

TOWN OF BARRE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



TOWN OF
BARRE
La Crosse County, WI
est. 1853



2025-2045

FINAL - Adopted by Town Board December 9th, 2025



LA CROSSE COUNTY

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1. Introduction

The Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan has been 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 standards, subdivision standards, and official mapping of towns, cities, and villages must be consistent with a comprehensive plan. To meet the requirements of the planning law, this comprehensive plan has been prepared to include summaries and analyses of existing conditions in the Town of Barre and related goals and recommended actions. This plan summarizes existing conditions regarding the following elements of the community:

- Demographic Trends & Projections
- Cultural, Agricultural, & Environmental Resources
- Housing
- Transportation
- Utilities, Facilities, & Services
- Land Use
- Intergovernmental Cooperation
- Economic Development

2025-2045 is the long-range time horizon for this plan. Comprehensive plans are to be updated every 10 years. More details about putting plans into action are included in the Implementation chapter near the end of this document.

Purpose

Comprehensive plans allow communities to achieve a unified vision, accomplish local goals, and manage anticipated growth. Even more-so than participating in occasional elections, the comprehensive planning process enables residents to provide detailed guidance for long-term actions and outcomes in their specific communities. Data and feedback compiled in plans provide elected officials, residents, and landowners with expectations and guidance that helps them make informed land use decisions.

Actions of individuals within and outside of Barre affect the community. Long-range planning allows Barre to “see the bigger picture” and understand which factors should be leveraged or mitigated to achieve desired, long-term outcomes. Plan findings may identify further community goals that should be supported by actions and projects that achieve the local outcomes desired by members of the public.

Vision Statement

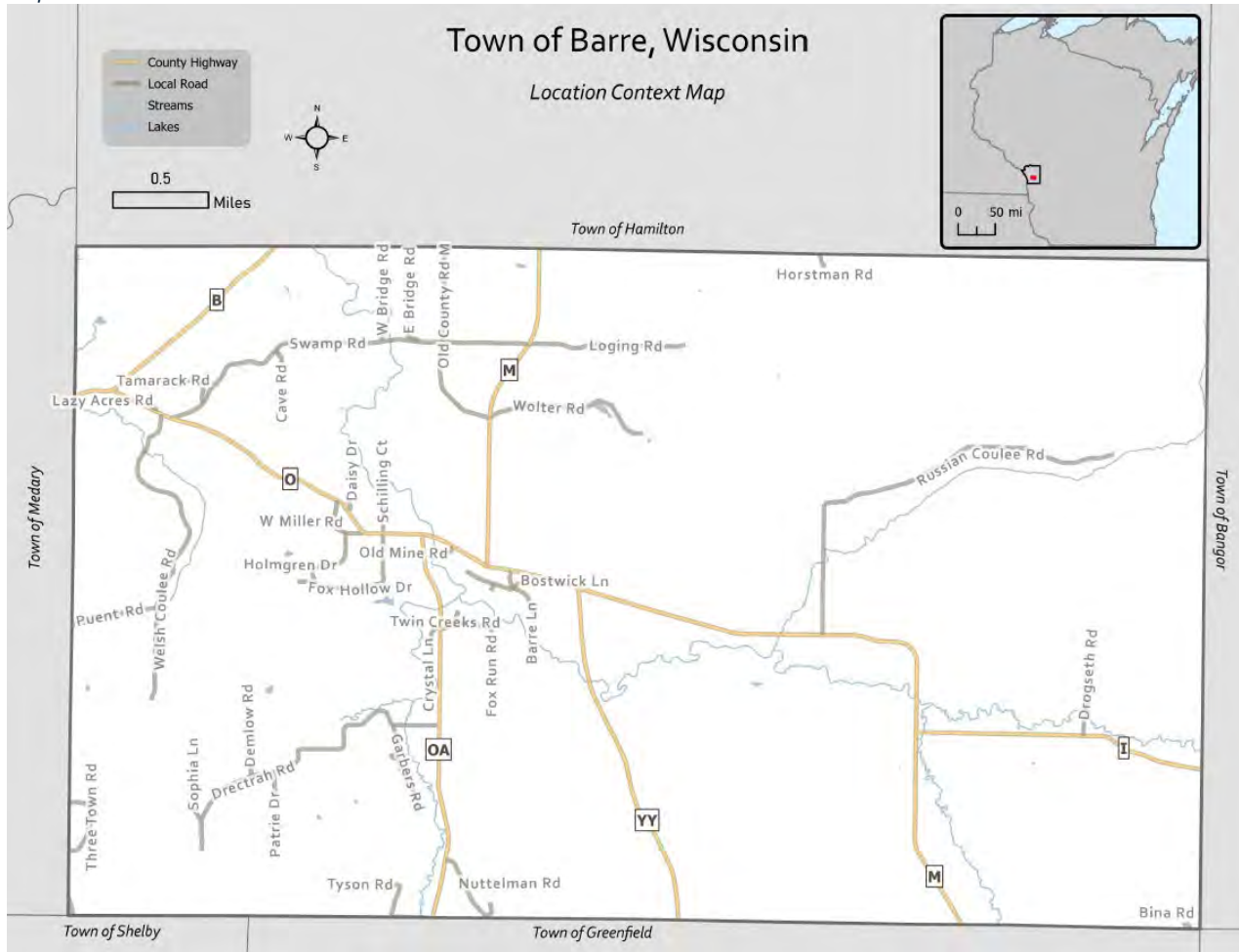
The following vision statement was created by Barre’s Plan Commission to describe the desired outcome of this plan’s implementation:

In 2045, we envision the Town of Barre as a prosperous, safe community that is a highly desirable place to live. We celebrate our agricultural heritage and rural character. Natural resource conservation and farmland preservation are top community priorities. We are proud of Barre's efforts to support a high quality of life for our residents and businesses.

Location

Barre is in La Crosse County in western Wisconsin (Map 1.1, Appendix A). The Town is in south central La Crosse County, about 7 miles east of the Mississippi River. "Town center" is located at the intersection of County Hwy M and County Hwy O, about 3.5 miles east of City of La Crosse and City of Onalaska municipal boundaries and 3.75 miles south of the Village of West Salem's boundary. Barre is bordered on the north by the Town of Hamilton, on the east by the Town of Bangor, to the west by the Town of Medary, and to the south by the towns of Shelby and Greenfield.

Map 1.1



Planning Process

La Crosse County Planning staff was selected by the Town Board to guide the comprehensive plan update process. The first step taken to prepare this plan was to establish a town planning committee, which guided the planning-making process. The Planning Committee recommended approval of a public participation plan which was then adopted by the Town Board. The Planning Committee advised planning staff throughout the process.

Next, public outreach, which included a survey and open house event, was conducted to identify the near-term and long-term priorities of residents. As outreach was performed, planning staff conducted research and analyses that summarized existing conditions in the town. The data collected, in concert with public feedback, helped planning staff and planning committee members understand local trends, issues, and opportunities. Based on trends, anticipated changes and public feedback, goals and recommended actions for town government and residents were identified.

The data collected and projections contained in this plan represent the best statistical information available at the time of writing this plan.

Public Open House 1

On May 7th, 2025, a public open house and workshop was held at Town Hall from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. All residents of the town received postcards in the mail and were invited to attend. An estimated 20 residents attended.

Those in attendance were able to review the plan's purpose and background and provide feedback in several ways, including:

1. **S.W.O.T. Exercise** – Comments were provided about the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats to the community over the next 20 years. **The following are directly quoted comments received at the open house S.W.O.T. exercise:**

Strengths:

- Lots of outdoor activities
- Rural feel
- Rural feel, agriculture/farming
- Agriculture
- Community's shared values
- Expandable tax base in residential growth
- Schools
- Rural environment
- Experimental forest

Weaknesses:

- If our goal is to maintain our rural lifestyle, we must stick to our guns and do the right thing. Once the land is developed it is gone!
- Some roads need fixing
- Less good ole boy and more community involved decisions
- Conservative leadership

- No feedback from town

Opportunities:

- Commercial opportunities
- Town park expansion
- Daycare
- Entertainment recreation
- Commercial buildings
- Planned public growth

Threats:

- Losing farmland
- Losing farmland
- Losing valuable farmland
- Losing farmland
- Urban sprawl
- Sewer & water use
- Annexation
- Commercial building
- Commercial buildings added to area
- Single family dwelling only for new development
- Continuing to subdivide up land having homes on <35 acres in non-residential areas.

2. **Future Land Use Mapping** – Group discussion about how land uses may change, and comments were left in locations of interest. A long discussion about the future land use map and zoning was had, and several questions were answered. A few, individual small lots were requested to be updated, as the future land use classes assigned to those parcels did not accurately reflect their current residential use. 3 other comments were left on the map:

- Identify more land as Public/Institutional use east and south of Barre Park to support future park expansion.
- The Town is not sure the public would support further development of residential lots east of Cty Rd OA, south of Twin Creeks Rd in the next 10-20 years.
- 2 property owners asked for a few acres to be changed to Residential use for two potential homes northwest of Tyson Rd.

3. **Public Survey** – Surveys were available to be taken.

4. **Comment Cards** – Comment cards were available for general feedback about the planning process and the community. No comment cards were completed.

Community Survey

A 10-minute survey was released March 10, 2025. The survey was closed on June 18, 2025. 93 responses were received, and 87 respondents are Town of Barre residents, which is about 7% of Barre's population. Typically, 8% to 10% is considered a good survey response rate.

Respondents to community survey are compared to the demographic composition of Barre, La Crosse County, and Wisconsin in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1. Town Survey Respondents Demographics Comparison

	Survey Respondents	Town of Barre (5 Year ACS 2023)	La Crosse County (5 Year ACS 2023)	Wisconsin (5 Year ACS 2023)
Barre Population	87	1,267	120,784	5,892,023
Age 45+	78.5%	37.5%	40.4%	44%
Own Home	95.7%	86.3%	62.5%	67.9%
Resides in Single Family Home	92.5%	83.3%	67.2%	70.6%
Full-Time Employment, Aged 16-64	60.2%	66.1%	62.5%	65.3%

Source: Community Survey; US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5 Years Estimates (2018-2023)

Survey Key Takeaways:

- 23.7% of respondents are retired.
- Most survey respondents are older than 45 and own a detached single-family home.
- Only 1 person aged 0-29 took the survey (~44.5% of Barre's population).
- 78.5% of respondents have lived in Barre more than 10 years.
- Only 8.6% of respondents are employed in Barre, and 41.9% of respondents are employed in La Crosse-Onalaska.
- 53.9% are dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied with cell service in Barre.
- 46.7% are dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied with internet/broadband service in Barre.
- Respondents seemed to have neutral opinions about "Employment Availability/Options" and "Childcare Facilities", likely due to most respondents being retired or nearing retirement.
- Respondents are most satisfied by Barre's "Solid Waste/Recycling Services", "Access to Quality Schools", "Access to Quality Medical Facilities", and "Overall Quality of Life".
- Respondents seem generally opposed, to varying degrees depending on housing type, to the construction of anything other than single family housing. No one aged 18-29, who is generally the age of someone who may rent or be in the market to purchase a "starter home", responded to the survey.

- While respondents indicated an opposition to some housing types, they were particularly opposed to commercial and industrial development. Respondents support development of low-intensity restaurant and retail commercial uses over other commercial/industrial uses.
- When asked to rank what the Town's top priorities should be, Road Maintenance, Cell/Internet/Broadband Service, Farmland Preservation, and Public Outdoor Recreation/Community Events were common responses.

Complete survey responses are in Appendix B.

Image 1.1



2. Demographic Trends & Projections

The Community Profile Chapter provides an overview of the Town of Barre and identifies a vision for The Town of Barre in the year 2045. The chapter also includes background information about population and community demographics. This information has been referenced throughout the planning process, including the goals and implementation strategies developed for the Plan.

Population and Demographics

To help us understand past trends and future projections, population and demographic data was gathered for the Town of Barre. The information has been gathered from various sources and, when possible, Town level data was utilized.

Table 2.1 Population Trends and Projections

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	% Chg 70-80	% Chg 80-90	% Chg 90-00	% Chg 00-10	% Chg 10-20	2030 Projected	2040 Projected	Change 2020-2040
Town of Barre	521	901	909	1,014	1,234	1,267	72.9%	0.9%	11.6%	21.7%	2.7%	1,307	1,324	4.5%
La Crosse County	80,468	91,056	97,892	107,120	114,638	120,784	13.2%	7.5%	9.4%	7.0%	5.4%	122,760	122,765	1.6%
Wisconsin	4,417,821	4,705,642	4,891,599	5,363,715	5,686,986	5,893,718	6.5%	4.0%	9.7%	6.0%	3.6%	5,890,915	5,841,620	-0.9%

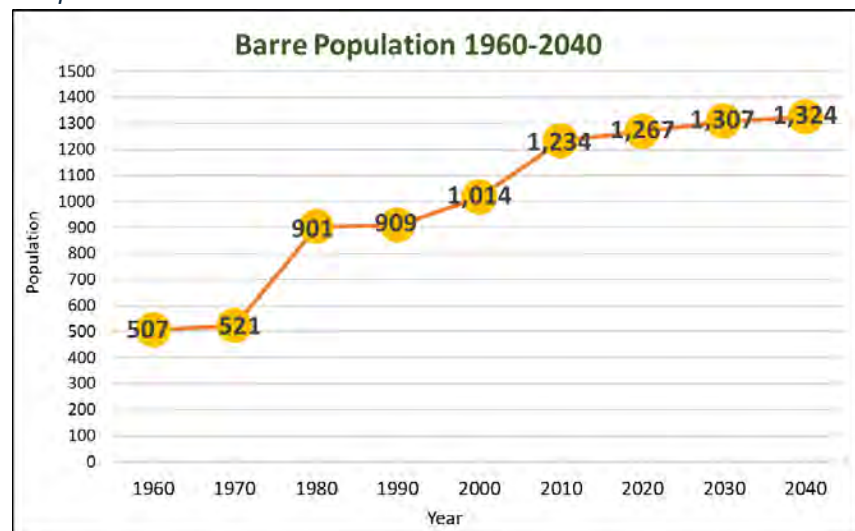
Source: US Census Bureau Decennial Census. Projections: State of Wisconsin-Department of Administration-Demographic Services Center.

Population Projections and Trends

By 2050, population in La Crosse County is projected to increase slightly. This is partly due to decreased birth rates and employment growth that has been slow for decades. Based on recent trends, only slight growth is projected in Barre by 2040. Estimates indicate that the Town of Barre's population may increase from 1,267 residents in 2020 to 1,324 residents (4.5%) by the year 2040. The most rapid growth Barre has experienced occurred in the 1970's and the 2000's, as shown by Table 2.1 and Graph 2.1. Very little population growth has occurred in Barre since 2010.

Barre's inconsistent growth patterns make it difficult to project population size. The State's estimated projections are

Graph 2.1



very low. Two developments that are anticipated will likely bring 140 or more new residents to Barre in the next few years alone (+ 11.1% population). If population growth is instead based on housing development trends from 2000-2023, Barre could have an estimated population of 1,732 by 2045 (23.6% higher than DOA projected population).

Table 2.2. shows that 97% of the Town's population is White compared to La Crosse County, State of Wisconsin and the Nation who are 88%, 79%, and 62% White, respectively. As the County has become more racially diverse since 2010, Barre has not.

Table 2.2 Population by Race

	2010		2020	
	%	Count	%	Count
White alone, percent	96.9%	1,196	96.9%	1,228
Black or African American alone	0.7%	9	0.1%	1
American Indian & Alaska Native alone	0.2%	2	0.1%	1
Asian alone	1.1%	13	0.9%	12
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander alone	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
Other Race alone	0.0%	0	0.6%	8
Two or More Races	0.6%	8	3.1%	39
Hispanic or Latino	0.5%	6	1.2%	15
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	99.5%	1,228	98.8%	1,252
TOTAL:		1,234		1,267
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Decennial Census & 2020 Decennial Census				

Barre is a younger community than most other townships in the State. Likely due to the high cost of housing in Barre, Barre has a very small population aged 20-34. This may also indicate that many teens that age into adulthood do not remain in Barre as they enter their 20's. It will be interesting to observe how the size of the 10- to 19-year-old population cohort changes between 2025 and the Town's next comprehensive plan update.

Graph 2.2 Population by Age

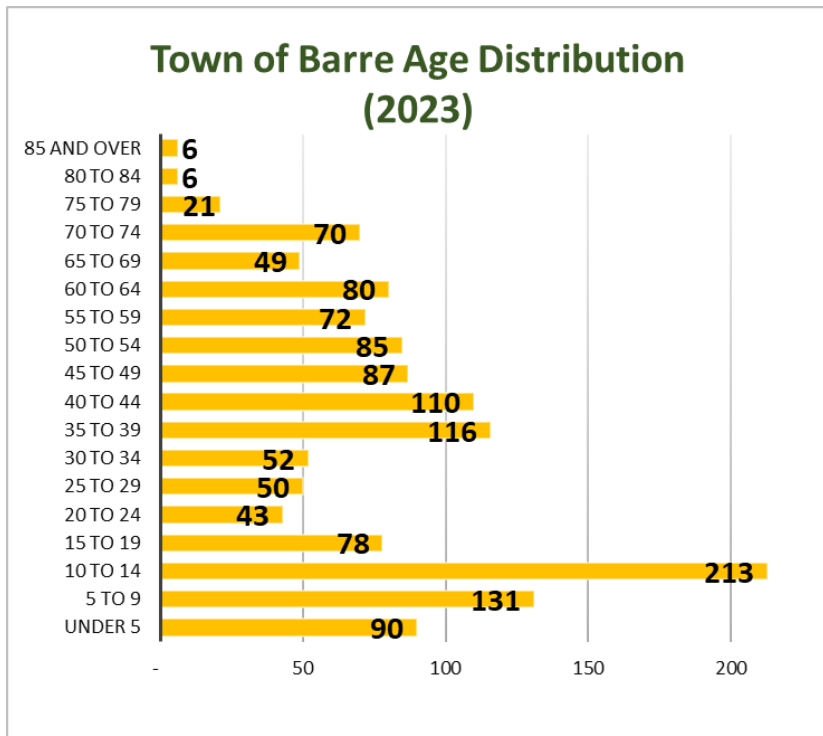


Table 2.3 Detailed Age Characteristics

Age	Town of Barre					La Crosse County				
	2010		2023		Proportional Change	2010		2023		Proportional Change
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 5	19	6.0%	90	6.6%	374.2%	6,544	5.8%	5,788	4.8%	-11.5%
5 to 9	23	7.3%	131	9.6%	467.3%	6,544	5.8%	6,207	5.2%	-5.1%
10 to 14	22	6.9%	213	15.7%	875.9%	6,882	6.1%	6,917	5.8%	0.5%
15 to 19	25	7.9%	78	5.7%	212.1%	9,815	8.7%	10,291	8.6%	4.8%
20 to 24	22	6.9%	43	3.2%	97.0%	12,636	11.2%	12,637	10.5%	0.0%
25 to 29	21	6.7%	50	3.7%	135.9%	7,446	6.6%	6,800	5.7%	-8.7%
30 to 34	13	4.2%	52	3.8%	291.4%	6,318	5.6%	6,935	5.8%	9.8%
35 to 39	28	8.7%	116	8.5%	321.5%	6,318	5.6%	6,751	5.6%	6.9%
40 to 44	28	8.7%	110	8.1%	299.7%	7,220	6.4%	8,612	7.2%	19.3%
45 to 49	24	7.5%	87	6.4%	266.7%	7,897	7.0%	6,849	5.7%	-13.3%
50 to 54	22	7.0%	85	6.3%	283.9%	8,010	7.1%	6,793	5.6%	-15.2%
55 to 59	23	7.2%	72	5.3%	216.1%	7,108	6.3%	6,284	5.2%	-11.6%
60 to 64	20	6.2%	80	5.9%	307.9%	1,918	1.7%	7,450	6.2%	288.4%
65 to 69	9	2.9%	49	3.6%	434.2%	3,949	3.5%	7,109	5.9%	80.0%
70 to 74	8	2.6%	70	5.2%	751.2%	3,272	2.9%	5,962	5.0%	82.2%
75 to 79	5	1.7%	21	1.5%	290.5%	2,933	2.6%	4,638	3.9%	58.1%
80 to 84	3	1.1%	6	0.4%	72.4%	2,256	2.0%	1,794	1.5%	-20.5%
85 and over	2	0.6%	6	0.4%	216.1%	2,595	2.3%	2,669	2.2%	2.9%
Under 18	316	25.8%	499	36.7%	57.8%	24,256	21.5%	23,138	19.2%	-4.6%
Over 65	108	8.8%	152	11.2%	40.9%	14,892	13.2%	22,172	18.4%	48.9%
TOTAL	1,226	-	1,359	-	10.8%	112,819	-	120,262	-	6.6%
Median Age	38.2	-	36.2	-	-5.2%	35.2	-	38.3	-	8.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates 2006-2010 and 2019-2023

According to the 2020 Census, the Town of Barre had 1,267 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 2.3). While median age has increased at the State and County level, it has decreased in Barre.

Table 2.4 Population by Biological Sex

	Town of Barre					La Crosse County				
	2010		2023		Proportional Change	2010		2023		Proportional Change
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Male	631	51.5%	590	43.4%	-6.5%	55,045	48.8%	59,241	49.3%	7.6%
Female	595	48.5%	769	56.6%	29.2%	57,774	51.2%	61,021	50.7%	5.6%
TOTAL	1,226	100.0%	1,359	100.0%	-	112,819	100.0%	120,262	100.0%	-

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates 2006-2010 and 2019-2023

There has been a significant reduction in the number of males in Barre between 2010 and 2023 (Table 2.4)

Table 2.5 shows that 32.3% of Barre residents have a bachelor's degree or higher as compared to La Crosse County, the State of Wisconsin, and the Nation at 22%, 21% and 21% respectively.

Education

Table 2.5 Educational Attainment

Label	Town of Barre		La Crosse County		State of Wisconsin	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Population 25 years and over	804	(X)	78,276	(X)	4,069,583	(X)
Less than 9th grade	6	0.7%	1,033	1.3%	96,291	2.4%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	8	1.0%	1,726	2.2%	173,140	4.3%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	229	28.5%	19,340	24.7%	1,207,407	29.7%
Some college, no degree	141	17.5%	17,004	21.7%	803,852	19.8%
Associate's degree	94	11.7%	10,929	14.0%	455,765	11.2%
Bachelor's degree	260	32.3%	17,289	22.1%	879,907	21.6%
Graduate or professional degree	66	8.2%	10,955	14.0%	453,221	11.1%
<i>Source: US Census Bureau 2020 Decennial Census</i>						

Table 2.5 indicates that residents of La Crosse County and Barre have attained similar levels of education. While Barre has more residents with bachelor's degrees than La Crosse County, the proportion of La Crosse County residents with graduate degrees is nearly double that of Barre's.

Table 2.6 High School Graduates and Degree Earners

	Town of Barre	La Crosse County	Wisconsin
Percentage high school graduate or higher	98.3%	96.5%	93.3%
Percentage bachelor's degree or higher	40.5%	36.1%	32.7%
Notes: Population 25 years and over.			

As shown in Table 2.6, the proportion of residents in Barre and La Crosse County who have finished high school or earned at least a bachelor's degree is higher than the state average.

Household Income

Table 2.7 and Graph 2.3 indicate that household incomes in Barre are significantly higher than those in greater La Crosse County and Wisconsin. The difference between the median and mean incomes for La Crosse County and Wisconsin indicate that there is a greater income disparity among residents of the County and State than there is among Barre residents. Only approximately 34.8% of households in Barre earn less than the state median income.

Table 2.7 Household Income

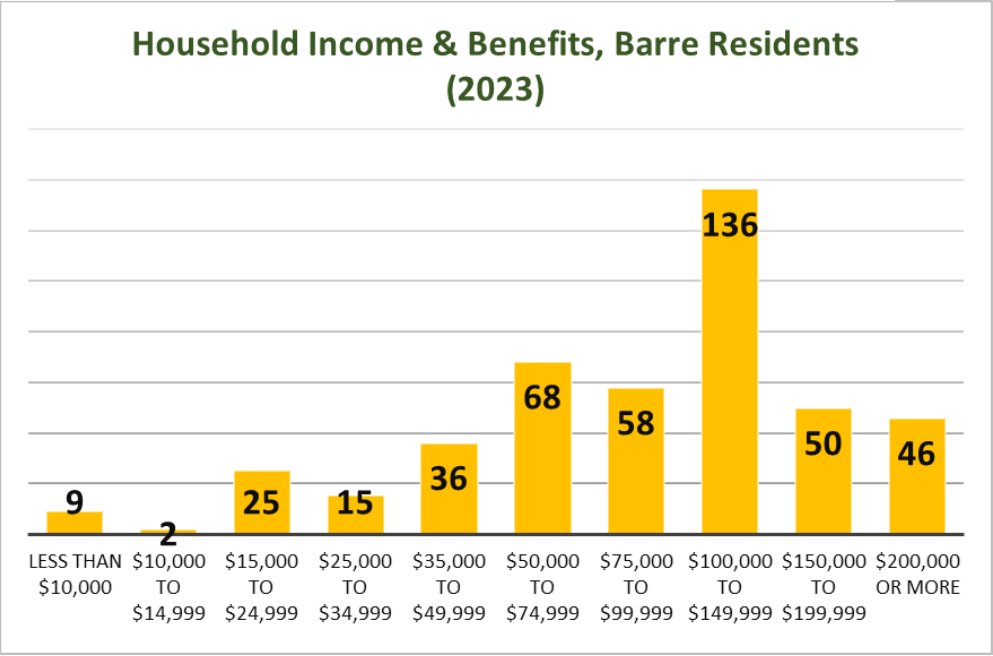
2023 Estimated Income & Benefits	Town of Barre		La Crosse County		Wisconsin	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Less than \$10,000	9	2.0%	1,180	2.3%	112,299	4.5%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	2	0.4%	2,718	5.3%	82,353	3.3%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	25	5.6%	3,128	6.1%	162,210	6.5%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	15	3.4%	3,026	5.9%	172,192	6.9%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	36	8.1%	8,513	16.6%	284,491	11.4%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	68	15.3%	9,436	18.4%	439,215	17.6%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	58	13.0%	5,795	11.3%	344,384	13.8%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	136	30.6%	9,846	19.2%	469,161	18.8%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	50	11.2%	4,410	8.6%	217,112	8.7%
\$200,000 or more	46	10.3%	3,333	6.5%	212,121	8.5%
TOTAL	445		51,283		2,495,539	
Median Household Income	\$101,696	-	\$70,010	-	\$74,631	-
Mean Household Income	\$117,092	-	\$92,582	-	\$97,894	-
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates</i>						

The estimated median household income in La Crosse has been lower than Barre's for at least a couple decades. La Crosse County's median household income, based on average annual inflation, was \$49,359 in 2010 (\$68,970 in 2023 dollars), and it has only risen to \$70,704 in 2023 (\$50,598 in 2010 dollars).

In 2023, the median household income in Barre is \$101,696 (\$72,777 in 2010 dollars). In 2010, the median household income in Barre was \$61,736 (\$85,267 in 2023 dollars), so household incomes in Barre have increased much more than household incomes in the rest of the County. Adjusted for inflation, Barre's household income has increased by 17.2%, while the greater County's had only increased by 2.5% by 2023. Further details of employment characteristics are in Chapter 9 of this plan.

The fast income growth in Barre may be a result of new residents earning the high incomes required to afford existing housing in Barre. Housing in general, and particularly the housing built in Barre in the 2000's, has become significantly more expensive since 2020. Housing characteristics will be discussed further in the Housing Chapter.

Graph 2.3 Household Income



3. Cultural, Agricultural, and Environmental Resources

Community History

Setting

The Town of Barre, also referred to as “Barre” or “Barre Mills”, is in La Crosse County in western Wisconsin. The Town is 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. Barre is bordered on the north by the Town of Hamilton, on the east by the Town of Bangor, to the west by the Town of Medary, and to the south by the towns of Shelby and Greenfield.

The Town of Barre in La Crosse County is in an area known as the Driftless Area. Most of the Midwest is flat due to this glacial scouring, but an area covering what is today southwestern Wisconsin, southeastern Minnesota, northeastern Iowa, and northwestern Illinois is unique, hilly area. This area had not been 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. Within the limits of what is now Town of Barre, arrowheads have been found and dated to the era of early nomadic hunter-gatherers. Native Americans occupied La Crosse County for many generations. Samuels’ Cave in Barre, containing prehistoric cave paintings of the Oneota people, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.

The first settlers of European heritage 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. The town was most likely named for Barre, Vermont. 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, now bears their family name. The Bostwick claim on the entire valley was soon challenged by an increasing number of settlers. Later arrivals also performed the necessary “improvements” to the land, as required to claim rights of ownership, and the government land office at Mineral Point accepted these claims. Between 1850 and 1860 the immigrant population and agricultural use of the land increased rapidly.

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, came in 1852 and held meetings in the cabins of the settlers. He preached in either German or Norwegian as needed. 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 schoolhouses 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.



Image 3.1 Bostwick Creek

Early Economy

In 1858, a Mr. Harker from New York built the first grain mill in the Town in PLSS 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 of 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, and then to William Ruks. The mill had an extensive trade and the quality of the flour, from the locally grown wheat, was high 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, 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 the 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 in Section 16 and known as the Bostwick Valley post office.



Image 3.2 Historic Barre Mill

Early Government

The original Town of Barre, besides its present area, included fifteen sections of the southern portion of what is now the Town of Hamilton, and all 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, separated from Barre. In 1867 the state legislature consolidated the Towns of Barre and Neshonoc and renamed it Hamilton. In 1874 the Board of County Commissioners split 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 an old, familiar name was held April 7, 1874, and ninety-four votes for officers were cast.

Modern Times

In the 1970s and 1980's the national farm crisis contributed to farm consolidation and other local economic shifts. Barre experienced sporadic growth in the 1970's and 2000's with the development of some residential subdivisions. In 1994, Fox Hollow Golf Course and Event Center opened in Barre, providing a community gathering space that may have attracted demand for more surrounding residential development in the 2000's. In 2007, the Town opened Barre Park to the public.

Archaeological and Historic Resources

The Wisconsin National Register of Historic Places includes historic houses, churches, mounds, historic camps and burial sites. Samuel's Cave was the only site listed in 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. Most sites are privately owned and are not open to the public



Image 3.3 Fox Hollow Golf Course (Source: Travel Wisconsin)

Wisconsin's Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) was searched and 49 structures 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 homes, churches, businesses, barns, bridges, corn cribs, silos, and garages. 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, the Ole Svenness House, and the Old Town Hall/Bostwick Valley Free Thinkers Hall. Town Hall is located at the site of the former Free Thinkers Hall.

Agriculture

Agriculture and woodlands comprise much of Town of Barre's landscape. Historically, agriculture and the topography have greatly influenced the development of the Town. Agriculture is important to Town residents to maintain the Town's rural character. From 2014 to 2024, 64 new residential buildings were constructed in Barre. Development pressure may be a threat to local agriculture.



Image 3.4 Historic Nuttelman Home (Source: Wisconsin Historical Society)

Agricultural crops commonly grown in La Crosse County today include corn, soybeans, and alfalfa, most of which is usually used for silage. Statistics in Table 3.1 show agricultural trends in La Crosse County.

While the number of farms had decreased by 27.5% from 1997 to 2022, roughly the same amount of land was still being cropped. The biggest shift since 1997 has been a drastic reduction (-49.9%) in the number of cattle/calves present in the County. Interestingly, 33% of the farms in La Crosse County in 2022 were less than 49 acres in size, indicating that small-scale “hobby farming” is common. Agriculture likely is not the sole source of income for owners of these properties. In 2022, crops were a 54% share of agricultural sales in the county. From 2010 to 2022, the percentage of the County’s workforce employed in “agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining” decreased from 1.5% to 0.9%.

According to American Community Survey estimates, only 11 Barre residents were employed full time in “agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining” in 2023.

The average value of agricultural land in the county, when adjusted for inflation, has doubled to \$6,527 (\$3,268.93 in CPI adjusted 1997 dollars). While agricultural land has increased in value, it is significantly less valuable than residential, commercial, and industrial land. In 2025, industrial land and residential land in La Crosse County, depending on location, can be 15 to 23 times more valuable per acre than the 2022 average value of ag. land per acre. This wide disparity in ag. land valuation and urban land valuation can incentivize urban development and be very lucrative, particularly for developers and farmers nearing retirement.

Table 3.1 Agricultural Trends

	1997	2002	2022	% Change 1997-2022
Number of Farms	933	868	676	-27.5%
Average Farm Size	203	201	204	0.5%
Total Harvested Cropland	76,468	77,831	77,568	1.4%
Number of Cattle/Calves	36,769	31,550	18,403	-49.9%
Ag. Land Value per Acre	1,075	1,937	6,527	507.2%
Source: USDA Agricultural Census 1997, 2002, 2022; US Census Bureau ACS 5 Year Estimates 2017-2022.				



Image 3.5

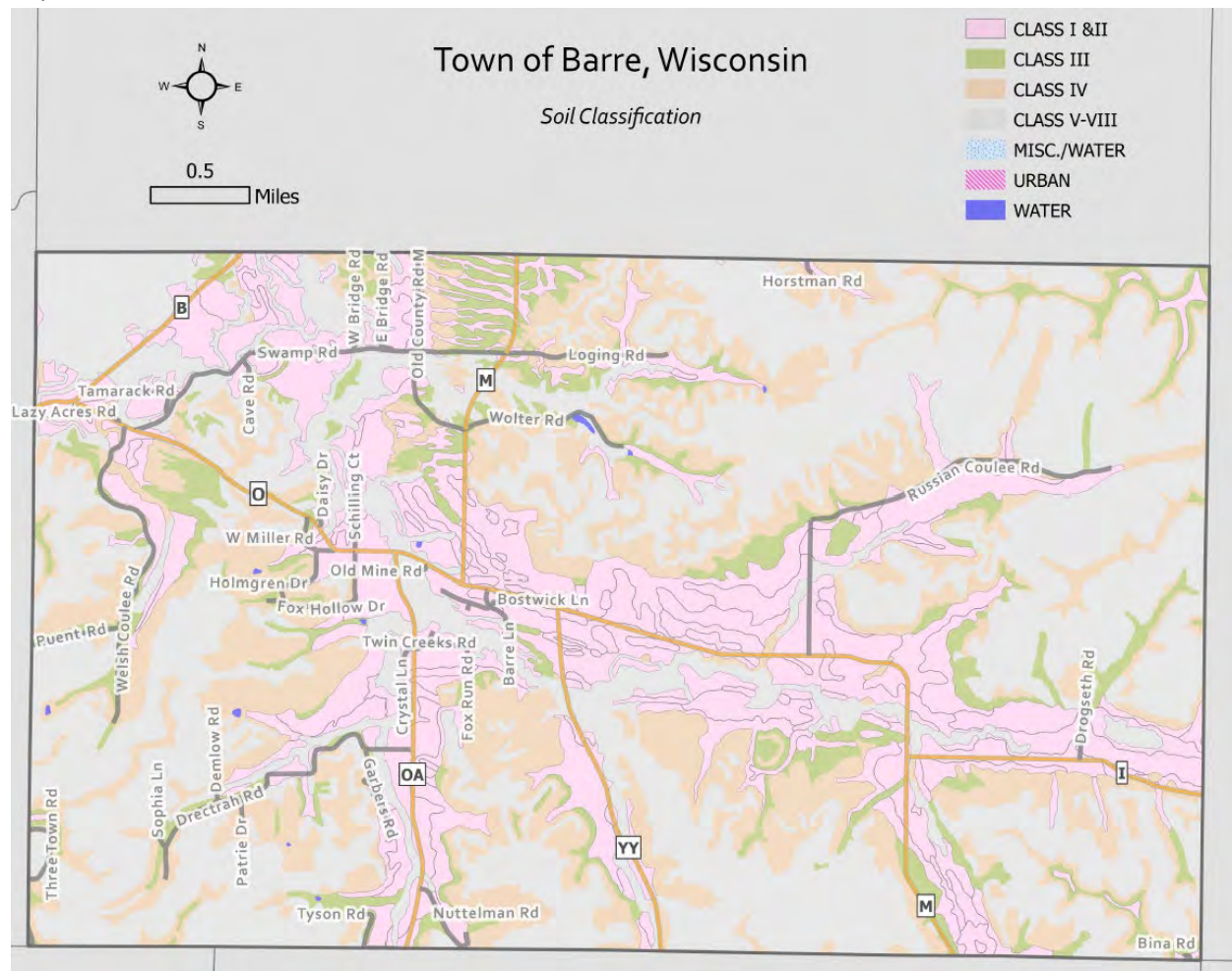
Natural Resources

Soils

Barre's most ubiquitous 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.

Map 3.1 (Appendix A) represents classifications of the soils in the town. 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.

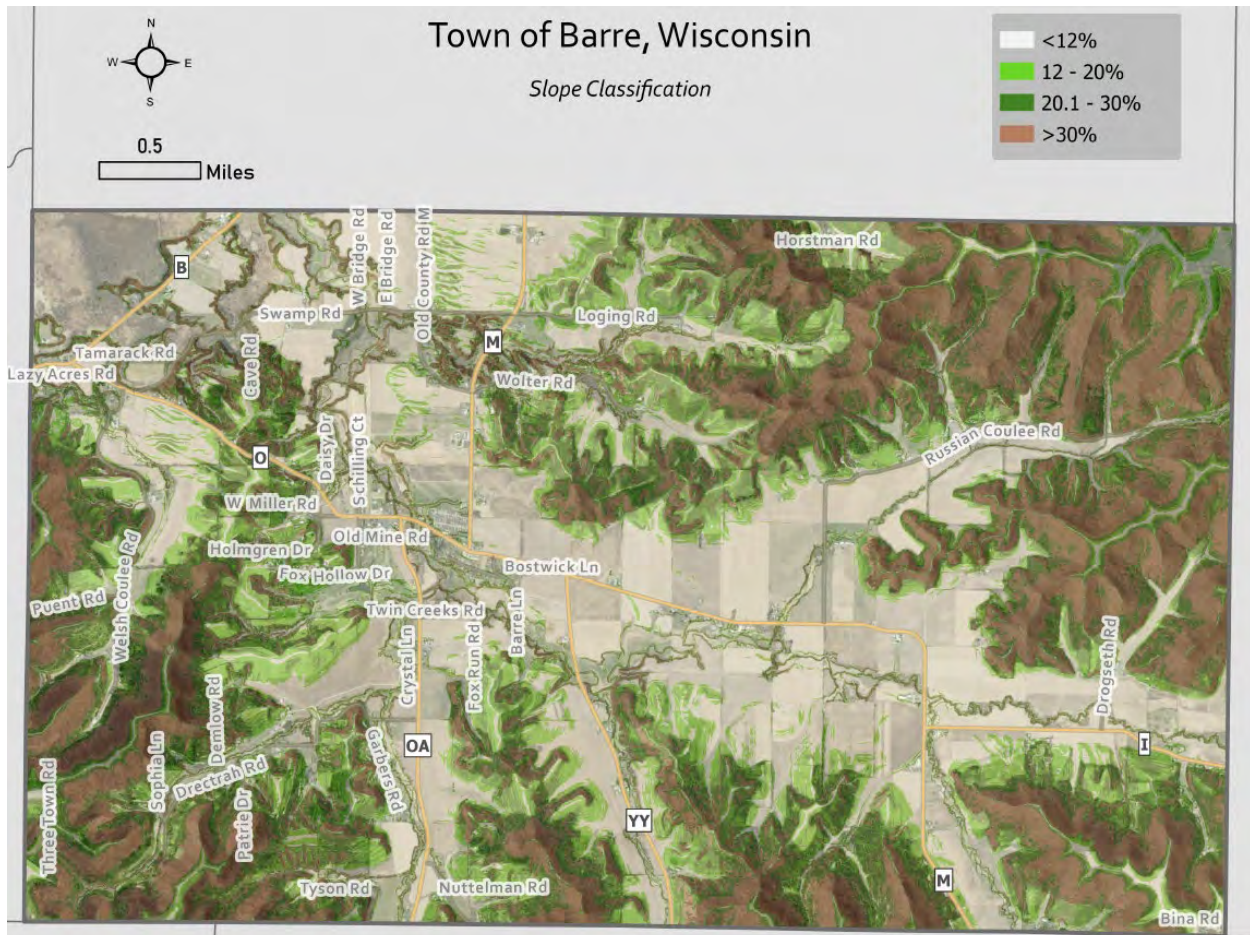
Map 3.1



Topography & Watersheds

Map 3.2 (Appendix A) illustrates the slope and topography of the Town of Barre. Structures cannot be built upon slopes >30% in unincorporated La Crosse County.

Map 3.2



The Town of Barre is 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.

Ground Water

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 safe to drink. Water in some concentrated areas may include naturally occurring deposits, like iron, or contaminants from surface runoff and infiltration, like nitrates, that may require treatment prior to consumption. Soft water is often found in the valley alluvium while hard water is often found in the upland bedrock.

Surface Water

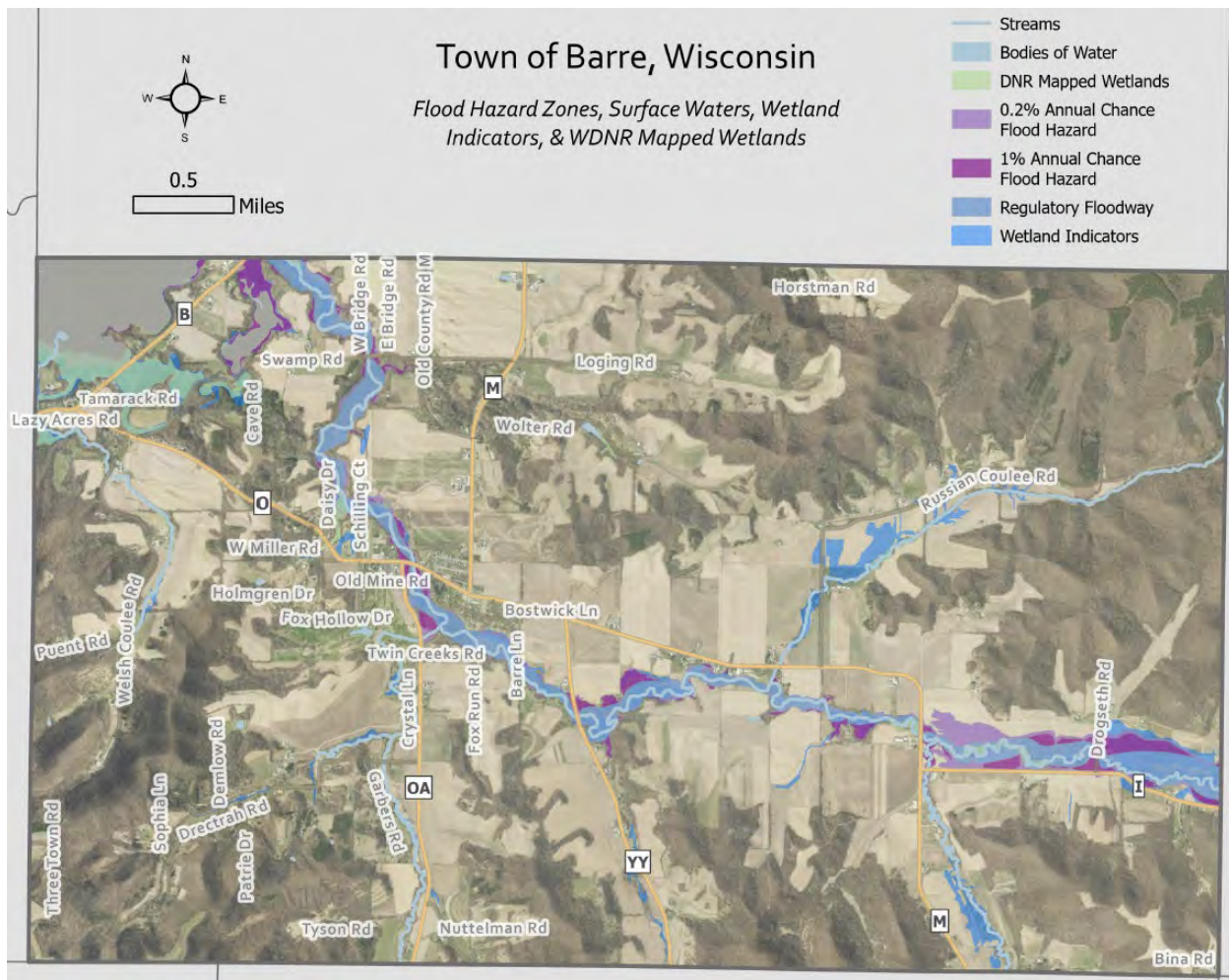
There are several streams and creeks within the Town of Barre. Bostwick Creek, also known as Irish Creek, is in the town. Bostwick Creek is a Class III trout stream from its mouth upstream to Barre Mills, Class II upstream to CTH "M", and Class I upstream to the headwaters. There are no natural or man-made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



Photo 3.6 County Rd M bridge crossing Bostwick Creek (Source: Wisconsin Historical Society)

Floodplains/Wetlands

There are several areas in the Town of Barre in the 100-year floodplain. The entire length of Bostwick Creek has adjacent lands designated as floodplain in which base flood elevations and flood hazard factors have been determined. The majority of Garber's Creek has adjacent areas designated in the floodplain, as well as a portion of the La Crosse River Watershed located in



Section 18 of the Town of Barre (Map 3.3, Appendix A). Construction is generally prohibited within high-risk floodway areas.

There are limited wetlands in the Town of Barre (Map 3.3, Appendix A). Confirmed, mapped wetland areas and unmapped, potential wetland areas can be viewed online using the [Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Surface Water Data Viewer](#). Construction is prohibited in wetland areas.

Local administration of state floodplain and shoreland/wetland zoning standards has been delegated by WDNR to the La Crosse County Department of Zoning, Planning, and Land Information.

Woodlands

Woodlands are present along uncropped, steep valley walls throughout the town. 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 was assessed as forest or woodlands. In 2024, 23.3% of Barre was assessed as forest and woodlands (1,593 acres as ag. forest and 824 acres as forest).

Non-Metallic Minerals

There are no commercial non-metallic mines located in the Town of Barre. Private property owners may occasionally sell topsoil for construction projects.

Wildlife

Scattered forestlands and streams provide suitable 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 are also present.

The Coulee Experimental Forest is open to the public for hunting. Primary game in the forest includes deer, ruffed grouse, squirrels, turkeys, and rabbits. The habitat consists primarily of upland timber and open fields. Bostwick Creek, a trout stream is also located in the Town.

Natural stream 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.

Air Quality

With such a small population and limited commercial/industrial businesses, there are no chronic air quality concerns in the town. Occasionally, air quality in the region is poor due to seasonal wildfires in Canada.

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 plant, animal, and insect species known, or suspected, to be rare in the state. They include species legally designated as "Endangered" and "Threatened". The State's list can be found [here](#).

Animals and insects on the federal threatened and endangered list that may be found in Barre include, but are not limited to:

- Northern Long-Eared Bat – Endangered
- Rusty Patched Bumble Bee – Endangered
- Higgins Eye (pearly mussel) – Endangered
- Sheepnose Mussel – Endangered
- Tricolored Bat – Proposed Endangered
- Whooping Crane – Experimental Population
- Eastern Massasauga (rattlesnake) – Threatened
- Monarch Butterfly – Proposed Threatened
- Bald Eagle – Vulnerable
- Golden Eagle – Vulnerable



Image 3.7. Rusty Patched Bumblebee. Source: ars.usda.gov

Goals & Recommendations

Goal 3.1: Preserve farmland and support the local agricultural economy and heritage.

Recommendation 3.1.1 - Continue to apply farmland preservation zoning standards to reduce loss of productive agricultural land and retain tax credits for farmers.

Recommendation 3.1.2 - Support local 4-H, UW-Extension, and other agriculturally based education activities.

Goal 3.2: Protect surface and groundwater quality.

Recommendation 3.2.1 - Encourage residents to collaborate with the County Department of Land Conservation to leverage state and federal funding. Such funding can be used to reduce erosion, improve agricultural sustainability, and improve groundwater and surface water quality.

Recommendation 3.2.2 - Encourage residents, with policies and incentives, to properly maintain private on-site sewer systems (POWTS) and private wells to protect the environment and future ground water

Goal 3.3: Maintain and enhance public lands and recreational opportunities in the Town.

Recommendation 3.3.1 - Collaborate with La Crosse County when it updates its Outdoor Recreation Plan. Plan adoption improves the Town's eligibility for grants for recreation-based projects.

Recommendation 3.3.2 - Oppose actions that would remove public access to the State Experimental Forest.

Recommendation 3.3.3 – Facilitate establishment of public conservation easements. Identify locations where conservations easement can be established to preserve natural areas and/or public uses.

Goal 3.4: Protect natural areas, wildlife habitats, water resources, slopes, and woodlands.

Recommendation 3.4.1 - Educate residents on Forest Best Management Practices to reduce erosion, protect natural habitats, and maintain woodlands.

Recommendation 3.4.2 - Reject development proposals that will impact wetland and shoreland areas.

Recommendation 3.4.3 - Oppose requests which would result in construction on bluff lands with >20% slopes.

Goal 3.5: Preserve cultural, historic, and archaeological sites.

Recommendation 3.5.1 - Discourage development of lands of cultural, religious, or historical significance. Take special care when considering requests that could potentially impact sites by consulting County Zoning staff.

Recommendation 3.5.2 - Review Wisconsin Historical Society databases of sites of historic significance when development requests are made. Do not disclose to the public the location of sites particularly vulnerable to vandalism or damage.

Recommendation 3.5.3 - Consider placing historical markers near sites of cultural importance and registering additional locations in Wisconsin's Architecture and History Inventory.

4. Housing

After agriculture, residential is Barre's second most common land use. The following chapter analyzes current housing conditions and trends to project the development pressure that Barre may expect in the next 20 years.



Image 4.1 - Large Single-family homes in Barre

Housing Characteristics

The proportional increase in housing units in Barre has been slower than that of greater La Crosse County since at least 2010 (Table 4.1).

Homes in Barre have more bedrooms than the county average. Proportionally, 77.8% of the homes in Barre are 3+ bedroom units. That's 20.7% higher than the share of 3+ bedroom units across La Crosse County. Most of the single-family homes in Barre are relatively large and built for more than 3 occupants.

Much of Barre's housing stock is relatively new, as 42.6% of units were constructed after 1990 (Table 4.2). The housing development "booms" in La Crosse County were during the 1970s, 1990s, and 2000s. Only 28.1% of housing in Barre was constructed before 1970 (Table 4.2).

Table 4.1 Number of Housing Units

	2010	2023	2000-2020 Percent Change
Town of Barre	449	465	3.4%
La Crosse County	47,745	50,543	5.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 & 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Table 4.2 Housing age

	Barre		La Crosse County	
	# of Units	%	# of Units	%
Built 2020 or later	12	2.6%	378	0.7%
Built 2010 to 2019	55	11.8%	5,027	9.4%
Built 2000 to 2009	93	20%	6,052	11.4%
Built 1990 to 1999	38	8.2%	8,034	15.1%
Built 1980 to 1989	33	7.1%	5,265	9.9%
Built 1970 to 1979	103	22.2%	8,053	15.1%
Built 1960 to 1969	29	6.2%	4,227	7.9%
Built 1950 to 1959	16	3.4%	4,947	9.3%
Built 1940 to 1949	9	1.9%	2,533	4.8%
Built 1939 or earlier	77	16.6%	8,718	16.40%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Table 4.3 Housing Tenure

	Barre		La Crosse County	
Moved in 2021 or later	32	7.2%	5,219	10.3%
Moved in 2018 to 2020	67	15.1%	12,975	25.7%
Moved in 2010 to 2017	140	31.5%	13,624	27.0%
Moved in 2000 to 2009	126	28.3%	9,113	18.0%
Moved in 1990 to 1999	44	9.9%	4,461	8.8%
Moved in 1989 and earlier	36	8.1%	5,151	10.2%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates				

Table 4.5 Housing Vacancy

	2010		2023		Percent Change 2010-2023
	Occupied	Vacant	Occupied	Vacant	Vacancy
Town of Barre	347	35	445	20	-75%
La Crosse County	45,501	2,244	50,543	2,691	16.61%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates					

As presented in Table 4.3, 82% of residents have lived in their current home in Barre less than 25 years, which indicates most residents of Barre did not grow up in the town and are not lifelong residents.

In 2023, it is estimated that 14% of housing units in Barre are renter occupied, and 86% are owner occupied. In contrast, only 62% of La Crosse County residences are owner occupied, and 38% are renter occupied. The percentage of ownership is influenced by communities with lower income populations and the significant college student population in the City of La Crosse.

Table 4.4 compares the types of housing available in the Town of Barre with the types available across La Crosse County. Barre lacks a variety of housing types. 83.4% of homes in Barre are 1-unit dwellings, and there may not be a single structure with more than 4 units in the entire town.

Table 4.4 Housing Units by Type

	Barre		La Crosse County	
	# of Units	% of Total	# of Units	% of Total
1-unit, detached	368	79.1%	31,916	60%
1-unit, attached	20	4.3%	3,438	6.5%
2 units	15	3.2%	2,847	5.3%
3 or 4 units	18	3.9%	2,343	4.4%
5 to 9 units	0	0.0%	2,124	4%
10 to 19 units	0	0.0%	2,792	5.2%
20 or more units	0	0.0%	5,695	10.7%
Mobile home	44	9.5%	2,026	3.8%
Boat, RV, van, etc.	0	0.0%	53	0.1%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates				

Table 4.6 Household Size

	2023	
	Average Household Size of Owner-Occupied Units	Average Household Size of Renter-Occupied Units
Town of Barre	3.23	1.93
La Crosse County	2.49	1.93
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates		

59.% of owner-occupied units in Barre are valued at >\$300,000 compared to 33.4% of owner-occupied units valued >\$300,000 across La Crosse County.

Vacancy in Barre is very low (Table 4.5). This may indicate that there are very few uninhabited, dilapidated homes in Barre and that housing in Barre is in-demand.

Barre has relatively large household sizes (Table 4.6). This is presumably related to the high number of large homes with more than 3 bedrooms and the large proportion of families with young children residing in the town.



Image 4.2 - Single family neighborhood in Barre

Housing Affordability

Barre’s housing stock is expensive (Table 4.7). Housing supply has never returned to the rates of production that were normal prior to the 2008 Great Recession. The value of housing, particularly single-family residential homes, has become hyper-inflated since the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic. Adjusted for inflation (2023 dollars), Barre’s home values have increased by 65% since 2000, outpacing La Crosse County and Wisconsin. Large lots, newer homes, large building footprints, and Barre’s proximity to employment opportunities in the City of La Crosse contribute

Table 4.7 Median Value of Owner-Occupied Units

	Barre			La Crosse County			Wisconsin		
	2000	2023	% Increase (Inflation Adjusted)	2000	2023	% Increase (Inflation Adjusted)	2000	2023	% Increase (Inflation Adjusted)
Median Value (\$) of Owner Occupied Units	\$ 124,000	\$ 361,000	64.5%	\$96,900	\$243,200	41.8%	\$112,200	\$247,400	24.6%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates									

significantly to the estimated values of homes.

In Barre, 19.6% of residents are considered cost-burdened by their housing costs, spending >30% of their household income on housing alone. (Table 4.8) While there are fewer households spending >35% of their income on housing, the share of residents spending >30% of their income on housing is similar to that of La Crosse County and Wisconsin. Slightly fewer Barre residents have a mortgage on their home. As Barre's senior population retires, even if they've paid off their mortgages, the proportion of their income spent on housing costs may increase with inflation. Continued and increased maintenance on large homes will be required as Barre's existing housing stock ages.

Table 4.8 Percent of Income Spent on Owner-Occupied Units

	Barre		La Crosse County		Wisconsin	
Less than 20.0 percent	112	53.6%	9,608	50.4%	535,386	52.30%
20.0 to 24.9 percent	38	18.2%	3,425	18.0%	160,244	15.70%
25.0 to 29.9 percent	18	8.6%	1,836	9.6%	100,827	9.90%
30.0 to 34.9 percent	21	10.0%	933	4.9%	60,306	5.90%
35.0 percent or more	20	9.6%	3,255	17.1%	166,211	16.20%
Population with a Mortgage	209	54.4%	19,066	60.4%	1,026,863	61.8%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates						

The difference in estimated median rent paid in 2023 in Wisconsin and La Crosse County is negligible, at \$1,045 and \$1,023 per month, respectively. Only 14% of Barre's housing units (~65 units) are rentals. Surprisingly, at an estimated median of \$1,295 per month, rents are much more expensive in Barre. As shown in Table 4.4, there are very few >2 unit dwelling in Barre that might typically be rented. The high median rent in Barre could be skewed by high amounts paid to rent single family homes.

Mobile homes are only considered rentals by the US Census Bureau when the mobile home and lot is rented. 9.5% of homes in Barre are mobile homes, but many of the occupants likely own their mobile home unit but not the lot it sits on.

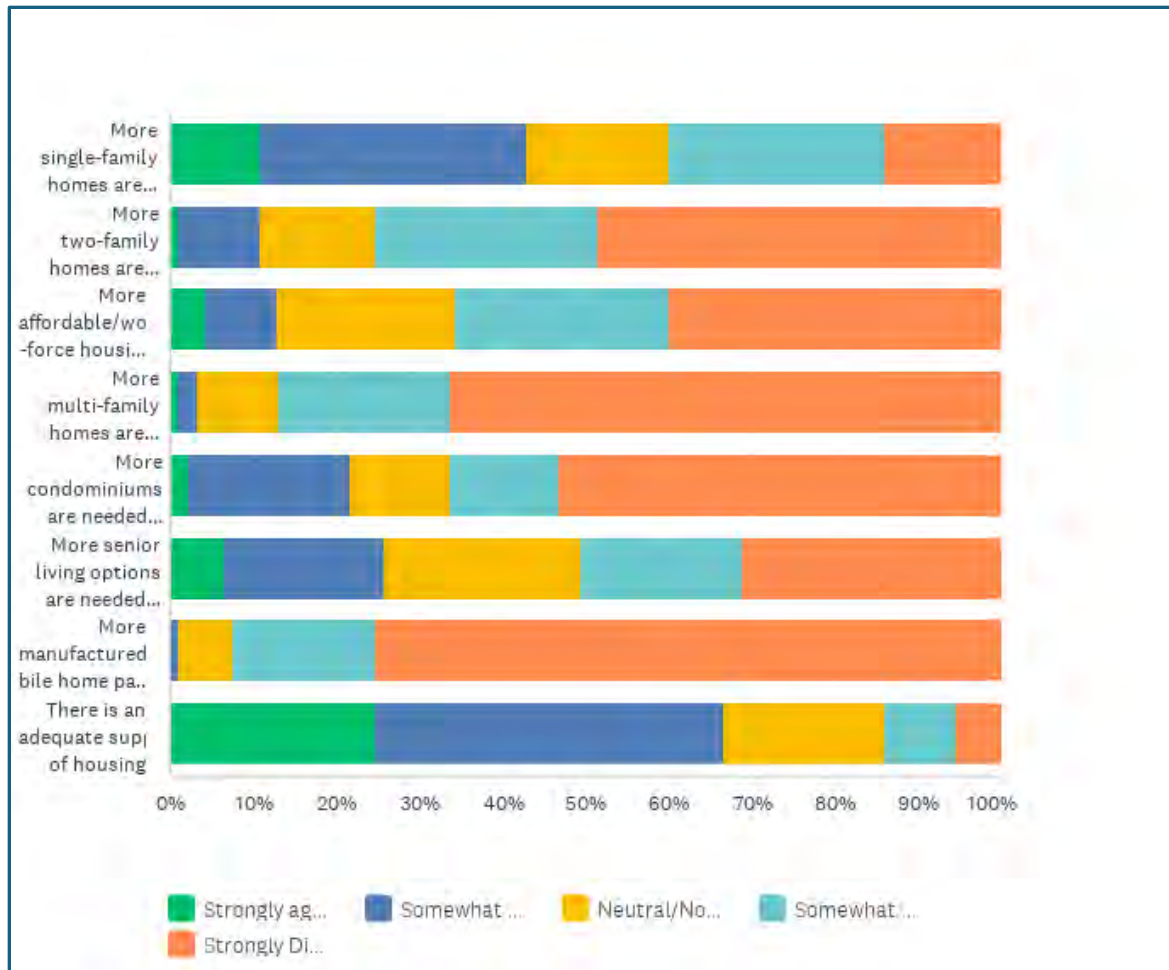
Survey Feedback Regarding Housing

Chart 4.1 shows responses to a housing development related survey question (survey question #12, Appendix B). Approximately 67% of respondents strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that there is an adequate supply of housing, 19% had no opinion or were neutral, and the remaining 14% disagreed. About 43% of respondents felt more single-family housing was needed, 17% were neutral, and about 40% disagreed. About 13% of respondents felt more affordable housing was needed in the Town, while 22% were neutral and 65% disagreed. In response to question 10, 56.18% of residents are "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" with the housing availability and options in the Town. Of course, these respondents mostly own their single-family home and likely are not actively searching for new housing.

Most respondents were not in favor of multi-family housing development. Over 75% of respondents felt no more duplexes were needed; 87% felt no more apartments were needed and

66% of respondents were against development of condominiums. About 92% of respondents did not want development of additional mobile home parks in the Town. When asked about senior housing, 26% of respondents felt more senior housing is needed, 24% were neutral, and 50% disagreed.

Chart 4.1 - Survey question #12



Survey question #13 asked respondents which types of development the Town should encourage in the next 20 years. 46.74% of respondents believe the Town should "somewhat encourage" or "strongly encourage" housing development. Another 14.13% responded they are "neutral" about housing development. It appears if more housing were proposed, single unit and senior housing is preferred.

Housing Projections

Table 4.10 Occupied Housing Units 1970 - 2023

	1970 Census	1980 Census	1990 Census	2000 Census	2010 Census	2023 ACS	2000-2023 Change
Barre	143	293	344	354	449	465	31.4%
La Crosse County	25,433	33,277	38,227	43,480	47,745	50,543	16.2%
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau</i>							

Table 4.10 represents the total number of occupied housing units in Barre since 1970. As DOA population projections for Barre are unrealistically low, the housing unit projections in Table 4.11 were estimated based on Barre's rate of housing development from 2000-2023. The projected increase in housing units aligns closely with a level of population growth that may be more realistic than what DOA has projected for the town.

Table 4.11 Projected Housing Units Based on 2000-2023 Growth Trends

	2023 ACS	2030 Projection	2035 Projection	2040 Projection	2045 Projection	2023-2045 Change
Barre	465	505	535	567	601	29.2%
La Crosse County	50,543	52,912	52,224	53,961	55,755	10.3%
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau</i>						

Enough undeveloped land has been identified in the Future Land Use Map to satisfy the anticipated increase in housing units (Map 7.3, Appendix A).



Image 4.3 - Large lot single family homes in Barre



Image 4.4 – Two-family homes in Barre

Goals & Recommendations

Goal 4.1: Encourage single-family housing in the Town and promote efficient development patterns.

Recommendation 4.1.1 - Revisit and review this document as housing development requests are proposed. Ensure that housing proposals are consistent with the Town's comprehensive plan.

Recommendation 4.1.2 - Encourage denser single-family residential developments, for example on half acre lots, that may be more affordable for working families and reduce demand for the development of farmland.

Goal 4.2: Support development of a variety of housing types as existing residents age and the housing needs of young families and the local workforce evolve.

Recommendation 4.2.1 - Evaluate the suitability of a senior care facility, condominium developments, or 55+ communities in the Town.

Recommendation 4.2.2 – Locate senior housing proposals near amenities that support aging in place, such as outdoor recreation spaces and walkable commercial areas.

Image 4.5 – Bostwick Estates mobile home community



Source: bostwickestates.com

Recommendation 4.2.3 – Ensure that infrastructure in new subdivisions is ADA compliant and supportive of safe, active, and independent senior living.

Recommendation 4.2.4 – Update the Town subdivision ordinance to enable “cluster developments” and incentivize housing development types which are less impactful on farmland.

Recommendation 4.2.5 - Identify housing styles and price points that are affordable for a myriad of different income earners in the local workforce.

5. Transportation

The Transportation chapter of this report inventories existing modes of transportation and provides goals and recommendations for Barre's transportation future. In the community survey, many respondents identified "roads" or "road maintenance" as priority number one for the Town of Barre over the next ten years. Placing a high priority on roads makes sense considering most Barre residents commute to surrounding communities for work or school every day. As Barre looks toward the future, it will be important to maintain existing transportation infrastructure as well as explore alternatives for its non-driving population.

Public Road Inventory

The Town of Barre is connected to surrounding communities through a network of county and town roads. La Crosse County maintains 14 miles of public road within Barre, and the Town maintains 16.4 miles. There are no federal or state highways in Barre. The nearest federal highway is Interstate 90 (I-90) which travels east/west approximately two miles north of the Town of Barre and is accessible via the County Road B exit in the Village of West Salem. State Highway 16 and State Highway 33 provide additional connectivity to communities within La Crosse County and beyond. See map 5.1 for roads and road classifications.

Traffic Counts

Map 5.1 (Appendix A) and Table 5.1 illustrate traffic counts for several of the most frequently traveled County roads in the Town of Barre for the years 2005, 2011 and 2021. Traffic counts were relatively stable from 2005 to 2011 but declined in 2021. This may reflect the number of people working and attending school from home immediately following the Covid-19 pandemic. Map 5.1 represents annual average daily traffic counts at several points within the Town of Barre in 2021, the most recent year for which data exists.



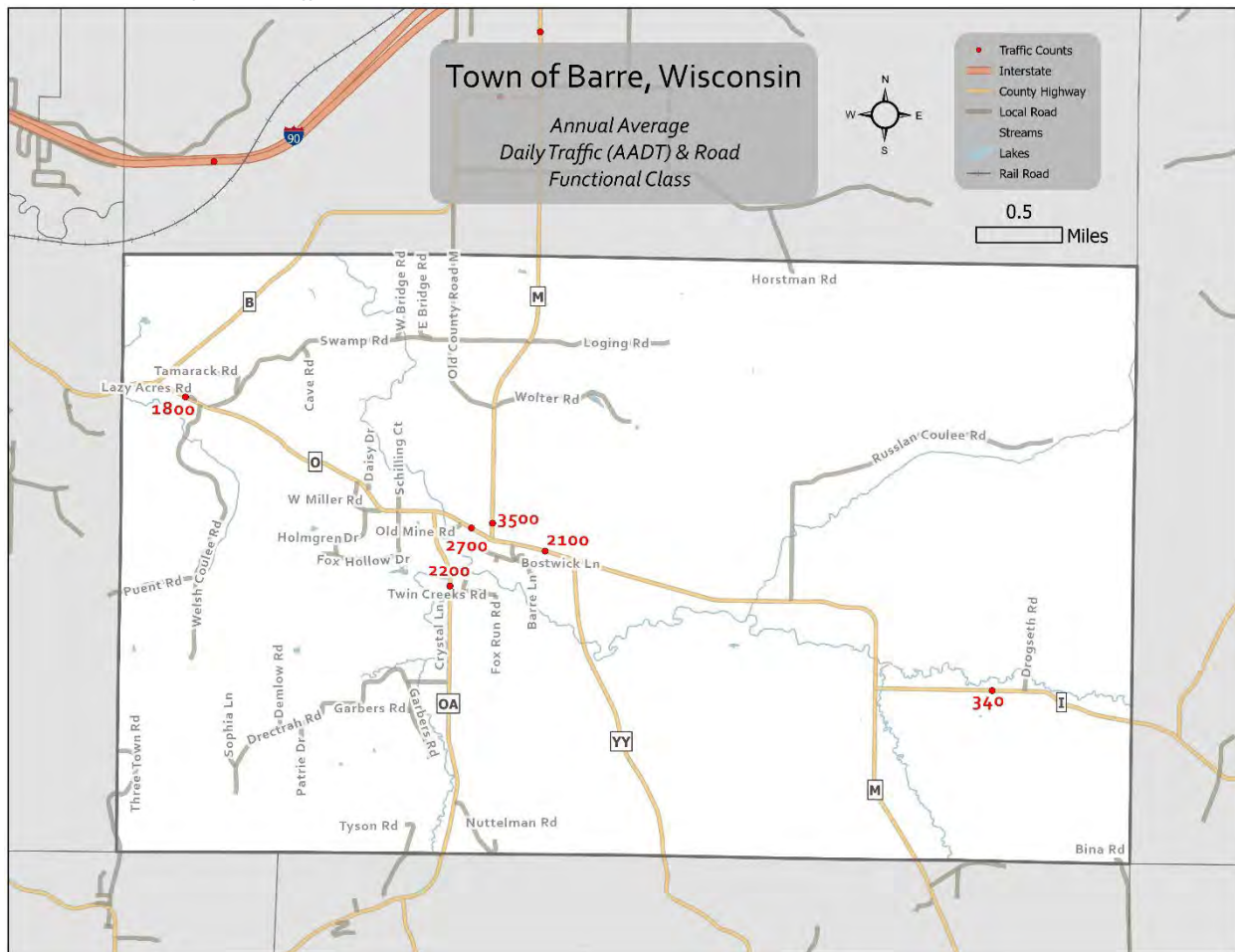
Image 5.1

Table 5.1 Traffic Counts

Location	2005	2011	2021	% Chng. 2005-2021
County Rd. M North of Barre	4000	4000	3500	-12.50%
County Rd. M East of Barre	2500	2400	2100	-16%
County Rd. OA South of Barre	2200	2200	2200	0%
County Rd. O West of Barre	2200	2000	1800	-18.20%

Source: WisDOT Traffic Counts

Map 5.1 - Town of Barre Traffic Counts



Existing Transportation System

Bus

There is no municipal or regional bus service in the Town of Barre. The Village of West Salem School District provides school bus service to Town of Barre residents enrolled in K-12.

Para Transit

The La Crosse County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) operates a bus service to La Crosse County residents that are 60 years or older, or 18 years or older with a disability. The ADRC contracts with Abby Vans to provide this service to Town of Barre and County residents. This service can be accessed by calling the ADRC.

Rail

The nearest passenger rail (AMTRAK) station is in the City of La Crosse, five miles west of the Town of Barre. The AMTRAK Borealis line travels from St. Paul to Chicago with two stops daily in La Crosse, one in each direction. The Empire Builder line travels from Seattle/Oregon to Chicago and makes two stops daily in La Crosse, one in each direction.

Airports

There are no municipal airports in the Town of Barre. The La Crosse Municipal Airport is in the Town of Campbell, five miles west of the Town of Barre. The airport provides both commercial air and freight service. Commercial air service is provided daily from La Crosse to Chicago through American Airlines.

Water Transport

The Town of Barre is not on a commercial waterway. The Port of La Crosse, in the City of La Crosse, is the nearest commercial port. The port serves commercial barge traffic as well as touring and cruise boats.

Trucking

Town and County roads support local trucking. Long-haul commercial trucking takes place primarily on Interstate 90 and on State roads. Each spring, road bans are put in place to limit wear and tear on local roads during the spring thaw.

Pedestrian, Bike Trails, Etc.

The La Crosse River State Bicycle Trail travels through the Village of West Salem and is located approximately two miles 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 local roads provide residents with biking and walking opportunities. There are no other designated pedestrian or bicycle trails in the Town of Barre.

Automobiles

Town of Barre residents own more vehicles per household than most residents of La Crosse County (Table 5.2). However, an estimated 3.8% of Barre households have no access to a private vehicle for transportation. With few existing options for public transportation, most residents rely on private vehicles. As outlined in Ch. 2 of this report, Barre's population trends younger than most other townships in the State. Roughly 15% of Barre's population in 2023 was aged 10-14 (Table 2.3). This non-driving population currently has few transportation alternatives to travelling by private family vehicle. Barre's population of non-driving seniors would also be well served by

Table 5.2 Vehicles per household

	Town of Barre		La Crosse County	
No vehicles available	17	3.8%	3,602	7%
1 vehicle available	64	14.4%	16,989	34%
2 vehicles available	197	44.3%	20,298	40%
3 or more vehicles available	167	37.5%	9,654	19%

more transit options.

Commuting Characteristics

According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 2023 5-year estimates. The vast majority of Barre residents commute by car, truck, or van (85.7%), with the majority traveling alone (80.7%) (Table 5.3). This trend is consistent across La Crosse County and the State of Wisconsin; however, Barre residents are less likely to utilize public transportation. This is likely due to the lack of available options. The number of residents working from home in Barre is slightly higher than in the

Table 5.3 Means of Transport to Work

Means of Transportation to Work				
	Town of Barre	City of La Crosse	La Crosse County	Wisconsin
Car, truck, or van:	85.74%	77.2%	82.81%	82.95%
Drove alone	80.78%	68.0%	75.76%	75.55%
Carpooled:	4.96%	9.2%	7.05%	7.40%
In 2-person carpool	4.96%	6.8%	5.28%	5.66%
In 3-person carpool	0.00%	1.6%	1.21%	1.10%
In 4-or-more-person carpool	0.00%	0.9%	0.56%	0.65%
Public transportation (excluding taxicab):	0.00%	1.8%	0.82%	1.15%
Bus	0.00%	1.7%	0.76%	1.10%
Bicycle	0.00%	2.0%	1.02%	0.50%
Walked	2.02%	8.1%	4.07%	2.73%
Taxicab, motorcycle, or other means	0.62%	0.9%	0.89%	1.04%
Worked from home	11.63%	10.0%	10.38%	11.63%

Source: ACS 2023 5-Year

City of La Crosse and La Crosse County, but in line with the State of Wisconsin.

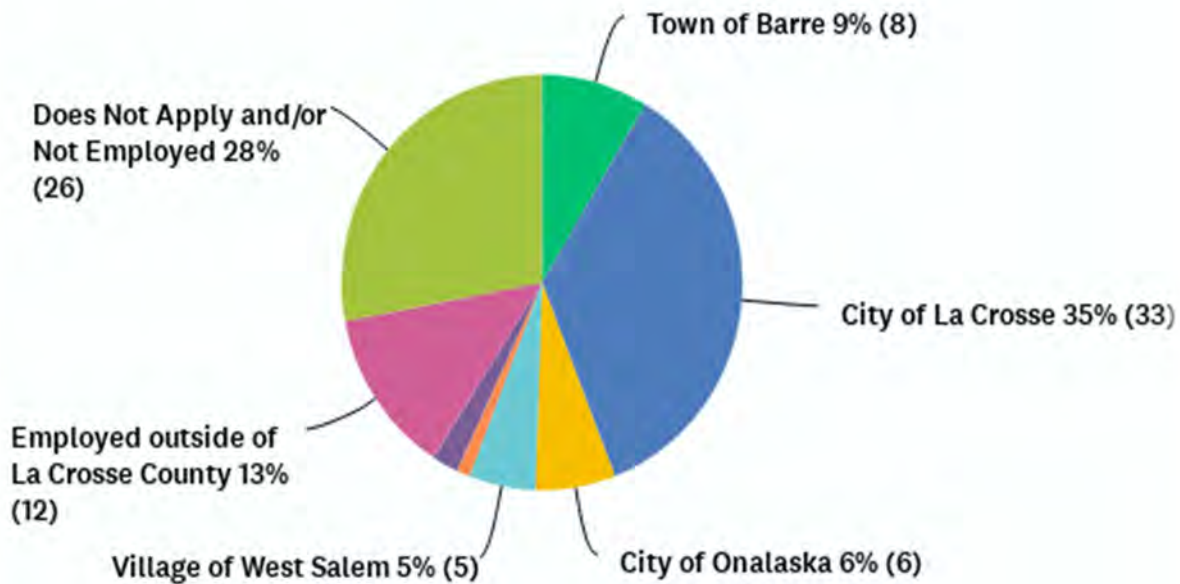
Most Barre residents work in La Crosse County, but not in the Town of Barre (Table 5.4). Figure 5.1 from the Community Survey provides a municipal-level look into where Barre residents are commuting for work. The majority of respondents (35%) indicated that they work in the City of La Crosse. 24% of survey respondents identified as “retired,” which would largely account for the 28% of respondents who indicated that the question “does not apply” or that they are “not employed.”

Table 5.4 Place of Work

Place of Work				
	Town of Barre	City of La Crosse	La Crosse County	Wisconsin
Worked in state of residence:	97.52%	97.20%	96.89%	96.78%
Worked in county of residence:	90.54%	92.84%	90.16%	73.54%
Worked outside county of residence:	6.98%	4.36%	6.73%	23.24%
Worked outside state of residence:	2.48%	2.80%	3.11%	3.22%

Source: ACS 2023 5-Year

Figure 5.1 Town Survey Respondents' Place of Work



Town of Barre Community Survey for Comprehensive Plan Update: Question 9

Table 5.5 show that most Barre Residents (26%) are commuting 20-24 minutes to work. This is in line with commute times to the City of La Crosse.

Table 5.5 Travel Time to Work

Travel Time to Work				
	Town of Barre	City of La Crosse	La Crosse County	Wisconsin
Less than 5 minutes	2.11%	5.83%	3.99%	4.42%
5 to 9 minutes	11.05%	22.33%	17.44%	13.75%
10 to 14 minutes	13.16%	25.51%	20.25%	16.16%
15 to 19 minutes	21.05%	19.04%	19.67%	16.59%
20 to 24 minutes	26.32%	11.61%	15.60%	14.55%
25 to 29 minutes	10.70%	2.95%	5.47%	7.09%
30 to 34 minutes	2.81%	4.55%	7.10%	10.92%
35 to 39 minutes	2.28%	1.20%	1.90%	3.15%
40 to 44 minutes	2.81%	1.42%	1.75%	3.10%
45 to 59 minutes	3.16%	2.25%	3.32%	5.42%
60 to 89 minutes	4.04%	1.99%	1.91%	3.11%
90 or more minutes	0.53%	1.33%	1.59%	1.74%

Source: ACS 2023 5-Year

Relevant Plans

Moving Ahead to 2055: Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the La Crosse, WI – La Crescent, MN Region 2025-2055

The Town of Barre is in the La Crosse and La Crescent Metropolitan Planning Area (MPO). This long-range transportation plan covering the La Crosse, WI-La Crescent, MN urbanized area identifies anticipated projects for the planning area. One project was identified in the Town of Barre: the replacement of Russlan Coulee Bridge on County Road M in 2025.

Wisconsin DOT Six Year Highway Improvement Project (2025-2030)

The plan details all road construction projects on state or federal highways between 2025-2030. There are no state or federal highways in the Town of Barre, so the Six Year Highway Improvement Project does not affect the Town of Barre.

WisDOT Connect 2050

Long-range transportation plan covering the state of Wisconsin. The plan does have specific recommendations for the Town of Barre.

WisDOT Active Transportation Plan 2050 (ATP)

WisDOT is updating the Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan and the Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan and combining them into the Wisconsin Active Transportation Plan 2050 (ATP). This

plan is currently in the pre-draft phase. The previous plans did not have specific recommendations for the Town of Barre.

Goals & Recommendations

Goal 5.1: Maintain the existing road network and level of service (road condition and road maintenance).

Recommendation 5.1.1 - Maintain high levels of satisfaction with road maintenance and snow plowing service.

Recommendation 5.1.2 – Establish a 5-year Capital Improvements Plan/Budget (CIP) to assist the Town in budgeting and planning for all near-term and mid-term infrastructure projects.

Recommendation 5.1.3 - Pursue state and federal funding for road maintenance and reconstruction projects.

Goal 5.2: Improve the safety of transportation facilities.

Recommendation 5.2.1 - Consider low-cost approaches to manage speeding on town roads, such as re-striping, allowing on-street parking in subdivisions, traffic circles, and speed bumps.

Recommendation 5.2.2 - Develop a policy requiring new subdivisions to extend new or existing public road right-of-way when necessary to maintain infrastructure and serve future land uses.

Recommendation 5.2.3 - Require developers be responsible for the cost of new town roads needed to serve developments. These roads shall meet Town road standards.

Recommendation 5.2.4 - Consider requiring curbs in new subdivisions to increase traffic safety, improve drainage, and reduce erosion.

Goal 5.3: Increase active transportation options and accessibility.

Recommendation 5.3.1 - Identify pedestrian/bicycle routes in and throughout the Town of Barre, ideally routes that tie into an existing, off-street trail systems. Once routes are identified, support efforts to develop bike/pedestrian access to interconnected facilities, particularly in the town center and County OA.

Recommendation 5.3.2 - Adopt a policy to require new subdivisions with private roads or town roads have wider shoulder for bicycles and sidewalks at the developer's expense.

6. Utilities, Facilities, & Services

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 is enforced by the La Crosse County Environmental 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 a private waste hauling company for solid waste disposal and recycling. Curbside solid waste pick-up is provided weekly while recyclables are collected every other week. In 2025, the Town hired Big Hook Trucking & Disposal, a local business, to provide solid waste disposal services beginning in 2026.

Storm Water Management

The Town of Barre is 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, road ditches, and some neighborhood retention ponds 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 Committee consisting of eight members was formed to assist in developing the Town Plan.

Fire Protection, Police Protection, and Emergency Management

The Town of Barre does not have a fire department. There is a joint agreement between the Town of Barre, Town of Hamilton, and West Salem for EMS services. West Salem provides fire service to Barre. Barre does not have a police department. The La Crosse County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement to the town. La Crosse County Emergency Government Office is responsible for HAZMAT planning for La Crosse County.

Emergency Services

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

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 Mayo Clinic or Emplify Health, formerly Gundersen Lutheran, in La Crosse. Additional Mayo and Emplify clinics are located around La Crosse and Onalaska. A Neighborhood Family Clinic is located nearby in West Salem.

One non-profit day care facility the "Barre Patch", affiliated with the St. John's Lutheran Church, was located at County Road M, but it closed November 2021. There are no licensed daycare centers in Barre.

Educational Facilities

The West Salem School District serves The Town of Barre. 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.

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, cable, and internet service to residents is available from Spectrum (formerly Charter) and Brightspeed.

The 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) was past to fund broadband and fiber internet expansion in rural, underserved areas nationwide. Brightspeed and, to a lesser extent, Lynxx had been awarded funds to expand highspeed internet in the Town of Barre. In 2025, the program funding was paused. It is not yet clear whether any expansion in La Crosse County will continue as planned.

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. Regulation of cell towers is limited by state and federal laws.

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, but public feedback indicates residents are currently dissatisfied with the quality and reliability of their cell phone and internet service in the town.

Churches and Cemeteries

St. John's Lutheran Church-WELS is 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.



Image 6.1 St. John's Lutheran Church

The Town of Barre maintains the Barre Cemetery. Across the road from the cemetery there originally was a Norwegian Lutheran Church. A newer church, Awaken Church, is located north of Fox Hollow Event Center, along County Rd O.

Libraries

There are no public libraries located in the Town of Barre. The libraries 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.

Town Facilities

The Barre Town Hall is located at at W3541 County Road M. The Town Shop and a storage building are also located at 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 patrolman. The town also hires 3 limited term employees twice per year to assist with large item trash collection. The Town of Barre contracts with private companies for selected maintenance of Town roads.



Image 6.2 Town Hall

Parks and Recreation Facilities

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 Barre 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.

The Fox Hollow Golf Course, opened in 1994, is in the Town of Barre. The Fox Hollow Golf Course and Banquet Hall facility include sand volleyball courts, an 18-hole, par 70 golf course, clubhouse, outdoor shelter and a 10,000 square foot banquet hall.

The Town of Barre is also the location of part of the Coulee Experimental State Forest. About 1,000 acres of this State-owned Forest are 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 habitat consists primarily of upland timber and open fields.

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. Barre has passed an ordinance allowing the use of ATV's/UTV's on Town roads.



Image 6.3 Barre Park

Goals & Recommendations

Goal 6.1: Maintain and enhance public lands and recreational opportunities in the Town.

Recommendation 6.1.1 - Re-establish the Park Committee to continue the development of Barre Park and expand recreation opportunities throughout the Town.

Recommendation 6.1.2 - Consider adopting parkland dedication requirements for new subdivisions.

Recommendation 6.1.3 - Identify locations and feasibility of establishing additional Town parks and recreational amenities.

Goal 6.2: Stay abreast of the changing needs of the Town of Barre and provide adequate community services as needed.

Recommendation 6.2.1 - Strive to maintain the high-quality services over the planning period within the constraints of the budget. Experiment with approaches to engaging residents about Town functions.

Recommendation 6.2.2- Explore joint purchases and sharing of materials/equipment with neighboring municipalities to provide community services

Goal 6.3: Where development occurs, manage expansion of services in ways that expand tax base while reducing the cost burden of existing residents.

Recommendation 6.3.1 - Require developers pay for the up-front cost of serving their properties with new Town services and infrastructure.

Recommendation 6.3.2 - Develop or refine ordinances/policies to make sure future development projects pay for additional burdens placed on public facilities because of a new development. Methods to consider ensuring expenses are covered include: development review fees, special assessments, transportation impact fees, etc.

7. Land Use

Barre consists primarily of agricultural land uses, with some low-density rural residential developments. Other uses include churches, a golf course, an event center, a mobile home park, cemeteries, a park, a bank, a restaurant, and a bar. There are no incorporated communities in the Town. Town of Barre is in Section 28 at the intersection County Road M and County Road O. This is the only area in the Town where denser commercial/retail/residential development patterns may occur.

Image 7.1



Existing Land Use

La Crosse County does not have a detailed Existing Land Use dataset at this time, so assessment data has been analyzed to understand current land uses in Barre.

Public land, including the experimental forest, town hall, the town shop, and Barre Park are not assessed. That's why there are 20.3% fewer total acres shown in Table 7.1 compared to Table 7.3. This indicates an estimated 20% of the land in the town is not taxed. Most of the unassessed area is the State-owned Coulee Experimental Forest on the east side of Barre.

Agricultural/Forest

As Table 7.1 illustrates, the majority of the Town of Barre is agricultural land. Agricultural land is the sum of assessment classes 4, 5, 5M, 6, and 7, which is 89.3% of the land (63.2% of parcels) in Barre. This is a 4.6% increase from 84.7% in 2009. While agricultural land is 89.3% of the land in Barre, it's only 11.2% of the assessed value before farm preservation and forest management tax

credits. Assessment Class 7 is typically “farmyard” structures and land associated with a farm residence that are assessed at full value.

Table 7.1 – Total Land Assessed & Assessed Value

Real Estate Classes	Parcels	% of Parcels	Acres	% of Acres	Value of Land	Value of Improvements	Total Assessed Value	% Assessed Value
Residential	464	35.7%	975	9.4%	\$ 19,566,000	\$ 122,007,300	\$ 141,573,300	85.5%
Commercial	15	1.2%	131	1.3%	\$ 970,200	\$ 4,217,300	\$ 5,187,500	3.1%
Manufacturing	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Agricultural	353	27.1%	5,990	57.7%	\$ 1,369,900	\$ -	\$ 1,369,900	0.8%
Undeveloped	187	14.4%	753	7.3%	\$ 1,028,100	\$ -	\$ 1,028,100	0.6%
Ag Forest	143	11.0%	1,593	15.4%	\$ 3,297,400	\$ -	\$ 3,297,400	2.0%
Forest	69	5.3%	824	7.9%	\$ 3,387,200	\$ -	\$ 3,387,200	2.0%
Other (Farm yard)	70	5.4%	107	1.0%	\$ 1,285,800	\$ 8,391,400	\$ 9,677,200	5.8%
TOTAL	1,301	100%	10,373	100.0%	\$ 30,904,600	\$ 134,616,000	\$ 165,520,600	100.0%
Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue, 2024 Statement of Assessment.								

By comparing the equalized value (Table 7.2) and actual assessed (Table 7.1) value of agricultural properties, you can see that agriculture is typically assessed at half of its actual estimated market value. In addition to the reduced tax rate, these lands are eligible for tax credits of \$10 per acre due to the adoption of farmland preservation zoning in La Crosse County.

Table 7.2 – Equalized (Estimated “Fair Market”) Value of Land

Real Estate Classes (Class #)	Land Equalized Value	% of Total Land Value	Improvements Equalized Value	% of Total Improvements Value	Total
Residential (1)	\$ 23,446,600	63.8%	\$ 140,068,200	89.9%	\$ 163,514,800
Commercial (2)	\$ 1,505,100	4.1%	\$ 5,331,100	3.4%	\$ 6,836,200
Manufacturing (3)	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
Agricultural (4)	\$ 1,521,700	4.1%		0.0%	\$ 1,521,700
Undeveloped (5)	\$ 1,101,000	3.0%		0.0%	\$ 1,101,000
Ag Forest (5M)	\$ 3,743,600	10.2%		0.0%	\$ 3,743,600
Forest (6)	\$ 3,872,800	10.5%		0.0%	\$ 3,872,800
Other (7, Farm yard)	\$ 1,551,500	4.2%	\$ 10,390,700	6.7%	\$ 11,942,200
Aggregate Equalized Values	\$36,742,300	100%	\$ 155,790,000	100%	\$ 192,532,300
Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue, 2024 Equalized Values.					

The agricultural uses present in the Town primarily consist of farms, cropland, grazing/pasture, and forested land. Typical crops grown are corn, alfalfa, and soybeans. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the average price per acre for agricultural land in La Crosse County’s NASS region was \$6,122 per acre in 2024. This value is around the 2024 state average of

\$6,363 per acre, but this average is heavily skewed by the low cost of land in northern Wisconsin and the high cost of land in southern Wisconsin.



Image 7.2 - A field & ag road in Barre.

Commercial & Industrial

Some non-agricultural, commercial businesses are in the Town. These businesses include a restaurant, bars, a golf course, and a bank. The following is a listing of businesses currently operating in the Town.

- Barre Bar & Table
- Nick's Bar
- River Bank Processing Center
- Fox Hollow Golf Course and Event Center
- Northern Land Mini Storage
- Pederson's Christmas Tree Farm
- Horstmann Homestead Farm (event venue)

Other commercial uses in Barre, which aren't listed above, are home occupations that are services or agriculture oriented.

Image 7.3

According to the 2024 assessment, only 1.3% of acres in Barre are classified as Commercial, and no land is classified as Manufacturing. Intense industrial uses often require public water and sewer services that most towns, including Barre, do not provide.



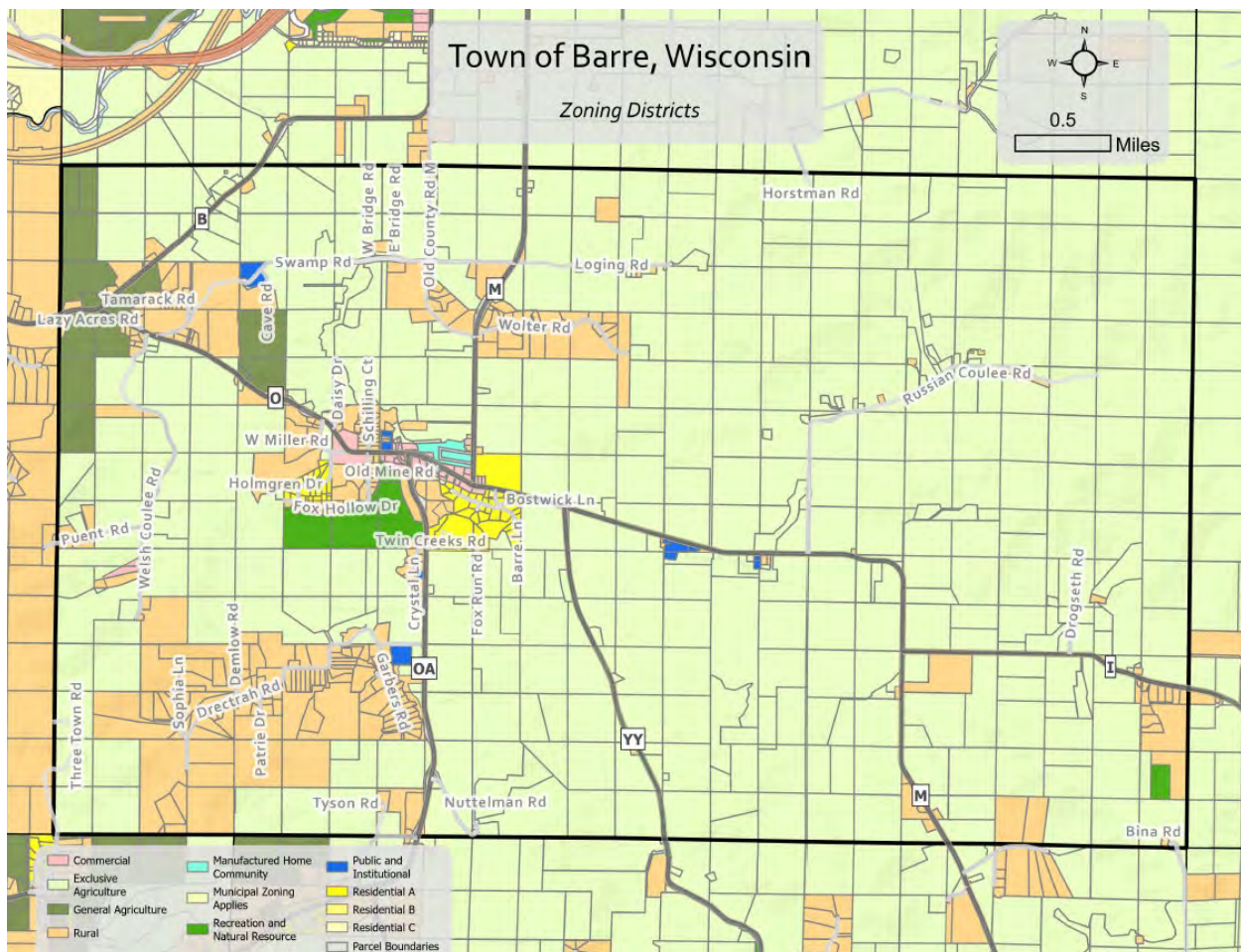
Housing

Table 7.1 indicates that residential land comprises 85.5% of the total assessed value of the Town while only occupying 9.4% of the land. Typically, residential uses are on smaller parcels than commercial, industrial, recreation, and agricultural lands; 35.7% of the parcels (9.4% of all acres) in Barre are assessed as Residential. Housing is analyzed in more detail in the Housing Chapter of this plan.

Zoning & Other Land Use Standards

The Town of Barre is a zoned Town. The La Crosse County Zoning Department administers general zoning in the Town of Barre. Barre has adopted some 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 construction. The La Crosse County Zoning, Planning, and Land Information Department administers general zoning and other regulations mandated by Wisconsin State Statute such as shoreland/wetland and floodplain zoning in the Town.

Map 7.1 Zoning Map



Map 7.1 (Appendix A) is the County Zoning Map, which is a component of the La Crosse County Zoning Code and represents the district assigned to each property. Chart 7.1 represents the percentage of town land within districts. Zoning indicates the current, general use of land. Table 7.3 provides a breakdown of the various zoning districts in the Town. Note that the real estate assessment classes in Table 7.1 and 7.2 are not equivalent to the zoning districts in Table 7.3. Real estate assessment classes are not assigned to properties based on the regulatory zoning of a property; assessment classes are assigned based on the current use of a property.

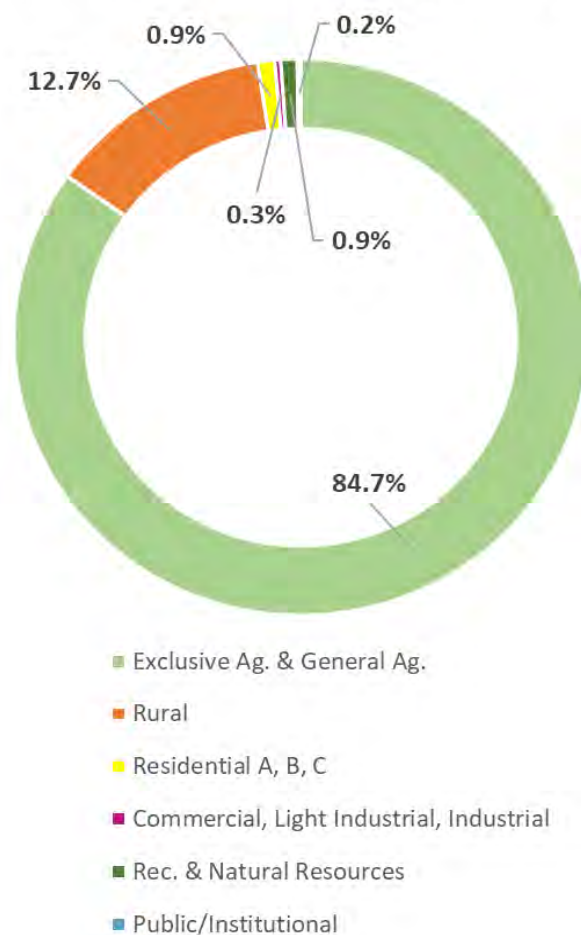
Farmland Preservation Zoning

Survey results indicate that farmland preservation is important to respondents. General Agriculture and Exclusive Agriculture Districts are farmland preservation districts. The only distinction between the two districts is that General Agriculture does not allow large livestock feedlots, also referred to as confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Within farmland preservation districts, a base farm tract (BFT) model, established by ordinance, is used to regulate residential density. The Future Land Use Map identifies areas which may be rezoned from farmland preservation districts to other districts. Each BFT represents all acres under common ownership at the time of adoption of BFT zoning standards in 2012 (Map 7.2, Appendix A).

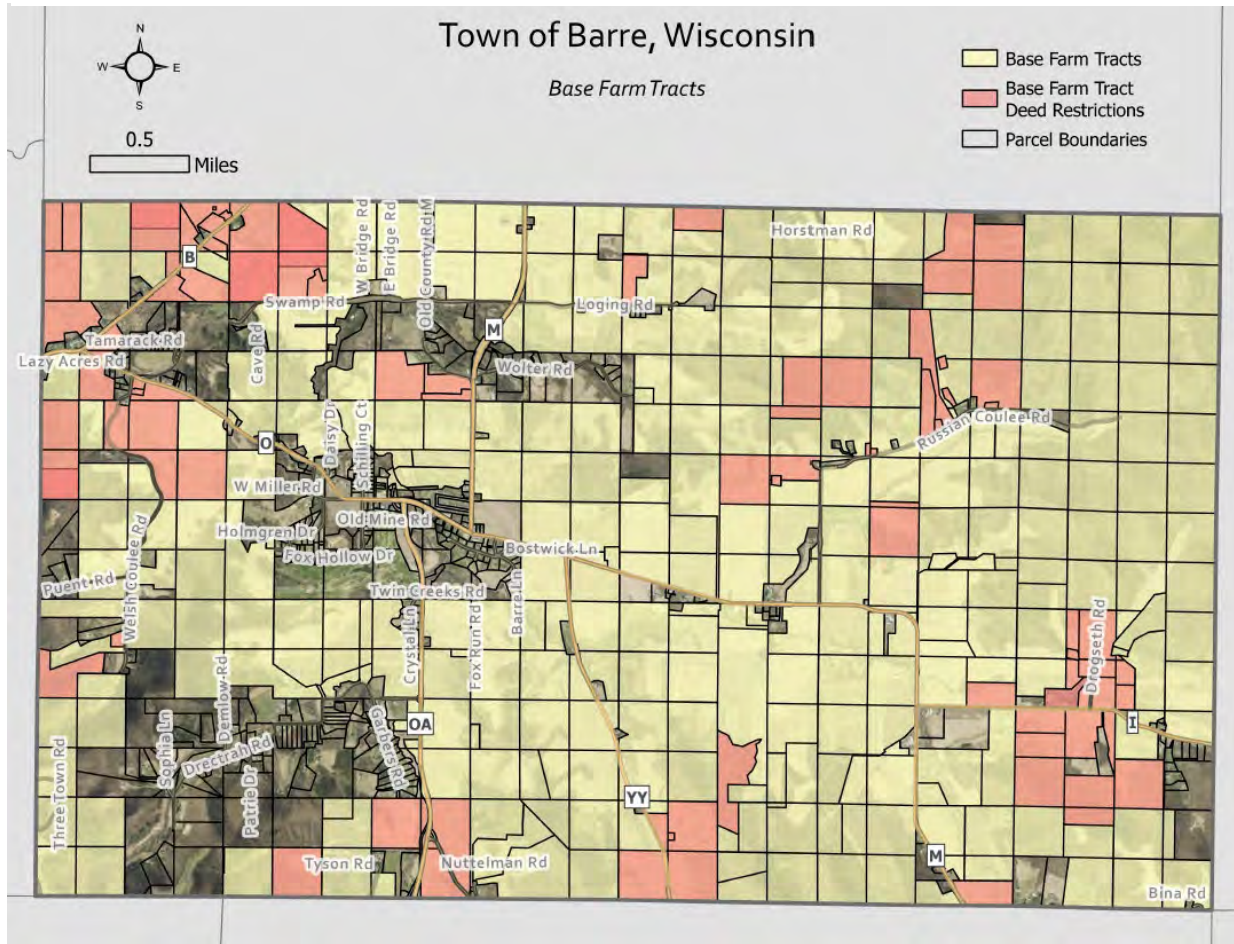
Within each BFT, the right to build 1 home per 35 acres, not to exceed 5 homes per BFT, may be permitted. Residential development rights may be acquired by a conditional use or administrative conditional use. These standards support the Town's objective to preserve farmland. With each new home, deed restrictions must be recorded as a condition of approval to protect farmland. For more details about farmland preservation standards, refer to the La Crosse County Zoning Code.

Chart 7.1

Town of Barre Land by Zoning District (2025)



Map 7.2 Base Farm Tracts



Zoning Trends

Table 7.3 indicates, between 2009 and 2025, the largest proportional changes in zoning districts by acres are the Public Institutional and Recreation and Natural Resources districts. The increase in acres within these districts is due to the development of Fox Hollow (Recreation & Natural Resources) and Barre Park (Public & Institutional). The development of Fox Hollow and Barre Park also appears to have caused the most significant reductions of agricultural land in the Town; a reduction of 140.3 acres.

Other notable zoning changes include General Agriculture (-11.7%; -38.8 acres), Residential A (+88.8%; +57.7 acres), and Commercial (+18.6%; +6.9 acres) (See Table 7.3). While these increases are significant, the proportion of acres relative to all acres in the town are still very similar to what they were in 2009 at only 2.3% (General Ag.), 0.9% (Residential A), and 0.3% (Commercial) of all land in the town (See Table 7.3).

Future Land Use

Desired future land uses for the town are identified in the Future Land Use Map (Map 7.3, Appendix A). The Future Land Use Map represents the development the Town and residents want or expect to occur in the next 10 to 20 years. Areas assigned a future land use class that does not correspond with its current zoning district are where rezoning to another zoning district may be supported by the Town. Unlike zoning districts, the boundaries of future land use maps do not always follow exact parcel boundaries, as parcel boundaries are likely to be altered in the future. Frequent updates to future land use maps are highly discouraged. To update a future land use map, the comprehensive plan must be re-adopted in accordance with Wis. Stats. s. 66.1001.

Zoning District	2009 Acreage	2009 % of Total	2025 Acreage	2025 % of Total	% Change 2009-2025
Exclusive Agriculture	10,940	84.0%	10,740.1	82.5%	-1.8%
General Agriculture	332	2.5%	293.2	2.3%	-11.7%
Rural	1,623	12.5%	1,656.2	12.7%	2.0%
Residential A	65	0.5%	122.7	0.9%	88.8%
Residential B	0.8	0.0%	0.8	0.0%	0%
Residential C	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	0%
Manufactured Home Community	14.0	0.1%	14.0	0.1%	0%
Commercial	37	0.3%	43.9	0.3%	18.6%
Light Industrial	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	0%
Industrial	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	0%
Public Facilities & Institutional	9.4	0.1%	28.7	0.2%	100%
Recreation & Natural Resources	-	0.0%	121.0	0.9%	100%
Total	13,021		13,021		

Table 7.3 - Zoning Changes by District 2009-2025

Regulatory zoning districts correspond with each future land use class on the Future Land Use Map. By changing the zoning district of a property to another zoning district through a rezoning process, certain types of development may be enabled. According to Wisconsin Statutes s. 66.1001, rezoning requests must be consistent with local comprehensive plans, including the Future Land Use Map. When a rezoning is proposed, the County Future Land Use Map and Town Future Land Use Map must be reviewed. The County Future Land Use Map is a “quilt” of town future land use maps, and it’s updated every few years to incorporate changes from 10-year updates to town plans.

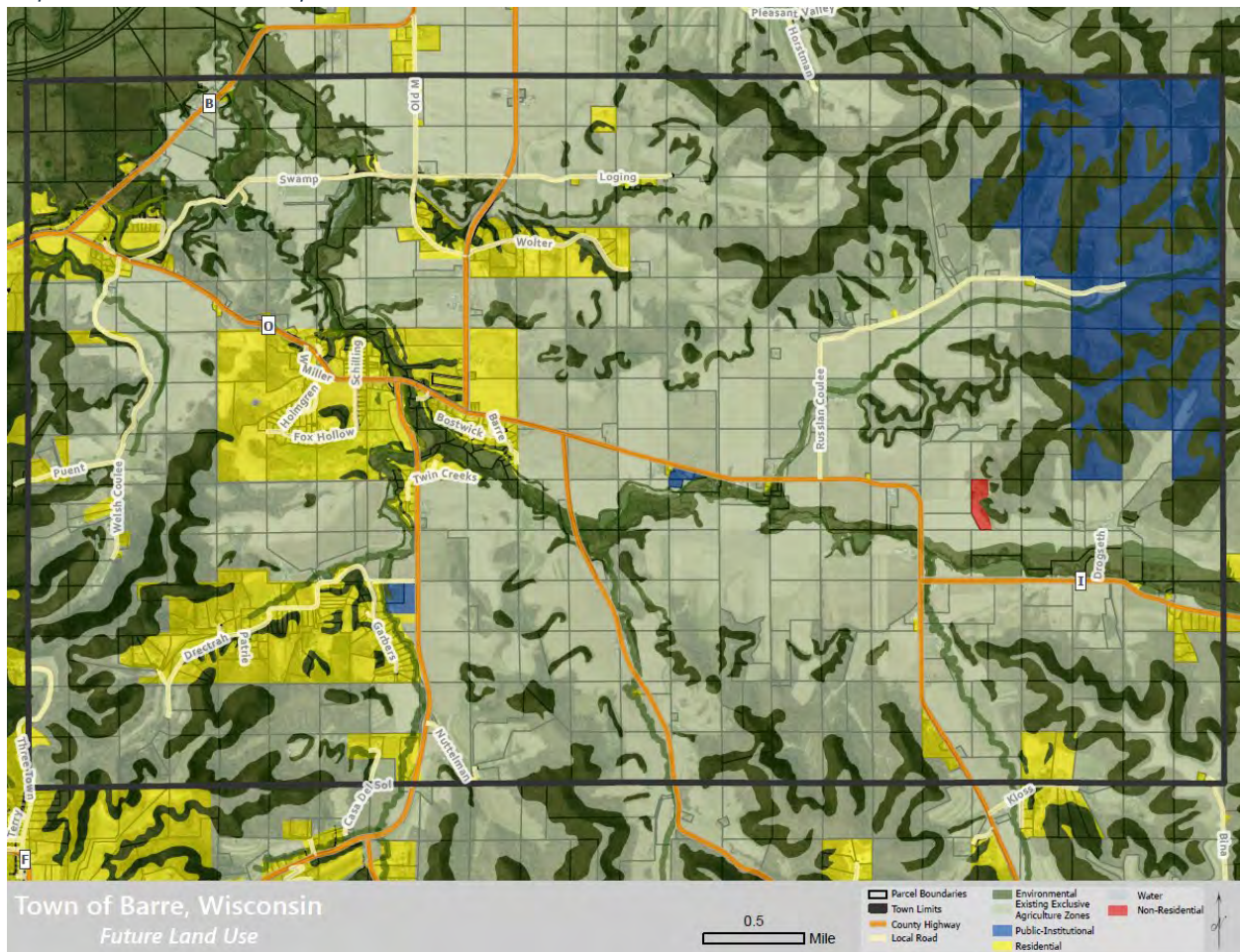
Land Use Classes

1. **Residential** – All residential zoning districts, including Rural District, correspond with this class.
2. **Non-Residential** – Commercial, Light-Industrial, and Industrial districts correspond with this class.
3. **Public-Institutional** – Public & Institutional District and Recreation & Natural Resources District correspond with this class. Areas assigned this class represent existing public and

institutional uses and planned development of new public and institutional uses, such as government buildings, parks, and schools.

4. **Agricultural** – Exclusive Agriculture District and General Agriculture District correspond with this class. Areas assigned this class are areas where farmland preservation is prioritized above all development.
5. **Environmental** – This class does not correspond with a particular zoning district, and it could be considered an “overlay” district. It represents the location of potentially vulnerable natural resources, such as wetlands, waterbodies, floodplain, and steep slopes. Development of these areas is generally discouraged.

Map 7.3 Future Land Use Map



Note that the locations of future demand for rezoning to Public & Institutional District and Recreation & Natural Resources District are the most difficult to predict. Uses within both zoning districts contribute to public health, safety, and welfare in various ways, so they are generally compatible with all future land use classes unless determined otherwise by elected officials on a case-by-case basis.

Land Supply & Demand

Supply

The supply of land to support development is based on several factors, including geography, local regulations, proximity to infrastructure, proximity to employment, and community goals. Between 1990-1997, 3% of farmland in the County was converted, or “supplied”, for other uses. Overall development in the county has slowed.

Intergovernmental agreements and annexations must be considered in terms of urban land supply. In Barre’s case, there is not a strong possibility of annexation into the City of La Crosse or the City of Onalaska in the next 20 years due to geographic factors. To extend services from either city, services may need to be extended to cross the La Crosse River, marshlands, slopes, a rail line, Interstate 90 and areas which are already served by private wells and septic systems. It likely would not be financially responsible for either of the cities to annex and extend urban services to Barre.

The land Barre would, and would not, like to see supplied in the next 20 years should be identified on the Future Land Use Map.

Demand

Housing is in-demand nationwide. Housing nationwide has been produced at a slower rate since the 2008 Housing Recession. Demand has increased as supply has slowed in La Crosse County since the 1990’s. This, among other factors, has increased the median home price in La Crosse County, adjusted for inflation, by 13.2% (~\$40,048) between 2010 and 2023. La Crosse County’s population has not significantly increased, but existing residents are creating new, smaller households with fewer children. This is likely due to the increased cost of housing, childcare, and living generally. The number of households in La Crosse County increased by 5% between 2020 and 2023 alone.

Preliminary findings of the 2025 La Crosse County Housing Study indicate the primary demand drivers are small families of existing residents aged 20-40 who are seeking home ownership and “Baby Boomers” wishing to downsize to lower-maintenance homes as they age. Both demographics are demanding the same kind of modest housing that is in short supply. This is called “missing middle” housing, because it often isn’t supplied enough to satisfy demand. As housing supply is failing to satisfy demand, more people employed in La Crosse are moving farther away to more affordable housing and commuting to work. In 2023, 10,000 more people work in the county and live outside the county than did in 2002. In other words, 10,000 more people commute to work in La Crosse County, using public infrastructure without paying any of the taxes that support it.

Due to Barre’s proximity to employment in La Crosse, Onalaska, and West Salem, demand for more housing in Barre likely exists. Naturally, most of the demand is from County residents who do not already live in Barre. Housing demand is discussed in more depth in the Housing Chapter.

Existing industrial land has recently been in demand, but this demand has been driven by existing employers relocating to build new facilities to undeveloped “greenfield” sites rather than new employers relocating to the region. Between 2014 and 2023, there was only 1.9% employment growth in La Crosse County, and job growth has been low for decades. While existing industrial park land is being depleted, and there may be demand for more industrial land elsewhere in the region, Barre is not an ideal location for most industrial uses. Barre lacks proximity to urban services and major transportation infrastructure, most notably Interstate 90, that other communities in the region can provide.

Land Use Projections

Land use change and development projections can be made based on historic population data and permitting data. Due to a lack of consistent population growth in Barre, it is difficult to identify trends and patterns to project growth based on historic population data.

Land Use Projections Based on Historic Population Growth

The Wisconsin Department of Administration Demographic Services Center performs populations projects for all Wisconsin communities using their own methodology that considers, historic growth, birth rates, and death rates. By 2040, the State anticipates Barre’s population will increase by only 13 residents. The average lots size for new residential lots in the town since 2010 is 2.18 acres. Barre’s average household size is estimated to be 3.03 people. Based on the growth projected by the State, the average household size, and the average lot size, there will only be demand for 4 dwelling units and 8.72 acres of residential land by 2040. If these 4 homes were built at the minimum lot density allowed (20,000 square feet), only 1.84 acres would be required.

The State’s projections are significantly inaccurate and underestimated. For example, two anticipated subdivisions in the town will bring 140 or more new residents to Barre in the next few years alone. Of course, overall growth may be offset by the town’s large population cohorts of elderly residents and 0–19-year-old residents passing away and moving away, respectively. It’s unlikely, however, that in-demand existing and new dwellings would not be re-occupied by new residents, replacing the departing existing residents.

Population growth alone doesn’t indicate whether additional commercial or industrial uses should be anticipated.

Land Use Projections Based on Historic Rezoning & Permitting

Table 7.4 - Land Use Projections Based on Historic Rezoning & Permitting

Rezoned from	Rezoned to	# of Rezoning	Avg. Lot Size	Acres	% of Total Acres Rezoned
Exclusive Agriculture	Rural	7	2.67	72	26.8%
Exclusive Agriculture	Residential A	2	1.68	70.38	26.2%
Rural	Residential A	1	N/A	1.28	0.5%
Exclusive Agriculture	Commercial	1	N/A	14.7	5.5%
General Agriculture	Rec. & Natural Resources (Fox Hollow)	1	N/A	110.64	41.1%
Total		12		269	100%

Based on rezonings and permitting from 2010-2025 (see Table 7.4), a range of housing units and acres of land required to satisfy local demand may be projected. 12 rezonings of 269 acres have occurred in Barre since 2010. 53% of rezoned land was from an agricultural district (Exclusive Agriculture and General Agriculture) to a residential district (Residential A and Rural). 75% of this small number of rezonings rezoned agricultural land to residential districts.

Based on the current and anticipated lots created from following rezonings, approximately 69 Residential A and Rural lots have been created since 2010. Many of these have not yet been built upon. In 2009, when the Town's comprehensive plan was last updated, the average lot size was 1.6 acres. The average lot size of the Rural and Residential A districts has since increased to 2.18 acres and development has decreased based on 2010-2025 data.

Much of the land rezoned for housing will likely be undeveloped agricultural land. 142.38 acres may be required to supply housing in the next 15 years at the same density and rate it had been built at in the last 15 years (See Table 7.5). If that same number of lots (69) were built at the minimum required lot size (20,000 sq. ft.), only 31.67 acres of land would be required (See Table 7.6). In other words, building single family housing more densely on smaller lots could preserve 77.8% more farmland while still supplying enough lots to meet housing demand. The lower the density of housing subdivisions, the more farmland is lost.

The number of acres of other land uses, such as commercial, that may be demanded in the future cannot be reliably projected with such limited permitting data.

Table 7.5 - Projected Land Demand by 2040 Based on 2010-2025 Average New Lot Size

Residential District Rezoned to	Required Lots by 2040 Based on 2010-2025 Avg. Size	2010-2025 Avg. Lot Size	Required Acres by 2040 Based on Rezoning 2010-2025	New Population by 2040 based on 2010-2025 New Lots
RU	27	2.67	72	82
RA	42	1.68	70	127
TOTAL	69		142.38	208

Table 7.6 – Scenario: Projected Land Demand by 2040 If 2010-2025 New Lots Were at Minimum Required Lot Size

Residential District Rezoned to	Required Lots by 2040 Based on # New Lots 2010-2025	Minimum Required Lot Size (Acres)	Acres Required	New Population by 2040 Based on 2010-2025 New Lots
RU	27	0.459	12.39	82
RA	42	0.459	19.28	127
TOTAL	69		31.67	208

Opportunities for Redevelopment

Based on limited historical development in town and the town's rural nature, no significant redevelopment opportunities were identified. However, since the Barre Patch's closure, there are limited childcare options in the Town. Re-opening the facility, which may already satisfy many statute requirements for daycares, may be feasible as a function of St. John's Church or a private business.

Image 7.2 - Location of the former Barre Patch Daycare

Opportunities for Development

Housing

Generally, the most suitable place for housing development is along existing infrastructure and adjacent to existing housing. The most suitable location for these uses is the town center, surrounding the intersection of County Hwy M and O and roughly within a quarter mile of existing subdivisions.

Fox Run Road is well situated for extension and could serve more single dwelling or two dwelling residences. South of W Miller Rd, west of Fox Hollow Dr is a great location for more housing. Due to topography, areas west of Welsh Coulee Rd are not well suited for agriculture. West of Welsh Coulee Rd could support a limited number of new, low-density residences.

New homes south of County Rd M, near the intersection of County Rd YY would be near existing development and within a reasonable walking distance of businesses in the town center, St. John's Church, and Town Hall.

With an increasingly large proportion of aging residents, a senior care facility near the town center may be desirable. There are also a proportionally high number of children and teens living in Barre. It is unrealistic for the children of existing homeowners to reside in Barre as they age into adulthood. Residents may desire to have more nearby housing options for young residents who have grown up in Barre.

Commercial & Industrial

According to town survey responses, commercial and industrial uses are not desired by residents. Low intensity commercial, such as service businesses, restaurants, and retail may be supported. The most suitable location for these uses is the town center, surrounding the intersection of County Hwy M and O.

More intense commercial and industrial uses, like warehousing and manufacturing, are not ideally suited to Barre. Barre lacks access and proximity to major transportation infrastructure and municipal services relative to other towns, like Hamilton for example. Such intense uses may disproportionately impact Barre's limited infrastructure and natural resources, like town roads and Bostwick Creek.

Public & Institutional

The Town has sufficient government facilities, and a relatively new town hall. Survey responses indicated a desire for more public recreation facilities. Barre has many young families that would be well served by more recreational amenities.

Additional facilities could be added to Barre Park, or the park could be expanded. Alternatively, a new park could be developed elsewhere. Accessible areas near neighborhoods are the most suitable. They could also be located to strategically preserve existing open space and natural areas such as along Bostwick Creek.

The Town may consider requiring park land dedication or park fees from developers at the time of major subdivision approval so that new neighborhoods include nearby recreational amenities.

Goals & Recommendations

Goal 7.1: Preserve agriculture, the environment, and the rural landscape of the Town of Barre.

Recommendation 7.1.1 - When reviewing proposals for rezonings, ensure that land use changes are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the standards for review in La Crosse County Ordinance Chapter 17. Consult County Zoning staff if in need of assistance.

Recommendation 7.1.2. – To maintain the community’s “rural character”, discourage non-agricultural development on land in farmland preservation districts unless that land has been identified by the future land use map as a suitable location for non-agricultural use.

Goal 7.2: Administer policies that balance individuals’ property rights while mitigating land use conflicts and supporting the community vision of the Comprehensive Plan.

Recommendation 7.2.1 – Continue to convene the Planning Committee following comprehensive plan adoption, in accordance with Town ordinances, to implement plan recommendations and review proposed rezonings and conditional uses.

Recommendation 7.2.2. - Discourage large industrial and commercial uses in the Town of Barre. Such uses would preferably be served by public, urban water and wastewater utilities.

Recommendation 7.2.3 – Evaluate and update local sign ordinances and nuisance standards to mitigate potential conflicts between neighbors.

Goal 7.3: Encourage land uses, densities, and regulations that promote efficient development patterns and relatively low government infrastructure costs.

Recommendation 7.3.1. - Continue to direct higher density developments to the Town Center to support local businesses and facilitate gradual growth that radiate outward from the Town Center.

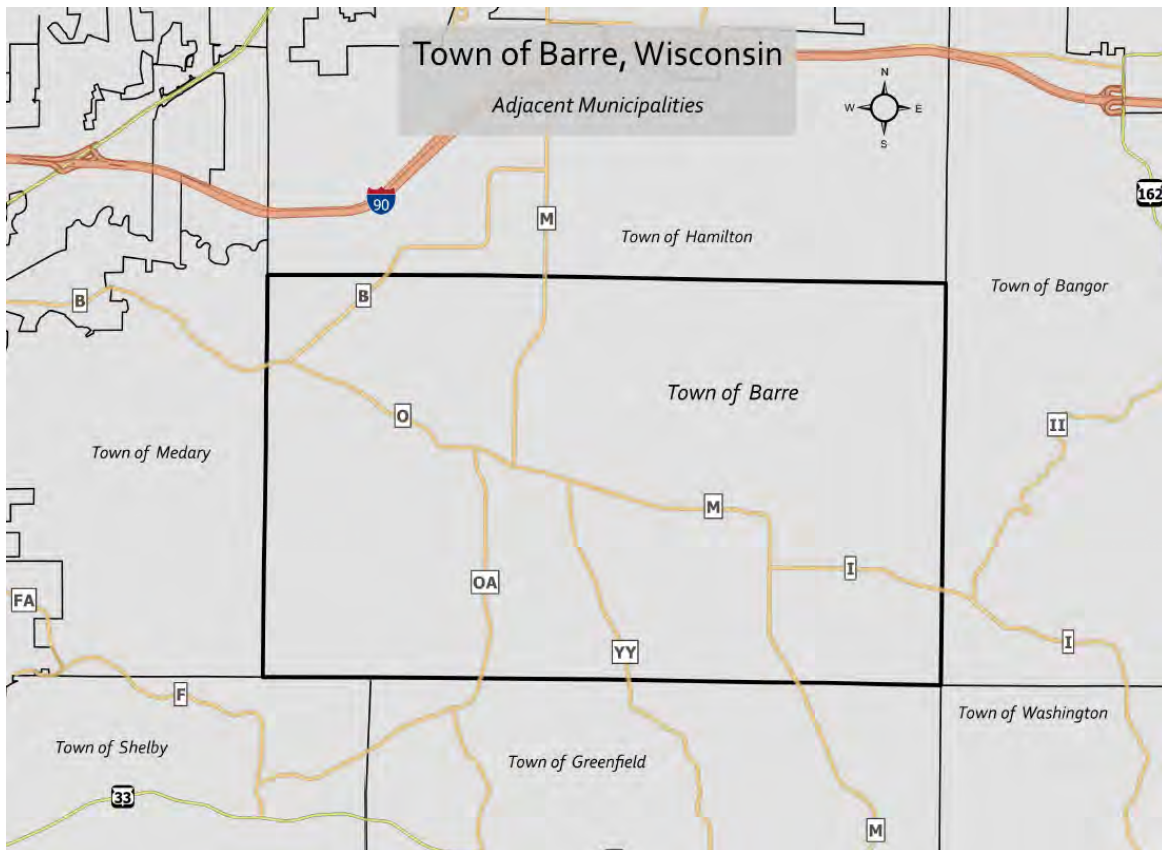
Recommendation 7.3.2 – Consider updates to Town subdivision standards that:

- encourage clustering of new lots.
- direct new growth to existing infrastructure and reduce demand for development of agricultural land that is not served by existing infrastructure.

8. Intergovernmental Cooperation

This chapter addresses the intergovernmental cooperation of the Town of Barre with overlapping political jurisdictions, such as federal, state, and county departments and neighboring municipalities. The Town of Barre realizes the advantages of working with its neighbors and will identify opportunities to enhance those relationships. Through partnership, greater efficiencies and cost savings can be achieved while increasing the quality of public services.

Map 8.1



Federal

While federal funding decisions affect state and local funding Barre may benefit from, the Town has minimal interaction with federal agencies.

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - 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.

State

- State of Wisconsin, most notably:
 - Department of Transportation – Collaboration regarding funding, road maintenance, and road classification.
 - Department of Administration
 - Department of Revenue
 - Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
 - Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP)

Local Collaboration & Agreements

The Town collaborates with, and relies upon the following units of government and agencies to support their services and operations:

- La Crosse County, most notably:
 - Zoning, Planning, and Land Information Department – Serves the Town with general zoning, floodplain zoning, and shoreland/wetland zoning administration and enforcement. Provides planning, community development, addressing, tax roll processing, and mapping services. Periodically, the Department reflects updates to town plans in the County's comprehensive plan. Applies farmland preservation standards to maintain local agricultural tax credits.
 - Health Department, Environmental Health – Well and septic permitting. Enforces health standards.
 - Highway Department – Maintenance of County roads and rights of way.
 - Department of Land Conservation – Monitors water quality of Bostwick Creek. Enforces stormwater management and erosion control standards for new projects in unincorporated areas. Utilizes state and federal funds to assist agricultural producers with waste management and land conservation.
 - Sheriff's Department, Emergency Services – Law enforcement and emergency preparation and response.
 - Solid Waste Department – Manages waste disposal county-wide. Provides landfilling for private sector waste haulers.
 - Department of Human Services, Veteran Services – Provides social services and assistance.
 - County Surveyor – Reviews certain land divisions and subdivisions. Maintains quarter section monuments county-wide.
 - County Treasurer – Oversees the finances of local governments and tax collection.

- County Clerk - Facilitates elections and processes certain official documents. Prepares public meetings and records in accordance with statutes.
- Register of Deeds – Records official documents in accordance with statutes.
- School District of West Salem
- Village of West Salem – Fire service. Joint EMS agreement with Town of Hamilton.
- Town of Hamilton - Joint EMS agreement with Village of West Salem.
- Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA) – Advocates for town governments. Provides trainings, guidance, legislative updates, and funding updates.
- Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC) - The MRRPC maintains the region's eligibility as an Economic Development District and eligibility for Economic Development Administration funding. They also provide planning and development assistance to local governments including comprehensive planning assistance, economic development assistance, mapping, and grant writing.

Other nearby towns and municipalities (Map 8.1):

- Town of Medary
- Town of Greenfield
- Town of Bangor
- Town of Shelby

Inventory of Existing Plans

Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan	Updated in 2025 by La Crosse County
Town of Bangor Comprehensive Plan	Updated in 2023 by MRRPC
Town of Hamilton Comprehensive Plan	Updated in 2022 by MRRPC
Town of Medary Comprehensive Plan	Updated in 2025 by La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC)/MPO
Town of Shelby Comprehensive Plan	Updated in 2022 by MRRPC
Town of Greenfield Comprehensive Plan	Updated in 2025 by MRRPC
Village of West Salem Comprehensive Plan	Updated in 2023
La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan	Updated in 2022 by La Crosse County. Future Land Use Map updated in 2024.
La Crosse County Farmland Preservation Plan	Updated in 2022 by La Crosse County
La Crosse County Mult-Hazard Mitigation Plan	Updated in 2025 by MRRPC
La Crosse County Outdoor Recreation Plan	Updated in 2025 by MRRPC

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. Existing and potential land use conflicts are identified in the Land Use Element.

No clear intergovernmental governments are evident within the plans of neighboring municipalities or from feedback provided to inform this plan. The Town of Barre will continue to monitor actions of neighboring or overlapping jurisdictions during the planning period. 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.

Conflict Resolution

County and local governments are often engaged in parallel discussions in their respective communities. Nearby communities may share common planning interests with the Town of Barre. Whenever possible, local governments should engage in efforts to avoid potential intergovernmental conflicts.

When there's potential for intergovernmental conflict, it may benefit the local governments and interested parties to review countywide planning objectives and policies to determine whether local interests are consistent with regional goals.

While this section considers intergovernmental conflict resolutions specifically, similar conflict resolution methods may be leveraged to handle disputes with elected officials, residents, business owners, and city employees as applicable.

Potential Subjects of Dispute:

- Annexations/boundary disputes
- Land use compatibility/rezoning proposals
- Sharing staff, facilities, or equipment
- Renting/sharing equipment
- Joint purchasing
- Revenue sharing
- Municipal service / maintenance agreements

Methods for Conflict Mitigation:

- Open discussion prior to decision making
- Sharing planning documents (ex. comprehensive plans)
- Participating in regional planning (ex. regional housing studies, regional transportation plans, county future land use mapping, etc.)

- When adopting/amending local policies, compare the policies of adjacent municipalities
- Meeting with adjoining jurisdictions
- Extraterritorial review agreements
- Cooperative boundary agreements
- Revenue sharing agreements
- Public outreach and education
- Adopting special use districts

Methods for Resolving Disputes:

- Open discussion
- Negotiation
- Facilitated or mediated negotiation
- Litigation

Conflict Resolution Resources and Guides:

- Wisconsin Department of Administration Division of Hearings & Appeals
<https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/AboutDOA/HearingsAndAppeals.aspx>
- Harvard Law School Program on Negotiation, Free Reports
<https://www.pon.harvard.edu/publications/#158>
- Minnesota Department of Administration, Office of Collaboration and Dispute Resolution, Bridging Divides Tools
<https://mn.gov/admin/government/ocdr/bridging-divides-tools/>
- Mitchell Hamline School of Law Dispute Resolution Institute
<https://mitchellhamline.edu/dispute-resolution-institute/>

Goals and Recommendations

Goal 8.1: Establish cooperative agreements for services and maintenance of infrastructure.

Recommendation 8.1.1 - Maintain existing fire protection and emergency services agreements and continue to explore ways to improve the effectiveness and affordability of services.

Recommendation 8.1.2 - Continue to build on the Town's strong relationship with the County to improve communication and the provision of services.

Goal 8.2: Increase operational efficiencies and reduce expenses through collaboration with neighboring and regional governments.

Recommendation 8.2.1 - Utilize the County website links and resources to provide information regarding the Town of Barre to interested residents and neighboring municipalities.

Recommendation 8.2.2 - 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 to identify areas of potential conflict and/or coordination opportunities.

Recommendation 8.2.3 – Actively participate in County comprehensive planning update processes.

Recommendation 8.2.4 - Continue to be an active member of the La Crosse County Towns Association by attending local meetings.

9. Economic Development

While Barre has a limited number of businesses, even for a community with a population of Barre's size, residents take great pride in their local "third spaces". This chapter analyzes economic characteristics of the Town. Due to the limited economic activity in the town, and residents' reliance on employment opportunities in more urbanized areas, county-level data is often referenced in this chapter.



Image 9.1 Barre Bar and Table. Formerly Barre Country Diner.

Employment & Occupation

In 2023, Barre had 666 residents in the Civilian Labor Force, compared to 616 as indicated in the 2000 Census (Table 9.1). When comparing Barre to La Crosse County and the State of Wisconsin, the Town of Barre sees a slightly higher percentage of residents in the civilian labor force. According to the University of Wisconsin Extension Division of Community Economic Development, contributing factors to a higher percentage of residents in the civilian labor force include:

- 1.) Less residents enlisted as active-duty military personnel, less institutionalized residents (those in correctional or long-term care facilities), or less residents under the age of 16;
- 2.) Strong local demand for workers and/or availability of local employment;
- 3.) Favorable demographic mix – higher rate of prime working-age individuals (25-54 years);
- 4.) Fewer "Discouraged" Workers – people who want a job but have given up looking due to poor job prospects, and/or the communities economic and social environment may be more supportive of work.

Roughly 40% of Barre residents work in management, business, science or arts occupations (Table 9.2). The remainder of the population works in occupations such as sales, service, production, transportation/material moving, natural resources, and construction. The



Image 9.2 River Bank Offices

occupational breakdown by percentage is in line with the breakdowns seen for La Crosse County and the State of Wisconsin.

Table 9.1 indicates that there are no active-duty military personnel residing in the Town of Barre, and Table 2.3, in the *Demographic Trends & Projections* section of this report, indicates that the Town of Barre does not have a higher percentage of working-aged individuals (16-54 years old). Therefore, the assumption can be made that higher civilian labor force participation within the Town of Barre can be attributed to a strong local demand for workers, and La Crosse County holds a relatively healthy job market where those who want to work can find work and are encouraged to do so.

Income & Poverty

Table 9.3 illustrates the median household income for the 445

Table 9.1

Employment Status	Number & Percent (Barre)	Number & Percent (County)	Number & Percent (Wisconsin)
Population 16 years and over	916 (100%)	100,734 (100%)	4,771,274 (100%)
In Labor Force	666 (72.7%)	69,571 (69.1%)	3,125,057 (65.5%)
Civilian Labor Force	666 (72.7%)	69,131 (68.6%)	3,121,577 (65.4%)
Employed	656 (71.6%)	66,628 (66.1%)	3,018,918 (63.3%)
Unemployed	10 (1.1%)	2,503 (2.5%)	102,659 (2.2%)
Armed Forces	0 (0%)	440 (0.4%)	3,480 (0.1%)
Not in Labor Force	250 (27.3%)	31,163 (30.9%)	1,646,217 (34.5%)

ACS: 2023 5-year estimates

Table 9.2

Occupation	Number & Percent (Barre)	Number & Percent (County)	Number & Percent (Wisconsin)
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	260 (39.6%)	28,798 (43.2%)	1,192,886 (39.5%)
Sales and office occupations	136 (20.7%)	12,724 (19.1%)	571,366 (18.9%)
Service occupations	110 (16.8%)	9,968 (15%)	461,989 (15.3%)
Production, transportation, and material moving	96 (14.6%)	9,994 (15%)	531,600 (17.6%)
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	54 (8.2%)	5,144 (7.7%)	261,077 (8.6%)

ACS: 2023 5-year estimates

households in Barre and compares to that of La Crosse County and the State of Wisconsin. Table 9.5 illustrates the percentage of individuals living in poverty in Barre compared to greater La Crosse County.

Federal poverty levels are set annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and differ based on household size. Below are the 2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines for the 48 contiguous U.S. States (amounts are higher for Alaska and Hawaii):

1. Household/Family Size of 1 = \$15,650
2. Household/Family Size of 2 = \$21,150
3. Household/Family Size of 3 = \$26,650
4. Household/Family Size of 4 = \$32,150

(For each additional person, add \$5,500)

These poverty levels are used by federal agencies to determine eligibility for various social programs. Looking at Table 9.3, roughly 90-95% of Barre residents live above the federally designated poverty level. When comparing to La Crosse County and the State of Wisconsin, the Town of Barre experiences a lower rate of poverty. However, 19.5% of Barre households earn less than \$50,000/year. A large share of households earning less than \$50,000 per year may be comprised of retired seniors on fixed incomes.

Table 9.3

Median Household Income	Number & Percent (Barre)	Number & Percent (County)	Number & Percent (Wisconsin)
Total Households	445	51,283	2,495,539
Less than \$10,000	9 (2%)	1,156 (2.2%)	113,289 (4.5%)
\$10,000 to \$14,999	2 (0.4%)	2,703 (5.3%)	81,731 (3.3%)
\$15,000 to \$24,999	25 (5.6%)	3,132 (6.1%)	162,170 (6.5%)
\$25,000 to \$34,999	15 (3.3%)	3,007 (5.9%)	172,033 (6.9%)
\$35,000 to \$49,999	36 (8%)	8,506 (16.6%)	284,141 (11.4%)
\$50,000 to \$74,999	68 (15.2%)	9,414 (18.4%)	440,403 (17.6%)
\$75,000 to \$99,999	58 (13%)	5,784 (11.3%)	343,980 (13.8%)
\$100,000 to \$149,999	136 (30.5%)	9,823 (19.2%)	469,458 (18.8%)
\$150,000 to \$199,999	50 (11.2%)	4,430 (8.6%)	216,925 (8.7%)
\$200,000 or More	46 (10.3%)	3,328 (6.5%)	211,409 (8.5%)
Median Household Income	\$101,696	\$70,010	\$74,631
Mean Household Income	\$117,092	\$92,582	\$97,894

Table 9.4

Per Capita Income	2013	2023	% Increase	% Change, Inflation Adjusted
Barre	\$31,010	\$39,964	22.50%	-1.47%
La Crosse County	\$26,271	\$40,841	36%	18.85%
Wisconsin	\$27,523	\$42,019	34.50%	16.72%
National	\$28,155	\$43,289	35%	14.83%

ACS: 2013 & 2023 5-year estimates

While the Town of Barre experiences a lower rate of poverty compared to La Crosse County and the State of Wisconsin, the Town has also experienced a slower increase of per capita income over the last decade, as seen in Table 9.4. A plausible explanation why the per capita income has decreased is that Barre has seen a significant

increase in its population of individuals under the age of 18. In 2010, the percent of Barre's population under the age of 18 was 25.8%. By 2023, the percent of Barre's population under the age of 18 increased to 36.7%. This proportion is significantly higher than that of La Crosse County and the State of Wisconsin. It may be assumed that the reason for a relatively slower increase in per capita income in the Town of Barre over the last decade can be attributed to a growing youth population that typically is bringing in a lower income, or no income at all.

Table 9.5

Population for Whom Poverty Status is Determined	Number & Percent 2013 (Barre)	Number & Percent 2023 (Barre)	Number & Percent 2013 (County)	Number & Percent 2023 (County)
Under 18 years	18 (1.3%)	2 (0.1%)	3,163 (2.8%)	1,779 (1.5%)
18 to 64 years	34 (2.6%)	23 (1.6%)	11,057 (10%)	10,665 (9.2%)
65 years & over	16 (1.2%)	2 (0.1%)	1,238 (1.1%)	1,939 (1.6%)
ACS: 2013 & 2023 5-year estimates				

Top Industries & Employers

This section provides data pertaining to where residents work, which industries provide the most job opportunities, which professional positions are most common, and related projections.

Figure 9.1, below, shows that most Barre residents are working in the City of La Crosse, City of Onalaska, or the Village of West Salem.

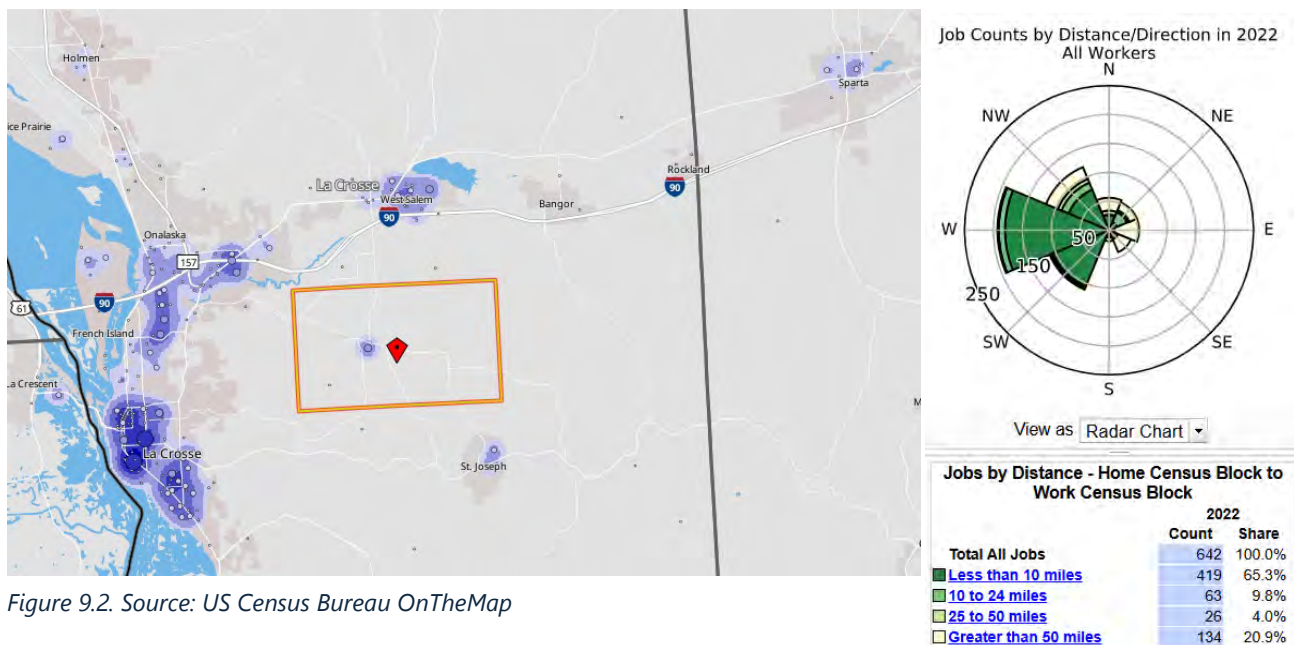


Figure 9.2. Source: US Census Bureau OnTheMap

As seen in Table 9.6, “Education Services, Healthcare, and Social Assistance” is the top employing industry, followed by “Retail Trade” and “Manufacturing”. Given that La Crosse County hosts two major universities, a technical college, and two major hospitals systems, this is not a surprise. La Crosse County has also historically been a hub for retail, being the most populated community in the region.

La Crosse County expects to see a significant increase in “Computer and Mathematics” and “Transportation and Material Moving” jobs (Table 9.8). The substantial influence of higher education, healthcare, and manufacturing directly correlates with the increased demand for computer and mathematics skills. The same can be said for manufacturing, as industry leaders continue to seek efficiencies and innovation. This, combined with the roughly 15,000

Table 9.7

Top Private Sector Employers La Crosse County	Employee Count
Kwik Trip, Inc.	1,000+
Festival Foods	1,000+
Emplify Health (Gundersen)	1,000+
Trane Ingersol Rand	1,000+
Mayo Clinic Health System	1,000+
Mathy Construction Company	1,000+
La Crosse County	1,000+
City Brewing Co., LLC.	725
JF Brennan Company, Inc.	600
Chart Energy & Chemicals, Inc.	550

Source: US Census Bureau 2022 American Comm

Table 9.6

Industry	Number & Percent (Barre)	Number & Percent (County)	Number & Percent (Wisconsin)
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	11 (1.7%)	953 (1.4%)	62,344 (2.1%)
Construction	33 (5%)	3,933 (5.9%)	188,476 (6.2%)
Manufacturing	73 (11.1%)	7,072 (10.6%)	544,544 (18%)
Wholesale trade	20 (3%)	1,600 (2.4%)	74,745 (2.5%)
Retail Trade	76 (11.6%)	18,366 (12.6%)	331,673 (11%)
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	48 (7.3%)	4,543 (6.8%)	148,248 (4.9%)
Information	9 (1.4%)	532 (0.8%)	43,417 (1.4%)
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	60 (9.1%)	3,615 (5.4%)	184,973 (6.1%)
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste	66 (10.1%)	5,323 (8%)	274,289 (9.1%)
Educational services, and health care and social	173 (26.4%)	20,122 (30.2%)	703,648 (23.3%)
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food	36 (5.5%)	6,044 (9.1%)	227,255 (7.5%)
Other services, except public administration	39 (5.9%)	2,268 (3.4%)	127,591 (4.2%)
Public administration	12 (1.8%)	2,257 (3.4%)	107,415 (3.6%)
ACS: 2023 5-year estimates			

Table 9.8

La Crosse County Occupation Projections	Occupation	2022 Employment	2032 Projected Employment	Employment Change 2022- 2032	% Change 2022-2032
Highest Percent Growth	Computer & Mathematical	2,543	2,903	360	14.20%
Lowest Percent Growth	Office & Administrative Support	17,927	18,189	262	1.50%
Highest Number Employed	Transportation & Material Moving	18,291	20,662	2,371	13%
Most Jobs Added	Transportation & Material Moving	18,291	20,662	2,371	13%
	TOTAL	159,570	173,359	13,789	8.60%
Source: US Census Bureau 2022 American Community Survey					

higher education students that call La Crosse “home” annually, presents a significant opportunity for the growing sector of computer and mathematics.

Given Barre’s location, centrally located between major regional metropolitan hubs, transportation infrastructure that includes a major interstate, two major rail lines, and the Mississippi river, and a diverse industry mix, La Crosse County is a premier destination for “Transportation and Materials Moving”. The demand for related positions is expected to increase for the foreseeable future.



Image 9.3 Nick's Bar

Businesses in Barre

Fox Hollow, Barre Bar & Table, and Nick’s Bar are businesses serving as gathering spaces for town residents. These bar and restaurant destinations frequently draw non-residents to Barre. Barre has limited commercial uses. Big Hook Trucking & Disposal is located on the east side of town. Some storage units are present in the town. There are very limited employment opportunities in Barre.

Survey Data in Figure 9.2 represents respondents’ lack of interest in most types of commercial development. 62% of respondents would encourage more restaurants.

Figure 9.2 Town Survey Respondents' Commercial Development Preferences

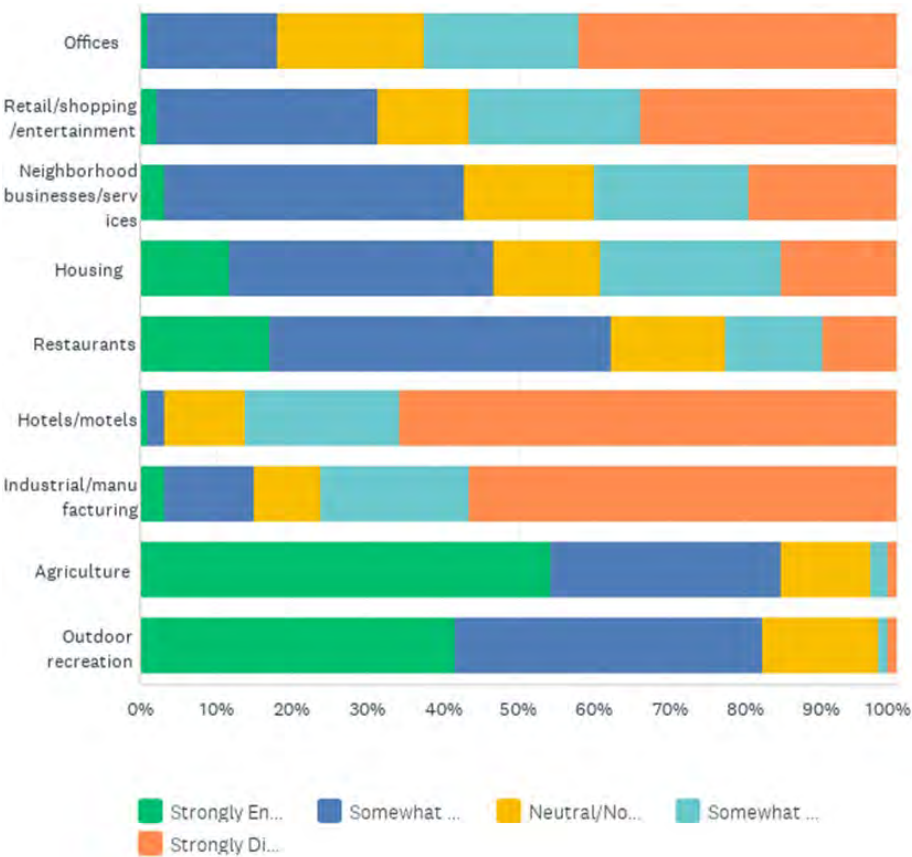


Table 9.9

Occupation Growth 2013 vs 2023 La Crosse County			
	2013	2023	% Growth
Management, business, science, and arts	21,502	25,513	16%
Service	11,411	10,441	-9%
Sales and Office	15,131	12,967	-14%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	4,032	4,699	14%
Production, transportation, material moving	9,456	10,397	9%

Source: US Census Bureau 2013 & 2023 5-yr. estimates

Table 9.10

La Crosse County Top Ten Occupations by Total Employment			
Occupation Title	2020 Employment	Projected 2030 Employment	% Change
Office and Administrative Support	17,292	17,116	-1.00%
Production	15,688	16,180	3.10%
Transportation and Material Moving	15,429	17,393	12.70%
Sales and Related	13,256	13,696	3.30%
Food Preparation and Serving Related	11,352	13,106	15.50%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	11,142	11,840	6.30%
Education, Training and Library	9,683	9,879	2.00%
Management	9,391	9,418	0.30%
Business and Financial Operations	7,759	8,554	10.20%
Healthcare Support	7,717	8,554	10.80%
TOTAL	154,728	164,757	6.50%

Source: US Census Bureau 2020 10-yr. estimates

Economic Strengths & Weaknesses

Encouraging economic development in the Town of Barre is challenging. According to survey responses, residents want the town to maintain its rural character and do not want to encourage housing, business, or industrial growth. Strengths and weaknesses effecting economic growth in the Town of Barre and La Crosse County include:

Strengths:

- Proximity to regional trade center serving a tri-state area (La Crosse MSA)
- Low unemployment rate
- Low poverty rate in Barre
- Great natural resources
- Proximity to the Coulee Experimental State Forest
- Available land and building space
- High quality of life
- High quality elementary, secondary, and post-secondary educational system
- Health care access
- Strong employment base in La Crosse MSA
- Strong regional industry and employment growth projections in high-paying fields such as computer/mathematics and transportation/material moving
- High percentage of residents under the age of 18

Outdoor Recreation - Outdoor recreation is a key driver in community health and residential attraction. The Town of Barre offers great outdoor recreation opportunities; from exploring the Coulee Experimental State Forest to cycling along the endless rural roads, Barre stands out as a premier outdoor recreation destination. It is important for the community to leverage and enhance existing assets.

Undeveloped Land - 36.7% of Barre's population is 18 years old or younger. Within the next 10 to 20 years, these individuals will be of age to rent or purchase housing. Ideally, the Town of Barre retains these residents to ensure a sustainable future as a community. To maximize the retention of this next generation, the Town of Barre will need to offer additional housing options that are within financial reach and are attractive to evolving needs and desires.

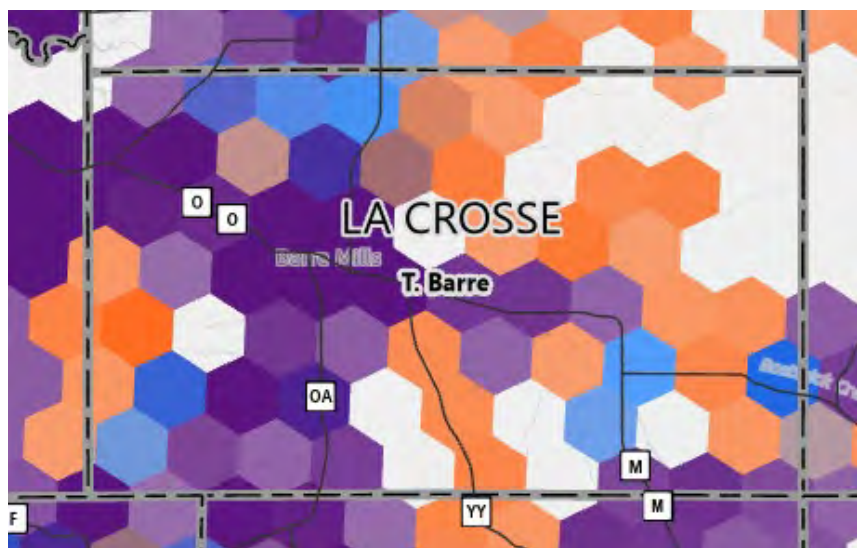
Weaknesses:

- Infrastructure limitations in some areas due to steep topography
- Lack of large parcels of land that can be provided urban utility services and infrastructure for business and industrial development
- Public opposition to housing, business, or industrial development
- Lack of childcare options for families in the local workforce
- Lack of affordable housing options for young workforce
- Increasing proportion of non-workforce populations (younger than 16 and older than 65).
- Access to multiple modes of transportation.

Childcare - Barre has many young households with children. Childcare is an imperative element within any community as it offers families the opportunity to raise children while maintaining employment. While there are childcare options throughout La Crosse County, many facilities require long commutes and are not financially viable options for Barre residents. It is important that Barre families have affordable, reliable, and accessible childcare options within their community.

Broadband - Access to reliable, high-speed, and affordable internet is becoming more of a necessity than a luxury. Working, education,

Figure 9.3 Broadband Access (Orange= underserved; White= unserved; Blue= well-served; Purple= very well-served)



healthcare, banking, running a business, and even farming all require access to quality internet service in today's age. According to a study completed by La Crosse County, 34% of County residents indicate that availability of broadband internet affects where they choose to live. See Figure 9.3.

County, Regional, and State Economic Development Programs

Several 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

(<https://communitydevelopment-lacrossecounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/grants-loans>)

- Property Acquisition and Demolition Grant
- Arts & Culture Grant
- Business Assistance Revolving Loan Fund
- Business Innovation & Diversification Grant

Regional Programs

- Business Planning Services – provided by several partners, including, UW-La Crosse Small Business Development Center and WWBIC among others.

State Programs

- Several Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) programs, including but not limited to: (<https://wedc.org/programs/>)
 - Small Business Development Grant (SBDG)
 - Business Development Tax Credits (BTC)
 - Vibrant Spaces Grant
 - Enterprise Zone Tax Credit
 - Idle Sites Redevelopment Grant
- The [Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority \(WHEDA\)](#) provides resources and tools to expand and improve access to affordable housing where people want to live, work, raise a family, and thrive. Resources available provide opportunities for home buyers, homeowners, renters, and developers that could be utilized by residents and leaders of the Town of Barre.

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, when it was checked for the last Comprehensive Plan update. In July 2025, 3 sites were listed in Barre:

- Stellohs Store, County Rd M – Open Activity. Property in commercial use.
- Hayfields, County Rd M – No Action Required. Property in commercial use.
- CTH OA Fuel Oil Tank, County Rd OA – Closed Activity. Property in private use. Not ideal for commercial redevelopment due to proximity to Bostwick Creek and flood hazard areas.



Image 9.4 Pederson's Christmas Tree Farm

Goals & Recommendations

The following goals and recommendations are designed to enhance the quality of life already offered and enjoyed by Town of Barre residents, while also keeping an eye on creating additional tax base and job opportunities within the Town of Barre.

Goal 9.1: Develop a registered and licensed childcare provider within town limits.

Recommendation 9.1.1 - Determine if any unlicensed at-home childcare providers are currently operating within the Town of Barre. If there is such an operation, work with the owner to pursue licensure.

Recommendation 9.1.2 - Determine if local churches could host a childcare center. If any churches within the Town of Barre are interested in pursuing a childcare center, find a licensed provider and pursue funding to support facilities.

Goal 9.2: Expand high-speed internet infrastructure throughout the Town of Barre.

Recommendation 9.2.1 - Work with internet service providers to identify and incentivize projects that provide high-speed and affordable connectivity to residents and businesses.

Recommendation 9.2.2 - Create awareness of and leverage BEAD funding administered by the State of Wisconsin Public Service Commission to financially incentivize broadband infrastructure projects.

Goal 9.3: Leverage outdoor recreation opportunities already provided through the Coulee Experimental State Forest to promote business development and recreation opportunities.

Recommendation 9.3.1 - Promote the abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities through town networks and other platforms focused on outdoor recreation.

Recommendation 9.3.2 - Develop wayfinding signage throughout the Town of Barre to encourage low-impact recreational use.

Recommendation 9.3.3 - Identify and develop additional outdoor recreation opportunities connecting the Town of Barre to the Coulee Experimental State Forest.

Recommendation 9.3.4 - Identify and recruit outdoor recreation and conservation-centric businesses to locate within the Town of Barre.

10. Implementation & Evaluation

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.

How to Adopt this Plan

A 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 Planning Committee will hold a public hearing and recommend approval of the plan to the Town Board by resolution. The Town Board must then adopt the plan by ordinance to enact the plan.



Image 10.1

How to Use this Plan

Once adopted, the plan will serve as a framework and guide for the development of the town over the next 10 years. A unit of government with official mapping authority, subdivision regulations, zoning ordinances, and shorelands/wetlands zoning must ensure its policies are consistent with the local unit of government's comprehensive plan.

All development and redevelopment within the town should be reviewed against the goals and recommendations of this plan and the future land use map adopted with this document. The provisions of this plan and the future land use map may be used to help validate the decision making of elected and appointed officials and staff. Zoning and planning decisions should be made consistent with this comprehensive plan and the County Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Committee and Town Board must ensure their decisions are consistent with the Plan. La Crosse County zoning and planning staff will refer to the Town's plan when reviewing zoning related requests.

A town implementation team may be established and use the implementation guide included in Appendix C to put the plan into action. Alternatively, the Town Planning Committee can continue to meet regularly following the adoption of this plan to lead implementation. Typically, a local government's planning committee/plan commission is charged with implementation of a comprehensive plan.

Image 10.2



How to Evaluate this Plan

The Planning Committee should review this document annually to evaluate the Town's progress implementing strategies recommended by this plan, and any amendments needed to the plan or the future land use map. A town implementation team may review implementation progress using the implementation guide included in Appendix C.

The plan provides a 20-year vision for Barre's future, but it is recommended to be updated at least every 10 years.

How to Amend this Plan

Community planning is a long-term process. It's recommended that this plan and the vision established in the future land use map should be adhered to as closely as possible until updates and amendments are necessary.

Amending a section of the Comprehensive Plan may occur periodically, especially when a large unplanned change occurs in the community.

Before any amendment is approved, adequate public review should take place, and Wis. Stats. 66.1001 must be followed. To ensure that the planning process is transparent and robust public participation occurs, the public should be engaged prior to any adoption of significant plan updates. The public should particularly be engaged if the future land use map or plan goals and recommendations may be significantly altered.

Appendices

Appendix A – Maps

Map 1.1 - Location Context Map

Map 3.1 - Soil Classification Map

Map 3.2 - Slope Classification Map

Map 3.3 – Wetland & Floodplain Map

Map 5.1 - AADT Traffic Count and Road Functional Class Map

Map 7.1 - Zoning Districts Map

Map 7.2 - Base Farm Tracts Map

Map 7.3 - Future Land Use Map

Map 8.1 - Adjacent Municipalities Map

Appendix B – Public Engagement Materials

B.1 - Community Survey Results

B.2 - Community Survey Flyer

B.3 - Community Survey Postcard

B.4 - Open House Materials

B.5 - Public Participation Plan

B.6 – Public Participation Plan Adoption Resolution

Appendix C – Implementation Table

C.1 - Implementation Table

Appendix D – Adoption Materials

D.1 – Public Notice

D.2 - Adoption Resolution

D.3 - Adoption Ordinance

Appendix A - Maps

Town of Barre, Wisconsin

Location Context Map

- County Highway
- Local Road
- Streams
- Lakes



0.5
Miles



Town of Hamilton

Horstman Rd

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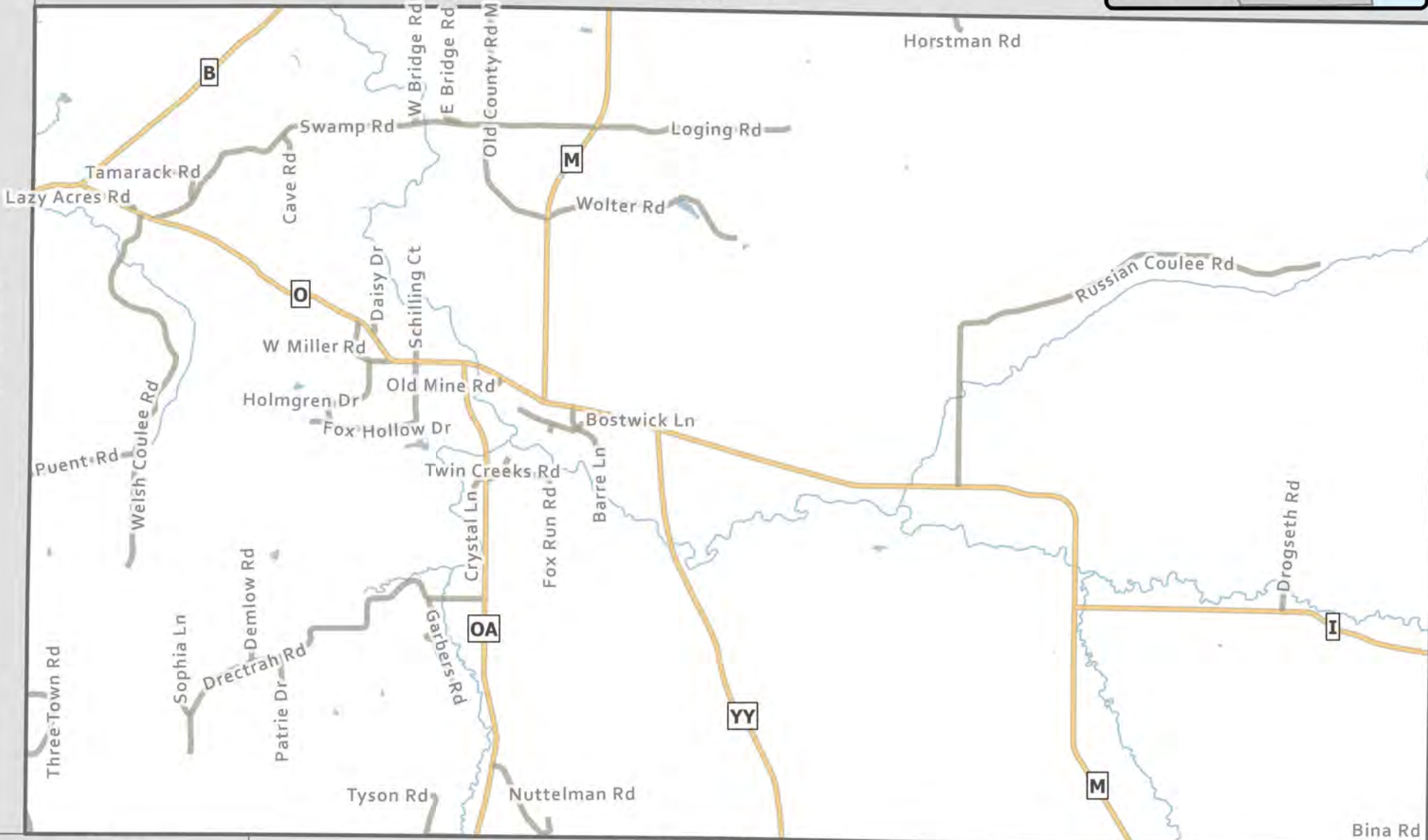
Town of Medary

Town of Bangor

Town of Shelby

Town of Greenfield

Bina Rd



Map 3.1

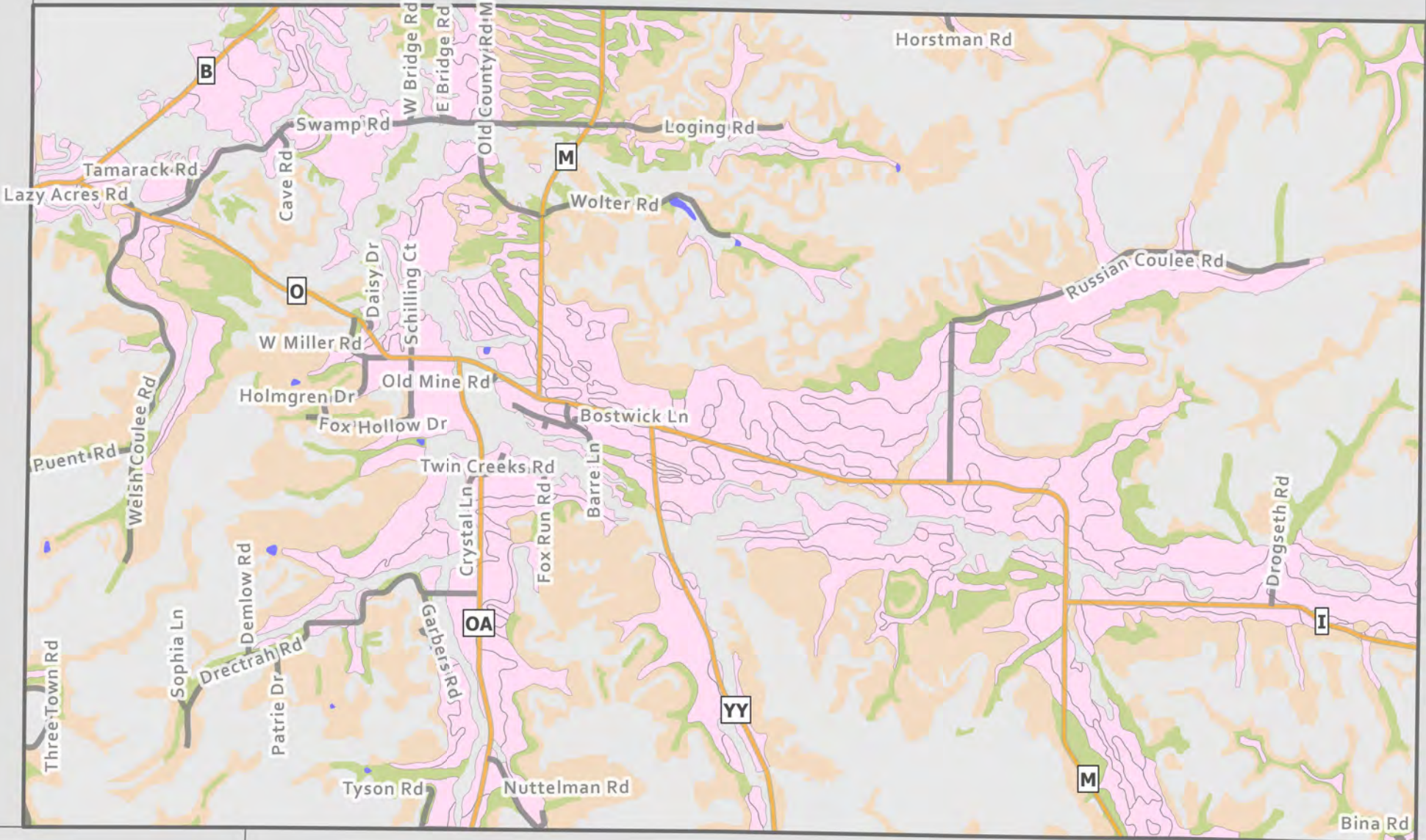


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Miles

Town of Barre, Wisconsin

Soil Classification

- CLASS I & II
- CLASS III
- CLASS IV
- CLASS V-VIII
- MISC./WATER
- URBAN
- WATER



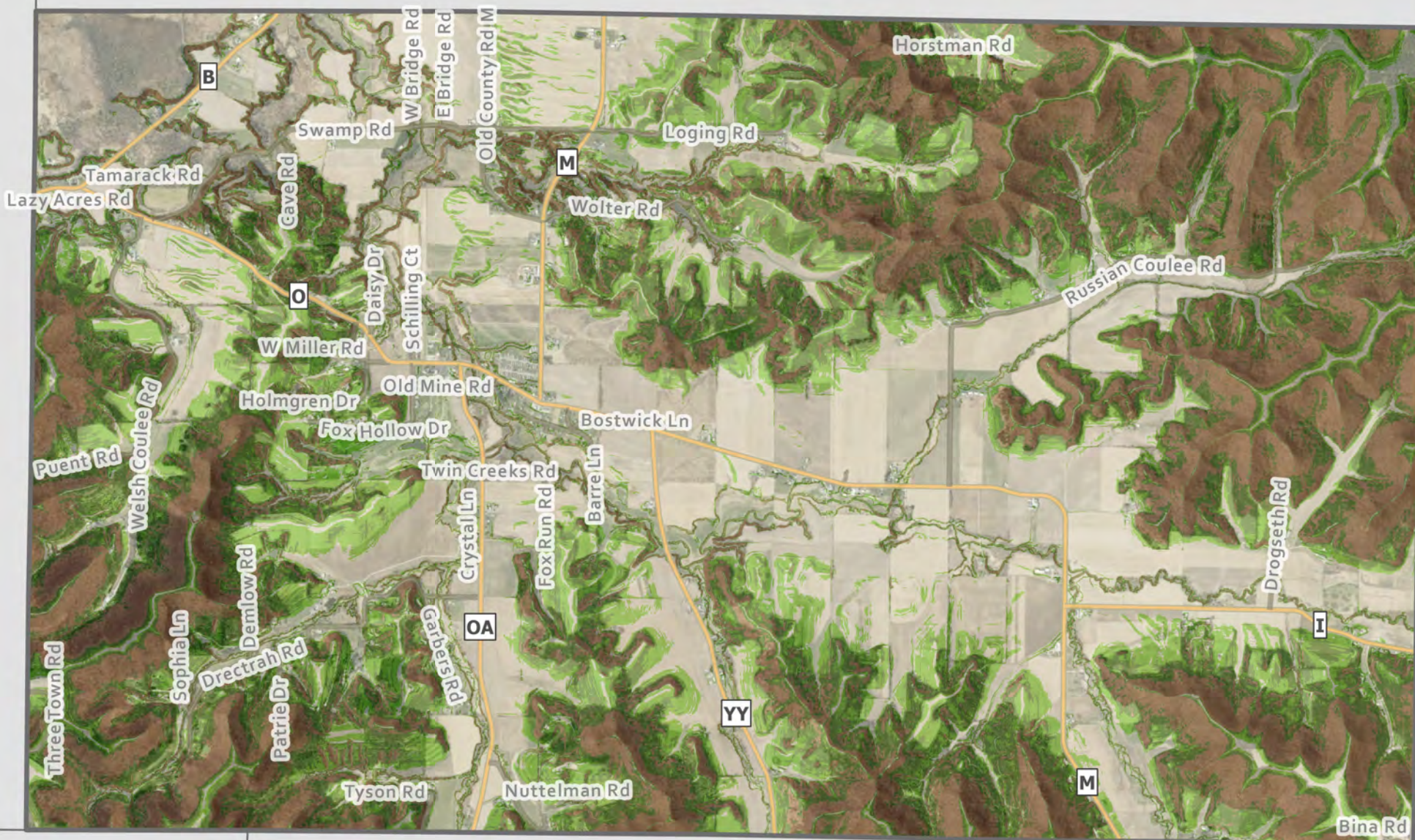
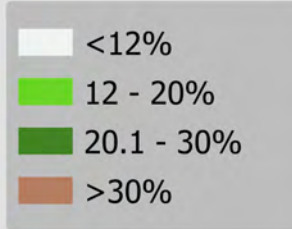


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Town of Barre, Wisconsin

Slope Classification



Town of Barre, Wisconsin

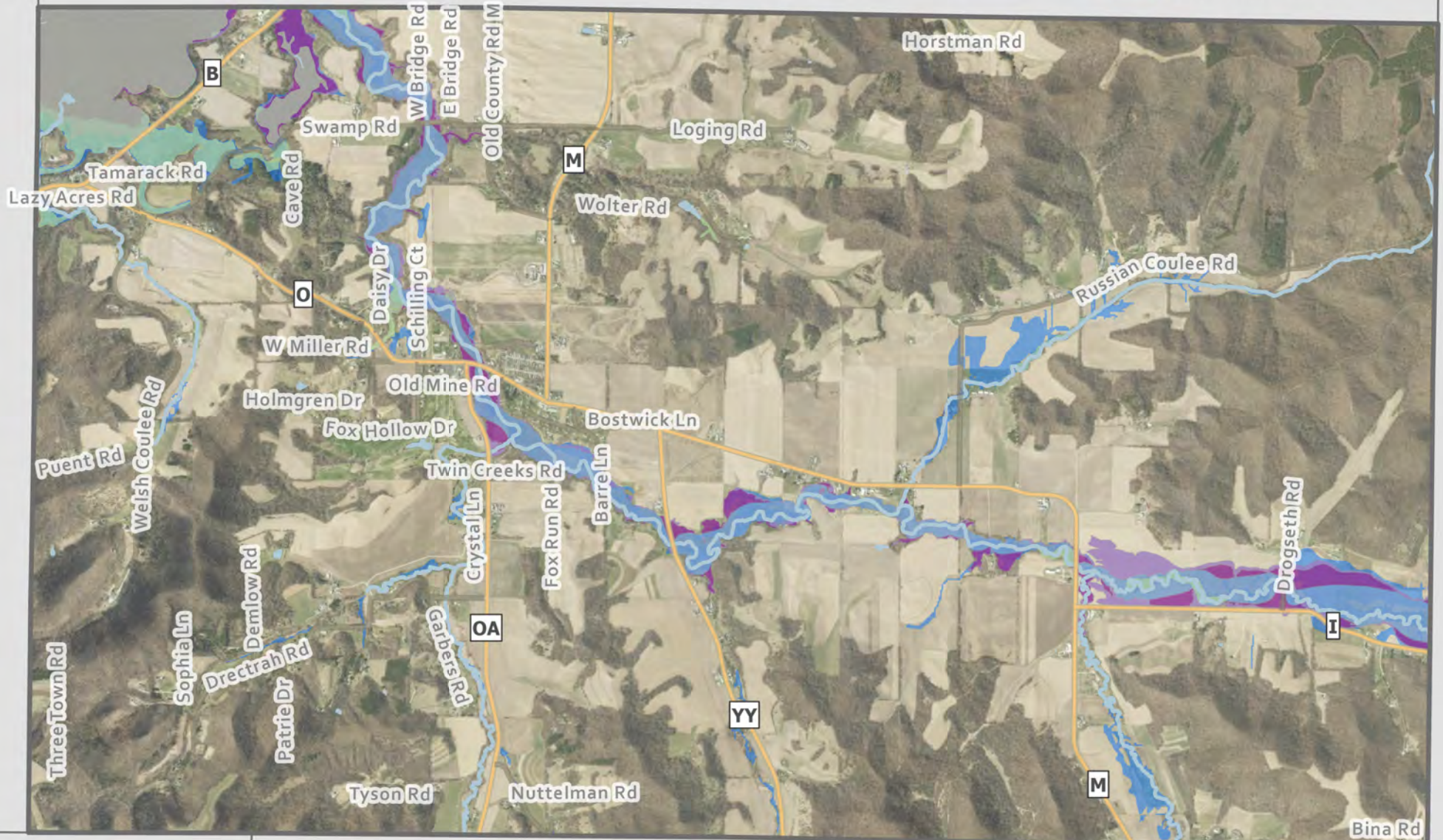
Flood Hazard Zones, Surface Waters, Wetland Indicators, & WDNR Mapped Wetlands



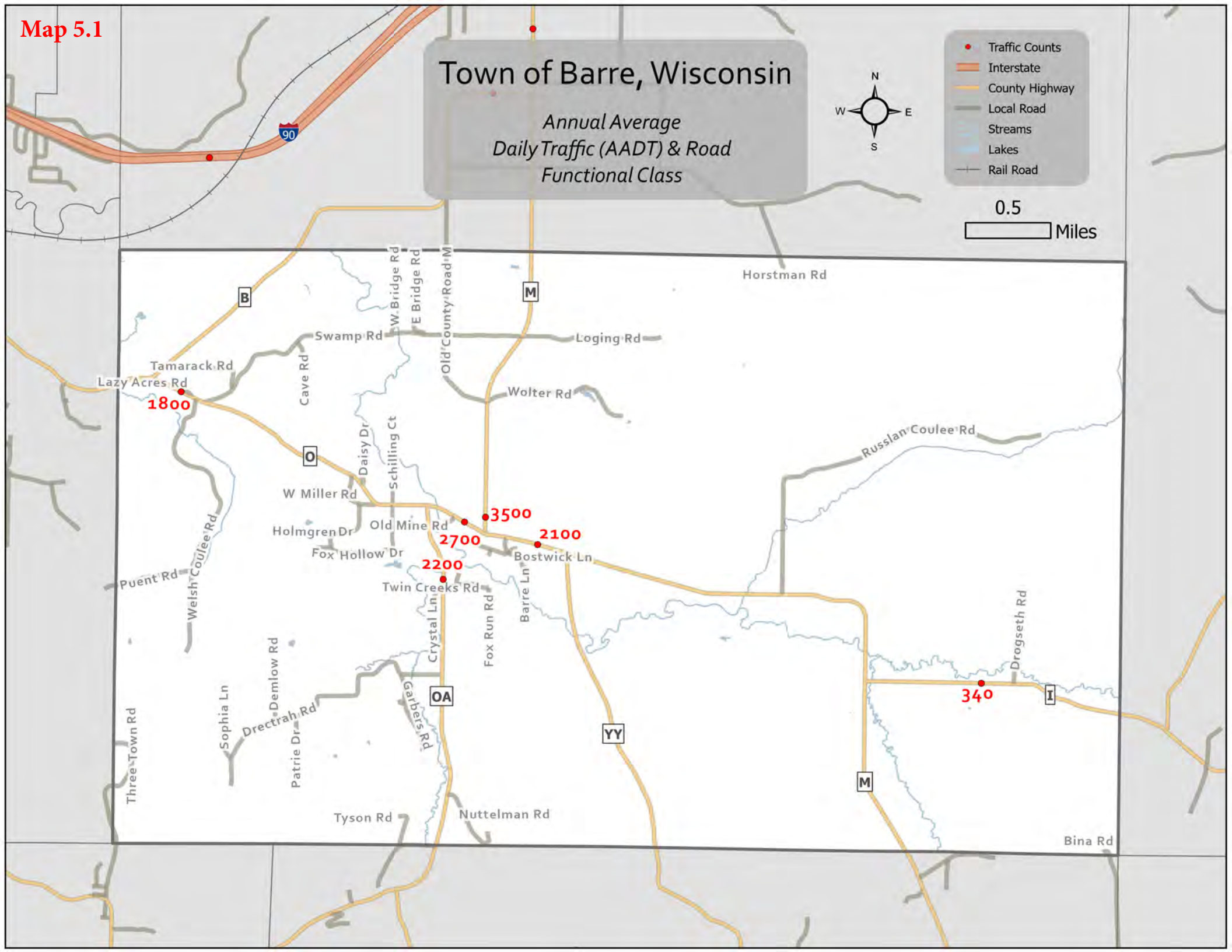
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Miles

- Streams
- Bodies of Water
- DNR Mapped Wetlands
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Regulatory Floodway
- Wetland Indicators



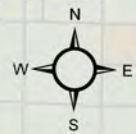
Map 5.1



Map 7.1

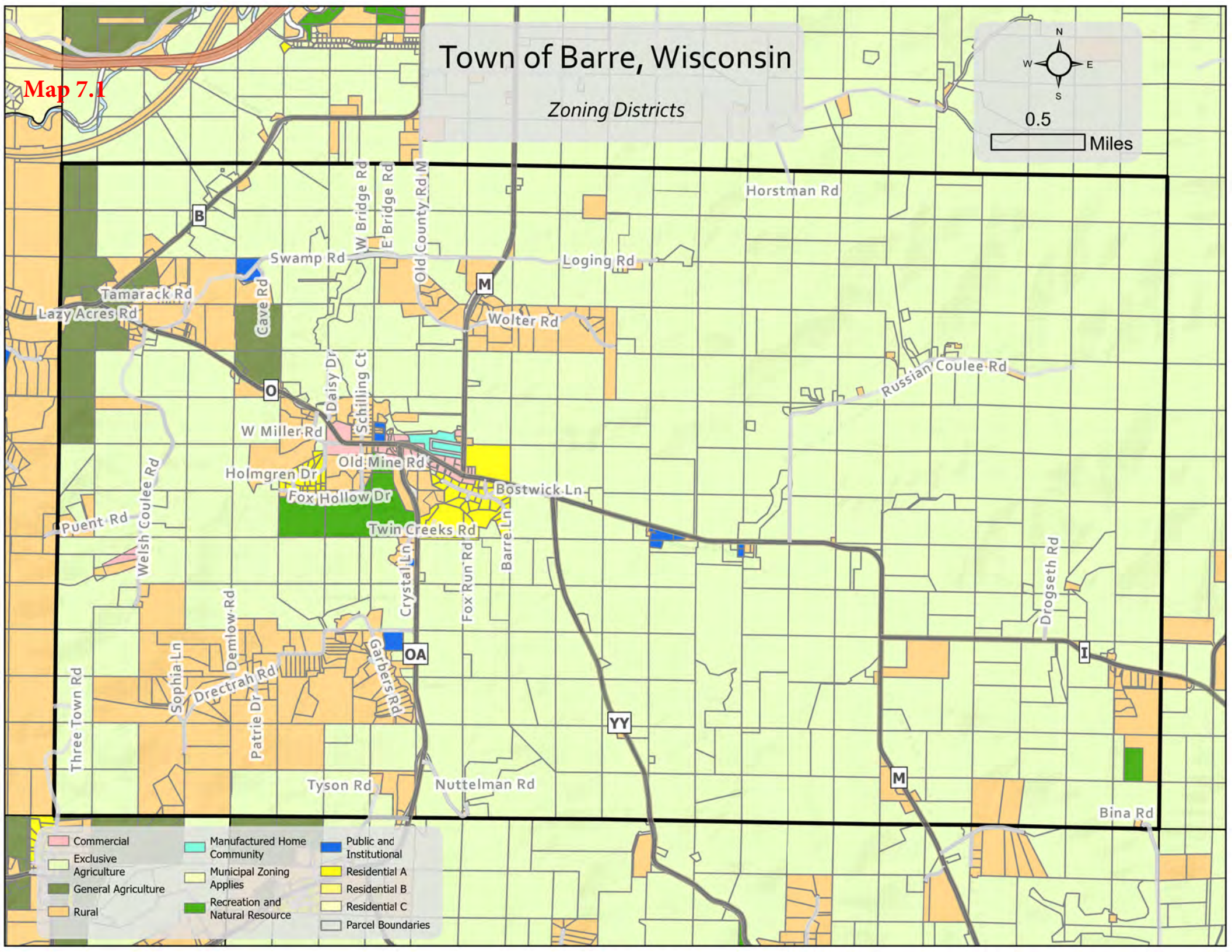
Town of Barre, Wisconsin

Zoning Districts



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Miles



Map 7.2

Town of Barre, Wisconsin

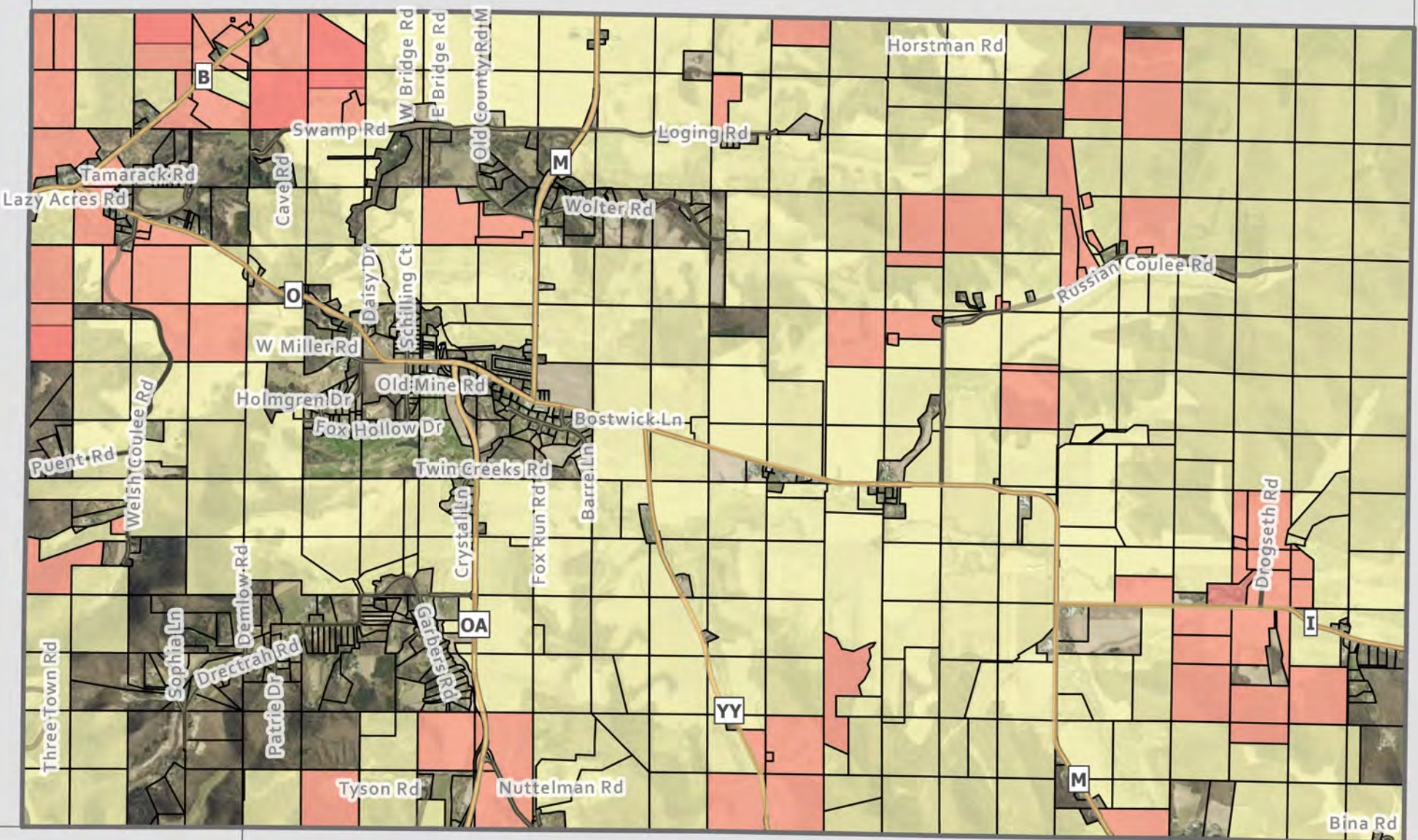
Base Farm Tracts



0.5

Miles

- Base Farm Tracts
- Base Farm Tract Deed Restrictions
- Parcel Boundaries



Map 7.3



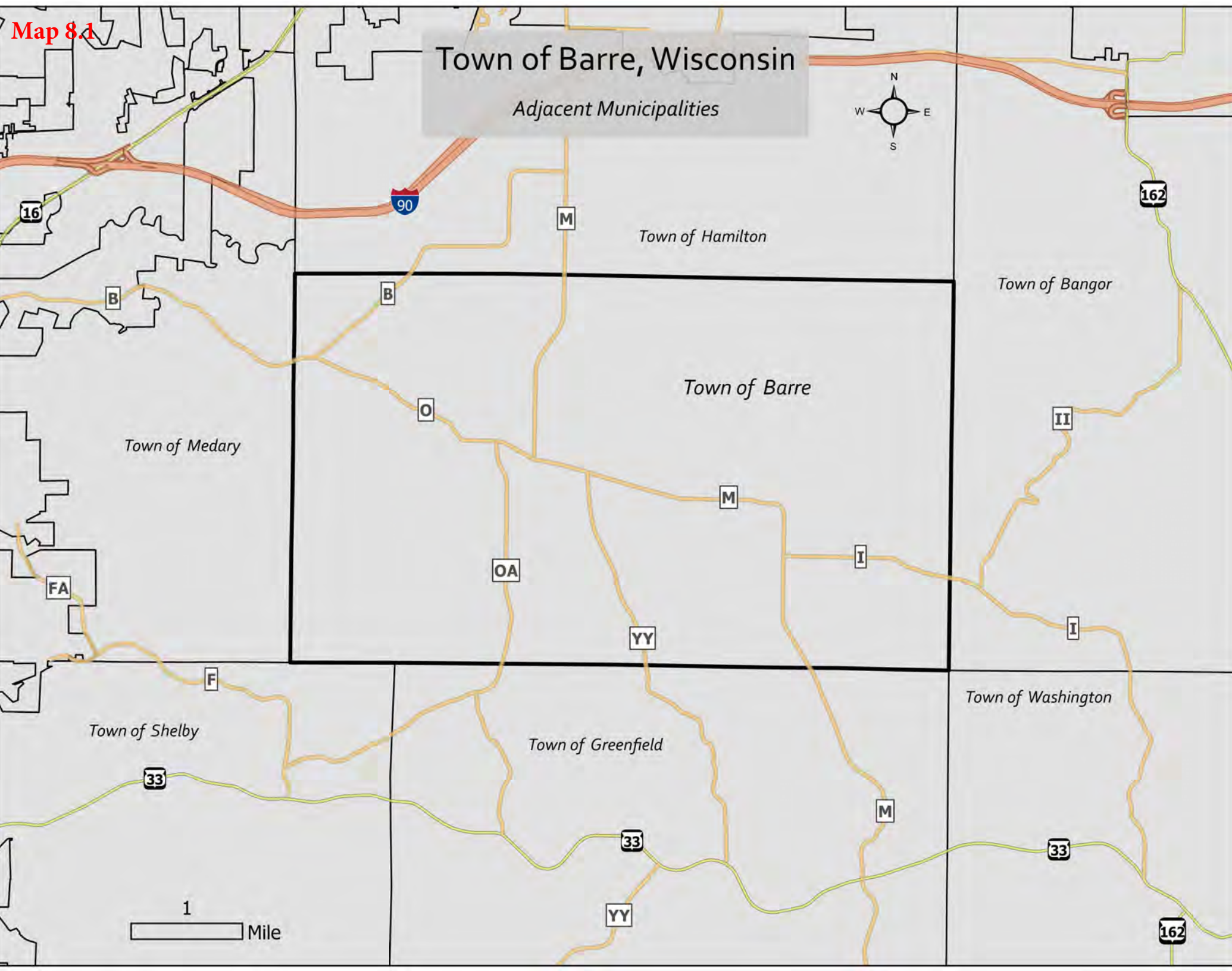
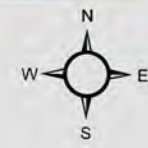
Town of Barre, Wisconsin
Future Land Use

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Parcel Boundaries	Environmental Existing Exclusive Agriculture Zones	Water
Town Limits	Public-Institutional	Non-Residential
County Highway	Residential	
Local Road		

Town of Barre, Wisconsin

Adjacent Municipalities



Appendix B – Public Engagement Materials

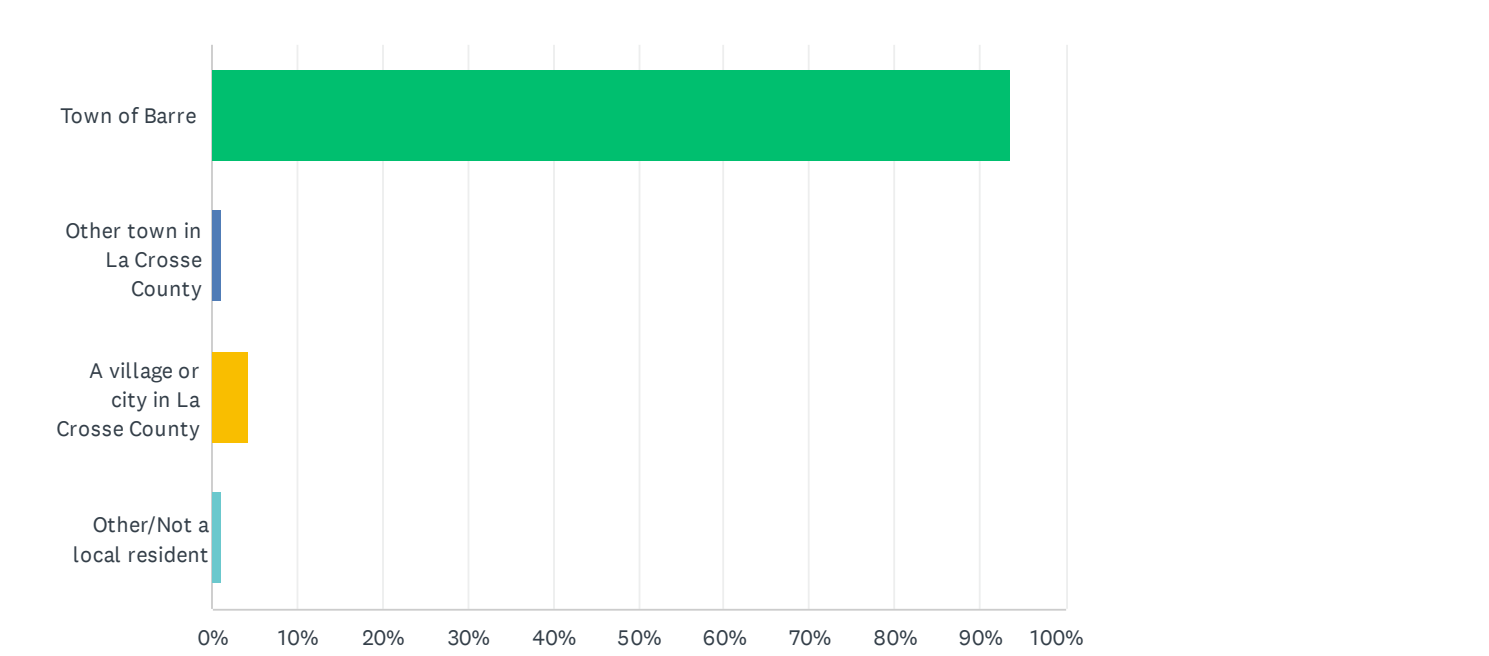
Q1 Please provide your name, address or parcel number of properties you own in Barre. Your information is only needed to verify you are member of the Town of Barre community, and it will not be distributed to outside parties or Town officials. Information will remain confidential.

Answered: 92 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	100.00%	92
Company	0.00%	0
Address or Parcel #	98.91%	91
Address 2	0.00%	0
Town/Village/City	0.00%	0
State/Province	0.00%	0
ZIP/Postal Code	0.00%	0
Country	0.00%	0
Email Address	0.00%	0
Phone Number	0.00%	0

Q2 Indicate the town, village, or city where you live.

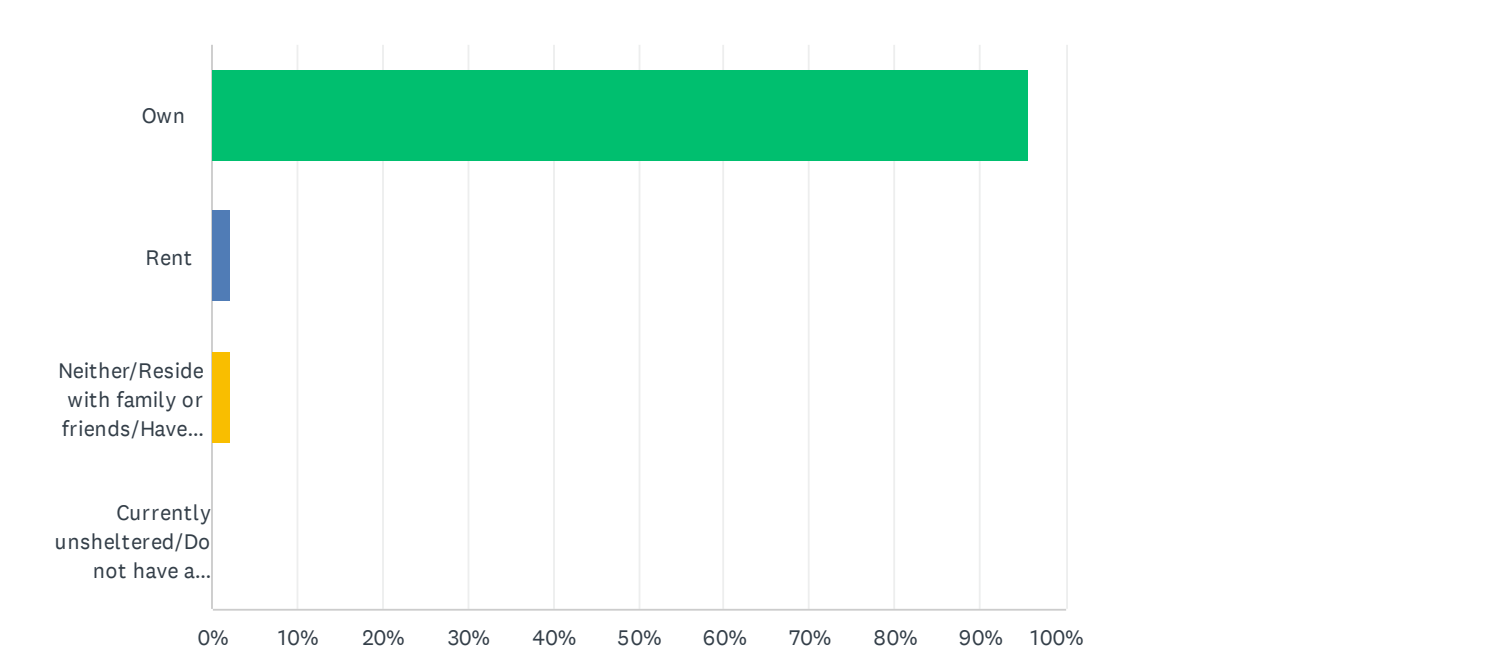
Answered: 93 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Town of Barre	93.55%	87
Other town in La Crosse County	1.08%	1
A village or city in La Crosse County	4.30%	4
Other/Not a local resident	1.08%	1
TOTAL		93

Q3 Do you own or rent your home?

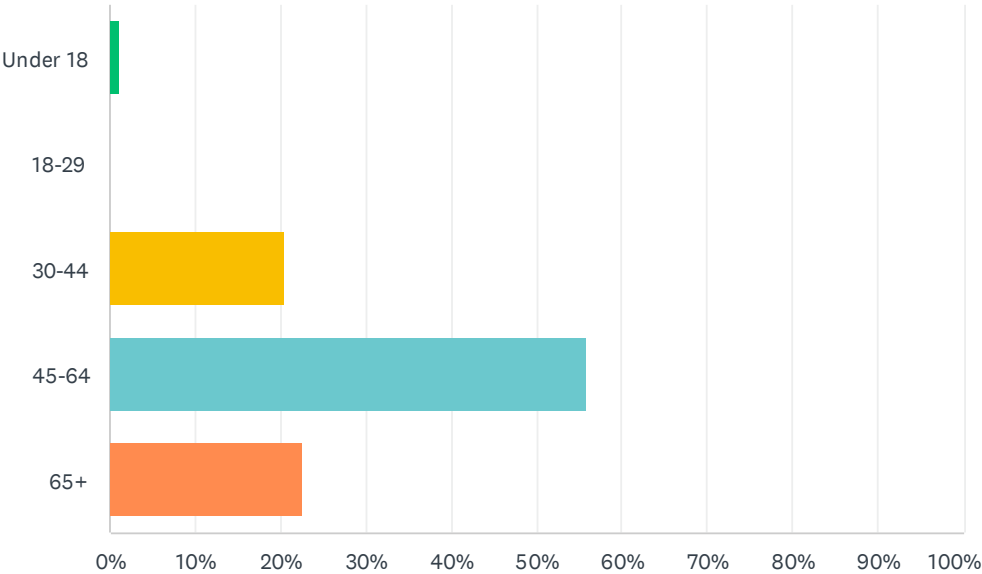
Answered: 93 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Own	95.70%	89
Rent	2.15%	2
Neither/Reside with family or friends/Have housing but do not pay rent	2.15%	2
Currently unsheltered/Do not have a primary place of residence	0.00%	0
TOTAL		93

Q4 Please indicate your age range:

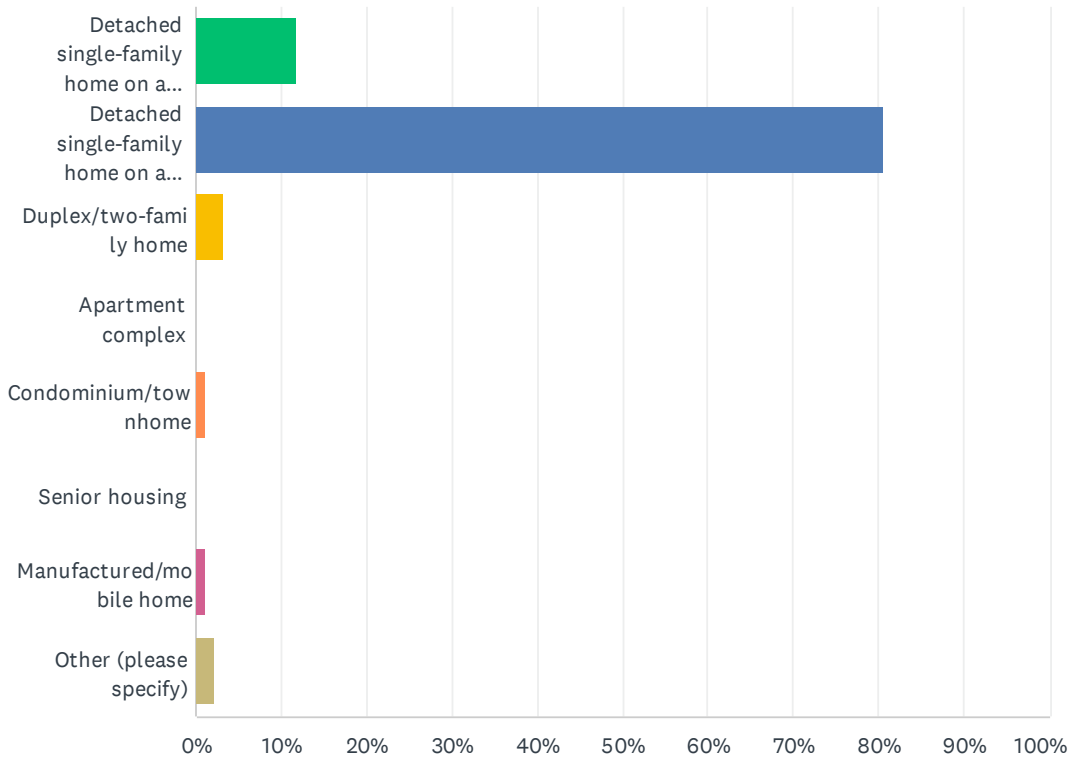
Answered: 93 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	1.08%	1
18-29	0.00%	0
30-44	20.43%	19
45-64	55.91%	52
65+	22.58%	21
TOTAL		93

Q5 Housing: which type best applies to your residence?

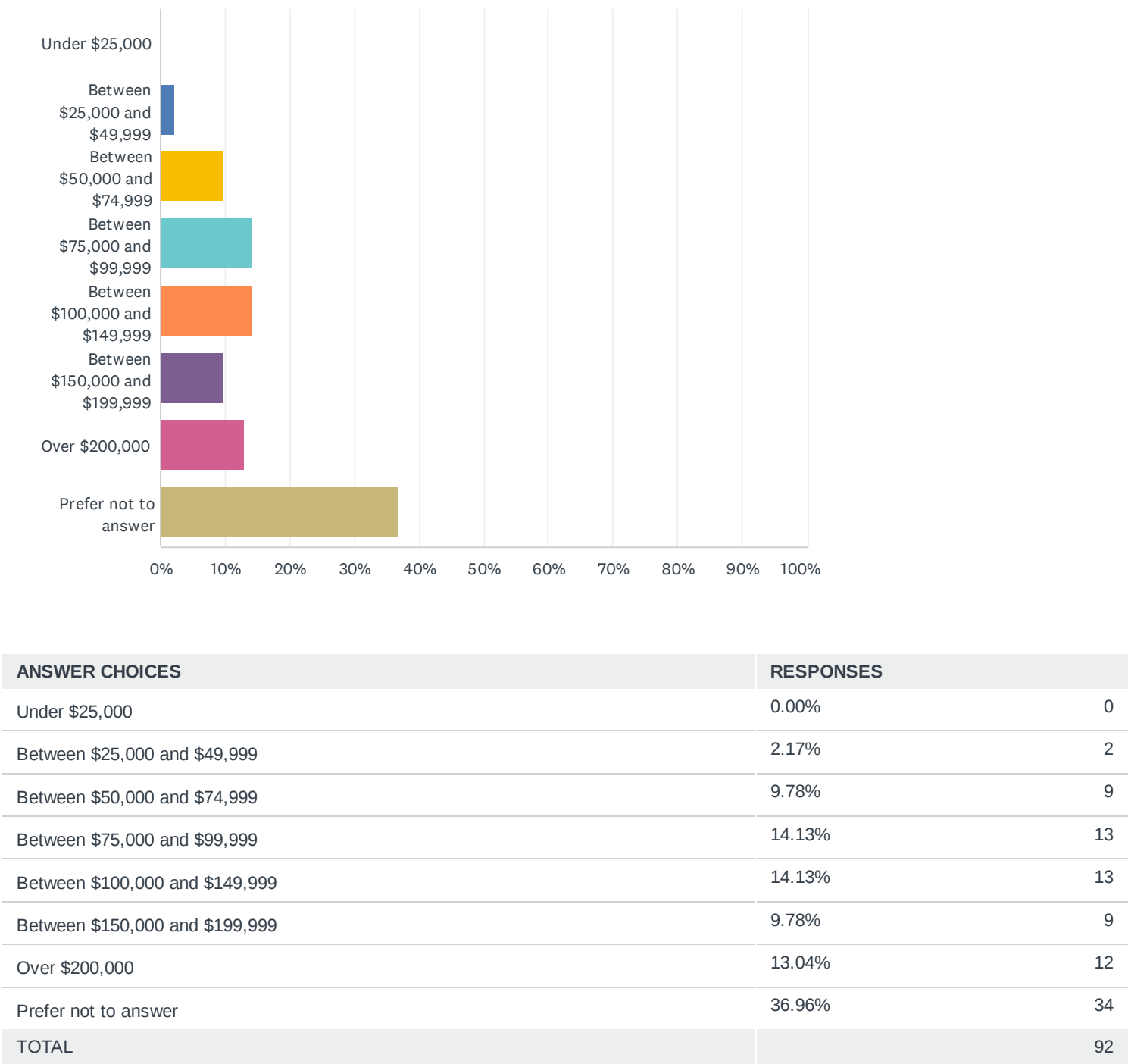
Answered: 93 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Detached single-family home on a parcel larger than 35 acres or on a farm larger than 35 acres.	11.83%	11
Detached single-family home on a parcel smaller than 35 acres.	80.65%	75
Duplex/two-family home	3.23%	3
Apartment complex	0.00%	0
Condominium/townhome	1.08%	1
Senior housing	0.00%	0
Manufactured/mobile home	1.08%	1
Other (please specify)	2.15%	2
TOTAL		93

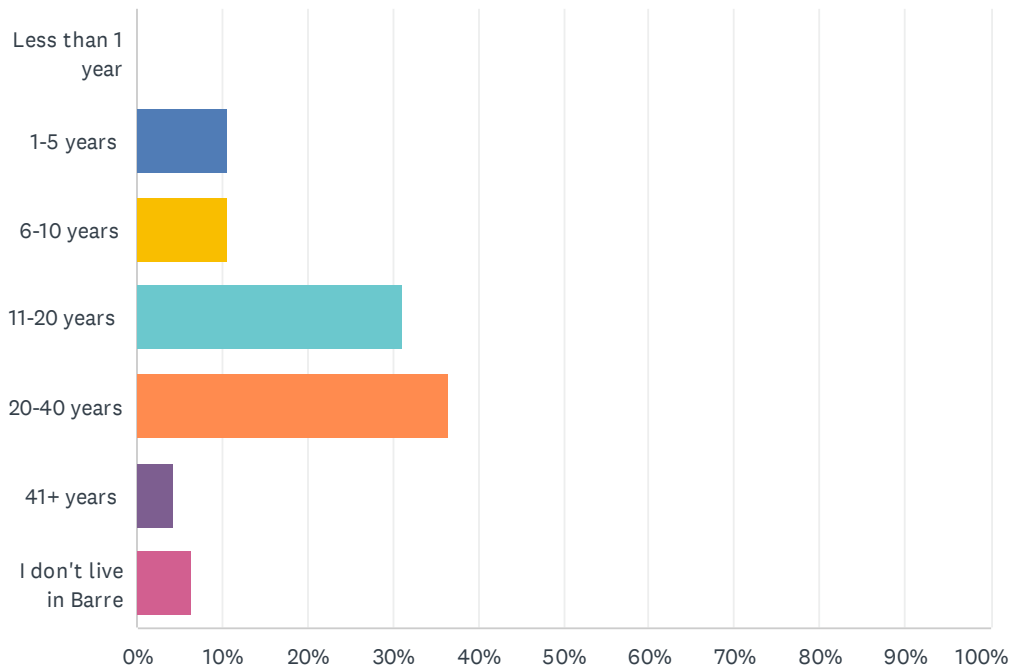
Q6 What is your estimated household income?

Answered: 92 Skipped: 1



Q7 How long have you lived in Barre?

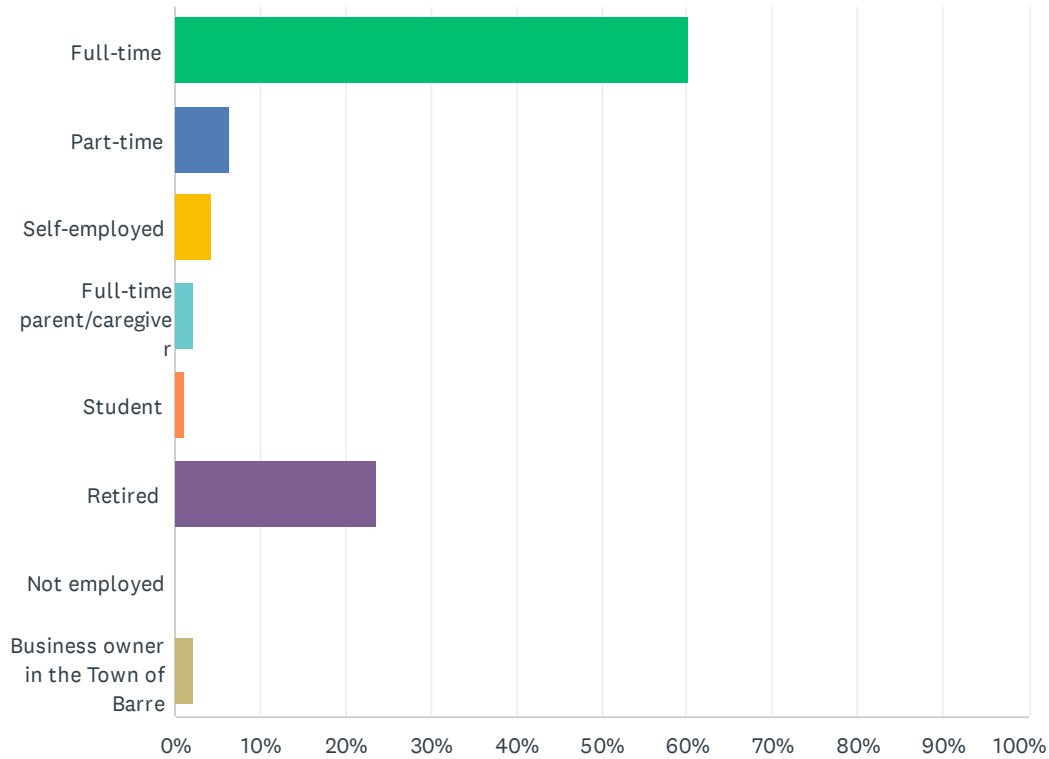
Answered: 93 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 1 year	0.00%	0
1-5 years	10.75%	10
6-10 years	10.75%	10
11-20 years	31.18%	29
20-40 years	36.56%	34
41+ years	4.30%	4
I don't live in Barre	6.45%	6
TOTAL		93

Q8 Which of the following categories best describes your employment status?

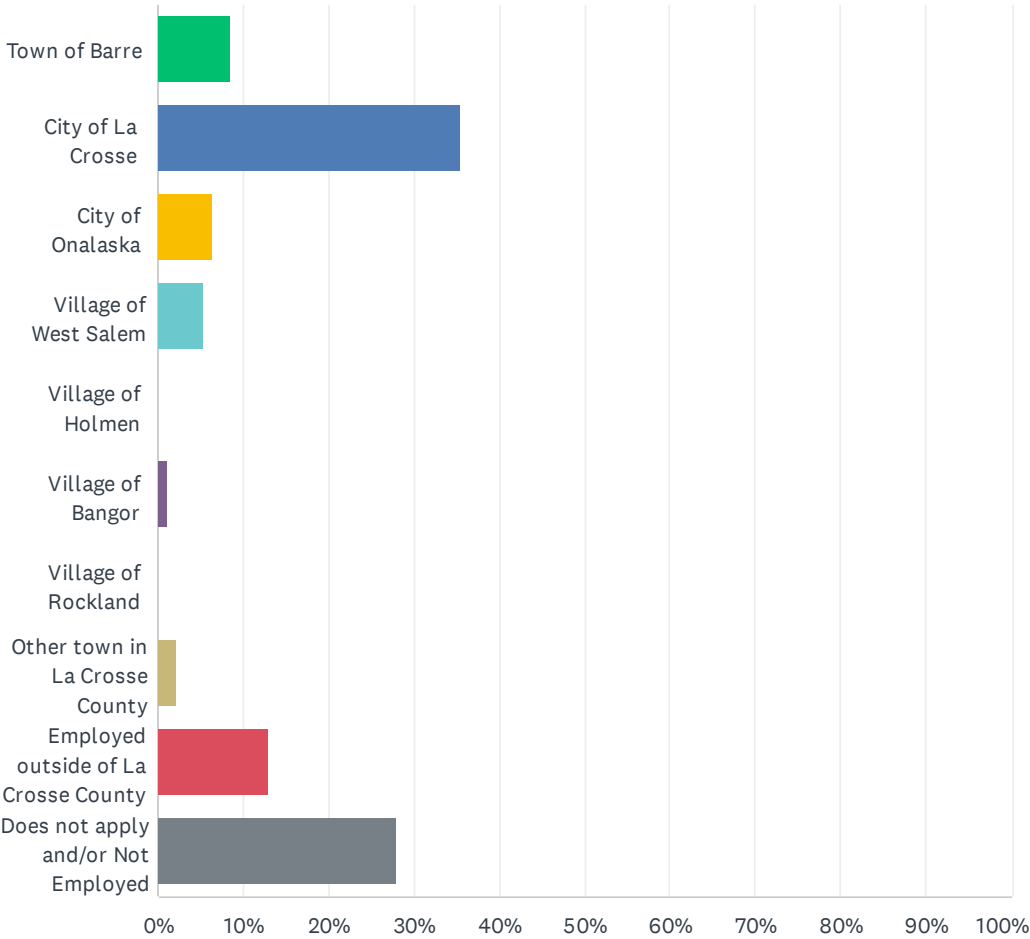
Answered: 93 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Full-time	60.22%	56
Part-time	6.45%	6
Self-employed	4.30%	4
Full-time parent/caregiver	2.15%	2
Student	1.08%	1
Retired	23.66%	22
Not employed	0.00%	0
Business owner in the Town of Barre	2.15%	2
TOTAL		93

Q9 If you are employed, indicate your place of employment.

Answered: 93 Skipped: 0

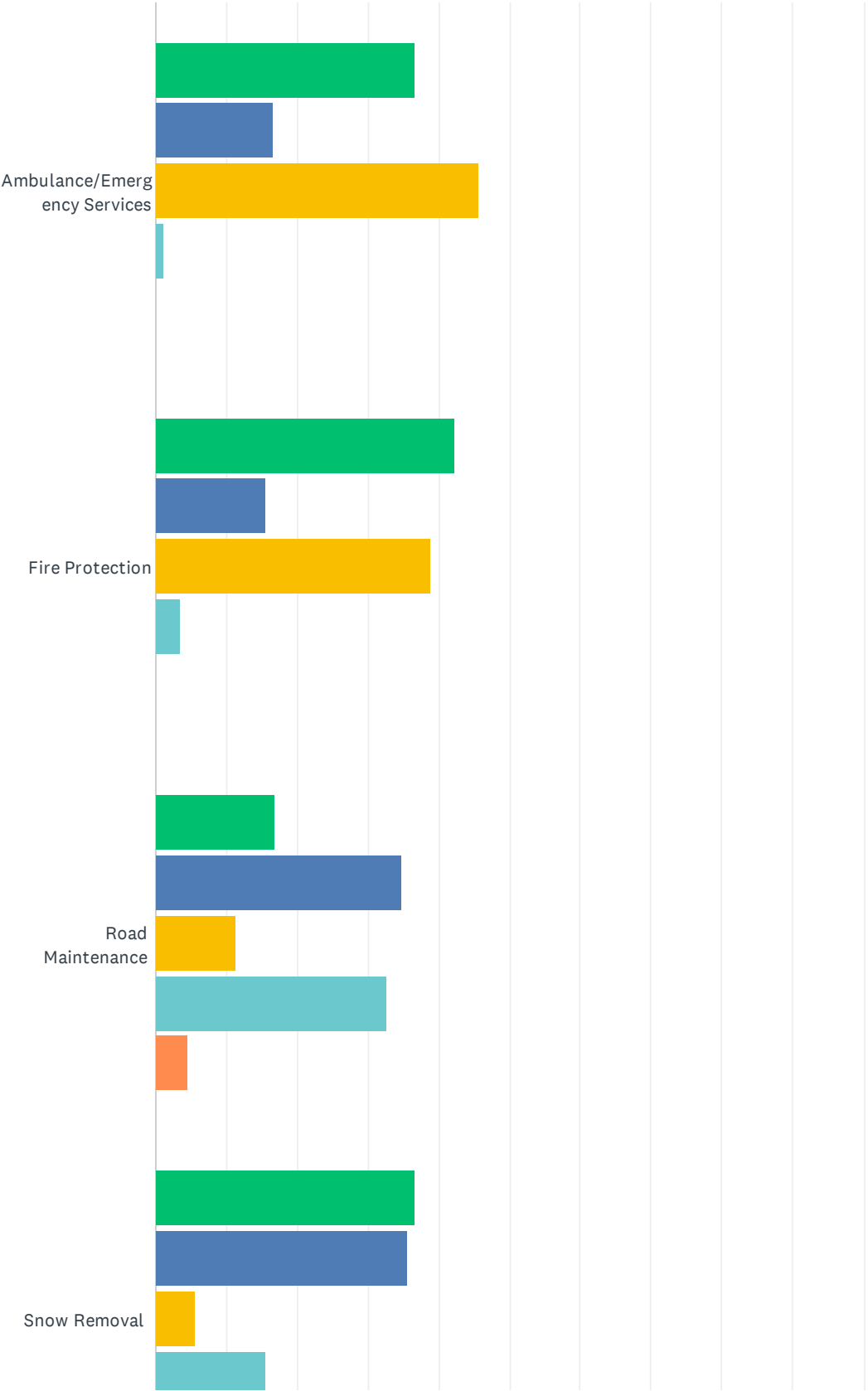


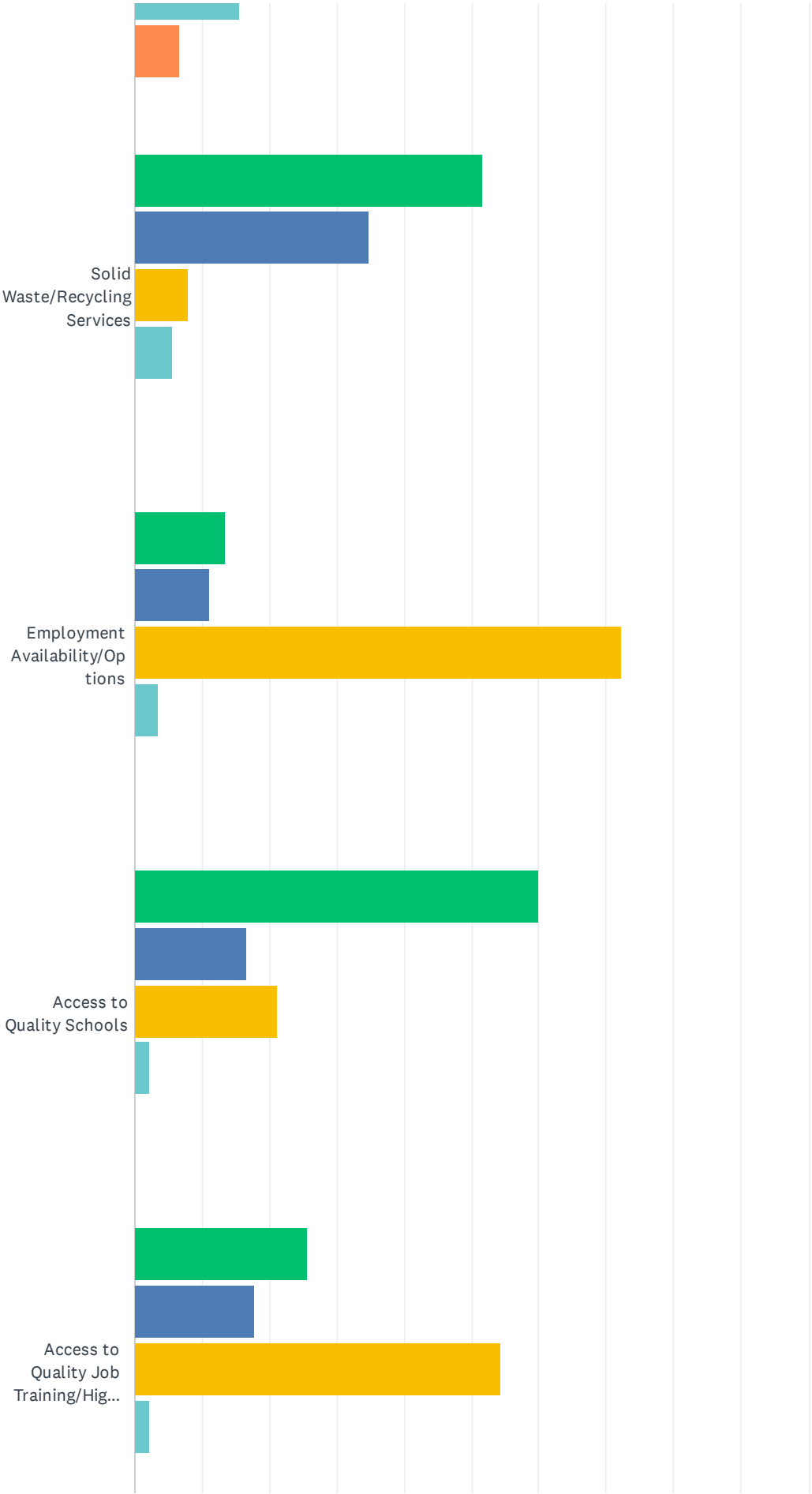
Town of Barre Community Survey for Comprehensive Plan Update

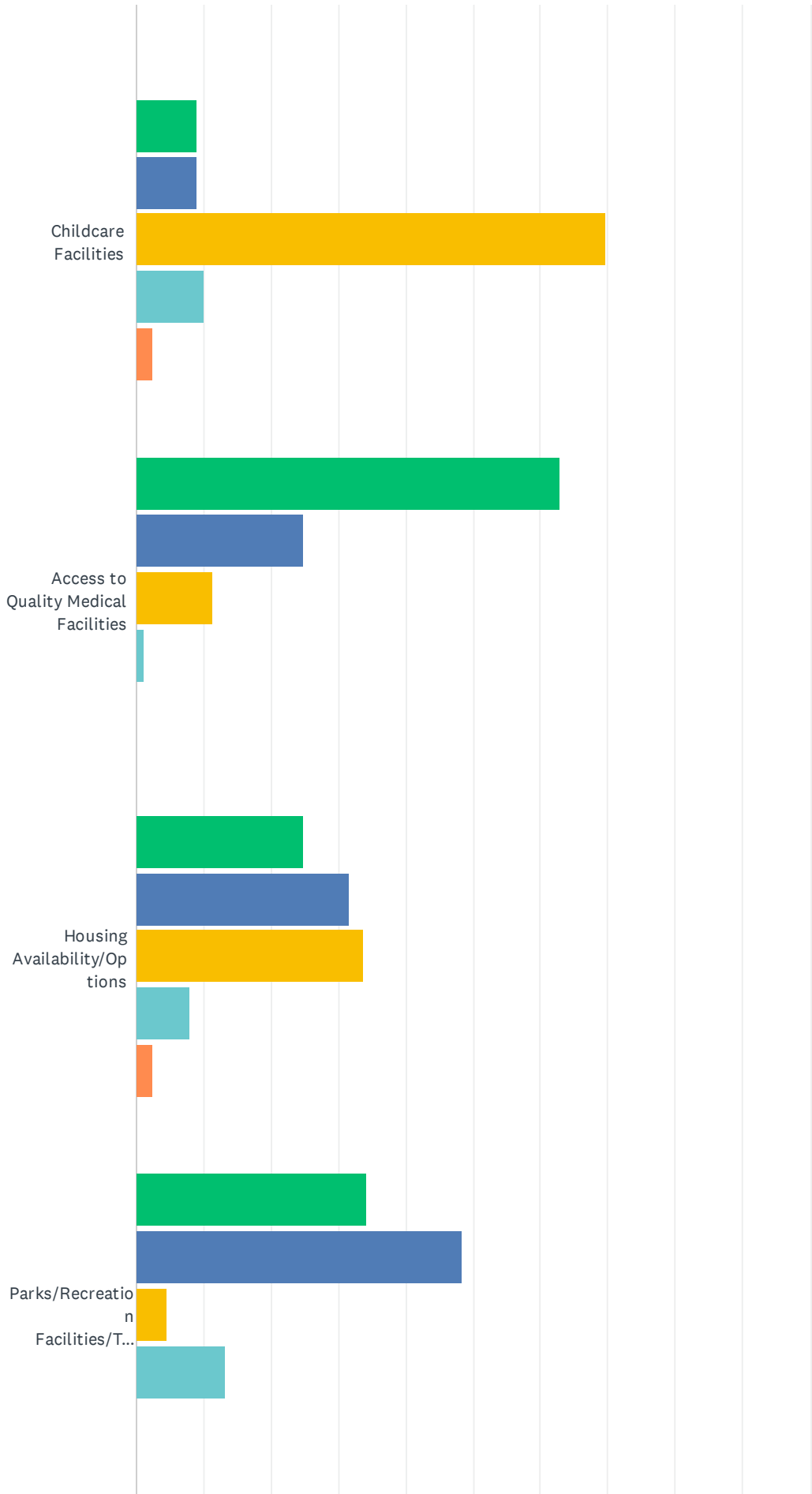
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Town of Barre	8.60%	8
City of La Crosse	35.48%	33
City of Onalaska	6.45%	6
Village of West Salem	5.38%	5
Village of Holmen	0.00%	0
Village of Bangor	1.08%	1
Village of Rockland	0.00%	0
Other town in La Crosse County	2.15%	2
Employed outside of La Crosse County	12.90%	12
Does not apply and/or Not Employed	27.96%	26
TOTAL		93

Q10 Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following in Barre:

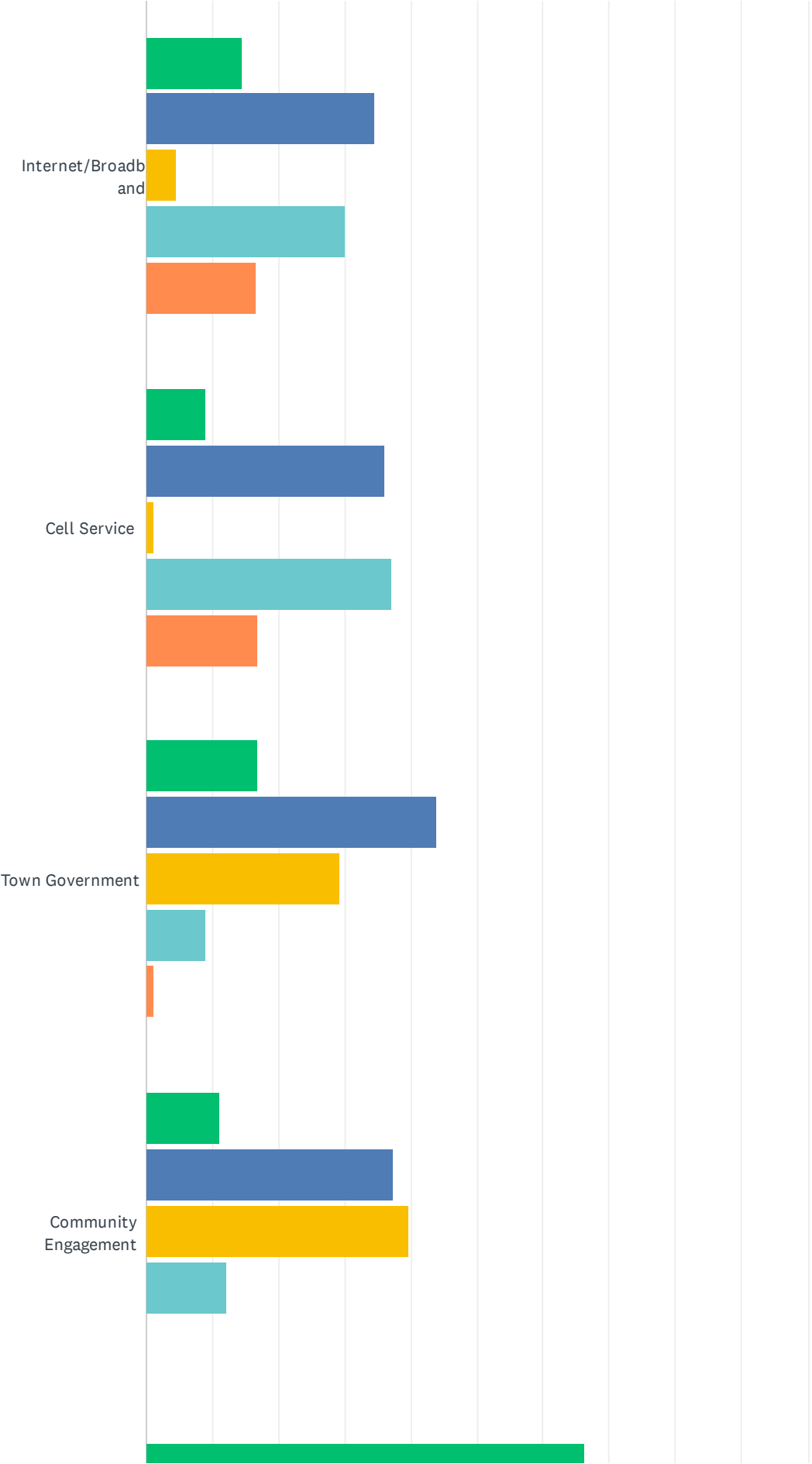
Answered: 93 Skipped: 0



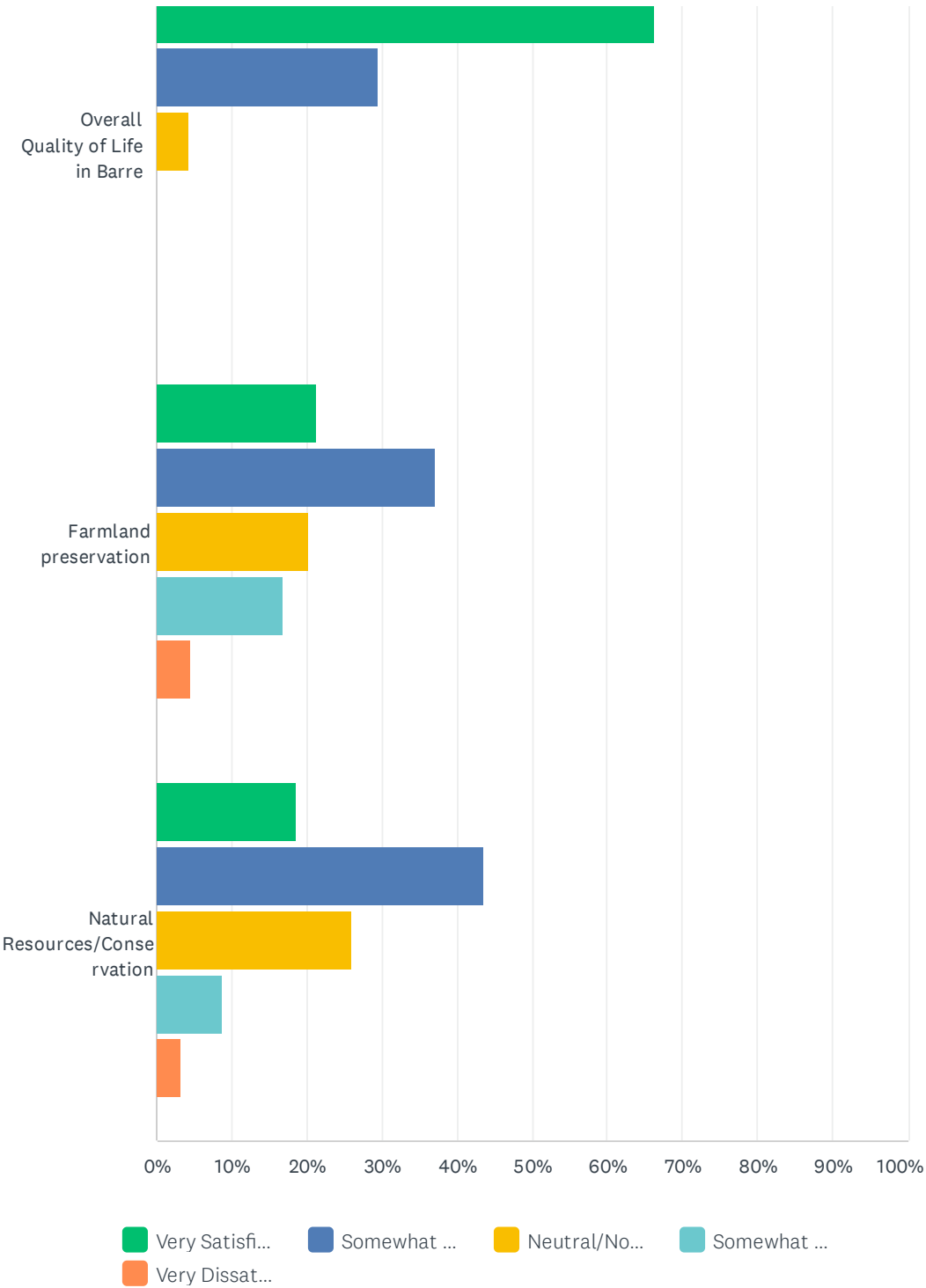




Town of Barre Community Survey for Comprehensive Plan Update



Town of Barre Community Survey for Comprehensive Plan Update



Town of Barre Community Survey for Comprehensive Plan Update

	VERY SATISFIED	SOMEWHAT SATISFIED	NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED	VERY DISSATISFIED	TOTAL
Ambulance/Emergency Services	36.67% 33	16.67% 15	45.56% 41	1.11% 1	0.00% 0	90
Fire Protection	42.22% 38	15.56% 14	38.89% 35	3.33% 3	0.00% 0	90
Road Maintenance	16.85% 15	34.83% 31	11.24% 10	32.58% 29	4.49% 4	89
Snow Removal	36.67% 33	35.56% 32	5.56% 5	15.56% 14	6.67% 6	90
Solid Waste/Recycling Services	51.69% 46	34.83% 31	7.87% 7	5.62% 5	0.00% 0	89
Employment Availability/Options	13.33% 12	11.11% 10	72.22% 65	3.33% 3	0.00% 0	90
Access to Quality Schools	60.00% 54	16.67% 15	21.11% 19	2.22% 2	0.00% 0	90
Access to Quality Job Training/Higher Education	25.56% 23	17.78% 16	54.44% 49	2.22% 2	0.00% 0	90
Childcare Facilities	8.99% 8	8.99% 8	69.66% 62	10.11% 9	2.25% 2	89
Access to Quality Medical Facilities	62.92% 56	24.72% 22	11.24% 10	1.12% 1	0.00% 0	89
Housing Availability/Options	24.72% 22	31.46% 28	33.71% 30	7.87% 7	2.25% 2	89
Parks/Recreation Facilities/Trails	34.07% 31	48.35% 44	4.40% 4	13.19% 12	0.00% 0	91
Internet/Broadband	14.44% 13	34.44% 31	4.44% 4	30.00% 27	16.67% 15	90
Cell Service	8.99% 8	35.96% 32	1.12% 1	37.08% 33	16.85% 15	89
Town Government	16.85% 15	43.82% 39	29.21% 26	8.99% 8	1.12% 1	89
Community Engagement	10.99% 10	37.36% 34	39.56% 36	12.09% 11	0.00% 0	91
Overall Quality of Life in Barre	66.30% 61	29.35% 27	4.35% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	92
Farmland preservation	21.35% 19	37.08% 33	20.22% 18	16.85% 15	4.49% 4	89
Natural Resources/Conservation	18.48% 17	43.48% 40	26.09% 24	8.70% 8	3.26% 3	92

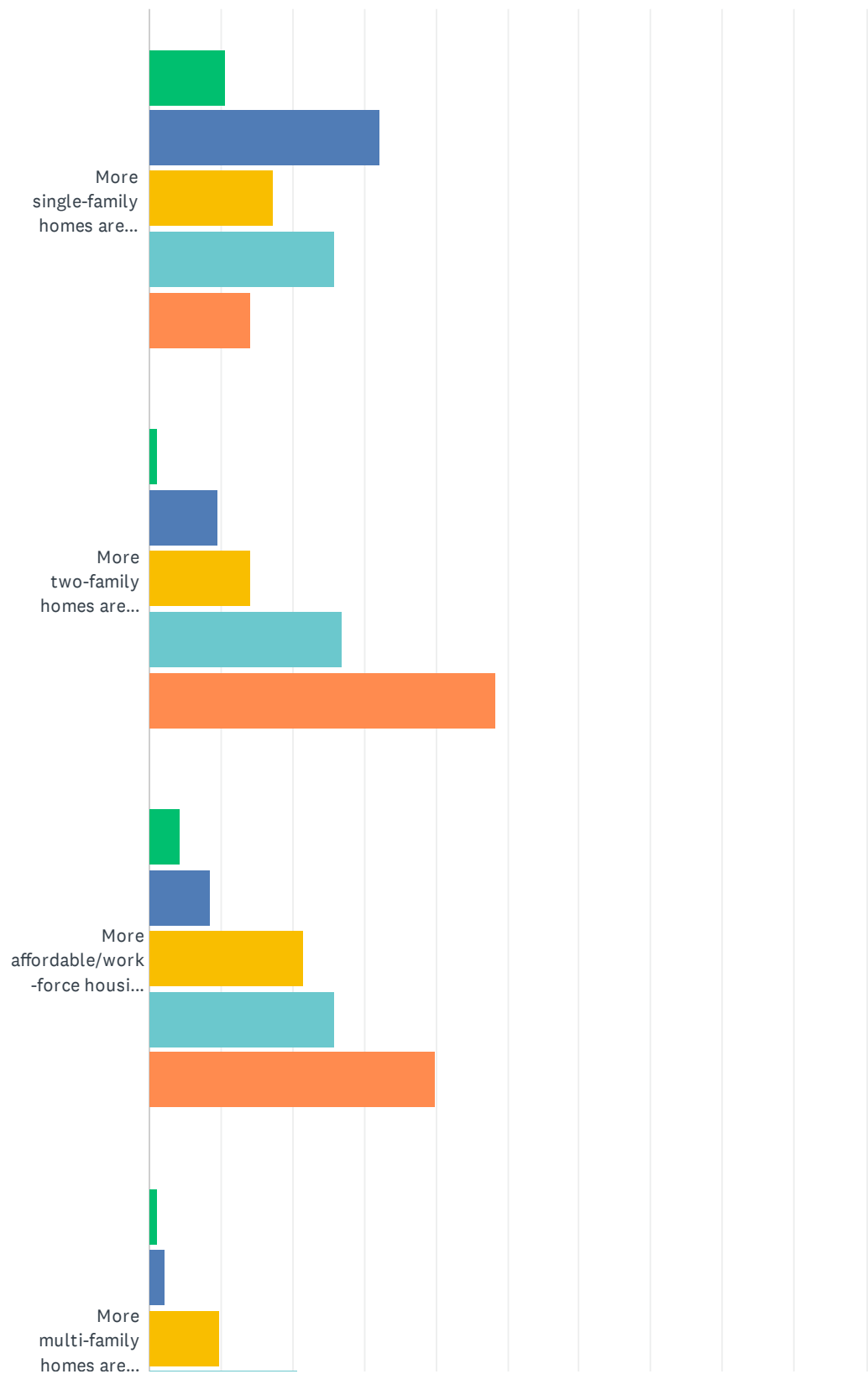
Q11 From the options listed in Questions 10, rank what the Town of Barre's top 3 priorities should be in the next 10 years. 1 being the highest priority.

Answered: 90 Skipped: 3

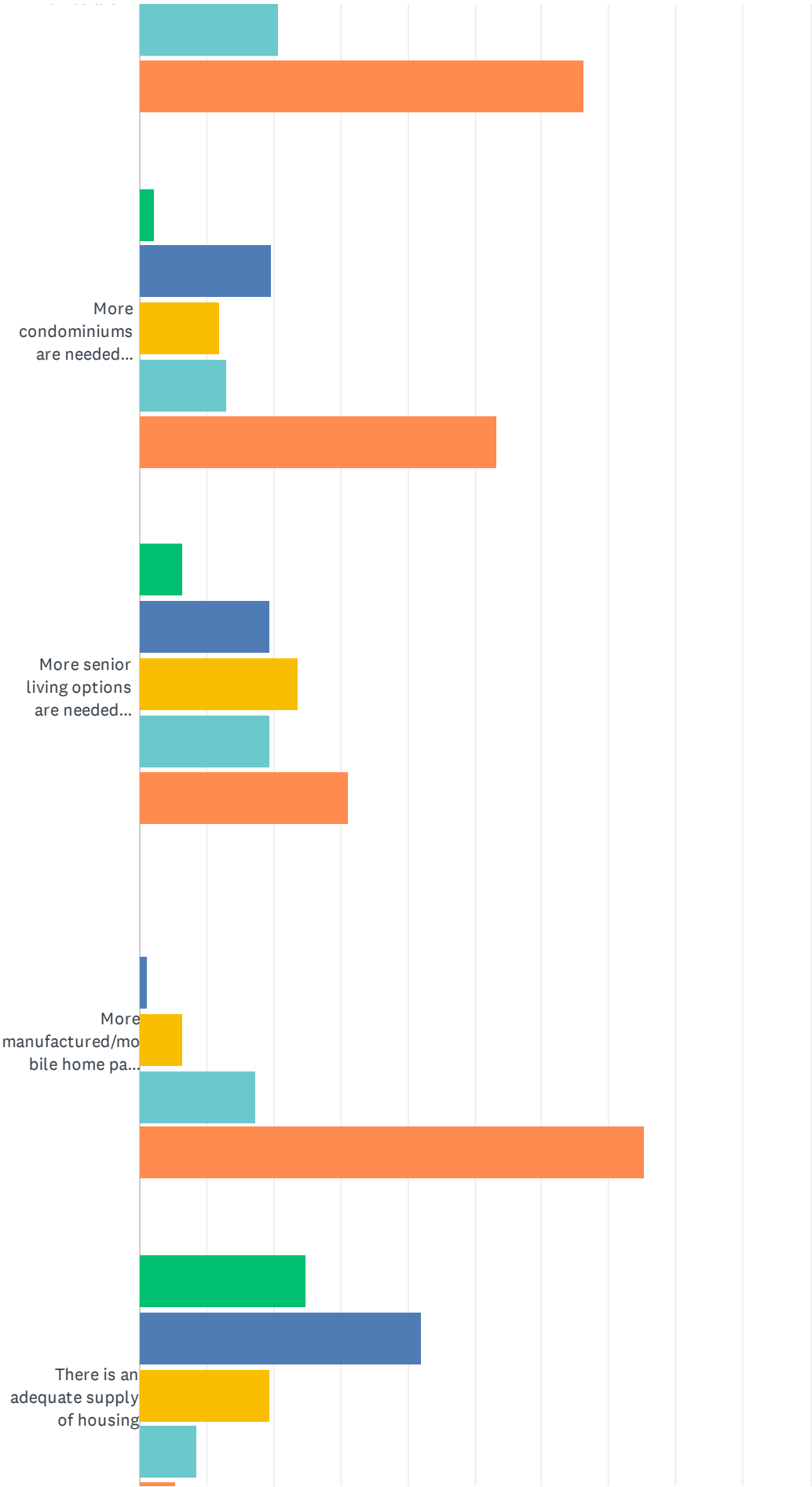
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	100.00%	90
2	100.00%	90
3	90.00%	81

Q12 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about housing development in Barre?

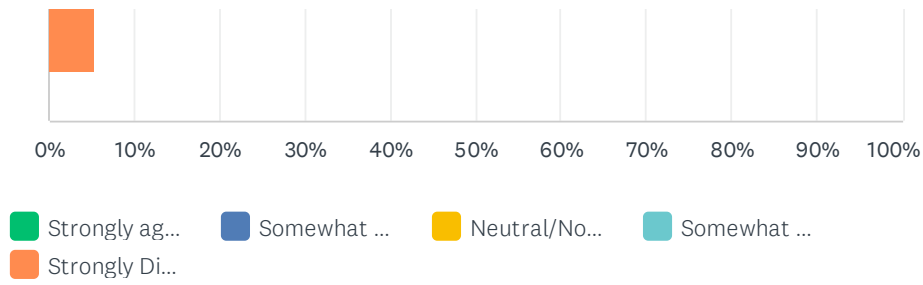
Answered: 93 Skipped: 0



Town of Barre Community Survey for Comprehensive Plan Update



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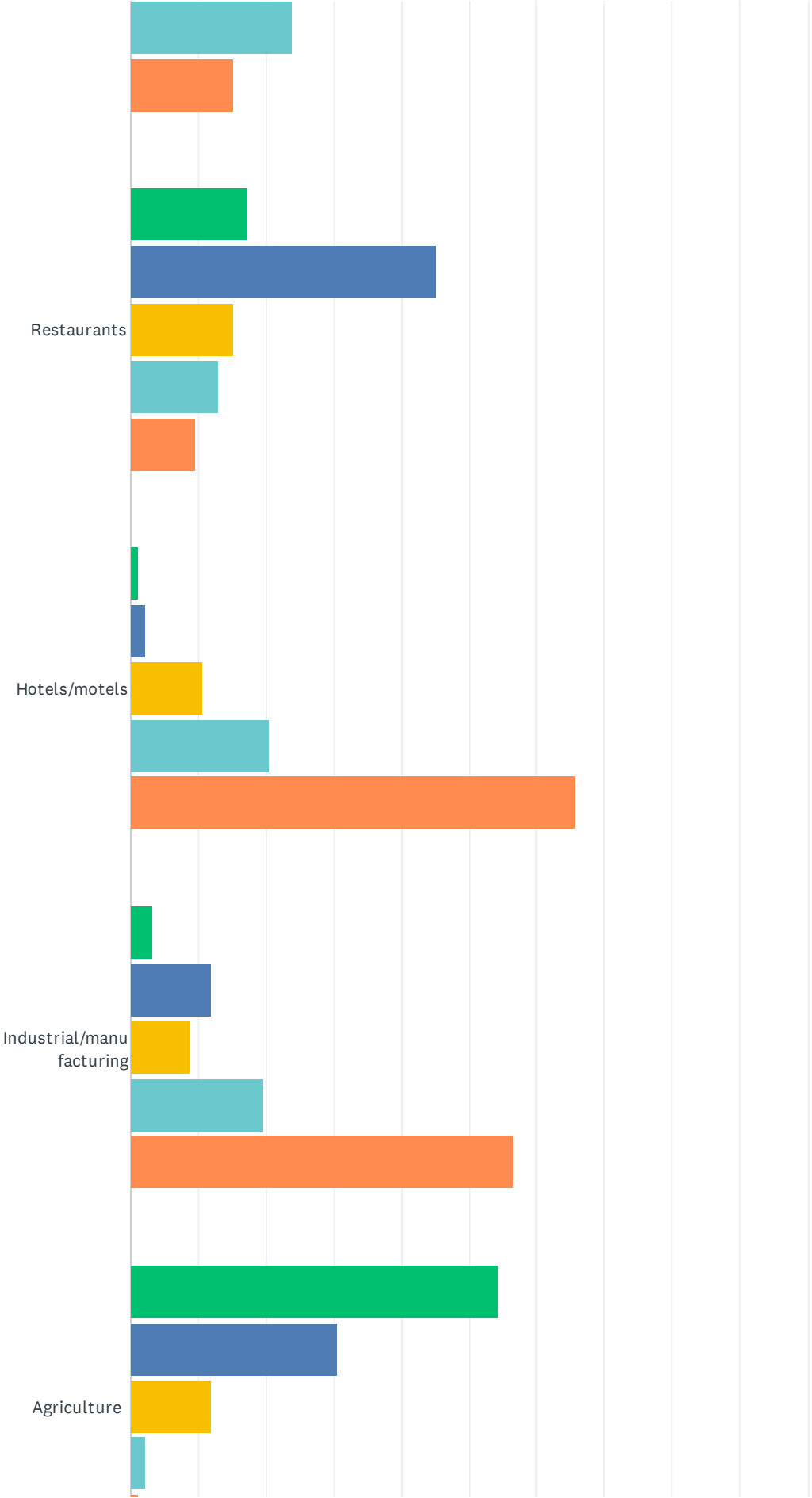
	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL
More single-family homes are needed	10.75% 10	32.26% 30	17.20% 16	25.81% 24	13.98% 13	93
More two-family homes are needed (i.e. duplexes, twin homes)	1.08% 1	9.68% 9	13.98% 13	26.88% 25	48.39% 45	93
More affordable/work-force housing is needed	4.30% 4	8.60% 8	21.51% 20	25.81% 24	39.78% 37	93
More multi-family homes are needed (i.e. four or more units per structure)	1.09% 1	2.17% 2	9.78% 9	20.65% 19	66.30% 61	92
More condominiums are needed (i.e. residents own their own units)	2.17% 2	19.57% 18	11.96% 11	13.04% 12	53.26% 49	92
More senior living options are needed (independent/assisted living/55+)	6.45% 6	19.35% 18	23.66% 22	19.35% 18	31.18% 29	93
More manufactured/mobile home parks are needed	0.00% 0	1.08% 1	6.45% 6	17.20% 16	75.27% 70	93
There is an adequate supply of housing	24.73% 23	41.94% 39	19.35% 18	8.60% 8	5.38% 5	93

Q13 If development occurs, which types should Barre encourage in the next twenty years?

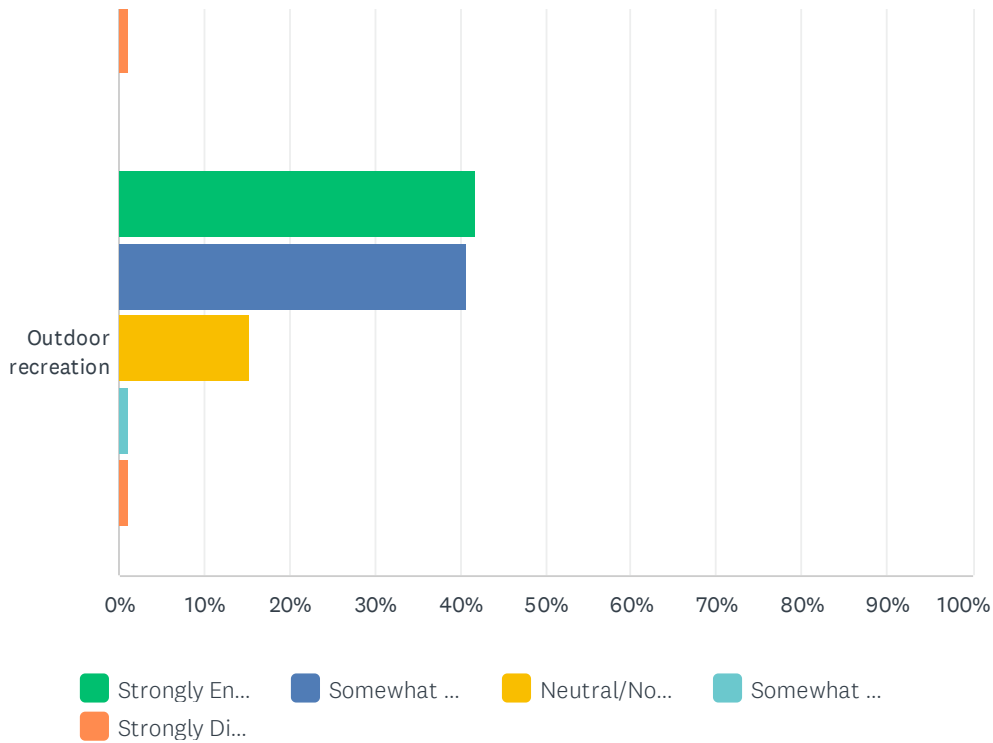
Answered: 93 Skipped: 0



Town of Barre Community Survey for Comprehensive Plan Update



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	STRONGLY ENCOURAGE	SOMEWHAT ENCOURAGE	NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	SOMEWHAT DISCOURAGE	STRONGLY DISCOURAGE	TOTAL
Offices	1.08% 1	17.20% 16	19.35% 18	20.43% 19	41.94% 39	93
Retail/shopping/entertainment	2.17% 2	29.35% 27	11.96% 11	22.83% 21	33.70% 31	92
Neighborhood businesses/services	3.23% 3	39.78% 37	17.20% 16	20.43% 19	19.35% 18	93
Housing	11.96% 11	34.78% 32	14.13% 13	23.91% 22	15.22% 14	92
Restaurants	17.20% 16	45.16% 42	15.05% 14	12.90% 12	9.68% 9	93
Hotels/motels	1.08% 1	2.15% 2	10.75% 10	20.43% 19	65.59% 61	93
Industrial/manufacturing	3.26% 3	11.96% 11	8.70% 8	19.57% 18	56.52% 52	92
Agriculture	54.35% 50	30.43% 28	11.96% 11	2.17% 2	1.09% 1	92
Outdoor recreation	41.76% 38	40.66% 37	15.38% 14	1.10% 1	1.10% 1	91

Q14 If you could change one thing about Barre? What would it be and why?

Answered: 76 Skipped: 17

Q15 What is one thing about Barre that should not change and why?

Answered: 81 Skipped: 12

Q16 If you would like to receive more information about the Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan Update, including ways to participate, please enter your email address below.

Answered: 52 Skipped: 41

Q11 From the options listed in Questions 10, rank what the Town of Barre's top 3 priorities should be in the next 10 years. 1 being the highest priority.

Answered: 90 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
1	100.00% 90
2	100.00% 90
3	90.00% 81

#	1	DATE
1	Road Maintenance	6/1/2025 10:17 AM
2	Priority on more housing development	5/29/2025 9:22 PM
3	Farmland Preservation	5/22/2025 2:05 PM
4	Cell phone	5/21/2025 4:55 PM
5	Maintaining the country life	5/19/2025 8:37 PM
6	Cell service	5/16/2025 9:44 PM
7	Road maintenance	5/15/2025 8:27 AM
8	Fire protection	5/15/2025 8:23 AM
9	Single-family residence	5/15/2025 8:19 AM
10	Internet/broadband	5/2/2025 8:29 AM
11	Assessment of Housing Availability and Pros/Cons of Population Growth (Types of Homes/Impact on Tranquility of Rural Environment That Residents Value in Town of Barre	5/1/2025 9:44 AM
12	Road maintenance	4/29/2025 3:18 PM
13	Better internet and cellular service	4/24/2025 8:33 PM
14	Conservation	4/22/2025 2:28 PM
15	Internet/Broadband	4/20/2025 8:36 PM
16	Farmland Preservation	4/18/2025 2:57 PM
17	Fire Protection	4/17/2025 9:31 AM
18	Single family dwellings/land development	4/14/2025 6:47 PM
19	Quality schools	4/13/2025 10:59 PM
20	conversation/natural resources	4/13/2025 10:15 AM
21	Farmland preservation	4/11/2025 1:03 PM
22	Road maintenance	4/10/2025 9:47 AM
23	Town Government	4/9/2025 8:44 PM
24	Internet	4/8/2025 11:34 AM
25	A board serving for the community best interest	4/7/2025 9:44 PM

Town of Barre Community Survey for Comprehensive Plan Update

26	Child Care	4/7/2025 1:12 PM
27	Residential development	4/7/2025 8:51 AM
28	Farmland preservation	4/5/2025 6:18 PM
29	Farmland Preservation	4/5/2025 1:30 PM
30	Not getting to big	4/5/2025 10:03 AM
31	Farmland preservation	4/5/2025 7:15 AM
32	Internet/Broadband	4/4/2025 12:46 PM
33	Internet/Broadband	4/3/2025 7:07 PM
34	More housing options/density	4/3/2025 4:33 PM
35	Speed of fire and emergency response - closer department?	4/3/2025 9:36 AM
36	Internet	4/2/2025 6:47 PM
37	Farmland Preservation	4/2/2025 4:17 PM
38	Trash Service (disaster -garbage everywher)	4/2/2025 12:00 PM
39	Farmland preservation	4/2/2025 10:09 AM
40	Road Maintenance	4/1/2025 7:12 PM
41	Farmland preservation	4/1/2025 6:26 PM
42	Farmland preservation	4/1/2025 4:34 PM
43	Internet on all town roads	4/1/2025 4:10 PM
44	Internet/Broadband	4/1/2025 4:08 PM
45	No more multi family housing	4/1/2025 3:44 PM
46	No multi housing units	4/1/2025 3:40 PM
47	Road and ditch maintenance	4/1/2025 7:40 AM
48	Farmland preservation	3/31/2025 6:50 PM
49	Quality of roads and bridges	3/31/2025 4:57 PM
50	Farmland preservation	3/31/2025 4:54 PM
51	Road repair	3/31/2025 3:46 PM
52	Roads	3/31/2025 9:37 AM
53	Community engagement	3/30/2025 6:31 PM
54	Housing	3/30/2025 12:26 PM
55	Lower taxes	3/30/2025 12:21 PM
56	Schools	3/30/2025 11:46 AM
57	Farmland Preservation	3/30/2025 9:59 AM
58	Internet services	3/29/2025 9:17 PM
59	Better roads	3/29/2025 6:06 PM
60	road maintenance	3/29/2025 5:15 PM
61	Farmland Preservation	3/29/2025 2:48 PM
62	Natural Resources/Conservation	3/29/2025 2:00 PM
63	Roads	3/29/2025 10:18 AM

Town of Barre Community Survey for Comprehensive Plan Update

64	Farmland preservation	3/29/2025 7:55 AM
65	Community engagement	3/28/2025 8:54 PM
66	Preserve farmland	3/28/2025 12:25 PM
67	Road maintenance	3/28/2025 11:58 AM
68	Farmland preservation	3/28/2025 8:23 AM
69	Farmland preservation	3/28/2025 7:16 AM
70	Farmland preservation	3/28/2025 7:12 AM
71	Road maintenance	3/28/2025 6:00 AM
72	Internet	3/27/2025 9:50 PM
73	Road Maintenance and Snow Removal	3/27/2025 9:34 PM
74	Farmland Preservation	3/27/2025 8:14 PM
75	Internet/Broadband	3/27/2025 7:44 PM
76	Maintaining good balance of agriculture and livestock properties	3/27/2025 7:17 PM
77	Access to Quality Schools	3/27/2025 6:18 PM
78	Fixing Road	3/27/2025 5:39 PM
79	Keep taxes low	3/27/2025 5:10 PM
80	Road repair	3/27/2025 4:59 PM
81	Road maintenance	3/27/2025 4:46 PM
82	Overall quality of life in Barre	3/27/2025 4:06 PM
83	Road Matinence	3/27/2025 3:54 PM
84	Housing availability options.	3/27/2025 12:11 PM
85	Farmland preservation	3/19/2025 1:09 PM
86	Natural Resources/Conservation	3/19/2025 10:57 AM
87	Farmland preservation	3/18/2025 1:59 PM
88	Building rentals should be limited	3/16/2025 5:14 PM
89	INTERNET/BROADBAND	3/14/2025 7:31 PM
90	Preserve farmland	3/14/2025 7:15 PM
#	2	DATE
1	Broadband Internet	6/1/2025 10:17 AM
2	Improve access to emergency services	5/29/2025 9:22 PM
3	Natural Resources	5/22/2025 2:05 PM
4	Roads	5/21/2025 4:55 PM
5	Securing county assistance for road maintenance	5/19/2025 8:37 PM
6	Internet	5/16/2025 9:44 PM
7	Fire protection	5/15/2025 8:27 AM
8	Road maintenance	5/15/2025 8:23 AM
9	Town government	5/15/2025 8:19 AM
10	Parks/recreation/trails	5/2/2025 8:29 AM

Town of Barre Community Survey for Comprehensive Plan Update

11	Road Maintenance (Neighborhoods/Overall Assessment of Increased Traffic in Town of Barre)	5/1/2025 9:44 AM
12	Quality of Life	4/29/2025 3:18 PM
13	Control re: property upkeep/maintenance	4/24/2025 8:33 PM
14	Limit urban sprawl	4/22/2025 2:28 PM
15	Cellular Service	4/20/2025 8:36 PM
16	Parks/Rec/Trails	4/18/2025 2:57 PM
17	Cell Service	4/17/2025 9:31 AM
18	Hiking trails and safe biking options	4/14/2025 6:47 PM
19	Broadband	4/13/2025 10:59 PM
20	farmland preservation	4/13/2025 10:15 AM
21	Road maintenance	4/11/2025 1:03 PM
22	Large trash issues. Reopen access to the town dump	4/10/2025 9:47 AM
23	Farmland Preservation	4/9/2025 8:44 PM
24	Road maintenance	4/8/2025 11:34 AM
25	Snow removal, less rock in yards to remove in spring	4/7/2025 9:44 PM
26	Forest/farmland preservation	4/7/2025 1:12 PM
27	Commercial development	4/7/2025 8:51 AM
28	Natural resources/conservation	4/5/2025 6:18 PM
29	Internet/Broadband	4/5/2025 1:30 PM
30	Keeping more farm land	4/5/2025 10:03 AM
31	Cell service	4/5/2025 7:15 AM
32	Natural Resources/Conservation	4/4/2025 12:46 PM
33	Cell Service	4/3/2025 7:07 PM
34	Smart growth	4/3/2025 4:33 PM
35	Road maintenance	4/3/2025 9:36 AM
36	Farmland preservation	4/2/2025 6:47 PM
37	Natural Resources/Conservation	4/2/2025 4:17 PM
38	County Road M (County)	4/2/2025 12:00 PM
39	Natural resources/conservation	4/2/2025 10:09 AM
40	Solid Waste/Recycling Services	4/1/2025 7:12 PM
41	Natural resource conservation	4/1/2025 6:26 PM
42	Road maintenance	4/1/2025 4:34 PM
43	Road Maintenance	4/1/2025 4:10 PM
44	Road maintenance	4/1/2025 4:08 PM
45	Farmland preservation	4/1/2025 3:44 PM
46	Preserve farms and farmland	4/1/2025 3:40 PM
47	Town government communication	4/1/2025 7:40 AM
48	Community Engagement	3/31/2025 6:50 PM

Town of Barre Community Survey for Comprehensive Plan Update

49	High speed traffic on county roads	3/31/2025 4:57 PM
50	Town Government	3/31/2025 4:54 PM
51	Internet, cell service	3/31/2025 3:46 PM
52	Cell Service	3/31/2025 9:37 AM
53	Childcare options	3/30/2025 6:31 PM
54	Roads	3/30/2025 12:26 PM
55	Road maintenance	3/30/2025 12:21 PM
56	Cell service	3/30/2025 11:46 AM
57	Road Maintenance	3/30/2025 9:59 AM
58	Farmland preservation	3/29/2025 9:17 PM
59	Better snow plowing. Digs up grass and tears up road	3/29/2025 6:06 PM
60	town government	3/29/2025 5:15 PM
61	Cell Service	3/29/2025 2:48 PM
62	Farmland preservation	3/29/2025 2:00 PM
63	Maintaining 35 acre parcel rule.	3/29/2025 10:18 AM
64	Internet	3/29/2025 7:55 AM
65	Parks/outdoor rec	3/28/2025 8:54 PM
66	Natural resources preservation	3/28/2025 12:25 PM
67	Cell service	3/28/2025 11:58 AM
68	Snow removal	3/28/2025 8:23 AM
69	Natural resources/ conservation	3/28/2025 7:16 AM
70	Access to quality schools	3/28/2025 7:12 AM
71	Internet/Broadband	3/28/2025 6:00 AM
72	Farmland preservation	3/27/2025 9:50 PM
73	Parks/Recreation Facilities/Trails	3/27/2025 9:34 PM
74	Ambulance	3/27/2025 8:14 PM
75	snow removal	3/27/2025 7:44 PM
76	Improve snow removal and roads	3/27/2025 7:17 PM
77	Natural Resources/Conservation	3/27/2025 6:18 PM
78	Improving Fire and Rescue	3/27/2025 5:39 PM
79	Preserve farm land	3/27/2025 5:10 PM
80	Road repair	3/27/2025 4:59 PM
81	Cell service	3/27/2025 4:46 PM
82	Farmland preservation	3/27/2025 4:06 PM
83	Snow Removal	3/27/2025 3:54 PM
84	Road maintenance	3/27/2025 12:11 PM
85	Quality of life	3/19/2025 1:09 PM
86	Overall Quality of Life in Barre	3/19/2025 10:57 AM

Town of Barre Community Survey for Comprehensive Plan Update

87	Internet/Broadband	3/18/2025 1:59 PM
88	Protect environment from overuse of pesticides	3/16/2025 5:14 PM
89	Ag preservation	3/14/2025 7:31 PM
90	Maintain town roads	3/14/2025 7:15 PM
#	3	DATE
1	Cell Service	6/1/2025 10:17 AM
2	Control mill rate	5/29/2025 9:22 PM
3	Road Maintenance	5/22/2025 2:05 PM
4	Internet	5/21/2025 4:55 PM
5	Build all the houses by the golf course and Nick's	5/19/2025 8:37 PM
6	Housing availability	5/16/2025 9:44 PM
7	Parks	5/15/2025 8:27 AM
8	Recycling Service	5/15/2025 8:23 AM
9	Preserve farmland	5/15/2025 8:19 AM
10	Natural resources/conservation	5/2/2025 8:29 AM
11	Cell Service	5/1/2025 9:44 AM
12	Farmland preservation	4/29/2025 3:18 PM
13	Maintain rural lifestyle	4/22/2025 2:28 PM
14	Farmland Preservation	4/20/2025 8:36 PM
15	Road Maintenance	4/18/2025 2:57 PM
16	Internet/Broadband	4/17/2025 9:31 AM
17	Road maintenance	4/13/2025 10:59 PM
18	senior housing options	4/13/2025 10:15 AM
19	Cell service	4/11/2025 1:03 PM
20	Roadside maintenance such as weed cutting and roadkill pickup	4/10/2025 9:47 AM
21	Cell Service / Snow Removal	4/9/2025 8:44 PM
22	Internet options, and better cell service, goal of no dead spots	4/7/2025 9:44 PM
23	internet service	4/7/2025 1:12 PM
24	Support services and quality of life	4/7/2025 8:51 AM
25	Internet/broadband	4/5/2025 6:18 PM
26	Natural Resources/Conservation	4/5/2025 1:30 PM
27	Water run off	4/5/2025 10:03 AM
28	Internet	4/5/2025 7:15 AM
29	Farmland preservation	4/4/2025 12:46 PM
30	Farmland Preservation	4/3/2025 7:07 PM
31	Ordinance/maintenance town property/row	4/3/2025 4:33 PM
32	Town government	4/2/2025 6:47 PM
33	Community Engagement	4/2/2025 4:17 PM

Town of Barre Community Survey for Comprehensive Plan Update

34	Farmland Preservation	4/2/2025 12:00 PM
35	Access to quality schools	4/2/2025 10:09 AM
36	Snow Removal	4/1/2025 7:12 PM
37	Parks recreational trails	4/1/2025 6:26 PM
38	Parks/recreation/trails	4/1/2025 4:34 PM
39	Quality of life	4/1/2025 3:44 PM
40	Recycling pickup weekly	4/1/2025 3:40 PM
41	Housing	4/1/2025 7:40 AM
42	Internet Service	3/31/2025 6:50 PM
43	Farmland preservation	3/31/2025 4:57 PM
44	Community Engagement	3/31/2025 4:54 PM
45	Community engagement	3/31/2025 3:46 PM
46	quality of life	3/31/2025 9:37 AM
47	Snow removal and road maintenance	3/30/2025 6:31 PM
48	Land preservation	3/30/2025 12:26 PM
49	Farmland preservation	3/30/2025 12:21 PM
50	Internet	3/30/2025 11:46 AM
51	Solid Waste/Recycling Services	3/30/2025 9:59 AM
52	Community engagement	3/29/2025 9:17 PM
53	parks/trails	3/29/2025 5:15 PM
54	Quality of Life in Barre	3/29/2025 2:48 PM
55	Town Government	3/29/2025 2:00 PM
56	Originality in planning. Make it unique.	3/29/2025 10:18 AM
57	Natural Resources/Conservation	3/29/2025 7:55 AM
58	Road maintenance	3/28/2025 8:54 PM
59	Overall quality of life	3/28/2025 12:25 PM
60	Internet	3/28/2025 11:58 AM
61	Cell phone service	3/28/2025 8:23 AM
62	Internet / broadband	3/28/2025 7:16 AM
63	Internet	3/28/2025 7:12 AM
64	Parks/Recreation Facilities/Trails	3/28/2025 6:00 AM
65	Roads	3/27/2025 9:50 PM
66	Housing Availability/Options	3/27/2025 9:34 PM
67	Fire emergency	3/27/2025 8:14 PM
68	cell service	3/27/2025 7:44 PM
69	Providing online town updates and community event communications	3/27/2025 7:17 PM
70	Parks/Recreation Facilities/Trails	3/27/2025 6:18 PM
71	Public Transportation	3/27/2025 5:39 PM

Town of Barre Community Survey for Comprehensive Plan Update

72	Keep above average services	3/27/2025 5:10 PM
73	Housing options	3/27/2025 4:59 PM
74	Parks/recreation	3/27/2025 4:46 PM
75	Natural Resources / Conservation	3/27/2025 4:06 PM
76	Cell Service	3/27/2025 3:54 PM
77	Park recreation facility and trails	3/27/2025 12:11 PM
78	Housing availability/options	3/19/2025 1:09 PM
79	Housing Availability/Options	3/18/2025 1:59 PM
80	Solid waste/ recycling	3/14/2025 7:31 PM
81	Create a town center	3/14/2025 7:15 PM

Q14 If you could change one thing about Barre? What would it be and why?

Answered: 76 Skipped: 17

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	More 1 to 5 acre lots	6/1/2025 10:17 AM
2	Allow more development. Levy limits restrict how much you can raise to net new construction. The county's hard line approach to development is pricing people out of building because you have to have so much land to build. It puts the Town in a death spiral from a net new construction standpoint.	5/29/2025 9:22 PM
3	Fix intersection at CTH M and Swamp Road. Needs turn lane. Gravel scatters because of tight turn.	5/22/2025 2:05 PM
4	Stick to the rules requiring needing 40 acres to build on.	5/19/2025 8:37 PM
5	There are some small parcels or wooded corners where a home could be built without compromising good Ag land and hopefully not too much of the rural feel of the township, where I think it may be nice to be able to forgo the 35 acre minimum to build.	5/16/2025 9:44 PM
6	Our road repair. Get cable and phone service and natural gas.	5/15/2025 8:27 AM
7	Speed limits increased back to 55 in most areas that were reduced.	5/15/2025 8:19 AM
8	Expand broadband internet, it's needed for work and school.	5/2/2025 8:29 AM
9	Overall, we enjoy living in Barre and value this small town community setting (with recent exception of the tension and issues that have surfaced related to the commercial construction business owned by (REDACTED) being operated in our neighborhood behind Barre Diner).	5/1/2025 9:44 AM
10	Enforce existing ordinances around yard maintenance/erosion issues. Require unlicensed vehicles to be garaged or removed. Send information to all residents regarding these ordinances so they are aware.	4/24/2025 8:33 PM
11	More trail hike/bike trails that lead to south lax and west salem, horse trails???!!! Cell phone service is terrible! Also, internet service was TERRIBLE until Coon Valley telephone came.	4/20/2025 8:36 PM
12	We are so happy in our home, but we would love to be on more than the 0.9 acres we have. Would love if developments had approx. 5-10 acre options for hobby farms, expansive gardening, etc.	4/18/2025 2:57 PM
13	Fire protection Reduce school taxes	4/17/2025 9:31 AM
14	Open to things changing if well thought out and beneficial to the community.	4/14/2025 6:47 PM
15	The only broadband provider that serves my house is DSL topping out at 20 Mbps. This is woefully inadequate for my work, so I have the choice of either finding different work or making use of Elon Musk's Starlink service. I wish I wasn't backed into that choice, I'd prefer it if cable or fiber internet (300 Mbps+) was an option	4/13/2025 10:59 PM
16	Bring back Friday night fish at the Barre Diner!	4/13/2025 10:15 AM
17	Limit housing on parcels below 35 acres to one central location	4/11/2025 1:03 PM
18	Improved road msintenance	4/10/2025 9:47 AM
19	Town government needs to be completely transparent to citizens, have logical reasoning behind decisions, and use fair and transparent practices.	4/9/2025 8:44 PM
20	Those in the mobile home park would actually be able to respect one another in keeping the noise level respectful of neighbors.	4/7/2025 9:44 PM
21	restrict cul-de-sacs. They create problems with plowing snow and just being dead ends.	4/7/2025 1:12 PM

Town of Barre Community Survey for Comprehensive Plan Update

22	Access to a quality park for children in the trailer court and adjacent neighborhoods.	4/7/2025 8:51 AM
23	Better road repairs and snow removal.	4/5/2025 6:18 PM
24	Possibly a small store for basic grocery items	4/5/2025 1:30 PM
25	Cell service	4/5/2025 10:03 AM
26	I would stop housing developments from going up and absolutely no housing complexes.	4/5/2025 7:15 AM
27	That all rental property owners take the responsibility AND enforce so their property doesn't become a junk yard at the hands of their tenants.	4/4/2025 12:46 PM
28	Better roads	4/3/2025 7:07 PM
29	Money spent toward maintenance	4/3/2025 4:33 PM
30	Walking trail.	4/3/2025 9:36 AM
31	Town government should enforce the rules they have in place. Driveways are not supposed to drain to the road. Garbage cans are to be removed within 24 hrs. Etc.	4/2/2025 6:47 PM
32	No more housing, especially multi-family houses; they have been bring in the riffraff.	4/2/2025 12:00 PM
33	Find someone to open a supper club - or - reopen the Diner daily / dinners. We'd rather go out to eat closer to home.	4/1/2025 7:12 PM
34	Walking or biking trail similar to the Green Circle in Stevens Point WI.	4/1/2025 6:26 PM
35	Keep the small town feel- why many of us live here	4/1/2025 4:34 PM
36	Internet service. Fiber Optics should be available for everyone.	4/1/2025 4:10 PM
37	Internet service. We need the same options as the village of West Salem. Fiber optics.	4/1/2025 4:08 PM
38	Bicyclist not obeying traffic laws and riding in middle of road.	4/1/2025 3:44 PM
39	Recycling needs to be collected every week	4/1/2025 3:40 PM
40	Walking paths	4/1/2025 7:40 AM
41	Communication from the Town Board needs to improve, both in meetings and online.	3/31/2025 4:54 PM
42	Road repair, so that the scenery taken in by those passing through my appreciate it better. Those living here as well!!	3/31/2025 3:46 PM
43	Tax rate.	3/31/2025 9:37 AM
44	Childcare options and having the diner open more often.	3/30/2025 6:31 PM
45	Property taxes. To high	3/30/2025 12:21 PM
46	More community engagement. Perhaps a potluck at Barre Park or something to meet people.	3/30/2025 11:46 AM
47	I would like to see less housing developments. Keep the farmland protected from turning into developments.	3/30/2025 9:59 AM
48	More community events to give more opportunity for neighbors to interact and know each other. In the end would be a stronger community.	3/29/2025 9:17 PM
49	road maintenance needs help including timely, adequate snow removal	3/29/2025 5:15 PM
50	Additional Restaurants	3/29/2025 2:48 PM
51	More Barre government information on the website for easy access and understanding.	3/29/2025 2:00 PM
52	A little more retail. Gas station maybe?	3/29/2025 10:18 AM
53	Making it more rural again- development is great, but with some of the best soil in the state it seems such a waste to build on it when it's been great farming land for so long. I know that's always not possible to stop development from happening, but it would sure be nice to see the land more preserved.	3/29/2025 7:55 AM
54	1. Barre Diner open on Sunday's. All the old folks love it. 2. Redo the basketball court at barre	3/28/2025 8:54 PM

Town of Barre Community Survey for Comprehensive Plan Update

park 3. Fix county M from Barre Diner, past Russlan coulee, and onward. 4. Add trees to schilling court. It looks so lame 😞. 5. From schillikg court to county b, increase the shoulder on county O.

55	All good as is.	3/28/2025 12:25 PM
56	Road surfaces	3/28/2025 11:58 AM
57	Leave it the way it is - that's why we moved here. It's beautiful, quiet and close to all the other stuff LaCrosse.	3/28/2025 8:23 AM
58	Stop putting pea gravel on the roads at the end of summer and then not sweeping up the excess before winter. This results in a truckload of gravel being pushed in each person's yard by the snowplow that the resident has to deal with	3/28/2025 7:16 AM
59	Less development	3/28/2025 7:12 AM
60	Improved technology (internet and cell service).	3/28/2025 6:00 AM
61	Better internet and phone	3/27/2025 9:50 PM
62	Better communication between the town government and the people.	3/27/2025 9:34 PM
63	Better snow removal. Our road is plowed last it seems like. Plowing seems to favor the more affluent neighborhoods.	3/27/2025 8:14 PM
64	I'm not sure. The community seems disjointed, like a bedroom community for La Crosse and Onalaska.	3/27/2025 7:44 PM
65	Modernize communications and cut taxes	3/27/2025 7:17 PM
66	Excessive political signs on businesses	3/27/2025 6:18 PM
67	Just improve the roads	3/27/2025 5:39 PM
68	Replace guardrails on Wolter Road that were destroyed by the snow plows over the years. There are dangerous drops, and the former guardrails were never replaced.	3/27/2025 4:46 PM
69	We know of many people who would like to move to this area. If there could be more reasonable family housing options but not "urban sprawl". I believe that will be part of the compensation plan.	3/27/2025 4:06 PM
70	The road inbetween Nicks bar and the Shewir farm.	3/27/2025 3:54 PM
71	More middle-class moderately affordable housing options available.	3/27/2025 12:11 PM
72	No new mobile homes parks or multi family residences. It would be nice as barre expands if the lots were for single family homes of a variety of of sizes to support different lifestyles and income levels, but preserves large lot sizes to preserve the beauty of the land.	3/19/2025 1:09 PM
73	If I could change one thing about Barre, it would be improving infrastructure to support the people who already live here without sacrificing what makes the town special. Faster internet, better roads, and access to small, well-planned housing options would help Barre grow in a way that benefits the community without turning it into a generic suburban sprawl. We don't need rows of identical box houses or high-density apartments—we need smart, intentional growth that keeps Barre a great place to live while preserving its rural character.	3/18/2025 1:59 PM
74	I would love a town picnic or small festival. I loved it when the Lions had the outdoor concert at Barre Park.	3/16/2025 5:14 PM
75	Getting more roads that have an inlet and outlet, reducing so many dead end roads in the town. This would help the roads get cleared faster. * long range planning to add help to the patrolmans job, more subdivisions, more roads, more time to clear it. If it takes 8.5 hours to make 1 full pass in 1 truck, how long will it take for each subdivision that's added? Cost for another man, who can plow and a truck it a huge cost.	3/14/2025 7:31 PM
76	Loss of agricultural acres	3/14/2025 7:15 PM

Q15 What is one thing about Barre that should not change and why?

Answered: 81 Skipped: 12

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Retain agricultural land	6/1/2025 10:17 AM
2	No more housing development. Ruins the rural nature, creates too much traffic, will increase taxes.	5/22/2025 2:05 PM
3	The country feel.	5/21/2025 4:55 PM
4	Country life	5/19/2025 8:37 PM
5	I think it should stay a rural township, because that is why so many people like living here (space between neighbors, privacy, able to hunt, shoot, raise animals, etc, etc), but I try to balance that with the private property rights of individuals should be able to do what they want with their property.	5/16/2025 9:44 PM
6	Friendly people	5/15/2025 8:23 AM
7	Rural feel/agriculture	5/15/2025 8:19 AM
8	Rural and natural resource focus.	5/2/2025 8:29 AM
9	In our opinion, people have chosen to live in Barre for the tranquility and beauty of a rural environment. Would be so disappointed to see Barre become bigger, louder, have less open spaces, and have continuously increasing traffic.	5/1/2025 9:44 AM
10	Keep the rural atmosphere of the Town of Barre.	4/29/2025 3:18 PM
11	From our answers above, it would appear that we are against growth. Barre is a rural farming community, and it would be unfortunate if it expanded and loses that identity.	4/24/2025 8:33 PM
12	Stay small	4/22/2025 2:28 PM
13	rural character	4/20/2025 8:36 PM
14	It would be sad to see Barre become filled with developments with house on top of house all looking the same.	4/18/2025 2:57 PM
15	Barre Fiscal responsibility is very good. Keep it going!	4/17/2025 9:31 AM
16	We like the density of housing in the immediate vicinity of our house. Not to say that there aren't areas of both lesser and greater density of housing in Barre, or to say that Barre should be uniformly densely built up.	4/13/2025 10:59 PM
17	When no Barre resident runs for TownTreasurer or town Clerk, allow hiring from outside the Town Barre.	4/13/2025 10:15 AM
18	Preserve agricultural land	4/11/2025 1:03 PM
19	neighborly small town atmosphere	4/10/2025 9:47 AM
20	Keep the rural feel and don't sell off the farmland for development.	4/9/2025 8:44 PM
21	The rural atmosphere.	4/8/2025 11:34 AM
22	Maintain rural status and feel. That is the primary reason people live here.	4/7/2025 1:12 PM
23	A willingness to partner with local developers. Residential, commercial and light industrial development locations are at a premium both in and around La Crosse. Barre is situated nicely to accommodate this need.	4/7/2025 8:51 AM
24	Maintain it as an agricultural area.	4/5/2025 6:18 PM
25	Farmland..not becoming housing additions!	4/5/2025 1:30 PM

Town of Barre Community Survey for Comprehensive Plan Update

26	Country living	4/5/2025 10:03 AM
27	The fields and farms of Barre, the very things that make it appealing to people who want to live here.	4/5/2025 7:15 AM
28	The number of houses. I don't want the country side to be come crowded with housing developments.	4/3/2025 7:07 PM
29	It is pretty and close to serves. Like the school district. Would like a shuttle to the village for convenience.	4/3/2025 4:33 PM
30	I love the rural, quiet, peace.	4/3/2025 9:36 AM
31	The rural atmosphere, sense of community.	4/2/2025 4:17 PM
32	Farmland Preservation: We are an agriculturally formed community based on our rich soil type. This is not sandy ground like Holmen.	4/2/2025 12:00 PM
33	Land development should be approached with much scrutiny, and never justified for the sake, or mindset of increasing the tax base.	4/2/2025 10:09 AM
34	There's many things we like about the Barre community. We should not aspire to be the next Holmen or West Salem.	4/1/2025 7:12 PM
35	No more condos or multi family buildings.	4/1/2025 6:26 PM
36	Adding more residential properties	4/1/2025 4:34 PM
37	Farmland preservation.	4/1/2025 4:10 PM
38	Positive use of farmland in the township	4/1/2025 4:08 PM
39	Small town country living	4/1/2025 3:44 PM
40	I'd like Barre to remain a small farming community	4/1/2025 3:40 PM
41	Spaced out housing. No cookie cutter plots and homes close together	4/1/2025 7:40 AM
42	People live here because of the country feel it provides while still living close to all the essentials. DON'T CHANGE THAT!	3/31/2025 6:50 PM
43	Barre is a rural community and that is what it should try to remain. Even though Development is important the rural should not be what gets lost in development.	3/31/2025 4:57 PM
44	Appreciate the rural setting.	3/31/2025 4:54 PM
45	Its rural charm	3/31/2025 3:46 PM
46	Rural atmosphere and supporting local businesses	3/30/2025 6:31 PM
47	Love the country life feel and quietness	3/30/2025 12:26 PM
48	Small community. Can grow but not to much.	3/30/2025 12:21 PM
49	Try to keep it agricultural	3/30/2025 11:46 AM
50	I really like the small town feel with the convience of being close to more populated areas.	3/30/2025 9:59 AM
51	The farmland and the farming community. That's why everyone loves Barre Mills. Don't let the city come to Barre. Keep it rural.	3/29/2025 9:17 PM
52	keep development at a reasonable pace, like the smaller community of the area	3/29/2025 5:15 PM
53	Don't allow Fox Hollow to ever lot out for homes and close the course.	3/29/2025 2:48 PM
54	all the open natural spaces, low development, rural status.	3/29/2025 2:00 PM
55	Agricultural settings.	3/29/2025 10:18 AM
56	It seems like we have a good mix of both younger and older generations. I think it's important to continue community involvement with both as it makes for a stronger lasting community.	3/29/2025 7:55 AM
57	Strong agricultural emphasis	3/28/2025 10:06 PM

Town of Barre Community Survey for Comprehensive Plan Update

58	Service quality is top teir. Everything's done efficiently.	3/28/2025 8:54 PM
59	Farmland.	3/28/2025 12:25 PM
60	Amount of residents	3/28/2025 11:58 AM
61	The quiet peaceful atmosphere!!!	3/28/2025 8:23 AM
62	Rural feeling . Farmland in Barre is too good to turn into housing developments	3/28/2025 7:16 AM
63	Keep it farmland	3/28/2025 7:12 AM
64	Limit multiple family and group housing options.	3/28/2025 6:00 AM
65	No more cookie cutter duplexes	3/27/2025 9:50 PM
66	The quiet country charm. That's why we live here :)	3/27/2025 9:34 PM
67	Developing g too much farm land. Barre has tremendous soil for agriculture compared to other towns.	3/27/2025 8:14 PM
68	Leave the park the way it is	3/27/2025 7:44 PM
69	The feeling of being a rural farming community with some of us just enjoying it while providing affordable opportunities for those that choose that profession.	3/27/2025 7:17 PM
70	Green space and farming, but keep the pigs out.	3/27/2025 6:18 PM
71	No more mobile homes, Condo, and multi family building.	3/27/2025 5:39 PM
72	Small town feel	3/27/2025 5:10 PM
73	The country atmosphere.	3/27/2025 4:46 PM
74	We love living out here. Great idea to update the comprehensive plan !!	3/27/2025 4:06 PM
75	The small town aspect of it. Maybe a gas station and a few small businesses could come in. I don't want more housing if that's what it takes to get those things though.	3/27/2025 3:54 PM
76	Strong focus on agriculture. As a renter, I appreciate the need for more housing in this desirable area. However, I also realize the reason barre is so desired is because of the large amount of undeveloped space and farm land. People building in this area should be allowed to "hobby farm" in the heritage of the greater farming community. Barre is first and foremost a farming town, and we should not lose sight of that as the town grows.	3/19/2025 1:09 PM
77	Big lot sizes for single family homes (1 acre or more).	3/19/2025 10:57 AM
78	Agriculture—La Crosse County is becoming less and less ag-friendly, yet Barre has some of the best farmland in the state. We should strive to maintain our cultural identity, long-term sustainability, and open space for both economic stability and quality of life. Expanding housing too quickly will bring in a wave of new residents before the town has time to adjust, risking a rapid and uncontrolled transformation. If we grow too fast, Barre could lose its identity before the dust even settles, turning into just another scattered development rather than a community with deep agricultural roots. Once farmland is gone, it's gone for good, and so is the character that makes Barre special.	3/18/2025 1:59 PM
79	Keeping the developments at a minimal.	3/16/2025 5:14 PM
80	The roads have been opened opened, when plowed widened out nicely.	3/14/2025 7:31 PM
81	Preserve agricultural acres & natural spaces	3/14/2025 7:15 PM

TOWN OF BARRE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE



B.2

The Town of Barre is updating its comprehensive plan to establish long-term goals related to housing, transportation, agriculture, natural resources, land use, and more. Your help is needed! Please complete a short 10-minute survey to make sure your voice is heard.

Consider attending the open house on Wednesday, May 7th, 2025, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Barre Town Hall (W3541 County M). Drop in as you're able to learn more about the comprehensive plan update process!

Use the following weblink to access the survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BarreCompPlan>
Or scan the QR code to take the survey online.



Paper copies of the survey are available at Barre Town Hall. Return paper copies to Town Hall by mail or in the drop box out front.

Questions?
Email dconstant@lacrossecounty.org



B.3

TOWN OF BARRE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

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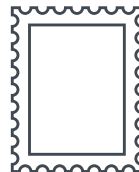
Questions? Email
dconstant@lacrossecounty.org

Scan the QR code above to take the survey online.
Paper copies available at Barre Town Hall. Return paper copies to Town Hall by mail or in the drop box out front.

BARRE TOWN HALL

W3541 County Road M
La Crosse, WI 54601

Open House
Wednesday May 7th
4:30-6:30 p.m.



What is a Comprehensive Plan?

According to Wisconsin Statutes s.66.1001, all municipalities with land use policies must update and adopt a comprehensive plan every 10 years. Barre's plan was last updated in 2009.

Comprehensive Plan = community's guiding document. County planning and zoning staff work for towns to help them achieve their land use objectives.

The plan analyzes current and projected conditions and demographics related to:

- Environmental, Cultural, & Agricultural Resources
- Utilities, Facilities, & Services
- Housing
- Transportation
- Land Use
- Economic Development
- Intergovernmental Cooperation

The comprehensive planning process solicits feedback from the public to determine public priorities and actions to achieve long-term goals. **This open house provides several opportunities for residents, property owners, and visitors to provide feedback.**

Future Land Use Map - Dot Exercise

The currently adopted Future Land Use Map, was created in 2009. The Future Land Use Map projects aspirational land uses 20-years out and reflects the community vision of the comprehensive plan. It will be updated through the comprehensive planning process.

The current Zoning Map reflects current uses and the zoning districts lands are regulated by.

Instructions:

Please help us identify locations on the map which have the opportunity for a change in future land-use.

Grab a numbered dot -- any number will work -- and stick it one of the maps. Write that same number on the worksheet and provide your comment pertaining to that location.

Future Land Use & Aerial Map Comments

Place a numbered sticker on the map to identify suggested changes to the future land use map. Consider which land uses are appropriate at which locations 20+ years into the future. Consider opportunities and threats related to land use, infrastructure, town services, and the environment. You may also place stickers in locations of assets, issues, opportunities, threats, and places you enjoy or dislike.

Write the sticker number in the box, a description of the location, and your comments.

STICKER NUMBER	LOCATION	COMMENT
1	Adjacent to Town Park	Reserve for future park expansion
2	South of Twin Creeks	Not sure we want to allow development here in the next 10-20 years

I am ... (select all that apply)

- ☐ a Resident of Town of Barre
 ☐ a Resident in a Neighboring Community
- ☐ a Non-Resident Barre Property Owner
 ☐ a Visitor or Employed in Barre

Additional Comments?

On the back of this sheet, please provide additional comments you have on the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update.

Thank You!

SWOT Exercise

Think about Barre now, and in the year 2045.

- ☐ What are the **Strengths** of Barre which need to be maintained as the community changes over the next 20 years?
 - ☐ What are the **Weaknesses** which Barre will need to address to help the community over the next 20 years?
 - ☐ What **Opportunities** do you see for Barre to become a better community?
 - ☐ What are the **Threats** which will challenge Barre's future?
-

Please write your ideas on a sticky note -- use one sticky note per idea and share your thoughts with us.

Then place the sticky note on the board that corresponds to whether your comment is a **S**trength, **W**eakness, **O**pportunity or **T**hreat.

Strengths

S

1

Weaknesses

W

2

Opportunities

O

3

Threats

T

4

Community Survey

Have you completed the Community Survey already (either online or paper copy)?

If not, please take the Community Survey now.

- Paper copies are available here.
- Or connect to the online survey on your device.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BarreCompPlan>

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN – 2025 Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan Update

Section 66.1001(4)(a) of Wisconsin Statutes 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 is provided, in every stage in the preparation of the updated comprehensive plan. These written procedures contained within this Public Participation Plan have been developed to meet this requirement. This plan will guide public participation throughout the Town's comprehensive planning update process.

The Public Participation Plan offers all citizens, businesses, other 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 the citizens, businesses, and other organizations that will experience the results of the objectives, policies, goals, and programs of the Comprehensive Plan in the future.

The participation program is designed to be inclusive. It encourages people to participate in the process and to maximize the effectiveness of their contributions. The opportunities are open to everyone.

This 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 relationships between the Town of Barre's decision-makers and citizens; and
- Develop a shared vision for the future of Barre.

The Town of Barre establishes the following list of public participation activities. These techniques are designed to maximize public participation throughout the planning process that will satisfy Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Legislation. La Crosse County has been tasked by the Town to facilitate development of an updated comprehensive plan. Most activities described herein will be facilitated by the town's planning staff.

1. Community Survey

A survey will be utilized at the beginning of the planning process to measure public sentiment about various aspects of life in Barre. The Town will mail postcards to community members about the opportunity to complete the survey. A link to the online survey will be made available on the Town's webpage and on the project website. Paper copies of the survey will be available at Town Hall and other key locations around the Town. La Crosse County planning staff will be primarily responsible for survey formulation, outreach, and results analysis.

2. Public Open House

This meeting will serve the purpose of creating public awareness and educating about the planning process, answering questions from the community, and facilitating public participation exercises.

La Crosse County planning staff will lead exercises to engage community participants in discussions about issues and opportunities that should be addressed during the planning process. Town committee members, Planning Committee members are encouraged to participate and to invite neighbors, friends, and community members to engage in this process.

3. Social Media

Information about the planning process, public involvement meetings and workshops may be shared by the Town on their social media accounts as a means of informing a wider audience.

4. Meeting Notices

The Town will post meeting notices for each meeting and event at accessible locations including town hall and the Town of Barre's online meeting calendar. Public hearings will be posted.

5. Intergovernmental Consultation on Review of Plan

During the planning process, La Crosse County and Town staff will engage with adjacent municipalities to ensure they are invited to participate in Barre's long-range planning.

6. Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee/Planning Committee Meetings

The components of the updated comprehensive plan will be reviewed and refined at a series of six Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee/Planning Committee

meetings. The meetings will focus on the development of plans, policies, and programs to implement the community's vision. The meetings will be open to the public and the public will generally be given an opportunity to comment at these meetings.

7. Plan Review, Public Hearing and Adoption Process

Following the completion of a draft of the Comprehensive Plan, the Planning Committee will review and consider approval of the planning document.

The Planning Committee will review the plan and schedule a formal public hearing. Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Legislation requires municipalities to hold at least one formal public hearing with a published public notice 10 days prior to adoption of the final draft of the comprehensive plan.

The Town Planning Committee and Town Board hold a joint public hearing on the recommended plan to solicit any additional community input. Following the public hearing, the Planning Committee will consider approval of the plan. The Planning Committee's approval will occur by resolution, and a recommendation will be made to the Town Board for adoption of the plan.

The comprehensive plan will be forwarded to the Town Board for final consideration. The Town Board will consider any comments received on the plan prior to adopting the document. The final plan will be approved by adoption of a Town ordinance, in compliance with Wisconsin Statutes.

Resolution #:

25-2

**RE: APPROVAL OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR TOWN OF BARRE
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE**

WHEREAS, Wis. Stats. s. 66.1001(4)(a) requires that the communities adopt written procedures that are designed to foster public participation, including open discussion, information sessions, and public meetings for which advance notice will be provided, in every stage of the preparation of a comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to use a variety of strategies to engage the public, communicate the recommendations of the Town Plan Commission, and gather broad public feedback throughout the comprehensive plan update process.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the attached Public Participation Plan for the Comprehensive Plan Update; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Plan Commission is tasked with the implementation of the attached Public Participation Plan with the support of La Crosse County planning staff until adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.

FISCAL NOTE: Any costs associated with the public participation plan may be for publication of notices, mailing of informational materials, and etc. Potential funding must be allocated and approved by the Town Board.

Date:

9/9/2025

TOWN BOARD CHAIRMAN

CLERK

Adopted by the Town of Barre Town Board this 9th Day of September, 2025.

Appendix C – Implementation Table

Implementation Guide

Cultural, Agricultural, & Environmental Resources

Goals	Rec. #	Recommendations
Goal 3.1: Preserve farmland and support the local agricultural economy and heritage.	3.1.1	Continue to apply farmland preservation zoning standards to reduce loss of productive agricultural land and retain tax credits for farmers.
	3.1.2	Support local 4-H, UW-Extension, and other agriculturally based education activities.
Goal 3.2: Protect surface and groundwater quality.	3.2.1	Encourage residents to collaborate with the County Department of Land Conservation to leverage state and federal funding. Such funding can be used to reduce erosion, improve agricultural sustainability, and improve groundwater and surface water quality.
	3.2.2	Encourage residents, with policies and incentives, to properly maintain private on-site sewer systems (POWTS) and private wells to protect the environment and future ground water
Goal 3.3: Maintain and enhance public lands and recreational opportunities in the Town.	3.3.1	Collaborate with La Crosse County when it updates its Outdoor Recreation Plan. Plan adoption improves the Town's eligibility for grants for recreation-based projects.
	3.3.2	Oppose actions that would remove public access to the State Experimental Forest.
	3.3.3	Facilitate establishment of public conservation easements. Identify locations where conservations easement can be established to preserve natural areas and/or public uses.
Goal 3.4: Protect natural areas, wildlife habitats, water resources, slopes, and woodlands.	3.4.1	Educate residents on Forest Best Management Practices to reduce erosion, protect natural habitats, and maintain woodlands.
	3.4.2	Reject development proposals that will impact wetland and shoreland areas.
	3.4.3	Oppose requests which would result in construction on bluff with lands >20% slopes.
Goal 3.5: Preserve cultural, historic, and archaeological sites.	3.5.1	Discourage development of lands of cultural, religious, or historical significance. Take special care when considering requests that could potentially impact sites by consulting County Zoning staff.
	3.5.2	Review Wisconsin Historical Society databases of sites of historic significance when development requests are made. Do not disclose to the public the location of sites particularly vulnerable to vandalism or damage.
	3.5.3	Consider placing historical markers near sites of cultural importance and registering additional locations in Wisconsin's Architecture and History Inventory.

Housing

Goals	Rec. #	Recommendations
Goal 4.1: Encourage single-family housing in the Town and promote efficient development patterns.	4.1.1	Revisit and review this document as housing development requests are proposed. Ensure that housing proposals are consistent with the Town's comprehensive plan.
	4.1.2	Encourage denser single-family residential developments, for example on half acre lots, that may be more affordable for working families and reduce demand for the development of farmland.
	4.2.1	Evaluate the suitability of a senior care facility, condominium developments, or 55+ communities in the Town.

Goal 4.2: Support development of a variety of housing types as existing residents age and the housing needs of young families and the local workforce evolve.	4.2.2	Locate senior housing proposals near amenities that support aging in place, such as outdoor recreation spaces and walkable commercial areas.
	4.2.3	Ensure that infrastructure in new subdivisions is ADA compliant and supportive of safe, active, and independent senior living.
	4.2.4	Update the Town subdivision ordinance to enable “cluster developments” and incentivize housing development types which are less impactful on farmland.
	4.2.5	Identify housing styles and price points that are affordable for a myriad of different income earners in the local workforce.
Transportation		
Goals	Rec. #	Recommendations
Goal 5.1: Maintain the existing road network and level of service (road condition and road maintenance).	5.1.1	Maintain high levels of satisfaction with road maintenance and snow plowing service.
	5.1.2	Establish a 5-year Capital Improvements Plan/Budget (CIP) to assist the Town in budgeting and planning for all near-term and mid-term infrastructure projects.
	5.1.3	Pursue state and federal funding for road maintenance and reconstruction projects.
Goal 5.2: Improve the safety of transportation facilities.	5.2.1	Consider low-cost approaches to manage speeding on town roads, such as re-striping, allowing on-street parking in subdivisions, traffic circles, and speed bumps.
	5.2.2	Develop a policy requiring new subdivisions to extend new or existing public road right-of-way when necessary to maintain infrastructure and serve future land uses.
	5.2.3	Require developers be responsible for the cost of new town roads needed to serve developments. These roads shall meet Town road standards.
	5.2.4	Consider requiring curbs in new subdivisions to increase traffic safety, improve drainage, and reduce erosion.
Goal 5.3: Increase active transportation options and accessibility.	5.3.1	Identify pedestrian/bicycle routes in and throughout the Town of Barre, ideally routes that tie into an existing, off-street trail systems. Once routes are identified, support efforts to develop bike/pedestrian access to interconnected facilities, particularly in the town center and County OA.
	5.3.2	Adopt a policy to require new subdivisions with private roads or town roads have wider shoulder for bicycles and sidewalks at the developer’s expense.
Utilities, Facilities, & Services		
Goals	Rec. #	Recommendations
Goal 6.1: Maintain and enhance public lands and recreational opportunities in the Town.	6.1.1	Re-establish the Park Committee to continue the development of Barre Park and expand recreation opportunities throughout the Town.
	6.1.2	Consider adopting parkland dedication requirements for new subdivisions.
	6.1.3	Identify locations and feasibility of establishing additional Town parks and recreational amenities.

Goal 6.2: Stay abreast of the changing needs of the Town of Barre and provide adequate community services as needed.	6.2.1	Strive to maintain the high-quality services over the planning period within the constraints of the budget. Experiment with approaches to engaging residents about Town functions.
	6.2.2	Explore joint purchases and sharing of materials/equipment with neighboring municipalities to provide community services.
Goal 6.3: Where development occurs, manage expansion of services in ways that expand tax base while reducing the cost burden of existing residents.	6.3.1	Require developers pay for the up-front cost of serving their properties with new Town services and infrastructure.
	6.3.2	Develop or refine ordinances/policies to make sure future development projects pay for additional burdens placed on public facilities because of a new development. Methods to consider ensuring expenses are covered include: development review fees, special assessments, transportation impact fees, etc.

Land Use

Goals	Rec. #	Recommendations
Goal 7.1: Preserve agriculture, the environment, and the rural landscape of the Town of Barre.	7.1.1	When reviewing proposals for rezonings, ensure that land use changes are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the standards for review in La Crosse County Ordinance Chapter 17. Consult County Zoning staff if in need of assistance.
	7.1.2	To maintain the community's "rural character", discourage non-agricultural development on land in farmland preservation districts unless that land has been identified by the future land use map as a suitable location for non-agricultural use.
Goal 7.2: Administer policies that balance individuals' property rights while mitigating land use conflicts and supporting the community vision of the Comprehensive Plan.	7.2.1	Continue to convene the Planning Committee following comprehensive plan adoption, in accordance with Town ordinances, to implement plan recommendations and review proposed rezonings and conditional uses.
	7.2.2	Discourage large industrial and commercial uses in the Town of Barre. Such uses would preferably be served by public, urban water and wastewater utilities.
	7.2.3	Evaluate and update local sign ordinances and nuisance standards to mitigate potential conflicts between neighbors.
Goal 7.3: Encourage land uses, densities, and regulations that promote efficient development patterns and relatively low government infrastructure costs.	7.3.1	Continue to direct higher density developments to the Town Center to support local businesses and facilitate gradual growth that radiate outward from the Town Center.
	7.3.2	Consider updates to Town subdivision standards that: -encourage clustering of new lots. -direct new growth to existing infrastructure and reduce demand for development of agricultural land that is not served by existing infrastructure.

Intergovernmental Cooperation

Goals	Rec. #	Recommendations
Goal 8.1: Establish cooperative agreements for services and maintenance of infrastructure.	8.1.1	Maintain existing fire protection and emergency services agreements and continue to explore ways to improve the effectiveness and affordability of services.
	8.1.2	Continue to build on the Town's strong relationship with the County to improve communication and the provision of services.

Goal 8.2: Increase operational efficiencies and reduce expenses through collaboration with neighboring and regional governments.	8.2.1	Utilize the County website links and resources to provide information regarding the Town of Barre to interested residents and neighboring municipalities.
	8.2.2	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 to identify areas of potential conflict and/or coordination opportunities.
	8.2.3	Actively participate in County comprehensive planning update processes.
	8.2.4	Continue to be an active member of the La Crosse County Towns Association by attending local meetings.
Economic Development		
Goals	Rec. #	Recommendations
Goal 9.1: Develop a registered and licensed childcare provider within town limits.	9.1.1	Determine if any unlicensed at-home childcare providers are currently operating within the Town of Barre. If there is such an operation, work with the owner to pursue licensure.
	9.1.2	Determine if local churches could host a childcare center. If any churches within the Town of Barre are interested in pursuing a childcare center, find a licensed provider and pursue funding to support facilities.
Goal 9.2: Expand high-speed internet infrastructure throughout the Town of Barre.	9.2.1	Work with internet service providers to identify and incentivize projects that provide high-speed and affordable connectivity to residents and businesses.
	9.2.2	Create awareness of and leverage BEAD funding administered by the State of Wisconsin Public Service Commission to financially incentivize broadband infrastructure projects.
Goal 9.3: Leverage outdoor recreation opportunities already provided through the Coulee Experimental State Forest to promote business development and recreation opportunities.	9.3.1	Promote the abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities through town networks and other platforms focused on outdoor recreation.
	9.3.2	Develop wayfinding signage throughout the Town of Barre to encourage low-impact recreational use.
	9.3.3	Identify and develop additional outdoor recreation opportunities connecting the Town of Barre to the Coulee Experimental State Forest.
	9.3.4	Identify and recruit outdoor recreation and conservation-centric businesses to locate within the Town of Barre.

Appendix D – Adoption Materials

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan Update, Barre, Wisconsin

The Town of Barre Plan Commission will conduct a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, at Barre Town Hall, W3541 County Rd M, La Crosse, WI 54601, at which time the Commission will hear public comment on adoption of the proposed *Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan 2025-2045*. The proposed adoption of the *Plan* includes a recommended land use plans, transportation, and infrastructure for the Town. The Plan includes goals and recommendation to guide future development and Town governance. The plan includes the following sections:

1. An Introduction, outlining background information, the scope of the plan update, and public involvement activities.
2. Community Profile, including values and vision statements and population and demographic information.
3. Chapters detailing current conditions, assessment of future needs and goals, objectives and policies for: Housing; Transportation; Utilities and Community Facilities; Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources; Economic Development; Intergovernmental Cooperation; and Land Use.
4. A Future Land Use Map representing the aspirational development of the town by 2045.
5. An Implementation chapter, including information about plan implementation and plan amendments.

This plan is made in accordance with the requirements of Wisconsin Statutes s. 66.1001.

Copies of *Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan 2025-2045* will be available for review prior to the Public Hearing during hours of operation or digitally upon request. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 PM Monday, November 10th. Written comments will be shared at the public hearing.

Any questions, written comments, or requests for copies of the plan should be directed to Dillon Constant, County Planner, at 212 6th St. N, Suite 1300, La Crosse, WI 54601. They may also be submitted via email to dconstant@lacrossecounty.org. The purpose of this hearing is to hear public opinions of the proposed update of the Town's comprehensive plan as described above.

Dated this 11 day of October, 2025
Kristin Radde, Clerk, Town of Barre

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-3

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TOWN OF BARRE COMPREHENSIVE
PLAN AND RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF THE TOWN OF BARRE
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO THE TOWN BOARD**

The Town Plan Commission of the Town of Barre, La Crosse County, Wisconsin resolves as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town of Barre, pursuant to § 62.23 of Wisconsin Statutes, has established a Town Plan Commission; and

WHEREAS, Town of Barre is performing an update to the existing Comprehensive Plan to consider current demographics, economic trends, and Town infrastructure conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Town Plan Commission and subsequently the Town Board adopted a Public Participation Plan for the comprehensive planning process; and

WHEREAS, the Town Plan Commission finds that the Comprehensive Plan update contains all of the required elements specified in §66.1001(4)(d) of Wisconsin Statutes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to § 66.1001(4)(b) of the Wisconsin Statutes, the Town of Barre Plan Commission hereby recommends approval of the Town of Barre's Comprehensive Plan entitled "Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan 2025-2045", replacing the plan "Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan Update 2009-2030".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Plan Commission does hereby recommend that the Town Board enact an Ordinance adopting the Comprehensive Plan update.

ADOPTED this 11 day of November, 2025

Ayes 9 Noes 0 Absent 0


Ann Schlimgen
Plan Commission Chair

Approved: _____

Attest: 
Kristin Radde, Town Clerk

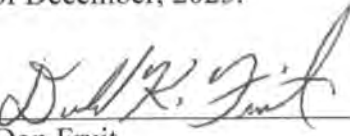
ORDINANCE NO. 2025-1

**AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE TOWN OF BARRE
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2025-2045**

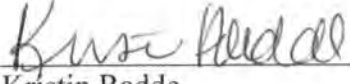
The Town Board of the Town of Barre, Wisconsin, do ordain as follows:

1. Pursuant to §62.23(2) and (3) and §61.35 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the Town of Barre is authorized to prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan as defined in §66.1001(1)(a) and §66.1001(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes.
2. The Board of the Town of Barre has adopted written procedures designed to foster public participation during the preparation of a comprehensive plan as required by §66.1001(4)(a) of the Wisconsin Statutes.
3. The Plan Commission of the Town of Barre by a majority vote of the entire Commission as recorded in its official minutes, has recommended adoption of the document entitled "Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan 2025-2045" containing all the elements specified in §66.1001(2) of Wisconsin Statutes.
4. The Town Plan Commission has held at least one public hearing on the proposed Comprehensive Plan and this ordinance, following the procedures in §66.1001(4)(d) of the Wisconsin Statutes.
5. The Town Board of the Town of Barre, Wisconsin, upon the recommendation of the Plan Commission and by the enactment of this ordinance, formally adopts the document entitled, "Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan 2025-2045" pursuant to §66.1001(4)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes.
6. This Ordinance shall take effect upon the passage by a majority vote of the elected members of the Town Board and publication or posting as required by law.

Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Barre, La Crosse County, Wisconsin, this 9th day of December, 2025.

By: 
Don Fruit
Town Chair

12/9/2025
Date

Attest: 
Kristin Radde
Town Clerk