

Chapter Four: Community Profiles

This Chapter provides a community profile for each of the 9 cities located in Meeker County. The profiles include information on the city's residents and number of households, along with a description of the city's major roadways and surrounding natural resources. The population and household information presented uses the 1960 to 2000 Census records. This time-span is used to help establish a slow-, historic-, and fast-based population and household estimate for each city for the next 20 years. In addition, a Current Land Use Map is included that shows where each city's residential, industrial, retail/commercial, public, and recreational areas are located. The maps also show urban growth areas (if any were identified) and an aerial photograph of the City's surrounding landscape.

How to use the Community Profiles

There are two main features included in each community profile. The first is a table that presents the city's population and household numbers since 1960. The second feature is a current land use and urban growth area map. The population and household information is used to establish a "historic-based" rate of population gain or, in some cases, a historic-based rate of population loss. This rate (either positive or negative) is then applied over the next 20 years to show a historic-based population projection.

Realizing that many factors can influence an area's population level, the tables also present what each city's future population would be if either a "slow" or "fast" population gain or loss occurred. The slow annual growth rate was established at 50 percent of the city's historic-based rate. For example, if a city gained 80 new residents over the last 20 years, the slow projection would estimate that the city would gain another 40 people over the next 20 years. Similarly, the fast annual growth rate was established at 150 percent of the city's historic-based rate. In the previous example, the city's fast projection would estimate that the city would gain 120 new residents over the next 20 years (80 multiplied by 150%). Therefore, each community profile contains a slow, historic, and fast-based population projection for the years 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020.

The information presented in the second major feature of each community profile, the current land use map, was provided by each of the cities during the planning process. As the name suggests, the maps show the location of each city's major types of land use (i.e., residential, commercial, etc.). In addition, some cities identified where they could logically grow in the future, referred to as the city's "urban growth area." The primary purpose of these areas is to identify where joint planning efforts need to be made by the city, the township(s) and the County. In conclusion, urban growth areas only identify *potential* future growth and, more importantly, all land use decisions that need to be made regarding these areas should be collectively discussed by the three levels of local government.

A Profile of Cedar Mills

The City of Cedar Mills is located approximately 12 miles south of Litchfield and 8 miles west of Hutchinson. Cedar Mills is Meeker County's smallest city, with 47 residents and 23 households. The DNR Luce Line Recreational Trail passes through Cedar Mills. This trail stretches 63 miles from the western metro suburb of Plymouth to the City of Cosmos in west-central Minnesota (located eight miles west of Cedar Mills).



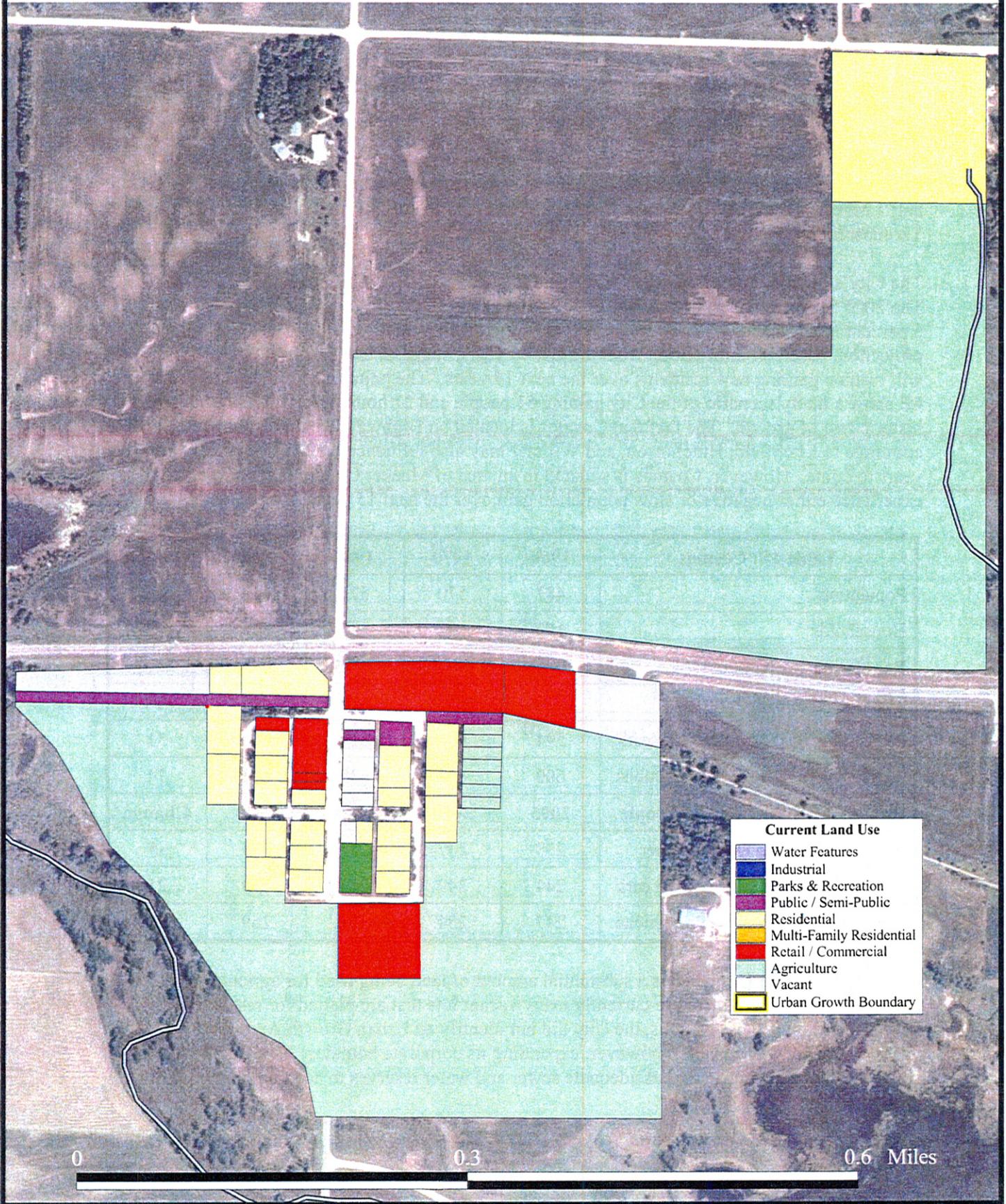
Cedar Mills' population has been steadily declining since 1930, except for a gain of 7 people between 1980 and 1990. The population projections based on information from the last 45 years, suggest that Cedar Mills will most likely continue to lose residents over the next 15 years. However, the City recently invested in a new public sewer and water system. With this accomplished, Cedar Mills may see some demand for both new housing and business developments. Cedar Mills also has the advantage of being located on Highway 7 within close driving distance to Litchfield (12 miles) and Hutchinson (8 miles). The primary benefits Cedar Mills would provide to potential residents are a small town atmosphere, low housing costs, and an attractive rural environment.

Table 4A: Cedar Mills	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	96	81	73	80	53
Households	27	28	25	30	26
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
State Demographer Estimates	47	43	40	37	-10
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	48	42	37	32	-15
Above Average Growth Projections	57	61	65	69	22
Households Based on 2.04 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	23	21	20	18	-5
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	24	21	18	16	-7
Above Average Growth Projections	28	30	32	34	11

According to Map 4A, Cedar Mills has an extensive amount of land that is currently being used for agricultural purposes. This is because most of the City's residential developments have occurred south of Highway 7. This trend will most likely continue due to the addition of the new sewer and water system in the southern portion of the community.

Map 4A: City of Cedar Mills Current Land Use

No Urban Growth Area Was Identified



Current Land Use	
	Water Features
	Industrial
	Parks & Recreation
	Public / Semi-Public
	Residential
	Multi-Family Residential
	Retail / Commercial
	Vacant
	Urban Growth Boundary

A Profile of Cosmos

The City of Cosmos is located approximately 21 miles southwest of Litchfield, near the Renville/Meeker County border. Cosmos is Meeker County's sixth largest city, with 579 residents and 238 households. The Luce Line Recreational Trail passes through Cosmos and ends near Thompson Lake (situated approximately a half a mile to the west). Thompson Lake is also the location of Thompson Park, one of Meeker County's largest parks.

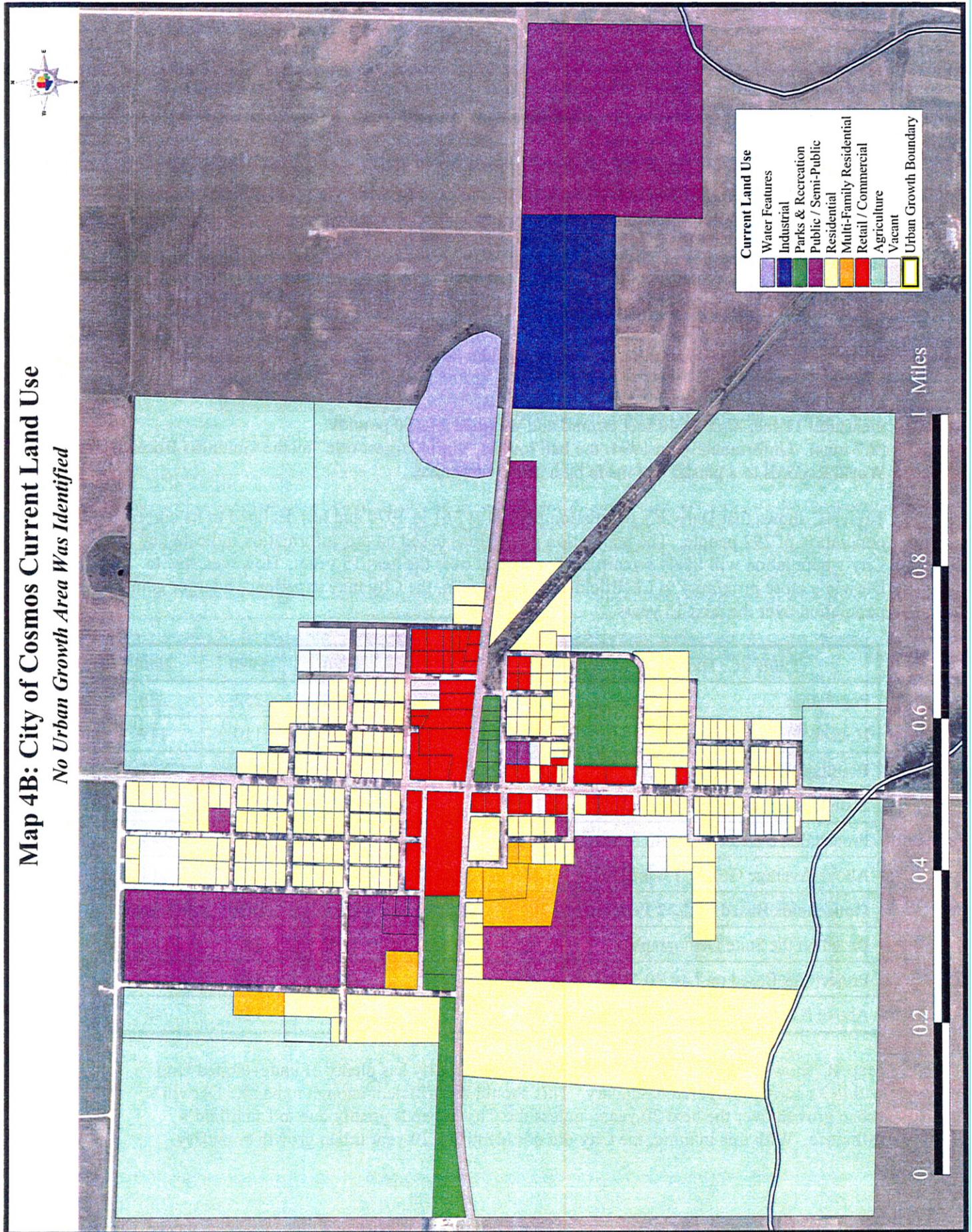


The City's population had been growing steadily until recently. The 2005 State Demographers figure of 579 residents is about 5 percent lower than the 1990 population. However, the population projection, based on information from the last 40 years, suggests that Cosmos will resume gaining new residents over the next 15 years. The population projections in Table 4B show a likely scenario of the City gaining 51 people and 21 households if it continues with its historic rate of growth. The fact that Cosmos is located on Highway 7 and is within a reasonable commute to Litchfield, Hutchinson, and Willmar may also influence the City's growth in the years to come. However, Cosmos is situated in an area of Meeker County that is expected to experience either negative or slow population gain over the next 15 years.

Table 4B: Cosmos	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	487	570	571	610	582
Households	159	192	225	255	240
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
State Demographer Estimates	579	575	570	565	-14
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	594	606	618	630	51
Above Average Growth Projections	600	618	635	653	74
Households Based on 2.43 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	238	237	235	233	-5
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	244	249	254	259	21
Above Average Growth Projections	247	254	261	269	31

Map 4B shows that Cosmos has a substantial amount of land being used for agricultural purposes. In addition, there are currently many vacant lots that are platted for residential development. For these reasons, the City did not identify an Urban Growth Area for the next 20 years. The City will consider, however, expanding its corporate boundary on a case-by-case situation. The City currently has adequate sewer and water reserves to accommodate future growth.

Map 4B: City of Cosmos Current Land Use
No Urban Growth Area Was Identified



A Profile of Darwin

The City of Darwin is located ten miles east of Litchfield along Highway 12. Darwin is Meeker County's third smallest city, with 292 people and 126 households. Lake Darwin and Turtle Lake are partially located within the City's corporate boundary and Lake Washington is located approximately a half mile to the southeast. Lake Washington is the County's largest lake, attracting numerous people due to its fishing and recreational opportunities.



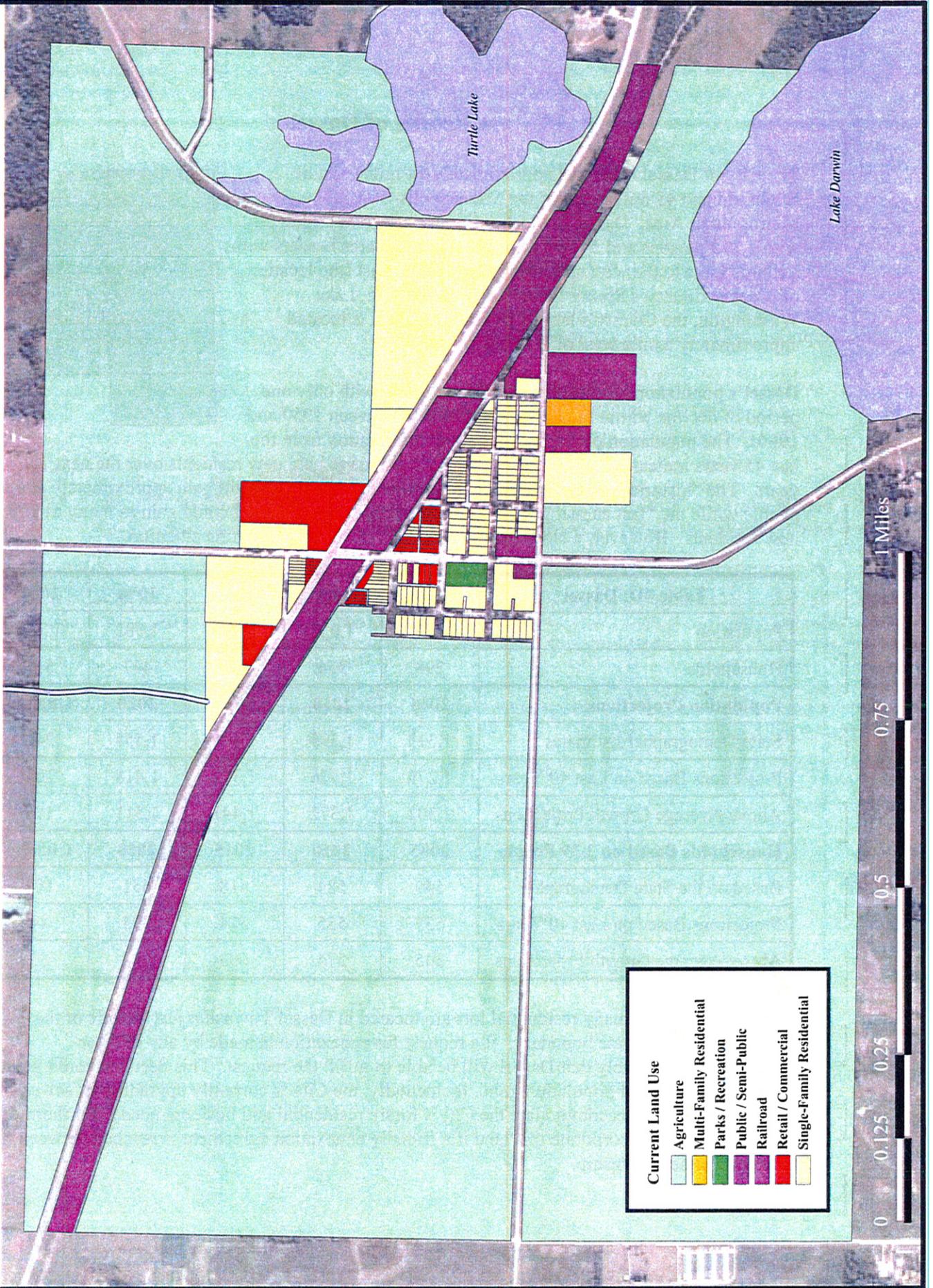
Darwin is famous for being the home of the world's largest "ball of twine," (at least until 1994). Francis Johnson started the ball in 1950 by wrapping twine around two fingers. By 1979, the ball measured 11 feet high by 40 feet around and weighed 17,400 pounds (8.7 tons). Unfortunately, in 1994, the ball lost its "world largest title" by the Guinness Book of World Records to a plastic one made by a group of people.

Table 4C shows that Darwin's population peaked at 361 in 1970 and has declined to its current population of 292 people. The population projections based on this information indicate that the City's population will likely remain fairly constant over the next 15 years. However, due to Darwin's close proximity to Litchfield and Hutchinson, the City may experience a larger gain in population over the next 15 years.

Table 4C: Darwin	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	273	361	282	252	276
Households	86	69	133	110	119
Population Projections					
	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
State Demographer Estimates	292	306	320	332	40
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	276	277	277	278	-14
Above Average Growth Projections	277	277	278	278	-14
Households Based on 2.32 People					
	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	126	132	138	143	17
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	119	119	119	120	-6
Above Average Growth Projections	119	119	120	120	-6

Map 4C shows Darwin's current land use. Notice the City has plenty of undeveloped land within its current corporate boundary. This should be sufficient enough to handle Darwin's urban growth over the next 20 years, unless the City expands greatly due to Litchfield's influence. With this in mind, the City did not identify a 20-year urban growth boundary.

Map 4C: City of Darwin Current Land Use
No Urban Growth Area Was Identified



A Profile of Dassel

The City of Dassel is located approximately 14 miles east of Litchfield and 45 miles west of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area. Dassel is Meeker County's second largest city with 1,313 persons and 549 households. Dassel shares borders with Sellards Lake to the west and Spring Lake to the east (the location of Meeker County's Spring Lake Park). In addition, Lake Washington, the County's largest recreational lake, is located approximately a mile west of the City.



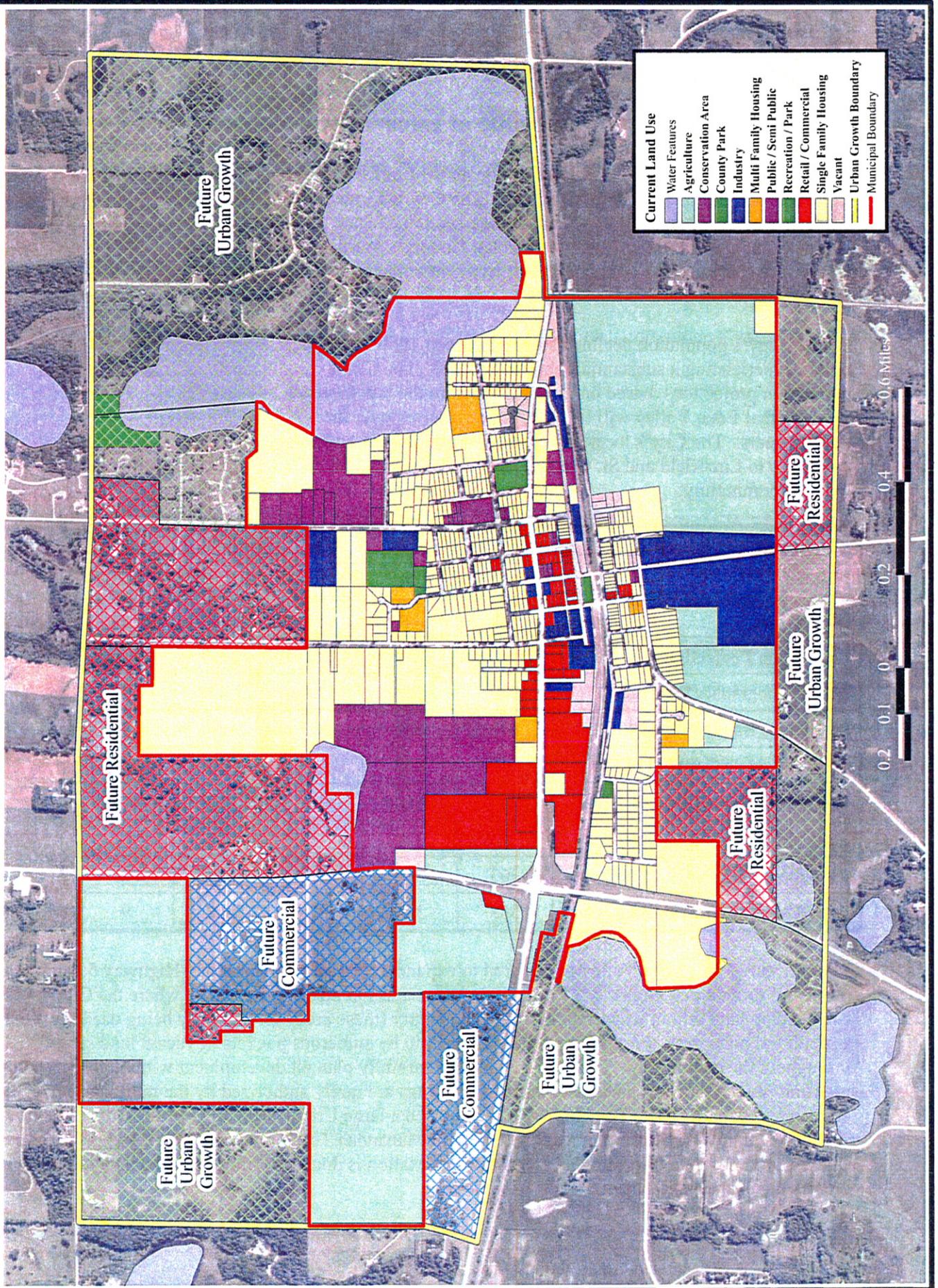
Dassel's population has been growing since 1930, with only one period of decline within the last seven decades (between 1950 and 1960). The population projections based on information from the last 45 years indicates that Dassel will likely continue to gain new residents over the next 15 years. The "historic" population prediction estimates that Dassel will gain approximately 105 people while the "fast annual growth" estimate suggests that Dassel could gain as many as 198 new residents. However, a close look at Map 4D reveals an interesting situation.

Table 4D: Dassel	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	863	1,058	1,066	1,082	1,233
Households	298	354	397	447	515
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
State Demographer Estimates	1,313	1,395	1,478	1,555	242
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	1,279	1,326	1,372	1,418	105
Above Average Growth Projections	1,302	1,372	1,441	1,511	198
Households Based on 2.39 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	549	584	618	651	102
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	535	555	574	593	44
Above Average Growth Projections	545	574	603	632	83

Map 4D shows that many residential lots are located in Dassel Township just outside of the City's current corporate boundary. If a request for annexation is made by any of these homeowners, it is likely that Dassel will be able to fulfill the request. This decision could greatly skew Dassel's rate of population gain. Incidentally, the City is currently upgrading its sewer system to be able to accommodate the City's future residential and business needs. Furthermore, the City will only incorporate this land if a friendly annexation agreement is reached between the City and Dassel Township.



Map 4D: City of Dassel Current Land Use



A Profile of Eden Valley

The City of Eden Valley is located approximately 14 miles north of Litchfield and 30 miles south of St. Cloud. The City is located in both Meeker and Stearns Counties, at the intersection of State Highways 55 and 22. Eden Valley is Meeker County's fourth largest city (counting the total population living in both counties), with 900 residents and 373 households.

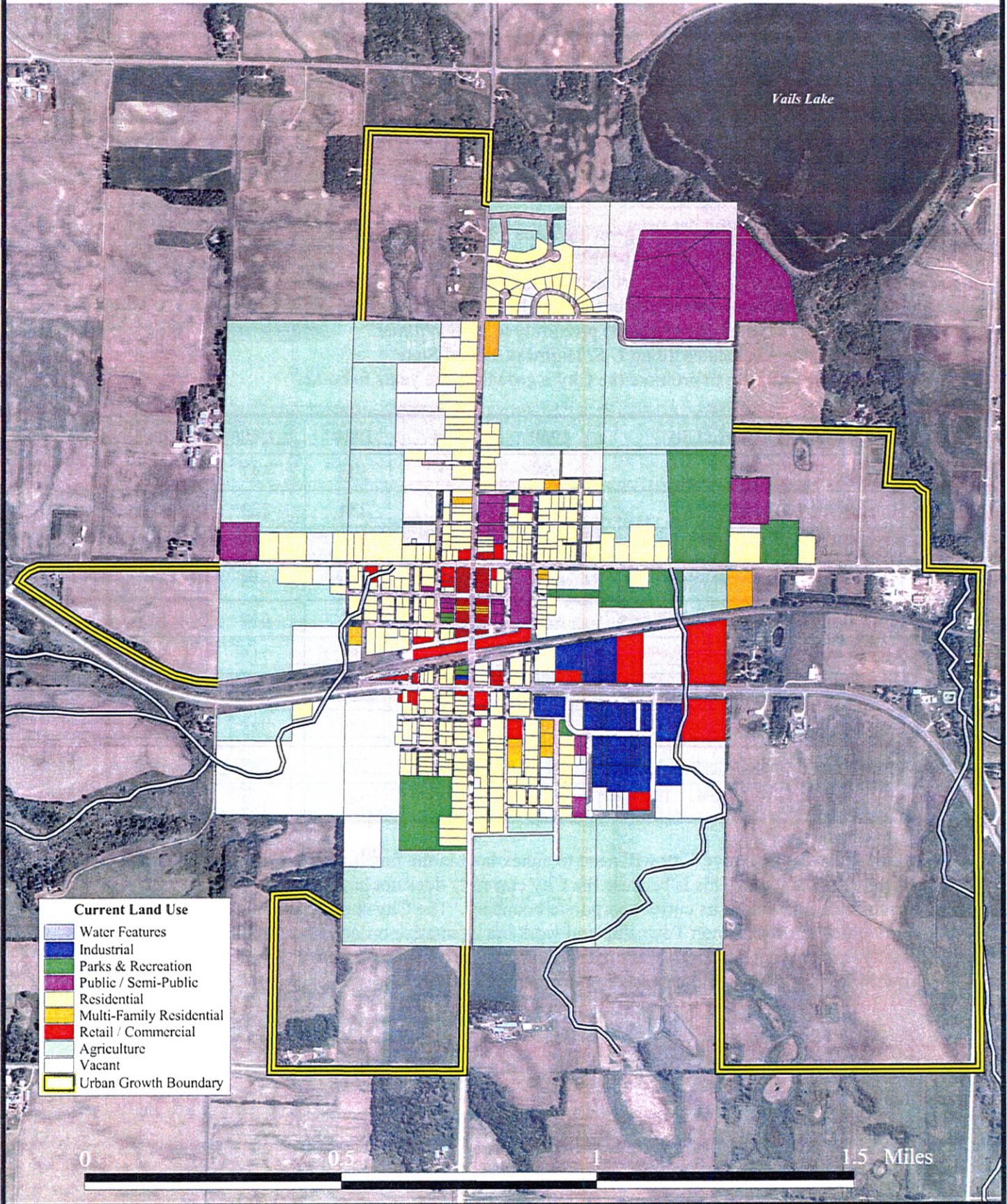


Eden Valley's population declined slowly between 1960 to 1990, before experiencing a substantial rebound in 2000. The City's population projections, based on information from the last 45 years, suggests that Eden Valley will likely continue to grow over the next 15 years. The City's location on two major highways and close proximity to Litchfield and St. Cloud will likely be substantial factors influencing future growth with the community.

Table 4E: Eden Valley	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	793	776	763	732	866
Households	180	248	301	306	360
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
State Demographer Estimates	900	960	1,019	1,078	178
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	875	884	893	903	3
Above Average Growth Projections	880	893	907	921	21
Households Based on 2.41 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	373	398	423	447	74
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	363	367	371	375	2
Above Average Growth Projections	365	371	376	382	9

Map 4E shows that Eden Valley is prepared to expand both east and west along Highway 55 and north and south along Highway 22. The light green areas in the Map also show where the City can develop land within its current corporate boundary (these areas are currently being used for agricultural purposes). Furthermore, there appears to be numerous pockets of vacant land spread throughout the community. The City should also carefully plan all development within close proximity to the railroad, since new railroad crossings are rarely authorized by the railroad companies. Finally, since Eden Valley has identified a large Urban Growth Area, the City should maintain a good communication level with Manannah Township (located in Meeker County) in order to help assure that any future annexation is done so without conflict and with an orderly annexation agreement.

Map 4E: City of Eden Valley Current Land Use



A Profile of Grove City

Grove City is located approximately 7 miles west of Litchfield and 20 miles east of Willmar. Grove City is Meeker County's fifth largest city, with 628 residents and 265 households. Grove Lake is located within the City's corporate boundary, and Long Lake is situated within two miles to the south.

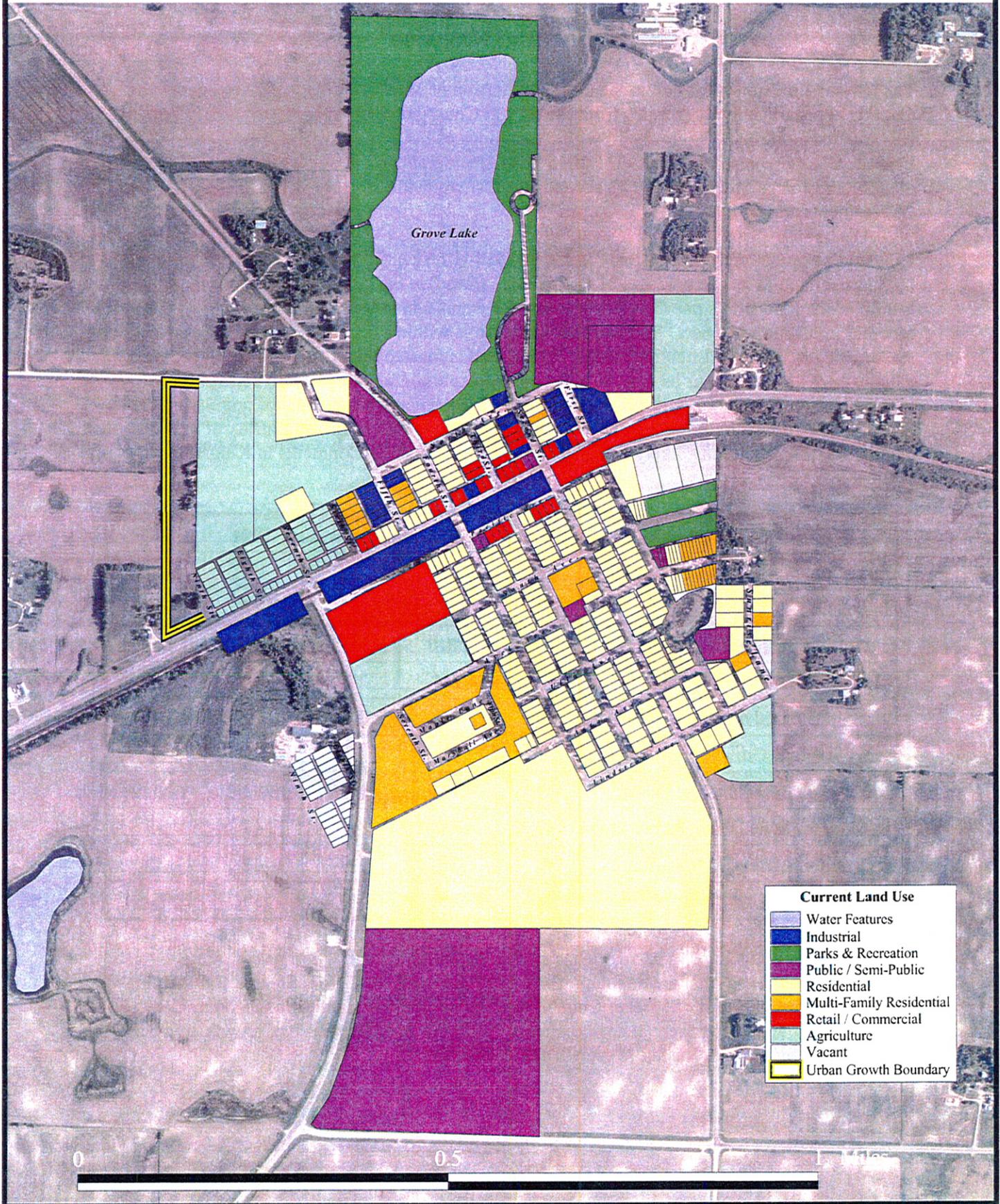


Grove City's population has been growing since 1930, with a slight dip in 1990. Grove City's current population is its highest level ever. For this reason, population projections suggest that the City will likely grow at a modest rate over the next 15 years. The fact that Grove City is within a reasonable proximity to both Willmar and Litchfield and is located along U.S. Highway 12 and State Highway 4 should help to promote the City's growth in the years to come.

Table 4F: Grove City	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	466	531	596	547	608
Households	170	180	234	223	257
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
State Demographer Estimates	628	644	660	675	47
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	626	644	661	679	51
Above Average Growth Projections	635	661	688	715	87
Households Based on 2.37 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	265	272	278	285	20
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	264	272	279	287	22
Above Average Growth Projections	268	279	290	302	37

Map 4F shows that Grove City will need to annex land in the future to accommodate the City's projected population. This is because the City currently does not have much vacant or agricultural land within its current corporate boundary. The City should maintain good communication with Acton Township and work out a tentative orderly annexation agreement. Finally, in the event the City plans on developing to the north in the future, Swede Grove Township should be consulted early in the planning process.

Map 4F: Grove City Current Land Use



Current Land Use

- Water Features
- Industrial
- Parks & Recreation
- Public / Semi-Public
- Residential
- Multi-Family Residential
- Retail / Commercial
- Agriculture
- Vacant
- Urban Growth Boundary

A Profile of Kingston

The City of Kingston is located in the northeast portion of Meeker County, approximately three miles from the Wright County border. It is situated along State Highway 15 within two miles of Lake Francis, a large recreational lake. The 2005 State Demographer places Kingston as Meeker County's second smallest city with 117 residents and 47 households.



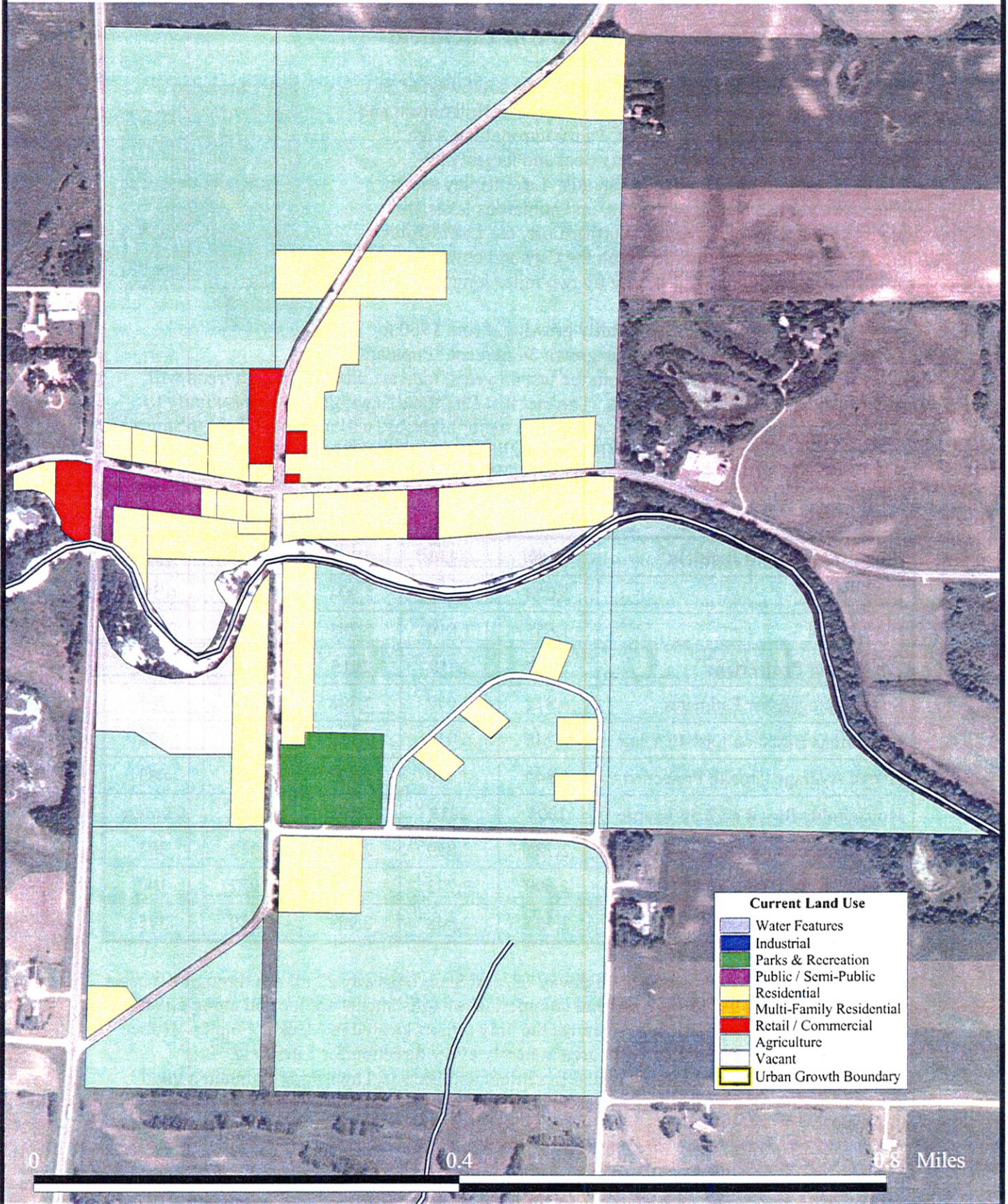
Kingston's population reached a peak in 1980 with 141 residents, but has declined to its current level of 117 people. Based on the last 30 years, Kingston's population will most likely make a modest rebound in the next 15 years. The fact that Kingston is within a reasonable proximity to Litchfield and St. Cloud, and is located on a major highway, may spur its growth in the years to come. More importantly, Kingston is located close to Wright County, which is currently experiencing a rapid rate of population gain. Although the projection presented in Table 4G doesn't suggest a significant influx of new people, Kingston will most likely be influenced by residential developments in Kingston Township.

Table 4G: Kingston	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	NA	115	141	131	120
Households	NA	48	60	47	48
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
State Demographer Estimates	117	114	112	109	-8
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	121	121	122	123	6
Above Average Growth Projections	121	122	123	124	7
Households Based on 2.50 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	47	46	45	44	-3
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	48	48	49	49	2
Above Average Growth Projections	48	49	49	50	3

Map 4G shows that Kingston currently has a lot of agricultural land within its corporate boundary. In the event that the population and housing "explosion" from Stearns and Wright Counties reaches this part of Meeker County, the City will be well situated to accommodate future residential and commercial developments. With this in mind, an urban growth area was not identified by the City for future growth and development.

Map 4G: City of Kingston Current Land Use

No Urban Growth Area Was Identified

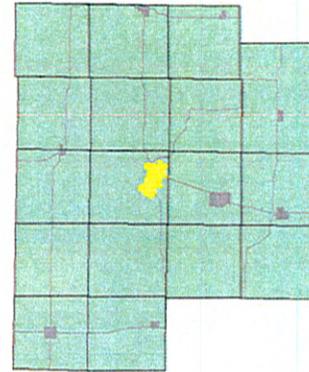


Current Land Use	
	Water Features
	Industrial
	Parks & Recreation
	Public / Semi-Public
	Residential
	Multi-Family Residential
	Retail / Commercial
	Agriculture
	Vacant
	Urban Growth Boundary

0 0.4 0.8 Miles

A Profile of Litchfield

The City of Litchfield is approximately 40 miles southwest of St. Cloud, 25 miles east of Willmar, 20 miles north of Hutchinson and 45 miles west of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area. Litchfield is Meeker County's County Seat and largest city, with 6,812 residents and 2,725 households. Lake Ripley serves as the southwestern border of the City and numerous lakes are situated within a couple of miles. Furthermore, the Lake Ripley Game Refuge also shares borders with the City and covers an area that is approximately two miles wide by two miles long.

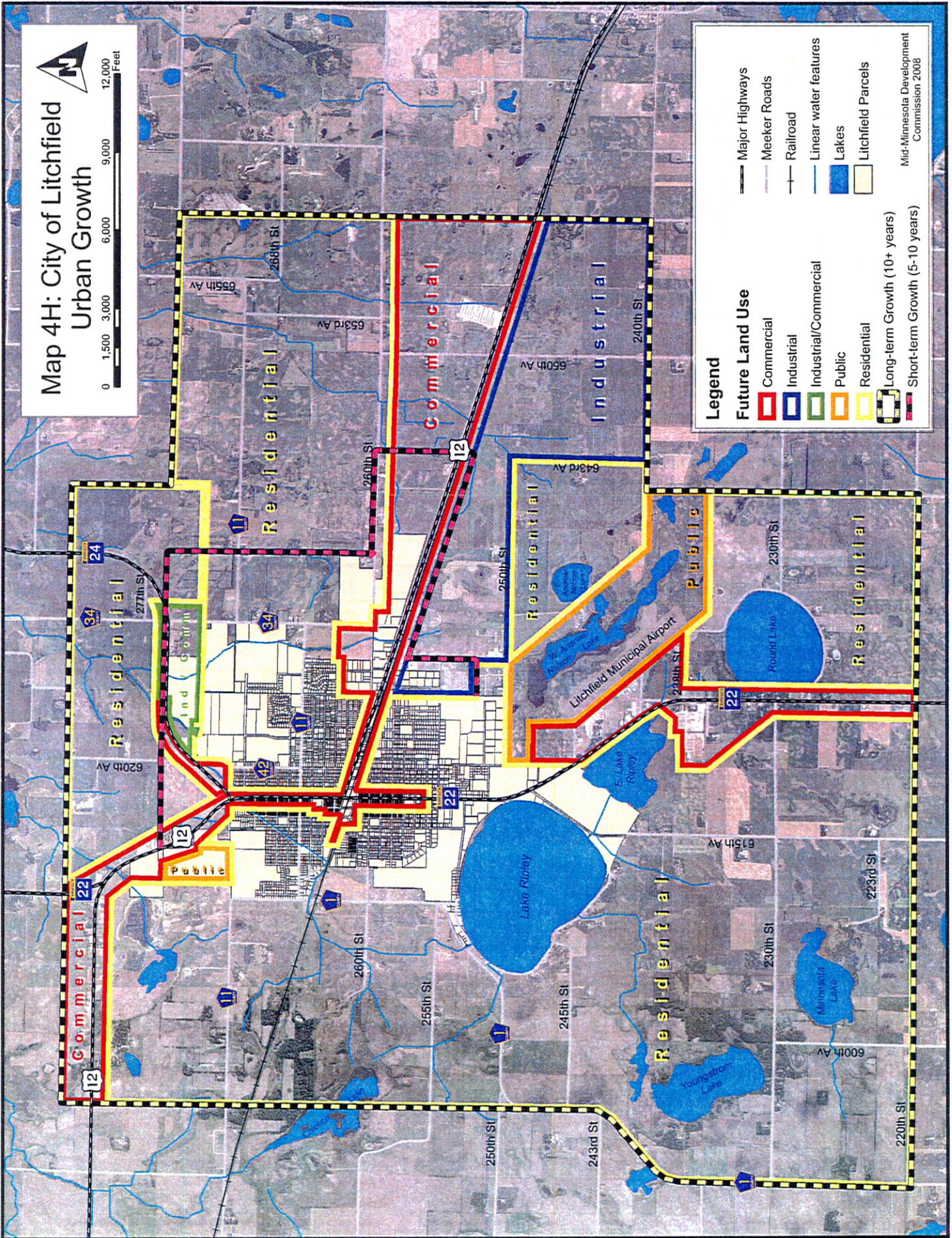


Litchfield's population has been steadily growing. From 1960 to 2005, the population of Litchfield has grown 34 percent. Population projections, based on information from the last 45 years, indicate that this growth trend will easily continue into the next 15 years. The fact that Litchfield is within a close proximity to Willmar, Hutchinson, and St. Cloud, and is on a major highway, will ultimately help to spur its growth in the years to come. Table 4H suggests that Litchfield can expect approximately 492 new residents and 197 households within the next 15 years, based on their historic rate of growth.

Table 4H: Litchfield	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	5,078	5,262	5,904	6,041	6,562
Households	1,655	1,810	2,283	2,406	2,624
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
State Demographer Estimates	6,812	7,072	7,338	7,579	767
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	6,748	6,933	7,119	7,304	492
Above Average Growth Projections	6,840	7,119	7,397	7,675	863
Households Based on 2.50 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	2,725	2,829	2,935	3,032	307
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	2,699	2,773	2,848	2,922	197
Above Average Growth Projections	2,736	2,848	2,959	3,070	345

Map 4H shows that a railroad, U.S. Highway 12, and State Highway 22 all run through the heart of the City. Most of the City's retail and commercial establishments are located along either Highway 12 or 22. Litchfield also operates the only airport located in Meeker County. Notice that Map 4H defines an urban growth area in nearly every direction for Litchfield. It is imperative that the City of Litchfield and Litchfield and Darwin Townships maintain a good communication process regarding future land use in the areas identified as the City's urban growth area.

Map 4H: City of Litchfield Urban Growth



Legend

Future Land Use

- Commercial
- Industrial
- Industrial/Commercial
- Public
- Residential
- Long-term Growth (10+ years)
- Short-term Growth (5-10 years)

- Major Highways
- Meeker Roads
- Railroad
- Linear water features
- Lakes
- Litchfield Parcels

Mid-Minnesota Development Commission 2008

A Profile of Watkins

The City of Watkins is located approximately 18 miles northeast of Litchfield, along State Highway 55. The City is located within a mile of the Stearns County border and is approximately 25 miles from St. Cloud and 60 miles from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area. Watkins is Meeker County's third largest city with 894 residents and 341 households.

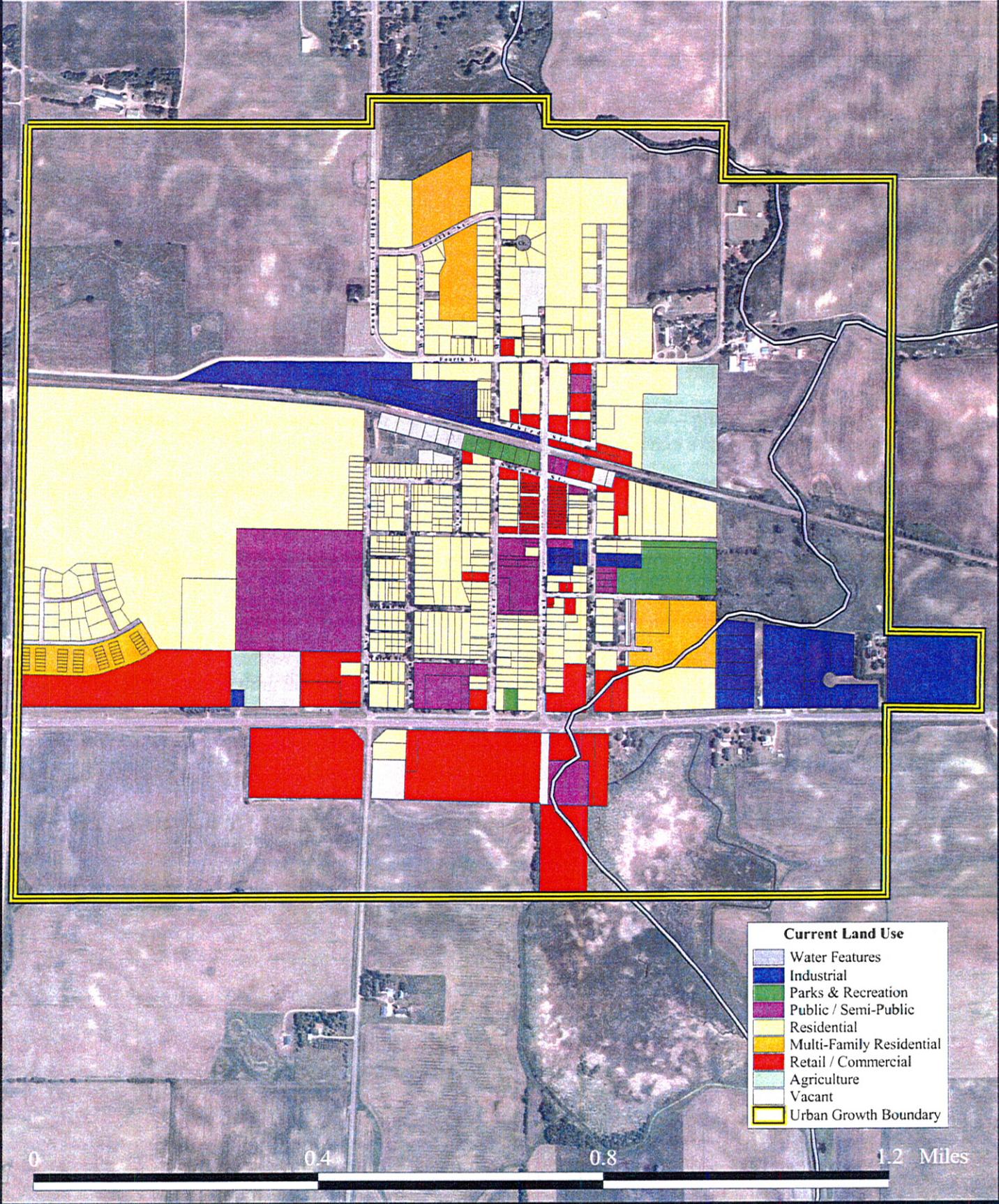


Historically, Watkins has been gaining population, except for a minor dip between 1970 and 1980. The fact that Watkins is within a reasonable commute to both Litchfield and St. Cloud, is located on a major highway, and since 2001, have started a number of new residential and commercial subdivisions, may translate into a higher rate of population gain than what it has experienced in the past. Although Table 4I only shows a high increase of 88 new residents, the St. Cloud region is currently one of the fastest growing areas in the State. This means that Watkins is seriously planning for the likelihood that many new residents will decide to move to the City.

Table 4I: Watkins	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	744	785	757	849	880
Households	207	223	282	317	336
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
State Demographer Estimates	894	910	928	943	49
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	897	914	931	948	54
Above Average Growth Projections	906	931	957	982	88
Households Based on 2.62 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	341	347	354	360	19
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	342	349	355	362	21
Above Average Growth Projections	346	355	365	375	34

Map 4I shows that Watkins currently has land within its corporate boundary that is either designated as agricultural or vacant, some of which is currently under development for residential and commercial use. Watkins has also identified a generous urban growth area that extends in all directions from the City. With the likelihood of new residential and business development, the City has recently updated its Comprehensive Plan and Subdivision and Zoning Ordinances. These measures will help ensure that Watkins grows in an orderly fashion in the future.

Map 4I: City of Watkins Current Land Use



Summary of the Community Profiles

The information presented in Chapter Four suggests that many of Meeker County's cities will continue to gain population over the next 20 years. The following five factors will influence future growth in these communities the most:

1. **Location of Meeker County** – Meeker County is almost completely surrounded by areas that are experiencing rapid development.
2. **Strong Economic Base** – Meeker County continues to expand its strong industrial base. At the same time, many of the County's service-oriented businesses are flourishing.
3. **Capacity to Grow** – Many of Meeker County's cities have the sewer and water capacity to adequately handle future growth.
4. **Available Housing** – With the exception of only a few communities, Meeker County's cities currently have either available housing or suitable building sites.
5. **Rural Character/Community Size** – One of Meeker County's strengths is that it has many communities that offer a high quality of life in a rural environment.

These characteristics each contribute to the likelihood that Meeker County's cities will continue to gain population at a rate much higher than historic rates of growth. As the surrounding metropolitan areas continue to expand, more and more people will be searching for either places to commute from and/or places to work and raise families. Those cities that plan for the future will ultimately have the control over what their community looks like as it evolves. For this reason, all of the cities in Meeker County were asked to identify their urban growth areas. If a city identified an urban growth area, it appears on the city's current land use and urban growth area map.

Chapter Five: Township Profiles

This Chapter is similar to Chapter Four except that Meeker County's townships are profiled rather than its cities. The profiles include information on the township's residents and number of households, along with a description of the township's major roadways and natural resources. The population and household information presented uses 1960 to 2000 Census records. This time-span is used to help establish a slow-, historic-, and fast-based population and household estimate for each township for the next 20 years. In addition, a current zoning map is included that shows the township's "current land use" and the location of any urban growth area (if one exists in the township).

How to use the Township Profiles

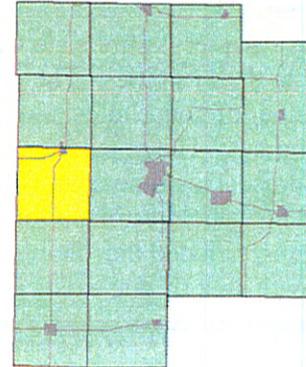
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Realizing that many factors can influence an area's population level, the tables also present what each township's future population would be if either a slow or fast population gain or loss occurred. The slow annual growth rate was established at 50 percent of the township's historic-based rate. For example, if a township gained 80 new residents over the last 20 years, the slow projection would estimate that the township would gain another 40 people over the next 20 years. Similarly, the fast annual growth rate was established at 150 percent of the township's historic-based rate. In the previous example, the township's fast projection would estimate that the township would gain 120 new residents over the next 20 years (80 multiplied by 1.5). Therefore, each township profile contains a slow-, historic- and fast-based population projection for the years 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020.

Another important feature of the township profiles are maps showing how the township is currently zoned. This provides the best picture of the township's "current land use." Although the zoning information and the actual current land use does not match up perfectly in reality, the zoning information does provide the best knowledge of how the land is currently being used. The zoning information was provided by the County Planning and Zoning Office. The only future land use information presented on the maps is for those cities that identified a 20-year urban growth area. These areas are represented by the heavy yellow and black lines on the maps. The primary purpose of these areas is to identify where potential urban growth might occur and where joint planning efforts need to be made by the city, the affected townships and Meeker County.

Acton Township

- Location:** West central, bordering Kandiyohi County
- 2005 Population:** 371
- 2005 Households:** 152
- Major Roads:** U.S. Highway 12, State Highway 4, County Road 11
- Water Features:** Long Lake and Hope Lake
- Special Features:** Grove City

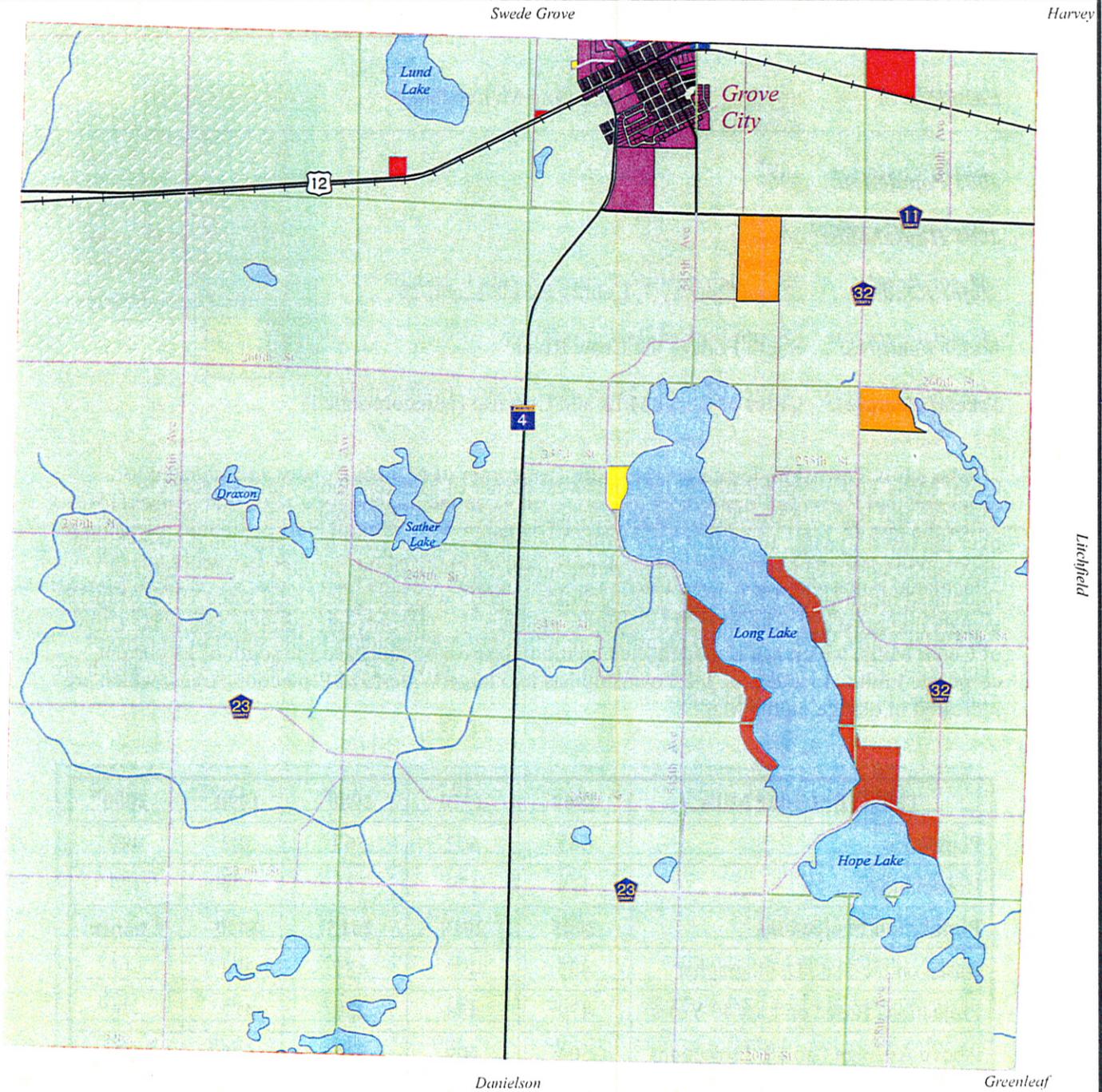


Acton Township has gained 28 new households over the last 45 years, despite a loss of 8 households from 1990 to 2005. Since 1970, the township's population has declined from 862 to 371 (a city annexation usually explains this type of rapid population loss). The township's population could slowly rebound over the next 15 years due to its close proximity to the cities of Litchfield and Willmar and its many water features. As Map 5A reveals, most of Acton Township is zoned A-1 Agricultural. The only exception to this is around Long Lake and Grove City, where a good percentage of the area's population resides. There are also several seasonal cabins that would not be considered part of the township's official population.

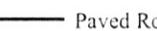
Table 5A: Acton	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	479	862	475	444	381
Households	124	277	135	160	156
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	371	361	351	340	-31
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	369	357	344	332	-39
Above Average Growth Projections	384	387	390	394	23
Households Based on 2.44 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	152	148	144	139	-13
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	151	146	141	136	-16
Above Average Growth Projections	157	159	160	161	9

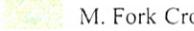
Map 5A: Acton Township Zoning

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 Miles



Zoning Districts

- | | |
|---|---|
|  A-1 (Agricultural Preservation) |  Railroad |
|  C-1 (Commercial) |  Section Line |
|  C-2 (Neighborhood Commercial) |  River / Ditch |
|  I-1 (General Industrial) |  Unpaved Road |
|  R-1 (Suburban Residential) |  Paved Road |
|  R-2 (Rural Residential) |  Urban Expansion |

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Lake | Watershed Districts |
|  Municipality |  Clearwater |
|  Wildlife Area |  N. Fork Crow River |
| |  Sauk |
| |  M. Fork Crow River |

Cedar Mills Township

Location: Southwest corner, bordering McLeod and Renville Counties

2005 Population: 495

2005 Households: 176

Major Roads: State Highway 7, County Roads 1, and 26

Water Features: South Fork of the Crow River

Special Features: Cities of Cedar Mills and Corvuso (unincorporated)



Cedar Mills Township, located in the southwest corner of Meeker County and adjacent to McLeod and Renville Counties, has experienced a decline in both population and households over the last 45 years. In 2005, Cedar Mills Township was the sixth least populated township in the County with 495 residents. Although the number of households in the Township has not fluctuated much since 1960, the 176 households in 2005 was the lowest total since 1970. Map 5B reveals that most of Cedar Mills Township is zoned A-1. The only exception to this is the City of Cedar Mills, which has also identified an urban growth boundary to the south of its current corporate limits. In addition, the Township has two large Waterfowl Protection Areas, which are indicated in orange on the Map.

Table 5B: Cedar Mills	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	663	602	569	580	499
Households	178	170	181	179	177
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	495	492	489	484	-11
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	479	458	438	417	-78
Above Average Growth Projections	504	509	514	520	25
Households Based on 2.82 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	176	174	173	172	-4
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	170	162	155	148	-28
Above Average Growth Projections	179	181	182	184	8

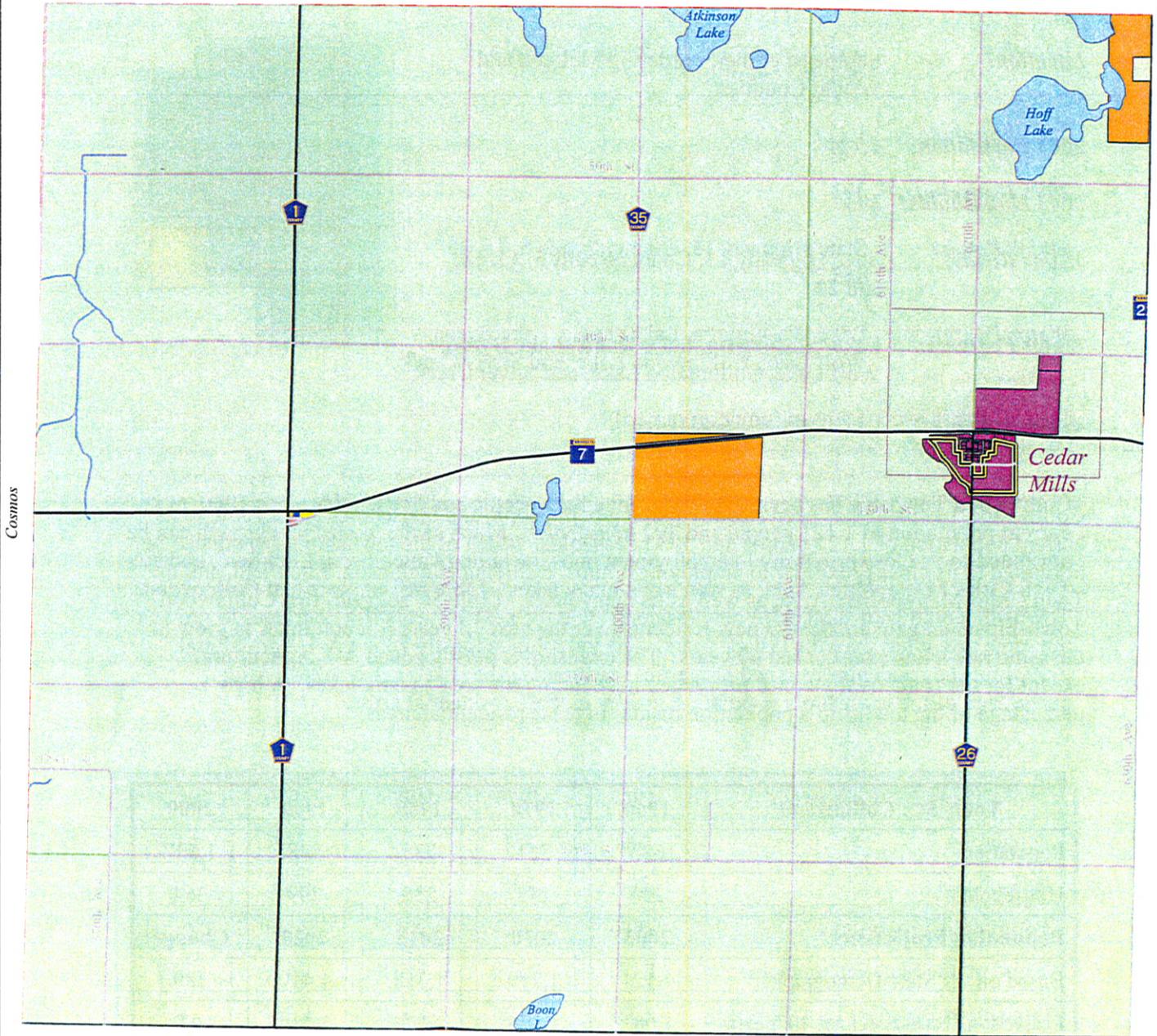
Map 5B: Cedar Mills Township Zoning



Danielson

Greenleaf

Elsworth



Zoning Districts

- | | |
|---|---|
|  A-1 (Agricultural Preservation) |  Railroad |
|  C-1 (Commercial) |  Section Line |
|  C-2 (Neighborhood Commercial) |  River / Ditch |
|  I-1 (General Industrial) |  Unpaved Road |
|  R-1 (Suburban Residential) |  Paved Road |
|  R-2 (Rural Residential) |  Urban Expansion |

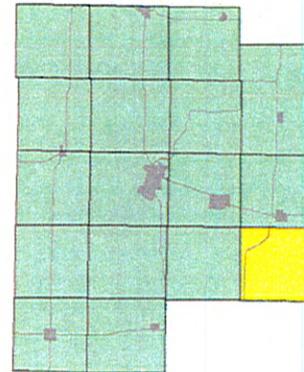
- | |
|---|
|  Lake |
|  Municipality |
|  Wildlife Area |

Watershed Districts

- | |
|--|
|  Clearwater |
|  N. Fork Crow River |
|  Sauk |
|  M. Fork Crow River |

Collinwood Township

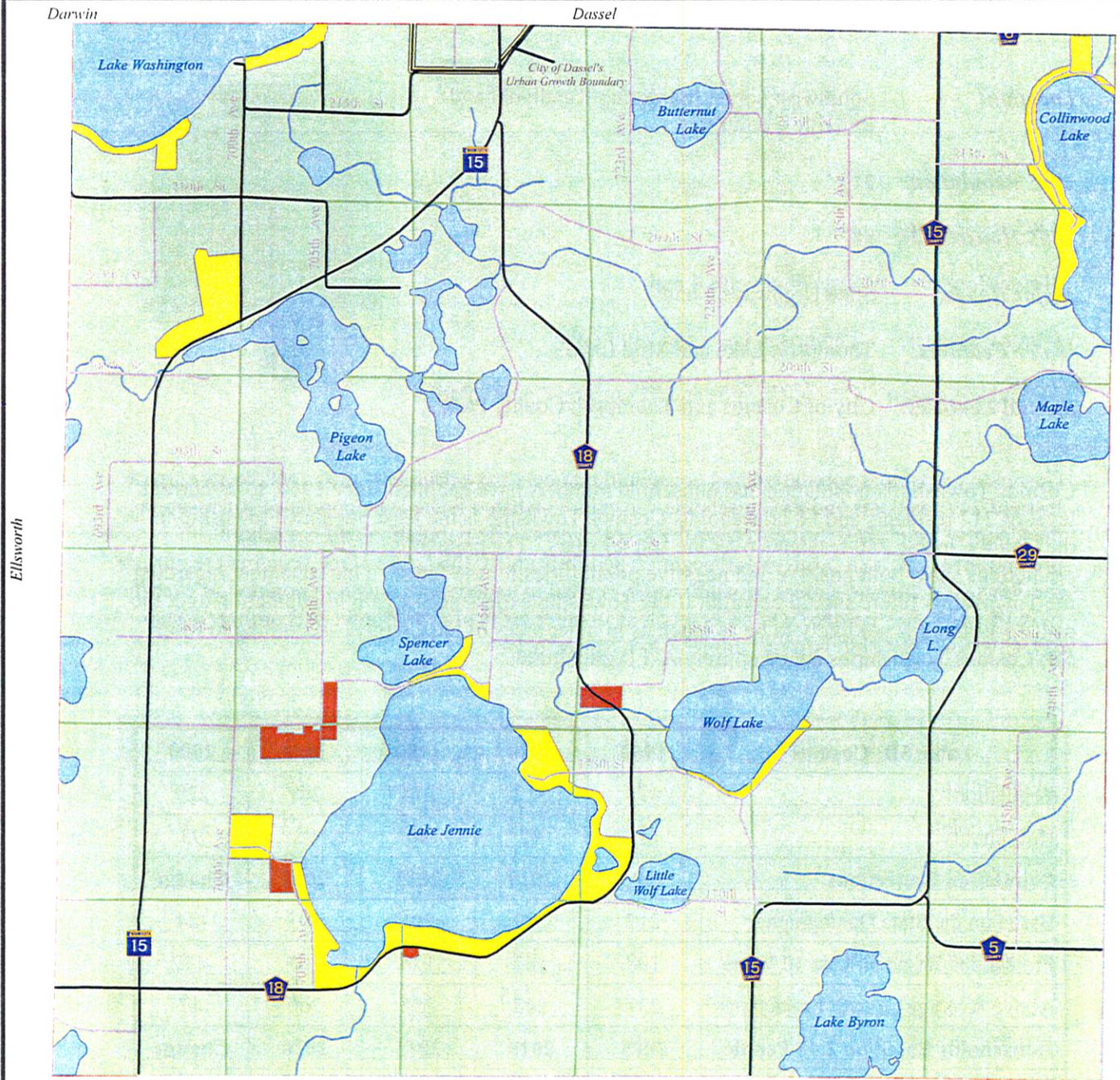
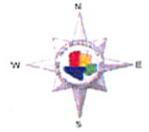
- Location:** Southeast corner, bordering McLeod and Wright Counties
- 2005 Population:** 1,121
- 2005 Households:** 393
- Major Roads:** State Highway 15, County Roads 5, 15, 18, and 29
- Water Features:** Lake Washington, Lake Jennie, Lake Byron, Wolf Lake, Collinwood Lake, and Silver Creek
- Special Features:** Lamson (unincorporated)



Collinwood Township has been steadily gaining both people and households since 1960, to its current population of 1,121 people and 393 households. Much of the township's growth can be attributed to its close proximity to employment hubs, including Hutchinson, Litchfield, and the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, as well as its many lakes. Table 5C suggests that Collinwood Township could gain another 93 new residents over the next 15 years if it continues to grow at the same rate it has over the last 40 years. The township is mostly zoned A-1 Agricultural, except for the residentially zoned properties surrounding the area's many lakes. A high percentage of the township's population resides in these residential areas.

Table 5C: Collinwood	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	683	551	735	848	1,037
Households	206	175	255	299	364
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	1,121	1,219	1,318	1,410	289
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	1,081	1,126	1,170	1,214	93
Above Average Growth Projections	1,103	1,170	1,236	1,303	182
Households Based on 2.85 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	393	428	462	495	102
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	379	395	411	426	33
Above Average Growth Projections	387	411	434	457	64

Map 5C: Collinwood Township Zoning



Zoning Districts

- | | |
|---|---|
|  A-1 (Agricultural Preservation) |  Railroad |
|  C-1 (Commercial) |  Section Line |
|  C-2 (Neighborhood Commercial) |  River / Ditch |
|  I-1 (General Industrial) |  Unpaved Road |
|  R-1 (Suburban Residential) |  Paved Road |
|  R-2 (Rural Residential) |  Urban Expansion |

- | |
|---|
|  Lake |
|  Municipality |
|  Wildlife Area |

Watershed Districts

- | |
|--|
|  Clearwater |
|  N. Fork Crow River |
|  Sauk |
|  M. Fork Crow River |

Cosmos Township

Location: Southwest corner, bordering Kandiyohi and Renville Counties

2005 Population: 217

2005 Households: 88

Major Roads: State Highways 4 and 7

Water Features: Thompson Lake and Mud Lake

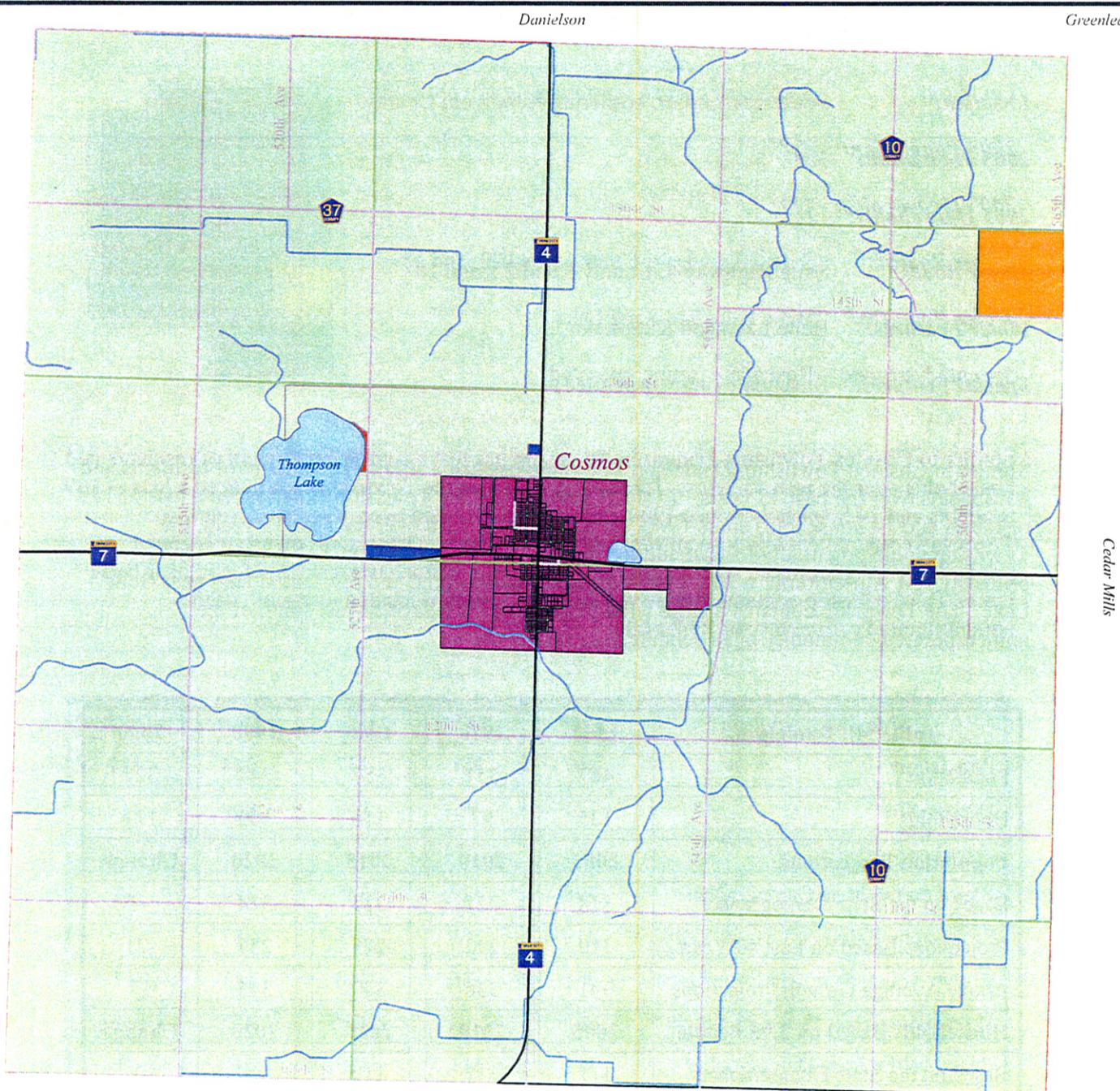
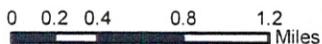
Special Features: City of Cosmos and Thompson County Park



Cosmos Township's population and household numbers have declined since 1960, to its current level of 217 residents and 88 households. Cosmos Township is the least populated township in the County, losing 260 residents over the last 45 years. The population and household predictions show both positive and negative possibilities for the future. One statement regarding the Township's future should be valid: if the Township experiences a gain in population over the next 15 years, it is not likely to be as much as in other areas of the County. According to Map 5D, Cosmos Township is zoned entirely A-1 Agricultural.

Table 5D: Cosmos	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	477	312	274	267	229
Households	111	82	90	93	93
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	217	209	201	193	-24
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	198	167	136	105	-112
Above Average Growth Projections	237	245	252	260	43
Households Based on 2.46 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	88	85	82	78	-10
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	80	68	55	43	-45
Above Average Growth Projections	96	100	102	106	18

Map 5D: Cosmos Township Zoning



Zoning Districts

- | | |
|---|---|
|  A-1 (Agricultural Preservation) |  Railroad |
|  C-1 (Commercial) |  Section Line |
|  C-2 (Neighborhood Commercial) |  River / Ditch |
|  I-1 (General Industrial) |  Unpaved Road |
|  R-1 (Suburban Residential) |  Paved Road |
|  R-2 (Rural Residential) |  Urban Expansion |

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Lake | Watershed Districts |
|  Municipality |  Clearwater |
|  Wildlife Area |  N. Fork Crow River |
| |  Sauk |
| |  M. Fork Crow River |

Danielson Township

Location: Southwest corner, bordering Kandiyohi County

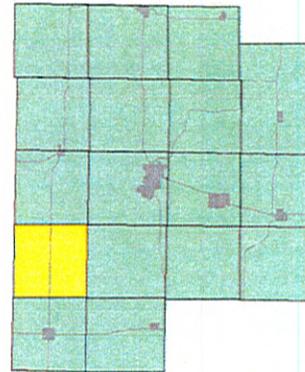
2005 Population: 328

2005 Households: 111

Major Roads: State Highway 4, County Road 22, and 28

Water Features: Belle Lake and King Lake

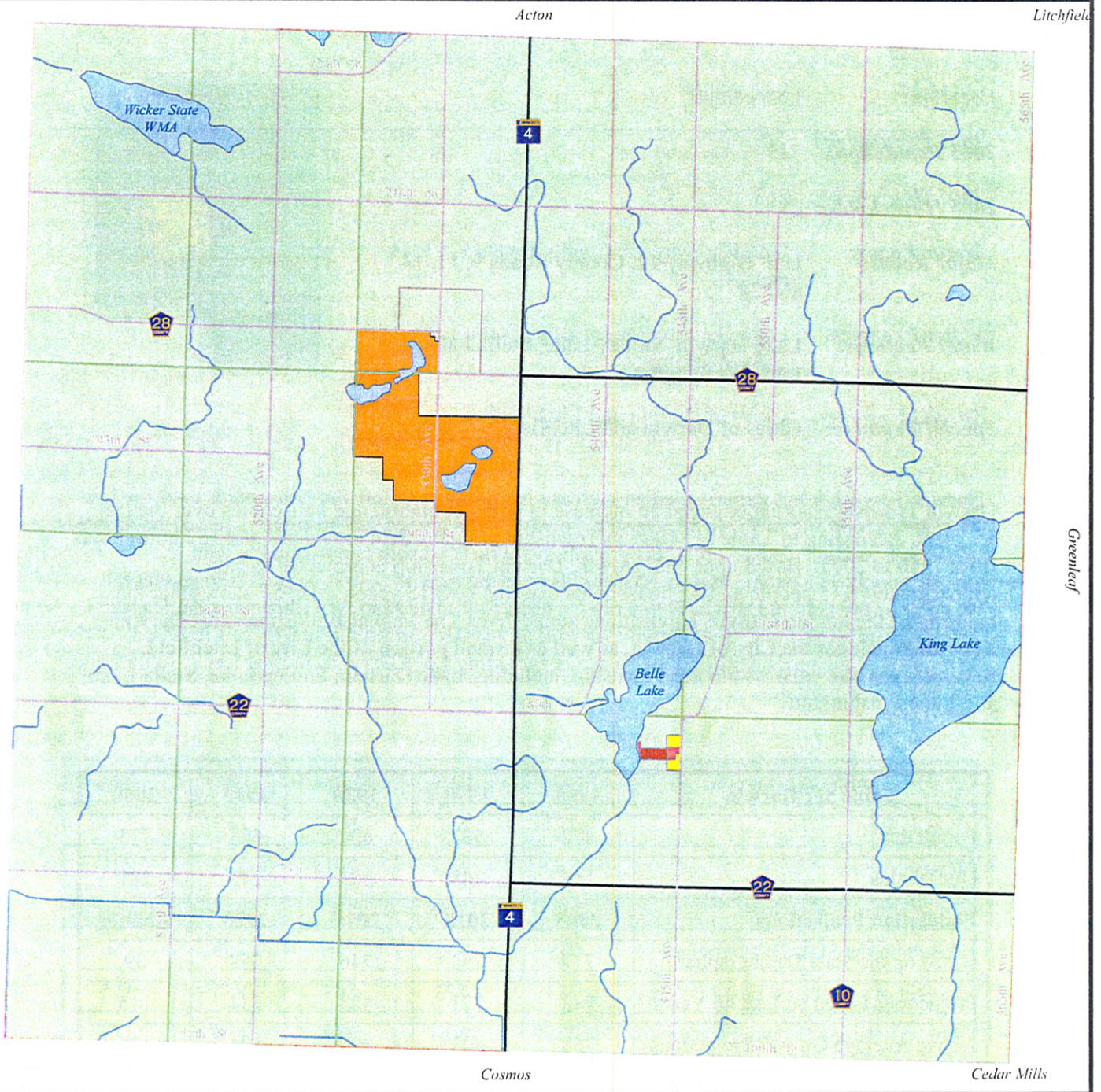
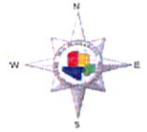
Special Features: Rosendale (unincorporated)



Similar to Cosmos Township, Danielson Township has lost a significant amount of residents and households over the past 45 years. Table 5E reveals that the Township experienced a loss of 139 residents and 14 households since 1960. Projecting this trend over the next 15 years, the Township could potentially lose an additional 71 residents. Danielson Township is zoned primarily A-1 Agricultural, with a small amount of commercial and residential land near Belle Lake. The Township contains a large wildlife area, which is located just south of the unincorporated community of Rosendale.

Table 5E: Danielson	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	467	351	357	344	327
Households	125	97	116	109	111
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	328	327	325	324	-4
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	310	292	275	257	-71
Above Average Growth Projections	331	336	340	345	17
Households Based on 2.95 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	111	111	110	110	-1
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	105	99	93	87	-24
Above Average Growth Projections	112	114	115	117	6

Map 5E: Danielson Township Zoning



Zoning Districts

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| A-1 (Agricultural Preservation) | Railroad |
| C-1 (Commercial) | Section Line |
| C-2 (Neighborhood Commercial) | River / Ditch |
| I-1 (General Industrial) | Unpaved Road |
| R-1 (Suburban Residential) | Paved Road |
| R-2 (Rural Residential) | Urban Expansion |

- | |
|---------------|
| Lake |
| Municipality |
| Wildlife Area |

Watershed Districts

- | |
|--------------------|
| Clearwater |
| N. Fork Crow River |
| Sauk |
| M. Fork Crow River |

Darwin Township

Location: East central

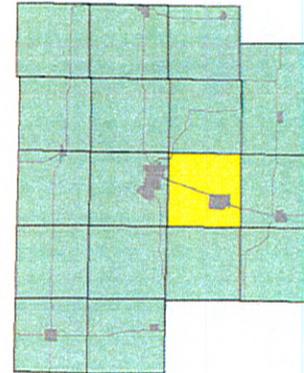
2005 Population: 719

2005 Households: 283

Major Roads: U.S. Highway 12, County Roads 9, 11, 14 and 24

Water Features: Lake Darwin, Smiley Lake, Stella Lake, and Lake Washington

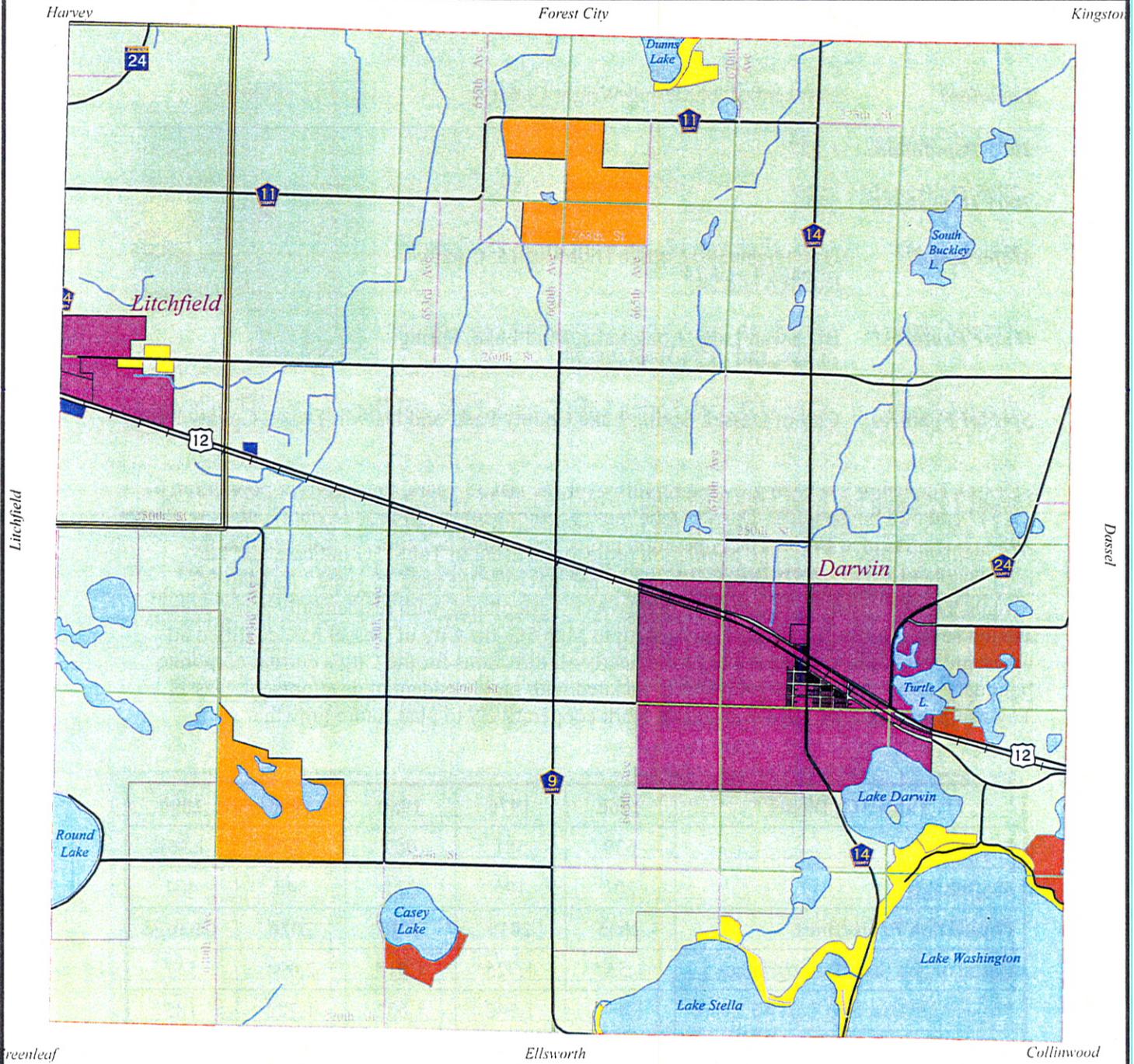
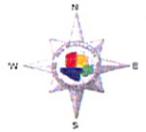
Special Features: Cities of Darwin and Litchfield



Darwin Township has experienced an increase in both population and households over the last 45 years. According to Table 5F, Darwin Township has gained 247 residents and 167 households from 1960 to 2005. Based upon this growth, Darwin Township is projected to gain approximately 115 people and 45 households over the next 15 years. Map 5F shows that the majority of the land in Darwin Township is zoned A-1. The Map also illustrates that Darwin Township includes the City of Darwin, as well as a small portion of the City of Litchfield. Several lakes also exist within the Township, including Lake Darwin, Smiley Lake, Stella Lake, and Lake Washington.

Table 5F: Darwin	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	472	552	606	663	713
Households	116	148	201	243	281
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	719	733	746	758	39
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	743	773	803	834	115
Above Average Growth Projections	758	803	849	894	175
Households Based on 2.54 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	283	289	294	298	15
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	293	304	316	328	45
Above Average Growth Projections	298	316	334	352	69

Map 5F: Darwin Township Zoning



Zoning Districts

- A-1 (Agricultural Preservation)
- C-1 (Commercial)
- C-2 (Neighborhood Commercial)
- I-1 (General Industrial)
- R-1 (Suburban Residential)
- R-2 (Rural Residential)

- Railroad
- Section Line
- River / Ditch
- Unpaved Road
- Paved Road
- Urban Expansion

- Lake
- Municipality
- Wildlife Area

Watershed Districts

- Clearwater
- N. Fork Crow River
- Sauk
- M. Fork Crow River

Dassel Township

Location: East central, bordering Wright County

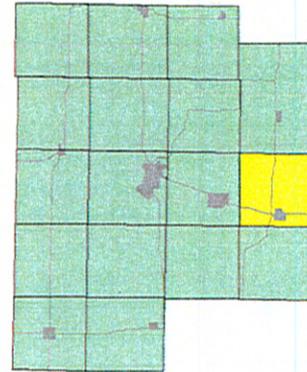
2005 Population: 1,537

2005 Households: 525

Major Roads: U.S. Highway 12, State Highway 15, County Roads 4 and 24

Water Features: Big Swan Lake, Long Lake, Mud Lake, Spring Lake, and Lake Washington

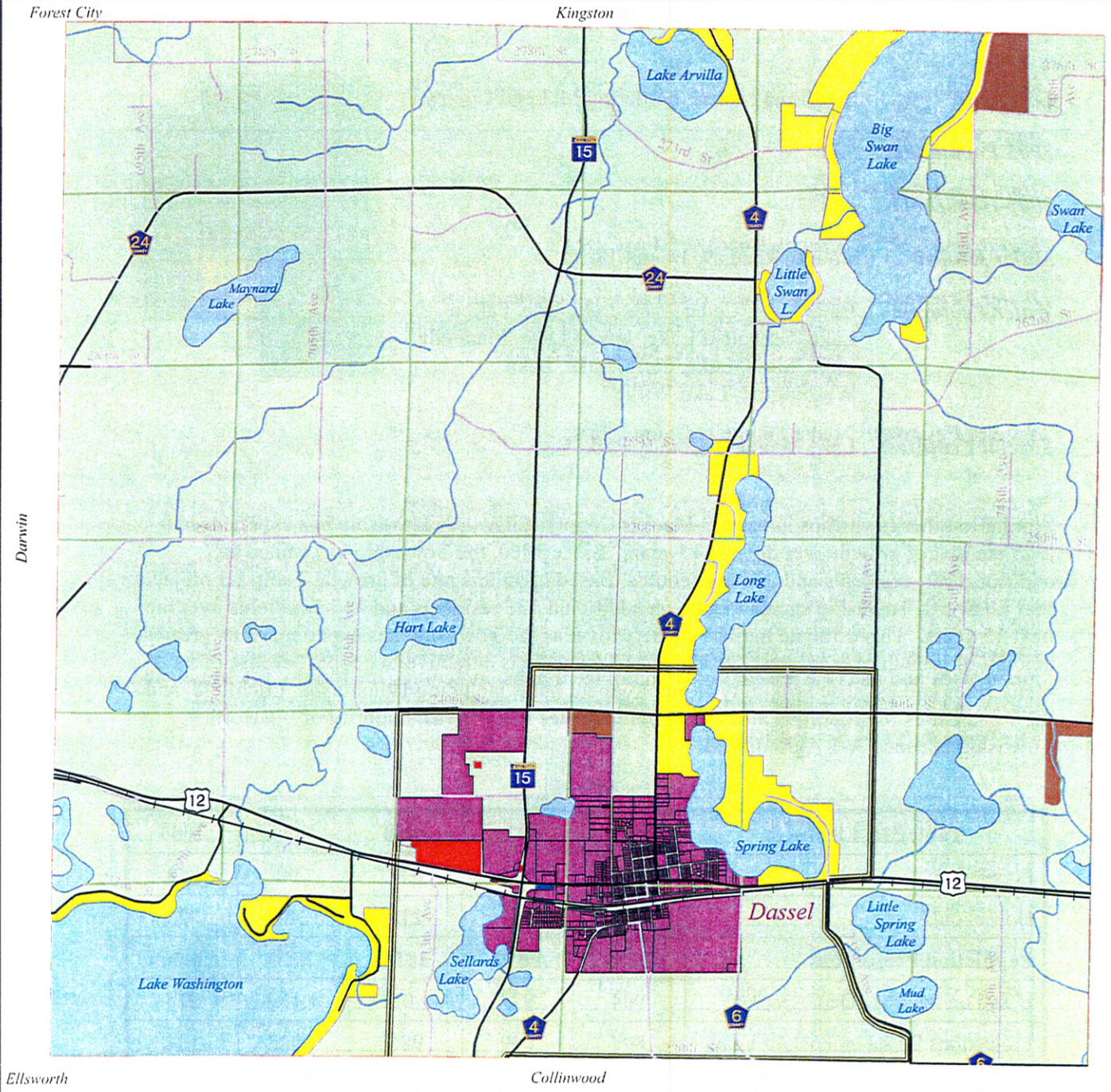
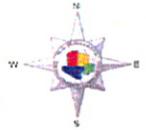
Special Features: City of Dassel, Spring Lake County Park, and Darwin-Dassel County Park



Dassel Township has been growing rapidly over the last 35 years, to its current population of 1,537 and 525 households. Dassel is the most populous township in the County, gaining almost 950 residents since 1970. The population projections listed in Table 5G indicate that the township is likely to grow between 19 and 36 percent over the next 15 years. As Map 5G reveals, Dassel Township is zoned primarily A-1 Agricultural, with residentially zoned areas around several lakes. In addition, according to Map 5G, the City of Dassel has identified an urban growth boundary which extends in nearly all directions for the City's current corporate boundary. Due to the many problems associated with rapid residential development, Dassel Township and the City of Dassel should work cooperatively to plan future growth.

Table 5G: Dassel	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	639	581	967	1,000	1,361
Households	201	196	321	348	464
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	1,537	1,725	1,915	2,094	557
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	1,451	1,542	1,632	1,722	185
Above Average Growth Projections	1,496	1,632	1,767	1,903	366
Households Based on 2.93 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	525	589	654	715	190
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	495	526	557	588	63
Above Average Growth Projections	511	557	603	649	124

Map 5G: Dassel Township Zoning



Zoning Districts

- | | |
|---|---|
|  A-1 (Agricultural Preservation) |  Railroad |
|  C-1 (Commercial) |  Section Line |
|  C-2 (Neighborhood Commercial) |  River / Ditch |
|  I-1 (General Industrial) |  Unpaved Road |
|  R-1 (Suburban Residential) |  Paved Road |
|  R-2 (Rural Residential) |  Urban Expansion |

- | |
|---|
|  Lake |
|  Municipality |
|  Wildlife Area |

Watershed Districts

- | |
|--|
|  Clearwater |
|  N. Fork Crow River |
|  Sauk |
|  M. Fork Crow River |

Ellsworth Township

Location: Southeast central, bordering McLeod County

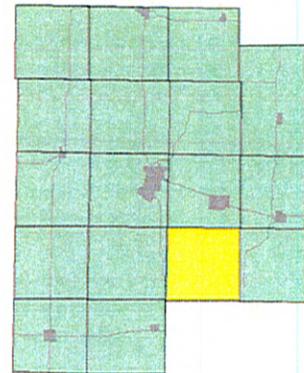
2005 Population: 904

2005 Households: 348

Major Roads: County Roads 9, 14 and 18

Water Features: Belle Lake, Cedar Lake, Lake Erie, Fallon Lake, Greenleaf Lake, Jewett Lake, Manuella Lake, Sioux Lake, Stella Lake, Lake Washington, Lake Willie

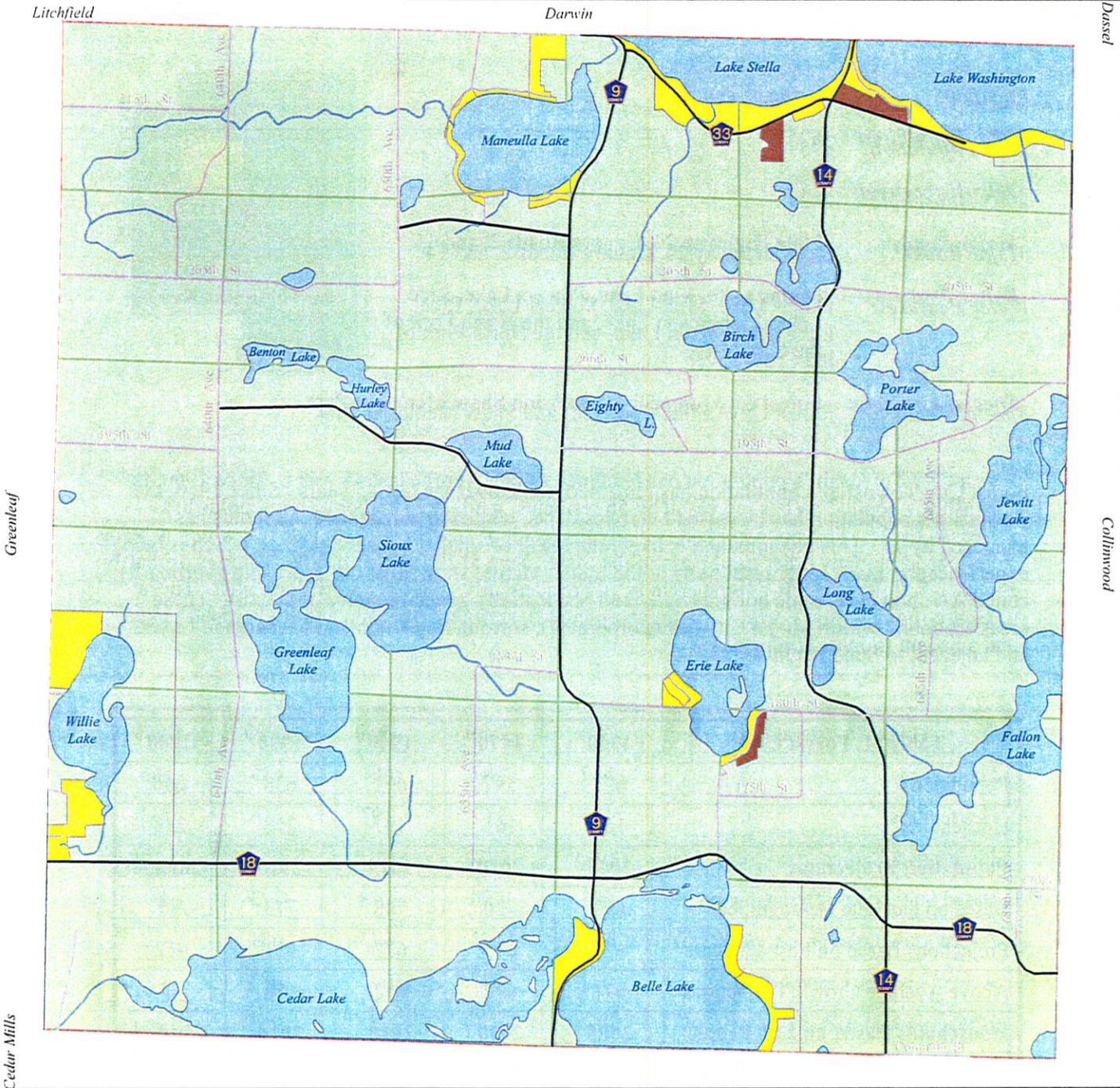
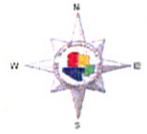
Special Features: Lake Manuella County Park



Similar to other townships in eastern Meeker County, Ellsworth Township has experienced a high amount of growth over the last 45 years. Since 1960, the Township has gained an additional 391 residents and 215 households. Based upon this rate of growth, Table 5H projects that Ellsworth Township stands to gain an additional 121 residents and 46 households over the next 15 years. This estimate may be conservative, as the Township has experienced its greatest amount of growth over the past decade. The Township is attractive to people because of its many lakes and its close proximity to employment hubs, including Hutchinson, Litchfield, and the Twin Cities Metropolitan area. Map 5H indicates that the vast majority of Ellsworth Township is zoned A-1 Agricultural.

Table 5H: Ellsworth	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	513	524	632	700	854
Households	133	154	214	244	328
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	904	977	1,051	1,119	215
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	897	939	982	1,025	121
Above Average Growth Projections	918	982	1,046	1,110	206
Households Based on 2.60 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	348	376	404	430	82
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	345	361	378	394	46
Above Average Growth Projections	353	378	402	427	79

Map 5H: Ellsworth Township Zoning



Zoning Districts

- A-1 (Agricultural Preservation)
- C-1 (Commercial)
- C-2 (Neighborhood Commercial)
- I-1 (General Industrial)
- R-1 (Suburban Residential)
- R-2 (Rural Residential)
- Railroad
- Section Line
- River / Ditch
- Unpaved Road
- Paved Road
- Urban Expansion

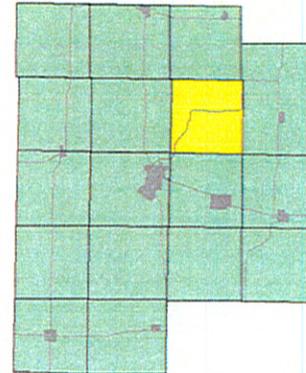
- Lake
- Municipality
- Wildlife Area

Watershed Districts

- Clearwater
- N. Fork Crow River
- Sauk
- M. Fork Crow River

Forest City Township

- Location:** Northeast central
- 2005 Population:** 693
- 2005 Households:** 242
- Major Roads:** State Highway 24, County Roads 2, and 14
- Water Features:** Dunns Lake, Mud Lake, Powers Lake, Rice Lake, Richardson Lake, and the North Fork of the Crow River
- Special Features:** Forest City (unincorporated) and Shaw Memorial Park

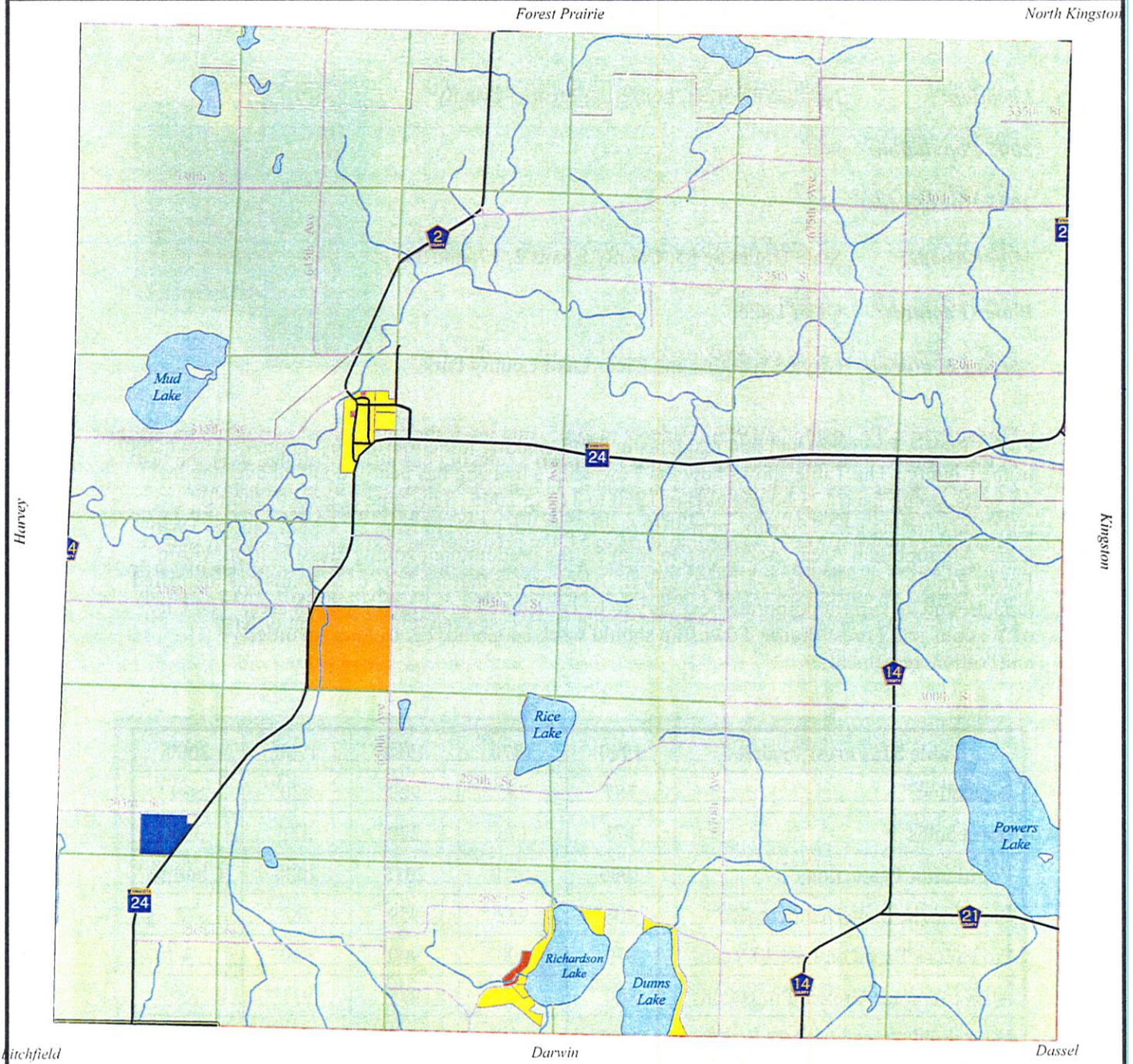
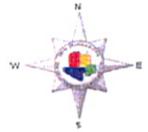


Forest City Township's population has remained stable over the last 45 years. Since 1960, the Township's population has increased by 56 residents, while the number of households has increased by 77. This phenomenon is likely the result of smaller household sizes, which is being experienced in many other rural parts of the State. Map 51 shows that the Township is primarily zoned A-1, however, some commercially and residentially zoned property does exist. These areas are found within Forest City (unincorporated), surrounding Dunn and Richardson Lakes, and adjacent to State Highway 24.

Table 5I: Forest City	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	637	597	661	638	666
Households	165	161	197	218	233
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	693	720	748	773	80
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	670	673	677	681	-12
Above Average Growth Projections	671	677	682	688	-5
Households Based on 2.86 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	242	252	262	270	28
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	234	235	237	238	-4
Above Average Growth Projections	235	237	238	241	-1

Map 5I: Forest City Township Zoning

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 Miles



Zoning Districts

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| A-1 (Agricultural Preservation) | Railroad |
| C-1 (Commercial) | Section Line |
| C-2 (Neighborhood Commercial) | River / Ditch |
| I-1 (General Industrial) | Unpaved Road |
| R-1 (Suburban Residential) | Paved Road |
| R-2 (Rural Residential) | Urban Expansion |

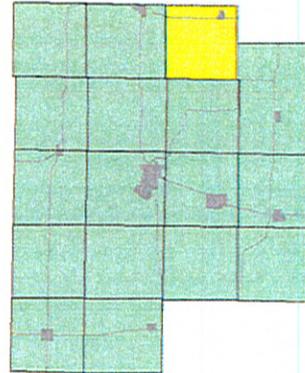
- | |
|---------------|
| Lake |
| Municipality |
| Wildlife Area |

Watershed Districts

- | |
|--------------------|
| Clearwater |
| N. Fork Crow River |
| Sauk |
| M. Fork Crow River |

Forest Prairie Township

- Location:** Northeast corner, bordering Stearns County
- 2005 Population:** 906
- 2005 Households:** 312
- Major Roads:** State Highway 55, County Roads 2, 17, and 34
- Water Features:** Clear Lake
- Special Features:** City of Watkins and Clear Lake County Park

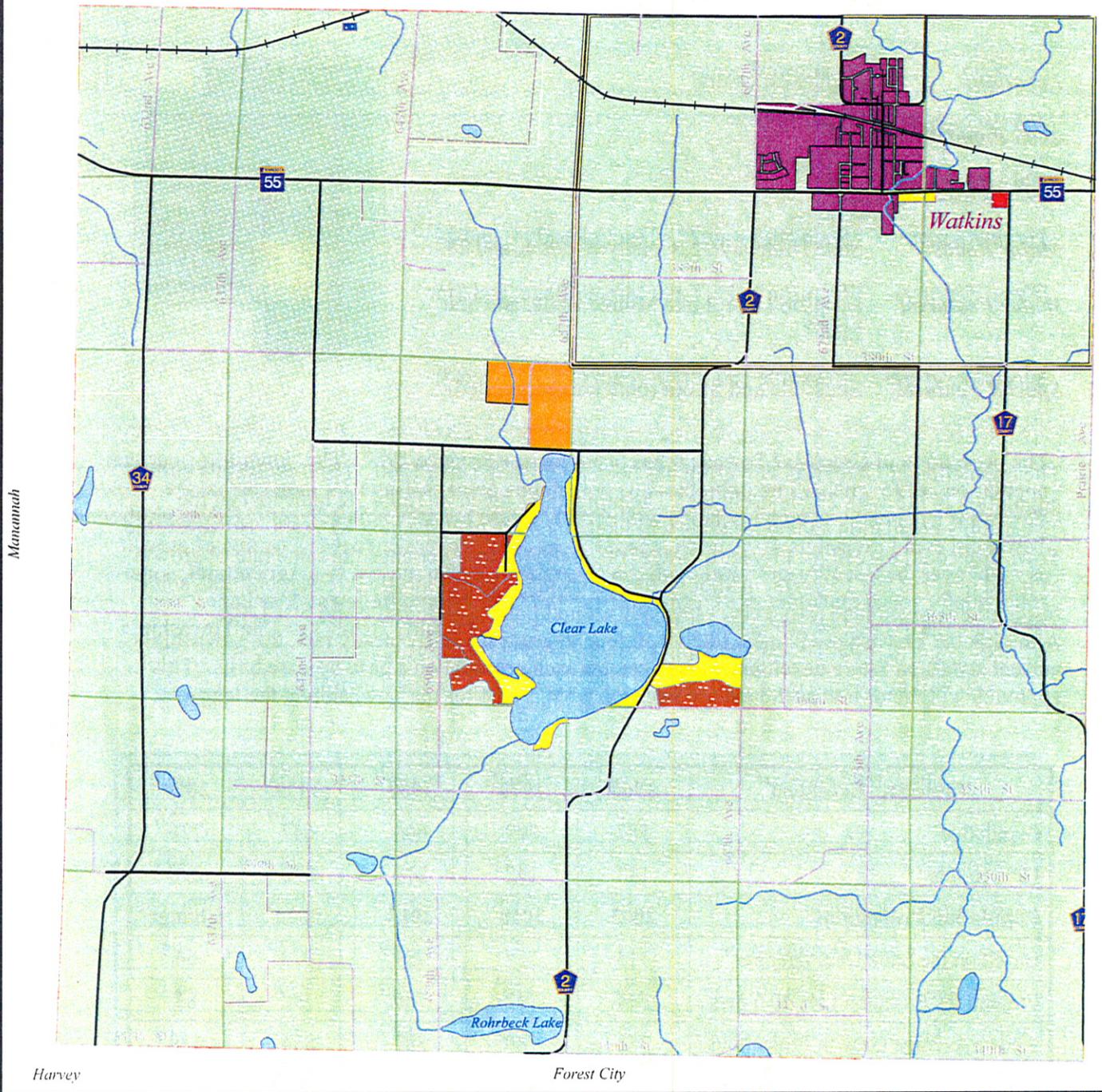
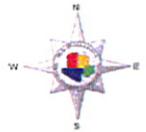


Forest Prairie Township had 906 residents in 2005, making it the fourth most populated township in the County. The Table shows how the Township's housing has nearly doubled over the last 45 years, going from 173 households in 1960 to 312 in 2005. This type of growth should continue over the next 15 years, primarily due to growth pressure from St. Cloud and the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. According to Map 5J, the predominant zoning classification within Forest Prairie Township is A-1 Agricultural. Also, notice that the City of Watkins has identified land around its current corporate boundary to be considered as an urban growth area. The City of Watkins and Forest Prairie Township should work cooperatively to form an orderly annexation agreement.

Table 5J: Forest Prairie	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	787	745	920	830	869
Households	173	178	220	271	300
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	906	932	959	983	77
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	879	890	900	910	4
Above Average Growth Projections	884	900	915	931	25
Households Based on 2.90 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	312	321	331	339	27
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	303	307	310	314	2
Above Average Growth Projections	305	310	316	321	9

Map 5J: Forest Prairie Township Zoning

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 Miles



Zoning Districts

- A-1 (Agricultural Preservation)
- C-1 (Commercial)
- C-2 (Neighborhood Commercial)
- I-1 (General Industrial)
- R-1 (Suburban Residential)
- R-2 (Rural Residential)
- Railroad
- Section Line
- River / Ditch
- Unpaved Road
- Paved Road
- Urban Expansion

- Lake
- Municipality
- Wildlife Area

Watershed Districts

- Clearwater
- N. Fork Crow River
- Sauk
- M. Fork Crow River

Greenleaf Township

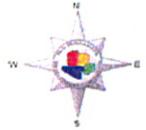
- Location:** Southwest central
- 2005 Population:** 715
- 2005 Households:** 293
- Major Roads:** State Highway 22, County Roads 1, and 28
- Water Features:** Evenson Lake, Lake Minnie Belle, and Star Lake
- Special Features:** Beckville and Strout (both unincorporated)



The population of Greenleaf Township has been fluctuating since 1960. The Township's current population is 715 with 293 households. The projections given in Table 5K indicate that the Township's population and households will likely increase over the next 15 years. However, the Township could exceed its 45-year average if it continues to experience the same rate of growth as it did over the last 15 years. Although the Township is zoned mostly A-1 Agricultural, some residentially zoned land does exist, especially around Lake Minnie Belle and Star Lake. Although the Township will most likely continue to grow at a fairly steady rate, the Township's current stance on future development is to review each proposal on a case-by-case basis. This approach will factor into each land use decision what is best for the Township in the long-run.

Table 5K: Greenleaf	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	582	509	664	647	726
Households	143	142	219	232	298
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	715	737	759	779	64
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	744	762	780	798	83
Above Average Growth Projections	753	780	807	834	119
Households Based on 2.44 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	293	302	311	319	26
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	305	312	320	327	34
Above Average Growth Projections	309	320	331	342	49

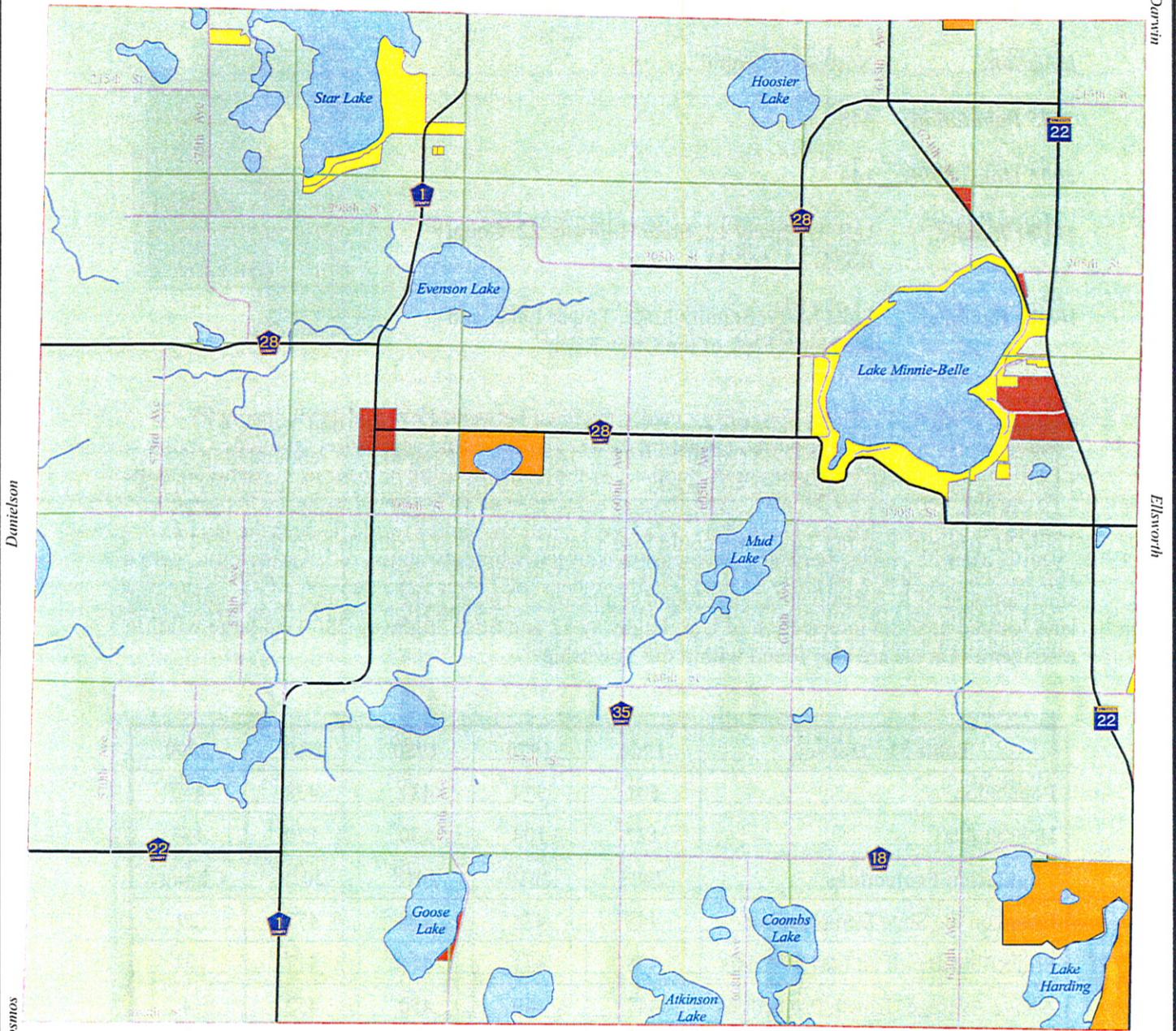
Map 5K: Greenleaf Township Zoning



Acton

Litchfield

Darwin



Danielson

Ellsworth

Cosmos

Cedar Mills

Zoning Districts

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| A-1 (Agricultural Preservation) | Railroad |
| C-1 (Commercial) | Section Line |
| C-2 (Neighborhood Commercial) | River / Ditch |
| I-1 (General Industrial) | Unpaved Road |
| R-1 (Suburban Residential) | Paved Road |
| R-2 (Rural Residential) | Urban Expansion |

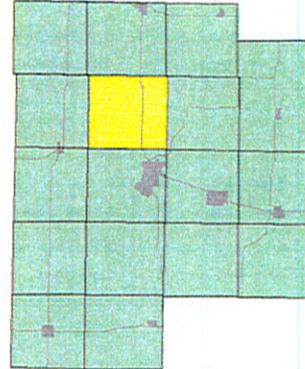
- | |
|---------------|
| Lake |
| Municipality |
| Wildlife Area |

Watershed Districts

- | |
|--------------------|
| Clearwater |
| N. Fork Crow River |
| Sauk |
| M. Fork Crow River |

Harvey Township

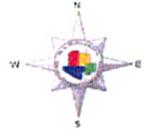
- Location:** Northwest central
- 2005 Population:** 448
- 2005 Households:** 144
- Major Roads:** U.S. Highway 12, State Highway 22, County Roads 16, and 31
- Water Features:** Lake Mary, Schultz Lake, Tower Lake, and the North Fork of the Crow River



The population of Harvey Township steadily declined between 1960 and 1990, losing 93 residents over the 30-year period (equaling 19%). However, the population rebounded in the 1990s and early 2000s, regaining 40 people. At the same time, the number of households in the Township increased by 24, after experiencing a decrease of 10 households during the 1980's. Table 5L projects that the Township could lose a small amount of residents over the next 15 years. Map 5L shows that Harvey Township is overwhelmingly zoned A-1 Agricultural, with a small amount of R-2 Residential land found southeast of Tower Lake and some C-1 Commercial land located near the intersection of U.S. Highway 12 and State Highway 22. Two large wildlife management areas are also found within the Township.

Table 5L: Harvey	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	501	374	431	408	445
Households	127	104	130	120	143
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	448	458	468	477	29
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	438	431	424	417	-31
Above Average Growth Projections	447	449	450	452	4
Households Based on 3.11 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	144	147	150	153	9
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	141	139	136	134	-10
Above Average Growth Projections	144	144	145	145	1

Map 5L: Harvey Township Zoning



Manamoh

Forest Prairie

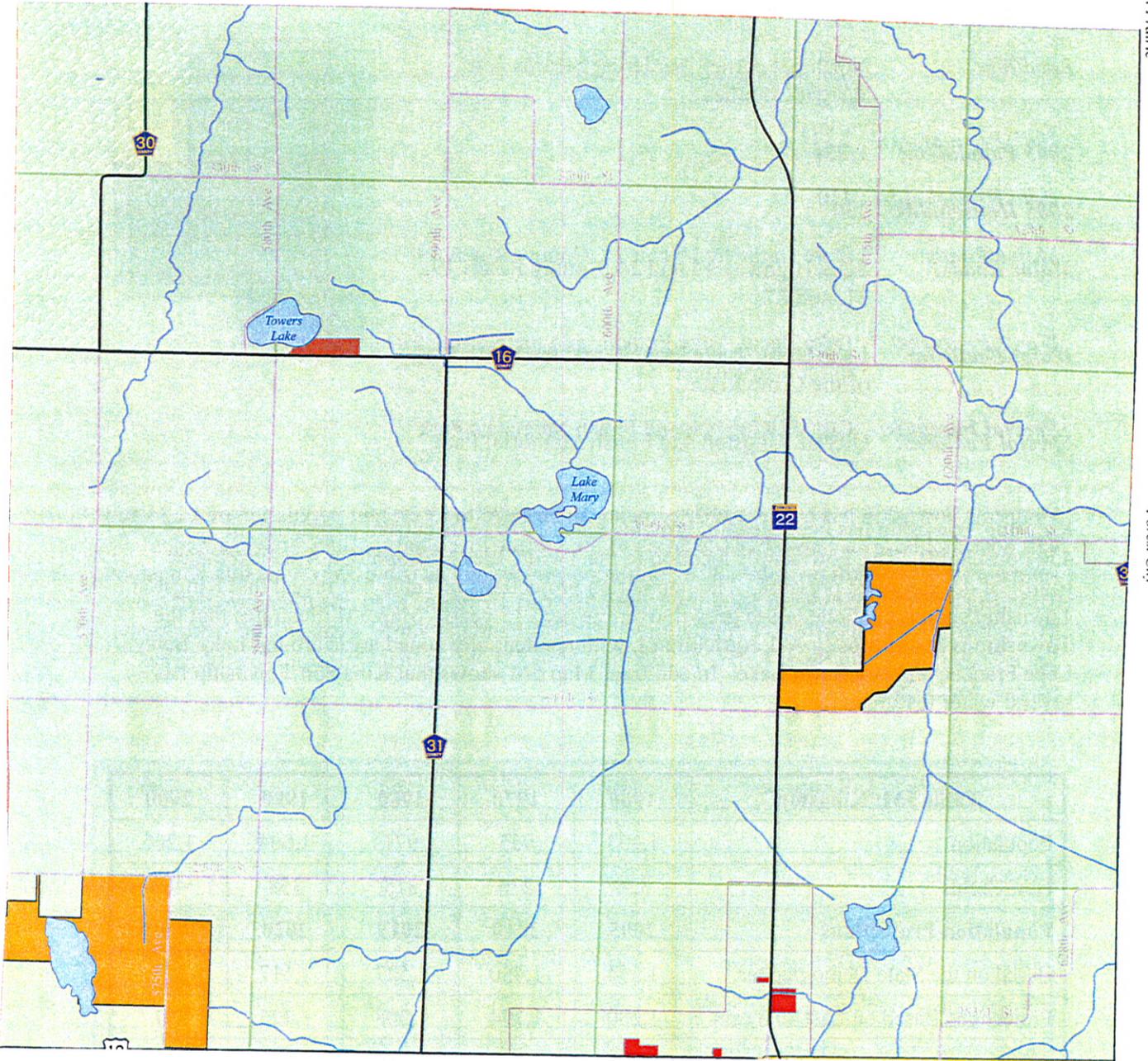
Swede Grove

Forest City

Acton

Litchfield

Darwin



Zoning Districts

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| A-1 (Agricultural Preservation) | Railroad |
| C-1 (Commercial) | Section Line |
| C-2 (Neighborhood Commercial) | River / Ditch |
| I-1 (General Industrial) | Unpaved Road |
| R-1 (Suburban Residential) | Paved Road |
| R-2 (Rural Residential) | Urban Expansion |

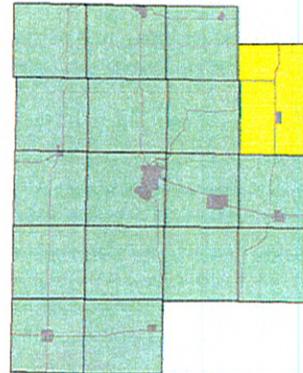
- | |
|---------------|
| Lake |
| Municipality |
| Wildlife Area |

Watershed Districts

- | |
|--------------------|
| Clearwater |
| N. Fork Crow River |
| Sauk |
| M. Fork Crow River |

Kingston Township

- Location:** Northeast corner, bordering Stearns and Wright Counties
- 2005 Population:** 1,334
- 2005 Households:** 430
- Major Roads:** State Highway 15 and 24, County Roads 19, 21, and 27
- Water Features:** Lake Betsy, Lake Francis, and the North Fork of the Crow River
- Special Features:** City of Kingston and Finish Memorial Park

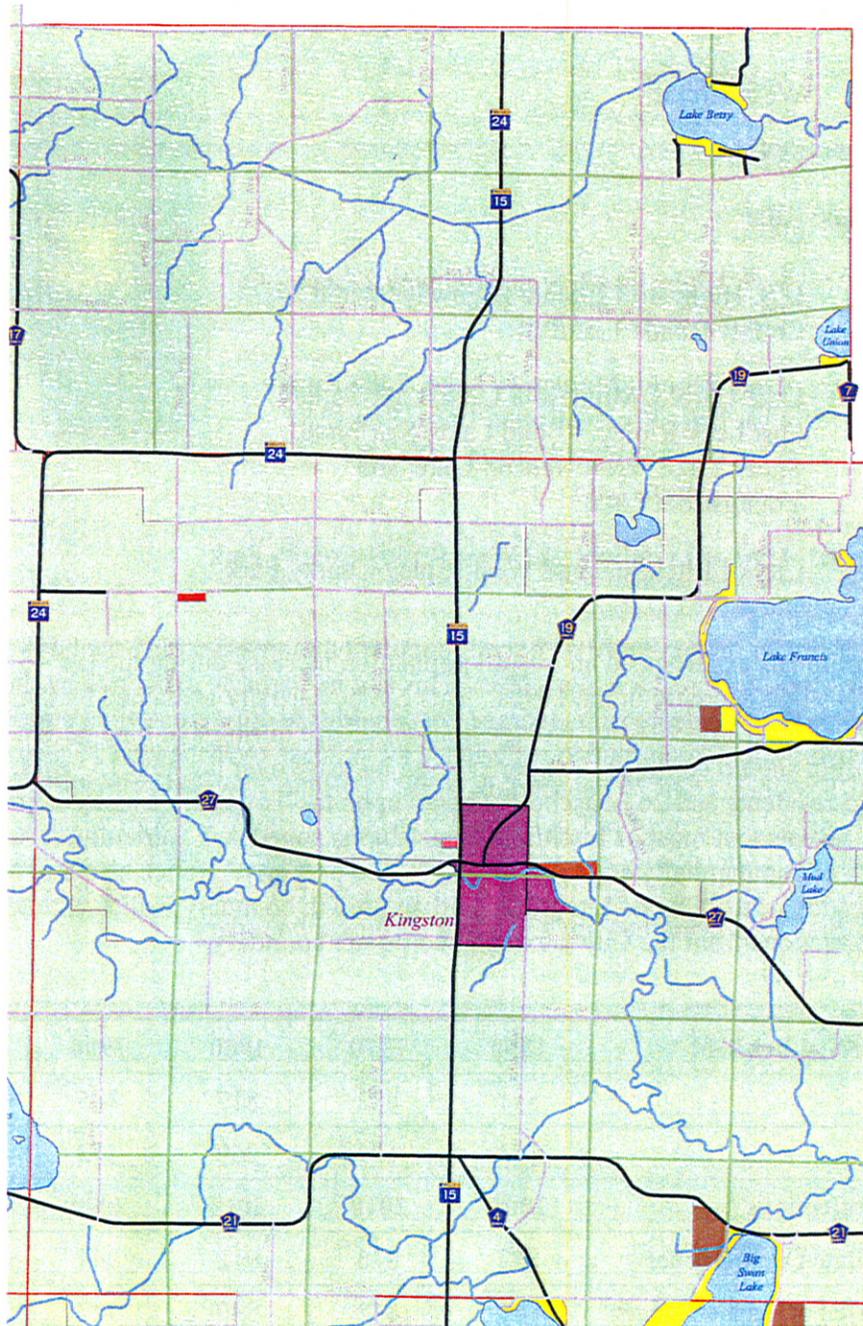
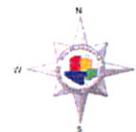


Kingston Township has been steadily growing since 1970 to its current population of 1,334 and 430 households. The Township's location to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area is a major source of development pressure. The population projections in Table 5M reveal that Kingston Township should continue to see growth over the next 15 years. Map 5M illustrates that the Township is zoned mostly A-1 Agricultural, with residentially zoned areas around Lake Betsy, Lake Francis, and Big Swan Lake. In addition, Map 5M shows that Kingston Township has several water features.

Table 5M: Kingston	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	1,153	955	971	1,064	1,266
Households	326	276	315	358	409
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	1,334	1,430	1,527	1,617	283
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	1,280	1,294	1,308	1,323	-11
Above Average Growth Projections	1,287	1,308	1,330	1,351	17
Households Based on 3.10 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	430	461	493	522	92
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	413	417	422	427	-3
Above Average Growth Projections	415	422	429	436	6

Map 5M: Kingston Township Zoning

0 0.4 0.8 1.6 2.4 Miles



Zoning Districts

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| A-1 (Agricultural Preservation) | Railroad |
| C-1 (Commercial) | Section Line |
| C-2 (Neighborhood Commercial) | River / Ditch |
| I-1 (General Industrial) | Unpaved Road |
| R-1 (Suburban Residential) | Paved Road |
| R-2 (Rural Residential) | Urban Expansion |

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Lake | Watershed Districts |
| Municipality | Clearwater |
| Wildlife Area | N. Fork Crow River |
| | Sauk |
| | M. Fork Crow River |

Litchfield Township

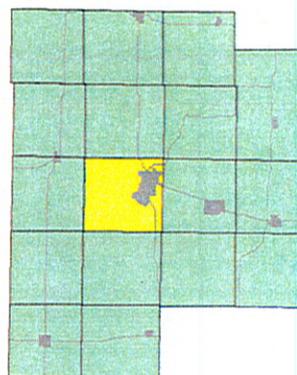
Location: West central

2005 Population: 842

2005 Households: 300

Major Roads: U.S. Highway 12, State Highway 22 and 24, County Roads 1, and 11

Water Features: Lake Harold, Minnesota Lake, Lake Ripley, East Lake Ripley, Round Lake, Star Lake, Thoen Lake, West Hanson Lake, and Youngstrom Lake



Special Features: City of Litchfield and West Ripley County Park

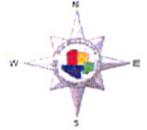
Litchfield Township has experienced an overall population increase during the last 45 years, with the exception of a slight decrease in the 1990s. This can be partially explained by the growth of the City of Litchfield and a decreasing average household size during that time period.

Litchfield Township should continue to experience an increase over the next 15 years, gaining approximately 75 residents and 26 households, based upon the Township's historic growth levels. Map 5N reveals that most of Litchfield Township is zoned A-1 Agricultural, with scattered pockets of commercially and residentially zoned property. Notice also that Map 5N identifies the location of the City of Litchfield's urban growth boundary, which extends outward in nearly in all directions from the City's existing corporate boundary.

Table 5N: Litchfield	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	591	682	817	745	808
Households	153	179	260	273	288
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	842	876	912	944	102
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	835	862	889	917	75
Above Average Growth Projections	849	889	930	971	129
Households Based on 2.81 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	300	312	325	336	36
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	298	307	316	326	26
Above Average Growth Projections	302	316	331	346	46

Map 5N: Litchfield Township Zoning

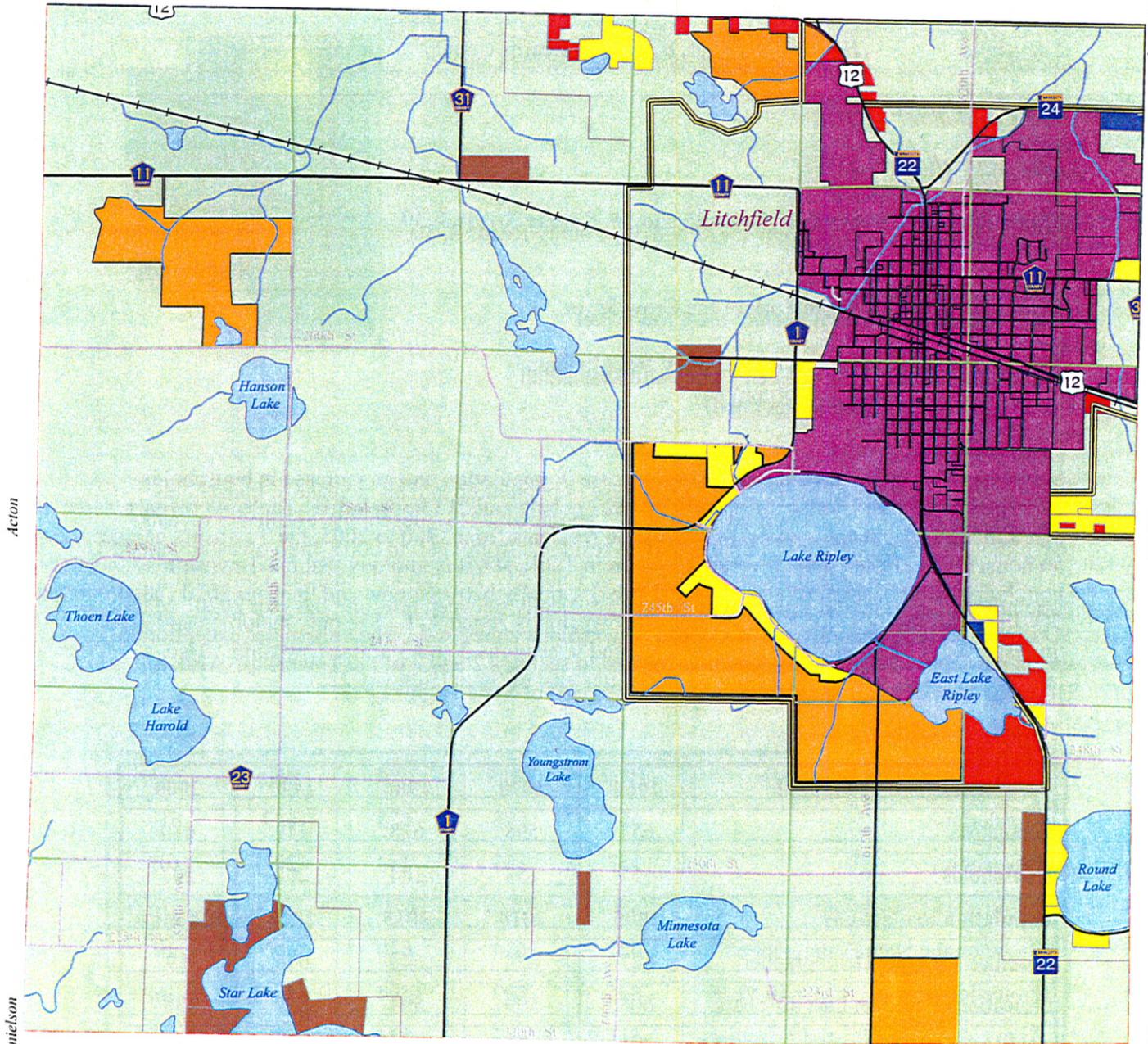
0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 Miles



Svede Grove

Harvey

Forest City



Acton

Darwin

Danielson

Ellsworth

Greenleaf

Zoning Districts

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| A-1 (Agricultural Preservation) | Railroad |
| C-1 (Commercial) | Section Line |
| C-2 (Neighborhood Commercial) | River / Ditch |
| I-1 (General Industrial) | Unpaved Road |
| R-1 (Suburban Residential) | Paved Road |
| R-2 (Rural Residential) | Urban Expansion |

- | |
|---------------|
| Lake |
| Municipality |
| Wildlife Area |

Watershed Districts

- | |
|--------------------|
| Clearwater |
| N. Fork Crow River |
| Sauk |
| M. Fork Crow River |

Manannah Township

Location: Northwest corner, bordering Stearns County

2005 Population: 627

2005 Households: 213

Major Roads: State Highway 22 and 55, County Roads 3, 30, and 36

Water Features: North Fork of the Crow River

Special Features: City of Eden Valley and Manannah (unincorporated)

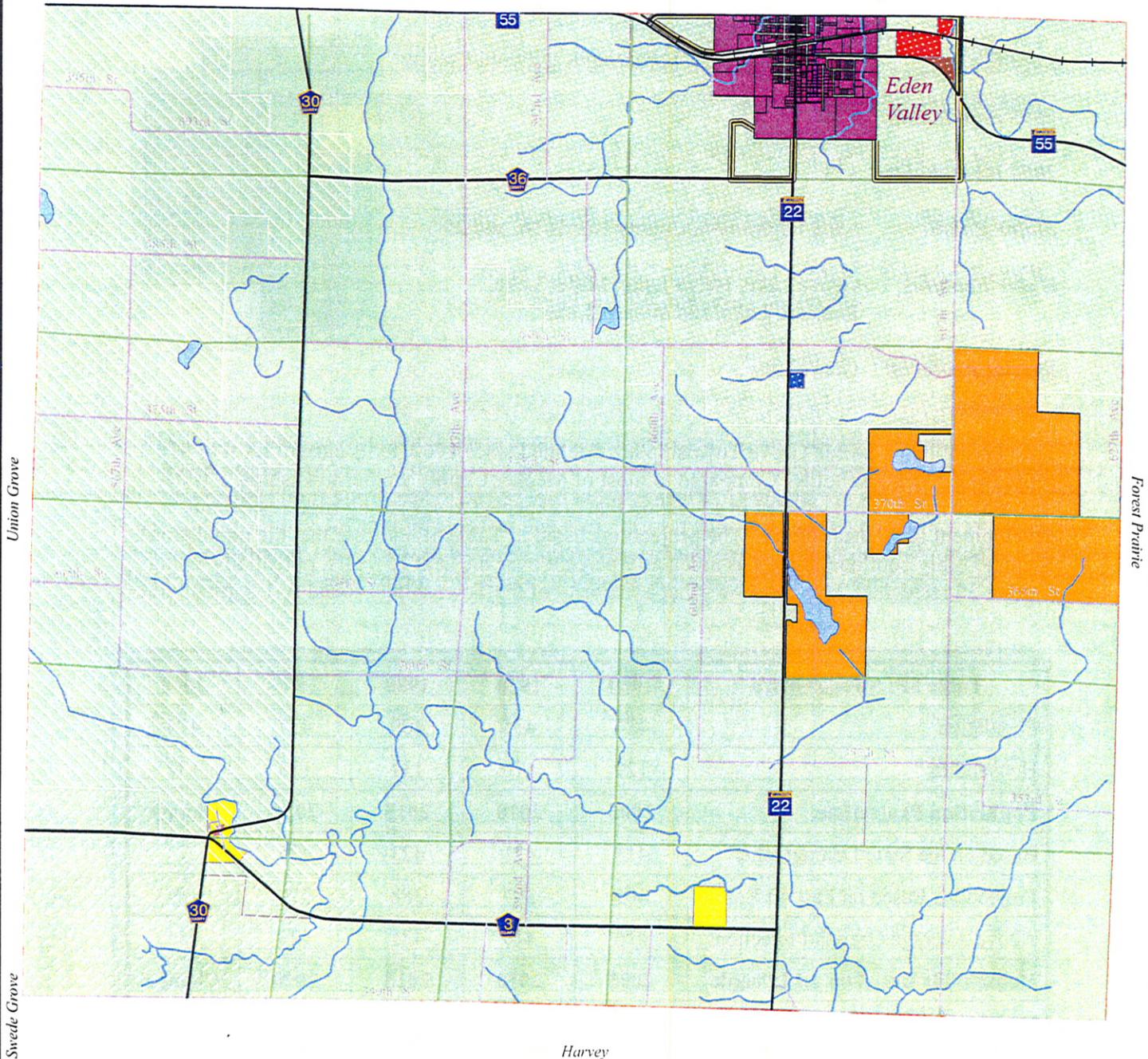
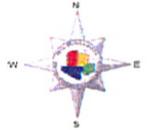


Manannah Township has experienced a decrease in population and an increase in households over the last 45 years, to its current level of 627 people and 213 households. Table 5O reveals that although Manannah Township has lost 26 residents from 1960 to 2005, the Township gained 56 households. Based upon projections given in Table 5O, it is unlikely that the Township's population and household figures will change drastically between now and the year 2020. Map 5O illustrates that a majority of Manannah Township is zoned A-1. The only major exception to this is the City of Eden Valley, which is located in sections 2 and 3 of the Township. Also, a large complex of wildlife management areas lies east of State Highway 22.

Table 5O: Manannah	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	653	598	628	649	610
Households	157	153	184	202	207
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	627	634	640	646	19
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	605	599	594	589	-38
Above Average Growth Projections	611	613	614	616	-11
Households Based on 2.95 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	213	215	217	219	6
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	205	203	201	200	-13
Above Average Growth Projections	207	208	208	209	-4

Map 50: Manannah Township Zoning

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 Miles



Zoning Districts

- | | |
|---|---|
|  A-1 (Agricultural Preservation) |  Railroad |
|  C-1 (Commercial) |  Section Line |
|  C-2 (Neighborhood Commercial) |  River / Ditch |
|  I-1 (General Industrial) |  Unpaved Road |
|  R-1 (Suburban Residential) |  Paved Road |
|  R-2 (Rural Residential) |  Urban Expansion |

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Lake |  Municipality |
|  Wildlife Area | |

Watershed Districts

- | |
|--|
|  Clearwater |
|  N. Fork Crow River |
|  Sauk |
|  M. Fork Crow River |

Swede Grove Township

Location: Northwest corner, bordering Kandiyohi County

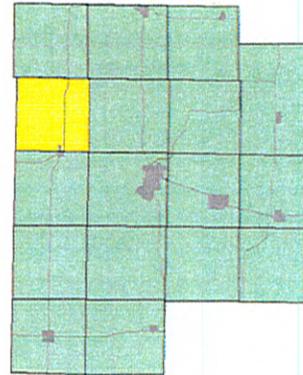
2005 Population: 418

2005 Households: 133

Major Roads: State Highway 4, County Roads 16, and 25

Water Features: Grove Lake, Helga Lake, Miller Lake, Peterson Lake, and Wilcox Lake

Special Features: Grove City

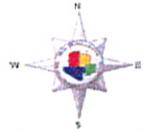


The population of Swede Grove Township has declined since 1960, to its current level of 418 people and 133 households. Compared to most of Meeker County's other townships, Swede Grove Township is not situated in a location that is expected to see strong rural residential development in the near future. The projections listed in Table 5P indicate that the population could possibly continue to drop as much as 9 percent over the next 15 years, potentially losing another 39 residents. Map 5P shows that a majority of the Township is zoned A-1 Agricultural.

Table 5P: Swede Grove	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	484	435	409	437	414
Households	129	110	131	133	132
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	418	421	423	425	7
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	405	397	388	379	-39
Above Average Growth Projections	416	419	421	423	5
Households Based on 3.14 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	133	134	135	135	2
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	129	126	124	121	-12
Above Average Growth Projections	132	133	134	135	2

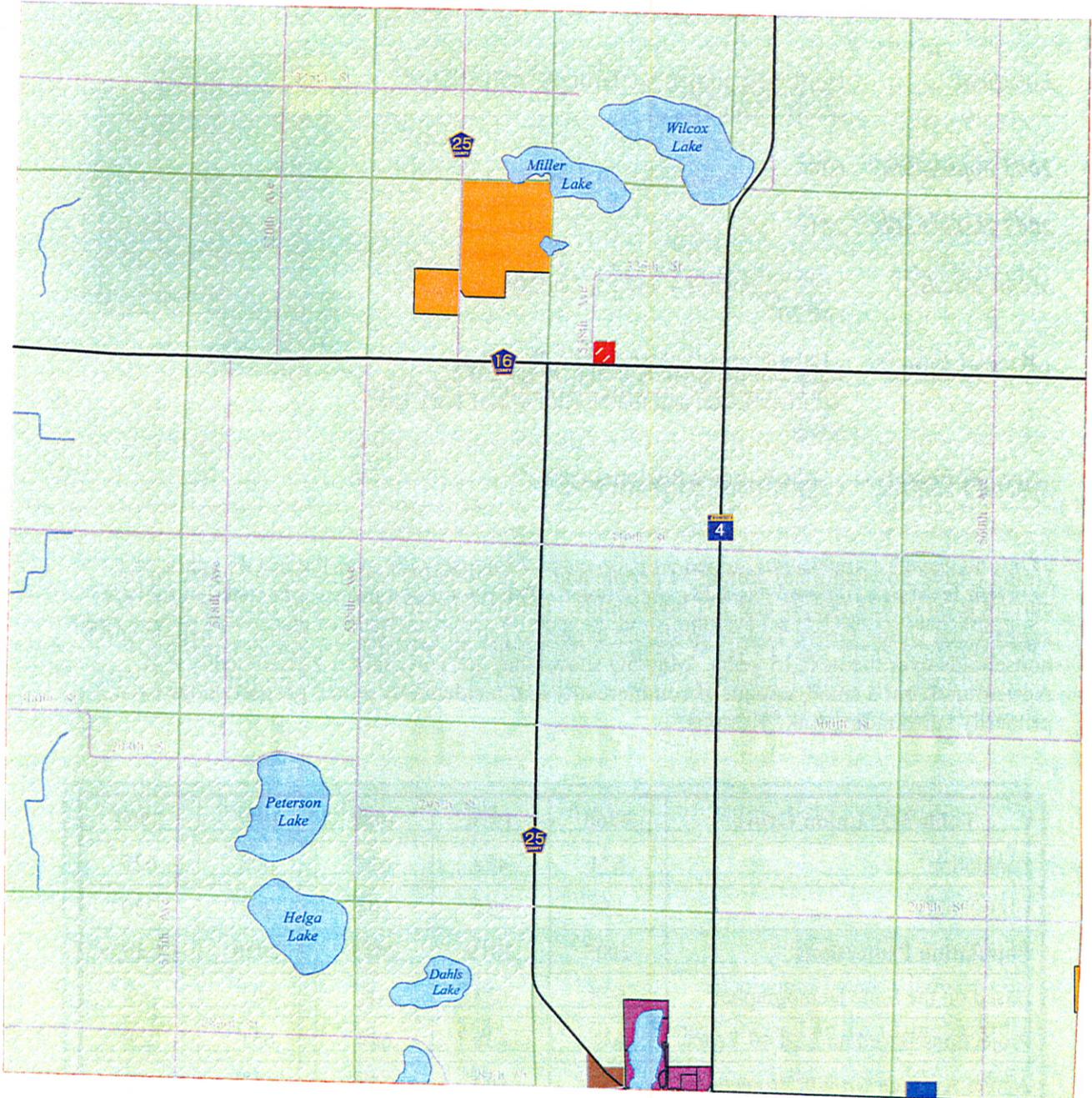
Map 5P: Swede Grove Township Zoning

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 Miles



Union Grove

Manannah



Acton

Litchfield

Harvey

Zoning Districts

- | | |
|---|---|
|  A-1 (Agricultural Preservation) |  Railroad |
|  C-1 (Commercial) |  Section Line |
|  C-2 (Neighborhood Commercial) |  River / Ditch |
|  I-1 (General Industrial) |  Unpaved Road |
|  R-1 (Suburban Residential) |  Paved Road |
|  R-2 (Rural Residential) |  Urban Expansion |

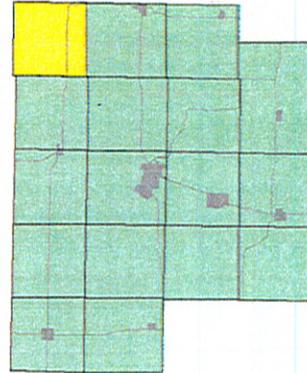
- | |
|---|
|  Lake |
|  Municipality |
|  Wildlife Area |

Watershed Districts

- | |
|--|
|  Clearwater |
|  N. Fork Crow River |
|  Sauk |
|  M. Fork Crow River |

Union Grove Township

- Location:** Northwest corner, bordering Kandiyohi and Stearns County
- 2005 Population:** 628
- 2005 Households:** 231
- Major Roads:** State Highways 4 and 55, County Roads 3 and 20
- Water Features:** Lake Emma, Lake Koronis, West Lake, Whitney Lake, and the North Fork of the Crow River
- Special Features:** Lake Koronis Regional Park

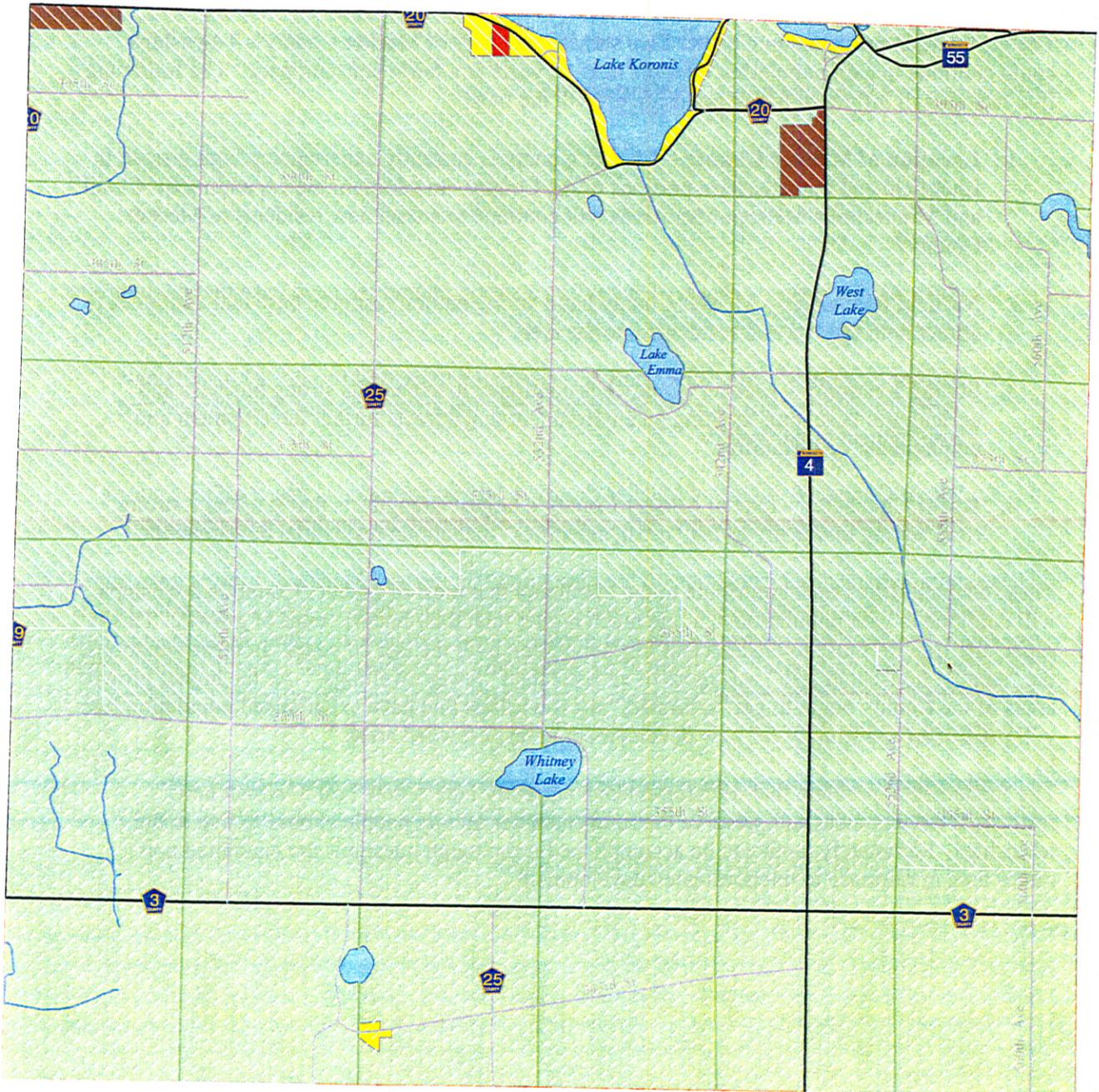
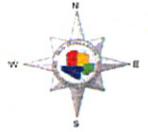


Union Grove Township has gained 54 people and 75 households over the last 45 years, to its current level of 628 people and 231 households. The population projections listed in table 5Q suggest that Union Grove Township should expect to see an increase of another 23 people and 8 households over the next 15 years. Map 5Q shows that the Township is zoned mostly A-1 Agricultural, but a small amount of commercially and residentially zoned property does exist, primarily surrounding Lake Koronis.

Table 5Q: Union Grove	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	574	494	616	608	625
Households	156	132	194	208	230
Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	628	635	641	647	19
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	631	638	644	651	23
Above Average Growth Projections	635	644	654	663	35
Households Based on 2.72 People	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on the State Demographer	231	233	236	238	7
Projections Based on Last 40 Years	232	235	237	239	8
Above Average Growth Projections	233	237	240	244	13

Map 5Q: Union Grove Township Zoning

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 Miles



Monmouth

Swede Grove

Zoning Districts

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| A-1 (Agricultural Preservation) | Railroad |
| C-1 (Commercial) | Section Line |
| C-2 (Neighborhood Commercial) | River / Ditch |
| I-1 (General Industrial) | Unpaved Road |
| R-1 (Suburban Residential) | Paved Road |
| R-2 (Rural Residential) | Urban Expansion |

- | |
|---------------|
| Lake |
| Municipality |
| Wildlife Area |

Watershed Districts

- | |
|--------------------|
| Clearwater |
| N. Fork Crow River |
| Sauk |
| M. Fork Crow River |

Summary of the Township Profiles

The information presented in Chapter Five shows that many of Meeker County's Townships could continue to gain population over the next 15 years at a fairly constant pace. The following five factors will influence future township growth the most:

1. **Location of Meeker County** – Meeker County is currently experiencing high growth in Litchfield and in the eastern portions of the County. In addition, the expanding St. Cloud and Minneapolis Metropolitan Areas will continue to attract new residents to Meeker County.
2. **Natural Resources** – Meeker County has a strong natural resource base that continues to attract both tourists and residents into the area.
3. **Strong Economy** – Meeker County has continued to expand its strong business and agricultural base, thus creating an environment that attracts further development and employment opportunities.
4. **Rural Character** – One of Meeker County's largest strengths is that it offers a strong rural setting *and* many of the "urban amenities" that attract residential development.

These characteristics each contribute to the likelihood that most of Meeker County's townships will continue to gain population at a rate much higher than their historic rates of growth. This is especially true for those townships that lost population over the last 20 years. In these situations, the "smaller household size" was more of an issue than "fewer dwellings." As the higher growth areas of the County begin to get "saturated," the townships that have experienced population loss will present an opportunity for new development in less crowded areas.

The fundamental problem that decision-makers currently face is how best to attract new residential development and preserve the rural character of why people choose to live in the townships. Fortunately, both can be accomplished if the tough questions are examined now, rather than in response to uncoordinated development.