

Barron County Comprehensive Plan



2010-2030

Recommended by County Planning and Zoning Committee April 7, 2010

Adopted by County Board of Supervisors April 20, 2010



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

County Board:

James A. “Jess” Miller, Chairman
Larry Leff
John Hardin
Ken Jost
Lee Romsos
Karolyn Bartlett
Pam Fall
Paul F. Streif
Donna Cordes
Rick Wuorenma
Bonnie Erb
Ken Mosentine
Pete Olson
Carol J. Moen
Keith Hardie
Kenneth Peterson
Walter Organ
Andrew Mommsen
Jerry McRoberts
Marvin F. Thompson
Ronald Novotny
James Stavran
Mark Rogstad
James Pannier
Donald Horstman
Terry Henck
Charles Christensen
Dale Heinecke
William Koepp

Zoning Committee:

Keith Hardie, Chair
Carol Moen
Ron Novotny, Vice Chair
William Koepp, Secretary

Planning Advisory Group:

Keith Hardie, Chairman
Andrew Mommsen
Bill Smith
Kevin Morgan
Margo Katterhagen
Marilyn Cordes
Robert Oman
Pat Mattmiller
Pete Olson
Frank Chiodi

County Planning & Administration Staff:

Jeff French, *County Administrator*
Duane Hebert, *Former County Administrator*
Catherine Tuminaro, *Planning Coordinator*
David Gifford, *Zoning Administrator*
Andrew Dane, *Barron County UW-Extension*

Additional County Planning Assistance:

Rhonda Sukys, *Land Information*
Dave Miller, *Economic Development*
Mark Servi, *Highway Department*
Judy Demers, *Health and Human Services*
Charlene Oftedahl, *Aging and Disability Resource Center*
Tim Jergenson, *UW-Extension*
Dale Hanson, *Soil & Water Conservation*
Tyler Gruetzmacher, *Soil & Water Conservation*
Randy Books, *Emergency Management*
Steve Olson, *Maintenance Superintendent*
Dave Moin, *County Trail Coordinator*
Al Zeltner, *Waste to Energy Plant Manager*
Meg Tauchen, *Barron County Housing Authority*
David Trechter, *Survey Center, UW-River Falls*
Staff, *West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning*

This plan was partially funded through a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Administration

Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	i
INTRODUCTION	1
Purpose of the Plan.....	1
Planning Method.....	2
CHAPTER ONE: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES	4
Results of Public Participation Efforts.....	5
Population Trends and Forecasts.....	8
Demographic Trends and Forecasts.....	10
Household Trends	11
Education and Income Levels.....	11
Employment Characteristics and Forecasts.....	12
Key Opportunities for Barron County	14
Plan Goals.....	15
CHAPTER TWO: AGRICULTURE, NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES	17
Background	18
Agriculture	18
Natural Resources.....	23
Cultural Resources	33
Goals.....	36
Objectives.....	36
Recommendations	36
Policies and Programs	37
CHAPTER THREE: LAND USE	39
Background	40
Goals.....	56
Objectives.....	56
Policies and Programs	57
Recommendations	60
CHAPTER FOUR: TRANSPORTATION	61
Background	62
Goals.....	67
Objectives.....	67
Recommendations	67

Policies and Programs	68
CHAPTER FIVE: UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES.....	69
Background	70
Goals.....	78
Objectives.....	78
Policies and Programs	79
Recommendations	79
CHAPTER SIX: HOUSING.....	81
Background	82
Goals.....	87
Objectives.....	87
Policies and Programs	88
Recommendations	88
CHAPTER SEVEN: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.....	89
Background	90
Goals.....	99
Objectives.....	99
Policies and Programs	100
Recommendations	100
CHAPTER EIGHT: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION.....	101
Background	102
Goals.....	107
Objectives.....	107
Policies and Programs	108
Recommendations	108
CHAPTER NINE: IMPLEMENTATION.....	109
Plan Adoption and Update Actions.....	111
Intergovernmental Cooperation Actions.....	111
Ordinance Development and Update Actions	112
Strategic Planning Actions.....	112

Index of Figures

Figure 1 Planning Process Flowchart	2
Figure 2 Barron County Population, 1900-2007	8
Figure 3 Population Distribution: Incorporated & Rural Residents, 1960 to 2000	9
Figure 4 County Population Projections, 2000 to 2035	9
Figure 5 Retirement Age Population, 2000 to 2030 Barron County	10
Figure 6 Barron County Households & Avg. HH Size 2000-2030	11
Figure 7 2008 Barron County Employment by Industry.....	12
Figure 8 Median household income for Barron and Surrounding Counties (1998 vs. 2008)	13
Figure 9 Acres Converted from Exclusive Ag District to Other Zoning Districts	18
Figure 10 # of farms over 1,000 acres in size.....	19
Figure 11 Why Residents Choose to Live in Barron County.....	23
Figure 12 Barron County Water Use by Category.....	25
Figure 13 High Capacity Irrigation Wells in Barron County.....	26
Figure 14 Blue Green Algae in Barron County	28
Figure 15 Barron County Invasive Species	31
Figure 16 Disposal of Pharmaceutical Waste.....	33
Figure 17 The Ringed Development Pattern.....	41
Figure 18 Barron County Preferred Land Use Map.....	46
Figure 19 Barron County Existing Land Use Map.....	47
Figure 20 Characteristics of Transportation Facilities.....	63

Index of Tables

Table 1 # of Acres Rented (Source: USDA).....	19
Table 2 Change in Farm Sizes, Barron County, 1992-2007	20
Table 3 Increase in Yield and Acres for Corn and Soybeans, Barron County, 1992-2007.....	20
Table 4 State Natural Areas in Barron County	30
Table 5 State Public Wildlife Recreational Lands in Barron County.....	31
Table 6 Historic Sites in Barron County Listed on the National Register of Historic Sites	35
Table 7 Wisconsin State Historical Society Architectural and Historical Listings for Barron County.....	35
Table 8 2008 Assessed Land Uses in Acres	48
Table 9 2008 Assessed Forested Acres by Type.....	49
Table 10 Agriculture Land Sales, County Totals	50
Table 11 Forest Land Sales, County Totals – Remaining in forest versus diverted to other uses	51
Table 12 Projected Land Uses-Unincorporated Areas	53
Table 13 Barron County Population by Municipality	54
Table 14 Barron County Population 1900-2000.....	55
Table 15 Barron County housing unit projections 2000 to 2030	55
Table 16 Housing Types: 1990 to 2000	82
Table 17 Percent Seasonal Housing Units.....	83
Table 18 Barron County Employment and Payroll by Industry: 2003-2007	91
Table 19 Educational Attainment Levels in Barron County: 1990-2000	93

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the **Barron County Comprehensive Plan** is to help guide future decision making by:

1. Identifying and describing key **Issues and Opportunities** facing Barron County;
2. Establishing a set of long range **Goals and Objectives** related to land use, natural resources, cultural resources, agriculture, economic development, housing, intergovernmental cooperation, transportation, and community facilities;
3. Providing an inventory of existing **Policies and Programs** currently in place; and
4. Documenting what future steps should be taken to achieve the plan goals and objectives in the form of more specific **Recommendations and Implementation steps**.

The plan is one of many decision-making tools for local officials and citizens to help guide future growth and development in Barron County.

The plan was prepared not only to aid in future decision making but also to satisfy the requirements of the State of Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Legislation outlined in Section 66.1001 of Wisconsin State Statutes. This plan meets the requirements of the State law and serves as the official comprehensive planning document for Barron County. According to State law, County zoning, subdivision ordinances, and official mapping are to be consistent with this plan as of January 1, 2010.

The plan is organized into nine chapters corresponding to the nine planning elements required in the comprehensive plan legislation. Each of the first eight chapters provides background on the element in the form of a narrative summary. Furthermore, each chapter contains the following sections:

Goals and Objectives - They describe in broad terms what the County should do over the lifespan of this plan to address the key issues relative to each element.

Policies and Programs – They capture how the County is currently addressing the issues, goals, and objectives contained within each element.

Recommendations – They pinpoint future activities which may be taken in order to achieve the goals and objectives identified for each element.

The final chapter in this plan is the most important. It recommends suggested action steps in order to successfully implement the plan.

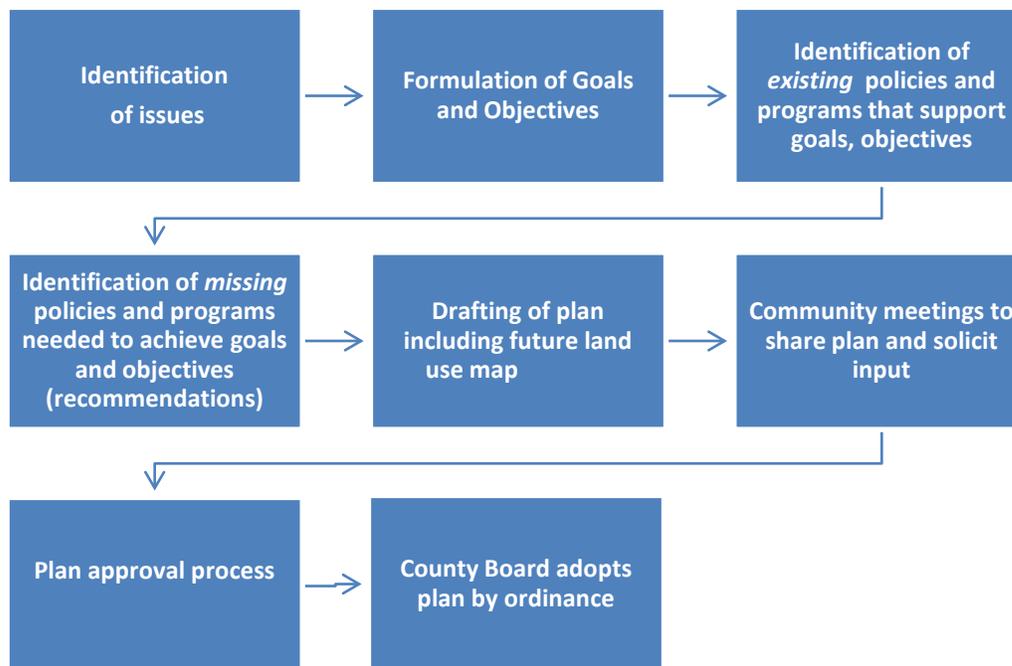
Planning Method

Barron County developed its 2010 comprehensive plan over a period of 21 months from August 2008 to April 20, 2010; the date the plan was officially adopted by the County Board of Supervisors. Below is a flowchart which shows how the plan was developed (Figure 1). Due to the efforts of the County Board, the Zoning Committee, County Staff, and the Planning Advisory Group, meaningful citizen participation was achieved throughout all stages of the planning process.

One of the first steps in the process was the formation of a citizen-led Planning Advisory Group (PAG)¹, which was appointed by the County Administrator and County Board. This group of ten individuals oversaw development of the County’s plan from start to finish.

The Planning Advisory Group worked closely with County staff to identify critical countywide issues. In this capacity, they reviewed a community survey which reached over 400 Barron County households. Several members also attended the three community visioning workshops held around the County. Finally, members of the PAG attended a series of key stakeholder group meetings designed to provide focused input into each plan element.

Figure 1 Planning Process Flowchart



Next, the Planning Advisory Group met with County staff twice per month to develop draft goals and objectives for each plan element. As planning work was completed, drafts were shared with the Barron County Board of Supervisors and relevant County committees to solicit additional input and direction.

¹ The Planning Advisory Group members are listed on page 1 of this plan. These individuals brought a diverse perspective to the planning effort including realtors, County Board members, utility workers, retirees, administrators, farmers, and small business owners.

County planning staff then worked with department heads and committees to identify existing and proposed policies and programs to achieve each element's broad goals and objectives. Staff used this information, along with information from the Barron County Conditions and Trends Report to develop draft plan elements.

As the draft plan began taking shape, a variety of techniques were used to broaden the scope of public input to include other city, villages, and towns officials within Barron County. A survey of town Clerks was conducted. Meetings were held with the Barron County chapter of the Wisconsin towns Association and the Barron County Clerks Association. A display was made and shown at various public places around the County including the County Fair.

During the planning process a Preferred Land Use Map (see Figure 18) was developed by stitching together Preferred Land Use Maps completed by the towns which prepared comprehensive plans. During the development of the land use element, city, village, and town comprehensive plans were analyzed for potential conflicts.

During fall 2009 the plan was drafted, shared with County departments and committees, and further revised. Following this step, the plan was shared at open houses in both Barron and Rice Lake.

The formal approval process for the plan began in early 2010 when the PAG approved the draft plan and sent it to the County Zoning committee. The Zoning Committee, in turn, passed a resolution recommending adoption by the full County Board. The full County Board formally adopted the plan by ordinance on April 20, 2010.

The Barron County Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030 comprises three documents: the plan itself, two background reports prepared by West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission: the *Barron County Conditions and Trends report* and the *Inventory of Plans, Programs, and Land Use Policies in West Central Wisconsin*. The two background reports are provided as separate documents.

The **Barron County Conditions and Trends Report** is a comprehensive encyclopedia of information related to land use and comprehensive planning for Barron County. It provides historic data and future projections using information from the U.S. Census, the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and other sources. The report was used during the planning process and some of the most pertinent information from it was included in the plan itself.

The **Inventory of Plans, Programs, and Land Use Policies in West Central Wisconsin** includes local, regional, state, and federal plans and programs relevant to each element, as well as a section on sustainability and energy plans and programs. Besides providing an inventory, this document serves as a guide to understanding intergovernmental cooperation across governmental units and agencies when it comes to providing programs, and carrying out policies at the local, state, and federal levels.

The Barron County Comprehensive Plan, including the two documents described above, meets the requirements of the State Comprehensive Planning Legislation.

CHAPTER ONE: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

This chapter provides insight into the key issues and opportunities facing Barron County. **Rather than presenting a mountain of demographic information, this chapter highlights the insights provided by actual people who live and work in Barron County.** After all, it is people that know their communities the best. And it is people that ultimately decide what the key issues are that need to be addressed.

This chapter begins with summarized results of the public participation efforts conducted during the planning process. It also includes key population, age, household, education, income, and employment statistics. The chapter concludes with a discussion of key local and regional issues and opportunities facing Barron County. The public participation resolution and public participation procedures are provided in the appendices.

Results of Public Participation Efforts

Several creative methods were used to ensure that Barron County citizens as well as professionals that work on behalf of Barron County citizens had a real voice in creating this plan. Below is a summary of these efforts. The results of these efforts also appear throughout the rest of the planning document. In fact, the issues and ideas brought forward through public outreach efforts were instrumental in developing many of the goals and objectives contained under each element.

1. Public Participation Plan

The County adopted a public participation plan in June 16th, 2008, which spelled out its commitment to involving residents in the development of the plan. The plan detailed several different methods for citizen participation, from helping identify County-wide issues and opportunities to identifying plan goals and objectives.

2. Planning Advisory Group

A citizen-led advisory group was created by the County Administrator and County Board as one of the first steps in developing the County's comprehensive plan. The planning advisory group, or PAG, consisted of 11 Barron County residents. PAG members came from a variety of business backgrounds including agriculture, real estate, retail, service, administration. The PAG played a number of key roles in the planning process including: helping identify best methods for engaging the public, helping identify key organizations in the County, participating in key stakeholder meetings, and finally developing the actual Goals and Objectives for the plan itself. A summary of the Goals for this plan appear in the Introduction chapter.



Photo 1 New Housing Development.
Courtesy of David Miller

3. County Opinion Survey

The Barron County Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey was completed in fall 2008. 425 households responded to the survey and **the results indicated that over 80% of residents rate the County's quality of life as good or excellent.** Older residents and those with higher household incomes are particularly satisfied with their quality of life.

When asked what they feel are the biggest issues facing the County, **residents indicate a high level of concern with preserving the County's natural resources and small town atmosphere.** In terms of housing, a strong majority of residents agree or strongly agree that more specialized housing (for the elderly, affordable housing, and starter homes) is needed in the County.

County residents want to see productive agricultural farmland stay in agriculture and are wary of seeing it converted to residential and commercial uses. A solid majority also feel that the visual impact of development should be considered when making development decisions and that landowners should not be allowed to develop their land in any way they see fit.

90% of residents feel the County's current road network is adequate and that other modes of transportation such as ATV's, walking, biking trails are important as well. Respondents to the survey said they were willing to use taxes to support economic development efforts and most express a strong preference to locate new development in or near existing city and villages. **Support is strong for pursuing and supporting renewable energy and other types of economic development including: Ag-related businesses, tourism and recreation, industry and manufacturing, and service industries.**

An executive summary of the public opinion survey is provided in the appendices. The full survey results and analysis are provided on the CD that accompanies this plan.

4. Community Visioning Workshops

Three community visioning workshops were held in fall 2008. The meetings, which were advertised and open to the public, were held in Cumberland, Barron, and Rice Lake. **While each discussion was different, several major themes emerged which were brought up at each of the sessions, including:**

- Protecting and preserving productive agricultural farmland and forestland
- Promoting economic development that provides opportunities for Barron County youth
- Building and maintaining recreational assets including walking and bike trails, and ATV trails
- Promoting healthier individuals and communities through pro-active approaches
- Improving and safeguarding the quality of groundwater and surface waters in the County
- Developing renewable energy and better recycling and composting facilities in the County
- Promoting development that maintains the rural character of the County and minimizes sprawl

5. Key Stakeholder Discussions

As the County developed its plan, it convened a series of roundtable discussions for most of the elements. The purpose of the roundtable discussions was to solicit input into the issues and opportunities related to each of the plan's elements. The discussions brought together dozens of experts, professionals, and practitioners within each element for a 2-3 hour facilitated meeting. The results of the roundtable discussions were used in a variety of ways. The discussions were instrumental in helping identify issues and opportunities, and for helping identify potential strategies for each element as well.

6. Local Presentations & Community Input

During the planning process, in order to solicit additional input, County staff met with a variety of groups. Also, some groups were contacted via phone or mail. **Input through these efforts informed the development of the plan, including issues identification and strategy development.** A few of the groups contacted:

- The Barron County Chapter of the Wisconsin towns Association
- The Barron County Clerks Association
- Barron County School Administrators
- Several County Municipalities
- Local Experts

7. Open Houses and Public Hearing

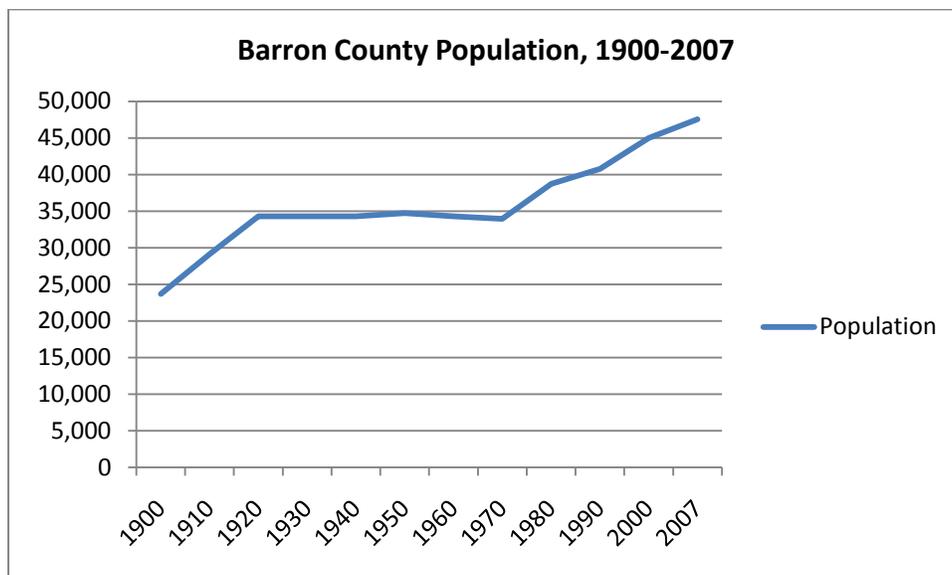
In late fall 2009; the County sponsored a series of two open houses to share the draft Barron County Comprehensive Plan. Participants from the earlier planning stages, as well as the public, were invited to attend and share their ideas and feedback. PAG members and County Staff were present to answer questions from the public.

Population Trends and Forecasts

Figure 2 below shows how Barron County's population has grown over the past 110 years. Two periods of rapid population growth show up quite clearly: the period from 1900 to 1920, and the period from 1970 to 2000. During the latest period of rapid growth, the County added over 11,000 residents, a population increase of over 32%. This period coincided with growth in rural business activity, particularly in the manufacturing sector, which was re-locating to rural America in the 1970's to take advantage of low costs. Many rural communities, including Barron, experienced growth during this period. The growth was driven first by the availability of manufacturing jobs. **More recently, growth has been fueled primarily by new residents, re-locating to desirable areas within Barron County to take advantage of the high quality of life, especially near lakes and other bodies of water.**

There are two components of population change: natural increase (deaths minus births) and net migration (people migrating into the County minus people leaving the County). **The natural rate of population increase in the 1990s was a 50 year low for the County.** Increasingly, the County's population is growing as a result of in-migration rather than births within the County.

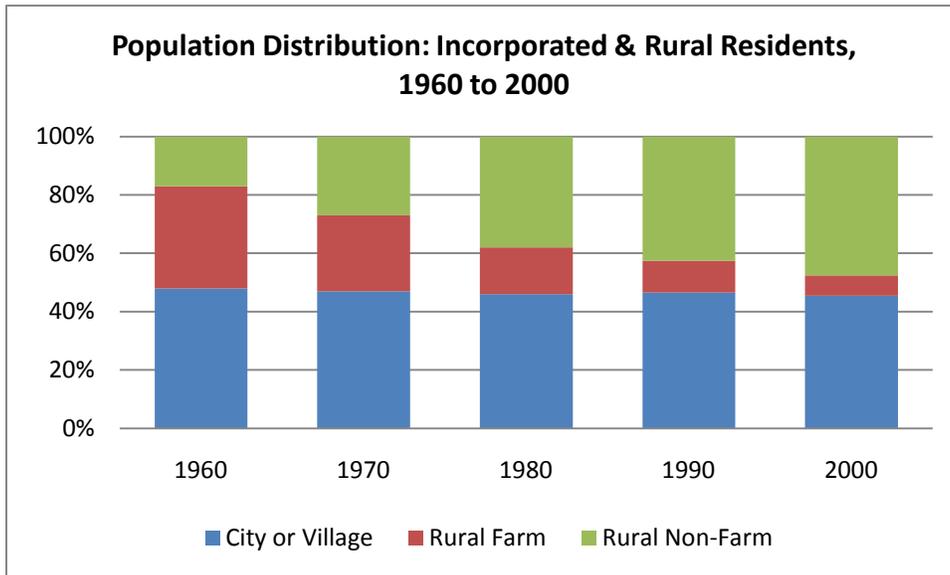
Figure 2 Barron County Population, 1900-2007



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Wisconsin Department of Administration 2007 estimate

Figure 3 on the following page shows how shifting settlement patterns have affected the distribution of population within the County. While the percent of residents living in city or villages has remained fairly constant at around 50%, two major shifts in population have occurred in the rural areas of the County. The percent of rural farm residents dropped from 35% to 7% of the County's total population over the period 1960 to 2000. **Over the same period, the percent of rural non-farm residents grew from 17% to 48% of the County's total population.**

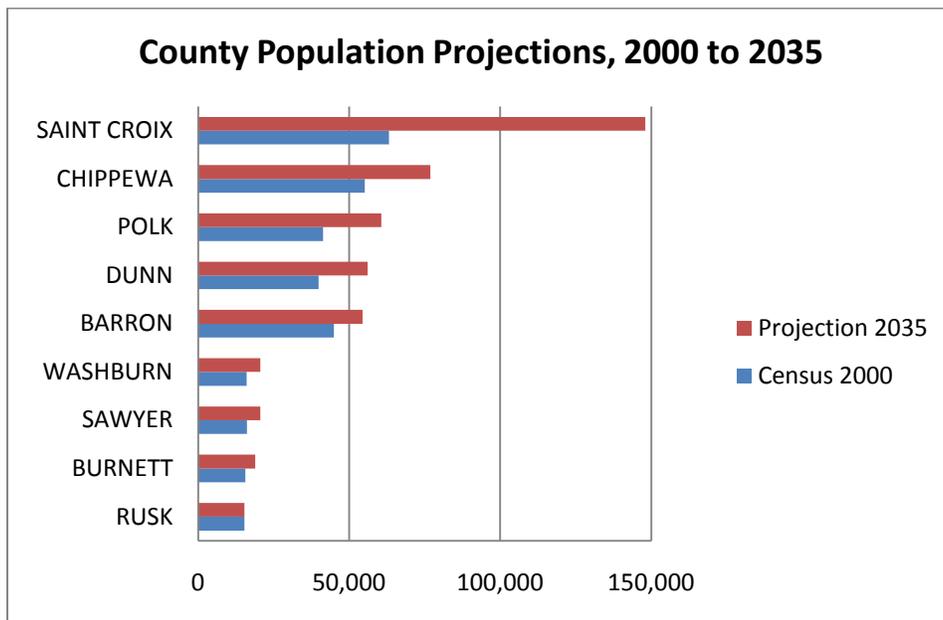
Figure 3 Population Distribution: Incorporated & Rural Residents, 1960 to 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; West Central WI Regional Plan Commission, 2008

Looking ahead, Barron County’s population is expected to grow moderately over the next several decades. Figure 4 below compares the projected population growth for Barron County with that of its neighboring counties.

Figure 4 County Population Projections, 2000 to 2035



Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, County Population Projections, Components of Change, 2000 – 2035

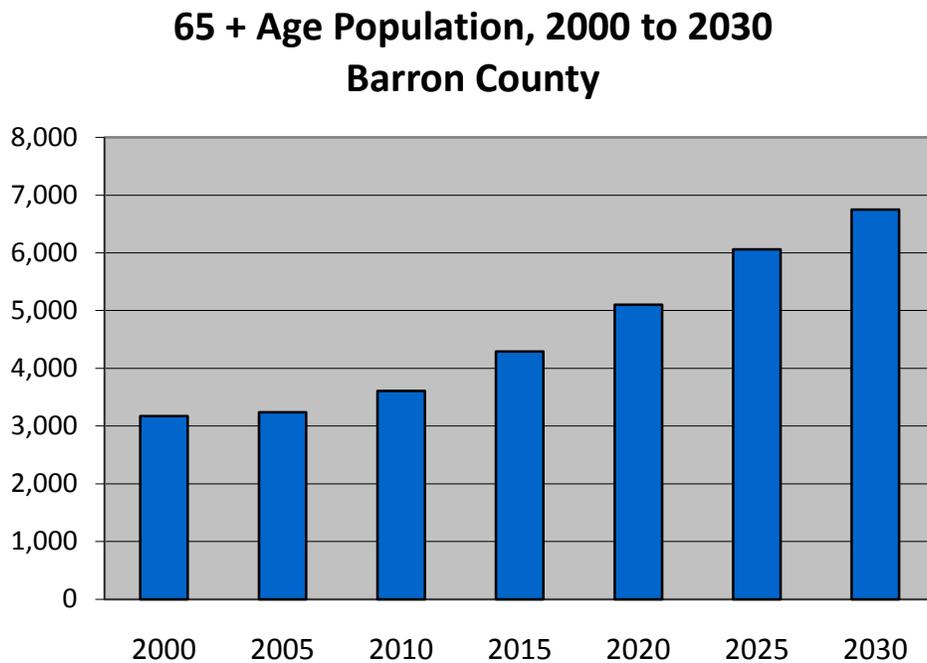
Barron County’s population is expected to reach 54,463 by the year 2035. Counties to the South and to the West are expected to add more residents than Barron County, while those Counties to the East and the North are expected to add fewer people than Barron County.

10,262 individuals are expected to move into the County by 2035. Over that same period, the number of deaths is expected to exceed the number of births in the County by 762. **Therefore, net growth in population by 2035 is expected to come from new residents moving into Barron County from elsewhere – continuing recent trends.** This trend is important because new residents bring different expectations about the type and quantity of desired County services, and the levels of taxation they are willing to support.

Demographic Trends and Forecasts

Significant changes in the demographics of the County are expected to occur over the next few decades. The age 65 and over population are expected to grow quite rapidly from 2010 to 2030 (Figure 5). **The overall aging of the population will have significant impacts on housing, transportation, recreation, economic development, and many other programs and services which the County is responsible for.**

Figure 5 Retirement Age Population, 2000 to 2030 Barron County



Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services Center, County Population Projections, 2004.

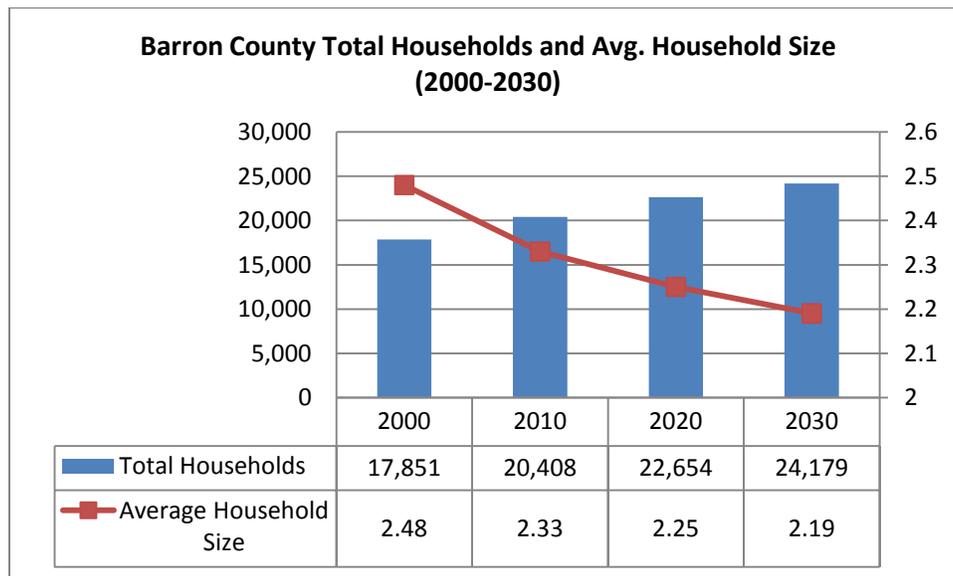
In terms of ethnicity, Barron County remains largely white and non-Hispanic. According to the U.S. 2000 Census, 97.4% of County residents fell into that category. The 2010 census data should provide a different picture of the County, however. Over the past several years the County has experienced a

large influx of Somali residents, particularly into the city of Barron. At the same time, the Hispanic population has been increasing as well.

Household Trends

Figure 6 shows expected growth in the number of households in Barron County. Roughly 4,000 additional households are expected to be added within the County by 2030. **However, average household size is expected to drop dramatically from 2.48 in 2000 to 2.19 by 2030, a continuation of current trends.** This trend reflects the fact that the number of single parent households is on the rise, as are the number of householders living alone.

Figure 6 Barron County Households & Avg. HH Size 2000-2030



Education and Income Levels

Educational attainment is the highest level of school or education completed. High levels of educational attainment are an important aspect of workforce development within a community. **According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey, of the County's population age 25 and over, 85.7% have attained a high school level education or higher.** This statistic compares favorably to the U.S. average, which is 84.5%. On the other hand, of the County's population age 25 and over, just 16.8% have attained a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with the U.S. average of 27.4%.

Another key aspect of economic well being is income. **According to the 2000 Census, the median household income was \$37,275 in 1999, an increase of \$14,705 over 1989 levels.** Median household incomes grew 65% over the period 1989 to 1999, slightly less than twice the rate of inflation. However, more recent data suggests that the disparity between Barron County incomes and U.S. average incomes is increasing. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey, per capita income (in 2008 inflation-adjusted dollars) is estimated at \$23,077 compared with the U.S. average of \$27,466. The gap between local and nationwide average incomes increased from \$3,496 in 1999 to

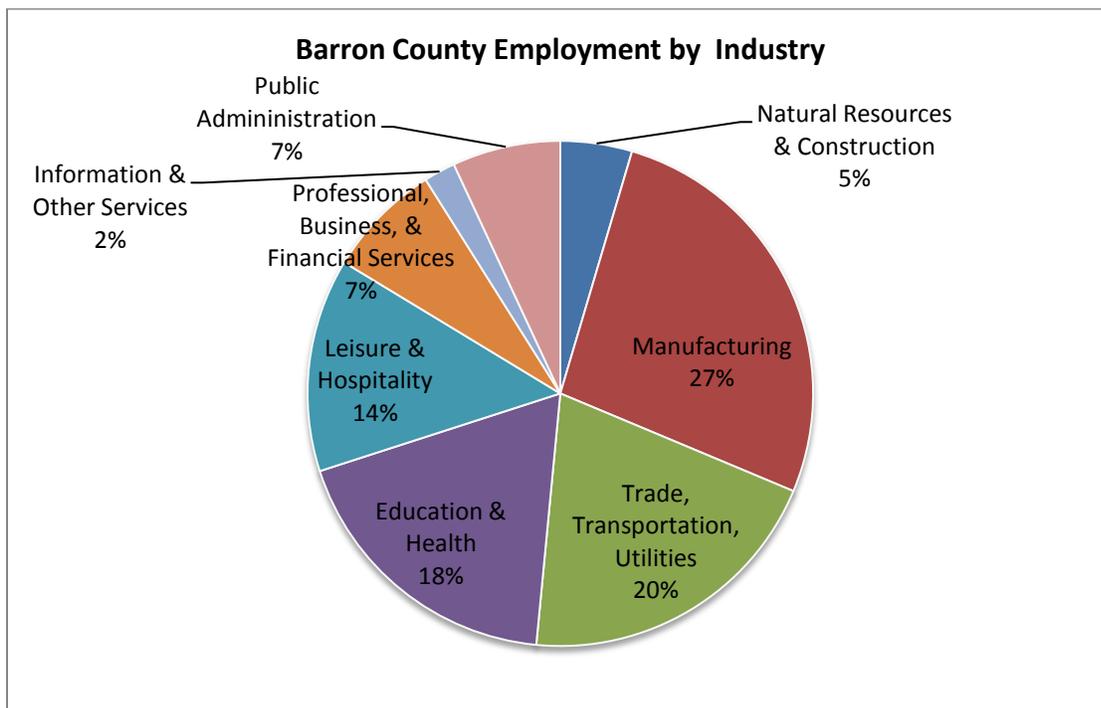
\$4,389 in 2008. **On a more positive note, Barron County's poverty rate (8.5%) is lower than the U.S. average (9.6%),** according to the 2006-2008 American Community Survey.

Employment Characteristics and Forecasts

The labor force participation rate in Barron County is slightly above the State average. The population in the region also tends to have a larger population of older workers, which may limit labor supply growth in the future. A key influence on the supply of labor in the region is the large number of workers who commute to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Despite this fact, up until very recently Barron County was a net importer of labor. This shifted in 2006, when Barron County became a net exporter of labor. The trend may reflect a loss of jobs locally, or perhaps a willingness of Barron County job seekers to increase their commute times in order to find better paying jobs out of the County (WI Dept. of Workforce Development, 2008 Barron County Workforce Profile). Another contributor to this trend might be an influx of Minnesotans moving into Barron County but keeping their jobs in the Twin cities.

Figure 7 below shows the percent of employment in Barron County by industry. The County maintains a very strong manufacturing base (27% of all employment), which is well above the State and U.S. average. In Barron County, a lot of the manufacturing employment is in the food processing industry, which is a part of the value-added agricultural economy.

Figure 7 2008 Barron County Employment by Industry



Another key trend impacting Barron County is what has happened to income levels over the past decade. Figure 8 below compares median household incomes for Barron County with surrounding

Counties. Adjusted for inflation, the median household income in Barron County actually dropped from \$44,726 in 1998 to \$44,522 in 1999. The figures in the graph below are 2008 data.

Figure 8 Median household income for Barron and Surrounding Counties (1998 vs. 2008)



Key Opportunities for Barron County

1. Agriculture and the Bio-Economy

Barron County, WI, has one of the largest Ag economies in the State. The Ag sector is diverse – ranging from small direct market vegetable farms to large dairy operations. The Ag sector also supports another large industry in the County – food processing. Companies around the County employ large numbers of workers, adding value to regionally grown meat and vegetables. Barron County farmers and food processors are also adding value to agricultural waste products. Through anaerobic digestion, for example, local farmers are creating biogas and electricity from cow manure. Elsewhere around the County farmers and business people are identifying new opportunities to capitalize on the rich agricultural and forestry assets in Barron County and northwest Wisconsin. Value-added agricultural and forestry opportunities create the potential for new industry and jobs, while providing an incentive to protect valuable working landscapes that preserve livelihoods, landscapes, and environmental quality.

2. Tourism and Natural Resources

Tourism and natural resources are two assets that will continue to provide opportunities for Barron County. Tourism will likely continue to expand and diversify within the County. Heritage tourism, eco-tourism, agri-tourism, and other forms of tourism will provide new markets for local entrepreneurs. The County's clean water and abundant public outdoor recreational amenities should continue to attract visitors even as the face of tourism continues to evolve.

In a resource hungry world, the County's abundant natural resources will continue to be sought after. The County may find opportunities to balance economic development and local resource consumption through the use of new environmentally friendly technologies – some of which will undoubtedly be developed by local businesses.

3. Healthcare and Regional Trade

Major new investments in health care infrastructure around the County underscore the importance of health care for the future of Barron County. The increase in the County's elderly population will drive the expansion of the health care industry creating new housing infrastructure, new jobs, and expanded support services for the elderly. Rice Lake and the surrounding area will likely continue to serve as a regional shopping and services hub, attracting consumers from across northwest Wisconsin.

4. Proximity to the Twin city

One of the major influences on the regional labor market is the proximity to the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Transportation improvements and the continued growth of the Twin city Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) will provide opportunities for development in Barron County, especially along the Highway 63 corridor. Better and faster connections to the Twin

city will also create more employment opportunities for County residents out of County. This may impact the supply of labor for local industry, and perhaps stimulate demand for out of County workers to commute or relocate to Barron for work.

5. Education and Workforce Development

The University of Wisconsin-Barron and the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) campuses in Rice Lake are very significant assets for the County. Both institutions provide educational opportunities for area students and adults, contributing to the cultural and economic tapestry of the County. As business continues to adopt new technologies in order to remain profitable in a global economy, the County's educational and workforce development assets will provide opportunities for existing and new businesses to compete with a highly educated and technically competent workforce.

Plan Goals

Below are the broad goals which were identified during the comprehensive planning process. Many of the goals also include several related objectives. Objectives are presented within each element and are not shown below.

Agriculture, Natural, & Cultural Resources

1. Support a variety of existing and future agricultural activities and products that contribute to a strong local economy, the health of county residents and the sustainability of our natural resources.
2. Protect productive farm land and forest land
3. Preserve and protect the County's Natural Resources for their environmental, aesthetic and economic value
4. Preserve and protect the quality and quantity of groundwater and surface water
5. Recognize the social and economic value of the arts and cultural resources

Land Use

1. Limit the amount of development in shoreland areas, wetlands and other sensitive areas to protect shoreland and surface water resources.
2. Preserve large tracts of forested areas and other valued natural resources.
3. Preserve and protect valuable, productive farmland from non-agricultural related development
4. Maintain the rural character of the county
5. Encourage orderly and responsible growth and development

Transportation

1. Develop and maintain a well coordinated, safe and efficient multi-modal transportation system that meets the needs of a diverse group of users, and promotes a vibrant economy, while maintaining the rural character of the county and the health of our natural resources.
2. Promote the development of a coordinated intra-county and regional public transportation system

Utilities and Community Facilities

1. Improve Storm Water Management throughout the County
2. Ensure that utilities are effective, efficient, safe, and well-planned
3. Promote efficient, effective, and responsible disposal of solid and hazardous waste, and recycling options that protect public health, the environment, and appearance of the county
4. Encourage the continued use, enhancement, and expansion of mutual aid agreements for police, fire, and emergency services in meeting the needs of existing and future development.
5. Promote the viability of public schools and their efforts to increase community education, and to plan appropriate facilities.
6. Promote energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy technologies
7. Maintain and enhance the current County Park, Forest, and Recreational Areas

Housing

1. Identify, maintain, and promote the rehabilitation of the existing housing stock
2. Promote managed residential development that is consistent with the rural character of Barron County and provides for a range of housing choices that meets the needs of all residents
3. Maintain and enhance quality, livability, sense of community and rural character, and promote the retention of the natural resources of Barron County
4. Promote the retention of the natural environment

Economic Development

1. Increase Economic Activity while sustaining a high quality of life, local values and rural character

Intergovernmental Cooperation

1. Establish and foster mutually beneficial intergovernmental cooperation and relations with all surrounding and overlapping jurisdictions at all levels of government.

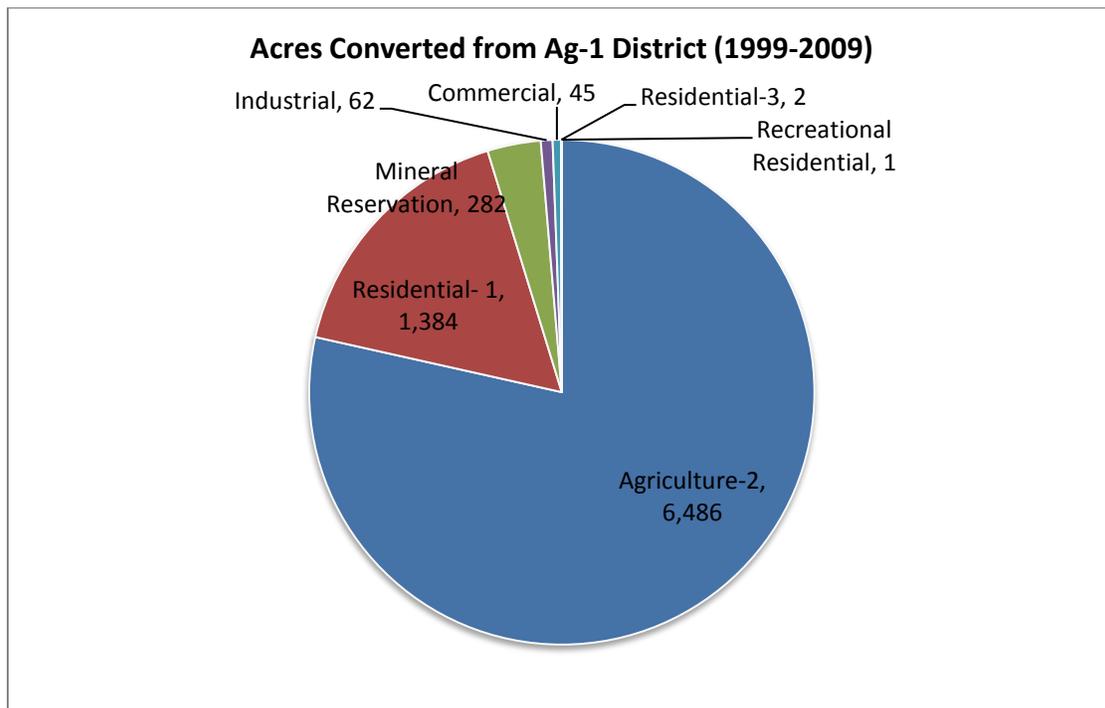
**CHAPTER TWO: AGRICULTURE, NATURAL AND
CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Background

Agriculture

Agriculture remains the predominant land use in the County. Agricultural land, including woodlands, comprised 59% of the County's total assessed land in 2007. However, there has been a steady decline in the number of acres of farmland over the years. **Between 1999 and 2009, 8,269 acres of farmland zoned A-1 were converted to other uses (Figure 9).** The pie chart refers to land converted from an Exclusive Agricultural District to other districts during the period 1999-2009. The legend refers to the zoning districts that the Exclusive Ag land was converted into.

Figure 9 Acres Converted from Exclusive Ag District to Other Zoning Districts



Farmland and Zoning

An A-1 Zoning District refers to land in an Exclusive Agricultural District. These are areas where the land is predominantly used for agricultural production. Except for continuation of preexisting uses, this district allows very few nonagricultural uses or development.

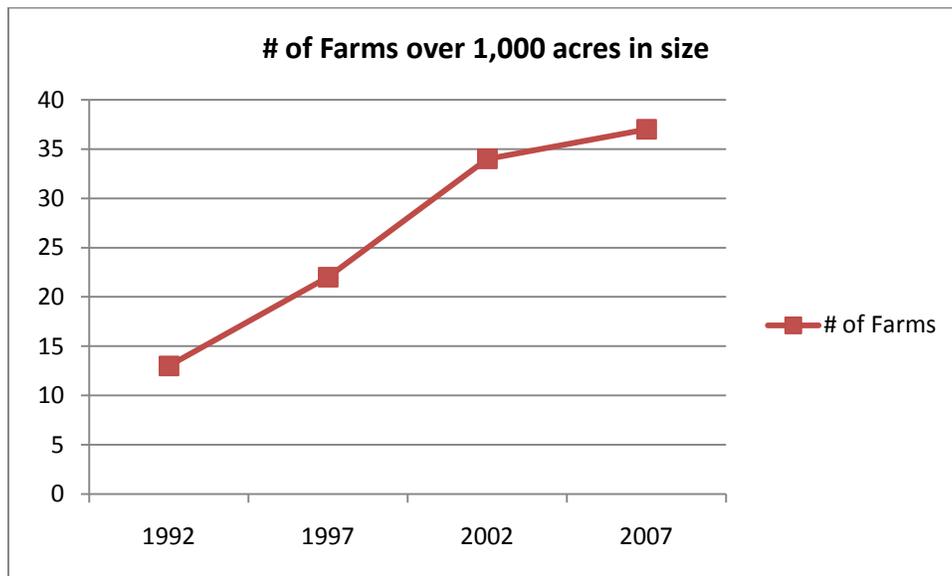
An A-2 Zoning District refers to land in an Agricultural District that has historically been used for farming or forestry, but which is not in an Exclusive Agriculture District. Some non-farm housing is allowed where the location, soil characteristics, low level agricultural operations, topography and other factors accommodate development, if it is carefully planned and located.

An R-1 Zoning District refers to land in a Residential Low Density district. Low density residential and some community and recreational uses that serve the residents of these districts are allowed.

Several important structural changes in agriculture have impacted land use patterns in Barron County. The overall number of farms has declined while the number of both large-scale and small-scale farms has increased. This has occurred as the number of mid-sized or traditional family farms has gone down. Dairy and poultry remain the primary farm enterprises, but the acreage devoted to cash corn and soybean enterprises has increased dramatically.

The number of farms in Barron County declined from 1,647 in 2002 to 1,484 in 2007 while the number of farms over 1,000 acres in size grew from thirteen (13) to twenty-seven (27) (Figure 10).

Figure 10 # of farms over 1,000 acres in size



Many farm operators that are growing the size of their operations also utilize rented land to expand their businesses. **The number of rented acres in the County increased from 66,887 in 1997 to 87,277 in 2007 (see Table 1).** The increase in the amount of rented farmland in the County has created mixed patterns of ownership consisting of farmland owned by farm operators and farmland owned by non-farm rural residents and absentee landlords. The pattern of farmland ownership may have important implications for land stewardship and land use conflicts in the future.

# of Farm Acres Rented	
Year	# of Acres Rented
1997	66,887
2002	78,616
2007	87,277

Table 1 # of Acres Rented (Source: USDA)

Barron County farms have historically been owned and operated as single-family operations. Often referred as “family farms,” these farms were the mainstays of the agricultural landscape from the time that farming first followed the lumber jacks up until the early 1990’s. Since then, farm size has grown steadily aided by mechanization, an increase in multi-family farm units, and the addition of hired labor on expanding dairy operations. Table 2 below illustrates the decline in the number of mid-sized farms and the increase in the number of small and large-scale farms.

Change in farm sizes, Barron County, 1992 - 2007				
Farms by size	1992	1997	2002	2007
1–9 acres	40	20	40	66
10–49 acres	142	167	336	328
50–179 acres	500	499	647	538
180–499 acres	685	588	470	412
500-999 acres	94	88	120	105
1000 + acres	13	22	34	35

Table 2 Change in Farm Sizes, Barron County, 1992-2007

Productivity per acre has increased dramatically from 1992 to 2007. The number of acres of corn grown for grain increased from 46,800 in 1992 to 65,900 in 2007 while soybean acreage increased 5,000 acres to 24,000 acres over that same time. Yield per acre also increased dramatically from 1992 to 2007. Corn yield increased from 73 bushels per acre to 114 bushels per acre and soybean yield grew from 22 bushels per acre to 31 bushels per acre during this time period (Table 3).

Increase in yield and acres harvested for corn and soybeans – Barron County 1992 - 2007				
Year	Corn harvested (acres)	Corn yield (bushels/acre)	Soybeans harvested (acres)	Soybean Yield (bushels/acre)
1992	46,800	73	5,000	22
1997	60,500	128	5,400	37
2002	60,200	142	22,000	48
2007¹	65,900	114	23,700	31

Table 3 Increase in Yield and Acres for Corn and Soybeans, Barron County, 1992-2007

¹ Unfavorable growing conditions impacted crop during 2007

An increase in the number of small farms in the County can be attributed to the trend toward direct marketing of locally grown foods and an increase in the off-farm employment opportunities for rural residents. From 1992 to 2007 the number of principal farm operators working off their farms more than 200 days per year increased from 279 farmers to 575². These farmers were able to do this due to declining farm size and/or renting out the cropland on their farms to larger farms in the area.

Several other related trends are impacting the face of agriculture in Barron County. These are discussed on the following page.

² 2007 Census of Agriculture, USDA and National Agriculture Statistics Service

Agricultural Trends in the County

1. Buy Local and Direct Market Trend

Individual consumers, as well as hospitals, schools, and other institutions, are seeking out fresh, locally produced foods. To take advantage of this trend, more and more farmers are considering direct marketing and other value-added enterprises such as farmers markets and community supported agriculture (CSA). These two trends have translated into an increase in the number of farms selling locally and in the amount of direct market sales. According to the USDA, there were 87 farms in 2002 selling \$423,000 worth of product direct to consumer. In 2007, an estimated 102 farms were selling direct to the consumer with a market value of \$858,000.

2. The Organic Trend

Another trend is the consumer's demand for organically grown and raised vegetables, meats, and dairy products. Sales of organically grown agricultural products have grown statewide. In 2007, Wisconsin agencies that certify most organic farms in the state reported that there were 928 organic farms, an increase of 45% from 2005. Barron County was home to 20 of these farms, comprising 2,072 acres, and accounting for \$1,223,000 in sales.³ Regionally, this represents 10% of the total organic farms and 12% of the total value of sales.

3. Crops as renewable energy resource

Agricultural crops are starting to be grown as a renewable energy resource in Barron County. Several area farmers have experimented with growing oil seed crops for producing biodiesel and straight vegetable oil fuel. The County is also home to a small biodiesel production facility in Cumberland. Other potential agricultural feedstocks for renewable energy production include corn stover, switch grass, miscanthus grass. As interest in locally grown renewable energy sources grows, farmers will undoubtedly have to balance food production with feedstock production for renewable energy.

Preserving Farmland

93% of Barron County residents agree that productive farm land should continue to be used for agricultural use rather than converted to residential or commercial uses (*Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey, Fall 2008*)

Furthermore, every Barron County municipality that completed a Comprehensive Plan included goals aimed at preserving farmland and maintaining large tracts of farmland.

³ Organic Agriculture in Wisconsin, 2007 Status Report

4. The Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative

The Working Lands Initiative (WLI) is recently enacted statewide legislation that may assist Barron County in its efforts to preserve productive farmland, to protect the environment, and to minimize land use conflicts. As Barron County's population steadily grows into rural areas of the County there will be increasing conflicts over land use and productive farmland will be under pressure from rural residential development. Land use conflicts and fragmentation potentially threaten the County's agricultural economy. The need for agricultural



Photo 2 No-till soy beans planted after corn. This technique retains top soil and prevents erosion

lands for food production, a healthy environment, a strong business climate, water quality, flood prevention, and the County's emerging bio-economy will need to be balanced with the desire to develop agricultural land.

The Working Lands Initiative provides the County with additional tools and incentives for local preservation of agricultural land. The tools and incentives are designed to help farmers develop agricultural enterprises and employ good conservation practices.

The WLI first requires all counties to conduct farmland preservation planning. Farmland preservation plans identify what areas of the County land base should be zoned under the new farmland preservation zoning district – which replaces the current exclusive agriculture zoning district.

The WLI also provides for the creation of clearly-defined "agricultural enterprise areas." (AEA) An agricultural enterprise area is locally targeted for agricultural preservation and development. Farmers located within an AEA may sign agreements with the State in order to receive additional tax credits.

The amount of tax credits available to farmers under the new WLI legislation depends on several factors. The tax credit allocation depends on whether the farm is located in an AEA and has signed a farmland preservation agreement with the State, is located within a certified farmland preservation district, or both.

WLI also creates a new state program (PACE) to purchase agricultural conservation easements from willing landowners. An easement restricts nonagricultural development of the covered land, but the farmer retains ownership. Participating farmers can augment their income while continuing to farm the land.

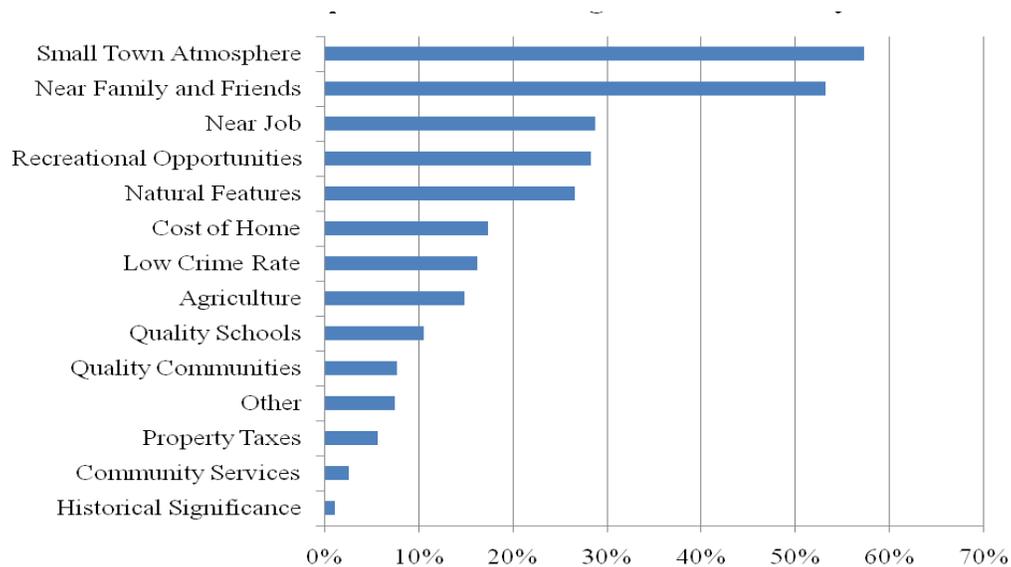
Natural Resources

Barron County is bestowed with a rich variety of natural resources. While County boundaries may determine who is responsible for management and ownership of land, nature has a geographic relationship to itself, and is often influenced by circumstances beyond political borders. The health and overall well being of the residents and area wild life are interdependent with the quality and productivity of the natural resources. This section provides a basic illustration of the interconnectedness of natural resources to human activities and establishes goals, policies, and recommendations that restore, protect and preserve the natural resources with the purpose of benefitting from them now and for generations to come.



Photo 3 Quaderers Creek

Figure 11 Why Residents Choose to Live in Barron County



Besides providing recreational, economic, and social benefits, the County's natural resources contribute greatly to the quality of life and to a large degree comprise the best attributes and reasons that people choose to live in this area. Respondents to the *Barron County Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey* ranked small town atmosphere and being near family and friends as the main reasons they live in Barron County (Figure 11). Being near their job, recreational opportunities and natural features of the area were ranked equally as their third reasons. Longer term residents included the agricultural opportunities, living close to work and family as being most important while people who have lived in

Barron County for shorter periods ranked the recreational opportunities, natural features of the area, and quality of the communities as their top three reasons.

Related Elements: The many opportunities to enjoy the natural resources in Barron County include parks, trails, lakes and rivers, designated swimming areas, forests, snowmobile and ATV trails, camping facilities and more. The Transportation, and Utilities & Community Facilities Elements address other issues related to these topics. *An Outdoor Recreational Map is included in the Appendix of this plan.*

There are several important aspects of the natural resource base to consider in Barron County. A few of these are discussed below.

1. Groundwater

Groundwater is an important natural resource in Barron County. **It is the main source for residential water needs and is increasingly important for agriculture as well.** Groundwater starts as rain or snow. The amount of precipitation that doesn't evaporate or runoff infiltrates down through the soil and eventually reaches a saturated zone called an *aquifer*. Generally the same aquifers that we depend on for domestic and industrial use discharge to lakes, rivers and streams to providing a base level of water flow.

The quality of groundwater and surface water are interdependent. Surface and ground water quality can be affected by a variety of point and non-point sources, including agricultural and storm water run-off, leaching of nutrients and pesticides, run-off from parking lots and roads, urban construction sites and spills of hazardous materials.

All water used in Barron County for domestic, industrial, or agricultural use, is sourced from groundwater. With the exception of the Municipal and Community Water Systems listed in the *Barron County Conditions and Trends Report*, the remaining residents depend on individual private wells for their water supply needs. Private wells are not regulated at the County level, however each well drilled in the State of Wisconsin must be recorded with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources by the licensed well driller doing the work. It is up to the licensed driller to know the code and the minimum separation distance for each well. The County has established setback distances for septic systems relative to lot lines, structures, ordinary high water marks and wells.

The main concerns of the County in regards to water supply are water quality and quantity, and proper land use given ground water susceptibility factors. A thorough groundwater study was completed in Barron County in 1987. The study showed extensive areas of the County where soils have a low ability to filter nitrates, pesticides, heavy metals, and other pollutants. Even though nitrates and pesticides were detected in wells in the areas with those soils, groundwater quality in the County overall is good. Nonetheless, groundwater protection and conservation practices are vital to maintaining quality groundwater in the future.

2. Water Supply / Groundwater Quantity

In terms of *quantity* it is important to anticipate future water consumption and the ability of existing systems to meet it. From 1979 to 1990, the amount of water used for domestic, livestock, agriculture, industry, and commercial purposes remained constant. Starting in 1990, groundwater used for irrigation practices began increasing dramatically.

According to the Wisconsin DNR’s Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater, 31 new high capacity wells were drilled from 2000- 2008. In comparison, there were only 5 such wells drilled from 1990 -1998.

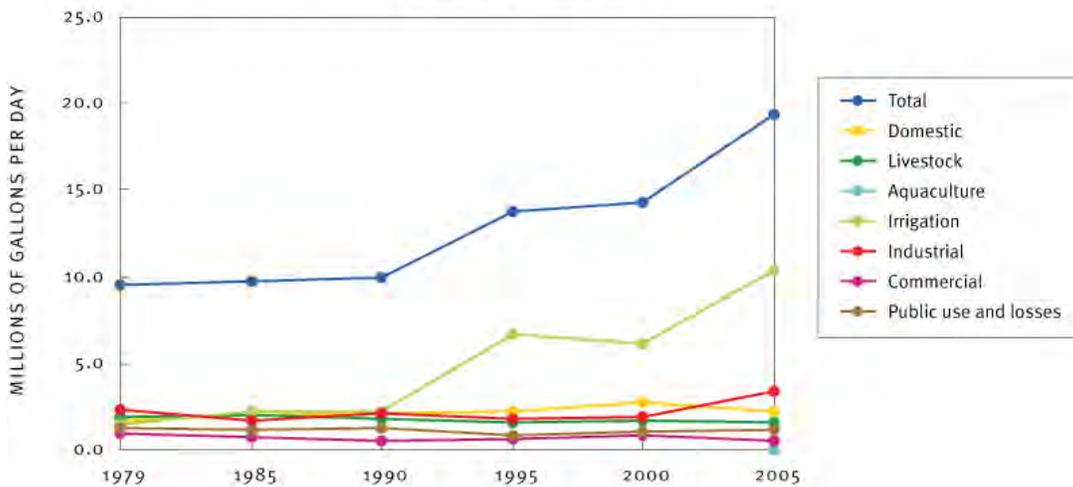
A High Capacity Well System is either one well or the combined total of all wells on the same property that pumps more than 100,000 gallons a day. These high capacity wells are used for irrigation, manufacturing, live stock and public water supply. The DNR requires annual reporting as well as prior approval for the construction, reconstruction, operation or change of ownership of a high capacity well system. Figure 12 below shows a rapid growth in water consumption – primarily attributable to the rise in irrigation for agriculture.

Groundwater and Agriculture

The *Barron County Water Use by Category Chart* below shows the increase in water used for irrigation starting in 1990.

The majority of the irrigation units in the County are in areas of sandy outwash soils which are susceptible to summer droughts.

Figure 12 Barron County Water Use by Category

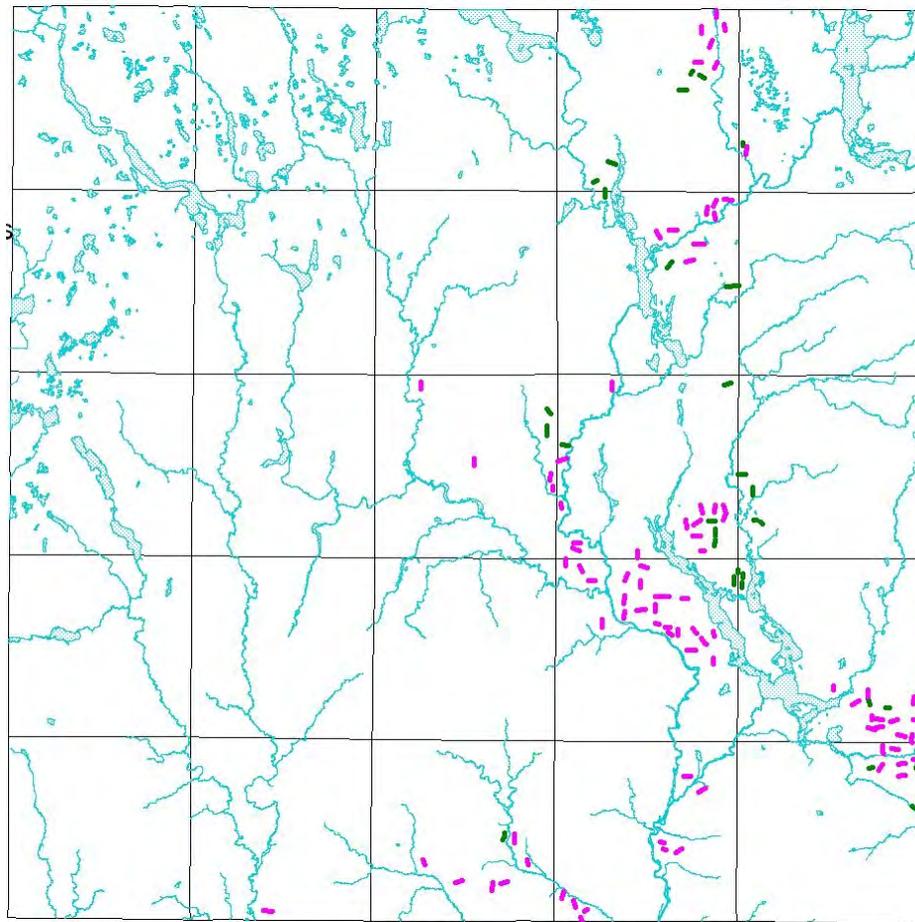


Water-use data from U.S. Geological Survey *Water Use in Wisconsin* reports for calendar years 1979, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005. figure created for the “Protecting Wisconsin’s Groundwater Through Comprehensive Planning” web site, 2007, <http://wi.water.usgs.gov/gwcomp/>

With the use of groundwater for irrigation increasing, and the number of new high capacity wells being drilled, the quantity of available groundwater may be impacted. The 2006 Land and Water Resource Management Plan for Barron County identified the need to establish a benchmark of the aquifer levels and to monitor those levels periodically.

To date this has not gone into practice. **Figure 13 shows Irrigation Units of Barron County Using High Capacity Wells Constructed.** The map Includes units in watersheds connected to Barron County. The magenta dots are those wells constructed before 2005. The green dots represent high capacity wells built from 2005 to 2008.

Figure 13 High Capacity Irrigation Wells in Barron County



3. Surface and Ground Water Quality

The County has identified the following issues related to the quality of lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and groundwater: topsoil erosion, lakeshore erosion, the fragmentation of the riparian and littoral corridors, and eutrophication in some of the area lakes.

Top Soil Erosion

Topsoil erosion results in both the loss of soil nutrients as well as sedimentation in local water ways following heavy rains. Animal and human activities contribute to the problem of soil erosion. Detrimental practices include clear cutting of forests and woodlands; livestock having uncontrolled access to stream areas for grazing; and tillage practices that remove too much crop residue from the soil surface.

Lakeshore Erosion

Lakeshore erosion is occurring because the *riparian corridor* is being fragmented due to development. This corridor along lakes, rivers and streams creates a buffer system between the developed land and the water. The plant roots within the riparian corridor help to prevent erosion, and in addition, create an ecosystem. The degradation of the riparian corridor leads to a loss of near shore habitat that lives in the shallow *littoral zone* along lakes and rivers 0'-5' deep.

Eutrophication and blue-green algae

Besides a loss of near shore habitat, lakeshore erosion contributes to the *eutrophication* of lakes. Eutrophication is a natural process in lakes that happens as they age, resulting in a build-up of plant nutrients. The natural process is accelerated when contaminated run-off due to erosion is introduced. Additional nutrients in the run-off stimulate the rapid growth of plants and visible blue-green algae. The sources of these nutrients are mainly from agricultural, residential, and storm water run-off. Figure 14 below highlights concerns associated with blue-green algae, practices to minimize its growth, and County lakes impacted by blue-green algae.

Figure 14 Blue Green Algae in Barron County

Concerns associated with blue-green algae

- Light penetration into the surface of the water is reduced due to the discoloration of the water; lack of light negatively affects organisms needed for a balanced ecosystem
- Algae blooms can create odor problems
- Dead algae blooms are broken down by microbes, the oxygen required for this process depletes the over-all oxygen level which negatively affects the aquatic life, and can result in fish kill.
- Algae produces toxins which can be harmful to humans and aquatic life.

Practices that minimize the problem

- Using lawn fertilizers only where they are needed
- Preventing leaves and grass clippings from washing into storm drains
- Using silt curtains to prevent or minimize run-off from construction sites
- Planting and maintaining effective vegetative buffers along shorelines of lakes, ponds and streams

Barron County Lakes showing major signs of eutrophication

- The Chetek Chain
- Rice Lake
- Desair Lake
- The Vermillion Lakes
- Poskin Lake
- The Turtle Lakes
- Staples Lake

4. Wildlife Habitats

Barron County has a diversity of habitats with a rich complement of abundant wildlife. The County is on what is referred to as the 'Tension Zone', a climatic and habitat delineation within the State of Wisconsin where southern farmland meets northern forest. Because of the County's geographic location, its forest, grassland, and wetland habitats are some of the most productive in the state.

An example of the delineation between northern forest and southern farmland can be seen in the species typical to these areas. Wildlife species typical of northern forests are prevalent in the northern part of the County, they are: Eastern timber wolf, black bear, bobcat, and fisher. Wildlife species typically found in the southern part of the County that are seen in or around agricultural fields and fragmented woodlots are ring-necked pheasant, wild turkey, cottontail rabbit, and gray and fox squirrel.

Forest Habitat

The County is approximately 40% forested, with the majority of this in private ownership and much of this land in the northern and eastern part of the County. Continuous blocks of forest

are important to northern forest wildlife mentioned above along with many other wildlife species. Management activities that minimize forest fragmentation are important to continued presence and abundance of what are referred to as “area sensitive” wildlife species.

Wetland Habitat

Wetlands such as lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, marshes, bogs, ephemeral ponds, waterways, natural drainage ways, and floodplain forests all make up this very valuable habitat in Barron County. With over 18,000 acres of surface waters, including 369 lakes and 104 miles of trout stream, Barron County could be considered to be very “wetland rich”. Wetlands are a large part of the natural and recreational resources found here and together with abundant wildlife are major reasons visitors choose the County for recreation or to maintain seasonal residences.

Along with aesthetics, wetlands contain an abundance of wildlife, such as fish, waterfowl and water birds, songbirds, reptiles and amphibians, and birds of prey. The County hosts a large number of resident and migratory waterfowl, such as ducks and geese that are very popular for both hunting and wildlife viewing. Trumpeter swans, which were recently removed from the endangered species list, have become more frequent residents and visitors in the County because of the abundant wetland resources. Eagles and osprey have also been removed from the endangered species list and are very popular, frequently seen users of wetlands for nesting and feeding areas. In some years, there are over 1000 Canada geese spending the winter on the Red Cedar River between Rice Lake and Mikana and the Chetek River west of Chetek. These examples highlight the importance of wetland resources in the County for their contribution to wildlife and recreational opportunities.



Photo 4 Restored Wetland in Barron County

The riparian zone within 200 feet of the wetland edge is some of the most productive wildlife habitat that exists, both for upland and wetland wildlife species. Like forests, fragmentation of wetland habitat can be very detrimental to wildlife presence and abundance. Management practices that maintain the integrity of this area are important not only from the standpoint of wildlife habitat, but also for maintaining the quality of life that attracts current and future residents and visitors to the County.

Grassland Habitat

Native prairie grassland used to be prevalent in the southern part of the County but now is relegated to a few remnants along railroad rights of way. Grasslands in general are not a large component of the land area but exist in plantings such as Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and prairies on state WM areas, and as fallow lands. These areas provide important habitat for

a variety of grassland or open country dependent wildlife. Grassland birds, such as meadowlarks and bob-o-links in particular, have experienced steep population declines because of a reduction in permanent grassland habitat. Grassland and open country habitat does exist as agricultural fields, especially hayfields, but these are not as good for pheasant, turkey, and grassland bird nesting as more permanent fields.

Managed Habitats

Scattered throughout Barron County are various federal, state, and local wildlife, fishery, natural, and scientific areas. These areas are managed to provide important feeding, breeding, nesting, and migrating habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. Some of these species are hunted

State Natural Areas in Barron County			
Name	Acres	Location	Owner
Bear Lake Sedge Meadow	167	town of Bear Lake & village of Haugen	Barron County & village of Haugen
Rock Creek Felsenmeer	70	town of Doyle	Barron County
Loon Lake Woods	59	town of Crystal Lake	Wisconsin DNR
New Auburn Sedge Meadow	325	town of Dovre	Wisconsin DNR

Table 4 State Natural Areas in Barron County

and others may be of special concern, endangered, or threatened. Rare or unique habitats are also some of the areas managed on these properties. The Outdoor Recreation Plan which will be developed for the County will describe these areas or programs in more detail. The Natural Heritage Inventory Program developed by the Department of Natural Resources lists animal and plant species and natural communities that are considered to be rare or endangered in the state. Currently, there are four State Natural Areas in Barron County, managed to protect rare plants, animals, or native landscapes (See Table 4 above). State Natural Areas may be part of a larger State Wildlife Area, though permitted recreational activities may be less intensive.



Photo 5 A reclaimed non-metallic mining site formerly used by the County Highway Department

There are also several state public wildlife recreational lands located in Barron County (See Table below)

State Public Wildlife Recreational Lands-Barron County		
Name	Acres	Location
Grassy Lake	308	town of Lakeland
Yellow River Fishery	708	towns of Cumberland and Stanfold
Engle Creek Fishery	180	town of Stanfold
Lightning Creek	329	town of Almena
Sweeney Pond Creek	281	town of Clinton
County "T" Flowage	287	town of Clinton
Quaderery Creek	350	towns of Barron, Clinton
New Auburn	1,176	town of Dovre

Table 5 State Public Wildlife Recreational Lands in Barron County

5. Invasive Species and Chapter NR 40

Invasive species affect the future well being of the County's wildlife habitats. Non-native plants invade forests, grasslands, wetlands, lakes and rivers. They displace native species and disrupt wildlife habitats resulting in an ecological imbalance.

As of September 1, 2009, the state enacted Chapter NR 40, Wisconsin's Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control Rule. It is intended to help citizens learn to identify and minimize the spread of plants, animals and diseases that can invade local lands and waters and cause significant damage to native species. Eventually the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will establish a statewide program to carry out the ruling.

Figure 15 Barron County Invasive Species

Invasive Species Identified in Barron County

- Leafy spurge
- Common Buckthorn
- Garlic Mustard
- Japanese Knotweed
- Purple Loosestrife
- Curly Leaved Pondweed
- Eurasian Milfoil
- Spotted Knapweed

6. Non-Metallic Resources

Barron County has significant sources of high-quality sand and gravel that were left over from the melting waters of the glacier. These non-metallic resources are important raw materials for use on local roads, and in some cases provide income to local land owners. The more suited areas for quarrying stone are where the bedrock is at or near the surface of the ground. It is helpful to identify the locations of these deposits so potential extraction sites can be considered before development occurs, even though mining sites can often be reclaimed for development after extraction is complete. [Map 5.6 in Appendix A of the Conditions and Trends Report shows potential sand and gravel deposits in the County].

Barron County has 64 operating non-metallic mining sites permitted under Chapter NR 135 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, including eight sites operated by the Barron County

Highway Department. The towns of Clinton, Crystal Lake, Cedar Lake, and Vance Creek also operate mine sites, with Vance Creek having two such sites. The other mining sites are privately operated, primarily for road aggregate, concrete mix, and construction fill. [A map of Non-Metallic Mining Sites is provided in the appendices.

Barron County Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance

Adopted in 2001 and re-adopted in 2007, the Barron County Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance establishes a local program to ensure the effective reclamation of all nonmetallic mining sites in the County. Operators must submit a reclamation plan that includes site information, post-mining land use, reclamation measures, criteria for successful reclamation, and a signed certificate that the reclamation will be done. That plan must then be approved by the County before any extraction can take place.

7. Waste Pharmaceuticals and Surface Water

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reports that in the State of Wisconsin waste pharmaceuticals have been widely found in wastewater effluent, surface waters and, in limited cases, groundwater. Barron County has *not* identified any issues related to waste pharmaceuticals contaminating area surface water or ground water, and has not done any testing or monitoring to quantify the presence of these pharmaceuticals. Waste pharmaceuticals include solid pills and capsules, creams, liquids and aerosol forms of over-the-counter and prescription medications for both people and their pets. The DNR is monitoring scientific investigations to determine the effect that residual amounts of waste pharmaceuticals in surface water might have on aquatic life.

Household pharmaceutical waste is excluded from regulation as a hazardous waste; therefore there are not any regulations that restrict household amounts of pharmaceuticals from entering wastewater treatment facilities or septic systems. The most typical ways that they get into surface water is by medications being flushed down the toilet or poured into drains; excretion of the un-metabolized portion of the medication, and surface application of manure and bio-solids. Unfortunately flushing them or pouring them down the drain does not cause them to be dissolved or neutralized and neither wastewater treatment plants nor septic systems are designed to remove medications from wastewater. Table 6 below discusses proper disposal of pharmaceutical waste.

Figure 16 Disposal of Pharmaceutical Waste

Proper Disposal of Waste Pharmaceuticals

- Backyard burn barrels are *not* a safe way to dispose of unused medications because doing so can create dioxins and other air pollutants; if land filled, the medications could seep into the groundwater.
- The Barron County Incinerator at the Waste to Energy Facility provides the safest means of disposing of household quantities of pharmaceuticals because it burns hot enough to totally destroy them. Household amounts can be disposed of with the regular trash that will go to the facility.

Proper Disposal of Sharps

- The Barron County Public Health Department provides a system for the proper disposal of Sharps (lancets, needles and syringes). For a one-time cost of \$6.00 an individual can purchase a reusable Sharps Disposal Container. They bring it in when it is full and exchange it for an empty one.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources provide valuable connections to a community's civic, religious, historical, and ethnic traditions. They can be thought of as objects and events that mark historic origins as well as new and lasting events, structures, and objects that define the present time for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

Culture resources are well established in the County in great part by a strong commitment to volunteerism and upholding tradition. Residents volunteer their time to organize cultural events for the enjoyment of residents and tourists alike. There are seasonal events such as festivals and parades, year round events through local churches and organizations, and theatrical and musical performances by talented local artists as well as those from around the region, state and the world.

Museums and monuments are valuable cultural resources in the County. The Barron County Historical Society's Pioneer village Museum has been adding to their collection of historic buildings, machinery and objects since 1967. Veterans Memorial in Rice Lake's city Park was dedicated May 30, 2005. Newer endeavors include the Lumbering Hall of Fame Tree Walk that has a variety of species of trees that were harvested during Rice Lake's lumbering era and the Barron Community Garden Park Project next to Barron city Hall.



Photo 6 Veterans Memorial, Rice Lake city Park

The following list is a compilation of feedback from the Cultural Resources Focus Meeting held on March 10, 2009. The attendees were asked:

Why should we, as a county, preserve Cultural Resources?

1. **Because they create a connection across a spectrum of relationships:** Practices and decisions made in the past affect present day life. A sense of ownership in the past can foster a level of responsibility and involvement with the community today.



Photo 7 Lumbering Hall of Fame Site, Rice Lake

2. **Because culture brings people together socially and for entertainment:** Research is showing that younger people enjoy living in communities that accept and foster ethnic, cultural and religious diversity. As the County plans into the future to attract a younger workforce, this is an area that Barron County can use to its favor and improve on.

3. **To preserve and protect sites, buildings and objects so that they are not arbitrarily destroyed:** Many of the Indian Burial Mounds have been vandalized in the past; the remaining sites should be protected from vandalism and development. The demolition of the Carnegie Library in Rice Lake is an example of a lost opportunity to preserve a historic building. Preserving the history of trains in the County and stories of how they contributed to everyday life could provide an opportunity to preserve the County's heritage. The history of the Knapp Stout Company in Rice Lake provides another opportunity to preserve a valuable aspect of the County's heritage.



Photo 8 Pioneer Village Museum

4. **To keep the values and culture of past generations:** Barron County has a rich history of ethnic diversity. It is important to know who lived here generations ago, even 10,000 years ago- from the Mound Builders, the Sioux, the Ojibwa, to the European settlers. It is important to preserve the stories related to the development of Barron County to honor what got us to this point in time. Each municipality in Barron County is unique from the others in terms of landscape, ethnic heritage, commerce, resources, and products. Continuing to celebrate them for the fullest benefit economically socially, and culturally both preserves history and creates opportunities for the future.

The Table below lists sites and structures on the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic Site	Location	Municipality	Listed
Barron County Pipestone Quarry	restricted	town of Doyle	1978
Cumberland Public Library	1305 Second Ave.	Cumberland	1992
Island of Happy Days	Red Cedar Lake; Stout Island	town of Cedar Lake	1995
Rice Lake Mounds (47 BN-90)	restricted	Rice Lake	1979
Wajiwani Mashkode Archeological District	restricted	Rice Lake	2003
ZCJB Hall	320 West 3 rd Street	Haugen	1985

Table 6 Historic Sites in Barron County Listed on the National Register of Historic Sites

The County also possesses several architectural and historically important buildings and sites that are listed by the Wisconsin Historical Society in their Architecture and Historical Inventory (AHI). The Table below provides a breakdown of listings by municipality.

Municipality	# of AHI Records	Municipality	# of AHI Records
towns			
Almena	3	Maple Grove	6
Arland	0	Maple Plain	0
Barron	3	Oak Grove	3
Bear Lake	0	Prairie Farm	3
Cedar Lake	20	Prairie Lake	0
Chetek	1	Rice Lake	8
Clinton	4	Sioux Creek	0
Crystal Lake	1	Stanfold	0
Cumberland	0	Stanley	3
Dallas	1	Sumner	0
Dovre	0	Turtle Lake	0
Doyle	2	Vance Creek	1
Lakeland	4		
villages			
Almena	0	New Auburn	0
Cameron	3	Prairie Farm	1
Dallas	1	Turtle Lake (pt)	0
Haugen	1		
city			
Barron	87	Cumberland	4
Chetek	5	Rice Lake	92

Table 7 Wisconsin State Historical Society Architectural and Historical Listings for Barron County

Source: Wisconsin Historical Society. Architecture and History Inventory 2003.

Goals

1. Support a variety of existing and future agricultural activities and products that contribute to a strong local economy, the health of County residents and the sustainability of our natural resources (Agriculture)
2. Protect productive farm land and forest land (Agriculture)
3. Preserve and protect the County's natural resources for their environmental, aesthetic and economic value (Natural Resources)
4. Preserve and protect the quality and quantity of groundwater and surface water (Natural Resources)
5. Recognize the social and economic value of the arts and cultural resources (Cultural Resources)
6. Preserve Barron County's heritage (Cultural Resources)

Objectives

1. Support agricultural land (agriculture and forest) preservation (Agriculture)
2. Encourage and support practices that maintain the quality of agricultural resources, retention of top soil, and protects ground and surface water (Agriculture)
3. Protect, maintain and restore the riparian corridor and littoral zone along lakes, rivers, and streams (Natural Resources)
4. Future development and land use activities will maintain quality groundwater and conserve groundwater quantity (Natural Resources)

Recommendations

1. Update the 1979 Farmland Preservation Plan to incorporate new programs and policies embodied within the Statewide Working Lands Initiative Legislation
2. Make every effort to preserve contiguous acres of productive farmland
3. Continue to promote the cost sharing for non-till farming program and the nutrient management planning grants
4. Continue to increase soil conservation work and nutrient management planning
5. Reinforce the 2006 Land and Water Resource Management Plan
6. Establish a benchmark of the aquifer levels and monitor those levels periodically.

5. **Maintain and preserve wildlife habitats in forests, wetlands, and shorelines (Natural Resources)**
6. **Support wetland restoration and preservation (Natural Resources)**
7. **Encourage practices that preserve the quality and quantity of top soil (Natural Resources)**
8. **Control the proliferation of invasive aquatic and terrestrial species (Natural Resources)**
9. **Develop an Outdoor Recreation Plan that includes public land, trails, lake accesses, hunting and fishing areas, and protects geological formations (Natural Resources)**
10. **Encourage practices that prevent movement of pollutants to surface water (Natural Resources)**
11. **Promote an atmosphere of environmental awareness (Natural Resources)**
12. **Minimize the loss of non-metallic mining opportunities (Natural Resources)**
13. **Encourage and promote the Arts in area schools (Cultural Resources)**
14. **Support art and cultural events (Cultural Resources)**
15. **Encourage the ongoing development of cultural and tourism opportunities (Cultural Resources)**

Policies and Programs

1. **Continue to administer the Farmland Preservation Program and follow the State’s updates to agricultural conservation easements, ag enterprise areas and farmland preservation tax credits and other programs of the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative**

Recommendations (...continued)

7. **Educate the public on the proper disposal of household amounts of pharmaceuticals and the link to safer ground water quality**
8. **Develop an invasive species eradication plan**
9. **Coordinate with the Barron County Historical Society and municipalities to update the inventory of items, buildings and archeological sites of historic significance to the County**
10. **Establish a protocol for the protection of known and discovered historically significant buildings, sites, resources and objects**
11. **Coordinate with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices as to best practices for preserving and promoting the Native American Heritage of the County**

2. Ensure that any known and discovered cemeteries, human burials or archaeological sites are protected from development activities.
3. Implement Agriculture Performance Standards
4. Support the Soil and Water Conservation Department's Cost Sharing Program
5. Support the Conservation Stewardship Program
6. Support the Environmental Quality Incentives Program
7. Support the Conservation Walkover Program
8. Support the Wildlife Damage Program
9. Support Erosion Control Mulching
10. Support the Soil Erosion Transect Survey
11. Continue to enforce the Manure Storage Ordinance
12. Provide Technical Assistance where appropriate
13. Support the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan which incorporates or references all official County Forest Policies for the planning period 2006 through 2015
14. The County Forest program shall sustain a level of operation that considers the needs of the forest and the public in accordance with the goals identified in Chapter 100 of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Recommendations (continued...)

12. Promote the re-use of churches, schools, factories, and other historically significant and structurally sound buildings for new uses such as: retail, museum, office space, or housing
13. Promote the unique character and ethnic diversity of Barron County's municipalities to tourists and other visitors.
14. Encourage the development of more cultural and tourism opportunities at both the municipal and County levels that create mutually beneficial success across municipalities
15. Look into the feasibility and necessity of keeping genealogical records for Barron County residence within the County, instead of at the UW Stout Archives where they are currently kept
16. Consider holding "Cultural Sensitivity" Sessions/Classes for law enforcement on all of the sub-cultures that are now present in Barron County

CHAPTER THREE: LAND USE

Background

The Land Use Element summarizes land use trends for Barron County as well as specific goals, objectives, policies, programs, and recommendations that will be used to guide future land use and development within the unincorporated areas of the County over the next 20 years. This element, together with the other eight planning elements, serves as a guide to future growth and development in Barron County.

Feedback from public participation events during the Comprehensive Planning process identified many of the same concerns regarding land use issues that were addressed in the 2001 Barron County Land Use Plan. Since many of the key issues concerning land use in the County remain the same, several recommendations and key concepts from the 2001 Barron County Land Use Plan were incorporated into the current Plan.

Planning Area Policy Considerations and Recommendations

The following planning area policy considerations and recommendations are based on the *Ringed Development Pattern Concept* from the 2001 Land Use Plan. The concept is a visual representation of where development should be concentrated in relationship to existing infrastructure and services.

The purpose of the planning area policy considerations and recommendations are to provide a general guide for the development of the County. They are intended to provide direction for development decisions by placing land use goals and objectives into a general geographic context. The recommendations delineate six planning areas tied to land and water resources and political subdivisions. They are not intended to limit growth, but attempt to accommodate growth within a framework that encourages a distinct separation of urban and rural landscapes, protects the natural resources of the County, preserves productive agricultural land and encourages compact city and villages.

The Six Planning Areas

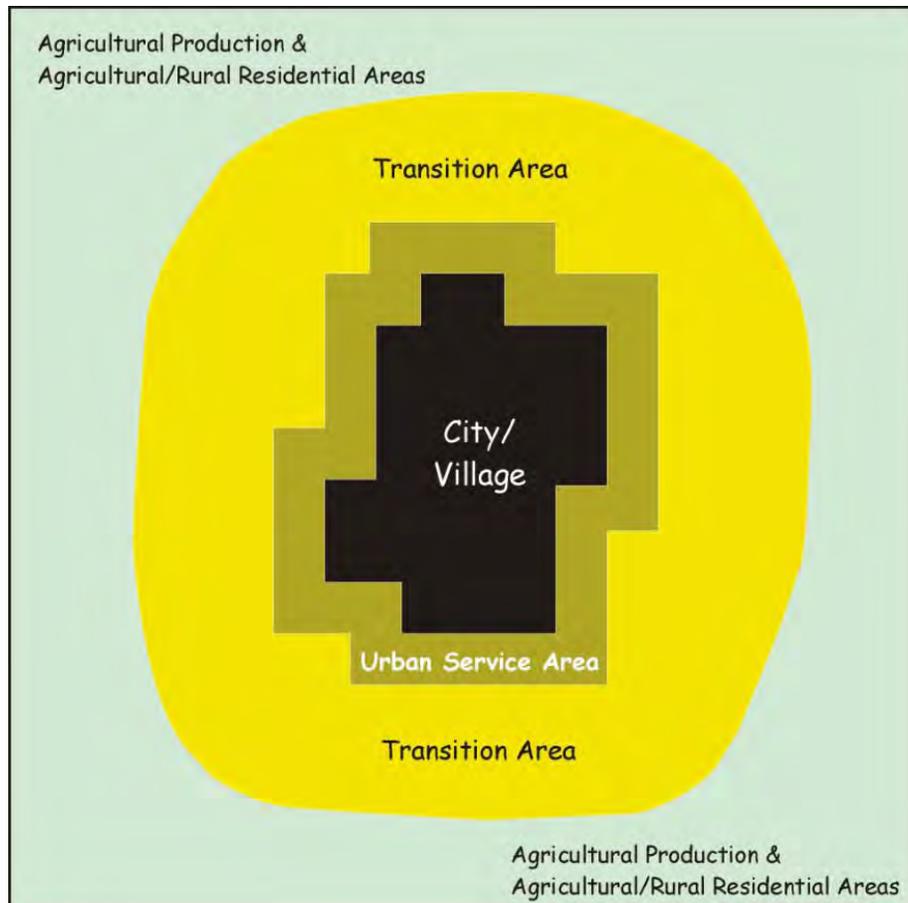
- Cities and Villages
- Urban Service Areas of Cities and Villages
- Transition Areas Between Rural Agriculture Areas and Suburban Areas
- Agricultural Production & Agricultural/Rural Residential Areas
- Unincorporated Settlements
- Shoreland Areas

Ringed Development Pattern Concept

The basis for the Planning Area Recommendations is the development concept referred to as the *Ringed Development Pattern*. This general pattern of development provides an overall characteristic of how development in the County should occur by managing the general density of land uses, particularly residential. This concept promotes a pattern of development in which higher densities of residential

development and urban land uses (i.e. industrial, commercial, and institutional) are located within and adjacent to incorporated areas having appropriate public services (i.e. public water and sewer services). As you move further away from the incorporated area, the residential density decreases as open space uses become more dominant. The following figure illustrates the concept of the Ringed Development Pattern.

Figure 17 The Ringed Development Pattern



1. city and village

This plan recommends that future development be directed to city and villages where existing infrastructure can support it, and to keep the communities relatively compact. The County recognizes the city of Barron, Chetek, Cumberland, and Rice Lake and the villages of Almena, Cameron, Dallas, Haugen, Prairie Farm, Turtle Lake (part), and New Auburn (part) as being central to the growth and development of the County, while instrumental in protecting the

character and function of rural areas that border them. These communities contain the majority of urban uses in the County, such as governmental, institutional, commercial, residential, and industrial.

2. Urban Service Areas

Urban Service Area refers to the areas around existing city and villages that have been identified as most suitable for future urban expansion and capable of being provided with urban services. These urban service areas should be cooperatively determined between the city/village and affected towns.

In the interest of promoting compact and contiguous development around the city and villages, the County should strengthen planning efforts with municipal governments where growth is likely to occur.

3. Transition Areas

Transition areas are outside the Urban Service Area of a city or village. The area is, as its name implies, in transition from a rural character to more of a suburban character, and is vulnerable to pressure to convert agricultural land to residential uses. Non-farm development in these transitional areas can lead to lifestyle conflicts with farm operations, increase traffic on local roads, and increase public service demands. Such development should be directed to areas where it does not conflict with intensive agricultural uses, and should be located and designed to minimize environmental impacts and avoid detracting from the rural character of the landscape. The general purpose of this area is to: retain rural character, maintain valued natural features, minimize visual and environmental impacts, and to reduce local road miles.

4. Agricultural Production Areas

The agricultural production areas of the County have intensive agricultural operations and large, contiguous expanses of prime agricultural soils. This is where the vast majority of the agricultural land will be preserved for agriculture in the long term. The predominant land uses will be agriculture and agricultural support uses.

5. Agricultural/Rural Residential Areas

The agricultural/rural residential areas include the remaining rural lands in the County that are outside of the agricultural production areas and transition areas. These areas include forested tracts, smaller tracts of agricultural land, and off-lake shore areas.

Light Pollution

Outdoor artificial lighting that is excessive and directed upwards, spreading beyond the area it is intended for and producing a strong glare, is often referred to as “light pollution”.

During issue identification sessions, participants mentioned light pollution from big parking lots and commercial areas as being a problem. They suggested that Towns and businesses should be encouraged to direct their outdoor lighting downward.

In general, agriculture is the predominant land use in this area. However, the farmland tends to be more fragmented due to topography, soil characteristics (including smaller contiguous expanses of prime agricultural soils), remnants of prairies and grasslands, water resources (including lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands), and varying size tracts of forested lands.

The purpose of the agricultural/rural residential area is to allow for some limited non-farm rural residential development on lands that are not as suited for agricultural production, or due to the proposed location, would have limited impact on agricultural production. Other uses include recreation, transportation and utilities, non-metallic mining, and limited commercial and industrial. Priorities in this area are the preservation of rural character, protection of productive agricultural lands, and protection of other valued land-based resources.

The general purpose of this area is to: retain rural character, maintain valued natural features, minimize visual and environmental impacts, reduce local road miles, and to provide farmers some economic return on their property while continuing to farm.

6. Unincorporated Settlements

Rural areas in the County are dominated by agricultural and natural landscapes and include the transition, agricultural production, and agricultural/rural residential areas as depicted in the Ringed Development Pattern concept. The rural areas also contain characteristics of a built environment such as the unincorporated settlements that service the farm and/or recreation areas. Those unincorporated settlements are Mikana, Campia, Barronett, Comstock, Brill, Hillsdale, Poskin, and Canton.

The County recognizes the importance of unincorporated settlements to the local areas they serve and encourages the continuation of that role. However, due to the general lack of municipal services, except for the sanitary districts in Barronett and Comstock, these communities will likely not experience the growth of city and villages.

7. Shoreland Areas

Included in the Ringed Development Pattern concept, because of its vulnerability to development pressures, are the County's shoreland areas adjacent to the lakes, rivers, and streams. In the last 20-30 years, the shoreland in the County has experienced considerable development, particularly year-round and seasonal residential development. This development affects the shoreland aesthetics, wildlife habitat, water quality, and lake use. Since it is expected that the pressure to develop shoreland will continue into the future, it is incumbent upon the County to manage this extremely valuable resource in an environmentally sound manner. Uses in the shoreland area should be limited to residential, some commercial, recreational, and conservancy. Priority should be placed on maintaining the environmental quality, visual appearance, and natural character of the water resource and adjoining lands.

Preferred Land Use Map

Barron County's Preferred Land Use Map is based on the Future Land Use Maps of towns that prepared Comprehensive Plans. For consistency the Preferred Land Use Map uses a consolidated legend based on the combined categories of the town maps. The consolidated categories coordinate well with the Ringed Development Pattern concept and retain the original intent of the individual town's maps. Each town's Future Land Use Map is provided in the Appendix of this Plan, and should be referred to when making future land use decisions in those areas.

Potential Conflicts

In general the town plans state goals to preserve the rural character of the County, to preserve farm land and to protect the natural resources. Given this presumption there are not any strategic or policy oriented conflicts. Furthermore, the towns support a cluster type development that is intended to minimize the conversion of agriculture land to residential, and they recommend that future development should be directed near existing infrastructure.

However, by combining all the maps into one it is easier to see potential land use challenges that may occur. For instance, there is a clear distinction between agricultural production land and agricultural/residential land between Prairie Lake and Maple Grove and between Sioux Creek and Dallas. Of the four, Prairie Lake is projected to have a housing unit increase of 16 units per year between 2010 -2020. The other three are projected to have increases of only 2 to 3 over the same timeframe. If this projection becomes a reality it may be challenging to keep development clustered and to prevent the fragmentation of agricultural land.

Another potential conflict is the fact that not all towns prepared Comprehensive Plans. The towns that have not prepared Comprehensive Plans are: the un-zoned towns of Arland, Prairie Farm and Vance Creek; and the zoned towns of Cedar Lake, Clinton, Cumberland, and Turtle Lake.

Consideration when reviewing the County's Preferred Land Use Map

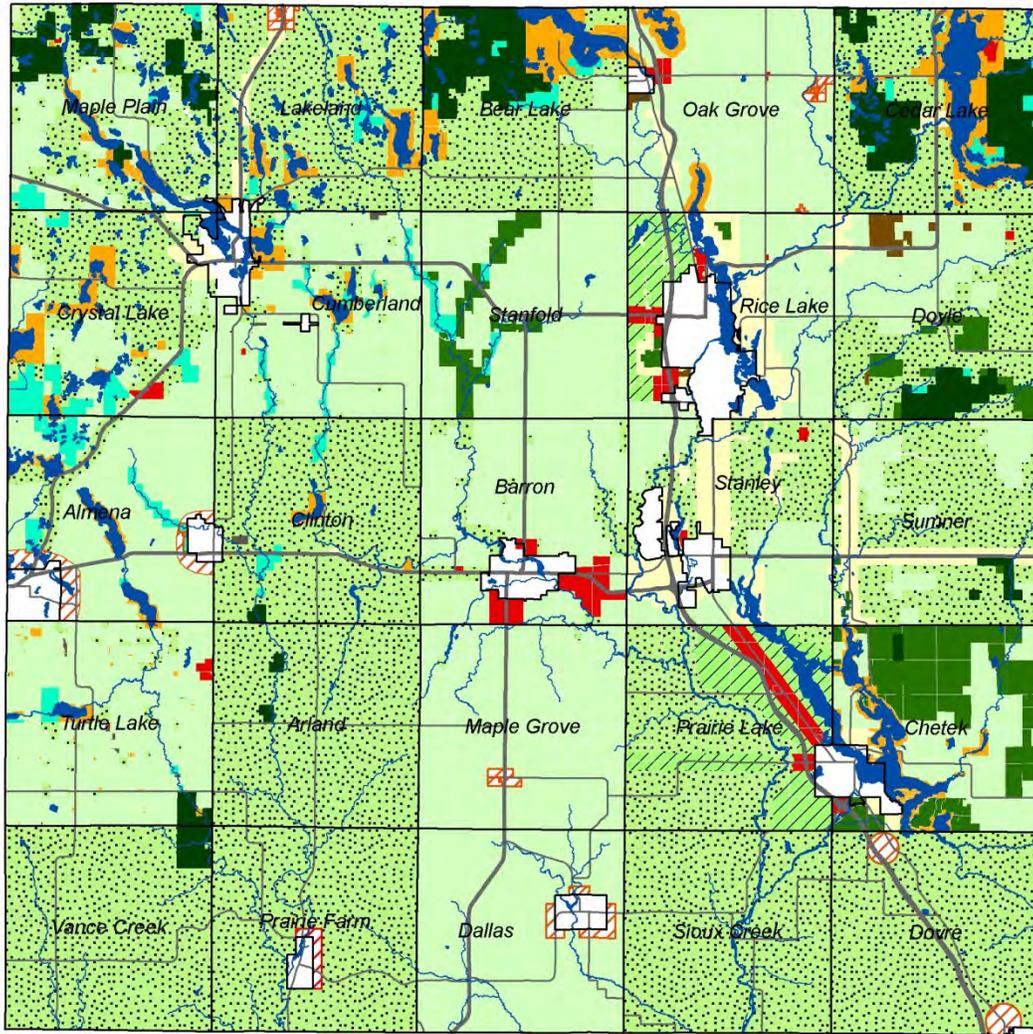
1. Maps for the towns of Lakeland, Oak Grove, Maple Grove, and Dallas were prepared during the 2008 multijurisdictional planning effort. Additional maps were prepared between 2004 and 2006. Those maps were prepared using Wisconsin Department of Administration's population, household and housing unit projections done in 2004. According to the 2008 data 15,809 housing units will be needed by the year 2025 for the total of all towns. The 2004 data projected 13,270 units needed by 2025. Even though projections are based on past trends, there are many variables that can affect future reality. It is for this reason that the Comprehensive Plan and the Preferred Land Use Map should be updated every five years or as changes require.
2. The Preferred Land Use Map is not a zoning map. It is necessary to keep in mind that even though most of the County is under general County zoning, eight towns in the County are un-zoned: Arland, Bear Lake, Chetek, Dovre, Lakeland, Prairie Farm, Sioux Creek, and Vance Creek.

3. This map was intentionally designed to only show major land uses. Other maps are included in the Appendix specific to County owned land, recreational uses, multi-use trails, transportation corridors, and development limitation maps.

The Existing Land Use Map is on the page following the Preferred Land Use Map. It is intended to be used to analyze and better understand the current pattern of development while providing a framework for formulating how land will be used in the future (Figure 17). *[A Current Zoning map is provided in the Appendix of this Plan as a reference].*

Figure 18 Barron County Preferred Land Use Map

BARRON COUNTY PREFERRED LAND USE MAP



The Preferred Land Use Map is based on the Future Land Use Maps of towns that prepared Comprehensive Plans, and as such is representative of those maps; however, the legend categories were consolidated. Individual maps are provided in the Appendix.
(This map must be printed in color to distinguish between each category).

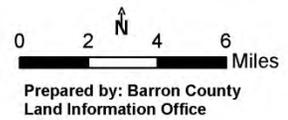
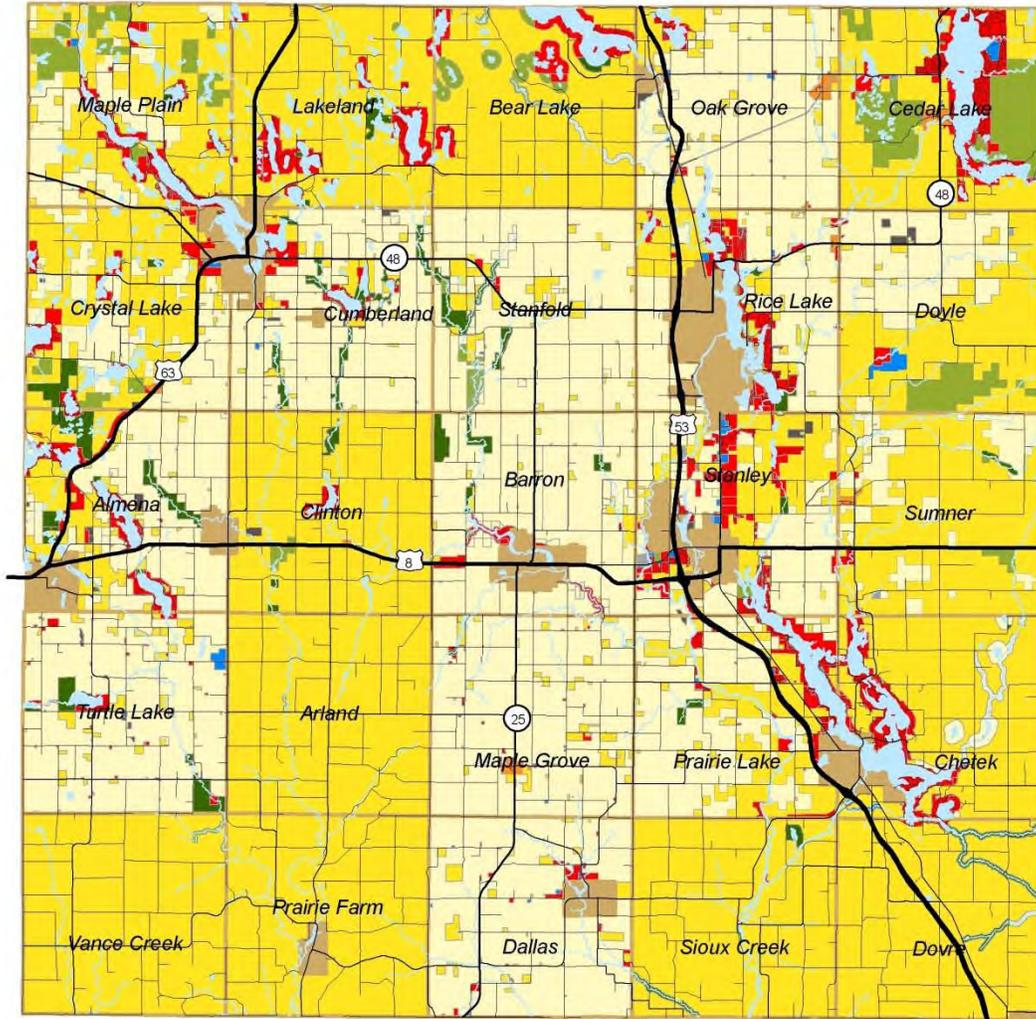


Figure 19 Barron County Existing Land Use Map

Existing Land Use



- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| — US HIGHWAY | ■ Agricultural/Residential |
| — STATE HIGHWAY | ■ Conservancy, Wetland |
| — COUNTY HIGHWAY | ■ Conservancy, Upland |
| — TOWN ROAD | ■ Industrial |
| ■ Surface Water | ■ Residential |
| ■ Town | ■ Unincorporated Village |
| ■ City/Village | ■ Business |
| ■ Agricultural | ■ Mineral Resource |



Additional Background – Key Land Use Trends

The following charts and analysis provide important information needed to identify trends and to define needs related to land use. The information supports the goals, objectives, and recommendations. Data was collected from town and municipal Comprehensive Plans, the Barron County Land Information Department, and the *Barron County Background and Condition Report* prepared by WCWRPC.

Definition of Assessed Land Uses

Agricultural Forest Land: Land that is capable of producing commercial forest products, and is contiguous to agricultural land with the same owner.

Agricultural Land: Land that typically bears physical evidence of agricultural use, such as furrows, crops, fencing or livestock, appropriate to the production season; includes fruit orchards and Christmas tree lots.

Other: Land that contains the buildings, improvements and residence.

Productive Forest: Capable of producing commercial forest products, and does not include buildings or improvements. Small vacant tracts with trees are not considered forest.

Managed Forests: Refers to land that is managed through the Managed Forest Program of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Private Forest: Used for hunting or as a preserve, and not used for commercial production.

Undeveloped land: Includes bog, marsh, lowland brush, uncultivated land zoned as shoreland, other non-productive lands not elsewhere classified

The Table below shows assessed land use in acres by town, village, and city for 2008.

Table 8 2008 Assessed Land Uses in Acres

	Agriculture	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Undeveloped	Other	Total Forested*
towns	258,133	24,595	2,681	900	59,037	4,319	167,172
villages	1,595	688	173	125	654	43	451
city	781	2,248	1,151	463	312	12	271
Total	260,509	27,531	4,005	1,488	60,003	4,335	167,894

Source: 2008 Barron County Real Estate Valuation Summary

Forested land is second only to Agriculture in terms of assessed land use. The Table below provides additional detail on those assessed forested acres by type in towns, villages, and city for 2008.

Table 9 2008 Assessed Forested Acres by Type

	Agricultural Forest	Productive Forest	Managed Forest Land	Private Forest	County Forest	Total Forested
towns	49,909	66,192	33,506	1,702	15,863	167,172
villages	167	273	11	0	0	451
city	27	177	67	0	0	271
County Total	50,103	66,642	33,584	1,702	15,863	167,894

Source: 2008 Barron County Real Estate Valuation Summary

Other Public and Private Land Uses

1. Surface Water: Barron County has a total surface water area of 18,551 acres made up of lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, intermittent waterways, and natural drainage ways. Of these, the County’s 369 lakes comprise 17,748 acres

2. State Owned

- 6,370 acres of Public Wildlife Recreational Lands
- 384 acres of Natural Areas

3. County Owned Land

- 15, 863 acres of County Forest
- 2,076 acres throughout the County with a variety of uses including:
 - 318 acres of County Park and Recreational Areas
 - 237 acres of Natural Areas
 - 8 non-metallic mining sites
 - The land comprising the campuses of UW-Barron County and WITC in the city of Rice Lake

4. Privately owned non-metallic mining sites

Throughout the County there are currently 64 privately owned non- metallic mining sites operating in various towns.

5. Tribal Land – a total of 459.5 acres in the following locations:

- 358.8 acres in the town of Maple Plain
- 68 acres in the village of Turtle Lake

Related Maps

The maps: *Public Owned Land, Recreational Opportunities, and non-metallic mining sites* are provided in the Appendix of this Plan.

- 29 acres in the city of Cumberland
- 2 acres in the town of Lakeland
- 1 acre in the town of Rice Lake
- 0.3 acres in the village of Almena

Key Trends – Land Supply, Demand, and Prices

An indicator of the demand for various land types is the number of land sales during any given year. The Tables below show that the demand for agricultural lands and forested lands to remain in production is currently higher than the demand for converting to other uses, such as residential development. For example, in 2007 2,024 acres of ag land was sold to buyers that kept the land in agriculture. In that same year 535 acres of farmland was sold to buyers that converted the land into another use. Even though the overall demand is higher for land staying in agriculture or forest production, there is still a steady demand for these lands to be converted to other uses.

The “Dollars Per Acre Differential” column in the Table below shows the premium that has been paid for Ag land being sold for “Other Uses.” This premium helps reveal the market pressure for farmland conversion.

Table 10 Agriculture Land Sales, County Totals

Year	Remaining in Agriculture		Converted to Other Uses		Dollars Per Acre Differential
	Total Acres Sold	Dollars Per Acre	Total Acres Sold	Dollars Per Acre	
2007	2,024	2,444	535	2,501	+ 57
2006	3,160	2,250	470	3,128	+ 878
2005	3,208	2,247	322	3,843	+ 1,596
2004	3,944	1,769	990	2,652	+1,662
2003	4,147	1,724	1,091	1,518	- 206
2002	4,060	1,347	587	1,948	+ 601
2001	3,080	1,395	889	1,613	+ 218
2000	3,618	1,140	1,199	1,417	+ 277
1999	4,836	1,093	1,413	1,349	+ 256
1998	6,306	847	1,452	1,016	+ 169
Totals	38,383		8,948		

Source: USDA

Table 12 below shows that there was not a premium paid to convert forest land to other uses until 2005. The acres sold to other uses went down significantly in the years 2005 and 2007 at which time the dollar per acre was at its highest.

Table 11 Forest Land Sales, County Totals – Remaining in forest versus diverted to other uses

Year	Remaining Forest Land		Converted to Other Uses		Dollars Per Acre Differential
	Acres Sold	Dollars Per Acre	Acres Sold	Dollars Per Acre	
2007	853	1,822	227	2,549	727
2005	1,041	1,938	134	2,186	248
2001	1,865	1,215	497	1,217	2
1998	2,440	663	944	672	9
Totals	6,199		1,802		

Source: USDA

Opportunities for Redevelopment

Non-metallic mining sites - at which point they are no longer mined to comply with Barron County ordinance requirements – represent a redevelopment opportunity. There are numerous other opportunities for redevelopment within Barron County. However, the majority of those opportunities are located in cities and villages where the County exercises little land use authority.

Existing or Potential Land Use Conflicts

The rural areas of Barron County are experiencing an increase in non-farm residential development. With agriculture as the major use of land in the County, preserving large tracts of land, and minimizing conflicts between farm and non-farm land will be necessary.

The following existing and potential land use conflicts were identified in several of the town’s Comprehensive Plans and were also mentioned in public Issue and Opportunity Sessions around the County:

1. As contiguous lands decrease due to residential development it becomes difficult to continue efficient agricultural and forestry practices
2. The current tax law, with higher rates for non-developed, non-farm land can accelerate growth and result in conflicts with forestry and agricultural farming operations, forest values and residential growth practices and State right-to-farm laws.
3. Development can result in increased property taxes for adjacent properties which places pressure on owners of forest and undeveloped lands to consider further subdividing and selling these properties.

4. Proximity between agricultural operations and residential uses
5. Odors from livestock operations or pesticide use on crops can affect nearby residences.
6. Non-metallic mining operations can potentially impact nearby residential uses due to the noise and traffic associated with mining practices
7. Mixed-use trails for motorized and silent sport recreational use
8. Noise from ATV use near rural residences

9. Unplanned, poorly planned, and inappropriate land use developments can threaten natural resources including the wetlands, surface waters, and steep hillsides

The town's Future Land Use Maps were developed to steer residential and commercial development away from agricultural areas, and toward the existing residential, and denser populated areas. Some of these land use conflicts can be mitigated through Barron County Zoning to separate incompatible uses and guide residential development towards more appropriate areas. The Ringed Development Pattern explained in this chapter was created to direct appropriate land uses and densities toward those areas that already exist so that productive agriculture land can be preserved, land use conflicts can be minimized, and the rural character of the County can be maintained.

Projected Land Uses

These projected land use acreages are from towns that prepared a Comprehensive Plan. The towns in the 2008 Multijurisdictional Planning effort projected to 2030, but since most of the statistics are from the 2005 planning effort we are only showing projections to the year 2025.

The towns of Arland, Cedar Lake, Clinton, Cumberland, Prairie Farm, Turtle Lake, and Vance Creek have not prepared Comprehensive Plans; estimations for those towns are based on 2007 land use acreages and have been added to the totals.

Table 12 Projected Land Uses-Unincorporated Areas

AGRICULTURE					
	2010	2015	2020	2025	change in acres
County Total	260,957	256,258	251,765	248,406	-12,551
RESIDENTIAL					
	2010	2015	2020	2025	change in acres
County Total	24,869	27,791	30,750	33,498	+ 8,629
COMMERCIAL					
	2010	2015	2020	2025	change in acres
County Total	2,332	2,641	2,902	3,161	+ 829
INDUSTRIAL					
	2010	2015	2020	2025	change in acres
County Total	891	926	959	994	+ 103

Population Projections

Population projections can be used to assess development prospects, economic conditions, and the level of demand for businesses, schools and government facilities or services. They can also be used to guide orderly growth and development.

Population projections are based on historical trends of population growth that are extended into the future, with the assumption that those trends, and the factors behind them, will continue. For this reason they should only be used as a guideline.

Table 13 Barron County Population by Municipality

	TOWNS	CITY	VILLAGES	Total
2000	24,511	16,020	4,432	44,963
2010	26,710	16,833	4,856	48,399
2020	28,813	17,702	5,298	51,813
2030	30,266	18,185	5,614	54,065

Source: U.S. Census & WI DOA Demographic Services, 2008

This projection is 1,906 less people than the actual population growth of the previous 30 years. However the main difference is that the population in the towns is projected to far surpass the population of the city and villages combined. The largest rates of increase are expected in the towns of Cedar Lake, Dovre, Lakeland, Maple Plain, Rice Lake, Stanley, and Sumner; and in the villages of Almena, Cameron, and New Auburn. Decreases in population are projected for the towns of Barron, Oak Grove, Prairie Farm, and Stanfold; and the villages of Dallas and Haugen.

Historic Population Changes

Taking into account the natural increase in the population (births and deaths) and the number of people moving into and out of the County (net migration) Table 16 shows that the population of Barron County actually grew the most in the years 1900 to 1920. In the years 1920 through 1970 the population fluctuated slightly, but between 1970 and 1980 there was an increase of 4,775 people. Over the next 20 years, 1980 through 2000, the population grew by another 6,233 people.

One of the most significant factors to point out during this time is that from 1960 to the late-1990's the majority of the population resided in the city and villages of the County. However, since the 1970's there has been an ever increasing rural non-farm population that, by the year 2000, actually surpassed the population of the city and villages. Over this same period, the rural farm population began to steadily decrease.

Table 14 Barron County Population 1900-2000

Year	Population	Numerical Change	Percent Change from Prior Decade
1900	23,677		
1910	29,114	5,437	23.0
1920	34,281	5,167	17.7
1930	34,301	20	0.1
1940	34,289	-12	-0.03
1950	34,703	414	1.2
1960	34,270	-433	-1.2
1970	33,955	-315	-0.9
1980	38,730	4,775	14.1
1990	40,750	2,020	5.2
2000	44,963	4,213	10.3

Housing Projections

Housing projections help estimate the amount of land that may be consumed by future housing development. As the number of households and housing units in a County continues to grow, there is a resulting need for local units of government to provide additional public facilities and services such as roads, sewer and water extensions, fire and police protection, schools, etc... It may also create a need to develop and enforce additional regulations and ordinances to guide growth.

As discussed in the Issues and Opportunities chapter, the number of households in Barron County is projected to increase from 20,408 in 2010 to 24,179 in 2030. This represents an increase of over 3,771 households. If recent trends continue, much of that growth is likely to occur in the rural parts of the County. **The number of actual housing units in Barron County is projected to increase from 24,056 in 2010 to 28,678 by 2030 (Table 15).** A housing unit projection map is provided in the appendix.

Table 15 Barron County housing unit projections 2000 to 2030

2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
20,969	22,502	24,056	25,504	26,794	27,841	28,678
		'10 – '15	'15 – '20	'20 – '25	'25 – '30	By 2030
		+ 1,448	+ 1,290	+ 1,047	+ 837	+ 4,622 units

Source: U.S. Census

Goals

1. Maintain the rural character of the County.
2. Preserve and protect valuable, productive farmland from non-agricultural related development.
3. Encourage orderly and responsible growth and development.
4. Limit the amount of development in shoreland areas, wetlands and other sensitive areas to protect shoreland and surface water resources.
5. Preserve large tracts of forested areas and other valued natural resources.

Objectives

1. Direct urban land uses (high-density residential, industrial, and major commercial) to the city and villages where appropriate facilities and services are available.
2. Encourage multi-family housing developments be located in incorporated areas and on public facilities.
3. Ensure that land use and development policies reflect community values and desires.
4. Direct transportation improvements into areas planned and programmed for development and coordinate the development of land uses and the transportation system.
5. Discourage development in areas where environmental factors pose severe limitations, such as floodplains, wetlands, and slopes greater than 20%.
6. Limit industrial uses in the rural areas and instead, promote industrial development in planned industrial parks served by public water and sewer services.
7. Encourage only the types of commercial and industrial development in unincorporated areas that provide services specific to rural areas.
8. Limit rural subdivision development to areas located around incorporated areas.
9. Preserve and enhance open space, farmland and valued natural areas.
10. Encourage compactness in residential development occurring in the transition areas around the city and villages.
11. Encourage the use of development concept that create a blend of agricultural and residential uses and protects forested areas and other valued natural resources.
12. Guide rural development to areas that will not convert productive farmland to non-agricultural uses.
13. Support actions and activities that presume in favor of agricultural uses in rural agricultural areas.
14. Encourage practices that minimize light pollution and preserve the quality of dark skies in the County.

Policies and Programs

Un-zoned town Policies

As of January 2010 there were eight un-zoned towns within Barron County. Five of those towns developed comprehensive plans in accordance with the statewide comprehensive planning legislation.

1. Provide education to those towns which are considering zoning as a land use tool in order to guide development within their communities. Explain the process, the pros and cons of adopting county zoning, alternative tools for regulating land use.
2. Work with towns that would like to pursue county zoning for their community.

Urban Service Area Policies

1. Encourage infill and redevelopment.
2. Foster the revitalization of traditional commercial districts.
3. Discourage leapfrog development.
4. Work with the city, villages, and towns to review and adjust zoning and subdivision regulations to ensure the proper staging of anticipated development over time.
5. Identify and protect environmental corridors and other important natural resources from development.
6. Avoid premature zoning of lands for urban uses.
7. Encourage higher residential density around urban areas that are compact enough to be serviced with municipal utilities when available. An example of achieving this type of development pattern could include allowing urban style residential development (e.g. 20,000 square foot parcels) in subdivisions that have an agreement with the incorporated community to be connected to the water and sewer service systems within a predetermined period of time.

Transition Area Policies

1. Identify transitional areas at the fringes of urban areas that are changing from a rural to "suburban" character.
2. The County should work with the towns adjacent to primary communities to determine the lands which are/will be experiencing pressure to convert agricultural lands to residential or other uses.
3. Establish a minimum and maximum lot size by acreage or density for residential development in the transition areas.

4. **Restrict access to major transportation facilities that extend through a Transition Area to reduce development pressure and maintain safety.**

Agricultural Production Area Policies

1. **Continue to preserve the most productive agricultural land through the identification of agricultural production areas and exclusive agricultural zoning as defined in the Barron County Farmland Preservation Plan.**
2. **Limit commercial development in the agricultural areas to agricultural-related uses.**
3. **Allow 1 dwelling unit per farm (a farm is considered to be at least 40 acres or larger) in areas designated for production agricultural (exclusive agriculture zones).**
4. **Support the Wisconsin Right-to-Farm Statute by applying a deed restriction to all new residential developments in the agricultural area that notifies residents that they are about to build in an agricultural production area.**
5. **In order to limit the impacts of residential development in agricultural areas, maintain a visual and physical separation between farm and non-farm uses, protect rural resources, and preserve scenic landscapes, the County should incorporate the following development, management and site design concepts for development in all agricultural areas:**
 - a. Where possible, homes should be located proximate to existing public roads. However, Barron County would consider an alternate building site as long as the development of the parcel (including home, buildings or driveway, etc...) does not adversely impact the agricultural production of the property or nearby properties.
 - b. In order to minimize the amount of land taken out of agricultural production, structures and access facilities should be located on the land least suited for agricultural production. This style of development could include locating homes on the edges of tillable fields and locating driveways along existing fence lines or other non-tillable lands.
 - c. Where possible, locate structures to minimize visibility from public rights-of-way.
 - d. Avoid construction of new structures on the crest of ridges or hilltops where they will be visible from a broad area. A preferred location for hillside homes is on the upper portion of a ridge, but below the crest, where the homeowner can achieve a view, but the hilltop will remain in natural vegetation.
 - e. Homeowners will be encouraged to locate new residences in such a manner that maintains an adequate buffer between the home and tilled cropland.
 - f. Locate new residential housing units at least ¼ mile from the nearest feedlot.

Agricultural/Rural Residential Area Policies

1. Establish a minimum and maximum lot size by acreage or density for residential development in the agricultural/rural residential areas.
2. Locate homes proximate to existing public roads.
3. Maintain agricultural lands and other valued natural features as an integral part of the landscape.
4. Buffer non-farm development from farm operations.
5. Locate homes along the “edges” of large forested parcels in order to maintain the environmental quality and encourage lands to remain in timber production.
6. Minimize the number of separate individual driveway entrances onto County or State highways.
7. Educate owners of forested lands about timber management practices and encourage their lands to remain in timber production.

Unincorporated Settlements Policies

1. Limit development in these communities to that which is compatible with the existing character of the community.
2. Limit residential development in unincorporated settlements that are un-sewered in order to prevent potential pollution problems caused by the concentration of individual septic systems.
3. Direct limited commercial and retail development to the core areas of the community

Shoreland Area Policies

1. Limit commercial development on the waterfront.
2. Encourage development that preserves and protects the natural features of the site and water resource.
3. Limit non-point source pollution caused by improper shoreland development, forestry and agricultural practices.
4. Encourage storm water management by limiting impervious surfaces and treating runoff that does occur.

Recommendations

Overall Recommendations

- 1. Continue to work to implement the policies outlined within this element, taking advantage of new land use tools and techniques as they become available.**

Urban Service Area Recommendations

The city and villages conduct their own planning and zoning, so the County has limited influence on the development that occurs within their boundaries. Nonetheless, towns adjoining the city and villages are impacted by the decisions of the communities concerning land use on their borders. Inappropriate land use decisions on the borders could result in an undesirable development pattern continuing in the towns. Similarly, poor town land use decisions can have the same affect on the city and villages.

- 1. Locate new urban type development in communities where a full range of urban services are already provided.**
- 2. Promote policies that create compact communities.**

Agricultural Production Area Recommendations

- 1. Make every effort to preserve contiguous acres of productive farmland.**

CHAPTER FOUR: TRANSPORTATION

Background

Transportation facilities have a significant influence on land use, development and quality of life for Barron County residents. A well-maintained and planned transportation system supports economic development and a variety of land uses and housing types, provides links among community facilities, and facilitates the provision of various public and emergency services. Barron County provides much of the infrastructure that supports mobility between Barron and surrounding Counties, as well as between communities within the County. This plan addresses the following transportation infrastructure: highways, rail, airports, bike trails, pedestrian facilities, transit, snowmobile, ATV, and hiking trails.

Feedback received during public participation sessions and from the Public Opinion Survey indicates that Barron County residents feel that the current road network meets their needs for vehicular transportation. Residents appreciate that the snow is kept plowed, highways and roads are well maintained, and that city and towns have a good working relationship with the County. Residents also Stated that the airports are good for the population base, and that there is a well run and safe student bus system throughout the County.

Public feedback also identified several needs related to the transportation system. The needs that were identified included: increasing public transportation options for a variety of users; providing more safe walking and biking paths and extending the trail system for recreational vehicles; upgrading roads to accommodate the increased weight of trucks; and improving traffic safety at the intersections of SS & Hwy 53, Hwy V & 53, Hwy 8 & O, and Hwy 8 & K.

As roads, bridges, rail corridors and airports are upgraded and extended in the County it will be important to consider the link between transportation, economic development, land use and quality of life. The development of transportation facilities, namely arterial, collector, and local roads often have both direct and indirect effects on economic development and land use both locally and regionally. These effects can be positive or negative. **Therefore, it is important to consider how proposed designs and changes will impact development patterns, natural resources, wildlife habitats, and the quality of life in the County.**

When transportation infrastructure is being planned for, there are five general characteristics of the system which must be balanced. These five characteristics include: location, capacity, travel patterns, traffic control, and access management. Figure 20 provides examples of each characteristic. These components of transportation planning must also be considered in conjunction with other considerations including land use, future development patterns, and environmental concerns.

Key Issues Related to Transportation in Barron County:

- Maintaining Roads
- Trails for a Variety of User Groups
- Dangerous Intersections
- Public Transportation

Figure 20 Characteristics of Transportation Facilities

Location

- Building a by-pass
- Creating new roads

Capacity

- Adding new lanes, increasing rail service
- Adding new choices such as bike lanes and sidewalks

Travel patterns

- Width of streets
- Parking

Traffic control

- Roundabouts
- Traffic signals and signage
- Left/right turn lanes

Access management

- Limiting the number of driveways

Transportation Infrastructure

Below are summaries of existing transportation infrastructure types in Barron County, along with a brief discussion of critical issues related to each.

1. Highways

Barron County is served by 1,973 miles of roads under State, County and local jurisdiction. Major north/south highways include US 53, US 63 and WIS 25. Major east/west highways are US 8 and WIS 48. Traffic volumes have generally increased in the County, however in some cases, such as County SS, volumes have declined when nearby highways, such as US 53, were improved.

Several repair and improvement projects are programmed for the State highways in Barron County between 2008 and 2013. A total of 41.65 miles are scheduled for improvement over this six-year period. They are Hwy 53 from Rice Lake to Spooner, Hwy 8 from Turtle Lake to Cameron, Hwy 25 from Barron to STH 48, and Hwy 53 from New Auburn to Rice Lake.

Of the State and US highways located in Barron County, US 8 has been identified as a facility that will experience moderate congestion by the year 2020 if no capacity expansion improvements are made. This segment of US 8 is classified as a Corridors 2020 connector route in Wisconsin's State Highway Plan, making traffic movement and safety a high priority.

The US 8 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzed potential improvements along 40 miles of US 8 from WIS 35 North in Polk County to US 53 in Barron County. Wis DOT worked with a Highway 8 Coalition of local and County residents and officials to address the needs and potential solutions

for the corridor. The Final EIS recommends alignment improvements in the Apple River/Clover Lake and Joel Flowage areas; southern realignments in the Deer Lake, Range, and Poskin areas; and a south bypass at the city of Barron. A preferred alternative for the village of Turtle Lake area has not yet been decided upon.

2. Rustic Roads

There are 3 roads in Barron County that are part of the State designated Rustic Road System. Rustic Road 18 begins at County M, follows Gehler Road (23rd St.) south to 15 1/4 Ave., and returns to County M. Its total length is 4.6 miles. Rustic Road 67 is located in Barron and Polk Counties and follows portions of Pine Road, 13 3/4 Avenue, West County Line Road and 16th Avenue, forming a loop from US 8 to US 63. Its total length is 4.8 miles. Rustic Road 83 follows 13 3/4 -16th Street/Narrow Gauge Road between County V and 30th Street at the Barron/Washburn County Line. Its total length is 4.6 miles.



Photo 9 Airport

3. Bridges

There are a total of 317 bridges in Barron County. Of these bridges, 65 are owned and maintained by the State, 59 are owned by the County, and 193 are under local government ownership. Bridges are rated and categorized in terms of their functional and structural situation. Of all the bridges in the County, 14 are classified as either functionally obsolete or structurally deficient.

4. Railroads

Rail service is an important component of the local economy. Several businesses in Barron County utilize rail. In recognition of this fact, the Western Wisconsin Rail Transit Authority (WWRTA) was formed by Barron and Chippewa counties in 2001 to preserve and restore rail service on two of the lines that run through both counties. These lines include track running north-south from Chippewa Falls through Cameron to Rice Lake, and an east-west segment of the line which runs from Cameron to Barron. In 2009 the Barron County Board of Supervisors voted to share with Chippewa County the purchase of the segment of the Union Pacific rail line from just south of Cameron to Chippewa Falls. The County continues to work with Progressive Rail, the short-line operator which services the line, Chippewa County, the State, and other partners to purchase, upgrade, and maintain the rail system within the County.

5. Air Transportation

Barron County is served by four public airport facilities located near the city of Rice Lake, Barron, Chetek and Cumberland. The Wisconsin DOT classifies the airports according to the type of aircraft they are capable of accommodating. The Rice Lake Airport is classified as a Transport/Corporate (T/C) airport because of its ability to serve corporate, small passenger and cargo jet aircraft used in regional service, and small airplanes used in commuter air service. The Barron Airport is classified as a Basic Utility-A (BU-A) airport because of its ability to serve all small single-engine piston aircraft and many of the smaller twin-engine piston aircraft typically seating two to six people. The Chetek and Cumberland airports are both classified as Basic Utility-B (BU-B) airports because of their ability to serve slightly larger aircraft than a BU-A facility.

6. Multi-use Recreational Trails

Barron County has a good network of multi-use trails including 309 miles of snowmobile trails and over 100 miles of ATV trails/routes. The Wild Rivers Trail is one of two designated multi-use off-road trails in the County. This trail utilizes an abandoned rail right-of-way that parallels US 53 from Rice Lake north to Superior and is heavily used by ATVs and snowmobilers. There are future plans for the trail to be paved between Rice Lake and Haugen to accommodate all bicyclists, but currently it is only suited for mountain biking. Nine miles of this 62 mile trail are in Barron County, the rest of it continues north through Washburn and Douglas Counties to Solon Springs.

The Cattail Trail is the other multi-use trail. The trail head originates in Barron County in Almena and continues 8 miles west to Amery in Polk County. It is opened to ATVs year round and to snowmobilers when the trail is snow covered. It is also popular for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain-biking. The 16 mile Cattail Extension from Almena to Cameron is for ATV use only.

The Tuscobia Trail is a State-owned trail that exists on a former rail bed. It is located three and a half miles north of Rice Lake and begins near US 53. The trail extends 76 miles northeast, through the Counties of Barron, Washburn, Sawyer, and Price. This trail is used for hiking, horseback riding, and in the winter for snowmobiling. The trail is not open for ATV use and is not groomed or surfaced for bicycles, but some mountain biking does occur.

7. The Ice Age Trail

The Ice Age Trails follows the outline left from the most recent glacier which passed through Wisconsin 10,000 years ago. The trail is entirely in Wisconsin and covers a winding 1,000 miles through 30 counties before ending at the Minnesota-Wisconsin border. The 50 miles of non-contiguous trail that pass through portions of Rusk, Barron, Washburn and Burnett Counties are

Did you know?

88% of Barron County residents feel that the overall road network in the County meets citizen needs.

Source: 2008 Barron County Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

maintained by the Superior Lobe Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. This portion of the trail is suited for hiking and snowshoeing, and in Barron County, the trail crosses the Tuscobia State Trail. See Appendices for a map of the Superior Lobe of the Ice Age Trail which passes through the County.

8. **Bicycling Trails and Safe Routes to School**

At public participation events held throughout the County, bicycling and hiking enthusiasts have voiced a need for safe, off-road trails that are not shared with motorized recreational vehicles. Currently there are numerous County roads that are suitable for biking in Barron County but town roads are likely to provide a safer biking facility, since they have less traffic. The Barron County Soil and Water Conservation Department prepared a map showing bike routes using mostly paved town roads. The routes are not currently signed as bike routes, and some of them extend into neighboring Counties (See page 124 of the Barron County Conditions and Trends Report).

Several cities and villages in Barron County recognize a deficiency in pedestrian facilities. Rice Lake and Chetek have completed Safe Routes to School plans and are subsequently implementing the recommendations of those plans.

9. **Public Transportation**

There are currently two public transportation options available to the general public in Barron County. Rice Lake city cab provides service within the city of Rice Lake. Namekagon Transit is a regional public

Background: Road Safety in Barron County

While traffic volumes have climbed significantly in Barron County over the past 10 years, reported crashes are below 1998 levels, after peaking in 2003. Crashes involving injuries have declined, but fatalities have remained fairly constant over the time period shown. Reported crashes involving bicycles or pedestrians have declined slightly. The annual count of crashes has also declined for most municipalities in the County

The intersection of US 53 and County V is a critical road safety issue due to the severity of crashes that have occurred there. In 2001 low cost improvements, including rumble strips and painting in the median, were installed, and in 2003 flash warning lights were installed. Improvements to the USH 53/CTH V intersection are currently in the design phase. Construction is dependent on funding availability.

transportation service which runs out of Sawyer County servicing parts of Barron County. Additional publicly funded transportation services include:

- The Barron County Health and Human Services Department provides fixed route services to their clients, primarily to sheltered employment and training locations.

- The Barron County Office on Aging provides fixed route service to adult day care several days a week, monthly trips from Chetek, Barron, Cumberland and Turtle Lake, into Rice Lake, and a demand response service for elderly and persons with disabilities, on weekdays, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They also contract with the city of Rice Lake to increase their cab service for elderly and disabled during peak hours 3 days a week.

Finally, Barron County is considering entering into a coordinated rural transportation effort with five other counties (Chippewa, Eau Claire, Dunn, St. Croix, and Pierce).

Goals

1. **Develop and maintain a well coordinated, safe and efficient multi-modal transportation system that meets the needs of a diverse group of users and promotes a vibrant economy, while maintaining the rural character of the County and the health of our natural resources**
2. **Promote the development of a coordinated intra-County and regional public transportation system**

Objectives

1. **Maintain and expand intergovernmental working relationships between the County and its municipalities**
2. **Coordinate existing public transportation services to provide safe and easy- to -use transit options for a variety of users**
3. **Promote the maintenance and improvement of the County transportation infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of commerce in our region**
4. **Utilize best management practices, engineering, and technologies that result in safe, cost-effective and efficient solutions to road maintenance and development**

Recommendations

1. **Create a regionally coordinated transportation system with a mobility manager.**
2. **For the Trail Coordinator to conduct meetings for snowmobile and ATV users to develop trails and routes throughout the entire County and include other users of trails when appropriate.**
3. **When planning bike trails that are used for transportation, allow for safe connectivity of trails, especially between Rice Lake, Cameron and Barron.**
4. **It may be beneficial for the Highway Department to plan in a general way for 10, 15 and 20 year timeframes. These plans would be conceptual in nature compared to a properly developed 5-year plan.**
5. **Promote the development and expansion of multi-modal use trails throughout the County, where appropriate, and when funding is possible.**

5. **Promote the expansion of County Trail Networks.**
6. **Improve walkability and bikability throughout the County**
7. **Educate the public to promote safe use of the transportation system including recreational vehicle use**
8. **Continue to explore the benefits of regional public transportation opportunities by working in coordination with public, private, and non-profit entities**

Policies and Programs

1. **Barron County's Elderly and Disabled Transportation Program serves the special transportation needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities for whom public transportation services are unavailable, insufficient or inappropriate.**
2. **The Highway Department works from a 5-year Plan which is updated after each Bi-Annual Road Survey**
3. **Look for funding from all sources to support various phases of operation, maintenance and upgrades within the Highway Department.**
4. **Provide the right road surface treatment at the right time to ensure the longest life span possible of County highways.**
5. **Existing roadbed should be utilized when possible to minimize the cost of highway reconstruction.**
6. **Efforts will be made as possible to accommodate bicyclists and walkers on roads when funding is available. However the primary focus is on the ability to accommodate motor vehicles.**
7. **Patrol roads for safety issues such as debris and pavement issues.**
8. **Keep a trained Highway Construction workforce year round, and continue to work with local municipalities on their road projects during non-winter months.**
9. **Apply for State grant programs, and other funding sources for the development and maintenance of trails.**
10. **Support the Recreational Deputy in their efforts to develop and maintain County trails, and to enforce safety for all users.**
11. **Preserve, maintain and improve effective freight rail service in Barron County**

CHAPTER FIVE: UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Background

The purpose of the Utilities & Community Facilities Element is to identify the need for expansion, construction, or rehabilitation of utilities and County facilities. Provided in this element is a list of the existing public utility and community facilities in Barron County and where necessary, the need for expansion, construction, or rehabilitation has been identified. The list provides information for those items that the County is directly responsible for and, when applicable, states that it is the responsibility of the local governmental unit.



Photo 10 Barron County Government Center

Also included in this element are: an Inventory and Needs Assessment of County owned facilities, goals and objectives related to Utilities and Community Facilities; and the County's policies and recommendations related to Utilities and Community Facilities.

Inventory of Public Utilities and Community Facilities

Below are summaries of existing public utilities and facilities infrastructure in Barron County, including some discussion of critical issues related to each.

1. Needs Assessment / Inventory of County Owned Facilities

A detailed inventory of Barron County buildings and facilities that the County owns and manages is provided in the appendices. Not included are park shelters and restrooms, or buildings related to road maintenance such as salt and sand storage, and road construction operation. The County estimates the life of a building, facility, or building component to be 40 years; since the timeline for this plan projects to the year 2030 those buildings, facilities, or components built or replaced prior to 1990 will fall into that timeframe.

Improvements, upgrades and remodeling projects are projected for a 15-20 year period and as emergency needs arise. Consideration is given to allocating money for a specific capital project years before the project becomes a reality in order to reduce the bonded amount. Some remodeling improvements, maintenance equipment, and vehicle and technology upgrades are included in the annual budget and or 5-year Capital Improvement/Capital Outlay Program. Two projected capital project needs include the Heating, Venting, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) upgrades at the Government Center and a replacement of the 1940's era Highway Garage and related buildings. For a complete listing of County owned buildings and facilities and a needs assessment for each see the appendices.

As department and staff consolidations have led to increased efficiencies and fewer staff, Barron County has been downsizing office areas and reducing the need for space. The Barron County Board

is anticipating no new bonding for capital projects until the pay-off of the two Justice Center debt issuances in 2021-2022.

2. Sanitary Sewer Service and On-Site Wastewater Treatment Technology

All sanitary sewer services are conducted within the local municipalities. Ten Barron County communities have municipal wastewater systems and treatment facilities, they are the villages of: Almena, Dallas, Haugen, Prairie Farm and Turtle Lake; and the city of: Chetek, Cumberland and Rice Lake. The city of Barron and the village of Cameron share a facility. In addition to these municipal systems there are two sanitary districts, one in the town of Crystal Lake, and the other in the town of Lakeland.

In 2005, the Zoning Office began issuing Notice and Pumping/Inspection Reports every three years to property owners that utilize all sewage systems except for holding tanks. The notice is part of the State Private Sewage System Maintenance and Management Program which requires septic tanks to be inspected and pumped every 36 months, or when sludge reaches one third of the liquid capacity of the tank. Holding tanks are pumped as needed throughout the year. The pumpers submit a report annually to the Zoning Office indicating what property was pumped, the total gallons pumped, and where the sewage was disposed of.

3. On-site Septic Systems

Residents who live in the unincorporated areas of the County utilize on-site septic systems to treat wastewater. All areas of Barron County that utilize these systems are under the jurisdiction of the Wisconsin Sanitary Code, referred to as COMM 83. The County Zoning Office enforces this code through the Barron County Sanitary Ordinance by reviewing and filing soil tests, issuing State and County Sanitary Permits, and inspecting the systems during installation.



Photo 11 The Chetek Dam

4. Water Supply

All water used in Barron County for domestic, industrial or agricultural use, is sourced from groundwater. With the exception of the Municipal and Community Water Systems listed in the Barron County Conditions and Trends Report, the remaining residents depend on individual private wells for their water supply needs. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regulates private wells and issues licenses to well drillers. Wells are inventoried and the driller's work is monitored. It is up to the licensed driller to know the code and the minimum separation distance for each well.

Related Elements

Issues related to the quality and quantity of groundwater and associated goals, objectives and recommendations, are discussed in the Natural Resources section of this plan.

5. Storm Water Management

Stormwater management facilities and services are generally provided by local municipalities and or utilities. Most governmental units in the County that have completed a Comprehensive Plan state that managing storm water to reduce or eliminate direct discharge to surface waters is one of the most important steps that can be taken to protect surface water quality in the future and that they intend to work cooperatively with Barron County, WI DNR and other agencies and organizations. This element includes a goal to improve storm water management throughout the County along with objectives that make more specific recommendations.

6. Dams

Barron County owns and maintains 8 dams. The 5-year Capital Improvement Plan includes an annual appropriation for completion of a Dam Failure Analysis for all County-owned dams. Additional funding is set aside for upgrades and maintenance required as part of the analysis. No County owned dam is currently used for electric generation, however, the feasibility of electric generation has been, and continues to be studied through the Energy Policy Work Group.

7. Solid Waste Disposal

Solid waste collection services are contracted between local property owners and private waste haulers, except where it is provided by city. There has been a Flow Control Ordinance in effect in the entire County except for city of Rice Lake since June 16, 2008. The Ordinance states that combustion of waste, at a waste to energy facility, is in the best public interest of all citizens of the County. Therefore the Barron County Incinerator and Recycling Center, a Waste to Energy Facility (WTE) in the town of Turtle Lake, was chosen as the primary designation for the disposal of solid waste in the County.

Electrical Generation at the Waste to Energy Facility

The Waste to Energy Facility powers itself using steam generated during the combustion process, and also sells steam energy directly to the Saputo Cheese Factory located near the facility. Excess steam is sold under contract to Xcel Energy.

At the time of compiling this plan efforts to fund a 2.5 million dollar upgrade to condense steam for additional electric generation were underway.

The Ordinance further states that it is unlawful to burn or incinerate solid waste other than leaves or yard waste for anyone other than those licensed to dispose of industrial, hazardous, or biomedical wastes. Even though the Ordinance states that burning leaves and yard waste is permissible in unincorporated areas, the County promotes backyard composting of leaves and other yard waste.

ACCEPTABLE Household and Commercial Waste for the Waste to Energy Facility:

- Household quantities of pharmaceuticals
- Beds and mattresses
- Bicycles and tires
- Wood and lumber
- Yard waste including leaves

UNACCEPTABLE Household and Commercial Waste for the Waste to Energy Facility:

- Highly flammable hazardous waste
- Toxic, explosive, or radioactive hazardous waste
- Biomedical waste
- Sewage, and non-burnable construction and demolition waste

8. Recycling Facility

Since November 3, 1993 there has been a Recycling Ordinance that applies to all single and multi-family residences and all commercial and industrial facilities in Barron County except for the city and town of Rice Lake. The Ordinance requires that residents must *not* dispose of glass, aluminum and tin or steel containers with their trash, those items must be kept separate and brought to one of the many Recycling Drop Boxes located throughout the County. From there the recyclables are brought to the Barron County Incinerator and Recycling Center, sorted by type, and distributed to other facilities for recycling.

Drop Box Locations

A current list of the Barron County Drop Box locations is kept on the Waste to Energy department page of the County Website.
www.barronCountywi.gov

The town and the city of Rice Lake operate a joint recycling facility that is located next to the town Hall. Residents are provided with a curb-side recycling receptacle that is emptied bi-weekly along with the trash.

9. Telecommunications Facilities / Transmission Lines/ Electric & Natural Gas Utility Providers

Barron County has adopted ordinances regulating the siting and placement of cell towers. It is the responsibility of the utility company to get easements from property owners for transmission lines.

Telephone, wireless, fiber optic, internet services, and cable television are provided through: Centurylink, Mosaic, and Charter Communications.

There are seven electric companies in the County: Barron Electric Co-op, Barron Light and Water, Cumberland Municipal Utility, Dairyland Power Co., Rice Lake Utilities, Jump River Electric Cooperative and Xcel Energy.

Access to Natural Gas is limited in the County, where there are transmission lines, it is provided by We Energies.

10. Parks

Barron County owns and maintains several park and recreational facilities which include picnic shelters, storage buildings and restrooms. Three campgrounds provide overnight camping facilities. (See appendices for outdoor recreational map).

Park and recreation facilities have not had adequate funding in recent years. Other counties in the region have provided more recent investments in their campgrounds and other recreation facilities and Barron County has lost a competitive edge in comparison. In May, 2009 the County Board established a Recreation Work Group to develop a 5-10 year plan for upgrading the park and recreation facilities, and identify additional recreational opportunities in the County.



Photo 12 Grant Park on Silver Lake, Town of Lakeland

11. Health Care Facilities

The health care industry in Barron County is strong and growing stronger. There is a Health Care cluster developing, as well as collaborative efforts between the health care institutions and local schools to train their current and future workforce. Most planning and operations related to medical facilities are undertaken by the private hospital or clinic, and includes little involvement of the local community.

12. Nursing Homes, & Aging and Disability Programs

As of May 2009, the County's role in managing long-term-care community based services for low income elderly and disabled changed considerably with the inception of *Northern Bridges*. Northern Bridges is an eleven County managed care organization that manages and delivers the state's 'Family Care' benefits. Now, under 'Family Care', the managed care organizations will employ care-management teams that may directly provide or contract for services. This is expected to result in better management of funds and to reduce the number of recipients entering a nursing home just to get their basic daily needs met.

Prior to Northern Bridges, 'Family Care' was managed by care managers in the Long Term Support Unit of the Barron County Department of Health and Human Services. Through the years, in Barron County and throughout the state, a waiting list began to develop to receive 'Family Care' benefits. Those on the waiting list had to purchase services privately, go without needed services, or accept nursing home placement through Medicaid, regardless of the level of care they needed. When the new system is fully implemented, waiting lists for community care is expected to be eliminated.

To what degree the services provided through Northern Bridges will reduce the need for additional nursing home facilities is not yet known. After the waiting list to receive benefits has been eliminated it would be useful to conduct a study to determine the future needs for nursing homes in the County.

13. Assisted Living

Barron County has a need for affordable assisted living facilities that offer support services as needed to elderly, such as meals, housekeeping, transportation, and medication management. Many people who are not financially eligible for Medicaid still cannot afford to pay for care in a typical Wisconsin residential care facility. (A list of existing facilities is provided in the Barron County Conditions and Trends Report).

14. Adult Day Care

These facilities provide service for part of the day in a group setting to adults who need assistance with daily living activities, supervision or protection. Adult day care services are limited in Barron County. Daybreak, an adult day care facility with locations in the city of Barron and Rice Lake, has limited hours and is only available for persons with dementia. General adult day care, with similar hours to a child care facility, is needed to allow the adult's care taker to continue in the workforce if they so choose. As the elderly population in the County increases there will be a greater need for more of these types of facilities.

15. Disability – Related Services

In Barron County there are two non- profit agencies that provide vocational day service programs for the developmentally disabled population, they are Ventures in Rice Lake and Barron County Development Disability Services in Barron. They are state funded including transportation for their clients.

16. Child Care Facilities

Licenses are administered through the State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. (A list of licensed facilities as of July 2008 is provided in the Barron County Conditions and Trends Report).

17. Police, Sheriff

Most planning and operations related to law enforcement occurs at the local municipal level. The County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement and investigation services at the County level, manages the County Jail, the 911 Communications Center, and the Sheriff's Patrol. Offices for the Sheriff's Department, the Circuit Court, County Jail, and Emergency Services are housed in the Justice Center located in the city of Barron. Since the completion of the Justice Center/Jail in 2004, the County has remodeled existing facilities and relocated personnel to reduce the number of buildings they own and maintain. A multi-year \$2.7 million emergency communications upgrade including towers, related buildings and infrastructure will be completed in 2010.



Photo 13 Barron County Justice Center

18. Barron County Government Center

The business of the County is conducted in the Government Center located in the city of Barron. Heating Venting and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems are from the 1960's and will need replacement, however, the addition of new system controls have improved the HVAC operations and a complete system replacement can be delayed.

19. Other Government Facilities

The replacement of the 1940's era highway shop is anticipated in the next 10- 15 years and a work group has been formed to review location options. Several buildings used for road maintenance are scattered throughout the County including salt and sand storage, and road construction operations. Other buildings owned and maintained by the County are listed in the county-owned facilities needs

assessment.



Photo 14 Barron County Emergency Management

20. Emergency Management

Emergency Management specializes in Hazard Mitigation, Warning & Communications, Emergency Police Services, Emergency Fire Services, Disaster Response & Recovery, Hazardous Materials, the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act, and Exercise & Training for Barron County. Emergency Management plans for and coordinates emergency response utilizing an all-hazards planning approach which includes mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Training and exercises emphasizing the National Incident Management Systems' standardized procedures for managing personnel, communication, facilities, and resources are held annually. Many exercises include personnel from multi-agencies and multi-jurisdictions.

Barron County prepared a Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan in 2005. It is a multi-jurisdictional plan using Federal guidelines that was prepared by the Barron County Local Emergency Planning Committee with assistance from West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. The primary focus of the plan is to evaluate the community's potential exposure to natural disasters and identify appropriate mitigation strategies. The plan is due to be updated in 2010 using a Planning Grant in the amount of \$29,976.00 through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program for Barron County.

Related Elements: *The Intergovernmental Cooperation Element provides additional information related to emergency management.*

21. Fire, Rescue, and First Responders

Most planning and operations related to Fire, Rescue and First Responders services are conducted at the local municipal level. The DNR is responsible for the suppression of forest fires for those towns that have petitioned for State protection. They are: Bear Lake, Cedar Lake, Doyle, and Sumner; the unincorporated areas of Dovre and Lakeland; all of Maple Plain except for south of Hwy 48; and the

unincorporated areas of Chetek, Stanley and Prairie Lake towns east of Hwy SS. None of the other towns in the County have petitioned for State protection. The DNR also provides fire protection for most of the County forest lands. The 2005 Barron County Hazard Mitigation Plan stated that the hazard risks from forest and wild fires upon Barron County were considered low overall; and a full risk and vulnerability assessment was not warranted.

22. Libraries

The planning and operations of the public libraries within the County are provided at the local or facility level. As of March 2009 the Barron County Library Service was dissolved, and support services provided through the Indianhead Federated Library System out of Eau Claire.

23. Schools

Required planning and operations for schools within the County are provided by the educational system itself. The County owns the land and buildings of the UW-Barron County campus and leases land to WITC campus. County owned buildings on the UW-Barron County campus are inventoried in the county-owned facilities needs assessment provided in the appendices.

24. Cemeteries

Numerous cemeteries throughout the County are privately and municipally owned and maintained.

Supporting Data

- *The Barron County Conditions and Trends Report* provides background information and a basic inventory of the utilities and community facilities discussed in this element along with relevant maps.
- *The Inventory of Plans, Programs, and Land Use Policies* provides information about Wellhead Protection Programs and Stormwater Management Plans and Utilities.
- The individual Comprehensive Plans of the Towns, Villages and city that completed one, have a detailed inventory of their utilities and facilities and statements as to their future needs.

Goals

1. Improve Storm Water Management throughout the County.
2. Ensure that utilities are effective, efficient, safe, and well-planned.
3. Promote efficient, effective, and responsible disposal of solid and hazardous waste, and recycling options that protect public health, the environment, and appearance of the County.
4. Promote energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy technologies.
5. Encourage the continued use, enhancement, and expansion of mutual aid agreements for police, fire, and emergency services in meeting the needs of existing and future development.
6. Promote the viability of public schools and their efforts to increase community education, and to plan appropriate facilities.
7. Maintain and enhance the current County park, forest and recreation areas.



Photo 15 Barron County Waste to Energy Facility

Objectives

1. Plan, operate and maintain County facilities using cost-effective and energy efficient practices.
2. Promote the prevention of pollutants from entering the County's water resources via storm water runoff. *[Also see the Natural Resources Goals and Objectives].*
3. Support programs and practices that reduce non-point pollution from entering sewer systems and surface water. *[Also see the Natural Resources Goals and Objectives].*
4. Cooperate in the planning and coordination of utilities with other agencies and units of government.
5. Encourage new utility transmission and distribution lines to locate and co-locate along existing public rights-of-way where possible and coordinate with land use, transportation, and natural resource plans and policies when establishing new locations.

6. Guide the location of telecommunication, wind energy, or other utility towers and structures, in a manner that balances desired service levels with limiting impacts to the environment, community character, and planned growth areas.
7. Promote provisions for the disposal of solid waste, hazardous waste and recycling options for greater safety, cooperation, and cost effectiveness.
8. Encourage opportunities for the proper recycling and disposal of electronic waste.

Policies and Programs

1. Support the State of Wisconsin’s goals for energy independence.
2. Actively pursue agreements, contracts, and financing to improve energy efficiency in County operations.
3. Explore opportunities for energy conservation and renewable energy production in Barron County.
4. Work with all municipalities, emergency response agencies and government bodies to assure that all municipalities, emergency responders, and County agencies are trained to National Incident Management System guidelines.
5. Provide consistent emergency operations plans for all municipalities and maintain unified radio operability.
6. Enforce the Barron County Chapter 22 Health and Sanitation Ordinance: to protect the public health, safety and general welfare and to maintain and protect the environment for the people and communities of Barron County.
7. Explore opportunities to use existing steam capacity at the Waste to Energy Facility.
8. Under the Barron County Recycling Ordinance residents must not dispose of glass, aluminum and tin or steel containers with their trash. Those items must

Recommendations

1. The Waste to Energy Facility should continue to partner with local municipalities on programs to aid in the recycling or collecting of waste.
2. Coordinate an *annual* Household/Agriculture Clean Sweep. Currently there is one held every 2-3 years.
3. Develop a system to dispose of pharmaceutical waste from health care facilities on a year-round basis.
4. Provide signage at recycling drop boxes that discourages hazardous waste dumping.
5. Create a system to recycling monitor drop boxes to assure adequate pick-up and to add drop boxes as needed.
6. Complete current efforts to create a County-wide program for the safe disposal and recycling of electronic waste.

be kept separated and brought to Recycling Drop Boxes.

9. Under the Flow Control Ordinance all solid waste generated within the County, except within the city of Rice Lake must be taken to the Waste to Energy Facility in the town of Turtle Lake. The Ordinance differentiates between acceptable and non-acceptable waste.
10. Through the Mercury Reduction Plan, Barron County will attempt to minimize the amount of mercury entering the environment from wastes disposed of at the Waste to Energy incinerator and in landfills.
11. The Barron County Recycling program for glass, tin, steel, aluminum, and plastic.
12. Maintain and expand where appropriate the Household/Agriculture Clean Sweep Program
13. Capital Improvement/Capital Outlay Program for County owned facilities
14. Wellhead Protection Programs are in place in Almena, Barron, Cameron, Cumberland, Rice Lake, and Turtle Lake
15. Barron County Health and Human Services provides related to: communicable disease, environmental health, emergency management and public health preparedness and other community health issues. They provide environmental health information, testing services and referrals on a variety of topics including housing, air quality, hazardous materials, food safety, and animal control.
16. The 2006 Barron County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan provides an assessment of hazardous conditions, current mitigation activities, and mitigation goals and strategies. It also identifies strategic partners and, through the Hazard Mitigation Toolbox, identifies natural hazards and the strategies and activities to address them.

Recommendations (...continued)

7. Encourage taverns, gas stations, and other outlets to improve recycling efforts.
8. Encourage recycling in county-owned buildings
9. Monitor county-owned facilities for their ability to manage storm water run-off and make improvements where necessary.
10. Conduct a needs assessment for the Waste to Energy Facility.
11. Reduce the amount of debris that leaves the Waste to Energy Facility grounds.
12. Continue to implement the solid waste flow control agreement
13. Coordinate a uniform communication system through the County
14. Strategically locate ambulance service coverage.
15. Complete outdoor recreation plan.

CHAPTER SIX: HOUSING

Background

Housing is closely linked to land use, transportation, and economic development. This chapter summarizes the conditions of the housing stock in Barron County and identifies several key issues related to housing. Chapter goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations outline how the County can help make sure that there are housing choices available for all residents at all income levels, ages, and physical abilities. Additional information is provided in the land use element.

1. Housing Type and Occupancy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there were 20,969 housing units in Barron County. The U.S. Census estimates that by the year 2025 that number will grow to 26,398. The type and location of those housing units will have a dramatic impact on land use, transportation, and economic development within the County. See Appendices for the 2000-2025 Housing Unit Projection Map.

From 1990 to 2000 housing growth was not as strong as it was from 1980 to 1990. From 1980 to 1990, 2,212 housing units were constructed. From 1990 to 2000 only 1,604 units were added to the housing stock.

Over three-fourths (78%) of the County's existing housing stock is single family residential (Table 16 below). The County has substantially fewer multi-family and mobile home units than single family units. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 72% of the 1,760 mobile home units in the County are located in the towns and 28% are located in city and villages. On the other hand, the majority of multi-family housing units are located in the County's city and villages.

Table 16 Housing Types: 1990 to 2000

Type of Housing	1990 Units (% of total)	2000 Units (% of total)
Single Family	14,719 (76%)	16,395 (78%)
Multi-Family	2,280 (12%)	2,814 (13%)
Mobile Home	2,364 (12%)	1,760 (8%)

Another significant aspect of the Barron County housing stock is seasonal housing. Seasonal units are used or intended for use only in certain seasons (e.g., beach cottages and hunting cabins) or for weekend or occasional use throughout the year including for migrant workers. 92% of seasonal units are located in the County's towns.

towns with the largest percentage of seasonal units are listed in Table 17 below. Seasonal units compose a third to almost one half the total housing stock in several towns. Seasonal units typically demand less of public services than other types of housing, however the number of seasonal units in the County is declining as more and more units are converted into year round

single family residences. Despite this trend, Barron County still has the second largest percentage of total housing comprised of seasonal units (11%) trailing only Polk County (19.9%) in west central Wisconsin.

Table 17 Percent Seasonal Housing Units

town	Percent of Housing Stock that is Seasonal Units
Maple Plain	46%
Almena	44%
Cedar Lake	40%
Chetek	32%
Lakeland	32%

A stable housing market is one where the availability of new and existing housing units roughly matches the needs of the population. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, an overall housing vacancy rate of 3 percent is considered optimal. Vacancy rates lower than that usually results in a demand for housing that exceeds the supply, creating a tight housing market and causing housing prices to rise. When the vacancy rate is greater than 3 percent there may be an over-supply of housing units, causing housing prices to stagnate or fall. **Historically, the vacancy rate in Barron County has been higher than optimal; in 1980 the vacancy rate was 7.3 percent, in 1990 it was 5.3 percent and in 2000 it was 3.9 percent.** During that same timeframe 3,816 housing units were built and the population increased by 15.5%.



Photo 16 Demolition at Monroe Manor in Barron, WI Photo courtesy of David Miller

2. Housing Age and Condition

Barron County, like most of the west central Wisconsin region, contains an older housing stock that is in need of rehabilitation and energy efficiency improvements. Twenty-six percent of the County's housing stock was constructed before 1939. In a few areas the majority of housing was built after 1990, including the towns of Arland, Cedar Lake, Chetek, Lakeland, Prairie Farm, Rice Lake and Stanley, and the village of Cameron. See Appendices for a map showing percent of structures built prior to 1980 by municipality.

3. Housing Affordability

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines affordable housing as housing that consumes 30 percent or less of household income. Affordable housing allows individuals to afford other necessities such as food, clothing, medical expenses, and transportation for themselves and their family.

Seventy percent of all housing in the County is owner-occupied. Fourteen (14%) percent of these households pay more than 30 percent of their household income towards housing costs. Roughly one fourth of the County's housing stock, or 3,726 units, are multi-family rental units. Thirty-five (35%) percent of renters are paying 30 percent or more of their monthly income for housing, which suggests that housing affordability is a more serious issue for renters than it is for homeowners.

The costs of owning a home includes money spent on heating and cooling. **Twenty-six percent of the County's housing stock was built before 1939**, and the majority of County housing units were built between 1940 and 1989. **This data suggests there may be a need to improve the energy efficiency of much of the County's housing stock.**

4. Specialized Housing

The Wisconsin Department of Administration Demographic Services projects that between the years 2000 and 2025 the total population in Barron County will increase 11.2 percent (5000 more residents). Their data also projects that **over the next two decades the population of those aged 65 and over will grow to comprise more than 27 percent of the total population.** This suggests the need for additional elderly housing options and programs that will allow seniors to stay in their homes longer.

Barron County has identified a homelessness problem developing in some areas of the County. With no designated homeless shelter, in recent years the Clergy Association and others have coordinated efforts and money to find temporary housing at local motels for those in need of emergency housing. At risk groups include teenagers whose parents have told them to leave their home, victims of domestic violence, families whose primary wage earner has lost their job, alcohol and drug abusers, and homeowners who have foreclosed on their mortgages

In January 2009 a group of non-profits met to discuss the viability of creating a homeless shelter in Barron County. In September of the same year **Benjamin's House Emergency Shelter was formed as a non-profit corporation and anticipates becoming operational in 2010.**

Did you know?

65% of Barron County residents feel more affordable housing is needed in their communities.

Source: 2008 Barron County Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

5. Land Use and Housing

Since 1960, the distribution of the population between urban and rural dwellers in Barron County has remained quite constant; however, among the rural population there has been a transformation from a largely farm population to a rural non-farm population.

Of the municipalities in Barron County that have completed their Comprehensive Plans, they have all stated goals to preserve their rural character, and to protect prime farmland from development. Balancing future housing needs with the preservation of prime agriculture and forest land will continue to be an issue for Barron County.

6. Housing Resources

There are several non-profits and public entities that work to provide affordable housing and home repair opportunities in Barron County. They include, but are not limited to:

Public Housing Authorities

Public housing authorities administer state and federally funded programs at the local level. Barron County, Barron, Chetek, Cumberland, and Rice Lake each have public housing authorities. Section 8 housing vouchers are administered at the Rice Lake Housing Authority for eligible residents of the city of Rice Lake and through the Barron County Housing Authority for the rest of the County. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are administered through the Barron County Housing Authority, Rice Lake Housing Authority, and the Chetek Housing Authority. Existing subsidized housing units are located in the city of Barron, Chetek, Cumberland, and Rice Lake.

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Association

WHEDA finances multi-family apartments for low income elderly and disabled individuals and low income families. These are located at sites throughout Barron County.

USDA Rural Development

Rural Development is a branch of the United States Department of Agriculture which helps finance affordable housing options for rural parts of the U.S., including in Barron County. They have local offices in Spooner.

West Central Wisconsin Community Action Agency

West CAP is a non-profit serving several Counties in western Wisconsin including Barron. They offer weatherization programs for low and moderate income families and they support development of affordable housing. They have recently completed projects in both Barron and Rice Lake.

Impact Seven, Inc.

Impact Seven is a non-profit community development corporation that works Statewide with its central office located in Alma. They develop and finance affordable housing in coordination with communities and other non-profits.

Habitat for Humanity

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

Background: Housing in Barron County

- In the latter part of 2008, and into 2009, when this plan was being prepared, the United States was experiencing a housing foreclosure crisis which extended to Wisconsin and Barron County. The Barron County Circuit Court filed 225 foreclosures in 2009 and 210 in 2008.
- While there are no silver bullet approaches to avoid future housing bubbles, Barron County leaders can pro-actively plan to reduce the likelihood of future housing bubbles as well as the severity of those that do occur. Home buyer education, foreclosure programs, cracking down on predatory lenders, creating and sustaining good paying jobs, and providing affordable rental and single family housing options are among the strategies to consider.

Goals

- 1. Identify, maintain, and promote the rehabilitation of the existing housing stock**
- 2. Promote managed residential development that is consistent with the rural character of Barron County and provides for a range of housing choices that meets the needs of all residents**
- 3. Maintain and enhance quality, livability, sense of community and rural character of Barron County**
- 4. Promote the retention of the natural environment**

Objectives

- 1. Promote the availability of land for the development or redevelopment of quality affordable housing**
- 2. Promote coordination among the providers of housing services and programs**
- 3. Educate the public on the existing housing assistance programs and services**
- 4. Direct multi-family and elderly housing developments to locate near existing infrastructure and existing community facilities**
- 5. Encourage low impact development**
- 6. Guide the location of future development so that prized features of the natural environment are protected (See also: Land Use Element)**
- 7. Promote and encourage best practice standards of energy efficiency and eco-friendly construction techniques**

Policies and Programs

- 1. Uphold the Wisconsin Fair Housing Act which prohibits housing discrimination based on disability, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, and familial status, source of income, sexual orientation and age.**
- 2. Review housing practices and ordinances to make sure they comply with the Wisconsin Fair Housing Law.**
- 3. Ensure that newly constructed multi-family housing is built in accordance with the accessibility requirements of the Fair Housing Act, especially related to wheel chair accessibility.**

Recommendations

- 1. Conduct a study to determine housing trends and needs in the County**
- 2. Ensure that all municipalities share the County's goals of promoting a variety of housing options including low-income, affordable housing**
- 3. Recognize and promote the efforts of organizations working to provide housing opportunities for the homeless in Barron County**
- 4. Identify areas in the County that are most likely to benefit from additional elderly/disabled housing facilities**
- 5. Promote Community Development Block Grants and other programs to city, Village, and Town Clerks so that they know they are eligible to receive them**
- 6. Inform the public about Financial Literacy, Budgeting, and Foreclosure Prevention Programs that are available**
- 7. Encourage housing stakeholders to meet annually to discuss issues and opportunities**

CHAPTER SEVEN: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Background

This chapter summarizes several key issues related to economic development. Chapter goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations outline how the County can help ensure Barron County residents enjoy a high quality of life including job opportunities and economic prosperity.

What is Economic Development?

The County's comprehensive plan provides an opportunity to create a shared vision for economic development efforts across the County. But what is economic development? The term *Economic Development* is often used to describe *a positive or desirable change in the economic conditions of a community*. But who defines what is positive or desirable?

Different communities will have different economic development goals based on their own unique history, culture, and leadership. One community may do all it can to attract a big box retailer, while another community may choose to focus its efforts on creating new jobs with above average wages. Figuring out what a community's economic development priorities are provides a foundation for focusing resources. Defining goals also allows communities to track their progress over time, communicate with the public, and evaluate development proposals.

The Economy and Quality of Life

Economic development plays an essential role in the future success of Barron County. It is in fact a central element of this plan, linking transportation and utilities infrastructure, affordable housing options, agriculture and natural resources and land use.

Economic development is also an integral aspect of the County's quality of life. There is an overall high level of satisfaction with the quality of life in Barron County, particularly among older residents and those with higher incomes. Most people in the County value the small town atmosphere and being close to family and friends. Longer time residents cited agriculture as an important factor for choosing to live in Barron County. Residents living in Barron for a shorter time regard the natural features, the quality of the communities, and the recreational opportunities as the most important factors influencing their decision to live in Barron County. Successful economic development efforts promote development that creates jobs and business growth while retaining or enhancing the quality of life for a majority of the community's residents.

Did you know?

4 out of 5 Barron County residents feel the overall quality of life in the County is good or excellent.

Source: 2008 Barron County Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

Economic Development in Barron County

This section highlights key trends impacting economic development efforts in Barron County. It includes a discussion of demographic and business trends, types of desired businesses, as well as an overview of the key resources available to Barron County to pursue economic development opportunities.

Supporting data is found in the appendices, including the West Central Wisconsin Regional Industry Projections 2004-2014 and Regional Occupational Projections and Estimated Wages 2004-2014.

1. Jobs and Industry in Barron County

The business and industry mix in Barron County is diverse. **According to the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, the top three industries by percent of total employment are: Manufacturing (27%); Trade, Transportation, Utilities (20%); Education and Health (18%).**

The two largest employers in the County are the Jennie-O Turkey Store in Barron and the St. Croix Casino and Hotel in Turtle Lake, each employing more than 1000 people. The Rice Lake School District, Wal-Mart, Lakeview Medical Center, and Barron County government complete the list of the top six employers.

The table below is taken from the WI Department of Workforce Development 2008 Barron County Workforce Profile. It shows the annual average employment by industry in the County from 2003 – 2007 and the total payroll by industry. The professional & business services, financial activities, and education/health sectors have been growing at a faster rate than the goods-producing sectors in the County. Manufacturing and construction employment show the most decrease from 2003 to 2007 but they still remain the largest industry by employment. Food manufacturing in Barron County employed 2,324 people in 2007, representing 42% of all manufacturing jobs in the County.

Table 18 Barron County Employment and Payroll by Industry: 2003-2007

	Employment		Total Payroll
	Annual Average	5 – year Change	
Natural Resources	276	41	\$6,737,552
Construction	677	-8	\$22,669,412
Manufacturing	5,558	-885	\$189,351,126
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	4,200	67	\$987,786,214
Information	Suppressed	Not Available	Suppressed
Financial Activities	574	76	\$18,947,611
Professional & Business Services	960	391	\$25,206,965
Education & Health	3,848	340	\$130,738,274
Leisure & Hospitality	2,839	-95	\$43,256,628
Other Services	420	6	\$8,467,388
Not assigned	Suppressed	Not Available	Suppressed
All Industries	21,033	-75	\$591,171,389

Source: 2008 Barron County Workforce Profile, WI Dept. of Workforce Development Office of Economic Advisors

According to the 2000 census and research by Professor Steve Deller, agriculture as an industry provides jobs for 8,251 Barron County residents. These jobs are in agricultural production and agriculture support services such as food processing, veterinarians, feed and fuel suppliers, farm machinery dealers, and agricultural lenders, to name a few.⁴

Given the solid economic base that the Tourism Industry also provides, the County works to retain and develop it in several ways. One is through a 10 - County North West Tourism Collaboration, and a multi-County St. Croix Area promotional collaboration. There are also efforts through a partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Tourism and the Native American Tourism Organization of Wisconsin and the five Chambers of Commerce within the County that promote tourism. In 2007 and 2008 tourist expenditures in the County were averaging about \$108.9 million dollars bring on average \$5.4 million in local revenues.

2. A Changing Labor Force

By 2030, the percentage of the County's labor force age population 55 and older is projected to increase to 49 percent. Despite the fact that the County's working age population is projected to increase by 5,046 residents



Photo 17 Jennie-O Turkey Store in Barron

from 2010 to 2030, the actual labor force is expected to

shrink from 26,521 to 25,447. As older workers retire, this may lead to labor force shortages in the region.⁵ A shrinking and aging labor force will create real challenges and opportunities for economic development efforts in Barron County. Competition for workers to fill job openings may be very stiff and retaining talented workers will remain a priority for area businesses.

From 2010 to 2020 the size of the age 55 and over labor force will grow from 5,626 to 7,257 before dropping to 5,986 by 2030. Therefore, workforce development targeted to older workers will be critical over the next decade.

Another key influence on the supply of labor in the region is the large number of workers who commute to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Despite this fact, up until very recently Barron County was a net importer of labor. This shifted in 2006, when Barron County became a net exporter of labor. This may reflect a loss of jobs locally, or perhaps a willingness of Barron

⁴ Economic data from 2000 based on research by Prof. Steve Deller, UW- Madison, and UW-Extension

⁵ Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, 2008

County job seekers to increase their commute times in order to find better paying jobs out of the County (WI Dept. of Workforce Development, 2008 Barron County Workforce Profile).

3. Education

The Barron County workforce is becoming better educated. According to U.S. Census Bureau data, educational attainment levels increased across all categories from 1990 to 2000 (Table 19). The percentage of residents with less than a high school diploma dropped dramatically from 27% to 18%. Similarly positive trends occurred in the other age group categories. For example, the percent of County residents with a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher grew from 12% to 15% over the ten year period. Educational attainment is highly correlated with income, and therefore in order to raise income levels in the County it will be critical to develop jobs and nurture industries that require a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher.

Table 19 Educational Attainment Levels in Barron County: 1990-2000

Educational Attainment (residents 25 yrs or older)	Barron County		Wisconsin
	1990 Percentage	2000 Percentage	2000 Percentage
Less than High School Diploma	27%	18%	15%
High School Graduate	39%	40%	35%
Some College, No Degree	8%	19%	21%
Bachelor’s Degree or Higher	12%	15%	23%
High School Graduate or Higher	73%	82%	85%

Source: 1990, 2000 U.S. Census

4. Increasing Ethnic Diversity

A factor that could not have been predicted ten years ago was that Barron County, specifically the city of Barron, would become home for approximately 600 Somali refugees. The Jennie-O Turkey Store employs nearly 98 percent of the area's refugee population. The International Center in Barron provides assistance to refugees and immigrants including English classes, citizenship, employment assistance and other activities, with the focal point of the center being to assist Somali’s in finding employment. An increasingly diverse workforce will undoubtedly impact local businesses around the County. Successful economic development efforts will require effective programs to integrate a diverse workforce into the local economy.

5. Economic Development Opportunities in the County

The County has a solid Infrastructure for economic development which includes available facilities, infill opportunities, industrial and business parks, available sites with good transportation, and access to communications and utility infrastructure. Regionally the County

has access to financial resources such as the Revolving Loan Funds Program. The County has access to all State funding programs for economic development and Federal programs through the SBA, Federal EDA and the USDA. Locally there is support through the Chambers of Commerce, and Tax Incremental Financing Districts. There is support for new entrepreneurs in terms of training and education, through the Economic Development Office and the Barron County Economic Development Corporation, WITC, and Barron County UW-Extension. Given this strong economic base the County would like to see the following businesses considered for new development:

- Health Care Industry
- Recreational Industries/Tourism
- Agriculture Industry
- Technology Based Businesses/ Home Based
- Telecommunication Industries
- White Collar Industries
- Skilled Trade Industries
- Green Industries/Alternative Energy
- Rail related Industries
- Educational Industries
- Aviation Industry

6. Economic Development Programs

Business retention and new business/entrepreneurship development all are vital to the County’s healthy business climate and diversified business base. The growth of the Health Care Industry in the County is a good example of both retention and development. A Health Care industry cluster has formed that is providing support businesses, as well as establishing beneficial links with the local schools to keep up with training and education to prepare the labor force for the type of skills needed to grow the industry.



There are several economic development programs and tools available to Barron County residents, businesses, and local governments. These programs include the County’s Office of Economic Development and the County-wide Barron County Economic Development Corporation. Other local, County, regional, and Statewide tools and programs used to assist with business and economic development include:

Barron County UW-Extension

Barron County UW-Extension partners regularly with the Barron County Economic Development office to support local economic development efforts including entrepreneurship development, labor market research, conferences, workshops. In addition, the UW-Extension office provides a range of business development services for the agricultural sector.

Local Chambers of Commerce

Several communities in Barron County have active chambers of commerce.

The West Central Wisconsin Regional Business Revolving Loan Fund

The fund is available to communities in Barron County. It includes a façade loan program, a micro loan program, and a technology enterprise fund.

Tax Increment Financing

city and villages often create tax increment finance districts to help pay for the costs of infrastructure associated with proposed new development.

Industrial, Business, or Technology Parks

Several communities in Barron maintain industrial parks as part of their overall economic development strategy. The communities of Almena, Chetek, Rice Lake, and Barron all have industrial parks.

Brownfield Rehabilitation Projects

The State Comprehensive Planning law requires communities to “evaluate and promote the use of environmentally contaminated sites for commercial or industrial uses.” The State DNR Remediation and Redevelopment Program are very active in assisting communities, businesses, and individuals with clean up efforts of contaminated sites.

Main Street Programs

Rice Lake is the only community in Barron County that supports a Wisconsin Main Street program. This program promotes downtown economic development efforts and is affiliated with the Wisconsin Main Street program.



Photo 18 A new theater in Cumberland, WI. Photo courtesy of David Miller

Momentum West

Momentum West is a regional economic development organization which Barron County is a member of.

West Wisconsin Community Action Program (West CAP)

Barron County is served by West CAP and appoints County Board members to its Board of Directors. West CAP offers some economic development assistance – primarily to low and moderate income individuals and businesses.

Small Business Administration, US Economic Development Administration, United States Department of Agriculture

Each of these agencies provides economic development programs.

Wisconsin Department of Commerce

The department works closely with local economic development efforts and maintains several programs to support local efforts and projects.

7. Environmentally Contaminated Sites and Opportunities

Barron County has no hazardous waste sites eligible for long-term remedial action financed under the federal Superfund program. However, numerous smaller leaking underground storage tanks, environmental repair, and spill sites are located throughout the County. The Wisconsin Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS) provides an inventory of the contaminated properties and other activities related to the investigation and cleanup of contaminated soil or groundwater in Wisconsin.

The appendix “Contaminated Sites in Barron County” contains a list of 212 sites in Barron County where contamination has occurred requiring significant attention, including closed sites where clean-up has been completed. Of these, 73 percent (or 154) are associated with leaking underground storage tanks (LUSTs). Twenty-seven percent (or 57) are environmental repair (ERP) sites which have contaminated soil or groundwater requiring long-term attention from non-LUST activities, such as industrial spills, dumping, buried containers, and landfills.

8. Strengths and Weaknesses

The citizens of the County would like to see sustainably planned growth that doesn't compromise the values and charter of their communities. They would like to see more good paying jobs that would encourage the young people of the County to continue to live here after finishing high school and college. They would like to see a wide spectrum of jobs including advanced degree jobs and skilled labor jobs that will help to increase tax base.

To attract and retain new businesses and industries it is useful to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the County as a whole.

Strengths

Schools and Work Ethic

- Good schools that adapt to new technologies
- Good work ethic, and skilled labor supply

Economic Diversity

- Economically diverse
- Growth of existing industries
- Small business environment, strong entrepreneurship

Natural Resources and Location

- Abundant natural resources with the potential to develop for tourism
- Recreational opportunities in the area include hunting, fishing, cross country skiing, golf courses and a diversity of silent and motorized sports
- The location in terms of Twins city residents coming to our County for recreation
- Barron County residents have close proximity to Eau Claire and Twin city for recreation and cultural events
- Access to US Highways 53, 8, and 63,

Quality of Life

- Residents consider themselves to have a good quality of life
- Public Safety and low crime rate
- No traffic problems or slow downs
- Short travel time from home to work
- The variety of local cultural, theater, and arts events

Infrastructure/Workforce

- Availability of land and facilities for start-up businesses

- Good transportation system that includes rail (for freight) airports, highways
- Availability of fiber optics

Community Involvement

- The Ag Promoters are bringing Farm Technology Days to the County in 2013. It hasn't been in Barron County since 1987
- There are strong service organizations, non-profits, and volunteerism – Strong local pride
- Strong local sustainability groups are forming
- Local recreational and cultural activities

Weaknesses

- The County's strengths should be promoted to a greater degree both locally and regionally
- The County competes with Twin city and Eau Claire MSA's and Duluth for workforce
- Distance from I-94 corridor makes it harder to attract manufacturing businesses
- A selection of 5,000, 10-20,000 and 35-80,000 square foot facilities is needed
- Limited in terms of social, and cultural opportunities to attract and retain a younger workforce
- The rural character can be a weakness for individuals who do not have a desire to live in a rural environment
- The lower population density and other factors limit the types of amenities and services compared to urban areas, however we do not compare ourselves to urban areas when we promote the County

Goals

- 1. Increase economic activity while sustaining a high quality of life, local values and rural character**

Objectives

- 1. Attract new businesses that will provide jobs for a wide spectrum of skills and ages**
- 2. Retain and expand current industries and promote cooperation and collaboration across industry clusters**
- 3. Support community development and revitalization**
- 4. Promote education and training for small business development**
- 5. Encourage clean energy businesses to locate in Barron County**
- 6. Encourage education, industry/business, and government to collaborate on workforce development and to foster entrepreneurship and new business development**
- 7. Promote the maintenance and improvement of communication and utility infrastructure to keep up with future business demands.**
- 8. Promote the establishment of a regional identity**
- 9. Participate in regional partnerships and opportunities to attract businesses and workforce**
- 10. Ensure the diversity of the economic sectors, including but not limited to: tourism, agriculture, industry, manufacturing, small business, and health care**

Policies and Programs

- 1. The Barron County Economic Development Corporation is the official marketing, advertising, promotion and sustainable economic education arm of Barron County. Their responsibilities include:**
 - Communicating the results of Business Retention Surveys to the media through press releases, website and presentations
 - Marketing primary development programs, accomplishments, and current efforts of the Barron County Economic Development Corporation
 - Marketing available land and buildings available in Barron County through email & trade shows
 - Working with regional groups such as: Momentum West, The Governor’s St. Croix Area Promotions Council, International Trade & Economic Development Council, West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, and the Wisconsin Indianhead Country tourist promotion association
 - Specialized marketing and advertising of land available along the seven railroad corridors in the County
 - Enhance the marketing of the County through new technologies as they become available
 - When fiscally possible, increase the trade shows by industry sectors

Recommendations

- 1. Continue to support a wide range of economic development programs and activities across the County through efforts of the BCEDC and through partnerships with other regional and Statewide organizations and agencies.**
- 2. Encourage the development of more tourism opportunities in the County, including the Arts, and explore projects and events that promote the County’s heritage and geography**
- 3. Expand economic development fundraising lists and contributor awareness to towns, retailers, service businesses, healthcare, and education.**
- 4. Expand fundraising mechanisms to include on-line fundraising, and enhanced special events**
- 5. Expand multi-modal use trails for the contribution they make to economic development and the tourism industry**

CHAPTER EIGHT: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Background

The purpose of the Intergovernmental Element is to describe existing intergovernmental cooperation efforts and to identify issues and opportunities to expand those efforts in the future. To provide a basis for this element and to understand existing connections and consistencies, Comprehensive Plans of municipalities within Barron County and feedback from public participation events and key stakeholder meetings were reviewed and analyzed. Meetings were also held with the County's towns Association and with the County-wide Clerks Association. In addition, each of the school administrators within the County was sent a letter soliciting their input and feedback on how to enhance intergovernmental cooperation efforts between the County and the schools.

Intergovernmental cooperation refers to any arrangement by which officials of two or more jurisdictions communicate visions and coordinate plans, policies, and programs to address and resolve issues of mutual interest. Examples include:

- Communicating and sharing information
- Cooperating to provide a service
- Cooperating in planning efforts
- Developing formal intergovernmental agreements

1. Examples of Barron County Intergovernmental Cooperation

Barron County currently partners in several ways with other counties, and within the County to work toward mutual goals. Some of the issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries within the County as well as beyond the borders of the County that lend themselves to intergovernmental cooperation include: safety of residents, the quality of natural resources, economic conditions, and transportation. A few examples of the programs, services, and other agreements that the County partners with other agencies on include:

- County Highway providing services to municipalities; sharing shop space
- Truancy Initiative & Restorative Justice
- Mutual aid with Law Enforcement
- Emergency & Pandemic Planning
- Coordination of Election Efforts
- Soil and water conservation efforts
- Zoning and Land Use Planning
- Economic Development

Did you know?

Wisconsin has over 2,500 units of local government:

-72 Counties

-190 city

-395 Villages

-1,265 Towns

And many special purpose districts, including:

-426 school districts

-16 technical college districts

-hundreds of other districts including sanitary, lake protection, and sewage districts

- Real Property Lister and Land Information data sharing
- Safe and Stable Family Coalition
- Consolidated Dispatch
- Namekagon Transit
- The County-wide Animal Control Officer
- North Regional Trail Advisory Committee (NoTRAC)
- The Barron County Museum
- Multi-County Aging and Disability Resource Center
- NRCS, FSA, and DNR
- Barron & Chippewa UW-Extension Services
- Several Trail Associations
- All Municipal Libraries
- Clean Sweeps
- West Wisconsin Rail Transit Authority (WWRTA)

2. Intergovernmental Cooperation Opportunities – Land Use

Land use is a complex topic and involves a high level of intergovernmental cooperation because of the relationship between county government and town government pursuant to zoning and other land use tools. The information below is intended to help clarify this relationship and to highlight opportunities for enhanced cooperation related to land use.

a. Growth and development – residential and commercial/industrial

Barron County Zoning Ordinances govern land use and development and provide a regulatory tool that enforces the County’s Land Use Plan. The ordinances are periodically amended and updated to reflect changes to codes and statutes, and to implement land use goals set forth in this plan.

County Zoning has been approved by seventeen of the twenty five towns in the County, they are: Maple Plain, Oak Grove, Cedar Lake, Crystal Lake, Cumberland, Stanfold, Rice Lake, Doyle, Almena, Clinton, Barron, Stanley, Sumner, Turtle Lake, Maple Grove, Prairie Lake, and Dallas. The County and these towns work cooperatively to address land use concerns. There are significant opportunities to enhance intergovernmental cooperation with these communities as the County works with the towns to implement this land use plan and the town’s individual land use plans.

Eight towns are un-zoned: Lakeland, Bear Lake, Vance Creek, Arland, Prairie Farm, Sioux Creek, Chetek, and Dovre. The County has much less jurisdiction over how un-zoned towns develop their land. Of these towns Lakeland, Bear Lake, Chetek, Sioux Creek and Dovre have adopted their own Comprehensive Plans and have stated they would like to explore opportunities for cooperating with the County efforts to protect agriculture land from development and to preserve the quality of the area’s natural resources.

b. Shore land development regulation

The Barron County Zoning Department is responsible for enforcing the State Floodplain Zoning Ordinance throughout the County except in villages and city. Barron County Shore land Zoning is in effect in all zoned and un-zoned towns; city and villages adopt and enforce their own.

c. Extraterritorial zoning and review powers

The purpose of extraterritorial areas are to allow city and villages to voice their land use preferences in unincorporated areas that might be annexed into that municipality in the future. The intent is to promote planned and orderly growth in the urban to rural transition area.

d. Annexation

The County does not have a statutory role when it comes to a property owner's petition for annexation into a municipality, but it can assist by providing data, information, and maps. Redevelopment and infill can reduce the need to annex. The County addresses this in the Land Use Element by recommending that future development be directed to city and villages where existing infrastructure can support it and keep the community relatively compact. The Ringed Development Pattern concept discussed in the Land Use element suggests planning for an Urban Service Area and that the area should be cooperatively determined between the city/village and affected towns.

e. Protection of forests and farmland

This is a main theme that has surfaced during public participation events. It is also a theme that is addressed in several of the goals and objectives of this plan. Within the Housing and Transportation Elements it is Stated that the County's rural character and the retention of its natural resources should be maintained; The Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Element has goals to support existing and current agricultural practices that contribute to the sustainability of our natural resources and to protect productive farm land and forest land. The purpose of the entire Land Use Element is to direct future development in such a way as to preserve large tracts of land for agriculture; and even the Economic Development Element recognizes the value of agriculture to the local economy.

Barron County towns that have adopted Comprehensive Plans all State similar goals, and the need to work cooperatively with the County, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and adjacent jurisdictions to accomplish them.

f. Coordination of town/city/village/County land use Plans

During the planning process multiple efforts were made to hear directly from town Boards as to what their land use issues are. Also all of the town Comprehensive Plans were evaluated for consistency within their Land Use Elements and to identify any potential conflicts related to the County's Land Use Element.

At the time of this Multijurisdictional Comprehensive Planning effort four towns under County Zoning have decided not to prepare a Comprehensive Plan, they are: Cedar Lake, Clinton, Turtle Lake, and Cumberland. It will remain to be seen if any conflicts arise from

this. Also, there are three un-zoned towns that have not prepared a Comprehensive Plan: Arland, Prairie Farm, and Vance Creek.

3. Intergovernmental Cooperation Opportunities – Quality of Life

a. Expand recreational opportunities

During the preparations of this plan, the County began a separate effort to draft an Outdoor Recreation Plan that will provide an opportunity to enhance intergovernmental cooperation.

b. Expand connectivity of trail systems

In the spring of 2009 the County approved a resolution to support the North Regional Trail Advisory Committee (NoTRAC) and to appoint two representatives, one being from the County Board. NoTRAC is a 10 County effort to provide connectivity and to coordinate existing multi-use trail networks between Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Rusk, Barron, Polk, and Chippewa Counties.

c. Improve access to educational opportunities

The County has a vested interest in the success of the local public schools and included a goal in the Utility and Community Facility Element to promote the viability of public schools and their efforts to increase community education and to plan appropriate facilities. Potential areas to explore cooperative opportunities include transportation, energy, and economic development.

d. Coordinate economic development activities

The Barron County Economic Development Corporation works with regional groups such as: Momentum West, The Governor's St. Croix Area Promotions Council, International Trade & Economic Development Council, West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, and the Wisconsin Indianhead Country tourist promotion association

4. Intergovernmental Cooperation Opportunities – Environmental

a. Coordinate sustainability efforts

Through a recommendation by the Barron County Energy Policy Work Group the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution to support the State of Wisconsin's goals for energy independence, and to explore opportunities for energy conservation and renewable energy production in the County.

Throughout the region there are a variety of community based sustainability groups. Their efforts range from establishing community gardens and promoting local food programs to organizing energy and sustainability fairs, workshops, and tours. There may be opportunities to engage these individuals and other communities in efforts to promote enhanced intergovernmental cooperation related to sustainability goals such as transportation and energy, for example.

West Central Regional Planning has added an Energy and Sustainability Element to their regional plan. The plan can be used by government officials, and local sustainability leaders to guide them in their efforts. As more communities embrace sustainability initiatives there will be further opportunities to work together.

b. *Protect surface and ground water quality*

The County has identified topsoil erosion, lakeshore erosion, and riparian corridor fragmentation as specific threats to the quality of lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and groundwater. More details on this are in the Agriculture, Natural and Cultural Resources Element. Municipalities in the County that have prepared Comprehensive Plans State goals and objectives related to this theme. There is an opportunity here to cooperate through County and State programs, and by educating the public.

c. *Coordinate and expand waste control efforts*

There is currently not a coordinated program in the County to provide safe disposal of pharmaceutical waste from health care facilities and nursing homes. This is an issue that needs coordination between the State and the County. Safe disposal is directly linked to protecting the quality of ground water.

There is currently no program for the safe disposal of electronic waste. The County's Waste to Energy Facility is exploring the potential to collect these items, and the State is looking into programs that put the responsibility onto the manufacturer of these items. Both pharmaceutical and electronic waste management provide opportunities to expand intergovernmental cooperation efforts to address the problem.

Background: Intergovernmental Cooperation in Barron County

Additional background information on Barron County intergovernmental cooperation efforts is provided in the appendix. Included is an analysis of the relationship between Barron County and the State of Wisconsin; the region; schools; lake districts; tribal units; and military bases. There is also a list of Mutual Aid Agreements related to the County's Emergency Management Department.

Goals

1. **Establish and foster mutually beneficial intergovernmental cooperation and relations with all surrounding and overlapping jurisdictions at all levels of government**

Objectives

The objectives that follow are taken from other elements within this plan. They are highlighted here because they relate to intergovernmental cooperation, either as a way to maintain an existing program or as a strategy for attaining more efficient and successful practices and services throughout the County.

1. **Promote coordination among the providers of housing services and programs** (Housing Element)
2. **Maintain and expand intergovernmental working relationships between the County and its municipalities** (Transportation Element)
3. **Promote the development of a coordinated intra-County and regional public transportation system** (Transportation Element)
4. **Continue to explore the benefits of regional public transportation opportunities by working in coordination with public, private, and non-profit entities** (Transportation Element)
5. **Promote the viability of public schools and their efforts to increase community education and to plan appropriate facilities** (Utilities and Community Facilities Element)
6. **Cooperate in the planning and coordination of utilities with other agencies and units of government** (Utilities and Community Facilities Element)
7. **Encourage the continued use, enhancement, and expansion of mutual aid agreements for police, fire, and emergency services in meeting the needs of existing and future development** (Utilities and Community Facilities Element)
8. **Encourage education, industry/business, and government to collaborate on workforce development and to foster entrepreneurship and new business development** (Economic Development Element)
9. **Participate in regional partnerships and opportunities to attract businesses and workforce** (Economic Development Element)

Policies and Programs

1. Work cooperatively with the Barron, Rusk and Washburn Regional Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC).
2. Barron County Emergency Management will track the status of mutual aid agreements in Barron County and encourage all agreements to be formally executed and up-to-date.
3. Explore the benefits of regional public transportation opportunities by working in coordination with public, private, and non-profit entities.
4. National Incident Management System (NIMS)
5. Emergency Support Functions
6. Household and Agriculture Clean Sweep every 2-3 years
7. Barron County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan
8. Emergency Operations Plan
9. Emergency Alert System Plan (Communications & Warning)
10. Terrorism Assessment Planning
11. General Anthrax Response Protocol
12. Pandemic Influenza Mortuary Planning Guidelines
13. Emergency Animal Disease Plan
14. Regional Public Health Consortium Plan
15. Regional Hospital Bioterrorism Plan
16. WRPPHP Pandemic Influenza Plan for Local Health Departments
17. WRPPHP Mass Clinic Plan
18. Barron County Disaster Human Services Plan
19. Barron County Court System: Strategies for Pandemic Influenza

Recommendations

1. Develop simple educational tools including fact sheets and the County's website to explain to the public how intergovernmental cooperation works – especially as it relates to land use decision-making
2. Work with local farmers, the State, UW-Extension, and the Land Development Department to develop and implement an effective Working Lands program
3. Continue to stay actively involved in existing intergovernmental cooperation efforts including regional public transit, economic development, and trails efforts

CHAPTER NINE: IMPLEMENTATION

The primary purpose of the implementation element is to **provide an action plan to implement the Comprehensive Plan’s recommendations. Furthermore, this element also:**

- Discusses how recommendations from each element are integrated and consistent with each other;
- Describes how the plan will be monitored to measure progress toward plan implementation; and
- Describes the process for amending and updating the Plan over time.

Action Plan

The action plan below provides a **list and timeline of the major actions that the County may pursue** to implement its Comprehensive Plan. The action plan is divided up into four categories:

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

Successfully accomplishing these actions will be dependent upon other County priorities, as well as time and budget constraints. Furthermore, cooperation with local municipalities, state agencies, and local property owners will also be necessary to accomplish many of the actions outlined below.

The action plan contains three columns of information:

Recommended Program or Action: These are actions necessary to implement key aspects of the Comprehensive Plan. Recommendations are for County actions that might be included, for example, in an annual work program or as part of the annual budgeting process. The actions are based on the goals, objectives, and recommendations contained within this plan.

Implementation Timeframe: The suggested timeframe for the completion of each recommendation reflects the priority attached to the recommendation. Suggested implementation timeframes are all within the next 10 years (and not the full 20-year planning period), because the Plan will have to be updated by 2020 at the latest.

Responsibility: County departments, committees, and other agencies are listed as responsible for each action item.

Plan Adoption and Update Actions

Recommended Program or Action	Implementation Timeframe	Responsibility
1. Pass a motion recommending adoption of the comprehensive plan by the County Zoning Committee (<i>Implementation Element</i>)	Spring 2010	Planning Advisory Group
2. Pass a resolution recommending adoption of the comprehensive plan by the County Board (<i>Implementation Element</i>)	Spring 2010	Zoning Committee
3. Adopt the comprehensive plan by ordinance (<i>Implementation Element</i>)	Spring 2010	County Board
4. Review plan for progress toward goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations (<i>Implementation Element</i>)	Annually	County Board, County Administrator
5. Conduct a comprehensive plan update (<i>Implementation Element</i>)	Every 5 years	County Planning Staff, Consultant(s) if needed
6. Routinely amend plan (<i>Implementation Element</i>)	No more than four times per year	County Planning Staff, towns, Zoning Committee, County Board, Other Departments

Intergovernmental Cooperation Actions

Recommended Program or Action	Implementation Timeframe	Responsibility
1. Review intergovernmental agreements. Convene intergovernmental working groups as needed (<i>Intergovernmental Element</i>)	Annually	County Board, County Administrator

Ordinance Development and Update Actions

Recommended Program or Action	Implementation Timeframe	Responsibility
1. Update the county land division ordinance to assist with the implementation of county and local comprehensive plans (<i>Land Use, Transportation, Housing Elements</i>)	2011-2013	Zoning Department and Zoning Committee
2. Update the county zoning ordinance to implement key plan recommendations related to the ringed development pattern model for growth (<i>Land Use Element</i>)	2011-2013	Zoning Department and Zoning Committee

Strategic Planning Actions

Recommended Program or Action	Implementation Timeframe	Responsibility
1. Identify ordinances and other land use tools which should be updated and revised in order to implement the comprehensive plan (<i>Land Use Element, Others</i>)	2010-2011	Zoning Department and Committee
2. Update the 1979 Farmland Preservation Plan to reflect 2009 changes from the Working Lands Initiative	2010-2013	Zoning Department and Committee; Soil and Water Conservation; UW-Extension
3. Pursue funding for transportation improvements (<i>Transportation Element</i>)	On going	Highway Department
4. Finalize the County's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan	2010-2011	Recreation Work Group
5. Develop an educational outreach program to improve awareness and knowledge of the Working Lands Initiative and to gauge potential interest for participation in the	2010-2012	Zoning Department, UW-Extension

<i>program (Land Use Element)</i>			
6.	Evaluate whether or not additional land use regulations are needed to guide the location of telecommunication, wind energy, or other utility towers and structures, in a manner that balances desired service levels with limiting impacts to the environment, community character, and planned growth areas (<i>Utilities Element</i>)	2011-2015	Zoning Department
7.	Develop a classification system to identify high priority riparian corridors and littoral zones in need of protection, maintenance, and restoration (<i>Natural Resource Element</i>)	On-going	Soil and Water Conservation; DNR
8.	Implement the strategies and activities outlined in the 2006 Land and Water Conservation Plan (<i>Natural Resource Element</i>)	On going	Soil and Water Conservation
9.	Establish baseline methods to evaluate aquifer levels in the County (<i>Natural Resource Element</i>)	2010-2015	Soil and Water Conservation
10.	Develop an educational program to inform the public on proper recycling procedures and the proper disposal of household electronic and pharmaceutical wastes. Evaluate current programs and develop a plan to improve recycling efforts if necessary (<i>Natural Resource Element; Utilities Element</i>)	2010-2011	Solid Waste Board
11.	Decide whether or not to appoint an ad hoc committee to develop a set of recommendations for improving walkability and bikability throughout the County (<i>Transportation Element</i>)	2010	County Board, County Administrator
12.	Support the creation of a regional transportation system with a mobility	On going	Aging Department

manager (<i>Transportation Element</i>)		
13. Conduct meetings for snowmobile and ATV users to develop trails and routes throughout the entire County and include other users of trails when appropriate (<i>Transportation Element</i>)	On going	Sheriff Department
14. Develop a long-range transportation plan (E.g.10, 15, 20 year timeframes). These plans would be conceptual in nature compared to the 5 year plan (<i>Transportation Element</i>)	On going	Highway Department
15. Complete the draft Barron County Energy Plan to guide County investments in energy conservation and renewable energy (<i>Utilities Element</i>)	2010	UW-Extension
16. Develop a plan to improve stormwater runoff management at county-owned facilities (<i>Natural Resources Element</i>)	2011	Maintenance Department
17. Convene a meeting of all housing providers within the County to exchange information and promote coordination of efforts (<i>Housing Element</i>)	Annually	County Administrator shall appoint responsible party
18. Encourage multi-family and elderly housing developments to locate near existing infrastructure including community facilities (<i>Housing Element</i>)	On going	Zoning Department and Committee
19. Conduct a study to determine housing trends and needs in the County. Identify areas in the County that are most likely to benefit from additional elderly and disabled housing facilities (<i>Housing Element</i>)	2010-2015	Housing Agencies within the County

20. Develop and offer financial literacy, budgeting, foreclosure prevention, and related programs to decrease financial insecurity of County residents	2010-2015	UW-Extension
21. Evaluate economic development grants and programs. Continue to promote the objectives outlined in the Economic Development Element (<i>Economic Development Element</i>)	On going	Barron County Economic Development Department

Consistency and Integration of Elements

The State comprehensive planning statute requires that the implementation element “describe how each of the elements of the comprehensive plan shall be integrated and made consistent with the other elements of the comprehensive plan.”

All of the Plan goals and objectives are based on issues identified during public participation events. Throughout the planning process the Planning Advisory Group identified potential plan inconsistencies and reviewed them on a case by case basis. The issues were put into a matrix according to the element(s) they pertained to and analyzed. Through this process, potential plan inconsistencies were dealt with and appropriate steps taken to make all of the elements consistent with each other.

The Barron County Comprehensive Plan is also intended to function cooperatively with town Comprehensive Plans. Throughout the planning process town plans were reviewed for potential conflicts and meetings were held with town Clerks and elected officials to identify issues, opportunities and potential conflicts. With plan consistency there is a greater chance to achieve the desired patterns of future growth and assure consistent, predictable decision making for all County municipalities.

Measuring Progress toward Plan Implementation

Barron County should use its comprehensive plan to evaluate, on an on-going basis, its decisions regarding private development proposals, public investments, regulations, incentives, and other actions affecting land use.

The action plan for this element indicates who is responsible for doing what over a given time period. The County should consider evaluating its progress toward plan implementation by using the Plan as a management tool. Annual performance reviews of departments, committees, and staff could be partially tied to the expectations spelled out in this plan.

The recommendations and time-frames suggested in the Action Plan above provide a good starting point for budgeting and work program planning. Another method to measure progress toward plan implementation would be to require that individual departments, committees, and staff incorporate the recommendations contained within this plan into their current and future work plans.

A final method for measuring progress toward plan implementation would be to develop performance measures using some of the key recommendations contained within this plan.

Amending and Updating the Plan

As stipulated by Wis. State Statute 66.1001(2)(i) a comprehensive plan shall be updated no less than once every 10 years. The County should regularly evaluate its progress towards achieving the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan, **and amend and update the Plan as appropriate.**

This plan was written to be general enough not to need frequent amendments yet specific enough to guide development decisions. When adjustments or revisions need to be made for things that were unforeseen, for conditions that have changed, or for incorrect choices or errors to the plan, maps or text, then the procedures for adopting an amendment must be followed. The procedures for adopting an amendment are the same as for adopting the plan as a whole.

To amend the Plan the following procedures defined under Section 66.1001(4) of Wisconsin Statutes need to be followed:

1. The County Board or Zoning Committee initiates the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment. This may occur as a result of an annual review of the Plan, or may be initiated at the request of a property owner, developer, or local government.
2. The County Board adopts a resolution outlining the procedures that will be undertaken to ensure public participation during the plan amendment process.
3. The Zoning Committee prepares or directs the preparation of the specific text or map amendment to the Plan. The Zoning Administrator should share the proposed draft Plan amendment with any directly affected local government at this time.
4. The Zoning Committee makes a recommendation on the proposed amendment by resolution to the County Board by majority vote of the entire Committee. The Zoning Committee may choose to hold its own public hearing prior to making its recommendation.
5. The County Clerk sends only a copy of the recommended Plan amendment, not the entire Comprehensive Plan, to all adjacent and surrounding government jurisdictions as required under Section 66.1001(4)b of Wisconsin Statutes. Metallic mine operators, any person who has registered a marketable nonmetallic mineral deposit with the local government, and any other property owner or leaseholder who has requested notification in writing must also be informed through this notice procedure. These entities should have at least 30 days to review and comment on the recommended plan amendment before the public hearing.
6. With the assistance of the Zoning Administrator, the County Clerk directs the publishing of a Class 1 notice, with such notice published at least 30 days before a County Board public hearing and containing information required under Section 66.1001(4)d of Wisconsin Statutes.
7. The County Board holds a formal public hearing on an ordinance that would incorporate the proposed amendment into the Comprehensive Plan.

8. Following the public hearing, the County Board approves (or denies) the ordinance adopting the proposed Plan amendment. Adoption must be by a majority vote of all members. The County Board may require changes from the Zoning Committee recommended version of the proposed Plan amendment.
9. The County Clerk sends only a copy of the adopted ordinance and Plan amendment, not the entire Comprehensive Plan, to all adjacent and surrounding government jurisdictions and metallic mine operators, any person who has registered a marketable nonmetallic mineral deposit with the local government, and any other property owner or leaseholder who has requested notification in writing as required under Sections 66.1001(4)b and c of Wisconsin Statutes.

Local municipalities in Barron County should play a central role in decisions to amend the *Barron County Comprehensive Plan* that affect them.

The County should not approve an amendment to the Planned Land Use map unless it is first approved by the affected town board, village board, or city council. Local governments (particularly towns under County zoning) are encouraged to consult with County zoning staff before making amendments to their comprehensive plans. This is especially advised for proposed changes to the local Preferred Land Use Map, because it directly relates to the County Preferred Land Use Map.

It is also important that every amendment to a town, village, or city comprehensive plan be forwarded on for County Board consideration after such an amendment is adopted by the town board, village board, or city council. Locally-adopted amendments to the Preferred Land Use Map should be adopted by the County Board, along with other local plan changes that affect the *County Comprehensive Plan*. The County need not adopt future amendments to town, village, and city comprehensive plans that do not affect the content or the implementation of the *Barron County Comprehensive Plan*.

APPENDICES

Appendices list.....	118
Zoning Committee Resolution Recommending Adoption of Comprehensive Plan.....	119
Resolution to Adopt Comprehensive Plan Ordinance #	120
Executive Summary of County Public Opinion Survey Results	122
Public Participation Procedures.....	125
Public Participation Resolution.....	126
Barron County 2009 Zoning Map.....	128
Publicly Owned Property Map.....	129
Non-Metallic Mining Sites Map.....	130
Outdoor Recreational Opportunities in Barron Map.....	131
Barron County Housing Units Projections 2000-2025.....	132
Existing Conditions: Transportation.....	133
Superior Lobe of the Ice Age Trail – Map.....	135
Inventory and Needs Assessment of Barron County-Owned Buildings and Facilities.....	136
Barron County Housing Built Pre-1980.....	140
Occupation Projections 2014.....	141
Region Industry Projections.....	143
Environmentally Contaminated Sites in Barron County.....	144
Intergovernmental Cooperation Requirements.....	147
Full Public Opinion Survey Results (on CD) Summary of Focus Meetings (on CD)	

Barron County Comprehensive Plan: Appendix

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2010 - 24

**RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2010-2030
OF BARRON COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, §66.1001(4) Wisconsin Statutes, establish the required procedure for a local government to adopt a comprehensive plan, and §(2) identifies the required nine elements; and

WHEREAS, the Barron County Zoning Committee has the authority to recommend that County Board adopt a “comprehensive plan” under §66.1001(4)(b); and

WHEREAS, the County has prepared the attached document (named *Barron County Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030*), containing all maps, approved comments and changes, and other descriptive materials, to be the comprehensive plan for Barron County under §66.1001, Wisconsin Statutes; and

WHEREAS, this resolution was approved by the Zoning Committee on April 7, 2010 on a vote of 5-0, with Hardie, Moen, Koepf, Romsos and Miller voting in favor and no members against.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Zoning Committee of Barron County hereby recommends the adoption of the *Barron County Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030* as the County’s comprehensive plan under §66.1001(4); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Zoning Committee hereby recommends that the County Board adopt an ordinance, which will constitute its adoption of the *Barron County Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030* as the County’s comprehensive plan under §66.1001.

OFFERED THIS 20th day of April, 2010.

<p>Number of readings required: One (X) Two ()</p> <p>Vote required for passage: Majority (X) 2/3 Entire Board (20) ()</p> <p>Source of funding: Budgeted () General Fund () Grant () Contingency () Other (X) Details <u>N/A</u></p> <p>Fiscal impact: - Current year total amount: \$ - Future years total amount: \$ - Effect on tax levy – current year - \$ - Effect on tax levy – future years - \$</p> <p>Fiscal impact reviewed by County Finance Director <u>/s/ Jeffrey French</u> Jeffrey French, Finance Director</p> <p>Board Action: Adopted (X) Failed () Tabled () Approved as to form by Corporation Counsel: <u>/s/ John Muench</u> John Muench, Corporation Counsel</p>	<p><u>/s/ Keith Hardie</u> Keith Hardie, Zoning Committee Chair</p> <p>(The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.)</p> <p>Motion: (Olson/Thompson) to approve resolution. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 19 Yes, 4 No, 5 Absent/Abstain. Voting no: Jost, Nyhagen, Horstman, Streif. Abstaining: Nevin. Carried.</p>
--	---

BARRON COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 2010 - 3

An Ordinance to Adopt the Barron County Comprehensive Plan

The Barron County Board of Supervisors ordains as follows:

1
2 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin’s comprehensive planning law, set forth in Section
3 66.1001 of the Wisconsin Statutes requires County and local governments that enforce
4 general zoning, shoreland, wetland/floodplain zoning, subdivision, or official mapping
5 ordinances to adopt a comprehensive plan by January 1, 2010; and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Barron County, in cooperation with several local units of
8 government engage in a joint effort to contemporaneously develop its plans; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the Barron County Zoning Committee has developed a
11 comprehensive plan that meets the requirements set forth in Section 66.1001 of the
12 Wisconsin Statutes; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, copies of the plan report were available for public review in the
15 County Clerk’s office and the Barron County Zoning Office, at public libraries, and on
16 the County website; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the Barron County Comprehensive Plan contains all nine elements
19 that are required by state statute and under the grant contract with the State of Wisconsin;
20 and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, throughout the development of the plan Barron County has solicited
23 public input consistent with the Public Participation Plan adopted in 2004 to ensure the
24 public had ample opportunity for involvement in the development of the comprehensive
25 plan; and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, the County conducted a duly noticed public hearing on the
28 comprehensive plan and the Zoning Committee held said public hearing on April 7, 2010
29 in accordance with Section 66.1001(4)(d) of the Statutes; and
30

31 **WHEREAS**, after a well publicized series of public informational meetings and
32 public hearing, the Zoning Committee recommends approval of the plan and adoption by
33 Ordinance by the County Board of Supervisors; and

34 **WHEREAS**, this ordinance was recommended for approval by resolution by the
35 Zoning Committee on April 7, 2010, on a vote of 5-0, with Hardie, Moen, Koepp,
36 Romsos and Miller voting in favor and no members against.

37
38 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Barron County Board of
39 Supervisors that pursuant to Sections 69.69 and 66.1001(4)(b) of the Wisconsin Statutes,
40 that the comprehensive plan, entitled “The Barron County Comprehensive Plan; 2010-
41 2030”, is hereby adopted.
42

43 **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that the Barron County Board of Supervisors
44 does adopt the attached document entitled Barron County Comprehensive Plan: 2010-
45 2030 dated April 20, 2010.

46
47 **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that this Ordinance shall be effective upon its
48 adoption and publication and that publication of this ordinance may occur through
49 posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.
50

OFFERED THIS 20th day of April, 2010.

<p>Number of readings required: One (X) Two ()</p> <p>Vote required for passage: Majority (X) 2/3 Entire Board (20) ()</p> <p>Source of funding: Budgeted () General Fund () Grant () Contingency () Other () Details N/A</p> <p>Fiscal impact: - Current year total amount: \$ - Future years total amount: \$ - Effect on tax levy – current year - \$ - Effect on tax levy – future years - \$</p> <p>Fiscal impact reviewed by County Finance Director <u>/s/ Jeffrey French</u> Jeffrey French, Finance Director</p> <p>Board Action: Adopted (X) Failed () Tabled ()</p> <p>Approved as to form by Corporation Counsel: <u>/s/ John Muench</u> John Muench, Corporation Counsel</p>	<p><u>/s/ Keith Hardie</u> Keith Hardie, Zoning Committee Chair</p> <p>(The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.)</p> <p>Motion: (Hardie/Koepp) to adopt the ordinance. Discussion. Roll Call Vote requested: 19 Yes, 4 No, 5 Absent/Abstain. Voting no: Jost, Nyhagen, Horstman, Streif. Abstaining: Nevin. Carried.</p>
--	--

Barron County Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey, 2008

David Trechter
James Janke
Shelly Hadley

Survey Research Center Report 2008/22
October 2008

Executive Summary

From mid-August to early October, the Survey Research Center (SRC) at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls mailed surveys to 1,130 County residences. The SRC received 425 completed surveys, which is a 38 percent response rate. The 2000 Census gives the County's adult population as 33,583. With 425 responses, the estimates contained in this report are expected to be accurate to within plus or minus 4.7 percent. Statistical tests indicate that "non-response bias" is not a problem with this sample. However, the demographic profile of the sample does not align well with the underlying population (too few women, renters and young people included). The SRC notes differences of opinion of different demographic groups throughout the report and, in one instance, adjusts the results to reflect more accurately the opinions of all Barron County residents.

The bottom line is that Barron County residents are reasonably happy with the quality of life they enjoy. More than 80 percent rate the quality of life as good or excellent and few rate it as only fair or poor. Older residents and those with higher household incomes are particularly content with their quality of life.

The factors that induce people to live in Barron County are its small town atmosphere and the proximity of family and friends. The physical environment (recreational opportunities and natural features) and economic opportunities are also important reasons they have chosen to live or own land in Barron County.

Most County services (county parks and trails, emergency management, highways, public safety, UW-Extension, the courts, community services, public health and child protection services) were given positive ratings by a majority of the respondents. A majority gave less favorable ratings to animal control and economic development efforts. Many of the ratings align with the key demographic groups using them; the more likely a service is to apply to a group, generally, the more highly they rated it. This is a positive result in terms of the effectiveness of County offices.

Direct mailings and newspapers are the preferred means of receiving information about County government. Based on the low percentage who indicated that they would likely participate in future meetings about the comprehensive plan, it appears that face-to-face exchange of information is not likely to be effective. This reluctance to attend meetings increases the challenges facing local officials. As noted throughout this report, the views of different demographic groups (men versus women, renters versus homeowners, long-term residents versus more newly arrived ones) vary significantly. To the extent that the composition of elected or appointed boards don't reflect the demographic profile of the County, it will need to work hard to understand the people's preferences overall and act accordingly.

Respondents indicated that they have a high level of concern about preserving the County's environmental and cultural heritage. As noted, these social and physical amenities are the primary reason many have chosen to live or own land in Barron County. So, it makes sense that they

would be concerned about preserving these features. Women and homeowners are particularly concerned with these preservation issues. Support for purchased development rights (PDRs), one means of preserving the environmental features prized by County residents, is not strong.

With respect to housing, strong majorities agreed or strongly agreed that more specialized housing (for the elderly, affordable housing, and starter homes) are needed in the County.

Barron County residents want to see productive agricultural land used in agriculture and are wary of seeing it converted to residential or commercial uses. That being said, a majority would only allow the expansion of large farms (500+ animal units) outside of a 2-mile radius from incorporated areas. Solid majorities also feel that the visual impact of developments should be considered and landowners should not be allowed to develop their land in any way they see fit.

Nearly 90% of respondents feel that the current road network meets Barron County's needs and that alternative modes of transportation (ATVs, walking, biking, etc.) are important. Currently, support is not strong for using tax revenues to expand rail service.

Respondents were willing to use tax revenues to recruit new businesses to the County. There is a reasonably strong preference for new commercial or industrial buildings to be built in or near existing cities or villages. The types of businesses that respondents would like to see recruited, as judged by what types of business they consider important to the County, include agriculturally related businesses, tourism and recreation, industry and manufacturing, and service industries. Support is also strong for pursuing wind and solar energy as economic development options.

Respondents identified ensuring public safety and providing efficient and effective government as the most important functions of County Government. Surprisingly, they did not rate the key County functions of providing social services, regulating land use, and providing an effective transportation network, highly.

NOTE: The entire analysis of the Public Opinion Survey is a 20 page document that provides written analysis as well as graphs and charts to explain the results. The full analysis is posted to the Comprehensive Planning page of the County website:
www.co.barron.wi.us/compplan_docs.htm

A hard copy can be available upon request.

Public Participation Procedures for the West Central Wisconsin Multijurisdictional Planning Project

INTRODUCTION

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

The governing body of each local governmental unit participating in the West Central Wisconsin Multijurisdictional Planning Project recognizes the need for an open and active public participation process to foster a strong community commitment to the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan to guide the community's future growth and development. To ensure that the public has an opportunity to be involved in every stage of the preparation of the Comprehensive Plan, the participants identify the following actions to promote an active public involvement process that provides complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and supports early and continuing involvement of the public in developing the plan.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES

- Each participating County unit shall have a duly appointed County Planning and Zoning Agency or Commission (Committee) pursuant with §59.69 (2), Wisconsin Statutes.
- All Committee meetings are open to the public and are officially posted to notify the public as required by law. A period for public comment is provided.
- One Issues and Opportunities Identification workshop where the Committee and the public will participate in a facilitated session to develop and prioritize key issues to be considered in the planning process, explore community values and problems, as well as strengths and weaknesses in being able to address the issues. The workshop is noticed and the public is invited to participate.
- One statistically valid Community Opinion Survey developed with consideration of the Issues and Opportunities Identification workshop outcome.
- One Community Vision and Development Design workshop where the Committee and the public will participate in roundtable discussions, design preference activities and develop a community vision. The workshop is noticed and the public is invited to participate.
- At least one Open House and Information/Education meeting where information about planning activities and plan products will be presented. The meeting is noticed and the public is invited to participate.
- The governmental units of adjacent or overlapping jurisdiction will be notified of the community's undertaking of the preparation of the Comprehensive Plan and their input sought on interjurisdictional issues concerning land use, municipal boundaries and service provision.
- The County Board will receive periodic reports from the Committee during the preparation of the plan and will have the opportunity to review and comment on materials developed for incorporation into the Comprehensive Plan.
- Where practicable, provide information about planning activities and plan outcomes on an Internet website. (WCWRPC will assist participants lacking such resources)
- All meetings of the County Board are open to the public and are officially posted to notify the public as required by law.
- Draft copies of the recommended Comprehensive Plan will be available at offices of the County and other public places for the public to review and to submit written comments.
- A Public Hearing will be conducted on the recommended Comprehensive Plan prior the County Board enacting the plan by ordinance. The Public Hearing will be preceded by Class 1 notice under Chapter 985, Wisconsin Statutes, published at least 30 days before the hearing is held. Additional notice will be provided pursuant to §66.1001 (4) (e), Wisconsin Statutes. The public is invited to comment and submit written comments.
- The County Board will consider and respond to written comments regarding the plan before enacting it by ordinance.
- The adopted comprehensive plan will be distributed to:
 1. Every governmental body that is located in whole or in part within the boundaries of the local governmental unit.
 2. The clerk of every local governmental unit that is adjacent to the local governmental unit which is the subject of the plan.
 3. The Wisconsin Land Council.
 4. The Wisconsin Department of Administration.
 5. The West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.
 6. The public library that serves the area in which the County is located.

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2008 - 22

**Establishing Public Participation Procedures for the
West Central Wisconsin MultiJurisdictional Planning Project**

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1
2 **WHEREAS**, the County of Barron has decided to prepare a comprehensive plan
3 under the authority and procedures of §59.69(3) and §66.1001, Wisconsin Statutes; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, §66.1001(4)(a), Wisconsin Statutes, requires that the governing
6 body of the local governmental unit adopt written procedures designed to foster public
7 participation at every stage of comprehensive plan preparation, and that such written
8 procedures provide for wide distribution of proposed, alternative or amended
9 comprehensive elements, an opportunity for the public to submit written comments on
10 the comprehensive plan, and a process for the local governing body to respond to such
11 comments; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the County Board of the County of Barron has designated a County
14 Planning and Zoning Agency or Commission (Committee) for the purposes defined in
15 §59.69(2), Wisconsin Statutes; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the Committee has received, reviewed and recommended approval
18 of the attached *Public Participation Procedures for the West Central Wisconsin*
19 *Multijurisdictional Planning Project*; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the agreement between the County of Barron and its hired planning
22 consultants will include written procedures to foster public participation, ensure wide
23 distribution of draft plan materials, provide opportunities for written comments on draft
24 plan materials, and provide mechanisms to respond to such comments in a document
25 called *Public Participation Procedures for the West Central Wisconsin*
26 *Multijurisdictional Planning Project*; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, the County of Barron believes that regular, meaningful public
29 involvement in the West Central Wisconsin Multijurisdictional Planning Project process
30 is important to assure that the resulting plan meets the wishes and expectations of the
31 public; and

32 **WHEREAS**, this resolution was approved by the Zoning Committee on June 4,
33 2008, on a vote of 4 - 0, with Strom, Novotny, Miller (alternate), Romsos (alternate)
34 voting in favor and no members voting against. Zych, Moen and Hardie were absent.
35

36 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County Board of the
37 County of Barron hereby ordain and resolve as follows: to approve the written
38 procedures included in *Public Participation Procedures for the West Central Wisconsin*

39 *Multijurisdictional Planning Project* as its public participation procedures the
40 requirements of §66.4001(4)(a), Wisconsin Statutes.

41

42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that publication of this resolution may occur
43 through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

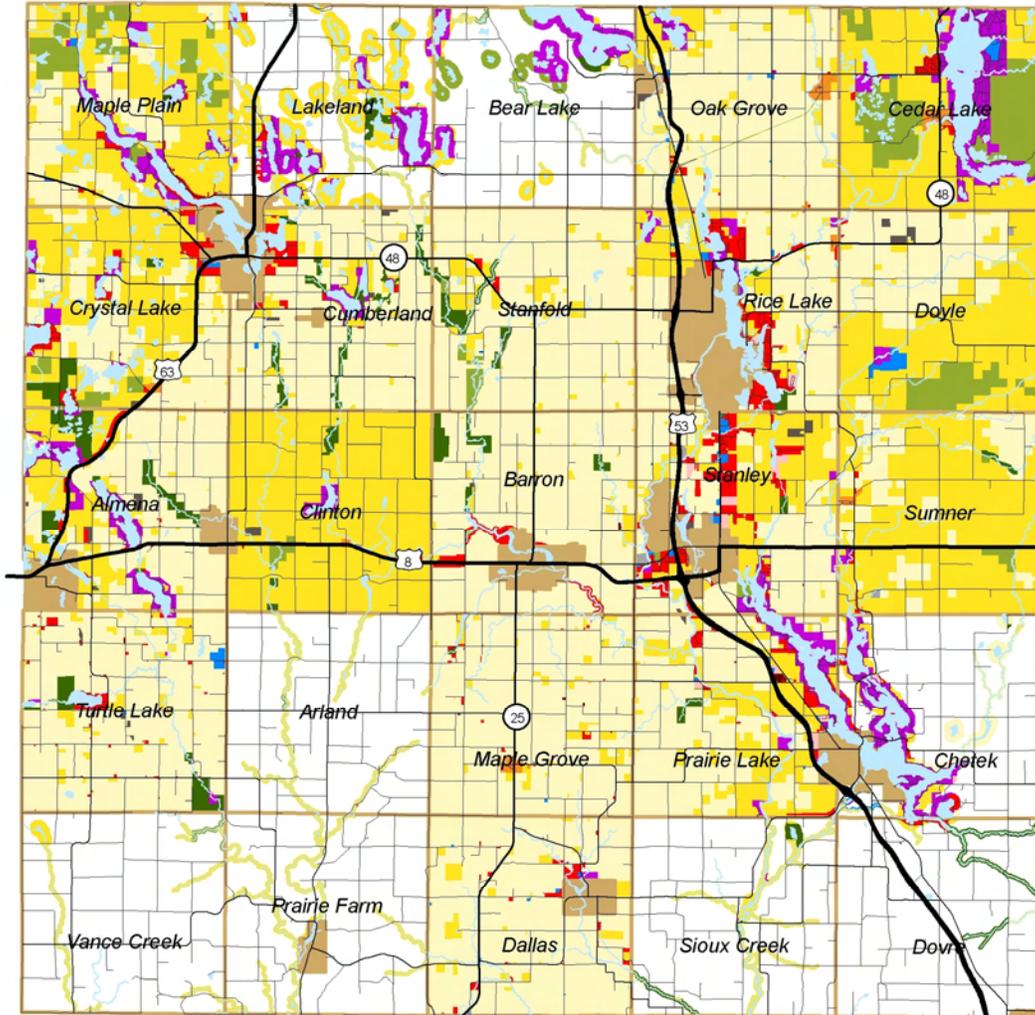
44

OFFERED THIS 16TH day of June, 2008.

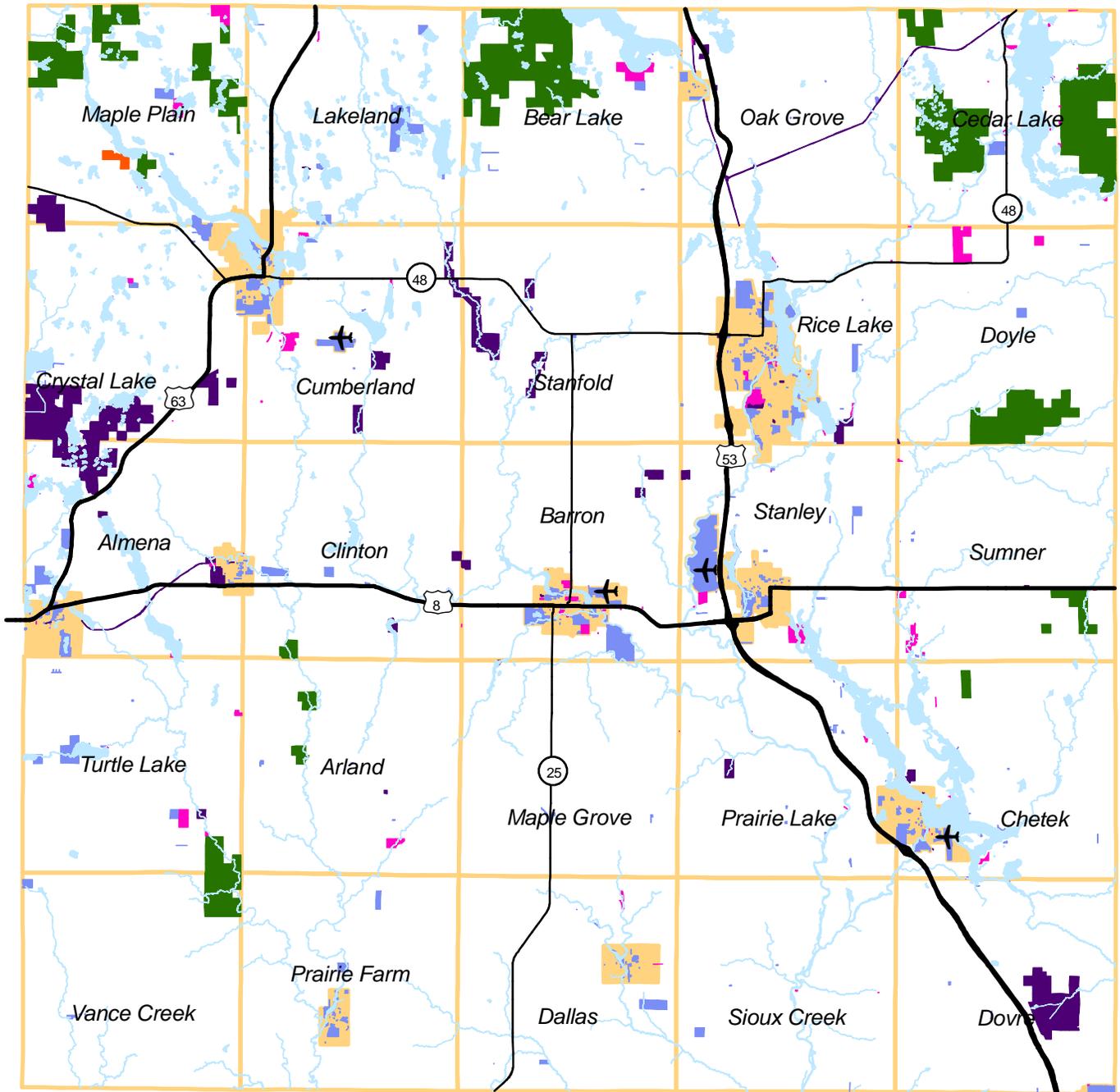
<p>Number of readings required: One (X) Two ()</p> <p>Vote required for passage: Majority (X) 2-3 Entire Board (20)</p> <p>Source of Funding: Budgeted () General Fund () Grant () Other ()</p> <p>Fiscal Impact: - Current Year: - Future Years:</p> <p>Board action: Adopted (X) Failed () Tabled ()</p> <p>Approved as to form by Corporation Counsel:</p> <p><u>/s/ John Muench</u> John Muench, Corporation Counsel</p>	<p><u>/s/ Keith Hardie</u> Keith Hardie, Zoning Committee Chair</p> <p>(The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.)</p>
---	--

Leff opposed: **MOTION: (Olson/Novotny)** for adoption. Roll call vote: 21 yes, 7 no, 1
absent. Voting no: Leff, Jost, Streif, Wuorenma, Sleik, Horstman & Henck. Carried.

Current Zoning



Public-owned Property



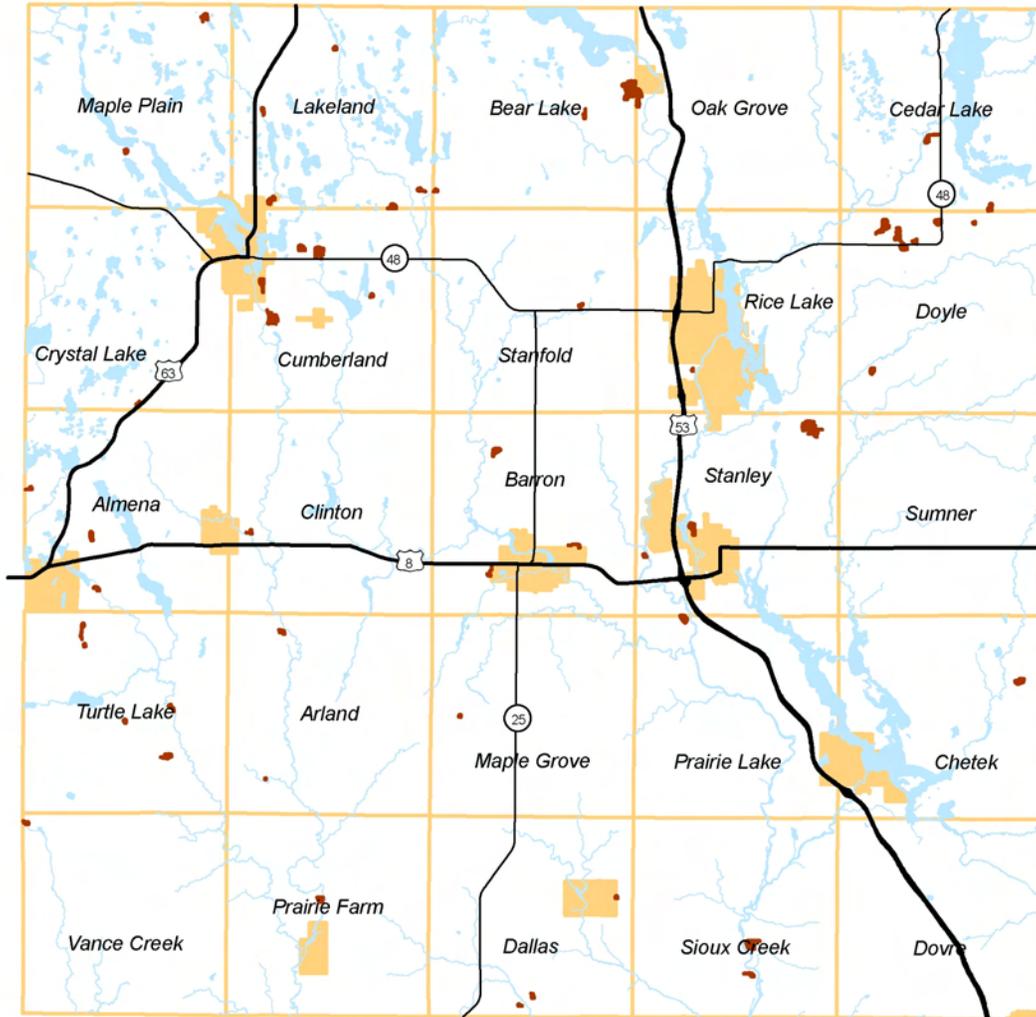
- | | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Airports | County Forest | Town |
| US HIGHWAY | Federal Land | City/Village |
| STATE HIGHWAY | State Land | |
| Surface Water | County Land | |
| | Other/Municipally-owned Land | |



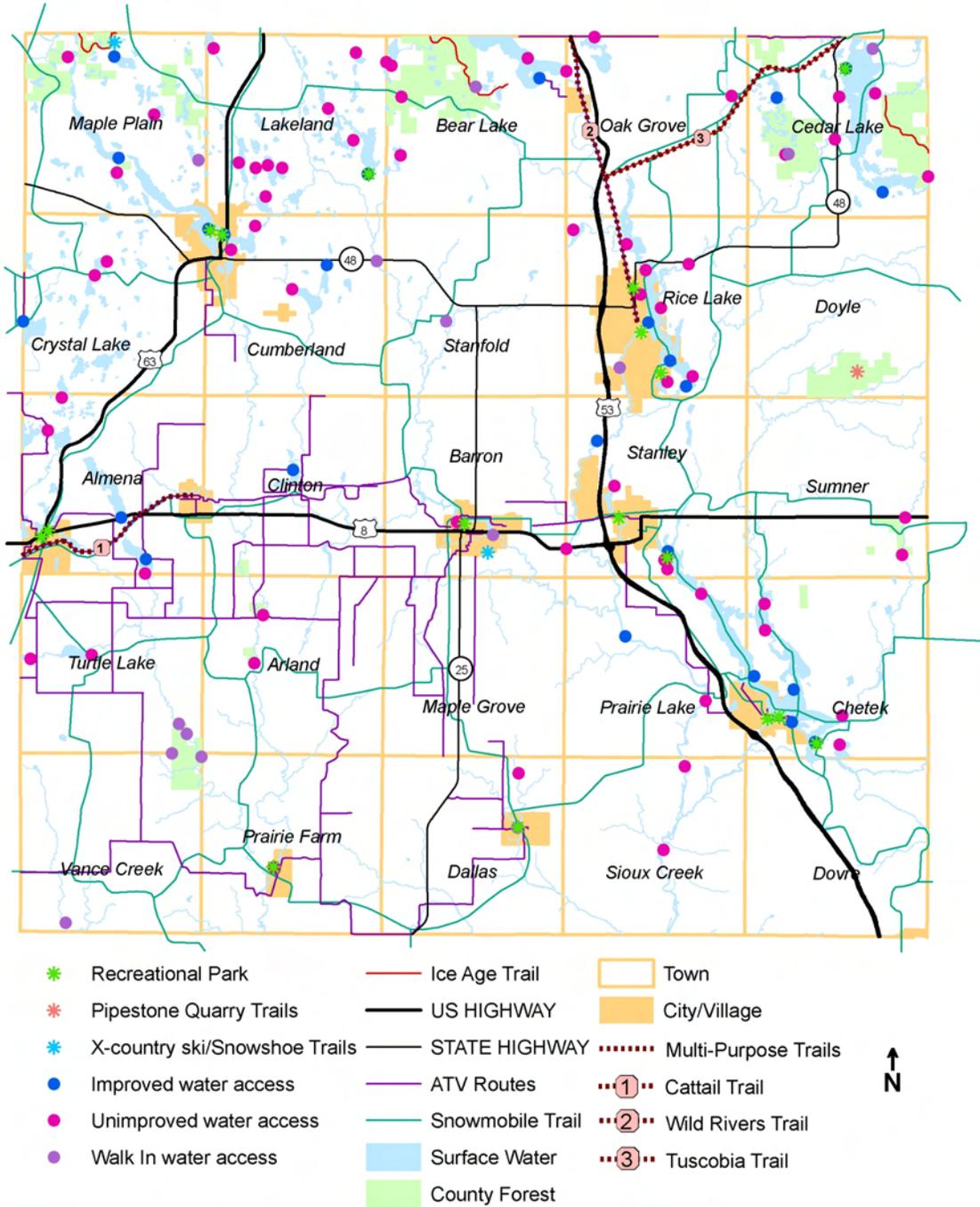
Prepared by: Barron County
Land Information Office

Nonmetallic Mining Sites

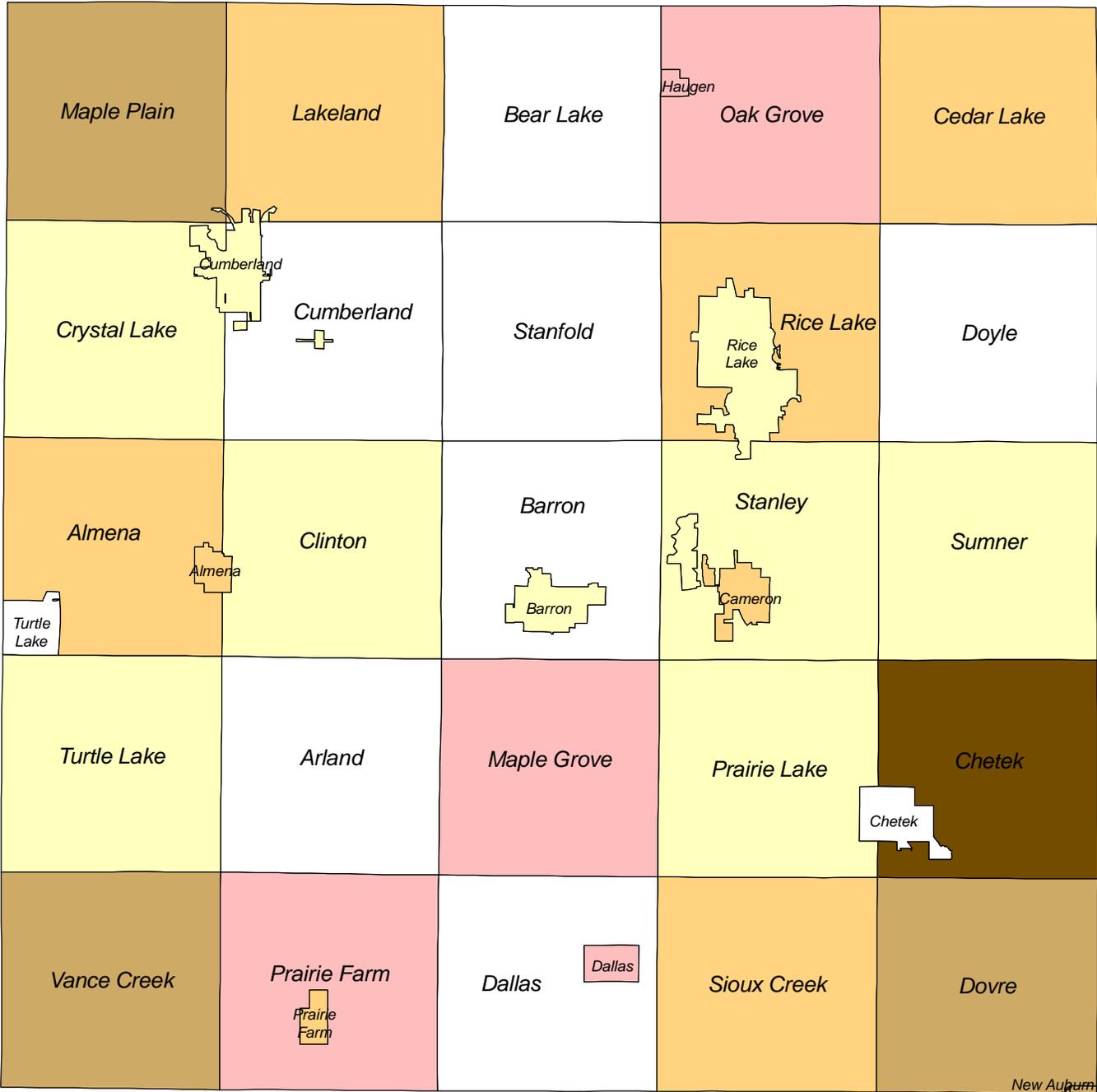
Public & Privately Owned



Outdoor Recreation Opportunities



Housing Unit Projections 2000-2025



Percent Housing Unit Projection
Source: US Census

- 12% - 0%
- 1% - 9%
- 10% - 19%
- 20% - 29%
- 30% - 39%
- 40% - 46%



Prepared by: Barron County
 Land Information Office

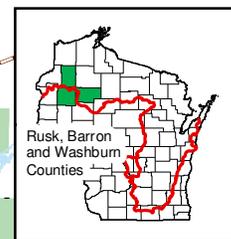
Existing Conditions Summary – Transportation Element

- There are slightly fewer than 2,000 miles of public road in Barron County, under the jurisdiction of the State of Wisconsin, Barron County, or local governments.
- Traffic volumes in Barron County have increased, on average, approximately 17 percent from 1992 to 2003, according to WisDOT counting program.
- WisDOT's six year highway plan includes between \$16,000,000 and \$20,000,000 in projects within Barron County.
- The preferred alternative in the adopted Environmental Impact Study for WIS 8 (October, 2007) includes a bypass of the City of Barron, to the south, but a preferred alternative for the Village of Turtle Lake has not yet been chosen.
- The preferred alternative for USH 53/County V intersection include an overpass at 26th Avenue and 30th Avenue, an interchange at County V, and closures of 26th Avenue, County SS, and 29^¾ Avenue. The interchange at County V and the closure of 27th Avenue and County SS are tentatively scheduled for 2011 or 2012. The overpasses at 26th and 30th avenues are not currently scheduled for construction.
- There are 3 roads in Barron County that are part of the State designated Rustic Road System. Rustic Road 18 begins at County M, follows Gehler Road (23rd St.) south to 15 1/4 Ave., and returns to County M. Its total length is 4.6 miles. Rustic Road 67 is located in Barron and Polk Counties and follows portions of Pine Road, 13 3/4 Avenue, West County Line Road and 16th Avenue, forming a loop from US 8 to US 63. Its total length is 4.8 miles. Rustic Road 83 follows 13 3/4 -16th Street/Narrow Gauge Road between County V and 30th Street at the Barron/Washburn County Line. Its total length is 4.6 miles.
- There are 317 bridges in Barron County, fourteen of which (4.4 percent) are classified as either functionally obsolete or structurally deficient. This does not mean that they are unsafe for travel.

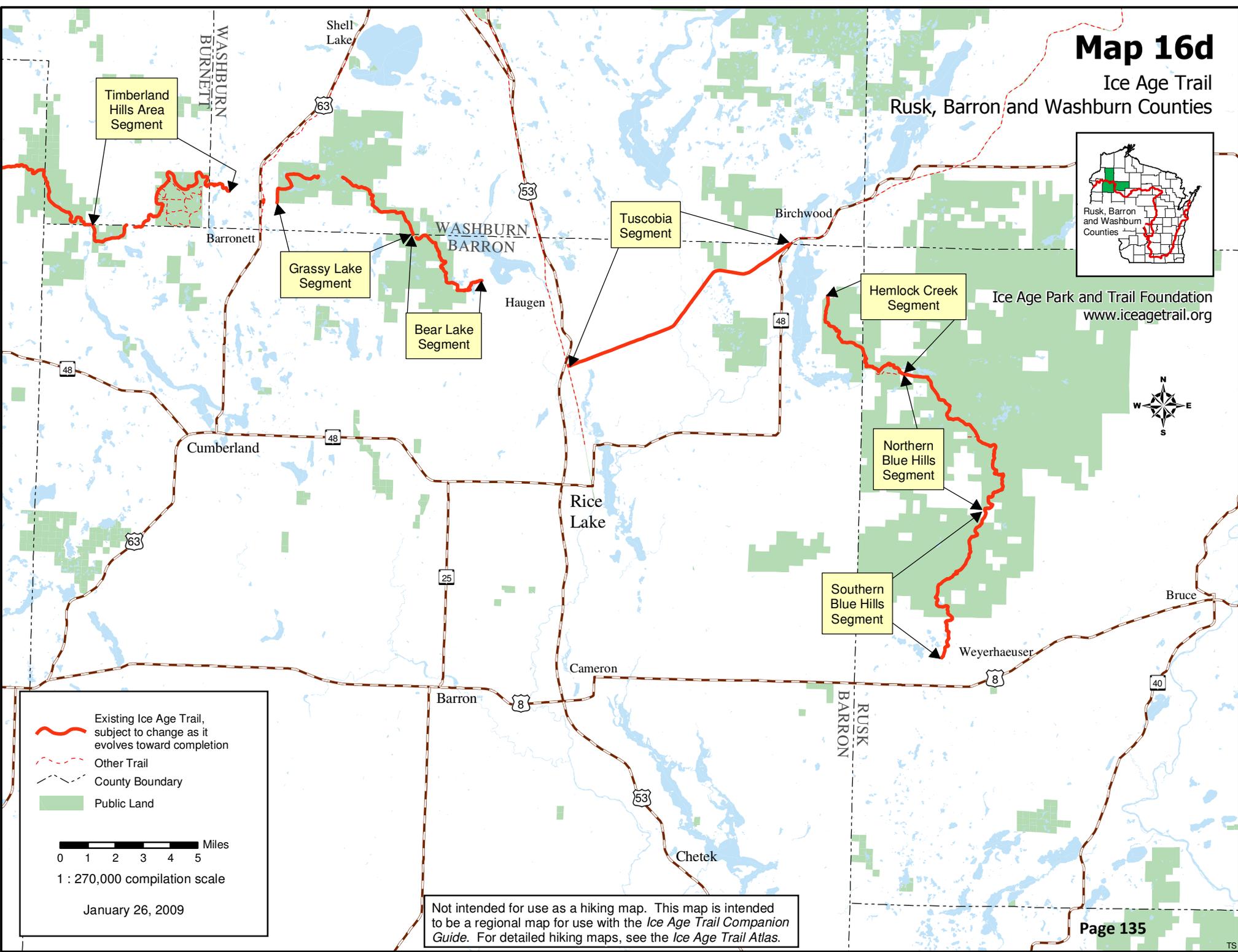
- Rice Lake City Cab system provides door-to-door service for trips with origins and destinations within the City, Monday through Saturday, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The service utilizes sedans, vans, and buses, and complies with Americans with Disabilities (ADA) requirements.
- The Barron County Office on Aging provides fixed route service to adult day care several days a week, monthly trips from Chetek, Barron, Cumberland and Turtle Lake, into Rice Lake, and a demand response service for elderly and persons with disabilities, on weekdays, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They also contract with the city of Rice Lake to increase their cab service for elderly and disabled during peak hours 3 days a week.
- The Barron County Health and Human Services Department provides fixed route services to their clients, primarily to sheltered employment and training locations.
- Barron County is considering entering into a coordinated rural transportation effort with five other counties (Chippewa, Eau Claire, Dunn, St. Croix, and Pierce).
- Barron County has a good network of multi-use trails. There are 309 miles of snowmobile trails and over 100 miles of ATV trails/routes.
- Several cities and villages in Barron County recognize a deficiency in pedestrian facilities. Rice Lake and Chetek have completed Safe Routes to School plans and are subsequently implementing the recommendations of those plans.
- Efforts are underway to acquire some of the rail lines in Barron County, for operation by Progressive Rail, to ensure future viability in the region.
- Barron County has four public airports – Rice Lake Regional Airport, and Barron, Chetek, and Cumberland municipal airports – all of which are programmed for a number of maintenance and expansion projects over the next five years

Map 16d

Ice Age Trail
Rusk, Barron and Washburn Counties



Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation
www.iceagetrail.org



Existing Ice Age Trail, subject to change as it evolves toward completion

Other Trail

County Boundary

Public Land

0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

1 : 270,000 compilation scale

January 26, 2009

Not intended for use as a hiking map. This map is intended to be a regional map for use with the *Ice Age Trail Companion Guide*. For detailed hiking maps, see the *Ice Age Trail Atlas*.

Inventory and Needs Assessment of Barron County Buildings and Facilities

The dates and costs reflected in the following chart are the built or remodel dates and the associated costs.

FACILITY	REMARKS	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION
Government Center 330 E. LaSalle, Barron	<i>see below for specific building projects</i>		
Old Jail	1940's, used as storage	Maintenance Department	
Main Courthouse	mid 1960's; 1973.	Maintenance Department	Remodel 2017
Courthouse Improvement	1973 (\$120,000)	Maintenance Department	
Third Floor Courthouse	1987 (\$302,000)	Maintenance Department	
Jail, LE Offices, Courthouse	1992 (\$3,115,000)	Maintenance Department	
Courthouse Remodel	2005-2006 (\$450,000)	Maintenance Department	
Courtroom Remodel	1988 (\$252,605)	Maintenance Department	
First Floor Ag Center	mid 1960's purchased 1980	Maintenance Department	
Jail, Second Floor Ag, LE Offices	1981 (\$1,330,000)	Maintenance Department	
HVAC		Maintenance Department	Projected Upgrade 2017

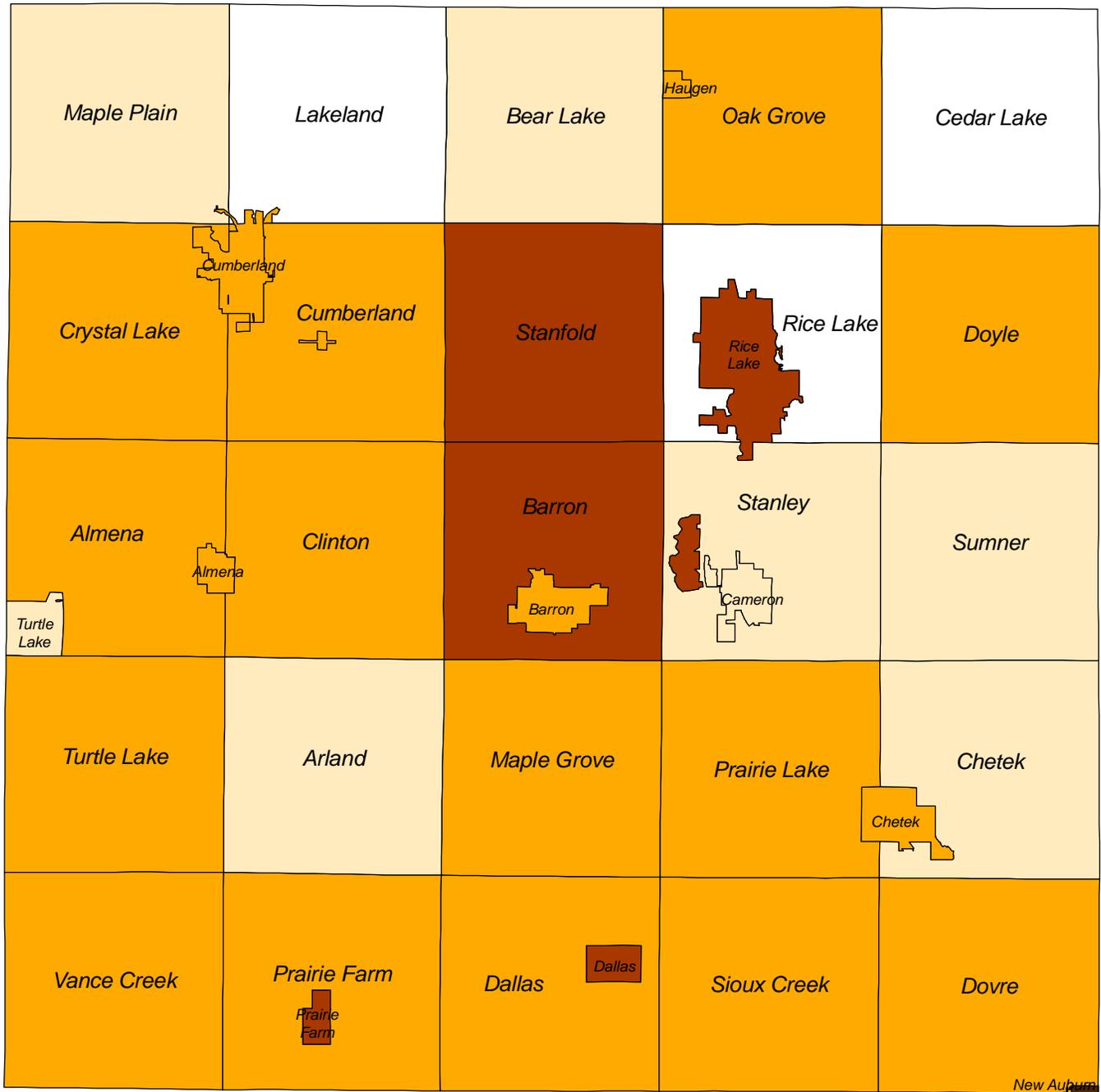
FACILITY	REMARKS	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION
Justice Center/Jail 1420 State Hwy 25 N	2004	Maintenance Department	\$2.7 million emergency communications upgrade in 2010
Office Complex 410 E. LaSalle, Barron	Purchased :1999 (\$495,00) Remodeled: 1999 (\$275,168)	Maintenance Department	Put it on the market
Highway	<i>see below for specific buildings</i>	Highway Department	
Highway Garage	1947.	Highway Department	Remodel 2017
Old Highway Shop (W of Hwy.25)	1920's (had major structural problems in Sept. '09)	Highway Department	
Sign Shop (W. of Hwy. 25)	1937	Highway Department	
Old Highway Office	1947	Highway Department	
Highway Garage Addition	1999	Highway Department	
SE Hwy Garage Addition	2003 (\$200,000)	Highway Department	
UW- Barron County	1965 (\$1,500,000) 1968 (\$84,000)	UW-BC Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds	
Student Housing	1970 (\$80,000)	Buildings & Grounds	
Roof Restoration	1987 (\$94,350)	Buildings & Grounds	
Elevator	1991 (\$70,000)	Buildings & Grounds	

FACILITY	REMARKS	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION
Lab Renovations	1997 (\$163,000)	Buildings & Grounds	
HVAC	1998 (\$1,100,000)	Buildings & Grounds	
Remodel Master Plan	2006 (\$5,500,000)	Buildings & Grounds	

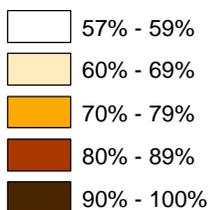
FACILITY	REMARKS	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION
Waste to Energy Facility	1985 (\$5,800,000)	Zac Inc.	
Recycling Equipment	1991 (\$151,432)	Zac Inc.	
Recycling Facility	1992 (\$589,100)	Zac Inc.	
Ash House	1992 (\$318,426)	Zac Inc.	
APC Upgrade and Bag House	2005 (\$800,000)	Zac Inc.	
County Owned Dams	<i>see below for specific dams</i>		
Chetek Dam		County Conservationist	
Rice Lake Dam	Improved 2008	County Conservationist	
Mikana Dam		County Conservationist	
Moon Lake Dam	Replace in 2010	County Conservationist	

Sand Lake Dam		County Conservationist	
Haugen Dam		County Conservationist	
10 Mile Creek Earthen Dam	Improved 2008	County Conservationist	
Little Bear Creek Dam	County owns site, DNR built dam for wildlife	County Conservationist	

% of Total Structures Built Prior to 1980



Percent of total structures pre-1980
Source: US Census



Prepared by: Barron County
Land Information Office

West Central Wisconsin WDA Region Occupation Projections (2014)

Top 10 Occupations		Typically Required Education/Training	Average Wage
Fastest Growth	Home Health Aides	1-month on-the-job training	\$9.29
	Medical Assistants	1-12 mo. on-the-job training	\$12.63
	Network and Data Analysts	Bachelor's degree	\$22.19
	Computer Software Engineers, Applications	Bachelor's degree	\$37.08
	Personal and Home Care Aides	1-month on-the-job training	\$8.82
	Dental Assistants	1-12 mo. on-the-job training	\$12.50
	Dental Hygienists	Associate degree	\$23.34
	Employment, Recruitment & Placement	Bachelor's degree	\$19.67
	Medical Records & Health Information	Associate degree	\$12.71
	Occupational Therapists	Master's degree	\$25.53
Most Openings	Cashiers	1-month on-the-job training	\$7.64
	Retail Salespersons	1-month on-the-job training	\$11.06
	Comb Food Prep/Serve Work/Incl Fast	1-month on-the-job training	\$7.04
	Waiters/Waitresses	1-month on-the-job training	\$7.34
	Registered Nurses	Associate's or Bachelor's degree	\$25.83
	Labors/Freight/Stock/Material Movers/Handlers	1-month on-the-job training	\$10.09
	Janitors/Cleaners, except Maids/Housekeeping	1-month on-the-job training	\$10.67
	Team Assemblers	1-12 mo. on-the-job training	\$12.94
	Stock Clerks/Order Fillers	1-month on-the-job training	\$9.47
	Bartenders	1-month on-the-job training	\$8.16

**Table 6.8 – West Central Wisconsin WDA Region Occupation Projections and Estimated Wages
(2004-2014)**

Occupational Title	Estimated Employment ^f				Estimated Average Annual Openings			Estimated Salary and Wages (2005)		
	2004	2014	Change	%	New Jobs	Replacements	Total	Average Annual Salary	Entry	Experienced
									Hourly Wage	Hourly Wage
Management	6,070	6,860	790	13.0%	80	110	190	\$74,714	\$18.55	\$44.61
Business and Financial Operations	5,560	6,530	970	17.4%	100	100	200	\$48,430	\$13.84	\$28.01
Computer and Mathematical	2,060	2,570	510	24.8%	50	30	80	\$54,277	\$16.17	\$31.06
Architecture and Engineering	2,960	3,230	270	9.1%	30	70	100	\$55,024	\$16.79	\$31.29
Life, Physical, and Social Science	1,410	1,640	230	16.3%	20	30	50	\$49,461	\$14.58	\$28.38
Community and Social Services	2,800	3,300	500	17.9%	50	50	100	\$38,992	\$12.79	\$21.73
Legal	670	780	110	16.4%	10	10	20	\$63,731	\$13.59	\$39.17
Education, Training, and Library	11,010	12,740	1,730	15.7%	170	240	410	\$39,300	\$10.82	\$22.93
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	1,930	2,190	260	13.5%	30	40	70	\$33,885	\$8.74	\$20.06
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	8,580	10,920	2,340	27.3%	230	160	390	\$49,793	\$11.44	\$30.19
Healthcare Support	5,830	7,510	1,680	28.8%	170	90	260	\$23,325	\$8.91	\$12.37
Protective Service	3,260	3,480	220	6.7%	20	100	120	\$33,184	\$9.02	\$19.42
Food Preparation and Serving Related	16,870	19,260	2,390	14.2%	240	670	910	\$16,748	\$5.91	\$9.12
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	5,380	6,290	910	16.9%	90	110	200	\$22,256	\$7.26	\$12.42
Personal Care and Service	4,570	5,640	1,070	23.4%	110	110	220	\$19,567	\$6.80	\$10.71
Sales and Related	17,120	18,320	1,200	7.0%	120	610	730	\$27,743	\$6.74	\$16.64
Office and Administrative Support	27,090	28,170	1,080	4.0%	110	640	750	\$27,099	\$8.57	\$15.26
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	270	300	30	11.1%	<5	10	10	\$24,922	\$8.60	\$13.67
Construction and Extraction	7,480	8,740	1,260	16.8%	130	150	280	\$39,111	\$12.52	\$21.94
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	6,700	7,400	700	10.4%	70	150	220	\$34,441	\$11.00	\$19.34
Production	21,580	22,220	640	3.0%	60	520	580	\$28,765	\$9.55	\$15.97
Transportation and Material Moving	14,670	16,240	1,570	10.7%	160	320	480	\$26,349	\$7.98	\$15.01
Total	173,880	194,330	20,450	11.8%	2,050	4,300	6,350	\$32,266	\$8.04	\$19.25

West Central WDA includes Barron, Chippewa Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties.

West Central Wisconsin WDA Region Industry Projections (2004-2014)

Industry Title	2004 Estimated Employment	2014 Projected Employment	2004-2014 Employment Change	2004-2014 Percentage Change
Total Non-Farm Employment	173,880	194,330	20,450	11.8%
Construction/Mining/Natural Resources	8,380	9,880	1,500	17.9%
Manufacturing	31,990	32,030	40	0.1%
Paper Manufacturing	1,720	1,720	0	0.0%
Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	3,400	3,670	270	7.9%
Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	3,220	3,020	-200	-6.2%
Trade	28,800	30,900	2,100	7.3%
Food and Beverage Stores	5,040	5,250	210	4.2%
Transportation and Utilities (Including US Postal)	8,270	9,520	1,250	15.1%
Financial Activities	7,010	7,710	700	10.0%
Education and Health Services (Including gov't)	37,330	45,540	8,210	22.0%
Ambulatory Health Care	5,540	7,570	2,030	36.6%
Hospitals (Including gov't)	7,050	8,640	1,590	22.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	17,300	19,930	2,630	15.2%
Information/Prof Services/Other Services	21,470	24,920	3,450	16.1%
Government (Excluding US Postal, State and Local Educ and Hospitals)	13,310	13,930	620	4.7%

*West Central WDA includes Barron, Chippewa Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties.
source: Wisconsin Dept. of Workforce Development, Bureau of Workforce Information, 2006*

Appendix: Environmentally Contaminated Sites in Barron County

ACTIVITY	STATUS	LOCATION	MUNICIPALITY
ERP	CLOSED	ALMENA COOP ASSN	ALMENA
ERP	CLOSED	COUNTRY PRIDE COOP BULK PLT	ALMENA
ERP	CONDITIONALLY CLOSED	ALMENA AG CENTER INC - ALMENA	ALMENA
ERP	OPEN	ALMENA AG CTR	ALMENA
LUST	CLOSED	COUNTRY PRIDE COOP	ALMENA
LUST	CLOSED	ALMENA COOP SPORT & CONVENIENCE	ALMENA
LUST	CLOSED	ALMENA AG CTR	ALMENA
LUST	CLOSED	GREGS EXCAVATING INC	ALMENA
ERP	CLOSED	BARRON CNTY HWY SHOP	BARRON
ERP	CLOSED	FAIRVIEW GROWING FARM	BARRON
ERP	CLOSED	KOSER IRON WORKS INC	BARRON
ERP	CLOSED	BARRON LIGHT & WATER	BARRON
ERP	CLOSED	BARRON FARMERS UNION COOP	BARRON
ERP	OPEN	BARRON CTY LF	BARRON
ERP	OPEN	OLSON OIL CO	BARRON
ERP	OPEN	BARRON CTY OLD GENERATING FACILITY	BARRON
ERP	OPEN	AMOCO BULK PLT (FORMER)	BARRON
ERP	OPEN	BARRON FARMERS UNION COOP	BARRON
ERP	OPEN	BARRON FARMERS UNION COOP-BARRON	BARRON
LUST	CLOSED	KORNER STOP	BARRON
LUST	CLOSED	BARRON FARMERS UNION	BARRON
LUST	CLOSED	FOREMOST FARMS USA	BARRON
LUST	CLOSED	BARRON SCHOOL BUS GARAGE	BARRON
LUST	CLOSED	SCAPYAK, BETTY RESIDENCE	BARRON
LUST	CLOSED	BARRON FARMERS UNION COOP	BARRON
LUST	CLOSED	HOLIDAY STATION STORES #170	BARRON
LUST	CLOSED	BARRON MUTUAL INSURANCE CO	BARRON
LUST	CLOSED	BARRON ELECTRIC COOP	BARRON
LUST	CLOSED	BARRON SALES & SERVICE	BARRON
LUST	CLOSED	JEROME FOODS SITE B	BARRON
LUST	CLOSED	JEROME HATCHERY BLDG	BARRON
LUST	CLOSED	RITCHIE AUTO	BARRON
LUST	CLOSED	PURE OIL STATION	BARRON
LUST	CLOSED	BANK OF BARRON	BARRON
LUST	CLOSED	FEDERATED COOP TRANSPORT	BARRON
LUST	CLOSED	BARRON CNTY SHERIFFS DEPT	BARRON
LUST	CLOSED	AUTO STOP	BARRON
LUST	OPEN	BARRON FARMERS COOP	BARRON
LUST	OPEN	BARRON SALES & SERVICE	BARRON
LUST	CLOSED	BOS HENRY	BARRONETT
LUST	CLOSED	AMPI - BRILL	BRILL
ERP	CLOSED	NORTHLAND FS COOP	CAMERON
ERP	CLOSED	DONS REPAIR	CAMERON
ERP	OPEN	FOUR SEASONS FS - CAMERON	CAMERON
LUST	CLOSED	IC EXPRESS	CAMERON
LUST	CLOSED	MATHY CONST C0 MONARCH PAVING	CAMERON
LUST	CLOSED	EBNER BOX CO	CAMERON
LUST	CLOSED	NORTHLAND FS COOP	CAMERON
LUST	CLOSED	CAMERON CAR CORNER	CAMERON
LUST	OPEN	CAMERON HARDWARE	CAMERON
LUST	CLOSED	LOCH LOMOND BEACH CLUB	CEDAR LAKE
ERP	CLOSED	RIDGELAND CHETEK COOP	CHETEK
ERP	CLOSED	CHETEK COOP INC	CHETEK
ERP	CLOSED	NSPW-CHETEK	CHETEK
ERP	CLOSED	BASIC FARM SERVICE-CHETEK	CHETEK
ERP	OPEN	CHETEK CTY SHOP	CHETEK
LUST	CLOSED	PRO SERVICE	CHETEK
LUST	CLOSED	RIDGELAND CHETEK COOP - CARDTROL	CHETEK
LUST	CLOSED	KWIK TRIP #602	CHETEK
LUST	CLOSED	GAS PLUS	CHETEK
LUST	CLOSED	BARRON CNTY HWY DEPT	CHETEK
LUST	CLOSED	RIDGELAND CHETEK COOP	CHETEK

ACTIVITY	STATUS	LOCATION	MUNICIPALITY
LUST	OPEN	BRYANT, JIM RESIDENCE	CLAYTON
LUST	OPEN	BENTS MOTORS INC	COMSTOCK
ERP	OPEN	CRYSTAL LAKE TN LF - #1457*	CRYSTAL LAKE
ERP	CLOSED	COUNTRY PRIDE COOP	CUMBERLAND
ERP	CLOSED	JORDON J C RESIDENCE	CUMBERLAND
ERP	CLOSED	LABBES PETROLEUM	CUMBERLAND
ERP	CONDITIONALLY CLOSED	1230 CENTRAL CAFE (FORMER)	CUMBERLAND
ERP	OPEN	COUNTRY PRIDE COOP	CUMBERLAND
ERP	OPEN	COUNTRY PRIDE COOP	CUMBERLAND
ERP	OPEN	CUMBERLAND CTY LF - #0159*	CUMBERLAND
ERP	OPEN	IRWIN INDUSTRIAL TOOL CO FORMER	CUMBERLAND
ERP	OPEN	COUNTRY PRIDE COOPERATIVE-CUMBERLAND	CUMBERLAND
LUST	CLOSED	IC EXPRESS/CUMBERLAND	CUMBERLAND
LUST	CLOSED	SMOKIES PIT STOP	CUMBERLAND
LUST	CLOSED	NORTH COUNTRY LIQUOR	CUMBERLAND
LUST	CLOSED	SENECA FOODS CORP CENTRAL DIV	CUMBERLAND
LUST	CLOSED	CIRCLE C	CUMBERLAND
LUST	CLOSED	CUMBERLAND MUNICIPAL - HWY P	CUMBERLAND
LUST	CLOSED	CUMBERLAND MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	CUMBERLAND
LUST	CLOSED	AUTO STOP	CUMBERLAND
LUST	CLOSED	CUMBERLAND MUNICIPAL AIRPORT	CUMBERLAND
LUST	CLOSED	AT&T CUMBERLAND NWD	CUMBERLAND
LUST	CLOSED	TALBOT CHEV OLDS BUICK	CUMBERLAND
LUST	CLOSED	ROMAR LTD	CUMBERLAND
LUST	CLOSED	LAKESIDE STATION	CUMBERLAND
LUST	CLOSED	CUMBERLAND CTY GARAGE	CUMBERLAND
LUST	OPEN	COUNTRY PRIDE COOP	CUMBERLAND
LUST	OPEN	HOLIDAY STATION STORE #32	CUMBERLAND
ERP	CLOSED	LENTZ FARMS - DALLAS	DALLAS
LUST	CLOSED	BERGS TRUCKING	DALLAS
LUST	CLOSED	RIDGELAND CHETEK COOP	DALLAS
ERP	CLOSED	CHETEK WAYSIDE	DOVRE
LUST	OPEN	LOREN WIESNER INC	DOYLE
ERP	CLOSED	MATHY CONST CO BRUHA PIT	HAUGEN
LUST	CLOSED	HAUGEN OIL	HAUGEN
ERP	CLOSED	CUMBERLAND COOP BULK TANK	LAKELAND
LUST	CLOSED	MAPLE PLAIN TN SHOP	MAPLE PLAIN
LUST	OPEN	AMUNDSONS SERVICE	PRAIRIE FARM
LUST	CLOSED	OUTERS RESORT	PRAIRIE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	PRAIRIE LAKE TN SHOP	PRAIRIE LAKE
ERP	CLOSED	RICE LAKE CENEX COOP	RICE LAKE
ERP	CLOSED	SHIELD AVE BARRELS	RICE LAKE
ERP	CLOSED	KLEENAIR DISPOSAL	RICE LAKE
ERP	CLOSED	KLEENAIR VACUUM	RICE LAKE
ERP	CLOSED	LEMLER LF RICE LAKE CTY	RICE LAKE
ERP	CLOSED	RICE LAKE CTY LF	RICE LAKE
ERP	CLOSED	MASTERCRAFT INDUSTRIES INC	RICE LAKE
ERP	CLOSED	JOHNSON REFRIGERATION TRUCK BODIES LLC	RICE LAKE
ERP	CLOSED	INDIANHEAD OIL CO BULK PLT	RICE LAKE
ERP	CLOSED	LARSON OIL	RICE LAKE
ERP	CLOSED	SIMPSON LARRY PROPERTY	RICE LAKE
ERP	CLOSED	JOHNSON REFRIGERATION TRUCK BODIES LLC	RICE LAKE
ERP	CLOSED	DON THE MUFFLER MAN	RICE LAKE
ERP	OPEN	AUTO GLASS SPECIALISTS	RICE LAKE
ERP	OPEN	SNYDER, CECIL PROPERTY	RICE LAKE
ERP	OPEN	HENRY REPEATING ARMS	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	RAINBOW HOME CENTER	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	KUNDEL IRREVOCABLE TRUST	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	RICE LAKE AIRPORT (FORMER)	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	DON JOHNSON MOTORS	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	HYMAN FREIGHTWAYS	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	ROUND TOWNER BUS GARAGE	RICE LAKE

ACTIVITY	STATUS	LOCATION	MUNICIPALITY
LUST	CLOSED	SPUR STATION 1674 (FORMER)	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	RICE LAKE CTY STREET DEPT	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	RAINBOW HOME CENTER	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	RICE LAKE CTY LF	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	ARNOLDS MOBIL	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	AMPI	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	BERGERONS SPECIALTY STORE	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	BOBS REPAIR SERVICE	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	METZ BAKING CO	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	JOHNSON REFRIGERATION TRUCK BODIES LLC	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	SPUR STATION 1674 (FORMER)	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	COE DALRYMPLE HEATHMAN SC	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	LAKEVIEW MEDICAL CENTER	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	COOPER ENGINEERING CO INC	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	VONASEK & SCHIEFFER CONST CO	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	MASTERCRAFT INDUSTRIES INC	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	RON'S AUTO BODY	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	UW BARRON CENTER	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	RICE LAKE CTY STREET DEPT	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	RICE LAKE CTY UTILITY	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	DAVID ALDERMAN EZ STOP	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	WILLIAMS WELDING	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	GUSTAFSON ICE CREAM CO	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	BIRCHWOOD MFG CO	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	S&J SMITH CORP	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	OWENS & SKAR TRUCKING	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	WI ARMY NATL GUARD RICE LAKE	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	INDIANHEAD OIL	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	LAZY A RANCH	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	REICHS SERVICE	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	UNITED PARCEL SERVICE	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	WI DOT RICE LAKE	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	WIESNER, LOREN INC	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	INDIANHEAD TECHNICAL COLLEGE	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	SPEEDWAY 4247 (FORMER)	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	DEMERS, LEROY	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	HOLIDAY STATION #169	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	WICK, JOHN RESIDENCE	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	RIVERSIDE ARMS	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	F & F AUTO	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	HARDYS LIQUOR STORE	RICE LAKE
LUST	OPEN	NORTHWEST TRANSPORT	RICE LAKE
LUST	OPEN	RICE LAKE FARMERS UNION COOP	RICE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	SIoux CREEK SHOP	SIoux CREEK
ERP	CLOSED	DARLING DELAWARE	STANLEY
ERP	OPEN	BARRON CNTY LF - #01887	STANLEY
LUST	CLOSED	NORTH OAKS RENDERING	STANLEY
LUST	CLOSED	SUMNER TN SHOP	SUMNER
ERP	CLOSED	HEINTZ BULK PLT	TURTLE LAKE
ERP	OPEN	HEINTZ BULK PLT	TURTLE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	HOFFMAN, LLOYD PROPERTY	TURTLE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	AUTO STOP	TURTLE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	HOLIDAY STATION STORE #038	TURTLE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	ALLTECH INC	TURTLE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	TURTLE LAKE MOTOR CO INC	TURTLE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	DAVIS AUTO BODY	TURTLE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	BYRNES & PERGA LAW OFFICE	TURTLE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	TURTLE LAKE FEED MILL	TURTLE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	SANMINA-SCI (HARTZELL MFG)	TURTLE LAKE
LUST	CLOSED	BECKERS TRUCKING INC	TURTLE LAKE
LUST	OPEN	WILD CARD BAR	TURTLE LAKE
LUST	OPEN	HEINTZ BULK PLT	TURTLE LAKE

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION REQUIREMENTS

The following address the Intergovernmental Cooperation requirement to analyze the relationship of the local governmental unit to the state, the region, school districts, adjacent local governments, and other governmental units.

Cooperating across the spectrum of government and non-governmental units

Barron County and the State of Wisconsin

Barron County is one of 72 counties in Wisconsin, and as such is an administrative arm of the state. The following list demonstrates the interdependent relationship between the state and the county:

The County Highway Department implements and maintains information for Local Road Improvement Programs through state and federal agencies

- The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources work with county departments and UW-Extension on a variety of programs
- The Health and Human Services Department depends largely on state funded money
- The Child Support Agency administers Wisconsin Child Support Programs
- The District Attorney represents the State of Wisconsin in the prosecution of cases related to: misdemeanor and felonies; Wisconsin State Patrol; DNR; juvenile delinquency, child protection services, and termination of parental rights.
- The Zoning Department enforces state codes
- The Veterans Department administers Federal and State Veterans programs and services
- Emergency Management reports the location of hazardous materials to the State of Wisconsin to the Emergency Planning Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA)
- Emergency Management coordinates continuing education and training of municipalities and emergency response agencies to remain compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) for Homeland Security

Barron County and the Region

Barron County is linked regionally through the principal arterials of U.S. Highways 53, 63 and 8; State Highway 25; and the minor arterial of State Hwy 48.

The County is located in West Central Wisconsin, one of seven counties in the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning (WCWRP) area. Within the planning area the County shares full borders with Polk and Dunn and partial borders with Chippewa, and St. Croix counties. The County does not share a border with Eau Claire or Clark Counties, the other two in the planning area. Outside of the planning area the County shares full borders with Rusk and Washburn, and partial borders with Burnett, and Sawyer.

- There are several projects and programs with a variety of bordering and nearby counties such as;
- The Barron-Rusk Drug Enforcement Unit
- The sharing of radio tower in Johnstown, Polk County between Barron/Polk County
- The motorized trail coordination through the North Regional Trail Advisory Committee (NoTRAC) between Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Rusk, Barron, Polk, and Chippewa counties.
- The West Wisconsin Rail Transit Authority (WWRTA) between Barron and Chippewa counties.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION REQUIREMENTS

Barron County to its Municipalities: This is addressed in the Intergovernmental Cooperation Opportunities Section of the Plan.

Barron County and School Districts

The Sheriff's Department and Emergency Management have maps of schools to aid in the event of a disaster or act of terrorism. Other than that the School Districts within the county are responsible for the planning and operating of their own educational and athletic facilities.

When it comes to higher education, the County owns the land that comprises the campus of UW-Barron County (UW-BC). They are in a 75 year contract that ends in 2043 that allows for UW-BC to produce their own master plan and budget for their own building projects and provide their own maintenance, all with the approval from the Barron County Board.

Barron County and Tribal Entities

The St. Croix Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians has trust/heirship land located in Barron, Burnett, and Polk Counties in Wisconsin and in Pine County in east central Minnesota. They have 34 homes and a 6-unit apartment complex at Maple Plain Village in Barron County. St. Croix Chippewa are the second largest employer in Barron County through the St. Croix Casino and Hotel located in Turtle Lake. In recognition of the St. Croix Chippewa Nation's sovereign status, Barron County has executed an inter-governmental agreement with the St. Croix Chippewa which covers the provision of emergency services to Tribal Lands and includes Tribal representation on the Barron County Local Emergency Planning Committee. In Barron County, St. Croix youth are educated within the Cumberland School District; the Tribe provides their own health and social services to tribal members.

Barron County and Lake Districts

There are seven Lake Districts in Barron County. Lake Districts are incorporated entities under Wisconsin Statute 33, Subchapter IV, they have the right to make contracts, acquire and sell property, contract debt, tax property owners, maintain a water safety patrol, and to do any other acts necessary to carry out a program of lake protection and rehabilitation. The Barron County Soil and Water Department provides educational and technical assistance to them and publishes an annual Lakeshore Resident Newsletter. Lake Districts also work closely with the Zoning Department on lakeshore development plans to ensure protection of the waters. A complete list of Lake Districts within Barron County is provided in the Inventory of Plans, Programs, & Land Use Policies in West Central Wisconsin.

Barron County and Military Base:

In the City of Rice Lake there is an Armory for the Wisconsin Army National Guard, they use it for unit drills one weekend a month.

Mutual Aid Agreements

The Emergency Management Department, because of the nature of their responsibilities, works with a variety of plans and programs and has mutual aid agreements and understandings throughout the county and with neighboring jurisdictions.

- Joint Powers Agreement between Sheriff's Department and all municipalities
- Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement Emergency Management Services between Emergency Management and all townships
- MOU between The St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, The State of Wisconsin and Barron County, Wisconsin
- MOU Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- MOU Barron Medical Center/Mayo Health System (now known as Luther Midelfort Northland), Cumberland Memorial Hospital and Lakeview Medical Center

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION REQUIREMENTS

- MOU Wisconsin Coroners/Medical Examiners Association/ Wisconsin Emergency Managers Association/Wisconsin Funeral Directors Association/Wisconsin Dental Association
- Barron County/Cumberland Fire Department Confined Space Agreement
- Barron County Resolution No. 2007-27 – Resolution Approving 2008/2009 Hazardous Materials Response Agreement Between City of Rice Lake and Barron County
- Barron County Resolution No. 2009-25 – Resolution Approving 2010/2011 Hazardous Materials Response Agreement Between City of Rice Lake and Barron County
- Mutual Aid Agreement for County Emergency Management Assistance between St. Croix County and Barron County
- Barron County Fire Departments Mutual Aid Agreement