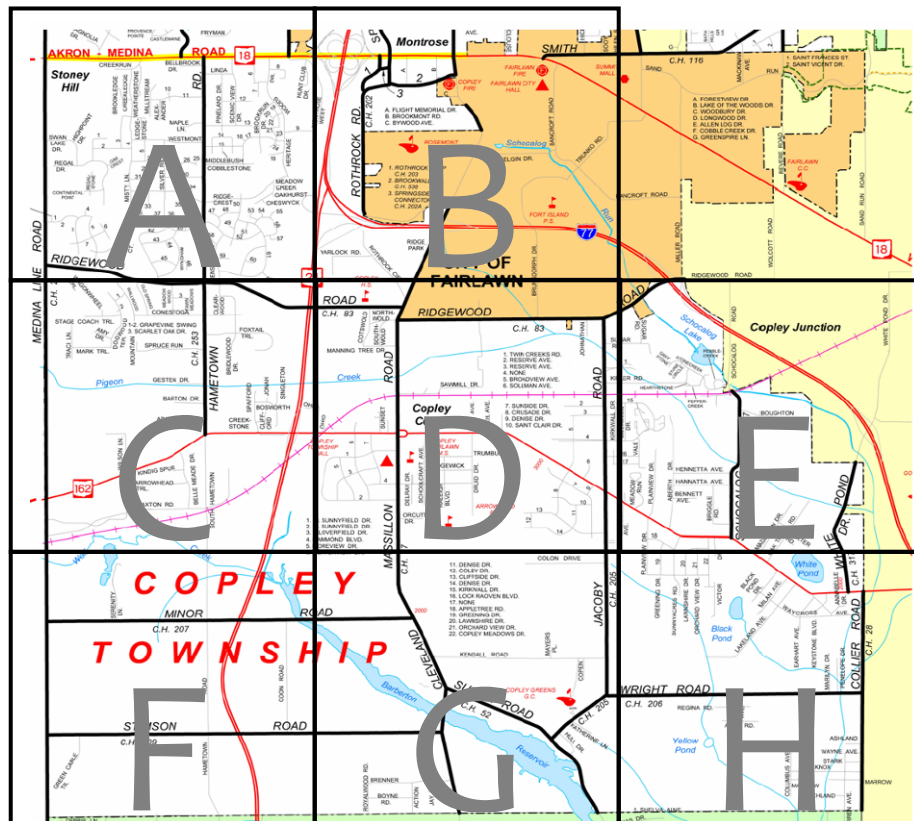


CHAPTER VI: COMMUNITY SURVEY

General Information Concerning Respondents

Copley Township issued a survey to 7,100 households. Four hundred eight-five (485) surveys were returned, reflecting a response rate of nearly seven percent. The survey was one tool to gather input on community views. It was not statistically significant as it was not a random sample. Some results are in conflict with input from the steering and technical committees, key person interviews, and public input at the open house and public hearings. Inconsistencies show that additional education is needed as residents clearly support open space preservation but have concerns about the costs and accepting densities near them in order to accomplish the goal.

Residents were asked to look at the Township map below and to circle the letter which best described where they live:



The responses were:

A.	29.2%	E.	12.5%
B.	2.0%	F.	5.8%
C.	18.9%	G.	6.6%
D.	16.7%	H.	7.9%

Residents were asked how long they have lived in Copley Township.

- a. 0-2 years (4.5%)
- b. 2-5 years (11.6%)
- c. 5-10 years (24.5%)
- d. 10-20 years (19.7%)
- e. 20+ years (39.3%)
- f. I don't live in the Township (0.2%)

Residents were asked to describe their age group. (Total respondents = 480)

- a. under 25 (<1%)
- b. 25-39 (11.4%)
- c. 40-59 (49.5%)
- d. 60+ (38.7%)

Residents were asked to describe the size of their property or parcel of land. (Total respondents = 476)

- a. Less than 1 acre (61.1%)
- b. 1 to 2.5 acres (23.9%)
- c. 2.5 to 10 acres (12.1%)
- d. 10 acres+ (2.7%)

Residents were asked if they had septic or centralized sewer (Total respondents = 480) and if they had a private well or centralized water. (Total respondents = 473)

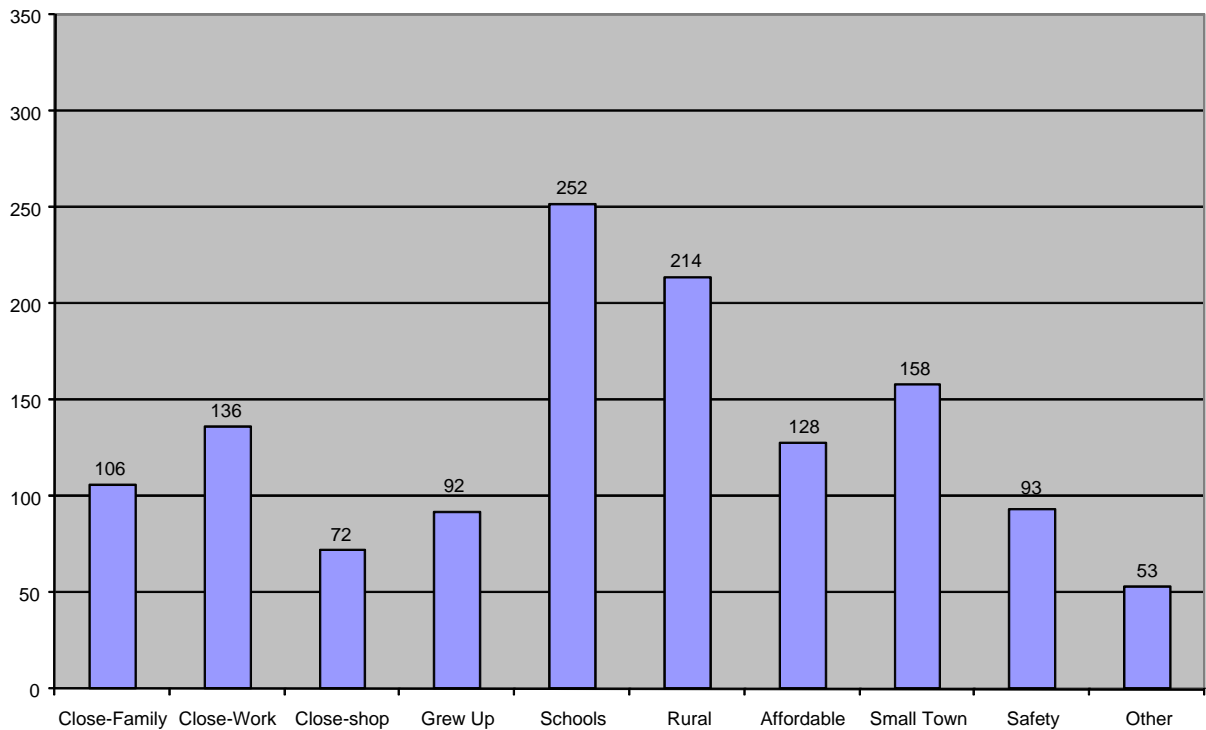
- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| a. Septic 65.6% | Centralized Sewer 34.3% |
| b. Private Well 65.5% | Centralized Water 34.4% |

Reasons for Moving to Copley

Residents were asked to identify the three reasons below which best describe why they moved to Copley.

- a. Quality of Education/Schools (252)⁷
- b. Rural Atmosphere (214)
- c. Small Town Atmosphere (158)
- d. Close to work (136)
- e. Affordable Homes (128)
- f. Close to family (106)
- g. Safety (93)
- h. Grew up here (92)

Three reasons residents moved to Copley



⁷ The number in parentheses represents the total responses in each category.

For other reasons why people moved to Copley, they listed:

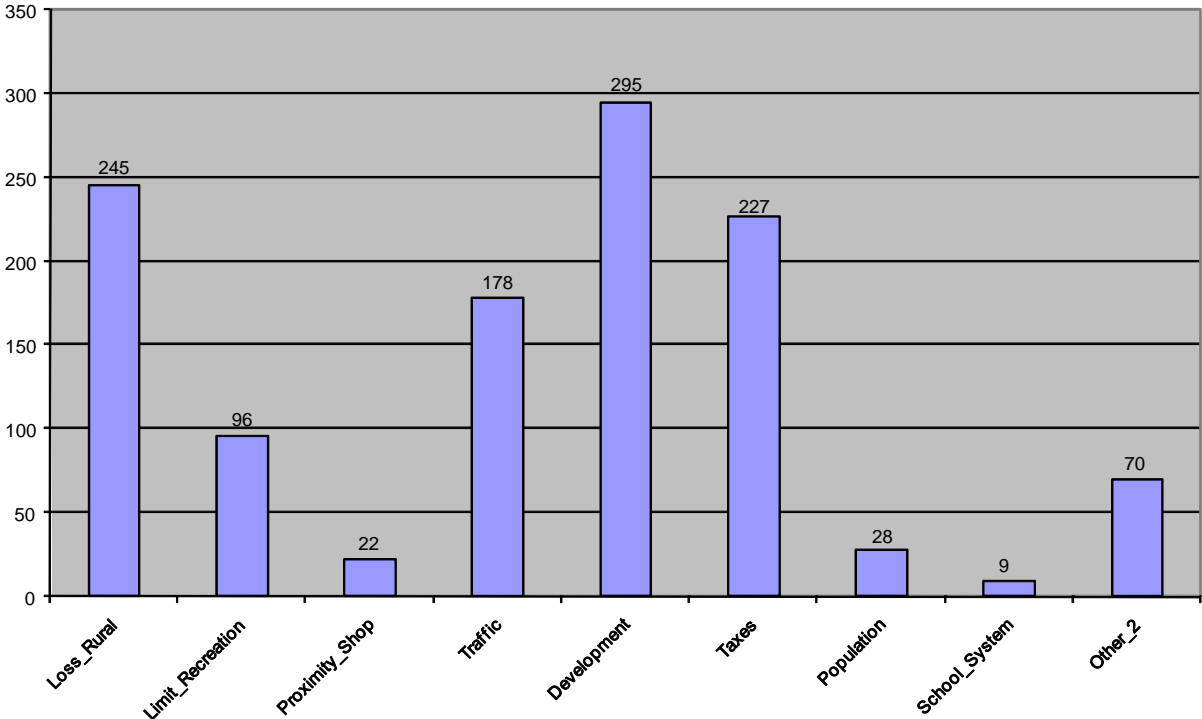
- Transferred from out of state
- Close to expressway
- Family property
- Remodeling home
- Best home when they bought
- New home
- Township services
- Diversity
- No income tax
- Open space without large lawns
- Suburban atmosphere
- Availability of housing on short term notice
- To get out of Akron
- Available acreage
- Most like “West Virginia” friendly people
- New condo development
- AA meetings
- No local taxes
- Police, Fire, & EMS

What Residents Liked Least About Copley

Residents were asked the three things which best describe what they liked least about living in Copley:

- Loss of rural land (245)
- Limited recreational opportunity (96)
- Proximity or variety of shopping opportunities (22)
- Traffic (178)
- Too much Development (295)
- Property Taxes (227)
- Population (28)
- School system (9)

Three things residents liked least about Copley



Other things listed that people don't like about Copley included:

- Newer residents are considered outsiders and not welcomed
- No sidewalks or bike trails
- Zoning
- Copley Circle
- Water quality
- Cell phone and other towers
- No library
- No community recreation center
- No sewer and water
- Condos and apartments
- No restaurants
- No senior citizen center
- Noise
- Speeding
- Awful streetscapes
- Need to improve town center
- Businesses in residential areas
- Junk cars on lawns
- Cultural diversity in schools
- The quality of new homes being built
- Clear cutting
- Chip & seal on streets
- Soccer fields
- Roundabouts
- Rental properties
- Hillbilly

Housing and Development

Some communities pride themselves on the availability of a variety of housing types as residents move through various stages of life, or embrace different lifestyles. Examples of different housing types include: single-family residences, multi-family residences such as condominiums or apartments, town homes, etc. Residents were asked to indicate how important they felt it is for Copley Township to encourage development of a greater variety of housing types.

1 (159) ⁸	2 (73)	3 (116)	4 (97)	5 (33)
Not Very Important	Somewhat Unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat Important	Very Important

Residents were asked which of the following statements best describes your opinion of development in Copley Township over the past five years.

- a. The Township is not accommodating demand for housing and retail. (respondents = 21)
- b. The Township allows development in the right areas of the community. (respondents = 78)
- c. The Township needs to find ways to restrict/reduce negative impacts of development. (respondents = 365)

⁸ The number in parentheses represents the total responses in each category.

Protecting Open Space, Agricultural Lands and Rural Character

Many residents have identified protecting open space, agricultural lands and/or rural character as important to the community. Protecting open space often requires compromise and sacrifice. Residents were asked what, if any, measures they would support to accomplish this.

- Support an increase of property taxes to purchase property, conservation easements, or development rights from private landowners to protect land and water within environmentally sensitive areas.

1 (145)	2 (74)	3 (87)	4 (99)	5 (65)
Not Very Likely	Somewhat Unlikely	Neutral	Somewhat Likely	High Likely

- Allowing developers to develop higher densities in certain areas in the community if they purchase property, conservation easements, or development rights to preserve open space in another place within the Township.

1 (156)	2 (75)	3 (70)	4 (126)	5 (45)
Not Very Likely	Somewhat Unlikely	Neutral	Somewhat Likely	High Likely

- Allowing developers flexibility on development plans which could include density bonuses, smaller lots, and narrower setbacks if they preserve a large percentage (40%+) of the development in open space.

1 (164)	2 (85)	3 (68)	4 (116)	5 (28)
Not Very Likely	Somewhat Unlikely	Neutral	Somewhat Likely	High Likely

- Allowing higher densities near your home if other portions of the Township are reduced in density.

1 (275)	2 (85)	3 (62)	4 (36)	5 (11)
Not Very Likely	Somewhat Unlikely	Neutral	Somewhat Likely	High Likely

- Requiring larger minimum lots sizes even if this means the entire area would be developed with roads, homes and lots.

1 (105)	2 (88)	3 (101)	4 (127)	5 (41)
Not Very Likely	Somewhat Unlikely	Neutral	Somewhat Likely	High Likely

- If they did not believe the community should spend time and resources preserving open space in our community.

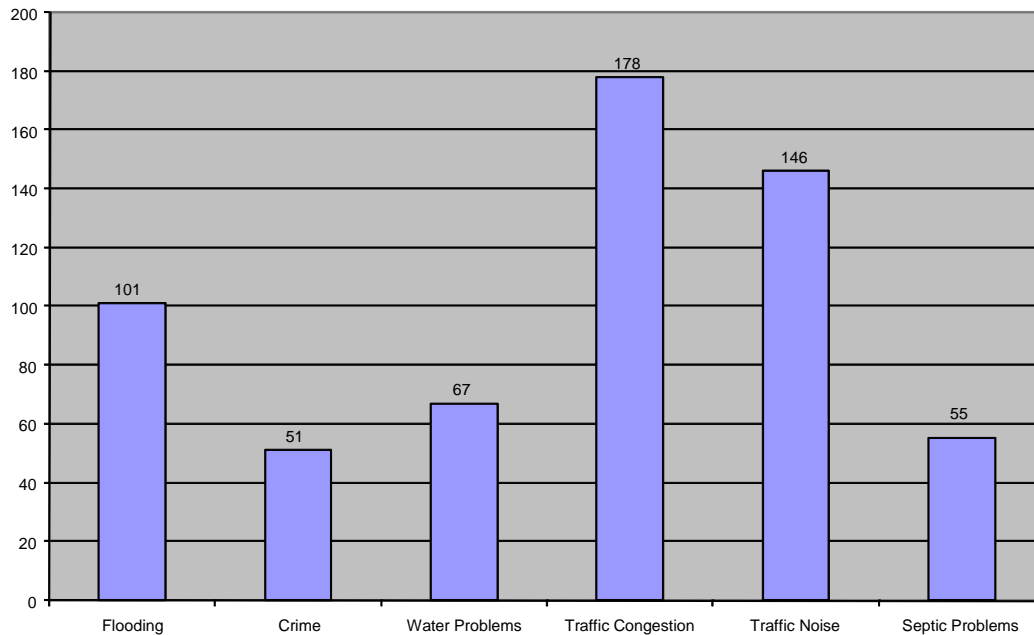
1 (234)	2 (60)	3 (68)	4 (37)	5 (43)
Not Very Likely	Somewhat Unlikely	Neutral	Somewhat Likely	High Likely

Issues Affecting Residents

Residents were asked if they have had been recently affected by any of the following at their place of residence:

- Flooding or drainage problems: (101)
- Property crime including vandalism: (51)
- Drinking water problems (supply & quality) including problems with wells: (67)
- Traffic congestion: (178)
- Traffic Noise: (146)
- Septic field problems (yours or your neighbor's): (55)

Residents affected by any of the following:



Economic Viability

Residents were asked which new land uses they felt are important to the economic viability of the Township.

- Open Space (267)⁹
- Residential (single family lots) (234)
- Agriculture (176)
- Office (128)
- Commercial/Retail (126)
- Light Industrial (116)
- Residential (townhouses /condos) (63)
- None (39)
- Residential (apartments) (21)

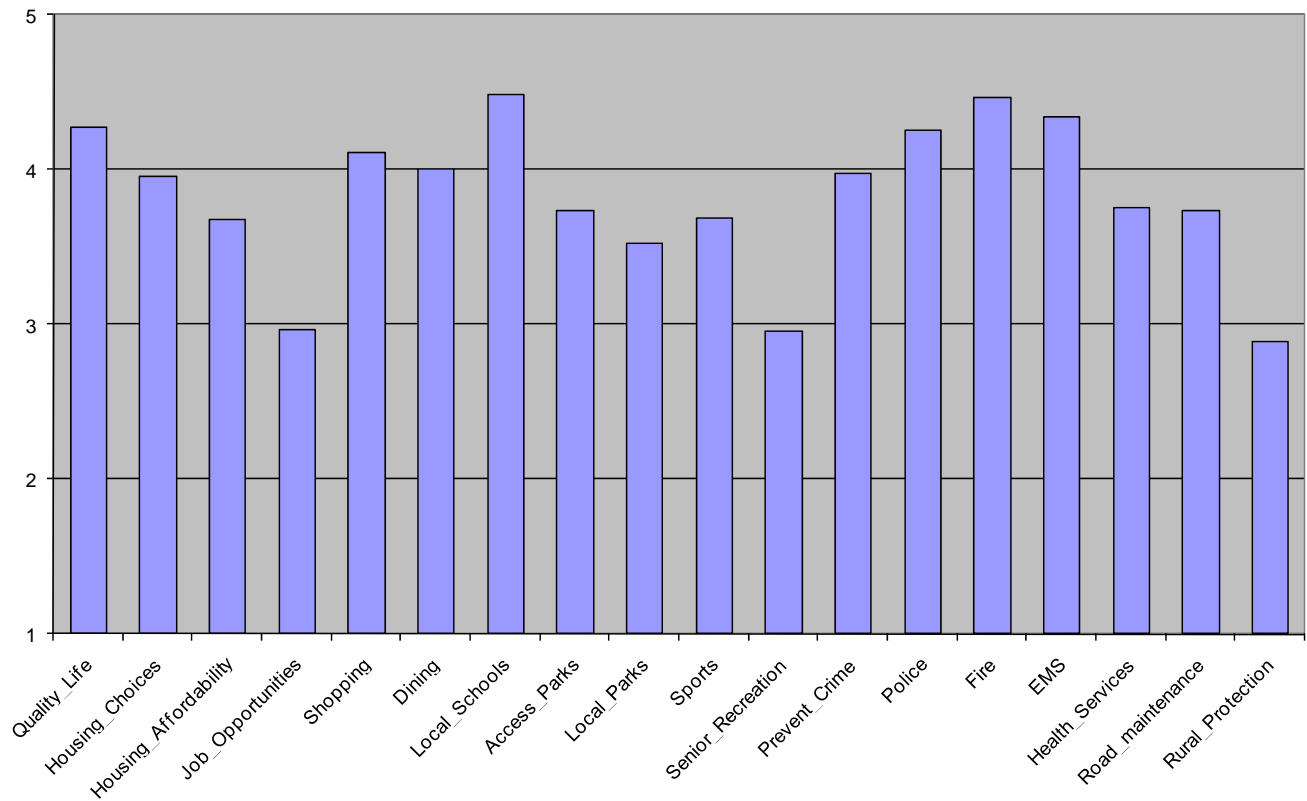
⁹ The number in parentheses represents the total responses in each category.

Satisfaction Scale

Using the scale below, Residents were asked to indicate how satisfied they were with each of the following.

	1	2	3	4	5
	Very Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Satisfied	Very Satisfied
▪ Overall quality of life	1 (3)	2(11)	3(31)	4 (239)	5 (195)
▪ Housing choices	1 (3)	2 (21)	3 (107)	4 (207)	5(138)
▪ Housing affordability	1(8)	2 (49)	3 (117)	4 (214)	5 (86)
▪ Job opportunities	1 (28)	2(95)	3 (225)	4 (81)	5 (28)
▪ Shopping opportunities	1 (12)	2 (33)	3 (52)	4 (172)	5 (209)
▪ Dining & Entertainment opportunities	1 (18)	2 (39)	3 (64)	4 (158)	5 (198)
▪ Local Schools (public or private)	1 (8)	2 (10)	3 (32)	4 (122)	5 (307)
▪ Access to parks & recreation	1 (21)	2 (62)	3 (84)	4 (163)	5 (145)
▪ Local parks & greenspace	1 (20)	2 (85)	3 (107)	4 (153)	5 (110)
▪ Youth sports & recreation	1(11)	2 (25)	3 (172)	4 (139)	5 (113)
▪ Senior recreation & activities	1(30)	2 (73)	3 (282)	4 (45)	5 (34)
▪ Prevention of crime	1 (3)	2 (31)	3 (74)	4 (230)	5 (132)
▪ Police services	1 (1)	2 (24)	3(47)	4 (184)	5 (219)
▪ Fire protection & prevention	1 (2)	2 (8)	3 (48)	4 (173)	5 (240)
▪ Emergency Medical Services	1 (5)	2 (4)	3 (59)	4 (158)	5 (244)
▪ Local health services	1 (5)	2 (15)	3 (181)	4 (155)	5 (110)
▪ Road maintenance	1 (21)	2 (44)	3 (77)	4 (224)	5(104)
▪ Protecting rural character	1 (64)	2 (113)	3 (132)	4 (116)	5 (36)

Charts from responses on satisfaction scale found on page 145.



Residents were asked what makes Copley unique, comments included:

- Close to Akron and Fairlawn amenities
- Schools
- Rural character
- Farms
- Shopping and dining opportunities
- Small town atmosphere
- Diversity of land use and housing
- Close to interstates
- History
- Socio-economic diversity
- Copley Circle
- Generations choosing to stay in Copley
- Community spirit
- Good fire, police and EMS
- Recycling program