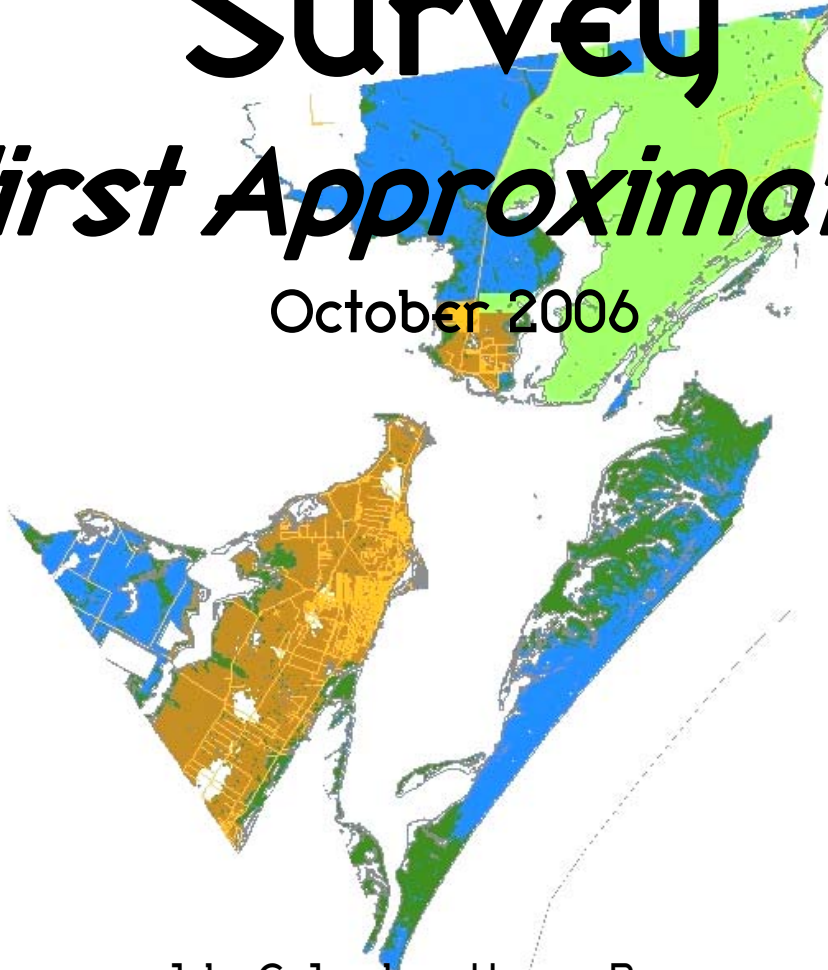


Aransas County Quality of Life Survey

First Approximation

October 2006



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Texas Sea Grant and Texas Cooperative Extension



THE ARANSAS COUNTY QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY

The Aransas County Quality of Life Survey originated in the 2004 Texas Community Futures Forum (TCFF) hosted for Aransas County by Texas Cooperative Extension. The Futures Forum elicited input from county residents on what they perceived to be the most important issues affecting Aransas County, so that Aransas County Cooperative Extension could tailor programs to better assist local citizens. Growth was one of the most prominent issues mentioned, with many of the comments centering the issue of the need to keep Aransas County's unique "coastal charm".

The Aransas County Cooperative Extension office offered a series of workshops on growth issues in 2005 and 2006 and formed a stakeholder committee to guide the development of an educational program designed to inform local citizens about the impact of different growth alternatives. In 2006, Texas Cooperative Extension received a grant from the Texas General Land Office under the Coastal Management Program to aid this educational effort. The grant is titled Coastal CHARM (Community Health and Resource Management). We originally conceived of working with a small citizens' group on some kind of "visioning" exercise wherein the group would explore various growth scenario alternatives. The stakeholder committee suggested that a widely administered survey would be a much more powerful and important tool to help guide policy makers and help design future educational programs if in fact growth was found to be a widespread concern among county residents. The committee developed the survey instrument which was then reviewed by faculty members at Texas A&M University. The survey instrument is included in Appendix A.

The survey was initially administered in September 2006 to Rotary Club members, a group of Master Gardeners, and to the Chamber of Commerce Board in October. Over 400 surveys were collected at the Sea Fair festival in early October 2006 in Rockport. A special booth was set up for the effort. County Extension volunteers worked with crowd with offers of free sodas and candy.

This Quality of Life Survey does not constitute a statistically valid or scientific survey in the strictest sense of the words. Our intent here was simply to take the "pulse" of the widest possible sample of the community with the resources at hand. We did not make an attempt to insure that the sample was statistically representative of the entire community, other than trying to obtain as large a sample as possible from the participants of the Sea Fair festival. While our sample cannot be said to have *statistical* significance, we can say that a sample size of 500 people from the county (and surrounding areas) does give us at least some sense of what a good portion of the community feels is important in terms of growth. We intend to administer a more detailed and scientifically valid survey in the future. This survey, at the very least, confirms in a much stronger way what we learned from the Texas Community Futures Forum, and therefore gives Aransas County Cooperative Extension a mandate to develop and deliver educational programs dealing

with how to manage rapid growth to aid the citizens of Aransas County on what appears to be a priority issue for a significant segment of the community. It is very important that the reader not construe this survey beyond this limited goal.

Responses to the survey are graphed in Figures 1-19. Tables 1-12 contain the full tabular results of the survey.

Characteristics of the Survey Population

Over 50% of the respondents were full time residents of the county, with another 17% part-time residents, and the remaining respondents visitors (Table 2). Sixty percent of the full and part time residents responding owned a home in the county. Less than 30% of the responding residents have lived longer than 15 years in Aransas County, and over 40% have lived less than 5 years in the county. Only about 30 percent of the respondents work in the county, and about a third collect a retirement pension. Of the full time residents, fully 40% worked in the county, but only about 5% of the part-time residents and visitors worked in the county (Table 4). Over 40% of the full-time residents collect a retirement pension of some kind. The majority of the respondents were between 45 and 65 years old, over 50% were college-educated, over 80% were white, and almost 50% had annual family incomes of \$75,000 or more. Compared to the most recent Census data for the County (<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48/48007.html>, Appendix 1), the survey respondents were less diverse, better educated, older, and better paid than the average Aransas County resident.

Unless otherwise specified, there were no significant differences in response between resident and non-resident respondents. Question numbers correspond to Figure numbers for questions 1-19.

The first three questions in the Survey measured the reaction of Aransas County residents and visitors to the explosive growth the county has experienced in the last few decades. Surprisingly, given the prominence with which the growth issue appeared in the TCFF survey, 50% of the respondents felt that growth had had a positive effect on the character of the community and that Aransas County had adapted well to that growth. Even more notable, over 50% of the respondents felt that Aransas County needs more growth to prosper. This reaction was pretty much uniform across the entire spectrum of respondents. The concern for growth that was manifested in the TCFF forum showed up in this survey in the responses to the next 2 questions about the role city and county government and citizens should play in guiding future growth (Q4-5). Fully 80% of all respondents felt that both groups need to play a role in guiding growth, with an especially high percentage *strongly* agreeing that local citizens should play a role in this arena. While most respondents are positive about the growth that has occurred in Aransas County, they are clearly concerned about the level of projected future growth in the county, and they would like to have a say in the shape this new growth takes.

The next set of questions (6-15) gauged citizen reaction to community character issues. Most respondents agreed that tourism would likely remain a mainstay of the local economy (Q6). That question is important because tourism in the county is largely based on the aforementioned “coastal charm” associated with Live Oak Peninsula in particular. Future growth could greatly damage that “charm”, depending on the direction it takes.

One very important quality of life issue universally cited in the “social capital” or “social cohesion” literature is the opportunity for interaction between neighbors. The layout or form of a neighborhood can either minimize or maximize that opportunity. We wanted to gauge the interest of respondents in neighborly interaction, as that reaction could indicate which direction citizens might want to take in terms of future growth patterns. Nearly 80% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that having opportunity for frequent interaction with neighbors was important to them (Q7). Only slightly more than 10% of the respondents agreed that the less they saw of their neighbors the better (Q10).

The “walkability” of any community is an important measure of its potential charm. Strip malls and big box stores surrounded by acres of parking lots do not usually rate high on community attractiveness scales. Over 50% of the respondents felt that they did not live close enough to walk to local stores (Q8), and a slightly higher percentage stated that they would in fact like to be able to drive less and walk more (Q9).

Almost all respondents liked the “small town” feel of downtown Rockport and Fulton (Q11), and nearly 90% agreed that “interesting” shopping is critical in a tourism-based economy like that in Aransas County (Q13), and that the ability to purchase seafood from local docks was an important part of that experience (Q14). Only about 15% of the respondents had a preference for shopping at large chain retailers (Q12), the antithesis of what might be called “interesting shopping” consistent with a tourist-based economy.

Proximity to shops and cafes is one of the hallmarks of what many people would consider a “liveable” community. Proximity, however, implies greater density, and a tradeoff therefore is required: smaller lots and yards in return for shops you can walk to. We asked our respondents whether they would be willing to give up some yard space in return for closer shops (Q15). Interestingly, over 40% agreed they would be willing to make such a tradeoff, indicating a fair amount of knowledge and sophistication in terms of growth choices on the part of a large segment of the citizens of Aransas County. Not all of course are so inclined. Almost 40% of the respondents would not be willing to make such a tradeoff.

Our final major area of inquiry concerned citizens’ appreciation for the remaining natural areas in Aransas County. People almost uniformly agreed that preserving natural areas, including the trademark windswept oaks, is important to the future of Aransas County (Q16). Nearly 50% declared that there are not enough natural areas currently preserved to insure a lasting legacy for their grandchildren and beyond (Q18). A significant and surprising majority indicated they would be willing to endure a slight increase in taxes

to preserve important remaining natural areas (Q17). A not entirely surprising finding in light of the fact that over 90% of the respondents said they have participated of one kind of outdoor activity or another in Aransas County and that they continue to do so today (Table 2, Q X).

Comparisons and Correlations

In general, the responses across all groups surveyed was quite similar, but there are some interesting contrasts between the groups surveyed. The Chamber Board and the Rotary Club were in general much more positive on past growth in the county than the entire survey population.

Most respondents agreed that they lived too far to walk to local stores, but the Chamber Board differed greatly when they answered the questions as to whether they would rather walk more and drive less. Over 50% of the Chamber Board did not want to walk more than they do now, whereas the other groups responded that they would rather walk more.

In general, respondents who had a positive attitude about growth in the county were more willing to give up some yard space for a more walkable neighborhood (Fig. 20), as well as more willing to pay additional taxes for the preservation of natural areas (Fig. 21). As might be expected, there was a strong correlation between those who would like to walk more and drive less and a willingness to give up yard space (Fig. 22).

People who owned homes in the county were generally more positive about growth than those who did not (Fig. 23), and more willing to pay for the preservation of natural areas (Fig. 24).

Conclusion

Three broad trends emerge from this survey:

1. The respondents in general were very positive about growth. They feel growth has had a positive impact on the community and most believe the County needs more growth in order to prosper. But at the same time they appear to be concerned about future growth, which may be unprecedented in terms of its rate in the next few decades, and they very much want both local officials and citizens to take part in guiding the new growth.
2. A significant fraction of Aransas County respondents want neighborhoods to be walkable, and want Rockport and Fulton to keep their coastal "charm".
3. A large majority of the respondents want to preserve additional tracts of significant natural areas, and more importantly, appear to be willing to pay for that through some form of taxation.

The challenge now is to develop extension educational programs designed to help the residents of Aransas County in their quest for a vibrant and sustainable community and environment. The demand is clearly there.

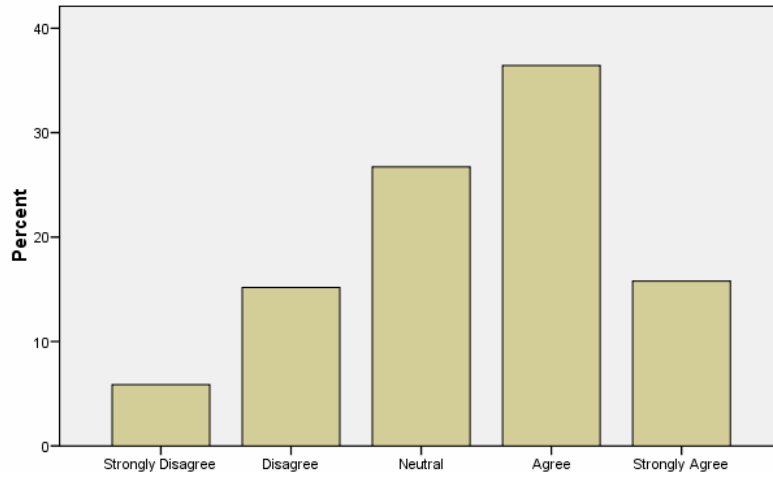


Figure 1. Population growth has had a positive effect on the character of our community.

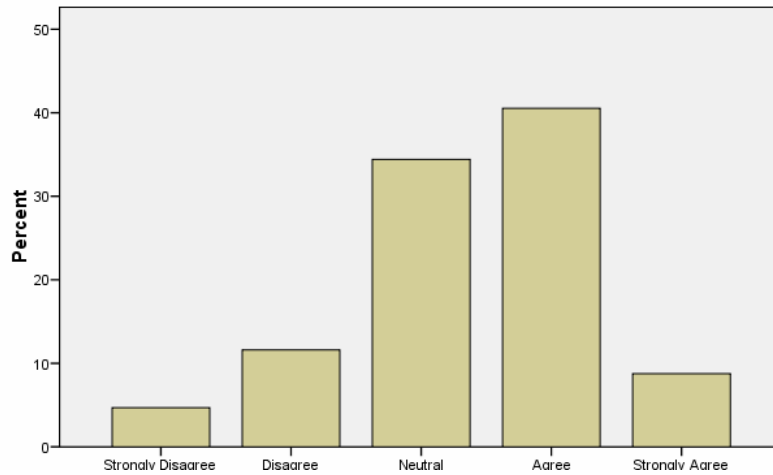


Figure 2. Aransas County has adapted well to the arrival of new people over the past 20 years

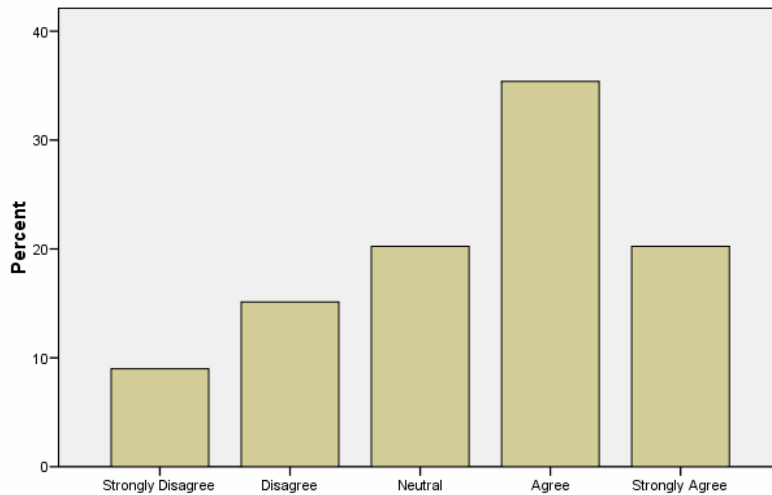


Figure 3. Aransas County needs growth in order to prosper.

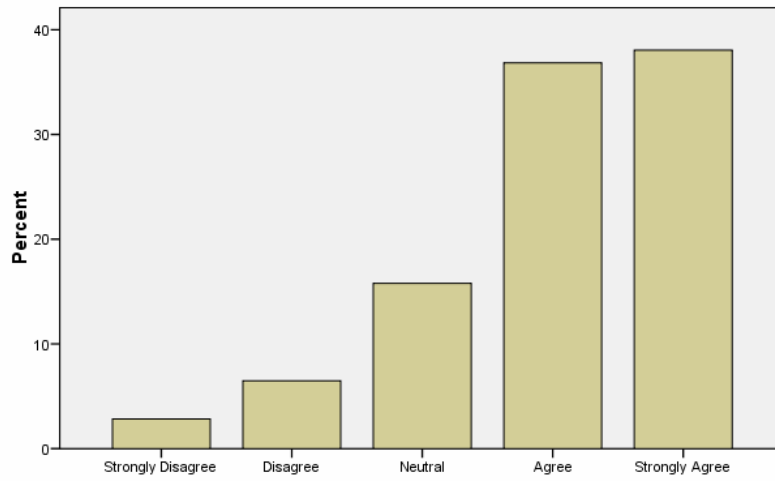


Figure 4. City and county government should play a role in guiding the character of future growth.

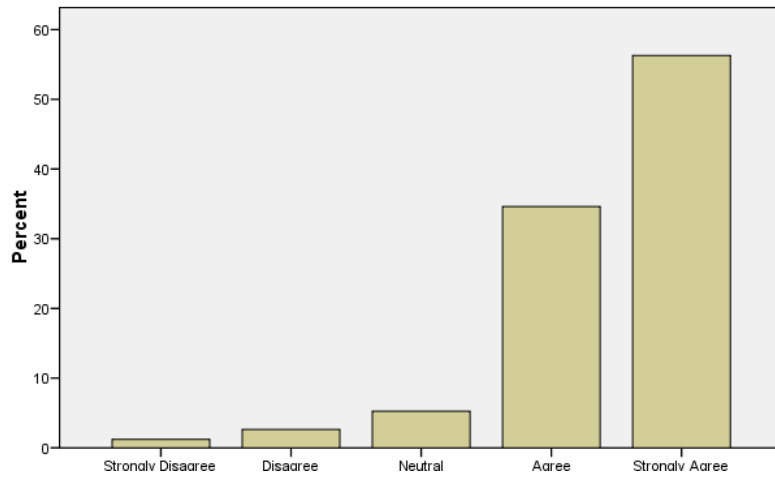


Figure 5. Citizens and citizen groups should play a role in guiding the character of future growth.

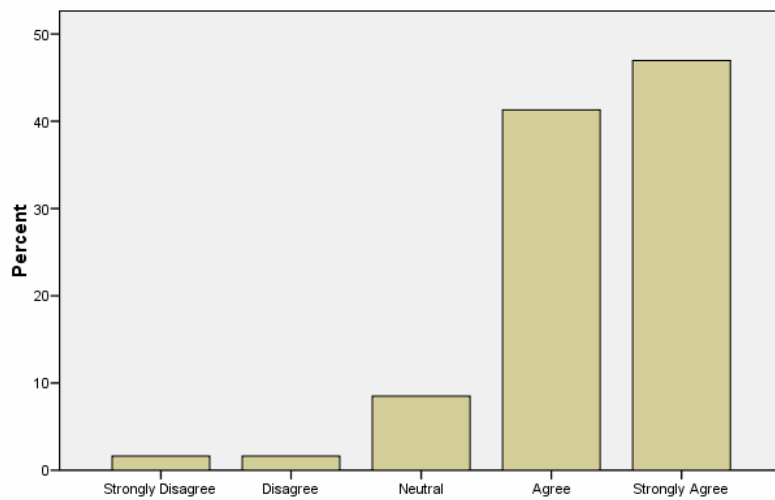


Figure 6. Tourism is likely to remain the mainstay of the Aransas County economy.

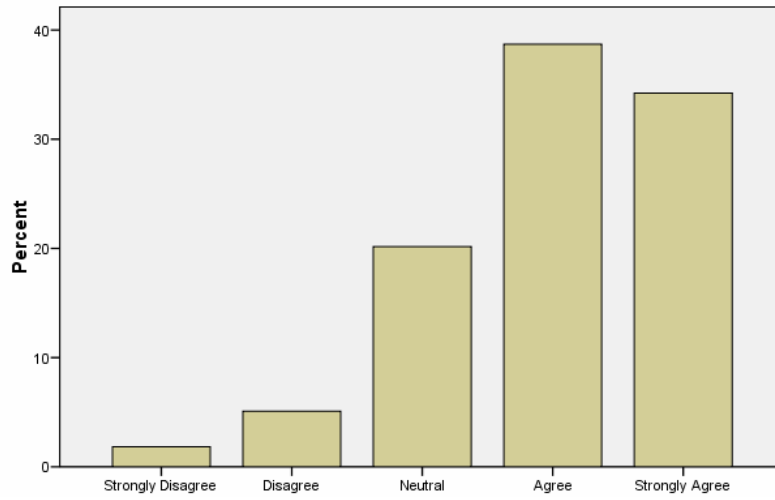


Figure 7. Seeing and interaction frequently with neighbors is important to me.

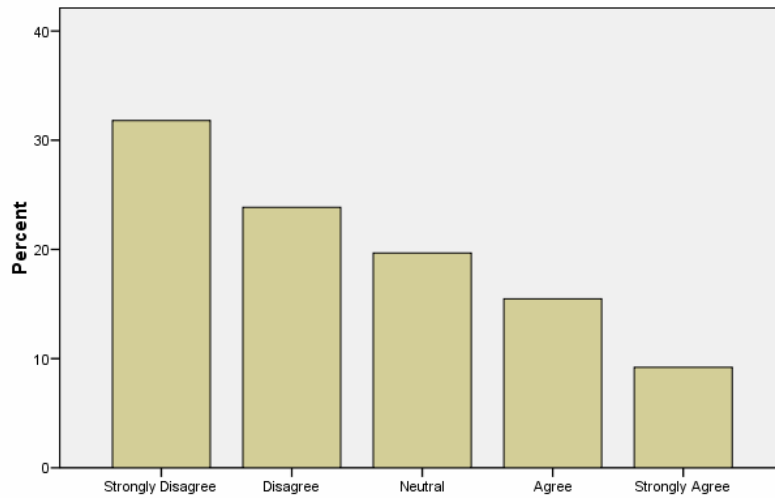


Figure 8. I live close enough to walk to local stores.

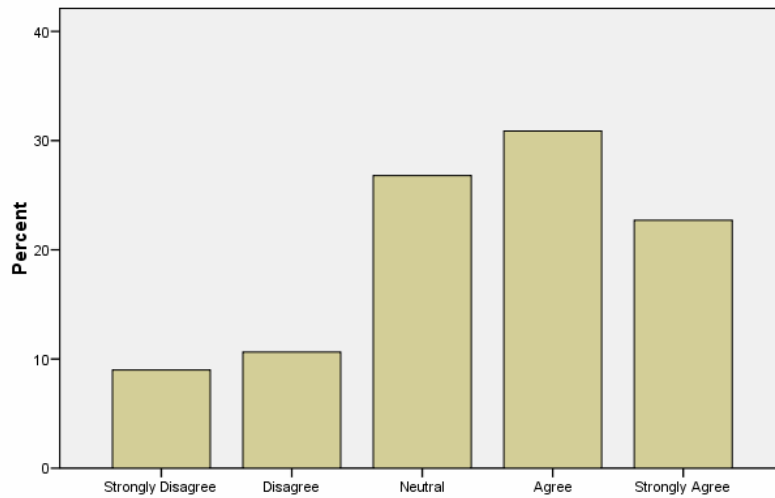


Figure 9. I would like to be able to drive less and walk more.

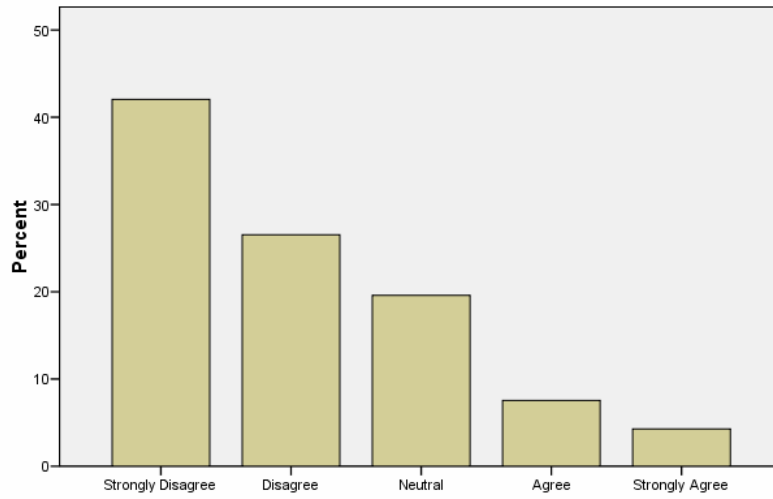


Figure 10. The less I see my neighbors the better.

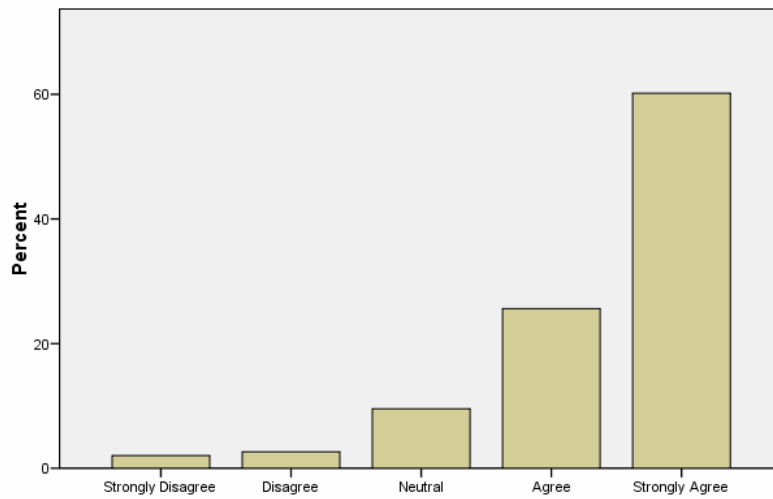


Figure 11. I like the small town feel of downtown Rockport and Fulton.

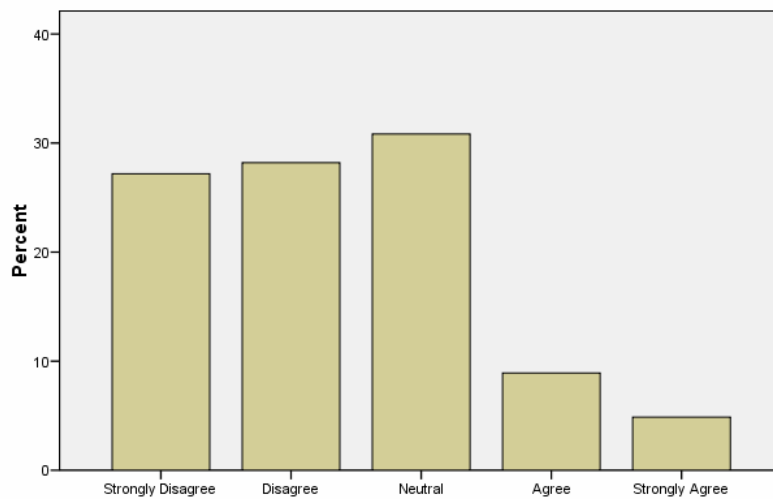


Figure 12. I prefer to shop at a large-chain retailer rather than small local stores.

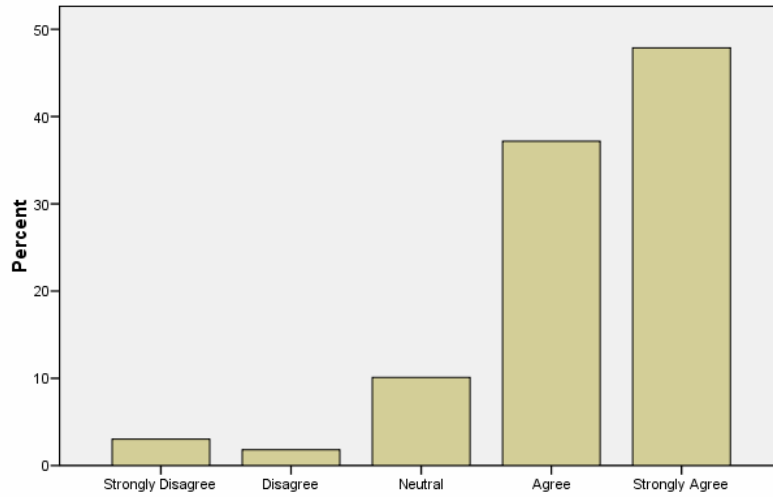


Figure 13. Interesting shopping is important in a tourism-based economy.

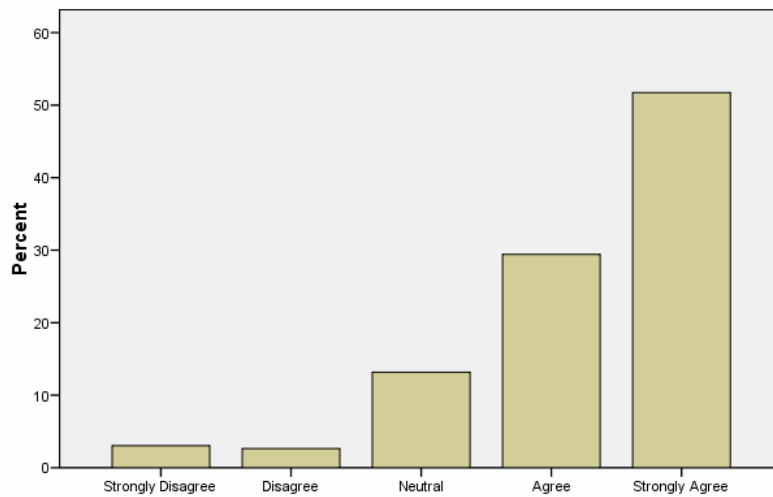


Figure 14. I enjoy purchasing seafood from local boats and docks.

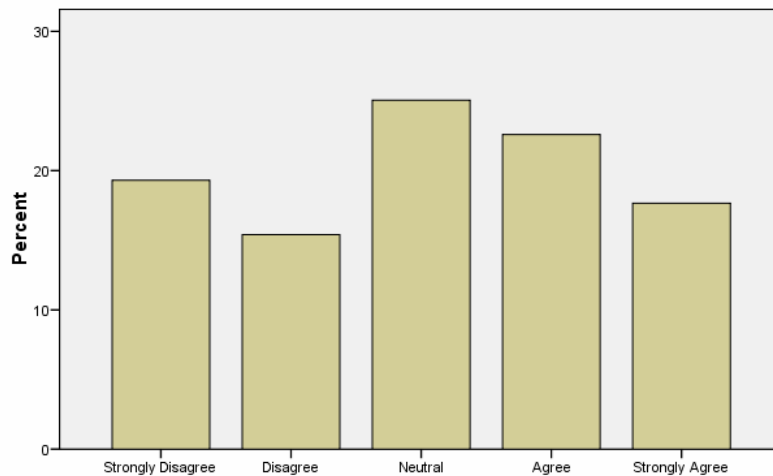


Figure 15. I would be willing to give up some yard space for a more walkable neighborhood and closer proximity to shops and retail.

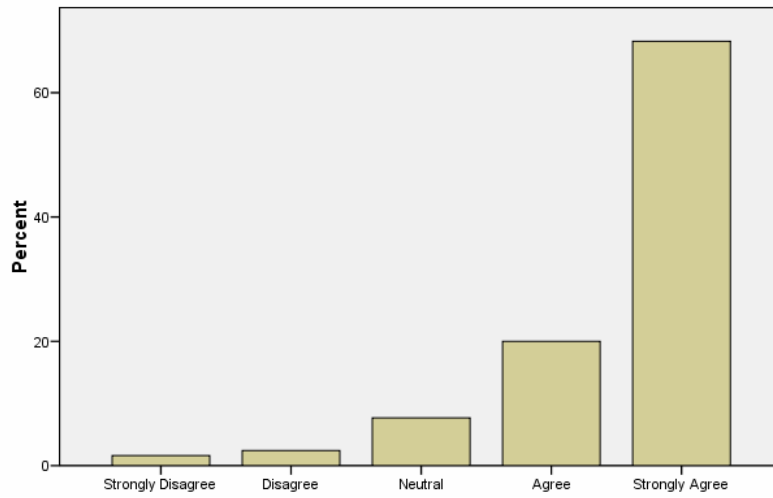


Figure 16. It is important to preserve the remaining areas of windswept oaks.

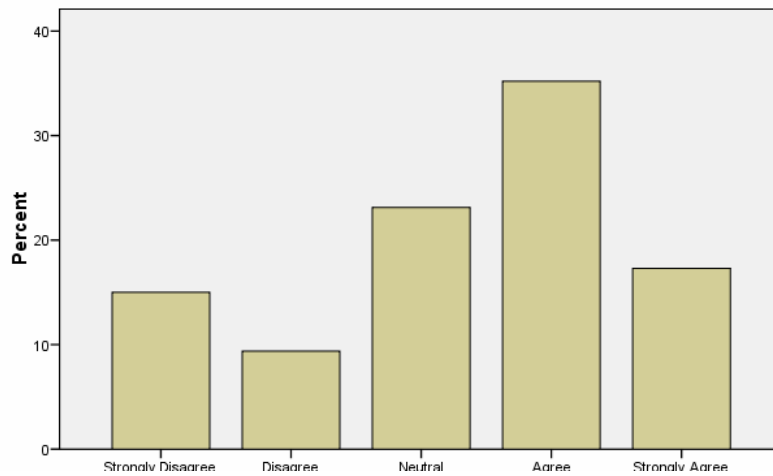


Figure 17. I would be willing to endure a slight increase in taxes to preserve important remaining natural areas.

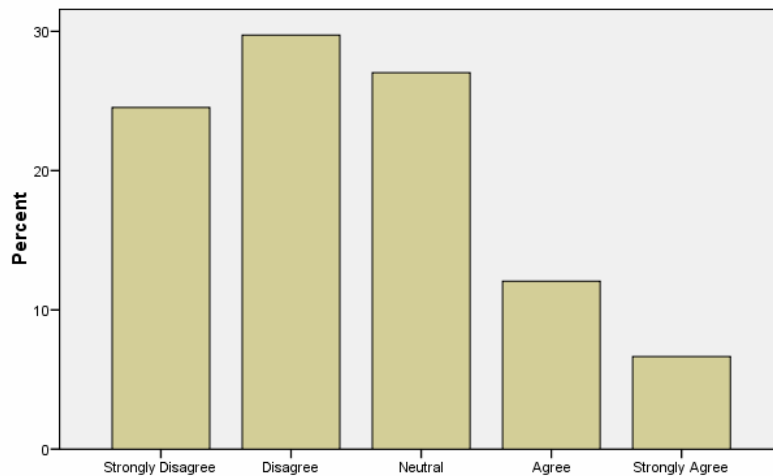


Figure 18. There are already enough natural areas preserved in Aransas County to ensure my grandchildren enjoy the same environment that I do.

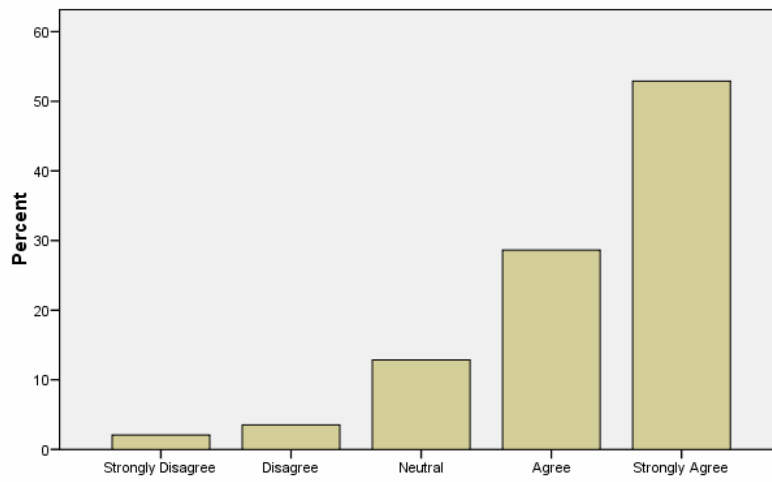


Figure 19. Natural areas, such as oak motts, floodplains, wetlands, and prairies are important to the economy of Aransas County.

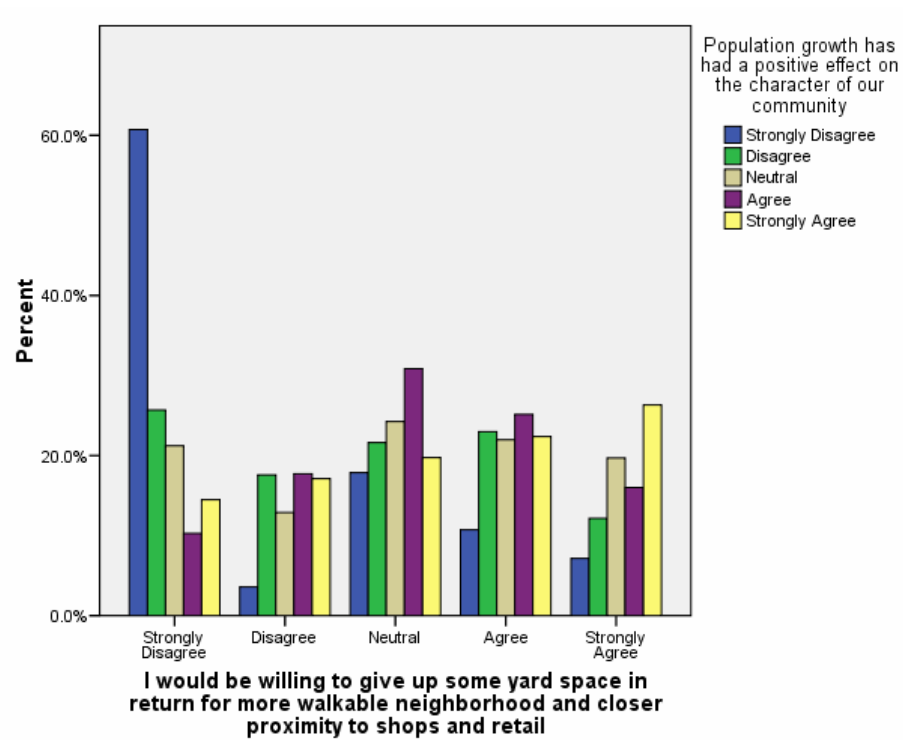


Figure 20.

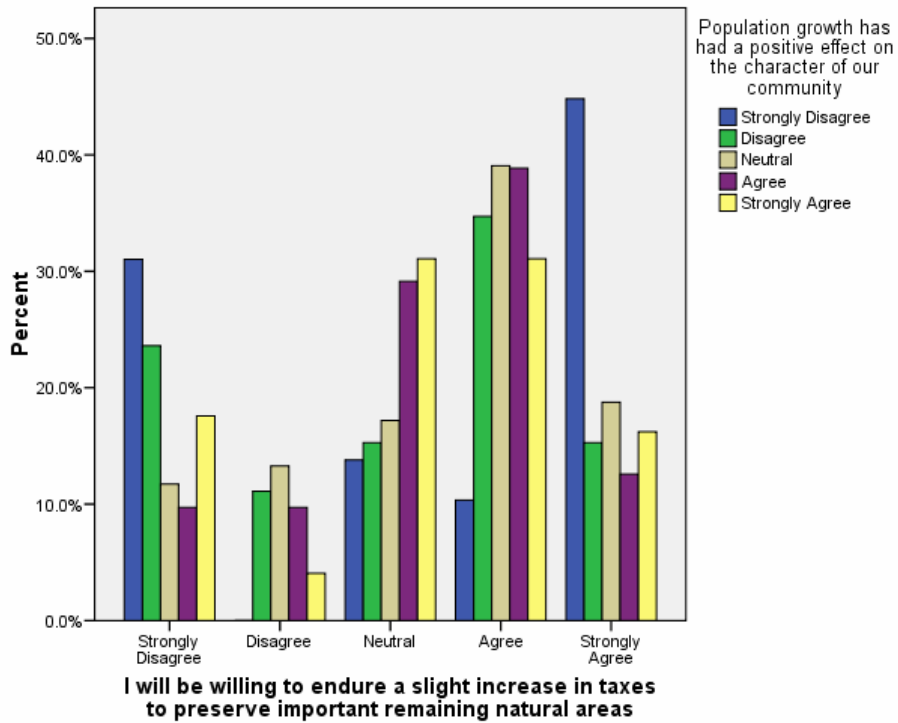


Figure 21.

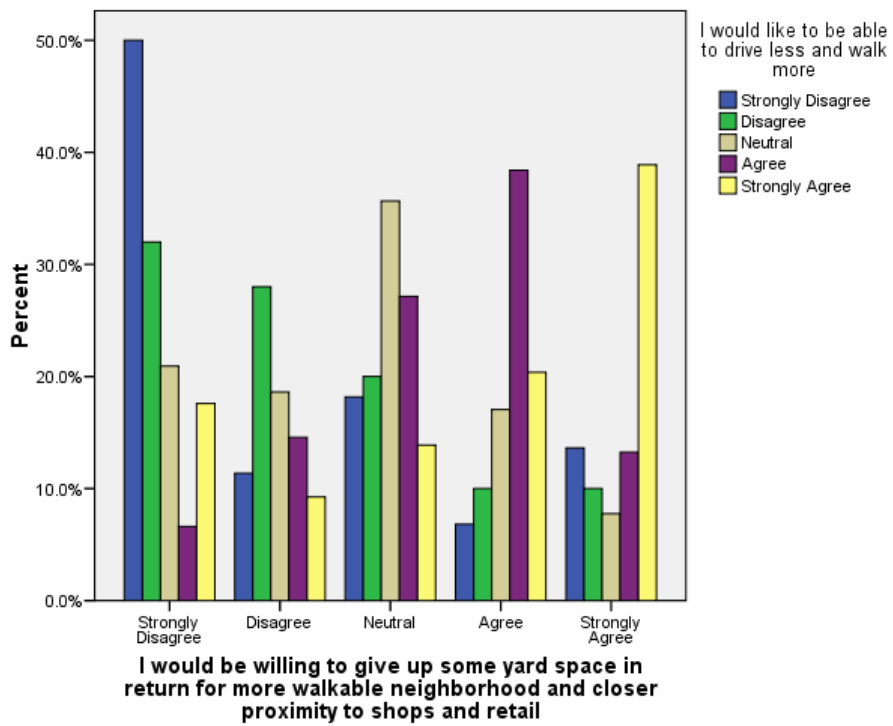


Figure 22.

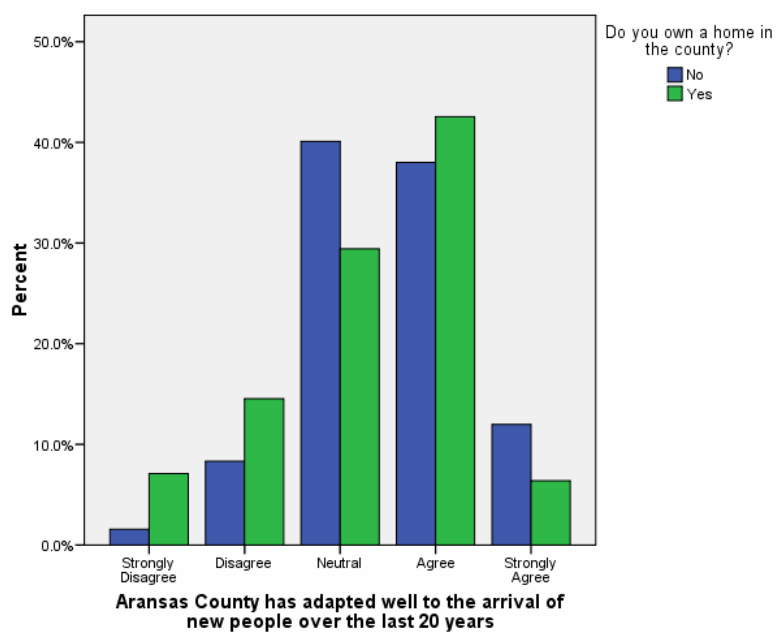


Figure 23.

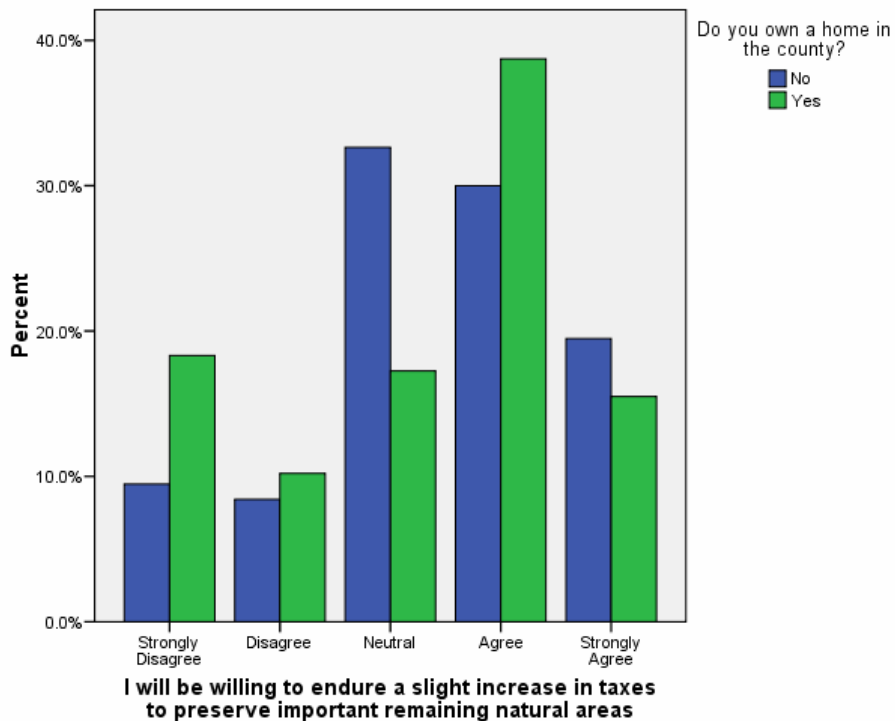


Figure 24.

Acknowledgements

The Aransas County CHARM (Community Health and Resource Management) Steering Committee provided guidance and direction without which this project could not have been carried out. We look forward to their continued efforts to help guide this conversation about growth in Aransas County.

CHARM Steering Committee Members:

Felix Keeley	Aransas County Navigation District
Craig Patton	Rockport Heritage District Association, Design Guidelines Committee
Nan Jackson	Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener Association
Kam Wagert	Rockport-Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce
Penny Hong	Rockport Downtown Merchants Association
Ernie Edmundson	Aransas First
Susan Kovacs	Aransas County Independent School District
Mayor Russel Cole	City of Fulton
Ron Outen	Aransas First
Diane Probst	Rockport-Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce
Lonnie Matthew	Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener Association
Tony Polsinelli	Economic Development Committee, Rockport 35 R/V Park

In addition, we appreciated guidance and advice from Judge Glenn Guillory, Aransas County Judge; Mayor Todd Pearson, City of Rockport; and Tom Blazek, City Manager, City of Rockport.

We also express appreciation to very capable volunteers who helped to administer the survey at Sea Fair:

Craig Patton, Rockport Heritage District Association; and from the Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners: Elayne Arne, Pat Baugh, Marilee and Russ Bell, Arthur Foss, and Frances Frizzell. Bud Solmonsson and Ricardo Lopez also assisted at the fair.

Special thanks to Ricardo Lopez for map preparation and assistance with statistical analysis.

Tables

Table 1. All Respondents

Number of surveys:

496

No.	Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
1	Population growth has had a positive effect on the character of our community	6%	15%	27%	36%	16%	100%
2	Aransas County has adapted well to the arrival of new people over the last 20 years	5%	12%	34%	41%	9%	100%
3	Aransas County needs growth in order to prosper	9%	15%	20%	35%	20%	100%
4	City and county government should play a role in guiding the character of future growth	3%	6%	16%	37%	38%	100%
5	Citizens and citizen groups should play a role in guiding the character of future growth	1%	3%	5%	35%	56%	100%
6	Tourism is likely to remain the mainstay of the Aransas County economy	2%	2%	9%	41%	47%	100%
7	Seeing and interacting frequently with neighbors is important to me	2%	5%	20%	39%	34%	100%
8	I live close enough to walk to local stores	32%	24%	20%	15%	9%	100%
9	I would like to be able to drive less and walk more	9%	11%	27%	31%	23%	100%
10	The less I see my neighbors the better	42%	27%	20%	8%	4%	100%
11	I like the small town feel of downtown Rockport and Fulton	2%	3%	10%	26%	60%	100%
12	I prefer to shop at a large chain retailer rather than small local stores	27%	28%	31%	9%	5%	100%
13	Interesting shopping is important in a tourism-based economy	3%	2%	10%	37%	48%	100%
14	I enjoy purchasing fresh seafood from local boats and docks	3%	3%	13%	29%	52%	100%
15	I would be willing to give up some yard space in return for more walkable neighborhood and closer proximity to shops and retail	19%	15%	25%	23%	18%	100%
16	It is important to preserve the remaining areas of windswept oaks	2%	2%	8%	20%	68%	100%
17	I will be willing to endure a slight increase in taxes to preserve important remaining natural areas	15%	9%	23%	35%	17%	100%
18	There are already enough natural areas preserved in Aransas County to ensure my grandchildren enjoy the same natural environment as I do	25%	30%	27%	12%	7%	100%
19	Natural areas, such as oak motts, floodplains, wetlands, and prairies are important to the economy of Aransas County	2%	4%	13%	29%	53%	100%

Table 2. All Respondents characteristics

Number of surveys: 496

No.	Survey Questions	Answers								
1	Gender	Male 42%	Female 58%							100%
2	Resident / Visitor	Full-time resident 56%	Part-time resident 17%	Visitor 27%						100%
3	Do you own a home in the county?	No 40%	Yes 60%							100%
4	If resident, how long have you lived here?	< 1 year 11%	1-5 years 34%	6-10 years 19%	11-15 years 10%	> 15 years 27%				100%
5	Do you work in Aransas County?	No 72%	Yes 28%							100%
6	Do you collect any retirement pension?	No 66%	Yes 34%							100%
7	Year Born Group	1920-1930 2%	1930-1940 10%	1940-1950 32%	1950-1960 27%	1960-1970 16%	1970-1980 7%	1980-1990 4%	After 1990 3%	100%
8	What is your highest level of education?	Less than a high school diploma 3%	High school diploma or GED 12%	Some college/technical school 28%	College degree 36%	Graduate school 21%				100%
9	What is your ethnicity?	African American 0%	Asian 0%	Hispanic or Latino 7%	White 89%	Native American 1%	African-American/White 0%	Asian/White 0%	Other 1%	100%
10	How is your annual household income reported?	Single 32%	Combined 68%							100%
11	What is your annual household income?	Less than \$15,000 2%	\$15,000 - \$30,000 6%	\$30,001 - \$50,000 20%	\$50,001 - \$75,000 24%	\$75,001 - \$100,000 18%	Above \$100,000 29%			100%
12	Participation in outdoor activities on Live Oak Peninsula	Fishing 74%	Swimming 58%	Skiing 21%	Walking/Hiking 61%	Kayaking/Canoeing 28%	Wildlife Viewing 68%	None of these 7%	Still Participate 86%	
13	Survey Participants	Chamber Board 2%	Master Gardeners 8%	Rotary 5%	Sea Fair 85%					100%

Table 3. Residents only (full and part-time).

Number of surveys:

349

No.	Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
1	Population growth has had a positive effect on the character of our community	7%	16%	28%	35%	14%	100%
2	Aransas County has adapted well to the arrival of new people over the last 20 years	6%	15%	32%	40%	8%	100%
3	Aransas County needs growth in order to prosper	11%	16%	19%	34%	19%	100%
4	City and county government should play a role in guiding the character of future growth	3%	6%	16%	37%	38%	100%
5	Citizens and citizen groups should play a role in guiding the character of future growth	1%	3%	6%	35%	55%	100%
6	Tourism is likely to remain the mainstay of the Aransas County economy	2%	2%	7%	42%	47%	100%
7	Seeing and interacting frequently with neighbors is important to me	2%	5%	21%	38%	34%	100%
8	I live close enough to walk to local stores	37%	24%	15%	15%	10%	100%
9	I would like to be able to drive less and walk more	10%	12%	29%	28%	20%	100%
10	The less I see my neighbors the better	43%	27%	19%	6%	5%	100%
11	I like the small town feel of downtown Rockport and Fulton	2%	3%	11%	26%	58%	100%
12	I prefer to shop at a large chain retailer rather than small local stores	24%	29%	33%	9%	5%	100%
13	Interesting shopping is important in a tourism-based economy	3%	1%	10%	37%	48%	100%
14	I enjoy purchasing fresh seafood from local boats and docks	3%	3%	13%	31%	50%	100%
15	I would be willing to give up some yard space in return for more walkable neighborhood and closer proximity to shops and retail	21%	16%	23%	21%	18%	100%
16	It is important to preserve the remaining areas of windswept oaks	2%	3%	8%	20%	68%	100%
17	I will be willing to endure a slight increase in taxes to preserve important remaining natural areas	17%	10%	20%	37%	17%	100%
18	There are already enough natural areas preserved in Aransas County to ensure my grandchildren enjoy the same natural environment as I do	25%	29%	27%	11%	8%	100%
19	Natural areas, such as oak motts, floodplains, wetlands, and prairies are important to the economy of Aransas County	2%	3%	14%	29%	51%	100%

Table 4 Residents only (full and part-time) characteristics

Number of surveys: 349

No.	Survey Questions	Answers								
1	Gender	Male 42%	Female 58%							100%
2	Resident / Visitor	Full-time resident 76%	Part-time resident 24%	Visitor 0%						100%
3	Do you own a home in the county?	No 20%	Yes 80%							100%
4	If resident, how long have you lived here?	< 1 year 10%	1-5 years 34%	6-10 years 19%	11-15 years 10%	> 15 years 26%				100%
5	Do you work in Aransas County?	No 65%	Yes 35%							100%
6	Do you collect any retirement pension?	No 64%	Yes 36%							100%
7	Year Born Group	1920-1930 2%	1930-1940 11%	1940-1950 35%	1950-1960 25%	1960-1970 13%	1970-1980 7%	1980-1990 4%	After 1990 2%	100%
8	What is your highest level of education?	Less than a high school diploma 2%	High school diploma or GED 11%	Some college/technical school 28%	College degree 38%	Graduate school 20%				100%
9	What is your ethnicity?	African American 0%	Asian 0%	Hispanic or Latino 4%	White 93%	Native American 1%	African-American/White 0%	Asian/White 0%	Other 1%	100%
10	How is your your annual household income reported?	Single 27%	Combined 73%							100%
11	What is your annual household income?	Less than \$15,000 2%	\$15,000 - \$30,000 7%	\$30,001 - \$50,000 21%	\$50,001 - \$75,000 22%	\$75,001 - \$100,000 18%	Above \$100,000 31%			100%
12	Participation in outdoor activities on Live Oak Peninsula	Fishing 81%	Swimming 64%	Skiing 25%	Walking/Hiking 67%	Kayaking/Canoeing 33%	Wildlife Viewing 75%	None of these 4%	Still Participate 90%	
13	Survey Participants	Chamber Board 3%	Master Gardeners 10%	Rotary 6%	Sea Fair 81%					100%

Table 5. Sea Fair only.

Number of surveys:

421

No.	Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
1	Population growth has had a positive effect on the character of our community	7%	16%	27%	35%	15%	100%
2	Aransas County has adapted well to the arrival of new people over the last 20 years	5%	10%	35%	41%	8%	100%
3	Aransas County needs growth in order to prosper	10%	15%	20%	35%	20%	100%
4	City and county government should play a role in guiding the character of future growth	3%	7%	16%	36%	37%	100%
5	Citizens and citizen groups should play a role in guiding the character of future growth	1%	3%	6%	34%	56%	100%
6	Tourism is likely to remain the mainstay of the Aransas County economy	2%	2%	9%	43%	44%	100%
7	Seeing and interacting frequently with neighbors is important to me	2%	4%	19%	39%	36%	100%
8	I live close enough to walk to local stores	29%	25%	21%	16%	10%	100%
9	I would like to be able to drive less and walk more	9%	10%	26%	31%	24%	100%
10	The less I see my neighbors the better	43%	26%	19%	8%	5%	100%
11	I like the small town feel of downtown Rockport and Fulton	2%	3%	9%	24%	62%	100%
12	I prefer to shop at a large chain retailer rather than small local stores	29%	28%	30%	8%	5%	100%
13	Interesting shopping is important in a tourism-based economy	3%	2%	10%	38%	46%	100%
14	I enjoy purchasing fresh seafood from local boats and docks	3%	2%	12%	28%	55%	100%
15	I would be willing to give up some yard space in return for more walkable neighborhood and closer proximity to shops and retail	19%	14%	25%	23%	19%	100%
16	It is important to preserve the remaining areas of windswept oaks	1%	3%	8%	19%	69%	100%
17	I will be willing to endure a slight increase in taxes to preserve important remaining natural areas	15%	9%	25%	34%	17%	100%
18	There are already enough natural areas preserved in Aransas County to ensure my grandchildren enjoy the same natural environment as I do	25%	27%	29%	13%	6%	100%
19	Natural areas, such as oak motts, floodplains, wetlands, and prairies are important to the economy of Aransas County	2%	4%	13%	30%	51%	100%

Table 6. Sea Fair Respondents characteristics

Number of surveys: 421

No.	Survey Questions	Answers								
1	Gender	Male 44%	Female 56%							100%
2	Resident / Visitor	Full-time resident 50%	Part-time resident 20%	Visitor 30%						100%
3	Do you own a home in the county?	No 45%	Yes 55%							100%
4	If resident, how long have you lived here?	< 1 year 12%	1-5 years 33%	6-10 years 18%	11-15 years 9%	> 15 years 27%				100%
5	Do you work in Aransas County?	No 77%	Yes 23%							100%
6	Do you collect any retirement pension?	No 69%	Yes 31%							100%
7	Year Born Group	1920-1930 2%	1930-1940 10%	1940-1950 28%	1950-1960 28%	1960-1970 18%	1970-1980 7%	1980-1990 5%	After 1990 3%	100%
8	What is your highest level of education?	Less than a high school diploma 3%	High school diploma or GED 14%	Some college/technical school 28%	College degree 35%	Graduate school 20%				100%
9	What is your ethnicity?	African American 0%	Asian 0%	Hispanic or Latino 9%	White 88%	Native American 0%	African-American/White 0%	Asian/White 0%	Other 1%	100%
10	How is your your annual household income reported?	Single 31%	Combined 69%							100%
11	What is your annual household income?	Less than \$15,000 3%	\$15,000 - \$30,000 6%	\$30,001 - \$50,000 20%	\$50,001 - \$75,000 25%	\$75,001 - \$100,000 19%	Above \$100,000 28%			100%

Table 7. Master Gardeners only.

Number of surveys:

41

No.	Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
1	Population growth has had a positive effect on the character of our community	3%	15%	38%	28%	18%	100%
2	Aransas County has adapted well to the arrival of new people over the last 20 years	5%	28%	33%	28%	5%	100%
3	Aransas County needs growth in order to prosper	2%	27%	29%	32%	10%	100%
4	City and county government should play a role in guiding the character of future growth	0%	5%	17%	41%	37%	100%
5	Citizens and citizen groups should play a role in guiding the character of future growth	0%	0%	5%	41%	54%	100%
6	Tourism is likely to remain the mainstay of the Aransas County economy	0%	2%	5%	32%	61%	100%
7	Seeing and interacting frequently with neighbors is important to me	0%	15%	20%	34%	32%	100%
8	I live close enough to walk to local stores	51%	24%	7%	10%	7%	100%
9	I would like to be able to drive less and walk more	5%	15%	32%	24%	24%	100%
10	The less I see my neighbors the better	33%	35%	20%	10%	3%	100%
11	I like the small town feel of downtown Rockport and Fulton	0%	3%	18%	25%	55%	100%
12	I prefer to shop at a large chain retailer rather than small local stores	17%	27%	39%	15%	2%	100%
13	Interesting shopping is important in a tourism-based economy	5%	2%	10%	27%	56%	100%
14	I enjoy purchasing fresh seafood from local boats and docks	3%	5%	18%	38%	38%	100%
15	I would be willing to give up some yard space in return for more walkable neighborhood and closer proximity to shops and retail	35%	25%	18%	13%	10%	100%
16	It is important to preserve the remaining areas of windswept oaks	2%	2%	10%	12%	73%	100%
17	I will be willing to endure a slight increase in taxes to preserve important remaining natural areas	22%	15%	12%	34%	17%	100%
18	There are already enough natural areas preserved in Aransas County to ensure my grandchildren enjoy the same natural environment as I do	29%	34%	22%	2%	12%	100%
19	Natural areas, such as oak motts, floodplains, wetlands, and prairies are important to the economy of Aransas County	2%	5%	17%	10%	66%	100%

Table 8. Master Gardener Respondents characteristics

Number of surveys: 41

No.	Survey Questions	Answers								
1	Gender	Male 10%	Female 90%							100%
2	Resident / Visitor	Full-time resident 85%	Part-time resident 5%	Visitor 10%						100%
3	Do you own a home in the county?	No 17%	Yes 83%							100%
4	If resident, how long have you lived here?	< 1 year 6%	1-5 years 50%	6-10 years 22%	11-15 years 8%	> 15 years 14%				100%
5	Do you work in Arkansas County?	No 76%	Yes 24%							100%
6	Do you collect any retirement pension?	No 30%	Yes 70%							100%
7	Year Born Group	1920-1930 8%	1930-1940 8%	1940-1950 71%	1950-1960 8%	1960-1970 0%	1970-1980 5%	1980-1990 0%	After 1990 0%	100%
8	What is your highest level of education?	Less than a high school diploma 0%	High school diploma or GED 5%	Some college/technical school 37%	College degree 39%	Graduate school 20%				100%
9	What is your ethnicity?	African American 3%	Asian 0%	Hispanic or Latino 0%	White 97%	Native American 0%	African-American/White 0%	Asian/White 0%	Other 0%	100%
10	How is your your annual household income reported?	Single 44%	Combined 56%							100%
11	What is your annual household income?	Less than \$15,000 3%	\$15,000 - \$30,000 14%	\$30,001 - \$50,000 30%	\$50,001 - \$75,000 27%	\$75,001 - \$100,000 14%	Above \$100,000 14%			100%

Table 9. Rotary Club members only.

Number of surveys:

23

No.	Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
1	Population growth has had a positive effect on the character of our community	0%	4%	22%	61%	13%	100%
2	Aransas County has adapted well to the arrival of new people over the last 20 years	0%	13%	30%	48%	9%	100%
3	Aransas County needs growth in order to prosper	4%	9%	9%	48%	30%	100%
4	City and county government should play a role in guiding the character of future growth	0%	4%	9%	43%	43%	100%
5	Citizens and citizen groups should play a role in guiding the character of future growth	0%	4%	0%	39%	57%	100%
6	Tourism is likely to remain the mainstay of the Aransas County economy	0%	0%	9%	35%	57%	100%
7	Seeing and interacting frequently with neighbors is important to me	0%	4%	39%	35%	22%	100%
8	I live close enough to walk to local stores	36%	18%	18%	18%	9%	100%
9	I would like to be able to drive less and walk more	5%	0%	36%	50%	9%	100%
10	The less I see my neighbors the better	43%	17%	35%	4%	0%	100%
11	I like the small town feel of downtown Rockport and Fulton	4%	0%	17%	39%	39%	100%
12	I prefer to shop at a large chain retailer rather than small local stores	22%	22%	35%	17%	4%	100%
13	Interesting shopping is important in a tourism-based economy	0%	0%	9%	50%	41%	100%
14	I enjoy purchasing fresh seafood from local boats and docks	0%	4%	22%	43%	30%	100%
15	I would be willing to give up some yard space in return for more walkable neighborhood and closer proximity to shops and retail	9%	13%	22%	43%	13%	100%
16	It is important to preserve the remaining areas of windswept oaks	4%	0%	4%	43%	48%	100%
17	I will be willing to endure a slight increase in taxes to preserve important remaining natural areas	4%	4%	9%	65%	17%	100%
18	There are already enough natural areas preserved in Aransas County to ensure my grandchildren enjoy the same natural environment as I do	13%	61%	9%	17%	0%	100%
19	Natural areas, such as oak motts, floodplains, wetlands, and prairies are important to the economy of Aransas County	0%	0%	4%	39%	57%	100%

Table 10. Rotary Club respondents characteristics

Number of surveys: 23

No.	Survey Questions	Answers								
1	Gender	Male 65%	Female 35%							100%
2	Resident / Visitor	Full-time resident 95%	Part-time resident 5%	Visitor 0%						100%
3	Do you own a home in the county?	No 22%	Yes 78%							100%
4	If resident, how long have you lived here?	< 1 year 10%	1-5 years 19%	6-10 years 14%	11-15 years 14%	> 15 years 43%				100%
5	Do you work in Aransas County?	No 9%	Yes 91%							100%
6	Do you collect any retirement pension?	No 74%	Yes 26%							100%
7	Year Born Group	1920-1930 0%	1930-1940 18%	1940-1950 27%	1950-1960 32%	1960-1970 9%	1970-1980 14%	1980-1990 0%	After 1990 0%	100%
8	What is your highest level of education?	Less than a high school diploma 0%	High school diploma or GED 4%	Some college/technical school 17%	College degree 43%	Graduate school 35%				100%
9	What is your ethnicity?	African American 0%	Asian 0%	Hispanic or Latino 0%	White 87%	Native American 13%	African-American/White 0%	Asian/White 0%	Other 0%	100%
10	How is your your annual household income reported?	Single 33%	Combined 67%							100%
11	What is your annual household income?	Less than \$15,000 0%	\$15,000 - \$30,000 0%	\$30,001 - \$50,000 14%	\$50,001 - \$75,000 18%	\$75,001 - \$100,000 5%	Above \$100,000 64%			100%

Table 11. Chamber of Commerce Board only

Number of surveys:

11

No.	Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
1	Population growth has had a positive effect on the character of our community	0%	0%	0%	73%	27%	100%
2	Aransas County has adapted well to the arrival of new people over the last 20 years	0%	0%	27%	36%	36%	100%
3	Aransas County needs growth in order to prosper	0%	0%	9%	45%	45%	100%
4	City and county government should play a role in guiding the character of future growth	0%	0%	9%	27%	64%	100%
5	Citizens and citizen groups should play a role in guiding the character of future growth	0%	0%	0%	27%	73%	100%
6	Tourism is likely to remain the mainstay of the Aransas County economy	0%	0%	0%	18%	82%	100%
7	Seeing and interacting frequently with neighbors is important to me	0%	9%	9%	64%	18%	100%
8	I live close enough to walk to local stores	64%	0%	18%	18%	0%	100%
9	I would like to be able to drive less and walk more	27%	27%	27%	18%	0%	100%
10	The less I see my neighbors the better	45%	36%	18%	0%	0%	100%
11	I like the small town feel of downtown Rockport and Fulton	0%	0%	0%	55%	45%	100%
12	I prefer to shop at a large chain retailer rather than small local stores	18%	45%	36%	0%	0%	100%
13	Interesting shopping is important in a tourism-based economy	0%	0%	0%	9%	91%	100%
14	I enjoy purchasing fresh seafood from local boats and docks	0%	0%	27%	36%	36%	100%
15	I would be willing to give up some yard space in return for more walkable neighborhood and closer proximity to shops and retail	0%	27%	55%	9%	9%	100%
16	It is important to preserve the remaining areas of windswept oaks	0%	0%	9%	27%	64%	100%
17	I will be willing to endure a slight increase in taxes to preserve important remaining natural areas	18%	9%	27%	9%	36%	100%
18	There are already enough natural areas preserved in Aransas County to ensure my grandchildren enjoy the same natural environment as I do	27%	36%	18%	9%	9%	100%
19	Natural areas, such as oak motts, floodplains, wetlands, and prairies are important to the economy of Aransas County	0%	0%	9%	27%	64%	100%

Table 12. Chamber of Commerce Board respondents characteristics

Number of surveys: 11

No.	Survey Questions	Answers								
1	Gender	Male 36%	Female 64%							100%
2	Resident / Visitor	Full-time resident 100%	Part-time resident 0%	Visitor 0%						100%
3	Do you own a home in the county?	No 0%	Yes 100%							100%
4	If resident, how long have you lived here?	< 1 year 0%	1-5 years 18%	6-10 years 27%	11-15 years 9%	> 15 years 45%				100%
5	Do you work in Aransas County?	No 9%	Yes 91%							100%
6	Do you collect any retirement pension?	No 82%	Yes 18%							100%
7	Year Born Group	1920-1930 0%	1930-1940 0%	1940-1950 40%	1950-1960 20%	1960-1970 30%	1970-1980 10%	1980-1990 0%	After 1990 0%	100%
8	What is your highest level of education?	Less than a high school diploma 0%	High school diploma or GED 0%	Some college/technical school 36%	College degree 45%	Graduate school 18%				100%
9	What is your ethnicity?	African American 0%	Asian 0%	Hispanic or Latino 0%	White 100%	Native American 0%	African-American/White 0%	Asian/White 0%	Other 0%	Other 100%
10	How is your your annual household income reported?	Single 0%	Combined 100%							100%
11	What is your annual household income?	Less than \$15,000 0%	\$15,000 - \$30,000 0%	\$30,001 - \$50,000 0%	\$50,001 - \$75,000 20%	\$75,001 - \$100,000 10%	Above \$100,000 70%			100%

APPENDIX 1

U.S. Census People Quick Facts Aransas County, Texas

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48/48007.html>

Population, 2005 estimate	24,640	22,859,968
Population, percent change, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2005	9.5%	9.6%
Population, 2000	22,497	20,851,820
Population, percent change, 1990 to 2000	25.7%	22.8%
Persons under 5 years old, percent, 2004	5.4%	8.2%
Persons under 18 years old, percent, 2004	22.2%	27.9%
Persons 65 years old and over, percent, 2004	20.6%	9.9%
Female persons, percent, 2004	50.3%	50.2%
White persons, percent, 2004 (a)	93.7%	83.3%
Black persons, percent, 2004 (a)	1.9%	11.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2004 (a)	0.6%	0.7%
Asian persons, percent, 2004 (a)	2.7%	3.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent, 2004 (a)	0.0%	0.1%
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2004	1.2%	1.0%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2004 (b)	21.8%	34.6%
White persons, not Hispanic, percent, 2004	72.4%	49.8%
Living in same house in 1995 and 2000, pct age 5+, 2000	48.9%	49.6%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2000	5.7%	13.9%
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2000	18.3%	31.2%
High school graduates, percent of persons age 25+, 2000	74.6%	75.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher, pct of persons age 25+, 2000	16.7%	23.2%
Persons with a disability, age 5+, 2000	4,898	3,605,542
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2000	24	25.4
Housing units, 2004	13,763	8,846,728
Homeownership rate, 2000	75.2%	63.8%
Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2000	12.7%	24.2%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2000	\$79,000	\$82,500
Households, 2000	9,132	7,393,354
Persons per household, 2000	2.43	2.74
Per capita money income, 1999	\$18,560	\$19,617
Median household income, 2003	\$31,174	\$39,967
Persons below poverty, percent, 2003	18.5%	16.2%
Geography QuickFacts	Aransas County	Texas
Land area, 2000 (square miles)	252	261,797
Persons per square mile, 2000	89.3	79.6

(a) Includes persons reporting only one race.

(b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories.

FN: Footnote on this item for this area in place of data

NA: Not available

Source: US Census Bureau
State & County QuickFacts