

Appendix A

Portage County Comprehensive Plan:
Public Participation Plan

and

Town Board Resolution to
Adopt Public Participation Plan

Town of Amherst
Comprehensive Plan
2015



PORTAGE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Portage County Comprehensive Plan: Public Participation Plan

Adopted by:

Portage County Comprehensive Planning Joint Steering Committee

July 25, 2001

Town of Amherst Board

August 9, 2001

Portage County Comprehensive Plan: Public Participation Plan

Introduction

The concept of citizens participating in government decision-making is fundamental to our system of governance. While it is true that our government officials are elected to represent citizens, it is also true that elected officials need to inform, be informed by, and interact with the public on an ongoing basis if their representation is to be meaningful. Regular and continuing involvement in government decision-making is the very basis for the idea of citizenship. Citizen participation is likely to produce better decisions by utilizing the knowledge of the populace and by allocating part of the responsibility for formulating and implementing decisions to the citizens. Without citizen participation, governments become less “governments for the people and by the people,” and more “service providers” for “taxpayers.”

The Portage County Comprehensive Planning process is committed to providing broad-based and continuous opportunities for public participation throughout the planning process. The process is designed to be responsive to citizen participants, is committed to utilizing the knowledge and understanding of citizens to address important issues, and offers multiple opportunities for engagement – at varying levels of involvement. The purpose of this Public Participation Plan is to define how the public will be involved throughout the entire comprehensive planning effort.

Wisconsin’s new Smart Growth and Comprehensive Planning law requires public participation throughout the comprehensive planning process.

Wisconsin Statutes, Section 66.1001(4)(a)...

“The governing body of a local governmental unit shall adopt written procedures that are designed to foster public participation, including open discussion, communication programs, information services, and public meetings for which advance notice has been provided, in every stage of the preparation of a comprehensive plan. The written procedures shall provide for a wide distribution of proposed, alternative, or amended elements of a comprehensive plan and shall provide an opportunity for written comments on the plan to be submitted by members of the public to the governing body and for the governing body to respond to such written comments.”

In order to be responsive to the new law, Portage County’s public participation process will: require planning committees to adopt the written public participation guidelines contained within this document to provide for meaningful input into the process; utilize a variety of public forums to garner input on a broad range of planning issues; provide for wide distribution of plan-related proposals and reports (through mail, world wide web, community exhibits and displays, etc.) to foster public dialogue and interaction; and develop formal mechanisms for the public to ask questions of the planning committees and for the planning committees to respond to those questions.

In addition, the public participation process will utilize a variety of methods to involve citizens at differing levels – from passive to active.

- **Public awareness** will be increased through the use of direct mail, news releases and mass media; displays and exhibits will be used as well to build awareness of the comprehensive planning process and opportunities to participate.
- **Public education** will provide citizens with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding issues and alternatives for addressing them. Public meetings will be held as one approach to providing education.
- **Public input** is an important part of participatory efforts. Public feedback through surveys, focus groups, open houses, and public meetings will be critical in assessing needs and providing input on alternatives developed to address them.
- **Public interaction** provides a higher level of participation. Through community visioning processes, public concerns and issues are directly reflected in the alternatives developed to address them, and feedback is given on how the input affected decision-making.
- **Public Partnership** is the highest level of participation. Decision making authority is placed in the hands of the urban and rural planning committees, with the promise to work to implement their decisions.

Public Participation in the Comprehensive Planning Approach

Portage County proposes to use an eight-step approach to the comprehensive planning process. What follows is a discussion of public participation at each step in the comprehensive planning approach (a graphic illustration of the comprehensive planning and citizen participation approaches is attached to this document).

Step 1: Committee Formation and Initial Meetings

In this step, urban and rural planning committees are formed. This represents the beginning of **Public Partnership** as described above. **Public education** also begins in Step 1. Educational efforts will focus attention on the comprehensive planning process, with the objective of improving public awareness surrounding the project. Newsletters, news media, a comprehensive planning website, and public meetings will be used to make the public more aware of the planning effort.

Step 2: Plan for Planning

Building **Public awareness** and **public education** will be the major objectives of participatory efforts in this step. Awareness will continue to be built through the use of media outlets, such as local newspapers, radio stations, and television. Presentations will be made to community and local government groups. Information will be made available through the comprehensive planning website and through written fact sheets and newsletters that will be made available to the public at county and local government offices, local libraries, and the comprehensive planning website.

Public education efforts will focus attention on the planning process and opportunities for public involvement. Awareness efforts described above will also provide some education.

Public input will be solicited through an interactive question and answer function on the website, as well as through more traditional means of communicating (phone, mail, etc.). Planning committees and staff will develop a system to respond to the questions submitted by the public.

Public partnership efforts continue with the convening of the urban and rural planning committees. This group of individuals will meet together to develop and adopt a public participation plan.

Step 3: Background Information and Inventory: Trends Assessment

Step 3 provides for the collection and analysis of data related to growth and change in the community, and looks at projections into the future.

Public awareness related to the inventory and assessment is critical to the understanding of community issues. In that regard, the public will be kept informed through a variety of media, as well as printed materials developed by the planning team. Presentations will be made at community and local government meetings. Materials developed will be made available to the public at county and local government offices, local libraries, and the comprehensive planning website.

Public education will take the form of public meetings related to the discussion of information developed throughout this step. Fact sheets will be developed for distribution to the public at county and local government offices, local libraries, and the comprehensive planning website.

Public input will be accepted in a number of ways. Opportunities for interactive questions and answers will be made available through the comprehensive planning website, as well as through traditional means of communication (phone, mail, etc.). Public comment will be solicited regarding the inventory, assessment, and trends information, which will be compiled in a Background Analysis Report. The Background Analysis Report will be made available for public review and comment at county and local government offices, local libraries, and the comprehensive planning website.

Public partnership is advanced as the urban and rural committees continue to meet and adopt the Background Analysis Report.

Step 4: Issue Identification and Visioning

Step 4 is the most public participation intensive in the comprehensive planning approach. It is at this point in the process that citizens identify key community issues and develop a vision of what their community should look like in 20 years.

As in the first three steps, **public awareness** efforts will focus on the utilization of the media, community meetings, printed materials, and the comprehensive planning website to inform people of opportunities to participate in this step. Materials developed will be made available to the public at county and local government offices, local libraries, and the comprehensive planning website.

Public education will continue through the use of public meetings and fact sheets developed for this step in the process.

Public input will be gathered in a number of ways. Opportunities for interactive questions and answers will be made available through the comprehensive planning website, as well as through traditional means of communication (phone, mail, etc.). Opinion surveys will be conducted to identify community issues. These surveys will include a mail survey to all residents, as well as property owners, in the county, and a photographic survey to assess visual preferences for different types of land uses and development (likely to be completed by urban and rural committee members). Invited experts will address the planning committees regarding a number of critical community issues. Focus groups will be convened to further detail issues identified through the opinion surveys and by invited experts. Citizens will also be asked to provide input on draft vision statements that are developed following interactive events described below. A summary Issue Identification Report will be made available for public review and comment at county and local government offices, local libraries, and the comprehensive planning website.

Public interaction will take place through community visioning sessions that take place throughout the county. Participants will be asked to describe their hopes and concerns about the future of their community, and more broadly, Portage County. Community mapping exercises will be used to develop graphic visions to be used along with narrative comments collected. The Draft and Final Vision Statement documents will be made available for public review and comment at county and local government offices, local libraries, and the comprehensive planning website.

Public Partnership efforts continue as the urban and rural committees meet jointly through this step. The large group will adopt an Issues Identification Report and will draft and adopt a vision statement for the county as a whole. The two committees will then continue their work separately, and will adopt vision statements and establish development goals and policies for the urban and rural areas, using the county vision as a guide.

Step 5: Strategy Formulation and Draft Comprehensive Plans

In this step, alternative strategies are developed to address the issues identified in Step 4 and to move toward the vision established in that step as well.

Public awareness efforts will continue using media, printed materials, community presentations, and the comprehensive planning website. Materials developed will be made available to the public at county and local government offices, local libraries, and the comprehensive planning website.

A series of **public educational** sessions will be held to provide information and education surrounding strategy formulation.

In an effort to gather **public input**, countywide public sessions will be held to respond to alternative strategies that are developed. Opportunities for interactive questions and answers will be made available through the comprehensive planning website, as well as through traditional means of communication (phone, mail, etc.). Open houses will be utilized to gather information related to graphic and narrative strategies developed. This input will be utilized by the planning committees to assess preferred strategies to pursue in the development of the comprehensive planning documents.

Public partnership efforts are advanced as the planning committees work to develop alternative strategies with the assistance of planning staff. The planning committees will review public input regarding potential strategies and will select and adopt preferred strategies. The committees will draft comprehensive plans with staff assistance. The Draft Comprehensive Plans will be available for public review and comment at county and local government offices, local libraries, and the comprehensive planning website.

Step 6: Plan Review and Adoption

In this step, the planning committees, local units of government and citizens review the comprehensive plans.

Public awareness surrounding the review and adoption step will utilize a variety of media, printed materials, community presentations, and the comprehensive planning website.

Public education sessions will be held to improve understanding of the plan review and adoption step, as well as specifics of the plans.

Public input will be solicited regarding the comprehensive plans through open houses and other public events. Opportunities for interactive questions and answers will be made available through the comprehensive planning website as well as through traditional means of communication (phone, mail, etc.). Materials will be available for review and comment at county and local government offices, and at local libraries.

Public partnership efforts will be focused on the planning committees taking final action to approve the comprehensive plans and presenting the final comprehensive plan documents to local units of government and the County Board of Supervisors for their approval.

Step 7: Plan Implementation

The first stage of the comprehensive planning process is complete following the adoption of comprehensive plans in step 6. Grant funding for this project is provided through adoption of the comprehensive plan. Step 7 initiates implementation of the plan. This step focuses attention on updating all land related ordinances in the county to be consistent with the new comprehensive plans. As in preceding steps, public involvement in this process is critical, but will be more formally designed as comprehensive plans are adopted.

Step 8: Plan Monitoring, Reassessment and Amendment Procedures

As the plan is implemented, it is imperative to monitor and reassess the effectiveness of strategies that have been put into place. Effective strategies need to be maintained, while ineffective strategies need to be modified or terminated. An amendment process will be developed to address issues that develop with the plan, or changes that take place in the community that necessitate change in the documents. Public involvement in this process will be needed. A more formal process will be designed as comprehensive plans are adopted.

Portage County Comprehensive Plan

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION APPROACH

INCREASING LEVEL OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

<i>Public Awareness</i>	<i>Public Education</i>	<i>Public Input</i>	<i>Public Interaction</i>	<i>Public Partnership</i>
Objective: To make the public aware of the comprehensive planning process.	Objective: To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, and/or solution.	Objective: To obtain public feedback on issues, alternatives and/or decisions.	Objective: To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered	Objective: To place decision-making responsibilities in the hands of the public
Promise to the Public: We will keep you informed.	Promise to the Public: We will try to help you understand.	Promise to the Public: We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns, and provide feedback on how public input influenced decisions.	Promise to the Public: We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and issues are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced decisions.	Promise to the Public: We will work to implement what you decide.
Example Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct mail • News releases and mass media • Displays and exhibits 	Example Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public education meetings • Websites 	Example Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open houses • Public hearings • Visual preference surveys • Opinion surveys • Focus Groups 	Example Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visioning 	Example Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen planning committees

Adapted from the International Association for Public Participation

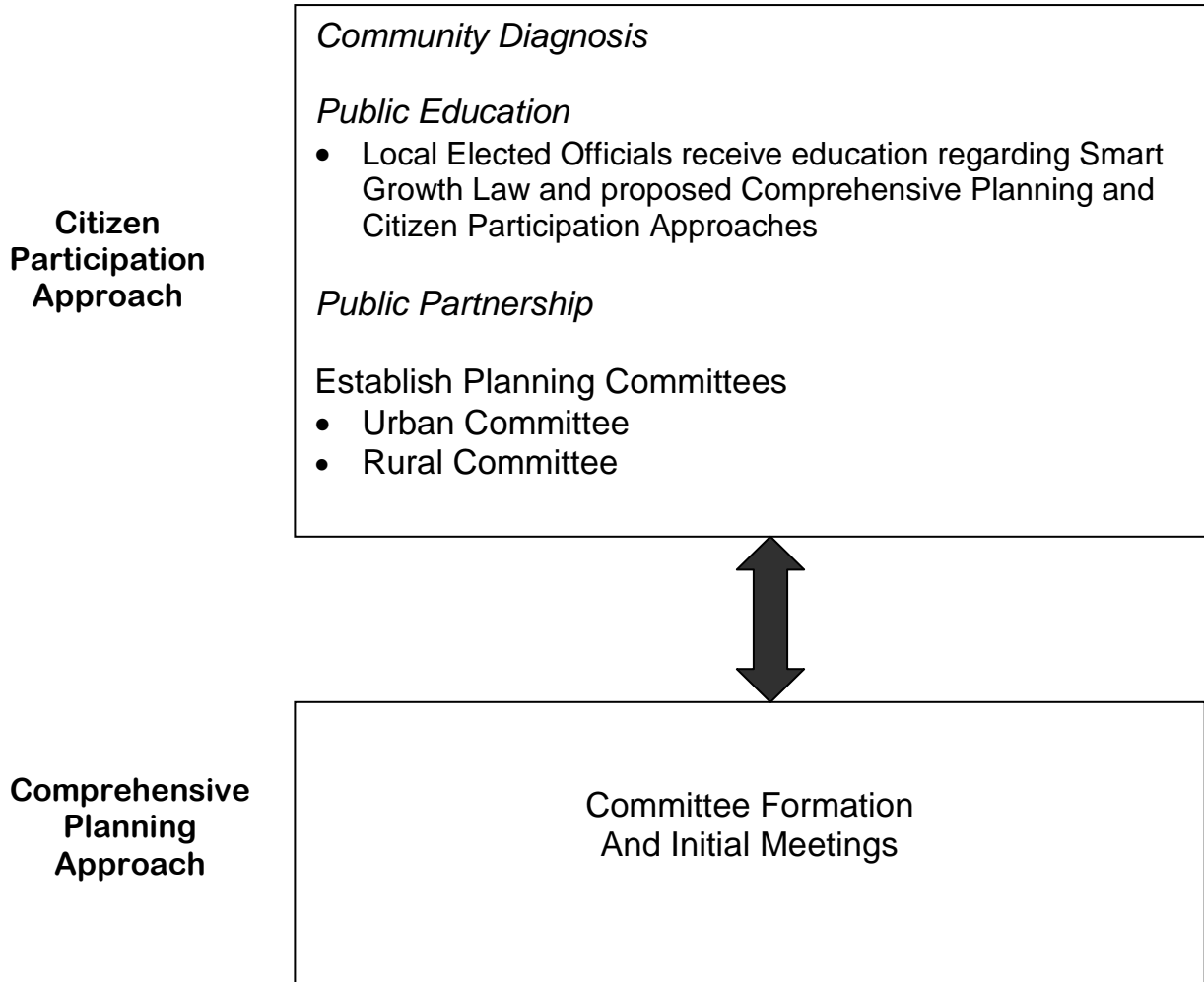
UW
Extension

Developed by: Citizen Participation Team, Community, Natural Resource and Economic Development Program Area.

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Portage County Citizen Participation and Comprehensive Planning Approaches

Step 1: Committee Formation and Initial Meetings



Portage County Citizen Participation and Comprehensive Planning Approaches

Step 2: Plan for Planning

Citizen Participation Approach

Public Awareness

- News Releases announcing Comprehensive Planning Effort
- Radio Talk Shows announcing Comprehensive Planning Effort
- Cable Access TV announcing Comprehensive Planning Effort
- Introductory Comprehensive Planning Newsletter
- Presentations at community meetings and to local Government Groups
- Website development to house comprehensive planning resources

Public Education

- Public Educational Sessions related to the Comprehensive Planning Approach and Opportunities for Citizen Participation
- Utilization of Awareness Methods to provide public education as well

Public Input

- Debut interactive Question and Answer and Input function on comprehensive planning website
- Accept questions from the public and provide answers and referrals by the Joint and Individual Planning Committees
- Evaluation of awareness and education activities

Public Partnership

- Convene Planning Committees
- Develop and Adopt Citizen Participation Plan/Guidelines



Comprehensive Planning Approach

Plan for Planning

Portage County Citizen Participation and Comprehensive Planning Approaches

Step 3: Background Information & Inventory: Trends Assessment

Citizen Participation Approach

Public Awareness

- News Releases related to Inventory and Assessment
- Radio Talk Shows related to Inventory and Assessment
- Cable Access TV related to Inventory and Assessment
- Comprehensive Planning Newsletter related to Inventory and Assessment
- Presentations at community meetings and to local Government Groups related to Inventory and Assessment
- Comprehensive Planning Project Website

Public Education

- Public Educational Sessions related to Inventory and Assessment
- Fact Sheets related to Inventory and Assessment
- Utilization of Awareness Methods to provide public education as well

Public Input

- Interactive Question and Answer and Input function on comprehensive planning website
- Accept questions from the public and provide answers and referrals by the Joint and Individual Planning Committees
- Public Review and Comment related to Background Analysis Report
- Evaluation of awareness and Inventory and Assessment

Public Partnership

- Planning Committees Meet
 - Adopt Background Analysis Report



Comprehensive Planning Approach

Background Information and Inventory:
Trends Assessment

Portage County Citizen Participation and Comprehensive Planning Approaches

Step 4: Issue Identification and Visioning

Citizen Participation Approach

Public Awareness

- News Releases related to Issue Identification and Visioning
- Radio Talk Shows related to Issue Identification and Visioning
- Cable Access TV related to Issue Identification and Visioning
- Comprehensive Planning Newsletter related to Issue Identification and Visioning
- Presentations at community meetings and to local Government Groups related to Issue Identification and Visioning
- Comprehensive Planning Project Website

Public Education

- Public Education Sessions related to Issue Identification and Visioning
- Utilization of Awareness Methods to provide public education as well

Public Input

- Hopes and Concerns Workshops throughout the county
- Community Surveys (mail/photographic)
- Focus Groups (tied to planning elements and human services dimension)
- Invited "Experts" provide input to planning committees
- Public Input Sessions to review draft mission statements
- Interactive Question and Answer and Input function on comprehensive planning website
- Accept questions from the public and provide answers and referrals by the Joint and Individual Planning Committees
- Evaluation of issue identification and visioning process

Public Interaction

- Hopes and Concerns Workshops throughout the county
- Community Visioning Sessions
- Community Mapping Exercises

Public Partnership

- Planning Committees Meet
 - Adopt Issue Identification Summary Report
 - Draft Vision Statement (County; Rural & Urban)
 - Adopt Visions Statements with Local Units of Government



Comprehensive Planning Approach

Issue Identification and Visioning

Portage County Citizen Participation and Comprehensive Planning Approaches

Step 5: Strategy Formulation and Draft Comprehensive Plans

Citizen Participation Approach

Public Awareness

- News Releases related to Strategy Formulation
- Radio Talk Shows related to Strategy Formulation
- Cable Access TV related to Strategy Formulation
- Comprehensive Planning Newsletter related to Strategy Formulation
- Presentations at community meetings and to local Government Groups related to Strategy Formulation
- Comprehensive Planning Project Website

Public Education

- Public Education Sessions related to Strategy Formulation
- Utilization of Awareness Methods to provide public education as well

Public Input

- Area-wide public input sessions related to alternative strategies
- Open Houses at various locations throughout the county
- Public review and comment of alternative strategies (narrative and graphic formats)
- Interactive Question and Answer and Input function on comprehensive planning website
- Accept questions from the public and provide answers and referrals by the Joint and Individual Planning Committees
- Evaluation of Planning Approach and Citizen Participation effort

Public Partnership

- Planning Committees Meet
 - Develop Alternative Strategies
 - Review Public Input related to alternative Strategies
 - Select/Adopt Preferred Strategies
 - Draft Comprehensive Plans with Staff



Comprehensive Planning Approach

Strategy Formulation and Draft Comprehensive Plans

Portage County Citizen Participation and Comprehensive Planning Approaches

Step 6: Plan Review and Adoption

Citizen Participation Approach

Public Awareness

- News Releases related to Plan Review and Adoption
- Radio Talk Shows related to Plan Review and Adoption
- Cable Access TV related to Plan Review and Adoption
- Comprehensive Planning Newsletter related to Plan Review and Adoption
- Presentations at community meetings and to local Government Groups related to Plan Review and Adoption
- Comprehensive Planning Project Website

Public Education

- Public Education Sessions related to Plan Review and Adoption

Public Input

- Public review and comment on Comprehensive Plans
- Open Houses at various locations throughout the county
- Interactive Question and Answer and Input function on comprehensive planning website
- Accept questions from the public and provide answers and referrals by the Joint and Individual Planning Committees
- Formal Public Hearings prior to adoption by each local unit of government
- Evaluation of Comprehensive Planning Approach and Citizen Participation Effort

Public Partnership

- Planning Committees Meet
 - Present Final Comprehensive Plan documents to public
 - Action by Planning Committees, Local Units of Government, and County Board to Adopt Comprehensive Plan



Comprehensive Planning Approach

Plan Review and Adoption

Portage County Citizen Participation and Comprehensive Planning Approaches

Step 7: Plan Implementation

Citizen Participation Approach

Public Awareness

- News Releases related to Plan Implementation
- Radio Talk Shows related to Plan Implementation
- Cable Access TV related to Plan Implementation
- Comprehensive Planning Newsletter related to Plan Implementation
- Presentations at community meetings and to local Government Groups related to Plan Implementation
- Comprehensive Planning Project Website

Public Education

- Public Education Sessions related to Plan Implementation and opportunities for participation

Public Input

- Interactive Question and Answer and Input function on comprehensive planning website
- Accept questions from the public and provide answers and referrals by the Joint and Individual Planning Committees

Public Partnership

- Planning Committees Meet
 - Assess membership
 - Begin revision/updating of all land related ordinances to make consistent with the Comprehensive Plan
 - Develop linkages between Comprehensive Plan and Implementation
 - Develop action steps, timelines, roles, and responsibilities for implementation



Comprehensive Planning Approach

Plan Implementation

Portage County Citizen Participation and Comprehensive Planning Approaches

Step 8: Plan Monitoring, Reassessment and Amendment Procedures

Citizen Participation Approach

Public Awareness

- News Releases related to Plan Monitoring, Assessment and Amendment Procedures
- Radio Talk Shows related to Plan Monitoring, Assessment and Amendment Procedures
- Cable Access TV related to Plan Monitoring, Assessment and Amendment Procedures
- Comprehensive Planning Newsletter related to Plan Monitoring, Assessment and Amendment Procedures
- Presentations at community meetings and to local Government Groups related to Plan Monitoring, Assessment and Amendment Procedures
- Comprehensive Planning Project Website

Public Education

- Public Education Sessions related to Plan Monitoring, Assessment and Amendment Procedures

Public Input

- Interactive Question and Answer and Input function on comprehensive planning website
- Accept questions from the public and provide answers and referrals by the Joint and Individual Planning Committees

Public Partnership

- Planning Committees Meet
 - Develop plan evaluation process
 - Develop plan review and amendment process
 - Definition of plan update target (i.e. 5 years, 10 years, etc.)



Comprehensive Planning Approach

Plan Monitoring, Assessment and Amendment Procedures

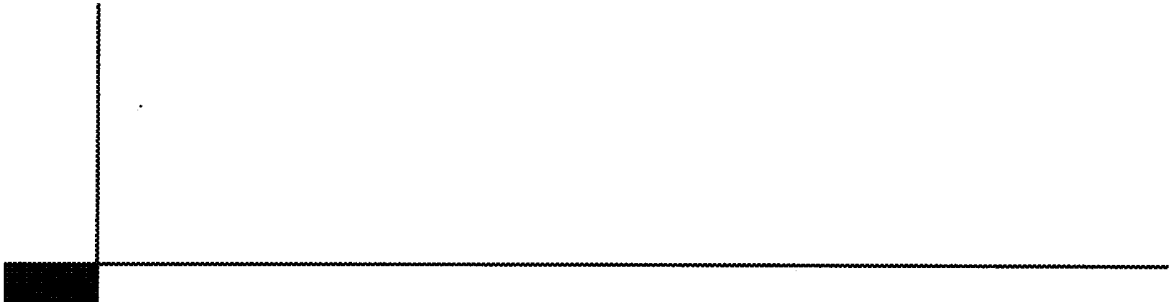
*Prepared By: Mark Hilliker, Community Resource Development Agent
Portage County UW-Extension
July 2001*

Appendix B

Portage County Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Survey Final Report

December, 2001

Town of Amherst
Comprehensive Plan
2015



Portage County Comprehensive Planning & Zoning Survey

Final Report

December, 2001

Town of Amherst

Prepared By:

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Town of Amherst Planning Survey

County Trends and Land Use

1. From the year 2000 to 2020, Portage County's population is projected to increase 21 percent from 67,182 to 81,242. At what rate would you like to see growth occur?

	Responses	Percent
Faster than projected	7	5%
Present projected rate of growth	45	34%
Slower than projected	63	47%
No growth	14	11%
Don't Know	4	3%
Total	133	100%

2. The following types of growth should be encouraged within Portage County

Single family residential

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	3	2%
2-Disagree	9	7%
3-Neutral	29	21%
4-Agree	50	37%
5-Strongly Agree	45	33%
DK-Don't Know	0	0%
Total	136	100%

Valid cases 136

Average 3.9

Multi-family residential

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	16	12%
2-Disagree	26	19%
3-Neutral	52	39%
4-Agree	29	22%
5-Strongly Agree	9	7%
DK-Don't Know	2	1%
Total	134	100%

Valid cases 132

Average 2.9

Rural residential

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	20	15%
2-Disagree	31	23%
3-Neutral	30	23%
4-Agree	32	24%
5-Strongly Agree	16	12%
DK-Don't Know	3	2%
Total	132	100%

Valid cases	129
Average	2.9

Family farms

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	3	2%
2-Disagree	1	1%
3-Neutral	20	15%
4-Agree	46	34%
5-Strongly Agree	66	49%
DK-Don't Know	0	0%
Total	136	100%

Valid cases	136
Average	4.3

Small businesses

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	3	2%
2-Disagree	2	1%
3-Neutral	18	13%
4-Agree	63	47%
5-Strongly Agree	49	36%
DK-Don't Know	0	0%
Total	135	100%

Valid cases	135
Average	4.1

Hobby farms

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	9	7%
2-Disagree	15	11%
3-Neutral	42	32%
4-Agree	47	36%
5-Strongly Agree	18	14%
DK-Don't Know	1	1%
Total	132	100%

Valid cases	131
Average	3.4

Large corporate farms

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	53	40%
2-Disagree	33	25%
3-Neutral	29	22%
4-Agree	12	9%
5-Strongly Agree	5	4%
DK-Don't Know	2	1%
Total	134	100%

Valid cases	132
Average	2.1

Large retail outlets/centers

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	26	20%
2-Disagree	34	26%
3-Neutral	29	22%
4-Agree	24	18%
5-Strongly Agree	18	14%
DK-Don't Know	1	1%
Total	132	100%

Valid cases	131
Average	2.8

<u>Light industry</u>	Responses	Percent	<u>Heavy industry</u>	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	8	6%	1- Strongly Disagree	23	17%
2-Disagree	7	5%	2-Disagree	24	18%
3-Neutral	15	11%	3-Neutral	31	23%
4-Agree	67	50%	4-Agree	27	20%
5-Strongly Agree	37	27%	5-Strongly Agree	25	19%
DK-Don't Know	1	1%	DK-Don't Know	4	3%
Total	135	100%	Total	134	100%
Valid cases	134		Valid cases	130	
Average	3.9		Average	3.1	

3. Local units of government have the responsibility to protect property owners and the community by regulating land use.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	6	4%
2-Disagree	8	6%
3-Neutral	26	19%
4-Agree	68	49%
5-Strongly Agree	32	23%
DK-Don't Know	0	0%
Total	140	100%
Valid cases	140	
Average	3.8	

4. The use of zoning regulations is beneficial.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	4	3%
2-Disagree	2	1%
3-Neutral	22	16%
4-Agree	70	50%
5-Strongly Agree	36	26%
DK-Don't Know	5	4%
Total	139	100%
Valid cases	134	
Average	4.0	

5. People should be allowed to develop their property any way they see fit.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	35	25%
2-Disagree	45	32%
3-Neutral	23	16%
4-Agree	20	14%
5-Strongly Agree	16	11%
DK-Don't Know	1	1%
Total	140	100%
Valid cases	139	
Average	2.5	

Housing

6. Ideal urban neighborhoods would include homes as well as:

<u>Apartments</u>			<u>Shopping</u>		
	Responses	Percent		Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	7	5%	1- Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2-Disagree	16	12%	2-Disagree	6	5%
3-Neutral	27	21%	3-Neutral	19	14%
4-Agree	58	44%	4-Agree	80	60%
5-Strongly Agree	20	15%	5-Strongly Agree	26	20%
DK-Don't Know	3	2%	DK-Don't Know	2	2%
Total	131	100%	Total	133	100%
Valid cases	128		Valid cases	131	
Average	3.5		Average	4.0	

T. Amherst

Employment

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2-Disagree	8	6%
3-Neutral	28	21%
4-Agree	65	48%
5-Strongly Agree	34	25%
DK-Don't Know	1	1%
Total	136	100%

Valid cases	135
Average	3.9

Parks

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	1	1%
2-Disagree	2	1%
3-Neutral	12	9%
4-Agree	72	53%
5-Strongly Agree	47	35%
DK-Don't Know	2	1%
Total	136	100%

Valid cases	134
Average	4.2

Sidewalks

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	4	3%
2-Disagree	13	10%
3-Neutral	25	19%
4-Agree	62	46%
5-Strongly Agree	26	19%
DK-Don't Know	4	3%
Total	134	100%

Valid cases	130
Average	3.7

Schools

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	1	1%
2-Disagree	1	1%
3-Neutral	14	10%
4-Agree	72	54%
5-Strongly Agree	45	34%
DK-Don't Know	1	1%
Total	134	100%

Valid cases	133
Average	4.2

Alleys

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	13	10%
2-Disagree	32	25%
3-Neutral	46	35%
4-Agree	25	19%
5-Strongly Agree	11	8%
DK-Don't Know	3	2%
Total	130	100%

Valid cases	127
Average	2.9

7. Other than farm residences, what types of housing would be appropriate in rural areas

Single family (2+ acre)

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	9	7%
2-Disagree	10	7%
3-Neutral	17	12%
4-Agree	57	42%
5-Strongly Agree	42	31%
DK-Don't Know	1	1%
Total	136	100%
Valid cases	135	
Average	3.8	

Duplexes

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	36	27%
2-Disagree	45	34%
3-Neutral	26	20%
4-Agree	17	13%
5-Strongly Agree	4	3%
DK-Don't Know	5	4%
Total	133	100%
Valid cases	128	
Average	2.3	

Mobile home parks

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	71	53%
2-Disagree	38	28%
3-Neutral	14	10%
4-Agree	6	4%
5-Strongly Agree	1	1%
DK-Don't Know	4	3%
Total	134	100%
Valid cases	130	
Average	1.7	

Single family (<2 acre)

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	35	26%
2-Disagree	34	25%
3-Neutral	24	18%
4-Agree	24	18%
5-Strongly Agree	13	10%
DK-Don't Know	5	4%
Total	135	100%
Valid cases	130	
Average	2.6	

Multi-family apartments

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	53	40%
2-Disagree	48	36%
3-Neutral	18	14%
4-Agree	8	6%
5-Strongly Agree	2	2%
DK-Don't Know	3	2%
Total	132	100%
Valid cases	129	
Average	1.9	

No new non-farm housing

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	24	18%
2-Disagree	32	24%
3-Neutral	38	29%
4-Agree	18	14%
5-Strongly Agree	14	11%
DK-Don't Know	6	5%
Total	132	100%
Valid cases	126	
Average	2.7	

8. My city/village/township has a need for more:**Moderately priced homes**

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	8	6%
2-Disagree	15	11%
3-Neutral	40	29%
4-Agree	50	36%
5-Strongly Agree	19	14%
DK-Don't Know	5	4%
Total	137	100%
Valid cases	132	
Average	3.4	

Higher priced homes

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	22	16%
2-Disagree	45	33%
3-Neutral	50	37%
4-Agree	10	7%
5-Strongly Agree	4	3%
DK-Don't Know	5	4%
Total	136	100%
Valid cases	131	
Average	2.5	

Manufactured(mobile) homes

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	52	38%
2-Disagree	46	34%
3-Neutral	30	22%
4-Agree	3	2%
5-Strongly Agree	2	1%
DK-Don't Know	4	3%
Total	137	100%
Valid cases	133	
Average	1.9	

Public/subsidized housing

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	32	24%
2-Disagree	39	29%
3-Neutral	37	27%
4-Agree	14	10%
5-Strongly Agree	5	4%
DK-Don't Know	8	6%
Total	135	100%
Valid cases	127	
Average	2.4	

Multi-unit rental housing

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	33	24%
2-Disagree	47	35%
3-Neutral	30	22%
4-Agree	20	15%
5-Strongly Agree	1	1%
DK-Don't Know	4	3%
Total	135	100%
Valid cases	131	
Average	2.3	

Housing for seniors

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	9	6%
2-Disagree	6	4%
3-Neutral	42	30%
4-Agree	59	42%
5-Strongly Agree	16	12%
DK-Don't Know	7	5%
Total	139	100%
Valid cases	132	
Average	3.5	

9. The overall quality of housing in my city/village/township is good.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	2	1%
2-Disagree	4	3%
3-Neutral	17	12%
4-Agree	105	76%
5-Strongly Agree	9	6%
DK-Don't Know	2	1%
Total	139	100%
Valid cases	137	
Average	3.8	

10. Government should provide financial assistance for lower income residents to maintain and improve their homes.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	16	12%
2-Disagree	18	13%
3-Neutral	43	31%
4-Agree	52	37%
5-Strongly Agree	9	6%
DK-Don't Know	1	1%
Total	139	100%
Valid cases	138	
Average	3.1	

Utilities & Community Facilities

11. New homes and businesses should be encouraged :

11a. Primarily in communities where sewer and water are available...

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	2	1%
2-Disagree	8	6%
3-Neutral	15	11%
4-Agree	78	58%
5-Strongly Agree	32	24%
DK-Don't Know	0	0%
Total	135	100%

Valid cases 135

Average 4.0

11b. Next to communities where sewer and water could be extended...

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	11	8%
2-Disagree	20	15%
3-Neutral	35	26%
4-Agree	53	40%
5-Strongly Agree	14	10%
DK-Don't Know	1	1%
Total	134	100%

Valid cases 133

Average 3.3

11c. Anywhere in the County, with or without sewer and water services...

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	34	25%
2-Disagree	35	26%
3-Neutral	33	24%
4-Agree	23	17%
5-Strongly Agree	8	6%
DK-Don't Know	2	1%
Total	135	100%

Valid cases 133

Average 2.5

12. Future boundaries should be established for municipal water and sanitary sewer systems.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	3	2%
2-Disagree	10	7%
3-Neutral	33	24%
4-Agree	67	48%
5-Strongly Agree	23	16%
DK-Don't Know	4	3%
Total	140	100%

Valid cases	136
Average	3.7

13. The boundaries described in Question 12 should be

	Responses	Percent
Very inflexible, essentially stopping development outside of the boundary.	33	25%
Somewhat flexible, allowing for some development outside the boundary	92	70%
Very flexible, allowing anyone who asks for sewer and water to get it wherever they are.	7	5%
Total	132	100%

14. How would you rate each of the following local services.**Sanitary sewer**

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	2	1%
2-Poor	2	1%
3-Average	15	11%
4-Good	31	23%
5-Excellent	7	5%
DU-Don't Use	78	58%
Total	135	100%
Valid cases	57	
Average	3.7	

Police protection

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	2	1%
2-Poor	6	4%
3-Average	48	36%
4-Good	62	46%
5-Excellent	13	10%
DU-Don't Use	4	3%
Total	135	100%
Valid cases	131	
Average	3.6	

Ambulance service

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	1	1%
2-Poor	7	5%
3-Average	34	25%
4-Good	63	47%
5-Excellent	20	15%
DU-Don't Use	9	7%
Total	134	100%
Valid cases	125	
Average	3.8	

Municipal water

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	3	2%
2-Poor	2	2%
3-Average	20	15%
4-Good	28	21%
5-Excellent	3	2%
DU-Don't Use	77	58%
Total	133	100%
Valid cases	56	
Average	3.5	

Fire protection

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	2	1%
2-Poor	1	1%
3-Average	36	27%
4-Good	58	43%
5-Excellent	33	25%
DU-Don't Use	4	3%
Total	134	100%
Valid cases	130	
Average	3.9	

Social service

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	2	2%
2-Poor	6	5%
3-Average	42	32%
4-Good	38	29%
5-Excellent	8	6%
DU-Don't Use	35	27%
Total	131	100%
Valid cases	96	
Average	3.5	

Garbage collection

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	2	1%
2-Poor	1	1%
3-Average	28	21%
4-Good	72	53%
5-Excellent	14	10%
DU-Don't Use	18	13%
Total	135	100%
Valid cases	117	
Average	3.8	

Library

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	2	1%
2-Poor	3	2%
3-Average	22	16%
4-Good	74	55%
5-Excellent	26	19%
DU-Don't Use	7	5%
Total	134	100%
Valid cases	127	
Average	3.9	

Parks

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	2	1%
2-Poor	3	2%
3-Average	26	19%
4-Good	79	58%
5-Excellent	22	16%
DU-Don't Use	5	4%
Total	137	100%
Valid cases	132	
Average	3.9	

Recycling program

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	0	0%
2-Poor	7	5%
3-Average	28	21%
4-Good	79	59%
5-Excellent	15	11%
DU-Don't Use	5	4%
Total	134	100%
Valid cases	129	
Average	3.8	

Education

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	2	1%
2-Poor	3	2%
3-Average	23	17%
4-Good	76	56%
5-Excellent	27	20%
DU-Don't Use	5	4%
Total	136	100%
Valid cases	131	
Average	3.9	

Recreation programs

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	3	2%
2-Poor	7	5%
3-Average	35	26%
4-Good	55	40%
5-Excellent	13	10%
DU-Don't Use	23	17%
Total	136	100%
Valid cases	113	
Average	3.6	

Agricultural, Natural, & Cultural Resources

16. Portage County should work with farmers to identify and protect productive agricultural regions.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2-Disagree	3	2%
3-Neutral	13	9%
4-Agree	50	35%
5-Strongly Agree	74	52%
DK-Don't Know	1	1%
Total	141	100%

Valid cases 140

Average 4.4

17. Local units of government in Portage County should address the issue of development in productive agricultural regions by:

17a. Preserving farmland at all costs

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	5	4%
2-Disagree	24	18%
3-Neutral	36	27%
4-Agree	39	29%
5-Strongly Agree	29	22%
DK-Don't Know	1	1%
Total	134	100%

Valid cases 133

Average 3.5

17b. Protecting productive farmland, but allowing growth in areas not suitable for agricultural use.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	7	5%
2-Disagree	14	10%
3-Neutral	17	12%
4-Agree	76	55%
5-Strongly Agree	23	17%
DK-Don't Know	1	1%
Total	138	100%
Valid cases	137	
Average	3.7	

17c. Not protecting farmland, let owners develop as they see fit

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	68	50%
2-Disagree	28	21%
3-Neutral	24	18%
4-Agree	8	6%
5-Strongly Agree	3	2%
DK-Don't Know	4	3%
Total	135	100%
Valid cases	131	
Average	1.9	

18. The rural economy of Portage County should be protected by having growth directed into and around existing developed areas.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	2	1%
2-Disagree	6	4%
3-Neutral	24	18%
4-Agree	75	55%
5-Strongly Agree	28	21%
DK-Don't Know	1	1%
Total	136	100%
Valid cases	135	
Average	3.9	

19. My city/village/township should make an effort to identify and protect the following:

19a. Woodlands

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	3	2%
2-Disagree	7	5%
3-Neutral	15	11%
4-Agree	58	42%
5-Strongly Agree	56	40%
DK-Don't Know	0	0%
Total	139	100%
Valid cases	139	
Average	4.1	

19c. Open spaces

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	3	2%
2-Disagree	10	7%
3-Neutral	36	26%
4-Agree	48	35%
5-Strongly Agree	40	29%
DK-Don't Know	1	1%
Total	138	100%
Valid cases	137	
Average	3.8	

19e. Endangered species habitat

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	5	4%
2-Disagree	9	7%
3-Neutral	25	18%
4-Agree	40	29%
5-Strongly Agree	58	42%
DK-Don't Know	0	0%
Total	137	100%
Valid cases	137	
Average	4.0	

19b. Wetlands and floodplains

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	2	1%
2-Disagree	4	3%
3-Neutral	26	19%
4-Agree	45	32%
5-Strongly Agree	62	44%
DK-Don't Know	1	1%
Total	140	100%
Valid cases	139	
Average	4.2	

19d. Lakes, rivers and streams

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	1	1%
2-Disagree	2	1%
3-Neutral	13	9%
4-Agree	52	37%
5-Strongly Agree	72	51%
DK-Don't Know	0	0%
Total	140	100%
Valid cases	140	
Average	4.4	

19f. Parkland, existing and future

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	2	1%
2-Disagree	4	3%
3-Neutral	23	17%
4-Agree	62	45%
5-Strongly Agree	47	34%
DK-Don't Know	0	0%
Total	138	100%
Valid cases	138	
Average	4.1	

19g. Historic and cultural sites

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	2	1%
2-Disagree	7	5%
3-Neutral	24	17%
4-Agree	61	44%
5-Strongly Agree	46	33%
DK-Don't Know	0	0%
Total	140	100%
Valid cases	140	
Average	4.0	

20. The following represent a threat to the quality of Portage County's groundwater:

20a. Residential runoff

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	2	1%
2-Disagree	18	13%
3-Neutral	18	13%
4-Agree	68	50%
5-Strongly Agree	26	19%
DK-Don't Know	4	3%
Total	136	100%
Valid cases	132	
Average	3.7	

20b. Agricultural pesticides and fertilizers

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	2	1%
2-Disagree	10	7%
3-Neutral	15	11%
4-Agree	54	39%
5-Strongly Agree	51	37%
DK-Don't Know	5	4%
Total	137	100%
Valid cases	132	
Average	4.1	

20c. Manure and liquid waste application

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	3	2%
2-Disagree	15	11%
3-Neutral	26	19%
4-Agree	51	37%
5-Strongly Agree	33	24%
DK-Don't Know	9	7%
Total	137	100%

Valid cases 128

Average 3.8

20e. Sewage holding tank and septic tank spreading

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	3	2%
2-Disagree	25	18%
3-Neutral	50	36%
4-Agree	33	24%
5-Strongly Agree	16	12%
DK-Don't Know	10	7%
Total	137	100%

Valid cases 127

Average 3.3

20g. Industrial waste land spreading

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	1	1%
2-Disagree	7	5%
3-Neutral	25	19%
4-Agree	54	40%
5-Strongly Agree	32	24%
DK-Don't Know	16	12%
Total	135	100%

Valid cases 119

Average 3.9

20d. Commercial/Industrial storm water runoff and infiltration

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	1	1%
2-Disagree	5	4%
3-Neutral	29	21%
4-Agree	62	46%
5-Strongly Agree	24	18%
DK-Don't Know	14	10%
Total	135	100%

Valid cases 121

Average 3.9

20f. Improperly abandoned wells

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	1	1%
2-Disagree	10	7%
3-Neutral	53	39%
4-Agree	38	28%
5-Strongly Agree	16	12%
DK-Don't Know	17	13%
Total	135	100%

Valid cases 118

Average 3.5

20h. municipal waste and sludge land spreading

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	5	4%
2-Disagree	10	7%
3-Neutral	34	25%
4-Agree	43	32%
5-Strongly Agree	29	21%
DK-Don't Know	15	11%
Total	136	100%

Valid cases 121

Average 3.7

21. The following represent a threat to the quantity of Portage County's groundwater:

21a. Municipal wells

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	9	7%
2-Disagree	28	21%
3-Neutral	55	40%
4-Agree	24	18%
5-Strongly Agree	5	4%
DK-Don't Know	15	11%
Total	136	100%
Valid cases	121	
Average	2.9	

21c. Drinking water bottling plants

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	8	6%
2-Disagree	13	9%
3-Neutral	30	22%
4-Agree	36	26%
5-Strongly Agree	38	28%
DK-Don't Know	12	9%
Total	137	100%
Valid cases	125	
Average	3.7	

21e. Private wells

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	26	19%
2-Disagree	57	42%
3-Neutral	32	24%
4-Agree	8	6%
5-Strongly Agree	5	4%
DK-Don't Know	8	6%
Total	136	100%
Valid cases	128	
Average	2.3	

21b. Agricultural irrigation wells

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	4	3%
2-Disagree	25	18%
3-Neutral	41	30%
4-Agree	35	26%
5-Strongly Agree	21	15%
DK-Don't Know	11	8%
Total	137	100%
Valid cases	126	
Average	3.3	

21d. Industrial water users

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	3	2%
2-Disagree	12	9%
3-Neutral	44	33%
4-Agree	46	34%
5-Strongly Agree	18	13%
DK-Don't Know	12	9%
Total	135	100%
Valid cases	123	
Average	3.5	

Commerce and Employment

22. What types of new development do you believe would be good for Portage County to attract?

22a. Retail development

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	8	6%
2-Disagree	23	17%
3-Neutral	41	30%
4-Agree	42	30%
5-Strongly Agree	20	14%
DK-Don't Know	4	3%
Total	138	100%
Valid cases	134	
Average	3.3	

22b. Service Development

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	6	4%
2-Disagree	26	19%
3-Neutral	60	43%
4-Agree	31	22%
5-Strongly Agree	12	9%
DK-Don't Know	3	2%
Total	138	100%
Valid cases	135	
Average	3.1	

22c. Office Development

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	9	7%
2-Disagree	26	19%
3-Neutral	47	35%
4-Agree	36	27%
5-Strongly Agree	13	10%
DK-Don't Know	4	3%
Total	135	100%
Valid cases	131	
Average	3.1	

22d. Industrial Development

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	9	7%
2-Disagree	17	13%
3-Neutral	23	17%
4-Agree	50	37%
5-Strongly Agree	31	23%
DK-Don't Know	5	4%
Total	135	100%
Valid cases	130	
Average	3.6	

23. New retail or commercial businesses should only be located in cities or villages

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	5	4%
2-Disagree	26	19%
3-Neutral	20	15%
4-Agree	51	37%
5-Strongly Agree	32	23%
DK-Don't Know	3	2%
Total	137	100%
Valid cases	134	
Average	3.6	

24. There are enough job opportunities to make a living in Portage County.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	11	8%
2-Disagree	35	26%
3-Neutral	27	20%
4-Agree	44	32%
5-Strongly Agree	14	10%
DK-Don't Know	6	4%
Total	137	100%
Valid cases	131	
Average	3.1	

25. Tax dollars should be used to develop new jobs in the County.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	16	12%
2-Disagree	29	21%
3-Neutral	43	31%
4-Agree	35	25%
5-Strongly Agree	12	9%
DK-Don't Know	3	2%
Total	138	100%
Valid cases	135	
Average	3.0	

Transportation

26. Local roads in my city/village/township are in good condition

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	7	5%
2-Disagree	26	19%
3-Neutral	16	12%
4-Agree	82	59%
5-Strongly Agree	8	6%
DK-Don't Know	0	0%
Total	139	100%
Valid cases	139	
Average	3.4	

27. Portage County Highways are in good condition.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	4	3%
2-Disagree	8	6%
3-Neutral	15	11%
4-Agree	100	71%
5-Strongly Agree	13	9%
DK-Don't Know	0	0%
Total	140	100%
Valid cases	140	
Average	3.8	

28. Local units of government in Portage County need to provide:

28a. more bicycle routes

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	16	12%
2-Disagree	19	14%
3-Neutral	45	32%
4-Agree	39	28%
5-Strongly Agree	14	10%
DK-Don't Know	6	4%
Total	139	100%
Valid cases	133	
Average	3.1	

28b. more pedestrian routes

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	15	11%
2-Disagree	20	14%
3-Neutral	51	37%
4-Agree	33	24%
5-Strongly Agree	14	10%
DK-Don't Know	6	4%
Total	139	100%
Valid cases	133	
Average	3.1	

29. Local units of government should provide connections to regional trail systems.

	Responses	Percent
1- Strongly Disagree	18	13%
2-Disagree	17	12%
3-Neutral	35	25%
4-Agree	42	30%
5-Strongly Agree	22	16%
DK-Don't Know	4	3%
Total	138	100%
Valid cases	134	
Average	3.2	

30. How would you rate the following transportation-related services in Portage County:

Road maintenance

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	7	5%
2-Poor	4	3%
3-Average	29	21%
4-Good	83	60%
5-Excellent	15	11%
DU-Don't Use	1	1%
Total	139	100%
Valid cases	138	
Average	3.7	

Public parking

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	1	1%
2-Poor	11	8%
3-Average	55	40%
4-Good	57	41%
5-Excellent	6	4%
DU-Don't Use	8	6%
Total	138	100%
Valid cases	130	
Average	3.4	

Bicycle/pedestrian facilities

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	4	3%
2-Poor	14	10%
3-Average	47	35%
4-Good	37	27%
5-Excellent	4	3%
DU-Don't Use	30	22%
Total	136	100%
Valid cases	106	
Average	3.2	

Snow plowing

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	0	0%
2-Poor	9	6%
3-Average	26	19%
4-Good	85	61%
5-Excellent	16	12%
DU-Don't Use	3	2%
Total	139	100%
Valid cases	136	
Average	3.8	

Bus / Taxi / etc.

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	1	1%
2-Poor	22	16%
3-Average	37	27%
4-Good	21	15%
5-Excellent	4	3%
DU-Don't Use	51	38%
Total	136	100%
Valid cases	85	
Average	3.1	

Transportation for seniors

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	2	1%
2-Poor	10	7%
3-Average	29	21%
4-Good	33	24%
5-Excellent	5	4%
DU-Don't Use	58	42%
Total	137	100%
Valid cases	79	
Average	3.4	

Transportation for disabled

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	4	3%
2-Poor	9	7%
3-Average	24	18%
4-Good	32	23%
5-Excellent	5	4%
DU-Don't Use	63	46%
Total	137	100%
Valid cases	74	
Average	3.3	

Airport facilities

	Responses	Percent
1-Very Poor	7	5%
2-Poor	17	12%
3-Average	40	29%
4-Good	24	18%
5-Excellent	5	4%
DU-Don't Use	44	32%
Total	137	100%
Valid cases	93	
Average	3.0	

Issues and Opportunities

31. My preference for development in rural Portage County in the year 2020 is:

	Responses	Percent
Preservation of the existing rural landscape with limited amounts of new development.	79	56%
Preservation of the existing landscape with moderate amounts of new development.	55	39%
Unrestricted development in rural areas.	6	4%
Total	140	100%

32. my preference for development in urban Portage County in the year 2020 is:

	Responses	Percent
Infill and redevelopment with no outward expansion of existing urban areas.	32	23%
Some outward expansion of existing urban areas with a focus on infill and redevelopment.	98	70%
Unrestricted growth of the urban areas with a focus on outward expansion.	11	8%
Total	141	100%

33. As Portage County and local government units plan for future development, should they discourage, encourage, or remain neutral regarding each of the following:

33a. Environmental preservation

	Responses	Percent
Encourage	117	84%
Remain neutral	22	16%
Discourage	0	0%
Don't Know	0	0%
Total	139	100%

33b. Farmland preservation

	Responses	Percent
Encourage	114	81%
Remain neutral	24	17%
Discourage	1	1%
Don't Know	1	1%
Total	140	100%

33c. Industrial development

	Responses	Percent
Encourage	71	52%
Remain neutral	46	34%
Discourage	15	11%
Don't Know	4	3%
Total	136	100%

33d. Residential development

	Responses	Percent
Encourage	47	34%
Remain neutral	70	51%
Discourage	18	13%
Don't Know	3	2%
Total	138	100%

33e. Retail development

	Responses	Percent
Encourage	53	38%
Remain neutral	62	45%
Discourage	21	15%
Don't Know	2	1%
Total	138	100%

33f. Tourism facilities

	Responses	Percent
Encourage	61	44%
Remain neutral	52	37%
Discourage	20	14%
Don't Know	6	4%
Total	139	100%

33g. Vacation homes

	Responses	Percent
Encourage	15	11%
Remain neutral	68	49%
Discourage	50	36%
Don't Know	6	4%
Total	139	100%

Demographics

36. How long have you been a resident in Portage County?

	Responses	Percent
Less than 1 year	1	1%
1 - 5 years	5	4%
6 - 10 years	11	8%
11 - 20 years	16	12%
over 20 years	99	71%
Not a resident but own land	7	5%
Total	139	100%

38. I currently

	Responses	Percent
Own	134	96%
Rent	5	4%
Total	139	100%

39. Please indicate your gender:

	Responses	Percent
Male	83	61%
Female	54	39%
Total	137	100%

40. What is your age:

	Responses	Percent
under 18	0	0%
18-24	0	0%
25-34	17	12%
35-44	28	20%
45-54	43	31%
55-64	22	16%
65-74	19	14%
over 75	11	8%
Total	140	100%

42. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

	Responses	Percent
some high school	5	4%
high school graduate	59	44%
technical college	21	16%
junior college	2	1%
college	32	24%
post graduate	15	11%
Total	134	100%

43. What is your employment status:

	Responses	Percent
employed	78	57%
unemployed	2	1%
self-employed	26	19%
student	1	1%
retired	30	22%
do not work	1	1%
Total	138	100%

44. What is your field of employment?

	Responses	Percent
Agriculture	11	10%
Wholesale trade	2	2%
Manufacturing	17	16%
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	7	7%
Government	12	11%
Retail trade	9	9%
Transportation/Public Utilities	7	7%
Services	32	30%
Construction/Mining	8	8%
Total	105	100%

41. How many people live in your household, including yourself?

	Responses	Percent
0	1	1%
1	14	10%
2	57	42%
3	29	21%
4	24	18%
5	8	6%
6	2	1%
7	1	1%
8	0	0%
9	0	0%
10	0	0%
Over 10	0	0%
Total	136	100%

41a. number under 18 years old.

	Responses	Percent
0	65	55%
1	22	19%
2	20	17%
3	8	7%
4	2	2%
5	1	1%
6	0	0%
7	0	0%
8	0	0%
9	0	0%
10	0	0%
Over 10	0	0%
Total	118	100%

45. Where do you work?

	Responses	Percent
Portage County	47	46%
Stevens	26	25%
Point/Plover/Whiting/ParkRidge		
Marshfield Area	1	1%
Wisconsin Rapids	4	4%
Mosinee/Wausau Area	0	0%
Waupaca Area	17	17%
Outside Central Wisconsin	7	7%
Total	102	100%

46. What is your approximate gross (before tax) yearly family income?

	Responses	Percent
under \$15,000	6	5%
\$15,001 to \$29,999	28	22%
\$30,000 to \$49,999	33	26%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	48	38%
\$100,000 or more	10	8%
Total	125	100%

15. One recreational program or facility that my family or I would like to see provided somewhere in Portage County is:

T. Amherst

1. ATV TRAIL
2. connection of current trail systems
3. Rural Bike Trail
4. Afterschool Rec. Center age 10-18
5. shooting range
6. access to public swimming pool in winter
7. Youth Hockey Rink
8. MORE GOLF COURSES
9. Nature trails
10. Lighted night skiing ant Standing Rocks
11. County Landfill
12. N/A
13. Not qualified to choose
14. Swimming/Amherst
15. park(s) w/o facilities
16. Park Trailer for 1 or 2 weeks a year in Tree Farm property areas
17. soccer
18. snow shoeing trails
19. Community Swimming Pool
20. Senior citizens
21. more campgrounds
22. -
23. near Amherst
24. wellness- fitness center
25. for kids 16 to 21
26. none
27. movie theatre for teenagers
28. No Snowmobile trails
29. more count parks & better management
30. Improved fairgrounds
31. Boys & Girls Club of Portage Co.
32. Teen recreation spot in smaller villages
33. Wildlife Rehabilitaion and Education Center
34. Fitness center other than YMCA
35. Preserve the land from future development (complete bike trail from Plover to Rapids - Hwy 54)
36. no more
37. swimming pool
38. Soccer
39. ATV trail
40. Public Pool
41. A casino
42. boys girls club
43. archery targets in park

34. Please tell us the SINGLE greatest problem or concern you have regarding your city/village/township.

T. Amherst

1. gangs & drugs
2. planning- county doesn't plan very well
3. rapid growth
4. Highway 10 expansion
5. Too Many People
6. too much development
7. to much pressure to join village incorporation
8. unrestricted rural residential growth & peoples lack of knowledge of Agricultural practices
9. The social services needs to be expanded & more available to all
10. maintaining and developing arterial roads
11. the lack of local retail shopping for conveniences and variety
12. Big subdivisions taking over rural forest or crop land and letting them have small lots which means many more homes.
13. ?
14. The encroachment of the village of Amherst on our area.
15. Excessive use of power boats too large & too fast for size of lake
16. That re-routing Highway 10 will create another lackluster retail area as happened with the downtown.
17. none
18. Town of Amherst Roads suck!
19. Not enough Police Officers on the street.
20. NO MAJOR CONCERNS
21. Concern about ground water quality.
22. Urban sprawl
23. Rerouting Hwy 10
24. Road maintenance/snow removal Large feedlot farms/milking parlors.
25. increased traffic on narrow roads
26. Developing Farmland should be stopped
27. Dividing up of mid-size farms (40-200 acres) into smaller lots.
28. Must have 3 acres of land to build in country when 2 acres are sufficient stupid to waste land.
Why build 7 homes on forty acres when one could build 15 to 18 homes on same area.
29. Need more job's
30. Lack of attn. to preserving farm land and compensating retiring farmers to keep it in farming.
31. Not qualified to comment
32. Safety on small lake/over use by boaters and pwc
33. Expanding into rural areas (including water/sewer)
34. Water price
35. Growth (spreading out to far)
36. expanding development.
37. We have had people drive by our land & dump garbage out of their cars/trucks
38. To much traffic
39. Fire Protection
40. Should not wait so long to cut high grass along rural roads especially by four corners.
41. Development of subdivisions
42. not enough money for schools
43. The small roads aren't kept up & snow plowing is atrocious
44. Too many people from the city are moving to the rural area.
45. Trucking Co. in agriculture zone
46. Too much growth

47. School system is deteriorating
48. Town board does not encourage public participation or input.
49. Kids on drugs & drinking and drive too fast
50. loss of productive farmland due to residential development
51. Too much rural development
52. unplanned development - sprawl
53. schools
54. Too much traffic in the countryside, rural part of the county
55. -
56. High taxation (among other ag policies) that force families off of farms & encourage selling off land into residential lots.
57. Downtown Stevens Point needs to be revived! It is dead!
58. All is fairly well maintained.
59. County Highway R/W maintenance
60. better road maintenance & snow plowing
61. More law enforcement for outlying county- more county reps on committees. This is not Stevens Point County.
62. high taxes
63. City water is way too expensive!!
64. Diverting farmland away from ag use
65. Favoritism in Local Government
66. High taxes
67. Our groundwater
68. There are not enough good paying jobs to keep up with living cost.
69. narrow township roads
70. narrow township roads
71. The roads by Amherst are terrible Cty Q is nasty
72. ground water
73. no police protection village Amherst
74. taxes - roads
75. Large corporate farms & the inability to control smells
76. Money wasted on foreigners and refugees
77. Industrial Ag.
78. That farms will no longer be
79. Village of Amherst Junction, The wealthy people have influenced the board (zoning) to promote their development
80. We need more police surveylance around schools.
81. only roads to be improved lead to supervisor's homes.
82. Road Maintenance in Town of Amherst
83. Provincial attitudes regarding relationship with Stevens Point (city)
84. Snow removal
85. The teenagers seem to have no place to "hang out". Potential trouble spot with the local "hoods" and drug use.
86. Unrestricted rural development for home building
87. Not enough GOOD jobs with good pay/benefits
88. village trying to force sewer & water on town residents
89. Expansion in housing "subdivision" w/in township
90. Farm land becoming 2 acre or less home sites. Stop developing OR allowing homes on less than 100 acres
91. Sprawl
92. sprawl
93. Law Enforcement not in local village.

94. Family farms folding up and turning into subdivisions
95. The number of criminals who aren't locked up (Bracelet, probation etc)
96. Its fine
97. trees along roads are not trimmed enough
98. need more industries in village limits
99. rising property taxes
100. Lack of respect for agriculture
101. Over Growth
102. They don't plow the roads soon enough in the winter
103. schools
104. I work nights go in at 11pm roads don't get plowed until am traffic

35. Please share with us the best part of living in your city/village/township.
T. Amherst

1. open spaces
2. pretty area
3. quiet
4. Rural living w/ easy access to urban areas
5. Tight Knot Community
6. the open spaces and beauty of the country
7. quite a nice neighborhood-room
8. Being able to find anything I need in Stevens Point/services, shopping, hospital, good school
9. It is still quiet and safe
10. wildlife, beautiful rolling landscape
11. the sense of safety and low crime rate
12. country living but within good distance to shopping, etc.
13. Quiet- safe- able to take advantage of services in nearby cities.
14. natural, unspoiled beauty of rural countryside!!
15. excellent schools
16. peace & quite beautiful landscape
17. Good clean neighborhood.
18. SMALL TOWN FEEL
19. Quiet, beautiful, safe.
20. Nature and solitude
21. Low taxes & friendly people
22. Peaceful/quiet rural setting
23. close to cultural/shopping in St. Point, but room to breathe
24. Nice People
25. like country living
26. Large open spaces, occasionally dotted with small farms, residences.
27. Close to village but not in village close to run to store
28. scenery and privacy
29. ok
30. The friendly people
31. Living in the country on a farm-environment
32. It's homyness
33. Enjoyment of nature in rural setting
34. Quiet-clean-safe
35. Small town
36. It was better ten years ago

37. Simple life - few regulations - Family friendly
38. Quiet - open space
39. We have good access to help in case of emergency.
40. Rural atmosphere
41. where we live
42. The quiet in the evening.
43. The natives are friendly.
44. People are ready to help.
45. close enough to larger city but yet out in country
46. Quality of life is excellent
47. Rural character of area.
48. Good snow plowing
49. wide open country living
50. Beauty of the landscape, rivers, trees, no ugly apartments so far.
51. rural atmosphere
52. great community spirit & quiet rural living
53. Friendly & caring people. Small town atmosphere.
54. -
55. Rural area- I'd like to keep it that way.
56. The clean air and not to close to waste smell.
57. rural living
58. Hunting & fishing & other recreational things we can do.
59. Small, friendly, good schools.
60. Friendly People, Above Average Snow Removal
61. Knowing most of our neighbors
62. The people
63. Knowing that my kids will know what country life is.
64. fresh air
65. fresh air
66. small community with lots of open space
67. rural living
68. small town atmosphere; no congestion
69. peace and quiet country atmosphere
70. small population - uncongested - Peaceful
71. open space
72. The access to necessary service needs.
73. Quiet.
74. Rural setting is great compared to the cities
75. wide open country. No congestions.
76. Don't interfere w/my business
77. Good School District Quite Community
78. Quiet country location; close to nature, yet convenient to Village/City.
79. Quiet surroundings, well kept up
80. Amherst has retained that small-town atmosphere and pride in our community over the years.
81. Quiet small town lifestyle
82. Close to my job
83. People mind their own business, I have some privacy
84. open space/ great neighbors/ volunteer fire fighters
85. The woods that we are trying to keep for wildlife and the future.
86. people, school
87. not a city!!!
88. The Rural Areas Are not Overcrowded yet - Keep it that way!

89. unpopulated country, woods, lakes & streams
90. Being left alone. Having my right to private property respected.
91. Rural and simple government
92. the peaceful setting of country living
93. small town
94. Some what private yet close to larger towns
95. Location and schooling
96. meets all our needs
97. other residents

Appendix C

Wisconsin State Statutes:

16.965

Planning grants to local government units

66.1001

Comprehensive Planning

Town of Amherst
Comprehensive Plan
2015

(3) (a) Establish a demographic services center for the purpose of developing and administering systems needed to carry out the functions of the department under subs. (1) and (2), maintaining a current repository of appropriate published and computer retrievable federal census information and cooperating with state agencies and regional planning agencies so that the department's population estimates, projections and published reports are useful for planning and other purposes for which they are required. The center shall coordinate population information development and use. The center shall provide assistance to and encourage and coordinate efforts by state and local agencies, regional planning agencies and private businesses and associations to inform the public regarding the federal census process and the importance of obtaining a complete, accurate federal decennial census. The department may enter into agreements with state and local agencies or regional planning agencies for their assistance in the preparation of population estimates, projections and forecasts.

(b) Maintain and keep current throughout the decade the maps of congressional and legislative district boundaries received from the legislative reference bureau under s. 13.92 (1) (a) 6. and provide copies thereof to the government accountability board.

(c) Serve as the state's liaison to the U.S. bureau of the census to facilitate accurate federal decennial census counts in this state.

History: 1971 c. 215; 1973 c. 37, 333; 1975 c. 189; 1977 c. 29 ss. 93 to 95, 1648 (1), (3); 1979 c. 34; 1981 c. 20; 1983 a. 29; 1987 a. 142; 1989 a. 31; 1991 a. 39, 269; 1999 a. 63; 2005 a. 22; 2007 a. 1.

Cross-reference: See also s. Adm 3.01, Wis. adm. code.

16.9645 Interoperability council. (1) In this section:

(a) "Council" means the interoperability council created under s. 15.107 (18).

(b) "Dispatch center" has the meaning given for "public safety answering point" in s. 256.35 (1) (gm).

(c) "Interoperability" means the ability of public safety agencies to communicate with each other and with agencies and entities identified under sub. (2) (a) by means of radio or associated communications systems, including the exchange of voice, data, or video communications on demand and in real time, as needed and authorized.

(d) "Public safety agency" has the meaning given in s. 256.35 (1) (g).

(2) The council shall do all of the following:

(a) Identify types of agencies and entities, including public works and transportation agencies, hospitals, and volunteer emergency services agencies to be included, in addition to public safety agencies, in a statewide public safety interoperable communication system.

(b) Recommend short-term and long-term goals to achieve a statewide public safety interoperable communication system.

(c) Recommend and periodically review a strategy and timeline for achieving the goals under par. (b), including objectives for local units of government.

(d) Assist the department of justice in identifying and obtaining funding to implement a statewide public safety interoperable communication system.

(e) Advise the department of justice and the department of military affairs on allocating funds, including those available for homeland security, for the purpose of achieving the goals under par. (b).

(f) Make recommendations to the department of justice on all of the following:

1. Technical and operational standards for public safety interoperable communication systems.

2. Guidelines and procedures for using public safety interoperable communication systems.

3. Minimum standards for public safety interoperable communication systems, facilities, and equipment used by dispatch centers.

4. Certification criteria for persons who operate public safety interoperable communication systems for dispatch centers.

History: 2007 a. 79; 2009 a. 180; 2013 a. 20.

16.965 Planning grants to local governmental units.

(1) In this section:

(a) "Local governmental unit" means a county, city, village, town or regional planning commission.

(b) "Smart growth area" means an area that will enable the development and redevelopment of lands with existing infrastructure and municipal, state and utility services, where practicable, or that will encourage efficient development patterns that are both contiguous to existing development and at densities that have relatively low municipal, state governmental and utility costs.

(2) From the appropriations under s. 20.505 (1) (cm) and (ud), the department may provide grants to local governmental units to be used to finance the cost of planning activities, including contracting for planning consultant services, public planning sessions and other planning outreach and educational activities, or for the purchase of computerized planning data, planning software or the hardware required to utilize that data or software. The department shall require any local governmental unit that receives a grant under this section to finance a percentage of the cost of the product or service to be funded by the grant from the resources of the local governmental unit. The department shall determine the percentage of the cost to be funded by a local governmental unit based on the number of applications for grants and the availability of funding to finance grants for the fiscal year in which grants are to be provided. A local governmental unit that desires to receive a grant under this subsection shall file an application with the department. The application shall contain a complete statement of the expenditures proposed to be made for the purposes of the grant. No local governmental unit is eligible to receive a grant under this subsection unless the local governmental unit agrees to utilize the grant to finance planning for all of the purposes specified in s. 66.1001 (2).

(4) In determining whether to approve a proposed grant, preference shall be accorded to applications of local governmental units that contain all of the following elements:

(a) Planning efforts that address the interests of overlapping or neighboring jurisdictions.

(b) Planning efforts that contain a specific description of the means by which all of the following local, comprehensive planning goals will be achieved:

1. Promotion of the redevelopment of lands with existing infrastructure and public services and the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing residential, commercial and industrial structures.

2. Encouragement of neighborhood designs that support a range of transportation choices.

3. Protection of natural areas, including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes, woodlands, open spaces and groundwater resources.

4. Protection of economically productive areas, including farmland and forests.

5. Encouragement of land uses, densities and regulations that promote efficient development patterns and relatively low municipal, state governmental and utility costs.

6. Preservation of cultural, historic and archaeological sites.

7. Encouragement of coordination and cooperation among nearby units of government.

8. Building of community identity by revitalizing main streets and enforcing design standards.

9. Providing an adequate supply of affordable housing for individuals of all income levels throughout each community.

10. Providing adequate infrastructure and public services and an adequate supply of developable land to meet existing and

future market demand for residential, commercial and industrial uses.

11. Promoting the expansion or stabilization of the current economic base and the creation of a range of employment opportunities at the state, regional and local levels.

12. Balancing individual property rights with community interests and goals.

13. Planning and development of land uses that create or preserve varied and unique urban and rural communities.

14. Providing an integrated, efficient and economical transportation system that affords mobility, convenience and safety and that meets the needs of all citizens, including transit-dependent and disabled citizens.

(c) Planning efforts that identify smart growth areas.

(d) Planning efforts, including subsequent updates and amendments, that include development of implementing ordinances, including ordinances pertaining to zoning, subdivisions and land division.

(e) Planning efforts for which completion is contemplated within 30 months of the date on which a grant would be awarded.

(f) Planning efforts that provide opportunities for public participation throughout the planning process.

(5) The department may, upon application, grant a local governmental unit that has received a grant under sub. (2) and that has not adopted a comprehensive plan under s. 66.1001 an extension of time to adopt a comprehensive plan. During the period of the extension, the local governmental unit shall be exempt from the requirements under s. 66.1001 (3).

History: 1999 a. 9, 148, 185; 2001 a. 16, 30, 105; 2003 a. 33 s. 2813; 2009 a. 372; 2013 a. 20.

Cross-reference: See also ch. Adm 48, Wis. adm. code.

Challenges to "Smart Growth": State Legislative Approaches to Comprehensive Growth Planning and the Local Government Issue. Yajnik. 2004 WLR 229.

16.9651 Transportation planning grants to local governmental units. (1) In this section, "local governmental unit" means a county, city, village, town or regional planning commission.

(2) From the appropriation under s. 20.505 (1) (z), the department may provide grants to local governmental units to be used to finance the cost of planning activities related to the transportation element, as described in s. 66.1001 (2) (c), of a comprehensive plan, as defined in s. 66.1001 (1) (a), including contracting for planning consultant services, public planning sessions, and other planning outreach and educational activities, or for the purchase of computerized planning data, planning software, or the hardware required to utilize that data or software. The department may require any local governmental unit that receives a grant under this section to finance not more than 25% of the cost of the product or service to be funded by the grant from the resources of the local governmental unit. Prior to awarding a grant under this section, the department shall forward a detailed statement of the proposed expenditures to be made under the grant to the secretary of transportation and obtain his or her written approval of the proposed expenditures.

History: 1999 a. 9; 2001 a. 30.

Cross-reference: See also ch. Adm 48, Wis. adm. code.

16.966 Geographic information systems. The department may develop and maintain geographic information systems relating to land in this state for the use of governmental and non-governmental units.

History: 1997 a. 27 ss. 133am to 133d, 9456 (3m); 2003 a. 33 s. 2811; 2003 a. 48 ss. 10, 11; 2003 a. 206 s. 23; 2005 a. 25 ss. 91, 2493.

16.967 Land information program. (1) **DEFINITIONS.** In this section:

(a) "Agency" has the meaning given in s. 16.70 (1e).

(b) "Land information" means any physical, legal, economic, or environmental information or characteristics concerning land, water, groundwater, subsurface resources, or air in this state.

"Land information" includes information relating to topography, soil, soil erosion, geology, minerals, vegetation, land cover, wildlife, associated natural resources, land ownership, land use, land use controls and restrictions, jurisdictional boundaries, tax assessment, land value, land survey records and references, geodetic control networks, aerial photographs, maps, planimetric data, remote sensing data, historic and prehistoric sites, and economic projections.

(c) "Land information system" means an orderly method of organizing and managing land information and land records.

(d) "Land records" means maps, documents, computer files, and any other information storage medium in which land information is recorded.

(e) "Systems integration" means land information that is housed in one jurisdiction or jurisdictional subunit and is available to other jurisdictions, jurisdictional subunits, public utilities, and other private sector interests.

(3) **DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT.** The department shall direct and supervise the land information program and serve as the state clearinghouse for access to land information. In addition, the department shall:

(a) Provide technical assistance and advice to state agencies and local governmental units with land information responsibilities.

(b) Maintain and distribute an inventory of land information available for this state, land records available for this state, and land information systems.

(c) Prepare guidelines to coordinate the modernization of land records and land information systems.

(cm) Provide standards for the preparation of countywide plans for land records modernization under s. 59.72 (3) (b), including a list of minimum elements to be addressed in the plan.

(d) Review project applications received under sub. (7) and determine which projects are approved.

(e) Review for approval a countywide plan for land records modernization prepared under s. 59.72 (3) (b).

(f) Review reports received under s. 59.72 (2) (b) and determine whether county expenditures of funds received under sub. (7) and s. 59.72 (5) (b) have been made for authorized purposes.

(g) Post reports received under s. 59.72 (2) (b) on the Internet.

(h) Establish an implementation plan for a statewide digital parcel map.

(4) **FUNDING REPORT.** The department shall identify and study possible program revenue sources or other revenue sources for the purpose of funding the operations of the land information program, including grants to counties under sub. (7).

(6) **REPORTS.** (a) By March 31 of each year, the department of administration, the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection, the department of safety and professional services, the department of health services, the department of natural resources, the department of tourism, the department of revenue, the department of transportation, the board of regents of the University of Wisconsin System, the public service commission, and the board of curators of the historical society shall each submit to the department a plan to integrate land information to enable such information to be readily translatable, retrievable, and geographically referenced for use by any state, local governmental unit, or public utility. Upon receipt of this information, the department shall integrate the information to enable the information to be used to meet land information data needs. The integrated information shall be readily translatable, retrievable, and geographically referenced to enable members of the public to use the information.

(b) No later than January 1, 2017, the department shall submit to the members of the joint committee on finance a report on the progress in developing a statewide digital parcel map.

(7) **AID TO COUNTIES.** (a) A county board that has established a county land information office under s. 59.72 (3) may apply to the department on behalf of any local governmental unit, as

suror, who need not be a member of the board, to perform services specified by the board.

(b) Members, and any assistant treasurer, shall qualify by taking the official oath, and the treasurer and any assistant treasurer shall furnish a bond in a sum specified by the board and in the form and conditioned as provided in s. 19.01 (2) and (3). The oaths and bonds shall be filed with the county clerk. The cost of the bond shall be paid by the board.

(8) **POWERS OF BOARD.** The board may, subject to provisions of the ordinance:

(a) Contract for the construction or other acquisition, equipment or furnishing of a hospital.

(b) Contract for the construction or other acquisition of additions or improvements to, or alterations in, a hospital and the equipment or furnishing of an addition.

(c) Employ a manager of a hospital and other necessary personnel and fix their compensation.

(d) Enact, amend and repeal rules and regulations for the admission to, and government of patients at, a hospital, for the regulation of the board's meetings and deliberations, and for the government, operation and maintenance of the hospital and the hospital employees.

(e) Contract for and purchase all fuel, food, equipment, furnishings and supplies reasonably necessary for the proper operation and maintenance of a hospital.

(f) Audit all accounts and claims against a hospital or against the board, and, if approved, pay the accounts and claims from the fund specified in sub. (10). All expenditures made pursuant to this section shall be within the limits of the ordinance.

(g) Sue and be sued, and to collect or compromise any obligations due to the hospital. All money received shall be paid into the joint hospital fund.

(h) Make studies and recommendations to the county board and city council or city councils relating to the operation of a hospital as the board considers advisable or the governing bodies request.

(i) Employ counsel on either a temporary or permanent basis.

(9) **BUDGET.** The board shall annually, before the time of the preparation of either the county or city budget under s. 65.90, prepare a budget of its anticipated receipts and expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year and determine the proportionate cost to the county and the participating city or cities under the terms of the ordinance. A certified copy of the budget, which shall include a statement of the net amount required from the county and city or cities, shall be delivered to the clerks of the respective municipalities. The county board and the common council of the city or cities shall consider the budget, and determine the amount to be raised by the respective municipalities in the proportions determined by the ordinance. After this determination, the county and city or cities respectively shall levy a tax sufficient to produce the amount to be raised by the county and city or cities.

(10) **HOSPITAL FUND.** A joint county–city hospital fund shall be created and established in a public depository to be specified in the ordinance. The treasurer of the respective county and city or cities shall pay into the fund the amounts specified by the ordinance and resolutions of the respective municipalities when the amounts have been collected. All of the moneys which come into the fund are appropriated to the board for the execution of its functions as provided by the ordinance and the resolutions of the respective municipalities. The moneys in the fund shall be paid out by the treasurer of the hospital board only upon the approval or direction of the board.

(11) **CORRELATION OF LAWS.** (a) In any case where a bid is a prerequisite to contract in connection with a county or city hospital under s. 66.0901, it is also a prerequisite to a valid contract by the board. For this purpose, the board is a municipality and the contract a public contract under s. 66.0901.

(b) All statutory requirements, not inconsistent with the provision of this section, applicable to general county or city hospitals apply to hospitals referred to in this section.

(12) **REPORTS.** The board shall report its activities to the county board and the city council or councils annually, or oftener as either of the municipalities requires.

(14) **POWERS OF VILLAGES.** Villages have all of the powers granted to cities under subs. (1) to (12) and whenever any village exercises these powers the word “city” wherever it appears in subs. (1) to (12) means “village” unless the context otherwise requires. Any village participating in the construction or other acquisition of a hospital or in its operation, pursuant to this section, may enter into lease agreements leasing the hospital and its equipment and furnishings to a nonprofit corporation.

(15) **POWERS OF TOWNS.** Towns have all of the powers granted to cities under subs. (1) to (12) and whenever any town exercises these powers the word “city” wherever it appears in subs. (1) to (12) means “town” unless the context otherwise requires. Any town participating in the construction or other acquisition of a hospital or in its operation, under this section, may enter into lease agreements leasing the hospital and its equipment and furnishings to a nonprofit corporation.

History: 1977 c. 29; 1983 a. 189; 1983 a. 192 s. 303 (1); 1993 a. 246; 1999 a. 150 ss. 262, 480 to 483; Stats. 1999 s. 66.0927.

SUBCHAPTER X

PLANNING, HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION

66.1001 Comprehensive planning. (1) **DEFINITIONS.** In this section:

(a) “Comprehensive plan” means a guide to the physical, social, and economic development of a local governmental unit that is one of the following:

1. For a county, a development plan that is prepared or amended under s. 59.69 (2) or (3).

2. For a city, village, or town, a master plan that is adopted or amended under s. 62.23 (2) or (3).

3. For a regional planning commission, a master plan that is adopted or amended under s. 66.0309 (8), (9) or (10).

(am) “Consistent with” means furthers or does not contradict the objectives, goals, and policies contained in the comprehensive plan.

(b) “Local governmental unit” means a city, village, town, county or regional planning commission that may adopt, prepare or amend a comprehensive plan.

(c) “Political subdivision” means a city, village, town, or county that may adopt, prepare, or amend a comprehensive plan.

(2) **CONTENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.** A comprehensive plan shall contain all of the following elements:

(a) *Issues and opportunities element.* Background information on the local governmental unit and a statement of overall objectives, policies, goals and programs of the local governmental unit to guide the future development and redevelopment of the local governmental unit over a 20–year planning period. Background information shall include population, household and employment forecasts that the local governmental unit uses in developing its comprehensive plan, and demographic trends, age distribution, educational levels, income levels and employment characteristics that exist within the local governmental unit.

(b) *Housing element.* A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs of the local governmental unit to provide an adequate housing supply that meets existing and forecasted housing demand in the local governmental unit. The element shall assess the age, structural, value and occupancy characteristics of the local governmental unit's housing stock. The element shall also identify specific policies and programs that promote the development of housing for residents of the local

governmental unit and provide a range of housing choices that meet the needs of persons of all income levels and of all age groups and persons with special needs, policies and programs that promote the availability of land for the development or redevelopment of low-income and moderate-income housing, and policies and programs to maintain or rehabilitate the local governmental unit's existing housing stock.

(c) *Transportation element.* A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide the future development of the various modes of transportation, including highways, transit, transportation systems for persons with disabilities, bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, walking, railroads, air transportation, trucking and water transportation. The element shall compare the local governmental unit's objectives, policies, goals and programs to state and regional transportation plans. The element shall also identify highways within the local governmental unit by function and incorporate state, regional and other applicable transportation plans, including transportation corridor plans, county highway functional and jurisdictional studies, urban area and rural area transportation plans, airport master plans and rail plans that apply in the local governmental unit.

(d) *Utilities and community facilities element.* A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide the future development of utilities and community facilities in the local governmental unit such as sanitary sewer service, storm water management, water supply, solid waste disposal, on-site wastewater treatment technologies, recycling facilities, parks, telecommunications facilities, power-generating plants and transmission lines, cemeteries, health care facilities, child care facilities and other public facilities, such as police, fire and rescue facilities, libraries, schools and other governmental facilities. The element shall describe the location, use and capacity of existing public utilities and community facilities that serve the local governmental unit, shall include an approximate timetable that forecasts the need in the local governmental unit to expand or rehabilitate existing utilities and facilities or to create new utilities and facilities and shall assess future needs for government services in the local governmental unit that are related to such utilities and facilities.

(e) *Agricultural, natural and cultural resources element.* A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs for the conservation, and promotion of the effective management, of natural resources such as groundwater, forests, productive agricultural areas, environmentally sensitive areas, threatened and endangered species, stream corridors, surface water, floodplains, wetlands, wildlife habitat, metallic and nonmetallic mineral resources consistent with zoning limitations under s. 295.20 (2), parks, open spaces, historical and cultural resources, community design, recreational resources and other natural resources.

(f) *Economic development element.* A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to promote the stabilization, retention or expansion, of the economic base and quality employment opportunities in the local governmental unit, including an analysis of the labor force and economic base of the local governmental unit. The element shall assess categories or particular types of new businesses and industries that are desired by the local governmental unit. The element shall assess the local governmental unit's strengths and weaknesses with respect to attracting and retaining businesses and industries, and shall designate an adequate number of sites for such businesses and industries. The element shall also evaluate and promote the use of environmentally contaminated sites for commercial or industrial uses. The element shall also identify county, regional and state economic development programs that apply to the local governmental unit.

(g) *Intergovernmental cooperation element.* A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps, and programs for joint planning and decision making with other jurisdictions, including school districts, drainage districts, and adjacent local governmental units, for siting and building public facilities and sharing public ser-

vices. The element shall analyze the relationship of the local governmental unit to school districts, drainage districts, and adjacent local governmental units, and to the region, the state and other governmental units. The element shall consider, to the greatest extent possible, the maps and plans of any military base or installation, with at least 200 assigned military personnel or that contains at least 2,000 acres, with which the local governmental unit shares common territory. The element shall incorporate any plans or agreements to which the local governmental unit is a party under s. 66.0301, 66.0307 or 66.0309. The element shall identify existing or potential conflicts between the local governmental unit and other governmental units that are specified in this paragraph and describe processes to resolve such conflicts.

(h) *Land-use element.* A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide the future development and redevelopment of public and private property. The element shall contain a listing of the amount, type, intensity and net density of existing uses of land in the local governmental unit, such as agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial and other public and private uses. The element shall analyze trends in the supply, demand and price of land, opportunities for redevelopment and existing and potential land-use conflicts. The element shall contain projections, based on the background information specified in par. (a), for 20 years, in 5-year increments, of future residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial land uses including the assumptions of net densities or other spatial assumptions upon which the projections are based. The element shall also include a series of maps that shows current land uses and future land uses that indicate productive agricultural soils, natural limitations for building site development, floodplains, wetlands and other environmentally sensitive lands, the boundaries of areas to which services of public utilities and community facilities, as those terms are used in par. (d), will be provided in the future, consistent with the timetable described in par. (d), and the general location of future land uses by net density or other classifications.

(i) *Implementation element.* A compilation of programs and specific actions to be completed in a stated sequence, including proposed changes to any applicable zoning ordinances, official maps, or subdivision ordinances, to implement the objectives, policies, plans and programs contained in pars. (a) to (h). The element shall describe how each of the elements of the comprehensive plan will be integrated and made consistent with the other elements of the comprehensive plan, and shall include a mechanism to measure the local governmental unit's progress toward achieving all aspects of the comprehensive plan. The element shall include a process for updating the comprehensive plan. A comprehensive plan under this subsection shall be updated no less than once every 10 years.

(2m) EFFECT OF ENACTMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN. The enactment of a comprehensive plan by ordinance does not make the comprehensive plan by itself a regulation.

(3) ORDINANCES THAT MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH COMPREHENSIVE PLANS. Except as provided in sub. (3m), beginning on January 1, 2010, if a local governmental unit enacts or amends any of the following ordinances, the ordinance shall be consistent with that local governmental unit's comprehensive plan:

(g) Official mapping ordinances enacted or amended under s. 62.23 (6).

(h) Local subdivision ordinances enacted or amended under s. 236.45 or 236.46.

(j) County zoning ordinances enacted or amended under s. 59.69.

(k) City or village zoning ordinances enacted or amended under s. 62.23 (7).

(L) Town zoning ordinances enacted or amended under s. 60.61 or 60.62.

(q) Shorelands or wetlands in shorelands zoning ordinances enacted or amended under s. 59.692, 61.351, 61.353, 62.231, or 62.233.

(3m) DELAY OF CONSISTENCY REQUIREMENT. (a) If a local governmental unit has not adopted a comprehensive plan before January 1, 2010, the local governmental unit is exempt from the requirement under sub. (3) if any of the following applies:

1. The local governmental unit has applied for but has not received a comprehensive planning grant under s. 16.965 (2), and the local governmental unit adopts a resolution stating that the local governmental unit will adopt a comprehensive plan that will take effect no later than January 1, 2012.

2. The local governmental unit has received a comprehensive planning grant under s. 16.965 (2) and has been granted an extension of time under s. 16.965 (5) to complete comprehensive planning.

(b) The exemption under par. (a) shall continue until the following dates:

1. For a local governmental unit exempt under par. (a) 1., January 1, 2012.

2. For a local governmental unit exempt under par. (a) 2., the date on which the extension of time granted under s. 16.965 (5) expires.

(4) PROCEDURES FOR ADOPTING COMPREHENSIVE PLANS. A local governmental unit shall comply with all of the following before its comprehensive plan may take effect:

(a) The governing body of a local governmental unit shall adopt written procedures that are designed to foster public participation, including open discussion, communication programs, information services, and public meetings for which advance notice has been provided, in every stage of the preparation of a comprehensive plan. The written procedures shall provide for wide distribution of proposed, alternative, or amended elements of a comprehensive plan and shall provide an opportunity for written comments on the plan to be submitted by members of the public to the governing body and for the governing body to respond to such written comments. The written procedures shall describe the methods the governing body of a local governmental unit will use to distribute proposed, alternative, or amended elements of a comprehensive plan to owners of property, or to persons who have a leasehold interest in property pursuant to which the persons may extract nonmetallic mineral resources in or on property, in which the allowable use or intensity of use of the property is changed by the comprehensive plan.

(b) The plan commission or other body of a local governmental unit that is authorized to prepare or amend a comprehensive plan may recommend the adoption or amendment of a comprehensive plan only by adopting a resolution by a majority vote of the entire commission. The vote shall be recorded in the official minutes of the plan commission or other body. The resolution shall refer to maps and other descriptive materials that relate to one or more elements of a comprehensive plan. One copy of an adopted comprehensive plan, or of an amendment to such a plan, shall be sent to all of the following:

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 that is the subject of the plan that is adopted or amended as described in par. (b) (intro.).

4. After September 1, 2005, the department of administration.

5. The regional planning commission in which the local governmental unit is located.

6. The public library that serves the area in which the local governmental unit is located.

(c) No comprehensive plan that is recommended for adoption or amendment under par. (b) may take effect until the political subdivision enacts an ordinance or the regional planning commission adopts a resolution that adopts the plan or amendment. The political subdivision may not enact an ordinance or the regional planning commission may not adopt a resolution under this paragraph

unless the comprehensive plan contains all of the elements specified in sub. (2). An ordinance may be enacted or a resolution may be adopted under this paragraph only by a majority vote of the members-elect, as defined in s. 59.001 (2m), of the governing body. One copy of a comprehensive plan enacted or adopted under this paragraph shall be sent to all of the entities specified under par. (b).

(d) No political subdivision may enact an ordinance or no regional planning commission may adopt a resolution under par. (c) unless the political subdivision or regional planning commission holds at least one public hearing at which the proposed ordinance or resolution is discussed. That hearing must be preceded by a class 1 notice under ch. 985 that is published at least 30 days before the hearing is held. The political subdivision or regional planning commission may also provide notice of the hearing by any other means it considers appropriate. The class 1 notice shall contain at least the following information:

1. The date, time and place of the hearing.

2. A summary, which may include a map, of the proposed comprehensive plan or amendment to such a plan.

3. The name of an individual employed by the local governmental unit who may provide additional information regarding the proposed ordinance.

4. Information relating to where and when the proposed comprehensive plan or amendment to such a plan may be inspected before the hearing, and how a copy of the plan or amendment may be obtained.

(e) At least 30 days before the hearing described in par. (d) is held, a local governmental unit shall provide written notice to all of the following:

1. An operator who has obtained, or made application for, a permit that is described under s. 295.12 (3) (d).

2. A person who has registered a marketable nonmetallic mineral deposit under s. 295.20.

3. Any other property owner or leaseholder who has an interest in property pursuant to which the person may extract nonmetallic mineral resources, if the property owner or leaseholder requests in writing that the local governmental unit provide the property owner or leaseholder notice of the hearing described in par. (d).

(f) A political subdivision shall maintain a list of persons who submit a written request to receive notice of any proposed ordinance, described under par. (c), that affects the allowable use of the property owned by the person. At least 30 days before the hearing described in par. (d) is held a political subdivision shall provide written notice, including a copy of the proposed ordinance, to all such persons. The notice shall be by mail or in any reasonable form that is agreed to by the person and the political subdivision. The political subdivision may charge each person on the list who receives a notice a fee that does not exceed the approximate cost of providing the notice to the person.

(5) APPLICABILITY OF A REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION'S PLAN. A regional planning commission's comprehensive plan is only advisory in its applicability to a political subdivision and a political subdivision's comprehensive plan.

(6) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAY TAKE EFFECT. Notwithstanding sub. (4), a comprehensive plan, or an amendment of a comprehensive plan, may take effect even if a local governmental unit fails to provide the notice that is required under sub. (4) (e) or (f), unless the local governmental unit intentionally fails to provide the notice.

History: 1999 a. 9, 148; 1999 a. 150 s. 74; Stats. 1999 s. 66.1001; 1999 a. 185 s. 57; 1999 a. 186 s. 42; 2001 a. 30, 90; 2003 a. 33, 93, 233, 307, 327; 2005 a. 26, 208; 2007 a. 121; 2009 a. 372; 2011 a. 257; 2013 a. 80.

A municipality has the authority under s. 236.45 (2) to impose a temporary town-wide prohibition on land division while developing a comprehensive plan under this section. *Wisconsin Realtors Association v. Town of West Point*, 2008 WI App 40, 309 Wis. 2d 199, 747 N.W.2d 681, 06-2761.

The use of the word "coordination" in various statutes dealing with municipal planning does not by itself authorize towns to invoke a power of "coordination" that would impose affirmative duties upon certain municipalities that are in addition to

Appendix D

Portage County's Land Evaluation Site Assessment System

Town of Amherst
Comprehensive Plan
2015

PORTAGE COUNTY'S LAND EVALUATION SITE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

***A tool to help local communities
understand the agricultural landscape.***

NOTE:

This tool is not designed to produce a “land use map.” It is intended to provide information for the local plan commission about conditions on the landscape that may affect agriculture.

PORTAGE COUNTY'S LAND EVALUATION SITE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

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PORTAGE COUNTY'S LAND EVALUATION SITE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

1. INTRODUCTION

A. Defining the LESA System

The Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) system is a point-based approach that is generally used for rating the relative value of agricultural land resources. In basic terms, a given LESA model is created by defining and measuring two separate sets of factors. The first set, **Land Evaluation**, includes factors that measure the inherent soil-based qualities of land as they relate to agricultural suitability. The second set, **Site Assessment**, includes factors that are intended to measure social, economic, and geographic attributes that also contribute to the overall value of agricultural land. While this dual rating approach is common to all LESA models, the individual land evaluation and site assessment factors that are ultimately utilized and measured can vary considerably, and can be selected to meet the local or regional needs and conditions a LESA model is designed to address. The LESA methodology lends itself well to adaptation and customization in individual states and localities.

B. Background on LESA Nationwide

In 1981, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Soil Conservation Service, now known as Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) released a new system that was designed to provide objective ratings of the agricultural suitability of land compared to demand for nonagricultural uses of lands. The system became known as Land Evaluation and Site Assessment or LESA. Soon after it was designed, LESA was adopted as a procedural tool at the federal level for identifying and addressing the potential adverse effects of federal programs. (e.g., funding of highway construction) on farmland protection. The Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 (5) spells out requirements to ensure that federal programs, to the extent practical, are compatible with state, local, and private programs and policies to protect farmland, and calls for the use of LESA to aid in this analysis. Typically, NRCS staff is involved in performing LESA scoring analyses of individual projects that involve other agencies of the federal government.

Since the inception, the LESA approach has received substantial attention from state and local governments as well. Nationwide, over two hundred jurisdictions have developed local LESA methodologies. One of the attractive features of the LESA approach is that it is well suited to being modified to reflect local conditions. Typical local applications of LESA include assisting in decision-making concerning the siting of projects, changes in zoning, and spheres of influence determinations. LESA is also increasingly being utilized for farmland protection programs, such as the identification of priority areas to concentrate conservation easement acquisition efforts or purchase of development rights.

2. PORTAGE COUNTY APPROACH

A. Decision-Making Tool

Portage County is making an effort to preserve productive farmland and manage non-farm rural residential development. The Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) system is an analytical tool used to assist decision makers in comparing agricultural sites based on their agricultural value. The LESA system provides an objective and consistent tool to aid decision-makers in evaluating the relative importance of specific sites for continued agricultural use. In this sense, it is a tool for determining the best use of a site. While in some cases the best use may be some type of development, there are many other situations where the best use is to remain in agriculture. Also, there may be instances where the land is not suitable for agriculture, but neither is it a suitable location for development. In such situations the LESA system is a valuable tool for determining the use with the least detrimental impact to the environment, economy and aesthetics.

B. System Components

As noted earlier, there are two components to the LESA system; the **Land Evaluation** (LE) portion of the system, which is based on soils and their characteristics, and the **Site Assessment** (SA) portion of the system, which rates other attributes affecting a site's relative importance for agricultural use. The Land Evaluation portion is stable and unchanging because the soils do not change and the data relative to those soils takes a long time to accumulate. The Site Assessment is dynamic and changes on a continual basis because there are regular changes in development, property ownership, roadway improvements, sewer expansions, etc. happening throughout Portage County.

3. LAND EVALUATION FOR PORTAGE COUNTY

A Land Evaluation (LE) system was developed by the USDA in 1981 and is now widely used throughout the U.S. LE provides a systematic and objective way to evaluate and numerically rank soils for their relative value for a specific use.

A LE rating was developed for Portage County by the Portage County Planning and Zoning Department. **Higher numbers mean greater value for agriculture.** LE ratings reflect this productivity potential, as well as the economic and environmental costs of producing a crop. Possible LE ratings range from 0 to 100.

Many physical and chemical soil properties are considered in the LE rating, either directly or indirectly, including soil texture and rock fragments, slope, wetness and flooding, soil erodibility, climate, available water capacity, pH (alkalinity versus acidity), and permeability.

Three soil property indexes are combined to produce the LE rating. This produces a rating that reflects the most important soil considerations for agricultural use in Portage County. Each of these data elements is assigned a point score from 0 to 100:

A. Prime Farmland Class Index

This index rates the major physical and chemical soil properties affecting agricultural use. Please see Appendix A for the prime farmland criteria in Wisconsin.

<u>Index</u>	<u>Score</u>
0 - Not prime farmland	0
1 – Prime if drained	70
2 – Prime if irrigated	90
3 - Prime farmland	100

B. Land Capability Class - Natural Condition Index

This index rates all soils in their natural, unaltered condition for the risk of environmental damage (eg: soil erosion, off-site damage from sediment, nutrient, and pesticide runoff or leaching) and the degree of management concerns and limitations for agricultural use. Please see Appendix A for further information on Land Capability Classes.

<u>Land Capability Class</u>	<u>Score</u>
1	100
2	90
3	70
4	50
5	30
6	20
7	10
8	5

C. Productivity Index

This index rates the potential productivity of the soil for corn and alfalfa. A productivity index (PI) was calculated for all soil map units in Portage County. The productivity index rates the potential productivity of each map unit relative to all other soils in Portage County. The index is calculated from corn and alfalfa yield data, which can be found in Section II of the USDA Technical Guide for Portage County.

If no corn or alfalfa yields are commonly grown on a soil due to wetness, steepness of slope, stoniness, etc., the map unit receives a score of 0 for the missing yield and will be reflected in a lower overall PI score.

The Productivity Index is set at 100 for the most productive soil map unit in Portage County. All other map units were then proportionately adjusted by dividing them by the most productive soil map unit's yield total, which is 99.2. Please see the sample calculation below. The lower PI scores represent proportionately lower productivity for corn and alfalfa.

➤ **PI calculation details**

1) The total maximum (long-term average) yield for corn and alfalfa in Portage County is determined:

Corn 95 bu/acre -- highest long-term average corn yield in Portage County

Alfalfa 4.2 tons/acre --highest long-term average alfalfa yield in Portage Co.

$$99.2 = 100 \text{ PI}$$

2) The map unit is assigned a PI using the formula:

$$(\text{Corn Yield} + \text{Alfalfa Yield}) / 99.2 \times 100 = \text{PI}$$

Example: corn yield = 90 bu/ac

alfalfa yield = 3.5 tons/ac

$$90 + 3.5 = 93.5 / 99.2 = .94 \times 100 = 94 \text{ PI}$$

D. Weighting Factor

A weighting factor is then applied to each of the three data element scores to reflect their relative importance. The weighting factors were chosen for the following reasons.

- **Prime Farmland. (60%)** This is a broad soil index component, which has national soil classification significance. It does not reflect crop yields. Some non-prime soils have much higher yields than some prime soils, usually due to slope and/or irrigation.
- **Capability Class. (30%)** This index considers many soil properties and conditions. This index indirectly considers the economic and environmental costs of producing a crop. Equally important was that the capability class is a system that is familiar to many local units of government.
- **Productivity Index. (10%)** Both corn and alfalfa yields were considered as part of this index. This factor was given little weight in Portage County because a number of our sand soils that can be irrigated have great productivity for vegetable production.

E. Sample LE Calculation:

The Portage County LE rating is calculated using the formula:

$$\text{LE} = (\text{prime score} \times 0.60) + (\text{capability score} \times 0.30) + (\text{productivity index} \times 0.10)$$

<u>Soil Data Element</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>LE Rating</u>
Prime Farmland	100	x	0.60	=	60.0
Land Cap. Class	90	x	0.30	=	27.0
Prod. Index	82	x	0.10	=	<u>+8.2</u>

TOTAL LE rating for the map unit **95.2 = 95**

F. LE Assumptions and Decisions

The following assumptions or decisions will be made when finalizing calculations.

- It is assumed that most wet soils in Portage County are not cropped under natural conditions, they require drainage of some type.
- LE factors will be adjusted to consider conditions where wet soils are being cropped. Aerial photography will be used to identify the mapping unit as being cropped. For areas of wet soils that are cropped, yield data, capability class and prime farmland criteria shall be used from the USDA Technical Guide Section II. (Prime if drained). Site visits may be required to make drainage determinations.
- Fractions of numbers will be rounded to the nearest whole number with a fractional number of .5 being rounded up to the next highest whole number.

4. SITE ASSESSMENT FACTORS

Site assessment rates non-soil factors affecting a site's relative importance for agricultural use. Potential development sites in which a land use change is contemplated are evaluated against factors in three general categories, SA-1 through SA-3. Each rating factor is assigned a range of possible values according to relative attributes of a specific two (2) acre area. This process helps to provide a rational, sound basis for making land-use decisions. Specific site assessment factors were developed based on existing Land Use Plans, Ordinances, and other adopted policies.

SA-1 FACTORS

These factors measure non-soil site characteristics effect on the potential for agricultural productivity or farming practices. Site factors evaluated include:

A. Land Area in an Agricultural Use Within ¼ Mile of Site

This factor measures the agricultural viability of an area. The factor is scaled to increase the rating as the percentage of land in agricultural uses within the area increases. The following scale will be used to determine the value of this factor.

% of Area in Ag Use	Score
90-100	100
80-90	85
70-80	70
60-70	55
50-60	40
40-50	25
30-40	10
< 30	0

Intent:

In order to limit potential nuisance complaints and other forms of conflict, pre-existing adjacent land uses should be evaluated in all cases. This factor is also a major indicator of the agricultural character of an area.

Definitions

Agriculture: Beekeeping; commercial feedlots; dairying; egg production; floriculture; fish or fur farming; forest and game management; grazing; livestock raising; orchards; plant greenhouses and nurseries; poultry raising; raising of grain, grass, mint and seed crops; raising of fruits, nuts and berries; sod farming; placing land in federal programs in return for payments in kind; owning land, at least 35 acres of which is enrolled in the conservation reserve program under 16 USC 3831 to 3836; participating in the milk production termination program under 7 USC 1446 (d); and vegetable raising. (Source: Wis. Stats. Chapter 91.)

Ownership: Any individual, association, company, corporation, firm, organization or partnership, singular, plural, of any kind.

SA-2 FACTORS

These factors measure development or conversion pressures on a site. Site factors evaluated include:

A. Land Area Adjacent to the Site Proposed for Agricultural Use in the Community's Land Use Plan

This factor includes the community's perception or desire for future growth as designated on their Land Use Map. The following scale will be used to determine the value of this factor.

Land Use Category	Score
Agr. - L-1	100
Agr. - L-2	80
Agr. - L-3	60
Natural Area-Limited	40
Resource Extract.	40
Industrial	20
Res. - Low Dens.	20
Res. - Med. Dens.	20
Commercial	20
Institutional	20
Natural Area - Protected	0

Intent:

This factor is important because the Land Use Plan adopted by the community and the County constitutes the County's policy regarding the preservation of prime farmlands for agricultural use and the identification of other areas for residential, commercial, industrial and other non-agricultural uses.

SA-3 FACTORS

A. Environmental and Public Values of the Site

This factor measures the public values of a site, such as environmental values. If any of the environmental factors are present on more than 50% of the sample area, that entire area will be scored as 0.

Env. Factor present	Score
water	0
wetland	0
floodplain	25
slopes > 6%	
highly perm. Soils - Rapid	25
woodlands > 10 acres	0
depth to gr. water < 5ft.	25
stream corridor	0

Sample SA Calculation:

The Portage County SA rating is calculated using the formula:

$$SA = (SA-1 \times 0.30) + (SA-2 \times 0.50) + (SA-3 \times 0.20)$$

<u>Site Assessment Factor</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>LE Rating</u>
Ag Use w/in ¼ mile	85	x	0.30	=	25.5
Land Use Map	80	x	0.50	=	40.0
Environmental Factor	50	x	0.20	=	+10.0

TOTAL SA rating for the map unit **75.5 = 76**

SA Assumptions and Decisions

The following assumptions or decisions will be made when finalizing calculations.

- It is assumed that a community's desired development and growth, as shown by its land use map, would rank as the highest non-soil factor.
- Fractions of numbers will be rounded to the nearest whole number with a fractional number of .5 being rounded up to the next highest whole number.

5. THRESHOLD VALUES FOR LESA SCORES

THE COMBINED LAND EVALUATION FACTORS ARE WORTH 100 POINTS AS ARE THE COMBINED SITE ASSESSMENT FACTORS. THE **LE** AND **SA** SCORES ARE ADDED TO YIELD A POTENTIAL FINAL SCORE FOR EACH TWO ACRE BLOCK RANGING BETWEEN 0 AND 200 POINTS, WITH A SCORE OF 200 REPRESENTING LANDS THAT ARE OF THE HIGHEST VALUE FOR AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING SPECIALTY CROPS SUCH AS CRANBERRIES). COMMUNITIES WILL THEN DETERMINE AN APPROPRIATE THRESHOLD FOR RANKING LANDS RECOMMENDED FOR PROTECTION (I.E. AREAS WITH A SCORE HIGHER THAN 150 AND GREATER THAN 40 CONTIGUOUS ACRES). WEIGHTING FACTORS CAN BE CHANGED BY EACH COMMUNITY TO REFLECT ITS OWN PRIORITIES.

6. APPENDIX A

A. Prime Farmland Background Information

Soils, which meet ALL of the following criteria, are prime farmland in Wisconsin.

- 1) Not too dry (at least 4 inches of Available Water Capacity in the upper 40 inches)
- 2) Not too acid or alkaline (pH between 4.5 and 8.4 in the upper 40 inches)
- 3) Not too wet (not frequently flooded and water table generally deeper than one foot during the growing season)
- 4) No serious erosion problems ($K \text{ factor} \times \text{slope} < 2$)
- 5) Permeability not restricted (at least 0.06 in/hr in the upper 20 inches)
- 6) Not too rocky (less than 10% rock fragments larger than 3 inches in the surface layer)
- 7) Not too cold or too salty (generally don't apply in Wisconsin)

Notes:

- Crop yields are not a criterion. Some non-prime soils have much higher yields than some prime soils, usually due to slope.
- Present land use is not a criterion, except soils in urban use or water storage is not prime.
- Location is not a criterion. Only physical and chemical soil properties are considered.

B. Land Capability Class Background Information

Land capability classification is a system of grouping soils primarily on the basis of their capability to produce common cultivated crops and pasture plants without deteriorating over a long period of time. Capability class is the broadest category in the land capability classification system. Codes 1 - 8 (sometimes written as I - VIII) are used to represent both irrigated and non-irrigated land capability classes. Crop yield, present land use and location are not considered in assigning land capability classes.

Land capability classes place soils into groups with similar suitabilities and limitations for agricultural use. The risks of soil damage or limitations in use become progressively greater from class 1 to class 8 (sometimes written as I to VIII).

Class 1 soils have slight limitations that restrict their use.

Class 2 soils have moderate limitations that reduce the choice of plants or require moderate conservation practices.

Class 3 soils have severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants or require special conservation practices.

Class 4 soils have very severe limitations that restrict the choice of plants or require very careful management, or both.

Class 5 soils have little or no hazard of erosion but have other limitations, impractical to remove, that limit their use mainly to pasture, range, forestland, or wildlife food cover.

Class 6 soils have severe limitations that make them generally unsuited to cultivation and that limit their use mainly to pasture, range, forestland, or wildlife food and cover.

Class 7 soils have very severe limitations that make them unsuited to cultivation and that restrict their use mainly to grazing, forestland, or wildlife.

Class 8 soils and miscellaneous areas have limitations that preclude their use for commercial plant production and limit their use to recreation, wildlife, or water supply or for esthetic purposes.

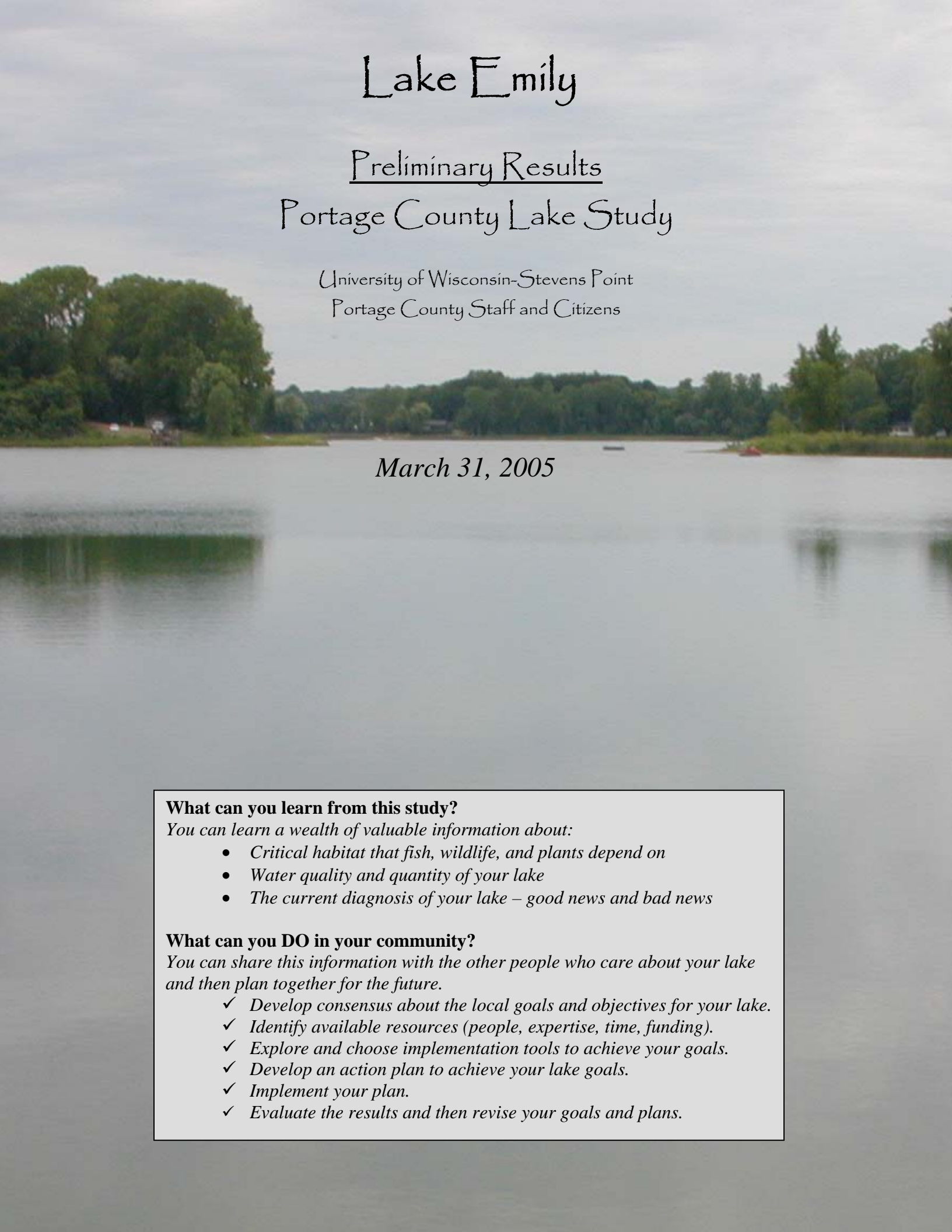
Appendix E

Portage County Lakes Study:

Lake Emily

Lime Lake

Town of Amherst
Comprehensive Plan
2015



Lake Emily

Preliminary Results

Portage County Lake Study

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Portage County Staff and Citizens

March 31, 2005

What can you learn from this study?

You can learn a wealth of valuable information about:

- *Critical habitat that fish, wildlife, and plants depend on*
- *Water quality and quantity of your lake*
- *The current diagnosis of your lake – good news and bad news*

What can you DO in your community?

You can share this information with the other people who care about your lake and then plan together for the future.

- ✓ *Develop consensus about the local goals and objectives for your lake.*
- ✓ *Identify available resources (people, expertise, time, funding).*
- ✓ *Explore and choose implementation tools to achieve your goals.*
- ✓ *Develop an action plan to achieve your lake goals.*
- ✓ *Implement your plan.*
- ✓ *Evaluate the results and then revise your goals and plans.*

**To protect
the lake** we must protect
the “watershed,” the land
that drains or
sheds its water
into the
lake.



Lake Emily ~ Location



Lake Emily

Water Flow

- Lake Emily is a seepage lake
- Water enters Lake Emily from groundwater, one intermittent inlet from Mud Lake at the west end, runoff, and precipitation
- Water exits the lake through groundwater



Lake Emily ~ Land Use in the Surface Watershed



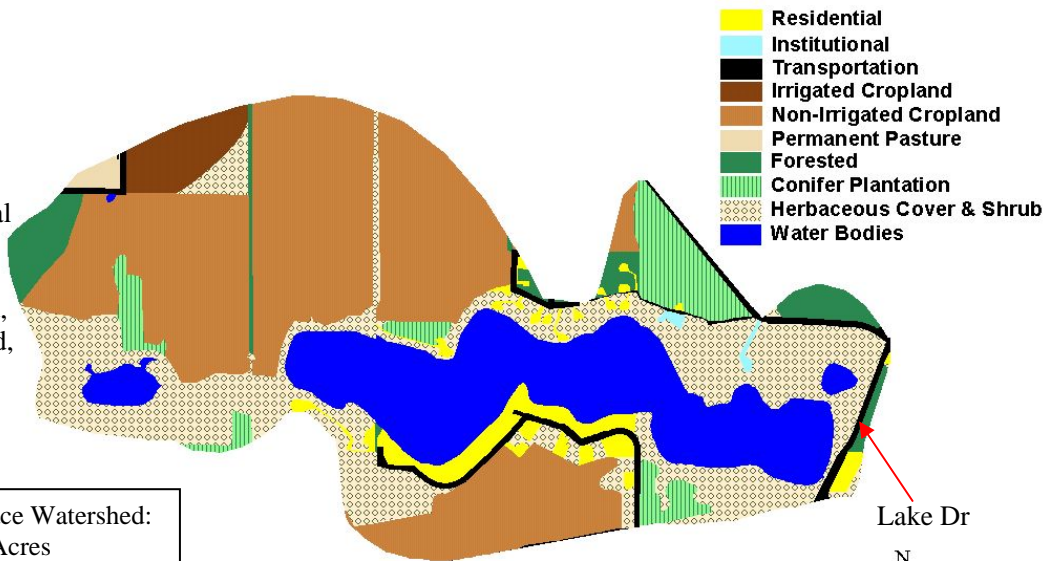
Surface Watershed: The land area where water runs off the surface of the land and drains toward the lake.

Lake Emily Land Use

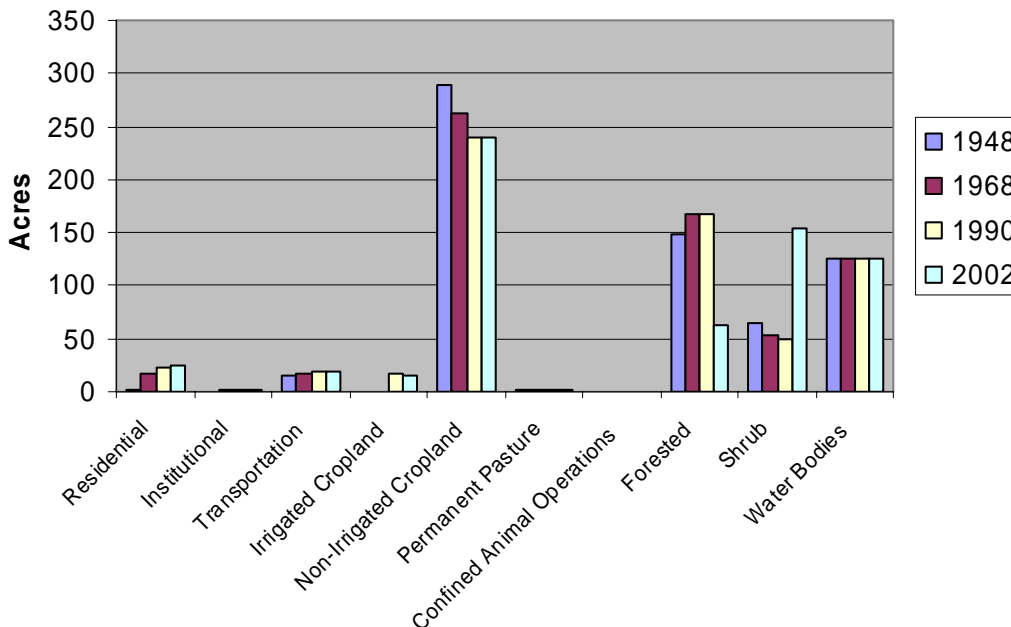
Current Predominant Land Use

- Around the lake: shrub cover, residential uses
- In the watershed: non-irrigated cropland, shrub cover, forestland, and irrigated cropland

Surface Watershed:
646 Acres



Surface Watershed Land Use



Surface Watershed Land Use

- Non-irrigated agriculture dominates land use in the watershed despite a modest decline since 1948
- Forestland has made a dramatic decrease since 1990 as shrub cover increased
- Residential use increased greatly between 1948 and 1968, and continues to increase

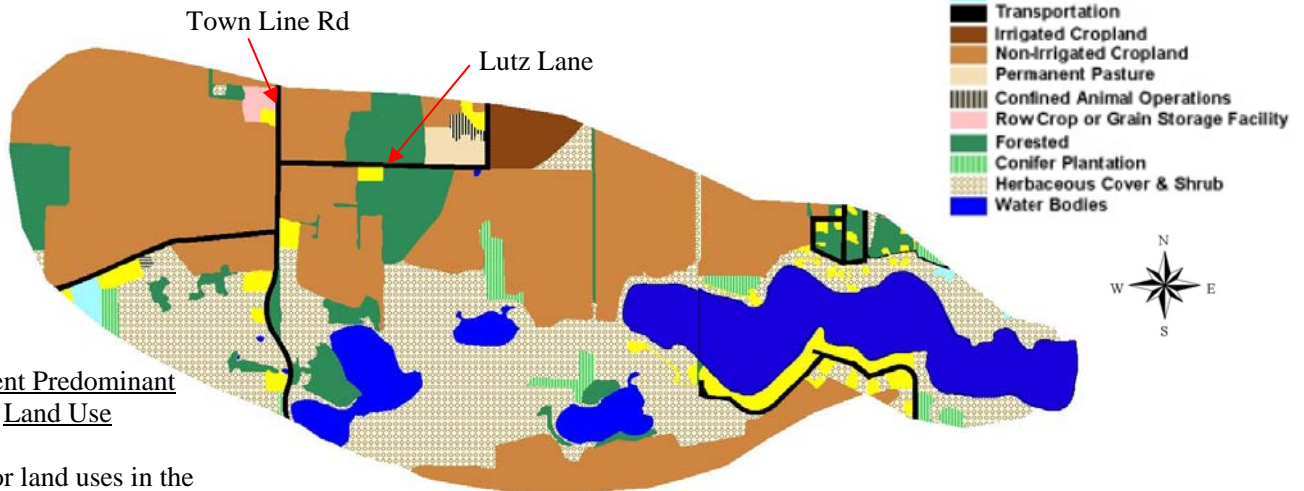


Lake Emily ~ Land Use in the Groundwater Shed



Groundwater Shed: The land area where water soaks into the ground and travels underground to the lake.

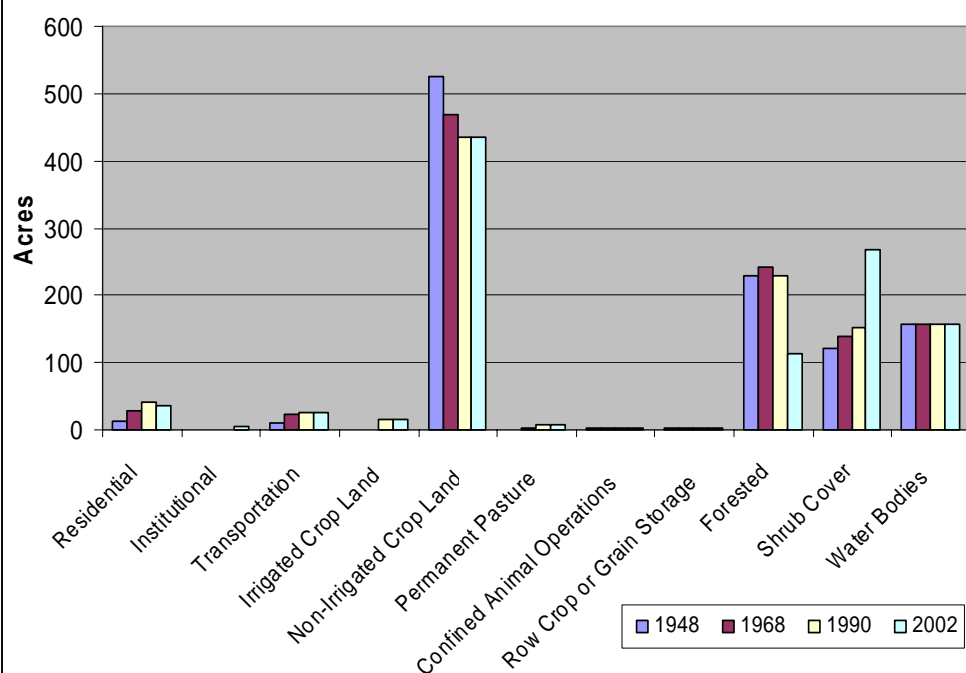
Lake Emily Groundwater Land Use



Current Predominant Land Use

- Major land uses in the groundwater shed are non-irrigated agriculture, shrub cover, and forestland

Groundwater Shed Land Use

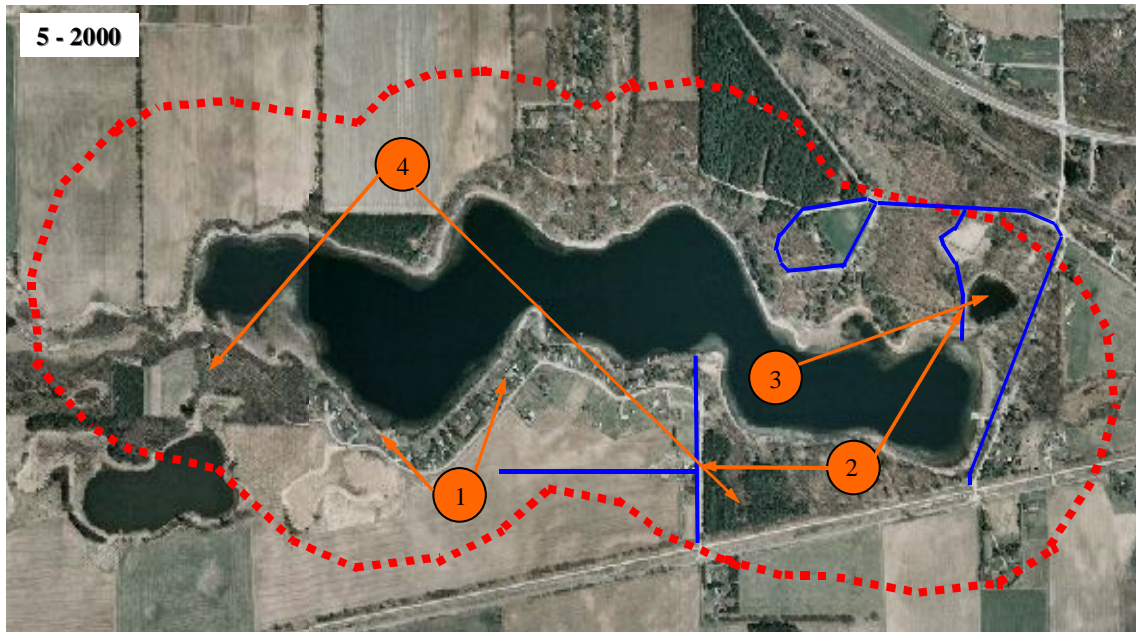


Groundwater Shed Land Use

- Non-irrigated cropland has dominated the groundwater shed since 1948
- Residential, institutional, transportation, irrigated cropland, and shrub cover uses have all increased since 1948
- Non-irrigated cropland and forestland have decreased in land use area since 1948



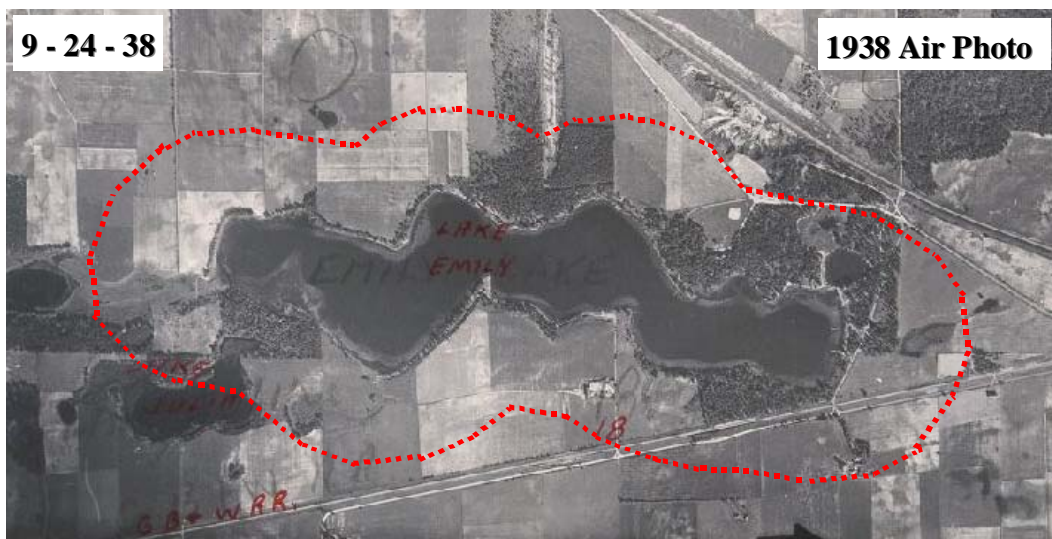
Lake Emily ~ Taking a closer look (Within a 1,000 feet of lake)



Points of Interest

1. The development of the south side of the lake started in the early 1950's and 1960's.
2. The blue line outlines the original roads that surrounded the lake in 1930. As you can see, many of the roads that were originally there have disappeared.
3. The water level is much lower in 1960 and 1968 than in 1938 and the present.
4. Two small areas that have reverted back from cropland to forested.

Some cottages were removed from the parkland since 1938.

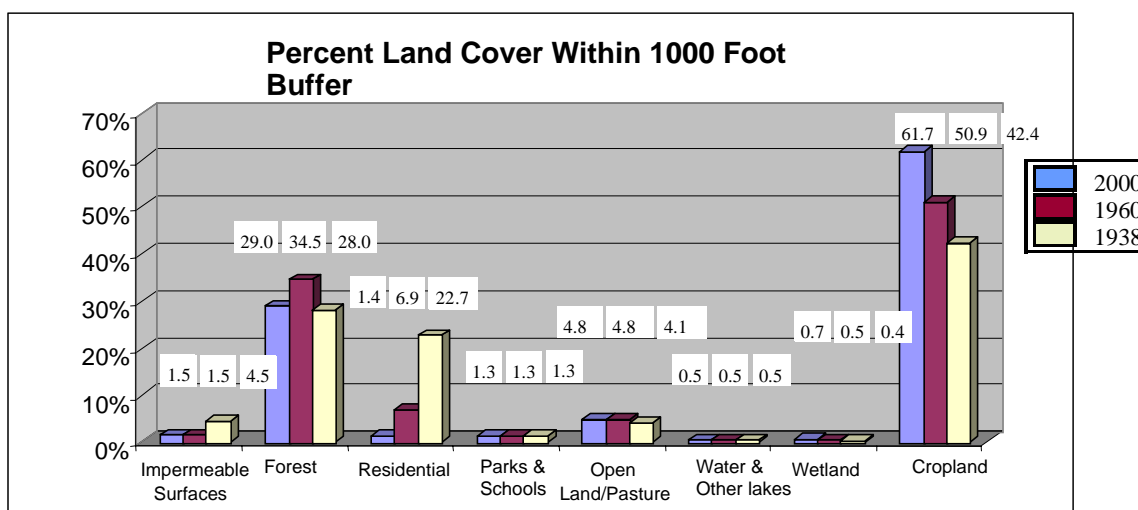


Lake Emily ~ Taking a closer look

(Within a 1,000 feet of lake)

Changes from 1938 to 2000

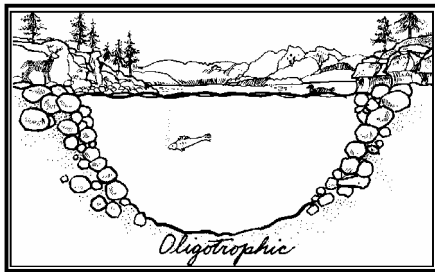
	1938	1960	2000
# of Docks	0	0	4
Impervious Surface (acres)	6.04	6.00	17.87
Residential (acres)	5.50	27.25	89.14
Open Land/ Pasture (acres)	18.66	18.66	16.27
Forest/ Park-Campground (acres)	113.65	135.33	109.96
Cropland (acres)	242.36	200.01	166.31
Water & Wetlands (acres)	4.86	3.77	3.35



Lake Emily ~ Water Quality

Total Phosphorus

In more than 80% of Wisconsin's lakes phosphorus is the key nutrient affecting aquatic plant and algae growth. Once in a lake system phosphorus levels are difficult to reduce, so limiting phosphorus input is key. Phosphorus at levels above 30 parts per billion (ppb) can lead to nuisance aquatic plant growth and accelerate a lake's change from oligotrophic to eutrophic. Sources of phosphorus include septic systems, detergents, animal waste, farmland and storm sewer runoff, soil erosion, and fertilizers for lawns, gardens, and agriculture.



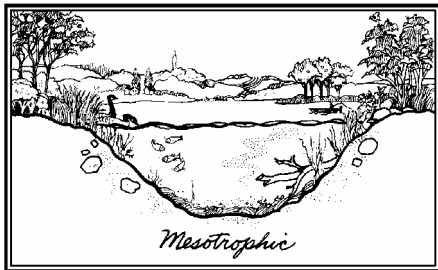
Oligotrophic Lakes

Common uses:

- ✓ Swimming
- ✓ Skiing
- ✓ Boating

Vegetation of oligotrophic lakes:

- ✓ Very little vegetation



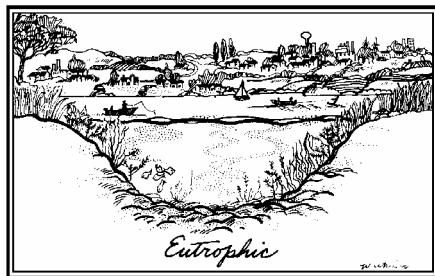
Mesotrophic Lakes

Common uses:

- ✓ Boating
- ✓ Fishing

Vegetation of mesotrophic lakes:

- ✓ Increased vegetation
- ✓ Occasional algal blooms



Eutrophic Lakes

Common uses:

- ✓ Fishing
- ✓ Wildlife watching

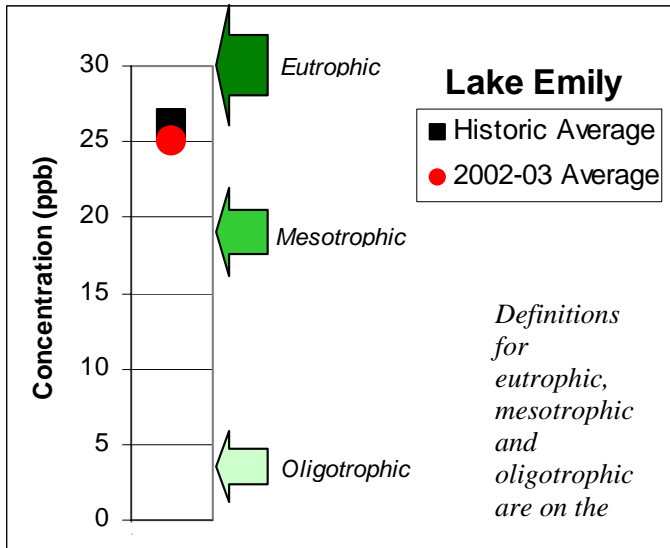
Vegetation of eutrophic lakes:

- ✓ Lots of aquatic plants
- ✓ Frequent algal blooms



Lake Emily ~ Water Quality

Average Total Phosphorus Levels



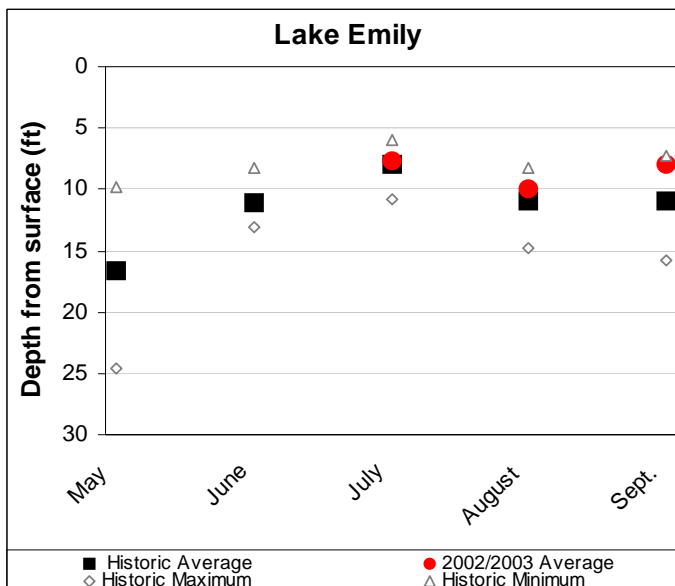
The graph to the left shows total phosphorus levels measured when the lake is well mixed (overturn). Phosphorus levels in Lake Emily in 2002-03 were similar to historic levels. Current phosphorus levels in Lake Emily are higher than average concentrations for seepage lakes in this region.



Overturn: uniform temperature from top to bottom in the lake.

Water Clarity

Water clarity (Secchi disc depth) is an indicator of water quality. The two main components affecting water clarity are materials dissolved in the water and materials suspended in the water. Water clarity can indicate overall water quality, especially the amount of algae and suspended sediment present.



The water clarity in Lake Emily is considered fair. The average Secchi depth reading for similar lakes in the region is around 9-10 feet. Lake Emily is very close to being in this range, but has just slightly worse clarity. The water clarity of Lake Emily during 2002 growing season was slightly worse than the historic growing season average as well. The recent data demonstrates that the month of August shows the best water clarity and the months of July and September the poorest. These fluctuations throughout the summer are normal as algae populations and sedimentation increase and decrease.



2002 Amphibian Distribution at Portage County Lakes

This summary provides preliminary information on the amphibian species present and their distribution at the twenty-nine Portage County lakes. Surveys were conducted from April 2002 - August 2002, the typical breeding period of the frogs and salamanders found in the county.

Twelve frog species have been documented in Wisconsin, nine of which currently inhabit Portage County: American toad, chorus frog, spring peeper, eastern gray treefrog, Cope's gray treefrog, green frog, pickerel frog, northern leopard frog, and wood frog. Historically, Blanchard's cricket frog inhabited Portage County but is believed to now exist only in southeastern Wisconsin. Of all species believed to inhabit Portage County, only the pickerel frog was not found during the spring and summer of 2002. The pickerel frog has been listed as a species of special concern in Wisconsin. No new species to Portage County were recorded in 2002.

Seven salamander species have been documented in Wisconsin, all of which currently inhabit Portage County: blue-spotted salamander, spotted salamander, tiger salamander, central newt, mudpuppy, northern redback salamander and four-toed salamander. The four-toed salamander is listed as a species of special concern in Wisconsin.

Large sections of continuous natural shoreline on lakes are ideal habitats for frog and salamander populations. Natural areas with large amounts of submergent, emergent and floating-leaf vegetation provide protection for amphibians. Many species also use the vegetation for attachment of eggs during the breeding season. Green frogs, bullfrogs, pickerel frogs and leopard frogs depend on the shoreline area throughout the year. In contrast, American toads, spring peepers, tree frogs, wood frogs and chorus frogs depend on the shoreline area in the spring for breeding and then move to other areas for the rest of the year.

Undisturbed areas of shoreline that are also connected to large natural upland areas provide ideal habitat for many amphibian species because they lessen frogs' exposure to predators. Many frog and salamander species migrate to the lakes in the spring to breed and spend the summer months foraging in the uplands. Many amphibian species will also over winter in the uplands.

Chorus Frog



Prairie Species

Northern Leopard Frog



Green Frog



Cope's Gray Treefrog



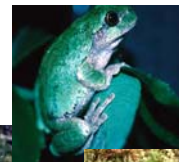
Aquatic

Forest Species

Spring Peeper



Eastern Gray Treefrog



Wood Frog



American Toad



Blue-spotted Salamander



Northern Redback Salamander



Lake Emily ~ Frogs and Reptiles



Lake Emily

Number of frog species: 6

Frog species observed: spring peeper, chorus frog, northern leopard frog, American toad, gray treefrog, green frog

Location of primary habitat: east and west sides of lake

Key features of habitat: protected areas of marsh with large amounts of submergent, emergent, and floating leaf vegetation

Number of reptile species: 2

Reptile species observed: painted turtle, snapping turtle

Map Key

Red outlined areas = primary frog habitat

Good News

Several frog species present, several large sections of natural shoreline exist

Bad News

High level of altered shoreline due to development



Lake Emily ~ Aquatic Plants

Aquatic plant surveys were conducted in each lake more detailed information is available in the final report.

Aquatic Plant Survey

There are 66 species of aquatic macrophytes (65 species of vascular plants plus one species of macrophytic algae) that have been found in Lake Emily, on the shore, or in the small pond connected to the lake. This is above average for Portage County lakes.

Lake Emily supports a moderately diverse aquatic and wetland flora, although most of the species are common and widespread plants. Until recently the dominant submersed plants were common milfoil, Illinois pondweed, variable pondweed, bush-pondweed, wild celery, stonewort, and Canadian waterweed. However, Eurasian milfoil was present by 1995 and it is becoming more abundant.

Water levels have dropped in recent years, converting areas, especially on the eastern and northern shores, previously under shallow water into an expanded beach. The upper portions of the former shore and beach was a dry upland with weedy annuals common in 2003, although with a higher water level in 2004 the wet shore is expanding toward the the upper shore. However, Canada thistle is spreading aggressively on the beach and its spread will probably continue unless water levels rise enough to inundate it.

Invasive Exotic Aquatic Plants

Invasive species displace native species, disrupt ecosystems, and affect citizen's livelihoods and quality of life. They hamper boating, swimming, fishing, and other water recreation, and take an economic toll on commercial, agricultural and aquatic resources.

(Wisconsin DNR)

Aquatic plants surveys revealed that some of the lakes in the study have invasive aquatic plants present.

Eurasian milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) was present in Bear Lake, Lake Emily, Lake Joanis, Jordan Pond, McDill Pond, Springville Pond and Thomas Lake.

Curly leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) was identified in Spring Lake and Amherst Millpond.

Contact the Portage County Land Conservation Department for additional information.



Lake Emily ~ What can you do to help?

We Can All Help Take Care Of Our Lake

A lake is a magnificent water resource. The quality of its water is a reflection of what happens on the land that surrounds it.



Lake Users:

- ✓ Run boat engines efficiently.
- ✓ Observe no/low wake zones.
- ✓ Refuel away from water.
- ✓ Dispose of trash properly
- ✓ Remove all aquatic plants from boats and trailers.



Land Owners:

- ✓ Control soil erosion.
- ✓ Keep livestock out of lakes and streams.
- ✓ Control manure runoff.
- ✓ Carefully manage nutrients and pesticides.
- ✓ Learn to identify and look for invasive species.



Home Owners:

- ✓ Leave natural vegetation buffers in place or replace them if they have been removed.
- ✓ Eliminate the use of fertilizer or use low/no phosphorus fertilizer.
- ✓ Eliminate or minimize use of pesticides.
- ✓ Control soil erosion.
- ✓ Clean up after pets.
- ✓ Learn to identify and look for invasive species.



Project support provided by:

- Wisconsin DNR Lake Protection grants
- UW-Stevens Point
- Portage County
- Portage County Citizens

Study Contacts:

Portage County: Steven Bradley at 346-1334

UW- Stevens Point: Nancy Turyk at 346-4155



Lake Emily~ Primary Researchers

Algae

Dr. Bob Bell

Aquatic Plants

Dr. Robert Freckmann

Birds

Dr. Tim Ginnett

Brad Bulin (Graduate Student)

Fish

Dr. Ron Crunkilton

Land Use Coverages/Watersheds

Steve Bradley (Portage County Conservationist)

Planning Assistance

Lynn Markham

Mike Hansen

Reptiles and Amphibians/Near Shore Habitat

Dr. Erik Wild

Rori Paloski (Graduate Student)

Water Quality/Watersheds

Becky Cook

Dr. Paul McGinley

Dr. Byron Shaw

Dick Stephens

Nancy Turyk

Near Shore Summary

Dr. Glenn Bowles

Special thanks to UWSP undergraduate and graduate students and local citizens for their assistance!





Lime Lake

Preliminary Results

Portage County Lake Study

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Portage County Staff and Citizens

March 31, 2005

What can you learn from this study?

You can learn a wealth of valuable information about:

- *Critical habitat that fish, wildlife, and plants depend on*
- *Water quality and quantity of your lake*
- *The current diagnosis of your lake – good news and bad news*

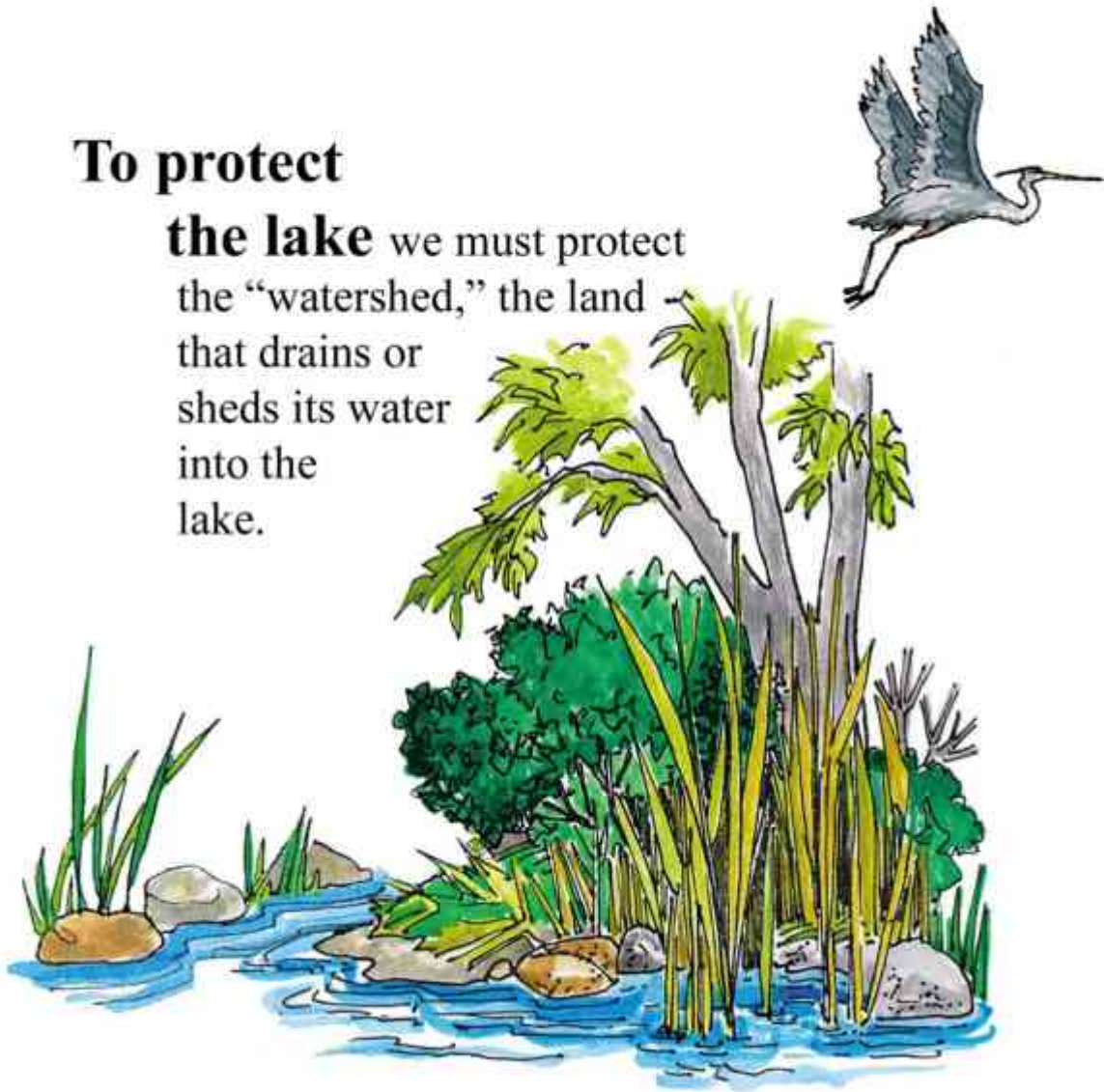
What can you DO in your community?

You can share this information with the other people who care about your lake and then plan together for the future.

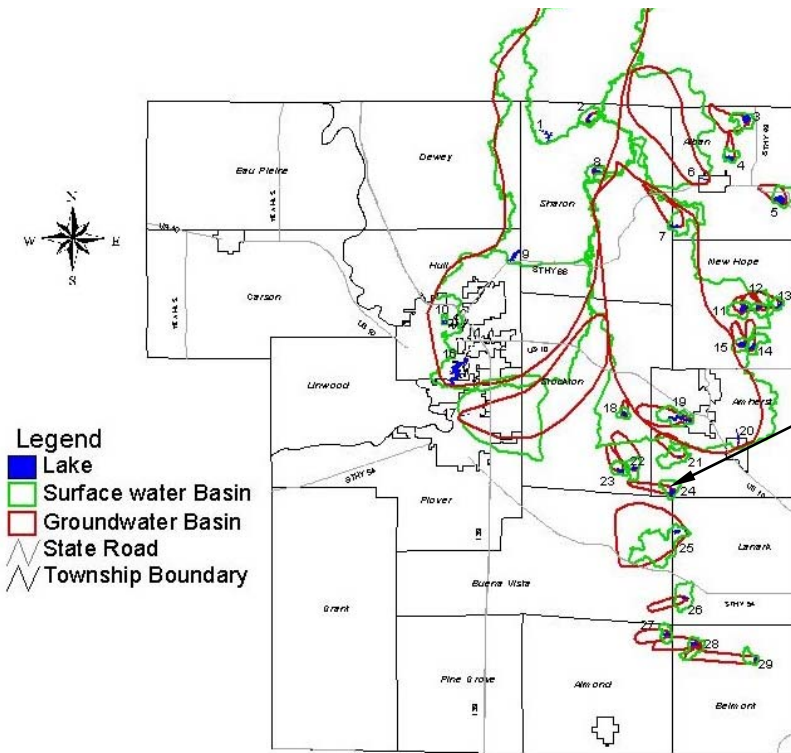
- ✓ *Develop consensus about the local goals and objectives for your lake.*
- ✓ *Identify available resources (people, expertise, time, funding).*
- ✓ *Explore and choose implementation tools to achieve your goals.*
- ✓ *Develop an action plan to achieve your lake goals.*
- ✓ *Implement your plan.*
- ✓ *Evaluate the results and then revise your goals and plans.*

To protect

the lake we must protect
the “watershed,” the land
that drains or
sheds its water
into the
lake.



Lime Lake ~ Location



Lime Lake
North of County Trunk D,
southwest of Amherst, Town of
Amherst

Surface Area: 48 acres
Maximum Depth: 29 feet
Lake Volume: 804 acre-feet

Lime Lake

Water Flow

- Lime Lake is a groundwater seepage lake
- Water enters Lime Lake mostly from groundwater, with some runoff and precipitation
- Water exits the lake to groundwater

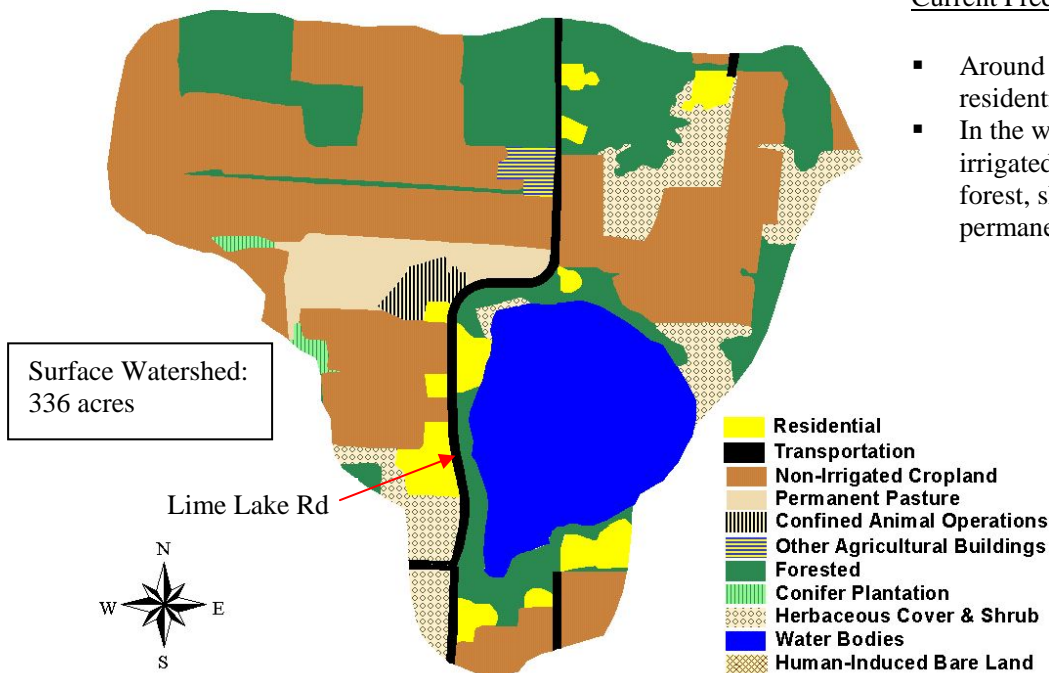


Lime Lake ~ Land Use in the Surface Watershed



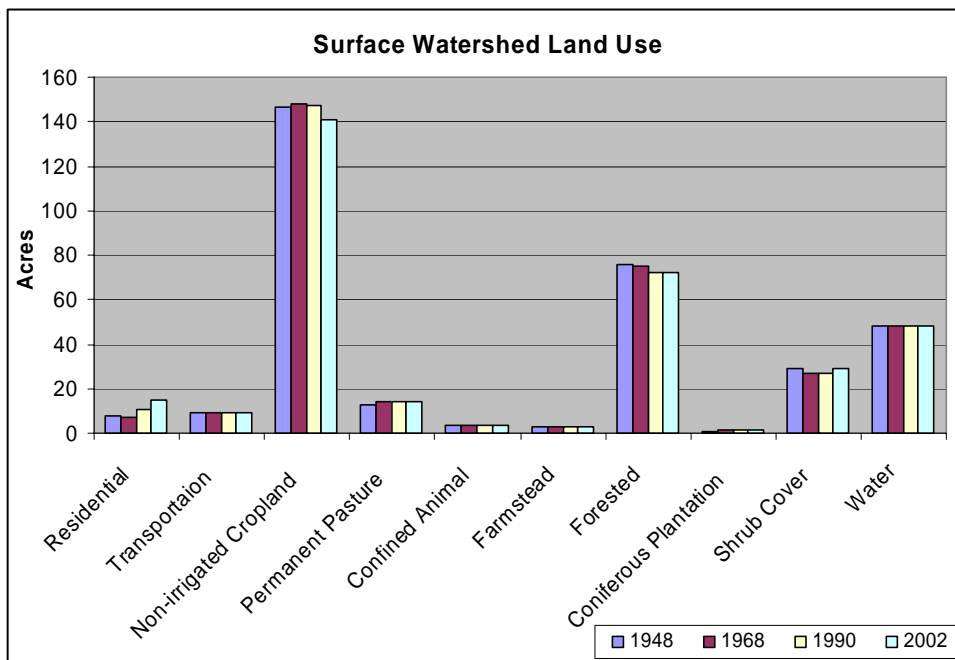
Surface Watershed: The land area where water runs off the surface of the land and drains toward the lake.

Lime Lake Land Use



Current Predominant Land Use

- Around the lake: forest, residential, and shrub cover
- In the watershed: non-irrigated cropland, residential, forest, shrub cover and permanent pasture



Surface Watershed Land Use

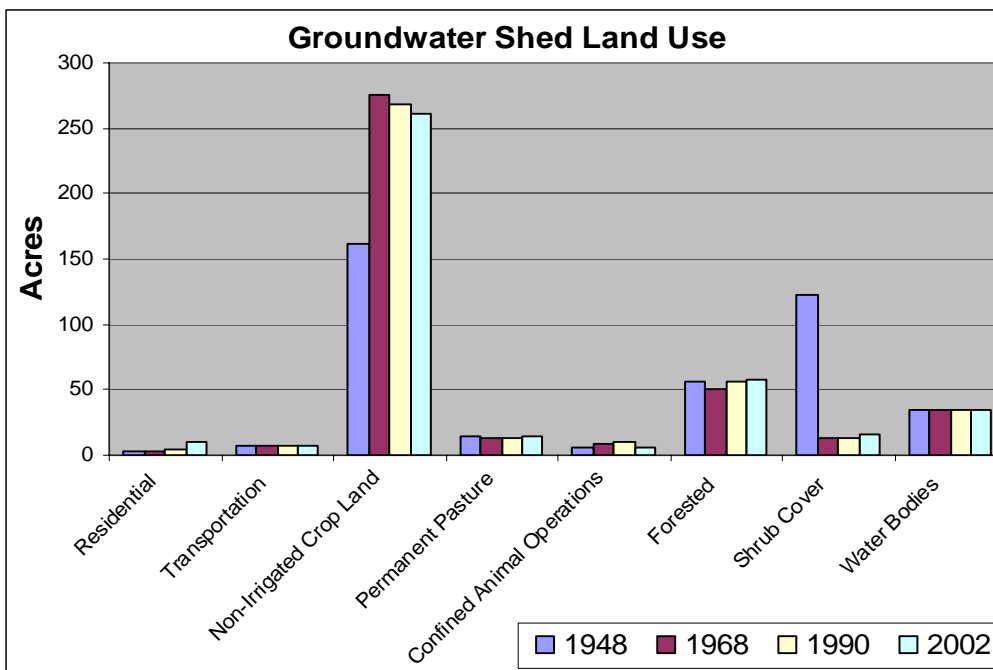
- The dominant land uses in the surface watershed are non-irrigated cropland and forestland, both of which have declined slightly in recent years
- Residential use is increasing while all other uses have remained relatively constant



Lime Lake ~ Land Use in the Groundwater Shed



Groundwater Shed: The land area where water soaks into the ground and travels underground to the lake.

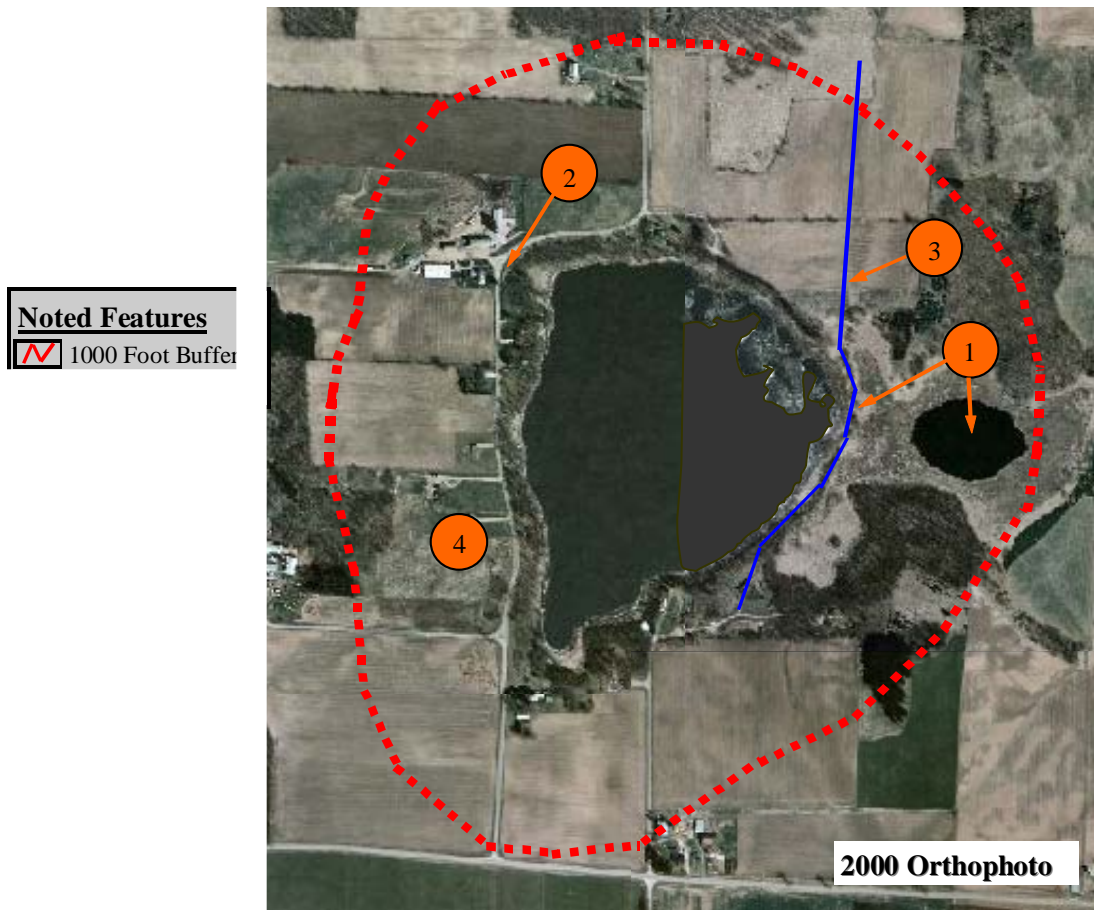


Groundwater Shed Land Use

- Non-irrigated cropland has dominated the land use since 1948
- Shrub Cover decreased substantially between 1948 and 1968
- All other land uses have remained relatively constant noting the increase in residential land use

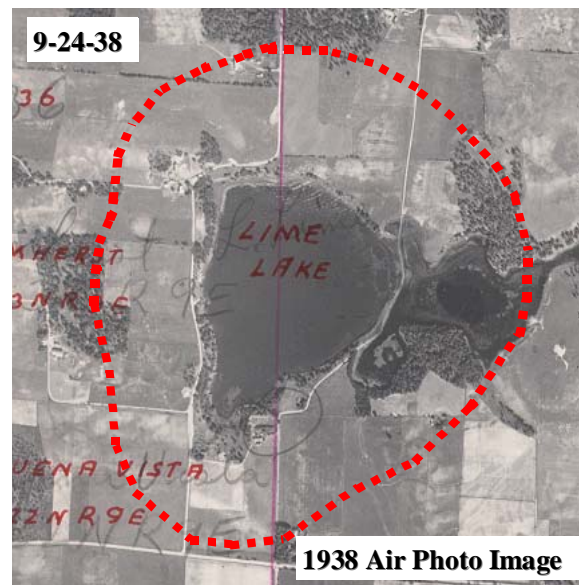


Lime Lake ~ Taking a closer look (Within 1,000 feet of the lake)



Points of Interest

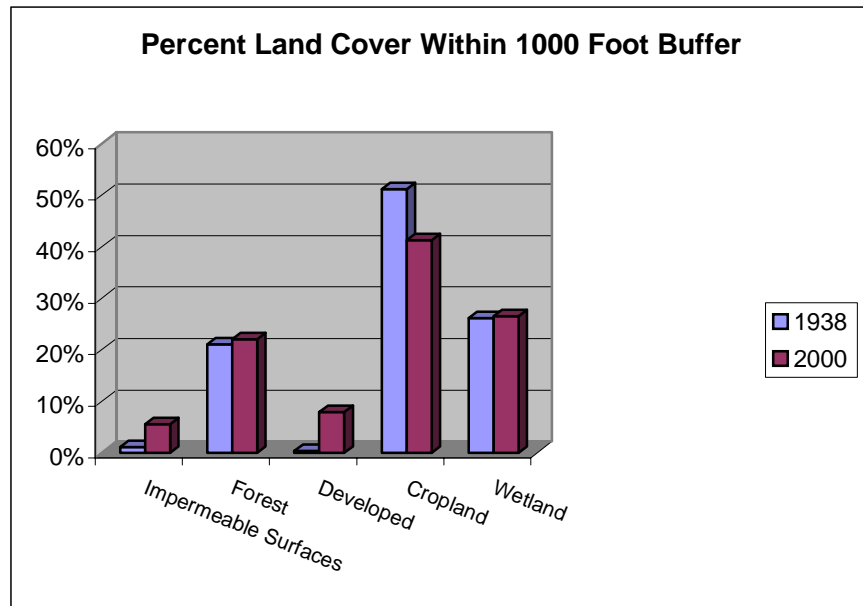
1. It appears as though the wetlands on the east side of the lake were mostly covered in 1938
2. The only farm that has been on the lake since 1938.
3. A road was here until the early 1960s', today there is little presence of it ever being there
4. This area was cropland in 1938, now it has become residential.



Lime Lake ~ Taking a closer look (Within 1,000 feet of the lake)

Changes from 1938 to 2000

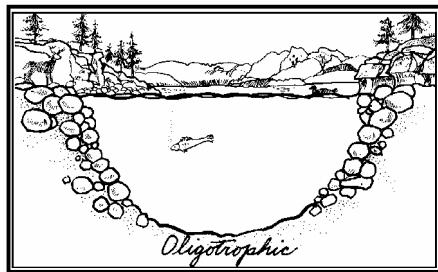
	1938	2000
# of Docks	1	0
Impervious Surface (acres)	1	6
Residential (acres)	0.4	8
Cropland (acres)	55	43
Forest (acres)	25	23
Wetland (acres)	27	28



Lime Lake ~ Water Quality

Total Phosphorus

In more than 80% of Wisconsin's lakes phosphorus is the key nutrient affecting aquatic plant and algae growth. Once in a lake system phosphorus levels are difficult to reduce, so limiting phosphorus input is key. Phosphorus at levels above 30 parts per billion (ppb) can lead to nuisance aquatic plant growth and accelerate a lake's change from oligotrophic to eutrophic. Sources of phosphorus include septic systems, detergents, animal waste, farmland and storm sewer runoff, soil erosion, and fertilizers for lawns, gardens, and agriculture.



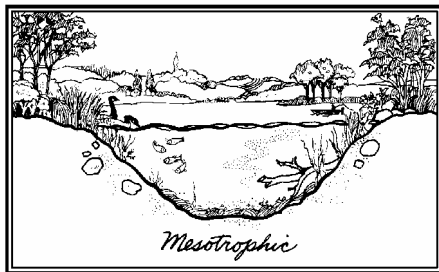
Oligotrophic Lakes

Common uses:

- ✓ Swimming
- ✓ Skiing
- ✓ Boating

Vegetation of oligotrophic lakes:

- ✓ Very little vegetation



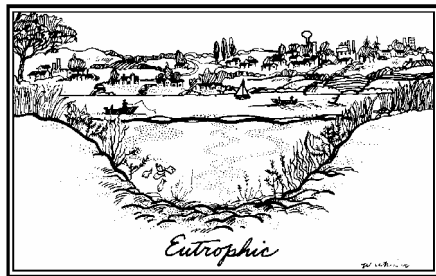
Mesotrophic Lakes

Common uses:

- ✓ Boating
- ✓ Fishing

Vegetation of mesotrophic lakes:

- ✓ Increased vegetation
- ✓ Occasional algal blooms



Eutrophic Lakes

Common uses:

- ✓ Fishing
- ✓ Wildlife watching

Vegetation of eutrophic lakes:

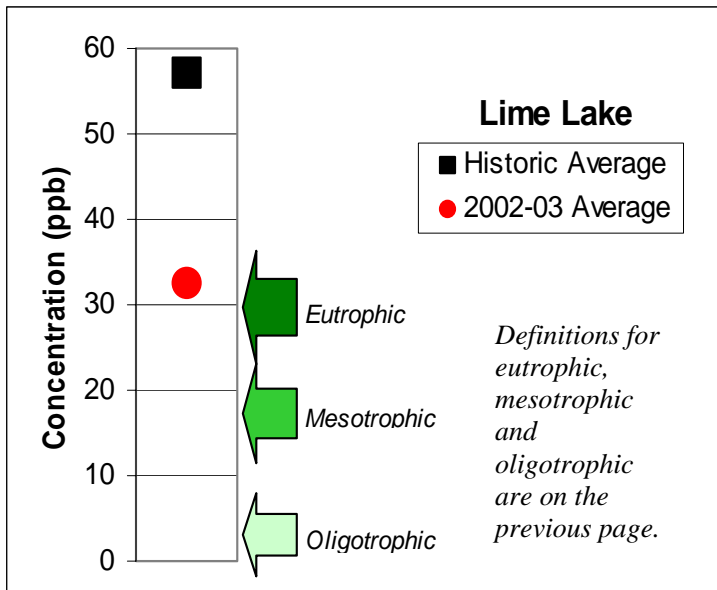
- ✓ Lots of aquatic plants
- ✓ Frequent algal blooms

Winter fish kills can occur



Lime Lake ~ Water Quality

Average Total Phosphorus Levels



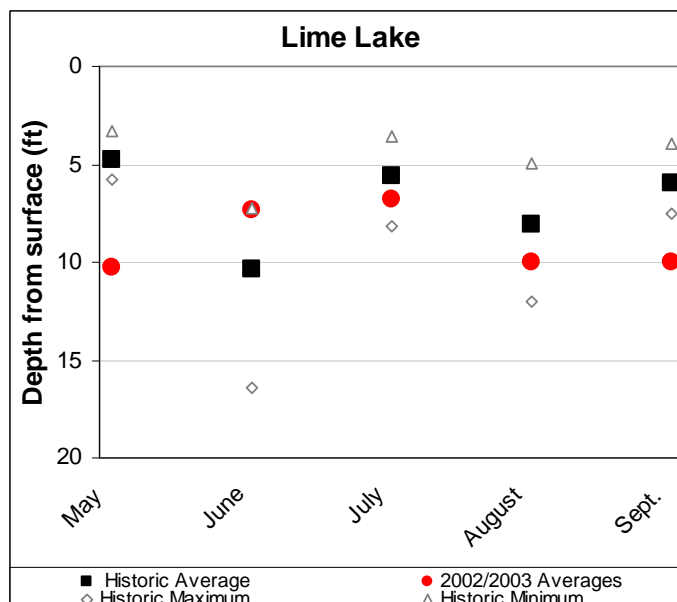
The graph to the left shows total phosphorus levels measured when the lake was well mixed (overturn). Phosphorus levels in Lime Lake in 2002-03 are lower than average historic levels, however, they are still high. Levels of phosphorus above 30 ppb are high enough to categorize a lake as eutrophic, making it subject to nuisance algae blooms and aquatic plant growth. Compared to similar lakes in the region, Lime Lake has a relatively high concentration of phosphorus that is high for a marl lake.



Overturb: uniform temperature from top to bottom in the lake.

Water Clarity

Water clarity (Secchi disc depth) is an indicator of water quality. The two main components affecting water clarity are materials dissolved in the water and materials suspended in the water. Water clarity can indicate overall water quality, especially the amount of algae and suspended sediment present.



The water clarity in Lime Lake is considered fair. The average Secchi depth reading for similar lakes in the region is 8-10 feet; Lime Lake appears to have slightly reduced clarity during some months. The water clarity of Lime Lake during the 2002-03 growing season improved during most months compared with the historical growing season average. The months of May, August, and September showed the best water clarity and the month of July the poorest. These fluctuations throughout the summer are normal as algae populations and sedimentation increase and decrease.



2002 Amphibian Distribution at Portage County Lakes

This summary provides preliminary information on the amphibian species present and their distribution at the twenty-nine Portage County lakes. Surveys were conducted from April 2002 - August 2002, the typical breeding period of the frogs and salamanders found in the county.

Twelve frog species have been documented in Wisconsin, nine of which currently inhabit Portage County: American toad, chorus frog, spring peeper, eastern gray treefrog, Cope's gray treefrog, green frog, pickerel frog, northern leopard frog, and wood frog. Historically, Blanchard's cricket frog inhabited Portage County but is believed to now exist only in southeastern Wisconsin. Of all species believed to inhabit Portage County, only the pickerel frog was not found during the spring and summer of 2002. The pickerel frog has been listed as a species of special concern in Wisconsin. No new species to Portage County were recorded in 2002.

Seven salamander species have been documented in Wisconsin, all of which currently inhabit Portage County: blue-spotted salamander, spotted salamander, tiger salamander, central newt, mudpuppy, northern redback salamander and four-toed salamander. The four-toed salamander is listed as a species of special concern in Wisconsin.

Large sections of continuous natural shoreline on lakes are ideal habitats for frog and salamander populations. Natural areas with large amounts of submergent, emergent and floating-leaf vegetation provide protection for amphibians. Many species also use the vegetation for attachment of eggs during the breeding season. Green frogs, bullfrogs, pickerel frogs and leopard frogs depend on the shoreline area throughout the year. In contrast, American toads, spring peepers, tree frogs, wood frogs and chorus frogs depend on the shoreline area in the spring for breeding and then move to other areas for the rest of the year.

Undisturbed areas of shoreline that are also connected to large natural upland areas provide ideal habitat for many amphibian species because they lessen frogs' exposure to predators. Many frog and salamander species migrate to the lakes in the spring to breed and spend the summer months foraging in the uplands. Many amphibian species will also over winter in the uplands.

Chorus Frog



Prairie Species

Northern Leopard Frog



Green Frog



Cope's Gray Treefrog



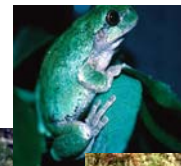
Aquatic

Forest Species

Spring Peeper



Eastern Gray Treefrog



Wood Frog



American Toad



Blue-spotted Salamander



Northern Redback Salamander



Lime Lake ~ Frogs and Reptiles



Lime Lake Frogs and Reptiles

Number of frog species: 4

Frog species observed: spring peeper, gray treefrog, Cope's gray treefrog, green frog

Location of primary habitat: east side of lake

Key features of habitat: protected areas of marsh with large amounts of submergent, emergent and floating-leaf vegetation

Number of reptile species: 2

Reptile species observed: painted turtle, snapping turtle

Map Key

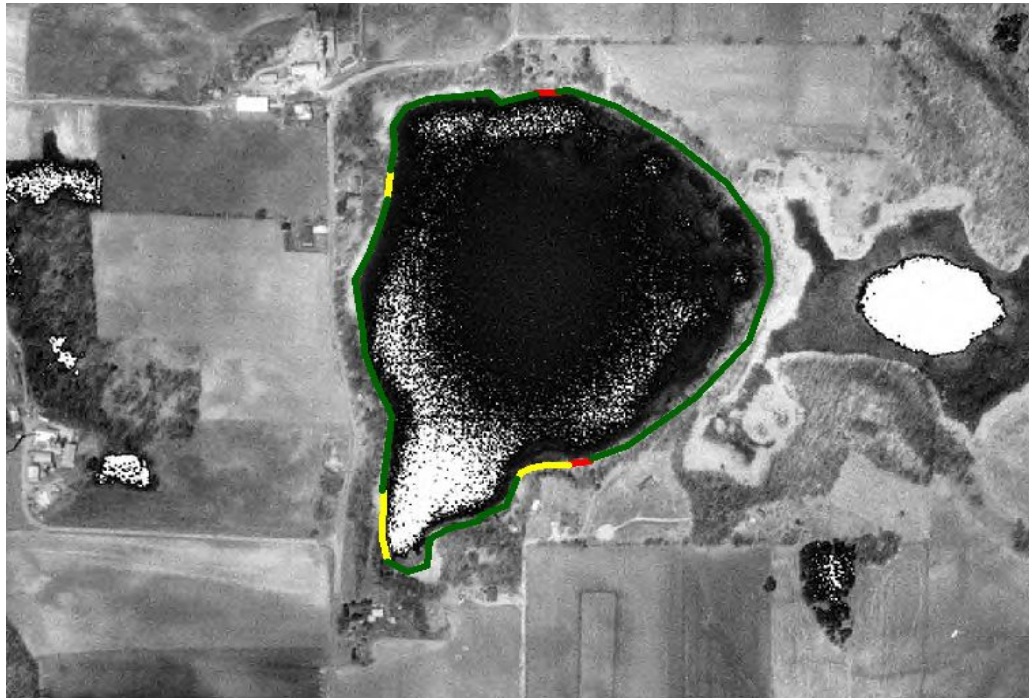
Red outlined areas = primary frog habitat

Good News

Large sections of natural shoreline



Lime Lake ~ Shoreline Vegetation



- ~ Cover 1 - Tamarack/Black Spruce
- ~ Cover 2 - Alder Shoreline
- ~ Cover 3 - Narrow Wetland Shoreline
- ~ Cover 4 - Vegetated Shoreline
- ~ Cover 5 - Grasses/Shrubs
- ~ Cover 6 - Low Disturbance
- ~ Cover 7 - Moderate Disturbance
- ~ Cover 8 - High Disturbance

Frogs and toads depend on shoreline and aquatic vegetation for:

- attachment of eggs during the breeding season,
- shelter for adults throughout the spring and summer,
- food for larvae,
- habitat for prey, and
- slowing evaporation and moderating temperature fluctuations.

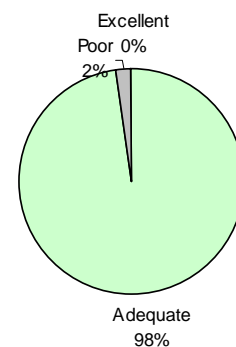
Frogs are commonly found in areas with large amounts of tree cover, aquatic plants, leaves, and downed branches, characteristics typical of natural areas. Frogs are not frequently found in sandy areas or open water, characteristics typical of altered areas. Though amphibians use drier prairies and woodlands near lakes and wetlands, this study focused on areas reaching from 16 feet into the lake to 33 feet inland.

Green frogs are used as an indicator for the health of aquatic life in Wisconsin lakes because they are abundant, live in many cover types, and remain along the edge of the lake throughout the spring and summer. While other amphibians may require more specific cover types, the green frog habitat is a useful indicator. Some cover types (as shown on map above) are better than others for green frogs. Specifically:

- Excellent green frog habitat = cover types 1 and 2
- Adequate green frog habitat = cover types 3, 4 and 6
- Poor green frog habitat = cover types 5, 7 and 8

Lakes with larger amounts of good green frog habitat will likely support more amphibians and more species of amphibians. Likewise, amphibians are more likely to be harmed or eliminated with increasing shoreland development.

Lime Lake Green Frog Habitat



Best Green Frog Habitat: Ebert Lake
33% excellent habitat + 67% adequate

Worst Green Frog Habitat: Helen Lake
2% excellent habitat + 6% adequate + 92% poor



Lime Lake ~ Fish

Lime Lake Fish

Number of observed species: 12

Species observed to date: This chart represents all species detected, by decade, in Lime Lake since censusing began. Data before 2002 was collected by the Wisconsin DNR and 2002/2003 data was collected by UW-Stevens Point. X represents a decade when the species was detected and S represents a decade when the species was stocked.

	1970's	1980's	2000's
Bluegill	X	X	X
Bluegill/Pumpkinseed hybrid			X
Pumpkinseed	X	X	X
Green Sunfish	X		X
Largemouth Bass	X	X	X
Black Crappie	X	X	X
Walleye	X,S	X	
Yellow Perch	X	X	X
Iowa Darter		X	
Northern Pike	X	X	X
Yellow Bullhead		X	X
White Sucker	X		X
Golden Shiner	X		X
Central Mudminnow	X		X





Substrate: Bottom substrate is mostly marl mixed with small amounts of sand. Deeper areas near the north and south shore appear to have been dredged, a sign of marl removal. In the absence of sand and gravel, largemouth bass and sunfish build nests on marl especially if they can excavate a depression to a coarser substrate such as woody debris.



Vegetation: Extensive emergent beds of cattail ring the lake with an expanse of rush and sedge in slightly deeper water along the eastern shore. Water lilies provide excellent edge habitat in deeper water along the south and west shores. Extensive beds of pondweed and common milfoil provide deep water cover. There is little woody cover along the shoreline to provide permanent cover.



Lime Lake supports a warm water fishery. The fish population is dominated by bluegill, largemouth bass and yellow bullheads. The lake has had a long history of stocking largemouth bass, bluegill and yellow perch dating back to 1930. In 1976, walleye were stocked, but there has been no evidence of reproduction and the population has apparently disappeared. The lake was considered to have potential as a trout fishery in 1958, but the lake also has been subject to winterkill and would be a poor choice for trout stocking because of periodic low dissolved oxygen.

Twelve species of fish were collected in Lime Lake in 2002-2003 compared to 13 from historical records. The only new species found not previously reported from this lake include the bluegill/pumpkinseed hybrid. Pure pumpkinseed parentals are still found in the lake unlike several other lakes where they have been lost through introgression with bluegill. Species lost or not documented include the walleye, which would only be sustained through stocking, and the Iowa darter, a small bottom dwelling fish that is best caught by seine, which could not be used because of the soft bottom. Decline in the population of black crappie has occurred since the last WDNR sampling in 1986 when it was the second most abundant sport fish after bluegill. None were collected during daytime electrofishing in 2003 and only one was collected in 2002. There were also a lot fewer northern pike collected in 2002-2003 compared to 1986, but that difference may be due to our less effective daytime electrofishing. A substantial number of largemouth bass less than 13 inches are present in the lake. Yellow perch were more common than in the other lakes sampled in the 2002-2003 study. There is also a large population of sizeable yellow bullheads. The abundance of bullheads along with the high number of mudminnows suggests the lake may have been subject to low dissolved oxygen and possibly periodic winterkill.



Lime Lake ~ Aquatic Plants

Aquatic plant surveys were conducted in each lake. More detailed information is available in the final report.

Aquatic Plant Survey

Lime Lake has at least 51 species of aquatic and wetland macrophytes, including 50 species of vascular plants. This is slightly above average for Portage County Lakes.

Lime Lake and adjacent wet shore areas support a fairly large number of species, but almost no species which are rare or indicative of relatively undisturbed conditions. Among the most notable features of Lime Lake are the thick accumulation of marl in places such as at the boat landing on the north shore, and the abundance of two species of water-meal (the smallest flowering plants in the world). The two aggressive alien cattails are fairly well-established in places on the shore. Eurasian milfoil and curlyleaf pondweed have not been found in the lake to date, but both could become very abundant if established.

Invasive Exotic Aquatic Plants

Invasive species displace native species, disrupt ecosystems, and affect citizen's livelihoods and quality of life. They hamper boating, swimming, fishing, and other water recreation, and take an economic toll on commercial, agricultural and aquatic resources.

(Wisconsin DNR)

Aquatic plants surveys revealed that some of the lakes in the study have invasive aquatic plants present.

Eurasian milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) was present in

- Bear Lake
- Lake Emily
- Lake Joanis
- Jordan Pond
- McDill Pond
- Springville Pond
- Thomas Lake

Curly leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) was identified in

- Spring Lake
- Amherst Millpond

Contact the Portage County Land Conservation Department for additional information.



Lime Lake ~ What can you do to help?

We Can All Help Take Care Of Our Lake

A lake is a magnificent water resource. The quality of its water is a reflection of what happens on the land that surrounds it.



Lake Users:

- ✓ Run boat engines efficiently.
- ✓ Observe no/low wake zones.
- ✓ Refuel away from water.
- ✓ Dispose of trash properly
- ✓ Remove all aquatic plants from boats and trailers.



Land Owners:

- ✓ Control soil erosion.
- ✓ Keep livestock out of lakes and streams.
- ✓ Control manure runoff.
- ✓ Carefully manage nutrients and pesticides.
- ✓ Learn to identify and look for invasive species.



Home Owners:

- ✓ Leave natural vegetation buffers in place or replace them if they have been removed.
- ✓ Eliminate the use of fertilizer or use low/no phosphorus fertilizer.
- ✓ Eliminate or minimize use of pesticides.
- ✓ Control soil erosion.
- ✓ Clean up after pets.
- ✓ Learn to identify and look for invasive species.

Project support provided by:

- Wisconsin DNR Lake Protection grants
- UW-Stevens Point
- Portage County
- Portage County Citizens

Study Contacts:

Portage County: Steven Bradley at 346-1334

UW- Stevens Point: Nancy Turyk at 346-4155



Lime Lake ~ Primary Researchers

Algae

Dr. Bob Bell

Aquatic Plants

Dr. Robert Freckmann

Birds

Dr. Tim Ginnett

Brad Bulin (Graduate Student)

Fish

Dr. Ron Crunkilton

Land Use Coverages/Watersheds

Steve Bradley (Portage County Conservationist)

Planning Assistance

Lynn Markham

Mike Hansen

Reptiles and Amphibians/Near Shore Habitat

Dr. Erik Wild

Rori Paloski (Graduate Student)

Water Quality/Watersheds

Becky Cook

Dr. Paul McGinley

Dr. Byron Shaw

Dick Stephens

Nancy Turyk

Near Shore Summary

Dr. Glenn Bowles

Special thanks to UWSP undergraduate and graduate students and
local citizens for their assistance!



Appendix F

Amherst Town Plan Commission Resolution to Adopt Plan

Town of Amherst
Comprehensive Plan
2015

RESOLUTION NO. 1-13-15

Resolution to adopt the Town of Amherst Comprehensive Plan

The Town Plan Commission of the Town of Amherst Resolves as Follows:

WHEREAS, Section 66.1001(1)(a) and 66.1001(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes set out the requirements for long-range Comprehensive planning for towns, villages, and cities across the State; and

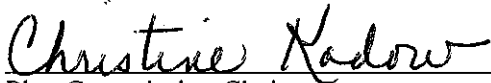
WHEREAS, Section 62.23(2) and (3) of the Wisconsin Statutes authorizes the Plan Commission to prepare, amend and recommend a Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Amherst; and


WHEREAS, the Town of Amherst Plan Commission began working cooperatively with the Portage County Planning and Zoning Department in updating the formerly titled "2005 Comprehensive Plan, Town of Amherst" in 2013; and

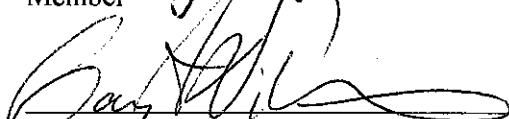
WHEREAS, the Town of Amherst completed a comprehensive update to the 2005 Plan including data from the 2010 Decennial Census and American Community Survey, updated information related to transportation, utilities and community facilities, agricultural and natural resources, economic development, intergovernmental cooperation, land use, and implementation; and

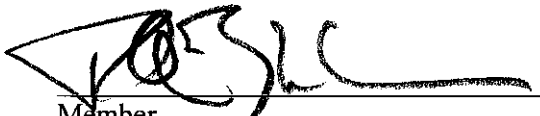
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Plan Commission of the Town of Amherst, Portage County, Wisconsin, by a majority vote, on this day the 13th of January, 2015 hereby adopts the document entitled "Town of Amherst Comprehensive Plan" and to forward the updated Plan to the Town of Amherst Board for final approval after holding at least one public hearing.


Adopted this 13th day of January, 2015.


Plan Commission Chair


Member


Member


Member


Member

Appendix G

Amherst Town Board Ordinance to Adopt Plan

Town of Amherst Comprehensive Plan 2015

ORDINANCE NO. 8-13-15

An Ordinance to adopt the amended 2005 Comprehensive Plan, Town of Amherst

The Town Board of the Town of Amherst Ordains as Follows:

Section 1

Pursuant to Section 62.23(2) and (3) of the Wisconsin Statutes the Town of Amherst is authorized to prepare and amend a Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Amherst as defined in Section 66.1001(1)(a) and 66.1001(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes and has been working cooperatively with the Portage County Planning and Zoning Department in amending the 2005 Comprehensive Plan, Town of Amherst.

Section 2

The Town Plan Commission of the Town of Amherst, by a majority vote of the entire Commission has adopted a resolution recommending to the Town Board, adoption of an amended 2005 Comprehensive Plan, Town of Amherst.

Section 3

The Town Board held a public hearing on the proposed amendments to the 2005 Comprehensive Plan, Town of Amherst on August 13, 2015, in compliance with the requirements of Section 66.1001(4)(d) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Section 4

The Town Board of the Town of Amherst, Portage County, Wisconsin, does by enactment of this Ordinance, formally adopt the amendments to the document titled "2005 Comprehensive Plan, Town of Amherst" pursuant to Section 66.1001(4)(c) of Wisconsin Statutes.

Section 5

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage by a majority vote of the Town Board and publication as required by law, and the 2005 Comprehensive Plan, Town of Amherst shall be amended as deemed appropriate by the Town Board.

Adopted this 13th day of August, 2015

Attest Christine Kadow, Deputy Clerk
Town Clerk

Paul Spring
Town Chair

Paul B. [Signature]
Supervisor

Gary A. Kadow
Supervisor