

BONNER COUNTY'S PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

How to Make a Useful Land Use Comment

Whether you are reviewing a comprehensive plan, long-range plan, development code, zone change, conditional use permit, subdivision, variance, or other land use proposal, your local knowledge can help inform the decision.

As you review, ask yourself: What is being proposed or considered, and what do you think should be supported, changed, or considered?

4 Ways to Provide Comment

1. What do you Support?	2. What Concerns do you have?	3. What is Missing?	4. What would you Change or Recommend?
What is working well or what you would like to see continued.	Identify a specific concern and explain why it matters.	Identify an issue, information, location, or opportunity that should be considered.	When possible, suggest a specific change, condition, or approach.

Comment Formula



Use the Evaluation Criteria When You Can

When you can connect your concern to an applicable standard or criterion, it helps decision-makers understand the issue.

Example: Conditional Use Permit

Bonner County Code § 12-226(A) identifies potential conditions for approval:

- Minimizing adverse impacts on other development
- Providing public facilities or services
- Addressing the location and nature of development
- Landscaping and sight restrictions
- Safeguards for adjacent properties
- Measures to minimize environmental impacts

Instead of:

“I don't want this CUP because it will negatively affect my property.”

Consider:

“I am concerned that the proposed use will increase activity and traffic next to residential properties. Under **BCC § 12-226(A)(1) and (11)**, I recommend the County consider conditions that minimize adverse impacts and provide safeguards for adjacent properties.”

Checklist: Before you Submit your Comment:

- ☐ I identified the plan, code, map, or application I am commenting on.
- ☐ I identified a specific concern, idea, or opportunity.
- ☐ I explained why it matters.
- ☐ I identified a location, if applicable.
- ☐ I connected my comment to an applicable plan, policy, standard, or code criterion, if known.
- ☐ I suggested what I would like the County to consider or change, when possible.
- ☐ I focused my comment on the plan, code, or proposal rather than individual people.

Sample

What are you commenting on?

What do you support?

What concerns you?

What's missing?

What would you change or recommend?

Is there a specific location this applies to?

Is there a plan, policy, map, code section, or evaluation criterion that relates to your comment?

Remember: Be specific. Explain why. Identify the applicable criteria when you can. Offer a solution when possible.