

Guemes Island Planning Survey

Rate of return is 46 %

Number of respondents N=511

Questions 1-3 ask about how you value the social and physical qualities of Guemes Island

1. How valuable are the following attributes of island living to you?

	<i>Missing</i>	<i>Very</i>	<i>Somewhat</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	
a. Strong community involvement	1.4	40.9	46.8	11.0	%
b. Neighborliness	1.0	64.4	32.1	2.5	
c. Sense of safety	0.6	72.6	23.5	3.3	
d. Wide range of community activities	1.2	22.7	55.4	20.7	
e. Sense of belonging	0.8	43.1	46.8	9.4	
f. Current level of law enforcement	4.3	34.2	47.7	13.7	
g. Socio-economic diversity	2.3	31.1	37.6	29.0	
h. Investment opportunity	2.0	10.0	32.7	55.4	

2. How valuable are the following elements of the island's physical environment to you?

	<i>Missing</i>	<i>Very</i>	<i>Somewhat</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	
a. Open fields/pastures	0.2	76.9	19.6	3.3	%
b. Wooded areas	0.2	85.9	12.1	1.8	
c. Roadside hedgerows	2.0	50.1	29.9	18.0	
d. Wetlands	1.8	70.5	20.4	7.4	
e. Undeveloped shorelines	1.4	78.5	14.9	5.3	
f. Open vistas	1.2	74.4	19.6	4.9	
g. Wildlife	0.8	74.6	20.0	4.7	
h. Rustic walking trails	1.4	55.8	30.1	12.7	
i. Public shoreline access	0.6	64.2	24.3	11.0	

3. How important are the following aspects of the island's rural character to you?

	<i>Missing</i>	<i>Very</i>	<i>Somewhat</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	
a. Rural character of roads	1.2	69.3	25.0	4.5	%
b. Scale of commercial enterprises	1.8	63.4	22.5	12.3	
c. Pace of life	1.0	76.5	16.8	5.7	
d. Sense of privacy	0.8	84.3	13.1	1.8	
e. Quiet	0.2	89.2	9.2	1.4	
f. Rural landscape	0.4	82.0	14.9	2.7	
g. Air quality	0.8	90.6	6.7	2.0	
h. Water quality	0.8	92.4	5.5	1.4	
i. Light pollution	3.3	73.2	17.4	6.1	

Questions 4 through 7 ask your general views about growth on Guemes Island.

4. Overall, do you think the extent of development on Guemes Island in the last few years has made it a more desirable or less desirable place for you to live? (Mark one)

Missing	3.5	
A. More desirable	10.0	%
B. About the same	36.2	
C. Less desirable	43.1	
D. Unsure	4.3	
E. No opinion	2.9	

5. The following are potential outcomes that could accompany growth on the island. How desirable or un-desirable is each of the following for you personally? (Mark all)

	<i>Missing</i>	<i>Desirable</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Undesirable</i>	
a. Private roads widened and/or hard-surfaced	0.8	4.9	36.4	57.9	%
b. Public roads widened	1.4	9.0	26.2	63.4	
c. Island bus/van service	0.6	31.1	38.2	30.1	
d. Island-based law enforcement	1.0	21.1	41.1	36.8	
e. Professional fire protection	1.0	17.8	47.0	34.2	
f. Senior assisted living	1.2	18.0	43.6	37.2	
g. Loss of open space	1.2	3.1	13.9	81.8	
h. Increased residential development	1.6	2.9	24.3	71.2	
i. Increased commercial development	1.0	2.7	13.3	83.0	
j. Taxpayer-funded Library District	1.6	22.3	35.2	40.9	

6. Are there reasons associated with development that would lead you to move away from Guemes Island? (Mark all that apply)

a. Not applicable, I do not reside even part-time on the island	10.0	%
b. No, I would not consider moving because of growth	29.9	
c. Deterioration of environmental quality	50.3	
d. Deterioration drinking water supply	49.7	
e. Loss of sense of community	26.2	
f. Too many people	51.5	
g. Too many houses	46.0	
h. Too much traffic	51.3	
i. Loss of sense of safety	49.5	
j. Loss of sense of privacy	49.9	
k. Length of commute time to Anacortes	17.2	
l. Other, please specify on comment section	2.9	

7. Planning sometimes requires trade-offs between individual development rights and the community's right to preserve its character. On a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is "development rights are most important" and 10 is "preservation rights are most important," which number best characterizes your values?

Missing **1.2%**

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	
3.1	1.8	4.3	2.9	13.3	6.3	11.2	16.8	11.4	27.8	%

The next questions ask what kind of growth and related issues you would like to see happen on Guemes Island (not what you think is most likely or inevitable).

8. The current growth rate on Guemes Island is 20% in the last 10 years (approximately 100 people from 1990 to 2000 or 2% per year) What do you consider to be the desirable rate of population change on the island? (Mark one)

Missing	1.2	%
A. Current growth rate is fine	22.3	
B. Slower growth rate than the last 10 years	42.1	
C. Faster growth rate than the last 10 years	2.2	
D. Zero or negative growth rate (constant)	26.6	
E. Negative growth rate (decreasing population)	5.7	

9. Would you like to see more or less of the following on the island? (Mark each as)

	Missing	More	Same	Less	%
a. Farming	1.8	36.6	59.3	2.3	
b. Quarrying	2.7	1.2	48.7	47.4	
c. Aquaculture	4.1	8.2	41.9	45.8	
d. Cottage industries	2.2	28.2	52.3	17.4	
e. Bed and breakfast	2.5	20.7	55.6	21.1	
f. Boat launch	2.3	29.5	59.5	8.6	
g. Utility, Wind or Cell towers	5.3	22.1	41.1	31.5	
h. Ferry parking	2.5	51.1	42.7	3.7	
i. Restaurant	3.3	13.1	58.7	24.9	
j. Tourism	2.5	3.7	39.9	53.8	
k. Stores	2.3	6.5	66.9	24.3	
l. Youth programs	6.5	26.6	58.1	8.8	
m. Senior daycare	7.8	25.8	53.2	13.1	
n. Other, please specify on comment section	93.2	2.2	2.5	2.2	

10 Should construction guidelines for new and remodeling projects be revised to include any of the following? (Mark all that you support)

a. Provide green buffer (hedgerow, native vegetation, or lawn) between new houses and road	57.9	%
b. Encourage siting building at the edge of parcel rather than in the center	13.5	
c. Restrict clearing of trees when building	48.9	
d. Restrict construction of impervious surfaces	57.3	
e. Fewer restrictions should be imposed	15.3	
f. Limit proportion of lot that can be filled by man-made structures	50.9	
g. No expansion of original footprint in remodeling structures near shorelines or other sensitive areas.	42.5	

11. Are you satisfied with the current status of outdoor storage in view from roads or neighboring properties? (Mark one)

Missing	3.1	%
A. Yes	20.0	
B. No.	12.5	
C. Unsure	48.3	
D. No opinion	16.0	

Current standards for private roadways are: a minimum width of 12 ft driving surface if serving up to two dwellings and 20 ft if it serves more than two dwellings. The wider roads provide easy access for emergency vehicles, but increase water run-off.

12. Are you in favor of allowing more than 2 lots to be served by the narrower roads?(Mark one)

Missing	0.6	%
A. Yes	57.3	
B. No	14.7	
C. Unsure	16.8	
D. No opinion	10.6	

13. Should Guemes Island form a tax-payer funded Park District for purchase of land for parks, trails, boat launch or other public use? (Mark one)

Missing	0.2	%
A. Yes	29.4	
B. No	44.4	
C. Unsure	22.1	
D. No opinion	3.9	

14. When growth and development come to a community, new infrastructure and services are needed (for example, more ferry parking, better roads, fire, police, island-wide public water system) In your opinion, who should pay for the expansion of services required by new development? (Mark one)

Missing	1.6	%
A. Current residents (taxpayers) should pay these costs	2.3	
B. New owners should pay	40.9	
C. Both current residents and new owners should share the cost	44.8	
D. Unsure	8.2	
E. No opinion	2.2	

15. Understanding that this process may take several years, would you like to see a moratorium on the issuing of new land subdivision permits on Guemes Island while the Sub-Area Plan is being developed? (Mark one)

Missing	1.2	%
A. Yes	66.9	
B. No	20.4	
C. Unsure	9.2	
D. No opinion	2.3	

Our community will be influenced by the type of development that is permitted by county rules. The next questions ask your views about some county rules for development.

16 Do you support the idea of additional commercial zoning on the island included in the subarea plan? (Mark one)

Missing	0.8	%
A. Expansion of existing commercial area near ferry dock	15.7	
B. Developing a new commercial area elsewhere	2.5	
A+B. Both areas	1.4	
C. No	69.5	
D. Unsure	8.2	
E. No opinion	2.0	

17. Current law permits land to be developed so that residences are clustered on smaller lots, leaving large amounts of property undeveloped. Do you favor or oppose this clustering approach? (Mark one)

Missing	0.8	%
A. Favor	48.7	
B. Oppose	22.7	
C. Unsure	22.5	
D. No opinion	5.3	

18. In the case of clustered development, should the large open space area be set aside for future development or should it be permanently protected? (Mark one)

Missing	2.2	%
A. Future Development	5.9	
B. Conservation Easement	75.9	
C. Unsure	12.5	
D. No opinion	3.5	

19. Would you support spending property tax dollars to purchase development rights? (Mark one)

Missing	2.5	%
A. Strongly support	15.5	
B. Support	22.7	
C. Do not support	38.2	
if you answered C. or D., please skip the next question		
D. Unsure	21.1	

20. In order to preserve land as stated in question 20, how much of a property tax increase would you be willing to support? (Mark one)

Missing	51.5	%
A property rate increase of:		
A. \$5.00 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation	15.1	
B. \$10.00 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation	17.2	
C. \$25.00 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation	11.0	
D. More than \$25.00 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation	5.3	

The next questions relate to transportation.

21. Should public roads and traffic be changed for improved safety and, if so, how? (Mark all that you support)

- | | | |
|--|-------------|----------|
| a. Public roads are safe enough now | 50.3 | % |
| b. Set maximum speed limit to 25 mph for entire island | 20.9 | |
| c. Keep current speed limits on public roads | 46.4 | |
| d. Widen extra narrow roads minimally
where visibility is limited | 26.6 | |
| e. Widen all public roads minimally | 3.9 | |
| f. Widen all public roads substantially | 2.0 | |

22. Do you support new provisions for pedestrians or bicyclists and, if so, what? (Mark all that you support)

- | | | |
|--|-------------|----------|
| a. No new provisions are needed | 57.3 | % |
| b. Add new road shoulders for trails along only
the most dangerous public roads | 18.2 | |
| c. Add new road shoulders for trails along all public roads | 8.4 | |
| d. Add trails buffered from most dangerous public roads
(as by drainage ditch) | 11.0 | |
| e. Add trails buffered from all public roads
(as by drainage ditch) | 3.9 | |
| f. Add special walking and biking trails not necessarily
associated with roadways | 16.6 | |

Professional consulting services are needed in order to prepare a Sub-Area Plan that is consistent with the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan. Skagit County is at this time not in a position to provide a consultant's fees. Some funds have been granted, but not sufficient to complete the project.

23. Would you support fund-raising through on-island donations to continue the Guemes Island Planning Advisory Committee's planning effort? (Mark one)

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|----------|
| Missing | 1.2 | % |
| A. Yes | 57.9 | |
| B. No | 17.8 | |
| C. Unsure | 17.6 | |
| D. No opinion | 5.5 | |

It is important to know how well all groups on the island are represented by those who respond to the survey. The following demographic questions are for statistical purposes only; all of your answers will remain anonymous. The more of these questions you answer, the better we can tell how well survey results represent the whole range of Islander's views.

24. How involved are you in community activities or organizations (e.g. Community Center, Fire Hall, GIPOA, CERT, Women's Club, etc.)? (Mark one)

Missing	1.6	%
A. Very	10.4	
B. Somewhat	38.6	
C. Not at all	49.5	

25. I am: (Mark one)

Missing	1.8	%
A. Resident, own a home	62.4	
B. Resident, do not own a home	4.3	
C. Non-resident, owner of undeveloped property	10.6	
D. Non-resident, owner of developed property	20.9	

26. What percentage of the time do you reside on Guemes Island annually? (Mark the one that best applies)

Missing	2.5	%
A. 0-25%	30.9	
B. 26%-50%	13.7	
C. 51%-75%	7.4	
D. 76%-100%	45.4	

27. How much land do you own on Guemes Island? (Mark one)

Missing	2.0	%
A. None	3.3	
B. Less than 1 acre	32.7	
C. 1 to less than 6 acres	38.2	
D. 6 to less than 20 acres	15.3	
E. 20 acres or more	8.6	

28. How many years have you been a resident of Guemes Island?

Missing	2.5	%
A. None	11.9	
B. Up to 5 years	16.4	
C. 5 to 10 years	16.4	
D. 10 to 20 years	24.1	
E. More than 20 years	28.6	

29. What is your age group?

Missing	3.5	%
A. 20 or under	0.6	
B. 21 to 34	2.9	
C. 35 to 49	14.7	
D. 50 to 64	44.2	
E. 65 or older	34.1	

30. What is your highest level of education? (Mark one)

Missing	6.1	%
A. High school or less	5.5	
B. Some college or technical school	14.5	
C. 2 year degree	5.3	
D. 4 year degree	32.5	
E. Advanced degree	36.2	

31. How many children do you have in each school-age category?

	<i>None</i>	<i>One</i>	<i>Two</i>	<i>Three</i>	<i>Four+</i>
A. Preschool	97.8	2.0	0.2	0	0
B. Elementary	94.5	3.9	1.4	0.2	0
C. Middle School	95.1	4.3	0.6	0	0
D. High School	93.3	5.5	1.0	0	0.2
E. College	89.8	7.4	2.2	0.6	0

32. What is your employment status? (Mark one)

Missing	4.5	%
A. Self-employed	20.7	
B. Full-time employee	21.1	
C. Part-time employee	7.2	
D. Retired	43.8	
E. Other	2.5	

33. What portion of your income is from work performed on Guemes Island?

Missing	5.9	%
A. None	79.1	
B. Less than half	8.2	
C. More than half, but not all	4.1	
D. All	2.7	

34. What is your household gross annual income?

Missing	18.4	%
A. less than \$17,500	4.5	
B. \$17,501 - \$32,000	8.0	
C. \$32,001 - \$43,000	9.2	
D. \$43,001 - \$75,000	24.3	
E. \$75,001 - \$120,000	20.5	
F. in excess of \$120,000	15.1	

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