

# **Town of Spider Lake**



## **Comprehensive Plan September 2018**

## TOWN OF SPIDER LAKE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

### Spider Lake Planning Commission Members

Brian Hucker	Chairperson
George Brandt	Member
John Cerman	Member
Prudence Ross	Member
Casimir (Case) Mazik	Member

Prepared by:  
Northwest Regional Planning Commission  
1400 South River Street  
Spooner, WI 54801



Northwest Regional Planning Commission

# NWRPC

*keeping your future as our focus*

*Serving communities within and counties of  
ASHLAND, BAYFIELD, BURNETT,  
DOUGLAS, IRON, PRICE, RUSK, SAWYER,  
TAYLOR, & WASHBURN*

*And the Tribal Nations of  
BAD RIVER, LAC COURTE ORIELLES, LAC  
DU FLAMBEAU, RED CLIFF, & ST. CROIX*

**TOWN OF SPIDER LAKE  
SAWYER COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-03**

**SECTION I – TITLE AND PURPOSE**

The title of this ordinance is the Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan Ordinance (2018). The purpose of this ordinance is for the Town of Spider Lake, Sawyer County, Wisconsin to lawfully adopt an updated comprehensive plan as required under s. 66.1001 (4) (c), Wis. stats.

**SECTION II – AUTHORITY**

The Town Board of the Town of Spider Lake, Sawyer County, Wisconsin, has authority under its village powers under s. 60.22, Wis. stats., to appoint a Town Plan Commission under s. 60.62 (4) and 62.23 (1), Wis. Stats., and under s. 66.1001 (4), Wis. Stats., to adopt this ordinance. The comprehensive plan of the Town of Spider Lake must be in compliance with s. 66.1001 (4) (c), Wis. Stats., in order for the Town Board to adopt this ordinance.

**SECTION III – ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE**

This ordinance, adopted by a majority of the Town Board on a roll call vote with a quorum present and voting and proper notice having been given, provides for the adoption by the Town of a Comprehensive Plan under s. 66.1001 (4), Wis. stats.

**SECTION IV – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Town Board has adopted written procedures designed to foster public participation in every stage of the preparation of a Comprehensive Plan as required by s. 66.1001 (4) (a), Wis. stats.

**SECTION V – TOWN PLAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

The Plan Commission of the Town of Spider Lake, by a majority vote of the entire Commission, recorded in its official minutes, has adopted a resolution recommending to the Town Board the adoption of the (2018) Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan, which contains all of the elements specified in s. 66.1001 (2), Wis. stats.

**SECTION VI – PUBLIC HEARING**

The Town of Spider Lake has held at least one public hearing on this ordinance, with notice in compliance with the requirements of s. 66.1001 (4) (d), Wis. stats.

**SECTION VII – ADOPTION OF TOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

The Town Board, by the enactment of this ordinance, formally adopts the document entitled Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan Ordinance (2018) under s.66.1001 (4) (c), Wis. stats.

#### SECTION VIII – SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

#### SECTION IX – REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES

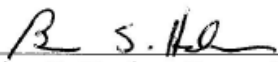
All ordinance provisions heretofore enacted or adopted by the Town Board that are in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.


#### SECTION X – EFFECTIVE DATE

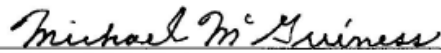
This ordinance is effective on publication or posting.

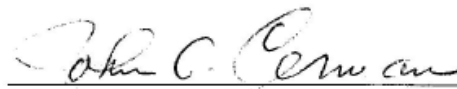
The town clerk shall properly post or publish this ordinance as required under s. 60.80, Wis. stats. and a copy of the ordinance and the Comprehensive Plan, shall be filed with at least all of the entities specified under s. 66.1001 (4) (b), Wis. stats.

Adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian S. Hucker, Town Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George J. Brandt, Supervisor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael McGuinness, Supervisor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John A. Cerman, Supervisor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Huot, Supervisor

**TOWN OF SPIDER LAKE  
SAWYER COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

**RESOLUTION #2018-04**

The Plan Commission of the Town of Spider Lake, Sawyer County, Wisconsin by this resolution, adopted by a majority of the Town Plan Commission on a roll call vote with a quorum present and voting and proper notice having been given, resolves and recommends to the Town Board of the Town of Spider Lake as follows:

Adoption of Amendments to the Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan.

The Plan Commission of the Town of Spider Lake, by this resolution, further resolves and orders as follows:

All maps and other materials noted and attached as exhibits to the Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan are incorporated into and made a part of the Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan.

The vote of the Town Plan Commission in regard to this resolution shall be recorded by the clerk of the Town Plan Commission in the official minutes of the Plan Commission of the Town of Spider Lake.

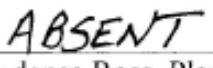
The Town clerk shall properly post or publish this resolution as required under s. 60.80, Wis. stats.

Adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018.

  
Brian S. Hucker, Plan Commission Chair

  
George J. Brandt, Plan Commission Member

  
John A. Cerman, Plan Commission Member

  
Prudence Ross, Plan Commission Member

  
Casimir Mazik, Plan Commission Member

Attest:   
Chelsea Tripodi, Plan Commission Secretary

## Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	14
PLANNING ASSUMPTION.....	15
DEMOGRAPHICS, ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES .....	17
POPULATION.....	17
AGE .....	18
RACE.....	18
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT.....	18
HOUSEHOLDS.....	19
HOUSEHOLD INCOME .....	20
EMPLOYMENT .....	20
OVERALL GOAL STATEMENT .....	21
ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES.....	21
HOUSING & HOUSING TRENDS.....	23
INTRODUCTION .....	23
EXISTING AND FUTURE HOUSING CONDITIONS .....	23
HOUSING OCCUPANCY CHARACTERISTICS.....	24
Owner Occupied.....	24
Renter Occupied.....	24
Short Term Rental Properties .....	25
Seasonal Housing .....	25
WATERFRONT PROPERTY SUMMARY .....	25
HOUSING STOCK.....	25
Age of Housing Stock and Structural Characteristics.....	25
Mobile Homes .....	26
Manufactured Homes .....	26
Water and Sewer Access .....	26
Heating .....	26
Housing Values.....	26
HOUSING TRENDS .....	26

Demographic Changes Affecting Housing .....	26
Seasonal Homes .....	27
Decline in Inhabitants Per - Occupied Housing Unit.....	27
Tourism and Recreational Destinations .....	27
Home Conversion .....	27
HOUSING PROGRAMS .....	28
Sawyer County Housing Authority .....	28
WHEDA (Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority) .....	28
USDA-Rural Development.....	28
Sawyer County Housing Rehabilitation Program (Revolving Loan Fund, RLF).....	28
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-EAP).....	28
Northwest Affordable Housing.....	29
Indianhead Community Action Agency.....	29
TRANSPORTATION .....	30
INTRODUCTION .....	30
MODES OF TRANSPORTATION .....	30
Highways.....	30
Public Transit .....	31
Air Transportation.....	31
Bicycling .....	32
Walking.....	32
Train Travel.....	32
Trucking & Water Transportation .....	32
Multi-Use Trails .....	32
APPLICABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANS .....	33
TRANSLINKS 21 .....	33
Connections 2030 .....	33
Wisconsin State Highway Plan 2020.....	33
CORRIDORS 2020 .....	33
Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020 .....	34

Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan 2020.....	34
Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2020.....	34
Wisconsin State Rail Plan 2020 .....	34
UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES .....	36
INTRODUCTION .....	36
UTILITIES .....	36
Water Supply .....	36
Sanitary Sewer System and Wastewater Treatment.....	36
Storm Water Management.....	36
Solid Waste Disposal .....	36
Power Supply & Power Plants.....	36
COMMUNITY FACILITIES .....	36
Recycling Facilities.....	36
Communication Facilities.....	37
Mail Service - .....	37
Cemeteries.....	37
Health Care Facilities .....	37
Child Care Facilities .....	37
Libraries .....	37
Schools.....	37
Parks.....	37
Other Facilities .....	38
COMMUNITY SERVICES .....	38
Police Services.....	38
Fire Services .....	38
Rescue Services.....	38
FUTURE NEEDS .....	39
NATURAL, AGRICULTURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES .....	40
LOCATION .....	40
PHYSIOGRAPHY .....	40



CLIMATE .....	40
GEOLOGY .....	41
SOILS .....	41
WATER RESOURCES.....	42
Surface Waters .....	42
Water Quality.....	42
Groundwater Quality .....	42
Floodplains .....	43
Wetland Resources.....	43
Streams and Rivers .....	44
BIOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES.....	44
WILDLIFE .....	44
MINERAL RESOURCES .....	45
OPEN SPACE AND PARKS.....	46
AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES .....	46
CULTURAL RESOURCES .....	46
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT .....	52
INTRODUCTION .....	52
LABOR FORCE .....	52
ECONOMIC BASE .....	52
Employment by Industry .....	52
ATTRACTING AND RETAINING BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY .....	52
STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES .....	53
BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY SITES .....	53
REDEVELOPMENT AND CONTAMINATED SITES .....	53
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND ORGANIZATIONS.....	54
FEDERAL .....	54
Economic Development Administration .....	54
USDA Wisconsin Rural Development .....	55
STATE.....	55

Wisconsin Department of Commerce .....	55
Wisconsin Departments of Tourism and Commerce .....	56
Wisconsin Department of Transportation .....	56
REGIONAL.....	56
Northwest Regional Planning Commission.....	56
Northwest Wisconsin Business Development Corporation.....	56
LOCAL.....	56
Sawyer County Development Corporation.....	56
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION.....	57
INTRODUCTION .....	57
LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS.....	57
Sawyer County .....	57
School Districts .....	57
Other Adjacent or Overlapping Jurisdiction .....	57
PLANS AND AGREEMENTS.....	57
Clam Lake Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).....	58
Sawyer County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan .....	58
Town of Round Lake/Spider Lake Communications Plan .....	59
EXISTING OR POTENTIAL CONFLICTS.....	59
LAND USE.....	60
INTRODUCTION .....	60
LAND USE CHARACTERISTICS .....	60
Uses of the Land.....	60
TRENDS IN LAND - SUPPLY, DEMAND AND PRICE .....	61
Supply .....	61
Demand .....	61
Price .....	61
REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES & EXISTING LAND USE CONFLICTS.....	61
Redevelopment.....	61
Conflicts.....	62

LAND USE PROJECTIONS .....	62
Residential .....	62
Commercial .....	63
Manufacturing .....	63
Agricultural.....	63
TAX PARCEL TRENDS, 1980-2017 .....	63
Residential Parcels .....	65
Commercial Parcels .....	65
Manufacturing Parcels.....	65
Forestry Parcels.....	65
Agricultural Parcels.....	66
Undeveloped .....	66
Other.....	66
Total Taxable Acreage .....	66
TOWN ENFORCED LAND USE ORDINANCES.....	67
EXISTING LAND USE .....	67
Public Ownership .....	67
Forest Crop / Woodland Tax Areas .....	67
Open Water / Shoreline.....	67
IMPLEMENTATION VISION, STRATEGY, TACTIC AND GOAL DEVELOPMENT.....	72
INTRODUCTION .....	72
VISION, STRATEGY, TACTIC AND GOAL STATEMENTS .....	72
PUBLIC MEETING AND INPUT .....	75
PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS .....	77
GENERAL GUIDELINES .....	93
GENERALIZED LAND USE MAP RECOMMENDATIONS .....	94
Retail Service Area .....	94
Shoreland Residential.....	95
Rural Forested Open Space.....	95
Agricultural/Open Areas.....	96

IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS.....	96
TOOLS TO PROTECT LAND FROM FRAGMENTATION .....	97
TOOLS FOR PUBLIC CONSERVATION .....	97
TOOLS FOR THE PRIVATE LAND OWNER.....	98
RECOMMENDED TOWN OF SPIDER LAKE ACTIONS .....	99
Appendices.....	101
Public Participation Plan .....	102
Notice of Public Hearing.....	105
Public Hearing Sign-In Sheet .....	106
Glossary of Terms .....	107

## Table of Figures

Figure 1. 1 .....	18
Figure 1. 2 .....	19
Figure 3. 1 .....	32
Figure 9. 1 .....	81

## Table of Maps

Map 1. 1 .....	16
Map 3. 1 .....	35
Map 5. 1 .....	47
Map 5. 2 .....	48
Map 5. 3 .....	49
Map 5. 4 .....	50
Map 5. 5 .....	51
Map 8. 1 .....	68
Map 8. 2 .....	69
Map 8. 3 .....	70
Map 8. 4 .....	71
Map 9. 1 .....	100

## Tables

Table 1. 1: Town of Spider Lake Historical Population.....	17
Table 1. 2: Population Comparisons of Adjacent Towns .....	17
Table 1. 3: Spider Lake Population Projections.....	17
Table 1. 4: Spider Lake Age Distribution .....	18
Table 1. 5: Spider Lake, Race (2015) .....	18
Table 1. 6: Spider Lake Occupied Household Projections.....	19
Table 1. 7: Historic and Projected Average Household Size 1980-2040.....	19
Table 1. 8: Town of Spider Lake Household Income.....	20
Table 1. 9: Town of Spider Lake Occupation.....	21
Table 1. 10: Occupation Projections for Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Area, 2014-2024 (Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor and Washburn Counties).....	21
Table 2. 1: 1980-2015 Housing Data.....	23
Table 2. 2: Spider Lake Household Projections.....	24
Table 2. 3: Historic and Projected Average Household Size 1980-2040.....	27
Table 3. 1: Town of Spider Lake Functional Classification System.....	30
Table 3. 2: AADT Traffic Counts .....	30
Table 3. 3: Ashland, Bayfield and Sawyer County Airfields within 30 Miles of the Town of Spider Lake .....	31
Table 4. 1: Town of Spider Lake Future Utilities & Community Facilities.....	39
Table 6. 1: General Characteristics of Spider Lake (2015) .....	52
Table 6. 2: Employed Residents by Industry Sector (2015).....	53
Table 6. 3: Contamination Sites (BRRTS) .....	54
Table 8. 1: Land Use .....	60
Table 8. 2: Public and Private Ownership.....	60
Table 8. 3: New Structures Built in the Town of Spider Lake from 2008-2017 .....	61
Table 8. 4: Projected Land Use Needs .....	62
Table 8. 5: Parcel Counts and Tax Assessment Values .....	63
Table 9. 1: Spider Lake Chain, Teal Lake, Lost Land Lake and Ghost Lake Water Quality Data.....	80

## INTRODUCTION

The Town of Spider Lake was the first and is the only Town in Sawyer County that administers its own comprehensive zoning and shoreland ordinance and has done so since 1967.

From time to time, reviewing and updating the Town's comprehensive plan is necessary. These updates are critical to maintaining up-to-date information and to ensure the comprehensive plan meets the present needs of its residents. Working off the successes contributed by the 25-member land use committee between 1999 and 2002, this amendment continues to use the majority of facts and findings developed throughout that process. Demographic and other data analysis were updated along with the addition of chapter narrative. A standing Comprehensive Plan Committee met regularly during the planning process and reported to the Town Board.

The Town of Spider Lake is located in northeastern Sawyer County and abuts Bayfield County to the North and Ashland County to the East (Map 1.1). Two - thirds of the Town lies within the boundary of the Chequamegon National Forest and is characteristic of northern Wisconsin's lake and forest region. The terms "town" and "township" are not identical. The word "town" denotes a unit of government while "township" is a surveyor's term (public land survey system – PLSS) describing the basic grid framework for legal descriptions of all land in the state (including land in cities and villages). Townships are six mile by six mile squares (36 square miles). Consequently, the Town of Spider Lake is comprised of three townships which are: Township 42 Range 5W, Township 42 Range 6W, Township 42 Range 7W.

Surface water resources are abundant with over 50 named lakes and unnamed lakes, most of which are in the Chequamegon National Forest. Lakes within the Town have a tradition of providing quality resort and guest cabin facilities; of which, many still remain as important contributors to the Town's economy.

The demand for lakefront property and lake access continue to cause increased development pressure on lakes throughout the Town, threatening lakes with overcrowding and the problems associated with overuse. At the same time, the demand for off-lake development, particularly residential housing, has increased and has begun to change the character of the rural landscape.

The questions of maintaining northwood's character, maintaining and improving surface water quality of lakes, and providing economic sustainability to meet community needs continue to be major issues facing the Town of Spider Lake.

The comprehensive plan will continue to provide Town officials with a guide for reviewing subdivision plats, certified survey maps, rezoning requests, and other land use proposals. In addition to the public sector, the plan will also benefit the private sector

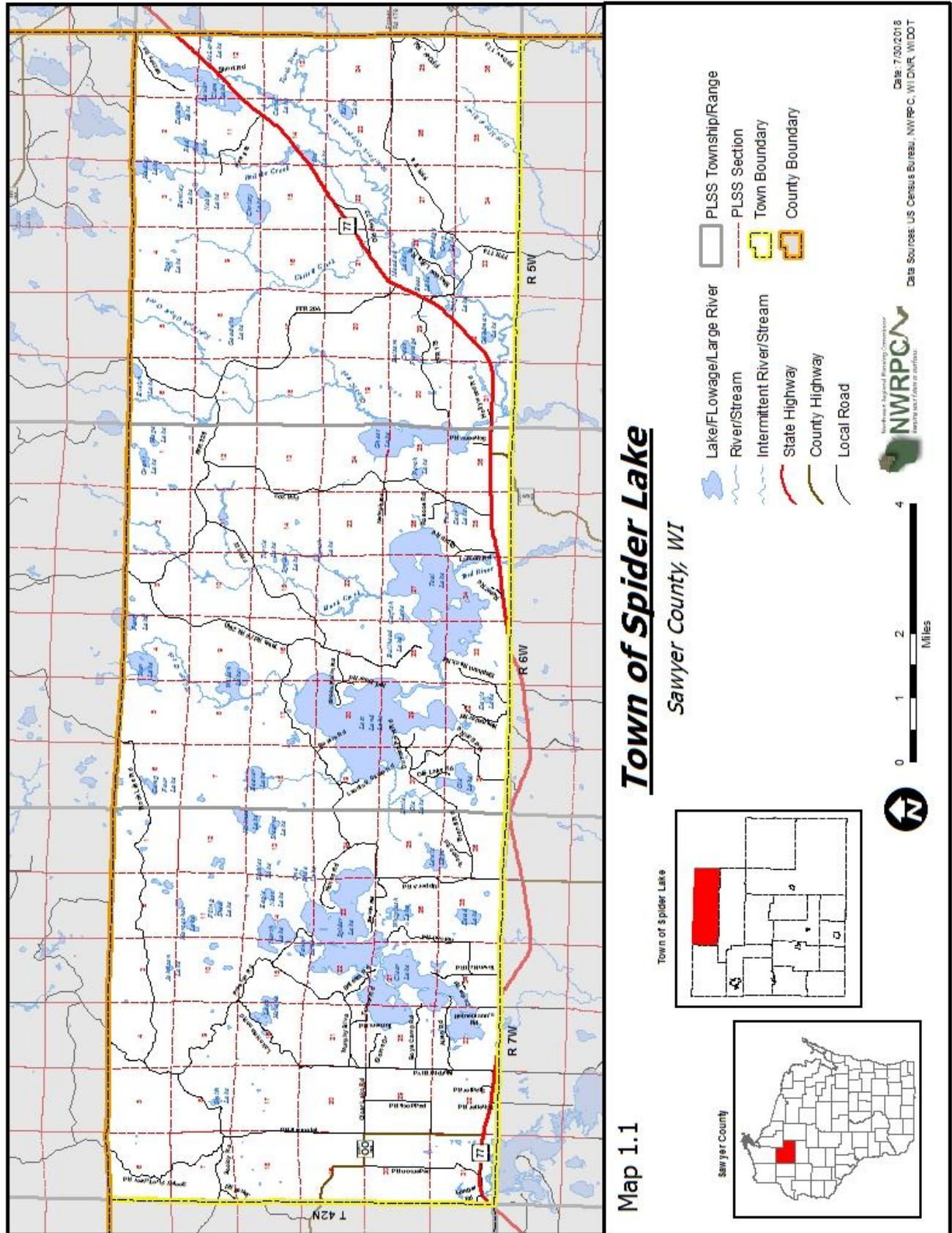
by providing a level of assurance as to having a comprehensive plan and vision for the future.

## **PLANNING ASSUMPTION**

Individual residents, local officials, groups, and businesses all take actions based upon assumptions, real or perceived. If the goal of town planning is to provide a blueprint or framework to guide and regulate new development and other activities, then a number of assumptions can be made about what to do as a result of current and pending concerns. In view of discussion of issues, a number of "assumptions" can be set forth that will serve as a basis for the comprehensive plan. While these assumptions were generated in 2002, the statements continue to be appropriate for future planning for today and beyond. These assumptions, in no order, are:

1. There will be an increasing demand for housing of all types in the Town.
2. The existing growth rate will continue.
3. Development pressure on shorelands will continue to increase.
4. As shoreland property becomes unavailable, development of off-lake property will increase.
5. There will be an increase in the demand for additional or improved public services, roads, and facilities.
6. The Town can help direct desirable new development location without additional tax dollars.
7. The Town's "northwood's" character will continue to be an extremely important consideration of the economy and quality of life.
8. The Town of Spider Lake and Sawyer County can continue a cooperative process for improving land use planning and growth management particularly within the shorelands in the Town.
9. The Town will increase building and other permit fees to cover the cost of ordinance generation and enforcement as necessary.
10. The Town can initiate a cooperative planning process with the U.S. Forest Service to improve and maintain recreational opportunities, forest economy, and "northwood's" character.
11. Compromise between traditional rental and new demands of rentals and recreation.

Together, all members of the Town can contribute to a process that explores past and current trends, thus translating the known to projected or preferred alternatives that meets the majority of interests. With all processes, a concerted effort on the behalf of all partners, overlapping and adjoining jurisdictions and others can provide an outcome where factors such as rural and northwood's character remains, all types of land use activity compliment and protect the natural environment and the town continues to be a vibrant community of blessed people. (Refer to Map 1.1)





## DEMOGRAPHICS, ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

### **POPULATION**

The Town's population has increased over the last fifty years according to the Census. As displayed in Table 1.1, the Town of Spider Lake experienced an 89.5 percent increase from 1950 to 2015. The largest increase was between 1970 and 1980 when the population grew by 27.8 percent.

**Table 1. 1: Town of Spider Lake Historical Population**

Year	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015 (ACS)
Population	200	246	259	331	362	391	351	379

Source: US Census Bureau, SF1 and 2015 ACS

Between 1990 and the 2015 preliminary population estimate, the Town of Spider Lake experienced a 4.70 percent increase (Table 1.2). Meanwhile, Sawyer County grew at the rate of nearly 16.23 percent. Three of the surrounding Towns grew over the same time period, while two of the nearby Towns decreased in population. Using the 2015 ACS estimate, the Spider Lake population comprises about 2.30 percent of the Sawyer County population.

**Table 1. 2: Population Comparisons of Adjacent Towns**

	1990	2000	2010	2015	Net Change	% Change
Cable	817	836	825	821	4	0.49%
Lenroot	966	1,165	1,279	1,140	174	18.01%
Namakagon	276	285	246	255	-21	-7.61%
Round Lake	727	962	977	1,125	398	54.75%
Shanagolden	172	150	125	119	-53	-30.81%
<b>Spider Lake</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4.70%</b>
Sawyer County	14,181	16,196	16,557	16,483	2,302	16.23%

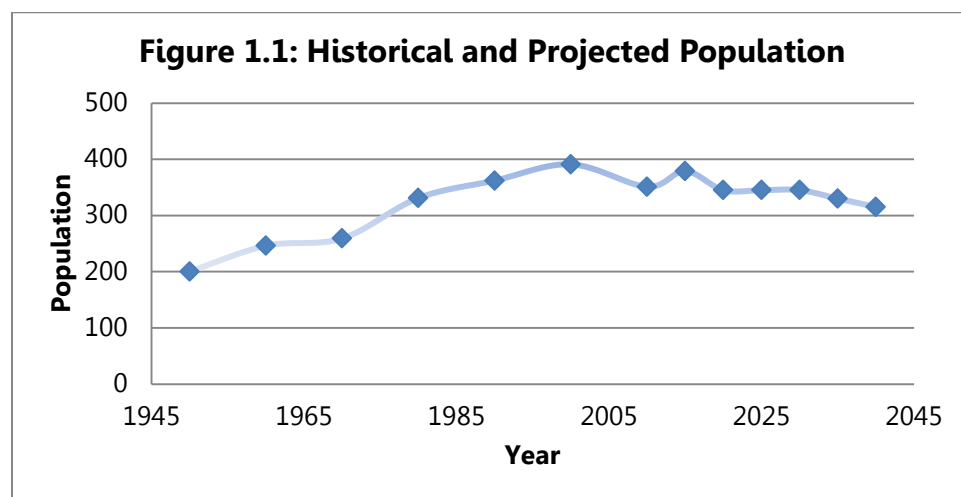
Source: US Census Bureau, 2015 ACS

The Wisconsin Department of Administration conducts municipal-level population projections in five-year increments. According to these projections, the Town of Spider Lake will decrease by 30 residents or -8.70 percent from 2020 to 2040. See Table 1.3 below and Figure 1 on the following page.

**Table 1. 3: Spider Lake Population Projections**

2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
345	345	345	330	315

Source: \*Jan 1, 2017 Preliminary Population Estimates, WI Dept. of Administration



## AGE

From 2000 to 2015, the number of people under 24 years of age dropped by 35.85 percent. Age categories 55-64, 65-74 and 75-84 all increased in population ranging from about 32 to 75 percent. This indicates a trend common to NW Wisconsin, where elderly are making up the majority of the population residents of communities.

## RACE

In 2015, 372 residents are identified as white, 1 as American Indian, 2 as Asian Alone and 4 as two or more races. Table 1.5 shows the racial makeup for the Town.

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The 2015, American Community Survey showed that 329 residents completed high school and of those 329, 72 had some college, 20

**Table 1. 4: Spider Lake Age Distribution**

Age category	2000	2010	2015	% Change: 2000-2015
85 and over	12	7	4	-66.67%
75 to 84	28	46	49	75.00%
65 to 74	74	75	98	32.43%
55 to 64	68	76	97	42.65%
45 to 54	63	66	63	0.00%
35 to 44	72	30	30	-58.33%
25 to 34	21	14	4	-80.95%
15 to 24	16	22	21	31.25%
5 to 14	32	9	10	-68.75%
Under 5	5	6	3	-40.00%
<b>Selected age categories</b>				
All inhabitants over 75	40	53	28	-30.00%
All inhabitants over 65	114	128	99	-13.16%
All inhabitants under 24	53	37	34	-35.85%
All inhabitants under 14	37	15	13	-64.86%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2015 ACS Data

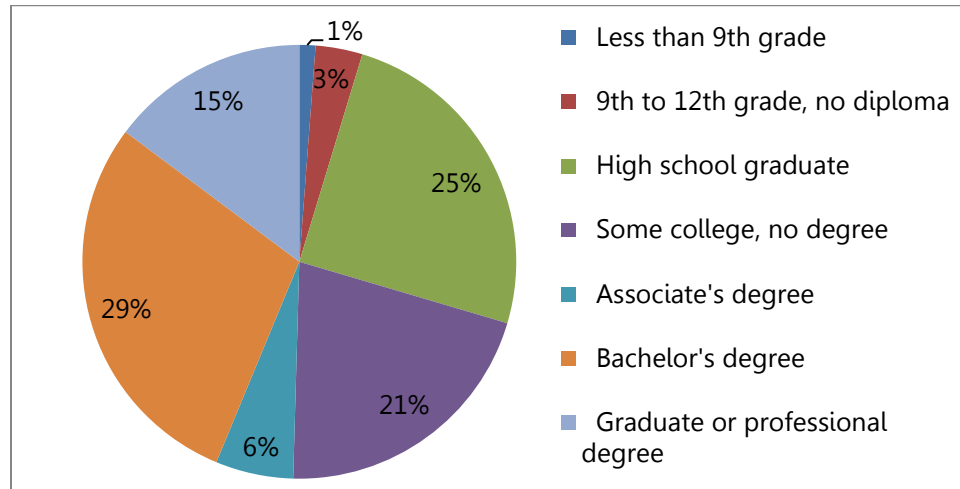
**Table 1. 5: Spider Lake, Race (2015)**

White alone	372
Black or African American alone	0
American Indian	1
Asian alone	2
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0
Some other race alone	0
Two or more races	4
<b>Total:</b>	<b>379</b>

Source: US Census Bureau, 2015 ACS Data

had an associated degree, 100 had a bachelor degree and 51 had a graduate or professional degree. Only those 25 years of age and older are reflected in the educational attainment analysis. Figure 1.2 provides visual percentage breakdown look at educational attainment in the Town of Spider Lake.

**Figure 1.2 – Educational Attainment, Town of Spider Lake**



## HOUSEHOLDS

Households are defined as total occupied housing units in a municipality. The number of occupied households in the Town of Spider Lake has grown by 10.38 percent, from 183 in 2000 to 202 in 2015. Of the 202 total occupied households in 2015, 142 are two or more person households. Average household size has declined in the past 20 years and looks to decline in the future (Table 1.7). State and national trends have indicated an increase in the total number of households, along with a decrease in average household size. Contributing factors for this trend may include: decreasing birth rate, people waiting longer to get married, an increase in the average lifespan resulting in more elderly living alone and divorce. Final household projections, developed by the Wisconsin Demographic Services Center, indicate that the number of households will continue to increase. Table 1.6 details household projections for the Town of Spider Lake.

**Table 1. 6: Spider Lake Occupied Household Projections**

Year	Total Households
2010 (Census)	183
2015 (ACS)	202
2020	190
2025	192
2030	195
2035	188
2040	182

Source: US Census Bureau, WI DOA Housing Projections

**Table 1. 7: Historic and Projected Average Household Size 1980-2040**

Historic Census					WI DOA Projections				
1980	1990	2000	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
2.55	2.28	2.07	1.92	1.88	1.82	1.80	1.77	1.76	1.73

Source: US Census Bureau, Census and 2015 ACS

## HOUSEHOLD INCOME

The 2015 median household income (MHI) in the town was \$58,750, which was more than Sawyer County (\$41,665) and the state (\$53,357) respectively. Household income ranged from less than \$10,000 to \$200,000 or more. Table 1.8 breaks down household income in 2015 for the Town of Spider Lake.

## EMPLOYMENT

Between 2000 and 2015, the Town's resident workforce decreased by 15, going from 191 to 176 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The three employment industries with the most employees in 2015 were retail trade and educational services, healthcare, social assistance and arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services.

The following lists the breakdown of the number of people employed in individual industries by greatest to least number in the Town of Spider Lake for 2015.

**Table 1. 8: Town of Spider Lake Household Income**

Income Category	Number of households	Percent of Households
Less than \$10,000	10	4.95%
\$10,000 to \$24,999	25	12.38%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	24	11.88%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	34	16.83%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	62	30.69%
\$100,000 to \$199,999	35	17.33%
\$200,000 or more	12	5.94%
Total Households	202	100.00%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 ACS

### TOWN OF SPIDER LAKE EMPLOYMENT STATUS (2015)

**Population 16 years and over..... 366**

In labor force.....176

Employed... ..169

Unemployed... ..7

Armed Forces.....0

Not in labor force... ..190

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 ACS

1	Retail trade.....	48
2	Educational services, and health care and social assistance.....	24
3	Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services.....	24
4	Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing.....	12
5	Construction.....	11
6	Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services.....	11
7	Manufacturing.....	9
8	Information.....	8
9	Other services, except public administration.....	8
10	Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining.....	5
11	Wholesale trade.....	3
12	Transportation and warehousing, and utilities.....	3
13	Public administration.....	3

Employment by occupation shows a person's job or work in service of an employer. Table 1.9 details the occupation of the employed civilian population 16 years and over in the Town of Spider Lake.

Table 1.10 estimates long-term employment estimates by occupation for the State's northwest region produced by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. Employment of all occupations as a whole is predicted to increase by 3.2 percent in the ten years from 2014 to 2024. A breakdown of the 758 different occupations reveals that the following occupations will grow the most in the northwest Wisconsin region:

- Transportation and Material Moving
- Health Care
- Sales
- Construction and Extraction
- Production
- Management, Business and Financial

**Table 1. 9: Town of Spider Lake Occupation**

Management, business, science and arts occupations	70
Service occupations	21
Sales and office occupations	53
Natural resources, construction and maintenance occupations	13
Productions, transportation and materials moving occupations	12
<b>Total:</b>	<b>169</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 ACS

**Table 1. 10: Occupation Projections for Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Area, 2014-2024 (Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor and Washburn Counties)**

Occupational Title	Estimated Employment				Estimated Average Annual Opening		
	2014	2024	Change	% Change	New Jobs	Replacements	Total
Total, All Occupations	68,200	70,380	2,180	3.20%	220	1,630	1,850

Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Office of Economic Advisors, May 2011

## **OVERALL GOAL STATEMENT**

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

## **ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

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

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

## HOUSING & HOUSING TRENDS

### INTRODUCTION

Adequate housing is a cornerstone of every community. The ability of a municipality to address the demand for housing is important to its economic viability and the wellbeing of its inhabitants. By studying changes in the number of housing units and other housing characteristics, we are able to gain insight into changes taking place in the community.

### EXISTING AND FUTURE HOUSING CONDITIONS

In 2015, The American Community Survey recorded a total of 997 housing units. Of these, 202 were recorded as occupied. Of the total occupied housing units, 154 (15.45% of all housing units) were recorded as owner occupied and 48 (4.81% of all housing units) were recorded as renter occupied. Of the 590 vacant housing units reported, 795 (93.08% of total housing units) were designated as seasonal/recreational use dwellings.

For the period 2000 to 2015, the Town exhibited a 28.48 percent increase in total housing units, an 8.60 percent increase in owner-occupied units, and an 84.62 percent increase in renter occupied units.

**Table 2. 1: 1980-2015 Housing Data**

	1980*	1990	2000	2010	2015
Total Housing Units	786	945	776	982	997
Total Occupied Housing Units	130	159	186	183	202
Owner Occupied Housing Units	110	146	160	125	154
Renter Occupied Housing Units	20	13	26	58	48
Average Household Size	2.54	2.28	2.07	1.92	1.88
Total Vacant Housing Units	636*	786	590	799	795
Vacant (not in use or abandoned)	----	13	11	11	10
For seasonal, rec or occasional use	636*	773	579	724	740

Source: US Census Bureau, 2015 ACS Data. \*The 1980 Census did not identify a specific category of seasonal/recreational homes.

In the period from 2000 to 2015 the total housing units increased from 776 to 997, which represents approximately a 22.17% increase in total housing units. Average household size has continually decreased from 1980 to 2018 while the total vacant housing units have continually risen in that same time period.

Based upon the minimal increase in owner occupied housing units and the decrease in the number of housing units occupied by renters, it would suggest that the majority of the new units built are used for seasonal, recreational or occasional use. A newer phenomenon for which data is not available at this time is how many of the seasonal units are now being rented by their owners.

As noted in 2009, future housing needs, both year-round and seasonal are difficult to project. Changes in the local economy, regional and national housing trends and home mortgage interest rates can significantly influence home construction and use. During 2007, the local and national housing market saw sharp downturns and higher than average foreclosure rates throughout the county, state, and nation. Based upon reassessment data generated in 2013, property values in the Town were adversely affected. The areas most affected were properties classified as forest land and shoreland areas.

**Table 2. 2: Spider Lake Household Projections**

Year	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
<b>Total Households</b>	183	202	190	192	195	188	182

Source: 2010 US Census Bureau, WI DOA Housing Projections

The Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services Center projects housing data for all municipal government. For purposes of this plan, these projects will be used. A total of 47 households (year-round resident dwellings) are projected from 2020-2040 (Table 2.2)

When compared to the American Community Survey 5 year estimates, it appears that the projection are trailing the estimates by at least 5%. In the future, the Town may choose to promote the development of housing with a range of housing choices are available to meet the needs of all income levels and of all age groups and persons with special needs. While the Town itself may not develop housing units, private or public develop is encouraged if all requirements set forth in the Town zoning and related ordinance can be met, if such development is consistent with preservation of the natural environment and consistent with maintaining the Northwood's character of the community where feasible. Several housing programs are identified later in this chapter.

## **HOUSING OCCUPANCY CHARACTERISTICS**

### **Owner Occupied**

In 2015, 154 (76.23 percent of all occupied housing units) units were identified as owner occupied, representing a 23.2 percent increase from 2010. But if 2015 housing unit numbers are compared to 2000 housing unit numbers, there is a 3.75 percent decline. Projections indicate that owner occupied units will continue to comprise the majority of all occupied units.

### **Renter Occupied**

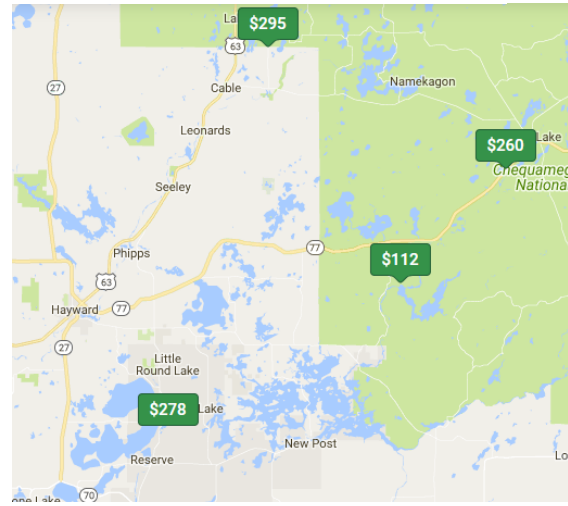
Renter occupied units comprised 23.76 percent of all occupied housing units. Projections indicate a gradual increase in the number of renter occupied units. Of the 48 total renter occupied units in 2015, the median contract rent reported was \$767 per month. Of note, resort cabins and short-term recreational lodging are not defined as rental units by the Census Bureau.



### **Short Term Rental Properties**

A new phenomenon in the northwood's is the popularity of short term rental properties. This is where property owners rent their property out for a short period of time ranging from a night to a few weeks. Several websites have been devoted to these properties such as VRBO and Airbnb. As part of the 2017-19 Wisconsin State Budget, there was the inclusion of the "Right-to-Rent" law. Additional amendments were passed on April 17, 2018 further limiting Towns' powers over Short Term Rentals.

#### **Example of Airbnb Listing in the Spider Lake Area (Evening Rates)**



### **Seasonal Housing**

The 2015 American Community Survey identifies 740 (74.22 percent of the Town's total housing units) housing units in the Town of Spider Lake for seasonal use. Seasonal housing units increased 35.42 percent from 2000 to 2010 while from 2010 to 2015 seasonal housing units decreased .5 percent. This, in part, may be due to retired older persons having turned many seasonal dwellings into year-round homes.

### **WATERFRONT PROPERTY SUMMARY**

There are over 50 named and unnamed lakes in both public and private ownership, in varying states of preservation and development. The largest of the Town's lakes—the Spider Lake chain of lakes, Lost Land Lake and Teal Lake—all have their shorelines developed with a combination of permanent and seasonal residences. The west fork of the Chippewa River flows through the eastern third of the Town in a northeast to southwestern diagonal and much of its adjoining property is in federal ownership—as part of the Chequamegon National Forest—precluding its development as waterfront property for private residences. Areas of this riverway in private ownership include the Meadow Lake region (T42N, R5W, Sec. 28) and roughly the southern half of Lower Clam Lake, (T42N, R5W, Sections 11 and 12). Continued development pressure of recreational homes on the lakes and rivers of the Town of Spider Lake may result in multi-tier development beyond the lakeshore property. Too much development as well as inappropriate lakefront land use and site design can have a negative impact on water quality, wildlife habitat, and the overall aesthetic appearance of lakefront areas.

### **HOUSING STOCK**

#### **Age of Housing Stock and Structural Characteristics**

The 2015 Census reports that 183 (18.36 percent) housing units in the Town of Spider Lake were constructed between 2000 and March 2013. According to 2015 American Community Survey, 60 percent of housing stock in the Town of Spider Lake was built prior to 1980 (601 units or 60.28 percent).

### **Mobile Homes**

Mobile homes declined between 2000 and 2015. In 2000, 19 mobile homes were reported compared to 8 in 2015.

### **Manufactured Homes**

Recent changes in Town ordinances do allow manufactured homes in residential areas.

### **Water and Sewer Access**

At present, the Town of Spider Lake has no municipal water or sewer system in place.

### **Heating**

Based on sample data of occupied housing units (202); 157 or 77.72% are using bottled, tank or LP gas as their primary source of heat, while 9 (4.46%) utilize electricity, 6 (2.97%) and 28 (13.86%) utilize wood or other fuel for heating. Natural gas lines do not reach the town.

### **Housing Values**

Housing values vary greatly depending on location, such as shoreland homes or abutting county, state, or federal land. While Census data only provides a sample of home values for a very small percentage of all homes, home values sampled ranged from less than \$50,000 to \$1,000,000 or more. According to the 2015 American Community Survey, the median value of owner occupied housing units in the State of Wisconsin is \$165,800, Sawyer County's is \$160,400 and the Town of Spider Lake is \$312,800.

## **HOUSING TRENDS**

As is indicated in the population section of this plan, the Town of Spider Lake is expected to see an increasing population base through the year 2025 and exhibit an increase in total housing units for the same period. While population is of prime importance in effecting changes in housing, factors such as demographic changes and economic activity also impact the construction of new houses.

### **Demographic Changes Affecting Housing**

The continued increase of Town residents aged 65 and over is an important factor affecting housing as older residents often forgo home ownership for apartment living, assisted living quarters or to be nearer to family or health care facilities. The growth of this age group in Spider Lake can be attributed to two reasons. The first is that the Town maintains a stable, aging population. Secondly, a few retirees and a few seasonal homeowners have chosen to make the Town of Spider Lake their permanent place of residence. In coming years, some residents aged 65 and over can be expected to leave the area and potentially sell off their houses and land to incoming residents. Additionally, younger Town residents aged 24 and under, are the group least likely to purchase a parcel of land, construct a new home or purchase a home. This age group is projected to continue to comprise a decreasing percentage of Spider Lake residents in the coming years.

## Seasonal Homes

The Town of Spider Lake is well situated within easy travelling distance from a number of popular tourism and recreation destinations ranging from the Hayward area to the West, to the Lake Superior shore and Bayfield Peninsula to the North. Within the Town itself, there are numerous recreational opportunities afforded by the Town and area lakes, rivers, forests and wilderness areas. In 2015, 740 out of 997 of housing units (74.22%) in the Town of Spider Lake are for seasonal, recreational and occasional use.

## Decline in Inhabitants Per - Occupied Housing Unit

A trend common to many northern Wisconsin towns and rural areas is the gradual decline of inhabitants per occupied household. The average persons per household have continued to

decline from 2.55

persons per household

in 1980 to 2.07 person

per household in 2000

to 1.88 in 2015. It is

predicted that this

figure will continue to

decline well into the future. The central trends causing this decline include the out migration of inhabitants under 18 for work or school, overall smaller family size, fewer families with infants moving into the Town, and fewer births. Additionally, many households, existing and new, are composed of retired couples or are single person households.

**Table 2. 3: Historic and Projected Average Household Size 1980-2040**

Historic Census					WI DOA Projections				
1980	1990	2000	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
2.55	2.28	2.07	1.92	1.88	1.82	1.80	1.77	1.76	1.73

Source: US Census Bureau, Census and 2015 ACS

## Tourism and Recreational Destinations

Because of its natural amenities and proximity to other regional tourism and recreational destinations, the Town has been an important regional site of recreational tourism and seasonal home development and is expected to remain so in the coming years. As ideal sites on lakes or in wooded seclusion become exhausted or too expensive, home construction may begin to take place in sites that are marginal or less than ideal for additional development. The large number of seasonal dwellings both in the Town itself and in surrounding communities also has an important impact on the local economy.

## Home Conversion

Two other overall trends have been identified as taking place throughout northern Wisconsin in the past 10 to 15 years that also may impact the Town of Spider Lake. The conversion of seasonal homes into permanent residences, especially by individuals at retirement age, and the conversion of permanent homes into seasonal homes as area residents retire and spend their winters in a more temperate climate. As no specific data exists on these trends for the Town of Spider Lake, it is difficult to definitively describe at what rate these conversions are taking place.

## **HOUSING PROGRAMS**

### **Sawyer County Housing Authority**

To address housing needs of communities in the county, the Sawyer County Housing Authority (SCHA) was established in September 1972. Headquartered in Hayward, the central purpose of the SCHA is to create and maintain affordable housing units to individuals and families within the municipalities of Sawyer County. The SCHA has no housing units in the Town of Spider Lake and does not plan to introduce a facility in the Town in the coming 20-year period. The Sawyer County Housing Authority places its facilities in Sawyer County's more developed areas that have access to municipal water and sewer and to give facility residents ready access to health care services, employment, and shopping opportunities. A subsidy program available to qualifying residents of the Town of Spider Lake and to all other municipal divisions of the county is the federally funded Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 Vouchers. These vouchers, which are administered by the SCHA, enable residents to secure rental units from private stock at a fixed rate.

### **WHEDA (Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority)**

The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority serves Wisconsin residents and communities by working with others to provide creative financing resources and information to stimulate and preserve affordable housing, small business, and agribusiness.

### **USDA-Rural Development**

Rural Development administers federal funds to help secure loan options to assist low-to moderate-income families with home purchase and rehabilitation. Rural Development generally funds individuals who cannot obtain conventional financing.

### **Sawyer County Housing Rehabilitation Program (Revolving Loan Fund, RLF)**

Housing rehabilitation funds are made available through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC as a pass through to the State of Wisconsin. CDBG housing rehabilitation funds are available to municipalities to help offset rehabilitation costs by eligible homeowners, renters, and landlords.

Sawyer County has a housing rehabilitation loan program targeted to income eligible permanent residents. These loan funds may be used for home rehabilitation purposes such as replacing heating systems, shingles, windows, siding, doors and adding insulation. Funds are also available to assist eligible individuals with down payment and closing costs on purchasing a home in the county. Funds are provided to recipients in the form of deferred payment zero percent interest rate loans.

### **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-EAP)**

Emergency assistance funds are available to assist local governments in responding to emergency housing needs. The funds are provided to low to moderate-income families who are homeless due to natural disasters, as well as family groups who meet the state definition of homeless.

**Northwest Affordable Housing**

Northwest Affordable Housing Inc. is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization that is able to obtain funds that are not available to the general public for the purpose of promoting affordable and accessible housing for low- and moderate-income persons. These loan funds may be used for major home rehabilitation needs or for down payment and closing costs when purchasing a home. Funds are provided to recipients in the form of deferred payment zero percent interest rate loans.

**Indianhead Community Action Agency**

This agency provides construction of rental units and weatherization (insulation, windows, doors, energy efficient furnaces, etc.) or anything that helps homeowners with even the most modest or extensive home repairs.

## TRANSPORTATION

### INTRODUCTION

The transportation network is the backbone upon which a municipality builds its economy, ensures its access to resources, and provides a critical link for the transport of residents and visitors as well as goods and services. The assessment of the present transportation infrastructure, in addition to identifying future maintenance and development needs, is vital to retain their continued use to the Town.

The following information in this chapter includes data on the various modes of transportation in the Town of Spider Lake including, but not limited to, highways, transit, and transportation for persons with disabilities, bicycling, walking, railroads, air transportation, trucking and water transportation.

### MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

#### Highways

The Town of Spider Lake road network consists of 14.41 miles of principal arterial roadways, 8.98 miles of rural major collectors, 9.93 miles of rural minor collectors and 84.80 miles of local roads totaling 118.12 miles of roadways in the Town of Spider Lake. The Town utilizes the WisDOT PASER program to maintain an inventory of its local roads and to monitor conditions and improvements of its roads. Ideally, this system will enable the Town to better budget and manage roads that are in need of repair.

**Table 3. 1: Town of Spider Lake Functional Classification System**

Classification Type	Mileage
Principal Arterials	14.41
Rural Major Collector	8.98
Rural Minor Collector	9.93
Local Roads	84.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>118.12</b>

Source: WisDOT

#### 2010 Traffic Count

Site 1: STH 77, between Murphy Blvd. & Heinemann's Rd	1000
Site 2: STH 77, junction with CTH OO	1400
Site 3: STH 77, junction with CTH A	760
Site 4: STH 77, 1 mile E. of junction with CTH S	590

**Table 3. 2: AADT Traffic Counts**

	1966	1968	1973	1979	1982	1985	1991	1995	2004	2010
<b>Recording Site 1:</b>	No data available								1,200	1,000
<b>Recording Site 2:</b>	320	410	760	1,130	980	1,170	1,600	1,600	1,500	1,400
<b>Recording Site 3:</b>	270	210	550	600	560	600	750	1,100	800	760
<b>Recording Site 4:</b>	190	150	350	450	330	350	480	670	590	590

Source: WisDOT AADT System

Roads are broken down by a functional classification system that groups roads into classes according to the level of service they provide. Table 3.1 breaks down the functional road classification by mileage. There are four sites where the Wisconsin Department of Transportation monitors annual average daily traffic counts. The last

traffic count was conducted in 2010. The following were ascertained using the 2010 Wisconsin Highway Traffic Volume Data book. Table 3.2 depicts past AADT numbers for sites located in the Town of Spider Lake.

## Public Transit

The Town of Spider Lake has limited access to public transit opportunities at this time. Currently, the Namekagon Transit/Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Transit Commission and the Senior Resource Center of Sawyer County operates transit services in the Town of Spider Lake.

## Air Transportation

No passenger flights are available to the residents of Spider Lake from within Sawyer County. The nearest airports providing regular scheduled passenger flights to domestic and international destinations are located in Ironwood (limited number of flights); Duluth, Eau Claire and Minneapolis-St. Paul. At present, there are 5 public and 11 private airfields within 30 miles of the Town of Spider Lake. Their location and status is listed in Table 3.3.

**Table 3. 3: Ashland, Bayfield and Sawyer County Airfields within 30 Miles of the Town of Spider Lake**

<b>Ashland County Airports/Airfields within 30 Miles of the Town of Spider Lake</b>			
<b>Airfield / Airport</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Owner / Operator</b>	<b>Status</b>
JFK Memorial	City of Ashland; T47N, R4W, S. 18.	City of Ashland	Public
Hospital Helipad	City of Ashland; Memorial Hospital	Memorial Hospital	Private, helipad
Glidden Municipal	Jacobs Twp.; T42N, R2W, S. 13.	Town of Jacobs	Public
Clam Lake Airfield	Gordon Twp.; T43N, R4W, S. 32	Don Vecchie	Private
Mellen Municipal	City of Mellen, T44N R2W, S. 5	City of Mellen	Public
<b>Bayfield County Airports/Airfields within 30 Miles of the Town of Spider Lake</b>			
<b>Airfield / Airport</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Owner / Operator</b>	<b>Status</b>
Cable Union Airfield	Cable Twp.; T43N, R7W, S. 21	Town of Cable et. al.	Public
Eau Claire Lakes	Barnes Twp.; T45N, R9W, S. 28	Jerry Freirmood	Private
Bayfield County Airfield	Iron River Twp.; T47 N, R9W, S. 2	John Pearson	Public / Private
Bayfield County Hospital	City of Washburn, T49N, R4W, S. 33	Bayfield County Hospital	Private, helipad
Fourmile Creek	Washburn Twp.; T49N, R5W, S. 22	Richard Westling	Private
Batten/Lake Owen Sea Plane Base	Drummond Twp.	(no owner listed)	Water landing
<b>Sawyer County Airports/Airfields within 30 Miles of the Town of Spider Lake</b>			
<b>Airfield / Airport</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Owner / Operator</b>	<b>Status</b>
Sawyer County Airport	Hayward Twp.; T41N, R9W, S. 24	Sawyer County	Public
Rainbow Airport	Ojibwa Twp.; T39N, R6W	Wayne Carpenter	Private (turf strip)
Lake Chippewa Field	Hunter Twp., T40N, R7W	(No owner listed)	Private (turf strip)
Round Lk. Seaplane Base	Round Lake Twp.; T41N, R8W	John Frisbe	Private (water)
Kitty-Wompus Airport	Weirgor Twp., T37N, R7W	Jordan Arvold	Private (turf)

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aeronautics.

## Bicycling

The Wisconsin Bicycle Federation in conjunction with the WisDOT has compiled bicycling maps, by county, that highlight bicycling conditions on select roadways. Figure 3.1 displays the various bike routes throughout the Town of Spider Lake.

**Figure 3.1: Town of Spider Lake Bicycle Map**



Source: WisDOT, WI Bicycle Federation

## Walking

Pedestrian travel in the Town of Spider Lake is limited due to roads with narrow shoulder areas, high speed limits, dust on gravel and earth roads and lack of sidewalks. Walking for anything other than physical and recreational enjoyment is not likely because the low-density development pattern of the Town and the fact that nearly all goods and services are located several miles away in nearby cities. Walking to places for work, shopping or entertainment is also not very likely.

## Train Travel

There are no operational railroads in the Town of Spider Lake.

## Trucking & Water Transportation

Trucking in and around the Town of Spider Lake is done through the highway network, and is typically subject to road weight restrictions depending on the time of year. Water transportation in the Town is primarily for recreational purposes.

## Multi-Use Trails

Within the Town of Spider Lake, there is designated access on Town roads for both snowmobiles and ATV's with ATV's limited to those roads defined by Town of Spider Lake ordinances through national and county forest. A system of designated snowmobile trails within the Town utilize county and national forest lands as well as easements across private property and trail segments across lakes.



Non-motorized recreation trails include a portion of the American Birkebeiner trail, numerous Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) trails both on and off Town roads, national forest designated cross-country ski trails, and hunter walking trails on both county and national forest lands.

The West Fork of the Chippewa River also provides excellent canoeing opportunities at higher water levels.

The vast network of County and National Forest roads that are multi-jurisdictional with the Town of Spider Lake also are used for horseback riding, general bike riding, and driving for pleasure.

## **APPLICABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANS**

### **TRANSLINKS 21**

TransLinks 21 is a multi-modal transportation plan for Wisconsin's 21st century. WisDOT completed the development of the 25-year plan in 1994 as a Statewide Transportation Plan to facilitate the efficient and economic movement of people and goods. Separate transportation modes are more precisely defined in the following transportation mode plans ending in "2020" below.

### **Connections 2030**

Connections 2030 is the second generation Statewide Transportation Plan after Translinks 21, and is now in progress. The planning process will update Wisconsin's comprehensive, long-range multi-modal transportation plan. It will provide a broad planning framework for the next 25 years, guiding transportation policies, programs, and investments through 2030.

### **Wisconsin State Highway Plan 2020**

The Wisconsin State Highway Plan 2020 focuses on the 11, 800 miles of State Trunk Highway routes in Wisconsin. The plan does not identify any projects in the Town of Spider Lake in the next 20 years, and no conflicts with the Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

The portion of STH-77 through Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, from just east of CTH-A in Sawyer Co to STH-13 in Ashland Co, is designated as the "Great Divide National Scenic Highway." This designation, established on November 1, 1988 by the U.S. Forest Service, runs for 29 miles through an undeveloped portion of the national forest

### **CORRIDORS 2020**

Corridors 2020 sets criteria for selected routes that go beyond traditional highway planning with the intent to enhance and improve all two-lane and four-lane highways connecting cities of 5,000 inhabitants or more. This does not pertain to the Town of

Spider Lake, as no corridor 2020 primary or secondary route passes through the Town. No conflicts with the Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan exist at this time.

**Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020**

The Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020 (1998) presents a blueprint for improving and expanding bicycle transportation routes in the state. There are no plans to expand state bicycle routes into the Town of Spider Lake.

**Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan 2020**

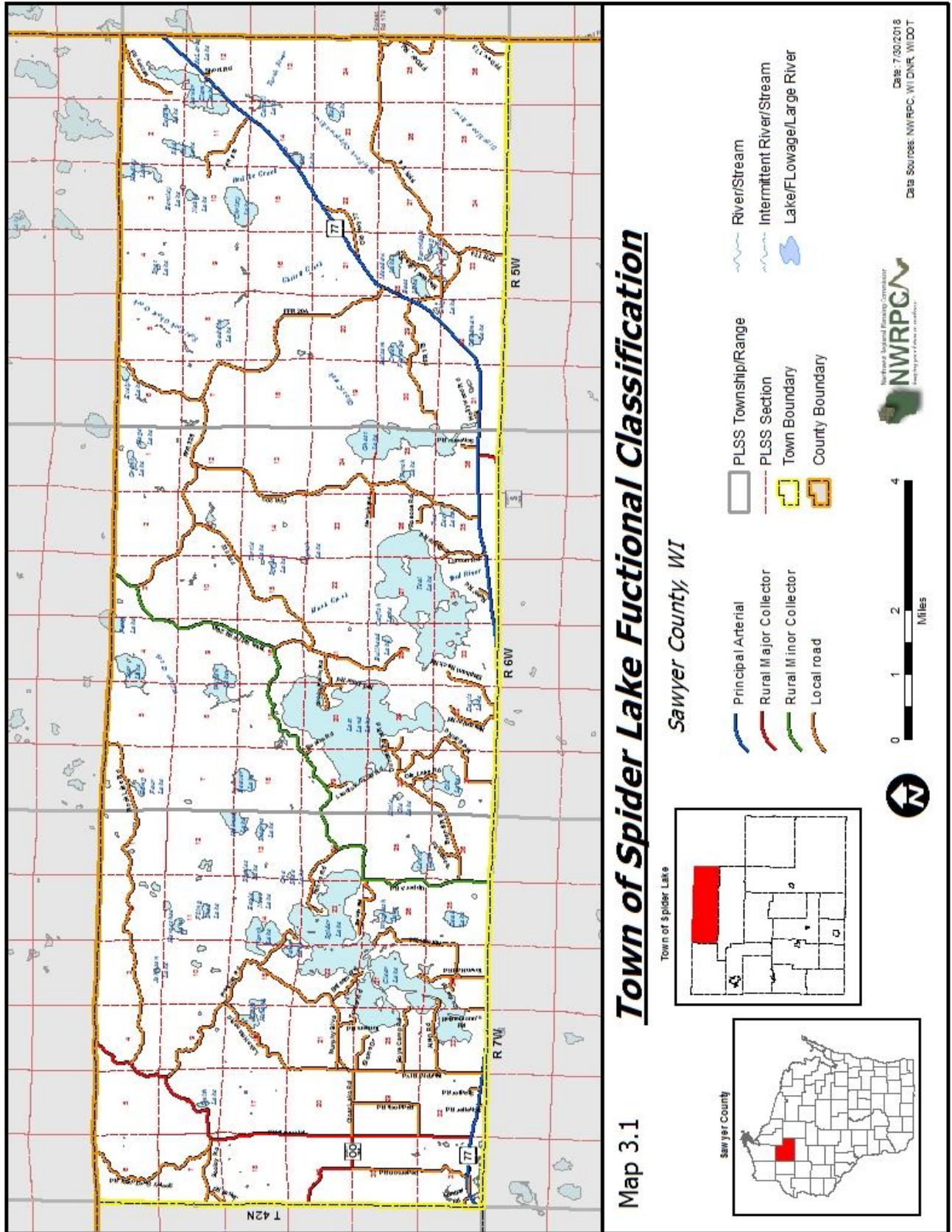
This plan provides a statewide framework to increase walking and to promote pedestrian safety. The plan establishes goals, objectives, and actions regarding the provision of pedestrian accommodations that could be implemented. The plan also serves to help communities identify actions they can take to establish pedestrian travel as a viable, convenient, and safe transportation choice throughout Wisconsin.

**Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2020**

The Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2020 provides a framework for the preservation and enhancement of a system of public-use airports adequate to meet current and future aviation needs of the State of Wisconsin. There are no airports or airfields in the Town of Spider Lake, and none are planned in the next 20 years.

**Wisconsin State Rail Plan 2020**

This plan provides the policy framework for the preservation and enhancement of the Wisconsin State Rail System. The plan also defines the rail system's role in the movement of people and goods within the context of Wisconsin's multi-modal transportation system. There are no railroads in the Town of Spider Lake, and none are planned in the next 20 years.



## UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### **INTRODUCTION**

A sound infrastructure and access to goods, services, and institutions are crucial for the health and safety of a Town's inhabitants, and forms the basis for the prosperity and well-being of its residents. Similarly, the services, institutions, and recreational amenities extend beyond their individual functions as they enrich community life, enhance civic pride, and strengthen community identity. Maintaining the quality of community facilities and infrastructure is fundamental to serving current and future residents and businesses. This portion of the plan serves as an inventory of existing utilities and community facilities in the Town of Spider Lake and reviews their capacity to accommodate Spider Lake's projected growth for the coming 20-year period.

### **UTILITIES**

**Water Supply** - The Town of Spider Lake has no centralized municipal water supply system in place. Town residents secure their water supply from drilled or dug wells on their own property.

**Sanitary Sewer System and Wastewater Treatment** – The Town does not have a municipal sewer or wastewater treatment system. Sewage disposal is accommodated by drain fields and/or holding tanks on private party. The Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) program protects public health and the waters of the state by regulating onsite wastewater treatment and recycling systems, and by promoting the use of the best available technology to provide onsite sewage treatment system solutions for property owners.

**Storm Water Management** – The Town is naturally drained by the local ditches and waterways.

**Solid Waste Disposal** – Allied Waste (formally BFI) is contracted for the solid waste/recycling pick-up in the Town.

**Power Supply & Power Plants** – Town of Spider Lake residents and businesses receive electricity from Jump River Cooperative and Bayfield Electric Cooperative.

### **COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

**Recycling Facilities** - The drop-off recycling center is located behind the Town garage at 10896W Town Hall Road. Acceptable recyclables include #1-#7 plastics, newspapers, magazines, cardboard, tin cans, glass and aluminum cans at no charge. A summer clean-up is held where white goods are taken for a charge. The total recycled material tonnage for 2013 was 29 tons. The Town recycling program now accepts electronics and rechargeable batteries. A facility for depositing garbage and trash at a charge back rate to the citizen is available at the site.

**Communication Facilities** – CenturyLink and Norvado serve the Town of Spider Lake for local telephone communications. There are also a number of wireless communication providers for long-distance and Internet services. However, most of the Town lacks reliable wireless communications capability. In 2013 the Town approved the placement of a communications tower near the intersection of Upper A and Brandt Road. Additional towers are needed to afford coverage to the entire town.

Lack of effective wireless communications also was identified as a need for the community when it adopted a Community Wildfire Protection Plan in 2013. Presently, the countywide system is inadequate to meet the needs of the Town Fire Department and emergency response personnel. This issue is also being discussed at the countywide level as Sawyer County completes various plans.

The Town has adopted a procedure to allow for the placement of wireless towers by the issuance of a Conditional Use and Land Use permit process. In that regard, the Town takes into consideration the limitations and requirements imposed by both state and federal law.

**Mail Service** - There is no post office in Spider Lake. Rural mail delivery comes from Hayward and Clam Lake, WI. Private carriers such as UPS and Federal Express provide package services.

**Cemeteries** - There are no cemeteries located in the Town. The Spider Lake Cemetery is located in Round Lake, next to the Spider Lake Church, which is located in Spider Lake.

**Health Care Facilities** – There are currently no health care facilities located in the Town of Spider Lake. Some Town residents receive in home care through the Sawyer County Health and Human Services Department. Residents can receive full medical services at Hayward Areas Memorial Hospital, located in the City of Hayward as well as other medical services from clinics in the surrounding area.

**Child Care Facilities** – Licensed childcare providers are found throughout Sawyer County.

**Libraries** – The Town of Spider Lake does not have a library. The Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library in the City of Hayward serves Town of Spider Lake residents.

**Schools** – There are no schools located in the Town. The two school districts within the Town are the Hayward Community School District (major) and the Chequamegon School District, which encompasses sections 1, 2, 11, and 12 in Range 5. The Town runs the school elections within the Town for both districts.

**Parks** – There is a picnic grounds immediately behind the Town Hall. County, state and federal lands cater to outdoors persons where the thousands of acres provide outdoor adventures.

**Other Facilities** – Other government, public, private and/or institutional facilities located in the Town of Spider Lake are as follows:

1. Town Hall – Located at 10896W Town Hall Road, the Town Hall is used for meetings of the Town, fire department meetings, Lake Association meetings and can be rented out for other profit and non-profit functions such as weddings, anniversaries and other celebrations/parties as seen fit by the town Board. Town Hall also is the rally point in the event of an emergency. It has a generator which can provide essential power in the event of an emergency.
2. Town Garage – Located next to the Town Hall, the Town garage houses the Town road equipment, which includes a grader, end-loader, mowers, dump trucks, plows, and four fire trucks. The town garage facilities no longer can house all of the town equipment as well as the fire department trucks. Over the next few years, the town should have an assessment done and make a determination as to how to address both road and fire department needs for the future. Depending upon the results of the assessment study, the Town may need to replace the existing garage or add other structures to the town for its future needs. Fire station 2 is on Tews Road.
3. Churches - The Town has two churches. The Spider Lake Church located on Twin Lake Road and St. George Catholic Church located on Hwy 77 E.
4. Picnic Grounds – Located behind the Town Hall, the grounds include a large BBQ pit w/roof, pavilion and picnic tables. Picnic grounds are also located on Teal Lake, Butternut Island on the Spider Chain. These facilities are maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**Police Services** – The Town does not contract for law enforcement. Law enforcement is provided by Sawyer County Sheriff's Department.

**Fire Services** – The Town has its own volunteer fire department consisting of volunteer firefighters, some of which are First Responders and EMT's, two brush truck/quick response trucks, two tenders and one pumper/engine trucks. The Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating is 9 and the department responds to approximately 15 fire calls per year. The Spider Lake Fire Department serves the Town of Spider Lake and has mutual aid agreements with Clam Lake, Namekagon and Round Lake. Assistance is also provided to the DNR and Forest Service and the Town receives assistance from the DNR and Forest Services on an as needed basis. There is a continual review of alternatives for fire services. The two options that have been discussed have been creating a fire district or consolidating fire departments with the Town of Round Lake.

**Rescue Services** – Spider Lake has a First Responder team and two Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's). Ambulance services are provided through Sawyer County dispatch (911).

## **FUTURE NEEDS**

Identified throughout this element has been a description of existing utilities and community facilities located in and serving the Town of Spider Lake. To assess future needs for services and infrastructure related to such utilities and community facilities, the Town has forecasted the need to expand, rehabilitate, or provide new utilities and facilities over the next 10 years in Table 4.1 below. Note: in year 2018 the Town's Solid Waste and Recycling services were successfully expanded.

**Table 4. 1: Town of Spider Lake Future Utilities & Community Facilities**

	<b>2008-2018</b>			<b>2019-2028</b>		
	<b>Expand</b>	<b>Rehab</b>	<b>New</b>	<b>Expand</b>	<b>Rehab</b>	<b>New</b>
Solid Waste Disposal	X				X	
Recycling Facilities	X				X	
Communication Facilities	X		X	X		X
Law Enforcement						
Fire	X	X	X	X	X	
Rescue						
Parks						
Town Hall/Garage	X			X	X	
Other Govt. Facilities		X		X	X	

Source: Town of Spider Lake

## **NATURAL, AGRICULTURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **LOCATION**

The Town of Spider Lake, Sawyer County, is geographically located in the northern highland province of Wisconsin and lies a short distance south of the continental divide that separates the St. Lawrence and Mississippi River drainage systems.

The most distinguishing landscape features of the Town are the glacial lakes set in hilly conifer and hardwood forests. Picturesque hills, scenic wild rivers, spruce bogs, and scattered farmlands add variations to the landscape. The development of cottages, resorts, and homes has not yet reduced the shoreline scenic qualities on all the lakes; however, several of the larger lakes, first settled over 100 years ago, show signs of aesthetic deterioration.

### **PHYSIOGRAPHY**

Continental glaciation is responsible for the present topography of Sawyer County. Where the ice stopped, it deposited terminal moraines - huge accumulations of rock, gravel, sand, and clay pushed along by or carried on the front of the ice sheet. One of these terminal moraines was deposited between two lobes of the Lake Wisconsin Ice Sheet along the western border of Sawyer County in the present Towns of Edgewater, Sand Lake, Bass Lake, Hayward, Lenroot, Round Lake, and Spider Lake. The resulting topography can only be described as rough. Lakes and swamps occupy many of the deeper kettle holes and it is noticeable that most of the lakes in Sawyer County are in this morainic area. Ground moraine forms the greater part of the topography east and south of the moraine. This was deposited in a broad sheet by the ice, which melted away beneath it, and the present surface is rolling with low ridges and shallow depressions, occupied by swamps rather than lakes.

### **CLIMATE**

The climate in the Town of Spider Lake is classified as continental, a climate type characterized by large seasonal and daily ranges in temperatures. Winters are long, cold, and snowy. Summers are relatively short and warm with brief periods of hot, humid weather. Summer days are usually warm and sunny, while nights are cool. Spring and fall are often short with sharp day-to-day temperature changes. All seasons have frequent weather changes as alternate high and low pressure systems move across the continent from west to east. The long-term annual average temperature is 41 degrees Fahrenheit (F.). December through March temperatures generally average below 32 degrees F. The date of the last killing frost in Sawyer County has ranged from mid-May to mid-June. The growing season averages about 120 days. Average monthly temperatures range from a low of 9.6 degrees F. in January to 66 degrees F. in July. According to U.S. Climate Data, there is an average of 32 inches of rainfall in Sawyer County annually and 59 inches of annual snowfall.

Prevailing winds are from westerly directions from late fall through early spring and from southerly directions the remainder of the year. April is the windiest month with an



average of about 13 miles per hour, while July and August are the least windy with an average of 9 miles per hour. Possible sunshine averages 60 percent from late spring through early fall, near 40 percent in late fall and early winter, and between 50 and 60 percent for the remaining months.

## **GEOLOGY**

Igneous and metamorphic rocks of Precambrian age underlie Sawyer County. The principal surface deposits are glacial drift and alluvial sand and gravel. It varies in thickness throughout the county ranging from a few feet to 250 feet. Along the Chippewa River are numerous rapids caused by outcropping of the granitic rock that forms the underlying bedrock formation throughout the eastern three-fourths of the county.

## **SOILS**

The soils in the Town of Spider Lake are upland and outwash types from glacial drift and are acidic in nature.

The chemical constituents of the surface and ground waters are reflections of the soil type of a particular region. Spider Lake's waters tend to be acid like its soils and low in the essential nutrients necessary for organic life. Phosphates, potassium, and magnesium levels are lower than in other soil types of the state; while the less essential iron occurs in excessive and often detrimental amounts. Low nutrient levels or fertility is also accentuated in the landlocked lakes where the water source is principally from precipitation with little ground water inflow. Geologic characteristics that greatly affect water quality in the landlocked lakes are the uneven nature of the underlying granitic bedrock formation and deposits of impervious masses of clay in the glacial till. The lakes which form in these pockets tend to have stabilized water levels, which combined with the acidic nature of the soil contributes to the development of encroaching bogs on lakeshores.

The following are the soil associations published in the General Soil Map, Sawyer County, Wisconsin. The major land and soil associations are shown at the end of the chapter Map 5.1.

FREER-FREEON-ADOLPH (Fr-Fn-Ad) - Nearly level to gently sloping, somewhat poorly, moderately well and very poorly drained soils formed in silts over sandy loam to loam glacial till.

SANTIAGO-FREEON-MILACA (S-Fn-M) - Gently to strongly sloping, well and moderately well drained soils formed in silts over sandy loam glacial till.

IRON RIVER-PENCE (IR-Pe) - Rolling to steep, well to somewhat excessively drained soils formed in shallow loam material over sandy loam glacial till or loose sandy and gravelly outwash or drift.

CLOOUET-VILAS (Cl-Vi) - Rolling to steep, somewhat excessively drained sandy loam and glacial till or sandy, gravelly drift.

ANTIGO- BRILL-STAMBAUGH (A-Br-St) - Nearly level to gently sloping, well to moderately well drained soils formed in 20 to 40 inches of silt over loose sandy and gravelly outwash.

CHETEK-PENCE-ONAMIA (Ch-Pe-On) - Nearly level to moderately steep, somewhat excessively drained soils formed in shallow sandy loam and loam material over sandy and gravelly outwash.

OMEGA-PENCE (O-Pe) - Nearly level to rolling, excessively drained soils formed in deep sands and loamy sands and in shallow sandy loams over sand and gravel.

POSKIN-BRILL-RIB (Po-Br-R) - Nearly level to depressional, moderately well to poorly drained depressional soils formed in 20 to 40 inches of silts overlying sands and gravel outwash.

PEAT-MUCK (P-M) - Shallow and deep organic accumulations, in various stages of decomposition, derived from sedges, fibrous and woody material.

## **WATER RESOURCES**

### **Surface Waters**

The total inland surface water area of Sawyer County is 58,359 acres. Of this, 5,822 acres or about 10 percent are found in the Town of Spider Lake. There are 50 named lakes in the Town of Spider Lake. These water resources lie within three watersheds (Map 5.2) the Upper Namekagon River, West Fork Chippewa River and Lake Chippewa. Eighty-five percent of the Town is in the West Fork Chippewa River and Lake Chippewa watersheds. The total miles of lake shoreline are 109 miles with 29 miles in public ownership.

### **Water Quality**

The chemical quality of water in streams and lakes in the county is generally very good. The lakes of Wisconsin and Sawyer County fall into four main types when classified by water source and chemistry; hard water drainage, soft water drainage, hard water seepage, and soft water seepage lakes. The other minor types of lakes include acid bog lakes, alkaline bog lakes, and spring ponds. In terms of surface acreage, the most common type in the Town is the soft water drainage lake, including Ghost, Teal, and Lost Land Lakes. They are typically clear, slightly acid and of good fertility

### **Groundwater Quality**

Large supplies of good quality ground water are available in most of the Chippewa Basin, including the Town of Spider Lake. Area differences in ground water quality are due to the composition, solubility, and surface area of the particles of soil and rock

through which the water moves and its speed of movement. Minor water use problems are caused by hardness and locally high iron concentrations. Water from the deeper sandstone aquifers is slightly more mineralized as opposed to the surficial sand and gravel aquifers. The concentration of nitrate in ground water of the Town is generally low.

Local climatic conditions along with recurrent seasonal fluctuations cause variations in the ground water level that in turn affects stream flow and lake levels. With natural recharge and discharge continually occurring, the greatest rise in ground water levels usually takes place in spring and early summer due to snowmelt and rainfall. Water levels generally decline the rest of the year. Long-range fluctuations also occur from year to year. Changes in ground water levels reflect, in a general way, changes in the balance between precipitation, evapotranspiration, and run-off in the water system. Ground water levels in the area are more stable than in surrounding areas and in areas of different soil types and greater population in other parts of the state. Spider Lake lies in a Drift Province of abundant aquifers, and plentiful supplies of ground water are obtained from sands and gravels of the glacial drift and the valley alluvium.

### **Floodplains**

Areas susceptible to flooding are considered unsuitable for development because of risks to lives and property. Effective in 1981, the Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM) for Sawyer County is the most recent source for identifying areas subject to flooding in the Town of Spider Lake. These flood hazard maps are available from the Sawyer County Zoning Office. The FHBM is intended to be general in nature and additional field checking may be required to determine whether or not a given area is in the floodplain before development is authorized or denied. Maps are available for review at the Town Hall or county zoning department.

### **Wetland Resources**

The Wisconsin Wetland Inventory available for Sawyer County estimates that about 160,000 acres of all types of wetlands exist in the county. In comparison, the Wisconsin Wetland Inventory has mapped approximately 16,500 acres in the Town of Spider Lake. This is about 10 percent of the county's area. Both of these figures are an understatement of the actual wetland acreage because the inventory only maps wetlands greater than five acres in size.

Wetlands serve several important environmental functions including flood control, water quality improvement, and groundwater recharge as well as providing habitat for fish and wildlife. Map 5.3 delineates wetlands five acres and over mapped by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on its digital Wisconsin Wetland Inventory Maps and may not reflect all areas considered wetlands by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

A complex set of local, state, and federal regulations place limitations on the development and use of wetlands. The Shoreland/Wetland Zoning Ordinance adopted by Sawyer County regulates shoreland use and development within 300 feet of navigable streams and 1,000 feet of lakes (Map 5.4). The Department of Natural Resources regulates the placement of structures and other alterations below the ordinary high water mark of navigable streams and lakes. The Corps of Engineers has authority over the placement of fill materials in all shoreland wetlands. And, after the recent enactment of Wisconsin Act 6, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has regulatory authority over non-shoreland wetlands. Prior to placing fill or altering wetland resources, the appropriate agencies should be contacted to receive authorization. Wetlands are scattered throughout the Town with some of significant size. Approximately 24 percent (16,520 acres) of the gross land area of the Town is taken up by wetlands. These wetlands include a wide diversity of wetland types from emergent/wet meadow, to scrub/shrub, to deciduous and coniferous forest.

### **Streams and Rivers**

Streams and rivers play a key role by supporting sport fisheries, transport surface runoff from area forests and link chains of lakes to one another. There are two types of streams, perennial and intermittent. Perennial streams have water flow during most of the year (> 50 percent of the time). Intermittent streams flow only after rain storms or during snowmelt, where otherwise they are dry most of the year.

### **BIOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES**

A community is an assemblage of different plant and animal species, living together in a particular area, at a particular time in specific habitats. Communities are named for their dominant plant species. The following biological communities are found in the area:

Northern Forest: Contains mixed deciduous and coniferous forests found in a distinct climatic zone that occurs north of the tension zone.

Wetlands: Water is present, near, at, or above the ground surface, at least during a portion of a natural year, in sufficient quantities to support hydrophytic plants (plants that grow in water-saturated soils). Soils are indicative of water-saturated conditions, at least during a portion of a natural year.

Aquatic Communities: Including springs, ponds, lakes, streams and rivers.

### **WILDLIFE**

The local area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species including the following important waterfowl, furbearers, and game animals:

Beaver	Gray Wolf	Ruffed Grouse
Black Bear	Mallard	Sharptailed Grouse
Blue-wing Teal	Mink	Snowshoe hare
Bobcat	Muskrat	White tailed Deer

Common Loon	Otter	Wood Duck
Coyote	Raccoon	Woodcock
Elk	Red Fox	
Fisher	Ringnecked Duck	

Two important rare and threatened species, the bald eagle and osprey inhabit the area. The osprey is listed as threatened by the WDNR. The two most popular game animals are the whitetail deer and ruffed grouse. These two species are primarily associated with the aspen type in the area.

Elk were reintroduced into Ashland County just to the east of Spider Lake and do frequent the eastern portion of the Town.

The most common nesting waterfowl are mallard, wood ducks, and blue-winged teal. Less common are the black ducks, hooded and American mergansers, and ring-necked ducks. The least common nesters are the American-widgeon, greenwinged teal, red-breasted mergansers, and lesser scaup. Only rarely do other species of waterfowl nest in this area of the state.

The most abundant migratory waterfowl during the spring and fall seasons in Sawyer County are scaup, ring-necks, coot, and mallards. Less common are goldeneyes, buffleheads, redheads, canvasbacks, black ducks, and blue-winged teal. The least common migrants are the wood ducks, American widgeon, pintails, green-winged teal, shovelers, gadwall, ruddy ducks, and mergansers. Blue, snow, and Canada geese and whistling swans are also a part of the migratory flight. Besides the waterfowl and beaver inhabiting the local wetlands and waters, muskrats, mink and otter are also important resources.

Wisconsin's Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) is maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (WDNR) Bureau of Endangered Resources. Rare species, natural communities and natural features significant to Wisconsin are maintained through this program. The program has three main objectives: collect information on occurrences of rare plants and animals, high-quality natural communities, and significant natural features in Wisconsin; standardize this information, enter it into an electronic database, and mark locations on base maps for the state; and use this information to further the protection and management of rare species, natural communities, and natural features (Wisconsin DNR).

## **MINERAL RESOURCES**

Development of metallic mineral resource is not expected in the future. However, development of non-metallic mineral deposits, sand and gravel, may be expected to occur in the future. When new deposits are sited and developed, special consideration of adjoining residential homes should be considered and standards developed to minimize effects of noise, air and water quality. Zoning regulations should be reviewed

periodically to ensure current policies are applicable. Presently the Plan Commission is undertaking a reviewing of the Town's metallic mining ordinance provision as has Sawyer County.

### **OPEN SPACE AND PARKS**

There are a number of developed park and recreational places along with hundreds of acres of open forest area. The Utilities and Community Facilities Chapter outlines some of these places. Significant to open space is the abundant supply of recreational forest land (county, state and federal). Recently, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources designated new state management areas to protect and preserve critical habitat.

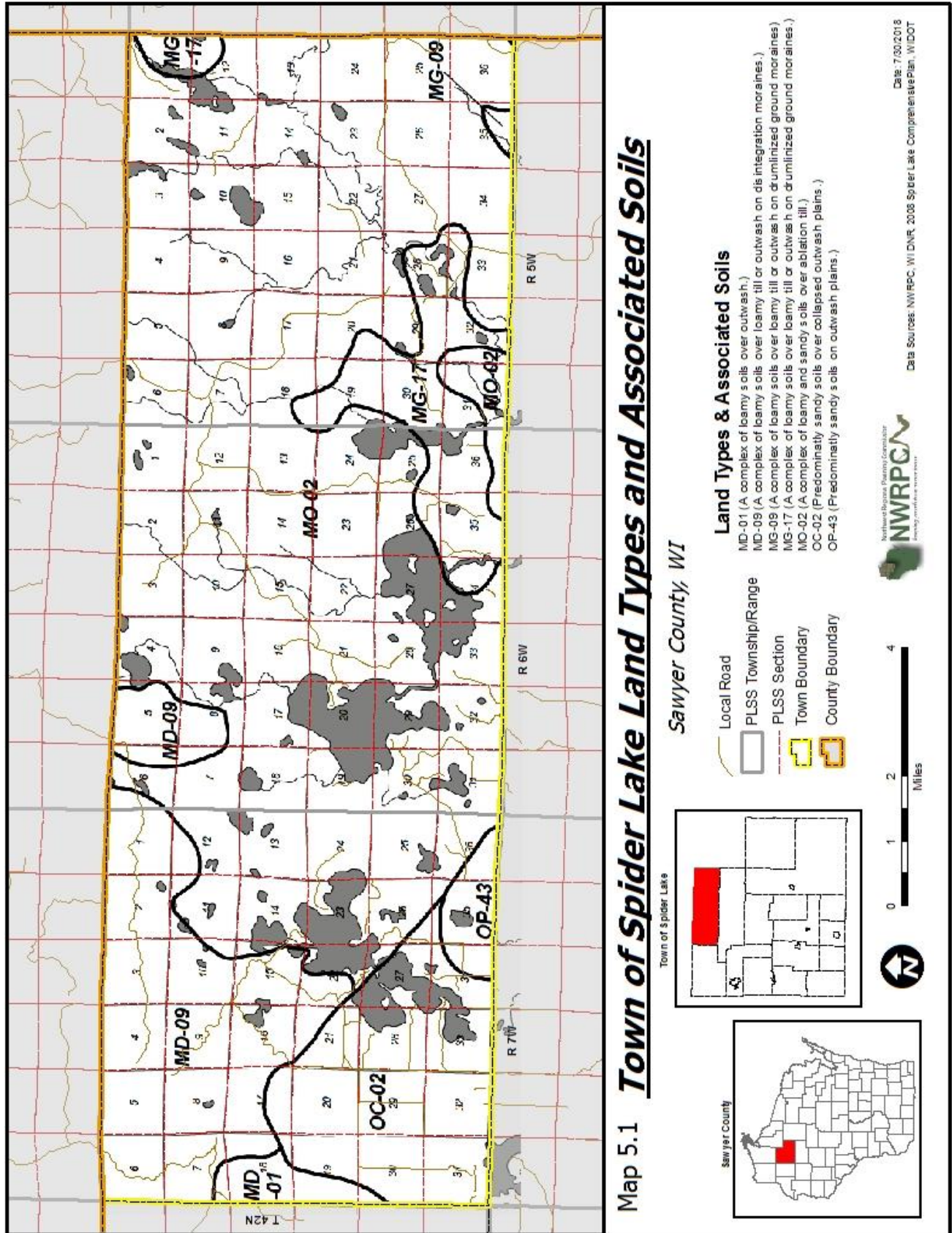
### **AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES**

Agricultural activity is not a predominate land use activity. However, it is an important land use activity. In 2017, only 19 parcels, totaling 630 acres were assessed as agricultural. Nearly all agricultural activity takes place in the southwestern portion of the Town. Even with a limited amount of agricultural activity, these and past agricultural lands play an important role in defining local and state agricultural practices. Prime farmlands are identified in Map 5.5.

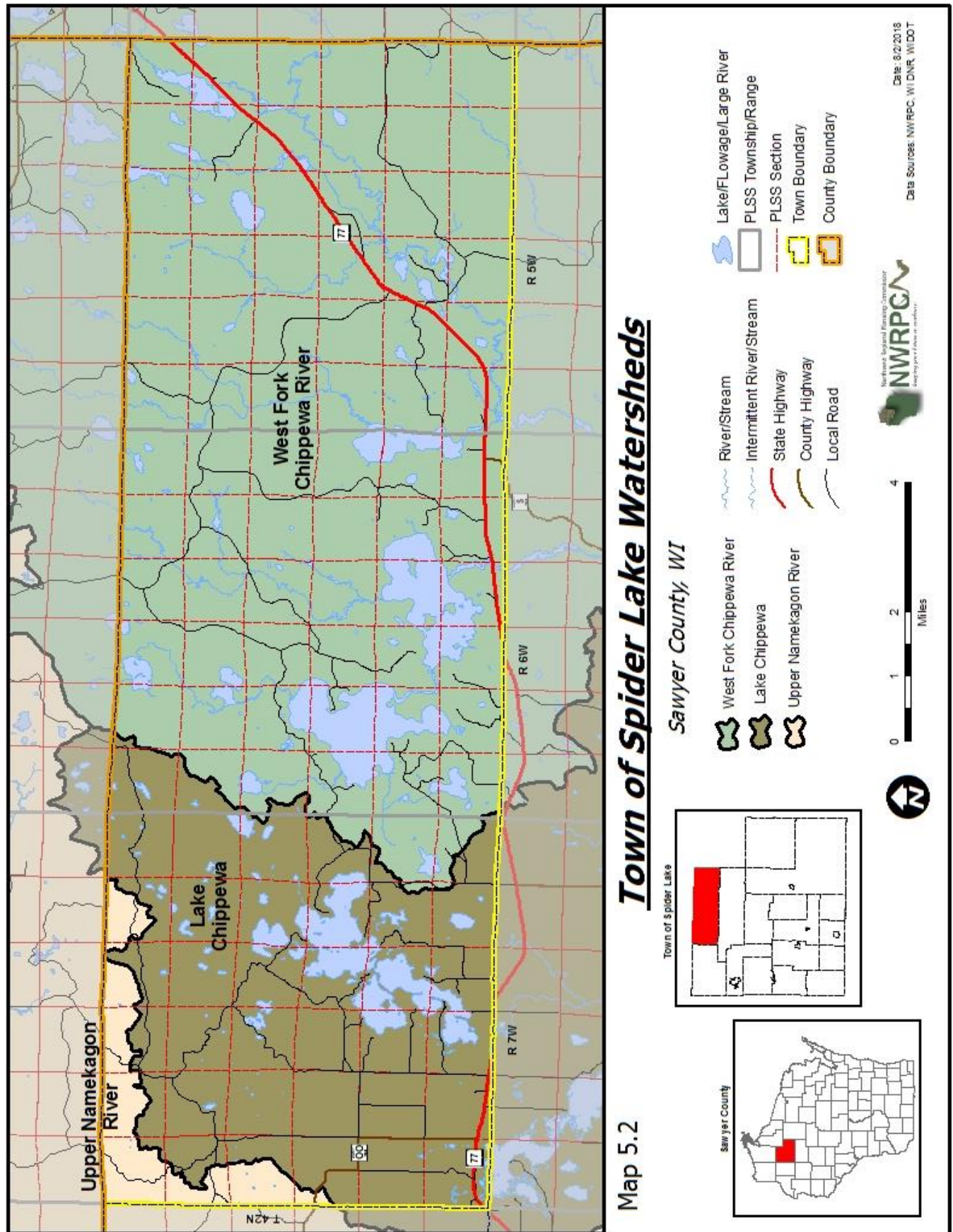
### **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Cultural resources are a defining character or place that point to past and present history and heritage. Area forests, lakes and other natural resources define the area's cultural heritage. The Northwood's character exuberates the cultural resources evident throughout the Town. Community design, or the character in which the community exhibits its direction, takes the Northwood's character, trees, colors and local surroundings into consideration when developing standards and recommendations for man-made developments.

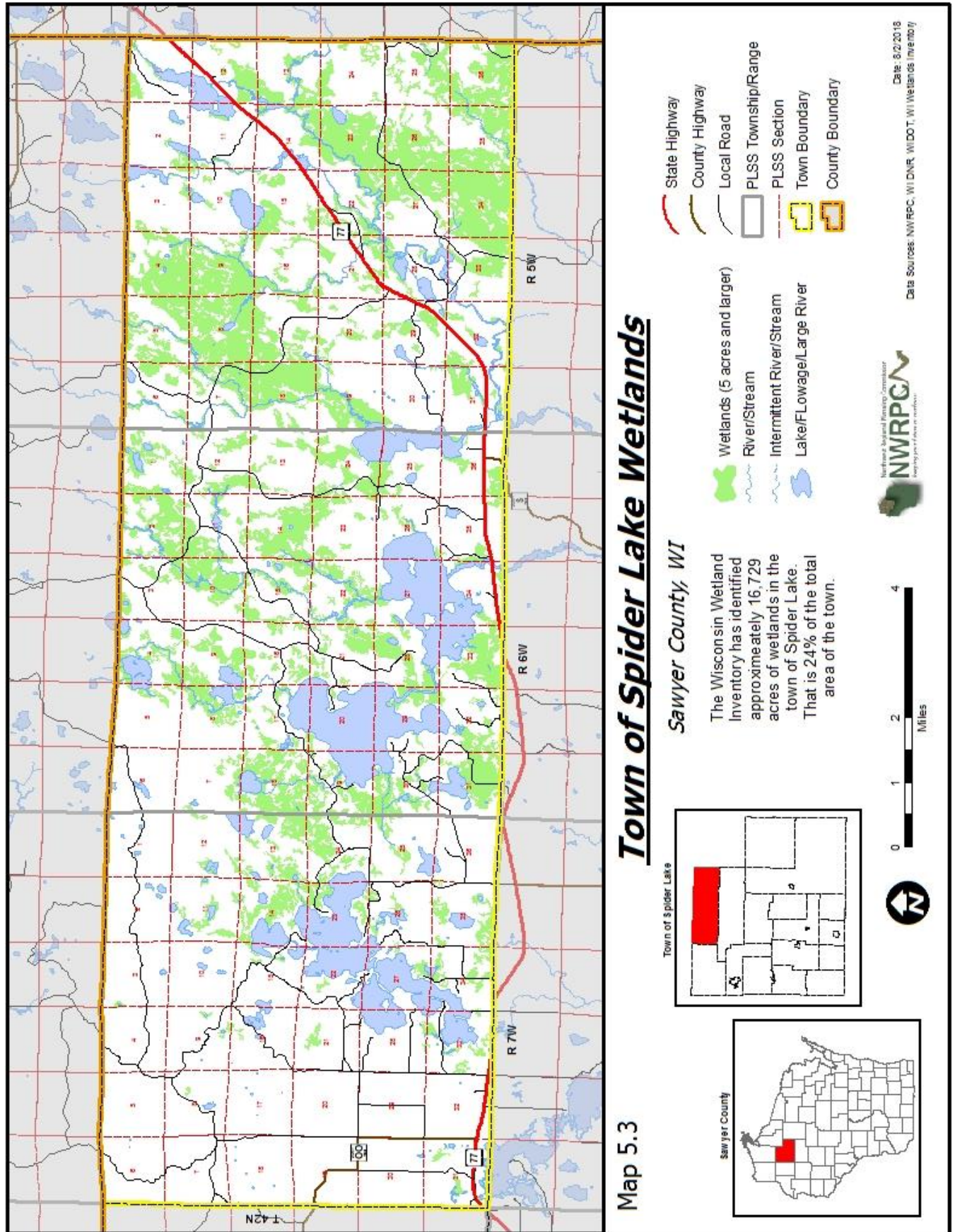
The Wisconsin Historical Society maintains a list of archaeological sites and cemeteries known as the Archaeological Site Inventory Database (ASI). A number of archaeological and cemetery sites are presumed to be present in the Town. The past travel of Native American Indians and European fur traders no doubt left behind sites where village or camp sites are now covered in dense forest cover. As future development occurs, consideration should be given to exploring the ASI data base for known or listed sites of significance.



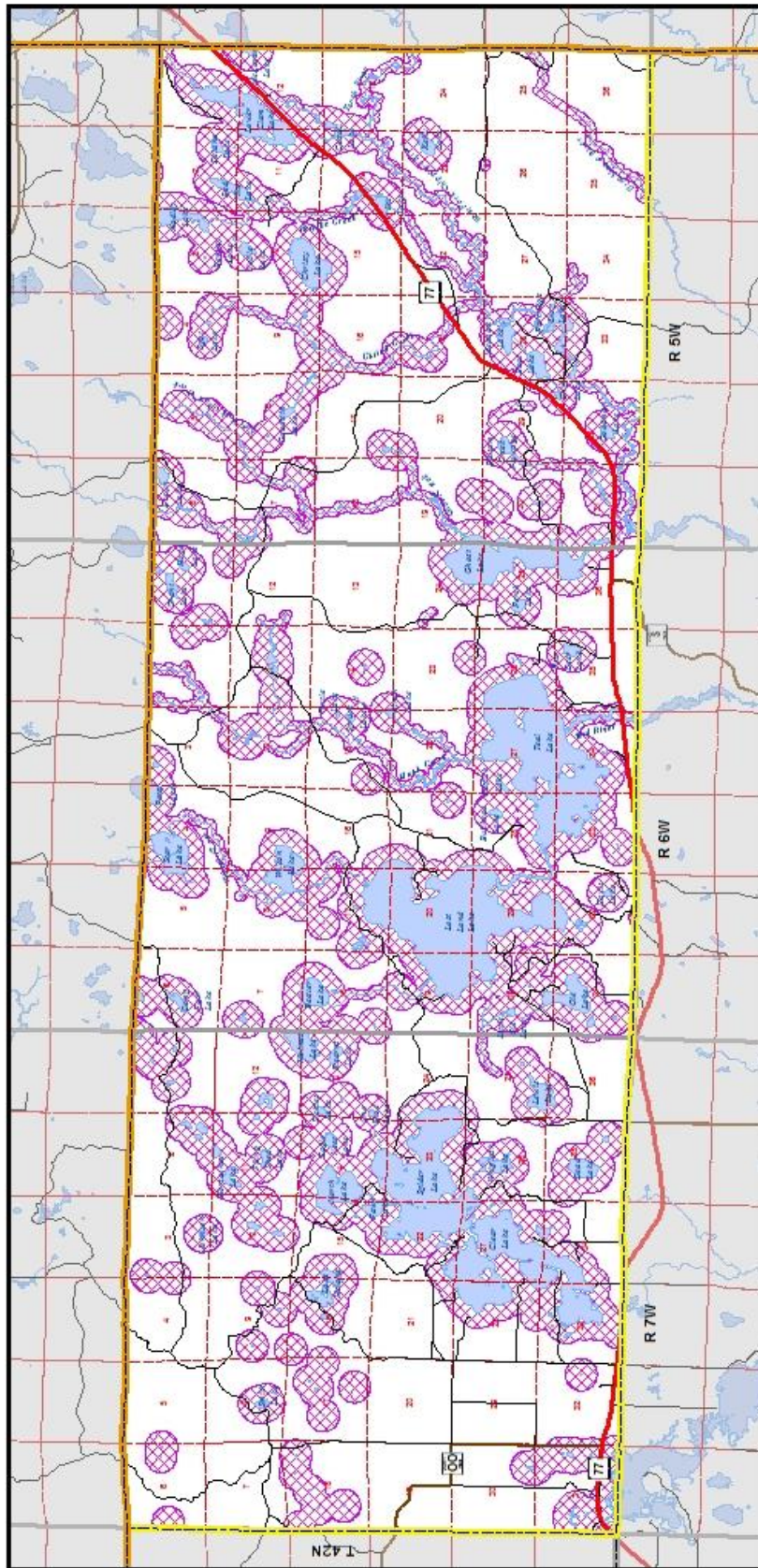





















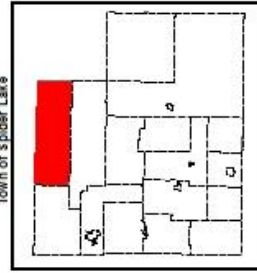


Map 5.4

## **Town of Spider Lake Shoreland Zoning Area**

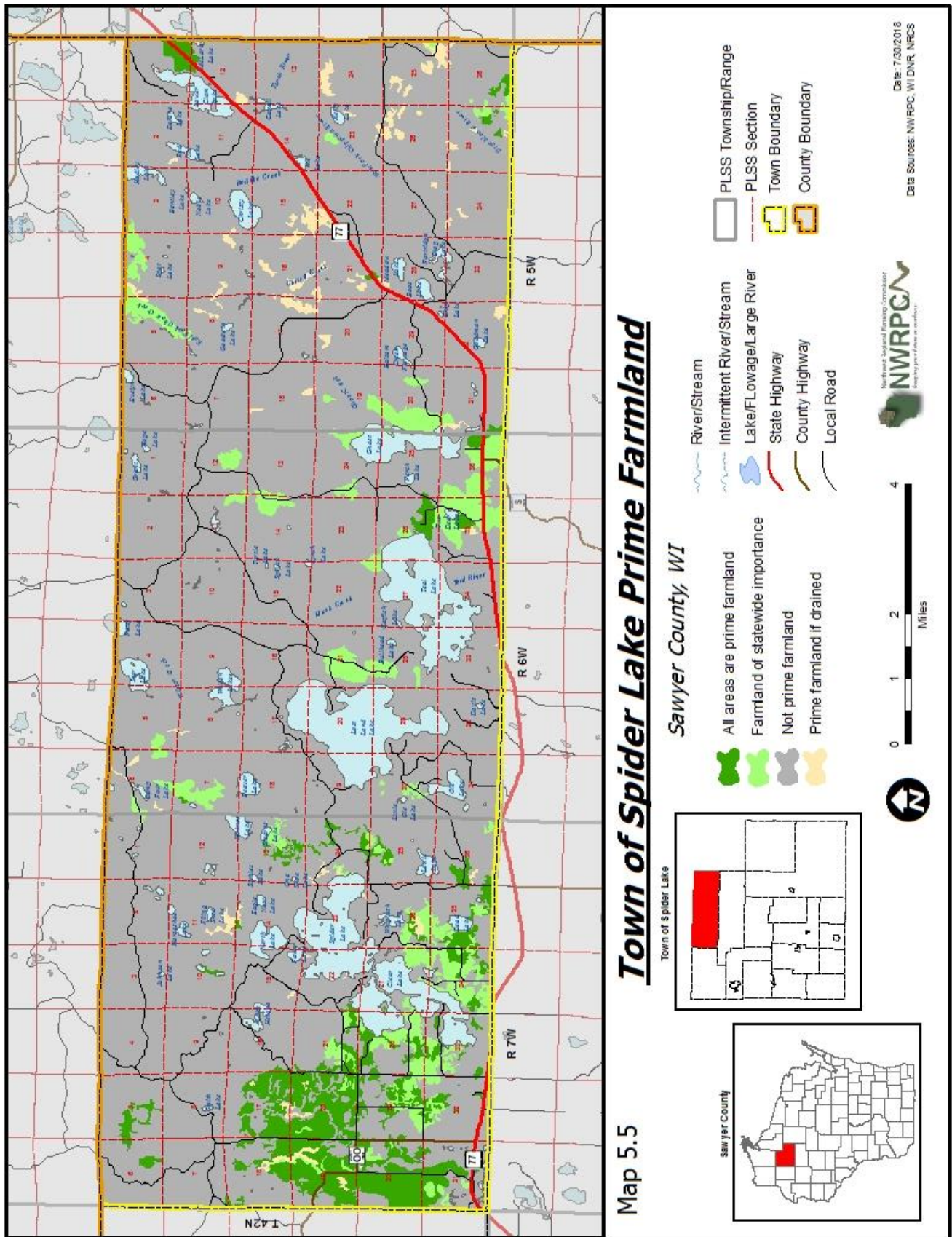
*Sawyer County, WI*

-  Shoreland Zoning Area
-  River/Stream
-  Intermittent River/Stream
-  Lake/Flowage/Large River
-  State Highway
-  County Highway
-  Local Road
-  PLSS Township/Range
-  PLSS Section
-  Town Boundary
-  County Boundary



Date: 8/2/2018  
Data Sources: NW RPC, WI DNR, WIDOT





## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### **INTRODUCTION**

Spider Lakes rural location and its environs exhibit a different kind of economic development model, one with businesses relying on the area's Northwood's character, plentiful water resources, and acres of public (state and federal) forest resources. No major manufacturing/industrial development activities are present. Rather, residents commute to varying types of employment in surrounding communities and counties.

### **LABOR FORCE**

Key labor force characteristics identify the population 16 years or older for the Town that are employed or unemployed but looking for a job (Table 6.1).

**Table 6. 1: General Characteristics of Spider Lake (2015)**

Characteristics	Town of Spider Lake	Sawyer County	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force	176	7,709	3,077,153
Unemployment Rate	4.00%	9.80%	6.30%
Labor Participation Rate	46.20%	51.20%	62.90%
Education Beyond High School (25 and over)	95.40%	91.00%	91.00%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher (25 and over)	43.80%	22.60%	27.80%
Per Capita Income	\$40,406	\$25,284	\$28,340
Median Household Income	\$58,750	\$41,665	\$53,357
Poverty Rate	5.80%	16.70%	13.00%
Median Age	60.4	49.3	39.0

Source: U.S. Census, 2015 ACS

Less than half of the population in Spider Lake 16 years and over is in the labor force (46.2 percent). This number is lower than the Sawyer County average and may point to a higher age level as represented in the median age.

### **ECONOMIC BASE**

#### **Employment by Industry**

Table 6.2 represents the number and percent of employed residents in the Town by industry sector. A total of 169 residents were employed according to 2015 American Community Survey. The three employment industries with the most employees in 2015 were retail trade and educational services, healthcare, social assistance and arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services.

### **ATTRACTING AND RETAINING BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

Historically and today, new businesses and industry are limited due to our rural location. Small family owned businesses compatible with the comprehensive plan and

Northwood's character are welcome. Bait stores, nurseries, restaurants, and home businesses are business types encouraged.

A key resource that could potentially increase home based business and could provide greater support to existing businesses is the development of telecommunication services. Much of the Town and northern Sawyer County is without cellular service. While siting and placement of towers can be controversial, cooperative efforts and discussions could enhance labor and income levels for Town residents.

**Table 6. 2: Employed Residents by Industry Sector (2015)**

Industry	Number	Percent
All Industries	169	100.00%
Retail trade	48	28.40%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	24	14.20%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	24	14.20%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	12	7.10%
Construction	11	6.51%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	11	6.51%
Manufacturing	9	5.33%
Information	8	4.73%
Other services, except public administration	8	4.73%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	5	2.96%
Wholesale trade	3	1.78%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	3	1.78%
Public administration	3	1.78%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2015 ACS

## **STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES**

The following are strengths and weaknesses in attracting and retaining business. It is important the community continue to work on strengthening its position to meet future business and industry needs.

Area strengths include the local Northwood's character and recreational opportunities such as skiing, biking and snowmobiling. Area weaknesses include distance to markets and sources of raw materials, and the lack of labor force for key industries.

## **BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY SITES**

The Town has no business and industrial sites. Resort and other commercial type businesses rely on the natural environment to sustain and build their clientele. The Town's future land use map represents the communities desired land use pattern and can accommodate businesses meeting the Town's objectives in promoting Northwood's character businesses.

## **REDEVELOPMENT AND CONTAMINATED SITES**

There are no known contaminated land sites. Table 6.3 is a list of previous incidents in the Town tracked by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS). If any sites and problems are found, the Town will take a proactive role in resolving and working with local, state, and federal agencies.

**Table 6. 3: Contamination Sites (BRRTS)**

Name	Type	Location	Spill Date	Status
Ghost Lake Store	LUST	Hwy 77 & S Jct	5/3/1990	Closed
Edgewater Inn Bed & Breakfast	LUST	Murphy Blvd/Clear Lake	7/20/1992	Closed
Murphy Ken Residence	LUST	11033 Murphy Blvd	10/30/1995	Closed
North Star Camp For Boys - Garage/Upper	LUST	10970 W Boys Camp Rd	12/9/1997	Closed
Teal Pointe Llc	LUST	W8575 Ferguson Rd	9/18/2000	Closed
North Star Camp For Boys - Lakeside Lower	LUST	10970 W Boys Camp Rd	12/9/1997	Closed
Musky Run Resort	NAR	12503 Town Hall Rd	11/10/1997	Nar
Pine Crest Resort	NAR	12459 N Town Hall Rd	5/30/1997	Nar

Source: WI DNR Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System

*Abandoned Container (AC), an abandoned container with potentially hazardous contents has been inspected and recovered. No known discharge to the environment has occurred. Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST), a LUST site has contaminated soil and/or groundwater with petroleum, which includes toxic and cancer causing substances. Environmental Repair (ERP), ERP sites are sites other than LUSTs that have contaminated soil and/or groundwater. Spills, a discharge of a hazardous substance that may adversely impact, or threaten to impact public health, welfare or the environment. Spills are usually cleaned up quickly. General Property Information (GP), this activity type consists of records of various milestones related to liability exemptions, liability clarifications, and cleanup agreements that have been approved by NDR to clarify the legal status of the property. Liability Exemption (VPLE), VPLEs are an elective process in which a property conducts an environmental investigation and cleanup of an entire property and then receives limits on future liability for that contamination under s. 292.15. No Action Required by RR Program (NAR), There was, or may have been, a discharge to the environment and, based on the known information, DNR has determined that the responsible party does not need to undertake an investigation or cleanup in response to that discharge.*

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

There are many economic development related programs at the federal, state, county, and regional. While the list below is not intended to be all inclusive, it does provide a listing of commonly used resources.

### **FEDERAL**

#### **Economic Development Administration**

The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration offers two programs for assistance with economic development that apply to the Town of Spider Lake. The Public Works and Economic Development Facilities Assistance Program, supports the construction or rehabilitation of essential public infrastructure and development facilities necessary to generate private sector jobs and investment, including investments that support technology-led development, redevelopment of brownfield sites, and eco-industrial development.

### **USDA Wisconsin Rural Development**

Several loan and grant programs are available from the USDA Rural Development. One of those programs is the Community Facility Guaranteed Loan Program, which provides funding to local units of government to construct, enlarge, extend, or otherwise improve community facilities providing essential services in rural areas and towns.

The Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants Program helps develop projects that will result in a sustainable increase in economic productivity, job creation, and incomes in rural areas. Projects may include business start-ups and expansion, community development, incubator projects, medical and training projects, and feasibility studies.

The purpose of the Business and Industry Direct Loan Program is to improve, develop, or finance business, industry, and employment and improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities. Loan purposes include purchase and expansion of land, equipment, buildings, and working capital. Loans to public bodies can be used to finance community facilities and construct and equip industrial plants for lease to private businesses.

The Community Facilities Direct Loans and Grants Program provide funding for essential community facilities (CF) such as municipal buildings, day care centers, and health and safety facilities. Examples include fire halls, fire trucks, clinics, nursing homes, and hospitals. CF loans and grants may also be used for such things as activity centers for the handicapped, schools, libraries, and other community buildings.

## **STATE**

### **Wisconsin Department of Commerce**

At least three programs are available to local units of government through the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. The first program is the Community Development Block Grant for Economic Development (CDBG-ED). Its purpose is to provide resources to local governments that will enable them to assist economic development projects in their community. The local unit of government is the applicant and recipient of the funds. A specific business, which must be located in a municipality of 50,000 or less, is loaned the funds for eligible business development uses. When the funds are repaid to the local government, they may stay in the community to be used as a revolving loan fund to assist other businesses in the community.

The second program is the Community Development Block Grant Public Facilities for Economic Development (CDBG-PFED). Its purpose is to provide grant funds to local governments that will enable them to provide needed public facilities (i.e., streets, sewer mains, water mains, etc.) to private business enterprises that are going to create full-time jobs by starting or expanding their businesses because of the availability of the funded public facilities.

The third program available from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce is the Community - Based Economic Development Program (CBED). Its purpose is to provide financing assistance to local governments and community-based organizations that undertake planning or development projects or that provides technical assistance in support of business (including technology-based businesses) and community development.

### **Wisconsin Departments of Tourism and Commerce**

The Tourism Department is a multi-faceted program designed to assist tourism businesses. The program offers planning and training grants that focus on tourism development and diversification at the business and municipal levels.

### **Wisconsin Department of Transportation**

Available from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is a program called the Transportation Facilities Economic Assistance and Development Program (TEA). The intent of the TEA program is to help support new business development in Wisconsin by funding transportation improvements that are needed to secure jobs in the state. A governing body, a business, a consortium group, or any combination thereof can apply for TEA program funding.

## **REGIONAL**

### **Northwest Regional Planning Commission**

The Northwest Regional Planning Commission is a cooperative venture of the local units of governments in the ten counties of Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Sawyer, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, and Washburn and the five tribal nations of Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Red Cliff, St. Croix, and Lac du Flambeau in the region. The purpose of NWRPC is to assist the communities of the membership to promote sustainable economic development, develop public facilities, provide planning and technical services, efficiently manage and conserve natural resources, and protect the environment.

### **Northwest Wisconsin Business Development Corporation**

A strategic partner of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, the Northwest Wisconsin Business Development Corporation, has available revolving loan funds to address a gap in private capital markets for long-term, fixed rate, low down-payment, and low interest financing to assist businesses in job creation/retention and growth.

## **LOCAL**

### **Sawyer County Development Corporation**

The Sawyer County Development Corporation (SCDC) was created by community members in Sawyer County with the objective of promoting sound economic development within the county while maintaining the natural resources and quality of life appreciated by both residents and visitors. The Board of Directors represents a cross section of the business community, local and tribal governments and others.



## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Cooperation, defined as collaboration or working together, is no longer a buzz word that state and federal governments emphasize in speeches and proposals. It has become a way of life in interacting between local, county, state and federal agencies. Today, elected and appointed officials at all levels expect cooperation as do constituents and local tax payers.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS**

#### **Sawyer County**

The Town has a very good relationship with Sawyer County. A number of citizens are and have been called on to serve on County Committees, especially in the areas of ordinance development and Land & Water Conservation. The Town's ability to engage in its own zoning authority strengthens the relationship between the County and Town. Joint ventures are also evident between the county and Town on road improvement projects.

#### **School Districts**

Two school districts, Chequamegon and Hayward, represent the location for school aged children based on geographic location in the Town. The Town and school districts have open lines of communication with the Town.

#### **Other Adjacent or Overlapping Jurisdiction**

The Town communicates with state and federal agencies on land/forest management objectives since a large percentage of the Town is in federal ownership. The Town also communicates with other surrounding towns, regional organizations, and provides assistance and cooperation when necessary. Generally speaking, the Town has good relations with other organizations and agencies.

### **PLANS AND AGREEMENTS**

The Town has several cooperative efforts and agreements between agencies and organizations. The Town purchases salt and sand from Sawyer County. The county furnishes ambulance, emergency government services, police protection, and conservation assistance. The Town has agreements with the Federal Forest Service to fight forest fires and to maintain Federal Forest Roads. The Town also maintains fire protections on State DNR lands.

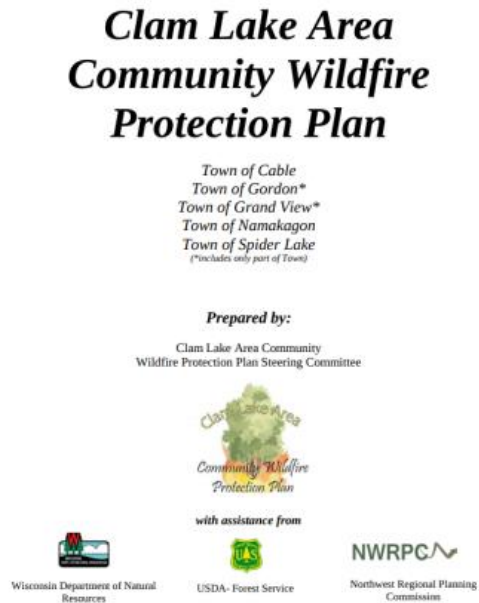
The Town works directly with the State DNR on zoning and enforcement issues. The Town has applied for and received several state and federal grants for lake monitoring and Rustic Roads.

Lastly, the Town has mutual aid for fire protection and road maintenance with many adjoining towns.

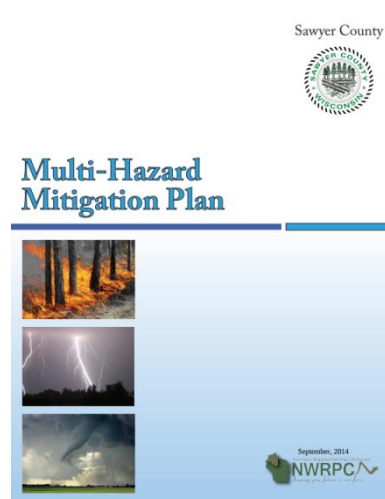
In the future, as adjoining jurisdictions, school districts, and others begin to plan for siting or developing facilities or have opportunities where bulk purchases can benefit one another, it is recommended that cooperation and partnerships be formed to maximize local efforts.

### Clam Lake Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

The Town of Spider Lake has participated in the 2013 Clam Lake Community Wildfire protection plan. The purpose of the Clam Lake Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan is to help local communities collaborate with agencies, organizations and homeowners to mitigate wildfire hazards, improve community preparedness, address defensible space and structure integrity, and implement wildfire safety projects that will make a difference in their community in the event of a wildfire. A CWPP also provides the communities with the opportunity to influence how and where federal monies are spent on hazardous fuels reduction.



### Sawyer County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan



The Town of Spider Lake had two representatives on the Sawyer County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The intent of a hazard mitigation plan is to inventory and evaluate the hazards of an area, provide a comprehensive reference source for planning and mitigation activities, and educate policy makers and emergency service organizations about local risks and vulnerabilities. Sawyer County currently has an emergency management plan that addresses emergency action guidelines. These plans address response but do not address prevention. The purpose of a Hazard Mitigation Plan is to assess the possible hazards in Sawyer County and to create hazard mitigation goals to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Mitigation is characterized as a long-term, on-going process. This plan seeks to address both natural and manmade (technological) hazards which may occur in Sawyer County. It provides general guidance related to hazards within the county and incorporated

communities as well as providing an overview of the mitigation efforts undertaken by the county and local units of government. In addition, the plan identifies potential problematic conditions and outlines corrective actions that the county will undertake to remedy the identified problems. Planning and implementation actions will be identified that are applicable to both pre-incident and post-incident situations. It is the responsibility of the governments within Sawyer County to protect life and property from the effects of hazardous events. Being prepared for disaster throughout the county through planning and mitigation is a continuous process. Appropriate actions must be taken to protect families, businesses, and public facilities by reducing the effects of natural and human-caused disasters. Reducing the effects of disasters minimizes detrimental economic impacts and promotes community development and welfare. SCOPE The Sawyer County Hazard Mitigation Plan addresses both natural and manmade (technological) hazards. The plan intended to address natural hazards such as tornadoes, flooding, wildfires, thunderstorms, windstorms and winter weather events; along with technological hazards such as hazardous material incidents, energy emergencies and terrorism. The Sawyer County Hazard Mitigation Plan conforms to the local requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), enacted on October 10, 2000. DMA 2000 establishes a pre-disaster hazard mitigation program and new requirements for the national Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Section 322 of the act specifically addresses mitigation planning at the state and local levels and establishes specific criteria for local planning.

### **Town of Round Lake/Spider Lake Communications Plan**

The Town of Spider Lake is coordinating with the Town of Round Lake to improve mobile communications for the fire and road crews of the two towns. There is a lack of communications capacity due to limitations in current infrastructure.

### **EXISTING OR POTENTIAL CONFLICTS**

Existing and potential conflicts can impede cooperation and weaken strong community development. There are no existing or potential problems or conflicts with any adjoining or overlapping jurisdiction.

While there are no known conflicts, in the future if conflicts do arise heading the issue head-on is advised. In order to do so, it is suggested the Town and other party(s) meet jointly to resolve such conflict. If applicable, a moderator may assist the parties in working out the issue and recommending resolution.

## LAND USE

### INTRODUCTION

Land use activity is the product of natural and human activities shaping the landscape.

The prime concern of land use planning is to understand the overall relationship of human and natural influences by examining past trends, present conditions, and proposed and future uses. Appropriate land use planning decisions must be based upon a sound understanding of past, present, and future trends for the maximum benefit to be realized by the community.

**Table 8. 1: Land Use**

Land Use	Acres	Percent
Forestry	61,440	88.17
Open Water	5,634	8.09
Residential	1,914	2.75
Agriculture	432	.62
Golf Course	76	.11
Commercial/Resort	160	.23
Government	24	.03
Total:	69,681	100%

Source: NWRPC GIS Database

### LAND USE CHARACTERISTICS

#### **Uses of the Land**

Comparing the amount of land “developed” versus “undeveloped”, overall the land area is vastly undeveloped. However, a significant number of persons live in close proximity to one another due to residential development of lake shore property. As a percentage, forestry is the dominant land use category. Table 8.1 represents land use by category.

**Table 8. 2: Public and Private Ownership**

	Acres	% of Town Land
Public Ownership		
National Forest	32,718	46.95
Sawyer County	7,944	11.40
State of WI	70	.10
Private Ownership	23,313	33.46
Open Water (non-land area)	5,634	8.09
Total	69,680	100%

Source: NWRPC GIS Database

Public land ownership plays a significant factor in the local development pattern. Town, County, State, and Federal land holdings limit residential and other land use development from occurring on nearly 60% of area land. Private land ownership represents nearly one-third of the land area (see Table 8.2)

## **TRENDS IN LAND - SUPPLY, DEMAND AND PRICE**

### **Supply**

A significant amount of land is county, state or federally owned, with approximately 34% of the land owned privately. Development varies from year to year, but development is focused primarily on lake shore properties. While it is difficult to predict, there will always be a supply of available land for sale. However, whether this land is buildable and affordable remains the question.

### **Demand**

Another large demand outside of lakefront property is for land currently along and near the Birkebeiner ski trail and in the Town's northwest corner. This demand is likely the result of access to the ski trail and the Chequamegon Mountain Bike Trails and the relative proximity to Hayward and Cable. (Map 8.1)

**Table 8. 3: New Structures Built in the Town of Spider Lake from 2008-2017**

Year	Town of Spider Lake		Sawyer County	
	# of Structures Built	% of Total	# of Structures Built	% of Total
2008	5	8.1%	147	11.9%
2009	5	8.1%	141	11.4%
2010	4	6.5%	121	9.8%
2011	6	9.7%	122	9.9%
2012	12	19.4%	142	11.5%
2013	3	4.8%	126	10.2%
2014	6	9.7%	90	7.3%
2015	3	4.8%	96	7.8%
2016	13	21.0%	113	9.1%
2017	5	8.1%	137	11.1%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1235</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Sawyer County Land Information Office

The Town has not seen a demand for manufacturing property nor is there expected to be a demand. Manufacturing enterprises have located in and around key communities within the county where primary municipal services (water/sewer) are readily available and where greater access to the transportation network is found. Little demand is present for the establishment of commercial retail development. While a few family-resorts still remain, many have been sold off over the years as condominiums.

### **Price**

The price of land is per front foot and without a doubt is one variable that fluctuates from year to year based on local and national economic trends. Lake shore frontage has the highest price value with land selling from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per front foot, depending on location and desirability of the frontage. Woodlands vary from \$2,500 to \$3,500 per acre with some 5-acre development tracts selling for between \$35,000 and \$45,000.

## **REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES & EXISTING LAND USE CONFLICTS**

### **Redevelopment**

Opportunities for redevelopment in the Town are relatively limited and lie in either rehabilitating or demolishing abandoned residential dwellings. As previously noted manufacturing properties are not present. While some commercial establishments may be vacant, redevelopment is likely due to their proximity to recreational areas.

## Conflicts

While existing land use conflicts are limited, one area may be the home rental with or without property management as some of the renters are not advised of Town ordinances. While there always remains the potential for land use conflicts, the Town sees no major concern at present.

## LAND USE PROJECTIONS

Land use characteristics and the transition from one land use type to another is based on a combination of factors, and are influenced by local, regional and national trends. Year-round population has continued to increase. Since at least 1950, the Town's population has seen a strong increase every decennial census year. Future projections point to a continued increase, however smaller than past trends. While not used in future land use projections, the seasonal population is a significant factor contributing to the overall community population and residential development. The assumptions used in projecting over the 20 year planning horizon are based on assessment data covering 1980-2017 and demographic trends.

**Table 8. 4: Projected Land Use Needs**

Projected Land Demand	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	25yr change
<b>Population</b>	379	345	345	345	330	315	-64
<b>Household size</b>	1.88	1.82	1.80	1.77	1.76	1.73	-0.15
<b>Housing units (all types)</b>	997	1027	1057	1087	1117	1147	150
<b>Residential (acres)</b>	2832	3012	3192	3372	3552	3732	900
<b>Commercial (acres)</b>	326	320	324	322	322	325	-1
<b>Industrial (acres)</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Undeveloped Land (acres)</b>	2900	2720	2540	2360	2180	2000	-900

Source: NWRPC GIS projections based on existing land use pattern and median residential lot size of 6 acres

## Residential

Over the planning horizon, residential development will continue to occur, represented by both year-round and seasonal dwellings. The trends toward larger residential lots and homes is predicted to continue and will influence the need for additional residential acreage. While the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) population projections shows a population decrease from 2020 to 2040. Persons per household have declined significantly since 1980 and are predicted to decline out to 2040. With a projected population decrease and declining persons per household indicates an out migration of youth and an in-migration or retirement-aged citizens if at all.

Using the previous ten years of new structure data for Spider Lake, there is an average of six new structures built per year in the town (Sawyer County Land information office). The average lot size in the Town containing a structure is six acres. With this data, a

projection was created resulting in an increase of 36 acres of residential land added annually. Seasonal housing development continues to influence residential development. It is believed seasonal and year-round residential development will continue to influence the need for residential acreage.

### Commercial

Up until 2000 commercially accessed acreage had seen steady declines. The Town's rural location and population levels cannot support a central business district and large commercial/retail complexes. While data represented from 1980-2000 in Table 8.6 reveals a decline, an increase was identified from 2000-2006 resumed with a decrease in years 2011-2017. For these reasons, it is predicted that limited commercial acreage will be needed. However, in the future if local trends change, and greater demand for commercial acreage appears a revision to these figures is recommended.

### Manufacturing

The Town has no manufacturing activity and is not projected to have any in the future.

### Agricultural

The percentage of land attributed to agriculture by percentage is relatively small. While assessment data represented in Table 8.6 trended to a decline in acreage from 1988 to 2000, 2006 to 2016 data identified a significant increase. However it is thought this increase was not an actual increase in agricultural practices, rather a reassessment of properties due to a tax law change in valuing agricultural land. However a slight change in agricultural acreage is projected anticipated additional change in agricultural assessed land.

## **TAX PARCEL TRENDS, 1980-2017**

Examining past trends can serve as an indicator of future occurrences. Table 8.6 demonstrates the number, acreage, and value characteristics of the Town's privately owned lands in seven tax classification categories: residential, commercial, forestry, manufacturing, agricultural, undeveloped, and other.

**Table 8. 5: Parcel Counts and Tax Assessment Values**

<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2017</b>
TOTAL PARCELS	577	754	801	945	1,011	1,088	1,139
IMPROVED PARCELS	418	544	606	711	789	851	890
TOTAL ACRES	2,049	1986	1955	2325	2824	2,881	2,829
LAND VALUE \$	5,699,911	10,392,350	13,938,400	34,962,200	176,317,400	179,039,700	136,528,400
IMPROVED VALUE \$	9,698,534	18,801,970	27,677,900	64,574,300	93,113,000	105,786,000	115,877,400
TOTAL VALUE \$	15,398,445	29,194,320	41,616,300	99,536,500	269,430,400	284,825,700	252,405,800
<b>AVERAGE PARCEL SIZE</b>	<b>3.55</b>	<b>2.63</b>	<b>2.44</b>	<b>2.46</b>	<b>2.79</b>	<b>2.65</b>	<b>2.48</b>

<b>COMMERCIAL</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2017</b>
TOTAL PARCELS	54	67	61	56	57	38	34

# Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

IMPROVED PARCELS	49	65	58	52	49	31	28
TOTAL ACRES	749	617	542	362	416	341	244
LAND VALUE \$	2,142,810	2,200,200	2,451,700	2,467,500	11,227,600	7,709,800	5,662,400
IMPROVED VALUE \$	2,780,528	3,601,400	4,520,900	5,791,800	8,301,000	6,392,100	5,160,400
TOTAL VALUE \$	4,923,338	5,801,600	6,972,600	8,259,300	19,528,600	14,101,900	10,822,800
<b>AVERAGE PARCEL SIZE</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>6.46</b>	<b>7.29</b>	<b>8.97</b>	<b>7.18</b>

<b>MANUFACTURING</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2017</b>
TOTAL PARCELS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<b>FORESTRY</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2017</b>
TOTAL PARCELS	533	484	480	494	537	516	498
IMPROVED PARCELS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ACRES	18,284	14,226	14,133	13,943	12,868	12,287	11,750
LAND VALUE\$	3,131,331	3,131,350	3,101,600	8,787,400	32,282,100	32,063,800	25,879,800
IMPROVED VALUE \$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL VALUE \$	3,131,331	3,131,350	3,101,600	8,787,400	32,282,100	32,063,800	25,879,800
AVERAGE PARCEL SIZE	34.3	29.4	29.4	28.2	23.9	23.81	23.59

\*combines forest and ag forest

<b>AGRICULTURAL</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2017</b>
TOTAL PARCELS	9	23	23	20	21	18	19
IMPROVED PARCELS	4	2	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ACRES	348	539	515	482	611	600	630
LAND VALUE \$	77,240	156,050	130,700	118,500	97,100	55,100	71,200
IMPROVED VALUE \$	109,330	110,300	84,200	0	0	0	0
TOTAL VALUE \$	186,570	266,350	214,900	118,500	97,100	55,100	71,200
<b>AVERAGE PARCEL SIZE</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>33.33</b>	<b>33.16</b>

<b>UNDEVELOPED</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2017</b>
TOTAL PARCELS	18	233	232	240	232	237	245
IMPROVED PARCELS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ACRES	258	3,322	3,247	3,225	2,811	2,884	2,932
LAND VALUE \$	6,280	88,850	93,300	182,200	1,323,600	1,353,200	970,000
IMPROVED VALUE \$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL VALUE \$	6,280	88,850	93,300	182,200	1,323,600	1,353,200	970,000

<b>OTHER</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2017</b>
TOTAL PARCELS	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
IMPROVED PARCELS	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
TOTAL ACRES	0	0	0	3	3	3	3
LAND VALUE \$	0	0	0	7,500	15,500	15,500	15,500



## Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

IMPROVED VALUE \$	0	0	0	122,000	161,500	183,800	178,700
TOTAL VALUE \$	0	0	0	129,500	177,000	199,300	194,200

<b>TOTAL TAX ACRES</b>	<b>21,688</b>	<b>20,690</b>	<b>20,392</b>	<b>20,337</b>	<b>19,533</b>	<b>19,024</b>	<b>18,416</b>
TOTAL ASSESSED VALUE*	-	-	-	-	322,838,800	332,628,400	290,376,100

Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue, *Sawyer County Statistical Report of Property Values, 1980, 1988, 1993, 2000, 2006, 2011, 2017*

An analysis of the above data reveals a number of trends taking place. These changes will have land use, taxation, and other impacts.

### Residential Parcels

The Town of Spider Lake uses several different residential zoning categories. Residential growth has continued to expand during the period (1980-2017) with a net gain of 780 residential acres. Of note, total residential parcels and parcels with improvements both grew steadily from 1980 to 2017. The average residential parcel size decreased from 1980 to 1993 and has remained similar in size to present day. The early decrease in parcel size may indicate the subdivision of existing residential parcels (particularly in lakeshore areas) and emergence of smaller parcels in off-lake areas, while the trend in increased parcel size may be attributed to the more recent development of 5-acre plus residential subdivision lots and personal demand for larger acre lots.

### Commercial Parcels

The total number of commercial parcels and improved parcels has continually declined. While the trend from 1980 to 2017 showed a net loss of 505 acres of commercial land, the period from 2000 through 2006 showed an increase of 54 acres of commercial property. The early decline suggests the sale and conversion of commercial parcels for other uses (primarily residential) and overall the loss of resorts and resort related business activity in the Town. (The Town of Spider Lake may use a different interpretation of the word 'commercial' for zoning purposes.)

### Manufacturing Parcels

The Town reported no parcels assessed for industrial or manufacturing use for the period of 1980 to 2017.

### Forestry Parcels

The number of forest parcels had been declining until 2006 when forest and ag forest parcels were combined. For the reporting period (Table 8.5) a net loss of 6,534 acres was realized. These declines may be accounted for due to the conversion of some forest parcels into residential use and the transfer of private forest lands into public ownership. Of note, the average forestry parcel size has gradually decreased from 34.3 acres in 1980 to 23.59 acres in 2017. This change also reflects the on-going subdivision and sale of forest parcels for residential development or other non-forest uses in the Town.

Forest land valuations have increased dramatically in recent years partly as a result of increasing raw land values for recreational properties and partly as a result of increasing stumpage values. Lands classified as forest land represent 88 percent of all land and water acreage in the Town.

Publicly owned forest land totals 40,662 acres or approximately 58.5 percent of the Town. The vast majority of the public forest land is national forest (32,719 acres). While harvest levels from national forest lands nationally have declined dramatically, harvest levels on the Chequamegon/Nicolet have remained fairly stable. This is expected to continue in the near future barring major changes in policy or appeals by environmental groups.

The national forests in general tend to emphasize management directed at maintaining certain wildlife and plant species or unique habitats compared to the more multiple use type – orientation of state and county land managers. The amount of management undertaken also tends to be higher on county properties compared to national forest properties on a per acre basis.

Research has also shown that most privately owned forest land will be harvested in some manner over time and that a large percentage of that harvest will be done in the absence of a management plan.

### **Agricultural Parcels**

Data points to a slight increase in agricultural parcels (net gain of 10 parcels) from 1980-2017 and a significant increase in agricultural acres (net gain of 282 acres) from 1980-2017.

**Undeveloped** (formerly swamp and waste parcels represented in 1980, 1988, 1993, and 2000)

This category is comprised of marshlands, swamps, and forested areas unable to produce marketable timber. In 1980 there was 18 parcels assessed at \$6,280 in land value (258 acres) compared to 245 parcels assessed at \$970,000 (2,932 acres).

### **Other**

The emergence of the “other” category also reflects the Wisconsin Department of Revenue tax classification reassessment of 1998. Parcels in this “other” category are primarily lands with buildings and improvements used for agricultural purposes.

### **Total Taxable Acreage**

The years since 1980 have seen decline from the Town’s taxable land. This gradual decline indicates that a continual amount of the Town’s privately held lands are being transferred, either through direct sale, deed, or other arrangement into public ownership. There is a net loss of approximately 88.43 acres per year.

## **TOWN ENFORCED LAND USE ORDINANCES**

Spider Lake continues to be the only town in Sawyer County with its own adopted and enforced zoning ordinance and other land use controls.

## **EXISTING LAND USE**

In the Town of Spider Lake, forestry is the dominant land use as is evidenced by Map 8.2. Less than 88 percent of the Town is in forest, most of which is found in the Chequamegon National Forest.

As is illustrated in Map 8.3, residential areas are found in the highest concentrations around the lakeshore areas and the western portion of the Town. State and county held lands—primarily forested lands—are found in the west and northwestern area of the Town, while the eastern portion of the Town is dominated by the federal holdings of the Chequamegon National Forest.

### **Public Ownership**

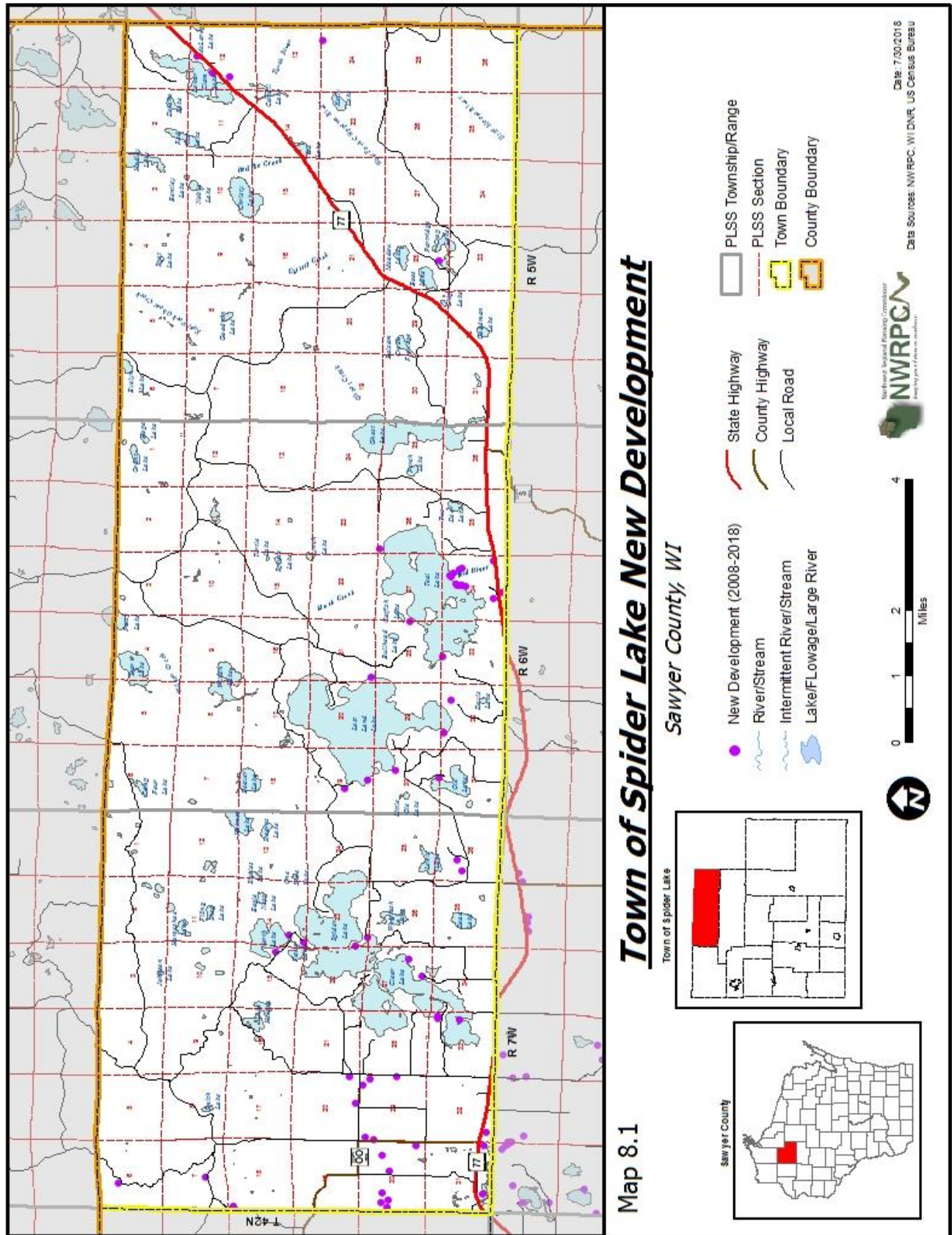
Approximately two-thirds of the Town of Spider Lake is in public (county, state, federal) ownership (Map 8.4). Table 8.3 indicates the exact acreage of these public holdings compared to private lands and open water areas. More land was added into public ownership through DNR acquisition as Recreation Land on Lake O'lane and Lake Helane.

### **Forest Crop / Woodland Tax Areas**

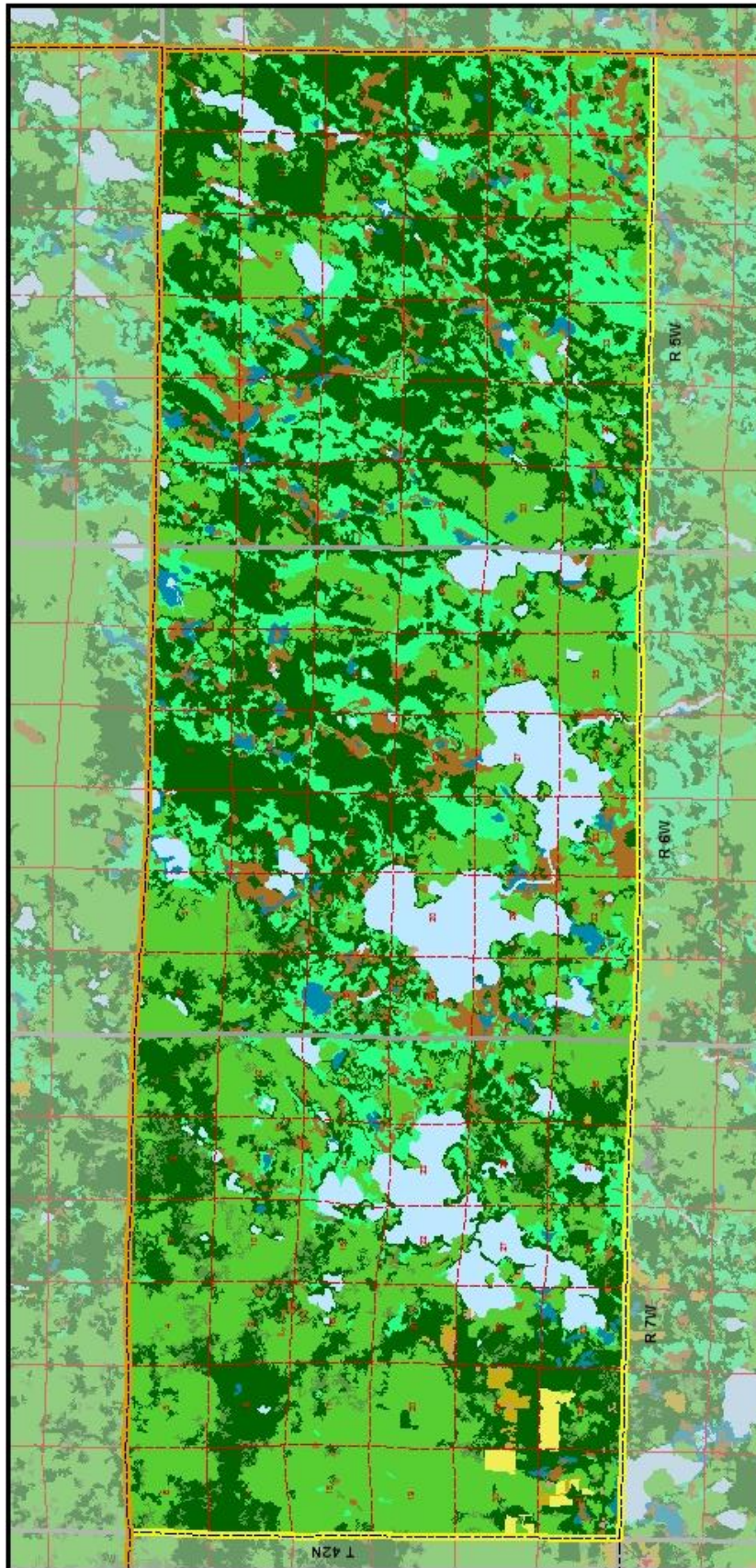
Of the 23,814 acres in private ownership, 2,039 acres (8.7%) are enrolled in the Forest Crop, Woodland Tax, or Managed Forest Crop programs.

### **Open Water / Shoreline**

As is indicated in the table above, just over eight percent of the Town is open water. The Town has a total of 109 miles of shoreline, of which, 29 miles (26.6% of shoreline) is in public ownership.



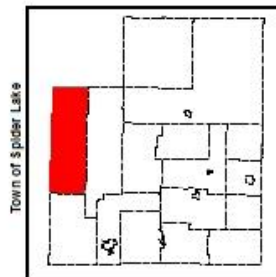




Map 8.2

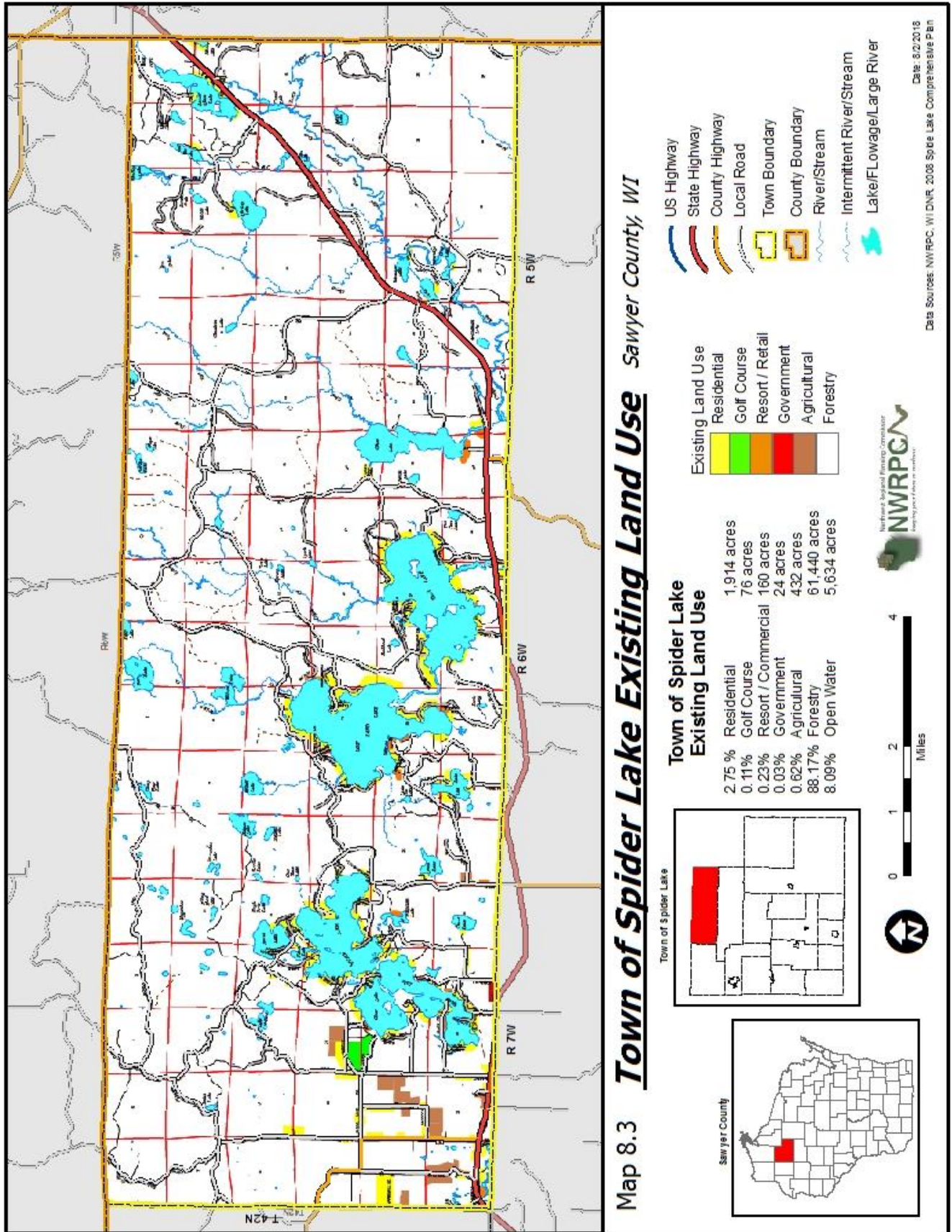
## **Town of Spider Lake Land Cover**

Sawyer County, WI

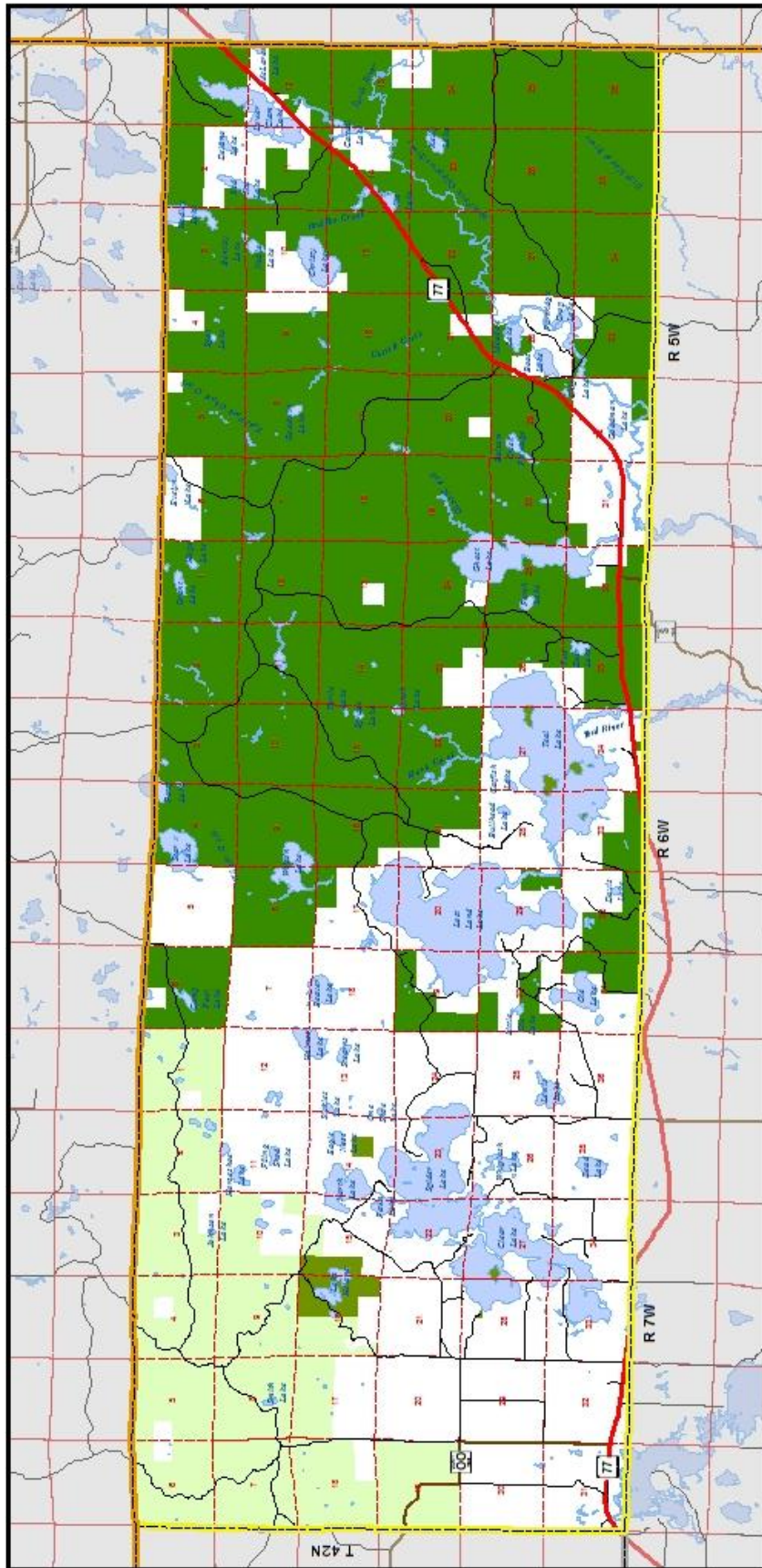


Date: 7/30/2018  
Data Sources: NWRPC, WI DNR









Map 8.4

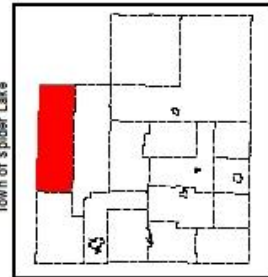
## Town of Spider Lake Public Ownership

### Sawyer County, WI

#### Town of Spider Lake Public Ownership

46.45%	National Forest	33,045	acres
11.49%	County Forest	8,000	acres
0.73%	State Land	509	acres
32.63%	Private Land	22,034	acres
8.70%	Open Water	6,059	acres

Town of Spider Lake



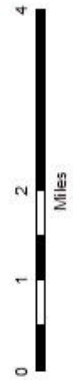
Sawyer County



#### Public Ownership

- National Forest
- County Forest
- State Land
- River/Stream
- Intermittent River/Stream
- Lake/Flowage/Large River

- State Highway
- County Highway
- Local Road
- PLSS Section
- Town Boundary
- County Boundary



Date: 7/30/2018  
Data Sources: NWREC, WI DNR, WIDOT

## **IMPLEMENTATION VISION, STRATEGY, TACTIC AND GOAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

A Town Board sanctioned 25-member planning committee developed the original comprehensive plan of the Town of Spider Lake in 1999. In 2007, the Town initiated an amendment process to update the comprehensive plan. During plan development/amendment, plan components were reviewed to ensure local objectives and recommendations remained consistent between plan narrative and Town directives.

The committee's work continued the original vision, strategy, tactic, and goals for issues facing the Town. Two principal visions continue to be 1) "maintain the northwoods character" and 2) "Develop an Economic climate that satisfies our community's needs". Following are the vision, strategy, tactic, and goal statements. During the time span between plan adoption and its first amendment several accomplishments were achieved.

### **VISION, STRATEGY, TACTIC AND GOAL STATEMENTS**

#### ***Maintain Northwoods Character***

##### Maintain shoreland naturalness

1. Develop a Shoreline Management Guide
2. Revegetation of clear-cuts in buffer zone
  - i. Identify shore areas needing revegetation
  - ii. Offer non-confrontational assistance in revegetating
3. Visual aesthetics from water
  - i. Control signs
  - ii. Establish a design review committee for signs
  - iii. Ban any further new construction within 75' of OHWM
  - iv. Educate about shoreland area practices
4. Native vegetation only in water plantings
  - i. Identify, educate, and begin control of exotics
  - ii. Offer information about native plants and sources
5. Maintain natural shore cover
  - i. Educate about wildlife habitat values

##### Conserve/preserve/improve waterways within the Town

6. Encourage and maintain monitoring of surface water quality
  - i. Establish a lake monitoring team
  - ii. Select representative lakes
  - iii. Apply for grants
  - iv. Define watersheds
  - v. With DNR, etc., monitor wetlands



- vi. Coordinate monitoring with Town of road construction
- 7. Educate and enforce regulations concerning structures and usages
  - i. Establish a pierhead line, limiting pier length
  - ii. Establish protection of ecologically significant areas
  - iii. Provide shore structure regulations to new owners
  - iv. Continue education regarding shore structure laws
  - v. Review and update Town laws annually
  - vi. Monitor state dockominium developments
  - vii. Consider County action on resort cabin frontage and motel and motel apartments
- 8. Adopt uniform signage for hazards and regulations
  - i. Town must approve all markers
  - ii. DNR approval is needed
  - iii. Coast Guard approved markers must be used
  - iv. Provide lake hazard maps at various convenient locations
  - v. Use signs only where absolutely necessary
- 9. Educate on pollution sources – (together with next item)
- 10. Educate and enforce lakeshore buffer zone - (together with above item)
  - i. Establish and fund an education committee:
    - 1. Maintain a library of resources and handouts
    - 2. Distribute welcome packets
    - 3. Do a general newsletter for all in the Town
    - 4. Do targeted newsletters for certain groups
  - ii. Investigate use of Shoreland Buffer Restoration incentive plan
- 11. Optimize zoological and botanical habitats
  - i. Protect natural wetlands of 0.1 acre and larger
  - ii. Establish a Spider Lake Town BMP for wetlands
  - iii. Rescind what allows injury to wetland habitat
  - iv. Include wetlands in water-protection laws
  - v. Clarify the governmental jurisdictions over wetlands
- 12. Deal with invasive species in town waters
  - i. Cooperate with lake associations in their efforts at prevention
    - 1. Sponsor DNR grants when appropriate
    - 2. Allow flexible rules for signage at boat landing sites
  - ii. Promote education of lake users regarding invasive species
  - iii. Discuss role of town if invasive species are discovered in Town lakes, to include funding of eradication and control mechanisms.
- 13. Attract and sustain essential services
  - i. Cell phone service
  - ii. Internet connection

#### Manage recreation

- 14. Enforce rules
- 15. Manage use of ATV's and snowmobiles
  - i. Sent snowmobile proposal to the Town Board
  - ii. Sent ATV proposal to the Town Board

## Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

16. Promote "Quiet Sports"
17. Publicize recreational opportunities and facilities
18. Publicize regulations
19. Encourage public recreational facilities
20. Lobby for recreation opportunities on public lands

### Develop a proposal addressing aesthetics of building and construction

21. Architectural Control Committee, appearance of new and remodel
22. Adopt uniform dwelling code
  - i. Adopt the UDC
  - ii. Apply the UDC to all additions and renovations

### Maintain existing Town roadway's ambience

23. Designate maximum number of roads as "rustic roads"
  - i. Propose 203, 204, & Murphy-Helene-Telemark as Rustic
24. Take a balanced approach regarding buffer zones along Town roadways if such action is "Firewise".
25. Establish (formulate) uniform signage regulation
  - i. Zoning Administrator enforce Town signage ordinances
  - ii. Establish a Signage Design Review Committee
  - iii. Five-year grace period for non-conforming signs
  - iv. Off-premises signs only in directory format
  - v. Submit this and more to Town Board
26. Research multiple road usage (different types of vehicles)
  - i. Endorsed present set of snowmobile routes in Town
  - ii. Recommended set of ATV routes to Town Board
27. Set minimum distance between centerline and logging landings
28. Require culverts for logging entrances
29. Limit increase of Town road mileage

### Maintain forest naturalness

30. Determine feasibility of regulating timber harvest on private land
31. Restoration after logging
32. Enforce Best Management Practices (BMP)
33. Establish a BMP at Town level that includes habitat and water quality considerations
34. Resolve "seasonal/year-round" construction on forest land
35. Develop community compost center

### Encourage protection and preservation of wildlife habitat through education

### Prevent air, noise and light pollution

36. Research air pollution laws
37. Research noise pollution laws
38. Research light pollution laws

Research the effects on the aquifers of high-density housing

**Develop an economic climate that satisfies our community's needs**

Develop rational forestry practices

1. Develop incentives to forestry-based businesses

Encourage tourism to sustainable levels

2. Maintain Town website
3. Publish advertising brochure with map
4. Welcome signs at Town lines
5. No room tax
6. Support differential zoning for resorts
7. Promote special Town and community events

Encourage businesses that are friendly to the "northwoods" character

8. Industrial park (new businesses)
9. Economic incentives (new and current)
10. Market the Town's industrial plan (new)
11. Encourage privately and municipally-owned recreation facilities (new)
12. Promote unique events (new and current)
13. Improve local signage to help visitors (current)

Manage taxes

14. If necessary, create a taxpayer watchdog group to monitor and influence tax dollar spenders
15. Investigate use of "Premier Resort Area" tax to reduce county tax

Encourage year-round employment at reasonable living wages

16. Promote attractive industries by use of TIF funds
17. Develop community facilities; senior center, nursing home
18. Encourage home-based businesses
19. Investigate development of a small retail/mercantile center

Encourage land-based agriculture

20. New farming must fit Town's plan and environmental concerns

Encourage affordable housing

**PUBLIC MEETING AND INPUT**

As part of the original planning process, a list of Issues was developed (July 25, 2000) by the public at an informational meeting. The public was asked to identify issues that were of concern to them relating to the Town's future growth and resource protection. The

## Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

majority of the issues identified were in some way addressed by the planning committee in their vision statements.

Prior to the public meeting, copies of the draft plan were distributed to all surrounding jurisdictions as well as and Sawyer County, along with a solicitation for comments. Copies of the draft plan were posted on the Town's and Northwest Regional Planning Commission's websites for viewing. No comments were received from Sawyer County or adjacent Towns.

- Sawyer County
- Town of Lenroot
- Town of Cable
- Town of Namekagon
- Town of Shanagolden
- Town of Chippewa
- Town of Round Lake

**From:** Cody Kamrowski  
**Cc:** [Brian Hucker \(brhucker@yahoo.com\)](mailto:Brian.Hucker@brhucker@yahoo.com); ["townofspiderlake@centurytel.net"](mailto:townofspiderlake@centurytel.net); [Christine Ferda \(ciferda@cheqnet.net\)](mailto:Christine.Ferda@ciferda@cheqnet.net)  
**Bcc:** ["cwilliamson@sawyercountygov.org"](mailto:cwilliamson@sawyercountygov.org); ["townoflenroot@centurytel.net"](mailto:townoflenroot@centurytel.net); ["laura@townofcable.com"](mailto:laura@townofcable.com); ["namakagon@cheqnet.net"](mailto:namakagon@cheqnet.net); ["cindyeder@yahoo.com"](mailto:cindyeder@yahoo.com); ["butternutwi@centurytel.net"](mailto:butternutwi@centurytel.net); ["town@townofroundlakewi.org"](mailto:town@townofroundlakewi.org)  
**Subject:** Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, August 13, 2018 7:22:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [WORKING DOCUMENTV2.pdf](#)  
[8-15-18 Published Notice of Public Hearing Spider Lake comp plan.pdf](#)

---

Hello,

You are receiving this email for solicit of comment concerning the Town of Spider Lake's Comprehensive Plan Update. Attached is a final draft of the Town of Spider Lake's Comprehensive Plan, as well as the Notice of Public Hearing.

Please feel free to contact the Town of myself with comments and thoughts concerning the Comprehensive Plan.

Kind regards,  
Cody

*Cody Kamrowski*

Community Development Planner  
Northwest Regional Planning Commission  
1400 South River Street, Spooner, WI 54801  
ph: 715.635.2197, ext. 226 | fax: 715.635.7262

**MEETING NOTICE**

**September, 2018  
10896W Town Hall Rd.**

**TOWN OF SPIDER LAKE SPECIAL PLAN & REVIEW COMMISSION MEETING**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Town of Spider Lake Plan & Review Commission will hold a Special Meeting on September 18, 2018 immediately following the Public Hearing scheduled for 5:00 P.M. at the Town Hall.

**Agenda is as follows:**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Review & Discussion of the Town of Spider Lake's revised Comprehensive Plan and Possible Recommendation to the Town Board for Approval of Same**
- 3. Adjournment**

**Posted this 8th day of September, 2018  
Christine Ferda, Town Clerk**

**Comments Received:**

- The Committee received electronic correspondence from a member of the Town. The email was not directly related to the Comprehensive Plan. But the citizen expressed their concern about aquatic invasive species and the enforcement of boat speed limits on lakes within the Town.
- A citizen presented testimony at the hearing recommending reorganizing the Table of Contents and adding a glossary. Making both more similar to the previous plan. The citizen also mentioned that the cell phone service issue in the region is due to the lack of height of the towers.
- Another citizen presented testimony at the hearing asking for clarification of the definitions of "Premier Resort Areas" and "Northwoods Character".

**PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS**

This plan provides basic guidelines for development as well as ways to maintain the "northwoods" character. Because the plan is generally broad in focus, there are many ways to implement the desired plan objectives.

To continue to achieve the vision, strategy, tactic, and goals set forth in this planning process will require a number of actions by the Spider Lake Town Board related to this plan and its multiple recommendations. The following section includes a number of general recommendations for actions and the development of other plans, policies, and activities required to meet the goals of the planning process.

The adoption of this plan and accompanying recommendations should not be considered the end of the process but instead is a symbol of commitment to keep the process intact and continually maintain the process and products in response to the changing needs of the Town and its citizens.

## **MAINTAIN “NORTHWOODS” CHARACTER**

### A. Maintain Shoreland Naturalness

Four goals were identified in this area:

#### 1. Revegetation of Buffer Zone

##### *Description:*

Shoreline habitat restoration is the establishment of native trees, shrubs, grasses, or wetland plants along a shoreline.

##### *Benefits:*

- Reduced intensity and impact of human activities in the near shore area.
- Improved shallow water habitat for fish, amphibians, reptiles, and aquatic insects by providing shade, cover, and overhanging vegetation.
- Increased terrestrial habitat diversity.
- Visual screening of structures and aesthetic improvement of shorelines.
- Increased awareness and understanding for landowners and lake users of the importance of diverse native lakeshore habitat to the lake ecosystem.

##### *Assistance:*

The Sawyer County Land Conservation Department (SCLCD) offers technical assistance for shoreline restoration. Financial incentives are available to help landowners with site assessments and plans. There is also an attractive cost-share program for plants, materials, and labor to install these new shoreline buffers. Contact the SCLCD for advice about planting trees, shrubs, and groundcovers that are appropriate.

##### *What is Required?*

The existing portion of the state shoreland ordinance (NR115) requires a protective natural vegetative buffer 35 feet from the ordinary high water mark landward with a 30 foot use corridor for every 100 feet of shoreline.

- Restoration areas must be at least 35 feet in from the water line and deeper if practicable.
- Habitat restoration plans will be tailored to individual sites. Designs can allow access to the lake, enhance desirable views, screen unwanted views, and enhance privacy as long as the design meets the purpose of this practice.
- Erosion control measures must be used if needed during establishment.
- Landowners will implement other low impact yard care practices identified in their habitat restoration plan, such as minimal use of pesticides and use of low phosphorus fertilizers.
- Restoration should be included in shoreland management guide.
- Runoff from hard surfaces and roof gutter downspouts must be directed to maximize infiltration. Runoff should be maintained in sheet flow (not channels) to the greatest extent possible.

- Native plant species appropriate for conditions must be used wherever possible, and all species should be selected to minimize the need for fertilizer, pesticides, water, and maintenance.
- Land uses within the shoreland zone must be in compliance with county and Town shoreland zoning regulations.

*Maintaining Your Shoreline Habitat Restoration*

- Human uses in the shoreline habitat restoration will be primarily focused on paths of walkways. Vehicles are excluded to prevent disturbance and ground compaction.
- Herbicides and fertilizers are not allowed except under special circumstances.
- Maintenance activities should promote a mixture of tree, shrub, and herbaceous species because this provides better habitat diversity.
- Cutting of trees or shrubs may be done only to prevent safety hazards. Where possible dead or windblown trees should be left in place, as they provide important habitat. Removal of undesirable competitive species is allowed if it does not compromise the function of the buffer.
- Establishment of use corridor(s) for each lot by mowing, pruning, and selective removal of trees, stumps, and shrubbery. Sufficient trees and shrubbery shall be retained to screen development from view from the water but provide a filtered view of the water. A use corridor(s) shall not be established where the absence of vegetation provides a similar naturally occurring opening.

2. Visual Aesthetics from Water

- a. The control and regulation of signs is addressed in Appendix B and Appendix E.
- b. Except for the "Gard Gazebo" amendment, the Sawyer County shoreland ordinance prohibits structures except walkways inside the 75' setback area.
- c. This can be accomplished by developing a shoreland management guide that explains the significance of shoreland BMPs.
- d. *Removal of Shoreline Cover-Shoreline Cutting* – A corridor no more than 30 feet in any 200 feet, as measured along the ordinary high water mark, may be selectively cut to the depth of the area prescribed in the Town of Spider Lake Class Development Standards. Stairways and walkways are to be included in the 30-foot corridor but do not need to be contiguous.

3. Use of Native Vegetation in Aquatic Plantings

This can be best addressed in the proposed shoreland management guide to be developed for the Town. Shoreland property owners must prevent invasive vegetative species and exotics.

4. Maintain natural shore cover to include fallen trees.

This can be best addressed in the proposed shoreland management guide to be developed for the Town.

- B. Conserve/Preserve/Improve All Waterways Within the Town
  - 1. Encourage and maintain monitoring of all surface water quality
    - a. The lake monitoring under CLUC originally began with Secchi Disc testing only as funds were not yet available for large scale chemical testing. The materials for the Secchi Discs came from the DNR, Sawyer County.
- C. State has significantly taken control from the Counties and Towns with many of these natural resources management techniques.

Water quality testing is conducted annually on water bodies throughout the State of Wisconsin. Trained volunteers conduct multiple tests on a water body to help determine its current condition. Table 9.1 has a breakdown of the Spider Lake Chain of Lakes

**Table 9. 1: Spider Lake Chain, Teal Lake, Lost Land Lake and Ghost Lake Water Quality Data**

Station Name	Station ID	Most Recent Data	Secchi Disk (sd)	Summer Water Color
Spider Lake - Big Spider Basin	583064	2018	9.25	Clear and Blue
Spider Lake - Clear Lake - Deep Hole	583113	2018	7	Clear and Blue
Spider Lake - Fawn Lake - Deep Hole	583101	2018	7.25	Clear and Brown
Spider Lake - Little Spider Basin	583048	2018	8.5	Clear and Blue
Spider Lake - Little Spider Basin Big Bay	583171	2018	7.75	Clear and Blue
Spider Lake - North Lake - Deep Hole	583102	2018	5.75	Clear and Brown
Teal Lake - Deep Hole-Site A	583055	2018	5.5	Clear and Brown
Lost Land Lake - Deep Hole	583056	2011	3.96	Murky and Blue
Ghost Lake - Deep Hole	583145	2006	3	Murky and Brown

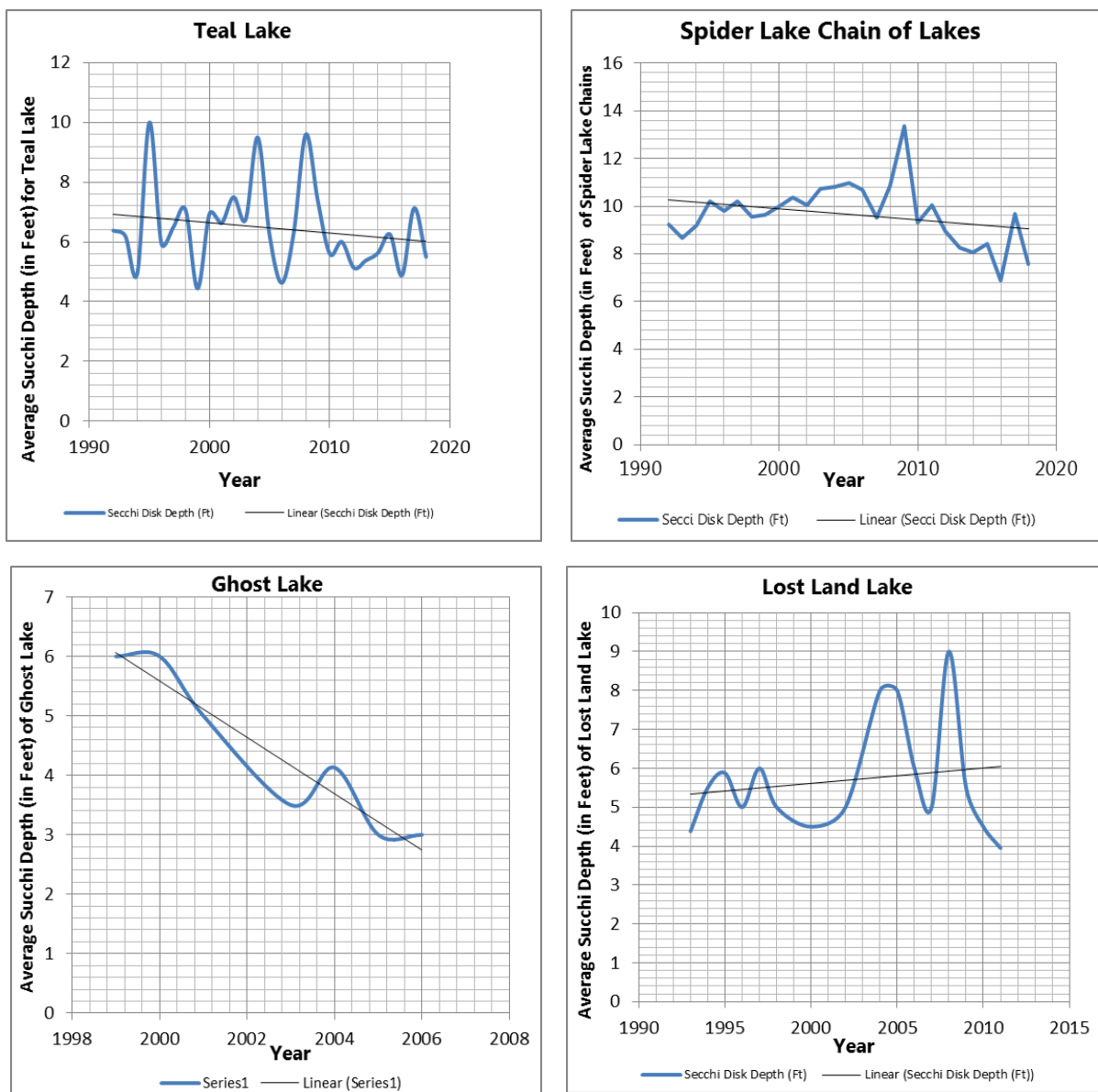
Source: WI DNR Lake Quality Database

Figure 9.1 below is a graphic depicting secchi disk depth averages of each year's readings of the 6 stations listed above in table 9.1. The blue line represents the actual data points and the black line through represents a line of best fit. This represents succhi disk trends from 1992 to present.



- b. The majority of Spider Lake is in the Upper Chippewa Watershed with a small portion in the northwest corner in the Upper Namekagon. See watershed boundaries map.
- c. Wetlands have been mapped to five acres and larger and monitoring of wetland disturbance can be coordinated with the DNR water regulation and zoning specialists and could be addressed at the Town level by a certified wetland delineator.
- d. A scheduled plan for road construction near waterways and wetlands in the Town will provide a basis for establishing a monitoring program.

**Figure 9.1: Historical Secchi Disk Readings Averaged to Portray Trends**



1. Educate and enforce regulations concerning structures and usages.
  - a. Piers and docks are in the water and fall under the jurisdiction of the DNR which has guidelines for the number of piers, length, and number of moorings per parcel that is described in DNR's pier planner publication.
  - b. This can be best accomplished through public education for examples within shoreland management guide.
  - c. Review and update of the Town's laws are the responsibility of the Town Board with assistance from a standing Town plan commission.
  - d. Monitoring of state dockminium developments could be the on-going responsibility of a Town plan commission.
  - e. Action about resort cabin frontage is awaiting county action.
  - f. Action about motel and motel/apartments is awaiting county action.
2. Adopt uniform signage for hazards and regulations
  - a. The Town should establish a permit review process for waterway markers.
  - b. The Town should establish on-going DNR liaison person.
  - c. The use of Coast Guard approved markers would be part of the permit review process.
  - d. Lake hazard maps could be included in a shoreland management guide.
  - e. The use of signs should be regulated in a Town sign ordinance
3. The education on pollution sources would be best accomplished in the shoreland management guide.
4. The education and enforcement of a lakeshore buffer zone would be best accomplished in the shoreland management guide.
  - a. The committee believes that landowner education is the most effective means of avoiding problems in land use issues. Two reasons for approval are:
    - The vast majority of people will do what is right if they know what is the right thing to do.
    - It is far less expensive to educate than to litigate as measured in terms of lawyers' fees and relationships of people within our Town.
  - b. The committee recommends that the Town Board establish and fund an education committee. That committee should report its activities at Town Board meetings at least twice a year. Goals should include:
    - Publish a Town newsletter to serve as an ongoing education tool for all landowners.

- Start and maintain a Town library located in the Town hall.
  - Consider supplying “welcome packets” to new landowners.
  - Consider targeted newspapers to specific groups of landowners.
5. Optimize zoological and botanical habitats by establishing wetland protection and regulations (See Appendix F for wetland definitions).
- a. Contents of a Town Land Use Permit Application

The committee recommends that the Town assume the authority to manage wetlands 0.1 acre and larger by ordinance and approved by the county and enforce no infringement within 40 feet of a wetland.

All applications for Town land use permits where wetland setbacks are involved shall be accompanied by the following:

A certified and detailed site-specific wetland delineation map by wetland class and type shall be prepared by a Town-approved, certified wetlands delineator. The Town zoning administrator should be certified. The wetland boundaries shall also be marked on the property by the wetlands delineator. A Wisconsin registered land surveyor shall provide a map showing the wetland boundaries determined on the wetland delineation map. Property boundaries shall also be shown.

A detailed site plan at a scale not less than 1 inch to 100 feet shall be provided. The plan shall show locations of proposed and existing buildings, driveways, drainage ways, easements, and utility connections. The plan shall also show wetlands by class and type preserved on site, mitigated on-site, and impacted on-site (acreage of each shown on the site plan).

A statement by applicant that indicates compliance with all other applicable local, state, and federal regulations will include an itemization of other applicable authorities and the status of each in regard to the development.

b. Governmental Jurisdictions Over Wetlands

Four federal agencies have major responsibilities pertaining to wetland identification, delineation, and protection – the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (COE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, (WDNR) also has responsibilities under the Clean Water Act to insure that state water quality standards are met. Wetlands are protected under authority of the Clean Water Act because they perform several important functions. By filtering pollutants, nutrients, and sediments, wetlands protect water quality in lakes, rivers, streams, and wells. By storing runoff from heavy rains and snow melts, wetlands reduce flood damage and provide

recharge to groundwater. Wetlands also provide important habitat for a large number and variety of plant and animal species.

Sawyer County has authority to regulate shorelands, wetlands, and flood plains under NR115.

The Town of Spider Lake has authority to regulate wetlands by ordinance that is more restrictive than the county ordinance. The county as well as any more restrictive shoreland ordinances must approve this ordinance.

#### D. Manage Recreation

1. Enforcement of necessary rules could be accomplished by:
  - The Town constable developing a working relationship with DNR wardens
  - Support the hiring of a county recreation officer
2. Develop a long-range recreation trail plan for the Town in cooperation with the county and adjacent Towns.
3. At the same time, promote public education of wise recreation motor vehicle use.
4. Coordinate efforts with Hayward Area Lakes Association and area chamber of commerce.
5. Publicizing regulations could be included in a Town recreation users guide.
6. An outdoor recreation plan for the Town would identify existing facilities and the need or demand for new facilities. The Town would then be eligible for DNR 50 percent cost sharing for recreation facility development.
7. Develop an on-going dialog with the Sawyer County Forestry Department and U.S. Forest Service regarding recreation policy and facility development. Consider a cooperative project.

#### E. Develop a proposal addressing aesthetics of building and construction

1. Appoint a design review committee whose goal would be to review, recommend, and approve site design, architectural, and landscaping to help preserve the community's "northwoods" character through an overall appearance of naturalness, openness, cleanliness, and visual order in new construction and remodeling.
2. The Town has adopted the State of Wisconsin uniform dwelling code.

E. Maintain existing Town roadway's ambience consistent with the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for mitigating wildfire risk.

1. The following roads in the Town will be recommended for inclusion into the Wisconsin Rustic Roads Program:
  - Federal Forest Roads #203 and #204 plus loops of 206, 622, and 328 from STH 77 to CTH M in the Town of Namekagon
  - Murphy Boulevard – Lake Helene Road to Telemark Road to CTH M in the Town of Cable

The Towns of Namekagon and Cable in Bayfield County are interested in cooperating with the Town of Spider Lake for inclusive designation.

2. Coordination of the continuation of natural vegetation along Town road routes on private lands can only be in the form of recommendations for voluntary concurrence. Routes through federal and county forest will require a recommendation from the Towns. Buffers are not required.
3. Development of a Town recreation trails corridor plan can provide overall development and access policy and must be coordinated with adjacent Towns, Sawyer County, Bayfield County, and the national forest. The Town has designated snowmobile and ATV routes along with mountain bike trails.
4. Section I-F addresses the set minimum distance between centerline and logging landings.
5. Section I-F addresses the required culverts for logging entrances.
6. Town road mileage will depend on future development requiring Town road access and existing private roads that can meet Town road standards requesting Town road status.

F. Maintain Forest Naturalness

The Town of Spider Lake recognized the historical significance of logging to the area and the economic importance of timber harvest and sound forest management practices. Logging has been and will continue to be a way of life in the area. The Town recommends that professional foresters be involved in development of timber harvest plans on private lands as discussed in the following recommendations.

There are unique forest resources in the Town of Spider Lake that are under several different forestry management policies. These forest lands include:

## Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

Chequamegon National Forest	32,718 acres
Sawyer County Forest	7,944 acres
Private Forest Lands	+/- 20,000 acres
State of Wisconsin	70 acres

All of these lands are subject to management practices involving different timber, recreation, and aesthetic objectives. Residents of Spider Lake are concerned about the aesthetic and visual quality of Town forest lands as well as maintaining or improving the overall water quality of the Town.

Scenic quality is one of the primary reasons people choose to spend recreation and vacation time in the forested and lake country comprising the Town of Spider Lake.

The following four objectives outline forest and timber management considerations within the Town.

- a. Balance between needs for timber products and forest habitat.
- b. Consistency in forest management practices within county, federal and private ownership in Spider Lake.
- c. Develop 40' buffer with no cutting adjacent to all wetlands 0.1 acre in size or larger.
- d. Wetland delineation as part of land use or timber harvest permit process.

### The Committee Recommends that the Town Develop Quality BMPs for Forest Management that Address Visual and Water Quality Aspects

A number of forest management activities have the potential to impact the visual quality of Spider Lake forest lands. This section identifies some of these activities; and for each activity, identifies the issue, objective, and considerations related to the activity. These recommended practices are presented as guidelines and a general direction for efforts undertaken in the field to mitigate the identified visual impact.

The following guidelines were taken in part from the States of Wisconsin and Minnesota's best management practices guidelines.

#### Timing of Forest Management Activities

##### *Issue:*

Timing of forest management activities and recreational uses can cause conflict.

##### *Objective:*

Minimize visual and audible impacts of forest management activities on tourists and recreational users by timing such activities with lower levels of recreational use whenever possible.

*Considerations:*

The timing of forest management activities or recreational activities can be constrained by pre-existing or seasonal conditions, regulations, and limitations such as seasonal road load limits, seasonal forest access limitations, forest fire hazard conditions, and appropriate times for such activities as herbicide treatments, tree planting, and road construction.

*Recommended Practices:*

- Avoid management operations during periods of peak recreational use whenever possible.
- Reduce noise in early morning, late evening, and other appropriate times whenever possible.
- Temporarily relocate trails away from management activity areas.
- Selectively restrict use of recreational facilities to avoid conflict with management activities.
- Inform and educate recreational users regarding management issues, limitations, and timing prior to, during, and after management activities.

Harvesting: Apparent Size of Harvest Area

*Issue:*

Harvest areas tend to be more objectionable as their apparent visual size increases. Large, unbroken clear-cuts are perceived by the general public as unsightly.

*Objective:*

Minimize visibility of harvest areas by limiting apparent size of harvest.

*Considerations:*

- Travel speed affects apparent field of vision and observation time which impact users' level of concern.
- Type of harvest (clear-cut vs. partial cut, for example) affects user perception of apparent size.
- Stand condition and health should be considered along with visual impacts.
- Desired future condition of a particular stand should be considered along with visual impacts.
- Proximity to recreational use areas results in enhanced user concerns regarding apparent size of harvest.

*Recommended Practices*

- Consider multiple-stage cuts or other silvicultural methods such as shelterwood and selective harvesting.
- Leave patches of trees to break up the cut area and reduce apparent size.
- Create narrow openings into harvest area to limit view from public roads, lakes, and rivers or recreation areas.
- Utilize natural terrain to minimize apparent size.

- Shape clear-cuts to look more like natural openings where ownership patterns allow.
- Adjust contiguous linear feet of harvest frontage along travel routes relative to travel speed.
- Use preceding activities to limit apparent size to five acres or less. (Actual size of harvest may be larger).

#### Harvesting: Slash Disposal

*Issue:*

Visible slash is unsightly and creates an impression of poor harvesting and utilization.

*Objective:*

Minimize visual impact of slash.

*Considerations:*

- Slash is unavoidable when timber harvesting
- Slash treatment has a definite cost.
- Slash near wetlands, lakes, and streams is subject to special regulation.
- Slash provides soil nutrients.

*Recommended Practices:*

- Encourage full utilization of all species in harvest area.
- Eliminate or minimize slash within the first 50 feet from travel routes or recreation areas.

#### Harvesting: Landings

*Issue:*

Pulpwood piles, machinery, disturbed soil, and other debris on landings can be very unsightly during and shortly after logging operations.

*Objective:*

Minimize the impact of landing operations on recreational viewers and users.

*Considerations:*

- Species, products developed, size of sale, and timber sale design affect size and number of landings.
- Topography can limit placement and number of landings.
- Proximity of harvest to travel routes or use areas can affect placement of landing.
- Proposed future use of landing area (as a parking area along a recreational trail or as a wildlife opening, for example) can affect size and placement of landing.
- Landing treatment practices may result in additional cost, no change in cost, or a savings in cost.



*Recommended Practices:*

- Avoid landings within view of travel routes or recreations areas.
- Plan landings to access future sales.
- Remove all products promptly when development of visible landings is necessary.
- Dispose of grubbed stumps and trees so as not to be visible.
- Treat any slash at landings as soon as possible.
- Seed, plant, and regenerate landings promptly.
- Keep number of landings to a minimum.
- Remove all trash from landings upon completion of harvesting.

Forest Management Activities: Forest Access Road and Trail Building

*Issue:*

Poor design, construction, and maintenance of forest access roads can result in visual impacts and the concentration of forest management activities.

*Objective:*

Reduce visual impacts associated with the design and use of forest access roads.

*Considerations:*

- Frequency of access, amount of anticipated traffic, seasons during which access is required, and safety concerns affect the number, size, and design of forest access roads.
- Distribution of necessary management activities affects the number and location of access roads.
- Noise from traffic, especially large trucks, buses, and heavy equipment operating on access roads can affect recreational users.
- Building forest access roads to accommodate visual quality concerns or using existing roads that require traveling greater distances may involve increased costs.

*Recommended Practices:*

- Reduce visual penetration with appropriate curves in the road alignment.
- Utilize merchantable timber within road clearings.
- Burn, screen, or bury road-clearing debris such as stumps, rocks, and boulders so that it is not visible from travel routes or recreation areas.
- Minimize the number of roads approaching travel routes or recreation areas.
- Shape and seed ditches and exposed areas to avoid visual impacts of erosion.
- Avoid tracking mud onto highways by using appropriate road surface material.
- Locate roads and trails to minimize visibility from nearby vantage points such as scenic overlooks, lakes, and streams.
- Construct the minimum number and type of roads or trails necessary to meet management objectives and anticipated traffic loads.

- Control access during times when the road or trail is especially susceptible to damage.
- Maintain roads and trails regularly.
- Close temporary roads or trails upon completion of use.
- Provide appropriate access control to minimize unauthorized traffic during use and especially after completion of activity.

#### Timber Stand Improvement

##### *Issue:*

While timber stand improvement (TSI) may improve the aesthetics of a route or area by promoting trees that have visually pleasing properties, some TSI activities may have visual impacts because of alterations to the stand and the accumulation of debris.

##### *Objective:*

Enhance the aesthetics of visual management areas by minimizing visual impacts of TSI activities.

##### *Considerations:*

- TSI (including removal of brush and small, suppressed trees) can allow people to see into the stand.
- Timing of TSI activities should take into account disease and insect cycles that may be enhanced by the presence of slash.
- Restricted operating hours (to regulate noise near recreation areas) may affect the cost of TSI activities.
- Additional slash disposal requirements (to control disease or to enhance visual quality) may affect the cost of TSI activities.

#### Recommended Practices

- Time TSI operations so that they will not occur during periods of peak recreational use.
- Treat slash and debris from TSI operations (by lopping, removing, crushing, or burning) whenever possible. Keep slash height below two feet. (See Slash section.)
- Reduce noise in early morning, late evening, and other appropriate times whenever possible near residences, businesses, and outdoor activity areas.
- Inform and educate recreational users regarding the concept and benefits of TSI prior to, during, and after TSI activities.

5. Seasonal construction is addressed in the Town land use ordinance by conditional use.
6. Develop a community compost center.

#### G. Protect and Preserve Wildlife Habitat

1. The development of mandatory BMPs for establishment and maintenance for wildlife habitat is not feasible except for lands in woodland tax which wildlife habitat is included in the timber management plan.

In general, wildlife habitat management recommendation through BMPs should have standards for application and be voluntary and will be best accomplished through public education or in the preparation of a woodlands and open space management guide for the Town.

#### H. Prevent Air, Noise, and Light Pollution

1. The following objectives could be adopted for maintaining or improving local air quality:
    - a. Support mercury reduction programs
    - b. Encourage programs to reduce airborne transport of contaminants
    - c. Encourage state and federal legislation to protect and improve air quality
    - d. Develop siting policy for power generation facilities
    - e. Develop BMPs and/or ordinances and education and outreach programs for the protection and improvement of local air quality; these could address:
      - i. burn barrels
      - ii. small engines
      - iii. concentrated motor vehicle traffic
      - iv. wood stoves
      - v. lawn/garden/woodlot refuse disposal
      - vi. prescribed burns
      - vii. smoke and odor nuisances
  2. Research noise pollution ordinances that have been adopted in similar rural community situations.
  - 3.
  4. Research light pollution laws are addressed in appendix E.
- I. Research the effects on the aquifers of high density housing.
    - a. Protect and preserve the quantity and quality of the aquifers.
      - i. The objective is to protect and preserve the quantity and quality of the aquifers.
  - II. Develop an Economic Climate That Satisfies Our Community's Needs
    - a. Develop Rational Forestry Practices  
This would be best in part accomplished by implementing BMPs for public and private forest management. (Refer to section I - Maintain Forest Naturalness)

1. Incentives to forestry-based businesses could be in the form of financial, i.e. revolving loan fund, or the encouraged community support of present businesses or assistance in locating a potential site.
- b. Encourage Tourism to Sustainable Levels
1. The proposed Town website should involve creating awareness of Spider Lake's unique geographic location and natural resource base as well as Spider Lake's capacity to administer its own land use. The local recreation and retail service base available (accommodations, restaurants, trails, golf courses, etc.) should also be included.
  2. Consider development of an advertising brochure in conjunction with adjoining surrounding Towns with emphasis on a mini northwoods regional approach.
  3. Develop community entrance signs.
  4. Develop a Town of Spider Lake northwoods graphic logo for community entrance signs and to also be used on Town publications and promotional brochures.
  5. No room tax on accommodations is recommended.
  6. Differential zoning for resorts is in part being addressed in the resort section of the proposed Sawyer County shoreland ordinance changes.
  7. Promotion of Town and community events or special events can in part be accomplished on a Town website or through regional promotion (Hayward Lakes, Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce, etc.)
- c. Encourage businesses that are friendly to the "Northwoods" Character
1. Refer to industrial park as Business Park and promote clean small business development from craft and home businesses to small high tech.
  2. Economic incentives could include a county or Town sponsored revolving loan fund or technical business development assistance at the regional or county level.
  3. The Town could apply for a community-based economic development grant (CBED) to develop and market a community economic development diversification plan.
  4. Based on an assessment for the need of new recreational facilities either public or private, establish a format to encourage the development of and location for such facilities or activities.
  5. The promotion of unique events can in part be done on a Town website or regional promotions through area chamber of commerce's or the Hayward Area Lakes Association.
  6. Improvements to local signage can be addressed in Appendix B.
- d. Manage Taxes

1. A taxpayer watchdog group already exists with the Sawyer County taxpayer alliance but can be created at the Town level.
  2. Investigate use of "Premier Resort Area" tax to reduce county tax.
  3. The Town or county could apply for a lakes protection grant to initiate a shoreland buffer restoration incentive plan. This would likely be a one-time program but could result in critical restoration projects. From a technical assistance standpoint, the county does provide on-site assistance for county sponsored restoration projects as well as the availability of private consultants.
- e. Encourage Year-round Employment at Reasonable Living Wages
1. Only cities and villages in Wisconsin are eligible to create Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) districts, but such programs as CBED's can be used. See section II C-3 above.
  2. The development of community facilities such as a nursing home or assisted living units should be determined by need-based surveys, etc. The Spider Lake Town Hall in part functions as a senior citizen center.
  3. The encouragement and marketing for development of home-based business could be coordinated with other business and economic development marketing plans as discussed in Section II-C.
  4. The development and location of a small retail service center should be considered.
- f. Allow Land Based Agriculture
1. Future agriculture will more than likely take place near existing farm areas in the western portion of the Town and is subject to existing environmental resource protection laws and the Town's plan.
- g. Encourage Affordable Housing.
1. Affordable housing within the Town exists off lake but may not support adequate future demand; however, the planning committee recognized the Town has little influence in housing and land values.

## **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

This comprehensive plan should be revisited and reviewed periodically if local growth trends change dramatically. It is important that this guide be integrated and used in conjunction with background information and recommendations contained in the plan document.

It is important to remember Spider Lake is a rural northwoods Town with a diverse landscape rich in history and endowed with vast natural resources. Maintaining this rural northwoods character is an important element of this plan. In conjunction with the

public land, privately owned farm, forest, and open space lands are positive financial contributors to the local tax base. While typically these lands may generate less revenue than shoreland residential land, they also require little public infrastructure. The economic contributions inherent with agricultural or timber production provide jobs and a support system. Furthermore, the working landscape instills positive values that are hard to quantify, including quality of life, cultural heritage, wildlife habitat, water quality, and open space protection.

Growth is inevitable and important for the Town of Spider Lake. But if it is not balanced and sensible, the Town will ultimately lose intrinsic values.

A generalized comprehensive plan for the Town of Spider Lake is presented in the following narrative and the accompanying map(s). The plan identifies various land use categories, each with different land use/development objectives. In summary, it:

- Directs development away from sensitive environmental areas.
- Protects and maintains the Town of Spider Lake's natural resources, especially wetlands, surface waters, and forests.
- Provides for the continuance of active agricultural and forestry uses.
- Provides for the continuance of active resort and recreational uses.
- Maintains the Town of Spider Lake's scenic visual resources.
- Disallows retail sprawl beyond established or planned business areas.

### RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS ACHIEVED FROM 2008 to 2018

The town continues to take into consideration the Comprehensive Plan in decision making. Some sections such as those relating to placement of radio towers have been superseded by state legislation. In other instances the Town pursued development of other plans (e.g. Clam Lake Community Wildfire Protection Plan). Other implementation measures consistent with the Plan include but are not limited to:

- Reorganization of the Town's Zoning Ordinance including General Zoning, Shoreland and Land Development into a single ordinance.
- Establishment of an ATV loop to allow for access to the North of Town
- Increased work with the Lake Associations in boat monitoring and control of aquatic and other invasive plant species
- Continued work on interest group, UFS and WDNR ATV snowmobile routes

## **GENERALIZED LAND USE MAP RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Retail Service Area**

These small areas have historically been crossroad areas that provide rural retail service to lake recreation areas.

- Recognize that the area around CTH "A" and STH 77 (Dows Corners), which is in the Town of Round Lake including the Happy Hooker, as a retail service area.
- Encourage maintaining the small community character by avoiding developments that would alter their character.

- Allow for limited retail and residential growth within or directly adjacent to these areas.

### **Shoreland Residential**

These areas consist of the shorelands adjacent to lakes, rivers, and streams in the Town of Spider Lake. Many of the shorelands are significantly developed with both full-time and seasonal residents. Resort, resort related services and restaurants are also located within the shorelands primarily abutting lakeshore. Further residential development is regulated by the lakes and rivers classification development standards and accompanying shoreland ordinances.

- Encourage continued establishment of and participation in lake property owners associations to further protect the Town's water and wetland resources.
- Encourage restoration of developed shoreland buffer zones through volunteer programs or mitigation tied to permitted property improvements.
- Encourage Sawyer County incentive program for development of shoreland buffer zone.
- Recommend new waterfront recreational retail to locate at or adjacent to existing resort/service areas.
- Revisit lakes and stream classification and shoreland development standards periodically.
- Recommend a five-acre minimum parcel size for non-waterfront property within the shorelands except for planned unit developments.

### **Rural Forested Open Space**

These areas include the lands outside the shorelands particularly in the western portion of the Town. Rural residential activity has been significant as the off lake property becomes more in demand for seasonal use. This area includes marginal or abandoned farmlands that have become attractive for rural residences.

- Maintain the overall rural open space/forested character of this region at a development density less than adjoining shorelands. This may be accomplished by establishing a minimum parcel size of 10 to 20 acres. The existing minimum parcel size in the forestry zone is 10 acres while the agricultural zone is 10 acres.
- Use cluster or conservation subdivision provisions where they will maintain or promote northwoods character.

Conservation subdivision provisions are a variation of cluster or planned unit development that refers to an array of tools and techniques. They are implemented through Town zoning for the preservation of open space and natural character in rural areas while allowing for residential development. Sometimes called rural clustering, conservation subdivisions requires that dwelling units be clustered or grouped on a select area of the parcel, leaving a significant portion of the parcel as dedicated open space. In this case an incentive is proposed that would allow, for example, a maximum

number of parcels per quarter/quarter section (approximately 40 acres) with an open space deed restriction of 50 percent over the entire 40-acre parcel.

Conservation subdivisions use a variety of land use tools and techniques. Larger setback provisions, buffering, and screening and dedicated open space provisions can be used to screen dwelling units from roadways. Restricting the location of rural cluster development projects, establishing minimum and maximum project size, limiting development density, and regulating lot area dimensions and clustering of dwelling units ensure that development is consistent with maintaining rural character.

- Discourage retail activity except for uses that are compatible with lower density residential development such as home businesses.
- Protect the integrity of wetlands, woodlands, and other natural features located within these regions.
- Promote and encourage private woodland management practices that help maintain the rural open space/forested character as discussed in section I-F, page 50.
- Maintain existing agricultural land use as an important part of the rural and open space character.

### **Agricultural/Open Areas**

These areas are located in the western portion of the Town. Planning for this area should provide for preservation and protection of prime or exclusive agricultural lands and for agricultural/open land residential development.

- Promote an agricultural/conservation subdivision option that would provide higher density incentives for dedicated or deed restricted open space. This would be accomplished through open space zoning provisions or rural clustering of residential units. An incentive is recommended that would allow for more parcels than the existing allowable five acre minimum in an agricultural zone per quarter/quarter (approximately 40 acres) if at least 50 percent of the original 40 acres is deed restricted for open space.

### **IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS**

The future character of the Town of Spider Lake and quality of life for its residents will be strongly shaped by land use choices and decisions. This plan is intended as a guide for the individuals and Town and county government who will be faced with the land use choices and making the decisions. To move towards the vision, strategy, tactic, and goals laid out in this plan, it is essential that the plan be understood and used by residents, the Spider Lake Town Board, and the Sawyer County Board and Zoning Committee. It is also essential that the plan be treated as a living, dynamic document and reviewed and modified as needed to address changing conditions in the Town and adjacent Towns.

To implement this plan fully, the following areas of concern will all need to be addressed:



Citizen Awareness and Participation. A committee of dedicated interested citizens has developed this plan. The entire community in the Town needs to be aware of the plan, to understand it, and support it. Copies of the plan should be available to current Town residents and to new residents when they move into the Town. Also, it is recommended that periodically a Town newsletter be sent out, which could contain information on land use related issues and other topics.

Developer Awareness. Potential developers in the Town need to be aware of the plan and its intent. Creative development practices that will help preserve the Town's "northwoods" rural/residential character need to be encouraged through education and supported by regulation at the Town and county level.

Town Decision Making. It is recommended that the Town Board adopt this plan, and Town Board members need to be educated on the details of the plan. The Town Board should actively use the plan as a guide for decisions at the Town level. The Plan & Review Commission seeks input from the Town Board on land use issues requiring rezoning or conditional or special use permits. Town input is influential in these cases and input that evaluates a proposed land use in terms of the comprehensive plan is highly regarded.

Town Planning Committee. The Town Plan and Review Commission serves as the Town Planning Committee and has done so since it was restructured to have persons other than elected town officials added to serve as commission members and alternate members. The PRC can and has updated the plan as needed.

Town Ordinance Adoption. The Town is subject to the Sawyer County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance but has adopted its own ordinances to regulate land use in the Town.

County Land Use Planning. It is essential that the Sawyer County Comprehensive Plan when prepared is not incompatible with the recommendations in the Spider Lake Land Use Plan.

## **TOOLS TO PROTECT LAND FROM FRAGMENTATION**

Private owners can be excellent stewards of the land, but habitat protection needs to extend beyond the lifetime of the current owners. Today landowners, non-profits, and local governments have a variety of tools to protect habitat across the landscape.

## **TOOLS FOR PUBLIC CONSERVATION**

*Direct Purchase* – Buying land and setting it aside protects unique sites and benefits recreation, but isolated nature preserves do not address fragmentation. Land acquisition remains important for critical areas, but direct purchase needs to be supplemented with other forms of land protection to connect the lands in between public lands.

*Purchase of Development Rights* – A PDR program takes a market approach to land protection. State or local governments can set up a program to buy the right to develop a parcel and retire that right. The landowner gets paid cash compensation for the value of the development rights and continues to live on the land as before.

*Transfer of Development Rights* – A technique for guiding growth away from sensitive resources and toward areas that can handle it through the transfer of development rights from one area to another.

*Temporary Moratorium* – A moratorium is a growth control measure that temporarily suspends development or subdivision for up to two years. Moratoria are extreme actions and can only be used to give local governments a chance to plan or prepare stronger land use regulations.

*Zoning* – Environmental zoning can play a critical role to prevent fragmentation. Regulations can cover a broad area relatively cheaply and quickly; however, zoning is changeable and can be revoked in the future. Zoning should be used in combination with other tools.

## **TOOLS FOR THE PRIVATE LAND OWNER**

Private options involve the landowner and should always be used together with public tools for land protection. Private conservation gives landowners incentives to protect natural areas on their property and can offer permanent and parcel-specific protection.

*Conservation Easements* – Conservation easements allow landowners to protect land permanently and also maintain ownership. Easements generally restrict development, mining, and clearcutting and do not open the land to the public. Conservation easements are flexible documents tailored to unique site conditions and adapted to landowners' goals and wishes. Extra building sites can be reserved for the landowner's family in the future. Donations of easements also qualify landowners for an income tax deduction and may lower property and estate taxes as well. Conservation easements protect land "in perpetuity". The restrictions apply to all future owners and a designated land trust monitors and enforces the terms of the easement.

*Land Management Contracts* – Tax incentive-based land management contracts, like Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law, offer important temporary protection. These 15, 25 and even 50-year contracts protect forest land and open space from development and subdivision. The contracts "run with the land" and apply to future landowners until the term expires. Land management contracts delay development and shift it away from prime habitat for now.

*Conservation Buyers* – A conservation buyer is any private buyer interested in owning natural areas for hiking, bird watching, hunting, fishing, or other quiet enjoyment. The conservation buyer provides funds to purchase a property and typically accepts placing a conservation easement on the land. Conservation buyers also act as stewards of the

property. Locating potential buyers can be difficult, but a conservation-minded real estate broker can help match buyers with ecologically sensitive land.

*Bargain-sales, Donations and Bequests* – Landowners can donate property during their lifetime or leave the property for conservation by will. A bargain-sale is another popular option since it provides the landowner with direct income and a tax deduction as a charitable gift for the amount of the discount, if the sale is made to the government or to a qualified non-profit group. A bargain-sale makes the land more affordable, thus making it more likely to be protected.

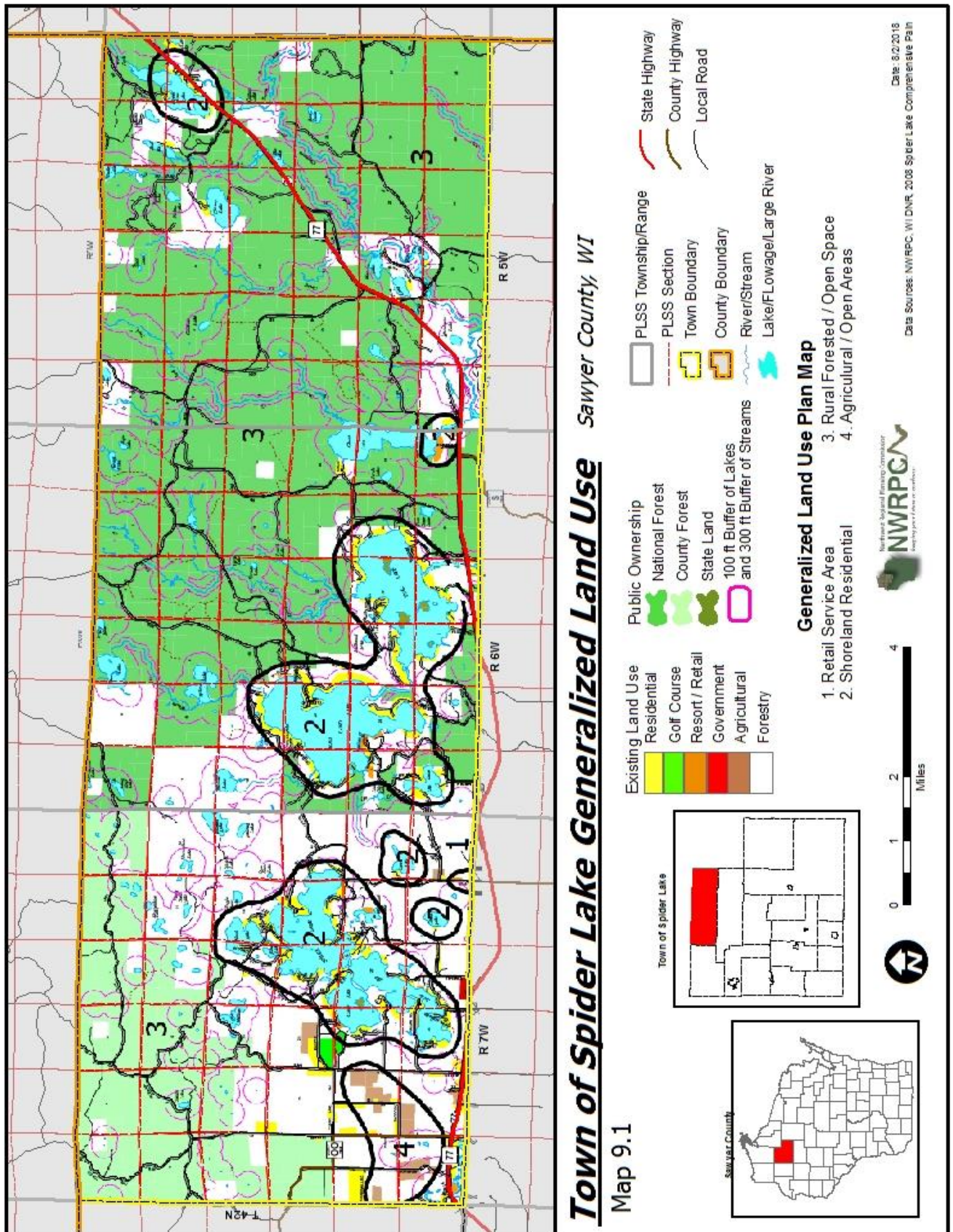
*Reserved Life Estates* – A reserved life estate allows private landowners to donate their land but still live on it. The land belongs to the conservation organization, but landowners reserve the right to live on the property for the rest of their lifetime and receive tax benefits from the land donation.

## **RECOMMENDED TOWN OF SPIDER LAKE ACTIONS**

This document and its recommendations along with the Generalized Future Land Use Map (Map 9.1) are intended to assist local officials and Town residents in land development and management issues. Foremost, its purpose is to provide a framework for updating or modifying the Town's zoning ordinance and the zoning district map and direct growth to appropriate areas within the Town.

This plan should be reviewed periodically (at least every five years) in order to maintain its usefulness as a "current" document and provides the Town Board with a statutory basis for Town development policy(s). Following current Wisconsin State Statutes regarding 66.1001, a major plan update is required every ten (10) years and must follow specific public review procedures as set forth within 66.1001. The following steps are suggested as to how the Town should now begin to proceed in order to carry out this plan:

- Adopt the accompanying comprehensive plan and its recommendations recognizing the visions, strategy, tactic, and goals statements as overriding planning guidelines.
- Authorize the development and publication of other plan related documents including a shoreland management guide, forestry development guide, and a long-range educational plan.
- Continue the full codification of all land use related ordinances and regulations.
- Coordinate Town planning activities with those of adjoining Towns.
- Monitor state, federal, and locally approved plans for projects such as forest service plan, and the county forest ten-year plan, and participate to the extent necessary to ensure consistency with a Sawyer County Comprehensive Plan when prepared.
- Town Board should provide opportunity for all land owners to obtain a copy of the Plan.



## **Appendices**

## **Public Participation Plan**

### **RESOLUTION #2014-01**

#### **ADOPTING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES FOR AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF SPIDER LAKE**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 66.1001 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*, all units of government which enact or amend zoning, subdivision, or official mapping ordinances on or after January 1, 2010, must adopt a comprehensive plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Spider Lake adopted a comprehensive plan under the authority of and procedures established by Section 66.1001 of the *Wisconsin Statutes* on September 10, 2008; and


**WHEREAS**, Section 66.1001(4)(a) of the *Wisconsin Statutes* requires that the Town Board adopt written procedures designed to foster public participation during the preparation or amendment of a comprehensive plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Spider Lake believes that regular, meaningful public involvement in the comprehensive planning process is important to assure that the comprehensive plan continues to reflect input from the public; and

**WHEREAS**, a public participation plan has been developed that includes written procedures designed to foster public participation in the comprehensive plan amendment process.

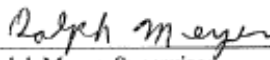
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Spider Lake hereby adopts the Public Participation Procedures for Creation of or Amending the Town's Comprehensive Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A to fulfill the requirements of Section 66.1001(4)(a) of the *Wisconsin Statutes*. These Public Participation Procedures supersede and replace any other procedures previously adopted by the Town Board.


ADOPTED this 13th day of March, 2014.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Hucker, Town Chair

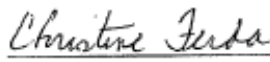
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George J. Brandt, Supervisor

ABSENT  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael A. McGuiness, Supervisor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ralph Meyer, Supervisor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John A. Cerman, Supervisor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christine Ferda  
Town Clerk



**EXHIBIT A**  
**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES FOR**  
**CREATING OR AMENDING THE TOWN OF**  
**SPIDER LAKE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

On September 10, 2008 the Town Board adopted a comprehensive plan under Section 66.1001 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*. The ordinance indicates that the comprehensive plan was prepared in accordance with a public participation plan adopted by the Town that included activities to foster public participation in the preparation of the comprehensive plan. Under Section 66.1001(4) (a) of the *Wisconsin Statutes*, future amendments to the comprehensive plan must also be carried out in accordance with a public participation plan, adopted by the Town Board, designed to foster public participation in the amendments process. The balance of this document describes the process to be followed by the Town to foster public participation in the consideration of amendments to the comprehensive plan or adoption of a new comprehensive plan.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES AND PROCEDURES FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**  
**AMENDMENTS**

The Town will provide opportunities for public review of materials describing a new comprehensive plan or all proposed amendments to the comprehensive plan, including the following:

- Printed copies of materials describing a proposed plan amendments will be made available at the Town Hall.
- Electronic copies of materials describing a proposed plan amendments may be posted on the Town website

The Town Board or the Plan and Review Commission ("Plan Commission"), at their option, may schedule a public informational meeting to be held prior to the required public hearing. The public informational meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to review maps and other information relating to proposed amendments. No formal procedures or notice requirements are required for the informational meeting; however, the Town will provide notice of the meeting through its website and through publication or posting.

As required by Section 66.1001(4)(d), the Town will hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the comprehensive plan. The hearing may be held by the Plan Commission, Town Board, or jointly by the Plan Commission and Town Board. The hearing will include a presentation by the applicant or the Plan Commission describing the proposed plan amendments followed by an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed amendments. The Plan Commission and Town Board will consider public testimony provided at the hearing and any written comments submitted to the Town or the Plan Commission at or prior to the hearing during their deliberations on the proposed plan amendments.

The public hearing will be preceded by a Class 1 notice that is published at least 30 days before the hearing is held. In accordance with Section 66.1001(4)(d), the notice will include the date, time, and place of the hearing; a brief summary of the proposed comprehensive plan amendments and/or a map illustrating the proposed amendments; a local contact who may be contacted for additional information on the proposed plan amendments and to whom written comments regarding the plan amendments may be submitted; and information regarding where and when the proposed plan amendments may be inspected before the hearing and how a copy of the proposed plan amendments may be obtained.

The Town Clerk will provide a copy of the public hearing notice and the proposed amendments at least 30 days prior to the public hearing to any person who submits a written request to receive notice of a proposed amendments under Section 66.1001(4)(f). The Town may charge a fee to cover the cost of providing such notice. In accordance with Section 66.1001(4)(e), the Town Clerk will also provide notice to nonmetallic mining operators within the Town; to persons who have registered a marketable nonmetallic mineral deposit within the Town; or to persons who own or lease property on which nonmetallic minerals may be extracted, if such person has requested notification in writing. The Town Clerk will maintain a list of persons who have submitted a written request to receive notices of public hearings under Section 66.1001(4)(e)(3) and Section (4)(f).



Following the public hearing, the Plan Commission will make a recommendation to the Town Board to approve, deny, or modify proposed amendments. The Plan Commission's recommendation will be in the form of a resolution approved by a majority of the full membership of Plan Commission.

Following Plan Commission action, the Town Board will consider the amendments and the Plan Commission's recommendation and approve, deny, or refer the proposed amendments back to the Plan Commission. If approved, Town Board approval will be in the form of an ordinance adopted by a majority of the full membership of the Town Board.

If approved by the Town Board, printed or electronic copies of the amendments will be sent by the Town Clerk to the parties listed in Section 66.1001(4)(b).

## Notice of Public Hearing

### PRINTER'S AFFIDAVIT

State of Wisconsin  
Sawyer County

Paul Mitchell, being duly sworn, says that he is the General Manager of ...

### THE SAWYER COUNTY RECORD

which is a weekly newspaper printed and published in the city of Hayward, in said county and state, that a notice of which the annexed is a printed copy taken from said newspaper, was printed and published in the full regular edition of said newspaper once each week for

One (1) successive weeks, commencing and the first publication

being on the 15 day of August, 2018, and ending

and the last publication being on the 15 day of August

2018, being One (1) such publications.

*[Signature]*

subscribed and sworn to me before this 15 day of August, 2018.

*[Signature]*

Notary Public, Sawyer County, Wisconsin

My Commission Expires January 15, 2021.

FEES: Given one week at 4.75 39.00

lines weeks at .3683

AFFIDAVIT FEES: 1.00

Total 40.00

Received the above fees

*[Signature]*

Fees charged based on star/ten point line.



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF SPIDER LAKE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

A public hearing to discuss the proposed Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan (comprehensive plan updates and revision) shall be held in the Town Hall located at 10896 W Town Hall Road, Hayward, WI 54843. Written comments will be accepted until the time of the public hearing which is at 5:00 p.m. on September 18, 2018.

The proposed comprehensive plan revision in summary contains the following items and information regarding: maps; issues and opportunities; housing; transportation; utilities and community facilities; natural, cultural, and agricultural resources; economic development; intergovernmental cooperation; land use; and implementation. The Comprehensive Plan is a guide for public officials and private citizens to use in making informed decisions on future ordinances that will affect the community.

Cody Kamrowski, Community Development Planner with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) may be contacted to provide additional information on the proposed comprehensive plan revisions at 715-635-2197 or by email at ckamrowski@nwrpc.com.

A copy of the revised comprehensive plan may be inspected prior to the hearing at the Town Hall during normal business hours, or on the Internet at the Town's website as well as the Northwest Regional Planning Commission's website: (<http://nwrpc.com/DocumentCenter/View/1455>).

WNAJLP R19

## Public Hearing Sign-In Sheet

### TOWN OF SPIDER LAKE PUBLIC HEARING SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: 9/18/18

Note: If you are representing another person or organization, please identify that person or organization

NAME	REPRESENTING	TESTIMONY (YES OR NO)
ROBERT L. SCHREIDER	MYSELF	NO
Georg Fiedler		No
Wayne Wegner	—	Do
Dolan K. Blom		NO
Donna Nickel	Myself	No
Mike Wheeler	"	NO
Sue Gorske	Myself	yes
Rich Gorske	Myself	yes

### TOWN OF SPIDER LAKE PUBLIC HEARING SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: 9/18/18

Note: If you are representing another person or organization, please identify that person or organization

NAME	REPRESENTING	TESTIMONY (YES OR NO)
Debby Hust	Property Owner	yes

## **Glossary of Terms**

(Always refer to Current Town of Spider Lake Ordinances)

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Definition</b>
All-terrain	An engine-driven device which has a net weight of 650 pounds or less, which has a width of 48 inches or less, which is equipped with a seat designed to be straddled by the operator and which is designed to travel on 3 or more low-pressure tires. A low-pressure tire is a tire that has a minimum width of 6 inches, which is designed to be mounted on a rim with a maximum diameter of 12 inches and which is designed to be inflated with an operating pressure not to exceed 6 pounds per square inch as recommended by the manufacturer.
Backlot	A lot without water frontage.
BMP	Acronym for Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality. Purpose is to identify and explain guidelines for landowners, loggers, and land managers to protect water quality. The BMP manual was developed in response to federal legislation. Section 208 of the 1977 Clean Water Act required each state to develop plans and procedures to control "silviculturally related nonpoint sources of pollution ... to the extent feasible." Section 319 of the Clean Water Act requires each state to develop and implement a program to reduce nonpoint source pollution to the 'maximum extent practicable.'
Boat	Every description of watercraft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water, except a seaplane on the water and a fishing raft.
Boat Shelter	A structure in navigable waters designed and constructed for the purpose of providing cover for a berth place for watercraft, which may have a roof but may not have walls or sides. Such a structure may include a boat hoist.
Boathouse	A structure used for the storage of watercraft and associated materials, which has one or more walls or sides.
Buffer Area	A designated area around a stream or waterbody of sufficient width to minimize entrance of forestry chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides, and fire retardants) into the waterbody.
Buffer Zone	An area designed to separate; a neutral area separating conflicting forces, e.g. in the strip of land 35 feet wide inland from the OHWM, no more than 30 feet in any 100 feet shall be clear-cut (the 3 5'stip would be considered a 'buffer zone'.
Bulkhead Lines	A legally established shoreline adopted by a municipal ordinance and approved by the DNR. A secondary purpose of a bulkhead line is to establish a recoverable shoreline. A bulkhead line may differ from an existing shoreline and is distinguishable from the OHWM as judicially defined. Riparian proprietors may place solid structures or fill up to such bulkhead line. Used principally in the case of a municipal road crossing of a navigable waterway, placement of culverts, etc.
Camping Trailer	A vehicle with a collapsible or folding structure designed for human habitation and towed upon a highway by a motor vehicle.
Clearcutting	A silvicultural system in which all merchantable trees are harvested within a specified area in one operation to create an even-aged stand.
Commercial	Property designed for use by retail, wholesale, office, hotel, or service users.
Conditional Use	(Also referred to as 'Special Exception'). A use which is permitted by a shoreland zoning ordinance provided that certain conditions specified in the ordinance are

## Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

	met and that a permit is granted by the board of adjustment (appeals) or, where appropriate, the planning and zoning committee or county board.
Condominium	Individually owned dwelling units that have an undivided interest in common elements, such as associated land that is subject to a condominium declaration established under Chapter 703 of the Wisconsin Statutes.
Dockominiums	Individual ownership of the right to use the waterway bordered by a pier and catwalks held in joint dominion (as in a marina); a marina containing dockominiums. This term and phenomena was developed by the Abbey Resort on Lake Geneva who has undertaken to create and sell condominium units which include boat mooring rights at a specified marina slip or 'dockominiums.' Each dockominium buyer actually owns a condominium 'unit' which consists of a box of air, 6 inches by 5 inches by 4 inches. Along with the unit, the owner receives the perpetual right to use an assigned space in a large marina pier. This concept was developed in the early 1990's. As of 1995, over 400 units have been offered for sale at prices ranging from \$27,350 to \$57,700.
Dwelling Unit	A building or portion thereof with rooms arranged, designed, used or intended to be used for one family. For enforcement purposes, guesthouses with kitchen and bathroom facilities and any accessory structures with a HABITABLE LIVING AREA are considered dwelling units.
Flood Plain	The land that has been or may be hereafter covered by floodwater during the regional flood (once every 100 years [NR 115.07]). The flood plain includes the floodway and the flood fringe as those terms are defined in ch. NR116.
Flowage	An impoundment of a river or stream created by a downstream dam or similar man made flow-restricting structure.
Footprint	The ground surface area of an existing DWELLING UNIT or building measured at the perimeter of the outside wall or supports. Attached building elements, such as porches, decks, patios, steps, and other similar structures are not included in such measurement.
Footprint: Habitable Living Area	The enclosed floor area arranged for living or sleeping. The area can include multiple levels of an existing structure. The area does not include decks, open porches, garages, or overhangs.
Groundwater	Subsurface water supplied for human consumption.
Groundwater	Any of the waters of the state, as defined in s. 281.01(18), occurring in a saturated subsurface geological formation of rock or soil. (Note: s.281.01(18) defines 'Waters of the State' as including those portions of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior within the boundaries of this state, and all lakes, bays, rivers, streams, springs, ponds, wells, impounding reservoirs, marshes, watercourses, drainage systems and other surface water or groundwater, natural or artificial, public or private, within this state or jurisdiction).
Hardship (Unnecessary)	Please refer to the term 'Variance'.
Impervious Surface	Surfaces, which prevent or impede normal water infiltration and/or cause runoff to other areas. Includes, but not limited to: (1) buildings and structures (area measured at roof gable end and eave lines), (2) stairs, walkways, driveways and parking or other areas, comprised of brick, stone, cementitious substances, or any bituminous substance, including asphalt, and (3) any subbase of plastic or any shield which prevents or impedes water penetration. Decks, stairways and walkways with gaps in their surface structure (e.g., wooden decks with open cracks between the deck boards) allowing water to readily pass through the

## Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

	structure are not considered an impervious surface. Nor will any portion of a township road traversing a lot be included as part of the impervious surface for calculation purposes.
Internal Improvement	Modifications/alterations that do not result in the alteration of the DWELLING UNIT envelope.
Lake	A still waterbody that: is navigable; has an ordinary high-water mark (OHWM); has a bed that indicates reasonably permanent" surface water.
Land Disturbing Activities	Construction, grading, filling, excavating or other activities which result in the temporary or permanent removal of vegetative cover, increased potential for soil erosion, increased storm water runoff volumes or velocities, or increased total area of impervious surfaces; or activities which include but are not limited to construction on steep slopes, development of private boat landings or access roads to the water body, development of paths to the shoreline requiring disturbance of the land to construct, and development of sand beaches not naturally occurring.
Mitigation	Compensatory action(s) to restore natural functions and values lost through development and alterations.
Mobile Home	A vehicle designed to be towed as a single unit or in sections upon a highway by a motor vehicle and equipped and used or intended to be used, primarily for human habitation, with walls or rigid uncollapsible construction. A mobile home exceeding statutory size under s.348.07(2) shall be considered a primary housing unit (45 feet). A mobile home not exceeding the statutory size under s. 348.07(2) shall be considered a touring or recreational unit.
Mobile Home	That which is, or was as originally constructed, designed to be transported by any motor vehicle upon a public highway and designed, equipped and used primarily for sleeping, eating and living quarter, or is intended to be so used; and includes and additions, attachments, annexes, foundations and appurtenances.
Motor Home	A motor vehicle designed to be operated upon a highway for use as a temporary or recreational dwelling and having the same internal characteristics and equipment as a mobile home.
Motorboat	Any boat equipped with propulsion machinery, whether or not the machinery is the principal source of propulsion.
Navigability	Navigability determines whether a waterway is public or private. Navigable lakes and streams are public waterways. A waterway is navigable if it has a bed and banks, and it is possible to float it in a canoe or other small craft at some time of the year - even if only during spring floods.
Nonconforming Uses	The lawful use of a building or premises existing at the time of the adoption or amendment of a zoning ordinance may be continued although such use does not conform with the provisions of the ordinance. Such nonconforming uses may not be extended. The total structural repairs or alterations in such nonconforming building shall not during its life exceed 50 percent of the assessed value of the building unless permanently change to a conforming use. If such nonconforming use is discontinued for a period of 12 months, any future use of the building and premises shall conform to the ordinance.
Nonpoint Source Pollution	Nonpoint source pollution occurs when surface water runoff from rainfall or snowmelt moves across or into the ground, picking up BS carrying pollutants into streams, lakes, wetlands, or groundwater. Soil becomes a nonpoint source pollutant when water runoff carries a large amount of soil into a waterbody.

OHWM	The Ordinary High Water Mark is the point on the bank or shore where the water is present often enough so that the lake or stream bed begins to look different from the upland. Specifically, the OHWM is the point on the bank or shore up to which the water, by its presence, wave action or flow, leaves a distinct mark on the shore or bank. The mark may be indicated by erosion, destruction of, or change in vegetation or other easily recognizable characteristics.
Ordinancy Maintenance and Repair	Includes replacement of roofing, siding, windows, doors, painting, and other general maintenance activities limited to the existing structural envelope.
Personal Watercraft	A motorboat that uses an inboard motor powering a water jet pump or caged propeller as its primary source of motive power and that is designed to be operated by a person standing on, kneeling on or sitting astride the watercraft.
Pier	Any structure extending into navigable waters from the shore with water on both sides, built or maintained for the purpose of providing a berth for watercraft or for the loading or unloading cargo or passengers onto or from watercraft. Such a structure may include a boat shelter that is removed seasonally.
Pierhead Line	A pierhead line is legally established line adopted by a municipal ordinance and approved by the DNR, which specifies the maximum distance that piers may extend from the OHWM or a bulkhead line in any specified area. Pier-head lines are established in the interest of the preservation and protection of a harbor or of public rights in navigable waters.
Riparian Rights	The legal rights regarding a waterway that belongs to one who owns land bordering upon it. Beginning on April 9, 1994, no owner of riparian land that abuts navigable water may convey, by easement or by a similar conveyance, any riparian right in the land to another person, except for the right to cross the land in order to have access to the navigable water. This right to cross the land n-my not include the right to place any structure or material in the navigable water.
Riprap	Rock or other large aggregate that is placed to protect streambanks, bridge abutments, outflow of drainage structures, or other erodible sites from runoff or wave action.
Rip-Rap	Rock or other large aggregate that is placed to protect stream banks, bridge abutments, outflow of drainage structures, or other erodible sites from runoff or wave action.
RMZ	Riparian Management Zones are land and vegetation areas next to lakes and streams where management practices are modified to protect water quality, fish, and other aquatic resources. These areas are complex ecosystems that provide food, habitat and movement corridors for both aquatic (water) and terrestrial (land) communities. Because these areas are next to the water, RMZ's help minimize non-point source pollution impacts to surface water. The RMZ is a strip of land along the shoreline of lakes and each side of streams. It begins at the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) and extends a minimum of 100 feet landward for lakes and navigable streams, and 35 feet landward for navigable intermittent and non-navigable streams.
Rustic Road System	Purpose to create and preserve rustic and scenic roads for vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian travel in unhurried, quiet and leisurely enjoyment; to protect and preserve recreational driving, culture, beauty, trees, vegetation and wildlife by establishing protective standards or rustic road design, access, speed, maintenance and identification, which will promote a continuous system of rustic roads and scenic easements for the public health and welfare; a system of rustic roads is created...any....governing body of any municipality may apply to the board for the designation of any highway under its jurisdiction as a rustic



## Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

	road .... rustic roads are governed by a board under the jurisdiction of the department of transportation.
Shorelands	Lands within the following distances from the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) or navigable waters: 1,000 feet from a lake, pond or flowage; and 300 feet from a river or stream or to the landward side of the flood plain, whichever distance is greater.
Shoreland-Wetland Zoning District	A zoning district created as a part of a country shoreland zoning ordinance, comprised of shorelands that are designated as wetlands on the Wisconsin wetland inventory maps prepared by the WDNR.
Shoreline	Term used in State Statutes to define linear distance of shoreland. Example: Lost Land Lake has 12.66 miles or 66,845 feet of shoreline.
Shoreline Vegetation Protection Area	An area of trees, shrubbery and vegetation in a strip of land 35 feet wide inland from the ordinary high-water mark of any navigable body of water, including but not limited to: streams, rivers, ponds, flowages and lakes. Term used synonymously with buffer zone, buffer area and buffer strip.
Silviculture	The theory and practice of controlling forest establishment, composition, structure, and growth. Silvicultural practice consists of the various treatments that may be applied to forest stands to maintain and enhance their utility for any purpose.
Slow-no-wake	That speed at which a boat moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steerage control.
Snowmobile	An engine-driven vehicle that is manufactured solely for snowmobiling, that has an endless belt tread and sled-type runners, or skis, to be used in contact with snow but does not include a vehicle that is any of the following:...vehicle that has inflatable tires...vehicle ..... of 4 hp or less....
Special Exception	Refer to 'Conditional Use.
Stream	A watercourse that: has an ordinary high-water mark (OHWM); has bed and banks; flows at least periodically; has an easily identifiable beginning and end; does not lose its character as a watercourse even though it may break up and disappear temporarily and reappear downstream.
Trailer	A vehicle without motive power designed for carrying property or passengers wholly on its own structure and for being drawn by a motor vehicle, but does not include a mobile home.
Use Corridor	Altered area within the SHORELINE VEGETATION PROTECTION AREA to permit pedestrian access to a water body. Term used synonymously with view corridor.
Variance	An authorization granted by the board of adjustment (appeals) to construct, alter or use a building or structure in a manner that deviates from the requirements of shoreland zoning ordinance. Note: To qualify for a variance, an applicant must meet all the requirements of a three-step test; strict application of the ordinance requirement will result in unnecessary hardship. Wisconsin case law describes unnecessary hardship as being present where, in the absence of a variance, <u>no reasonable use can be made of the property</u> ; the hardship is due to unique physical limitations of the property-, a variance may not be granted which results in harm to public interests.
Watercraft	Any device used and designed for navigation on water.
Watershed	A region or area bounded peripherally by a water parting and draining ultimately to a particular watercourse or body of water. Two factors can have a bearing on the relationship of a watershed to a particular lake: the land use in

## Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

	the watershed, i.e. agricultural, industrial, residential, etc.; the overall ratio of watershed to the lake (measured in acres). The larger the ratio, the more the watershed will have an impact on the lake through nutrient, pesticide and soil runoff.
Wetland Delineation	The process of determining the boundary between non-wetland areas and wetlands.
Wetlands	An area where water is at, near, or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophytic vegetation and which has soils indicative of wet conditions.
Wharf	Any structure in navigable waters extending along the shore and generally connected with the uplands throughout its length, built or maintained for the purpose of providing a berth for watercraft or for loading or unloading cargo or passengers onto or from a watercraft.
Zone Districts	Districts set up through ordinance defining permitted and conditional uses of the land contained in such districts. Town of Spider Lake has established the following zone districts by ordinance: R-1, Residential One; RR-1, Residential/Recreational One; RR-2, Residential/Recreational Two; A-1, Agricultural One; C-1, Commercial One; I-1, Industrial One; F-1, Forestry One; W-1, Wetland/Shoreland One; SP, Shoreland Protection District. (Refer to Section 15 of the Spider Lake Ordinances for specific definition of permitted and conditional uses of these districts.