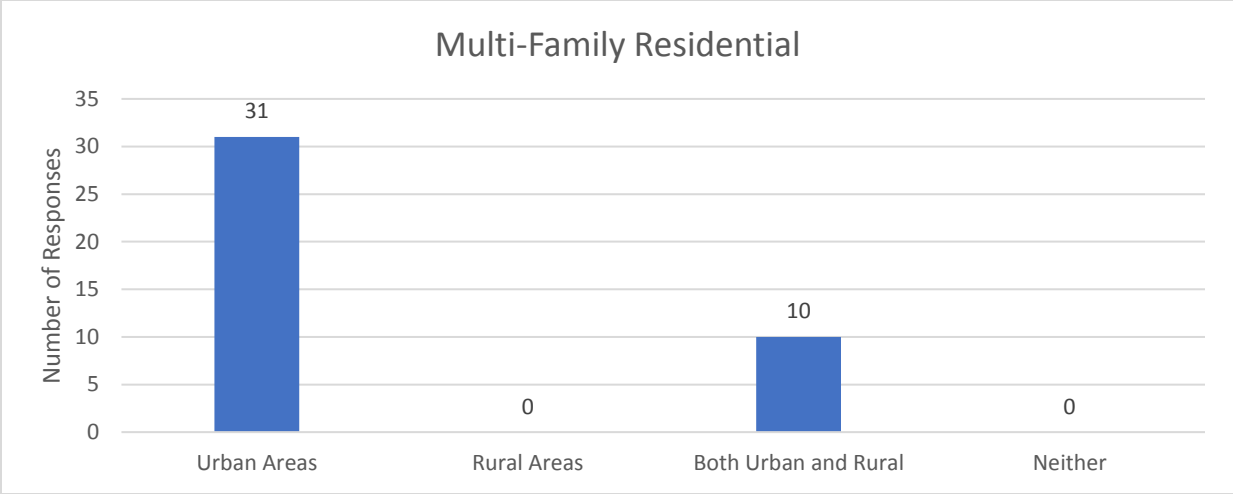
Question 9: Where would you like to see new housing developments occur in Blue Earth County?

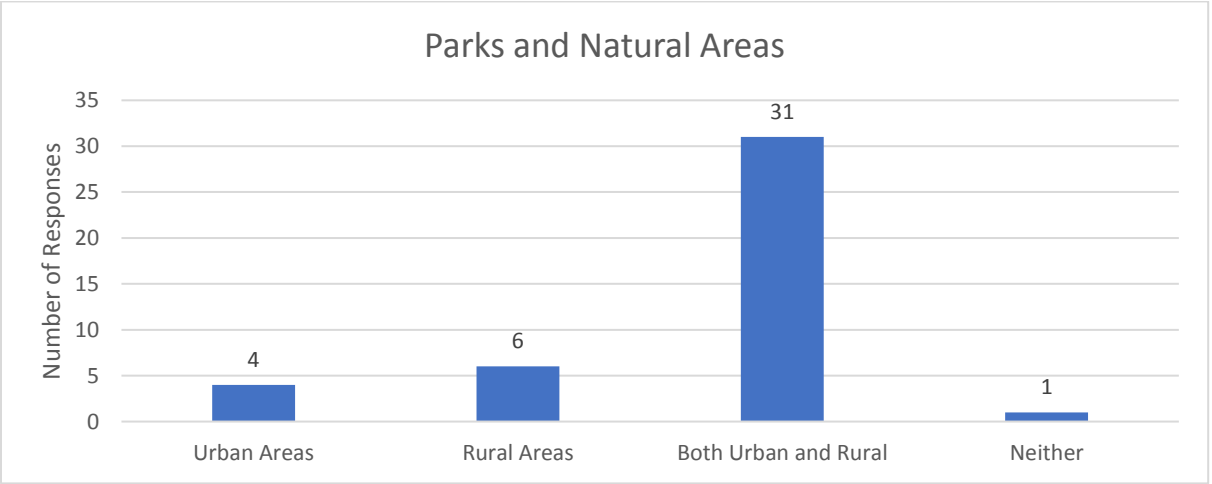
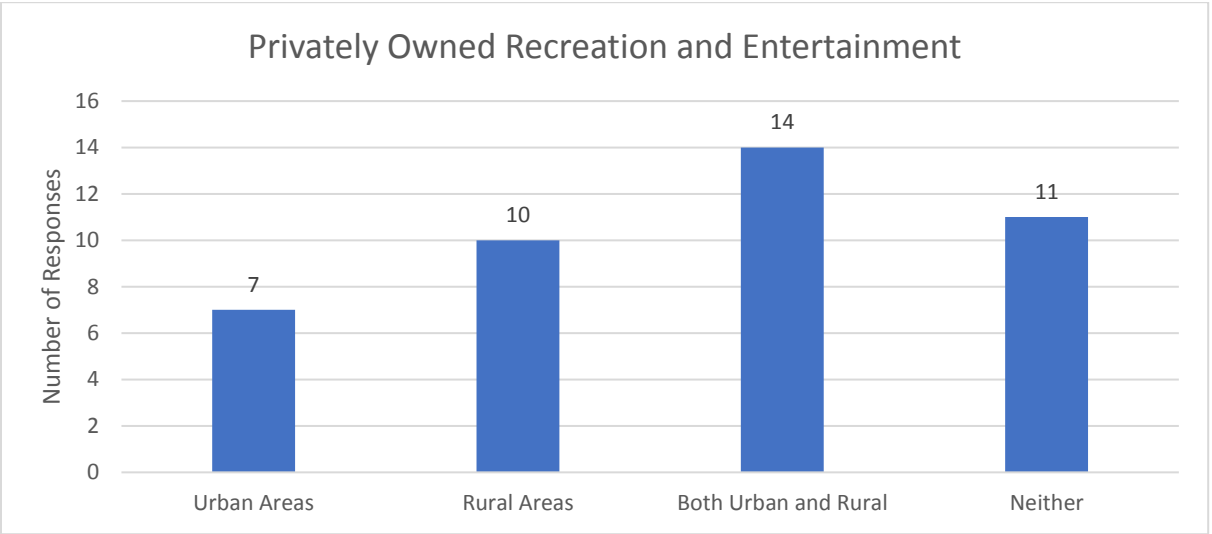
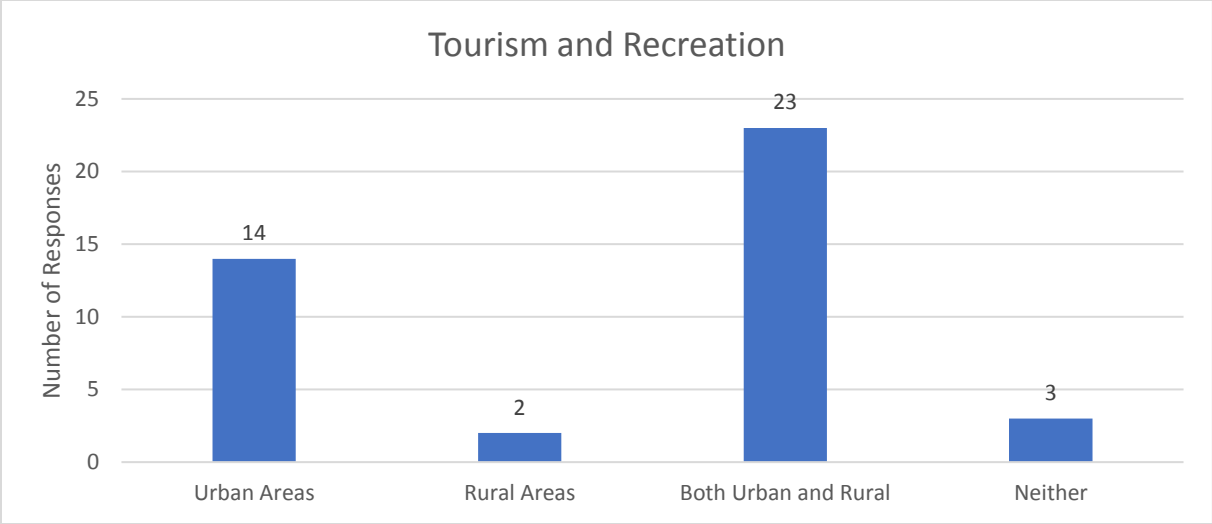


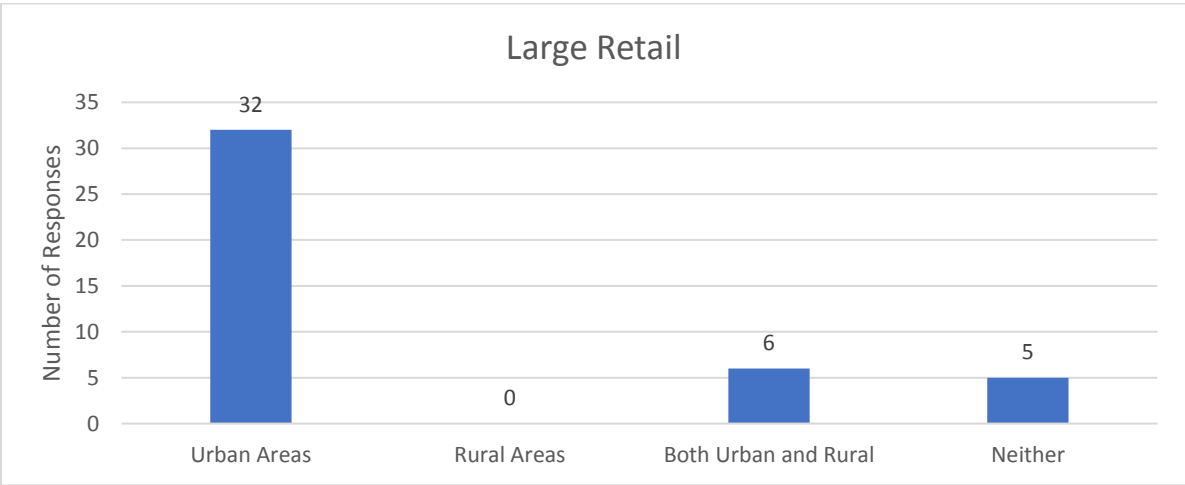
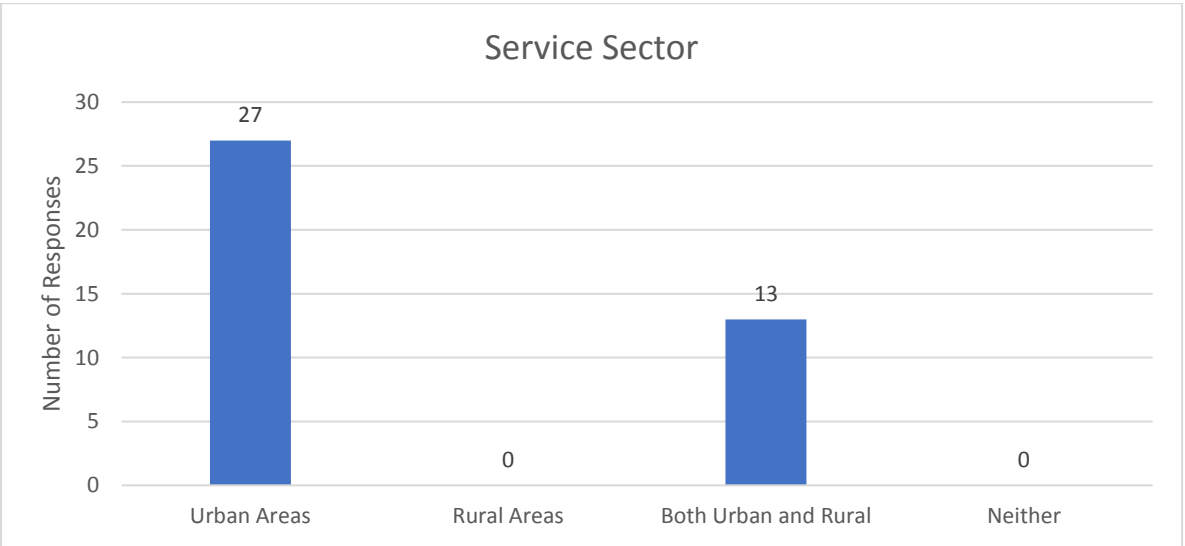
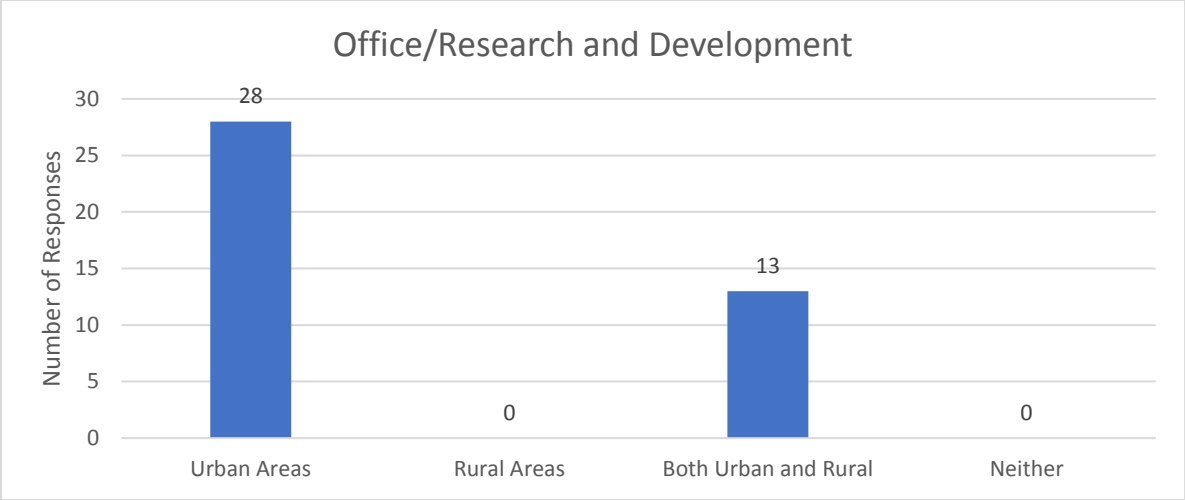
Question 10: To support county population growth, what types of development/growth would you like to see in Urban/Rural areas?

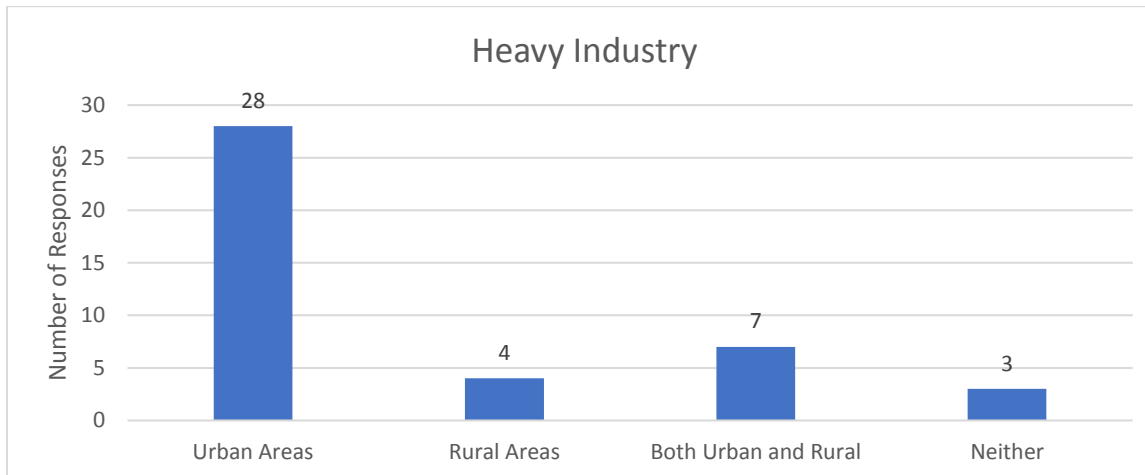
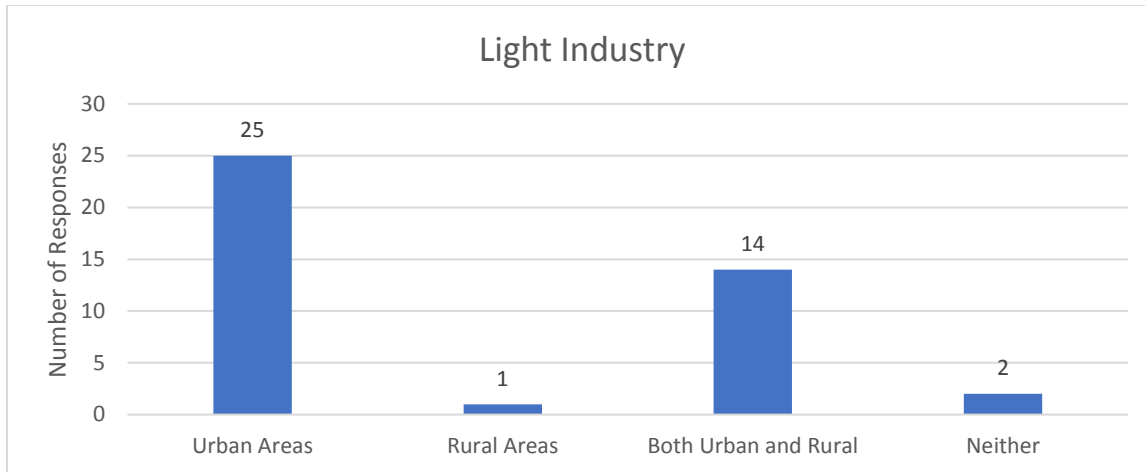
Answer Options	Urban Areas	%	Rural Areas	%	Both Urban and Rural	%	Neither	%	Response Count
Single-family residential	17	40.5	2	4.8	23	54.8	0	0.0	42
Multi-family residential	31	75.6	0	0.0	10	24.4	0	0.0	41
Rural residential	4	10.3	23	59.0	5	12.8	7	17.9	39
Farming activities	1	2.4	30	73.2	6	14.6	4	9.8	41
Tourism and recreation	14	33.3	2	4.8	23	54.8	3	7.1	42
Parks and natural areas	4	9.5	6	14.3	31	73.8	1	2.4	42
Office/research and development	28	68.3	0	0.0	13	31.7	0	0.0	41
Service sector	27	67.5	0	0.0	13	32.5	0	0.0	40
Large retail	32	74.4	0	0.0	6	14.0	5	11.6	43
Light industry	25	59.5	1	2.4	14	33.3	2	4.8	42
Heavy industry	28	66.7	4	9.5	7	16.7	3	7.1	42
Privately owned recreation and entertainment	7	16.7	10	23.8	14	33.3	11	26.2	42
Other	7	58.3	0	0.0	2	16.7	3	25.0	12







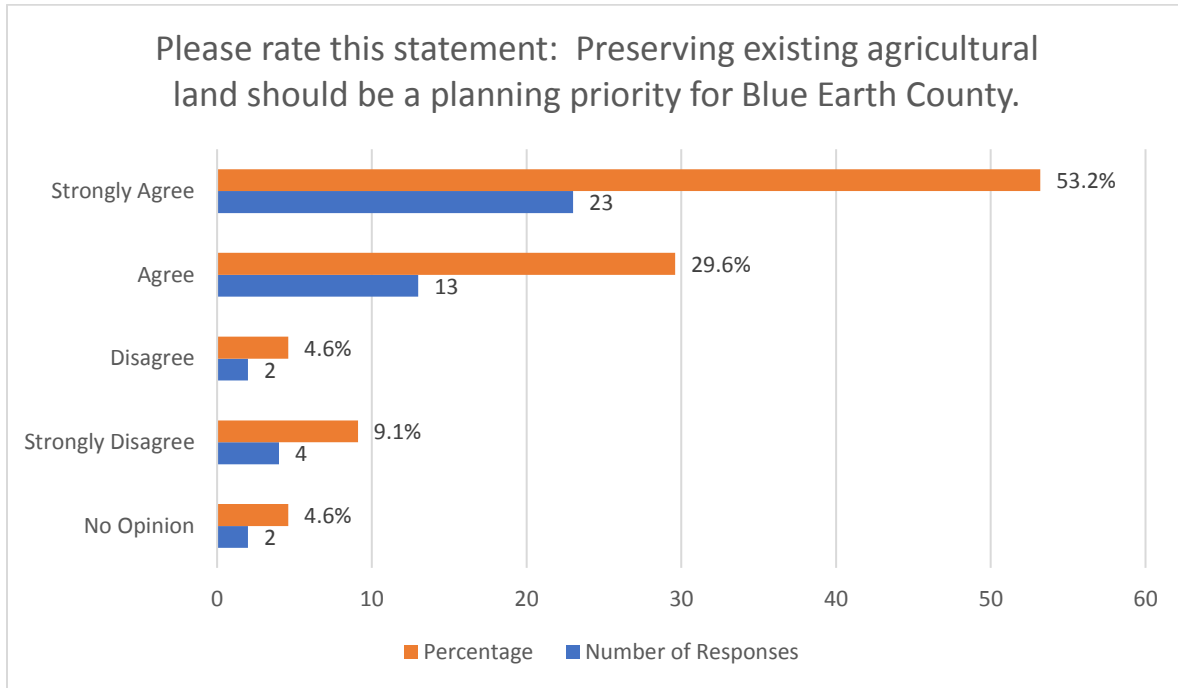




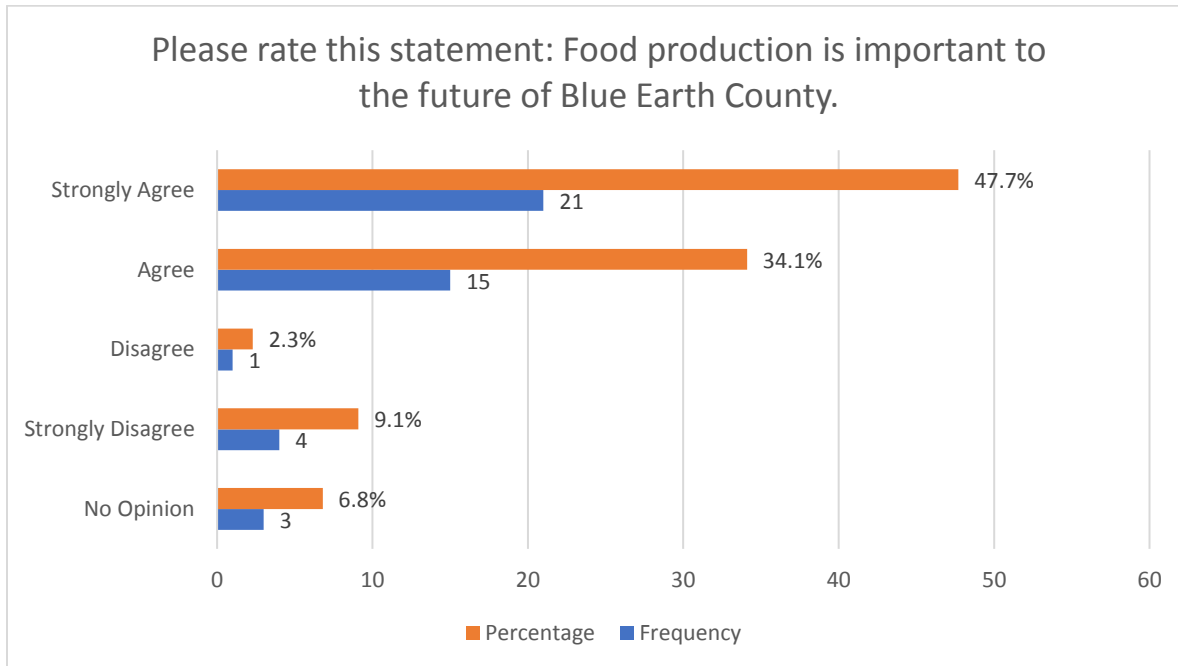
Other types of development were identified by respondents:

- I have been told that major growth in our county will stop in about 10 to 12 years. We need to understand that since growth is limited, how can we better plan for zero growth, and to maintain what we have now. The city of Mankato should not be allowed to grow land mass and take up more county lands, as they need to take care of what they have inside of their city boundaries. I am not sure why the "overlay" district areas should be subject to the city of Mankato. This needs to be removed and placed under the 100% control of the county.
- Child Care!
- Community Gardens
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing!!!!
- The county is already too populated. We do not need growth.
- Restaurants
- Subdivisions

Question 11: Please rate this statement: Preserving existing agricultural land should be a planning priority for Blue Earth County.

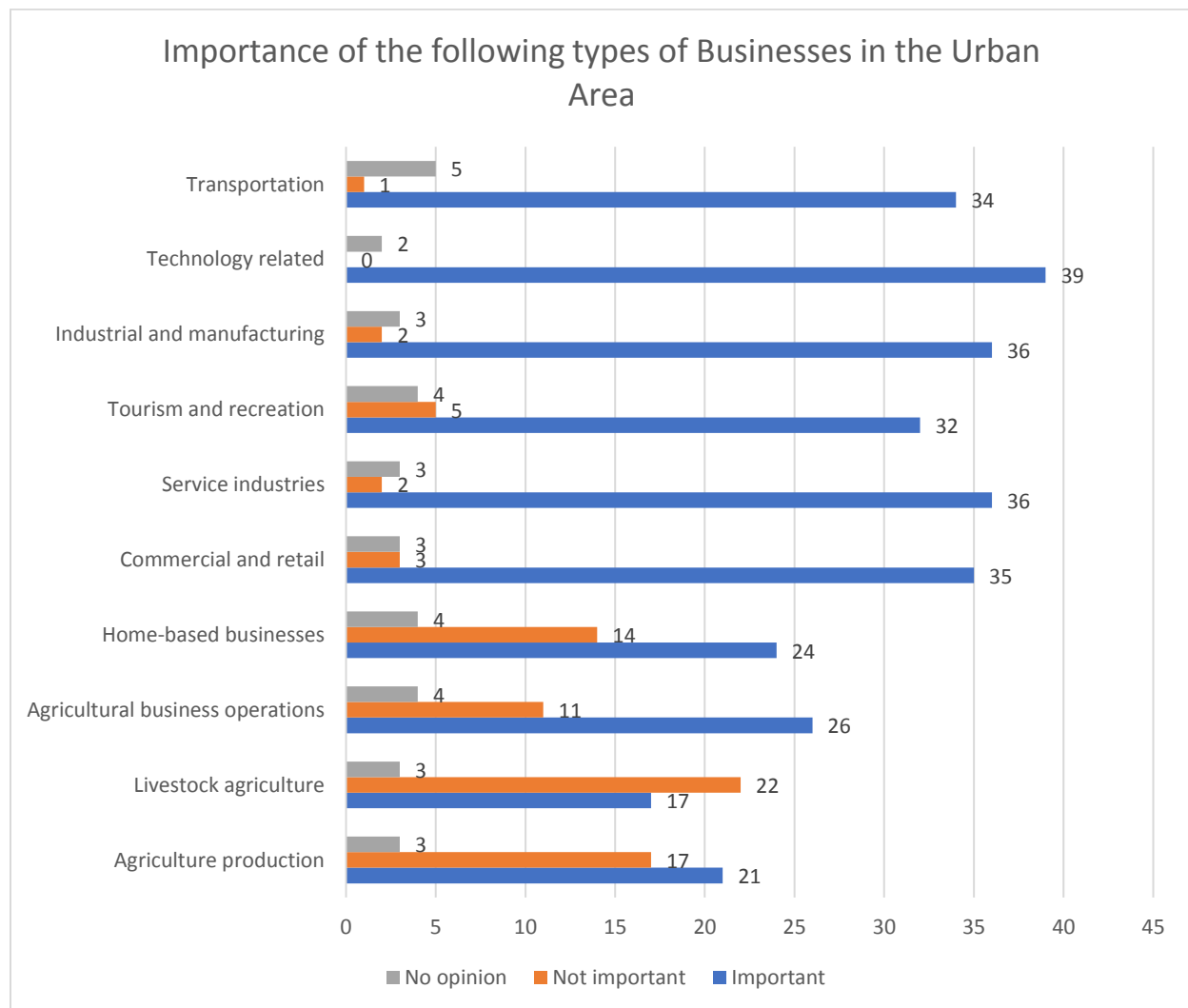


Question 12: Please rate this statement: Food production is important to the future of Blue Earth County.



Question 13: How important are the following types of businesses in urban areas (within Blue Earth County Cities) based on the needs of Blue Earth County residents?

Answer Options	Important	%	Not important	%	No opinion	%	Response Count
Agriculture production	21	51.2	17	41.5	3	7.3	41
Livestock agriculture	17	40.5	22	52.4	3	7.1	42
Agricultural business operations	26	63.4	11	26.8	4	9.8	41
Home-based businesses	24	57.1	14	33.3	4	9.5	42
Commercial and retail	35	85.4	3	7.3	3	7.3	41
Service industries	36	87.8	2	4.9	3	7.3	41
Tourism and recreation	32	78.0	5	12.2	4	9.8	41
Industrial and manufacturing	36	87.8	2	4.9	3	7.3	41
Technology related	39	95.1	0	0.0	2	4.9	41
Transportation	34	85.0	1	2.5	5	12.5	40
Other	6	54.5	0	0.0	5	45.5	11

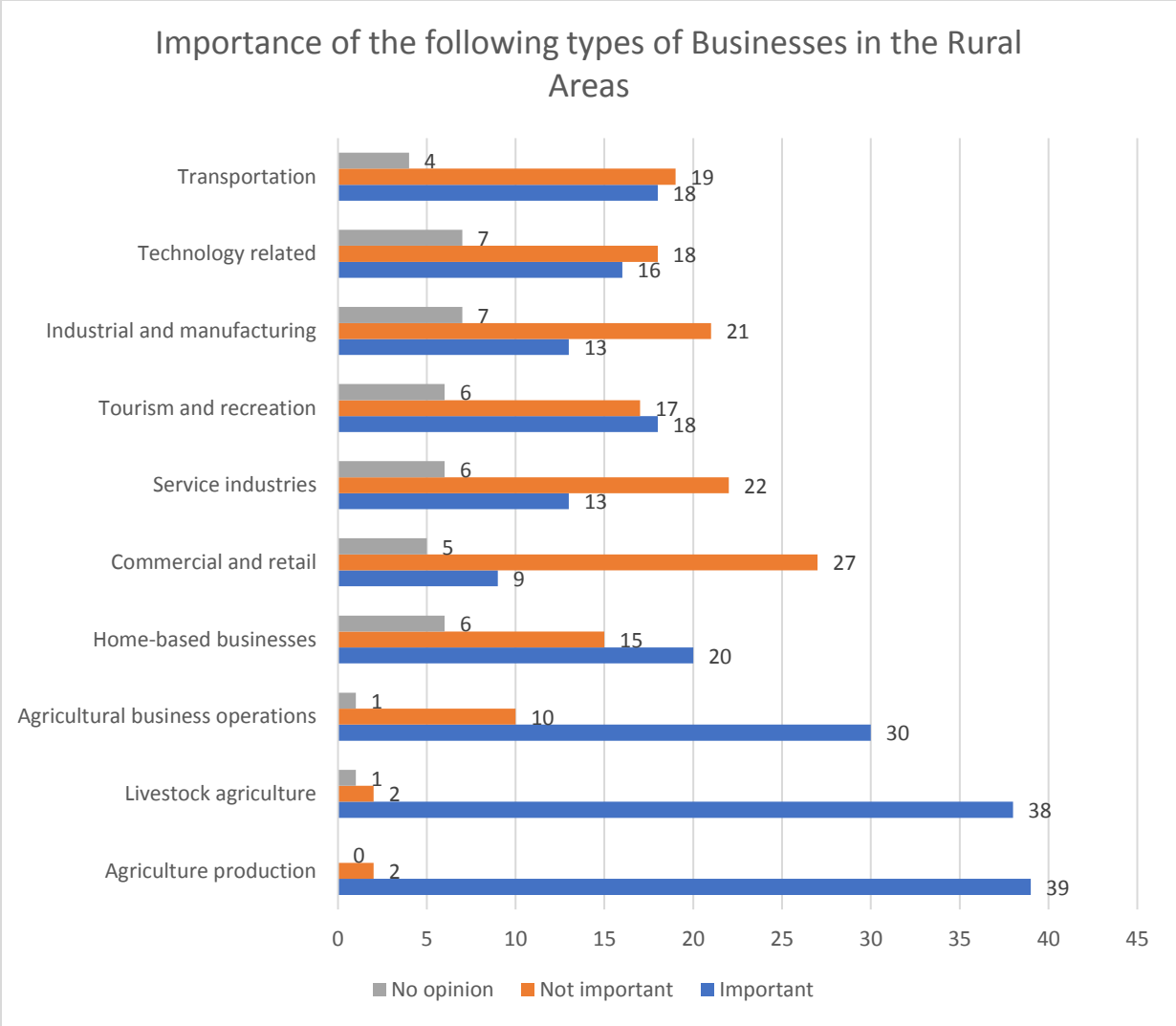


Other responses provided include:

- Child Care
- Child Care
- Restaurants
- Small towns need more businesses. It's hard to complete when rural businesses don't need permits
- This question is for Urban, meaning cities; Obviously most all businesses should be in the cities. Although we need to develop our parks and promote them more for the recreation and tourism values. Most of these are in rural areas.

Question 14: How important are the following types of businesses in rural areas based on the needs of Blue Earth County residents?

Answer Options	Important	%	Not important	%	No opinion	%	Response Count
Agriculture production	39	95.1	2	4.9	0	0.0	41
Livestock agriculture	38	92.7	2	4.9	1	2.4	41
Agricultural business operations	30	73.2	10	24.4	1	2.4	41
Home-based businesses	20	48.8	15	36.6	6	14.6	41
Commercial and retail	9	22.0	27	65.9	5	12.2	41
Service industries	13	31.7	22	53.7	6	14.6	41
Tourism and recreation	18	43.9	17	41.5	6	14.6	41
Industrial and manufacturing	13	31.7	21	51.2	7	17.1	41
Technology related	16	39.0	18	43.9	7	17.1	41
Transportation	18	43.9	19	46.3	4	9.8	41
Other	3	42.9	0	0.0	4	57.1	7

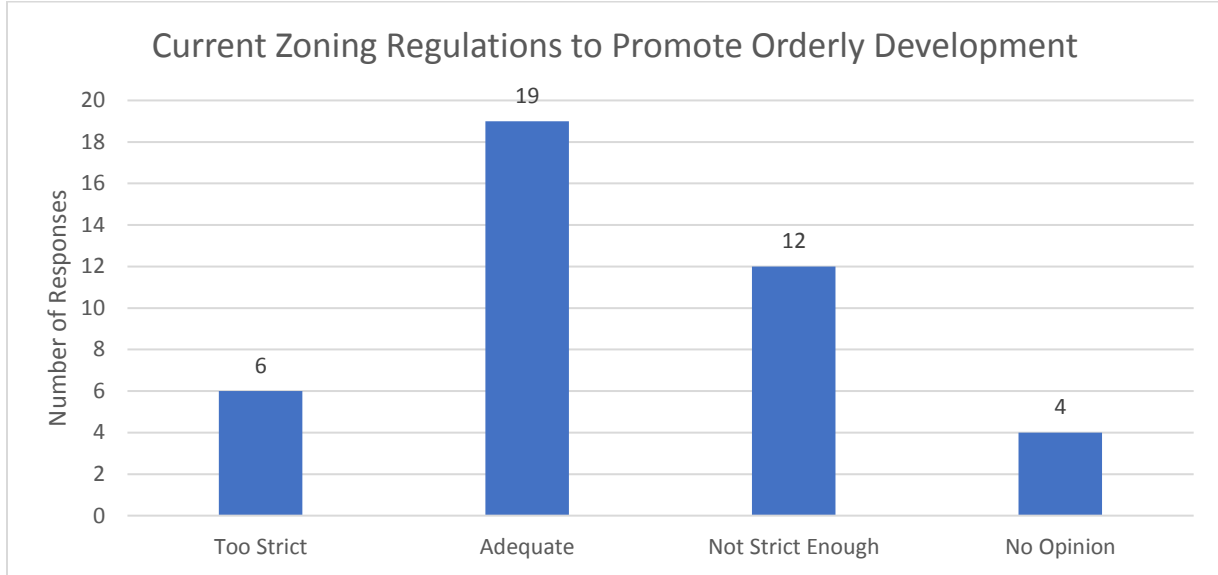


Other responses include:

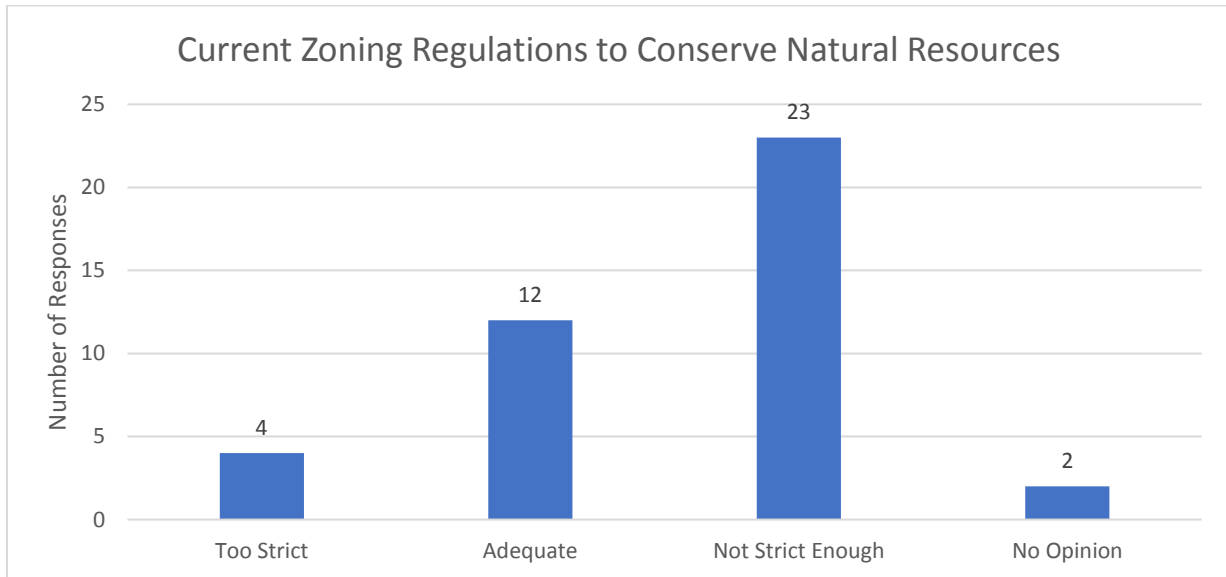
- Child Care
- Child Care
- We need larger land masses of open green spaces, both in cities and outside cities. Not just a few feet along streams and lakes

Question 15: Current zoning regulations/restrictions in place to protect the following resources are:

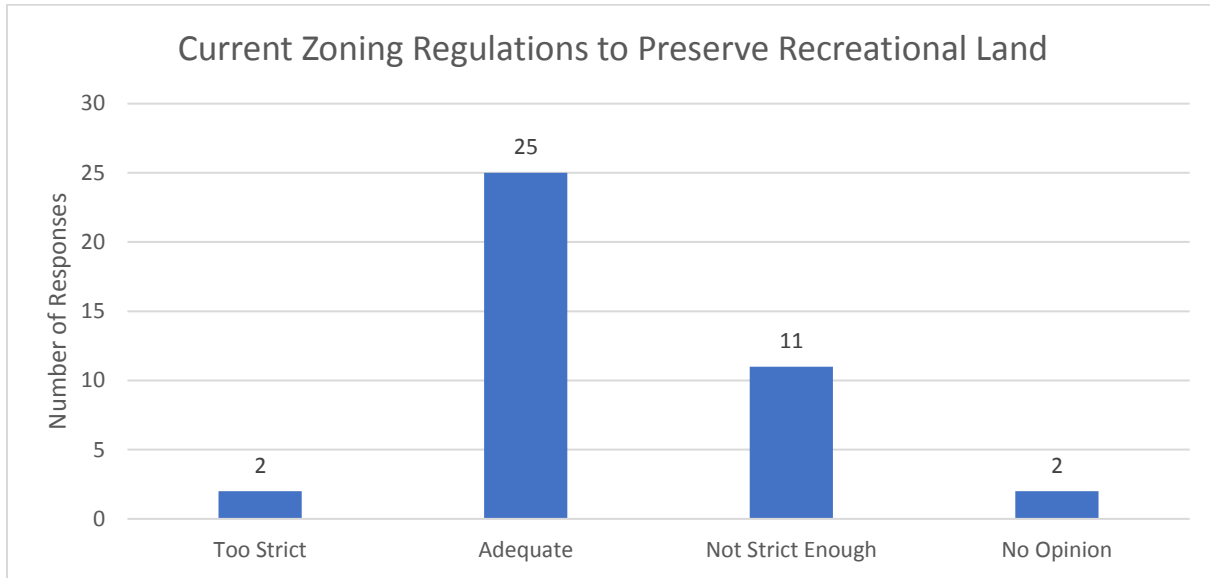
a. Respondents opinions about current zoning regulation in place to **Promote Orderly Development**



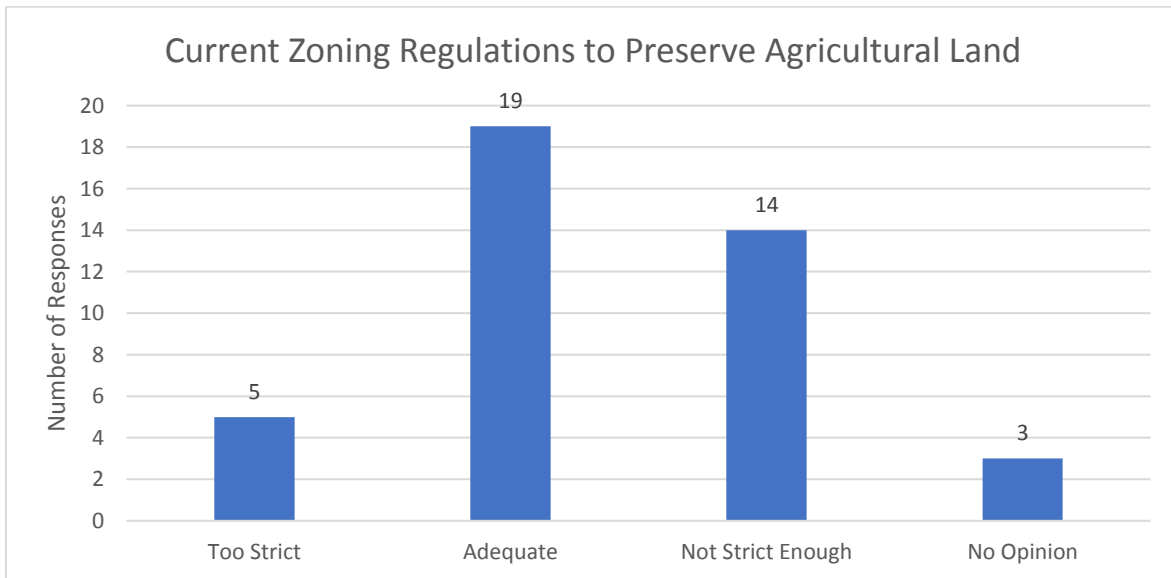
b. Respondents opinions about current zoning regulation in place to **Conserve Natural Resources**



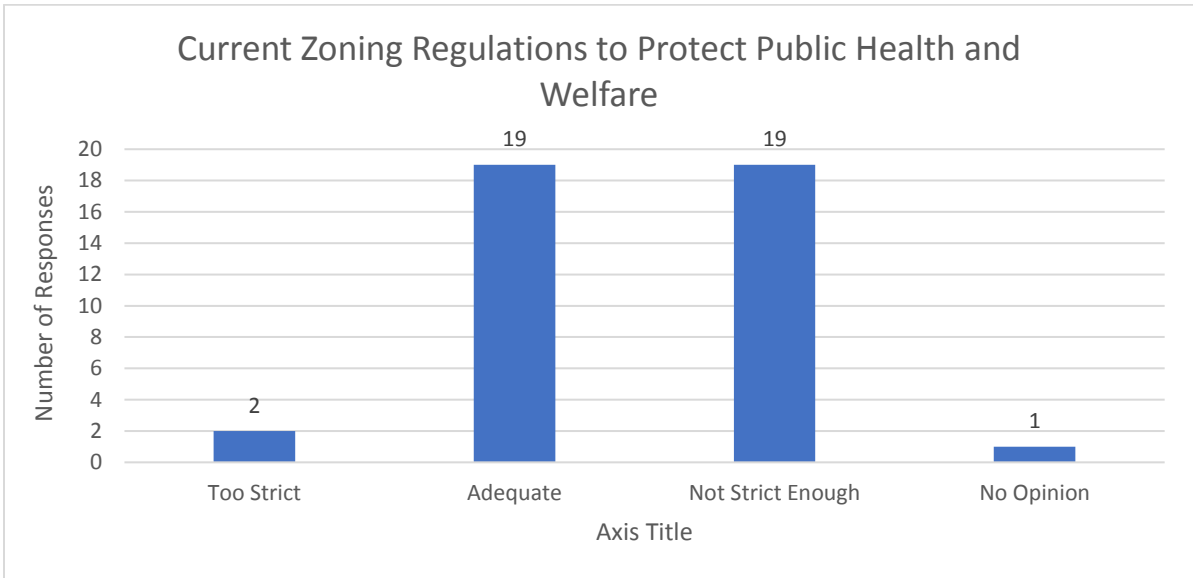
c. Respondents opinions about current zoning regulation in place to **Preserve Recreational Land**



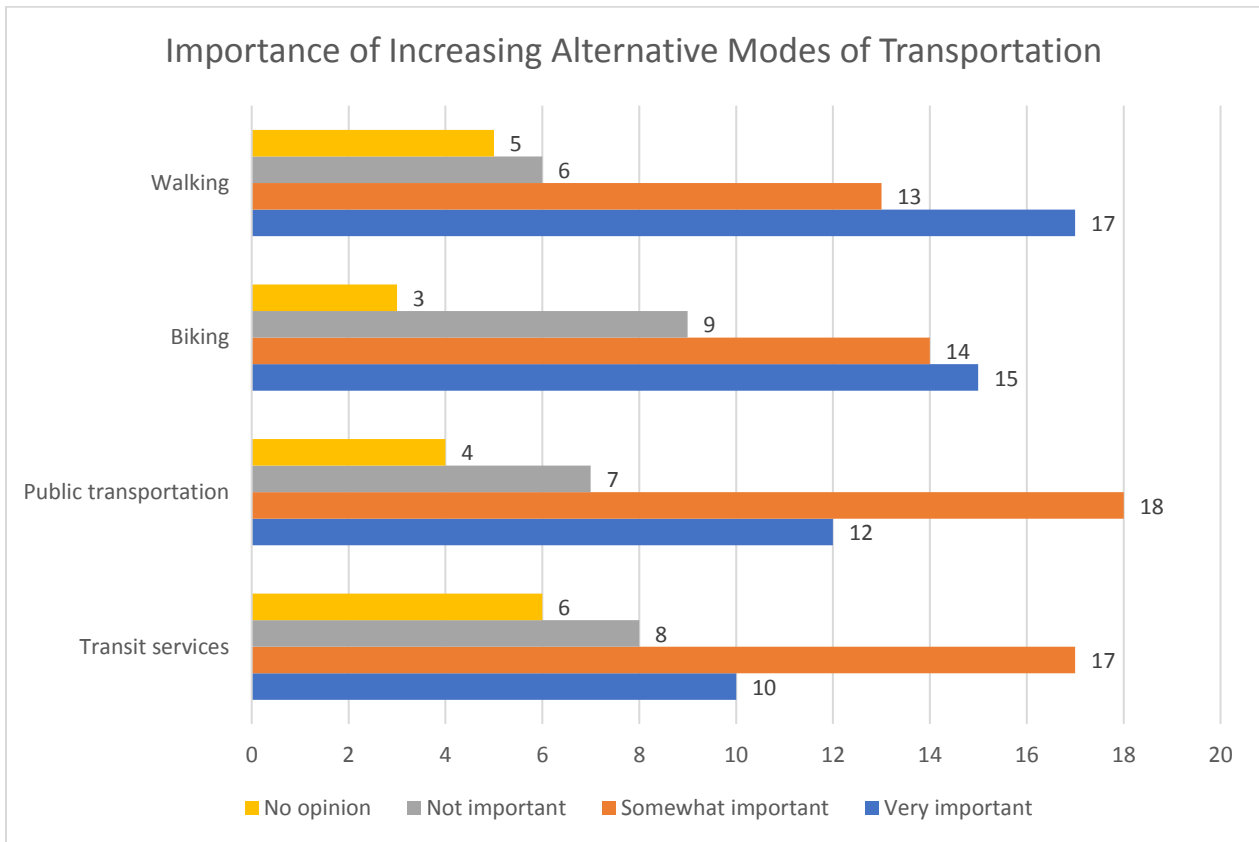
d. Respondents opinions about current zoning regulation in place to **Preserve Agricultural land**



e. Respondents opinions about current zoning regulation in place to **Protect Public Health and Welfare.**



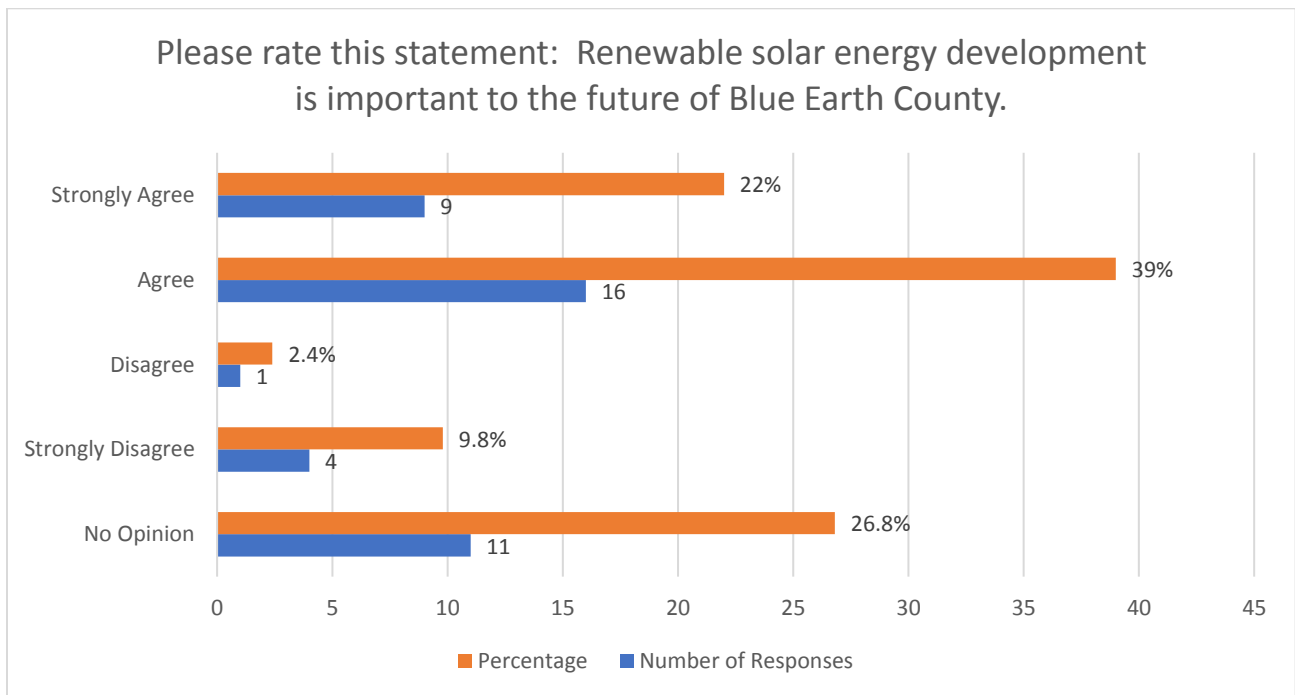
Question 16: How important is increasing alternative modes of transportation to the future of Blue Earth County?



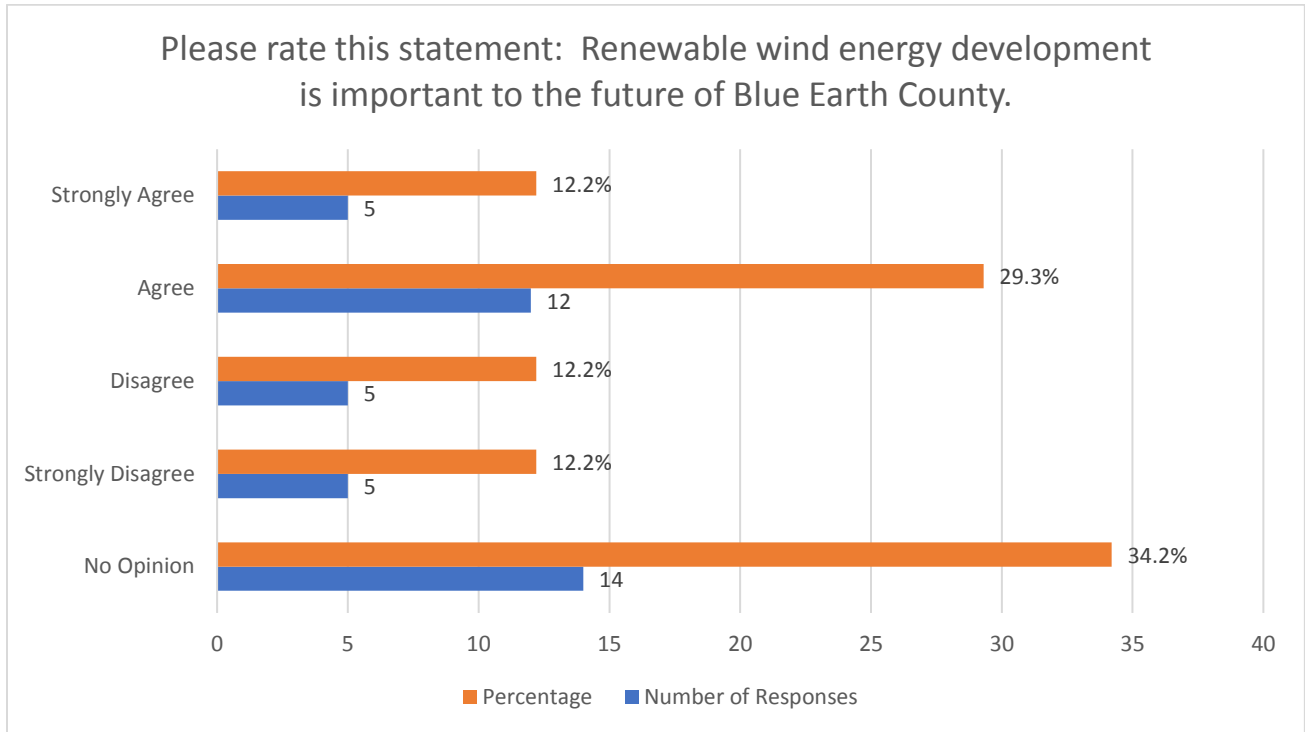
Additional comments provided by respondents include:

- Good road systems
- What is the difference between transit services and public transportation
- "Land to Air" and other shuttle and transportation to Twin Cities and Rochester
- We need to realize the importance of all modes of transportation, including pedestrian walking. All newly developed roads should have wide paved shoulders so that rural people can walk safely, bike safely, etc.

Question 17: Please rate this statement: Renewable solar energy development is important to the future of Blue Earth County.



Question 18: Please rate this statement: Renewable wind energy development is important to the future of Blue Earth County.



Question 19: Please provide any additional thoughts or comments regarding the future of Blue Earth County.

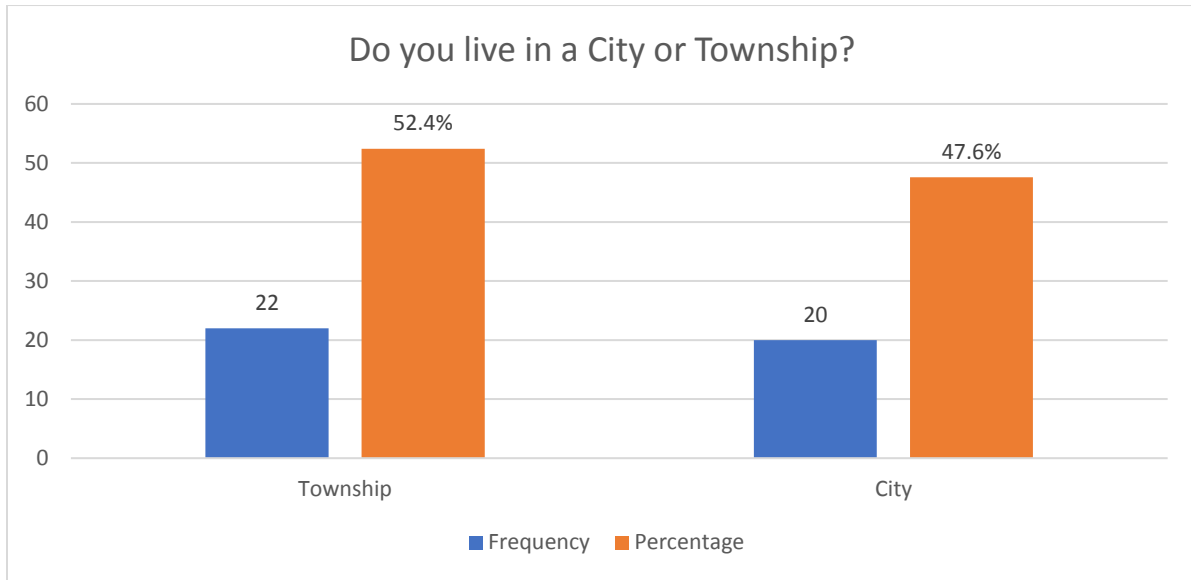
Number	Response Text
1	There are times when common sense is not utilized. Special interest groups weight heavily on land use, and planning.
2	Promote high density development in cities to preserve ag land. It is too costly for individuals and the cities to have scattered growth without sewer and water. Extending the proper infrastructure after development has taken place is too costly and not sustainable. The recent costs of annexation to Mankato are over \$35,000. This plan should coordinate well with all the cities visions. It is not in their best interest to have development of any type right outside their jurisdiction. More planning for storm water from development and ditches should be done.
3	Air pollution from large hog pit barns is a health hazard which requires more distance in rural areas
4	Child Care is needed to support economic growth
5	Please include a section on the local food system in our county, with the MVAC Food Hub, community gardens, farmers' markets, and local business' that buy local products in mind. Having a holistic vision for the community includes the local food system. Focusing on large producers or only commodity crop growers misses a large part of the robust local food system movement. Please use the models recently developed using the Minnesota Food Charter. In addition, the child care crisis is real for our community, and will impede growth in a healthy employment market unless it is addressed at the local and state level.
6	We need to keep the small communities healthy. There is a lot of development in Mankato which is important and great. We just need some in the small communities around Mankato.
7	Housing should be encouraged in all the cities of the county. They have invested in infrastructure, trails, sidewalks, drinking water supplies, wastewater treatment, and storm water. Allowing houses just outside cities and scattered throughout the countryside hurts their tax base and conflicts with farming. Farming is the driver of the regional economy and needs to be preserved. The small towns are hurting as there are fewer farmers and jobs and scattered housing will only make it worse.

- 8 Everything needs to be more sustainable! We need to set up more opportunities for citizen education leading to long term involvement on these issues. The information is out there, we know how to develop beautiful green cities and counties. We need more engaged community champions to make it a priority. And if we can't find them, let's build them through intentional engagement
- 9 You need to be sure to get as many voices to the table to answer these questions. What do the people of BEC NEED? I doubt you are reaching the low-income audiences. How are you getting this out to them? I work for and live in BEC and I had no idea about this until someone I work with stumbled across it. I hope that you are really trying to reach those that need some of these changes the most. Not "wants" but NEEDS!
- 10 Rural growth vs. ag protection needs to be assessed honestly. They are conflicting and cannot co-exist in the long term. Long term, there needs to be an assessment of which is more sustainable. Since the ag sector employs many people in the area, that should be prioritized far more than rural growth. Rural residential growth only provides short term gains for specific property owners. It does not benefit the community or region as a whole. Often times rural residential growth cost tax payers more in the short term and long term. Encouraging higher density growth in all cities will benefit the county and the long run and will preserve more ag land than large scatter lots. Scattered rural growth also does not benefit the small cities in the county and hurts their tax base. Why would cities like Amboy, St Clair, Lake Crystal, Good Thunder and Mapleton want residential growth just outside their cities? Scattered residential growth also conflicts with Agricultural operations. Livestock is important in the County and should not be hindered by scattered rural houses. Your feedlot setbacks are important but should be reviewed. They easily could be simplified to be 1,500 feet or a quarter mile rather than a setback based on prevailing winds. The wind pasterns from 20 years ago have changed and there is not specific science with wind and odor to support the 1,000-foot setbacks in certain directions. It may be based on science but there is no way to accurately predict how that there will be fewer nuisance free days in the 1,000-foot setback area compared with the 1,500-foot area. Having the same setback for a house from a feedlot at 1,320 feet would just be easier for people to understand and likely would have the same end result than your current setbacks. If you allow more and more scattered growth, there will be fewer and fewer sites for feedlots. Since the ag economy is the engine for much of the local economy, that should be given far more emphasis than scattered rural houses. The density of driveways from the scattered rural houses should also be analyzed. The more of them that are on the major state and county roads, the more hazardous the roads are. Limiting driveways should be considered and their locations need to be reviewed on major roads. Billboards should also not be allowed along the county roads and state highways like they are in Le Sueur County and other nearby areas. There are enough billboards along HWY 169, 60 and 22 and more of them will not do anything to benefit the County. You also need to consider better storm water rules for development and for the county ditches. With the increase in rainfall patterns, there is not enough water storage to adequately protect roads, lakes, rivers and ravines.
- 11 The growth potential of the county is what it is. You need to consider where the growth SHOULD occur. Should means where it does best to preserve farmland and prevent and reduce long term costs to tax payers. You need to learn from past land use decisions in and around the county. It costs tax payers more to extend sewer and do retro fits for utilities like storm water. Having many driveways on main roads is dangerous and needs to be discouraged. Urban and suburban growth needs to be planned with cities in the county and with MNDOT and other road authorities. Relaxing regulations in the county will not increase populations in many areas of the county. Small cities will not be helped by scattered rural growth. That type of growth conflicts with agriculture and is not what they county or small cities need. Retail and industrial uses need to be where the people are which is in cities. If the county considers having growth outside of cities, they need to consult the cities and engineers to analyze the full cost of the development over the long run and not just cater to short term gains for one individual. Transportation plans and impacts of growth in public safety needs to be a much larger factor in rural growth planning. The county needs to factor in fire safety with allowing rural businesses. It costs more to do those businesses in cities for the simple fact of the fire and building codes. Allowing them in the county because costs are cheaper due to the lack of building code and the lack of a level playing field is not right and the tax payers do not benefit in the long run. If you actually want to preserve your farm land you need to have higher density growth in the right places. The right places are the cities in the county. Ask Mankato what it is costing them to extend sewer near town and then consider whether that scattered low density growth from the past is sustainable. Also, just because there are a few realtors who make money on rural growth does not mean that you should listen to their views more than any other residents. Their views are to make more money for themselves and their clients and those views are not necessarily what is best for the county in long run. If you want to have sustainable lakes and rivers far more needs to be done with storm water. The small cities and rural subdivisions have almost no storm water storage. This is especially true for Madison lake area and the lakes in southern MN. If you want lakes to swim in and fish in more needs to be done to preserve and protect the water resources in the county. your consultant needs to fully understand where

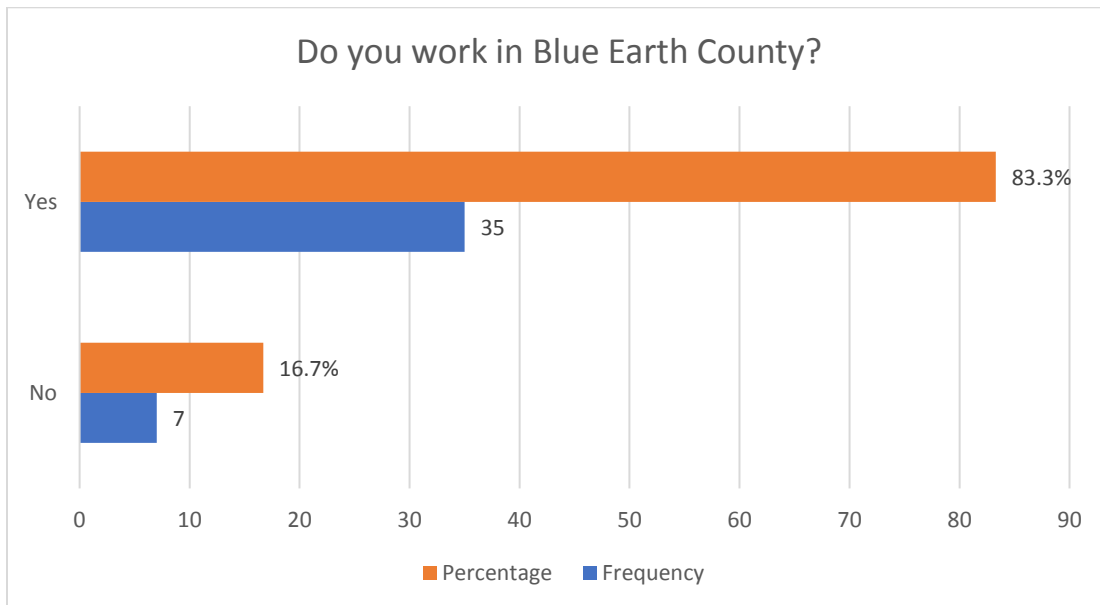
growth has occurred in the count. Mankato and eagle lake are where the growth is occurring and where it will continue in near future. Lake Crystal, St. Clair and Madison lake are bedroom communities that are also growing to smaller degree. If those communities cannot support large employers, the rural areas of county clearly won't and should not be expected to.

- 12 Regulations in place for soil and water seem adequate to ensure a safe/healthy way of living, but regulations of air pollution are lacking. Main contributor I think to air contamination is outdoor wood boilers. In areas of sparsely populated residences, not an issue. Areas of denser populated residences (rural subdivisions, 3-4 or more houses per 1/4 mile) should have something in place to protect/promote healthier air. Having bad air day in/day out with no relief in sight really makes a person frustrated to a point where Blue Earth County is not a place to live and raise a family.
- 13 The problem with food production is a distribution problem, not a production problem. Maintaining ag land in the county doesn't solve any part of this problem.
- 14 Feedlot setbacks should be increased based upon existing residential density, as nearby density increases so shall setback requirements. Bluff setbacks need to be increased. Variance requests near bluffs should require more scrutiny by the Board of Adjustment. After-the-fact permit fees should be drastically increased to further promote compliance. Wetland preservation and restoration should be enhanced. Farm drainage should be reviewed and more onsite water storage should be considered. Additional rural residential zoning areas should be considered along with highway business districts. Thank you to county staff and officials for their hard work and dedication to making Blue Earth County a great place to live.
- 15 Quit dozing out woodlands to create more cropland. If you want strong commodity prices then reduce production. This is a pretty simple supply and demand concept.
- 16 The scenic value of the county should be preserved. The County should plan more resilient communities to flooding, erosion and changing precipitation patterns (flash floods).
- 17 I feel it would be beneficial to rural Blue Earth County home owners to permit a shipping container to be used as a storage unit on their property within the current setback limits. Presently, enclosed trailers, truck bodies, and garden sheds are permissible, but not shipping containers. Shipping containers provide, safe, secure, weather proof, and rodent proof storage, at a reasonable price. If the permissible square foot limit was increased above the current 120 square foot limit for a non-permit storage building, to 325 square foot limit, then the 8-foot-wide by 40-foot-long containers would be a very useful storage shed. Even the 8 foot by 20 foot shipping containers (at 160 square feet) would be a nice improvement to the 120 square foot restriction of a non-permit garden shed. Today with larger riding lawn mowers, snow blowers, recreational equipment, patio furniture, power washers, power garden tillage equipment, cooking grills, etc., the currently allowed 120 square feet is not enough for the average homeowner's storage needs.
- 18 Continue to provide progressive leadership in Southern Minnesota by remaining competitive with industry and other government agencies for talented employees.
- 19 Strongly disagree with the growing number of CAFOS in such close proximity to residential areas. Should be a limit in the number of confinements per square mile in counties. Worried about aquafer/water overuse, toxic air quality, and contaminated streams to rivers.
- 20 Businesses should be in towns. More housing in rural areas less of a big deal if developed right, like in Mankato.
- 21 Do you really expect citizens to be able to assess whether zoning rules are adequate protect agriculture and the environment? I hope professionals in this field do this as a part of this plan. That should be the focus of the plan.
- 22 You need to promote development in areas with sewer and water. Our tax dollars should not be spent on extending sewer and water solve problems that were created the result of poorly thought out development on crop fields. More compact development with city services will help conserve cropland countywide.
- 23 Our parks and trails need to have a high level of value, no less than roads and bridges. Also, we need to possibly develop a policy that if we build any new roads using blacktop or cement, we need to remove the same from being paved. Meaning a zero gain of paved road in the county. No new paved road miles allowed since this cost seems to be so high for future maintenance. I wish the state of MN would adopt a Zero Net Gain for paved roads. Turn paved roads back into gravel before building any new ones. Human values of living are just as important as making money, so the quality of life issues are just as important as business activities. The arts, natural beauty and natural resources are important to our children's future. We need to embrace more fully the need for clean water, wild open spaces, and not just use everything for making money. Our air and water quality needs to come first. Protect the already existing beauty we have, no more development along any river or stream bluffs, and to provide high speed internet to those of us in rural areas so we too can develop our businesses. Larger Cities like Mankato are too crowded and do not provide for a high quality of life.

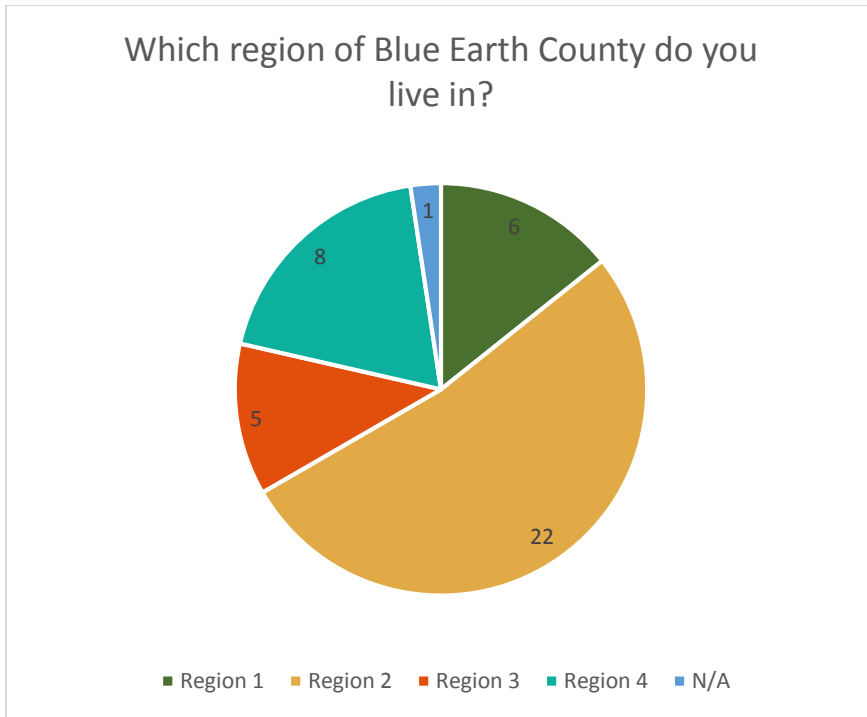
Question 20: Do you live in a City or Township?



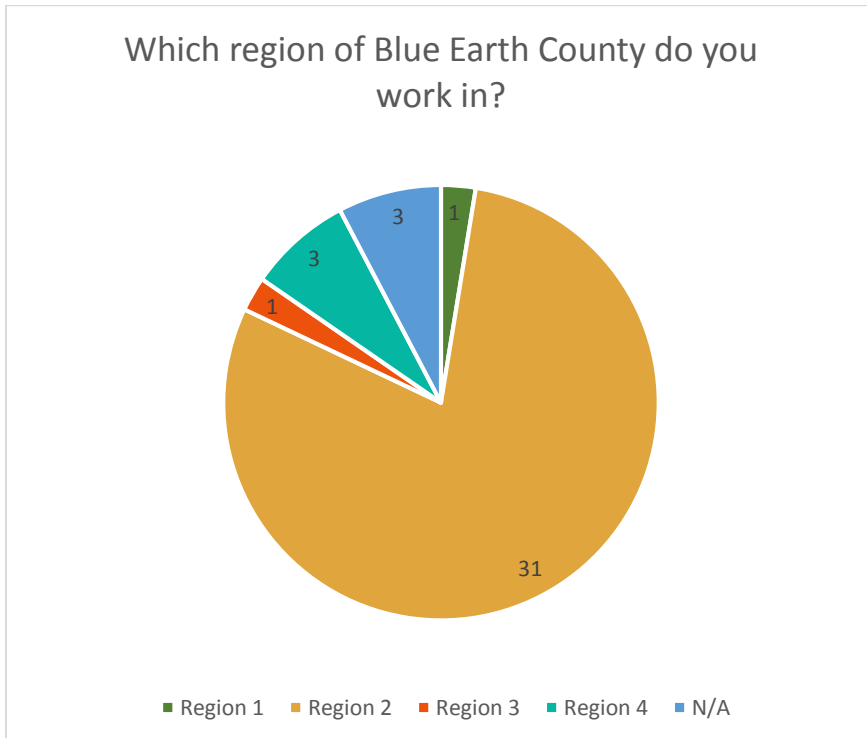
Question 21: Do you work in Blue Earth County?



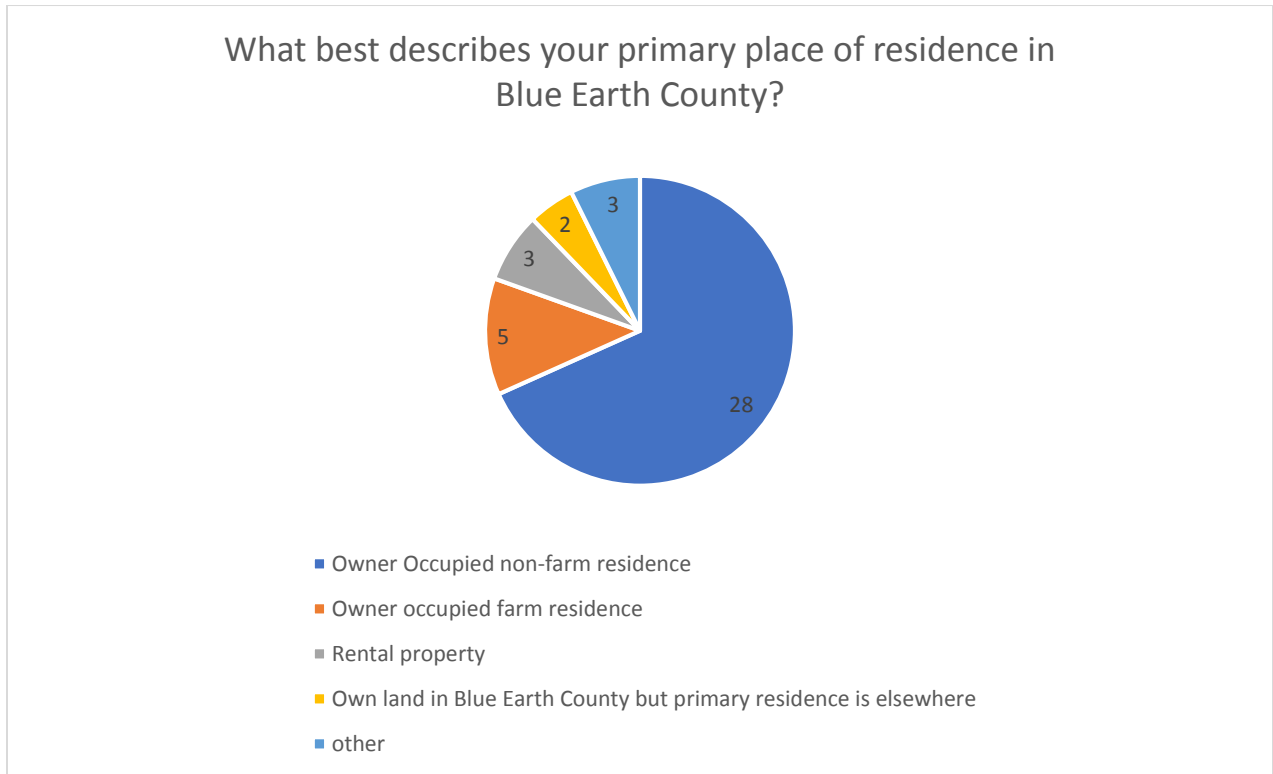
Question 22a: Which region of Blue Earth County do you live in? (see image below)



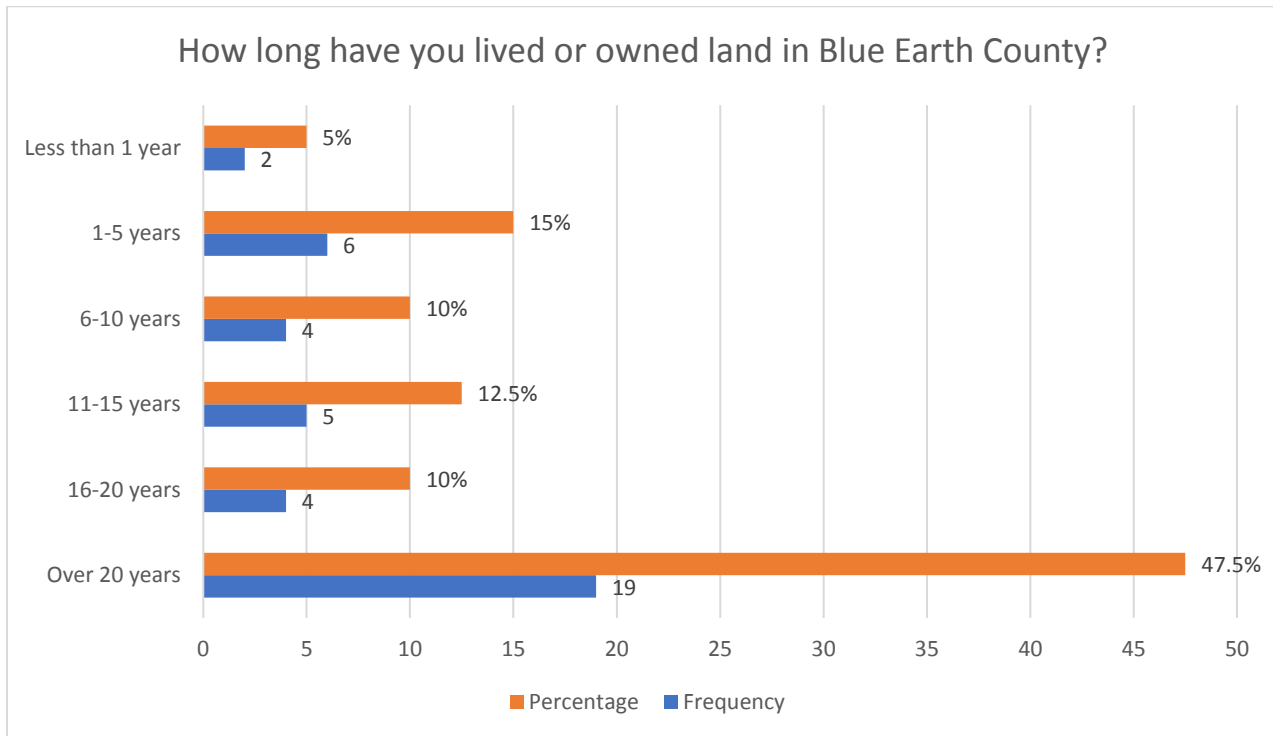
Question 22b: Which region of Blue Earth County do you work in? (see image below)



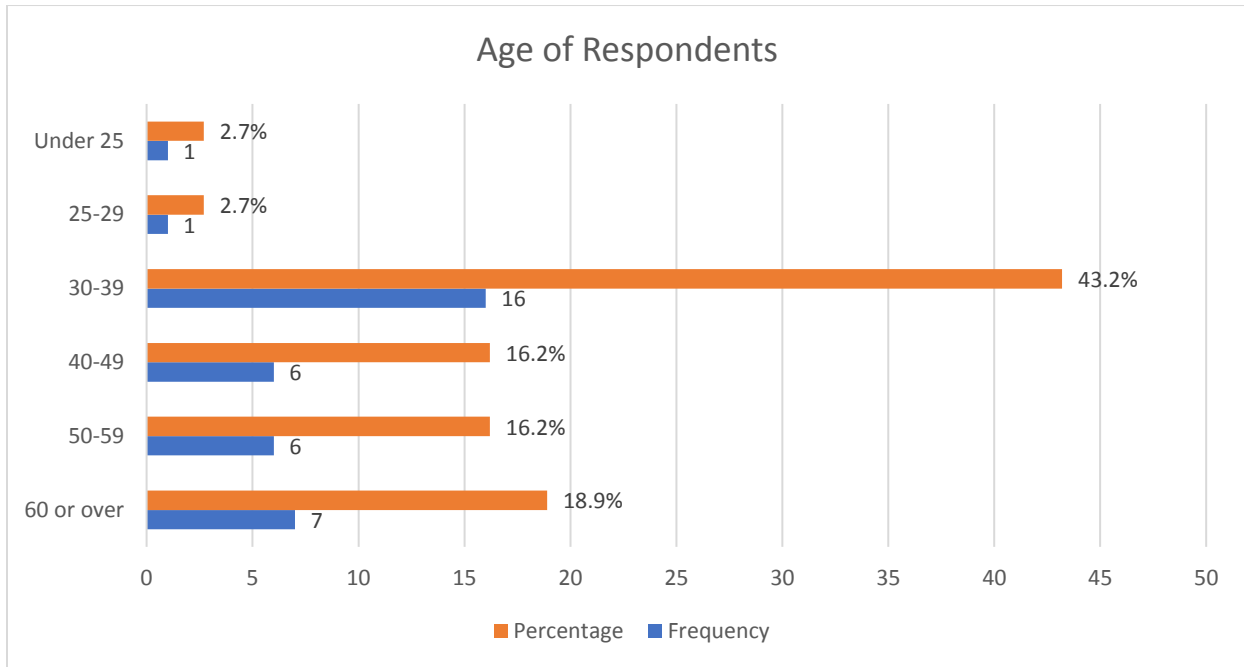
Question 23: What best describes your primary place of residence in Blue Earth County?



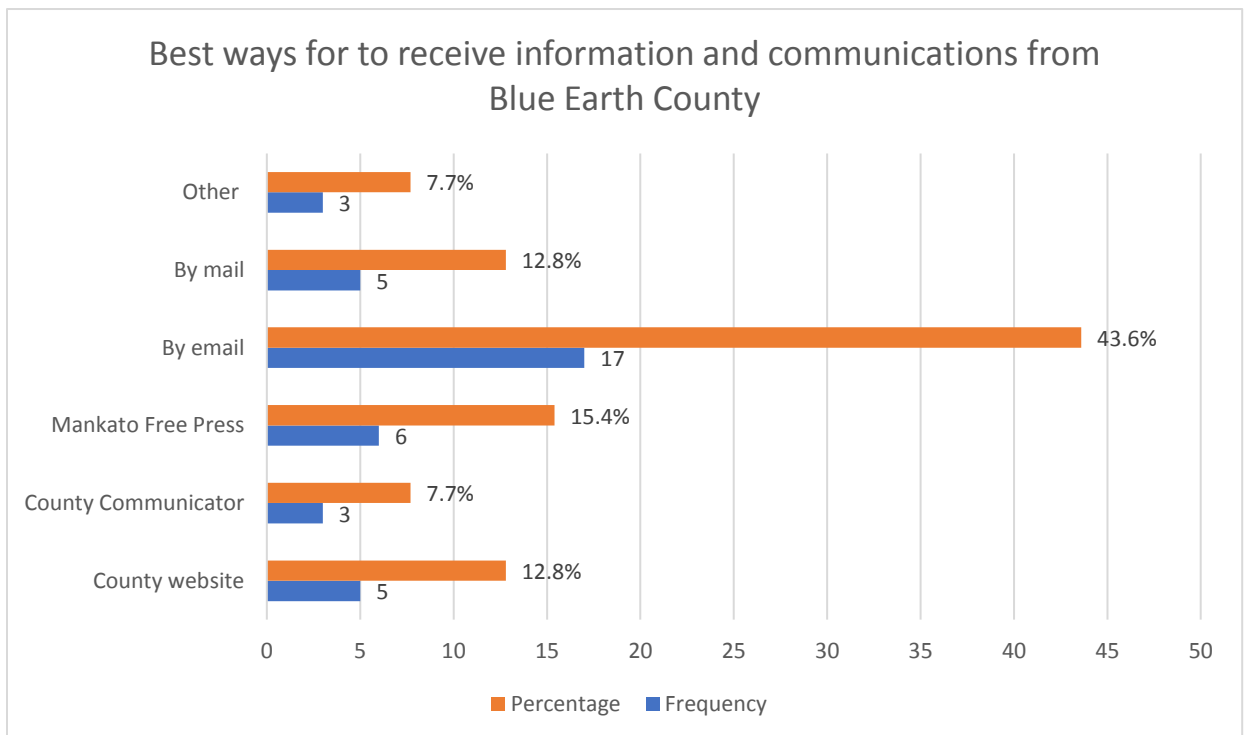
Question 24: How long have you lived or owned land in Blue Earth County?



Question 25: What is your age?



Question 26: What are the best ways for you to receive information and communications from Blue Earth County?

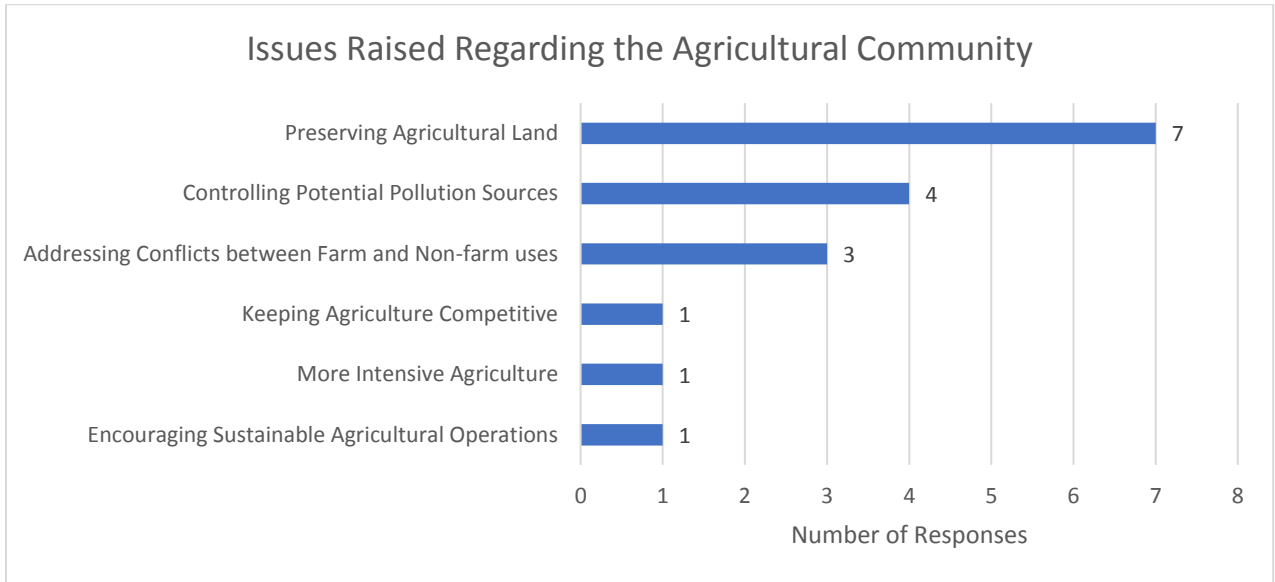


BLUE EARTH COUNTY LAND USE PLAN

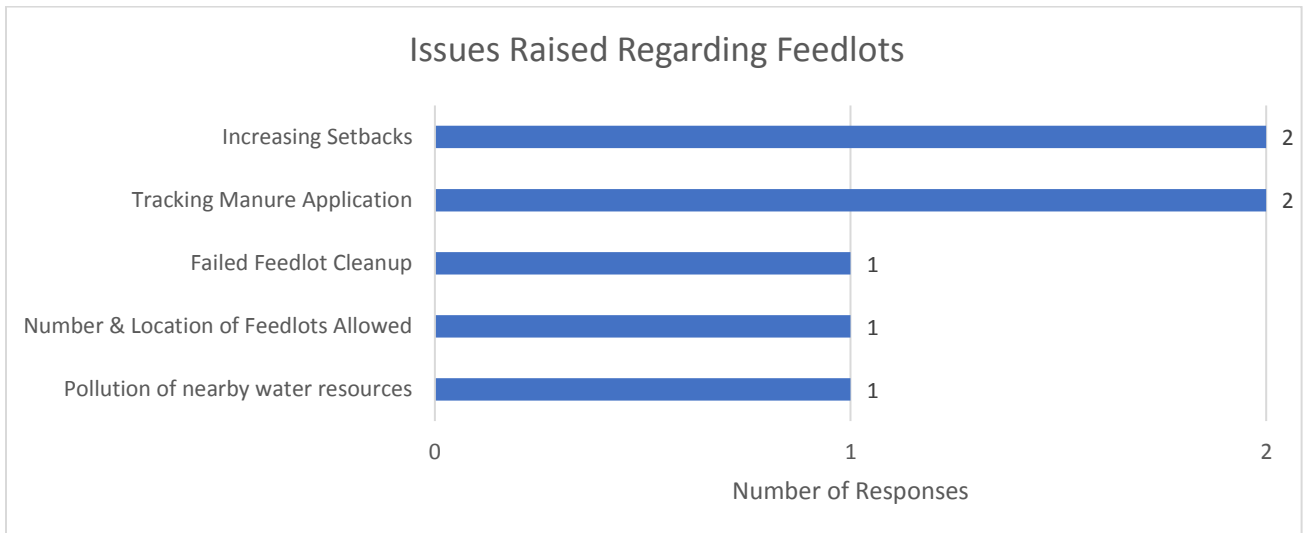
June 30, 1998

Summary of Issues Raised in All Regional Meetings

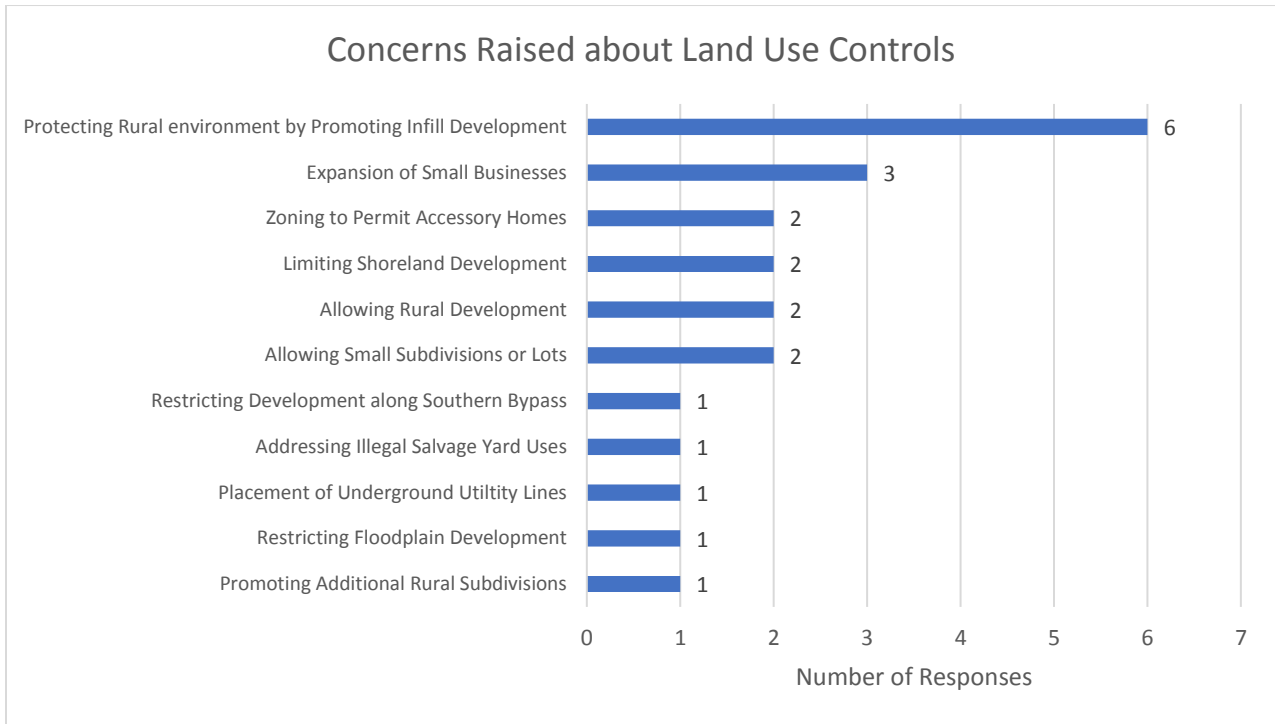
a. Concerns regarding the agricultural community included:



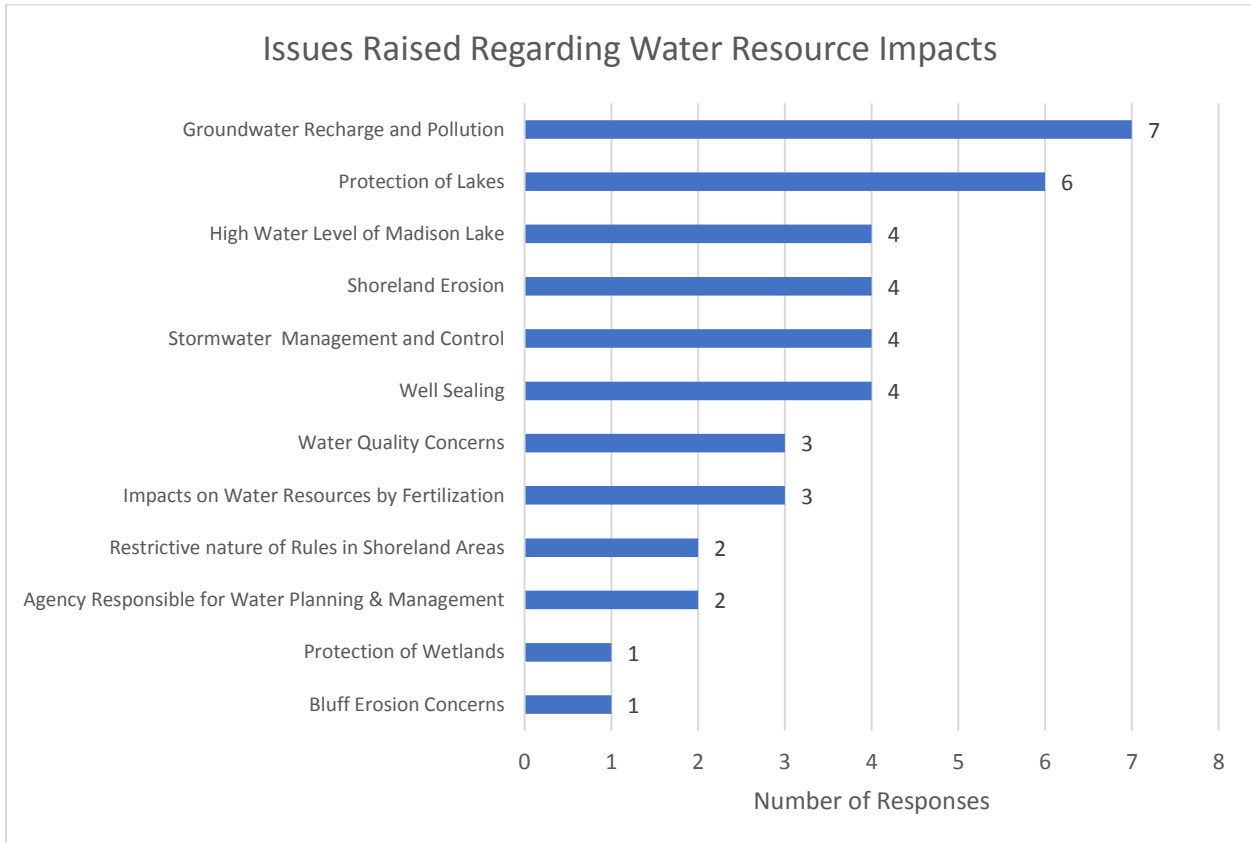
b. Concerns with feedlots standards associated with them and their regulation include:



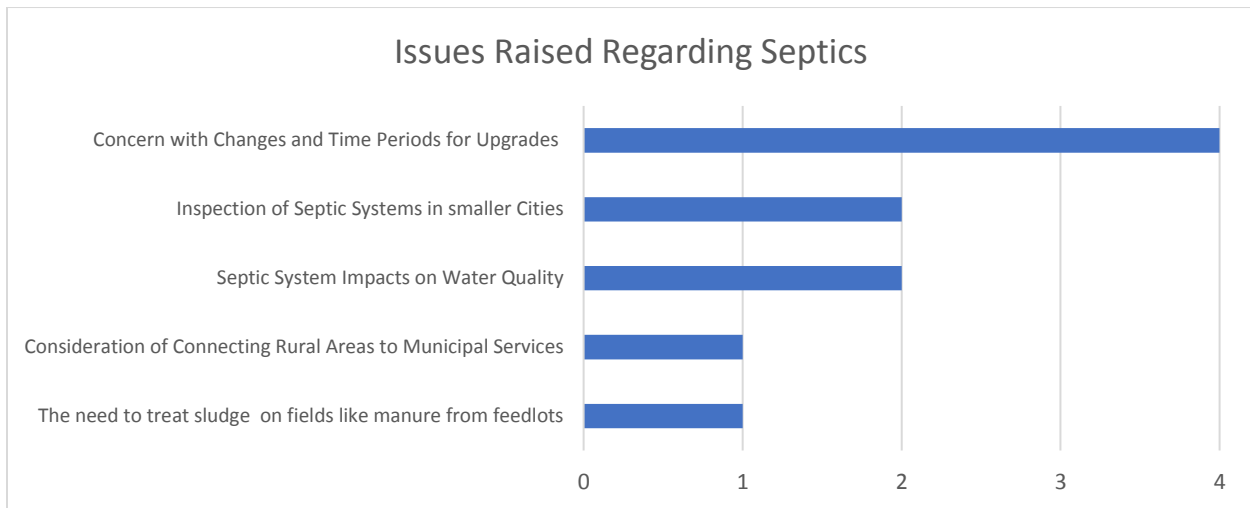
c. Concerns raised about land use controls are listed below:



d. Concerns regarding water resource impacts included:



e. Issues associated with Septics and their regulation include:



f. Issues associated with transportation include:

- There is a need to coordinate the use of land with the planning that is occurring in the transportation area;
- The County should look at methods to eliminate hazardous spots along rural roads especially along blind curves and valley crossings;
- There is a concern that the southern bypass will encourage urban sprawl especially along Indian Lake Road;
- The transportation plan MATAPS has provided some direction for future land use planning. The County should look at what has been done with this transportation planning and craft land use planning around this work;
- There was a concern with the land speculation that occurs around public improvement projects;
- The need to improve roads with the gasoline tax increase; and
- Concern with road improvements and this type of development's impact upon wetlands.

g. Issues regarding recreation or wildlife projects include:

- The County should use available tools to help facilitate open space acquisition specifically the expansion of Minneopa State Park;
- Maintain and expand wildlife areas;
- Bass habitat needs to be preserved and protected;
- Need for more C1 ground for wildlife habitat, open space, and set aside area;
- The County should set aside areas in its land use plan for the creation or expansion of additional park space just as the planning effort in the 1960s did;

- Concern with expansion of Bray Park campsites and how many sites are permitted to be developed; and
- Park development and use should be made compatible with neighbors.

h. Issues raised regarding suggested County projects or activities it should undertake or become involved with include:

- The need to implement a road naming and numbering system in the County;
- The County Board and Planning Commission needs to establish better communication links with the County's Township Association;
- While current recycling efforts are good, more encouragement needs to be given regarding the need to increase this conservation technique;
- Public education of urban residents in the use of fertilizer and chemicals;
- Educate the public about the responsibility for drainage runoff from their property. A drainage problem doesn't end at a person's property line;
- Apathy of public to participate and understand planning efforts;
- Will public input into this process be recognized by local officials;
- Will the input from these regional meetings be recognized and considered by the County Board and Planning Commission;
- There is a concern with the application of rules to residents. Uneven or biased enforcement of rules needs to be ended and replaced with the uniform application of rules to all;
- Will the input from these regional meetings be listened to and considered by elected officials;
- Concern with political exceptions to the enforcement of rules regarding nonconforming septic systems. Uniform enforcement of rules must be applied;
- Concern with rules changes how often and who is affected by these changes;
- In regard to the extraterritorial planning effort, the County needs to publicize what it intends to support and do;
- The County needs to establish development areas and publicize this planning effort;
- There appears to be a lack of good vision in the area. What does the County want to be; and
- The County needs to be proactive and craft a proactive plan that provides some type of vision for the Planning Commission and County Board.

i. Cooperative Issues raised include:

- Annexation agreements between Cities and their surrounding Townships should include standards that encourage infill;
- A need for accessing county or other knowledgeable sources regarding urban infrastructure needs;
- Cities need to share information to address urban concerns;
- Cost sharing for emergency service charges to townships. Base cost for services on the road classification on which accidents occurred. For example, if an accident on a state road generates an emergency call, the state should pay. An accident on a county road the county should pay etc.;
- Sheriff's staff is trained for medical emergencies. Is there a need to improve the dispatch center service;
- Concern with the pressures being put upon rural fire departments to make more emergency medical evaluations;
- There is a need for cooperative agreements when improvements are needed for developed rural areas. Assistance must come from the County, MPCA, EPA and others. A cooperative agreement must be reached between the County and the Township when the need is determined for extending sewer services to rural areas. The extension should occur over a period of time based on need;
- How is sewer extension to be paid for, rates or taxes;
- What is the best direction for the city's (Madison Lake) growth? How does City coordinate with the County;
- There is a need to control or limit Mankato's annexation powers;
- There needs to be cooperation between regulating agencies and the County City and Townships;
- There is a need to identify specifically who is responsible for resolving issues that occur in the region. Currently entities are passing on responsibility for problems encountered to other entities making it impassible for concerned citizens to have their questions answered and concerns heard;
- The County should take a more aggressive stance in dealing with impacts of development occurring in the City but which may have extended impacts outside the City; and
- There needs to be more intergovernmental cooperation to protect land.

j. Other issues raised:

- The viability of small rural towns with aging populations;
- Increased demands for urban types of services in rural areas;
- Concerned with political pressure by municipalities for liberalizing annexation laws that would hurt townships.

COMPARING SURVEY RESULTS FROM THE LAND USE PLAN UPDATE TO THE SURVEY RESULTS FROM THE 1998 LAND USE PLAN

Concerns regarding Agriculture	
1998 Land Use Plan	Land Use Plan Update
C1- The need to preserve agricultural land C2- There is a need to address the impact of pollutants from farm land runoff into the ditch system C3- Addressing Conflicts between Farm and Non-farm uses C4- The need to keep agriculture competitive permitting it to change in response to market pressures C5- There was a concern expressed regarding agriculture and the shift towards it being more intensive C6- Encouraging Sustainable Agricultural Operations	N1- Improving Local Food systems in the county, with the MVAC Food Hub, community gardens, farmers’ market, and local businesses that buy local products in mind. N2- Protecting existing agricultural from encroaching non-farm development should be a planning priority for Blue Earth County N3- The need to preserve agricultural land

Compatibility Matrix for Issues regarding Agriculture

Survey Results	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6
N1	1	0	0	1	1	1
N2	1	0	2	1	0	1
N3	2	0	2	1	0	1

KEY

0 = incompatible

1 = compatible

2 = Same/ highly compatible

C = Current Plan

N = New Plan

Survey responses related to Agriculture that are common or highly compatible between the two periods include:

- The need to preserve agricultural land
- Protecting existing agricultural from encroaching non-farm development should be a planning priority for Blue Earth County

Concerns regarding Feedlots	
1998 Land Use Plan	Land Use Plan Update
C1- Increasing setbacks as they apply to manure spreading C2- The number of feedlots allowed in the County and their location needs to be addressed C3- Does the County currently have a method of tracking manure application by user and parcel; feedlot manure disposal is a concern. C4- Who is responsible for cleanup of failed feedlots? County should ensure that it has an adequate method of covering potential costs for this activity C5- Feedlots and the pollution of nearby water resources C6- The need to treat sludge on fields like manure from feedlots	N1- Air pollution from large hog pit barns is a health hazard which requires more distance in rural areas. N2- Feedlot setbacks are important but should however be reviewed. N3- The growing number of Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in such close proximity to residential areas is of concern which may result in aquafer/water overuse, toxic air quality, and contaminated streams to rivers. N4- The Number of Feedlots and Manure Spreading should be monitored

Compatibility Matrix for Issues regarding Feedlots

Survey Results	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6
N1	1	1	1	0	0	0
N2	1	1	1	0	1	0
N3	0	1	1	0	2	0
N4	2	2	2	0	1	0

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Survey responses related to Feedlots that are common or highly compatible between the two periods include:

- The Number of Feedlots and Manure Spreading should be monitored
- The growing number of Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in such close proximity to residential areas is of concern which may result in aquafer/water overuse, toxic air quality, and contaminated streams to rivers

Concerns regarding Land Use Controls	
1998 Land Use Plan	Land Use Plan Update
C1- Protecting Rural environment by Promoting Infill Development; Annexation agreements between Cities and Townships should include standards that encourage infill C2- Expansion of Small Businesses C3- Zoning to Permit Accessory Homes C4- Limiting Shoreland Development C5- Increased demands for urban types of services in rural areas C6- Allowing Small Subdivisions or Lots C7- Restricting development along Southern Bypass C8- Addressing Illegal Salvage Yard Uses C9- Restricting Floodplain Development C10- Promoting Additional Rural Subdivisions C11- Concern with political pressure by municipalities for liberalizing annexation laws that would hurt townships	N1- More Diverse Land Uses and Business Opportunities in Rural Areas N2- Promoting smaller subdivisions in the rural areas N3- Development should be encouraged in or near cities in Blue Earth County N4- The county needs to factor in fire safety with allowing rural businesses. N5- Additional rural residential zoning areas should be considered along with highway business districts.

Compatibility Matrix for Issues regarding Land Use Controls

Survey Results	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10	C11
N1	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
N2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
N3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
N4	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
N5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0

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Survey responses related to Land Use Controls that are common or highly compatible between the two periods include:

- More Diverse Land Uses and Business Opportunities in Rural Areas
- Promoting smaller subdivisions in the rural areas
- Development should be encouraged in or near cities in Blue Earth County

Concerns regarding Water Resources	
1998 Land Use Plan	Land Use Plan Update
C1- Bluff Erosion Concerns C2- Protection of Wetlands C3- The need to identify Agencies Responsible for Water Planning & Management C4- Restrictive nature of Rules in Shoreland Areas C5- Impacts on Water Resources by Fertilization C6- Water Quality Concerns C7- Well sealing is a concern especially in terms of the need to protect aquifers C8- Storm water runoff and the quality of the runoff from urbanized areas needs to be addressed C9- Shoreland Erosion concerns C10- High Water Level of Madison Lake C11- Protection of Lakes C12- Groundwater Recharge and Pollution C13- Public education of urban residents in the use of fertilizer, chemicals and drainage run-off from their property	N1- Improving Water Quality N2- The preservation and restoration of wetlands and wooded areas should be enhanced. N3- Providing access to and protecting Lakes, Rivers and Streams in order to maintain and improve the quality of life in the County N4- Protecting Shoreline/Bluffs in order to maintain and improve the quality of life in the County N5- To provide access to lakes, rivers, and streams N6- Development in close proximity to water resources should be closely monitored N7- Current zoning regulation in place to conserve natural resources are not strict enough. N8- Variance requests near bluffs should require more scrutiny by the Board of Adjustment. Bluff setbacks need to be increased. N9- Farm drainage should be reviewed and more onsite water storage should be considered

Compatibility Matrix for Issues regarding Water Resources

Survey Results	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10	C11	C12	C13
N1	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
N2	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
N3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
N4	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
N5	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
N6	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
N7	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
N8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N9	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	0

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Survey responses related to Water Resources that are common or highly compatible between the two periods include:

- Improving Water Quality
- The preservation and restoration of wetlands and wooded areas should be enhanced.
- Providing access to and protecting Lakes, Rivers and Streams in order to maintain and improve the quality of life in the County
- Protecting Shoreline/Bluffs in order to maintain and improve the quality of life in the County
- Development in close proximity to water resources should be closely monitored
- Farm drainage should be reviewed and more onsite water storage should be considered

Concerns regarding Transportation	
1998 Land Use Plan	Land Use Plan Update
<p>C1- The transportation plan MATAPS has provided some direction for future land use planning. The County should look at what has been done with this transportation planning and craft land use planning around this work;</p> <p>C2- Eliminating hazardous spots along rural roads especially along blind curves and valley crossings</p> <p>C3- Concern with road improvements and its impacts on wetlands</p>	<p>N1- Providing Better Transit System</p> <p>N2- We need to realize the importance of all modes of transportation, including pedestrian walking. All newly developed roads should have wide paved shoulders so that rural people can walk safely, bike safely, etc.</p> <p>N3- Urban and suburban growth needs to be planned with cities in the county and with MNDOT and other road authorities. It costs tax payers more to extend sewer and do retro fits for utilities like storm water.</p>

Compatibility Matrix for Issues regarding Transportation

Survey Results	C1	C2	C3
N1	1	0	0
N2	1	0	1
N3	1	0	0

KEY

0 = incompatible

1 = compatible

2 = Same/ highly compatible

C = Current Plan

N = New Plan

- There are no highly compatible responses for Transportation between the two periods

Concerns regarding Wildlife	
1998 Land Use Plan	Land Use Plan Update
C1- Maintaining and expanding parks, open spaces and wildlife areas which are compatible with neighboring uses C2- The need to preserve and protect bass habitats	N1- Protecting Parks, Open Spaces and wildlife in order to maintain and improve the quality of life in the County N2- Current zoning regulation in place to conserve natural resources are not strict enough. N3- Need for More Public Land

Compatibility Matrix for Issues regarding Wildlife

Survey Results	C1	C2
N1	2	2
N2	1	1
N3	1	0

KEY

0 = incompatible

1 = compatible

2 = Same/ highly compatible

C = Current Plan

N = New Plan

Survey responses related to Wildlife that are common or highly compatible between the two periods include:

- Protecting Parks, Open Spaces and wildlife in order to maintain and improve the quality of life in the County

Other Issues Raised	
1998 Land Use Plan	Land Use Plan Update
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. While current recycling efforts are good, more encouragement needs to be given regarding the need to increase this conservation technique; 2. Concern about if public input into this process will be recognized by local officials 3. Uneven or biased enforcement of rules needs to be ended and replaced with the uniform application of rules to all 4. Concern with rules changes how often and who is affected by these changes 5. In regard to establishing development areas and extraterritorial planning effort, the County needs to publicize what it intends to support and do 6. Concern with Changes and Time Periods for Upgrades to septic systems 7. Inspection of Septic Systems in smaller Cities and their Impacts on Water Quality 8. Consideration of Connecting Rural Areas to Municipal Services 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving Air Quality 2. Fostering Support for Growing Diversity 3. Providing Affordable Housing 4. The child care crises is real for the county, and will impede growth in healthy employment market unless it is addressed at the local, county and state level. 5. The city of Mankato should not be allowed to grow land mass and take up more county lands, as they need to take care of what they have inside of their city boundaries. The "overlay" district areas should be placed fully under control of the county. 6. We need to set up more opportunities for citizen education leading to long term involvement in these issues. 7. Billboards should also not be allowed along the county roads and state highways like they are in Le Sueur County and other nearby areas. There are enough billboards along HWY 169, 60 and 22 and more of them will not do anything to benefit the County. 8. After-the-fact permit fees should be drastically increased to further promote compliance. 9. The scenic value of the county should be preserved. 10. Provide high speed internet to those of us in rural areas so we too can develop our businesses.