

***Port of Bellingham and the
Birch Bay Planning and Development Group***

***Birch Bay Resident Survey
Executive Summary
June 2000***

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BIRCH BAY COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Executive Summary

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RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Research Objectives:

The following objectives were addressed in conducting research for the Birch Bay Community Planning and Development Group:

Developing a Vision for the Area

- Identify social values held by Birch Bay residents and the effect of these social values on the vision held by the residents of the area.
- Explore what specific community features are most desirable or important to residents.
- Determine the ways in which residents want to be involved in community planning issues.
- Identify what are the best communications channels to keep area residents informed about planning process.

Leadership

- Determine Birch Bay area community residents' preference for leadership and decision making approaches for creating the vision and developing a long-term community plan.
- Determine who residents feel should be responsible for helping to make decisions about growth management planning, increasing density, and other issues that affect their own communities.

Government

- Identify what Birch Bay area residents consider the positives and negatives of incorporation and evaluate the level of support from Birch Bay area residents for incorporation as a city. Also, evaluate the level of support for annexation with the city of Blaine.
- Identify what residents consider the major issues that face the Birch Bay community.

Design and Infrastructure

- Identify residents' concerns about water supply and sewage treatment issues and identify what are their preferred solutions.
- Examine perceptions of Birch Bay residents regarding housing supply, density, impact, and affordability.

Economic Development

- Evaluate residents' perceptions and support for potential sources of economic growth, such as light industrial development in Cherry Point, cultivating more tourism, etc.

METHODOLOGY



Hebert Research interviewed a total of 192 Birch Bay households. Respondents were randomly selected and screened for being full-time or seasonal residents. The response rate, which represents the proportion of individuals who agreed to participate in the research, was 55.0%. The overall incidence rate was 90.8%.

The data were analyzed using generally accepted univariate measures of central tendency and dispersion. In questions where multiple responses were indicated, the totals in the graphs or charts may be greater than 100%, and only the most frequently stated responses may be reported. A complete list of responses can be found in the technical documentation. Questions for which multiple responses were accepted will be identified throughout the summary.

Hebert Research has made every effort to produce the highest quality research product within the agreed specifications, budget and schedule. The customer understands that Hebert Research uses those statistical techniques that, in its opinion, are the most accurate possible. However, inherent in any statistical process is a possibility of error, which must be taken into account in evaluating the results. Statistical research can predict consumer reaction and market conditions only as of the time of the sampling, within the parameters of the project, and within the margin of error inherent in the techniques used.

Evaluations and interpretations of statistical research findings and decisions based on them are solely the responsibility of the customer and not Hebert Research. The conclusions, summaries, interpretations, and recommendations provided by Hebert Research are based strictly on the analysis of the data gathered; therefore, Hebert Research neither warrants their viability nor assumes responsibility for the success or failure of any customer actions subsequently taken.

EXPLANATION OF MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

Multivariate analysis was conducted in order to examine differences among respondents according to specific pre- and post-classified segments, or groupings. The multivariates were as follows:

1. All non-multiple response questions by Q1 (Satisfaction Living in Birch Bay)
 - Dissatisfied (0-3)
 - Satisfied (4-7)
 - Very Satisfied (8-10)
2. All non-multiple response questions by Q13 (Support for Maintaining Current Governmental Institutions)
 - Weak Support (0-3)
 - Moderate Support (4-7)
 - Strong Support (8-10)
3. All non-multiple response questions by Q15 (Support for Creating New Districts)
 - Weak Support (0-3)
 - Moderate Support (4-7)
 - Strong Support (8-10)
4. All non-multiple response questions by Q17 (Support for Annexation to Blaine)
 - Weak Support (0-3)
 - Moderate Support (4-7)
 - Strong Support (8-10)
5. All non-multiple response questions by Q19 (Support for Incorporation)
 - Weak Support (0-3)
 - Moderate Support (4-7)
 - Strong Support (8-10)
6. All non-multiple response questions by Q34 (Satisfaction with Design of Birch Bay)
 - Dissatisfied (0-3)
 - Satisfied (4-7)
 - Very Satisfied (8-10)
7. All non-multiple response questions by Q36 (Importance of Economic Growth)
 - Unimportant (0-3)
 - Important (4-7)
 - Very Important (8-10)

8. All non-multiple response questions by Q43 (Seasonal or Full-Time Resident)

- Seasonal
- Full-Time

Multivariate analysis is an advanced statistical technique used in the testing of hypotheses and measuring the degree of association between variables. It involves Chi Square, analysis of variance and appropriate tests of independence and association.

Interpretations and inferences set forth in the analysis are intended to provide an independent statistical perspective. The statistical procedures utilized were applied with a 0.95 confidence level for estimating values and/or providing significant inferences. A 0.05 significance level was used as the criterion to test hypotheses. Multivariate findings, when they are significant and meaningful, are indicated at the end of each section.

In addition to measures of significance in which differences have been determined at the 0.05 level, a measurement of association will also be reported. These measurements vary between 0 and 1. A measurement of 0 indicates the variable in question does not explain (or is not associated with) the dependent variable, and a measurement of 1 indicates that the variable explains all of the dependent variable.

SATISFACTION WITH BIRCH BAY

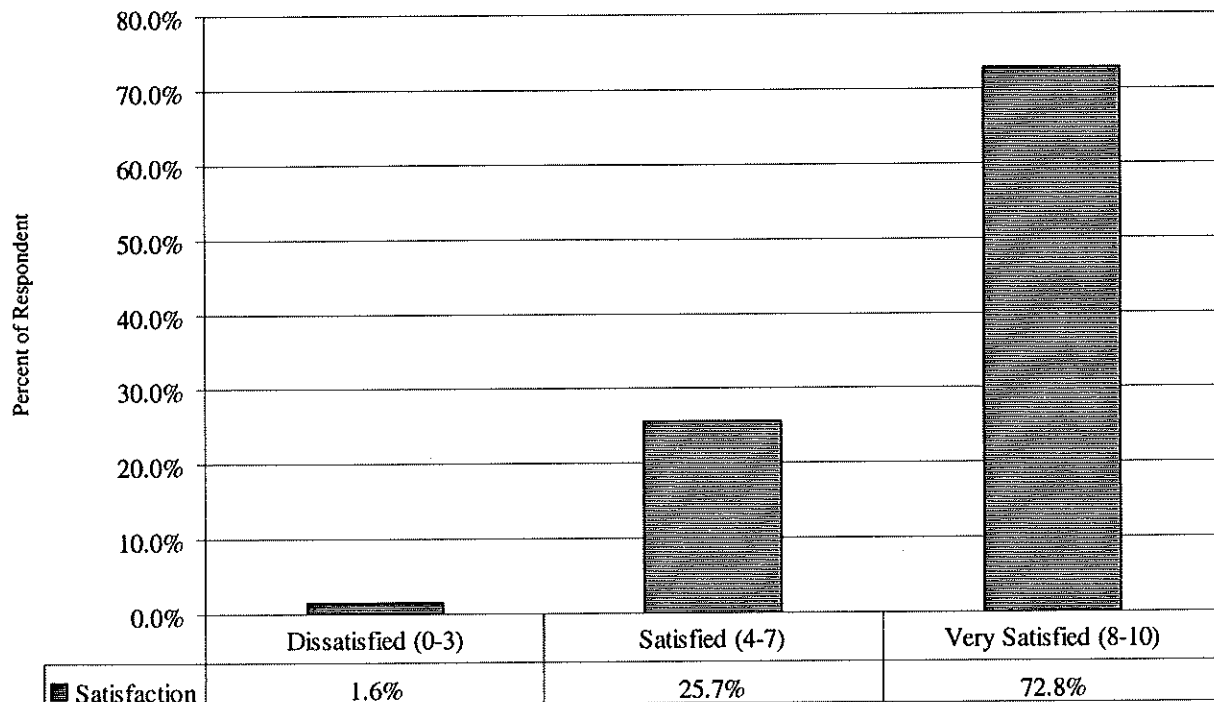
Objective

Measure the level of satisfaction respondents have for Birch Bay.

Analysis

Seventy-three percent of respondents (72.8%) were very satisfied with their current living situation in Birch Bay, while only 1.6% of respondents were dissatisfied. The average (mean) level of satisfaction was 8.27.

Satisfaction Living in Birch Bay



Conclusions

Every effort must be made to maintain the currently high level of satisfaction with living conditions in Birch Bay. Any improvements to the community must be made with the overall satisfaction of residents in mind. In other words, any increase in commerce and housing must be complemented by improvements to water supply and road maintenance in order to satisfy citizens. Seasonal respondents are more satisfied with the current situation in Birch Bay, so any effort to improve satisfaction should be directed at full-time residents.

DESCRIPTION OF BIRCH BAY TO A FRIEND

Objective

Determine how respondents view Birch Bay.

Analysis

One-quarter of all respondents (25.0%) describe Birch Bay as a quiet community, while another 22.4% describe it as beautiful. Surprisingly, only 8.3% of respondents described Birch Bay as a resort community, perhaps indicating that most respondents see Birch Bay as a family community.

Description	Percent of Respondents
Quiet	25.0%
Beautiful	22.4%
Fast Paced in Summer	12.0%
Slow Paced in Winter	10.4%
Resort Community	8.3%
Scenic View	7.8%
Great for Families	6.3%
Friendly People	5.7%
Rural Community	5.2%
Beach Town	3.6%
Good Vacation Area	3.6%
Retirement Community	3.1%
Other	45.8%

Conclusions

Respondents in Birch Bay value the peace and quiet and (natural) beauty of their community. It is important that any changes must ensure that these things are maintained. Enactment of ordinances that project the beauty of the Bay or minimize noise from traffic are examples of leadership actions.

POSITIVE BIRCH BAY FEATURES

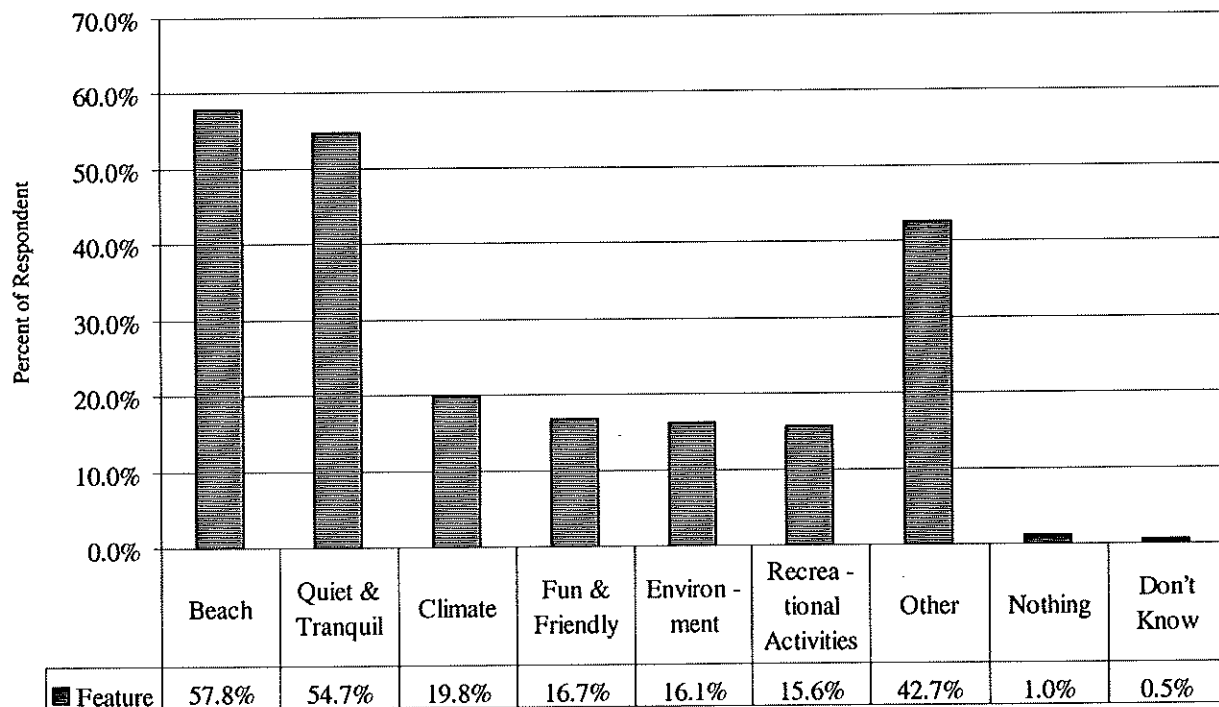
Objective

Determine what respondents like most about Birch Bay.

Analysis

Respondents were asked, on an open-ended basis, what they liked most about Birch Bay. Fifty-eight percent of respondents (57.8%) liked the beaches in Birch Bay, while 54.7% liked that Birch Bay is quiet and tranquil.

What Citizens Like About Birch Bay



Conclusions

Beach access appears to be the most critical factor to respondents, followed closely by peace and quiet. Development in Birch Bay would have to keep both of these factors in mind and do nothing to inhibit beach access or create additional noise.

ADDITIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

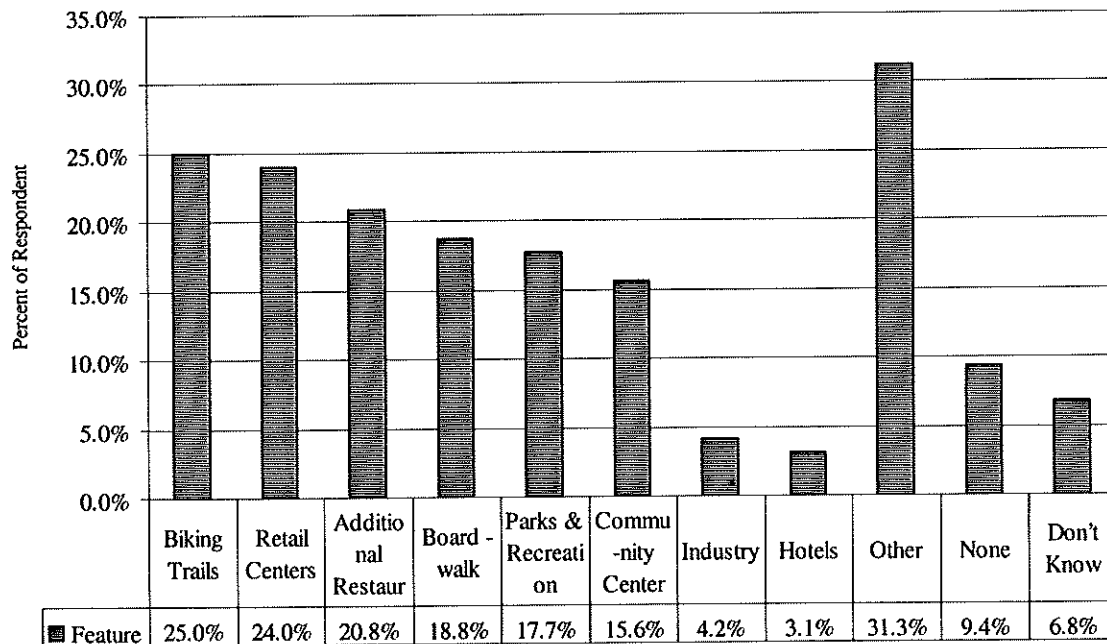
Objective

Identify the most desirable additions to the community for Birch Bay residents.

Analysis

Biking trails (25.0%), retail centers (24.0%), additional restaurants (20.8%), and a boardwalk (18.8%) were the most desirable community features among survey respondents. Industrial development and additional tourist centers (i.e., hotels) were not very appealing to respondents.

Desirable Community Features



Conclusions

Birch Bay residents are most concerned with the "Three R's," or Recreation, Restaurants, and Retail. They want businesses that provide conveniences for Birch Bay citizens, such as restaurants, grocery stores, convenience stores, and small retail centers. At the same time, recreational development is very important, in particular biking and walking trails.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

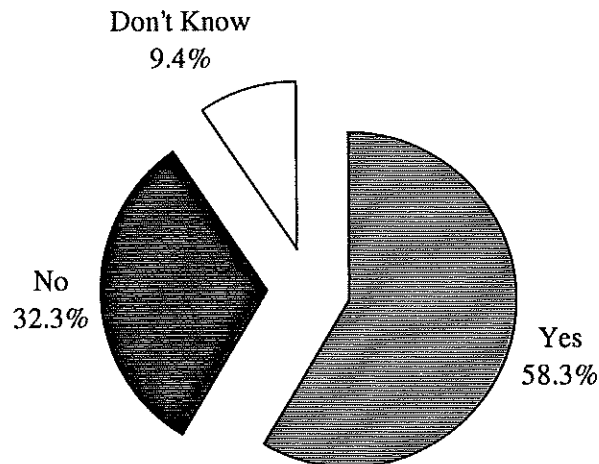
Objective

Determine whether respondents feel that there is a community spirit in Birch Bay.

Analysis

Fifty-eight percent of respondents (58.3%) felt that there was a strong community spirit in Birch Bay, while 32.3% of respondents did not feel that there was a community spirit.

Community Spirit in Birch Bay



Respondents who are very satisfied (8-10) living in Birch Bay were significantly more likely to report that Birch Bay has community spirit than respondents who are dissatisfied (0-3) living in Birch Bay. [Cramer's V = 0.216]

Respondents who support creating new districts to deal with specific Birch Bay issues are significantly more likely to indicate that Birch Bay lacks a sense of community. [Cramer's V = 0.224]

Respondents who do not believe that Birch Bay has community spirit are significantly less satisfied with the current design and layout of Birch Bay. [Cramer's V = 0.230]

Conclusions

Satisfaction and support for Birch Bay are a factor of community spirit, and in order to improve satisfaction (and perhaps reach a clear consensus or majority on community issues) Birch Bay must develop a sense of community. Since there is currently no clear center of Birch Bay in which citizens are able to congregate and gather, establishing a community center was mentioned as a way for more people to feel connected as a community.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

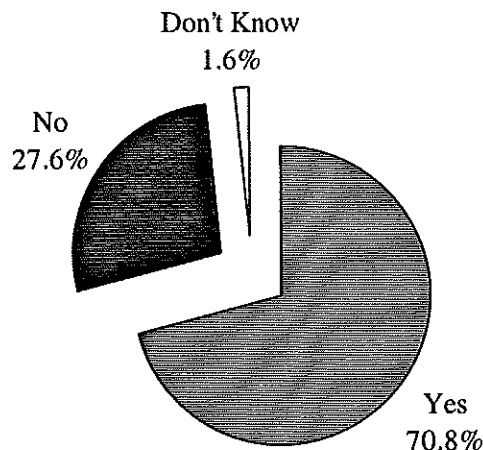
Objective

Measure the level and frequency of involvement in the community.

Analysis

Seventy-one percent of respondents (70.8%) report that they are involved in the community, and feel as though they are a part of the community. Twenty-eight percent of respondents (27.6%) do not feel as though they are a part of the community.

Respondents Who Feel They Are Part of Birch Bay Community



Respondents who do not support maintaining the current institutions of government are significantly more likely to feel disconnected from their community. [Cramer's V = 0.196]

Conclusions

A significant number of respondents currently feel disconnected from their community. Any new form of government (or decision-making body) must make people feel connected to the community if it is to succeed.

UNINVOLVED CITIZENS

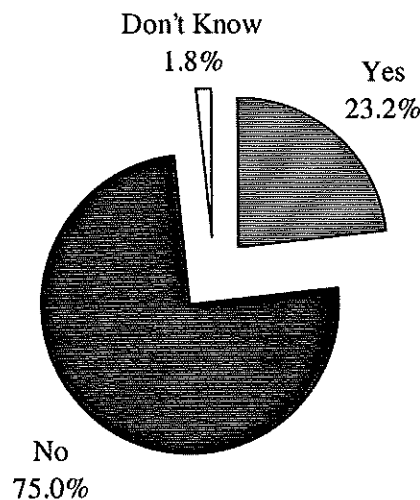
Objective

Determine whether respondents are concerned that they are not a part of the Birch Bay community.

Analysis

Among respondents who did not report feeling as though they were a part of the Birch Bay community, three-quarters (75.0%) were not bothered with the fact that they did not feel like they were a part of the community. Only 23.2% of respondents were bothered by the feeling that they are not a part of the community.

Respondents Bothered That They Are Not Part of Community



Respondents who are very satisfied (8-10) are significantly less concerned with not being a part of the community than respondents who are satisfied (4-7) with living in Birch Bay. [Cramer's V = 0.347]

Respondents who are not concerned that they are not a part of the Birch Bay community are significantly more likely to support maintaining the current institutions of government, while respondents who are concerned about their lack of community

involvement are less supportive of maintaining the current institutions of government. [Cramer's $V = 0.410$]

Respondents satisfied with the current design and layout of Birch Bay were significantly less likely to be concerned about not being a part of the community. [Cramer's $V = 0.436$]

Conclusions

It is not clear who is disconnected from the community in Birch Bay. Early hypotheses targeted seasonal residents as uninvolved, but the data does not show a significant difference in sense of community between seasonal and full time respondents. Community spirit could be developed and improved among disconnected citizens by involving them in the community decision-making process.

REASON FOR LACK OF INVOLVEMENT

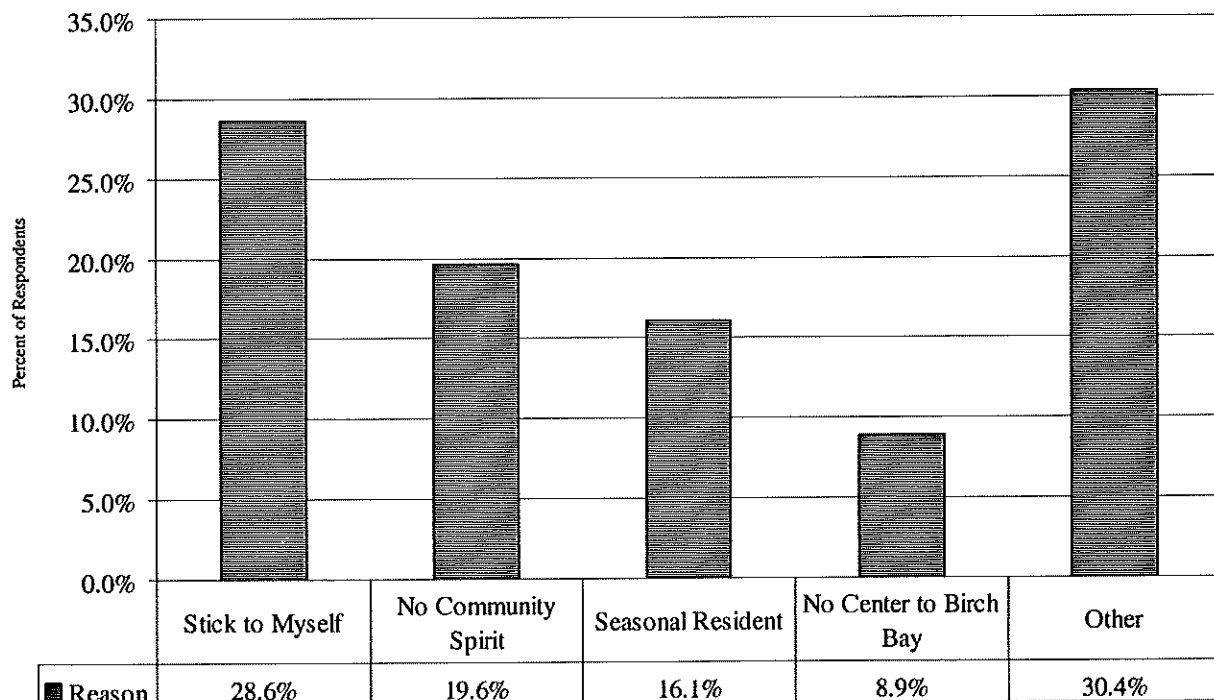
Objective

Identify the key reasons why respondents do not feel involved in their community.

Analysis

Twenty-nine percent of respondents (28.6%) said that they are not a part of the community because they prefer to be by themselves. Twenty percent of respondents (19.6%) were not aware of a community spirit, and 16.1% were seasonal residents. Responses in the "Other" category included a lack of time, lifestyle issues, and geographical issues.

Reason for Not Feeling Part of Community



Conclusions

Many respondents who are not involved in their community make the conscious decision to distance themselves from the Birch Bay community. Among other respondents, however, the key reason for being uninvolved in the community is their perception of a lack of community spirit. More opportunities for involvement, with simple activities like community clean-up projects, or a center that becomes a gathering place could be catalysts to help more people feel part of the community.

KEY ISSUES

Objective

Identify the key issues that concern Birch Bay respondents.

Analysis

Water and sewage (26.0%) was the most frequently mentioned issue facing Birch Bay in the next five years. Other key issues included economic development (22.9%), population growth (17.7%), and traffic (16.1%).

Issues	Percent of Respondents
Water & Sewage	26.0%
Economic Development	22.9%
Population Growth	17.7%
Traffic	16.1%
Road Improvements	12.5%
Shoreline Mgmt.	10.4%
Housing	9.4%
Law Enforcement	8.9%
Pollution	8.3%
Tourism	7.8%
Incorporation	6.8%
Protection of Natural Resources	5.7%
Increased Littering	5.2%
Storm Water Drainage	5.2%
Annexation to Blaine	4.2%
Parking	3.1%
Parks	3.1%
Improve Current Gov't.	
Institutions	2.1%
Other	15.6%
No Issues	7.3%
Refused/Don't Know	5.7%

Conclusions

Population growth, including how community services and utilities will deal with the growth, is the key issue that respondents identified over the course of the next five years.

COMMUNITY PLANNING LEADERSHIP

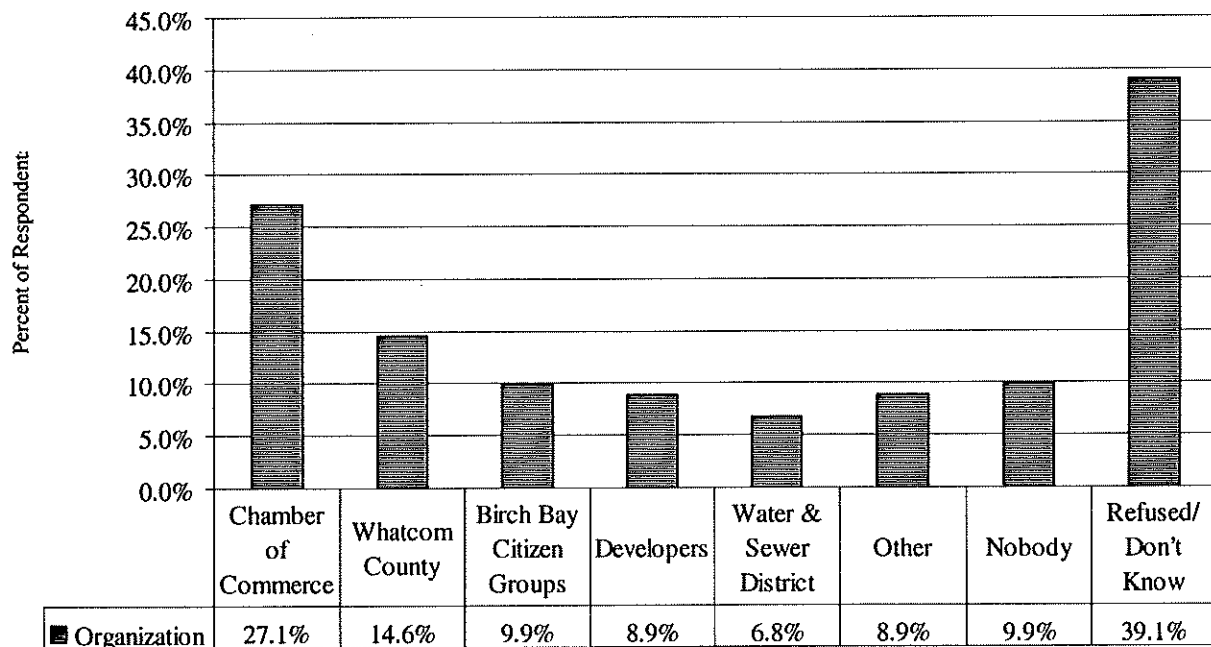
Objective

Identify the organizations that respondents perceive as taking the lead on community planning issues in Birch Bay.

Analysis

Twenty-seven percent of respondents (27.1%) identified the Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce as the primary leader on community planning issues. Whatcom County was mentioned by 14.6% of respondents, while 9.9% of respondents identified Birch Bay Citizen Groups or individual citizens as leaders. Thirty-nine percent of respondents (39.1%) could not identify an organization or individual who was taking the lead on community planning issues.

Organizations Taking Lead on Community Planning



Conclusions

The Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce was the organization perceived most frequently as being the leader on community planning issues. However, a high percent (49.0%) of respondents "don't know" or stated that "nobody" is taking a lead, which indicates a leadership void.

SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT COMMUNITY PLANNING LEADERSHIP

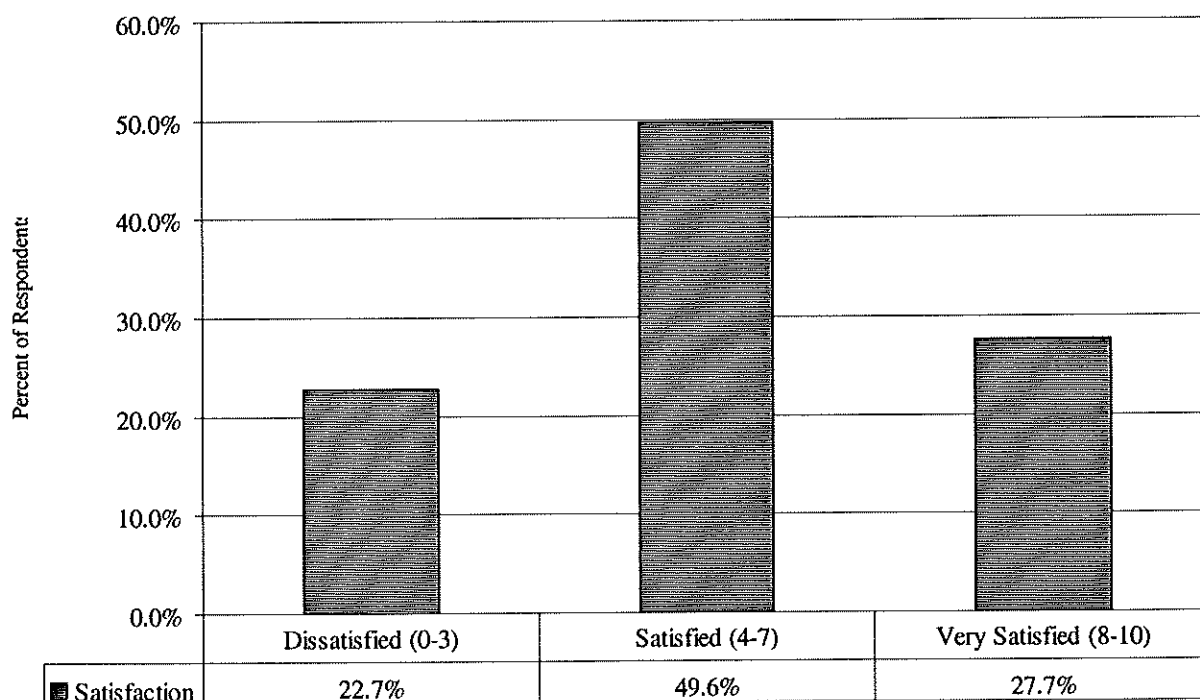
Objective

Measure respondent satisfaction with the current community planning leadership.

Analysis

Twenty-eight percent of respondents (27.7%) were very satisfied with the current leadership on community planning issues, while 49.6% of respondents were satisfied. The average (mean) satisfaction rating was 6.91 on a scale from 0 to 10.

Satisfaction with Current Leadership



According to multivariate analysis, respondents who strongly support (8-10) maintaining the current form of government are significantly more satisfied with the current leadership (6.95) than respondents who do not support maintaining the current form of government (2.68). [Eta Squared = 0.299]

Conclusions

Respondents were generally satisfied with the current leadership on community planning issues, but there are a relatively high number of dissatisfied respondents. Community planning is clearly a key concern of respondents.

SUPPORT FOR SOLUTIONS

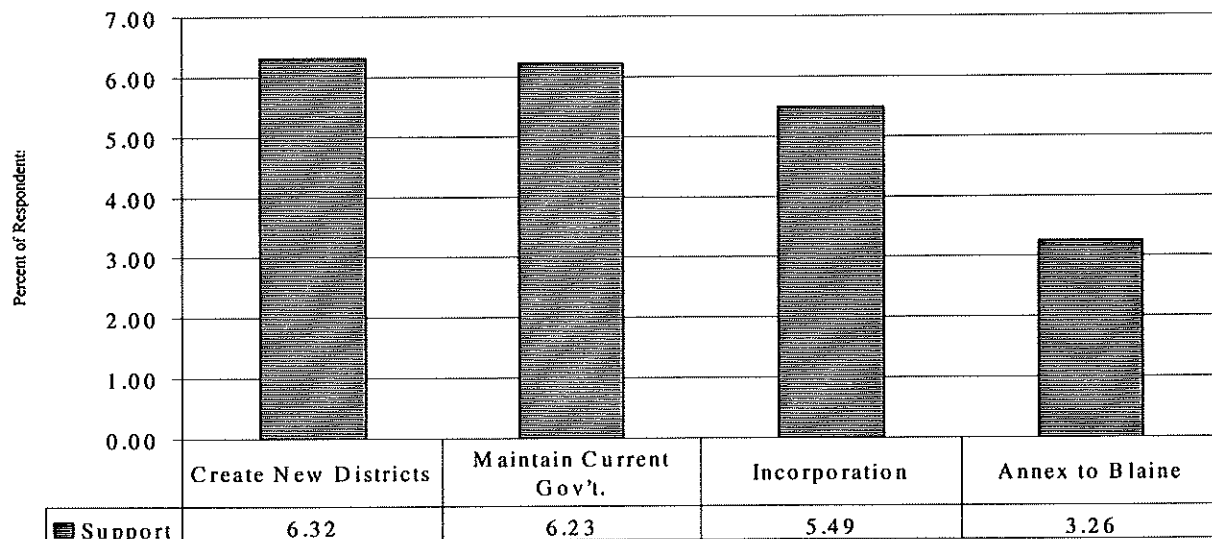
Objective

Rate the level of support for varying solutions to the community planning issue.

Analysis

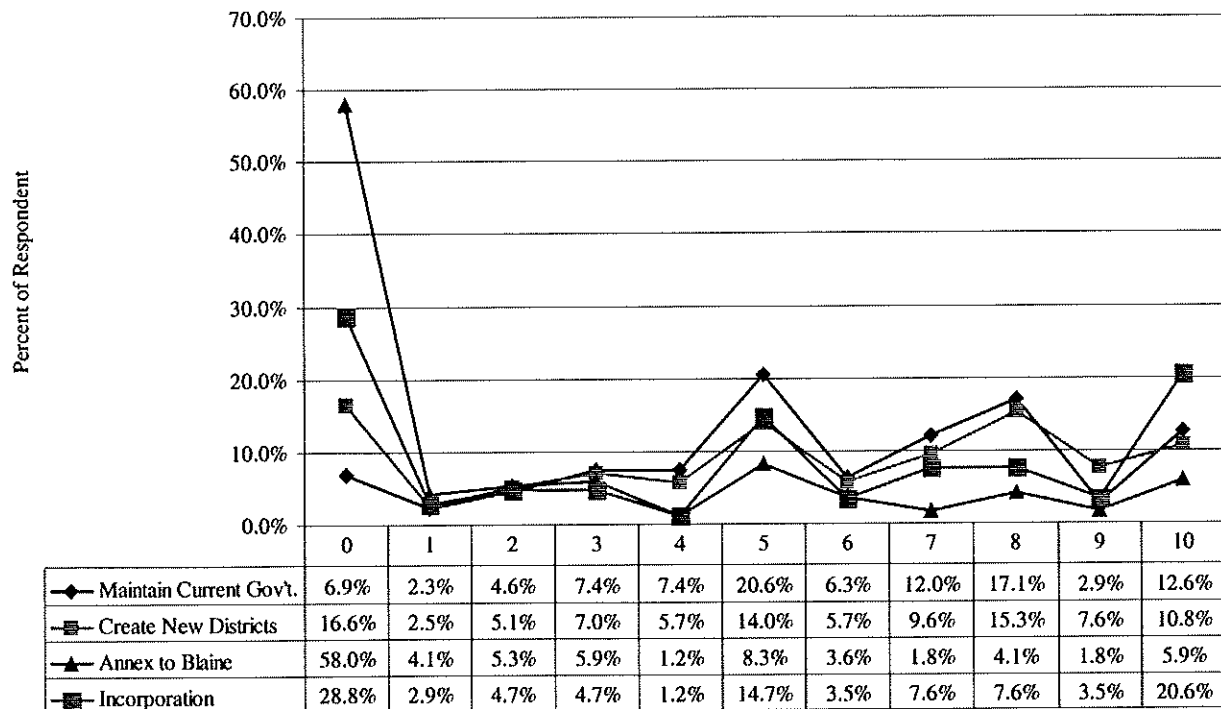
Respondents were presented with four potential solutions that Birch Bay could use to solve community issues. Respondents gave the highest level of support to creating new districts to deal with issues (6.32), followed by maintaining the current institutions of government (6.23) and incorporation as a city (5.49).

Average Support for Solutions



Solution	Weak Support	Moderate Support	Strong Support	Average (Mean) Support
Create New Districts	28.0%	31.4%	30.3%	6.32
Maintain Current Gov't.	21.1%	46.3%	32.6%	6.23
Incorporation	40.0%	26.3%	30.9%	5.49
Annex to Blaine	70.9%	14.3%	11.4%	3.26

Total Support for Solutions



Not surprisingly, respondents who did not support (0-3) maintaining the current form of government gave significantly stronger ratings of support to incorporation (6.59) than respondents who strongly supported (8-10) maintaining the current form of government (2.90). [Eta Squared = 0.129]

On a similar note, respondents who strongly support creating new districts to deal with issues (8-10) are significantly more likely to prefer incorporation (6.24), while respondents who only weakly support (0-3) creating new districts do not support incorporation (2.80). [Eta Squared = 0.137]

Conclusions

Respondents were unable to select a clear winner among the various solutions that they were offered with regard to community planning issues. Annexation to Blaine was not supported by respondents and may be discarded as a possible solution. A large number of respondents gave 0 ratings to support for Creating New Districts and Incorporation (16.6% and 28.8% respectively). At the same time, Incorporation received complete support from 20.6% of respondents. Maintaining the current institutions of government received the greatest percentage of 5 ratings (20.6%), perhaps indicating fence sitting toward this solution.

There were some indications that respondents who gave strong support to creating new districts were also strongly supportive of incorporation. These respondents are less than satisfied with current community planning and service support in Birch Bay and want the community to take more control over decision-making. Respondents who are satisfied with current situations, on the other hand, are less likely to favor change, as they are comfortable with the situation as it currently stands. The complexity of the form of government issue may require further study.

SATISFACTION WITH COMMUNITY SERVICES

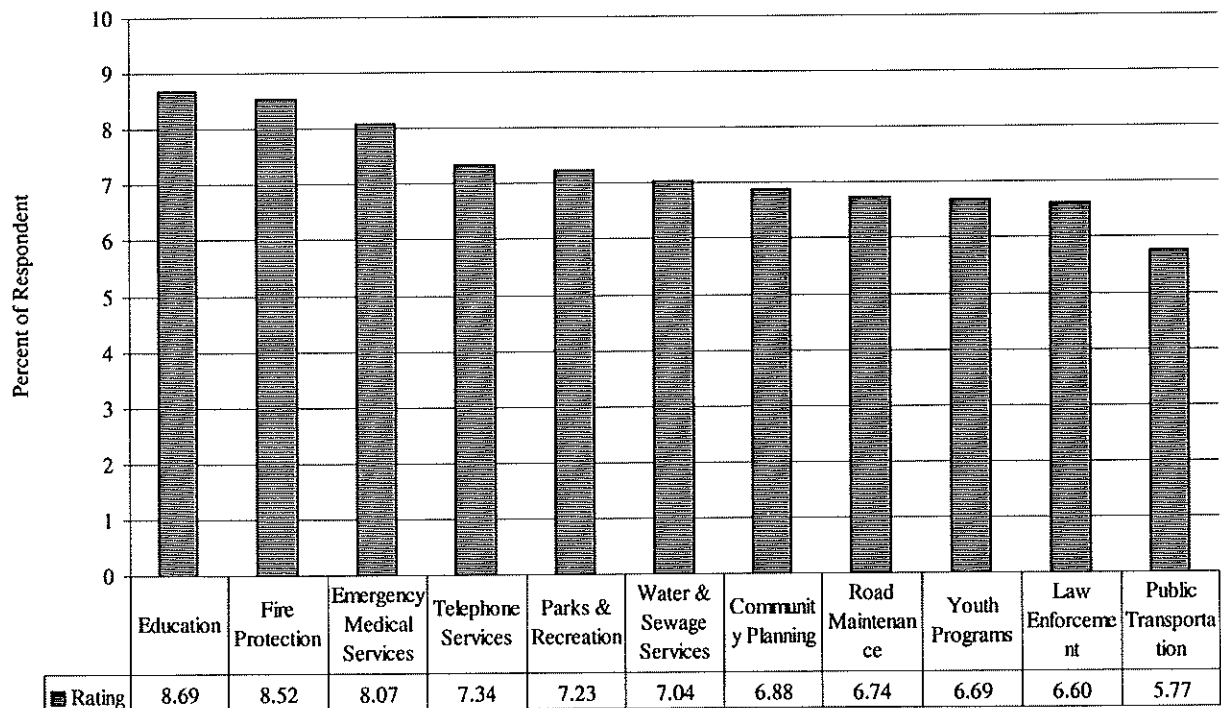
Objective

Measure respondent satisfaction for community services.

Analysis

Respondents were asked to rate, on a scale from 0 to 10, their satisfaction level for a number of community services. Services receiving the highest levels of satisfaction were education (8.69), fire protection (8.52), and emergency medical services (8.07). Youth programs (6.69), law enforcement (6.60), and public transportation (5.77) received the lowest satisfaction ratings.

Average Satisfaction Ratings



Respondents who are very satisfied (8-10) living in Birch Bay gave a significantly higher level of satisfaction for road maintenance (7.18) than respondents who were only satisfied (4-7) living in Birch Bay (5.27). There were insufficient cases to derive a statistical analysis for respondents dissatisfied (0-3) with living in Birch Bay. [Eta Squared = 0.126]

Respondents who are very satisfied (8-10) living in Birch Bay also gave significantly higher ratings to community planning (6.01) than respondents who were only satisfied

(4-7) living in Birch Bay, who gave community planning only a 3.92 satisfaction rating. [Eta Squared = 0.117]

Respondents who strongly supported maintaining the current institutions of government in Birch Bay (8-10) were significantly more satisfied (7.49) with law enforcement than respondents who did not strongly support (0-3) maintaining the current institutions of government (4.64). [Eta Squared = 0.126]

In addition, respondents who strongly supported maintaining the current institutions of government gave higher satisfaction ratings to community planning (6.78) and parks and recreation (8.14) than respondents who did not support maintaining the current institutions of government. [Eta Squared = 0.182 & 0.141]

Respondents who strongly support incorporation as a solution to issues in Birch Bay (8-10) were significantly less satisfied (5.08) with law enforcement and police protection, while respondents who gave low ratings of support for incorporation (0-3) were more satisfied with law enforcement in Birch Bay (7.29). [Eta Squared = 0.103]

Respondents who are very satisfied (8-10) with the design and layout of Birch Bay are significantly more satisfied with community planning (6.54) than respondents who are dissatisfied (0-3) with the design and layout of Birch Bay, who gave community planning only a 2.00 rating. [Eta Squared = 0.186]

Respondents who are very satisfied (8-10) with the design and layout of Birch Bay are also significantly more satisfied with parks and recreational activities in Birch Bay (8.21) than respondents who are dissatisfied (0-3) with the design and layout of Birch Bay (5.25). [Eta Squared = 0.170]

Conclusions

Respondents were very satisfied with education, fire protection, and emergency medical services in Birch Bay. Telephone service, while receiving lower satisfaction ratings, are not controlled by government organizations and are therefore unlikely to improve without discourse with the telephone company. The government form that is most likely to improve the key services, of parks and recreation, water & sewage services, community planning, road maintenance, youth programs, law enforcement, and public transportation would have the greatest support of Birch Bay residents.

WATER SUPPLY & SEWAGE TREATMENT

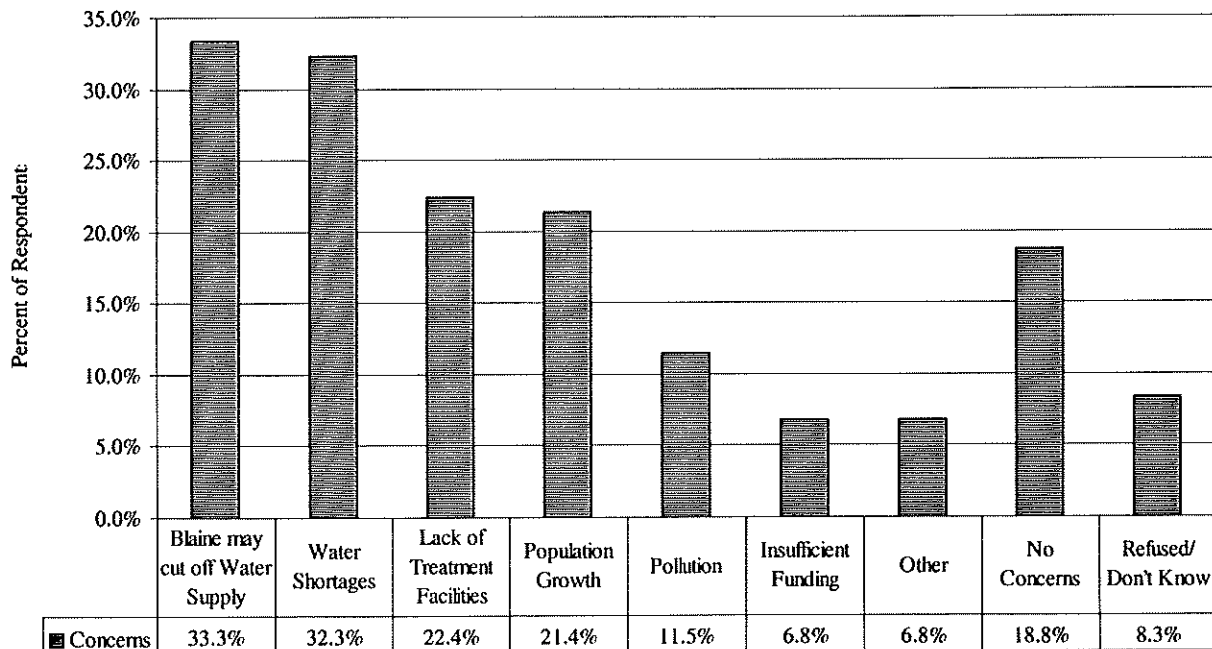
Objective

Identify concerns regarding water supply and sewage treatment.

Analysis

Thirty-three percent of respondents (33.3%) said that their greatest concern regarding water supply and sewage treatment was that the city of Blaine might turn off their water supply at some point in the future. Other prominent concerns include water shortages (32.3%), a lack of water treatment facilities (22.4%), and population growth (21.4%). Nineteen percent of respondents (18.8%) did not have any concerns at all regarding water supply and sewage treatment.

Concerns Regarding Water Supply & Sewage Treatment



Conclusions

The most common concern, that Blaine may at some point terminate the supply of water to Birch Bay, is controversial because it may not truly be a valid concern. Nevertheless the perception of the problem is sufficiently important that special effort should be made to mollify citizens who are concerned about the supply of water. Concerns regarding water shortages and treatment facilities can be tied to population growth. A plan for dealing with water issues and population growth must therefore be developed that satisfies citizens of Birch Bay and answers their concerns.

STORM WATER DRAINAGE

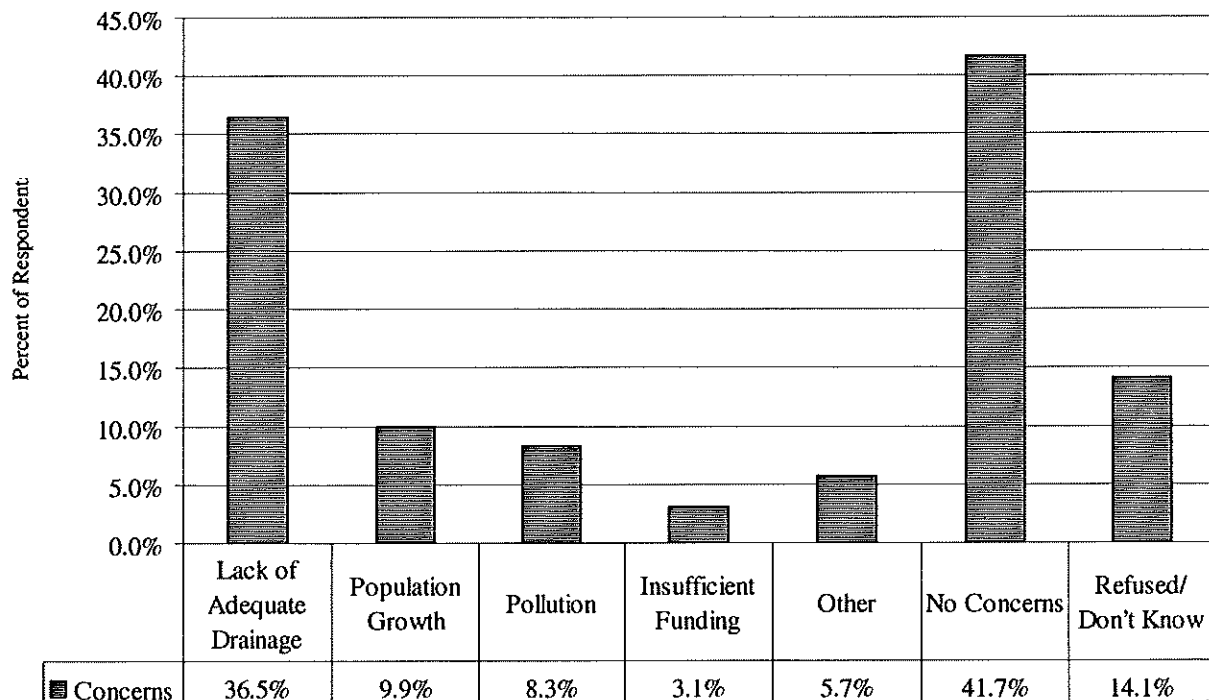
Objective

Identify the major concerns regarding storm water drainage.

Analysis

The most frequently mentioned concern was the lack of adequate drainage (36.5%), followed by population growth (9.9%) and pollution (8.3%). Forty-two percent of respondents (41.7%) did not have any concerns regarding storm water drainage in Birch Bay.

Concerns Regarding Storm Water Drainage



Conclusions

As with water supply and sewage, concerns regarding storm water drainage reflect concerns with population growth. A design for community development in Birch Bay should therefore answer these concerns.

CITY PLANNING

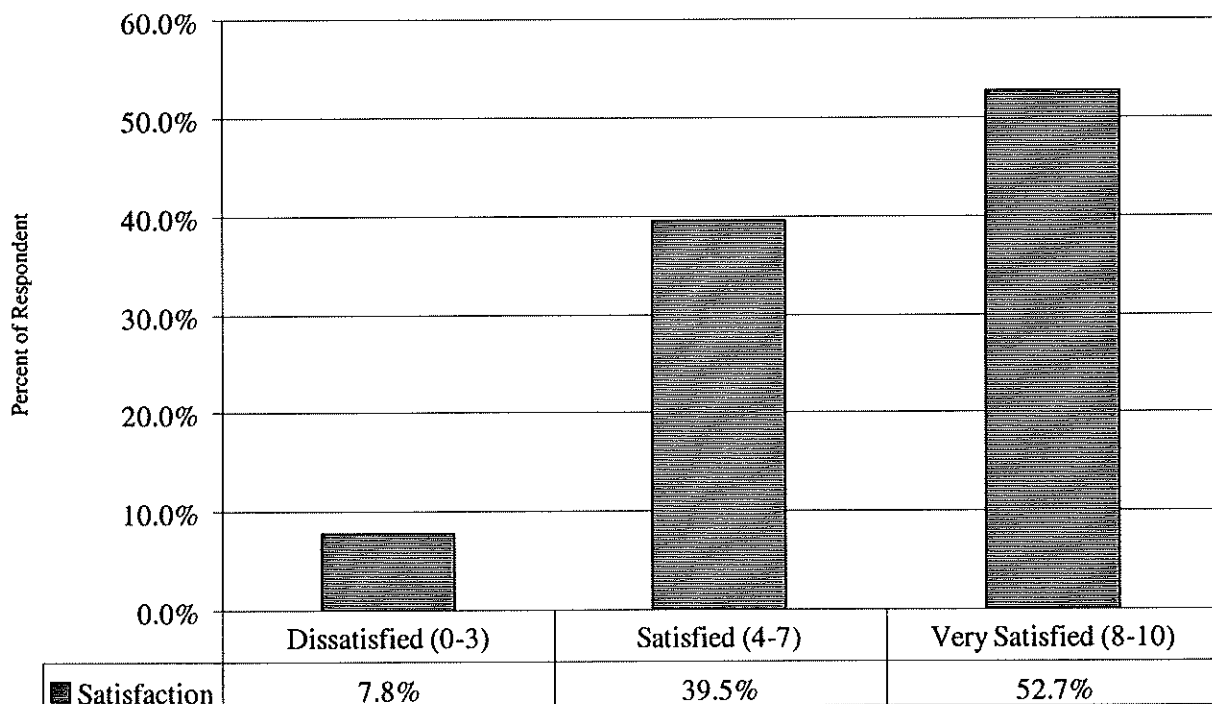
Objective

Measure the level of satisfaction with the design and layout of Birch Bay, and identify some of the improvements that respondents would like to see made.

Analysis

Fifty-three percent of respondents (52.7%) were very satisfied with the design and layout of Birch Bay, while only 7.8% of respondents were dissatisfied. The average (mean) level of satisfaction was 7.38 on a scale from 0 to 10. The most popular improvements respondents would like to see in Birch Bay are sidewalks and bike trails (12.7%), cleaner areas (8.9%), and activities for children (8.3%). (Q34, Q35)

Satisfaction with Design & Layout of Birch Bay



Improvement	Percent of Respondents
Sidewalks/Bike Trails	12.7%
Clean Area	8.9%
Activities for Children	8.3%
New Sewer System	7.6%
Restrict Development	7.0%
Road Maintenance	5.1%
More Stores	4.5%

Respondents who are very satisfied (8-10) living in Birch Bay are also significantly more satisfied (7.56) with the design and layout of the community, while respondents who are only satisfied (4-7) living in Birch Bay were less satisfied (6.00) with the design and layout of the community. [Eta Squared = 0.112]

Respondents who strongly support maintaining the current institutions of government in Birch Bay (8-10) are significantly more satisfied (8.11) with the design and layout of Birch Bay than respondents who only weakly support (0-3) maintaining the current institutions of government (6.23). [Eta Squared = 0.107]

Conclusions

Respondents were moderately to very satisfied with the current design and layout of Birch Bay. Respondents who indicated dissatisfaction with the current design and layout were more likely to support a change in the institutions of government in Birch Bay.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

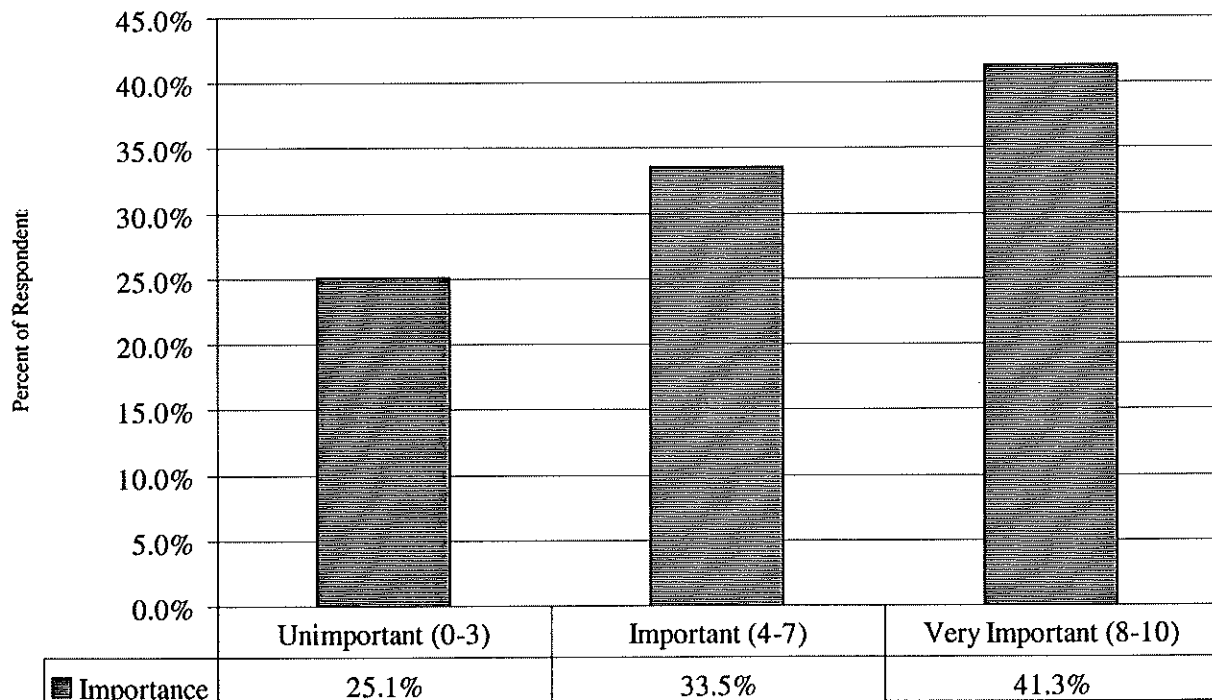
Objective

Measure the importance of economic growth and development in Birch Bay.

Analysis

Economic growth and development was very important to 41.3% of respondents, while 25.1% of respondents said that economic growth and development was unimportant. On average, respondents gave economic development a 6.17 rating on a scale from 0 to 10. (Q36)

Importance of Economic Growth & Development



According to multivariate analysis, respondents who strongly support the incorporation of Birch Bay (8-10) rate economic development as significantly more important (7.29) than respondents who gave low ratings of support to the incorporation of Birch Bay (4.70). [Eta Squared = 0.108]

Conclusions

Economic growth and development is an important component of community planning and development in Birch Bay.

APPEALING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

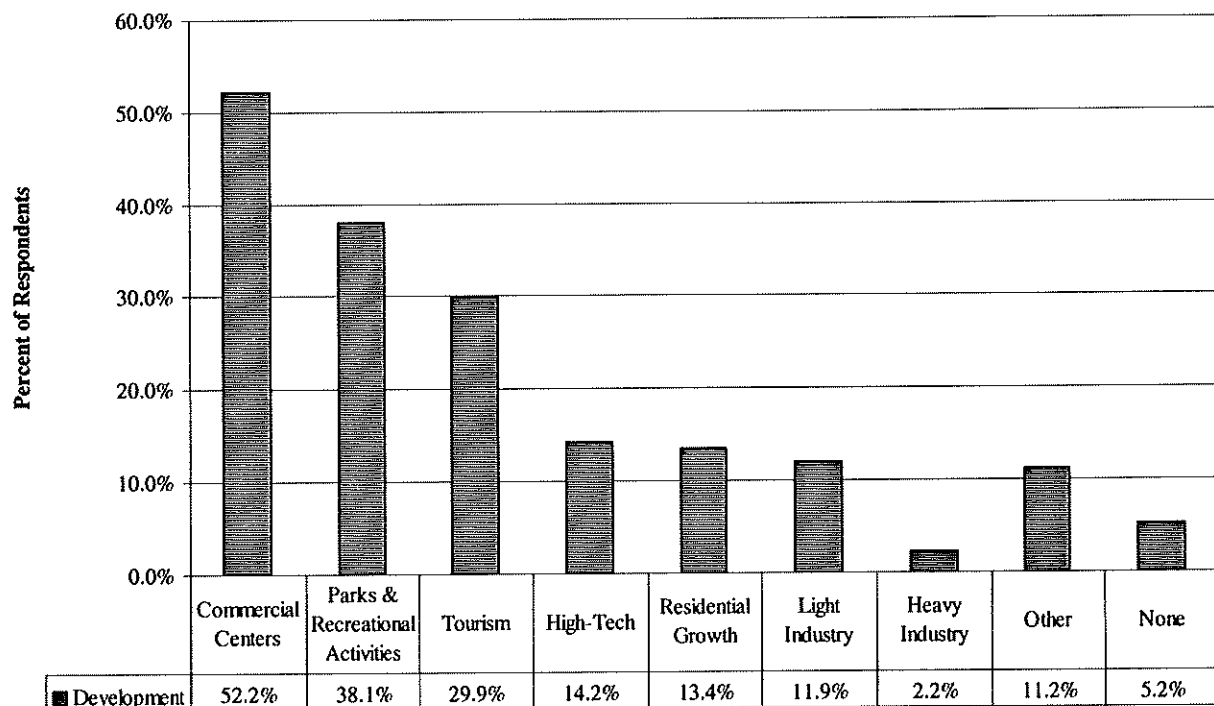
Objective

Identify the desired types of economic development.

Analysis

Among respondents who indicated at least some interest in seeing economic growth and development in Birch Bay (1 or greater on a scale from 0 to 10), 52.2% of respondents would like to see commercial centers (places to shop) in Birch Bay. Other types of economic development that respondents would like to see include parks and recreational activities (38.1%), tourism (29.9%), and high-tech industry (14.2%). (Q37)

Desired Economic Development



Conclusions

Respondents rated commercial centers as the most highly desired type of economic development. This includes grocery stores, service stations, retail outlets, and other types of convenience shops. Respondents also indicated a strong desire for parks and recreational activities, as well as increased tourism. Development of parks and recreational activities could assist with the development of the tourist industry in Birch Bay.

RESPONDENT PROFILE

The following tables present a general overview of the demographics of the population surveyed.

1) Age

Age	Percent of Respondents
18-24	0.5%
25-34	9.8%
35-44	17.4%
45-54	19.0%
55-64	17.9%
65 and Older	35.3%
Average (Mean) Age	57.1

According to multivariate analysis, seasonal residents are significantly older (67.53 years old) than full-time residents (54.48 years old). [Eta Squared = 0.142]

2) Marital Status

Marital Status	Percent of Respondents
Married	69.3%
Single - No Roommate	21.9%
Single - Roommate	5.2%
Living Together As Couple	2.1%
Refused	1.6%

Analysis of multivariates indicates that married respondents are significantly more likely to be satisfied living in Birch Bay than single respondents. [Cramer's V = 0.303]

3) Dependent Children Living in Household

Dependent Children	Percent of Respondents
Yes	25.5%
No	73.4%
Refused	1.0%

Respondents without dependent children were significantly less supportive of the incorporation of Birch Bay than other respondents. [Cramer's V = 0.171]

4) Own or Rent Current Residence?

Current Residence	Percent of Respondents
Own	88.5%
Rent	9.9%
Refused	1.6%

5) Years Owned or Rented

Years	Percent of Respondents
One Year or Less	2.9%
1-5 Years	33.1%
6-10 Years	19.2%
11-15 Years	15.1%
16-25 Years	12.2%
26-35 Years	7.6%
36-45 Years	4.7%
More than 45 Years	5.2%

6) Seasonal or Full Time Resident

Type of Resident	Percent of Respondents
Seasonal	16.7%
Full Time	82.3%
Refused	1.0%

Seasonal residents are significantly more satisfied living in Birch Bay than full-time residents. [Cramer's V = 0.286]

7) Primary Residence for Seasonal Residents

Primary Residence	Percent of Respondents
Yes	29.4%
No	55.9%
Refused	14.7%

8) Annual Household Income

Income	Percent of Respondents
Less Than \$20,000	7.3%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	10.4%
\$30,000 to \$39,999	17.2%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	11.5%
\$50,000 to \$64,999	15.1%
\$65,000 to \$79,999	4.7%
\$80,000 to \$99,999	8.3%
\$100,000 or More	4.2%
Refused	18.2%
Don't Know	3.1%

9) Registered Voter

Registered Voter	Percent of Respondents
Yes	70.8%
No	26.6%
Refused/Don't Know	2.6%

Registered Birch Bay voters were significantly more likely to be satisfied living in Birch Bay than respondents who were not registered to vote. [Cramer's V = 0.240]

Full-time residents are significantly more likely to be registered to vote than seasonal residents. [Cramer's V = 0.606]

10) Gender

Gender	Percent of Respondents
Male	42.7%
Female	57.3%

CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions were based on the research findings for this study:

Survey respondents were (overall) quite happy living in Birch Bay, giving it a very high satisfaction rating. Seasonal residents were somewhat more satisfied than full-time residents, no doubt because they spend less time in the community and, therefore, are not impacted by community issues to the same degree as full-time residents. Registered voters are also significantly more satisfied than non-voters.

Participants in this survey spoke in very positive terms about Birch Bay, commenting frequently on the natural beauty of the area, especially the beach and the bay. Birch Bay citizens describe the community as quiet, scenic, and somewhat of a tourist destination. Despite their high satisfaction with the current situation in Birch Bay, respondents desire a number of enhancements to their community. In particular, Birch Bay residents want to see biking trails, a boardwalk along the beach, and additional parks and recreational areas. Restaurants and commercial centers (such as grocery stores, small shopping malls, or simply more retail shops) are also extremely desirable additions to the community.

Economic growth is important to survey respondents and, in particular, to supporters of incorporation. There was a strong appeal for parks and recreational areas, and tourism, but not for heavy or light industry. The most appealing type of economic growth, however, was commercial, such as retail shops, restaurants, and grocery stores.

More than one-half of all respondents feel that there is a community spirit in Birch Bay, and this sense of community is even stronger in respondents who are very satisfied living in Birch Bay. More than two-thirds of all respondents indicated that they felt that they were a part of the Birch Bay Community. Even respondents who did not feel a community spirit were involved in their communities. Among respondents who were not involved in the Birch Bay community, most were not concerned about their lack of involvement. In general, respondents that prefer their solitude, do not feel that there is a community of which they could be a part, or are seasonal, do not want to exert the effort necessary to join in community activities.

Survey respondents identified water & sewage, economic development of Birch Bay, population growth, and traffic as the key issues facing Birch Bay over the next five years. In general, however, respondents were unable to identify the groups that were providing the leadership on these key issues. Nearly forty percent of respondents couldn't identify any organization, while ten percent said that there was no leadership. One-quarter of respondents identified the Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce as the leader in community planning issues. It is clear from this data that respondents feel that there is no strong leadership on community planning issues. Respondents were moderately satisfied with the leadership that these organizations and groups were

providing, and data indicated no significant difference in satisfaction among different community planning groups. Respondents who support maintaining the current government institutions to solve community problems, however, were generally more satisfied with leadership than other groups.

Respondents were particularly concerned with regard to water, sewage, and drainage issues. In the case of water, respondents were concerned that Blaine may (at some point) terminate water service to Birch Bay. Other concerns were water shortages, a lack of treatment facilities, and population growth. Fewer respondents were concerned about storm water drainage, but the lack of adequate drainage facilities was the most frequently mentioned concern.

With regard to solutions for Birch Bay community issues, no clear winner could be determined. Creating new districts (6.32) and maintaining the current institutions of government (6.23) received slightly more support than incorporation (5.49), while annexation to Blaine was clearly undesirable (3.26). Incorporation was especially favored by respondents who were against maintaining the current institutions of government, and received strong support from those respondents who favored creating new districts.

Respondents were (overall) moderately to very satisfied with their community services. Education, fire protection, and emergency medical services were all rated very satisfactory. On the low end, public transportation, law enforcement, and youth programs received only moderate scores. In general, respondents who were satisfied living in Birch Bay gave higher satisfaction ratings, as did supporters of maintaining the current governmental institutions.

In addition to being satisfied with community services, most respondents were satisfied with the layout and planning of Birch Bay. Some respondents were unhappy with the zoning (i.e., trailer parks next to expensive homes), but overall respondents were satisfied.

The general consensus among Birch Bay residents seems to be that Birch Bay is a friendly and comfortable place to live, but that it is experiencing problems as it grows. There is no consensus regarding a solution to the problems at hand, but there is a decided lack of leadership that Birch Bay citizens want filled. Providing a clear and effective solution for problems in Birch Bay should satisfy respondents. *

APPENDIX A - APPEALING ATTRIBUTES OF BIRCH BAY (Q3)

A secure area (I live in Birch Bay Village)
Ambiance
Animal life (not the night life)
Beauty
Boating opportunities
Bridge playing with my friends.
Clean.
Close to my work
Close to San Juan, Bellingham convenient
Close to the border and the mountains
Convenient to the stores
Everything is very convenient, within walking distance. Close to Canada.
Familiarity, family is here...this is home
Family oriented in new homes
Feel like I'm living in a resort all year
Fishing
Fresh air
Friendly
Golfing
Home
I feel safe.
I feel safer in our gated village community.
I like it all. I grew up here. It's quieter now than it was then.
I like the gated village
I like the view.
I like to go to the park and watch the sunsets.
Lack of crime, sense of feeling safe.
Location to Canada
Look of Birch Bay.
More sunshine than other places
Natural beauty
Near Bellingham.
Nice View
Not a lot of traffic
Not commercialized
Not too crowded
People who live here don't bother me; the pay toilets work
People; I like them.
Price for land is right
Privacy
Resort atmosphere, laid back
Road construction they did last summer.

Rural
Rural area with access to cities
Safe; okay for kids to be out.
Scenery and not crowded
Seclusion
Security
Security in the village; I am able to leave the house unlocked
Speed limit goes down to 20 mph
State park nice
Summer cottages atmosphere
Summer family activities
Sunsets are wonderful.
The country atmosphere
The friendliness of the people.
The location itself
The people of Birch Bay.
The price range
The quietness of being so close to the water.
The view
The view of the bay
The wild life (not the night life)
There is no development here
There's lots of wildlife.
Two seasons quiet and busy
Very safe
View; water and mountains
Water
Water view
We live in the village and have our own marina and great privacy.
Weather is good
Wildlife
Winter when there is no tourists

APPENDIX B - COMMUNITY SPIRIT (Q6)

A close-knit spirit.

A small group of involved people are the ones who provide the area with its sense of community spirit.

Active

Active keeping things clean.

Always pulling together to do something. Always some one to help

Anybody that comes here wants to come back. Everyone is treated nice and fair. It's a safe place for children. Everyone is pleasant.

Beach clean-ups, new years polar bear dip, sand castle

Calm community with a mix of fulltime and part time people

Caring for each other. Want it secure

Close relationships between neighbors

Committed

Easy going. It seems to be a lot of kids driving around the park and hanging out. Older couples come and walk the area.

Easygoing

Eddie, the guy who owns the restaurant, is a great spirit. My husband posted signs all over when we were trying to be a city by ourselves.

Everybody is happy and relaxed

Everybody's always drunk here

Everyone does his or her part individually

Everyone interested in improving/cleaning up the community parade attended by everyone in the summer

Friendly and kind of low-key. It's more of a down to earth resort environment. It is a place where people can feel welcome, more of a casual atmosphere. There is more of a sense of fun and play here, as opposed to some other resorts.

Frustrated

Getting together and doing things cleaning the beach cleared the logs

Good

Good hard working.

Great

I don't usually attend so can't describe. Not a lot of permanent neighbors though I'm friendly with mine.

I haven't been really involved, I am gone from June to October

I live in the village and I don't have a lot to do with Birch Bay, but I am more involved in the village and what goes on here so what goes on outside, I really can't say.

I think because it's small community, we look out for each other. We have our parade every year, and there's a lot of focus on youth and so the kids can get involved

I think everyone is living here because they are happy to live here.

I think it's fine, I haven't heard anything negative. We are not really involved ourselves.

I think most people like it here or they wouldn't be here. Many of the same people come back every year for vacation. I have lived here a long time and you know who's coming and when they get here they say hello

I think there is a new sense of future and hope, also more of a sense of coming together for the purpose of enhancing what we have here.

I would say it is very good. The chamber of commerce and American Legion work together. The spirit is very good.

If you knew the village, it's a community and has a lot of amenities and its safe and secure

In the summer time that spirit expands, people from Canada even come across during the summer to enjoy the sun, and enter act with the residents here

In the village the spirit is strong

In their own communities. I know mostly people in our association. They do have the parade. You can pick up the paper every week and see what's going on at school. This is really special.

Independent: they want to be recognized as living in Birch Bay rather than Blaine. We have to stop and explain that we don't live in Blaine because of our Blaine mailing address.

It does exist but it is not strong there are a few people who are active and interested but the rest are not

It has people who are friendly

It is a friendly community and close

It is a small town but very enthusiastic

It is good we have some events each year and every week we have yacht club and women's club events

It is just starting. We are looking at how beautiful it is and trying to get together to enhance the whole affair.

It is pretty good. We tend to know who we are, where we are, and we care about our neighbors.

It seems to be good. From what I have seen, people kept their places pretty clean

It's a combination of the vacationer...kid oriented, lowered speed limits in summer, very welcoming

Laid back and easy going

Live in the village; people care about the property and they are friendly and they seem to be older people

Mixed attitudes

More Canadians

Most people come to get together with friends and to meet friends and have entertainment.

Mostly a few people that do what needs to be done

Neighbors I know are outgoing and they like to make sure everything is going great.

When I moved in here there was a high crime rate, and that's gone now

Not really a city but the neighbors are sweet

Overall people are here by choice. They like what they see and want to keep it that way. I do too.... but would like to see it grow.

People are happy. When there are needs, people help.

People get involved when they don't have to

People trying to do something are business people not homeowners

Personally our family has benefited by it. My sister in law was lost to cancer. There was a big involvement of the community in her. I can't believe how much the community got involved in her. It was wonderful, food donations, car repair, trips to doctor.

Polar bear New Year's Day, served hot chocolate to participants, sandcastles, 2 places of ice cream, make own candy, and clean up of the beach.

Pretty good for a small area.

Pretty good.

Small township

Some need more sometimes it is limited

Strong

The people I know seem to like living here. The yachting people have lots of things going on. There are garage sales all over. The security gate is what sold us when we moved here.

The teachers help kids. They get the kids involved. The teachers here are more motivated

There are different activities that go on and an annual clean up day. The annual polar bear swim is in January.

There is a mixture of Canadians and they don't have the same goals they buy for the value of the money

There is quite a bit of separation, what with the yacht clubs and golf clubs and tournaments. Canadians live here too and everybody seems to get along with everyone else. Since we moved here, there are probably more Californians here than Canadians. There is strong community involvement; also people are watchful of neighbors and their property.

They do a lot of community activities. There is the gold nugget hunt and the rubber duck races.

They do cleanup and everyone knows everyone

They have a very nice Birch Bays haze days. Good turn out. It's a good community

They have community gatherings with good turnout.

They wave to each other and say hi when you are walking your dog. If you are melancholy they will speak to you. But they mind their own business.

Those that have community spirit are mostly the business owners

Two schools of thought; the one group that wants Birch Bay to grow, and also the people who want too keep it quite and peaceful

Up beat and enthusiastic

Upbeat

Very caring residents; they are on the lookout for the community.

Very close knit, clique-like

Very depressing

Very family oriented and close

Very good beach parties and community events like polar bear swim etc.

Very good it is a friendly place

Very good people have input on most things

Very good think a few years back a little more so

Very helpful, very neighborly

Very high

Very high, everybody is very interested in the community and want to progress

Very limited. Very few people really get involved; there are too many Canadians and low-income people.

Very strong

We have been here for three generations and feel very comfortable casual

We have the beach cleanup people do turn out

We're in Birch Bay Estates; everyone knows each other

Well they stick together very good. Lots of diversity. A lot of entertainment enthusiastic people

Where I live I have a pretty good relationship with my neighbors, but I don't know what is going on the north side of Birch Bay.

Where we live, there are people who take an interest in putting together flyers for meetings. There's community spirit but it's regional, separated, not one whole community spirit.

Within my local crowd we have neighborhood support

Work together for issues that come up

You see people coming out for the polar bay swim. Lots of activities in the summer.

Younger crowd as far as their schools

APPENDIX C - ANSWERS TO Q14

Low
Because I feel that they are currently not thinking through the decisions that they make the county
Because I feel they need a better system
Because I think we should incorporate.
Because I want Birch Bay to be independent.
Because it is not working
Because something needs to change
Because the city doesn't have any actual say. It's all state and county that have the entire jurisdiction.
Because the county does not give the proportioned amount back to Birch Bay. We have large taxation that goes into the county to support other parts of the county.
Because we need more protection and more police
Because we need to be independent
Birch Bay is a disaster in spots. Where I live.... there are junk cars, people abandon their homes.
Don't think its solving problems that exist. Perpetuating the same kind of thing
Don't do enough
Don't support it
I am not happy w/them. They aren't really planning effectively. Farmland is turning into places where people are storing stuff. They talk about water issues, yet build 100 more houses.
I don't like the local people that live down there; there are a lot of problems down there. A lot of drugs, a lot of public drinking. It gets out of hand when kids out school.
I guess I'm not happy with the way they run the government stores. The electricity and water are too expensive.
I like it the way that it is for 30 years I moved here from Blaine to get into a rural area keep it unincorporated
I think it could be with everybody working together a little better we could incorporate and it would give the money to Birch Bay instead of Whatcom County and I think this would work.
I want less government
Poor planning, no enforcing of rules and regulations that we have in place. The trailers are allowed to escape the taxes.
Tax money collected from us doesn't get spent here.
The government we have now is not effective. Sewer and water issues have not been resolved should have been done ages ago
There is no leadership here at all
They are not doing as much as they should be

They don't do anything. They do not enforce the planning and development rules and never have. In other areas of the county it may be working. But they are not doing it in Birch Bay.

We are so far north. Really the county does not know what is going on up here and it is hard to get them up here.

We bring in considerable tax revenue but the county government acts as if we don't exist

We need to become a city

Whatcom is large county. We are just a small speck.

When became a city government job people with a little authority big fish small pond

Moderate

As a community grows it is going to be a grated need of participation of government here

As far as I am concerned I am satisfied

As far as the city planners, I do not have any problems with them. I am sure they are not perfect. I never had to deal with them.

Because I am not as well informed as I'd like but things seem to be alright now

Because I see things have happened so fast and fast enough here and there are some half hazard things going in like the bike trails there not adequate at all there's not enough new input to planning

Because I think there is room for improvement

Because I'm not really sure. So I am staying in the middle of the road about the current leadership.

Because there is always room for improvement

Because they probably could be better if they would make the people more involved

Could always stand to have more people involved and with more people it costs more money

Could be better but it is pretty good

Do not even know who is doing what

Doesn't want any involvement of politics

Don't need anything else

Don't want to annex to Blaine

Everyone seems to be satisfied

Have the people that are actively trying to do something should keep trying

I am not versed in all of these things

I don't feel like they are doing anything

I don't hear a whole lot. I'm busy at work then come home to work on my property. That is poor not to hear more.

I don't feel informed I feel that Birch Bay is part of Blaine

I don't have any real axe to grind; I'm not really concerned with anything right now.

I don't know too much about that

I don't think much is happening. We don't have an identity.

I don't think there is much except fire district, water sewer and chamber of commerce

I don't think to well of Blaine 's government, I think they should keep on messing up their community, and stay out of ours.

I just feel the whole community needs to be beautified and kept up with and they should limit the number of trailer parks.

I like the folks in the planning commission but they are too remote to do a good job for us

I really don't know too much about that, because we interact so much in Blaine community.

I think I would lean more towards more autonomy from Blaine but not totally separate.

I think some changes do need to occur not leadership just in how we look at things and having more input

I think that they address current issues ok

I think the government is doing a decent job

I think the thing are set up now could work if they try to make the difference

I think they are working on things in terms of improvement.

I'm neutral on that, they are not bothering me but they are not helping me either.

I'm not completely satisfied in the wintertime with up keep of the roads.

I'm not dissatisfied with what's being done but if it were it's own city it could move separately from Blaine on issues.

I'm not for becoming our own city. I'd rather be part of Blaine.

It could change a little, it wouldn't hurt.

It currently works but could be improved

It is pretty good, could be improved.

It is working satisfactorily and everybody is happy

It seems to be working, but it is a band-aid solution. The county focuses more on Blaine & Bellingham, due economic activity in those areas.

It's not that bad

It's not a bad set up as it is; I haven't seen any other way for Birch Bay.

Just because every thing is fine and can always be improved

More that could be done. Very slow on doing roads around here.

Needs some changes old boy network doesn't cut it anymore

Not bad but could be better

Not happy or unhappy

Quite honestly, I am not sure of the issues. I can't get a handle. Is it the local government or what?

Room for some changes but I definitely don't care for the other options.

Satisfied, they put in new no parking signs and new bike lanes

Seem to be maintaining well

Seems to be working ok now but certainly could be a lot better

The area is growing. It wouldn't hurt to change some of the laws to reflect the population.

There are people that are interested, but I would have to have too many people get

involved

There could be more leadership in this area but I have become concerned by some local leadership for instance annexation to Blaine will bring higher costs. You can't have bigger government without higher costs.

There could be some change for good

There is a lot of room for improvement.

There is huge growth they do not have funding to support it

There's not much being done but within the developments there is and it needs that to have more focus and there is a need of more organization and more focus

They are trying to do the best they can with finances they have

They could be better, they need to do more

They could improve what they do for us

They do pretty well with what they have to work with

They don't seem to complete anything nothing is being done except studies

They might do better to have more local control

They need some changes to do a little better planning

They need to figure out better ways to deal with community issues

They seem to be doing ok as far as I know

This is part of a county, and they don't reflect it, it has its own government and can't voice my opinion on that. And Canadians are not going anymore because everything is too expensive; it would be good to bring more Canadians as use to be.

We are a county, so this doesn't apply

We aren't getting money back for our taxes. Very little comes back it goes to other parts of county.

We have been through the city thing awhile ago, don't want

We need some new blood. I have not seen too many changes in about 5 years I have been here.

We will have to do something more because we are growing fast

Whatcom county government is out of step with the people. They have a lot of backroom politics going on.

High

Because I am more of a capitalist and businesses slow profit and governments don't

Because I am not really aware

Because I don't want annexation or incorporation.

Because if you go into incorporation taxes go up, and Birch Bay couldn't handle that.

Because it's going much better than I thought it would. It's keeping taxes down and they are listening to the people that are here

Because there doesn't seem to be much going on except for Trendwest building down there and bringing money from Seattle or Bellevue down here.

Because they do just a fine job. We have no problems out here.

Blaine is so messed up we don't want to end up like them

Current institutions are doing what they were elected to do

Don't want too much control in our life
Every thing seems fine
Everything is going fine. If it isn't broken, don't fix it.
Everything seems fine
Everything seems like it's working fine.
Everything seems to be fine down here
Everything seems to going fine so far.
Fire the way it is too much change already
Happy with the way things are right now. No reason at my age to want any changes.
I do not know who is running it and how it is run. I like what they have done in the past year.
I don't see that changing the institutional structure is necessarily going to change things. It is not the structure that is the problem. I will stick with the devils I know.
I don't want to incorporate into Blaine or have self-government.
I don't see many problems
I don't think that I would like to annex to Blaine
I don't think there is much to govern. Lots of people in summer nothing in winter
I don't want Birch Bay to be a city itself. We are not capable of running a city.
I just like it the way it is.
I like it down here. It was pretty slack before but last year it took a little push to get all of our paving and construction done. I'm satisfied at this point.
I think it's the only one with the realistic way
I think that they do a good job with what they have
I think they are doing a good job of keeping things under control. (I am speaking of Birch Bay village only!)
I think we are over governed increased bureaucracy means more money
If you incorporate you open a new can of worms which will raise my taxes
It is more desirable than the other options.
It is nice to have police but they are too expensive
It seems to be fine people have issues with the water and that's water district
No reason to change.
Nothing has happened here that shouldn't have. I don't feel the government has hurt at all. It's been this way for 30-40 years. It will never become a city.
Right now Birch Bay is independent and that the way I like it
Stay the way it is
The government is willing to listen
The government is willing to listen
The other solutions only layer government on top of a system that is already working very well.
They are doing a good job
They are doing ok
They are doing what they cannot big enough to be a city

They have done quite well in that last 12 years with improvements.
They have problems everywhere but they solve them here.
To be annexed to Blaine would mean new higher tax rates
We are doing quite well at the present time. The future will be difficult with more growth.
We have a voice through Whatcom County via our community association in the village.
People in Semiahmoo have the same situation. We don't need any more bureaucracy.
Well they seem to be doing ok

APPENDIX D - ANSWERS TO Q16

Low
Another bureaucracy
Anytime you create more government you create more bureaucrats and they work when they want to.
Because I am not sure
Because I don't think Birch Bay has as much reason for those agencies and so I'd rather see the RAO's and stuff like that have more of a say in what's going on out here
Because, too much bureaucracy is not good
Better to have their own government
Cannot think of any special issues that would require any more special districts.
Don't need
Don't like creating new districts
Don't like the politics involved
Don't need different departments
Don't need too much bureaucracy
Every thing is fine
Everyone seems to be satisfied
Everything's fine the way it is
Fine the way it is
Good the way it is
I don't think I want to see it chopped up into districts
I don't want any districts. I like it to be in the country -it is a residential resort area. I like it the way it is.
I don't no, I don't think it would be a good idea.
I have no problems with the way it is now
I just like being part of the county. Not enough people to be a city. So many of the people are Canadians here for the summer.
I see that there is a need for improvement down there. They should incorporate into a city; they'd have their own police dept, curfews.
I think that there is enough government already in pace
I think that we have enough going on with no one else butting in
I think we need to work with what we got; whatever organizations in local government should be maintained.
I want it to stay just as it is
I want less government
I'm not well enough up on that.
It is good the way that it is
It seems that they are doing well enough

More people more red tape
No interest in it
No more bureaucracy needed.
No need
No need.
Not involved
Not that affective
The profit market is going with it, it goes for your summer business, Birch Bay itself they are trying hard, but can't be done, neither Bellingham because there is not attraction here, mostly means give a Canadian dollar 15%, attract Canadians more often as use to be.
They just create more taxes.
They would have a narrowed view of an issue, dealing only with their own issues.
This area does not have the area to bring anything new, and the way government.
This is because all we'd be doing is creating a new government
To much government as is
Too general a way to address this. There are too many issues.
Very happy with what's there now
We are a small community. We don't have the room for more districts.
We are doing fine right now
We don't need any more committees coming in telling us how to manage our business.
We have good drainage
We just don't need another layer of government.
Why do we need them? If someone would give me an argument I might give them a higher level but I don't see any need.
Would support incorporation of highest bringing in different kinds of bureaucracies
Moderate
Again I believe there are areas that need to be looked at beyond the downtown core. I see things that work and things that don't. I think some fresh thoughts and some new people in the area will help. I think it need to change for all of us and not just a few
Because I am willing to change, change is good.
Because I believe there needs to be change out here. I don't think it can happen through any other source besides those of us who live here. Maybe later. After we have done some work.
Because it depends on who they appoint
Better than annexation to Blaine
Blaine is not incorporated
Do something
Don't know revenue wise what it would cost.
I am not really strongly for it or against it. Also it would depend on the officials in charge of it.
I don't know enough to know if that is needed or not.

I don't think they need any more government.

I don't know enough to give an opinion.

I don't know if we need them we have enough government

I don't know, if that is exactly the answer or not. It really will depend on how it is done & what things end up becoming.

I don't think it is that important-- I don't know I just don't

I know there's the water district; it would be nice if there were a district for maintenance; there's the garbage issue, we don't have our own. It's not a city, no city council, no real leadership and we live from ideas from other communities.

I m thinking that would make way to many rules

I think its better then being part of Blaine

I think that a more broad range of areas would be covered through creating new districts.

I think there a few thing that could be changed

I would like to see something w/focus on parks & recreational events.

If it were for the good of Birch Bay I'd be 100% for it. I do not want to see a bunch of condos on the beach so no one else can see the beach.

If people focus on issues they set solved emphasize just one or two problems and fit them

It impacts the environment water services drainage use of beach marinas

It would be neat if Birch Bay became it's own township

It would be very helpful.

It would give us a way of framing the issues.

Just keep it safe, and clean

Just more taxes

Just no new govt.!!!!

Like to see current government get more involved.

Makes sense, certain people dealing with there specialties

Not sure that we need to have too many committees and studies. That is how I feel about government in general. Having more might not be good.

Not sure, who is in charge. I do not pay attention to that.

Some issues need to be addressed

Sounds good

That is fine. We do not need anymore or anybody to come in and make changes. I heard that the condos that are planned on the beach are terrible.

That's not enough to help

The quality of the bay water needs to be cleaned

The same reasons and I would need more info.

There isn't going on the quality of water

They are doing a good job, with what they have to work with. There are lots of good people. Sometimes you just need to change the way you do things.

They are trying to do an adequate job with what they have

They do need districts to deal with certain issues

They need a direction and have a common vision of what they want it to be. Now there is no direction.

They seem to be doing things well

They seem to be working really hard on the water and sewer, but roads need more attention

We are a generation of people here and want our families to continue enjoying the area we are very invested in it

We have our own parks recreational areas beaches and we don't need any help from anybody

We need to address environmental issues

Well, because things are not going well I want to see some action taking place.

Would not want to go to extremes

Would take away from the independence

High

Assigning people committed to specific issues is a great idea especially if they really care about what they are doing

Because all our taxes are going to Blaine, they should be used to help Birch Bay grow.

Because I feel they need to be improved upon

Because I think it needs to be done we need the improvement they should have a important committee and I think they can do it

Because it is important to have control

Because need a better water supply, and it costs too much

Because they need a better infrastructure

Because you can deal with specific issues and you know who to contain

Different areas have different issues

Doesn't work now

Each entity can deal with their own problems

Hopefully more issues will be dealt with. There are no actual decisions made by the people in Birch Bay.

I see a problem with water and sewage and new districts would address the growth.

I think any improvement, have a body of people to improve will support the community good.

I think that would be a positive step toward coming up with realistic solutions.

I think the only way proper development would take place is to have districts to bring people into area other than Canadians.

I think there is too much building-so putting away green space and cleaning up garbage is needed and this system would work.

I think we are having a sewage problem down here. It is noticeable in the summer on a hot day so having someone looking into it would be a good idea.

I think we will see a lot more development with Trillium owning so much of the property and they are developers-which does not mean I am anti-Trillium. This is like the mouse lying down with the elephant. All the elephant has to do is roll over in its sleep and the mouse is gone.

I would like to see it happen and be very much involved
It deals with specific issues only, does not expand government too much but allows some bonding capacity to cure certain problems when needed.
It is needed
It's local control.
Local people can get connected and participate
Need water plans because Blaine may cut us off
New districts should be added to what already exists in the area, to deal w/specific problems.
Nice to have some one taking care of the issues that need to be addressed
People who have one agenda are more likely to focus more than those with a variety of agendas.
There are a lot of issues that need to be taken care of and this would provide more control
There are some water districts within the area but they need more
There's quite a bit that needs to be done
They need some improvements
Things need to be addressed
This would be better than what we have now I think.
To get something done. They wouldn't allow this in Blaine ...in a city, but here anything goes.
We need more districts with stores in them closer to Birch Bay so we can get better service without going to Blaine

APPENDIX E - ANSWERS TO Q18

Low
A lot of things were so small we don't get a lot of the money to come our way
Anybody who gets a DUI here gets in real trouble. I know that the parole officer in Blaine doesn't give a damn. My ex boy friend committed suicide because of her. His ex girl friend was charged with simple assault and she didn't even let me know that they had released her.
Because a lot of people in Blaine have ties with Birch Bay, and it would cause Blaine also to grow making us one large city.
Because Birch Bay is a beach resort and Blaine is a city and we don't have the same interests and blain is a border and beer town
Because Birch Bay is a different community than Blaine and needs to stay that way
Because Blaine cannot take care of themselves
Because Blaine I wouldn't want to be annexed to Blaine and it is to stuffy
Because Blaine is a mess in itself. We don't need to be any part of that.
Because Blaine needs to take care of their own problems
Because for a long time we have been not happy with the way Blaine operates and Blaine has been a yes man to the Trillium corp. and they develop with out regard to how the people who live out here feel and I have lived here for many years
Because I am not for that at all
Because we are more independent is going 2 feet behind, and is not an asset, its an own government, the system has more encouragement and need more support from Bellingham
Because we need to become our own city
Because, they are totally different, all they do is gambling and here is quiet.
Birch Bay is like a little city in itself. We don't get any transportation, a bookmobile, or library service from Blaine.
Birch Bay is unique in itself. Blaine gets different type of traffic.
Blain has its own problems
Blain is more of a dump then Birch Bay
Blaine can't even run itself. It is a mess and we don't want to be part of it
Blaine does not understand the needs of Birch Bay.
Blaine has inept government and they have been very corrupt over the years.
Blaine has its own interests and has more on its plate than it can handle now with its sewer problems and I don't want to support their sewer problems. They have a downtown problem also with stores closing.
Blaine has more problems than they can handle already.
Blaine has problems with sewer and higher taxes
Blaine has the highest electricity bills around, because they sell their own electricity to their own people. Blaine is a dying city, and businesses from the outside do not last,

and the people on the city council there are not progressive enough.
Blaine has their own set of problems
Blaine is as screwed up as Birch Bay. It is more of a border town than this.
Ferndale...yes. Ferndale is a good community.
Blaine is having problems handling what they have now. Having a larger area to worry about I would worry about.
Blaine is too rigid they have their own problems Birch Bay doesn't need
Blaine is worse run than Birch Bay.
Blaine isn't really concerned w/what is going on out here. As far as funding, it is likely the focus would be on Blaine.
Blaine utilities are independent and expensive.
Certain things would be better but than there would be other issues such as the water problem hopefully would be better
City council in Blaine is made up of a bunch of yahoos
Don't feel the need and I don't like Blaine
Don't really like that
Don't see any benefit to it
Don't think that Blaine would want to annex Birch Bay
Don't want any gambling houses here
Don't want any part of Blaine
Don't want anything to do with Blaine, if so he is moving out
Don't want anything with Blaine
Don't want summer people running the area
Don't want to be affiliated with Blaine
Don't want to share taxes and electricity.
Fine the way it is
Fine the way that it is
I am against that because that would cause the power to shift from the local area and Blaine has too many of there own problems
I don't know what the people want
I don't see the advantage Blaine is too far away
I don't think we would get a very good deal out of Blaine at this time. But I support annexing Fire District 13, which provides protection. It is under discussion with Blaine and I think this District should be consolidated for protection.
I don't want Blaine running me.
I don't know, have to think it over.
I don't like how Blaine is governed and I think that Birch Bay would be better on it's own
I don't support the Blaine government. I don't want to go into that.
I don't think that Blaine has done a very good job
I haven't thought about the issue that much I don't have enough information
I just don't want to be part of Blaine. I like answering to the county
I like Birch Bay as it's own community

I like it the way it is now
I like the idea of Birch Bay being a community
I like the idea of staying with a larger corporation than the small as in Birch Bay becoming its own.
I like the individuality of Birch Bay. I don't know if there would be any other financial advantage or not.
I never thought about it, I don't if that would be a really good idea.
I think Birch Bay is its own entity if they just got up and did it its not like people cant help make the decisions the community involvement isn't that great here
I think I prefer to have money going to Birch Bay rather than have it divided with Blaine.
I think it is going to raise my taxes.
I think it should be it's own separate community.
I think it will take away a lot of the character of Birch Bay. Also, I don't like the way Blaine operates, as far as its council goes.
I think that Blaine doesn't have vision. They don't follow through on their plans.
I think that the community is separate from Blaine. Retirement community would not support the taxes required
I think there are enough people down there that they can have their own place.
I think we need to support ourselves
I want less government
I want the quaintness of Birch Bay to remain
I would have to look into seeing what that means. If it meant more police out here it would be good. Cost factor would be too high.
I would not want to see Birch Bay fall under the same city government. Blaine government runs to much based on personal interference as opposed to actual needs
I would prefer Birch Bay remain it's own community; there are too many issues in Blaine don't agree with. I don't want them to bring them to Birch Bay.
I wouldn't want to be connected to Blaine at all and support all their problems over there.
I'm not happy with Blaine city government. They need to finance more businesses there.
I'm satisfied with the way it runs. It would create higher taxes to annex.
It is a 15-minute drive to Blaine. Blaine is dead, going no-where. Don't want Blaine people running our community. Malls are half empty and the low Canadian dollar is sucking the life out of that town.
It is too far away they have got their own interests and we've got ours
It would just create a problem. Blaine has enough trouble running itself
It's like Death Valley in Blaine; all the businesses are gone in Blaine.
I've lived in Blaine all of my life and they don't do a very good job of managing resources
Just totally against it
No apparent benefit to that idea.
No desire
No new taxes

No reason to join Blaine we are just fine too much change too many condos some want this to get gambling
No way
No way do not like Blaine
No, no, not a good idea, they have their own problems within Blaine.
Not good for Birch Bay
Not impressed with Blaine
Not in favor
Not the same agendas they have issues that don't concern us and vise versa
On account of their poor planning. They have big trouble with their sewer systems.
OVERRATED UTILITIES AND BAD CITY MANAGEMENT
People are not for that. Blaine doesn't want to be annexed to Birch Bay. Rather Birch Bay wants to be annexed to Blaine.
Really want it to be there own city
Separate community and needs to stay that way
The Blaine city council can't even run Blaine, but not yet; and that's only if they can have better leadership.
There's so much resentment you won't be able to motivate people to work towards solutions.
They are having all sorts of trouble in that city we don't need that
They are so far away difficult to consider there the same community
They are two different areas, too far apart.
They got their problems, I would rather be kept separate from Blaine
They have different issues to deal with it is an older community it is a fishing community Birch Bay is a recreational community.
They have no genuine interest in our affairs. It would make another layer of government without much representation.
They have very screwed up government in Blaine
They're always in trouble and fighting. They and can't control their own problems.
Too far away and can govern themselves they do well by themselves
Two different areas nothing in common
We are not even close. It's 7 miles to Blaine. We'd rather go to Ferndale, Lynden or Bellingham.
We are okay here and satisfied
We don't like Blaine; it's a border town it's not our favorite town; it's closest to us and we don't go there because we don't like the atmosphere
We have the tax base of Semiahmoo. Blaine basically could but I feel all of their interest would be in downtown Blaine none in Birch Bay
We like living in our separate gated community. We do not want any more taxes that we pay.
We should take care of it. Blaine is having their own problems and we should have our own community separate from Blaine.
We want nothing to do with Blaine
Well because I think we are totally separate entity and we are to far apart this is a resort

area and Blaine is not; come summer this is nothing but a resort

You create more problems when you are incorporated into Blaine. Blaine has many problems now we don't want to be a part of.

Moderate

Always could be considered but not sure if that is what would solve our problems

Birch Bay is bigger than the Blaine population so we have as much to offer a Blaine

Do not know the pros and cons of the situation.

Don't know about the financial ramifications

I can't see any benefits except for the police and fire protection. There might be disagreements as to which community takes precedence in an emergency.

I don't know the tax situation that well, but the road situation could improve

I think its always has been a part of Blaine

I think there's more to offer people in the area and then you get more money available to do its jobs that need to be done

I think we should share police

If people took an interest in there property there would be a reason for us to do this.

If we had to do something I'd rather be part of Blaine.

I'm not sure about this I would like to see Birch Bay become its own town. If not, then I would like to see annexation to Blaine.

It potentially could be a problem because Blaine could ignore some of the problem that Birch Bay is dealing with

It would be controlled; people would have to keep their property up.

It would be ok

It would bring more people to Birch Bay if it were its own city. It is catch 22. I moved here to have a big piece of land and not bugged by neighbors.

Makes it a large area Birch Bay is different than Blaine

Maybe will be more police. The police patrol the highway; they have a meeting a block watch. Six cars for a huge area; there is a lot of speeding. Birch Bay could help Blaine

Need more information. I'm not convinced Blaine would do a better job than the county and county may have better resources.

Not sure if that would help or hurt

That might be an idea that deserves some consideration.

The county is too far away & uninterested. They take too much tax money & don't give any returns.

There would be advantages; like kids here use the Blaine school system and we're pretty close to the city of Blaine.

They end up taxing us more we don't need that we have our own fire they are doing just fine

They seem to be more supportive to Birch Bay and Birch Bay has ties to Blaine.

We have a Department of Obligation to Blaine because we get our water from them. I think Birch Bay isn't going to develop until it develops on its own, and then Birch Bay will get lost in the shuffle.

We have higher level of taxation here

Were already a Blaine address and that wont do us much good
Will it raise the taxes??
Would consider it
Would have to think about that one
High
Because are money is going there.
Because I think that there would be a stronger government, and more and better services
Because they have everything set up that would make it easier on Birch Bay
Because we share so many things with Blaine, why not annex. It will save a lot of trouble.
Close together and maybe they could work better as one
Could be beneficial we are part of the school in Blaine
I already feel like I am part of it
I don't think we need any more governments floating around. I already feel as if a part of Blaine, so why not just be a part of it.
I love Blaine and Birch Bay they have two separate characters
I think if Birch Bay was annexed we could lobby or get funding from the state for the services we seem to be lacking
I will just say that I will support it
It would run efficiently with taxes not being too burdensome.
School district
We already annexed to Blaine
With more people, there would be more points of view in what goes on in the city.

Rate the level of support for varying solutions

APPENDIX F - ANSWERS TO Q20

Low
As I mentioned, the funding of money. Birch Bay could handle their little road things, improvements and fines better.
Because financial burden. Property taxes are high enough and if we incorporate, you take yourself out of Whatcom County and we lose unless there's a glaring reason and we are not big enough
Because of cost.
Because of our tax base we would have things such as law enforcement and would be able to have direction in our own destiny Whatcom county has failed to do this
Because our taxes would go sky high
Because there is insufficient tax base to support a city for three months a year
Because we don't have the population to have what a city needs. In the winter it's still pretty quiet out here. We are better with the county.
Because we would need funding which would be more taxes which we may not be able to afford
Birch Bay could not support it
Birch Bay would lose federal funding
Birch Bay would lose federal funding
Don't agree with creating more government
Don't know where to get the money, once it become to be a city everything will begin, they pay a lot of taxes, they live part of the time there, and they don't want to pay any more, and want to pay the percentage of Canadian as use to be.
Don't want any gambling here
Get people with a little authority in over their head
I already feel like I am part of Whatcom county
I am worried about our taxes being increased to meet the expense of the change.
I do not think they need to be their own city
I don't think we need another level of government. I would much prefer something like an advisory body to the county than our becoming a city.
I don't think we need incorporation. I can't think of any advantage to it.
I don't think we need more institutions, more government; all it does is waste tax money.
I don't want it to be a city because of cost/taxes.
I don't want to deal with any government
I feel it would take away from the essence of it being a resort area
I like it just the way it is. I'm very satisfied with the way it is and no problems. I moved here to get away from higher taxes and once you annex you have higher taxes.
I think it costs too much for the infrastructure, taxes would be too high.
I think it is better off as it is, I remember a few years ago they try to become a city, but didn't work

I think it would be costly
I think it would destroy the atmosphere of the area, and things would become more political.
I think that they are doing alright as is they do not need to incorporate it would be expensive
I think we would be better off as part of Blaine. I don't like the idea of too many local governments.
I want less government
I would rather annex
If Birch Bay incorporated they would have to raise taxes to support it so we are better off the way we are in not having to deal with it and not getting what we want from the county.
I'm dubious about that too. Will my taxes go up?
Incorporating doesn't work because they tried to do that before and did not work
It is an expensive thing several levels of government. I don't think that they have enough tax base to do much with this idea; all the industry is outside of the area you described
It would be better to be part of Blaine
It would cost more and would not deliver any more that we need.
It would put a useless layer of government in place. We don't need it.
Its the tax thing; we'd have a lot of bureaucracy around here and we don't need that
Just a resort community and doesn't need to be our own city
Kids are already incorporated into Blaine school district and don't know if that would change
Leave it as it is
More government bums
More taxes it will make it a busy place with increased population
Need too many things and we do not have enough currently to take care of ourselves, so I am for annexation
No way
Not enough jobs and people to support a city government
Not enough money to do that nor support
Not enough permanent residents to support a government. Don't need more bureaucracy!
Same reasons as before. We like living in our gated community and do not want any more taxes. I do not know. I did not think about it.
Taxes will go up and everything will be more expensive
Taxes would be too high.
The costs that would be involved
There is no reason for us to incorporate. We are not that big. All the services from the county are fine. If we incorporated, they would raise our taxes.
There's an infrastructure here; why create more government when its available
They would have to take care of their own water problems.
Too small. No sense in that. So many people in the area are summer Canadians. We

don't have tax base.

Transient people make it difficult to govern this community. Many people are only here for the summer and many year-around residents are Canadian and cannot vote. It seems too complex to get the representation necessary for good government to work well. The status quo is fine.

Want to stay in Whatcom county

We are almost part of Blaine now so I have always thought of Birch Bay as Blaine

We are not ready for that Whatcom County does a fairly decent job policing and road maintenance

We couldn't support the cost of a mayor now. Volunteers, who are on their own, run it.

We have all that we need we don't need to be a city we don't need casinos

What for I cant think of any good reason to

Moderate

Actually be cheaper on taxes and we have Arco in our area and would give us local police force

Because things are good the way it is

Cause I feel like we need help

Enforcement issues would be closer to home. The Whatcom County Planning department will not issue permits for remodels we would desperately like to remodel our home so that we can live here year round but cannot get the required permits through the county

From the info we would have the local autonomy and would not have to go to Whatcom County. Moved increased community spirit

Have own post office

I am not sure what people hope to achieve by doing that potentially it could be help I think so

I believe that there is a group of individuals who are strong and smart enough to make Birch Bay what it was 50 years ago. We need a grocery store; you got to go to Bellingham or Blaine. Fifty years ago it was like seaside Oregon. They've over fished the crab. Before you could walk out the shacks and pick crab up when tide came in.

I don't know enough about the tax advantages to comment on it

I don't know if we could afford incorporating ourselves down here.

I don't know the ramifications of this. Haven't looked into it.

I don't know but it could be a good idea.

I don't quite understand what that involves

I don't think there is enough taxation within the boundaries stated at the beginning of the survey, in order for it to work.

I don't think we have we have all the services in the county it is ridiculous

I have been happy with the way things are we would have to raise money to support more services

I have mixed feeling about it

I haven't given that a lot of thought to that. -- Because I'm not really clear about it.

I think if you have something located in the area & for the area, it could be more

responsive for the community. I realize it would hike up property taxes, but the services would be worth it.

I think it would give the resident in what we can have services wise and more control on what's going on out here

I think that that would make people become more involved with what happens. I'm not sure there is enough funding to make it a realistic possibility. It is a resort town with many seasonal people and Canadian visitors.

I think we should stick with a larger corporation like Blaine.

I'm not sure of the benefits or problems.

I'd want to know more details.

If we can group together now...that might be something we can look forward to. But we're not solidified and that would have to happen first.

I'm not really sure as yet if this would be best I need to learn more

It does not bother me one way or the other.

It would depend on having a stable tax base. If you were to put in the refinery, then this might possible.

It would instill a sense of community with the Birch Bay Village residents they are a part. It's been debated off and on for the last 10 years. You have to form police, fire etc. Have adequate services through the county.

Just make sure it doesn't get into the country

Not enough people for that it is very quiet in the winter

Not sure, there are some real pros and cons.

Provided we have a good government council. We'd have to establish a city council and a school district

School district in Blaine is really good

So the people that live out here could live a lot better

The people of Birch Bay really want their own city. Would want to see the financial side of it. Or if the taxes are outrageous for long term.

There are enough people there that financially they could support that.

There are it can go in its own direction

There aren't that many businesses in Birch Bay. It's more of a vacation area if there were more permanent residences then that would be easier

Too small and we won't get the money needed for a city and the services we need.

Tried a couple of times were not able to do it 5 yrs ago and a couple of years earlier

We are not big enough but we want our independence

We need better governing

We need more frills-we cant get voice mail, here.

High

Because it think a community as large as ours is should take control of it and if we don't the Trillium corp. will take it over and that's what they are trying to do

Because it would be better that way and we can maintain control of our own area

Because our taxes need to be centered in Birch Bay.

Because, of the problems that tie in with Blaine I think that is a better idea.
Better idea I am more for that
Control, I would like to have a part in that and be able to give input within my community
Get own post office police dept, and a fire dept, some kind of planning dept and incorporate, the parks.
I prefer to see Birch Bay incorporated first. Then, if this isn't possible, then become incorporated into Blaine.
I think it would give us more focus and direction and we could develop more rapidly in the past and property values has gone down because of lack of progress.
I think that Birch Bay could be improved if it became its own town
I think we have to take control of our own destiny, instead of leaving it to others, as has been from time immemorial.
I want it to be its own city
I would like that
I would like to see it be it's own city
I'd like Birch Bay to be their own city, get its own grants, own funding, and money for their own uses. For water, we go through other channels to get water.
I'd think Birch Bay can better control if under its own government and have its better walks and parks because people would be more interested in doing it
If it were incorporated, there would be more development and more commercial additions of interest to seniors.
Incorporation of Birch Bay will have the objectives of Birch Bay; it's interest, at heart.
Independence: Whatever funds were collected would be used for this area.
Is too fragmented the Whatcom County planning commission. A good mix of our own people would be very effective
It is growing so much we need government
It should be a city
It would be a lot better then what they have now
It would be good to be on it's own without interference from another city.
It would be nice and you could write Birch Bay as your mailing address.
It would bring more money to the community.
It's a good idea
Maybe if it was its own town people would care more about it
Might need some improvement
My favorite choice out of 4
Needs to have there own government to establish there own community or city
Only way community can solve problem is having complete control over being able to do that
People who don't live here and the temps who need to do this need to be the permanent residents
Rather be in a different city not Blaine
So the tax money collected here will be spent here.
So we can grow and have control over our taxes and more of them back here.

Sounds like it may be a good idea.

Sounds like the best thing for Birch Bay

Tax base is an issue we need to keep the revenues locally. They would contract services from Blaine or the county for police fire

The people here could do a good job running the area themselves. If we had our own local representatives we could get things done

They it would have money to work with more to be done with Birch Bay more work

To start fresh and new as a new community with a new government

Want to stay independent

We can do a better job with government money and having our own city. We can do a better job than what is being done now.

We have to do something, if we aren't going to be part of Blaine. It's either 1 or the other.

With the right leadership, it can do it's own thing and focus on it's own agenda and have the leadership to do something about it.

APPENDIX G - IMPROVEMENTS TO BIRCH BAY (Q35)

A boardwalk with bike and pedestrian paths with picnic areas. Grassy areas on the bay front noise control for boom boxes
A green belt. A park area closer to the main beach area. Instead of just the state park.
A low, low cost sewer going through. More parks, biking & hiking trails. Some sort of parking area around Birch Bay, this is necessary for summer tourist traffic. Also, a small shopping center.
A post office.
A public pool.
A skating rink and some place where kids can go for activity particularly in poor weather.
Beach front improved not enough footpaths
Better access with the roads
Better parking along the public beach, more access for the public to the beaches. A public pool would be nice. Recreation for the kids.
Better planning on the aesthetics of the community. I have a \$200,000 home, but I'm surrounded by trailer courts. I would like to see more & better zoning regulations.
Better roads zoning, clean up the garbage more park and beach space
Better water front, and pave shoulders for biking and walking
Bike & pedestrian paths are needed.
Bike and walking path
Boardwalk by the beach some more restaurants and shops places for kids to go instead of hanging out on the street
Boardwalk
Building permits that take others into consideration as far as views and not blocking views
Businesses
Centralization of retail area
Clean up...property. There is some improvement. Roads are rickety.... need maintenance. Public transportation.
Controlling the density of the manufactured homes. It looks pretty tacky in those areas
Department of Ecology to implement the plan to stabilize the head of the bay.
Designate low income and nice neighborhoods not the trashy homes
Developers have to take more control over their own water and drainage and stop it from running downhill onto people's land.
Erosion on the beach needs to be looked into
Finish the ones that they started
Finnish the walkways and the bike paths
Full time police officers
Higher the speed limit. It is 20 miles an hour around the bay and it should be about 30. 20 is way too slow. Traffic light at the corner of Harborview Road and Birch Bay Linden Road.
Home building sites. Infrastructure, transit system with community input.

I already answered that early in the study.

I do not know, looks pretty good to me.

I don't know, I would like to see a bike trail all the way to the point, no more beach side building.

I don't like the 20 mph speed limit around. It's too low. Having to drive through the village and around here at 20 mph.

I don't think they can do much. I would like to see even more improvement w/the bike trails. Also, improved public transit services would be nice.

I like to see better tourism marketing.

I never gave it much thought. More recreation in the area. Would like to see an indoor swimming pool.

I noticed there is some flooding in the winter and I don't know if they addressed that problem

I wish that they thought of different roads for scenic and for speed

I would like a better watch over all the condos that are being built. I think they should be restricting that a little. I'm afraid there will be more and I don't want to see any more.

I would like to see Birch Bay drive be one-way. There should be some way to cut down on the speeders. If they put a one-way road here it would limit the cruising and maybe they could enforce the 20 miles per hour speed limit more.

I would like to see more activities for youth and kids like down on the bay / make the water front more like white rocks water front they have a great beach and marine drive with all their residents and shops

I would like to see more building and zoning enforcement.

I would like to see some light industry away from the beach also I'd like to some improved beach access and better parking

I would like to see some theme like La Conner, or a theme like Boston, have a pier, boardwalk, or something to bring the families back. Have something besides the bars.

I would like to see thoroughfares by the ocean and improved. Walkways need to be addresses

I'd like to see property values go up; there has to be an attitude with the real estate community to attract people to see how peaceful can be. All there are up here are Canadians and all they do is complain about how expensive everything is.

I'd like to see road improvements; an effort to keep the community cleaner.

If people would fix their yards and houses

If they are going to keep promoting tourism do it better improve zoning regulations concerning appearance of buildings within the tourist areas

I'm happy with it. Maybe extending a beach walk, so there's a safe path for cycling and walking and the traffic lanes. That might be difficult since a lot of people own the beach property and I'm not sure they want it for public use.

It is to late for some of these changes, because too many house are built together, and I think it is dangerous. Roads too narrow.

It would defer back to the things I wasn't happy with; a little more enforcement, more regulation of traffic

I've always wanted to see a wood shop, with a lathe, which people in the village could use. A federal post office in Birch Bay. The other cities that have post offices near us are Custer and Blaine.

Keep up with litter, limit trailer parks.

Large year round entertainment like a roller rink or a movie theatre. Not to see the sewer ads storm water run off going into the bay.
 Law enforcement, improved housing quality (housing authority/structure.... codes.) New survey done of this area. We need to look at population growth, look at boundaries, land use, building versus resources environmental impact.
 Less people, more public boat launches
 Like it the way it is
 Like to have a sewer system for the whole area we have a district in the whole area
 Looks just fine. No complaints at all.
 Maybe more single-family housing, not trailer parks. More of a village atmosphere like La Connor. Nicer family restaurants.
 Maybe some local shop, and something for the kid, youth.
 Maybe some stores so we don't have to go into town all the time. Maybe a public swimming pool.
 Modify for businesses
 More bike trails and such
 More business coming in, more services.
 More businesses better walking and biking trails more recreation activities
 More cleaning of the roads
 More community and family recreation areas
 More department stores
 More ditches and ability to carry off the ground water
 More facilities that encourage kids not to party on the beach late at night. Programs for youth, organized.
 More for the kids to do. They don't have anything to do
 More full time people residents
 More law enforcement down there.
 More opportunities for young people nothing for kids anymore
 More permanent people. And that has happened and I think it will keep on happening in the next 10-years.
 More planned community more green space parkway commercial development separation from residential no tract housing
 More recreation for the younger people
 More requirements for resort stands on the beach. They are selling junk. If they could tailor it to the area it would be b. More visibility of law enforcement during the summer time to be on look out for vandalism from high school kids that party in the summer.
 Many homes are not occupied all the time so visibility of law in neighborhoods. Ferry system to go to islands from here.
 More side walks. Keep up water front. More places for the kids to go.
 More sidewalk areas, updating down on the waterfront, maybe landscaping to improve the beachfront.
 More stuff for the teens to be able to do. Places to go. Tourist attractions
 More water supply more business in Blaine
 Need better drainage to the bay other wise there is flooding
 One area of the bay is full of logs and it smells. It should be cleaned up
 People should not be allowed to accumulate old junk, cars and building materials in their yards without putting up screening. The beach gets messy ... There is no clean up

or maintenance crew. We need recreation attractions for people with bucks; a swimming pool, skating rink. Tasteful arcades for kids and teens.

Potholes fixed more roads

Recreation for your people ages 8 through 19

Regulation of building height requirements

See that the new condos coming don't change look of shoreline. Would like beach resort type atmosphere from commercial area

Senior citizens housing and shopping

She already stated that before

Sidewalks and streetlights

Sidewalks, bike trails. Things to make the area more pedestrian accessible.

Slow down traffic

Slower speeds for cars.

Something for the kids

Stop overflow of water onto my acres. In 20 years they have never cleaned out the ditch along my property line.

Supermarket. Bank. Be sure the beach is nice and clean with a boardwalk.

Take a look on the bay and see if there could be an improvement

The county needs to enforce the by laws. The rules and regulations that are on the books need to be enforced. The laws are there i.e.; building codes etc. There is no follow up.

The lack of drainage should be dredged so it would drain better the slews in the area its a estuary

The road needs work. Birch Bay drive needs widening.

There are hills behind and the water comes down the hill. New developments are not on the sewer so this is a problem. It is clay.

They have enough of everything now.

They need bike trails, there is a lot of bikes and no place for them to go, and it is really unsafe.

They need to address the traffic on the main street that goes through. They also need walking strip around road on the main street.

Things clean up, old houses, cars

To deal with the water and sewage for the long-term future, not just for the next year

Toilets parking bike paths tourism issues

Too many shacks on tiny lots. They are on the main drag along the water. Need to tear them down and rebuild on those lots.

Traffic problem main drive

Walkway along the beach, state park a little cleaner, grass always look terrible, winter swimming pool, (public).

Water front clean up prettied up put in a wood wall along the waterfront

Water treatment

We clearly need more capacity to clear sewage

Widening the main road with a walking and cycling lane

Well, I'm getting ready to move, so I don't know.

QUESTIONNAIRE

S1. Are a head of household? [No, thank and terminate]

S2. Do you own or rent? [Own, Skip to 1]

S3. Do you rent for three or more months at a time. [No, Thank and Terminate]

[READ]

The geographic region that you will be considering during this survey includes the area from Point Whitehorn to Birch Point and east to the Kickerville Road. Most questions will be limited to these boundaries; however, any exceptions will be noted at the time of the question.

1. How satisfied are you currently living in Birch Bay? Please use a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means "not at all satisfied" and 10 means "completely satisfied."

2. How would you describe Birch Bay to a friend?

3. What do you like about Birch Bay? [**ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES**]

- a. Beach
- b. Climate
- c. Environment (no pollution)
- d. Fun & Friendly
- e. Quiet, Tranquil Environment
- f. Recreational Activities
- g. Other [**SPECIFY**]
- h. Nothing
- i. Refused
- j. Don't Know

4. What community features would make the most desirable additions to Birch Bay?
[ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES]
- a. Biking Trails
 - b. Boardwalk
 - c. Community Center
 - d. Hotels
 - e. Industry
 - f. Parks & Recreational Centers
 - g. Additional Restaurants
 - h. Retail Centers
 - i. Other [**SPECIFY**]
 - j. None
 - k. Refused
 - l. Don't Know
5. Would you say that Birch Bay has a community spirit? (**Strong community involvement, interest in the town, neighbors know each other, etc.**)
- a. Yes
 - b. No [**SKIP TO QUESTION 7**]
 - c. Refused [**SKIP TO QUESTION 7**]
 - d. Don't know [**SKIP TO QUESTION 7**]
6. How would you describe the community spirit in Birch Bay?
7. Do you feel that you are a part of the community? (Do you feel connected with your neighbors, do you have a voice in the community, etc.)
- a. Yes [**SKIP TO QUESTION 10**]
 - b. No
 - c. Refused
 - d. Don't Know
8. Does it matter to you that you do not feel like you are a part of the community?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Refused
 - d. Don't Know
9. Why don't you feel that you are a part of the community?

10. What key issues do you think need to be addressed in the Birch Bay area within the next five years? **[ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES]**

- a. Economic Development
- b. Housing
- c. Improve Current Governmental Institutions
- d. Increased Littering
- e. Law Enforcement/Police
- f. Management of the Shoreline
- g. Parking
- h. Parks
- i. Pollution
- j. Population Growth
- k. Protection of Natural Resources
- l. Road Improvements
- m. Storm water Drainage
- n. Tourism
- o. Traffic & Speeding
- p. Water & Sewage
- q. Annexation to Blaine
- r. Incorporation
- s. Other **[SPECIFY]**
- t. No Issues
- u. Refused
- v. Don't Know

11. What organizations, individuals, or government agencies are currently taking the leadership role on community planning issues? **[ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES]**

- a. Whatcom County
- b. Birch Bay Citizen Groups
- c. Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce
- d. Developers
- e. Water & Sewer District
- f. Other **[SPECIFY]**
- g. Nobody
- h. Refused
- i. Don't Know

12. How satisfied are you with the current leadership for community planning issues?
Please use a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means "not at all satisfied" and 10 means "completely satisfied."

Communities solve their problems in different ways. I am going to read a list of different directions that Birch Bay could take to address these community problems. Four possible solutions are: **[READ]**

- **Maintain the same institutions of government that are currently in place to deal with issues.**
- **Create and/or activate Districts such as a park or drainage district to deal with specific issues.**
- **Annexation to Blaine**
- **Incorporate as a city**

13. Using a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means "do not support at all" and 10 means "strongly support," please rate your level of support for the maintaining the current institutions of government.

14. Why is that?

15. Using a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means "do not support at all" and 10 means "strongly support," please rate your level of support for the creating new districts to deal with specific issues.

16. Why is that?

17. Using a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means "do not support at all" and 10 means "strongly support," please rate your level of support for annexing Birch Bay to Blaine.

18. Why is that?

19. Using a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means "do not support at all" and 10 means "strongly support," please rate your level of support for the incorporation of Birch Bay.

20. Why is that?

Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following community services. Please use a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means "not at all satisfied" and 10 means "completely satisfied."

- 21. Law Enforcement/Police Protection
- 22. Fire Protection
- 23. Education/Schools (in Blaine)
- 24. Emergency Medical Services
- 25. Road Maintenance
- 26. Public Transportation
- 27. Youth Programs
- 28. Water & Sewage Services
- 29. Telephone Services
- 30. Community Planning
- 31. Parks & Recreation

32. What concerns do you have with regard to water supply & sewage treatment in Birch Bay within the next five years? [**ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES**]

- a. Blaine may cut off Water Supply
- b. Insufficient Funding
- c. Lack of Treatment Facilities
- d. Pollution
- e. Population Growth
- f. Water Shortages
- g. Other [**SPECIFY**]
- h. No Concerns
- i. Refused
- j. Don't Know

33. What concerns do you have with regard to storm water drainage in Birch Bay within the next five years? [**ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES**]

- a. Insufficient Funding
- b. Lack of adequate drainage
- c. Pollution
- d. Population Growth
- e. Other [**SPECIFY**]
- f. No Concerns
- g. Refused
- h. Don't Know

34. How satisfied are you with the design and layout of Birch Bay? Please use a 0 to 10 scale where 0 means "not at all satisfied" and 10 means "completely satisfied."
(**Overall appearance, continuity, housing styles, roads, open spaces, etc.**) [**IF 10, SKIP TO Q36**]

35. What improvements would you like to see?

36. How important is economic growth and development within the Birch Bay area?
Please use a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means "not at all important" and 10 means "extremely important." [**IF 0, SKIP TO QUESTION 38**]

37. What type of economic development would you like to see within the Birch Bay area? [**ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES**]

- a. Residential Growth (Housing Development)
- b. Tourism
- c. Parks & Recreational Activities
- d. Commercial Centers (Stores and Shops)
- e. Heavy Industry (Manufacturing, Refining, etc.)
- f. Light Industry (Warehouses, Packaging Plants, etc.)
- g. High-Tech
- h. Other [**SPECIFY**]
- i. Refused
- j. Don't Know

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY

38. What is your age?

39. Are you _____?

- a. Married
- b. Single - no roommate
- c. Single - living with a roommate
- d. Living together as a couple
- e. Refused
- f. Don't Know

40. Do you have any dependent children?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Refused
- d. Don't Know

41. Do you rent or own your home in Birch Bay?

- a. Own
- b. Rent
- c. Refused
- d. Don't Know

42. How many years have you either owned or rented in Birch Bay?

43. Are you a seasonal or full-time resident?

- a. Seasonal
- b. Full-Time **[SKIP TO Q49]**
- c. Refused
- d. Don't Know

44. Is this your primary residence (*where you live most of the year*)?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Refused
- d. Don't Know

45. Into which of the following categories does your approximate household income fall?

- a. Less than \$20,000
- b. \$20,000 to \$29,999
- c. \$30,000 to \$39,999
- d. \$40,000 to \$49,999
- e. \$50,000 to \$64,999
- f. \$65,000 to \$79,999
- g. \$80,000 to \$99,999
- h. \$100,000 or more
- i. Refused
- j. Don't Know

46. Are you a registered voter in Birch Bay?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Refused
- d. Don't Know

Thank you for your time!!

POST CODE GENDER

- 1. Male
- 2. Female