PUBLIC MEETING RESULTS

Public meetings allow community members to provide input on their community's future. For the purposes of the Brown Township Comprehensive Plan, the vision for the future addresses how land is used, how the community looks and how people get around.

First public meeting

We held the first of three public meetings for the Brown Township Comprehensive Plan on December 11, 2012 at the Brown Township Hall, 2491 Walker Road.

Over 100 residents, property owners, business representatives and other interested individuals attended the meeting.

Gathering input

After a brief presentation by the project team, meeting attendees were asked to fill out a feedback form to give input on what they like about the community and what they would change.

The project team led attendees through a series of activities to gather input in the following three areas.

Public Preferences: Attendees were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with statements related to their community. These statements were used to gain insight into residents' vision for the future.

Vision Maps: Staff presented attendees with draft maps based on a compilation of existing plans for the area. We asked attendees if they agreed with the types and locations of land uses, bikeways, and road improvements shown on the maps, and if not, what they would change about the maps to match their preferences.

Likes/Dislikes: The final activity enabled attendees to reflect on their favorite ("likes") and least favorite ("dislikes") characteristics of the community in an open-ended fashion. This information helps determine what aspects of the township should be maintained and protected as well as those things that should be changed.

Other input opportunities

Those who were unable to attend the public meeting could complete a survey that was mailed to all households in the township and made available online. The survey questions reflected those used at the public meeting. We received 224 total responses from the public meeting, mailed survey and online survey.

Using the results

We used the results from the public meeting and the survey to establish the community's vision for the future, as presented in the Recommendations section. This vision provides the foundation for creating the plan's goals and actions. A summary of the public meeting results are presented on the following pages.

LAND USE

Note: The open-ended multiple-choice questions allowed respondents to choose as many options as they felt were applicable. Respondents could only choose one response for the Agree/ Disagree questions.

Land Use Comments

Respondents are concerned with development pressures from Hilliard.

Respondents prefer large-lot, low density housing. They generally do not want to see more conventional subdivisions.

Most respondents feel that the commercial uses and services in Hilliard are close enough to meet their needs.

MY PRIMARY CONCERN IS...

Category	Responses
Preserving the rural character of Brown Township	191
Protecting the health of the Big Darby Watershed	144
Other	23

Other responses include: development pressure, preserving property rights, speeding, and maintaining safety

"RURAL" TO ME MEANS...

Category	Responses
Agricultural fields and animal pastures	215
Natural areas and open space	200
Barns, stables, grain silos and split rail fences	199
Scattered residences on large-lots	181
Agriculture-related businesses	164
A mix of home sizes, styles and values	106
A few small businesses that serve everyday needs	54
Other	16
Industrial land uses	2
Conventional subdivisions	0
Road-side billboards	0
"Strip" style commercial development	0

Other responses include: slower traffic, narrow roads, quiet atmosphere, no high density housing, and wildlife

NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SHOULD...

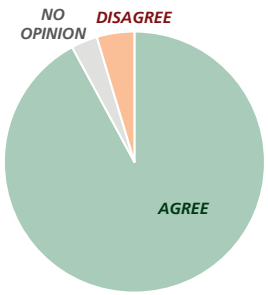
Category	Responses
Preserve scenic views and historic/cultural resources	177
Use design elements that reflect the surroundings	110
Group homes together in order to preserve large tracts of open space	47
Other	26

Other responses include: maintain low density, require minimum lot acreage, and have deep setbacks

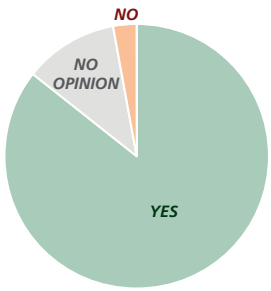
NEW COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT SHOULD...

Category	Responses
Be limited in size and in types of goods/services offered	117
Use design elements that reflect the surroundings	107
Locate near existing and future civic and residential clusters	81
Be safely and conveniently accessible by walking, biking or driving	61
Other	6

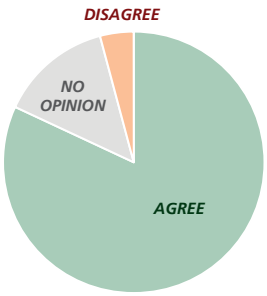
Other responses include: have specific development requirements, pay for roadways, and complement existing plans



All new development should preserve floodplains, wetlands, woodlands and highly erodible land.



Should agricultural uses protect the environment?



Consuming fresh, locally-grown food is important to me and my family.

COMMUNITY

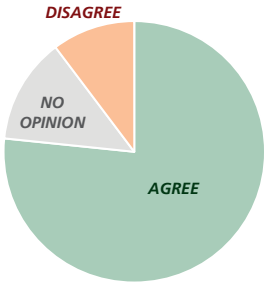
Community Comments

Most respondents view Brown Township's identity as a rural, agricultural, tight-knit community with generous open space.

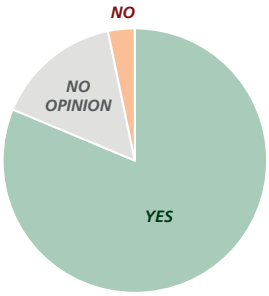
Most respondents feel existing parks are adequate to meet their needs. Many also believe that new parks and open space are needed if the population grows.

Many respondents would like to see more paths for horse riding and areas for dogs.

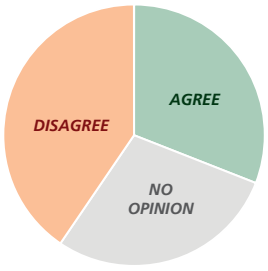
Most respondents desire to stay in the township. However, many believe that increasing costs will make this difficult.



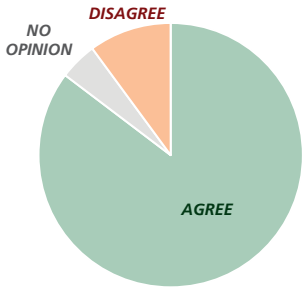
Brown Township has a distinct community identity.



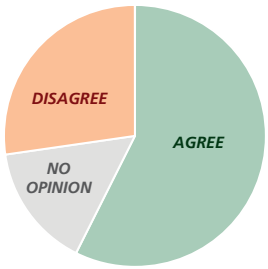
Are you proud of that identity?



Brown Township should encourage new development in neighboring jurisdictions to complement the township.



I am satisfied with the amount and types of parks and open space in/around the township.

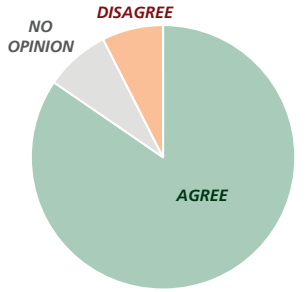


New parks and open space should be added as the population grows.

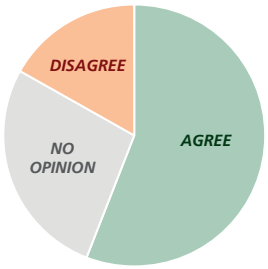
FUTURE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SHOULD INCLUDE...

Category	Responses
Passive recreation areas	165
Informal, naturally-vegetated landscapes	125
Community gathering spaces or structures	98
Large, community-serving parks	74
Small open space areas that serve individual developments	51
Active recreation	38
Formal, professionally-designed landscaping	18
Other	15

Other responses include: bridle paths, hunting areas, low-maintenance features, community gardens, accessibility features, and community centers



Staying in the township is important to me and my family as we get older.



All new development should include basic features to make them accessible to everyone – old and young, disabled and able.

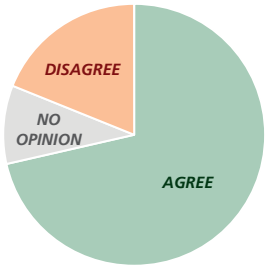
TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Comments

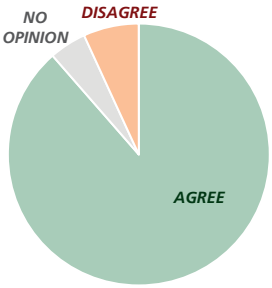
Most respondents are satisfied with the condition of roads in Brown Township.

Respondents are concerned with high speed limits and inadequate traffic enforcement.

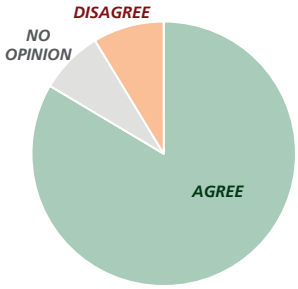
Although there is general support for a bicycle network in the township, there is also considerable concern regarding the associated cost, potential for road widening and lack of local demand for such facilities.



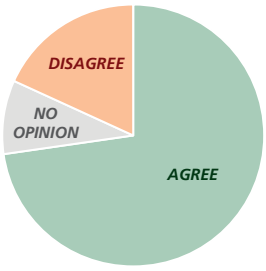
I am concerned by the traffic speeds and volumes experienced in the township.



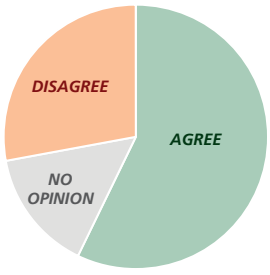
I am satisfied with the quality and maintenance of roadways in the township.



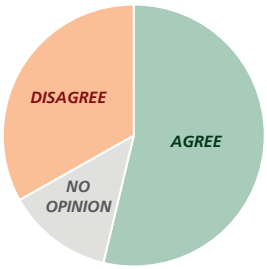
Narrow, winding roads contribute to the rural character of the township and should be preserved.



Township roads are not safe for bicyclists and pedestrians, particularly children.



There should be a bicycle network in the township that provides safe connections to destinations like parks and schools.



I would walk or bike more if roads were safer for such activities.

LIKES AND DISLIKES

RESIDENTS' LIKES AND DISLIKES

What residents like

- Open space, large lot sizes
- Rural character, farms
- Green space, parks, wildlife, woodlands
- Secluded but close to everyday needs
- Peaceful, quiet atmosphere
- Knowing neighbors, friendly people

What residents dislike

- Development pressures
- Speeding
- Lack of appropriate traffic control
- High taxes
- Lack of cable/internet
- Crime

VISION MAPS

Future Land Use Map

Respondents do not want to see uncontrolled commercial development. Most support limited commercial uses with strict design guidance.

Respondents would like a transitional development buffer around the Hilliard Growth Area to soften the rural-suburban boundary.

Bikeways Map

The majority of respondents do not want more bikeways.

If bikeways are installed, they should be separate from the roads.

Roadway Improvements Map

Generally, respondents do not want any roads widened and want speed limits reduced on most roads.

The intersection of Davis Road and Alton & Darby Creek Road is a safety concern to many respondents.