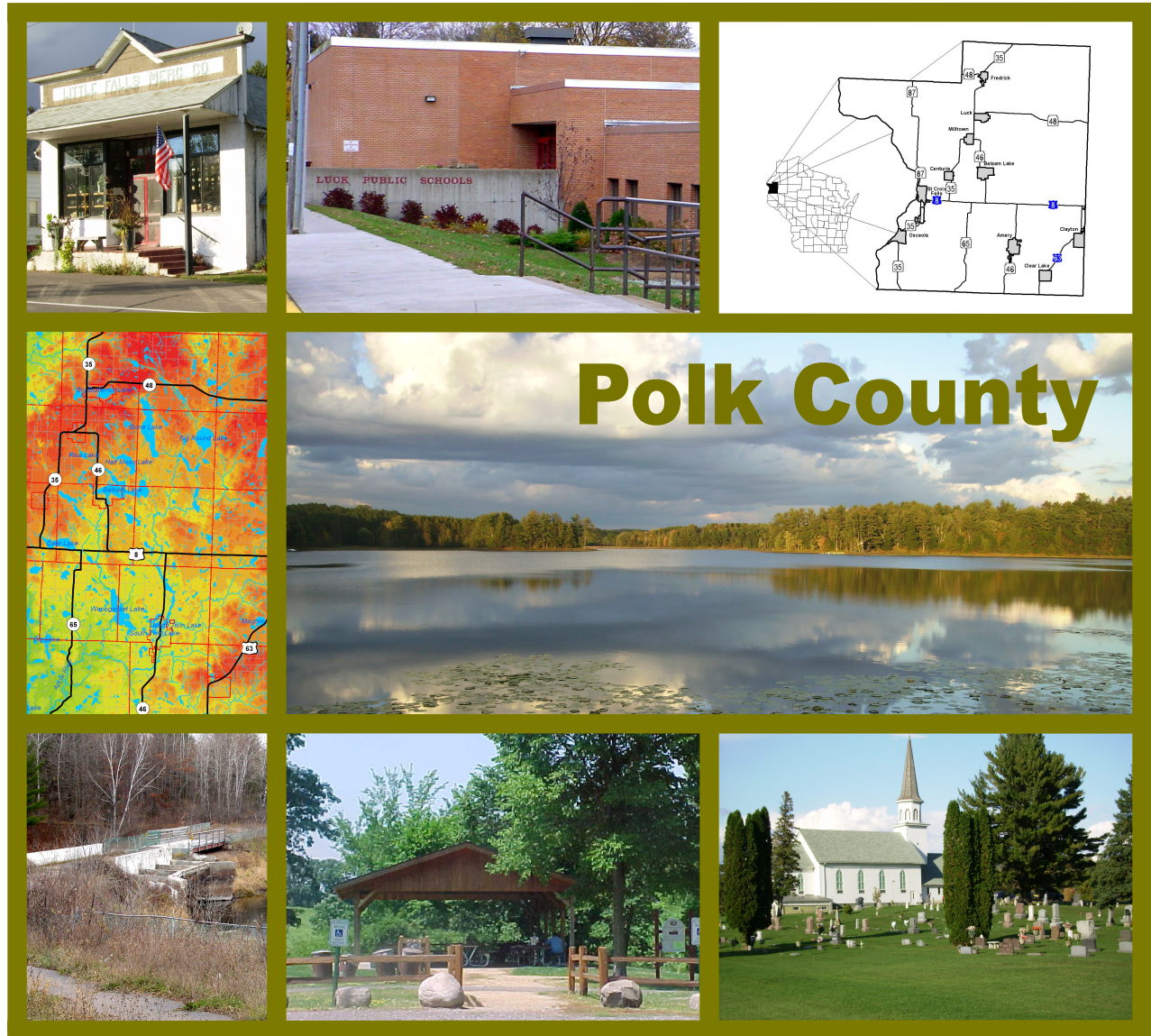


# POLK COUNTY

## CONDITIONS AND TRENDS REPORT



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING JANUARY 2009

PREPARED BY WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



# Polk County Conditions and Trends Report

Presented to:

Polk County and its Communities

**By:**

West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission  
Mail Box 9  
800 Wisconsin Street, Bldg D2-401  
Eau Claire, WI 54703-3606  
715.836.2918

With financial assistance from:  
Wisconsin Department of Administration  
Division of Intergovernmental Relations

January 15, 2009





## ***Forward***

The *Polk County Conditions and Trends Report* provides the majority of background information and existing resource maps as required for comprehensive planning efforts under the Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Law (Wis. Act 9). It is a compilation of the “best available” data available which would be needed for a typical planning effort.

There are two companion documents to this report:

***Polk County Resource and Land Use Map Atlas CD-ROM:*** This is a compilation of existing resource and land use maps for the county and its municipalities in digital form. Land use data in these maps may need to be updated at the local level. West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission will provide the geographic information system files for these maps upon request.

***Inventory of Existing Plans, Programs, and Land Use Policies in West-Central Wisconsin:*** As its title relates, this special addendum provides a summary of the primary programs, plans, and land use policies being implemented within the seven counties of west-central Wisconsin.

This report should be considered a starting point for local planning efforts. Certain data and maps will need to be provided at a local level (e.g., maps and details on municipal utilities, special or regulatory districts, park systems, mining interests). Communities may also identify special issues or unique circumstances for which additional data may be collected locally. And, for the most part, this report merely presents the data; the county and each community will need to analyze the data to determine local needs, issues, and important trends.

West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) compiled this report as part of its regional comprehensive planning effort. A similar report is being compiled for each of the other six counties in our region. Once complete, a regional level analysis will be undertaken based on the data in the individual county reports.

WCWRPC would like to thank everyone who provided input and data for this document, including: Polk County, the regional comprehensive planning effort’s Technical Advisory Group, and various State agencies (e.g., Dept. of Administration, Dept. of Natural Resources, Dept. of Commerce, Office of Economic Advisors, Dept. of Workforce Development, Dept. of Transportation, Dept. of Health and Family Services).



# POLK COUNTY CONDITIONS & TRENDS REPORT

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. Issues and Opportunities Information .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Introduction.....	1
The County Setting .....	1
Element Context.....	3
Socio-Economic Profile .....	3
Population .....	3
Educational Attainment .....	8
Employment.....	9
Income.....	10
Population Projections .....	11
Household Projections .....	12
Employment Projections.....	14
Summary .....	15
Data Tables .....	16
 <b>2. Housing Information .....</b>	 <b>81</b>
Element Context.....	81
Housing Supply.....	82
Seasonal Units.....	82
Occupancy and Structural Characteristics .....	83
Age Characteristics .....	83
Housing Value Characteristics.....	84
Housing Affordability.....	84
Housing Unit and Household Projections.....	85
Housing Programs.....	86
Summary .....	86
Data Tables and Map .....	88

<b>3. Transportation Information .....</b>	<b>109</b>
Element Context.....	109
Background Data/Existing Conditions .....	111
Highways .....	111
Highway Projects in the County .....	115
Bridges .....	116
Rustic Roads System.....	117
Access Management .....	120
Designated Truck Routes .....	120
Transit .....	121
Bicycles.....	121
Pedestrian Facilities .....	122
Safety .....	124
Commuting Patterns.....	126
Railroads .....	126
Air Transportation.....	130
Water Transportation .....	131
Relevant Transportation Plans .....	131
Statewide Transportation Plans.....	131
Summary .....	132
 <b>4. Utilities and Community Facilities Information .....</b>	 <b>133</b>
Element Context.....	133
Inventory of Utilities.....	134
Sanitary Sewer and Wastewater Treatment .....	134
On-Site Septic Systems.....	135
Water Supply .....	136
Stormwater Management .....	137
Telecommunications Facilities .....	139
Power Plants, Substations, and Transmission Lines .....	141
Electric Utilities .....	141
Natural Gas Utilities .....	141
Inventory of Educational Facilities .....	142
Non-Public Schools .....	142
Public Schools.....	143

Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESA) .....	144
Vocational, Technical, and Adult Education .....	144
University of Wisconsin System.....	145
Other Colleges and Universities .....	145
Inventory of Other Community Facilities and Services .....	146
Libraries .....	146
Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Facilities .....	147
Law Enforcement.....	148
Fire Departments.....	149
Ambulance .....	149
First Responders.....	149
Hazardous Materials Response .....	149
Medical Facilities.....	150
Child Care Services.....	150
Assisted Living Facilities, Nursing Homes, and Senior Programs.....	152
Parks and Recreation Facilities.....	155
Cemeteries.....	158
Dams .....	161
Other Government Facilities.....	162
Summary .....	163
Utilities and Community Facilities Maps .....	164
 <b>5. Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Information.....</b>	 <b>171</b>
Element Context.....	171
Agricultural Resources.....	172
Local Agricultural Industry Trends .....	172
Prime Agricultural Lands.....	177
Natural Resources – Physical Features .....	178
Topography .....	179
Bedrock Geology .....	179
Soils.....	180
Mineral Resources .....	181
Watersheds & Surface Waters .....	181
Water Quality by Watershed.....	182
Impaired Waters.....	182

Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters .....	183
Point Source Discharges .....	184
Groundwater .....	184
Air Quality .....	185
Natural Resources – Sensitive Lands.....	186
Shorelands.....	186
Floodplains.....	186
Wetlands .....	187
Steep Slopes .....	188
Forests and Woodlands .....	190
Grasslands and Prairie.....	190
Wildlife, Wildlife Habitat and Open Space .....	190
Rare and Endangered Species and Natural Communities.....	190
State Natural Areas .....	191
Wisconsin’s Land Legacy Report.....	191
Parks and Recreational Resources .....	192
Cultural Resources .....	194
Summary .....	196
Polk County Natural Resource Map Series .....	198
<b>6. Economic Development Information .....</b>	<b>199</b>
Element Context.....	199
The Wisconsin Economy .....	199
Recent Economic Trends .....	199
The Current Economic Slowdown.....	201
Wisconsin’s Economic Outlook .....	202
Polk County Economic Profile .....	203
Economic Data.....	203
Demographic Overview .....	205
Population and Labor Force.....	205
Housing Market .....	206
Education .....	206
Income and Wages .....	207
Employment Trends.....	208
Commuting Patterns.....	211

Economic Base.....	212
Industry Composition.....	212
Employment by Industry.....	213
Employment by Occupation .....	216
Employment Projections.....	218
Tourism.....	222
Environmentally Contaminated Sites .....	224
Summary .....	225
<b>7. Land Use Information .....</b>	<b>233</b>
Element Context.....	233
Existing Land Use and Land Use Trends .....	233
Agricultural Land Use.....	234
Forest Land Use .....	236
Public Natural Resource Lands.....	236
Residential Land Use .....	237
Commercial Land Use .....	238
Industrial Land Use.....	238
Land Demand and Prices .....	239
Summary .....	240
Land Use by Municipality Discussion.....	242
Land Use Tables .....	251
Municipality Land Use Maps.....	262
Limitations to Development Maps.....	262
Existing Land Use Maps.....	262



## List of Figures

Figure 1.1 – Polk County Historical Population (1990-2008).....	4
Figure 1.2 – County Population Distribution by Incorporated & Rural Residents.....	6
Figure 1.3 – County Components of Population Change (1950-2000) .....	7
Figure 1.4 – County Racial/Ethnic Population Characteristics (1990, 2000).....	8
Figure 3.1 – County Crashes by Highway Type (1998-2007) .....	124
Figure 4.1 – Typical Septic System .....	135
Figure 5.1 – Number and Average Size of Farms (1987-2002) .....	173
Figure 5.2 – Number of Farms and Dairy Farms (1987-2002).....	176
Figure 6.1 – Composite Index of Leading Indicators for Wisconsin (1990-2008).....	200
Figure 6.2 – Gasoline & Medical Costs Compared to Consumer Price Index .....	201
Figure 6.3 – Polk County Age/Labor Force Projection (2005-2030) .....	206
Figure 6.4 – Polk County vs. State Per Capita Personal Income (1997-2006).....	207
Figure 6.5 – Polk County & Wisconsin Monthly Unemployment Rate (1990-2008) .....	209
Figure 6.6 – Polk County Monthly Total Potential Labor Force (1990-2008).....	210
Figure 6.7 – Polk County Travel Time to Work (1990, 2000) .....	211
Figure 6.8 – Polk County Employment by Industry (2006) .....	214
Figure 6.9 – West Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Area.....	218
Figure 6.10 – Traveler Expenditures in Polk County (1998-2007) .....	223
Figure 6.11 – Seasonality of Traveler Expenditures in Polk County (2007).....	224

## List of Tables

Table 1.1 – County Historical Population (1900-2008).....	16
Table 1.2 – County and Area Counties Historical Population Change.....	16
Table 1.3 – County Historical Population Change by Municipality (1970-2008).....	17
Table 1.4 – County Components of Population Change (1950-2000) .....	18
Table 1.5 – County Historical Population by Age and Sex (1980, 2000) .....	18
Table 1.6 – County Change in Age-Sex Structure (1980-2000).....	18
Table 1.7 – Population by Age and Sex by Municipality (2000) .....	19
Table 1.8 – Population by Age by Municipality (1990) .....	22
Table 1.9 – Percent Change in Age Structure by Municipality (1990-2000) .....	25
Table 1.10 – Population Projections, County and Municipality (2000-2030) .....	28
Table 1.11 – Household Projections, County and Municipality (2000-2030) .....	29
Table 1.12A – West Central Wisconsin Region Occupation Projections (2014) .....	30
Table 1.12B – West Central Wisconsin Region Industry Projections (2004-2014).....	30
Table 1.13 – Race Characteristics, County and Municipality (2000).....	31
Table 1.14 – Educational Attainment Levels, County and Municipality (1990, 2000).....	32
Table 1.15 – Labor Force, County and Municipality (1990, 2000).....	40
Table 1.16 – Polk County Employment (1990-2006).....	44
Table 1.17 – Employment by Industry, County and Municipality (1990, 2000).....	45
Table 1.18 – Employment by Occupation, County and Municipality (1990, 2000) .....	64
Table 1.19 – Travel Time to Work by Municipality (1990, 2000) .....	77
Table 1.20 – Place of Work, County and Municipality (2000) .....	77
Table 1.21 – Households by Household Income by Municipality (1989, 1999).....	78
Table 1.22 – Median Household Income (comparison of counties) (1989, 1999) .....	78

Table 1.23 – Median Household Income (municipalities) (1989, 1999).....	79
Table 2.1 – Housing Units, County and Municipality (1980-2000).....	88
Table 2.2 – Seasonal Units, County and Municipality (2000).....	89
Table 2.3 – County Housing Characteristics (1980-2000) .....	90
Table 2.4 – Units in Structure, County and Municipality (2000) .....	91
Table 2.5 – Year Structure Built, County and Municipality (2000) .....	92
Table 2.6 – Housing Value of Specified Owner-Occupied Units, County and MCD .....	93
Table 2.7 – Contract Rent (Renter-Occupied Units), County and Municipality .....	94
Table 2.8 – Owner-Occupied Housing Costs as Percentage of Household Income County and Municipality (1999).....	95
Table 2.9 – Renter-Occupied Housing Costs as a Percentage of Household Income County and Municipality (1999).....	96
Table 2.10 – Housing Unit Projections, County and Municipality (2000-2030).....	97
Table 2.11 – Housing Characteristics by Municipality (1980-2000) .....	98
Table 3.1 – Road Mileage by Jurisdiction (2008).....	111
Table 3.2 – Traffic Volume History (1998-2006) .....	112
Table 3.3 – Local Road Mileage by Municipality and Jurisdiction.....	115
Table 3.4 – WisDOT 6-year Plan Projects for Polk County.....	116
Table 3.5 – Ownership of Bridges in Polk County .....	116
Table 3.6 – Functionally Obsolete/Structurally Deficient Bridges, Polk County.....	117
Table 3.7 – Polk County Crash History (1998-2007) .....	124
Table 3.8 – Highway Crashes by Municipality (2003-2007) .....	125
Table 3.9 – Commuting Patterns of Polk County Residents by Municipality.....	127
Table 3.10 – Major Airport Improvement Projects .....	130
Table 4.1 – Municipal Wastewater Systems in Polk County.....	134
Table 4.2 – Municipal and Community Water Systems in Polk County.....	137
Table 4.3 – Telephone Providers in Polk County .....	140
Table 4.4 – Private Schools in Polk County .....	142
Table 4.5 – Public Schools in Polk County .....	143
Table 4.6 – Enrollment of UW Campuses in West Central Wisconsin.....	145
Table 4.7 – Clinics and Hospitals in Polk County .....	150
Table 4.8 – Licensed Child Care Facilities in Polk County.....	151
Table 4.9 – Assisted Living Facilities in Polk County .....	154
Table 4.10 – Primary Parks in Polk County .....	157
Table 4.11 –Polk County Cemeteries .....	159
Table 5.1 – Acres in Farmland (1987-2002).....	174
Table 5.2 – Number of Farms by Ownership (1987-2002) .....	174
Table 5.3 – Assessed Agricultural Parcels and Acreage, County and Municipality .....	174
Table 5.4 – Soil Capability Classification for Agricultural Lands .....	178
Table 5.5 – Outstanding and Exceptional Waters.....	183
Table 5.6 – Permitted Municipal and Industrial Discharges.....	185
Table 5.7 – Assessed Forest Parcels and Acreage, County and Town .....	189
Table 5.8 – Parks and Recreational Lands.....	193
Table 5.9 – Sites and Structures on the National Register of Historic Places .....	194
Table 5.10 – Architectural and History Inventory Listings .....	195

Table 6.1 – Polk County Educational Attainment (1990, 2000).....	207
Table 6.2 – Polk County Average Annual Wages by Industry (2001-2006).....	208
Table 6.3 – Polk County Number of Establishments by Industry (1998-2006) .....	212
Table 6.4 – Polk County Employment by Industry (2001-2006) .....	213
Table 6.5 – Polk County Top Employers (March 2007) .....	216
Table 6.6 – West Central Wi. Estimated Employment and Salary by Occup. (2004).....	217
Table 6.7 – West Central Wi. Industry Projections (2004-2014) .....	219
Table 6.8 – West Central Wi. Occupation Projections and Est. Wages (2004-2014) .....	220
Table 6.9 – West Central Wi. Occupation Projections (2014) .....	221
Table 6.10 – Contaminated Sites in Polk County .....	228
Table 7.1 – County Land Use (1997 and 2007).....	234
Table 7.2 – Acreage Loss of Land Assessed Agricultural by Municipality .....	234
Table 7.3 – Percentage Loss of Land Assessed Agricultural by Municipality .....	235
Table 7.4 – Most Agricultural Acres by Municipality.....	235
Table 7.5 – Public Natural Resource Lands (2005).....	237
Table 7.6 – Assessed Residential Acres, County and Municipality .....	251
Table 7.7 – Assessed Commercial Acres, County and Municipality .....	252
Table 7.8 – Assessed Industrial Acres, County and Municipality .....	253
Table 7.9 – Assessed Agricultural Parcels and Acreage, County and Municipality .....	254
Table 7.10 – Assessed Forest Parcels and Acreage by Town.....	255
Table 7.11 – Land Use Acreage, County and Municipality (1987).....	256
Table 7.12 – Land Use Acreage, County and Municipality (1997).....	257
Table 7.13 – Land Use Acreage, County and Municipality (2007).....	258
Table 7.14 – Agricultural Land Sales (1998-2007) .....	259
Table 7.15 – Forested Land Sales (1998, 2001, 2005, 2007) .....	260
Table 7.16 – Land Value Per Acre by Town (2007).....	260
Table 7.17 – Land Value Per Acre by City or Village (2007).....	261

## **List of Maps**

1.1 – Polk County Locational Map .....	1
1.2 – Polk County Population Change (1970-2000) .....	5
1.3 – Polk County Population Projections (2000-2030) .....	13
2.1 – Polk County Housing Unit Change (1980-2000) .....	108
3.1 – County Roads, Airports, and Railroads .....	110
3.2 – County Rural Functional Classification .....	114
3.3 – Rustic Roads in the County .....	119
3.4 – Polk County Bicycling Conditions Assessment .....	123
3.5 – Railroad Ownership in West Central Wisconsin .....	129
4.1 – Vocational Districts in the Region .....	144
4.2 – Electric Service in West Central Wisconsin .....	164
4.3 – Natural Gas Service in West Central Wisconsin .....	165
4.4 – Polk County School Districts .....	166
4.5 – Polk County Fire Districts .....	167
4.6 – Polk County Ambulance Service Areas .....	168
4.7 – Polk County First Responder Service Areas .....	169

## **Appendix A: Polk County Resource and Development Limitations Maps**

- 5.1 – Agricultural Lands (Cultivated Fields)
- 5.2 – Soil Capability for Common Agricultural Crops
- 5.3 – Elevation
- 5.4 – General Soil Associations
- 5.5 – Potential Sand and Gravel Deposits
- 5.6 – Water Resources
- 5.7 – Watersheds
- 5.8 – Floodplain (100-year) and Frequently Flooded Soils
- 5.9 – Wetlands
- 5.10 – Steep Slopes
- 5.11 – Forested Areas
- 5.12 – Grasslands
- 5.13 – Endangered Species and Natural Communities
- 7.1 – Shallow Depth to Bedrock
- 7.2 – Shallow Depth to Groundwater
- 7.3 – Limitations for Septic Systems
- 7.4 – Limitations for Residential Basements
- 7.5 – Limitations for Small Commercial Buildings

## **Polk County Resource and Land Use Atlas DVD**

Base Maps .....	for cities, villages, and towns in the Atlas
Agricultural Lands (cultivated fields) .....	for County and towns in the Atlas
Prime Farmland .....	for County and towns in the Atlas
Elevation .....	for all communities in the Atlas
General Soil Associations .....	for County and towns in the Atlas
Potential Sand & Gravel Deposits .....	for all County and towns in the Atlas
Surface Water Resources .....	for all communities in the Atlas
Watersheds .....	for County in the Atlas
Floodplains (100-year) & Frequently Flooded Soils .....	for all communities in the Atlas
Wetlands .....	for all communities in the Atlas
Steep Slopes .....	for all communities in the Atlas
Forested Areas .....	for County and towns in the Atlas
Shallow Depth to Bedrock .....	for all communities in the Atlas
Shallow Depth to Groundwater .....	for all communities in the Atlas
Limitations for Septic Systems .....	for all communities in the Atlas
Limitations for Residential Basements .....	for all communities in the Atlas
Limitations for Small Commercial Buildings .....	for all communities in the Atlas
Endangered Species and Natural Communities .....	for County in the Atlas
Town Land Use & Land Cover (2000) .....	for towns in the Atlas
Village & City Land Use (2000) .....	for villages and cities in the Atlas

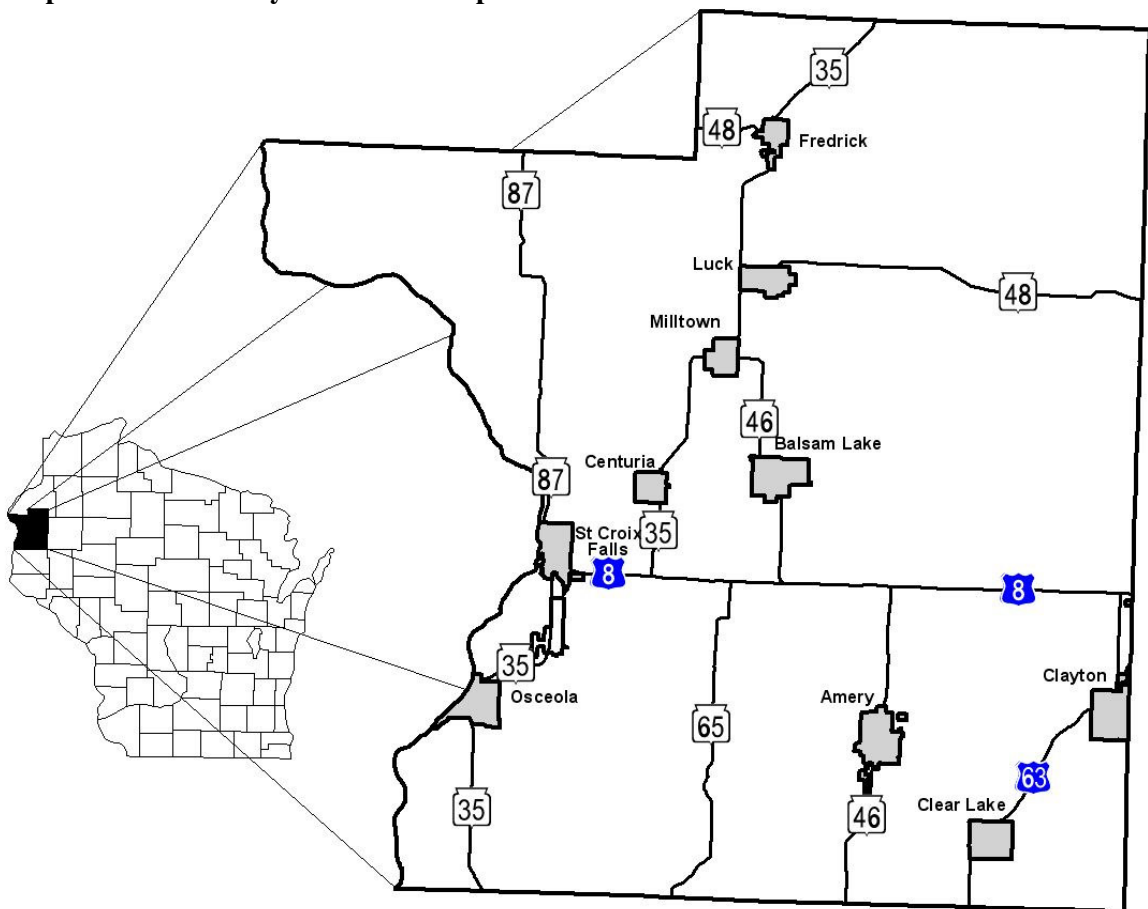
# 1. ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES INFORMATION

## Introduction

### *The County Setting*

Polk County is located in west-central Wisconsin along the Minnesota-Wisconsin border (see Map 1.1). The county has a total surface area of 605,672 acres, or 946 square miles, of combined land and water area. The county is bordered on the west by the St. Croix River, the north by Burnett County, the east by Barron County, and the south by St. Croix County. Polk County had a 2008 population estimate of 45,892 which is an 11.1 percent increase since 2000.

**Map 1.1 Polk County Locational Map**



Generally, Polk County is moderately rolling, becoming increasingly more rugged in the western portion of the county, particularly in the St. Croix River valley. The surface geology of Polk County is primarily the result of glacial deposition over bedrock. The modern landscape was most strongly influenced by the glaciers that invaded the county

from about 25,000 to 15,000 years ago from the north and northwest, and by a glacier that moved into the county from the west about 12,300 years ago. Landforms produced by glacial activity include a diverse landscape ranging from broad, nearly level glacial outwash plains to rough, broken glacial moraines and areas of pitted outwash. Two terminal moraines extending from the southwest to the northeast are the most significant glacial features in the county. These areas are characterized by rough hills and undrained depressions or kettles. The eastern-most moraine extends from New Richmond northeast to Turtle Lake, while a second moraine extends from a point east of St. Croix Falls to near Indian Creek in the northeast corner of the county. Between these moraines the landscape is gently rolling to level with poorly developed drainage and many lakes. The northwestern portion of the county is level sand and gravel deposits. This area, which is mostly forested, is known as the “Pine Barrens”. Since the last period of glacial activity, the landscape has been further sculpted by naturally occurring and man-induced erosion and drainage activity.

Polk County is almost entirely in the St. Croix River Basin with a small part of the southeastern part of the county lying within the Chippewa River Basin. The St. Croix River which borders the county along its entire western length was designated by Congress as the Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. In all, Polk County has a total surface water area of 22,626 acres consisting of 437 lakes (20,900 acres) and about 200 miles of rivers and streams (1,726 acres).

Polk County is comprised of all or parts of 36 civil divisions, consisting of 24 towns, 10 villages and 2 cities. This includes the Village of Turtle Lake that lies almost exclusively in Barron County. The Village of Balsam Lake, population 1,075, is the county seat. The largest community is the City of Amery that has 2,919 people.

Polk County is located northeast of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, and is contiguous to the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The Census Bureau defines a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as a county or counties with a central city of at least 50,000 people, a total population over 100,000 people, and significant social and economic ties which exist between the central city and any outlying counties that are included. Based on that definition, St. Croix County became part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA in 1980 and Pierce County in 1990. Consequently, even though Polk County is not currently a part of the MSA, it is apparent that the influence of the metro area is spreading, and that Polk County is becoming more economically and socially interconnected to the MSA.

Major transportation corridors in Polk County are U.S. Highway 8, which runs east-west through the county, U.S. Highway 63 which travels through an eastern portion of the county, and five state trunk highways (STH 35, 46, 48, 65, & 87). A relatively fine network of town roads distributes traffic to numerous county trunk highways.



The climate of Polk County is classified as mid-latitude continental. Warm, humid summers and cold snowy winters are the main characteristics. The average monthly temperature ranges from 15 degrees Fahrenheit in January to 73 degrees Fahrenheit in July. Annual precipitation averages 32 inches, with approximately two-thirds of this occurring as rain. Seasonal snowfall ranges from 12 to 75 inches.

### *Element Context*

This section is a primary source for the necessary background information for the Issues and Opportunities Element of a comprehensive plan for communities in Polk County. A socio-economic profile for all of Polk County is provided, which provides the demographic context for communities developing their individual plans.

Overall comprehensive planning goals and objectives for the county are not provided in this section; instead, each community comprehensive plan will contain its own individual vision, goals and objectives. Existing governmental programs and policies are also not provided here, but are reviewed in the *Special Addendum: Inventory of Existing Plans, Programs, & Land Use Policies in West Central Wisconsin*.

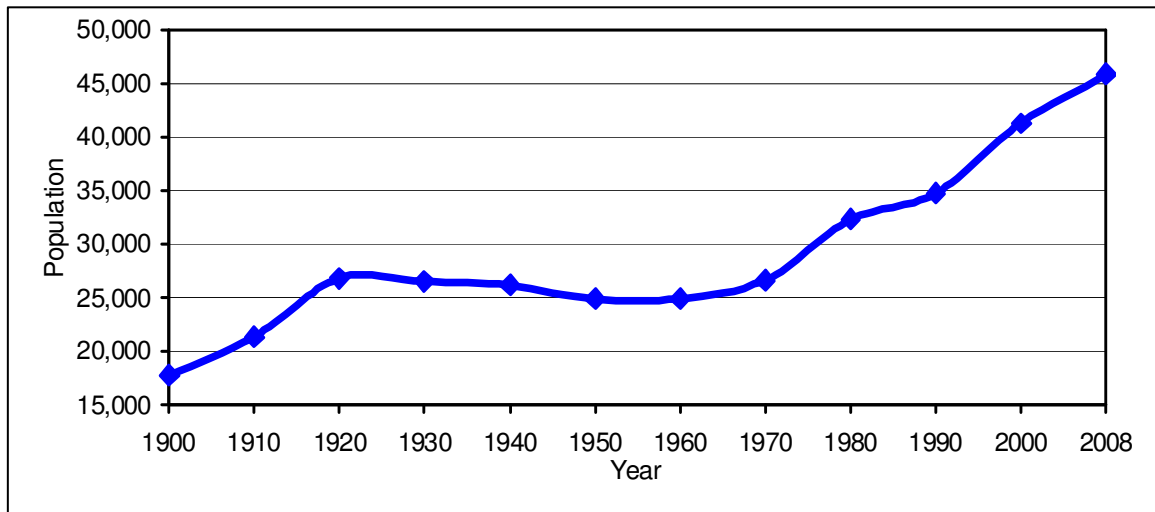
## **Socio-Economic Profile**

### *Population*

Analyzing population size, growth, density, characteristics and distribution trends reveals important facts about the most important component of growth and development in Polk County — its residents. Reviewing population characteristics will reveal important indicators of change that must be recognized to effectively prepare for change.

After increases for the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Polk County's population has remained fairly steady through 1960. Since 1960, the county's population has increased significantly, with the county's highest growth decade in the 1970s (21.3%). The population growth rate declined somewhat in the 1980s (7.5%) only to have the 1990s (18.8%) approach the growth of the 1970s. Recently between 2000 and 2008, the county's population increased by 4,573 people, or 11.1 percent. If such a rate of growth were continued throughout the decade it would result in a decennial rate of about 14 percent. See Figure 1.1 below, and Tables 1.1 and 1.2 at the end of this section.

**Figure 1.1**  
**Polk County Historical Population 1900 to 2008**



*source: U.S. Census Bureau; Wisconsin Department of Administration 2008 estimate*

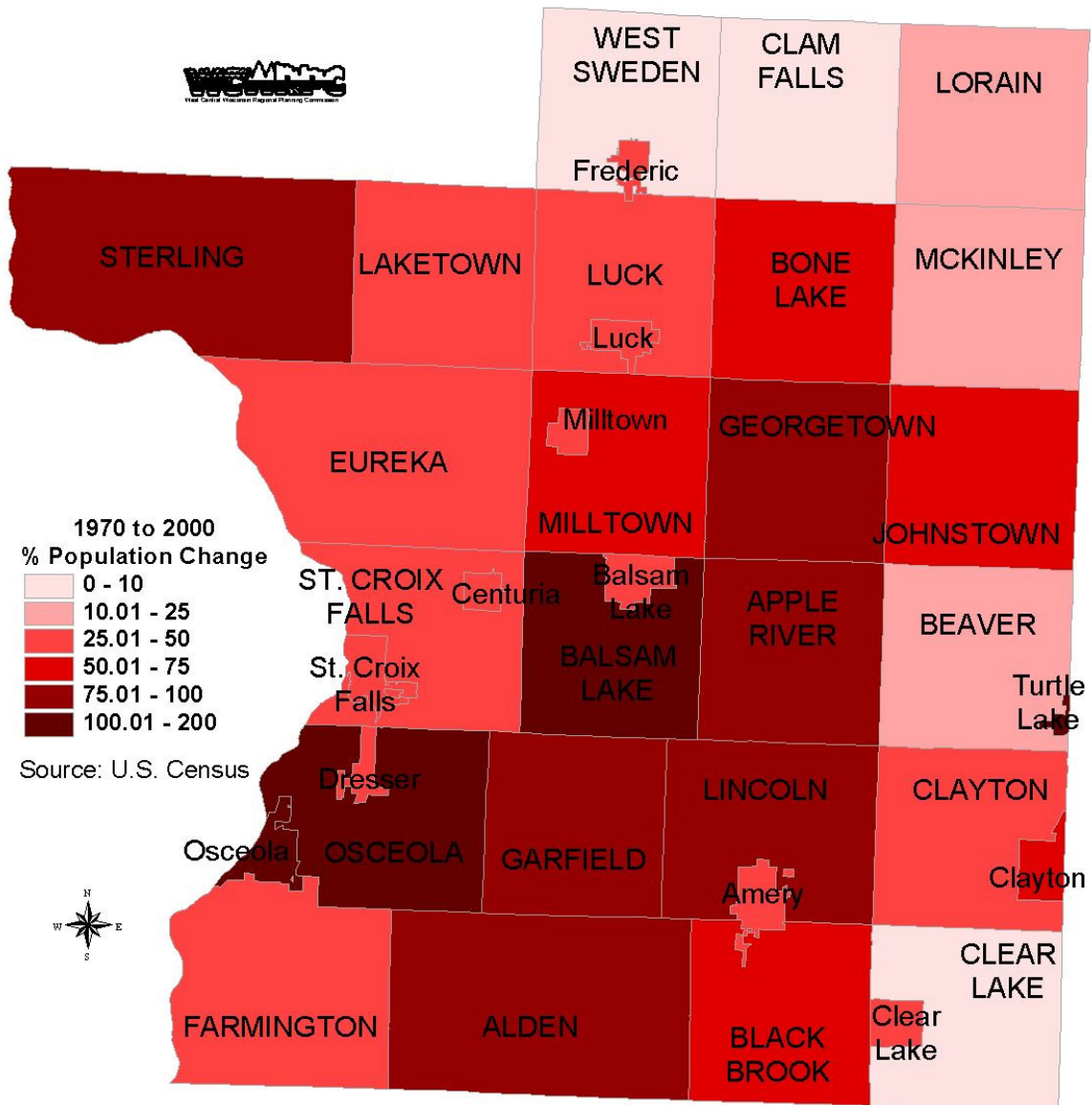
From 1990 to 2000, the Town of Osceola had the highest rate of population growth as a percentage of its population in Polk County at 55.9 percent (see Table 1.3 at end of section). The following communities also had significant population growth:

Town of Osceola	55.9%
Town of Bone Lake	41.2%
Town of Apple River	30.9%
Town of Garfield	30.4%
Town of Balsam Lake	29.7%
Town of Georgetown	28.7%
Town of Farmington	28.3%

In terms of actual population increases, the Town of Osceola had the largest number of new residents (+748) between 1990 and 2000. Seven other communities (City of St. Croix Falls, Village of Osceola, and Towns of Alden, Balsam Lake, Farmington, Garfield, and Lincoln) had population increases of 300 to 500. Only the Town of Clam Falls experienced a population decrease between 1990 to 2000 (-49 or -8.2%).

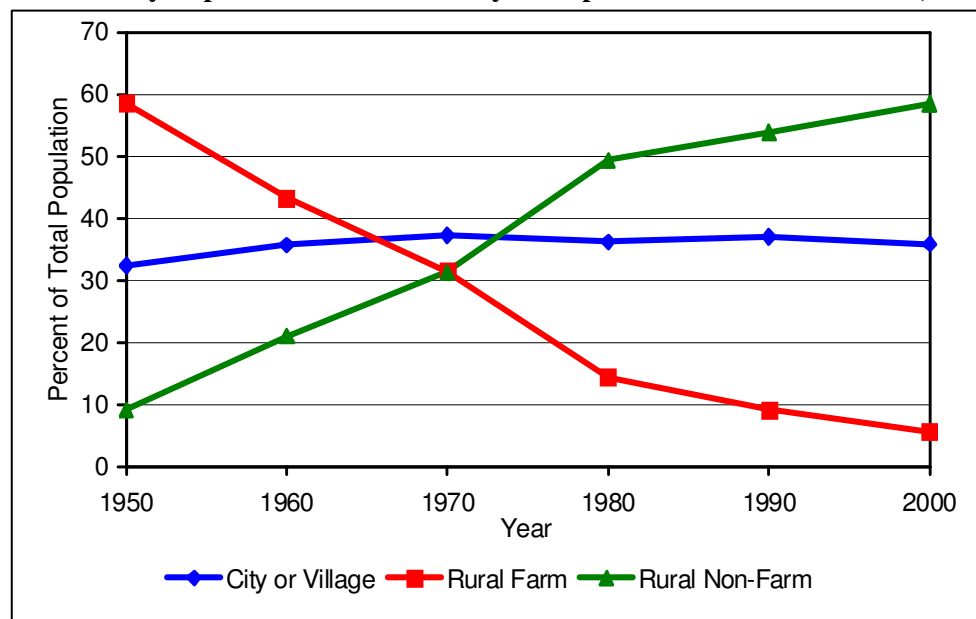
Map 1.2 shows the population change for Polk County communities between 1970 and 2000. The highest growth during this period occurred in the Town of Osceola, Town of Balsam Lake, and Village of Balsam Lake.

**Map 1.2**  
**Polk County Population Change 1970 to 2000**



Two trends are apparent. The highest growth since the 1970's has largely occurred in unincorporated areas, with the exception of the Village of Osceola and that portion of the Village of Turtle Lake within Polk County which has experienced significant growth in recent years. The towns with the highest growth also tended to be located in the southwestern portions of the county (closest to the Minneapolis/St. Paul MSA) or with attractive lakeshore development areas. Since 2000, significant growth has continued in many of the same communities, even through serious economic downturns.

**Figure 1.2**  
**Polk County Population Distribution by Incorporated & Rural Residents, 1950 to 2000**



source: U.S. Census Bureau

For the first time, in the 1960s, the percentage urban residents surpassed the percentage rural farm residents (see Figure 1.2), with rural non-farm residents surpassing rural farm residents about 1970. The number of rural farm residents continued to decrease, constituting only 5.6 percent of the county's population in 2000, a decrease from 43.3 percent in 1960. Since 1960, the urban population has overall remained quite stable as a proportion of the overall population, while the percentage of the total, non-farming population choosing rural living has increased tremendously.

**Polk County Population Distribution by Incorporated and Unincorporated Communities, 1950 to 2008**

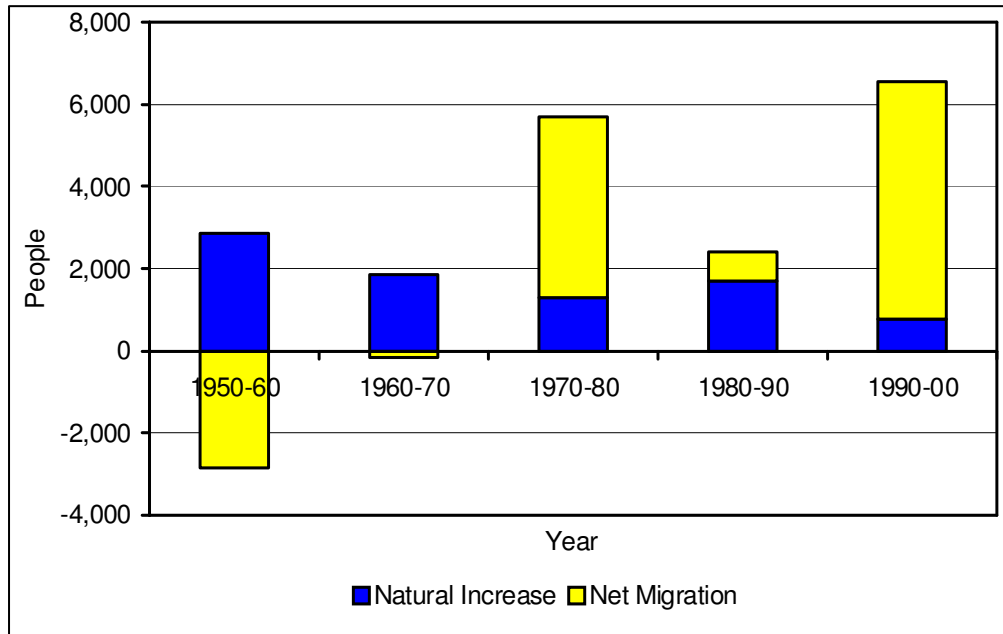
Area	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2008
Incorporated	8,085	8,916	9,933	11,704	12,888	14,829	15,671
Unincorporated	16,859	16,052	16,733	20,647	21,885	26,490	30,221
% Incorporated	32.4	35.7	37.2	36.2	37.1	35.9	34.1

source: U.S. Census Bureau, WisDOA Demographic Services 2008

The 1970s and 1990s are the only recent decades in which the population increase in Polk County has been more from the in-migration of new residents than natural increase (see

Table 1.4 and Figure 1.3). The natural increase rate for the 1990s was at a 50-year low for the county.

**Figure 1.3**  
Polk County Components of Population Change 1950 to 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The average age of Polk County residents increased 7.3 years from 1980 to 2000 to 38.7 years (see Table 1.5). Population increased in every age group except 0-4, 20-24, and 25-34 between 1980 and 2000 (see Table 1.5 and Table 1.6). The middle-age groups (35-60) increased substantially during this timeframe, with a very large population increase of over 100 percent in the 35-44 and 45-54 age groups.

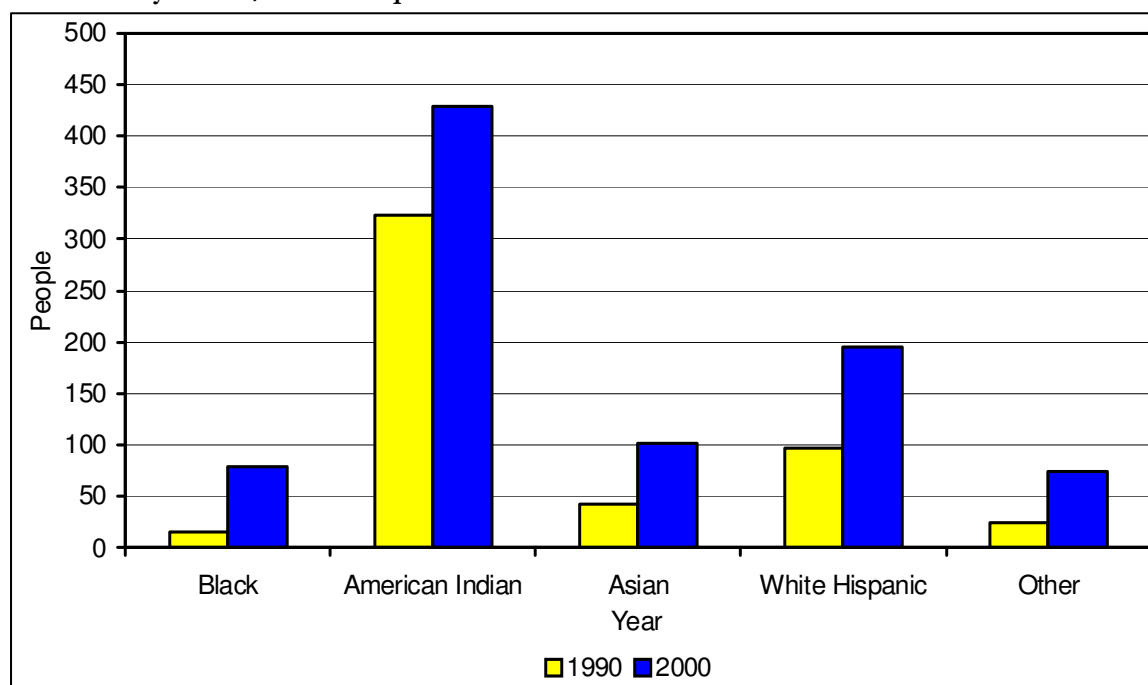
The 1990 and 2000 age-by-sex breakdowns and percentage change for each municipality in Polk County are included at the end of this section in Tables 1.7, 1.8., and 1.9, at the end of this section.

Overall, Polk County's population is relatively homogenous, with 97.1 percent of the population in the white, non-Hispanic racial group in 2000. Figure 1.4 shows the distribution of the population by race for much of the remaining population<sup>1</sup> (representing about 880 persons in 2000) for 1990 and 2000. During the past decade, the population in all racial groups increased, with the White Hispanic and American Indian races increasing most in Polk County. The American Indian population, largely members of the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin which has Tribal communities in the county, continues to be the county's largest minority population.

<sup>1</sup> Due to differences between the 1990 and 2000 Censuses in the collection of data by race and ethnicity, Figure 1.4 does not include persons of two or more races and Pacific Islanders in the 2000 figures.

Table 1.13 shows the race characteristics of Polk County by municipality in 2000. Hispanic/Latino is not shown in Table 1.13 since this is considered an ethnicity by Census standards and not a race; individuals of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity are included as part of the other race categories shown. In 2000, a total of 303 persons in Polk County were identified as being of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, an increase of 184 persons from 1990.

**Figure 1.4**  
Polk County Racial/Ethnic Population Characteristics 1990 and 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## *Educational Attainment*

The Decennial Census provides information on educational attainment levels, which are listed in Table 1.14. All Polk County communities saw a greater percentage of residents 25 years or older with high school or higher education levels in 2000 than in 1990. These indicators certainly demonstrate a well-educated population.

It should be no surprise with the large investments in education and the increasing requirement for technical or post-secondary degrees for job placement that larger numbers of people are pursuing higher education. Polk County communities have had a significant percentage of people who have attained high school or higher educational levels (85.9 percent in 2000). Since 1990, more Polk County residents have pursued post-secondary education. In 2000, 44.8 percent of Polk County residents 25 years or older had attended a post-secondary institution, with 22.9 percent achieving a degree.

## *Employment*

The area's current economic growth is a major contributor to the employment opportunities available to Polk County residents. The principal economic factors that influence an individual's quality of life and provide a choice of residential options are employment opportunities and income. A comparison of labor force and employment statistics for 1990 to 2000 provides some insight into the economic well-being of Polk County community residents.

Personal income is derived primarily from employment wages. An individual's occupation determines the range of that wage scale and influences the personal standard of living. A comparison of the occupations of those employed in the labor force helps to determine the economic affect of the employment opportunities available to area residents, and the ability to increase their standard of living.

While the segment of the population eligible for the labor force in Polk County grew by 23 percent between 1990 and 2000 (see Table 1.15), the actual number in the labor force increased by 29.1 percent. The employed residents in the labor force increased by 33 percent over the same period, while the percentage of unemployed residents decreased by 4.1 percentage points. Based on these statistics, it appears that a growing number of county residents had been finding employment opportunities in the 1990s.

Table 1.16 shows the employment trends between 1990 and 2006 for employers in Eau Claire County based on tax and employee information. However, the Census Bureau collects place-of-residence employment data. This means these data can tell us in what industries or occupations the residents of Polk County communities work, but not where they work. Table 1.17 at the end of this section compares the industries in which Polk County residents worked between 1990 and 2000. During this timeframe, Polk County residents were increasingly employed in manufacturing, construction, and educational, health and social services industries. Perhaps surprising is the significant decrease in county residents' employment in the retail trade industry found in the Census.

Table 1.18 shows the occupations in which Polk County residents were employed as opposed to the industries in which they work. Polk County communities experienced very little change in residents' occupations, except for farming, forestry and fishing, which decreased by 78.7 percent between 1990 and 2000, and a 6.4 percent increase in managerial, professional, and technical occupations. However, no 1990 data for construction occupations was available for comparison.

The economic downturn early in the decade starting in 2000 makes it uncertain how the labor force and employment has been affected in Polk County; however, in Table 1.16 we can see indicators in employment for Polk County that may reveal the recent economic slowdown. Table 1.16 shows Polk County non-farm employment. Although one cannot see what is happening in each municipality, one could infer that the trend defined for Polk County is likely to show changes in employment opportunities for the residents of



most Polk County communities. After steady employment growth in the 1990s, some variability in employment is evident since 2000 with decreasing employment between 2002 and 2004, perhaps reflecting the national economic downturn. The 2006 data shows a rebound in employment but it is not enough information to indicate the impact of the current economic situation in Polk County.

Although the Decennial Census's standard available information limits employment information to place of residence, it also provides information that can indicate Polk County's commuting characteristics. Table 1.19 shows how long it took Polk County residents to get to work in 1990 and 2000. During this period, the number of residents who worked at home or commuted less than 20 minutes to work increased by nine percent between 1990 and 2000, while the number of residents who commuted 20 minutes or more to work increased by 70.5 percent. In 1990, only 39.7 percent of employed residents commuted 20 minutes or longer, which increased to 50.8 percent by 2000.

In general, Polk County residents are experiencing even longer commutes to work. This is important, in part because it is one indicator of the use of the existing transportation infrastructure. For example, growing commute times, coupled with a growing population, results in an increased demand for road maintenance and expansion. It is uncertain if this trend will continue with recent increases in energy prices.

Studying the special distribution of workers and employment centers is helpful with economic development efforts and transportation infrastructure management. The Census information that reveals actual commuting patterns is called Place of Residence/Place of Work shown in Table 1.20.

In 2000, about 61.7 percent of the workers living in the county worked within Polk County. About 7.6 percent commuted to nearby St. Croix County. Almost 20 percent commuted to either Chisago, Washington, Ramsey, or Hennepin Counties in Minnesota.

## *Income*

The combined effect of advanced education and increased employment opportunities, and evidence of well-paying occupations, is also reflected in the earning capability and increasing incomes of Polk County residents. Table 1.21 shows household income distribution for Polk County households in 1989 and 1999. Table 1.22 shows the changes in income of Polk County and surrounding county residents between 1990 and 2000. Finally, Table 1.23 shows the median household income for all Polk County communities.

Household income is the sum of money income received in the calendar year before the Decennial Census is collected by all household members 15 years old and over, including household members not related to the householder, people living alone, and other non-family household members. Included in the total are amounts reported separately for

wage or salary income; net self-employment income; interest, dividends, or net rental or royalty income or income from estates and trusts; Social Security or Railroad Retirement income; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); public assistance or welfare payments; retirement, survivor, or disability pensions; and all other income. The median is the mathematically derived middle value with 50 percent above and 50 percent below that number.

It can be seen from Table 1.22 that Polk County is above average when compared to the incomes of surrounding counties to the north and east, but below the median income levels of Dunn and St. Croix counties to the south. Certainly counties with, or closer to, larger urban centers have a greater “economic engine” that provides employment opportunities and resultant higher income. Those counties with lower incomes all have smaller urban centers or are further away from significant employment centers such as the Twin Cities.

The data indicates that between 1990 and 2000 incomes for Polk County community residents increased faster than inflation. Indeed, the county median household income has increased faster than the State of Wisconsin average as a whole, but remains below the state median household income. It can also be seen that the median household income in fourteen communities is above the county median household income, which include many of the municipalities which have also been experiencing some of the highest rates of growth.

## *Population Projections*

Population projections have long been used to assess development prospects and community facility needs created by population growth. Small area population forecasts can be used to evaluate potential residential development and economic conditions, and the level of demand for public facilities and services. Businesses, schools and government frequently use these forecasts to determine the future needs or design of public facilities or services. This estimate of future growth is also valuable information for establishing management techniques to guide orderly growth and development.

Projecting population is not a science in which absolutes can be placed. Consequently, there are limitations that should be remembered when reviewing and evaluating these forecasts. These limitations include:

- Population projections are based on historical trends of population growth that are extended into the future, and the assumption that those trends, and the factors behind them, will continue to some point in time.
- Forecasts of large area populations (e.g., states or counties) are more reliable. The smaller the area for which a projection is produced, like an individual community, the greater the possibility for error.
- The closer the projection year is to the base year; the more likely the population for that projection will be close to the true population.

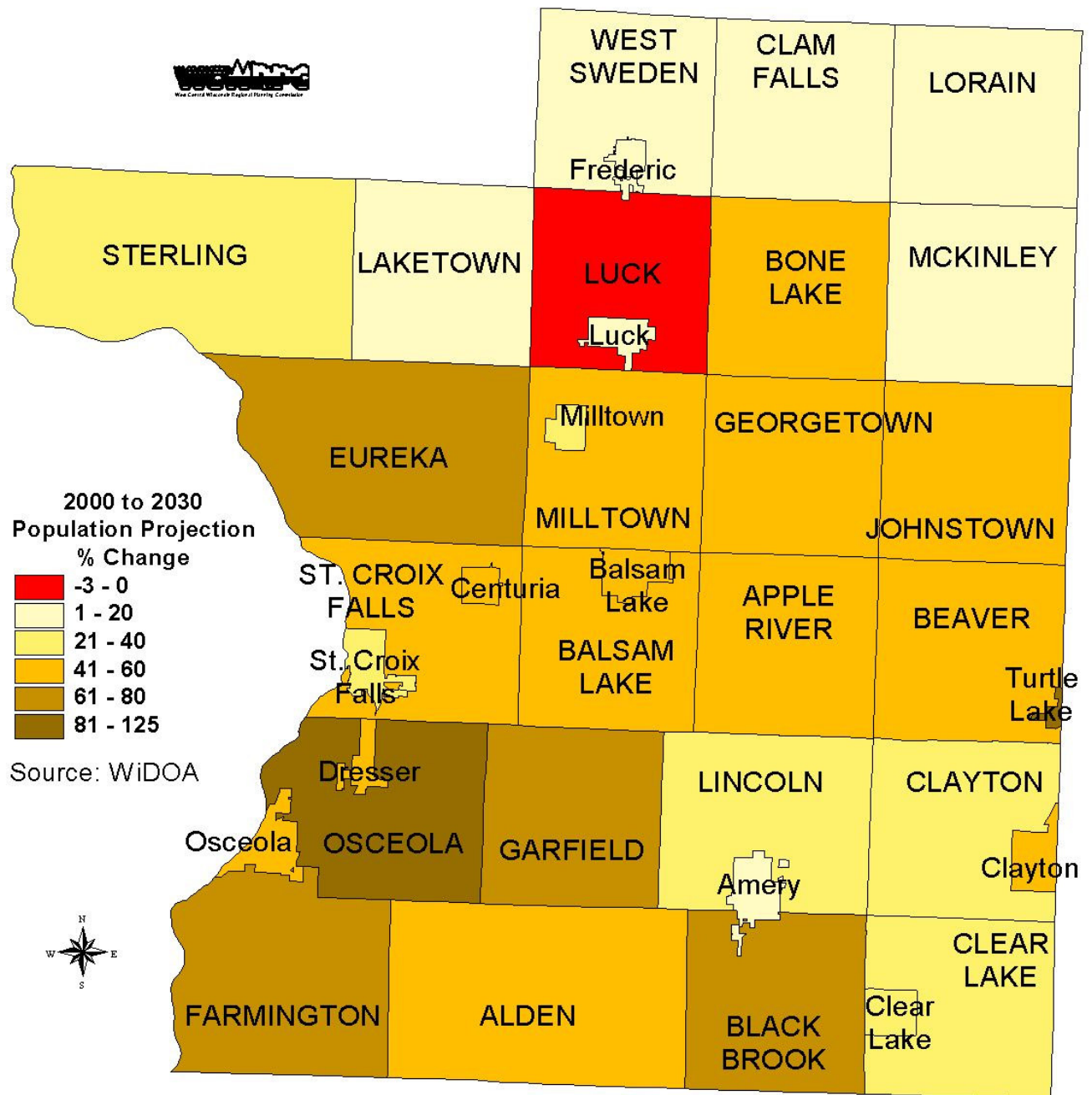
- Population projections are, at best, guides and their limitations must be considered. Intimate knowledge of local conditions can help build local variables into population projections to enhance their validity.

The Wisconsin Department of Administration (WisDOA) population projections are, by state statute, the official population projections for Wisconsin. Between 2000 and 2030, the WisDOA projections predict a 42.5 percent increase in the Polk County population (about 17,547 more residents). The percentage increases within the towns are anticipated to be a bit higher on average than the villages and cities (see Map 1.3 and Table 1.10). The largest rates of increase are expected in the Towns of Black Brook, Bone Lake, Eureka, Farmington, Garfield, and Osceola, and the Village of Dresser.

### *Household Projections*

A household forecast is used to help develop housing and land-use forecasts. The Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services has prepared household projections for year 2000 to 2030 in five-year increments found in Table 1.11.

**Map 1.3**  
**Polk County Population Projections 2000 to 2030**



## *Employment Projections*

In May 2008, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (WDWD) Office of Economic Advisors (OEA) released a series of publications entitled *OEA 2006-2016 Statewide Long-term Projections*. In addition, a WDWD-OEA report entitled *Occupation Projections for West Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Area, 2004-2014* was also released in August of 2006. These reports make economic projections regarding the state's labor force, industries and occupations.

Municipal units within Polk County have employment patterns that are similar to the state. It is expected that during the next several years, Wisconsin's population is projected to grow slower and older than the nation as a whole, therefore leading to lower participation rates in the workforce. Wisconsin is also having difficulty attracting domestic migrants and retaining its own citizens. However, international immigrants are increasing significantly. Wisconsin will continue to face the challenge of filling job openings. The industries that are projected to add the most jobs from 2006-2016 are ambulatory health care services, administrative and support services, eating and drinking establishments, hospitals, social assistance and professional, scientific and technical services. The top six occupations in Wisconsin with the greatest expected job growth for 2006-2016 are retail salespersons (32,400); cashiers (31,400); waiters/waitresses (30,900); registered nurses (21,800); customer service representatives (21,000); and combined food preparation/serving workers (20,800). For further labor force and economic base indicators refer to Section 6: Economic Development Information section.

Table 1.12A presents employment and wage projections by the top 10 occupations for the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development West Central Wisconsin Region. This represents the occupation opportunities available for Polk County residents. The greatest demand for workers is in the occupations on the 'Most Openings' list. This list includes many occupations considered as first-time, or temporary, jobs that workers often leave as other opportunities open up. Turnover is high and wages are low. There is one exception on the list: registered nurses which requires a greater degree of education or training and reflects a higher wage scale.

The 'Fastest Growth' occupations are often referred to as hot jobs, with more training requirements and better wages. There are often fewer openings in these jobs since the list is based on the greatest percent change in employment; for example, an occupation that increases from 5 to 10 jobs increased 100 percent, whereas an occupation that increases from 2,000 to 2,200 jobs increased only 10 percent.

Table 1.12B shows employment projections by industry for the West Central Wisconsin Region. The greatest potential growth for employment appears to be in health and education related fields, while computer and electronic product manufacturing appears to be at risk of losing employment. Information and professional services, and the leisure and hospitality industry have the potential to add significant employment by 2014.

## Summary

Certain trends become apparent after reviewing the countywide demographic and economic information. Studying these trends and their implications on local quality of life will be useful in guiding public decision making. Since 1960, Polk County has been increasing significantly in population in part due to its proximity to the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area..

And since 1960, there has been an explosion of rural non-farm residents. Indeed, amongst the rural population there has been a transformation from a largely farm population to a rural non-farm population. This is due in part to a decrease in the number of active farms, but also from the significant increases in the in-migration of new residents, especially during the 1970s and 1990s, many of which are attracted to the county's many natural amenities and shorelands.

It is clear that the national trend of an aging population is reflected in Polk County. Large numbers of people will be achieving retirement age over the next 20 years. While the Polk County population will be aging, it will also be changing its racial and ethnic characteristics. The county's minority population can be expected to continue to increase significantly.

Polk County residents have become more educated over the past several decades. Without adequate employment opportunities this can lead to the loss of increasingly well-qualified individuals moving to other areas offering those opportunities. And residents have been increasingly willing to travel longer to places of employment with almost 20% of Polk County workers commuting to Minnesota.

Overall, the previously analyzed trends reveal that Polk County will continue to continue to experience growth in population and employment with a growing inter-relationship to the Minneapolis/St. Paul MSA, and its communities will face several challenges as a result. However, rising energy costs and recent troubles with the housing market and economy has curtailed new construction throughout much of west-central Wisconsin and some of these trends may be changing, at least for the short-term.

Over the next several sections of this *Conditions and Trends Report*, other factors that affect Polk County communities will be explored. With further analysis of these following sections it is hoped that a clear picture of where Polk County has been, and is now, will emerge. This will help communities frame the issues that face them, the changes that are likely to impact them and the ways they can address those changes to achieve the community character they desire.

# Data Tables

**Table 1.1**  
**Polk County Historical Population 1900 to 2008**

Year	Population	Numerical Change	Percent Change
1900	17,801	--	--
1910	21,367	3,566	20.0
1920	26,870	5,503	25.8
1930	26,567	-303	-1.1
1940	26,197	-370	-1.4
1950	24,944	-1,253	-4.8
1960	24,968	24	0.1
1970	26,666	1,698	6.8
1980	32,351	5,685	21.3
1990	34,773	2,422	7.5
2000	41,319	6,546	18.8
2008	45,892	4,573	11.1

*source: U.S. Census Bureau, WisDOA 2007 preliminary estimate*

**Table 1.2**  
**Polk County and Area Counties Historical Population Change 1960 to 2000**

County	1960 to 1970		1970 to 1980		1980 to 1990		1990 to 2000	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
Barron County	-315	-0.9	4,775	14.1	2,020	5.2	4,213	10.3
Burnett County	62	0.7	3,064	33.0	744	6.0	2,590	19.8
Chisago County, MN	4,073	30.4	8,225	47.0	4,804	18.7	10,580	34.7
Polk County	1,698	6.8	5,685	21.3	2,422	7.5	6,546	18.8
St. Croix County	5,190	17.8	8,908	25.9	6,989	16.2	12,904	25.7
Washington County, MN	30,516	58.2	30,623	36.8	32,289	28.4	55,270	37.9

*source: U.S. Census Bureau*



**Table 1.3**  
**Polk County Historical Population and Population Change, 1970 to 2008, by MCD**

	Year					Percent Change			
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2008	'70-'80	'80-'90	'90-'00	'00-'08
<b>Towns</b>									
Alden	1,406	1,862	2,133	2,615	2,927	32.4%	14.6%	22.6%	11.9%
Apple River	544	819	815	1,067	1,182	50.6%	-0.5%	30.9%	10.8%
Balsam Lake	631	960	1,067	1,384	1,464	52.1%	11.1%	29.7%	5.8%
Beaver	641	755	663	753	853	17.8%	-12.2%	13.6%	13.3%
Black Brook	775	949	964	1,208	1,416	22.5%	1.6%	25.3%	17.2%
Bone Lake	416	466	503	710	807	12.0%	7.9%	41.2%	13.7%
Clam Falls	522	614	596	547	593	17.6%	-2.9%	-8.2%	8.4%
Clayton	713	789	780	912	1,048	10.7%	-1.1%	16.9%	14.9%
Clear Lake	793	777	744	800	887	-2.0%	-4.2%	7.5%	10.9%
Eureka	1,043	1,135	1,201	1,338	1,605	8.8%	5.8%	11.4%	20.0%
Farmington	1,156	1,195	1,267	1,625	1,902	3.4%	6.0%	28.3%	17.0%
Garfield	768	1,010	1,107	1,443	1,678	31.5%	9.6%	30.4%	16.3%
Georgetown	526	746	780	1,004	1,103	41.8%	4.6%	28.7%	9.9%
Johnstown	328	401	410	520	590	22.3%	2.2%	26.8%	13.5%
Laketown	725	909	921	918	972	25.4%	1.3%	-0.3%	5.9%
Lincoln	1,198	1,683	1,835	2,304	2,483	40.5%	9.0%	25.6%	7.8%
Lorain	275	280	299	328	332	1.8%	6.8%	9.7%	1.2%
Luck	663	863	880	881	864	30.2%	2.0%	0.1%	-1.9%
McKinley	297	337	327	328	358	13.5%	-3.0%	0.3%	9.1%
Milltown	691	943	949	1,146	1,270	36.5%	0.6%	20.8%	10.8%
Osceola	769	1,066	1,337	2,085	2,793	38.6%	25.4%	55.9%	34.0%
St Croix Falls	783	873	1,034	1,119	1,256	11.5%	18.4%	8.2%	12.2%
Sterling	379	497	591	724	780	31.1%	18.9%	22.5%	7.7%
West Sweden	691	718	682	731	758	3.9%	-5.0%	7.2%	3.7%
<b>sub-total</b>	<b>16,733</b>	<b>20,647</b>	<b>21,885</b>	<b>26,490</b>	<b>29,921</b>	<b>23.4%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>21.0%</b>	<b>13.0%</b>
<b>Villages</b>									
Balsam Lake	648	749	792	950	1,075	15.6%	5.7%	19.9%	13.2%
Centuria	632	711	790	865	939	12.5%	11.1%	9.5%	8.6%
Clayton	306	425	450	507	572	38.9%	5.9%	12.7%	12.8%
Clear Lake	721	899	932	1,051	1,143	24.7%	3.7%	12.8%	8.8%
Dresser	533	670	614	732	875	25.7%	-8.4%	19.2%	19.5%
Frederic	908	1,039	1,124	1,262	1,239	14.4%	8.2%	12.3%	-1.8%
Luck	848	997	1,022	1,210	1,226	-	-	-	1.3%
Milltown	634	732	786	888	914	15.5%	7.4%	13.0%	2.9%
Osceola	1,152	1,581	2,075	2,421	2,732	37.2%	31.2%	16.7%	12.8%
Turtle Lake*	0	0	6	65	153	0.0%	0.0%	983.3%	135.4%
<b>sub-total</b>	<b>6,382</b>	<b>7,803</b>	<b>8,591</b>	<b>9,951</b>	<b>10,868</b>	<b>22.3%</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>15.8%</b>	<b>9.2%</b>
<b>Cities</b>									
Amery	2,126	2,404	2,657	2,845	2,919	13.1%	10.5%	7.1%	2.6%
St. Croix Falls	1,425	1,497	1,640	2,033	2,184	5.1%	9.6%	24.0%	7.4%
<b>sub-total</b>	<b>3,551</b>	<b>3,901</b>	<b>4,297</b>	<b>4,878</b>	<b>5,103</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,666</b>	<b>32,351</b>	<b>34,773</b>	<b>41,319</b>	<b>45,892</b>	<b>21.3%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>18.8%</b>	<b>11.1%</b>

source: U.S. Census Bureau; 2008 Wisconsin Department of Administration Estimate

\*Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only.

**Table 1.4**  
**Polk County Components of Population Change 1950 to 2000**

	1950 to 1960	1960 to 1970	1970 to 1980	1980 to 1990	1990 to 2000
Births	5,382	4,603	4,481	5,150	4,565
Deaths	2,519	2,739	3,183	3,424	3,782
Total Natural Increase	2,863	1,864	1,298	1,726	783
Natural Increase Rate	11.5%	7.0%	4.0%	5.0%	1.9%
Net Migration	-2,839	-166	4,387	696	5,763
Net Migration Rate	-11.4%	-0.6%	13.6%	2.0%	13.9%
Total Population Change	24	1,698	5,685	2,422	6,546
Percent Population Change	0.1%	6.8%	21.3%	7.5%	18.8%

\*NOTE: Calculated as a percent of the County's total population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services

**Table 1.5**  
**Polk County Historical Population by Age and Sex 1980 and 2000**

Age	Male		Female		Total	
	1980	2000	1980	2000	1980	2000
0-4	1,293	1,253	1,234	1,174	2,527	2,427
5-9	1,434	1,506	1,211	1,456	2,645	2,962
10-14	1,330	1,655	1,274	1,638	2,604	3,293
15-19	1,523	1,663	1,449	1,482	2,972	3,145
20-24	1,151	947	1,138	841	2,289	1,788
25-34	2,437	2,373	2,334	2,260	4,771	4,633
35-44	1,706	3,421	1,670	3,373	3,376	6,794
45-54	1,418	3,076	1,501	2,871	2,919	5,947
55-64	1,533	2,053	1,676	2,030	3,209	4,083
65-74	1,403	1,491	1,503	1,620	2,906	3,111
75+	925	1,212	1,208	1,924	2,133	3,136
Median Age					31.4	38.7

source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Table 1.6**  
**Polk County Change in Age-Sex Structure 1980 to 2000**

Age	1980 to 2000		Total	
	Male	Female	# Change	Pct Change
0-4	-40	-79	-100	-4.0
5-9	72	-50	317	12.0
10-14	325	-17	689	26.5
15-19	140	-181	173	5.8
20-24	-204	-106	-501	-21.9
25-34	-64	-113	-138	-2.9
35-44	1,715	-48	3,418	101.2
45-54	1,658	-205	3,028	103.7
55-64	520	-23	874	27.2
65-74	88	129	205	7.1
75+	287	712	1,003	47.0

source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Table 1.7**  
**Population by Age and Sex by Municipality – 2000 Polk County**

	Alden (T)	Apple River (T)	Balsam Lake (T)	Beaver (T)	Black Brook (T)	Bone Lake (T)	Clam Falls (T)	Clayton (T)	Clear Lake (T)	Eureka (T)	Farmington (T)	Garfield (T)	Georgetown (T)	Johnstown (T)
<b>Total</b>	2615	1067	1384	753	1208	710	547	912	800	1338	1625	1443	1004	520
<b>Median Age</b>	38.4	38.9	38.8	40.2	35.6	39.8	44	39.4	35.4	38.6	34.4	37.4	45.8	41.7
<b>Male</b>	1357	554	722	392	632	357	275	485	427	699	826	745	523	272
<b>Female</b>	1258	513	662	361	576	353	272	427	373	639	799	698	481	248
<b>Male</b>														
Under 5 years	74	35	58	24	46	17	10	25	21	46	54	40	20	12
5 to 9 years	81	42	59	30	54	30	14	38	41	49	74	52	34	21
10 to 14 years	107	42	46	28	67	31	18	35	32	58	81	59	36	25
15 to 17 years	81	31	34	15	36	19	5	25	21	34	61	49	39	12
18 and 19 years	45	18	18	5	27	6	6	14	16	15	29	22	11	10
20 years	19	8	1	2	3	6	4	4	7	12	5	7	4	2
21 years	6	1	6	2	4	1	5	5	5	7	5	4	4	4
22 to 24 years	31	12	10	15	11	7	7	6	19	15	14	30	11	3
25 to 29 years	62	23	33	15	28	15	8	24	19	30	28	24	26	10
30 to 34 years	84	33	48	31	41	15	14	27	37	41	64	50	29	17
35 to 39 years	124	49	57	36	57	33	21	39	38	59	75	54	29	15
40 to 44 years	139	48	71	28	63	25	26	37	39	68	78	73	23	16
45 to 49 years	108	38	62	30	62	26	30	51	27	44	76	55	42	19
50 to 54 years	130	38	51	40	29	27	18	43	32	57	57	49	36	24
55 to 59 years	82	38	45	22	29	21	18	26	30	45	41	50	42	19
60 and 61 years	30	12	15	11	7	12	9	13	2	22	11	16	15	12
62 to 64 years	33	18	26	11	17	11	11	14	7	18	13	24	30	14
65 to 69 years	46	27	31	16	23	21	15	20	14	28	20	36	38	11
70 to 74 years	24	20	25	9	13	17	13	15	7	25	12	18	25	15
75 to 79 years	23	13	18	13	7	10	12	12	7	9	15	19	18	6
80 to 84 years	12	4	7	7	3	3	7	9	2	11	7	14	8	3
85 years and over	16	4	1	2	5	4	4	3	4	6	6	0	3	2
<b>Female</b>														
Under 5 years	84	34	42	21	30	19	11	25	22	36	44	34	19	11
5 to 9 years	92	40	51	21	57	28	13	40	27	41	74	66	26	16
10 to 14 years	109	34	51	23	59	29	23	31	35	64	80	68	29	20
15 to 17 years	77	21	42	20	29	13	14	19	30	30	58	34	25	20
18 and 19 years	20	3	14	4	12	10	9	10	10	13	26	11	11	6
20 years	14	4	2	4	3	0	1	3	4	8	11	3	3	2
21 years	6	1	3	2	4	0	2	1	3	5	8	4	1	2
22 to 24 years	24	10	11	5	15	6	6	7	3	21	22	22	3	5
25 to 29 years	64	33	34	20	26	18	4	27	18	20	27	29	23	10
30 to 34 years	66	32	36	25	43	25	14	24	24	48	67	57	25	13
35 to 39 years	134	44	64	27	63	29	23	37	39	49	89	68	25	16
40 to 44 years	122	43	59	22	50	28	27	34	31	66	68	46	33	16
45 to 49 years	98	42	48	43	51	24	21	36	31	43	68	52	46	15
50 to 54 years	105	38	55	27	31	31	17	27	23	59	46	51	32	20
55 to 59 years	88	41	47	23	24	22	12	36	17	36	33	43	39	18
60 and 61 years	27	17	17	13	7	10	9	10	4	11	10	18	15	10
62 to 64 years	19	19	24	14	16	9	8	7	14	15	12	23	28	9
65 to 69 years	29	23	18	13	20	26	17	23	9	20	18	30	38	12
70 to 74 years	32	10	17	14	20	14	9	10	8	20	11	16	23	11
75 to 79 years	28	15	17	15	8	7	18	12	11	16	12	8	10	8
80 to 84 years	13	7	6	4	5	4	7	5	4	10	12	13	14	3
85 years and over	7	2	4	1	3	1	7	3	6	8	3	2	13	5

Table 1.7 continued on next page

**Table 1.7 continued**  
**Population by Age and Sex by Municipality – 2000 Polk County**

	Laketown (T)	Lincoln (T)	Loran (T)	Luck (T)	McKinley (T)	Milltown (T)	Osceola (T)	St. Croix Falls (T)	Sterling (T)	West Sweden (T)	Balsam Lake (V)	Centuria (V)	Clayton (V)
<b>Total</b>	918	2304	328	881	328	1146	2085	1119	724	731	950	865	507
<b>Median Age</b>	40.9	40.3	38.4	39.8	44	40.4	35.5	39.2	37.2	41.1	45.5	34.6	30.1
<b>Male</b>	456	1169	171	464	182	600	1074	600	380	369	488	416	245
<b>Female</b>	462	1135	157	417	146	546	1011	519	344	362	462	449	262
<b>Male</b>													
Under 5 years	20	61	7	28	9	31	80	33	18	14	24	29	22
5 to 9 years	29	77	11	36	17	50	89	37	26	25	20	39	22
10 to 14 years	40	101	19	38	10	48	97	61	31	39	27	23	20
15 to 17 years	23	64	11	27	13	27	67	33	21	17	20	24	13
18 and 19 years	10	32	5	12	4	20	32	20	7	14	7	16	7
20 years	5	10	1	6	0	4	12	8	1	2	9	7	2
21 years	0	12	1	3	2	1	5	4	1	5	13	6	6
22 to 24 years	10	19	7	15	3	12	19	10	12	6	14	9	8
25 to 29 years	27	53	9	18	8	23	46	30	19	11	29	34	22
30 to 34 years	16	62	9	12	9	34	89	34	30	19	37	31	20
35 to 39 years	30	75	10	39	5	47	111	40	33	24	36	35	23
40 to 44 years	50	122	12	43	17	46	98	60	44	33	26	21	22
45 to 49 years	41	96	13	50	20	56	95	61	32	44	39	37	16
50 to 54 years	43	76	10	34	17	56	74	41	27	25	33	24	10
55 to 59 years	31	76	10	30	11	35	45	24	17	16	24	16	9
60 and 61 years	5	29	2	7	4	12	13	14	11	11	8	5	0
62 to 64 years	20	47	9	9	5	20	20	16	11	10	17	7	6
65 to 69 years	15	60	4	21	9	21	33	14	19	11	27	12	6
70 to 74 years	13	49	8	12	11	26	25	28	9	17	28	10	4
75 to 79 years	15	30	5	15	7	19	16	16	4	21	24	11	4
80 to 84 years	8	10	7	5	1	7	6	10	5	4	10	10	2
85 years and over	5	8	1	4	0	5	2	6	2	1	16	10	1
<b>Female</b>													
Under 5 years	25	50	7	32	7	27	83	35	22	24	26	30	21
5 to 9 years	30	72	12	25	9	38	98	25	34	22	24	31	20
10 to 14 years	37	98	16	31	6	49	80	40	34	26	19	40	30
15 to 17 years	31	73	13	27	8	31	38	32	16	24	13	25	14
18 and 19 years	11	29	5	7	2	14	17	9	8	11	7	5	4
20 years	1	13	0	3	2	1	6	2	1	1	4	5	5
21 years	2	10	0	3	1	2	8	6	1	1	10	9	4
22 to 24 years	13	18	3	10	2	9	15	16	13	4	10	10	13
25 to 29 years	16	47	4	13	8	23	58	23	19	13	15	39	24
30 to 34 years	30	68	8	19	3	34	86	30	19	17	19	27	17
35 to 39 years	37	94	15	39	10	40	115	53	38	33	24	33	21
40 to 44 years	33	92	13	37	19	48	99	56	28	38	34	40	18
45 to 49 years	58	109	10	32	11	52	87	47	20	32	31	31	11
50 to 54 years	35	75	9	38	15	42	57	30	14	20	38	17	10
55 to 59 years	24	70	11	23	6	36	41	33	30	16	30	17	6
60 and 61 years	7	32	3	10	5	7	11	7	3	6	9	3	3
62 to 64 years	9	35	3	15	7	20	21	12	8	12	19	9	9
65 to 69 years	22	61	5	20	10	25	32	19	12	19	26	21	8
70 to 74 years	12	31	12	13	9	22	29	18	6	22	27	19	8
75 to 79 years	16	30	6	9	3	13	14	11	11	11	37	7	7
80 to 84 years	6	14	1	4	2	6	10	7	4	3	18	12	5
85 years and over	7	14	1	7	1	7	6	8	3	7	22	19	4

Table 1.7 continued on next page

**Table 1.7 continued**  
**Population by Age and Sex by Municipality – 2000 Polk County**

	Clear Lake (V)	Dresser (V)	Frederic (V)	Luck (V)	Milltown (V)	Osceola (V)	Turtle Lake (V)*	Amery (C)	St. Croix Falls (C)	Polk County
<b>Total</b>	1051	732	1262	1210	888	2421	65	2845	2033	41319
<b>Median Age</b>	38.3	35.1	43.6	40	39.9	32.8	21.5	44.6	40.7	38.7
<b>Male</b>	500	360	557	556	408	1163	31	1241	954	20650
<b>Female</b>	551	372	705	654	480	1258	34	1604	1079	20669
<b>Male</b>										
Under 5 years	35	27	39	26	21	96	3	84	64	1253
5 to 9 years	34	34	32	55	23	88	3	75	65	1506
10 to 14 years	34	19	53	47	23	104	1	86	69	1655
15 to 17 years	25	10	32	19	23	57	4	65	50	1107
18 and 19 years	15	2	9	10	10	33	4	23	22	556
20 years	7	5	9	4	5	16	0	11	7	215
21 years	5	2	8	5	1	13	1	11	13	177
22 to 24 years	14	20	17	23	16	55	1	43	31	555
25 to 29 years	28	35	34	31	28	90	2	85	52	1059
30 to 34 years	32	31	28	37	27	96	2	70	58	1314
35 to 39 years	45	30	44	47	34	95	0	80	66	1635
40 to 44 years	39	30	30	43	31	121	2	77	85	1786
45 to 49 years	38	15	40	35	32	76	1	77	84	1668
50 to 54 years	23	28	26	28	25	50	2	67	58	1408
55 to 59 years	19	15	14	19	6	34	0	66	49	1074
60 and 61 years	5	5	8	9	8	15	0	29	17	404
62 to 64 years	7	11	11	14	10	16	0	39	23	575
65 to 69 years	20	13	28	17	23	27	0	47	24	797
70 to 74 years	22	9	18	28	21	20	1	61	36	694
75 to 79 years	22	9	27	15	21	27	1	69	30	590
80 to 84 years	14	4	23	23	13	15	3	44	26	347
85 years and over	17	6	27	21	7	19	0	32	25	275
<b>Female</b>										
Under 5 years	23	24	30	25	30	85	5	76	55	1174
5 to 9 years	40	30	28	37	40	85	2	93	69	1456
10 to 14 years	38	34	50	62	22	104	4	89	74	1638
15 to 17 years	28	12	26	23	18	57	2	61	42	1046
18 and 19 years	19	10	12	16	7	34	4	29	17	436
20 years	5	3	1	3	7	16	0	13	4	158
21 years	6	3	7	6	6	9	0	6	10	152
22 to 24 years	18	12	17	17	15	62	1	56	37	531
25 to 29 years	31	26	29	27	26	100	3	77	50	1024
30 to 34 years	24	26	29	33	31	91	0	70	56	1236
35 to 39 years	32	29	36	53	32	115	4	87	75	1722
40 to 44 years	45	28	52	49	33	88	0	68	88	1651
45 to 49 years	34	22	40	43	28	79	2	101	69	1567
50 to 54 years	27	22	29	29	21	53	1	91	69	1304
55 to 59 years	21	23	26	13	15	50	0	69	43	1082
60 and 61 years	11	10	6	9	12	16	0	34	13	395
62 to 64 years	12	11	13	16	13	15	0	51	26	553
65 to 69 years	25	8	31	23	23	35	1	70	52	844
70 to 74 years	27	14	45	29	35	44	2	89	48	776
75 to 79 years	29	7	57	41	32	38	2	109	49	724
80 to 84 years	28	6	72	42	20	35	0	102	58	562
85 years and over	28	12	69	58	14	47	1	163	75	638

source: U.S. Census, 2000 \*Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only

**Table 1.8**  
**Population by Age by Municipality – 1990 Polk County**

	Alden (T)	Apple River (T)	Balsam Lake (T)	Beaver (T)	Black Brook (T)	Bone Lake (T)	Clam Falls (T)	Clayton (T)	Clear Lake (T)	Eureka (T)	Farmington (T)	Garfield (T)	Georgetown (T)	Johnstown (T)
<b>Total</b>	2133	824	1088	654	964	516	609	796	728	1201	1267	1107	765	425
<b>Median Age</b>	34.6	36.4	35.4	34.2	33.1	36.6	36.1	33.2	31.2	33.9	30.4	35.6	42.2	35.9
Under 5 years	169	50	74	40	79	25	51	54	55	78	102	74	33	32
5 to 9 years	195	71	107	56	99	26	35	88	77	122	148	83	76	34
10 to 14 years	190	63	90	60	66	54	56	62	52	83	118	109	45	31
15 to 17 years	112	44	56	32	58	32	37	38	34	52	74	50	32	17
18 and 19 years	63	16	6	22	25	17	9	20	18	46	32	17	21	13
20 years	23	9	7	6	6	4	2	11	6	9	10	12	5	4
21 years	18	10	9	0	9	5	4	3	3	13	12	6	4	4
22 to 24 years	60	20	24	18	21	14	16	28	26	43	40	21	9	8
25 to 29 years	159	48	77	56	73	36	48	68	65	89	98	66	32	25
30 to 34 years	180	61	118	42	71	33	54	76	63	88	116	103	44	44
35 to 39 years	193	78	81	56	106	46	51	51	56	99	136	119	55	34
40 to 44 years	184	74	94	55	53	44	40	67	51	90	87	82	47	42
45 to 49 years	161	43	81	29	65	29	6	55	41	77	69	53	38	21
50 to 54 years	101	58	58	37	44	19	33	22	39	65	39	61	55	12
55 to 59 years	78	56	38	16	51	26	18	40	28	53	39	52	35	23
60 and 61 years	19	11	11	16	9	9	8	19	3	31	13	25	33	5
62 to 64 years	46	19	35	23	38	16	20	16	25	32	18	31	41	25
65 to 69 years	67	35	53	43	28	32	40	26	19	42	40	37	40	20
70 to 74 years	57	26	40	18	23	20	40	24	36	23	36	61	58	13
75 to 79 years	36	20	11	9	24	18	27	18	11	36	30	25	45	6
80 to 84 years	13	8	12	12	12	5	8	9	14	17	7	13	15	8
85 years and over	9	4	6	8	4	6	6	1	6	13	3	7	2	4

Table 1.8 continued on next page

**Table 1.8 continued**  
**Population by Age by Municipality – 1990 Polk County**

	Laketown (T)	Lincoln (T)	Loran (T)	Luck (T)	McKinley (T)	Milltown (T)	Osceola (T)	St. Croix Falls (T)	Sterling (T)	West Sweden (T)	Balsam Lake (V)	Centuria (V)	Clayton (V)
<b>Total</b>	921	1835	315	868	298	943	1337	1034	603	669	771	784	416
<b>Median Age</b>	34.3	33.3	33	35	35.8	35.5	33.1	33.1	31.4	35.9	41.3	33.1	29.6
Under 5 years	64	136	40	65	16	82	97	72	59	44	51	68	30
5 to 9 years	88	171	38	70	27	84	109	104	68	82	15	77	35
10 to 14 years	103	173	9	88	26	69	116	83	41	50	46	57	30
15 to 17 years	40	83	6	38	24	53	52	61	29	18	32	29	36
18 and 19 years	25	45	3	16	7	24	49	17	10	13	20	14	6
20 years	7	12	6	4	0	6	11	7	5	0	6	4	4
21 years	5	21	5	8	6	9	15	6	2	2	5	7	1
22 to 24 years	8	54	6	16	3	20	33	18	14	6	37	19	13
25 to 29 years	56	119	15	39	8	50	120	84	64	19	54	81	48
30 to 34 years	75	155	41	69	26	67	113	106	76	71	35	44	28
35 to 39 years	109	137	20	68	30	80	138	104	25	67	37	81	41
40 to 44 years	53	132	13	55	20	91	112	64	40	44	45	50	13
45 to 49 years	62	126	15	69	13	60	86	52	37	43	29	24	15
50 to 54 years	37	123	3	46	30	40	64	60	20	35	35	22	12
55 to 59 years	24	87	12	52	15	51	55	40	18	33	34	35	8
60 and 61 years	11	34	10	17	2	16	22	13	4	9	29	14	13
62 to 64 years	31	50	22	27	9	40	26	36	13	35	26	19	15
65 to 69 years	51	82	24	36	13	59	55	34	26	31	51	14	22
70 to 74 years	30	26	9	29	8	20	25	31	26	17	60	48	27
75 to 79 years	28	32	2	37	6	8	15	30	12	29	53	24	11
80 to 84 years	12	22	8	12	7	11	20	11	12	9	44	20	4
85 years and over	2	15	8	7	2	3	4	1	2	12	27	33	4

Table 1.8 continued on next page

**Table 1.8 continued**  
**Population by Age by Municipality – 1990 Polk County**

	Clear Lake (V)	Dresser (V)	Frederic (V)	Luck (V)	Mililtown (V)	Osceola (V)	Turtle Lake (V)*	Amery (C)	St. Croix Falls (C)	Polk County
<b>Total</b>	972	620	1124	1022	792	2075	0	2657	1640	34,773
<b>Median Age</b>	35.4	30.6	41.5	41.9	37.2	30.8	10	40.1	37.8	34.6
Under 5 years	78	35	83	71	54	185	0	189	107	2542
5 to 9 years	89	62	72	50	66	179	0	208	109	3020
10 to 14 years	71	49	70	69	50	159	0	210	112	2760
15 to 17 years	31	42	49	30	24	99	0	110	51	1605
18 and 19 years	16	11	11	21	18	37	0	41	44	773
20 years	5	10	6	4	13	29	0	21	16	290
21 years	13	14	4	6	4	23	0	22	23	301
22 to 24 years	38	34	35	34	38	78	0	70	45	967
25 to 29 years	68	65	74	81	45	211	0	144	96	2481
30 to 34 years	91	53	58	55	61	221	0	168	141	2847
35 to 39 years	68	45	73	57	49	147	0	135	126	2798
40 to 44 years	43	36	69	72	43	109	0	209	115	2438
45 to 49 years	30	25	39	40	12	90	0	93	85	1813
50 to 54 years	38	28	36	29	18	77	0	112	83	1591
55 to 59 years	42	17	54	30	19	67	0	83	77	1406
60 and 61 years	13	4	19	15	12	33	0	35	28	565
62 to 64 years	31	17	29	32	21	40	0	91	32	1027
65 to 69 years	56	14	73	38	51	63	0	145	87	1547
70 to 74 years	40	16	85	67	77	49	0	135	62	1362
75 to 79 years	38	28	83	67	51	60	0	144	83	1157
80 to 84 years	43	10	66	45	52	50	0	139	49	799
85 years and over	30	5	36	109	14	69	0	153	69	684

source: U.S. Census, 1990 \*Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only



**Table 1.9**  
**Percent Change in Age by Municipality – 1990 to 2000 – Polk County**

	Alden (T)	Apple River (T)	Balsam Lake (T)	Beaver (T)	Black Brook (T)	Bone Lake (T)	Clam Falls (T)	Clayton (T)	Clear Lake (T)	Eureka (T)	Farmington (T)	Garfield (T)	Georgetown (T)	Johnstown (T)
Under 5 years	-6.5	38.0	35.1	12.5	-3.8	44.0	-58.8	-7.4	-21.8	5.1	-3.9	0.0	18.2	-28.1
5 to 9 years	-11.3	15.5	2.8	-8.9	12.1	123.1	-22.9	-11.4	-11.7	-26.2	0.0	42.2	-21.1	8.8
10 to 14 years	13.7	20.6	7.8	-15.0	90.9	11.1	-26.8	6.5	28.8	47.0	36.4	16.5	44.4	45.2
15 to 17 years	41.1	18.2	35.7	9.4	12.1	0.0	-48.6	15.8	50.0	23.1	60.8	66.0	100.0	88.2
18 and 19 years	3.2	31.3	433.3	-59.1	56.0	-5.9	66.7	20.0	44.4	-39.1	71.9	94.1	4.8	23.1
20 years	43.5	33.3	-57.1	0.0	0.0	50.0	150.0	-36.4	83.3	122.2	60.0	-16.7	40.0	0.0
21 years	-33.3	-80.0	0.0	n.a.	-11.1	-80.0	75.0	100.0	166.7	-7.7	8.3	33.3	25.0	50.0
22 to 24 years	-8.3	10.0	-12.5	11.1	23.8	-7.1	-18.8	-53.6	-15.4	-16.3	-10.0	147.6	55.6	0.0
25 to 29 years	-20.8	16.7	-13.0	-37.5	-26.0	-8.3	-75.0	-25.0	-43.1	-43.8	-43.9	-19.7	53.1	-20.0
30 to 34 years	-16.7	6.6	-28.8	33.3	18.3	21.2	-48.1	-32.9	-3.2	1.1	12.9	3.9	22.7	-31.8
35 to 39 years	33.7	19.2	49.4	12.5	13.2	34.8	-13.7	49.0	37.5	9.1	20.6	2.5	-1.8	-8.8
40 to 44 years	41.8	23.0	38.3	-9.1	113.2	20.5	32.5	6.0	37.3	48.9	67.8	45.1	19.1	-23.8
45 to 49 years	28.0	86.0	35.8	151.7	73.8	72.4	750.0	58.2	41.5	13.0	108.7	101.9	131.6	61.9
50 to 54 years	132.7	31.0	82.8	81.1	36.4	205.3	6.1	218.2	41.0	78.5	164.1	63.9	23.6	266.7
55 to 59 years	117.9	41.1	142.1	181.3	3.9	65.4	66.7	55.0	67.9	52.8	89.7	78.8	131.4	60.9
60 and 61 years	200.0	163.6	190.9	50.0	55.6	144.4	125.0	21.1	100.0	6.5	61.5	36.0	-9.1	340.0
62 to 64 years	13.0	94.7	42.9	8.7	-13.2	25.0	-5.0	31.3	-16.0	3.1	38.9	51.6	41.5	-8.0
65 to 69 years	11.9	42.9	-7.5	-32.6	53.6	46.9	-20.0	65.4	21.1	14.3	-5.0	78.4	90.0	15.0
70 to 74 years	-1.8	15.4	5.0	27.8	43.5	55.0	-45.0	4.2	-58.3	95.7	-36.1	-44.3	-17.2	100.0
75 to 79 years	41.7	40.0	218.2	211.1	-37.5	-5.6	11.1	33.3	63.6	-30.6	-10.0	8.0	-37.8	133.3
80 to 84 years	92.3	37.5	8.3	-8.3	-33.3	40.0	75.0	55.6	-57.1	23.5	171.4	107.7	46.7	-25.0
85 years and over	155.6	50.0	-16.7	-62.5	100.0	-16.7	83.3	500.0	66.7	7.7	200.0	-71.4	700.0	75.0

Table 1.9 continued on next page

**Table 1.9 continued**

**Percent Change in Age by Municipality – 1990 to 2000 – Polk County**

	Laketown (T)	Lincoln (T)	Loran (T)	Luck (T)	McKinley (T)	Mililtown (T)	Osceola (T)	St. Croix Falls (T)	Sterling (T)	West Sweden (T)	Balsam Lake (V)	Centuria (V)	Clayton (V)
Under 5 years	-29.7	-18.4	-65.0	-7.7	0.0	-29.3	68.0	-5.6	-32.2	-13.6	-2.0	-13.2	43.3
5 to 9 years	-33.0	-12.9	-39.5	-12.9	-3.7	4.8	71.6	-40.4	-11.8	-42.7	193.3	-9.1	20.0
10 to 14 years	-25.2	15.0	288.9	-21.6	-38.5	40.6	52.6	21.7	58.5	30.0	0.0	10.5	66.7
15 to 17 years	35.0	65.1	300.0	42.1	-12.5	9.4	101.9	6.6	27.6	127.8	3.1	69.0	-25.0
18 and 19 years	-16.0	35.6	233.3	18.8	-14.3	41.7	0.0	70.6	50.0	92.3	-30.0	50.0	83.3
20 years	-14.3	91.7	-83.3	125.0	n.a.	-16.7	63.6	42.9	-60.0	n.a.	116.7	200.0	75.0
21 years	-60.0	4.8	-80.0	-25.0	-50.0	-66.7	-13.3	66.7	0.0	200.0	360.0	114.3	900.0
22 to 24 years	187.5	-31.5	66.7	56.3	66.7	5.0	3.0	44.4	78.6	66.7	-35.1	0.0	61.5
25 to 29 years	-23.2	-16.0	-13.3	-20.5	100.0	-8.0	-13.3	-36.9	-40.6	26.3	-18.5	-9.9	-4.2
30 to 34 years	-38.7	-16.1	-58.5	-55.1	-53.8	1.5	54.9	-39.6	-35.5	-49.3	60.0	31.8	32.1
35 to 39 years	-38.5	23.4	25.0	14.7	-50.0	8.8	63.8	-10.6	184.0	-14.9	62.2	-16.0	7.3
40 to 44 years	56.6	62.1	92.3	45.5	80.0	3.3	75.9	81.3	80.0	61.4	33.3	22.0	207.7
45 to 49 years	59.7	62.7	53.3	18.8	138.5	80.0	111.6	107.7	40.5	76.7	141.4	183.3	80.0
50 to 54 years	110.8	22.8	533.3	56.5	6.7	145.0	104.7	18.3	105.0	28.6	102.9	86.4	66.7
55 to 59 years	129.2	67.8	75.0	1.9	13.3	39.2	56.4	42.5	161.1	-3.0	58.8	-5.7	87.5
60 and 61 years	9.1	79.4	-50.0	0.0	350.0	18.8	9.1	61.5	250.0	88.9	-41.4	-42.9	-76.9
62 to 64 years	-6.5	64.0	-45.5	-11.1	33.3	0.0	57.7	-22.2	46.2	-37.1	38.5	-15.8	0.0
65 to 69 years	-27.5	47.6	-62.5	13.9	46.2	-22.0	18.2	-2.9	19.2	-3.2	3.9	135.7	-36.4
70 to 74 years	-16.7	207.7	122.2	-13.8	150.0	140.0	116.0	48.4	-42.3	129.4	-8.3	-39.6	-55.6
75 to 79 years	10.7	87.5	450.0	-35.1	66.7	300.0	100.0	-10.0	25.0	10.3	15.1	-25.0	0.0
80 to 84 years	16.7	9.1	0.0	-25.0	-57.1	18.2	-20.0	54.5	-25.0	-22.2	-36.4	10.0	75.0
85 years and over	500.0	46.7	-75.0	57.1	-50.0	300.0	100.0	n.a.	150.0	-33.3	40.7	-12.1	25.0

Table 1.9 continued on next page

**Table 1.9 continued**

**Percent Change in Age by Municipality – 1990 to 2000 – Polk County**

	Clear Lake (V)	Dresser (V)	Frederic (V)	Luck (V)	Milltown (V)	Osceola (V)	Turtle Lake (V)*	Amery (C)	St. Croix Falls (C)	Polk County
Under 5 years	-25.6	45.7	-16.9	-28.2	-5.6	-2.2	n.a.	-15.3	11.2	-4.5
5 to 9 years	-16.9	3.2	-16.7	84.0	-4.5	-3.4	n.a.	-19.2	22.9	-1.9
10 to 14 years	1.4	8.2	47.1	58.0	-10.0	30.8	n.a.	-16.7	27.7	19.3
15 to 17 years	71.0	-47.6	18.4	40.0	70.8	15.2	n.a.	14.5	80.4	34.1
18 and 19 years	112.5	9.1	90.9	23.8	-5.6	81.1	n.a.	26.8	-11.4	28.3
20 years	140.0	-20.0	66.7	75.0	-7.7	10.3	n.a.	14.3	-31.3	28.6
21 years	-15.4	-64.3	275.0	83.3	75.0	-4.3	n.a.	-22.7	0.0	9.3
22 to 24 years	-15.8	-5.9	-2.9	17.6	-18.4	50.0	n.a.	41.4	51.1	12.3
25 to 29 years	-13.2	-6.2	-14.9	-28.4	20.0	-10.0	n.a.	12.5	6.3	-16.0
30 to 34 years	-38.5	7.5	-1.7	27.3	-4.9	-15.4	n.a.	-16.7	-19.1	-10.4
35 to 39 years	13.2	31.1	9.6	75.4	34.7	42.9	n.a.	23.7	11.9	20.0
40 to 44 years	95.3	61.1	18.8	27.8	48.8	91.7	n.a.	-30.6	50.4	41.0
45 to 49 years	140.0	48.0	105.1	95.0	400.0	72.2	n.a.	91.4	80.0	78.4
50 to 54 years	31.6	78.6	52.8	96.6	155.6	33.8	n.a.	41.1	53.0	70.5
55 to 59 years	-4.8	123.5	-25.9	6.7	10.5	25.4	n.a.	62.7	19.5	53.3
60 and 61 years	23.1	275.0	-26.3	20.0	66.7	-6.1	n.a.	80.0	7.1	41.4
62 to 64 years	-38.7	29.4	-17.2	-6.3	9.5	-22.5	n.a.	-1.1	53.1	9.8
65 to 69 years	-19.6	50.0	-19.2	5.3	-9.8	-1.6	n.a.	-19.3	-12.6	6.1
70 to 74 years	22.5	43.8	-25.9	-14.9	-27.3	30.6	n.a.	11.1	35.5	7.9
75 to 79 years	34.2	-42.9	1.2	-16.4	3.9	8.3	n.a.	23.6	-4.8	13.6
80 to 84 years	-2.3	0.0	43.9	44.4	-36.5	0.0	n.a.	5.0	71.4	13.8
85 years and over	50.0	260.0	166.7	-27.5	50.0	-4.3	n.a.	27.5	44.9	33.5

source: U.S. Census Bureau \*Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only

**Table 1.10**  
**Population Projections – 2000 to 2030 - Polk County by Minor Civil Division**

Municipality	Census 2000	Estimate 2005	Proj. 2010	Proj. 2015	Proj. 2020	Proj. 2025	Proj. 2030	% Change 2000-2030
<b>Towns</b>								
Alden	2,615	2,876	3,089	3,335	3,579	3,803	3,991	52.6
Apple River	1,067	1,143	1,217	1,304	1,390	1,468	1,533	43.7
Balsam Lake	1,384	1,464	1,556	1,665	1,773	1,871	1,951	41.0
Beaver	753	839	883	936	989	1,035	1,073	42.5
Black Brook	1,208	1,387	1,511	1,650	1,790	1,919	2,030	68.0
Bone Lake	710	776	843	918	993	1,062	1,121	57.9
Clam Falls	547	566	562	563	564	562	555	1.5
Clayton	912	979	1,028	1,088	1,148	1,200	1,243	36.3
Clear Lake	800	859	890	930	970	1,003	1,029	28.6
Eureka	1,338	1,537	1,654	1,790	1,924	2,047	2,151	60.8
Farmington	1,625	1,831	1,990	2,168	2,347	2,510	2,652	63.2
Garfield	1,443	1,639	1,791	1,963	2,133	2,292	2,428	68.3
Georgetown	1,004	1,070	1,137	1,116	1,294	1,365	1,424	41.8
Johnstown	520	562	599	642	686	724	757	45.6
Laketown	918	925	922	929	935	935	928	1.1
Lincoln	2,304	2,446	2,592	2,765	2,938	3,092	3,219	39.7
Lorain	328	332	337	347	356	364	367	11.9
Luck	881	875	869	869	869	863	851	-3.4
McKinley	328	341	344	351	358	364	366	11.6
Milltown	1,146	1,237	1,310	1,396	1,481	1,557	1,619	41.3
Osceola	2,085	2,681	3,078	3,506	3,934	4,338	4,700	125.4
St Croix Falls	1,119	1,237	1,315	1,405	1,494	1,575	1,641	46.6
Sterling	724	758	799	849	898	942	977	34.9
West Sweden	731	763	779	803	827	846	858	17.4
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>26,490</b>	<b>29,123</b>	<b>31,095</b>	<b>33,388</b>	<b>35,670</b>	<b>37,737</b>	<b>39,464</b>	<b>49.0</b>
<b>Villages</b>								
Balsam Lake	950	1,035	1,100	1,178	1,254	1,324	1,382	45.5
Centuria	865	948	1,001	1,065	1,129	1,185	1,231	42.3
Clayton	507	556	589	627	666	699	727	43.4
Clear Lake	1,051	1,098	1,137	1,188	1,238	1,282	1,314	25.0
Dresser	732	833	896	969	1,041	1,107	1,162	58.7
Frederic	1,262	1,241	1,251	1,275	1,298	1,313	1,318	4.4
Luck	1,210	1,228	1,260	1,309	1,357	1,397	1,425	17.8
Milltown	888	915	944	981	1,020	1,051	1,074	20.9
Osceola	2,421	2,641	2,826	3,042	3,254	3,450	3,612	49.2
Turtle Lake*	65	80	92	105	118	129	141	116.9
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>9,951</b>	<b>10,575</b>	<b>11,096</b>	<b>11,739</b>	<b>12,375</b>	<b>12,937</b>	<b>13,386</b>	<b>34.5</b>
<b>Cities</b>								
Amery	2,845	2,919	2,989	3,080	3,177	3,253	3,302	16.1
St. Croix Falls	2,033	2,127	2,235	2,369	2,502	2,620	2,714	33.5
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>4,878</b>	<b>5,046</b>	<b>5,224</b>	<b>5,449</b>	<b>5,679</b>	<b>5,873</b>	<b>6,016</b>	<b>23.3</b>
<b>Polk County</b>	<b>41,319</b>	<b>44,744</b>	<b>47,415</b>	<b>50,576</b>	<b>53,724</b>	<b>56,547</b>	<b>58,866</b>	<b>42.5</b>

source: U.S. Census Bureau & Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services Center, October 2008.  
Projections are Pre-Release Version for Research and Analysis Only.  
\*Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only.

**Table 1.11**  
**Household Projections - 2000 to 2030 - Polk County by Minor Civil Division**

Municipality	2000	Estimate 2005	Proj. 2010	Proj. 2015	Proj. 2020	Proj. 2025	Proj. 2030	% change 2000-2030
<b>Towns</b>								
Alden	973	1,091	1,208	1,332	1,451	1,557	1,650	69.6
Apple River	418	457	501	549	594	633	668	59.8
Balsam Lake	529	570	625	682	739	787	829	56.7
Beaver	304	345	375	406	435	460	481	58.2
Black Brook	419	491	551	614	676	733	782	86.6
Bone Lake	264	294	330	366	402	435	463	75.4
Clam Falls	237	250	256	262	266	268	268	13.1
Clayton	360	393	426	461	494	522	546	51.7
Clear Lake	276	302	323	344	365	380	394	42.8
Eureka	503	589	653	722	788	847	898	78.5
Farmington	525	603	675	752	827	892	952	81.3
Garfield	529	612	689	772	852	924	989	87.0
Georgetown	433	471	516	563	608	648	683	57.7
Johnstown	203	224	245	269	291	311	328	61.6
Laketown	350	359	369	380	388	393	393	12.3
Lincoln	864	934	1,021	1,112	1,201	1,276	1,342	55.3
Lorain	117	120	127	133	138	143	145	23.9
Luck	339	343	352	358	364	365	364	7.4
McKinley	130	137	144	149	154	158	162	24.6
Milltown	441	485	530	577	621	659	692	56.9
Osceola	744	974	1,154	1,342	1,529	1,704	1,864	150.5
St Croix Falls	420	473	519	566	611	651	684	62.9
Sterling	280	299	325	352	378	401	420	50.0
West Sweden	285	303	319	336	352	363	372	30.5
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>9,943</b>	<b>11,119</b>	<b>12,233</b>	<b>13,399</b>	<b>14,524</b>	<b>15,510</b>	<b>16,369</b>	<b>64.6</b>
<b>Villages</b>								
Balsam Lake	428	447	489	536	579	617	651	52.1
Centuria	343	386	420	457	492	522	547	59.5
Clayton	199	223	243	264	285	302	317	59.3
Clear Lake	453	483	516	550	582	609	629	38.9
Dresser	302	350	388	429	468	503	532	76.2
Frederic	536	534	556	578	598	611	619	15.5
Luck	500	525	555	589	620	644	664	32.8
Milltown	420	441	469	498	525	547	565	34.5
Osceola	1,002	1,116	1,231	1,353	1,470	1,574	1,664	66.1
Turtle Lake*	25	31	37	43	49	54	61	144.0
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>4,208</b>	<b>4,536</b>	<b>4,904</b>	<b>5,297</b>	<b>5,668</b>	<b>5,983</b>	<b>6,249</b>	<b>48.5</b>
<b>Cities</b>								
Amery	1,231	1,289	1,360	1,432	1,502	1,551	1,591	29.2
St. Croix Falls	872	932	1,010	1,093	1,172	1,240	1,297	48.7
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>2,103</b>	<b>2,221</b>	<b>2,370</b>	<b>2,525</b>	<b>2,674</b>	<b>2,791</b>	<b>2,888</b>	<b>37.3</b>
<b>Polk County</b>	<b>16,254</b>	<b>17,876</b>	<b>19,507</b>	<b>21,221</b>	<b>22,866</b>	<b>24,284</b>	<b>25,506</b>	<b>56.9</b>

source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services Center, October 2008.  
Projections are Pre-Release Version for Research and Analysis Only.  
\*Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only.

**Table 1.12A**  
**West Central Wisconsin Region Occupation Projections – 2014**

	Top 10 Occupations	Typically Required Education/Training	Average Wage
Fastest Growth	Home Health Aides	1-month on-the-job training	\$9.29
	Medical Assistants	1-12 mo. on-the-job training	\$12.63
	Network and Data Analysts	Bachelor's degree	\$22.19
	Computer Software Engrs, Applications	Bachelor's degree	\$37.08
	Personal and Home Care Aides	1-month on-the-job training	\$8.82
	Dental Assistants	1-12 mo. on-the-job training	\$12.50
	Dental Hygienists	Associate degree	\$23.34
	Employment, Recruitment & Placement	Bachelor's degree	\$19.67
	Medical Records & Health Information	Associate degree	\$12.71
	Occupational Therapists	Master's degree	\$25.53
Most Openings	Cashiers	1-month on-the-job training	\$7.64
	Retail Salespersons	1-month on-the-job training	\$11.06
	Comb Food Prep/Serv Wrk/Incl Fast	1-month on-the-job training	\$7.04
	Waiters/Waitresses	1-month on-the-job training	\$7.34
	Registered Nurses	Associate's or Bachelor's degree	\$25.83
	Labrs/Frght/Stock/Matrl Movers/Handlers	1-month on-the-job training	\$10.09
	Janitors/Cleaners, except Maids/Housekpg	1-month on-the-job training	\$10.67
	Team Assemblers	1-12 mo. on-the-job training	\$12.94
	Stock Clerks/Order Fillers	1-month on-the-job training	\$9.47
	Bartenders	1-month on-the-job training	\$8.16

West Central WDA includes Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties.  
source: Wisconsin Dept. of Workforce Development, Bureau of Workforce Information, 2006

**Table 1.12B**  
**West Central Wisconsin Region Industry Projections – 2004-2014**

Industry Title	2004 Estimated Employment	2014 Projected Employment	2004-2014 Employment Change	2004-2014 Percentage Change
Total Non-Farm Employment	173,880	194,330	20,450	11.8%
Construction/Mining/Natural Resources	8,380	9,880	1,500	17.9%
Manufacturing	31,990	32,030	40	0.1%
Paper Manufacturing	1,720	1,720	0	0.0%
Plastics and Rubber Products	3,400	3,670	270	7.9%
Computer and Electronic Product	3,220	3,020	-200	-6.2%
Trade	28,800	30,900	2,100	7.3%
Food and Beverage Stores	5,040	5,250	210	4.2%
Transportation and Utilities (Including US Postal)	8,270	9,520	1,250	15.1%
Financial Activities	7,010	7,710	700	10.0%
Education and Health Services (Including State and Local Gov Educ and Hosp)	37,330	45,540	8,210	22.0%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	5,540	7,570	2,030	36.6%
Hospitals (Including State and Local Government)	7,050	8,640	1,590	22.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	17,300	19,930	2,630	15.2%
Information/Prof Services/Other Services	21,470	24,920	3,450	16.1%
Government (Excluding US Postal, State and Local Educ and Hosp)	13,310	13,930	620	4.7%

West Central WDA includes Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties.  
source: Wisconsin Dept. of Workforce Development, Bureau of Workforce Information, 2006

**Table 1.13**  
**Polk County Race Characteristics - 2000**

Municipality	Total Population	White	% White	Black/African American	American Indian & Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	Other Race	Two or More Races	% Other Race
<b>Towns</b>										
Alden	2,660	2,636	99.1%	0	0	15	0	9	0	0.9%
Apple River	1,053	1,033	98.1%	0	19	0	0	0	1	1.9%
Balsam Lake	1,392	1,360	97.7%	0	12	0	0	0	20	2.3%
Beaver	708	708	100.0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Black Brook	1,249	1,232	98.6%	0	0	1	0	3	13	1.4%
Bone Lake	718	704	98.1%	0	12	0	0	0	2	1.9%
Clam Falls	564	550	97.5%	2	10	0	0	0	2	2.5%
Clayton	927	922	99.5%	0	2	0	0	0	3	0.5%
Clear Lake	815	791	97.1%	3	0	0	0	0	21	2.9%
Eureka	1,353	1,315	97.2%	7	6	0	0	9	16	2.8%
Farmington	1,593	1,538	96.5%	12	8	14	0	1	20	3.5%
Garfield	1,350	1,331	98.6%	2	0	0	0	3	14	1.4%
Georgetown	1,025	930	90.7%	1	86	3	3	0	2	9.3%
Johnstown	520	410	78.8%	0	91	0	0	0	19	21.2%
Laketown	895	867	96.9%	4	0	8	0	7	9	3.1%
Lincoln	2,371	2,338	98.6%	0	7	1	0	2	23	1.4%
Lorain	307	292	95.1%	0	4	0	0	0	11	4.9%
Luck	896	879	98.1%	3	0	2	0	1	11	1.9%
McKinley	315	313	99.4%	0	2	0	0	0	0	0.6%
Milltown	1,155	1,140	98.7%	0	15	0	0	0	0	1.3%
Osceola	2,145	2,133	99.4%	0	0	0	0	2	10	0.6%
St Croix Falls	1,073	1,058	98.6%	0	0	6	0	5	4	1.4%
Sterling	736	730	99.2%	2	0	0	0	0	4	0.8%
West Sweden	684	665	97.2%	0	10	0	0	3	6	2.8%
<b>sub-total</b>	<b>26,504</b>	<b>25,875</b>	<b>97.6%</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>Villages</b>										
Balsam Lake	970	919	94.7%	0	37	8	0	0	6	5.3%
Centuria	859	840	97.8%	0	5	0	0	0	14	2.2%
Clayton	522	513	98.3%	8	0	0	0	0	1	1.7%
Clear Lake	1,004	970	96.6%	0	7	7	0	17	3	3.4%
Dresser	716	714	99.7%	0	0	0	0	2	0	0.3%
Frederic	1,317	1,247	94.7%	2	31	17	0	0	20	5.3%
Luck	1,185	1,152	97.2%	3	10	4	0	0	16	2.8%
Milltown	889	861	96.9%	8	16	0	0	0	4	3.1%
Osceola	2,409	2,377	98.7%	0	0	5	0	2	25	1.3%
Turtle Lake*	44	37	84.1%	7	0	0	0	0	0	15.9%
<b>sub-total</b>	<b>9,915</b>	<b>9,630</b>	<b>97.1%</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
<b>Cities</b>										
Amery	2,857	2,797	97.9%	15	35	0	0	5	5	2.1%
St. Croix Falls	2,043	2,001	97.9%	0	4	11	0	4	23	2.1%
<b>sub-total</b>	<b>4,900</b>	<b>4,798</b>	<b>97.9%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
<b>Polk County</b>	<b>41,319</b>	<b>40,303</b>	<b>97.5%</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>2.5%</b>

Source: U.S. Census

\*Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only.

**Table 1.14**  
**Educational Attainment Levels – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

	Educational Level	1990		2000	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Town of Alden	Persons 25 Years and Over	1,303	100.0	1,739	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	222	17.0	216	12.4
	High school graduate	595	45.7	592	34.0
	Some college, no degree	203	15.6	416	23.9
	Associate degree	107	8.2	115	6.6
	Bachelor's degree or higher	176	13.5	400	23.0
	High school graduate or higher	1,081	83.0	1,523	87.6
Town of Apple River	Persons 25 Years and Over	541	100.0	720	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	121	22.4	100	13.9
	High school graduate	222	41.0	317	44.0
	Some college, no degree	101	18.7	153	21.3
	Associate degree	37	6.8	57	7.9
	Bachelor's degree or higher	60	11.1	93	12.9
	High school graduate or higher	420	77.6	620	86.1
Town of Balsam Lake	Persons 25 Years and Over	715	100.0	960	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	149	20.8	114	11.9
	High school graduate	306	42.8	368	38.3
	Some college, no degree	116	16.2	244	25.4
	Associate degree	54	7.6	69	7.2
	Bachelor's degree or higher	90	12.6	165	17.2
	High school graduate or higher	566	79.2	846	88.1
Town of Beaver	Persons 25 Years and Over	420	100.0	519	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	94	22.4	65	12.5
	High school graduate	192	45.7	224	43.2
	Some college, no degree	73	17.4	108	20.8
	Associate degree	19	4.5	38	7.3
	Bachelor's degree or higher	42	10.0	84	16.2
	High school graduate or higher	326	77.6	454	87.5
Town of Black Brook	Persons 25 Years and Over	601	100.0	774	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	121	20.1	98	12.7
	High school graduate	265	44.1	327	42.2
	Some college, no degree	95	15.8	182	23.5
	Associate degree	46	7.7	73	9.4
	Bachelor's degree or higher	74	12.3	94	12.1
	High school graduate or higher	480	79.9	676	87.3



**Table 1.14 continued**

**Educational Attainment Levels – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

Educational Level		1990		2000	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Town of Bone Lake	Persons 25 Years and Over	339	100.0	488	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	101	29.8	64	13.1
	High school graduate	159	46.9	206	42.2
	Some college, no degree	56	16.5	107	21.9
	Associate degree	13	3.8	39	8.0
	Bachelor's degree or higher	10	2.9	72	14.8
	High school graduate or higher	238	70.2	424	86.9
Town of Clam Falls	Persons 25 Years and Over	399	100.0	417	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	87	21.8	75	18.0
	High school graduate	229	57.4	210	50.4
	Some college, no degree	37	9.3	82	19.7
	Associate degree	15	3.8	18	4.3
	Bachelor's degree or higher	31	7.8	32	7.7
	High school graduate or higher	312	78.2	342	82.0
Town of Clayton	Persons 25 Years and Over	492	100.0	627	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	92	18.7	83	13.2
	High school graduate	262	53.3	274	43.7
	Some college, no degree	70	14.2	150	23.9
	Associate degree	49	10.0	72	11.5
	Bachelor's degree or higher	19	3.9	48	7.7
	High school graduate or higher	400	81.3	544	86.8
Town of Clear Lake	Persons 25 Years and Over	457	100.0	517	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	81	17.7	49	9.5
	High school graduate	280	61.3	276	53.4
	Some college, no degree	34	7.4	103	19.9
	Associate degree	35	7.7	49	9.5
	Bachelor's degree or higher	27	5.9	40	7.7
	High school graduate or higher	376	82.3	468	90.5
Town of Eureka	Persons 25 Years and Over	755	100.0	888	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	167	22.1	116	13.1
	High school graduate	378	50.1	434	48.9
	Some college, no degree	125	16.6	202	22.7
	Associate degree	25	3.3	44	5.0
	Bachelor's degree or higher	60	7.9	92	10.4
	High school graduate or higher	588	77.9	772	86.9

**Table 1.14 continued**

**Educational Attainment Levels – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

	Educational Level	1990		2000	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Town of Farmington	Persons 25 Years and Over	731	100.0	970	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	130	17.8	92	9.5
	High school graduate	292	39.9	419	43.2
	Some college, no degree	120	16.4	212	21.9
	Associate degree	121	16.6	65	6.7
	Bachelor's degree or higher	68	9.3	182	18.8
	High school graduate or higher	601	82.2	878	90.5
Town of Garfield	Persons 25 Years and Over	735	100.0	881	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	144	19.6	120	13.6
	High school graduate	303	41.2	349	39.6
	Some college, no degree	135	18.4	186	21.1
	Associate degree	57	7.8	84	9.5
	Bachelor's degree or higher	96	13.1	142	16.1
	High school graduate or higher	591	80.4	761	86.4
Town of Georgetown	Persons 25 Years and Over	540	100.0	759	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	174	32.2	144	19.0
	High school graduate	243	45.0	318	41.9
	Some college, no degree	80	14.8	162	21.3
	Associate degree	9	1.7	41	5.4
	Bachelor's degree or higher	34	6.3	94	12.4
	High school graduate or higher	366	67.8	615	81.0
Town of Johnstown	Persons 25 Years and Over	282	100.0	344	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	67	23.8	52	15.1
	High school graduate	141	50.0	167	48.5
	Some college, no degree	34	12.1	51	14.8
	Associate degree	12	4.3	15	4.4
	Bachelor's degree or higher	28	9.9	59	17.2
	High school graduate or higher	215	76.2	292	84.9
Town of Laketown	Persons 25 Years and Over	581	100.0	629	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	91	15.7	98	15.6
	High school graduate	301	51.8	312	49.6
	Some college, no degree	108	18.6	133	21.1
	Associate degree	47	8.1	27	4.3
	Bachelor's degree or higher	34	5.9	59	9.4
	High school graduate or higher	490	84.3	531	84.4

**Table 1.14 continued**

**Educational Attainment Levels – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

Education Level		1990		2000	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Town of Lincoln	Persons 25 Years and Over	1,140	100.0	1,614	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	192	16.8	153	9.5
	High school graduate	514	45.1	644	39.9
	Some college, no degree	185	16.2	405	25.1
	Associate degree	98	8.6	111	6.9
	Bachelor's degree or higher	151	13.2	301	18.6
	High school graduate or higher	948	83.2	1,461	90.5
Town of Lorain	Persons 25 Years and Over	202	100.0	198	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	67	33.2	31	15.7
	High school graduate	83	41.1	96	48.5
	Some college, no degree	30	14.9	37	18.7
	Associate degree	0	0.0	3	1.5
	Bachelor's degree or higher	22	10.9	31	15.7
	High school graduate or higher	135	66.8	167	84.3
Town of Luck	Persons 25 Years and Over	563	100.0	579	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	139	24.7	80	13.8
	High school graduate	240	42.6	283	48.9
	Some college, no degree	105	18.7	124	21.4
	Associate degree	29	5.2	33	5.7
	Bachelor's degree or higher	50	8.9	59	10.2
	High school graduate or higher	424	75.3	499	86.2
Town of McKinley	Persons 25 Years and Over	189	100.0	219	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	44	23.3	27	12.3
	High school graduate	82	43.4	109	49.8
	Some college, no degree	43	22.8	32	14.6
	Associate degree	11	5.8	15	6.8
	Bachelor's degree or higher	9	4.8	36	16.4
	High school graduate or higher	145	76.7	192	87.7
Town of Milltown	Persons 25 Years and Over	596	100.0	770	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	90	15.1	81	10.5
	High school graduate	273	45.8	309	40.1
	Some college, no degree	129	21.6	175	22.7
	Associate degree	38	6.4	51	6.6
	Bachelor's degree or higher	66	11.1	154	20.0
	High school graduate or higher	506	84.9	689	89.5

**Table 1.14 continued**  
**Educational Attainment Levels – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

	Educational Level	1990		2000	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Town of Osceola	Persons 25 Years and Over	855	100.0	1,374	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	165	19.3	125	9.1
	High school graduate	341	39.9	469	34.1
	Some college, no degree	138	16.1	335	24.4
	Associate degree	85	9.9	128	9.3
	Bachelor's degree or higher	126	14.7	317	23.1
	High school graduate or higher	690	80.7	1,249	90.9
Town of St. Croix Falls	Persons 25 Years and Over	666	100.0	727	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	88	13.2	74	10.2
	High school graduate	351	52.7	271	37.3
	Some college, no degree	119	17.9	215	29.6
	Associate degree	21	3.2	55	7.6
	Bachelor's degree or higher	87	13.1	112	15.4
	High school graduate or higher	578	86.8	653	89.8
Town of Sterling	Persons 25 Years and Over	375	100.0	483	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	103	27.5	94	19.5
	High school graduate	163	43.5	197	40.8
	Some college, no degree	67	17.9	111	23.0
	Associate degree	11	2.9	39	8.1
	Bachelor's degree or higher	31	8.3	42	8.7
	High school graduate or higher	272	72.5	389	80.5
Town of West Sweden	Persons 25 Years and Over	454	100.0	483	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	104	22.9	60	12.4
	High school graduate	197	43.4	217	44.9
	Some college, no degree	94	20.7	93	19.3
	Associate degree	23	5.1	49	10.1
	Bachelor's degree or higher	36	7.9	64	13.3
	High school graduate or higher	350	77.1	423	87.6
Village of Balsam Lake	Persons 25 Years and Over	559	100.0	706	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	138	24.7	115	16.3
	High school graduate	225	40.3	293	41.5
	Some college, no degree	100	17.9	172	24.4
	Associate degree	25	4.5	44	6.2
	Bachelor's degree or higher	71	12.7	82	11.6
	High school graduate or higher	421	75.3	591	83.7

**Table 1.14 continued**

**Educational Attainment Levels – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

Educational Level		1990		2000	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Village of Centuria	Persons 25 Years and Over	509	100.0	554	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	115	22.6	94	17.0
	High school graduate	201	39.5	260	46.9
	Some college, no degree	117	23.0	119	21.5
	Associate degree	40	7.9	44	7.9
	Bachelor's degree or higher	36	7.1	37	6.7
	High school graduate or higher	394	77.4	460	83.0
Village of Clayton	Persons 25 Years and Over	261	100.0	295	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	71	27.2	76	25.8
	High school graduate	118	45.2	114	38.6
	Some college, no degree	37	14.2	65	22.0
	Associate degree	15	5.7	24	8.1
	Bachelor's degree or higher	20	7.7	16	5.4
	High school graduate or higher	190	72.8	219	74.2
Village of Clear Lake	Persons 25 Years and Over	631	100.0	681	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	158	25.0	102	15.0
	High school graduate	283	44.8	338	49.6
	Some college, no degree	87	13.8	115	16.9
	Associate degree	32	5.1	36	5.3
	Bachelor's degree or higher	71	11.3	90	13.2
	High school graduate or higher	473	75.0	579	85.0
Village of Dresser	Persons 25 Years and Over	363	100.0	468	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	88	24.2	60	12.8
	High school graduate	179	49.3	179	38.2
	Some college, no degree	42	11.6	147	31.4
	Associate degree	29	8.0	35	7.5
	Bachelor's degree or higher	25	6.9	47	10.0
	High school graduate or higher	275	75.8	408	87.2
Village of Frederic	Persons 25 Years and Over	794	100.0	907	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	187	23.6	152	16.8
	High school graduate	312	39.3	373	41.1
	Some college, no degree	141	17.8	184	20.3
	Associate degree	52	6.5	83	9.2
	Bachelor's degree or higher	102	12.8	115	12.7
	High school graduate or higher	607	76.4	755	83.2

**Table 1.14 continued**  
**Educational Attainment Levels – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

Educational Level		1990		2000	
Village of Luck	Persons 25 Years and Over	737	100.0	820	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	258	35.0	158	19.3
	High school graduate	221	30.0	333	40.6
	Some college, no degree	107	14.5	131	16.0
	Associate degree	52	7.1	56	6.8
	Bachelor's degree or higher	99	13.4	142	17.3
	High school graduate or higher	479	65.0	662	80.7
Village of Milltown	Persons 25 Years and Over	525	100.0	622	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	165	31.4	165	26.5
	High school graduate	213	40.6	275	44.2
	Some college, no degree	68	13.0	100	16.1
	Associate degree	44	8.4	49	7.9
	Bachelor's degree or higher	35	6.7	33	5.3
	High school graduate or higher	360	68.6	457	73.5
Village of Osceola	Persons 25 Years and Over	1,286	100.0	1,526	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	280	21.8	197	12.9
	High school graduate	491	38.2	590	38.7
	Some college, no degree	225	17.5	336	22.0
	Associate degree	119	9.3	125	8.2
	Bachelor's degree or higher	171	13.3	278	18.2
	High school graduate or higher	1,006	78.2	1,329	87.1
Village of Turtle Lake*	Persons 25 Years and Over	0	100.0	18	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	0	--	2	11.1
	High school graduate	0	--	8	44.4
	Some college, no degree	0	--	8	44.4
	Associate degree	0	--	0	0.0
	Bachelor's degree or higher	0	--	0	0.0
	High school graduate or higher	0	--	16	88.9
City of Amery	Persons 25 Years and Over	1,786	100.0	2,039	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	463	25.9	382	18.7
	High school graduate	663	37.1	793	38.9
	Some college, no degree	225	12.6	359	17.6
	Associate degree	137	7.7	139	6.8
	Bachelor's degree or higher	298	16.7	366	17.9
	High school graduate or higher	1,323	74.1	1,657	81.3

\* Only includes portion of Turtle Lake in Polk County

**Table 1.14 continued****Educational Attainment Levels – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

Educational Level		1990		2000	
City of St. Croix Falls	Persons 25 Years and Over	1,133	100.0	1,410	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	201	17.7	197	14.0
	High school graduate	402	35.5	451	32.0
	Some college, no degree	206	18.2	327	23.2
	Associate degree	106	9.4	97	6.9
	Bachelor's degree or higher	218	19.2	338	24.0
	High school graduate or higher	932	82.3	1,213	86.0
Polk County	Persons 25 Years and Over	22,515	100.0	27,725	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	4,957	22.0	3,911	14.1
	High school graduate	9,720	43.2	11,395	41.1
	Some college, no degree	3,652	16.2	6,081	21.9
	Associate degree	1,613	7.2	2,022	7.3
	Bachelor's degree or higher	2,573	11.4	4,316	15.6
	High school graduate or higher	17,558	78.0	23,814	85.9

source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Table 1.15**  
**Labor Force – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

		Persons 16 and over	# in Labor Force	% in Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	% Unemployed
Town of Alden							
	1990	1,549	1,085	70.0	1,028	57	5.3
	2000	2,043	1,496	73.2	1,468	26	1.3
Town of Apple River							
	1990	626	402	64.2	362	40	10.0
	2000	816	549	67.3	514	33	4.0
Town of Balsam Lake							
	1990	799	549	68.7	514	35	6.4
	2000	1,067	778	72.9	743	35	3.3
Town of Beaver							
	1990	486	321	66.0	296	25	7.8
	2000	559	368	65.8	357	11	2.0
Town of Black Brook							
	1990	688	464	67.4	432	29	6.3
	2000	910	688	75.6	674	14	1.5
Town of Bone Lake							
	1990	397	275	69.3	254	21	7.6
	2000	539	320	59.4	307	13	2.4
Town of Clam Falls							
	1990	456	256	56.1	230	26	10.2
	2000	414	296	62.4	282	14	3.0
Town of Clayton							
	1990	578	426	73.7	390	33	7.8
	2000	702	502	71.5	472	28	4.0
Town of Clear Lake							
	1990	541	337	62.3	335	2	0.6
	2000	617	470	76.2	437	33	5.3
Town of Eureka							
	1990	900	629	69.9	591	38	6.0
	2000	1,038	753	72.5	706	47	4.5
Town of Farmington							
	1990	878	627	71.4	580	47	7.5
	2000	1,154	891	77.2	857	34	2.9



**Table 1.15 continued**  
**Labor Force – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

	Persons 16 and over	# in Labor Force	% in Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	% Unemployed
Town of Garfield						
1990	834	575	68.9	542	33	5.7
2000	1,014	719	70.9	698	18	1.8
Town of Georgetown						
1990	589	298	50.6	249	49	16.4
2000	854	483	56.6	454	29	3.4
Town of Johnstown						
1990	319	189	59.2	160	29	15.3
2000	402	263	65.4	256	7	1.7
Town of Laketown						
1990	651	440	67.6	404	36	8.2
2000	730	543	74.4	531	12	1.6
Town of Lincoln						
1990	1,328	941	70.9	907	32	3.4
2000	1,840	1,266	68.8	1,232	32	1.7
Town of Lorain						
1990	226	145	64.2	139	6	4.1
2000	237	161	67.9	155	6	2.5
Town of Luck						
1990	623	428	68.7	390	38	8.9
2000	676	451	66.7	438	13	1.9
Town of McKinley						
1990	223	148	66.4	137	11	7.4
2000	254	156	61.4	142	14	5.5
Town of Milltown						
1990	684	479	70.0	443	34	7.1
2000	878	618	70.4	596	22	2.5
Town of Osceola						
1990	997	757	75.9	707	50	6.6
2000	1,563	1,192	76.3	1,156	36	2.3
Town of St. Croix Falls						
1990	755	544	72.1	524	20	3.7
2000	829	550	66.3	539	11	1.3

**Table 1.15 continued**  
**Labor Force – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

	Persons 16 and over	# in Labor Force	% in Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	% Unemployed
Town of Sterling						
1990	425	264	62.1	254	10	3.8
2000	539	364	67.5	338	26	4.8
Town of West Sweden						
1990	490	314	64.1	296	18	5.7
2000	527	364	69.1	350	14	2.7
Village of Balsam Lake						
1990	645	329	51.0	313	16	4.9
2000	800	461	57.6	434	27	3.4
Village of Centuria						
1990	572	347	60.7	306	41	11.8
2000	637	416	65.3	401	15	2.4
Village of Clayton						
1990	312	186	59.6	171	15	8.1
2000	371	271	73.0	233	38	10.2
Village of Clear Lake						
1990	724	449	62.0	417	32	7.1
2000	800	499	62.4	468	31	3.9
Village of Dresser						
1990	463	337	72.8	322	15	4.5
2000	535	398	74.4	385	11	2.1
Village of Frederic						
1990	890	432	48.5	407	21	4.9
2000	1,028	511	49.7	499	10	1.0
Village of Luck						
1990	825	424	51.4	406	18	4.2
2000	938	536	57.1	508	28	3.0
Village of Milltown						
1990	611	295	48.3	278	17	5.8
2000	719	439	61.1	423	16	2.2
Village of Osceola						
1990	1,503	1,018	67.7	937	81	8.0
2000	1,827	1,322	72.4	1,248	74	4.1

**Table 1.15 continued**  
**Labor Force – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

	Persons 16 and over	# in Labor Force	% in Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	% Unemployed
Village of Turtle Lake						
1990	----	----	----	----	----	----
2000	30	20	66.6	17	3	15.0
City of Amery						
1990	2,010	1,054	52.4	964	90	8.5
2000	2,288	1,277	55.8	1,261	14	0.6
City of St. Croix Falls						
1990	1,299	810	62.4	770	40	4.9
2000	1,622	1,009	62.2	974	35	2.2
Polk County						
1990	25,896	16,574	64.0	15,455	1,105	6.7
2000	31,857	21,400	67.2	20,553	830	2.6

*source: U.S. Census*

**Table 1.16**  
**Polk County Employment – 1990 to 2006**

Industry Category	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	% Chg '90- '06
Ag Forestry Fishing & Hunting	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	109	118	152	154	n.a.
Mining Quarrying & Oil & Gas Extraction	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	24	29	32	30	n.a.
Utilities	143	182	153	154	165	167	140	132	119	-16.8%
Construction	422	514	500	554	623	722	790	788	741	75.6%
Manufacturing	2,192	2,262	2,568	3,719	4,074	4,361	3,813	3,812	3,827	74.6%
Wholesale Trade	191	409	733	251	228	284	303	354	476	149.2%
Retail Trade	1,240	1,226	1,336	1,587	1,721	1,806	1,817	1,729	1,756	41.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	239	264	297	326	322	334	364	346	344	43.9%
Information	319	307	309	332	329	342	300	456	323	1.3%
Finance & Insurance	340	356	384	386	397	402	431	436	437	28.5%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	63	77	66	76	78	80	89	74	88	39.7%
Professional & Technical Services	147	157	179	200	191	n.a.	253	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Management Of Companies & Enterprises	n.a.	n.a.	10	10	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Admin & Waste Services	n.a.	n.a.	144	142	n.a.	n.a.	190	n.a.	434	n.a.
Educational Services	943	963	1,014	1,107	1,203	1,253	1,328	1,315	1,346	42.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,331	1,502	1,613	1,776	1,970	2,063	2,146	2,275	2,315	73.9%
Arts Entertainment & Recreation	180	249	229	247	236	212	251	277	263	46.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	881	818	910	1,003	983	1,064	1,129	1,209	1,227	39.3%
Other Services, except Public Admin	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	251	266	n.a.	258	n.a.
Public Administration	551	502	526	553	544	597	598	618	626	13.6%
Unclassified	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	0	n.a.
Total	9,182	9,788	10,971	12,423	13,064	14,071	14,355	14,005	14,764	60.8%

*note: Only includes employers participating in the State unemployment insurance program. Some employment numbers not available in order to maintain confidentiality due to a small number of firms.*

*source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, WORKnet*

**Table 1.17****Employment By Industry – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units***(yellow shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Town of Alden</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	123	12.0	53	3.6
Construction	57	5.5	101	6.9
Manufacturing	350	34.0	408	27.8
Wholesale trade	21	2.0	49	3.3
Retail trade	128	12.5	151	10.3
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	45	4.4	57	3.9
Information	-----	----	22	1.5
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	26	2.5	68	4.6
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	75	7.3	103	7.0
Educational, health and social services	108	10.5	279	19.0
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	61	5.9	79	5.4
Other services, except public administration			63	4.3
Public administration	34	3.3	35	2.4
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	1,028	100.0	1,468	100.0
<b>Town of Apple River</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	56	15.5	25	4.9
Construction	29	8.0	78	15.2
Manufacturing	86	23.8	131	25.5
Wholesale trade	15	4.1	10	1.9
Retail trade	42	11.6	46	8.9
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	19	5.2	41	8.0
Information	----	----	5	1.0
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	5	1.4	18	3.5
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	19	5.2	21	4.1
Educational, health and social services	57	15.7	74	14.4
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	20	5.5	30	5.8
Other services, except public administration			15	2.9
Public administration	14	3.9	20	3.9
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	362	100.0	514	100.0

**Table 1.17 continued**  
**Employment By Industry – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**  
*(yellow shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Town of Balsam Lake</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	59	11.5	49	6.6
Construction	30	5.8	61	8.2
Manufacturing	112	21.8	159	21.4
Wholesale trade	14	2.7	18	2.4
Retail trade	81	15.8	48	6.5
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	36	7.0	52	7.0
Information	----	----	13	1.7
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	30	5.8	31	4.2
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	20	3.9	25	3.4
Educational, health and social services	86	16.7	153	20.6
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	32	6.2	62	8.3
Other services, except public administration			43	5.8
Public administration	14	2.7	29	3.9
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Town of Beaver</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	54	18.2	16	4.5
Construction	23	7.8	27	7.6
Manufacturing	107	36.1	125	35.0
Wholesale trade	2	0.7	10	2.8
Retail trade	32	10.8	33	9.2
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	14	4.7	12	3.4
Information	----	----	3	0.8
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	11	3.7	5	1.4
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	11	3.7	10	2.8
Educational, health and social services	32	10.8	62	17.4
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	8	2.7	25	7.0
Other services, except public administration			15	4.2
Public administration	2	0.7	14	3.9
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 1.17 continued**  
**Employment By Industry – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**  
*(yellow shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Town of Black Brook</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	74	17.1	44	6.5
Construction	24	5.6	61	9.1
Manufacturing	112	25.9	211	31.3
Wholesale trade	10	2.3	16	2.4
Retail trade	46	10.6	51	7.6
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	22	5.1	33	4.9
Information	----	----	11	1.6
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	13	3.0	36	5.3
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	22	5.1	24	3.6
Educational, health and social services	69	16.0	114	16.9
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	28	6.5	37	5.5
Other services, except public administration			24	3.6
Public administration	12	2.8	12	1.8
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Town of Bone Lake</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	70	27.6	24	7.8
Construction	12	4.7	21	6.8
Manufacturing	41	16.1	86	28.0
Wholesale trade	2	0.8	8	2.6
Retail trade	30	11.8	30	9.8
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	23	9.1	20	6.5
Information	----	----	4	1.3
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	11	4.3	7	2.3
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	11	4.3	4	1.3
Educational, health and social services	17	6.7	58	18.9
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	28	11.0	20	6.5
Other services, except public administration			13	4.2
Public administration	9	3.5	12	3.9
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 1.17 continued**  
**Employment By Industry – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**  
*(yellow shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Town of Clam Falls</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	14	6.1	18	6.4
Construction	14	6.1	33	11.7
Manufacturing	70	30.4	63	22.3
Wholesale trade	7	3.0	7	2.5
Retail trade	26	11.3	33	11.7
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	23	10.0	13	4.6
Information	----	----	10	3.5
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	7	3.0	10	3.5
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	5	2.2	16	5.7
Educational, health and social services	42	18.3	37	13.1
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	15	6.5	19	6.7
Other services, except public administration			11	3.9
Public administration	7	3.0	12	4.3
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	230	100.0	282	100.0
<b>Town of Clayton</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	92	23.6	30	6.4
Construction	32	8.2	26	5.5
Manufacturing	104	26.7	146	30.9
Wholesale trade	10	2.6	12	2.5
Retail trade	44	11.3	50	10.6
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	23	5.9	18	3.8
Information	----	----	2	0.4
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	15	3.8	7	1.5
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	14	3.6	12	2.5
Educational, health and social services	42	10.8	93	19.7
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	10	2.6	35	7.4
Other services, except public administration			26	5.5
Public administration	4	1.0	15	3.2
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	390	100.0	72	100.0



**Table 1.17 continued**  
**Employment By Industry – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**  
*(yellow shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Town of Clear Lake</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	114	34.0	74	16.9
Construction	12	3.6	27	6.2
Manufacturing	97	29.0	150	34.3
Wholesale trade	3	0.9	14	3.2
Retail trade	34	10.1	29	6.6
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	13	3.9	18	4.1
Information	----	----	2	0.5
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	4	1.2	7	1.6
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	4	1.2	5	1.1
Educational, health and social services	41	12.2	67	15.3
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	11	3.3	28	6.4
Other services, except public administration			14	3.2
Public administration	2	0.6	2	0.5
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Town of Eureka</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	83	14.0	42	5.9
Construction	44	7.4	58	8.2
Manufacturing	157	26.6	207	29.3
Wholesale trade	3	0.5	21	3.0
Retail trade	82	13.9	63	8.9
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	33	5.6	30	4.2
Information	----	----	12	1.7
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	10	1.7	20	2.8
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	42	7.1	26	3.7
Educational, health and social services	74	12.5	132	18.7
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	41	6.9	42	5.9
Other services, except public administration			34	4.8
Public administration	22	3.7	19	2.7
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 1.17 continued**  
**Employment By Industry – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**  
*(yellow shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Town of Farmington</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	114	19.7	45	5.3
Construction	27	4.7	66	7.7
Manufacturing	193	33.3	283	33.0
Wholesale trade	14	2.4	18	2.1
Retail trade	67	11.6	89	10.4
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	26	4.5	23	2.7
Information	----	----	19	2.2
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	20	3.4	20	2.3
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	27	4.7	26	3.0
Educational, health and social services	70	12.1	142	16.6
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	14	2.4	37	4.3
Other services, except public administration			64	7.5
Public administration	8	1.4	25	2.9
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Town of Garfield</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	70	12.9	62	8.9
Construction	34	6.3	37	5.3
Manufacturing	178	32.8	218	31.2
Wholesale trade	11	2.0	14	2.0
Retail trade	53	9.8	58	8.3
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	22	4.1	25	3.6
Information	----	----	3	0.4
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	19	3.5	19	2.7
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	28	5.2	48	6.9
Educational, health and social services	60	11.1	134	19.2
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	48	8.9	43	6.2
Other services, except public administration			18	2.6
Public administration	19	3.5	19	2.7
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 1.17 continued**  
**Employment By Industry – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**  
*(yellow shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Town of Georgetown</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	20	8.0	32	7.0
Construction	23	9.2	39	8.6
Manufacturing	61	24.5	97	21.4
Wholesale trade	4	1.6	1	0.2
Retail trade	50	20.1	39	8.6
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	12	4.8	14	3.1
Information	----	----	8	1.8
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	20	8.0	24	5.3
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	4	1.6	30	6.6
Educational, health and social services	30	12.0	77	17.0
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	14	5.6	46	10.1
Other services, except public administration			19	4.2
Public administration	11	4.4	28	6.2
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	249	100.0	454	100.0
<b>Town of Johnstown</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	27	16.9	40	15.6
Construction	8	5.0	5	2.0
Manufacturing	43	26.9	64	25.0
Wholesale trade	2	1.3	8	3.1
Retail trade	22	13.8	20	7.8
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	5	3.1	9	3.5
Information	----	----	8	3.1
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	7	4.4	4	1.6
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	7	4.4	3	1.2
Educational, health and social services	14	8.8	43	16.8
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	16	10.0	37	14.5
Other services, except public administration			7	2.7
Public administration	9	5.6	8	3.1
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	160	100.0	256	100.0

**Table 1.17 continued**  
**Employment By Industry – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**  
*(yellow shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Town of Laketown</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	90	22.3	61	11.5
Construction	40	9.9	55	10.4
Manufacturing	89	22.0	149	28.1
Wholesale trade	8	2.0	12	2.3
Retail trade	41	10.1	46	8.7
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	11	2.7	23	4.3
Information	----	----	2	0.4
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	5	1.2	27	5.1
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	21	5.2	17	3.2
Educational, health and social services	55	13.6	85	16.0
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	30	7.4	29	5.5
Other services, except public administration			13	2.4
Public administration	14	3.5	12	2.3
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	404	100.0	531	100.0
<b>Town of Lincoln</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	67	7.4	47	3.8
Construction	63	6.9	105	8.5
Manufacturing	225	24.8	303	24.6
Wholesale trade	16	1.8	24	1.9
Retail trade	168	18.5	126	10.2
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	56	6.2	59	4.8
Information	----	----	27	2.2
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	44	4.9	63	5.1
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	44	4.9	59	4.8
Educational, health and social services	160	17.6	256	20.8
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	41	4.5	83	6.7
Other services, except public administration			35	2.8
Public administration	23	2.5	45	3.7
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	907	100.0	1,232	100.0

**Table 1.17 continued**  
**Employment By Industry – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**  
*(yellow shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Town of Lorain</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	53	38.1	48	31.0
Construction	8	5.8	1	0.6
Manufacturing	22	15.8	21	13.5
Wholesale trade	0	0	3	1.9
Retail trade	8	5.8	20	12.9
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	9	6.5	8	5.2
Information	----	----	0	0
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	3	2.2	0	0
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	2	1.4	7	4.5
Educational, health and social services	23	16.5	20	12.9
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	7	5.0	18	11.6
Other services, except public administration			5	3.2
Public administration	4	2.9	4	2.6
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	139	100.0	155	100.0
<b>Town of Luck</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	58	14.9	13	3.0
Construction	28	7.2	33	7.5
Manufacturing	86	22.1	129	29.5
Wholesale trade	10	2.6	13	3.0
Retail trade	56	14.4	48	11.0
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	13	3.3	20	4.6
Information	----	----	8	1.8
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	32	8.2	19	4.3
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	24	6.2	21	4.8
Educational, health and social services	54	13.8	87	19.9
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	21	5.4	16	3.7
Other services, except public administration			11	2.5
Public administration	8	2.1	20	4.6
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	390	100.0	438	100.0

**Table 1.17 continued**  
**Employment By Industry – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**  
*(yellow shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Town of McKinley</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	23	16.8	11	7.7
Construction	12	8.8	9	6.3
Manufacturing	35	25.5	49	34.5
Wholesale trade	6	4.4	0	0
Retail trade	22	16.1	10	7.0
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	7	5.1	6	4.2
Information	----	----	2	1.4
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	0	0	5	3.5
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	7	5.1	2	1.4
Educational, health and social services	16	11.7	19	13.4
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	5	3.6	15	10.6
Other services, except public administration			6	4.2
Public administration	4	2.9	8	5.6
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	137	100.0	142	100.0
<b>Town of Milltown</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	54	12.2	46	7.7
Construction	35	7.9	52	8.7
Manufacturing	103	23.3	126	21.1
Wholesale trade	6	1.4	20	3.4
Retail trade	61	13.8	73	12.2
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	15	3.4	22	3.7
Information	----	----	8	1.3
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	22	5.0	29	4.9
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	22	5.0	42	7.0
Educational, health and social services	72	16.3	95	15.9
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	32	7.2	26	4.4
Other services, except public administration			25	4.2
Public administration	21	4.7	32	5.4
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	443	100.0	596	100.0

**Table 1.17 continued**  
**Employment By Industry – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**  
*(yellow shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Town of Osceola</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	86	12.2	49	4.2
Construction	30	4.2	85	7.4
Manufacturing	177	25.0	296	25.6
Wholesale trade	19	2.7	28	2.4
Retail trade	103	14.6	129	11.2
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	47	6.6	33	2.9
Information	----	----	21	1.8
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	20	2.8	49	4.2
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	35	5.0	78	6.7
Educational, health and social services	94	13.3	260	22.5
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	54	7.6	46	4.0
Other services, except public administration			50	4.3
Public administration	42	5.9	32	2.8
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	707	100.0	1,156	100.0
<b>Town of St. Croix Falls</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	61	11.6	28	5.2
Construction	42	8.0	46	8.5
Manufacturing	128	24.4	145	26.9
Wholesale trade	6	1.1	16	3.0
Retail trade	88	16.8	79	14.7
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	36	6.9	22	4.1
Information	----	----	0	0
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	15	2.9	19	3.5
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	24	4.6	25	4.6
Educational, health and social services	81	15.5	109	20.2
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	34	6.5	23	4.3
Other services, except public administration			14	2.6
Public administration	9	1.7	13	2.4
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	524	100.0	539	100.0

**Table 1.17 continued**  
**Employment By Industry – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**  
*(yellow shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Town of Sterling</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	32	12.6	16	4.7
Construction	26	10.2	18	5.3
Manufacturing	82	32.3	136	40.2
Wholesale trade	3	1.2	8	2.4
Retail trade	20	7.9	31	9.2
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	8	3.1	14	4.1
Information	----	----	4	1.2
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	11	4.3	4	1.2
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	21	8.3	17	5.0
Educational, health and social services	30	11.8	60	17.8
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	10	3.9	17	5.0
Other services, except public administration			10	3.0
Public administration	11	4.3	3	0.9
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	254	100.0	338	100.0
<b>Town of West Sweden</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	46	15.5	19	5.4
Construction	38	12.8	33	9.4
Manufacturing	58	19.6	85	24.3
Wholesale trade	11	3.7	1	0.3
Retail trade	34	11.5	34	9.7
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	12	4.1	27	7.7
Information	----	----	14	4.0
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	10	3.4	10	2.9
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	10	3.4	12	3.4
Educational, health and social services	47	15.9	78	22.3
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	13	4.4	16	4.6
Other services, except public administration			10	2.9
Public administration	17	5.7	11	3.1
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	296	100.0	350	100.0



**Table 1.17 continued**  
**Employment By Industry – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**  
*(yellow shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Village of Balsam Lake</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	4	1.3	6	1.4
Construction	14	4.5	31	7.1
Manufacturing	60	19.2	92	21.2
Wholesale trade	7	2.2	8	1.8
Retail trade	53	16.9	49	11.3
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	14	4.5	36	8.3
Information	----	----	7	1.6
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	19	6.1	19	4.4
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	16	5.1	25	5.8
Educational, health and social services	64	20.4	70	16.1
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	38	12.1	39	9.0
Other services, except public administration			29	6.7
Public administration	24	7.7	23	5.3
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	313	100.0	434	100.0
<b>Village of Centuria</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	10	3.3	4	1.0
Construction	21	6.9	24	6.0
Manufacturing	109	35.6	116	28.9
Wholesale trade	4	1.3	11	2.7
Retail trade	49	16.0	40	10.0
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	12	3.9	28	7.0
Information	----	----	9	2.2
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	12	3.9	18	4.5
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	18	5.9	18	4.5
Educational, health and social services	45	14.7	75	18.7
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	14	4.6	33	8.2
Other services, except public administration			13	3.2
Public administration	12	3.9	12	3.0
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	306	100.0	401	100.0

**Table 1.17 continued**  
**Employment By Industry – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**  
*(yellow shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Village of Clayton</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	13	7.6	4	1.7
Construction	14	8.2	24	10.3
Manufacturing	46	26.9	109	46.8
Wholesale trade	11	6.4	1	0.4
Retail trade	29	17.0	12	5.2
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	4	2.3	9	3.9
Information	----	----	4	1.7
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	4	2.3	4	1.7
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	6	3.5	6	2.6
Educational, health and social services	35	20.5	24	10.3
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	7	4.1	32	13.7
Other services, except public administration			2	0.9
Public administration	2	1.2	2	0.9
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	171	100.0	233	100.0
<b>Village of Clear Lake</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	15	3.6	9	1.9
Construction	28	6.7	22	4.7
Manufacturing	131	31.4	190	40.6
Wholesale trade	8	1.9	21	4.5
Retail trade	59	14.1	39	8.3
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	32	7.7	18	3.8
Information	----	----	3	0.6
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	18	4.3	15	3.2
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	18	4.3	15	3.2
Educational, health and social services	76	18.2	61	13.0
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	15	3.6	28	6.0
Other services, except public administration			32	6.8
Public administration	17	4.1	15	3.2
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	417	100.0	468	100.0

**Table 1.17 continued**  
**Employment By Industry – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**  
*(yellow shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Village of Dresser</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	6	1.9	3	0.8
Construction	31	9.6	35	9.1
Manufacturing	139	43.2	139	36.1
Wholesale trade	1	0.3	17	4.4
Retail trade	54	16.8	36	9.4
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	12	3.7	2	0.5
Information	----	----	10	2.6
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	8	2.5	6	1.6
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	9	2.8	17	4.4
Educational, health and social services	40	12.4	70	18.2
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	10	3.1	23	6.0
Other services, except public administration			20	5.2
Public administration	12	3.7	7	1.8
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	322	100.0	385	100.0
<b>Village of Frederic</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	7	1.7	7	1.4
Construction	29	7.1	32	6.4
Manufacturing	81	19.9	100	20.0
Wholesale trade	3	0.7	15	3.0
Retail trade	100	24.6	60	12.0
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	25	6.1	20	4.0
Information	----	----	18	3.6
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	22	5.4	24	4.8
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	33	8.1	6	1.2
Educational, health and social services	75	18.4	136	27.3
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	27	6.6	31	6.2
Other services, except public administration			21	4.2
Public administration	5	1.2	29	5.8
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	407	100.0	499	100.0

**Table 1.17 continued**  
**Employment By Industry – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**  
*(yellow shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Village of Luck</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	14	3.4	8	1.6
Construction	10	2.5	36	7.1
Manufacturing	76	18.7	122	24.0
Wholesale trade	19	4.7	17	3.3
Retail trade	97	23.9	39	7.7
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	27	6.7	19	3.7
Information	----	----	8	1.6
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	22	5.4	20	3.9
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	30	7.4	28	5.5
Educational, health and social services	71	17.5	141	27.8
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	30	7.4	41	8.1
Other services, except public administration			15	3.0
Public administration	10	2.5	14	2.8
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	406	100.0	508	100.0
<b>Village of Milltown</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	12	4.3	10	2.4
Construction	23	8.3	38	9.0
Manufacturing	55	19.8	124	29.3
Wholesale trade	12	4.3	19	4.5
Retail trade	57	20.5	49	11.6
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	20	7.2	30	7.1
Information	----	----	10	2.4
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	12	4.3	15	3.5
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	14	5.0	10	2.4
Educational, health and social services	45	16.2	57	13.5
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	12	4.3	24	5.7
Other services, except public administration			26	6.1
Public administration	16	5.8	11	2.6
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	278	100.0	423	100.0

**Table 1.17 continued**  
**Employment By Industry – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**  
*(yellow shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Village of Osceola</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	13	1.4	21	1.7
Construction	73	7.8	75	6.0
Manufacturing	302	32.2	414	33.2
Wholesale trade	47	5.0	30	2.4
Retail trade	128	13.7	147	11.8
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	42	4.5	39	3.1
Information	----	----	26	2.1
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	30	3.2	47	3.8
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	41	4.4	46	3.7
Educational, health and social services	159	17.0	263	21.1
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	79	8.4	43	3.4
Other services, except public administration			66	5.3
Public administration	23	2.5	31	2.5
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	937	100.0	1,248	100.0
<b>Village of Turtle Lake</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	0	----	0	---
Construction	0	----	2	11.8
Manufacturing	0	----	4	23.5
Wholesale trade	0	----	0	---
Retail trade	0	----	2	11.8
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	0	----	0	---
Information	---	----	0	---
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	0	----	2	11.8
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	0	----	2	11.8
Educational, health and social services	0	----	0	---
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	0	----	2	11.8
Other services, except public administration			0	---
Public administration	0	----	3	17.6
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	0	----	17	100.0

**Table 1.17 continued**  
**Employment By Industry – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**  
*(yellow shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>City of Amery</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	32	3.3	16	1.3
Construction	30	3.1	83	6.6
Manufacturing	198	20.5	346	27.4
Wholesale trade	37	3.8	26	2.1
Retail trade	171	17.7	179	14.2
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	56	5.8	36	2.9
Information	----	----	4	0.3
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	76	7.9	43	3.4
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	123	12.8	94	7.5
Educational, health and social services	103	10.7	281	22.3
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	112	11.6	87	6.9
Other services, except public administration			42	3.3
Public administration	26	2.7	24	1.9
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	964	100.0	1,261	100.0
<b>City of St. Croix Falls</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	12	1.6	11	1.1
Construction	31	4.0	41	4.2
Manufacturing	153	19.9	237	24.3
Wholesale trade	28	3.6	34	3.5
Retail trade	139	18.1	86	8.8
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	29	3.8	49	5.0
Information	----	----	23	2.4
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	47	6.1	66	6.8
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	55	7.1	48	4.9
Educational, health and social services	204	26.5	256	26.3
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	55	7.1	50	5.1
Other services, except public administration			42	4.3
Public administration	17	2.2	31	3.2
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	770	100.0	974	100.0

**Table 1.17 continued**

**Employment By Industry – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units  
(yellow shading indicates combined categories)**

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Polk County</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	1,678	10.9	991	4.8
Construction	995	6.4	1,520	7.4
Manufacturing	4,066	26.3	5,780	28.1
Wholesale trade	380	2.5	530	2.6
Retail trade	2,274	14.7	2,074	10.1
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	813	5.3	885	4.3
Information	----	----	330	1.6
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	630	4.1	780	3.8
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	784	5.1	948	4.6
Educational, health and social services	2,402	15.5	3,698	19.3
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	949	6.1	1,262	6.1
Other services, except public administration			853	4.2
Public administration	484	3.1	632	3.1
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	15,455	100.0	20,553	100.0

*source: U.S. Census*

**Table 1.18****Employment By Occupation – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units***(yellow and green shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Town of Alden</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	74	7.2		
Professional	94	9.1	403	27.5
Technician	45	4.4		
Sales	70	6.8	356	24.3
Administrative support, including clerical	121	11.8		11.7
Service	96	9.3	172	0.7
Farming, forestry, fishing	120	11.7	10	9.6
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	141	
Precision production, craft and repair	140	13.6		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	160	15.6	386	26.3
Transportation and material moving	47	4.6		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	61	5.9		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	1,028	100.0	1,468	100.0
<b>Town of Apple River</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	27	7.5		
Professional	29	8.0	128	24.9
Technician	10	2.8		
Sales	35	9.7	104	20.2
Administrative support, including clerical	30	8.3		
Service	50	13.8	67	13.0
Farming, forestry, fishing	47	13.0	6	1.2
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	81	15.8
Precision production, craft and repair	65	18.0		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	27	7.5	128	24.9
Transportation and material moving	24	6.6		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	18	5.0		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	362	100.0	514	100.0
<b>Town of Balsam Lake</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	34	6.6		
Professional	48	9.3	228	30.7
Technician	9	1.8		
Sales	64	12.5	174	23.4
Administrative support, including clerical	63	12.3		
Service	71	13.8	88	11.8
Farming, forestry, fishing	53	10.3	11	1.5
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	73	9.8
Precision production, craft and repair	77	15.0		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	59	11.5	169	22.7
Transportation and material moving	21	4.1		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	15	2.9		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	514	100.0	743	100.0



**Table 1.18 continued**

**Employment By Occupation – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

*(yellow and green shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Town of Beaver</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	25	8.4		
Professional	24	8.1	94	26.3
Technician	6	2.0		
Sales	22	7.4	79	22.1
Administrative support, including clerical	31	10.5		
Service	27	9.1	26	7.3
Farming, forestry, fishing	47	15.9	0	0
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	48	13.4
Precision production, craft and repair	27	9.1		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	56	18.9	110	30.8
Transportation and material moving	11	3.7		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	20	6.8		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	296	100.0	357	100.0
<b>Town of Black Brook</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	30	6.9		
Professional	65	15.0	166	24.6
Technician	15	3.5		
Sales	27	6.3	148	22.0
Administrative support, including clerical	50	11.6		
Service	32	7.4	59	8.8
Farming, forestry, fishing	69	16.0	22	3.3
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	79	11.7
Precision production, craft and repair	50	11.6		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	35	8.1	200	29.7
Transportation and material moving	23	5.3		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	36	8.3		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	432	100.0	674	100.0
<b>Town of Bone Lake</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	6	2.4		
Professional	14	5.5	98	31.9
Technician	2	0.8		
Sales	16	6.3	41	13.4
Administrative support, including clerical	32	12.6		
Service	27	10.6	42	13.7
Farming, forestry, fishing	79	31.1	5	1.6
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	36	11.7
Precision production, craft and repair	44	17.3		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	11	4.3	85	27.7
Transportation and material moving	18	7.1		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	5	2.0		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	254	100.0	307	100.0

**Table 1.18 continued**

**Employment By Occupation – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

*(yellow and green shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Town of Clam Falls</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	18	7.8		
Professional	23	10.0	54	19.1
Technician	3	1.3		
Sales	8	3.5	55	19.5
Administrative support, including clerical	27	11.7		
Service	40	17.4	51	18.1
Farming, forestry, fishing	14	6.1	8	2.8
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	39	13.8
Precision production, craft and repair	29	12.6		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	34	14.8	75	26.6
Transportation and material moving	22	9.6		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	12	5.2		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	230	100.0	282	100.0
<b>Town of Clayton</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	8	2.1		
Professional	32	8.2	108	22.9
Technician	2	0.5		
Sales	17	4.4	92	19.5
Administrative support, including clerical	51	13.1		
Service	51	13.1	71	15.0
Farming, forestry, fishing	92	23.6	11	2.3
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	51	10.8
Precision production, craft and repair	70	17.9		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	30	7.7	139	29.4
Transportation and material moving	21	5.4		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	16	4.1		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	390	100.0	472	100.0
<b>Town of Clear Lake</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	8	2.4		
Professional	14	4.2	107	24.5
Technician	6	1.8		
Sales	16	4.8	65	14.9
Administrative support, including clerical	21	6.3		
Service	34	10.1	57	13.0
Farming, forestry, fishing	114	34.0	31	7.1
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	53	12.1
Precision production, craft and repair	48	14.3		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	43	12.8	124	28.4
Transportation and material moving	5	1.5		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	26	7.8		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	335	100.0	437	100.0

**Table 1.18 continued**

**Employment By Occupation – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

*(yellow and green shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Town of Eureka</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	30	5.1		
Professional	42	7.1	148	21.0
Technician	6	1.0		
Sales	32	5.4	123	17.4
Administrative support, including clerical	47	8.0		
Service	115	19.5	118	16.7
Farming, forestry, fishing	82	13.9	19	2.7
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	88	12.5
Precision production, craft and repair	106	17.9		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	71	12.0	210	29.7
Transportation and material moving	39	6.6		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	21	3.6		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	591	100.0	706	100.0
<b>Town of Farmington</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	42	7.2		
Professional	60	10.3	220	25.7
Technician	12	2.1		
Sales	34	5.9	226	26.4
Administrative support, including clerical	77	13.3		
Service	55	9.5	101	11.8
Farming, forestry, fishing	101	17.4	15	1.8
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	78	9.1
Precision production, craft and repair	62	10.7		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	62	10.7	217	25.3
Transportation and material moving	37	6.4		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	38	6.6		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	580	100.0	857	100.0
<b>Town of Garfield</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	56	10.3		
Professional	58	10.7	220	31.5
Technician	15	2.8		
Sales	19	3.5	134	19.2
Administrative support, including clerical	86	15.9		
Service	69	12.7	81	11.6
Farming, forestry, fishing	71	13.1	27	3.9
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	72	10.3
Precision production, craft and repair	64	11.8		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	48	8.9	164	23.5
Transportation and material moving	30	5.5		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	26	4.8		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	542	100.0	698	100.0

**Table 1.18 continued**

**Employment By Occupation – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

*(yellow and green shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Town of Georgetown</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	24	9.6		
Professional	19	7.6	131	28.9
Technician	0	0		
Sales	22	8.8	92	20.3
Administrative support, including clerical	40	16.1		
Service	19	7.6	80	17.6
Farming, forestry, fishing	20	8.0	10	2.2
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	49	10.8
Precision production, craft and repair	35	14.1		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	29	11.6	92	20.3
Transportation and material moving	11	4.4		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	30	12.0		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	249	100.0	454	100.0
<b>Town of Johnstown</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	9	5.6		
Professional	7	4.4	72	28.1
Technician	2	1.3		
Sales	16	10.0	58	22.7
Administrative support, including clerical	11	6.9		
Service	25	15.6	35	13.7
Farming, forestry, fishing	30	18.8	16	6.3
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	11	4.3
Precision production, craft and repair	22	13.8		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	21	13.1	64	25.0
Transportation and material moving	11	6.9		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	6	3.8		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	160	100.0	256	100.0
<b>Town of Laketown</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	29	7.2		
Professional	33	8.2	153	28.8
Technician	11	2.7		
Sales	20	5.0	103	19.4
Administrative support, including clerical	44	10.9		
Service	51	12.6	82	15.4
Farming, forestry, fishing	84	20.8	10	1.9
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	58	10.9
Precision production, craft and repair	44	10.9		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	40	9.9	125	23.5
Transportation and material moving	27	6.7		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	21	5.2		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	404	100.0	531	100.0

**Table 1.18 continued**

**Employment By Occupation – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

*(yellow and green shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Town of Lincoln</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	63	6.9		
Professional	80	8.8	376	30.5
Technician	14	1.5		
Sales	120	13.2	280	22.7
Administrative support, including clerical	120	13.2		
Service	124	13.7	159	12.9
Farming, forestry, fishing	61	6.7	14	1.1
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	130	10.6
Precision production, craft and repair	134	14.8		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	82	9.0	273	22.2
Transportation and material moving	50	5.5		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	59	6.5		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	907	100.0	1,232	100.0
<b>Town of Lorain</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	5	3.6		
Professional	6	4.3	40	25.8
Technician	0	0		
Sales	9	6.5	39	25.2
Administrative support, including clerical	8	5.8		
Service	16	11.5	23	14.8
Farming, forestry, fishing	50	36.0	16	10.3
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	15	9.7
Precision production, craft and repair	16	11.5		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	13	9.4	22	14.2
Transportation and material moving	13	9.4		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	3	2.2		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	139	100.0	155	100.0
<b>Town of Luck</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	29	7.4		
Professional	43	11.0	99	22.6
Technician	7	1.8		
Sales	45	11.5	92	21.0
Administrative support, including clerical	60	15.4		
Service	29	7.4	59	13.5
Farming, forestry, fishing	48	12.3	4	0.9
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	50	11.4
Precision production, craft and repair	60	15.4		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	35	9.0	134	30.6
Transportation and material moving	24	6.2		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	10	2.6		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	390	100.0	438	100.0

**Table 1.18 continued**

**Employment By Occupation – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

*(yellow and green shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Town of McKinley</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	2	1.5		
Professional	12	8.8	32	22.5
Technician	2	1.5		
Sales	6	4.4	33	23.2
Administrative support, including clerical	13	9.5		
Service	17	12.4	23	16.2
Farming, forestry, fishing	18	13.1	0	0
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	8	5.6
Precision production, craft and repair	28	20.4		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	19	13.9	46	32.4
Transportation and material moving	10	7.3		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	10	7.3		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	137	100.0	142	100.0
<b>Town of Milltown</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	16	3.6		
Professional	47	10.6	189	31.7
Technician	11	2.5		
Sales	34	7.7	128	21.5
Administrative support, including clerical	72	16.3		
Service	51	11.5	76	12.8
Farming, forestry, fishing	53	12.0	8	1.3
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	82	13.8
Precision production, craft and repair	73	16.5		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	36	8.1	113	19.0
Transportation and material moving	23	5.2		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	27	6.1		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	443	100.0	596	100.0
<b>Town of Osceola</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	54	7.6		
Professional	86	12.2	411	35.6
Technician	4	0.6		
Sales	58	8.2	250	21.6
Administrative support, including clerical	105	14.9		
Service	85	12.0	140	12.1
Farming, forestry, fishing	77	10.9	12	1.0
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	113	9.8
Precision production, craft and repair	87	12.3		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	72	10.2	230	19.9
Transportation and material moving	31	4.4		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	48	6.8		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	707	100.0	1,156	100.0

**Table 1.18 continued**

**Employment By Occupation – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

*(yellow and green shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Town of St. Croix Falls</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	37	7.1		
Professional	52	9.9	131	24.3
Technician	16	3.1		
Sales	57	10.9	138	25.6
Administrative support, including clerical	64	12.2		
Service	53	10.1	70	13.0
Farming, forestry, fishing	52	9.9	10	1.9
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	59	10.9
Precision production, craft and repair	98	18.7		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	51	9.7	131	24.3
Transportation and material moving	20	3.8		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	24	4.6		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	524	100.0	539	100.0
<b>Town of Sterling</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	17	6.7		
Professional	13	5.1	68	20.1
Technician	14	5.5		
Sales	13	5.1	62	18.3
Administrative support, including clerical	32	12.6		
Service	18	7.1	45	13.3
Farming, forestry, fishing	31	12.2	5	1.5
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	42	12.4
Precision production, craft and repair	48	18.9		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	36	14.2	116	34.3
Transportation and material moving	20	7.9		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	12	4.7		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	254	100.0	338	100.0
<b>Town of West Sweden</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	28	9.5		
Professional	22	7.4	93	26.6
Technician	6	2.0		
Sales	28	9.5	75	21.4
Administrative support, including clerical	44	14.9		
Service	29	9.8	44	12.6
Farming, forestry, fishing	46	15.5	2	0.6
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	41	11.7
Precision production, craft and repair	53	17.9		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	25	8.4	95	27.1
Transportation and material moving	9	3.0		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	6	2.0		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	296	100.0	350	100.0

**Table 1.18 continued**

**Employment By Occupation – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

*(yellow and green shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Village of Balsam Lake</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	28	8.9		
Professional	50	16.0	101	23.3
Technician	8	2.6		
Sales	36	11.5	101	23.3
Administrative support, including clerical	44	14.1		
Service	53	16.9	73	16.8
Farming, forestry, fishing	8	2.6	4	0.9
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	39	9.0
Precision production, craft and repair	38	12.1		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	24	7.7	116	26.7
Transportation and material moving	16	5.1		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	8	2.6		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	313	100.0	434	100.0
<b>Village of Centuria</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	26	8.5		
Professional	30	9.8	72	18.0
Technician	6	2.0		
Sales	23	7.5	98	24.4
Administrative support, including clerical	33	10.8		
Service	44	14.4	60	15.0
Farming, forestry, fishing	10	3.3	2	0.5
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	47	11.7
Precision production, craft and repair	49	16.0		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	71	23.2	122	30.4
Transportation and material moving	4	1.3		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	10	3.3		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	306	100.0	401	100.0
<b>Village of Clayton</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	7	4.1		
Professional	17	9.9	26	11.2
Technician	4	2.3		
Sales	28	16.4	29	12.4
Administrative support, including clerical	14	8.2		
Service	32	18.7	47	20.2
Farming, forestry, fishing	13	7.6	5	2.1
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	27	11.6
Precision production, craft and repair	20	11.7		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	14	8.2	99	42.5
Transportation and material moving	5	2.9		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	17	9.9		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	171	100.0	233	100.0



**Table 1.18 continued**

**Employment By Occupation – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

*(yellow and green shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Village of Clear Lake</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	25	6.0		
Professional	63	15.1	85	18.2
Technician	8	1.9		
Sales	36	8.6	90	19.2
Administrative support, including clerical	59	14.1		
Service	51	12.2	76	16.2
Farming, forestry, fishing	13	3.1	7	1.5
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	34	7.3
Precision production, craft and repair	49	11.8		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	74	17.7	176	37.6
Transportation and material moving	20	4.8		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	19	4.6		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	417	100.0	468	100.0
<b>Village of Dresser</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	22	6.8		
Professional	21	6.5	71	18.4
Technician	3	0.9		
Sales	25	7.8	89	23.1
Administrative support, including clerical	54	16.8		
Service	46	14.3	52	13.5
Farming, forestry, fishing	6	1.9	0	0
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	47	12.2
Precision production, craft and repair	53	16.5		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	61	18.9	126	32.7
Transportation and material moving	17	5.3		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	14	4.3		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	322	100.0	385	100.0
<b>Village of Frederic</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	35	8.6		
Professional	38	9.3	130	26.1
Technician	12	2.9		
Sales	49	12.0	110	22.0
Administrative support, including clerical	60	14.7		
Service	82	20.1	97	19.4
Farming, forestry, fishing	7	1.7	2	0.4
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	51	10.2
Precision production, craft and repair	55	13.5		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	36	8.8	109	21.8
Transportation and material moving	17	4.2		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	16	3.9		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	407	100.0	499	100.0

**Table 1.18 continued**

**Employment By Occupation – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

*(yellow and green shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Village of Luck</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	55	13.5		
Professional	47	11.6	134	26.4
Technician	7	1.7		
Sales	63	15.5	92	18.1
Administrative support, including clerical	58	14.3		
Service	75	18.5	99	19.5
Farming, forestry, fishing	9	2.2	4	0.8
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	56	11.0
Precision production, craft and repair	25	6.2		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	33	8.1	123	24.2
Transportation and material moving	17	4.2		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	17	4.2		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	406	100.0	508	100.0
<b>Village of Milltown</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	25	9.0		
Professional	14	5.0	73	17.3
Technician	4	1.4		
Sales	27	9.7	108	25.5
Administrative support, including clerical	37	13.3		
Service	58	20.9	43	10.2
Farming, forestry, fishing	8	2.9	7	1.7
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	62	14.7
Precision production, craft and repair	33	11.9		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	34	12.2	130	30.7
Transportation and material moving	26	9.4		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	12	4.3		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	278	100.0	423	100.0
<b>Village of Osceola</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	96	10.2		
Professional	91	9.7	307	24.6
Technician	29	3.1		
Sales	63	6.7	293	23.5
Administrative support, including clerical	141	15.0		
Service	142	15.2	175	14.0
Farming, forestry, fishing	8	0.9	11	0.9
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	90	7.2
Precision production, craft and repair	120	12.8		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	129	13.8	372	29.8
Transportation and material moving	45	4.8		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	73	7.8		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	937	100.0	1,248	100.0

**Table 1.18 continued**

**Employment By Occupation – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

*(yellow and green shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Village of Turtle Lake</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	0	---		
Professional	0	---	2	11.8
Technician	0	---		
Sales	0	---	4	23.5
Administrative support, including clerical	0	---		
Service	0	---	5	---
Farming, forestry, fishing	0	---	0	---
Construction, extraction and maintenance	0	---	2	11.8
Precision production, craft and repair	0	---		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	0	---	4	23.5
Transportation and material moving	0	---		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	0	---		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	0	---	17	100.0
<b>City of Amery</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	94	9.8		
Professional	132	13.7	341	27.0
Technician	42	4.4		
Sales	117	12.1	255	20.2
Administrative support, including clerical	119	12.3		
Service	158	16.4	218	17.3
Farming, forestry, fishing	28	2.9	13	1.0
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	113	9.0
Precision production, craft and repair	125	13.0		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	68	7.1	321	25.5
Transportation and material moving	42	4.4		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	39	4.0		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	964	100.0	1,261	100.0
<b>City of St. Croix Falls</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	109	14.2		
Professional	115	14.9	307	31.5
Technician	21	2.7		
Sales	117	15.2	242	24.8
Administrative support, including clerical	98	12.7		
Service	94	12.2	125	12.8
Farming, forestry, fishing	6	0.8	8	0.8
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	70	7.2
Precision production, craft and repair	73	9.5		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	83	10.8	222	22.8
Transportation and material moving	30	3.9		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	24	3.1		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	770	100.0	974	100.0

**Table 1.18 continued**

**Employment By Occupation – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

*(yellow and green shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Polk County</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	1,193	7.7		
Professional	1,541	10.0	5,418	26.4
Technician	362	2.3		
Sales	1,372	8.9	4,458	21.7
Administrative support, including clerical	1,964	12.7		
Service	2,021	13.1	2,839	13.8
Farming, forestry, fishing	1,575	10.2	335	1.6
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	2,135	10.4
Precision production, craft and repair	2,120	13.7		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	1,722	11.1	5,368	26.1
Transportation and material moving	786	5.1		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	799	5.2		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	15,455	100.0	20,553	100.0

*source: U.S. Census*

**Table 1.19**  
**Travel Time to Work – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County**

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked at home	1,733	11.4	1,268	6.3
Less than 5 minutes	1,219	8.0	1,226	6.0
5 to 9 minutes	2,450	16.1	2,577	12.7
10 to 19 minutes	3,761	24.7	4,915	24.2
20 to 29 minutes	1,905	12.5	3,002	14.8
30 to 44 minutes	1,752	11.5	2,830	13.9
45 to 59 minutes	850	5.6	1,668	8.2
60 minutes or longer	1,537	10.1	2,802	13.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,207</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20,288</b>	<b>100.0</b>

source: U.S. Census

**Table 1.20**  
**Place of Work – 2000 – Polk County Residents**

	2000	
	Number	Percent
Polk County	12,522	61.7%
Barron County	902	4.4%
St. Croix County	1,542	7.6%
Burnett County	359	1.8%
Ramsey County, MN	1,185	5.8%
Chisago County, MN	609	3.0%
Washington County, MN	1,423	7.0%
Hennepin County, MN	802	4.0%
Other	944	4.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,288</b>	<b>100.0</b>

source: U.S. Census

**Table 1.21**  
**Households by Household Income – 1989 and 1999 – Polk County**

Household Income	1989		1999		Number Change	Percent Change
	Number of Households	% of Total Households	Number of Households	% of Total Households		
Less than \$10,000	2,320	17.8	1,291	7.9	-1,029	-44.4
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1,581	12.1	1,017	6.2	-564	-35.7
\$15,000 to \$24,999	2,790	21.4	2,169	13.3	-621	-22.3
\$25,000 to \$34,999	2,186	16.8	2,306	14.1	120	5.5
\$35,000 to \$49,999	2,107	16.2	3,126	19.2	1,019	48.4
\$50,000 to \$74,999	1,498	11.5	3,703	22.7	2,205	147.2
\$75,000 or greater	546	4.2	2,693	16.5	2,147	393.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,028</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>16,305</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,277</b>	<b>25.2</b>

*source: U.S. Census*

**Table 1.22**  
**Median Household Income – 1989 and 1999 – Polk and Surrounding Wisconsin Counties**

County	1989	1999	Change	
			Number	Percent
Polk County	\$24,267	\$41,183	16,916	69.7
Barron County	22,570	37,275	14,705	65.2
Burnett County	20,153	34,218	14,065	69.7
Dunn County	24,452	38,753	14,301	58.5
St. Croix County	36,716	54,930	18,214	49.6

*source: U.S. Census*

**Table 1.23**  
**Median Household Income – 1989 and 1999 – Polk County**

	Dollars		Change	
	1989	1999	Dollars	Percent
<b>Towns</b>				
Alden	35,732	57,337	21,605	60.5
Apple River	24,911	43,500	18,589	74.6
Balsam Lake	29,118	34,276	5,158	17.7
Beaver	22,500	40,114	17,614	78.3
Black Brook	28,011	48,125	20,114	71.8
Bone Lake	19,000	39,821	20,821	109.6
Clam Falls	23,026	34,844	11,818	51.3
Clayton	29,063	29,135	72	0.2
Clear Lake	21,806	32,269	10,463	48.0
Eureka	27,404	45,625	18,221	66.5
Farmington	37,600	58,833	21,233	56.5
Garfield	27,050	48,000	20,950	77.4
Georgetown	18,750	38,487	19,737	105.3
Johnstown	22,292	37,500	15,208	68.2
Laketown	24,643	40,156	15,513	63.0
Lincoln	27,448	45,904	18,456	67.2
Lorain	18,295	25,208	6,913	37.8
Luck	23,889	32,138	8,249	34.5
McKinley	21,964	37,083	15,119	68.8
Milltown	26,964	28,309	1,345	5.0
Osceola	35,000	39,000	4,000	11.4
St Croix Falls	29,018	46,500	17,482	60.2
Sterling	22,237	36,042	13,805	62.1
West Sweden	23,182	41,250	18,068	77.9
<b>Villages</b>				
Balsam Lake	17,778	45,909	28,131	158.2
Centuria	20,625	32,560	11,935	57.9
Clayton	17,656	41,719	24,063	136.3
Clear Lake	22,917	48,542	25,625	111.8
Dresser	22,446	37,500	15,054	67.1
Frederic	15,602	25,380	9,778	62.7
Luck	20,263	40,417	20,154	99.5
Milltown	13,654	46,944	33,290	243.8
Osceola	25,641	55,509	29,868	116.5
Turtle Lake*	0	19,750	19,750	n.a.
<b>Cities</b>				
Amery	19,828	30,710	10,882	54.9
St. Croix Falls	26,016	39,350	13,334	51.3
<b>Polk County</b>	<b>24,267</b>	<b>41,183</b>	<b>16,916</b>	<b>69.7</b>
State of Wisconsin	29,442	43,791	14,349	47.1

source: U.S. Census. \* Portion of Turtle Lake in Polk County only





## 2. HOUSING INFORMATION

### Element Context

This section contains an inventory and analysis of housing characteristics in Polk County. Quality housing is an essential component to healthy and vibrant communities, and striving to provide safe and cost-effective housing is an important community development goal. An analysis of housing conditions will help Polk County municipal units gain a better understanding of the changes that have occurred over the past 20 to 25 years. It will also provide insight into future changes that can be anticipated. This information will create a foundation from which decisions regarding future housing development can be based.

In its 2000 Consolidated Plan, the State of Wisconsin lists the following as housing priorities that serve as guiding principles for the housing component of local comprehensive plans:

- Provide affordable housing to all consumers, especially those with severe cost burdens.
- Maintain an adequate production of new units, including the provision of large family and elderly housing.
- Preserve and increase the availability of safe, sanitary housing for low and moderate-income owners and renters.
- Make lead based paint hazard reduction training and resources available.
- Provide housing assistance for special needs groups, including the homeless.
- Continue to ensure fairness and accessibility for all housing consumers.
- Continue to assist with housing disaster relief.

These are items that local units of government should take into consideration as they develop housing goals and policies for their individual comprehensive plans.

The information contained herein differentiates between the dwelling unit used for a home and the people that occupy the home. A household refers to the people living in any particular housing unit such as a single-family home. The U.S. Census indicates that a household includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit. A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied (or if vacant, is intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live and eat separately from any other persons in the building and that have direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall. The occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements. (People not living in households are classified as living in group quarters.)

## Housing Supply

Table 2.1 provides the historic and current count of housing units in Polk County from 1980 to 2000. Between 1980 and 1990, 2,334 housing units were added countywide. During this period there were 22 municipal units with a housing growth of 10 percent or greater. Eight municipal units saw an increase in housing of over 20%. The Town of Clam Falls had the largest housing growth at 35.3%. Only the Town of Luck experienced a loss of housing for the period.

From 1990 to 2000, the growth in the housing stock slowed only slightly. Twenty-one municipalities experienced an expansion in the number of housing units of over 10 percent. Eight municipal units experienced growth of 20 percent or more. The Town of Osceola experienced the largest growth with 42%. The Towns of Balsam Lake and Clam Falls lost housing for the period. A reduction in a municipality's housing stock is most commonly caused by annexing land from a town to an incorporated municipality, through abandonment or condemnation, or destruction from natural disasters.

Table 2.1 and Map 2.1 show housing unit change between 1980 and 2000. For the 20-year period, areas adding the most housing included the Town of Alden, Town of Osceola, Village of Osceola, City of Amery, and City of St. Croix Falls. Areas with the greatest percentage increase in housing units include the Town of Bone Lake, Town of Farmington, Town of Osceola, Town of Sterling, Village of Osceola, and City of St. Croix Falls.

Between 1980 and 1990, County housing unit growth outpaced household growth slightly with the addition of 2,334 housing units and 1,662 households. Between 1990 and 2000, this reversed, with household growth outpacing housing unit growth 3,198 to 2,567.

## Seasonal Units

Seasonal units are used or intended for use only in certain seasons (e.g., beach cottages and hunting cabins) or for weekend or occasional use throughout the year. Seasonal units may also include quarters used for seasonal workers such as loggers. They typically demand less of public services than housing units that are occupied throughout the year. Polk County contained 4,211 seasonal units in 2000 as shown in Table 2.2. Overall, 20% of the County's housing stock is in seasonal units. Areas with the largest number of seasonal units include the following:

Town of Georgetown	814
Town of Balsam Lake	463
Town of Milltown	345

As shown in Table 2.3 the percentage of seasonal units in the county increased by 44% between 1980 and 1990, and decreased by 9% between 1990 and 2000. This resulted in a 31% increase in seasonal units for the 20-year period.

## Occupancy and Structural Characteristics

Housing occupancy helps determine whether the housing supply is adequate to meet demand. A stable housing market is one where the availability of new and existing housing units roughly matches the needs of the population. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), an overall housing vacancy rate of 3 percent is considered optimal. Vacancy rates under the 3 percent standard may imply a tight housing market where demand exceeds supply, causing housing prices to rise. Conversely, a vacancy rate greater than 3 percent may imply an over-supply of housing units, causing housing prices to stagnate.

In 2000, the County's vacancy rate was significantly higher than the 3 percent standard at 23.1 percent. The 2000 vacancy rate is lower than the rates seen in 1990 (30%), but higher than the 1980 rate of 10%. These increasing vacancy rates may signify that it is becoming more difficult for property owners to find buyers or tenants for housing in the County. In other words, people seeking housing in aggregate have more choices, and the housing market is swinging towards more of a buyers market.

The majority of housing units in Polk County are owner occupied. In 2000, 13,037 (80 percent) occupied housing units were identified as owner occupied, representing a 28 percent increase from 1990. In 2000, 5,529 (24 percent) occupied housing units were identified as rental units. This represents an 11 percent increase from 1990. Of all rental units in the County, 69 percent are located in the cities and villages. In 2000, 80 percent of the housing stock was comprised of single-family units, 10 percent were multi-family units, and 10 percent were mobile homes.

Table 2.4 displays the number of units per structure for Polk County for 2000. The majority of the housing units (87 percent) are one-unit detached structures, commonly referred to as single-family homes. Detached housing units are one-unit structures detached from any other house, with open space on four sides. Structures are considered detached even if they have an attached garage or contain a business unit. Attached housing units are one-unit structures that have one or more walls extending from ground to roof departing them from adjoining structures. Detailed housing occupancy and tenure data for individual municipalities is found at the end of this element in Table 2.11.

## Age Characteristics

The age of the housing stock is an important element to be analyzed when preparing for the future. If there is a significant amount of older housing units within the housing supply, they will most likely need to be replaced, rehabilitated or abandoned for new development within the planning period. Allowing for a new housing supply also requires planning regarding infrastructure, land availability, community utilities, transportation routes, and a variety of other public services to address community needs that are affected by new development.

Table 2.5 depicts the year that structures were built in Polk County. According to the table, while 21% of housing stock was constructed in 1939 or earlier, 21% of units have also been built since 1990. Housing built prior to 1939 may need to be replaced, rehabilitated or demolished in the near future.

## **Housing Value Characteristics**

Providing affordable housing that meets the needs of current and future Polk County residents is an important element in planning for the future. A lack of quality affordable housing has overriding impacts on population migration patterns, economic development and the county's tax base.

Table 2.6 provides housing values of specified owner-occupied units for 2000. A housing unit is owner-occupied if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for. The U.S. Bureau of the Census determines value by respondents' estimates of how much the property (house and lot, mobile home and lot, or condominium unit) would sell for if it placed on the market. Please note that the figures presented may differ from assessed housing value as calculated by a public agency assessor.

As noted, the majority of housing units (43 percent) in Polk County were valued between \$50,000 and \$99,999 in 2000. The median housing value in Polk County of \$100,200 is significantly lower than the state median value of \$112,200. Twelve municipal units have median housing values that exceed the state median. The Town of Alden has the highest median value at \$139,700. Twenty municipal units have median values below the state median. The area with the lowest median value is the Town of Lorain at \$63,800.

As shown in Table 2.7, the majority of rental households (48 percent) pay between \$300 and \$499 for rental costs. Four percent pay over \$750 for rental costs.

## **Housing Affordability**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines affordable housing as housing that does not cost a household more than 30 percent of its household income. This affordability benchmark is not an underwriting standard; it does not address the ability to pay for housing. Households may choose to pay more to get the housing they need or want; however, according to HUD standards, people should have the choice of having decent and safe housing for no more than 30 percent of their household income.

As shown in Table 2.8, 77 percent of owner-occupied households in Polk County pay less than 30 percent of their household income towards housing costs. Twenty-three percent are experiencing a high cost burden (over 30 percent). As shown in Table 2.9, about 23

percent of rental households are paying 30 percent or more of their monthly income for housing costs.

## **Housing Unit and Household Projections**

Housing projections are helpful to estimate the amount of land that may be consumed by future housing development. As the number of households and housing units in a county continues to grow, there is a resulting need for local units of government to provide additional public facilities and services such as roads, sewer and water extensions, fire and police protection, schools, etc. It may also create a need for to develop and enforce additional regulations and ordinances. These are important planning issues for consideration.

The housing unit projections used for this plan are intended to provide an estimate of housing units that will be developed through the year 2030 based on observed changes in population and housing preferences. Household projections characterize changes in housing preferences and habitation patterns. The projections are based on several assumptions that create limitations that should be remembered when reviewing and evaluating the projections. The assumptions include the following:

- The population projections developed as part of this plan are reasonable and will continue to be reasonable during the planning period (see Table 1.10).
- The persons per housing unit will remain constant during the planning period.
- The vacancy rate will remain constant during the planning period.
- Past trends regarding seasonal housing, as previously described, will continue in the future.

Based on the developed housing unit projections as shown in Table 2.10, it is estimated that Polk County will have 33,738 housing units by the year 2030. This is an increase of 12,609 housing units, or 60 percent, from the 2000 census. It is projected that housing units will average an annual increase of approximately 420 housing units per year during the 30-year period.

Similarly, a household forecast is used to help develop housing and land-use forecasts. The persons-per-household figure is obtained by dividing the number of persons in households by the number of households (or householders).

Households with individuals under 18 years include not only families with related children but also all other households in which a person under 18 is present. The data is expressed here as a percent of all households. The Wisconsin Department of Administration Demographic Services office has prepared household projections for year 2000 to 2030 in five-year increments that are found previously in Table 1.11.

# Housing Programs

There are a number and variety of housing programs instituted in Polk County. These are listed in the *Inventory of Existing Plans, Programs, & Land-Use Policies in West-Central Wisconsin* report that will be distributed with the Polk County Conditions and Trends Report.

## Summary

- Between 1980 and 2000, Polk County experienced a 30 percent increase in housing growth, adding 4,901 units.
- Areas increasing the housing stock by more than 30% during this period include the Town of Alden, Town of Black Brook, Town of Bone Lake, Town of Farmington, Town of Osceola, Town of St. Croix Falls, Town of Sterling, Village of Luck, Village of Osceola, and the City of St. Croix Falls.
- Between 1980 and 1990, housing unit growth outpaced household growth in the county. Between 1990 and 2000, this trend was reversed.
- Polk County has a large number of seasonal homes, making up 20% of the County's housing stock.
- In 2000, the vacancy rate in Polk County was 23.1 percent. This is a decrease from the 1990 and an increase from 1980.
- Owner-occupied housing accounts for 80 percent of all housing in the county; rentals account for 20 percent. The majority (69 percent) of rentals are located in cities and villages. Eighty-seven percent of the housing units are one-unit detached structures (single-family homes).
- The county has a fairly new housing stock with 21% of the units having been built since 1990. Twenty-one percent of the county's housing stock was constructed before 1939, indicating that they may need to be replaced, rehabilitated or abandoned in the near future. In some areas, the majority of housing was constructed after 1970.
- The majority of housing in Polk County (43 percent) is valued between \$50,000 and \$99,999. The median housing value in the County of \$100,200 is significantly lower than the state median of \$112,200.
- A same percentage of renters and homeowners are paying more than 30 percent of the household's annual income on housing costs at 23%. According to HUD standards, housing costing more than 30 percent of a household's annual income is unaffordable.

- It is projected that by the year 2030 Polk County will contain 33,738 housing units. This represents an increase of 60 percent from 2000. This is an average of 420 additional housing units per year for the period.
- There are a wide variety of programs and organizations are available to help Polk County communities ensure they have an adequate supply of housing to meet a diverse array of current and future demands.

# Data Tables and Map

**Table 2.1**  
**Housing Units – 1980 to 2000 – Polk County Municipalities**

Municipality	1980	1990	2000	Percent Change	
				1980-90	1990-00
Towns					
Town of Alden	942	1,056	1,235	12.1%	17.0%
Town of Apple River	487	570	625	17.0%	9.6%
Town of Balsam Lake	732	906	529	23.8%	-41.6%
Town of Beaver	370	419	441	13.2%	5.3%
Town of Black Brook	336	361	448	7.4%	24.1%
Town of Bone Lake	304	331	434	8.9%	31.1%
Town of Clam Falls	275	372	352	35.3%	-5.4%
Town of Clayton	348	371	412	6.6%	11.1%
Town of Clear Lake	256	263	290	2.7%	10.3%
Town of Eureka	446	523	567	17.3%	8.4%
Town of Farmington	389	414	555	6.4%	34.1%
Town of Garfield	565	679	707	20.2%	4.1%
Town of Georgetown	1,017	1,162	1,274	14.3%	9.6%
Town of Johnstown	322	350	418	8.7%	19.4%
Town of Laketown	373	420	445	12.6%	6.0%
Town of Lincoln	868	1,056	1,119	21.7%	6.0%
Town of Lorain	140	153	173	9.3%	13.1%
Town of Luck	395	381	400	-3.5%	5.0%
Town of McKinley	190	201	223	5.8%	10.9%
Town of Milltown	655	745	811	13.7%	8.9%
Town of Osceola	469	582	829	24.1%	42.4%
Town of St. Croix Falls	402	486	538	20.9%	10.7%
Town of Sterling	357	448	521	25.5%	16.3%
Town of West Sweden	299	302	327	1.0%	8.3%
Villages					
Village of Balsam Lake	580	660	673	13.8%	2.0%
Village of Centuria	302	322	361	6.6%	12.1%
Village of Clayton	164	184	208	12.2%	13.0%
Village of Clear Lake	372	430	478	15.6%	11.2%
Village of Dresser	250	259	312	3.6%	20.5%
Village of Frederic	485	559	586	15.3%	4.8%
Village of Luck	428	501	572	17.1%	14.2%
Village of Milltown	373	375	437	0.5%	16.5%
Village of Osceola	668	853	1,072	27.7%	25.7%
Village of Turtle Lake*	0	1	31	0%	3000.0%
Cities					
City of Amery	1,027	1,132	1,311	10.2%	15.8%
City of St. Croix Falls	642	735	926	14.5%	26.0%
POLK COUNTY	16,228	18,562	21,129	14.4%	13.8%

source: U.S. Census.

\* Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk only.



**Table 2.2**  
**Seasonal Units – 2000 – Polk County Municipalities**

Municipality	Total Housing Units	Seasonal Housing Units	
		Units	% of Total
Towns			
Town of Alden	1,235	246	20.0%
Town of Apple River	625	189	30.2%
Town of Balsam Lake	1,018	463	45.5%
Town of Beaver	441	120	27.2%
Town of Black Brook	448	12	2.7%
Town of Bone Lake	434	157	36.2%
Town of Clam Falls	352	106	30.1%
Town of Clayton	412	44	10.7%
Town of Clear Lake	290	5	1.7%
Town of Eureka	567	49	8.6%
Town of Farmington	555	15	2.7%
Town of Garfield	707	168	23.8%
Town of Georgetown	1,274	814	63.9%
Town of Johnstown	418	206	49.3%
Town of Laketown	445	85	19.1%
Town of Lincoln	1,119	240	21.4%
Town of Lorain	173	44	25.4%
Town of Luck	400	52	13.0%
Town of McKinley	223	83	37.2%
Town of Milltown	811	345	42.5%
Town of Osceola	829	64	7.7%
Town of St. Croix Falls	538	104	19.3%
Town of Sterling	521	230	44.1%
Town of West Sweden	327	30	9.2%
Villages			
Village of Balsam Lake	673	212	31.5%
Village of Centuria	361	1	0.3%
Village of Clayton	208	2	1.0%
Village of Clear Lake	478	5	1.0%
Village of Dresser	312	4	1.3%
Village of Frederic	586	12	2.0%
Village of Luck	572	49	8.6%
Village of Milltown	437	5	1.1%
Village of Osceola	1,072	11	1.0%
Village of Turtle Lake*	31	0	0.0%
City of Amery	1,311	23	1.8%
City of St. Croix Falls	926	14	1.5%

source: U.S. Census.

\*Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only.

**Table 2.3**  
**Housing Characteristics – 1980 to 2000 – Polk County**

	1980	1990	2000
Total Housing Units	16,228	18,562	21,129
Total Seasonal	3,219	4,634	4,211
Total Vacant	1,615	5,506	4,875
Total Occupied Units	11,394	13,056	16,254
Owner Occupied Units	9,090	10,165	13,037
Renter Occupied Units	2,305	2,891	3,217
Single Family Units*	10,242	14,114	16,801
Multi-Family Units	1,400	1,571	2,040
Mobile Homes	1,169	2,877	2,068

source: U.S. Census

\*In 1980 seasonal units are not included in single family unit totals. In 1990 and 2000 they are included.

**Table 2.4**  
**Units in Structure – 2000 – Polk County Municipalities**

Municipality	1-Unit Detached	1-Unit Attached	2 Units	3-4 Units	5 or more Units
<b>Towns</b>					
Town of Alden	1,158	3	4	0	5
Town of Apple River	520	2	0	0	0
Town of Balsam Lake	921	6	5	2	2
Town of Beaver	379	2	0	0	0
Town of Black Brook	381	0	4	3	0
Town of Bone Lake	365	3	0	0	0
Town of Clam Falls	235	2	0	0	0
Town of Clayton	339	5	19	0	5
Town of Clear Lake	244	4	0	0	0
Town of Eureka	489	6	0	0	0
Town of Farmington	500	3	18	4	7
Town of Garfield	636	11	14	0	0
Town of Georgetown	1,038	16	5	13	11
Town of Johnstown	389	2	0	7	0
Town of Laketown	410	5	3	5	0
Town of Lincoln	940	14	18	2	2
Town of Lorain	171	2	2	0	0
Town of Luck	355	2	4	0	0
Town of McKinley	203	0	0	0	2
Town of Milltown	779	10	7	0	0
Town of Osceola	700	23	18	18	8
T. of St. Croix Falls	467	2	7	8	0
Town of Sterling	369	6	2	0	0
Town of West Sweden	280	2	0	0	0
<b>Villages</b>					
V. of Balsam Lake	465	18	16	20	43
Village of Centuria	252	2	17	10	30
Village of Clayton	126	0	8	22	26
Village of Clear Lake	297	1	21	4	71
Village of Dresser	227	4	18	10	26
Village of Frederic	372	6	22	7	124
Village of Luck	395	16	29	36	40
Village of Milltown	217	8	17	19	81
Village of Osceola	532	35	54	37	311
V. of Turtle Lake*	10	3	18	0	0
<b>Cities</b>					
City of Amery	772	65	76	48	220
City of St. Croix Falls	563	27	46	37	234
<b>POLK COUNTY</b>	<b>16,485</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>1,250</b>

source: U.S. Census.

\*Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only.

**Table 2.5**  
**Year Structure Built – 2000 – Polk County Municipalities**

Municipality	1990 to March '00	1980 to 1989	1970 to 1979	1960 to 1969	1940 to 1959	1939 or earlier
Town of Alden	314	199	220	111	170	235
Town of Apple River	130	55	119	98	81	94
Town of Balsam Lake	255	196	198	131	166	112
Town of Beaver	89	43	73	66	72	96
Town of Black Brook	91	47	110	40	39	122
Town of Bone Lake	127	71	65	29	38	81
Town of Clam Falls	34	85	53	26	61	90
Town of Clayton	76	64	77	29	63	102
Town of Clear Lake	43	31	46	13	42	107
Town of Eureka	103	87	95	46	38	198
Town of Farmington	159	45	109	46	45	148
Town of Garfield	151	128	158	78	115	114
Town of Georgetown	426	180	159	231	150	94
Town of Johnstown	117	63	94	48	65	59
Town of Laketown	70	63	84	53	60	162
Town of Lincoln	204	165	213	95	206	200
Town of Lorain	37	22	45	24	28	44
Town of Luck	64	55	77	33	5	129
Town of McKinley	43	44	31	32	22	51
Town of Milltown	138	108	140	134	136	165
Town of Osceola	335	110	130	60	71	111
T. of St. Croix Falls	93	88	85	46	95	110
Town of Sterling	89	47	101	49	71	112
Town of West Sweden	53	33	47	15	75	95
<b>Villages</b>						
V. of Balsam Lake	145	84	154	69	150	92
Village of Centuria	26	31	85	20	125	73
Village of Clayton	30	23	57	4	29	71
Village of Clear Lake	88	64	68	64	64	132
Village of Dresser	36	28	56	39	75	75
Village of Frederic	47	76	120	58	121	169
Village of Luck	101	59	85	44	186	92
Village of Milltown	65	47	93	46	68	118
Village of Osceola	219	214	253	111	113	158
V. of Turtle Lake*	25	0	0	0	0	6
<b>Cities</b>						
City of Amery	240	204	203	162	194	308
City of St. Croix Falls	207	131	167	61	149	227
<b>POLK COUNTY</b>	4,470	2,990	3,870	2,211	3,236	4,352

source: U.S. Census

\*Portion of Turtle Lake in Polk County only.

**Table 2.6 –  
Housing Value of Specified Owner-Occupied Units – 2000 – Polk County Municipalities**

	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 - \$149,000	\$150,000 - \$199,999	\$200,000– \$299,999	\$300,000 – \$499,999	\$500,000 or more	Median Value
<b>Towns</b>								
Town of Alden	5	93	215	79	92	31	5	\$139,700
Town of Apple River	7	87	52	26	12	8	0	\$101,400
Town of Balsam Lake	8	82	76	33	37	19	10	\$124,100
Town of Beaver	10	60	17	13	12	0	0	\$88,800
Town of Black Brook	15	62	69	4	9	0	0	\$101,600
Town of Bone Lake	8	24	21	28	4	2	0	\$115,100
Town of Clam Falls	20	42	8	3	0	0	0	\$66,400
Town of Clayton	10	73	31	16	2	0	0	\$92,300
Town of Clear Lake	8	27	19	13	0	0	0	\$97,500
Town of Eureka	16	77	34	11	4	0	0	\$92,900
Town of Farmington	9	51	104	58	27	0	0	\$129,400
Town of Garfield	2	88	87	28	41	11	4	\$122,500
Town of Georgetown	13	58	79	42	37	9	2	\$122,700
Town of Johnstown	4	32	20	10	11	3	5	\$123,200
Town of Laketown	13	58	28	11	8	0	2	\$91,500
Town of Lincoln	13	182	149	79	80	21	4	\$120,500
Town of Lorain	8	10	2	3	0	0	0	\$63,800
Town of Luck	14	52	31	6	6	2	2	\$91,400
Town of McKinley	6	15	8	5	0	0	0	\$85,000
Town of Milltown	21	61	55	26	29	15	0	\$114,100
Town of Osceola	6	66	186	109	48	6	0	\$138,200
Town of St. Croix Falls	6	66	66	21	20	4	4	\$112,500
Town of Sterling	28	46	18	10	2	0	0	\$82,700
Town of West Sweden	15	41	29	1	2	0	0	\$84,000
<b>Villages</b>								
Village of Balsam Lake	28	90	30	32	27	5	0	\$87,300
Village of Centuria	40	137	33	2	0	0	0	\$80,300
Village of Clayton	17	53	15	0	2	0	0	\$72,700
Village of Clear Lake	32	134	46	9	0	0	0	\$80,500
Village of Dresser	21	109	49	6	0	0	0	\$89,400
Village of Frederic	96	152	41	14	0	0	0	\$67,900
Village of Luck	25	171	38	25	5	0	0	\$79,600
Village of Milltown	40	126	16	4	0	0	0	\$80,000
Village of Osceola	12	239	173	32	21	0	0	\$98,900
Village of Turtle Lake*	0	2	3	2	0	0	0	\$112,500
<b>Cities</b>								
City of Amery	33	324	164	58	20	0	0	\$93,500
City of St. Croix Falls	34	180	175	69	19	3	0	\$108,400
<b>POLK COUNTY</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>3,171</b>	<b>2,187</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>\$100,200</b>

source: U.S. Census.

\*Portion of Turtle Lake in Polk County only.

**Table 2.7**  
**Contract Rent (Renter-Occupied Units) – 2000 – Polk County Municipalities**

Municipality	Rents					
	Less than \$200	\$200 to \$299	\$300 to \$499	\$500 to \$749	\$750 to \$999	\$1,000 or more
<b>Towns</b>						
Town of Alden	2	4	24	12	7	3
Town of Apple River	0	0	3	2	4	0
Town of Balsam Lake	0	2	5	2	3	0
Town of Beaver	0	0	4	11	0	0
Town of Black Brook	0	0	14	9	0	0
Town of Bone Lake	0	0	4	3	0	0
Town of Clam Falls	2	5	7	4	2	0
Town of Clayton	0	9	19	14	3	0
Town of Clear Lake	0	0	5	4	0	0
Town of Eureka	0	4	5	15	2	0
Town of Farmington	0	2	8	16	4	2
Town of Garfield	0	0	20	7	9	0
Town of Georgetown	8	7	18	14	7	0
Town of Johnstown	0	3	12	4	0	0
Town of Laketown	0	0	17	7	2	0
Town of Lincoln	0	6	19	15	3	3
Town of Lorain	0	0	1	0	0	0
Town of Luck	0	2	8	11	0	0
Town of McKinley	0	2	0	6	0	0
Town of Milltown	0	0	11	0	2	0
Town of Osceola	0	2	19	19	15	3
Town of St. Croix Falls	0	3	15	18	2	0
Town of Sterling	0	0	8	2	0	0
Town of West Sweden	0	0	4	0	2	0
<b>Villages</b>						
Village of Balsam Lake	10	9	46	22	6	0
Village of Centuria	11	7	40	18	3	0
Village of Clayton	3	2	30	27	0	0
Village of Clear Lake	20	22	40	22	2	0
Village of Dresser	3	2	37	18	2	0
Village of Frederic	34	45	53	28	12	2
Village of Luck	28	14	59	49	13	0
Village of Milltown	26	17	74	21	0	0
Village of Osceola	28	43	115	171	50	0
Village of Turtle Lake*	2	0	13	0	0	0
<b>Cities</b>						
City of Amery	55	42	159	84	82	6
City of St. Croix Falls	69	30	134	89	6	0
<b>POLK COUNTY</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>1,265</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>7</b>

source: U.S. Census.

\*Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only.

**Table 2.8**  
**Owner-Occupied Housing Costs as a Percentage of Household Income – 1999**  
**Polk County Municipalities**

	Monthly Housing Costs as a Percentage of Household Income						
Municipality	Less than 15%	15.0% to 19.9%	20.0% to 24.9%	25.0% to 29.9%	30.0% to 34.9%	35.0% or more	Total Units
Towns							
Town of Alden	179	95	88	44	18	96	520
Town of Apple River	61	30	29	13	14	45	192
Town of Balsam Lake	116	35	38	25	15	36	265
Town of Beaver	46	17	20	7	2	20	112
Town of Black Brook	54	40	21	23	2	19	159
Town of Bone Lake	45	18	9	6	0	9	87
Town of Clam Falls	30	19	5	4	10	3	73
Town of Clayton	53	28	14	8	6	23	132
Town of Clear Lake	28	10	6	2	4	17	67
Town of Eureka	60	27	21	8	7	19	142
Town of Farmington	90	50	56	22	17	14	249
Town of Garfield	98	51	40	40	8	24	261
Town of Georgetown	76	54	28	26	22	34	240
Town of Johnstown	38	18	2	2	4	18	85
Town of Laketown	28	17	33	6	5	31	120
Town of Lincoln	207	80	81	67	30	63	528
Town of Lorain	9	2	2	2	2	6	23
Town of Luck	40	19	12	14	11	17	113
Town of McKinley	17	7	6	0	2	2	34
Town of Milltown	66	37	32	24	13	33	207
Town of Osceola	135	102	72	59	23	28	421
T. of St. Croix Falls	64	17	39	17	6	39	187
Town of Sterling	42	23	10	10	6	11	104
T. of West Sweden	42	17	9	8	3	7	88
Villages							
V. of Balsam Lake	93	41	29	12	4	33	212
Village of Centuria	86	40	31	14	9	32	212
Village of Clayton	40	17	8	5	4	13	87
Village of Clear Lake	96	44	29	22	17	13	221
Village of Dresser	79	26	25	18	9	28	185
Village of Frederic	124	56	44	13	16	48	301
Village of Luck	85	57	50	28	14	30	264
Village of Milltown	79	32	32	11	6	24	186
Village of Osceola	179	91	79	49	43	36	477
V. of Turtle Lake*	3	0	0	0	2	2	7
Cities							
City of Amery	252	97	66	52	45	85	599
City of St. Croix Falls	155	89	83	56	26	69	480
POLK COUNTY	1,292	1,182	951	630	375	839	5,289

source: U.S. Census..

Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only.

**Table 2.9**  
**Renter-Occupied Housing Costs as a Percentage of Household Income – 1999**  
**Polk County Municipalities**

	Monthly Housing Costs as a Percentage of Household Income						
Municipality	Less than 15%	15.0% to 19.9%	20.0% to 24.9%	25.0% to 29.9%	30.0% to 34.9%	35.0% or more	Total Units
Towns							
Town of Alden	20	16	7	0	6	3	55
Town of Apple River	61	30	29	13	14	45	192
Town of Balsam Lake	6	2	4	0	0	0	15
Town of Beaver	2	11	0	0	0	2	30
Town of Black Brook	4	6	4	0	0	9	34
Town of Bone Lake	5	1	1	0	0	0	17
Town of Clam Falls	3	4	2	2	5	4	24
Town of Clayton	14	6	2	12	8	3	7
Town of Clear Lake	2	0	0	2	3	2	4
Town of Eureka	4	4	2	5	3	8	36
Town of Farmington	12	4	2	4	4	6	50
Town of Garfield	10	0	5	7	0	14	47
Town of Georgetown	23	4	10	10	0	7	65
Town of Johnstown	5	0	0	0	0	14	23
Town of Laketown	12	2	3	2	0	7	33
Town of Lincoln	15	6	11	0	2	12	61
Town of Lorain	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
Town of Luck	8	3	2	2	2	4	27
Town of McKinley	4	0	0	0	0	4	12
Town of Milltown	2	4	0	3	0	2	19
Town of Osceola	21	10	7	4	6	10	61
T. of St. Croix Falls	6	7	7	6	0	12	46
Town of Sterling	4	0	0	0	0	6	12
T. of West Sweden	0	2	0	0	0	4	10
Villages							
V. of Balsam Lake	22	24	9	6	4	22	99
Village of Centuria	21	7	13	8	11	17	77
Village of Clayton	14	8	8	14	4	14	65
Village of Clear Lake	8	17	19	18	7	34	127
Village of Dresser	6	11	8	18	6	13	67
Village of Frederic	27	13	22	38	26	48	13
Village of Luck	30	22	30	23	17	37	167
Village of Milltown	27	28	20	16	4	41	145
Village of Osceola	100	81	67	59	20	80	411
V. of Turtle Lake*	0	0	6	2	2	5	15
Cities							
City of Amery	75	36	76	49	69	121	443
City of St. Croix Falls	88	44	56	50	26	64	337
POLK COUNTY	606	383	407	360	240	624	2,909

Source: U.S. Census.

Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only.



**Table 2.10**  
**Housing Unit Projections – 2000 to 2030 – Polk County Municipalities**

	2000	Projection 2005	Projection 2010	Projection 2015	Projection 2020	Projection 2025	Projection 2030
<b>Towns</b>							
Town of Alden	1,235	1,384	1,533	1,690	1,841	1,976	2,121
Town of Apple River	625	685	755	821	888	983	1,088
Town of Balsam Lake	1,018	1,118	1,237	1,343	1,440	1,526	1,617
Town of Beaver	441	501	544	589	631	667	705
Town of Black Brook	448	529	589	656	716	764	815
Town of Bone Lake	434	486	546	602	661	715	773
Town of Clam Falls	352	371	380	390	395	398	401
Town of Clayton	412	450	488	528	565	597	630
Town of Clear Lake	290	318	339	359	384	399	415
Town of Eureka	567	664	737	814	888	955	1,027
Town of Farmington	555	638	713	795	875	942	1,014
Town of Garfield	707	818	921	1,032	1,137	1,234	1,339
Town of Georgetown	1,274	1,392	1,530	1,656	1,789	2,225	2,767
Town of Johnstown	418	463	517	564	607	648	692
Town of Laketown	445	456	476	487	497	502	507
Town of Lincoln	1,119	1,212	1,328	1,440	1,556	1,604	1,653
Town of Lorain	173	179	189	197	204	212	220
Town of Luck	400	405	416	422	430	430	431
Town of McKinley	223	235	247	256	264	271	278
Town of Milltown	811	892	975	1,061	1,142	1,211	1,284
Town of Osceola	829	1,086	1,286	1,495	1,704	1,898	2,114
Town of St. Croix Falls	538	606	665	725	782	834	889
Town of Sterling	521	557	605	655	703	747	794
Town of West Sweden	327	341	359	379	396	407	418
<b>Villages</b>							
Village of Balsam Lake	673	715	770	816	910	970	1,034
Village of Centuria	361	406	442	481	518	550	584
Village of Clayton	208	235	255	277	300	317	335
Village of Clear Lake	478	510	545	581	614	643	673
Village of Dresser	312	361	401	443	484	520	559
Village of Frederic	586	593	609	632	654	667	680
Village of Luck	572	600	635	673	709	736	764
Village of Milltown	437	459	487	518	546	569	593
Village of Osceola	1,072	1,128	1,244	1,369	1,485	1,590	1,702
Village of Turtle Lake*	31	43	52	60	69	76	84
<b>Cities</b>							
City of Amery	1,311	1,374	1,447	1,526	1,600	1,652	1,706
City of St. Croix Falls	926	990	1,099	1,161	1,244	1,317	1,394
<b>POLK COUNTY</b>	21,129	23,214	25,374	27,660	29,851	31,735	33,738

source: U.S. Census.

\*Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only.

**Table 2.11**  
**Housing Characteristics – 1980 to 2000**  
**Polk County Municipalities**

<b>Municipal Unit</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Town of Alden</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	942	1,056	1,235
Total Seasonal	291	301	246
Total Vacant	74	340	262
Total Occupied Units	577	716	973
Owner Occupied Units	505	635	888
Renter Occupied Units	72	81	85
Single Family Units	559	953	1,161
Multi-Family Units	38	11	9
Mobile Homes	54	97	75
<b>Town of Apple River</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	487	570	625
Total Seasonal	191	251	189
Total Vacant	17	266	207
Total Occupied Units	279	304	418
Owner Occupied Units	235	254	389
Renter Occupied Units	44	50	29
Single Family Units	237	453	522
Multi-Family Units	12	2	0
Mobile Homes	47	115	55
<b>Town of Balsam Lake</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	732	906	1,018
Total Seasonal	385	404	463
Total Vacant	26	503	489
Total Occupied Units	321	403	529
Owner Occupied Units	290	362	499
Renter Occupied Units	31	41	30
Single Family Units	290	628	927
Multi-Family Units	16	11	9
Mobile Homes	41	267	122
<b>Town of Beaver</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	370	419	441
Total Seasonal	105	150	120
Total Vacant	22	178	137
Total Occupied Units	243	241	30
Owner Occupied Units	302	209	269
Renter Occupied Units	41	32	35
Single Family Units	214	340	381
Multi-Family Units	31	2	0
Mobile Homes	20	77	58

**Table 2.11 continued**  
**Housing Characteristics – 1980 to 2000**  
**Polk County Municipalities**

<b>Municipal Unit</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Town of Black Brook</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	336	361	448
Total Seasonal	15	13	12
Total Vacant	21	32	29
Total Occupied Units	300	329	419
Owner Occupied Units	258	285	366
Renter Occupied Units	42	44	53
Single Family Units	274	326	381
Multi-Family Units	18	4	7
Mobile Homes	29	31	59
<b>Town of Bone Lake</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	304	331	434
Total Seasonal	121	128	157
Total Vacant	26	139	170
Total Occupied Units	157	192	264
Owner Occupied Units	136	172	241
Renter Occupied Units	21	20	23
Single Family Units	172	287	368
Multi-Family Units	4	0	0
Mobile Homes	7	44	43
<b>Town of Clam Falls</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	275	372	352
Total Seasonal	4	115	106
Total Vacant	58	141	115
Total Occupied Units	213	231	237
Owner Occupied Units	180	185	207
Renter Occupied Units	33	46	30
Single Family Units	232	250	237
Multi-Family Units	20	0	0
Mobile Homes	19	122	23

**Table 2.11 continued**  
**Housing Characteristics – 1980 to 2000**  
**Polk County Municipalities**

<b>Municipal Unit</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Town of Clayton</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	348	371	412
Total Seasonal	60	72	44
Total Vacant	25	86	52
Total Occupied Units	263	285	360
Owner Occupied Units	216	232	304
Renter Occupied Units	47	53	56
Single Family Units	239	302	339
Multi-Family Units	18	13	24
Mobile Homes	31	56	48
<b>Town of Clear Lake</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	256	263	290
Total Seasonal	5	3	5
Total Vacant	19	17	14
Total Occupied Units	232	246	276
Owner Occupied Units	187	206	251
Renter Occupied Units	45	40	25
Single Family Units	218	229	248
Multi-Family Units	15	0	0
Mobile Homes	18	34	32
<b>Town of Eureka</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	446	523	567
Total Seasonal	38	60	49
Total Vacant	49	96	64
Total Occupied Units	359	427	503
Owner Occupied Units	307	359	447
Renter Occupied Units	52	68	56
Single Family Units	349	434	489
Multi-Family Units	18	17	6
Mobile Homes	41	72	72
<b>Town of Farmington</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	389	414	555
Total Seasonal	15	3	15
Total Vacant	31	14	30
Total Occupied Units	343	400	525
Owner Occupied Units	282	329	455
Renter Occupied Units	61	71	70
Single Family Units	312	370	503
Multi-Family Units	37	23	29
Mobile Homes	25	21	20

**Table 2.11 continued**  
**Housing Characteristics – 1980 to 2000**  
**Polk County Municipalities**

<b>Municipal Unit</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Town of Garfield</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	565	679	707
Total Seasonal	193	259	168
Total Vacant	51	275	178
Total Occupied Units	321	404	529
Owner Occupied Units	284	345	466
Renter Occupied Units	37	59	63
Single Family Units	307	528	647
Multi-Family Units	27	16	14
Mobile Homes	38	135	83
<b>Town of Georgetown</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	1,017	1,162	1,274
Total Seasonal	679	833	814
Total Vacant	60	857	841
Total Occupied Units	278	305	433
Owner Occupied Units	244	259	366
Renter Occupied Units	34	46	67
Single Family Units	294	942	1,054
Multi-Family Units	16	9	29
Mobile Homes	28	211	83
<b>Town of Johnstown</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	322	350	418
Total Seasonal	8	192	206
Total Vacant	175	199	215
Total Occupied Units	139	151	203
Owner Occupied Units	102	126	169
Renter Occupied Units	37	25	34
Single Family Units	253	318	391
Multi-Family Units	31	4	9
Mobile Homes	30	28	36
<b>Town of Laketown</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	373	420	445
Total Seasonal	11	68	85
Total Vacant	62	100	95
Total Occupied Units	300	320	350
Owner Occupied Units	259	271	308
Renter Occupied Units	41	49	42
Single Family Units	328	348	415
Multi-Family Units	13	6	8
Mobile Homes	21	66	66

**Table 2.11 continued**  
**Housing Characteristics – 1980 to 2000**  
**Polk County Municipalities**

<b>Municipal Unit</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Town of Lincoln</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	868	1,056	1,119
Total Seasonal	269	348	240
Total Vacant	51	398	255
Total Occupied Units	548	658	864
Owner Occupied Units	72	560	787
Renter Occupied Units	476	98	77
Single Family Units	478	859	954
Multi-Family Units	49	37	22
Mobile Homes	72	160	107
<b>Town of Lorain</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	140	153	173
Total Seasonal	14	43	44
Total Vacant	35	47	56
Total Occupied Units	91	106	117
Owner Occupied Units	79	83	98
Renter Occupied Units	12	23	19
Single Family Units	103	123	173
Multi-Family Units	12	2	2
Mobile Homes	6	28	25
<b>Town of Luck</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	395	381	400
Total Seasonal	76	40	52
Total Vacant	22	66	61
Total Occupied Units	297	315	339
Owner Occupied Units	263	277	305
Renter Occupied Units	34	38	34
Single Family Units	278	324	357
Multi-Family Units	16	4	4
Mobile Homes	25	53	50
<b>Town of McKinley</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	190	201	223
Total Seasonal	11	75	83
Total Vacant	63	83	93
Total Occupied Units	116	118	130
Owner Occupied Units	99	103	117
Renter Occupied Units	17	15	13
Single Family Units	160	172	203
Multi-Family Units	4	0	2
Mobile Homes	15	29	15

**Table 2.11 continued**  
**Housing Characteristics – 1980 to 2000**  
**Polk County Municipalities**

<b>Municipal Unit</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Town of Milltown</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	655	745	811
Total Seasonal	244	375	345
Total Vacant	96	402	370
Total Occupied Units	315	343	441
Owner Occupied Units	274	294	406
Renter Occupied Units	41	49	35
Single Family Units	384	675	789
Multi-Family Units	8	10	7
Mobile Homes	19	60	23
<b>Town of Osceola</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	469	582	829
Total Seasonal	95	110	64
Total Vacant	29	84	85
Total Occupied Units	345	472	744
Owner Occupied Units	299	414	669
Renter Occupied Units	46	58	75
Single Family Units	326	485	723
Multi-Family Units	26	22	44
Mobile Homes	22	65	47
<b>Town of St. Croix Falls</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	402	486	538
Total Seasonal	108	95	104
Total Vacant	11	113	118
Total Occupied Units	283	373	420
Owner Occupied Units	249	318	359
Renter Occupied Units	34	55	61
Single Family Units	256	411	469
Multi-Family Units	7	20	15
Mobile Homes	31	55	33
<b>Town of Sterling</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	357	448	521
Total Seasonal	0	213	230
Total Vacant	182	227	241
Total Occupied Units	175	221	280
Owner Occupied Units	153	196	257
Renter Occupied Units	22	25	23
Single Family Units	343	273	375
Multi-Family Units	3	4	2
Mobile Homes	11	171	69

**Table 2.11 continued**  
**Housing Characteristics – 1980 to 2000**  
**Polk County Municipalities**

<b>Municipal Unit</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Town of West Sweden</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	299	302	285
Total Seasonal	23	22	30
Total Vacant	28	52	42
Total Occupied Units	248	250	285
Owner Occupied Units	205	220	255
Renter Occupied Units	43	30	30
Single Family Units	233	268	282
Multi-Family Units	20	2	0
Mobile Homes	23	32	36
<b>Village of Balsam Lake</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	580	660	673
Total Seasonal	242	299	212
Total Vacant	39	321	245
Total Occupied Units	338	339	428
Owner Occupied Units	272	240	324
Renter Occupied Units	66	99	104
Single Family Units	236	414	483
Multi-Family Units	64	71	79
Mobile Homes	77	175	129
<b>Village of Centuria</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	302	322	361
Total Seasonal	0	5	1
Total Vacant	26	24	18
Total Occupied Units	276	298	343
Owner Occupied Units	193	200	254
Renter Occupied Units	83	98	89
Single Family Units	225	226	254
Multi-Family Units	48	51	59
Mobile Homes	29	45	47
<b>Village of Clayton</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	164	184	208
Total Seasonal	0	1	2
Total Vacant	12	10	9
Total Occupied Units	152	174	199
Owner Occupied Units	114	112	130
Renter Occupied Units	38	62	69
Single Family Units	114	120	126
Multi-Family Units	26	35	56
Mobile Homes	24	29	32



**Table 2.11 continued**  
**Housing Characteristics – 1980 to 2000**  
**Polk County Municipalities**

<b>Municipal Unit</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Village of Clear Lake</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	372	430	478
Total Seasonal	7	8	5
Total Vacant	12	34	25
Total Occupied Units	353	396	453
Owner Occupied Units	251	284	321
Renter Occupied Units	102	112	132
Single Family Units	280	279	298
Multi-Family Units	69	74	96
Mobile Homes	16	77	86
<b>Village of Dresser</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	250	259	312
Total Seasonal	0	3	4
Total Vacant	12	13	10
Total Occupied Units	238	246	302
Owner Occupied Units	175	170	233
Renter Occupied Units	63	76	69
Single Family Units	185	189	231
Multi-Family Units	48	42	54
Mobile Homes	17	28	24
<b>Village of Frederic</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	485	559	586
Total Seasonal	0	13	12
Total Vacant	27	58	50
Total Occupied Units	458	501	536
Owner Occupied Units	328	332	349
Renter Occupied Units	130	169	187
Single Family Units	356	354	378
Multi-Family Units	101	138	153
Mobile Homes	28	76	60

**Table 2.11 continued**  
**Housing Characteristics – 1980 to 2000**  
**Polk County Municipalities**

<b>Municipal Unit</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Village of Luck</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	428	501	572
Total Seasonal	12	50	49
Total Vacant	12	72	72
Total Occupied Units	404	429	500
Owner Occupied Units	263	288	335
Renter Occupied Units	141	141	165
Single Family Units	289	352	411
Multi-Family Units	101	101	105
Mobile Homes	26	48	51
<b>Village of Milltown</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	373	375	437
Total Seasonal	10	1	5
Total Vacant	24	34	17
Total Occupied Units	339	341	420
Owner Occupied Units	239	221	276
Renter Occupied Units	100	120	144
Single Family Units	200	193	225
Multi-Family Units	92	99	117
Mobile Homes	71	83	95
<b>Village of Osceola</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	668	853	1,072
Total Seasonal	0	4	11
Total Vacant	68	42	70
Total Occupied Units	600	811	1,002
Owner Occupied Units	400	509	581
Renter Occupied Units	200	302	421
Single Family Units	378	465	567
Multi-Family Units	194	273	402
Mobile Homes	96	115	99
<b>Village of Turtle Lake (portion in Polk County only)</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units		1	508
Total Seasonal		0	5
Total Vacant		0	33
Total Occupied Units		1	475
Owner Occupied Units		1	258
Renter Occupied Units		0	217
Single Family Units		1	320
Multi-Family Units		0	170
Mobile Homes		0	14

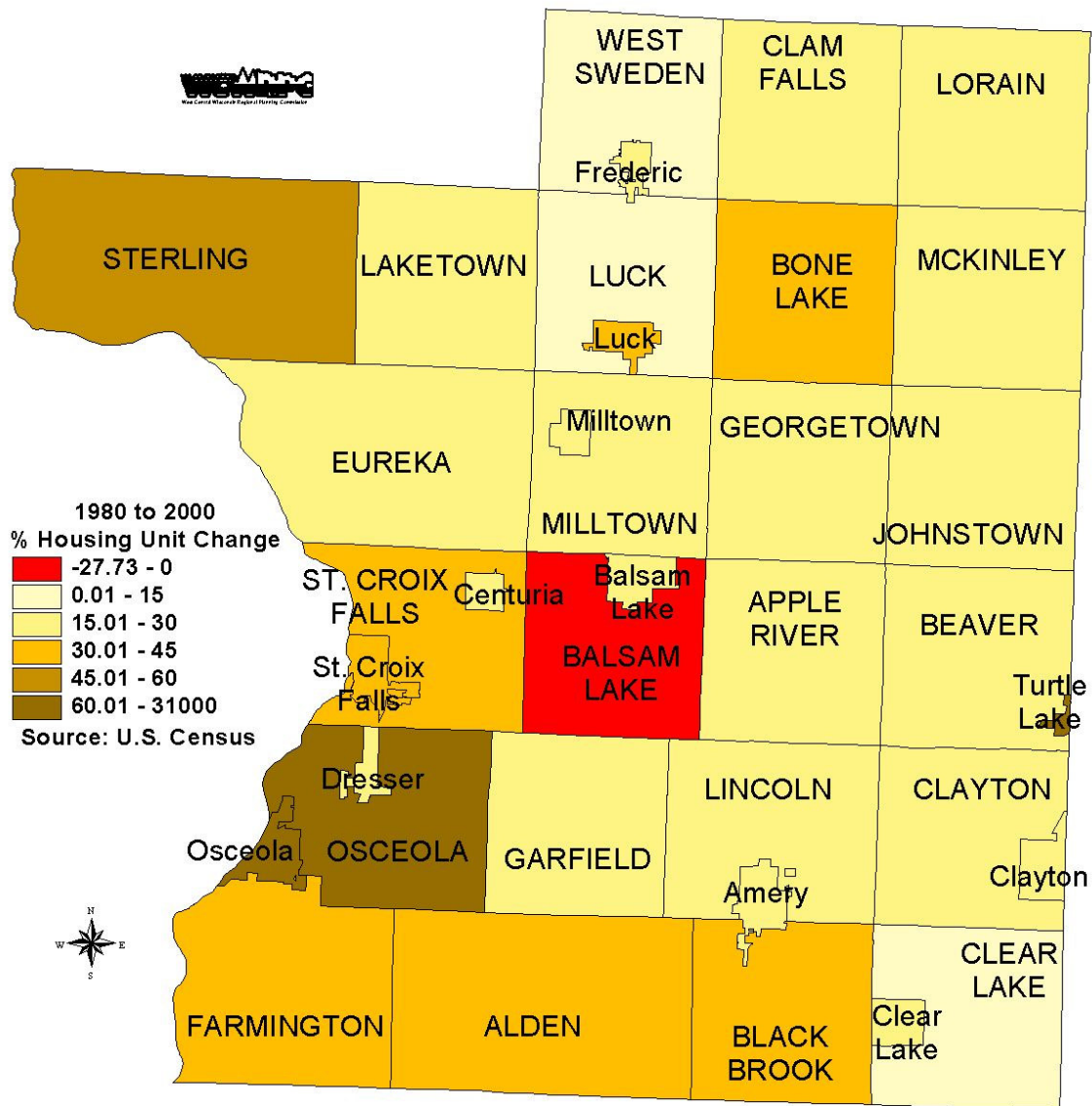
**Table 2.11 continued**  
**Housing Characteristics – 1980 to 2000**  
**Polk County Municipalities**

<b>Municipal Unit</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>City of Amery</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	1,027	1,132	1,311
Total Seasonal	16	32	23
Total Vacant	95	98	80
Total Occupied Units	1,011	1,034	1,231
Owner Occupied Units	774	674	807
Renter Occupied Units	237	360	424
Single Family Units	683	740	837
Multi-Family Units	241	263	344
Mobile Homes	87	129	130
<b>City of St. Croix Falls</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Total Housing Units	642	735	926
Total Seasonal	10	11	14
Total Vacant	55	59	54
Total Occupied Units	577	676	872
Owner Occupied Units	391	440	545
Renter Occupied Units	186	236	327
Single Family Units	450	473	590
Multi-Family Units	157	210	317
Mobile Homes	25	52	35

*Source: U.S. Census*  
*Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only.*

## Map 2.1

### Housing Unit Change – 1980-2000 – Polk County Municipalities



### 3. TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

#### Element Context

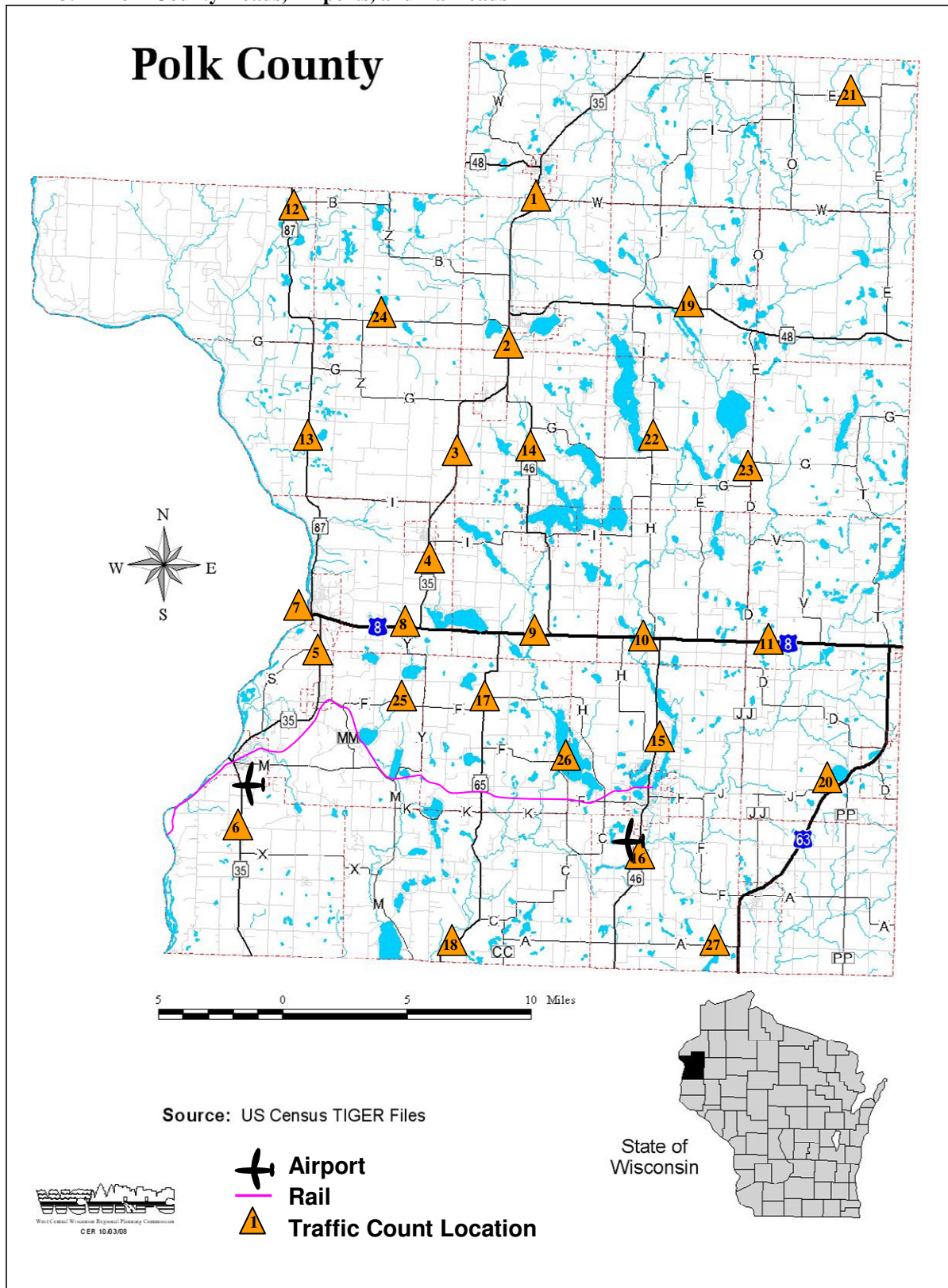
Transportation facilities have a significant influence on land use, development and quality of life for County residents. This section includes a review of transportation facilities found in Polk County, including highways, rail, airports, bike facilities, pedestrian facilities, and transit. Transportation types primarily recreational in nature, such as snowmobile, ATV, and hiking trails, are not discussed in this section, but can be found in the community facilities and natural resources sections. For reference, a map of the County's roads, airports, and railroads can be found on the following page.

Polk County provides much of the roadway infrastructure to support inter-county movements, intra-city movements and the demands of new growth. This road system also allows the movement of buses, bicycles and pedestrians. A well-maintained and planned transportation system can aid in economic development, support a variety of land uses, provide links among community facilities, and facilitate the provision of various public and emergency services.

This element will function as a guide to identifying the County's existing and proposed road network, identifying major transportation needs, and supporting the goals and objectives of the other elements of the Polk County Comprehensive Plan.

This section was drafted in the context of regional, state and national transportation planning guidelines and principles. Numerous existing State and local transportation plans of regional significance are noted in *Special Addendum: Inventory of Existing Plans, Programs, & Land-Use Policies in West Central Wisconsin* and are considered in the development of this plan. Transportation issues, needs, and strategies specific to individual communities will be addressed in their respective plans.

MAP 3.1 – Polk County Roads, Airports, and Railroads



## Background Data/Existing Conditions

### *Highways*

Polk County is served by just fewer than 2,000 miles of roads under state, county and local jurisdiction (see Table 3.1). Major north/south highways include US 63, WIS 35, WIS 65, and WIS 46. US 8 and WIS 48 are major east/west highways.

**Table 3.1 - Road Mileage by Jurisdiction - 2008**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
State	159.2	8.2
County	331.4	17.1
Towns	1300.0	67.0
Villages	105.4	5.4
Cities	43.3	2.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1939.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*source: WisDOT, Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads, January 1, 2008.*

Traffic volumes have generally shown a moderate increase in the County over the period from 1998 to 2006. The largest traffic volume increases are shown in vicinity of urbanizing areas, such as around Amery , Osceola, and St. Croix Falls (See Table 3.2 and Map 3.1).

**Table 3.2 - Traffic Volume History (1998-2006)**

Map ID (Map 3.1)	Location	1998	2001	2004	2006	Percent Change (2001-2006)	Percent Change (1998-2006)
1	WIS 35 (south of V. Frederic)	5,400	5,600	5,400	4,600	-21.74%	-17.39%
2	WIS 35 (south of County N)	4,300	6,400	7,100	6,300	-1.59%	31.75%
3	WIS 35 (south of County G)	4,300	4,600	4,300	4,600	0.00%	6.52%
4	WIS 35 (south of V. Centuria)	6,800	NA	6,700	6,200	NA	-9.68%
5	WIS 35 (south of US 8)	6,600	7,800	8,500	7,700	-1.30%	14.29%
6	WIS 35 (north of County X)	3,600	3,900	4,500	4,100	4.88%	12.20%
7	US 8 (west Polk Co. line)	10,000	13,100	14,900	15,900	17.61%	37.11%
8	US 8 (east of C. St. Croix Falls)	6,400	8,000	14,700	16,200	50.62%	60.49%
9	US 8 (east of WIS 65)	7,200	7,700	7,700	7,600	-1.32%	5.26%
10	US 8 (east of County H)	8,100	7,700	8,300	8,200	6.10%	1.22%
11	US 8 (east of County JJ)	6,200	6,200	6,500	6,600	6.06%	6.06%
12	WIS 87(south of County Z)	990	1,200	1,200	1,200	0.00%	17.50%
13	WIS 87 (north of County I)	2,800	3,200	3,300	3,100	-3.23%	9.68%
14	WIS 46 (south of County G)	2,700	3,200	3,100	3,100	-3.23%	12.90%
15	WIS 46 (north of C. Amery)	6,100	9,100	11,200	9,600	5.21%	36.46%
16	WIS 46 (north of County CC)	4,100	4,300	4,400	4,300	0.00%	4.65%
17	WIS 65 (south of County C)	1,300	1,300	1,500	1,300	0.00%	0.00%
18	WIS 65 (south Polk Co. line)	1,700	1,700	1,900	1,600	-6.25%	-6.25%
19	WIS 48 (east of County O)	1,000	1,500	1,100	1,100	-36.36%	9.09%
20	US 63 (north of County J)	4,000	4,600	4,300	4,500	-2.22%	11.11%
21	County E (east of County I)	340	440	430	430 *	-2.33%	20.93%
22	County H (north of County G)	940	1,000	1,100	960	-4.17%	2.08%
23	County D (north of County G)	600	860	650	650 *	-32.31%	7.69%
24	County N (east of WIS 87)	780	890	860	860 *	-3.49%	9.30%
25	County M (west of County Y)	3,200	4,100	3,500	3,500 *	-17.14%	8.57%
26	County F (north of County K)	420	720	780	780	7.69%	46.15%
27	County A (west of US 63)	880	1,100	1,100	1,100 *	0.00%	20.00%

source: Wisconsin Highway Traffic Volume Data, WisDOT.

\* - signifies count from previous cycle

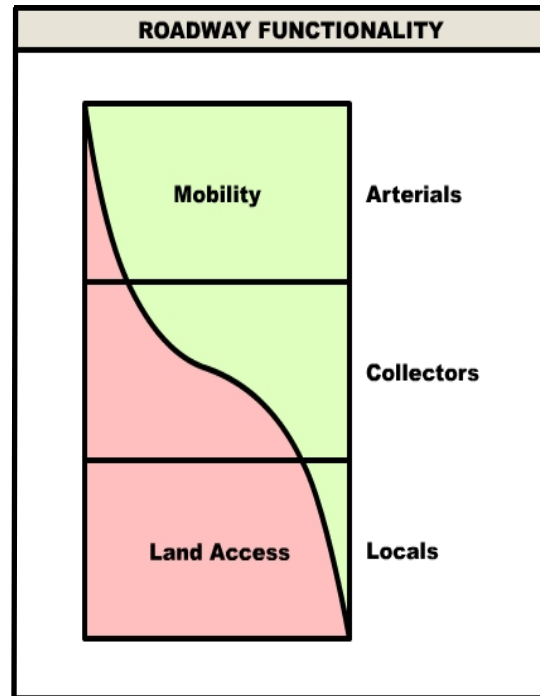


In Polk County, two highways are classified as connector routes in the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) *Corridors 2020 Plan*. US 8 and US 63 are identified connector routes. The connector system is a collection of two- and four-lane highways that connect key communities and regional economic centers to the Corridors 2020 Backbone routes, which provide economic links to national and international markets. Backbone routes nearest to Polk County are US 53 and Interstate 94.

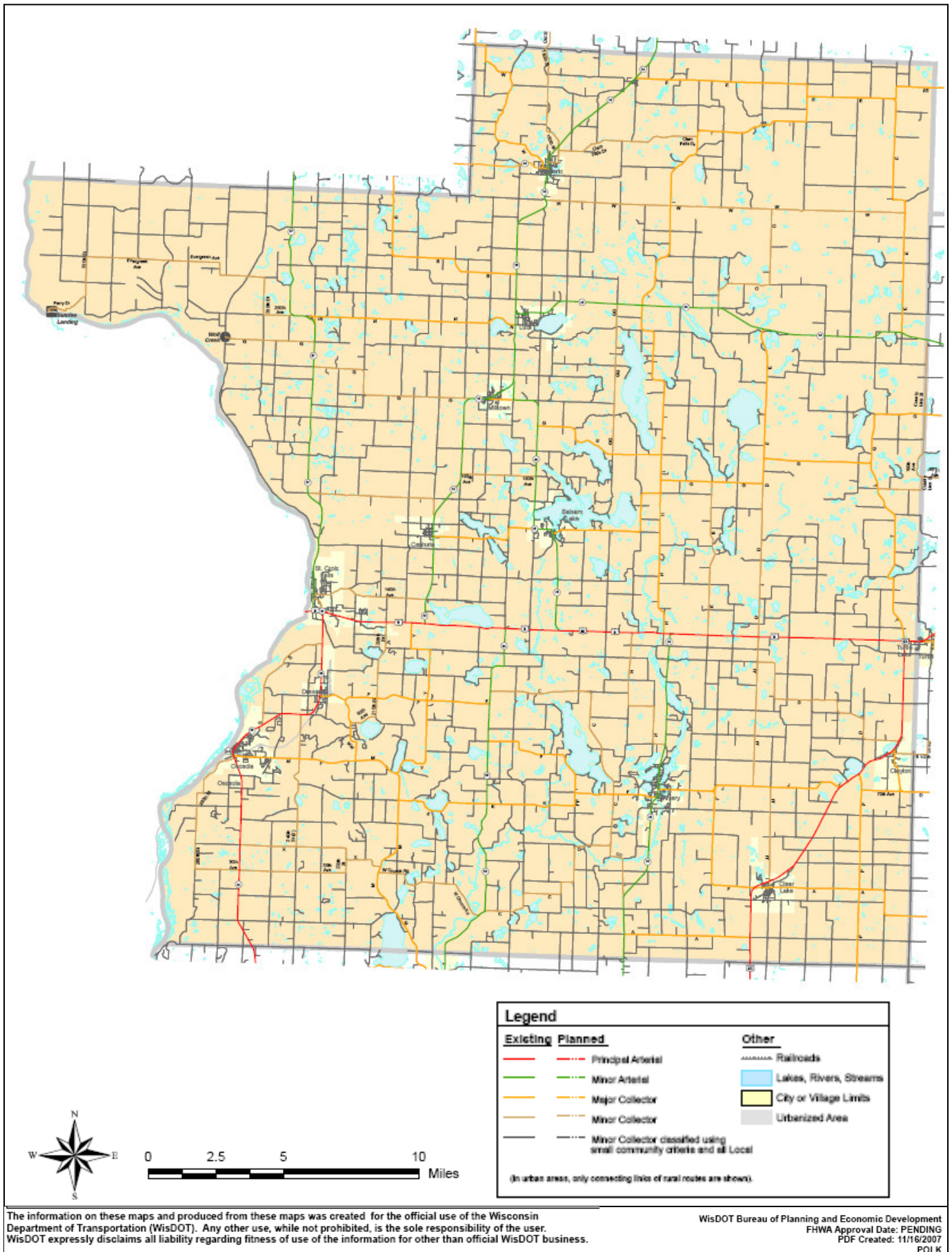
Roads can be generally classified into three categories - arterials, collectors and local roads. The type of service it provides determines a road's classification. Typically, arterials provide the least amount of access and highest level of mobility, while local streets provide the most access and lowest level of mobility. Collector roads provide a combination of access and mobility. The functional classification of the rural areas of the County is shown on Map 3.2.

The backbone and connector routes, which link Wisconsin's economic and tourism centers, are all classified as arterials since they are designed to provide a high level of mobility between communities. Typically, arterials accommodate higher levels of traffic at higher speeds than collectors. The actual number of vehicles that a road can accommodate is determined by a number of factors, including the number of travel lanes, posted speed limit and the level of access the road provides. Generally, a two-lane road can accommodate up to 13,500 vehicles per day. A four-lane road with a median can accommodate between 13,500 and 30,000 vehicles per day.

Of the state and US highways located in Polk County, the State Highway Plan 2020 identified US 8, from WIS 35, east to the county line and beyond to US 53, as a facility that would experience moderate congestion by the year 2020 if no capacity expansion improvements were made. The plan also noted that this facility was a potential major project. WIS 35, south of US 8, as also projected for moderate congestion, but no project was proposed. A small segment of US 8/WIS 35, in St. Croix Falls, was projected to have severe congestion by 2020, but was also not addressed with a project proposal in the plan.



**Map 3.2 - Polk County Rural Functional Classification**



**Table 3.3 – Local Road mileage by Municipality and Jurisdiction**

Municipality Name	Gross Road Miles	County Miles	Municipal Miles	County Jurisdiction			Municipal Jurisdiction		
				Arterial	Collector	Local	Arterial	Collector	Local
T. Alden	123.71	27.15	96.56		20.06	7.09		5.54	91.02
T. Apple River	65.75	16.47	49.28		16.47				49.28
T. Balsam Lake	56.91	4.43	52.48		4.43				52.48
T. Beaver	61.65	15.71	45.94		8.76	6.95			45.94
T. Black Brook	68.85	15.04	53.81		14.04	1.00		0.40	53.41
T. Bone Lake	56.36	16.45	39.91		16.45				39.91
T. Clam Falls	59.80	15.19	44.61		15.19			3.07	41.54
T. Clayton	66.93	16.35	50.58		16.35			1.08	49.50
T. Clear Lake	73.29	13.90	59.39		13.90			0.15	59.24
T. Eureka	94.95	11.80	83.15		10.72	1.08			83.15
T. Farmington	79.41	4.58	74.83		4.41	0.17		11.94	62.89
T. Garfield	71.08	15.23	55.85		15.23				55.85
T. Georgetown	62.96	19.62	43.34		19.62				43.34
T. Johnstown	52.65	13.41	39.24		13.41			4.90	34.34
T. Laketown	72.58	15.74	56.84		11.78	3.96		0.12	56.72
T. Lincoln	81.93	19.51	62.42		19.51			0.19	62.23
T. Lorain	51.55	20.43	31.12		16.94	3.49			31.12
T. Luck	55.04	6.39	48.65		6.39				48.65
T. McKinley	45.64	9.04	36.60		9.04			0.49	36.11
T. Milltown	69.34	5.72	63.62		5.72			2.94	60.68
T. Osceola	83.41	20.78	62.63		20.78			7.41	55.22
T. St. Croix Falls	46.64	5.87	40.77		5.87			3.79	36.98
T. Sterling	89.18	3.30	85.88		2.30	1.00		13.71	72.17
T. West Sweden	60.63	8.09	52.54		8.09			7.17	45.37
V. Balsam Lake	12.64	1.22	11.42		1.22				11.42
V. Centuria	9.95	0.27	9.68		0.27			0.82	8.86
V. Clayton	10.48	2.34	8.14		2.34			1.58	6.56
V. Clear Lake	15.27	2.24	13.03		2.24			2.28	10.75
V. Dresser	9.42	0.00	9.42					1.43	7.99
V. Frederic	12.19	0.66	11.53		0.66			1.23	10.30
V. Luck	11.60	0.00	11.60					3.30	8.30
V. Milltown	9.80	1.00	8.80		1.00			0.68	8.12
V. Osceola	22.01	1.83	20.18		1.83			2.30	17.88
V. Turtle Lake	1.61	0.00	1.61					0.15	1.46
C. Amery	22.86	1.60	21.26		1.60			1.51	19.75
C. St. Croix Falls	22.06	0.00	22.06					3.26	18.80
	<b>1810.13</b>	<b>331.36</b>	<b>1478.77</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>306.62</b>	<b>24.74</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>81.44</b>	<b>1397.33</b>

source: Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads, WisDOT, January 1, 2008.

## Highway Projects in the County

Various construction and repair projects are programmed for the state highways in Polk County between 2008 and 2013. A total of 34 miles are scheduled for improvement over this six-year period (See Table 3.4).

**Table 3.4 - WisDOT 6-year Plan Projects for Polk County**

Hwy	Project Title	Length (in miles)	Estimated Project Cost	Year (SFY)	Project Description
46	C. Amery, Kellar Avenue	0.05	\$250,000 - \$499,999	2008	Reconditioning the Griffin Street and Kellar Avenue intersection in Amery. The STH 46 intersection will be reconfigured and signalized.
46	C. Amery, Balsam Lake Road	3.53	\$1,000,000 - \$1,999,999	2008	Pulverize and overlay the roadway.
35	V. Luck to V. Siren (Burnett Co.)	6.83	\$750,000 - \$999,999	2009	Roadway Maintenance, mill and relay existing pavement, and repave with an additional 2 inches of blacktop
8	C. St Croix Falls to V. Turtle Lake		\$100,000 or less	2010	Remove lead paint and repaint the steel bridge components.
8	C. St Croix Falls to Turtle Lake Rd	0.1	\$2,000,000 - \$2,999,999	2010	Reconstruct 208th Street intersection with USH 8 for installation of permanent signals with east and westbound protected left turn lanes with raised concrete medians and a dedicated right turn lane at the intersection. Minor
8	C. St Croix Falls to V. Turtle Lake	9.27	\$2,000,000 - \$2,999,999	2010	Resurface existing roadway.
63	V. Clear Lake to C. Cumberland (Barron Co.)	0.05	\$100,000 or less	2010	Replace the culvert on the Napodoggen Creek.
243	St. Croix River to V. Osceola	0.22	\$100,000 - \$249,999	2010	Resurfacing deficient pavement.
87	C. St Croix Falls to V. Grantsburg (Burnett Co.)	13.89	\$2,000,000 - \$2,999,999	2011	Mill and resurface roadway, pave 3 foot of the 6 foot shoulder, Replace existing beam guard and culvert pipes.
8	C. St Croix Falls to Turtle Lake Rd	0.03	\$750,000 - \$999,999	2012	Bridge rehabilitation, Concrete overlay on the existing bridge deck.

source: Six Year Highway Improvement Program: 2008-2013, WisDOT, 2008.

## Bridges

There are a total of 72 bridges in Polk County. WisDOT generally defines a bridge as any structure spanning 20 feet or more that carries motor vehicle traffic. Of these bridges, 13 are under State ownership and maintenance, 21 are owned by the County, and 38 are under local ownership (See Table 3.5).

**Table 3.5 – Ownership of Bridges in Polk County**

Owner	No. of Bridges	Owner	No. of Bridges
State of Wisconsin	13	T. McKinley	1
Polk County	21	T. Milltown	0
T. Alden	3	T. Osceola	0
T. Apple River	4	T. St. Croix Falls	0
T. Balsam Lake	0	T. Sterling	4
T. Beaver	2	T. West Sweden	2
T. Black Brook	3	V. Balsam Lake	0
T. Bone Lake	0	V. Centuria	0
T. Clam Falls	0	V. Clayton	0
T. Clayton	1	V. Clear Lake	0
T. Clear Lake	4	V. Dresser	0
T. Eureka	0	V. Frederic	0
T. Farmington	0	V. Luck	0
T. Garfield	0	V. Milltown	0
T. Georgetown	1	V. Osceola	0
T. Johnstown	1	V. Turtle Lake	0
T. Laketown	2	C. Amery	3
T. Lincoln	5	C. St. Croix Falls	0
T. Lorain	1	TOTAL	72
T. Luck	1		

source: WisDOT, 2008.



State and local bridges are inspected at least once every two years. WisDOT is responsible for inspections of all bridges along the state highway system. Municipalities handle inspections for bridges along the local roadway system. WisDOT and local governments follow federal guidelines in their bridge inspection and maintenance procedures. Bridges are rated and categorized in terms of their functional and structural situation. *Functionally obsolete* is an engineering term frequently used to describe older bridges that no longer meet modern geometric standards. For example, it could refer to a bridge with narrow lanes or shoulders. A bridge classified as functionally obsolete **does not mean the bridge is unsafe for public travel**. *Structurally deficient* is an engineering term used to describe a bridge with one or more elements that will require attention. The classification does **not mean** the bridge is unsafe for travel. For example, it could refer to a combination of elements on a bridge such as potholes on a bridge deck or rust on metal trusses. These **have little to no impact on a bridge's overall safe function**. Depending on the extent of the structural deficiency, the bridge may be load-posted until improvements are completed. There is one bridge under state ownership that is classified as either functionally obsolete, and seven under county or local ownership that are classified as either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, or both (See Table 3.6).

**Table 3.6 - Functionally Obsolete and Structurally Deficient Bridges in Polk County**

State Bridge I.D.	Owner	Location	Bridge On	Bridge Over	Year Built	Deficiency
P480701	City	C. Amery	Bridge Street	Apple River	1950	S.D. AND F.O.
P480047	Town	T. Apple River	165th Avenue	Fox Creek	1947	F.O.
P480072	Town	T. Clear Lake	30th Street	Willow River	1918	F.O.
P480036	Town	T. Laketown	200th Street	Trade River	1955	S.D. AND F.O.
P480058	Town	T. Lincoln	80th Avenue	Beaver Brook	1925	F.O.
B480001	County	T. Clam Falls	County I	Clam River	1948	F.O.
P480016	County	T. Laketown	County B	Trade River	1941	S.D. AND F.O.
B480003	State	C. St. Croix Falls	US 8	St. Croix River	1955	F.O.

source: WisDOT, 2008.

## *Rustic Roads System*

The Rustic Roads System in Wisconsin was created by the 1973 state legislature to help citizens and local units of government preserve what remains of Wisconsin's scenic, lightly traveled country roads for the leisurely enjoyment of bikers, hikers and motorists. Unique brown and yellow signs mark the routes of all officially designated Rustic Roads. These routes provide bikers, hikers and motorists with an opportunity to casually travel through some of Wisconsin's scenic countryside. All Rustic Roads remain under local jurisdiction and are eligible for the same state aid as other public highways.

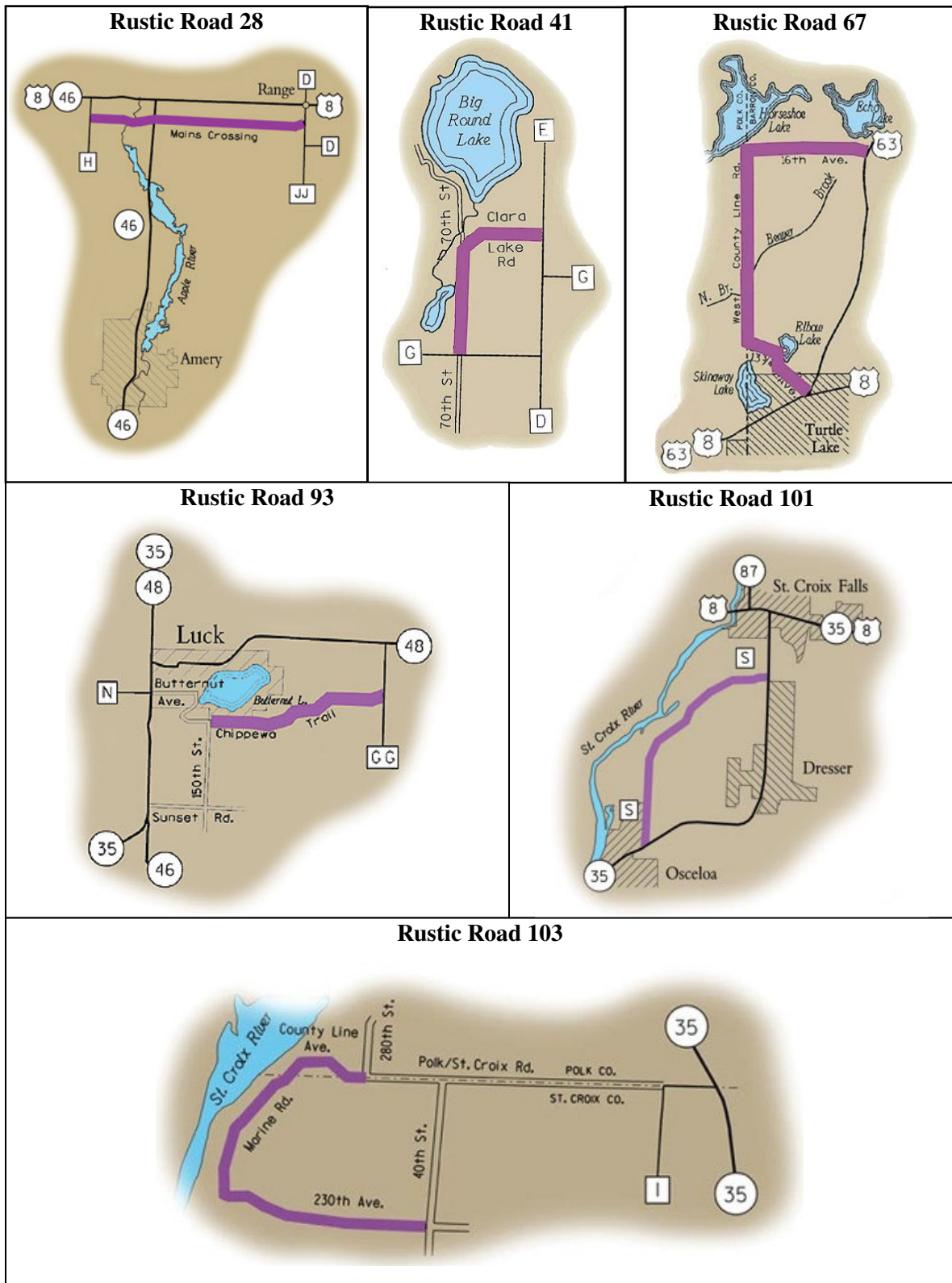


Officially designated Rustic Road sign

There are six rustic roads in Polk County (See Map 3.3):

- Rustic Road 28 is on Mains Crossing (old Highway 8), from the intersection of County H to County D, passing by Apple River Park and across the Apple River. Its total length is 5.2 miles
- Rustic Road 41 is located on Clara Lake Road, between County E and County G, and is 2.3 miles long. The road is mostly paved with some gravel portions.
- Rustic Road 67 is located in Barron and Polk Counties and follows portions of Pine Road, 13 3/4 Avenue, West County Line Road and 16th Avenue, forming a loop from US 8 to US 63. Its total length is 4.8 miles.
- Rustic Road 93 runs 2.8 miles of gravel road on Chippewa Trail, from 145<sup>th</sup> Street to County GG.
- Rustic Road 101 is a 4.3-mile, paved facility on County S, forming a loop off WIS 35, between Osceola and St. Croix Falls.
- Rustic Road 103 is located in Polk and St. Croix counties, and includes parts of 230<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Marine Road, County Line Avenue, and Polk/St. Croix Road through the Town of Farmington. The segment is 2.8 miles in length and is a combination of paved and gravel surfaces.

**Map 3.3 -Rustic Roads in Polk County**



source: WisDOT travel information website

## *Access Management*

Access management includes planning the number and location of driveways on roadways. This practice helps maintain safe and efficient traffic movement on roadways, and access to and from property, particularly in more urban areas. Road function and safety increase as the number of access points decrease.

WisDOT employs three types of access control authorized by state statutes. They are referred to as Wisconsin Statutes (Wis. Stats.) 84.09, 84.25 and 84.295. A short summary of the state statutes follows, but it should be noted that the actual content of the statutes is significantly more detailed, and many special conditions and provisions are not included in this text. The type of access control that is imposed on various highway road segments influences how that segment is managed.

- Wis. Stats. 84.09 (purchase access control) – WisDOT acquires land by gift, devise, purchase or condemnation to establish, extend or improve transportation facilities.
- Wis. Stats 84.25 (administrative access control) – WisDOT designates some rural portions of the state trunk highway system as controlled-access highways where studies show that the potential exists for traffic volumes to exceed 2,000 vehicles per 24-hour day.
- Wis. Stats 84.295 (freeway and expressway access control) – WisDOT designates highways with greater than 4,000 vehicles per day as freeways or expressways when it is determined that the volume and character of traffic warrants the construction or acquisition of right-of-way to accommodate a four-lane highway.

There is access control in place on a number of segments of state and federal highways in Polk County. US 8, from the St. Croix River to Turtle Lake, has purchase access control, 84.09, in place, as does WIS 35, from Osceola to St. Croix Falls. US 63, from US 8 to the south county line, is designated a controlled Access highway under 84.25. In addition, short term access control plans (five years) designate WIS 35, from US 8 to WIS 46, as a controlled access highway under 84.25, while continuing to monitor WIS 35 from the south county line to Osceola, and from WIS 46 to the north county line.

## *Designated Truck Routes*

Truck routes are designed to accommodate semi-trucks and include roadside accommodations at rest areas for temporary parking. Long truck routes also often include private truck parking and fueling stations along the routes. Several of the state and US highways are designated as long truck routes in Polk County, including US 8, US 63, WIS 87, WIS 48 east of WIS 35, WIS 46 south of US 8, and WIS 35 north of Osceola.



## *Transit*

There are no urban public transit services provided in Polk County. There are a several limited transportation services available to senior citizens and persons with disabilities. The Adult Development Center, in Balsam Lake, runs some fixed route service for their clients with three 12-passenger, lift-equipped vans, along with some demand response service. The Amery Senior Center provides very limited demand response service with one car. ADC contracts with the Polk County Transportation Corporation to provide the fixed route service for their clients, as well as demand response service for persons with disabilities. This service is provided with five small, lift-equipped buses and two minivans with ramps. Volunteer driver programs are provided through the Polk County Department of Aging and Interfaith Caregivers of St. Croix Falls. Several private providers are available for medical transportation.

Polk County is involved in coordination efforts with Burnett County to improve transportation services between the two counties' communities, particularly for rural elderly and disabled persons. The rural character of these counties, coupled with the aging of the area's population, will escalate the demand for these services in the coming years. Coordinated services are in the early planning stages at this time.

## *Bicycles*

One state trail is fully suitable for bicycle use in Polk County, the Gandy Dancer Trail. The Cattail State Trail is suitable for mountain biking, but is also open to off-road motorcycles within Polk County. The Ice Age Trail also has a significant presence in Polk County, but is primarily an off-road hiking and backpacking trail. In winter, some sections of the trail are open for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing (See Map 3.4).

The Cattail State Trail stretches 17.8 miles on a former rail corridor between the communities of Amery (Polk County) and Almena (Barron County), passing through the Village of Turtle Lake. The trail is open year-round to a wide-variety of uses. Trail uses include walking, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, horseback riding and snowmobiling. All-terrain vehicles are allowed on the trail year-round. Off-road motorcycles are allowed on the trail year-round in Polk County only. The Cattail Trail is maintained and managed by Polk and Barron counties.

The Gandy Dancer trail begins in St. Croix Falls, near Interstate State Park and extends north to join the Saunders State Trail, just south of Superior. The trail passes into Minnesota north of Danbury, and returns to Wisconsin about 19 miles from its northern termini. Within Polk County, the trail passes through the communities of Centuria, Milltown, Luck, and Frederic. This portion of the Gandy Dancer Trail is surfaced with crushed limestone, except for a small section, near the Polk County Information Center, which is paved with asphalt. The trail is suitable for walking, biking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Snowmobiles are allowed on this segment from December to March provided there is at least six inches of snow covering the trail. All-terrain vehicles are not permitted at any time. Within Polk County, camping is available at Interstate

State Park, as well as at several private campgrounds along the trail. The western end of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail is also at Interstate State Park. There are several other trails in the County that have been developed for either hiking or ATV use. These are discussed in the Cultural and Natural Resources section of this document.

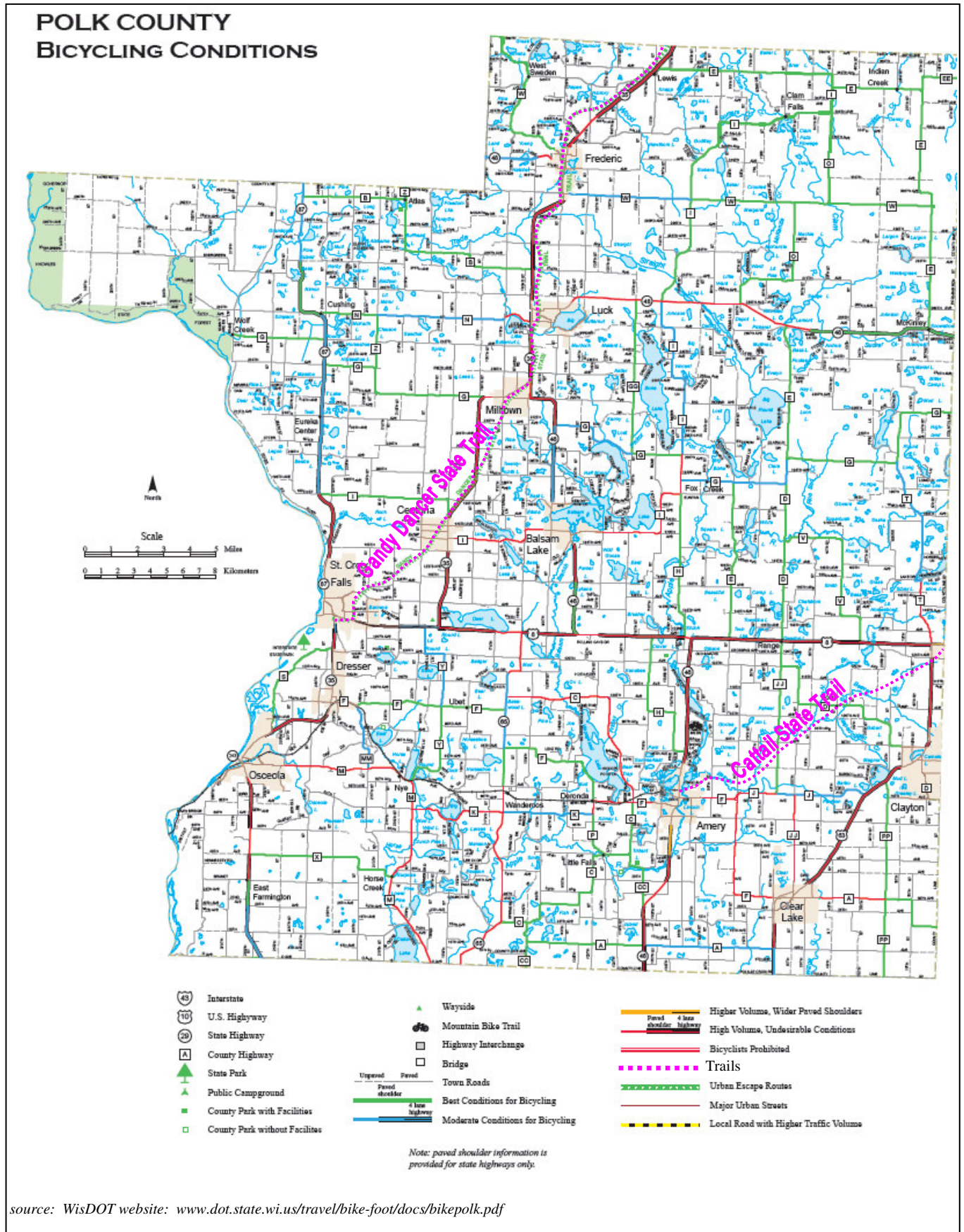
WisDOT has assessed the state and county highways based on their suitability for biking throughout Polk County (See Map 3.4). Many of the county highways in particular are well-suited to biking. While town roads were not explicitly evaluated in WisDOT's analysis, they are likely to provide a safe biking facility, as most rural roads have low traffic volumes and are well maintained.

### *Pedestrian Facilities*

Pedestrian facilities exist, at varying levels, within incorporated communities of Polk County. In general, sidewalks are lacking outside of downtown commercial areas. There is a WIS 35 bypass being considered for the Village of Osceola. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is currently conducting study on a corridor for a potential bypass to relieve current and anticipated future vehicle congestion in downtown Osceola. At least one state highway passes through each of the cities and villages in Polk County. Pedestrian crossing safety should be considered in these areas, as well as other key areas within the communities, reducing traffic and parking issues, and encouraging walking as a mode of transportation.

It is common for new school buildings to be built on the outskirts of communities, where land is more plentiful and less expensive, but making it difficult or dangerous for students to walk or bike to school. The resulting traffic at school arrival and dismissal times worsens the problem. For communities without adequate pedestrian facilities, even schools within walking distance of students can suffer the same results. A federal program, Safe Routes to School, is available to assist communities with planning, infrastructure improvements, enforcement, and education to make walking and biking to school safer, and to encourage students to do so. The Village of Osceola has applied for several Safe Routes to School infrastructure grants which are helping to construct several trails between residential areas and schools, to increase the number of students walking and biking to school.

Map 3.4 – Polk County Bicycling Conditions Assessment



## Safety

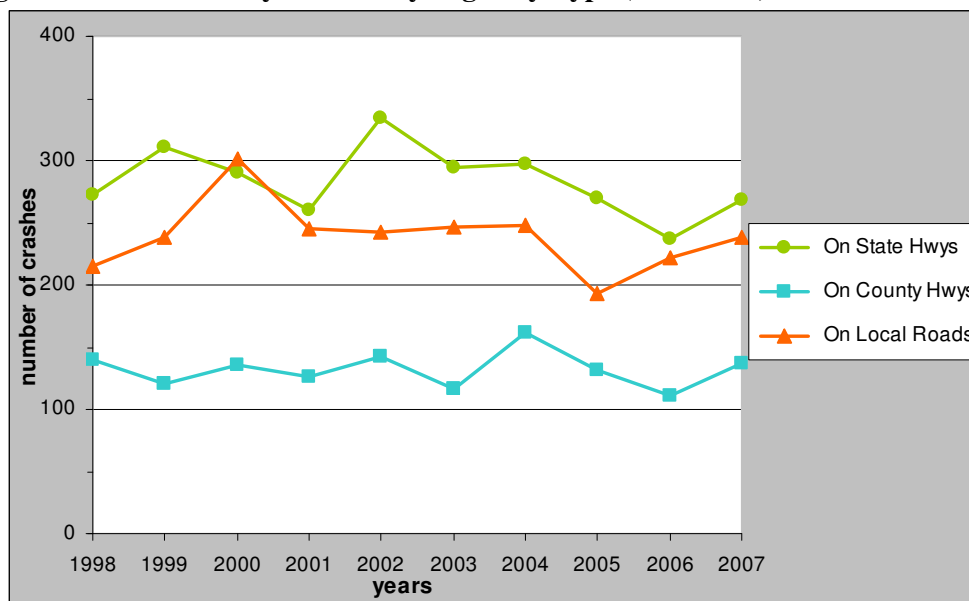
While traffic volumes have generally increased in Polk County in recent years (by 13.25 percent from 1998-2006, based on the sample of count locations shown in Table 3.2), reported crash numbers have remained fairly flat over the time period (See Table 3.7 and Figure 3.1, below). The data shown here includes crashes of all types on public roads, and does not include those occurring in parking lots or on private roads. Crashes involving injuries have declined by about 14 percent, but fatalities have remained fairly constant over the time period shown. The number of reported crashes involving bicycles or pedestrians is small, making trending difficult. It is generally accepted that the actual occurrence of bicycle and pedestrian crashes far outnumbers those that are reported. The trend in annual count of crashes has varied by municipality in the County, but again, most of these numbers are small making it difficult to draw any substantive conclusions (See Table 3.8).

**Table 3.7 – Polk County Crash History (1998-2007)**

Data Item	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
All Crashes	627	671	728	631	719	658	706	594	570	644
On State Hwys	272	311	290	260	334	295	297	270	237	269
On County Hwys	140	121	136	126	142	116	161	131	111	137
On Local Roads	215	239	302	245	243	247	248	193	222	238
Total Injuries	402	401	431	374	420	352	411	329	352	344
Total Fatalities	10	17	8	10	12	14	10	5	9	10
Bicycle crashes	2	0	4	5	1	2	3	1	0	1
Pedestrian crashes	6	2	6	3	5	3	2	3	4	1

source: Wisconsin Traffic Operations and Safety Laboratory; WisTransPortal Crash Database; Crash Data Retrieval Facility, Version 1.1.3, July 16, 2008.

**Figure 3.1 - Polk County Crashes by Highway Type (1998-2007)**



source: Wisconsin Traffic Operations and Safety Laboratory; WisTransPortal Crash Database; Crash Data Retrieval Facility, Version 1.1.3, July 16, 2008.

**Table 3.8 - Highway Crashes by Municipality (2003-2007)**

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
T. Alden	41	42	29	24	37
T. Apple River	29	36	26	26	27
T. Balsam Lake	38	43	33	39	37
T. Beaver	14	26	12	13	10
T. Black Brook	28	15	21	21	28
T. Bone Lake	14	13	13	7	7
T. Clam Falls	10	7	4	13	12
T. Clayton	11	18	19	14	20
T. Clear Lake	9	12	11	10	20
T. Eureka	23	23	11	27	21
T. Farmington	24	22	10	11	20
T. Garfield	15	28	18	22	15
T. George town	13	13	14	13	12
T. Johnstown	5	4	7	6	7
T. Laketown	5	10	19	9	13
T. Lincoln	37	33	21	31	39
T. Lorain	6	2	3	4	4
T. Luck	23	19	26	17	20
T. McKinley	5	5	3	3	2
T. Milltown	28	25	15	18	34
T. Osceola	43	50	50	46	52
T. St. Croix Falls	42	54	54	39	46
T. Sterling	8	5	5	13	6
T. West Sweden	18	13	17	16	12
V. Balsam Lake	7	10	11	4	4
V. Centuria	4	5	7	8	4
V. Clayton	3	4	2	5	5
V. Clear Lake	7	13	10	9	12
V. Dresser	6	7	4	10	8
V. Frederic	6	9	9	6	5
V. Luck	7	7	5	7	9
V. Milltown	4	8	7	5	5
V. Osceola	26	22	14	4	16
V. Turtle Lake	0	3	1	2	2
C. Amery	51	45	33	29	29
C. St. Croix Falls	48	55	50	39	44
<b>Totals</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>644</b>

source: Wisconsin Traffic Operations and Safety Laboratory; WisTransPortal Crash Database; Crash Data Retrieval Facility, Version 1.1.3, July 16, 2008.

## *Commuting Patterns*

Residents of Polk County are employed in a wide array of locations, within their own community, elsewhere in the County, in other Wisconsin and Minnesota counties (See Table 3.9). Of the 20,288 employed residents reported, 20.63 percent work in the city, village, or town in which they reside. This would include those that work at home, and most of those working family farms. Just over 41 percent of workers reported that they work in a Polk County community other than the one in which they reside. Those working in other Wisconsin counties include just 15.03 percent of employed Polk County residents, with nearly half of those (7.6 percent) holding jobs in St. Croix County. Minnesota counties draw in 22.76 percent of all employed persons living in Polk County, with over half of those commuting to jobs in Washington and Ramsey counties, 7.01 and 5.84 percent, respectively.

## *Railroads*

Rail service has diminished in Polk County, largely to the benefit of trail users. The only remaining active rail segment in the County is a Canadian National line that extends from Dresser, through Osceola, and across the St. Croix River to Withrow, Minnesota, connecting to points west, as well as back into Wisconsin through St. Croix County (See Map 3.5).

From Dresser, east to Amery, the rail line is out of service and is under negotiation for rails to trails conversion. From Amery to the east county line, and east to Almena (Barron County), the Cattail State Trail runs on the former rail bed .



**Table 3.9 – Commuting Patterns of Polk County Residents by Municipality**

Community of Work Trip Origin		Cities			Villages								Towns																										
		Amery	St. Croix Falls	Balsam Lake	Centuria	Clayton	Clear Lake	Dresser	Frederic	Luck	Milltown	Osceola	Turtle Lake	Alden	Apple River	Balsam Lake	Beaver	Black Brook	Bone Lake	Clam Falls	Clayton	Clear Lake	Eureka	Farmington	Garfield	Georgetown	Johnstown	Laketown	Lincoln	Lorain	Luck	McKinley	Milltown	Osceola	St. Croix Falls	Sterling	West Sweden	Total by workplace	
Destination w/in origin community		584	349	104	68	44	152	61	194	157	66	422	0	158	70	151	51	67	50	43	43	112	86	80	76	74	53	89	129	67	91	15	112	147	104	45	71	4185	
Destination outside community; w/in Polk County		284	271	180	204	82	154	169	167	232	255	218	7	395	256	351	107	333	159	127	243	181	409	285	344	196	81	277	706	49	238	32	311	478	212	150	194	8337	
Destinations in other Wisconsin counties	Ashland															3																						3	
	Barron	41	13	16	2	58	29		18	6	14	15	6	7	29	17	141	19	22	15	87	38	4		2	25	89		41	17	14	81	13	6	4	8	5	902	
	Bayfield																									3			2									5	
	Brown																	2										2										4	
	Buffalo													2															3									5	
	Burnett	2			2		2	5	69	20				2		1	2		18	54				5	2	3	9	2	30	2	17	26	4	10	8	1	23	40	359
	Calumet																																1					1	
	Chippewa																		2																			2	
	Dane																																			2		2	
	Dodge																													1								1	
	Door																																					1	
	Douglas											4																										6	
	Dunn			2		2	2			2							2					4				2									2			18	
	Eau Claire	4													5	2					6	7			2				7					3			36		
	Fond du Lac		2																																			2	
	Grant		3																																			3	
	Iron																																			2		2	
	Kenosha		2																																			2	
	La Crosse																2																					2	
	Lincoln																									2												2	
	Milwaukee																	2																				2	
	Oconto														4																							4	
	Outagamie																						2			2												4	
	Pepin																									2												2	
	Pierce	2			2		2	2							11	3	4		1					2	4	3	2			3		7		2	3	2		55	
	Rock											2																										2	
	Rusk																		2											3								5	
	St. Croix	162	37	17	11	27	63	20	7	2	8	86		353	42	25	6	151	2	3	28	55	8	90	84	6	2	6	121				6	91	15	8		1542	
	Sawyer																				2											2						4	
	Shawano																												2									2	
	Washburn	5								2	2					2	5	2	2							8	2	4				2		2				4	42
	Washington											1					2																					7	
	Waukesha		2			4																										2						6	
Waupaca																												3									3		
Winnebago														3		2									2												7		
Wood																2												2		4							4		

Continued...

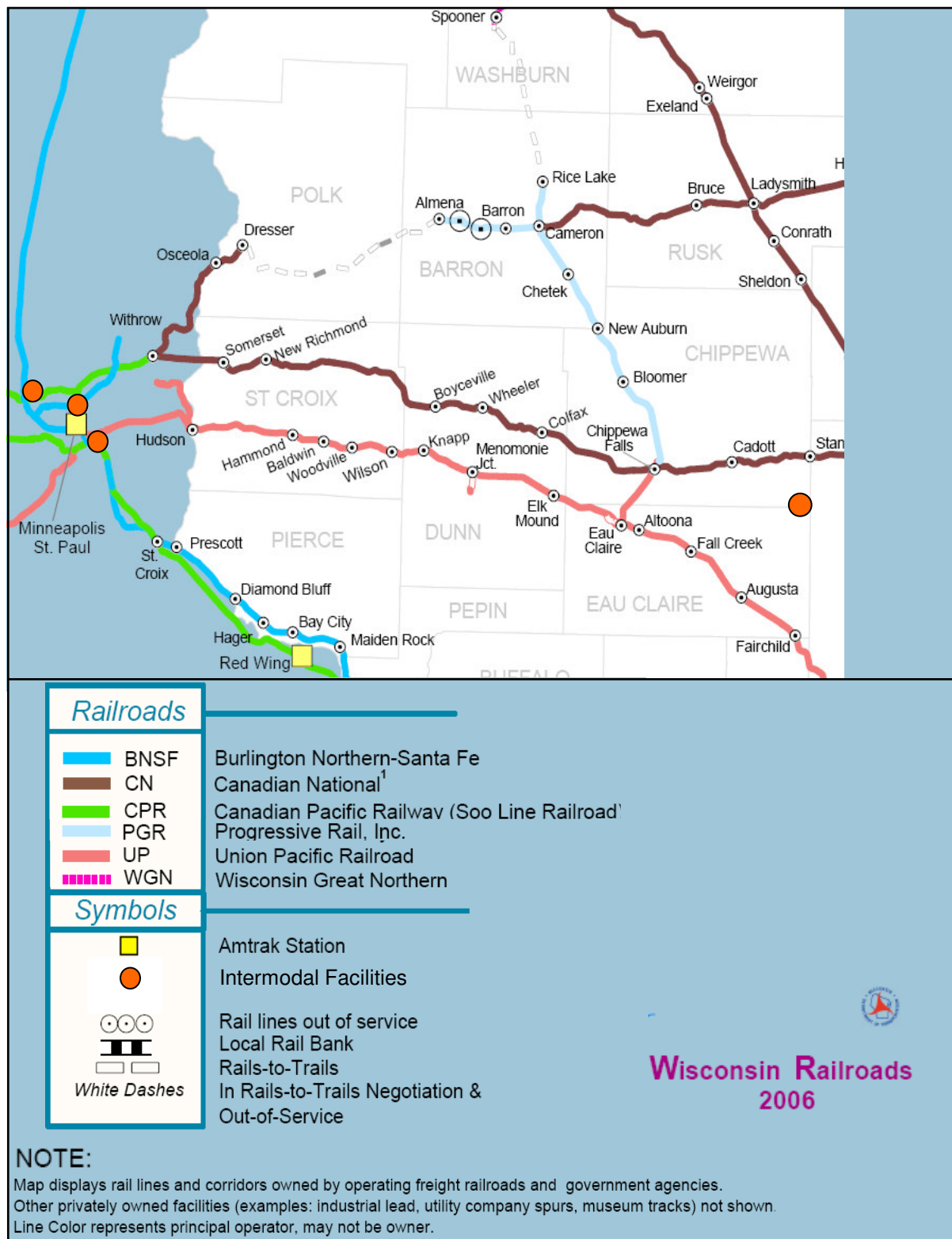
**Table 3.9 – continued**

[illegible]

source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census Transportation Planning Package, 2000



**Map 3.5 - Railroad Ownership in West Central Wisconsin**



source: excerpted from "Wisconsin Railroads-2006" map, Bureau of Planning, WisDOT, (January, 2006); and Wisconsin Rail Issues and Opportunities Report, WisDOT, 2004.

## Air Transportation

Polk County is served by two public airport facilities, L.O. Simenstad Municipal Airport, in Osceola, and Amery Municipal Airport. WisDOT classifies the airports according to the type of aircraft they are capable of accommodating. L.O. Simenstad Municipal Airport is classified as a Transport/Corporate (T/C) airport, intended to serve corporate jets, small passenger and cargo jet aircraft used in regional service and small airplanes (piston or turboprop) used in commuter air service. The primary runway is 5,005 feet in length, paved, and has a bearing capacity of 30,000 pounds. There is no commercial passenger service at L.O. Simenstad Municipal Airport. A number of projects for the L.O. Simenstad Municipal Airport are included in the WisDOT Airport Improvement Plan 2008-2012 (See Table 3.10 for listing of major projects).

The Amery Municipal Airport is classified as a General Utility (GU) airport. General Utility airports serve virtually all small general aviation single and twin-engine aircraft, both piston and turboprop, with a maximum takeoff weight of 12,500 pounds or less. These aircraft generally have approach speeds below 121 knots and wingspans of less than 79 feet. Typically, these aircraft are used for business and charter flying and for personal reasons. In Wisconsin, airports in this category normally have a primary runway length of 3,900 to 4,800. The primary runway length at Amery is 4,100 feet, and there is no commercial service at the airport. There are a few improvement projects included in the WisDOT Airport Improvement Plan for the Amery Airport from 2008-2012. (See Table 3.10 for listing of major projects.)

**Table 3.10 - Major Airport Improvement Projects**

Airport	Construction Year	Scheduled Improvements
Amery Municipal Airport	2008	Construct taxiways D, D1, & D4 and access road (north hangar area); purchase snow removal equipment; Reconstruct Taxiways A1, D1, and D2
		Pavement maintenance on runway, parallel taxiway, apron, entrance road and northern E/W taxiway
	2009	Reconstruct parallel taxiway for primary runway; reconstruct aircraft apron
	2011	Construct snow removal equipment building
L.O. Simenstad Municipal Airport, Osceola	2008	Land acquisition; Construct north parallel taxiway to primary runway;
	2009	Construct south side partial parallel taxiway F
	2010	Purchase/construct fueling system;
	2011	Install approach lights on primary runway
	2012	Purchase snow removal equipment

source: 5-Year Airport Improvement Program, WisDOT Bureau of Aeronautics, (February, 2008).

## *Water Transportation*

There is no significant passenger or freight water transportation in Polk County. The nearest commercial port is in Duluth-Superior on Lake Superior located approximately 80 miles north. Water transportation within the County is primarily recreational in nature (e.g., canoeing, fishing, water-skiing) occurring throughout the County on its many rivers and lakes.

## **Relevant Transportation Plans**

Since transportation systems are most often multi-jurisdictional in nature, it is important to consider existing State and local plans during local planning efforts. The sub-section reviews some of the most pertinent of these State and local transportation plans. Together, these documents provide the following general overarching goals that guide the development and maintenance of the transportation system in Polk County:

### *Statewide Transportation Plans*

State and federal plans addressing transportation are discussed in *Addendum: Inventory of Existing Plans, Programs, & Land-Use Policies in West Central Wisconsin*.

- *WisDOT Five-year Airport Improvement Program*: Maintain existing facilities of the state's airport system.
- *WisDOT Five-year Airport Improvement Program*: Expand facilities to meet the needs of commercial passenger and cargo airlines serving Wisconsin.
- *Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020*: Increase levels of bicycling throughout Wisconsin doubling the number of trips made by bicycles by the year 2010.
- *Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020*: Reduce crashes involving bicyclists and motor vehicles by at least 10 percent by the year 2010.

## Summary

Polk County's highway system is well-developed and maintained, and serves automobile users well. However, the availability of other modes of transportation such as transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities may not be meeting needs as more people use these modes out of necessity, environmental concerns, convenience, or for health reasons. Key to the future of transportation in and around Polk County over the next several decades are the aging of the population, the rising cost of operating a vehicle, and changing technology.

The following summarizes the existing conditions and trends of transportation in Polk County:

- There are nearly 2,000 miles of public road in Polk County, under the jurisdiction of the State of Wisconsin, Polk County, or local governments.
- Traffic volumes in Polk County have increased, on average, approximately 13 percent from 1998 to 2006, according to WisDOT counting program.
- WisDOT's six year highway plan includes between \$9,000,000 and \$14,000,000 in projects within Polk County
- There are 72 bridges in Polk County, eight of which (11.1 percent) are classified as either functionally obsolete or structurally deficient. ***This does not mean that they are unsafe for travel.***
- There is no transit service for the general public in Polk County.
- The Polk County Aging Department provides transportation to the elderly of Polk County through a volunteer driver program.
- The County also provides transportation to clients of the Adult Development Center, primarily on fixed routes for sheltered employment trips.
- Polk County is entering into a coordinated rural transportation effort with Burnett County.
- Approximately 21 percent of employed persons living in Polk County work in the same town, village, or city where they live; 41 percent work in a different Polk County community; only 15 percent work in another Wisconsin county, mostly in St. Croix County; while 23 percent work in Minnesota.
- The only active rail line in Polk County is the Canadian National Railroad from Dresser, through Osceola, and into Minnesota. The remainder of the line has either been converted to trail (Amery to Almena), or is out of service and in negotiations for conversion under the Rails to Trails program (Dresser to Amery).
- Polk County has two public airports – L.O. Simenstad Municipal Airport (Osceola) and Amery Municipal Airport. Both airports are programmed for a number of maintenance and expansion projects over the next five years.

## 4. UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES INFORMATION

### Element Context

Utilities and community facilities provide the foundation on which a community is built and maintained. Utilities include sanitary sewer, storm sewer and water systems, and electricity, natural gas, telecommunications, and solid waste disposal systems. Community facilities include parks, schools, health and safety services, and libraries, among other things. Utilities and community facilities contribute to the quality of life in Polk County and affect the community's ability to attract and retain residents, visitors, businesses, and industries.

The State of Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Law (§66.1001) requires that comprehensive plans include a "compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide the future development of utilities and community facilities in the local governmental unit". This section of the *Polk County Conditions and Trends Report* provides an inventory of many of the utilities and community facilities in the county which are typically included in comprehensive plans.

Since the availability, condition, and capacity of utilities and community facilities often change frequently, and since much of this information is only available at a local level, this inventory may need to be further supplemented during county and local planning efforts. For example, information not included here which may be needed during the development of local plans includes:

- condition and availability of public structures or major equipment (e.g., town halls, fleet vehicles, heavy equipment)
- service areas and capacity of utilities and treatment systems (e.g., sewer, water, stormwater, natural gas, fiber optic)
- condition, capacity, and location of parks and libraries
- analysis of capacity of existing facilities (e.g., child care, schools, elderly services) compared to current and projected population

Such supplemental information may be needed more frequently in incorporated communities and urban areas, while this inventory should provide the bulk of the community facility and utility information needed for rural towns where public utilities and facilities are more limited. Facilities located in the Village of Turtle Lake are generally not included here given that the Village is largely located in Barron County and included in the *Barron County Conditions and Trends Report*.

# Inventory of Utilities

While this subsection provides a basic inventory of utilities, a more detailed discussion of related issues, needs, and policies related to the provision of utilities within a community can be found in the utilities and community facilities element of each individual community's comprehensive plan.

## *Sanitary Sewer and Wastewater Treatment*

Several major federal laws have been enacted over the past 100 years to protect our nation's waters, and each of these laws imposed subsequently greater restrictions upon the discharge of pollution into lakes, rivers, and streams. With the passage of the 1972 Clean Water Act, all discharges of pollution required a permit, the use of best management practices was encouraged, and billions of dollars were provided to construct sewage treatment plants.

Ten Polk County communities and three sanitary districts have collection and treatment facilities for the proper treatment of wastewater (see Table 4.1).

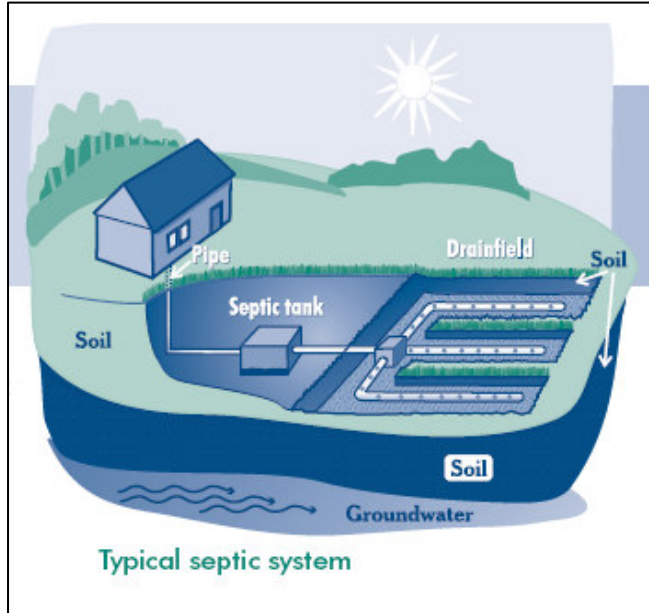
**Table 4.1—Municipal Wastewater Systems in Polk County**

Municipality/District	Monthly Design Flow (GPD)	Monthly Average Flow (GPD)	Construction Year
Amani Sanitary District	This data is currently not available via the Wisconsin DNR database. For more information, please contact the community's public works department or engineering firm.		
Cushing Sanitary District #1			
Lake Wapogasset Bear Trap Lake S.D.			
Village of Balsam Lake			
Village of Centuria			
Village of Clayton			
Village of Clear Lake			
Village of Frederic			
Village of Luck			
Village of Milltown			
Village of Osceola			
City of Amery			
City of St. Croix Falls			

source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

No area in Polk County is within a sewer service planning area. For more information on sewer service area planning, please refer to the *Addendum: Inventory of Programs, Plans, and Land Use Policies in West Central Wisconsin* developed by West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

**Figure 4.1 – Typical Septic System**



source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.  
*Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems*, rev. March 2005.

## *On-Site Septic Systems*

Nearly all development in Polk County that is not located in a city, village, or sanitary district shown in Table 4.1 uses private on-site sewer systems. These systems can be divided into three basic types, with pretreatment increasing in use:

**In-Ground Gravity Systems** – Most systems in Polk County include a gravity flow design where waste flows from the home to the septic tank and from the septic tank into a soil absorption field (see Figure 4.1). The wastewater is purified as it moves down through the soil and into the groundwater.

**Pressurized Systems** – Typically, pressurized systems can either be a mound, at-grade, or in-ground. These systems either add a lift pump to pump the storage chamber or incorporate a mound absorption area to increase soil depth for purification purposes.

For all conventional systems, a soil depth of at least three feet is needed to adequately purify the wastewater before it discharges into the groundwater. As noted in Chapter 5 some areas of the naturally occurring soil in Polk County is unsuitable for proper operation of in-ground gravity or pressurized on-site sewer systems; therefore, when new systems are constructed, it is common for soil to be imported to the site to help ensure that the new system operates properly.

**Holding Tank Systems** – Lots along lakeshores and in areas of high groundwater tables often lack the required soil depth or drain field area requirements for conventional septic systems. As a result, residents may be using a holding tank to dispose of their wastewater. A holding tank is an underground storage unit with no outlet into the soil. The contents of the tank must be pumped regularly and transferred to a proper disposal facility. This type of waste disposal system is particularly prevalent in lakefront development areas where lot sizes prohibit full septic systems.

Pretreatment systems have been gaining in popularity for difficult sites or poor soils, or when an existing private septic system is failing on a small lot. Larger commercial operations in areas without municipal sewer may also be required to pre-treat wastewater. These systems reduce the high levels of organic matter through aeration by treating wastewater in conjunction with a standard gravity or pressurized system.

The Wisconsin Department of Commerce (COMM) regulates the siting, design, installation and inspection of most private on-site sewage systems in the state. In 2000, the state adopted a revised private system policy called COMM 83. The revised policy allows for conventional sewage systems and advanced pre-treatment sewage systems. There are several types of on-site disposal system designs authorized for use today: conventional (underground), mound, pressure distribution, at-grade holding tank, and sand filter systems. Sanitary permits are required under state law. To obtain a permit, one must contact a Wisconsin-licensed master plumber who will complete the necessary forms and obtain the sanitary permit. The plumber is also responsible for installing the private sewage system.

Under COMM 83, Wisconsin counties can further regulate private on-site waste disposal systems through a sanitary code. Polk County has adopted the *Polk County Private Sewage System Ordinance* which is enforced through the County Zoning Administrator.

The Wisconsin Fund administered by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce provides funding assistance to eligible landowners for the replacement or rehabilitation of failing private on-site wastewater treatment systems.

## *Water Supply*

In the 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act, Congress mandated that safe drinking water be provided to and paid for by the consumer. Today, Wisconsin water providers must provide an abundant water supply to their customers that is not only safe, but also free of objectionable taste and odor, turbidity, and staining elements. While the amount of water treatment varies from community to community, water is typically treated for corrosion control, disinfection, and fluoridation prior to consumption.

Polk County communities receive their water from groundwater sources. Groundwater sources in the area include drilled wells, dug wells, and screened wells with and without gravel packs. Drilled wells are typically the deepest wells and access large aquifers that are lower than the aquifers tapped for shallow private wells. Dug wells are considered the least desirable type, as they lack the 60-foot casing and cement grout now required of newly constructed wells to prevent contamination. Most dug wells in the area have been replaced.



Table 4.2 shows the active municipal and community water supply systems in Polk County.

**Table 4.2 – Municipal and Community Water Systems in Polk County**

System Name/Owner	Municipality or P.O. Address	Approx. Population Served	# of Wells
Amani Village Sanitary District	2372 30 <sup>th</sup> Ave. & Kingsway Village of Osceola	100	2
Amery Waterworks	City of Amery	2,800	2
Balsam Lake Waterworks	Village of Balsam Lake	1,031	3
Centuria Waterworks	Village of Centuria	900	2
Clayton Waterworks	Village of Clayton	765	2
Clear Lake Waterworks	Village of Clear Lake	1,061	2
Dresser Waterworks	Village of Dresser	871	2
Frederic Waterworks	Village of Frederic	1,241	4
Luck Waterworks	Village of Luck	1,225	2
Milltown Waterworks	Village of Milltown	1,146	2
Osceola Waterworks	Village of Osceola	2,680	2
St. Croix Falls Waterworks	City of St. Croix Falls	2,079	5

*source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Drinking Water System database as of 7/30/08*

With the exception of the population served by public systems identified in Table 4.2, the far majority of remaining Polk County residents depend on individual private wells for their water supply needs. These wells draw water from the upper aquifer, which can be more susceptible to contamination.

Water storage facilities are classified as pressure tanks, ground reservoirs, or elevated storage tanks. The majority of public water storage facilities in the area are elevated storage facilities such as water towers. The capacity of the elevated storage facilities is a critical component of providing adequate fire protection via fire hydrants and related facilities. Capacity issues regarding water storage will be addressed in individual comprehensive planning and capital improvements planning efforts.

## *Stormwater Management*

Stormwater management is important in order to reduce or prevent soil erosion, mitigate flooding, and limit run-off of pollutants, nutrients, and sediment to water bodies. Communities approach stormwater management in a wide variety of ways and solutions are often site specific.

For most of Polk County, as well as for most rural areas in the state, stormwater facilities are limited to ditches along roadways, combined with culverts under roads and drives. Many farmers also use drainage tile in their fields to drain stormwater in low areas. More developed areas, villages, and cities have a varying range of ditches, storm water retention areas, curb and gutter, and storm sewer. Most systems in both urban and rural settings use a combination of engineered stormwater solutions and natural approaches which take advantage of existing swales, creeks, ponds, or other potential storage areas.

Currently, municipalities in Census-defined urbanized areas and municipalities with more than 10,000 population are required by state and federal law<sup>2</sup> to develop a stormwater program with measurable goals, required permitting, and educational efforts for municipal-owned stormwater conveyances which discharge to public waters. West central Wisconsin includes only one census-defined urbanized area (consisting of fifteen municipalities total) in the Eau Claire/Chippewa Falls area. Outside of this urbanized area, only the cities of Hudson and Menomonie exceed the 10,000 population threshold in our region.

State law also requires landowners to develop an erosion control plan and obtain necessary Wisconsin DNR erosion control and stormwater discharge permits for all construction sites where one or more acres of land will be disturbed. The exceptions to this are for public buildings and Wisconsin DOT projects which have special regulations.

The lack of a federal or state mandate does not limit a municipality's ability to plan for or regulate stormwater. The county's subdivision regulations cover all unincorporated areas of the county and include a site plan review process with stormwater management requirements and erosion controls. In addition, ten towns (Alden, Black Brook, Clear Lake, Eureka, Farmington, Garfield, Lincoln, Milltown, Osceola, and St. Croix Falls) and the villages of Frederic and Dresser have adopted local subdivision regulations. All Polk County incorporated cities and villages are zoned, and may have erosion control regulations and stormwater management practices as part of their zoning ordinances.

Cities, villages, and towns with village powers may create a stormwater utility that is responsible for maintaining and managing the surface water management system. Stormwater utilities have the ability to charge fees to generate revenue to support these activities. A stormwater management plan describes community-wide surface water management needs. This local tool is useful in determining actions to improve surface water quality and stormwater detention storage needs. Stormwater detention facilities are typically ponds that collect storm water and help prevent damage caused by large rainfalls and small-scale flooding. According to a Wisconsin Chapter of the American Public Works Association survey, no municipalities in Polk County have created a stormwater utility or have adopted associated user charges. Most communities engage in some level of stormwater management planning, typically as part of project or capital improvements budgeting.

State funding for local governments is available to address land management activities which contribute to urban and rural runoff in priority watershed areas. A large area of southern Polk County falls within the Upper Willow River and South Fork Hay River Priority Watersheds for which projects have been completed. A priority watershed projects was also completed for the Balsam Branch. Priority watershed projects are currently active for Osceola Creek, Horse Creek Lake, and Big Wood Lake.

---

<sup>2</sup> Rules applicable to stormwater management can be found in the Federal Clean Water Act and Chapter NR 216, Wis. Admin. Code and are regulated through the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and permitted under the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES). More information can be found at: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/runoff/stormwater.htm>.

Stormwater flooding has been an increasing concern in Polk County. The *Polk County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* identifies stormwater flooding issues and “hotspots” for the county and each municipality which participated in the plan. The recommendations of this plan may be useful for local comprehensive planning efforts.

### *Telecommunications Facilities*

In broad terms, telecommunications facilities allow users to communicate and share data over long geographic distances. Telecommunications facilities and networks are critical components to public safety, economic development, and quality of life. Inventorying telecommunications facilities is difficult given the quickly changing nature of technology, ever-expanding service areas, and the multitude of providers in a deregulated market. Further, detailed service area maps for all telecommunication options are not available. Communities may need to identify their specific telecommunications issues and goals, prior to obtaining specific information and maps from their local telecommunications providers.

With the adoption of the 1996 Federal Telecommunications Act regulating wireless communications providers, local government action on telecommunications has commonly focused on wireless communications towers. Access to wireless, seamless communication networks is becoming increasingly important in the modern world. Due to the increase in use of wireless communication for public safety, business, and personal use, constructing telecommunication towers is an issue that many municipalities are addressing more often than in the past. Polk County has adopted a telecommunication tower ordinance.

Table 4.3 shows the telephone providers for Polk County municipalities, some of which offer other telecommunications services, such as cable and Internet access. Large areas of Polk County have access to broadband (high-speed) Internet via telephone or cable lines, though some gaps do exist. Over 95 percent of the households in the southern one-third of the county have broadband access via telephone or cable lines. As an alternative, some areas of the county may have broadband access via other means (e.g., satellite).

**Table 4.3 – Telephone Providers in Polk County**

Municipality	Amery Telecom Inc	CenturyTel of NW Wisc LLC	CenturyTel of Midwest Wisc, LLC	CenturyTel of the Midwest-Kendall, LLC	Charter Fiberlink, LLC	Clear Lake Telephone Co, LLC	Farmers Independent Telephone Co.	Frontier Communications St. Croix LLC	Lakeland Communications Inc.	Lakeland Telecom Inc.	Luck Telephone Company	Milltown Mutual Telephone Company	Telephone USA of Wisconsin LLC
<b>Towns</b>													
Alden	X	X						X					
Apple River	X								X			X	
Balsam Lake	X												X
Beaver	X		X										
Black Brook	X					X							
Bone Lake		X		X					X			X	
Clam Falls		X											
Clayton	X		X			X							
Clear Lake						X							
Eureka					X				X		X		X
Farmington		X			X			X					
Garfield	X	X			X								X
Georgetown												X	
Johnstown			X									X	
Laketown		X					X		X		X		X
Lincoln	X				X								
Lorain		X											
Luck		X									X		
McKinley		X	X									X	
Milltown												X	X
Osceola		X			X								X
St Croix Falls					X								
Sterling							X				X		
West Sweden		X											
<b>Villages</b>													
Balsam Lake									X	X			X
Centuria									X	X			X
Clayton	X												
Clear Lake						X							
Dresser		X			X								X
Frederic		X											
Luck									X		X		
Milltown									X			X	
Osceola		X			X								
<b>Cities</b>													
Amery	X												
St. Croix Falls					X								X

source: Public Service Commission  
of Wisconsin, Local Service  
Providers database as of 7/31/08

Due to its high bandwidth and low data loss, fiber optic is preferred, if not required, for many technology businesses and information services. Fiber optic communicates by sending light through optical fiber as opposed to traditional electrical transmission by copper wire. Fiber optic does come with a higher price tag however, and is more difficult to splice into. For many communities, providing fiber optic service to their industrial or business park(s) is a priority. The economic development section of the *Addendum: Inventory of Programs, Plans, and Land Use Policies in West Central Wisconsin* compiled by WCWRPC as part of the regional comprehensive planning effort includes a table of the industrial parks in Polk County and whether fiber optic is available.

### *Power Plants, Substations, and Transmission Lines*

Power plants are industrial facilities that generate electricity for distribution to a large area. Substations are industrial installations at which electricity is received from one or more power stations for conversion from alternating to direct current, reducing the voltage or switching before distribution by a low-tension network for general consumption.

Transmission lines are the largest electric lines on the landscape. These lines generate the most public interest because they are the most noticeable electric lines and because of the potential human and animal health side effects associated with them. Transmission lines transport electricity from power plants to substations and operate at several thousand volts (typically ranging from 46,000 to 345,000 volts), stand anywhere between 60 and 100 feet tall, and serve several hundred thousand customers.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) is the branch of the Wisconsin State government with the overall responsibility of regulating electric utilities. Map 4.2 at the end of this section shows the primary electric transmission lines, substations, and line owners in west central Wisconsin. If more specific information on power plants, substations, or transmission lines is needed, communities should contract the PSC, line owners, or their local electric utility.

### *Electric Utilities*

Electric service is provided to Polk County by Xcel Energy (Northern States Power Co.), Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Company, Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative, and St. Croix Electric Cooperative. Approximate electric utility service areas for west central Wisconsin are included on Map 4.2 at the end of this section.

### *Natural Gas Utilities*

Natural gas is provided to Polk County by Wisconsin Gas Company and Midwest Natural Gas Inc. Large rural areas of the county do not have access to natural gas. Map 4.3 at the end of this section shows those communities which have natural gas service in west

central Wisconsin and the natural gas transmission lines. Service areas are shown by town, though natural gas service may not be available in all areas shown.

## Inventory of Educational Facilities

Polk County residents are served by a wide assortment of educational facilities at the elementary, primary, secondary, and post-secondary levels. In addition, some facilities offer preschool, kindergarten, special education, religious, business, industrial, trade, and vocational training. The specialized educational opportunities, such as Head Start, tend to be clustered in the larger communities. Overall, municipalities in the county generally have a limited role in the planning and function of educational facilities, primarily relying on the educational institution itself for required planning and operations.

### *Non-Public Schools*

Three private schools serve Polk County residents as shown in Table 4.4. The State database for these schools is arranged by school district, rather than by county however. So, additional private schools may exist in Polk County but are located in school districts headquartered outside the county. Local communities typically do not participate in the planning and function of these private schools.

**Table 4.4 – Private Schools in Polk County (2008)**

Public School District Area	Private Schools	2008 Enrollment
Amery	Mustard Seed Faith Academy (PK-7)	57
Frederic	Frederic 7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventist (2-6)	8
St. Croix Falls	Valley Christian School (K4-12)	70

*source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction*

## Public Schools

Public education for grades K-12 is available for all Wisconsin residents. Table 4.5 lists the public school facilities for districts headquartered in Polk County and their 2008 enrollment. A school district map for Polk County is included at the end of this section (see Map 4.4).

**Table 4.5 – Public Schools in Polk County (2008)**

District	Public Schools	2008 Enrollment
Amery	Amery High	562
	Amery Intermediate	347
	Amery Middle	405
	Lien Elementary	454
Clayton	Clayton Elementary	209
	Clayton High	139
	Clayton Middle	75
Clear Lake	Clear Lake High	228
	Clear Lake Junior High	95
	Gaylord A Nelson Educ Center	331
Frederic	Frederic 7-12 School	269
	Frederic Elementary	267
Luck	Luck Elementary	229
	Luck High	310
Osceola	Osceola Career Charter School	11
	Osceola Charter Preschool	78
	Osceola Elementary	412
	Osceola High	576
	Osceola Intermediate	395
	Osceola Middle	407
St. Croix Falls	Saint Croix Falls Elementary	285
	Saint Croix Falls High	370
	Saint Croix Falls Middle	335
	Dresser Elementary	81
Unity	Unity Elementary	419
	Unity High	371
	Unity Middle	307
<b>Total Enrollment</b>		<b>7,967</b>

*source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction*

## *Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESAs)*

CESA agencies were established in 1965 to replace county school supervisors. The state's 12 regional CESAs offer a variety of leadership and program services that link the state's 428 school districts with each other and with the Department of Public Instruction. CESA's provide specific programs identified by school districts as priorities; often several schools jointly share CESA services. All public school districts in Polk County fall within CESA District #11 which is located in Turtle Lake.

## *Vocational, Technical, and Adult Education*

Wisconsin has a very strong technical college system that works closely with industry, businesses, and the public sector to provide practical workforce training in a wide variety of fields. The state is divided into sixteen vocational districts with a technical college serving each district with a variety of classes, seminars, and vocational degree programs.

**Map 4.1 – Vocational Districts in the Region**



source: Wisconsin Technical College System webpage.  
<http://www.witc.edu/colleges.htm>

Technical college programs include apprenticeships, staff development, agriculture, marketing, driver education, health careers, law enforcement, home economics, trade and industrial, and adult education. Also, clinics and seminars are held throughout the year.

Polk County is located within the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) vocational district (see Map 4.1). According to the WITC website ([www.witc.edu](http://www.witc.edu)), nearly 1 in 9 residents in their district have taken some sort of class through a WITC campus, branch campus, or outreach center.

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College has regional campuses in New Richmond, Rice Lake, Ashland, and Superior with branch campuses in Hayward and Ladysmith and an outreach center in Spooner. Total 2007-2008 WITC enrollment for credit courses was 7,382, while noncredit enrollment exceeded 20,000.



## *University of Wisconsin System*

The University of Wisconsin system of public universities consists of two doctoral research universities (UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee), eleven comprehensive universities, thirteen two-year colleges, and the Statewide UW-Extension system.

West central Wisconsin is particularly blessed with three comprehensive universities, being home to UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stout (Menomonie), and UW-River Falls (see Table 4.6). Of the thirteen University of Wisconsin colleges in the state offering associates degrees, UW-Barron County located in Rice Lake is the only one located in west central Wisconsin. Residents may also access associates-degree programming via the Internet-based UW Colleges Online.

**Table 4.6 – Enrollment of UW Campuses in West Central Wisconsin**

Campus	1998-99 Enrollment	2007-08 Enrollment	% change
UW-Eau Claire	10852	10854	0.02%
UW-River Falls	5617	6452	14.87%
UW-Stout	7731	8477	9.65%
UW-Barron County	491	606	23.42%

*source: University of Wisconsin system*

University of Wisconsin-Extension partners closely with county governments to provide supportive services to all residents, businesses, and governments. This is a very active expression of the “Wisconsin Idea”, which is a philosophy that the University of Wisconsin System is a partner in improving the quality of life of all Wisconsin residents through education.

## *Other Colleges and Universities*

There are no independent colleges or universities located in west central Wisconsin which are fully accredited, degree-granting, and a member of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

## Inventory of Other Community Facilities and Services

In most cases, the planning and operations of the following community facilities and services occurs at the local or facility level. Often, the local community may only be marginally involved, with most planning and operational decisions made by the private entity that operates the facility or provides the service. As such, the majority of the specific circumstances, needs, issues, or policies associated with these community facilities and services are addressed in the individual community plans and not in this conditions and trends report. Given that the county is increasing in population, some corresponding increases in the level of services can be anticipated.

### *Libraries*

Communities in Polk County are served by 10 public libraries which are part of the Polk County Library Federation:

- Amery Public Library
- Balsam Lake Public Library
- Centuria Public Library
- Clear Lake Public Library
- Dresser Public Library
- Frederic Public Library
- Luck Public Library
- Milltown Public Library
- Osceola Public Library
- St. Croix Falls Public Library

The Polk County Library Federation offers rotating materials throughout the ten libraries, operates a books-by-mail program, provides audio-visual materials and educational assistance, and helps coordinate cooperative purchases.

The ten public Polk County libraries are also members of the Indianhead Federated Library System, a state-funded library agency serving ten counties in west central Wisconsin. The Library System assists and connects these local libraries through the sharing of materials, computer library cataloging, training assistance, cataloging of materials, web hosting, and outreach support.

Some communities or interest groups (e.g., historical societies) may also have small-scale collections of books and related resources at other facilities. Library facilities are also available at many public schools.

The planning and operation of libraries are the primarily the responsibility of the library board, often working collaboratively with the local school district, library system, and community.

## *Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Facilities*

Solid waste is commonly referred to as garbage, trash, refuse or rubbish. Solid waste disposal is one of the more expensive community investments made. An adequate solid waste disposal system is important in attracting business and industry. Industry usually generates more waste than residential uses, and all generated solid waste requires proper disposal.

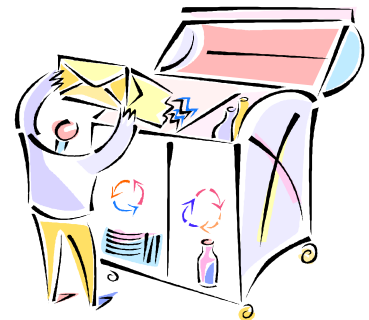
Municipalities in Polk County take different approaches to solid waste collection. Some municipalities have contracted with a private refuse hauler for curb-side garbage collection or a drop-off/dumpster site, while residents in other communities contract directly with the waste hauler. Depending on contract terms, haulers may offer special services, such as collection of recyclables, appliances, construction materials, and yard waste.

Polk County is the recycling responsibility unit for the entire county. Some residents may have recycling collection through their private waste hauler, though most residents utilize one of the county's recycling drop-off centers:

Polk County Recycling Center	3 miles east of St. Croix Falls on USH 8
Alden	Town Hall
Amery	behind Amery Fire Dept. Facility
Balsam Lake	Government Center
Black Brook	Town Hall
Cushing	Cushing Co-op Grain Dept.
Clam Falls	East of Clam Falls Tavern
Eureka	Town Hall
Farmington	Town Hall Garage
Frederic	Village Shop
Georgetown	Town Hall
Lincoln	Town Hall
Luck	Village Shop
Osceola	Village Shop
Wanderoos/Garfield	near Town Hall & Fire Hall

Polk County has adopted a recycling and solid waste ordinance with mandatory separation of recyclable materials covering those municipalities for which it is the responsibility unit.

The county maintains an excellent webpage (<http://www.co.polk.wi.us/recycling>) covering the county's recycling program, including what can be recycled, drop-off locations, and contact information.



Polk County's recycling program webpage also includes information on the county's special collection services. As state grant assistance allows, Polk County conducts a combined household/agricultural "Clean Sweep" twice a year to provide residents a safe means of disposing hazardous chemicals, paints, solvents, etc. Beginning in 2008, this program has been expanded to include pharmaceuticals. Small businesses, non-profits, and governmental agencies may also be eligible to participate in the Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) Program, which offers an inexpensive option for the disposal of hazardous waste.

For more information on recycling in Polk County, please contact the Recycling Center (715-483-1088), the Solid Waste Office (715-485-9294), or visit their website.

## *Law Enforcement*

Law enforcement services fall under the statewide Wisconsin mutual aid agreement, with additional support and coordination through Wisconsin Emergency Management—Emergency Police Services in times of crisis. Overall, most planning and operations related to law enforcement occurs at the local level, though there is a high level of coordination with the county on communications and overall emergency management concerns.

The following constitute the primary law enforcement agencies in Polk County:

- Amery Police Department – 120 Center St. West, Amery 54001
- Balsam Lake Police Department – P.O. Box 506, Balsam Lake 54810
- Centuria Police Department – P.O. Box 53, Centuria 54824
- Clayton Police Department – P.O. Box 63, Clayton 54004
- Clear Lake Police Department – P.O. Box 48, Clear Lake 54005
- Dresser Police Department – P.O. Box 547, Village Hall, Dresser 54009
- Frederic Police Department – P.O. Box 567, Frederic 54837
- Luck Police Department – 401 Main St. Box 315, Luck, 54853
- Milltown Police Department – P.O. Box 277, Milltown 54858
- Osceola Police Department – P.O. Box 217, Osceola 54020
- St. Croix Falls Police Department – 710 S. Hwy 35, St. Croix Falls 54024
- Polk County Sheriff's Dept – 1005 West Main, Suite 900, Balsam Lake 54810
- Wisconsin State Patrol

Polk County Emergency Management provides additional support to the county's emergency response providers and local governments through emergency operations planning, training, coordination, crisis response, and recovery. In addition to county and local emergency operating plans which encompass the entire county, the *Polk County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* was adopted in 2008 which identifies proactive strategies to mitigate the potential impacts of a natural hazard event.

## *Fire Departments*

Nineteen fire departments provide fire protection for Polk County communities, and each gives mutual aid to neighboring departments in responding to large-scale emergencies. The fire districts for Polk County are shown on Map 4.5 at the end of this section. Overall, most planning and operations related to fire departments occurs at the local level, though there is a high level of coordination with the county on communications and overall emergency management concerns.

## *Ambulance*

There are nine ambulance providers serving Polk County as shown on Map 4.6 at the end of this section. Overall, most planning and operations related to ambulance and rescue services occurs at the local level or is undertaken by the private, contracted firm, though some coordination occurs with local hospitals and with the county on communications and emergency management.

## *First Responders*

First responders are trained in medical techniques, medical equipment, patient assessment, and emergency scene management beyond basic first aid. First responders respond directly from their home (or other location) to the scene of an emergency. At the scene, the responders provide critical medical care until an ambulance arrives. First responders are sometimes associated with local fire departments, and many firefighters also have first responder training.

Responders receive 59 hours of certified training and are state licensed, with many going on to be licensed as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). EMTs require up to 756 hours of training prior to certification, while full paramedics require 1,200 hours. Most first responders are volunteers who must complete a bi-annual 30-hour refresher course, in addition to specialized and local (often monthly) training programs.

First responder service is contracted by the local municipality. Map 4.7 at the end of this section identifies the first responder/EMS service areas in the county.

## *Hazardous Materials Response*

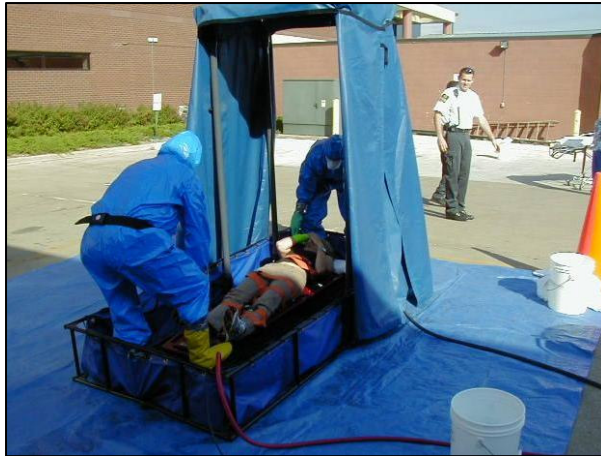
Polk County does not have a County Level “B” Hazardous Materials Response Team, though local fire department personnel may have been trained to the operations level. As needed, the West Central Wisconsin Regional Response Team, based in the Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire Fire Departments, can be contacted for additional reconnaissance and research support. This Level A team can also be requested to respond to the most serious of spills and releases requiring the highest level of skin and respiratory protective gear. This includes all chemical, biological, or radiological emergencies requiring vapor-tight Level A gear with self-contained breathing apparatus.

Planning and exercises regarding hazard materials is coordinated through the Polk County Emergency Management Office in conjunction with the Polk County Local Emergency Preparedness Committee.

## Medical Facilities

Medical facilities are becoming increasingly important regional assets, improving the health of residents, while offering an important source of employment and a better quality of life.

Overall, most planning and operations related to medical facilities is undertaken by the private hospital or clinic, and includes little involvement of the local community. Table 4.7 lists the general medical clinics and hospitals in Polk County.



WC WI Regional Response Team Practice Drill

**Table 4.7 – Clinics and Hospitals in Polk County**

Location	Facility Name	Approx. Capacity
Amery	Amery Regional Medical Center	25 beds
Big Round Lake	Big Round Lake Clinic (St. Croix Chipp.)	
Clear Lake	Clear Lake Clinic	
Frederic	Frederic Regional Medical Clinic	
Luck	Luck Medical Clinic	
Osceola	Ladd Memorial Hospital	23 beds
St. Croix Falls	St. Croix Regional Medical Center	25 beds
Balsam Lake	Unity Clinic	

*source: Polk County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, Wisconsin Department of Health Services*

## Child Care Services

Wisconsin State Law requires that anyone caring for four or more children under the age of seven years who are unrelated to the provider must obtain a license through the Department of Children and Families. Table 4.8 is a list of state licensed child care facilities in Polk County for family child care (up to 8 children) and group child care (9 or more children). Seventy-seven percent of the county's 35 child care facilities are licensed for family child care. Communities may need to consider population and demographic trends compared to the capacity of available child care in their area to help determine if child care needs of the community are being met.

**Table 4.8 – Licensed Child Care Facilities in Polk County**

City	Day Care Name	Capacity
AMERY	COZY CARE DAY CARE	8
	GROWING YEARS	8
	MARIANN'S LITTLE LAMBS	8
	SHERRY'S DAY CARE	8
	TENDER TIMES CHILD CARE	8
BALSAM LAKE	BALSAM LAKE CESA #11 HEAD START	34
	KIDS QUEST	8
	STACY'S LICENSED DAY CARE	8
CENTURIA	CUDDLE BUGS CHILD CARE	8
	LIGHTHOUSE FAMILY CHILD CARE	8
	SANDY'S FAMILY DAY CARE	8
CLEAR LAKE	LITTLE LAMBS CHRISTIAN DC CTR LLC	30
CUSHING	BECKY'S HOUSE FAMILY DAY CARE	8
	GENE'S JUMPSTART PROGRAM	8
	KID'S CORNER CHILDCARE	8
DRESSER	COUNTRY CARE	8
	QUALLE BEAR DAYCARE	42
FREDERIC	CHRISTY JENSEN'S DAYCARE	8
	COUNTRY WONDERLAND FAMILY DAY CARE	8
	LINDAS FAM CHILD CARE	8
LUCK	ABC EXPRESS PRESCHOOL	24
	BRENDA'S KIDDIE KARE	8
	TAMMY'S FAMILY DAY CARE	8
MILLTOWN	LIL' RASCALS PLAYHOUSE	8
OSCEOLA	ABOVE ALL BEGINNINGS CHILD CARE INC	91
	BUSY BEE'S CHILD CARE CTR	29
	CORINNE'S DAY CARE	8
	GRACE FOR KIDS	8
	HILLTOP DAY CARE	8
ST CROIX FALLS	BETHIE'S BUSY BEES	8
	BIG HUGS CHILD CARE CENTER	32
	KIDS VIEW DAY CARE	44
	THE LITTLE SCHOOL	8
TURTLE LAKE	DAR'S BUSY BODIES DAY CARE	8
	ROCHELLE'S LITTLE TYKES DAYCARE	8

source: Wisconsin Department of Children & Families, July 2008.

## *Assisted Living Facilities, Nursing Homes, and Senior Programs*

Senior care facilities are becoming increasingly important regional assets to meet the changing needs of our aging population in a manner that permits residents to age with dignity. Since 1982, the State of Wisconsin has maintained a moratorium on the construction of new nursing home beds due to high vacancy rates. This has created a problem in some areas, meanwhile encouraging the use of alternative assisted-living approaches. In 2005, Polk County nursing homes were at 89.6% capacity, which is slightly above the state overall average. The actual availability of beds at any given time in Polk County can vary.

Polk County has a variety of assisted living facilities. The higher costs of many of these facilities, combined with decreased access to related governmental support, sometimes encourage residents to choose nursing care over assisted living. As the baby boomer generation ages, demand for such facilities is expected to increase. And with advances in medicines and technology, there has been an increasing trend in the provision of "in-home care" as an alternative to group homes or nursing care, which is also less costly overall.

Table 4.9 lists the assisted living facilities and nursing homes in Polk County, along with their capacities. These facilities are organized by five types:

**Adult Day Care** provides services for part of a day, primarily on weekdays, in a group setting to adults who need assistance with activities of daily living, supervision, or protection. Adult day care centers are not licensed by the state, but may be certified.

**Adult Family Homes** provides residence and care for up to four adults of minimum age 18 who are not related to the operator, with up to seven hour per week of nursing care per resident. Counties certify one- and two-bed adult family homes, while the state licenses homes with three or four adults.

**Community-Based Residential Facilities** are a place where five or more adults reside who receive care, treatment, or services that are above the level of room and board, but includes not more than three hours of nursing care (at the intermediate level or below) per week per resident. These facilities often provide services to a particular group, such as persons with dementia, developmental disabilities, or mental health problems. CBRFs are licensed by the state.

**Residential Care Apartment Complexes** are independent-living apartments where five or more adults reside which are provided up to 28 hours per week of supportive and/or nursing services. These complexes may be a distinct part of a nursing home or community-based residential facility and are certified by the state.

**Nursing Homes** provide constant nursing care and supportive services to residents who have significant deficiencies with activities of daily living. Residents are typically the



elderly, younger adults with physical disabilities, and those requiring rehabilitative therapies. Nursing homes are licensed by the state.

Communities may need to consider population and demographic trends compared to the capacity of available assisted living facilities and nursing homes in their area to help determine if needs are being met. And with Polk County's aging population, the availability of such facilities could be a potential issue for the future.

There is a large variety of additional supportive services available to the elderly and those with disabilities, ranging from in-home support to transportation to financial services to social activities. Such services are provided through a mix of governmental and non-profit institutions, often relying on volunteer support. Senior information and lunches are available at five sites in Polk County:

- Amery – Congregational Church
- Clear Lake – Ridgeview Apartments
- Dresser – Peace Lutheran Church
- Frederic – Comforts of Home Community Room
- Milltown – Milltown Community Center

For more information on aging and disability programs in Polk County, please contact the Polk County Office of Aging (715-485-8599) or visit its webpage: (<http://www.co.polk.wi.us/Aging/>).

**Table 4.9 – Assisted Living Facilities in Polk County**

City	Facility Type	Facility Name	Capacity or # of Beds
AMERY	Nursing Home	GOLDEN AGE MANOR	114
	Nursing Home	WILLOW RIDGE HEALTHCARE FACILITIES LLC	83
	CBRF	RIVERBEND	11
	Resid. Care Apt. Complex	AMERY ASSTD LIV -RIVER BEND	26
	Resid. Care Apt. Complex	EVERGREEN VILLAGE	8
BALSAM LAKE	CBRF	AURORA RESIDENTIAL ALTERNATIVES INC #066	5
CENTURIA	Adult Family Home	AURORA RESIDENTIAL ALTERNATIVES INC #034	4
	CBRF	SOPHIES MANOR ASSISTED LIVING II INC	20
CLEAR LAKE	Adult Family Home	ROSEWOOD ADULT FAMILY HOME	4
	CBRF	CLEAR LAKE MANOR	8
FREDERIC	Nursing Home	FREDERIC NURSING AND REHABILITATION COMMUNITY	50
	Adult Family Home	VAUGHAN/SORENSEN AFH	4
	CBRF	COMFORTS OF HOME - FREDERIC	20
LUCK	Adult Day Care	PATRICIAS	6
	Nursing Home	UNITED PIONEER HOME	75
MILLTOWN	Adult Family Home	ANGELS IN WAITING	4
OSCEOLA	Nursing Home	L O SIMENSTAD NURSING CARE UNIT	40
	Adult Family Home	MORNING GLORY - COMMUNITY HOMESTEAD	4
ST CROIX FALLS	Nursing Home	GOOD SAMARITAN SOCIETY-ST. CROIX VALLEY	91
	CBRF	COMFORTS OF HOME - ST CROIX II	16
	CBRF	COMFORTS OF HOME-ST CROIX FALLS I	15
	Resid. Care Apt. Complex	ST CROIX VALLEY GOOD SAM APT COMPLEX	8

source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services, July 2008.

## *Parks and Recreation Facilities*

Visitors and residents of Polk County have many recreational opportunities. The majority of park and recreational planning in Polk County occurs at the local level or, for county and state facilities, under the direction of Polk County Parks Department and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, respectively. Any specific circumstances, issues, or policies associated with parks and recreational facilities specific to a community will be addressed in the utilities and community facilities element of the respective, individual community plan.

Recreation facilities in the county are largely associated with the county's natural resources. Polk County boasts 23,619 surface acres of lakes and 200 miles of rivers and streams. Outdoor enthusiasts can also enjoy one of seven golf courses, about 115 miles of multi-use trails, over 50,000 acres of public lands, and six shooting ranges. Polk County owns over 17,000 acres of County Forest lands alone.

During winter months, snowmobilers can enjoy over 370 miles of groomed, public snowmobile trails and cross-country skiing is available at numerous of locations (e.g., Kennedy-Garfield Park, Interstate Park, Cattail Trail, Gandy Dancer Trail). Some communities also provide ice-skating rinks and cross-country ski trails.

Polk County currently has four off-road recreation trails of county or regional significance. The Clayton-Clear Lake Trail runs between these two villages. The Cattail State Trail runs from Amery east 17.8 miles to Almena. The Gandy Dancer State Trail is 98 miles in length, travelling from St. Croix Falls, east to Centuria, then north to Danbury Minnesota. The Ice Age National Scenic Trail also crosses the county from St. Croix Falls, merging with the Gandy Dancer Trail for some time, then east from the Frederic area. There has been discussion of potentially extending the Cattail Trail to the south and connecting to the Willow River trail in St. Croix County, as included in the *St. Croix County Parks and Recreation Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan* adopted in 2008.

No complete inventory of all parks and recreation areas in the County exists. Some recreation areas may be on private land or maintained by a community organization, while school facilities (e.g., playgrounds, ballfields, basketball courts) are often used by



the public for outdoor recreation in many communities. And the definition of parks and recreation areas can vary significantly by community. For instance, in a rural area, a small, unimproved pull-out for fishing along a river bank may perform an important recreational function.

Table 4.10 is a list of the primary County and municipal recreational facilities in Polk County. Data for Table 4.10 was taken from the *Polk County Outdoor Recreation*

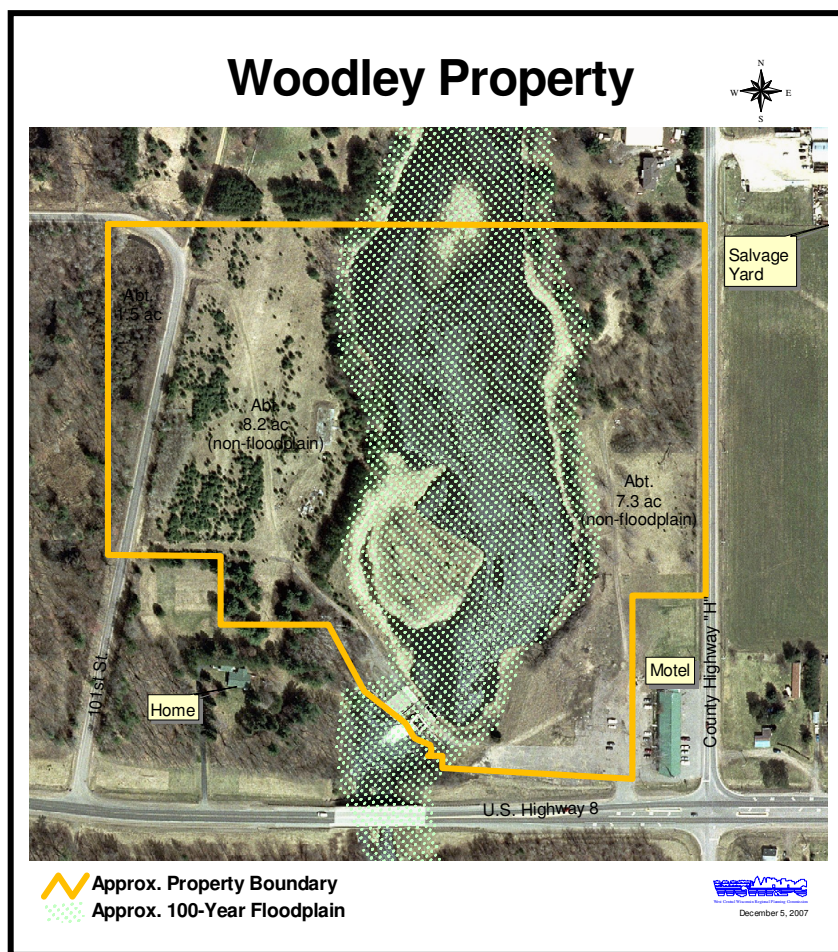
*Plan* which was last updated in 2004, the *2008 Polk County Tourism Guide*, plans on file at WCWRPC, and community webpages. Not included are boat ramps, trails, unimproved waysides, school facilities, smaller playgrounds, and scattered state and federal lands. In many cases, communities will need to update and amend this list to fully consider resident demand for park facilities during their comprehensive planning efforts

Privately owned facilities are also not listed in Table 4.10, such as those provided by a community group or maintained by a homeowners' association. Some communities require developers to provide such parks as part of their development or make payments towards parkland in lieu of dedications. In additional cases, towns may work cooperatively with, and contribute to, neighboring incorporated areas in the development of parklands.

Many of the available nature-based outdoor recreational amenities (e.g., County Forest, Wildlife Areas) are discussed in the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources section of this report. Bicycling is covered previously in the Transportation section.

Also not listed in Table 4.10 is the 27.8-acre Woodley Property owned by the county in the Town of Apple River. Due to the property's proximity to the Apple River, it has significant recreational potential should it be developed as such.

If state grant funding is being considered for outdoor recreation amenities, a state-reviewed outdoor recreation plan, adopted within the last five years, is a required prerequisite. Polk County last updated its outdoor recreation plan in 2004 and is currently updating this plan. The *Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan* provides further detail on many of the recreational



facilities in the county and should be referenced to supplement the information in this section. However, not all city, village, and town facilities were included in the Plan's scope.

**Table 4.10 – Primary Parks in Polk County**

Owner	Facility	Location
Federal (Ntnl Park Srvc)	St. Croix National Scenic Riverway	along St. Croix River
State of Wisconsin	Interstate Park	T. Osceola & St. Croix Falls
	Joel Marsh Wildlife Area	T. Beaver & Clayton
	Rice Beds Wildlife Area	T. Beaver & Johnstown
	Wolf Creek	T. of Eureka
	Straight Lake Wilderness State Park	T. of Luck
	St. Croix River State Forest	T. of Sterling
Polk County	Apple River County Park	T. of Apple River
	Atlas County Park	T. of Laketown
	Black Brook County Park	T. of Black Brook
	D. D. Kennedy Environmental Area	T. of Garfield
	Garfield Cross Country Ski Trail	T. of Garfield
	Lotus Lake County Park	T. of Osceola
	Somers Lake Recreation Area	T. of Clam Falls
	Mackie Lake	T. of McKinley
	Polk County Forest Lands (17,149 ac)	T. Sterling, Lorain, McKinley, and others
Town of Bone Lake	Bone Lake Town Park	T. of Bone Lake
Town of Farmington	Farmington Town Park & Ballfield	T. of Farmington
Town of Garfield	Lake Wapogasset Park	Town of Garfield
Town of Garfield	Garfield Town Park	Town of Garfield
Village of Balsam Lake	Pine Park	V. of Balsam Lake
	Balsam Lake Beach	V. of Balsam Lake
Village of Centuria	Centuria Village Park	V. of Centuria
Village of Clayton	Public Beaches on Lakes Magnor & Camelia	V. of Clayton
Village of Clear Lake	Clear Lake Village Park	V. of Clear Lake
	Clear Lake Veterans Memorial	V. of Clear Lake
Village of Dresser	Thye Memorial Park	V. of Dresser
	Dresser Memorial Park	V. of Dresser
	Tennis Courts & Skating Rink	V. of Dresser
	Railroad Park	V. of Dresser
	Wilderness Parkway	V. of Dresser

**Table 4.10 – Primary Parks in Polk County** *continued*

Owner	Facility	Location
Village of Frederic	Soo Line Depot Square	V. of Frederic
	North Watertower Park	V. of Frederic
	Coon Lake Park	V. of Frederic
Village of Luck	Luck Village Park	V. of Luck
	Softball Field	V. of Luck
	Municipal Golf Course	V. of Luck
	Fort Luck Park	V. of Luck
	John Haukeness Wildlife Area	V. of Luck
Village of Milltown	Bering Park	V. of Milltown
	Mellgren Field	V. of Milltown
Village of Osceola	Oakey Park	V. of Osceola
	River St. Neighborhood Park	V. of Osceola
	West Side Playground	V. of Osceola
	Millpond Park	V. of Osceola
	Cascade Falls	V. of Osceola
	Third Avenue Triangle	V. of Osceola
	The Bluff	V. of Osceola
	Wetlands Presevation Trailway	V. of Osceola
City of Amery	South Twin Park	C. of Amery
	North Park	C. of Amery
	North Twin Park	C. of Amery
	Soldier's Field	C. of Amery
	Triangle/Schumacher Park	C. of Amery
	Soo Line Park	C. of Amery
	Softball Field	C. of Amery
	York Park	C. of Amery
	Dam Site Park	C. of Amery
	Michael Park	C. of Amery
City of St. Croix Falls	Water Tower Park	C. of St. Croix Falls
	Lions Park	C. of St. Croix Falls
	Jerusalem Pond	C. of St. Croix Falls
	Overlook Park	C. of St. Croix Falls
	Florence Baker Riegel Memorial Park	C. of St. Croix Falls
	Riverfront Park	C. of St. Croix Falls
	Downtown Mini-Park	C. of St. Croix Falls

## *Cemeteries*

Table 4.11 lists the cemeteries in Polk County as identified at the Polk County USGenWeb site (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wiPolk/>) and in the book *Cemetery Locations in Wisconsin* compiled by Linda Herrick and Wendy Uncapher. Cemeteries are arranged by general township area with town names given for ease of reference; the actual cemetery location may be within a city or village located within a listed town. This list does not necessarily include all smaller cemeteries, family plots, or Native American burial sites. Further, some of these cemeteries may be no longer in use. As needed, each individual community plan may identify any additional known cemeteries and any issues, needs, or policies related to those cemeteries in their community.



**Table 4.11 – Polk County Cemeteries**

<b>Township Area</b>	<b>Cemeteries</b>
Alden	East Emmanuel
	Little Falls Lutheran
	Wagon Landing (Mason Landing)
	West Emmanuel
Apple River	Apple River Township aka Shiloh
	Balsam Luthern
	Range aka Elim
	St. Ann's
	St. Mary's
Balsam Lake <i>includes V. of Balsam Lake</i>	Balsam Lake
Beaver	Mount Hope
Black Brook	Black Brook
Bone Lake	Bone Lake
	Zion Lutheran
Clam Falls	Clam Falls
	Lewis (Lundeen)
Clayton <i>includes V. of Clayton</i>	Clayton (Marsh Lake or Mission)
	Swedish Emmanuel
Clear Lake <i>includes V. of Clear Lake</i>	Clear Lake
	Moe
	Swedish Congregation
Eureka	Grannum
	McAskill Family
	New Home
	North Valley
	Pleasant Hill
	Pleasant Valley
	St. John Lutheran
Farmington	Assumption Catholic
	Farmington Center
	Oak Grove Lutheran
	Ramsey
	St. Mary's Catholic

**Table 4.11 –Polk County Cemeteries** *continued*

<b>Township Area</b>	<b>Cemeteries</b>
Garfield	Deronda
	El Salem
	Garfield
	Trinity Luthern
Georgetown	Georgetown Free Lutheran
	Holy Rosary (Georgetown Catholic)
	Georgetown Evangelical (Georgetown Lutheran)
	Bunyan Union Protestant (Union Free)
Johnstown	German Evangelical Lutheran (Christ Lutheran)
	Indian (Johnstown Township)
Laketown	Cushing
	Haustrup
	Laketown Lutheran (Tamarack)
	Pleasant Valley (Union)
Lincoln <i>includes C. of Amery</i>	Amery
	Apple River Free Mission
	Lincoln
	Fox
	Poor Farm
	Travelers Rest (Volga)
	East Lincoln
Lorain	Lorain (Lorain Methodist)
Luck <i>includes V. of Luck</i>	Lawson
	Luck
	St. Peter Lutheran
	West Denmark
McKinley	Corpus Christie
	McKinley
	McKinley Township
Milltown <i>includes V. of Milltown</i>	Milltown
	St. Patrick's Catholic (Long Lake Catholic)
Osceola <i>includes Villages of Osceola &amp; Dresser</i>	Bethesda Lutheran (Sand Lake Lutheran)
	Mount Hope
	Pleasant Prairie (Hale)
	St. Peter's (Dresser)
St. Croix Falls <i>includes City of St. Croix Falls &amp; V. of Centuria</i>	Fristad Lutheran (Centuria)
	St. Croix Falls
Sterling	The Barrens (Evergreen or Old Settlers)
	Strout
	Wolf Creek
West Sweden <i>includes V. of Frederic</i>	West Sweden
	Maple Grove
	Grace Evangelic Lutheran
	St. Dominic



## *Dams*

In total, Polk County has 46 dams, most being small earthen works for livestock or recreational ponds and flowages. Only 16 dams have more than 10-acre feet of normal storage. Fifteen new dams, all of which are small and would be privately owned, are currently being planned or are approved, but not yet built. One private-owned dam on a tributary to Little Mirror Lake is being removed.

In most cases, if one of the smaller dams failed, the runoff downstream would be hardly noticed. For instance, when the Kennedy Mill Dam in the Town of Garfield washed out in 2001, damage was confined to the area immediately downstream from the dam; no flooding problems were caused by this dam failure farther downstream, and water levels on Wapogasset Lake rose by only a one-quarter inch. An exception was the 2002 failure of the Upper Osceola dam which caused substantial damage downstream within the Village of Osceola; this dam was not replaced and a buy-out of 19 manufactured housing units was implemented which will prevent this problem from reoccurring. There may be the potential to remove some of the older smaller dams which no longer serve a function, in order to improve water quality and lower the risk of failure.

The following is a list of those governments which own dams, dikes, or levees in Polk County:

Polk County (4)	Kennedy, Woodley/Ridler, Atlas/Long Trade Lake, Big Butternut Lake
Polk & Barron County (1)	Horseshoe Lake Canal
Town of Clam Falls	Godfrey Lake Dam
Town of Milltown	Half Moon Lake Dam
C. of Amery/T. of Lincoln	Amery Dam
V. of Osceola	Lower Osceola Dam
V. of Turtle Lake	Skinaway Lake Dam
Wisconsin DNR (5)	Straight Lake (2), Lake of the Dalles, Beaver Brook, Joel Marsh WLA
U.S. Fish & Wildlife (2)	Prairie Flats 1 & 3 (Small)

There are four high hazard dams in the county, of which only one (Amery Dam) is owned by a municipality or governmental entity. Two of the high hazard dams (Lower Balsam Lake Dam and St. Croix Falls Dam) are owned by utility companies. The fourth high hazard dam (Big Rock Creek Farm Dam) is privately owned and associated with a fish hatchery. The hazard rating does not reflect the attributes or strength of the dam, but is based on potential loss of life and property damage if the dam should break and the controls in place down river to limit such damage (e.g., floodplain zoning). All of these dams are highly regulated, inspected regularly, and have emergency action plans on file with the Polk County Emergency Management office.

The Ridler/Woodley Dam currently has neglected status. The dam was constructed in the early 1900's for electric generation and served such a purpose until the 1970's. The earthen section of the dam failed in 1965. In May 2001, the dam started leaking and was

topped, resulting in major damage to the powerhouse and spillway, but saved after a massive local sandbagging effort. In February 2002, Polk County acquired the dam by tax deed. In 2002, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) ordered the draw-down of the dam and its removal or replacement (Order #3-NO-2002-49045st). Polk County replied with a letter of intent to abandon the dam, though the dam's removal has not yet taken place. While downstream vulnerability to homes and private property has been deemed low by the DNR, the failure of the Woodley dam could impact other downstream bridges and dams, such as the high-hazard potential dam at Amery.

For additional details on the dams of Polk County, their hazard ratings, and some key development trends in dam shadows, please see the *Polk County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan*.

## *Other Government Facilities*

No comprehensive list of every government facility in Polk County exists. Such facilities can range from administrative and recreation buildings to airports and dams. Utilities, such as municipal wastewater, have corresponding facilities. The law enforcement and emergency services identified previously also have associated facilities, though some of these services may be co-located with other municipal functions. The following government facilities or related services have been discussed in other sections of this report:

Airports & Transportation Infrastructure	see transportation section
Public Wastewater Treatment Facilities	previously in this section
Municipal & Community Water Systems	previously in this section
Law Enforcement & Emergency Services	previously in this section
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities	previously in this section
Schools	previously in this section
Libraries	previously in this section
Dams	previously in this section

Polk County and each local municipal government have at least one structure in which administrative functions are carried out and services are provided. Towns, villages, and smaller cities typically have a single hall or municipal building, while larger villages, cities, and counties may have multiple buildings. Separate structures are also required for road, highway, public works, and maintenance; these sites may include recycling drop-off facilities as well. In towns, the "town shop" is often co-located with the town hall, but not in all cases. Most counties have a primary Highway Department facility, with a number of smaller ancillary facilities for the storage of vehicles, salt, sand, etc., strategically located throughout the county.

As part of individual comprehensive planning efforts, each community may need to inventory their municipal facilities and identify issues related to their facilities (e.g., availability, capacity, condition), and develop corresponding plan policies to address local concerns.

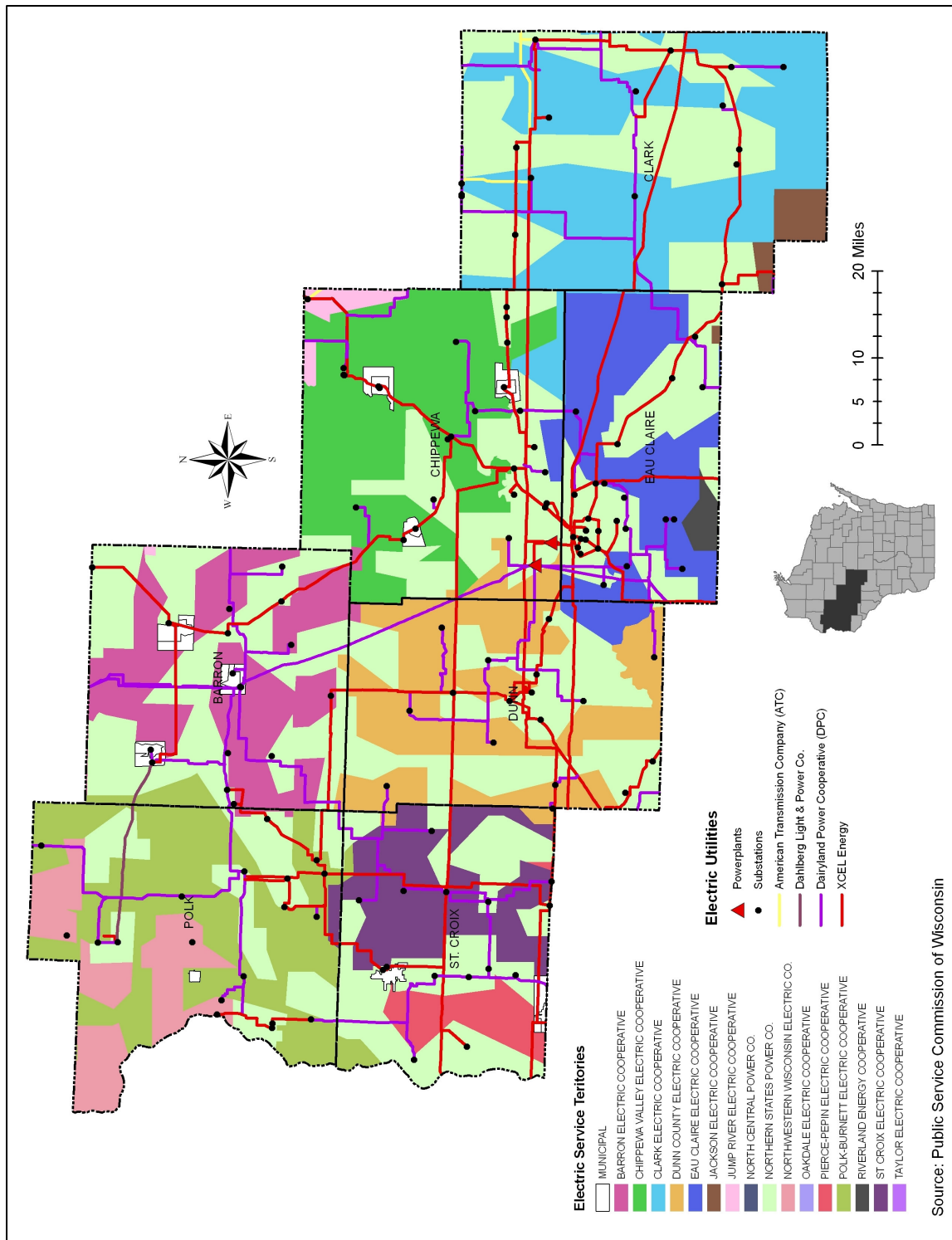
## Summary

Utilities and community facilities in Polk County vary from small-scale facilities serving primarily local needs to regional facilities and networks serving large portions of the county's population. As municipalities grow and change, the infrastructure, essential services, and related community facilities must evolve as well.

This section presented an initial inventory of the principal utilities and community facilities of Polk County. During local planning efforts, this section may need to be supplemented to include additional facilities and details, and analyzed more closely to identify issues and community needs.

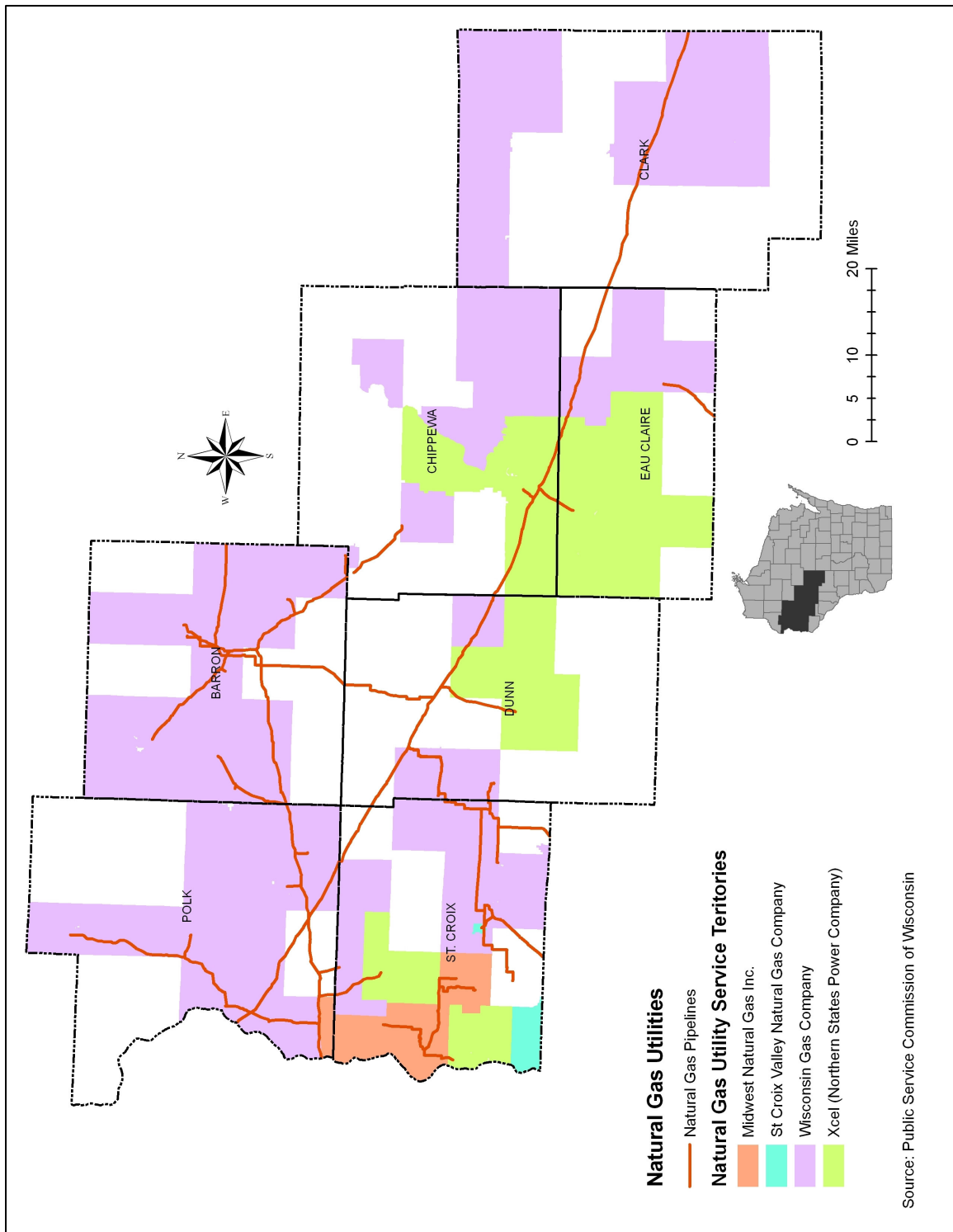
# Utilities and Community Facilities Maps

Map 4.2 – Electric Service in West Central Wisconsin



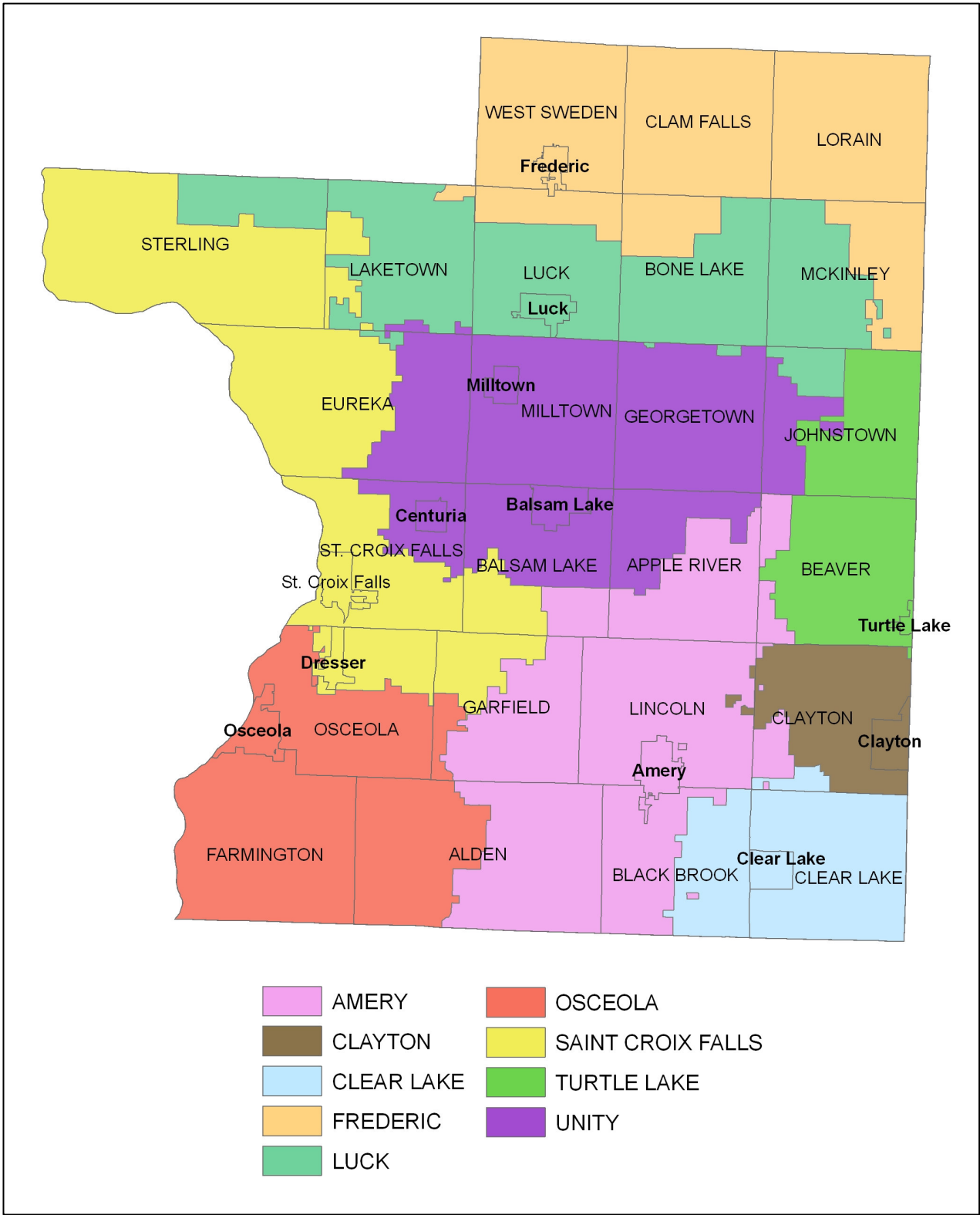
source: Wisconsin Public Service Commission

**Map 4.3 – Natural Gas Service in West Central Wisconsin**



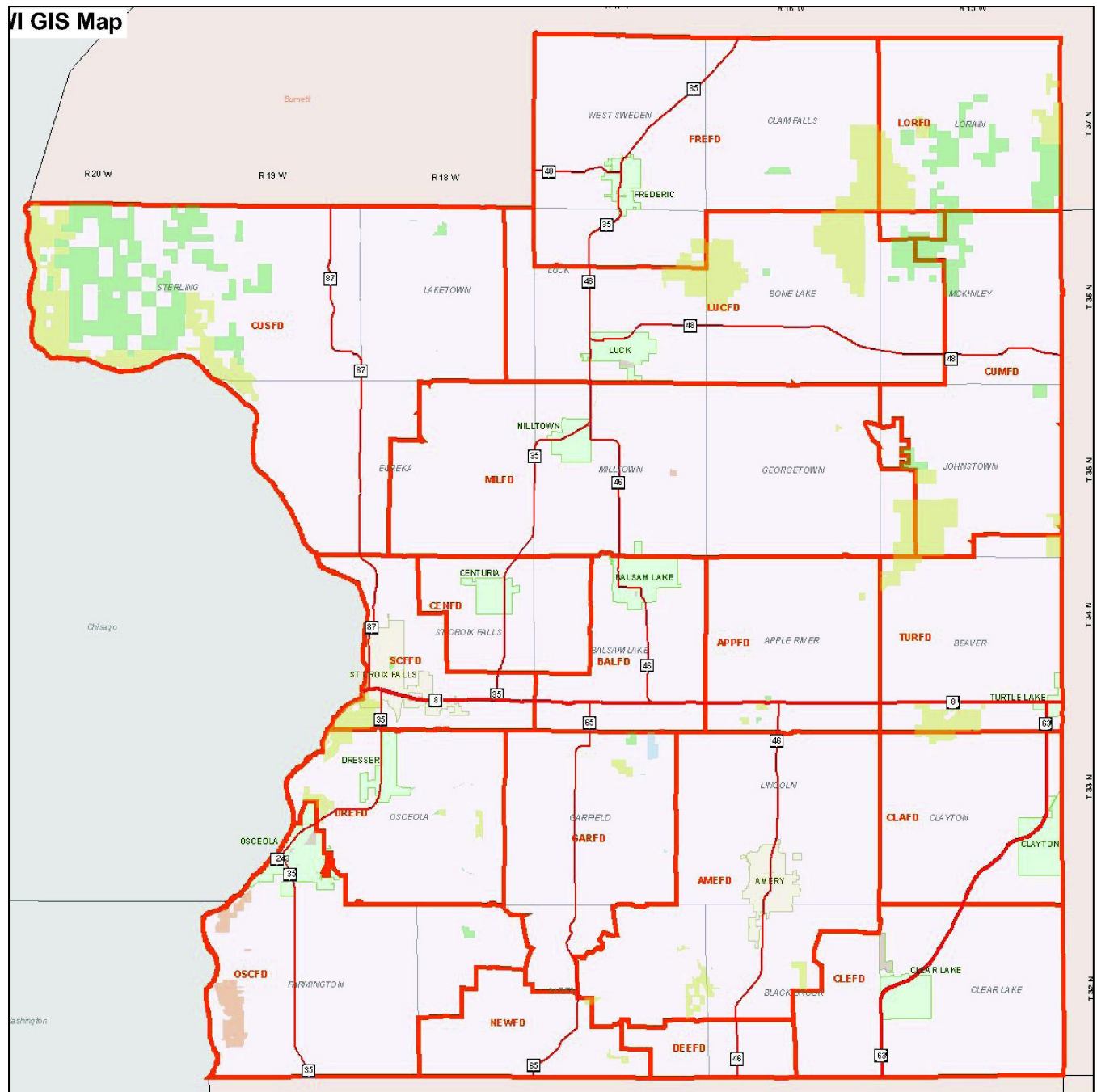
source: Wisconsin Public Service Commission

Map 4.4 – Polk County School Districts



source: U.S. Census TIGER Files, 2000

**Map 4.5 – Polk County Fire Districts**

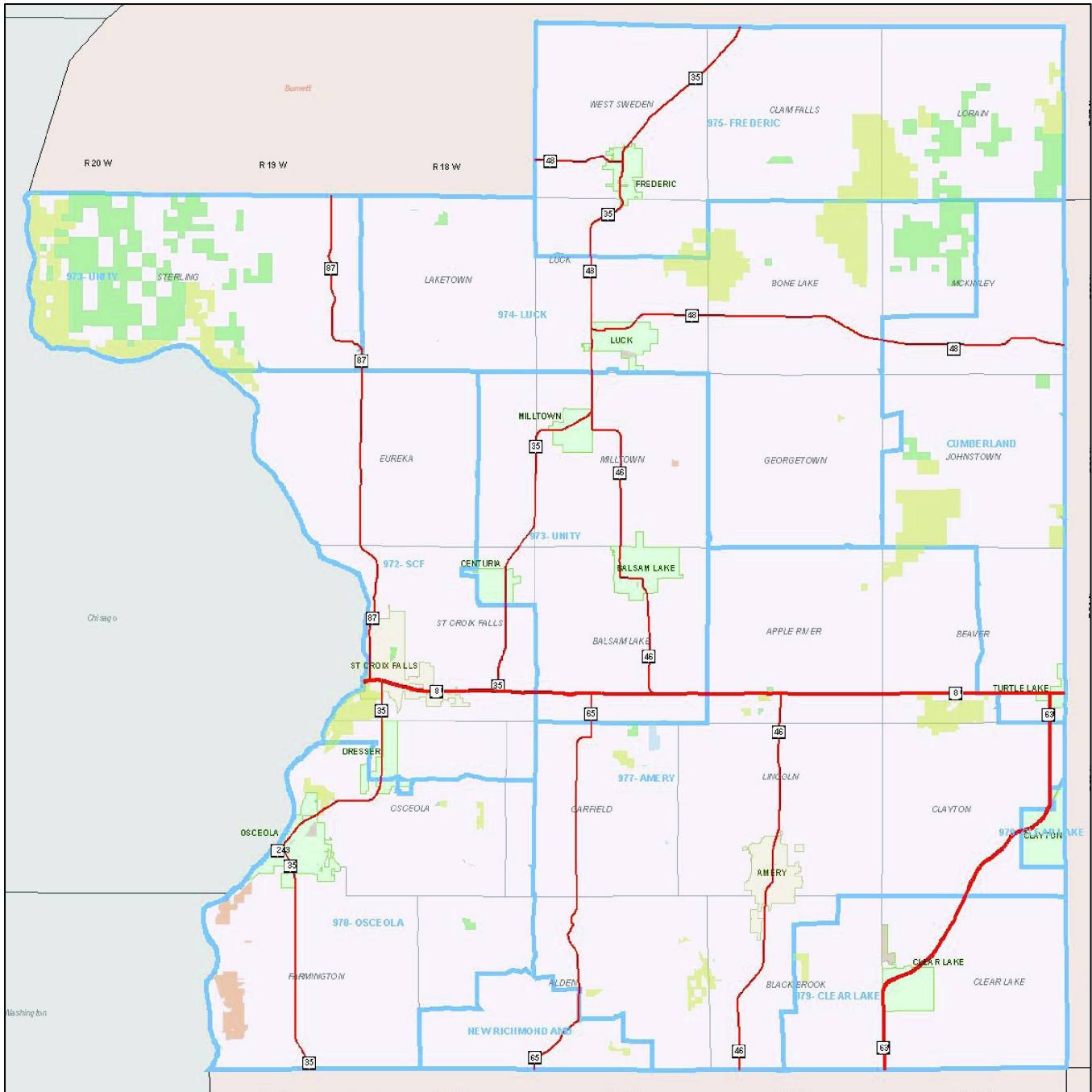


**Orange lines delineate the fire districts.**

*source: Polk County Geographic Information Web Server; Polk County Land Information Department  
 disclaimer – This map is not guaranteed to be accurate, correct, current, or complete  
 and conclusions drawn are the responsibility of the user.*



**Map 4.6 – Polk County Ambulance Service Areas**

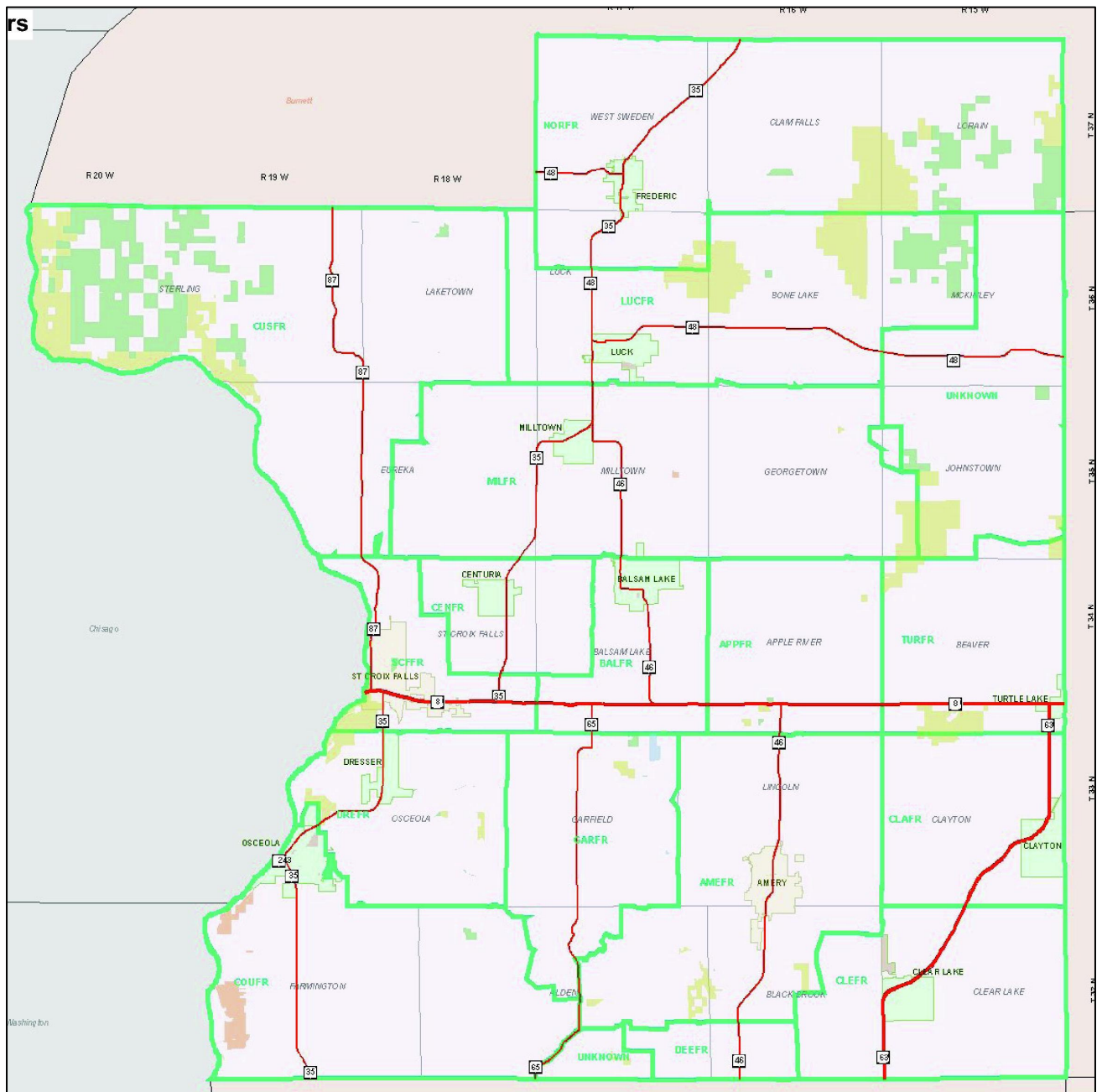


**Light blue lines delineate the ambulance districts.**

source: Polk County Geographic Information Web Server; Polk County Land Information Department  
 disclaimer – This map is not guaranteed to be accurate, correct, current, or complete  
 and conclusions drawn are the responsibility of the user.



**Map 4.7 – Polk County First Responder Service Areas**



**Light green lines delineate the first responder districts.**

*source: Polk County Geographic Information Web Server; Polk County Land Information Department  
 disclaimer – This map is not guaranteed to be accurate, correct, current, or complete  
 and conclusions drawn are the responsibility of the user.*



## **5. AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **Element Context**

Polk County's history and development is rooted in its natural resources. Prior to settlement by those of European heritage, Polk County was covered in a variety of different ecosystems, but primarily pine forest. The early settlers included traders and farmers, which both made a living from the natural resources from the land. Soon after the timber industry started prospering, farming began in areas where the forests were cleared. The first agricultural community was formed in 1860. The chief exports were wood, lumber, wheat, furs, and mineral water. By 1880, there were 1,414 farms. At the turn of the century, dairying started becoming more and more prominent.

During the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, agriculture, as a percentage of the economy, declined as more manufacturing, retail, and professional employment opportunities arose in communities. Even though the agricultural industry decreased, a significant percentage of the County's land base remains in agricultural production. Concurrently, there has been significant growth pressure from the Twin Cities in the southwestern portion of the County. As outward migration progresses, this growth is beginning to impact additional areas to the north and east.

During the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the agriculture and natural resource industries of Polk County have experienced a lift from both the increased interest and investment in local and organic food and renewable energy. The increase in demand for local and/or organic food has grown significantly since the turn of the century. This has helped existing family farms and has provided a catalyst for new farms to start in Polk County. In addition, the abundance of farmland and natural areas are providing Polk County an opportunity to take advantage of the growing renewable energy and bio-energy industries. Polk County is currently experiencing a wide range of industries, public entities, farms, and individuals that are utilizing farmland and natural areas as a source to profit from and/or save resources by using renewable resources and bio-energy.

Scattered throughout Polk County remain many unique historical structures and sites that are important vestiges of its past. Through these changes, it is the characteristics of Polk County's natural and cultural resources that continue to define the local communities and provide the cornerstone for the quality of life for local residents. Clean and abundant water is needed for drinking, industry, and agriculture. Prime farmlands continue to provide the basis for the agricultural economy and for the preservation of the County's rural character. A diversity of other natural habitats are protected and managed for aesthetic value, recreational purposes, economic importance, and a healthy ecosystem. Cultural and historic resources are identified and preserved for their social and economic value.

This section describes the existing conditions of the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources of Polk County. These resources provide the foundation for most, if not all, of the other comprehensive plan elements, and they may be discussed in numerous other places within the comprehensive plan. To plan for the future, a firm understanding of the resource base of the community is needed.

This provides an important context for developing objectives, policies, goals, maps, and programs for the conservation and promotion of the effective management of the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources for each participating community, as required by Wisconsin comprehensive planning legislation (Wis. Stat. § 66.1001(2)(e)). It should also be noted that under Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Law, the term “cultural resources” includes historic buildings and structures as well as ancient and historic archeological sites.

This element is further organized into six sub-sections:

- Agricultural Resources
- Natural Resources - Physical Features
- Natural Resources - Sensitive Lands
- Cultural Resources
- Existing Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Programs
- Summary and Conclusion

Considerable portions of this element are adapted from the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin State Historical Society, and *Soil Survey of Polk County, Wisconsin*, among other sources.

The maps for this section will be located in Appendix A: Polk County Resource Maps. In addition, the maps will be located in the *Polk County Resource and Land Use Atlas CD-ROM*.

## **Agricultural Resources**

### *Local Agricultural Industry Trends*

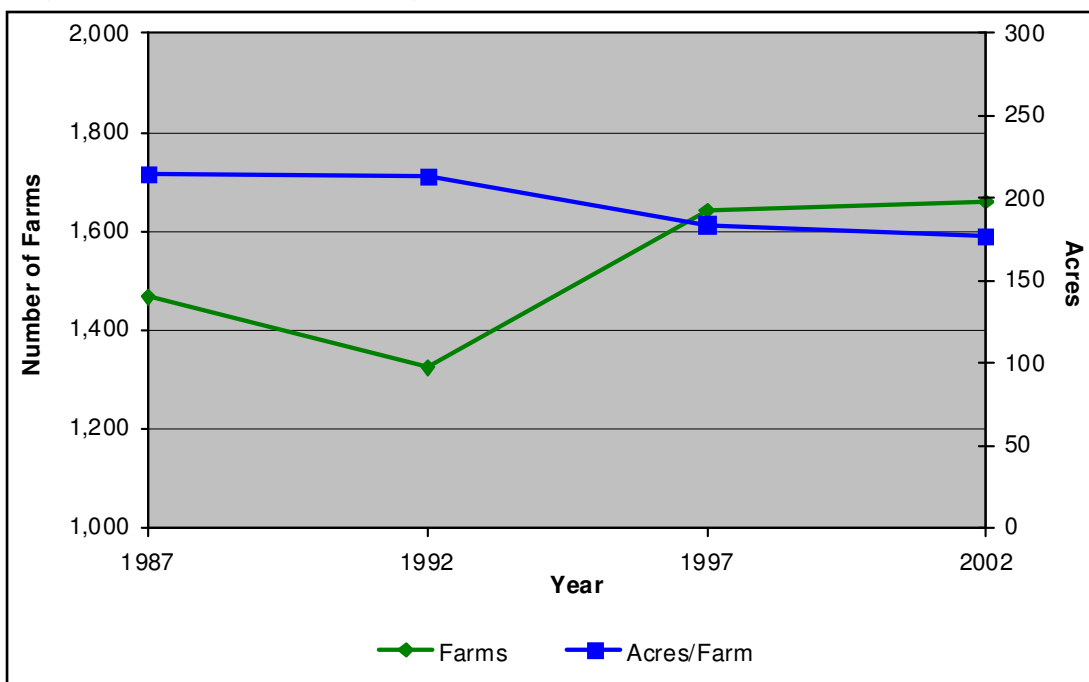
Although not as dominant as an industry as some surrounding counties, agriculture is an important element of the social and economic characteristics of Polk County. Changes in agriculture due to socio-economic conditions and the development pressures to convert agricultural land to other uses can have profound impacts in Polk County and surrounding communities. Agricultural land is spread throughout Polk County (Map 5.1).

In 2002, there were 192 more farms in Polk County than in 1987. Between 1992 and 2002, there was an increase of 335 farms in the county (See Figure 5.1). The average farm size decreased from 215 acres in 1987 to 177 acres in 2002. Again analyzing between 1992 and 2002, average farm sizes dropped from 213 acres to 177 acres. From

1987 to 2002, the number of farms increased by 13.1 percent and average farm size decreased 18 percent. Between 1992 and 2002, these numbers are a 25 percent increase in total farms and a decrease of 17 percent for average farm size. This data shows that Polk County is experiencing a significant increase in small farms. It needs to be noted that the U.S. Census Bureau defines “farm” as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold during the census year. Of the 1,659 farms in Polk County, 665 (40 percent) had sales under \$1,000, and 1021 (61.5 percent) had sales of under \$5,000.

This trend can be at least partially attributed to the out-migration of people living in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area to rural areas, as Polk County is located adjacent to the Twin Cities MSA and the southwest portion can be easily considered in the commuter shed for workers employed in the Twin Cities. The trend of an increasing number of farms and decreasing average farm size is the direct opposite of most areas in Wisconsin and the U.S.A. This trend can be deceiving in the sense that many of these newer farms are not producing crops and much of their land is not in cultivation. The majority of these newer farms can be classified as hobby farms or large lot residential uses with limited livestock.

**Figure 5.1 - Number and Average Size of Farms - 1987 to 2002 – Polk County**



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Census of Agriculture

According to USDA, farmland declined by 22,556 acres (35 square miles) or seven percent, between 1987 and 2002 (See Table 5.1). Farm acres accounted for 51.6 percent of the total land area in the county in 1987 and 47.9 percent in 2002. As shown in Table 5.2, in 2002, over 90 percent of the farms in Polk County were non-corporation individual or family farms.

**Table 5.1 - Acres in Farmland – 1987 to 2002 – Polk County**

	1987	1992	1997	2002
Acres	315,416	282,639	301,736	292,860
Percent of County Land Area	51.6%	46.2%	49.3%	47.9%

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

**Table 5.2 - Number of Farms by Ownership – 1987 to 2002 – Polk County**

Ownership	1987	1992	1997	2002
Individual/Family Farms	1,343	1,210	1,466	1,542
Partnership	102	86	114	72
Corporation – Family	19	22	52	36
Corporation – Other	1	3	2	2
Other (Coop, Trust, etc...)	2	3	8	7

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

The towns of Alden (16,398), Farmington (15,133), Eureka (14,641), and Clear Lake (12,545) have the greatest number of assessed agricultural acres (See Table 5.3). In comparison, the towns of Bone Lake, Clam Falls, Johnstown, Luck, McKinley, and Sterling all have less than 6,000 assessed acres in agricultural use.

The assessed agricultural acreage has declined by 117,815 acres from 1990 to 2007 in Polk County. The largest loss, which was 14,175 acres, occurred in Eureka. Other substantial losses occurred in the towns of Lincoln (-10,759), Clear Lake (-7,742), Clayton (-6,588), and Balsam Lake (-6,328). The cities and villages that experienced large agricultural land losses were Clayton (-668), Osceola (-493), and St. Croix Falls (-428).

**Table 5.3 Assessed Agricultural Parcels and Acreage by Municipality – 1990 and 2007 – Polk County**

	Total Parcels			Total Acres			
	1990	2007	# Change	1990	2007	# Change	% Change
<b>TOWNS</b>							
Alden*	854	742	-112	21,291	16,398	-4,893	-23.0
Apple River*	397	316	-81	9,791	6,762	-3,029	-30.9
Balsam Lake	418	287	-131	13,321	6,993	-6,328	-47.5
Beaver	421	359	-62	13,079	7,351	-5,728	-43.8
Black Brook	553	500	-53	15,415	11,516	-3,899	-25.3
Bone Lake	393	270	-123	7,423	4,893	-2,530	-34.1
Clam Falls	345	270	-75	7,154	5,035	-2,119	-29.6
Clayton	524	445	-79	16,251	9,663	-6,588	-40.5
Clear Lake	627	510	-117	20,287	12,545	-7,742	-38.2
Eureka	868	630	-238	28,816	14,641	-14,175	-49.2
Farmington*	715	621	-94	19,581	15,133	-4,448	-22.7
Garfield	483	473	-10	13,865	11,544	-2,321	-16.7
Georgetown	316	303	-13	10,383	7,058	-3,325	-32.0
Johnstown	219	177	-42	6,645	4,292	-2,353	-35.4
Laketown	533	456	-77	15,024	10,575	-4,449	-29.6
Lincoln	635	419	-216	20,418	9,659	-10,759	-52.7
Lorain	328	284	-44	9,295	7,414	-1,881	-20.2
Luck	390	225	-165	9,566	4,105	-5,461	-57.1
McKinley*	333	204	-129	10,872	5,808	-5,064	-46.6

Milltown	421	382	-39	11,484	7,802	-3,682	-32.1
Osceola	459	345	-114	12,343	7,116	-5,227	-42.3
Saint Croix Falls	473	333	-140	12,187	7,791	-4,396	-36.1
Sterling	297	231	-66	7,262	5,015	-2,247	-30.9
West Sweden	429	361	-68	10,421	8,593	-1,828	-17.5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11,431</b>	<b>9,143</b>	<b>-2,288</b>	<b>322,174</b>	<b>207,702</b>	<b>-114,472</b>	<b>-35.5</b>
<b>VILLAGES</b>							
Balsam Lake	10	6	-4	282	111	-171	-60.6
Centuria	33	29	-4	669	503	-166	-24.8
Clayton	63	57	-6	1,608	940	-668	-41.5
Clear Lake	45	30	-15	991	650	-341	-34.4
Dresser	15	4	-11	335	95	-240	-71.6
Frederic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Luck	20	5	-15	433	93	-340	-78.5
Milltown	32	22	-10	745	360	-385	-51.7
Osceola	31	10	-21	690	197	-493	-71.4
Turtle Lake	0	6	6	0	72	72	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>-80</b>	<b>5,753</b>	<b>3,021</b>	<b>-2,732</b>	<b>-47.5</b>
<b>CITIES</b>							
Amery	14	5	-9	250	67	-183	-73.2
St. Croix Falls	23	9	-14	512	84	-428	-83.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-23</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>-611</b>	<b>-80.2</b>
<b>COUNTY TOTAL</b>	<b>11,717</b>	<b>9,326</b>	<b>-2,391</b>	<b>328,689</b>	<b>210,874</b>	<b>-117,815</b>	<b>-35.8</b>

Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue

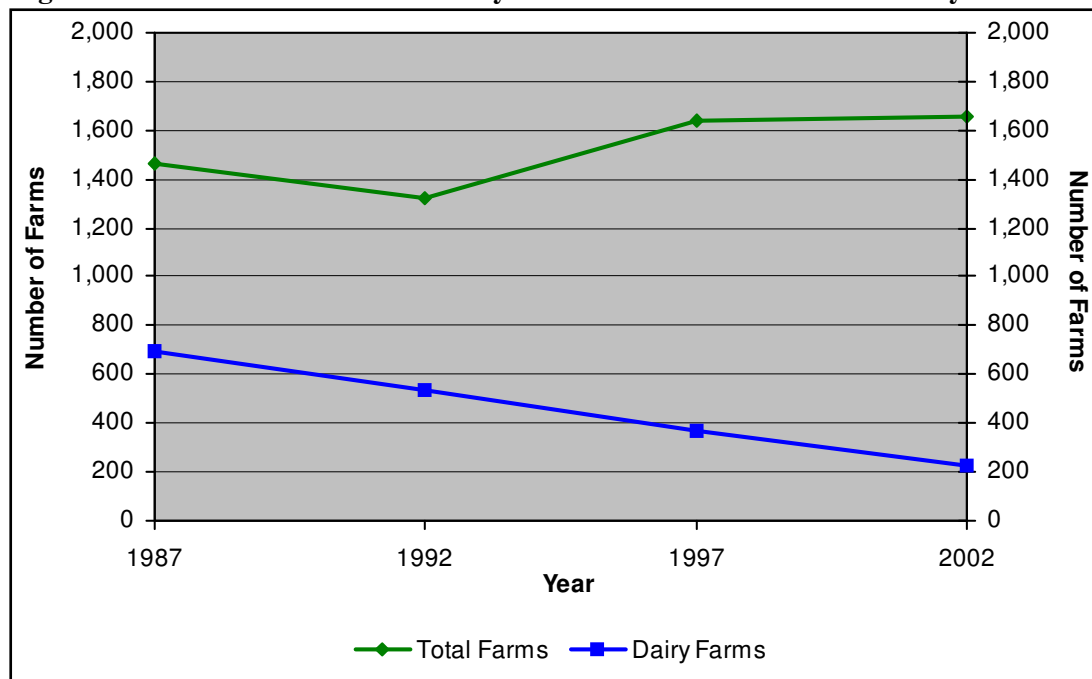
\* Data were not available for 1990. 1989 data were used.

Of the towns, Luck (-57 percent), Lincoln (-53 percent), Eureka (-49 percent), Balsam Lake (-48 percent), and McKinley (-47) had the largest percentage reductions in agricultural land. Of the cities and villages, the largest percentage losses of assessed agricultural lands occurred in the City of St. Croix Falls (-83.6 percent) and Village of Luck (-78.5 percent). At the same time, the majority of the incorporated communities had percentage losses of over 30 percent.

The number of dairy farms in Polk County has continued to decrease over the past two decades, with 228 dairy farms comprising 14 percent of the total farms in 2002 (Figure 5.2). In 1987, Polk County was home to 696 dairy farms (47 percent of the total farms), which was 468 more dairy farms than existed in 2002. This is a 67 percent decrease in the number of dairy farms in Polk County between 1987 and 2002. With the County's increase in smaller non-traditional farms, the 14 percent of total farms can also be defined as misleading, since many farms are not traditional crop producing operations. However, the 67 percent reduction of dairy farms over a 15 year time span is extremely significant.

Hay and silage production was the most common crop in 2002, with 917 farms producing hay on more than 59,000 acres. Corn production for grain and silage and soybeans represents the next most common use of these agricultural lands, with 750 farms using approximately 58, acres for seed and grain production, and an additional 195 farms cultivating 21,000 acres for soybeans. The County ranked number five in the state for number of turkeys and 140<sup>th</sup> nationally. It also ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the state for aquaculture.

**Figure 5.2 - Number of Farm and Dairy Farms - 1987 to 2002 – Polk County**



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Census of Agriculture

Over the past few years, Polk County has seen an increase in the number of farms that are supplying the growing number of consumers that want to purchase local food and/or organic food. Specifically for certified organic operations, in 2002, Polk County had 10 certified organic farms. At this time, there are currently dozens of farms in Polk County that support the local and/or organic markets. These direct market farms are marketing themselves locally and regionally. Due to the County's close proximity to the Twin Cities and Eau Claire, there are extensive markets for these farms. In addition, Polk County currently has weekly farmers markets in Amery, Balsam Lake, Frederic, Osceola, and St. Croix Falls during the summer and fall months.

Direct market farms have a variety of impacts on the environment and economy. Environmentally, farms that are organic pollute the land, ground water, or surface water on-site and downstream significantly less than farms that are not organic. Second, these farms reduce the amount of energy used for the transportation aspect of agriculture. Economically, the money that is spent purchasing food from these local farms initially stay in the local/regional economy, as opposed to being sent to different regions of the county and/or outside the U.S. The money spent on direct market food is often circulated in the local economy several times, which is important in creating a sustainable local economy. Lastly, with purchasing local food, in most cases the food is significantly better quality (e.g. freshness, taste) than food that is transported from outside the region.

**A sample of Polk County direct market farms that cater to local and/or organic market:**

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| - A & M Sugarbush        | - Apple Creek – J Farm |
| - Anderson's Maple Syrup | - Bird Song Farm       |



- Black Water Roasters
- Bremer Farms
- Common Harvest Farm
- Community Homestead
- Country Lane Berries
- Crystal Ball Farms
- Dragon Fly Nursery
- Glenna Farms
- Indian Creek Orchard
- Little Horseshoe Farm
- Meadow Lanes Farm
- Nature's Paradise
- Osceola Fish Hatchery
- Philadelphia Farm
- Pure and Simple
- St. Croix Falls Fish Hatchery
- Smokey Meadows
- The Good Luck Farm
- Ultimate Gardens, LLC

At the same time that Polk County is experiencing an increase in the number of direct market farms, Polk County has also seen an increase in the interest and investment in renewable energy, primarily from the wood sector. At this time, several farms, companies, and individuals are working on creating fuel from local sources. In addition, a variety of production operations (on-site bio-diesel and straight vegetable oil) can be found throughout the County. In regards to energy use, different units of government in Polk County are utilizing or looking into utilizing renewable energy for a variety of purposes. Lastly, Polk County has seen an increase in companies that are manufacturing goods to support this investment and entrepreneurship. As a whole, the local and organic agricultural market and renewable energy market are playing a significant role in the County's economy.

### *Prime Agricultural Lands*

Prime agricultural land is the land that is best suited for food, feed, forage, fiber, and oil seed crops. It may be cultivated land, pasture, woodland, or other land, but it is not existing urban and developed land or water areas. The soil qualities, growing season and moisture supply are those needed for a well managed soil to produce a sustained high yield of crops in an economic manner. Prime agricultural land is able to produce the highest yields with the minimal inputs of energy and economic resources.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), has established a system of soils classification to uniformly evaluate the potential suitability of soils for agriculture production. The Capability Classification of Soils is published as part of the *Soil Survey of Polk County, Wisconsin*.

The capability classification is a grouping of soils that shows, in a general way, how suitable soils are for most kinds of farming. The capability classification system is intended to help decision-makers evaluate areas for their desirability for continued agricultural productivity. It does this by considering characteristics and suitability for supporting various crops and activities, and is based on the limitations of the soils, risk of damage as they are used, and the way they respond to treatment. Soils are classified in capability classes, subclasses, and units in accordance with the degree and kind of their permanent limitations, but without consideration of major and generally expensive land-

forming that would change the slope, depth, or other characteristics of the soil, and without consideration of possible but unlikely major reclamation projects.

Class I, II, and III soils are considered prime farmland under the classification system and are each defined as:

- Class I -- Class I soils have few limitations that restrict their use.
- Class II -- Class II soils have some limitations that reduce the choice of plants or require moderate conservation practices.
- Class III -- Class III soils have severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants or require special conservation practices, or both. They can be cultivated safely with special precautions.

Of the total land acres in Polk County, 322,628 acres (504 square miles) are classified as Class I, II, and III soils by the NRCS. These soils make up 53 percent of the total land acres of the county (See Table 5.4). Of the total area in Polk County, .28 percent are Class I, 27.81 percent are Class II soils, and 24.64 percent are Class III soils.

**Table 5.4**  
**Soil Capability Classification for Potentially Productive Agricultural Lands – Polk County**

Soils	Acres	Percent of Total Land Acreage
Class I	1,719	.28
Class II	170,152	27.81
Class III	150,757	24.64
<b>Total Classes I, II &amp; III</b>	<b>322,628</b>	<b>52.73</b>

*Source: Polk County Soil Survey*

Map 5.2 shows soils that are classified as Class I, II, and III. These are areas where the soils and other land characteristics are likely to be highly suited for agricultural activity. The value of these lands is associated with not only their soil class, but also with their size, present use and any regulatory framework for their protection. Preserving these prime farmlands helps sustain the County's agricultural economy and rural character.

## Natural Resources – Physical Features

The following primary physical features of Polk County are discussed in this subsection:

- Topography
- Geology
- Soils
- Mineral Resources
- Watersheds and Surface Waters
- Groundwater
- Air quality

## *Topography*

The topography in Polk County is represented on Map 5.3 in Appendix A. Polk County has a diverse landscape ranging from broad, nearly level glacial outwash and lacustrine plains to rough, broken glacial moraines and areas of pitted outwash. It generally has a young drainage pattern and many closed depressions and pothole lakes. The lakes range widely in size and depth. Among the larger are Balsam Lake, Deer Lake, Cedar Lake, and Lake Wapogasset. Lakes and streams total more than 23,000 acres, or slightly less than four percent of the county.

The moraines are rough and broken, having abrupt hills and short, steep ridges near depressions, many of which have no outlets. Between the moraines, the landscape is more nearly level, especially in the central part of the county. Large outwash plains, formed from material carried and deposited by glacial melt water, are mostly nearly level or undulating but in some areas are also pitted with depressions. Lakes, ponds, and bogs are common in the depressions in the moraines and areas of pitted outwash. Some of the outwash deposits provide an important source of sand and gravel, most of which is used as road building and construction material.

The northwest corner of the county is part of the large area of sand known as the “Pine Barrens,” which extends into Polk, Burnett, Douglas, and Bayfield counties. The area is sandy outwash plain that has been somewhat reworked by wind.

The southwest corner of the county is an area of long, gentle slopes and broad drainageways. In this area, the soils are dominantly moderately well drained and somewhat poorly drained and the elevation averages about 1,200 feet.

Throughout the eastern part of the county are scattered small areas of nearly level and gently sloping glacial lacustrine plains. Most of the soils on these plains are silty or loamy. They formed in sediments that were deposited in old glacial lakes.

## *Geology*

The land surface of Polk County is strongly affected by thick glacial deposits. Sandstone or limestone bedrock is at or near the surface in only a few places. Some low ridges of Keweenawan trap, a rock formation which originally hot molten lava, are in the north-central part of the county. The erosive action of the St. Croix River has exposed extensive areas of this formation at St. Croix Falls.

During the last major glacial advance, the Wisconsin stage, ice covered all of Polk County. In general, the ice lowered the preglacial relief because it eroded the tops of the bedrock hills more severely than the valley bottoms. Two different substages of glaciation are evident in Polk County. The most extensive, the Cary substage covers most of the county. The Cary-age drift, also known as Young Red Drift of Minnesota, entered the area from the northeast. It was picked up in the Lake Superior region as the ice sheet moved from the Partician center into Wisconsin and Minnesota. The reddish color

probably is derived from the Upper Keweenawan sandstones and shales and the Huronian iron formation.

Mankato-age drift, also known as Young Gray Drift, is in the northwestern part of the county. It entered the county from the northwest. Originating in the Kewatin center, it passed over the limestone deposits in southern Canada. Most of this till is calcareous.

## *Soils*

Soil properties are an important factor in how land is used. Soils determine how productive farmland is, and the type and amount of development that can be reasonably supported based on the various soil characteristics. In fact, the best use of the land is often dictated by the types of soils there are in an area. Subsequently, identifying and reviewing soil suitability interpretations, for specific urban and rural land uses, are essential for physical development planning and determining the most suitable land use.

The following is a listing of the generalized soils located in Polk County and corresponds to Map 5.4 located in Appendix A:

*Cushing-Rifle Association*  
*Magnor-Freeon Association*  
*Amery-Santiago-Magnor Association*  
*Omega-Newson-Nymore Association*  
*Antigo-Rosholt Association*  
*Burkhardt-Dakota Association*  
*Rosholt-Cromwell-Menahga Association*  
*Alban-Campia-Comstock Association*

Each association contains several major and minor soils in a pattern that varies throughout the association. The soils within an association differ in many properties such as drainage, wetness, slope, and depth to bedrock. These characteristics affect the suitability of the land for agriculture and for development. For these reasons, the generalized information provided in this report is intended to be used for general policy and planning purposes, and not to provide information for site-specific applications.

Based on the *Polk County Soil Survey*, and the National Resource Conservation Service's (formerly Soil Conservation Service) most recent interpretation of soil limitations, 90 percent of the land area in Polk County has severe limitations for septic tank absorption fields, with the remaining 10 percent having slight or moderate limitations. Severe limitations can require special design, significant increases in construction costs, increased maintenance, or be unsuitable for private sanitary systems.

## *Mineral Resources*

There are no metallic mining operations in Polk County. According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, there are currently no known metallic mineral deposits or occurrences in sufficient tonnage and grade in Polk County to warrant extraction.

Polk County has 66 operating non-metallic mining sites permitted under Chapter NR 135 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, which includes three sites operated by the Polk County Highway Department. Most other mine sites are privately operated, primarily for road aggregate, concrete mix and construction fill. Chapter NR 135 covers annual permitting by local governments and the reclamation of non-metallic mine sites. Currently, a proposal is under consideration for the development of a 61-acre basalt quarry in the Town of Osceola.

Supplies of sand and gravel are available throughout Polk County. The west-central portion of the county has the densest concentration of potential sand and gravel deposits (Map 5.5). The soils amongst glacial outwash are the most likely sources for sand and gravel as the melting waters of the glacier were most active in sorting and depositing high-quality sand and gravel in this area. Where the bedrock is at or near the surface of the ground are areas that are possibly more suited for quarrying stone. It is helpful to identify the locations of these deposits so potential extraction sites can be considered before development occurs. Development almost always precludes extraction, while these lands can often be reclaimed for development after extraction is complete.

Sand and gravel deposits in the County that have a relatively higher potential for extraction based on the National Resources Conservation Service's latest *Soil Survey of Polk County, Wisconsin*. Other local conditions, such as access/egress, existing development, current land uses, ownership, and public sentiment may preclude extraction at some of these locations. As communities begin to develop local land-use goals, these maps should be considered to reduce potential land-use conflicts. Such mineral resources are important raw material inputs to help achieve the County's land-use plan goal for continuing to provide safe, efficient, and adequate community facilities.

## *Watersheds & Surface Waters*

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

Polk County has a total surface water area of 24,960 acres or 39 square miles (see Map 5.6). Balsam Lake (2,054 acres) is the largest surface water in Polk County. Other lakes of considerable size include Big Round Lake (1,015 acres), Bone Lake (1,781 acres), and Lake Wapogasset (1,186 acres). The St. Croix River travels along the western edge of Polk County.

A watershed is an area of land that drains or “sheds” its water to a lake, river, stream, or wetland. Some watersheds encompass several hundred square miles, while others may be small, covering only a few square miles that drain into a lake. This is important to understand since the effects of natural and human activities in one area can have a direct impact on other areas. The surface waters of Polk County fall within two major drainage systems - the St. Croix River Basin and the Lower Chippewa River Basin (See Map 5.7). Surface waters in the majority of the County fall within the St. Croix River Basin. An extremely small portion in the southeast corner of the County is in the Lower Chippewa River Basin.

Similar to surrounding counties, the source of nearly all potable water is groundwater. However, surface water can be a major source of groundwater recharge, and in the case of Polk County, a factor in maintaining the County’s natural and recreational values. Consequently, there is also significant concern for understanding the impacts of development on the surface water resources in the County.

### *Water Quality by Watershed*

In general, the water quality in the St. Croix River and Lower Chippewa River Basin is a concern. The major concern is from added nutrients and sediment from run-off, primarily from agricultural land and in some areas urban development. The basins include the following watersheds: Wood River, North Fork Clam River, Clam River, Trade River, Wolf Creek, Balsam Branch, Upper Apple River, Beaver Brook, Hay River, South Fork Hay River, Trout Brook, Lower Apple River, and Upper Willow River watersheds. Surface and ground water quality can be affected by a wide variety of point and non-point sources, including agricultural run-off, stormwater from parking lots and roads, soil erosion, and spills of hazardous materials. The risk of water contamination increases as development occurs. These findings are important for individual communities to consider as they develop local land-use and natural resources goals and strategies for their respective communities. Communities may select to participate in or support existing County or State programs to protect their water resources or implement local educational or regulatory programs.

### *Impaired Waters*

According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, some water bodies in Polk County are on the 2008 impaired waters list due to water quality concerns. These water bodies are:

- Ward Lake – mercury

- Cedar Lake – total phosphorous
- St. Croix River – PCBs

Other water bodies are at similar risk, since many of the native soils of the area have high levels of phosphorus. Polk County Land & Water Conservation Department is actively working to minimize soil erosion through best management practices to reduce such impacts.

The plentiful surface waters are generally healthy. At the same time, many are suffering from the results of the soil erosion in the form of sedimentation. The native soils of the area contain a high level of phosphorous. This creates a situation of reduced habitat and high weed growth levels in the lakes and streams. There is an approach of planning high levels of soil conservation on the land to protect the waters of Polk County.

### *Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters*

Through its Wisconsin's Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters Program, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is working to maintain the water quality in Wisconsin's cleanest waters. These waters have been classified into outstanding and exceptional waters. Outstanding resource water is defined as a lake or stream that has excellent water quality, high recreational and aesthetic value, high-quality fishing, and is free from point source or non-point source pollution. Exceptional resource water is defined as a stream that exhibits the same high-quality resource values as outstanding waters, but that may be impacted by point source pollution or have the potential for future discharge from a small sewer community. Polk County has six waters categorized as outstanding resources and 10 exceptional resource waters identified (See Table 5.5).

**Table 5.5 - Outstanding and Exceptional Waters – Polk County**

Outstanding Waters	Exceptional Waters
Clam River – West edge S8 T36N R15W downstream to Clam Falls Flowage	Behning Creek – All
McKenzie Creek – Downstream from 0.5 mi below McKenzie Lake	Big Rock Creek – All
Orr Creek – Lower 1.0 mile of stream in S13 T37N R15W	Burns Creek – All
Pipe Lake – All	Knapp Creek – Middle S17 T37N R16W to Knapp Flowage
Sand Creek and tributaries - All	Little McKenzie Creek - All
St. Croix River – All, except that the portion from the northern boundary of the St. Croix Falls city limits to a distance one mile below the STH 243 bridge at Osceola	Marquee Creek and Springs - All
	Peabody Creek – Lower 1.0 mile
	St. Croix River - From the northern boundary of the St. Croix Falls city limits to a distance one mile below the STH 243 bridge at Osceola
	Toby Creek and Springs - All
	Wolf Creek – CTH G downstream 1.2 mile

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 2008

## *Point Source Discharges*

Private and public sewer systems and wastewater discharges are two potential sources of water pollutants. Since 2004, Polk County has seen a significant and consistent decrease in the number of issued permits for private sewer systems. In 2004, there were 398 new permits issued, and in 2007, there were 185 new permits issued. As of October, there have been 87 new permits issued. At the same time, every new system increases the number and density of private sewage systems in the County. This can lead to nitrates in the groundwater. There are 13 municipal and sanitary district wastewater treatment plants and five permitted industrial discharges that discharge to either surface or ground water in Polk County (See Table 5.6).

## *Groundwater*

Groundwater is an important natural resource in Polk County. Understanding how groundwater is used in the County and how it can become contaminated is important to understanding the relationship between land use and groundwater quality.

The first step in this process is to understand the source of groundwater. As rain and snow fall to the ground, some runs off into the lakes, rivers, and streams; some evaporates; and some is used by plants. The rest trickles down through the soil and subsoil material. This water eventually reaches a saturated zone that comprises groundwater. These saturated zones, called aquifers, are geologic formations that can store and transmit water. The concept of water moving from the land's surface into groundwater is the starting point for thinking about the relationship between land use and groundwater quality. Nearly anything that is dumped, spilled, or spread on the ground can seep down to groundwater. This groundwater is then used by residents for drinking, farming, and other activities. Groundwater can also return to the surface as springs or as discharge to lakes, river, and streams.

Protecting groundwater means modifying or even prohibiting certain activities in areas where contaminants can easily enter the groundwater. This can mean changing the type of septic system required, or limiting the concentration of development in areas that are most susceptible to contamination.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has developed the Groundwater Contamination Susceptibility Model (GCSM) used to estimate the susceptibility of the groundwater based on particular natural resource characteristics. The natural resource characteristics include bedrock depth, bedrock type, soil characteristics, surficial deposits, and water table depth. The GCSM assigned a value to each of the resource characteristics. A weighting scheme was also developed to indicate the strength of each resource characteristic in estimating groundwater contamination susceptibility. The result of this analysis is a groundwater susceptibility map for the State of Wisconsin which shows that the majority of Polk County has contamination susceptibility numerical scores above the “moderately susceptible” level.



**Table 5.6 - Permitted Municipal and Industrial Discharges to Surface and Groundwater  
Polk County**

Water Body	Owner	Type
Surface water and wetlands	Amani Sanitary District	Sanitary District
Apple River	City of Amery	Municipal WWTF
Groundwater	Village of Balsam Lake	Municipal WWTF
Groundwater	Village of Centuria	Municipal WWTF
Intermittent tributary to Beaver Brook	Village of Clayton	Municipal WWTF
Unnamed tributary to Willow River	Village of Clear Lake	Municipal WWTF
Groundwater	Cushing Sanitary District #1	Sanitary District
Groundwater and Brown Brook	Village of Fredric	Municipal WWTF
Groundwater	Lake Wapogasset Bear Trap Lake S.D.	Sanitary District
Unnamed Wetland and Groundwater	Village of Luck	Municipal WWTF
Groundwater	Village of Milltown	Municipal WWTF
St. Croix River	Village of Osceola	Municipal WWTF
St. Croix River	City of St. Croix Falls	Municipal WWTF
Clear Lake	Advanced Food Products, Inc	Industrial
Groundwater	F and A Dairy Products	Industrial
Little Moon Lake and Groundwater	Foremost Farms USA Clayton	Industrial
Tributary of St. Croix River	WI DNR Osceola Fish Hatchery	Industrial
St. Croix River	WI DNR St. Croix Falls Hatchery	Industrial

*Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

## *Air Quality*

Air quality is an important issue in Polk County. Understanding how air quality is impacted in the County and how it can become contaminated is important to understand. Polk County is experiencing an increase in lesser air quality. One major attribute to this is the increase in burning wood. A major contributor to this is outdoor wood boilers, which can create localized environments that have unhealthy levels of air quality. Some of the major components of wood smoke are on EPA's list of six "criteria pollutants" in the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), including ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide. The adoption of local ordinances regulating outdoor wood stoves is currently the best way to address the issue proactively. This issue will only increase due to the increases in other fuels and a renewed interest in using local and renewable resources for energy.

## Natural Resources – Sensitive Lands

In addition to the more distinct physical land features, there are other environmentally sensitive and valued land resources that should be considered for the potential impacts of growth and development activities. These areas, referred to as sensitive lands, should be identified and evaluated for their significance as a valued resource in the County. In addition, growth and development policies and management techniques will need to be established to affect the desired impacts on these resources.

The following are the Sensitive Lands that are briefly reviewed and discussed in this section.

- Shorelands
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Steep Slopes
- Forests and Woodlands
- Grasslands and Prairie
- Wildlife, Wildlife Habitat, and Open Space
- Parks and Recreational Resources

### *Shorelands*

Shorelands provide valuable habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial animals and vegetation, and also act as buffers and thus serve to protect water quality. Shorelands are also considered prime residential building areas because of their scenic beauty. Recognizing this conflict, and to maintain the environmental, recreational, and economical quality of our water resources, the State of Wisconsin requires counties to adopt and enforce a shoreland ordinance.

As required by the State, shorelands are defined as:

- all land within 1,000 feet of the ordinary high water mark of a lake, pond, or flowage;  
or
- all land within 300 feet of the ordinary high water mark of a river or stream or to the landward side of the floodplain, whichever is greater.

Each county must meet or exceed the minimum state standards for shoreland protection. The identified shoreland areas are based on the standards as defined in the Polk County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance.

### *Floodplains*

One sensitive land feature that most residents are aware of is the floodplain, which is the flood-prone land adjacent to water bodies. Floodplains can be desirable development areas due to the proximity to lakes, rivers, and streams, but pose problems by possibly

putting residents and property at risk. Development in floodplains can also affect the environmental quality of the waterway.

To better protect the residents of throughout the state, and to minimize the loss of property, the State of Wisconsin, under Wisconsin Statute 87.30(1), requires counties, cities, and villages to adopt and enforce floodplain zoning. In addition, Wisconsin Administrative Code NR116, Floodplain Management Program, has been promulgated for the protection of property and public investments from the effects of flooding.

Development within the floodplain is usually assessed through the use of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The floodplains at the end of this element have been identified for Polk County based on the FEMA flood insurance maps (see Map 5.8). It is important to remember that this map is no substitute for site-specific analysis. Natural and human changes in the landscape, and the age and accuracy of the flood insurance maps, has, in some cases, limited the reliability of these maps for identifying and designating floodplains.

### *Wetlands*

There are a number of wetland areas within the watersheds that can affect water levels of rivers and creeks flowing through Polk County (see Map 5.9). Wetlands are defined by the State Statute as “an area where water is at, near, or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophytic (water-loving) vegetation and which has soils indicative of wet conditions.” Wetlands may be seasonal or permanent and are commonly referred to as swamps, marshes, or bogs. Wetland plants and soils have the capacity to store and filter pollutants, replenish groundwater supplies, store floodwaters, and maintain stream flows.

### *Steep Slopes*

It is generally more desirable, both environmentally and economically, to avoid steep slopes and disrupting natural drainageways with construction and land development. Problems with erosion and runoff pollution can occur with development on steep slopes, and flooding and wet basements can occur with drainageway disruptions.

Steep slopes are any area where the gradient of the land is 13 percent or greater (each percent of slope is measured as one unit in elevation for every 100 horizontal units). Areas having steep slopes can be categorized into three levels, 13 percent to 20 percent slope, 21 percent to 24 percent, and 25 percent and greater.

Development on slopes of 13 percent to 20 percent should consider direct runoff into lakes, rivers, or streams, follow state approved construction site erosion control standards, and institute best management practices to control on-site runoff and pollution. Land with slopes of 21 percent or greater represent a definite limiting environmental condition. Development on these slopes results in high construction costs and severe

erosion with resultant negative impacts to surface and ground waters. Development on slopes of 25 percent or greater is highly discouraged.

Based on the Soil Survey for Polk County, there are 95,661 acres that potentially have a slope of 13 percent or greater representing 16.3 percent of the total land base. Of this, 31,105 acres (5.3 percent) have slopes of 21 percent or greater and 2.6 percent have a slope of 25 percent and greater. The majority of these steep slopes are located in the western and far northern and far southern portions of the county. These relief changes can be seen on Map 5.10. Additional localized and site-specific variations in topography and slope may exist. Glacial activity created some scenic topography, but may also be very sensitive to development activities.

## *Forests and Woodlands*

Forests and woodlands are an important feature of Polk County. In fact, its forests are the second most extensive land use and land cover after agriculture. Forests are located throughout the County, but increase in density from south to north. The largest concentrations of woodlands occur in the northern portion of the County (See Map 5.11).

Assessed forest acreage increased by roughly 15,000 acres, or over 23 square miles, between 1990 and 2007 (see Table 5.7). This was an 11 percent increase. Between 1990 and 2007 the towns of Lincoln (3,785 percent), Clear Lake (1,924 percent), Eureka (190 percent) and Clayton (165 percent) saw the largest percentage increases in assessed forested acreage. In 2007, the towns of Clam Falls (10,157), Eureka (9,323), Sterling (8,674), and Luck (8,088) had the greatest amount of assessed forested acreage, respectively. At the same time, Garfield (4,086), Clear Lake (4,209), and Lincoln (4,351) had the least amount of assessed forested acreage. The greatest percentage decreases occurred in the towns of Lorain (-27.5 percent) and Farmington (-27.3 percent).

In Polk County, woodlands are an important part of the environment, aesthetics, and economy. Woodlands provide:

- Habitat for a variety of plants and animals;
- The basic resource for many wood-based industries, including the expanding bio-energy sector;
- Resources for the agricultural community;
- An environment for recreational activities; and
- For the scenic beauty of the landscape and the rural character of the county.

**Table 5.7 - Assessed Forest and AG Forest Parcels and Acreage by Town - 1990 - 2007 – Polk County**

Town	Total Parcels				Total Acres			
	1990	2007*	# Change	1990 - 2007 % Change	1990	2007*	# Change	1990 - 2007 % Change
Alden**	624	551	-73	-11.7	8,296	7,472	-824	-9.9
Apple River**	344	435	91	26.5	7,697	7,663	-34	-0.4
Balsam Lake	116	275	159	137.1	3,361	5,265	1,904	56.6
Beaver	244	378	134	54.9	6,280	7,064	784	12.5
Black Brook	210	323	113	53.8	4,175	4,985	810	19.4
Bone Lake	469	460	-9	-1.9	8,887	7,324	-1,563	-17.6
Clam Falls	447	494	47	10.5	10,347	10,157	-190	-1.8
Clayton	72	328	256	355.6	2,052	5,444	3,392	165.3
Clear Lake	10	254	244	2440.0	208	4,209	4,001	1923.6
Eureka	135	551	416	308.1	3,210	9,323	6,113	190.4
Farmington**	326	213	-113	-34.7	6,320	4,595	-1,725	-27.3
Garfield	255	301	46	18.0	4,276	4,086	-190	-4.4
Georgetown	219	335	116	53.0	5,738	6,401	663	11.6
Johnstown	319	317	-2	-0.6	9,225	7,507	-1,718	-18.6
Laketown	287	361	74	25.8	4,896	5,550	654	13.4
Lincoln	5	246	241	4820.0	112	4,351	4,239	3784.8
Lorain	341	247	-94	-27.6	7,404	5367	-2,037	-27.5
Luck	279	421	142	50.9	6,273	8088	1,815	28.9
McKinley**	228	265	37	16.2	6,623	6,249	-374	-5.6
Milltown	238	307	69	29.0	4,576	4,840	264	5.8
Osceola	203	416	213	104.9	4,585	4,939	354	7.7
St. Croix Falls	237	275	38	16.0	5,074	5,169	95	1.9
Sterling	367	569	202	55.0	8,969	8,674	-295	-3.3
West Sweden	410	401	-9	-2.2	8,460	7,405	-1,055	-12.5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6,385</b>	<b>8,723</b>	<b>2,338</b>	<b>36.6</b>	<b>137,044</b>	<b>152,127</b>	<b>15,083</b>	<b>11.0</b>

Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue

\* Between 2003 and 2007, the Department of Revenue changed the classification system and included the category "AG Forest". This alteration has in most cases influenced the comparison of 2007 data and the data from the previous three years.

\*\* Data were not available for 1990. 1989 data were used.

Woodlands managed according to approved forest management practices can support varying and sometimes complementary objectives, such as timber production and wildlife habitat. On the other hand, strict preservation of woodlands would be unusual and reserved for the most rare and unique stands in the County.

Unmanaged development and the fragmentation of woodlands in residential lots can diminish or eliminate a woodlands capacity to provide wood products, habitat for plants and animals, and aesthetic quality. Polk County has experienced a loss of some woodland acres, in part due to the subdividing of woodlands into residential lots. Because woodlands are considered a valued resource for these reasons, significant woodlands are often protected from conversion to other uses or properly managed in order to retain their desirable characteristics. For example, residential development in woodland areas could use conservation design techniques in order to allow for development and preserve the environmental and aesthetic value.

## *Grasslands and Prairie*

Very few parts of Polk County were originally covered by prairie, most of which does not remain today. Existing grassland areas are spread throughout the county (Map 5.12).

Prairie is the term used to describe the grassland type that predominated Wisconsin prior to Euro-American settlement. Prairies are dominated by grasses and sedges, lack trees and tall shrubs, and are home to a rich variety of plants and animals. Within the prairie designation there are variations due to soils and climate. Prairies continue to be a threatened plant community in Wisconsin. The reduction of prairie in the state means that an estimated 20 percent of the original grassland plants are considered rare in the state. Consequently, many species of plants and animals associated with Wisconsin prairies are endangered, threatened or of special concern.

There are few high quality prairie remnants remaining. Research shows it will take more than the preservation of these remnants to recover or retain the biodiversity this ecosystem can offer. Degraded areas that were once prairie can often be restored with moderate effort to yield a habitat suitable for most of the associated plant and animal species. Even certain managed agricultural and livestock practices can accommodate the maintenance of the open habitats needed by many grassland species. Grasslands can be restored and maintained through preserving a certain amount of open space for this type of cover as development occurs. Hence, development can occur in such a way that it can maintain sufficient grasslands for its habitat value while preserving the rural character of the landscape.

## *Wildlife, Wildlife Habitat, and Open Space*

Scattered throughout Polk County are various federal, state, and local wildlife, fishery, natural, and scientific areas, including private conservancy areas. These often encompass one or more of the sensitive land areas discussed previous (e.g., wetlands, forests, shorelands, prairies). These areas are managed as open space to provide important feeding, breeding, nesting, cover, and other habitat values to a wide variety of plant and animal species. Agricultural lands can also provide important open space and wildlife habitat, while maintaining the rural character of the area.

### **Rare and Endangered Species and Natural Communities**

According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Inventory, Polk County is home to 54 animal species, 25 plant species, and 29 natural communities that can be considered rare or endangered.

The Natural Heritage Inventory is a statewide inventory of known locations of rare and endangered species and communities. This information is for general planning purposes only, and the lack of known occurrences in an area does not mean that no significant endangered resources are present. These species and communities are listed on Map 5.13, provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The specific locations of some resources may not be mapped

due to their sensitive nature and in order to minimize impacts. Twenty (20) Polk County species have been categorized as endangered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:

Mountain Cranberry	(Plant)
Buckhorn	(Mussel)
Butterfly	(Mussel)
Crystal Darter	(Fish)
Dotted Blazing Star	(Plant)
Ebony Shell	(Mussel)
Elephant Ear	(Mussel)
Greater Redhorse	(Fish)
Higgins' Eye	(Mussel)
Loggerhead Shrike	(Bird)
Monkeyface	(Mussel)
Pallid Shiner	(Fish)
Purple Wartyback	(Mussel)
Red-necked Grebe	(Bird)
Saint Croix Snaketail	(Dragonfly)
Salamander Mussel	(Mussel)
Snuffbox	(Mussel)
Spectacle Case	(Mussel)
Trumpeter Swan	(Bird)
Winged Mapleleaf	(Mussel)

A threat to some of these natural communities is invasive plant and animal species.

### **State Natural Areas**

Currently, there are seven State Natural Areas in Polk County. State Natural Areas are managed to protect rare plants, animals, or native landscapes. State Natural Areas may be part of a larger State Wildlife Area, though permitted recreational activities may be less intensive. The seven State Natural Areas consist of:

Centennial Bedrock Glade - Interstate Park, Polk County - 17 acres.

Dalles of the St. Croix River - Interstate State Park, Polk County - 87 acres.

Farmington Bottoms - St. Croix National Scenic Riverway - 1238 acres.

Interstate Lowland Forest - Interstate State Park - 124 acres.

Osceola Bedrock Glades - 39 acres.

Sterling Barrens - Governor Knowles State Forest and the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway - 993 acres.

Tula Lake - McKenzie Creek Wildlife Area, Polk County - 120 acres.

### **Wisconsin's Land Legacy Report**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has completed a draft study that identifies unique places that are critical to meeting Wisconsin's future conservation and recreation needs for the next 50 years. A range of criteria were

used in determining these places, including: high quality ecosystems, outstanding scenic beauty, accessibility, recreational opportunities, size of the resource, networks between resources, and water quality protection. The following locations in Polk County were identified as important legacy places: Apple River, Balsam Branch Creek and Woodlands, Big Rock Creek, Clam River, Danbury to Sterling Corridor, Lower St. Croix River, and St. Croix River.

### **Parks and Recreational Resources**

Visitors and residents of Polk County have many opportunities to enjoy the natural resources of the county through parks, trails, and other public lands (See Table 5.8). There are 360 miles of maintained and groomed snowmobile trails throughout the County. The Somers Lake Trail has a five mile closed loop trail for cross country skiing and snowshoeing. The Balsam Branch ski trails are also located in the County. These trails are part of a cooperative effort between the County, Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp, Garfield Township, D.D. Kennedy Environmental Area, and the Nordic Ski Club of Amery.

There are two state parks in Polk County. Interstate State Park is located in the western portion of Polk County, just outside of St. Croix Falls. The park was established in 1900 and is Wisconsin's oldest state park. The park has two campgrounds with a total of 85 family campsites, and a primitive group camp that accommodates 60 people. The park has a swimming beach and beach house on Lake O' the Dalles. A boat launch gives access to the St. Croix River. Straight Lake State Park was dedicated in 2005. The first-phase purchase included a state park and part of a state wildlife area to the north for which additional land will be purchased later. State officials envision much of the land to be used for silent sports, including hunting, fishing, hiking, non-motorized boating and primitive camping.

The Cattail State Trail and Gandy Dancer State Trail travel through Polk County. The State Department of Natural Resources manages the Balsam Branch Wildlife Area, Behning Creek Fishery Area, East (Lotus) Fishery Area, Joel Marsh Wildlife Area, Loon Lake Wildlife Area, McKenzie Creek Wildlife Area, Omer Springs, Parker Creek Fishery Area, Rice Beds Creek Wildlife Area, Sand Creek Fish and Wildlife Area, Snake Creek Fishery Area, and Wagon Landing Springs Fishery Area. A full range of recreational activities may be pursued at the Wildlife Areas.

Residents and visitors also have the option to enjoy the natural resources of Polk County through many privately operated campgrounds, resorts, and other ventures. Individual cities and villages also maintain their own parks and recreational activities discussed as part of the Utilities and Community Facilities Element.



**Table 5.8 - Parks and Recreational Lands – Polk County**

<b>County Resource</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Apple River Park	18 acres	Apple River - N of Amery	Fishing, Hiking Trails, Picnic Area, Playground, Shelter
Atlas Park	87 acres	County Road B	Fishing, Boat Access, Ball Field, Walkway, Picnic Area, Playground, Shelter
Black Brook Park	2 acres	Apple River - SW of Amery	Fishing, Picnic Area
D.D. Kennedy Environmental Area	106 acres	Balsam Branch between Amery and Balsam Lake	Fishing, (bridge and handicap accessible pier), Hiking Trails-Interpretive, Picnic Area, Shelter
Lotus Park	18 acres	East Lake – SE of Dresser	Fishing, Boat Access, Hiking Trails, Picnic Area, Playground, Shelter
<b>State Park &amp; Wildlife Areas</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Interstate State Park	298 acres	St. Croix Falls	Camping, Fishing, Picnic Area, Boat Launch
Straight Lake State Park	2,780 acres	12 miles NE of St. Croix Falls	State officials envision much of the land to be used for silent sports, including hunting, fishing, hiking, non-motorized boating and primitive camping.
Balsam Branch Wildlife Area	180 acres	150 <sup>th</sup> Street and 115 <sup>th</sup> Ave	Hunting, Trapping, Hiking, Berry Picking, Wildlife Viewing
Behning Creek Fishery Area	171 acres	Four miles SE of Dresser on 90 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, Hiking, Berry Picking, Wildlife Viewing
East (Lotus) Fishery Area	30 acres	90 <sup>th</sup> Ave – Two miles SE of Dresser	Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, Hiking, Berry Picking, Wildlife Viewing
Joel Marsh Wildlife Area	1,192 acres	Two miles W of Turtle Lake – Highway 8	Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, Hiking, Berry Picking, Wildlife Viewing
Loon Lake Wildlife Area	3,123 acres	Four miles N of Turtle Lake	Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, Hiking, Berry Picking, Wildlife Viewing
McKenzie Creek Wildlife Area	5,497 acres	.5 mile south of Clam Falls	Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, Hiking, Berry Picking, Wildlife Viewing
Omer Springs	55 acres	Five miles W of Range	Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, Hiking, Berry Picking, Wildlife Viewing
Parker Creek Fishery Area	197 acres	Three miles SW of Amery - 35 <sup>th</sup> St.	Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, Hiking, Berry Picking, Wildlife Viewing
Rice Beds Creek Wildlife Area	3,181 acres	Six miles NW of Turtle Lake – Hwy D	Hunting, Trapping, Hiking, Berry Picking, Wildlife Viewing
Sand Creek Fish and Wildlife Area	1,526 acres	12 miles SE of Siren	Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, Hiking, Berry Picking, Wildlife Viewing
Snake Creek Fishery Area	150 acres	Two miles S-SW of Amery – 90 <sup>th</sup> St.	Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, Hiking, Berry Picking, Wildlife Viewing
Wagon Landing Springs Fishery Area	66 acres	One mile E of Hwy 65 on 28 <sup>th</sup> St.	Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, Hiking, Berry Picking, Wildlife Viewing

## Cultural Resources

Polk County has a long and storied history, with many significant sites. These sites include Native American encampments, fur trading outposts, lumbering camps, and historic buildings. Historic structures, sites, and districts are often targeted for hazard mitigation strategies due to their unique, often irreplaceable, social value. Such historic resources can also be responsible for defining much of a community's identity.

According to the National Register of Historic Places, Polk County has 10 historic properties and one historic district that have received federal historic landmark designation (See Table 5.9).

Additional older structures and homes within Polk County also likely qualify for the National Register of Historic Places. For instance, the Wisconsin Historical Society maintains the Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory (AHI). This is a database of approximately 120,000 buildings, structures, and objects that illustrate Wisconsin's unique history. The AHI documents a wide range of historic properties, mostly privately owned, such as the round barns, log houses, metal truss bridges, small town commercial buildings and Queen Anne houses that create Wisconsin's distinct cultural landscape. The inventory is not comprehensive, and in some cases, the inventory may be dated if structures are altered or no longer exist.

**Table 5.9 - Site and Structures on the National Register of Historic Places – Polk County**

Historic Site	Location	Municipality	Listed
Cushing Land Agency Building	106 S. Washington	St. Croix Falls	2005
Dallas Bluff Site	Address Restricted	St. Croix Falls	1981
Fredric Depot	210 Oak St.	Fredric	2003
Geiger Building	201 Cascade St.	Osceola	1985
Heald, Alvah A. House	202 Sixth Ave.	Osceola	1985
Lamar Community Center	NE of St. Croix Falls	St. Croix Falls	1982
Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Sault Saint Marie Railway Depot	114 Depot Rd.	Osceola	2000
Osceola Commercial Historical District	Along Cascade St. from First Ave. to Third Ave.	Osceola	2000
Polk County Courthouse	Main St.	Balsam Lake	1982
Seven Pines Lodge	SE of Lewis on WI 35	Lewis	1978
Thompson, Thomas Henry, House	205 S. Adams St.	St. Croix Falls	1984

Source: National Register of Historic Places < <http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com> >. August 22, 2008

In Polk County, a total of 130 historic places and objects have been identified as having historic value and are on the AHI (See Table 5.10). The majority of these places are privately owned homes. Some locations may have multiple records or historic buildings.

Any development should be reviewed, pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 44.40 (1989), against the historic resource list to determine whether historic properties within the area will be affected. The Wisconsin Historical Society should be contacted for a determination of possible impacts on these resources from development. The Historical Society also strongly recommends that all proposed developments be surveyed by a qualified archeologist to identify any sites.

**Table 5.10 - Architecture and History Inventory Listings – Polk County**

Municipality	# of AHI Records
<b>Towns</b>	
Alden	1
Apple River	2
Balsam Lake	1
Beaver	6
Black Brook	0
Bone Lake	1
Clam Falls	8
Clayton	0
Clear Lake	0
Eureka	3
Farmington	5
Garfield	1
Georgetown	0
Johnstown	0
Laketown	1
Lincoln	0
Lorain	6
Luck	1
McKinley	18
Milltown	0
Osceola	22
St. Croix Falls	n/a
Sterling	0
West Sweden	7
<b>Villages</b>	
Balsam Lake	2
Centuria	0
Clayton	3
Clear Lake	1
Dresser	2
Frederic	4
Luck	0
Milltown	0
Osceola	31
Turtle Lake	0
<b>Cities</b>	
Amery	0
St. Croix Falls	4

Source: Wisconsin Historical Society < <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/> >. 2008.

The Wisconsin Historical Society has grant funding available to help local communities undertake a historical survey, with additional grant funds for a variety of historic preservation activities. In addition, historic commercial structures on the National Register, or historic commercial structures located in a historic district, may also qualify

for tax credits. Owner-occupied homes that are eligible for listing in the National Register do not have to be formally listed in the National Register to be eligible for historic preservation tax credits for rehabilitation projects.

## Summary

Numerous programs at the State and County level are available to assist local communities in their planning efforts and in the protection of local agricultural, natural, and cultural resources. Protection of such resources needs to be balanced with, and can be complementary to, other community goals as discussed in the other existing conditions sections.

### *Agricultural Resources Conditions Summary*

- The 2007 assessed agricultural acreage in the County was 292,860 or about 47.9 percent of the total land acreage.
- Of the towns, Luck (-57 percent), Lincoln (-53 percent), Eureka (-49 percent), Balsam Lake (-48 percent), and McKinley (-47) had the largest percentage reductions in agricultural land. Of the cities and villages, the largest percentage losses of assessed agricultural lands occurred in the City of St. Croix Falls (-83.6 percent) and Village of Luck (-78.5 percent). At the same time, the majority of the incorporated communities had percentage losses of over 30 percent.
- The towns of Alden (16,398), Farmington (15,133), Eureka (14,641), and Clear Lake (12,545) have the greatest number of assessed agricultural acres. In comparison, the towns of Bone Lake, Clam Falls, Johnstown, Luck, McKinley, and Sterling all have less than 6,000 assessed acres in agricultural use.
- In 2002, there were 192 more farms in Polk County than in 1987. Between 1992 and 2002, there was an increase of 335 farms in the county (See Figure 5.1). The average farm size decreased from 215 acres in 1987 to 177 acres in 2002.
- The number of dairy farms in Polk County has continued to decrease over the past two decades, with 228 dairy farms comprising 14 percent of the total farms in 2002. In 1987, Polk County was home to 696 dairy farms (47 percent of the total farms), which was 468 more dairy farms than existed in 2002. This is a 67 percent decrease in the number of dairy farms in Polk County between 1987 and 2002.
- Fifty-three (53) percent of the soils in Polk County are classified as Class I, II, or III.
- Polk County has seen a dramatic increase in the number of direct market farms and interest and investment in renewable energy, primarily bio-energy, in the past decade.

### *Natural Resources - Physical Features Conditions Summary*

- Generally, the topography of Polk County is lower in the western and southern edge of the County abutting the St. Croix River and rises in elevation the further north and east.
- Based on general soil types, 90 percent of the County's land area has severe soil limitations for septic tank absorption fields. The land area has slight or moderate limitations.
- Polk County has 66 operating and licensed non-metallic mining sites. There are no known metallic mineral deposits in sufficient tonnage or quality to warrant extraction.
- Sand and gravel resources are available throughout the County, but are more abundant near rivers, and in the west central portion of the County.
- Polk County has a total surface water area of 24,960 acres or 39 square miles
- In general, the surface water quality needs improvement due to agricultural runoff and sedimentation. There are six outstanding resource water bodies and ten exceptional resource water bodies.

### *Natural Resources - Sensitive Lands Conditions Summary*

- Approximately 16.3 percent of Polk County has steep slopes of 13 percent or greater, on which development should be limited or discouraged.
- In 2007, the combined assessed forestland acres in the unincorporated areas (minimal acres existed in incorporated areas) amounted to 152,127 acres or about 25 percent of the total County acreage.
- Combined, assessed agricultural and forest acres account for over 363,000 acres or 59 percent of the assessed land in the County.
- Assessed forest and AG forest acreage increased by roughly 15,000 acres, or almost 23 square miles, between 1990 and 2007. This was an 11 percent increase.
- Between 1990 and 2007 the towns of Lincoln (3,785 percent), Clear Lake (1,924 percent), Eureka (190 percent) and Clayton (165 percent) saw the largest percentage increases in assessed forested acreage. In 2007, the towns of Clam Falls (10,157), Eureka (9,323), Sterling (8,674), and Luck (8,088) had the greatest amount of assessed forested acreage, respectively. At the same time, Garfield (4,086), Clear Lake (4,209), and Lincoln (4,351) had the least amount of assessed forested acreage. The greatest percentage decreases occurred in the towns of Lorain (-27.5 percent) and Farmington (-27.3 percent).
- Polk County is home to 54 animal species, 25 plant species, and 29 natural communities that can be considered rare or endangered.
- Sensitive habitats can be encroached upon or degraded by invasive species. There are a variety of invasive plants that have been found Polk County.

- Polk County has seven State Natural Area managed to protect local plants, animals, and/or ecosystems.
- Polk County has several Wisconsin Land Legacy Places identified in the draft State plan: Apple River, Balsam Branch Creek and Woodlands, Big Rock Creek, Clam River, Danbury to Sterling Corridor, Lower St. Croix River, and St. Croix River.
- Polk County has several parks which have a variety of recreational opportunities.

### *Cultural Resources Conditions Summary*

- There are 11 locations in Polk County on the National Register of Historic Places.
- A total of 130 historic places and objects in Polk County have been identified as having historic value and are on the Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory.

## **Polk County Natural Resource Map Series**

The *Polk County Resource and Land Use Atlas DVD-ROM* contains resource maps in Adobe Acrobat .pdf format for Polk County and each municipality. The county-wide maps are also included within Appendix A at the end of this report. These maps (Maps 5.1 through 5.13) correspond to the previous discussion within the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Information section.

## 6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Element Context

Economic development as part of comprehensive planning is the process by which the Polk County community initiates and generates solutions to local economic problems. The primary purpose of economic development initiatives is to promote the stabilization, retention, or expansion of the economic base and to provide quality employment opportunities in the local governmental unit. This includes assisting existing businesses, encouraging business expansion, recruiting new businesses, and strategically planning important capital improvements and related infrastructure expenditures. Such endeavors should be guided by the vision and goals in county and local comprehensive plans to encourage efficiency and ensure a positive impact on the community.

These efforts collectively build long-term local economic capacity so the community is more self-sufficient and able to better weather economic downturns. As successful economic development endeavors strengthen and diversify local economies, local businesses may locate in close proximity to the primary industry that supports them. These secondary or support businesses take advantage of economic spillovers of the primary industry. A local example of this is the close relationship between the existing agriculture and food processing industries.

This information should also be considered in the context of the economic development programs, plans, and tools at work in Polk County and its communities which are identified in the *Addendum: Inventory of Programs, Plans, and Land Use Policies in West Central Wisconsin* compiled by WCWRPC as part of the regional comprehensive planning effort.

### The Wisconsin Economy<sup>3</sup>

Perhaps more than many comprehensive plan elements, the local economy and economic development are influenced by regional, State, national, and global factors. As such, great uncertainty exists when analyzing and forecasting the economy.

#### *Recent Economic Trends*

The economy is always in flux, often occurring in cycles or periods of growth, prosperity, and expansion followed by periods of decline, contraction, or recession. There is no

---

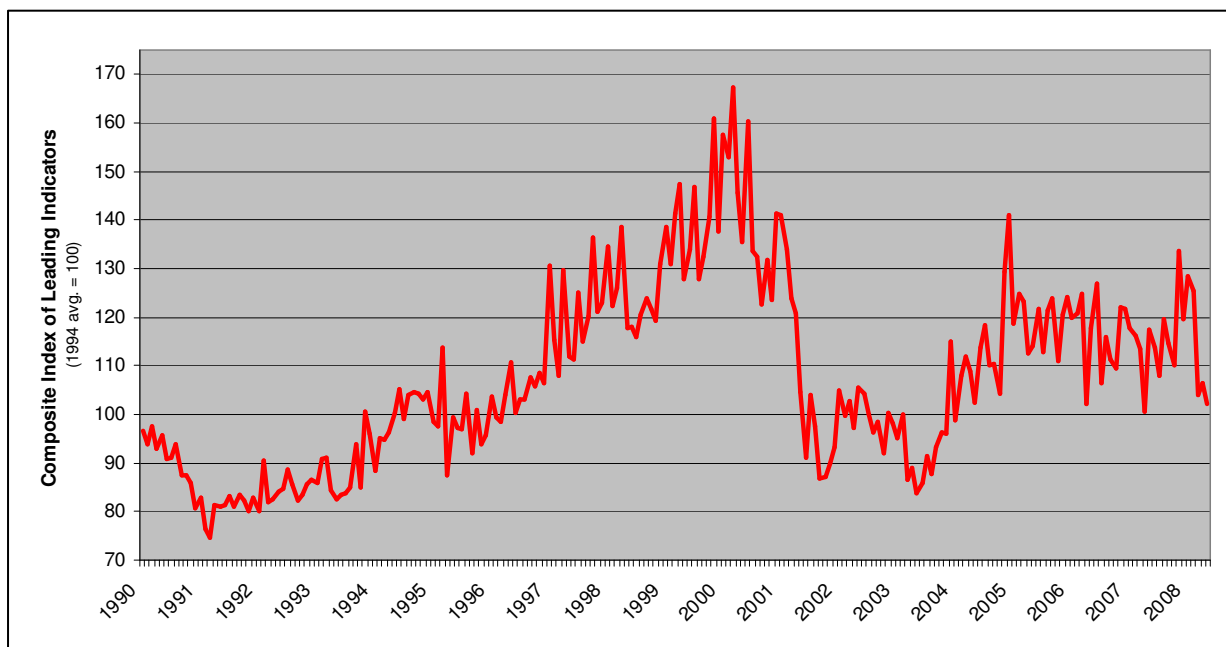
<sup>3</sup> Unless otherwise noted, the information in this section was largely extracted from the following two sources: (1) Winters, Dennis, Chief Economist. Department of Workforce Development-Office of Economic Advisors. Data Dashboard-Statewide Analysis. <[http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/oea/data\\_dashboard](http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/oea/data_dashboard)>. May 1, 2008. (2) Wisconsin Department of Revenue-Division of Research & Policy. Wisconsin Economic Outlook. May 2008.

reliable methodology to predicting such cycles, and some economists argue that these fluctuations are the result of “shocks” to the economy in terms of productivity or demand changes, and the use of the term “cycle” is a misnomer.

Gross domestic product is often used to measure economic cycles, though Wisconsin’s annual average GDP has been growing quite steadily over the last decade. Instead, in order to show these economic fluctuations, Figure 6.1 charts the composite index of leading indicators between 1990 and May 2008 for Wisconsin.

Leading economic indicators are based on certain economic activities which foreshadow a forthcoming economic change. In the case of Figure 6.1, the composite indicator includes average work week, overtime, job openings, new business starts, and unemployment compensation claims.

**Figure 6.1 – Composite Index of Leading Indicators for Wisconsin (1990-May 2008)**



source: Wisconsin Office of Economic Advisors

Figure 6.1 reflects that Wisconsin strongly felt the economic recession that hit much of the world in the early 1990s following the October 1987 Black Monday stock market collapse, the savings and loan crisis, and the 1990 spike in oil prices at the beginning of the Gulf War. This downturn lagged in Wisconsin until 1993-1994.

The Wisconsin economy grew rapidly on the “dot-com bubble” of the mid-to-late 1990s, as an exuberant market and venture capitalists speculated on the stocks of dot-com companies during a period of low interest. But in March 2000, the bubble began to burst and by October 2002, \$5 trillion in market value of technology companies had been lost. This sudden economic decline is very apparent in Figure 6.1. Also about this time,



Wisconsin and much of the world entered a period of manufacturing recession which was particularly felt in our State.

Between 2004 and 2007, job growth in Wisconsin was relatively strong and the economy rebounded, though there was a noticeable shift in the new jobs being created. Much of this growth was in the services sectors, while the manufacturing industry continued to struggle with job losses.

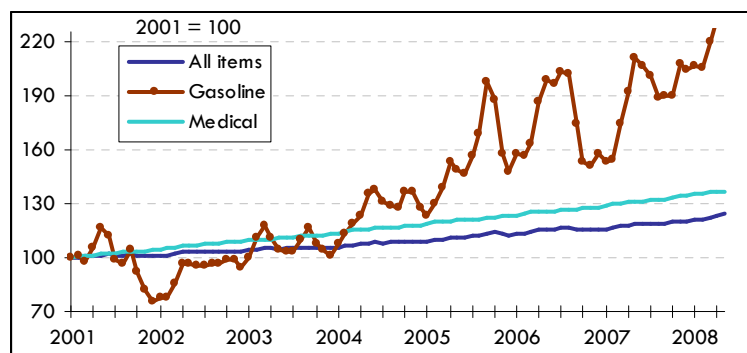
## *The Current Economic Slowdown*

Economists are in disagreement over the current extent of the economic slowdown on a national level and forecasting the economy's future. But as of May 1, 2008, it was generally agreed that the U.S. economy overall had not yet entered a period of less than positive growth.

Two significant factors have largely contributed to our nation's current economic situation—the downturn in the housing market and escalating oil prices. As of May 2008, the single-family residential housing sector had not yet hit bottom; and the market continues to be plagued by high inventories, uncertain prices, and challenges for mortgage lenders, especially for those engaging in more risky sub-prime lending. According to the Wisconsin Realtors Association, home sales in the first quarter of 2008 were down 24.9 percent from the first quarter of 2007. Home prices in Wisconsin held fairly steady in 2007, though the median home price statewide declined 3.8 percent in the first quarter of 2008. This decline was still less than half of the 7.7 percent decline nationwide. Housing permits in Wisconsin have had double-digit annual declines since 2004. According to the Office of Economic Advisors' May 2008 *Statewide Analysis*, "[w]hile foreclosures are up in the state, Wisconsin's housing sector is not as exposed to the mortgage/price dilemma as much as other states such as Arizona, California, Florida, Nevada, and Ohio."<sup>4</sup> In fact, Wisconsin ranked 27<sup>th</sup> nationally in foreclosures during the first quarter of 2008.

As shown in Figure 6.2 to the right, gasoline prices have increased tremendously since the mid part of this decade. With the record-breaking increases in the cost of oil, retail prices in the U.S. increased by five percent between June 2007 and June 2008.<sup>5</sup> Gas prices jumped by nearly one-third during this

**Figure 6.2 - Gasoline & Medical Costs Compared to Consumer Price Index: All Items**



source: Wisconsin Office of Economic Advisors, May 2008.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Isidore, Chris. CNN Money.com. Inflation: Price Jump Worst Since '91. <<http://cnnmoney.com>> June 16, 2008.

same time period. This increase in gas and energy prices has had corresponding increases in food and other commodities, thereby decreasing household purchasing power and decreasing spending by consumers and businesses. In particular, automotive sales have been hurt as consumers hold on to their existing vehicles longer or begin to use alternative modes of transportation. General Motors has announced its intent to close its Janesville plant, which primarily makes SUVs, resulting in the loss of 2,390 jobs. Major restructuring and downsizing of airlines are also taking place due to increasing costs, thereby impacting routes, availability, and shipping.

The May unemployment rate for Wisconsin increased from 4.2 percent in 2007 to 4.7 percent in 2008.<sup>6</sup> Yet, the State rate was a full one percent below the national average in May 2008; and unemployment in Wisconsin has risen at a slower rate during the past year than the national average. Since mid 2007, employment numbers in Wisconsin have been relatively flat, while the employment growth rate has been diminishing since 2004.

Even though unemployment has increased and the housing- and automotive-related industries have suffered, the previously referenced Office of Economic Advisors' analysis does state that other sectors in Wisconsin are doing relatively well. "The weak dollar is benefitting exports of machinery, equipment, and agricultural commodities. Milk and grain prices are at or near record highs, although high feed prices are cutting into dairy profits." The report goes on to note that during the previous year, 9,600 new jobs were created in the service sector, particular in the health-care industry. Business and professional services showed an annual increase of 1,800 jobs.

The combination of a slowing economy and inflating prices is an added challenge to address. Interest rate cuts, a primary tool for avoiding an economic recession, can add to economic pressure. Meanwhile, the reduction in tax revenues related to decreasing development and new housing starts, combined with quickly escalating gas and commodity prices, has created a budgetary conundrum for many state, county, and local governments.

### *Wisconsin's Economic Outlook*

Forecasting the economy is difficult at best and such projections are based on historical economic fluctuations, current trends, and a variety of economic indicators. The *Wisconsin Economic Outlook* report issued by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue-Division of Research and Policy in May 2008 states that the Wisconsin economy is expected to slow for 2009 with the number of jobs slightly decreasing in 2008 and being steady in 2009. The following is a brief summary of the report's employment outlook by some key industry sectors based on the most likely forecast scenario:

- Construction - continue to decline to reach bottom by the end of 2008 and recovering positive growth toward 2010.

---

<sup>6</sup> Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, May 2008 Local Unemployment Rates Announced, press release. June 25, 2008.

- Education, Health, Professional, & Business Services - continued growth of 1.6% to 2.4% for 2008 and 2009.
- Trade Transportation & Utilities - mild decreases of 0.2% to 0.5%, then recovering positive growth in 2010.
- Manufacturing – loss of 2% of jobs in 2008 and 2009, 0.2% loss in 2010, then recovering job growth in 2011.
- Natural Resources & Mining – job losses in 2008 and 2009, with growth in 2010.
- Leisure & Hospitality – 1.1% decline in 2009, then healthy growth rate thereafter.
- Financial Sector – no growth in 2008, slight growth in 2009, then healthy growth thereafter.
- Information Sector – slight declines or no increases until 2011.
- Government – 0.6% decline in 2008, slight decrease in 2009, peak in 2010 as the 2010 Census is carried out.

While the economy adjusts, opportunities do arise. Consumers are turning more to fuel-efficient vehicles, and the sale of hybrid vehicles is increasing. Research and development funding for alternative energy and energy-reducing technology is on the increase. Greater attention is being given to the planning and use of alternative means of passenger and commercial transportation. For instance, many public transit and Amtrak services are setting new records. And increased energy costs have increased attention on land-use patterns, alternative building materials, and other related sustainability concepts. In response to these trends, the *West Central Wisconsin Regional Comprehensive Plan*, under development by WCWRPC, will include an energy and sustainability section analyzing and providing advisory recommendations on how these concepts may be applied within our region.

## Polk County Economic Profile

### *Economic Data*

There is a significant amount of background data and information that is available from various public and private sources that is integrated into this document, including information from the following sources:

- U.S. Census Bureau data
  - *American Fact Finder Fact Sheets*
  - *County Business Patterns*
  - *Misc. demographic and other data*
- State of Wisconsin Department of Administration
  - *Demographics Services Center*
- State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
  - *County Workforce Profiles*
  - *County Snapshots*

- *Office of Economic Advisors*
- State of Wisconsin Department of Revenue
  - *Wisconsin Economic Outlook*
- State of Wisconsin Department of Commerce
- University of Wisconsin-Extension
- West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC)
  - *County summaries available at [www.wcwrpc.org](http://www.wcwrpc.org)*
  - *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy*
- Indiana Business Research Center USA County Profiles
- Polk County and other local agencies

Given the wealth of economic data available at the State, regional, county, and local levels, the plethora of specialized business studies, and the wide variety of economic models, no such compilation can truly be comprehensive in scope. As such, a community may need to consider additional studies focusing on a specific issue or topic as their planning efforts proceed.

Further, there has been no clear consensus to date in the region on a single particular data source and those economic indicators which should be used to measure economic vitality, challenges, and progress, and to allow for comparison between communities and regions. The State of Wisconsin, through the Department of Workforce Development-Office of Economic Advisors, has developed Wisconsin Regional Metrics Benchmarks with a common set of core economic, demographic, and labor market indicators.

Due to Polk County's proximity to the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metropolitan Statistical Area, some select data comparisons are included for the metro area. For ease of reference, the metro area is simply referred to as the Twin Cities MSA in the remainder of this section.

#### **Relationship to the Issues & Opportunities Section**

This section relies heavily on data provided previously in the issues and opportunities section (Section 1). The State Comprehensive Planning Law requires that the issues and opportunities element includes a variety of economic background information, including employment forecasts, educational levels, income levels, and employment characteristics. As appropriate, this section refers back to these data tables instead of repeating them here.

Certain types of economic data and forecasts are only available at a county or regional level, and inferences must be made as to how it may be applicable for individual communities. However, earlier in the issues and opportunities section of this report, a variety of demographic, education, and labor force data tables were provided for Polk County and its municipalities. This section does not restate the data tables and maps provided earlier, but, instead, builds upon this data to provide an economic "snapshot" of Polk County.

## *Demographic Overview*

Current demographic trends, including population changes and educational attainment, are important foundational factors in many economic development initiatives. The population profile describes the existing and potential labor force that may fill the jobs located in the region. Educational attainment statistics are a proxy for the general skill level of the population. And household income allows inferences to be made about discretionary spending in Polk County as a whole.

### **Population and Labor Force**

As of January 1, 2008, Polk County had an estimated population of 45,892.<sup>7</sup> This was an 11.1 percent increase since 2000 making it the fifth fastest growing county in Wisconsin. As shown previously in Table 1.3 and Map 1.2, western and southern portions of the County have generally seen the highest rates of growth, with unincorporated towns growing faster than cities and villages.

Between 2000 and 2030, the Wisconsin Department of Administration has projected that Polk County's population will increase by 17,547 residents (or 42.5%).<sup>8</sup> For additional population statistics by municipality, please see Tables 1.1 to 1.13 in Section 1 of this report.

Between 1990 and 2000, the County's median age increased from 34.6 years to 38.7 years. The aging population of the region and County is a significant concern for the future and will place a greater emphasis on job training in the region.<sup>9</sup> Figure 6.3 provides a visual representation of Polk County's labor force using Wisconsin Department of Administration population projections.

Currently, most of the Polk County labor force is between the ages of 20 and 44. Most notable in Figure 6.3 is that the number of residents ages 65 and over is projected to more than double between 2005 to 2030.

In short, while the County's overall population is expected to increase 31.6 percent from 2005 to 2030, the size of the primary workforce (ages 20-64) to support the local economy will only increase by 5.2 percent. Meanwhile, the number of seniors age 65 and over increases dramatically.

For additional insight into the Polk County labor force, the Office of Economic Advisors' *County Workforce Profiles* are an excellent source and are updated annually.

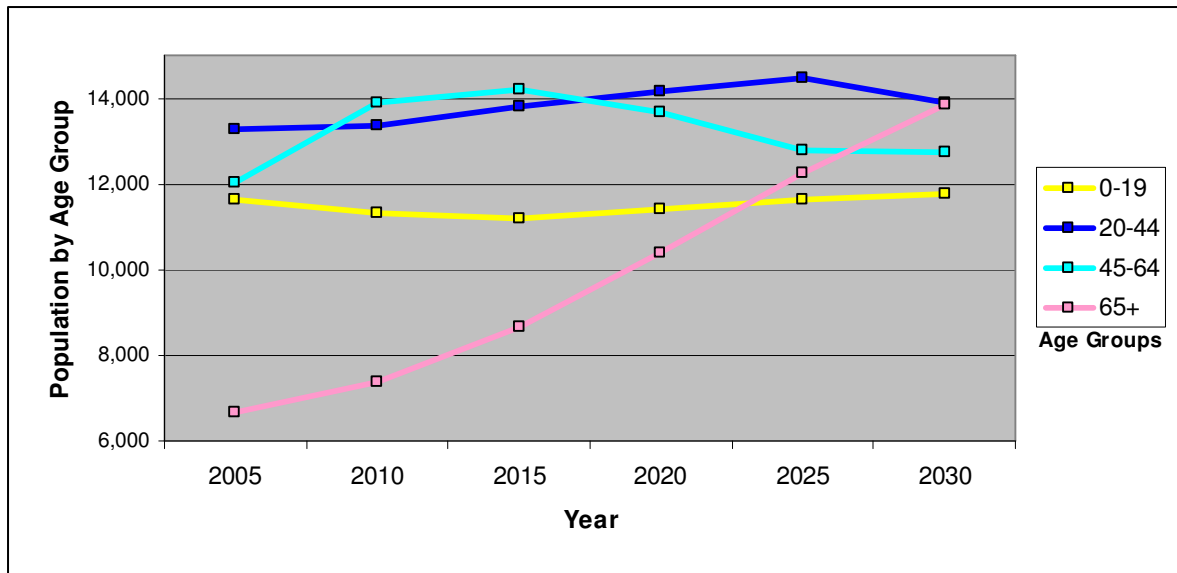
---

<sup>7</sup> Wisconsin Department of Administration. Final Population Estimates. October 2008.

<sup>8</sup> Wisconsin Department of Administration. Pre-Release Population Projections. October 2008.

<sup>9</sup> Dane, Andrew and Gary Paul Green. Labor Market Conditions in Barron County. University of Wisconsin-Extension. January 12, 2005.

**Figure 6.3 – Polk County Age/Labor Force Projection (2005-2030)**



source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, January 2004

### Housing Market

According to data provided by the US Bureau of the Census, the estimated number of single-family residential building permits issued in 1998 was 336 compared to 215 in 2007, a 36 percent decrease. Permits for all units decreased even more substantially (-43.7%) from 442 units in 1998 to 249 units in 2007. Building permits numbers reflect larger economic trends and can vary significantly from year to year. For instance, the highest number of units issued permits during the past decade occurred in 2004 when 569 total units valued at \$75.3 million were permitted. This was over \$39.3 million more in estimated construction value compared to 2007.

### Education

As shown in Table 6.1, of the 2000 Polk County population that is 25 years and over, 86.9 percent had a high school education or higher, which is similar to the statewide rate. In 2000, 15.6 percent of residents had a bachelor's degree or higher, which is a significant increase since 1990, but still substantially below the averages for the State and Twin Cities.

The demand for labor in the region is shifting toward more skilled work, although not as quickly as some other regions in the State. This trend increases the need for worker training opportunities. A strong, traditional secondary educational system and a variety of worker training programs are important factors in economic development.

For more detailed data on educational attainment by municipality in Polk County, please see Table 1.14 in Section 1 of this report. The utilities and community

facilities section identifies public schools and post-secondary institutions which play key roles in supporting the training needs of Polk County businesses.

**Table 6.1 – Polk County Educational Attainment (1990 and 2000)**

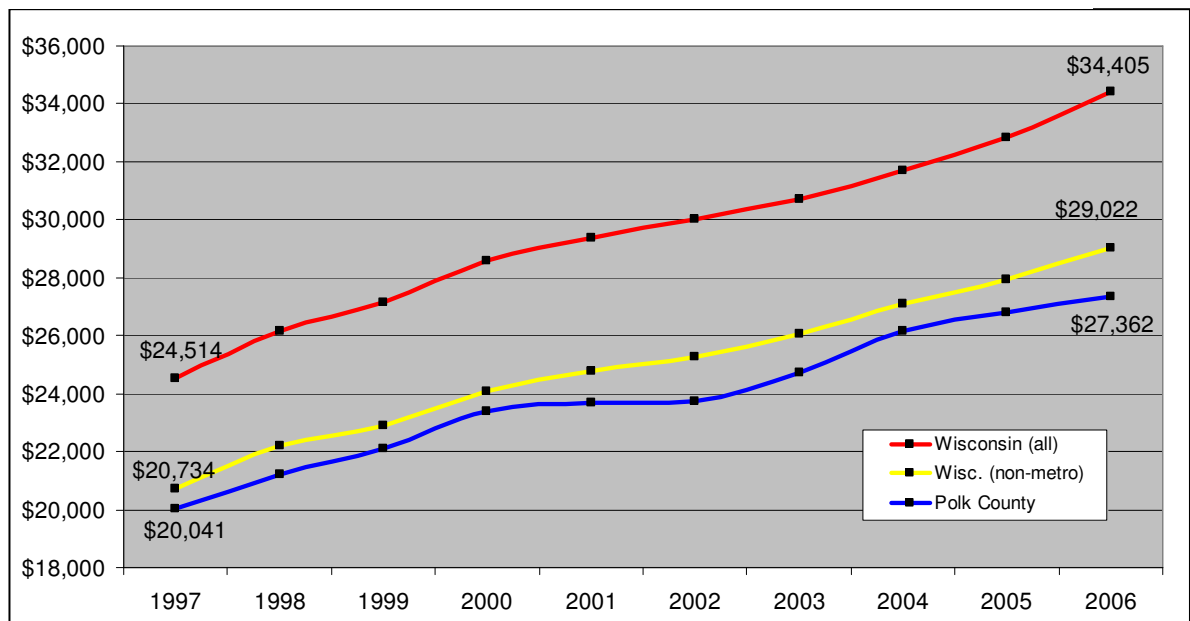
Educational Attainment (residents 25 years or older)	Polk County			Twin Cities MSA 2000	Wisconsin 2000 %
	1990 %	2000 %	90 to '00 % Change		
Less than high school diploma	22.0	14.1	-35.9	9.4	15.0
High school graduate	43.2	41.1	-4.9	9.1	34.6
Some college, no degree	16.2	21.9	35.2	24.2	20.6
Associate degree	7.2	7.3	1.4	7.7	7.5
Bachelor's degree or higher	11.4	15.6	36.8	33.3	22.5
High school graduate or higher	78.0	85.9	10.1	90.6	85.1

source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 2000.

### Income and Wages

Summarizing income statistics yields insight on purchasing power. The 2005 median household income for Polk County was \$48,022 which was 21<sup>st</sup> in the State of Wisconsin and 101.9 percent of the State average. Figure 6.4 compares Polk County's per capita personal income<sup>10</sup> to State averages.

**Figure 6.4 – Polk County vs. State Per Capita Personal Income (1997-2006)**



source: U.S. Department of Commerce – Bureau of Economic Analysis.

<sup>10</sup> Personal income is the income received by persons from all sources.

About 7.4 percent of individuals in the County were below the poverty level in 2005, up from 7.1 percent in 2000. For household income data by municipality, please see Tables 1.21 and 1.22 in Section 1.

**Table 6.2 – Polk County Average Annual Wages by Industry (2001-2006)**  
*for covered employment and wages*

Industry	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	% change '01-'06
Natural Resources	\$22,339	\$25,228	\$23,070	\$24,905	\$26,210	\$28,253	26.5%
Construction	33,732	32,616	32,803	32,624	33,314	35,222	4.4%
Manufacturing	30,507	32,695	33,957	36,377	36,272	35,831	17.5%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	20,742	21,710	22,286	23,487	23,843	24,634	18.8%
Financial Activities	25,872	28,007	30,257	32,060	32,552	33,331	28.8%
Education & Health	25,624	26,592	27,265	28,455	29,471	30,953	20.8%
Information	23,767	23,116	23,061	32,983	23,825	23,752	-0.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	9,119	9,035	9,245	9,211	9,419	9,968	9.3%
Professional & Business Services	21,524	24,469	27,134	27,215	23,056	23,848	10.8%
Other Services	18,425	19,268	17,935	supressed	18,797	19,060	3.4%
Public Administration	22,029	22,722	24,588	23,999	25,336	25,510	15.8%
<b>All Industries</b>	<b>\$24,564</b>	<b>\$25,566</b>	<b>\$26,330</b>	<b>\$27,737</b>	<b>\$27,691</b>	<b>\$28,320</b>	<b>15.3%</b>

*source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Office of Economic Advisors*

Overall average annual wages for Polk County increased by 15.3 percent in the six years from 2001 to 2006 as shown in Table 6.2. The biggest percentage increase was in the financial activities industry, while information services wages decreased slightly.

The 2006 average wage in Polk County was \$28,320 or about 76.9 percent of the average Wisconsin wage for all industries (\$36,830). For 2004 estimated salary and wages by occupation, please see Table 6.8 later in this section.

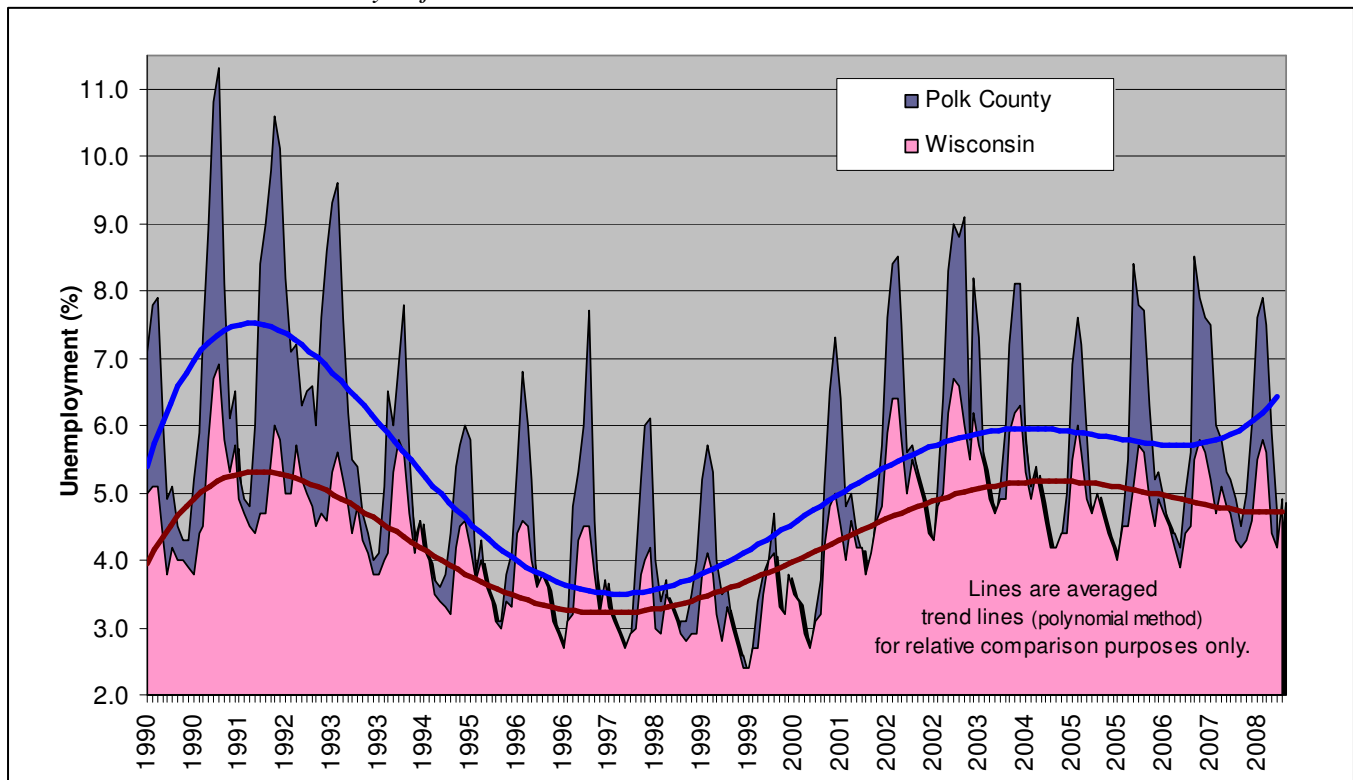
### **Employment Trends**

Of Polk County residents 16 years of age and over, 67.7 percent were in the labor force as of 2006, below the State average of 70 percent. As the monthly employment rates presented in Figure 6.5 show, Polk County experiences a significantly higher amount of employment seasonality compared to State averages, with increased unemployment during the winter months. For example, in February 2008, the Polk County unemployment rate was 7.9 percent, but this dropped to 4.7 percent by May 2008.

Historically since 1990, unemployment in Polk County has been above the State average, dropping to a low of 2.3 percent in October 1999 during this timeframe. But the County's unemployment rate increased significantly from the 2000 annual average rate of 3.3 percent, reaching an annual average of 6.9 percent in 2003. Since 2003, the County's annual average unemployment rate has hovered between 5.3 to 6.2 percent.



**Figure 6.5 – Polk Co. & Wisconsin Monthly Unemployment Rate (1990-June 2008)**  
*not seasonally adjusted*

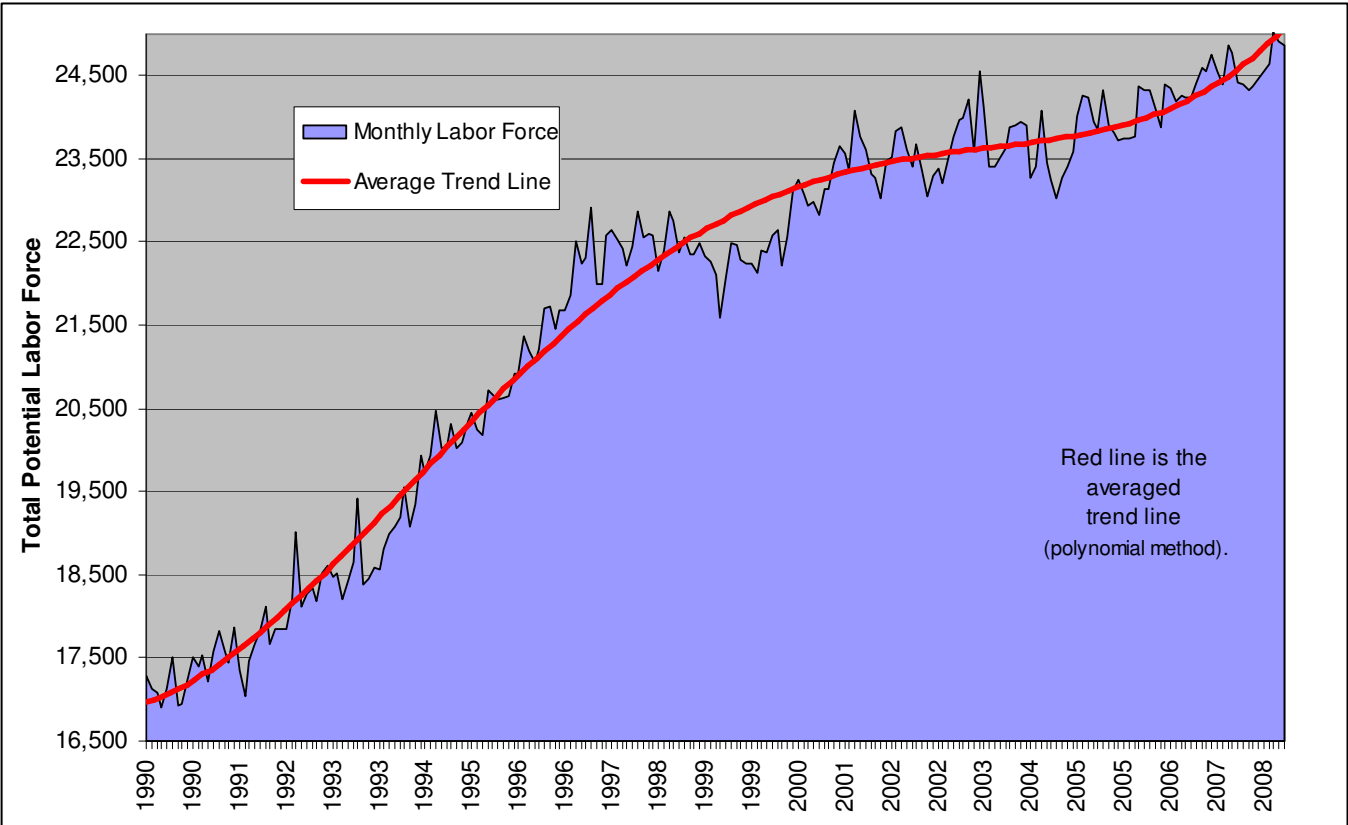


source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Office of Economic Advisors

Unemployment is not only a reflection of job availability, but total available labor force. Figure 6.6 shows that the Polk County average annual labor force grew by 7,324 persons or 42.5 percent from 1900 to 2007. According to the UW-Extension 2005 labor market conditions report, the region's labor market remains tight, with most employers having a difficult time attracting and retaining qualified workers.<sup>11</sup> Table 1.15 in Section 1 provides unemployment statistics for the 1990 and 2000 labor force by municipality.

<sup>11</sup> Dane, Andrew and Gary Paul Green. Labor Market Conditions in Barron County. University of Wisconsin-Extension. January 12, 2005.

**Figure 6.6 – Polk Co. Monthly Total Potential Labor Force (1990-June 2008)**  
*not seasonally adjusted*

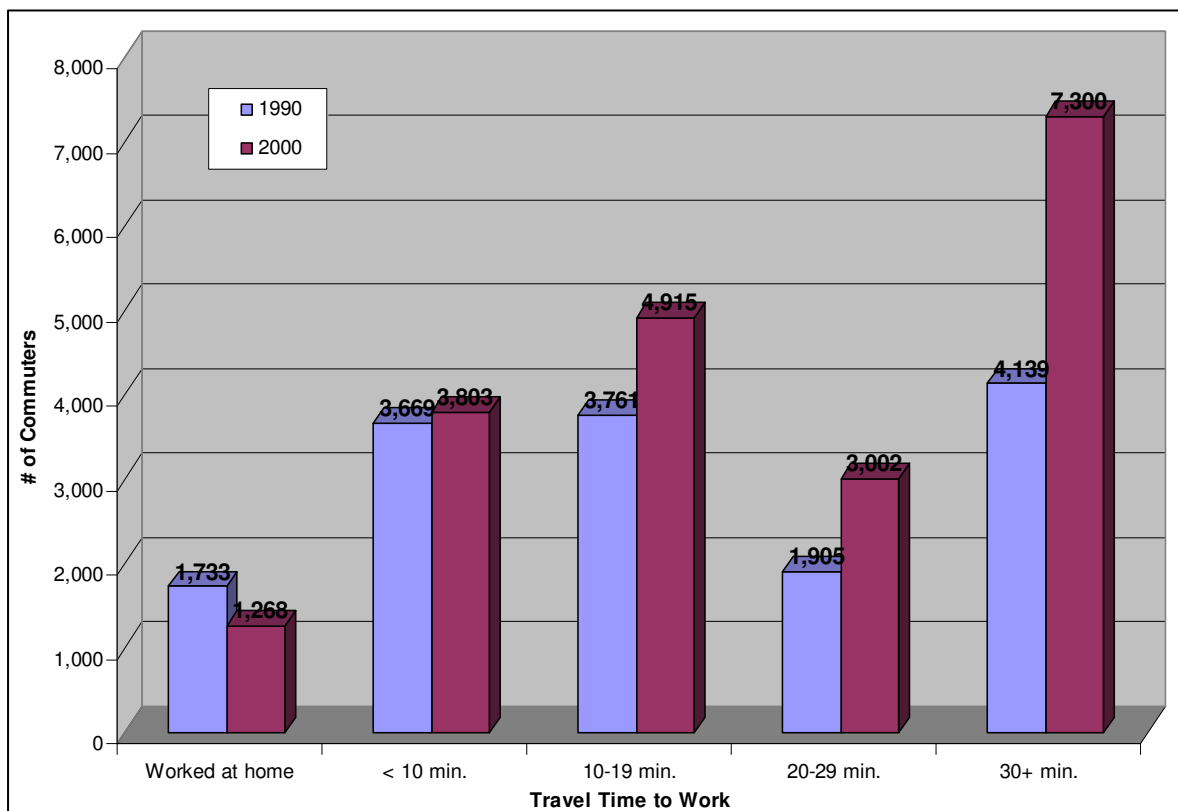


source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Office of Economic Advisors

### Commuting Patterns

Of Polk County workers 16 years of age and over in 2000, 76.9 percent drove to work alone; and workers had a mean travel time of 28.7 minutes. Figure 6.7 shows that commuting distances and travel time for Polk County resident workers have been increasing, especially for those travelling farther, with fewer persons working at home. In 2000, 61.7 percent of the Polk County workforce was employed outside of Polk County, with 23.3 percent employed outside the State of Wisconsin.

**Figure 6.7 – Polk County Travel Time to Work (1990 and 2000)**



source: U.S. Census

Tables 1.18 and 1.19 provide statistics on travel time to work and place of work for the County and by municipality. Commuting patterns are discussed in greater detail within the transportation discussion (See Section 3. Transportation).

## Economic Base

While the previous sub-section focused on general economic indicators for Polk County, the following information focuses more on the different industry sectors and occupations which constitute the County's economic base.

### Industry Composition

According to statistics from the U.S. Bureau of the Census and Bureau of Economic Analysis for Polk County:

- In 2000, about 77.5% of the employed workforce was private-sector wage and salary workers; about 11.4% were government workers. About 10.4% of the workers were self-employed in a non-incorporated business
- In 2006, the average income per job in sole proprietorships was about 43.7% of the County's total average wages and salaries per job, including employer contributions.
- Annual average earnings per job in 2006 were \$27,791. Annual average earnings per farm proprietor were -\$2,864.

As shown in Table 6.3, the construction industry has the largest number of establishments, reflecting the County's significant growth rate, though this number was fairly stable from 2004 to 2006.

**Table 6.3 – Polk County Number of Establishments by Industry (1998-2006)**

Industry Code	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	% change '98-'06
Forestry, fishing, hunting, and agri. support	6	6	6	5	3	3	2	3	3	-50.0%
Mining	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	33.3%
Utilities	9	8	9	9	8	8	8	9	9	0.0%
Construction	142	150	148	156	183	185	195	200	195	37.3%
Manufacturing	97	103	102	100	107	108	114	114	117	20.6%
Wholesale trade	33	32	31	27	35	28	28	33	34	3.0%
Retail trade	180	185	178	175	186	191	193	183	183	1.7%
Transportation & warehousing	37	37	37	40	45	39	35	37	36	-2.7%
Information	19	18	18	16	21	20	19	16	16	-15.8%
Finance & insurance	47	45	44	45	49	51	54	55	56	19.1%
Real estate & rental & leasing	20	25	25	28	31	35	38	43	39	95.0%
Professional, scientific & technical services	65	65	64	70	69	67	72	71	72	10.8%
Management of companies & enterprises	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	n.a.
Admin, support, waste mgt, remediation	26	26	28	36	41	37	41	46	41	57.7%
Educational services	4	4	6	6	7	3	4	4	7	75.0%
Health care and social assistance	85	88	86	86	97	100	102	99	103	21.2%
Arts, entertainment & recreation	25	22	19	21	23	27	28	31	28	12.0%
Accommodation & food services	119	113	105	113	122	122	128	126	123	3.4%
Other services (except public administration)	127	124	130	127	142	133	137	136	127	0.0%
Unclassified/Auxillary establishments	19	19	23	17	4	4	8	3	4	-78.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,063</b>	<b>1,073</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>1,176</b>	<b>1,165</b>	<b>1,211</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>1,199</b>	<b>12.8%</b>

source: U.S. Census Bureau County Business Patterns

The construction industry also had the largest number of new establishments between 1998 and 2006 with 53, while the fastest growing industries in terms of new establishments were educational services and real estate/leasing.

### Employment by Industry

As shown in Table 6.4 below, employment in the services sectors (e.g., professional, leisure, financial, and education/health) has been growing at a faster rate than the goods-producing sectors in Polk County. In fact, manufacturing employment decreased by 7.5 percent from 2001 to 2006.

**Table 6.4 – Polk County Employment by Industry (2001-2006)**

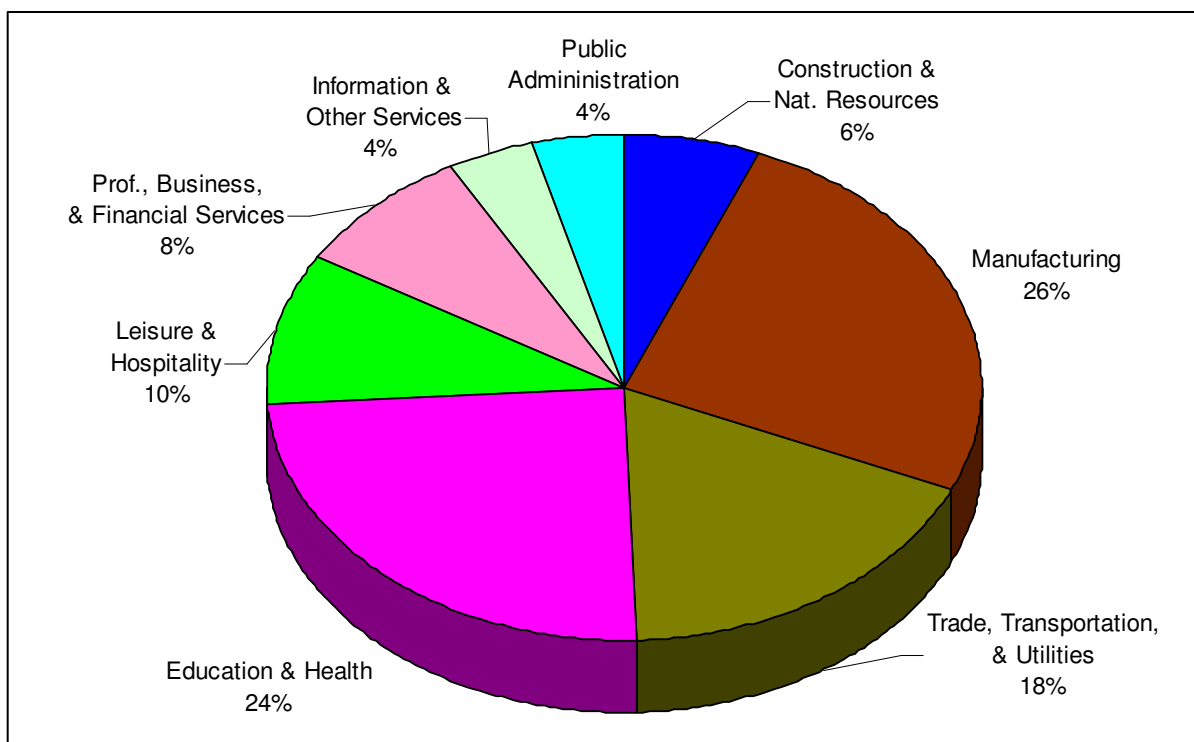
Industry	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	% change '01-'06
Natural Resources	148	147	182	184	191	184	24.3%
Construction	736	790	777	788	794	741	0.7%
Manufacturing	4,136	3,813	3,664	3,812	3,922	3,827	-7.5%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	2,606	2,624	2,631	2,561	2,642	2,695	3.4%
Financial Activities	490	520	516	510	520	525	7.1%
Education & Health	3,417	3,474	3,562	3,589	3,636	3,661	7.1%
Information	321	300	305	456	319	323	0.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,334	1,379	1,374	1,485	1,552	1,490	11.7%
Professional & Business Services	408	444	494	641	733	727	78.2%
Other Services	284	266	238	<i>supressed</i>	250	258	-9.2%
Public Administration	588	598	600	618	622	626	6.5%
<b>All Industries</b>	<b>14,467</b>	<b>14,356</b>	<b>14,342</b>	<b>14,894</b>	<b>15,181</b>	<b>15,056</b>	<b>4.1%</b>

*source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development-Office of Economic Advisors*

These trends are consistent with the historical employment data provided previously for Polk County and its municipalities in Tables 1.15 and 1.16. However, while the historical data is arranged by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code, most industry data available today is organized by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), often making comparisons between newer and older industry data challenging.

Though manufacturing employment decreased from 2001 to 2006 overall, the industry has gained jobs since 2003. Manufacturing remains the largest industry by employment as represented in Figure 6.8. If trends continue as expected, the second largest employment sector—education and health—may have already become the top employment industry in the County. Retail trade employment constitutes the largest component of the trade, transportation, and utilities industry.

**Figure 6.8 – Polk County Employment by Industry (2006)**



source data:: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development-Office of Economic Advisors

Eight of Polk County's top-25 employers are manufacturing companies (see Table 6.5), including the County's largest employer—Polaris Industries Manufacturing. While the manufacturing sector in Polk County paid the highest annual average wages in 2006, these wages were 78 percent of the State average for the manufacturing sector. The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development in the 2007 *Polk County Workforce Profile* notes that rural jobs do tend to pay less than their urban counterparts, explaining the lower wages locally in the County.

Six employers in the top-25 were school districts, while medical facilities and nursing homes constituted another four top-25 employers. Like all Polk County industries, wages in education and health services were also below State averages. Polk County government was the second largest employer in the County in 2007.

Given that numerous residents commute to Minnesota for work, it is valuable to compare the Polk County employment by industry to that of the top employers in the larger Twin Cities MSA. In 2006, the top six industries by employment were:

Education and health services	20.6%
Manufacturing	14.5%
Professional, Scientific, Waste Mgmt.	11.6%
Retail trade	10.9%

Finance, insurance, and real estate	11.6%
Arts, entertainment, & hospitality	7.9%

As of 2006, 7.9 percent of Polk County jobs were in farming, of which 83.9% were sole proprietors. Polk County ranked 37<sup>th</sup> among the State's 72 counties in the total value of agricultural products sold in 2002.

As noted in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Censuses, and as discussed previously in Section 5, the acreage of farmland and average farm size in Polk County continue to decrease. Even with these changes in agriculture, Polk County farmers sold nearly \$72.5 million worth of agricultural products in 2002, which has a significant economic impact.

Seventy-three percent of this value was in livestock, poultry, and related products, rather than crop and nursery products. Polk County ranked fifth in the State in turkey livestock, given its proximity to the large turkey processing plants in Barron County; tenth in aquaculture; thirteenth in poultry and eggs; and fifteenth in sheep, goats, and their products.

For a more detailed discussion of employment and wage trends in Polk County, please refer to the 2007 *Polk County Workforce Profile* compiled by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

**Table 6.5– Polk County Top Employers (March 2007)**  
(with 100+ employees)

Rank	Employer Name	Industry Type	Employee size range
1	Polaris Industries Mfg	All other transportation equipment mfg.	500-999
2	County of Polk	Executive & legislative offices, combined	500-999
3	Wal-Mart	Discount department stores	250-499
4	St Croix Regional Medical Center	General medical & surgical hospitals	250-499
5	Osceola Public School	Elementary & secondary schools	250-499
6	Amery Regional Medical Center Inc	General medical & surgical hospitals	250-499
7	School District of Amery	Elementary & secondary schools	250-499
8	Bishop Fixture & Millwork Inc	Showcases, partitions, shelving, & lockers	100-249
9	Balsam Lake-Unity-Milltown Public School	Elementary & secondary schools	100-249
10	Ladd Memorial Hospital Inc	General medical & surgical hospitals	100-249
11	School District of St Croix Falls	Elementary & secondary schools	100-249
12	Menards	Home centers	100-249
13	Trollhaugen Inc	Skiing facilities	100-249
13	Tenere Inc	Sheet metal work manufacturing	100-249
15	Scientific Molding Corp Ltd	All other plastics product manufacturing	100-249
16	Durex Products Inc	All other plastics product manufacturing	100-249
17	Cardinal Glass Industries Inc	Glass product mfg. made of purchased glass	100-249
18	Northwire Inc	Other communication & energy wire mfg.	100-249
19	Good Samaritan Center	Nursing care facilities	100-249
20	School District of Clear Lake	Elementary & secondary schools	100-249
21	Advanced Food Products	Cheese manufacturing	100-249
22	Westaff	Temporary help services	100-249
23	School District of Luck	Elementary & secondary schools	100-249
24	Masterson Personnel Inc	Temporary help services	100-249
25	Oxbo Intl Corp	Farm machinery & equipment manufacturing	100-249
26	The Riverbank	Commercial banking	100-249
27	St Croix Valley Hardwoods	Cut stock, resawing lumber, & planing	100-249
28	Frederic Public School	Elementary & secondary schools	100-249

source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development-Office of Economic Advisors

### Employment by Occupation

Like employment by industry, employment by occupation is also difficult to compare across years due to changing definitions and data-gathering approaches. Employment by occupation for 1990 and 2000 for each Polk County municipality is included in Table 1.18 in Section 1 of this report. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, of the Polk County employed civilian population 16 years of age and over (20,553):

- 26.4% were employed in management, professional, and related occupations
- 21.6% were employed in production, transportation, and material moving occupations
- 21.7% were employed in sales and office occupations



Together, these three general occupation categories constitute 76.4 percent of the County's workforce.

Table 6.6 provides additional insight into the occupations of our area, but this information is available at a regional scale. Even so, these numbers are similar to the 2000 U.S. Census Bureau occupation statistics for Polk County.

**Table 6.6 – West Central Wisconsin WDA Region  
Estimated Employment and Salary by Occupation (2004)**

Occupation	2004 Employ- ment	% of Total Employ- ment	Average Annual Salary
Office and Administrative Support	27,090	15.6%	\$27,099
Production	21,580	12.4%	\$28,765
Sales and Related	17,120	9.8%	\$27,743
Food Preparation and Serving Related	16,870	9.7%	\$16,748
Transportation and Material Moving	14,670	8.4%	\$26,349
Education, Training, and Library	11,010	6.3%	\$39,300
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	8,580	4.9%	\$49,793
Construction and Extraction	7,480	4.3%	\$39,111
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	6,700	3.9%	\$34,441
Management	6,070	3.5%	\$74,714
Healthcare Support	5,830	3.4%	\$23,325
Business and Financial Operations	5,560	3.2%	\$48,430
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	5,380	3.1%	\$22,256
Personal Care and Service	4,570	2.6%	\$19,567
Protective Service	3,260	1.9%	\$33,184
Architecture and Engineering	2,960	1.7%	\$55,024
Community and Social Services	2,800	1.6%	\$38,992
Computer and Mathematical	2,060	1.2%	\$54,277
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	1,930	1.1%	\$33,885
Life, Physical, and Social Science	1,410	0.8%	\$49,461
Legal	670	0.4%	\$63,731
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	270	0.2%	\$24,922
Total	173,880	100.0%	\$32,266

*West Central WDA includes Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties.  
source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development-Office of Economic Advisors*

In the West Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Area (see Figure 6.9) which includes Polk County, office and administrative support and production are the most frequent occupations, though they are below the average annual salary for the region.

### Employment Projections

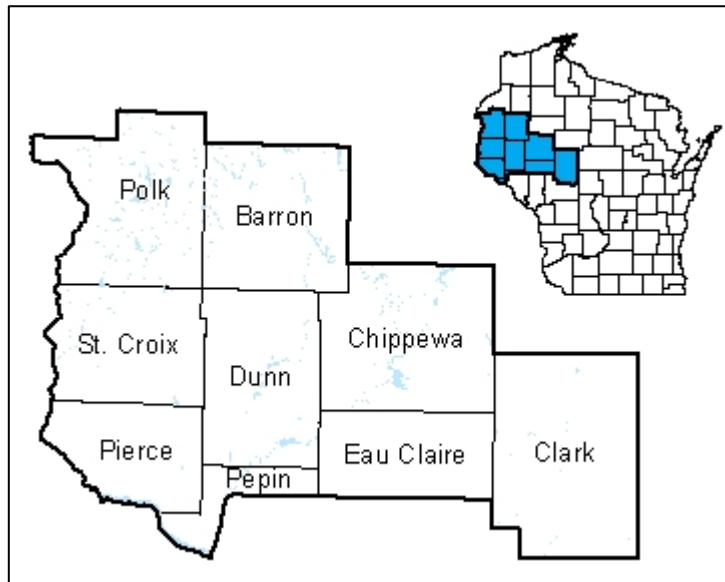
In November 2003, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (WDWD) released a publication entitled *Wisconsin Projections, 2000-2010*. This

publication makes economic projections for the State regarding the labor force, industries, and occupations. This information was further supplemented by ten-year projections (2004-2014) by regional workforce development area (WDA). This sub-section relies, in large part, on these WDWD documents.

Municipal units within Polk County have employment patterns that are similar to the State. It is anticipated that for the near future, Wisconsin's total population will grow more slowly while average age will increase more rapidly than the nation as a whole, leading to lower participation rates in the workforce. Wisconsin is also having difficulty attracting international immigrants and domestic migrants and retaining its own citizens. Wisconsin will continue to face the challenge of filling job openings.

As shown in Table 6.7, the region's WDA industries that are projected to add the most jobs from 2004-2014 are education and health services. Ambulatory health case services jobs alone will grow 36.6 percent, reflecting, in part, our region's aging demographic. The number of total jobs in the manufacturing industry is estimated to remain fairly unchanged during this timeframe. These projections account for anticipated changes in Wisconsin's economy within the timeframe, though unanticipated events may impact accuracy.

**Figure 6.9 – West Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Area**



*source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development-Office of Economic Advisors*

**TABLE 6.7**  
**West Central Wisconsin WDA Region Industry Projections (2004-2014)**

Industry Title	2004 Estimated Employment	2014 Projected Employment	2004-2014 Employment Change	2004-2014 Percentage Change
Total Non-Farm Employment	173,880	194,330	20,450	11.8%
Construction/Mining/Natural Resources	8,380	9,880	1,500	17.9%
Manufacturing	31,990	32,030	40	0.1%
Paper Manufacturing	1,720	1,720	0	0.0%
Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	3,400	3,670	270	7.9%
Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	3,220	3,020	-200	-6.2%
Trade	28,800	30,900	2,100	7.3%
Food and Beverage Stores	5,040	5,250	210	4.2%
Transportation and Utilities (Including US Postal)	8,270	9,520	1,250	15.1%
Financial Activities	7,010	7,710	700	10.0%
Education and Health Services (Including gov't)	37,330	45,540	8,210	22.0%
Ambulatory Health Care	5,540	7,570	2,030	36.6%
Hospitals (Including gov't)	7,050	8,640	1,590	22.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	17,300	19,930	2,630	15.2%
Information/Prof Services/Other Services	21,470	24,920	3,450	16.1%
Government (Excluding US Postal, State and Local Educ and Hospitals)	13,310	13,930	620	4.7%

*West Central WDA includes Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties.  
source: Wisconsin Dept. of Workforce Development, Bureau of Workforce Information, 2006*

Table 6.8 provides the estimated employment by occupation in 2004 and projected employment occupation for 2014 in the west central WDA. Overall, total employment is expected to increase by 11.8 percent in the region from 2004 to 2014, with 2,050 new jobs created annually and 4,300 job replacements annually. The largest increase in the total number of jobs is expected in the food preparation- and serving-related occupations. Large employment growth (both total and percentage) is also expected in the health care practitioners and related technical occupations. Notably, these two occupation groups have very different salary and wage estimates.

**Table 6.8 – West Central Wisconsin WDA Region Occupation Projections and Estimated Wages (2004-2014)**

Occupational Title	Estimated Employment <sup>c</sup>				Estimated Average Annual Openings			Estimated Salary and Wages (2005)		
	2004	2014	Change	% Change	New Jobs	Replacements	Total	Average Annual Salary	Entry Level Hourly Wage	Experienced Hourly Wage
Management	6,070	6,860	790	13.0%	80	110	190	\$74,714	\$18.55	\$44.61
Business and Financial Operations	5,560	6,530	970	17.4%	100	100	200	\$48,430	\$13.84	\$28.01
Computer and Mathematical	2,060	2,570	510	24.8%	50	30	80	\$54,277	\$16.17	\$31.06
Architecture and Engineering	2,960	3,230	270	9.1%	30	70	100	\$55,024	\$16.79	\$31.29
Life, Physical, and Social Science	1,410	1,640	230	16.3%	20	30	50	\$49,461	\$14.58	\$28.38
Community and Social Services	2,800	3,300	500	17.9%	50	50	100	\$38,992	\$12.79	\$21.73
Legal	670	780	110	16.4%	10	10	20	\$63,731	\$13.59	\$39.17
Education, Training, and Library	11,010	12,740	1,730	15.7%	170	240	410	\$39,300	\$10.82	\$22.93
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	1,930	2,190	260	13.5%	30	40	70	\$33,885	\$8.74	\$20.06
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	8,580	10,920	2,340	27.3%	230	160	390	\$49,793	\$11.44	\$30.19
Healthcare Support	5,830	7,510	1,680	28.8%	170	90	260	\$23,325	\$8.91	\$12.37
Protective Service	3,260	3,480	220	6.7%	20	100	120	\$33,184	\$9.02	\$19.42
Food Preparation and Serving Related	16,870	19,260	2,390	14.2%	240	670	910	\$16,748	\$5.91	\$9.12
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	5,380	6,290	910	16.9%	90	110	200	\$22,256	\$7.26	\$12.42
Personal Care and Service	4,570	5,640	1,070	23.4%	110	110	220	\$19,567	\$6.80	\$10.71
Sales and Related	17,120	18,320	1,200	7.0%	120	610	730	\$27,743	\$6.74	\$16.64
Office and Administrative Support	27,090	28,170	1,080	4.0%	110	640	750	\$27,099	\$8.57	\$15.26
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	270	300	30	11.1%	<5	10	10	\$24,922	\$8.60	\$13.67
Construction and Extraction	7,480	8,740	1,260	16.8%	130	150	280	\$39,111	\$12.52	\$21.94
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	6,700	7,400	700	10.4%	70	150	220	\$34,441	\$11.00	\$19.34
Production	21,580	22,220	640	3.0%	60	520	580	\$28,765	\$9.55	\$15.97
Transportation and Material Moving	14,670	16,240	1,570	10.7%	160	320	480	\$26,349	\$7.98	\$15.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>173,880</b>	<b>194,330</b>	<b>20,450</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>6,350</b>	<b>\$32,266</b>	<b>\$8.04</b>	<b>\$19.25</b>

West Central WDA includes Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties.

source: Wisconsin Dept. of Workforce Development – Office of Economic Advisors

Table 6.9 presents 2014 employment and wage projections for the top 10 occupations within the west central WDA. This represents occupation opportunities in our region that are available to the residents of Polk County, though not all of these jobs may grow at a similar rate within the County. Some Polk County residents also benefit from job opportunities in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. The greatest demand for workers in the region are the occupations on the “Most Openings” list. This list includes many occupations considered as first-time or temporary jobs that workers often leave as other opportunities open up; turnover is high and wages are low. There are a few exceptions on the list:

registered nurses and truck drivers. Both require a greater degree of education or training, and the wage scales also reflect this.

**TABLE 6.9 - West Central Wisconsin WDA Region Occupation Projections (2014)**

	<b>Top 10 Occupations</b>	<b>Typically Required Education/Training</b>	<b>Average Wage</b>
<b>Fastest Growth</b>	Home Health Aides	1-month on-the-job training	\$9.29
	Medical Assistants	1-12 mo. on-the-job training	\$12.63
	Network and Data Analysts	Bachelor's degree	\$22.19
	Computer Software Engineers/Applications	Bachelor's degree	\$37.08
	Personal and Home Care Aides	1-month on-the-job training	\$8.82
	Dental Assistants	1-12 mo. on-the-job training	\$12.50
	Dental Hygienists	Associate degree	\$23.34
	Employment, Recruitment & Placement	Bachelor's degree	\$19.67
	Medical Records & Health Information	Associate degree	\$12.71
	Occupational Therapists	Master's degree	\$25.53
<b>Most Openings</b>	Cashiers	1-month on-the-job training	\$7.64
	Retail Salespersons	1-month on-the-job training	\$11.06
	Comb Food Prep/Serv Wrk/Incl Fast	1-month on-the-job training	\$7.04
	Waiters/Waitresses	1-month on-the-job training	\$7.34
	Registered Nurses	Associate's or Bachelor's degree	\$25.83
	Laborers/Freight/Stock/Material Movers/Handlers	1-month on-the-job training	\$10.09
	Janitors/Cleaners, except Maids/Housekeeping	1-month on-the-job training	\$10.67
	Team Assemblers	1-12 mo. on-the-job training	\$12.94
	Stock Clerks/Order Fillers	1-month on-the-job training	\$9.47
	Bartenders	1-month on-the-job training	\$8.16

*West Central WDA includes Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties.  
source: Wisconsin Dept. of Workforce Development, Bureau of Workforce Information, 2006*

The “Fastest Growth” occupations are often referred to as “hot jobs,” with more training requirements and better wages. There are often fewer openings in these jobs since the list is based on the greatest percent change in employment; for example, an occupation that increases from 5 to 10 jobs increased 100 percent whereas an occupation that increases from 2,000 to 2,200 jobs increased only 10 percent. A 2005 University of Wisconsin-Extension study states that the largest demand in the region continues to be for assemblers, processors, and laborers.<sup>12</sup>

## *Tourism*

Polk County offers a wide variety of natural, historical, and entertainment amenities and attractions. Tourism and outdoor recreation in the County often revolve around the County’s many lakes and water features.

The County has 437 lakes totaling over 22,600 acres and 200 miles of rivers and streams, including 98 miles of trout streams. The St. Croix River, a National Scenic and Wild River, borders the County to the west and is very popular for canoeing, fishing, and picnicking along.

Often located adjacent to these water bodies, numerous federal, State, County and municipal parks, trail systems, wildlife areas, campgrounds/resorts, and public hunting grounds offer a variety of places to play, picnic, hike, lodge, and enjoy the outdoors. Wisconsin’s oldest State Park, Interstate State Park, is located on the St. Croix River just south of St. Croix Falls. Residents and visitors can enjoy seven golf courses in the County, as well as a variety of hiking, biking, snowmobile, ATV, and equestrian trails. Of regional or State significance, the Gandy Dancer Trail, Cattail Trail, and National Ice Age Scenic Trail all transverse portions of the County. Many of these outdoor recreational assets are inventoried in the community facilities and natural resources sections of this report.

These natural resources and open spaces attract both visitors and new residents. Given the County’s close proximity to the Twin Cities and abundance of natural resources, the County has a relatively high number of seasonal and recreational housing units. Over 20 percent of the County’s total housing supply are seasonal or recreational units, which ranks the County 11<sup>th</sup> in the State in the number of seasonal units, but 31<sup>st</sup> in the State in the total of all housing units. As such, seasonal resort destinations and related tourism is a significant part of the Polk County economy.

Travelers also can experience the area’s history through museums and historical sites, such as the Emily Olson House in Hudson, Rural Life Museum in Balsam Lake, or the Osceola & St. Croix Valley Railway. Visitors explore the County’s many antique stores and specialty shops, perhaps following the Wisconsin’s Northwest Heritage Passage or

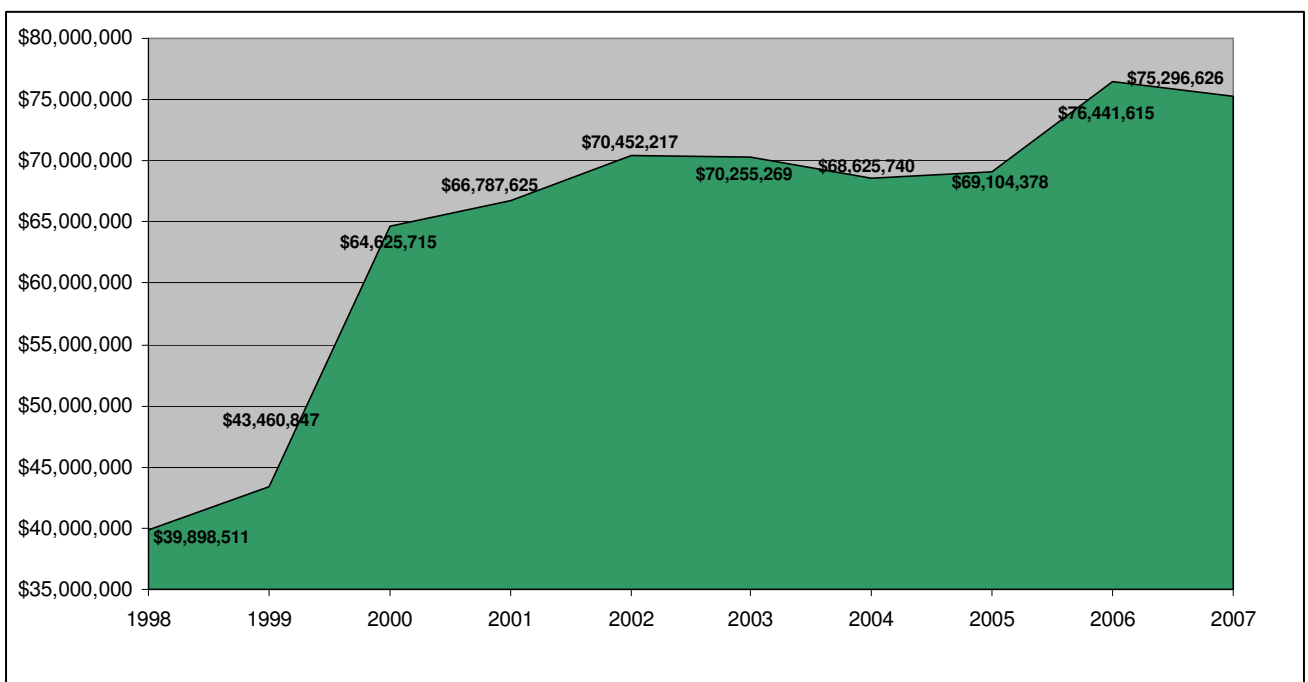
---

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

attending an event sponsored by Polk County Earth Arts. Music and theater performances can be seen at the St. Croix Art Barn, Pipe Dream Center, Northern Lakes Center for the Arts, or St. Croix Festival Theatre. Residents and visitors alike can also enjoy local, fresh foods at a variety of different orchards, vegetable growers, and numerous specialty farms and outlets.

The *Economic Impact of Expenditures by Travelers on Wisconsin 2007*, compiled by Davidson-Peterson & Associates, provides insight into the positive economic impacts of tourism on the Polk County economy. As shown in Figure 6.10, traveler expenditures in Polk County increased by 88.7 percent in the ten years between 1998 and 2007, with large increases between 1998 to 2000.

**Figure 6.10 Traveler Expenditures in Polk County (1998 to 2007)**

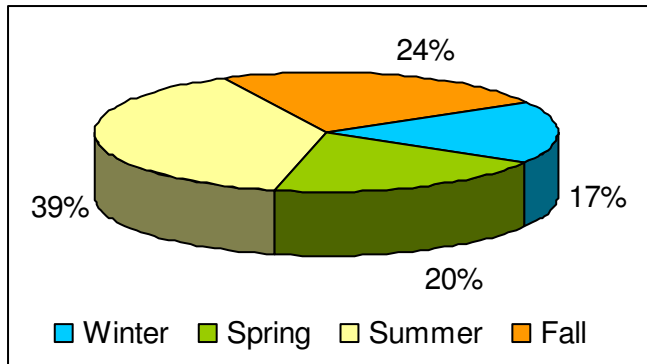


source: Davidson-Peterson & Associates. *Economic Impact of Expenditures by Travelers on Wisconsin 2007*.

In 2007, travelers spent an estimated \$75.2 million in Polk County, ranking the County 41<sup>st</sup> in the State for traveler spending. This was a \$35.4-million increase from the amount spent ten years earlier. The study goes on to estimate that employees in Polk County directly earned over \$20.6 million in wages generated from traveler spending, supporting an estimated 937 full-time equivalent jobs in 2007. Additionally, an estimated \$1.3 million in local revenues (e.g., sales taxes, property taxes) were collected in 2007 as a direct result of travelers in Polk County.

As Figure 6.11 shows, travelers are an important year-round contributor to the Polk County economy with 17 percent of traveler expenditures made during the winter, 20 percent during the spring, 39 percent during the summer, and 24 percent in the fall in 2007.

**Figure 6.11 Seasonality of Traveler Expenditures in Polk County (2007)**



*source: Davidson-Peterson & Associates. Economic Impact of Expenditures by Travelers on Wisconsin 2007.*

In summary, tourism and travelers are a significant part of the Polk County economy. This part of the economy is built upon the County's natural resources, large proportion of seasonal housing, and proximity to the Twin Cities. Transportation improvements planned for the region (see transportation section) could further increase tourism opportunities in the future.

Tourism in Polk County is promoted by the Polk County Tourism Council and the Polk County Information Center in St. Croix Falls. For more information on tourism in Polk County, please contact the Polk County Information Center:

**Polk County Information Center**  
 710 State Highway 35  
 St. Croix Falls, WI 54024  
 1-800-222-POLK  
[www.polkcountytourism.com](http://www.polkcountytourism.com)

## Environmentally Contaminated Sites

The State Comprehensive Planning Law (§66.1001) states that the economic development element "shall also evaluate and promote the use of environmentally contaminated sites for commercial or industrial uses."

Polk County has no properties actively receiving long-term remedial action financed under the federal Superfund program.

However, numerous smaller leaking underground storage tank, environmental repair, and spill sites are located throughout the County. The Wisconsin Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS) provides an inventory of the contaminated properties and other activities related to the investigation and cleanup of contaminated soil or groundwater in Wisconsin.



Table 6.10 at the end of this section is a list of the 210 sites in Polk County where contamination has occurred requiring significant attention,<sup>13</sup> including closed sites where clean-up has been completed. Of these, 73.3 percent (or 154) are associated with leaking underground storage tanks (LUSTs). The remaining 56 records are environmental repair (ERP) sites which have contaminated soil or groundwater requiring long-term attention ranging from non-LUST activities, such as industrial spills, dumping, buried containers, and landfills. The largest concentration of the sites (44) in Table 6.10 was located within the City of Amery.

Many, if not most, of the sites identified in Table 6.10 may currently be in active use and may not be available for redevelopment activities. Further, communities will need to consider the appropriateness and land use compatibility of the redevelopment of such sites for commercial or industrial use.

Redevelopment opportunities are not limited to contaminated sites, however. Local comprehensive planning efforts may need to identify those deteriorating structures and under-utilized properties within their communities which have potential for re-use.

## Summary

The data presented in this report should be kept in mind as communities develop their economic development strategies. This information can highlight certain weaknesses to be mitigated, as well as existing and potential opportunities to encourage economic growth and diversification.

For convenience, here are some of the highlights of the economic development section:

- The Polk County economy is impacted by regional, State, national, and international decisions and fluctuations. At the State level, growth has slowed, while the price of gas and commodities has inflated. Home purchases and new home construction in Wisconsin have also decreased in recent years, though foreclosure rates remain well below national averages.
- Polk County's population increased by 11.1% between 2000 and 2008 making it the fifth fastest growing county in Wisconsin.
- Polk County's population is projected to increase 42.5% between 2000 and 2030, though the primary labor force (ages 20-64) is only projected to increase 5.2%. The aging population of the County and region poses both labor force concerns and economic opportunities for certain industries.
- There is increasing demand for skilled workers in the region. Post-secondary educational attainment of County residents is significantly below the State average.

---

<sup>13</sup> Table 6.10 excludes abandoned containers and spills for which no discharge to the environment has been identified or the spill was cleaned up quickly.

- Average per capita personal income and wages both remain below the State averages, though they have been improving.
- Polk County's unemployment has most often been above the State average during the past twenty years with greater seasonal fluctuations.
- In 2000, 61.7% of the County's resident labor force works outside of Polk County and average travel times to work have increased to a mean travel time to work of 28.7 minutes.
- Polk County has strong economic ties to the Twin Cities metropolitan area with 23.3% of the County's resident labor force working outside the State.
- The construction industry had the largest number of establishments in 2006 and the largest number of new establishments between 1998 to 2006.
- In 2006, 26% of employment in the County was in the manufacturing industry, followed closely by education and health with 24%. However, the manufacturing industry experienced an employment decrease of 7.5% between 2001 to 2006.
- Eight manufacturing firms were among Polk County's top-25 employers, as well as six school districts and four medical facilities and nursing homes.
- Farm acreage and farm size in the Polk County continue to decrease. In 2002, the County ranked 37<sup>th</sup> in the State in the total value of agricultural products sold. In 2006, 7.9% of Polk County jobs were in farming.
- The education and health services industry is expected to have the largest increase in jobs (+22%) from 2004 to 2014 in our region.
- The overall number of manufacturing jobs in the region is expected to remain fairly unchanged between 2004 and 2014.
- 26.4% of the potential labor force is employed in management, professional, and related occupations; 21.7% are in sales and office occupations; and 21.6% are in production, transportation, and material moving occupations.
- The food services and the health care practitioners/technicians occupations are expected to have the greatest total number of job increases in the region from 2004 to 2014.
- Tourism in Polk County is strongly connected to its many natural resources, proximity to the Twin Cities, and large number of seasonal homes.
- The State BRRTS database includes 210 sites in Polk County which have had significant contamination, though many of these sites have been remediated and are now closed. Environmentally contaminated sites are sometimes left vacant and deteriorating following remediation and offer opportunities for redevelopment. Communities may identify other redevelopment opportunities at locations which are not contaminated, but may be vacant or deteriorating.

In response to economic conditions and goals, there are a variety of economic development tools that are available to municipalities, including tax incentives, creative

financing and loan guarantees, and business incubator industrial parks. As shown in *Addendum: Inventory of Programs, Plans, and Land Use Policies in West Central Wisconsin*, communities and economic development agencies have been very active in utilizing many of these tools and programs. This list is not all-inclusive and communities may have additional community-specific reports and services.

In numerous cases, these programs will prove more accessible as municipalities band together with other organizations and jurisdictions to collaborate and mutually pursue economic development efforts. Such collaboration will maximize a municipality's ability to catalyze additional investment and meet shared economic development goals.

**Table 6.10 – Contaminated Sites in Polk County (open & closed)**

Municipality or Nearest Post Office	Location	Activity	Status
ALDEN	ALDEN TN GARAGE	LUST	CLOSED
AMERY	EQUITY COOP (FORMER BULK PLT)	ERP	CLOSED
	AMERY CTY WWTP	ERP	CLOSED
	EQUITY COOP - AMERY BULK PLT	ERP	CLOSED
	ANDERSON PROPERTY	ERP	CLOSED
	AMERY FLEET SUPPLY	ERP	CLOSED
	PLASTECH CORP AMERY DIV FORMER	ERP	CLOSED
	GOLDSTAR COOPERATIVE	ERP	CLOSED
	EQUITY COOP - AMERY	ERP	CLOSED
	ELECTRO-CRAFT CORP/THOMPSON MACHINE	ERP	OPEN
	AMERY CTY LF	ERP	OPEN
	EXXON MOBIL (FORMER) BP 48104	ERP	OPEN
	QUALITY POWDER COATINGS INC	ERP	OPEN
	WANDEROOS GIFT & GROCERY	LUST	CLOSED
	HOME BASE BAR	LUST	CLOSED
	CHRISTOPHERSON, TERRY RESIDENCE	LUST	CLOSED
	AUTO STOP AMERY	LUST	CLOSED
	LITTLE FALLS STORE	LUST	CLOSED
	NORDQUIST TRUCKING	LUST	CLOSED
	AMERY FLEET SUPPLY	LUST	CLOSED
	DICKS IGA	LUST	CLOSED
	AMERY PROFESSIONAL BLDG 2	LUST	CLOSED
	ERICKSONS OIL PRODUCTS	LUST	CLOSED
	EQUITY COOP	LUST	CLOSED
	NSPW AMERY	LUST	CLOSED
	GTE AMERY	LUST	CLOSED
	WILLOW RIDGE NURSING HOME	LUST	CLOSED
	VETERAN AFFAIRS	LUST	CLOSED
	AMERY	LUST	CLOSED
	MORTS MARINA	LUST	CLOSED
	MIDAS MUFFLER	LUST	CLOSED
	BRYNES, DAN	LUST	CLOSED
	AMERY MIDDLE SCHOOL	LUST	CLOSED
	LAKEVIEW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL	LUST	CLOSED
	AMERY HIGH SCHOOL	LUST	CLOSED
	SUPERLOCKER	LUST	CLOSED
	BEAM JERRY	LUST	CLOSED
	EQUITY COOP - AMERY BULK PLT	LUST	CLOSED
	AMERY AIRPORT-AMERY CTY	LUST	CONDITIONALLY CLOSED
	AMERY AMOCO	LUST	OPEN
	SKOGLUND CONOCO	LUST	OPEN
	LOU JOHN APPRAISAL SERVICE	LUST	OPEN
	AMERY AIRPORT - RON ANDERSON	LUST	OPEN
	AMERY PROFESSIONAL BLDG	LUST	OPEN
	AMOCO OIL CO BULK PLT	LUST	OPEN
APPLE RIVER	PAPS GENERAL STORE	LUST	OPEN
BALSAM LAKE	BALSAM LAKE ASPHALT PLT	ERP	CLOSED
	BALSAM LAKE VIL	ERP	OPEN
	POLK CNTY GOVERNMENT CTR	LUST	CLOSED
	REEDS SUNNYSIDE MARINA	LUST	CLOSED
	JONZY MARKET	LUST	CLOSED
	PEPERS SERVICE STATION	LUST	CLOSED
	PETERSON BLDG	LUST	CLOSED
	UNITY SCHOOL DIST	LUST	CLOSED
	POLK CNTY HWY GARAGE	LUST	CLOSED
	STOP A SECK	LUST	CLOSED
	UNITY SCHOOL DIST	LUST	CLOSED
	PARADISE SUPPER CLUB	LUST	OPEN

**Table 6.10 – Contaminated Sites in Polk County (open & closed) *continued***

Municipality or Nearest Post Office	Location	Activity	Status
BEAVER	YELLOW RIVER SUPPLY	LUST	OPEN
CENTURIA	CITGO GAS STATION	LUST	CLOSED
	POLK-BURNETT ELECTRIC COOP	LUST	CLOSED
	AT&T CENTURIA NWD	LUST	CLOSED
	CENTURY SCHOOL	LUST	CLOSED
CLAM FALLS	CLAM FALLS STORE	LUST	CLOSED
CLAYTON	DANIEL ROTH	ERP	CLOSED
	CLAYTON SERVICE	LUST	CLOSED
	FOREMOST FARMS USA	LUST	CLOSED
	CLAYTON SCHOOL DIST	LUST	CLOSED
	CLAYTON VIL	LUST	CLOSED
	HEINTZ OIL (FORMER ICO)	LUST	OPEN
	SALLYS GAS STATION	LUST	OPEN
	WISCONSIN DAIRIES COOP	LUST	OPEN
CLEAR LAKE	FRANKLIN SIGNAL CORP	ERP	OPEN
	CLEAR LAKE CONOCO	LUST	CLOSED
	SOMSEN OIL CO	LUST	CLOSED
	AFP ADVANCED FOOD PRODUCTS LLC	LUST	CLOSED
	US POSTAL SERVICE	LUST	CLOSED
	COUNTRY SIDE AUTO (FORMER)	LUST	CLOSED
	CENTENNIAL APTS	LUST	CLOSED
	CLEAR LAKE CIRCLE C	LUST	CONDITIONALLY CLOSED
CUMBERLAND	JACKIES PUB	LUST	CLOSED
CUSHING	CUSHING COOPERATIVE SOCIETY	ERP	CLOSED
	CUSHING COOP	ERP	CLOSED
	CUSHING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	LUST	CLOSED
	CUSHING CORNER	LUST	OPEN
	BAKERS SERVICE STATION	LUST	OPEN
DRESSER	F & A DAIRY	ERP	CLOSED
	DRESSER TRAP ROCK INC	ERP	OPEN
	DRESSER OIL CO (FORMER)	LUST	CLOSED
	DRESSER LUMBER & TIE	LUST	CLOSED
	TROLLHAUGEN SKI AREA	LUST	CLOSED
	DRESSER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	LUST	CLOSED
	OSCEOLA TN HWY GARAGE	LUST	CLOSED
	DRESSER BAKERY	LUST	CLOSED
	LITTLE STORE	LUST	OPEN
	LITTLE STORE	LUST	OPEN
EAST FARMINGTON	CORKRAN, PAT RESIDENCE	LUST	CLOSED
	MORK, BRIAN PROPERTY	LUST	CLOSED
FARMINGTON	SELZLER GRAVEL PIT	ERP	CLOSED
	ST CROIX VALLEY AIRPORT	LUST	OPEN
	SMITH, GENE RESIDENCE	LUST	OPEN
	CLEVELAND, PATRICK	LUST	CLOSED
FREDERIC	NORTHWEST WISCONSIN ELECTRIC CO	ERP	CLOSED
	BAIR, SALLY PROPERTY	ERP	CLOSED
	STANDARD OIL BULK PLT (FORMER)	ERP	CLOSED
	RAYS FIRESTONE STORE	ERP	OPEN
	MPM INC	ERP	OPEN
	FREDERIC FARMERS COOP EXCHANGE	ERP	OPEN
	CIRCLE C CONVENIENCE CTR	LUST	CLOSED
	FREDERIC FARMERS COOP EXCHANGE	LUST	CLOSED
	EARLY OIL CO	LUST	CLOSED
	FREDERIC FARMERS COOP EXCHANGE	LUST	CLOSED
	FREDERIC FARMERS COOP EXCHANGE	LUST	CLOSED
	CENTURY TELEPHONE	LUST	CLOSED
	LARSEN AUTO CENTER INC	LUST	CLOSED
	FREDERIC HIGH SCHOOL	LUST	CLOSED
	BERNICKS	LUST	CLOSED
	EARLY OIL CO SERVICE STATION	LUST	CLOSED

**Table 6.10 – Contaminated Sites in Polk County (open & closed) *continued***

Municipality or Nearest Post Office	Location	Activity	Status
GARFIELD	GARFIELD ASPHALT PLT (FORMER)	ERP	OPEN
GEORGETOWN	BLAKE LAKE	ERP	CLOSED
	FOX CREEK STORE	LUST	CLOSED
	MURPHY, ROBERT	LUST	CLOSED
LEWIS	WI DOT - LEWIS SERVICE STATION	ERP	OPEN
LINCOLN	BURMAN, WILLIAM PROPERTY	ERP	OPEN
	HELLIE, ERIK RESIDENCE	LUST	CLOSED
LUCK	LAUNDRY BASKET	ERP	OPEN
	SCI CABLE SYSTEMS	LUST	CLOSED
	LUCK SCHOOL DIST	LUST	CLOSED
	ATLAS GENERAL STORE	LUST	CLOSED
	DENUCCIS 35 VILLA	LUST	CLOSED
	GOULD-PEDERSEN INC	LUST	CLOSED
	COLONIAL CRAFT	LUST	CLOSED
	TODDS CONOCO	LUST	CLOSED
	NORTHSIDE AUTO CLINIC	LUST	CLOSED
	LUCK SCHOOL DIST	LUST	CLOSED
	LUCK SCHOOLS SITE #2	LUST	CLOSED
	HOVERMAN ESTATE PROPERTY	LUST	CLOSED
	LUCK MARINE	LUST	OPEN
	LAUNDRY BASKET	LUST	OPEN
	EQUITY COOP	LUST	OPEN
MILLTOWN	EQUITY COOP	ERP	CLOSED
	EQUITY COOP	ERP	OPEN
	OSCEOLA OIL BULK PLT (FORMER)	ERP	OPEN
	HOLIDAY STATION 13	LUST	CLOSED
	RAPID REPAIR	LUST	CLOSED
	MILLTOWN TN GARAGE	LUST	CLOSED
OSCEOLA	MILLTOWN AUTO STOP	LUST	CLOSED
	BJORNSTAD RESIDENCE	ERP	CLOSED
	CENTRAL RIVERS COOP	ERP	CLOSED
	OSCEOLA DAM - SEDIMENTS	ERP	CLOSED
	FERRELLGAS INC-OSCEOLA	ERP	CLOSED
	ST CROIX RIVER VALLEY LF - #3484	ERP	OPEN
	QUICKIE TRANSPORT CO	ERP	OPEN
	FEDERATED COOP	ERP	OPEN
	OSCEOLA OIL CO BULK PLT	ERP	OPEN
	CENTRAL RIVERS COOP	ERP	OPEN
	POLK CNTY CLNSWP COLLECTION	ERP	OPEN
	LADD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	LUST	CLOSED
	OSCEOLA OIL CO BULK PLT	LUST	CLOSED
	OSCEOLA VIL GARAGE	LUST	CLOSED
	OSCEOLA AUTO SALES	LUST	CLOSED
	CIRCLE C FOODS	LUST	CLOSED
	CUSTOM FIRE APPARATUS INC	LUST	CLOSED
	CASCADE ST	LUST	CLOSED
	OSCEOLA LIQUOR & GAS	LUST	CLOSED
	WI DOT	LUST	CLOSED
	OSCEOLA AREA SCHOOLS BUS GARAGE	LUST	CLOSED
	US AIR FORCE STATION (FORMER)	LUST	CLOSED
	SELZLER EXCAVATION INC	LUST	CLOSED
	NYE STORE (FORMER)	LUST	OPEN
	HANSON ELECTRIC	LUST	OPEN
	MALLIN, GODFREY PROPERTY	LUST	OPEN
	MORKS BIG LAKE STORE	LUST	OPEN
OSCEOLA TN	OSCEOLA ROD & GUN CLUB	ERP	OPEN
	ST CROIX RIVER VALLEY LF INC	LUST	CLOSED

**Table 6.10 – Contaminated Sites in Polk County (open & closed) *continued***

Municipality or Nearest Post Office	Location	Activity	Status
RICHARDSON	LAKE MAGNOR STORE	LUST	CLOSED
ST CROIX FALLS	U S PARK SERVICE	ERP	CLOSED
	U S PARK SERVICE	ERP	CLOSED
	ST CROIX	ERP	CLOSED
	INDUSTRIAL TOOL & PLASTIC INC	ERP	CLOSED
	ST CROIX OIL	ERP	CLOSED
	JOHNSON MOTORS	ERP	CLOSED
	JOR-GAS (NEW SITE)	ERP	OPEN
	ST CROIX FALLS CTY LF	ERP	OPEN
	ST CROIX VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB	LUST	CLOSED
	EUREKA TN GARAGE	LUST	CLOSED
	ST CROIX FALLS LEASE BLDG	LUST	CLOSED
	ST CROIX OIL	LUST	CLOSED
	ST CROIX FALLS FLEET SUPPLY	LUST	CLOSED
	NAPA AUTO PARTS/FALLS AUTO R-O-W	LUST	CLOSED
	JOHNSON MOTORS	LUST	CLOSED
	JOR-GAS STATION (OLD SITE)	LUST	CLOSED
	WI DNR INTERSTATE PARK SILVER BROOK	LUST	CLOSED
	ST CROIX FALLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	LUST	CLOSED
	SORENSEN MIDDLE SCHOOL	LUST	CLOSED
	WI DNR INTERSTATE PARK	LUST	CLOSED
	WAYNES CAFE	LUST	CLOSED
	HOLIDAY STATION #192	LUST	CLOSED
	POLK CNTY BANK	LUST	CLOSED
	EDINA REALTY	LUST	CLOSED
	OSCEOLA OIL CO	LUST	CLOSED
	JOR-GAS BULK	LUST	CLOSED
	SIMONSON LUMBER	LUST	CLOSED
	STERLING TN GARAGE	LUST	CLOSED
	SKOGLUND OIL CONVENIENCE STORE	LUST	OPEN
STAR PRAIRIE	BIEGERT MATT RESIDENCE	LUST	CLOSED
	NELSONS STORE/HORSE CREEK STORE	LUST	CLOSED
UNITY	UNITY HIGH SCHOOL	ERP	CLOSED
WEST SWEDEN	WEST SWEDEN TN GARAGE	LUST	CLOSED
	FREDERIC VIL LF #1801*	ERP	OPEN

*source: Wisconsin BRRS database, April 21, 2008.*





## **7. LAND USE INFORMATION**

### **Element Context**

Land use is a critical factor in managing the future growth of any community. Land use trends indicate what changes are occurring regarding type, location and intensity of uses over time. It is these land-use changes that have to be managed in a manner that is beneficial to the residents and environment of each community.

In this section is the basic land use data necessary to further explore the land-use issues facing those communities participating in this planning effort and to begin the process of developing individual community land-use plans to meet the requirements of Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Law (s. 66.1001 (2)(h), Stats.).

Once developed, the resulting land-use plans will act as a sound basis for the orderly development of their communities, and will assist the communities in achieving their individual goals. Their plan, along with their selected implementation tools, will provide local governments with the ability to effectively and efficiently make public investment decisions and to work with developers to ensure private investments are compatible with the public interest.

### **Existing Land Use and Land Use Trends**

The land use/land coverage acreage statistics were taken from the most recent assessment data collected by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. This is a consistent primary source data on land use/land cover acreage for all communities in Polk County, and allows for trend analysis. These classifications are: residential, commercial, industrial (manufacturing), agricultural, forest, undeveloped lands (vacant) and other.

The predominant land use in the rural areas of Polk County is agriculture as shown below in Table 7.1 (Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue - based on assessment record). The 1987, 1998 and 2007 land uses based on reported assessments for all communities in Polk County are presented in Tables 7.11, 7.12 and 7.13, respectively. The percent of assessed acres assessed as agriculture range from highs of 60.3 percent, 59.6 percent, 58.0 percent, 55.9 percent and 50.2 percent in the Towns of Clear Lake, Farmington, Garfield, Black Brook and Laketown, respectively, to lows of 25.2 percent, 27.6 percent, 28.2 percent, 28.5 percent and 29.1 percent in the Towns of Luck, Clam Falls, Sterling, Johnstown and Bone Lake, respectively. Twenty of Polk County's twenty-five towns (80% of all towns) have more than a third of their assessed land assessed as agriculture. Five towns (20% of all towns) have at least half of their assessed land assessed as agriculture. It is clear that agriculture is a significant activity in Polk County.

**Table 7.1 – Polk County Land Use – 1997 and 2007**

Assessment Class	1997Acres Assessed	2007Acres Assessed	'97-'07% change
Agricultural	285,545	210,874	-26.2
Forest	147,081	154,024	4.7
Undeveloped	36,416	71,451	96.2
Residential	32,835	46,589	41.9
Commercial	2,703	3,267	20.9
Manufacturing	1,540	1,764	14.5
Other	2,900	2,353	-18.9
Total	508,781	490,322	-3.6

source: WiDOR

Those towns that have lower agricultural acreage generally have at least one of the following factors present; higher non-farm acres, higher forested acres, significant surface water acres, or other significant natural resource lands. As expected, large amounts of commercial and industrial land occurs in the villages and cities. Incorporated communities also generally have a greater percentage and concentration of residential uses.

The existing land uses in Polk County are summarized and discussed in the remainder of this section.

### *Agricultural Land Use*

The assessed agricultural acreage declined by more than 130,000 acres from 1987 to 2007 in Polk County. See Table 7.9. The largest acreage decrease of 14,196, 10,858 and 10,393 acres occurred in the Towns of Eureka, Lincoln and Bone Lake, respectively. The largest percentage decrease of 68.0% occurred in the Town of Bone Lake. Other substantial acreages losses occurred:

**Table 7.2 – Leading Acreage Loss of Agricultural Land by Municipality, 1987-2007**

Town		Town		City/Village	
Eureka	-14,196	Balsam Lake	-6,428	Clayton	-665
Lincoln	-10,858	Osceola	-6,189	Osceola	-526
Bone Lake	-10,393	Beaver	-5,734	St. Croix Falls	-460
Clear Lake	-7,814	Luck	-5,461	Milltown	-418
Clayton	-7,202	McKinley	-5,159	Clear Lake	-352

source: WiDOR

There was a 38.2 percent reduction in agricultural land in Polk County from 1987 to 2007. That is a loss of almost two percent per year. The largest percent of agricultural land reductions between 1987 and 2007 were seen by the communities in Table 7.3.

**Table 7.3 – Leading Percentage Loss of Agricultural Land by Municipality, 1987-2007**

Town		City/Village	
Bone Lake	68.0	St. Croix Falls	84.6
Luck	57.1	Luck	78.5
Lincoln	52.9	Amery	75.1
Eureka	49.2	Osceola	72.8
Balsam Lake	47.9	Balsam Lake	63.7
McKinley	47.0	Dresser	53.9
Osceola	46.5	Milltown	53.7

source: WiDOR

Despite these losses, agriculture remains a significant use of the land in the towns of Polk County. The Towns with the least percentage loss of assessed agricultural land from 1987 and 2007 were: Garfield (-17.8%), West Sweden (-18.4%), Lorain (-20.0%), Alden (-23.1%), Farmington (-23.1%) and Beaver (-25.7%); all losing an average of less than 1.3 percent per year.

The 2007 assessed agricultural acreage in the County was 210,874 or 43% of total assessed acreage. The greatest number of assessed agricultural acres are broken down as follows:

**Table 7.4 – Most Agricultural Acres by Municipality, 2007**

Town	
Alden	16,398
Farmington	15,133
Eureka	14,641
Clear Lake	12,545
Garfield	11,544
Black Brook	11,516
Laketown	10,575
Clayton	9,663

source: WiDOR

In 1987, only seven towns had less than 10,000 assessed acres in agricultural use. The eighteen towns of Apple River, Balsam Lake, Beaver, Bone Lake, Clam Falls, Clayton, Georgetown, Johnstown, Lincoln, Lorain, Luck, McKinley, Milltown, Osceola, St. Croix Falls, Sterling and West Sweden all currently have less than 10,000 assessed acres in agricultural use. In 1987, twenty towns (80% of all towns) had at least half of their assessed land assessed as agriculture. In 2007, only five towns (20% of all towns) had at least half of their assessed land assessed as agriculture. In 1987, fifteen towns (60% of all towns) had more than two-thirds of their assessed land assessed as agriculture and six towns had at least three-fourths of their assessed land assessed as agriculture. In 2007, only one town had more than 60% of its assessed land assessed as agriculture. It is clear that over the past 20 years the agricultural land base in Polk County has been dramatically impacted.

## *Forest Land Use*

In 2007, the combined assessed acres in forestland amounted to 154,024 acres or thirty-one percent of the total assessed acreage for the County. See Tables 7.10 and 7.13.

Assessed forest acreage in Polk County increased by 9,943 acres between 1987 and 1998. No incorporated community reported forested acreage in 1987, while cities and villages accounted for 1,439 and 1,897 acres of assessed forest land in 1998 and 2007, respectively. The growth in forested acreage slowed somewhat between 1998 and 2007 as assessed forest acreage increased by only 6,943 acres. Much of the growth in forested acreage can probably be attributed to agricultural land being enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program as certain aspects of the program encourage tree planting. There also has likely been a conversion of some marginal farmland and other open lands to forest over the years. Between 1987 and 2007 the greatest percentage increases occurred in the Towns of Lincoln (3,750 percent), Clear Lake (1,858 percent), Eureka (187 percent), Clayton (167 percent), Balsam Lake (57 percent), and Georgetown (48 percent). Between 1987 and 2007 the Towns of Lorain (-31 percent), Farmington (-28 percent), Johnstown (20 percent), Alden (-20 percent), Bone Lake (-18 percent) and McKinley (-12 percent) saw the greatest percentage declines in forested acreage.

The Towns of Eureka (6,077), Lincoln (4,238), Clear Lake (3,994), Clayton (3,406), Georgetown (2,077), Balsam Lake (1,913) and Luck (1,706) had the greatest increase, and the Towns of Lorain (-2,355), Johnstown (-1,917), Alden (-1,810), Farmington (-1,746) and Bone Lake (-1,656), had the greatest decrease in forested land acres from 1987 to 2007. In 2007, the Town of Clam Falls had the greatest amount of assessed forested acreage (10,157 acres) followed by Eureka (9,323), Sterling (8,674), Luck (8,088), Apple River (7,663), Johnstown (7,507), Alden (7,472), West Sweden (7,405), Bone Lake (7,324) and Beaver (7,064). There are significant public holdings of forested lands contained in public natural resource lands which are described in the next section.

## *Public Natural Resource Lands*

There are significant natural resource and park lands in Polk County owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Polk County or a Town. These lands are not assessed taxes and are not recorded in the Wisconsin Department of Revenue Statement of Assessments. Table 7.5 shows the acres by town for towns with over 250 acres of these lands.

**Table 7.5 – Public Natural Resource Lands, 2003**

<b>Town</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Sterling	19,023	Farmington	1,143
Lorain	5,469	Alden	914
Johnstown	4,129	St. Croix Falls	805
McKinley	2,579	Eureka	795
Bone Lake	2,392	Black Brook	761
Clam Falls	2,089	Clear Lake	317
Osceola	1,678	Garfield	288
Beaver	1,595	Clayton	269

source: WCWRPC

### *Residential Land Use*

In 2007, the assessed residential acreage in the unincorporated areas of the County was 44,626, or 95.8 percent of the total assessed residential acreage in the county. This is down from 98.5 percent in 1987. The assessed residential acreage increase in unincorporated areas from 1987 to 2007 was 25,496 acres or a 133 percent increase. That is a 6.7 percent annual increase. The Towns of Alden, Eureka, Farmington, Osceola, Lincoln, Milltown and St. Croix Falls had significant residential acreage (4,698, 3,716, 3,177, 2,746, 2,693, 2,673 and 2,505, respectively) in 2007. Six of these towns (Alden, Eureka, Farmington, Osceola, Milltown and St. Croix Falls) are generally in the western part of the County in proximity to Minnesota or St. Croix County and State Highways 35, 65 and 87, and account for nearly 42 percent of the assessed residential acreage in the county. When the Town of Lincoln is considered with those six towns they all account for 48 percent of the assessed residential acreage in the county. From 1987 to 2007 the Town of Alden (3,359) had the greatest absolute increase in assessed residential acres, followed by the Towns of Eureka (2,621), Farmington (2,342), Milltown (1,728) and Lincoln (1,525). See Table 7.6.

Regarding assessed residential acreage percentage increases between 1987 and 2007, the Town of Clear Lake (423 percent) had the greatest increase, followed by the Towns of Lorain (368 percent), Farmington (281 percent), Alden (251 percent), Eureka (239 percent) and Garfield (207 percent). These communities have grown in residential acreage at an average rate of at least 10 percent per year since 1987. Other towns that have at least doubled their residential acreage between 1987 and 2007 are Black Brook (197 percent), Milltown (183 percent), Laketown (174 percent), Luck (154 percent), Lincoln (131 percent), Clayton (129 percent), Clam Falls (123 percent), Balsam Lake (109 percent) and St. Croix Falls (106 percent).

The cities and villages in Polk County also saw dramatic growth in residential land. Since many communities had reporting discrepancies during the period and the assessment data are inconclusive for 1987, comparisons between 1998 and 2007 follow for incorporated areas. While the Village of Frederic saw a sevenfold increase in assessed residential acreage between 1998 and 2007, the Villages of Osceola (269 percent) and Balsam Lake (251 percent) at least tripled theirs and the Villages of Luck

(159 percent), Dresser (126 percent) and Milltown (107 percent) at least doubled theirs. The other cities and villages experienced significant increases in residential land. See Table 7.6.

## *Commercial Land Use*

Sixty-four percent of commercial lands are located in the County's unincorporated communities. However, commercial land is often much more intensively developed and contain larger buildings in incorporated communities than the commercial land in the unincorporated areas. Current assessed commercial lands account about seven-tenths of one percent of the total County assessed acreage. See Table 7.7.

In 2007, the towns with the largest commercial acreage were Osceola (607), St. Croix Falls (352), Milltown (210), Black Brook (173), Farmington (95), Balsam Lake (93), and Apple River (85). Collectively, they comprised about 76% of the commercial lands in the unincorporated areas of the County. Most of these towns see much of their commercial development within the fringe of their borders with incorporated communities. Between 1987 and 2007, the Towns of Milltown (182), Black Brook (95) and St. Croix Falls (71), the Villages of Dresser (157) and Frederic (122), and the Cities of Amery (117) and St. Croix Falls (395), experienced significant increases in commercial acreage.

There were very large percentage increases in assessed commercial acreage between 1987 and 2007 in the Towns of Bone Lake (3 acres in 1987 to 44 acres in 2007 for 1,367 percent), Milltown (28 acres in 1987 to 210 acres in 2007 for 650 percent), Sterling (222 percent), Clam Falls (157 percent), Black Brook (122 percent) and Farmington (107 percent), the Villages of Luck (2 acres in 1987 to 30 acres in 2007 for 1400 percent) and Centuria (141 percent), and the City of St. Croix Falls (993 percent). As seen above, many communities had significant growth in commercial land, while the Towns of Balsam Lake, Luck, Clear Lake, Clayton, Apple River, West Sweden and Laketown, and the Village of Clear Lake had a decrease in assessed commercial land.

## *Industrial Land Use*

Assessed manufacturing acreage in the County's unincorporated areas is significant only in few areas, often near incorporated communities or associated with food production or non-metallic mining. The majority of manufacturing land (assembly, fabrication, processing, production, etc.) is in the County's incorporated areas. Incorporated communities account for 62.5 percent of the land assessed for manufacturing in the County. See Table 7.8.

Manufacturing acreage stayed about the same between 1987 and 2007 in the County's unincorporated areas with a decline of 154 acres from 1987 to 1998 followed by an increase of 138 acres from 1998 to 2007. The Town of Apple River gained 154 acres of assessed manufacturing land between 1998 and 2007 while there was little change elsewhere. The unincorporated communities with a significant decrease in industrial land were the Towns of Osceola and St. Croix Falls. Of the incorporated communities most gained assessed manufacturing land between 1987 and 2007; except Frederic which lost 8

acres. Dresser gained 181 acres, Clayton gained 100 acres, Osceola gained 88 acres, Amery gained 70 acres, St. Croix Falls gained 39 acres, and Balsam Lake gained 23 acres.

### *Land Demand and Prices*

Two indicators of a dynamic economy and potentially changing land use patterns are land sales and prices. These two indicators could mean a demand to convert land to more intensive uses such as residential, commercial or industrial. In turn, additional community services may be needed to support this change.

An indicator of the demand for various land types is the number of land sales during the year for a given community or the county. Tables 7.14 and 7.15 show the sales of agricultural lands and forested lands respectively. These lands, converted to other uses, would include those for residential development. It can be seen that there is a steady demand for these lands for their conversion to other uses. The price paid is also listed. Comparing the numbers in Table 7.15 reveals in 1998 there was a small premium (about four percent) paid for forested lands intended for other uses. However, since 1998 there has been a significant difference in the price paid for forested lands being converted to other uses than that paid for lands remaining in the original use. In 2001, 2005 and 2007, there were premiums paid of 13, 41 and 35 percent, respectively, for forest land converted to another use.

Between 1998 and 2002, and in 2004 and 2005, the price paid for agricultural land that was converted to other uses was significantly higher than that for lands remaining in agriculture. The price paid for farmland to be converted to other uses peaked in 2005 at \$5,525/acre (a 114 percent premium over agricultural land that remained in agriculture), but declined by 123 percent to \$2,481/acre in 2006, and there were no sales of converted agricultural land in 2007. Over the last ten years, even with land-use value assessment and an improving farm economy, agricultural land that was converted to other uses only brought an average 26 percent premium over agricultural land that was sold and remained in agriculture. In 2003 and 2006 agricultural land without buildings staying in agricultural use sold for a higher price than agricultural land without buildings that was converted to other uses. The selling price for agricultural land without buildings staying in agricultural use increased by 167 percent between 2000 and 2006. During the same period the selling price for agricultural land without buildings that was converted to other uses increased by 59 percent. Between 1998 and 2006, there was about 2.7 times (167 percent) more agricultural land sold that remained in agriculture than was converted to other uses. These conditions reveal that while there is continuing market pressure for farmland conversion, there is a strong market for land remaining in agriculture.

Assessment information can help indicate land prices; however, this information has certain limitations due to assessment methods, timing and whether a particular assessor has completely established current fair-market value comparables for a given community. The State of Wisconsin attempts to equalize values so communities whose assessments are in different years will have assessments that are fair. Eventually all assessments are

supposed to reflect fully equalized, fair-market value of property. Tables 7.16 and 7.17 presents the price per acre of various land types based on assessment.

Residential land value is generally highest in those communities within the closest commuting distance from the Minneapolis/St. Paul employment centers or those that have many lake properties. The assessments for agricultural land are dramatically altered through state law that provides for land-use value assessment. As can be seen comparing Table 7.14 with Table 7.16, the use value assessment for agricultural land does not correspond to sale prices for agricultural land. Forested land in areas more suitable for conversion to residential use will generally have higher value than lands better suited for forest production.

In general, land prices in Polk County have been increasing much faster than the rate of inflation. This is particularly true in the last few years with annual inflation being quite low. Demand for land available for residential development in areas of recent residential development has been diminished, mostly likely due to high energy costs. Waterfront property has increased dramatically in price in the 1990s and early 2000s. Demand for waterfront land continues to be high, as supply becomes lower, which drives the prices for these properties even higher. Forested land is also increasing in price at a significant rate. Tracts of forest land are often seen as lifestyle natural resource amenities, many are near public natural resource holdings, and these tracts are being converted to residential use. This is contributing to forest parcel fragmentation.

## Summary

Land development, the demand for housing, the transportation system, the natural environment, the extent of public services and facilities, land ownership patterns, economic activity and governmental boundaries and actions, all guide and shape the built environment and determine its impact on the natural environment. Combining these factors determines the pattern of development that occurs throughout the County. Hence, the Housing; Transportation; Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources, Utilities and Community Facilities; Economic Development; and, Intergovernmental Cooperation Elements also contain conditions and trends that affect land use.

Land-use planning is concerned with properly combining development factors to attain the optimal or desired use of land. In total, the land-use element of each community will set the proposed pattern of the physical environment for the activities of people and organizations within that community. Land-use planning depends on population and economic projections and an understanding of the interrelationship of land-use activities and types for living, livelihood and leisure. It is the interrelated nature of the components that comprise a community that make a comprehensive plan worthwhile.

Polk County has experienced dramatic residential growth in western areas of the County; those bordering Minnesota and in proximity to major highway corridors. This growth can have a dramatic impact on these communities. Often development of good productive farm or forest land impacts water resources, places greater demand on roads and schools,



and causes conflicts between farm and non-farm uses and forest fragmentation. From 1998 to 2007, assessed residential acreage increased by about 39 percent in unincorporated areas while these communities' populations increased by only 28 percent. Indeed, four unincorporated communities have at least doubled the amount of residential land in just 9 years, with another ten increasing by at least a third. On the other hand, from 1998 to 2007, assessed residential acreage in incorporated areas increased by about 116 percent while these communities' populations increased by 17 percent. This would indicate that even the incorporated communities in the county have issues with low density residential development. However, 96 percent of the assessed residential acreage and 65 percent of the population in the county are located in unincorporated communities. If this trend is to continue, it has serious implications for impacts on natural resources and productive lands, demands for services and conflicts between farm and non-farm uses in Polk County.

While unincorporated communities in Polk County have almost 65 percent of the assessed commercial land in the County, 78 percent of the commercial evaluation is in the cities and villages. This indicates commercial activity in cities and villages is more intensive and includes commercial uses much larger in scale than in the towns. However, scattered local-serving, resource-based and agriculturally related commercial enterprises in the rural area serve a useful purpose in those communities. Yet, cities and villages will continue to provide more regional shopping goods.

Industrial activity will continue to largely occur in the cities and villages where urban services are available; however, there is some industrial activity in unincorporated areas, such as light fabricating and non-metallic resources extraction.

The most prevalent land uses in Polk County are agriculture and forest. In fact, almost 43 percent of the assessed land in the County is considered agricultural and 31 percent forest. There are another 44,246 acres of mostly forestland in public natural resource lands, which means forested land covers almost 40 percent of the County. Land assessed as undeveloped accounts for another 14.6 percent of the assessed land in the County.

The County experienced a 26 percent reduction in assessed agricultural land from 1987 to 2007, with one town losing over a half, three towns losing almost a half, two others losing about a third, five others losing over a quarter, and eleven others losing between ten and twenty-five percent of their agricultural land during that period. It is evident that this has serious implications for many of the towns in Polk County. Sustaining agricultural economic activity in the face of increasing agricultural land conversion to non-farm uses will be a challenge for these communities. However, recent trends indicate that farmland conversion has slowed considerably over the past couple of years.

Not all the land converted from agriculture is going to non-farm uses. It is likely that some of it was being converted to forested land due to programs like the Conservation Reserve Program. However, while assessed forested land increased by 7.2 percent in the County between 1987 and 1998, it increased by less than 5 percent between 1998 and 2007, with thirteen towns experiencing losses. But the loss of assessed farmland was six and a half times the amount of assessed forested land gained between 1987 and 1998, and was eleven and a half times the amount gained between 1998 and 2007. Productive

forested land will continue to be an important part of Polk County's landscape and economy, not only for forest products but also for recreational opportunities.

Land-use projections are an important part of a comprehensive plan. They are a "best guess" of the amount of land that will be needed for future development and are based on population and household projections, community development standards (accepted density or intensity of various land uses) and community desires. Each community will prepare its 25-year land-use projections in five-year increments for its comprehensive plan land use element. These projections will be reflected in the individual community's future land use maps that will show the general locations of different land uses for the next 25 years. It is from these projections and the future land use map that each community will communicate how land use change is likely to occur, influenced by how they would like it to occur.

## **Land Use by Municipality Discussion**

Following is a general description of the land use/cover in the communities of Polk County based on reported assessed land. This discussion is intended to augment Tables 7.6 through 7.13.

### *Town Land-Use Summaries*

#### **Alden**

The Town of Alden has significant agricultural activity, with 48 percent of its assessed land assessed as agriculture. About one-fifth of the assessed land in the Town is assessed as forest. The Town lost 23 percent of its assessed agricultural acreage and 19.5 percent of its assessed forest acreage between 1987 and 2007. The town contains the several lakes and is traversed by the Apple River. The town contains more assessed residential acreage (4,698 acres) than any other community in Polk County. From 1987 to 2007, assessed residential acreage increased by 251 percent while the number of improved residential parcels increased by 51 percent. Average residential parcel size increased from a little over an acre to 2.6 acres over this period. Commercial acreage increased from 18 to 31 acres during the same period. The unincorporated settlements of Horse Creek and Little Falls are in the west-central and northeastern parts of the Town, respectively.

#### **Apple River**

One-third of the assessed land in the Town of Apple River is assessed as agricultural and 38 percent assessed as forest. The Town lost 31 percent of its assessed agricultural acreage between 1987 and 2007. Assessed forest land acreage has remained about the same during the same period. The Town experienced an 81 percent increase in assessed residential acreage and a 57 percent increase in improved residential parcels from 1987-2007. The Town saw a 23 percent decrease in assessed commercial land between 1987 and 2007. The Town of Apple River contains several lakes and is traversed by the Apple River.

### **Balsam Lake**

The Town of Balsam Lake has 39 percent of its assessed land assessed as agricultural and 29 percent assessed as forest. Since 1987 the Town lost almost half of its assessed agricultural acreage, while seeing a 57 percent increase in assessed forested land. Between 1987 and 2007, the Town experienced a 51 percent increase in improved residential parcels and a 109 percent increase in residential acreage. The Town saw a 66 acre increase in assessed commercial land in 16 parcels during the same period.

### **Beaver**

The Town of Beaver has 37 percent of its assessed land assessed as agricultural and 36 percent assessed as forest. The Town lost 44 percent of its assessed agricultural acreage yet gained 11 percent assessed as forest between 1987 and 2007. The Town has about 1,600 acres of public natural resource lands, mostly in the DNR Rice Beds and Joel Marsh Wildlife Areas. The Town experienced a 72 percent increase in improved residential parcels and a 94 percent increase in assessed residential acreage during the same period. The Town's assessed commercial land remained the same. The Town borders the Villages of Turtle Lake in the southeastern part of the town.

### **Black Brook**

The Town of Black Brook has 56 percent of its assessed land assessed as agricultural. The Town has lost 26 percent of its assessed agricultural land since 1987. The Town had 24 percent of assessed land assessed as forested in 2007, up from 20 percent in 1987. The Town experienced a 124 percent increase in improved residential parcels and over a three-fold increase in assessed residential acreage since 1987. The Town also a 122 percent increase in assessed commercial acreage between 1987 and 2007. The City of Amery borders the Town in the northern part of the Town.

### **Bone Lake**

In 2007, the Town of Bone Lake had 29 percent of its assessed land assessed as agricultural and 43 percent as forest. The Town lost over 10,000 acres or 68 percent of its assessed agricultural acreage between 1987 and 2007, the highest percentage loss of any town in the county. The Town also lost 18 percent of its assessed forest acreage during the same period. The Town of Bone Lake has experienced a 62 percent increase in improved residential parcels and a 77 percent increase in assessed residential acreage since 1987. The Town has about 2,400 acres of public natural resource lands mostly in the northeastern part of the Town.

### **Clam Falls**

The Town of Clam Falls is predominately forested with 56 percent of its assessed land assessed as forested and over 2,000 acres of mostly forested public natural resource lands. The Town has only about 28 percent of its assessed land assessed as agriculture. Between 1987 and 1997, the Town lost 29 percent of its assessed agricultural land, but saw little change in assessed forest land. The Town experienced a 35 percent increase in improved residential parcels and a 123 percent increase in assessed residential acres between 1987 and 2007. The average parcel size for assessed forest parcels decreased from 23.5 acres in 1987 to 20.6 acres in 2007. The unincorporated settlement of Clam Falls is in east-central part of the Town.

### **Clayton**

The Town of Clayton has 57 percent of its assessed land assessed as agricultural, and 32 percent assessed as forest. 43 percent of its assessed agricultural land was lost between 1987 and 2007. The Town's assessed forest land increased 167 percent between 1987 and 2007, while forest parcel size fell from 29 acres in 1987 to 16.6 acres in 2007. Improved residential parcels nearly doubled and residential acreage increased by 152 percent between 1987 and 2007. The Town surrounds the Village of Clayton on all sides but the east.

### **Clear Lake**

The Town of Clear Lake has 60 percent of its assessed land assessed as agricultural. The Town lost 38.4 percent of its assessed agricultural land between 1987 and 2007. One-fifth of the assessed land in the Town is assessed as forest. Assessed forest land increased by almost 4,000 acres between 1987 and 2007. The Town experienced over a three-fold increase in improved residential parcels and a five-fold increase in assessed residential acres since 1987. The Town also saw a loss of improved commercial parcels and assessed commercial acreage during the same period. The Town surrounds the Village of Clear Lake on all sides but the west.

### **Eureka**

The Town of Eureka has 46 percent of its assessed land assessed as agricultural and 29 percent assessed as forested. Assessed residential acreage accounts for not quite 12 percent of all assessed lands in the Town. The Town ranks second in the county in assessed residential acres (3,716 acres). The Town has lost almost half of its assessed agricultural land but more than tripled its assessed forest land between 1998 and 2007. The Town saw a 129 percent increase in improved residential parcels and a 239 percent increase in assessed residential acreage since 1987. The Town also saw a doubling of improved commercial parcels and a 179 percent increase in the amount of assessed commercial acreage between 1987 and 2007. The unincorporated settlements of Wolf Creek and Eureka Center are within the Town.. The Town borders the St. Croix River at its western boundary.

### **Farmington**

The Town of Farmington has 60 percent of its assessed land assessed as agricultural land and 18 percent assessed as forested lands. The Town lost 23 percent of its assessed agricultural acres between 1987 and 2007 while assessed forest land decreased by almost 28 percent. The Town experienced a 146 percent increase in improved residential parcels and a 280 percent increase in assessed residential acres since 1987. The Town ranks third in the county in assessed residential acres (3,177 acres). The Village of Osceola borders the Town at its northwest corner and the unincorporated settlement of East Farmington is within the Town.

### **Garfield**

The Town of Garfield has 58 percent of its assessed land assessed as agricultural and 21 percent assessed as forested. Between 1987 and 2007, the Town lost 18 percent (less than one percent per year) of its assessed agricultural land while assessed forest land stayed about the same. During the same period, the Town experienced a 87 percent increase in improved residential parcels while assessed residential acreage tripled. Lake

Wapogasset is in the eastern part of the Town which has significant lakeshore development. The unincorporated settlements of Deronda and Wanderoos are in the Town.

### **Georgetown**

The Town of Georgetown has 40 percent of its assessed land assessed as agricultural, 36 percent assessed as forested, and 10 percent assessed residential. In the last 20 years the Town has lost 40 percent of its land assessed as agricultural and forested land increased by 48 percent. However, while assessed forest land increased by 57 percent from 1987 to 1998, it declined by about 6 percent in the next decade. The Town of Georgetown experienced a 33 percent increase in improved residential parcels and a 79 percent increase in assessed residential land since 1987. The Town also saw an increase in assessed commercial acreage of 63 percent. Several popular lakes with significant lakeshore development are found in the Town, such as Big Round Lake, Blake Lake, most of Bone Lake and the very northern tip of Balsam Lake. The Town also contains the unincorporated settlement of Fox Creek.

### **Johnstown**

Currently, the Town of Johnstown only has 29 percent of its assessed land is assessed as agricultural. However, 50 percent of the Town's assessed land is assessed as forest. From 1987 to 2007, the Town experienced a 36 percent decrease in assessed agricultural acres while seeing a loss of about one-fifth of its assessed forested acres. The Town does have over 4,100 acres of mostly forested public natural resource land. Between 1987 and 2007 improved residential parcels increased by 51 percent while assessed residential acreage increased by 74 percent.

### **Laketown**

The Town of Laketown has 50 percent of its assessed land assessed as agricultural and 26 percent assessed as forested lands. The Town lost 29 percent of its assessed agricultural land, yet gained 12 percent in assessed forest land between 1987 and 2007. The Town saw a 69 percent increase in improved residential parcels and a 174 percent increase in assessed residential acreage since 1987. As the Town's name implies it contains numerous lakes. The unincorporated settlements of Atlas and Cushing are located in the north central and southwestern parts of the Town, respectively.

### **Lincoln**

The Town of Lincoln has about 45 percent of its assessed land assessed as agricultural and 20 percent as forest. Between 1987 and 2007, the Town lost about 53 percent of its assessed agricultural land and with a loss of 10,858 acres it experienced the largest acreage loss of assessed agricultural land of any community in the County. However, during this period the Town also saw an increase of over 4,000 acres of assessed forest land. During the same period the Town experienced a 55 percent increase in improved residential parcels and a 131 percent increase in assessed residential acreage. There was also a 30 acre increase in assessed commercial land during that time. The Town ranks fifth in the county in assessed residential acres (2,693 acres). The Town surrounds most of the City of Amery. Impoundments of the Apple River run down the center of the Town to the City of Amery.

**Lorain**

The Town of Lorain has 48 percent of its assessed land assessed as agricultural and another 35 percent assessed as forest. The Town saw a 30 percent decrease in assessed forest land between 1987 and 2007, and also lost a fifth of its assessed agricultural land. During the same period the Town experienced a 71 percent increase in improved residential parcels and more than quadrupled assessed residential acreage. The Town contains over 5,400 acres of mostly forested public natural resource lands. The unincorporated settlement of Indian Creek is within the Town.

**Luck**

The Town of Luck has 50 percent of its land assessed as forest and another 21 percent as agricultural. The Town lost 57 percent of its assessed agricultural acreage between 1987 and 2007. The Town saw a 27 percent increase in assessed forest acres between 1987 and 2007. The Town has experienced a 52 percent increase in improved residential parcels and a 154 percent increase in assessed residential acreage. The Village of Luck and a small portion of the Village of Frederic border the Town in the south central and north central parts of the Town, respectively.

**McKinley**

The Town of McKinley has 38 percent of its assessed land assessed as forest, 35 percent assessed as agricultural and 22 percent as undeveloped, which could include fallow farmland. The Town has lost 47 percent of its assessed agricultural land between 1987 and 2007, and most of that was lost between 1998 and 2007. The Town also lost about 12 percent of its assessed forest land between 1987 and 2007. There are about 2,500 acres of public natural resource lands in the Town. The Town experienced an increase of 88 percent in improved residential parcels and a 59 percent increase in assessed residential acreage between 1987 and 2007. The unincorporated settlement of McKinley is within the Town.

**Milltown**

The Town of Milltown has 44 percent of its assessed land assessed as agricultural, 27 percent assessed as forest and 15 percent assessed as residential. The Town ranks sixth in the county in assessed residential acres (2,673 acres). The Town lost over a third of its assessed agricultural land between 1987 and 2007. The Town also saw a 14 percent increase in assessed forest acres between 1998 and 2007 after an eleven percent decrease from 1987 to 1998. The Town experienced a 44 percent increase in improved residential parcels and a 183 percent increase in assessed residential acreage between 1987 and 2007. The Village of Milltown is located in the northwest quadrant of the Town.

**Osceola**

The Town of Osceola has 39 percent of its assessed land assessed as agricultural. It also has 27 percent assessed as forest. Between 1987 and 2007, the Town lost almost half (47 percent) of its assessed agricultural land while the amount of assessed forest land increased by 24 percent. The Town ranks fourth in the county in assessed residential acres (2,673 acres). From 1987 to 2007, the Town experienced a 177 percent increase in improved residential parcels and a 75 percent increase in assessed residential acreage. The Town also maintained its assessed commercial acreage, while improved commercial parcels increased from 12 to 34. The Town has the most commercial land of any

community in the County, which accounts for almost 19 percent of all assessed commercial land. The Town surrounds the Village of Dresser, and the Village of Osceola is in the southwestern part of the Town. The Town is bordered to the west by the St. Croix River and has about 1,700 acres of public natural resource lands.

### **St. Croix Falls**

The Town of St. Croix Falls has 45 percent of its assessed land assessed as agricultural, 30 percent assessed as forest and 15 percent assessed as residential. The Town lost 37 percent of its assessed agricultural land between 1987 and 2007, yet has largely maintained its assessed forest land since 1998 after seeing a 10 percent increase between 1987 and 1998. Between 1987 and 2007, the Town experienced a 75 percent increase in improved residential parcels and more than a doubling of assessed residential acreage. During the same period, the Town experienced a 46 percent increase in improved commercial parcels and 25 percent increase in assessed commercial acreage. The Town of St. Croix Falls surrounds both the City of St. Croix Falls and the Village of Centuria.

### **Sterling**

The Town of Sterling has 49 percent of its assessed land assessed as forest, 28 percent assessed as agricultural and 14 percent assessed as undeveloped, which could include fallow farmland. Between 1987 and 2007 the Town lost 31 percent of its assessed agricultural land and about 4 percent of assessed forest land. However, the Town also has a large amount of public natural resource lands amounting to just over 19,000 acres. This means that about three-fourths of the Town is actually covered by forestland and about 14 percent of the Town is in agriculture. Between 1987 and 2007, the Town experienced an 84 percent increase in improved residential parcels but only a 4 percent increase in assessed residential acreage. This suggests that there is perhaps little conversion of land to residential from other uses and the existing residential land has been further divided to accommodate the new development. However, there also appears to be increased parcelization of assessed forest land (essentially the private forest land in the Town) as the average parcel size is down to 15 acres in 2007 from 24.5 acres in 1987. The unincorporated settlements of Wolf Creek and Cushing are found in the southeastern part of the Town.

### **West Sweden**

The Town of West Sweden has 43 percent of its assessed land assessed as agricultural, 37 percent assessed as forest and 14 percent assessed as undeveloped. The Town lost 18 percent of its agricultural land between 1987 and 2007 and about 11 percent of its assessed forest land. During the same period, the Town experienced a 26 percent increase in improved residential parcels and a 32 percent increase in assessed residential acreage. The Town surrounds most of the Village of Frederic and contains the unincorporated settlement of West Sweden.

## ***Village Land-Use Summaries***

### **Balsam Lake**

The Village of Balsam Lake has 50 percent of its assessed land assessed as residential, 13 percent as commercial and 3 percent as manufacturing. Approximately 14 percent of the

assessed land in the Village is in agriculture and 16 percent is assessed as forest. The Village had a 22 percent increase improved residential parcels and ten-fold increase in assessed residential acreage between 1987 and 2007. During the same period there was a 27 percent increase in improved commercial parcels and seven acre increase in assessed commercial acreage. Manufacturing also saw a significant increase with one improved manufacturing parcel in 1987 to 5 improved manufacturing parcels and 23 assessed manufacturing acres in 2007. Balsam Lake is prominent feature in the Village.

### **Centuria**

The Village of Centuria has 22 percent of its assessed land assessed as residential, six percent as commercial and less than two percent as manufacturing. About 61 percent of the Village is in agriculture, while just over 4 percent is undeveloped and almost 4 percent is forest. Between 1987 and 2007, improved residential parcels have increased by 10 percent while the amount of assessed residential land increased by 151 percent. The amount of assessed commercial land in the Village decreased by 64 percent during the same period, while manufacturing parcels and assessed acreage increased by 6 parcels and 111 acres, respectively.

### **Clayton**

The Village of Clayton currently has about 3 percent of its assessed land assessed as residential, less than one percent as commercial and about 7 percent as manufacturing. Approximately 17 percent of the Village is assessed as forest, 15 percent as undeveloped, and 57 percent as agricultural. Assessed agricultural land in the Village decreased by over a third between 1987 and 1998 but has remained about the same since 1998. The Village had a 26 percent increase in improved residential parcels and a 135 percent increase in assessed residential acreage. There was a 58 percent increase in improved commercial parcels during the same period. In addition, the Village had a lost two industrial parcels, yet saw a 100 acre increase in assessed manufacturing acreage.

### **Clear Lake**

The Village of Clear Lake has 13 percent of its assessed land assessed as residential, 6 percent as commercial and 4 percent as manufacturing. Approximately 64 percent of the assessed land is assessed as agricultural, 7 percent as undeveloped and 5 percent as forest. The Village had a 31 percent increase in improved residential parcels and an eight percent increase in improved commercial parcels between 1987 and 2007. The Village saw an increase of three industrial parcels and 16 acres of assessed manufacturing land during the same period.

### **Dresser**

The Village of Dresser currently has just under five percent of its assessed land assessed as residential, 17 percent as commercial and about 60 percent as manufacturing. Approximately 10 percent of the Village is assessed as agricultural and a little over five percent as forest. Assessed agricultural land in the Village decreased 111 acres or -54% between 1987 and 2007. The Village had a 44 percent increase in improved residential parcels and a 20 percent increase in improved commercial parcels during the same period. In addition, the Village saw a 48 percent increase in assessed manufacturing acreage.



**Frederic**

The Village of Frederic has 47 percent of its assessed land assessed as residential, 46 percent as commercial and 7 percent as manufacturing. Between 1987 and 2007, improved residential parcels increased by 8 percent, improved commercial parcels by 30 percent and improved manufacturing parcels declined by 25 percent.

**Luck**

The Village of Luck has 28 percent of its assessed land assessed as residential, 5 percent as commercial and less than 7 percent as manufacturing. About 17 percent of the assessed land in the Village is assessed as agriculture, while 10 percent as undeveloped and a third as forest. Between 1987 and 2007, improved residential parcels had increased 25 percent while the amount of assessed residential land increased almost six-fold. The amount of assessed commercial land in the Village increased from 2 to 30 acres during the same period. In addition, the Village gained 3 improved manufacturing parcels and 16 acres of land assessed as manufacturing.

**Milltown**

The Village of Milltown currently has 18 percent of its assessed land assessed as residential, 5 percent as commercial and less than one percent as manufacturing. Approximately 54 percent of the assessed land in the Village is assessed as agricultural and 22 percent as undeveloped. Assessed agricultural land in the Village decreased 418 acres or -54% between 1987 and 2007. The Village had a 27 percent increase in improved residential parcels and a 21 percent decrease in improved commercial parcels during the same period. In addition, the Village saw no change in assessed manufacturing acreage.

**Osceola**

The Village of Osceola currently has about 22 percent of its assessed land assessed as residential, 9 percent as commercial, and 11 percent as manufacturing. The Village also has about 16 percent of its assessed land assessed as agricultural, 15 percent as undeveloped and 27 percent as forest. The Village lost almost three-quarters of its assessed agricultural acreage between 1987 and 2007. It appears that some of it could have been reclassified as undeveloped or forest, as it either became fallow or grew up in trees. The Village had a 55 percent increase in improved residential parcels and assessed residential acreage increased substantially during the same period. Between 1987 and 2007, improved commercial parcels had increased 28 percent while the amount of assessed commercial land increased by almost 6 percent. During the same period improved manufacturing parcels increased by 250 percent and assessed manufacturing acreage increased by 205 percent.

**Turtle Lake**

There is a 357 acre portion of Turtle Lake which is in Polk County. The majority of the Village is in Barron County. Of the assessed land in the Village in Polk County, less than one percent is assessed residential, 16 percent as commercial and 4 percent as manufacturing. In addition, 36 percent is assessed as undeveloped, 20 percent as agricultural and 17 percent as forest. Between 1987 and 2007 in the portion of the Village in Polk County, improved residential parcels increased from one to eighteen. During the same period there were 8 new improved commercial parcels where there had been none previously, accounting for 57 acres of assessed commercial land. There was

also one new improved manufacturing parcel, accounting for 14 acres of assessed manufacturing land.

## *City Land-Use Summaries*

### **Amery**

The City of Amery City has 35 percent of its assessed land assessed as residential, 23 percent as commercial and 16 percent as manufacturing. Approximately 13 percent of the assessed land in the City is assessed as agriculture, 7 percent as undeveloped and 5 percent as forest. Between 1987 and 2007 the City lost three-fourths of its assessed agricultural land. During the same period, the City had a 21 percent increase in improved residential parcels and a 14 percent increase in improved commercial parcels. In addition, improved manufacturing parcels increased from nine to fifteen resulting in a seven-fold increase in assessed manufacturing acreage. The Apple River runs north to south through the center of the City, which also fronts Pike, and North and South Twin Lakes.

### **St. Croix Falls**

The City of St. Croix Falls has about 18 percent of its assessed land assessed as residential, another 18 percent as commercial and 4 percent as manufacturing. About 45 percent of the assessed land in the City is assessed as forest, 9 percent as undeveloped and 5 percent as agricultural. Between 1987 and 2007, the City had a 49 percent increase in improved residential and commercial parcels, a 241 percent increase in assessed residential acreage and an almost eleven-fold increase in assessed commercial acreage. During the same period improved manufacturing parcels went from 8 to 15 (an 88% increase) and assessed manufacturing acreage increased by 39 acres or 144 percent. The City encompasses the U.S. Highway 8 bridge over the St. Croix River which is found on the City's western border.

# Land Use Tables

**Table 7.6**  
**Assessed Residential Acres by Municipality • 1987, 1998, and 2007**  
**Polk County**

Town	Total Acres			87-07 Percent Change	98-07 Percent Change
	1987	1998	2007		
Alden	1,339	3,025	4,698	250.9	55.3
Apple River	1,212	1,409	1,903	57.0	35.1
Balsam Lake	883	1,195	1,847	109.2	54.6
Beaver	567	1,094	1,098	93.7	0.4
Black Brook	637	1,345	1,894	197.3	40.8
Bone Lake	560	856	1,002	78.9	17.1
Clam Falls	349	393	778	122.9	98.0
Clayton	560	897	1,283	129.1	43.0
Clear Lake	231	806	1,209	423.4	50.0
Eureka	1,095	1,191	3,716	239.4	212.0
Farmington	835	1,888	3,177	280.5	68.3
Garfield	611	1,414	1,873	206.5	32.5
Georgetown	984	1,345	1,763	79.2	31.1
Johnstown	593	789	1,033	74.2	30.9
Laketown	537	1,182	1,472	174.1	24.5
Lincoln	1,168	1,536	2,693	130.6	75.3
Lorain	155	708	726	368.4	2.5
Luck	616	699	1,562	153.6	123.5
McKinley	406	490	646	59.1	31.8
Milltown	945	2,070	2,673	182.9	29.1
Osceola	1,567	2,678	2,746	75.2	2.5
Saint Croix Falls	1,218	1,998	2,505	105.7	25.4
Sterling	1,419	2,272	1,478	4.2	-34.9
West Sweden	643	749	851	32.3	13.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,130</b>	<b>32,029</b>	<b>44,626</b>	<b>133.3</b>	<b>39.3</b>
<b>Villages</b>					
Balsam Lake	38	113	397	944.7	251.3
Centuria	72	109	181	151.4	66.1
Clayton	20	44	47	135.0	6.8
Clear Lake	NA	125	135	--	8.0
Dresser	NA	19	43	--	126.3
Frederic	NA	16	123	--	668.8
Luck	23	61	158	587.0	159.0
Milltown	25	60	124	396.0	106.7
Osceola	20	72	266	1230.0	269.4
Turtle Lake	0	0	3	--	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>1477</b>	<b>646.0</b>	<b>138.6</b>
<b>Cities</b>					
Amery	NA	NA	176	--	
St. Croix Falls	91	188	310	240.7	64.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>434.1</b>	<b>158.5</b>
<b>COUNTY TOTAL</b>	<b>19,419</b>	<b>32,836</b>	<b>46,589</b>	<b>139.9</b>	<b>29.5</b>

Source: WI DOR + Portion in Polk County.

Table 7.7

## Assessed Commercial Acres by Municipality • 1987, 1998, and 2007

## Polk County

<b>Town</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>Total Acres 1998</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>87-07 Percent Change</b>	<b>98-07 Percent Change</b>
Alden	18	22	31	72.2	40.9
Apple River	128	112	85	-33.6	-24.1
Balsam Lake	883	61	93	-89.5	52.5
Beaver	28	21	29	3.6	38.1
Black Brook	78	118	173	121.8	46.6
Bone Lake	3	2	44	1366.7	2100.0
Clam Falls	7	12	18	157.1	50.0
Clayton	19	13	8	-57.9	-38.5
Clear Lake	9	4	3	-66.7	-25.0
Eureka	34	32	42	23.5	31.3
Farmington	46	55	95	106.5	72.7
Garfield	13	11	16	23.1	45.5
Georgetown	46	51	75	63.0	47.1
Johnstown	13	16	16	23.1	0.0
Laketown	31	29	28	-9.7	-3.4
Lincoln	44	51	73	65.9	43.1
Lorain	9	16	17	88.9	6.3
Luck	74	52	21	-71.6	-59.6
McKinley	NA	0	4	--	4,000.0
Milltown	28	133	210	650.0	57.9
Osceola	603	786	607	0.7	-22.8
Saint Croix Falls	281	343	352	25.3	2.6
Sterling	9	8	29	222.2	262.5
West Sweden	46	61	41	-10.9	-32.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>2,009</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>-13.9</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>Villages</b>					
Balsam Lake	97	79	104	7.2	31.6
Centuria	22	46	53	140.9	15.2
Clayton	NA	2	8	--	300.0
Clear Lake	NA	70	56	--	-20.0
Dresser	NA	110	157	--	42.7
Frederic	NA	65	122	--	87.7
Luck	2	36	30	1400.0	-16.7
Milltown	NA	29	33	--	13.8
Osceola	108	124	114	5.6	-8.1
Turtle Lake	0	42	57	--	35.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>220.5</b>	<b>21.7</b>
<b>Cities</b>					
Amery	NA	NA	117	--	--
St. Croix Falls	28	91	306	992.9	236.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>1410.7</b>	<b>364.8</b>
<b>COUNTY TOTAL</b>	<b>2,707</b>	<b>2,703</b>	<b>3,267</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>17.3</b>

Source: WI DOR + Portion in Polk County.

Table 7.8

## Assessed Industrial Acres by Municipality • 1987, 1998, and 2007

## Polk County

Town	1987	Total Acres 1998	2007	87-07 Percent Change	98-07 Percent Change
Alden	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Apple River	66	66	220	233.3	233.3
Balsam Lake	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Beaver	210	210	210	0.0	0.0
Black Brook	0	0	2	0.0	0.0
Bone Lake	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Clam Falls	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Clayton	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Clear Lake	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Eureka	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Farmington	0	10	0	0.0	-100.0
Garfield	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Georgetown	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Johnstown	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Laketown	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Lincoln	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Lorain	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Luck	1	1	1	0.0	0.0
McKinley	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Milltown	7	19	11	57.1	-42.1
Osceola	332	162	163	-50.9	0.6
Saint Croix Falls	9	3	3	-66.7	0.0
Sterling	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
West Sweden	52	52	51	-1.9	-1.9
TOTAL	677	523	661	-2.4	26.4
<b>Villages</b>					
Balsam Lake	0	9	23	9,000.0	155.6
Centuria	2	0	13	--	13,000.0
Clayton	13	115	113	769.2	-1.7
Clear Lake	25	35	41	64.0	17.1
Dresser	380	563	561	47.6	-0.4
Frederic	26	17	18	-30.8	5.9
Luck	23	35	39	69.6	11.4
Milltown	4	1	4	0.0	300.0
Osceola	43	89	131	204.7	47.2
Turtle Lake	0	0	14	0.0	14,000.0
TOTAL	516	864	957	85.5	10.8
<b>Cities</b>					
Amery	10	76	80	700.0	5.3
St. Croix Falls	27	77	66	144.4	-14.3
TOTAL	37	153	146	294.6	-4.6
<b>COUNTY TOTAL</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>1,764</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>12.7</b>

Source: WI DOR + Portion in Polk County.

Table 7.9

## Assessed Agricultural Parcels and Acreage by Municipality • 1987, 1998, and 2007

## Polk County

Town	Total Parcels			Total Acres			1987-2007 Acres % Change	1998-2007 Acres % Change
	1987	1998	2007	1987	1998	2007		
Alden	847	816	742	21,328	19,094	16,398	-23.1	-14.1
Apple River	397	399	316	9,791	9,396	6,762	-30.9	-28.0
Balsam Lake	424	333	287	13,421	8,604	6,993	-47.9	-18.7
Beaver	421	411	359	13,085	11,290	7,351	-43.8	-34.9
Black Brook	548	531	500	15,491	14,400	11,516	-25.7	-20.0
Bone Lake	456	389	270	15,286	6,933	4,893	-68.0	-29.4
Clam Falls	343	344	270	7,116	6,845	5,035	-29.2	-26.4
Clayton	509	494	445	16,865	13,292	9,663	-42.7	-27.3
Clear Lake	617	551	510	20,359	15,163	12,545	-38.4	-17.3
Eureka	859	884	630	28,837	28,558	14,641	-49.2	-48.7
Farmington	705	648	621	19,680	16,519	15,133	-23.1	-8.4
Garfield	483	461	473	14,049	12,626	11,544	-17.8	-8.6
Georgetown	359	294	303	11,744	8,405	7,058	-39.9	-16.0
Johnstown	225	229	177	6,673	6,389	4,292	-35.7	-32.8
Laketown	531	497	456	14,954	13,287	10,575	-29.3	-20.4
Lincoln	631	588	419	20,517	17,642	9,659	-52.9	-45.2
Lorain	326	313	284	9,269	8,277	7,414	-20.0	-10.4
Luck	385	394	225	9,566	9,268	4,105	-57.1	-55.7
McKinley	334	338	204	10,967	10,467	5,808	-47.0	-44.5
Milltown	436	390	382	11,870	9,717	7,802	-34.3	-19.7
Osceola	471	360	345	13,305	8,855	7,116	-46.5	-19.6
Saint Croix Falls	434	411	333	12,446	10,313	7,791	-37.4	-24.5
Sterling	290	287	231	7,307	6,735	5,015	-31.4	-25.5
West Sweden	426	421	361	10,534	9,895	8,593	-18.4	-13.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,457</b>	<b>10,783</b>	<b>9,143</b>	<b>334,460</b>	<b>281,970</b>	<b>207,702</b>	<b>-37.9</b>	<b>-26.3</b>
<b>Villages</b>								
Balsam Lake	10	2	6	306	54	111	-63.7	105.6
Centuria	31	30	29	669	562	503	-24.8	-10.5
Clayton	59	45	57	1,605	931	940	-41.4	1.0
Clear Lake	46	30	30	1,002	731	650	-35.1	-11.1
Dresser	11	5	4	206	119	95	-53.9	-20.2
Frederic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Luck	21	7	5	433	128	93	-78.5	-27.3
Milltown	33	26	22	778	490	360	-53.7	-26.5
Osceola	33	10	10	723	246	197	-72.8	-19.9
Turtle Lake	0	2	6	0	50	72	100.0	44.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>5,722</b>	<b>3,311</b>	<b>3,021</b>	<b>-47.2</b>	<b>-8.8</b>
<b>Cities</b>								
Amery	15	8	5	269	120	67	-75.1	-44.2
St. Croix Falls	22	9	9	544	144	84	-84.6	-41.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>-81.4</b>	<b>-42.8</b>
<b>COUNTY TOTAL</b>	<b>11,738</b>	<b>10,957</b>	<b>9,326</b>	<b>340,995</b>	<b>285,545</b>	<b>210,874</b>	<b>-38.2</b>	<b>-26.2</b>

Source: WI DOR + Portion in Polk County.

**Table 7.10**

**Assessed Forest Parcels and Acreage by Town • 1987, 1998, and 2007**

**Polk County**

Town	Total Parcels					Total Acres					
	1987	1998	2007	1987-1998 % Change	1998-2007 % Change	1987	1998	2007	1987-1998 % Change	1998-2007 % Change	1987-2007 % Change
Alden	626	598	551	-4.5	-7.9	9,282	8,621	7,472	-7.1	-13.3	-19.5
Apple River	344	356	435	3.5	22.2	7,697	7,690	7,663	-0.1	-0.4	-0.4
Balsam Lake	117	280	275	139.3	-1.8	3,352	6,445	5,265	92.3	-18.3	57.1
Beaver	244	269	378	10.2	40.5	6,368	6,231	7,064	-2.2	13.4	10.9
Black Brook	206	207	323	0.5	56.0	4,176	3,947	4,985	-5.5	26.3	19.4
Bone Lake	471	479	460	1.7	-4.0	8,980	8,583	7,324	-4.4	-14.7	-18.4
Clam Falls	443	460	494	3.8	7.4	10,426	10,333	10,157	-0.9	-1.7	-2.6
Clayton	70	178	328	154.3	84.3	2,038	4,122	5,444	102.3	32.1	167.1
Clear Lake	9	209	254	2222.2	21.5	215	3,944	4,209	1734.4	6.7	1857.7
Eureka	131	116	551	-11.5	375.0	3,246	2,801	9,323	-13.7	232.8	187.2
Farmington	324	306	213	-5.6	-30.4	6,341	5,321	4,595	-16.1	-13.6	-27.5
Garfield	251	257	301	2.4	17.1	4,195	4,167	4,086	-0.7	-1.9	-2.6
Georgetown	169	252	335	49.1	32.9	4,324	6,788	6,401	57.0	-5.7	48.0
Johnstown	327	294	317	-10.1	7.8	9,424	8,058	7,507	-14.5	-6.8	-20.3
Laketown	286	295	361	3.1	22.4	4,964	5,567	5,550	12.1	-0.3	11.8
Lincoln	5	86	246	1620.0	186.0	113	1,957	4,351	1631.9	122.3	3750.4
Lorain	349	283	247	-18.9	-12.7	7,722	7,597	5,367	-1.6	-29.4	-30.5
Luck	279	284	421	1.8	48.2	6,382	6,350	8,088	-0.5	27.4	26.7
McKinley	230	229	265	-0.4	15.7	7,062	6,453	6,249	-8.6	-3.2	-11.5
Milltown	247	211	307	-14.6	45.5	4,754	4,234	4,840	-10.9	14.3	1.8
Osceola	156	199	416	27.6	109.0	3,987	4,188	4,939	5.0	17.9	23.9
Saint Croix Falls	190	236	275	24.2	16.5	4,751	5,217	5,169	9.8	-0.9	8.8
Sterling	369	348	569	-5.7	63.5	9,030	8,456	8,674	-6.4	2.6	-3.9
West Sweden	402	416	401	3.5	-3.6	8,309	8,572	7,405	3.2	-13.6	-10.9
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6,245</b>	<b>6,848</b>	<b>8,723</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>137,138</b>	<b>145,642</b>	<b>152,127</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>10.9</b>

Source: WI DOR

**Table 7.11**  
**Land Use Acreage by Municipality • 1987\***  
**Polk County**

Town	Residential	Commercial	Manufacturing	Agricultural	Undeveloped	Forest	Total
Alden	1,339	18	0	21,328	3,878	9,282	35,845
Apple River	1,212	128	66	9,791	1,866	7,697	20,760
Balsam Lake	883	27	0	13,421	306	3,352	17,989
Beaver	567	28	210	13,085	1,033	6,368	21,291
Black Brook	637	78	0	15,491	759	4,176	21,141
Bone Lake	572	2	0	7,441	2,100	8,980	19,095
Clam Falls	349	7	0	7,116	1,470	10,426	19,368
Clayton	458	17	0	16,260	1,915	2,038	20,688
Clear Lake	231	9	0	20,359	737	215	21,551
Eureka	1,095	34	0	28,837	378	3,246	33,590
Farmington	835	46	0	19,680	862	6,341	27,764
Garfield	611	13	0	14,049	1,374	4,195	20,242
Georgetown	984	46	0	11,744	813	4,324	17,911
Johnstown	593	13	0	6,673	608	9,424	17,311
Laketown	537	31	0	14,954	1,306	4,964	21,792
Lincoln	1,168	44	0	20,517	10	113	21,852
Lorain	155	9	0	9,269	310	7,722	17,465
Luck	616	74	1	9,566	1,628	6,382	18,267
McKinley	406	0	0	10,967	759	7,062	19,194
Milltown	945	28	7	11,870	876	4,754	18,480
Osceola	1,567	603	332	13,305	756	3,987	20,550
Saint Croix Falls	1,218	281	9	12,446	259	4,751	18,964
Sterling	1,419	4	0	7,307	1,481	9,030	19,241
West Sweden	643	46	52	10,534	1,202	8,309	20,786
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,040</b>	<b>1,586</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>326,010</b>	<b>26,686</b>	<b>137,138</b>	<b>511,137</b>
<b>Villages</b>							
Balsam Lake	38	97	0	306	0	0	441
Centuria	72	22	2	669	12	0	777
Clayton	20	NA	13	1,605	0	0	1,638
Clear Lake	NA	NA	25	1,002	0	0	1,027
Dresser	NA	NA	380	206	0	0	586
Frederic	NA	NA	26	0	0	0	26
Luck	23	2	23	433	0	0	481
Milltown	25	NA	4	778	0	0	807
Osceola	20	108	43	723	0	0	894
Turtle Lake	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>5,722</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,677</b>
<b>Cities</b>							
Amery	NA	NA	10	269	0	0	279
St. Croix Falls	91	28	27	544	0	0	690
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>969</b>
<b>COUNTY TOTAL</b>	<b>19,329</b>	<b>1,843</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>332,545</b>	<b>26,698</b>	<b>137,138</b>	<b>518,783</b>

Source: WI DOR \* Based on assessment records



**Table 7.12**  
**Land Use Acreage by Municipality • 1998\***  
**Polk County**

Town	Residential	Commercial	Manufacturing	Agricultural	Undeveloped	Forest	Other	Total
Alden	3,025	22	0	19,094	3,911	8,621	229	34,902
Apple River	1,408	112	66	9,396	1,852	7,690	121	20,645
Balsam Lake	1,195	61	0	8,604	1,569	6,445	76	17,950
Beaver	1,094	21	210	11,290	1,984	6,231	85	20,915
Black Brook	1,345	118	0	14,400	946	3,947	148	20,904
Bone Lake	856	2	0	6,933	2,274	8,583	106	18,754
Clam Falls	393	12	0	6,845	1,693	10,333	87	19,363
Clayton	897	13	0	13,292	1,969	4,122	116	20,409
Clear Lake	806	4	0	15,163	1,020	3,944	131	21,068
Eureka	1,191	32	0	28,558	376	2,801		32,958
Farmington	1,888	55	10	16,519	1,960	5,321	228	25,981
Garfield	1,414	11	0	12,626	1,675	4,167	193	20,086
Georgetown	1,345	51	0	8,405	1,091	6,788	92	17,772
Johnstown	789	16	0	6,389	1,282	8,058	77	16,611
Laketown	1,182	29	0	13,287	1,388	5,567	170	21,623
Lincoln	1,536	51	0	17,642	586	1,957	152	21,924
Lorain	708	16	0	8,277	226	7,597	76	16,900
Luck	699	52	1	9,268	1,550	6,350	38	17,958
McKinley	490	0	0	10,467	698	6,453	175	18,283
Milltown	2,070	133	19	9,717	1,836	4,234	174	18,183
Osceola	2,678	786	162	8,855	2,699	4,188	148	19,516
Saint Croix Falls	1,998	343	3	10,313	470	5,217	60	18,404
Sterling	2,272	8	0	6,735	1,498	8,456	63	19,032
West Sweden	749	61	52	9,895	1,216	8,572	104	20,649
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32,028</b>	<b>2,009</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>281,970</b>	<b>35,769</b>	<b>145,642</b>	<b>2,849</b>	<b>500,790</b>
<b>Villages</b>								
Balsam Lake	113	79	9	54	36	165	4	460
Centuria	109	46	0	562	25	35	6	783
Clayton	44	2	115	931	200	348	20	1,660
Clear Lake	125	70	35	731	10	0	5	976
Dresser	19	110	563	119	0	37	4	852
Frederic	16	65	17	0	0	0	0	98
Luck	61	36	35	128	57	212	0	529
Milltown	60	29	1	490	38	39	2	659
Osceola	72	124	89	246	262	306	5	1,104
Turtle Lake	0	42	0	50	4	25	1	122
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>3,311</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>7,243</b>
<b>Cities</b>								
Amery	NA	NA	76	120	10	29	4	
St. Croix Falls	188	91	77	144	5	243	0	748
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>987</b>
<b>COUNTY TOTAL</b>	<b>32,835</b>	<b>2,703</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>285,545</b>	<b>36,416</b>	<b>147,081</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>509,020</b>

Source: WIDOR \* Based on assessment records

**Table 7.13**  
**Land Use Acreage by Municipality • 2007**  
**Polk County**

Town	Residential	Commercial	Manufacturing	Agricultural	Undeveloped	Forest +	Other	Total
Alden	4,698	31	0	16,398	5,086	7,472	198	33,883
Apple River	1,903	85	220	6,762	3,498	7,663	77	20,208
Balsam Lake	1,847	93	0	6,993	3,645	5,265	81	17,914
Beaver	1,098	29	210	7,351	4,015	7,064	42	19,809
Black Brook	1,894	173	2	11,516	1,935	4,985	87	20,592
Bone Lake	1,002	44	0	4,893	3,469	7,324	110	16,842
Clam Falls	778	18	0	5,035	2,209	10,157	63	18,260
Clayton	1,283	8	0	9,663	3,340	5,444	85	19,823
Clear Lake	1,209	3	0	12,545	2,737	4,209	96	20,799
Eureka	3,716	42	0	14,641	4,133	9,323	73	31,928
Farmington	3,177	95	0	15,133	2,235	4,595	154	25,389
Garfield	1,873	16	0	11,544	2,186	4,086	197	19,902
Georgetown	1,763	75	0	7,058	2,247	6,401	114	17,658
Johnstown	1,033	16	0	4,292	2,127	7,507	66	15,041
Laketown	1,472	28	0	10,575	3,323	5,550	113	21,061
Lincoln	2,693	73	0	9,659	4,679	4,351	146	21,601
Lorain	726	17	0	7,414	1,927	5,367	91	15,542
Luck	1,562	21	1	4,105	2,506	8,088	26	16,309
McKinley	646	4	0	5,808	3,653	6,249	63	16,423
Milltown	2,673	210	11	7,802	2,012	4,840	150	17,698
Osceola	2,746	607	163	7,116	2,704	4,939	105	18,380
Saint Croix Falls	2,505	352	3	7,791	1,327	5,169	49	17,196
Sterling	1,478	29	0	5,015	2,568	8,674	44	17,808
West Sweden	851	41	51	8,593	2,784	7,405	78	19,803
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44,626</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>207,702</b>	<b>70,345</b>	<b>152,127</b>	<b>2,308</b>	<b>479,869</b>
<b>Villages</b>								
Balsam Lake	397	104	23	111	29	123	6	793
Centuria	181	53	13	503	35	30	6	821
Clayton	47	8	113	940	245	285	21	1,659
Clear Lake	135	56	41	650	72	51	5	1,010
Dresser	43	157	561	95	24	50	5	935
Frederic	123	122	18	0	0	0	0	263
Luck	158	30	39	93	54	189	0	563
Milltown	124	33	4	360	151	0	0	672
Osceola	266	114	131	197	182	323	0	1,213
Turtle Lake	3	57	14	72	129	62	0	337
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>3,021</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>1,113</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>8,266</b>
<b>Cities</b>								
Amery	176	117	80	67	37	24	2	503
St. Croix Falls	310	306	66	84	158	760	0	1,684
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2,187</b>
<b>COUNTY TOTAL</b>	<b>46,589</b>	<b>3,267</b>	<b>1,764</b>	<b>210,874</b>	<b>71,461</b>	<b>154,024</b>	<b>2,353</b>	<b>490,332</b>

Source: WI DOR \* Based on assessment records. + Includes Forest and Ag Forest

**Table 7.14**  
**Agricultural Land Sales • 1998 - 2007**  
**Polk County**

Year	Agricultural land continuing in agricultural use			Agricultural land being diverted to other uses			Total of all agricultural land		
	Number of transactions	Acres Sold	Dollars per acre	Number of transactions	Acres Sold	Dollars per acre	Number of transactions	Acres Sold	Dollars per acre
<b>2007</b>									
All	21	1,011	4,001	--	--	--	21	1,011	4,001
Without Buildings	7	431	3,581	--	--	--	7	431	3,581
<b>2006</b>									
All	24	1,412	3,327	2	125	2,481	26	1,537	3,258
Without Buildings	19	1,089	3,331	2	125	2,481	21	1,214	3,244
<b>2005</b>									
All	24	1,363	3,234	4	218	5,296	28	1,581	3,519
Without Buildings	14	668	2,580	3	181	5,525	17	849	3,208
<b>2004</b>									
All	29	1,590	3,161	43	1,310	3,463	72	2,900	3,298
Without Buildings	14	925	2,039	33	965	2,296	47	1,890	2,170
<b>2003</b>									
All	54	2,341	3,092	30	852	2,954	84	3,193	3,055
Without Buildings	29	1,210	1,978	21	459	1,871	50	1,669	1,949
<b>2002</b>									
All	62	2,413	2,120	17	885	2,700	79	3,298	2,276
Without Buildings	43	1,405	1,562	9	538	2,256	52	1,943	1,754
<b>2001</b>									
All	57	2,593	1,790	18	647	2,313	75	3,240	1,895
Without Buildings	34	1,387	1,756	7	257	2,286	41	1,644	1,839
<b>2000</b>									
All	65	2,877	1,403	28	1,104	1,980	93	3,981	1,583
Without Buildings	47	1,741	1,246	15	604	1,561	62	2,345	1,327
<b>1999</b>									
All	42	2,844	1,120	19	683	1,999	61	3,527	1,290
Without Buildings	29	1,649	971	16	566	1,284	45	2,215	1,051
<b>1998</b>									
All	86	5,272	1,085	20	936	995	106	6,208	1,071
Without Buildings	53	2,795	820	14	534	900	67	3,329	833

Source: USDA

**TABLE 7.15****Forested Land Sales • 1998, 2001, 2005, and 2007****Polk County**

Year	Forested land continuing in forest land			Forested land being diverted to other uses			Total of all forested land		
	Number of transactions	Acres Sold	Dollars per acre	Number of transactions	Acres Sold	Dollars per acre	Number of transactions	Acres Sold	Dollars per acre
2007	26	1,124	2,829	1	9	3,815	27	1,133	2,837
2005	46	1,657	2,492	3	40	3,511	49	1,697	2,516
2001	63	2,102	1,953	20	766	2,202	83	2,868	2,019
1998	84	2,547	972	20	669	1,010	104	3,216	980

Source: USDA

**Table 7.16****Land Assessed Value per Acre by Town (dollars) • 2007\*****Polk County**

Town	Residential	Commercial	Manufacturing	Agricultural	Undeveloped	Ag Forest	Forest
Alden	17,859	7,758	n/a	143	635	1,635	3,022
Apple River	22,230	4,876	1,822	168	352	778	1,603
Balsam Lake	61,847	6,766	n/a	186	952	1,055	2,231
Beaver	32,771	7,341	5,743	180	696	1,124	2,260
Black Brook	8,325	4,929	7,800	153	398	1,261	2,574
Bone Lake	13,289	359	n/a	112	211	476	996
Clam Falls	9,956	15,550	n/a	140	740	994	1,953
Clayton	10,094	13,062	n/a	158	448	758	1,512
Clear Lake	4,367	6,333	n/a	161	523	750	1,512
Eureka	7,739	6,955	n/a	150	860	1,007	2,193
Farmington	9,189	8,850	n/a	163	634	1,405	2,747
Garfield	23,674	48,575	n/a	156	434	972	2,002
Georgetown	69,363	25,467	n/a	118	452	1,112	2,478
Johnstown	26,916	4,975	n/a	108	236	479	978
Laketown	16,758	8,000	n/a	161	730	1,259	2,464
Lincoln	30,495	15,733	n/a	148	386	689	1,632
Lorain	3,229	3,000	n/a	143	562	1,000	2,006
Luck	6,890	16,086	6,100	136	559	846	1,708
McKinley	10,314	3,475	n/a	157	408	1,143	2,102
Milltown	27,789	3,026	4,454	167	446	1,238	2,319
Osceola	17,775	4,953	361	144	820	929	1,943
Saint Croix Falls	18,740	25,361	6,733	162	1,040	1,155	2,351
Sterling	4,587	4,672	n/a	149	453	899	1,808
West Sweden	4,789	3,700	2,863	131	600	1,142	2,274
Average for all Towns	19,124	10,408	4,485	150	566	1,004	2,028

Source: WI DOR \* Based on assessment records.

**Table 7.17**

**Land Assessed Value per Acre by Village or City (dollars) • 2007\***

**Polk County**

Village or City	Residential	Commercial	Manufacturing	Agricultural	Undeveloped	Ag Forest	Forest
<b>Villages</b>							
Balsam Lake	95,129	49,492	8,357	160	103	1006	978
Centuria	18,416	14,264	6,569	119	1,251	1,833	2,444
Clayton	39,358	80,938	578	146	447	825	1,922
Clear Lake	39,457	34,078	7,493	196	751	814	1,578
Dresser	173,751	12,510	1,660	197	900	1462	2,931
Frederic	44,550	16,344	8,728	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Luck	65,778	49,015	5,764	237	87	n/a	1,135
Milltown	42,882	46,600	9,125	198	774	n/a	n/a
Osceola	93,582	5,628	9,927	130	1554	n/a	9,697
Turtle Lake	91,933	17,839	9,743	179	780	997	2,000
Average for all Villages	70,484	32,671	6,794	174	739	1,156	2,836
<b>Cities</b>							
Amery	157,951	86,114	11,369	170	1,605	n/a	1,700
St. Croix Falls	69,065	48,544	11,845	89	1,444	n/a	2,546
Average for all Cities	113,508	67,329	11,607	130	1,525	n/a	2,123

Source: WI DOR \* Based on assessment records.

## Municipality Land Use Maps

The final component of the land-use element includes a series of maps that show current land uses, productive agricultural soils, natural limitations for building site development, floodplains, and wetlands. Resource and development limitations maps are described in the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources section and previously within this section. The city, village, and town maps themselves are found in Adobe Acrobat .pdf format in the *Polk County Resource and Land Use Atlas DVD-ROM*.

### *Limitations to Development Maps*

The existence of some natural features in the physical environment, such as water, topography, and soil conditions, can act as constraints on development. Understanding the physical characteristics of the County can help identify areas that are more conducive to development activities and areas that may be better suited for non-development activities such as agriculture and natural resource management. The *Polk County Resource and Land Use Atlas DVD-ROM* contains maps of the resources, development limitations, and other environmentally sensitive lands within each community. County level maps (Maps 7.1-7.5) are in Appendix A and in the Atlas DVD-ROM.

In a number of instances, some of these development limitations may be overcome by more extensive and costly development methods; however, development should be encouraged in areas in which it can be most accommodated and have the least impact on environmentally sensitive and valued resource areas

### *Existing Land Use Maps*

The existing land-use maps are derived from a windshield survey done in 1998 and plat maps. The *Polk County Resource and Land Use Atlas DVD-ROM* contains the existing land use maps which depict the general land uses in each community by approximate location in Adobe Acrobat .pdf format for each local jurisdiction in Polk County.