

Final Executive Summary

Overview

Before starting this project, we stated that we would view it as a success if the Comprehensive Plan Committee deemed our analysis as an important addition to the upcoming comprehensive plan. Over the past few months, we have been working diligently to ensure that is the case.

We began this project by reading supplemental material in order to better understand Granville's history and current developments surrounding the town. After receiving the data, we began looking for the best way to clean the survey results in order for it to be functional in our code. We created a codebook so it would be in tidy data format.

Once our data was clean and in a formatted properly, we looked over all of the survey questions and answers in order to develop a list of the most significant questions we wanted to answer. We ultimately decided on several key questions we wanted to answer:

- 1. What portion of the target population was captured by the survey?
- 2. What did respondents say set Granville apart?
- 3. What do respondents think should be Granville's priorities?
- 4. What additional industries do respondents want brought to Granville?
- 5. How did business owners answer survey questions?
- 6. Do respondents think Granville needs more housing?
- 7. Are respondents in favor of policy options that would diversify the tax base?
- 8. What words were used by respondents to describe Granville?
- 9. What questions were most correlated with how long a resident plans to stay in Granville?

Results

Overall, the survey received 918 responses. We estimate the survey was fairly successful in reaching middle aged residents of

both the Township and Village, as we estimate the survey was taken by 40% of Village Residents aged 35-44. However, we found that it missed a large portion of the younger population, including almost all Denison students, who impact the community greatly. We also found that the majority of respondents were middle-aged, mostly female, residents of the Township and Village of Granville.

Nearly 70% of respondents selected that both Granville's small town feel and the quality of its schools distinguished it from other small towns. These were far and above the most selected options in terms of what respondents saw as setting Granville apart. This is crucial to keep in mind when updating the comprehensive plan, as residents may be opposed to development that threatens Granville's small town feel.



One ongoing topic throughout our analysis was that respondents highly valued Granville's schools. Infact, 80% of respondents selected that maintaining Granville Conquality should be a top 3 priority for Granville over the coming years.



Respondents also showed a strong desire for more food/beverage and entertainment options. These opinions are more representative of Village Residents, as around 250 Village residents, but only around 50 Township residents were asked questions surrounding what industry they would like to see come to Granville.

44 respondents indicated that they were business owners. A smaller percentage of business owners ranked "small town feel" as one of the top things that sets Granville apart and listed the fact Granville is a college town as a more distinguishing feature of Granville than the general population of respondents. Additionally, over 50% of business owners selected that diversifying the taxbase should be one of Granville's top three priorities in the coming years.

Residents that plan to stay more than 20 years agree that there needs to be more typical single-family homes but agree that Granville does not need additional housing. The information that we analyzed from the graphs are not surprising, rather they are affirmative of what one might guess would be a response from the people in the township and village.

Through our analysis, we have found that both Township and Village residents want a decrease in property taxes. Respondents desire to diversify the tax base, but at the same time we saw that residents do not want new housing. This presents a slight problem in the near future as it will be difficult to avoid building too many houses so as to not agitate the people who don't want more housing, but at the same time build just enough to diversify the tax base. Overall, we found that in order to satisfy the people, taxes must be lowered, and new recreational spaces/businesses must be developed, all while still preserving Granville's rural and small town feel.

Using a technique known as Natural Language Processing and some python code, we were able to assign a numeric value to the language respondents used to describe Granville, whether that be a positive or negative connotation. We found that the majority of respondents used words with very positive connotations to describe Granville, meaning that the survey was likely primarily taken by those with a more positive opinion of Granville in general.

In our research to find what are the important questions that influence people's decision to stay in Granville, we came up with a statistical model from the questions that rank the necessity of services and characteristics of Granville. We found that questions surrounding housing, schools, and development were influential towards people planning to stay. The combination of those questions should be included in the next Comprehensive Plan for correlation between plan to stay and ranking questions. It is possible in the future that if we had more time, we would be able to see more correlation between respondents' answers to other questions.

In order to reach our final deliverables on time, we met weekly with Darryll Wolnik and Rob Schaadt to give them an update on our progress from the week, as well as our professor Dr. Brady throughout the entirety of the project. They mentored us to success by leading us in a direction that the Comprehensive Plan Committee found most helpful. We would like to thank them all for their immense help and mentorship throughout the duration of this project.