

Duluth Township
Resident Feedback Survey
January, 2005

Background

The January 1st Newsletter included a one page resident feedback questionnaire that included items on a range of topics that were suggested by Town Board and community members and reviewed by several people. The questionnaire is included as Appendix 4. It was sent to the Newsletter mailing list of some 865 people and Township businesses. By the deadline, **86** responses were received for an overall response rate of 10%. For comparison, there were 85 responses in 2003 and 58 in 2004. While every household had the opportunity to provide feedback, one might presume that responses were from those who were more interested in Township affairs and/or these issues, and wanted to provide their perspective.

Community Center Events

87% (75)¹ would like to see such events. Among those who would like Community Center events,

- **90%** (69) said they were very or somewhat likely to attend these events.
- A list of topics of interest is appended.

Respondents were asked how they thought these events should be funded.

- **97%** (78) checked enrollment fees,
- **45%** (78) checked seeking grant funding.
- **20%** (78) checked use of NSCS lease funds, and
- **9%** (78) checked Township budget line item,

Widening County Roads

80% (76) of respondents felt that County roads, such as *Homestead Road*, scheduled for improvement in 2009, should be widened with a shoulder for walking, biking and to pull off for a flat tire.

Awareness of Stormwater Issues

Since the Township is mandated to monitor and potentially repair stormwater damage to its streams, the questionnaire asked for a personal assessment on awareness of 7 items. This assessment will be helpful in the annual mandated report the Township makes to the State.

Percent “*somewhat aware*” or “*very aware*” of:

Need for natural buffer zones around streams	93% (85)
Special steps to limit stormwater runoff	90% (84)
Annual stormwater management report	70% (84)
Township may have to pay for stream cleanup	60% (84)
Slow turnover of Lake Superior waters	60% (83)
Sucker River workshop held in the Township	50% (84)
Increased French River sediment levels	39% (82)

Improved Internet Service

72% (83) of respondents were interested in having faster computer internet connection service in the Township.

To achieve this:

- **90%** (59) would mount an official request to Qwest for upgrading phone lines,
- **85%** (59) would seek rural community help from the State.
- **81%** (62) would request wireless service from Coop Light and Power

¹ The number in parentheses is the base of the percentage (i.e. 100%). Some respondents did not answer some questions and these non-responses are not included in the calculation of a percentage for that item.

55% (83) of respondents (46 people) indicated sufficient interest in the CLP wireless option to provide their name and address to see if satisfactory wireless antenna sites could be found to make wireless service available.

The survey provided space for respondent's to indicate the kind of community center activities they would suggest. A list of these is provided in Appendix 1 and summarized below. The list included many interesting ideas for community events, ranging from things that were more individual focused to those that were more community-event focused. Top mentions included various kinds of fitness or exercise programs, classes such as computer, crafts, gardening, etc., and social events such as bingo, dinners, dancing, etc.

Table 1 – Community Center Event Suggestions

<i>Suggested topics</i>	<i>Mentions</i>
Exercise/fitness	22
Sports/gym/volleyball/ice skate	9
Social events/dance/games/dinners	19
Classes:	
Computer	19
Crafts	13
Art	8
Outdoor/garden/harvesting	
History	
Other	84
Auction/rummage/farmer's market	5
Children's events	5
Concerts/speakers	9
Dancing	11

Appendix 2 lists comments on things that may limit community event options. These are summarized below. Evenings seem the preferred time with a split of weekends and weekdays. Cost is a concern but it wasn't mentioned as often as timing.

Table 2 – Qualifications on Offering Community Events

<i>Qualification</i>	<i>Mentions</i>
Time	
Mid-morning	1
Afternoon	3
After school	2
Evenings	27
Timing, unspecified	8
Week days	9
Weekends	6
Cost	
Free	3
Nominal cost	10
\$10 - \$20	3
\$20 - \$30	5
\$24 - \$100	1
Cost, unspecified	9
Other	3

Appendix 1 – Suggested Topics for Community Events

AARP driver education, arts
Adult ed, languages, crafts, skills, fitness, etc.
Adult gym night or summer softball
Aerobics, craft classes (rosemary)
Agriculture (hay crop) management class
Alternative energy, computer maintenance 101
Art classes of various sorts
Art classes, natural history, environ issues, local history
Art events, concerts, speakers
Art, dance
Ballroom dance, dance classes, quilting class
Beginning computer
Bingo, auctions
Birds of North Shore, wildflowers, trees of the shore
Classes similar to Duluth's
Classes, crafts, cooking
Classes, crafts, exercise
Classes, general interest
Community Rummage/flea market with individual tables, greenhouse class, nature trail tour
Community barbecues
Computer classes
Computer classes
Computer classes
Computer classes
Computer classes, beginning to advanced, Dir of bus serv to
Computer classes, etc.
Computer classes, naturalist gardening workshops
Computer courses, annual town meeting
Computer knowledge
Computer software
Computer, gardening
Computers
Continuing education, CPR, infant CPR, etc.
Cooking, language, camera, internet
CPR class
Craft classes, fun volleyball
Craft classes, travelogues, speakers
Crafts
Crafts projects
Crafts, bingo, children's events
crafts, exercise, computer
Crafts, knitting, basket weaving
Dance lessons
Dances
Dances, dinners
Darts, card games
Educational opportunities
Environmental data
Events held for toddlers
Exercise class
Exercise, Tai Chi, Yoga
Exercise, yoga, art classes
Farmers market, Duluth area youth 'battle of the bands'
Fitness classes
Foreign language class
Foreign language, Swedish, German
Foreign languages
Fund raisers for local charitable organizations
Gatherings, interest groups, book clubs, etc.
Health, wellness, gardening, crafts, photo, etc.
I could offer classes in fly tying and fly fishing
Just for Kix (Youth dance group)
Just general community ed classes
Kid centered, ice skating, etc.
Knitting, talks, lectures
Landscape, bingo
Landscaping for wild life class/seminar
Language classes (Russian), music, piano
Lectures on fish consumption, when they have toxic residues
local talent shows
MN topics, i.e. wildlife, Hx, tourism
More programs like the alternative energy
Music lessons
Music programs, wedding receptions, etc.
Music, informal get-togethers
Musical performances
Naturalist programs
Night classes, computers, etc.
Not sure if I would use them but good idea
Plays, musical events, bingo, fund raisers
Pottery, gardening, forestry management class
Presentations by environmental and wildlife organizations
Recreation basketball games, arts and cooking classes
Self help classes, cooking
Shore land restoration workshop (native plants)
Snowmobile safety classes
Special speaker series
The night sky (astronomy), the Superior Hiking trail
Theater, skating classes, anything for youth
Use of gym for RB adult games, etc.
Variety
Volley ball, co-ed adult, adult fitness, dance

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Volleyball, basketball, exercise classes

ways to prevent deer damage

Wellness fair or evening (health & wellness)

Winter sports

Writing, computer, health directive, will planning,
book discussion

Yoga, adult exercise, kids crafts

Yoga, aerobics, dance, knitting

Yoga, music events, belly dancing

Yoga, Tai Chi, music, basket making, art,
local wild food gathering and cooking

Self-defense for women/girls

Appendix 2 – Qualifications on Offering Community Events

\$20 - \$30 7pm weekdays	Interested classes, qualified instructors, well organized
\$20+ range	low cost to free, evening hours, weekends
\$25.00 anytime	M W F evenings
7pm events, individuals pay	Maybe short classes, reasonable fee, eve not M,W,F
About \$10 or less, one night	Maybe some combination of the last three
After school	Mon-Thu evenings, 7-9
After school, evening, \$24-\$100	Nights
Afternoon	Nominal fee
Any of these would be fine	Normal cover charge, normal participant fee
Benefit such as auction, dance, supper sale	Other financing
Classes starting at 6:30-7pm weekday eves, reasonable cost <\$25	Pay as you go
Classes, computer education.	Quality of the events, cost (not too expensive)
Competitive with other community ed classes	Reasonable cost, evening classes
Cost	Rotating eligible vendors, evening performances
Cost, time	Sat. or Sun., mid morning or mid afternoon
Cost, time, instructor (evenings and weekend classes best)	Time
Early or late in the week (Mon or Thurs) evenings	Time (evenings) notice
Eve and weekends	Time later in evening, Cost doesn't matter that much.
Evening 6-8pm or 7-9pm, cost \$5-30	Time, cost
Evening classes	Times
Evening, \$10.00	Times and events
Evening, late afternoon	Topics
Evenings	Volunteer leaders or teachers keep costs low
Evenings (Friday preferably), winter events	Weekday evenings, cost similar to local school districts
Evenings, \$10-\$20	weekend, school breaks, low cost
Eves, minimal cost (instructor fee, material cost) no mark up	Weekends, weekday evenings
Features making more likely	What kind of event it was
Free to public, evenings good	If I am paid enough (to offer a class)
Free to the public	Whatever is appropriate
Fund raisers (monthly bingo?)	

Appendix 3 – Other Comments

Any, whichever works best for Township
Are you aware they don't plant trout for these streams now?
At no cost to Township (widening)
But am interested in possibility of it and cost
 but not at the proposed cost (internet)
By the way, your old questionnaires were better.
Don't care about requesting CLP (internet)
Events, providing no interference with students or classes
Good newsletter. Push for better dial up service
Grants take a bit of effort, unspent due to lack of
 applicants
Hope this applies to plug in and lap top computers (internet)
How about another tower. Our cell phone never got better
 with the last tower in the lowest point in the township
I wouldn't use CLP but it's a good idea
 (internet)
Maybe faster internet
Maybe just one side wider, key for scenic 61 also.
Maybe, depends on cost (widening)
Not sure how best to go about it (internet)

Possibly (internet)
Qwest DSL available in Greenwood Road (internet)
Sounds too expensive for speed. (internet)
Still need better phone lines
Telephone Association has an upgrade to 42kbs for \$14.95 a month
They do Sucker River annually since the 70's
We have children at NSCS, do not have time (for other events)
We have DSL from Qwest and MSN thru Qwest. We got it Oct. 04
What does a wide shoulder cost?
Whichever is most feasible, reliable and least expensive
 widen only if paved
Widen: I walk there daily.
Widen: so long as neighbors are happy with it
Widening absolutely necessary, not optional
Widening depends on additional cost
Widening: No funding to maintain roads now (Ryan Rd terrible
Will read all future issues, very valuable info.
On 5000 block of North Shore Drive there is DSL.

Appendix 4 – January 2005 Questionnaire
(printed 2-sided, legal size)

2005 Duluth Township Resident Feedback Questionnaire
Please return your response by Feb 1st

1. Would you like to have community events offered at our Community Center (the North Shore Community School site on Ryan Road)? Yes No

a) IF YES, What types of community events/classes/etc. would you like to see offered?

b) IF YES, How likely are you to actually attend events such as those you listed above?
 Very Likely Somewhat Likely Unlikely Very Unlikely

c) IF YES, What features (cost/times/etc.) would make you more likely to participate in Community Center classes/events such as those you listed above?

2. If classes/events are offered at our Community Center, how should they be funded?

(check all funding sources that you feel should be used)

- Enrollment fees
 Township line item
 Use some lease funds that the NSCS pays the Township
 Outside grants applied for by the Township

Other type of funding: _____

3. Would you be in favor of having St Louis County provide wider shoulders on County roads such as Homestead Road, for bikes, and walking? (The County is planning to resurface Homestead Road sometime around 2009). Yes No

4. How aware are you of the following stormwater-related issues in the Township?

	How aware are of the following? (check the appropriate box at the right)	Not Aware of this	Somewhat Aware of this	Very Aware of this
a)	Our Township is now required to submit an annual stormwater management report on steps taken to improve stormwater handling.			
b)	Our Township may have to pay for correcting serious degradation of our streams.			
c)	St Louis County held a workshop in December on water quality of the Sucker River.			
d)	The French River has three times more sediment now than it did 20 years ago.			
e)	It takes 100 years for Lake Superior water to turn over once.			
f)	Special steps need to be taken to block runoff from construction sites.			
g)	Maintaining natural vegetation buffer zones along rivers helps preserve trout stream water quality.			

There is some interest in the Township having better/faster internet connections available (for residents, small businesses, home occupations, telecommuting employees, students, users, etc.). See the article in this Newsletter.

5. Are you interested in having a faster/better internet connection from YOUR home or business in Duluth Township? Yes No

a) IF YES, Should we officially request Qwest to upgrade telephone lines in our Township (e.g. installing fast DSL service, or improved handling of existing land lines) Yes No

b) IF YES, Should we try to get State of Minnesota help to install better phone service in our Township. Yes No

c) IF YES, Should we request Coop Light and Power to extend their wireless internet service in our Township? Yes No

IF YES, Please include your name/address/phone number on the slip below and mail or deliver it to the Town Hall so we will know where there is sufficient interest or phone the Town Hall to indicate your interest).

-----Cut here, send or deliver questionnaire and name and address information separately to Town Hall -----

If you are interested in having a faster internet connection for your home or business, please provide your name, address and phone so that CLP can determine if there is a cluster of interested residents (5 or more) to be reached from a pole/antenna.

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Please cut and mail this name tab or drop it off at the Town Hall
(or you could phone in your name and address information to the Town Hall, indicating your interest – 525-5705)

Note: If you choose to return this tab with your questionnaire, the editor will separate the tab part upon receipt so that your other responses will remain anonymous. Address information will be used by CLP to determine if there is a sufficient cluster of interested residents and to provide those who are interested with further information on this connection possibility.