

TOWN OF STAR PRAIRIE 2025 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Acknowledgments

Thank you to the following elected officials, staff and community partners that participated in the development of the 2025 Town of Star Prairie Comprehensive Plan. Thank you to the community members who took the community survey and provided comments that informed the Comprehensive Plan.

Town of Star Prairie Board of Supervisors

Tom Heintz, Chairman Michele Hermansen Bob Crotty Darryl Wendt Brian Duggan

Town of Star Prairie Plan Commission

Bob Crotty, Chairman Naomi Littig Ross Noak Brian Duggan Annette Noak Craig Warren Karen Prohaska

Town of Star Prairie Staff

Andrea Neumann, Clerk/Treasurer Nick Vivian, Attorney Josue Gonzalez, Ayres Associates

Prepared by St. Croix County Staff

Jason Kjeseth, St. Croix County Community Development Director Brett Budrow, St. Croix County Planning and Land Information Administrator John Hilgers, St. Croix County Senior Planner Nicole Peterson, St. Croix County Planner Ryan Haugland, Marketing Coordinator

Town of Star Prairie Vision Statement

Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001 requires a statement of overall goals, objectives, policies, and programs of the local governmental unit to guide the future development and redevelopment of the local governmental unit. The vision is developed to provide the guidance for the Comprehensive Plan in the form of a broad overriding theme. The goals, policies, objectives and programs identified in the Plan support the vision.

The Town of Star Prairie is rural, family friendly and growing. The Town of Star Prairie is a rural, green community proud of its heritage and identity. The town has retained its rural character as defined by its rustic nature and its sylvan spaces that are both quiet and peaceful.

The town's greenspaces are many and varied ranging from plenty of scenic beauty, quality lakes and rivers to bike and walking trails, and parks and playgrounds. Residents have access to public hunting grounds and enjoy fishing on Cedar Lake, considered one of the top fishing lakes in the State of Wisconsin, and the many other lakes in the Town.

The town has maintained its identity through its rural character. Our Town government is defined by forward thinking leadership and decisive action. We have good communication and intergovernmental relations with neighboring communities.

The Town of Star Prairie is a family-friendly community. Town residents are proud that parents can bring up their children in a safe and rural quality of life. The Town places a high value on water resources and will continue to work with St. Croix County to protect groundwater quality. The Town Board has focused it's efforts on maintaining good roads.



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Introduction

Plan Purpose

In accordance with Wisconsin Statutes, the purpose of this Town of Star Prairie Comprehensive Plan is to guide and accomplish a coordinated, adjusted, and harmonious development of the community which will, in accordance with existing and future needs, best promote public health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity, or the general welfare, as well as efficiency and economy in the process of development. The plan provides an inventory of community assets and issues to determine the local needs, set goals and priorities, and develop a guide for action. This Town of Star Prairie 2025 Comprehensive Plan is an update of the adopted 2010 Comprehensive Plan.

Plan Update Process

The Town of Star Prairie Comprehensive Plan update

was prepared under the guidance of the Town Board of Supervisors, Plan Commission, and staff that reviewed the plan and conducted seven monthly meetings between August 2024 and August 2025 with the St. Croix County facilitator.

On August 21, 2024 the Town Board adopted Resolution No. 2024-1 approving the public participation plan as required by Wisconsin Statutes sec. 66.1001(4). The Town and County worked together to implement the public participation plan strategies listed below. A public vision session was held on November 20, 2024 and a public survey was administered September – December 1, 2024. Results of the public vision session and survey can be found in Appendix A Public Participation Summary. On September 9, 2025, the Town of Star Prairie held a public hearing to gather public comment.

Town of Star Prairie Public Participation Plan

- 1. Develop and administer the 2025 Town of Star Prairie comprehensive plan update survey both online and paper copies.
- 2. Host a public meeting to introduce the comprehensive plan update process, promote the survey, facilitate discussion of the Town issues and opportunities, and answer questions.
- Promote the 2025 Town of Star Prairie comprehensive plan update survey and public meeting through a webpage that provides updates.
- 4. Report the results of the survey and public meeting.
- 5. Review and consider the results of the survey and public meeting in the development of the 2025 Town of Star Prairie comprehensive plan update.
- 6. Make the draft 2025 Town of Star Prairie comprehensive plan available for public review and comment 10 days prior to the public hearing.
- 7. Hold a public hearing to accept public comment on the draft 2025 Town of Star Prairie comprehensive plan.

9 Comprehensive Plan Elements

As set forth in Wisconsin Statutes §66.1001 comprehensive planning, the Town of Star Prairie comprehensive plan is organized by and addresses the nine elements:

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

Location & Landscape

The Town of Star Prairie is located in northwest St. Croix County adjacent to City of New Richmond in the southeast, Town of Somerset to the west, Town of Richmond to the south, and Town of Stanton to the east. The town's northern border is shared with Polk County, Town of Farmington, and Town of Alden shown on the **Location Map** on the next page (latitude 450945N and longitude 0923536W). The town has three large water bodies, Cedar Lake, Apple Lake and the Apple River.

We gratefully acknowledge the Native Peoples on whose ancestral homelands we gather, as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today.¹

The Apple River runs through the community and crosses the town diagonally from the northeast to the southwest. At one time there were three dams on the Apple River within the town. There is only one remaining dam. The two dams that have been removed were built by the New Richmond Roller Mills Company for hydroelectric power generation. The Huntingdon Dam, located in Section 11, was built in 1903. The McClure Dam, located 1.5 miles downstream of the Huntingdon Dam in Section 14, was built in 1913. Both dams changed ownership a few times but eventually were abandoned in 1965 after a break in the dike separating the canal and the main river channel below the Huntingdon Dam diverted the water flow away from the powerhouse. The McClure Dam was removed in 1968 and the Huntingdon Dam was removed in 1969. The cost was \$50,000 and \$35,000 respectively.

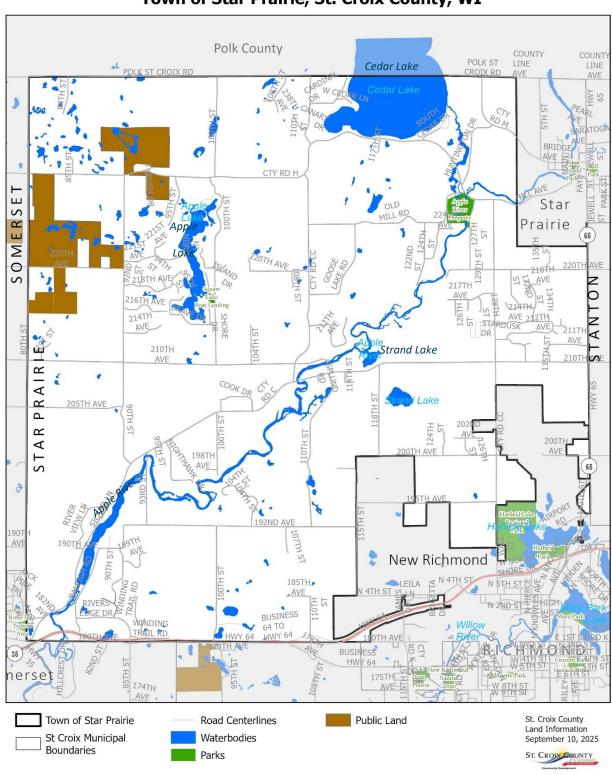
The Riverdale Dam, located at the end of the Riverdale Flowage in Section 31, is still in operation producing hydroelectric power for the Xcel Energy Company. The dam was upgraded in 2022-23. According to Xcel Energy the Riverdale hydro plant is 0.6 megawatts. The plant is remote controlled. There is a powerhouse and two generating units and a narrow overflow spillway.



¹ Source: National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian, Honoring Original Indigenous Inhabitants: Land Acknowledgement: https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/informational/land-acknowledgment

Town Map

Town of Star Prairie, St. Croix County, WI



History

The Town of Star Prairie has a long history of settlement from the time of lumber and railroad barons to the rich agricultural heritage and recreational opportunities offered by the town's many water resources. There is a possible Native American Mound in Section 23, very close to Strand Lake where numerous arrowheads have been found. Strand Lake has indigenous tribe significance as reported by WI Historic Society, with no public access. Originally named Rose Lake, it was changed to Oakwood Lake and finally settled at Strand Lake. The Town of Star Prairie was established July 28, 1856.

Two unincorporated hamlets marked the early settlement of the Town of Star Prairie, Johannesburg and Huntingdon. Johannesburg originally consisted of a school, icehouse, cheese factory, feed mill and grocery store. Huntingdon, settled in 1854, was named after the Canadian town, had several homes, a mill, picnic area, ballfield, general store and two churches. Many of the original homes still stand. The Town's agricultural heritage is very strong through the Wisconsin Century Farm Awards program.

Pre-settlement: We gratefully acknowledge the Native Peoples on whose ancestral homelands we gather, as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today.

1854 Huntingdon hamlet settled and "Best buckwheat flour" mill operated until 1949

1856 Town of Star Prairie established

1000 Tolerana anatom famo artaliliala

1860 Talmage century farm established

1862 Note in Oxcart Days History book, by Wallace W. Silver, "Looking to buy land for burial" (Oakland Cemetery)

1870-1875 Johannesburg hamlet settled. First Town Hall-school until 2007

1881 Halvorson century farm established

1889 Emerson century farm established

1897 Health center built

1917 Nelson century farm established

1918 Demulling century farm established

1919-1940 Johannesburg cheese factory operated until it burned down around 1940

1920's Meister's on Cedar Lake built

1921 River's Edge Restaurant built. Rumored several famous visitors: John Dillinger gang, Alice Longworth Roosevelt, Fitzpatrick of "Voice of the Globe" and Charles Kuralt.

1922 Mondor century farm established

1923 Riverview School built

1946 Raleigh family purchased the River's Edge restaurant, added floating down Apple River

1952 Worst storm – tornado seven barns were destroyed along County Road H

1957 Cedar Lake Speedway built

1961 All five rural schools were closed when the state required country schools to attach to a high school district or suffer the loss of state aid.

1965 McClure and Huntington Dams abandoned

1975 Town resident Ron Engh launched The Apple River Journal and the Park Art Fair, which featured arts, crafts, and children's theater. Originally held in his barn, now hosted at Mary Park in New Richmond.

1970's Original Town Hall was moved one night, floated down the river, to the Outpost Bar and Grill as an addition to the building

1992 Health Center property annexed to City of New Richmond.

2000 We survived Y2K

2006 Outpost Bar and Grill, along with Deer's Food Locker and Gregory's Foods Inc., set a Guinness World Record for the world's longest hot dog measuring 83 feet, nine inches.

2007 Town builds and moves to new Town Hall and Community Center

2010 Cedar Lake Speedway Sandbox Arena constructed

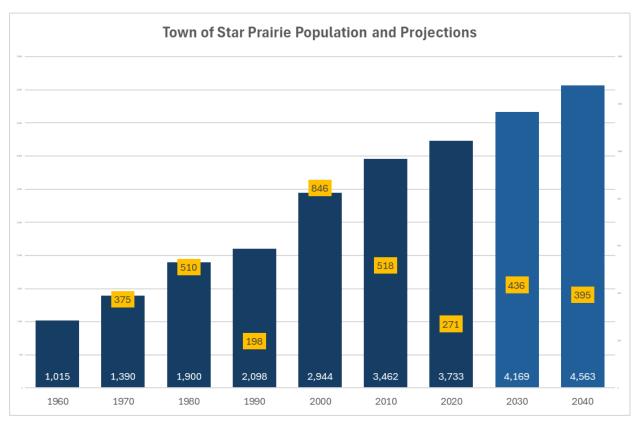
2012 City of New Richmond/Town of Star Prairie Cooperative Plan, Boundary Agreement Approved

2020 Leased Old Town Hall to Star Prairie Fish & Game

Population Demographics

To properly plan for the Town of Star Prairie's future requires an understanding of the community's population and demographic trends. Population trends influence all other plan elements, such as the demand for community services, economic development policy, and land use.

According to the 2020 US Decennial Census, the Town of Star Prairie has 3,733 residents. The graph below shows population from 1960 to 2020 and projections to 2040. The Town of Star Prairie experienced consistent population growth from 1960 - 2020 with the greatest population increase from 1990-2000 (+846) as shown in the graph and table below. The projections are an extrapolation calculation based on the assumption that the average previous decennial population change from 2000 will continue. However, in contrast, Wisconsin Department of Administration population projection, produced in 2024, is 3,591 for 2040, that is a reduction in population.

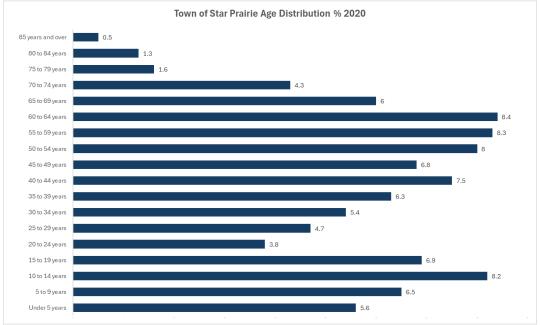


Town of Star Prairie Population and Projections											
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040		
Population	1,015	1,390	1,900	2,098	2,944	3,462	3,733	4,169	4,563		
Difference		375	510	198	846	518	271	436	395		

Source: Population - 2010 Town of Star Prairie Plan, US Census, American Community Survey, Projections - Average Extrapolation

Age and Gender

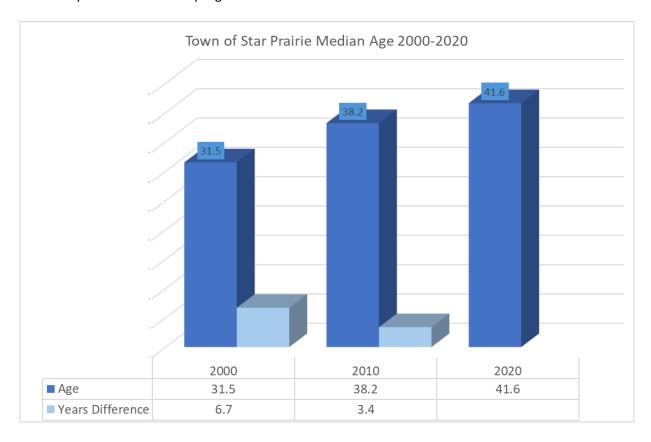
The graph and table below shows the % population distribution by age groups and gender for 2020 in the Town of Star Prairie. The age group with the most population in 2020 was 60-64 (8.4%) followed by 55-59 (8.3%), and 10-14 (8.2%).



Age	%	Male	Female	Total	Male%	Female%
Under 5 years	5.6		100	208	51.9%	48.1%
5 to 9 years	6.5		109	243	55.1%	44.9%
10 to 14 years	8.2		147	307	52.1%	47.9%
15 to 19 years	6.9		132	256	48.4%	51.6%
20 to 24 years	3.8		66	141	53.2%	46.8%
25 to 29 years	4.7		95	177	46.3%	53.7%
30 to 34 years	5.4	111		201	55.2%	44.8%
35 to 39 years	6.3	108	127	235	46.0%	54.0%
40 to 44 years	7.5	149	130	279	53.4%	46.6%
45 to 49 years	6.8	130	122	252	51.6%	48.4%
50 to 54 years	8	152	148	300	50.7%	49.3%
55 to 59 years	8.3	166	144	310	53.5%	46.5%
60 to 64 years	8.4	157	156	313	50.2%	49.8%
65 to 69 years	6	132	92	224	58.9%	41.1%
70 to 74 years	4.3	76	83	159	47.8%	52.2%
75 to 79 years	1.6	29	29	58	50.0%	50.0%
80 to 84 years	1.3	26	24	50	52.0%	48.0%
85 years and over	0.5	8	12	20	40.0%	60.0%
Total population		1927	1806	3733		

Median Age

According to the 2020 decennial census, the Town's median age is 41.6. The median age has consistently increased in the Town of Star Prairie from 2000. Increased median age has many societal and policy implications including reduced labor force participation, potential increased health expenditures, and strains on pension and health programs.



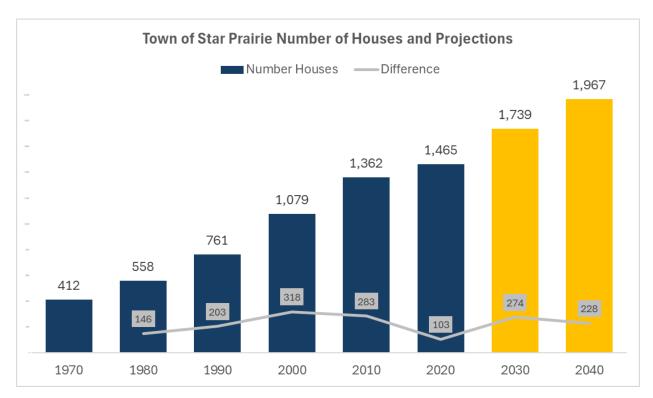
Housing

This chapter contains housing conditions, trends, issues, opportunities and goals. Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001 "Contents of a comprehensive plan," states the following regarding the housing element.

Housing element. A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs of the local governmental unit to provide an adequate housing supply that meets existing and forecasted housing demand in the local governmental unit. The element shall assess the age, structural, value and occupancy characteristics of the local governmental unit's housing stock. The element shall also identify specific policies and programs that promote the development of housing for residents of the local governmental unit and provide a range of housing choices that meet the needs of persons of all income levels and of all age groups and persons with special needs, policies and programs that promote the availability of land for the development or redevelopment of low-income and moderate-income housing, and policies and programs to maintain or rehabilitate the local governmental unit's existing housing stock.

Number of Houses and Projections

The graph and table below show the estimated number of houses in the Town from 1970-2020 and projections to 2040. The data shows that the Town has experienced consistent increases since 1970 with the most growth experienced from 1990-2000, an addition of 318 houses.



Town of Star Prairie Number of Houses and Projections										
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040		
Number Houses	412	558	761	1,079	1,362	1,465	1,739	1,967		
Difference		146	203	318	283	103	274	228		
Sources: 2010 Town of S	Sources: 2010 Town of Star Prairie Plan, US Census, American Community Survey, Projections - Average Extrapolation									

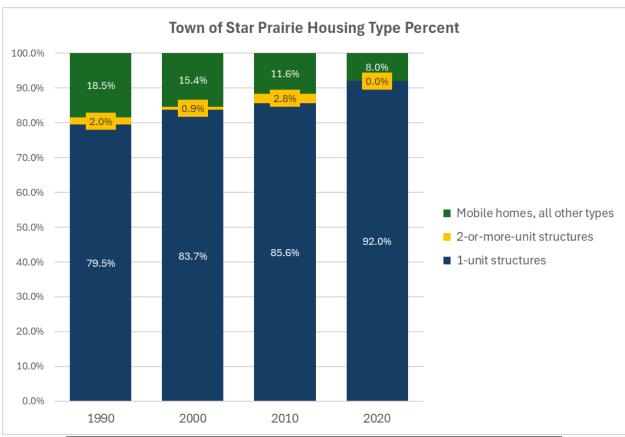
Average Household Size

The following table shows average household size from 2000 to 2020 and 20-year projections. The data reveals that the average household size has decreased since 2000 with projected continued decline.

Town of Star Prairie Household Size									
	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040				
Average Household Size	2.82	2.54	2.64	2.49	2.40				
Sources: US Census, American Community Survey									

Housing Type

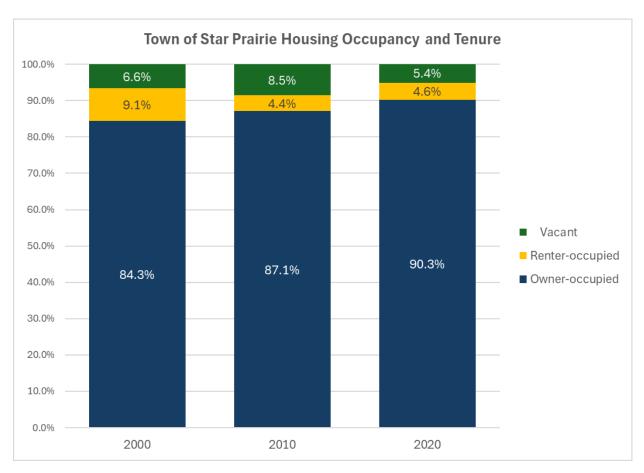
In 2020, approximately 92 percent of housing in the Town of Star Prairie was 1-unit structures; this is ten percent higher than the county. From 1990 to 2020, the percentage of 1-unit structures increased by about twelve percent in the Town of Star Prairie. From 1990 to 2020 the percentage of 1-unit structures has increased relative to 2-or-more-unit and mobile homes in town. The percentage of 2-or-more-unit and mobile homes have decreased from 1990.



Town of Star Prairie Housing Type Percent									
	1990	2000	2010	2020					
1-unit structures	79.5%	83.7%	85.6%	92.0%					
2-or-more-unit structures	2.0%	0.9%	2.8%	0.0%					
Mobile homes and all other types of units	18.5%	15.4%	11.6%	8.0%					
Sources: 2010 Town of Star Prairie Plan, US Census, American Community Survey									

Housing Occupancy and Tenure

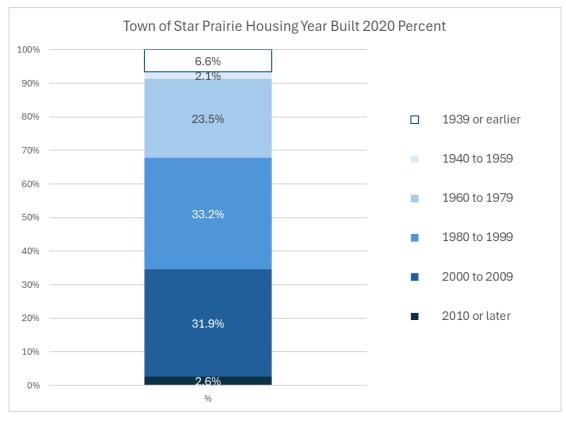
The graph and table below show the housing occupancy and tenure in the Town of Star Prairie from 2000-2020. The data shows that the percentage of vacant houses has decreased from 2000 (6.6%) to 2020 (5.4%). Owner-occupied housing has consistently increased from 2000 (84.3%) to 2020 (90.3%).



Town of Star Prairie Housing Occupancy and Tenure											
		2000		201	10	2020					
Occupied		1,003	90.3%	1,296	91.5%	1,386	94.6%				
	Owner-occupied	906	84.3%	1,234	90.3%	1,322	90.3%				
	Renter-occupied	97	9.1%	62	4.4%	64	4.4%				
Vacant		71	6.6%	121	8.5%	79	5.4%				
	Total	1,074	_	1,417		1,465					

Housing Year Built

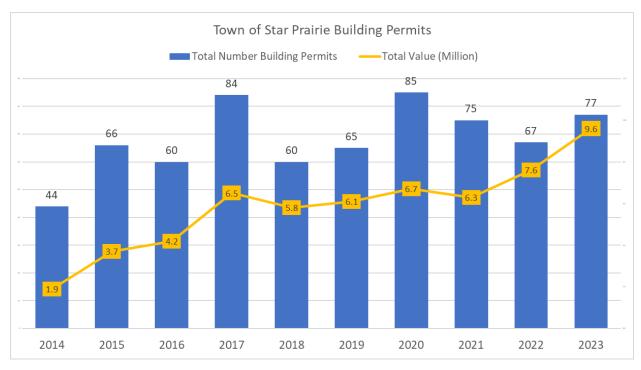
The age of the housing stock is important when preparing for the future. If there is a significant amount of older housing units, they will most likely need to be replaced, rehabilitated or abandoned for new development. New housing supply also requires planning regarding infrastructure, land availability, community utilities, transportation routes, and a variety of other public services. The graph and table below show the percentage and number of housing units built in Census year categories. According to 2020 Census data, most housing in town was built from 1980 to 1999 (33.2%), then 2000 to 2009 (31.9%). Since 2010, only 2.6% of houses in Star Prairie have been constructed. Approximately 65% of housing in the Town Star Prairie was built between 1980 and 2009.



Town of Star Prairie Year	Built 2020						
	#		%				
2010 or later		35	2.6%				
2000 to 2009	4	34	31.9%				
1980 to 1999	4	51	33.2%				
1960 to 1979	3	20	23.5%				
1940 to 1959		29	2.1%				
1939 or earlier		90	6.6%				
Sources: 2010 Town of Star Prairie Plan, US Census, American Community Survey							

Building Permits

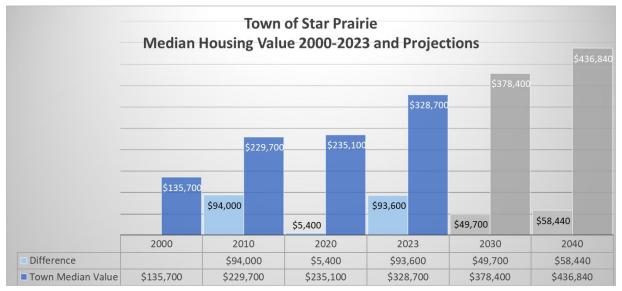
The graph and table below show the annual total number of building permits in town from 2014 to 2023 and the total value and the annual number of houses constructed. The graph reveals that the number of total permits has fluctuated since 2014 with the most permits in 2017 (84) and 2020 (85). An average of 14 new homes have been built each year since 2020.



Town of Star Prairie Building Permits and Value										
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Number Building Permits	44	66	60	84	60	65	85	75	67	77
Total Value (Million)	1.9	3.7	4.2	6.5	5.8	6.1	6.7	6.3	7.6	9.6
New houses	5	10	10	17	12	16	14	14	14	16
Sources: Town of Star Prairie Building Permit Annual Reports										

Median Housing Value

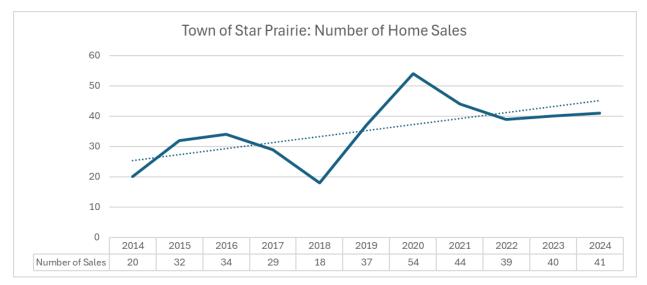
The top graph below shows that the median value of homes within the Town has consistently increased since 2000. Median home value nearly doubled between 2000 (\$135,700) and 2010 (\$229,700) a difference of \$94,000 in the ten-year period. The 2020 American Community Survey estimated the town median housing value at \$235,100, a difference of \$5,400 from 2010. The 2023 American Community Survey estimated the town median housing value at \$328,700, a difference of \$93,600 from 2020. The value projections for 2030 and 2040 were developed with an extrapolation calculation based on the previous decades, 2000-2020. The bottom graph shows a comparison that reveals the Town of Star Prairie median housing value in 2020 was higher than the State of Wisconsin and lower than the County and neighboring towns.

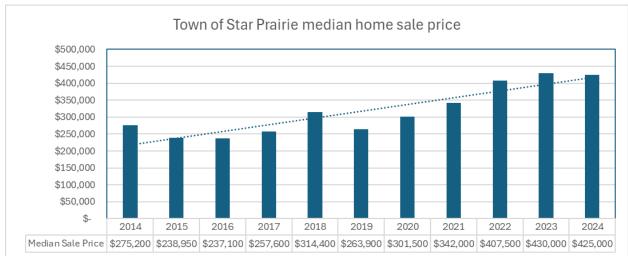


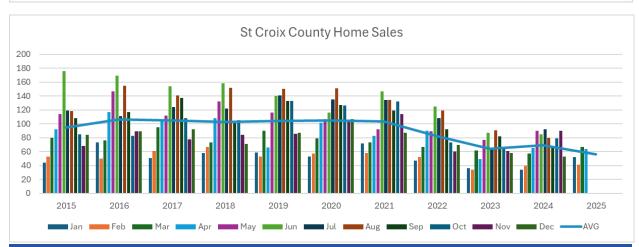


Home Sales

The following data, sourced from the Wisconsin Realtors Association, includes Town of Star Prairie and St. Croix County total number of sales and town median home sale prices from 2014 to 2024.

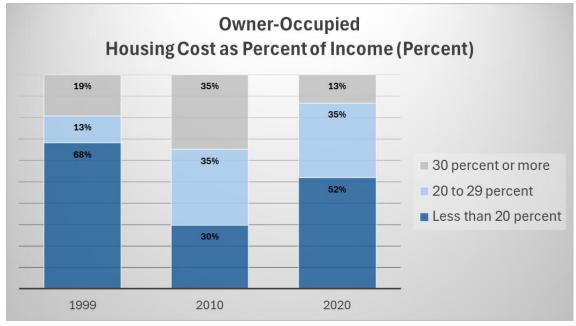


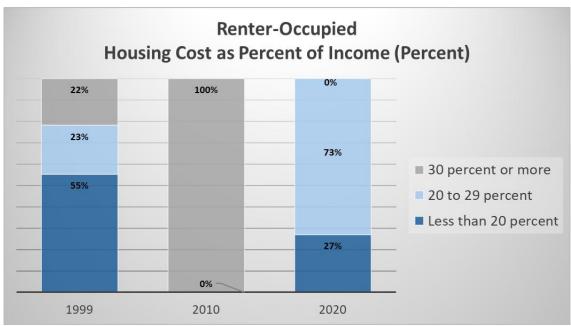




Housing Affordability - Cost as Percent of Income

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines affordable housing as housing that does not exceed more than 30 percent of household income. The graphs below show the number of households in three Census categories depicting different percentages of the housing cost to income ratio. In 2010, most owner-occupied houses paid more than 30% of their income (35%) and all renter-occupied houses paid more than 30% of their income (100%). In comparison, in 2020, most owner-occupied houses paid less than 20% of their income (52%) and most renter-occupied houses paid 20-29% of their income (73%). According to this Census data, it looks like housing is more affordable in 2020 than it was in 2010.





Housing Programs and Regulations

The Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning legislation requires governments completing plans compile a list of programs available to help provide an adequate supply of housing that meets existing and forecasted housing demand in their jurisdiction. The following list includes known available programs.

County and Local

- 1. St. Croix County Housing Authorities Hudson, New Richmond and River Falls
- West Central Wisconsin Community Action Agency, Inc. (<u>WestCAP</u>)
- 3. <u>Impact Seven</u>, Inc., Rice Lake provides senior housing support
- 4. St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity River Falls, WI
- 5. United Way St Croix and Red Cedar Valleys Housing Report June 2023 "A Home for All"

State

- 6. Wisconsin Housing and Urban Development
- 7. Tomorrow's Home Foundation, Madison, WI
- 8. Wisconsin Department of Administration
 - a. Division of Housing and Intergovernmental Relations
 - b. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Rehabilitation funds are made available through the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The CDBG program provides grants to local governments for housing rehabilitation initiatives that benefit low- and moderate-income households.
 - c. Wisconsin Housing Cost Reduction Initiative (HCRI)
 - d. Wisconsin Historic Home Tax Credits
 - e. Wisconsin Home Safety Act
 - f. <u>Wisconsin Property Tax Deferred Loan Program</u> (PTDL)
 - g. <u>Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority</u> (WHEDA) 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.
 - h. Wisconsin Rural Development, Rural Housing Service
 - i. <u>Wisconsin Weatherization Assistance</u> Programs

Federal

- USDA-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.
- 10. United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
 - j. Section 8 Program rent assistance
 - k. Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

Transportation

This chapter contains transportation conditions, trends, issues, opportunities and goals. Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001 "Contents of a comprehensive plan," states the following regarding the transportation element.

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

The transportation system of St. Croix County is a major factor in promoting, sustaining and directing the growth and development occurring in the county. It can have intended and unintended consequences on the manner in which a community grows; consequently, it should be addressed through planning. Planning can help manage transportation impacts by guiding and accommodating desired growth. Decisions about transportation improvements can affect land uses and land values. Similarly, economic, housing and land use decisions can increase or modify demands on transportation systems including highways, air, rail, pedestrian, bike and other modes. The Town of Star Prairie is heavily influenced by the easy access to the transportation system. A trend analysis of this evolving transportation system provides insight into the impacts and future transportation needs of the town.

Road Functional Classification

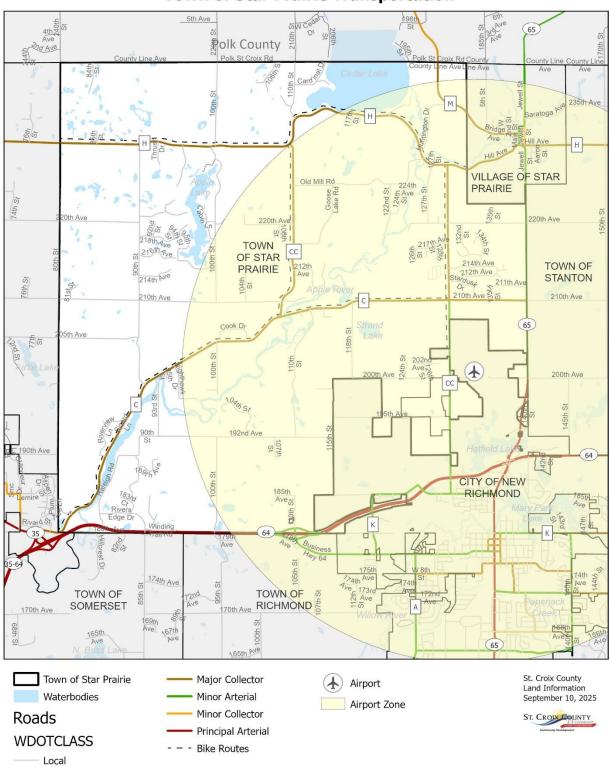
The local, county and state road system in the Town of Star Prairie is shown on the **Transportation System Map** on the next page. The connectivity of the road system is impacted by the Apple River which divides the town diagonally. There are a limited number of river crossings in the town and additional ones are not planned to be developed. The south and east half of the town has easy access to STHs 64 and 65 and parts of CTH C and CC. The west and north half of the town has access to CTHs H and parts of C and CC. Town of Star Prairie works with the County Highway Department and Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) on street and road maintenance and improvements utilizing two state programs for assistance. More information is available on the WisDOT website.

The functional and jurisdictional status of the roadways in the Town of Star Prairie are shown on the **Transportation System Map** on the next page. The WisDOT determines arterial and major and minor collector road status. In consideration of future functional classification changes and traffic counts, reference the **Road Plow, Patch, Patrol Map** on the pages below. The map inventories the road priority plow and maintenance routes and is subject to change.

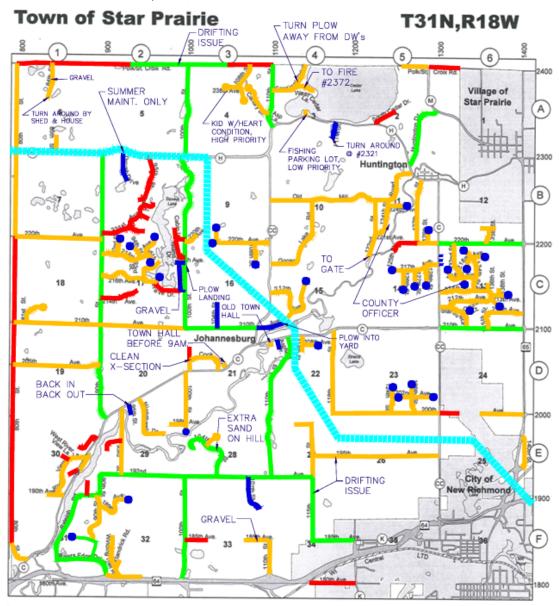
- Principal arterials include State Highway 64.
- Major collectors include State Highway 65 and County Highways C, CC, H, and M.
- All other county and town roads have local functional status regardless of which municipality has iurisdictional status.

Transportation System Map

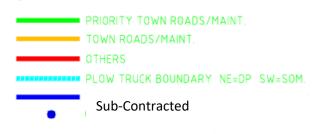
Town of Star Prairie Transportation



Road Plow, Patch, Patrol Map



PLOW, PATCH AND PATROL MAP





DATE: 11/19/2024

Air Transportation

St. Croix County has one publicly owned airport located in the City of New Richmond. The New Richmond Regional Airport (NRRA) opened in 1964. The airport is owned by the City of New Richmond and operated by a seven-member airport commission. It is included in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems for 2021–2025, in which it is categorized as a local general aviation facility. The airport has two runways and houses about 200 aircrafts based in privately owned hangars. The airport serves an estimated 155,000 people in Western Wisconsin and Eastern Minnesota.

- State statutes allow the City of New Richmond to utilize its zoning ordinance and building code authority to regulate land use, construction standards and structure height in areas within a threenautical-mile radius from the NRRA. Specific information on the height limitation in each zone and the building and construction standards can be found on the NRRA's webpage. The Town of Star Prairie is heavily impacted by the regulation of airspace surrounding the airport. See Transportation System Map.
- 2. In April 2008 the City adopted a height limitation zoning ordinance and general building standards. The height limitations are elevations permissible above mean sea level in feet. Specific information on the height limitation in each zone and the building and construction standards can be found on the NRRA's webpage, http://www.nrairport.com/buildingcode.htm.
- The New Richmond Regional Airport (NRRA) governing board was expanded in 2007 to add a
 representative from the Town of Star Prairie. A town resident has been appointed by the Star
 Prairie Town Board to represent those people who live within the influence of the airport on the
 NRRA board.
- 4. A number of projects for the New Richmond Regional Airport (NRRA) are included in the WisDOT Airport Improvement Plan 2020-2025.
- 5. The airport is focused on meeting and anticipating the business and recreational aviation needs of the region. The FAA requires airports to have master plans in order to be eligible for FAA grants. Typically, the FAA funds 90% of airport infrastructure projects with the remaining 10% divided between the airport and the state. The plan will include: An inventory of existing facilities and users and forecasts for future use.

The nearest scheduled air passenger service and air freight connections are available at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. The MSP International Airport is located approximately 45 miles to the southwest. It offers scheduled passenger service and serves as an air cargo feeder for air freight shipments.

Active Transportation

Active transportation refers to any form of human-powered transportation, such as walking, cycling, skateboarding, rolling (wheelchair, stroller), running, or skating. This mode of transportation not only promotes physical activity but also helps reduce traffic congestion and environmental pollution. The Bicycle Routes are along County Roads H, C, CC and K in the Town of Star Prairie.

Rail Transportation

St. Croix County is served by two railroads with east-west routes, the Canadian National (CN) and Union Pacific (UP), as shown in the map below. The CN Railroad operates the former Milwaukee Road/Soo Line, a branch line that provides shipper connections in Minnesota and to the east for the communities of Somerset and New Richmond. The Canadian National line goes through the Town of Star Prairie in Section 34. There are no scheduled stops at this time. The availability of service provided by the regional CN rail line is dependent upon the level of shipping generated by individual communities along this route and by access to larger rail systems to the west and east.

Burlington Northern-Santa Fe **BNSF** CN Canadian National **CPRS** Canadian Pacific **ELS** Escanaba & Lake Superior CHIPPEWA FOX Fox Valley & Lake Superior **METWR** East Troy Railroad Co. WN Wisconsin Northern TR Tomahawk Railway PEPIN EAU CLAIRE UP Union Pacific BUFFALO WGN Wisconsin Great Northern **WSOR** Wisconsin & Southern Railroad

WI DOT Railroads and Harbors Map 2022

The UP Railroad operates the former Chicago-Northwestern (CNW) mainline between Minneapolis-St. Paul and Chicago. This line travels through the towns of Baldwin and Hammond and serves the communities of Hudson, Roberts, Baldwin, Hammond, Woodville and Wilson. The mainline connections of the UP route between Minneapolis-St. Paul and Chicago will continue to ensure rail service to communities along the CN route.

Trucking & Water Transportation

Trucking transportation services were not dealt with separately in the Town of Star Prairie as they are covered by the town, county and state road systems. There are no significant passenger or freight water transportation services in the Town of Star Prairie or in St. Croix County. The nearest is the barge traffic on the Mississippi river. Water transportation within the County is primarily recreational in nature (e.g., canoeing, fishing, water skiing) occurring throughout the County on its many rivers and lakes, with some larger recreational boats and sailboats on Lake St. Croix. Paddlewheel and other riverboat excursions are also available along the St. Croix River for sight-seeing and dinner cruises.

Public Transit & Specialized Transportation

Some bus service is provided to the region along Interstate Highway 94, more information provided by Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT). Existing park and ride lots for cars and van pools are located to provide connections for commuter transit to the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area. The following table and graph show the Park and Ride Facilities and number of stalls in St. Croix County.

St.	Croix County Park-and-Ride Facilities	# of Stalls		
		2009	2023	
1	Baldwin (I-94/US 63)	36	33	
2	Forest (US 63/WIS 64) - Cylon 4-corners	24	15	
3	Hammond (I-94/County T)		86	
4	Houlton-Somerset (WIS 64/WIS 35)		59	
5	Hudson (I-94/County F/Carmichael Rd.)	168	166	
6	River Falls (WIS 35/WIS 65)	124	124	
7	Roberts (I-94/WIS 65)	48	116	
8	Southeast (SE) of Hudson (South of I-94/WIS 35)	74	74	
9	New Richmond (STH 65/Airport)	30	30	
	Sources: 2012 Plan-2009 data, WisDOT-2023 data			

St. Croix County Department of Aging and Disability Resource Center maintains a fleet of vans that provide demand responsive service for seniors and those with disabilities. The State-County Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance program provides counties with financial assistance to provide transportation services to seniors and individuals with disabilities. For more information visit the Wisconsin Department of Transportation website. The following table shows all available van trip data for villages and cities from 2005-2022.

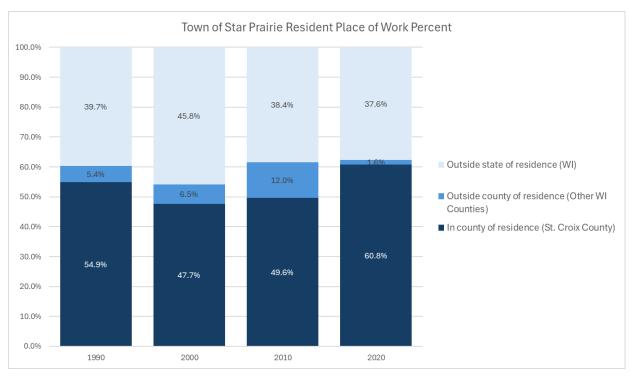
St. Croix County Van	Transporta	ation Servi	ces								
Cities	2005	2008	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Glenwood City	2134	2108	n/a	936	806	792	196	114	346	550	1450
Hudson/ N. Hudson	3796	4300	7792	6448	5410	5490	1574	1074	4046	5088	4908
New Richmond	9068	3668	10832	6946	4830	3068	556	76	1094	1600	2118
Villages											
Baldwin	1774	1564	842	616	484	846	398	74	220	490	710
Deer Park	14	283	360	520	112	110	116	76	116	128	114
Hammond/Roberts	450	993	166	158	114	120	116	76	114	112	68
Somerset	2260	1042	186	134	248	796	356	516	968	1414	1438
Woodville	2784	2950	508	206	376	158	128	74	148	376	200
Total	22,280	16,908	20,686	15,964	12,380	11,380	3,440	2,080	7,052	9,758	11,006

Source: 2005-2008 from 2012 County Comprehensive Plan and 2017-2024 St. Croix County Department of Aging and Disability Resource Center. Data Considerations:

- 1. Site Specialized Transportation provides rides only within the 6 mile radius of the Senior Center in the community.
- 2. Transportation services were closed in March 2020 with resuming medical essential rides in June of 2020.
- $3.\ Senior\ Centers\ were\ closed\ from\ March\ 2020\ to\ June\ 2021, no\ special\ trips\ or\ rides\ provided\ to\ the\ Centers.$
- $4.\ In Woodville and Hammond/Roberts area, Western Wisconsin Health campus also provides rides for medical appointments.$
- 5. Hudson Hospital and Amery Hospital both ended their transportation services.
- 6. In 2018, the volunteer ride program was transferred to CILWW/New Freedom transport.
- 7. 2014 City of New Richmond started a rideshare program. Westfields Hospital also has multiple vans for rides to their campus.
- 8. In Baldwin, Western Wisconsin Health campus also provides rides for medical appointments.
- 9. January 2024, the City of Hudson began a successful Rideshare Program.

Commuting Patterns - Place of Work

The graph and table below show the place of work of Town residents in three categories including: Outside state of residence, outside county of residence and in county of residence. The data includes a decennial comparison from 1990 to 2020. According to the Census, the number of residents that work in St. Croix County has consistently increased from 2000.

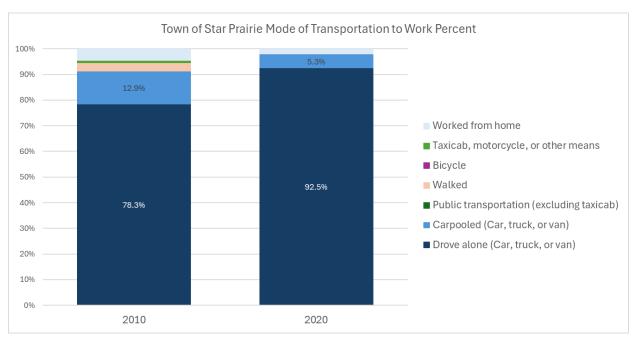


Town of Star Prairie Place of Work									
	1990	2000	2010	2020					
In county of residence (St. Croix County)	54.9%	47.7%	49.6%	60.8%					
Outside county of residence (Other WI Counties)	5.4%	6.5%	12.0%	1.6%					
Outside state of residence (WI)	39.7%	45.8%	38.4%	37.6%					
Sources: 2010 Town of Star Prairie Plan, US Census, American Communi	Sources: 2010 Town of Star Prairie Plan, US Census, American Community Survey								

Mode of Transportation to Work

The graph and table below show the mode or means of transportation to work of Town residents in seven categories including: Worked at home, taxicab, motorcycle, or other means, bicycle, walked, public transportation, carpooled, or drove alone. The data includes a decennial comparison of the years 2010 and 2020.

From 2010 to 2020 the number of residents working from home decreased from 4.7 % to 2.2%. In the same period the number of residents that carpooled decreased from 12.9% to 5.3%. The data reveals that the majority of Town residents drive alone.



Town of Star Prairie Mode of Transportation to Work							
	2010	2020					
Drove alone (Car, truck, or van)	78.3%	92.5%					
Carpooled (Car, truck, or van)	12.9%	5.3%					
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	0.0%	0.0%					
Walked	3.3%	0.0%					
Bicycle	0.0%	0.0%					
Taxicab, motorcycle, or other means	0.8%	0.0%					
Worked from home	4.7%	2.2%					
Sources: 2010 Town of Star Prairie Plan, US Census, American Community Survey							

Average Daily Traffic

Annual Average Daily Traffic counts, from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, for federal, state and county roadways within the Town of Star Prairie are shown in the chart below. The decrease in traffic counts between 2004 and 2012 may be attributed to the completion of Highway 64 converted from a two-lane to a divided 4-lane highway in 2003-2004. In consideration of future functional classification changes and traffic counts, reference the Road Plow, Patch, Patrol Map on the pages above.

Town of Star Prairie Annual Average Daily Traffic counts										
Town of Star Frame Annual Average Daily Traint (Site #	1994	1997	2000	2004	2012	2016	2022		
STH 64, Star Prairie On Ramp From 110th St/Cth A To New Sth 64 WB	Site:550901		2007			3000	3000	3100		
STH 64, Star Prairie Off Ramp From New Sth 64 Wb To 110th St /Cth A	Site:550900					180	170	120		
STH 64, Star Prairie Total	N/A	5700	6200	5900	6700	3180	3170	3220		
STH 65, Star Prairie STH 65 North of 200th Ave Star Prairie Tnshp	Site:550250	5100	4600	4200	4200	5600	5300	6000		
CTH C, Huntingdon CTH C 1.0 MI W OF CTH CC Star Prairie Tnshp	Site:550299	2300	2000	3200	2700	1500	N/A	1300		
CTH C, Johannesburg CTH C 3.0 MI N OF STH 35 Star Prairie Tnshp	Site:550298	2000	2000	3500	3200	1700	N/A	1300		
CTH CC, Johannesburg CTH CC Btwn 220th Ave & Old Mill Rd Star Prairie Tnshp - Hpms	Site:550419	690	1100	820	1100	920	690	660		
CTH H, Star Prairie CTH H 2.0 MI E Of Sth 35 Star Prairie Tnshp	Site:550338	840	790	910	830	510	N/A	590		
CTH M, Star Prairie CTH M 0.5 MI S Of Polk Co Line Star Prairie Tnshp	Site:550344	1700	1800	2200	1800	1400	N/A	1800		
Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation Highway Traffic Volume Data										
	Site #	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2021-22		
210th Avenue, east of 81st	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	227		
90th Street north of 214th Avenue	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	375		
90th Street north of County C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	695		
90th Street south of Raleigh Rd	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	323		
80th Street north of 210th	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	507		
80th Street south of 205th	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	680		
100th Street north of STH 64	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	530		
Old Mill Road east of Goose Lake Road	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	365		
110th Street south of CTH C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	360		
Rivers Edge Drive east of 90th Street	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	529		
Source: Local counts from St. Croix County Highway Department										

Highway Investments

Highway projects that are currently programmed by State and County Highway Departments to address highway improvement needs reflect a substantial investment in the highway infrastructure in St. Croix County and the Town of Star Prairie.

Regional Transportation Systems

All state and regional transportation system plans have been taken into account and evaluated by the Town of Star Prairie. The town has also evaluated the impacts of the City of New Richmond's area transportation planning. The city has identified an urban growth boundary and a transportation system that could serve that area. The city has adopted an official map that includes the transportation system within the city limits and within the city's urban growth boundary. The Town of Star Prairie will continue to provide comments to the city regarding future transportation system planning and how that could coordinate with the City of New Richmond's planning and official map.

Future Transportation System

The future Transportation System map below identifies possible future roads and connections within the Town of Star Prairie. The town anticipates that the functional classification of some roads will change over time as the traffic levels increase and road improvements are made.

Town of Star Prairie Proposed Future Transportation 65 **∌olk County** VILLAGE OF STAR PRAIRIE 220th Ave TOWN OF STAR 214th Ave TOWN OF PRAIRIE 214th Ave STANTON 76th St 211th Av 210th Ave 210th Ave 65 4 200th Ave CITY OF NEW RICHMOND 174th Ave TOWN OF TOWN OF RICHMOND SOMERSET 170th Ave Town of Star Prairie Major Collector St. Croix County Airport Waterbodies Minor Arterial September 10, 2025 Airport Zone Minor Collector Roads St. CROIX COUNTY Principal Arterial **WDOTCLASS** - - - Bike Routes

Local

Transportation Programs

Several state, regional, and St. Croix County organizations and agencies have developed plans and programs for the management and systematic update of transportation facilities in the area. Based on a review of these plans and programs, no land use conflicts or policy differences were identified.

State Plans and Programs

- 1. Wisconsin State Transportation Plan
- 2. Access Control for STH 65. 1998. Project # 1540-08-29.
- 3. Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) Plan 2050 (Connections 2050)
- 4. WI DOT four-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
- 5. WI DOT Access Management State Statutes
- 6. Wisconsin State Airport System Plan
- 7. Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan
- 8. WI DOT Pedestrian Policy Plan
- 9. WI DOT Adopt-A-Highway Program
- 10. WI DOT Information System for Local Roads (WISLR)
- 11. WI DOT Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP) Town plan to DOT for funding
- 12. WI DOT Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA) Program
- 13. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) trails program
- 14. Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation
- 15. Surface Transportation Rural Program (STP-R)
- 16. Town Road Improvement Program (TRIP)
- 17. Discretionary Town Road Improvement Program (TRIP D)
- 18. Local Bridge Improvement Assistance (Local Bridge)
- 19. Snowmobile Routes & Trail Crossing Signs
- 20. Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC)

Regional and Local Plans and Programs

- 1. St. Croix County Transportation Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) plan
- 2. St. Croix County Highway Department 5-year plan 2022-2026
- 3. St. Croix County Land Division Ordinance
- 4. St. Croix County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
- 5. St. Croix County Comprehensive Plan
- 6. Pierce County Comprehensive Plan
- 7. West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWPRC) Transportation
- 8. Comprehensive Plan for the City of River Falls
- 9. Town of Warren and Village of Roberts Comprehensive Plan
- 10. Town of River Falls Comprehensive Plan
- 11. Specialized Transportation and Transit Providers
 - i. St. Croix County Aging and Disability Resource Center
 - ii. New Freedom Program Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin

Utilities and Community Facilities

The Town of Star Prairie is a small rural community. The town does not provide extensive services for residents. What services are provided are discussed in the following sections. Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001 "Contents of a comprehensive plan," states the following regarding the comprehensive plan utilities and community facilities element.

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

Town Hall

The Town of Star Prairie maintains a Town Hall that was built in February of 2007. The Town Hall is located on a 5.75 acre site located at the corner of Cook Drive and County Road C. It has meeting rooms, town offices, kitchen facilities and permanent voting facilities. The hall was dedicated during the fall of 2007.



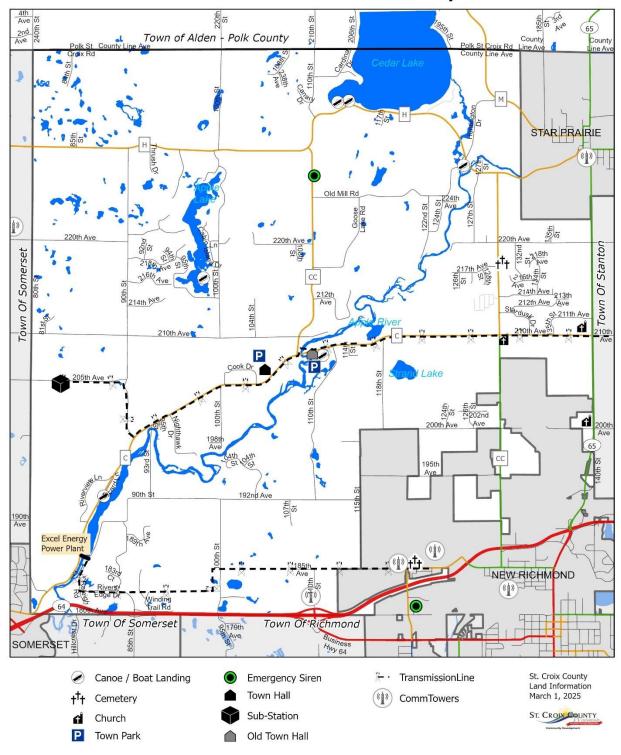
The old town hall is a former school; it was known as the Johannesburg or Riverview School and was built in 1923. It is located on approximately two acres, town owned, along the Apple River just southeast of the intersection of County Roads C and CC. The old town hall is currently leased by Star Prairie Fish and Game. It is also used to access the Apple River for fishing, canoeing, picnicking, sight-seeing and unsupervised swimming.

Cemetery

There is one cemetery located in the Town of Star Prairie. Oakland Cemetery is located at 2173 County Road C, Wall Street. It was established in 1844, platted in 1893, and was deeded by the Town of Star Prairie to the Oakland Cemetery Association in 1899. The Association is responsible for maintenance of the cemetery.

Community Facilities Map

Town of Star Prairie Utilities and Community Facilities



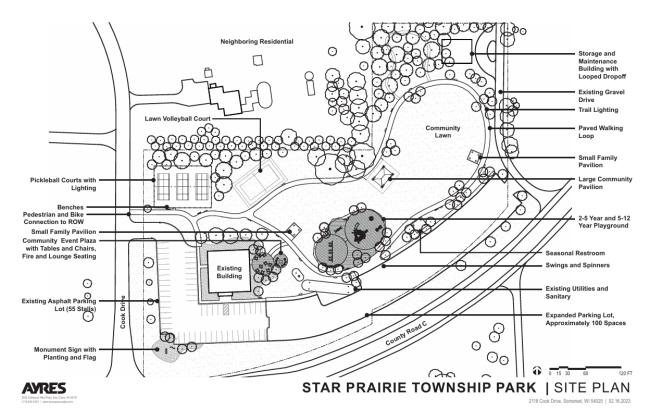
Parks & Open Spaces

Town Parks

There are two town owned parks in Star Prairie including the town hall park and the old town hall park. The town hall park currently features a children's playground structure (pictured right) with plans to continue development as shown in the **Park Site Plan** below.



The old town hall is located on the Apple River near Johannesburg. This site is a canoe access, swimming area and has limited picnic facilities and ice fishing access in the winter. Additional facilities include benches for wildlife viewing, picnic tables and a parking lot for approximately 12 vehicles. For active recreation, town residents can utilize park and recreation facilities in the City of New Richmond, or villages of Star Prairie or Somerset.



Other Parks

- 1. The Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust owns and maintains the 65-acre McMurtrie Preserve off CTH M, east of Cedar Lake. The Land Trust has improved the facilities at the Preserve that currently features trails, a pavilion, summer restrooms, and a parking lot for 20 cars. The site is open to the public and used for educational purposes.
- 2. The Land Trust is also in the process of acquiring approximately 40 acres from the New Richmond Archery Club for future public use.

Public Boat - Canoe Access

- 1. In the Wigwam Shores subdivision, the town owns 0.87 acres at the end of 217th Avenue, which is utilized as a boat landing to Apple Lake. The town also owns a 3.55 acre parking lot for about 20 vehicles and trailers just a short distance from the landing.
- The town owns 0.277 acres, Lot 41B, off CTH H on Cedar Lake which is used as a winter ice fishing driveon or walk-in access. It is closed off in the summer. There are no parking spaces or facilities. Parking on CTH H is a safety issue and is prohibited.
- 3. Stuart Nelson Landing, located off CTH H on Cedar Lake. The Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust owns 1.3 acres, Lot 41AB-2, west of the town's access. Working with the Town of Star Prairie, the Star Prairie Fish and Game Club, St. Croix County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the land trust constructed a boardwalk across wetlands to reach the lake to allow walk-in canoe access in the summer.
- 4. The Riverdale Flowage on the Apple River has a boat access off CTH C which provides access to the flowage.
- 5. St. Croix County's Apple River Property at Huntingdon is 59 acres. There is a canoe access to the Apple River off CTH H on the property. Facilities include a parking lot and rough trails.





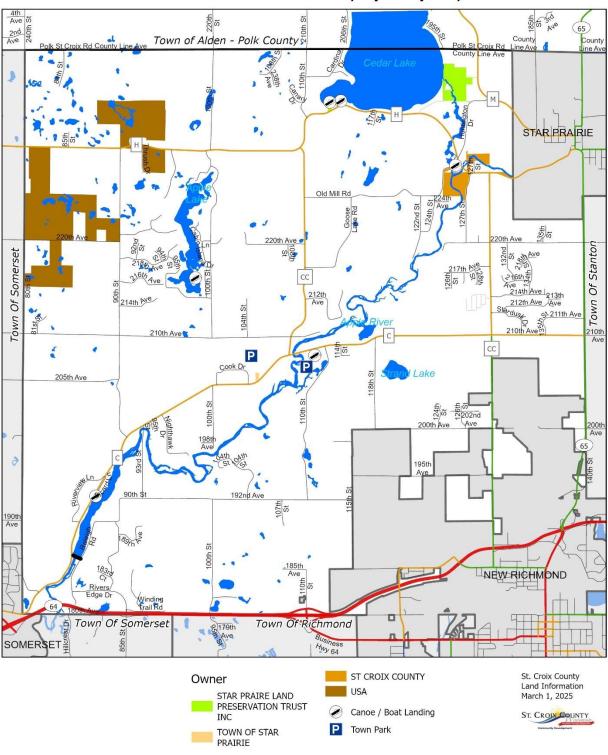
Waterfowl Production Areas

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service owns two large Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) located in the Town of Star Prairie. These areas are managed to provide important feeding, breeding, nesting, cover and other habitat values to a wide variety of plant and animal species. They also provide a recreational and open space function to local communities. Prairie Flats North WPA is 220 acres in sections 5, 6 and 8. Prairie Flats South WPA is 320 acres in section 7. WPA lands are purchased with duck stamp dollars and therefore the primary purpose is to provide waterfowl production habitat which consists of large tracks of grassland

interspersed with numerous wetlands. Management on WPAs includes ongoing wetland and prairie restoration, water level manipulation, prescribed fire, tree removal, mowing and sometimes grazing. They are open to the public for hunting, fishing, environmental education and interpretation, and wildlife observation and photography. Motorized vehicles, mountain bikes and horses are not allowed in WPAs.



Town of Star Prairie Public Land, Open Space, and Parks



Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities

There are no active municipal solid waste disposal sites operating in the Town of Star Prairie. Residents contract privately for curbside solid waste collection and disposal in the Town of Star Prairie. They can also contract for curbside collection of recyclables.

Hazardous waste is strictly regulated and is usually kept out of ordinary waste disposal facilities. To reduce the burden on solid waste disposal facilities, the State of Wisconsin has mandated recycling of a variety of household-generated materials.

St. Croix County is the Responsible Unit for recycling. St. Croix County assists local municipalities in operating their recycling programs; provides education and information to the public throughout the year. The Town of Star Prairie collaborates with the City of New Richmond to use its compost site.

St. Croix County Recycling

City of New Richmond

Telecommunications & Power Lines

There is one telecommunication tower in the town, located in Section 33 off 110th Street. There is one emergency warning siren in the Town of Star Prairie, installed in 2006. The town owns and maintains it. The siren is tested the first Wednesday of every month at 11 a.m.

There is a hydroelectric power generating plant owned by Xcel Energy in Section 33 off Raleigh Road. It creates and regulates the Riverdale Flowage. There is an overhead transmission line running from the Xcel Energy Power Plant to the City of New Richmond. It goes across country or follows 185th Ave. in Sections 31, 32, 33 and 34. There are no electrical substations located in the Town of Star Prairie; there is one in the City of New Richmond.



Natural Gas

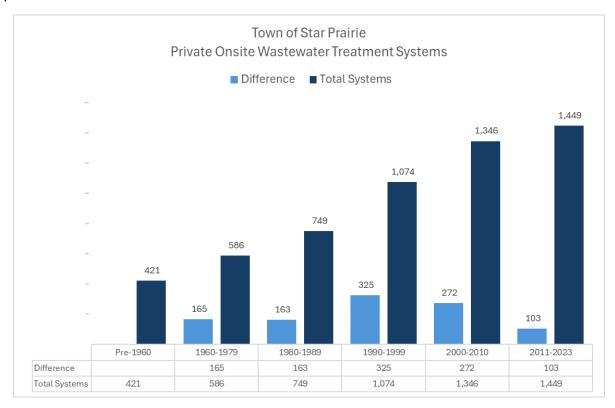
The Northern Natural Gas company owns a natural gas transmission line that runs from north to south through the Town of Star Prairie and ends at the City of New Richmond. This pipeline is marked with permanent yellow markers that say "Warning Gas Pipeline." The gas pipeline crosses private land by easement. According to materials provided by the Northern Natural Gas Company, the easements generally allow the landowner the right to use and enjoy the property, as long as that use does not interfere or conflict with Northern's rights. The width of the easements varies from 70 to120 feet wide depending on the number and diameter of the pipes in the pipeline. The gas line easements have specific provisions or limitations regarding construction over, under, and near transmission lines. It is in the property owner's best interest to contact Digger's Hotline or Northern Natural Gas prior to any land alterations. Due to safety concerns the pipeline is not mapped.

On-Site Wastewater Treatment

All wastewater treatment needs in Town of Star Prairie are met by private onsite wastewater treatment systems (POWTS). The state of Wisconsin, through the counties, permits onsite treatment systems. There are many different types of treatment permitted, but the most common are traditional septic tanks with drain fields or modified drain fields called mound systems.

All POWTS are required to be inspected every three years, and most will need to be pumped at that time. Improper use of a septic system could lead to premature failure of the system, expensive repairs and groundwater contamination. St. Croix County reminds residents of the septic system inspection requirement on a three-year rotational basis and requires proof that the system has been inspected. The increased number and density of POWTS can lead to nitrates in the groundwater, if these systems are improperly installed or are not maintained.

The total number of sanitary systems in the Town of Star Prairie is shown in the graph below. Over 300 systems were added in the decade between 1990 to 1999. The growth nearly halted in the most recent decade from 2011 to 2023. According to St. Croix County records in 2023 there were 1449 wastewater systems in the Town of Star Prairie.



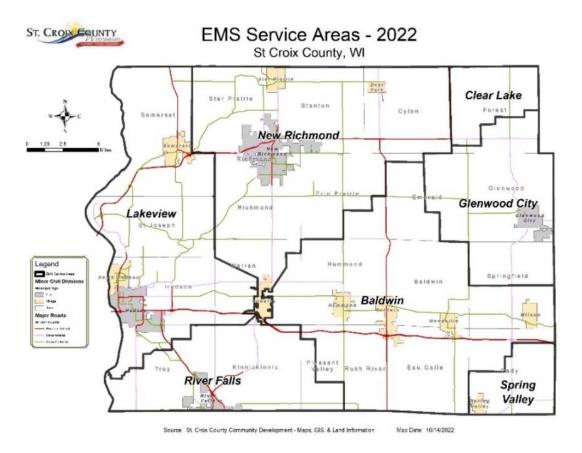
Water Supply

Most drinking water needs in the Town of Star Prairie are met by private wells that utilize groundwater from the Prairie du Chien aquifer. Landowners are encouraged to test their drinking water annually or at least every three years. Water testing kits are available at the County Community Development Department, Public Health Department in New Richmond or through private labs. More information can be found in the Natural Resources section of this plan.

Emergency Services

The Town of Star Prairie is in the New Richmond Emergency Management Service (EMS) area (see **EMS Map** below). The Town of Star Prairie is part owner of the New Richmond Fire and Rescue Service. The Town of Star Prairie contributes about \$30,000 per year to the ambulance service budget and about \$100,000 per year to the fire service budget. The Town and Village of Somerset have entered into a mutual aid agreement for additional fire protection. This agreement will provide faster fire response to a portion of the town that is near the Somerset Fire Department.

The St. Croix County Sheriff's Department has authority in all areas where there is no other active police force, including the Town. The Town of Star Prairie contracts with the St. Croix County Sheriff's Department for additional hours to serve and protect the Town.

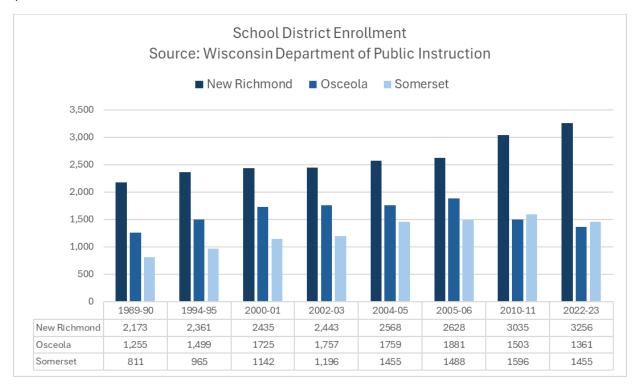


Libraries

Town of Star Prairie is in close proximity the New Richmond and Somerset public libraries and can utilize the "more" system as part of the Inspiring and Facilitating Library Success (IFLS) system. The Library System assists and connects these local libraries through the sharing of materials, computer library cataloging, training assistance, cataloging of materials, web hosting, and outreach support.

Schools

There are three public school districts in the Town of Star Prairie including New Richmond, Somerset and Osceola School District. The graph below shows the public school enrollment available from Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.



Health Care Facilities

The Town of Star Prairie does not provide health care services. Health care services are provided by St. Croix County or private entities. Health care facilities including hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and assisted living facilities are located in the cities or villages of Amery, Baldwin, Hudson, New Richmond, Osceola, Somerset and Stillwater, MN. The Town does not intend to become involved in the provision of health care services.

Child Care Facilities

There are no publicly-owned child care facilities in the Town of Star Prairie or St. Croix County. Child care services to residents of the Town of Star Prairie are provided by private or non-profit entities in the neighboring cities of Hudson and New Richmond; the villages of Osceola, Somerset, Star Prairie and Roberts; and in the Town of Star Prairie. The Town does not intend to become involved in the provision of child care services.

Agricultural Resources

This chapter includes information and analysis for the conservation and management of agricultural, resources. Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001 "Contents of a comprehensive plan," states the following regarding the comprehensive plan agricultural, natural, and cultural resources element.

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

The Town of Star Prairie values agricultural resources for aesthetics, open space, and rural character. However the Town does not have large scale farms and has transitioned to a rural residential landscape. At the time of this plan publication, Town of Star Prairie officials stated that the Town has no farms over 1,000 acres and two operating dairy farms. The following summary of county agriculture trends were gathered from the USDA Ag Census. Town level data is not available from the Ag Census. All county agricultural data can be found in the <u>St. Croix County Comprehensive Plan</u>.

- 1. Total agricultural sales increased more than \$110 million from 2007 to 2022
- 2. Number of Farms Steady decline in the number of farms since 2002 (1,863) to 2022 (1,192)
- 3. Farm size over 1,000 acres steadily increased since 2002 while the farms from 50-999 acres steadily declined since 2002
- 4. Number of dairy operations decreased from 671 dairy farms in 1987 to 74 in 2022 (-597) however production has increased



Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA)

The two maps on the pages below show St. Croix County's Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA). LESA is a numeric rating system developed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for planning, policy development, and decision-making. LESA data is St. Croix County's 2012 refined system that was calibrated to local soil conditions, development trends, and goals by local producers, NRCS and St. Croix County staff.

The LESA system includes two components: Land Evaluation (LE) and Site Assessment (SA). LAND EVALUATION (LE): Based on soils and their characteristics with three primary weighted indexes: Prime Farmland (10%) Capability Class (30%) Productivity for Corn and Alfalfa (60%). SITE ASSESSMENT (SA): Is more dynamic, reflects development pressure based on adopted plans, policies, and other social, economic, and geographical attributes. Ten evenly weighted factors of property's long-term farmland preservation potential: Size and Tract of Contiguous Ownership, Compatibility of Adjacent Land Uses, Compatibility of Surrounding Land Uses, Existing Land Use Policy on Site, Existing Land Use Policy on Adjacent Sites, Future Land Use Policy on Existing Site, Future Land Use Polices on Adjacent Sites, Distance to Public Sewer, Road Classification of Site Access, Environmental and Public Values of the Site.

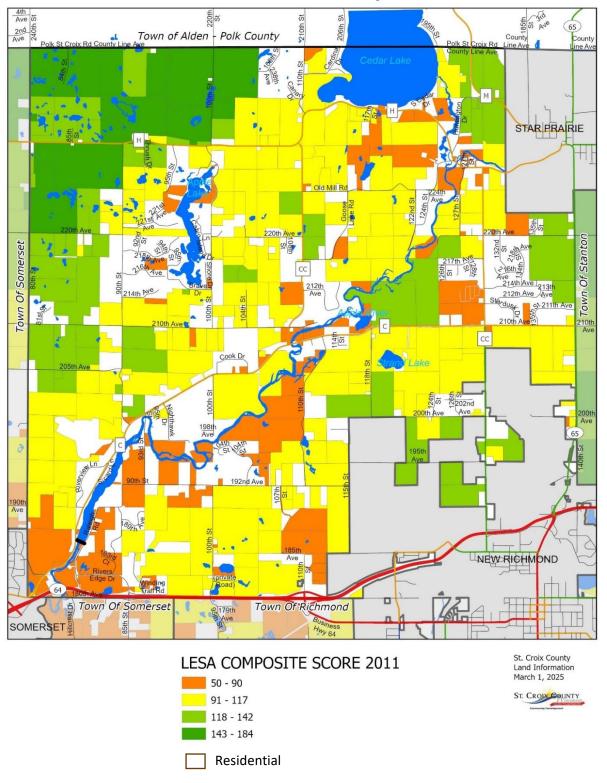
It is important to note that LESA is a relative system, meaning that a lower site or soil score does not necessarily indicate that the land is unproductive or unsuitable for farming. Rather, the score reflects a combination of soil productivity and development pressures in the area. Some lower-scoring sites may still be highly valuable for agricultural production depending on management practices and local conditions.

The **LESA Composite Score Map** below shows combined land evaluation and site assessment scores with light and dark green representing the best sites for farmland preservation, high composite scores (118 and above). The yellow and orange represent poor sites for farmland preservation, lower composite scores (117 and below).

The Land Evaluation Map below shows land evaluation scores only with light and dark green representing the best sites for farmland preservation, high composite scores (66 and above). The yellow and orange represent poor sites for farmland preservation, lower composite scores (65 and below). Land Evaluation (LE) is based on soils and their characteristics with three primary weighted indexes: Prime Farmland (10%) Capability Class (30%) Productivity for Corn and Alfalfa (60%).

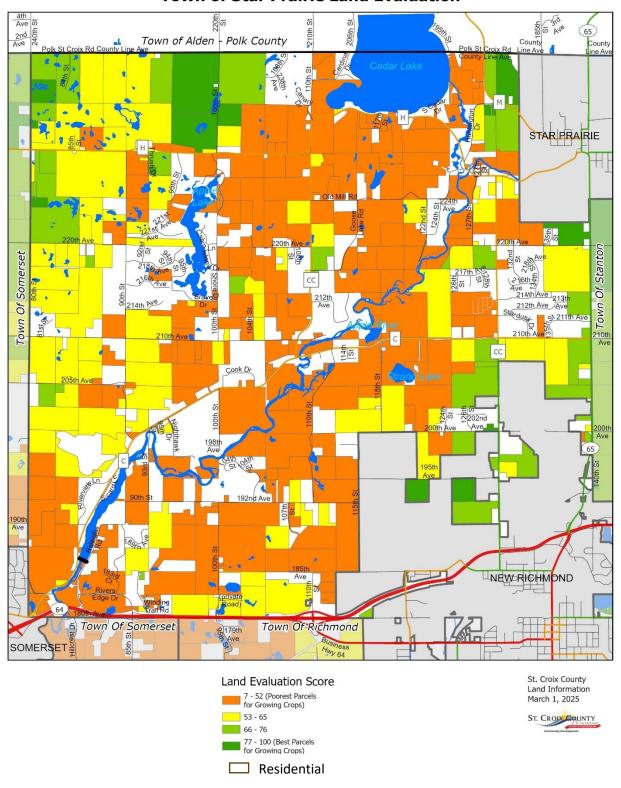
LESA Composite Map

Town of Star Prairie LESA Composite Score



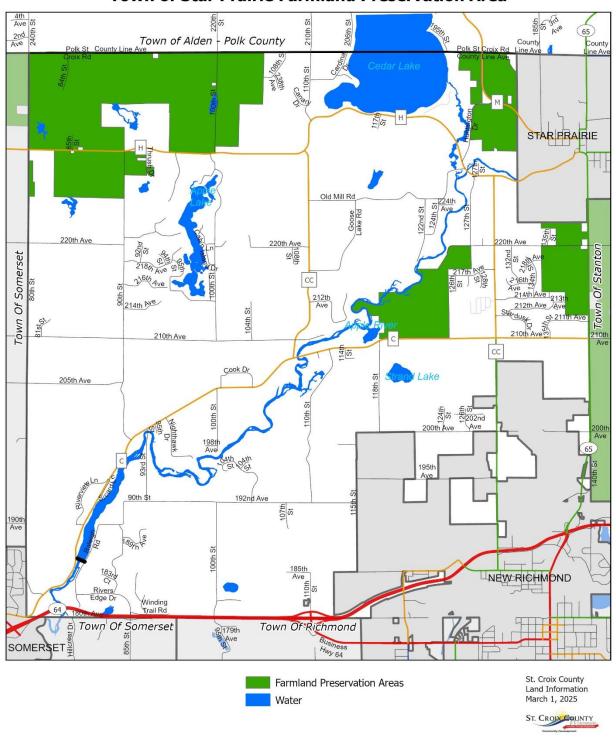
LESA Land Evaluation Map

Town of Star Prairie Land Evaluation



Farmland Preservation Area Map

Town of Star Prairie Farmland Preservation Area



Natural Resources

Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001 "Contents of a comprehensive plan," states the following regarding the comprehensive plan agricultural, natural, and cultural resources element.

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

The people who reside in Town value the natural environment and the physical influences that make up the rural landscape. Natural features such as lakes and waterways are important to consider when planning for future uses. The rural character of the Town of Star Prairie is an important consideration as well.

Surface Geology

The surface geology of St. Croix County and particularly Town of Star Prairie have been influenced by several periods of glaciation. Landforms produced by glacial deposition include end moraine, ground moraine and outwash plains. The first glacier covered the entire county, while the second, the Wisconsin Stage, covered only the land northwest of the Willow River, including the Town of Star Prairie.

End moraines are formed by deposition at the margin of a glacier during a standstill of the glacial front, when the rate of melting equals the rate of glacial advance. They form either at the point of maximum ice advance or during the recession of the glacier. Star Prairie, north of the Willow River, is covered by end moraine from the Superior lobe of the Wisconsin Age of glaciation. This end moraine consists of unsorted glacial material ranging in size from clay to boulders. Typically, the topography is rugged to rolling or hummocky with deep stream gorges and kettles (pits), which may contain lakes or marshes.

Originally all of St. Croix County was covered by ground moraine deposited previous to the Wisconsin stage of glaciation. The material deposited was unsorted and resulted in a gently rolling topography.

Ground moraine is deposited under glacial ice as a blanket of unsorted rock debris, which ranges widely in size. Early-Wisconsin or pre-Wisconsin Age glaciers deposited the ground moraine. A gently rolling topography, meandering streams and few lakes characterize this ground moraine. The topography here is a gently undulating plain with moderate relief and no definite alignment of undulation.

Immediately adjacent to the leading edges of the end moraine deposited by the Superior lobe is a pitted outwash plain of stratified layers of sand, gravel, silt, and clay. The outwash plain was deposited by running water from melting glaciers. Kettles developed in the plain from the melting of buried blocks of ice. The St. Croix River Valley, along the western extreme of the County, was a major glacial drainageway as the glaciers melted and receded.

Bedrock Geology

Glacial drift overlies bedrock throughout almost the entire county. The bedrock, from oldest to youngest in age, includes Precambrian igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks, Cambrian sandstone, and Ordovician dolomite and sandstone. Igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks of the Precambrian age underlie all of St. Croix County. Precambrian red shale and rhyolite have been identified in the Hudson area. Cambrian rocks overlie the Precambrian rocks and are present under the entire county. They are primarily sandstone but include subordinate shale, siltstone and dolomite. Predominant formations of the Cambrian include Mt. Simon, Eau Claire, Galesville, Franconia and Trempealeau.

Ordovician sedimentary rocks in St. Croix County are sandstones, shales and dolomites, and include the Prairie du Chien dolomite, St. Peter Sandstone, Galena-Platteville dolomite and Decorah Formation, undifferentiated, and Galena Dolomite. The Bedrock Geology of Town of Star Prairie includes the Prairie du Chien Group, the Tunnel City Group and the Trempealeau Group, Jordan and St. Lawrence Formations. The disposition of each is depicted in **Bedrock Geology Map** below.

Topographic Features

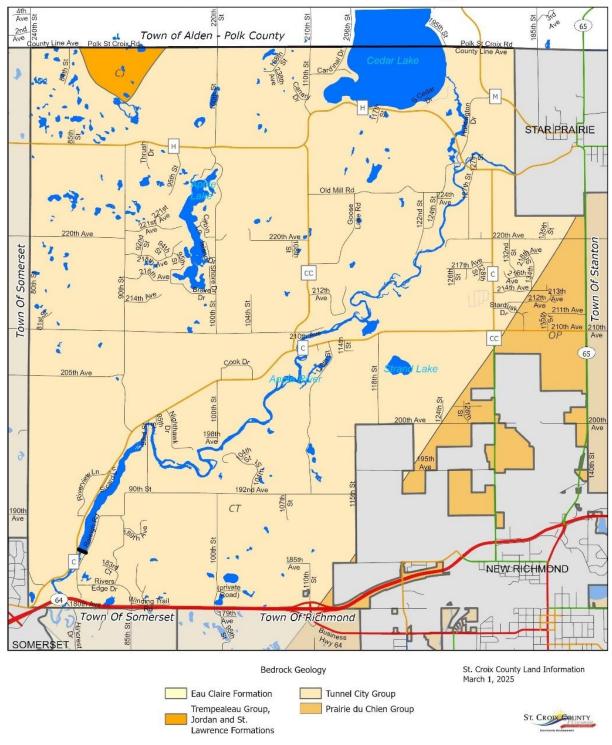
The Town of Star Prairie is part of larger geographic structures sharing some common characteristics or conditions. Physically, St. Croix County is part of the "western upland" region of Wisconsin. This region extends parallel to the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers from Polk County to the Illinois border and to the east from 30 to 75 miles. Surface topography in the western upland ranges from gently rolling to very steep with ridges separating deeply incised stream valleys. The southern two-thirds of the region is characterized by rugged topography, while the northern third tends to have a smoother surface in most areas. The western upland is higher in elevation than the central plain region to the east, but is lower in elevation than the northern highland region that extends northward from Polk County. The topography ranges from gently rolling to hilly and rough. Part of the town is an undulating plain, often referred to as the Star Prairie flats. Areas of more rugged topography are found along the Apple River drainage system. The Topographic Elevation of the Town is depicted in **Topography Map** below.

Mineral Resources

The Town of Star Prairie has significant supplies of sand and gravel. The soils amongst glacial outwash are the most likely source for sand and gravel as the melting waters of the glacier were most active in sorting and depositing high-quality sand and gravel in this area. Where the bedrock is at or near the surface of the ground are areas, which are probably most suited for quarrying stone. See **Potential Sand and Gravel Deposits Map** below.

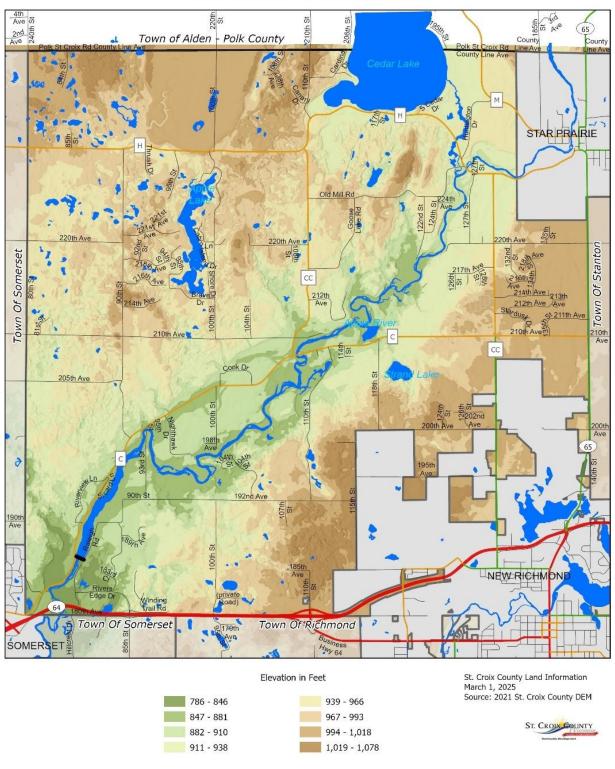
Bedrock Geology Map

Town of Star Prairie Bedrock Geology



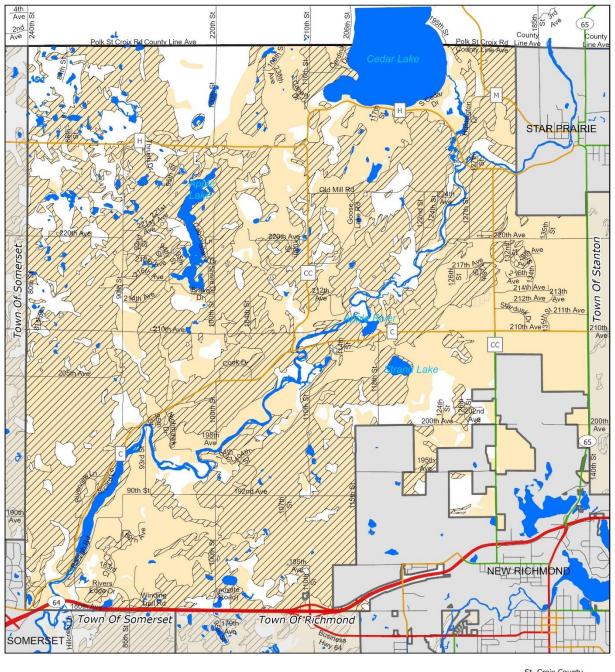
Topography Map

Town of Star Prairie Elevation



Potential Sand and Gravel Deposits Map

Town of Star Prairie Probable Sand and Gravel Deposits



Gravel Deposits Probable

Sand Deposits Probable

St. Croix County Land Information March 1, 2025



Soils

Soil properties are an important factor in how land is used. They indicate how productive farmland is, where sand and gravel is, and limitations for development. Indeed, the types of soils in an area often dictate the best use of the land. Hence, soil suitability interpretations for specific urban and rural land uses are essential for physical development planning and determining the best use of the soils on a site. St. Croix County, through the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), produced a digital soil survey that provides detailed soils mapping for the county at a scale of one-inch equals 1000 feet. In addition, the survey has produced information on the physical, chemical and biological properties of the soils, and provided soil property interpretations for agricultural, engineering, planning and resource conservation activities.

St. Croix County has a wide variety of soils ranging from heavy, poorly drained to light and droughty. Soils that are generally excessively drained and well drained are found in the western half of the county. The moderately drained and somewhat poorly drained soils predominate in the county's eastern half. However, both extreme soil conditions are found throughout much of the county, making management difficult.

Widely varying soil types and complex slopes make the application of some best management practices troublesome. There are many areas with poorly drained soils on relatively steep slopes, which combine erosion with drainage problems. The General Soil Map shows the soil associations in the Town of Star Prairie. Soil associations are landscapes that have distinctive patterns of soils in defined proportions. They typically consist of one or more major soils and at least one minor soil, and are named for the major soils. The general Soils of Star Prairie are depicted in the **Soils Map** below.

Radon Testing

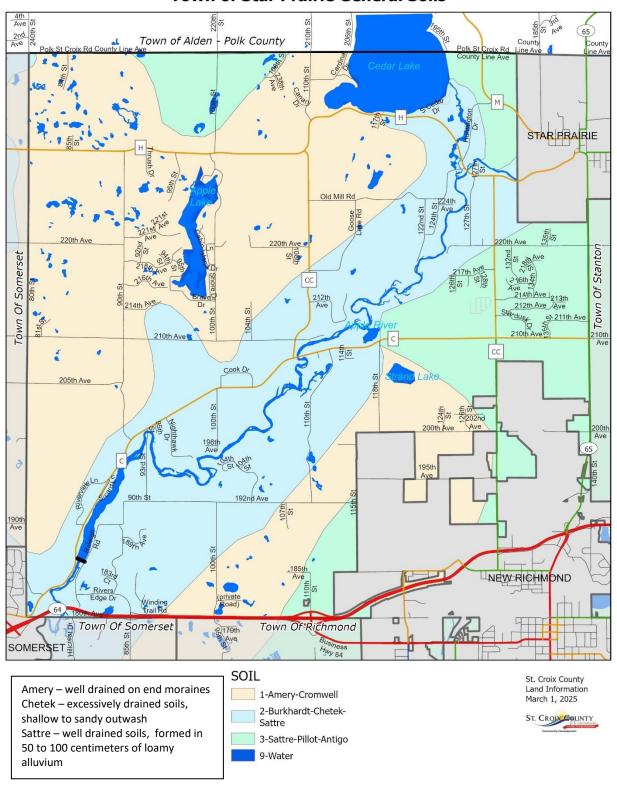
Radon is a colorless, odorless gas produced by the decay of radium (which is produced by the decay of uranium). Deposits of radium and uranium are common in rock and soil. Studies have shown that exposure to radon gas and its decay products can increase the risk of lung cancer. Radon has been identified in numerous homes throughout St. Croix County and in many homes in Star Prairie. Radon levels can vary greatly from home to home, the only way to identify elevated radon levels is to test your home.

Soil Suitability Interpretations

The soil survey provides important information about the suitability of land for different rural and urban uses. The interpretation of soils involves assessing the characteristics of soils that affect a specific use and predicting the various limitations those soils place on a land use. In the Town of Star Prairie the available soil suitability interpretations of importance are those regarding septic tank absorption fields, agriculture, potential sand and gravel deposits, bedrock at or near the surface, and water table depth. The state requirements for septic system siting are specified in the Wisconsin Administrative Code. This code relies heavily on the ability of the soil to effectively treat the effluent discharged from the POWTS drainfield.

Soils Map

Town of Star Prairie General Soils



Surface Water

Lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, intermittent waterways, and natural drainageways make up the surface waters of the Town of Star Prairie. These resources are all water bodies, standing still or flowing, navigable and intermittent, including natural drainageways that collect and channelize overland rainwater or snowmelt runoff. Natural drainageways are characterized by intermittent streams, threads, rills, gullies and dry washes that periodically contribute water to first-order streams. There are also many artificial drainageways where the natural drainageways have been altered by human activity. All of these features have the ability to transport sediment and pollutants, and are affected by their watersheds, the land that surrounds them.

The surface waters of Star Prairie occupy a major drainage system of northwestern Wisconsin. The St. Croix River basin which is part of the Mississippi River basin, covers the western two thirds of the County and the Town of Star Prairie. The Apple River, which traverses the Town of Star Prairie; Trout Brook, Willow River and Kinnickinnic River are within the St. Croix River basin. There are also wetlands, intermittent streams or dry runs and other surface drainage features that carry water only during spring runoff or during extreme storm events. Star Prairie's water resources include: Cedar, Apple (Squaw) and Strand lakes, Cedar Creek and the Apple River. **The Water, Wetlands, Watersheds Map** below depicts the water resources of the Town of Star Prairie.

Wetlands

Wetlands are defined by State Statute. Wetlands may be seasonal or permanent and are commonly referred to as swamps, marshes or bogs. Wetland plants and soils have the capacity to store and filter pollutants ranging from pesticides to animal wastes. Wetlands can make lakes, rivers and streams cleaner, drinking water safer, provide valuable habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial animals and vegetation, and provide the replenishment of groundwater supplies.

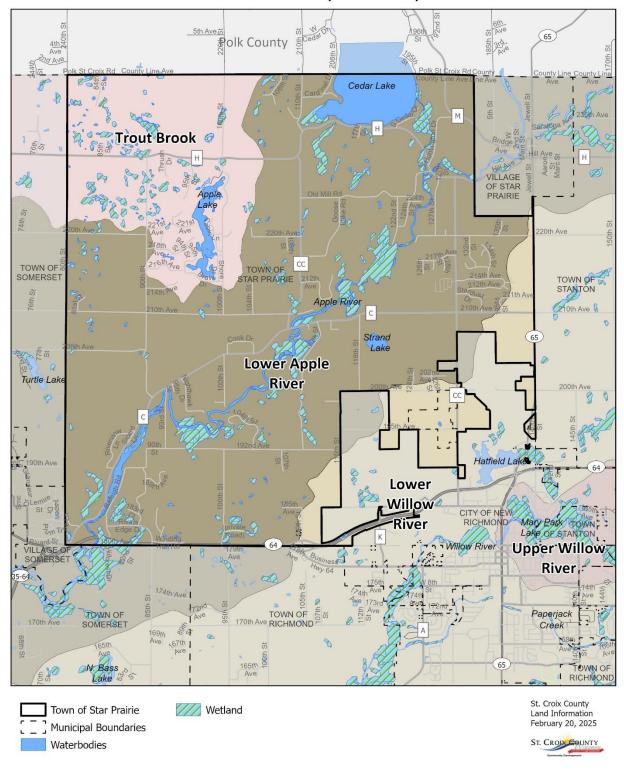
The federal government and the DNR restrict development in wetlands. If landowners and developers are not notified of or do not follow these restrictions, wetlands can be damaged, resulting in costly fines and/or restoration. Particular attention must be given wetlands within shorelands to ensure protection from development. Please see the **Water, Wetlands, Watersheds Map** below.

Watersheds

The lakes, rivers and wetlands of the towns are impacted by land use practices in the watersheds that drain to them. Most of the pollutants that enter surface water resources are carried in runoff from many diffuse or nonpoint sources. The major pollutants of concern are sediment carried from areas with bare soil such as crop fields and construction sites and phosphorus attached to soil particles or dissolved in water from fertilizers and livestock operations. There are three watersheds in Star Prairie: Trout Brook, the Lower Apple River and the Lower Willow River. Please see the **Water, Wetlands, Watersheds Map** below.

Water, Wetlands, Watersheds Map

Town of Star Prairie Water, Wetlands, Watersheds



Surface Water Quality

The streams and rivers in the town meet fish and aquatic life and recreational use standards. In general, water quality in the St. Croix River Basin, which includes all the water bodies in the Town of Star Prairie, is good. Water quality and aquatic habitat in the town's water bodies are threatened by non-point source pollution from agricultural land use, construction sites and rural residential development.

WDNR Classification

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is required to publish a list of all waters not meeting water quality standards and an overall report on surface water quality status of all waters in the state. Every two years, Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires the list and report. To comply with this reporting requirement, WDNR produces three lists including:

- 1. Impaired Waters: This is the official CWA 303(d) list. It contains waters not attaining water quality standards that do not yet have a restoration plan in place (TMDL, alternative restoration).
- 2. Waters in Restoration: These are impaired waters with a restoration plan in place. This list was first created during the 2020 cycle.
- 3. Waters Attaining Standards: These are waters assessed for at least one metric and show no impairment for the metric(s) assessed. Waters have been identified since 2014. The list was first created during the 2018 cycle.

According to the WDNR Surface Water Data Viewer in February 2025, within Town of Star Prairie, Cedar Lake and Apple Lake are classified as *Waters In Restoration*, as described above. The data also shows that both lakes have approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) status. Apple Lake District holds annual meetings and the lake is aerated. Cedar Lake alum treatment was applied 2017-2026 funded by special assessment.



Groundwater

Major aquifers in St. Croix County include sand and gravel deposits and dolomite and sandstone bedrock. These aquifers are the source of all potable (drinkable) water in the Town of Star Prairie and St. Croix County. The sand and gravel aquifer consists of unconsolidated sand and gravel in glacial drift and alluvium. These deposits occur throughout about one-fourth of the county, either at the land surface or buried under less permeable drift. The sand and gravel aquifer can yield sufficient water yield for private residential water supplies. The sandstone aquifer includes all sedimentary bedrock younger than the Precambrian age. The sandstone aquifer is continuous over the county and includes, from youngest to oldest rock formations, the Galena-Platteville unit of the Ordovician age, St. Peter Sandstone, the Prairie du Chien Group, and sandstones of the Cambrian age.

The Prairie du Chien Group and the Cambrian sandstones are the major water-yielding rocks in the sandstone aquifer. The Prairie du Chien Group is the uppermost-saturated bedrock in much of the county and is used extensively for private residential water supplies. The ability of the Cambrian sandstone to store and yield water, and its generally great thickness makes it the principal source of municipal water supplies. The St. Peter Sandstone is found in a small area and is partly saturated and yields some water to wells.

The source of all groundwater recharge in St. Croix County including Town of Star Prairie is precipitation. Between one and ten inches of precipitation per year infiltrates and recharges the groundwater aquifers. The amount infiltrated depends mainly on the type of rock material at the land surface. Most groundwater moves through the unconsolidated material and bedrock units and then discharges to surface waters, such as lakes, rivers and wetlands.

The **Depth to Groundwater, Elevation Map** shows the elevation of the top of the zone of saturation in the Town of Star Prairie. The elevation from sea level of the water table ranges from more than 960 feet along the eastern edge of the town to just under 840 feet in the southwestern corner of the town. The water table is under the glacial drift and within the bedrock in about half of St. Croix County.

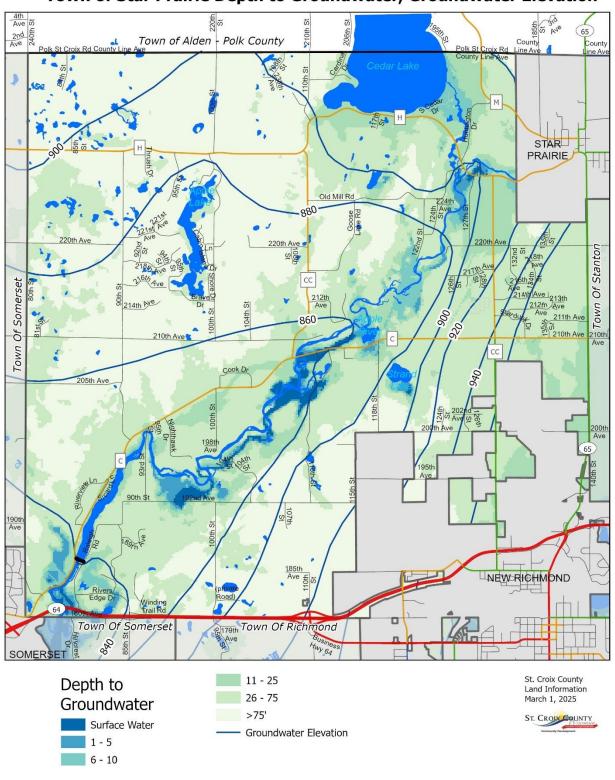
High Susceptibility Pollution Areas

Groundwater supplies potable (drinkable) water to the residents of Star Prairie. Some land areas, because of inherent physical resource characteristics, do not attenuate (lessen the impact of) pollutants very well, which may be introduced into the environment. These areas should be protected from certain high-risk land uses and have best management practices and monitoring established, especially when in proximity to any wells that supply drinking water. Groundwater can be adversely affected when contaminants are released into or spilled upon the ground. Some factors influencing an aquifer's susceptibility to pollution are depth to groundwater and bedrock, type of bedrock, sub-surface permeability and the soil's ability to lessen the impact of pollutants. See the **Depth to Groundwater**, **Elevation Map** below.

High-risk activities-such as a business or industry using hazardous materials pose serious threats to groundwater and should be kept out of the immediate recharge areas of public and private wells. Point sources of groundwater contamination can include chemical spills, landfills, failing septic systems, abandoned wells, etc. However, non-point pollution of groundwater from agricultural run-off, lawn fertilizers, contaminants in stormwater and improper disposal of household chemicals (e.g. bleach, used motor oil, paints, etc.) can also cause groundwater pollution.

Depth to Groundwater, Elevation Map

Town of Star Prairie Depth to Groundwater, Groundwater Elevation



Groundwater Quality

The sandstone aquifer underlies all of St. Croix County and is the principal source of water for residential, municipal and industrial supplies. The quality of groundwater in the Town of Star Prairie is generally good. However, historic, voluntary well tests have identified some existing and potential problems. Groundwater in Star Prairie is classified as hard or very hard due to the presence of calcium and magnesium. Iron and manganese are found in water from all of St. Croix County's aquifers. Concentrations greater than the recommended limits are common. Nitrate concentrations in the water are localized but can be an issue throughout the county. The St. Croix County Community Development Department offers various programs throughout the year that provide residents with opportunities to test their private well water. More information on the St. Croix County website.

A former municipal landfill, northwest of the City of New Richmond, has impacted wells in the Town of Star Prairie with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) at levels above state drinking water standards. Since 2002, the plume of groundwater contamination has been identified and a DNR Special Deep Casing Requirement Area identified. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) continues to monitor the groundwater quality. Please see **WI DNR Special Well Casing Area Map** below. City of New Richmond extended water to residential property affected by the contamination. The Town of Star Prairie established a water utility district, Star Prairie Water District #1, to manage the water service and any expansion to additional sites. For additional information please see the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource website.

There are three former dumps in the town. Two are owned by the City of New Richmond and were used for its waste disposal. The largest, a 40-acre site, is located in Section 27 at the intersection of 115th Street and 195th Avenue. The second was a 10-15 acre site, found in Section 34 off 185th Ave. The third was a 1.25 acre dump site in Section 9, south of CTH H.

Wellhead Protection Areas

Municipal water suppliers are required by state administrative code to establish wellhead protection measures for new wells. It is also appropriate to establish protection measures for existing public water supply wells to protect the public health, safety and welfare, and to reduce public costs should a pollution event occur. Because it is difficult to adequately react to a pollution event that occurs in proximity to a well strict prohibitions of certain high-risk land uses should be established for that area (within the 30-day time of travel of contributing groundwater to a well). Certain high-risk land uses should be limited, and best management practices and monitoring established in the area between the 30-day and five-year time of travel of contributing groundwater to a public water supply well. The City of New Richmond has a well-head protection ordinance.

WI DNR Special Well Casing Area Map

Special Well Casing Area



Source: Well Driller Viewer; https://dnrmaps.wi.gov/H5?viewer=Well Driller Viewer

Special Casing Area Name: Town of Star Prairie - Area 118 - Formerly 32A

Date Enacted: Nov 10, 2002 6:00 PM

sampled for VOCs within 30 days of completion, and annually until the Department determines sampling is no longer required. Cost of sampling is a responsibility annular space shall be sealed with neat cement grout using a pressure method according to the requirements of s NR 812.20, Wis. Adm. Code. All wells shall be of the well owner unless other parties volunteer or are ordered by DNR to sample. VARIANCES: A variance to these special casing requirements may be granted Requirements: Minimum Special Requirements Ten-inch diameter upper enlarged drillhole to a minimum depth of 50 feet into the Cambrian Sandstone. Entire with conditions. Contact DNR Northern District Office for variance requirements.

Private Water Supply Specialists can help with private water well contamination, well and pump installation, well location..

Floodplains

Wisconsin Statute requires counties, cities and villages to implement floodplain zoning. The purpose of Wisconsin Administrative Code, Floodplain Management Program, is the protection of property and public investments from the effects of flooding. Federal Emergency Management Agency 100-year floodplain maps are usually used to delineate flood hazard areas. Counties are required to adopt reasonable and effective floodplain zoning ordinances within one year after hydraulic and engineering data adequate to formulate the ordinance becomes available. St. Croix County has adopted and implemented a floodplain ordinance into the county zoning ordinance. This ordinance is effective in all towns. Please see **Floodplain Shoreline Map** below.

Shorelands

Lands within 1000 feet of the ordinary high water mark of a lake or pond and 300 feet past the ordinary high water mark or landward edge of the floodplain, which ever is greater, of a river or stream are designated shorelands. Shorelands are usually considered prime residential building areas because of their scenic beauty. However, shorelands provide valuable habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial animals and vegetation. Shorelands also act as buffers and thus serve to protect water quality.

Wisconsin requires counties to protect and prevent the loss and erosion of these valuable resources by adopting and enforcing a shoreland ordinance. The authority to enact and enforce this provision comes from Wisconsin Statutes. Wisconsin Administrative Code dictates the shoreland management program. County ordinances can be more, but not less, stringent. Town approval is not required. Counties may permit only certain uses in wetlands of five acres or more within the shoreland zone.

The state requirement of shoreland zoning were adopted by St. Croix County and incorporated as part of the county's zoning ordinance. Shoreland zoning requirements in St. Croix County's ordinance permit only certain uses in wetlands of three acres or more within the shoreland zone. This ordinance is effective in all towns. The shorelands of Star Prairie are shown in Map below. Site investigation of all floodplains and shorelands is required to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations. Please see **Floodplain Shoreline Map** below.

Steep Slopes

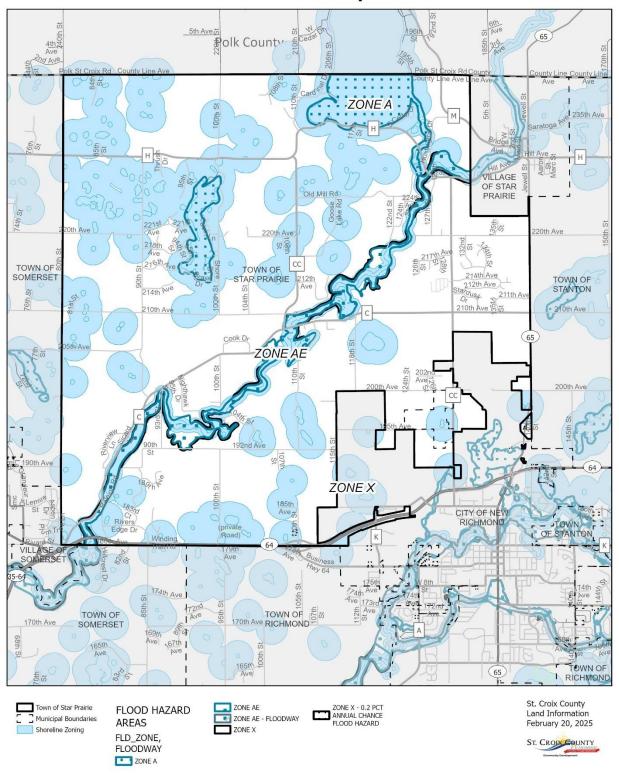
St. Croix County Code regulates steep slopes to avoid direct runoff into streams or rivers; follow state approved construction site erosion control standards; institute best management practices, monitoring and maintenance to control on-site runoff and pollution. Please see **Steep Slope Closed Depressions Map** below.

Closed Depressions

Closed depressions are extremely sensitive land features because of their close association with the groundwater. The release of pollutants into or near closed depressions is almost certain to reach groundwater immediately. Closed depressions are common features in St. Croix County. They have formed through two quite different geological processes: karst development and glaciation. Many of the depressions in the western and northwestern portions of the county are kettles that developed in the St. Croix moraine after it was deposited during the Wisconsinan glaciation. Please see **Steep Slope Closed Depressions Map** below.

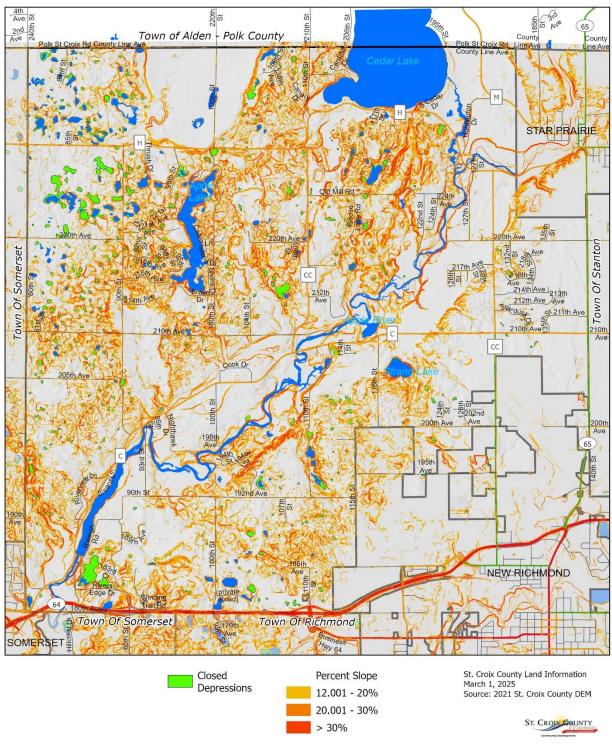
Floodplain Shoreland Map

Town of Star Prairie Floodplain Shoreline



Steep Slope Closed Depressions Map

Town of Star Prairie Steep Slope and Closed Depressions



Woodlands

Woodlands provide habitat for a variety of plants and animals, as well as adding scenic beauty to the landscape. The largest, continuous blocks of forested land are important habitat for a variety of plants and animals. Woodlands managed according to approved forest management practices can support varying and sometimes complementary objectives, such as timber production or wildlife habitat. Pine plantations, which are cultivated and managed, offer little in the way of natural habitat. See **Woodland, Grassland Map** below.

Prairie and Grasslands

The majority of the Town of Star Prairie was originally covered by prairie, most of which does not remain today. Prairies, which are dominated by grasses and forbs (flowers), lack trees and tall shrubs, and are home to a rich variety of plants and animals. Prairies and grasslands can be restored and maintained through preserving a certain amount of open space for this type of cover as development occurs and preserve the rural character of the landscape. See **Woodland**, **Grassland Map** below.

Oak Savanna

Portions of the Town of Star Prairie were originally covered by oak savanna. Only scant remnants of the complete ecosystem exist today. Oak savanna is the ecosystem that historically was a part of a larger complex bordered by the prairies of the west and the forests of the east. Savannas, considered to be the middle of the continuum between prairie and forest, were a mosaic of plant types maintained by wildfire and possibly large ungulates such as bison and elk. Encourage any identified oak savanna remnants to be maintained.

Wildlife Natural Areas

All existing federal, state and local wildlife and fisheries areas are managed to provide important feeding, breeding, nesting, cover and other habitat values to a wide variety of plant and animal species (See **Public Land, Open Space and Parks Map** in the Utilities and Community Facilities chapter). The areas also provide a recreational and open space function to local communities. The WDNR, Bureau of Endangered Resources conducts data searches for natural and scientific areas of national, state or local significance. The Bureau urges special notice be taken to protect any and all natural or scientific areas from development.

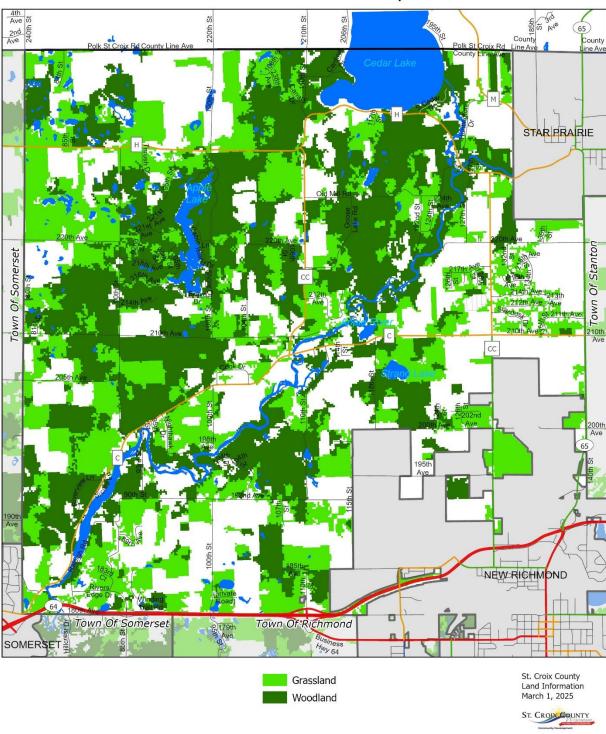
Rare or endangered species and communities are very sensitive to certain kinds of encroachment in their surroundings. Development on or near the locations of rare or endangered species can further threaten their status and survival.

Recreation and Open Space

Recreation and open space areas provide natural resource based recreation, open space and scenic amenities. The areas preserve unique physical features, certain plant communities and quality wildlife habitat for natural interpretation. Natural resource based outdoor recreation, park, open space and scenic areas are designated for low intensity uses. The uses do not include golf courses, ball diamonds, soccer fields, high intensity or service campgrounds, etc., as these uses are better suited to previously disturbed uplands which can be converted. See **Public Land, Open Space Map** below.

Woodland Grassland Map

Town of Star Prairie Woodland, Grassland



Source: Wiscland 2 Land Cover, WDNR, UW Madison, Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office. 2010-2013.

Environmental Corridors

Environmental corridors are significant areas of environmental resources characterized by continuous systems of open space, physical features, environmentally sensitive lands and natural or cultural resources which can be adversely impacted by development. This system of identifying environmental corridors was developed as part of the St. Croix County Development Management Plan. The system was created with a great deal of input and consideration from similar systems in the state. It is a way to inventory and organize environmental features.

Environmental corridors offer a mechanism to identify, evaluate and devise protection or management strategies for the most apparent valued resources in the county. However, considering environmental corridors does not address the overall natural resource base of the county including surface or ground water quality, fisheries, wildlife, manageable forests and the diversity of plants and animals.

The environmental corridors mechanism does not address retaining agriculture and rural character, managing stormwater better, preserving or creating a sense of place, and reducing infrastructure costs. Managing development in environmental corridors with best practices in engineering, site design, and construction is crucial to the preservation of these valuable resources. The Environmental Corridors Map, below, identifies the environmental areas. The following criteria were used to designate environmental corridors and resources.

Primary Environmental Corridor

- Linear in nature, often arising from a dominant feature or focal point, such as a waterbody or geologic feature
- At least three environmental resources present
- At least 400 acres in size
- At least two miles long
- At least 200 feet wide

Secondary Environmental Corridor

- At least two environmental resources present
- At least 100 acres in size
- Approximately one mile long or longer
- No minimum width

Independent Environmental Resources

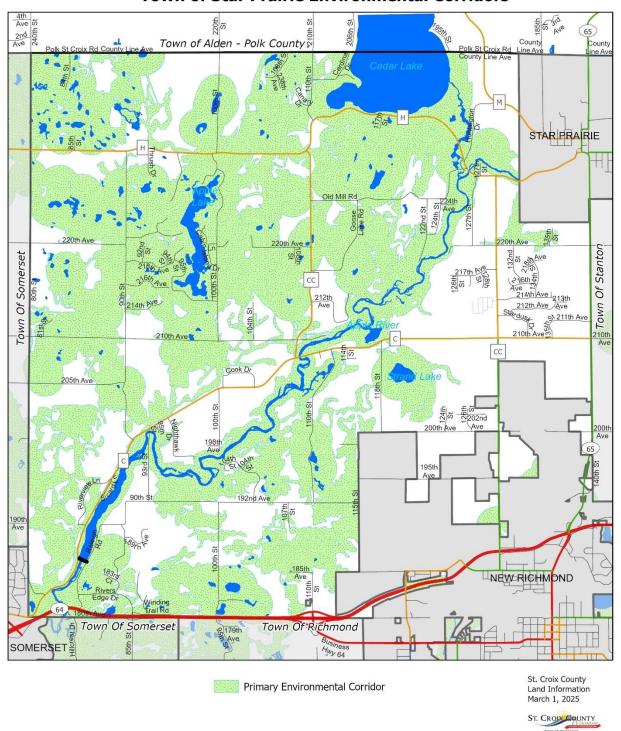
- At least one valued resource present
- No minimum size
- Separated from environmental corridors by intervening land or small, narrow features abutting environmental corridors

Environmental Corridors:

- 1. Lakes
- 2. Ponds
- 3. Rivers
- 4. Streams
- 5. Intermittent Waterways
- 6. Natural Drainageways
- 7. Wetlands
- 8. Shorelands
- 9. Floodplains
- 10. Steep Slopes
- 11. Geologic Formations
- 12. Physiographic Features
- 13. Highly Erodible Soils
- 14. Wet, Poorly Drained Organic Soils
- 15. Closed Depressions
- 16. Wellhead Protection Areas
- 17. Woodlands
- 18. Prairie
- 19. Rare or Endangered Species and Communities
- 20. Historical and Archeological Sites
- 21. Scenic Areas

Environmental Corridors Map

Town of Star Prairie Environmental Corridors



Invasive Species

Non-native species from other regions and continents displace native species, disrupt ecosystems, hamper boating and harm recreational activities such as fishing and hiking. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has identified invasive species and documented the harm they cause to commercial, agricultural, and aquaculture resources on their web pages.

Prevention & Management

While some invasives are here to stay and the only solutions are manual or biological control, others can be prevented. Here are things you can do:

Boaters, Sailors, Anglers & Paddlers

- Inspect your boat, trailer and equipment and remove visible aquatic plants, animals and mud.
- Drain water from your boat, motor, bilge, live wells and bait containers.
- Dispose of leftover bait in the trash, not in the water or on land. Never move live fish, including minnows, from one water to another.
- Buy your minnows from licensed Wisconsin bait dealers or catch your own and use it to fish the water you caught it from.
- Wash your boat and equipment with high pressure or hot water, OR let it dry for 5 days

Campers and Recreational Users

- Leave firewood at home. Buy it within a 50-mile radius of your campsite.
- Burn all wood during your trip.
- Inspect clothing and equipment for seeds, insects, etc. before leaving your camping area.

Landowners and Gardeners

- Use native plant species whenever possible.
- Dispose of seeds in the trash.
- Be on the lookout for invasive species. Identify and report populations of target weed species identified by WDNR.
- Respond aggressively to rid your land of new invasive species.
- Leave native trees and plants alone; natural landscapes offer the best defense.
- Eliminate or contain populations before they spread.
- Coordinate long-term monitoring of occurrence sites.
- Clean your clothes, bicycles, ATV's, etc before leaving a site that is infested with invasive plants.

Cultural Resources

Preservation of historic, archeological, cultural and scenic resources in the Town of Star Prairie will foster a sense of pride in the community, improve quality of life, contribute to the preservation of rural character, encourage low-impact tourism and provide an important feeling of social and cultural continuity between the past, present and future. Section map below printed 1897.



Historic Resources

The following list was compiled from the 1983 Wisconsin State Historical Society resources list, Wisconsin Archeological Site Inventory database, local historical groups, newspaper stories and resident knowledge. None of the sites listed are on the State or National Register of Historic Places. Mapped archeological sites are predominantly burial sites. Under Wisconsin law, Native American burial mounds, unmarked burials and all marked and unmarked cemeteries are protected from intentional disturbance. Reference the History section in the Introduction chapter for more town history.

	Town of Star Prairie				
#	Historic Site	Section			
1	Unnamed Site Prehistoric and Woodland Campsite/village, Sections 2 & 3.	2			
2	Doug Rivard Farmstead, Polk/St. Croix Road, Section 4.	4			
3	Orville Mosher Collection Prehistoric Campsite/village, Sections 8, 9 & 36	8			
4	Squaw Lake School, now a single-family home, Section 9.	9			
5	Unnamed Site Prehistoric Campsite/village, Section 11.	11			
	Huntingdon dam structure footings & remnants located on the Apple River, St. Croix County's				
6	Apple River County Park Property, Section 11.	11			
	Campbell's Mill structure footings & remnants located near the flume and behind the Cedar				
7	Creek Inn on Cedar Creek, Section 11.	11			
8	Oakland Cemetery, platted in 1893, CTH CC, Section 13.	13			
	McClure dam structure footings & remnants located on the Apple River, Harlan Vehrs & Leon Orr				
9	properties, Section 14.	14			
10	Harlan Vehrs Windmill, CTH C, Section 14.	14			
11	Louie Lake trading post	15			
12	Bob & Alice Talmage Windmill, 118th St., Section 18.	18			
	The old Town Hall, also known as the Riverview School, Johannesburg, built in 1923, CTHs C and				
13	CC, Section 21.	21			
14	Jeff Levy & MaryEllen Stewart House & Farmstead, 110th St., Section 21.	21			
15	Possible Indian Mound and Prehistoric Campsite/village around Strand Lake, Section 23.	23			
16	First School in Star Prairie, now the Genevieve Francois Farm Granary, Section 23.				
17	Wall Street School, now a single-family home known as the Berget House, Section 23.	23			
18	Genevieve Francois House & Farmstead, CTH CC, Section 23.	23			
19	Pamela & Bruce Emerson Century Farm, 2087 CTH CC, established 1889, 118 years, Section 24.				
20	Unnamed Gravesite, Prehistoric Campsite/village, Section 25.	25			
	Student Conservation Association (SCA) and other Unnamed Historic and Prehistoric				
21	Campsite/village, Section 25.	25			
22	Gerald Backes Windmill & Farmstead, 110th St., Section 28.	28			
23	Lyle and Ruth Halvorson Century Farm, 1987 93rd Street, established 1881, 126 years, Section 29.	29			
24	Riverdale School, now a single-family home, Section 29.	29			
25	Maitrejean Prehistoric Campsite/village, Section 30.	30			
26	Riverdale Prehistoric Campsite/village, Section 30.	30			
27	Rivard Prehistoric Campsite/village, Section 31	31			
28	Riverdale Dam Powerhouse on Riverdale Flowage, CTH C, Section 31.	31			
29	Phillips' Graves, Section 36.	36			
30	Ron Engh Barn, site of first Barn Art Fair.				

Scenic Resources

Scenic beauty is an important cultural resource in Star Prairie. There are numerous local areas that offer stunning views of the landscape, landmarks (i.e. hills) and bodies of water. In the following list, various resources and agencies have been consulted and the Town Board and Plan Commission has identified areas of high scenic value where there should be preservation efforts.

	Town of Star Prairie				
#	Scenic Resource	Description	Section		
1	Apple River	The stream velocity of this short, steep river once powered as many as 70 mills, several of which became settlements. There are several very scenic sites. Canoeing from Huntingdon to the Riverdale Flowage is popular. Tubing also occurs on short stretches, especially below Huntingdon where there are short, fast waters. There are some wide wetlands below Johannesburg and several areas of the river are still very natural and undeveloped.	Sections 14, 15, 21 & 29		
	Louie Lake on	Public land ownership and a public access to Louie Lake and its associated wetlands is very desirable			
2	l	for protection of the fishery and water resources.	Sections 15 & 22		
	Apple River	Wetland complexes with broad grass wetlands provide water quality protection, fish habitat and			
3	Wetlands	open space.	Sections 21 & 22		
	Strand Lake	Possible historic Indian mound, potentially a significant fishery,			
4	Strand Lake	may need aeration.	Sections 22 & 23		
5	Apple River Unnamed Tributary Creek	There are three unnamed tributary creeks that feed into the Apple River. They are all identified as trout streams and have native brook trout in them. Two are in the Village of Star Prairie. The third is about 200 feet long located at the north end of section 14. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Waterfowl Production Area managed for waterfowl habitat with ongoing	Section 14		
6	Prairie Flats North WPA	wetland and prairie restoration. Open for hunting, fishing, environmental education and interpretation and wildlife observation and photography. Motorized vehicles and horseback riding are not allowed.	Sections 5, 6, & 8 220 Acres		
7	Prairie Flats South WPA	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Waterfowl Production Area managed for waterfowl habitat with ongoing wetland and prairie restoration. Open for hunting, fishing, environmental education and interpretation and wildlife observation and photography. Motorized vehicles and horseback riding are not allowed.	Section 7 320 Acres		
8	Apple Lake Wetlands	Wetlands are largely depressional areas in woodlands and in some cropland and pastureland. Soils are generally very light and wetlands are widely scattered. They are quite picturesque with many areas of open water with aesthetically pleasing aquatic plants such as water lilies and other emergents. Waterfowl use is high. Some of these wetlands are marginal fish ponds and serve as focal points for many resident and migratory forms of wildlife.	Sections 5, 6, 7 , 8		
	South Cedar	Boardwalk to winter ice-fishing and summer canoe access, benches, picnic tables & parking lot.	Section 3		
9	Bay Landing	Owned and maintained by the Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust.	1.3 Acres		
10	McMurtrie Preserve	Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust education property with access to Cedar Lake and Cedar Creek. Facilities being developed include improved road access, pavilion, toilet facilities, trails, pedestrian lake access and parking lot.	Section 2 65 Acres		
11	Cedar Creek	Easement or acquisition along Cedar Creek between the McMurtrie Preserve and St. Croix County's Apple River Property to connect these two resources and protect the water quality.	Sections 2 & 11		
	Remnant	There are two high-quality remnant prairie sites in the Town that would be a high priority for			
12	Prairie Sites	protection by the Western Prairie Habitat Restoration Area of the DNR.	Sections 22 & 28		
13	Wetlands	Wetlands along 110th Street are valuable for waterfowl production and wildlife areas.	Section 27 80 Acres		
	New Richmond	• · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Section 33		
14	Archery Club	Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust is acquiring the land from the club for open space preservation.	40 Acres		
	Star Prairie	High quality agricultural production area with high historic and agricultural resource significance to	Sections 4, 5, 6, 7		
15	Flats	Star Prairie and St. Croix County. Identified as an agricultural heritage area in 1976.	1,000 acres		
16	110th Street	This scenic road has wetlands, historic farmstead and native prairie along it and is an excellent candidate for the state's rustic road designation.	Sections 21, 22, 27 & 28, from CTH C to 192nd Ave.		
17	Old Mill Road	This scenic road has wetlands, historic farmlands, native prairie, the Apple River County Park and the remnants of the McClure Dam structure along it. It is an excellent candidate for the state's rustic road designation.	Sections 10 & 11, from CTH CC to CTH H		

Cultural Resources Programs

Several federal, state, and regional programs exist to protect the town's resources. The list below includes relevant agricultural, natural and cultural resources plans and programs. Specific to culture, the town may consider registering historic resources. The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation's official list of historic places worthy of preservation, maintained by the National Park Service in the U.S. Department of the Interior. The State Register is Wisconsin's official list of state properties determined to be significant to

Wisconsin's heritage. Both registers include buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects that are significant in national, state or local history. In addition, both registers include resources related to architecture, archaeology, engineering or culture.

Town of Star Prairie Old Town Hall pictured right.

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Plans & Programs



- 2. USDA Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
- 3. USDA Landscape Conservation Initiatives
- 4. Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) Program
- 5. Wisconsin Working Lands Program Working Lands for Wildlife Wisconsin
- 6. Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program Wis. Stats. §91 WI Farmland Preservation Program
- 7. Farmland Use Value Assessment WI Department of Revenue
- 8. State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Livestock Facility Siting Ordinances Wis. Stats. §93.90 & ATCP 51 and SCC Chapter 15
- 9. University of Wisconsin-Extension UW-Extension support in agribusiness, land use and soil management
- 10. St. Croix County Rural Living Guide
- 11. St. Croix County Comprehensive Plan including Farmland Preservation Plan
- 12. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- 13. National Register of Historic Places
- 14. Wisconsin Historical Society State Register of Historic Places
- 15. National Trust for Historic Preservation
- 16. Wisconsin Department of Transportation Rustic Road program
- 17. Federal Scenic Byway Program
- 18. Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025
- 19. Western Wisconsin Conservation Council
- 20. Western Prairie Ecological Landscape
- 21. Western Prairie Habitat Restoration Area Fact sheet
- 22. Western Prairie Regional Master Plan
- 23. Wisconsin Conservation Easements Trout Regulations and Opportunity User Tool
- 24. Wisconsin Trout Stream Classification
- 25. <u>Wisconsin Outstanding Resource Waters Map</u>

Economic Development

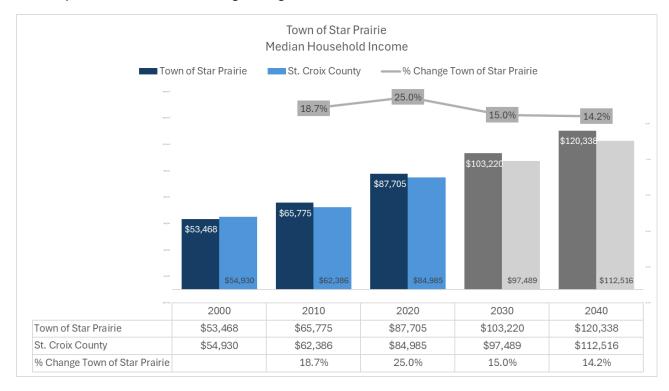
Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001 "Contents of a comprehensive plan," states the following regarding the comprehensive plan economic development element.

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

The economy of a community can be an important determining factor driving land use and development. The incomes of Town of Star Prairie residents are directly related to employment and other economic opportunities, and employment is dependent on the local, county and regional economies. Property values and taxation rates can reveal economic trends and relative differences between communities.

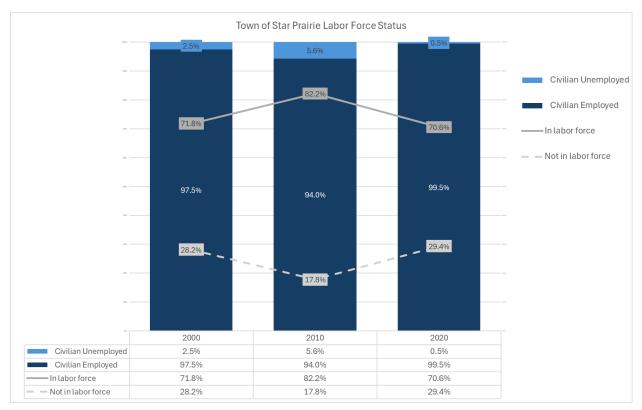
Income

The graph and table below show a comparison of median household income for Town of Star Prairie and St. Croix County from 2000 to 2020. According to Census data, the Town of Star Prairie's median income in 2010 and 2020 was slightly above St. Croix County, which was a change from 2000. Projections are calculated with an extrapolation based on the average changes from 2000 to 2020.



Labor Force and Employment

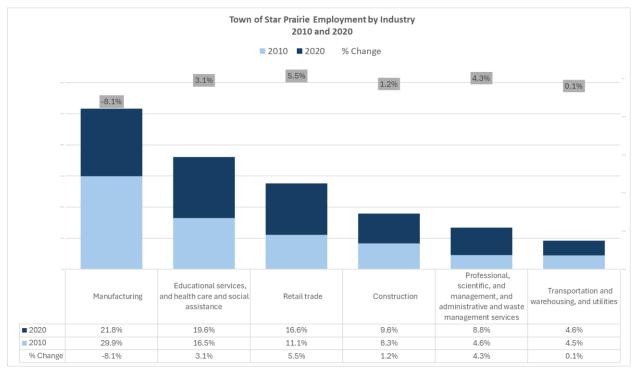
The graph and table below show the labor force status of Town of Star Prairie residents from 2000 to 2020. According to Census data, the labor force has fluctuated in Town of Star Prairie with highest percentage of residents in the labor force in 2010 (82.2%). The percentage of residents in the labor force has decreased from 2010 to 2020. The percentage of civilian unemployed has decreased from 2010 to 2020.



Town of Star Prairie Labor Force Status									
	2000	%	2010	%	2020	%			
Total: Population 16 years and over	2,273		2,611		2,783				
In labor force:	1633	71.8%	2146	82.2%	1,966	70.6%			
Civilian labor force:	1633	100.0%	2138	99.6%	1,966	100.0%			
Employed	1592	97.5%	2017	94.0%	1,957	99.5%			
Unemployed	41	2.5%	121	5.6%	9	0.5%			
Armed Forces	2.5	0.2%	8	0.4%	-	0.0%			
Not in labor force	640	28.2%	465	17.8%	817	29.4%			
US Census, American Community Surve	.v	•	•	•					

Employment Industry

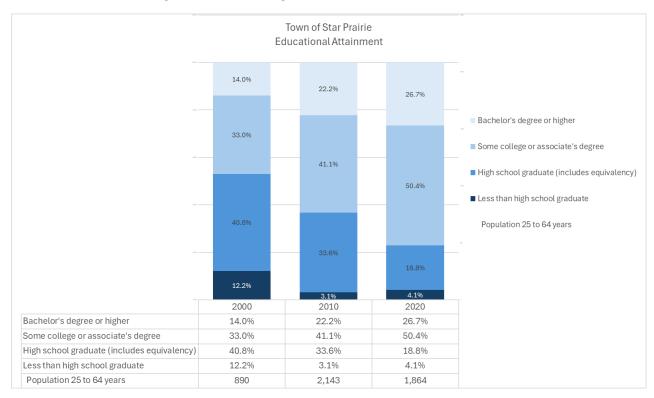
In 2020, the top 3 employment industries of residents in the Town of Star Prairie include: 1) Manufacturing, 2) Education, health care & social assistance, and 3) Retail trade. The graph and table below show the town residents' employment by industry for 2010 and 2020 and percent change. According to the Census, employment industry percentages that decreased from 2010 to 2020 include manufacturing, finance, and agriculture, forestry. Industry percentages that increased from 2010 to 2020 include retail trade, professional services, and education.



Town of Star Prairie Resident Employment by Industry Percent	2010	2020	% Change
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	2017	1957	
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	1.7%	0.0%	-1.7%
Information	2.9%	1.9%	-1.0%
Public administration	1.2%	2.6%	1.4%
Wholesale trade	2.2%	2.7%	0.4%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	6.5%	3.2%	-3.3%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	4.8%	4.0%	-0.8%
Other services, except public administration	5.8%	4.6%	-1.2%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	4.5%	4.6%	0.1%
Professional, scientific, and management, administrative and waste management services	4.6%	8.8%	4.3%
Construction	8.3%	9.6%	1.2%
Retail trade	11.1%	16.6%	5.5%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	16.5%	19.6%	3.1%
Manufacturing	29.9%	21.8%	-8.1%
US Census, American Community Survey	100.0%	100.0%	

Education

Education levels of residents in the Town of Star Prairie are increasing. The graph and table below display the educational attainment level of residents in town that were age 25 to 64 in 2000, 2010, and 2020. The educational attainment level has consistently increased since 2000. The percentage of residents with a Bachelor's degree or higher has increased from 14% in 2000 to 27% in 2020. Likewise, the percentage of residents with some college or associate's degree increased from 33% in 2000 to 50% in 2020.



Employers

The purpose of this list of employers is to gather a general idea of the employment opportunities located within the Town of Star Prairie. The following list was originally gathered from the 2010 comprehensive plan and updated with available information regarding operating businesses and estimated employment. Please contact business owners for current information.

	Town of Star Prairie Employers								
	Business	Estimated Employment	Product or Service						
1	Apostle Septic Service	2	Septic Systems						
2	Bristol Ridge Golf Course	2 year-round, full-time; 30 seasonal part-time	Recreation & Food Service						
3	Cedar Creek Inn	3 full-time, 9 part-time	Food Service						
4	Cedar Lake Speedway & Arena	6 year-round employees; 75 seasonal employees	Car Racing						
5	Chuck Nutzmann & Sons	4	Excavation						
6	Eagle Storage	1	Storage Units						
7	Garden Expressions	1-2	Greenhouse						
8	Gary's Scrap Metal	1-4	Recycling Metals						
9	Highway 65 Storage	1	Storage Units						
10	Jackelen's Landing	1	Private Boat Landing						
11	Meister's	6-10	Restaurant & Bar						
12	Mondor Excavation	4	Excavating & Septic						
13	The Post Bar & Grill	5 full-time, 15 part-time	Restaurant & Bar						
14	Oswald's Tractor Repair	1	Tractor Repair						
15	Power's Processing	2	Meat processing						
16	Power's Septic	2	Septic Systems						
17	Raboin's Auto Repair	3	Auto Body Repair						
18	River's Edge	14-18 full-time, 35-40 full-time seasonal, 20-25 part-time seasonal	Restaurant Campground & Tubing						
19	S&S Coating	5-9	Teflon finishing & Coating						
20	St. Croix Harley Davidson	20-30	Motorcycle Sales, Service & Retail						
21	T-N-T Metals	5	Welding						
22	Valley Custom Oak	3	Cabinetry						
23	Xcel Energy	1-2	Power Dam						
	Source: Town of Star Prairie officials a	and staff							

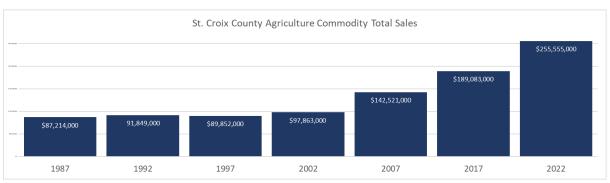
Economic Impact of Agriculture

Agriculture is an important part of the economic base of St. Croix County. The dairy industry continues to be one of the main sources of farm income in the County.

County Sales and Labor

The following table and graph show the sales, expenses, labor and government payments for St. Croix County agriculture producers from 1987-2022 Ag Census data. Total sales in the county have consistently increased since 1987, with one slight exception in 1997. The same trend is revealed in total farm production expenses. The data shows that hired farm labor number of operations and number of workers have generally decreased since 1992. Farm labor wages have consistently increased from 1992 to 2022.

tem	1987	1992	1997	2002	2007	2017	2022	Notes
Total Sales	\$87,214,000	\$91,849,00	\$89,852,000	\$97,863,000	\$142,521,000	\$189,083,000	\$255,555,000	Commodity totals sales
Total Sales Average per Farm	\$85,840	\$105,816	\$119,009	\$52,502	\$78,828	\$130,944	\$214,391	Average Farm Income
Total Farm Production Expenses	\$69,510,00	\$78,990,000	\$74,569,000	\$85,449,000	\$125,694,000	\$147,980,000	\$199,518,000	Expense totals, operating
Total Farm Production Expenses Average per Farm	\$44,105	\$56,786	\$49,059	\$45,695	\$69,521	\$102,479	\$167,381	Average Farm Expenses
Hired Farm Labor (farms)	NA	607	468	297	355	368	216	Labor, hired operations
Hired Farm Labor (workers)	NA	1,817	1,591	1,210	1,310	1,238	996	Labor (# w orkers
Hired Farm Labor (wages)	NA	\$6,164,000	\$6,122,000	\$9,805,000	\$14,123,000	\$15,771,000	\$18,755,000	Labor hired expense total
Total Government Payments	\$6,678,000	\$4,457,000	\$5,240,556	\$5,677,000	\$4,957,000	\$1,778,000	\$2,542,000	Gov Programs Fer Receipts





Brownfields

Brownfields are abandoned, idle or underused commercial or industrial properties with real or perceived contamination. Brownfields present public health, economic, environmental and social challenges to the communities in which they are located. As of February 2025, there were two open sites located in Star Prairie listed in the WI Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS). Visit WDNR website for more information.

Economic Development Plans and Programs

There are a variety of local, regional and statewide economic development plans and tools available to municipalities listed below.

Federal Agencies & Programs

- U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wisconsin Rural Development Programs
- <u>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</u> Contaminated sites nation priorities
- US Small Business Administration (SBA)

State Agencies & Programs

- 1. Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
- 2. Wisconsin Economic Development Association
- 3. Wisconsin Department of Administration
- 4. Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation
- 5. Wisconsin Department of Tourism
- 6. <u>Wisconsin Department of Agriculture</u>, Trade and Consumer Protection Agricultural Development and Diversification (ADD) Grant Program
- 7. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- 8. Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA)
- 9. Wisconsin Department of Transportation
- 10. Wisconsin Brownfields Redevelopment and Reuse Initiative
- 11. Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
- 12. Wisconsin Business AnswerLine

Regional and Local Agencies & Programs

- 1. Momentum West
- 2. West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- 3. St. Croix Economic Development Corporation
- 4. St. Croix County, University of Wisconsin-Extension, Cooperative Extension, Baldwin
- 5. St. Croix County Job Center, New Richmond
- 6. Chippewa Valley Technical College Employment Services, River Falls
- 7. University of Wisconsin River Falls Career Services, River Falls
- 8. Wisconsin Northwood Technical College Employment Services, New Richmond website:
- 9. UW-River Falls Small Business Development Center (SBDC), River Falls
- 10. Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), Eau Claire and St. Paul
- 11. Greater MSP 15-county Minneapolis-Saint Paul regional economy
- 12. Greater St. Croix Valley Partnership between St. Croix, and Dunn County EDCs
- 13. Regional Business Fund, Inc, Eau Claire low-interest loans for business expansion
- 14. New Richmond Area Economic Development Corporation (New Richmond)

Intergovernmental Cooperation

Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001 "Contents of a comprehensive plan," states the following regarding the comprehensive plan intergovernmental cooperation element.

Intergovernmental cooperation element. A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps, and programs for joint planning and decision making with other jurisdictions, including school districts, drainage districts, and adjacent local governmental units, for siting and building public facilities and sharing public services. The element shall analyze the relationship of the local governmental unit to school districts, drainage districts, and adjacent local governmental units, and to the region, the state and other governmental units. The element shall consider, to the greatest extent possible, the maps and plans of any military base or installation, with at least 200 assigned military personnel or that contains at least 2,000 acres, with which the local governmental unit shares common territory. The element shall incorporate any plans or agreements to which the local governmental unit is a party under s. 66.0301, 66.0307 or 66.0309. The element shall identify existing or potential conflicts between the local governmental unit and other governmental units that are specified in this paragraph and describe processes to resolve such conflicts.

Intergovernmental communication, coordination and cooperation can make a significant difference in the implementation and administration of a comprehensive plan. Intergovernmental cooperation can be developed over time. This section explores the relationships between the Town of Star Prairie and other municipalities, agencies and others; identifies existing and potential conflicts and offers processes to resolve conflicts and build cooperative relationships.

Existing Intergovernmental Relationships

The Town of Star Prairie cooperates with the following jurisdictions to provide services to town residents. A summary of the jurisdictions, services provided, existing or potential conflicts, and resolutions is provided in the table with more information in the text below.

Jurisdiction	Service	Conflicts	Resolution
	Zoning and Land Use Ordinances	No	Meetings
St. Cusin Country	Recycling	No	NA
	Emergency Services	No	NA
St. Croix County	Public Health	No	NA
	Highway road maintenance	No	NA
	Parks, trails, recreation	No	NA
	Annexation, plat review and zoning	No	Meetings
	Ambulance and Fire Service	No	NA
	Recycling	No	NA
City of New Richmond	City park development	No	NA
	Roads and trails	No	NA
	Water District #1	No	NA
	New Richmond Airport Commission	No	Meetings
Village of Somerset	Roads, Fire protection	No	NA
Village of Star Prairie	Prairie Land use, Comprehensive Plan		NA
Surrounding Towns	Land use, Comprehensive Plan	No	NA
School Districts	School facilities, district boundary	No	NA

St. Croix County

The relationship with St. Croix County is one of the most important intergovernmental relationships the Town of Star Prairie has at this time.

Zoning and Land Use

The Town of Star Prairie adopted County Zoning and shares that responsibility with the County. The Town relies on county staff reports to provide information about zoning change requests, ordinance interpretations, special exceptions, variances and ongoing enforcement. Star Prairie relies on the County work together to administer and enforce the Land Division ordinances for regulation of new development.

County ordinances regulate shoreland, floodplain, sanitary, non-metallic mining and animal waste in the Town of Star Prairie. The town works with the Planning and Zoning and Land and Water Conservation departments in the review and approval of proposed subdivisions and in water quality education, monitoring and testing.

The County Comprehensive Plan commits the county to work with the towns to coordinate and develop consistent goals and policies for comprehensive planning. The County Plan provides basic guidance on land uses and encourages the towns to further refine and expand upon that guidance.

Recycling, Emergency Services and Public Health

St. Croix County is the Responsible Unit for recycling. The town works with the County Recycling Specialist in the provision of special collection events for town residents. The St. Croix County sheriff provides law enforcement service to the Town. The town contracts with the St. Croix County Sheriff's Department for a satellite law enforcement office to encourage better service and response times for town residents. Public health care services are provided by the St. Croix County Health and Human Service Department.

Highway, Parks and Trails

The St. Croix County Highway Department provides assistance with street and road maintenance. Also, the town works with the St. Croix County Parks Department in the management of recreation facilities such as the Apple Lake boat landing.

Existing and Potential Conflicts

One potential conflict is the interpretation, administration, and enforcement of any differences in Town and County regulations.

City of New Richmond

The relationship with the City of New Richmond is the also one of the most important intergovernmental relationships the Town of Star Prairie has at this time.

The Town of Star Prairie and City of New Richmond work together on several shared services.

- 1. The town and city adopted a boundary annexation agreement to establish a growth boundary between the City of New Richmond and the Town of Star Prairie. In addition the City adopted zoning recognizing the boundary agreement.
- 2. The Town of Star Prairie is a member of the New Richmond Emergency Management Service (EMS) and Fire and Rescue Service.
- 3. The city and town have entered into an agreement to provide city water service to town residents with contaminated water and within an identified jurisdictional boundary area, Town of Star Prairie Water District #1.
- 4. A town resident serves on the New Richmond Airport Commission.

Existing and Potential Conflicts

The Boundary Agreement and Commission was created to mitigate existing and potential conflicts between the City and the Town. The Agreement includes land division and subdivision, water and sewer service, and roadways.

Village of Somerset

The Town of Star Prairie and Village of Somerset have historically worked well together to manage common road jurisdiction and maintenance concerns. Also the town and village have entered into a mutual aid agreement for fire protection to provide faster fire response to a portion of the town.

There are no existing conflicts between these two communities. Potential conflicts may include extraterritorial zoning and annexation issues along the village and town's common border and road maintenance as a result of the village's commercial and industrial traffic circulation. The town and village would hold joint meetings to discuss and negotiate resolutions to any conflicts.

Village of Star Prairie

The Village of Star Prairie and the Town of Star Prairie work well together. No conflicts between the municipalities have been identified at this time. The Town of Star Prairie and the Village of Star Prairie have a good relationship and anticipate that relationship improving during the timeframe of this plan. If there were any conflicts the Town and Village would meet to discuss and negotiate solutions to problems. The town and village would hold joint meetings to discuss and negotiate resolutions to any conflicts.

Surrounding Towns

Conflicting land use policies between adjacent towns can effect land use patterns and have desirable or undesirable effects. The Town will notify neighboring towns when major policy changes occur and develop joint solutions to issues of mutual concern. Star Prairie and the neighboring towns have historically had good cooperation on road construction and maintenance costs and have a good relationship where concerns are discussed and resolved. The town expects these good relationships to continue. In 2023 the Town of Star Prairie entered into a road maintenance agreement.

School Districts

The Town of Star Prairie is served by three different school districts, New Richmond, Osceola and Somerset. Additional capacity is unknown. Reference school enrollment numbers in Utilities and Community Facilities chapter.

Conflict Resolution

All entities will maintain an open, regular dialogue with meetings and negotiations. Explore the potential use of cooperative agreements and plans to develop solutions that benefit both organizations.

Other Partners

The Town of Star Prairie will continue to cooperate with the following other organizations and reference the programs listed in the other chapters of this plan for efficient joint planning and decision making.

- 1. West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC)
- 2. UW-Extension
- 3. Department of Transportation
- 4. Department of Natural Resources
- 5. Department of Industry Labor Human Relations
- 6. Department of Ag Trade & Consumer Protection
- 7. Department of Administration
- 8. Department of Commerce
- 9. Cedar Lake Management District
- 10. Apple Lake Management District

Land Use

Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001 "Contents of a comprehensive plan," states the following regarding the comprehensive plan land use element.

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

Existing Regulations

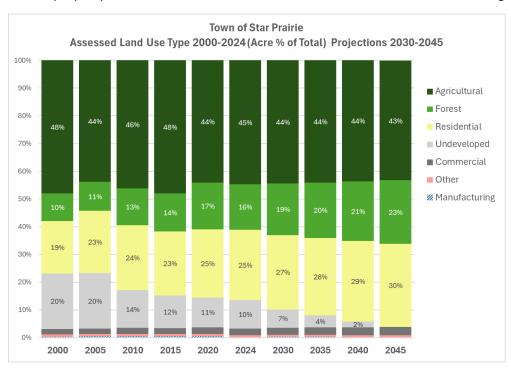
The Town of Star Prairie has adopted a variety of regulations that effect land use in the town. The list below summarizes the regulations that the town has adopted, and related St. Croix County regulations that affect the town.

Town of Star Prairie and St. Croix County Existing Regulations

Town of Star Prairie	St. Croix County				
1. Village Powers	1. County Zoning				
2. Land/Subdivision Ordinance	2. County Shoreland Zoning				
3. Manufactured/Mobile Home Park	3. County Floodplain Zoning				
Standards	4. County Junk or Related Nuisance				
4. Development Impact Fees	Ordinance				
Cooperative Boundary Agreement	5. County Animal Control Ordinance				
6. Water Utility District	6. County Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance				
7. Comprehensive Plan	7. County Comprehensive Plan				
8. Driveway Ordinance	8. County Erosion Control/Stormwater				
9. Conservation Design Ordinance	Management				
10. Telecommunications or Cell Tower	9. County Solid Waste & Recycling				
Ordinance	10. County Land and Water Conservation Pl				

Property Tax Classifications

The property tax assessed land use category percentages in the table below were gathered from the 2010 Town Comprehensive Plan, WI Department of Revenue, and St. Croix County. Land use assessment has changed in the past twenty years, specifically in agricultural, undeveloped, ag forest and forest lands. More information regarding land use assessment types is available at the WI Department of Revenue website. The data below shows assessed land use acres as a percentage of the total in general five-year increments from 2000 to 2024. The property tax classification data is used as the most current status of existing land use.



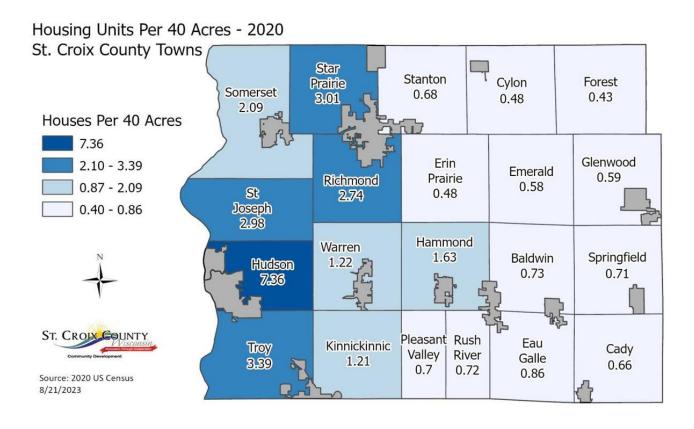
Town of Star Prairie Assessed Land Use Type Acres and Percent of Total											
	2000	2005		2010		2015		2020		2024	
	%	%	Acres								
Agricultural	48%	44%	7,898	46%	8,226	48%	8,743	44%	7,764	45%	7,761
Forest	10%	11%	1,895	13%	2,342	14%	2,495	17%	2,944	16%	2,856
Residential	19%	23%	4,067	24%	4,183	23%	4,214	25%	4,328	25%	4,425
Undeveloped	20%	20%	3,604	14%	2,416	12%	2,145	11%	1,897	10%	1,775
Commercial	2%	2%	332	2%	379	2%	389	2%	422	2%	429
Other	1%	1%	138	1%	135	1%	126	1%	134	1%	136
Manufacturing	0%	1%	104	1%	104	1%	104	1%	98	0%	4
Total	100%	100%	18,037	100%	17,785	100%	18,217	100%	17,586	100%	17,387
Source: 2010 Town Comprehensive Plan, WI Department of Revenue, St. Croix County											

Land Use Patterns and Projections

The land use projections in the table and graph above are shown in 5-year increments from 2030 to 2045. Projections are based on an extrapolation calculation assumption that the same land use trends experienced from 2000 to 2024 will continue into the future. The data shows that the prominent land use in Town of Star Prairie is agricultural at 45% in 2024, with decreases in the past two decades. Residential is second highest at 25% in 2024 with increases from 2000. Forest is third highest at 16% in 2024, with increases since 2000. Using the data from 2000, the estimated projections show continued increases in forest and residential. Under the future land use plan there is ample land in the town to meet the growth projections.

Density

Land use policy influences housing density, residential development, and land subdivision. The map below shows the density of housing units per 40 Acres in 2020 within the towns in St. Croix County. Generally, since 2010, density is increasing in the rural St. Croix County Towns. Higher density in the west and along the 194 corridor indicates the influence of the Twin Cities on housing and residential development. The east half of the county with lower housing density is more rural with greater tracts of agricultural land. According to Census data, the Town of Star Prairie has the third highest density in St. Croix County after Hudson and Troy. The density of development is affected by land use policies adopted by each municipal jurisdiction.



Potential Conflicting Land Uses

Conflicting land uses in the Town of Star Prairie are related to the rural and generally agricultural nature of the town. Conflicts may include the following.

- 1. Between residential uses and agricultural or recreational or tourism uses.
- 2. Diverse expectations of people moving to the country and long-time residents.
- 3. Between residents and commercial, industrial and home occupation activities.
- 4. Between commercial entertainment businesses and residents (e.g. noise, camping, traffic, parking).
- 5. Between the residents and the New Richmond Airport.
- 6. Non-metallic mining operations and residential uses whether in conjunction with agricultural operations or rural residential housing.

Generally the Town of Star Prairie finds that information is one of the best ways to decrease or control conflicts. The town has developed a website where information on living in the community, upcoming meetings, minutes, plans and regulations are or will be posted for convenient public access. The link is: http://www.townofstarprairie.com/.

Land Use Policy Options

The Town of Star Prairie may want to consider the following policy options to limit growth and select and preserve valuable resource land features for future generations.

- 1. Density based development regulation using maximum density and the minimum lot size.
- 2. Conservation design development, or conservation design, is a subdividing method that focuses on maintaining open space and conserving significant natural and cultural features. This is accomplished by preserving a significant portion of a development site as undivided open space with the remaining land used for the house lots and necessary roads.
- 3. Natural Limitations to Development is recognition and knowledge sharing of natural land physical features that limit development such as soil type, soil productivity, slope, wastewater treatment capacity, depth to groundwater, depth to bedrock, and environmental sensitivity, explained in the Natural Resources section.
- 4. Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) is a program to allow the transfer of development rights from land that the community desires to preserve (farmland or natural resources) to land where a community is willing to accept development.

Land Use Map Descriptions

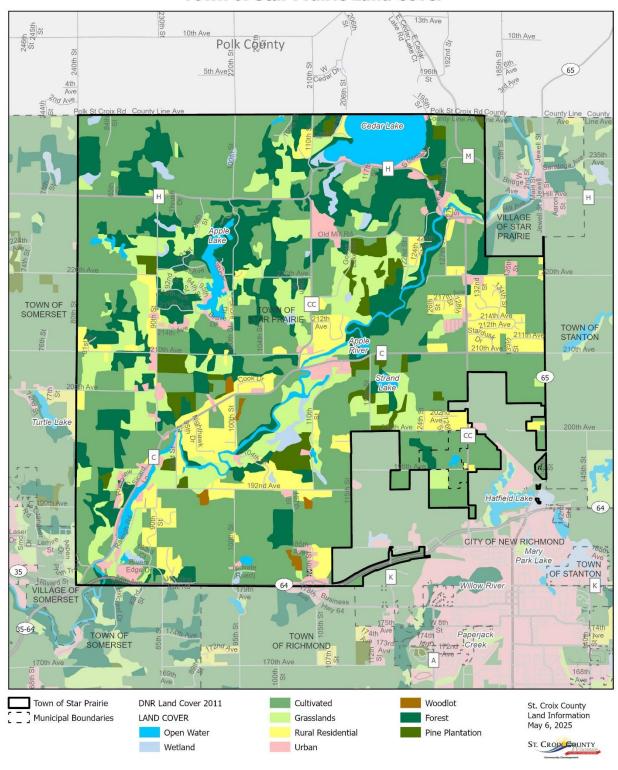
Land Cover Map This map includes a geographic data layer produced by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in 2011. The categories illustrated on the map include: Open Water, Wetland, Cultivated, Grasslands, Rural Residential, Urban, Woodlot, Forest, and Pine Plantation.

Zoning Map The Zoning Map districts define specific development standards for current enforcement of regulations such as property use, lot size, setbacks, unit types, building square footage, and landscaping.

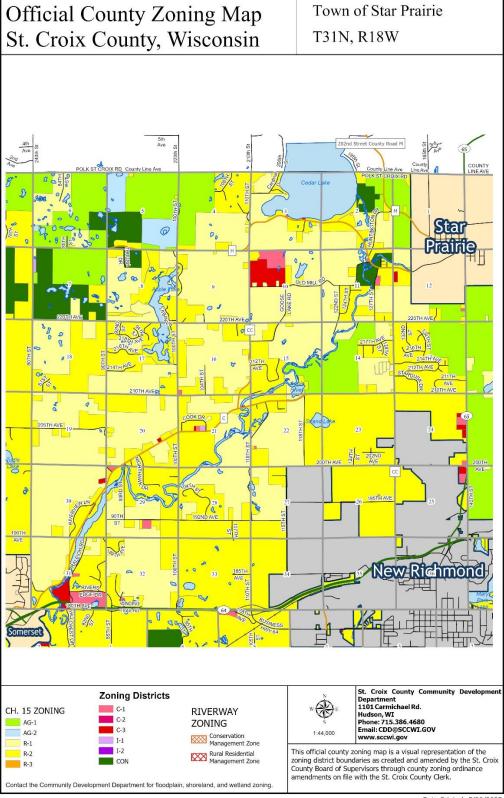
Future Land Use Map Designates the general location, distribution, and extent of land uses including residential, commercial, agriculture, industrial, utilities, and recreation open space. This map is used to guide future development and zoning changes.

Existing Land Cover Map

Town of Star Prairie Land Cover



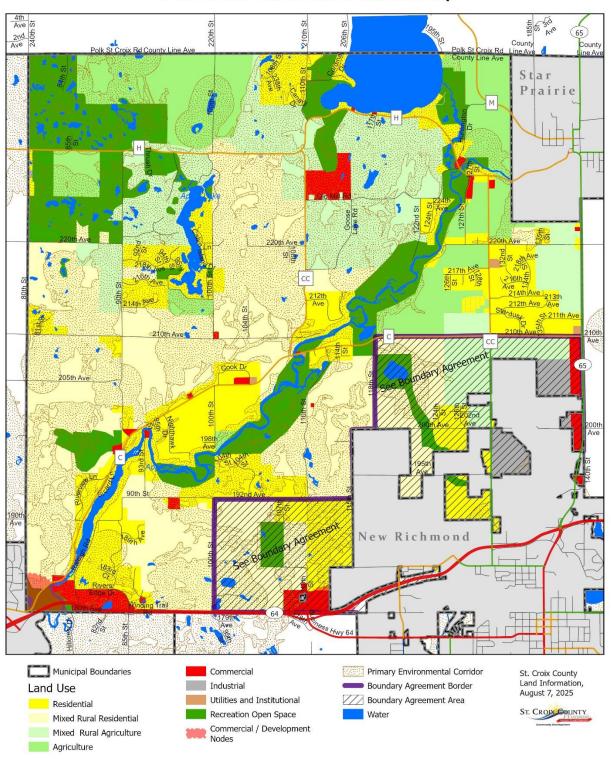
Zoning Map



Date Printed: 5/29/2025

Future Land Use Map

Town of Star Prairie Future Land Use Map



Future Land Use Classifications

The following pages provide descriptions of the future land use classifications as designated on the Future Land Use Map. Land use classifications include: Residential, Mixed Rural Residential, Mixed Rural Agriculture, Agriculture, Commercial, Industrial, Utilities and Institutional, Recreation Open Space, Waterbodies, Primary Environmental Corridor, Commercial/ Development Nodes, Railroad, and Roads. Each future land use classification description provides a purpose statement, example uses, zoning recommendations, and density of development as applicable.

Residential

<u>Purpose Statement</u>: The purpose of the **Residential** classification is to identify areas suitable for future residential development. Residential areas include lands that are delineated as existing residential properties or vacant platted areas. In addition, some undeveloped land has been designated for Residential development where subdivision expansion is likely to occur. These additional areas tend to be adjacent to existing rural subdivisions or where local roads and utilities exist to efficiently and economically serve the area.

<u>Example Uses</u>: Single-family residential development, existing farmland, scattered open lands, woodlots, agricultural-related uses, cottage industries, and mineral extraction operations.

<u>Zoning Recommendations</u>: Land within the **Residential** areas should be zoned R-2, R-3 (R-3 only if zoning district requirements for sewer and water can be met) if under current County zoning regulations consistent with the purpose statement listed above.

<u>Density</u>: The preferred housing unit density for this area is one unit per 2 or more acres; however local comprehensive plans may be more or less restrictive than this guideline.

Mixed Rural Residential

<u>Purpose Statement</u>: The purpose of the **Mixed Rural Residential** classification is to identify areas suitable for future residential development. Mixed Rural Residential areas include lands that are delineated as existing residential properties or vacant platted areas. In addition, undeveloped land has been designated for residential development where subdivision expansion is likely to occur. These additional areas tend to be adjacent to existing rural subdivisions or where local roads and utilities exist to efficiently and economically serve the area. These additional areas are also delineated by local comprehensive plans.

<u>Example Uses</u>: Existing farmland, scattered open lands, woodlots, agricultural-related uses, cottage industries, mineral extraction operations, and single-family residential development.

<u>Zoning Recommendations</u>: Land within the **Mixed Rural Residential** areas should be zoned R-1, R-2 if under current County zoning regulations consistent with the purpose statement listed above.

<u>Density</u>: The preferred housing unit density for this area is one unit per 2 or more acres; however local comprehensive plans may be more or less restrictive than this guideline.

Mixed Rural Agriculture

<u>Purpose Statement</u>: The purpose of the **Mixed Rural Agriculture** classification is to preserve productive agricultural lands, while allowing limited residential development than is allowed in the Agriculture area, protect existing farm and forestry operations from encroachment by incompatible uses, promote further investments in farming, maintain farmer eligibility for incentive programs, and preserve wildlife habitat and open spaces, in other words, to preserve the rural character of these areas.

<u>Example Uses</u>: Farmland, scattered open lands, woodlots, agricultural-related uses, cottage industries, mineral extraction operations, and limited low-density, single-family residential development subject to certain requirements. These developments shall be located in order to minimize the fragmentation of productive agricultural or forest land and to minimize any disruption to existing uses.

Zoning Recommendations: Land within the **Mixed Rural Agriculture** areas is regulated by the corresponding jurisdictional Zoning Ordinance depending on location within the county, town, city, or village. The County recommends this land should be zoned R-1, AG-1, AG-2 if under current County zoning regulations consistent with the purpose statement listed above. Large tracts of land under this category are currently zoned R-2.

<u>Density</u>: The preferred housing unit density for this area is one unit per 20 or more acres; however local comprehensive plans may be more or less restrictive than this guideline. The preferred density is based on the State's Working Land Initiative density of one unit per 20 acres or greater for eligibility for the Farmland Preservation Program.

Agriculture

<u>Purpose Statement</u>: The purpose of the **Agriculture** classification is to preserve productive agricultural lands, protect existing farm & forestry operations from encroachment by incompatible uses, promote further investments in farming, maintain farmer eligibility for incentive programs, and preserve wildlife habitat and open spaces, in other words, to preserve the rural character of these areas.

<u>Example Uses</u>: Farmland, scattered open lands, woodlots, agricultural-related uses, cottage industries, mineral extraction operations, and limited low-density, single-family residential development subject to certain requirements. These developments shall be located in order to minimize the fragmentation of productive agricultural or forest land and to minimize any disruption to existing uses.

Zoning Recommendations: Land within the **Agriculture** areas is regulated by the corresponding jurisdictional Zoning Ordinance depending on location within the county, town, city, or village. The County recommends this land should be zoned AG-1, AG-2 if under current County zoning regulations consistent with the purpose statement listed above. Large tracts of land in this category are currently zoned R-1.

<u>Density</u>: The preferred housing unit density for this area is a combination of both one unit per 20 acres and one unit per 35 or 40 acres; local comprehensive plans provide direction on how to apply this guideline and where the differing densities should be evaluated. The preferred density is based on the State's Working Land Initiative density of one unit per 20 acres or greater for eligibility for the Farmland Preservation Program.

Commercial

<u>Purpose Statement</u>: The purpose of the **Commercial** classification is to identify existing scattered commercial developments throughout the County. Most towns delineated limited future commercial areas. The most appropriate commercial uses and locations will be those that are located along major transportation corridors and intersections, sites have available utilities to serve the volume of the commercial use, serve rural needs and are consistent with the County's agriculture and rural character.

Example Uses: Commercial uses

<u>Zoning Recommendations</u>: Land within the **Commercial** areas should be zoned C-1, C-2, C-3 if under current County zoning regulations consistent with the purpose statement listed above.

Commercial Nodes

<u>Purpose Statement</u>: The purpose of the **Commercial Nodes** classification is to identify the generalized areas near or along major highways or key intersections that have the potential for commercial and light industrial development in the future. The exact boundaries of these nodes are not set-in-stone and are flexible based on distance to the highway and close proximity to other existing or planned commercial development.

Proposed commercial development that are higher impact and not appropriate for the residential and open space areas should be guided to these nodes. These higher impacts could include retail, services, and employers that have extended hours of operation, create higher levels of noise, or have a relatively large amount of hardscape (e.g., buildings, parking), or generate large numbers of vehicle trips, including for shipping or warehousing. With careful planning, senior housing facilities and smaller multi-family housing facilities may be appropriate within the Commercial Nodes close to the Villages, if adequate water and septic can be provided. However, these uses should still be planned, sited, designed, and maintained in a high-quality manner that is compatible with nearby uses and the rural character of the community as discussed within the Economic Development Element policies, Land Use Element policies. Proposed commercial or light industrial uses deemed incompatible may be required to modify their plans or may be directed to nearby incorporated areas.

Given the distribution of closed depressions, surface waters, and existing residential subdivisions throughout the community, heavy industries and large commercial ventures should be guided to communities with municipal water or sewer, or to other less populated areas of St. Croix County. For example, heavy industries include facilities such as food processing, heavy equipment manufacturing, petro-chemical plants, facilities that use large amounts water or hazardous materials, salvage yards, solid waste processing, landfills, transfer stations, freight terminals, and large warehousing.

Industrial

<u>Purpose Statement</u>: The purpose of the **Industrial** classification is to identify areas suitable for planned industrial development. There are some existing scattered industrial developments throughout the County (mainly quarry sites) and these areas are expected to stay in industrial use with some possible site expansion. Most towns delineated little to no new industrial sites and limited expansion of existing industrial sites. The most appropriate industrial uses and locations will be those that are located along major transportation corridors and intersections, sites have available utilities to serve the volume of the industrial use, and supportive and compatible with agriculture and the natural resources of the area.

Example Uses: Industrial uses

<u>Zoning Recommendations</u>: Land within the **Industrial** areas should be zoned I-1, I-2 if under current County zoning regulations consistent with the purpose statement listed above.

Recreation Open Space

<u>Purpose Statement</u>: The purpose of the **Recreation Open Space** classification is identify areas suitable for open space and passive outdoor recreation. The existing open space sites owned by the County, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, US Fish and Wildlife, National Park Service or Army Corp of Engineers are listed and mapped in the Natural Resources Element of this plan. Future Open Space was identified on individual town plans. These sites were along natural corridors and included shorelands, wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes and scenic areas. In most cases, the towns would not actively pursue acquisition but would encourage public or private ownership that maintained the areas in a natural state available to citizens as part of future development plans.

Example Uses: Recreation Open Space, Parks

<u>Zoning Recommendations</u>: Land within the **Recreation Open Space/ Future Open Space** areas should be zoned conservation and may include: Riverway, Shoreline, Floodplain overlay zones.

Primary Environmental Corridor

<u>Purpose Statement</u>: The purpose of the **Primary Environmental Corridor** classification is intended as an overlay feature for educational purposes that influence future land use planning. This category identifies the primary environmental corridors in St. Croix County, that include at least three environmental resources, listed below.

Example Uses: Environmental resources, listed below.

- 1. Lakes
- 2. Ponds
- 3. Rivers
- 4. Streams
- 5. Intermittent Waterways
- 6. Natural Drainageways
- 7. Wetlands
- 8. Shorelands
- 9. Floodplains
- 10. Steep Slopes
- 11. Geologic Formations

- 12. Physiographic Features
- 13. Highly Erodible Soils
- 14. Wet, Poorly Drained Organic Soils
- 15. Closed Depressions
- 16. Wellhead Protection Areas
- 17. Woodlands
- 18. Prairie
- 19. Rare or Endangered Species and Communities
- 20. Historical and Archeological Sites
- 21. Scenic Areas

<u>Zoning Recommendations</u>: Land within the **Primary Environmental Corridors** is regulated by the County Zoning Ordinance depending on the type and intensity of the environmental resource. Primary Environmental Corridors overlay the underlying future land use classification.

Implementation

Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001 "Contents of a comprehensive plan," states the following regarding the comprehensive plan implementation element.

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

This chapter includes all visions, issues, goals, and objectives from each plan element including: Housing, Transportation, Utilities & Community Facilities, Agricultural, Natural, & Cultural Resources, Economic Development, Intergovernmental Cooperation, and Land Use.

Plan Adoption and Procedures

This plan adoption process followed Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001(4) Procedures for adopting comprehensive plans. The comprehensive plan process is described in the introduction chapter of the plan. The Town should continuously evaluate its decisions on private development proposals, public investments, regulations, incentives and other actions against the recommendations of this plan. Amendments may be appropriate in the years following initial plan adoption, particularly in instances where the plan is becoming irrelevant or contradictory to emerging policy or trends. Amendments are generally defined as minor changes to the plan maps or text. The plan will be specifically evaluated for potential amendments at least every five years and at most in 10 years. Frequent amendments to accommodate specific development proposals should be avoided or else the plan will become meaningless.

The Town of Star Prairie should regularly evaluate its progress towards achieving the recommendations of this plan and amend and update the plan as appropriate. The State comprehensive planning law requires that the town use the same basic process to amend the plan as it used to initially adopt the plan. This does not mean that new surveys need to be conducted. It does mean that the procedures defined under § 66.1001(4) Wis. Stats. need to be followed. The Town of Star Prairie should work with the County in monitoring the new state law for any changes that may clarify the amendment process. Before town adoption, any plan amendment must be forwarded to neighboring municipalities and the County for review and comment.

Consistency of Plan Elements

The state comprehensive planning statute requires that the implementation element describe how each of the elements is integrated and made consistent with the other elements of the plan. Because the various elements of the Town Plan were prepared simultaneously there are no known internal inconsistencies between the different sections on the elements of this plan. Also all elements of the plan were given a final review once the plan was completed to evaluate consistency between elements.

Housing Vision

When development occurs in the Town of Star Prairie, natural features are preserved, and parks or green space may be required within them. The Town works with the County to administer housing standards.

Housing Issues and Opportunities

- 59% of survey respondents are supportive of conservation design subdivision
- 59% of survey respondents are satisfied with the residential lot sizes in town
- 87% of survey respondents prefer minor subdivision housing development pattern
- Lot size is an ongoing discussion
- In recognition of the town's increasing median age, consider developing strategies to support an aging population.

Housing Goal, Objectives

Goal: Safe, quality housing for all Town of Star Prairie residents while maintaining a predominantly rural residential character.

Objectives:

- 1. Consider housing sites in the town that meet the needs of persons within a variety of income levels, age groups, and all abilities.
- 2. Residential development should not encroach upon or negatively impact environmentally sensitive areas.
- 3. Work with the Town building inspector and the County Community Development Department to administer housing health, safety, and maintenance regulations.
- 4. Work with St. Croix County to improve or expand St. Croix County Zoning Ordinance regulations and enforcement regarding property maintenance and nuisance issues such as junk vehicles and dilapidated buildings.
- 5. The Town of Star Prairie values and promotes the development or subdivision of lots larger than its stated minimum lot sizes.

Transportation Vision

The Town of Star Prairie prioritizes maintaining its road infrastructure. The town plans and develops additional roads as appropriate for current and future land uses.

Transportation Issues and Opportunities

- Residents are moderately satisfied with the current network of roads and their condition
- 53% of respondents agree that increasing traffic on roads is a problem
- 71% of respondents agree that there is no need for additional roads

Transportation Goals and Objectives

Goal: Town of Star Prairie's transportation system should provide for the efficient and safe movement of people and goods; serve the planned land use pattern; minimize negative impacts such as congestion, noise and air pollution and meet the needs of multiple users and transportation modes.

Objectives:

- 1. Ensure that transportation system improvements are coordinated with land development desires.
- 2. Coordinate multi-jurisdictional (town, village, city, county, state) transportation system improvements and maintenance.
- 3. Provide for safe and adequate road capacities and road conditions.
- 4. Preserve the scenic value along certain roadways to protect and enhance the Town of Star Prairie's rural character.
- 5. Maintain an interconnected road system consisting of extensions to existing roads and new roads to control highway access, provide for appropriate routes for trucks and emergency vehicles, preserve rural character, serve planned development areas, minimize extensive road construction and decrease road maintenance costs, as shown on the Future Transportation System map above.
- 6. Work, both as a town and with St. Croix County, to properly place and maintain road signs in the town so that these signs are in compliance with the Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- 7. Enforce the road and driveway ordinance to regulate any change to an existing driveway or creation of a new driveway and implement town road construction standards
- 8. Work with the county, state and private landowners in ensuring that road right-of ways are clear of visual obstacles, particularly at road intersections. Road rights-of-way should be properly mowed and cleared.
- 9. Post weight restrictions on existing town roads as necessary and consider the weight limits on local roads when reviewing development proposals.
- 10. Protect the visual quality of scenic roadways through site planning, driveway location, landscaping, signage, and other standards.

Utilities & Community Facilities Vision

The Town of Star Prairie cooperates with its municipal neighbors. The Town operates a Town Hall and Community Center. The Town supports access to our public lakes and rivers.

Utilities & Community Facilities Issues and Opportunities

- Residents are moderately satisfied with public services (ambulance, fire, snow removal, etc) in the Town.
- Residents are generally willing to expend public funds to expand parks and a few other recreational amenities in the Town (boat landings, ball fields, hunting and fishing access and trails for biking and hiking/skiing.

Utilities & Community Facilities Goals and Objectives

Goal: Coordinate utility and community facility systems planning with land use, natural resource and transportation systems planning. Community facilities, services and utilities should focus on preserving the quality of life and satisfying core needs for public safety, health, education, social services, recycling, town facilities and recreation at reasonable cost. These facilities and services should support the town goals for land use, growth management and natural resources.

Objectives:

- 1. Provide the appropriate level of community services, facilities and practices within the town, while striving for a low tax levy and maintaining the rural character of the town.
- 2. Promote the use of existing public facilities, and managed expansion of those facilities, to serve future development whenever possible.
- 3. Support quality, accessible parks, recreational facilities, services and maintain dedicated open space for all residents.
- 4. Protect the town's public health, natural environment and groundwater and surface water resources through proper siting and regulation of wells, water utility services, wastewater disposal systems, recycling and other waste disposal in accordance with county and state laws and regulations.
- 5. Establish and maintain open communications with public utilities.
- 6. Provide appropriate services for town residents, including public road maintenance and snow plowing on town roads, emergency services (fire, police, ambulance) and recycling.
- 7. Work with St. Croix County Emergency Management to identify emergency siren coverage areas. If needed, provide an additional emergency warning siren to serve the western portion of the Town of Star Prairie.
- 8. Work with the villages of Star Prairie and Somerset, City of New Richmond, St. Croix County, state agencies and local organizations to develop, provide and support recreational facilities and opportunities within the town.
- 9. Complete planned recreational facilities at the new town hall.
- 10. Continue to provide support to local volunteer and community organizations through access to the Town Hall facilities.
- 11. Support DNR guidelines and State Statute limiting construction around any landfills and affected areas to prevent contact with methane or other contaminants.
- 12. Encourage property owners to test their drinking water annually or at least once every three years.
- 13. Implement and evaluate town impact fees on new development projects to offset additional expenses to the town for adding, upgrading or expanding town parks, roads, services and facilities.
- 14. Residents will continue to be responsible for contracting for curbside solid waste and recycling collection and disposal.
- 15. Collaborate with St. Croix County to expand education, information, special collections and related services for recycling.
- 16. Collaborate with the City of New Richmond to provide compost and other services
- 17. Contract with the New Richmond Ambulance and Fire Service for ambulance and fire service for town residents.
- 18. Continue the mutual aid agreement with the Village of Somerset for fire protection service to town residents.
- 19. Provide public road maintenance, repair and replacement and snow plowing on town roads through contractual services.
- 20. Encourage high density residential, commercial and industrial development to locate in the villages of Star Prairie and Somerset and the City of New Richmond.

Agriculture Vision

The Town of Star Prairie has a limited agricultural industry that consists of small farms and crop production.

Agriculture Issues and Opportunities

- 1. The two most important factors that lead residents to choose the Town of Star Prairie as a place to live are its small town/rural lifestyle and the natural beauty of the area.
- 2. Residents feel that protecting all types of open space (lakes, wildlife habitat, woodlands, river corridors, prairie-grasslands, and wetlands) is important.
- 3. Most residents would like to see productive farmland remain in agriculture.
- 4. 79% of survey respondents are concerned about the conversion of agricultural land to non-farm uses.
- 5. Most survey respondents believe that productive agricultural land should be allowed to be used for agricultural use or park or open space uses.
- 6. 56% of survey respondents agree there is too much farmland being converted to non-farm uses.
- 7. 76% of survey respondents agree local agricultural production should be encouraged and marketed locally.
- 8. 61% of survey respondents agree agricultural uses should not be restricted because of proximity to residences.

Agriculture Goals and Objectives

Goal: Preserve the town's rural character while allowing residential development.

Objectives:

- 1. Allow development in locations, forms and densities, which supports the preservation of agriculture and rural character.
- 2. Preserve highly productive farmlands for continued agricultural use.
- 3. Encourage land preservation programs.
- 4. Promote agricultural practices that protect surface and groundwater quality including proper erosion control, manure management and storm water management strategies.
- 5. Support the continued operation of existing farms in Star Prairie.
- 6. Support farmland preservation zoning, agricultural enterprise area designation and other land use measures, which discourage non-farm development in identified Agricultural Preservation Areas.
- 7. Promote agricultural practices, which protect surface and ground water quality, including proper erosion control, manure management and storm water management strategies.
- 8. Discourage factory-type, large-scale farms such as confinement hog, poultry and others that have the potential to degrade the air quality, water quality and current character of the town. Crop production is still viable in Star Prairie. Larger farm equipment and field sizes mean changes in the types and number of farms.

Natural Resources Vision

Planned and orderly development in the Town of Star Prairie has preserved and enhanced the quality of its lakes (especially Cedar Lake and Apple Lake), groundwater, wetlands, rivers and streams (especially the Apple River and Cedar Creek), and forests and hills through various ordinances and other mechanisms. The Town supports efforts to recreate and maintain prairies. Residents recognize that the Town's natural resources are important to their quality of life and must be preserved and enhanced. The Town supports trails, parks, boat landings and fishing and hunting areas.

Natural Resources Issues & Opportunities

- 1. The two most important factors that lead residents to choose the Town of Star Prairie as a place to live are its small town/rural lifestyle and the natural beauty of the area.
- 2. Residents feel that protecting all types of open space (lakes, wildlife habitat, woodlands, river corridors, prairie-grasslands, and wetlands) is important.
- 3. 79% of survey respondents agree that residential development should be designed to provide open/green space.
- 4. 62% of survey respondents agree the Town should establish/purchase land for natural resource preservation, parks or other recreational purposes.

Natural Resources Goals and Objectives

Goal: To protect, preserve, conserve, enhance and carefully use the Town of Star Prairie's precious natural resources. Recognize the environment as an integrated system of land, water and air resources.

Objectives:

- 1. Preserve Star Prairie's most important and sensitive natural resources and areas.
- 2. Protect and improve the quality of the surface water, groundwater and shoreline within the town.
- 3. Encourage the use of soil conservation practices and the management of woodlands.
- 4. Protect "environmental corridors" as a composite of Star Prairie's most sensitive natural areas.
- 5. Coordinate and work with other entities such as the Apple Lake Management District, Cedar Lake Rehabilitation District, Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust, WDNR, Western Prairie Habitat Restoration Area, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Star Prairie Fish and Game to protect natural resources, especially those that cross political boundaries such as rivers.
- 6. Encourage conservation design development for sites with unique or exceptional natural resources such as surface water, wetlands, steeps slopes or highly productive agricultural soils.
- 7. Consider identifying greenways that support migration patterns for preservation of valuable wildlife habitat.

Cultural Resources Vision

The Town of Star Prairie maintains and preserves historical records and the old town hall.

Cultural Resources Issues & Opportunities

- 67% of survey respondents agree that *Preserve cultural resources* (historic sites, etc.) is important
- 77% of survey respondents agree that *Preserve scenic views* is important

• 77% of survey respondents agree that *Natural and cultural resources* is the most important topic

Cultural Resources Goals and Objectives

Goal: Enhance and maintain the Town of Star Prairie's cultural and scenic resources and rural character.

Objectives:

- 1. Identify and encourage preservation of the town's agricultural, cultural, historic and archeological resources that recognize the community's pre-settlement and early settlement periods.
- 2. Consider the preservation of historically and architecturally significant structures and sites.
- 3. Consider scenic views and viewshed analysis in review of development around the scenic resources listed in this plan
- 4. Protect scenic roadways in the town. Consider the designation of 110th Street, Huntington Road and Old Mill Road as rustic roads to be added to the state's rustic road system.
- 5. Support local festivals, fairs, farm tours, farm breakfasts and markets that celebrate the town's farming heritage, rural way of life, and history.

Economic Development Vision

The Town of Star Prairie has a number of healthy businesses, including small taverns and restaurants, and agriculture-related businesses. Business growth in the town has focused on rural-based businesses. The town considers potential business locations based on environmental, transportation, and compatibility with surrounding uses while preserving the rural character of the Town.

Economic Development Issues & Opportunities

- The economic development preferred by residents builds on the Town's traditional economic base of agriculture (crop/livestock production, direct farm marketing, farm services), is small scale in nature (home businesses, gas stations with convenience stores), and is environmentally conscious (composting, wind energy generation).
- 76% of respondents said 'Yes' business/commercial developments should be restricted to designated areas in the town
- 85% of respondents are supportive of agricultural entertainment and tourism

Economic Development Goals, Objectives

Goal: The Town of Star Prairie will support economic development activities appropriate to the resources, character and service levels of the town and that strengthen the local economy while maintaining its commitment to the town's environmental needs.

Objectives:

- 1. Encourage the redevelopment and reuse of the town's existing commercial sites.
- 2. Consider home-based businesses based on impact on surrounding properties.
- 3. Plan for an adequate supply of developable land for commercial and industrial uses in logical areas consistent with the town's plan elements.
- 4. Consider the conservation of non-renewable resources and the rural character when evaluating a commercial development request.

- 5. Direct large-scale industrial and commercial development to urban centers.
- 6. Consider agricultural and forestry-based opportunities and industrial and commercial development with minimal infrastructure needs.
- 7. Work with St. Croix County to administer and enforce zoning standards.
- 8. Business signage, landscaping, screening and lighting should be compatible with the rural character.
- 9. Work with businesses and developers to maintain and protect the air quality, water quality and rural character.
- 10. Continue working with private landowners and government agencies to clean up contaminated sites that threaten the public health, safety and welfare.
- 11. Promote environmentally-friendly and low-infrastructure businesses.
- 12. Ensure that new commercial and industrial uses are not located within Environmental Corridors.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals and Objectives

Goal: Establish mutually beneficial intergovernmental relations with surrounding jurisdictions and the Town of Star Prairie.

Objectives:

- 1. Work with other local governments, state agencies, school districts, etc. on land use and community development issues of mutual concern.
- 2. Engage in and support processes to resolve conflicts between the plans of the town and other governments with overlapping jurisdiction.
- 3. Utilize, promote and enter into shared public service agreements where such agreements will provide improved services at lower costs.
- 4. Work with neighboring municipalities to resolve boundary issues and other conflicts that exist or may develop.
- 5. Coordinate multi-jurisdictional (town, village, city, county, state) transportation system improvements and maintenance in the Star Prairie area.
- 6. Work with St. Croix County, adjacent towns and the regional planning commission to identify and resolve actual and potential conflicts between the Town Plan and other plans through open dialog, cooperative initiatives and amendments to the Town of Star Prairie Plan where appropriate.

Land Use Vision

The Town of Star Prairie has successfully managed the growth pressure from the Twin Cities by allowing for a mix of housing, open space and recreation, agriculture (especially crop and pasture land) and commercial uses, and is still maintaining its rural character. The Town regulates this variable land use mix to prevent conflicts and pollution.

Land Use Issues and Opportunities

2024 Survey:

- 35% of respondents are satisfied with the way the town is developing under the present zoning and subdivision ordinance, 12% are not satisfied, and 53% are Neutral.
- 66% of respondents support consistent enforcement of Town and County zoning ordinances, 4% disagree, and 29% are Neutral.
- 62% of respondents support consistent enforcement of building codes and permits, 6% disagree, and 32% are Neutral.
- When asked how land owners should be allowed to develop their land, respondents answered:
 - o 51% within current regulations with minor ordinance amendments
 - o 36% within current regulations
 - 13% Don't know
- 52% of respondents support residential housing density of 1 dwelling unit per 10 acres, 21% disagree, and 27% Don't Know.
- 53% of respondents support residential housing density on minimum 1.5 acre lots (R-2 zoning district), 29% disagree, and 18% Don't Know.
- When asked If the Town were going to expend public funding or pursue grant applications for any of the following, what would you like the Town to prioritize? (Select one), respondents answered:
 - 1. (47.9 %) Preserve rural small town feel and productive agricultural land
 - 2. (15.5%) Parks, water access
 - 3. (15.5%) Preserve natural resources
 - 4. (9.9%) Improve roads
 - 5. (7.0%) Protect water quality
 - 6. (4.2%) Promote sustainable community development

Land Use Goals and Objectives

1. Protect Natural, Scenic, and Cultural Resources

Objectives:

- a. Safeguard environmental and historical features.
- b. Avoid development in environmentally sensitive areas.
- c. Preserve forests, water resources, and wildlife habitat.
- d. Protect cultural, historical, and archaeological resources.
- e. Promote open space and park access.
- f. Protect scenic views where feasible

2. Protect Agriculture and Productive Farmland

Objectives:

- a. Support the preservation of prime agricultural soils.
- b. Direct residential and non-agricultural development away from prime farmland.
- c. Promote alternative agricultural uses and preserve working lands.
- d. Discourage land uses that conflict with or fragment agricultural areas.
- e. Use land preservation programs and manage lot sizes to sustain agriculture.

3. Support Compatible Residential Development

Objectives:

- a. Allow rural-appropriate housing options.
- b. Promote conservation design subdivision and prevent flood-prone development.
- c. Reuse and rehabilitate existing housing stock where feasible.

Preserve Rural Character and Community Identity with Compatible and Efficient Land Use Development

Objectives:

- a. Maintain Town's rural atmosphere while allowing compatible development.
- b. Consider the following additions to the subdivision ordinance:
 - 1) Require the disclosure of any soil or groundwater contamination on sites
 - 2) Guide residences to be located adjacent to tree lines and wooded field edges and clustered on the edges of farm fields
 - 3) Tree preservation
 - 4) Tree planting to screen new structures.
- c. Work with the County to regulate business signage, landscaping, screening, and lighting compatible with the rural character.
- d. Maintain zoning practices that separate incompatible uses and direct growth to designated areas.
- e. Promote open space and conservation design and consider density options to maintain scenic and historical qualities.
- f. Direct large-scale developments to urban areas with appropriate infrastructure.
- g. Coordinate land use planning with transportation systems, natural resources, and current and future utilities.
- h. Promote the use of existing roads, and managed expansion to those roads, to serve future development whenever possible.

5. Coordinate with Neighboring Communities and Agencies

Objective:

- a. Promote efficient regional planning and resource use.
- b. Work with local, state, and regional governments on mutual land use issues.
- c. Collaborate on preserving farmland and minimizing urban-rural conflicts.
- d. Resolve boundary and land use disputes cooperatively.
- e. Encourage shared use of facilities and services when feasible.

Appendix A Public Participation Summary

Public Participation Process

On August 19, 2024 the Town Board adopted Resolution No. 2024-01 approving the public participation plan as required by Wisconsin Statutes sec. 66.1001(4). The Town and County worked together to implement the public participation plan strategies. A public vision session was held on November 20, 2024 and a public survey was administered October – December 2024. The results of the vision session and survey were presented at a public joint Board and Plan Commission meeting on December 16, 2024. The summarized results of the vision session and survey within this appendix are organized by the plan elements including: Housing, Transportation, Utilities & Community Facilities, Agricultural, Natural, & Cultural Resources, Economic Development, Intergovernmental Cooperation, and Land Use.

Project Webpage

St. Croix County hosted a dedicated project webpage for the 2025 Town of Star Prairie comprehensive plan update. The webpage was launched in August 2024 and provided a project description, plan purpose, plan update process schedule, meeting materials, and link to the Town of Star Prairie website (Both shown right).



Vision Session Process Summary

The Town of Star Prairie comprehensive plan update public Vision Session was held on November 20, 2024, from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm at Town Hall. Approximately 21 participants attended the 2-hour vision session. Participants were asked to sign-in and share their email contact information to receive updates about the process. St. Croix County staff delivered an informational presentation about the plan process and purpose and facilitated small group discussions at five tables. The discussion topics covered each comprehensive plan elements including Housing, Transportation, Utilities & Community Facilities, Agricultural, Natural, & Cultural Resources, Economic Development, Intergovernmental Cooperation, and Land Use.

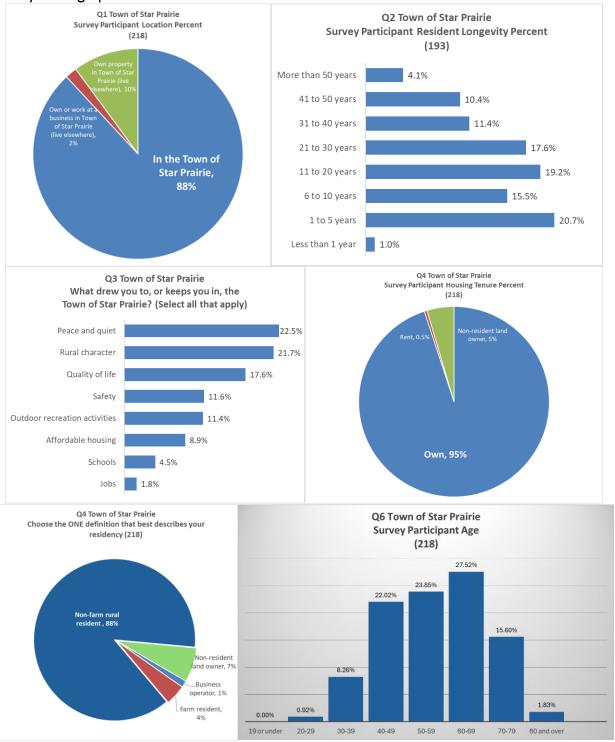
Survey Process Summary

Staff developed and administered the Town of Star Prairie comprehensive plan update survey in October-December 2024. The final survey participant count was 221 total responses. The survey results found in this Appendix show the number of responses in parenthesis at the top. The 28-question online and paper survey was gathered from October 2024 – December 1, 2024. The survey was promoted through a post card to property owners, posters at election, and the county project website.

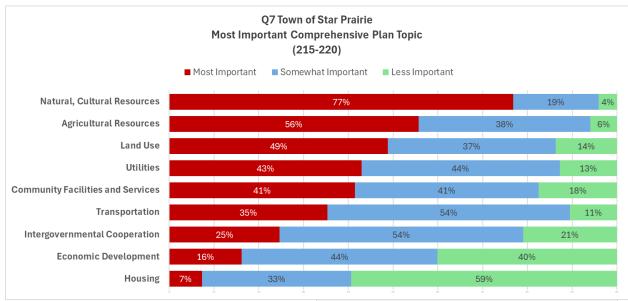
Public Meetings

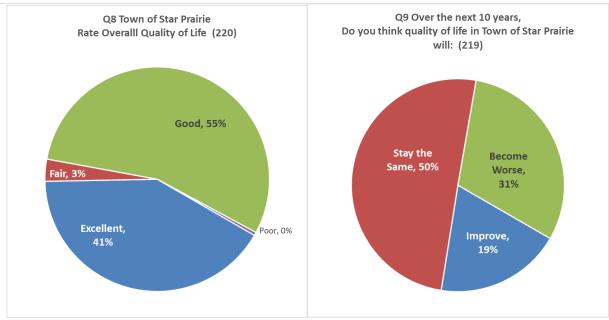
St. Croix County staff presented the draft 2025 Town of Star Prairie comprehensive plan at public joint Board and Plan Commission meetings to gather information and solicit any plan corrections. On September 9, 2025, the Town of Star Prairie Plan Commission held a public hearing to gather public comment on the draft 2025 Town of Star Prairie comprehensive plan. The plan was made available for public review and comment 10 days prior to the public hearing on the project webpage.

Survey Demographics



Quality of Life

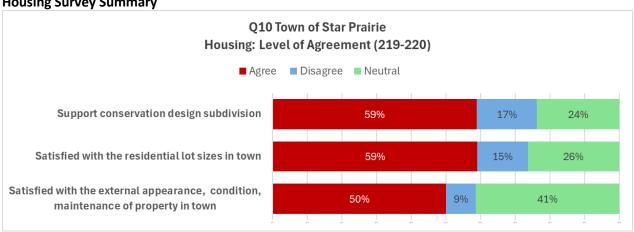


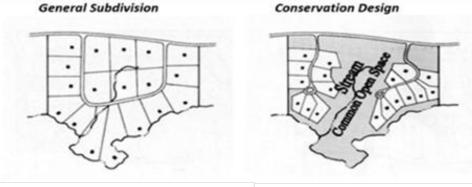


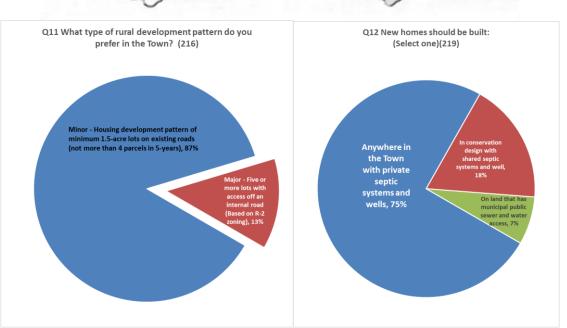
Housing

The purpose of the housing section is to document and analyze the provision of an adequate housing supply that meets existing and forecasted housing demand.









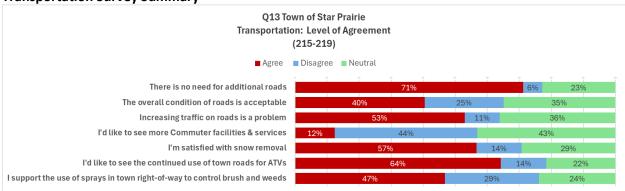
Housing Vision Session Summary

- 1. Housing lot sizes
 - a. Increased minimum lot size (2 acre)
 - b. Larger lot size (5-10 acre, 3 acre less impact)
- 2. Number of residential lots (Major and minor subdivision)
 - a. Don't increase zoning density
 - b. Minor plats ok but support majors if needed so development can be well-planned
 - c. Driveway separation distance less than 500 feet
 - d. Concerns about increase in subdivisions (majors)
 - e. Differing opinions on more subdivisions
 - f. Want transitional lots near city and larger lots in rural areas
- 3. Housing type
 - a. Accessory dwelling unit concerns (family use, separate lots, appearance, maintenance)
 - b. No mobile homes
 - c. Support single-family homes
 - d. No apartments
 - e. No pole-shed house or Homeowner's Association property maintenance
 - f. Support modular or well-built
- 4. Housing affordability
 - a. High values prohibit affordable housing
 - b. No control over affordability
- Condition and maintenance of housing
 - a. Houses are well maintained
- 6. Outdoor storage and maintenance
 - a. Unpermitted, inoperable, ill-maintained vehicles de-value property
 - b. Clean-up junk properties
- 7. New housing development/subdivision/density (See also Land Use)
 - a. Development Cost/Revenue Question: Is the conversion from agricultural land generating more revenue for the town with consideration of new infrastructure?

TRANSPORTATION

The purpose of the transportation section is to document, analyze, and guide the future development of the various modes of transportation.

Transportation Survey Summary



Transportation Vision Session Summary

- 1. Roads, Highways (Condition, maintenance)
 - a. Speed limits for safety and walkability on 80th Steet 210th
 - b. Intersection / sight distance issues
 - c. Condition of 115th shared with New Richmond, transfer back to Richmond (Reference to dog park, compost, frisbee golf)
 - d. High cost maintenance
 - e. Some roads need new construction
 - f. Identify corridor/feeder roads
 - g. Ensure planning for connector roads
 - h. Evaluate proper areas for private roads
 - i. New town roads must be built to town road specifications
 - j. Generally good conditions
 - k. Improvements needed on Cty. Rd. M at north boundary
 - I. Safety concern with no shoulder on Huntington Rd.
 - m. Road maintenance few roads on implementation schedule: 90th Street west of Apple Lake, 192nd Ave.
 - n. County Hwy Dept. maintenance, plowing w/ independent for intersection efficiency

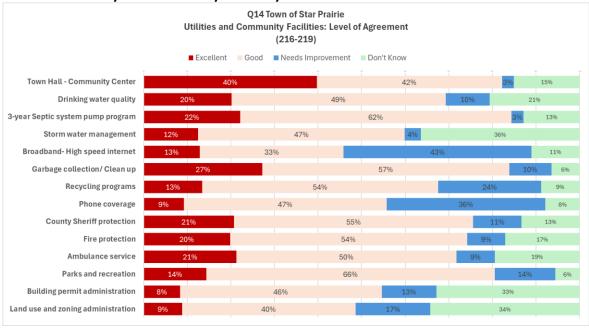
2. ATV

- a. ATV use allowed and no complaints
- b. Satisfied with ATV policy
- c. Increase and promote use
- d. Noise and speed concerns (Contact town)
- 3. Walking, bicycles, electric scooters, mobility devices, horses
 - a. Safety for pedestrians/ horseback riding (speed, space concerns)
 - b. No funding for bike/ped, lack of population
 - c. No interest in bike/walking trails
 - d. No comment about walking/bike trails because the Town can't afford it
- 4. Air transportation: New Richmond airport is good
- 5. <u>Transit Bus, Railroads, Water transportation</u>: Adequate or not applicable

UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The purpose of the section is to document, analyze and guide the future development of the Utilities & Community Facilities.

Utilities & Community Facilities Survey Summary



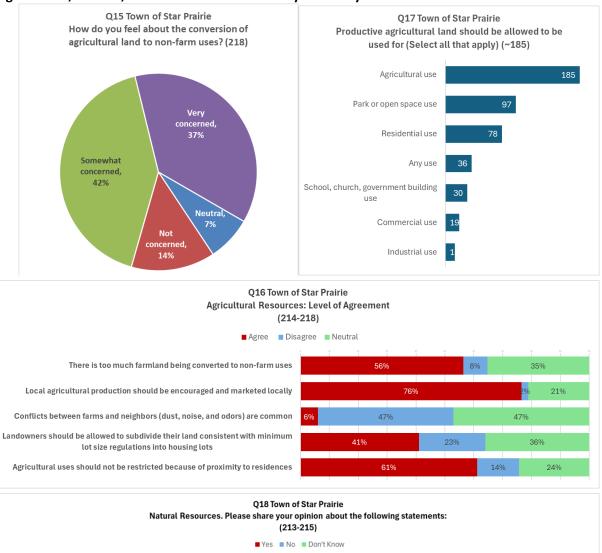
Utilities & Community Facilities Vision Session Summary

- 1. Town Hall: Adequate, New maintenance facility
- 2. <u>Sewer/ Septic system</u>
 - a. Need to educate about common septic systems
 - b. Concerns about maintenance of older septic system, especially along water
- 3. Natural gas
 - a. Expand natural gas availability
 - b. Desire to expand not far from houses but service wouldn't run line
- 4. Recycling/Clean-up programs
 - a. Recycling service adequate
 - b. Dissolving town clean-up day due to County program changes
 - c. Good recycling program
 - d. Town clean-up not cost effective
 - e. Town of Richmond compost with City of New Richmond agreement
- 5. Fire/Ambulance/Sheriff Protection
 - a. Response times fairly good
 - b. Fire/rescue with New Richmond
 - c. Fire cost becoming reasonable
 - d. Concerns about fire districts/response time
- 6. Broadband/Internet
 - a. Broadband getting better, encourage more
 - b. Internet improving
 - c. Neighborhood push
- 7. <u>Schools/ Library:</u> New library
- 8. <u>Electric/Solar</u> Solar should be located outside farmland
- Parks (See Natural Resources)

AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, CULTURAL, RESOURCES

The purpose of the Agricultural, Natural, & Cultural Resources section is to document and analyze the conservation and promotion of the effective management, of resources.

Agricultural, Natural, & Cultural Resources Survey Summary



Residential development should be designed to provide open/green space

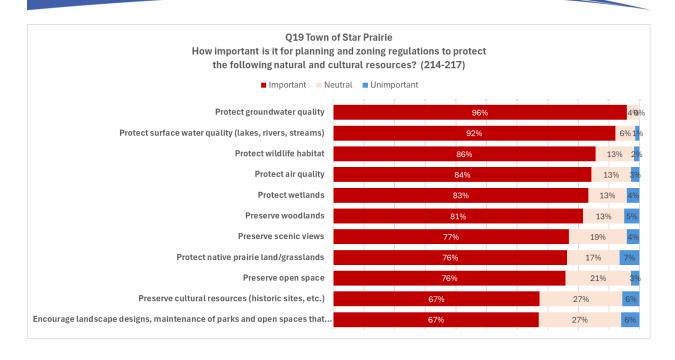
Residential development should be screened from public right-of-way and views

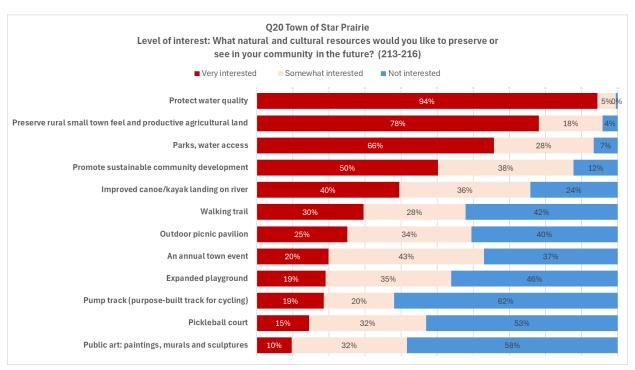
Town should establish/purchase land for natural resource preservation, parks or other

recreational purposes

14%

11%





Agricultural, Natural, & Cultural Resources Summary

- 1. Conservation and quality of:
 - a. Ground/ surface water/ wetlands/ lake/ stream/ river/ shoreland/ floodplain
 - i. Apple Lake Boat Launch well-used and maintained
 - ii. Water quality concerns: farming pesticides and fertilizer, golf course, subdivisions
 - iii. Landfill impact on water quality
 - iv. Access to DNR data regarding landfill
 - v. Water and air quality is a concern
 - vi. Encourage conservation easements along river
 - vii. Limit development or use of land in floodplain
 - viii. Concerns with drainage / wetland quality north of Apple Lake
 - ix. Some concerns with shoreline protection/enforcement issues
 - x. Groundwater/well protection
 - xi. Dumping in Apple River, septic tank into river, pump when dam is open
 - xii. Surface water protection

b. Productive Agricultural areas

- i. No CAFO's on flats (2)
- ii. Ag land is important but very few farms
- iii. Rural character is important
- iv. Concern about center pivot irrigation

c. Environmentally sensitive areas/ Environmental Corridors

- i. Encourage conservation design development
- ii. Increase minimum lot size, 5-10 acres (2)
- iii. Want continued protection of environmental resources

d. Parks and Open Spaces

- i. Expand town park
- ii. Working on town hall park and playground
- iii. Apple Lake Boat Launch well-used and maintained
- iv. New park at Town Hall
- v. Want more parks, public places

2. Ag Entertainment

a. Generally supportive of Ag. Entertainment

3. Cultural Resources

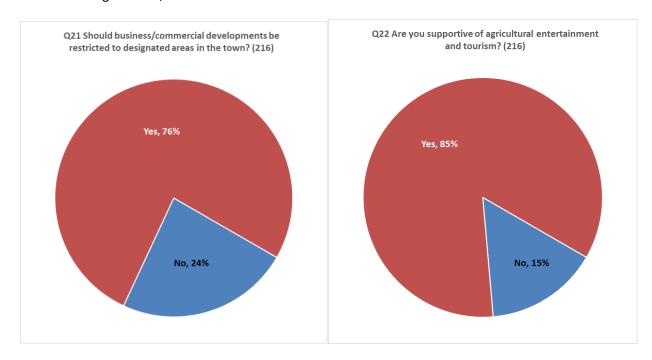
- a. <u>Historic Preservation</u>
 - i. Old school house by Outpost

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of the Economic Development section is to document, analyze, and promote the stabilization, retention or expansion, of the economic base and quality employment opportunities.

Economic Development Survey Summary

St. Croix County Code of Ordinances 15.805 Definitions: Agricultural Entertainment: A farm-based enterprise or business that combines the elements and characteristics of agriculture and tourism. Agricultural Entertainment includes a wide array of farm and farm-related activities, including outdoor recreation (nature based tourism, fishing, hunting, wildlife study, horseback riding); educational experiences (day camps, hands-on chores, cannery tours, cooking classes, wine tasting, on-farm museums); entertainment (harvest festivals, barn dances, "petting" farms); and hospitality services (weddings, overnight farm or ranch stays). The uses listed in this definition apply only to C-2 and state certified zoning districts, AG-1 and AG-2.



Economic Development Vision Session Summary

- 1. Locations and types of commercial/industrial uses
 - a. Have development be sensitive to environment
 - b. Corridors (3): Locate along state/county roads, Support development nodes along C, CC, Hwy 64, along corridor adjacent to other commercial
 - c. New Richmond Cooperative Boundary Agreement
 - d. Town doesn't have free land
 - e. Home based businesses are ok with small restrictions, support for home based business/occupations (2)
 - f. Less storage units, fewer commercial zonings
 - g. Not supportive of more tubing businesses

2. Business/industry retention, attraction/ Role of town in promoting business

- a. Cautious consideration, limited opportunities
- b. No budget for promotion
- c. Concerns/observation increased activity at Rivers Edge
- d. Not in favor of town attracting large new businesses
- e. Generally satisfied with commercial
- f. Race track season expanding noise can stop earlier at night? Old Mill/ Goose Lake Rd. safety

3. Tax Base

- a. Tax base for development would be good
- b. Development Cost/Revenue Question: Is the conversion from agricultural land generating more revenue for the town with consideration of cost of adding new infrastructure?

4. Environmentally contaminated sites

a. New Richmond dump, water quality issue

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

The purpose of the Intergovernmental Cooperation section is to document and analyze joint planning and decision making with other jurisdictions.

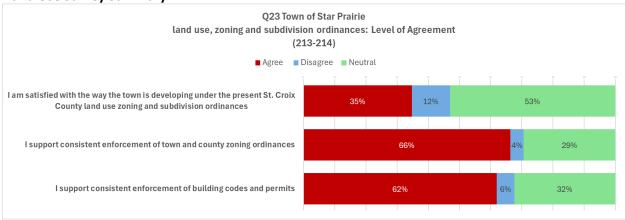
Intergovernmental Cooperation Vision Session Summary: Cooperation in the following:

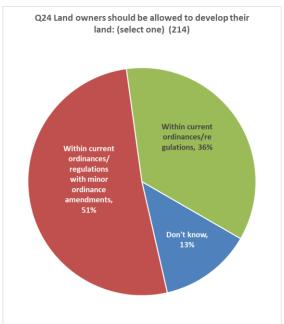
- 1. General
 - a. New Richmond and Somerset provide mutual aid
- 2. Drainage / Watershed
 - a. DNR, US Fish & Wildlife
 - b. More fish and wildlife land
 - c. Fish and Wildlife Service added property
- 3. Housing
 - a. If more housing density is needed, keep it in City/Village, annex if needed
- 4. Assessment and Taxation
 - a. State helps with Board of Review appeal
- 5. Sanitary, sewer, solid waste, recycling
 - a. Recycling events
 - b. New Richmond water agreement ok
 - c. Composting example New Richmond
- 6. Sharing public services
 - a. County Highway Maintenance, reasonable, good service, plowing
 - b. Clarify Boundary Road Maintenance Agreements
 - c. County contract for Sherriff
 - d. More collaboration between fire/ EMS responders
 - e. Fire / Emergency services Somerset rescue get contracted out
 - f. 80th Street adjacent to Somerset working to do some collaboration with Polk County

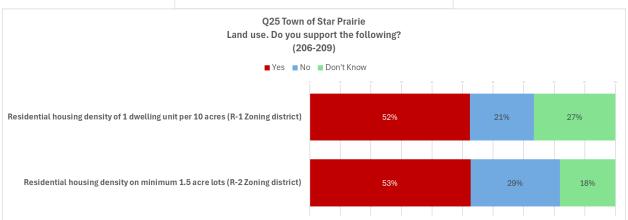
LAND USE

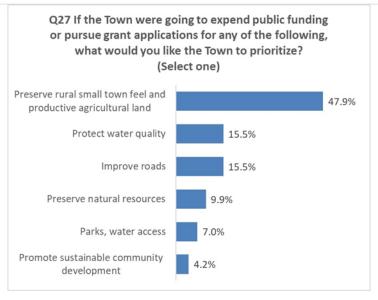
The purpose of the Land Use section is to document, analyze, and guide the future development and redevelopment of public and private property.











Land Use Vision Session Summary

1. Rate of growth

- a. Review Land Use plan to shape growth, usable document
- b. Allow commercial along major roads
- c. Promote environmental corridor
- d. Promote development nodes
- e.Slow it down
- f. Know that growth will occur/ slow growth/ status quo
- 2. Enforcement of land use regulations/ Review zoning map
 - a. Premature rezones, have development plans
 - b.Zone/plan for more rural uses to give town rezone input
 - c. Clarify laws & policies
 - d.Zoning map, more conservation zoning
 - e. Ag entertainment language example Kinnickinnic

3. Lot size and density

- a. Identify areas/density for development
- b.2 acre lot size generally ok
- c. Consider larger lots?
- d. Higher density closer to New Richmond
- e. Fewer density lower intensity of development
- 4. Supply, demand and price of land
 - a. Concern with more housing density creating more wear on roads, repair existing road first, will more tax base balance this?
- 5. Existing and potential land-use conflicts
 - a. Zoning/Land Use conflicts
 - b. Apple River protection/water ground water

ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES - IMPLEMENTATION

The purpose of the Issues & Opportunities – Implementation section is to document, analyze, and make a statement of overall objectives, policies, goals and programs.

Issues & Opportunities – Implementation Vision Session/ Survey Summary

- 1. Old Town Hall preservation
- 2. Strand Lake [nice amenity that should be preserved]
- 3. Funding
- 4. Limit subdivisions everywhere
- 5. Protect environmental corridors

Q28 General Comments:

Below is the ChatGPT summary of general survey comments. The prompt included, "summarize into major themes and add count to the major theme." Twelve major themes resulted from the first prompt. Sixty-six total distinct comments were analyzed. Some comments touch on multiple themes and were counted accordingly.

1. Rural Character & Development Density (27)

- Desire to preserve rural, small-town feel.
- Concerns over high-density housing and subdivisions.
- Support for larger lot sizes (commonly 3-10 acre range).
- Resistance to turning into "another Hudson or New Richmond."

2. Zoning, Ordinances, and Land Use Policy (15)

- Requests for more flexible zoning options (between R1 & R2).
- Complaints about overregulation and enforcement.
- Frustrations with perceived inconsistencies in ordinance enforcement and variances.
- Suggestions for compromise between open space and lot requirements.

3. Natural Resources, Environment & Sustainability (14)

- Emphasis on protecting water, wetlands, and air quality.
- Interest in sustainable land use and agriculture.
- Strong desire to prevent environmental degradation from growth or solar farms.
- PFAS and aquifer monitoring suggested.

4. Road Conditions & Maintenance (9)

- Numerous complaints about poor road conditions and steep ditches.
- Specific concerns about potholes and unsafe stretches like 90th St.
- Comments advocating for road repair over new trail/path investments.

5. Community Services & Facilities (8)

- Calls for yard waste disposal sites, composting, and recycling options.
- Desire for more community centers, recreation programs, and public gathering places.

6. Survey Design / Participation Feedback (6)

- Confusion or criticism about survey structure and limited answer choices.
- Appreciation expressed for opportunity to provide input.

7. Noise, Speed, and Nuisance Issues (6)

- Speedway noise, muffler regulations, and garbage complaints.
- Frustrations with loud traffic and visual blight from unkempt properties.

8. Economic & Commercial Development (5)

- Support for local business incentives.
- Desire for entertainment, dining, and retail options to reduce travel outside the area.
- Some opposition to commercial solar or industrial operations (e.g., manure digesting plant).

9. Government & Regulation Philosophy (5)

- Calls for minimal government interference and regulation.
- Criticism of liberal or "socialist" policies and concern over loss of property rights.

10. Recreation, Trails & Parks (4)

- Interest in walking and biking trails, community gardens, outdoor learning/play areas.
- Some opposition if roads are not first maintained.

11. Housing Affordability / Senior Housing (2)

- Suggestions to allow zoning exceptions for senior housing.
- Support for finding housing options without sacrificing rural character.

12. Other Specific Suggestions or Issues (5)

- Johannesburg signs and historical markers.
- Driveway approvals affecting neighbors.
- Manure plant and methane emission concerns.
- Septic maintenance frequency.
- Requests for mental health support services.