

Eaton Rapids Area Plan Revision January Futuring Sessions

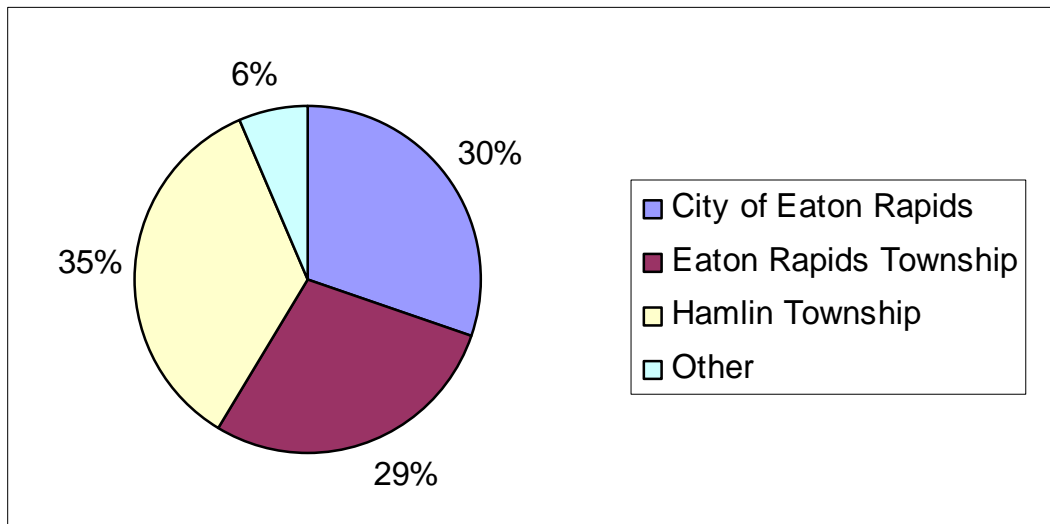
Overview

On Thursday, January 11 and Saturday, January 13, 2007, community leaders hosted two Futuring Sessions where citizens were invited to participate in the revision of the Area Comprehensive Plan. At these meetings the public received information about the planning process and current trends in the Eaton Rapids Area. Meeting participants were then asked to provide their feedback on Area assets, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

Attendees

In total, 64 interested citizens attended. 34 people attended Thursday, and 30 people attended Saturday. The three jurisdictions were almost equally represented by those attending, as shown in the figure below:

Percentage of People Attending Futuring Sessions by Jurisdiction



Response Themes

While many issues were brought up, the list below shows some of the most common topics raised at the Futuring Sessions.

Assets: Island, river, proximity to urban areas, rural character, friendly/safe atmosphere, good school system, walkability, medical center and other service centers

Strengths: Fire department, schools, hospital, river, forests, open space, industrial park, grain elevators, walkability, variety of housing types, E-Tran,

Weaknesses: Downtown building vacancies, lack of funding, code enforcement, decline in young families, lack of agricultural facilities

Barriers/Threats: Lack of funding

Opportunities: Recreational trails, infill development, connecting funding sources, open space preservation, condo development