

Suttons Bay Township Master Plan Community Survey - Agriculture

Through the planning process, the Township will explore the relationship between agriculture, the local economy, and rural character. These general survey questions are intended to begin to understand the community's thoughts on those important community elements.

1. Which best describes you? Check all that apply.

- ☐ I am a year-round Township resident
- ☐ I am a seasonal resident of the Township
- ☐ I own land in the Township
- ☐ I am a business owner in the Township
- ☐ I work in the Township
- ☐ I live outside the Township
- ☐ I farm land in the Township
- ☐ I own land that is farmed in the Township
- ☐ Other (please specify)

2. What challenges do you see for agriculture in Suttons Bay Township? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Cost of farmland
- ☐ Pressure to develop farmland into other uses
- ☐ Fluctuating commodity prices
- ☐ Lack of agricultural labor workforce
- ☐ Environmental concerns (soil health, water quality, etc.)
- ☐ Access to processing, distribution, or markets
- ☐ Climate change impacts
- ☐ Other (please specify)

3. What programs or policies would help sustain agriculture in the Township? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Incentives or support for young/new farmers
- ☐ Policies to encourage farm succession planning (keeping farms in operation when older farmers retire)
- ☐ Better infrastructure for farm operations (roads, irrigation, broadband, etc.)
- ☐ More flexibility for value-added agricultural businesses (farm processing, farm stays, events, etc.)
- ☐ Designated areas for concentrated development to relieve pressure away from important agricultural land
- ☐ Allowing commercial-scale renewable energy projects
- ☐ Other (please specify)

4. What type of non-traditional agriculture activities would you support that are next to where people live or have homes? (Check all that apply.)

	Not at all	Could be ok with appropriate standards like screening, limited hours, and to prevent nuisances	Yes - no problem
Farm markets and similar retail sales	☐	☐	☐
Tasting rooms (such as wine tasting)	☐	☐	☐
Tourist attractions (such as corn maze, pick-your-own operations, bed and breakfasts)	☐	☐	☐
Places where weddings, receptions, parties, and similar events take place	☐	☐	☐
Farm product processing (such as packing plants, food processing, etc.) and other similar agricultural-related businesses	☐	☐	☐
Commercial-scale solar or wind projects that allow farming to continue	☐	☐	☐

Other (please specify)

5. Should agricultural land be protected from development? If yes, why? Rank in order of importance with #1 as the most important and #4 as the least important.

In the online survey, the choices can be moved around by "grabbing" the horizontal bars on the left or the arrow tabs on the right.

☐	Agricultural land is important for food production
☐	Agricultural land is important to our local economy
☐	Agriculture provides income to land owners
☐	Agricultural land is beautiful to look at

6. Peninsula Township has an ordinance to allow for the purchase of development rights for farmland and open space from landowners who voluntarily offer those rights for sale. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect farmland and open space from future development. Would you be willing to support a similar program in Suttons Bay Township?

- ☐ No millage
- ☐ 0.5 mills (\$0.50 for each \$1,000 of taxable value, or about \$25.00 per year for a home with a taxable value of \$50,000)
- ☐ 1 mill (\$1 for each \$1,000 of taxable value, or about \$50.00 per year for a home with a taxable value of \$50,000)
- ☐ 1.5 mills (\$1.50 for each \$1,000 of taxable value, or about \$75.00 per year for a home with a taxable value of \$50,000)
- ☐ 2 mills (\$2 for each \$1,000 of taxable value, or about \$100.00 per year for a home with a taxable value of \$50,000)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

7. If you have additional thoughts or comments, please share them with us here.

Thank you for your time! Please visit the Township website for more information about the master plan process and how to continue to stay involved.