

TOWN OF SIOUX CREEK 2015-2035 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

APPENDIX

adopted Month Day, 2015



Final Draft
9/4/15

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This document is incorporated and adopted by reference
as part of the *Town of Sioux Creek 2005-2035 Comprehensive Plan* update.

The supplemental data and information herein is in addition to the main plan
document in order to provide an improved understanding of key trends,
programs, and plans for Town planning purposes. These appendices are not
meant to be exhaustive and inclusive of all potential data sources, programs,
and related plans.

prepared by the Town of Sioux Creek Plan Commission
with assistance from West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN


RESOLUTION 2015 - 1

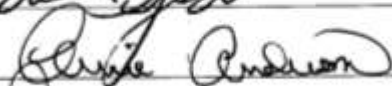
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES FOR THE UPDATE OF THE TOWN OF SIOUX CREEK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

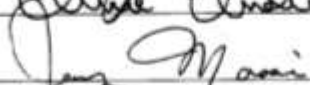
- WHEREAS,** the Town of Sioux Creek has decided to update its comprehensive plan under the authority and procedures of §62.23 (3) and §66.1001, Wisconsin Statutes; and
- WHEREAS,** §66.1001 (4) (a), Wisconsin Statutes, requires that the governing body of the local governmental unit adopt written procedures designed to foster public participation at every stage of comprehensive plan preparation, and that such written procedures provide for wide distribution of proposed, alternative or amended comprehensive elements, an opportunity for the public to submit written comments on the comprehensive plan, and a process for the local governing body to respond to such comments; and
- WHEREAS,** the Town Board of the Town of Sioux Creek has designated a plan commission for the purposes defined in §62.23 (1), (2), (4) and (5), Wisconsin Statutes; and
- WHEREAS,** the Town of Sioux Creek Plan Commission has reviewed and recommended approval of the following *Public Participation Procedures for the Town of Sioux Creek Comprehensive Plan Update*; and
- WHEREAS,** the agreement between the Town of Sioux Creek and its hired planning consultants is consistent with and furthers the mechanisms identified within the *Public Participation Procedures for the Town of Sioux Creek Comprehensive Plan Update* to foster public participation, ensure wide distribution of draft plan materials, and provide opportunities for written comments on draft plan materials; and
- WHEREAS,** the Town of Sioux Creek believes that regular, meaningful public involvement in the plan development process is important to assure that the resulting plan meets the wishes and expectations of the public.

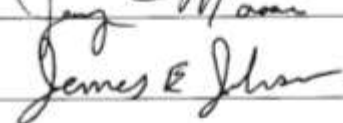
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Sioux Creek hereby ordain and resolve as follows: to approve the written procedures included in *Public Participation Procedures for the Town of Sioux Creek Comprehensive Plan Update* as its public participation procedures meeting the requirements of §66.1001 (4) (a), Wisconsin Statutes.


Dated this 8th day of June, 2015.











Public Participation Procedures for the Town of Sioux Creek Comprehensive Plan Update

INTRODUCTION

§66.1001 (4) (a), Wisconsin Statutes, requires that the governing body of the local governmental unit adopt written procedures designed to foster public participation, including open discussion, communication programs, information services and public meetings for which advance notice has been provided, at every stage of comprehensive plan preparation, and that such written procedures provide for wide distribution of proposed, alternative or amended comprehensive elements, an opportunity for the public to submit written comments on the comprehensive plan, and a process for the local governing body to respond to such comments.

The Town of Sioux Creek Town Board recognizes the need for an open and active public participation process to foster a strong community commitment to the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan to guide the community's future growth and development. To ensure that the public has an opportunity to be involved in every stage of the update of the Comprehensive Plan, the Town identifies the following actions to promote an active public involvement process that provides complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and supports early and continuing involvement of the public in developing the plan.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES

- The Town has a duly appointed Plan Commission pursuant with §66.23 (1) and/or §60.62 (4), Wisconsin Statutes.
- All meetings of the governing body of the local governmental unit (Town Board) are open to the public and are officially posted to notify the public as required by law.
- All Plan Commission meetings are open to the public and are officially posted to notify the public as required by law. Opportunities for public comment will be provided during the Plan Commission meetings.
- The Town Board will receive periodic reports from the Plan Commission during the preparation of the plan and will have the opportunity to review and comment on materials developed for incorporation into the Comprehensive Plan.
- The Town Plan Commission will host a public visioning session early in the plan update process to engage community members and obtain public input on community goals, issues, and alternative strategies. The public will be invited to participate in the visioning session through the mailing of a postcard to residents; this will also increase public awareness of the plan update in general.
- Prior to the public hearing, the governmental units of adjacent or overlapping jurisdiction will be notified of the community's undertaking of the preparation of the Comprehensive Plan and their input sought on intergovernmental concerning land use, municipal boundaries and service provision.
- Draft copies of the Comprehensive Plan will be available at Town Hall, on the Town website, and at the Chetek and Dallas public libraries during regular hours for the public to review.
- A joint Plan Commission and Town Board Public Hearing will be conducted on the recommended Comprehensive Plan prior to Plan Commission recommendation and the governing body enacting the plan by ordinance. The Public Hearing will be preceded by Class 1 notice under Chapter 985, Wisconsin Statutes, published at least 30 days before the hearing is held. Additional notice will be provided to non-metallic mining interests pursuant to §66.1001 (4) (c), Wisconsin Statutes. The public is invited to comment and submit written comments.
- A public open house to present the draft Comprehensive Plan recommended by the Plan Commission will be conducted in advance of the Public Hearing.
- The Town Board will consider and respond to written comments regarding the plan before enacting it by ordinance.
- The adopted comprehensive plan will be distributed to:
 1. Every governmental body that is located in whole or in part within the boundaries of the local governmental unit.
 2. The clerk of every local governmental unit that is adjacent to the local governmental unit which is the subject of the plan.
 3. The Wisconsin Department of Administration on behalf of the Wisconsin Land Board
 5. The West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.
 6. The Chetek and Dallas public libraries.
- The Town Plan Commission, with Town Board approval, may implement additional public participation activities as deemed appropriate, practicable, and needed.

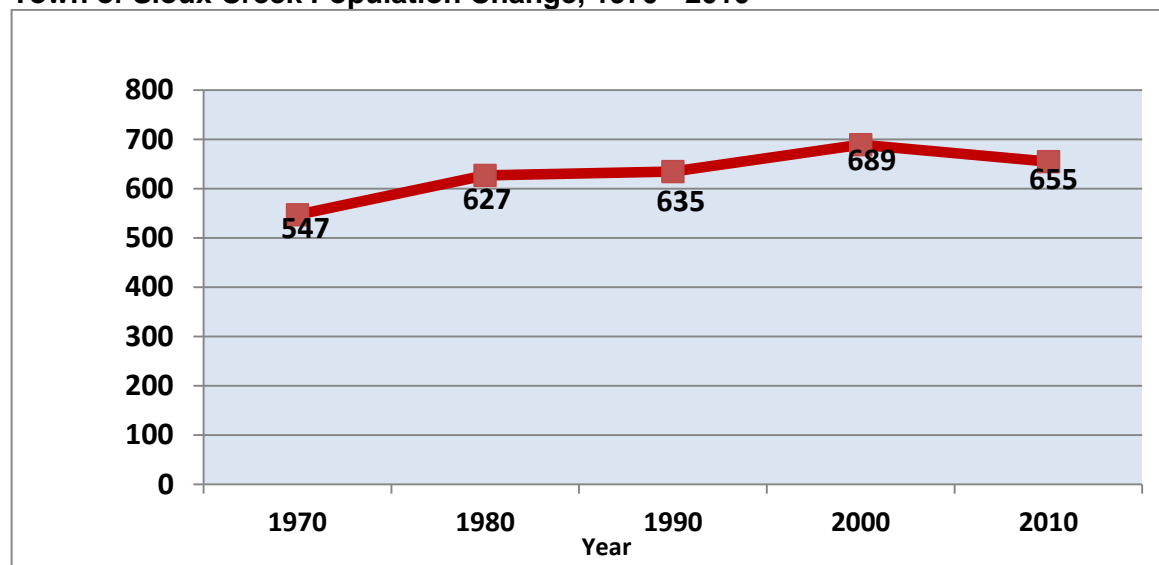
BACKGROUND INFORMATION & DATA

This section highlights some of the key background information and data used by the Town of Sioux Creek Plan Commission during the update of the Town's comprehensive plan. Additional data, forecasts/projections, and related discussion can be found in the plan text.

Population and Demographics

2014 WDOA Official Population Estimate: 648 residents

Town of Sioux Creek Population Change, 1970 - 2010



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1970 - 2010

Population by Age, Town of Sioux Creek, 2000-2010

Age (years)	2000		2010		% Change 2000-2010
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	
Under 5	48	7.0	30	4.6	-37.5
5 to 19	188	27.3	170	26.0	-9.6
20 to 44	237	34.4	169	25.8	-28.7
45 to 64	152	22.1	212	32.4	39.5
65+	64	9.3	74	11.3	15.6
Total	689		655		-4.9
Median Age	32.1 (county – 38.8)		40.6 (county – 43.1)		26.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000-2010

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Population Projections, Town of Sioux Creek, 2010-2040

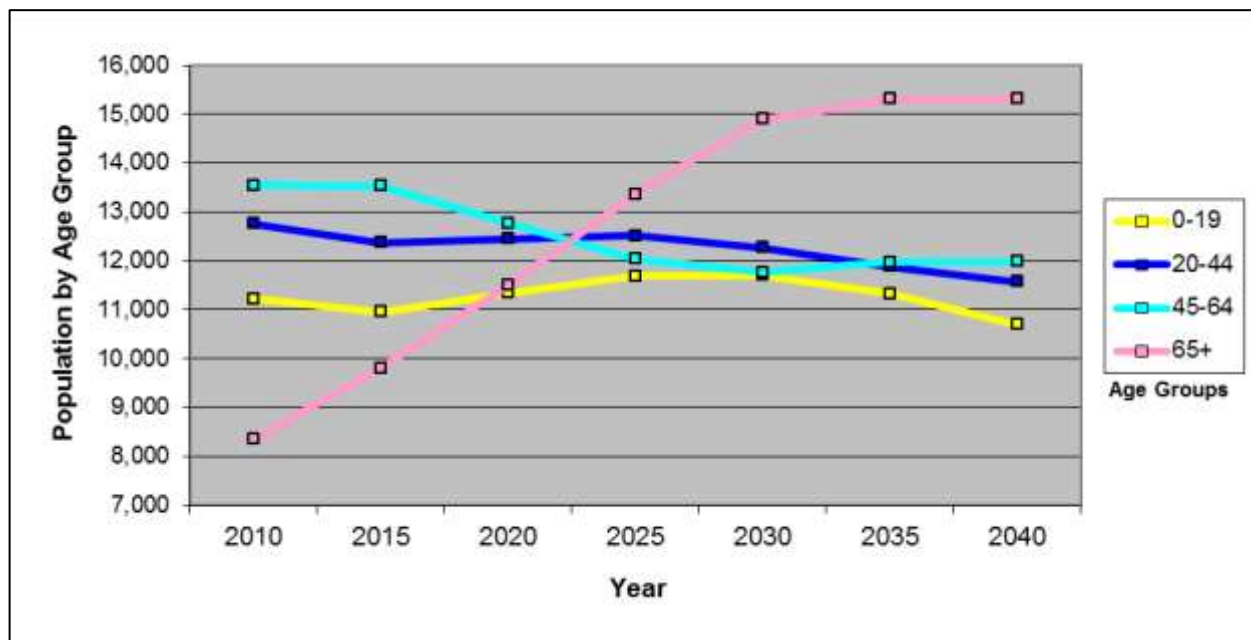
	2010 Census	2015 Proj.	2020 Proj.	2025 Proj.	2030 Proj.	2035 Proj.	2040 Proj.	change
Total Population	655	645	650	650	645	625	595	
Population Increase		-10	5	0	-5	-20	-30	-60
% Population Increase		-1.5	+0.8	0	-0.8	-3.1	-4.8	-9.2

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Final Municipal Population Projections, 2013

NOTE: 1990 to 2010 = +3.2% over 20 years, but 2010 to 2040 = -9.2% over 30 years

Per Town Plan Commission on 5/7/15, young people are leaving the community, but the above projected loss seems "a bit steep."

Population Projections, Barron County, 2010-2040



Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Final Population Projections, 2014

Appendix B

Housing

Housing Occupancy and Tenure, Town of Sioux Creek, 2000 - 2010

	2000	% of Total	2010	% of Total	No. Change '00--'10	% Change '00--'10
Total Housing Units	244		270		26	10.7
Occupied Housing Units	225	92.2	235	87.0	10	4.4
Owner-Occupied	193	79.1	209	77.4	16	8.3
Renter-Occupied	32	13.1	26	9.6	-6	-18.7
Vacant Housing Units	19	7.8	35	13.0	16	84.2
Seasonal/Rec/ Occasional Use	12	4.9	16	5.9	4	33.3
Average Household Size	3.06		2.79		-.27	-8.8
Persons per Housing Unit	2.82		2.43		-.39	-13.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000, & 2010.

NOTE: 2000-2010 Population Growth = -4.9% 2000-2010 Housing Units Growth = +10.7%
 2010 Barron County Average Persons per Housing Unit = 2.36

Units in Structure, Town of Sioux Creek 2013

	2013	% of Total
1-Unit Detached	254	91.7
1-Unit Attached	0	0
2 Units	0	0
3 or 4 units	2	0.7
5 to 9 units	0	0
10 to 19 Units	0	0
20 or More Units	2	0.7
Mobile Home	19	6.9
Boat, RV, Van, Etc.	0	0
TOTAL	277	100

***USE ACS DATA WITH CAUTION**

U.S. Census ACS data is a sample survey. For small populations, this can result in a large margin of error.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2009-2013 American Community Survey (ACS).

Housing Value of Specified Owner-Occupied Units, 2013

Less than \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 - \$149,000	\$150,000 - \$199,999	\$200,000 - \$299,999	\$300,000 - \$499,999	\$500,000 or more	Town Median Value	County Median Value	State Median Value
16	33	35	39	64	15	3	\$167,100 (\$78,300 in 2000)	\$134,900	\$167,100

Source: 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

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Owner-Occupied Housing Costs as a Percentage of Household Income, 2013 (w/ mortgages)

Less than 20%	20.0% - 24.9%	25.0% - 29.9%	30.0% - 34.9%	35.0% or more	Town % not affordable	County % not affordable
32	12	20	29	48	54.6%	36.3%

Note: U.S. HUD defines affordable housing as 30% or less of monthly or annual income.

Source: 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Renter-Occupied Housing Costs as a Percentage of Household Income, 2013

Less than 15%	15.0% - 19.9%	20.0% - 24.9%	25.0% - 29.9%	30.0% - 34.9%	35.0% or more	Town % not affordable	County % not affordable
3	0	1	3	0	7	50.0%	44.5%

Note: U.S. HUD defines affordable housing as 30% or less of monthly or annual income.

Source: 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Education, Income, and Employment

Educational Attainment of Persons Age 25 & Older Town of Sioux Creek, 2013

Attainment Level	Number	Percent of Total
Less than 9 th Grade	49	11.1
9 th Grade to 12 Grade, No Diploma	39	8.8
High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	130	29.5
Some College, No Degree	86	19.5
Associate Degree	45	10.2
Bachelor's Degree	71	16.1
Graduate or Professional Degree	21	4.8
TOTAL PERSONS 25 AND OVER	441	100

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey

- Educational attainment of Town residents has dropped slightly with 80.1 percent of residents over 25 years of age in 2013 (ACS 5-year estimates¹) having at least attained a high school diploma as compared to 85.7 percent in 2000. However, the 2013 number is likely within the margin of error of the 2000 percentage.
- The median household income in the Town of Sioux Creek was \$47,083 in 2000 (U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000). In 2013, this number increased to \$59,231 (2009-2013 American Community Survey), which was a 25.8 percent increase. The County median household income increased from \$37,275 to \$44,054 and the State increased from \$43,791 to \$52,413.
- In 2013, 15.6 percent of persons and 7.7 percent of families in the Town of Sioux Creek were below the poverty level at some time in the previous 12 months. This is compared to 12.8 percent and 7.3 percent, respectively, for Barron County as a whole.

¹ Many of the 2013 economic estimates are based on American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2009-2013 which can have fairly significant margins of error.

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Unemployment Rate, 2000 & 2013

	2000		2013	
	Employed	Unemployment Rate	Employed	Unemployment Rate
T, of Sioux Creek	385	4.1%	350	5.7%
Barron County	22,583	3.2%	22,144	7.8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 2010 and 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Means of Transportation to Work for Town of Sioux Creek Residents, 2013

Primary Means of Transportation	Percent of Workers
Car, Truck, or Van – Drove Alone	61.7
Car, Truck, or Van - Carpooled	13.2
Public Transportation (excluding taxi)	.6
Walked	12
Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, or other	.9
Worked at home	11.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey

- For Town of Sioux Creek employed residents, 24.1 percent of workers traveled less than 10 minutes to their place of employment. The mean travel time to work was 18.3 minutes in 2013. Only 4.1 percent of the workforce traveled more than 45 minutes to work.

Place of Work, 2013

Place of Work	Percent of Workers
Worked in the Town of Sioux Creek	0.0
Worked in Barron County	82.0
Worked outside Barron County, but in Wisconsin	14.7
Worked outside State of Wisconsin	3.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey

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Land Use

Land Use Acreage and Assessed Value Per Acre, 2004 and 2014

	Agricultural	Forest	Ag. Forest	Undeveloped	Residential	Commercial	Manufacturing	Other	Total
2004									
# Parcels	484	350	10	347	205	10	0	101	1,507
# Improved	0	0	0	0	182	3	0	103	288
Acres	11,175	5,731	200	2,567	666	296	0	264	20,899
Land Value per Acre	\$114	\$869	\$434	\$198	\$2,458	\$768	-	\$2,233	\$445
Improv. Value per Imp. Parcel	-	-	-	-	\$70,585	\$1,733	-	\$60,483	\$68,018
2014									
# Parcels	522	120	248	358	217	13	0	110	1,588
# Improved	0	0	0	0	190	4	0	114	308
Acres	11,416	2,186	3,453	2,359	663	297	0	281	20,655
Land Value per Acre	\$150	\$1,619	\$786	\$526	\$3,134	\$1,019	-	\$2,964	\$601
Improv. Value per Imp. Parcel	-	-	-	-	\$108,002	\$131,950	-	\$90,619	\$101,879
Difference									
# Parcels	+38	-230	+238	+11	+12	+3	0	+9	+81
# Improved	0	0	0	0	+8	+1	0	+11	+20
Acres	+241	-3,545	+3,253	-208	-3	+1	0	+17	-244
Land Value per Acre	+36	+750	+352	-208	+676	+251	-	+731	+156
Improv. Value per Imp. Parcel	-	-	-	-	+\$37,417	+\$130,217	-	+\$30,136	+\$33,861

Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue

Assessment Notes:

- The above values do not include unassessed or exempt properties, such as those owned by governmental units, churches, or non-profits.

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- *Agricultural land is primarily classified and assessed based on its actual, predominant use (use value), and not its market value. For instance, active farmland that is planned for commercial or residential use will be assessed as “Agricultural.” Undeveloped land (e.g., poorly drained, ponds, depleted gravel pits, fallow tillable land, incapable of commercial forest) and “Ag Forest” is typically assessed at 50% of its full value. “Other” includes farm buildings and improvements, including the farm operator’s residence. Sand mines and processing facilities will be classified as “Manufacturing” once your assessor receives the official DOR letter.*
- *The number of improved residential parcels seems to lag slightly behind the 2013 ACS housing unit numbers (277), of which about 92% are 1-unit households.*

Transportation

- The major transportation function in the Town is maintaining the local road system with the PASER system for Town road pavement management.
- Three County highways also transverse the Town of Sioux Creek—CTH “A”, CTH “I”, and CTH “U”.
- No state or federal highways, railroads, or other major transportation routes transverse the town.

Utilities and Community Facilities

- Buildings and homes are served through private wells and on-site septic systems.
- The Town Hall and associate maintenance structures are the community facilities located within the Town of Sioux Creek.
- The Town of Sioux Creek mostly lies within the Chetek School District, except for portions of the western edge of the town which lies in the Barron Area School District. Ambulance services are provided by Chetek and Dallas, while the community falls within the Dallas/Sioux Creek Fire District.

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources

- The Town of Sioux Creek has considerable amounts of soils which can be classified as prime farmlands, especially in a band running from northwest to southeast corners of the town.
- The majority of the Town of Sioux Creek falls within the Pine Creek & Red Cedar River Watershed. The majority of streams in this watershed are degraded by polluted runoff, though many of the Class II trout streams have the potential to become Class I with habitat improvements and controls of polluted runoff.
- The northeast portion of the town falls within the Lake Chetek Watershed and a small portion of the north-central part of the town falls within the Yellow River Watershed.
- The Red Cedar and Chetek Rivers and Upper Pine Creek are prominent water features which bisect the town. The floodplains and lands nearby these rivers offer soils with probably potential use for sand and/or gravel extraction. There are also considerable wetlands located adjacent to these water bodies and adjacent to Mud Lake.
- There are pockets of steep slopes in the Town of Sioux Creek which are largely forested.
- There are no State Natural Areas or public recreational lands in the town, with the exception of a small park and boat landing on the Red Cedar River.
- There are no listed or inventoried historic sites or buildings in the Town of Sioux Creek.

Appendix B



Demographic and Income Profile

Town of Sioux Creek
Sioux Creek town, WI (5500574125)
County Subdivision

Prepared by Esri

Summary	Census 2010		2015		2020	
Population	655		674		688	
Households	235		243		250	
Families	181		184		189	
Average Household Size	2.79		2.76		2.74	
Owner Occupied Housing Units	209		213		219	
Renter Occupied Housing Units	26		30		31	
Median Age	40.8		44.7		47.4	
Trends: 2015 - 2020 Annual Rate	Area		State		National	
Population	0.41%		0.32%		0.75%	
Households	0.57%		0.39%		0.77%	
Families	0.54%		0.31%		0.69%	
Owner HHs	0.56%		0.37%		0.70%	
Median Household Income	2.32%		2.81%		2.66%	
			2015		2020	
Households by Income		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
<\$15,000		21	8.6%		19	7.6%
\$15,000 - \$24,999		20	8.2%		14	5.6%
\$25,000 - \$34,999		23	9.5%		18	7.2%
\$35,000 - \$49,999		37	15.2%		34	13.7%
\$50,000 - \$74,999		58	23.9%		62	24.9%
\$75,000 - \$99,999		48	19.8%		56	22.5%
\$100,000 - \$149,999		30	12.3%		37	14.9%
\$150,000 - \$199,999		3	1.2%		5	2.0%
\$200,000+		3	1.2%		4	1.6%
Median Household Income		\$56,398			\$63,263	
Average Household Income		\$65,154			\$72,602	
Per Capita Income		\$24,768			\$27,701	
			2015		2020	
Population by Age	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 - 4	30	4.6%	31	4.6%	30	4.3%
5 - 9	60	9.2%	35	5.2%	35	5.1%
10 - 14	58	8.9%	46	6.8%	41	5.9%
15 - 19	52	7.9%	46	6.8%	45	6.5%
20 - 24	19	2.9%	36	5.3%	28	4.1%
25 - 34	60	9.2%	65	9.7%	67	9.7%
35 - 44	90	13.7%	80	11.9%	77	11.1%
45 - 54	120	18.3%	106	15.8%	94	13.6%
55 - 64	92	14.0%	119	17.7%	125	18.1%
65 - 74	48	7.3%	75	11.1%	96	13.9%
75 - 84	25	3.8%	27	4.0%	44	6.4%
85+	1	0.2%	7	1.0%	9	1.3%
			2015		2020	
Race and Ethnicity	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
White Alone	648	98.9%	660	97.8%	669	97.2%
Black Alone	1	0.2%	2	0.3%	2	0.3%
American Indian Alone	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	1	0.1%
Asian Alone	0	0.0%	3	0.4%	4	0.6%
Pacific Islander Alone	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Some Other Race Alone	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	1	0.1%
Two or More Races	6	0.9%	8	1.2%	11	1.6%
Hispanic Origin (Any Race)	5	0.8%	7	1.0%	9	1.3%

Data Note: Income is expressed in current dollars.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri forecasts for 2015 and 2020.

August 17, 2015



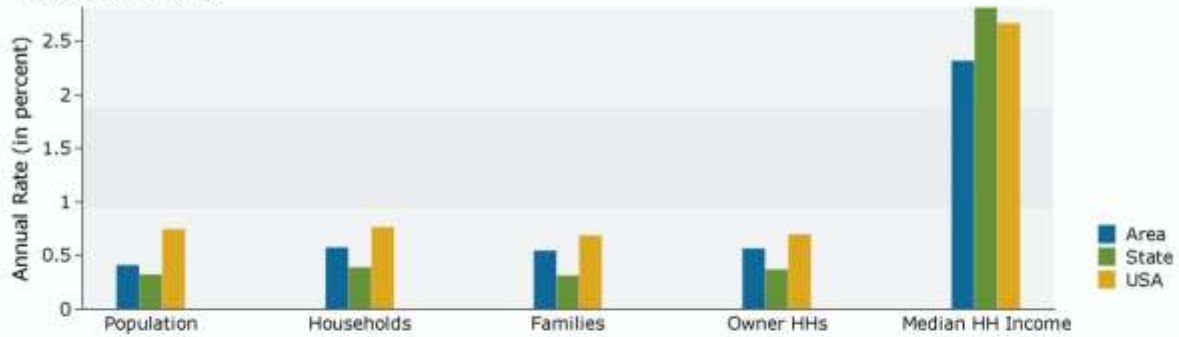
esri

Demographic and Income Profile

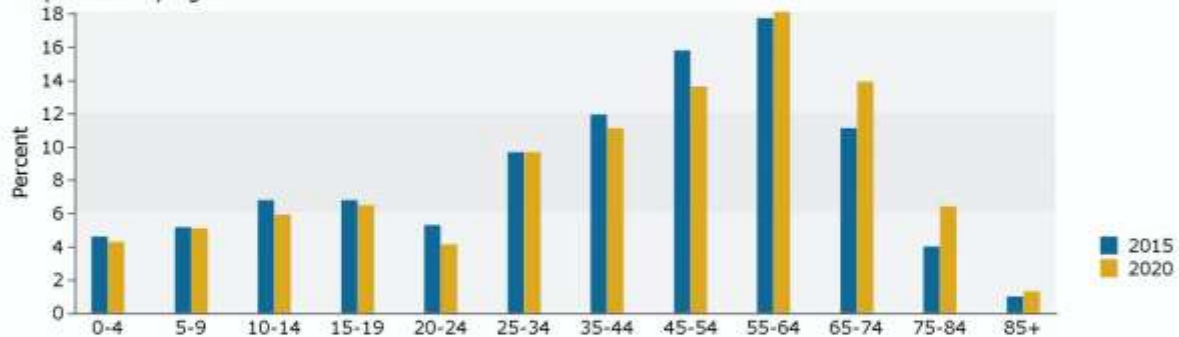
Town of Sioux Creek
Sioux Creek town, WI (5500574125)
County Subdivision

Prepared by Esri

Trends 2015-2020



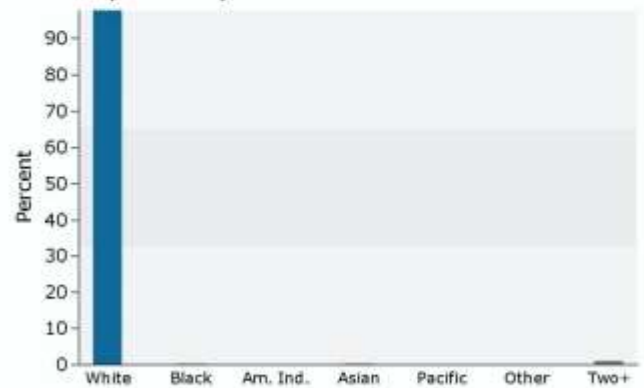
Population by Age



2015 Household Income



2015 Population by Race



2015 Percent Hispanic Origin: 1.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri forecasts for 2015 and 2020.

August 17, 2015

Appendix B



Housing Profile

Town of Sioux Creek
Sioux Creek town, WI (5500574125)
County Subdivision

Prepared by Esri

Population		Households	
2010 Total Population	655	2015 Median Household Income	\$56,398
2015 Total Population	674	2020 Median Household Income	\$63,263
2020 Total Population	688	2015-2020 Annual Rate	2.32%
2015-2020 Annual Rate	0.41%		

Housing Units by Occupancy Status and Tenure	Census 2010		2015		2020	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Housing Units	270	100.0%	280	100.0%	288	100.0%
Occupied	235	87.0%	243	86.8%	250	86.8%
Owner	209	77.4%	213	76.1%	219	76.0%
Renter	26	9.6%	30	10.7%	31	10.8%
Vacant	35	13.0%	37	13.2%	38	13.2%

Owner Occupied Housing Units by Value	2015		2020	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	212	100.0%	219	100.0%
<\$50,000	28	13.2%	19	8.7%
\$50,000-\$99,999	78	36.8%	67	30.6%
\$100,000-\$149,999	57	26.9%	67	30.6%
\$150,000-\$199,999	30	14.2%	42	19.2%
\$200,000-\$249,999	11	5.2%	15	6.8%
\$250,000-\$299,999	5	2.4%	6	2.7%
\$300,000-\$399,999	2	0.9%	2	0.9%
\$400,000-\$499,999	1	0.5%	1	0.5%
\$500,000-\$749,999	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
\$750,000-\$999,999	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
\$1,000,000+	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Median Value	\$100,000		\$117,537	
Average Value	\$112,854		\$125,114	

Data Note: Persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1.

August 17, 2015



Housing Profile

Town of Sioux Creek
Sioux Creek town, WI (5500574125)
County Subdivision

Prepared by Esri

Census 2010 Owner Occupied Housing Units by Mortgage Status		Number	Percent
Total		209	100.0%
Owned with a Mortgage/Loan		141	67.5%
Owned Free and Clear		68	32.5%
Census 2010 Vacant Housing Units by Status		Number	Percent
Total		35	100.0%
For Rent		0	0.0%
Rented - Not Occupied		1	2.9%
For Sale Only		0	0.0%
Sold - Not Occupied		1	2.9%
Seasonal/Recreational/Occasional Use		16	45.7%
For Migrant Workers		0	0.0%
Other Vacant		17	48.6%
Census 2010 Occupied Housing Units by Age of Householder and Home Ownership			
	Occupied Units	Owner Occupied Units	
		Number	% of Occupied
Total	235	209	88.9%
15-24	1	1	100.0%
25-34	25	18	72.0%
35-44	43	40	93.0%
45-54	69	63	91.3%
55-64	52	47	90.4%
65-74	25	23	92.0%
75-84	20	17	85.0%
85+	0	0	0.0%
Census 2010 Occupied Housing Units by Race/Ethnicity of Householder and Home Ownership			
	Occupied Units	Owner Occupied Units	
		Number	% of Occupied
Total	235	209	88.9%
White Alone	233	207	88.8%
Black/African American	1	1	100.0%
American Indian/Alaska	0	0	0.0%
Asian Alone	0	0	0.0%
Pacific Islander Alone	0	0	0.0%
Other Race Alone	0	0	0.0%
Two or More Races	1	1	100.0%
Hispanic Origin	0	0	0.0%
Census 2010 Occupied Housing Units by Size and Home Ownership			
	Occupied Units	Owner Occupied Units	
		Number	% of Occupied
Total	235	209	88.9%
1-Person	39	29	74.4%
2-Person	101	95	94.1%
3-Person	36	32	88.9%
4-Person	30	28	93.3%
5-Person	10	9	90.0%
6-Person	9	7	77.8%
7+ Person	10	9	90.0%

Data Note: Persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1.

August 17, 2015

OVERVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

In the Town of Sioux Creek, agriculture is an important resource and major driver of land use in the region. A significant portion of the town's available acreage is under some type of cropland production that is highly diverse and an important source of the local economy. The following overview of agricultural resources is provided as a supplement to the agricultural land use and economic trends discussed in the main plan document.

Cropland in the Town of Sioux Creek

At the end of this section are maps showing the 2014 croplands by type in the Town of Sioux Creek, as well as any lands that were cropped between 2010 and 2014. These are followed by a map showing the prime farmlands in the Town by soil capability class.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) established a system of soils classification to uniformly evaluate the potential suitability of soils for agriculture production. The Capability Classification of Soils is published as part of the Soil Survey of Barron County, Wisconsin. The capability classification is a grouping of soils that shows, in a general way, how suitable soils are for most kinds of farming.

Class I, II, and III soils are considered prime farmland for typical cropland agriculture under the classification system and are each defined as:

- Class I – Class I soils have few limitations that restrict their use. There are no Class I soils in the Town of Sioux Creek.
- Class II – Class II soils have some limitations that reduce the choice of plants or require moderate conservation practices
- Class III – Class III soils have severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants or require special conservation practices, or both. They can be cultivated safely with special precautions.

Of the total 22,269 land acres in Sioux Creek, 12,859 acres are classified as Class II and Class III soils by the NRCS – Soil Survey of Barron County, Wisconsin (2001). These soils make up nearly 58% of the total land acres of the Town.

Soil Capability Classification for Agricultural Lands – Town of Sioux Creek

Soils	Acres	Percent of Total Land Acreage
Class II	7,194	32.3%
Class III	5,665	25.4%
Total Classes II & III	12,859	57.7%

The final map at the end of this section shows soils that are classified as Class II and III. These are areas where the soils and other land characteristics are likely to be highly suited for cropland farming activity. The value of these lands is associated with not only their soil class, but also with their size, present use and any regulatory framework for their protection. Preserving these prime farmlands helps sustain the Town's agricultural economy and rural character.

Regional Agricultural Trends

According to UW-Extension's Value & Economic Impact Brochure for Barron County (2014), the County ranks among the top eight Wisconsin counties in the total value of agricultural products sold. Milk and turkey production are the top farm commodities produced in Barron County. Barron County is ranked first in the state in the number of turkeys raised and the value of poultry products produced. Corn, soybeans and vegetables are the other leading agricultural commodities produced on Barron County farms.

With more than 30 inches of rainfall per year and 120-day growing season, the climate is well-suited for forages, grain crops and oil seeds. More than 275,000 acres of County farmland are classified as USDA prime agricultural soils. Barron County's 1,322 farms are a diverse mix of dairy, poultry, livestock and cash grain operations producing food, fiber and bio-fuels. Agricultural processing makes up the largest share of Barron County agriculture. Processors contribute \$1.6 billion to the county economy. Processing milk into dairy products accounts for \$349.9 million. Processing other agricultural products accounts for another \$1.27 billion.

Every dollar of sales of processed products generates an additional \$0.48 of economic activity in other parts of the economy.

- Agricultural processing accounts for \$388.1 million of Barron County income.
- Agricultural processing accounts for 5,430 jobs. Dairy processing accounts for 1,037 jobs and non-dairy processing accounts for another 4,393 jobs.
- Poultry products, vegetables and dairy products make up the majority of processed products.

Economic activity associated with Barron County farms and agriculture-related businesses generates \$30.6 million in local and state taxes. This figure does not include all property taxes paid to support local schools. If it did, the number would increase dramatically (UW-Extension).

Taxes Paid By Agriculture	
Sales tax	\$7.7 million
Income tax	\$7.5 million
Property tax	\$10.3 million
Other	\$5.1 million
Total	\$30.6 million

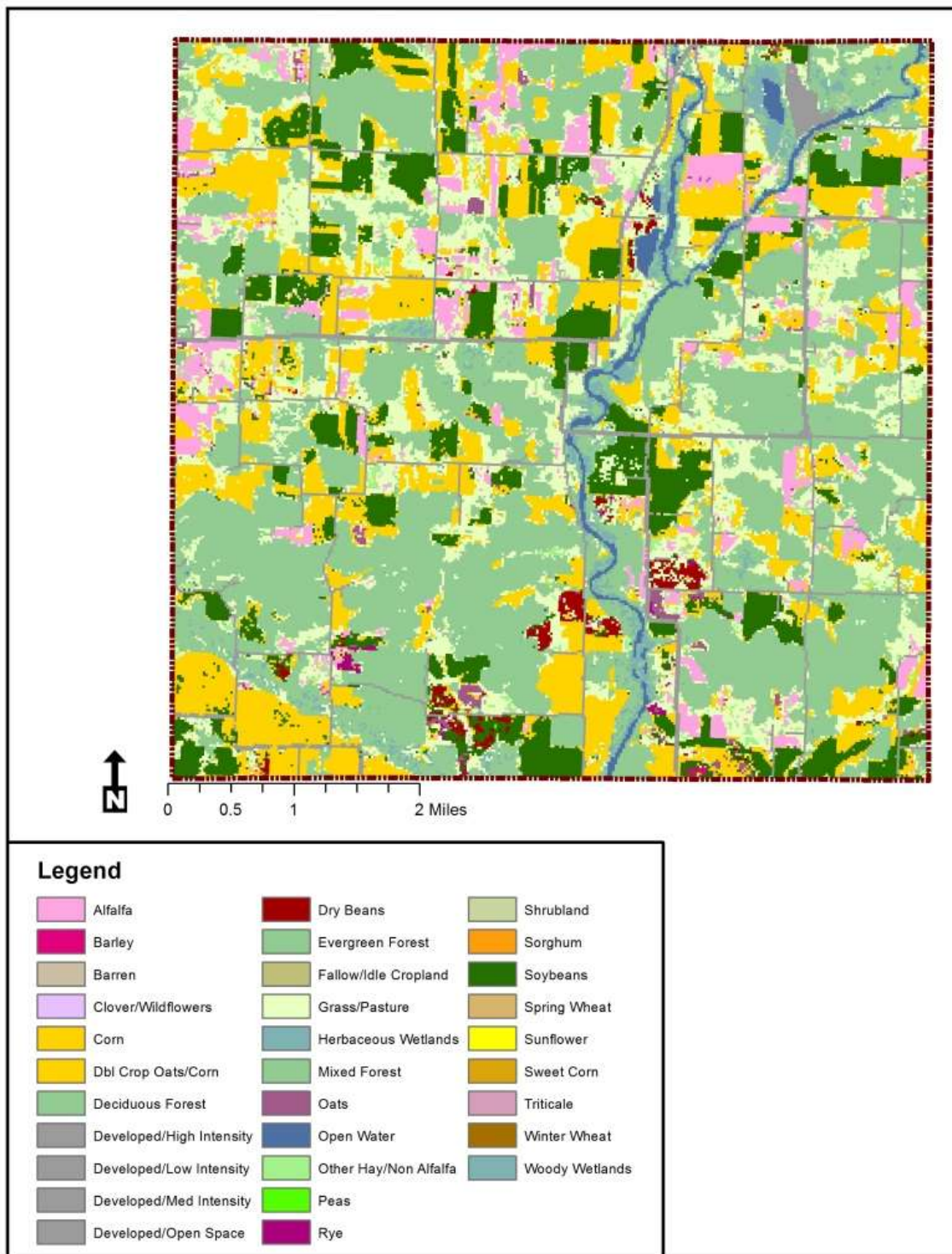
Source: UW Extension

Barron County's Top Commodities (2012)	
1. Poultry & eggs	\$124.1 million
2. Milk	\$92.0 million
3. Grain	\$81.7 million
4. Cattle & calves	\$25.8 million
5. Vegetables	\$12.4 million

Barron County agriculture provides 9,076 jobs, or 30 percent, of the county's workforce of 30,144. Production jobs include farm owners and managers and farm employees. Agricultural service jobs include veterinarians, crop and livestock consultants, feed, fuel and other crop input suppliers, farm machinery dealers, barn builders and agricultural lenders, to name a few. Processing jobs include those employed in food processing and other value-added industries that support food processors. Every job in agriculture generates an additional 0.95 jobs in the County.

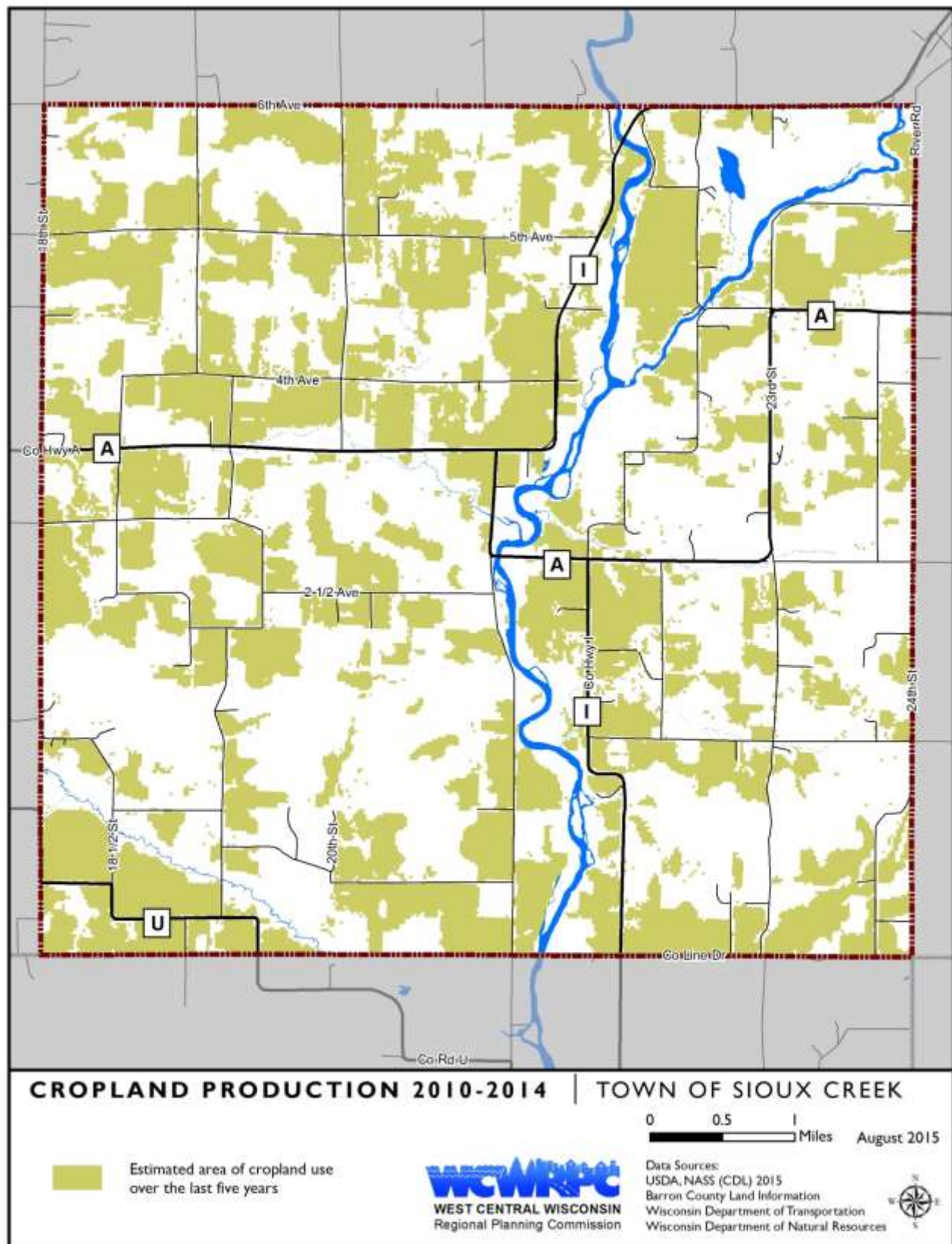
Appendix C

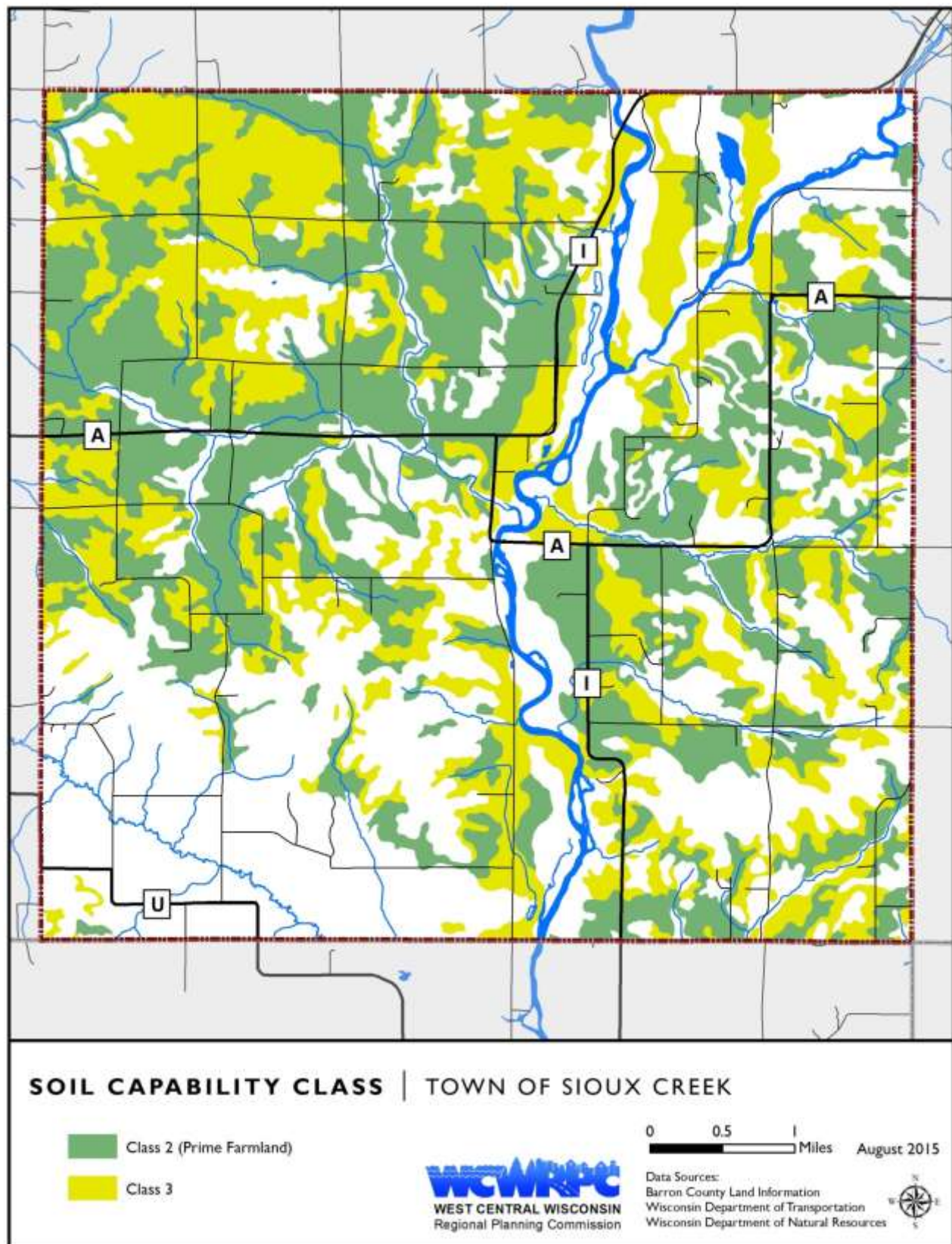
Cropland Types in Sioux Creek – 2014 Snapshot



OVERVIEW: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Cropland Data Layer (CDL) Program is a unique agricultural-specific land cover geospatial product that is produced annually in participating states. The CDL Program builds upon NASS' traditional crop acreage estimation program and integrates Farm Service Agency (FSA) grower-reported field data with satellite imagery to create an unbiased statistical estimator of crop area at the state and county level for internal use. It is important to note that the internal acreage estimates produced using the CDL are not simple pixel counting. It is more of an 'Adjusted Census by Satellite.'

Appendix C





OVERVIEW OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The following overview of natural resources is provided as a supplement to the land use and economic trends discussed in the main plan document, including additional discussion and maps on surface waters and environmentally sensitive areas (i.e., steep slopes, wetlands, floodplains, shorelands).

Bedrock Geology

The Town of Sioux Creek is underlain entirely by Cambrian sediments that overlie an ancient broad plain of granite bedrock. The formations consist of beds, or strata, of sandstones with some dolomite and shale. Both of the sandstone and dolomite types of bedrock are porous and have the ability to serve as good natural groundwater aquifers depending on their thickness, degree of fracture, overlying soil characteristics, and proximity to the land surface. However, these types of bedrock are also susceptible to contamination in areas where this fractured rock occurs at or near the land surface, especially where there is little or no soil to attenuate groundwater contaminants. Accurate bedrock geology maps at the town level are not available. However, we do have a generalized understanding of the depth to bedrock in the Town, which can be a barrier to development and often reflects local topography and determines land use. A depth to bedrock map for the Town of Sioux Creek is included at the end of this section.

Soils

Soil properties are an important factor in how land is used. Soils determine how productive farmland is, and the type and amount of development that can be reasonably supported based on the various soil characteristics. As shown on the map at the end of this section, there are two generalized soil types delineated by the NRCS - Soil Survey of Barron County, Wisconsin (2001) for the Town of Sioux Creek that include:

Arland-Hayriver-Freeon Association

Moderately deep, deep, or very deep, gently sloping to very steep, well drained and moderately well drained, loamy and silty soils underlain by sandstone; on uplands

Chetek-Rosholt-Menahga Association

Very deep, nearly level to steep, excessively drained to well drained, loamy and sandy soils on outwash plains and stream terraces

Each association contains several major and minor soils in a pattern that varies throughout the association. The soils within an association differ in many properties such as drainage, wetness, slope and depth to bedrock. These characteristics affect the suitability of the land for agriculture and for development. For these reasons, the generalized information provided in this report is intended to be used for general policy and planning purposes, and not to provide information for site-specific applications.

Mineral Resources

There are no metallic mining operations in the Town of Sioux Creek. According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, there are currently no known metallic mineral deposits or occurrences in sufficient tonnage and grade in Barron County to warrant extraction (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Potential Metallic Mining Development in Northern Wisconsin. *Mining Information Sheet*. April 1997).

The Town does have permitted non-metallic mining sites permitted under Chapter NR 135 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code shown as discussed and mapped in the main plan text. Significant

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supplies of sand and gravel are available throughout the Town of Sioux Creek. The soils amongst glacial outwash are the most likely sources for sand and gravel as the melting waters of the glacier were most active in sorting and depositing high-quality sand and gravel in this area. Where the bedrock is at or near the surface of the ground are areas that are possibly more suited for quarrying stone. It is helpful to identify the locations of these deposits so potential extraction sites can be considered before development occurs. Development almost always precludes extraction, while these lands can often be reclaimed for development after extraction is complete. After review of available bedrock map data and consultation with State geologist office, the Plan Commission determined that attempting to map potential marketable mineral sources would be difficult and, likely, inaccurate.

Surface Waters

Lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, intermittent waterways, and natural drainage ways make up the surface waters of Sioux Creek. These resources collect and channel overland rainwater or snowmelt runoff. Natural drainage ways are characterized by intermittent streams, threads, rills, gullies, and dry washes that periodically contribute water to first-order streams. There are also many artificial drainage ways where the natural drainage ways have been altered by human activity, such as road ditches. All of these features have the ability to transport sediment and pollutants and are affected by their watersheds.

Similar to surrounding communities, the source of nearly all potable water is groundwater. However, surface water can be a major source of groundwater recharge, and in the case of Sioux Creek, a major factor in maintaining the Town's natural and recreational values. Surface and ground water quality can be affected by a wide variety of point and nonpoint sources, including agricultural run-off, storm water from parking lots and roads, soil erosion, and spills of hazardous materials. The risk of water contamination increases as development occurs. These findings are important for individual communities to consider as they develop local land use and natural resources goals and strategies for their respective communities. Communities may select to participate in or support existing County or State programs to protect their water resources or implement local educational or regulatory programs.

In the Town of Sioux Creek, the Red Cedar River and Chetek River are both identified as *Listed Impaired Waters* by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Red Cedar River – DNR Water Condition Notes (2014):

The general condition of the Red Cedar River is “poor” with contaminated fish tissue, eutrophication, and low dissolved oxygen from pollutants including Phosphorus and Mercury. This water was assessed during the 2014 listing cycle; total phosphorus sample data exceed 2014 WisCALM listing criteria for the Fish and Aquatic Life use, however, available biological data do not indicate impairment (i.e. no macroinvertebrate or fish Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) scored in the “poor” condition category). Problems with dissolved oxygen and toxic blue-green algae on the impoundments near Menomonie (i.e., Tainter Lake, Lake Menomin) have received significant public and media attention in recent years. A U.S. EPA TMDL (total maximum daily limit) for phosphorus has now been established for the Red Cedar. To achieve this TMDL and improve water quality, planning and watershed improvement projects are being undertaken throughout the watershed.

Chetek River – DNR Water Condition Notes (2010):

The general condition of the Red Cedar River is “poor” with eutrophication and low dissolved oxygen from Phosphorus. The impacts from a variety of nonpoint sources within the Chetek Chain of Lakes watershed drive unhealthy algae blooms which create an unusually high biological oxygen demand which suppresses Dissolved Oxygen levels below those which can support more sensitive aquatic life. These high diurnal swings are expressed in both pH and dissolved oxygen levels. Hypereutrophic

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nutrient regimes flourish within the Chetek Chain of Lakes which also determine the water quality and health of the Chetek River. Current Diurnal Dissolved Oxygen levels drop below 3ppm suggesting that fish may have to migrate out of the Chetek River to avoid fish kill conditions. A fish shocking survey during summer 2007 supports gamefish present, including numerous smallmouth bass present. Northern Pike have also been seen throughout the river. Several other panfish species are also present.

Groundwater

Groundwater is an important natural resource in the Town of Sioux Creek. Understanding how groundwater is used in the Town and how it can become contaminated is important to understanding the relationship between land use and groundwater quality.

The first step in this process is to understand the source of groundwater. As rain and snow fall to the ground, some runs off into the lakes, rivers, and streams; some evaporates; and some is used by plants. The rest trickles down through the soil and subsoil material. This water eventually reaches a saturated zone that comprises groundwater. These saturated zones, called aquifers, are geologic formations that can store and transmit water. The concept of water moving from the land's surface into groundwater is the starting point for thinking about the relationship between land use and groundwater quality. Nearly anything that is dumped, spilled, or spread on the ground can seep down to groundwater. This groundwater is then used by residents for drinking, farming, and other activities. Groundwater can also return to the surface as springs or as discharge to lakes, river, and streams.

Protecting groundwater means modifying or even prohibiting certain activities in areas where contaminants can easily enter the groundwater. This can mean changing the type of septic system required, or limiting the concentration of development in areas that are most susceptible to contamination.

In the Town of Sioux Creek, the principal sources of potable water supplies are the sand and gravel aquifer, sandstone aquifer (which consists of Cambrian sandstone and Ordovician dolomite), and Precambrian aquifer. Sandstone generally yields enough water for domestic use. The sandstone aquifer includes all sedimentary bedrock younger than the Precambrian age. Precambrian rocks generally have low permeability and mark the lower limit of groundwater movement. Due to the abundance of water and depth of the sandstone, the aquifer is a reliable source of water for wells that require large amounts of water, such as municipal water supplies and industries. Depth to available groundwater in the Town is shown on the map at the end of this section.

Forests & Prairies

The Town of Sioux Creek was historically a transition area between the oak savanna lands to the south and northern mesic forests (maple, birch, hemlock) to the north, with some oak and pine forest also present depending on soils and local conditions. Historically, open prairie grasslands within the Town of Sioux Creek were likely limited.

In the Town of Sioux Creek, woodlands are a valuable part of the environment, aesthetics and economy. Woodlands provide:

- Habitat for a variety of plants and animals;
- The basic resource for many wood-based industries;
- Resources for the agricultural community;
- An environment for recreational activities; and

- For the scenic beauty of the landscape and the rural character of the county.

Woodlands managed according to approved forest management practices can support varying and sometimes complementary objectives, such as timber production and wildlife habitat. On the other hand, strict preservation of woodlands would be unusual and reserved for the most rare and unique stands. As of 2014, there were 1,930 acres in the Town of Sioux Creek participating in the State Managed Forest Law program.

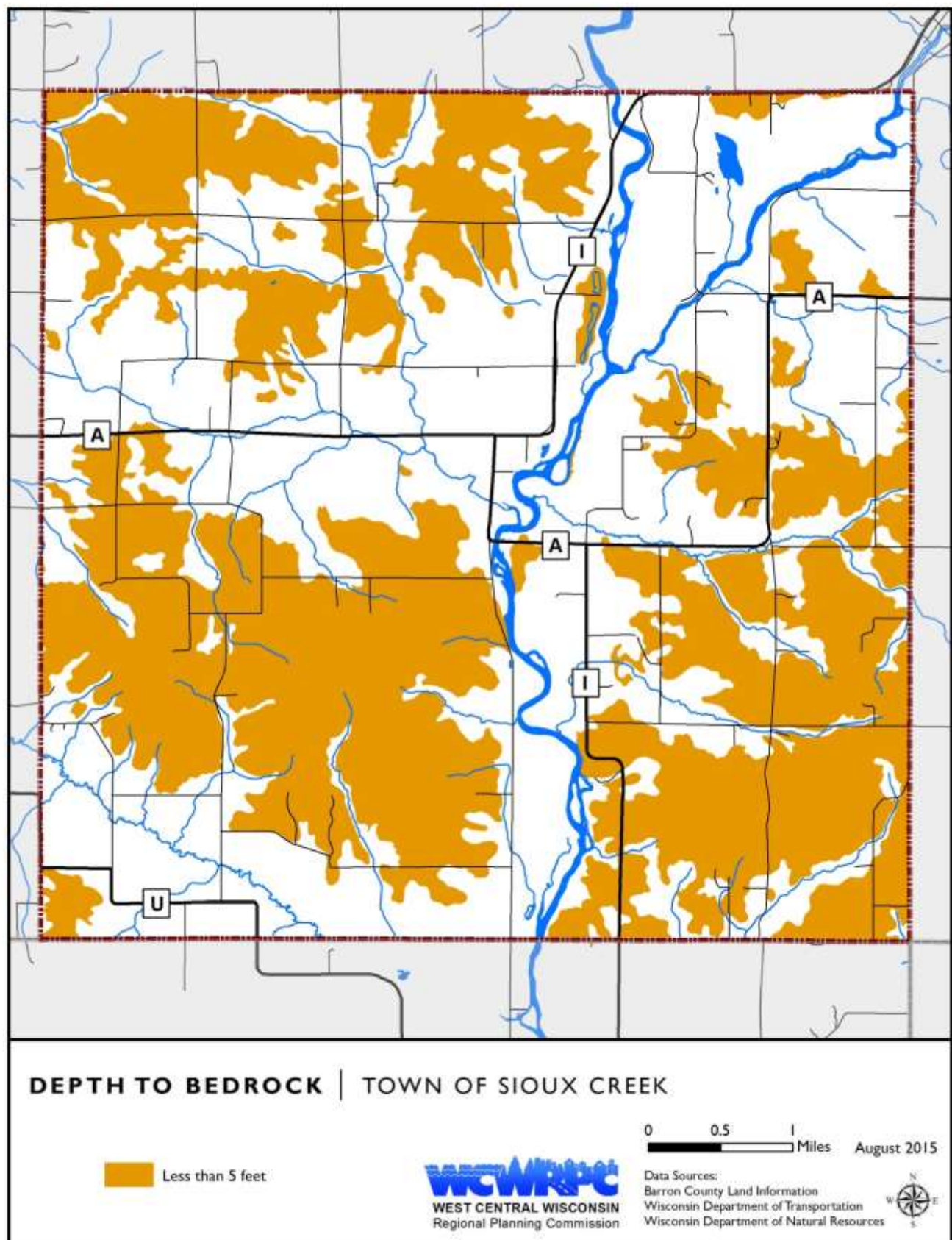
Unmanaged development and the fragmentation of woodlands in residential lots can diminish or eliminate a woodlands capacity to provide wood products, habitat for plants and animals, and aesthetic quality. Because woodlands are considered a valued resource for these reasons, significant woodlands are often protected from conversion to other uses or properly managed in order to retain their desirable characteristics. For example, residential development in woodland areas could use conservation design techniques in order to allow for development and preserve the environmental and aesthetic value.

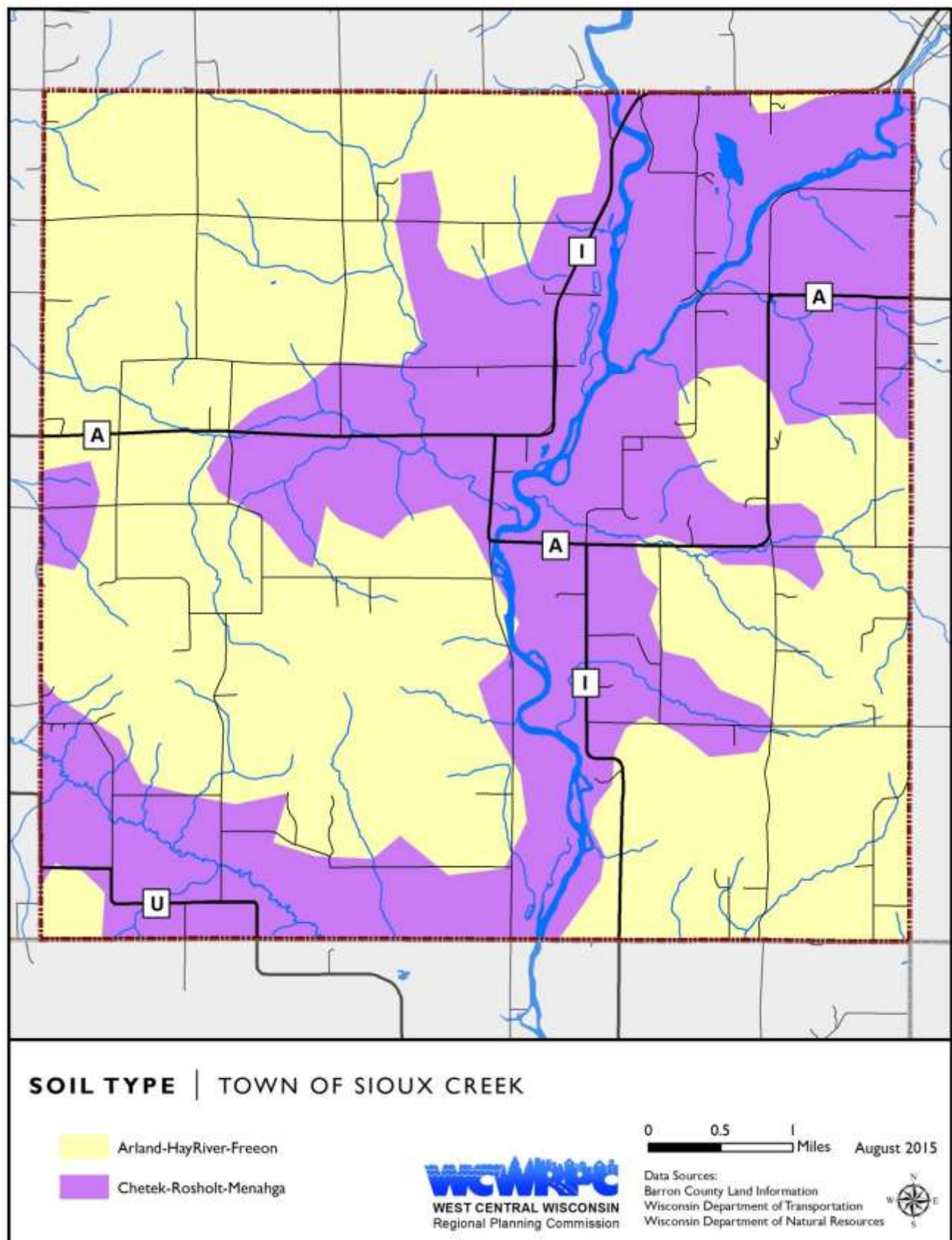
Wildlife, Wildlife Habitat, and Open Space

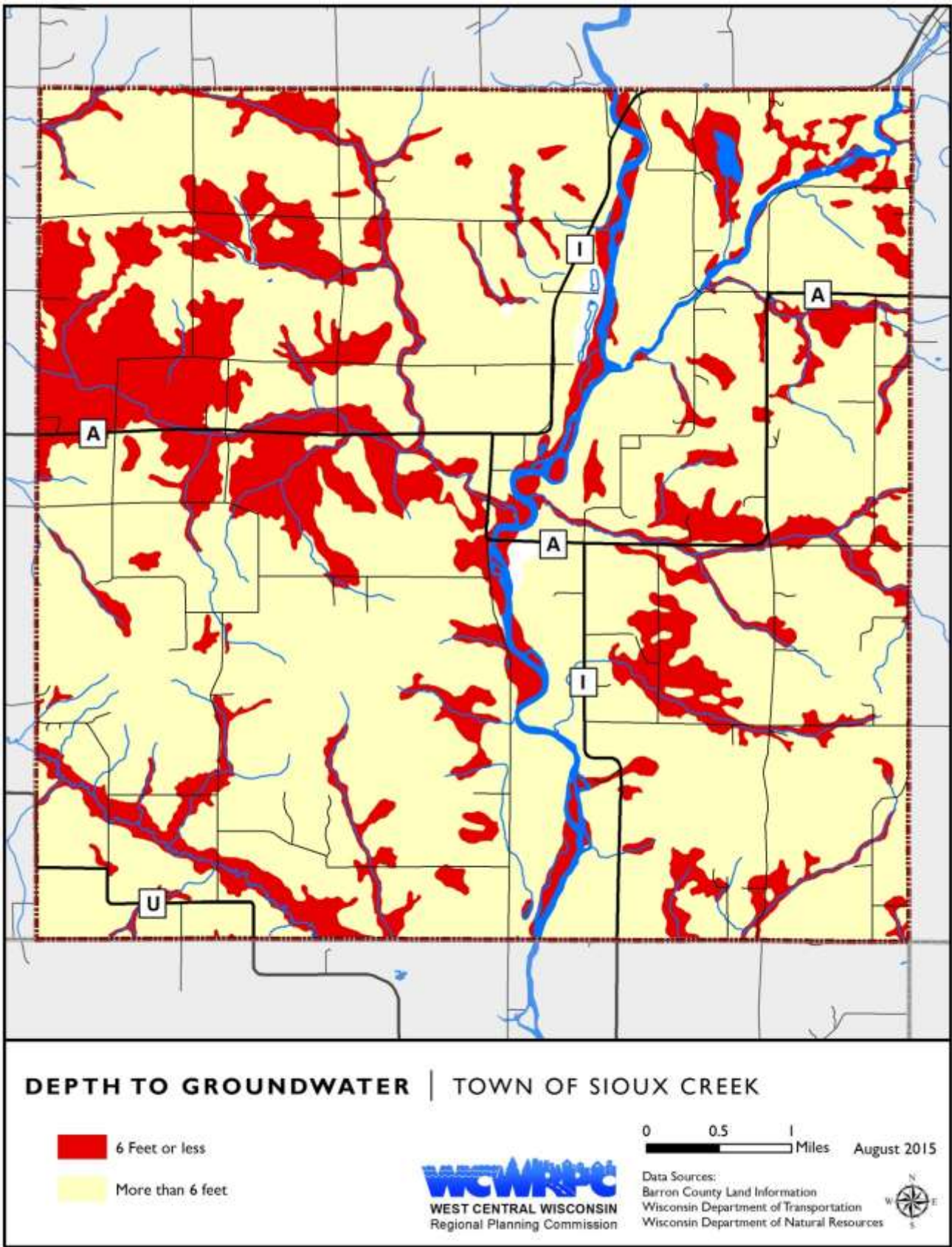
Scattered throughout Barron County are various federal, state, and local wildlife, fishery, natural and scientific areas, including private conservancy areas. These areas are managed as open space to provide important feeding, breeding, nesting, cover, and other habitat values to a wide variety of plant and animal species. Agricultural lands can also provide important open space and wildlife habitat, while maintaining the rural character of the area.

The maps in the main plan document identify the forest, wetlands, and surface waters of the Town of Sioux Creek. No WDNR, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, or other designated wildlife areas or parks exist in the Town. Other than two boat ramps managed by Barron County and some limited public property (e.g., cemeteries), all open space and forests are privately owned.

According to the State of Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory, the Elktote Mussel is the only endangered or threatened species listed for the Town of Sioux Creek; other sensitive species may exist, but may have been removed to protect them from disturbance. A number of invasive species and plant diseases exist in the area or have been reported on area surface waters, including Rusty Crayfish and Oak Wilt. Reed Canary Grass (an invasive) is common in many of the wetland areas. Management activities can help prevent the introduction or spread of many invasives and diseases.







ECONOMIC PROFILE

The following economic profile is a supplement to the economic data provided in the main plan document.

Civilian Labor Force and Employment

As shown in the table below, the number of Town of Sioux Creek residents in the labor force decreased from 2000 to 2010, while unemployment increased. It should be noted, however, that the 2013 estimate is actually a five-year average and includes some of the worst of the recent recession years. Employment data, especially in rural areas where agriculture, forestry, and extractive industries are a major part of the economy, can have significant seasonal and market-related employment fluctuation.

Unemployment Rate, 2000 & 2013

	2000		2013	
	Employed	Unemployment Rate	Employed	Unemployment Rate
Town of Sioux Creek	385	4.1%	350	5.7%
Barron County	22,583	3.2%	22,144	7.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000 Census, 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Educational Attainment

The table below displays the education attainment level of residents in the Town of Sioux Creek that were age 25 and older in 2013. The educational attainment level of persons within a community is often an indicator of the overall income, job availability, and well-being of the community. Lower educational attainment levels can also be a hindrance to attracting certain types of businesses, typically those that require high technical skills and upper management types of positions.

Educational Attainment of Persons Age 25 & Older Town of Sioux Creek, 2013

Attainment Level	Number	Percent of Total
Less than 9 th Grade	49	11.1
9 th Grade to 12 Grade, No Diploma	39	8.8
High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	130	29.5
Some College, No Degree	86	19.5
Associate Degree	45	10.2
Bachelor's Degree	71	16.1
Graduate or Professional Degree	21	4.8
TOTAL PERSONS 25 AND OVER	441	100

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey

Use Caution When Using Economic Data

The data in this element should be used for general planning purposes and consideration of trends, but must be used cautiously and with a critical eye. Critical decisions may require additional data collection.

The data found here is taken from different sources and, sometimes, for different geographic areas. Some data sources use different definitions which may differ from each other (as well as your own definition). Further, when dealing with small samples or a single community, a single oversight during data collection (e.g., missing one business) or a change after the data is collected can make large differences. And in some cases, data may be withheld due to confidentiality.

When considering the margin of error, educational attainment of Town residents has stayed relatively the same or dropped slightly over the past decade with 80.1 percent of residents over 25 years of age in 2013 (ACS 5-year estimates²) having at least attained a high school diploma as compared to 85.7 percent in 2000. For all of Barron County in 2010, 94.6 percent of residents over 25 years of age had at least a high school diploma.

Income

The median household income in the Town of Sioux Creek was \$47,083 in 2000 (U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000). In 2013, this number increased to \$59,231 (2009-2013 American Community Survey), which was a 25.8 percent increase. The County median household income increased from \$37,275 to \$44,054 and the State increased from \$43,791 to \$52,413. In 2013, 15.6 percent of persons and 7.7 percent of families in the Town of Sioux Creek

were below the poverty level at some time in the previous 12 months. This is compared to 12.8 percent and 7.3 percent, respectively, for Barron County as a whole.

Employment by Industrial Sector

As discussed previously in the transportation element, the majority of employed Town residents (82%) work outside the Town of Sioux Creek, but within Barron County. About one-quarter of residents travel less than 10 minutes to their place of employment. The mean travel time to work was 18.3 minutes in 2013. Only 4.1 percent of the workforce traveled more than 45 minutes to work. The employment by industry within an area illustrates the structure of the economy. Historically, the State of Wisconsin has had a high concentration of employment in manufacturing and agricultural sectors of the economy. Recent state and national trends indicate a decreasing concentration of employment in the manufacturing sector while employment within the services sector is increasing. This trend is partly attributed to the aging of the population.

The table on the following page shows the number of employed residents by industry group in the Town of Sioux Creek. Nearly half of working town residents were employed in manufacturing, education, health care, or related social services. An additional one-fifth were employed in agriculture, forestry, fishing, or mining.

The second table on the following page provides employment by industry numbers from a different source for 2004 and 2014. To provide a sense of the economic trends in the larger area, the combined data for the Chetek and Dallas zip codes is shown. The table reflects the economic slowdown in Wisconsin over the past decade with losses in construction and real estate, but the area countered some national trends by showing increases in manufacturing and retail trade employment.

² Many of the 2013 economic estimates are based on American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2009-2013 which can have fairly significant margins of error.

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Employment by Industry, Town of Sioux Creek, 2013

Industry	Number	Percent of Total
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	69	19.7%
Construction	23	6.6%
Manufacturing	84	24.0%
Wholesale trade	12	3.4%
Retail trade	13	3.7%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	20	5.7%
Information	3	0.9%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	5	1.4%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	4	1.1%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	87	24.9%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	14	4.0%
Other services, except public administration	7	2.0%
Public administration	9	2.6%
TOTAL CIVILIANS EMPLOYED, 16+ YEARS	350	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey

Employment by Industry, Chetek and Dallas Zip Codes, 2004 and 2014 (non-farm)

NAICS Code	Description	2004 Jobs	2014 Jobs	Change	Competitive Effect	2014 L.Q.
11	Crop and Animal Production	78	88	13%	12	2.82
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil & Gas Extraction	0	<10	Insf. Data	6	0.48
22	Utilities	0	<10	Insf. Data	1	0.07
23	Construction	239	182	(24%)	(26)	1.37
31-33	Manufacturing	450	490	9%	110	2.41
42	Wholesale Trade	59	28	(53%)	(31)	0.29
44-45	Retail Trade	183	177	(3%)	(7)	0.67
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	68	78	15%	5	0.95
51	Information	24	19	(21%)	(2)	0.40
52	Finance and Insurance	61	60	(2%)	0	0.59
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	17	12	(29%)	(4)	0.29
54	Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	37	28	(24%)	(15)	0.18
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	0	0	0%	0	0.00
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	33	45	36%	9	0.29
61	Educational Services	<10	13	Insf. Data	2	0.20
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	130	175	35%	13	0.56
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	48	32	(33%)	(21)	0.77
72	Accommodation and Food Services	191	178	(7%)	(45)	0.85
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	85	84	(1%)	(2)	0.69
90	Government	1,049	824	(21%)	(240)	2.07
99	Unclassified Industry	0	0	0%	0	0.00
	Total	2,757	2,520	(9%)	(236)	--

Source: EMSI Complete Employment, July 2015

Appendix E

Included for reference in the previous table are competitive effect and location quotient numbers. Competitive effect is used as part of shift-share analysis to show the number of jobs gained or lost that cannot be explained by national growth or overall changes in an industry; these numbers attempt to isolate region-specific trends. For instance, the manufacturing growth and government job losses within the two zip code area are unique. Location quotient (L.Q.) is a “snapshot in time” of how concentrated or clustered each industry is within the two zip code area. In the case of manufacturing, the area has 2.41 times more manufacturing jobs compared to the national average. By delving deeper into shift share and L.Q. for different years, trends, competitive advantages, and opportunities can be identified.

An important feature of determining the economic health and future of Barron County and its communities is to determine the amounts and types of jobs currently available as well as making predictions for the future. The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (WDWD), Office of Economic Advisors produced employment projections in October 2013 for West Central Wisconsin, which includes Barron, Chippewa, Barron, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, and Barron counties.

Employment by Industry Projections, West Central Wisconsin, 2010 and 2020

NAICS	Industry Title	Employment			
		2010 Annual Estimate	2020 Projection	Change	% Change
	Total, All Nonfarm Industries	187,791	209,667	21,876	+11.65
1133, 21, 23	Construction/Mining/Natural Resources	6,138	7,758	1,620	27.64
31-33	Manufacturing	29,827	31,328	1,501	5.03
42, 44-45	Trade	35,470	38,328	2,858	8.06
	Information	1,888	1,958	70	3.71
52-53	Financial Activities	7,491	8,549	1,058	14.12
61-62	Education and Health Services (Including State and Local Government)	42,567	48,984	6,417	15.08
611	Educational Services (Including State and Local Government)	16,912	17,937	1,025	6.06
622	Health Care & Social Assist. (Including State and Local Govt)	25,655	31,047	5,392	21.02
71-72	Leisure and Hospitality	17,154	20,766	3,612	21.06
	Other Services (Except Govt)	7,920	8,791	871	11.00
	Government (Excluding US Postal, State and Local Education and Hospitals)	12,892	12,939	47	0.36
	Total Self-Employed & Unpaid Family Workers	12,420	12,926	506	4.07

Source: Office of Economic Advisors, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, October 2013

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WDWD notes that employment is a count of jobs rather than people, and includes all part- and full-time nonfarm jobs. Employment is rounded to the nearest ten, with employment less than five rounded to zero. Totals may not add-up due to rounding and some data for certain industries may be suppressed due to confidentiality. Government employment includes tribal-owned operations, which are part of Local Government employment. Information is derived using a variety of Federal data sources. To the extent possible, the projections take into account anticipated changes in Wisconsin's economy from 2010 to 2020. It is important to note that unanticipated events may affect the accuracy of the projections.

Some additional, more general economic trends include:

- The “new economy” places greater emphasis on regional and global relationships and marketing. Many firms are smaller, leaner, and decentralized. Service-oriented industry is replacing manufacturing in many communities.
- High speed, broadband communication is essential to functioning in the new economy. The speed and reliability of broadband service was an identified concern during this plan update. This is especially important for the Town of Sioux Creek given its large commuter population and potential pool of telecommuters.
- Economic and land use decision-making must consider lifestyle changes and the demands of today’s households. Households are continuing to get smaller, while the area’s population is aging. An active, vibrant community with a strong sense-of-place is desired, especially among younger households.
- A 2008-2010 Gallup poll for the Knight Foundation found that there is a significant correlation between how attached people feel to where they live and the local economy. People spend time and money “where their heart is.” The study concluded that what drives people to love where they live is their perception of their community’s: (1) aesthetics; (2) social offerings; and (3) openness and how welcoming it is. Other polling shows that young talent is increasingly choosing a place to live first, then find a job. Quality of life, vibrant places, and a strong sense-of-place are increasingly important in the new economy as communities compete to attract and retain workers, entrepreneurs, businesses, and growing industries.
- The recent growth in non-metallic mining extraction, processing, and transport throughout the region has not yet been fully reflected in economic statistics and property assessment data. Some operations are still not fully developed or are just coming online. Some data may be suppressed for confidentiality reasons. It may be a number of years yet before a better picture of the economic impacts of this industry is available.

EXISTING PLANS AND PROGRAMS

The following is a summary of some of the key plans and programs more commonly used or considered by local municipalities in West Central Wisconsin during plan development and implementation.

ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES (Overall)

Overall Programs

League of Wisconsin Municipalities

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities is a voluntary nonprofit and nonpartisan association of cities and villages that acts as an information clearinghouse, lobbying organization and legal resource for Wisconsin municipalities.

Wisconsin Towns Association

The Wisconsin Towns Association provides education and advocacy for Wisconsin's town governments.

University of Wisconsin-Extension's Local Government Center

The UW-Ext Local Government Center provides educational support to local governments.

Wisconsin Department of Administration

The Wisconsin Department of Administration maintains a comprehensive planning website with element guides and other useful resource links. The Department also manages the State's Demographics Services Center with official population and housing estimates and projections.

West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC)

WCWRPC conducts area wide planning and provides technical assistance to local governments, including planning support, data analysis, mapping, small business revolving loan fund management, grant assistance, and project administration.

In June 2010, West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission developed the *Plan Implementation Guide for West Central Wisconsin* as part of its regional comprehensive planning effort. The Guide discusses best practices from around the region and other ideas and resources for some of the key concepts and trends identified in the regional comprehensive plan. Many of the ideas found within the Guide were considered by the Plan Commission during this plan update. The Town of Sioux Creek can use this Guide as the Town moves forward with implementation of its comprehensive plan.

POPULATION & HOUSING

Locally Administered Housing Programs

Barron County Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for humanity is a non-profit that offers homeownership opportunities to low and moderate income families in Barron County.

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Barron County Housing Authority

The Barron County Housing Authority has an online application for Section 8 housing assistance for the residents of Barron County, with the exception of the City of Rice Lake. Applicants may apply for assistance online.

Community Options Program (COP) – Barron County Department of Health & Human Services

The Community Options Program (COP) and the Community Options Program Waiver (COP-W) help people get the long-term support they need to remain in their own homes and communities.

Impact Seven, Inc.

Impact Seven is a private, non-profit as defined by the Internal Revenue Code 501(c)3, community development corporation (CDC). Their mission is to impact communities and lives through innovative and socially-motivated investment and service. Impact Seven is one of the largest non-profit developers of affordable housing in Wisconsin, the only state-wide Certified Housing Development Organization (CHDO) in Wisconsin and manage over 1,400 units. Impact Seven has a long history of managing housing projects financed by Rural Development (Formerly FmHA) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Impact Seven further specializes in the management of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) projects and Market Rate housing.

Rural Housing, Inc.

Assist low-income families to obtain adequate, safe and sanitary housing. Help low-income households acquire appropriate water and wastewater services. Enable small communities and local organizations to more effectively address the needs of those with substandard shelter. Demonstrate new services and new approaches to address rural housing problems. Alert the public and private sectors about the housing, water, and community development needs of low-income rural residents.

West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

WCWRPC offers technical housing assistance with respect to housing related grants and grant writing. WCWRPC should be contacted for further information.

Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) – Barron County Department of Health & Human Services

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) provides eligible low income households with assistance for their home heating and energy costs. This program can offer a one-time per heating season (October 1- May 15) benefit to help with fuel and electric expenses and is generally paid directly to the fuel or electric supplier.

State Housing Programs

Community Development Block Grant – Small Cities Housing Program

The Wisconsin Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Housing (DOH), provides grants to general purpose units of local government for housing programs which principally benefit low and moderate income (LMI) households. These funds are primarily used for rehabilitation of housing units, homebuyer assistance, and small neighborhood public facility projects. CDBG dollars are flexible and responsive to local needs.

Homeless Programs

The Division of Housing and Intergovernmental Relations administers the following programs designed to help homeless people:

- State Shelter Subsidy Grant (SSSG) Program: Provides up to one-half of an emergency homeless shelter's program operating budget. Eligible applicants are a county or municipal

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governing body or agency, an Indian Tribal government, a community action agency, or other private not-for-profit or non-profit organization.

- **Housing Opportunities for Persons With Aids (HOPWA):** This Federal program is designed to provide eligible applicants with resources and incentives to devise long-term comprehensive strategies for meeting the housing needs of persons with AIDS or related diseases. Funds are distributed through a competitive process.
- **HUD Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Program:** Funds may be used for homelessness prevention, essential services, rehabilitation of shelters, and operating costs.
- **Transitional Housing Program (THP):** Eligible applicants propose to operate transitional programs for formerly homeless individuals and families. Funds may be used for housing costs, education and vocational training, transportation, day care, or other costs needed to assist participants in sustaining self-sufficiency.
- **Interest Bearing Real Estate Trust Account Program (IBRETA):** Real estate brokers establish interest bearing real estate trust accounts for the deposit of all down payments, earnest money deposits and other trust funds received by the broker and related to the conveyance of real estate. Interest is remitted to the WDOA. Proceeds augment existing homeless programs.

Home Safety Act

Wisconsin law requires the State's Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC) be enforced in all municipalities. This includes the necessity to have new construction inspected for compliance with the UDC, the statewide building code for one and two family dwellings built since June 1, 1980. The Home Safety Act signed into law by Governor Doyle on December 3, 2003 includes important changes to the enabling statutes for the UDC. The changes were effective as of December 18, 2003.

Housing Cost Reduction Initiative (HCRI)

Local sponsors compete for \$2.6 million in State grants annually to reduce the housing costs of low-income renters or home buyers. Eligible applicants include local units of government, American Indian tribes or bands in Wisconsin, housing authorities, and non-profit housing organizations. Eligible activities are emergency rental aid, home buying down payment assistance, homeless prevention efforts, and related housing initiatives. The HCRI is administered by the Wisconsin Division of Housing and Intergovernmental Relations (DHIR).

Property Tax Deferral Loan Program (PTDL)

The Wisconsin property tax deferral loan program allows low- and moderate-income elderly homeowners and veterans to convert home equity into income to pay property taxes. The program provides cash income to individuals who have little disposable income and a significant amount of home equity. Loans help pay property tax bills, thereby helping owners remain in their homes.

Tax Credits for Historic Homes

Owners of historic residences in Wisconsin may be eligible for income tax credits that can help pay for their home's rehabilitation. The Homeowners' Tax Credit program returns 25 percent of the cost of approved rehabilitation (of eligible historic homes) as a Wisconsin income tax credit. The Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation and Public History administer this program.

Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Housing and Intergovernmental Relations

The Division of Housing and Intergovernmental Relations provides housing assistance to benefit low- and moderate-income households through the Bureau of Housing. It offers State-funded housing grants or loans through local organizations, coordinates its housing programs with those of other state and local housing agencies, helps develop State housing plans and policies, and provides training and technical

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assistance. The Division channels Federal housing funds to local authorities and organizations and administers Federal funds for the homeless.

Wisconsin Community Action Program Association (WISCAP)

The Wisconsin Community Action Program Association (WISCAP) is the statewide association for Wisconsin's sixteen (16) Community Action Agencies and three single-purpose agencies with statewide focus: the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups (CWAG), the Foundation for Rural Housing and United Migrant Opportunities Services (UMOS).

Wisconsin Fresh Start Program

The Fresh Start Grants are awarded on a competitive basis to agencies that would like to establish programs based on the Operation Fresh Start, Inc. service model. The purpose of the program is to provide at-risk young people with education, employment skills, and career direction leading to economic self-sufficiency. This is accomplished through opportunities for meaningful service in the young people's communities by helping to meet the housing needs of low-income individuals and families. The program is designed to provide on-site housing construction and rehabilitation work experience, off-site academic classes, and supportive services for young people, primarily for ages 16-24. Contact the Wisconsin Division of Housing and Intergovernmental Relations (DHIR) for more information.

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA)

The Wisconsin Legislature created the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) in 1972 to meet an increasing need for affordable housing financing. The Legislature broadened WHEDA's purpose in 1983 to include financing for the expansion of business and agricultural activity in Wisconsin. WHEDA works closely with lenders, developers, local government, nonprofits, community groups and others to implement its low-cost financing programs. WHEDA is an independent authority, not a state agency, and receives no tax dollars for its programs and operations.

WIHousingSearch.org

WIHousingSearch.org, Wisconsin's premier housing locator service, was created to help people list and find safe and decent, affordable, accessible and, when necessary, emergency housing. This web-based service, supported by a toll-free call center, provides information for the general public as well as for housing professionals seeking vital resources for their clients.

Federal Housing Programs

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

HUD is the Federal agency with primary responsibility for housing programs and community development. HUD is the main repository of resources for housing programs in Wisconsin. HUD provides funding for state-developed programs through HOME and other initiatives. It also funds the Continuum of Care for Homeless Families initiative, and provides Section 8 vouchers, which assist low-income families in finding affordable housing.

Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

HOME is a Federal housing program to support the provision of low-cost housing. A variety of affordable housing activities may be supported by Federal HOME awards including down payment assistance to homebuyers, rental rehabilitation, weatherization-related repairs, accessibility improvements and rental housing development.

The HOME Rental Housing Development (RHD) program is administered by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. These programs provide funds to eligible housing development organizations (homeownership and rental) and local governments (homeownership only) for the acquisition, rehabilitation, and new construction of owner-occupied and rental housing for low-income households in

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non-entitlement areas. In addition, the HOME Owner-Occupied Housing Loan program is administered by WHEDA.

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD) – Rural Housing Service

Single Family Housing Direct Home Loans - Also known as the Section 502 Direct Loan Program, this program assists low- and very-low-income applicants obtain decent, safe and sanitary housing in eligible rural areas by providing payment assistance to increase an applicant's repayment ability. Payment assistance is a type of subsidy that reduces the mortgage payment for a short time. The amount of assistance is determined by the adjusted family income.

Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program - This program assists approved lenders in providing low- and moderate-income households the opportunity to own adequate, modest, decent, safe and sanitary dwellings as their primary residence in eligible rural areas. Eligible applicants may build, rehabilitate, improve or relocate a dwelling in an eligible rural area. The program provides a 90% loan note guarantee to approved lenders in order to reduce the risk of extending 100% loans to eligible rural homebuyers.

Single Family Housing Repair Loans & Grants - Also known as the Section 504 Home Repair program, this provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve or modernize their homes or grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards.

TRANSPORTATION

Regional and Local Programs

Barron County Highway Department

The Barron County Highway Department strive to attain our goal of keeping State and County Highways in the best possible condition for the safety and use of County Residents and Guests.

West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWPRC)

The West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission offers highway, rail and airport planning services as well as access control planning, pavement management plans, thoroughfare plans, traffic and parking studies, grant assistance, and pedestrian/bicycle trail planning guidance. Contact WCWRPC for further information.

Specialized Transportation and Transit Providers in Barron County

- Aging and Disability Resource Center Barron County
- Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin, Inc. (CILWW), New Freedom Volunteer Driver and Voucher Program
- Handi Lift
- Namekagon Transit
- Northwood's Transport
- Rice Lake Airport Shuttle Service, Inc.
- Volunteer Services of Barron County, Inc.

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Regional Transportation Projects and Studies

Projects in Design

- Turtle Lake Roundabouts – Turtle Lake, Barron County
- WIS 48 (Bear Paw Ave. – Hammond Ave.) - Rice Lake, Barron County

Design projects and studies (construction not scheduled)

- US 53 Corridor Preservation Study (Rice Lake-Superior) - Barron, Washburn and Douglas Counties
- US 8 Corridor Preservation Study (WIS 35-US 53) - Polk and Barron Counties

State Programs

Adopt-A-Highway Program

The Adopt-A-Highway Program is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT). The program was initiated to allow groups to volunteer and support the State's anti-litter program in a more direct way. Each qualified group takes responsibility for litter control on a segment of State highway. The group picks up litter on a segment at least three times per year between April 1 and November 1. Groups do not work in dangerous areas like medians, bridges, or steep slopes. In addition, a sign announcing a group's litter control sponsorship can be installed. The State Adopt-A-Highway coordinator should be contacted for further information. Applications and forms are available through the WDOT website.

Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER)

PASER is a simple method of rating asphalt and concrete roads on a scale of 1 to 10 and gravel roads on a scale of 1 to 5, based on visual inspection. PASER manuals and a video explain how and why roads deteriorate, and describe proper repair and replacement techniques. PASER ratings can be put into PASERWARE, an easy to use pavement management software. PASERWARE helps to inventory roads and keep track of their PASER ratings and maintenance histories. It also helps to prioritize road maintenance and improvement needs, calculate project costs, evaluate the consequences of alternative budgets and project selection strategies, and communicate those consequences to the public and local officials. Both PASER and PASERWARE are available from the University of Wisconsin's Transportation Information Center at no charge. The Center also offers free training courses.

Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA) Program

The Transportation Economic Assistance program provides 50% state grants to governing bodies, private businesses, and consortiums for road, rail, harbor, and airport projects that help attract employers to Wisconsin, or encourage business and industry to remain and expand in the State. Grants of up to \$1 million are available for transportation improvements that are essential for an economic development project. It must be scheduled to begin within three years, have the local government's endorsement, and benefit the public.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides funding to local governments for trails, paths, routes, and other infrastructure for alternative modes of transportation, such as biking, walking/hiking, boating, and ATVs. Though these programs often have a recreational focus, such facilities can many times be an important component of a community's transportation strategy.

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Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) administers many of the Federal HUD Community Development Block Grant programs at the State level. This funding includes the CDBG-Public Facilities program for infrastructure and building projects which may include streets and specialized transportation projects.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Transportation programming efforts in Wisconsin are largely coordinated or funded through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), including the distribution of Federal transportation assistance dollars. Many of these key assistance programs for county and local governments are listed below.

- **General Transportation Aids** return about 30% of all state-collected transportation revenues to local governments for road construction, maintenance, and other related costs
- **Local Roads and Local Bridge Improvement Programs** assist local governments in improving seriously deteriorating roads and bridges.
- **Surface Transportation Program** uses allocated Federal funds for the improvement of Federal-aid-eligible rural and urban roadways.
- **Connecting Highway Aids** are available to municipalities for roadways connecting to the State Trunk Highway system, in particular if increased traffic is experienced.
- **Traffic Signing and Marking Enhancement Grants Program** provides funds to local governments for signage improvements to improve visibility for elderly drivers and pedestrians.
- **Rural and Small Urban Area Public Transportation Assistance** and the **Transit Assistance Program** allocate Federal funds to support capital, operating, and training expenses for public transportation services.
- **Supplemental Transportation Rural Assistance Program** provides Federal funds for the planning, start-up, and expansion of non-urban transit service projects.
- **Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance** funds provide counties with financial assistance to provide transportation services to the elderly and persons with disabilities. Capital funds through the **Section 5310 Program** are also available for non-profits and local governments. A related WisDOT-administered program is **New Freedom**, which provides Federal Transit Administration funds to private and public entities for programs which assist individuals with disabilities to overcome transportation-related barriers so they may get to work.
- **Wisconsin Employment Transportation Assistance Program (WETAP)** provides start-up and development grant funding for projects which connect low-income workers with jobs through enhanced local transportation services. WETAP includes Federal **Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC)** Program funding and related requirements.
- **Local Transportation Enhancement Program** funds projects that increase multi-modal transportation alternatives (e.g., bicycling, pedestrian), landscaping/streetscaping, and the preservation of historic transportation structures.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program** funds projects that construct or plan for bicycle or bicycle/pedestrian facilities. This program shares the same application process as the Local Transportation Enhancement Program.

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- **Safe Routes to School Program** is a Federal program administered by WisDOT aimed at helping communities to make it safer for children to walk and bike to and from school and to encourage them to do so. In addition to planning grants, implementation of education, enforcement, engineering, and evaluation programs and projects are also eligible under the program.
- **Airport Improvement Program** combines a variety of resources to fund improvements for the State's public-use airports which are primarily municipally owned. WisDOT is currently encouraging land use planning around airports and a *Wisconsin Airport Land Use Guidebook* is available to assist in these efforts. Additional program and regulatory support is also available through the Federal Aviation Administration.
- **Freight Rail Programs** for the preservation of existing rail service through rail acquisition and rehabilitation, and for the improvement of rail infrastructure.

Each year, WisDOT updates a four-year **Statewide Transportation Improvement Program** of all highway and transit projects that propose to use Federal funds. WisDOT also has a variety of specialty assistance programs, such as Flood Damage Aids, Rustic Roads, County Forest Road Aids, and the Adopt-A-Highway Program. Data for local roads is managed by WisDOT through the Internet-accessible **Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR)**.

State Transportation Plans

Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) encourages planning for bicyclists at the local level, and is responsible for developing long-range, statewide bicycle plans. Guidelines for accommodating travel by bicycles when roadways are reconstructed, or new roads are built, are available and their use is encouraged.

The development of WisDOT's statewide long-range bicycle plan, Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020, involved many people, including an advisory committee. This bicycle planning document is intended to help both communities and individuals in developing bicycle-friendly facilities throughout Wisconsin.

Connections 2030

Connections 2030 is the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) long-range transportation plan for the state. This plan addresses all forms of transportation over a 20-year planning horizon: highways, local roads, air, water, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and transit. WisDOT officially adopted Connections 2030 in October 2009.

Six-Year Highway Improvement Program 2015 – 2020

Wisconsin's transportation budget is divided into two subprograms for implementing improvements to state highway facilities:

- Major Highway Development
- State Highway Rehabilitation (SHR)

State Airport System Plan 2030

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) officially adopted Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2030 on February 19, 2015. Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2030 and its accompanying System-Plan Environmental Evaluation (SEE) is the statewide long-range airport

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transportation plan. The 20-year plan builds off the policies and issues identified in Connections 2030, Wisconsin's statewide long-range transportation plan adopted in October 2009.

Wisconsin's State Airport System Plan identifies a system of 98 public-use airports adequate to meet different aviation needs in all parts of the state, and is a guide for federal and state investment decisions. The identification of potential projects in this plan is not a commitment for federal or state project funding, nor does it provide project justification. Prior to project implementation all projects must be justified through the local master planning and environmental process, and approved by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and Federal Aviation Administration, when appropriate. The plan includes a statewide vision for aviation, an overview and analysis of the state's system of airports, a SEE, and an environmental justice analysis.

State Freight Plan

Enhancing freight mobility is a top priority for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). The Wisconsin State Freight Plan will provide a vision for multimodal freight transportation and position the state to be competitive in the global marketplace by ensuring critical connections to national freight systems remain, or become, efficient.

State Highway Plan 2020

Wisconsin's State Trunk Highway system, consisting of approximately 11,800 miles of roads, is aging and deteriorating at the same time traffic congestion is increasing. In response to this critical issue, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), in partnership with its stakeholders, developed the State Highway Plan 2020, a 21-year strategic plan which considers the highway system's current condition, analyzes future uses, assesses financial constraints and outlines strategies to address Wisconsin's preservation, traffic movement, and safety needs.

Since the release of the State Highway Plan 2020, WisDOT completed a multimodal, long-range transportation plan called Connections 2030. This plan addresses all forms of transportation over a 20-year planning horizon: highways, local roads, air, water, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and transit. WisDOT officially adopted Connections 2030 in October 2009.

Statewide Pedestrian Policy Plan 2020

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) developed the Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan 2020 to provide a long-range vision addressing Wisconsin pedestrian needs. The Pedestrian Plan provides a basic description of existing and emerging pedestrian needs through 2020, with a set of recommendations to meet those needs. WisDOT's efforts ensure that this plan complements both existing and future long-range transportation plans.

State Rail Plan 2030

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) officially adopted Wisconsin Rail Plan 2030 on March 19, 2014. It includes 12 chapters with supporting materials included as appendices. Wisconsin Rail Plan 2030 is the statewide long-range rail transportation plan. It provides a vision for freight rail, intercity passenger rail and commuter rail, and identifies priorities and strategies that will serve as a basis for Wisconsin rail investments over the next 20 years.

Wisconsin Rail Plan 2030 will bring the State of Wisconsin in compliance with the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA). In order to be eligible for federal funding, PRIIA legislation requires state to develop a long-range plan for freight, intercity passenger and commuter rail, and update the plan at least every five years. Wisconsin Rail Plan 2030 also brings the State of Wisconsin in compliance with Title 49 United States Code Section 22102 requirements, making the state eligible to receive financial assistance based on compliance with regulations through the U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Utilities and community facilities can include a broad range of services ranging from health and social services to emergency services and from public infrastructure to private utilities. Providing a complete list here is not feasible. The following is a synopsis of some of the key utility and community facility resources and plans that are frequently used or commonly considered by local municipalities in Wisconsin.

Utilities & Community Facilities Plans

- **Barron County Conditions and Trends Report** (WCWRPC, November 2008)
- **Inventory of Plans, Programs, and Land Use Policies in West Central Wisconsin** (WCWRPC, October, 2008)
- A variety of **State, regional, and local emergency management plans and programs** relate to the community, including plans and procedures for emergency response agencies, the Regional Tactical Interoperability Community Plan (TICP), the Barron County Hazard Mitigation Plan, and the community's emergency operating plan.
- Though the **Barron County Outdoor Recreation Plan** is out-of-date, an update to this plan would enable the County to pursue grant dollars through WDNR for nature-based outdoor recreation activities.
- The **State of Wisconsin Public Service Commission** oversees planning for a variety of utilities, including electric, telephone, broadband, natural gas, and water. While some plans are developed by the utility providers, over the past five years there has been increasing emphasis on broadband planning and grants in Wisconsin. UW-Extension has taken a lead on related broadband educational efforts. Barron County is part of the **Region 3 Broadband Plan** and the **Region 3 Broadband Implementation Group** continues to meet with the assistance of WCWRPC.

Other Utilities & Community Facilities Programs

No list of utilities and community facilities programs could ever be 100% complete. Related rules, programs, grant deadlines, and contact information is always changing. Grant programs are often competitive and many have prerequisite or eligible requirements. The following is a list of some of the most commonly used resources:

U.S. Economic Development Agency (EDA) Economic Development Assistance (infrastructure, planning, and programming that support job creation; locally coordinated through WCWRPC)

USDA Grant and Loan Programs (water and wastewater systems, community facilities, broadband, rural business development, renewable energy systems, community development)

HUD Community Development Block Grants (planning, public facilities, infrastructure, housing, economic development)

WDNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and Trail Grants (nature-based outdoor recreation, including acquisition, trail development, and park facility improvements)

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WDNR Motorized Stewardship Recreation Trail Aids (Additional aid programs specific to recreational boating, ATV trails, and snowmobile trails are also available.)

WDNR Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (municipal water system improvements)

WDNR Clean Water Fund, Pollution Abatement, and Water Quality Grants (A variety of water quality planning and project grants and low-interest loans are available through WDNR, including infrastructure improvements, watershed planning, and non-point pollution projects.)

WEDC Community Development Investment Grant (infrastructure and community improvement projects that support job creation)

National Endowment for the Humanities and **National Endowment for the Arts** (these two programs have a variety of support and grant programs for museums, libraries, arts programming/education, and other cultural organizations; mini-grants are also available through the **Wisconsin Humanities Council**)

FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant (support staffing and capacity building measures for fire protection & EMS)

FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grants (enhance safety for firefighters and responders)

FEMA Assistance to Firefighting Grant Program (primarily for equipment)

In addition to the above, there are a variety of **wildfire and forest fire grants** available for planning, educational outreach, and protection equipment through the WDNR and U.S. Forest Service. WDNR also administers grant and loan programs related to **conservation programming, recycling, well abandonment, and flood controls**. And in 2015, UW-Extension completed a **broadband funding guide** and maintains an online list of potential broadband funding resources.

Not included above are the large number of social services and support grants ranging from transitional housing to arts programs to counseling to family care. Private grant dollars is often a major contributor to such facilities and programming. Tax increment financing, utility districts, special assessments, private-public partnering, and other local funding tools are also used to support utilities and/or community facilities.

More information on Federal grant programs can be found at grants.gov. For State grant programs, a search of the individual department webpages may be needed. Some libraries provide access to the Foundation Center web database for private foundation grant searches. If the community has questions or needs assistance regarding potential grant resources, WCWRPC is available to assist.

AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES

Many different agricultural, natural, and cultural resource governmental services, non-profit advocacy groups, grant programs, plans and studies, and educational resources exist. The following is a synopsis of some of the key resources that are frequently used or commonly considered by local municipalities in Wisconsin.

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Agricultural & Natural Resource Programs

Barron County, Soil and Water Conservation Department (Programs & Services)

Conservation Walkover – Barron County Soil & Water Conservation Department offers a Conservation Walkover program to provide voluntary assistance to landowners to address issues such as water quality, erosion control, grazing management and wildlife habitat improvement on their property.

Erosion Control Mulching – The department owns two mulchers and operates them at cost for landowners, local units of government and contractors throughout the county to protect agricultural, urban and road construction sites. They also provide an excellent sod-forming grass/legume seed mixture for waterways, construction sites, eroding slopes and other critical sites. This seed, which is sold at cost, comes in one acre bags.

Soil Erosion Transect Survey – This is an annual survey of cropland in the county to determine the soil erosion rate. It was begun in 1998 and will be used to show the trend of soil erosion in the county.

Technical Assistance – Many farmers voluntarily install conservation practices on their farms to help prevent soil erosion and to improve water quality. Cost share dollars will still find priority with landowners looking to voluntarily implement BMPs to correct prohibition violations on their lands. Barron County will continue to offer voluntary cost sharing to others as program funds are available. The agricultural performance standards and prohibitions found in NR 151 require 70% cost sharing be offered to change an existing cropland practice or livestock facility to bring them into compliance with the new standards. The opportunity exists for an increase to 90% cost sharing if economic hardship is proven. Barron County will work with landowners to develop designs for the conservation practices needed to correct any concerns.

Tree Program – Barron County purchases thousands of trees annually and sells them at cost to residents of the county. Conifers (pines, fir and spruce) and several shrubs and hardwoods are sold in bundles of 25 for \$18 per bundle. This program complements the WDNR tree program. The department owns two tree planters and a brush mower for previous plantings and coordinates their use through the WDNR Forestry Department. Orders are taken January through March for pickup towards the end of April. Please call 537-6315 after January 1 to place an order.

Wildlife Damage Program – Starting in 1996, the SWCD administered the Wisconsin Wildlife Damage Program in Barron County. Farmers enjoy seeing wildlife but when wildlife eats large quantities of their crops, it's a different story. When the economic loss to wildlife exceeds \$500, the farmer may be eligible for compensation. The Wisconsin program includes deer, bear, geese and wild turkey. Farmers who request compensation must agree to a damage abatement plan or population control measures.

2011 Land & Water Resource Management Plan, Barron County

Wisconsin Act 27, Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin Statutes was amended to require counties to develop a land and water resources management plan. The plan will be primarily focused on soil conservation and water quality, describing our implementation strategies for bringing County landowners in compliance with NR 151 standards.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

The USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is tasked with implementing Federal farm conservation programs to improve the economic stability of the agricultural industry, maintain a steady price range of agricultural commodities, and help farmers adjust to changes in demand. These goals are achieved through a range of farm commodity, credit, conservation, loan, and disaster programs, including Federal Crop Insurance. Also part of the USDA is the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), which

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was formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service. The NRCS provides data, maps, technical expertise, and training in soils, conservation techniques, ecological sciences, and other such activities.

The USDA has service centers located in each county in the region, which include the FSA and NRCS offices. Local USDA staff typically work very closely with local UW-Extension Agriculture Agents and county conservation staff to assist farmers and municipalities in their respective counties.

Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program Wis. Stats. §91

The Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program was established in 1977 to assist local government efforts to preserve agricultural resources. The Program was updated in 2009 as part of the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative.

Eligible farmland owners receive state income tax credits. The amount of the credit varies and eligible landowners may collect one of the following per acre amounts by filing with their income tax return:

- \$5.00 for farmers with a farmland preservation agreement signed after July 1, 2009 and located in an agricultural enterprise area.
- \$7.50 for farmers in an area zoned for farmland preservation.
- \$10.00 for farmers in an area zoned for farmland preservation and in an agricultural enterprise area, with a farmland preservation agreement signed after July 1, 2009.

There is no cap on the amount of credit that an individual can claim or on the amount of acreage eligible for a credit. For more information on the state program, please contact the DATCP or visit the Working Lands Initiative website: http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Working_Lands_Initiative/

Farmland Use Value Assessment (1995 Wisconsin Act 27; Wis. Stats. §70.32(2r) & 73.03(49))

With the passage of the State 1995-1997 Budget Act, the standard for assessing agricultural land in Wisconsin changed from market value to use value. With taxation of land based on the income that could be generated from the land's rental for agricultural use, rather than development potential, the program helps Wisconsin farmers to maintain current farming practices, rather than succumbing to development due to economic pressures. Only land devoted primarily to agricultural use qualifies. For reference, undeveloped land (e.g., bog, marsh, lowland brush, wetlands) is assessed at 50% of its full value.

Livestock Facility Siting Ordinances Wis. Stats. §93.90 & ATCP 51

The role of local governments in the regulation of the site of new and expanded livestock operations changed significantly in 2006 with the adoption of Wisconsin Statutes §93.90 and Administrative Rule ATCP 51. Effective May 1, 2006, local ordinances which require permits for livestock facilities must follow state rules. The siting standards only apply to new and expanding livestock facilities in areas that require local permits, and then only (in most communities) if they will have 500 animal units (AU) or more and expand by at least 20%.

For communities with zoning, the new Statute limits the exclusion of livestock facilities from agricultural zoning districts, unless another ag district exists where operations of all sizes are allowed and the exclusion is for public health and safety based on scientific findings of fact. However, such facilities can be treated as a conditional use. Appeals of local permit decisions are taken to the State Livestock Facility Siting Review Board. The changes in state rules for livestock facility siting do not impact a local government's ability to enforce shoreland-wetland zoning, erosion controls, stormwater management requirement, manure storage ordinances, and road regulations.

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University of Wisconsin-Extension

UW-Extension offices provide a variety of educational and support programming in the areas of agribusiness, land use and soil management. To assist farmers and local governments, a UW-Extension Agricultural Agent is located in each county in the region with county support.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintain the St. Croix Wetland Management District, which is one of only two such districts in the state. The St. Croix District was established in 1974 and consists of 41 waterfowl production areas totaling 7,700 acres as well as 15 easements protecting wildlife habitat on private land in Barron, Burnett, Dunn, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, St. Croix, and Washburn counties.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources develops, maintains, implements, and enforces a wide variety of programs, plans, and permitting for west central Wisconsin. WDNR is perhaps most visible to the region's residents through its management of state parks, trails, and other recreational or natural areas, as well as permitting for hunting, fishing, trapping, and burning. WDNR also provides educational programs and training to residents and teachers/instructors in hunting, ecology, outdoor skills, safety, and regulatory compliance. Training and assistance are also available to governments and businesses in regulatory compliance, grant programs, etc. And WDNR scientists and managers are working to address potential conflicts and threats to wildlife and recreational opportunities, such as invasive species.

But local governments often have more contact with WDNR officials on planning, permitting, grants, and regulatory issues, such as stormwater planning, financial assistance for outdoor recreation or environmental remediation, or permitting as it relates to utilities, mining, burning, wetlands, and water discharges. More information and contact information for WDNR programs and plans can be found at their website: www.dnr.state.wi.us

Forest Land Tax Programs Wis. Stats. §70 & 77

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources manages two forestry tax laws that provide tax incentives to encourage proper management of private forest lands for forest crop production, while recognizing a variety of other objectives. The Forest Crop Law (FCL) program allows landowners to pay taxes on timber only after harvesting or when the contract is terminated, though enrollment in this program was closed in 1986. The Managed Forest Law (MFL) program replaces the FCL and the now-defunct Woodland Tax Law Program. The Woodland Tax Law program expired in 2000, and there are no active contracts under this program in Wisconsin.

The Managed Forest Law (Wisconsin Statutes §77.80) was enacted in 1985 and offers flexibility for private owners of 10 or more acres of contiguous woodlands who enroll in the program. Under the MFL program, landowners have the option to choose either a 25- or 50-year order period; and the annual tax varies depending on whether the land is open or closed to public access (certain restrictions apply). Enrollees are obligated to submit and follow a forest management plan, submit a harvest report, and permit inspections, in exchange for technical support, tax benefits, and good woodlot management. Participants in the MFL program are automatically eligible for American Tree Farm System group certification which provides certain marketplace benefits.

WDNR Division of Water and Watershed Management

The Division of Water promotes the balanced use of Wisconsin's waters to protect, maintain and enhance them in full partnership with the public. Communities with municipal water supplies also interact with the Division of Water through water quality testing and reporting and wellhead protection.

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WDNR has the authority to issue permits affecting navigable waters of the state. These permits include bulkhead line ordinance establishment, bridge or culvert placement, dam construction, stream realignment, retaining wall construction, water diversion and pond construction.

The Bureau of Watershed Management administers programs on dam safety, floodplain mapping and management, impaired waters, shoreland management, runoff management, the priority watershed program, and a variety of water-related permits. The Bureau also conducts basin planning or “water quality management planning” for the state, of which local sewer service area plans are part. Beginning in 1999, the water quality management program worked with state lands and fisheries programs to develop integrated basic plans statewide.

All except the far northwesterly part of Barron County falls within the Red Cedar Watershed. Due to phosphorus loading and related eutrophication and toxic algae outbreaks, there has been increased emphasis on water quality improvements within the Red Cedar Watershed during recent years. A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limit was established for the Red Cedar River at Lakes Tainter and Menomin near the bottom of the watershed in Dunn County. To achieve this TMDL, cooperation is needed from the entire watershed, including Barron County. As of 2015, the Red Cedar River watershed plan is nearing completion and the Barron County Soil and Water Conservation Department works cooperatively with WDNR, local municipalities, landowners, lake groups, and area businesses and landowners to improve water quality.

Stormwater Management

Stormwater management in Wisconsin is a partnership between WDNR, local governments, and landowners. Under the 1987 Federal Clean Water Act and Wisconsin law, the WDNR Storm Water Program regulates storm water discharges from construction sites, industrial facilities and municipalities. Projects where more than one acre will be disturbed must develop a construction site erosion control and stormwater management plan, then obtain a WDNR Construction Site Storm Water Runoff General Permit. Generally, erosion control for commercial buildings and 1- and 2-family dwellings less than one acre are regulated by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. Except for new 1- and 2-family dwellings, local ordinances may be more strict than state regulations. Certain agricultural cropland and many silviculture activities are exempt from these requirements.

Certain communities also require a Municipal Separate Stormwater System (MS4) permit, which requires municipalities to reduce polluted stormwater runoff by implementing best management practices. Within Barron County, only the City of Rice Lake is required to obtain a MS4 permit, with an emphasis on reducing the amount of sediment and phosphorus entering the surface waters.

WPDES Permits

Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permits through WDNR are required for municipal and industrial facilities discharging to surface and/or ground waters. These include most municipal wastewater treatment systems, as well as the land application of by-products, some larger swimming pools, and large-scale, non-agricultural use of pesticides and herbicides. Wastewater permits contain all the monitoring requirements, special reports, and compliance schedules appropriate to the facility in question.

Lake Districts and Associations

Lake Districts and Associations also have a vital role in planning for, protecting, and improving the water quality, recreational value, and natural habitat of area lakes. Lake Associations are voluntary, unincorporated group, but are eligible for certain planning and project grant dollars. Lake Districts are also eligible for grant dollars, but as also incorporate special purpose units of government with the ability to assess taxes and enact some regulations.

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As of Summer 2015, the following are the lake districts and organizations in Barron County:

BEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION OF BARRON CO INC
CHETEK LAKES PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
DESAIR LAKE RESTORATION, INC.
ECHO LAKE ASSOCIATION
GRANITE LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC
HORSESHOE LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
LITTLE LAKE IN THE WOODS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
LITTLE SAND LAKESHORE ASSOCIATION
MOON LAKE ASSOCIATION
MOON LAKE ASSOCIATION
POSKIN LAKE ASSOCIATION INC
RED CEDAR LAKES ASSOCIATION
SAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
SILVER LAKE ASSOCIATION
UPPER TURTLE LAKE ASSOCIATION
VERMILLION LAKE ASSOCIATION INC
BEAVER DAM LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
DUMMY LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
LAKE KIRBY LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
LOWER TURTLE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
RICE LAKE PROTECTION & REHAB DISTRICT
SAND LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
STAPLES LAKE P & R DISTRICT

River Management and Planning Grants

River management and planning grants are available from the WDNR for various river protection and conservation efforts.

Wisconsin Act 307 – Notification to Nonmetallic Resource Owners

This Act amends portions of the Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Law to increase communication and notification of local planning with owners of nonmetallic mineral sites. Public participation procedures must now include written procedures describing the methods the local government will use to distribute proposed, alternative, or amended elements of a plan to owners of property, or to persons who have a leasehold interest in property, which may extract nonmetallic mineral resources on the property. This is only required if the comprehensive plan changes the allowable use or intensity of use of the given property. Wisconsin Act 307 also added provisions to the Comprehensive Planning Law detailing that prior to a public hearing written notice shall be provided to property owners or operators with an interest in nonmetallic mineral resources.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The purpose of EQIP is to provide technical and financial help to landowners for conservation practices that protect soil and water quality. Nutrient management and prescribed grazing are eligible for cost-sharing statewide. Assistance for other practices is available in selected priority areas. Approved projects are based on environmental value. Five to 10 year contracts are used. Agricultural producers may be eligible for up to 75% cost share on agricultural land. Public access is not required. Contact: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service or Farm Service Agency, or County Land and Water Conservation Department.

Non-Point Pollution Abatement Program

Funds are available to improve water quality by limiting or ending sources of non-point source (run-off) water pollution by providing financial and technical assistance to landowners, land operators, municipalities, and other governmental units. Governmental units located within designated priority

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watersheds, or whose jurisdiction include priority lakes, are eligible to apply. Eligible projects are watersheds and lakes where: 1) the water quality improvement or protection will be great in relation to funds expended; 2) the installation of best management practices is feasible to abate water pollution caused by non-point source pollution; and 3) the local governmental units and agencies involved are willing to carry out program responsibilities. Efforts are focused statewide in critical watersheds and lakes where non-point source related water quality problems are most severe and control is most feasible. Rural landowners or land operators, whose properties lie within selected priority watersheds or include a priority lake, can contact their county land conservation department to receive an explanation of the program and to sign up for cost sharing of best management practices. Non-rural landowners and land operators can contact their municipal government offices. A watershed or lake project normally has a 10 to 12 year time frame: two years for planning and eight to ten years to implement best management practices. Contact the WDNR Regional Environmental Grant Specialist for further information.

Stewardship Grants for Municipalities and Non-Profit Conservation Organizations

Funds are available for the acquisition of land or easements for conservation purposes, and restoration of wildlife habitat. Non-profit conservation organizations are eligible to apply. Priorities include acquisition of wildlife habitat, acquisition of lands with special scientific or ecological value, rare and endangered habitats and species, acquisition of stream corridors, acquisition of land for state trails and restoration of wetlands and grasslands. Eligible types of projects include fee simple and easement acquisitions and habitat restoration projects. Contact the WDNR for further information.

Land Recycling Loan Program (LRLP)

Wisconsin's Land Recycling Loan Program (LRLP) provides low cost loans to cities, villages, counties, and towns for the purpose of remediating environmental contamination (brownfields) at landfills, sites, or facilities where contamination has affected or threatens to affect groundwater or surface water. Redevelopment and housing authorities are also eligible. Contact the WDNR for further information.

Cultural and Historical Resources Programs

Historic Building Code

The Wisconsin Historic Building Code facilitates the restoration and rehabilitation of historic structures. Once historic building owners obtain permission to use the Historic Building Code, they may use it in lieu of any other state, county, or municipal code. The code is designed to help owners maintain the historic appearances of their buildings and allow them to use original materials and construction techniques that may no longer be permitted under present day building codes. To qualify to use the code, property owners must own buildings that fall under the code's definition of a historic building. Buildings listed in, nominated to, or determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or State Register of Historic Places qualify as historic under the code. The code may also be applied to properties located in National Register and State Register historic districts. The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services administer the Historic Building Code and can be contacted for further information.

Wisconsin Historical Preservation Tax Credits

One of the benefits of owning a historic property in Wisconsin is the ability to participate in Federal and state income tax incentives programs for rehabilitation of historic properties. There are currently three programs available to owners of properties that are either listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the state or national registers of historic places. The three programs are:

1. Federal 20% Historic Rehabilitation Credit.
2. Wisconsin 5% Supplement to Federal Historic Rehabilitation Credit.
3. Wisconsin 25% Historic Rehabilitation Credit. The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Division of Historic Preservation should be contacted for further information

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Wisconsin Historical Society, Office of Preservation Planning (OPP)

Whether you need information concerning state or Federal laws and regulations that may be applicable in your case, whether you need information on grassroots strategies for preserving and protecting historic properties, or whether you need information on how you may protect and preserve your own historic property, the OPP can assist.

Wisconsin's Historical Markers Program

For almost 50 years, Wisconsin's State Historical Markers program has been interpreting both important small incidents and monumental events that form the State's past. Placed on the very site where significant events occurred, markers evoke an immediacy of the past that no history book can provide. The Society's Division of Historic Preservation administers the Wisconsin Historical Markers Program. Applications are required for all official State of Wisconsin historical markers and plaques. Applications are available at www.wisconsinhistory.org/histbuild/markers/apply.

National Historic Landmarks Program

National Historic Landmark status is the highest level of national designation. These are properties of exceptional value to the nation that retain a high degree of architectural and historical integrity. The purpose of the National Historic Landmarks Program is to identify and designate these properties and to encourage their long-range preservation. Nomination preparers should consult the Division of Historic Preservation and the National Park Service before proceeding with a National Historic Landmark nomination.

National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Services Fund

Grants from this fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation are designed to encourage preservation at the local level by providing seed money for preservation projects. These grants help stimulate public discussion, enable local groups to gain the technical expertise needed for particular projects, and encourage financial participation by the private sector. PSF award applicants must be a non-profit organization or public agency capable of matching the grant amount dollar-for-dollar. The grant range is from \$500 to \$5,000.

Wisconsin Humanities Council, Historic Preservation Program Grants

The Wisconsin Humanities Council and the Jeffris Family Foundation have formed a partnership pool to support Historic Preservation Program Grants. The Wisconsin Humanities Council (WHC) will award grants with funds from both groups. The WHC accepts proposals for projects that enhance appreciation of the importance of particular historic buildings or that increase public awareness of the importance of particular buildings or decorative art works in Wisconsin. Preference will be given to small town and rural communities with populations under 30,000.

Certified Local Government Program

Local units of government that have enacted historic preservation ordinances may consider being certified to participate in the state and Federal Certified Local Government (CLG) program. The CLG program provides special grants to fund planning and educational activities. The Division of Historic Preservation at the Wisconsin Historical Society administers the CLG program. Wisconsin has 40 Certified Local Governments. For more information about the Certified Local Government please visit the Society's Web site at <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/> or the National Park Service's Web site at <http://www.nps.gov/nr/>.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Many different economic-related governmental services, non-profit advocacy groups, grant programs, plans and studies, and educational resources exist. The following is a synopsis of some of the key economic development resources that are frequently used or commonly considered by local municipalities in Wisconsin.

Regional and County Economic Development Plans & Programs

Barron County Economic Development Corporation

Barron County Economic Development Corporation (BCEDC) provides free consulting services to entrepreneurs looking to start or grow their business. The EDC also provides consulting to existing businesses. BCEDC works with entrepreneurs in a confidential, one-to-one session in the areas of management, marketing, sales, finance, accounting and other disciplines required for business growth, expansion, and innovations. Counseling sessions are held the 1st Thursday of each month with a representative from UW – Eau Claire Small Business Development Center. The sessions are held at the Rice Lake Chamber of Commerce Office. Appointments are necessary. Other appointments are available by contacting BCEDC at any time.

Barron County, University of Wisconsin-Extension, Cooperative Extension

The University of Wisconsin-Extension has an office in Barron. Cooperative Extension develops practical educational programs tailored to local needs and based on university knowledge and research. County-based Extension educators are University of Wisconsin faculty and staff who are experts in agriculture and agribusiness, community and economic development, natural resources, family living, nutrition, 4-H, and youth development.

Extension county-based faculty and staff live and work with the people they serve in communities across the state. Extension specialists work on UW System campuses where they access current research and knowledge. Collaboration between county and campus faculty is the hallmark of Cooperative Extension in Wisconsin.

One program within the Cooperative Extension is the First Impressions program. The First Impressions program offers an inexpensive way of determining what visitors think of your community. Volunteers from two somewhat similar communities (size, location, county seat, etc.) agree to do unannounced exchange visits and then report on their findings. It is somewhat similar to the WCWRPC's placemaking efforts, but provides a visitor's impressions of aesthetics and "welcomingness", rather than an emphasis on function, uses, and activities by those who live, work, and play in a place. The two programs can be complimentary. For more information, visit www.cced.ces.uwex.edu and contact WCWRPC regarding placemaking.

BizStart Barron County

A new small business startup program has been created in Barron County called BizStart Barron County. The Rice Lake Chamber of Commerce, Rice Lake City Council Economic Development Committee, Barron County Economic Development Corporation and UW-EC Small Business Development Center have jointly created a comprehensive new program to assist individuals who want to know more about how to start a business in Rice Lake and throughout Barron County. BizStart provides all the resources a potential entrepreneur needs to start a business by making a phone call to the Rice Lake Chamber offices.

Momentum West

Momentum West is a regional economic development organization serving Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pierce, Pepin, Polk, Rusk, and St. Croix counties. The mission of Momentum West is to

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develop partnerships and leverage the resources in West Wisconsin to market the region and grow the economy. For more information, see <http://www.momentumwest.org/index.cfm>.

West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

On a multi-county level, the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission conducts economic development and project development. The Commission is designated as an Economic Development District by the Economic Development Administration and maintains the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which is a prerequisite for EDC economic development planning and project grant assistance for all seven counties of the region. The Commission provides local economic strategies, industrial site analyses, economic development financing, county economic and population profiles, EMSI Analyst information, and community and industrial park profiles. In addition, WCWRPC can assist communities with placemaking initiatives, Tax Incremental Financing (TIF), and grant coordination, writing, and administration. For more information, please see www.wcwrpc.org.

Regional Business Fund, Inc.

All communities in Barron County are covered by a business revolving loan fund. All but two participate in the Regional Business Fund, Inc., administered by WCWRPC which has three components—Downtown Façade Loan, Micro Loan Fund, and Technology Enterprise Fund.

Federal and State Economic Development Plans & Programs

U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA)

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) provides financial assistance to help distressed communities overcome barriers that inhibit the growth of their local economies. EDA provides assistance for public works projects, planning, research and technical assistance, and education. The WCWRPC is designated as an Economic Development District by the Economic Development Administration. It is required to undertake economic development planning and project identification for all seven counties of the region. For more information, see www.wcwrpc.org.

USDA - Wisconsin Rural Development Programs

The Wisconsin Rural Development Program has many services that are available to rural communities and their residents. Available programs and services include: community development programs, business and community programs, rural housing and utilities services, and community facility programs. For more information visit the Wisconsin Rural Development web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wi/index.html>.

Forward Wisconsin

Forward Wisconsin helps businesses looking for available sites or buildings through its website at <http://www.forwardwi.com/search/index.html>.

Wisconsin Economic Development Association

WEDA is a statewide association of 410+ member organizations whose primary objective is to increase the effectiveness of individuals involved in the practice of economic development in Wisconsin by encouraging cooperation, exchange of information and promotion of professional skills. For more information see <http://www.weda.org/>.

Wisconsin Department of Administration

The Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA) has several grant programs and services available to communities or businesses within communities. The federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program can be used for housing, economic development, and public facility improvements.

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The following programs are available:

- CDBG Public Facility (PF) program for infrastructure and buildings benefitting the public
- CDBG Economic Development (ED) funding for business expansions, employee training and business infrastructure
- CDBG Public Facility for Economic Development (PF/ED) funding for public infrastructure necessary for business expansions

For more information, see <http://www.doa.state.wi.us>.

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) nurtures business growth and job creation in Wisconsin by providing resources, technical support, and financial assistance to companies, partners and the communities they serve. For more information, see <http://inwisconsin.com/>.

One program within WEDC is the Main Street Program. The Main Street Program helps communities revitalize their downtown areas. The National Main Street Center and state staff offer a comprehensive range of professional services that follow a four-point approach: organization, promotion, design, and economic restructuring. More information on the Wisconsin Main Street Program can be found at: <http://inwisconsin.com/mainstreet/>. WEDC also administers the Connect Communities program, which provides communities with an introduction to Main Street Program techniques and access to other resources for downtown revitalization.

Wisconsin Department of Tourism

The Wisconsin Department of Tourism has four primary grant programs and provides technical assistance and support to promote tourism and to maintain a strong tourism industry in Wisconsin. The grant programs include the Joint Effort Marketing (JEM) Program for tourism marketing, the Ready, Set, Go! (RSG) Program for sporting events, the Tourist Information Center (TIC) Program, and the Meetings Mean Business Program to support conventions. Contact the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for further information at: <http://industry.travelwisconsin.com/>.

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) is a state agency charged with building and strengthening Wisconsin's workforce in the 21st century and beyond. The Department's primary responsibilities include providing job services, training, and employment assistance to people looking for work, at the same time as it works with employers on finding the necessary workers to fill current job openings.

Under the DWD umbrella, a wide variety of employment programs can be found which include securing jobs for the disabled, assisting former welfare recipients as they make a transition into work, promoting 72 job centers, linking youth with the jobs of tomorrow, protecting and enforcing worker's rights, processing unemployment claims, and ensuring workers compensation claims are paid in accordance with the law. There are six divisions within the Department which is headed by a Secretary appointed by the Governor. For further information visit the web-site at www.dwd.state.wi.us.

The Office of Economic Advisors (OEA), within DWD, researches the relationships between labor markets and other economic and demographic factors. OEA economists and analysts serve in regions throughout Wisconsin. Staff works closely with partners to provide timely analysis of labor market data and economic trends.

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Agricultural Development and Diversification (ADD) Grant Program

The ADD grant program annually provides funding to projects that have the potential to bolster agricultural profits or productivity. The program funds proposals that are likely to stimulate Wisconsin's farm economy with new production or marketing techniques, alternative crops or enterprises, new value-added products, or new market research. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection should be contacted for further information.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) provides many avenues for business owners to work with the agency in growing and sustaining Wisconsin's economy. The Office of Business Support and Sustainability is the agency's one-stop shop for business assistance. The office's mission is to work across programs to create the business climate that yields better environmental and economic performance. Some of the programs administered through the WDNR are:

- **Remediation & Redevelopment (RR) Program:** The WDNR's Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) Program oversees the investigation and cleanup of environmental contamination and the redevelopment of contaminated properties. WDNR provide a comprehensive, streamlined program that consolidates state and Federal cleanups into one program (e.g., hazardous waste cleanup, underground storage tank investigation & cleanup, spill response, state-funded cleanups and brownfields).
- **Business sector support:** Sector development specialists are WDNR staff who works with specific industrial or commercial sectors. They serve as the first point of contact for those businesses, providing coordinated technical and compliance assistance across all DNR divisions and programs. Sector development specialists work to improve environmental and economic performance by clarifying requirements, facilitating flexible approaches to requirements and enabling practices that improve profitability and market performance. Improved environmental and economic performance is pursued through various strategies, including pollution prevention, waste minimization, energy efficiency, supply chain management, green chemistry, market development and many others. The sector specialists will also work with a business or sector to address trends important to business retention and market development related to environmental performance.
- **Green Tier:** Green Tier assists green business ventures. WDNR assists businesses with credible, creative ways to enable businesses to be a powerful, sustainable force for environmental good and enhance productivity, cut costs and strengthen the health of culture and community.
- **DNR Switchboard:** The WDNR Switchboard is for people who need to securely login and access forms and reporting systems which are usually related to a specific company or municipality.

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA)

The following economic programs are offered by WHEDA:

- **Credit Relief Outreach Program:** CROP features 90% guarantees on loans of up to \$30,000 made by local lenders. Interest rates are competitive, and payment is not due until March 31 of the following year. CROP can be used for feed, seed, fertilizer, pesticides, land rent, custom hire, animal feed, UCC filing fees, crop insurance, feeder animals, tillage services, equipment rental or repair, or utilities for commodity production. You cannot use CROP for property taxes, farm house utilities, existing loans, capital improvements, CROP loan interest, accounting services, or revolving lines of credit.
- **FARM:** FARM is for the producer who wants to expand or modernize an existing operation. FARM gives you access to credit by guaranteeing a loan made by your local lender. You can purchase

agricultural assets including machinery, equipment, facilities, land, and livestock. You can also make improvements to farm facilities and land for agricultural purposes. FARM cannot be used for a farm residence, existing loans, maintenance, or other working capital needs that are eligible under CROP.

- **Small Business Guarantee:** A guarantee is a pledge of support on a bank loan. WHEDA will guarantee a portion of a loan made to you by your local lender. A WHEDA Small Business Guarantee can be used to expand or acquire a small business. It can also be used to start a day care business, including one owned by a cooperative or non-profit. The guarantee can be used for most of your financing needs, including working capital and refinancing of business notes and credit card debt.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT) administers the Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA) program which provides 50 percent state grants to governing bodies, private businesses, and consortiums for road, rail, harbor and airport projects that help attract employers to Wisconsin, or encourage business and industry to remain and expand in the state. For more information, see <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/aid/tea.htm>.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

The following is a brief description of some of the primary intergovernmental cooperation tools available to local municipalities in Wisconsin.

Annexation

Wisconsin Statute, 66.021, Annexation of territory, provides three petition methods by which annexation may occur. Annexation involves the transfer of one or more tax parcels from a town to a city or village. Cities and villages cannot annex property without the consent of landowners as required by the following petition procedures:

1. **Unanimous Approval** - A petition is signed by all of the electors residing in the territory and the owners of all of the real property included within the petition.
2. **Notice of intent to circulate petition (direct petition for annexation)** - The petition must be signed by a majority of electors in the territory and the owners of one-half of the real property either in value or in land area. If no electors reside in the territory, then only the landowners need sign the petition.
3. **Annexation by referendum** - A petition requesting a referendum election on the question of annexation may be filed with the city or village when signed by at least 20 percent of the electors in the territory.

Extraterritorial Zoning

Wisconsin Statute, 62.23(7a) allows a city or village to participate with towns in the zoning of lands outside their incorporate boundaries. For the Town of Sioux Creek, the extraterritorial area would encompass 1.5 miles. The steps for exercising this power are identified in the Statutes and include the Town working with the Village to create a joint extraterritorial zoning committee with three city/village and three town members to create the extraterritorial zoning plan. A majority of the joint committee members must approve the zoning plan recommendations.

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There has been previous discussion between the Town and Village on extraterritorial zoning, but no such ordinance or map was adopted. The Village's Comprehensive Plan does not include a recommendation regarding extraterritorial zoning.

Extraterritorial Subdivision Review

Wisconsin Statute, 236.10 allows a city or village to exercise its extraterritorial plat review authority in the same geographic area as defined within the extraterritorial zoning statute. However, extraterritorial zoning requires town approval of the zoning ordinance, while extraterritorial plat approval applies automatically if the city or village adopts a subdivision ordinance or official map. The town does not approve the subdivision ordinance for the city or village. The city or village may waive its extraterritorial plat approval authority if it does not wish to use it.

The purpose of extraterritorial plat approval jurisdiction is to help cities and villages influence the development pattern of areas outside their boundaries that will likely be annexed to the city or village. This helps cities and villages protect land use near its boundaries from conflicting uses outside its limits. Overlapping authority by the city and village is prohibited. This situation is handled by drawing a line of equal distance from the boundaries of the city and village so that not more than one ordinance will apply. The Village's Comprehensive Plan does not include a recommendation regarding extraterritorial plat review.

Office of Land Information Services, Municipal Boundary Review

Municipal Boundary Review regulates the transition of unincorporated areas to city or village status through municipal annexation, incorporation, consolidation, or by joint city-village-town activities involving cooperative boundary plans and agreements. Such agreements may change territorial boundaries and may provide for the sharing of municipal services. Staff members are available upon request to meet with local officials and citizens to discuss annexation, incorporation, consolidation, and cooperative boundary plans. Contact the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Office of Land Information Services for further information.

UW-Extension Local Government Center

The mission of the Local Government Center is to provide focus, coordination, and leadership to UW System educational programs for local government, and to expand the research and knowledge base for local government education. The Center conducts and coordinates educational programming in general local government, local government finance, growth management, and community planning and design. Additional programs are under development. Educational programs are delivered through the two-way audio Educational Telecommunications Network (ETN), satellite television, and state-wide and regional workshops. The Center supports the programming of county-based Extension faculty. A variety of resources regarding intergovernmental cooperation are available through the Local Government Center. For further information visit its web-site at www.uwex.edu/lgc/.

Wisconsin Intergovernmental Statute Agreements

The following statutes in Wisconsin promote and allow for intergovernmental cooperation:

66.0301 - Intergovernmental Cooperation

Wisconsin Statute, 66.0301 permits local agreements between the state, cities, villages, towns, counties, regional planning commissions, certain special districts, including school districts, public library systems, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, sanitary districts, farm drainage districts, metropolitan sewerage districts, and sewer utility districts, Indian tribes or bands, and others. Intergovernmental agreements prepared in accordance with s. 66.0301, formerly s. 66.30, are the most common form of agreement and have been used by communities for years, often in the context of sharing public services such as police, fire, or rescue. This type of agreement can also be used to provide for revenue sharing, determine future land use with in a subject area, and to set temporary

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municipal boundaries. However, the statute does not require planning as a component of any agreement and boundary changes have to be accomplished through the normal annexation process.

66.0307 - Boundary changes pursuant to approved cooperative plan

Under Section 66.0307, Wisconsin Statutes, combinations of municipalities may prepare cooperative boundary plans or agreements. Each city, village, or town that intends to participate in the preparation of a cooperative plan must adopt a resolution authorizing its participation in the planning process.

Cooperative boundary plans or agreements involve decisions regarding the maintenance or change of municipal boundaries for a period of 10 years or more. The cooperative plan must include: a plan for the physical development of the territory covered by the plan. It must also include; a schedule for changes to the boundary; plans for the delivery of services; an evaluation of environmental features and a description of any adverse environmental consequences that may result from the implementation of the plan; and it must address the need for safe and affordable housing. The participating communities must hold a public hearing prior to its adoption. Once adopted, the plan must be submitted for state approval. Upon approval, the cooperative plan has the force and effect of a contract.

66.0309 Creation, Organization, Powers and Duties of Regional Planning Commissions

Wisconsin Statute 66.0309 permits local governments to petition the governor to create a regional planning commission (RPC). If local support for a commission is unanimous, the governor may create it by executive order. The governor may also create a commission if local governments representing over 50% of the population or assessed valuation of the proposed region consent to the creation. Either local governments or the governor appoints commission members. State Statutes require the RPC to perform three major functions:

- Make and adopt a master plan for the physical development of the region.
- If requested by a local unit, report recommendations to that local unit on the location of, or acquisition of, land for any of the items or facilities that are included in the adopted regional master plan.
- Make an annual report of its activities to the legislative bodies of the local governmental units within the region.

RPCs are also authorized to perform several other functions, however, by law, they serve a strictly advisory role. Barron County is a member of the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

LAND USE

The following is a brief description of some of the primary land use programs and plans used by local municipalities in West Central Wisconsin.

AB608, Wisconsin Act 233 – Clarification of Smart Growth Law

This bill was signed into law in April 2004. This new law reduces the number of programs or actions with which a comprehensive plan must be consistent. Under the new legislation, the only actions which must be consistent with a comprehensive plan are official mapping, local subdivision regulation, and zoning ordinances, including zoning of shorelands or wetlands in shorelands. The bill also reiterates that an RPC's comprehensive plan is only advisory in its applicability to a political subdivision (a city, village, town or county), and a political subdivision's comprehensive plan.

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Wisconsin Land Information Program

The Wisconsin Land Information Program is a voluntary, statewide program that provides financial support to local governments for land records modernization efforts. All 72 Wisconsin counties voluntarily participate in the Program. The Wisconsin Land Information Board oversees the Program's policies. The Board's statutory authority includes preparing guidelines to coordinate the modernization of land records and land information systems; implementing a grant program for local governmental units; approval of countywide plans for land records modernization; serving as the clearinghouse for access to land information; and providing technical assistance and advice to state agencies and local governmental units with land information responsibilities.

Division of Intergovernmental Relations, Wisconsin Department of Administration

The Division of Intergovernmental Relations provides staff support to the Wisconsin Land Council, and it administers the Wisconsin Land Information Program in conjunction with the Wisconsin Land Information Board. It also houses Plat Review and Municipal Boundary Review, both of which have statutory authority for approval of specific land use related requests, and the GIS Services, dedicated to the efficient use of geographic information systems. For further information about the division visit its web-site via the WDOA web-site at: www.doa.state.wi.us.

UW-Extension Center for Land Use Education

The Center for Land Use Education uses a team-based approach to accomplish its dual missions in campus based undergraduate and graduate education and Extension outreach teaching related to: land use planning, plan and ordinance administration, project impact and regional trends analysis, and public involvement in local land use policy development. For more information on the Center for Land Use Education visit its web-site at www.uwsp.edu/cnr/landcenter/.

Barron County Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Ordinances

Seventeen of Barron County's 25 unincorporated towns participate in County zoning. In addition, Barron County enforces floodplain and shoreland zoning, as well as a sanitary ordinance, land division ordinance, and non-metallic mining ordinance, for all unincorporated areas of Barron County. County land use decisions should be based upon and consistent with the vision, goals, objectives, and policies of the County's comprehensive plan.

West Central Wisconsin Comprehensive Plan

As required by State Statute, West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission adopted a regional comprehensive plan in September 9, 2010. This advisory document includes all of the nine elements required under State comprehensive planning statutes, plus an additional energy and sustainability element. The plan includes land use trends for the region.

Land Trusts

Land trusts are non-profit conservation organizations that either buy land or hold conservation easements, or both, typically to conserve natural resources, valued habitat, or other special places. Land trusts may focus on a particular area (e.g., a community or along the Ice Age Trail) or on a particular resource (e.g., prairies or wetlands). Active land trusts in Barron County include:

Ice Age Trail Alliance
The Conservation Fund (Duluth, MN)
The Prairie Enthusiasts
West Wisconsin Land Trust (Menomonie, WI)