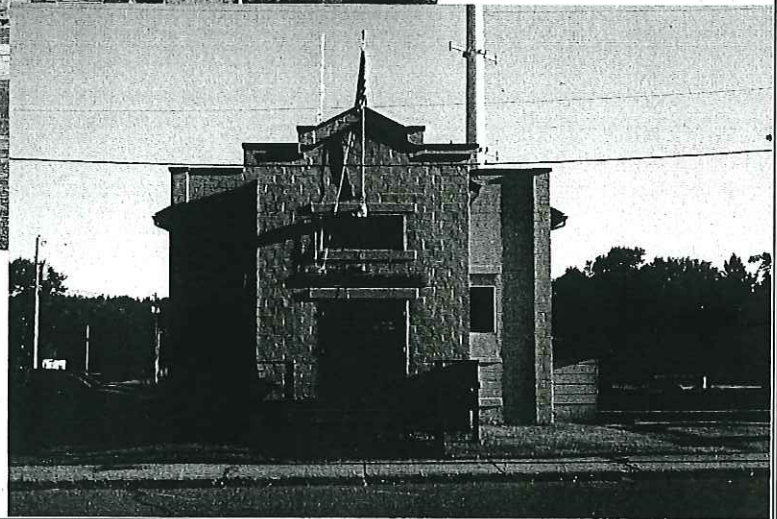
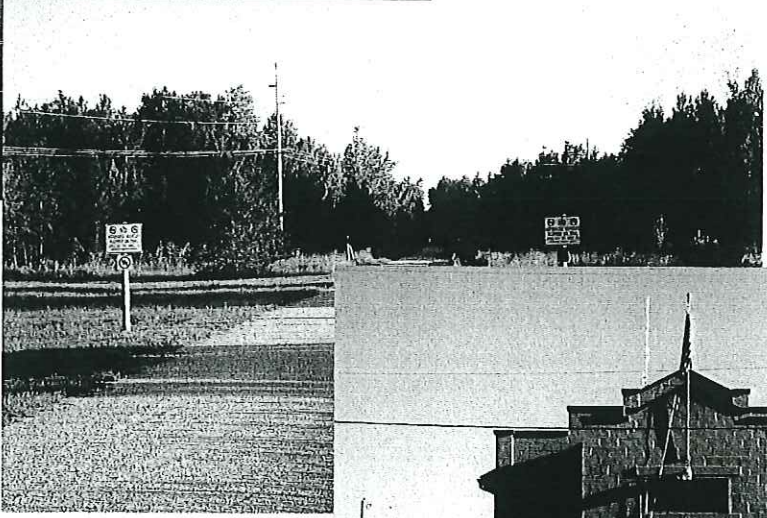


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BURNETT COUNTY

TOWN OF SWISS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

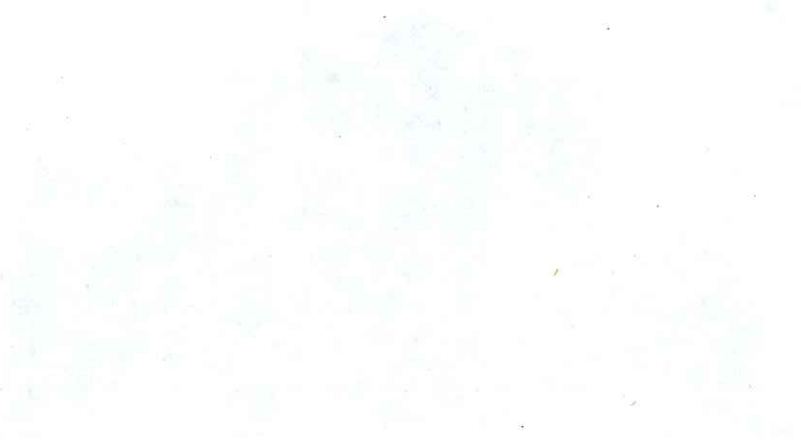
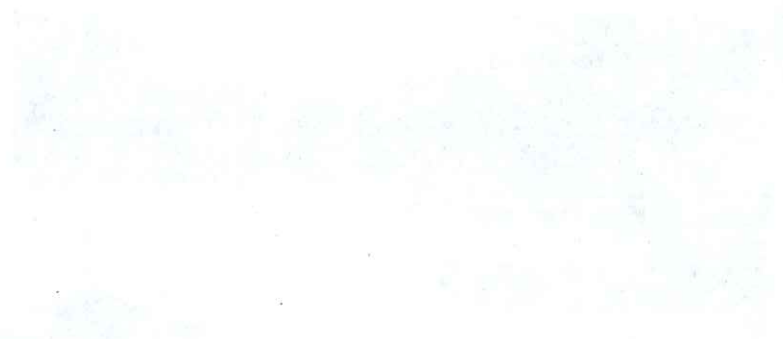
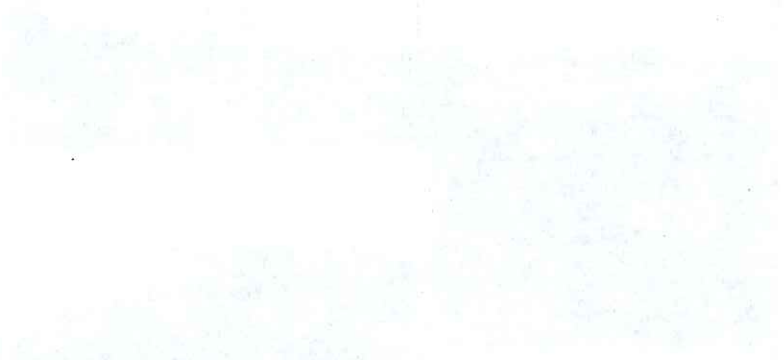
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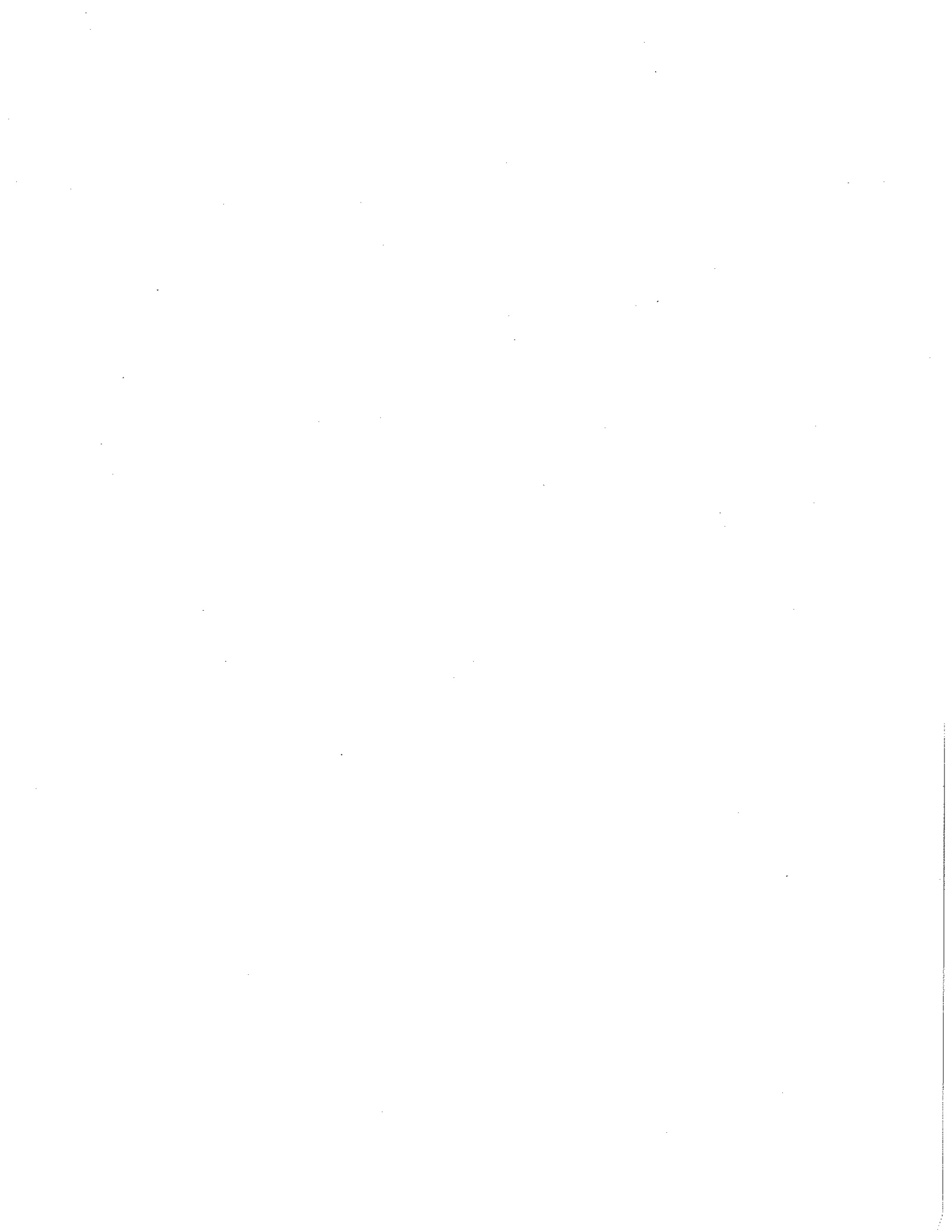
The Town of Swiss has developed and approved a comprehensive plan meeting the requirements of Wisconsin State Statutes 66.1001. A copy of the plan is enclosed and is also available for at the Webster Public Library. The town must transmit this correspondence to you as per plan adoption or amendment requirements set forth within 66.1001.

Sincerely,

Sheldon Johnson
Deputy Director

Enclosure

cc: Terry Nelson, Swiss Town Chair



TOWN OF SWISS

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Town Board

Terrance Nelson, Chair

George Costello, Supervisor

Gerald Pardun, Supervisor

Planning Commission

William Klugow, Chair

Debbie Pohlkamp

Gerald Pardun

Terrance Nelson

Bill Lehman

Comprehensive Plan Committee

Ms. Gloria Benjamin
Ms. Deb Holter

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Mr. Ron Pardun

Ms. Rosemary Phelps

Adopted
August 14, 2007

Prepared by:



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Lakes Planning Grant Program



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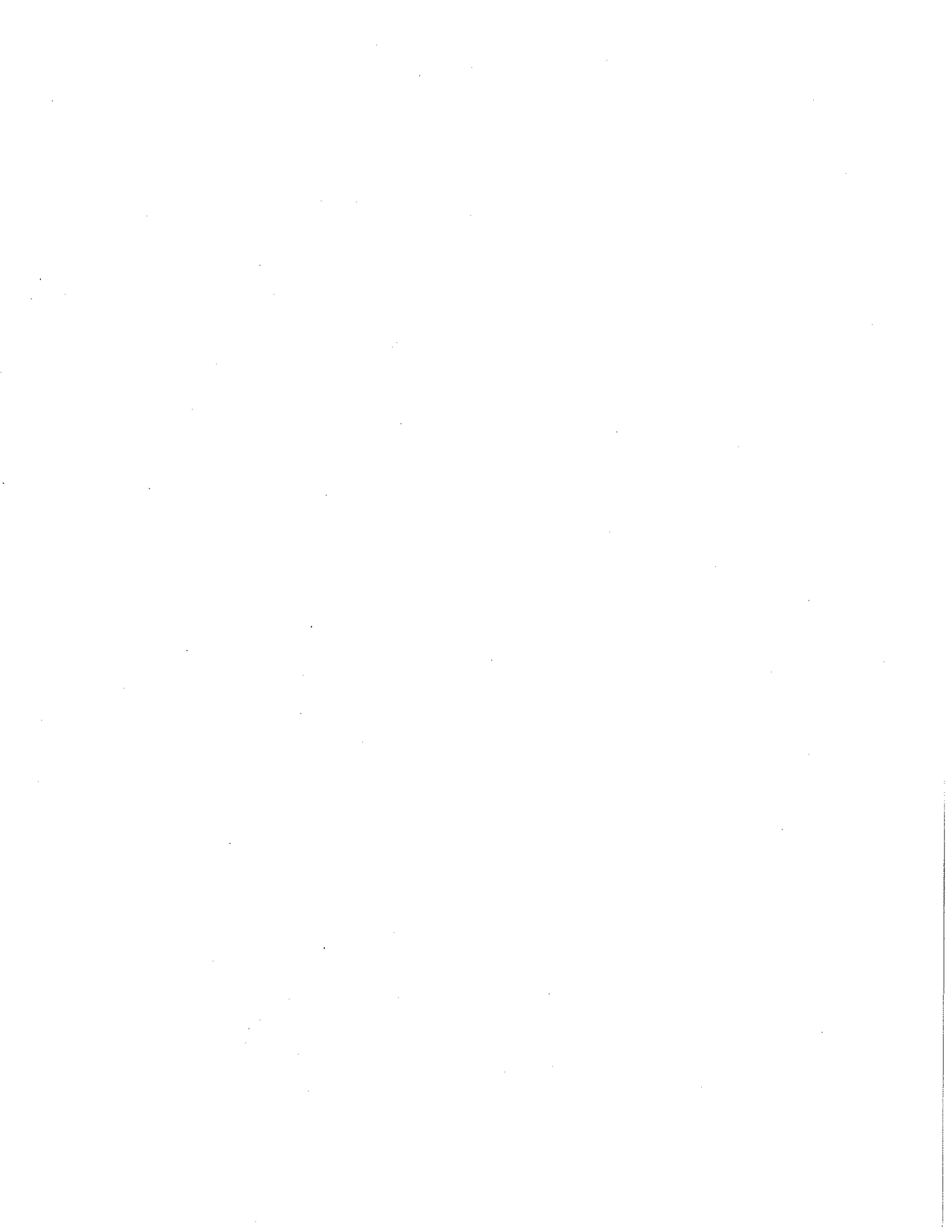
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PREFACE

Its rural character, emphasized by its forest and water resources, influences the Town of Swiss. Concerns regarding continued residential development and the anticipated increases in population prompted the town to embark on the development of a local planning process. The town began to develop a local long-range plan for the future land.

The Town of Swiss has experienced increases primarily in residential. This development activity is projected to continue into the future, potentially creating negative impacts to the natural resource base and rural character of the town. Commercial business development is primarily located in the unincorporated town of Danbury. While no municipal services (sewer & water) are present, the town and other organizations have for several years conducted engineering and planning studies towards a potential sanitary district. Costs related to this development have continued to increase to nearly \$11-\$12 million (2006) resulting in a gap of financing available for such development.

Overall, the town's population has been on the increase. The decade from 1990-2000 saw the population rise from 645 persons to 815 persons, an increase of 26.4 percent. Projections over the next 20 years continue to identify a population increase. The overall net affect being an increase in housing units and increased land use activity.

PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN

The *Town of Swiss Comprehensive Plan* is intended to assist local officials and residents make future land use decisions. The plan will assist development and local government by addressing short-range and long-range concerns regarding growth, development activity, and preservation of the community. Developing a comprehensive plan can assist in:

- identifying areas appropriate for development and preservation;
- recommending types of land use for specific areas;
- identifying needed transportation and community facilities that will serve existing and future residents;
- directing housing and other investments to areas that can best serve the community; and
- providing detailed objectives and actions to implement the overall plan goals.

This *Comprehensive Plan* has been prepared under the Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning legislation contained in Wisconsin Statute 66.1001. The plan is organized into nine chapters or elements (issues and opportunities; housing; transportation; utilities and community facilities; natural, agricultural, and cultural resources; economic development; intergovernmental cooperation; land use, and implementation) each addressing one element specified under the law.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

Throughout the planning process, the public was afforded several opportunities to participate directly in the development of the comprehensive plan. Meetings of the planning committee were posted and public members attending all planning related meetings were afforded an opportunity to speak and participate. Upon completion of the draft comprehensive plan, the plan committee formally recommended the plan to the Town of Swiss Planning Commission for review and final recommendation to the town board.

The final draft of the comprehensive plan was circulated to all adjoining and overlapping jurisdictions and others required to receive the plan and made available to the public. A public hearing was held on the comprehensive plan, again affording an opportunity for public comment. Based on the recommendations of the plan commission and the public, the Town of Swiss will review and consider adopting the recommended comprehensive plan.

ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Development of the Town of Swiss's Comprehensive Plan will begin with an overview of the community based on known information from the past to present and projections of the future covering a 20-year planning horizon. This element gives an overview of demographic trends and background information necessary to develop subsequent components of the comprehensive plan. This element includes such things as past, present, and future population; household and employment forecasts; demographic trends; age distribution; education and income levels; and employment characteristics. It also includes a section on the overall goals, objectives, policies (actions), and programs to help guide future preservation and development over the 20-year planning horizon.

1.2 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Looking at the characteristics of population, both past changes and future projections, can help a community plan for the needs of the future. This section will look at both past population figures and the projections for future population growth for the Town of Swiss and Burnett County.

Population Trends

Table 1.1 shows the population for the Town of Swiss from 1950 to 2000. Population in Swiss declined from 1950 through 1970 and then it began to grow for a total gain of 116 persons over the 50-year period. The greatest percentage growth by decade was from 1990 to 2000, when the town's population increased by 26 percent.

Table 1.1 Population Trends

Location	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	Absolute Change 1950-2000	Percent Change 1950-2000
Town of Swiss	699	655	518	587	645	815	116	16.6%
% Of County Population	6.83%	7.11%	5.58%	4.76%	4.93%	5.20%		---
Burnett County	10,236	9,214	9,276	12,340	13,084	15,674	5,438	53.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Burnett County suffered an overall loss in population from 1950 to 1970 but has experienced growth every decade since, with the largest jump in absolute numbers and percentage from 1970 to 1980. After decreasing its share of total county population to a low in 1980, the Town of Swiss increased its share from 4.76 percent in 1980 to 5.20 percent in 2000.

Population Projections

Table 1.2 displays population projections for the Town of Swiss and Burnett County through 2025. Population projections identify a moderate growth rate through the year 2025 for both the

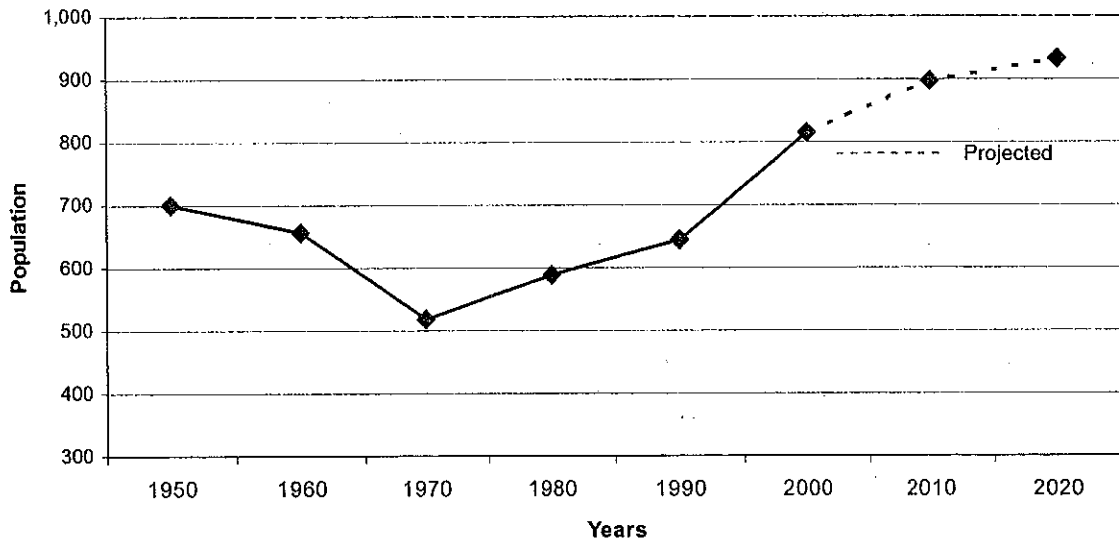
town and the county. Figure 1.1 charts both the historical population as well as the projected population for the Town to year 2020. It is anticipated that population gains will be greater with continued development and growth of tribal developments and continued population growth on tribal lands.

Table 1.2 Population Projections 2005 – 2025

Year	Town of Swiss	Burnett County
2005	859	16,375
2010	897	16,993
2015	921	17,329
2020	931	17,415
2025	934	17,390
Absolute Change 2005-2025	75	1,015

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Service Center

**Figure 1.1: Town of Swiss
Population: 1950-2000, Population Projections: 2010-2020**



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; WI Dept. of Administration, Demographic Services Center

Important to understand is that while the population is projected to increase moderately, the average household size is expected to decrease. This trend is important because it means more housing units will be needed in the town to support the overall population.

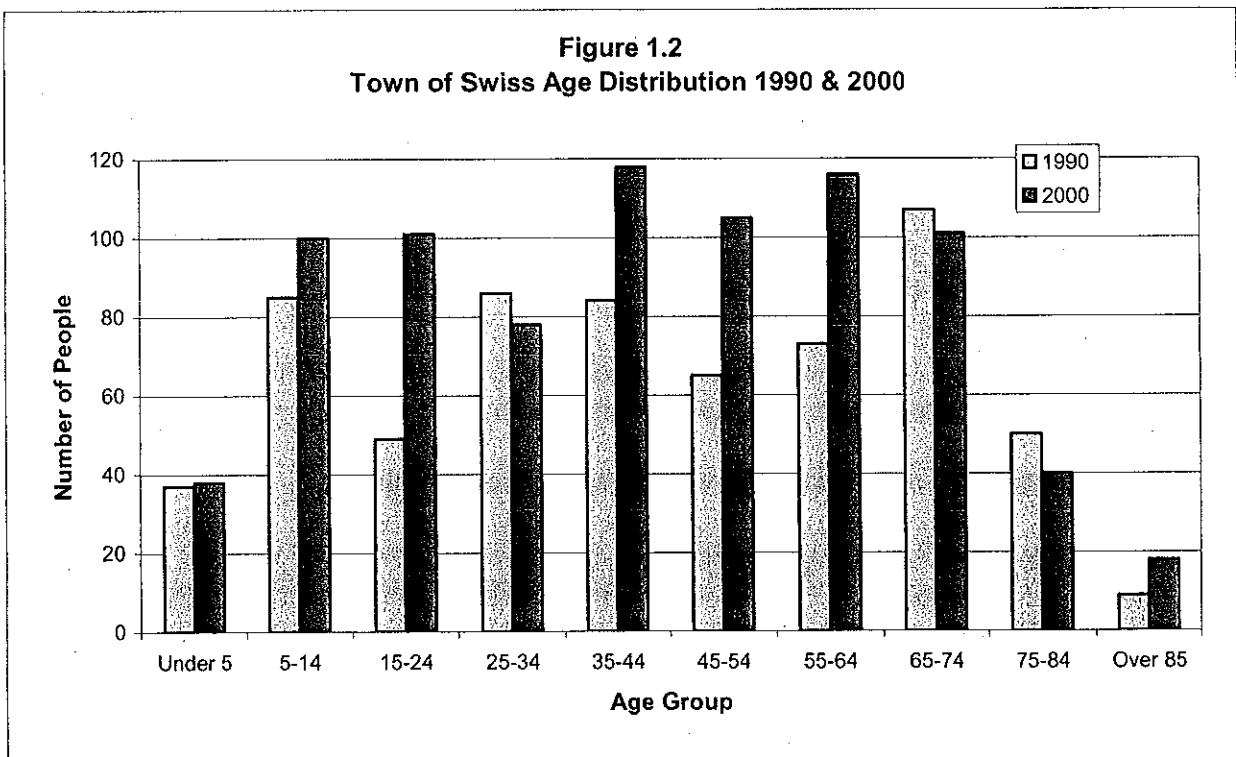
Factors for the overall increase in population may include the conversion of seasonal residences into permanent residences; attractiveness of the area’s natural resources; local public infrastructure developments; and the overall ability of the town to provide a quality of life that is comfortable with access to goods, services, and economic activities to satisfy its current population and attract new people.

Population Composition

Population figures and growth rates do not provide any insight about the characteristics of the population. To learn more about the people of the Town of Swiss, information about race, sex, and age of the population must be examined.

In 2000, there were 409 males and 406 females living in the Town of Swiss. A majority (77.1%) of the residents reported their race as *white* in the 2000 U.S. Census. The second largest race group in the Town of Swiss was listed as *American Indian and Alaska Native* at 17.7 percent.

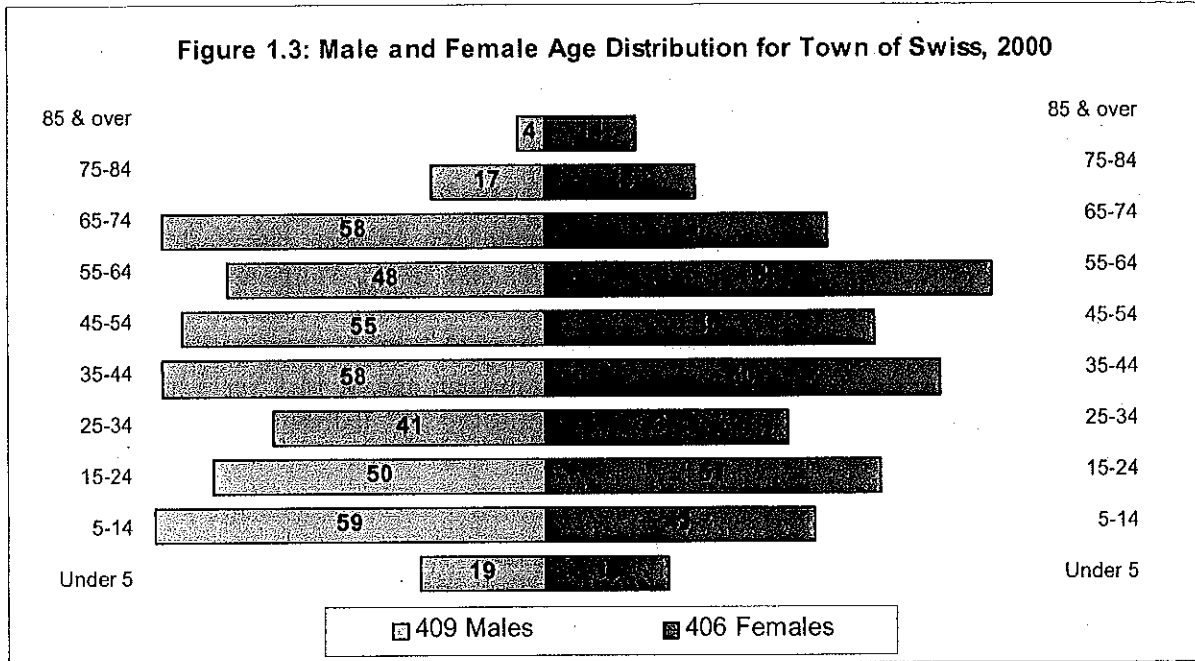
The median age of a Town of Swiss resident in 2000 was 42.7 years, compared to 42.4 years in 1990. This average is lower than the Burnett County median age of 44.1 years but higher than the State median age of 36.0 years. Figure 1.2 compares the age distribution for town residents in 1990 and 2000.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

In the years from 1990 to 2000, the age groups for Swiss residents changed significantly in four age groups. There was approximately a 106 percent increase in the 15-24 age group, a 41 percent increase in the 35-44 age group, a 62 percent increase in the 45-54 age group, and a 59 percent increase in the 55-64 age group.

The population pyramid in Figure 1.3 represents a visual depiction of the age distribution by sex in 2000 for the Town. As shown in the chart, the age group with the largest percentage (14.5 %) of the population falls in the range of 35-44. Male and female population age groups are fairly evenly split, 409 being male and 406 being female.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (SF 1)

1.3 HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Definitions referring to household characteristics may assist the reader in further understanding household figures. According to the U.S. Census Bureau:

A *household* includes all of the people who occupy a housing unit.

Occupants may consist of a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group or related or unrelated people who share a housing unit.

A *housing unit* is a house, apartment, mobile home, group of rooms, or single room occupied (or if vacant, intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters.

Household Trends and Projections

National and state trends have all moved towards an increase in the number of households, along with a decrease in the average persons per household. The main reasons for the decrease in household size include but are not limited to a decrease in birth rates, people waiting longer to get married, and an increase in the average life span thereby resulting in more elderly people living alone. The Town of Swiss has not followed this trend. The town experienced an increase of 63 households since 1990; however, during this same period, the number of persons per household has increased from 2.36 in 1990 to 2.43 in 2000.

Table 1.3 shows households by type for the Town of Swiss. According to Census 2000, there were 336 households in the town. The majority of the households (66%) were family households. Of the family households, the most common type was a married-couple family household, which makes up 74 percent of the total. Non-family households accounted for 34 percent. Of the 90 householders living alone, 51 percent were age 65 and over.

	Town of Swiss
Total Households	336
1. Family households	223
a. Married-couple family	166
i. With own children under 18 years	50
ii. Without own children under 18 years	116
b. Female Householder, no spouse present	38
i. With own children under 18 years	22
ii. Without own children under 18 years	16
2. Non-family households	113
a. Householder living alone	90
i. Householder 65 years and over	46

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (SF 1)

Table 1.4 displays both actual numbers of households and projections for the Town of Swiss from 1980 through 2025. Household projections for the town show a gain of 100 households from 2000 to 2025.

	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Households	228	273	336	363	391	413	427	436

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, WI Dept. of Administration

1.4 INCOME AND POVERTY LEVELS

More than any other type of data, income data indicates how an area is doing economically. Income is measured several ways and this section will explain and compare some of those statistics for the Town of Swiss and Burnett County.

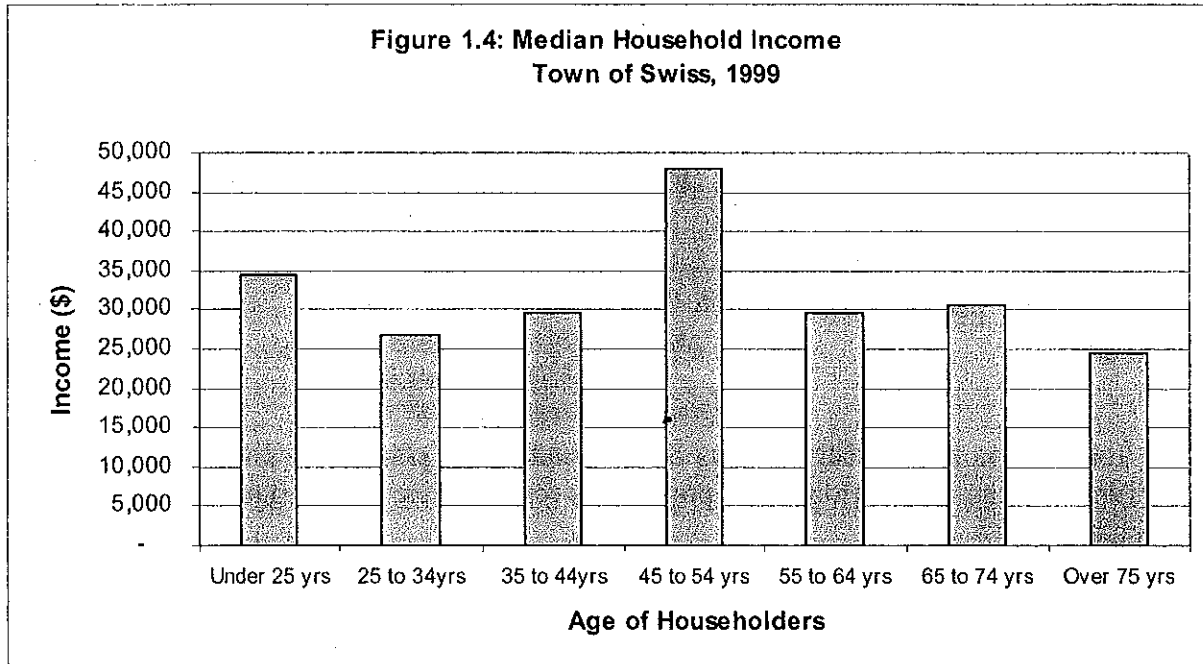
Household Income

Table 1.5 reports the average annual income for households in the Town of Swiss as of 1999 and reported by Census 2000. Of the town's households, 40.7 percent report an annual income of over \$35,000, while 8.1 percent of households report annual incomes below \$10,000. Roughly 24 percent of households had an income over \$50,000.

Annual Income	Percent of Households
Less than \$10,000	8.1%
\$10,000 - \$24,999	28.0%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	23.1%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	16.6%
\$50,000 - \$99,999	19.2%
\$100,000 and over	4.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (SF 3)

The median household income (MHI) in 1999 as reported by the 2000 U.S. Census was \$30,461, compared to a MHI of \$34,218 for Burnett County and \$43,791 for the state. As illustrated in Figure 1.4, householders age 45 to 54 had the highest median household income at \$47,917.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000

Per Capita, Per Capita Personal Income, and Poverty Rates

Per capita income (PCI) is defined as all resident *money* income divided by population. It is composed of generally traceable money from wages, interest, dividends, welfare program payments, etc. It does not take into account money received from sale of property, money borrowed, exchange of money between relatives in same households, tax refunds, gifts, and insurance payments, which per capita personal income (PCPI) figures do take into consideration. Thus, PCPI figures are always higher than PCI. PCPI is not available at the community level. The U.S. Census Bureau reports PCI and the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, calculates PCPI at the county level on a yearly basis.

As indicated by Table 1.6, PCI in 1999 for the Town of Swiss is slightly lower than the county per capita income and significantly lower than the state per capita income. PCPI for Burnett County is only 71 percent of the state per capita personal income and is the 12th lowest in the state.

Table 1.6 Income Levels and Poverty Rates

	Town of Swiss	Burnett County	State of Wisconsin
Per Capita Income, 1999	\$16,870	\$17,712	\$21,271
Per Capita Personal Income, 2001	NA	\$20,625	\$29,196
Percent of individuals below poverty level	10.2%	8.8%	8.7%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Poverty rates are determined on the basis of money income and do not reflect the fact that many low-income people receive non-cash benefits. The poverty rate in the Town of Swiss (10.2%) is higher than the county and the state as indicated in Table 1.6.

Table 1.7 shows different measures of income and poverty from Census 2000 data comparing the Town of Swiss with surrounding communities. Other than median household income, where the town had the highest MHI, the town is neither the highest nor the lowest in other income measures or poverty rate.

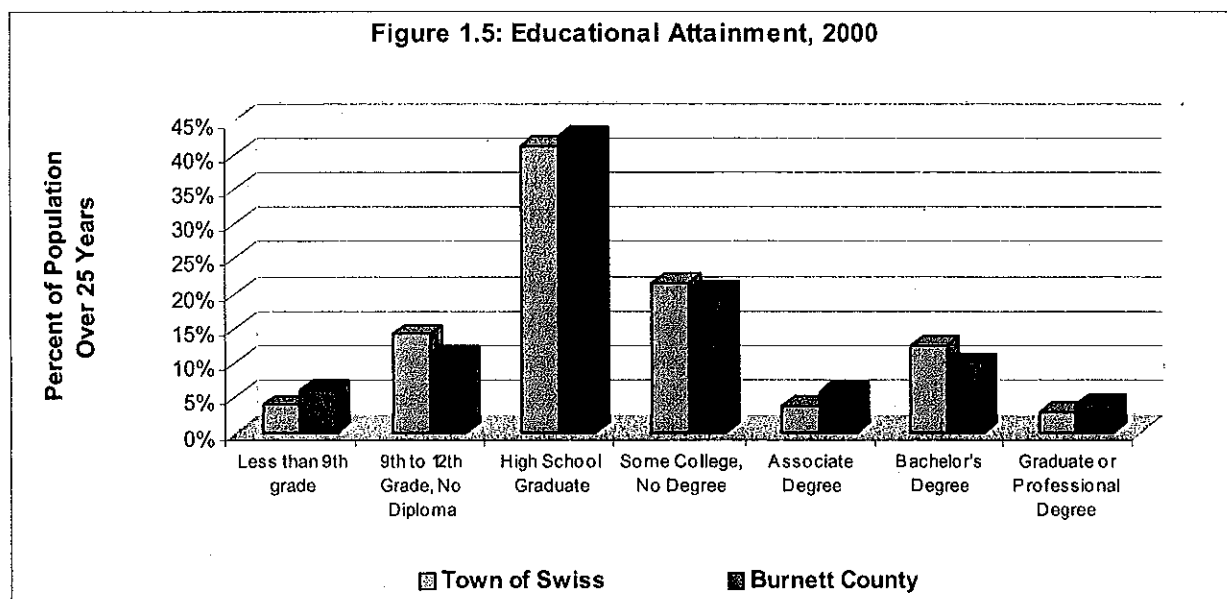
Table 1.7 Income Levels for Town of Swiss and Surrounding Communities

	Town of Swiss	Town of Blaine	Town of Union	Town of Oakland	Town of Webb Lake
Median Household Income, 1999	\$30,461	\$31,250	\$31,250	\$35,859	\$31,033
Median Family Income, 1999	\$34,219	\$34,531	\$33,906	\$40,132	\$36,000
Percent of families below poverty level	9.2%	6.8%	3.3%	3.4%	0.0%
Per Capita Income, 1999	\$16,870	\$12,895	\$18,404	\$19,773	\$17,584
Percent of individuals below poverty level	10.2%	15.3%	8.1%	5.4%	5.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000 (SF 3)

1.5 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

A good indicator of the quality of life in a community is the educational attainment of its residents. Generally, a high level of educational attainment reflects a skilled population with higher earnings potential. Figure 1.5 illustrates the level of educational attainment for persons age 25 and over in the Town of Swiss and Burnett County in 2000.



Source: U. S. Census 2000

1.6 EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

A community's labor force consists of all individuals age 16 and above who are employed or unemployed and looking for work. No specific labor force data is available at the community level; therefore, county data is used.

A recent publication by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development stated, "Demographic projections prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Administration suggest that the state will be faced with a significant labor shortage within the next 10 to 15 years as the number of people turning 65, fueled by the aging of the "Baby Boomer" generation surpasses the number of people turning 18 due to low birth rates and slowing migration patterns. Consequently, the number of workers entering the labor force will not be sufficient to replace those ending their working careers".¹

Burnett County Labor Force

Table 1.8 highlights Burnett County labor force statistics for the last ten years on an average annual basis. Overall, Burnett County's labor force has been increasing steadily except for small declines in 1998 and 1999. In 2002, the unemployment rate climbed to the highest level since 1994.

Table 1.8 Burnett County Labor Force Data

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Labor Force	6,724	6,945	7,035	7,169	7,079	6,947	7,246	7,642	7,736	7,993
Employed	6,297	6,626	6,712	6,815	6,782	6,631	6,956	7,239	7,277	7,577
Unemployed	428	318	323	354	297	315	290	403	459	416
Unemp. Rate	6.4%	4.6%	4.6%	4.9%	4.2%	4.5%	4.0%	5.3%	5.9%	5.2%

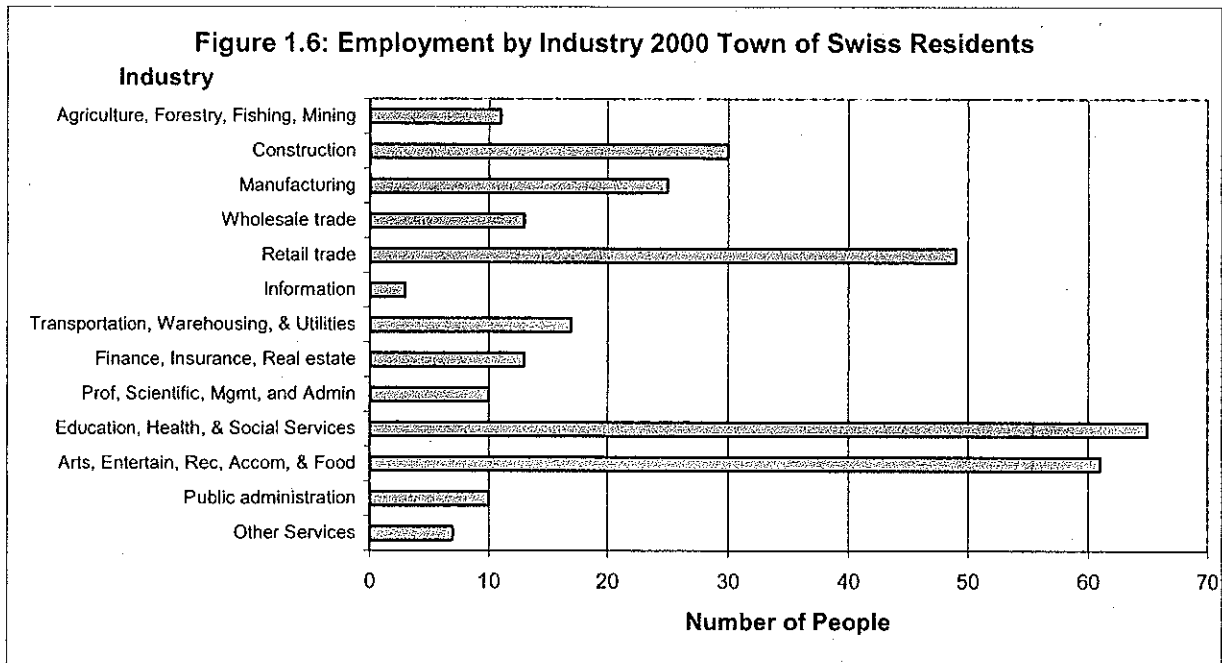
Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, LAUS

Employment by Industry

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 314 residents of the town (16 years and over) were employed at that time in either the Town of Swiss or elsewhere. Of the 306 residents that commuted to work, 234 drove alone, and 22 carpooled. See the Economic Development section for details of commuting patterns and areas where residents were employed.

Figure 1.6 identifies employment by industry for Swiss residents in 2000. As indicated by the chart, three industry sectors dominated resident employment. Over 20 percent of residents were employed in the education, health, and social services sector while roughly 19 percent were employed in the arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodations, and food industries. Another large employment sector is retail trade (15.6%), which is likely due to the many businesses located in the unincorporated Town of Danbury in the Town of Swiss.

¹ Mortarboards, Paychecks, and Crystal Balls: The Link Between Education and Wisconsin's Labor Force. October 2002



Source: U.S Census Bureau

Top Town of Swiss Employers

Employment opportunities are critical to the continued growth and economic stability for the town and residents of Swiss. Table 1.9 lists the top eight employers located in the Town of Swiss as reported by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development in March 2003.

Table 1.9 Top Employers in Town of Swiss in Order of Number of Employees

Employer Name	Product or Service	Employment Size Range
St. Croix Band Of Chippewa	Casino Hotels	100-249
Log Cabin Store	Other General Merchandise Stores	20-49
Waynes' Star Of The North Market Inc	Grocery Store	20-49
Voyager Village Property Owners Assn Inc	Lodging	20-49
The Fish Bowl Inc	Bar & Eatery	10-19
T & T Logging Inc	Other Plastic Product Manufacturing	10-19
Town Of Swiss Burnett County	Local Government	10-19
Ike Walton Lodge Inc	Hotels	10-19

Source: WI Department of Workforce Development, March 2003 and the Town of Swiss

Burnett County Employment Forecast

Based on data from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) highlighting the number of jobs with employers located in Burnett County from 1975 to 2003, employment projections were developed by NWRPC to 2030. Figure 1.7 shows the employed persons for 1975 to 2003 and Figure 1.8 shows not only the past employment data but also the employment projections for future years to 2030.

1.7 OVERALL GOAL STATEMENT

The Town of Swiss has prepared a number of goals and objectives that include actions and policies in addressing land use activities. For purposes of this planning process, actions identified through the plan are also defined as policies. The goals and objectives are intended to assist the town board and local property owners in implementing actions deemed important and in the interest of the community. It is imperative that the goals, objectives, and actions described in this plan are implemented to fully achieve the desired outcome. A full set of the goals, objectives, and actions are included in the implementation element of this plan.

The overall goal is to retain rural character in the Town of Swiss. To do this, the overall objective of the Town of Swiss is to guide future development and redevelopment of the community in a manner consistent with the element goals, objectives, actions, and identified programs contained in this document. The overall policy is to adopt and implement the comprehensive plan and continue to work with the adjacent and overlapping jurisdictions. The overall programs outlined throughout the recommendations and action plan represent the methods to achieve the overall plan goal.

1.8 ST. CROIX BAND OF CHIPPEWA

The St. Croix Band of Chippewa controls and maintains several different communities throughout western Wisconsin. The Danbury community lies within the geographical boundary of the Town of Swiss. As such, there is the potential for cooperation and collaboration between the Tribe and the town. Other communities that are considered as part of the tribal organization include the following:

Pike Lake, Clam Lake, Gaslyn, Bashaw, West Hertel/Sand Lake (Burnett County), Balsam Lake and Round Lake (Polk County), and Maple Plain (Barron County).

The St. Croix Chippewa Band of Wisconsin is a federally recognized tribe governed by a five-member council elected for two-year terms. The tribal council is responsible for the general welfare of tribal members and the management of day-to-day tribal business. The council is governed by the tribal constitution and by-laws, which were originally ratified in 1934 under the Indian Reorganization Act.

The largest area employers are counties and the St. Croix tribal enterprises which includes three casinos and government offices. The Hole-in-the-Wall Hotel and Casino in Danbury employs over 200 members. Most of the main tribal buildings are located in the Hertel/Sand Lake area of Burnett County.

The tribe and the Town of Swiss (Danbury) are jointly working on a large-scale sewer and water project. More details on this project can be found in the Utilities and Community Facilities element of this document.

The St. Croix Tribe also operates environmental service programs, some in conjunction with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), others through their own environmental departments. Programs include but are not limited to recycling and solid and hazardous waste collection programs; many are done in cooperation with the Burnett County and other regional programs.

1.9 RESULTS OF ISSUES IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

As part of the planning process, the community identified a list of issues confronting the community and completed a SWOT analysis.

TOWN OF SWISS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ISSUES

HOUSING

1. Research corridor development for mobile homes not covered by present county and town ordinances.
2. Research subsidized low-income, multi-family housing.
3. Assisted living possibilities.
4. Explore senior housing options.
5. Consider environmental impacts of planned housing developments
6. Pursue grants to upgrade sub-standard housing.
7. Remediation of "eyesore" properties.
8. Explore adequate development of green space.

TRANSPORTATION

1. Explore regulations for all recreational vehicles (land/water).
2. Explore adequate controls and regulations of corridors for recreational vehicles – state, county and town.
3. Prioritize town roads for improvements and maintenance.
4. Explore senior transportation options.
5. Research traffic regulations for Main Street (Danbury) and State Highway 35.
6. Future development of Highways 35 and 77.
7. Future developments must comply with present town road regulations.

UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

1. Develop storm drainage system in conjunction with waste treatment facility.
2. Research development of Danbury Park and future parks.
3. Work directly with the Danbury Sanitary District planning for the area.
4. Develop better use of town hall by citizens.
5. Continue improvement of handicapped accessibility of town properties.
6. Continued town input into cell tower locations, also power lines and gas lines.
7. Explore childcare issues.
8. Explore permanent library facility for town or continuation of mobile library service.
9. Explore law enforcement issues.
10. Maintain adequate waste and recycling systems.

11. Continue present and future planning for town cemeteries.
12. Development of appropriate signage for town visitors, businesses and facilities.

AG, NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

1. Preserve productive farms for continued agricultural use.
2. County and other controlled forest areas. Town has little input.
3. Return county lands to township and limit how much a county can own (land) in a township.
4. Work with local Native Americans to preserve their heritage and archaeological sites.
5. Continued protection of the Scenic Waterway.
6. Ensure the protection of ground water and address surface water runoff.
7. Continue to support Burnett County's Lakes Classification Ordinance to preserve lake development and usage.
8. Environmental impacts of present and future industrial, commercial developments.
9. Continue working with WDNR on monitoring effects of closed dumpsites in town.
10. Continue to identify potential brownfield sites and explore avenues for remediation where needed.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

1. The development of a plan for exchanging information with the local tribe for shared concerns and responsibilities.
2. Research cost-effectiveness of sharing services with adjacent towns.
3. Check availability of grants for cooperative ventures.
4. Loss of tax lands to WDNR.
5. Loss of tax lands to local tribe.
6. Maintaining current shared services.
7. More open communications with agencies that have land controls in the town.
8. More town representation in decision making at other agency/government levels.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Restrict unplanned commercial development.
2. Promotion of main street establishments.
3. Encourage rehabilitation of existing business structures.
4. Encourage tourism-related businesses.
5. Commercial development to be a priority over industrial.
6. Ensure adequate utility infrastructure for new development.
7. Develop a process to negotiate and concur on economic development issues with the tribe.

LAND USE

1. Shoreline zoning decisions at county level.
2. The creation of commercial/industrial zones rather than
3. Develop 20-year projection of land uses.
4. Development of industrial and commercial corridors for future development.
5. Return of taxable lands to town – try to eliminate loss of present tax base.
6. Restoration of these lands to town for future industrial/commercial corridors.

7. Reevaluate taxation of wild lands.
8. Review WDNR logging practices.
9. Restrictive zoning of commercial signage.

1.10 SWOT ANALYSIS (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats)

STRENGTHS

1. Rural atmosphere
2. Tourism-based economy
3. Four season recreation
4. Scenic riverway system
5. Community spirit
6. Visibility of tribal law enforcement

WEAKNESSES

1. Road system
2. Community/business involvement in civic areas
3. Housing
4. Police protection
5. Traffic control
6. Lack of tax base
7. Presence of abandoned, dilapidated properties, abandoned cars.
8. Land being put into trust status
9. Indiscriminate use of ATV's, snowmobiles, personal watercraft
10. Restrictive shoreline regulations

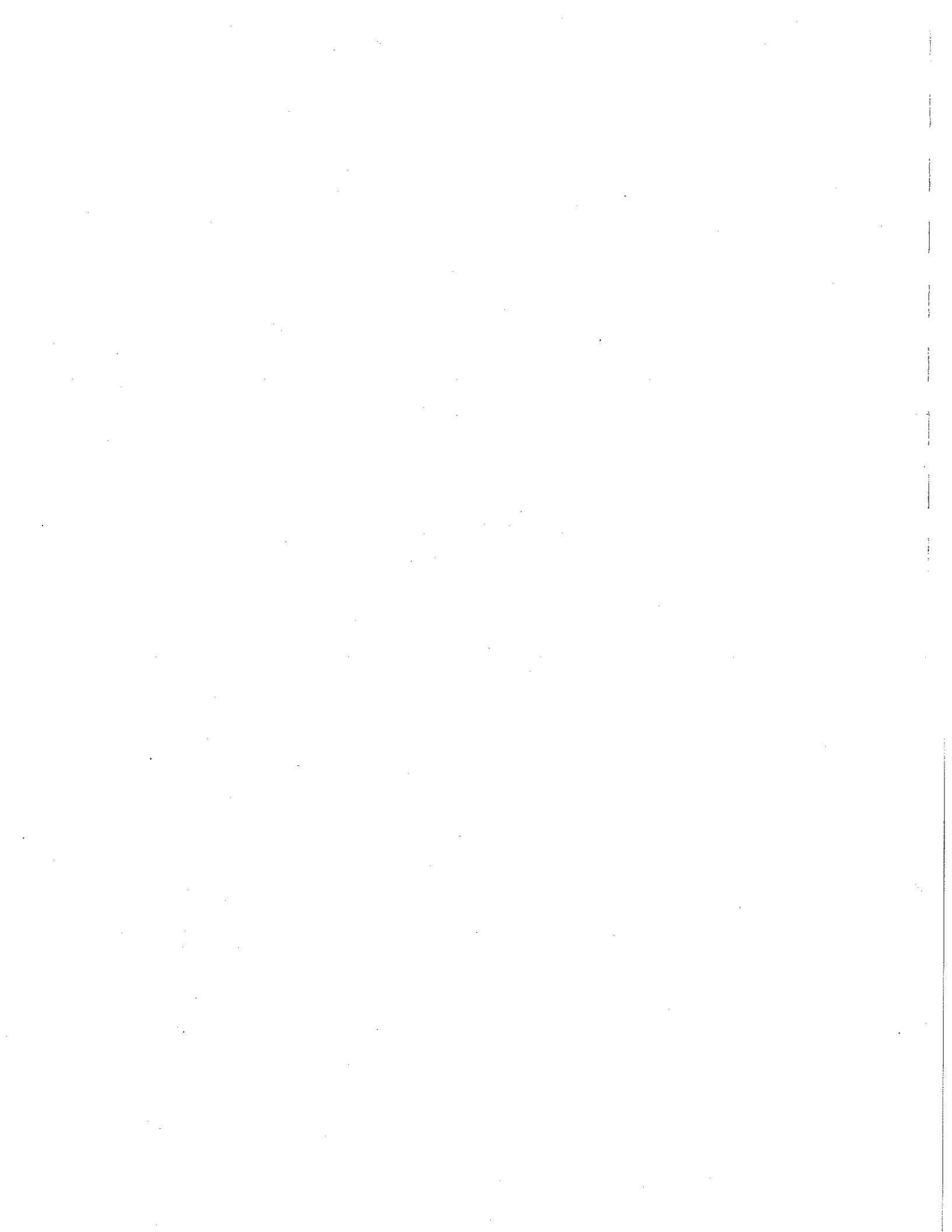
OPPORTUNITIES

1. The development of the new sewer/water system, which will allow for more commercial development
2. Road maintenance and drainage will improve with new system in place
3. Continuing commercial development on Main Street and possible expansion onto other streets
4. Potential acquisition of some county forest lands for possible development
5. Continuing to promote the natural scenery of the area as a means to increase tourism while maintaining the rural atmosphere
6. Improve promotion of Gandy Dancer Trail
7. Development of new town park
8. Potential sewer/water system will allow development of senior housing projects
9. Promote discussion with the tribe to research future funding and development opportunities
10. Hatchery will provide employment opportunities
11. Construction of new casino and hotel
12. Opportunities for better communication and intergovernmental cooperation with the tribe and surrounding municipalities

THREATS

1. Uncontrolled development
2. Loss of tax base from tribe and county (purchase of town lands/county forest lands)

3. Uncontrolled highway through town – need more signage and traffic regulation
4. Destruction of trails by ATV and snowmobile usage
5. Continuing problems with inadequately maintained properties
6. Future employment problems due to low wage scale in area



HOUSING

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Adequate housing is a cornerstone of every community. The ability of a community to address its demand for housing is key to its economic viability and the well being of its inhabitants. By studying changes in the number of housing units and other housing characteristics, one is able to gain insight into changes taking place in the town.

2.2 EXISTING HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Over the past two decades, total housing units in the Town of Swiss have increased significantly (Table 2.1). During the period from 1980 to 1990, the town exhibited a 16.3 percent increase and from 1990 to 2000, it had a 4.9 percent increase in total housing units.

Table 2.1 Housing Stock 1980-2000

	1980	1990	2000	Change 1980-1990	Change 1990-2000
Total Housing Units	683	794	833	111	39
Total Occupied Housing Units (Households)	228	273	336	45	63
Owner-Occupied Units	190	214	265	24	51
Renter Occupied Units	38	59	71	21	12
Vacant Units (True)	64	49	16	-15	-33
Seasonal Units	391	472	481	81	9
Average Household Size	2.57	2.36	2.43	-0.21	0.07

Source: US Census Bureau 1980-2000

Occupancy Characteristics

The majority of housing units are categorized as owner-occupied units. In 2000, 265 (78.9%) of all occupied housing units were identified as owner occupied, compared to 214 owner-occupied units in 1990 (78.4% of all owner-occupied units). Renter-occupied units comprised 21 percent of all occupied housing units in 2000. Interestingly, although the town gained only 39 total housing units from 1990 to 2000, it gained 51 total owner-occupied (year-round) dwellings. This was done using a conversion of seasonal units and vacant units to year-round dwellings and the addition of new construction.

The town is abundant in natural resources, including a significant number of lakes. As a result, it has maintained a large number of homes identified as seasonal or for recreational use. In 2000, 481 housing units were identified as seasonal homes. During the past two decades, the number of seasonal homes increased by 90 units, an increase of nearly 23 percent.

The gradual decline of inhabitants per occupied household is occurring throughout most of Burnett County and northern Wisconsin. Table 2.1 indicates that in 2000 the Town of Swiss had an average of 2.43 persons per household, representing a decline from 1980 levels but an increase from 1990 levels. The increase in 2000 levels does not fit the trend in regional household sizes. Regional trends causing declines include the out migration of inhabitants over the age of 18 for work or school, overall smaller family sizes, fewer families with children moving into the town, and fewer children being born to town residents. Additionally, many households are composed of retired couples or are single person households. It is surmised that the Town of Swiss will begin to experience decreasing household sizes in the future, as has the general region, particularly with regards to a larger retired population in the town converting seasonal homes into year-round homes.

Table 2.2 compares selected housing characteristics for the Town of Swiss with some surrounding towns and Burnett County. In 2000, the town had an overall vacancy rate of 2 percent (excludes seasonal units). The town's median housing value in 2000 as reported by specified owner-occupied units was \$85,900. This is lower than the median value in the county and the surrounding Towns of Blaine, Webb Lake, and Jackson.

Table 2.2 Comparison of Housing Characteristics (2000)

	Town of Swiss	Town of Blaine	Town of Webb Lake	Town of Jackson	Burnett County
Total Housing Units	833	238	730	1,031	12,582
% Occupied Housing Units	40.3%	40.8%	25.5%	33.7%	52.6%
% Seasonal	57.7%	59.2%	72.9%	65.0%	45.0%
*Median Housing Value	\$85,900	\$92,500	\$122,900	\$90,800	\$87,500

Source: U.S. Census 2000 (SF1 and SF3)

* All specified owner-occupied units

Value Characteristics

A significant increase occurred from 1990 to 2000 in the median value of specified owner-occupied housing units. The median value of specified owner-occupied housing units in 2000 was \$85,900 compared to \$40,200 in 1990. Overall, the value of housing units (owner-occupied) ranges from less than \$50,000 to more than \$200,000. As indicated in Table 2.3, the majority of specified owner-occupied units (59.7%) are valued lower than \$100,000.

Table 2.3 Owner-Occupied Housing by Value – 2000

Value	Units	Percent of Specified Units
Less than \$50,000	33	19.5
\$50,000 - \$99,999	68	40.2
\$100,000 – \$149,999	27	16.0
\$150,000 – \$199,999	15	8.9
\$200,000 and above	26	15.4
Total All Specified Units	169	100

Source: US Census Bureau (SF3), Specified owner-occupied units

Affordability of owner and renter-occupied units is critical to sustaining population and employment levels for local businesses. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), affordable housing costs including utilities, taxes, mortgage or rent payments, and insurance should not be greater than 30 percent of the total household income. If the housing costs are greater than 30 percent, households may be finding it difficult to make ends meet. Table 2.4 shows that in the Town of Swiss, 17.7 percent of the specified owner-occupied units exceeded 30 percent of their household income.

Table 2.4 Monthly Owner Costs as a Percent of Household Income – 1999

Percent of Household Income	Units	Percent of Specified Units
Less than 15 Percent	80	47.3
15.0 to 19.9 Percent	32	18.9
20.0 to 24.9 Percent	23	13.6
25 to 29.9 Percent	4	2.4
30.0 to 34.9 Percent	9	5.3
35.0 Percent or More	21	12.4
Not Computed	-	-
Total Specified Units	169	100

Source: US Census Bureau (SF3)

Rental costs vary based on many factors, including the quality of housing, number of bedrooms, and overall size of the housing unit. There were 61 rental units identified within the Town of Swiss in 2000. According to specified renter-occupied data, eight housing units were paying less than \$300 per month for rent (Table 2.5). In 1990, 36 housing units were paying less than \$300 per month.

Table 2.5 Renter- Occupied Housing Units by Gross Rent – 2000

Gross Rent	Units	Percent of Specified Units
Less than \$200	3	4.9
\$200 - \$299	5	8.2
\$300 - \$499	32	52.5
\$500 - \$749	11	18.0
\$750 - \$999	-	-
\$1,000 or more	-	-
No Cash Rent	10	16.4
Total Specified Units	61	100

Source: US Census Bureau (SF3)

Rental costs can significantly impact affordability on the percent of costs associated with housing. Following the recommended guidelines from HUD, affordable rental costs (rent and utilities) should not be greater than 30 percent of the total household income. Based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau and shown in Table 2.6, 19.7 percent of the specified renter-occupied units have rental costs exceeding 30 percent of household income.

Table 2.6 Gross Rent as a Percent of Household Income – 1999

Percent of Household Income	Units	Percent of Specified Units
Less than 15%	18	29.5
15.0 to 19.9 Percent	8	13.1
20.0 to 24.9 Percent	3	4.9
25 to 29.9 Percent	10	16.4
30.0 to 34.9 Percent	0	0
35.0 Percent or More	12	19.7
Not Computed	10	16.4
Total Specified Units	61	100

Source: US Census Bureau (SF3)

Age Characteristics

Table 2.7 lists the number of units and the corresponding percent of the town's total housing stock by year built. The period from 1990 to March 2000 saw nearly a quarter of the total housing units constructed. Roughly 22 percent of the housing stock was built in the 1980s and approximately 40 percent of all housing units were constructed before 1970.

Table 2.7 Age of Housing Stock

Year Structure Built	Percent of Total Housing Stock
1990 to March 2000	23.8%
1980 to 1989	22.2%
1970 to 1979	13.7%
1960 to 1969	17.3%
1940 to 1959	16.6%
1939 or earlier	6.4%
Total	100%

Source: U.S. Census 2000 (SF3)

Structural Characteristics

Table 2.8 gives the number of units in the housing structures in the Town of Swiss for 1980, 1990, and 2000. One-unit detached homes are the typical housing unit for the town. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 93.7 percent of the units were 1-unit detached dwellings and approximately 4 percent were mobile homes. Generally, since 1980 the percent of 1-unit detached units has been rising and the percent of mobile homes or trailers has been declining.

Table 2.8 Units in Structure 1980-2000

	1980	1990	2000
1-Unit Detached	575	720	851
1-Unit Attached	0	1	9
2-4 Unit (multi-family)	25	9	4
5 or more unit (multi-family)	13	0	8
Mobile Home or Trailer	64	58	36
Boat, RV, Van, Other	0	6	0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: 1980 STF3A, 1990 STF1, 2000 SF3

2.3 PROJECTED HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Town of Swiss experienced an increase in total housing units since 1980. During the 20-year period from 1980 to 2000, the town experienced growth of 150 new housing units. Based upon past trends, total housing units in the Town of Swiss are projected to continue to increase to the year 2025 (Table 2.9). In 2000, the Town of Swiss had 883 units with projections indicating that by 2010 the town will have 969 units and 1,081 units by 2025. The projected growth indicates an average of 10 additional housing units per year through 2025.

Table 2.9 Projected Housing Characteristics 2005-2025

Town of Swiss	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Total Housing Units	833	900	969	1,024	1,059	1,081
Total Occupied Housing Units (Households)	336	363	391	413	427	436
Owner-Occupied Units	265	286	308	326	337	344
Renter Occupied Units	71	77	83	87	90	92
Vacant Units	497	537	578	611	632	645
Seasonal Units	481	520	560	591	611	624
Average Household Size	2.43	2.37	2.29	2.23	2.18	2.14

Source: US Census Bureau, Wisconsin Department of Administration, Northwest Regional Planning Commission

Projected housing units were derived using known housing trends and making future assumptions based on past trends. Based on data regarding projected population and number of households, it was assumed that a decline in the average household size would continue to the year 2025. An assumption was also made that the ratio between seasonal units and occupied units would remain the same as that represented in 2000 to the year 2025. The following formulas were utilized in projecting future housing units:

TOTAL HOUSING UNITS: Sum of all housing units including occupied and vacant.

TOTAL OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS: Department of Administration household projections.

OWNER-OCCUPIED UNITS: Projected year total occupied housing units minus projected year renter occupied units.

RENTER-OCCUPIED UNITS: Projected year occupied units times previous year rental units divided by previous year occupied units.

VACANT UNITS: Projected year occupied units times previous year vacant units divided by previous year occupied units.

SEASONAL UNITS: Projected year total housing units times previous year seasonal units divided by previous year total housing units.

2.4 HOUSING PROGRAMS

The Wisconsin comprehensive planning legislation requires the Town of Swiss to compile a list of programs to provide an adequate housing supply that meets existing and forecasted housing demand. Below are housing programs available to developers or the town.

Burnett County Housing Authority

The Burnett County Housing Authority administers federal funding to assist low- to moderate-income families with rental and Section 8 housing.

WHEDA (Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority)

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

USDA-Rural Development

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

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Rehabilitation

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

Community Development Block Grant Emergency Assistance Program (CDBG-EAP)

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

Northwest Affordable Housing Inc.

Northwest Affordable Housing Inc. is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization that is able to obtain funds that are not available to the general public for the purpose of promoting affordable and accessible housing for low- and moderate-income persons.

HCRI (Housing Cost Reconstruction Initiative)

This State of Wisconsin administered program provides federal funds for housing down payment and closing costs to low- to moderate-income families. HOME funds are available for the rehabilitation of homes after their purchase.

Indianhead Community Action Agency

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

2.5 HOUSING GOALS, OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

A set of recommended goals, objectives, and actions steps has been developed to assist the Town of Swiss in the area of housing. Implementation of the identified actions will assist in achieving the overall goal that an adequate range of housing opportunities are available to meet the needs, desires, and financial capabilities of existing and future residents.

Goal: Provide a range of housing opportunities to meet the varied needs of existing and future residents, while maintaining a predominantly rural atmosphere.

Objective 1: Research corridor development for mobile homes not covered by present county and town ordinances.

Objective 2: Research subsidized low-income, multi-family housing, assisted living possibilities, and senior housing options.

Action Statements - Objectives 2

Research population statistics to determine what types of housing are needed.

Responsible party – Town Board, Plan Commission

When – 2007

Objective 3: Consider environmental impacts of planned housing developments.

Action Statement – Objective 3

Examine new developments for environmental compatibility.

Responsible party – Town Board, Plan Commission

When – ongoing

Objective 4: Pursue grants to upgrade sub-standard housing.

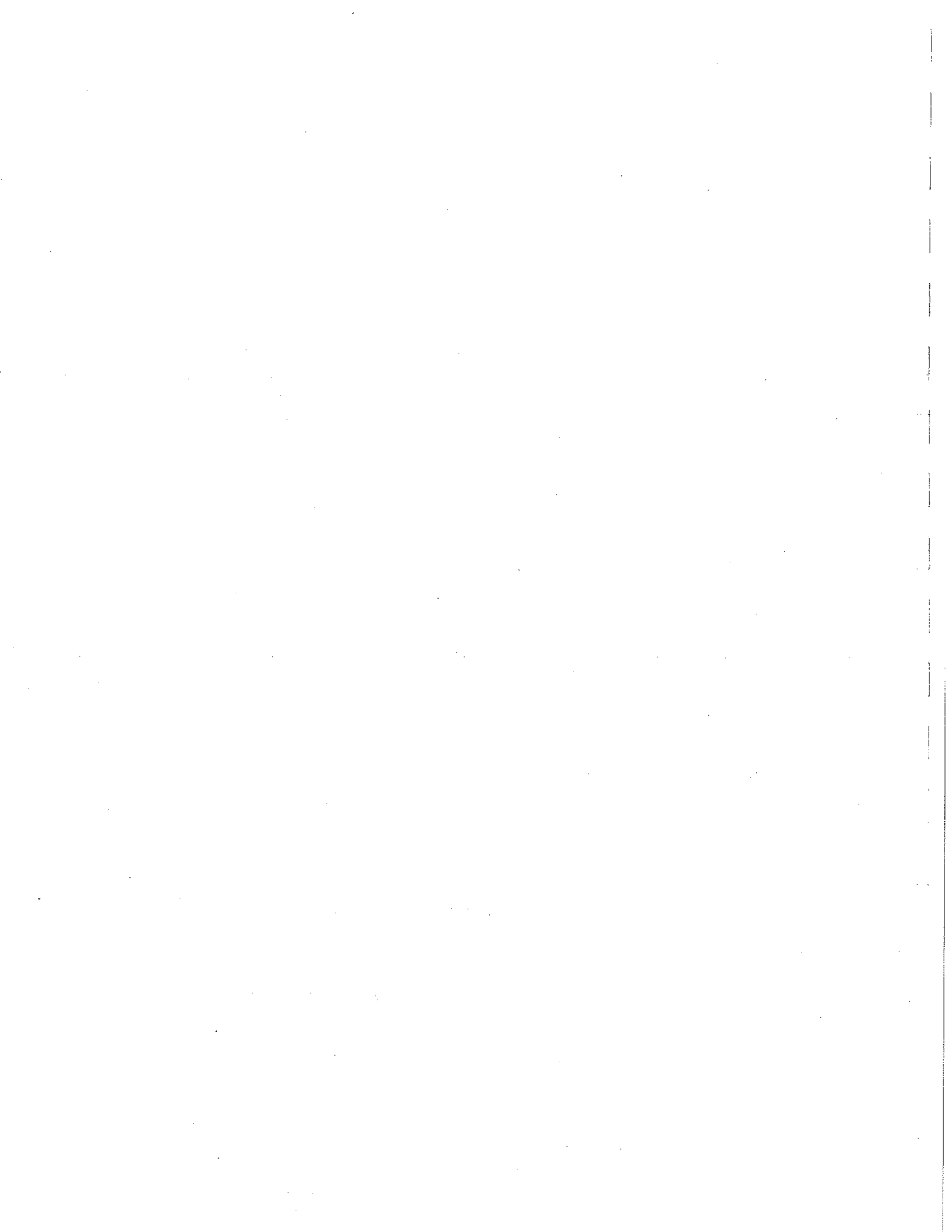
Action Statement – Objective 4

Educate populace of availability of low-cost loans for dwelling rehabilitation.

Responsible party – Town Board, Plan Commission

When – 2008-2010

The Town of Swiss encourages and promotes the private sector to address the needs of all income levels, age groups, and persons with special needs in the development of safe and quality constructed housing opportunities. The town itself cannot independently supply the range of housing needs local residents may desire. As a result, the town, in conjunction with private developers will encouraged residential development to meet the needs of present and future members of the community.



TRANSPORTATION

3.1 INTRODUCTION

A community's transportation network is the backbone upon which its economy, access to resources, and connectivity for inhabitants and enterprises to the region are based upon. Maintenance and repair, in addition to periodic upgrades and enhancements, are essential for retaining its function to residents, visitors, and local businesses. Understanding transportation trends is important for planning future improvements to the roadway system.

Vehicular travel is the primary form of transportation within the Town of Swiss as few other forms of transportation are available. Mass transit options are substantially limited due to the rural nature of the town.

3.2 FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The Town of Swiss's roadway network is comprised of approximately 109.92 miles of highways and town roads (Table 3.1). Roads within the town are classified according to their primary function and by the amount of traffic they sustain. In the Town of Swiss, State Trunk Highways 35 (north to south) and 77 (east to west) serve as the primary corridors providing residents and visitors access to and through the town. Local roads provide routes to homes and recreational destinations both within and beyond the town. All the roads described in this section are illustrated on Map 3.1, Town of Swiss Functional Classification System.

Functional road classifications for rural areas include principle arterials, minor arterials, major collectors, minor collectors, and local roads.

- **Principle arterials-** Serve interstate and interregional trips. These roads generally serve urban areas greater than 5,000 in population.
- **Minor arterials-** Serve cities, large communities, and other major traffic generators providing intra-regional and inter-regional traffic movements.
- **Major collectors-** Provide service to moderate sized communities and links traffic to nearby larger population centers.
- **Minor collectors-** Collect traffic from local roads and links them to all remaining smaller communities. All developed areas should be within a reasonable distance of collector roads.

Classification	Miles
Principle arterials	0
Minor arterials	20.9
Major collectors	13.05
Minor collectors	0
Local roads	75.97
Total	109.92

Source: WisDOT 2002, District 8

- **Local roads-** Provide access for travel over relatively short distances. All roads not classified as arterials or collectors are classified as local roads.

3.3 TRAFFIC VOLUME AND TRENDS

Table 3.2 depicts change in Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) at recording sites on roads passing through the Town of Swiss from 1982 to 2002. As is indicated in the table, Sites 1 and 2, both along State Highways 77 and 35, and Site 3, State Highway 77 and the Minnesota border, have shown the most traffic increase in the town since 1982. Traffic volume along all other recorded roads has also increased over the 20-year period.

The increase in traffic in and around the Town of Swiss and throughout Burnett County can be attributed to two main factors. First, residents of the town and surrounding towns are making more frequent vehicular trips for shopping, commuting to work, and to recreational sites. Secondly, some areas of Burnett County have seen increases in population density and the development of second homes owned by seasonal residents.

**Table 3.2: Annual Average Daily Traffic at Recorded Sites
Town of Swiss 1982-2002**

	1982	1985	1988	1991	1994	1997	2000	2002	Change 1982-2002
Site 1	1000	960	1160	1130	2000	1700	1800	2400	+1400
Site 2	1290	1640	2050	2100	2600	3400	3000	3700	+2410
Site 3	150	160	140	110	250	290	280	370	+220
Site 4	430	540	630	910	940	1200	1300	1700	+1270
Site 5	390	400	450	-	760	680	770	970	+580

Source: Wisconsin Highway Traffic, Department of Transportation District 8

Site 1: STH 77, STH 35N
 Site 2: STH 77, STH 35S
 Site 3: CTH F & Broeffle Rd.

Site 4: STH 77, Minn. Border
 Site 5: STH 77, .5 mi east of STH 35

3.4 HIGHWAY ACCESS CONTROL AND BILLBOARDS

Billboards or signs along highways can provide a convenience to the motoring public regarding upcoming commercial opportunities. However, the development of billboards can also negatively impact an area's rural character. The placement of billboards along state and county highways is managed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and Burnett County respectively. Both agencies have regulations and application processes that must be followed prior to approval and construction of billboards.

3.5 COMMUTING PATTERNS

A total of 306 residents commute to work, with the largest percent of persons (36%) commuting to the Town of Swiss for employment. Large number of workers also commute to the three

Burnett County Villages of Siren, Grantsburg and Webster, and to Pine County Minnesota, which is directly west of the Town of Swiss. Element 6, Economic Development, explores more details, including statistics, on commuting patterns.

3.6 PASER ROAD EVALUATION

In 2003, the Town of Swiss completed the Pavement Surface Evaluation Rating (PASER) for all town roads in accordance with WisDOT requirements. PASER is an important tool for government planning because it gives a picture of road conditions on all roads and can identify roads in the most need for maintenance and rehabilitation. Surface defects, cracking, potholes, and drainage are all examined during a typical PASER evaluation. The Town of Swiss is required to evaluate and report town road conditions to WisDOT in every odd calendar year.

3.7 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Improvements to local roads are critical for maintaining an adequate and safe roadway system. Future road improvements are generally based on current road conditions with the intent to keep all roadways intact and useable. Future roadway improvements need to be flexible because of the possibility of unforeseen emergencies or disasters that may arise from year-to-year.

Table 3.3 charts various road improvements that will be undertaken in the years 2005 through 2009 by the State of Wisconsin and Burnett County. Specific county roads scheduled for improvements were not designated.

Table 3.3: Selected Roadway Improvements, 2005-2009

Year	Sponsor	Road	Location	Mileage	Type of Improvement
2005 - 2007	WisDOT	STH 35	Town line – Danbury	1.8	Recondition & add pass lane
2005 - 2009	County			8-9 per year	Grind & Overlay
2005 - 2009	County			4-5 per year	Reconstruction
2005 - 2009	County			10 per year	Chip Seal

The Town of Swiss is also responsible for the maintenance of its town roads and is in the process of developing a schedule of road improvements for those roads.

3.8 METHODS OF TRANSPORTATION

Air Transportation

There are no airports located in the Town of Swiss; a total of seven are located in Burnett County (Table 3.4). No scheduled passenger flights are available in Burnett County. The nearest airports providing regular scheduled passenger flights to domestic and international destinations are in Duluth, Minnesota or Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota.

Table 3.4: Burnett County Airports/Airfields

Airport	Location	Owner/Operator	Status
Grantsburg Municipal Airport	Town of Grantsburg	Village of Grantsburg	Public
Burnett County Airport	Town of Siren	Burnett County	Public
Voyage Village Airport	Town of Jackson	Voyager Village Property Owners Assoc.	Private
Carlson Field Airport	Town of Blaine	Len Carlson	Private
Burnett Medical Heliport	Village of Grantsburg	Burnett Medical Center	Private
Alfa Hotel Airport	Town of Webster	David Littfin	Private
Circle T Airport	Town of Grantsburg	Danny Tagg	Private

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aeronautics, 2002

Airport Improvements

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Bureau of Aeronautics Five-Year Airport Improvement Plan (2003-2007) released in October 2002 contains plans for improvements to both the Burnett County Airport and Grantsburg Municipal Airport (Table 3.5).

Table 3.5: Scheduled Airport/Airfield Improvements

Airport	Type of Improvement	Date of Improvement	Total Cost
Burnett County Airport	EA & ALP for Runway 13/31 Extension	2004	\$30,000
	Design Recst. & Ext of Rwy and Apron Rect.	2005	\$100,000
	Recst. Rwy 13/31	2006	\$1,000,000
	Recst. & Expand Apron	2006	\$420,000
	Extend Rwy 13/31 to 5,000 ft.	2006	\$700,000
	Land Reimbursement for Rwy Extension	2006	\$100,000
Total Cost			\$2,220,000
Grantsburg Municipal Airport	Sealcoat Airfield Pavements	2004	\$50,000
	Design Runway for Extension	2006	\$50,000
	Extend Rwy 12/30 to 4000'	2007	\$500,000
	Rehab. Rwy Lighting	2007	\$180,000
	Land Reimb. For Rwy Extension	2007	\$75,000
	Develop Hanger Area & Const. Hanter Twys	2007	\$50,000
Total Cost			\$855,000

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Bureau of Aeronautics *Five-Year Airport Improvement Program*, October 2002.

Pedestrian Facilities

Designated pedestrian facilities are limited in the Town of Swiss, with the exception of the unincorporated Town of Danbury. Most roadways have minimal shoulder areas, speed limits greater than 45 miles per hour unless posted otherwise, and some are gravel roads, which at times can cause dusty conditions. These conditions hamper safe pedestrian travel opportunities. In the unincorporated Town of Danbury, walking to places of work, shopping, or entertainment is possible, with sidewalks available in the downtown area.

The Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan 2020 provides a statewide framework to increase walking and to promote pedestrian safety. The plan establishes goals, objectives, and actions regarding the provision of pedestrian accommodations that could be implemented locally. The plan also serves to help communities identify actions they can take to establish pedestrian travel as a viable, convenient, and safe transportation choice throughout Wisconsin. No specific recommendations to the Town of Swiss exist.

Bicycling Facilities

Bicycling is limited to undesignated bicycle routes on the state, county, and town roads. The *Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020*, presents a blueprint for improving and expanding bicycle transportation routes in the state. There are no plans to expand state bicycle routes into or through the Town of Swiss.

In the Town of Swiss, STH 35, from the Douglas County line to Riverside is rated as having moderate conditions for bicycling. Most of the rural State Trunk Highway system now has a three-foot or wider paved shoulder. While shoulders were generally paved for maintenance and safety purposes, they also provide suitable accommodations for bicycle travel.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has compiled a Wisconsin State Bike Map that highlights bicycling conditions on select roadways in Wisconsin. Information on these conditions can be found at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's website, www.dot.state.wi.us. Check on the "Bicycles" link for maps.

The Gandy Dance Recreation Trail also provides bicycle and pedestrian opportunities from STH 77 south. The trail is a non-motorized trail (April -November) with a crushed limestone surface. The trail travels south of Danbury to Polk County.

Railroads and Ports

There are no rail or port services available within the Town of Swiss. Rail and port services are available in Superior, WI.

Transit

Currently, no bus service exists within the Town of Swiss. Closest access to commercial bus transportation is available by Greyhound Bus Lines in Duluth, MN, or Eau Claire, WI. Northwestern Taxi provides taxi service that covers an area between Swiss and Danbury.

Burnett County and the Town of Swiss are served by the Burnett County Health and Human Services, Unit on Aging Program. The Unit on Aging provides volunteer services to meet the transportation needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Trucking

The local road network and its connection to the county and state highway system provide adequate trucking access for sending and delivering products in and through the town. In the spring, the Town of Swiss imposes weight restrictions on town roads to lower the allowable weight due to the instability caused by frost and to prevent road damage.

Trails

Throughout the county, there are several hundred miles of multi-use trails maintained by Burnett County and local trail user groups. This network is used most intensely during the winter months for snowmobiling and ATV usage and in the summer months it is used primarily by ATVs. There are four designated combination snowmobile/ATV trails in the town: Trails #8, #41, #43 and #45. Snowmobile only trails are also located in the Town of Swiss. The best source for trail locations and designations is the Burnett County Snowtrails Association.

3.9 OTHER TRANSPORTATION PLANS AND PROGRAMS

Several state and regional organizations develop plans and programs for the management and systematic update of transportation facilities that may include the Town of Swiss. Based on a review of these plans and programs, no land use conflicts or policy differences were identified. A listing of these plans and programs is provided below.

Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020

The *Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020* (1998) presents a blueprint for improving and expanding bicycle transportation routes in the state. There are no plans to expand state bicycle routes into the Town of Swiss. The WisDOT, along with the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin, has compiled a Wisconsin State Bike Map that highlights the most favorable bicycling conditions in northern Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan 2020

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

Wisconsin State Highway Plan

The *Wisconsin State Highway Plan 2020* focuses on the 11,800 miles of State Trunk Highway routes in Wisconsin. The plan identifies no traffic congestion in the next 20 years on highways within the Town of Swiss.

Corridors 2020

Corridors 2020 plan sets criteria for selected routes that go beyond traditional highway planning with the intent to enhance and improve all two-lane and four-lane highways connecting cities of 5,000 inhabitants or more.

2003 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

The *2003 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy* (CEDS) provides an analysis of local conditions; identifies problems, needs, and opportunities of the ten-county region; and defines the vision, goals, and objectives of the region. Within the document, specific transportation objectives and activities have been identified on a regional basis.

3.10 TRANSPORTATION GOALS, OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

A set of recommended transportation goals, objectives, and actions has been developed for the Town of Swiss. Implementation of the identified actions will allow the town to achieve the identified objectives and overall goal of ensuring an appropriate transportation system for the town.

Due to the rural nature of the town and its low-density development pattern, the ability of persons to travel by foot, bicycle, or other mode of transportation, other than by automobile, is very limited. This creates difficulties in implementing significant design standards for low-density developments. However, in development proposals where higher-density developments are proposed, a compact roadway network will assist in reducing road development and future maintenance costs.

Goal: Develop a safe and efficient multi-modal transportation system that accommodates the movement of people and goods.

Objective 1: Explore regulations for all recreational vehicles (land/water) and explore adequate controls and regulations of corridors for recreational vehicles – state, county and town.

Action Statement – Objective 1

Research ways to implement regulations of land/water recreational vehicles.

Responsible party – Town Board, Plan Commission

When – 2007

Meet with county to explore control and regulation of recreational vehicle corridors.

Responsible party – Town Board

When – 2007

Develop year round trails vs only seasonal use trails.

Responsible party – Town Board, Burnett County

When - ongoing

Objective 2: Prioritize town roads for improvements and maintenance.

Action Statement – Objective 2

Maintain ongoing priority list of town roads for maintenance and improvement.

Responsible party – Town Board

When – ongoing

Objective 3: Explore transportation options.

Action Statement – Objective 3

Identify local transportation options.

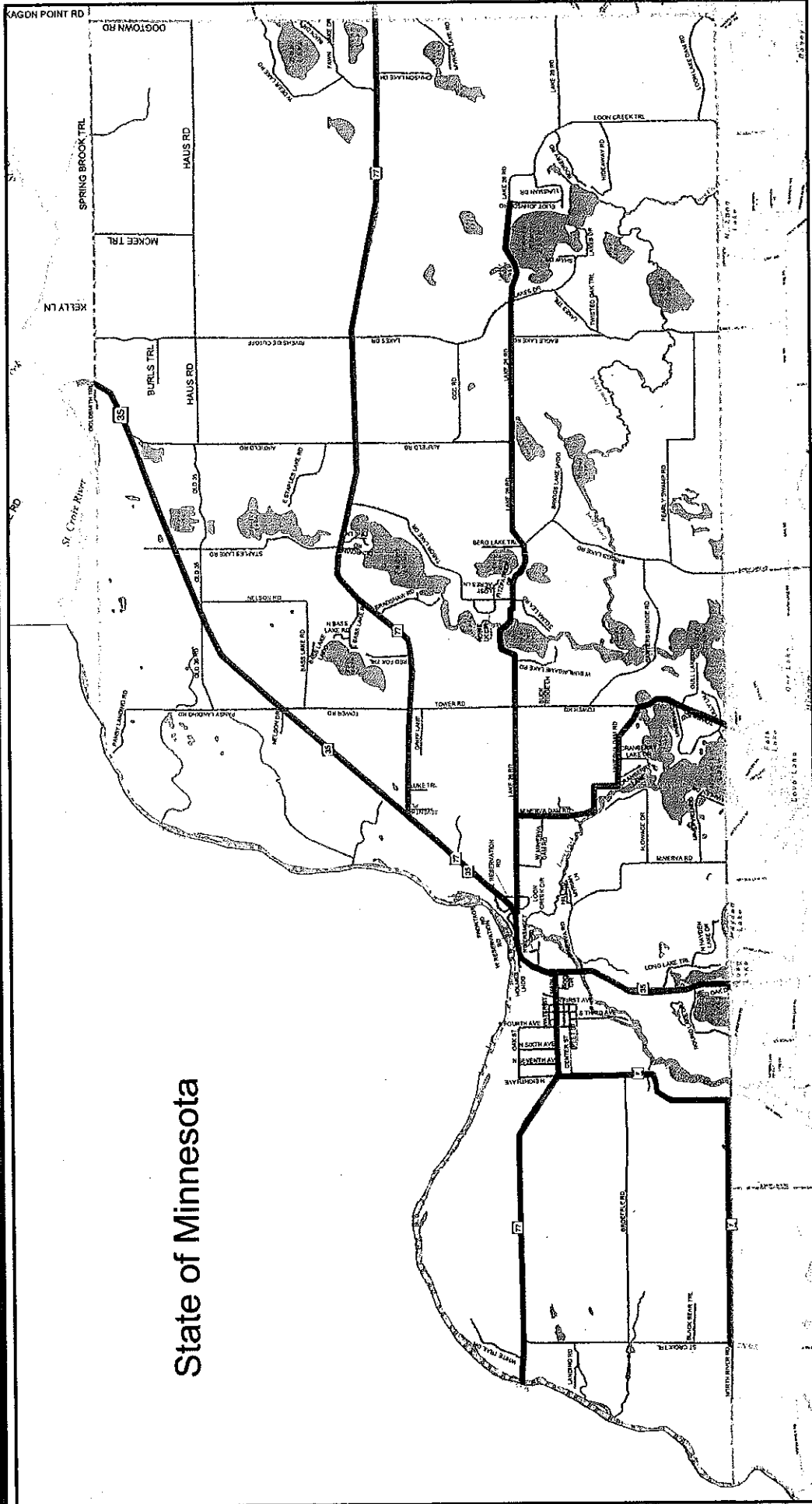
Responsible party – Town Board, Plan Commission

When - 2008

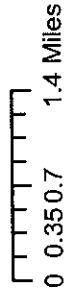


Map 3.1

Town of Swiss, Functional Classification System

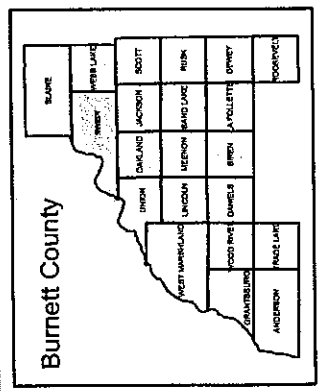


State of Minnesota



Source: Wisconsin, DNR
Northwest Regional Planning

	State Road		Lake
	County Road		Major Collector
	Town Road		Minor Arterial
	River		Town Boundary





UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Community facilities include buildings, lands, services, and programs that serve the public. Examples of community facilities are parks, schools, police and fire protection, health care facilities, solid waste and recycling facilities, and libraries. Utilities such as sewer and water, electricity, and telecommunication services are some of the common utilities found in many communities. This element identifies and evaluates existing utilities and community facilities serving the town. Understanding the location, use, and capacity of community facilities and utilities is an important consideration when planning for the future.

Throughout the town, Burnett County and private companies provide many of the community and utility services available to town residents. Therefore, included in this element is information about utilities and community facilities provided by these providers.

4.2 UTILITIES

Sewer and Water Services

The Town of Swiss's sanitary district is in the process of designing municipal sewer and water services to the Danbury area. The project is being done in cooperation with the St. Croix Band of Chippewa for tribal properties also in the proposed district area. A final plan has been designed and development of the system is now contingent on final funding of the project.

All residents not in the planned area of service receive their water via private wells that are owned and maintained by the property owner. It is important that the town's water resources and aquifers be protected from contamination as individual home and business owners utilize this valuable natural resource.

The Wisconsin Department of Commerce regulates the siting, design, installation, and inspection of most private on-site sewage systems. Over the 20-year planning period, it is not anticipated that other regions in the Town of Swiss will develop a municipal water and sewer system. However, the potential may exist to expand the sanitary district to areas not developed in the original design.

Stormwater Management

The unincorporated Town of Danbury does have a small operating stormwater system in the immediate downtown area, but a specific stormwater management plan is not yet in place. Discussions on expanding this existing system are presently being held in conjunction with final work on the establishment of the sanitary system being proposed for the Danbury area.

Over the 20-year planning period, the potential for additional runoff resulting from development may negatively impact local water resources as sediment and nutrient delivery increases due to runoff. Managing storm water to increase infiltration and reduce or eliminate direct delivery to

surface waters is one of the most important steps that can be taken to protect surface water quality in the future.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, increased stormwater management may become an issue in the Town of Swiss as continued development occurs. The Town of Swiss must work cooperatively with the WDNR, Burnett County, and the St. Croix Tribe to mitigate the adverse impacts of stormwater runoff and ensure that environmental resources are adequately protected.

Power Plants, Substations, and Transmission Lines

There are no power plants, substations, or transmission lines located in the town. The Public Service Commission (PSC) is the branch of the State of Wisconsin with the overall responsibility of regulating electric utilities. Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not anticipated power plants, substations, or transmission lines will be developed. However, should such activities be proposed and warranted, the town desires to meet with the developers to discuss siting and other development factors.

Electricity and Natural Gas

Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Company provides the majority of electricity to the town's residences and businesses. Polk-Burnett Electric Company provides services in parts of the four most southeast sections of the town, while Head of the Lakes Electric Company covers a very small service area to the northeast portion of the town. Natural gas service in the Town of Swiss is provided by Wisconsin Gas Company. Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is expected the town will actively participate in discussions and future planning with companies providing such services to ensure siting is done so in the best interest of the community (Map 4.1, Utilities).

Communication Services

CenturyTel serves the Town of Swiss for local telephone communications. Multiple companies are available to provide long distance and Internet services.

Access to wireless communication facilities is becoming more and more important. Currently, there are two cellular phone towers located in the town. One is located at the Danbury Area Volunteer Fire Department property and the other is near the intersection of State Highway 77 and Tower Road.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not expected the town will engage in the development of communication facilities. However, it is expected the town will actively participate in discussions and planning with local communication providers and Burnett County to ensure that area residents have access to the latest technology; and any future siting of these facilities is done so in the best interest of the town.

4.3 FACILITIES

Solid Waste and Recycling Facilities

Prior to 1969, solid waste management in Burnett County consisted primarily of individuals hauling to unsupervised open municipal landfills. Since that time, state and federal laws have

become more restrictive and non-hazardous household wastes are land filled only in licensed facilities. Table 4.1 provides information regarding old landfills in the Town of Swiss.

Table 4.1: Town of Swiss Landfill Sites

Facility Name	Legal Description	Status
Dave Dudley's Double D Resort	NW SW S08 4 1N 15W	Inactive
Town of Swiss	SE NE S33 41N 16W	Inactive
Town of Swiss-Lake 26 Site	SW SW S22 41N 15W	Inactive

Source: WDNR

Curbside collection of garbage and recyclables is available to all town residents through either BFI or Waste Management of Northern Wisconsin. Residents can also haul their garbage and recyclables to the Oakland Collection Center (OCC), a transfer station located on French Road, north one-quarter mile of County Highway U. OCC serves the Towns of Swiss, Oakland and Union. All landowners are provided a card allowing them to use the site. Landowners are charged on their tax statement. Certain fee items, such as tires, appliances, computers, and fluorescent bulbs may also be brought to the site through a cooperative program with the Recycling Control Commission (RCC) that provides recycling and waste management programs for Burnett and Washburn Counties. Over the 20-year planning horizon, the town may explore other cooperative options to assist in recycling and waste reduction.

Law Enforcement

The Town of Swiss does not have its own law enforcement department. The Burnett County Sheriff's Department serves as the primary law enforcement agency to the Town of Swiss. The department's administrative functions and jail facility are located in the Burnett County Government Center, located at 7410 Co. Rd. K, Siren. The Town of Swiss works cooperatively with the Burnett County Sheriff's Department on law enforcement activities that affect its jurisdictional boundaries. The St. Croix Tribal Band of Chippewa also provides some law enforcement services in and around the unincorporated area of Danbury.

Over the 20-year planning period, it is not likely the Town of Swiss will develop a law enforcement department. Coordination and cooperation between the Town of Swiss, St. Croix Tribe, and the Burnett County Sheriff's Department regarding local crime must continue to be monitored in an effort to address local concerns regarding public health, safety, and welfare.

Fire & Rescue

The Danbury Area Volunteer Fire Association serves the Town of Swiss and the Minnesota bordering town of Ogema with fire protection. The Town of Swiss also provides mutual aid services to surrounding municipalities. The Fire Association operates the following equipment: two pumpers, two tankers, a large and small rescue truck, and an ARGO all-terrain vehicle. The department is located at the intersection of 2nd Avenue and Main Street in Danbury, directly behind the Swiss Town Hall.

North Ambulance provides emergency service care in Burnett County with ambulances garaged at A & H, Danbury, Blaine, Webster, and Spooner. Burnett County also has a network of first responders who can be sent to accidents to provide assistance while ambulances are in route. Over the 20-year planning horizon, the town will need continued fire and rescue services. Continued coordination between the town, county, tribe, and fire and rescue providers is essential to maintain a service that is adequate to meet the local need.

Cemeteries

Often overlooked, cemeteries are also considered community facilities. There are two active cemeteries located in the Town of Swiss, one along Riverside Cutoff (a/k/a CTH H) and State Highway 35. Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not expected the town will engage in the development of a cemetery.

Medical/Health Care and Other Facilities

Residents of the Town of Swiss can receive full medical services at Burnett Medical Center located at 257 W. St. George Avenue in the Village of Grantsburg. Burnett Medical Center is a rural medical center offering inpatient, outpatient, emergency, visiting specialty, and long-term care services. The core services include emergency care, transports by helicopter to the Twin Cities area, radiology, physical therapy, lab work, hospice care, nursing home, and swing bed services. The Burnett Medical Center also runs and operates the Burnett Medical Center Clinic located at 513 S. Parkview Drive in the Village of Grantsburg. This is a family practice clinic offering services which include OB/GYN, physicals, treatment of acute and chronic health conditions, diabetic education, routine laboratory, Holter monitoring, cardiology assessments, and pacemaker checks. Local medical clinics also exist at various locations in Burnett County. St. Mary's Hospital is also located at 3500 Tower Avenue, Superior, Wisconsin and provides services to the northwest region of Wisconsin. Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not anticipated the town will develop medical or health care facilities.

Child/Daycare Services

The Burnett County Health and Human Services Department maintains a list of certified and licensed day care providers in the county. There are presently no licensed day care providers listed in the Town of Swiss. Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not anticipated the town will develop child/daycare service as they will be provided by the private sector.

Libraries

There are no libraries in the Town of Swiss. Residents of the Town of Swiss may utilize the services provided by Burnett Community Library located at 7451 Main Street West in the Village of Webster. It is not anticipated the town will develop a library or library services over the 20-year planning horizon.

Schools

Town of Swiss utilizes the Webster School District. The Webster School District enrolls approximately 726 students. The district consists of two schools located in the Village of Webster at:

- ♦ Webster Schools, 5-12, 7564 Alder Street West
- ♦ Webster Elementary, 7364 Alder Street East

A new school has been recently constructed and as such, there are no plans at this time for new school construction. However, over the 20-year planning horizon, the town wishes to work cooperatively with the school board on developing and siting of any additional facilities. An elementary school previously operated by the Webster School District in the unincorporated Town of Danbury was closed in 1994.

Among the colleges and technical schools within close proximity to Burnett County and Town of Swiss are: Pine Technical College, Pine County Minnesota; Lac Courte Orielles Community College-Danbury, WITC, Rice Lake; WITC, New Richmond; Siren Learning Center, Siren; UW-Barron County, Rice Lake; UW-Superior, Superior; UW-Stout, Menomonie; UW-Eau Claire, Eau Claire; and University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Swiss Town Hall

The Swiss Town Hall is located at State Highway 77 and North 2nd Avenue in Danbury. Over the next 20 years, continued maintenance and improvements are expected.

Parks & Wildlife Areas

There are three public recreational areas in the Town of Swiss, The National Park Service owns and manages land adjacent to St. Croix River. The St. Croix River has been federally designated as part of the Upper St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and is managed by the National Park Service. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is responsible for management of state wildlife areas near the southwestern corner of the town. A portion of the Governor Knowles State Forest follows the St. Croix River in this area. Just to the east of this forest is the Danbury Wildlife Area. These resource areas provide significant natural resources to both plant and animal species. There is also abundant Burnett County forest land in the town. Further descriptions of these resources can be found in the Natural Resources element of this document. These areas provide recreational opportunities to residents and visitors to the Town of Swiss and Burnett County.

Over the next 20-year planning horizon, continued maintenance and improvements are expected.

4.4 UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES GOALS, OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

Goal: Support facilities and services that contribute to the well being of the town.

Objective 1: Develop storm drainage system in conjunction with waste treatment facility.

Action Statement – Objective 1

Work with Danbury Sanitary District to develop storm drainage in conjunction with water treatment facility.

Responsible party – Town Board

When - ongoing when applicable

Objective 2: Research development of future parks.

Action Statement – Objective 2

Explore implementation of park plans for the community.

Responsible party – Town Board, Chamber of Commerce, Plan Commission

When - ongoing

Objective 3: Work directly with the Danbury Sanitary District planning for the area.

Action Statement – Objective 3

Continue to work with Danbury Sanitary District for future growth in the area.

Responsible party – Town Board, Plan Commission

When – ongoing

Objective 4: Develop better use of town hall by citizens.

Action Statement – Objective 4

Encourage greater use of town hall by citizens.

Responsible party – Town Board, Plan Commission

When - ongoing

Objective 5: Continue implementing improvements of handicapped accessibility of town properties.

Action Statement – Objective 5

Evaluate town properties for handicapped accessibility and recommend improvements.

Responsible party – Town Board, Plan Commission

When - ongoing

Objective 6: Continued town input into cell tower locations, also power lines and gas lines.

Action Statement – Objective 6

Monitor need and proposed future locations of towers, power or gas lines.

Responsible party – Town Board, Plan Commission

When - ongoing

Objective 7: Explore childcare issues.

Action Statement – Objective 7

Research need for child care in area.

Responsible party – Plan Commission

When - 2007

Objective 8: Maintain adequate waste and recycling systems.

Action Statement – Objective 8

Monitor growth to assure waste and recycling systems are adequate.

Responsible party – Town Board

When - ongoing

Objective 9: Continue present and future planning for town cemeteries.

Action Statement – Objective 9

Monitor town cemetery usage and developments.

Responsible party – Town Board

When – ongoing

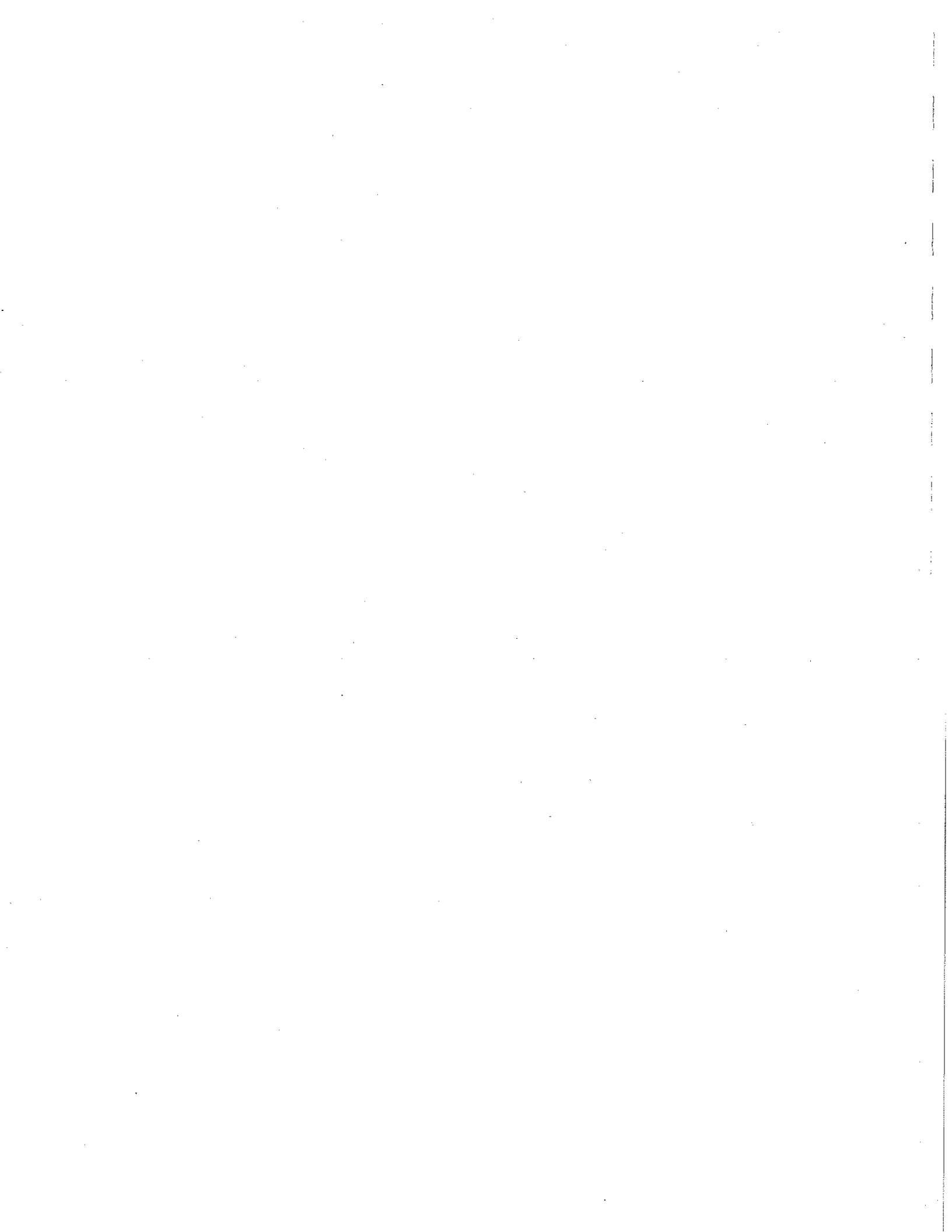
Objective 10: Development of appropriate signage for town visitors, businesses and facilities.

Action Statement – Objective 10

Develop ordinances for town signs for visitors, businesses and facilities.

Responsible party – Town Board

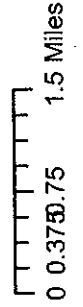
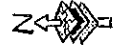
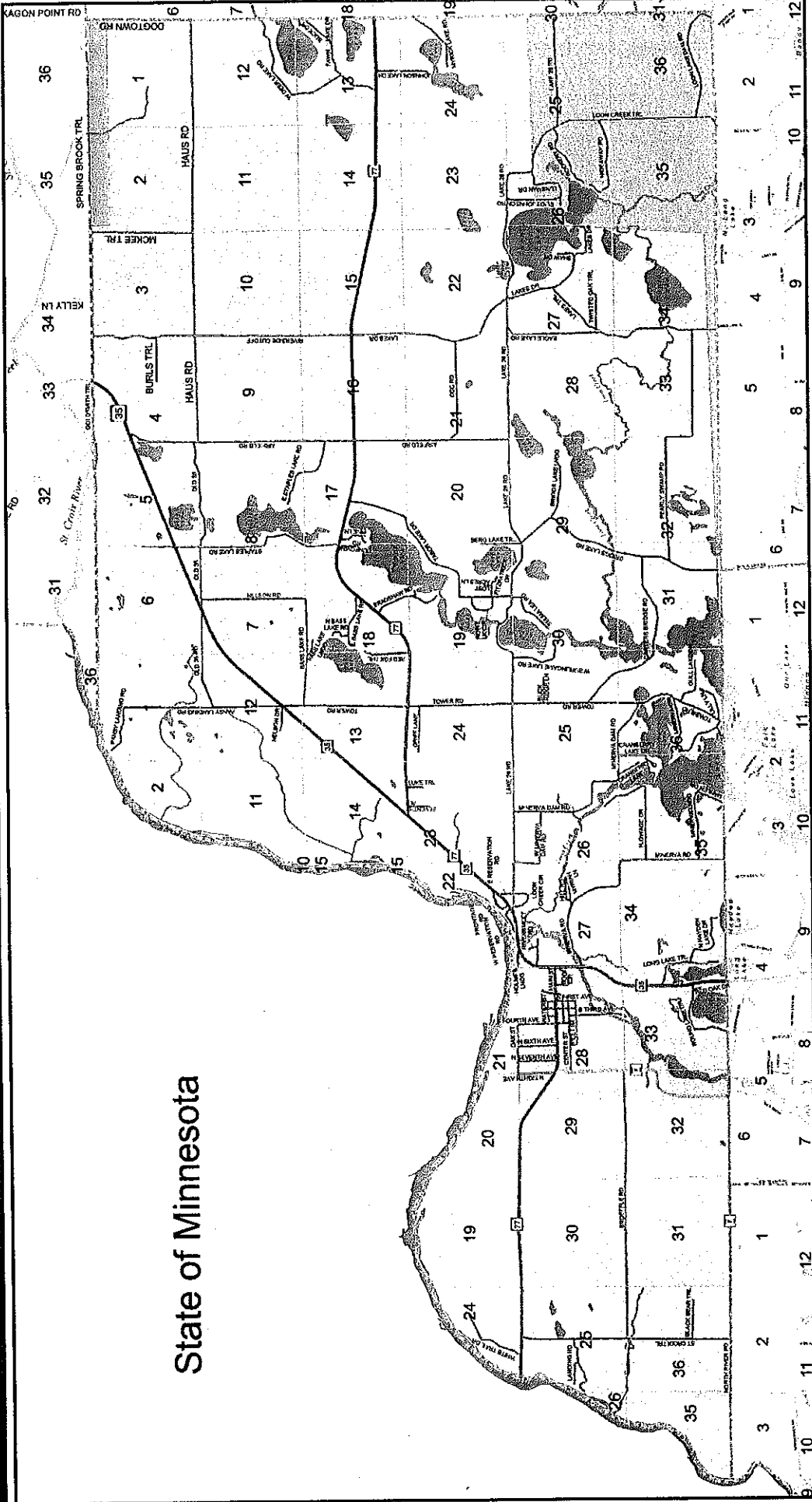
When – 2008



Map 4.1

Town of Swiss, Utilities

State of Minnesota



Source: Wisconsin, DNR
Northwest Regional Planning

	Head of the Lakes Electric
	Northwestern Wisconsin
	Polk-Burnett Electric
	State Road
	County Road
	Township Road
	River
	Lake
	Section Line
	Town Boundary

Burnett County

	BLAKE	WILSON		
WILSON	WILSON	JACKSON	SCOTT	
UNDER	CARLAND	JACKSON	BARO LANE	WIK
WEST WASHBURN	UNION	JACKSON	BARO LANE	WIK
WOOD WEE	DANIELS	WIK	ATTALETTI	OWEN
COUNTYLAND	THREE LAKE			ROBERTSON
ANDERSON				



NATURAL, AGRICULTURAL, & CULTURAL RESOURCES

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This element will examine and inventory the various natural, agricultural, cultural and resources in the Town of Swiss. It is important for citizens and elected officials to know what and where these resources are, as well as how they are impacted by certain development activities. This knowledge helps find a balance between the natural and developed worlds to allow planned development while keeping the desired rural character of the area.

5.2 DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING AREA

The Town of Swiss lies in the northern portion of Burnett County along the scenic St. Croix River. The town is approximately 60.7 square miles and is bordered by the Towns of Blaine to the north; Webb Lake to the east; and Jackson, Oakland and Union to the south. The St. Croix River provides the western boundary, bordering Pine County, Minnesota. State Highway 35 runs north/south through the town and STH 77 runs east/west. At the intersection of these two highways lies the unincorporated community of Danbury. The town offers numerous recreational areas. The northern portion of Governor Knowles State Forest hugs the southwest portion of town and abuts the Danbury Wildlife Area; almost the entire riverway is under the Federal Ownership (St. Croix National Scenic Riverway), and much of the eastern portion of town is in county forest land. Also the Gandy Dancer State Trail runs through the town.

5.3 TOPOGRAPHY

The topography of the town is rolling to flat, with steep banks along many water features. The town ranges in elevation of about 100 feet. The highest point is approximately 1,020 feet above sea level in the northeast portion of town, and the lowest is 920 feet in the northwest part of town near Danbury. Steeper slopes are generally located along the river and lake shorelines (Map 5.1, Elevation and Topography).

5.4 GEOLOGY

The bedrock of the town and surrounding area consists of a mixture of sandstone and igneous, metamorphic, and volcanic rock both from the Precambrian middle proterozoic times. The eastern part of the town is classified as sedimentary conglomerates of coarse sandstone, mudstone, and siltstone. The western portion is mafic volcanics of extrusive basalt and rhyolite. Both of these rock groups are part of the Keweenaw system that runs along the axis of Lake Superior and continues south along the Minnesota/Wisconsin border. These rocks occur along what is known as the midcontinent rift and in consist primarily of basalt flows overlain by clean sandstones.

5.5 SOILS

The general soils in the town are either sandy or a mix of sand and gravel. There is also a small pocket of peat in the western part of town along the St. Croix River. Three general soil associations are located in the town: Sayner-Rubicon-Omega which is found in the eastern two-thirds of town, Omega-Nemadji-Mahtomedi found in the western third of town, and Ahmeek-Ronneby-Prebish which occupies a very small pocket in the northwest part of town adjoining the Town of Blaine. Below lists the general characteristics of the major soil series in the town.

Nemadji Series

These soils are somewhat poorly drained formed in sand glacial outwash or lacustrine sediments in glacial lake and outwash plains. Slopes range from 0-3 percent, have rapid permeability, and are poorly drained. Most of the soils in this series are in forest. A small percentage is in pasture or crop land (small grains and hay). Native vegetation is mixed deciduous-coniferous with aspen, birch, and red and white pine.

Mahtomedi Series

Soils in this series are very deep, excessively drained, rapid permeable soils formed in sandy outwash on glacial moraines and outwash plains. Slopes in these upland soils can range from 0-45 percent. Most of the land in these soils is forested (mixed deciduous/coniferous) with some pasture.

Sayner Series

Sayner series soils are characterized as being very deep, excessively drained soils formed in stratified sand and gravel on outwash terraces, outwash plains, old beaches, kames, eskers, and other glaciofluvial areas within moraines. Soils can range from 0 to 60 percent and permeability can range from moderately rapid to very rapid. Most of this area is in forest land with a small portion being in crops. Forests are a mix of deciduous/coniferous trees such as red pine, eastern white pines, jack pine, northern red oak, red maple, paper birch, balsam fir, and aspen being the dominant species.

Rubicon Series

This series consist of very deep, excessively drained soils formed in sandy deposits on ground, end and kame moraines, lake plains, outwash plains, stream terraces, beach ridges, and sand dunes. Slopes can range from 0 to 70 percent and have rapid permeability. The soils in this series are primarily forested with red pine, aspen, white pine, and jack pine dominating. Ground cover consists of blueberries, wintergreen, sweet fern, and bracken fern. Small areas are used for crop and pasture of small grains and hay.

Omega Series

Omega soils are very deep, somewhat excessively drained, and are formed in sandy glacial outwash on outwash plains or valley trains. Permeability is rapid with slopes ranging from 0 to 25 percent. The soils are primarily used for coniferous forest with jack pine and red pine predominating. A few areas are cleared for forage crops.

Soil Association Limitations

Soil association limitations are used to determine suitability for different types of development. The most common analyzed limitations are that of dwelling with basements and septic tank absorption fields. Table 5.1 that outlines the limitations for each soil association. Please note that these are general assumptions and site evaluations should be prepared to ensure proper soil properties. Within these broad categories, soil limitations change with varying slopes, permeability, depth to bedrock, etc.

Table 5.1 Soil Association Limitations

Soil Association	Dwellings With Basements	Septic Tank
Sayner-Rubicon-Omega	Slight	Severe
Omega-Nemadji-Mahtomedi	Severe	Severe
Ahmeek-Ronneby-Prebish	Slight	Severe

Source: NRCS

Northwest Sands

This area is defined as an ecological landscape by the Wisconsin DNR and covers portions of Polk, Burnett, Washburn, Douglas, and Bayfield Counties. Sandy soils; pine and oak barrens; large, open wetlands; seepage lakes; and fire proneness characterize the area. There are many ecological management opportunities in this area including large-scale restoration of oak-pine barrens and wetlands (bogs, sedge meadows, and marshes), as well as white and red pine restoration. Restoring the pine barrens would benefit many different types of species including rare lepidoptera (butterflies, moths), herptiles, plants, and birds.

This landscape type is ecologically important for a number of reasons. Many rare communities occur in this region including pine barrens (which support many prairie type flora and fauna), large sedge meadows, and kettle lakes. Currently many of these areas are being managed with the exclusion of fire, even though in pre-settlement times, this community was extremely fire dependent. Within these unique ecological communities, many species of plants and animals are of concern, including the Karner blue butterfly, smooth green snake, Franklin’s ground squirrel, prairie skinks, grouse, trumpeter swan, Blanding’s turtle, sedge wren, and Kirtland’s warbler.

For more information on the Northwest Sands or other ecological landscapes, please refer to the WDNR’s publication *Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin* or the joint publication *Northwest Sands Landscape Level Management Plan*, produced by the WDNR and Northwest Regional Planning Commission.

5.6 LAND COVER

Land cover represents the physical or biophysical layout of the earth’s surface. This description enables various biophysical categories to be distinguished such as areas of vegetation (trees, bushes, fields, lawns), bare soil, hard surfaces (rocks, buildings), wetlands, and bodies of water. The following information was derived from the state’s WISCLAND coverage. This coverage was completed in 1993 using the source data from the nationwide MRLC (Multi-Resolution

Land Characteristics Consortium) acquisition of dual-date Landsat Thematic Mapper (TM) data primarily from 1992. The data used for this was from a statewide coverage and only has a resolution of 30 meters; therefore, it should only be used for general informational purposes and not site specific analysis.

Forest Land

Forest is the dominant land cover within the Town of Swiss, covering 68 percent of the town. Forest resources are important for many reasons including economics, aesthetics, and recreation. Table 5.2 shows the breakdown of the different forest types present in the town. This data shows that most of the forested land is in jack pine, which is typical of the sandy soils in the area. Other dominant forest types are aspen and mixed deciduous/coniferous forest.

Other Land Cover Types

Agriculture land is not a dominant feature on the town’s landscape. Much of the grassland and shrubland is used for pasture or grazing with little true crops being grown. Wetlands account for almost 11 percent of the town, and open water for 4.5 percent. There is little high density development, other than that occurring around Danbury and on select lakes.

Table 5.2: Land Cover: Town of Swiss

Description	Acres	Percent of Town
AGRICULTURE: General	16.2	0.04%
BARREN	93.35	0.24%
FOREST: Aspen	4,388.19	11.31%
FOREST: Jack Pine	7,604.41	19.60%
FOREST: Maple	44.08	0.11%
FOREST: Mixed - Deciduous/Coniferous	4,226.47	10.90%
FOREST: Mixed/Other Broad-leaved Deciduous	1,995.4	5.14%
FOREST: Mixed/other Coniferous	1,547.1	3.99%
FOREST: Northern Pin Oak	1,384.38	3.57%
FOREST: Oak	11.14	0.03%
FOREST: Red Oak	1,788.8	4.61%
FOREST: Red Pine	1,922.65	4.96%
FORESTED WETLAND: Broad-leaved Deciduous	467.85	1.21%
FORESTED WETLAND: Coniferous	742.42	1.91%
FORESTED WETLAND: Mixed - Deciduous/Coniferous	331.18	0.85%
FOREST TOTAL	26,454.07	68.20%
GRASSLAND	4,230.05	10.90%
OPEN WATER	1759.1	4.53%
SHRUBLAND	3,503.93	9.03%
URBAN/DEVELOPED: High Intensity Urban	54.87	0.14%
URBAN/DEVELOPED: Low Intensity Urban	31.81	0.08%
URBAN/DEVELOPED TOTAL	86.68	0.22%
WETLAND: Emergent/Wet Meadow	667.23	1.72%
WETLAND: Lowland Shrub	93.67	0.24%
WETLAND: Lowland Shrub - Broad-leaved Deciduous	1,702.62	4.39%
WETLAND: Lowland Shrub - Broad-leaved Evergreen	175.78	0.45%
WETLAND: Lowland Shrub - Needle-leaved	8.12	0.02%
WETLAND TOTAL	2,647.42	6.82%
Grand Total	3,8790.8	100.00%

Source: WISCLAND Land Cover Database; WDNR

5.7 WATER RESOURCES

Wetlands

Wetlands are defined as an area where water is at, near, or above the land surface long enough to support aquatic or hydrophilic vegetation and has soils indicative of wet conditions. Wetlands serve as important areas for groundwater recharge areas, as well as habitat for many unique plant and animal communities. They also provide natural open space and maintain ground and surface water quality. Burnett County has 122,194 acres or 23 percent of the county's total land area. Within the town, there are approximately 7,492 acres or 19.3 percent of the town. The wetlands in Swiss are generally located adjacent to the water features in the town. There is also a large wetland complex in the western part of town in the Danbury State Wildlife Area. Map 5.2 shows the wetlands greater than five acres in the town.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and local zoning codes regulate wetlands. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act established a program to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill material into waters of the state, including wetlands, and is the primary federal regulatory program for wetlands.

The Shoreland/Wetland Zoning Ordinance adopted by Burnett County regulates the use/alterations of wetlands in the county and in the Town of Swiss. The regulations contained within this document apply to all lands within 1,000 feet of the ordinary high-water mark of any navigable lake, pond, or flowage and those lands within 300 feet of the ordinary high-water mark of any navigable river or stream.

Floodplains

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

Due to these limitations, the state requires that cities, villages, and towns develop a floodplain/shoreland zoning ordinance to address the issues above. Development in these areas is usually allowed, but certain design standards and increased setbacks may be required. The floodplain is normally defined as those areas that are subject to inundation by the 100-year recurrence interval flood event. This means that in any year there is a one percent chance that the area will flood. High-density development in floodplain areas should be discouraged and park and open space encouraged.

Floodplains generally overlap wetland areas and are located along the various water features. Within the town the major floodplain areas are located along the St. Croix, Clam and Loon Rivers. For more detailed information regarding floodplain locations please refer to the FIRM (flood insurance rate maps) developed by FEMA. Copies of FIRM maps are included in the appendix for information only. Individuals should consult with Burnett County regarding on the ground identification of floodplain boundary areas.

Watersheds

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources defines watersheds as areas of an interconnected area of land draining from surrounding ridge tops to a common point such as a lake or stream confluence with a neighboring watershed. Wisconsin has restructured its natural resource management approach around the concepts of ecoregions and watersheds, as opposed to strictly political or social boundaries, which may provide more successful results.

There are four main watersheds in the town. They are the Lower Yellow River, Lower Namekagon, Upper Tamarack, and the St. Croix & Eau Claire River watersheds. The Lower Yellow River is the predominant watershed, covering the southern half of the town, and encompassing the Yellow River, Loon Creek, and Minerva, Twenty Six, and Tabor Lakes. The Upper Tamarack River watershed is located in the northwest corner of town around Island, Staples and Bass Lakes. The St. Croix & Eau Claire River watershed lies in the northeast corner and the Lower Namekagon watershed occupies the western edge of town. Map 5.3 shows the watersheds in the town.

Surface Waters

Surface waters are important for many reasons including aesthetics, environmental, and economical. They provide habitat, food, and corridors for many plant, animal, bird, and fish species and helps create the distinct and valuable habitats that exist in the town and county. Many people are also drawn to water for various recreational opportunities.

Streams

There are two types of streams, perennial and intermittent. Perennial streams are those that flow throughout most of the year (>50%). Intermittent streams only flow part of the year, usually during the spring melt and after heavy rainfalls. These intermittent streams are important to protect because they channel runoff into perennial streams and lakes and may become part of the aquatic ecosystem when water flows in them.

Within the town there are three named rivers and streams: The St. Croix River runs along the entire western edge of town. Two streams drain into the St. Croix River, Loon Creek and the Yellow River. These rivers account for 23 miles of stream corridors and do not take into account the intermittent and other small, unnamed creeks. None of these streams and creeks is classified as a trout stream.

Lakes

Lakes are abundant in the town, covering over 57 miles of shoreline and accounting for 2,161 acres of land. There are 26 named lakes according to the WDNR's database, the biggest being Minerva, Twenty-Six, Gull, Tabor and Deer. There is also one named flowage, one named spring and many small, unnamed ponds scattered throughout the town. Table 5.3 lists some major characteristics of the lakes in the Town of Swiss.

Table 5.3: Lake Characteristics

Lake Name	Acres	Max. Depth ft	Public Access	Lake Map	Lake Type	Muskie	Northern Pike	Walleye	LM Bass	SM Bass	Panfish	Trout	Catfish	Sturgeon	Township	Range	Section
Bass Lake	67	21		Y	SE				C		C				T41N	R16W	13
Berg Lake	42	45			SE				P	C	P				T41N	R15W	19
Briggs Lake	55	13	BR	Y	DG		A		P		C				T41N	R15W	29
Burlingame Lake	57	19	BR	Y	DG		A		A		A				T41N	R15W	30
Cranberry Lake	82	26	NW		DG		C	P	C		P				T41N	R16W	35
Danbury Flowage	256	10	BR		DG	C	C	C	C	P	C		P	P	T41N	R16W	33
Deer Lake	157	18	W	Y	SE		P		P		P				T41N	R14W	7
Eagle Lake	71	14	NW	Y	DG		P		C		P				T41N	R15W	34
Fawn Lake	30	14			SE		P		P		C				T41N	R15W	13
Fenton Lake	17	8	T		SE						C				T41N	R15W	14
Floyd Lake	12	Data Not Available													T41N	R15W	22
Gull Lake	182	19	T	Y	DG		C	P	C		C				T40N	R16W	2
Island Lake	23	56			SE		P		P		A				T41N	R15W	5
Johnson Lake	28	7	BR		SE				P		P				T41N	R15W	24
Little Round Lake	13	40	BR		SE				P		P	C			T41N	R15W	22
Long Lake	49	14	W		SE		P		P		P				T41N	R16W	33
Loon Lake	89	10	BR	Y	DG		C		C		C				T41N	R16W	36
Minerva Lake	222	22	BR		DG		P	P	C	P	C				T41N	R16W	26
Mud Lake	26	7	NW		SE		P		P		P				T41N	R15W	34
Myrick Lake	19	12	W		SE		P		C		P				T41N	R15W	24
Robie Lake	31	14	NW		DG		P		P		P				T41N	R15W	19
Round Lake	56	11	BR		SE		P	P	P		A				T41N	R16W	33
Schaaf Lake	23	Data Not Available													T41N	R15W	22
Staples Lake	77	41	W		SE		P		P		P				T41N	R15W	8
Stone Lake	34	11	W		SE				P		C				T41N	R15W	29
Tabor Lake (Loon)	157	28	BR	Y	SE		C		P		P				T41N	R15W	19
Twentysix Lake	230	45	BR	Y	DG	C	C		C		C				T41N	R15W	26
Twentysix Lake Spring	3	8	NW		SP										T41N	R15W	26

Key:

Public Access

- BR: Boat Ramp
- T: Walk in Trail
- NW: Navigable Water

W: Wilderness in Public Land

Source: WDNR

Lake Type

- DG: Drainage Lake
- SE: Seepage Lake
- SP: Spring Lake

Fish Species

- A: Abundant
- C: Common
- P: Present

ORW

The Department of Natural Resources classifies water bodies as outstanding resource waters (ORW) under Chapter NR 102 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. These waters have outstanding recreational, cultural, aesthetic, or scientific resource value and shall have special protection from degradation. Within the town, the St. Croix River has this designation.

303.d Impaired Water Bodies

The State of Wisconsin also classifies impaired water bodies as regulated by the Federal Clean Water Act (Section 303.d). This list includes all surface waters in the state in which beneficial uses (such as drinking water and recreation and aquatic habitat) are impaired by pollutants. These water bodies do not meet surface water quality standards and are not expected to do so within the next two years. Burnett County has six water bodies on this list, none in Swiss, and the closest being Johnson Lake in Oakland and North Sand Lake in Jackson. All of the lakes are on the list because of mercury fish consumption advisories and have a low priority rating.

Burnett County Classification System

In 1998, Burnett County assumed the responsibility of formulating a classification scheme for all water bodies in the county. The county felt this was important because surface waters constitute important environmental and economical (recreational) resources to the area. Also, they wanted a system in place that is more sensitive to local resources compared to the minimum statewide standard and were easy to understand. Burnett County has seen a steady increase in both permanent and seasonal and recreational homes in the last 20 years. In 1980, there were 683 total housing units compared to 833 in 2000, which constitutes an increase of 22 percent. In the last 20 years, seasonal housing units have increased over 23 percent. A lot of these homes are being built along lakes and streams. This classification plan was developed to identify which lakes are most prone to developmental pressures and to set building standards based on lake sensitivity.

The lake classification system uses a variety of physical and developmental factors in determining the lake's vulnerability. These factors include lake surface area, maximum depth, lake type, watershed size, shoreline development factor, and existing density (feet per structure). Each factor is divided into categories and given a score of 0-3. The scores of each factor are then added up and put into a lake class with a corresponding protection level. Table 5.4 shows the classification system.

Table 5.4: Scoring for Lake Classification System

Overall Vulnerability Ranking	Lake Classification	Protection Level
Total score 14 or over	Class 1	Minimum
Total score 10 – 13	Class 2	Moderate
Total score 9 or less	Class 3	Maximum

Source: Burnett County Land Use Plan

Based on this classification, each category has specific building and lot standards. Class 1 lakes (minimum protection) have the smallest lot sizes and side yard setbacks, where as Class 3 lakes (and all rivers and streams) have the largest setbacks and lot sizes (Map 5.4, Lake and River

Classification). Table 5.5 shows the dimensional requirements for each class. For more specific information regarding this classification system, please refer to *Burnett County Land Use Plan* or *A Guide for Developing & Managing Shoreland in Burnett County*.

Table 5.5: Dimensional Requirements for Lake Classes in Burnett County

Lake Classification	Lot Size	Lot Width - Single Family	Shoreline Setback	Lot Depth	Vegetation Removal	Side Yard Setback
Class 1	30,000 s.f.	150 ft.	75 ft.	200 ft.	30' corridor within 35' of shore	10' min 40 ft. min total
Class 2	40,000 s.f.	200 ft.	75 ft.	200 ft.	30' corridor within 35' of shore	20' min 50 ft. min total
Class 3	75,000 s.f.	300 ft.	100 ft.	250 ft.	30' corridor within 50' of shore	30' min 60 ft. min total
Rivers & Streams	75,000 s.f.	300 ft.	100 ft.	250 ft.	30' corridor within 50' of shore	30' min 60 ft. min total

Source: A Guide for Developing & Managing Shoreland in Burnett County.

Groundwater

Groundwater is important as it provides the household water source to all residents in the town and provides water recharge to many lakes, streams, and wetlands. Primary sources of groundwater pollution in Wisconsin are agricultural activities, municipal landfills, leaky underground storage tanks, and spills. Other possible contamination sources may be septic tanks and land application of wastewater. Rarely do natural pollutants affect groundwater quality. If groundwater is contaminated, it can take years and large monetary expense to clean up.

Groundwater contamination susceptibility results from a number of factors. Geologic and soil conditions combine to determine how sensitive groundwater is to contamination. The area in and around the town has a sand and gravel aquifer from the Precambrian Era, which leads to a higher susceptibility to groundwater contamination. The depth to the water table in the town ranges from 50 to 200 feet.

5.8 THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES

The abundance of large tracts of contiguous lands in the town and county creates prime habitat for various plant and animal species. Many of these species are rare, threatened or endangered. The bureau of endangered resources is the department of the WDNR that monitors and identifies these species of concern. The Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) is used to track these species because it is part of an international network of Heritage programs. This network is preferable because it uses a standard methodology for collecting, processing, and managing data occurrences of biological diversity. This network of data centers was established by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and is now coordinated by Nature Serve, an international non-profit organization. Because of the mobility of many of these species, they can be found in different parts of the county at different times, and absence of species on the list does not infer absence of presence in the area. Not all areas are inventoried because of private lands or lack of resources. The general location for threatened and endangered species is not specifically revealed due to the potential impact to resources. Map 5.5 represents the environmental and cultural areas in the town.

5.9 NATURAL AREAS/OPEN SPACE

There is an abundance of opportunities to view and experience natural areas within the town. The federal government, the state, and the county own five main public land holdings that encompass the town. Collectively, these areas provide environmental corridors for wildlife to travel throughout the county as well as permanent habitat to create the diverse ecosystems present in the town and surrounding area. Map 5.6 shows the ownership of the town.

St. Croix National Scenic River

This federally owned river way is managed jointly with the Namekagon River and was one of the initial designations under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. The Lower St. Croix was designated in 1972. The General Management Plan: Upper St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers, July 1998, provides the National Park Service with a management guide for maintaining the scenic riverway. The river abuts many unique habitats and provides excellent viewing of wildlife. The primary recreational activities are water related. The Upper St. Croix is perfect for canoeing and kayaking whereas boats can use the wider lower portion.

Governor Knowles State Forest

Originally established as the St. Croix State Forest in 1970, it was renamed in 1981 to the Governor Knowles State Forest in recognition of Warren Knowles conservation efforts during his administration. Within the Town of Swiss lies the northern boundary of the forest that follows and acts as a buffer to the St. Croix River as far south as Polk County. Two 20-mile trails are present and afford visitors with a view of the St. Croix valley in its natural state throughout all seasons. Wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities exist for a variety of species. Species present include whitetail deer, ruffed grouse, black bear, snowshoe hare, squirrel, woodcock, bald eagles, pocket gopher, mink, and muskrat.

Danbury State Wildlife Area

This 2,245-acre WDNR managed wildlife area is located in the southwest portion of Swiss. The habitat consists primarily of lowland forest and pine barrens. The principal wildlife comprises deer, bear, ruffed grouse, woodcock, and snowshoe hares. Hunting, wildlife viewing, birding, photography, canoeing, and wild rice harvesting are the main activities practiced in this area. There are no developed trails.

Gandy Dancer State Trail

This 98-mile trail runs north/south through Burnett, Douglas and Polk Counties in Wisconsin and Pine County in Minnesota. The trail follows the old Soo railroad grade and is owned by the representative states' DNR. In Wisconsin, each county's park and recreation department manage it. The trail is open to hiking and biking (not motorized) April through November and from December through March it is also open for snowmobiles. North of STH 77, it is a multi-use trail year round with motorized and non-motorized trail use. In Burnett County the trail offers many scenic vistas of lakes, rivers, and forests; four bridge trestles; and many opportunities to view wildlife and historical spots. In Swiss, the trail runs north/south and through the community of Danbury. One of the highlights is north of Danbury where the trail crosses the St. Croix River via a 520-foot long trestle that spans more than 75 feet above the scenic river.

Burnett County Forest Land

The Burnett County Forest system was developed in 1932, covers more than 106,000 acres or nearly 165 square miles, and is the ninth largest county forest system in the state. Primary habitats include mixed forest with aspen, pine, oak, birch, and other sandy soil species. The forest gives public access to many of the county's pristine water features, including the St. Croix, Namekagon, Totagatic, Yellow, Clam, and Tamarack Rivers. Many miles of trails offer opportunities for snowmobiling, hiking, biking, ATV's, skiing, and horseback riding. Permits are required for hunting, fishing, and trapping and for the collection of plants, firewood, Christmas trees, and other forest products. Berries, mushrooms, edible fruits, and seeds may be gathered for personal use without a permit.

5.10 METALLIC & NON-METALLIC MINING

Mining in Wisconsin has occurred since settlement. Metals mined in the state include copper, lead, iron, and zinc. Mining has economic value to multi-regional areas but also has the ability to potentially harm natural resources. There are no metallic mining operations in the town.

Non-metallic mining substances may include stone, sand, gravel, beryl, clay, coal, feldspar, peat, talc, and topsoil. There are no non-metallic mining sites in the town at this time. Any new mines need to have a permit granted by the WDNR and are subject to the rules and regulations of NR 135, which includes a reclamation plan.

5.11 AGRICULTURAL USES AND TRENDS

Productive Agriculture Lands

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) developed a list of Official Prime Farmlands (Map 5.7). The NRCS has defined prime agricultural lands as "*land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops. The land must also be available for these uses (cropland, pastureland, forestland, or other land but not water or urban built-up land).*" These lands have the soil quality, growing season, and moisture content that can maintain high yields of crops when treated and or managed and where residential cluster development should be encouraged. The following lists some general characteristics of prime farmland in Wisconsin:

- Has an adequate and dependable water supply from precipitation or irrigation
- Has a favorable temperature and growing season
- Has acceptable acidity or alkalinity
- Has few or no rocks
- Is permeable to air and water
- Is not excessively erodible
- Is not saturated with water for long periods of time
- Does not flood frequently, or is protected from flooding

These soils do not include unique farmland, which is land other than prime farmland that is used for production of specific food crops. These soils have unique conditions, growing season, and moisture content that are specific to one type of crop. In Wisconsin, this could include soils used for cranberry production that are too wet for other crops or soils used for orchards that may be too steep or erodible to qualify as prime farmland.

Another way to examine productive agriculture lands is to consider the land capability class. This classification scheme breaks up land into eight general classes, labeled I-VIII. Lands classified as I or II are “most productive”, classes III and IV are “productive” and classes V-VIII are non-productive lands. The first four classes are suitable for cultivation where the last four are limited to grazing, pasture or woodlands.

Agricultural Trends

Agriculture use has seen a decline throughout the state as these lands are being converted to residential use. The Town of Swiss is no exception. According to the tax assessment data, the town has had a 42 percent decrease in the amount of land assessed as agricultural. This rate is much higher than the county’s, which had a 27 percent loss over the last 13 years. Not surprisingly, the number of total parcels also decreased significantly, meaning that the average farm size has remained relatively steady. It should be noted that the residential acreage during this time period increased 34 percent in the town from 2,905 acres in 1990 to 3,846 in 2003.

Table 5.6: Agricultural Tax Assessment Statistics

	1990		1997		2003		%Acre change 1990-2003
	Parcels	Acres	Parcels	Acres	Parcels	Acres	
Swiss	109	2,747	79	2,197	58	1,580	-42.5%
Burnett Co.	3,517	88,827	3,357	80,452	2,993	64,680	-27.2%

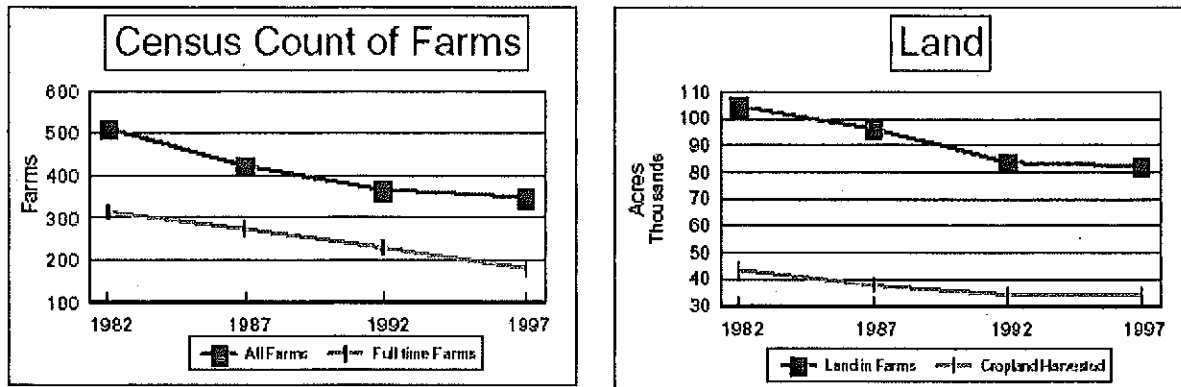
Source: WDOR

The Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service (WASS) is a part of the Department of Agriculture whose primary responsibility is to prepare official estimates of agriculture for the state and counties. WASS develops profiles on a five-year cycle. Some countywide statistics from the 1997 survey are listed below (2002 County data not yet available):

- Land in farms decreased 2 percent from 84,091 acres in 1992 to 82,742 acres in 1997
- Average farm size increased 4 percent from 228 acres in 1992 to 236 acres in 1997
- Full time farms decreased 22 percent from 231 farms in 1992 to 180 in 1997
- Market value of agricultural products sold decreased two percent to \$14,187,000 in 1997
 - Crop sales accounted for 39 percent of market value
 - Livestock sales accounted for 61 percent of market value
- Market value of agricultural products sold, average per farm increased three percent from \$39,081 in 1992 to \$40,418 in 1997

The graphs in Figure 5.1 show the steady decrease of the number of farms and land over a 15-year period in the 1980’s and 1990’s.

Figure 5.1



Source: WASS

5.12 HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

It is important to identify and discuss historic and cultural resources as they give a valuable link to the past. This section will touch on three cultural categories: architecture, archeology, and burial sites. The Wisconsin State Historical Society has taken the lead on being the source for most of the historic and cultural resources in the state. There are no buildings in the town on the state or national registry; however, Table 5.7 shows the possible historic buildings within the town as defined by the Wisconsin State Historic Society. These buildings are part of the Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory (AHI), which list structures that have a unique, cultural, or historic importance to Wisconsin. This is not a comprehensive list; it was developed from a variety of sources and not all buildings may be eligible for listing on the state or national registry. Some properties may have been altered or no longer exist.

Table 5.7: Wisconsin Architectural and Historic Inventory, Town of Swiss

Town, Range, Section	Quarter Section	Location	Name	Construction Date	Wall Material	Style or Form	Resource Type
41-15W 18	NW NW	Private Rd	M. Nelson Barn		Board	Astylistic Utilitarian	Barn
41-16W 31	SW SE	Danbury Wildlife Area	Trinity Lutheran Church	1919	Asbestos	Other Vernacular	House
41-16W 28		Danbury				Other Vernacular	Church

Source: Wisconsin State Historical Society

Archeology

It is estimated that nearly 80 percent of the archaeological sites that once existed in the state have been destroyed or severely damaged, primarily by modern land practices such as development and farming. Looting has also damaged many sites (Wisconsin State Historical Society). Archeological sites may include cemeteries, Native American burial mounds and camp sites,

pictographs, and shipwrecks. The Wisconsin State Historical Society keeps a list of all known archeological sites in the state. Due to the sensitive nature of these sites, the exact location may not be available.

In Burnett County the rich Native American heritage and history allows for the possibility for many archeological sites in the area. There are four known cemeteries in the Town of Swiss: The Swiss Cemetery on Riverside Cutoff Road, and Indian/Catholic Cemetery between STH 35 and the St. Croix River, Danbury Cemetery on STH 35, and an unnamed one on Briggs Lake Road. All burial sites are protected under state statutes and apply to both public and private lands. Before any major developments, it is suggested that a site analysis be done to ensure a site is not damaged. If a site is found on private land, state tax exemptions may be available to the landowner. For more information on archeological sites contact the Wisconsin State Historical Society.

5.13 NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAMS

The Town of Swiss in the implementation of this comprehensive plan may use the following list of programs. This list is not comprehensive; and many other local, state, and federal programs may also exist.

Natural Resource Programs

Runoff Management Programs

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources administers two grant programs to support both the implementation of source-area controls to prevent runoff contamination and the installation of treatment systems to remove pollutants from runoff. The Targeted Runoff Management Program (TRM) provides a 70 percent cost share, up to \$150,000 to target high-priority resource problems.

- Construction of urban and rural BMPs
- Two-year grant period
- Site-specific

The Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Management (UNPS&SW) Grant Programs are used to control runoff in urban areas with a population density of 1,000 people per square mile.

Lake Planning Grants

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources administers a number of lake management financial assistance programs designed to assist local units of government.

Small Scale Lake Planning Grant

Available to local units of government, including public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, town sanitary districts, and other local governmental units as defined in Wis. Stats. Ch. 66.0301.

- Funds may be used to collect and analyze information needed to protect and restore lakes and their watersheds.
- 75 percent cost share

- Total project cost not to exceed \$3,000

Self-help Trend Monitoring Grant

- Total project cost not to exceed \$3,000
- Grantees provide voluntary labor (130 hours) for lake monitoring activities
- WDNR provides materials and laboratory analysis

Large Scale Lake Planning Grants

Available to local units of government, including public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, town sanitary districts, and other local governmental units as defined in Wis. Stats. Ch. 66.0301.

- 75 percent cost share project
- Total cost not to exceed \$10,000
- Funds can be used for collecting lake data, analysis of land uses, analysis of ordinances, resource assessments, or developing components of a lake management plan.

Lake Protection Grants

Administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Lake Protection Grants Program is designed to fund large-scale lake protection projects.

- Available to local units of government, including public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, town sanitary districts, and other local governmental units as defined in Wis. Stats. Ch. 66.0301.
- 75 percent cost share
- Maximum award of up to \$200,000

Eligible projects include:

- Purchase of land or easements
- Restoration of wetlands or shoreland
- Development of ordinances or regulations
- Implementation of lake management plan projects

Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program (WFLGP)

This is a state program administered by the WDNR. Cost shares up to 65 percent are available for:

- Development of management plan
- Tree planting (site prep, planting stock, planting, etc.)
- Timber stand improvement
- Fencing

Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP)

This federal program, administered by WDNR and Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides up to 65 percent cost share for:

- Development of management plan
- Tree planting (site prep, planting stock, planting, etc.)
- Timber stand improvement
- Fencing

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

This federal program, administered by FSA and Natural Resources and Conservation Services (NRCS) with WDNR input, provides annual payments and up to 50 percent cost share for:

- Development of management plan
- Tree planting (site prep, planting stock, planting, etc.)
- CRP is currently focused on wildlife enhancement and does not allow solid plantations SRIC Poplars. The State of Wisconsin currently does not allow hybrid poplar to be planted under any CRP contract because it is not native to the area. However, pure cottonwoods are acceptable. Allowable species varies with each state. Please consult your local NRCS and/or FSA office for details.

Forestry Incentives Program (FIP)

This federal program, administered by NRCS with WDNR inputs, provides up to 65 percent cost share for:

- Development of management plan
- Tree planting (site prep, planting stock, planting, etc.)

Managed Forest Law (MFL)

This Wisconsin state program is entirely administered by the WDNR and provides the landowner a significant property tax reduction. The actual property tax paid will depend upon if the land is open or closed to the public. Upon harvest, a stumpage tax must be paid to the state, based on the average stumpage price. The program is targeted towards:

- Development of management plan
- Tree planting (site prep, planting stock, planting, etc.)
- Timber stand improvement

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

This federal program, administered by NRCS with WDNR inputs, provides up to 75 percent cost share with emphasis towards:

- Wildlife practices and plantings
- Wetland restoration
- Farmstead shelterbelts
- Grazing systems

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

This federal program, administered by NRCS with WDNR, inputs and provides up to 75 percent cost share for:

- Priority areas
- Tree planting for erosion control, ag waste management, stream buffers, ecosystem management, etc.

Cultural and Historic Resource Protection Programs

Wisconsin Historic Preservation Fund Subgrants (Tax Credits)

The Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation (DHP) administers Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) subgrants. These grants are in the form of income tax credits for income-producing historic buildings, historic homes, and archaeological sites. These credits are available to all local units of government in the State of Wisconsin and to non-profit organizations.

Wisconsin Humanities Council Historic Preservation Grants

The Wisconsin Humanities Council offers grants of up to \$10,000 for projects that enhance appreciation of the need for historic preservation and/or increase public awareness of the importance of particular historic buildings or decorative art works in Wisconsin. Preference is given to small towns and rural communities with populations under 30,000.

National Trust for Historic Preservation/Jeffris Preservation Services Fund (PFS)

This fund was established in 1998 by a gift from the Jeffris Family Foundation to the National Trust. The PSF provides funding to small towns to use in the planning stages of historic preservation projects. Eligible expenses include costs for professional consultants and educational activities. A dollar for dollar match is required for these grants.

5.14 NATURAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES GOALS, OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

Goal: Conserve, protect, manage and enhance the town's natural resources.

Objective 1: Preserve productive farms for continued agricultural use.

Action Statement – Objective 1

Identify farmland areas and prioritize for preservation.

Responsible party – Town Board, Plan Commission

When – ongoing

Objective 2: Research possibilities for more town input into County and other controlled forest areas.

Action Statement – Objective 2

Meet with county forestry and WDNR officials on use of controlled forest areas.

Responsible party – Town Board, Plan Commission

When – ongoing

Objective 3: Ensure the protection of ground water and address surface water runoff.

Action Statement – Objective 3

Research performance standards to protect water quality.

Responsible party – Town Board, Plan Commission

When – ongoing

Objective 4: Continue to support Burnett County's Lakes Classification Ordinance to preserve lake development and usage.

Action Statement – Objective 4

Provide brochures on Burnett County Lakes Classification.

Responsible party – Town Board, WDNR

When – ongoing

Objective 5: Be aware of environmental impacts of present and future industrial, commercial developments.

Action Statement – Objective 5

Research and minimize impacts of future commercial/industrial development.

Responsible party – Town Board

When – ongoing

Objective 6: Continue working with WDNR on monitoring effects of closed dumpsites in town.

Action Statement – Objective 6

Work with WDNR on monitoring of closed dump site.

Responsible party – Town Board

When – ongoing

Objective 7: Continue to identify potential brownfield sites and explore avenues for remediation where needed.

Objective 8: Remove junk cars.

Action Statement – Objective 8

Explore the use of ordinances to prohibit and remove junk vehicles in the town.

Responsible party – Town Board

When – ongoing