

Town of Round Lake

Comprehensive Plan

November 2019

DRAFT

Town of Round Lake Comprehensive Plan

Prepared by:

Plan Commission Members

Carol Bacon – Chairman	member: 5/14 to present
Denise Picchiatti	member: 5/06 to present
Ben Niemann	member: 6/07 to present
Sarah Gunn	member: 5/17 to present
Sharon Haak	member: 5/17 to present
Ann Berlage	member: 4/18 to present
Steve Boe	member: 5/19 to present

Former Members

Vickie Palya	member: 5/16 to 4/18
Blake Olson	member: 5/15 to 4/19

With the Assistance of:

Kay Wilson – former Chairperson
Ariga Grigoryan – Community Educator, UW Extension
Northwest Regional Planning Commission
Brian DeVries – GIS Specialist, Sawyer County Land Records Department

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Introduction

The Town of Round Lake is located in the northwest part of the state in Sawyer County, Wisconsin. Much of the town's development is centered on the lakes and rivers. The Town of Round Lake is home to individuals who support local tourism, the recreation industry, it's northwoods character and natural beauty. The town covers approximately 76,800 acres of land area of which about eighty percent is forest. The Town of Round Lake shares municipal borders with six towns, one county (**Map 1.1 – Governmental Jurisdictions**) and has relations with a number of state, federal and regional agencies:

- Town of Chippewa (Ashland County)
- Town of Hayward
- Town of Hunter
- Town of Lenroot
- Town of Spider Lake
- Town of Winter
- Ashland County
- Sawyer County
- Northwest Regional Planning Commission
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)
- Hayward School District
- Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indian
- Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR)
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
- Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Land
- U.S. Forest Service (Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture

Planning

In 1999, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted a new comprehensive planning law, set forth in Section 66.1001 of the Wisconsin Statutes. The requirements provide a framework for the development, adoption, and implementation of comprehensive plans in Wisconsin. The intent of the comprehensive planning law is to require that comprehensive plans be completed and adopted by the governing bodies of counties, cities, villages, and towns prior to January 1, 2010. County and local governments will then make land-use decisions based on their comprehensive plan, e.g., adopting or enforcing zoning, subdivision control, or official mapping ordinance.

From time to time, reviewing and updating the Town's comprehensive plan is necessary. These updates are critical to maintaining up-to-date information and to ensure the comprehensive plan meets the present needs of its residents. Working off the successes contributed by the 7-member land use committee between 2006 and 2009, this amendment continues to use the majority of facts and findings developed throughout that process. Demographic and other data analysis were updated. It is recommended a standing Comprehensive Plan Committee meet regularly or as needed and report to the Town Board.

The Town of Round Lake is located in the northwest part of the state in Sawyer County, Wisconsin. Much of the town's development is centered on the lakes and rivers. The Town of Round Lake is home to individuals who support local tourism, the recreation industry, it's northwoods character and natural beauty. The town covers approximately 76,800 acres of land area of which about eighty percent is forest. The Town of Round Lake shares municipal borders with six towns, one county, and has relations with a number of state, federal, and regional agencies.

The questions of maintaining northwoods character, preserving farmland, ATV/UTV use on roads, bike trails, short-term rentals, agriculture practices appropriately scaled for our environment and natural resources, and an aging population continue to be major issues facing the Town of Round Lake.

Purpose of Comprehensive Plan

The comprehensive plan will continue to provide Town officials with a guide for assisting decisions regarding growth and management issues. The plan will also address short and long-term concerns regarding growth, development, and preservation of the community. In addition to the public sector, the plan will also benefit the private sector by providing a level of assurance as to having a comprehensive plan and vision for the future.

The Plan addresses the 14 planning goals set forth in Section 16.965 (4) of the Wisconsin Statute and is organized into nine chapters or elements. Each of the nine elements have been developed to coordinate together.

Nine Elements of the Comprehensive Plan

1. Issues and Opportunities
2. Housing
3. Transportation
4. Utilities and Community Facilities
5. Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources
6. Economic Development
7. Intergovernmental Cooperation
8. Land Use
9. Implementation

Fourteen Comprehensive Planning Goals

The nine plan elements documented in this plan address the 14 planning goals set forth in Section 16.965(4) (b) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

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 government, and utility costs.
6. Preservation of cultural, historic, and archeological 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 level.
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.

The Comprehensive Plan

The plan is an expression of the town's wishes and desires and provides a series of actions/policies for assisting the community in attaining its goals. It is not an attempt to predict the future, but an attempt to document community values and philosophies that citizens and property owners of the Town of Round Lake share.

Community Demographics, Issues and Opportunities

Chapter and Plan Summary

This chapter provides a basic overview of background information and reveals characteristics of the permanent residents from the 2010 U.S. Census. While the demographic information is primarily statistical in nature, the data are useful in describing characteristics that may influence

and shape the community. Understanding the key demographic information and local issues and opportunities can assist permanent residents and elected officials when discussing pressing matters facing the community. Subsequent chapters will explore in greater detail other statistical data and information specific to major topics.

Permanent Population

Population levels between 1920 and 2000 denote several periods of change. Between 1920 and 1960, local population levels fluctuated up and down ranging between 406 to 464 year round inhabitants. The 10-year period between 1970 and 1980 represented the largest percent increase in year-round (permanent) residents. Since 1980, population declined slightly but is again increasing significantly. As evidenced in **Table 1.1: Historical Population**, the largest increase of persons (235) occurred in the 10 years between 1990 and 2000. Based on 2000 U.S. Census data, the Town of Round Lake makes up 5.9 percent of the total (permanent) population in Sawyer County.

Table 1.1: Historical Population

Year	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2018
Round Lake	499	476	464	557	786	727	962	977	1103

Source: Jan 7, 2019, Population Estimates, WI Dept. of Administration

By reviewing historical trends in population growth, and by examining many of the population characteristics that influence current and future growth, it is possible to develop population forecasts with an improved level of confidence. **Table 1.2** and **Figure 1.1** present population projections for the period 2010 to 2040, as prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services Center. Projections indicate population will increase by 60 residents or 5.8% from 2020 and 2040 (**Table 1.2**) over the 20-year period.

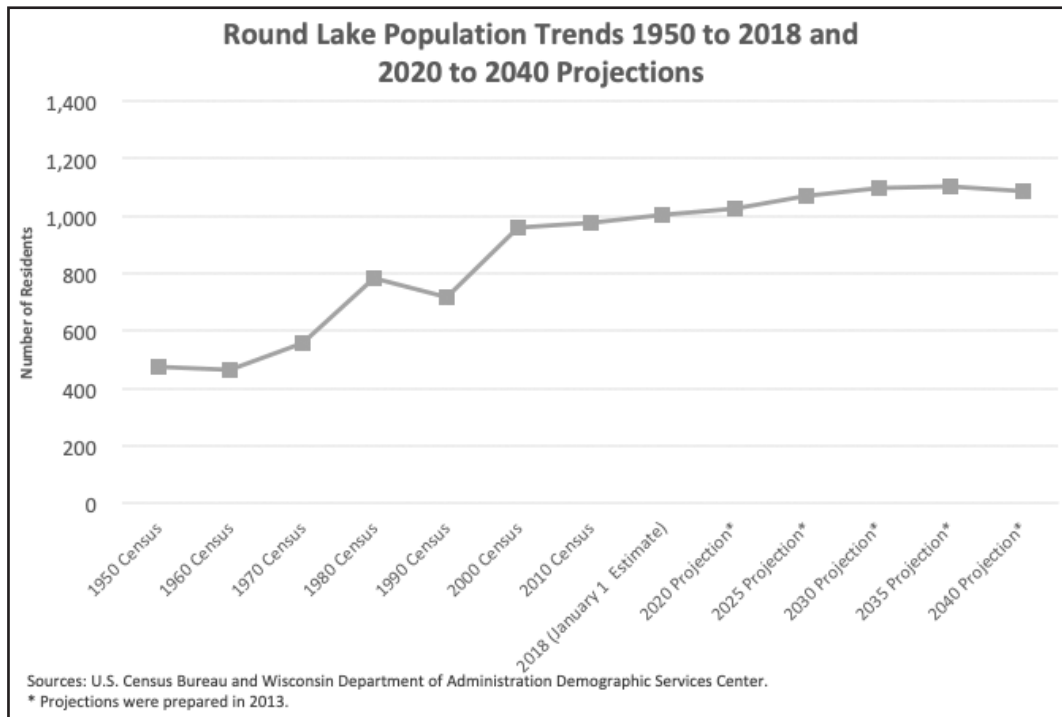
Table 1.2: Population Projections 2010 – 2040

2010 Census	1/1/2013 Estimate	2015 Projection	2020 Projection	2025 Projection	2030 Projection	2035 Projection	2040 Projection
977	986	990	1,025	1,070	1,100	1,105	1,085

Source: Jan 7, 2019 Preliminary Population Estimates, WI Dept. of Administration

In 2000, Round Lake's population represented 5.9 percent of the countywide population. By 2030, Round Lakes' population compared to the county total will increase slightly, to represent 6.8 percent of the county total population.

Figure 1.1 Historical and Projected Population



Age and Sex Distribution

In 2017 the total population of Town of Round Lake was 1059 people. Out of which 543 are male and 516 are female. According to 5-year estimates from 2013 to 2017, the number of people aged 15-19 had a slight increase of 5.7 percent. Age categories 60-64, 65-69 and 70-74 all increased in population ranging from about 10.9 to 15.7 percent. This indicates a trend common to NW Wisconsin, where elderly are making up the majority of the population residents of communities.

Table 1.3: Round Lake Age Distribution

Round Lake Town, Sawyer County, Wisconsin	Total Estimate	Percent Estimate	Male Estimate	Female Estimate
Total Population	1059		543	516
AGE				
Under 5 years	16	1.50%	13	3
5 to 9 years	48	4.50%	35	13
10 to 14 years	24	2.30%	13	11
15 to 19 years	60	5.70%	32	28
20 to 24 years	16	1.50%	5	11
25 to 29 years	17	1.60%	1	16
30 to 34 years	8	0.80%	4	4
35 to 39 years	40	3.80%	28	12
40 to 45 years	64	6.00%	34	30
45 to 49 years	64	6.00%	28	36
50 to 54 years	86	8.10%	50	36
55 to 59 years	104	9.80%	44	60
60 to 64 years	166	15.70%	71	95
65 to 69 years	125	11.80%	69	56
70 to 74 years	115	10.90%	65	50
75 to 79 years	61	5.80%	21	40
80 to 84 years	25	2.40%	19	6
85 years and over	20	1.90%	13	7

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services

Racial Makeup

The Town of Round Lake is predominately White (97.9 percent). Other identified races in the town include African American, American Indian, Asian and some other race, which makes up less than 2 percent of the total population. Racial makeup is shown in **Table 1.4**.

Table 1.4: Race	
Total:	977
Population of one race:	956
White	936
African American	1
American Indian	18
Asian	1
Other	2
Population of two or more races:	21

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Household Characteristics

A household can best be described as a group of people living together in a single dwelling unit. This could include a single person, family or a group of unrelated individuals that share a house or apartment, but excludes those living in group quarters. **Table 1.5** displays household characteristics by type.

Table 1.5: Household Characteristics by Type	
Total Households	522
Family households (families)	384
With related children of householder under 18 years	75
With own children under 18 years	68
Married-couple family	339
Male householder, no wife present	9
Female householder, no husband present	36
With own children under 18 years	7
Nonfamily households	138
Householder living alone	112
Householder 65 years and older	65
Average household size	2.14
Average family size	2.48

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

National and state trends have moved towards an increase in the number of households, along with a decrease in persons per household. The main reasons for this decrease in household size includes, but are not limited to: a decline in local birth rates, people waiting longer to get married, and an increase in the average life span thereby resulting in more elderly people living alone. Projections point to an increase in the total number of households to 2030 and a projected decline in average household size (**Table 1.6**). The average household size was 2.63 in 1980 and is projected to drop below two persons per household sometime after 2015.

Table 1.6: Households and Average Household Size 1980-2025								
TOWN OF ROUND LAKE	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Households	299	310	431	541	595	645	685	714
Average Household Size	2.63	2.35	2.23	2.09	2.03	1.98	1.66	1.94

Source: US Census Bureau; Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services Center

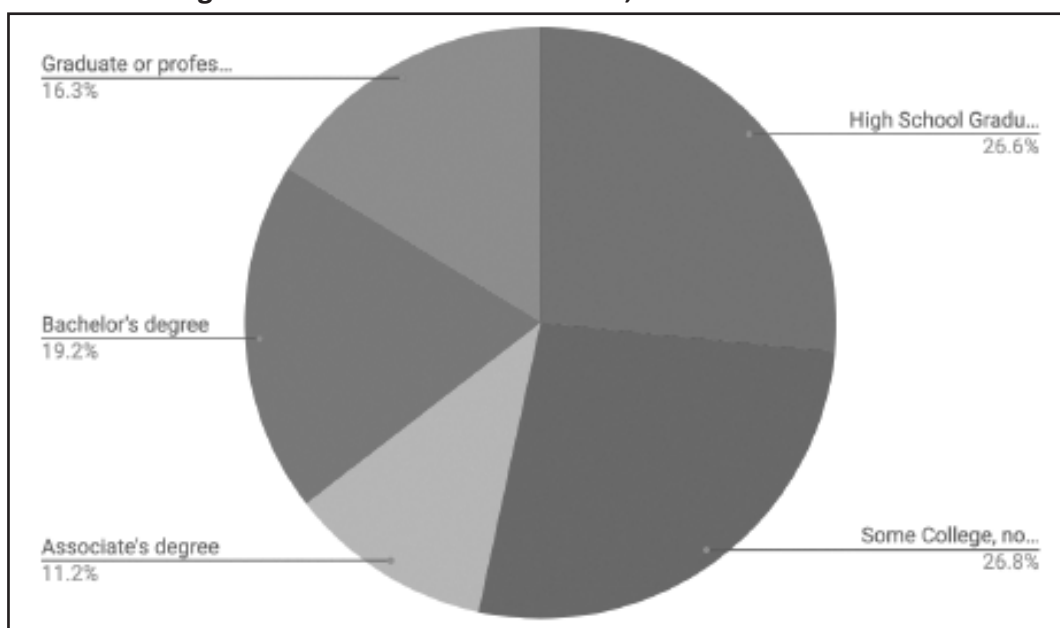
While the permanent resident population is projected to increase, the average household size is projected to decline. A lower average household size may result in an increased number of housing units needing to be constructed or seasonal homes converting to year-round homes.

Education Levels

An important factor tied to a community's well being, as well as its potential for economic growth, is the correlation between education levels of permanent residents and availability of employment opportunities. An increased level of education often results in an increased ability to earn higher wages. Secondly, if a greater percentage of higher-educated residents are located in an area, businesses may locate specifically to those residents. **Figure 1.2** reflects the

educational attainment for the town's permanent residents 25 years and older. According to the 2017 American Community Survey, 233 residents completed high school of the 895 resident 25 years of age and older; 235 had some college, 98 had an associates degree, 168 had a bachelor degree and 143 had a graduate or professional degree.

Figure 1.2 Educational Attainment, Town of Round Lake



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Income

Income is another factor that provides an indication of economic health. The combined effect of higher education, increased employment opportunities, and evidence of well-paying occupations is also reflected in the earning capability and increasing incomes of residents.

Household Income

Table 1.7 illustrates the average annual income for 522 sampled occupied housing units according to the 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. The majority of the town's households (23.6 percent) have an annual income between \$50,000 and \$74,999. Approximately 7.7 percent of the town's households report an annual income over \$150,000. 3.5 percent earned less than \$10,000 compared to 6.3 percent in 2000. The median household income in 2017 was \$57,652 compared to \$40,179 in 2000.

Table 1.7: Household Income, 2017	
Occupied housing units	522
Annual Income	Percent of Households
Less than \$5,000	2.9%
\$5,000 to \$9,999	0.6%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	0.8%
\$15,000 to \$19,999	3.1%
\$20,000 to \$24,999	5.6%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	11.7%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	13.8%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	23.6
\$75,000 to \$99,999	12.6
\$100,000 to \$149,999	17.8
\$150,000 or more	7.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Income for Round Lake residents is generated from a number of sources. Not all households in Round Lake have earnings. **Table 1.8** reflects some of the supplemental sources of income and the income related to them.

Table 1.8: Other Household Income Characteristics	
Households	522
With earnings	345
Mean earnings (dollars)	\$73,401
With social security income	289
Mean social security income (dollars)	\$20,876
With Supplemental Security Income	13
Mean Supplemental Security Income (dollars)	\$6,821
With public assistance income	12
Mean public assistance income (dollars)	\$7,717
With retirement income	159
Mean retirement income (dollars)	\$33,930
With Food Stamp/SNAP benefits in the past 12 months	37

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Per Capita Income and Poverty Levels

Per capita income (PCI) means how much each individual receives, in monetary terms, of the yearly income that is generated in their unit of government through productive activities. That is what each permanent resident would receive if the yearly income generated by a unit of government from its productive activities were divided equally among everyone. As indicated by **Table 1.9**, per capita income in 2017 for the Town of Round Lake was higher than the Sawyer County and the state PCI. In comparison to other adjoining towns, only Spider Lake's per capita income was higher than Round Lake's per capita income.

Town of Hayward (\$17,382)	Town of Hunter (\$35,173)
Town of Winter (\$24,469)	Town of Round Lake (\$38,483)
Town of Chippewa (Ashland Co.) (\$29,420)	Town of Spider Lake (\$41,345)
Town of Lenroot (\$29,730)	

Table 1.9: Income Levels and Poverty Rates			
	Town of Round Lake	Sawyer County	State of Wisconsin
Per Capita Income, 1999	\$38,483	\$29,712	\$30,557
% of individuals below poverty level	3.5%	17.7%	12.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Poverty rates are determined on the basis of money income and, therefore, do not reflect the fact that many low-income people receive non-cash benefits. As shown in Table 1.9, the percent of town inhabitants below the poverty level was lower than both Sawyer County and the state of Wisconsin.

Employment Characteristics

A community's labor force consists of all individuals age 16 and older who are employed and unemployed but looking for work. **Tables 1.10 and 1.11** represent the community's employment levels and their employment by industry. The majority of employed residents work outside the town in neighboring communities. Based on the number of persons employed, listed by industry sector, the recreation, accommodation, food Services and Entertainment category employs the greatest number, about 20 percent of the workforce.

Table 1.10: Resident Employment Status	
Population 16 years and over	958
In labor force	507
Employed	473
Unemployed	34
Armed forces	0
Not in labor force	451

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Table 1.11: Resident Employment by Industry		
	Industry People Employed	% Employed
Employed population 16 years and over	473	48.4
Wholesale Trade	4	0.85
Agriculture/Forestry	10	2.1
Transportation	12	2.5
Information	14	3.0
Public Administration	18	3.8
Construction	30	6.3
Retail Trade	35	7.4
Professional/Scientific/Management/Admin.	44	9.3
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	45	9.5
Recreation/Accommodation/Food Services/Arts/Entertainment	51	10.8
Manufacturing	58	12.3
Educational/Health/Social Services	126	26.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Employers in Round Lake

Table 1.12 lists employers located in the Town of Round Lake as reported by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development for May 2019. This database includes employers who pay taxes on wages and workers under the state's unemployment insurance law. Most, but not all, employers are required to pay taxes on their payroll. Businesses without paid employees are not included in the report. Within the employment size range, the companies are not necessarily in rank order. The most common list of employers found in the Town of Round Lake may be accessed at <https://www.jobcenterofwisconsin.com/wisconomy/query>.

Table 1.12: Select Employers within the Town of Round Lake

Callahan Lake Resort - Campground	Spider Lake Motel
Mel's Outdoor Power	Golden Rule Resort & Motel
Casey's Motorsports Repair	Spider Lake Ranch Riding Stable
Mell's Manufacturing	Guide Service Inc
Charlie's Fine Food & Spirit	Spider Lake Storage
Moffett's Precision Products Inc	Hayward Power Sports, Inc
Chippewa Inn	Timber Trail Lodge
Mystic Moose Resort	Hillman's Store
Club 77	Tiny's Diner LLC
Performance Parts Snowmobiles	Jenks Bait and Tackle
D&B Baitshop	Town of Round Lake - Sawyer County
Ray Jay's	Lee's Trees
Dow's Corner Bar	Treeland Farm RV Park
Robin's Nest	Liturgical Environments Co
Duray Construction	Twin Lakes Tap
Screw Machine Engineering Co	Louie's Landing
Elite Storage & Detail LLC	Venison Creek Construction
Service Grinding and Supply Co Inc	Maina Hardwood
Fullington Cabin	Virgin Timber Resort
Snyder's Y-Pine	Woodhaven Resort LLC
Gemoaben Resort	

Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, May 2019, and Town of Round Lake

Industry Projections

Industry projections for the Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Area (Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor and Washburn counties) show increase in regional employment (**Table 1.13**). Employment projections indicate Self-Employed and Unpaid Family Workers will increase the most (9 percent) in the region. Jobs in Information, Other Services, and Public Administration industries are projected to decline.

TABLE 1.13: Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Area Industry Employment Projections, 2014-2024 (Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor and Washburn Counties)				
Industry	2014	Projected 2024	Change (2014-2024)	
	Employment	Employment	Employment	Percent
All Industries	85,381	88,480	3,099	4%
Natural Resources	4,897	5,014	117	2%
Construction	2,386	2,531	145	6%
Manufacturing	11,335	11,517	182	2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	14,338	14,797	459	3%
Information	605	441	-164	-27%
Financial Activities	2,129	2,264	135	6%
Professional and Business Services	3,488	3,701	213	6%
Education and Health Services	18,508	19,501	993	5%
Leisure and Hospitality	7,79	8,142	352	5%
Other Services	2,974	2,803	-171	-6%
Public Administration	7,621	7,575	-45	-1%
Self-Employed and Unpaid Family Workers	9,310	10,193	883	9%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, May 2019

Round Lake's history, its resident and non-resident population, and societal influences factor into present-day decisions and action by landowners and town officials. This chapter captures much of the simple demographic information on the town. The remaining chapters will build upon this data to provide the town and its residents with more detailed information.

Overall Goal Statement

The original development of this plan in the early 2000s and this amendment signify a continued effort by the Town and its residents to continue to plan for all aspects of Town government. Planning in strategic ways enables our elected officials to have a vision of current objectives out over the 20-year planning horizon. While one overriding goal statement is difficult to project based on the several goals, objectives, actions and programs identified in the plan, a summary goal would be to emphasize best management practices in all aspects related to this planning document and to continue to encourage northwoods character consistent with the local environment.

Issues and Opportunities

Every community has a generalized or specific list of issues and opportunities that cover a wide range of topics. The Town's natural resources, such as its lakes, rivers, and forests provide a positive influence to area citizens and visitors. These outdoor opportunities allow individuals to capture the beautiful natural resources no matter where one is in the Town. Evident throughout the list of goals and objectives is a concern regarding the development of sensitive resources

and how the human footprint impacts the natural resources and the Town's surroundings. Over the years, the Town board and committees have strived to "strike a balance" between the protection of area resources and the rights of individuals use of land and area resources in a resourceful manner. Throughout the development of this plan, key statements, goals, objectives, and recommendations point to more specific issues and opportunities confronting the community.

DRAFT

Housing

The amount, type and quality of housing are significant factors that influence the character and sense of place for communities. The area's natural resources, most notably forests and water, have significantly influenced a greater percentage of seasonal homes versus year-round homes. The level of housing activity can be influenced by the financial market (gains and losses), new housing development will continue to occur into the future. Where and how housing activity occurs can be influenced through local and county initiatives. These planning initiatives are applied to help protect and preserve local resources for future generations.

Past Housing Units

Table 2.1 lists the total number of housing units in the town, Sawyer County and the state of Wisconsin in 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2016. All three jurisdictions increased the total number of housing units during three plus decades on average of 42 percent.

Table 2.1: Total Housing Units					
Jurisdiction	1980	1990	2000	2016	1980-2016 % Change
T. of Round Lake	878	917	1,113	1229	40%
Sawyer County	11,053	13,025	13,722	16193	46.5%
Wisconsin	1,863,897	2,055,774	2,321,144	2,649,597	42.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau /American Fact Finder

Current Housing Units

The Town of Round Lake has 1229 total housing units. Total housing units comprise yearround, seasonal and vacant residential dwellings. The majority of total housing units are seasonal housing units. Seasonal housing units represent 53.5 percent or 658 dwellings. Occupied housing units (year-round residential) represent 46.5 percent of the housing or 571 dwellings. The remaining 22 units are unoccupied. Of the 431 occupied housing units, 390 are owner-occupied (90.5 percent) and 41 are renter-occupied (9.5 percent). **Table 2.2** depicts housing data by occupancy and tenure.

Table 2.2: Housing Units		
Housing Occupancy	Number of Units	Percentage of Total
Total Housing Units	1,229	100
Occupied housing units	571	46.5
Vacant housing units	658	53.5
For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	626	53.5
Homeowner vacancy rate (percent)	5.4	(X)
Rental vacancy rate (percent)	0.0	(X)
HOUSING TENURE		
Owner-occupied housing units	504	88.3
Average household size	1.98	(X)
Renter-occupied housing units	67	11.7
Average household size	2.58	(X)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau /American Fact Finder

In the northwest region of Wisconsin recreational housing plays a role in community development and land use patterns. It also contributes to the local economy.

Seasonal Housing Units

Seasonal housing in the Town of Round Lake increased from 586 units in 1990, to 658 units in 2016, a 12.2% increase.

Per Northwest Regional Planning, in 2000 the percentage of recreational housing in Sawyer County was 48.5%. In 2010 the recreational housing percentage for Sawyer County was 51.2%, showing an increase of 2.7% for the County as a whole.

Housing Occupancy Characteristics

Table 2.3 represents the total number of housing units and corresponding occupancy characteristics. Owner-occupied clearly represents the majority of occupied housing with renter-occupied representing less than 10 percent of the total occupied units. The total housing units in Round Lake represent 7.6 percent of all housing units in the county.

Table 2.3: Housing Occupancy		
Housing Features	T. Round Lake	Sawyer County
Total Number of Housing Units	1,229	16193
Housing Units by Occupancy Type		
Total Occupied Units (year round)	571	7488
Owner-occupied units	504	5525
Percent owner-occupied	88.3	35.5%
Renter-occupied	67	1963
Percent renter-occupied	11.7	26.2%
Vacant	658	8705
Seasonal (second home)	591	8705
For Sale	31*	350*

Source: U.S. Census Bureau/American Fact Finder 2016

Approx per Coldwell Banker Real Estate, Hayward

Housing Projections

Looking to the future, the total number of occupied housing units is projected to increase. Based on household projection for occupied dwelling units, a total of 283 additional housing units will be needed. The total could represent a combination of new construction or conversion of seasonal dwellings to occupied units.

Year Householder Moved into Unit	
2000 – 2009	204
2010 – 2014	150
2015 or later	5

Age of Housing Stock in the Town of Round Lake

During the later part of the 1990s and early 2000s, year-round and seasonal home construction in the town flourished, spurred on by a strong national economy and low interest rates. **Table 2.4** represents the years structures were built, the number of units built and the percentage of the structures. For any of the periods represented from 1960 to 2016, the period from 1990 2000 was the decade of the greatest growth. 309 units were added to the local landscape, or 55 percent of the total housing units over the past 36 years.

Table 2.4: Age of Housing Stock		
Year Structure Built	Units in T. of Round Lake	Percent of Total
2014 or later	15	1.2
2010 to 2013	34	2.8
2000 to 2009	202	16.4
1999 to March 2000	63	5.6
1995 to 1998	112	10.0
1990 to 1994	134	12.0
1980 to 1989	151	13.5
1970 to 1979	151	13.5
1960 to 1969	115	10.3
1940 to 1959	230	20.6
1939 or earlier	160	14.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau /American Fact Finder 2016

Median Home Value

The median home value in the Town of Round Lake is the second highest of all towns (**Table 2.5**) and far exceeds the Sawyer County median home value by \$68,800. A primary factor influencing the median home value is access to local natural resources, including shorelines and water. Also, the town hosts a large percentage of higher-income retired households.

Table 2.5: Median Home Value (2000)		
Municipality	Median Home Value*	Rank in the County
Sawyer County	\$159,800	--
Bass Lake	\$156,200	8
Couderay	\$93,600	16
Draper	\$112,500	14
Edgewater	\$160,300	7
Hayward	\$172,400	6
Hunter	\$198,300	4
Lenroot	\$197,400	5
Meadowbrook	\$152,500	9
Meteor	\$143,200	10
Ojibwa	\$95,000	15
Radisson	\$140,800	11
Round Lake	\$228,600	2
Sand Lake	\$208,300	3
Spider Lake	\$277,500	1
Weirgor	\$136,600	13
Winter	\$138,700	12

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; /American Fact Finder* for all owner-occupied year round housing units

Types of Housing

The most prevalent type of occupied housing is the one-unit detached single-family home, representing 1,184 units or 96.3 percent of structures (**Table 2.6**). Several other housing structure types make up the remaining units, with mobile homes the second largest percentage, capturing 2.7 percent of the total.

Table 2.6: Units in Structure		
Types of Housing	Number	Percent
Total Housing Units	1,229	100
1-unit, detached	1,184	96.3
1-unit attached	7	0.6
2 units	15	1.2
3 or 4 units	13	1.1
5-9 units	0	0.0
Mobile Home	10	0.8
Boat, RV, van, etc.	0	0.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau /American Fact Finder

Home Heating Fuel

Another interesting aspect when looking at homes is the type of heating fuel they utilize. Bottle, tank or LP gas is the most common fuel, with wood being second and electricity the third most popular choice for home heating. **Figure 2.7** shows the home heating fuel preferences based on sample data from the U.S. Census Bureau/American Fact Finder, 2016.

Table 2.7: Home Heating Fuel	
Occupied housing units	571
Utility gas	17
Bottled, tank or LP gas	363
Electricity	55
Fuel oil, kerosene	5
Coke or coal	0
Wood	115
Solar	0

Housing Programs

Housing policies and programs for residents of the Town of Round Lake are provided by a number of local, county, state and federal agencies. These programs may not apply to all town residents because of rules and regulations. The following table lists known housing policies and programs that may relate to these three identified goals.

Table 2.8: Housing Policies & Programs		
Goals:	Policies	Programs
1. Promote development of housing for residents of Round Lake 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.	Offering innovative products and services in partnership with others to link eligible Wisconsin residents and communities with affordable housing.	WHEDA, HOME, HCRI, CDBG, local financial institutions
2. Promote the availability of land for the development or redevelopment of low income and moderate-income housing.	To provide essential home purchase assistance and necessary home rehabilitation, and other vital improvements for dwelling units occupied by low- and moderate income households.	CDBG, HCRI, HOME, 502 Direct Loan, 504 Home Repair Loan & Grant
3. Maintain or rehabilitate existing housing stock.	To provide essential home purchase assistance and necessary home rehabilitation, and other vital improvements for dwelling units occupied by low- and moderate income households.	CDBG, HOME, 504 Home Repair Loan & Grant, Mutual Self-Help Housing

Housing Facilities Ongoing Goals, Objectives, and Actions

Housing development has been increasing over the past several decades. Much of that housing stock was impacted by seasonal (second-home) construction by non-resident members of the Town. Today and into the future, the ability to live in one's home and maintain a safe and affordable dwelling is important. The financial issues that began in 2008 facing the nation and individuals will continue to influence affordability and the resale and construction of homes well into the future.

The Plan Commission, with input from town property owners, developed the housing goals, objectives and actions.

Goal 1: Encourage housing development consistent with the rural northwoods character.

Objective 1: Encourage the development of new housing into locations that ensures minimal environmental impact.

Action 1: Inventory, assess and map natural areas vulnerable to development in the Town of Round Lake.

Responsible party – NWRPC

Action 2: Encourage the use of Best Management Practices described in detail in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources publications titled “Wisconsin Construction Site Best Management Practice Handbook”, and “Wisconsin’s Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality” to protect and preserve water quality.

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Action 3: Promote awareness and conservancy of lake, river and wetland resources by inventorying, assessing and mapping the Town’s water and wetland resources.

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Action 4: Promote shoreline stewardship by introducing landowners and developers to the County Shoreland Protection Regulations.

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Action 5: Direct residential development to be located in areas away from lakes, rivers, wetlands and economically productive areas, including farmland and forests and locate such development in proximity to major roadways.

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Objective 2: Retain the natural beauty of the Town of Round Lake.

Action 1: Inventory, assess, and map scenic areas vulnerable to development in the Town of Round Lake.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible party – NWRPC

Action 2: Request the County develop and provide property owners with information on the environmental, aesthetic and economic benefits of not removing all or a significant amount of natural vegetation from properties prior to or after building.

Responsible party – Sawyer County

Action 3: Encourage natural visual buffers and retention of natural screening between building sites.

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Action 4: Require natural buffer strips along all public roads to help conceal logging, commercial buildings, and industrial sites to prevent visual conflicts with our Northwoods Character.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 5: Identify and enforce restrictions on unkempt properties. (E.g., junk vehicles, trash, abandoned buildings).

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Action 6: Require natural buffers and/or setbacks from existing forest resources to protect them from development impacts.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 7: Locate, map and preserve existing cultural, historic and archaeological sites.

Primary Responsible Party- Plan Commission

Responsible party – NWRPC

Action 8: Develop and conduct fire education programs for residential communities to prevent fire damage.

Responsible party – Round Lake Fire Department

Objective 3: Encourage conservation design and cluster development that results in open green space and protection of vulnerable natural resources.

Action 1: Promote economic, environmental and social incentives and advantages over conventionally designed subdivisions.

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Goal 2: Encourage housing development choices that meet the needs of persons of all income levels, age groups and individuals with special needs.

Objective 1: Develop standards for new mobile home parks, apartment complexes and senior housing.

Action 1: Designate potential new mobile home park locations within residential expansion area.

Responsible party – Plan Commission When – Ongoing

Action 2: Require manufactured homes meet feature designs similar to “stick built” homes relative to roof pitch, overhang, minimum floor area, minimum width, exterior siding and roofing material requirements. In the event that a manufactured home does not utilize a perimeter load-bearing foundation, any space between ground level and siding shall be required to be enclosed with a permanent, non-load bearing concrete or masonry having a foundation-like appearance.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 3: Designate areas suitable for the development of apartments and similar medium density in residential expansion areas.

Responsible party – NWRPC

Action 4: Designate areas suitable for the development of senior and special needs housing in residential expansion areas. Responsible party – NWRPC

Goal 3: Promote the availability of land for the development or redevelopment of low income and moderate-income housing.

Objective 1: Promote low and moderated income affordable housing and apartments.

Action 1: Encourage a Habitat for Humanity housing project(s).

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 2: Increase public awareness of available local/state/federal funds for housing assistance.

Responsible party – Town Board

Goal 4: Maintain and/or rehabilitate the Town’s existing housing stock.

Objective 1: Provide information on grants to upgrade sub-standard housing.

Action 1: Provide access to educational materials for low-cost loans for dwelling rehabilitation.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 2: Provide applications to the Wisconsin Department of Commerce for housing rehabilitation funds to assist in owner- and renter-occupied rehabilitation.

Responsible party – Town Board

Goal 5: Educate builders and new and current property owners of the various county and town planning and development regulations.

Objective 1: Encourage regulations that promote efficient, effective and equitable development patterns.

Action 1: Ensure that builders follow the rules of the Uniform Dwelling Code.

Responsible party – Sawyer County

Action 2: Ensure that builders and property owners are provided with the Town of Round Lake Comprehensive Plan as part of the building permit application process.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 3: Disseminate comprehensive plan information through realtors, lenders and contractors.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 4: Provide a link on the Town website to Sawyer County building permit application information.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 5: Put up road signs at the entrance to the town that say, “building permits required”.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 6: Provide the Northland Area Builders Association (NABA) with information on the Town of Round Lake Land Use Plan and website.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 7: Educate seasonal and permanent residents regarding new building and planning ordinances, development guidelines and housing programs.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 8: Require monitoring of all private on-site wastewater treatment systems (POWTS) on a minimum of a three-year schedule.

Responsible party – Sawyer County

Objective 2: Support Sawyer County subdivision ordinances.

Action 1: Transfer infrastructure development costs to the developer or owner.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 2: Require the developer or owner to prepare a storm water management plan containing measures to prevent damage to adjacent bodies of water, waterways, wetlands, vulnerable areas forests and surrounding land, to minimize runoff, erosion and sedimentation and to restore damage caused by such soil erosion and sedimentation.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 3: Encourage the preservation and use of native vegetation and trees in all new developments and subdivisions.

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Action 4: Locate new subdivision/condominium development near major throughways and existing residential developments.

Responsible party – Plan Commission

DRAFT

Transportation

Introduction

The transportation network is the backbone upon which a community bases its economy, accesses its resources, and connects to other communities, thus forming a critical link to continued development and growth. Maintenance and repair, in addition to periodic additions and enhancements to the transportation system, are essential for its use by permanent and seasonal residents, visitors and businesses. Keeping pace with changes in transportation trends and network use is also essential to anticipate needed improvements and potential additions to the transportation network. As it is within all other towns in Sawyer County, vehicular (automotive) travel is presently the predominant mode of travel.

Roads and Highways

The local road and highway system makes up approximately 124 miles of interconnected roadways that provide accessibility to residents and visitors. Roads within the town are classified by their functional use and by the amount of traffic they carry. **Table 3.1** indicates the functional classification of the Town of Round Lake's roadway network. Functional road classification (**Map 3.1**) for rural areas include principal arterials, minor arterials, collectors (major & minor) and local roads.

Table 3.1: Functional Road Classification		
Classification	Miles of Roadway	Percent of Total
Principal arterials	0.0	0.0%
Minor arterials	10.13	8.2%
Collectors (major/minor)	25.68	20.7%
Local Roads	88.28	71.1%
Total	124.09	100.0%

Source: WisDOT, 1/2008

- 1) Principal arterials—Principal arterial roads provide connections between cities and regions. They move large volumes of traffic on reasonably direct routes. More often than not, private property access, parking and traffic signals are often limited to help facilitate smooth traffic flow through rural areas. There are no principal arterials in the Town of Round Lake.
- 2) Minor arterials—In conjunction with the principal arterials, minor arterials serve cities, large communities and other major traffic generators providing intra-regional and interarea traffic movements. Minor arterials in Round Lake include State Highway 77.
- 3) Collectors (major and minor)—Collector roads generally provide major and/or minor

connections within a community or neighborhood and link local roads to arterial roads. Parking and private property access is generally available on these roads. WisDOT identifies several major collector roads in Round Lake including all or parts of County Highway's "A", "B", and "S".

- 4) Local Roads—Local roads are all other roads that are not classified as arterials or collectors. Local roads handle the least amount of traffic volume, but provide direct access to private property. They are generally narrower than the other types of roads and they generally allow parking.

In the Town of Round Lake there are no principal arterials. State Highway 77 is classified as a minor arterial. County Highways "A", "B", and "S" are classified as major collectors, while Twin Lakes Road is classified as a minor collector. These roadway corridors serve as the primary road routes into, out of, and through the town. The majority of the roadways in the Town of Round Lake are local roads.

While not included within the functional classification system or the official town road mileage report, "private" access roads link many homes to the roadway network. Included as private access roads, these include lanes, streets or other improved surfaces on privately owned lands that are designated and ordinarily used for vehicular travel within a commercial, business, industrial or residential development.

Because of the rural setting of the town, there are many private roads that are not paid for or maintained by the town. These private roads must meet certain basic criteria, such as width of right-of-way, height clearance for emergency vehicles and, in some cases, a turning radius on cul-de-sacs.

Since part of our town is in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, a large part of the area road system consists of roads designated as forest roads. In the town, these roads include Forest Road 164, 173, 174, 302, 305, 306, 310, 315, 319, 320, 321, 715, 718, 729, 741, 758, 1643, 1647, 1648, 1650, 1658, 1663 and 1666. These forest roads were developed for logging purposes and are still used for logging but are also now used for a variety of recreation activities. They are sometimes referred to as fire lanes. Some roads are used as a way to reach hunting and elk viewing areas, and some are designated as snowmobile and ATV trails. Most of them are gravel.

Two roads located within the town pass through property owned by the state of Wisconsin. Shuler Road and Fromme Road pass through the Chief River Wildlife Area, a state-owned public hunting ground managed by the WDNR. Both roads are public roads that connect Chief River Road to private property, which borders the Chief River Wildlife Area.

To protect public safety and welfare and to provide for emergency services, Sawyer County has established a comprehensive road naming and numbering system for structures, parcels and facilities. Sawyer County is responsible for creating and establishing regulations for these systems, and provides for their administration, control and enforcement.

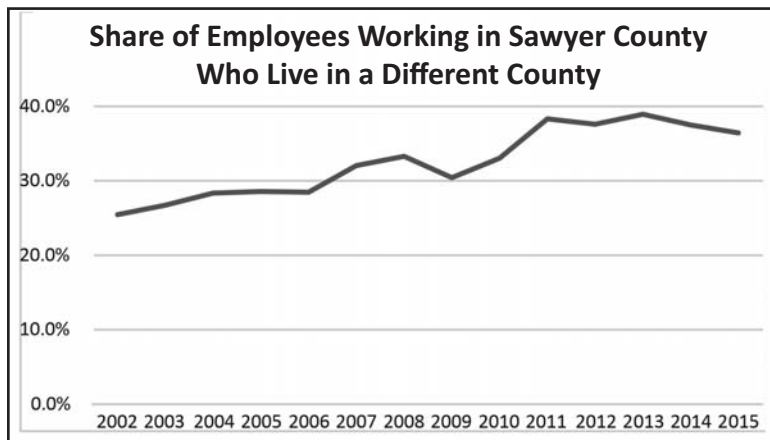
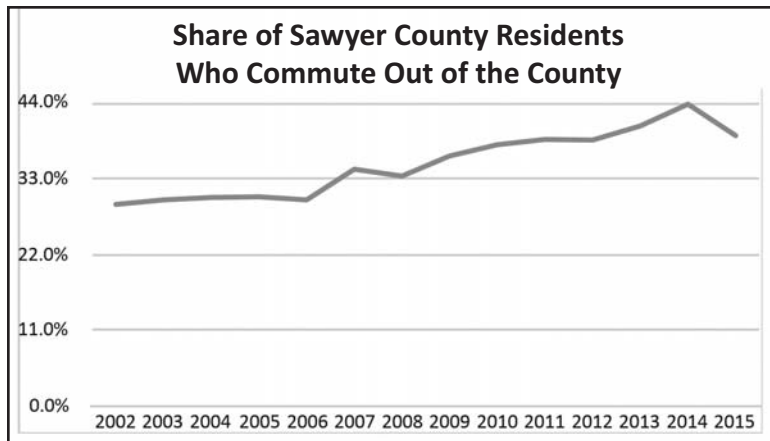
Commuting

Commuting is the process of traveling between places whether by automobile, recreational vehicle or non-motorized means. Table 3.2 illustrates commuting choices for town residents who are employed and 16 years and older. Most commuting was done alone driving a car, truck or van (68.7 percent). A significant number of persons, nearly 17.7 percent, carpooled. Additionally, a large number, 11.5 percent, of people work at home.

Table 3.2: Commuting to Work	
	Number
Workers 16 years and over	515
Car, truck, or van—drove alone	68.7%
Car, truck, or van—carpooled	17.7%
Public Transportation (including taxi cab)	0%
Walked	1.2%
Other means	1.0%
Worked at home	11.5%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	25

Source: American Fact Finder 2016

Employees Working in Sawyer County (2015) <i>County of Residence (n = 6,404)</i>			Sawyer County Residents who are Employed (2015) <i>County of Employment (n = 6,699)</i>		
County of Residence	Count	Share	County of Employment	Count	Share
Sawyer County, WI	4,069	63.5%	Sawyer County, WI	4,069	60.7%
Washburn County, WI	697	10.9%	Washburn County, WI	304	4.5%
Bayfield County, WI	242	3.8%	Barron County, WI	235	3.5%
Barron County, WI	192	3.0%	Eau Claire County, WI	151	2.3%
Douglas County, WI	104	1.6%	Rusk County, WI	151	2.3%
Ashland County, WI	91	1.4%	Ashland County, WI	98	1.5%
Oneida County, WI	76	1.2%	Douglas County, WI	96	1.4%
Rusk County, WI	73	1.1%	St. Louis County, MN	91	1.4%
Eau Claire County, WI	63	1.0%	Dane County, WI	80	1.2%
Polk County, WI	63	1.0%	St. Croix County, WI	79	1.2%
All Other Locations	734	11.5%	All Other Locations	1,345	20.1%



Employees Working in Round Lake (2015) <i>City, Village or Town of Residence (n = 271)</i>			Round Lake Residents who are Employed (2015) <i>City, Village or Town of Employment (n = 419)</i>		
City, Village or Town of Residence	Count	Share	City, Village or Town of Employment	Count	Share
Hayward town (Sawyer, WI)	47	17.3%	Hayward city (Sawyer, WI)	101	24.1%
Lenroot town (Sawyer, WI)	39	14.4%	Hayward town (Sawyer, WI)	85	20.3%
Hayward city (Sawyer, WI)	20	7.4%	Bass Lake town (Sawyer, WI)	24	5.7%
Round Lake town (Sawyer, WI)	18	6.6%	Round Lake town (Sawyer, WI)	18	4.3%
Bass Lake town (Sawyer, WI)	17	6.3%	Lenroot town (Sawyer, WI)	14	3.3%
Spider Lake town (Sawyer, WI)	11	4.1%	Eau Claire city (Eau Claire, WI)	11	2.6%
Hunter town (Sawyer, WI)	7	2.6%	Spider Lake town (Sawyer, WI)	9	2.1%
Edgewater town (Sawyer, WI)	4	1.5%	Hunter town (Sawyer, WI)	8	1.9%
Barksdale town (Bayfield, WI)	3	1.1%	Stinnett town (Washburn, WI)	8	1.9%
Cable town (Bayfield, WI)	3	1.1%	Cable town (Bayfield, WI)	7	1.7%
Couderay town (Sawyer, WI)	3	1.1%	Duluth city (St. Louis, MN)	6	1.4%
Meteor town (Sawyer, WI)	3	1.1%	Rice Lake city (Barron, WI)	6	1.4%
Bass Lake town (Washburn, WI)	3	1.1%	Ashland city (Ashland, WI)	5	1.2%
Crystal town (Washburn, WI)	3	1.1%	Wausau city (Marathon, WI)	5	1.2%
Long Lake town (Washburn, WI)	3	1.1%	Milwaukee city (Milwaukee, WI)	5	1.2%
Ashland city (Ashland, WI)	2	0.7%	Ladysmith city (Rusk, WI)	5	1.2%
Rice Lake city (Barron, WI)	2	0.7%	Chippewa Falls city (Chippewa, WI)	4	1.0%
Barnes town (Bayfield, WI)	2	0.7%	Madison city (Dane, WI)	4	1.0%
Drummond town (Bayfield, WI)	2	0.7%	Menomonie city (Dunn, WI)	4	1.0%
Grandview town (Bayfield, WI)	2	0.7%	Superior city (Douglas, WI)	3	0.7%
Summit town (Douglas, WI)	2	0.7%	La Crosse city (La Crosse, WI)	3	0.7%
Amery city (Polk, WI)	2	0.7%	Sand Lake town (Sawyer, WI)	3	0.7%
Draper town (Sawyer, WI)	2	0.7%	Spooner city (Washburn, WI)	3	0.7%
Sand Lake town (Sawyer, WI)	2	0.7%	Marshfield city (Wood, WI)	3	0.7%
Winter town (Sawyer, WI)	2	0.7%	Apple Valley city (Dakota, MN)	2	0.5%
All Other Locations	67	24.7%	All Other Locations	73	17.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (Beginning of Quarter Employment, 2nd Quarter of 2002-2015).

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau indicate that 515 town residents (persons 16 years of age and over and working) work at home or commute to employment opportunities in surrounding communities and counties

Average Annual Daily Traffic

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation collects traffic data throughout the state to better understand the long-term trends and volumes. Traffic counts are generally collected every three years in the summer during a three-to-five weekday period. **Table 3.3** illustrates the change in traffic use from 1985 through 2011 in the Town of Round Lake

Table 3.3: AADT in Town of Round Lake 1985-2011								
	1985	1988	1991	1995	1998	2001	2005	2011
Site 570233: CTH B SE of Hopp Rd	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2500
Site 570180: Hwy 77 E. of CTH A	600	600*	750	1,100	1,100	930	800	760
Site 570225: CTH A south of Hwy 77	310	310*	640	350	450	610	320	280
Site 570232: CTH B west of McClain	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,900	2,100	2,900	2,400	2500
Site 570234: CTH B east of CTH CC	1,000	1,020	1,250	1,400	1,400	1,900	2,200	1500
Site 570348: CTH A between CTH B and Chief River Rd	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	330

Source: WisDOT & Town of Round Lake

This decrease in traffic suggests a slight slowdown of folks relocating to, or visiting the town.

Traffic Safety

Accidents are an unavoidable part of any community in which automobile use is the primary means of transportation. From January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2018, 111 automobile accidents were officially reported in the town, based on data provided by the Wisconsin Traffic Operations and Safety Laboratory. Accidents occur on local, county and state highways within the town. Accidents ranged from deer collisions to hitting mailboxes and utility poles. These data may be altered due to a number of other automobile, snowmobile and ATV accidents that have occurred throughout the town and not reported to authorities.

Pavement Surface Evaluation Rating (PASER)

Once every two years (odd calendar year), a Pavement Surface Evaluation Rating (PASER) for all town roads is completed in accordance with Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) requirements.

Based on 2017 data, roadways in the town were inventoried in terms of their surface condition, drainage and road crown. Paved roads were rated from 1 to 10 (10 being the best) and gravel roads were rated from 1 to 5 (5 being the best). **Table 3.4** represents town ratings for paved roads.

Table 3.4: 2017 Paved Road Ratings	
Description of Road Ratings	Percent of Paved Roads
1 Failed – Needs total reconstruction.	0.66%
2 Very Poor – Severe deterioration. Needs reconstruction with extensive base repair.	
3 Poor – Needs patching and major overlay or complete recycling.	6.7%
4 Fair – Significant aging and first signs of need for strengthening. Would benefit from recycling or overlay.	
5 Fair – Surface aging, sound structural condition, Needs sealcoat or nonstructural overlay.	23.08%
6 Good – Show signs of aging, Sound structural condition, could extent life with sealcoat.	
7 Good – First signs of aging, Maintain with routine crack filling.	65.48%
8 Very Good – Recent sealcoat or new road mix, little or no maintenance required.	
9 Excellent – Recent overlay, like new.	4.07%
10 Excellent – New Construction.	

Source: WISLR *Based on 53.64 miles of paved rated roads

Town/County/State Road Improvements

Road improvements at all levels of government are important for maintaining an adequate and safe roadway system. Increasingly, all levels of government are having a difficult time financing necessary road improvements needed to maintain quality road conditions. A capital improvement plan for necessary road improvements that would prioritize the necessary improvements to maintain the local road system over the short- and long-term is not in place. Rather, road improvements are done at the discretion of the town board on a yearly basis. The Sawyer County Highway Department maintains a Future Road Construction Project schedule. There are no road projects scheduled by the Sawyer County Highway Dept through 2019 or beyond.

Road inspections are done in the town every spring by the town board members and the Town of Round Lake road crew foreman. At that time there is a list of improvements that need to be addressed. The budget determines how many of those improvements can be made in that year. In the spring, the Town of Round Lake Town Board imposes restrictions to lower the allowable weight of vehicles traveling on all town roads. This is in recognition of the instability of the road caused by frost and to prevent road damage. In addition to the local restrictions, Sawyer County imposes vehicle weight restrictions on all CTH's in the town. No restrictions are placed on all state highways and County Road B.

Improvements to local roads are critical for maintaining an adequate and safe roadway system. Future road improvements are generally based on current road conditions with the intent to keep all roadways intact and useable on a daily basis. Future roadway improvements need to

be flexible because of the possibility of unforeseen emergencies or disasters that may arise from year-to-year or even day-to-day.

General Transportation Aids (GTA)

The GTA program is the second largest program in WisDOT's budget. It returns to local governments roughly 30 percent of all state collected revenues (fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees). The funds are intended to help offset the cost of road construction, maintenance, traffic and other transportation-related costs. GTA funds are distributed to all Wisconsin counties, cities, villages and towns based on a six-year spending average or a statutorily set rate-per-mile. GTA for Round Lake from 2013 to 2018 is provided in **Table 3.5**.

Table 3.5: GTA 2013 – 2018	
2013	\$197,982
2014	\$197,982
2015	\$205,931
2016	\$205,711
2017	\$205,711
2018	\$233,180

Air Transportation

No scheduled passenger flights are available in Sawyer County. The nearest airports providing regular scheduled passenger flights to domestic and international destinations are in Duluth, Minnesota or Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota. Private passenger jet service is also available out of Duluth and Rice Lake. At present, Sawyer County has a total of six airports/airfields (**Table 3.6**).

Table 3.6 - Sawyer County Airports/Airfields			
Airfield/Airport	Location	Owner / Operator	Status
Sawyer County Airport	Hayward Twp.; T41N, R9W, S. 24	Sawyer County	Public
Rainbow Airport	Ojibwa Twp.; T39N, R6W	Tod Torgerson	Private (turf strip)
Lake Chippewa Field	Hunter Twp., T40N, R7W	(No owner listed)	Private (turf strip)
Florida North Airport	Edgewater Twp, T37, T9, S29	Ronald & Wanda Masek	Private (turf strip)
Round Lk. Seaplane Base	Round Lake Twp.; T41N, R8W	John Frisbe	Private (water)
Kitty-Wompus Airport	Weirgor Twp., T37N, R7W	Jordan Arvold	Private (turf)

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aeronautics

Rail Service

There are no rail lines remaining in the town. Old rail beds are scattered throughout the countryside where logging and other rail operations were once prevalent. It is highly unlikely any rail activity will again be developed. The closest existing rail line is located in the Town of Hayward and terminates west of the City of Hayward. The closest passenger rail terminals are located in Minneapolis-St. Paul, LaCrosse, Wisconsin Dells and Tomah and are operated by Amtrak.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation

Pedestrian and bicycle transportation is limited to trails and roadway shoulders. There are no public sidewalks in the town. The Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin, in conjunction with WisDOT, created a state bicycle map that includes information on roadway conditions for bicycle travel, bicycle trails, rustic roads, and mountain bike facilities. Within the Town of Round Lake, STH 77 is considered to have the “best conditions for biking” based on a number of factors including, but not limited to, paved shoulders and good sight distances. Both CTH’s A and S are also considered to have good conditions for biking, but lack shoulders. County Highway B in the town is considered to have “high-volume, undesirable conditions” for biking. This is based on moderately high traffic volumes, no or narrow paved shoulders, and moderate-to-high truck traffic.

A number of town roads also support walking and bicycling throughout the community. Many of the town roads have low average daily traffic levels, making them conducive to pedestrian and bicycle travel. The majority of town roads does not have shoulders or designated bicycle/walking lanes. Pedestrians walk along the side of the roadway and bicycles share the roads with traffic.

Within portions of Sawyer and Bayfield Counties are on- and off-road biking experiences. Two segments cross portions of Round Lake.

Tiger Cat Tour (on-road)

The Tiger Cat Tour is 35 miles if the Seeley trailhead is used, or 28 miles if the OO Rest Cabin trailhead is used. The shortest route is rated as easy. The long route includes a few steep hills. The trailhead location is in the unincorporated town of Seeley, 10 miles north of Hayward, or at the Birkebeiner Ski Trail OO Rest Cabin, three miles east of Seeley on County OO (daily or annual vehicle parking fee applies). On-route attractions include scenic roads through Sawyer County Forest, causeways cutting across the Tiger Cat Flowage, picturesque dam site and the Hayward/Seeley area. Map: http://preview.travelwisconsin.com/On-Road_Biking_Directory.aspx

Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association Trails (CAMBA) (off-road)

Twenty-four miles are accessible if all loops are ridden from Seeley to Mosquito Brook Road and back. Trails range from easy to difficult. Surface types are grassy XC ski trails, logging roads, snowmobile trails, and gravel, paved and sandy forest roads. There is a soft surface in some low

spots. Frequent blue and white signs and periodic "you are here" map-signs. Trailhead location is Mosquito Brook Rd / Birkebeiner Trail crossing, six miles northeast of Hayward; or Silverthorn Park, 11 miles north of Hayward. The newly completed Mukwa single-track mountain bike trail follows along the northwest section of the Town of Round Lake in the area known as the Hayward Cluster on the CAMBA maps connecting Mosquito Brook Road to Gravel Pit Road. Plans are to continue this single-track trail from Gravel Pit Road to County Rd OO. Fees may apply.

Multi-Use / Recreational Trails

Throughout Sawyer County, there are several hundred miles of multi-use trails and a large number of forest roads. This network is used most intensely during the winter months for snowmobiling and in the summer months for ATV use. The network also provides an alternate means of commuting (other than vehicle travel) for some Sawyer County residents. This network includes:

- Over 600 miles of snowmobile trails
- 135 miles of ATV trails
- 200 miles of cross country ski trails
- 200 miles of bike trails
- Hiking trails
- Horseback trails

In the Town of Round Lake, there are a number of motorized trails. The Town passed ordinances in 2013 and 2015 increasing the recreational trail system. Ordinances and roads now open for travel can be found on the Town's website: <http://www.townofroundlakewi.org>

An important rule regarding motorized trails in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest was handed down on November 9, 2005 with an effective date of December 9, 2005. This rule, commonly referred to as the Travel Management Plan, revised regulations governing motor vehicle use on all National Forest System lands, including the use of off-highway vehicles. For updates of accessible roads and trails, see the Chequamegon-Nicolet Forest Service Motor Vehicle Use Map available on the National Forest Service website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/rec/tmr/index.html> and at each Forest Service office.

A number of non-motorized recreational activities exist on all public-owned properties. These properties allow for walking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and sightseeing. A number of designated non-motorized trail systems are located within the town. The Mukwonago Ski Trail, located in the northern center of the town in the Chequamegon– Nicolet National Forest, has four ski loops totaling 17.2 km. The American Birkebeiner Ski Trail passes through the northwest corner of the Town of Round Lake, offering world-class crosscountry skiing from Hayward to Cable. The CAMBA trails are well mapped and marked for mountain biking and hiking in the town.

All National and County Forest lands are open to walking and other quiet-sport recreational activities. A number of "hunter walking trails" are located within the Chequamegon–NICOLET National Forest and can be found on the Chequamegon–Nicolet National Forests web site.

Several hunter-walking trails are located within the State owned Chief River Wildlife Area. There are five of these trails, which go north and south off Chief River Road. Four of the trails

have small parking areas just off the road, and one of the trails becomes snowmobile route #18 during the winter. Three other hunter-walking trails are located off Shuler Road and one of them has a small parking area.

Water Transportation

No waterborne commerce activity is available. The closest harbor for waterborne commerce and transportation is through the Port of Duluth–Superior. Many miles of lakes, rivers, creeks and streams that exist in the town were once used for transporting people, products and goods. Today these water resources are used primarily for recreational purposes or short social commutes. Many residents enjoy the waterways by various watercraft to visit restaurants, friends and neighbors, and to sightsee via the many connected waters.

Public and Specialized Transportation

The Senior Resource Center (SRC) assists in coordinating rides for individuals 55+ years of age and older. It offers doorstop service for people who are over the age of 55 between the hours of 8 AM and 4 PM Monday through Friday in the city of Hayward, extending six to eight miles out from the city of Hayward. SRC also will coordinate, for those who have no means of transportation, rides through the volunteer ride program. The number for the center is 715- 634-3000 and reservations are needed 24 hours in advance.

A number of private specialized transportation providers are available to qualifying individuals, based on disability. These companies include Abby Vans (Neillsville), Handi-Lift (Cumberland), Key Care (Ladysmith), New Richmond Transport (New Richmond), Northwoods Transit (Rice Lake), Sawyer County Veterans Services and Ventures Unlimited.

NWT Express provides ground transportation between Hayward and Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport (MSP) and other prearranged destinations. MSP service operates seven days a week with scheduled stops at 12 different communities along the way to MSP. The telephone number for NWT Express is 715-634-5307. www.NWTExpress.com

Namekagon Transit provides public transportation for all of Sawyer County, southern Bayfield County, Barron County and Washburn County. The breakdown of Transit usage is 57% for employment, 18% for recreation, 11% for shopping, 9% for medical and 5% for other purposes. Their phone is 715-634-6633, and their website is www.namekagontransit.com.

Al Flora retired and no longer provides limousine service from Hayward to Chicago.

State, Regional and Other Transportation Plans

It is a requirement of the transportation element to incorporate and address applicable state, regional, and other transportation plans, including: transportation corridor plans; county highway functional and jurisdictional studies; urban-area transportation plans; rural-area transportation plans; airport master plans; and rail plans. Known transportation plans are listed along with a brief summary of some selected plans applicable to Round Lake. Updates for the following plans may be found at www.wisconsin.gov

1. Connections 2030
2. Corridors 2030
3. Wisconsin State Highway Plan 2030
4. Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020
5. Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan 2020
6. Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2030
7. Sawyer County Human Services – Public Transit Plan call 715-634-4806

Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan 2020

The Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan 2020 expects every transportation agency to make accommodations for bicycling and walking as a routine part of their planning, design, construction, operations and maintenance activities. The Plan 2020 clearly intends for bicyclists and pedestrians to have safe, convenient access to the transportation system, and sees every transportation improvement as an opportunity to enhance the safety and convenience of the two modes. Currently, the Town of Round Lake is considered a rural area. Recommendations include paved shoulders in all new construction and reconstruction of roads used by more than 1,000 vehicles per day.

Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020

The Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020 provides an outline for improving and expanding the state trunk highway system, with a strong consideration allowing for bicycle accommodation. The current plan objective recommends suitable space for bicyclists when developing and improving roadway projects within the Town of Round Lake.

Wisconsin State Highway Plan 2020

The Wisconsin State Highway Plan 2020 focuses on the 11,800 miles of state trunk highway routes. The three areas that are emphasized in this plan are: pavement and bridge preservation, traffic movement and safety. These routes affect not only auto and commercial truck travel, but all modes of transportation; thus the importance of keeping the state trunk highways, dependable, safe, and efficient. The SHP 2020 does not identify any traffic congestion in the next 20 years on the highways within the Town of Round Lake. There are no major improvements or changes to the state highway routes in this plan for the town.

Corridors 2020

The Wisconsin Corridors Plan for 2020 is designed to provide essential links to employment and population centers around the state. It is composed of two elements: 1) a backbone system of multilane divided highways connecting all major population and economic centers with each other and to the national highway network; and 2) a connector system of two and four lane highways connecting other significant economic and tourism centers to the backbone system. By the year 2020, the total mileage in the Corridors 2020 system will be expanded to 3200 miles. Currently there are no improvements planned for the Town of Round Lake.

Sawyer County Human Services – Public Transit Plan

Updated in 2008, the plan outlines coordinated transportation services between private and public parties. The plan must address federal transportation funding requirements for a select set of funding programs.

Transportation Programs and Scenic Routes

A number of transportation-related programs are available to local units of government. The majority of these programs provide financial incentives or assistance to communities to enhance the overall transportation network or travel experience.

1. Rustic Roads Program
2. Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP)
3. Local Bridge Improvement Assistance
4. Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
5. Traffic Signing and Marking Enhancement Grants Program
6. General Transportation Aids (GTA) Program

Rustic Roads Program

The Rustic Roads Program was created in 1973 by the State Legislature to preserve what remains of Wisconsin's scenic, lightly traveled back roads for the enjoyment of motorists, hikers and bicyclists. A Rustic Road may be dirt, gravel or paved. There are eligibility requirements for the designation. As of 2019 the Town of Round Lake has Rustic Road 111 comprised of 25.5 miles of scenic terrain, a portion of which is ends in Ashland County. Maps can be obtained from the WI Dept of Transportation website: www.wisconsindot.gov

Color Tours

The Hayward Lakes Visitors and Convention Bureau, in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service, has created three color tours (Map 3.3). These routes within the county include roads that offer access to outstanding fall colors. Route One passes through the Town of Round Lake on the following roads: Twin Lake Road, County Road A, State Highway #77, County Road S, Moose Lake Road—also known as Forest Road #164, Forest Road # 164 to County Road B, then McClain Road, and Twin Lake Road.

Scenic Byways

A portion of State Highway 77 represents the Great Divide Scenic Byway, a National Forest Scenic Byway. Designated in 1988, the 29-mile route on State Highway 77 between Glidden and Hayward takes motorists through the northwestern portion of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. The route's pristine beauty, including some of Wisconsin's best wilderness views, led the U. S. Forest Service to designate it a Scenic Byway. It runs through woodlands that are home to black bears, timber wolves, elk and white-tailed deer, and crosses lakes and swamps alive with beavers, loons and bald eagles.

Transportation Ongoing Goals, Objectives and Actions

Within the Town of Round Lake, transportation takes on many different modal choices. While vehicular transportation (car and truck) is the predominant mode of travel, other modes such as walking, biking, and snowmobiling are used by permanent and seasonal residents.

The town's transportation vision is "A safe and efficient transportation system that over the next 20 years accommodates the movement of people and goods while preserving the northwoods character of the Town." To achieve this vision, a number of goals, objectives and actions have been developed.

Goal 1: A safe and efficient transportation system for the next 20 years.

Objective 1: Maintain a safe and efficient roadway system throughout the town.

Action 1: Maintain the current Town roads in the Town of Round Lake to meet town standards.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 2: Review all Town roads to ensure access of all emergency, service, and maintenance vehicles.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 3: Annually request and review traffic accident information from Sawyer County Sheriff's department to identify and mitigate hazards.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 4: Annually review and update road construction and maintenance standards and ordinances, especially as they relate to sound engineering practices and to other elements of this plan.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 5: Require the approvals of new roads and driveways in the Town of Round Lake to meet town standards.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 6: Educate homeowners on criteria for private roads and driveways in the Town of Round Lake.

Primary Responsible Party – Town Board

Responsible Party – Town Fire Department

Objective 2: Develop, maintain and improve roads to meet the Town's future transportation needs and safety requirements.

Action 1: Coordinate transportation and land use planning with adjacent municipalities, Sawyer County, and the State of Wisconsin for sound traffic planning and maintenance.

Responsible Party – Town Planning Commission

Action 2: Identify Town roads which are most likely to bear increased traffic as a result of projected development and recommend priorities for improvement and maintenance by the Town Board.

Responsible Party – Town Planning Commission

Action 3: Develop plans that improve traffic patterns and safety of routes that may be impacted by additional residential and commercial development.

Responsible Party – Town Planning Commission

Action 4: Consider spring load limits/alternatives that protect the roads while minimizing the impact on small businesses moving products they produce to market.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 5: Investigate the use of special assessment to upgrade private roads to town standards when requested by property owners.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 6: Develop guidelines for the ceding of private roads to the town.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 7: Encourage developers to develop and maintain roads under private ownership to town standards.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Objective 3: Coordinate with other jurisdictions and providers in enhancing transit options and services for the elderly, poor and disabled.

Action 1: Meet with Sawyer County/Namekagon Transit to assist with public transportation and route enhancements throughout the town.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 2: Encourage existing transit operators to continue and expand ambulatory and non-ambulatory service to the town

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 3: Communicate and educate public on available transportation options.

Responsible party – Town Board

Goal 2: Provide a transportation system that preserves the woodland character of the Town and provides for alternative modes of transportation.

Objective 1: Develop and maintain a transportation system that preserves the rural character of the town

Action1: Establish guidelines for all signs including size, number, location, style, lighting, and maintenance that are compatible with the rural character of the town.

Responsible Party – Town Board.

Action 2: Promote an integrated system and ordinances for rustic roads, by-ways and color tour routes, coordinating with adjacent townships.

Responsible Party – Town Board.

Action 3: Consider town road construction standards to reflect rural character, where appropriate.

Responsible Party – Town Board.

Action 4: Identify scenic roads and protect their scenic views.

Primary Responsible Party: Town Board

Responsible Party: Plan Commission

Action 5: Propose a rustic road designation for County Highway S, Lower Twin Lake Road, USFS #319 and #320, and for Moose Lake Road/ USFS 164 from County S to County GG.

Primary Responsibility Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board

Objective 2: Accommodate the growing number of other modes of transportation and recreational uses for the roads including ATVs, snowmobiles, biking, hiking, cross country ski training and running.

Action 1: Work with county, regional efforts, neighboring towns, local clubs and private landowners to create and maintain and integrate alternative transportation modes.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 2: Consider the costs of dedicated recreational lanes in all new road construction and improvements and apply if feasible.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 3: Work with county, neighboring towns, local clubs and private landowners to develop, maintain and coordinate off-road trail systems (i.e. snowmobile, ATV, biking, hiking, skiing) within the Town.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 4: Provide access to maps of trail systems within the Town.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 5: Ensure that appropriate signage is provided for all trails.

Responsible party – Appropriate local clubs

Action 6: Encourage public safety education & awareness of multi-use roadway systems.

Responsible party – Town Board

Utilities & Community Facilities

Introduction

Developing an inventory of existing utilities and community facilities is an important step when planning for the future. The Town of Round Lake will need to prioritize and provide a variety of basic services within their jurisdiction to residents over the next 20-years. This element will provide an insight into utilities and community facilities that are available to residents that will in return help to guide the future of those utilities and community facilities.

Utilities & Community Facilities

Utilities and community facilities that may need to be provided, considered or promoted in the town could include sanitary sewer service, on-site wastewater treatment storm water management, water supply, solid waste disposal, recycling, cellular and broadband facilities, electrical energy and transmission improvements, parks, cemeteries, health and child care facilities, police and fire protection, rescues services, libraries, schools and other government facilities. The following will contain an analysis and discussion of these facilities and services.

Sanitary Sewer Service

Sanitary sewer service is a type of underground carriage system for transporting sewage from houses or industry to treatment or disposal. There is no sanitary sewer infrastructure or services available to town residents. Most town residents rely on privately owned wastewater system (POWTS) to collect and dispose of their wastewater. The main types of systems used by town residents include a conventional system, in-ground pressure system, mound system, at-grade system or holding tank.

Water Supply

Currently, there is no municipal water service and no plans to establish service as of 2019. The water supply for town residents is primarily groundwater. Private water systems generally consist of wells which serve one or a few households. Wells are fed by groundwater sources which are replenished by nearby surface water sources like undeveloped watershed and wetlands. Private wells consist of wells, piping, tanks, and water treatments devices.

Storm Water Management

Storm water runoff from construction activities can have a significant impact on water quality. In addition to sediment, as storm water flows over a construction site, it can pick up other pollutants like debris, pesticides, petroleum products, chemicals, solvents, asphalts and acids which also contribute to water quality problems. Storm water is managed through a series of ditches and culverts throughout the town.

Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling

Residents can contract with private providers for solid waste disposal or they can drop-off their household garbage at the Town of Round Lake Recycling Center located on CTH A approximately

one-half mile from the town hall. Charges for garbage disposal at the site are on a per bag basis with punch cards for multiple bags. There are private waste companies for select recyclables, i.e. Televisions, appliances. Check website: TownofRoundLakewi.org/town-government for updated regulations.

Telecommunication Facilities & Services

Telecommunication facilities and services are becoming increasingly important to Round Lake permanent and seasonal residents and businesses. Access to fast and reliable telecom services is an important factor allowing many residents accustomed to work out of their homes.

- **Telephone.** CenturyLink provides local telephone service to the Town's residents. Currently, there is no cellular telephone towers located in Round Lake. The tower seen on Laury Road is used for Emergency personnel.
- **Internet.** Internet providers in the Town of Round Lake include: CenturyLink, Jump River Cooperative-titled Viasat, Direct TV, HughesNet and Dish TV. A few areas are served by Norvado.
- **Newspapers.** The Sawyer County Record is the primary newspaper serving the Town with meeting notices and hearing announcements. The paper is published once a week each Wednesday. Sawyer County Gazette is published weekly in Winter with information on activities in Round Lake area.
- **Television and Radio.** No television stations are located in the general vicinity. Three licensed radio stations include WOJB 88.9 FM (Variety Radio), WRLS 92.3 FM (Adult Contemporary Radio), WHSM 101.1 FM (Adult Contemporary Radio).
- **Postal Service.** United States Postal Service provides route mail delivery to town residents. Package delivery is also available from UPS, USPS, Fed X, and Spee Dee delivery service.

Electricity and Natural Gas

Electricity providers in the Town include Xcel Energy, Jump River and North Central Power Company. As of 2019, there is no natural gas service in the Town.

Parks & Campgrounds

There are currently no designated town or county parks in Round Lake. Three campgrounds are located within the Town, two in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and one privately owned.

Black Lake Campground is located on the east side of Black Lake in Winter Wi. A total of 29 campsites are available, and can accommodate tents to RVs. Some sites are accessible by boat. Each site has a picnic table and fire grate. Amenities include water pumps, vault toilets, a swimming beach area with picnic tables, and two boat ramps to Black Lake. The Black Lake foot trail, approximately 4 miles in length, circles Black Lake. Along the trail, are interpretive markers noting the history of the area and many excellent views of Black Lake.

Moose Lake Campground is located on the east side of Moose Lake. A total of 15 campsites are

available, accommodating tents to RVs. Some sites are accessible by boat. Picnic tables and fire grates are located at each site. Amenities include water pumps, vault toilets, a swimming beach, and boat ramp.

Treelands Campgrounds is located on county road B north of the Chippewa Flowage. 75 sites with concrete patios, swimming pool, game room, camp store, plus.

Lake Chippewa Campground is off County Rd CC in the town of Hunter. Large campsites, shower facilities and excellent fishing available.

Recreational Facilities

The Chequamegon National Forest provides a number of non-motorized activities as the entire National Forest is open to foot travel during all seasons. The Black Lake foot trail and Mukwonago Ski Trail are two mapped and maintained trail systems. While the Black Lake foot trail is accessible by foot travel only, users can snowshoe the trail in the winter months. Mukwonago Ski Trail is located on the south side of State Highway 77 and is a designated cross-country ski trail. Four separate loops, ranging from easy to most difficult enable all experience levels access to winter's beauty. A portion of the Sawyer County Forest in the far eastern section of the Town hosts the Birkebeiner Ski Trail. The Birkebeiner Ski Trail is open for use by the public, with a paid fee pass. It travels across the northwest corner of the town connecting Hayward and Cable. The CAMBA trails offer a wide variety of trails in the town of Round Lake for hiking and mountain biking.

Hunters extensively use the Chief River Wildlife Area during the fall grouse and deer seasons. The hunter walking trails located within this area are maintained by the DNR and can be accessed off Chief River Road and Shuler Road. Motorized activities are prohibited on all of the trails except the westernmost trail off Chief River Road that is used as a snowmobile trail during the winter months. This trail, #18, connects County Highway B and the Chippewa Flowage area to the Tiger Cat Flowage and State Highway 77 and is a major north-south route for snowmobiles, additionally, these trails might also provide for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing opportunities.

ATVs and snowmobiles are allowed only on designated roads/trails, as off-road or off trail use in the Chequamegon Nation Forest are not allowed. All designated ATV trails are closed from March 15 through April 30. Trail maps are available at Power Sports on Highway 77 and Hayward Visitors Center.

Cemeteries

The Spider Lake Cemetery, located on Lower Twin Lake Rd., just south of Hwy. 77, is the only cemetery in the town. The cemetery is maintained by the Spider Lake Cemetery Board.

Health and Child Care Facilities

There are no health care facilities in the Town of Round Lake. The nearest facility is Hayward Area Memorial Hospital (HAMH), located at 11040 N State Road 77 in the Town of Hayward. Several clinics are located at the hospital site with walk-ins accepted. Essentia Health-Hayward,

Northlakes Community Center, and Marshfield Clinic. In addition to these medical/clinic facilities, the Lac Courte Oreilles operates a health care facility on the reservation.

There are no licensed childcare facilities in the Town.

The Sawyer County Human Services Department has a program in place to financially assist childcare while a single parent or parents are employed and for teen parents attending high school or High School Equivalency Diploma classes.

Senior Care

According to Department of Health Services and www.dhs.wisconsin.gov 2017 issue, the count in 2015 for seniors in Sawyer County was: age 65-84 at 3520 and over 84 at 410. Seniors often need special care facilities to meet their needs. There are several senior care facilities in the town of Hayward. At this time there are no senior care facilities in Round Lake Township. Meals on Wheels does service this area. Senior Centers are in the town of Hayward and Winter which provides social services, meals, and educational offerings.

Police Protection – Located in the City of Hayward, the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department takes complaints and provides investigative services, traffic control, weather and road information and assistance with all kinds of emergency situations. The Department also takes bond and fine payments, operates the county jail, provides dispatch services for all emergency services within Sawyer County, facilitates visitors to the jail and provides interfaces with other police agencies.

Emergency Services

Emergency services are an important aspect of protecting from harm, or aiding residents in dangerous situations. Emergency response units include:

- Sawyer County Sheriff's Department
- Sawyer County Ambulance Service
- Town of Round Lake Volunteer Fire Department
- Town of Round Lake 1st Responders and EMTs

There are two stations for the volunteer fire department in the Town of Round Lake. A water rescue inflatable boat (mfg. by Kabota) is available for trained dispatch from stations for both water and land rescue.

Ambulance Service

Located in the City of Hayward, the Sawyer County Ambulance Service does patient care and transport to nearest emergency facility. The Town of Round Lake is negotiating with the Sawyer County Ambulance Service, to have an ambulance housed at the Town Hall Station to improve response time.

Fire Protection & Rescue

The Round Lake Volunteer Fire Department serves both Round Lake and the north side of the town of Hunter, covering approximately a 194 square mile area. The Department has a mutual

aid agreement with surrounding fire departments in Sawyer County. Two separate fire stations located in separate locations of the Town aid with faster response times. The department currently has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 9. Ratings of departments go from a Class 1 (the best) to Class 10 (unprotected). One station is located next to the town hall on CTH A and the other is located on Pine Point Road near Moose Lake. They operate with the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). The department has the following resources:

- 23 Active Members
- EMT & First Responder Personnel
- 1 engine/pumper (to be updated in 2020)
- 2 tenders/tankers
- Brush truck
- Air Boat and Cold-Water rescue equipment
- Equipment vehicle with Extrication equipment and Mobile Cascade for filling air packs
- Snow Mobile equipped for winter emergency situations mfg. by Kubota.

Libraries

There is a little library at The Farmstead off of Moose Lake road. The Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library in the City of Hayward serves Town residents. The Town makes an annual contribution to the library, which is approved by the Town electors at its annual meeting each year.

Schools

No schools are located in the Town. The Town of Round Lake is entirely within the Hayward Community School District, which consists of an Elementary, Middle and Senior High. Although there aren't any schools located in the Town, there are other educational institutions in close proximity. The following is a list of schools in the area:

- Hayward Community Schools
- Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe School
- Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC): Hayward, Ashland, Superior and Rice Lake
- Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College University of Wisconsin – Barron County (Rice Lake)
- Northern Lights Christian Academy – Hayward Northwood Mennonite School – Hayward
- Northern Waters Environmental School- Hayward (NWES) St. Francis Solanus School – Stone Lake
- Hayward Area Center for Individualized Learning (HACIL) - Hayward LCO Head Start program
- The Family Connection Resource Center (Hayward) has a current list of pre-school locations.

Other Government Facilities

Other government facilities in Round Lake include:

- Recycling building at Recycling Center located on county highway A Town Hall located on county highway A
- Town Garage next to the Town Hall on county highway A
- Fire Station #1 on Pine Point Road in Moose Lake area. Fire Station #2 next to Town Hall on county highway A

The meeting dates, agendas and minutes of governmental groups are posted and listed on the Towns facilities buildings and the towns website.

Table 4.1 Utilities & Community Facilities Timetable							
	2009-2019			2020-2030			
	Expand	Rehab	New	Expand	Rehab	New	N/A
Sanitary Sewer Service							X
Storm Water Management	X				X		
Water Supply							X
Solid Waste Disposal							X
Recycling Facilities		X			X		
Communication Facilities			X	X			
Power Plants and Trans. Lines							X
Cemeteries	X			X			
Health Care Facilities							X
Child Care Facilities							X
Law Enforcement	X						
Fire/Rescue	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Libraries							X
Schools							X
Parks				X			
Town Hall/Garage			X	X			
Other Govt. Facilities							X

Town of Round Lake

N/A-Not Available or does not apply

Utilities & Community Facilities Goals, Objectives and Actions

Many of the operational or community service provided to property owners are found within this chapter. Whether it is fire protection, garbage and recycling services, or health care options these services impact the quality of life and level of satisfaction residents come to expect. These will be considered by the Town Board as population would increase and surveys indicate a need or State Government would indicate.

Utilities and Communication Services:

Goal 1: Ensure the provision of reliable, efficient, and well-planned utilities (i.e. gas, electric) and communication services (i.e. telephone, cable, cellular and broadband) that meet the existing and future demands of residents, landowners, and visitors.

All actions are considered Ongoing.

Objective 1: Maintain town involvement in the planning and coordination of utilities and communication services with other agencies and jurisdictions in order to efficiently serve existing and future development and regional growth.

Action 1: Support structural design, location and service standards for towers to reduce the negative visual impacts.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 2: Monitor the location, condition and capacity of existing and future public utilities in order to efficiently serve existing residents and planned service areas.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 3: Encourage placement of new utility transmission and distribution lines into existing public-right-of-ways whenever feasible.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 4: Encourage increased coordination and planning among community facilities, utilities, land use, transportation, natural resources, and cultural resources.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 5: Ensure that new development and redevelopment provides for and/or contributes proportionate fair share of expenses associated with impacts to public services and utilities.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 6: Facilitate the expansion of cellular, broadband, and high-speed internet service within the Town.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Objective 2: Promote and encourage eco-friendly living that follows best green practices.

Action 1: Pursue the use of alternative energy sources, such as wind energy, bio diesel fuel, solar energy, etc. at the town hall and on Town property.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 2: Encourage service providers, businesses and developers to promote energy conservation and green building practices in the Town.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Objective 3: Avoid environmentally sensitive areas when upgrading existing utilities and community facilities.

Action 1: Consider sensitive environmental areas before making decisions regarding the upgrade of existing utilities or community facilities, and encourage development and redevelopment practices that will maintain or improve the

natural environment.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 2: When reviewing the proposed design and location of telecommunication, wind energy, animal waste digesters, any other energy source, or other utility towers, seek to minimize conflicts between land uses, and balance desired service levels with potential negative impacts to the environment, community character, and planned growth areas.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 3: Encourage underground placement of new or existing distribution lines for electricity, telecommunications, and cable entertainment.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 4: Promote the elimination of herbicides and clear cutting under and around power lines.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 5: Encourage a vegetative management plan for all utility right-of-ways which implements spatial variety (i.e., varied clearing widths and tree heights and protection of long-lived species)

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Privately Owned Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS):

Goal 2: Ensure proper disposal of private wastewater to ensure public health and protect ground and surface water quality.

Objective 1: Work to prevent pollution of surface and subsurface waters by regulating the location, construction, installation, alteration, design and use of all private sewage systems

Action1: Promote resident education on the proper design, installation and maintenance of privately-owned wastewater treatment systems (POWTS).

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 2: Increase/provide resident education regarding funding options for POWTS owners to upgrade failing non-complying systems.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 3: Encourage the use of alternative wastewater treatment options (i.e., new technologies, group sanitary systems, etc.) for new and where appropriate as a replacement for failing systems.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 4: The Town should consider the land use planning implications of the COMM 83 rules. Specifically, the Town should understand that the COMM 83 regulations often allow development to occur in areas where private, onsite waste disposal systems were previously not feasible due to poor soil conditions. This rule was updated in April 2000 at state level.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 5: Support the county requirement of inspection and maintenance of POWTS.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 6: Encourage residents to have their water supply tested each year in order to protect their drinking water.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Storm Water Management

Goal 3: Ensure the provision of storm water management.

Objective 1: Promote storm water management practices that reduce property and road damage and ensure a high level of water quality.

Action 1: Promote the use of storm water management practices to abate non-point source pollution and protect water quality.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 2: Preserve natural open space areas such as wetlands and flood plains that will accommodate floodwater and minimize flooding.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 3: Maintain town roadside swales/ditches/culverts and other related storm water facilities for both storm water quantity and quality control.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 4: All new or altered ditch slopes shall contain proper stabilization.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 5: Storm water management shall be addressed as a requirement of all development proposals with an appropriate level of review based on potential negative impacts caused by construction site erosion and post-construction runoff.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Water Supply

Goal 4: Ensure the quality and quantity of water.

Objective 1: Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the town's ground and surface water.

Action 1: Reduce the potential of point and non-point source pollution.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 2: Evaluate the potential impacts of development proposals on groundwater quality and quantity.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 3: Continue to provide leadership and coordination of efforts with surrounding towns to monitor groundwater quality and potential contamination issues.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 4: Monitor the capping of abandoned wells.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

- Action 5: Educate the public on the correlation between the improper land use practices and ground water quality and quantity.
Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Facilities

Goal 5: Promote and encourage solid waste and recycling practices that protect the environment.

Objective 1: Promote effective and cost-efficient household solid waste disposal and recycling services and systems that protect the public health, natural environment, and general appearance of land use within the town.

- Action 1: Evaluate recycling services available to residents to determine if current needs are adequately being met.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

- Action 2: Continue to utilize county clean sweep program so that household hazardous waste collection can be performed at least once every three years.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

- Action 3: Coordinate contracts with other municipalities in an effort to package bid proposals for services to help reduce overall costs.

Responsible Party – Town Board

- Action 4: Maintain and promote collection opportunities for the proper recycling and disposal of unique (i.e. tires, white goods, etc.) and/or hazardous wastes.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Objective 2: Require major developments to adequately address solid waste disposal and recycling needs

Responsible Party – Town Board

Objective 3: Promote and encourage availability of educational materials for eco-friendly living that follows best green practices.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Goal 6: Increase recreational opportunities.

Objective 1: Promote recreational facilities within the Town of Round Lake

- Action 1: Utilize the potential of the Sawyer County Forest, State land, and the Chequamegon/Nicolet Forest, increase local recreational opportunities.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

- Action 2: Identify areas where recreational opportunities can be increased.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

- Action 3: Increase public awareness of Managed Forest Lands and other publicly owned lands for recreation use.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 4: Maintain and improve the community's public access to waterways and trails that provide multi-use recreational opportunities.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 5: Pursue state, federal, and private funding programs that can aid in the acquisition and development of parks, trails, and other recreational opportunities with local government cooperation.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 6: Pursue the acquisition or conversion of land to develop a park

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Libraries and Schools

Goal 7: Promote quality schools and access to educational opportunities for everyone.

Objective 1: Promote use of all educational opportunities available to the town.

Action 1: Support local libraries in their efforts to increase community education.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 2: Maintain community involvement in the coordination of local planning efforts with the School Districts in order to allow them to anticipate future growth and to provide appropriate facilities.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 3: Encourage technical colleges, University of Wisconsin Extension, LCO Community College and community libraries in their efforts to increase community education.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 4: Provide online educational opportunities within the town.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Fire/Rescue Facilities

Goal 8: Provide a level of fire and emergency services that meets existing and future demands of residents and development patterns.

Objective 1: Ensure a level of fire protection and emergency services that meets the needs of existing demands of residents and future developments patterns.

Action 1: Continue resident education on ways to reduce the risks of fire and increase access and response time of emergency vehicles to local residences (i.e. forest and grass fire prevention, driveway design that eases emergency vehicle access).

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 2: An evaluation of fire protection staff, services, and equipment shall be completed on an annual basis.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 3: The use of grants or donations to meet the need of the fire department shall be pursued prior to using the general fund.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 4: Efforts to increase cooperation with neighboring jurisdictions with regard to fire and rescue facilities and services shall be pursued.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 5: Opportunities for shared service agreements shall be maximized whenever possible.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Police Protection

Goal 9: Ensure that police services are appropriately meeting the existing and future needs of the town.

Objective 1: Continue involvement with the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department in its efforts to provide police protection and community outreach.

Action 1: Monitor and evaluate the need for a police presence (i.e. constable or county liaison).

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 2: An annual meeting shall be held with the Sheriff's Department to discuss trends, issues, and needs in the town.

Responsible Party - Town Board

Action 3: Opportunities for shared service agreements shall be maximized whenever possible.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Government Facilities

Goal 10: Provide quality cost effective town facilities and services that meet the existing and future demands of residents, landowners, and visitors.

Objective 1: Ensure that the Town Hall is maintained as a vital community facility that is accessible for large gatherings, town activities and public meetings.

Action 1: The town shall assess and prioritize its capacity and needs with regard to administrative facilities, services, and public buildings.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 2: Pursue the development of a "Town Procedures Manual" which outlines the application, review, license, and public notification process to guide developers and individuals through all local regulations and approval processes.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 3: Provide a contact person for developers, homeowners, landowners, agencies and local business owners for information regarding town procedures, ordinances and/or land use regulations and programs.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 4: Develop a Capital Improvement Program (annual budget) to provide local decision- makers, private developers, and citizens with detailed information

on any capital improvement projects that will take place in the town's future.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 5: The town shall continually review staffing, volunteers, and professional service needs relative to planning, ordinance development/enforcement and other governmental services.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Health and Child Care Services and Facilities

Goal 11: Promote and encourage health and child care services and facilities

Objective 1: Ensure that residents have reasonable access to quality health care facilities and child care.

Action 1: Support school districts or local community organizations in their sponsorship of child care programs and early developmental programs.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 2: Allow local clinics and hospitals to develop educational programs to inform citizens of available services or health care advances.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 3: Encourage requests for the development of properly located and operated health care and child care facilities.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Coordination with Other Plan Elements

Utilities and community facilities can dictate future planning for a community if capacity, location, and services are not adequate to support development. Therefore, it is important to inventory existing utilities and community facilities and understand how utilities and community facilities will be provided over the planning period. Furthermore, utilities and community facilities have a direct impact on the other elements of the comprehensive plan. In particular, the Housing, Economic Development, Land Use, and Intergovernmental Coordination Elements are most directly impacted by utilities and community facilities.

HOUSING

Improvements such as roads and recreational facilities all need to be coordinated with the housing decisions and vice versa. The best method to coordinate improvements is to follow the land use pattern presented on the Future Land Use Map as closely as possible.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The availability of utilities like electricity and communications services is critical to economic development. This infrastructure is needed to support growth in the Town of Round Lake. Therefore, the goals and objectives of this chapter seek to maintain and improve local utilities and community facilities to provide some additional economic development opportunities in the Town of Round Lake.

LAND USE ELEMENT

Land use dictates the need for utilities and community facilities. Inversely, the availability of utilities and community facilities can dictate where development can and should occur. The Future Land Use Map was developed after careful consideration of where utilities and community facilities are now available. In addition, the Future Land Use Map considers the feasibility of utilities and community facility extensions to serve areas planned for future development.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

As is obvious from this chapter, solely the Town of Round Lake does not provide utilities and community facilities. Utilities and community facilities that serve the area are provided by Sawyer County, private companies, and neighboring communities. It is important that these utilities and community facilities continue to effectively serve the Town of Round Lake. Therefore, continued coordination is essential to ensure that development in the Town of Round Lake is compatible with local utility and community facility capacities. Goals and objectives included in this chapter, as well as the Intergovernmental Coordination Element, support continued coordination to efficiently provide needed utilities and community facilities.

DRAFT

Agricultural, Natural & Cultural Resources

Introduction

This element provides a baseline assessment of the Town of Round Lake’s agricultural, natural and cultural resources and covers all the information required under SS66.1001. Information includes productive agricultural areas, a natural resource inventory and a cultural resource inventory. This information provides a basis for creating goals, objectives, policies, maps and actions to guide the future development and maintenance of agricultural, natural and cultural resources in the Town of Round Lake.

The Town of Round Lake, like other communities in Sawyer County, has diverse and abundant high-quality natural resources worth protecting for the economic, recreational, aesthetic and ecological needs of current and future residents. Throughout the planning process, specific resources within the Town of Round Lake will become better understood, and goals will be updated to support their protection and maintenance over time.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

The following section details some of the important agricultural resources in Sawyer County. Most farming and agricultural data are not collected at the town level. Assumptions about town resources can be made based on data collected at the county level. The information comes from a variety of resources, including the U.S. Census of Agriculture. Various other relevant plans exist (i.e. – Sawyer County Farmland Preservation Plan, 1982).

Agriculture in Sawyer County

In the mid to late 1880s, with the forest cutover nearly complete, prospective development of farming-cleared land was marketed locally and nationally. Small ready-to-go farms (a home, pigs, chickens, etc.) were available to purchase. In 1920, there were 823 farms and farm operations throughout Sawyer County, covering 86,914 acres. By 1930, a total of 1,006 farms and farm operations were in existence covering 102,278 acres. While the number of farms peaked in 1940 at 1,300 farms, total farm acreage peaked in 1950 at 142,584 acres (Sawyer County Farmland Preservation Plan).

Based on 2019 tax assessment data, in the Town of Round Lake a total of 82 parcels are assessed as agricultural, totaling 1,460 acres. By comparison, **Map 8.1—Existing Land Use Map** shows a total of 1,581 acres represented as agriculture on the map. The town’s total assessed acreage represents 3.4 percent of the county’s total assessed agriculture acreage. Over the period covering 2008 to 2019, total agricultural parcels increased by one, and total acreage increased by 40 acres in the Town of Round Lake.

Table 5.1 provides information on the number and size of farms in Sawyer County for the years 2002, 2007, and 2012. The total number of farms in Sawyer County decreased by 59 farms between 2007 and 2012.

Table 5.1: Sawyer County Farms and Lands in Farms 2002-2012

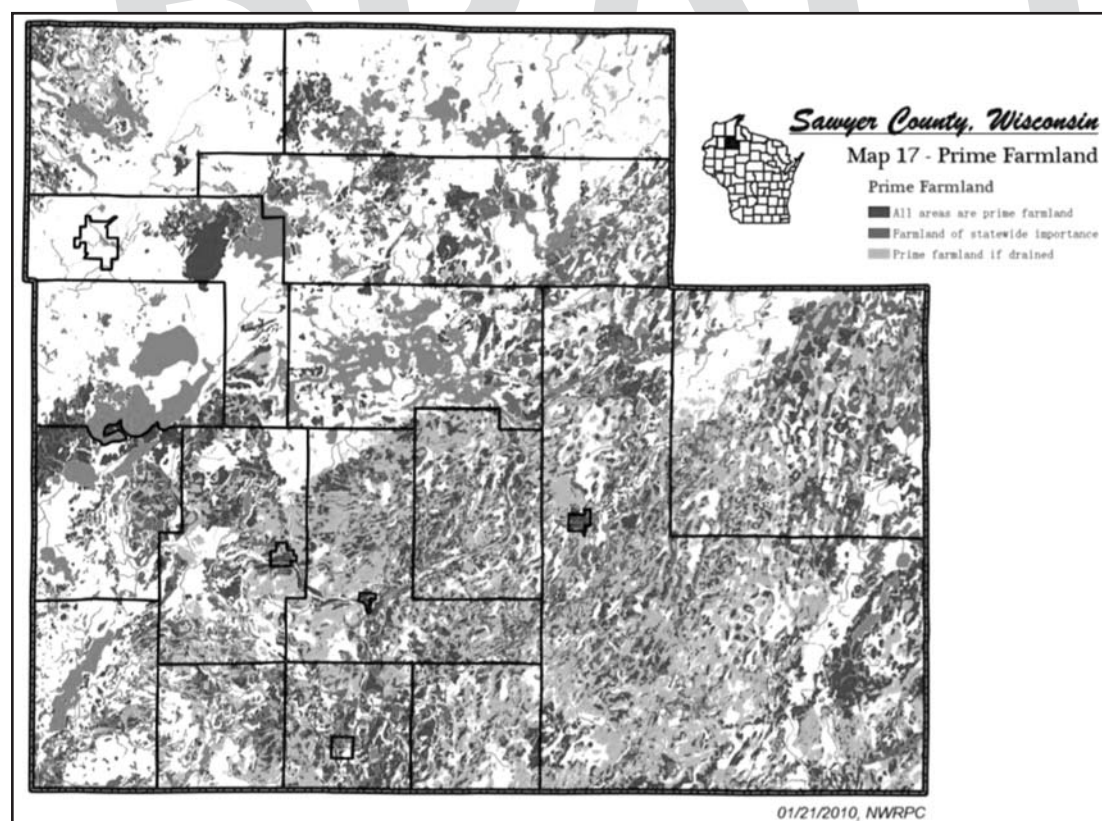
Farms and Land in Farms	2002	2007	2012	Percent Change 2007-2012
Number of Farms	230	231	172	-25.2%
Land in Farms (acres)	54,056	47,093	43,554	-19.4%
Average Size of Farms (acres)	235	204	253	7.6%

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2002-2012

Productive Agricultural Areas

Productive or prime agricultural lands are defined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as “land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber and oilseed crops. The land must also be available for these uses (cropland, pastureland, forestland, or other land but not water or urban built-up land).”

Prime farmland has the soil quality, growing season and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed, including water management, according to acceptable farming methods. The map below denotes prime farmlands. Note that most of the town’s historically prime farmlands are in forest use.



Other agricultural lands of significance are classified by the USDA as unique farmland, farmland

of statewide importance, and farmland of local importance. Unique farmland is classified as land, other than prime farmland, that is used to produce specific high value food and fiber crops (i.e. cranberries). Farmland of statewide importance includes areas that are identified as having value to the state. Whereas farmlands of local importance are areas that are not identified as having national or statewide importance but are identified by local agencies as valuable to produce food, fiber, forage, and oil-seed crops. This may include lands that have been designated for agriculture by local ordinances.

Existing Agricultural Protection

The Sawyer County Zoning Ordinance is the primary tool regulating the use of agricultural lands in the rural areas. The Agriculture-1 (A-1) zoning district provides for the continuation of general farming and related activities in those areas best suited for such development, and provides for orderly development of residential, commercial and industrial development. Year-round residences are permitted within this district only when persons engaged in farming activities on the premises occupy these dwellings. The Agriculture-2 (A-2) zoning district provides for light and hobby farming and related activities, and provides for orderly development of residential, agricultural and commercial activities in those areas best suited for development. Year-round residences are similarly restricted to persons engaged in farming activities on the premises. Non-farm residential development is allowed within this district with approval from the Town Board. Both districts require a minimum lot size of five acres for creation of new parcels.

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

The following section details some of the important natural resources in the Town of Round Lake and Sawyer County. This information also comes from a variety of resources including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Sawyer County Land and Water Conservation Department. Several other relevant plans and data sources exist and should be consulted for additional information:

- Sawyer County Land and Water Conservation Resource Management Plan
- Wisconsin Land Legacy Report
- Sawyer County Forest Access Management Plan
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust

Climate

The average growing season for farmers in Sawyer County varies slightly by location but averages between 108 and 111 days (Winter Weather Station and Hayward Weather Station, Midwest Regional Climate Center). This is much less than the 140-day growing season that Dane County farms enjoy in the southern part of Wisconsin. The warmest month in Sawyer County is July, with an average daily high of 78.2 degrees Fahrenheit. The coldest month is January, with an average daily low of -5.1 degrees Fahrenheit (Winter Weather Station). Precipitation records reported at the weather stations at Winter and the Hayward Ranger Station report annual

precipitation of 32.24 and 32.36 inches, respectively. Annual snowfall totals reported at the Winter Weather Station average 58.1 inches, with 61.6 inches reported at the Hayward Ranger Station. The cold winters and falls, combined with the often-moist air, makes excellent snow conditions for winter recreational activities such as snowmobiling, cross- country skiing, snowshoeing and the annual American Birkebeiner cross-country ski race.

Soils

The general landscape can be described as an undulating plain. This means that it is flat (the elevation in the whole of Sawyer county varies only 652 feet) with light, mild rolling hills in the earth's surface. The soils underneath the mostly forested landscape are acidic. Near Round Lake itself, along the western edge of the town, the soils are sandy, having been deposited by glacial action. The rest of the town' soil is comprised of grayish and sandy loams. The dark- colored stones and boulders that are present in these areas can often identify grayish and sandy loams. Map 5.1—Soil Associations designates three soil associations within the Town of Round Lake: Monico-Goodwit Champion, Pence-Champion and Pence-Padus. **Map 5.2—General Soil Interpretations** details soil surface texture for general soil interpretations in the Town of Round Lake.

Land Cover

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources produced a statewide land cover data set based on 1993 satellite imagery. These data are useful for showing general trends of land cover within the state. The following information is from this data set.

The land cover of the town is primarily made up of broad-leaved deciduous forest. This category accounts for 41 percent of the entire town. Within that category, 24 percent is comprised of the mixed/other broad-leaved deciduous forest type. **Map 5.3—Land Cover** shows the land cover in the Town of Round Lake, while **Table 5.2** represents acre by land cover type.

Table 5.2 – Land Cover Types		
Type	Acres	Percent of Town
Bare Land	1.94	0.00
Cultivated Crops	223.35	0.30
Deciduous Forest	28,777.2	38.08
Developed, High Intensity	0.22	0.00
Developed, Low Intensity	114.4	0.15
Developed, Medium Intensity	7.82	0.01
Developed, Open Space	0	0
Estuarine Emergent Wetland	0	0
Estuarine Forested Wetland	0	0
Estuarine Scrub/Shrub Wetland	0	0
Evergreen Forest	6,958.39	9.21
Grassland/Herbaceous	120.07	0.16
Mixed Forest	11,564.23	15.30
Open Water	6,256.47	8.28
Palustrine Emergent Wetland	341.12	0.45
Palustrine Forested Wetland	13,675.42	18.10
Palustrine Scrub/Shrub Wetland	4,292.47	5.68
Pasture/Hay	1,872.44	2.48
Scrub/Shrub	1,361.01	1.80
Unclassified	0	0
Unconsolidated Shore	0	0
TOTAL	75,566.55	100.00%

Source: NOAA Coastal Change Analysis Program

Topography and Slope

Surface elevations in the Town of Round Lake range from a maximum of 1,512 feet north of Moose Lake to a minimum of 1,289 feet in the far northwestern section of the town. Steeply sloping lands can present challenges or pose barriers to development. Steepness of topography is commonly expressed as percent slope. As a rule, slopes in excess of 20 percent are of greatest concern for any land-disturbing activity. Slopes of 10-20 percent also require attention. Steep slopes do not necessarily preclude all forms of development, although costly engineering and site-preparation/mitigation measures are required in order to minimize potential adverse impacts. Steep slopes (>20 percent and >10-20 percent) in Round Lake are shown on **Map 5.4—Topography & Steep Slope**.

Watersheds

The Town of Round Lake is located just south of the continental divide separating the Mississippi River drainage basin and the St. Lawrence River drainage basin. The area covered by these two drainage basins covers much of central North America. A watershed, as defined by the

University of Wisconsin-Extension, is “the entire physical area or basin drained by a distinct stream or riverine system, physically separated from other watersheds by ridge top boundaries.”

There are five major watersheds that help drain water from the Town of Round Lake into the Mississippi River:

- Upper Namekagon River
- Lake Chippewa
- West Fork Chippewa River
- East Fork Chippewa River
- Couderay River

Map 5.5—Area Watersheds and **Map 5.6—Watersheds** depict the geographic boundary of watersheds. Importantly, Sawyer County is at the headwaters of these watersheds potentially impacting all areas to the south.

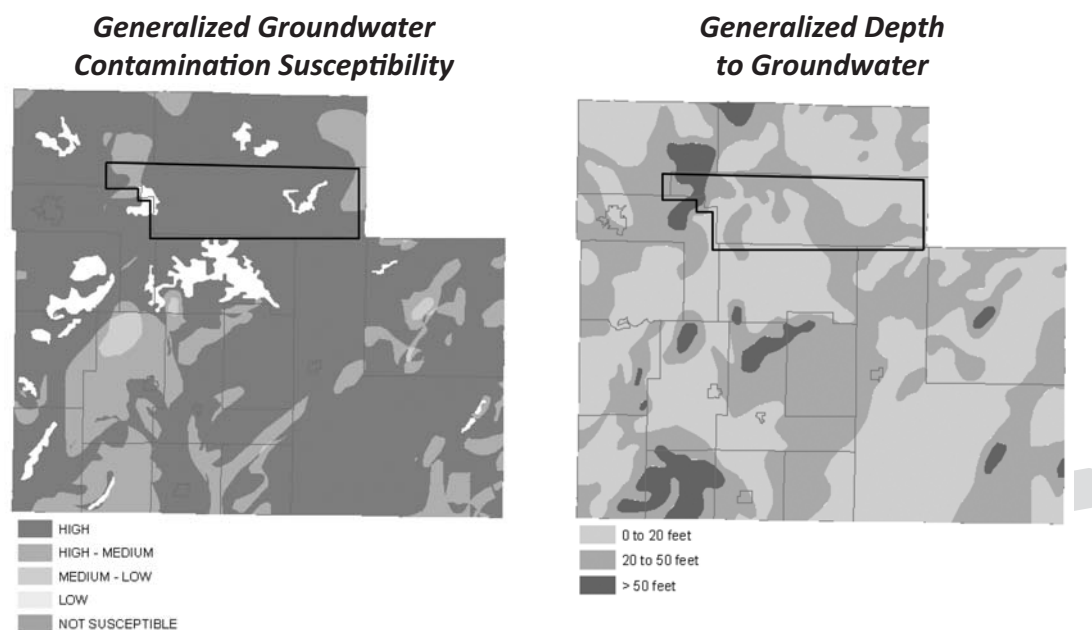
Groundwater

Groundwater is the only source of drinking water in the Town of Round Lake. It is a critical resource, not only because it is used by residents as their source of water, but also because rivers, streams and other surface water depends on it for recharge. Sound planning seeks to preserve both the quality and quantity of groundwater resources.

Groundwater Quality

The quality of natural groundwater varies by location. Groundwater contamination is most likely to occur where fractured bedrock is near the ground surface, or where only a thin layer of soil separates the ground surface from the water table. While naturally occurring groundwater contamination is generally mild, human-induced contaminants can make groundwater supplies unusable. The quality of groundwater can be directly related to land use activities. The application of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and liquid manure, as well as chemical spills, urban runoff and non-point pollution can contribute to decreased quality of groundwater reserves. Susceptibility to groundwater contamination is generally high. Groundwater depths, as represented in **Figure 5.1**, in the Town of Round Lake generally range from 20 to 50 feet, although some areas exceed 50 feet. Five physical resource characteristics were identified as important in determining groundwater contamination susceptibility: bedrock depth, bedrock type, soil characteristics, superficial deposits and water- table depth. Based on these factors, **Figure 5.1** represents overall groundwater contamination susceptibility. Under natural conditions, a balance existed between the volume of water entering an aquifer and the volume of water being discharged from an aquifer. With the development of wells (especially high capacity wells), the natural balance between recharge rates and discharge rates can be disrupted. Natural fluctuations in groundwater supply can occur due to droughts and natural seasonal precipitation.

Figure 5.1: Groundwater Contamination Susceptibility and Depth to Groundwater



Wetlands

The Town of Round Lake boasts a large number of rich wetland areas. Over 24 percent of the land cover is wetlands greater than five acres. The abundance of wetlands in the area is due to the relatively recent glacial movement in the state (the ice age ended about 12,000 years ago), ample precipitation, and the humid climate.

Glaciers formed lake basins by gouging holes in loose soil or soft bedrock, depositing material across stream beds or leaving buried chunks of ice that later melted to leave lake basins. When these natural depressions or impoundments filled with water, they became lakes.

See Water on the Web - <http://wow.nrri.umn.edu/wow/index.html>

Like other natural features such as trees or waterways, there are different wetland categories, each with unique characteristics that support their own ecosystems. There are certain traits, however, that all wetlands share.

- First, they have hydric conditions, meaning they have either standing water of variable depth or have saturated soils.
- Second, wetlands act as a holding area for overflow water. Without this storage capability of wetlands, floodplains throughout the watershed would be at a higher risk of disastrous flooding. See watershed **Maps 5.5** and **5.6**.
- Third, wetlands help keep surrounding water bodies healthy by catching and storing extra particles, both pollutant and nutrient, and acting as groundwater recharge areas.

Because wetlands are home to such a thickness and diversity of plant and animal life, they can absorb and use excess particles, such as nitrogen and phosphorous, that would otherwise end up as pollution in lakes.

Scientists have recently recognized wetlands as important regulators of global climate, especially bogs. The unique traits of a healthy, rich wetland as it relates to the production of greenhouse gasses are beneficial because these wetlands consume large quantities of carbon dioxide (because of the massive amount of plant matter present). Importantly, these wetlands facilitate a much slower decomposition of the material. The net carbon sequestering resulting from these two processes is complex and unpredictable at small levels. However, research shows that if a large amount of the land cover in an area is comprised of wetlands, it acts as a carbon sink, meaning that it traps more carbon than it releases to the atmosphere in the form of greenhouse gasses. <http://dnr.wi.gov/wetlands/function.html>

Wetland types are categorized by attributes such as vegetation, soil type and the degree of water saturation or water depth. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources defines many types of wetlands:

Aquatic Bed: Plants growing entirely on or in a water body no deeper than six feet, with plants including pondweed, duckweed, lotus and water lilies.

Emergent/Wet Meadows: These wetlands may have saturated soils, rather than standing water, more often than not. Sedges, grasses and reeds are dominant, but look also for blue flag iris, marsh milkweed, sneezeweed, mint and several species of goldenrod and aster.

Forested: These areas, which include bogs and forested floodplain complexes, are characterized by trees 20 feet or more in height, such as tamarack, white cedar, black spruce, elm, black ash, green ash and silver maple.

Scrub/Shrub: These areas include bogs and woody shrubs characterized by alder thickets and small trees such as tag alder, bog birch, willow and dogwood.

In addition to the benefits of wetlands described above, wetlands are also home to a sundry of unique plant and animal species. Here is a brief list of some popular species whose populations would significantly decrease or disappear without the habitat provided by wetlands.

Plants	Birds	Mammals	Reptiles	Insects
Cattail	Wren	Mink	Frogs	Beetles
Arrowhead	Crane	Beaver	Snakes	Butterflies
Water Lily	Woodpecker	Mole	Turtles	Dragonfly
Cranberry	Kingfisher	Hare	Salamander	Damselfly
Pitcher Plant	Duck	Otter	Snail	
Mosses	Owl	Bobcat		
Labrador Tea	Hawk	Shrew		
	Oriole			
	Warbler			

<http://dnr.wi.gov/wetlands/>

Sawyer County has recognized the vast environmental and economic benefits of wetlands and has established ordinances restricting construction on and around wetlands. The Shoreland Wetland Protection Ordinance from the Sawyer County Zoning Ordinances says that all buildings and structures on lots that abut wetlands must be set back a minimum of 40 feet from the boundary of a non-navigable wetland and must be set back at least 75 feet from a navigable wetland. The Sawyer County zoning administrator usually determines the navigability of a wetland, although the WDNR has final authority. The entire ordinance can be found at www.sawyercountygov.org/DocumentCenter/View/1974/Shoreland-Wetland-Protection-Ordinance-effective-04-19-17-amended-01-17-19.

Section 17.9 W-1 of the ordinances is the Wetland/Shoreland One District. This applies to wetlands greater than or equal to five acres. This section speaks primarily to issues regarding when and under what circumstances a permit is necessary for activities such as silviculture, pasturing of livestock, maintenance of roads, construction of duck blinds, and construction of preservation institutions such as fish hatcheries.

The town has a total of 18,452.7 acres of wetlands according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources inventory (**Table 5.3**). This total is 24.4 percent of the town, and 11 percent of the county. About two-thirds of these wetlands are under federal or state ownership. **Map 5.7—Surface Waters and Wetlands** shows the wetland types in the Town of Round Lake.

Table 5.3 – Wetland Types, Round Lake	
Type	Acres
Aquatic Bed	308.6
Emergent/wet meadow	1,250.9
Forested	11,560.1
Scrub/shrub	5,333.1
Total	18,452.7

Floodplains

Floodplains are important and valuable natural resources. They provide wildlife habitat, storm water retention, and serve as groundwater recharge areas. Development in these areas may lead to high construction costs, storm damage repairs and environmental degradation. Additional costs and maintenance can include flood proofing, requirements for flood insurance, and water-related repairs to roads, water mains and sewers.

Due to these limitations, the state requires that cities, villages and towns develop a floodplain/shoreland-zoning ordinance to address the issues above. This is located at www.sawyercountygov.org/DocumentCenter/View/1983/Floodplain-Ordinance-7-15-15. Development in these areas is usually allowed, but certain design standards and increased setbacks may be required.

The floodplain is normally defined as those areas that are subject to inundation by the 100-year recurrence interval flood event. This means that in any year there is a one-percent chance that

the area will flood. High-density development in floodplain areas should be discouraged and park and open space encouraged. Floodplain areas generally overlap wetland areas and are located along the various water features. Digital floodplain maps are currently available at www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/floodplains. The Sawyer County Zoning Department also uses regional flood elevation data to determine whether a building footprint would be near or in a suspected floodplain area. For more information regarding floodplains and where they are located, please refer to the county zoning administrator or FEMA's official floodplain maps.

Wild Rice Areas

Wild rice (*Zinna palustrus*) is a natural, annual aquatic grass that produces seed that is a source of food for wildlife and people. The nutty-flavored protein-packed grain has historically been an essential part of the diets of Native Americans throughout the Great Lakes for hundreds of years. Wild rice slowly matures each year from August through September and drops rice seed back into the water unless harvested by wildlife or humans. Seeds on a single stalk reach maturity over a 10-14-day period, with the highest seeds maturing first. Wild rice has very specific habitat requirements that include:

- pH of 6.8-8
- Sulfate concentrations of <10 parts per million
- Alkalinity from 5-250 parts per million
- Rooting depth in 10cm to 1 meter of water
- Slow changes in water levels

Only Wisconsin permanent residents and Native Americans can harvest wild rice in Wisconsin.

Map 5.8—Cultural Resources and Wild Rice Areas shows all of Moose Lake and that portion of the West Fork of the Chippewa River in the Town of Round Lake to be a wild rice area. The total wild rice production of the river begins in Lake Chippewa in Bayfield County and continues to the Chippewa Flowage.

Surface Water Resources

Surface waters are important in maintaining ecological integrity and diversity. The Town of Round Lake has an abundance of surface waters in lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. In all, the town has 140 miles of shoreline, covering approximately 5,780 acres, and 70 miles of rivers and streams. The majority of shoreline can be attributed to: Round Lake, Moose Lake and Tiger Cat Flowage. There are 25 named lakes and flowages, as well as numerous unnamed ponds. There also are 12 named rivers and streams and their tributaries. (see **Table 5.4** and **Map 5.7**).

Table 5.4: Town of Round Lake, Lake Characteristics				
Lake Name	Surface Acres	Max. Depth	Lake Type	Lake Classification (Table 5.5)
Beaver	47.0	20 ft	Seepage	4
Black	129.4	15 ft	Drainage	2
Bulldog Spring	11.1	9 ft	Spring	4
Burd	14.4	6 ft	Seepage	4
Burns	36.8	9 ft	Drainage	2
Callahan/Mud	545.0	16 ft	Drainage	3
Camp Four, East	17	10 ft	Seepage	4
Camp Four, West	27.1	6 ft	Seepage	4
Clear	77.4	32 ft	Seepage	4
Currier	19.3	29 ft	Seepage	4
Davies	20.0	6 ft	Seepage	4
Farnsworth	20.3	25 ft	Seepage	4
Hay Creek Springs	8.4	18 ft	Spring	4
Little Round	243.1	38 ft	Drainage	1
Lovejoy	76.3	20 ft	Seepage	4
McClaine	48.6	15 ft	Drainage	3
Mirror	37.6	27 ft	Seepage	4
Moose	1,601.6	18 ft	Drainage	2
Mosquito Brook Flowage	290	7 ft	Drainage	2
Placid	160.0	30 ft	Drainage	2
Round	2,783.5	70 ft	Drainage	1
Snipe	21.8	7 ft	Seepage	4
Spring	20.5	10 ft	Drainage	4
Teal River Flowage	74.7	9 ft	Drainage	4
Tiger Cat Flowage	224.3	11 ft	Drainage	2

Source: Sawyer County Lakes Classification

Lake Types

Lakes are generally classified into four ecological types, based on their water source and type of outflow.

Seepage lakes are natural lakes fed by precipitation, limited runoff and groundwater. These lakes do not have a stream outlet. These lakes are generally acidic, low in nutrients, and susceptible to acid rain. Within the town, 11 of the named lakes are seepage lakes.

Groundwater drainage lakes (spring lakes) are natural lakes fed by groundwater, precipitation, and limited runoff. These lakes have a stream outlet. These lakes are usually well buffered against acid rain and contain low to moderate amounts of nutrients. Hay Creek Springs and Bull Dog Springs are classified under this type.

Drainage lakes are lakes fed by streams, precipitation, groundwater and runoff, and drained by a stream. In these lakes, the nutrient content is usually high, with water exchange happening quite rapidly. Water quality in these lakes is variable, depending on runoff and human activity in the watershed. In the town, 12 of the named lakes are classified as drainage lakes.

Impoundments (flowages) are manmade lakes created by damming a stream. A stream also drains these lakes. Watershed management is critical for impoundment lakes as the natural movement of the water causes soil and nutrients to collect in the impoundment. In the town, Tiger Cat Flowage, Moose Lake Flowage, Callahan Lake and Mosquito Brook Flowage all utilize dams.

The Department of Natural Resources classifies water bodies as outstanding resource waters (ORW) or exceptional resource waters (ERW) under Chapter NR 102 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. ORWs typically do not have any point sources discharging pollutants directly into the water (for instance, no industrial sources or municipal sewage treatment plants). No increases of pollutant levels are allowed. If a water body has existing point sources at the time of designation, it is more likely to be designated as an ERW. Like ORWs, dischargers to ERW waters are required to maintain background water-quality levels. These waters have outstanding recreational, cultural, aesthetic or scientific resource value, and therefore have special protection from degradation.

Within the Town of Round Lake, Outstanding Water Resources and Exceptional Water Resources include the following waters (**Map 5.7—Surface Waters & Wetlands**).

Outstanding Resource Waters

- Round Lake
- Teal Lake
- West Fork of the Chippewa River
- Teal River Flowage

Exceptional Resource Waters

- Moss Creek

In addition, there are four creeks that are classified as WDNR trout streams. Wisconsin trout streams are placed into three classes for fish management purposes.

- Class 1 – These are high-quality trout waters that have enough natural reproduction to sustain populations of wild trout at or near capacity. These streams do not require stocking and usually contain small or slow-growing trout, especially at the headwaters.
- Class 2 – These streams may have some natural reproduction but not enough to utilize available food and space; therefore, stocking is required to maintain a sport fishery. These streams have good survival and carryover of adult trout, often producing some fish larger than average size.
- Class 3 – These waters have marginal trout habitat with no natural reproduction occurring. They require annual stocking to maintain a sport fishery, with no carry-over of trout from one year to the next.

Classified trout streams in the Town of Round Lake include the following creeks (**Map 5.9—Trout Streams**).

- Moss Creek is designated as a Class 1 trout stream
- Hay and Dead Creeks as Class 2 trout stream
- Venison Creek is classified as a Class 3 trout stream

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires all states to list water bodies that do not meet specific water quality standards under the Clean Water Act. This list is updated every two years, and the results can be searched at <https://dnr.wi.gov/water/impairedSearch.aspx>.

Sawyer County Lake Classification

In 1996, Sawyer County assumed the responsibility of formulating a classification system for all the water bodies in the county. The county felt this was important because surface waters constitute significant environmental and economical (recreational) resources to the area. Lakes are divided up into categories. Rivers and streams are another category. Each is based on specific criteria, such as surface area, lake depth, lake type, watershed area, shoreline development factor and amount of existing development. Based on these lakes and rivers classifications, each has specific building and lot standards. Class 1 lakes (minimum protection) have the smallest lot sizes and side yard setbacks, whereas Class 4 has the largest setbacks and lot sizes. **Table 5.5** shows the dimensional requirements for each class.

Classification	Lot Size (Square Feet)	For each Single Family Dwelling Unit - Lot Width (Feet)	Shoreline Setback (Feet)	Lot Depth (Feet)	Vegetation Removal	Side Yard Setback for all Structures
General Development 1	20,000	100 *200	75	200	30' corridor within 35' of the ordinary high-water mark	10' minimum - 40' minimum total
Recreational Development 2	30,000	150 *300	75	200	30' corridor within 35' of the ordinary high-water mark	20' minimum - 50' minimum total
Natural Development 3	40,000	200 *400	75	200	30' corridor within 35' of the ordinary high-water mark	30' minimum - 60' minimum total
Wilderness Development 4	217,800 (5 acres)	300 *600	100	500	30' corridor within 75' of the ordinary high-water mark	60' minimum - 120' minimum total
Rivers and Streams	30,000	150	75	200	30' corridor within 35' of ordinary high-water mark	20' minimum - 50' minimum total

Source: Sawyer County zoning ordinance. *Note: Two family dwelling/duplex.

Lake Data

The following section provides a brief overview of the surface water quality in the Town of Round Lake. Many factors affect water quality of an area, including adjacent land uses (agricultural, residential and commercial development), recreational use of the water body, and physical characteristics of the lake and surrounding area (steep slopes, small lake or watershed, or type of lake). This section examines different water-quality characteristics and how they relate to the water quality of the town.

Background and Existing Data

There has been a moderate amount of background data in the past documenting water quality in Sawyer County and the Town of Round Lake. The first statewide effort to collect water-quality data occurred in the 60's and 70's when the WDNR tested most of the lakes and streams to complete a statewide inventory. The WDNR published "The Surface Water Resources of Sawyer County" in 1969 as part of this initiative. More recently, however, there have been other reports detailing water quality in the area. In 1996, the WDNR published The Upper Chippewa Basin Water Quality Management Plan to address the concerns facing the basin. This plan broke down the basin into watersheds and developed specific recommendations unique to that area. The plan also lists lake and stream data, as well as maps of each watershed. The WDNR is in the process of updating this plan, which will be called "The State of the Upper Chippewa Basin." The WDNR manages the self-help lake-monitoring program that allows residents of lake areas to get involved collecting data on their lake. These data have helped the WDNR keep and update valuable information in documenting changes in Wisconsin's lakes. Many of the lakes in the town have been part of this effort. The county has also completed a Land and Water Resource Management Plan covering the years 2017-2026.

The previous inventory is by no means an inclusive list of the studies and reports of water quality in the area. Many other regional and state reports are available that list both ground- and surface-water quality.

Physical Characteristics of Lakes

Many different chemical and physical characteristics combine to make up the water quality of a lake.

*Phosphorus—An essential nutrient for algae and plant growth. Human activities can lead to high phosphorus levels, which may cause lakes to experience algae blooms, and to become weed choked.

*Nitrogen—The second most important nutrient for algae and plant growth. Local land uses can elevate nitrogen levels and produce unwanted algae blooms and excessive weed growth.

*Oxygen—Most aquatic species require dissolved oxygen to survive. Shallow lakes in Wisconsin may experience oxygen depletion in winter (winterkill). In the Town of Round Lake, at least nine of the lakes experience winterkills along with many of the small unnamed lakes.

*pH/Acidity–pH is a measure of the hydrogen-ion concentration in lakes. A pH of less than 7 is considered acidic; a pH of 7 is neutral and a pH of greater than 7 is alkaline. Wisconsin lakes can vary from a pH of 4.5 in acid bogs to 8.4 in hard water, marl lakes.

*Alkalinity/Hardness–Closely related to pH is alkalinity and hardness. Hard water lakes tend to produce more fish and aquatic plants than soft water lakes.

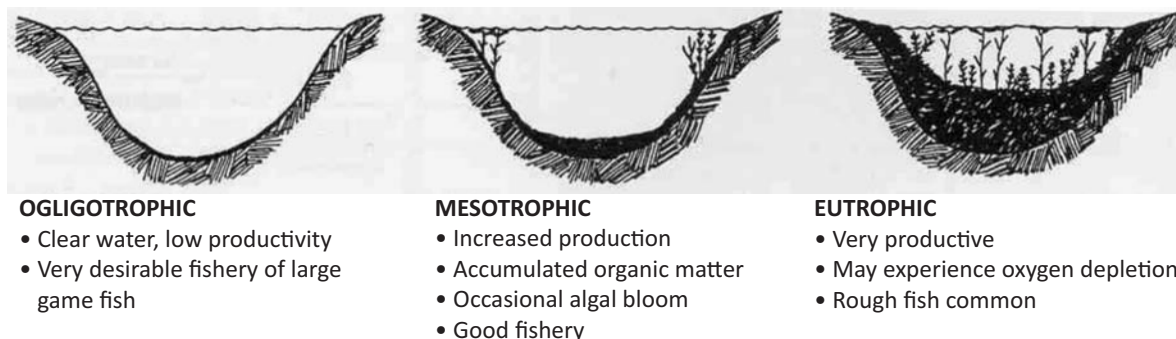
*Water Clarity–Water clarity is not a chemical but a physical property and is based on two main components: true color (materials dissolved in the water) and turbidity (particles suspended in the water). The color of a lake is dependent upon the type and amount of dissolved organic chemicals it contains. Many lakes contain natural tan-colored compounds (humic and tannic acids) that can color the water. Within the Town of Round Lake, watercolor ranges from very clear (Round Lake) to very stained (Moose Lake).

*Turbidity is caused by suspended particles in the water, which can affect the depth at which plants can grow. Runoff can greatly increase turbidity and affect overall water quality. Turbidity can also vary widely with seasonal differences.

*Trophic state is another indicator of water quality. Lakes are divided into three categories based on their trophic state (**Figure 5.2**), which looks at the nutrient and productivity of the lake. A natural aging process occurs in all lakes, but human activities generally speed up this process by allowing excess nutrients into the water (especially phosphorus and nitrogen) through agricultural activities, and the use of lawn fertilizers and large impervious surfaces such as streets and driveways. The Trophic Status Index (TSI) numbers provide general indicators of a lake's trophic class. These numbers are calculated through three water-quality characteristics:

- Total phosphorus (important for algae growth)
- Chlorophyll A concentration (a measure of existing algae in a lake)
- Secchi disk readings (indicates water clarity)

Figure 5.2 - Aging Process in Lakes



Data Needs

The most common need among Wisconsin communities is the presence of up-to-date, basic water-quality data. This is needed to determine current trends in water quality. Appropriate measures can be applied to reduce developmental impacts. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has developed a long-term monitoring program. At a minimum, the WDNR

recommends testing phosphorus five times a year (once during spring turnover), Secchi disk as much as possible (at least five times a year), and chlorophyll four times a year. This will create enough information to allow a TSI to be developed and will produce a baseline structure for future monitoring. Other data the WDNR recommends include water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, fish surveys, macrophyte, phytoplankton, zooplankton and macro invertebrate surveys.

Viewsheds and Scenic Resources

Viewsheds, scenic and natural beauty resources are locally significant and aesthetically pleasing. These areas are visible from a variety of venues, such as walking or driving for pleasure, specific views from water-access points and scenic views from all public trust waters and their shorelines. As development has increased, these viewsheds have been, and continue to be, impacted. These impacts can be somewhat mitigated by employing good design principles and thoughtful development practices. It is important to the overall community that the preservation of the Town of Round Lake's Northwoods character and atmosphere be sustained when existing facilities are remodeled, and new facilities are proposed.

Dark Skies

Nighttime lighting when designed and applied properly has become a necessary part of our society to reduce unnecessary light pollution in the night sky. Appropriate nighttime illumination can greatly enhance a given area without causing compromise to either safety, the view of the night sky, or flora and fauna in the surrounding areas.

Table 5.6: Forest Acres		
	Acres	Percent
Town Forest	214.3	0.3%
County Forest	2748.8	4.2%
State Forest	385.5	0.6%
Federal Forest	34388.9	53.0%
Private Forest	22845.9	35.2%
Managed Private Forest	4290.3	6.6%
Total Forest	64,873.7	100.0%



Source: NWRPC GIS Analysis

Forests

Forests offer the most defining characteristics of northern Wisconsin and the Town of Round Lake. This resource represents significant cultural, social, environmental and economic assets for citizens and communities. Forests provide a range of benefits, including wildlife habitat, forest products, recreational opportunities, aesthetics and other benefits. According to existing (2019) land use data, approximately 61,440 acres (80%) of land in Round Lake are currently managed by some type of forestry (**Table 5.6** and **Map 5.10—Forestry Related Land Uses**). This is a 3,434 acre decrease from 2009. (Town of Round Lake encompasses 76,800 acres).

Some of the privately-owned forested lands are enrolled in the state's Forest Crop or Managed Forest programs (**Map 5.11-Land Ownership**), which give tax incentives to the landowners for properly managing their lands in exchange for public access. The Managed Forest Program replaced the Forest Crop Program in 1986. Owners of forestland enrolled in the Forest Crop Program must allow public access for fishing and hunting activities. Under the newer Managed Forest Program, in addition to hunting and fishing, private landowners may allow public access for cross-country skiing, sightseeing and hiking. <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/forestry/ftax/>

Chief River Wildlife Area

Located about 12 miles east of Hayward in the Town of Round Lake, Chief River Wildlife Area is a State-owned property containing approximately 1,100 acres. Chief River Road bisects the property. All Wildlife Areas in Wisconsin, supported by tax revenues on hunting supplies, are open to a full range of traditional outdoor recreational uses. These include hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, nature study, and berry picking.



Chief River Wildlife Area 10-20-09

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

One of the most important natural resources in the Town of Round Lake is the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF), provides many recreational and timber management opportunities for residents, tourists and businesses and is managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

History

The following excerpts are taken from "The History of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest"

The CNNF has approximately 1,519,800 acres of land in 11 northern Wisconsin counties and was initially two separate national forests, the Chequamegon (858,400 acres) and Nicolet (661,400 acres) National Forests. The two national forests were established in 1933 by a Congressional proclamation and were managed separately until 1993 when management of the two forests

was combined. In 1998, the Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forests were officially combined, and a single entity known as the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest emerged.

The creation of the two national forests was initially driven by activities undertaken during America's Great Depression. With the creation of the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Forest Service undertook a massive effort to reforest what had been timberland that had been over-cut and over-farmed. Much of the land ended up in the hands of the county, as immigrant farmers were unable to afford the taxes on these lands, and consequently abandoned or forfeited these properties. In turn, the counties often sold these lands to the federal government in order to shed non-producing tax-delinquent properties from the tax rolls. The accumulation of these lands by the federal government eventually led to the establishment of the two national forests. The reforestation and planting work done by the CCC was instrumental in the development of new forest growth, which is today being managed to increase the diversity of tree species throughout the national forest area. Tree stock in the national forest is relatively the same age as a result of the over-cutting that was done during the late 1880's to the mid 1930's.

More detailed history of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest can be found in a PDF document entitled "The History of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest." This PDF file link can be found at the <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/general/history/index.html> web page.

Ecological Description of the Chequamegon Portion of the National Forest

The Wisconsin North Central Forest has been designated as an ecological landscape "Legacy Place" in the Wisconsin Land Legacy Report compiled by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in 2006. In its description, the report states that the conservation significance and recreation potential of the national forest are at the highest levels awarded by the study. http://dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/land_legacy/report.html

While the Chequamegon and Nicolet portions of the national forest are similar in geologic origin and forest cover, there are some notable features unique to each. The Chequamegon region, in which the Town of Round Lake is located, contains a portion of the Penoque-Gogebic Range, noted for its steep topography and relatively contiguous northern hardwood forest cover, which provides interior forest habitat for species that require large extensive forests.

The 2004 Chequamegon-Nicolet Forest Plan

In 2004, the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service developed a forest plan that set forest-wide goals and objectives for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Forest goals are broad statements describing conditions the forests will try to achieve. The goals are not amenable to direct measurement and have no specific time frames for achieving them. Objectives on the other hand refer to time-specific statements of planned results or outcomes responding to the established goals.

The 2004 Chequamegon-Nicolet Forest Plan can be found on the Chequamegon-Nicolet Forest Service web site: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/natres/final_forest_plan/lmp2004/index.html

Timber Resources

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest contains 123,805 acres of land within Sawyer County. Although acreage amounts for specific timber species management are not available, general descriptions of the types of forest are available on the “Selected Alternative Management Areas” map that was included in the Final Environmental Impact Statement report completed by the U.S. Forest Service in November 2008. The following are timber species being managed by the National Forest in Sawyer County municipalities:

Town of Round Lake

Early successional aspen, uneven-aged northern hardwoods, and old-growth forest.

Town of Spider Lake

Early successional aspen, early successional mixed aspen-conifer, even-aged hardwoods – oak/pine, and conifer – red/white/jack pine.

Town of Hunter

Uneven-aged northern hardwoods: hardwood-early successional.

Town of Draper

Early successional aspen-hardwood, areas of no vegetative management, and special management areas.

Town of Winter

Early successional aspen, Uneven-aged northern hardwoods: hardwood-early successional, old-growth forests.

Different areas of the forest are being managed in a manner intended to create healthier forest ecosystems, so that a variety of wildlife, flora and fauna can flourish.

Timber Harvesting

The U.S. Forest Service, as a goal in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Plan, plans to contribute toward satisfying demand for wood products and special forest products through environmentally responsible harvest on National Forest System lands. Their objective is to ensure that harvest levels of special forest products are within sustainable levels.

In the past, local forest harvesters and Forest Service officials have shown frustration over the limited amount of timber harvested within the national forest due to various litigations. The quantity (usually expressed as the average, annual allowable sale quantity) of timber that could be sold from the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest is estimated at 102 million board feet for 2019. However, the actual sale in 2018 was 128.7mbf and in 2017 120.5mbf. This represents a substantial increase from a previous high level of 72.5mbf in 1999 with a value of \$7,645,687. (Source: US Forest Service and Sawyer County)

Wildlife and Fish Species

An abundance of wildlife can be found in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Typical mammals found in relative abundance include whitetail deer, black bear, coyotes, red and gray fox, river otters, beavers and porcupines. Other species that exist in smaller numbers include the timber wolf, pine martens, fishers, bobcats, elk and cougars.

Many fish species can be found in lakes and streams within the national forest. Some are naturally reproducing populations and others are stocked to maintain viability. Common species in the region include walleye, northern, musky, brook trout, brown trout, large and smallmouth bass, bluegills, black crappies, yellow perch and suckers.

Birds of prey can also be found in the Chequamegon-Nicolet Forest area at particular times and including the peregrine falcon, snowy owl, American kestrel, great gray owl, bald eagle, osprey, great horned owl, and the red-tailed hawk; other bird species are present that provide ample opportunities for bird watching. The various species are not necessarily present throughout the entire range of the national forest but are located in those areas providing the best habitat for their particular species.

(Source: Northern Wisconsin All-outdoors Atlas and Field Guide, 2007)

Management Indicator Species

Several management indicator species such as timber wolves, martens, bald eagles and elk, among others, have been reintroduced or have been targeted for restoration in the national forest and are now establishing populations. Examples and updates of these reintroductions are based on the 2007 Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Monitoring and Evaluation Report.

Bald Eagle

“The bald eagle has recovered in the state of Wisconsin far beyond its recovery goals. In 1978, a goal of 360 nesting pairs was set. This goal was achieved in 1991, and bald eagles continue to increase in numbers. The bald eagle has also been removed from the endangered species list as of July 9, 2007.”

American Marten

This species was reintroduced into the area in the recent past (1980’s-1990) and have dispersed little since that time. The Forest Service continues to work on determining what the important habitat features are for maintaining marten viability in the region.

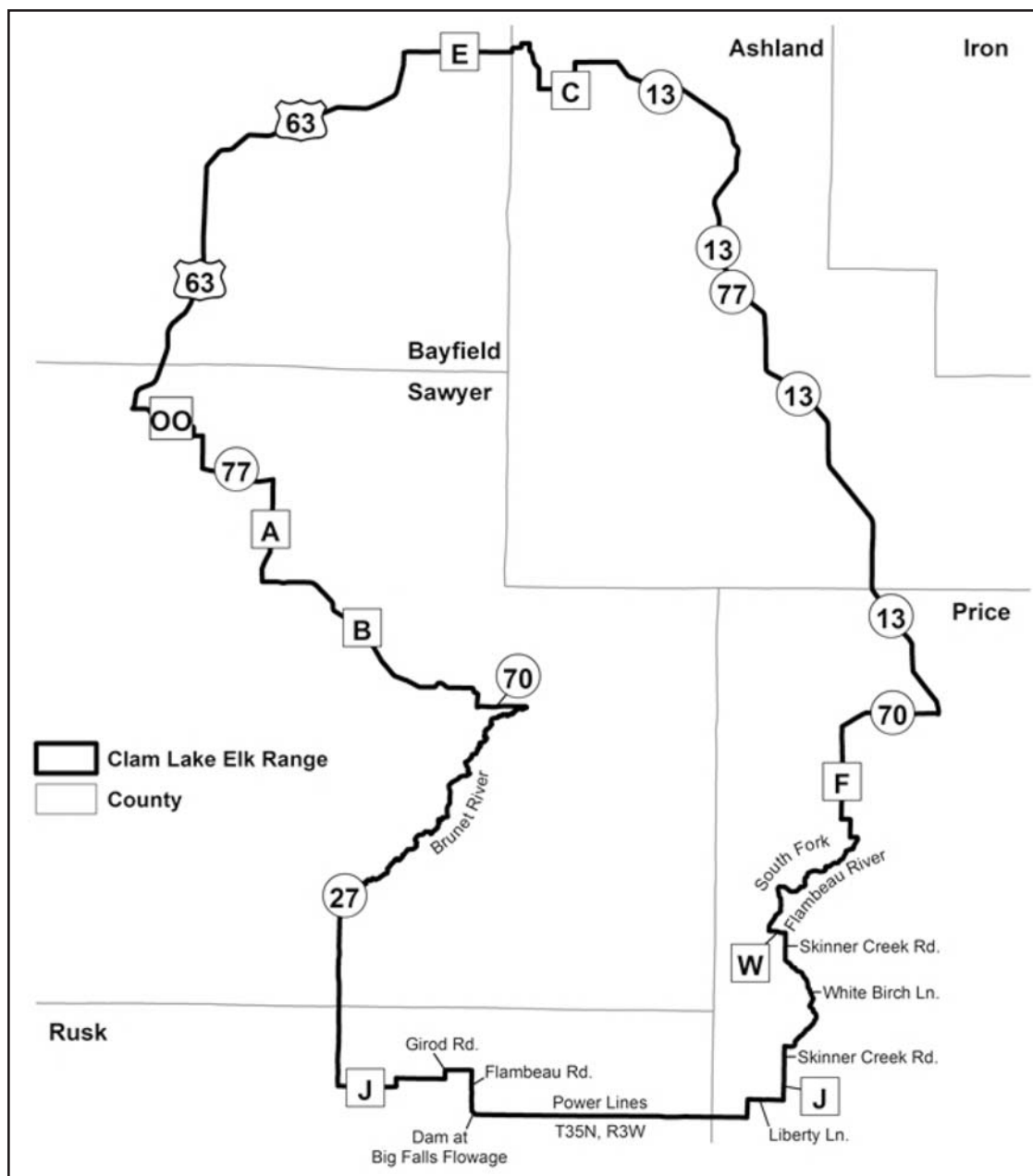
Rocky Mountain Elk

In 1993, the Wisconsin State Legislature authorized the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UW-SP) to evaluate the potential for reintroducing elk to the Great Divide District (GDD) of the Chequamegon National Forest (CNF) near Clam Lake. In the winter of 1994-1995, 25 elk were captured from Michigan’s lower peninsula. After an acclimation period and health testing, the elk were brought to Wisconsin in May 1995. The core area of release was in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest near Clam Lake, at the confluence of Ashland, Bayfield and Sawyer counties. The core area lies entirely within the Great Divide Ranger District of the national forest. Management responsibility of the herd was transferred from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in May 1999. The long-term goal is to expand the Clam Lake herd to 1400 elk—about one to two elk per square mile of elk habitat. Much of the present elk habitat lies within Sawyer County and elk sightings are possible, particularly in open areas during the fall mating season. (In 2015-2016, 73 elk were released in Jackson County at the Black River State Forest, and in 2017, 31 elk were released in the Flambeau River State Forest near Winter.)

According to WDNR, the elk herd in 2008 numbered 146 elk. In March 2018, the Clam Lake herd measured 185 and the Black River herd 55. Many groups and organizations are active in the elk-restoration project, and many different management projects are ongoing. Such groups as the WDNR, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest office, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, University of Wisconsin researchers, and the Bands of Lake Superior Ojibwa have all been participants in making this project a success. Even though the understood management strategy was that hunting would not be considered until the herd could sustain a hunt, the first hunting season in Wisconsin was in the fall of 2018 with 10 tags auctioned for a 39-day hunt restricted to the Clam Lake herd. Nine bulls were harvested. The final installation of adding new members to the elk from a herd in Kentucky was completed in 2019. The map (**Figure 5.3**) from the Wisconsin DNR depicts the elk range in the Chequamegon Forest, and Map 5.12 of the Elk and Wolf Range depicts the elk range (core in red and buffer in green) and the wolf territories and pack names. Additional information on the elk herd can be found on the WDNR web site. http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/Elk/Latest_CL_Update.htm.



Figure 5.3: Clam Lake Elk Range



Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 2017

Gray wolf

The gray wolf population throughout northern Wisconsin has been increasing steadily since 1993. A minimum count over winter 2006-2007 consisted of 540 to 577 wolves. As a result of this increase in numbers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed the gray wolf from the Federal Endangered Species List on March 12, 2007. On September 29, 2008, a district judge in Washington, D.C ruled that grey wolves in the Western Great Lake Region (including Wisconsin) were to be returned to the List. This means that landowners do not have the right to shoot

wolves in the act of attacking pets or livestock on their property. Reimbursement for wolf losses may be possible, and USDA-Wildlife Services will still be available to investigate depredations (1-800-228-1368 in northern Wisconsin and 1-800-433-0663 in southern and central Wisconsin). Wildlife Services can also give advice and assist in nonlethal means to discourage wolves. This listing status also limits the state of Wisconsin's ability to manage a wolf harvest season. In the winter of 2015-2016, there were 866-897 animals in 222 packs over the entire state, a 16% increase from the previous year. In northern Wisconsin alone, there were 701 wolves in the winter of 2017-2018. **Map 5.12**—Elk and Wolf Range also illustrates 2008 wolf territories and pack names for Round Lake and surrounding area.



Vulnerable and Sensitive Natural and Cultural Resources

Taken together, natural and cultural resources consisting of water, vegetation, geology, wildlife, historic places and sites, scenic by-ways, rustic roads and parks represent environmentally sensitive areas. (See **Table 5.7**: Vulnerable and Sensitive Natural and Cultural Resources and **Map 5.12**—Sensitive Natural and Cultural Resources) These environmentally and culturally vulnerable and sensitive areas deserve and, in some cases, require special consideration. Many of these resources are managed, regulated or owned by various federal, state, county or town entities. Individually, all these resources are important areas, or “rooms” of natural and cultural activity. They become even more functional when they can be linked together by environmental and recreational corridors. Wildlife, plants, and waterways all depend on the ability to move freely within these corridors. Currently, neither the Town of Round Lake nor Sawyer County has established an environmental corridor definition. (see “The Definition and mapping of Environmental Corridors by three Regional Planning Commissions” by Matthew D. Murrell in Research Management Findings, Number 47, January 2003, Bureau of Integrated Services, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources). The sensitive management and protection of these areas and corridors is intended to 1) protect the health, safety and welfare of the general public, 2) protect water, vegetation, geologic features, wildlife habitats and cultural qualities, 3) reduce damage from flooding and storm water, and 4) maintain and enhance the town's diverse

outdoor-recreational opportunities. **Map 5.12**—Sensitive Natural and Cultural Resources depicts some of the environmentally sensitive areas and cultural areas important to the town. **Table 5.7** has been developed to assist in identifying natural and cultural resources and is not all-inclusive of resources within the town. Additionally, there are other maps in the plan representing wildlife and sensitive areas.

Table 5.7: Vulnerable and Sensitive Natural & Cultural Resources		
Type of Sensitive Resource & Selected Variables	Authoritative Source	Map or Document Source
WATER		
Outstanding & Exceptional Waters	WDNR	Map 5.7 Surface Waters & Wetlands, Chap. 5, Pgs. 5-11
Wilderness Lakes	SCZD	Chap. 5, Pgs. 5-12
Other Public Trust Waters	WDNR	Map 5.7 Surface Waters & Wetlands, Table 5.4, Chap. 5, Pgs. 5-10
VEGETATION		
Wetlands	WDNR	Map 5.7 Surface Waters & Wetlands, Chap. 5, Pgs. 5-8
Wild Rice	WDNR	Map 5.8 Cultural Resources & Wild Rice Areas, Chap. 5, Pgs. 5-9
Threatened & Endangered Plants	WDNR	Map 5.13 Sensitive Natural & Cultural Resources, Map 5.14 Natural Heritage Inventory, Chap. 5, Pgs. 5-24
Ecological Landscapes	WDNR	"Wisconsin Land Legacy Report" Pgs. 78-81
GEOLOGY		
Steep Slopes (10% or greater)	USGS	Map 5.4 Topography & Steep Slope, Chap. 5, Pgs. 5-24
Floodplains (100 yr)	FEMA	FEMA Floodplain Maps, Chap. 5, Pgs. 5-9
Undeveloped Islands	NWRPC	Map 8.1 Existing Land Use
WILDLIFE		
Elk Habitat	WDNR	Map 5.12 Elk & Wolf Range
Wolf Habitat	WDNR	Map 5.12 Elk & Wolf Range
Trout Streams	WDNR	Map 5.9 Trout Streams
Threatened & Endangered Animals	WDNR	Map 5.14 Natural Heritage Inventory, Chap. 5, Pgs. 5-24
Fish Sanctuary	WDNR	Map 5.7 Surface Water and Wetlands
CULTURAL		
Historic Sites	WHS	Map 5.8 Cultural Resources & Wild Rice Areas, Chap. 5, Pgs. 5-34
Scenic By-ways	USFS	Chequamegon National Forest Master Plan
Rustic Roads	WisDOT	Map 3.1 Transportation, Chap. 3, Pgs. 12-13
Bike Routes, Tours, Trails and other recreation	Town of Round Lake	Map 3.2 Bike Routes, Map 3.3 Recreation, Chap. 3, Pgs. 3-13

Threatened and Endangered Species

While the conservation of plants, animals and their habitat should be considered for all species, this is particularly important for rare or declining species. The presence of one or more rare species and natural communities in an area can be an indication of an area's ecological importance and should prompt attention to conservation and restoration needs. Protection of such species is a valuable and vital component of sustaining biodiversity.

Both the state and federal governments prepare their own separate lists of such plant and animal species but do so working in cooperation with one another. The WDNR's Endangered Resources Bureau monitors endangered, threatened, and special-concern species, and maintains the state's Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) database. The NHI maintains data on the locations and status of rare species in Wisconsin, and these data are exempt from the open-records law due to their sensitive nature. According to the Wisconsin Endangered Species Law it is illegal to:

1. Take, transport, possess, process or sell any wild animal that is included on the Wisconsin Endangered and Threatened Species List.
2. Process or sell any wild plant that is a listed species.
3. Cut, root up, sever, injure, destroy, remove, transport or carry away a listed plant on public lands or lands a person does not own, lease or have the permission of the landowner.

There are exemptions to the plant protection on public lands for forestry, agriculture and utility activities. In some cases, a person can conduct the above activities if permitted under a department permit (i.e. "Scientific Take" permit or an "Incidental Take" permit). **Table 5.7** lists those elements contained in the NHI inventory for the Town of Round Lake. These elements represent "known" occurrence and additional rare species. These habitats may occur in other locations but are not recorded within the NHI database. For a full list of elements known to occur in Sawyer County and Wisconsin, visit the WDNR's Endangered Resources Bureau. **Map 5.14—Natural Heritage Inventory** displays the location of aquatic and terrestrial information based on visual occurrences by Town/Range Section within Sawyer County.



- Endangered Species—one whose continued existence is in jeopardy and may become extinct.
- Threatened Species—one that is likely, within the foreseeable future, to become endangered.
- Special Concern Species—one about which some problem of abundance or distribution is suspected but not proven.

Table 5.8: Natural Heritage Inventory Data, Town of Round Lake		
Group	Common Name	State Status
Plant	Little Goblin Moonwort	END
Mammal	Gray Wolf	SC/P
Plant	Sparse-flowered Sedge	SC
Community	Ephemeral Pond	NA
Bird	Bald Eagle	SC/P
Mammal	American Martin	END
Community	Mesic Cedar Forest	NA
Community	Northern Sedge Meadow	NA
Community	Northern Wet Forest	NA
Community	Shrub-carr	NA
Fish	Lake Sturgeon	SC/H
Plant	Mingan's Moowort	SC
Plant	Fairy Slipper	THR
Fish	Least Darter	SC/N
Fish	Longear Sunfish	THR
Community	Northern Wet-mesic Forest	NA
Plant	Northern Black Current	SC
Bird	Black Tern	SC/M
Dragonfly	Pronghorned Clubtail	SC/N
Community	Spring Pond	NA
Plant	Mountain Cranberry	END
Mussel	Elktoe	SC/H
Fish	Greater Redhorse	THR
Community	Springs and Spring Runs, Hard	NA
Bird	Barn Owl	END

Source: WDNR Natural Heritage Inventory, 7/22/2008

END = endangered; THR = threatened; SC =Special Concern.Special Concern species are those species about which some problem of abundance or distribution is suspected but not yet proved. The main purpose of this category is to focus attention on certain species before they become threatened or endangered.

SC/P = fully protected; SC/N = no laws regulating use, possession, or harvesting; SC/H = take regulated by establishment of open closed seasons; SC/FL = federally protected as endangered or threatened, but not so designated by WDNR; SC/M = fully protected by federal and state laws under the Migratory Bird Act. NA = Not Applicable

Wildlife Resources

Wildlife and the habitat that supports wildlife are vital components of the community natural resource base. The health and abundance of these resources is intimately linked to nearly all other facets of community development. As part of the planning process, it is important for the community to recognize the significance of these resources and to strive to protect and enhance them. Wildlife resources are important components of natural ecological processes.

These resources are also important from a recreation standpoint, by providing opportunities for viewing and hunting. Local revenue generated by expenditures related to wildlife is important to the local economy. Finally, wildlife resources are important cultural and spiritual resources, promoting sanctity, health and wellbeing.



There are three primary issues of concern related to wildlife habitat planning: fragmentation, invasive/exotic species and pollution. Fragmentation is the breaking up of large contiguous tracts of habitat into smaller pieces. Fragmentation increases the amount of linear edge areas. These areas favor species that prefer edge habitat such as whitetail deer and ruffed grouse. An increased amount of edge habitat is accompanied by a variety of negative impacts including increased predation/competition among species and increased range expansion of exotic species. Heavy browsing by an expanding population of whitetail deer can alter the types of plant species that grow in some areas. As a result, some desirable or rare plant species may become threatened. Deer are thriving in many parts of Wisconsin because humans have created large amounts of edge habitat. Core species such as wolves and interior songbirds can be negatively impacted by the loss of interior habitat. Much of the land area within the Town of Round Lake can be classified as wildlife habitat. Diverse habitats are found within the town, including forests, wetlands, water and open areas located on both public and private lands.

Exotic/Invasive Species

Invasive/exotic species pose serious threats to indigenous species. Once established, exotics can decimate native species by out competing them for food and/or habitat. Because exotics are not part of the native ecosystem, they often have no natural (local) predators, thus may become prolific once established. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources lists many types of plant and animal invasive species (<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/animals.asp> and <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/plants.asp>). Exotic species of concern for Sawyer County include to following.

- **Eurasian watermilfoil:** a submersed aquatic plant that can grow into dense stands inhibiting recreational uses like swimming, boating and fishing. This species is currently known to exist in at least five lakes in Sawyer County.
- **Curly pondweed:** a perennial submersed aquatic that forms surface mats that interfere with

aquatic recreation. At the present time, there are known occurrences of this species in adjacent counties.

- **Purple loosestrife:** Purple loosestrife is a perennial herb three to seven feet tall with a dense bushy growth of one to 50 stems. This species displaces native wetland vegetation and degrades wildlife habitat. By 1997, the western part of Sawyer County was lightly to moderately infected with purple loosestrife.
- **Rusty Crayfish:** This aggressive invader destroys aquatic plants. There is not a tracking program for rusty crayfish in the state, but at least 100 lakes and streams in northern Wisconsin are infested.
- **Gypsy Moth:** This species is among the most devastating of forest pests. The gypsy moth is a defoliating insect that feeds on the leaves of many tree species. This exotic has not yet established itself within Sawyer County. Gypsy moths are gradually making an eastward progression and are currently established throughout much of eastern Wisconsin.
- **Emerald Ash Borer:** This is an invasive, wood-boring beetle that attacks ash trees. All ash species in Wisconsin are vulnerable to the Emerald Ash Borer, including white, green, black and blue ash. Mountain ash (*Sorbus* spp.) is not a true ash and is not affected. While first identified in Wisconsin in 2008, the emerald ash borer is not found in Sawyer County.
- **Cattails:** The broad and narrow-leaf cattails have tremendous capacity to grow, spread and become invasive. The broad-leaf cattail grows in moist soil up to a meter deep. The narrow-leaf cattail grows in disturbed sites with brackish water up to .5 meters and deeper. Cattails, because they are aggressive, can squeeze out other types of macrophytes, including wild rice.
- **Zebra Mussels:** The zebra mussel is a tiny (1/8-inch to 2-inch) bottom-dwelling clam native to Europe and Asia. First identified in the United States in the Great Lakes in 1985 or 1986, the mussel has now been found in inland lakes in Wisconsin, but none in Sawyer County. Once zebra mussels are established in a water body, very little can be done to control them.
- **Spiny Water Flea:** Pieter Johnson, Limnology Center researcher, knew that the spiny water flea (*Bythotrephes cederstroemi*) has existed in the Great Lakes since the early 1990s. The spiny water flea is a large (about 1/4 to 1/2 inch long) freshwater zooplankton native to northern Europe and the Caspian Sea. It likely arrived in North America in ballast water. During a 64-lake survey in 2003, Johnson found the invader in the Gile Flowage, an impoundment in Iron County. "Spiny water fleas are nasty; they eat the smaller forms of zooplankton that fish depend on and they are tough for fish to eat because their barbed terminal spines are sharp enough to puncture the lining of the fish stomach," Johnson says. "They can knock out a food supply and are potentially fatal to fish." In an effort to prevent spiny water fleas from spreading to other Wisconsin lakes, Johnson is working with the Department of Natural Resources to educate boaters that these fleas can be transported in live wells, bilge water, and the eggs can become attached to fishing tackle, anchor lines and mud on boats and anchors. Informational fliers advising lake users of the potential spread of spiny water fleas have been posted at each of Gile Flowage's boat landings and in local bait and boating stores.

Metallic and Non-Metallic Mineral Resources

Mineral resources are divided into two categories, metallic and non-metallic resources. Metallic minerals occur in rare, naturally formed concentrations known as mineral deposits. These deposits can consist of a variety of metallic minerals containing valuable metals such as nickel (pentlandite), copper (chalcopyrite), zinc (sphalerite), lead (galena), gold, and vanadium. Vanadium is a nonferrous metal that is rare in nature but useful to strengthen steel or titanium. One of its largest deposits in North America is in Sawyer County. The DNR is the state agency with primary responsibility for regulating environmental aspects of metallic mining activities. <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/mines/metallic.html>

Presently, there are no metallic mineral mines in Round Lake. On June 21, 2018, the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors passed the Metallic Mineral Exploration, Prospecting, Bulk Sampling, Mining and Reclamation Ordinance 2018-01-Zoning. The entire document is found at <https://www.sawyercountygov.org/DocumentCenter/View/1705/2018-01-Mining-Ordinance>. Also, Sawyer County Zoning ordinance was amended such that metallic mineral exploration, prospecting and bulk sampling shall be permitted in I-1 Industrial One District only. Non-metallic resources include stone, sand, gravel, rock, limestone, or similar material from natural deposits. The most common examples of nonmetallic mines are quarries and pits. County and local zoning bodies are responsible for all mine siting requirements and regulation as well as regulating mine operations other than reclamation activities. This document is found at <https://www.sawyercountygov.org/DocumentCenter/View/1832/Non-Metallic-Mining-Ordinance-May-21-2015?bidId=>. The DNR Storm Water Management Program may require mine operations to have Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permits. Some mining operations will need to obtain air permits from the DNR Air Management Program as well. <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/mines/nonmetallic.html>

In June of 2001, all Wisconsin counties were obliged to adopt an ordinance for non-metallic mine reclamation. Sawyer County's Zoning Ordinance, Section 6.0 Regulation of Special Uses, includes regulations dealing with metallic and non-metallic mineral resource development and closure. The purpose of the ordinance is to achieve acceptable final site reclamation to an approved post-mining land use in compliance with uniform reclamation standards. Uniform reclamation standards address environmental protection measures including topsoil salvage and storage, surface and groundwater protection, and concurrent reclamation to minimize acreage exposed to wind and water erosion. After reclamation, many quarries become possible sites for small lakes. Identification of quarry operations is necessary in order to minimize nuisance complaints by neighbors, and to identify areas that may have additional transportation needs related to trucking. There are eight non-metallic sites within the Town of Round Lake.

Cultural Resources

People have been living in this area with hunting, fishing, farming and forestry playing a central role in their lives. The story of agriculture, resource use and land stewardship are preserved in archaeological sites, buildings, landscapes, written accounts, photographs, governmental records, and in the thoughts and ideas people remember and pass along by word of mouth.

Land use planning and land use decisions will directly impact archaeological sites, historic buildings and cemeteries.

Archaeological sites include places where people lived, where they worked and where they worshiped. These sites were made by the people who lived at the village, farm, or logging camp located just down the road. Archaeological sites occur figuratively and literally under our feet. Archaeology is well suited for providing important information about the lives of people who are not well represented in the written record. Archaeological sites are non-renewable resources and once a site is destroyed, either by natural or human-related activities, it cannot be reclaimed. Cultural sites and features are important community resources documenting a community's rich history. Countywide, there are over 100 culturally or historically significant landmarks, buildings or areas. There are countless other cultural and historical resources that remained undocumented, such as past fur trader villages or Native American settlements along rivers and lakes. **Table 5.8** and **Map 5.8**—Cultural Resources and Wild Rice Areas represent sites contained in the Wisconsin Architectural and Heritage Inventory (AHI) for the Town of Round Lake.

AHI#	TRS	Type	Date Construction	Location	Historic Name
18302	4106w-18	House		Moose Lake Rd, just over Chequamegon National Forest boundary	
18303	4106w-22	Wall		Moose Lake Rd	
18304	4106w-22	House		Moose Lake Rd	
18307	4108w-13	Health Spa	1904	N side of Round Lake off of Twin Lake Rd	Idlehurst Lodge
24669	4106w-22	Fire Tower	1936	Forest Rd 164	West Fork Lookout Tower

Source: Wisconsin Historical Society

While not listed on the AHI in **Table 5.8**, the Town of Round Lake has identified other architectural and heritage sites. The icehouse located at the old Kateri Resort on Lower Twin Lake supplied many residents with ice cut from the lake for their refrigeration in the 1940's. A foundation remains on the property. Three very significant heritage sites of cultural and historical value are located within the Town of Round Lake. The Battle of the Horsefly historical marker (**Map 5.8**—Cultural Resources and Wild Rice Areas) is near the Moose Lake Bridge over the West Fork of the Chippewa River. The marker denotes the site of a battle between the Chippewa (Ojibwe/Anishinabe) and the Dakota Sioux (Mdewakotan) in 1795. The burial site of the Dakota and Ojibwe warriors involved in the Battle of the Horsefly has been identified and marked by the Lac Courte Oreilles people as Spirit Rock. The CCC camp marked at the intersection of Moose Lake Rd (#164) and Fire Lane #174 (**Map 5.8**—Cultural Resources and

Wild Rice Areas) has remnants of fireplaces/chimneys said to be from officer housing. Refer to **Appendix A** (from the 2009 Comprehensive Plan document) for detailed information on these three significant cultural heritages.



CCC camp sign



CCC camp fireplace

The Wisconsin AHI includes historical and architectural information on over 120,000 properties throughout Wisconsin. The AHI contains data on buildings, structures and objects that illustrate unique history of Wisconsin and local communities. The AHI is a permanent record maintained by the Wisconsin Historical Society. The list is not a comprehensive list of all old Wisconsin buildings and structures, as the AHI has been assembled over a period of more than 25 years from a wide variety of sources. In many cases, the information is dated, and in some cases, properties may be altered or no longer exist. The majority of property in the inventory is privately owned. The following photos represent the properties identified in **Table 5.8**.

AHI 18302



Source: Wisconsin Historical Society, AHI #18302, WHS HPPH (year photo taken 1975)

ROUND LOG CONSTRUCTION W/ CORNER NOTCHING
MORTAR CHINKING
HORIZONTAL BOARD IN GABLES WOOD
SHINGLED ROOF W/ ASPHALT PAPER COVERING

AHI 18303



Source: Wisconsin Historical Society, AHI #18303, WHS HPPH (year photo taken 1975)

ROCK GARDEN W/ RUIN/WALL CRUDE ARCHED ENTRANCE TO ROCK GARDEN IN WALL
PROBABLY A GROTTA FOLK ART ENVIRONMENT

AHI 18304



Source: Wisconsin Historical Society, AHI #18304, WHS HPPH (year photo taken 1975)

VERY UNUSUAL HOUSE: 1ST FLR W/ DOUBLE DOOR ENTRANCE MANSARD ROOF
2ND FLR W/ BRACKETED FLARED EAVES
SHED ROOF DORMER IN MANSARD
2ND FLR OVER ENTRANCE LARGE CUPOLA
3RD FLR W/ ROUND LOG SIDING SHALLOW BRACKETED HIP ROOF 3RD FLR/CUPOLA W/ LADDER

AHI 18307



Source: Wisconsin Historical Society, AHI #18307, WHS HPPH (year photo taken 1975)

AHI 24669



Source: Wisconsin Historical Society, AHI #24669, WHS HPPH (year photo taken 1985)

A 'site file' exists for this property. It contains additional information such as correspondence, newspaper clippings, or historical information. It is a public record and may be viewed in person at the State Historical Society, Division of Historic Preservation.

DETERMINED ELIGIBLE 6/18/1996. 100' TALL FIRE TOWER.

Protecting Important Archaeological Sites

The wide variety of methods used to protect natural resources can also be used to protect archaeological sites. For example, there are land purchases, easement purchases, zoning, and the state-operated tax-exemption program for property owners. With the 1991 changes to Wis. Stats. 70.11 [see 70.11(13m)], it became possible to provide a property-tax exemption for owners of archaeological sites listed in the national or state register of historic places. To obtain the tax exemption, the landowner has to agree to place a permanent protective covenant for the site area in the deed for the property. The tax-exemption program makes the landowner and subsequent owners stewards of Wisconsin's past. The intent of the program is not to discourage all use of the property containing a site, but to encourage land use planning that protects sites.

Cemeteries and burial areas have been set aside as special areas throughout Wisconsin history and have been given special protection under the law. Native American burial mounds, unmarked burials, and all marked and unmarked cemeteries are protected from intentional disturbance.

Archaeological identification and evaluations are required for a variety of projects that receive federal or state funding, licenses or permits. These projects are automatically forwarded to the Wisconsin Historical Society for review. Local residents frequently report sites and cemeteries. It is not uncommon to find evidence of American Indian villages and other earlier settlements in the form of houses, storage areas, burials and other undisturbed deposits underneath the tilled layer in farm fields or in urban settings.

Resources for Historic Preservation

Sawyer County Historical Society

The Sawyer County Historical Society (SCHS) is the prominent authority on local history. The SCHS office and museum is located at 15715 County Hwy B East in Hayward.

The Wisconsin State Historical Society

The WHS is both a state agency and a private membership organization located in Madison. By state statute, the WHS is responsible for collecting, advancing and disseminating knowledge of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Historical Society History Center and Archives (HCA)

The HCA serves as the northern field office of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, from its offices at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. The HCA is part of a statewide network of area research centers and is managed by the Society's Division of Historic Sites.

Festivals

Throughout Sawyer County are many cultural and festival-related activities. Examples of area events include:

- **American Birkebeiner Race:** The Birkebeiner Race is the largest cross-country ski race in the United States. It takes place every year the last full weekend in February. The racecourse runs along the famous Birkebeiner Ski Trail from Cable Airport near Telemark Resort to downtown Hayward, which is about a distance of 52 kilometers. It attracts about 8,000 skiers and thousands of spectators from around the world. The race started in 1973. Besides the main race, the three-day Birkie event includes the opening ceremonies, Elite Sprints, Barnebirkie (children's race), Junior Birkie, Kortelopet (Birkie's 25 kilometer sister race) and other shorter races, ski equipment demos, citizen sprints, 8K Family Fun Ski, pasta feed, and award ceremony.
- **Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival:** Since 1982, the Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival has taken place in the Hayward area. Each year in September, 2,500+ off-road bicyclists participate in the Chequamegon 40 (40-mile race) and the Short and Fat (16-mile race). This event is the largest gathering of off-road bicyclists in the country. The Chequamegon 40 course runs from the city of Hayward to Telemark Resort, while the Short and Fat course runs from Cable to Telemark. Portions of these racecourses run along the Birkebeiner Trail. The festival attracts bicyclists from around the country. Besides the two cross-country races, the two-day festival includes the Cable Criterium, Rough Stuff Rendezvous, Lumber Jack and Jill Log Pull, Bump the Barrel Obstacle Course, Clunker Toss, and Hammer Slammer Hill Climb.
- **Musky Festival:** The four-day festival takes place in the city of Hayward on the third weekend in June. It has been held annually since 1949. The main feature of the event is a fishing contest, which offers several different fish categories. The festival also includes sidewalk sales, arts and craft fair, food and refreshments, music, carnival and a parade.
- **Honor the Earth Homecoming Celebration and Pow Wow:** This celebration is held in mid-July on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation. The event, which is one of the largest of its kind in the Midwest, attracts thousands of participants from across the country and Canada. It has been

held annually since 1973. Activities at the event include three grand entries, a youth talent pageant, traditional dancing, a softball tournament and a walk/run.

- **Lumberjack World Championship:** This world-famous event takes place at the Lumberjack Bowl in the city of Hayward the last weekend in July or the first weekend in August. It has been held annually in Hayward since 1960. The event attracts hundreds of athletes from around the world who compete in traditional lumberjack competitions. Thousands of spectators come each year to watch these competitions.
- **National Fresh Water Hall of Fame and Museum:** This facility is in the city of Hayward, near the western shore of Lake Hayward. The hall of fame was founded in 1960. The hall building was constructed in 1975. At the site is displayed a 143-foot long Musky made of fiberglass, and several other smaller fiberglass fish displays. Within the hall of fame and museum includes the freshwater fishing record books, displays of antique fishing equipment and memorabilia, and over 400 fish mounts. On average, about 70,000 individuals visit the facility annually.

Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Ongoing Goals, Objectives, and Actions

Agricultural, natural and cultural resources are important to Round Lake. As such, several goals, objectives and actions have been developed to assist the town in addressing these resources.

Agricultural Resources

Goal: Preserve and enhance farming as both an environmentally responsible occupation and sustainable agricultural business while maintaining productive farmland and preserving natural resources.

Objective 1: Preserve and enhance farming as a business

Action 1: Encourage the support of “local food systems” with the purpose of:

- Conservation of fuel/energy transportation costs.
- Economically support small, local businesses
- Increasing the quality and integrity of the local food supply
- Establishment of ethically accountable relationships between consumers and local growers/providers.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 2: Promote farming practices that ensure food safety and support public health.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 3: Foster respect for the viability and necessity of agriculture and its practices that are appropriately scaled for this environment and the natural resources, so that farming practices of integrity can occur without creating conflicts between agricultural & non-agricultural users.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 4: Encourage uniform farm practices that are environmentally sound: emphasizing organic, biodynamic and regenerative practices.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 5: Promote proper agricultural manure and nutrient management to mitigate

risk of non-point water pollution and/or airborne pathogens.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Objective 2: Preserve agricultural land for farming.

Action 1: Support integrity of agricultural land use in the Town and encourage development and implementation of appropriate agricultural zoning policies to prevent fragmentation of agricultural land (prime farmland, unique farmland, farmland of statewide importance, and farmland of local importance as discussed in the Agricultural Resource Inventory section of this document).

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 2: Promote awareness of Agricultural Programs available to agricultural landowners and of the principles of WI Statute 91, the Farmland Preservation Program (to preserve agricultural land, minimize conflicting land uses, and promote soil and water conservation).

Responsible Party – Sawyer County

Action 3: Encourage conscientious agricultural practices that are environmentally sound and do not deplete, pollute, or impair the natural resources (air, soil quality, erosion, surface/ground water, etc. ...). This includes prohibiting high capacity wells.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 4: Restrict the non-agricultural use of agricultural areas.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 5: Ensure that developmental growth is compatible with continued agricultural production.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 6: Monitor development and environmental impact of biofuel agriculture and Large Scale Animal Feeding Operations as they occur in other parts of the state/country and facilitate adoption of local/county ordinances that will protect against the degradation of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Town and its environment as well as preserve, with integrity, the Northwoods Character.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Natural Resources

Goal 1: Protect, enhance and promote the sustainable use and management of the Town's environmental diversity, natural resources, natural beauty and Northwoods character.

Objective1: Identify and enhance the protection of environmentally sensitive and vulnerable resources.

Action 1: Protect threatened and endangered resources.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board, WDNR

Action 2: Foster the identification and elimination of invasive species.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – WDNR

Action 3: Develop cooperative management agreements (memorandums of understanding) MOU'S with relevant federal, state, regional, county and towns entities to enhance and protect environmental diversity.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 4: Foster working relationships (MOUS) with non-governmental organizations (NGO'S) to help identify, protect and conserve environmentally sensitive areas and resources (e.g. conservancies, lake associations, land trusts).

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board

Objective 2: Identify and enhance the protection of Natural Resources.

Action 1: Enhance the protection of Wisconsin's public trust waters and shorelines by enforcing and promoting appropriate plans and ordinances.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 2: Identify, map, and protect vulnerable resources such as islands, wetland floodplains, environmental corridors, riparian areas, fish spawning grounds, remnant old growth landscapes, and unique and endangered plants (flora) and animals and birds (fauna).

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board, WDNR, NWRPC, Sawyer County

Action 3: Identify potentially highly erosive areas to protect water quality fish habitat and recreational use.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – NWRPC, County Land Information Department (CLID)

Action 4: Foster the preparation of watershed-based management plans that enhance and protect water quality, quality fisheries, and diverse recreational boating opportunities.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board, County, NWRPC

Action 5: Protect wildlife habitat areas in the town, beyond regulated wetlands, floodplains and shorelands, identifying natural areas in the town using this information:

- a. Seek grant-funding sources available through the WDNR and other agencies to help protect wildlife habitat areas for future generations to enjoy.
- b. Build partnerships with habitat conservation organizations (Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Nature Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Loon Watch, etc.) to help with wildlife protection and education.

c. Seek to prevent fragmentation of these habitats by encouraging cluster and conservation-based development.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Conservation Organizations, WDNR

Action 6: Foster the preparation of a comprehensive open space and by-ways plan including the identification of potential parks, waysides, water access areas, picnic areas, active recreational areas and a system of multiuse and interlinked trails, paths and roads.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – NWRPC, WDNR

Action 7: Encourage property owners and lake and riverway users to participate in the preparation and implementation of long-range management plans to protect water quality, environmental diversity, a quality fishery and a quality recreational experience(s).

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – NWRPC, WDNR

Action 8: Protect Wisconsin's Legacy areas and landscapes identified in the WDNR Land Legacy Report.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board, County, WDNR

Action 9: Protect exceptional and outstanding waters identified by the WDNR and EPA.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board, WDNR

Objective 3: Identify, enhance and promote the protection of natural beauty.

Action 1: Promote and enhance the protection of natural beauty from Wisconsin's Public Trust Waters by enforcing applicable laws and ordinances.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – WDNR

Action 2: Identify legacy lands that enhance and promote the protection of natural beauty.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Sawyer County, WDNR, NWRPC

Action 3: Identify and promote the development of an integrated system of scenic by-ways that enhances access to natural beauty.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board, County, NWRPC

Action 4: Develop design ordinances that limits the deployment and type of outdoor advertising along scenic by-ways and public rights-of-ways.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board, Sawyer County

Action 5: Develop location and design ordinances that protect natural beauty and optimize the deployment of cell towers and wind energy generation facilities.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board, Sawyer County, Xcel, Jump River Electric, Other Utility Companies and Cooperatives

Action 6: Support and promote the development of a comprehensive roadside litter collection program.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board, County

Objective 4: Further the following actions in accordance with the definition of Northwoods Character as: “A balanced and tranquil environment centered on the Natural World, rich with forests and fresh waters, undisturbed by man-made nuisances.”

Action 1: Promote plans, ordinances and design standards that enhance and sustain Northwoods character. e.g.:

- The presence of old growth forests, wetlands, fall color, USFS lands, public trust waters, historical logging artifacts, native American activities, wild rice beds, forested islands, viewing opportunities of wildlife such as eagles and osprey, wolves, elk, and deer, etc....
- The continuation of local restaurants, local businesses, small family farms and resorts, etc....
- The absence of billboards, big box businesses, chain stores, overzealous shoreline development, etc....

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board, County

Action 2: Promote outdoor lighting ordinances and design standards that maintain public access to dark skies.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board

Goal 2: Preserve the quality of our area’s lakes and surface waters such as streams, rivers, and springs.

Objective 1: Reduce non-point nutrient and erosion runoff into lakes, streams, rivers and springs.

Action 1: Protect surface water quality by supporting stream bank management, natural shoreline restoration practices, river and stream clean-up initiatives, and use of buffer areas.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board, WDNR, Sawyer County Zoning

Action 2: Require construction site erosion control programs designed to improve water quality of the surface waters.

Primary Responsible Party – Sawyer County

Responsible Party – Town Board, WDNR

Action 3: Require effective storm water management.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 4: Encourage the Town of Round Lake to use environmentally friendly products on the roadways for winter safety.

Primary Responsible Party – Town Board

Responsible Party – County Highway Department, WDOT

Action 5: Encourage the use of retention ponds/rain gardens for stormwater management.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 6: Encourage the use of riprap in ditches to prevent excessive flow of water within the ditch.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Objective 2: Protect sensitive shorelands by identifying and mapping wetlands, river and stream corridors, springs, floodplains and environmental corridors.

Action 1: Limit development near wetlands, river and stream corridors, springs, floodplains, and in environmental corridors.

Primary Responsible Party – Sawyer County

Responsible Party – Town Board, Plan Commission

Action 2: Require a buffer of natural vegetation along shorelines and wetlands.

Primary Responsible Party – Sawyer County

Responsible Party – Town Board, Plan Commission

Action 3: Require that wetlands remain in its natural condition.

Primary Responsible Party – WDNR

Responsible Party – Town Board, Plan Commission, US Army Corp of Engineers

Objective 3: Promote understanding of the importance of water resources through distribution and public discussion of this plan

Action 1: Prepare press items, radio and TV interviews, web site promotion, Town Board presentations, etc. to promote the understanding of the importance of water resources

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board

Goal 3: Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the Town's ground water.

Objective 1: Ensure the protection of the Town's groundwater.

Action 1: Identify potential point and non-point sources of pollution.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – NWRPC, County, Town Board

Action 2: Systematically evaluate the potential impacts of development proposals on groundwater quality and quantity. Design ordinance prohibiting high capacity wells.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – NWRPC

Action 3: Assume leadership and coordination of efforts with surrounding Towns to monitor groundwater quality and potential contamination issues.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board, County

Action 4: Support a well abandonment program.

Responsible Party – County

Objective 2: Ensure that adequate amounts of safe drinking water are available throughout the town.

Action 1: Protect groundwater quality through the proper placement and dispersion of new on-site wastewater systems and through appropriate maintenance and replacement of older systems.

Primary Responsible Party – Sawyer County

Responsible Party – WDNR

Action 2: Avoid new development within 1200 feet of open and closed landfills.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 3: Limit excessive irrigation practices, prohibit high capacity wells, and prohibit use of proposed or existing irrigation or injection systems for the distribution of liquid manure.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – WDNR

Action 4: Support conservation development designs.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 5: Continue working with WDNR to monitor effects of closed dumpsites.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – WDNR

Goal 4: Manage stormwater runoff

Objective 1: Promote stormwater management practices that reduce property and road damage and ensure a high level of water quality.

Action 1: Promote the use of stormwater management practices to abate non- point source pollution and protect water quality.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 2: Preserve natural open space areas such as wetlands and floodplains that will accommodate floodwater and minimize flooding.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board, County, WDNR, NWRPC

Action 3: Maintain town roadside swales/ditches/culverts and other related stormwater facilities for both stormwater quantity and quality control.

Primary Responsible Party – Town Board

Responsible Party – County

Action 4: All new or altered ditch slopes shall contain proper stabilization.

Primary Responsible Party – Town Board

Responsible Party – County

Action 5: Stormwater management shall be addressed as a requirement of all development proposals with an appropriate level of review based on potential negative impact to the quality and quantity of stormwater from construction site erosion, post-construction runoff, etc. ...

Primary Responsible Party – Town Board

Responsible Party – County

Forestry

Goal 1: Preserve, enhance, and promote the sustainable use of forest resources.

Objective 1: Conserve productive forestland by expanding the use of conservation easements, incentives, and voluntary, long-term stewardship of forestlands.

Action 1: Promote the protection of forestlands that are susceptible to development, have the potential to connect to other parcels of forestland, have public importance, and provide critical ecological functions.

Primary Responsible party – Town Board

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Action 2: Work with individuals and organizations to prohibit development on critical forestland through the acquiring of conservation easements, purchase of development rights or transfer of development rights on those lands.

Primary Responsible party – Town Board

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Action 3: Protect lands identified as Wisconsin Forest Legacy Areas and areas identified in the Land Legacy Report.

Primary Responsible party – Town Board

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Action 4: Support efforts by non-profit organizations such as land trusts, private organizations, and private landowners to preserve forestland.

Primary Responsible party – Town Board

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Objective 2: Encourage multiple uses of forest resources.

Action 1: Engage all forest users to become involved in the development of forest management policy, which may identify and prevent user conflicts.

a. Co-ordinate enforcement of existing regulations when using the forest trail network.

b. Work with the County, State, and USFS to develop and review future use policy.

Primary Responsible party – Town Board

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Action 2: Promote the recreational value of the town's access and use of large amounts of public land.

a. Post existing trail networks on maps at the town hall.

b. Continue to work with, support and cooperate with service clubs and organizations related to the maintenance and development of forest- based recreational facilities and activities.

Primary Responsible party – Plan Commission

Responsible party – Town Board

Goal 2: Preserve forest integrity.

Objective 1: Promote a healthy vigorous forest.

Action 1: Work cooperatively with Sawyer County as it relates to the Town of Round Lake Comprehensive Plan.

Primary Responsible party – Plan Commission

Responsible party- Town Board, Sawyer County Zoning

When – Ongoing

Action 2: Work cooperatively with the USFS as it relates to the Town of Round Lake Comprehensive Plan.

Primary Responsible party – Plan Commission

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 3: Work cooperatively with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as it relates to the Town of Round Lake Comprehensive Plan.

Primary Responsible party – Plan Commission

Responsible party – Town Board

When – Ongoing

Action 4: Use forestry “best management practices” as minimum standards for logging within the Town of Round Lake.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 5: Encourage forest landowners to enroll in Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law program.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 6: Encourage landowners to develop, update and maintain forest management plans.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 7: Encourage the use of native species in plantings and implement ecologically sound control measures to prevent the spread of invasive species that can have negative ecological, economic, and social impacts to forests.

Primary Responsible party – Town Board

Responsible party – Plan Commission, Lake Associations

Action 8: Plan for emergency fuel reduction in the event of forest insect or disease outbreak, storm damage, or forest fire event, which may result in large areas of dead, downed, or dying trees.

Primary Responsible party – Sawyer County, WDNR and US Forest Service

Responsible party – Town Board

Objective 2: Discourage forest parcelization and isolation.

Action 1: Explore more effective land use controls and incentives for retaining the town's large, contiguous forestry tracts including but not limited to: establishing larger minimum lot sizes, setting maximum residential densities, controlling the location and extent of the non-forestry areas.

Primary Responsible party – Plan Commission

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 2: Consult with Tribes and intertribal agencies during decision-making processes.

Primary Responsible party – Town Board

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Action 3: Encourage cluster development which reduces further forest fragmentation.

Primary Responsible party – Plan Commission

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 4: Support the acquisition of privately-owned forestland by WDNR, county, or non-profit organizations.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 5: Encourage the donation of privately-owned forestland by private landowners, public utilities, the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands and others for conservation purposes.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 6: Encourage reforestation to protect large contiguous blocks of forest.

Primary Responsible party – Town Board

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Action 7: Protect threatened, cultural, and economically significant forest areas within the Town of Round Lake.

Primary Responsible party – Town Board

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Metallic Mining

Goal: Assure that any development of metallic resources is done without adversely affecting other natural and cultural resources.

Objective 1: Provide access to metallic resources in a manner consistent with the other goals of this element.

Action 1: Monitor the permitting process for metallic mines.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 2: Prepare and maintain a draft of restrictions, safeguards and other requirements that The Town of Round Lake believes necessary for protecting the public health, safety and welfare of its residents in the establishment and operation of a metallic mining site.

Responsible Party – Town Planning Commission

Non-Metallic Mining

Goal: Assure an adequate supply of non-metallic resources for local construction purposes while protecting other natural and cultural resources.

Objective 1: Provide access to non-metallic resources in a manner consistent with the other goals of this element.

Action 1: Identify and encourage best-practices operation of non-metallic mining sites.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 2: Monitor conditional use permits of non-metallic sites.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 3: Monitor reclamation plans including the proposed end use of the site.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 4: Identify sites registered as the location of marketable non-metallic resources.

Responsible party – Town Board

Cultural Resources

Goal: Identify, preserve, enhance and promote the town's cultural heritage resources, including historical places, archaeological sites and landscapes.

Objective 1: Identify the town's historic and cultural resources.

Action 1: Work with the Lac Courte Oreilles tribal members to identify and preserve their cultural heritage.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – LCO Tribal Government

Action 2: Identify and develop a list of any potential or registered historical places in the town.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Sawyer County Historical Society

Action 3: Evaluate local cultural and historic resources in conjunction with developing a local landmark program.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Objective 2: Expand knowledge of recognized and newly identified cultural and historic resources.

Action 1: Promote the Sawyer County Historical Society.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 2: Encourage local historians to record oral histories and compile written and pictorial histories.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 3: Work with private landowners on the preservation of historic buildings, farmland, and logging sites.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

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Economic Development

The Town of Round Lake's rural and its environs exhibit a different kind of economic development model, one with businesses relying on the area's northwoods character, plentiful water resources, and acres of public (state and federal) forest resources.

Labor Force Profile

Table 6.1: General Characteristics of Round Lake			
Characteristics	Town of Round Lake	Sawyer County	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force	507	7,733	3,085,151
Unemployment Rate	3.5%	3.6%	3.1%
Labor Participation Rate	52.9%	57.6%	66.9%
Education Beyond High School (25 and over)	72.0%	56.7%	60.5%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher (25 and over)	34.7%	22.0%	29.0%
Per Capita Income	\$38,483	\$29,712	\$30,557
Median Household Income	\$64,091	\$43,565	\$56,759
Poverty Rate	2.3%	13.1%	8.1%
Median Age	59.2	49.7	39.2

Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) - Census Bureau 5-Year Estimates. The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development defines labor force as all persons 16 years of age or over who are either employed or unemployed.

Economic Base

Table 6.2: Employed Residents by Industry Sector		
Industry	2013-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates	Percent
All Industries	473	100.0%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	10	2.1%
Construction	30	6.3%
Manufacturing	58	12.3%
Wholesale trade	4	0.8%
Retail trade	35	7.4%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	12	2.5%
Information	14	3.0%
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	45	9.5%
Professional, scientific, mgmt., administrative, waste mgmt.	44	9.3%
Educational, health and social services	126	26.6%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, food service	51	10.8%
Other services (except public administration)	26	5.5%
Public administration	18	3.8%

Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) - Census Bureau 5-Year Estimates

Table 6.3: Median Household Income	
Industry	Median Household Income
Town of Round Lake	\$64,091
Sawyer County	\$43,565
State of Wisconsin	\$56,759

Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) -Census Bureau 5-Year Estimates

Economy and Largest Employers

According to the 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, the sector of employment with the largest percentage of employment, in the Town of Round Lake, is primarily educational, health, and social services. The majority of tourism-based businesses within the Town of Round Lake are the resorts or tourist support business (restaurants), but the number of resorts has declined steadily since the late 1960's as resorts continue to be subdivided and sold off.

Future Population and Labor Supply

The trend in the Town of Round Lake and Sawyer County is toward an aging population that will soon outnumber the younger population. This trend points to a potential shift in the types and quantity of services that will be demanded as the population ages. This shift in the age of the population presents challenges as well as opportunities for economic development including:

- The potential for labor shortages due to retirements and lack of replacement workers, especially in occupations that require primarily younger employees.
- The aging population will demand changes in the types of services and products.

Town of Round Lake Strengths

The Town of Round Lake has unique strengths, which could lead to job growth and retention. Strengths include:

- A high degree of environmental quality and beauty which most would agree make the Town of Round Lake a highly desirable place to work and live.
- Stability of the workforce and population exceeds national averages, with 25.9% of Round Lake residents living in their current residences for five years or more.
- Residents possess attained educational levels that exceed averages found within Northwest Wisconsin.
- Three educational institutions within Sawyer County are available to the Town of Round Lake residents to train and educate if an employer with a requirement for specific skills would locate to the area. They are Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC), Hayward LCO Community College, and University of Wisconsin – Extension.
- The availability of quality natural resources within the Town of Round Lake offers a wide array of outdoor recreational opportunities that support the local tourism industry.
- Small-scale, family-owned businesses compatible with the comprehensive plan, the environment and the unique Northwood's character of the Town, are encouraged.

- There is potential for some limited manufacturing facilities along County Highway B, County Highway A, and State Highway 77 within the Town of Round Lake.
- Median Household Income (MHI) within the Town of Round Lake was nearly 13% higher than the statewide average and is 47% higher than that of Sawyer County.
- There are no known contaminated land sites. If any sites and problems are found, the Town will take a proactive role in resolving and working with local, state, and federal agencies.
- The Town of Round Lake and Sawyer County benefit from the Hayward Airport which accommodates planes up to the size of small passenger jets.

Town of Round Lake Weaknesses

However, the Town of Round Lake is faced with challenges that hinder economic development. Weaknesses include:

- Lack of infrastructure for robust cellular service and high-speed internet. If cellular service and high-speed internet were readily available in Round Lake, it is anticipated that some of the second homeowners of Round Lake would relocate to the Town because they would be able to operate home offices. This potential group of individuals would bolster job growth within the Town.
- Distance to market. The Hayward area, including the City of Hayward and Town of Hayward, serves as the primary retail, employment and service center for Sawyer County including the Town of Round Lake. Most Town of Round Lake residents, who are employed, work in Hayward and have an average travel time to their places of employment of 26 minutes. Nearly 72% of those employed drive to work alone and 13% carpool. 12.8% of Round Lake residents work from home.
- Lack of immediately available raw materials.
- Because many of the roads within the Town of Round Lake are subject to “road bans” (weight limits) during the period of the annual spring thaw, companies which require over-the-road transport of raw materials and finished products are not likely to locate facilities upon affected roads throughout the Town.
- A majority of jobs in the Town of Round Lake are lower paying jobs in the service and retail trade sectors.
- The need of affordable housing opportunities.

Economic Development Programs

Several economic development programs are available to qualifying applicants from within the Town of Round Lake, surrounding communities, Sawyer County, local economic development organizations, and/or local businesses. They include but are not limited to:

Sawyer County Development Corporation - Provides assistance to businesses, Individuals and Families, Governments and Community organizations.
<http://www.scdc.us/>

Sawyer County/Lac Courte Oreilles Economic Development Corporation - The Sawyer County | Lac Courte Oreilles Economic Development Corporation Centers On:

- Encouraging New Business Ventures
- Supporting Existing Businesses to Grow for Long Term Stability
- Bolstering the Local Workforce: Skills, Knowledge, Infrastructure
- Recruit new businesses to the Sawyer County / Lac Courte Oreilles communities.
- Job creation and retention
- Workforce training
- Community development for improved living
- Housing development/availability

<http://sclcoedc.com/>

Wisconsin Procurement Institute - The Wisconsin Procurement Institute (WPI), a non-profit organization established in 1987 to assist Wisconsin businesses in all of Wisconsin's 72 counties to create, develop and grow their Federal, State and Local Government sales, revenues, profits and jobs.

<https://www.wispro.org/about-wpi/>

The Wisconsin Economic Development Institute - The Wisconsin Economic Development Institute, Inc. (WEDI) is a not-for-profit*, non-partisan foundation formed to conduct research and education designed to increase the effectiveness of economic development efforts.

<https://www.wi-edi.org/index.html>

Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) - Transportation Facilities for Economic Assistance and Development (TEA) Program provides funds to governing bodies, private businesses, and consortiums for transportation facility improvement projects that are necessary to help attract employers to Wisconsin, or to encourage businesses to remain and expand in the state.

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/aid/tea.html>

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development - USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/wi>

Economic Development Ongoing Goals, Objectives, and Actions

Goals, objectives and actions were developed in the original Town of Round Lake Comprehensive Plan to assist in furthering economic development. These goals and objectives continue to be relevant today.

Goal: Allow for high quality economic development that emphasizes the natural environment of the Town.

Objective 1: Prevent uncontrolled commercial development.

Action 1: Plan for development that will enhance the community character and limit sprawl.

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Action 2: Keep commercial development centralized on main transportation corridors and around existing development in areas identified on the Future Land Use Map.

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Action 3: Strive to balance economic development needs with the desire to preserve our rural Northwood's quality of life for current and future residents.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 4: Support future development that preserves open space and natural areas.

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Objective 2: Attract and retain quality businesses and industries that improve the employment and personal income base of the Town.

Action 1: Focus economic development activities on light industrial/manufacturing, high tech manufacturing, tourism and recreational activities, forest product and agricultural activities desirable to the community.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 2: Limit new commercial/industrial activity to those areas designated for such use on the Future Land Use Map in order to minimize adverse impacts upon surrounding land use.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 3: Work with existing businesses to ensure their ability to meet future expansion needs locally.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 4: Provide business owners with the opportunity to interact more directly with the Town to express questions, concerns, and comments.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 5: Encourage local entrepreneurs who seek to expand and diversify the Town's economy by establishing home occupations, provided such uses do not constitute a nuisance to neighboring properties (i.e. excessive noise, traffic, odors, vibration, etc) or deter from the rural character of the area (i.e. signage, lighting, etc.).

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 6: Work with utility companies to improve telecommunications throughout the Town providing adequate infrastructure and public services to accommodate home-based businesses.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 7: Support the use of available federal, state, and private grants to promote economic development opportunities.

Responsible party – Town Board

Objective 3: Ensure that future commercial and industrial development is compatible with the rural character of the Town of Round Lake.

Action 1: Implement standards for commercial development, which reflects a northwoods character.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 2: Implement standards for signage, lighting and landscaping for commercial/industrial development within the Town.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 3: Implement design standards for use in commercial and industrial construction.

Responsible party – Town Board

Action 4: Explore opportunities for camping and ATV/UTV, snowmobile, hiking and bicycle trails/routes within the Town.

Responsible party – Town Board

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Intergovernmental Cooperation

In general terms, intergovernmental cooperation is any arrangement by which officials of two or more jurisdictions coordinate plans, policies, and programs to address, identify, and resolve issues of mutual interest. Many issues cross jurisdictional boundaries, affecting more than one community. Air, water, and wildlife pass over the landscape regardless of boundaries so that one jurisdiction's activities with regard to air, water, and wildlife impact other jurisdictions downwind and/or downstream. Increased communication technologies and personal mobility mean that people, money, and resources also move across jurisdictions. Frequently, the action of one governmental unit impacts others.

This element contains information regarding existing plans or agreements, opportunities for the future, existing and potential conflicts, benefits to cooperation and identify goals, objectives, policies, recommendations, and programs for intergovernmental cooperation.

Town of Round Lake Intergovernmental Relationships

The Town of Round Lake shares municipal borders with six towns, one county and has relations with a number of state, federal and regional agencies including:

- Town of Chippewa (Ashland County)
- Town of Hayward
- Town of Hunter
- Town of Lenroot
- Town of Spider Lake
- Town of Winter
- Ashland County
- Sawyer County
- Northwest Regional Planning Commission
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)
- Hayward School District
- Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indian
- Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR)
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
- Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Land
- Wisconsin State Elections Commission
- U.S. Forest Service (Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest)
- U. S. Department of Agriculture

Relationship to Town of Chippewa (Ashland County)

The eastern boundary of Round Lake borders the Town of Chippewa in Ashland County. The Town of Round Lake has a good relationship with the Town of Chippewa.

Relationship to Town of Hayward

The western boundary of Round Lake borders the Town of Hayward. The Town of Round Lake has a good relationship with the Town of Hayward.

Relationship to Town of Hunter

Round Lake shares most of its southern border with the Town of Hunter. The Town of Round Lake has a good relationship with the Town of Hunter.

Relationship to Town of Lenroot

The northwestern corner of Round Lake borders the Town of Lenroot. The Town of Round Lake has a good relationship with the Town of Lenroot.

Relationship to Town of Spider Lake

Round Lake shares most of its northern border with Spider Lake. The Town of Round Lake has a good relationship with the Town of Spider Lake.

Relationship to Town of Winter

The southeastern portion of Round Lake is adjacent to the Town of Winter. The Town of Round Lake has a good relationship with the Town of Winter.

Relationship to Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO)

Parcels of LCO tribal land border the Town of Round Lake. The Town of Round Lake has a limited and respectful relationship with LCO. It has a working relationship with LCO through the county wide mutual aid fire department agreement. LCO provides no services to the Town of Round Lake.

Relationship to Sawyer County

Sawyer County has some jurisdiction within the town of Round Lake. In particular, Sawyer County has jurisdiction over land divisions, on-site sanitary sewer systems, and zoning (including shore land, wetland, and floodplain areas) in the Town. Sawyer County also owns and maintains County Trunk Highways and the Sawyer County Forest. In areas where the county has jurisdiction in the Town, the county attempts to gain input from the Town before making decisions affecting Town land use. Likewise, the Town has attempted to maintain open lines of communication with Sawyer County. The Town of Round Lake has a good working relationship with Sawyer County. Services provided to the Town by Sawyer County include, but are not limited to the following:

- Highway Department: Help with road projects/bridge aid
- Zoning
- Public Health
- Emergency Government
- Ambulance
- Soil & Water Conservation assistance
- Transit
- Police/Sheriff protection

Relationship to Ashland County

The Ashland County line forms the eastern boundary of the town. This close proximity requires the Town of Round Lake to communicate with Ashland County from time to time. This helps to minimize or mitigate potential problems that may arise on road maintenance (reciprocity agreements) or the sharing of other services. The Town of Round Lake has a good relationship with the Ashland County.

Relationship to Northwest Regional Planning Commission

The Town of Round Lake is within the boundaries of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC). Technical and professional services from NWRPC are available and have been utilized by Round Lake and other governmental bodies in Sawyer County.

Relationship to Hayward Community School District

Currently, the Hayward School District does not have any facilities located within the Town of Round Lake and does not have a plan to construct any new facilities in the town at this time. All of the schools (high, middle, intermediate, primary and charter schools) and the district offices are located in the City of Hayward. The Town has no formal relationship with the Hayward Community School District other than collection of levied tax monies.

Relationship to Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) - Through the DOR shared revenue program, the State of Wisconsin distributes tax revenues to units of government for law enforcement, road maintenance, fire protection, and general government administration.

Relationship to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) - Many land use issues concerning natural resources throughout the town call on the WDNR for assistance and guidance. The DNR takes a lead role in wildlife protection, the long term management of the State Public Trust Waters, wetlands and other natural wildlife habitat areas, and the sustainable management of storm water regulations. The town works directly with on a regular basis with the WDNR for the permitting processes required for ongoing road/and or bridge construction projects, assistance/ review of certain ordinances (examples; lake no-wake zone, ATV/UTV route, snowmobile access), in cooperation with Lake Associations to secure grants; recycling, ATV/UTV/ snowmobile trail bridge wing, and lake water monitoring equipment.

Relationship to Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) - The WisDOT, among other things, dictates how much General Transportation Aids (GTA) the Town receives annually. Open communication and participation in land use decisions, which may impact the town, is an important priority for intergovernmental cooperation.

Relationship to Wisconsin State Elections Commission - The Town works directly with is the State Elections Commission through the state wide election and voter registration system (SVRS).

Relationship to Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands - The Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands or "BCPL" is a state agency responsible for maintaining an extensive archive of land records including those of the Town of Round Lake, managing Wisconsin's School Trust Funds in support of public education, contributing to the state's sustainable timber economy, combating forest fragmentation, and securing public access to large blocks of northern forests.

Relationship to U.S. Forest Service - The U.S. Forest Service is responsible for the management of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, which takes up approximately 80% of the town. The Town of Round Lake has a limited but good relationship with the federal government relative to national forest lands and forest roads located within the Town. The Town plows forest service roads as requested. Forest Service tries to provide the Town with gravel for maintenance of forest service roads when possible at a reduced cost.

Relationship to U.S. Department of Agriculture - The United States Department of Agriculture is responsible for developing and executing federal laws related to farming, forestry, and food that are applicable to the Town of Round Lake.

Town of Round Lake Agreements and Plans

Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001(2) (g) indicates that this element shall incorporate any agreements or plans to which the Town of Round Lake is a party under §66.0301, 66.0307 or 66.0309. These include any agreements or plans relating to intergovernmental cooperation, boundary agreements and regional planning commissions. The following is a list (A) of known agreements between Round Lake and other adjacent or overlapping units of government and (B) a list of plans which may have an impact on the town.

(A) Agreements

- 1) The Town of Round Lake has informal agreements with Spider Lake and Ashland County on boarder roads. Where roads cross County borders, whichever municipality finds it most convenient will plow the road. Also where roads transverse multiple municipalities, paving of entire road surface will often be done at the same time cooperatively, versus one municipality doing one section and the other doing another section at a different time.
- 2) The Town of Round Lake Fire Department provides fire and EMS service to the Town of Hunter by an annual paid contract.
- 3) The Town of Round Lake and the Town of Spider Lake have joined forces to improve and increase capacity for use of mobile communications for fire, emergency and road crews.
- 4) The Town of Round Lake has a facility agreement with the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) for WITC to use the Round Lake Town Hall to conduct educational, training and group activities.

(B) Plans

Sawyer County Outdoor Recreation Plan (2014-2020)

<https://www.sawyercountygov.org/DocumentCenter/View/377/Outdoor-Recreation-Plan-2014-2020-PDF>

Sawyer County Land and Water Resource Management Plan (2017-2026)

<https://www.sawyercountygov.org/DocumentCenter/View/231/Resource-Management-Plan-2017-2026-PDF?bidId=>

Sawyer County Farmland Preservation Plan (2017)

https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/FPBiennialReport2015_2017.pdf

Sawyer County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2006)

<https://www.sawyercountygov.org/DocumentCenter/View/320/Forestry-15-Year-Plan-Created-2006-PDF>

Sawyer County Plan for Outdoor Recreation (2014-2020)

<https://www.sawyercountygov.org/DocumentCenter/View/377/Outdoor-Recreation-Plan-2014-2020-PDF>

Wisconsin State Highway Improvement Plan (2018-2023)

<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/6yr-hwy-impr/overview/default.aspx>

The 2004 Chequamegon-Nicolet Forest Plan (2004)

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/cnnf/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprdb5117262>

The Travel Management Project-Chequamegon-Nicolet Forest Access Plan(2008)

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5162321.pdf

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

<http://www.nwrpc.com/DocumentCenter/View/666>.

Sawyer County Hazard Mitigation Plan

<http://www.nwrpc.com/DocumentCenter/View/770>

Town of Round Lake Emergency Operations Plan

<http://www.townofroundlakewi.org>

Intergovernmental Cooperation Conflicts

The following identify existing and potential conflicts between Round Lake and other governmental units (adjacent and overlapping) and describe a process to resolve such conflicts.

- Potential problems exist with over lapping jurisdiction relative to zoning and development issues.
- The town has multiple lakes that are located within several jurisdictions. Each municipality may have different criteria for judging how, or to what level development should occur on a given body of water.
- Further potential conflict may arise over the use of forest trails and/or roads traversing several jurisdictions. Different municipalities may want to focus on and promote different

and often conflicting uses; for example, biking and skiing vs. snowmobiling and ATV/UTV/UTV use.

- Additional areas of conflict have and may continue to occur as a result of the Town of Round Lake being covered under Sawyer County Zoning. The Town and County do not always agree on rezoning and conditional use permits.

Conflict Resolution

The Comprehensive Planning Law requires that the Town of Round Lake's Intergovernmental Cooperation Element identify processes to resolve conflicts and disputes between Round Lake and other units of government.

- **Mediation** – A cooperative process involving two or more parties and a mediator. The mediator, a neutral third party with special skills and training in dispute resolution, helps the parties voluntarily reach a mutually agreeable settlement of the issue in dispute.
- **Binding arbitration** – A process where a neutral person is given the authority to make a legally binding decision and is used only with the consent of all of the parties. The parties present evidence and examine witnesses and the arbitrator makes a determination based on evidence.
- **Non-binding arbitration** – A technique in which a neutral person is given the authority to render a non-binding decision as a basis for subsequent negotiations between the parties after the parties' present evidence and examine the witnesses.
- **Early neutral evaluation** – A process in which a neutral person evaluates brief written and oral presentations early in the litigation process. The neutral person provides an initial appraisal of the merits of the case with suggestions for conducting discovery and obtaining a legal ruling to resolve the case as efficiently as possible.
- **A focus group** – Used to resolve disputes by using a panel of citizens selected in a manner agreed upon by all of the parties. The citizens hear presentations from the parties and, after hearing the issues, the focus group deliberates and renders an advisory opinion.
- **A mini-trial** – Consists of presentations by the parties to a panel of selected and authorized by all the parties to negotiate a settlement of the dispute that, after the presentations, considers the legal and factual issues and attempts to negotiate a settlement.
- **A moderated settlement conference** – A process in which conferences are conducted by a neutral person, who hears brief presentations from the parties, in order to facilitate negotiations. The neutral person renders an advisory opinion in aid of negotiation.
- **A summary jury trial** – A technique where attorneys make abbreviated presentations to a small jury selected from the regular jury list. The jury renders an advisory decision to help the parties assess their position to aid future negotiation.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Benefits

There are many reasons intergovernmental cooperation makes sense. The following are some examples:

- **Cost savings** – Cooperation can save money by increasing efficiency and avoiding unnecessary duplication. Cooperation can enable some communities to provide their

residents with services that would otherwise be too costly.

- **Address regional issues** – By communicating and coordinating their actions, and working with regional and state jurisdictions, local communities are able to address and resolve issues which are regional in nature.
- **Early identification of issues** – Cooperation enables jurisdictions to identify and resolve potential conflicts at an early stage, before affected interests have established rigid positions, before the political stakes have been raised, and before issues have become conflicts or crises.
- **Reduced litigation** – Communities that cooperate are able to resolve issues before they become mired in litigation. Reducing the possibility of costly litigation can save money, as well as the disappointment and frustration of unwanted outcomes.
- **Consistency** – Cooperation can lead to consistency of the goals, objectives, plans, policies, and actions of neighboring communities and other jurisdictions.
- **Predictability** – Jurisdictions that cooperate provide greater predictability to residents, developers, businesses, and others. Lack of predictability can result in lost time, money, and opportunity.
- **Understanding** – As jurisdictions communicate and collaborate on issues of mutual interest, they become more aware of one another's needs and priorities. They can better anticipate problems and work to avoid them.
- **Trust** – Cooperation can lead to positive experiences and results that build trust between jurisdictions.
- **History of success** – When jurisdictions cooperate successfully in one area, the success creates positive feelings and an expectation that other intergovernmental issues can be resolved as well.
- **Service to citizens** – The biggest beneficiaries of intergovernmental cooperation are citizens who can benefit from costs savings, provision of needed services, a healthy environment, and a strong economy.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Ongoing Goals, Objectives, and Actions

Developing relationships with adjoining and overlapping jurisdictions that encourage open communication is critical to the effectiveness of the comprehensive plan. The goals and objectives identified in the original Town of Round Lake Comprehensive Plan continue to be relevant today.

Goal 1: Establish mutually beneficial relations with County and adjoining governmental jurisdictions.

Objective 1: Establish and maintain positive communication with other units of government.

- Action 1: Provide a copy of the Comprehensive Plan and any proposed Plan updates or amendments to governmental units within the Town, Public Library, neighboring governmental units, and Sawyer County.
Primary responsible party – Plan Commission

- Action 2: Identify alternative solutions to existing or potential land use, administration or policy conflicts that may hinder intergovernmental cooperation.
Primary responsible party – Town Board
Responsible party – Plan Commission
- Action 3: Improve working relationships with neighboring communities and governmental units to provide efficient and cost effective emergency services, road maintenance, and other services when appropriate.
Primary responsible party – Town Board
- Action 4: Improve communication with the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors regarding local issues, concerns, long range planning and land use controls.
Primary responsible party – Town Board
Responsible party – Plan Commission
- Action 5: Maintain timely and effective correspondence with Sawyer County, the U.S. Forest Service, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Wisconsin Town's Association, area schools, and other groups and agencies.
Primary responsible party – Town Board
- Action 6: Maintain constructive relationships with the various levels of government, non-governmental organizations and private organizations that have a vested interest in the protection and conservation of land and water resources.
Primary responsible party – Town Board
Responsible party – Plan Commission

Goal 2: Coordinate and communicate planning activities with other communities and non-governmental units in the county to address regional issues that cross political and watershed boundaries and jurisdictions, to ensure efficient use and management of resources, and to provide for increased certainty between all levels of government, developers and landowners.

- Objective 1: Foster effective intergovernmental working relationships that exhibit mutual trust and respect.
- Action 1: Participate in a joint meeting schedule, as needed, between local government units to encourage discussion and action on area issues, long-range planning and land use controls.
Primary responsible party – Town Board
Responsible party – Plan Commission
- Action 2: Create opportunities to jointly hold public forums and workshops to exchange information and increase public understanding and acceptance of innovative planning tools, programs, and regulatory procedures.
Primary responsible party – Town Board
Responsible party – Plan Commission
- Action 3: Maintain constructive and working relationships with the various levels of government, non-governmental organizations and private organizations that have a vested interest in the protection and conservation of known

environmentally sensitive areas, environmental corridors, agricultural and forested lands, and significant rural conservation or natural resource areas from premature development.

Primary responsible party – Town Board

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Action 4: Encourage local government agencies to provide timely notifications to the Town of Round Lake about proposed developments, land subdivisions, rezoning, and public improvements from that town which is closest to our border.

Primary responsible party – Town Board

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Action 5: Provide timely notifications regarding proposed rezoning or conditional use permits in the Town of Round Lake to the clerk of nearest bordering town.

Primary responsible party – Town Board

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Action 6: Support the efforts of Sawyer County to adopt and implement county Comprehensive plans encompassing the principles of Smart Growth and consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Primary responsible party – Town Board

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Action 7: Improve communication with the public regarding the announcement of meetings, activities, development projects, programs, and solutions.

Primary responsible party – Town Board

Goal 3: Seek opportunities to enhance the provision of coordinated public services and facilities such as police, fire, emergency rescue, waste management, transportation systems (e.g. roads, bike/pedestrian routes, transit, etc...), parks and recreation with other units of government.

Objective 1: Share community facilities wherever possible.

Action 1: Utilize the use of bulk purchasing arrangements with neighboring local governments for the purchase of such things as road salt, fuel, road work supplies and machinery to lower the unit cost of materials and supplies.

Primary responsible party – Town Board

Action 2: Pursue opportunities with local units of government to package bid proposals for services such as garbage and recycling services.

Primary responsible party – Town Board

Action 3: Share information, equipment, resources, facilities, technology and services that have cross-jurisdictional applications.

Primary responsible party – Town Board

Action 4: Identify opportunities to jointly provide expanded or new services such as additional recreational programs, transit programs, bicycle trail and park facilities with neighboring communities.

Primary responsible party – Town Board

Responsible party – Plan Commission

Action 5: Pursue joint purchasing or use of equipment, facilities or services.

Primary responsible party – Town Board

Action 6: Before the purchase of new town facilities or equipment or the re-instatement of service agreements, the town shall pursue options for trading, renting, sharing, or contraction such items from neighboring jurisdictions.

Primary responsible party – Town Board

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Land Use

This chapter describes land use and activities associated with development, zoning, assessment, public defined directives (county, state, and federal governments) and other information useful in gaining a broader understanding of land use practices.

Existing Land Use

The Existing Land Use map (**Map 8.1-Existing Land Use**) is based in part on various data sources, review of plan commission members and public input. It is important to note the Existing Land Use map and definitions is not a zoning map or definition. The Existing Land Use map illustrates how the land “is being used” where as a zoning map (**Map 8.2-Zoning**) identifies districts and its allowable uses.

Town of Round Lake Land Use Definitions

Single-family – Lands with single-family structures designed for human habitation including permanent, seasonal, mobile housing units (not designated mobile home parks) and recreational cabins and cottages.

Multi-family – Lands with two-family or more attached units, apartment complexes, and Town homes.

Condominium – Lands with a complex of housing units in which each unit, from the unit walls inward, are individually owned and where all condo owners own the property as a group (association).

Recreational Resort – Lands with structures designed for human habitation where the primary use is rental of recreational cabins and cottages.

Mobile Home Park – Individual or contiguous land parcels under a common ownership and designed or laid out to accommodate three or more mobile or manufactured homes, intended for year-round residency.

Agriculture – Land primarily for growing of croplands, livestock grazing, dairy farming, pastures, cranberry bogs, farmsteads and farming support activities.

Commercial – Office buildings, retail sales establishments, restaurants, rental storage facilities, hotels/motels, inns, and bed & breakfast.

Industrial – Manufacturing and processing facilities, warehousing and distribution facilities, including controlled outdoor storage areas related to industrial facilities.

Communications & Utilities – Cellular, TV and radio towers and related facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, power substations, electric transmission lines, power generation facilities, and pipelines.

Transportation – Public and private railroads, airports, and roads.

Institutional – Government administrative buildings and offices; fire halls/stations; government recycling facilities; hospitals, clinics, and special care-facilities; public schools and colleges; fraternal organizations; cemeteries; churches and other religious facilities.

Forestry – Private and public owned forested lands, including land under forest crop law and applicable U.S. Forest Service lands having special use designations within the Chequamegon National Forest.

Open Space – Private and public owned non-forested lands and fallow fields.

Extraction – Quarries, gravel pits and other non-metallic mining operations.

Outdoor Recreation – Public and private lands designed or designated as Town, village, city and county parks and recreation areas; hunting preserves or other designed hunting management areas; golf courses, shooting ranges, and campgrounds.

Conservancy – Public, private, and non-profit lands dedicated to the conservation of wildlife, wildlife habitat, fisheries, natural resources, and scenic/natural beauty.

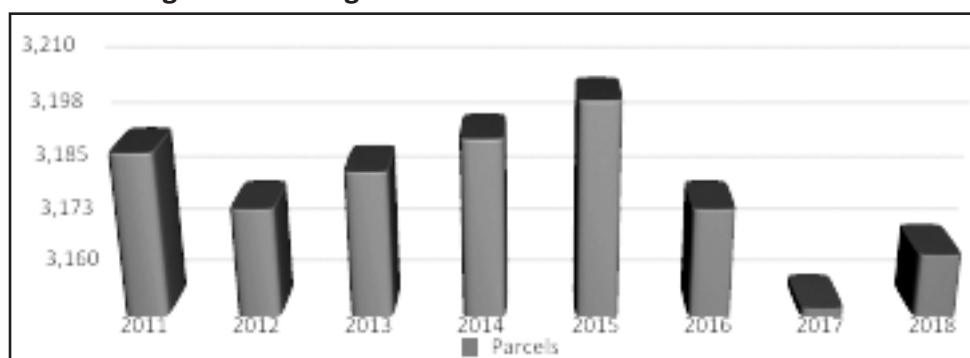
Water (Public Trust) – Lakes, rivers, perennial streams and ponds.

Table 8.1: Existing Land Use		
Existing Land Use	Acres	Percent of Town
Residential — Single Family	1005.15	1.31%
Residential — Condominium	39.58	0.05%
Recreational Resort	70.55	0.09%
Agriculture	1553.63	2.02%
Commercial	19.18	0.02%
Industrial	6.69	0.01%
Communications & Utilities	5.42	0.01%
Transportation	1,899.84	2.47%
Institutional	33.95	0.04%
Forestry*	61,867.97	80.52%
Open Space	32.09	0.04%
Extraction	93.76	0.12%
Outdoor Recreation	1,355.78	1.76%
Conservancy	3,040.94	3.96%
Water (Public Trust)	5,807.89	7.56%

Source: Round Lake Existing Land Use Map. *includes wetlands totaling nearly 19,000 acres

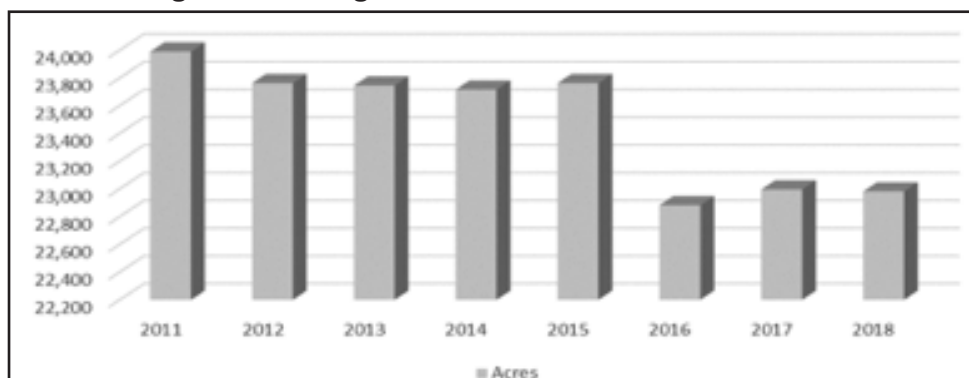
Assessed Parcels, Acres and Value

Figure 8.1 Change in Total Assessed Parcels 2011-2018



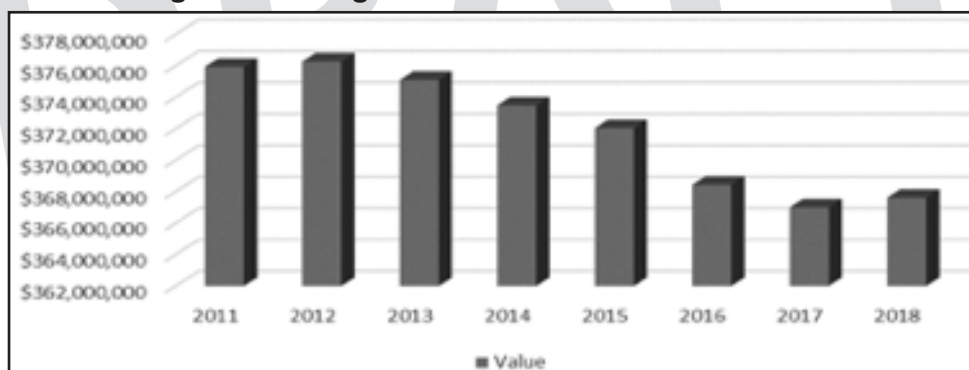
Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue

Figure 8.2 Change in Total Assessed Acres 2011-2018



Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue

Figure 8.3 Change in Total Assessed Value 2011-2018



Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue

Residential Property Tax Assessment Values

Table 8.2: Residential Total Assessment Values 2011–2018		
Year	Assessment Value	Percent Change
2011	\$375,939,700	
2012	\$376,277,200	0.09%
2013	\$375,111,900	–0.31%
2014	\$373,487,500	–0.43%
2015	\$372,042,800	–0.39%
2016	\$368,436,100	–0.97%
2017	\$366,997,300	–0.39%
2018	\$367,617,200	0.17%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue

Zoning Regulations

While the Existing Land Use map depicts how land is being used, the Zoning map (Map 8.2) represents zoning districts that regulate use and development. The Town's adoption of the

Sawyer County Zoning Ordinance requires the Sawyer County Zoning Department to enforce county zoning ordinances throughout the Town.

These eleven zoning districts make up the Sawyer County Zoning Ordinance:

R–1: Residential One District – This district provides for one–family and two–family year–round residential development protected from traffic hazards and the intrusion of incompatible land uses. It is intended to encourage such development around existing residential areas where soil conditions are suitable for such development and in those areas, which can be economically and readily served, by utilities and municipal facilities.

RR–1: Residential/Recreational One District – This district is intended to provide for residential development and essential recreation–oriented services in areas of high recreational value where soil conditions and other physical features will support such development without depleting or destroying natural resources.

RR–2: Residential/Recreational Two District – This district is intended to provide for residential development and essential recreation–oriented services in areas of high recreational value where soil conditions and other physical features will support such development without depleting or destroying natural resources. Permitted use varies slightly from RR-1.

A–1: Agricultural One District – This district is intended to provide for the continuation of general farming and related activities in those areas best suited for such development, and to provide for orderly development of residential, commercial, and industrial development.

A–2: Agricultural Two District – This district is intended to provide for light and hobby farming and related activities and to provide for orderly development of residential, agricultural, and commercial activities in those areas best suited for development.

C–1: Commercial One District – This district is intended to provide for the orderly and attractive grouping, at appropriate locations, of retail stores, shops, offices, and similar commercial establishments.

I–1: Industrial One District – This district is intended to provide for manufacturing and industrial operations which, on the basis of actual physical and operational characteristics, would not be detrimental to surrounding areas by reason of smoke, noise, dust, odor, traffic, physical appearance, or industries requiring outdoor storage for raw materials and/or finished products may be required to provide a screen or fence in accordance with the provisions of Section 7.0.

F–1: Forestry One District – This district provides for the continuation of forest programs and related uses in those areas best suited for such activities. It is intended to encourage forest management programs and also to recognize the value of the forest as a recreational resource by permitting certain recreational activities which, when adequately developed, are not incompatible to the forest.

PUD: Planned Unit Development District – The PUD District is intended to provide for large-scale residential and/or commercial uses only. This district shall have no definite boundaries until such as approved by the County Board on the recommendation of the Zoning Committee in accordance with the procedures prescribed for zoning amendments by Section 59.69 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Plans for the proposed development shall be submitted in duplicate, and shall show the location, size, and proposed use of all structures and land included in the areas involved.

Table 8.3: Zone District and Acreage — Town of Round Lake			
Zone District	Acreage	Zone District	Acreage
Residential One	7.0	Commercial One	297.0
Residential/Recreation One	6,864.7	Industrial One	178.0
Residential/Recreational Two	434.4	Forestry One	57,959.6
Agricultural One	2,169.6	Planned Unit Development	1.1
Agricultural Two	1,198.3		

Source: Sawyer County Land Information GIS Data

Zoning Dimensional Requirements

Table 8.4: Zoning District Dimensional Requirements, Sawyer County								
	Zoning District							
Requirement	R-1	RR-1	RR-2	A-1	A-2	C-1	I-1	F-1
18.1 Building Height Limit*	35'	35'	35'	35'	35'	35'	60'	35'
18.2 Required Lot Area (sq/ft)								
With Public Sewer	10,000**	10,000	10,000	5 acres	5 acres	10,000	1 acre	5 acres
Without Public Sewer	20,000**	20,000	20,000	5 acres	5 acres	20,000	1 acre	5 acres
18.3 Minimum Lot Width								
With Public Sewer	75'	75'	75'	300'	300'	75'	200'	300'
Without Public Sewer	100'***	100'***	100'***	300'	300'	100'	200'	300'
18.4 (a) Yard Required								
Front	30'	30'	30'	50'	50'	10'	50'	30'
Rear	40'	40'	40'	50'	50'	20'	50'	40'
Side								
Principal Building	10'	10'	10'	20'	20'	10'	20'	10'
	30'	30'	30'	50'	50'	10'	50'	30'
Accessory Bldg	5'	5'	5'	10'	10'/50'	5'	10'	5'

Table 8.4: Zoning District Dimensional Requirements, Sawyer County (continued)								
Requirement	R-1	RR-1	RR-2	A-1	A-2	C-1	I-1	F-1
18.4(b) Yard Required (See Note (1))								
Side Principal Building	10							
18.5 Floor Area, Residence (sq/ft) See Note 2)								
1 Bedroom	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
2 Bedrooms	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600
3 Bedrooms	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	700
18.6 Minimum Residence Width See Note (2)	20'	20'	20'	14'	14'	14'	—	20'
18.7 Minimum Lot Depth								
With Public Sewer	—	—	—					
Without Public Sewer	200'	200'	200'			200'		

Source: Sawyer County Zoning Ordinance

*Subject to Section 4.4 Airport Safety Regulations

**Minimum for one-family, add 5,000 sq/ft for each additional unit over one plus any additional area required by applicable Wisconsin Administrative Code A-2 Dimensional Requirements

***On Shoreline Lots, the minimum lot width shall be 100 feet and a minimum of 100 feet of frontage at the ordinary highwater mark.

Note (1): Reduced side lot line setbacks for principal buildings are applicable only if all of the following requirements are met: (1) Only in the Village of Stone Lake Original Plat, Village of Stone Lake First Addition and Village of Stone Lake Outlots all located in S19, T 39N, R 9W (2) By ordinance adopted by the Town of Sand Lake Board and (3) On public sewered and public water supplied lots only.

Note (2): Requirements may be reduced with the approval of a Variance per Section 11.3.

Shoreland–Wetland Zoning

The Sawyer County Zoning Ordinance establishes development standards for lands within the shoreland areas of the county and includes lakes class development standards.

<https://www.sawyercountygov.org/DocumentCenter/View/1974/Shoreland–Wetland–Protection–Ordinance–effective–04–19–17–amended–01–17–19?bidId=>

Floodplain Ordinances

Sawyer County has an adopted Floodplain Zoning Ordinance.

<https://www.sawyercountygov.org/DocumentCenter/View/242/Floodplain–Ordinance–Updated–August–17–2015–PDF?bidId=>

The official floodplain maps for Sawyer County can be found in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Map Service Center at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>.

Private Sewage System Regulations

The Wisconsin Department of Commerce and Sawyer County are jointly responsible for the regulation and monitoring of private on-site wastewater systems (POWTS). The Sawyer County Private Sewage System Ordinance regulates the location, construction, installation, alteration, design, and use of all private sewage systems in the county in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes. <https://www.sawyercountygov.org/DocumentCenter/View/1710/1-2011-Private-Sewage-System-Ordinance?bidId=>

Metallic Mining

<http://sawyercountygov.org/DocumentCenter/View/1705/2018-01-Mining-Ordinance>

Metallic minerals contain metal in raw form. Metallic minerals occur in rare, naturally formed concentrations known as mineral deposits. These deposits can consist of a variety of metallic minerals containing valuable metals such as nickel (pentlandite), copper (chalcopyrite), zinc (sphalerite), lead (galena) and gold. The DNR is the state agency with primary responsibility for regulating environmental aspects of metallic mining activities.

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/mines/metallic.html>

Vanadium is non-ferrous metal like nickel, copper, gold and silver that's rare in nature but useful to strengthen steel or titanium. One of the largest deposits of vanadium in North America is here in Sawyer County. <https://www.livescience.com/29155-vanadium.html>

Non-Metallic Mining

<https://www.sawyercountygov.org/DocumentCenter/View/1832/Non-Metallic-Mining-Ordinance-May-21-2015?bidId=>

Nonmetallic mining is the extraction of stone, sand, rock or similar materials from natural deposits. The most common examples of nonmetallic mines are quarries and pits. County and local zoning bodies are responsible for all mine siting requirements and regulation. County and local governments are also responsible for regulating mine operations other than reclamation activities. The DNR Storm Water Management Program may require mine operations to have Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permits. Some mining operations will need to obtain air permits from the DNR Air Management Program as well.

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/mines/nonmetallic.html>

There are an estimated 93.8 acres of non-metallic mining sites in the Town of Round Lake. Active non-metallic mining sites are located along State Highway 77, Moose Lake Road, and Chippewa River Road (**Map 8.1**–Existing Land Use).

Table 8.5: Town of Round Lake Land Supply		
	Acres	Percent of Total Land Area
Land Ownership Factors		
Town Lands	315.52	0.42%
County Land	2,917.62	3.86%
State Lands	2,077.32	2.75%
Federal Lands	36,881.94	48.75%
Total	42,192.40	55.77%
Existing Land Use Factors		
Existing development	3,174.12	4.20%
Existing agricultural/open space areas	1,585.726	2.10%
Managed Forest Law MFL	2,041.896	2.70%
Forest Crop Law FCL	849.82	1.12%
Private Forest (not MFL or FCL)	12,063	15.95%
Total	11,287.32	14.92%
Environmental Factors		
Surface Waters	5,775.3	7.64%
Wetlands	18,452.7	24.41%
Slopes (20% and Greater)	747.2	0.99%
Constraints Analysis		
Public	42,192.40	55.77%
Existing Land Use	3,174.12	4.82%
Surface Waters	5,775.3	7.64%
Wetlands	18,452.7	24.41%
Steep Slopes	747.2	0.99%
Total Constraints		92.99%
Total Area	75,648	100%
Remaining Land Area		7.01%

Source: NWRPC GIS Analysis, various data sources

1. Acres of wetlands occur in other existing use or ownership category

2. Acres of steep slope areas occur within other existing use or ownership category

Various constraints are present throughout the community, including natural features such as wetlands, floodplains, surface waters, steep slopes, and soil limitations. Lands under public ownership are excluded from the overall developable land base.

Projected Land Demand

Table 8.6: Residential Assessed Acreage 2011–2018								
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Residential	3,828	3,830	3,854	3,856	3,859	3,853	3,867	3,856

Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue 2011–2018

Table 8.7: Projected Residential Acres 2020–2045					
	2020	2025	2030	2035	2045
Residential	3,866	3,880	3,895	3,910	3,926

Source: NWRPC

Table 8.8: Commercial Assessed Acreage 2011–2018								
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Commercial	231	230	264	267	238	238	241	241

Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue 2011–2018

Table 8.9: Projected Commercial Acres 2020–2045					
	2020	2025	2030	2035	2045
Commercial	237	231	225	218	211

Source: NWRPC

Table 8.10: Manufacturing Assessed Acreage 2011–2018								
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Manufacturing	37	37	37	37	37	37	35	35

Revenue 2011–2018

Table 8.11: Projected Manufacturing Acres 2020–2045					
	2020	2025	2030	2035	2045
Manufacturing	35	34	32	31	30

Source: NWRPC

Table 8.12: Agricultural Assessed Acreage 2011–2018								
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Agricultural	1,390	1,386	1,392	1,391	1,382	1,383	1,379	1,420

Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue 2011–2018

Table 8.13: Projected Agricultural Acres 2020–2045					
	2020	2025	2030	2035	2045
Agricultural	1,398	1,404	1,412	1,419	1,426

Source: NWRPC

Table 8.14 represents the estimated acreage depicted on the Map 8.3: Future Land Use.

Note: This table cannot be completed until feedback is gathered from the public and Town officials.

Table 8.14: Future Land Use		
	Acres	Percent of Town
Agriculture	1,441	1.9%
Commercial	275	0.4%
Light Industrial	101	0.1%
Communications/Utilities	10	0.01%
Conservancy	2,505	3.3%
Extraction	74	0.1%
Governmental/Institutional	32	0.04%
Parks & Recreation	74	0.1%
Private Forest	24,558	32.0%
Public Forest	40,239	52.4%
Shoreland Regulated Zone*	14,690	19.1%
Residential Expansion Area	1,169	1.5%
Water	6,256	8.2%
Wetland*	18,393	24.0%

Source: NWRPC GIS Analysis. *acreage represented within multiple other future land use categories.

Opportunities for Remediation and Redevelopment

No specific parcels or areas of the Town are identified as needing redevelopment as the majority of the Town is rural and undeveloped. However, if dilapidated buildings of all types would have a potential for redevelopment, efforts should be explored to raze or redevelop the properties.

Concentrated growth in the center of a city or densely populated area to avoid or limit sprawl, often referred to as smart growth, is difficult in a rural community. The Town's rural nature limits the implementation of compact/concentrated growth through smart growth.

Protecting Private Property Rights

The planning of future land uses is sometimes perceived as an intrusion on the rights of private property owners. The actual purpose of this activity is to protect the rights of the individual and to give landowners, citizens, and local communities the opportunity to define their community vision. The Town of Round Lake has worked diligently to minimize potential future conflict and to protect the rights of individual landowners as they use their property. The Town will continue to work with all private landowners to ensure the best possible future for the Town.

Wisconsin law holds private property ownership in high regard. Landowners are prohibited from using their property in a manner that jeopardizes public health and safety. The actions of a private landowner cannot cause an “unreasonable” interference with another landowner’s use of their property. Furthermore, the Sawyer County Zoning Ordinance prescribes the allowable use of property by zone district.

Future Land Use Map

The Future Land Use Map (**Map 8.3**) provides a visual depiction of a preferred development pattern for the Town and is intended to serve as a development guide for landowners, the Town of Round Lake, and Sawyer County. It is not a zoning map and does not alter the existing zoning on each property.

Future Land Use Categories

The Future Land Use Map delineates broad categories of future land use which in some cases, is consistent with the Existing Land Use classifications and represents a continuation of the existing situation. In other cases, the future category may be a recommended or anticipated shift in use. When and whether these areas should be rezoned to be consistent with the provisions of the Town of Round Lake Comprehensive Plan is at the discretion of the both the Town of Round Lake and the Sawyer County Zoning Committee based on a mutually agreed upon decisions.

Agriculture – Generally those areas where future agricultural practices are expected to continue during the planning period. Minimum density thresholds within this category are one home per five acres.

Commercial/Light Industrial – There is no single commercial core found in the Town, but instead commercial developments are scattered throughout the Town at key intersections or other areas. Light industrial activity is limited to a very small area of the Town. In areas where no sewer service is available a minimum lot area of 20,000 square feet is recommended for commercial / industrial / manufacturing use.

Communications/Utilities – Current or future locations for development of communications facilities or utilities.

Conservancy – Areas where unique characteristics are present that should ideally be preserved and maintained in their natural state.

Extraction – Current or future locations for mining operations.

Governmental/Institutional — Includes government administrative buildings and offices, fire halls, government recycling facilities, hospitals, clinics, and special care–facilities, public schools, colleges, fraternal organizations, cemeteries, churches and other religious facilities.

Parks and Recreation — Includes existing mapped outdoor recreational areas and future areas for park and recreational development, whether private or public, including hunting preserves, designated hunting management areas, camping areas, motorized and non–motorized recreation areas.

Private Forest – Areas where the Town has seen growth in residential development and is anticipated to continue to see this activity. In order to protect the natural resource base (woodlands and wetlands) in these areas and to promote low density developments, it is recommended that development be limited to a minimum lot size of 5 acres with one single family dwelling and no further subdivision of the lot within this area.

Public Forest – Areas under public ownership (county, state, or federal) where no planned residential, commercial, or industrial development is projected over the planning horizon.

Shoreland Residential – Shoreland areas are represented by the lakes and rivers in the county zoning ordinance classification system and adhere to defined development densities. These areas may include residential, recreational resort, commercial and other activities as allowed by use within the Sawyer County Zoning Ordinance.

Residential Expansion Area – Areas identified as Residential Expansion have been identified for residential development where the minimum density of 1 home per 3 acres.

Water – Lakes, rivers, perennial streams and ponds, in Public Trust.

Wetlands – Areas exhibiting traits supporting wetlands due to soils, plants and hydric conditions.

Anticipated Trends Impacting the Town of Round Lake

- The average age of households will continue to increase, as seasonal homes become year-round residential structures.
- Year-round residents, seasonal residents and rental visitors will continue to seek recreational resources found throughout the Town.
- Increased traffic will occur on the roadway system to accommodate more residents and visitors to the area.
- Demands for ATV/UTV use on Town roadways will increase.
- Demands for bicycle use on Town roadways will increase.
- Fragmentation of the forest/woodland areas to accommodate residential development may continue.
- Demand for rural housing will continue to increase, coupled with increased demand for larger parcels of land.
- Shoreland development will continue to be in demand, with second tier shoreland development growing, as lakes become more developed and priced out of reach to local residents.
- Demand for waterfront property will continue, with increased pressure to develop smaller lakes and riverfront property.
- Water quality concerns will increase due to increased development and tourism.

Source: Town of Round Lake and NWRPC

Land Use Ongoing Goals, Objectives, and Actions

Goals and objectives identified in the original Town of Round Lake Comprehensive Plan continue to be relevant today. Town residents and officials remain vigilant in protecting shorelines from overdevelopment, large tracts of forest or agricultural areas from fragmentation, and planning residential and commercial growth so it blends with the Northwood's character of our community.

Goal 1: Promote coherent, consistent land use planning that maintains the Town's distinctive rural and Northwood's character.

Objective 1: Support a planned development/redevelopment pattern that makes efficient and effective use of land, public services, and financial resources while guiding land use decisions.

- Action 1: Promote cooperation in planning for development/redevelopment, facilities, and services with adjacent Towns, land trusts, counties, WDNR, and the USFS.
Responsible Party – Town Board
- Action 2: Provide open space, trails, parks, and recreational opportunities affording the maximum benefit to the community.
Responsible Party – Town Board
- Action 3: Focus new areas of growth within or near existing areas of development where adequate public facilities & services exist (or are planned).
Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission
Responsible Party – Town Board
- Action 4: Encourage utilization of the existing road network to accommodate future development.
Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission
Responsible Party – Town Board
- Action 5: New Planned Unit Developments should be guided to the Residential Expansion Area on the Future Land Use Map.
Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission
Responsible Party – Town Board
- Action 6: Support a variety of lot sizes including a recommended 3 acre minimum in Residential Expansion Areas on the Future Land Use Map and a minimum lot size of two acres in non-waterfront areas of the shoreland zone. Encourage maintaining large tracts of forested land by recommending a minimum parcel size of 5–10 acres in Private Forest on the Future Land Use Map.
Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission
Responsible Party – Town Board
- Action 7: Encourage commercial development consistent with rural and northwoods character by discouraging large “chain” run corporations.
Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission
Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 8: Allow a limited amount of planned, mixed-use development provided that such development is located in areas designated on the Future land Use map.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 9: Consider long-term implications of land use decisions.

Primary Responsible Party – Town Board

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 10: Encourage the county to support the Town/s decisions regarding zoning.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Objective 2: Promote positive environmental practices that protect natural resources, including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes, woodlands, open spaces and groundwater resources.

Action 1: Conduct and maintain a comprehensive assessment of the condition of the Town's natural and environmental resources.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 2: Protect environmentally sensitive, culturally, and archaeologically important areas.

Primary Responsible Party – Town Board

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 3: Promote residential densities that minimize effects on the environment.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 4: Promote the protection of farmland and forests.

Primary Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Responsible Party – Town Board

Goal 2: Minimize land use conflicts between development and existing or future land use, and between development and the environment.

Objective 1: Avoid practices that would result in land use conflicts for adjacent properties.

Action 1: Emphasize wise land use choices that recognize adjacent land use practices and will not interfere with their use.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 2: Educate and encourage private property owners to manage their land to emphasize the Town's rural and Northwood's character.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 3: Require new development/redevelopment to address adjacent land use compatibility with regard to noise potential, odor, population density, appearance, traffic generation, and light pollution.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 4: Encourage all development/ redevelopment to minimize the visual impact by using methods such as vegetative buffers and landscaping, curved driveways, and colors that blend in with the natural surroundings.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 4: Discourage future keyhole development to stop over development of lakeshore property.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 5: Work to prevent “spot zoning” and reserve zoned land for said use.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Objective 2: Avoid practices that would result in land use conflict with environmental factors.

Action 1: Require a master site plan for all development/redevelopment.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 2: Encourage higher density development/redevelopment to be located away from environmentally sensitive areas.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 3: New development/redevelopment along the edges of environmental, cultural, and archaeologically important areas will require an appropriate buffer zone. These areas should not otherwise be altered.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 4: Recommend new retail and commercial development be located away from the shoreland zone.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 5: Support commercial, light industrial, and manufacturing operations that have little environmental impact or waste.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 6: Educate developers and builders on environmental regulations and best practices.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Goal 3: Balance individual property rights with public rights and community goals and interests.

Objective 1: Ensure all property owners have equal opportunity to participate in the implementation of their public and private property rights in addressing future land use development.

Action 1: Maintain relevant information on the Town website.

Responsible Party – Town Clerk

Action 2: Provide information on public property rights addressed as part of Wisconsin’s Public Trust Doctrine.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 3: Provide information on private property rights addressed in county/Town statutes.

Responsible Party – Town Board

Action 4: Minimize property right conflicts through discussion and education.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Objective 2: Protect and enhance land values by incorporating public and private land use rights into the planning process.

Action 1: Emphasize wise land use choices that recognize adjacent land use practices.

Responsible Party – Plan Commission

Action 2: Consider long-term implications of land use decisions on land value.

Responsible Party – Town Board

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Implementation

Introduction

The Town of Round Lake Comprehensive Plan is intended to help guide growth and development decisions within the town. The purpose of this implementation element is to explain how this plan will be utilized to guide future growth and development based on a set of actions set forth by the Town of Round Lake. The comprehensive plan addresses many important components critical to sustaining a healthy community, while preserving the local natural resources and history. The plan is an expression of the town's wishes and desires, and provides a series of actions/policies for assisting the community in attaining its goals. It is not an attempt to predict the future, but an attempt to document community values and philosophies that citizens and property owners of the Town of Round Lake share.

As part of the overall comprehensive planning process, citizens and property owners of the town assisted in developing a plan covering a 20-year planning horizon. Based on projected land use needs into the future, the future land use map is but one resource that will assist the town in directing land use activities to areas best suited for development. The future land use map is based on background data, future projections, local issues and opportunities, natural resource constraints and public input. The overall comprehensive plan will ultimately provide guidance to the plan commission and town board in making future recommendations and decisions.

The plan commission, town board and citizens, while reviewing all proposals pertaining to growth and development, will use this document. A thorough review of the plan is necessary, with particular attention given to the goals and objectives. Proposed development will be reviewed for consistency and whether the requested action conforms to the plan.

The comprehensive plan is not an inflexible or static set of rules; rather, the objectives and actions are intended to allow flexibility in light of new information or opportunities. As change is inevitable, the comprehensive plan may need to be amended to appropriately reflect those changes.

Measuring Plan Progress

The goals, objectives and actions, when implemented, are intended to build stronger relationships and give direction to the town board and its year-round and seasonal residents. All plan elements were developed to coordinate together and assist in building this strong relationship and direction.

The measurement tool to gauge the outcome of objectives and actions is the implementation target for the identified actions. These targets will provide guidance to the plan commission and town board when specific actions should be initiated. Based on the targets, the plan commission will then measure the progress of the comprehensive plan. Many of the actions identified are continuous and ongoing steps that do not have a specific implementation target date. Ongoing goals, objectives, and actions can be found at the end of each element chapter.

Other Implementation Policies and Programs

Private owners can be excellent stewards of the land, but habitat protection needs to extend beyond the lifetime of the current owners. Today, landowners, non-profits and local governments have a variety of tools to protect habitat across the landscape. Private options involve the landowner and should always be used together with public tools for land protection. Private conservation give landowners incentives to protect natural areas on their property, and can offer permanent and parcel-specific protection.

Purchase of Development Rights Program (PDR)

The purchase of development rights is a voluntary protection technique that compensates the landowner for limiting future development on their land. The programs are primarily used for retention of agricultural lands, but the concept can be applied to all types of land use scenarios. Under a PDR program, an entity such as a town, county or private conservation organization purchases the development rights to a designated piece of property. The land remains in private ownership, and the landowner retains all the other rights and responsibilities associated with the property.

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program

The TDR program is a non-regulatory (voluntary) approach that allows the right to develop property to be transferred from one parcel (or zoning district) to another. Under a TDR program, development rights to a parcel of land are transferred from a “sending area” to another parcel referred to as the “receiving area.” Sending areas are typically those areas where development is discouraged or limited, and receiving areas are areas where growth and development are encouraged. Under some TDR programs, local government awards development rights to each parcel of developable land in the community or in selected districts on the basis of the land's acreage or value. Landowners can then sell the development rights on the open market. The TDR program has been widely implemented at the local level due to the fact that it requires no major financial contribution by local government.

Benefits of the TDR program include:

- The public benefits from the conservation easements, which protect and preserve sensitive natural features and wildlife habitat.
- Owners of sending area properties receive economic compensation for their properties where development would normally be precluded due to sensitive natural features or zoning restrictions.
- Owners of receiving area properties can increase their development density, accommodating a greater number of uses or tenants.
- Little financial contribution on behalf of local government.

Acquisition

This type of land-preservation tool involves the direct purchase of land for the purposes of preservation and protection. This tool should be used in cases where other protective mechanisms fail to meet objectives and/or in cases of high-priority acquisition lands. Acquisition efforts should be coordinated with other local, state and national acquisition initiatives (lake

associations, environmental groups, USFS, DNR, etc.). Depending on the acquisition, funding assistance from federal, state or not-for-profit groups may be found.

Conservation Easements

When a landowner sells their development rights, a legal document known as a conservation easement is drafted. The easement restricts the use of the land to agricultural use, open space or other desired use in perpetuity. A conservation easement permanently limits residential, commercial or industrial development to protect its natural attributes or agricultural value. The conservation easement becomes a part of the landowner's deed and remains on the deed even if the land is sold or passed through inheritance, thereby ensuring the development will not occur on the property.

The conservation easement does not automatically allow public access to the land; the land remains in the hands of the owner, as only the right to develop it has been purchased. All remaining rights of property ownership remain with the landowner including the right to transfer ownership, swap, deed or sell the land. A purchase of development rights program works to ensure that incompatible development will not take place; the PDR becomes a part of the deed and keeps the land in its agricultural or natural state in perpetuity. An effective purchase of development rights program requires initial financial support and on-going administration. Additionally, the program requires a review board to assess the lands of landowners requesting entry of their parcel into the PDR program.

Land Trusts

Land trusts are non-profit voluntary organizations that work with landowners to use a variety of tools to help them protect their land. Such organizations are formed with the purpose of protecting open space, scenic views and wildlife. They use a variety of techniques to raise money for operating expenses and the acquisition of easements. Land trusts also provide adequate monitoring and stewardship. In the United States, land trusts can hold conservation easements, which means that the organization has the right to enforce the restrictions placed on the land.

Land Protection Tool	Pro	Con
Donated Conservation Easements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanently protects land from development pressures. • Landowners may receive income, estate, and property tax benefits. • No or low cost to local unit of government. • Land remains in private ownership and on the tax rolls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax incentives may not provide enough compensation for many landowners • Little local government control over which areas are protected.
Purchase of Development Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanently protects land from development pressures. • Landowner is paid to protect their land. • Landowners may receive estate and property tax benefits. • Local government can target locations effectively. • Land remains in private ownership and on the tax rolls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be costly for local unit of government.
Transfer of Development Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanently protects land from development pressures. • Landowner is paid to protect their land. • Landowners may receive estate and property tax benefits. • Local government can target locations effectively. • Low cost to local unit of government. • Utilizes free market mechanisms. • Land remains in private ownership and on tax roll 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be complex to manage • Receiving area must be willing to accept higher densities.

Conservation Design Subdivisions/ Planned Unit Development

The conservation-design subdivision concept is an alternative development design to the conventional residential subdivision. Conventionally designed subdivisions are typically characterized by land divided into house lots and streets, with minimal (if any) open space. Usually, the remaining open space lands consist of the undeveloped portion of the subdivision (steep slopes, wetlands, floodplain, etc.). The conventional subdivision lacks communal open space, community woodlands or other open areas where people can meet and interact.

The purpose of a conservation design subdivision is to provide opportunity for development while maintaining open-space characteristics, encouraging interaction among residents through site design, and protection of habitat and environmental features. A typical conservation design

subdivision contains the same number of lots that would be permitted under a conventional design. The lots are typically smaller than conventional lots and are designed for single-family homes reminiscent of traditional neighborhoods found in small towns throughout America.

The compact design of a conservation subdivision allows for the creation of permanent open space (typically 50 percent or more of the build able area). This undeveloped land typically serves as community open-space land and provides recreational, aesthetic and social benefits to subdivision residents. The conservation design subdivision has proven economic, environmental and social advantages over conventionally designed subdivisions¹ including:

Economic Advantages

- Lower infrastructure and design (engineering) costs
- Attractiveness of lots for home development
- Reduction in demand for public parklands

Environmental Advantages

- Protection of conservation areas and upland buffers (which would normally be developed)
- Reduced runoff due to less impervious surface cover
- Improved water filtration due to presence of vegetation and buffers
- Opportunities for non-conventional septic system design

Social Advantages

- Opportunities for interaction among residents (common open space)
- Pedestrian friendly
- Greater opportunity for community activities

Best Management Practices (BMP)

Best management practices describe voluntary procedures and activities aimed at protection of natural resources. BMP's are described in detail in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources publications titled Wisconsin Construction Site Best Management Practice Handbook, and Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality. Shoreland BMP's are a set of specific actions that landowners can take to help protect and preserve water quality.

Town Subdivision Ordinance

The development of a subdivision (land division) ordinance is intended to control the division of land within the town in order to promote public health, safety and welfare by regulating the division and re-division of land. The ordinance must be at least as restrictive as the county ordinance but can be more restrictive. The Wisconsin Towns Association has developed a model subdivision ordinance for consideration by towns in Wisconsin.

¹ Randall Arendt, *Conservation Design for Subdivisions*, (Island Press, Washington D.C., 1996), pp 3-16.

Other Adjoining and Overlapping Jurisdiction Comprehensive Planning Processes

The Town of Round Lake encourages early dialog between all adjoining and overlapping jurisdictions (towns and counties) as they develop or revise their comprehensive plan. This

dialog will ensure that local input and consistency among comprehensive plans is reached. Where inconsistencies are identified and a resolution cannot be reached, future actions can be developed to bring the parties together to address their concerns.

Goals and Objectives

Ongoing goals, objectives, and actions can be found at the end of each element chapter. The responsible party(s) has also been identified.

Plan Updates and Revisions

The Town of Round Lake Comprehensive Plan is intended to be a living document. Over time, social and economic conditions and values tend to change. The comprehensive plan will be updated periodically to reflect these changes. Systematic, periodic updates will ensure that not only the statistical data is current but also the plan's goals, objectives, and actions reflect the current situation. Under current law, it is required that an update of the plan be undertaken every ten years.

To ensure that both year-round and seasonal residents are involved in plan amendments, the following process will be followed to allow public involvement and comment. The Town of Round Lake Plan Commission will undertake a review of the plan at two-year increments from the time of formal adoption by the Town Board and shall consider necessary amendment(s) to the plan resulting from property owner requests and changes to social, environmental, and economic conditions. Upon the Plan Commission review, recommended changes to the plan shall be forwarded to the Town Board. The Town of Round Lake Board of Supervisors will call a public hearing to afford property owners time to review and comment on recommended plan changes. The public hearing will be advertised using a Class I notice. Based on public input, Plan Commission recommendations, and other facts, the Town Board will then formally act on the recommended amendment(s). During plan amendments, it is important that the Public Participation Plan be utilized to ensure public input.

Conclusion

The Town of Round Lake Comprehensive Plan is intended to be a dynamic and evolving document. Periodic revision and update of the plan will ensure that it is accurate and consistent with the wishes and desires of the community. Plan recommendations in this document give the community a means for achieving their community vision and provide the basis for evaluation of development proposals. The specific action statements are meant to serve as the mechanisms for achieving the goals and objectives, which were defined throughout the planning process. Overall, the comprehensive plan provides a guide and policy framework for development of the Town of Round Lake.

Appendix A

Town of Round Lake Survey 2018

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10625 County Road A, Hayward, WI 54843

May 1, 2018

Dear Town of Round Lake Resident:

The Town of Round Lake Plan Commission is reviewing its comprehensive plan originally published in November of 2009. The Town of Round Lake Comprehensive Plan (available on the Town website at www.townofroundlakewi.org) covers our community's economic development, land use, demographics, facilities, agricultural, natural and cultural resources, and much more.

In an effort to better meet the current needs of our residents we have enclosed an eleven question survey that will provide us with critical information and aid us in the task of updating the plan.

We are asking all who own property in the Town of Round Lake to please take a few moments to complete the survey and return in the postage paid envelope provided by June 1, 2018.

Your help in this ensures your voice is being heard. We look forward to serving you in the future. Thank you for your response.

Sincerely,
Town of Round Lake Plan Commission
Carol Bacon, Chairperson

Commission Members:

Denise Picchietti
Ben Niemann
Blake Olson

Vickie Palya
Sarah Gunn
Sharon Haak

1. What do you like most about owning property in the Town of Round Lake?

2. What do you like least about owning property in the Town of Round Lake?

3. As the Town of Round Lake continues to grow, what type of businesses do you feel are needed, or would enhance the town?

4. Do you feel there is enough public access to lakes and rivers? **Yes No**
5. Do you feel there is enough access to public recreational opportunities? **Yes No**
6. Should the Town of Round Lake allow ____more ____less or ____about the same amount of ATV/UTV use on designated town roads?
7. If you have used or need local emergency services (fire/ambulance) within the last five years, do you feel local emergency services met your needs? **Yes No**

Do you have suggestions for improvement of Emergency Services?

Survey continues on back

8. Please rank in order (from 1-12) the issues you feel are most important for the Town of Round Lake. One (1) being the most important:

- _____ Water quality for lakes, ponds and rivers
- _____ Attracting apartment/condominium builders to area
- _____ Attracting commercial development to the area
- _____ Take better care of Town Roads
- _____ Bring better cell phone, Internet and TV service to area
- _____ Establish wildlife preserves
- _____ Establish more trails for walks, bicycling and quiet time in the woods
- _____ Establish more trails for ATV's/UTV's and snowmobiles
- _____ Enforcement of zoning and land use regulations
- _____ Enforcement of regulations for short term rental of personal homes and cabins
- _____ Fire safety education for owners/renters
- _____ Impact of runoff from yard fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides on lakes and rivers

9. What is your opinion of the quality of life in the Town of Round Lake at this time?

- _____ Excellent
- _____ Good
- _____ Fair
- _____ Poor

10. What is your age category?

- _____ 21-30
- _____ 31-40
- _____ 41-50
- _____ 51-60
- _____ 61-70
- _____ 71+

11. Are you a full-time_____ or part-time_____ resident of the Town of Round Lake?

Thank you for completing this survey.

Town of Round Lake Land Use Plan Commission Survey May 2018

Summary.

The survey was designed by the Town of Round Lake Land Use Plan Commission to acquire underlying thoughts and opinions of property owners in the Town of Round Lake, Wisconsin as part of its efforts to update the Town of Round Lake Comprehensive Plan. Survey questions focused on area quality of life, recreation, services, issues and economic opportunities. Results yielded a 36% response rate: 1416 surveys were delivered via first-class mail; 522 surveys were completed.

Of the 522 respondents:

57% were part-time residents.

64% were over the age of 61.

96% stated their quality of life in the Town of Round Lake as good or excellent.

80% felt there is enough public access to lakes and rivers.

87% felt there is enough access to public recreational facilities.

44% felt ATV/UTV use on designated town roads should stay the same.

24% said they have used local emergency services in the past 5 years.

Water quality, better cell, Internet and TV service and impact of runoff from yard fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides ranked as issues felt to be most important.

Attracting commercial development and attracting apartment/condominium builders ranked as issues to be of least importance.

Other key findings were:

Nature, quiet, wildlife, the natural beauty of the North woods were the most liked reason for living in the Town of Round Lake.

Taxes, poor cell phone service, high electricity bills were regularly most cited as dislikes of living in the Town of Round Lake.

Convenience store/gas station was most mentioned as needed business. Cell phone tower to provide better cell service also cited as needed.

Expectation that Town of Round Lake is responsible for all roads including county roads and private roads.

Town of Round Lake Land Use Plan Commission Survey May 2018

Summary.

Key findings continued.

Lack of knowledge about services provided by the Town. Attribute most services to Sawyer County and to City of Hayward.

Expectations are that residents/visitors should receive the same robust services as provided by larger, metropolitan areas, i.e. cell, Internet, TV.

Lack of knowledge about rules and regulations that apply to residents and visitors of the Town of Round Lake.

Feel there is a lack of enforcement for rule breakers.

Attribute power to correct water level issues in Round Lake to the Town of Round Lake.

Twin Lake Dam and Twin Lake Bridge both are sources of concern. Feeling is they both need repair.

Messy property seems to be a source of irritation and attributed to lack of enforcement.

Lack of knowledge about emergency services – What services are provided, who emergency services personnel are, how are they paid, what are their qualifications, etc.

Town of Round Lake Land Use Plan Commission Survey May 2018

1416 Surveys delivered / 522 Surveys returned / Yield 36% response rate

Number of Respondents	%	Question
		#4. Do you feel there is enough public access to lakes and rivers?
456	87%	Yes
49	9%	No
17	3%	Did not answer
Total		
522	100%	
		#5. Do you feel there is enough access to public recreational opportunities?
420	80%	Yes
68	13%	No
34	7%	Did not answer
Total		
522	100%	
		#6. Should the Town of Round Lake allow more, less or about the same amount of ATV/UTV use on designated town roads?
153	29%	More
112	21%	Less
232	44%	About the same
25	5%	Did not answer
Total		
522	100%	
		#7. If you have used or needed local emergency services (fire/ambulance) within the last five years, do you feel local emergency services met your needs?
127	24%	Yes
39	7%	No
356	68%	Did not answer, N/A
Total		
522	100%	

Appendix B

Public Participation Plan

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Town of Round Lake
Comprehensive Planning Process
Public Participation Plan
October 25, 2006

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Town of Round Lake has begun the Comprehensive Planning process in conjunction with Wisconsin's "Smart Growth" legislation. The creation and adoption of the Public Participation Plan is the first step in the process as designated in the Comprehensive Planning statute:

"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."
Wis. Stats. §66.1001(4)(a).

This Public Participation Plan is designed to satisfy these statutory requirements and to achieve the highest possible level of public participation. The Town recognizes that public participation is a vital component to a successful planning process. The Town of Round Lake's Public Participation Plan forms the basic framework for achieving an interactive dialogue between local, state, and federal decision-makers and the citizens of the Town of Round Lake. This plan outlines the public participation strategy for the development, evaluation, and eventual adoption of the comprehensive plan for the Town of Round Lake and will apply throughout the local planning process leading to the adoption of the Town of Round Lake Comprehensive Plan.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

General

The main goal of the Public Participation Plan is to make the citizens of the Town of Round Lake aware of the progress of the comprehensive planning process and to offer the public opportunities to make suggestions and comments during the process. To reach these goals, the Town of Round Lake has adopted the following plan to encourage public participation through the planning process. Taken individually, the activities described in this plan are not expected to reach and inform each and every resident and property owner of the Town of Round Lake. Collectively, however, the plan activities are designed to effectively and efficiently provide a broad-based dissemination of information and maximize the opportunity for citizen involvement and comment.

The majority of the public participation activities will focus on public information, education, and input. Public meetings will provide opportunities for the public to openly discuss comprehensive planning issues with planning committee members, town board supervisors, and consultant staff. Formal public hearings will also be conducted as part of the plan adoption process to allow public testimony to be made regarding the comprehensive plan. During the comprehensive planning process public meetings will be held at the Town Hall, a location convenient to all citizens of the Town of Round Lake. Other public participation activities may be explored to inform and receive input from residents that may not be able to attend public meetings and hearings.

Provisions for Open Discussion

The Town of Round Lake will ensure that public meetings allow for an open discussion of the relevant issues at hand and those public hearings allow for appropriate testimony. When public meetings or hearings are conducted, the Town of Round Lake will make every effort to ensure those who choose to participate in the planning process have the opportunity to actually have their opinions heard. To accomplish this, the following actions will be implemented:

- * An agenda will be established that clearly defines the purpose of the public meeting or hearing, the items to be discussed, and any actions that may be taken.
- * The scheduled date, time, and place will be convenient to encourage maximum participation by the town residents and property owners.
- * A clearly identifiable facilitator or chair will conduct the meeting or hearing in an orderly fashion to ensure that all attendees have an opportunity to offer comments, discuss issues, or provide testimony.
- * The facilitator or chair will provide opening remarks that clearly outline the purpose of the meeting or hearing, describe procedures attendees should use during the meeting or hearing when offering input, and describe how the public input will be used.
- * As appropriate, an overview of documents or proposals to be considered will be discussed.
- * All persons attending the meeting or hearing that desire to participate should be allowed to do so. However, specific factors such as the meeting or hearing purpose, number in attendance, time considerations, or future opportunities to participate may require that appropriate constraints be applied. These constraints will be clearly outlined by the facilitator or chair if the need arises. * All attendees will be encouraged to register using a provided sign in sheet.
- * Persons speaking or testifying will be encouraged to concisely express their comments and provide specific details on a short form provided including general contact information of the participant.
- * Meetings and hearings will be recorded by appointed committee members.
- * Meeting summaries will be transcribed and made available on the website as soon as possible following the meeting or hearing.
- * Special arrangements will be made under the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with sufficient advance notice.

Opportunity for Written Comments

Detailed comments can most often be better expressed through written format. To encourage citizens to express written comments throughout the planning process, all meeting and hearing notices will include the website address along with any deadlines for submitting comments, when warranted.

Written comments may be submitted via:

- * Hand-delivery to the Town Office at 10625N Co. Rd. A, during normal business hours (Thursday 9-11am).
- * U.S. postal service addressed to Town of Round Lake / Comprehensive Plan / 10625N Co. Rd. A / Hayward, WI 54843.
- * Email to town015@centurytel.net. The Town shall maintain a file of all submissions.

Consideration of and Response to Public Comments

The various methods for involving the public and soliciting public opinions and comments during the comprehensive planning process are defined herein. These methods represent the initial steps for bringing public comment into the decision-making process. The following steps will be taken to ensure that public recommendations and comments are taken into consideration by the decision-makers when developing the comprehensive plan.

- Time will be reserved subsequent to the close of a meeting, hearing, or comment deadline and prior to the actual decision or recommendation being made to ensure that decision makers can adequately review all relevant materials or comments.
- Decision-makers may reconvene a public hearing for the purpose of addressing public comments.
- The record (written comments or testimony, tape recordings, or transcripts) of hearings and meeting summaries will be compiled by appointed committee members and made available to decision makers for their review and consideration.
- Substantive comments pertaining to studies, analysis, or reports, along with appropriate responses, will be included in the published documents itself.
- Relevant comments or testimony will be addressed through the findings-of-fact portion of the decision maker's written decision or recommendation.

Public Meetings

The Town of Round Lake will hold public meetings to assimilate information collected relevant to the nine elements of the comprehensive plan, including but not limited to issues and opportunities: housing; transportation; economic development; intergovernmental cooperation; land use; utilities and community facilities; natural, agricultural, and cultural resources; and implementation. Through local public meetings, residents will be able to become an instrumental part of their community's planning process. By participating in meetings, citizens can aid their elected officials and planning committee in creating a vision for their community's comprehensive plan. Interested citizens can have input into the planning process.

Meeting/Hearing Notices

Official meeting notices will be prepared for any public meetings or hearings conducted pertaining to the comprehensive planning process. At a minimum, the requirements of §19.31 pertaining to public meetings and notification will be met. The town clerk or other town staff will place meeting notices at the town's designated posting location(s). In all cases, notices will be forwarded to the town's official paper and other newspapers as deemed appropriate. It is recommended that meeting notices be posted at least one week prior to the meeting. All public hearings will follow the same public notice recommendations except all public hearings will be published as per a Class II notice.

Civic and Community Presentations

Throughout the planning process, representatives responsible for development of the comprehensive plan will meet with local civic and community organizations to discuss the development of the comprehensive plan.

Newsletter Mailings

The annual Town Letter will inform residents and property owners about the development of the Town of Round Lake Comprehensive Plan.

Community Displays

Public displays prepared during the course of the project will be displayed at the Town Hall.

Periodic Articles

As the public participation process proceeds, interested citizens and community leaders may request more detailed information on land use related topics than desired by much of the general public. To provide more detail to citizens and key officials showing an interest in the comprehensive plan, articles may be prepared from time to time by the committee.

Planning Document Dissemination

Documents that contain or describe the proposed plan's policies, maps, or recommendations will be made available for public review. Such documents will be made available well in advance of opportunities for public discussion or testimony. Such documents will be made available prior to any public meeting or hearing scheduled for their discussion or a decision.

Documents may be disseminated as follows: • digital versions may be posted on the website;

- a copy will be delivered to each elected official and/or key staff; and
- a copy will be placed at the town hall for citizen review at the Town Office at 10625N Co. Rd. A, during normal business hours.

Public Hearings

Once the final draft of the Town of Round Lake Comprehensive Plan is completed, the Town of Round Lake will conduct a public hearing to receive public comment on the proposed plan.

Hearing Notices

The Town of Round Lake will place legal notice of hearings in the official newspaper. Hearing notices shall be published as required by local and state requirements.

Prior to the town enacting an ordinance approving the comprehensive plan, a hearing shall be conducted preceded by a Class 1 public notice that is published at least 30 days before the hearing is held. The town may also provide notice of the hearing by any other means it considers appropriate. According to the comprehensive planning legislation, the Class 1 notice shall contain at least the following information:

1. the date, time, and place of 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; and
4. information relating to where and when the proposed comprehensive plan may be inspected before the hearing and how a copy of the plan may be obtained.

TOWN OF ROUND LAKE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ADOPTION PROCESS

The Town of Round Lake will follow the procedures for adopting the comprehensive plan as listed in §66.1001. The first step in the adoption process is being met by the adoption of this document that details written procedures that are designed to foster public participation throughout the comprehensive planning process.

James Henchel, Chairman

Attest: _____
Kathy McCoy, Clerk