

Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan 2009-2030

Section 1: Existing Conditions Report



Prepared by the Mississippi River Regional Planning
Commission under the Direction of the Barre Town Planning
Committee and Town Board - March 2009

ABSTRACT

Title: Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan 2009-2030

Summary: The Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan 2009-2030 responds to and is consistent with the State of Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Law as defined in Sections 66.1001(1)a and 66.1001(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes. The comprehensive plan is made with the general purpose of guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, adjusted, and harmonious development of the Town that will in accordance with existing and future needs, best promote public health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity or the general welfare, as well as efficiency and economy in the process of development.

Town Chairman: Ron Reed

Town Board: Kenneth Batzel
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Ordinance to Adopt the Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan 2009-2030.

The Town Board of the Town of Barre, Wisconsin, do ordain as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to section 62.23(2)(3) of the Wisconsin Statutes, the Town of Barre, is authorized to prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan as defined in section 66.1001(1)(a) and 66.1001(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Section 2. The Town Board of the Town of Barre, La Crosse County, Wisconsin, has adopted written procedures designed to foster public participation in every stage of the preparation of a comprehensive plan as required by section 66.1001(4)(a) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Section 3. The plan commission of the Town of Barre, by a majority vote of the entire commission recorded in its official minutes, has adopted a resolution recommending to the Town Board the adoption of the document entitled "The Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan 2009-2030" containing all of the elements specified in section 66.1001(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Section 4. The Town of Barre has held at least one public hearing on this ordinance, in compliance with the requirements of section 66.1001(4)(d) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Section 5. The Town Board of the Town of Barre, Wisconsin, does, by enactment of this ordinance, formally adopt the document entitled, "The Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan 2009-2030", pursuant to section 66.1001(4)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Section 6. This ordinance shall take effect upon passage by a majority vote of the members-elect of the Town Board and publication/posting as required by law.

Adopted this 10 day of March, 2009

Ken Reed 3/10/2009
Town Board Chair Date

Approved:

Attest:

Sally Steesh
Town Clerk

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Introduction

The Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan is being prepared under the State of Wisconsin's comprehensive planning law contained in Section 66.1001, Wisconsin Statutes. The law was adopted in 1999 and requires that zoning, subdivision regulations, and official mapping within the town must be consistent with a comprehensive plan. To meet the requirements of the planning law a comprehensive plan is being prepared that will consist of two documents, an Existing Conditions Report and a Goals, Objectives, Policies and Recommendations section.

In developing the Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan, the first step taken was the preparation of an Existing Conditions Report. The report is compiled to provide detailed background information on the Town of Barre which will be utilized in the planning process. The Existing Conditions Report provides a comprehensive snapshot of the Town of Barre in 2007 and provides some insight into the town's future with population, housing, and economic projections. This report will serve as the statistical/data foundation for the Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan. It is important to understand that the data collected and projections contained in this report represent the best statistical information available at the time of this report.

Setting

The Town of Barre is located in La Crosse County in western Wisconsin. The Town is located in south central La Crosse County and consists of approximately 11,100 acres. There are no incorporated Cities or Villages within the boundaries of the Town of Barre. The Town of Barre is bordered on the north by the Town of Hamilton, on the west by the Town of Bangor, on the east by the Town of Medary, and on the south by the Towns of Shelby and Greenfield.

History

The Town of Barre in La Crosse County lies in the heart of an area famous to geologists and geographers known as the Driftless Area. Most of the Middle West is more or less flat due to this glacial scouring, but an area covering what is today southwestern Wisconsin, southeastern Minnesota, northeastern Iowa, and northwestern Illinois is unique because it missed being covered by most of the recent glaciation. The soil deposits, and resulting topography of glacial coverage is called "drift", hence the regional name "Driftless Area".

Early Settlement

Human settlement in Western Wisconsin can be traced back about 12,000 years, and specifically within the limits of what is now Town of Barre, there have been discovered arrowheads documented to that distant time of early far ranging hunter-gatherers.

The first European heritage settlers known to have made a homestead in the present limits of the Town of Barre were Vermont natives Martin Bostwick and his two sons, Jerome and John. They arrived May 7, 1850, and plowed a furrow around several miles of land, thus laying claim to the whole valley that as a result of this action, now bears their family name. The Bostwick claim on the entire valley was soon challenged by the ever increasing number of potential settlers. Those later arrivals also performed the necessary signs of "improvement" on the land, as required to make a claim, and the government land office at Mineral Point accepted these claims. Between 1850 and 1860 immigration swelled the population rapidly and the valley's natural fertility rewarded the effort with large and profitable crops. Elegant and commodious residences took the place of rude and hastily constructed log cabins and a general air of prosperity and comfort pervaded the area.

The Town's residents soon established public schools, and protestant clergymen began to come to the area to preach to the predominantly German and Norwegian settlers. A Norwegian pastor, Reverend Stub, from Coon Prairie, a county away to the south, came in 1852 and held meetings in the cabins of the settlers. He preached in either German or Norwegian, as fit the ethnic opportunity. In 1864 the German Lutheran Church established an organized presence, with membership from the families of Fred Sprain, Henry Rhodes, John Betz, Louis Miller, Fred Nuttleman, and Conrad Miller. The first meetings were held in the schoolhouse in Section 26 until 1870 when the church building was erected. The first service in the new church was Christmas Day 1870.

During this time of many people seeking religious expression, a group of people opposed to the implied societal impositions of religious beliefs, especially through organized religion, was established. The Barre Freidenker or "Free Thinkers" Society was organized in 1869 with sixteen members. For three years they held meetings every two weeks in the Section 16 schoolhouse, and in 1872 they built a brick meeting hall for the then magnificent sum of \$800. In both Sections 26 and 16, sites of the school houses used as religious or antireligious meeting halls, old buildings still stand. These were used as school buildings well into the twentieth century, but records don't document if they are the original structures.

Local Economy

The economic life of the Town was also developing and in 1858, Mr. Harker from New York built the first grain mill in the Town in Section 29 on the banks of Bostwick Valley Creek. The mill had a 10 foot drop and two runs of stone. Shortly after opening the mill, a La Crosse lawyer named Henderson took over the operation and ran the mill for two years. Brown and Van Ness then took charge and operated it for three years, when John Craig took over and continued the business for ten years. The operation changed hands again, to Valentine Weirner for four years, then to William Ruks. The mill had an extensive trade and the quality of the flour, from the locally grown wheat, was top quality.

Another industrial business in the Town was the wagon shop started in 1864, in Section 16, by Charles Miller. He manufactured and repaired wagons for two years, then rented the shop to S. Tierney who operated it until 1876. In that year Henry Huxhal became the owner. In that same year, 1876, Mr. Huxhal also purchased the black smith shop that had been run by Henry Lang since 1864. Eventually he employed three blacksmiths and two wagon-makers to carry out this important business of building and repairing wagons and agricultural equipment.

The first post office in the Town was established in 1853 with John Halverson as the postmaster. At that time it was located in Section 16 and known as the Bostwick Valley post office.

Early Government

The original Town of Barre, besides its present area, embraced fifteen sections of the southern portion of what is now the Town of Hamilton, and all of the current towns of Bangor and Washington. The first town organizational meeting was held in 1853 in the log cabin of a Mr. Jones located in Section 15. John Meldrum was elected chairman and Jerome Bostwick, clerk. In 1856 the Town of Bangor, which included the present day Town of Washington, was set off. This left thirty-six sections in Barre. In 1867 the state legislature consolidated the Towns of Barre and Neshonoc and renamed it Hamilton. In 1874 the Board of County Commissioners set off twenty one sections in the southern part of Hamilton and established the "new" Town of Barre. The first meeting of the newly organized town with the old familiar name was held April 7, 1874, and ninety-four votes for officers were cast.

1. Demographic Trends and Projections

This section of the report will provide information on the demographic trends and projections that are taking place in the Town of Barre. The information has been gathered from various sources and when possible Town level data was utilized.

Population Trends and Projections

Table 1.1 T Barre, Surrounding Municipalities, County, State and Nation Population and Population Projections

	1960 ⁽¹⁾	1970 ⁽¹⁾	1980 ⁽¹⁾	1990 ⁽¹⁾	2000 ⁽¹⁾	% Chg 60-70	% Chg 70-80	% Chg 80-90	% Chg 90-00	2010 ⁽³⁾	2015 ⁽³⁾	2020 ⁽³⁾	2025 ⁽³⁾
T. Bangor	603	569	572	598	583	-5.6	0.5	4.5	-2.5	599	603	610	623
T. Barre	507	521	901	909	1,014	2.8	72.9	0.9	11.6	1,108	1,148	1,191	1,248
T. Greenfield	966	1,278	1,537	1,617	1,538	32.3	20.3	5.2	-4.9	1,583	1,596	1,614	1,651
T. Hamilton	1,439	1,229	1,472	1,633	2,103	-14.6	19.8	10.9	28.8	2,477	2,646	2,821	3,028
T. Medary	1,563	2,333	1,794	1,539	1,463	49.3	-23.1	-14.2	-4.9	1,519	1,538	1,562	1,604
T. Shelby	5,458	4,600	5,620	5,022	4,687	-15.7	22.2	-10.6	-6.7	4,655	4,613	4,589	4,617
T. Washington	648	670	611	598	738	3.4	-8.8	-2.1	23.4	804	831	861	901
V. Bangor	928	974	1,012	1,076	1,400	5.0	3.9	6.3	30.1	1,544	1,606	1,672	1,757
V. West Salem	1,707	2,180	3,276	3,611	4,738	27.7	50.3	10.2	31.2	5,399	5,691	5,998	6,372
La Crosse Co	72,465	80,468	91,056	97,892	107,120	11.0	13.2	7.5	9.4	113,211	115,538	118,246	122,291
STATE	3,951,777	4,417,821	4,705,642	4,891,599	5,363,715	11.8	6.5	4.0	9.7	5,751,470	5,931,386	6,110,878	6,274,867
U.S.	179,323,175	203,302,031	226,542,199	248,709,873	281,421,906	13.4	11.4	9.8	13.2	NA	NA	NA	NA

(1) U.S. Bureau of the Census; (2) & (3) WI. Dept. of Admin.-Demographic Services Ctr.

U.S. Census Bureau statistics and population estimates from the State of Wisconsin-Department of Administration-Demographic Services Center show that the Town of Barre's population is likely to increase from 1,014 residents in 2000 to 1,248 residents by the year 2025.

Population Characteristics:

Table 1.2 shows that 98.7% of the Town's population is of the white race compared to La Crosse County, State of Wisconsin and the Nation who recorded 94.2%, 88.9%, and 75.1% respectively, followed by Asians, and Blacks or African Americans. No minority group in the Town exceeded 1% of the Town's total population.

Table 1.2 Town of Barre, La Crosse County, State and Nation Population by Race

RACE	T. Barre	%	La Crosse County	%	State of WI	%	U.S.	%
One race	1,012	99.8	106,022	99.0	5,296,780	98.8	274,595,678	97.6
White	1,001	98.7	100,883	94.2	4,769,857	88.9	211,460,626	75.1
Black or African American	4	0.4	1,016	0.9	304,460	5.7	34,658,190	12.3
American Indian and Alaska Native	0	0.0	440	0.4	47,228	0.9	2,475,956	0.9
Asian	6	0.6	3,376	3.2	88,763	1.7	10,242,998	3.6
Islander	0	0.0	21	0.0	1,630	0.0	398,835	0.1
Some other race	1	0.1	286	0.3	84,842	1.6	15,359,073	5.5
Two or more races	2	0.2	1,098	1.0	66,895	1.2	6,826,228	2.4
Totals	1,014	100	107,120	100	5,363,675	100	281,421,906	100

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 2000

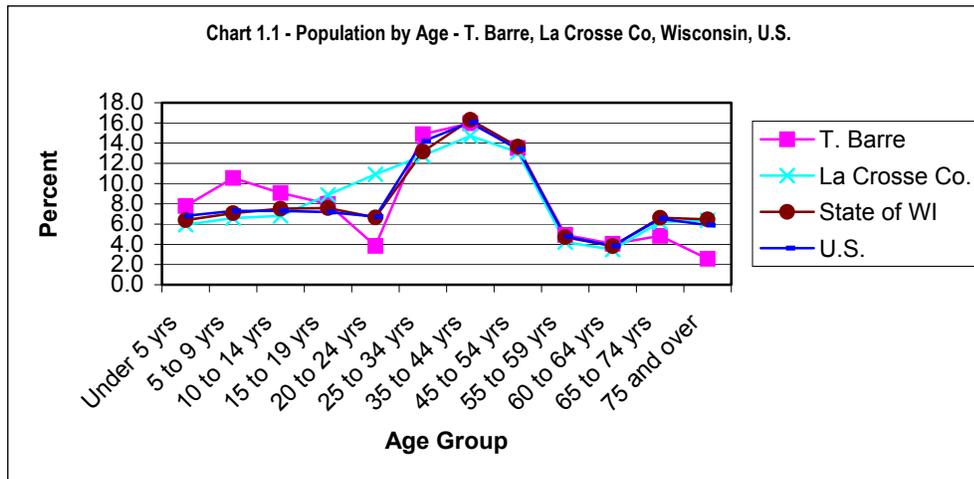
According to the 2000 Census, the Town of Barre had 1,014 residents. Barre has a higher percentage of their population in the 0 to 14 age group and a lower percentage in the 65 and over age group than the County, State, or Nation, Table 1.3.

Town of Barre Existing Conditions Report – Demographic Trends and Projections

Table 1.3 Town of Barre, La Crosse County, State and Nation Population by Age 2000

Age Group	Town of Barre	%	La Crosse County	%	State of Wisconsin	%	U.S.	%
Under 5 yrs	79	7.8	6,361	5.9	342,340	6.4	19,175,798	6.8
5 to 9 yrs	107	10.6	7,061	6.6	379,484	7.1	20,549,505	7.3
10 to 14 yrs	92	9.1	7,306	6.8	403,074	7.5	20,528,072	7.3
15 to 19 yrs	81	8.0	9,517	8.9	407,195	7.6	20,219,890	7.2
20 to 24 yrs	39	3.8	11,696	10.9	357,292	6.7	18,964,001	6.7
25 to 34 yrs	151	14.9	13,690	12.8	706,168	13.2	39,891,724	14.2
35 to 44 yrs	162	16.0	15,764	14.7	875,522	16.3	45,148,527	16.0
45 to 54 yrs	137	13.5	14,044	13.1	732,306	13.7	37,677,952	13.4
55 to 59 yrs	50	4.9	4,523	4.2	252,742	4.7	13,469,237	4.8
60 to 64 yrs	41	4.0	3,718	3.5	204,999	3.8	10,805,447	3.8
65 to 74 yrs	49	4.8	6,621	6.2	355,307	6.6	18,390,986	6.5
75 and over	26	2.6	6,819	6.4	347,246	6.5	16,600,767	5.9
Totals	1,014	100	107,120	100	5,363,675	100	281,421,906	100
Median Age	32.9		33.5		36		35.3	

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 2000



As shown in Chart 1.1, Barre's largest population sector is between the ages of 25-54. Comparatively Barre has less residents between the ages of 20-24 and 65 and older than the County, State or Nation. Barre's 2000 median age of 32.9 is lower than the County (33.5), State (36) and Nation (35.3).

Educational Attainment

Table 1.4 shows that 21% of Barre residents have a bachelor's degree or higher as compared to La Crosse County, the State of Wisconsin, and the Nation at 25%, 22% and 25% respectively.

Table 1.4 Town of Barre, La Crosse County, State and Nation Educational Attainment

	Population 25 years and older	< 9th Grade		9th-12th Grade No Diploma		H.S. Grad. (Incl. Equival)		Some College No Degree		Associate's Degree		Bachelor's Degree		Graduate or Prof. Degree	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
T. Barre	657	10	1.5%	43	6.5%	236	35.9%	125	19.0%	105	16.0%	93	14.2%	45	6.8%
La Crosse Co	65,263	2,687	4.1%	4,062	6.2%	20,823	31.9%	14,176	21.7%	6,945	10.6%	10,642	16.3%	5,928	9.1%
State of WI	3,475,878	186,125	5.4%	332,292	9.6%	1,201,813	34.6%	715,664	20.6%	260,711	7.5%	530,268	15.3%	249,005	7.2%
U.S.	182,211,639	13,755,477	7.5%	21,960,148	12.1%	52,168,981	28.6%	38,351,595	21.0%	11,512,833	6.3%	28,317,792	15.5%	16,144,813	8.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Town of Barre Existing Conditions Report – Demographic Trends and Projections

Housing Unit Trends and Projections

The housing unit projections in Table 1.5(a) below were derived by using the projected population estimates divided by the average number of people per housing unit as of the 2000 census. The average number of people living in each Barre housing unit in 2000 was 2.9. Table 1.5(b) uses building permit trends over the last 10 years to project new housing and commercial building construction through 2025.

**Table 1.5(a) Housing Units and Projections based on population per household -
T. Barre, Surrounding Municipalities, County, State and Nation**

	TOTAL HOUSING UNITS (1)							Housing Unit Projections (2)			
	1970	1980	1990	2000	% Chg 70-80	% Chg 80-90	% Chg 90-00	2010	2015	2020	2025
T. Bangor	146	179	199	227	22.6	11.2	14.1	230	232	235	240
T. Barre	143	293	344	354	104.9	17.4	2.9	382	396	411	430
T. Greenfield	323	489	552	570	51.4	12.9	3.3	586	591	598	611
T. Hamilton	372	487	585	732	30.9	20.1	25.1	854	912	973	1,044
T. Medary	685	600	533	553	-12.4	-11.2	3.8	584	592	601	617
T. Shelby	1259	1939	1905	1817	54.0	-1.8	-4.6	1,790	1,774	1,765	1,776
T. Washington	168	187	214	236	11.3	14.4	10.3	259	268	278	291
V. Bangor	334	378	432	546	13.2	14.3	26.4	594	618	643	676
V. West Salem	620	1,099	1,315	1,765	77.3	19.7	34.2	2,000	2,108	2,221	2,360
La Crosse Co	25,433	33,277	38,227	43,480	30.8	14.9	13.7	45,284	46,215	47,298	48,916
State	1,472,332	1,863,897	2,055,676	2,321,144	26.6	10.3	12.9	2,500,639	2,578,863	2,656,903	2,728,203
U.S.	68,704,315	88,410,627	102,263,678	115,904,641	28.7	15.7	13.3	NA	NA	NA	NA

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce-Bureau of the Census

Table 1.5(b) TOWN OF BARRE - Projected New Housing Units 2010-2030 based on 1997-2006 building permit trends

Type of Building Permits	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total 97-06	Prj New Bldgs - 2010	Prj New Bldgs - 2015	Prj New Bldgs - 2020	Prj New Bldgs - 2025	Prj New Bldgs - 2030
	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
Single Fam Dwlg	8	8	14	9	14	17	19	14	16	13	132	53	119	185	251	317
Duplex Homes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	2	3	4	5
Multi-Fam Dwlg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial Bldgs	0	2	0	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	9	4	8	13	17	22

Source: La Crosse County Zoning Department

TOWN OF BARRE SURVEY

The Town of Barre mailed out surveys to all landowners on record in the Town. The survey asked landowners questions regarding the Town of Barre’s future and various comprehensive-planning elements, including housing development and satisfaction with the Town’s current services/facilities. Of the surveys mailed out 145 were returned. The charts and narrative below summarize the survey responses. The Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission and the Town Plan Commission compiled the survey results. Charts 1.2-1.4 summarize survey responses for numerous questions on the survey.

Chart 1.2 shows responses to housing development issues. Over 45% of respondents agreed no new housing is needed, 15% had no opinion or were neutral, and the remaining 39% disagreed. About 42% of respondents felt more single family housing was needed, 16.7% were neutral and about 42% disagreed. The Town was evenly split on this question. About 24% of respondents felt more starter homes were needed in the Town, while 16% were neutral and over 60% disagreed. A majority of respondents were against multi-family housing units. Over 76% of respondents felt no more duplexes were needed; 80% felt no more apartments were needed and 81% of respondents were against development of condominiums. About 87% of respondents did not want development of additional mobile home parks in the Town. On the question whether or not more senior housing is needed 34% of respondents felt more senior housing was needed, 22% were neutral and 44% disagreed.

Chart 1.2 Town of Barre Survey Responses on Housing Development Issues

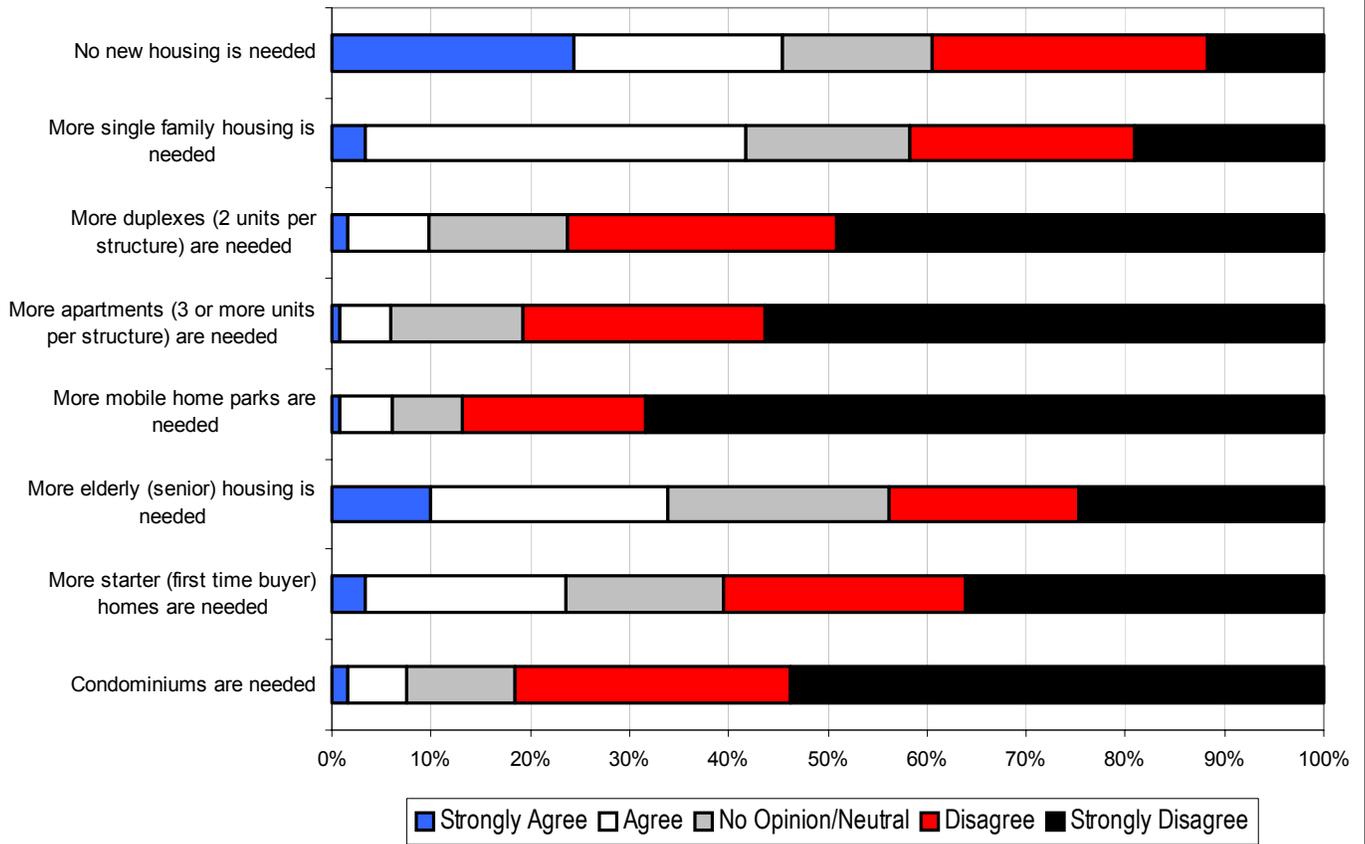


Chart 1.3 shows how respondents rated their level of satisfaction with the Town’s services/facilities. Respondents were the most satisfied with Snow Removal with over 83% of respondents either satisfied or very satisfied; 78% of respondents were satisfied with road maintenance; 74% were satisfied with ambulance service/emergency services; 73% were satisfied with fire protection and 57% were satisfied with Town government.

Chart 1.3 Town of Barre Survey Responses on Satisfaction with Town Services

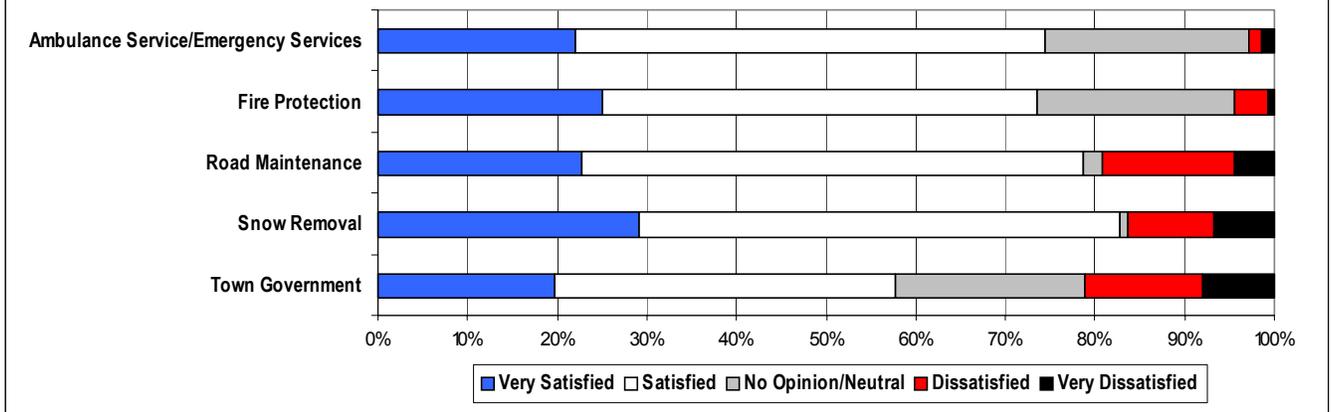
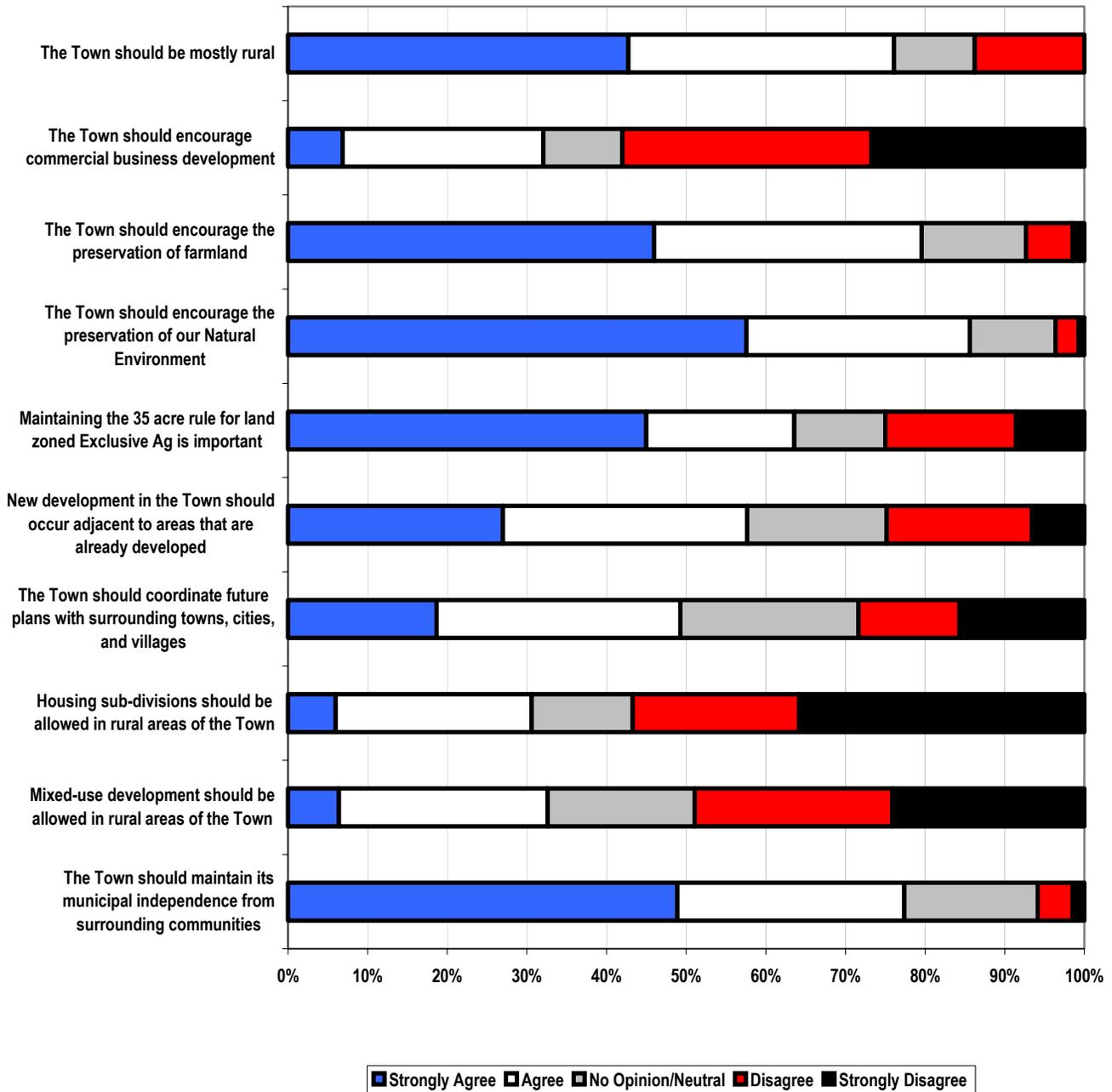


Chart 1.4 shows respondent’s opinions on future directions for growth and development in the Town. Over 76% of respondents felt the Town should be mostly rural; 80% of respondents felt the Town should encourage the preservation of farmland; and 85% of residents felt the Town should encourage the preservation of the natural environment. About 77% of respondents felt the Town should maintain its municipal independence from surrounding communities but about 50% of respondents also felt the Town should coordinate plans with surrounding towns, cities and villages. About 58% of respondents felt development in the Town should occur adjacent to areas already developed and 64% of respondents felt maintaining the 35 acre rule for land zoned Exclusive Ag was important.

Chart 1.4 Town of Barre Survey Responses on Planning and Future Growth Issues



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2. Land Use Inventory

To plan for the future land use of the Town of Barre, it is necessary to have a good understanding of the existing land uses in the town. This section analyzes existing land uses, residential densities, and the supply and demand for land.

EXISTING LAND USE

The Town of Barre primarily consists of agricultural land uses, with some rural residential developments. There are no incorporated cities or villages located in the Town. The unincorporated community of Barre Mills is located in Section 28 at the intersection County Road M and County Road O. This community is the only area in the Town where more dense commercial/retail/residential development patterns occur. Located in or adjacent to Barre Mills is a manufactured home park, golf course, and several retail businesses.



Business located in Barre Mills.

Table 2.1 Land Use Property Assessment Inventory – Town of Barre

Land Type	Acres	Percent of Land Use
Residential	897	8.1
Commercial	137	1.2
Manufacturing	0	0
Agricultural	6,465	58.4
Undeveloped/Other	541	4.9
Forest/Ag Forest	2,911	26.3
Other (public land, etc.)	120	1.1
Total	11,071	100

Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Bureau of Equalization, 2006 Statement of Assessments

Table 2.1, provides a land use inventory for the Town of Barre based on 2006 property assessment records.

Agricultural/Forest

As Table 2.1 and Map 2.1 illustrate, the majority of the Town of Barre is rural/agricultural land, as 84.7% of the land is assessed as agriculture and forestlands. The agricultural uses present in the Town primarily consist of farms, cropland, grazing/pasture, and forested land. Primary crops grown are primarily corn, alfalfa, and soybeans. Residential properties are the most other significant land use in the town at 8.1%.

In 2004-2005 the U.W.-La Crosse Geography Department's Center for Geographic Information Science completed a land use inventory and mapping project for all of La Crosse County. This research used a much more detailed land use inventory system than the property assessment inventory reported above. Table 2.2 and Map 2.1 identify the acreages for each of the land use categories in this system: Woodlands 38.78%, Agriculture 38.81%, Wetlands .78%, Pasture 8.52% and Single Family Homes also comprising 2.16% of the 12,925 acres in the Town were the primary land uses based on this classification system.

Town of Barre Existing Conditions Report – Land Use Inventory

Table 2.2 Town of Barre 2005 Existing Land Use Classifications

Land Use Category	Number of Acres	Percent of Total	Land Use Category	Number of Acres	Percent of Total
Single Family Residential	279.00	2.16	Internment, Cremation	4.40	0.03
2 - 4 Families Residential	1.34	0.01	Military Bases		
5 or more Families Residential			Vehicle Movement	2.55	0.02
Mobile Home	11.65	0.09	Train or Rail Movement		
Farmstead	165.10	1.28	Aircraft Movement Activities		
Transient Living - Motels/Hotels			Spectator Sports Assembly		
Institutional Living			Fairs/Exhibition		
Retail			Social, Cultural, Religious	2.13	0.02
Wholesale			Active Leisure Activities	91.91	0.71
Services	1.89	0.01	Passive Leisure Activities	1106.00	8.56
Restaurant Type Activities	3.80	0.03	Agricultural Activities - Crops, Nurseries, Orchards	5016.00	38.81
Office Activities	1.10	0.01	Livestock Related Activities	14.47	0.11
Primarily Plant of Factory Type Activity			Pasture/Grazing	1101.00	8.52
Primarily Goods Storage or Handling Activity			Quarrying		
Solid Waste Management			Grasslands/Prairies		
Schools, Libraries	1.00	0.01	Woodlands	5012.00	38.78
Municipal Activities	3.60	0.03	Wetlands	100.80	0.78
Emergency Response, Public Safety			Water	5.35	0.04
Utilities			Vacant of Human Activity or Structures		
Health Care/Medical			Total Acres	12925.00	100.00

Commercial/Manufacturing

Several non-agricultural commercial businesses are located in the Town. The majority of these businesses are located in and around Barre Mills and include restaurant/bars, golf course, home builders, a bank, etc . The Existing Land Use Map (Map 2.1) illustrates the location of businesses in the Town of Barre. The following is a listing of businesses currently operating in the Town.

Zoning and Other Land Use Regulations

The Town of Barre is a zoned Town. The La Crosse County Zoning Department administers the County Zoning Ordinance in the Town of Barre. Table 2.3 provides a breakdown of the various zoning districts in the Town. Map 2.2 shows the location of these zones. The La Crosse County Zoning Department also administers regulations mandated by Wisconsin State Statute in the Town of Barre such as the Private On-site Sanitary Sewer Ordinance, Shoreland, Wetland and Floodplain regulations.

**Table 2.3
Barre Zoning District Designations by Acreage**

Zoning Designation	Acreage
Exclusive Agriculture	10,940
Agriculture A	1,623
Agriculture B	29
Transitional Agriculture	303
Residential A	65
Residential B	1
Residential C	0
Commercial B	37
Commercial C	0
Industrial	0
Total	12,998

The Town of Barre has adopted several local ordinances that are enforced by the Town Board. Local ordinances adopted include a Subdivision Code and a Building Code. The ordinances manage land divisions within the town and regulate the construction on 1-2 family dwellings.



A new housing subdivision in the Town of Barre

Residential and Non-Residential Density

Table 2.4, illustrates the residential density of the Town of Barre as compared to La Crosse County, adjacent towns and the State. In 2000, the Town of Barre had 49.1 people per square mile and 17.1 housing units per square mile. The population and housing density for the Town of Barre is less than that of La Crosse County and the State of Wisconsin. The non-residential density of other uses was not calculated due to the lack of and negligible amount of such uses.

Table 2.4 Residential Density, 2000

	Population	Housing Units	Land Area in Sq. Mi.	Density (Units per Sq. Mi.)	
				Population	Housing Units
T. Bangor	583	227	35.03	16.6	6.5
T. Barre	1,014	354	20.67	49.1	17.1
T. Greenfield	1538	570	30.08	51.1	18.9
T. Medary	1,463	553	11.71	124.9	47.2
T. Shelby	4,687	1,817	25.58	183.2	71.0
T. Washington	738	236	36.10	20.4	6.5
V. Bangor	1,400	546	1.06	1315.4	515.1
V. West Salem	4,738	1,765	2.38	1911.2	741.6
La Crosse Co	107,120	43,480	452.74	236.6	96.0
State of Wisconsin	5,363,715	2,321,144	54,310	98.8	42.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 2000

Table 2.5 shows that from 1990 to 2000 the number of housing units per square mile increased by .5 units in the Town. This increase in housing density is much less than the County or State who had increases of 11.6 and 4.9 respectively.

Table 2.5 Housing Growth 1990-2000

	Housing 1990	Housing 2000	Net Change	% Change	New Housing Units Per Sq. Mi.
T. Bangor	199	227	28	14.1	0.8
T. Barre	344	354	10	2.9	0.5
T. Greenfield	552	570	18	3.3	0.6
T. Medary	533	553	20	3.8	1.7
T. Shelby	1,905	1,817	-88	-4.6	-
T. Washington	214	236	22	10.3	0.6
V. Bangor	432	546	114	26.4	107.5
V. West Salem	1,315	1,765	450	34.2	189.1
La Crosse Co	38,227	43,480	5,253	13.7	11.6
State of Wisconsin	2,055,676	2,321,144	265,468	12.9	4.9

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 1990 and 2000

LAND USE TRENDS

Land Supply, Demand, and Prices

Not all of the land in the Town classified as agricultural and forest and forest agricultural lands are suitable for development. The primary reason for this is due to the fact that much of the forested land is on slopes greater than 30% where building is prohibited. The topography of the town has made the town attractive for housing sites and recreational land uses. From 1997 through 2006 as Table 1.5(b) on page 1-3 illustrates, the Town of Barre averaged 13.2 new housing units per year. Based on this rate of growth, it is reasonable to expect that over the next 20 years there will be a demand for 264 new housing units that the Town should plan for.

Table 2.6 illustrates the land prices in all the Towns in La Crosse County between 1990 and 1997. The average cost of land per acre in the Town of Barre was not available for that time period. The 2002 USDA Census of Agriculture valued agricultural land at \$1,937 dollars per acre in La Crosse County. In recent years, prices per acre of land have soared due to the value of recreational property and the public demand for country living.

In 2005 the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection reported that in La Crosse County agricultural land without buildings and other improvements being sold for continued agricultural use sold for \$3,321 per acre and that agricultural land without buildings and improvements being diverted to other uses sold for \$9,663 per acre. These figures are based on 18 sales transactions.

Table 2.6 Farmland Sales 1990-1997

	# Parcels Sold	Total Acres	Acres Continuing in Agriculture	Acres Converted out of Agriculture	\$/Acre of land continuing in of Agriculture	\$/Acre of land converted out of Agriculture	% of Farmland Sold then Converted to other use
Town of Bangor	36	1,835	1,644	191	\$883	\$800	1.7
Town of Barre	17	1,185	1,007	178	\$1,008	\$632	2.1
Town of Burns	61	3,426	3,085	341	\$691	\$1,033	2.1
Town of Campbell	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	0.0
Town of Farmington	84	3,855	3,304	551	\$789	\$678	2.3
Town of Greenfield	37	1,877	1,675	202	\$936	\$1,273	2.4
Town of Hamilton	40	2,432	2,008	424	\$1,068	\$2,121	2.5
Town of Holland	36	1,494	733	761	\$1,378	\$3,959	7.8
Town of Medary	8	410	213	197	n/a	n/a	5.8
Town of Onalaska	47	2,404	1,635	769	\$1,082	\$1,204	6.8
Town of Shelby	8	220	194	26	\$718	n/a	.5
Town of Washington	30	2,283	2,010	273	\$825	\$773	2.0
All La Crosse Cnty Towns	404	21,421	17,508	3,913	\$885	\$1,609	3.0

Source: Wisconsin Town Land Use Data Project: Program on Agricultural Technology Studies, UW-Madison

Opportunities for Redevelopment

The Town of Barre Planning Commission analyzed the opportunities for redevelopment in the Town of Barre as part of the planning process. Based on the limited historical development in town and the town’s rural nature no significant redevelopment opportunities were identified.

Land Use Projections

Projecting acres needed for future land uses is a key part of the planning process. La Crosse County is in the process of preparing the County comprehensive plan and as part of that project projections were established for the Towns of Barre/Hamilton and Village of West Salem planning sub area. Those projections are listed on the following table (Table 2.7). It is forecast that 1,121 acres in these municipalities will be needed for residential, commercial and industrial uses in the next 20 years.

Also important to note, is that the La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan Land Use Element established “plan review thresholds” for each town in La Crosse County. The thresholds were established to ensure development opportunities were available to all areas of the La Crosse County. The thresholds also require communication between local units of government once an individual town meets a development benchmark. A ten year 160 acre residential development threshold and a 40 acre non-residential development threshold were established for the Town of Barre in the La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan. The La Crosse County development threshold for the Town of Barre will be addressed further in the Land Use Element of this plan.

Table 2.7 Land Use Projections for the Towns of Barre, Hamilton and Village of West Salem Sub Area

	2010	2015	2020	2025	Projected Total
Residential	188	169	176	191	724
Commercial	75	67	70	76	289
Industrial	28	25	26	28	108

Source: La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan Existing Conditions Report, January 2006

Using past housing building permit trends from 1997-2006 and projecting that ten year growth rate to 2030 generates another land use demand figure as shown in Table 2.8. This land use projection methodology estimates that approximately 442 acres of land will be consumed for housing in the Town of Barre. The housing projections assume each housing unit will consume 1.6 acres.

Table 2.8 Town of Barre Land Use Demand Straight Line Forecast

Residential Acres	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Total Acres Needed
Residential Acres Needed based on 1.6 acres per housing unit	13 housing units x 1.6 = 18 Acres	66 housing units x 1.6 = 106 Acres	442 acres			

Source: Straight Line Projection Based on 1997-2006 Building Permit Data, see Table 1.5b

Table 2.9 projects agricultural land use in the Town of Barre to 2030. To project agricultural land use the agricultural acres (6,131 acres) listed in table 2.2 were utilized as the base number. The straight line residential forecasts in Table 2.8 were then subtracted to establish the agricultural land use projections. Agricultural land use is projected to decline by approximately 442 acres during the planning period.

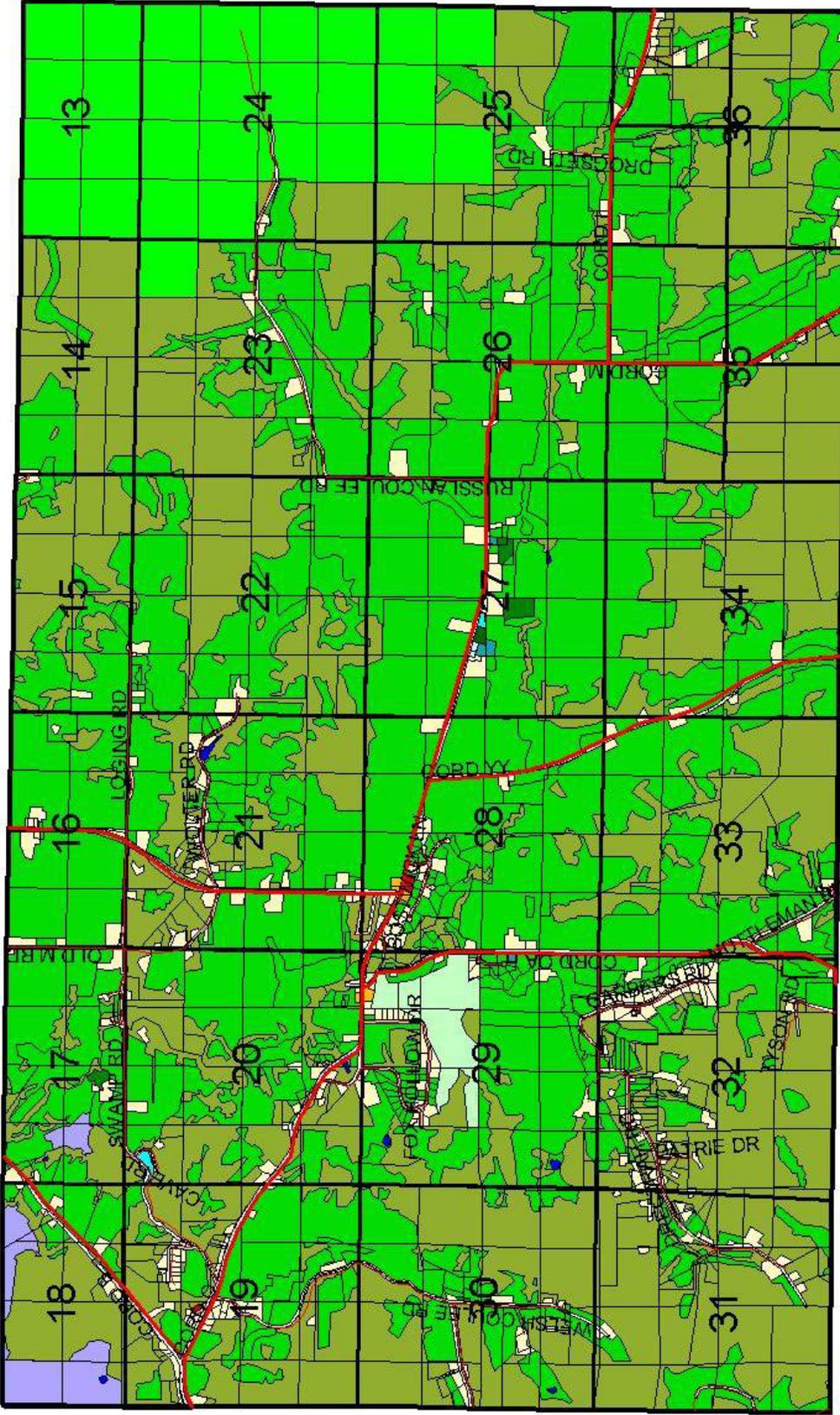
Table 2.9 Town of Barre Agricultural Land Use Projections

Agricultural Land Use	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Total Reduction in Ag. Acres
Agricultural land use in 2005 6,131 acres	6,113 acres	6,007 acres	5,901 acres	5,795 acres	5,689 acres	442 acres

Source: MRRPC projecting agricultural land use utilizing forecasts for future residential acres

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Map 1-2.1 Town of Barre Existing Land Use Map



Land Use Classifications

- Single Family
- 2-4 Family
- Mobile Home
- Farmstead
- Service Business
- Restaurant
- Office
- Schools/Libr.
- Municipal Act.
- Cemetery
- Roads
- Churches, Etc.
- Active Leisure
- Passive Leisure
- Agriculture Actv.
- Livestock
- Pasture
- Woodlands
- Wetlands
- Water



Map prepared by:
 Mississippi River Regional
 Planning Commission September 2008
 Source: La Crosse County Land Use
 Inventory, La Crosse County

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3. Housing Conditions

The following is an analysis of the current housing situation in the Town based on 2000 Census statistics. This information is provided to assist in addressing future housing needs and growth.

Housing Units by Type and Year Built

Tables 3.1, Table 3.2 and Map 3.1 provide information on existing housing structures in the Town of Barre, La Crosse County, State of Wisconsin and the U.S. As of the 2000 census 67.9% of the Town of Barre's housing units were single-family units. La Crosse County, the State of Wisconsin and the Nation had less single-family units and reported 60%, 66% and 60.3% respectively. The 2nd largest housing group in the Town of Barre was mobile homes at over 24%.

Over 19% of the Town of Barre's housing stock was built in 1939 or earlier as compared to La Crosse County, State of Wisconsin and the Nation who reported 20.8%, 23.4% and 15.0%. The remaining housing stock in the Town was constructed in the following time frames: 1940-1979 (46.3%), 1980 through 2000 Census (34%). Building permits issued by the La Crosse County Zoning Department indicate that in the last 7 years 2000-2006 an additional 102 single family dwellings were constructed in the Town.

Median Housing Value

The median value of a home in the Town of Barre was \$124,300 in 2000, compared to La Crosse County at \$96,900, State of Wisconsin at \$112,200, and the U.S. at \$119,600 (See Table 3.3).

Table 3.1 Town of Barre, Housing Units by Type, 2000

Type	Town of Barre	%	La Crosse County	%	State of WI	%	U.S.	%
1 unit detached	245	67.9	26,098	60.0	1,531,612	66.0	69,865,957	60.3
1 unit attached	6	1.7	1,363	3.1	77,795	3.4	6,447,453	5.6
2 units	9	2.5	4,178	9.6	190,889	8.2	4,995,350	4.3
3 or 4 units	13	3.6	1,966	4.5	91,047	3.9	5,494,280	4.7
5-9 units	0	0.0	2,210	5.1	106,680	4.6	5,414,988	4.7
10-19 units	0	0.0	1,847	4.2	75,456	3.3	4,636,717	4.0
20 or more units	0	0.0	3,130	7.2	143,497	6.2	10,008,058	8.6
Mobile Home	88	24.4	2,675	6.2	101,465	4.4	8,779,228	7.6
Other	0	0.0	12	0.0	2,703	0.1	262,610	0.2
Total	361	100	43,479	100	2,321,144	100	115,904,641	100

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 2000

Table 3.2 Town of Barre, Year Structure Built, 2000

Year Built	of Barre	%	La Crosse County	%	State of WI	%	U.S.	%
1999 to	12	3.3	1074	2.5	50735	2.2	2,755,075	2.4
1995-1998	42	11.6	3417	7.9	170219	7.3	8,478,975	7.3
1990-1994	33	9.1	3198	7.4	168838	7.3	8,467,008	7.3
1980-1989	36	10.0	5568	12.8	249789	10.8	18,326,847	15.8
1970-1979	97	26.9	8013	18.4	391349	16.9	21,438,863	18.5
1960-1969	48	13.3	4847	11.1	276188	11.9	15,911,903	13.7
1940-1959	22	6.1	8318	19.1	470862	20.3	23,145,917	20.0
1939 or Earlier	71	19.7	9044	20.8	543164	23.4	17,380,053	15.0
Structures	361	100	43,479	100	2,321,144	100	115,904,641	100

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 2000

Table 3.3 Median Value of Owner Occupied Units for Selected Units of Government, 2000

Governmental Unit	2000 Median Housing Value
T. Bangor	87,000
T. Barre	124,300
T. Greenfield	128,200
T. Hamilton	123,800
T. Medary	128,500
T. Shelby	129,500
T. Washington	82,500
V. Bangor	90,600
V. West Salem	102,500
La Crosse Co	96,900
State	112,200
U.S.	119,600

Source: Bureau of Census, 2000

Occupancy Characteristics, Vacancy Rates, Year Moved In

Tables 3.4 and 3.5 illustrate housing unit occupancy characteristics and vacancy rates for the Town of Barre, adjacent towns, La Crosse County, the State and Nation. In the Town of Barre 83.6% of houses are owner occupied housing units compared to 65.1% in La Crosse County, 89.8% State, and 66.2% in the Nation. As of the 2000 Census, the Town of Barre had a 1.7% vacancy rate for available housing. The available housing vacancy rate is the portion of the housing inventory that is available for sale only or for rent. A vacancy rate of approximately 3% is the recommended standard in order to provide consumers with an adequate choice of housing.

Table 3.4 Housing Unit Occupancy Rates, 2000

Governmental Unit	Total Occupied Housing Units	% Total Owner Occupied	% Total Renter Occupied
T. Bangor	216	75.0	25.0
T. Barre	347	83.6	16.4
T. Greenfield	549	89.8	10.2
T. Hamilton	697	87.8	12.2
T. Medary	530	89.2	10.8
T. Shelby	1,771	92.9	7.1
T. Washington	228	82.9	17.1
V. Bangor	524	75.8	24.2
V. West Salem	1,706	75.1	24.9
La Crosse Co	41,599	65.1	34.9
State	2,084,544	89.8	10.2
U.S.	105,480,101	66.2	33.8

Source: Bureau of Census, 2000

Table 3.6 shows the year residents moved in to their present household. The highest percentage of residents, 31.2%, moved into their present household between 1995 and 1998. Over 59% of residents moved into their present household prior to 1989.

Table 3.5 Housing Unit Vacancy Rates, 2000

Governmental Unit	Homeowner Vacancy Rate	Rental Vacancy Rate
T. Bangor	0.6	1.8
T. Barre	1.7	1.7
T. Greenfield	0.8	6.7
T. Hamilton	0.5	0.3
T. Medary	0.6	8.1
T. Shelby	0.8	4.6
T. Washington	0.5	2.5
V. Bangor	0.8	5.9
V. West Salem	1.2	3.0
La Crosse Co	1.0	4.9
State	1.2	5.6
U.S.	1.7	6.8

Source: Bureau of Census, 2000

Table 3.6 Town of Barre Year Householder Moved In

Year Moved In	Percent
1999 to March 2000	11.5
1995 to 1998	31.2
1990 to 1994	16.9
1980 to 1989	17.7
1970 to 1979	14.3
1969 or earlier	8.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 2000

Affordability of Housing

Table 3.7 illustrates the affordability of housing in the Town of Barre, surrounding municipalities, La Crosse County, the State of Wisconsin and the Nation. Over 14% of the Town’s sampled residents spent more than 30 percent of their income on their housing units. This is a lower percentage than the County, State and Nation. Of the sampled residents, about 48% spent less than 15 percent on their housing units.

Table 3.7 Percent of Income Spent on Owner-Occupied Units, 2000

Governmental Unit	Total Specified Owner-Occupied Units	Less than 15 Percent	15 to 29 Percent	30 Percent or More	Not Computed
T. Bangor	73	52.1	35.7	12.3	0.0
T. Barre	157	47.8	37.6	14.6	0.0
T. Greenfield	280	38.6	37.9	23.6	0.0
T. Hamilton	471	35.0	46.9	18.0	0.0
T. Medary	396	46.2	35.5	17.7	0.5
T. Shelby	1,415	48.3	40.3	10.7	0.6
T. Washington	72	44.4	43.1	12.4	0.0
V. Bangor	376	43.1	42.8	14.1	0.0
V. West Salem	912	41.3	43.1	15.6	0.0
La Crosse County	21,881	37.5	45.2	16.8	0.5
State of Wisconsin	1,122,467	36.8	45.0	17.8	0.4
United States	55,212,108	36.5	40.8	21.8	0.8

Source: Bureau of Census, 2000

Table 3.8 shows renter occupied units and percent of income spent on sampled units by residents in the Town of Barre, surrounding municipalities, La Crosse County, State of Wisconsin, and the Nation. Over 14% of the Town's sampled residents spent 30 percent or more of their income on their renter occupied units. About 66% of the Town's sampled residents spent less than 30 percent of their income on their renter occupied unit, as compared to the County (63.3%), State (62.6%) and Nation (55.6%).

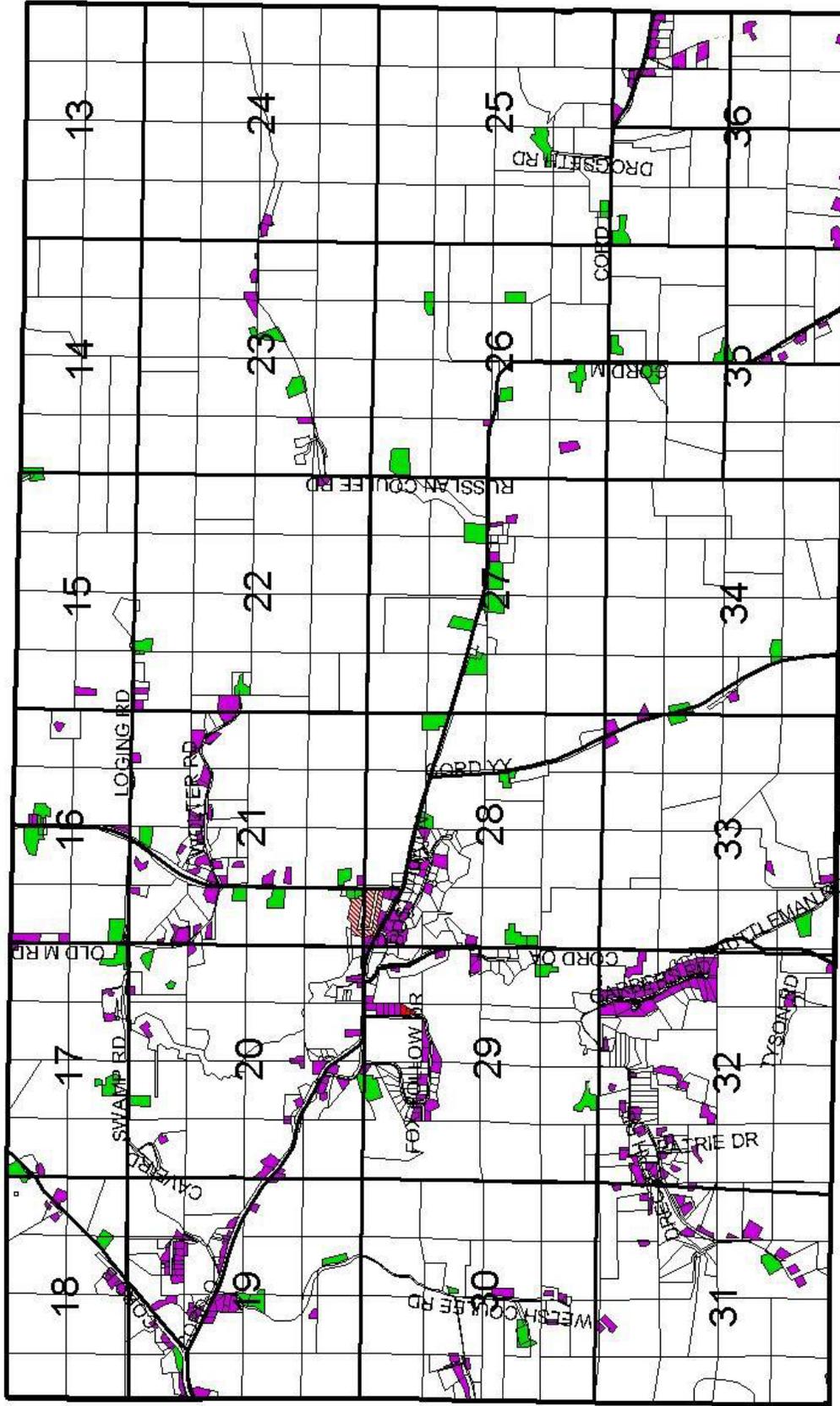
Table 3.8 Percent of Income Spent on Renter Occupied Units, 2000

Governmental Unit	Total Renter Occupied Units	Less than 15 Percent	15 to 29 Percent	30 Percent or More	Not Computed
T. Bangor	28	42.9	7.1	21.4	28.6
T. Barre	48	29.2	37.6	14.6	18.8
T. Greenfield	53	26.4	32.0	22.6	18.9
T. Hamilton	36	41.7	58.3	0.0	0.0
T. Medary	53	43.4	41.5	9.4	5.7
T. Shelby	89	18.0	49.4	23.6	9.0
T. Washington	25	20.0	20.0	32.0	28.0
V. Bangor	126	28.6	39.6	26.2	5.6
V. West Salem	443	23.9	46.3	22.1	7.7
La Crosse County	14,358	21.1	42.2	33.6	3.2
State of Wisconsin	641,672	21.1	41.5	32.3	5.2
United States	35,199,502	18.1	37.5	36.8	7.5

Source: Bureau of Census, 2000

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Map 1-3.1 Town of Barre Housing Units



Housing Units

- Single Family
- 2-4 Family
- Mobile Home
- Farmstead



Map prepared by:
 Mississippi River Regional
 Planning Commission
 October 2007
 Source: La Crosse County
 Land Use Inventory 2005

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4. Transportation

The efficient movement of people and goods is the goal of transportation planning. To provide and maintain an efficient transportation system social, economic, and environmental concerns all need to be considered. To begin to understand these concerns the existing transportation system needs to be understood. This section of this report inventories all the various modes of transportation that exist in the Town or that are readily available to Town residents and businesses.

Public Road Inventory

The Town of Barre participates in the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR) program. The WISLR program maintains a complete listing of public roads in the Town of Barre by jurisdiction, classification and number of miles. An inventory of Town of Barre roads is found in Appendix 1.

Public roads are classified as arterial, collector and local based on functionality. Arterials provide intra-community links and interconnect urban arterial systems and connections to rural collectors. Collector roads provide traffic circulation in residential neighborhoods, commercial and industrial areas. Collectors also focus traffic from local roads onto the arterial system. Local roads provide the lowest level of mobility and provide direct access to collectors and arterials.

Within the Town of Barre there are 30.73 miles of public road that are under the jurisdiction of La Crosse County or the Town of Barre. The Town of Barre maintains 16.16 miles of public road, of which all are classified as local roads. La Crosse County has 14.57 miles of public road in the Town of Barre of which 12.72 miles are classified as collector roads and 1.85 miles are classified as local roads. Map 4.1 illustrates the Town of Barre transportation system.



A picture of a typical Town Road in the Town

Traffic Counts

Table 4.1 illustrates traffic counts available for the years of 1990, 1999 and 2005 for selected County public roads in the Town of Barre. As the traffic counts indicate, traffic on the roads serving the Town of Barre have increased significantly over the years. Traffic more than doubled in fifteen years on County Road M which connects the unincorporated community of Barre Mills to Interstate-90 and the Village of West Salem. Traffic also increased by 144% on County Road OA south of Barre Mills.

Table 4.1 Town of Barre – Average Daily Traffic Counts

Location	1990	1999	2005	% Chng. 1990-2005
County Rd. M North of Barre Mills	1860	3200	4000	115%
County Rd. M East of Barre Mills	1300	2100	2500	92%
County Rd. OA South of Barre Mills	900	1600	2200	144%
County Rd. O West of Barre Mills	1130	1800	2200	95%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Interstate Highways

There are no Interstate Highways in the Town of Barre. Interstate 90 travels through La Crosse County (east/west) and is located two miles north of the Town of Barre. Access to the Interstate is available via the County Road B exit

Town of Barre Existing Conditions Report – Transportation

in the Village of West Salem. Interstate -90 is classified as a Principal Arterial-Interstate and its function is to serve as a high speed large traffic volume expressway.

Highways

There are no state highways in the Town of Barre. State Highway 33 travels parallel to the Town of Barre to the south. County Road M, YY and OA provide access to State Highway 33 from the Town of Barre. State Highway 16 travels parallel to the Town of Barre to the north. Access to State Highway 16 can be gained by residents via County Road M or County Road B.

Para Transit

The La Crosse County Department of Aging operates a “minibus” service to La Crosse County residents that are either disabled, 60 years or older, or otherwise unable to utilize conventional transportation means. The Department of Aging contracts with a private operator to provide this service to Town of Barre and County residents. This service can be accessed by residents by calling the La Crosse County Aging Department.

Taxis

Three taxi operators provide taxi service to La Crosse County residents.

Intercity Bus Service

No Intercity bus service is provided to the Town of Barre. Jefferson Lines provides daily scheduled bus service to the La Crosse area. The intercity bus terminal is located approximately in the City of La Crosse at 601 St. Andrew Street. The bus line connects to Greyhound’s national service network in Madison and Minneapolis/St. Paul.

Freight Rail Service

There are no railroads or railroad grade crossings in the Town of Barre. The Class I Canadian Pacific Railway travels east/west through the La Crosse County to the north of the Town of Barre. The Canadian Pacific Railway connects the area to Milwaukee and Minneapolis/St. Paul. Additional Class I rail companies provide service to the La Crosse County area; the Union Pacific Railroad, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe, and the Iowa, Chicago and Eastern Line.

Passenger Rail Service

Daily passenger service (AMTRAK) is available in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The AMTRAK Empire Builder Line provides passenger service between Chicago and the Pacific Northwest via Minneapolis/St. Paul. One westbound and one eastbound train stop at the La Crosse terminal daily.

High Speed Passenger Rail Service for the region continues to be a possibility as the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative (MWRRI) has a nine state plan intended to improve passenger rail transportation in the Midwest. The project is in the early stages but the preferred connecting the Twin Cities with Chicago/Milwaukee would go through the City of La Crosse.

Airports

There are no public airports located in the Town of Barre. The La Crosse Municipal Airport is located to the 5 miles to the west of the Town of Barre. The airport is designated as an Air Carrier/Cargo Airport. Airports of this classification are designed to accommodate all aircraft and in some cases wide body jets and military transports. The La Crosse Municipal Airport is one of 10 such airports in Wisconsin.

The airport provides commercial air and freight service. Commercial air service is provided year round by American Eagle, Northwest Airlines, and Skyway Airlines.

Water Transportation

The Town of Barre is not located on a commercial waterway. The nearest water transportation is located at the Port of La Crosse, in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The Port of La Crosse serves ingoing and outgoing barge traffic on the Mississippi River. It provides water access for freight through public and private terminals. Cargo primarily shipped by barge in the region include liquid bulk cargo (chemicals, petroleum, etc.) and dry bulk cargo (grain, scrap metal, etc.).

Trucking

Truck transportation for hauling consumer goods is an important part of the regional, state and national economy. Limited trucking takes place in the Town of Barre primarily due to there being no state or federal highways located in the town. Trucking of local goods (non-metallic minerals, agricultural products), for the most part take place on county and town roads. In the spring of each year, road bans are placed on local roads limiting the weight of products hauled due to the weight capacity of local roads during the Spring thaw.

Pedestrian, Bike Trails, Etc.

The Coulee Experimental Forest, which can be accessed via Russian Coulee Road in the Town of Barre has hiking and cross country skiing trails available for public use. There are no other designated pedestrian or bicycle trails in the Town of Barre. The La Crosse River State Bicycle Trail travels through the Village of West Salem and is located approximately two miles to the north of the Town of Barre. The Great River State Trail and the Sparta-Elroy State Trail are also located within 20 minutes of the Town of Barre. In addition, over 14 miles of low volume-hard surface local roads are located in the Town of Barre. These local roads provide residents and tourists with biking and walking opportunities.

A state funded snowmobile trail travels north to south through the Town of Barre for approximately 4 miles and goes through Barre Mills. A locally maintained club trail originates in the unincorporated community of Barre Mills and travels southwest for approximately 2 miles before it enters the Town of Medary.

STATE AND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANS

The following transportation plans were reviewed as part of the Town of Barre planning process. The plans were reviewed to insure consistency with other governing jurisdictions with regard to the future transportation improvements.

Translink 21: A Multi-Modal Transportation Plan For Wisconsin's 21st Century -November 1995

The plan develops an overall vision for transportation systems for the State of Wisconsin for a 25 year period. Multi-modal transportation opportunities are stressed in the plan. No specific improvements for the Town of Barre are detailed in the plan. However, grant funding opportunities, local road assessment programs, elderly travel assistance programs that affect local units of government in Wisconsin are described within the plan.

The State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation is in the process of developing a new multi-modal transportation plan "Connections 2030" scheduled to be completed in 2007. The plan will address all forms of transportation: highways, local roads, air, water, rail, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit – and ways to make the individual modes work better as an integrated transportation system. Connections 2030 will be a policy-based plan. The policies will be tied to "tiers" of potential financing levels.

Wisconsin State Highway Plan – February 2000

The plan created by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation focuses on improving Wisconsin's State Highway system over the next 20 years. The plan focuses on three areas; traffic movement, safety, and pavement preservation. The plan is updated every six years. The plan does not specify any specific facility improvements within the Town of Barre.

Wisconsin DOT Six Year Highway Improvement Program

The plan details all road construction projects to be constructed on state or federal highways between 2006 and 2011. As previously discussed there are no state or federal highways in the Town of Barre so the Six Year Highway Improvement Program does not impact the Town of Barre.

Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020 – December 1998

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation’s “Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020” recommends strategies and actions for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and local governments to take to enhance biking in the State of Wisconsin. The plan explores ways to increase ridership and create more biking trail opportunities. The plan does not specify any projects in the Town of Barre.

The Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan 2020 – March 2002

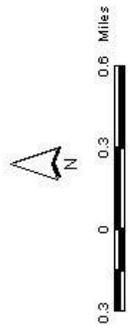
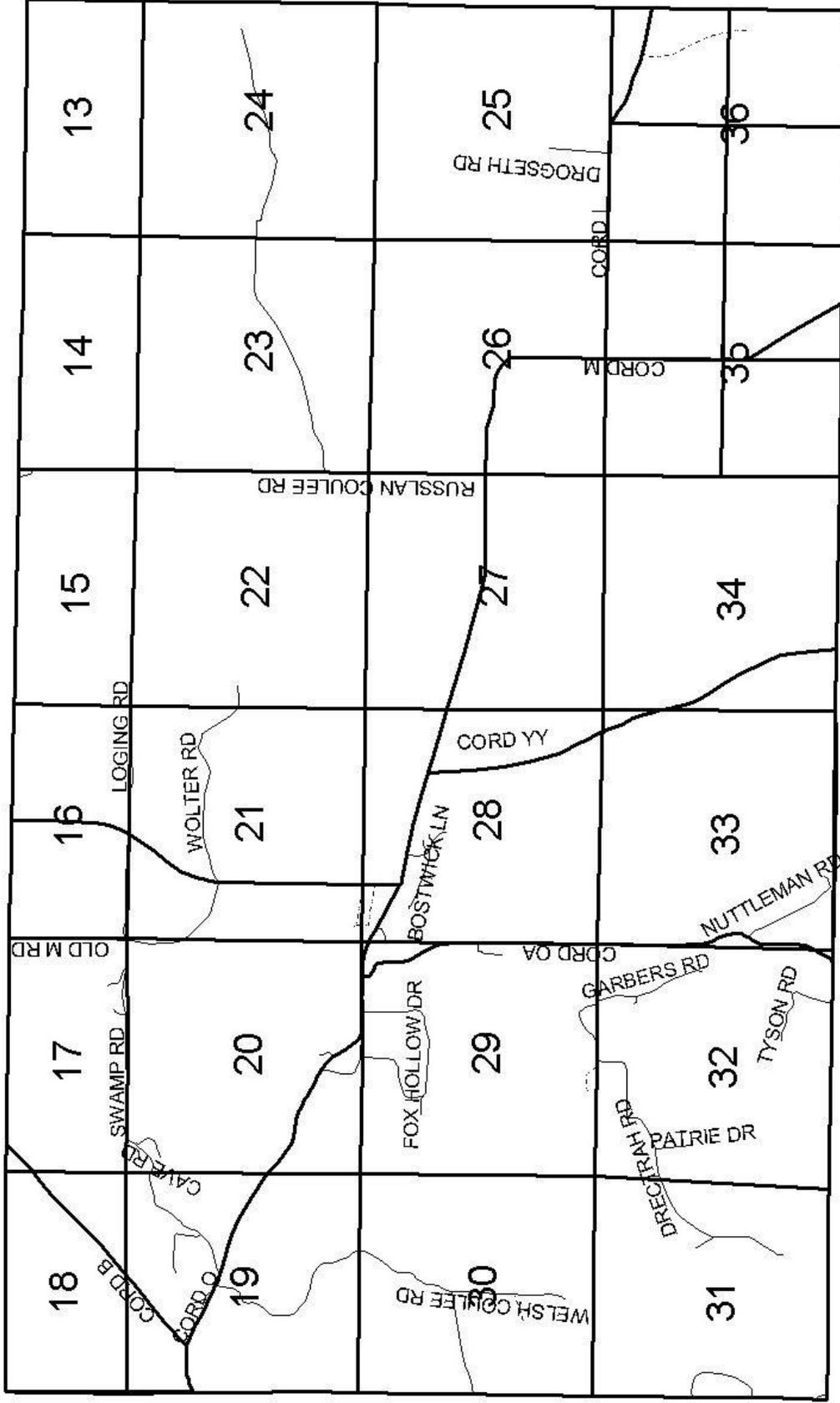
“The Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan 2020”, developed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation attempts to improve pedestrian travel opportunities in conjunction with public roads. The plan details ways how local governments can encourage pedestrian travel in road planning. There are no specific recommendations in the plan for the Town of Barre.

REGIONAL OR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLANS

2030 La Crosse and La Crescent Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan

The Town of Barre is located in the La Crosse and La Crescent Metropolitan Planning Area (MPO). The MPO is required to prepare a 20-year Transportation Plan. In 2005 the MPO updated its 20-year Transportation Plan which includes long range and short range strategies and actions that lead to an integrated inter-modal transportation system for the planning area. The plan also identifies anticipated projects for the planning area. The plan did not identify any projects specific to the Town of Barre.

Map 1-4.1 Town of Barre Transportation System



Roads
 County Road
 Town Road
 Private Road

Map prepared by:
 Mississippi River Regional
 Planning Commission
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau
 Road Data 0
 October 2007

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5. Economic Assessment and Analysis

Employment and Household Income Information

As of the 2000 Census, the Town of Barre had 616 residents in the civilian labor force. Private wage and salary workers made up the largest percentage (84.8%) of the workers (Table 5.1). Self-employed workers made up 7.9% of the workforce and government workers made up 6.6% of the workforce. The largest occupation group as of the 2000 Census was Management, Professional and Related Occupations reporting 33.5% in that occupation group.

Table 5.1 Town of Barre Employment Status, Occupation, and Class of Worker

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	NUMBER	PERCENT
Population 16 years or older	746	100.0
<i>In Labor Force</i>	616	82.6
Civilian labor force	616	82.6
employed	594	79.6
unemployed	22	2.9
Armed Forces	0	-
<i>Not in Labor Force</i>	130	17.4
OCCUPATION	NUMBER	PERCENT
Management Professional	199	33.5
Service	58	9.8
Sales and Office	149	25.1
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	4	.7
Construction, Extractions, and Maintenance	52	8.8
Production, Transportation, and Material Moving	132	22.2
CLASS OF WORKER	NUMBER	PERCENT
Private wage and salary worker	504	84.8
Government workers	39	6.6
Self-employed workers	47	7.9
Unpaid family workers	4	.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000

Unemployment Rates

Annual unemployment rates are only available at the County, State and National level, (Table 5.2). The rates over the last seven years have ranged from a low of 3.2 in 2000 to a high of 4.5 in 2003. La Crosse County consistently has a lower unemployment rate than the State or Nation. The lower unemployment rate is the result of La Crosse County's regional trade center role and the County's strong manufacturing base that has created many regional business service opportunities primarily in the health care, trucking and printing industries.

Table 5.2 La Crosse County, State of Wisconsin and U.S. Civilian Labor Force Unemployment Rate

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
La Crosse Co.	3.2	3.7	4.3	4.5	4.1	4.1	3.8
State of Wis.	3.4	4.4	5.3	5.6	5.0	4.8	4.7
U.S.	4.0	4.7	5.8	6.0	5.5	5.1	4.6

Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

Income and Poverty

Table 5.3 illustrates the median household, median family income, per capita income and poverty rates in the Town, County, State and Nation. The family median income for the Town residents increased by over \$19,250 from 1989 to 1999. The County, State and Nation reported increases of \$17,000, \$17,829 and \$14,821 respectively. During this same time period per capita income increased by \$7,531 in the Town. The County, State and Nation reported increases of \$7,659, \$13,589 and \$7,167 respectively. The Town of Barre's poverty rate in 1999 was 2.9%, compared to 4.1% in 1989, a decrease of 1.2%. The County, State, and Nation also reported decreases during the same reporting period. The Town's 1999 poverty rate was significantly lower than La Crosse County (10.7%), State of Wisconsin (8.7%) and Nation (12.4%).

Table 5.3 Median Household and Family Income, Per Capita Income & Percent in Poverty 1989-1999

Governmental Unit	1989				1999			
	Median Household Income	Median Family Income	Per Capita Income	Percent in Poverty	Median Household Income	Median Family Income	Per Capita Income	Percent in Poverty
T. Bangor	26,333	28,750	12,483	17.7	44,219	47,500	17,800	3.9
T. Barre	31,667	34,000	14,078	4.1	49,474	53,250	21,609	2.9
T. Greenfield	31,680	35,050	12,474	8.5	49,653	52,625	20,501	4.6
T. Hamilton	36,932	38,621	14,024	5.1	57,955	59,792	20,142	2.1
T. Medary	40,729	43,750	15,223	3.3	57,431	65,469	25,395	3.6
T. Shelby	37,212	45,172	19,677	3.4	64,890	76,559	32,899	1.1
T. Washington	30,104	31,563	11,553	6.3	42,143	49,375	16,424	8.7
V. Bangor	26,023	30,903	10,697	11.4	42,102	46,058	17,648	6.3
V. West Salem	26,398	32,028	10,868	7.8	43,449	50,176	19,904	3.5
La Crosse County	26,857	33,830	12,141	13.4	39,472	50,830	19,800	10.7
State of Wisconsin	29,442	35,082	13,276	10.7	43,791	52,911	27,135	8.7
United States	30,056	35,225	14,420	13.1	41,994	50,046	21,587	12.4

Source: Bureau of Census, 1990 and 2000

Commuting to Work

Table 5.4 illustrates how the residents in the Town of Barre get to work. The majority of workers drove alone 86.6%, while 6.5% carpooled, 2.4% walked and 2.6% of residents worked at home. The mean travel time to work for Town of Barre workers was 21.2 minutes. Most of the Town's workforce is likely commuting to the urban centers of La Crosse County for work.

Table 5.4 Commuting to Work – Town of Barre

Means of Travel	Percent
Car, Truck, Van – Drove Alone	86.6
Car, Truck, Van – Carpooled	6.5
Public Transportation (includes taxicab)	.5
Walked	2.4
Other Means	1.4
Worked at Home	2.6
Mean Travel Time to Work 21.2 minutes	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000

Top 10 Industries and Employers

In March of 2005, the largest employment industry in La Crosse County was educational services employing 5,405 people. The second highest employment industry was food services and drinking places employing 5,302 people (See Table 5.5). For confidentiality purposes, hospital and machinery manufacturing employment data was suppressed. It is a well-known fact however, that these two industries are major employers in the County and are key economic drivers of the County's economy. Table 5.6 details La Crosse County's top 10 private employers. Gundersen Lutheran Administrative and Franciscan Skemp Medical Center are the county's largest employers, each employing 1,000+ workers.

Table 5.5 La Crosse County Prominent Industries

Industry	March 2005		Numeric Employment Change 2000-2005
	Establishments	Employees	
Educational services	25	5,405	98
Nursing & residential care facilities	18	1,891	62
Food services & drinking places	212	5,302	428
Hospitals	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
Administrative and support services	99	2,839	412
Credit intermediation & related activity	45	1,820	335
Social assistance	45	2,040	312
Ambulatory health care services	108	4,064	678
Machinery manufacturing	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
General merchandise stores	13	2,331	402

Table 5.6 La Crosse County Top 10 Privately Owned Employers

Establishment	Product or Service	Size (December 2003)
Gundersen Lutheran Administrative	Offices of physicians, except mental health	1000+ employees
Franciscan Skemp Medical Center Inc	Gen. medical & surgical hospitals	1000+ employees
American Standard Inc	AC, refrig., & forced air heating mfg	1000+ employees
First Federal Capital Bank	Savings institutions	1000+ employees
Kwik Trip Inc	Convenience stores	1000+ employees
Wal-mart Associates Inc	Discount department stores	500-999 employees
Centurytel Service Group LLC	Managing offices	500-999 employees
Northern Engraving Corp	All other plastics products mfg	500-999 employees
Apac Customer Services Inc	Telemarketing bureaus	500-999 employees
Bethany St. Joseph Corp	Nursing care facilities	250-499 employees

Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Bureau of Workforce Information

Industry Projections

Industry projections are available for the Western Workforce Development Area, which includes La Crosse County from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. Table 5.7 indicates that over the next several years the largest projected employment increases will take place in the healthcare services and nursing/residential care industries.

Table 5.7 Industry Projections for Western Workforce Development Area*, 2004-2014

Industry Title	2004 Estimated Employment	2014 Projected Employment	2004-2014 Employment Change	2004-2014 Percentage Change
Total Non-Farm Employment	136,640	152,080	15,440	11.3%
Construction/Mining/Natural Resources	5,230	6,150	920	17.6%
Manufacturing	23,180	22,880	-300	-1.3%
Food Manufacturing	2,760	2,760	0	0%
Printing and Related Support Activities	1,610	1,600	-10	-0.6%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg	2,250	2,330	80	3.6%
Trade	21,090	22,670	1,580	7.5%
Food and Beverage Stores	2,560	2,670	110	4.3%
Transportation and Utilities (Including US Postal)	8,380	9,390	1,010	12.1%
Financial Activities	5,750	6,260	510	8.9%
Education and Health Services (Including State and Local Gov Educ and Hosp)	29,640	36,260	6,620	22.3%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	5,830	7,840	2,010	34.5%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	3,490	4,140	650	18.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	12,770	14,740	1,970	15.4%
Information/Prof Services/Other Services	15,700	18,240	2,540	16.2%
Government (Excluding US Postal, State and Local Educ and Hosp)	14,910	15,500	590	4.0%

*Western WDA includes Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse Monroe, Trempealeau and Vernon Counties

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

Top 10 Occupations with the Most New Jobs, Job Openings, and Fastest Growing Occupations

Tables 5.8 through 5.10 illustrate the industries with the most potential for growth between 2002 and 2012. The nursing profession is anticipated to have the largest percentage increase of new jobs (29.5%) over the ten-year period. The fastest growing occupations over the period are projected to be medical assistants, medical records/health info techs, and computer software engineers. The occupational field projected to have the most job openings in the Western Workforce Development Area is once again nursing followed by truck drivers.

Town of Barre Existing Conditions Report Existing – Economic Assessment and Analysis

Table 5.8 Top 10 Occupations With The Most New Jobs In The Western Workforce Development Area*, 2002-2012

Occupational Title	Estimated Employment		Change		Annual Average			Education or Training Requirements
	2002	2012	Numeric	%	New Jobs	Replacements	Total Openings	
Truck Drivers/Heavy/Tractor-Trailer	4,080	4,990	910	22.3%	90	70	160	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Registered Nurses	3,050	3,950	900	29.5%	90	60	150	Bachelor's or Associate degree
Retail Salespersons	3,900	4,400	500	12.8%	50	140	190	Short-term on-the-job training
Comb Food Prep/Serv Wrk/Incl Fast	2,360	2,820	460	19.5%	50	100	150	Short-term on-the-job training
Nursing Aides/Orderlies/Attendants	2,290	2,760	470	20.5%	50	30	80	Short-term on-the-job training
Cashiers	3,800	4,140	340	8.9%	40	190	230	Short-term on-the-job training
Waiters/Waitresses	2,330	2,640	310	13.3%	30	120	150	Short-term on-the-job training
Janitors/Cleanrs Ex Maids/Hskpng	2,250	2,560	310	13.8%	30	40	70	Short-term on-the-job training
Sls Reps/Whlsl/Mfg/Ex Tech/Sci Prod	1,500	1,800	300	20.0%	30	40	70	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Receptionists/Info Clerks	1,160	1,470	310	26.7%	30	30	60	Short-term on-the-job training

*Western WDA includes Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse Monroe, Trempealeau and Vernon Counties

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

Table 5.9 Top 10 Fastest Growing Occupations In The Western Workforce Development Area*, 2002-2012

Occupational Title	Estimated Employment		Change		Annual Average			Education or Training Requirements
	2002	2012	Numeric	%	New Jobs	Replacements	Total Openings	
Medical Assts	390	630	240	61.5%	20	10	30	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Medical Records/Health Info Techs	230	370	140	60.9%	10	<5	10	Associate degree
Computer Software Engrns Apps	160	250	90	56.3%	10	<5	10	Bachelor's degree
Dental Hygienists	170	250	80	47.1%	10	<5	10	Associate degree
Personal and Home Care Aides	610	880	270	44.3%	30	10	40	Short-term on-the-job training
Home Health Aides	460	660	200	43.5%	20	10	30	Short-term on-the-job training
Dental Assts	280	400	120	42.9%	10	10	20	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Social/Human Service Assts	420	600	180	42.9%	20	10	30	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Computer/Information Systems Mgrs	160	220	60	37.5%	10	<5	10	Bachelor's degree or more, plus work exp.
Network/Computer Systems Admin	160	220	60	37.5%	10	<5	10	Bachelor's degree

*Western WDA includes Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse Monroe, Trempealeau and Vernon Counties

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

Table 5.10 Top 10 Occupations With the Most Job Openings In The Western Workforce Development Area*, 2002-2012

Occupational Title	Estimated Employment		Change		Annual Average			Education or Training Requirements
	2002	2012	Numeric	%	New Jobs	Replacements	Total Openings	
Cashiers	3,800	4,140	340	8.9%	40	190	230	Short-term on-the-job training
Retail Salespersons	3,900	4,400	500	12.8%	50	140	190	Short-term on-the-job training
Truck Drivers/Heavy/Tractor-Trailer	4,080	4,990	910	22.3%	90	70	160	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Registered Nurses	3,050	3,950	900	29.5%	90	60	150	Bachelor's or Associate degree (see note 9)
Comb Food Prep/Serv Wrk/Incl Fast	2,360	2,820	460	19.5%	50	100	150	Short-term on-the-job training
Waiters/Waitresses	2,330	2,640	310	13.3%	30	120	150	Short-term on-the-job training
Nursing Aides/Orderlies/Attendants	2,290	2,760	470	20.5%	50	30	80	Short-term on-the-job training
Labrs/Frght/Stock/Matrl Movers/Hand	2,280	2,290	10	0.4%	<5	80	80	Short-term on-the-job training
Janitors/Cleanrs Ex Maids/Hskpng	2,250	2,560	310	13.8%	30	40	70	Short-term on-the-job training
Team Assemblers	2,500	2,440	-60	-2.4%	<5	70	70	Moderate-term on-the-job training

*Western WDA includes Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau and Vernon Counties

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

Strengths And Weaknesses For Fostering Economic Growth

Fostering economic development in the Town of Barre is challenging. Part of the reason for this is the fact that most residents want the Town to maintain its rural character and do not want to encourage housing, business and industrial growth. The majority of residents want to encourage agricultural related businesses in the Town. Strengths and weaknesses effecting economic growth in the Town of Barre and La Crosse County include:

Town of Barre Existing Conditions Report Existing – Economic Assessment and Analysis

Strengths

- regional trade center serving a tri-state area
- access to multiple transportation modes
- low unemployment rate
- low poverty rate in Town
- great natural resources
- available land and building space
- high quality of life
- high quality elementary, secondary and post secondary educational system
- health care
- health care jobs
- strong manufacturing base
- high quality transportation system
- high quality recreational resources

Weaknesses

- infrastructure limitations to some areas due to steep slopes
- lack of large parcels of land that can be efficiently and economically readied for large scale business and industrial development
- decline in high quality manufacturing jobs
- Image of manufacturing as a career choice (manufacturing is a key economic driver of the greater La Crosse area and Western Wisconsin)
- Aligning public resources to meet needs of the key industries in the metro area could be improved upon

Environmentally Contaminated Sites in the Town of Barre

The Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Law requires local units of government to evaluate and promote the use of environmentally contaminated sites. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS) was searched to identify contaminated sites in the Town of Barre. The BRRTS database did not list any contaminated sites for the Town as of August 2007.

As part of the planning process the DNR’s “Registry of Waste Disposal Sites in Wisconsin” was reviewed. The purpose of the registry is to serve as an informational tool for the public regarding the location of waste disposal sites in the State. Table 5.11 below lists the one disposal site listed for the Town of Barre in the registry. It should be noted the registry used from the DNR’s website was last updated June, 1999.

Table 5.11 Waste Disposal Sites – Town of Barre

Facility Name	Legal Address	Location
Town of Barre	NW NW S20 16N 06W	The site address was not given

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

County, Regional and State Economic Development Programs

Numerous county, regional and state economic development programs apply to the Town of Barre. The following is a list of selected programs that could be beneficial to economic development in the Town of Barre.

County Programs

- ▶ La Crosse County Economic Development Fund

Regional Programs

- ▶ Western Wisconsin Technology Zone
- ▶ Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) programs administered through the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (ex. Public Works and Economic Development Program, Economic Adjustment Program, etc...)

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State Programs

- ▶ Wisconsin Department of Transportation Local Transportation Enhancements Program (TE)
- ▶ Wisconsin Department of Transportation Local Transportation Economic Assistance Program (TEA)
- ▶ Value Added Dairy Initiative (Grow Wisconsin)
- ▶ Wisconsin Department of Commerce Enterprise Development Zone Program
- ▶ Wisconsin Department of Commerce Milk Volume Production Program
- ▶ Wisconsin Department of Commerce Dairy 2020 Planning Grant Program
- ▶ Wisconsin Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Program
- ▶ Wisconsin Department of Commerce Entrepreneurial Training Grant

6. Existing Utilities and Community Facilities

Sanitary Waste and Water Supply: No public water or sewer service is available in the Town. All businesses and residences in the Town are served by private on-site wastewater treatment systems. Enforcement of private on-site wastewater treatment system standards (Wisconsin Administrative Code: COMM 83) is enforced by the La Crosse County Health Department. Any form of residential or business development in the Town needing water or sewer service is dependent upon providing their own private onsite wastewater treatment system.

Solid Waste/Recycling: The Town of Barre contracts with Hilltopper Refuse and Recycling for solid waste disposal and recycling. Curbside solid waste pick up is provided weekly while recyclables are collected every other week.

Storm Water Management: The Town of Barre is located in the La Crosse River watershed, Coon Creek watershed and the Mormon Coulee Creek watershed. These three watersheds collect the storm water via roadway ditches or streams and carry the waters out to the La Crosse River and Mississippi River. The town does not have any storm sewer lines to maintain. La Crosse County's Construction Site Erosion Control Ordinance is a tool that is used to control erosion and manage storm water volume and pollution of storm water. The Town also manages storm water through routine maintenance on their culverts, bridges and road ditches by keeping them free of debris.

Town Government Structure: The Town of Barre has five elected officials serving the public. They are the chairman, two supervisors, town clerk and town treasurer. A Town Planning Commission consisting of five members with staggering terms was formed to assist in developing the Town Plan.



Town of Barre Shop Facility

Town Facilities: The Barre Town Hall is located on at W3541 County Road M. The Town Shop and a storage building are also located on the site.

Equipment owned by the Town includes the following:

- One truck and snowplow
- Endloader/mower
- Small grader

The Town does employ one full time employee and one part time employee. The town also hires 3 additional limited term employees three times during the year. The Town of Barre contracts with private companies for selected maintenance of Town roads.

Fire Protection, Police Protection and Emergency Management: The Town of Barre does not have a fire department. Fire protection is provided by the West Salem fire department.

The Town of Barre does not have a police department. The La Crosse County Sheriffs Department provides law enforcement to the town.

La Crosse County Emergency Government Office is responsible for HAZMAT planning for La Crosse County.

Emergency Medical Services: Tri-State Ambulance Service based out of La Crosse provides emergency medical services for Town residents. First responders are provided through West Salem.

Town of Barre Existing Conditions Report Existing – Existing Utilities and Community Facilities

The La Crosse County 911 Emergency Dispatch Center provides 24-hour emergency telephone service to everyone in La Crosse County. The system uses the enhanced 911 system that provides emergency communications to all providers allowing quick and accurate emergency assistance.

Health Care and Day Care Facilities: There are no health care facilities located in the Town of Barre but residents are within 10 miles of either Lutheran or St. Francis Hospitals in La Crosse. Two Clinics Gundersen Lutheran located at 1900 South Avenue in the City of La Crosse and Franciscan Skemp located at 700 West Avenue in the City of La Crosse are associated with their respective hospitals and are located adjacent to them. Both of these Health Care institutions also have clinics in the City of Onalaska as well. These clinics are both within 10 miles of the Town. One non profit day care facility the “Barre Patch” affiliated with the St. Johns Lutheran Church is located on County Road M in the Town.

Educational Facilities: The West Salem school district serves The Town of Barre (see map 1-6.1).

Post-secondary education opportunities are readily available for town residents through the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse, Western Technical College, and Viterbo University all located in La Crosse.

Libraries: There are no public libraries located in the Town of Barre. The libraries readily accessible to town residents include: the City of La Crosse’s La Crosse Public Library (Main), 800 Main Street; the Onalaska Public Library, 741 Oak Avenue South., Onalaska; and West Salem’s library (Hazel Brown Leicht Memorial Library), 201 Neshonoc Road.

Parks and Recreation Facilities: There are currently no developed public recreational resources available in the Town of Barre. The Town acquired a seven acre parcel in 2006 for development of a Town park and in 2007, the Town applied for State Stewardship funds to fund the purchase of the seven acre parcel (*three of the seven acres were a donation*). In 2007, the Town also applied for funding to develop the acreage acquired for the Town park. The development of the park would include a ½ mile handicapped accessible multi-use trail, park shelter with restrooms, a playground area, picnic area, and handicapped fishing accessibility to Garbers Creek – a feeder stream to Bostwick Creek, a DNR classed trout stream.

Samuels’ Cave is a prehistoric, naturally formed rock shelter is located in Town of Barre in Barre Mills. The cave has petroglyph and pictographs from ancient people who had lived in the area. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.

The Town of Barre is also the location of part of the The Coulee Experimental State Forest. About 1,000 acres of this State owned forest are located in the Town. The forest consists of about 3,000 acres of public land open for hunting, cross-country skiing, hiking, and horseback riding, however, no camping or campfires are permitted. Primary game species include deer, ruffed grouse, squirrels, turkeys, and rabbits. Statewide hunting regulations apply. The forest is within Deer Management Unit 59D and Wild Turkey Zone 8. The habitat consists primarily of upland timber and open fields.



The second hole at the Fox Hollow Golf Course

The Fox Hollow Golf Course is located in the Town of Barre. The Fox Hollow Golf Course and Banquet Hall facility include an 18-hole, par 70 golf course, clubhouse, outdoor shelter and a 10,000 square foot banquet hall.

For wintertime recreation the Town has available marked snowmobile trails. A club sponsored trail extends from the southwest border to Barre Mills and a State funded trail extends from the north central border through Barre Mills and south to the Town of Greenfield. The trails are shown on La Crosse County snowmobile map. More information can be found at www.laxsnowmobile.com.



The Barre Cemetery on County Road OA

Churches and Cemeteries: St. Johns Lutheran Church-Wels is located in the Town at W3565 CTH M near Barre Mills. The St. Johns cemetery has a modern section which is built on the south and west of St. Johns Church and an older cemetery about a half mile east of the church along CTH M. There is another cemetery called the Barre Cemetery located near Barre Mills, along CTH "OA", about a mile south of Barre Mills. The Town of Barre maintains the Barre Cemetery. Across the road from the cemetery there originally was a Norwegian Lutheran Church which explains the many Norwegian names in the cemetery. Map 6.1 shows the location of community facilities and recreational sites in the Town.

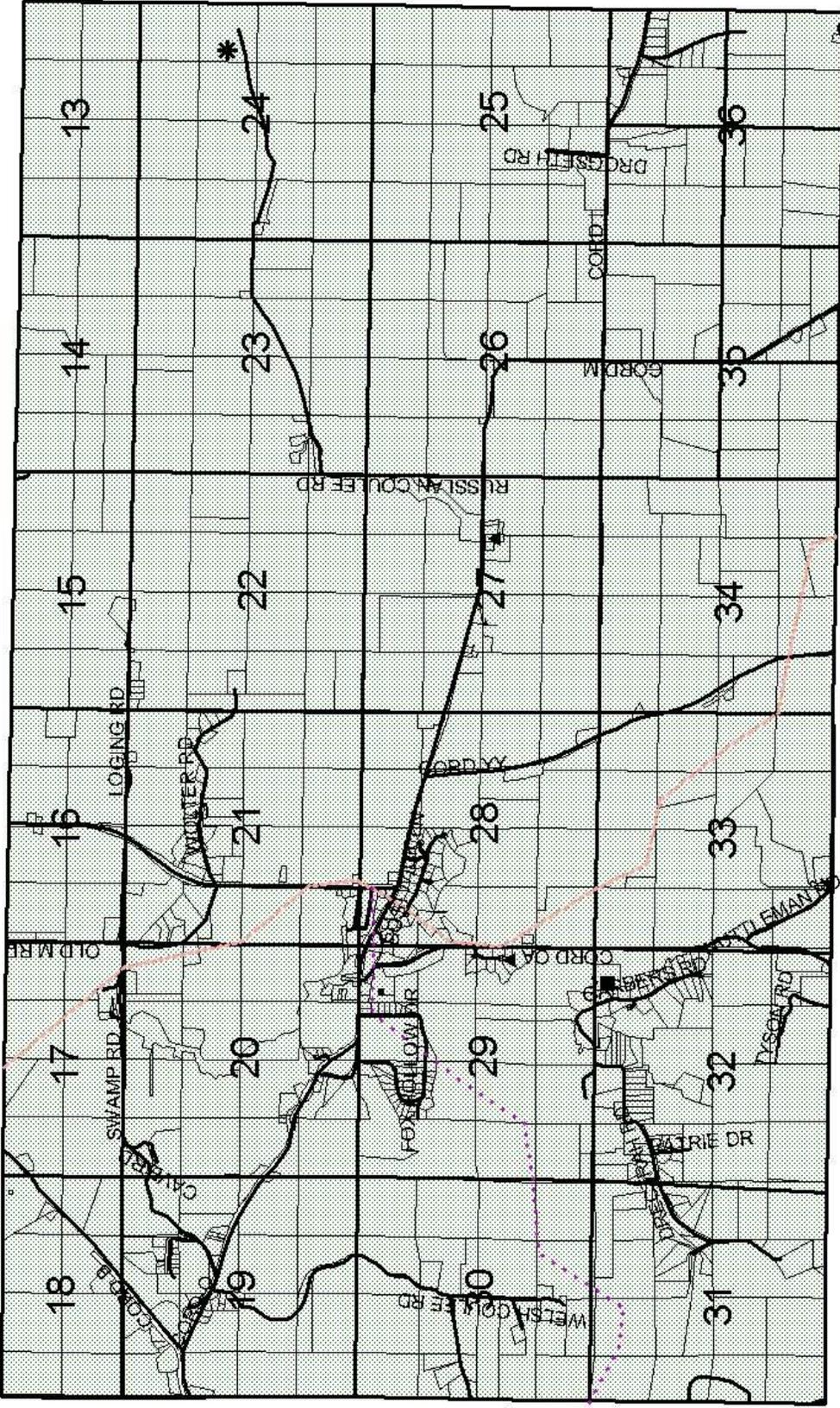
Electricity/Telephone and Cable/Internet Services: There are no electric power stations in the Town of Barre. Electricity to town residences is provided by Xcel Energy. Telephone and internet/cable service to residents is provided by Centurytel and Charter Communications.

Communication Towers: There is one cellular tower located in the Town of Barre in Section 18. La Crosse County has an ordinance that regulates height and location of communication towers. The ordinance details a public process that must be followed by parties interested in constructing a communication tower. The ordinance does apply to land areas in the Town of Barre.

Future Expansion of Utilities and Community Facilities: Population and development projections developed during the planning process indicate that the Town of Barre will experience some growth and development throughout the planning period. Based on the projections the existing community facilities provide adequate services to the town residents throughout the planning period. The plan will be reviewed at a minimum every 10 years, so if projections utilized in the planning process prove to be inaccurate modifications to the plan and community facilities will be addressed in future revisions.

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Map 1-6.1 Town of Barre Community Facilities



Community Facilities

- Cemetery
- Exposed Forest
- Golf Course
- Town Hall
- Town Park

Snowmobile Trails

- Club Trail
- State Trail

School District

- Merrisakm School District

Map prepared by:
Mississippi River Regional
Planning Commission
October 2008
Source: La Crosse County Comprehensive
Plan and MRRPC Community
Survey

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7. Town of Barre Intergovernmental Relationships

State and Federal Agencies

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The Town of Barre has experienced little contact with the WDNR. The WDNR does have jurisdiction over the waterways in the Town of Barre and maintains floodplain regulations that are enforced through the County Zoning Office.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT). The Town of Barre participates in the WDOT Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR) program. The WISLR program maintains a complete listing of public roads in the Town of Barre by jurisdiction, classification and number of miles. This program assists in the facilitation of state funding for town road maintenance.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Town of Barre has minimal interaction with federal agencies. In the event of a natural disaster (flooding, tornado, etc.) FEMA would be the federal agency to assist in relief efforts. The Town recognizes this and has participated in the development of the La Crosse County All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Regional Planning Commission

The Town of Barre and La Crosse County are located in the multi-county boundary of the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC). The MRRPC represents nine counties in western Wisconsin; Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, Monroe, La Crosse, Pepin, Pierce, Trempealeau and Vernon. The MRRPC maintains the regions eligibility as an Economic Development District and eligible for Economic Development Administration funding. They also provide planning and development assistance to local governments including comprehensive planning and zoning assistance, economic development assistance, geographic information system mapping, and grant writing.

Other Local Governments

The Towns of Hamilton, Medary, Shelby, Greenfield, Washington and Bangor border the Town of Barre in La Crosse County. The Town receives fire service from the West Salem Fire Department. The Town has maintained very favorable working relationships with its neighboring local governments and school district.

La Crosse County

The Town maintains positive relationships with numerous County agencies and departments. The La Crosse County Sheriffs Department provides police protection services to the Town. The La Crosse County Highway Department maintains county roads in the Town. The Town also has adopted the La Crosse County Zoning ordinances so the County enforces zoning within the Town. It is expected that these services will continue to be provided by the County.

The Town of Barre is also an active member of the La Crosse County Towns Association.

School Districts

The West Salem school district serves the Town of Barre. During the planning process no intergovernmental conflicts or planning concerns were identified with the school district.

Comprehensive Planning

La Crosse County. La Crosse County is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan to meet the requirements of Section 66.1001, Wisconsin Statutes. The original County Comprehensive Plan "La Crosse County Wisconsin Development Plan 2020" was prepared by the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission with cooperation of La Crosse County and the various local units of government between 1995 and 2000. In 2005, La Crosse County received a comprehensive planning grant from the Wisconsin Department of Administration to complete an updated plan meeting new planning requirements. The La Crosse County Comprehensive Planning Process is currently taking place in the County and is anticipated to be complete by 2008.

Town of Barre Existing Conditions Report - Intergovernmental Relationships

The timing of the planning processes for La Crosse County and the Town of Barre create an opportunity for the governmental entities to work cooperatively in the development of their respective plans. This cooperation is taking place as the local units of government, planning consultants and planning commissions monitor each others progress in an effort to create coordinated and consistent planning documents.

Towns of Bangor, Hamilton, Medary, Shelby, Washington, and Greenfield. The Towns of Barre, Bangor, Hamilton, Medary, Shelby, Washington, and Greenfield developed Town Plans between 1995-1999. The Towns of Bangor, Medary, Hamilton and Washington are working with the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission on a contract to prepare and update their plans. The Town of Shelby is also working with a consultant on their town plan. It is anticipated that the Town of Greenfield will be updating their town plan within the next two years. A review of their existing plans did not illustrate any intergovernmental conflicts.

8. Inventory of Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources

Agriculture

Agriculture and woodlands make up the abundance of the landscape in the Town of Barre. Agriculture and the topography of the Town have greatly influenced the development of the Town. Agriculture is important to Town residents as a means to maintain the Town's rural character. However, during the nine year period of 1997 through 2006, 132 new single family housing units have been built in the town. This further demonstrates the development pressure and the threat to agriculture the Town of Barre is facing.

Historically, agriculture played a key role in the Town of Barre and La Crosse County. Statistics in the Barre's 1994 Town Plan, compiled by the U.S. Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service and the University of Wisconsin Extension, show the Town of Barre in 1992 had 5.61 million dollars worth of agricultural production.



An example of the threat that agriculture faces in the Town of Barre

The following excerpt from the *La Crosse County, Farmland Preservation Plan, 1980* describes the agricultural history of La Crosse County.

"The county's economic base began with fur trading, but that moved west with the Indians. Lumbering was a significant industry until the 1900's. Agriculture in the valleys was always important. A farm report furnished by the County Clerk in 1881 shows a tabular statement of the acreage devoted to wheat, corn, oats, barley, rye, potatoes, apples, hops, tobacco, grass, and timber. Also included were the number of milk cows. It goes on to explain that ... a larger acreage has been sown to all types of grains except wheat, which has given place to corn, oats and barley. The fact that 10,000 acres less of wheat have been sowed, shows that a proper attention is being given to other crops mentioned and that stock raising is becoming a more profitable pursuit. The number of acres in grains, hops, cultivated grasses, potatoes, roots, apples and tobacco in 1880 was 90,591. At the present time there are about 112,683 acres in cropland including acreage for corn, soybeans, oats, alfalfa, hay fruits and vegetables, and tobacco."

Agricultural crops commonly grown in La Crosse County today include corn, soybeans, and alfalfa. More recent statistics from the 1997 and 2002 USDA Census of Agriculture show the following agricultural trends in La Crosse County:

- The number of farms in La Crosse County decreased from 933 in 1997 to 868 in 2002
- The size of farms decreased from 203 acres in 1997 to 201 acres in 2002
- The total cropland harvested increased from 76,468 acres in 1997 to 77,831 acres in 2002
- The number of cattle and calves in the county decreased from 36,769 in 1997 to 31,550 in 2002
- The 2002 USDA Census valued agricultural land at \$1,937 dollars per acre in La Crosse County.

Natural Resources

Soils. The soils are the town's greatest natural and economic resource and are highly suitable for agricultural production. Some of the more notable soils are the Richwood, Toddville, and Port Byron silt loam soils located on the valleys and benches. These soil classes are found typically along the valleys on both sides of county trunk roads M, OA, and O as well as along Bostwick Creek.

The La Crosse County Soil Survey designated approximately 20% of the soils in La Crosse County as "prime" soils. Prime soils were defined as being either Class I, Class II or Class III soils. These soils are typically on or near the Valley floors or on or near ridge tops. Map 8.1 illustrates the soils by class in the Town of Barre.

Town of Barre Existing Conditions Report Inventory of Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources

Groundwater. Western Wisconsin is fortunate to have a large supply of quality groundwater. Within the Town of Barre most geological formations contain water. On ridge tops water can be obtained from dolomite while on the valley bottoms water can be obtained from the sandstone bedrock. Groundwater reservoirs are recharged by direct precipitation mainly in the form of heavy rainfall and melting snow. Generally, all ground water is free of bacteria and safe to drink. Soft water is often found in the valley alluvium while hard water is often found in the upland bedrock.



Garber's Coulee Creek as it flows through the town.

Surface Water. There are several streams and creeks within the Town of Barre. Bostwick Creek, also known as Irish Creek is located in the Town. Bostwick Creek is a Class III trout stream from its mouth upstream to Barre Mills, then Class II upstream to CTH "M", and finally Class I upstream to the headwaters. There are no natural or man-made lakes within the Town.

Topography and Watersheds. The Town of Barre's landscape can be characterized as a ridge and valley topography. Map 8.2 illustrates the slope and topography of the Town of Barre. The Town of Barre is located in the La Crosse River watershed, Coon Creek watershed and Mormon Creek watershed. Bostwick Creek, located in Central La Crosse County runs through the town flowing northwest before reaching the La Crosse River.

Woodlands. Farmed ridges and valleys with woodlands on the steep valley walls characterize the Town of Barre's landscape. The Town is also home to the part of the Coulee Experimental Forest, a state owned property of upland forests, experimental tree plantings, ridgetop open fields, rock outcroppings, and several small "goat prairies" on steep topography. According to the Department of Revenue-Bureau of Equalization 2006 Statement of Assessments over 26% of the Town of Barre is assessed as forest or woodlands (1,692 acres were assessed as ag forest and 1,219 acres were assessed as forest).

Floodplains/Wetlands. There are several areas in the Town of Barre in the 100-year flood plain. The entire length of Bostwick Creek has adjacent lands designated as flood plain in which base flood elevations and flood hazard factors have been determined. The majority of Garber's Creek has adjacent areas designated in the flood plain, as well as a portion of the La Crosse River Watershed located in Section 18 of the Town of Barre (See Map 1-8.3 Town of Barre Flood Plain Map).

There are limited wetlands in the Town of Barre. Digital mapping of wetlands is not yet completed for La Crosse County. Wetland maps are available for viewing at the La Crosse County Zoning and Planning Department. Potential wetland areas can be viewed online using the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Surface Water Data Viewer.

Open Space. Open spaces are one of the Town of Barre's greatest attributes. Over 89% of the town's landscape is made up of forested, agricultural, undeveloped or public lands.

Non-Metallic Mineral Resources. There are no commercial non-metallic mines located in the Town of Barre. Private property owners from time to time sell topsoil for construction projects.

Wildlife Resources. The agricultural fields, scattered forestlands, and streams provide excellent habitat for wildlife. White-tailed deer and eastern wild turkeys are found in the town. Squirrels, rabbits, pheasants, ruffed grouse, raccoons and a wide variety of songbirds also make their home in the Town of Barre. The Coulee Experimental Forest is open to the public for hunting. Primary game in the forest include deer, ruffed grouse, squirrels, turkeys, and rabbits. The Coulee Experimental forest is within Deer Management Unit 59D and Wild Turkey Zone 8. The habitat consists primarily of upland timber and open fields. Bostwick Creek, a trout stream is also located in the Town.



Entrance to the Coulee Experimental Forest.

Air Quality. The Town of Barre has a total population of around 1,134 people and limited commercial/industrial businesses. Therefore, air quality in the Town is excellent.

Stream/Environmental Corridors. Natural stream environmental corridors in the Town include Bostwick Creek and its wetlands. The wooded uplands of the Town that cover the higher elevations of the valley walls are examples of natural occurring environmental corridors that provide important wildlife habitat.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Wisconsin in accordance with the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) has developed the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Working Lists. The Wisconsin Natural Heritage Working Lists contains species known or suspected to be rare in the state. They include species legally designated as "Endangered" (*in danger of being extirpated from all or a portion of its range*) and "Threatened" (*the Wisconsin portion of the species population is either on the verge of extirpation or is a relic population*). Within La Crosse County there are 22 species listed as "Endangered" and 29 that are listed as "Threatened." Examples of the "Endangered" species present in La Crosse County are the Snowy Egret, Crystal Darter, Ebony Shell Mussel and the Carolina Anemone (plant).

Cultural Resources

Archeological and Historic Resources

A search of the Wisconsin National Register of Historic Places revealed 52 registered buildings or sites in La Crosse County. The register included historic houses, churches, mounds, historic camps and burial sites. Samuel's Cave was the only site listed for the Town of Barre. Samuel's Cave is a prehistoric, naturally formed rock shelter with petroglyph and pictographs from ancient people who lived in the area.



St. John's Lutheran Church

Wisconsin's Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) was searched and 19 historic properties in the Town of Barre were in the inventory. The AHI contains data on buildings, structures and objects that illustrate Wisconsin's history. The AHI documents a wide range of historic properties such as the round barns, log houses, metal truss bridges, small town commercial buildings, Queen Anne houses etc. It is a permanent record maintained by the Wisconsin Historical Society. Some of the structures identified in the database for the Town of Barre include: St. John's Lutheran Church and the Ole Svenness House.

Recreational Resources

The Town of Barre is in the process of developing a Town Park for public use. In 2006 they purchased land for a 7 acre park that when fully developed will include a ½ mile handicapped accessible multi-use trail, park shelter with restrooms, a playground area, picnic area, and handicapped fishing accessibility to Garbers Creek.

Other recreational resources include: 1) Samuel's Cave a prehistoric, naturally formed rock shelter; 2) an 18 hole, par 70 golf course; 3) and a marked and publicly accessible snowmobile trail.



Wildlife abundant at State Facilities

State Facilities

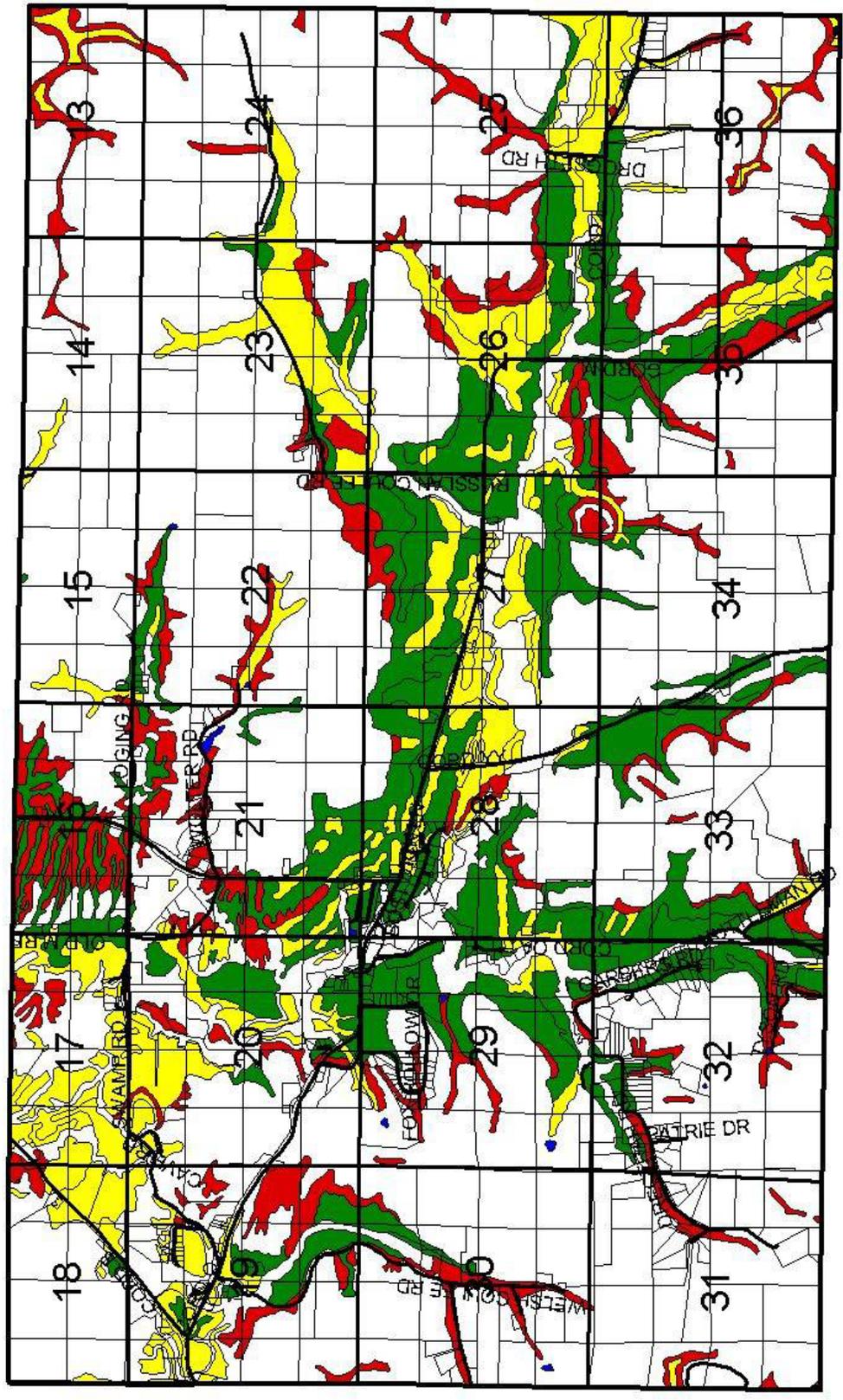
Part of the state owned Coulee Experimental Forest is located in the Town. The forest has public land open for hunting, cross-country skiing, hiking, and horseback riding.

Table 8.1 below and Map 8.1 below illustrates the location of the Town's natural, cultural and recreation resources.

Table 8.1 Town of Barre Natural, Cultural and Recreation Resources

Name of Site or Facility	Type of Site or Facility	Size in Acres	Features or Facilities on Site	Other Characteristics or Planning Issues
Proposed Town of Barre Park	Town Park	7	The Park has not been developed.	Fully developed Town Park should include a ½ mile handicapped accessible multi-use trail, park shelter with restrooms, a playground area, picnic area, and handicapped fishing accessibility to Garbers Creek
Samuels Cave	Natural Rock Shelter		Cave has petroglyph and pictographs from ancient people who lived in area.	
Coulee Experimental State Forest	State owned experimental forest	Approximately 1,000 acres of Forest is located in Town of Barre.	The Coulee Experimental Forest is a forest of upland oak forests, experimental tree plantings, ridgetop open fields, rock outcroppings, and several small "goat prairies" on steep topography.	This public forest land is open to the public for hunting, cross-country skiing, hiking, and horseback riding.
Bostwick Creek	Creek		Class I, II and III Trout Stream	
Fox Hollow Golf Course	Privately Owned		18 hole, Park 70 golf course	There is clubhouse, outdoor shelter and 10,000 square foot banquet facility on site.
Snowmobile Trails	Club and State maintained snowmobile trails		Club sponsored trail extends from southwest border to Barre Mills and state sponsored trail extends from North central border to Town of Greenfield.	

Map 1-8.1 Town of Barre Soils Map



Soils

- Class I
- Class II
- Class III
- Class IV-VIII
- Water

DESCRIPTION OF SOIL CLASSES
 Capability grouping classes generally take into account soil permeability, erosion, and crop capacity. In the capability grouping, soil classes are grouped at three levels with "capability classes" being the broadest grouping. Soils are described in one of six broad classes. Class I soils have few limitations that restrict their use. Class II soils have moderate limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require moderate conservation practices. Class III soils have severe limitations that limit the choice of plants and require special conservation practices. Class IV-VIII soils have increasingly severe limitations that generally make the lower classes unsuitable for agriculture.



Map prepared by:
 Mississippi River Regional
 Planning Commission
 Source: La Crosse County
 Digital Soil Survey
 October 2007

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APPENDIX A

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
WISCONSIN INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR LOCAL ROADS**

City / Village/ Town County Certified Mileage List - (R-03)

January 1, 2008

County of La Crosse (32)

Town of Barre (004)

Road Name	Gross Miles	County Miles	Municipal Miles	County Jurisdiction			Municipal Jurisdiction		
				Arterial	Collector	Local	Arterial	Collector	Local
Barre Ln	0.24		0.24						0.24
Bostwick Ln	0.35		0.35						0.35
Bostwic Valley Trailer Rd	0.40		0.40						0.40
E Bridge Rd	0.07		0.07						0.07
W Bridge Rd	0.06		0.06						0.06
Cave Rd	0.07		0.07						0.07
Crystal Ln	0.13		0.13						0.13
CTH B	1.34	1.34			1.34				
CTH I	1.54	1.54			1.54				
CTH M	5.39	5.39			5.39				
CTH O	2.25	2.25			2.25				
CTH OA	2.20	2.20			2.20				
CTH YY	1.85	1.85				1.85			
Daisy Dr	0.08		0.08						0.08
Demlow Rd	0.06		0.06						0.06
Drectrah Rd	1.60		1.60						1.60
Drogseth Rd	0.27		0.27						0.27
Eagle Ln	0.06		0.06						0.06
Fox Hollow Dr	0.72		0.72						0.72
Garbers Ct	0.06		0.06						0.06
Garbers Rd	0.50		0.50						0.50
Holmgren Rd	0.38		0.38						0.38
Lazy Acres Rd	0.08		0.08						0.08
Loging Rd	0.84		0.84						0.84
Meadow View Ct	0.06		0.06						0.06
W Miller Rd	0.32		0.32						0.32
Mill Rd	0.07		0.07						0.07
Nuttleman Rd	0.52		0.52						0.52
Old M Rd	1.06		1.06						1.06
Puent Rd	0.46		0.46						0.46
Russlan Coulee Rd	2.17		2.17						2.17
Swamp Rd	2.06		2.06						2.06
Tamarack Rd	0.26		0.26						0.26
TN RD 1	0.21		0.21						0.21
TN RD 2	0.10		0.10						0.10
Tyson Rd	0.22		0.22						0.22
Welsh Coulee Rd	1.76		1.76						1.76
Wolter Rd	0.92		0.92						0.92
Total Miles	30.73	14.57	16.16	0.00	12.72	1.85	0.00	0.00	16.16

**Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan
2009-2030**

**Section 2: Planning Goals, Objectives,
Policies/Actions, and Recommendations**

Prepared by Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission

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Appendix A Public Participation Plan

Appendix B Public Meeting Responses – Issue Identification

Introduction

As described in the Existing Conditions Report, the Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan is being prepared under the State of Wisconsin's comprehensive planning law contained in Section 66.1001, Wisconsin Statutes. The law was adopted in 1999 and requires that land use decisions of a local unit of government must be consistent with a comprehensive plan. To meet the requirements of the planning law a comprehensive plan is being prepared that consists of two documents, an Existing Conditions Report and a Goals, Objectives, Policies/Actions and Recommendations section.

This section of the Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan describes the goals, objectives, policies/actions and recommendations derived throughout the planning process. The decisions, actions and policy recommendations identified in this section of the comprehensive plan will provide a framework for the future development of the Town of Barre.

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1 ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES ELEMENT

The Issues and Opportunities Element of the Comprehensive Plan identifies issues brought up during the planning process and relevant to the town's future. The purpose of the Issues and Opportunities Element is to establish the framework for the plan and organize community and resident input into meaningful directives. This element provides a comprehensive list of the planning goals established during the planning process along with a description of the public input activities utilized to gather information from which the goals were derived. Policies and programs developed in the planning process to address issues will be detailed in each planning element and summarized in the Implementation Element of the plan.

Public Participation Plan

At the beginning of the planning process, the Town of Barre adopted a public participation plan as required by state statute. The public participation plan specified ways in which public input would be facilitated throughout the planning process and how planning documents would be made available for public review and comment. A copy of the "Town of Barre Public Participation Plan" is attached as Appendix A. Below is a summary of the public input gained from public input activities conducted throughout the planning process.

Public Input

Public involvement is a key to the planning process. Input in the early stages of the planning process guides the development of the plan. The Town of Barre Plan Commission began working on the plan in 2007. In 2008, resident input was gathered by conducting public informational meetings. In addition, general working meetings of the Plan Commission during the process have been publicly posted. A description and summary of the public informational meetings is included below.

Public Informational Meetings

On January 10, 2008 the Plan Commission held a public meeting in which all residents were invited to attend in an effort to gather public input on numerous plan elements. Approximately 25 residents attended the informational meeting at which residents in attendance participated in two exercises that were designed to facilitate public input on all the planning elements. The meeting exercises and results are described below:

Exercise 1 (Keeps and Changes): Each person attending the meeting was given a 3" by 5" card and asked to imagine that they just returned home after a long absence. They were asked to write down three things in the town they would change and three things in the town they would keep. The exercise attempts to identify things in the town that people like or dislike. In addition, it helps to identify the issues that residents feel are most important.

The resident's responses were grouped by subject category. The subject categories and the grouping of the issues are the Plan Commissions judgment. The number of responses per subject are in ().

Things to Keep

- Openspace/Rural Atmosphere (14)
- Agriculture/Farming (8)
- Development (8)
- Environment (7)
- Transportation (5)
- Town Facilities/Services (4)
- Housing (4)
- Regulation (3)
- Additional Keeps (11)

Things to Change

- Development (10)
- Transportation (9)
- Housing (6)
- Town Facilities/Services (5)
- Regulation (3)
- Agriculture/Farming (3)
- Additional Changes (4)

Exercise 2 (Group Issue Identification): In the second exercise the residents in attendance were divided into five groups. Each group was given an issue identification worksheet on which as a group they listed the issues they felt were most important to the Town of Barre regarding each of the planning elements. Once a list of issues was established for each element, each group was requested to identify the most important three issues for each element. After completing the exercise, each group reported back to the meeting participants on the findings of their group. This exercise identified the issues that were most important to residents at the meeting. A listing of the responses to the exercise by the five groups is included in Appendix B.

Town of Barre Survey

Another form of the public input used during the planning process was a community survey. At the beginning of the planning process, a survey was sent to all landowners in the Town of Barre. The survey asked landowners to respond to a series of questions pertaining to the comprehensive planning elements (land use, transportation, etc.). Gaining input from a broader range of landowners and understanding their attitudes towards comprehensive planning was the purpose of the survey. A total of 145 property owners completed and returned the surveys. The survey results are listed in the Existing Conditions Report.

Public Informational Meeting 2

Once the initial draft of the comprehensive plan was completed, a second public informational meeting for landowners was held to gain input on draft plan. The meeting was held on November 13, 2008 and attended by 26 landowners. At the meeting the draft plan was reviewed and then the meeting was open for public comments. In general the plan was well received, several comments focused on the Town Center and the potential to extend to the south towards the Town Park. There was also discussion on preserving farmland and balancing that with residential growth demands. Based on the meeting comments the Plan Commission reviewed the draft plan and made additional modifications.

Planning Goals

Based on issues and opportunities derived from analysis of data compiled in the Existing Conditions Report, public input from the town survey, public open house meetings (visioning), and Plan Commission input the following goals were established to guide the development of the Town of Barre Plan. In addition and listed in italics, the Town Plan Commission utilized the comprehensive planning goals identified in Wisconsin State Statutes. Methods and actions to achieve the goals will be detailed in the following sections.

Land Use Element

- Goal A** • Preserve agriculture, the environment and the rural landscape of the Town of Barre.
- Goal B** • To the extent possible, protect landowners rights and minimize additional regulations in managing future land uses.
- Goal C** • Continue to guide high density developments to the Town Center.
- Goal D** • Discourage large industrial and commercial uses in the Town of Barre.

Housing Element

- Goal A** • Encourage single-family housing in the Town and promote efficient development patterns.
- Goal B** • Provide opportunities for elderly housing in the Town.
- Goal C** • Promote cluster housing developments

Transportation Element

- Goal A** • Maintain the existing road network and level of service (road condition and road maintenance).
- Goal B** • Work to improve the safety of transportation facilities in the Town of Barre.
- Goal C** • Promote pedestrian/bicycle facilities (bike/ped. lanes/trails) in the Town.

Economic Development Element

- Goal A** • Encourage small niche businesses and home based businesses in the Town.

Utilities and Community Facilities Element

- Goal A** • *Continue to develop and enhance the Town of Barre Park.*
- Goal B** • Monitor the changing needs of the Town of Barre and provide adequate community services as needed.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Element

- Goal A** • Maintain the Town of Barre's identity.
- Goal B** • Maintain cooperative agreements for fire protection and emergency services with adjoining units of government.

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Element

- Goal A** • Protect surface and groundwater quality of the Town.
- Goal B** • Preserve farmland and enhance the agriculture economic base.
- Goal C** • Preserve and enhance public lands and recreational opportunities in the Town of Barre.

Implementation Element

- Goal A** • Identify policies and programs to implement recommendations of the comprehensive plan.
- Goal B** • Continue to provide the opportunity for public input throughout the planning process and future updates

State Planning Goals

- *Promotion of the redevelopment of lands with existing infrastructure and public services and maintenance and rehabilitation of existing residential, commercial and industrial structures.*
- *Encouragement of land uses, densities and regulations that promote efficient development patterns and relatively low municipal, state governmental and utility costs.*
- *Planning and development of land uses that create or preserve varied and unique urban and rural communities.*
- *Balancing individual property rights with community interests and goals*

- *Protection of natural areas, including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes, woodlands, open spaces, and groundwater resources.*
- *Preservation of cultural, historic and archaeological sites.*
- *Protection of economically productive areas, including farmland and forests.*
- *Promoting the expansion or stabilization of the current economic base and the creation of a range of employment opportunities at the state, regional and local levels.*
- *Providing an adequate supply of affordable housing for individuals of all income levels throughout each community.*
- *Providing an integrated, efficient and economical transportation system that affords mobility, convenience and safety and that meets the needs of all citizens, including transit-dependent and disabled citizens.*
- *Encouragement of neighborhood designs that support a range of transportation choices.*
- *Providing adequate infrastructure and public services and an adequate supply of developable land to meet existing and future market demand for residential, commercial and industrial uses.*
- *Encouragement of coordination and cooperation among nearby units of government.*
- *Building community identity by revitalizing main streets and enforcing design standards.*

The following sections of the Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan will detail by element the objectives, programs and policies/actions aimed at meeting the planning goals and will ultimately shape the development of the Town of Barre.

2 LAND USE ELEMENT

Developing the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan is undoubtedly the most challenging and most important part of the comprehensive planning process. The Land Use Element of the Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan contains goals, objectives, programs and policies/actions that will guide the future development of the Town. The Land Use Element was prepared pursuant to Section 66.1001 Wisconsin Statutes and in doing so the element took into consideration trends in land supply, demand, and prices as well as potential areas of future land use conflicts.

Land Use Element Goals

Public participation in the form of survey responses and meeting input is the driving force behind the development of the Land Use Element. Based on the input received land use goals were developed. In the context of this plan goals are broad statements that the Town of Barre desires to achieve. Following each goal are plan objectives, definitions, policies, programs/actions, etc. that are recommended to address each goal. The Town of Barre Planning Commission utilized the goals identified in State Statute and developed goals specific to the Town of Barre for the Land Use Element. The following land use element goals, objectives, definitions, policies, programs/actions, etc. were developed:

Goal A *Preserve agriculture, the environment, and the rural landscape of the Town of Barre.*

- a. Continue utilizing the Exclusive Agricultural District in the Town of Barre to preserve agricultural land and maintain the rural landscape. In doing so, it is also recommended that the Town/County continue to enforce State standards for rezoning of “Exclusive Agricultural” lands. Findings for rezoning shall be based upon the consideration of the following as defined in State Statutes:
 - adequate public facilities to accommodate development either exist or will be provided within a reasonable time.
 - provision of public facilities to accommodate development will not place and unreasonable burden on the ability of affected local units of government to provide them.
 - the land proposed for rezoning is suitable for development and development will not result in undue water or air pollution, cause unreasonable soil erosion or have and unreasonably adverse effect on rare or irreplaceable natural areas.
- b. Public input demonstrated the importance of preserving agricultural land. Agricultural land is a common term but depending on the user has a wide range of definitions. In an attempt to clarify the term in the context of the comprehensive plan prime agricultural land is defined as soils designated as Class I, II, III on the Town of Barre Soils Map - Map 1-8.1.
- c. Residential Housing in Exclusive Agriculture Areas
The plan recognizes that from time to time low density residential development will be proposed for locations in the Town of Barre designated as Exclusive Agriculture. The plan recommends that when these cases arise that they go through a rezoning process. The time for the necessary approvals is anticipated to take approximately 3-5 months provided the proposal meets the rate of development described in the following paragraph. It was clear during the planning process, that substantial residential growth was not desired by town residents. Therefore, a 3-5 month review process was determined to be acceptable and necessary to properly review such development proposals. It is important to understand that by applying for a zoning change does not guarantee its approval. Such

decisions will be made by the Town Plan Commission, Town Board, and County Board based on the recommendations and public processes identified in the plan.

It is further recommended that in cases where Exclusive Agriculture properties are requested for residential development that they be developed at a rate as defined by the Exclusive Agriculture District (1 house per 35 acres). For example, if a landowner owns 140 acres designated as Exclusive Agriculture and requests rezoning for a certain number of new housing units, the number of new housing units recommended to be permitted will be based on a rate of 1 house per 35 acres. To calculate the number of new housing units permitted the reviewing committees will take the number of acres owned by the property owner (140) and divide that acreage by 35, which results in 4 new housing units permitted. In the case of a fractional answer, the fractional number will be rounded up if it is equal to or exceeds .75. In the future, residential rezoning requests pertaining to the affected properties (all 140 original acres) will be taken into consideration with the intent to avoid reutilizing the acreages for the purpose of permitting additional residential development. It is important to understand that for the purposes of the above calculations, a parcel is defined as all property owned by a landowner that is contiguous. Contiguous property includes property under the same ownership that is adjacent, or separated by a public road or stream. In addition, an existing residence on the parent parcel will not be counted against the density permitted as determined by the calculation. The minimum lot size for the proposed housing site(s) is recommended to be a minimum of 1 acre.

Upon receiving requests for zoning changes meeting the density requirements stated above, the requests will be looked upon more favorably if the proposed project:

1. Is to be on land not practical for productive agriculture.
 - To determine if land is not practical for productive agriculture the Town Plan Commission and Town Board will take into consideration:
 - The slope of the site
 - the productivity of the soils based on the La Crosse County Soil Survey with the preference of preserving Class I, II and III soils.
2. If multiple single-family units are proposed, clustered/conservation housing development principles are to be utilized when determined to be in the best interest of the Town of Barre;
3. Minimizes the need for additional/substantial transportation infrastructure.
4. The location of the proposed housing development avoids when possible impacting the rural lifestyle of adjoining property owners.

Rezoning requests adhering to the above requirements/parameters and process shall be considered consistent with the Land Use Element of the Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan.

- d. It is recommended that development continue to be prohibited by existing ordinance in wetland/flood plain areas. In addition, it is recommended that development on steep slopes, on prime agricultural land, and in areas where public services cannot be economically provided, or where the development use is incompatible with the surrounding environment are to be strongly discouraged.
- e. *Promote and Define Cluster Development/ Conservation Subdivisions*
Another method to help preserve agricultural land is the promotion of cluster development/conservation subdivisions. A conservation subdivision can be described as a development with common open space and compact clustered lots. A purpose of conservation subdivisions is to preserve agricultural land/openspace/natural resources while allowing for residential development. Conservation subdivisions, when proposed/developed in the Town of Barre will minimize future maintenance and service costs for the Town, and the conservation subdivision will help preserve the rural character of the Town. In contrast, Traditional rural land use regulations and non-regulated rural developments

typically create scattered development patterns resulting in development that consumes large amounts of land.

To encourage the development of clustered/conservation subdivisions, the Town of Barre land use element recommends that clustered/conservation subdivisions be utilized as a land management tool when it is determined it is in the best interest of the Town of Barre in meeting its land use goals. The Town of Barre must develop standards for cluster/conservation subdivisions that reflect the desired outcome of the planning process.

- f. In an effort to protect the environment promote the continued use of Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP'S) by landowners and agricultural producers in the Town of Barre.
- g. It is recommended that development (building/driveway construction) be prohibited on slopes greater than 30% to preserve blufflands and minimize soil erosion. The Town of Barre supports limiting development on slopes between 20%-30%. It is recommended that developments (building/driveway construction) requested on slopes between 20%-30% be required to receive a conditional use permit that will address erosion control, emergency access, and any additional site conditions deemed applicable by the reviewing bodies. Developments (building/driveway construction) on slopes less than 20% would be considered permitted and would only require standard building/zoning permits.

Goal B *To the extent possible, protect landowners rights and minimize additional regulations in managing future land uses.*

- a. During the planning process it was emphasized by landowners the desire to limit additional regulations to manage land uses. This is difficult to accomplish since numerous regulations beyond the control of the Town of Barre impact the planning process. However, the proposed Land Use Map described in this element does not require additional regulations to be implemented. The Land Use Map for the most part remains very similar to the one developed in 1994, with the major difference being the reduction in the size of the Town Center in an effort to concentrate higher density rural development.

Goal C *Continue to guide high density developments to the Town Center.*

- a. Residents seemed satisfied by the 1994 Land Use Plan that established a Town Center and focused growth towards it. The Plan Commission reviewed the 1994 Plan and recommend that future growth continue to be focused to the Town Center. The location of Barre as a neighbor to the complex economy of the more developed La Crosse area insures that Barre residents will have employment and economic opportunities nearby without the necessity to duplicate development of the same complex economy within the Town itself. The presence of an agricultural and natural resource based Town on the fringes of an urban area insures that a variety of living and recreational opportunities will be available to all the residents of the urban area, and economic opportunities will be available to the residents of the Town. The Plan Commission recommends some modifications to the Town Center which are described in the description of the Land Use Map on Page 2-5.

Goal D *Discourage large industrial and commercial uses in the Town of Barre.*

- a. During the planning process residents were satisfied with the commercial growth that has taken place in the Town historically. Past commercial growth can best be characterized as begin small, locally owned and operated businesses. Resident input during the planning process expressed a desire to continue to encourage small commercial and industrial uses in the Town (small being defined as businesses of the same size that exist in the Town of Barre today). It is recommended that large commercial and industrial

businesses be located in areas served by public sewer and water and have direct access to State and Federal Roads.

Goal E *Planning and development of land uses that create or preserve varied and unique urban and rural communities.*

- a. It is recommended that future land use decisions be based on and be consistent with the adopted Land Use Map developed during this planning process and recommendations described in this planning element.
- b. The Plan Commission recommends focusing development to the historically developed Town Center. This recommendation helps to preserve the existing town center that is unique to rural communities not served by public sewer and water.
- c. Public input during the planning process encouraged a bike/ped. connection between the Town Center and the Town of Barre Park (other than County OA). It is recommended that the Town work with landowners, La Crosse County and the Park Committee in developing a trail to connect the two areas. It is further recommended that grant trail funding be pursued as a means to off set the cost of such a project.
- d. It is recommended that the Town of Barre implement “Coulee Visions” planning principles when considering approval of new developments. Coulee Visions was developed as a guide that illustrates land use and transportation planning alternatives for local units of government when preparing comprehensive plans. Coulee Visions focuses on:
 - Revitalize core areas
 - Encourage redevelopment
 - Discourage “sprawl” type development
 - Reduce public infrastructure costs
 - Do not move jobs from one community to another
 - Reduce vehicular travel demand
 - Increase capacity through transportation system management
 - Preserve existing infrastructure
 - Improve and expand transit system
 - Enhance bicycle and pedestrian system effectiveness

Goal F *Balancing individual property rights with community interests and goals.*

- a. Continue to follow the planning process in the adopted “Town of Barre Public Participation Plan” which detailed activities to gain public input through public meetings, public surveys and general public awareness of the planning process. Following the public participation plan will ensure that balance in the form of public input and opinions will be achieved during the planning process.
- b. Utilize public input in the planning process and update the comprehensive plan a minimum of once every 10 years.

Goal G *Promotion of the redevelopment of lands with existing infrastructure and public services and maintenance and rehabilitation of existing residential, commercial and industrial structures.*

- a. In the preparation of the plan this goal was reviewed by the Town of Barre Plan Commission and the redevelopment of properties was not applicable to the town since the vast majority of the town is

undeveloped. The plan does encourage the maintenance of existing structures by recommending the continued enforcement of the Uniform Dwelling Code.

Town of Barre Land Use Map (See Land Use Map – Map 2-2.1)

In the preparation of the land use map public input, existing land uses, soils, topography and past land use maps were considered. The land use map attempts to lay out a map for future land uses that is consistent with the planning goals and public input expressed throughout the planning process. The land use map is the primary tool in achieving the goals of the Land Use Element. The Land Use Map for the Town of Barre utilizes seven land use districts derived from the La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan.

For clarity purposes, the land use designations have followed public roads, streams, sections lines, and parcel boundaries. It is important to realize that there are natural features and existing regulations (slopes, wetlands, floodplains, etc.) that preclude development from taking place in many areas throughout the town. So it is important to understand that even if a property is designated as residential (or some other use) there may be natural features or existing regulations that restrict development on parts or all of the area designated. A natural features map that illustrates these areas is available for viewing at the Town of Barre Town Hall.

Preserving agricultural land/open space was identified by residents in the planning process as an essential outcome of the plan. To meet this directive the Plan Commission designated the majority of land in the Town of Barre as Exclusive Agriculture. This designation was also consistent with the 1994 Land Use Plan for the Town of Barre. Included in this designation is the Experimental Forest that was identified by residents as a valuable recreational asset to the Town of Barre. Based on community input and past development trends other areas in the Town of Barre were designated for residential or commercial growth and are described below:

Town Center (Smart Growth Area)

The Town of Barre is unique in that it has a historically developed Town Center that has withstood the test of time and has continued to grow. The previously adopted 1994 land use plan emphasized the continued development of the Town center, and focused higher density residential and commercial development to the Town Center. The Town Center designated in the 1994 plan was relatively large (960 acres) compared to the rate of anticipated development. In revising the Land Use Map the Plan Commission evaluated the size of the Town Center designated in 1994 and have recommended that it be reduced in size by 240 acres to better accommodate the anticipated rate of development over the planning period. There are several reasons why the Plan Commission recommended reducing the size of the Town Center. First, reducing the size of the Town Center preserves more agricultural land and open space that was identified by resident input as an important Town asset to protect. Secondly, the Plan Commission wanted to encourage growth from the existing developed Town Center outward. Rather than having spotted development across 960 acres and have it fill in over future decades. There are several advantages to strategy. It concentrates future development, which in turn reduces the costs of providing public services. It also assists in the planning of future public services (sewer and water) if eventually they are desired/required to be constructed. Areas for residential development in the Town Center have been designated Rural Residential-3. In further analysis of the Town Center approximately 320 acres remain open for future residential development. This residential acreage could reasonably accommodate at least 300 additional housing units.

Request for Modification to the Town Center

Public input received during the planning process mainly focused on the size and configuration of the Town Center. During the entire planning process the Plan Commission received only one specific request from a landowner pertaining to a land use designation. The request was for the Town Center to be expanded to the South (Section 29) to accommodate a residential subdivision and/or golf course expansion. The Plan Commission, upon reviewing the request, recognized some merits of the request but felt more public input (specific to the proposal and area) should be received prior to recommending modifications to the Town Center. Based on their deliberation, the Plan Commission recommends that the Town Center remain as illustrated on the Land Use Map on page 2-9. However, in the future if the landowner makes a formal request (in the form of a request a change to the Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan) to the Town Board/Plan Commission for a development in Section 29 at that time the Town Board/Plan Commission will consider the possible expansion of the Town Center to the South.

It is important to understand that at this time the Plan Commission/Town Board are essentially “neutral” on the concept of expanding the Town Center to the south. However, based on public input (public hearing) that would be gained through the landowner’s request to modify the plan a final determination will be made based on the merits of the proposal and what is determined to be in the best interest of the Town.

Commercial/Industrial Uses

It was made clear by public input that large commercial and industrial development is not desired by residents in the Town of Barre. Commercial and industrial development desired by Town residents is of the type that currently exists in the Town (family or small businesses). In addition, light industrial uses versus heavy industrial uses are recommended in the Town of Barre and specifically in the Town Center. Input also indicated that commercial or light industrial sites should be concentrated near existing non-residential developments. Based on this input the Plan Commission recommends that future commercial/industrial uses be located within the Town Center. Two general locations in the Town Center have been designated as commercial areas. The first location is the intersection of County Road M and O. Existing commercial development is located at the intersection and the plan recommends the expansion of this commercial area. The second location is on County Road O just west of the intersection with County Road OA. At this location existing commercial development is comprised of a golf course/club house, banquet facilities and eating establishments. In general the plan recommends that when reviewing locations for future commercial/light industrial uses in the Town Center the Plan Commission and Town Board consider the following criteria:

- use are to be located adjacent to existing commercial/light industrial uses
- uses have direct access to a County Road facilities

Residential Development Outside of Town Center

Residential development located outside of the town center has historically taken place in three locations. To address the existing development patterns the three locations have been identified and designated as residential areas.

Wolter Rd. Section 21

Single family residential development has taken place in Section 21 adjacent to Wolter Rd. To address this historical development, the area has been designated Residential – 3 with

a recommended lot size of 1 to 5 acres per dwelling unit. This designation is consistent with the existing residential development.

Drectrah Rd. Sections 31 and 32

Similar residential development has taken place along Drectrah Rd. in Sections 31 and 32. On the Land Use Map this area has also been designated Residential – 3 with a recommended lot size of 1 to 5 acres per dwelling unit.

County Road O and County Road B Intersection

Another area of historical residential growth in the Town of Barre is the property around the intersection of County Road O and County Road B in Section 19 adjacent to the Town of Medary. A review of the Town of Medary's Land Use Plan shows that the Town of Medary has designated area adjacent to Section 19 as a residential growth area and recommends a 1 acre lot size per dwelling unit. Based on this review and historical development the Town of Barre Plan Commission designated an area in Section 19 as Residential - 3 for future small lot residential development.

In addition, on the land use map several small tracts in the Town have been designated as residential, commercial, etc. These designations for the most part reflect existing uses granted by previous re-zonings or historical development.

Land Use Districts (derived from the La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan)

The following land use districts were utilized in the preparation of the Town of Barre Land Use Map. The land use districts were developed by La Crosse County in the development of the La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan.

Rural Residential 3 - This district is generally intended for low-density suburban single-family detached residential development at a density of at least 1-5 acres per dwelling unit.

Commercial/Retail – This district includes area dedicated to the sale of goods or merchandise for personal or household consumption. Structures include neighborhood stores, or designated shopping districts such as a downtown area. Commercial districts may also include malls or areas of intensive transportation access, such as interchange areas off highways and interstates.

Public/Institutional – This district encompasses a range of public, social, and institutional uses. These uses are public or semi-public, and generally tax exempt. Specific uses include schools, libraries, parks, municipal buildings, emergency response and public safety buildings, health care facilities, travel-related facilities, places of worship, or other governmental lands.

Exclusive Agriculture- The purpose of the Exclusive Agriculture District is to preserve agricultural land for food and production; protect productive farmers by preventing conflicts between incompatible uses; maintain a viable agricultural base to support agricultural processing and service industries; reduce costs of providing services to scattered non-farm uses; promote orderly urban growth; implement the provisions of the County Farmland Preservation Plan when adopted and periodically revised; and comply with the provisions of the Farmland Preservation Law to permit eligible landowners to receive tax credits under ss. 71.09(11), Wis. Stats. A minimum lot size of 35 acres is recommended.

Mobile Home Court – This district includes accommodations for mobile homes, or manufactured housing. The structures are generally defined as those built in factories, rather than on site, that are delivered to the location where they are to be occupied.

Public Recreation – This district is intended for public land and water resources designated for recreation where people can engage in active and passive recreation activities.

Private Recreation – Private land designated for recreation (such as golf courses) where people go to engage in recreational activities.

The La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan/Town of Barre Land Use Element

It is the understanding of the Town of Barre that the land use map prepared by the town will be adopted by reference and recognized in the La Crosse County Plan. The County Land Use Map will designate areas in the Town of Barre in one of five broad land use categories (residential, non-residential, environmental, agriculture and rural, and public/institutional) based on the more detailed land use designations developed by the Town.

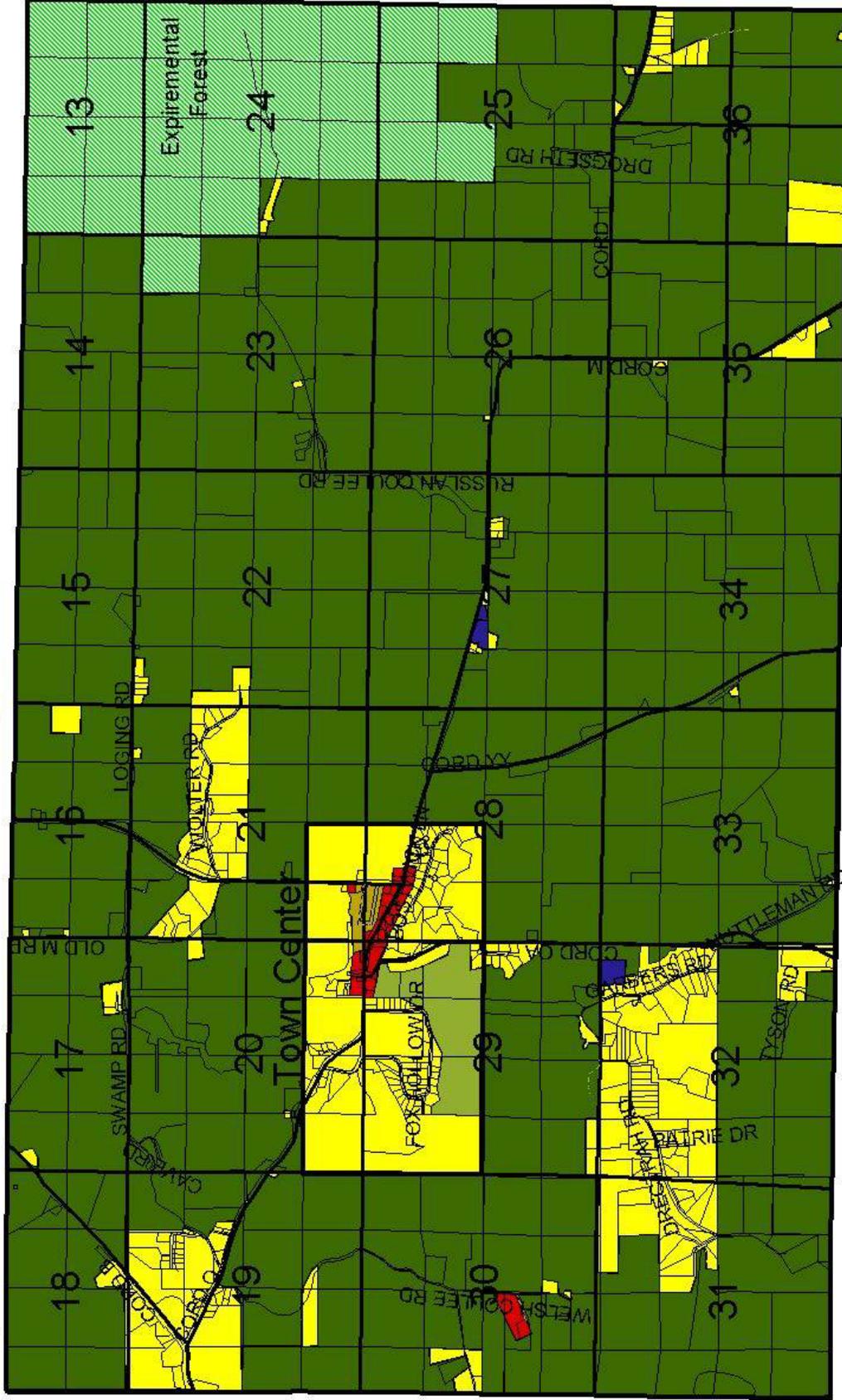
The La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan Land Use Element established ten year “plan review guidelines” for each town in La Crosse County. The guidelines were established to ensure development opportunities were available to all areas of La Crosse County. The guidelines also require communication between local units of government once an individual town meets a development benchmark. A 160 acre residential development guideline and a 40 acre non-residential development guideline were established for the Town of Barre in the La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan.

Addressing Existing/Potential Land Use Conflicts

An important part of the planning process is identifying land use conflicts and providing ways to minimize their impact. Previously in the plan in the Issues and Opportunity Element, the following existing and potential land use conflicts were identified. Below each existing/potential land use conflict is a description of the method utilized or recommended to address each item.

1. Ongoing conflicts between the desire to preserve the rural character and agricultural appearance of the town with increased development pressure and private property owner’s interests.
 - *The Plan Commission believes that the comprehensive planning process and development of a land use map is working to minimize this conflict. Future planning updates recommended at a minimum of once every 10 years will continue to address this issue.*
2. Identification of Smart Growth Areas
 - *This conflict is addressed in the development of Land Use Element by recommending that higher residential density be encouraged to be in the Town Center.*
3. Agricultural land uses and competing residential development pressure.
 - *This conflict is addressed by the development and implementation of the Town of Barre land use map which designates specific areas for agriculture preservation through utilization of the Exclusive Agriculture land use district. It is strongly recommended that future land use decisions are guided by and consistent with the land use map and comprehensive plan.*

Map 2-2.1 Town of Barre Land Use Map



- Land Use Districts
- Commerc./Ret
 - Exclusive Ag.
 - Mobile Home Ct.
 - Public/Inst.
 - Private Res.
 - Rural Res. 3
 - Public Rec.



0.3 0 0.3 0.6 Miles

Map prepared by:
Mississippi River Regional
Planning Commission
For the Town of Barre
November 2008

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3 HOUSING ELEMENT

The Housing Element of the Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan will help ensure there are adequate opportunities and locations for future housing and that the housing developed is consistent with the desire of residents. The element was prepared pursuant to Section 66.1001 Wisconsin Statutes and in doing so the element used analysis pertaining to the age, structural, value and occupancy characteristics of the Town of Barre's housing stock in an effort to meet the housing needs of residents and anticipated housing growth.

Housing Element Goals

The Town of Barre Planning Commission utilized the goals identified in State Statute and developed goals specific to the Town of Barre based on public input from surveys and public meeting participation from residents. As described in previous sections, in the context of this plan goals are broad statements that the Town of Barre desires to achieve. Following each goal are plan objectives, definitions, policies, programs/actions, etc. that are recommended to address each goal. The Town of Barre Planning Commission utilized the goals identified in State Statute and developed goals specific to the Town of Barre for the Housing Element. The following housing element goals, objectives, definitions, policies, programs/actions, etc. were developed:

Goal A *Encourage single-family housing in the Town and promote efficient development patterns.*

- a. It is not intended that this goal be viewed as a statement that encourages single-family housing throughout the entire town. It is intended that once suitable locations are identified and approved by the town for residential development (locations that do not threaten agriculture, the environment, or the rural landscape of the Town) that single-family dwellings be the recommended residential use.
- b. Residents indicated in survey responses that single-family housing is the most desired form of housing for the Town of Barre. This is consistent with the type of development that has occurred historically in the Town. Single-family housing is also most suitable for rural areas not served by public sewer and water. Therefore, the plan recommends that when proposed in suitable and planned locations that the town encourage single-family residential development proposals as opposed to multiple family, etc.
- c. During the planning process discussion about "smart housing" came up quite often. "Smart housing" was looked at in two ways, one focused on location of houses and efficient developments and is discussed under Goal 3. The other looked at the actual physical structure and size of homes. With regard to the physical structure and size of homes, it was expressed numerous times that people should become more conscious of exactly how much space they need as smaller homes would require less energy and materials to build and maintain. Homeowners should also become more aware of construction methods/materials that are more energy efficient/friendly. It is recommended that the Town when possible inform residents to consider "smart housing options". It is further recommended that Town consider developing a "green construction incentive" which could include reducing or waiving required park fees, etc.
- d. Multi-family housing developments make up a small portion of the housing stock in the Town of Barre. Such units are not more prevalent because the town is rural and has no areas served by a public sanitary sewer and water system. The Town of Barre recognizes that multi-family housing developments provide diversified housing opportunities. Therefore, the plan recommends that

communities within the region served by public sewer and water are the best location for future multi-family developments.

Goal B *Provide opportunities for elderly housing in the Town.*

- a. The Town of Barre and the La Crosse region are comprised of an aging population. Meeting input made it clear that opportunities for elderly/assisted living housing in the Town is important to consider when planning for the future. The Plan recommends that the Town of Barre work with La Crosse County planning officials and make every effort to promote housing development that is sensitive to the needs of older residents. The concept of “smart housing” (smaller more efficient homes) would assist in meeting this goal.
- b. As discussed in Goal 1, multi-family housing is not encouraged the Town of Barre due to lack of public sewer and water facilities. An exception to this would be in the case of elderly or assisted living multi-family developments. An exception can be justified as elderly households do not utilize large amounts of water or create large amounts of waste. If an elderly or assisted living facility is proposed for in the Town it is recommended that it be located in the Town Center where community facilities and services are available.
- c. Support activities of the La Crosse County Housing Commission in achieving its long and short term goals related to the creation of affordable housing for all age groups.

Goal C *Promote cluster housing developments.*

- a. *Promote and Define Cluster Development/ Conservation Subdivisions*
Another method to help preserve agricultural land is the promotion of cluster development/conservation subdivisions. A cluster/conservation subdivision can be described as a development with common open space and compact clustered lots. A purpose of cluster/conservation subdivisions is to preserve agricultural land/openspace/natural resources while allowing for residential development. Cluster/conservation subdivisions, when proposed/developed in the Town of Barre will minimize future maintenance and service costs for the Town, and the cluster/conservation subdivision will help preserve the rural character of the Town. In contrast, Traditional rural land use regulations and non-regulated rural developments typically create scattered development patterns resulting in development that consumes large amounts of land.

To encourage the development of cluster/conservation subdivisions, the Town of Barre plan recommends that cluster/conservation subdivisions be utilized as a land management tool when applicable. The Town of Barre must develop standards for cluster/conservation subdivisions that reflect the desired outcome of the planning process.

Goal D *Providing an adequate supply of affordable housing for individuals of all income levels throughout each community.*

- a. *Provide Opportunities for Single Family Housing for All Income Levels*
As the housing data illustrates in the Existing Conditions Report the Town of Barre is a rural town. One of the priorities of the Town of Barre in developing the comprehensive plan was to ensure programs and policies developed as part of the land use and housing elements maintained opportunities in the town for single family housing for all income levels (including low and moderate). The comprehensive plan maintains existing housing opportunities as it does not recommend the implementation of policies, programs or ordinances that could be viewed as exclusionary (such as minimum square footage,

minimum value, etc). The land use element does recommend areas for single-family housing development and ensures a suitable area for a private sanitary sewer system.

- b. A key to a stable and growing tax base is the construction and maintenance of new and existing housing. The quality of construction and proper maintenance of housing units will prolong the life of the structures, keep them safe and a vital part of the tax base. In 2003, the State of Wisconsin required that all units of government enforce the State of Wisconsin One and Two Family Building Code by providing housing inspections during construction. The Town of Barre complied with the state law and is continued support of the requirement to maintain the quality and safety of housing stock in the town. The implementation of the state building code also ensures that structures will meet minimum requirements to provide access to all age groups and residents with special needs.

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4 TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT

A planned transportation system coordinated with other agencies and local units of government is important to providing adequate and efficient transportation infrastructure and transportation services to area residents. This element of the Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan will identify transportation goals, objectives, programs and policies/actions, etc. that will guide the future transportation system for the Town of Barre.

Transportation Element Goals

The Town of Barre Planning Commission utilized the goals identified in State Statute and developed goals specific to the Town of Barre based on analysis of the existing transportation system and public input received during the planning process. As described previously, in the context of this plan goals are broad statements that the Town of Barre desires to achieve. Following each goal are plan objectives, definitions, policies, programs/actions, etc. that are recommended to address each goal. The following transportation goals, objectives, definitions, policies, programs/actions, etc. were established:

Goal A *Maintain the existing road network and level of service (road condition and road maintenance).*

- a. Survey and public meeting results indicated that residents were satisfied with the condition and maintenance (snow plowing, etc.) of town roads. It is therefore recommended that the Town of Barre Town Board continue annual road inspections and current budgeting practices to maintain the existing quality and level of service of existing roads.
- b. Continue to update the Town of Barre's Road System on State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR) program. Ongoing participation in the WISLR program efficiently facilitates the administration of road aid the Town of Barre receives.
- c. Historically, the Town of Barre has maintained informal agreements with neighboring towns on the maintenance of road segments that are more easily/efficiently maintained by an adjoining local unit of government. It is recommended that the informal agreements be formalized into documented "road maintenance sharing agreements" to ensure the services continue to be provided and any liability issues are addressed.

Goal B *Work to improve the safety of transportation facilities in the Town of Barre.*

- a. Speed of traffic was brought up as a concern by town residents. It is recommended that the Town Board relay these findings to the County Sheriffs Department and request action be taken to monitor/reduce the speed of travel on roads within the Town of Barre.
- b. Residents expressed concern regarding having wider shoulders on the Town's busiest roads. The purpose of wider shoulders would be to improve safety and allow for safer pedestrian/bicycle use. The Town's most traveled roads are County Highways. It is recommended that the Town continue a cooperative relationship with the County Highway Department and work with the county in improving county road facilities(wider road service/shoulder).

- c. The potential traffic impacts of proposed residential, commercial, or industrial developments on the existing road system were identified in the planning process as important to town residents. It is recommended that the Town Board develop and adopt an ordinance that addresses the impacts of a proposed road resulting from a new development on the capacity and safety of an existing road that it intersects or extends. It would be intended that if a development adds additional burden to the Town Road over the current ADT classification that the developer would be responsible for all the upgrade costs associated with the impacted road segments.
- d. It is recommended that the Town encourage future residential development along existing public road facilities in an effort to minimize the need for additional public road facilities. It is further recommended that when a new road is proposed that the Town require the developer be responsible for the cost and construction of the new facility. The road shall be required to meet Town road standards. In addition, construction should be done in a manner to cause the least disturbance to the environment, topography and unique natural areas.
- e. It is recommended that Town of Barre develop a policy (at the Town Boards discretion) requiring new developments to extend new or existing public roads or public road right-of-way/public road easement of 66 feet in width to the property line of adjacent land owners when deemed necessary to serve future land uses.

Goal C *Promote pedestrian/bicycle facilities (bike/ped. lanes/trails) in the Town.*

- a. It is recommended that the Town of Barre work with La Crosse County in identifying pedestrian/bicycle routes in and throughout the Town of Barre. It is also recommended that the Town of Barre routes tie into a County Trail system. Once routes are identified support efforts to develop bike/pedestrian access to the facilities.
- b. It is recommended that in order to prevent future tax increases, that new bike/ped. trails should not be constructed at the Town's expense. However, the Town should adopt a "bike/ped. friendly" view and in doing and as previously discussed allow wider shoulders that could be developed at limited expense or at the time when roads are constructed/reconstructed. It is further recommended that the Town pursue grant funding for bike/ped. trails when deemed in the best interest of the Town.
- c. La Crosse County has been considering wider paved shoulders on County Road OA to accommodate bike/ped. traffic. The Town of Barre is supportive of the wider shoulder on County Road OA as such facilities would provide bike/ped access to the Town Park from the Town Center identified on the land use map.

Goal D *Providing an integrated, efficient and economical transportation system that affords mobility, convenience and safety and that meets the needs of all citizens, including transit-dependent and disabled citizens.*

- a. As the median age of Town of Barre residents is significantly higher than the county, state and national median age trends, transportation options/services for elderly and disabled residents are important. It is recommended that the Town of Barre work with the county departments (aging unit, etc.) and neighboring local units of government and support the development of enhanced transportation services to residents in need. This could include the expansion of such services as the volunteer drivers program, mini-bus routes, etc.

Goal E *Encouragement of neighborhood designs that support a range of transportation choices.*

- a. To facilitate residential developments that support a range of transportation options it is recommended that cluster/conservation subdivisions as described in the Land Use Element be encouraged when possible. It is also recommended that when the Town of Barre develops standards associated with cluster/conservation subdivisions that the standards incorporated the needs of bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit dependent residents.
- b. It is recommended that the Town of Barre support rideshare and carpooling programs that could reduce traffic on Town and County road facilities.

Map 2-4.1 on the following page illustrates proposed transportation projects/programs in the Town of Barre.

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Map 2-4.1 Town of Barre Proposed Transportation Projects



Roads

- County Road
- Town Road
- Private Road

0.3 0 0.3 0.6 Miles

Map prepared by:
Mississippi River Regional
Planning Commission
For the Town of Barre
October 2008

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5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT

Economic development in the Town of Barre historically has focused on maintaining agricultural uses and enhancing the Town Center. In developing the Economic Development element for the Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan, Plan Commission members took into consideration several factors brought up by residents during the planning process. First, the general consensus of town residents was the desire to maintain the existing rural lifestyle in the Town of Barre. Secondly, as a limiting factor the Town does not have public water and sewer services that would be desired by most large commercial and industrial businesses. Third, residents identified agriculture and small localized businesses as important to maintain and promote in the Town.

Economic Development Element Goals

The economic development efforts illustrated in this plan are focused on preserving agriculture and small businesses that have played a key role in forming the present day Town of Barre. The Town of Barre Planning Commission utilized the goals identified in State Statute and developed goals specific to the Town of Barre for the Economic Development Element. As described in previous sections, in the context of this plan goals are broad statements that the Town of Barre desires to achieve. Following each goal are plan objectives, definitions, policies, programs/actions, etc. that are recommended to address each goal. The following economic development goals, objectives, definitions, policies, programs/actions, etc. were established:

Goal A *Encourage small niche businesses and home based businesses in the Town.*

a. **Home Businesses**

Home businesses were identified during the planning process as being important to the town's rural lifestyle. Home businesses being described as small home offices, craft outlets, repair businesses, etc. Generally, these businesses can be described as family operated, one to five employees and having a limited visual impact on the community. These businesses are often times important because they provide supplemental income to existing farm operations and allow the land to remain in productive agriculture rather than being sold to competing uses (residential) that may detract from the rural atmosphere.

- b. In this unique area niche businesses that cater to a particular need can be vital to a local economy. They may evolve from a particular use need in the community but flourish because of their uniqueness. It is recommended that the Town of Barre maintain policies and ordinances that encourage niche businesses.

c. **Recreation/Tourism**

Recreational uses and tourism were also identified during the planning process as businesses or opportunities to enhance the local economy. Passive recreation and tourism uses (fishing, sight seeing, biking, etc.) that will not detract from the rural qualities of the town would be the most desired uses. It is important that the town maintain the qualities that people are attracted to (scenery, rural atmosphere, etc.) in order for such uses to flourish.

d. **Small Commercial and Industrial Uses**

As discussed in the Land Use Element small commercial and industrial uses proposed in the Town of Barre are recommended to be in the Town Center and adjacent to existing commercial/industrial uses.

- e. Large Commercial/Industrial Uses
Large Commercial/Industrial Uses are recommended to be located in business/industrial parks in municipalities in the region in close proximity to the Town of Barre which have sufficient infrastructure to support large industrial uses. It is recommended that industrial development be encouraged to locate in these neighboring communities.

Goal B *Protection of economically productive areas, including farmland and forests.*

- a. Evaluate La Crosse County's proposed Purchase of Development Rights Program and determine if it would benefit the Town of Barre and preserve productive agricultural lands.
- b. Preserve Productive Agriculture Areas
The Town of Barre is a rural town and agriculture (animal agriculture, cash cropping, etc.) have been important to the local economy. Residents during the planning process have indicated that they wish for the Town to remain rural and that agriculture remain a vital part of the local economy. To accomplish this the plan recommends utilizing the Exclusive Agriculture District to preserve productive agricultural land.

Goal C *Promoting the expansion or stabilization of the current economic base and the creation of a range of employment opportunities at the state, regional and local levels.*

- a. It is recommended that at the discretion of the Town, require new commercial/residential developments to prepare a community impact analysis which illustrates the impact of the proposed development on the town's transportation system, area school systems, tax base and any other information the town determines necessary.
- b. Work to enhance the economic strengths and minimize the economic weaknesses of the Town of Barre as identified in Chapter 5 of the Existing Conditions Report. Specifically, work cooperatively with local business organizations (La Crosse Area Development Corporation, Etc.) and adjacent units of government on economic development issues with the realization that each unit of government is a component of the regional economy. In addition, through land use planning activities maintain the Towns productive agricultural land, low housing densities, and natural/recreational resources.

- c. Continue to monitor County, Regional and State programs that promote the desired businesses identified during the planning process by town residents. Specific programs to promote/monitor:

County Programs

La Crosse County Business Fund

State Programs

Wisconsin Department of Transportation Local Transportation Enhancements Program (TE)

Value Added Dairy Initiative (Grow Wisconsin)

Wisconsin Department of Commerce Milk Volume Production Program

Wisconsin Department of Commerce Dairy 2020 Planning Grant Program

Wisconsin Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Program

Wisconsin Department of Commerce Entrepreneurial training Grant

6 UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES ELEMENT

This chapter of the plan will address the utilities and community facilities for the Town of Barre. Public input regarding utilities and community facilities indicated residents realize the Town of Barre is small, primarily rural town and therefore limited in services that can be provided. However, residents were generally satisfied with the level and delivery of services provided by the Town. Looking into the future the and planning for utilities and community facilities the Town of Barre will strive to maintain services to the satisfaction of residents.

Utilities and Community Facilities Goals

The Town of Barre Planning Commission utilized the goals identified in State Statute and developed goals specific to the Town of Barre based on analysis of the existing community facilities and public input received during the planning process. As described in previous sections, in the context of this plan goals are broad statements that the Town of Barre desires to achieve. Following each goal are plan objectives, definitions, policies, programs/actions, etc. that are recommended to address each goal. The following utilities and community facilities goals, objectives, definitions, policies, programs/actions, etc. were developed:

Goal A *Continue to develop and enhance the Town of Barre Park.*

- a. In 2006 the Town of Barre purchased land for a seven acre Town Park. A Town of Barre Parks Committee oversees the development of the park. During the planning process there was strong community support for the continued development of the Park. The majority of the seven acre park will be dedicated to passive recreation including a ½ mile handi-capped accessible multi-use interpretive trail (walking, hiking, jogging, cross country skiing, nature interpretation, etc), a 64'x30' park shelter with restrooms, handi-capped fishing accessibility to Garbers Coulee Creek, and a picnic area. Two acres of the park will be utilized for more active recreation (baseball, softball, volleyball, soccer, basketball, etc.). It is recommended that the Town of Barre continue to develop the park and expand recreational opportunities in the Town.
- b. The creation of a parks committee by the Town Board was vital to the purchase of the park property. It is recommended that the Park Committee remain in tact and continue the development of the park and expand recreation opportunities throughout the Town.

Goal B *Monitor the changing needs of the Town of Barre and provide adequate community facilities as needed.*

- a. It is recommended that when the Comprehensive Plan is updated that communication with residents is facilitated to determine if the utility and community facility needs of residents are continuing to be met. This communication can be in the form of a survey or public meeting(s).
- b. Do not extend public facilities into wetlands, steep slopes, etc. that would require significant future maintenance costs.

Goal C *Providing adequate infrastructure and public services and an adequate supply of developable land to meet existing and future market demand for residential, commercial and industrial uses.*

- a. The 1994 Town of Barre plan detailed the following policy which is recommended to be continued throughout the planning period. The Town of Barre, as an official policy, will not promote nor encourage additional residential, commercial, or industrial development or growth within the Town. Such development as may occur due to natural market decisions will be expected to be self-supporting in terms of any public services provided by the Town such as streets, water, sewer, trash collection, or other public services and infrastructure.
- b. This goal is addressed in the Land Use and Transportation Elements by designating areas suitable for development and requiring developers to cover infrastructure costs associated with new development.
- c. Continue to monitor the growth of the Town of Barre to ensure the new development does not affect the ability of the Town to provide community services. Expansion of Town services will be undertaken only when a clear need is identified and that protection of public health, safety, and welfare of the Town are important criteria upon which to base future investments.
- d. During the planning process residents indicated that they were satisfied with the existing level of public services provided by the Town of Barre. As a policy the plan recommends that the Town Board strive to maintain the existing level of services over the planning period within the constraints of the budget.
- e. Explore joint purchases and sharing of materials/equipment with neighboring municipalities in order to provide community services in the most efficient manner possible.
- f. Develop or refine ordinances/policies to make sure future development projects pay for additional burdens placed on public facilities as a result of a new development. Methods to consider ensuring expenses are covered include; development review fees, special assessments, transportation impact fees, etc.

7 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION ELEMENT

This chapter of the plan will address the intergovernmental cooperation of the Town of Barre, with State and Federal agencies and neighboring municipal jurisdictions and/or agencies. The Town of Barre realizes the advantages of working with its neighbors and will attempt to identify opportunities to enhance those relationships in this plan element.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals

The Town of Barre Planning Commission utilized the goals identified in State Statute and developed goals specific to the Town of Barre. As described in previous sections, in the context of this plan goals are broad statements that the Town of Barre desires to achieve. Following each goal are plan objectives, definitions, policies, programs/actions, etc. that are recommended to address each goal. The following intergovernmental cooperation goals, objectives, definitions, policies, programs/actions, etc. were developed:

Goal A *Maintain the Town of Barre's identity.*

- a. One of the main concerns identified by residents during the planning process was maintaining the Town of Barre's identity. Concerns over urban encroachment, annexations and extraterritorial zoning were expressed. In an effort to maintain the Town of Barre's identity, the Land Use Map encourages the continued development of a "Town Center" which will help maintain the Town's sense of a rural community. The Land Use Map also designates large tracts of land as Exclusive Agriculture. This will not only preserve farmland, but deter suburban development in the Town of Barre, thus preserving the uniqueness of the Town and its community center. It is recommended that the initiatives in the Land Use Element be followed as these actions if implemented will assist in securing the Town's future.
- b. It is important that the Town of Barre remain in contact and review the comprehensive plans of its municipal neighbors to in order to continually monitor and discuss future development in the area to ensure in meets the goals of the Town of Barre's Comprehensive plan.
- c. Recommendations of the Plan Commission in the Land Use Element recommended that higher density residential development and large commercial and industrial development be located in municipalities with adequate infrastructure, therefore, it will be important that the Town of Barre continue cooperation with other local units of government in the regional community to ensure locations for the varying types of development referred to are available. It was made clear by residents that these uses were not desired or practical to be developed in the Town of Barre and accommodating such uses would essentially facilitate the urbanization of the Town of Barre.
- d. The creation of a Parks Committee and development of a Town Park has been a successful and galvanizing community project. Such committee's and activities help to maintain a sense of community amongst residents. It is recommended that the Parks Committee remain active in projects that support the Town of Barre.
- e. It is recommended that the Town Board and Plan Commission gather information on tax increases on city annexed properties and educate voters at a time when annexation threatens.

Goal B *Maintain cooperative agreements for fire protection and emergency services with adjoining units of government.*

- a. Maintaining fire protection and emergency services was a high priority of Town residents. It is recommended that the Town maintain existing fire protection and emergency services and continue to explore ways to improve such services.
- b. Continue to maintain county administered zoning and police protection. It is recommended that the Town of Barre continue to utilize the administrative capabilities of the county with regard to Zoning Ordinance administration and protective services.

Goal C *Encouragement of coordination and cooperation among nearby units of government.*

- a. As discussed in the Transportation Element, it is recommended that the Town of Barre formalize “road maintenance sharing agreements” with neighboring towns to ensure the services continue to be provided efficiently and any liability issues are addressed.
- b. Utilize the La Crosse County Planning Departments website capabilities/links to provide information regarding the Town of Barre to interested residents and neighboring municipalities.
- c. Review and evaluate neighboring towns comprehensive plans. It is recommended that the Town of Barre reviews and evaluates the comprehensive plans of neighboring governmental units as they are developed or revised in order to identify areas of potential conflict and/or coordination opportunities.
- d. Continue to review and remain active in the La Crosse County Comprehensive Planning process. It is recommended that the Town of Barre reviews and evaluates the La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan as it is developed and revised in order to identify areas of potential conflict and/or coordination opportunities.
- e. Strive to maintain an open dialogue with school districts serving the Town of Barre in order to evaluate the school districts facility/educational needs.
- f. Continue to be an active member of the La Crosse County Towns Association. Attending meetings of the La Crosse County Towns Association is important to the Town of Barre in maintaining open dialogue with its neighboring towns and county agencies. Membership in this association and meeting attendance will be important in identifying and resolving any conflicts that may arise with neighboring towns by providing a forum for communication. Therefore, the plan recommends the Town Board continued attendance at Towns Association meetings.
- g. It is recommended that the Town of Barre maintain open communication with the County Highway Department, WDOT, and neighboring towns. The intent of this policy is to facilitate open communication among agencies and governmental units to find efficiencies in road construction and maintenance responsibilities. The Town of Barre continuing to maintain active communications with the WDOT, County Highway Department and neighboring towns will implement the policy.
- h. Support county and regional economic development efforts to improve the local economy by increasing the number of employment opportunities and tax base.
- i. Continued participation in the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's WISLER program will ensure future state funding and assist in identifying budgeting efficiencies.

- j. It is recommended that the Town Board continue to stress to state and federal officials the impact of current tax codes on local units of government and residents.

Addressing Existing/Potential Conflicts

An important part of the planning process is identifying potential conflicts between various government jurisdictions and providing ways to address them. Previously in the plan, existing and potential land use conflicts were identified in the Land Use Element along with a method to address the conflicts. No additional intergovernmental conflicts were identified during the planning process. The Town of Barre will continue to monitor actions of neighboring or overlapping governmental jurisdictions during the planning period (such as neighboring towns and school districts). If any such conflicts are identified the Town of Barre Town Board will request to meet with the neighboring or overlapping jurisdiction to address and resolve any potential conflict. Map 1-6.1 in the Existing Conditions Report identifies overlapping jurisdictions and potential areas for joint planning.

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8 AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

The Agricultural, Natural & Cultural Resources Element for the Town of Barre was prepared pursuant to Section 66.1001 Wisconsin Statutes and in doing took into consideration input from residents and identified methods to enhance and preserve the agricultural, natural and cultural resources of the town. The Town of Barre is fortunate to have an abundance of natural resources. The Town also has a rich cultural history dating from prehistoric times to the early German and Norwegian settlers. The Town of Barre recognizes these assets and the importance of preserving them.

Agricultural, Natural & Cultural Resources Goals

Public participation was key in the planning process in developing the Agricultural, Natural & Cultural Resources element goals. In the context of this plan goals are broad statements that the Town of Barre desires to achieve. Following each goal are plan objectives, definitions, policies, programs/actions, etc. that are recommended to address each goal. The Town of Barre Planning Commission utilized the goals identified in State Statute and developed goals specific to the Town of Barre for the Agricultural, Natural & Cultural Resources Element. The following agricultural, natural and cultural resources element goals, objectives, definitions, policies, programs/actions, etc. were developed:

Goal A *Protect surface and groundwater quality of the Town.*

- a. To assist in preserving water quality and as stated in the Land Use Element it is recommended that development (building/driveway construction) be prohibited on slopes greater than 30% to preserve bluffs and minimize soil erosion. The Town of Barre supports limiting development on slopes between 20%-30%. It is recommended that developments (building/driveway construction) requested on slopes between 20%-30% be required to receive a conditional use/special exception permit that will address erosion control, emergency access, and any additional site conditions deemed applicable by the reviewing bodies. Developments (building/driveway construction) on slopes less than 20% would be considered permitted and would only require standard building/zoning permits.
- b. Promote the use of Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP'S) by landowners and agricultural producers in the Town of Barre.
- c. It is recommended that development continue to be prohibited in wetland/flood plain areas by the continued enforcement of existing ordinances.
- d. Encourage residents to properly maintain private on-site sewer systems and private wells to protect the environment and future ground water supplies.

Goal B *Preserve farmland and enhance the agriculture economic base.*

- a. The preservation of farmland was signified by town residents at public meetings and in opinion surveys as one of the most important resources to preserve in the Town of Barre. The Town of Barre and its residents realize it is critical to the local economy and economic base that farmland is preserved. The Town of Barre is fortunate to have some of the best and productive soils in La Crosse County. The Land Use Element identified numerous tools to preserve farmland such as utilizing the Exclusive Agriculture District, minimizing rural development, promoting cluster development, exploring the County's PDR program, etc. In this Agricultural, Natural & Cultural Resources Element the Town

reiterates its support for the policies and programs detailed in the Land Use Element to preserve Farmland.

Goal C *Preserve and enhance public lands and recreational opportunities in the Town of Barre.*

- a. As discussed in Utilities and Community Facilities Element, over the past several years the Town of Barre has been in the process of acquiring land and developing of a Town Park. In this plan element the Town reiterates its support for the development of the Town of Barre Park as it meets the planning goal of enhancing public lands for increased recreational opportunities.
- b. Experimental Forest was identified as a significant recreational resource for the Town of Barre. The plan recommends that the Town work with La Crosse County and the Department of Natural Resources to ensure the Experimental Forest continues to be maintained and remain open to the public for recreational purposes.
- c. Continue to work with La Crosse County every five years on the updates to the La Crosse County Outdoor Recreation Plan. Participation in the plan will assist in receiving grant funding assistance for improvements to the Town of Barre Park. Participation and approval of the La Crosse County Outdoor Recreation Plan maintains the Town's eligibility for DNR recreational grant funding.
- d. Numerous trout streams are located in the Town of Barre. The plan recommends that Town support policies, projects and ordinances that will maintain and improve the creeks and streams in the Town of Barre as these features are recognized as important recreational resources.

Goal D *Protection of natural areas, including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes, woodlands, open spaces, and groundwater resources.*

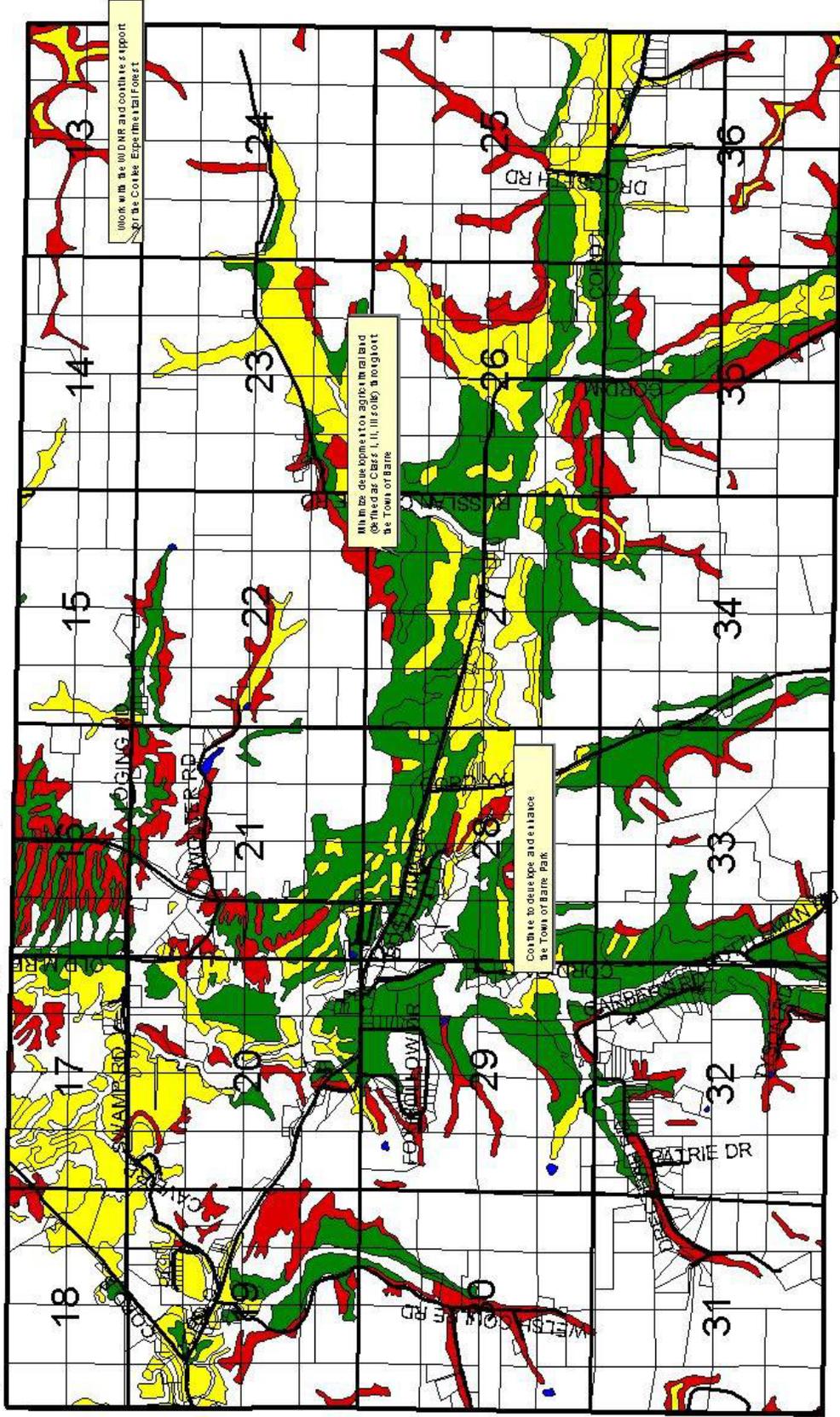
- a. Promotion of Forest Best Management Practices (BMP'S)
Woodlots and forested slopes enhance the town's natural beauty and provide excellent habitat for wildlife. In addition, the hardwood forests support the local economy by providing valuable forest products. The Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan recommends that landowners utilize Forest Best Management Practices in maintaining the town's forests and woodlots. Forest BMP's will enhance woodlots and forested lands and ensure they remain a valuable natural resource. BMP's will also reduce erosion on the town's forested hillsides.

Goal E *Preservation of cultural, historic and archaeological sites.*

- a. It is recommended that development be avoided on lands that are of cultural, religious, or historical significance. This can be achieved by reviewing State Historical Society databases pertaining to historic structures and sites prior to approving development proposals.
- b. It is recommended that the Town of Barre support the preservation of existing cultural and historic sites and activities in the Town (cemeteries, historic structures, etc.)

Map 2-8.1 on the following page illustrates agricultural, natural and cultural resources in the Town of Barre.

Map 2-8.1 Town of Barre Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Preservation Map



Soils

- Class I
- Class II
- Class III
- Class IV-VIII
- Water

Description of Soil Classes
 Capability grouping shows generally the suitability of soils for most kinds of crops. In the capability system kinds of soils are grouped at three levels with "capability classes" being the broadest grouping. Soils are designated in one of eight broad classes. Class I soils have few limitations that restrict their use. Class II soils have moderate limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require moderate conservation practices. Class III soils have severe limitations that limit the choice of plants and require special conservation practices. Class IV-VIII soils have increasingly severe limitations that generally make the lower classes unsuitable for cultivation.



Map prepared by:
 Mississippi River Regional
 Planning Commission For the
 Town of Barre October 2008

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9 IMPLEMENTATION ELEMENT

This element of the plan will address the implementation of the Town of Barre comprehensive plan. The State of Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Law requires the Implementation Element to include a list of specific programs and actions to be completed that will implement the objectives, policies, plans and programs identified in the plan. The element is required to state how each of the elements of the plan are integrated and made consistent with each other, identify a mechanism to measure the local governments progress toward achieving the plan, and the element shall include a process for updating the plan.

By 2010, if a local government unit engages in official mapping, local subdivision regulations, zoning ordinances, and zoning of shorelands or wetlands those actions must be consistent with the local unit of governments comprehensive plan. The adoption of this plan will ensure all regulatory activities are conducted within the requirements of Wisconsin State Statutes.

Consistency Among Plan Elements

Wisconsin Statutes requires a discussion of how the plan will remain consistent across elements. The planning process established the Town Plan Commission as the governmental body that would oversee the development of all the planning elements. This process ensured that there are no known inconsistencies across planning elements. During the planning process members of the Town Board periodically attended meetings, this participation helped ensure plan consistency with existing town policy. In addition, plan copies were forwarded to La Crosse County and the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission to ensure the document remains consistent with the planning activities in La Crosse County and the region.

Plan Adoption

It is important to understand that the plan will only be as good as its implementation. Adoption of the Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan is the first step in implementing the plan. The Plan Commission will recommend approval of the plan to the Town Board by resolution. The Town Board must then adopt the plan by ordinance in order to enact the plan. Once adopted the plan will serve as a framework and guide for the development of the town over the next 20 years.

Plan Monitoring and Plan Updates

The Plan Commission and Town Board will be the primary bodies responsible for implementing and monitoring the plan over the 20-year planning period. Updates and revisions to the plan will also be the responsibility of Plan Commission and Town Board and done in accordance to Wisconsin State Statute requirements at a minimum on once every 10 years. The success of the plan will be measured by the degree to which the planning goals are achieved through evaluation during plan updates. In addition, as part of the plan updates the Plan Commission, Town Board and residents will evaluate the progress made in meeting the implementation schedule included in this element.

It is further recommended that the Town Board annually at its February meeting review the "Implementation Schedule" to evaluate progress of plan implementation.

Implementation Element Goals

In addition to Comprehensive Planning Law requirements, through the public participation planning process the following Implementation goals were established for the Town of Barre. As described in previous sections, in the context of this plan goals are broad statements that the Town of Barre desires to achieve.

Following each goal are associated policies, programs/actions, etc. that are recommended to address each goal.

Goal A Identify policies and programs to implement recommendations of the comprehensive plan.

- a. In the previous plan elements, policies, programs/actions, etc. were identified. The Implementation Element attempts to organize the policies, programs/actions, etc. in an organized and meaningful schedule. An implementation schedule has been created and listed in the following section of this element.

Goal B *Continue to provide the opportunity for public input throughout the planning process and future updates.*

- a. The Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan will be updated at a minimum once every 10 years. During the plan update process resident involvement will be incorporated by notification of public meetings, updated surveys and a public hearing being held on any modifications. The plan update will include measuring plan performance at achieving goals, revising statistical information, updating projections and analysis of past projections. The final stage of the update process will include revising and/or updating implementation strategies to meet the changing needs of the Town.
- b. Plan objectives, definitions, policies, programs/actions, etc. recommended for development and implementation as a result of the planning process will be developed and/or approved by the Town Board and/or the Town Plan Commission both of which hold public meetings that are open to the public to attend and comment.

Goal C *Building community identity by revitalizing main streets and enforcing design standards.*

- a. As described throughout the planning process the Town of Barre is a rural town with no main street or specific design standards. However, the Town does have a rural identity of which its residents wish to maintain. The recommendations in the Land Use Element specifically address methods to maintain the Town's rural nature/identity. In addition, the plan recommends continued cooperation with the La Crosse County Zoning Department in the administration of county zoning ordinances in the Town.

Implementation Schedule

The following implementation schedule has been developed for the Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan. Items identified in previous elements that require action by the Plan Commission or Town Board over the planning period have been scheduled. General policies that will guide the future development of the Town of Barre are not included in the implementation schedule. It is recommended that a full review of applicable plan elements be conducted when evaluating future development proposals.

Actions to be implemented 2009-2019

Land Use Element

Page 2-1, 2-2 Residential Housing in Exclusive Agriculture Areas To implement density recommendations, it will be necessary for the Town of Barre to maintain a record of new housing units constructed in Exclusive Agriculture areas as a result of a rezoning. To accomplish this the following actions are recommended:

1. Require property owners requesting a rezoning for residential use (a house on less than 35 acres) in an Exclusive Agriculture area to provide the ownership history (recorded deeds) of the property back to the adoption date of The Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan.
2. If the rezoning is approved, maintain a record of the rezoning and the number of housing units still allowed for the parent parcel based on the density calculations described on Page 2-2.
3. Once it is determined based on 1 and 2 above that no further housing units are permitted to be constructed based on the density rate of the parent parcel, at the discretion of the Town Board the property owner must record an affidavit restricting (or other enforceable document) restricting further residential development on the property.

Page 2-3 Further define Conservation Subdivisions and develop a Conservation Subdivision Ordinance in conjunction with La Crosse County

Page 2-3 Utilize public input in the planning process and update the comprehensive plan a minimum of once every 10 years.

Page 2-4 Public input during the planning process encouraged a bike/ped. connection between the Town Center and the Town of Barre Park (other than County OA). It is recommended that the Town work with landowners, La Crosse County and the Park Committee in developing a trail to connect the two areas. It is further recommended that grant trail funding be pursued as a means to off set the cost of such a project.

Housing Element

Page 3-2 The Town of Barre and the La Crosse region are comprised of an aging population. Meeting input made it clear that opportunities for elderly/assisted living housing in the Town is important to consider when planning for the future. The Plan recommends that the Town of Barre work with La Crosse County planning officials and make every effort to promote housing development that is sensitive to the needs of older residents. The concept of “smart housing” (smaller more efficient homes) would assist in meeting this goal.

Page 3-3 Continue enforcement of the State of Wisconsin One and Two Family Building Code

Transportation Element

Page 4-1 Biannually update the Town of Barre's Road System on State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR) program.

Page 4-1 It is recommended that the informal agreements be formalized into documented “road maintenance sharing agreements” to ensure the services continue to be provided and any liability issues are addressed.

Page 4-1 Speed of traffic was brought up as a concern by town residents. It is recommended that the Town Board relay these findings to the County Sheriffs Department and request action be taken to monitor/reduce the speed of travel on roads within the Town of Barre.

Page 4-2 The potential traffic impacts of proposed residential, commercial, or industrial developments on the existing road system were identified in the planning process as important to town residents. It is recommended that the Town Board develop and adopt an ordinance that addresses the impacts of a proposed road resulting from a new development on the capacity and safety of an existing road that it intersects or extends. It would be intended that if a development adds additional burden to the Town Road over the current ADT classification that the developer would be responsible for all the upgrade costs associated with the impacted road segments.

Page 4-2 It is recommended that Town of Barre develop a policy (at the Town Boards discretion) requiring new developments to extend new or existing public roads or public road right-of-way/public road easement of 66 feet in width to the property line of adjacent land owners when deemed necessary to serve future land uses.

Page 4-2 It is recommended that the Town of Barre work with La Crosse County in identifying pedestrian/bicycle routes in and throughout the Town of Barre. It is also recommended that the Town of Barre routes tie into a County Trail system. Once routes are identified support efforts to develop bike/pedestrian access to the facilities.

Economic Development Element

Page 5-1 Recommend to the La Crosse County Zoning Department that when revising the comprehensive zoning ordinance agricultural districts that home/small businesses be defined and considered as conditional uses in the agricultural districts.

Page 5-2 Evaluate La Crosse County's proposed Purchase of Development Rights Program and determine if it would benefit the Town of Barre and preserve productive agricultural lands.

Page 5-2 It is recommended that at the discretion of the Town, require new commercial/residential developments to prepare a community impact analysis which illustrates the impact of the proposed development on the town's transportation system, area school systems, tax base and any other information the town determines necessary.

Utilities and Community Facilities Element

Page 6-1 It is recommended that the Town of Barre continue to develop the park and expand recreational opportunities in the Town.

Page 6-2 The 1994 Town of Barre plan detailed the following policy which is recommended to be continued throughout the planning period. The Town of Barre, as an official policy, will not promote nor encourage additional residential, commercial, or industrial development or growth within the Town. Such development as may occur due to natural market decisions will be expected to be self-supporting in terms of any public services provided by the Town such as streets, water, sewer, trash collection, or other public services and infrastructure.

Page 6-2 Explore joint purchases and sharing of materials/equipment with neighboring municipalities in order to provide community services in the most efficient manner possible.

Page 6-2 Develop or refine ordinances/policies to make sure future development projects pay for additional burdens placed on public facilities as a result of a new development. Methods to consider ensuring expenses are covered include; development review fees, special assessments, transportation impact fees, etc.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Element

Page 7-1 Recommendations of the Plan Commission in the Land Use Element recommended that higher density residential development and large commercial and industrial development be located in municipalities with adequate infrastructure, therefore, it will be important that the Town of Barre continue cooperation with other local units of government in the regional community to ensure locations for the varying types of development referred to are available. It was made clear by residents that these uses were not desired or practical to be developed in the Town of Barre and accommodating such uses would essentially facilitate the urbanization of the Town of Barre.

Page 7-2 Continue to maintain county administered zoning and police protection. It is recommended that the Town of Barre continue to utilize the administrative capabilities of the county with regard to Zoning Ordinance administration and protective services.

Page 7-2 It is recommended that the Town of Barre be an active participant in the revision of the La Crosse County Zoning Ordinance to ensure recommendations in the Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan are included.

Page 7-2 Review and evaluate neighboring towns comprehensive plans. It is recommended that the Town of Barre reviews and evaluates the comprehensive plans of neighboring governmental units as they are developed or revised in order to identify areas of potential conflict and/or coordination opportunities.

Agriculture, Natural and Cultural Resources Element

Page 8-2 Experimental Forest was identified as a significant recreational resource for the Town of Barre. The plan recommends that the Town work with La Crosse County and the Department of Natural Resources to ensure the Experimental Forest continues to be maintained and remain open to the public for recreational purposes.

Page 8-2 Continue to work with La Crosse County every five years on the updates to the La Crosse County Outdoor Recreation Plan. Participation in the plan will assist in receiving grant funding assistance for improvements to the Town of Barre Park. Participation and approval of the La Crosse County Outdoor Recreation Plan maintains the Town's eligibility for DNR recreational grant funding.

Page 8-2 Numerous trout streams are located in the Town of Barre. The plan recommends that Town support policies, projects and ordinances that will maintain and improve the creeks and streams in the Town of Barre as these features are recognized as important recreational resources.

Appendix A

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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
FOR THE
TOWN OF BARRE
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PROCESS**

I. Introduction.

The Town of Barre is in the process of updating the Town’s Comprehensive Plan pursuant to the State’s Comprehensive Planning Law, Section 66.1001 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Section 66.1001(4)(a) of Wisconsin Statutes specifically requires the governing body of the local government unit to adopt written procedures designed to foster public participation, including open discussions, communication programs, information services, and public meetings for which advance notice has been provided, in every stage in the preparation of the comprehensive plan. These written procedures contained within this Public Participation Plan (hereinafter referred to as the “Plan”) satisfy this requirement. This Plan will guide public participation throughout the Town of Barre’s Comprehensive Planning Process.

This Public Participation Program offers all citizens, businesses, interest groups, affected units of government, and other parties a range of opportunities to participate through the planning process in a meaningful way to shape the future of the Town. Effective public input is critical for the success of this planning process because it is our citizens, businesses, and groups that will experience the Plan’s costs and benefits on a daily basis for many years. This Plan will, in part, determine where and how our residents live, work and play, and how they travel from one place to another.

The participation program encourages people to participate in the planning process and is designed to maximize the effectiveness of their contributions. Public input opportunities are open to everyone with a stake in the outcome of the comprehensive plan. The participation opportunities are available to a wide range of citizens—people with different incomes, races, ages, and occupations—in all stages of the planning process.

The public participation process will:

- Ensure all planning decisions are open to public comment;
- Produce better planning decisions;
- Support and add credibility to all Town decision-making processes;
- Provide opportunities to disseminate information about the Plan and process to all segments of the Town;
- Strengthen the relationship between our decision makers and citizens; and,
- Develop a shared vision for the future of The Town of Barre and La Crosse County.

II. Public Participation Opportunities.

The Town of Barre has established the following list of public participation opportunities. This collection of opportunities will meet both the letter and spirit of Wisconsin’s Comprehensive Planning Legislation and will include the following:

1. Community Survey.

To facilitate public awareness of the planning process a community survey was distributed to all Town of Barre landowners. The survey obtained public opinions and preferences on key subjects addressed in each of the nine comprehensive plan elements.

2. Visioning Meeting 1: Issue Identification.

The visioning meeting will create public awareness and provide education about the planning process. It will also facilitate a goal setting exercise. Meeting attendee’s will participate in an exercise that will identify issues and opportunities that should be addressed in the comprehensive planning process. The

results of this exercise will provide the foundation for the development of project and community goals and objectives.

3. Stakeholder Interviews.

The Town Planning Commission and/or designee may conduct interviews with residents and stakeholders to gain additional input and support for the comprehensive planning process.

4. Website.

The Town of Barre will post on its website the Comprehensive Plan and planning process information. This information may include the project schedule, agendas, draft plan elements and reports, maps, photographs, updates and survey results.

5. Past Planning Accomplishments

The Planning Commission and Town Board throughout the planning process will inform residents and meeting attendee's of past planning efforts and planning documents. The information provided will be utilized in developing the Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan.

6. Public Comments.

The Town Board and the Planning Commission will always welcome written comments regarding issues presented. Direct written responses will be made where a response is appropriate. Comments will always be addressed and discussed at meetings.

7. La Crosse County Planning Information

La Crosse County is in the process of preparing the La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan. In preparing the County plan residents in the Town of Barre expressed their opinions in the form of public meeting input and resident surveys. The Town of Barre will utilize this information gathered by the County planning process to aid in the development of the Town plan.

8. Meeting Notices.

The Town of Barre will post meeting notices for each meeting and event in a timely manner at accessible locations, and the notices will meet the requirements for proper notification regarding date, time, location, etc.

9. Planning Commission Meetings.

The nine elements of the Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan will be developed at a series of meetings of the Town of Barre Planning Commission. The meetings, unless otherwise noted, will be open to the public and allow opportunities for public comments. The meetings will focus on the development of plans, policies, and programs to implement the community defined vision.

10. Open House to Review Draft Plan.

The Comprehensive Planning Law requires municipalities to hold at least one (1) formal public hearing with a Class 1 public notice prior to adoption of the "Final Comprehensive Plan." Prior to adoption of the Final Comprehensive Plan, the Town of Barre will conduct an open house that will be chaired by the Planning Commission. The intent of the community open house is to provide an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the complete "Draft Comprehensive Plan."

11. Public Hearing on Final Plan Adoption.

The final step in the Plan adoption process is for the Town Board to hold a public hearing on the proposed "Final Comprehensive Plan" adoption ordinance and the "Final Comprehensive Plan" document. The Town Board is required to consider any comments received on the Recommended Comprehensive Plan prior to adopting a Final Comprehensive Plan. After adoption of the ordinance for the Final

Comprehensive Plan, the Plan and adoption ordinance shall be distributed by the Town to recipients listed in Section 66.1001(4)(b) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

12. Other.

Planning is a continuous process that does not end with the adoption of the Plan. Unforeseen issues at the time this Plan was prepared, or as future issues arise, the Planning Commission may organize additional public participation activities or as it considers specific planning issues and amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. The topics of the meetings or open houses will depend on these issues and will be designed to feature opportunities for public education, input, and interaction.

III.

Adoption.

This Plan was adopted by the Town of Barre Board on this _____ day of _____, 2007.

(SEAL)

Town Chairman

Town Clerk

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Appendix B

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Town of Barre Planning Information Meeting – January 10, 2008
Responses to Issue Identification Exercise

Response No. by Group	Response * = indicates top 3 issues identified
LAND USE	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ability to sell land as you want as owner – fair enterprise * Preserve environment * Good planning: environment, transportation, water etc. Off road trails: bike path Responsible waste control Larger golf course – improvement Designate commercial land Urban sprawl Preserve woodland Centralized growth No limit on growth Recreation land use utilizing nature
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Loss of agricultural land - development * Land owner rights/economic value * Not allowing land use to divide community Public usage Commercial development Conservancy/preservation of wetlands, etc. Overdevelopment Multi-family housing/affordable housing Recreational opportunities Large scale farming
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Keeping area mainly agriculture * No large commercial development * Mostly single family dwellings not rental units No housing on steep grades Keep larger lots in developments No more mobile home parks – or expansion developing park area
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No more industry * Keep government regulation in sale of land to a minimum * Keep farmers doing a good job following conservation plans Place some limits on development Keep agricultural land agricultural Consider adding bike trails, other recreational facilities
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficient use of land – maximize tax potential Lower number of acres to build on (at least 10 houses per 35 acres) Why can't I do with my land what I want when I get older and can't farm?

Response No. by Group	Response * = indicates top 3 issues identified
TRANSPORTATION	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Bike paths and walking * Maintain roadway maintenance * Share ride (carpooling and elderly ride share) Update highways (County) High traffic Minimal tax impact on new transportation Speed enforcement
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Condition of County and Town roads * Additional traffic * Safety Issues Cost of maintenance Outside funding Speed limits
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Wider roads: M – O – OA to be more farm traffic friendly * Add bike-walk lane on one side * Slower speed limit does help Too much traffic We have good town road maintenance Lower weight limits on roads – M Large dump trucks going to fast
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Faster snow removal * Keep semi use of roads restricted * Place warning signs on County M to prevent accidents Reduce amount of morning traffic to West Salem
5	<p>Maintain roads (pretty well here)</p> <p>Fuel efficient small truck to view roads when not plowing snow</p>

Response No. by Group	Response * = indicates top 3 issues identified
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Non-row crop agriculture (orchards etc). * Cooperative farming * Recreational leasing Industrial park Cooperative garden Experimental forest Small business
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Golf course expansion * Maintain current status * Housing Assisted living facility Organic farming Farmers market
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No large commercial farms * No large industrial development * Home based business limited to certain size and type No digging for oil wells
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No more commercial development * Don't raise taxes * Consider development for niche industries Keep easy access to employment
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring in gaming Bring in business to prevent going four miles for card

Response No. by Group	Response * = indicates top 3 issues identified
HOUSING	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Avoid rental apartments/condos * Planned development * No minimum lot size, one lot per 20 acres Renovate dilapidated houses Owner occupied condo association (low maintenance homes) Investigate housing programs: - 35 acre rule, - child lots limitations
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Smart growth * Affordable starter homes * Cluster development Mobile home park Multi-family housing Gated communities Condominiums Elderly housing
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Mostly single family dwellings * Housing stay within Town plan as stated in 1994 comprehensive plan * Limit number of new homes built/year Demolition of abandoned – falling down properties
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Restrict multiple family/resident dwellings * Allow construction of quality single family homes * Keep up the good work on property maintenance
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better looking homes More clusters Assisted or elderly living Let elderly stay in area that nurtured them while young

Response No. by Group	Response * = indicates top 3 issues identified
UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Promote clean power (wind, solar) * Park development * Smart growth septic planning Promote recycling
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Park * Garbage pickup * Maintenance of current and new facilities Sanitary district Town hall Community wells Town wells Snowplowing
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Develop park * Build shelter house * Hiking and walking trails by park
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Need own fire department * Faster snow removal * Keep own water system Less sand in front of houses Good garbage pickup and recycling
5	<p>Open dump (large articles) more First responders are excellent Fire department good Want to see water here and sewer</p>

Response No. by Group	Response * = indicates top 3 issues identified
AGRICULTURE, CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Water runoff control – retention ponds * Maintain small, hometown atmosphere * Maintain ag economic basis Preserve historical buildings Buy own land and do as please with it Promote historical sites/buildings
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Protect water resources * Farmland preservation * Preserving existing public land Preserving woodlands
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Encourage preservation of ag land * No building on hillsides so no water run-off – mud slides * Preserve experimental forest Preserve cave Upgrade streams for fishing
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Don't allow factory farms (confinement buildings) * Keep farms following good conservation practices * Restrict spreading of manure sludge near creek
5	<p>Stock more trout</p> <p>Farmers have choice to keep as ag or other choice</p> <p>Don't defame the Indian cave</p> <p>Keep the Indian burial sacred and not built on top of or close proximity</p>

Response No. by Group	Response * = indicates top 3 issues identified
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Maintain fire department relationships * Maintain first responders * Maintain excellent county relationship La Crosse, Onalaska cities Township of Barre vote on any annexation Keep property owner vote on annexation
2	City of La Crosse extraterritorial jurisdiction "3 miles" Fire district First responders
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No annexing – La Crosse * Explore areas where adjacent townships can work together to save money * DNR help with stream development
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Don't allow annexation of Town * Eliminate jurisdiction of neighboring communities over Town land * Eliminate dependence on West Salem by establishing own fire department
5	Too much government interference We cooperate with our neighboring townships Fire protection – West Salem, Town of Hamilton, Town of Barre