

Copy

8. Land Use

8.1 Introduction

Land use is central to the process of comprehensive planning and includes both an assessment of existing conditions and a plan for the future. Land use is integrated with all elements of the comprehensive planning process. Changes in land use are not isolated, but rather are often the end result of a change in another element. For example, development patterns evolve over time as a result of population growth, the development of new housing, the development of new commercial or industrial sites, the extension of utilities or services, or the construction of a new road.

This chapter of the comprehensive plan includes local information for both existing and planned land use in the Town of Wood River. For further detail on existing land use in Burnett County, please refer to Chapter 8 of the *Inventory and Trends Report*.

8.2 Existing Land Use

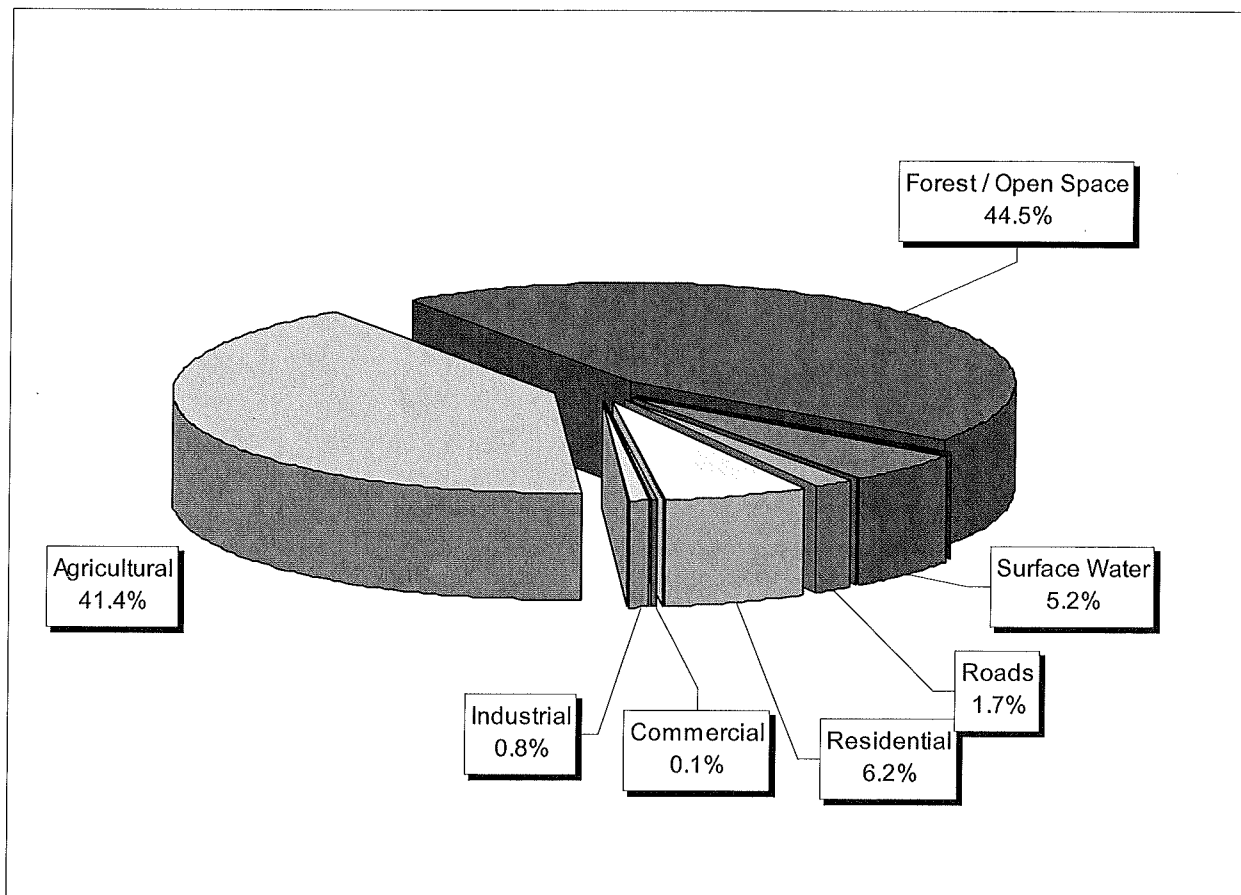
Evaluating land use entails broadly classifying how land is presently used. Each type of land use has its own characteristics that can determine compatibility, location, and preference relative to other land uses. Land use analysis then proceeds by assessing the community development impacts of land ownership patterns, land management programs, and the market forces that drive development. Mapping data are essential to the process of analyzing existing development patterns, and will serve as the framework for formulating how land will be used in the future. Map 8-1, Table 8-1, and Figure 8-1 together provide the picture of existing land use for the Town of Wood River.

Table 8-1
Existing Land Use, Town of Wood River, 2008

Land Use Classification	Acres	Percent of Total
Residential	1,408	6.2%
Commercial	30	0.1%
Industrial	183	0.8%
Agricultural	9,453	41.4%
Forest / Open Space	10,152	44.5%
Tribal Land	-	0.0%
Surface Water	1,193	5.2%
Roads	392	1.7%
Total	22,811	100.0%

Source: Burnett County, Wisconsin Department of Revenue (2007 Statement of Assessments as Reported on or Before 3-04-08), and Foth.

Figure 8-1
Existing Land Use, Town of Wood River, 2008



Source: Burnett County, Wisconsin Department of Revenue (2007 Statement of Assessments as Reported on or Before 3-04-08), and Foth.

This page intentionally left blank.

Map 8-1 Existing Land Use

This page intentionally left blank.

Check
Facts

The Town of Wood River, with about 22,811 acres, is roughly the size of a typical 36-section town. The town's development pattern is diverse as influenced primarily by soil conditions. The Town of Wood River is still primarily an undeveloped, rural town, and passive land uses include about 91% of the town's landscape. Forest/open space is the single largest existing land use at 10,152 acres (44.5%), while agricultural uses comprise about 9,453 acres (41.4%).

Developed uses make up just fewer than 9% of the town's landscape including residential, commercial and roads. Residential is the single largest developed land use at 1,408 acres, and is dispersed throughout the town with notable concentrations of housing surrounding the town's lakes, rivers and along/near roads.

Of note is a trend toward the conversion of seasonal homes along the town's lakeshores to larger, year-round homes. Recent development in the town has been primarily residential, as new commercial and manufacturing development has a tendency to generally locate within the three Burnett County Villages.

Other intensive uses present in the town include small amounts of commercial use. The majority of these uses are found in the rural hamlets of Alpha and Falun. These mixed use areas are a distinguishing feature of the town and serve as town centers.

8.3 Land Ownership and Management

Land ownership and management is comprised of several components that significantly affect land use. The type of land ownership (public, private, land trust, etc.) has a direct impact on how property is managed and how lands may be used in the future. Public ownership of land in Burnett County consists of municipal, county, and state owned lands. As land management takes place under both private and public ownership, resource management programs may prescribe certain requirements and limitations that affect how lands may be used in the future. Voluntary land and resource management protection programs with significant utilization on private lands in Burnett County include Managed Forest Land (MFL) and Forest Crop Land (FCL). Table 8-2 below shows land ownership and management in the Town of Wood River.

Understanding land ownership and management patterns provides a link to a host of voluntary and non-regulatory plan implementation tools. Valued community features and resources can be protected for future generations not only through regulatory approaches like zoning and land division ordinances, but also through public ownership or programs like MFL and FCL. Burnett County will be best positioned to achieve its desired future when land use, land management, and land regulation are working in concert.

Table 8-2
Land Ownership and Management

	Acreage	Percent of Total
County Lands	0.0	0.0%
Federal Lands	0.0	0.0%
State Land	900.2	3.9%
Tribal Lands	0.0	0.0%
Private Managed Forest Crop Land and Forest Land	0.0	0.0%
Land Not Under State, Federal, County, Tribal or Private Agricultural Ownership and Management	21,910.8	96.1%
Total Town Acreage	22,811.0	100.0%

Source: Burnett County

8.4 Projected Supply and Demand of Land Uses

Table 8-3 includes estimates for the total acreage that will be utilized by residential, agriculture, commercial, manufacturing, and forest/open space land uses in five-year increments through 2030. These future land use demand estimates are largely dependent on population projections and should only be utilized for planning purposes in combination with other indicators of land use demand.

The housing unit projection approximates the number of new residential units for the residential land demand projection, and is based on averaging the population projections (using both the WDOA and linear projection methods). Refer to the *Population and Housing* element for more details on population projections. Using the population projections, seasonal and vacant housing percentages, and average persons per household in the town, the housing unit projections are calculated. Using this method, a total of 41 new homes between 2008 and 2030 are projected in the town. The residential land use demand projection then assumes that each new home will occupy an average area of 2.4 acres. This existing average acreage is calculated by dividing the total residential assessed land by the total number of housing units (This plan actually specifies a range of residential lot sizes and densities within the Future Land Use Management Areas outlined in Section 8.8, the existing average is only for estimating purposes). This equates to an additional 99 residential acres by the year 2030.

Projected demand for commercial and industrial land use assumes that the ratio of the town's population to land area in these categories will remain the same in the future. In other words, each person will require the same amount of land for each particular land use as he or she does today. These land use demand projections also rely on averaging the population projections. Refer to the *Population and Housing* element for more details on population projections. This equates an additional 2 acres for commercial use and an additional 13 acres for industrial use by the year 2030.

Projected agriculture and forest/open space use acreages are calculated based on the assumption that these uses will decrease over time. Agriculture, woodlots, and other open land are the existing land uses that are converted to other uses to accommodate new development. The amount of agriculture and forest/open space land consumed in each five-year increment is based on the average amount of land use demand for each of the developed uses by the year 2030. In other words, a total of 114 acres ~~per year~~ is projected to be consumed by residential, commercial, and industrial development in the Town of Wood River between 2008 and 2030, so agriculture and forest/open space lands are reduced by the same number within the same time period. This number is subtracted proportionally from both of these land uses based on the 2008 ratio of each.

Table 8-3
Projected Land Use Demand (acres)
Town of Wood River 2008-2030

	2008 Estimate	2010 Projections	2015 Projections	2020 Projections	2025 Projections	2030 Projections	2008-2030	
							Change	%
Residential	1,408	1,423	1,451	1,477	1,496	1,507	99	7%
Commercial	30	30	31	31	32	32	2	7%
Industrial	183	185	189	192	194	196	13	0%
Agricultural	9,453	9,445	9,429	9,415	9,404	9,398	-55	-1%
Forest/ Open Space	10,152	10,143	10,126	10,111	10,100	10,093	-59	-1%
Other (Roads and Surface Water)	1,585	1,585	1,585	1,585	1,585	1,585	0	0%
Total Town Acreage	22,811	22,811	22,811	22,811	22,811	22,811		

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, WDOA, and Foth

Table 8-4 and Figure 8-2 provide a comparison of land supply and demand for the Town of Wood River. Land use demand is based on the previous calculations, and land supply is based on the future land use plan described in Section 8.7.

Table 8-4
Land Supply and Demand Comparison
Town of Wood River

TABLE TO BE ADDED

- ¹ Residential includes Rural Residential, Shoreland Residential, 50% of Rural Mixed Use/Hamlet, and 10% of Agriculture Enterprise
- ² Commercial includes 30% of Rural Mixed Use/Hamlet.
- ³ Industrial includes 10% of Rural Mixed Use/Hamlet.

Figure 8-2
Land Supply and Demand Comparison
Town of Wood River

CHARTS TO BE ADDED

A sufficient supply of residential land has been planned through 2030 and beyond within the Future Land Use Management Areas based on the projected residential demand. Important to note is that while the Future Land Use Management Areas allow the potential for a significant amount of residential development across the town, the actual amount of development will be limited by demand. In addition, residential development will be managed in accordance with the Future Land Use Management Areas outlined in Section 8.8.

There is also a sufficient supply of commercial land planned within the Rural Mixed Use/Hamlets (RMU). Commercial land demand may also be met in other parts of the town within the Shoreland Residential (SR) area that allows limited compatible commercial uses and through home based businesses if compatible within the town's rural and residential areas. A sufficient supply of industrial land is also planned within the Rural Mixed Use/Hamlets (RMU).

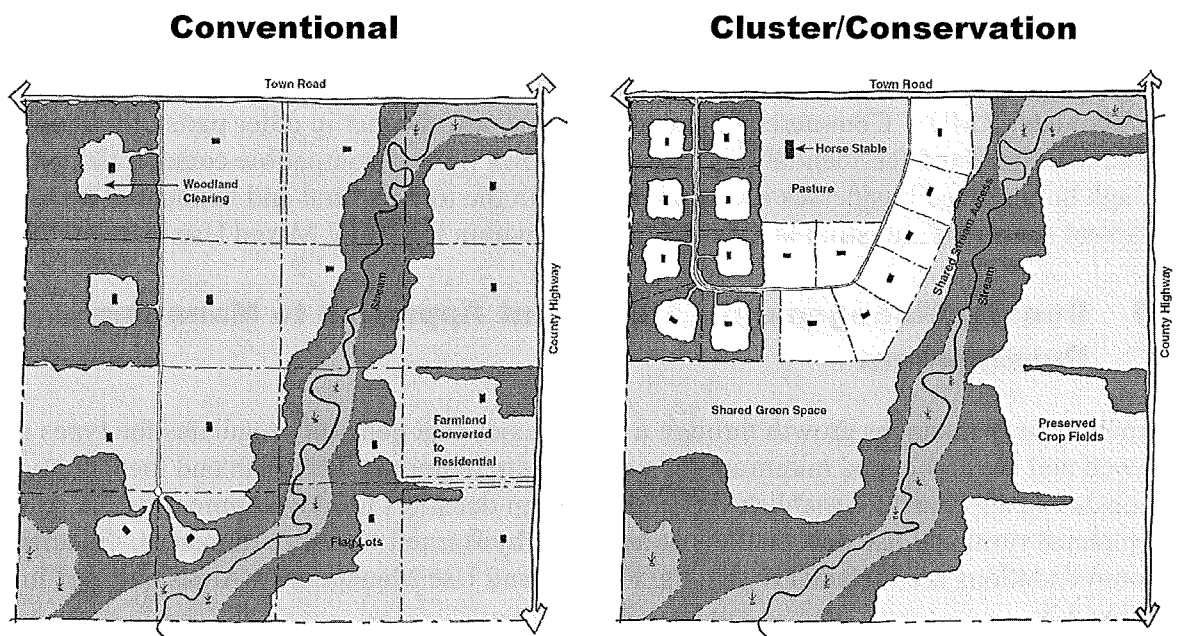
8.5 Density Management - A Different Approach to Managing Development

Burnett County manages growth through a zoning code that generally regulates the types of uses allowed and the associated minimum lot sizes that are required. This Plan and the County Plan advocates an approach to establish certain maximum densities for development within some of the planned rural and use designations as managed by Burnett County ordinances. Specific recommendations are included within the Future Land Use Management Areas outlined in Section 8.8.

It is critical to understand the difference between how density is used to manage development in comparison to minimum lot size. Minimum lot size requirements set how big individual lots need to be. Maximum density requirements set how many new homes or lots can be divided from a larger parcel, regardless of how big individual homesites or lots need to be. Establishing density standards typically works in conjunction with minimum lot sizes (and sometimes maximum lot sizes) to ensure the goals of the area (such as very low density in the agriculture enterprise classification) are met while ensuring standards are applied for health and safety (minimum lot size areas for adequate septage treatment and replacement). For more information refer to the *Burnett County Comprehensive Plan*.

8.6 Cluster/Conservation Development

In concert with adding density management provisions to achieve town and county goals of farmland preservation and maintaining rural character, the town and county should also consider adding residential clustering/conservation provisions as a primary development option for rural land development. Clustering typically allows relatively small residential lots, but still large enough to ensure adequate septage treatment and replacement systems. Clustering residential lots on a portion of a development tract (in conjunction with density management) allows a number of benefits including the conservation of farmland, forest, open space and natural resources, the ability to place homesites where the most suitable soils exist, and the potential for lower infrastructure costs. For more information refer to the *Burnett County Comprehensive Plan*. The following images show the difference between conventional residential lot development and cluster/conservation development:



8.7 Future Land Use Plan

The future land use plan is one of the central components of the comprehensive plan that can be used as a guide for local officials when considering community development and redevelopment proposals. When considering the role of the future land use plan in community decision making, it is important to keep the following characteristics in mind.

- ♦ A land use plan is an expression of a preferred or ideal future – a vision for the future of the community.
- ♦ A land use plan is not the same as zoning. Zoning is authorized and governed by a set of statutes that are separate from those that govern planning. And while it may make sense to match portions of the land use plan map with the zoning map immediately after plan

adoption, other portions of the zoning map may achieve consistency with the land use plan incrementally over time.

- ♦ A land use plan is not implemented exclusively through zoning. It can be implemented through a number of fiscal tools, regulatory tools, and non-regulatory tools including voluntary land management and community development programs.
- ♦ A land use plan is long range and will need to be reevaluated periodically to ensure that it remains applicable to changing trends and conditions. The plan is not static. It can be amended when a situation arises that was not anticipated during the initial plan development process.
- ♦ A land use plan is neither a prediction nor a guaranty. Some components of the future vision may take the full 20 to 25 years to materialize, while some components may never come to fruition within the planning period.

The primary components of the future land use plan include the Future Land Use Map (Map 8-2) and the Future Land Use Management Areas. These components work together with the Implementation element to provide policy guidance for decision makers in the town.

The Town of Wood River's plan for future land use is intended to protect agricultural, natural, and cultural resources for future generations while also allowing reasonable opportunities for land development and making efficient use of existing infrastructure. The town will accomplish this by managing the use of lands and the density of development. Most locations in the town will allow for development to take place, but the density of development will be planned in order to preserve valued features of the landscape and to encourage growth in areas that are most suitable for development.

The future land use plan was shaped by both objective data and local opinion. Public participation in the form of public meetings and a county-wide survey was utilized to significantly impact the outcome. The town considered the locations of natural resources, agriculture, roads, current land use patterns, land ownership patterns, and other objective factors to measure suitability of lands for various future land uses. A draft map was prepared that was reviewed by the public. Changes to the draft plan suggested by the town citizens were evaluated by the planning commission, and the Town Board, and any accepted changes were incorporated into the plan.

Map 8-2 Future Land Use

This page intentionally left blank.

8.8 Future Land Use Management Areas

The following Future Land Use Management Areas (LUMAs) have been utilized on the town's Future Land Use Map. These descriptions give meaning to the map by describing (as applicable) the purpose, primary goal, preferred development density, preferred uses, and discouraged uses for each management area. They may also include policy statements that are specific to areas of the community mapped under a particular LUMA. Any such policies carry the same weight and serve the same function as policies found elsewhere in this plan.

Agricultural Enterprise (AE)

- ◆ Purpose: To prevent the conversion of agricultural land to other uses that are not consistent with agriculture while optimizing agricultural production areas. The purpose is also to implement comprehensive plan goals by encouraging livestock and other agricultural uses in areas where soil and other conditions are best suited to these agricultural pursuits. This area provides consistency with the County designated farmland preservation areas and establishes the farm and woodlands character of this part of the County.
- ◆ Primary Goal: To preserve and promote a full range of agricultural uses. In addition, this management area is intended to maintain a viable agricultural base to support the agricultural processing and service industries, help control public service costs in rural areas thereby avoiding the need to extend urban services to scattered, isolated residential areas, help to preserve productive soils, and help to maintain the scenic beauty, rural character, and cultural heritage of the community.
- ◆ Preferred Use: All agricultural uses, regardless of size. Specific preferred uses could include livestock production, dairy, agriculturally-related residences, greenhouses, horse facilities, agriculture sales and service, agricultural storage, agricultural research and development, fish and wildlife management activities, timber harvest and milling, and aqua culture. Sand and gravel extraction and home based businesses would be permitted in accordance with county regulations governing such activity. The Agricultural Enterprise Management Area could include a limited amount of residential development at various levels of density, but the predominant land use would be agricultural in nature.
- ◆ Recommended Policies:
 - ▶ The preferred housing density should range from 1 unit per 20 acres to 1 unit per 40 acres.
 - ▶ In areas identified by a town with the AE future land use management areas, new non-farm residential development should be placed on the landscape in a fashion that prevents conflicts between agricultural and residential land uses.
 - ▶ Promote clustering of homes and preservation of land for open space use within mapped agriculture enterprise areas.
 - ▶ Utilize maximum and minimum lot size provisions to ensure the lots created are large enough to accommodate development (say one acre) and yet small enough not to consume prime agricultural lands (say 3 or 5 acres).

- ▶ Consider soil characteristics when siting new buildings to maintain as much of the prime soils in production as possible.
- ▶ Encourage new development that is allowed in agricultural enterprise to be designed located in a manner that does not detract from the area's rural character, and which may be easily served by county, town, and emergency services. The county may want to work with interested towns in developing a driveway ordinance that guides the placement of driveways in new developments. For example, new driveways could be placed along existing contours, property lines, fencerows, lines of existing vegetation, or other natural features wherever possible.

Rural Residential (RR)

AGRICULTURAL Transition District

- ♦ Purpose: To maintain the rural and open character of these areas while accommodating limited residential uses. Rural residential activity has been significant as the off lake property becomes more in demand for seasonal use. This area includes marginal or abandoned farmlands that have become attractive for rural residences.
- ♦ Primary Goal: Preserve agriculture, the rural landscape, open space, and natural features of the area, while accommodating limited residential development. Promote infill of areas which have already experienced development in order to increase overall density without sacrificing community character.
- ♦ Preferred Use: Agricultural uses, with some size limitations. Limited residential development generally located along existing roadways, in clusters, and on larger lots than found in an urban area. Commercial uses are discouraged except those of very low intensity such as golf courses or home-based businesses.
- ♦ Recommended Policies:
 - ▶ The preferred housing density should ~~range from 1 unit per 5 acres to~~ 1 unit per 10 acres.
 - ▶ Lots smaller than one acre should be allowed with conservation or cluster design.
 - ▶ Density bonuses for conservation or cluster design should be considered.

Shoreland Residential (SR)

- ♦ Purpose: To recognize the shore lands adjacent to lakes, rivers, and streams in Burnett County as areas historically prone to development pressure. Many of the shorelands are significantly developed with both full-time and seasonal residents. Further residential development is regulated by the lakes and rivers classification development standards and accompanying shoreland ordinances.
- ♦ Primary Goal: Establishing appropriate strategies for the management of future development of these areas that address: ensuring environmental quality, maintaining views and open space, maintaining community character, and potential recreational activity conflicts.

- ♦ Preferred Use: Residential uses that are compatible with their immediate surroundings. Limited commercial uses including lodging, resorts and associated retail and services should be compatible with immediate surroundings and located in areas of established commercial uses.
- ♦ Recommended Policies: Stay consistent with Lakes Classification strategy for lot size and density.

Rural Mixed Use/Hamlet (RMU)

- ♦ Purpose: To recognize the places of Alpha and Falun as small growth areas that have historically been crossroad communities that provide convenience and rural retail services to farm and lake recreation areas.
- ♦ Primary Goal: To maintain and allow the limited growth (except where urban services exist such as the sewer services area in Danbury) of these areas in a fashion that strengthens the existing identity and character.
- add ♦ Preferred Use: A mix of residential and commercial uses could be allowed at varying densities in accordance with the type of use. The density, layout, and design of development shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre.
- ♦ Recommended Policies: Densities and lot sizes should be allowed to vary. For areas without public sewage service, the maximum density should be one home per three-quarter acre. For areas with public sewage, the minimum density should be one unit per acre.

Public Resource (PR)

- ♦ Purpose: A Land Use Management Area to designate existing public lands and wetlands that are not planned for development.
- ♦ Primary Goal: To maintain natural features and areas as community assets and conserve these features for future generations. In addition, to prohibit development in areas which are not suited.
- ♦ Preferred Use: Allowable uses may include forestry, passive recreation, wildlife protection activities, and fisheries as possible uses.

Table 8-5 and Figure 8-3 display the distribution of each Future Land Use Management Area as shown on the Future Land Use Map.

Table 8-5
Future Land Use, Town of Wood River 2030

TABLE TO BE ADDED

Source: Town of Wood River.

Figure 8-3
Future Land Use, Town of Wood River 2030

CHART TO BE ADDED

Source: Town of Wood River

8.9 Existing and Potential Land Use Conflicts

The following existing and potential unresolved land use conflicts have been identified by the Town of Wood River. While the multi-jurisdictional planning process was designed to provide maximum opportunities for the resolution of both internal and external land use conflicts, some issues may remain. Due to their complexity, the long range nature of comprehensive planning, and the uncertainty of related assumptions, these conflicts remain unresolved and should be monitored during plan implementation.

Existing Land Use Conflicts

- ♦ Lack of property and building maintenance.
- ♦ Lack of land use ordinance enforcement.
- ♦ Telecommunication towers.
- ♦ Wind energy towers.
- ♦ Residential development next to high intensity agricultural land use and threats to the right-to-farm.
- ♦ Residential development next to extraction land uses.
- ♦ Poorly designed or unattractive commercial or industrial development.
- ♦ Lack of screening or buffering between incompatible uses.
- ♦ Home based businesses that take on the characteristics of primary commercial or industrial uses.
- ♦ The over-consumption of rural lands by large lot subdivisions.
- ♦ The loss of rural character in some locations.

Potential Land Use Conflicts

- ♦ Siting of undesirable or poorly designed land uses in the interim between plan adoption and development of implementation tools.

- ♦ Annexation conflicts may arise with the Village.
- ♦ Meeting the service needs of newly developed areas.
- ♦ Controlling and managing development along major highway corridors and interchanges.
- ♦ The over-consumption of rural lands by large lot subdivisions.
- ♦ The loss of rural character in some locations.

8.10 Opportunities for Redevelopment

In every instance where development is considered in the *Town of Wood River Year 2030 Comprehensive Plan*, redevelopment is also considered as an equally valid option. Infill development is the primary type of redevelopment that is likely in the town. In particular, infill opportunities are possible with respect to the RR, SR, and RCM Future Land Use Management Areas.

8.11 Land Use Goals and Objectives

Community goals are broad, value-based statements expressing public preferences for the long term (20 years or more). They specifically address key issues, opportunities, and problems that affect the community. Objectives are more specific than goals and are more measurable statements usually attainable through direct action and implementation of plan recommendations. The accomplishment of objectives contributes to fulfillment of the goal.

Goal 1: *Guide the efficient use of land through a unified vision of planned growth in recognition of resource limitations and town goals and objectives.*

Objectives:

- A. Maintain a current, long-range comprehensive plan, which will serve as a guide for future land use and zoning decisions.
- B. Develop procedures and policies that ensure a balance between appropriate land use and the rights of property owners, focusing on the best interests of the town as a whole.
- C. Ensure all landowners have equitable options for proposing land use change.
- D. Coordinate land use planning and growth management throughout the town to facilitate efficient resource investments while allowing for local autonomy where warranted.
- E. Help identify, evaluate, and preserve historic, archaeological, and cultural resources.
- F. Encourage town planning goals that are specific to the town goals and policies.
- G. Identify areas of potential conflict between the land use plans of the Town, surrounding communities, and the county and provide a process for the discussion and resolution of such conflicts.
- H. Establish agreements regarding land use regulation and provision of services in the growth areas outside existing villages addressing land uses, levels of service, resolution of boundary disputes, service extension policies, and transfer of jurisdictional burdens.

Goal 2: *Plan for a desirable pattern of land use that contributes to the realization of the town's goals and objectives for the future.*

Objectives:

- A. Restrict new development from areas shown to be unsafe or unsuitable for development due to natural hazards, contamination, access, or incompatibility problems.
- B. Establish a range of preferred land use classifications and a range of preferred development densities and assign them to areas of the town in order to identify planning guidelines within which a variety of local land use planning and implementation options will achieve long term land use compatibility.
- C. Seek a pattern of land use that will preserve large tracts of productive agricultural areas and resources.
- D. Seek a pattern of land use that will preserve productive forestry areas and resources.
- E. Seek a pattern of land use that will preserve green spaces in developed areas, and natural resources, with a focus on ground water and surface water resources.
- F. Seek a pattern of land use that will maintain and enhance the town economy.
- G. Focus areas of substantial new growth within or near existing areas of development where adequate public facilities and services can be cost-effectively provided or expanded.
- H. Promote growth patterns that result in compact, distinct and separate communities rather than continuous linear strips of development.
- I. Encourage cluster development to assure conservation of land, efficient provision of public services, and accessibility.
- J. Encourage new development to be integrated with the surrounding landscape through visual prominence of natural features, use of natural materials and colors, and minimizing the development's impact on the natural environment.
- K. Help promote the provision of public facilities and services when sufficient need and revenue base to support them exists.
- L. Consider a variety of planning tools such as area development plans, density management regulations, purchase or transfer of development rights programs, site and architectural design review guidelines, and voluntary land management programs to achieve the town's desired pattern of future land use.
- M. Encourage land division layouts that incorporate the preservation of valued community features, that fit within the character of the local community, and that are suited to the specific location in which the development is proposed.
- N. Require landscape and land use buffers to lessen the impacts of conflicting land uses in close proximity.
- O. Require intensive uses such as salvage yards to be reviewed and permitted by the township.
- P. Coordinate with the County, Department of Natural Resources, and the National Park Service where applicable to ensure that land management decisions provide maximum benefits.
- Q. Review land use maps, surveys and public meetings for inclusion in the land use ordinances.

8.12 Land Use Policies and Recommendations

Policies and recommendations build on goals and objectives by providing more focused responses to the issues that the town is concerned about. Policies and recommendations become primary tools the town can use in making land use decisions. Many of the policies and

recommendations cross element boundaries and work together toward overall implementation strategies. Refer to Section 9.5 for an explanation of the strategies cited as sources for many of the policies and recommendations.

Policies identify the way in which activities are conducted in order to fulfill the goals and objectives. Policies that direct action using the word “shall” are advised to be mandatory and regulatory aspects of the implementation of the comprehensive plan. In contrast, those policies that direct action using the words “will” or “should” are advisory and intended to serve as a guide. “Will” statements are considered to be strong guidelines, while “should” statements are considered loose guidelines.

Recommendations are specific actions or projects that the town should be prepared to complete. The completion of these actions and projects is consistent with the town’s policies, and therefore will help the town fulfill the comprehensive plan goals and objectives.

Policies and Recommendations

- LU 1. The comprehensive plan shall identify anticipated areas for future growth, the preferred land uses within growth areas, and policies that guide the review of proposed developments.
- LU 2. Work with the county to improve land division ordinance provisions toward improved management of land use, development, and toward overall comprehensive plan implementation.
- LU 3. Work with the County to update land use management tools as necessary to implement the Preferred Land Use Plan.
- LU 4. All development proposals shall meet the intent of the Preferred Land Use Management Areas as described within the Land Use element.
- LU 5. Provide the county input and recommendations prior to a rezoning, conditional use, land division (including plats and certified survey maps), or site plan approval.
- LU 6. Where a proposed development is found to be inconsistent with comprehensive plan policies, an applicant shall be advised to petition the local unit of government for a revision to the comprehensive plan preferred land use map (note: the applicant may also revise the design of the proposed development to attempt to achieve consistency with the plan).
- LU 7. The Town should review and approve growth and development applications to address service demands on community services or facilities.
- LU 8. At a minimum, the following characteristics shall be used to define a cluster or conservation design development:
 - a) Residential lots or building sites are concentrated and grouped.

- b) The number of lots (density) takes into account the standards of the overlying zoning district.
- c) The lot size is reduced from what is normally required.
- d) A maximum lot size is employed to support open space requirements and manage density.
- e) There are residual lands that are preserved as green space in perpetuity for the purpose of limiting density, protecting valued community features such as agriculture, natural resources, or cultural resources.

LU 9. Home-based business shall maintain the following characteristics:

- a) They maintain compliance with the specific requirements of the Town ordinance
- b) They are a secondary use of a primarily residential property.
- c) They have little to no outward appearance or negative impact on the surrounding neighborhood.

LU 10. At such time that a home-based business takes on the characteristics of a primary commercial or industrial use, it shall be relocated, discontinued, or rezoned (as necessary) to be consistent with the applicable adopted comprehensive plan and overlying land use regulation (zoning) to appropriately reflect the commercial or industrial use.

LU 11. Proposed conditional uses shall meet the following criteria in order to gain Town approval:

- a) Complies with the requirements of the applicable zoning district
- b) Use and density are consistent with the intent, purpose, and policies of the applicable preferred land use classification
- c) Use and site design are compatible with adjacent uses in terms of aesthetics, scale, hours of operation, traffic generation, lighting, noise, odor, dust, vibration, and other external impacts
- d) Does not diminish property values in the surrounding neighborhood
- e) Provides assurance of continuing maintenance
- f) Addresses parking and site layout requirements

LU 12. Assess the need for the development of a Town ordinance regulating the storage of non functioning vehicles, junk, scrap and related “eye-sore”.

LU 13. Insure that existing land use activities currently in the Town are “grand-fathered” in to any new regulatory practice.

LU 14. If consistent with the Town’s comprehensive plan, the design of new commercial development should employ shared driveway access, shared parking areas, shared internal traffic circulation, and coordinated site planning with adjacent businesses as warranted.

LU 15. New commercial and industrial development should employ site and building designs that include:

add

- a) Future business and industrial development in the Town will be reviewed for potential financial, service and visual impacts to surrounding landowners.

8.13 Land Use Programs

b) Industrial development will be encouraged to Relocate in village industrial parks.

For descriptions of land use programs potentially available to the community, refer to the *Land Use* element of the *Burnett County Inventory and Trends Report*.

Existing Plans

The Town of Wood River actively utilizes land use programs and has developed the following related strategic plans:

Additional Programs

would we include Building Inspector here?

The following Burnett County programs are identified here, because implementation of the Town of Wood River's land use plan will require continued cooperation with the county. Revisions to the county zoning and land division ordinances are a likely outgrowth of the comprehensive planning process, which has also been identified as an intergovernmental cooperation opportunity in Section 7.4. Tracking development density over time, as is suggested in the Future Land Use Management Areas, will require cooperation with county land information systems.

Burnett County Zoning Department

The Burnett County Zoning Department provides zoning administration, issues zoning and land use permits, and houses information and maps of zoning districts, floodplains, shorelands, and wetlands. The Zoning Department issues all Sanitary Permits for the county and inspects all systems for compliance with state codes. The department also administers the Wisconsin Fund Grant Program which provides funding assistance for failing private sanitary systems. It also enforces a Subdivision Ordinance which regulates division of land parcels.

Burnett County Land Information Office

The Land Information Office was established within the Property Listing Office and is under the direction of the Land Information Office Coordinator. The coordinator's responsibilities include assuring the efficient integration of the land information system and the cooperation between federal and state Agencies, local governmental units, county departments, public and private utilities and the private sector.

9. Implementation

9.1 Action Plan

In order for plans to be meaningful, they must be implemented, so the Town of Wood River's comprehensive plan was developed with implementation in mind. Not only can useful policy guidance for local decision making be found in each planning element, but an action plan is also provided containing specific programs and recommended actions.

An action plan is intended to jump start the implementation process and to provide continued focus over the long term. During the comprehensive planning process, a detailed framework for implementation was created which will serve to guide the many steps that must be taken to put the plan in motion. This action plan outlines those steps and recommends a timeline for their completion. Further detail on each task can be found in the policies and recommendations of the related planning element as noted in the *Task* statement. Recommended actions have been identified in the following four areas:

- ♦ Plan Adoption and Update Actions
- ♦ Intergovernmental Cooperation Actions
- ♦ Ordinance Development and Update Actions
- ♦ Strategic Planning Actions

The recommended actions are listed in priority order within each of the four implementation areas as noted in the *Timing* component. Highest priority actions are listed first, followed by medium and long term actions, and ongoing or periodic actions are listed last.

Plan Adoption and Update Actions

Priority (Short Term) Actions

1. Task: Pass a resolution recommending adoption of the comprehensive plan by the Town Board (*Implementation* element).
Responsible Party: Plan Commission
Timing: November 2009 – February, 2010
2. Task: Adopt the comprehensive plan by ordinance (*Implementation* element).
Responsible Party: Town Board
Timing: February – March, 2010

Periodic Actions

1. Task: Review the comprehensive plan for performance in conjunction with the budgeting process (*Implementation* element).
Responsible Party: Plan Commission
Timing: Annually

2. Task: Conduct a comprehensive plan update (*Implementation* element).
Responsible Party: Plan Commission, Town Board
Timing: Every five years
Consideration: The 2010 census data will be available in 2011. The updated housing and population counts and projections can be applied and planning documents modified based on the new data.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Actions

Priority (Short Term) Actions

1. Task: Meet with other units of local government to assess/discuss plan review issues, implementation coordination, and consistency requirements (*Intergovernmental Cooperation* element).
Responsible Party: Town Board
Timing: 2010/2011 (within one to two years)

Medium Term Actions

1. Task: Distribute an intergovernmental cooperation update (*Intergovernmental Cooperation* element).
Responsible Party: Town Board
Timing: 2012 to 2015 (within three to five years)
2. Task: Review and evaluate existing intergovernmental agreements and services (*Intergovernmental Cooperation* element).
Responsible Party: Plan Commission and Town Board
Timing: 2012 to 2015 (within three to five years)

Long Term Actions

1. Task: Work with Burnett County to create a Purchase of Development Rights PDR Program or Donated Easement Program (*Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources* element).
Responsible Party: Plan Commission and Town Board
Timing: 2014 (five years or more)

Periodic Actions

1. Task: Utilize intergovernmental options to provide needed service and facility improvements.
Responsible Party: Town Board
Timing: Ongoing

Ordinance Development and Update Actions

Short Term Actions

1. Task: Work with Burnett County to modify the zoning ordinance and map toward implementation of the town's comprehensive plan (*Transportation; Utilities and Community Facilities; Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources; Land Use* element).

Responsible Party: Plan Commission and Town Board

Timing: Anticipated late 2010 - 2012

2. Task: Work with Burnett County to modify the county land division ordinance toward implementation of the town's comprehensive plan (*Transportation; Utilities and Community Facilities; Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources; Land Use* element).

Responsible Party: Plan Commission and Town Board

Timing: Anticipated late 2010 - 2012

3. Task: ~~Adopt a driveway ordinance~~ (*Transportation* element).

Responsible Party: Plan Commission and Town Board

Timing: 2011 (within two years)

Medium Term Actions

1. Task: Develop a site plan and architectural design review standards. The standards could be guidelines or an ordinance. Related provisions may be developed at the county level which may apply, therefore it is recommended the town work with Burnett County within the construct of the county zoning and land division ordinance updates prior to pursuing this strategy (*Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources* element).

Responsible Party: Plan Commission and Town Board

Timing: 2012 to 2014 (within three to five years)

Long Term Actions

1. Task: Develop an official map (*Transportation* element). The need may not be applicable town-wide; consider designating road corridors for higher density development areas, lakeshore areas, or areas of long term planned development

Responsible Party: Plan Commission and Town Board

Timing: 2013-2014

2. Task: Consider development of a historic preservation ordinance (*Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources* element).

Responsible Party: Plan Commission and Town Board

Timing: 2015 (five years or more)

Periodic Actions

1. Task: Update the town road construction specifications (*Transportation* element).
Responsible Party: Town Board
Timing: Periodic as needed

Strategic Planning Actions

Periodic Actions

1. Task: Review land use and density policies for residential development to ensure longer term plan recommendations are coordinated with shorter term market conditions (*Housing* element).
Responsible Party: Plan Commission
Timing: Annually
2. Task: Review ordinances and fees for their impacts on town administration and development applicants (*Housing* element).
Responsible Party: Plan Commission
Timing: Annually
3. Task: Update the five-year road improvement plan (*Transportation* element).
Responsible Party: Town Board
Timing: Annually
4. Task: Pursue funding for transportation improvements (*Transportation* element).
Responsible Party: Town Board
Timing: Annually
5. Task: Assess staffing, training, and equipment needs (*Utilities and Community Facilities* element).
Responsible Party: Town Board
Timing: Annually
6. Task: Assess building and public facility capacity (*Utilities and Community Facilities* element).
Responsible Party: Town Board
Timing: Every five years
7. Task: Maintain an inventory of active farms, feedlots, and manure storage facilities (*Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources* element).
Responsible Party: Plan Commission
Timing: As needed
8. Task: Maintain an inventory of historic and archeological sites (*Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources* element).
Responsible Party: Plan Commission
Timing: As needed

9.2 Status and Changes to Land Use Programs and Regulations

The following provides an inventory of the land use regulations that are in affect in the Town of Wood River and summarizes recommended changes to each of these ordinance types. For basic information on regulatory plan implementation tools, please refer to Section 9.1 of the *Inventory and Trends Report*. For further detail on the status of each type of implementation ordinance in Burnett County, please refer to Section 9.3 of the *Inventory and Trends Report*.

Code of Ordinances

Current Status

The Town of Wood River has not adopted its ordinances as a code of ordinances. The town administers the following ordinances:

- ♦ Plan Commission Ordinance
- ♦ Driveway/Road Access Ordinance
- ♦ Road Construction Standard Ordinance
- ♦ *(Our records indicate that we have no other ordinances on file from the Town, please verify from Town Clerk and list appropriately)*
- ♦

see attachment for
Township Ordinance

Recommended Changes

Follow the statutory procedure for creating a code of ordinances. All existing and future ordinances should be adopted as part of the town's municipal code. The code is easier to manage and more efficient, especially during times of political and administrative succession or transition.

Zoning

Current Status

The Burnett County Zoning Ordinance establishes the county's basic land use, lot size, and building location and height requirements. The Burnett County Zoning Ordinance applies to unincorporated areas of the county in towns that have adopted the ordinance. To date, all towns except the Towns of Blaine, La Follette, Sand Lake, and Wood River have adopted the Burnett County Zoning Ordinance. The Town of Wood River's zoning information is displayed on Map 9-1 and Table 9-1.

Recommended Changes

Zoning ordinances will be one of the key tools that the Town of Wood River will need to utilize to implement its comprehensive plan. For the sake of efficiency and consistency, the town prefers to work with Burnett County to modify county zoning ordinances for achievement of the town's vision for the future. A more effective zoning ordinance will be utilized to:

- ♦ Promote housing options
- ♦ Preserve agricultural lands and the right to farm
- ♦ Preserve natural resources and cultural resources including rural character
- ♦ Implement the town's site planning policies
- ♦ Better achieve the town's desired development pattern
- ♦ Better manage potentially conflicting land uses.

Table 9-1 Zoning, Town of Wood River

Zoning Classification	Acreage	Percent of Total
A (Exclusive Agriculture District)	0.1	0.0%
A1 (Agriculture--Transition District)	0.0	0.0%
A2 (Agriculture--Residential District)	2,650.8	69.9%
A4 (AG\Forestry)\Residential District)	0.0	0.0%
AP (Airport District)	0.0	0.0%
C1 (Commercial District)	0.0	0.0%
F1 (Forestry District)	75.7	2.0%
I1 (Industrial District)	0.0	0.0%
PUD (Planned Unit Development)	0.0	0.0%
RR1 (Residential Recreational District #1)	610.7	16.1%
RR2 (Residential Recreational District #2)	86.7	2.3%
RR3 (Residential Recreational District #3)	98.3	2.6%
W1 (Resource Conservation District)	272.0	7.2%
Shoreland Zoning*	6,419.9	
TOTAL ZONED LAND**	3,794.2	100.0%
TOTAL TOWN LAND	22,810.9	

* Shoreland zoning is not counted in the total as it overlays the underlying zoning.

**Does not include unzoned land, tribal land, surface water, or roads.

Source: Burnett County

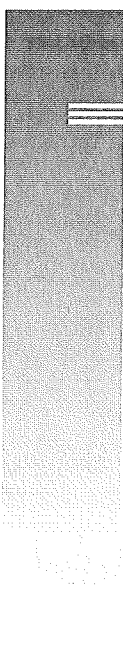
This page intentionally left blank.

Map 9-1 Existing Land Use Regulations

This page intentionally left blank.

On a fundamental level, the town will need to work with Burnett County to amend or create new zoning districts and to revise the town zoning map. This will help implement the town's preferred land uses and densities as established under the Future Land Use Management Areas. Coordination will be necessary between the towns in Burnett County as efficiency and cost management will be primary considerations at the county level.

Figure 9-2
County Zoning Coordination Evaluation Criteria

		<h2 style="text-align: center;">Zoning Draft Development: Coordination and Evaluation Criteria Critical to County/Town Mutual Benefits</h2>	
<u>Effectiveness</u> Effectiveness in implementing local and County Comprehensive Plans		<u>Simplicity</u> Ease of understanding by the general public	
<u>Ease of Ongoing Administration and Cost Efficiency</u> Time and effort required to administer and use the density management system on a day to day basis		<u>Flexibility</u> Amount of options available to individual towns to implement preferred land use management density and lot size provisions (within County Framework)	
<u>Ease of Initial Implementation and Cost Efficiency</u> Time, effort, and cost to initially implement the density management system		<u>Potential for Success</u> Potential for success in achieving local and county goals – developing win-win solutions	

Burnett County and all towns under county zoning or considering adopting zoning administered through Burnett County will need to consider the evaluation criteria as represented in Figure 9-2. Each town in Burnett County has their own ideas on how to manage land use, but there is similarity in the goals in which the comprehensive plans were developed. The County and Town Comprehensive Plans were developed based on an overall county-wide framework to establish consistency across the county, yet provide enough local flexibility for towns to manage their respective community per their individual plan. Towns were encouraged to develop specific strategies and policies to best fit local needs during the planning process. The intent of coordination a County Zoning Ordinance update is to help implement both county and local plans by providing a framework of consistent regulations that will implement many of the local strategies and policies. Assuming the process will be coordinated similar to the county planning process, the Zoning Ordinance revisions will also provide many options for the Towns to customize the zoning districts to meet local needs while recognizing the constraints of administrative costs.

In regard to modifying or updating the zoning maps to help implement the comprehensive plan, the Future Land Use Map should not simply become the zoning map. The comprehensive plan and associated Future Land Use Map are not intended to be so detailed that they try to predict what the future land uses might be (no one has a crystal ball). The Future Land Use Map is intended to be more general to reflect the goals and capture the long term intent of creating or preserving community character. The Future Land Use Map should be kept more general and have written policy guidance for how to address rezonings, land division, development applications, etc. In many instances the plan goals, objectives, policies and recommendations will be more important than the future land use map as they collectively manage community decisions.

In addition to the revision of the basic zoning districts and map, the town hopes to employ several tools to help review and coordinate development including the following:

- ♦ Development review standards and processes
- ♦ Conditional use review criteria
- ♦ Site planning regulations (further detailed under *Land Division Regulations* below)

Proposed modifications to the County Zoning Ordinance should also include provisions for impacts assessment. Land divisions, conditional uses, and other substantial development projects should be required to include an assessment of potential transportation, natural resource, and cost of community service impacts. The level of impacts assessment required should be reasonable and proportional to the intensity of the proposed development. In addition to requesting developers and permit applicants to provide an assessment of these potential impacts, the town should request that multiple site development alternatives are provided as part of the development review process.

Land Division Regulations

Current Status

The Burnett County Subdivision Ordinance applies to the town and requires county approval of land divisions that result in the creation of one or more parcels of five acres or less in size. Refer to Section 9.3 of the *Inventory and Trends Report* for details on existing county ordinances.

Recommended Changes

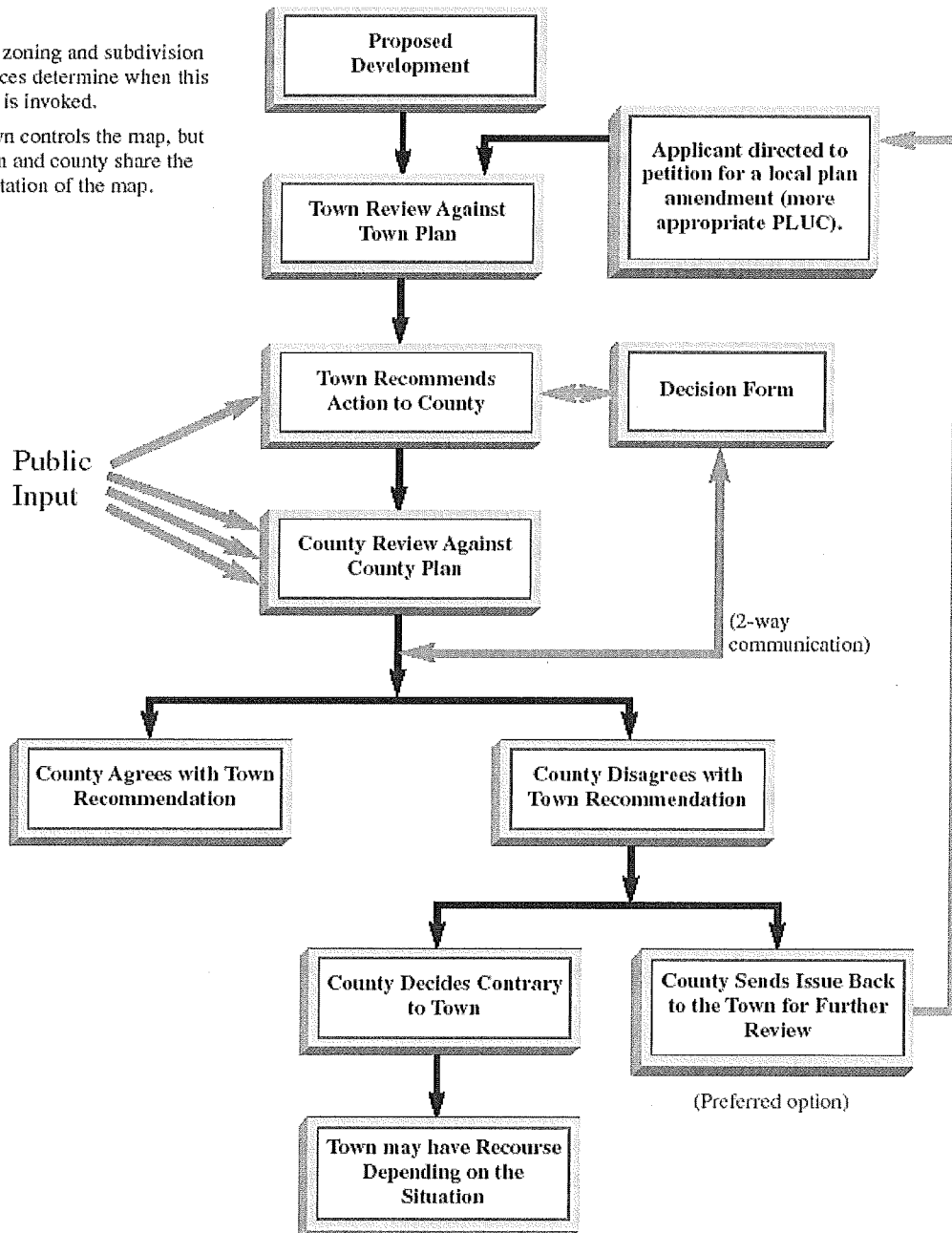
Land division ordinances will be another key tool that the Town of Wood River will need to utilize to implement its comprehensive plan. For the sake of efficiency and consistency, the town prefers to work with Burnett County to modify the County Subdivision Ordinance for achievement of the town's vision for the future. Similar to the Zoning Ordinance, the town and county must cooperate and coordinate the proposed modifications in accordance with Figure 9-2 to seek the win-win solutions that benefit both parties without negative impact to administration. However, should this approach fall short in implementing the town's plan, the town would consider adopting a local ordinance.

Figure 9-3 Burnett County Comprehensive Planning County/Local Coordinated Decision Making Process

Notes:

County zoning and subdivision ordinances determine when this process is invoked.

The town controls the map, but the town and county share the interpretation of the map.



X

In order to better manage new town roads or other public infrastructure dedications associated with new development, the town should improve subdivision ordinance provisions for the execution of development agreements. A standard development agreement should be assembled that includes provisions for financial assurance, construction warranties, construction inspections, and completion of construction by the town under failure to do so by the developer.

In accordance with Figure 9-3, clear communication between the town and the county is paramount if a shared development review process is to work correctly. It is important to note that the county zoning and subdivision ordinances determine when this process is invoked as the ordinances are administered by Burnett County.

Opportunities for town involvement occur when proposed land uses or land developments require a decision on the part of Burnett County. Such decisions include rezones, conditional uses, and land divisions, and could be expanded to include site plan review. As a town reviews a proposed land use and forwards its decision or recommendation to the county, town decisions should be documented and copied to the county. County decisions should be documented in this same manner and copied to the applicable towns. This process tool gets both units of government using their plans and speaking the same language.

This approach has several advantages. Even if it is the county's position that it will generally follow a town's recommendation, the communication still needs to be clear. The reason for this is because the town and the county are not the only ones involved. The public is also involved, so just agreeing with the town will not eliminate the potential for conflict. And after 2010, the comprehensive planning law makes it even more important that communities clearly document their reasoning when making decisions that should be "consistent" with the comprehensive plan. If a citizen, applicant, developer, etc. challenges a decision of a town or county, they will have a much more difficult challenge winning against the unit of government if the reasoning for a decision is clearly documented and connected to comprehensive plan policies.

Site Plan and Design Review

Current Status

Site plan and design review standards are not currently administered by the town. Refer to Section 9.3 of the *Inventory and Trends Report* for details on related, Burnett County ordinances. Site design refers to the overall layout of the site and the relationship of major features such as buildings, streets, parking and supporting elements.

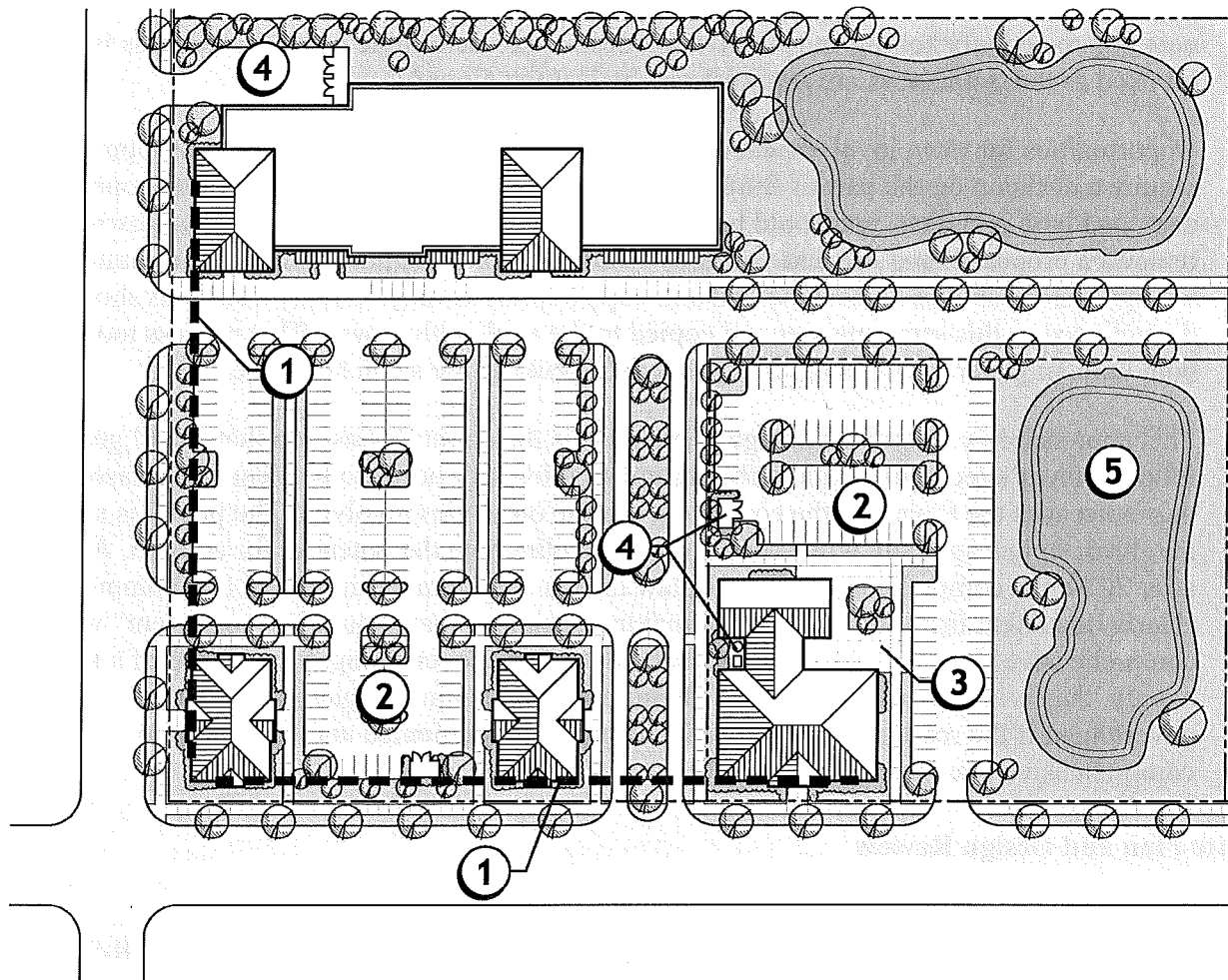
Recommended Changes

The town does intend to review development applications in conjunction with the Plan Commission. Site planning is not intended to be invasive to the applicant, but is intended to allow the town to manage growth in conjunction with property owners to accomplish town goals. Similar to the zoning and land division ordinance discussions, it is anticipated Burnett County will incorporate basic site design requirements and standards as part of the county code, especially for proposed commercial, industrial, institutional, and multi-family residential developments. This will likely be a cooperative effort with Burnett County, the

Town of Wood River

surrounding towns, and possibly with incorporated communities as well. Site plan and design review requirements may address the desired characteristics of building layout and architecture, park areas, green space and landscaping, lighting, signage, grading, driveway access, and internal traffic circulation. The example denoted in Figure 9-4 represents a sample of potential considerations associated with site review.

Figure 9-4 Typical Site Design Example



1 Building Location and Setbacks

Buildings should be located to strengthen the definition of street edges and public areas. Building setbacks should also be consistent with those of buildings located on adjacent properties.

2 Parking Lot Configurations and Location

Parking lots should be designed to accommodate convenient vehicular navigation. Generally, two-way drive aisles should be 24 feet wide and non-handicapped accessible spaces should be 9 wide by 18 feet deep. Dead-end aisles should be avoided where possible, but shall include a vehicle turn-around when used.

Parking lots should also be arranged to provide convenient access to buildings and primarily located to the sides or rear and between buildings.

3 Public Space

The integration of public areas including court yards, plazas and gardens into the site is encouraged. These spaces should be defined by surrounding buildings, street edges, landscaping and natural areas.

4 Service/Mechanical/Refuse Location

Service and storage areas, building mechanicals, and refuse/recycling containers should be located so that they are hidden from public view to the greatest extent possible.

5 Storm Water Configuration

Storm water retention and detention areas should be designed to enhance the landscape through the use of natural forms and grading as opposed to rigid geometric shapes.

Additional Standards:

- **Building Elevation Priority** – Building elevations visible from public streets, public spaces, and residential areas shall receive the highest priority for architectural treatment and design treatment.
- **Fences** – Decorative fences made of wood, masonry, stone and ornamental metal are preferred over chain link fences. Chain link fences should be used only when there is a demonstrated security need.
- **Lighting** – Site lighting shall be provided for safety and security and directed away from adjacent properties.

Figure 9-4 represents a sample of what the town/county might assess if a development is proposed. It may not be typical or even necessary that all of the site plan criteria be included on a submitted site plan. Figure 9-4 was included to allow a reference in the need of an advanced development review. In addition, the town/county should seek public input on the establishment of these desired characteristics. The policies of the *Economic Development* element provide some initial guidance on potential design review standards.

Site planning can not only be used to provide for aesthetically pleasing development and protection of valued features of the landscape, but also to ensure that future road extensions will not be blocked by the construction of buildings or other structures. Area development plans will be required of major land divisions and commercial or industrial development proposals. These plans will lay out potential road extensions on adjacent lands. To ensure potential future road connectivity between development sites, the town's policies regarding the use of cul-de-sacs should be included in a revised land division ordinance. Temporary cul-de-sacs

should be limited, but when allowed, should be constructed to the outside property line of the development site.

Official Map Regulations

Current Status

An official map is not currently administered by the town. Refer to Section 9.3 of the *Inventory and Trends Report* for details on related, Burnett County ordinances.

Recommended Changes

Area development planning and site planning will be used to encourage coordinated planning between development sites, but the need for an official map may also develop over the planning period. The town should monitor the need to develop an official map that designates planned, future rights-of-way for roads and utilities in areas of expected growth.

Sign Regulations

Current Status

Sign regulations are not currently administered by the town. Refer to Section 9.3 of the *Inventory and Trends Report* for details on related, Burnett County ordinances.

Recommended Changes

No specific recommendations regarding sign regulations have been identified, however, sign placement and design should be addressed by the site plan and design review ordinance.

Erosion Control and Stormwater Management

Current Status

Erosion control and stormwater management ordinances are not currently administered by the town. Erosion control and stormwater management are addressed by the Burnett County Zoning, Subdivision, Shoreland Zoning, and Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Ordinances, which are in effect in the Town of Wood River. Refer to Section 9.3 of the *Inventory and Trends Report* for details on related, Burnett County ordinances.

Recommended Changes

The town will modify applicable land division, zoning, and building code ordinances to include improved stormwater management and construction site erosion control requirements. Development proposals will be required to address stormwater management, construction site erosion control, and potential increased risk of flooding in accordance with existing state and county standards.

Historic Preservation

Current Status

Historic preservation ordinances are not currently administered by the town. Refer to Section 9.3 of the *Inventory and Trends Report* for details on related, Burnett County ordinances. ...

Recommended Changes

The town would like to create a local historic preservation document that recognizes, but does not regulate, historic sites in the town. To support this effort, the town will maintain the map and database of historic and archeological sites and will conduct a community survey of historical and archeological resources at least once every 20 years. Additional research and public outreach are necessary before proceeding with creating such an ordinance.

Building, Housing, and Mechanical Codes

Current Status

Building, housing, and mechanical codes are not currently administered by the town. Refer to Section 9.3 of the *Inventory and Trends Report* for details on related, Waupaca County ordinances.

Recommended Changes

No specific recommendations have been brought forward in regard to creating building, housing, and mechanical codes.

Sanitary Codes

Current Status

The Burnett County Sanitary Ordinance applies to the town. Refer to Section 9.3 of the *Inventory and Trends Report* for details on related Burnett County ordinances.

Recommended Changes

- ♦ No specific changes to sanitary codes are recommended at this time, but the town should continue to work with Burnett County for the regulation of POWTS.

Driveway and Access Controls

Current Status

Driveway and access controls are not currently administered by the town. Refer to Section 9.3 of the *Inventory and Trends Report* for details on related, Burnett County ordinances.

Recommended Changes

The town should adopt a driveway ordinance to implement access control and emergency vehicle access policies as they apply to town roads. The following areas of concern should be addressed by the ordinance.

- ♦ Minimum distance between access points
- ♦ Maximum number of access points per parcel

- ♦ Minimum site distance
- ♦ Minimum driveway surface width and construction materials
- ♦ Minimum clearance width and height
- ♦ Maximum driveway length
- ♦ Minimum turnaround areas for longer driveways
- ♦ Minimum intersection spacing.

Road Construction Specifications

Current Status

Road construction specifications are not currently administered by the town. Refer to Section 9.3 of the Inventory and Trends Report for details on related, Waupaca County ordinances.

Recommended Changes

The town utilizes Wisconsin State Statutes 82.50 which provides minimum standards for roads. The town should develop a set of road construction specifications to include modern requirements for road base, surfacing, and drainage construction. Construction specifications should be adjustable based on the planned functional classification or expected traffic flow of a roadway.

9.3 Non-Regulatory Land Use Management Tools

While ordinances and other regulatory tools are often central in plan implementation, they are not the only means available to a community. Non-regulatory implementation tools include more detailed planning efforts (such as park planning, neighborhood planning, or road improvement planning), public participation tools, intergovernmental agreements, land acquisition, and various fiscal tools (such as capital improvement planning, impact fees, grant funding, and annual budgeting). For basic information on non-regulatory plan implementation tools, please refer to Section 9.2 of the *Inventory and Trends Report*.

The *Town of Wood River Comprehensive Plan* includes recommendations for the use of non-regulatory implementation tools including the following:

- ♦ Assess the availability of land for residential development (*Housing* element).
- ♦ Review ordinances and fees for their impacts on housing (*Housing* element).
- ♦ Pursue funding for needed transportation facilities (*Transportation* element).
- ♦ Utilize intergovernmental efficiencies to provide services and facilities (*Utilities and Community Facilities* element).
- ♦ Assess service and capacity needs including town buildings, staffing, and equipment (*Utilities and Community Facilities* element).

- ♦ Maintain the map and database of historic and archeological sites (*Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources* element).
- ♦ Work with the County on the purchase of development rights and/or a donated easement program (*Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources* element).
- ♦ Support and participate in educational and training programs with local industry, schools, and government (*Economic Development* element).
- ♦ Meet with other units of government (*Intergovernmental Cooperation* element).
- ♦ Review and update the comprehensive plan (*Implementation* element).

9.4 Comprehensive Plan Amendments and Updates

Adoption and Amendments

The Town of Wood River should regularly evaluate its progress toward achieving the goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations of its comprehensive plan. It may be determined that amendments are needed to maintain the effectiveness and consistency of the plan. Amendments are minor changes to the overall plan and should be done after careful evaluation to maintain the plan as an effective tool upon which community decisions are based.

According to Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning law (Wis. Stats. 66.1001), the same process that was used to initially adopt the plan shall also be used when amendments are made. The town should be aware that laws regarding the amendment procedure may be clarified or changed as more comprehensive plans are adopted, and should therefore be monitored over time. Under current law, adopting and amending the town's comprehensive plan must comply with the following steps:

- ♦ **Public Participation Procedures.** The established public participation procedures must be followed and must provide an opportunity for written comments to be submitted by members of the public to the Town Board and for the Town Board to respond to such comments.
- ♦ **Plan Commission Recommendation.** The Plan Commission recommends its proposed comprehensive plan or amendment to the Town Board by adopting a resolution by a majority vote of the entire Plan Commission. The vote shall be recorded in the minutes of the Plan Commission. The resolution shall refer to maps and other descriptive materials that relate to one or more elements of the comprehensive plan.
- ♦ **Recommended Draft Distribution.** One copy of the comprehensive plan or amendment adopted by the Plan Commission for recommendation to the Town Board is required to be sent to: (a) every governmental body that is located in whole or in part within the boundaries of the town, including any school district, sanitary district, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district, or other special district; (b) the clerk of every

Village, village, town, county, and regional planning commission that is adjacent to the town; (c) the Wisconsin Land Council; (d) the Department of Administration; (e) the Regional Planning Commission in which the town is located; (f) the public library that serves the area in which the town is located; and (g) persons who have leasehold interest in an affected property for the extraction of non-metallic minerals. After adoption by the Town Board, one copy of the adopted comprehensive plan or amendment must also be sent to (a) through (f) above.

- ♦ **Public Notification.** At least 30 days before the public hearing on a plan adopting or amending ordinance, persons that have requested to receive notice must be provided with notice of the public hearing and a copy of the adopting ordinance. This only applies if the proposed plan or amendment affects the allowable use of their property. The town is responsible for maintaining the list of persons who have requested to receive notice, and may charge a fee to recover the cost of providing the notice.
- ♦ **Ordinance Adoption and Final Distribution.** Following publication of a Class I notice, a public hearing must be held to consider an ordinance to adopt or amend the comprehensive plan. Ordinance approval requires a majority vote of the Town Board. The final plan report or amendment and adopting ordinance must then be filed with (a) through (f) of the distribution list above that received the recommended comprehensive plan or amendment.

Updates

Comprehensive planning statutes require that a comprehensive plan be updated at least once every 10 years. However, it is advisable to conduct a plan update at a five year interval. An update requires revisiting the entire planning document. Unlike an amendment, an update is often a substantial re-write of the text, updating of the inventory and tables, and substantial changes to maps, if necessary. The plan update process should be planned for in a similar manner as was allowed for the initial creation of this plan including similar time and funding allotments. State statutes should also be monitored for any modified language.

9.5 Integration and Consistency of Planning Elements

Implementation Strategies for Planning Element Integration

While this comprehensive plan is divided into nine elements, in reality, community planning issues are not confined to these divisions. Planning issues will cross these element boundaries. Because this is the case, the policies and recommendations of this plan were considered by the Town of Wood River in the light of overall implementation strategies. The following implementation strategies were available for consideration.

Housing

1. Create a range of housing options
2. Create opportunities for siting of quality affordable housing
3. Change the treatment of mobile and manufactured homes

Transportation

1. Create efficiencies in the cost of building and maintaining roads (control taxes)
2. Preserve the mobility of collector and/or arterial roads
3. Create safe emergency vehicle access to developed properties
4. Create improved intersection safety
5. Create more detailed plans for transportation improvements
6. Create road connectivity
7. Create bicycle and pedestrian options

Utilities and Community Facilities

1. Create efficiencies in the cost of providing services and facilities (control taxes)
2. Create more detailed plans for facility and service improvements
3. Create intergovernmental efficiencies for providing services and facilities
4. Create improved community facilities and services
5. Preserve the existing level and quality of community facilities and services
6. Preserve the quality of outdoor recreational pursuits.
7. Create additional public recreation facilities
8. Create opportunities to maximize the use of existing infrastructure

Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources

1. Preserve agricultural lands
2. Preserve the right to farm
3. Preserve active farms
4. Preserve natural resources and/or green space
5. Preserve rural character
6. Create targeted areas for farming expansion
7. Create targeted areas for forestry expansion
8. Preserve historic places and features

Economic Development

1. Change community conditions for attracting business and job growth
2. Change community conditions for retaining existing businesses and jobs
3. Create additional tax base by requiring quality development and construction
4. Create more specific plans for economic development

Intergovernmental Cooperation

1. Create intergovernmental efficiencies for providing services and facilities
2. Create a cooperative approach for planning and regulating development along community boundaries
3. Preserve intergovernmental communication

Land Use

1. Preserve the existing landscape by limiting growth
2. Preserve valued features of the landscape through site planning
3. Preserve development rights
4. Create an overall pattern of growth that is dispersed
5. Create an overall pattern of growth that is clustered
6. Create an overall pattern of growth that is concentrated
7. Preserve the influence of market forces to drive the type and location of development
8. Create a system of development review that prevents land use conflicts
9. Create a system of development review that manages the location and design of non-residential development

These overall strategies are grouped by element, but are associated with goals, objectives, policies and recommendations in multiple elements.

Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning law requires that the *Implementation* element describe how each of the nine elements of the comprehensive plan will be integrated with the other elements of the plan. The implementation strategies provide planning element integration by grouping associated policies and recommendations in multiple elements with coherent, overarching themes.

The Town of Wood River selected from the available strategies to generate its policies and recommendations. The selected implementation strategies reflect the town's highest priorities for implementation, and areas where the town is willing to take direct implementation responsibility. Each planning element has very detailed goals and objectives that set the course of action, followed and supported by detailed and specific policies and recommendations that enable the goal fulfillment. The goals, objectives, policies and recommendations represent the selected strategies the town felt were important enough to focus on over the planning period.

Planning Element Consistency

Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning law requires that the *Implementation* element describe how each of the nine elements of the comprehensive plan will be made consistent with the other elements of the plan. The planning process that was used to create the *Town of Wood River Year 2030 Comprehensive Plan* required all elements of the plan to be produced in a simultaneous manner. No elements were created independently from the other elements of the plan, therefore reducing the threat of inconsistency.

There may be inconsistencies between the goals and objectives between elements or even within an individual element. This is the nature of goals and objectives. Because these are statements of community values, they may very well compete with one another in certain situations. The mechanism for resolving any such inconsistency is the policy statement. Where goals or objectives express competing values, the town should look to the related policies to provide decision making guidance. The policies established by this plan have been designed with this function in mind, and no known policy inconsistencies are present between elements or within an individual element.

Over time, the threat of inconsistency between the plan and existing conditions will increase, requiring amendments or updates to be made. Over time, additional plans regarding specific features within the community may also be developed (e.g., outdoor recreation plan, downtown development plan, etc.). The process used to develop any further detailed plans should be consistent with this *Town of Wood River Year 2030 Comprehensive Plan*.

9.6 Measurement of Plan Progress

Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning law requires that the *Implementation* element provide a mechanism to measure community progress toward achieving all aspects of the comprehensive plan. An acceptable method is to evaluate two primary components of the plan, policies and recommendations, which are found in each plan element.

To measure the effectiveness of an adopted policy, the community must determine if the policy has met the intended purpose. For example, the Town of Wood River has established a Transportation element policy that states, "Dead-end roads and cul-de-sacs shall be avoided to the extent practicable and allowed only where physical site features prevent connection with existing or planned future roadways." To determine whether the policy is achieving the community's intention a "measure" must be established. In the case of this policy, the measure is simply how many dead-end roads or cul-de-sacs have been constructed since the plan's adoption, and how many of those were necessitated by the site conditions. Each policy statement should be reviewed periodically to determine the plan's effectiveness.

Likewise, recommendations listed within each element can be measured. For recommendations, the ability to "measure" progress toward achievement is very straight forward in that the recommendations have either been implemented or not.

To ensure the plan is achieving intended results, periodic reviews should be conducted by the Plan Commission and results reported to the governing body and the public.

9.7 Implementation Goals and Objectives

Community goals are broad, value-based statements expressing public preferences for the long term (20 years or more). They specifically address key issues, opportunities, and problems that affect the community. Objectives are more specific than goals and are more measurable statements usually attainable through direct action and implementation of plan recommendations. The accomplishment of objectives contributes to fulfillment of the goal.

Goal 1: Promote consistent integration of the comprehensive plan policies and recommendations with the ordinances and implementation tools that affect the town.

Objectives:

- A. Update and/or revise the comprehensive plan on a regular schedule (at least every 5 years) to ensure that the plan remains a useful guide for land use decision making.
- B. Require that administration, enforcement, and implementation of land use regulations are consistent with the town comprehensive plan, where applicable.
- C. Develop and update as needed an "Action Plan" as a mechanism to assist the Town Board to bring implementation tools into compliance with the comprehensive plan.

Goal 2: Balance appropriate land use regulations and individual property rights with community interests and goals.

Objectives:

- A. Provide continuing education to the public that will lead to a more complete understanding of planning and land use issues facing the town.
- B. Create opportunities for citizen participation throughout all stages of planning, ordinance development, and policy implementation.

- C. Maintain an implementation tool development review process whereby all interested parties are afforded an opportunity to influence the outcome.
- D. Maintain a land use (agricultural, industrial, commercial, and residential) development review process whereby all interested parties are afforded an opportunity to influence the outcome.

9.8 Implementation Policies and Recommendations

Policies and recommendations build on goals and objectives by providing more focused responses to the issues that the town is concerned about. Policies and recommendations become primary tools the town can use in making land use decisions. Many of the policies and recommendations cross element boundaries and work together toward overall implementation strategies. Refer to Section 9.5 for an explanation of the strategies cited as sources for many of the policies and recommendations.

Policies identify the way in which activities are conducted in order to fulfill the goals and objectives. Policies that direct action using the word “shall” are advised to be mandatory and regulatory aspects of the implementation of the comprehensive plan. In contrast, those policies that direct action using the words “will” or “should” are advisory and intended to serve as a guide. “Will” statements are considered to be strong guidelines, while “should” statements are considered loose guidelines.

Recommendations are specific actions or projects that the town should be prepared to complete. The completion of these actions and projects is consistent with the town’s policies, and therefore will help the town fulfill the comprehensive plan goals and objectives.

Policies and Recommendations

- I 1. The Town maintains the comprehensive plan as an effective tool for the guidance of Town governance, and will update the plan as needed to maintain consistency with state comprehensive planning requirements.
- I 2. Town policies, ordinances, and decisions relative to zoning, land divisions and subdivisions, shoreland-wetland zoning, and official mapping shall be made in conformance with the comprehensive plan.
- I 3. Maintain funding for continued provision of ~~professional~~ planning services toward the implementation of the comprehensive plans.
- I 4. Develop and maintain an action plan that identifies specific projects that are to be completed toward the implementation of the comprehensive plan. An action plan identifies an estimated time frame and responsible parties for each project or action.
- I 5. The action plan located within the comprehensive plan will be updated when tasks are accomplished and new items will be added when appropriate.