

Washington County: One Community 2007 Quality of Life Survey  
Written Comments

### The NEEDS of Washington County: COMMENTS

We need lower cost flights to and from Bangor International - very costly to fly anywhere from there - bad for business and life quality. Also crucial to have high-speed Internet service. Not only for business, but also to make it easier to connect with services from this remote locate.

Give huge attention to the County's Youth, in re: to local schools, activities, survey the young people. Actually, really listen to what they want and need.

Calais and it's surrounding communities desperately need activities and community centers for youth. A small percent of youth are involved in sports and there are very few other options for the majority of other kids. It doesn't surprise me that there is such a serious drug and alcohol problem in Washington County.

Route 191 has worse shoulders then we have ever seen and have traveled all over USA. D.O.T. in our area is bad.

1.) Additional efforts are necessary to maintain the public access to "private property" that is necessary to the traditional Downeast Lifestyle. 2.) Town meetings represent the best of American Democracy; How about a County Meeting?

We need trash pick up and DSL!

Info access and internet in general - "achilles heel / trojan horse!" Why do you think this is an answer? What about the drug and crime activity that plagues us? Loyalty! "Let's go to Bangor, Wal-Mart, etc. and get it cheaper "mentality"!!!

Each community should have a pharmacy! One shouldn't have to make a 50 mile round trip to get a prescription filled! Mileage should be listed on all road signs, e.g. Eastport 10, etc.

Need a community center for each community and a place open to all w/activities oriented towards age groups and providing arts, recreation, performances, informal education, public suppers, live music and a warm gathering place for all.

I believe some people do not want to work; enjoy identifying themselves as 'downtrodden'; who like being on welfare. We absolutely need reliable cell phone service!

More emphasis on youth sports, i.e. youth football, ice hockey, field hockey, lacrosse in middle school ages as well as high school. Create major transportation corridor connecting Rte 1 and Rte 9. Support LNG as viable source of energy & to affect manufacturing = create jobs/incubator.

We need to advertise globally what we can offer. We'll need infrastructure to support local businesses, lower the cost of doing business. Help business help the community.

Where is the organic food for our schools? Coop power for the county!!

Would like broader cell phone service.

1.Town level (local) government should be eliminated and services should be centralized at county level, or as a minimum, regionalized. 2. School consolidation should be implemented without further debate, and with this process, dilapidated schools should be eliminated. 3. As a general observation, people need to stop fighting change to enable progress to succeed. However, planned change should be thoroughly analyzed before implemented, as an example, the rail to trail project may fail as there is no maintenance, security, law enforcement, or liability addressed in the plan - the ATVs will be a problem as I foresee there are more abusers than abiders, evidenced by the number of ATVs I've observed operating illegally on Hwy 1 and local roads.

We strongly need more toward cell phone communications, towers in remote locations. We now have very poor capabilities.

I don't have a computer. I'd like to be able to rent a car occasionally in Milbridge, then I could do a LOT. Newsletters re: local news (per town) would be good (regular basis) especially per town management & commercial changes.

We need to find a reason for our young people to stay here. We also need to get more involved with shutting down the drugs in our area. This problem is rampant and something needs to be done about it. Not methadone - that is a big joke, There are very few success stories related to methadone.

I think laws and regulations, rather than hindering, as they have increasingly done, should encourage, make it easier culturally and economically (taxes for instance) to live off the land - to be self sufficient from global direction of economy - re: subsistence living- in the science of anthropology meaning of the team: non-monetary economy - making for more convivial community. Disconsumerization of cultural mentality.

Need to focus on quality of education for our children. Keep teachers to child ratios lower than 20 to 1!

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Public transportation particularly for evening events. Encouraging opportunities for county-wide activities. Help in opening all areas of W C to have local access TV utilized to benefit all areas. Highlights in each newsletter re benefits and resources found in W C. Developing soccer and/or basketball, baseball teams for inter-county competitive games (aimed at 20-30 yr men and women. Let our residents see that recreational life doesn't have to stop with graduation from high school -- regional teams are possible! Regional/community Walking Parks could promote a healthier population.

Should have good wireless service. 99.9% of the time I pick up a Canadian tower which is useless for me.

We need a better airport, sidewalks, ?? field less schools to many not enough children in the area.

We need public trash pick up in Cherryfield. And, we need more shopping locally as in clothing and home goods stores. We need a greater police presence.

All work together to bring in good job opportunities.

We need to do something about this school situation. It's about time the people of WC and the state of ME spoke up, united, and told the powers that be that we are tired of laws being made and passed in the middle of the night. We need to be a government of the people by the people - NOT the politicians and special interest groups. That money that the governor just gave to the National Park would have helped save our schools. We aren't going to need parks anyway.

Need info access for meetings and need a quarterly town paper to update information.

This community is in the dark ages, its a bit embarrassing and frustrating. I would like to see us get with it - think outside our "usual", that's the way its always been done. It doesn't work! I would like to teach yoga in the schools - would like an openness to happen. UMM adjuncts need paid more than they earned 20 years ago! Hannaford should allow for-profit bulletin boards.

Do more for kids recreation Fire DHHS workers Overhaul DHHS in Washington County, they are snakes

Working cell phone service needed in Lubec and surrounding areas.