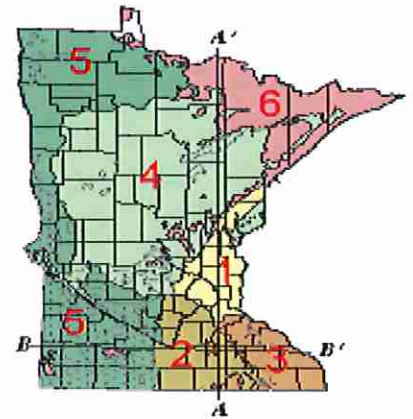


# ENVIRONMENT



## Environmental Infrastructure

Minnesota is generally considered to have an abundant water supply. However, that supply is not evenly distributed across the state itself. Because of this, it can limit the amount of water that is available in some areas for development, such as some commercial and industrial uses that have large water requirements. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has developed a Groundwater Provinces Map (shown below in the side margin) that shows Sherburne County is located in two provinces numbered as the Metro Province (No. 1) and the Central Province (No. 4). Within each province, groundwater sources and the availability of groundwater for drinking water, developmental, agricultural and industrial uses are similar. The Metro Province shows that sand aquifers are generally thick ((greater than 100 feet) sandy and clayey glacial drift overlying Precambrian sandstone and Paleozoic sandstone, limestone, and dolostone aquifers. The Central Province shows sand aquifers are generally thick sandy and clayey glacial drift overlying Precambrian and Cretaceous bedrock. Fractured and weathered Precambrian bedrock is used locally as a water source. The Biwabik formation, an iron ore deposit found in Itasca and St. Louis counties, can have good aquifer properties. It appears that Baldwin Township lies in the Central Province on the map to the right. To see a larger map, one is on file at the town hall offices (Planning and Zoning files). This would mean that the availability of groundwater sources are good in surficial sands, moderate in buried sands and limited in bedrock below.



Provinces 1 and 4 (metro and central, respectively) are characterized by buried sand aquifers and relatively extensive surficial sand plains as part of a thick layer of unconsolidated sediments deposited by glaciers overlying the bedrock. Province 1 is underlain by sedimentary bedrock that has good aquifer properties, but in Province 4 the glacial sediments are thick, sand and gravel aquifers are common, and the deeper fractured bedrock is rarely used as an aquifer.<sup>1</sup>

Groundwater is the water that fills the small spaces between rock particles (sand, gravel) or cracks in solid rock. Surficial water becomes groundwater by seeping into the ground and filling

## ENVIRONMENT

these spaces. The top of the water-saturated zone is called the “water table” which is very important when dealing with placement of wastewater treatment systems.

An aquifer is any type of geologic material, such as sand or sandstone, which can supply water wells or springs. The groundwater, which supplies wells, often comes from within a short distance from a well. How fast groundwater moves depends on how much the well is pumped and what type of rock particles or bedrock it is moving through. The name of the aquifer that travels through the area within Baldwin Township is called the “Mount Simon Aquifer Extent” which ranges from Duluth (St. Louis County) through Sherburne County and down in a SW line to Martin and Faribault counties.<sup>ii</sup>

### Water Infrastructure / Wells

In Baldwin Township, most of the wells are individually drilled wells for each property or parcel of land that is used by a home or by a commercial venture. It is unknown if there are any shared well systems in the Township. Contact with local well drillers and Sherburne County did not procure any definitive materials for this section. On file at the town hall is a copy called *Well Owner's Guide (A Consumer's Guide to Water Wells in Minnesota)*. It is the third edition (updated October 2010) done by the Well Management Section, Environmental Health Division of the Minnesota Department of Health. This guide discusses the hydrologic cycle and how water comes to be, wells and their construction, the water system and equipment, how to have a safe well, sealing unused wells, record keeping, well disclosure at sale, troubleshooting and miscellaneous information. It is an excellent document to help a new landowner understand the what, who, where, when and why and even the how for wells.<sup>iii</sup>

Another valuable tool provided by the Minnesota Department of Health is a document called *Isolation Distances from a Water Supply Well (Chapter 4725 Rules Relating to wells and Borings May 10, 1993)*. This informational sheet identifies the distances from many different sources of contamination that could affect a well and is used by contractors, wastewater installers, and parties when making decisions on utilities and infrastructure.

The City of Princeton, through the Princeton Public Utilities Commission, has developed and is in the process of implementing a *Wellhead Protection Plan (Part 2 Amendment)*. A Public Hearing was held in Baldwin Township on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October, 2011 to explain and receive public comment from those residents affected in the South DWSMA (Drinking Water Supply Management Area). This area affects the city's drinking wells No. 8 & 9 and while they are located within the city limits, the land surrounding them are all in Baldwin Township. Those businesses located in Baldwin Township in this area are served mainly by individual wells and septic systems. Mounted maps are available for viewing at the town hall offices showing the Northern and Southern Drinking Water Service Management Areas (DWSMA) dated January 14,

## ENVIRONMENT

2011.<sup>iv</sup> The township should encourage education for all businesses in this area about proper well and septic management and best management practices to protect their wells and septic systems from contamination which could shorten the life of their systems. Training and educating about spill and hazardous waste management are also areas of mutual concern for both Baldwin Township and the City of Princeton.

As Baldwin Township begins to develop action plans and ultimately rules and regulations for zoning especially in the northern portions of the township, there should be some consideration of lot sizes, setbacks, contamination issues with certain developments, density of properties (i.e. commercial and industrial uses versus residential land uses), soil conditions and consideration to the idea of community septic and well systems. In that respect, the township has statutory tools to facilitate this. Some of these statutes are environmental authorities, water/wastewater abilities and the use of centralized community water/wastewater treatment systems (CSTS systems) that are managed by the township. Community wells are also being considered in some areas of the state.

Sherburne County has a local water management plan for the county which is prepared and updated by the Sherburne Soil and Water conservation District and the Sherburne County Water Plan Advisory Committee. The plan was recently updated and amended on July, 2012 to go through February, 2017. It covers the whole county and provides objectives, goal or action items that need to be amended to deal with water quality protection and the best management practices to maintain and remediate existing degradation issues. This is the fourth version of the management plan and Baldwin Township gave input into the document. Water quality best management practices and goals in the county's plan give opportunities for financing and funding for projects within the township.<sup>v</sup>

### **Wastewater Infrastructure / Septic Systems**

As stated in the beginning of this section, a large majority of the wastewater treatment systems in Baldwin Township are on each individual's property. Very little information is known about how many individual wastewater treatment systems are in Baldwin Township and the status of these systems at this time. This may be a goal of the planning commission to start work on this section of the comprehensive plan. There are five private wastewater treatment systems in the township that are currently under private management and provide a yearly report to the town board regarding their operations. They have been identified as Southern Pines, Baldwin Cove, Baldwin Meadows, Frontier Trails, Nordwall Estates and Nordwall estates 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition.

Sherburne County has the authority, rules and regulations for installation, alteration, repair or expansion of wastewater within the County. This is done under Section 17.5 – Subsurface

## ENVIRONMENT

Sewage Treatment System Program in their Zoning Ordinance. This ordinance applies to all unsewered areas within townships including Baldwin Township. The purpose of this ordinance is to establish minimum requirements for regulating of individual septic and medium sized community sewage treatment systems with the county to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents in the county, protect groundwater quality, and to prevent or eliminate the development of public nuisances.<sup>vi</sup>

Should Baldwin Township have failure problems within the township, there are many remedies that can be applied to help their residents and citizens. Most notable is called a centralized wastewater and/or water treatment system which the township can manage under Minnesota Statute 365A (Subordinate Service Districts) and their other statutory powers. It is a model that has been used successfully in many other counties specifically up north in Cass County, and down in Scott County. It can be used for any size of groups and/or with more than one design on the treatment site. The goal is to provide for the collection of wastewater to one area and having it managed carefully by the governing entity. Governmental entities usually have been in place for years and have statutory abilities to establish ordinances, initiate legal contracts, secure easements and purchase property, execute bond and financing needs, meet insurance requirements and recover from those landowners who have unpaid service charges. These capabilities help to insure that the management and long-term care of a community system will provide the checks and balances to keep a system in working order.

In closing Baldwin Township may need to begin to share this effort with Sherburne County due to the nature and amount of homes within the township. This is a future role that can be played in order to maintain a healthy and successful environment for the township.

# ENVIRONMENT

## ENVIRONMENTAL

### Goals / Objectives (Action Plans)

#### Water Infrastructure

**Goal No. 1:** Increase the knowledge of the importance of water for all types of properties in the township in order to protect the impacts of differing water uses.

1. Consider an annual well testing program with Sherburne County and neighboring entities in order to provide a data base for existing wells in the township.
2. Provide water and well information to property owners when they move into the township.
3. Identify financing available for repair and replacement of water systems for landowners and businesses.
4. Work with Sherburne County to do groundwater modeling in the township and neighboring areas in order to understand the mechanics of water movement.

**Goal No. 2:** Develop partnerships with local fire departments and implement fire protection information for residents and business.

1. Identify and work with businesses for fire protection practices with the Fire Departments.
2. Consider a “fire day” wherein people can come in and have coffee with their local fire and police protection officials and receive training.
3. Implement information in the Baldwin Township newsletter on fire alarms, CO<sub>2</sub> detectors (carbon dioxide detectors), fire signage in windows, ladders, and fire exit strategies.
4. Identify water sources that could shorten the time to help with fire protection such as in underground tanks and dry hydrants.
5. Educate businesses in the area about proper well and septic management with using best management practices to protect their wells and septic systems from contamination.

#### Wastewater Infrastructure

**Goal No. 1:** Working with Sherburne County Environmental Services, implement a wastewater information system that identifies the Township’s existing systems and a method of input for new systems on each parcel to track for future compliance.

## ENVIRONMENT

1. Review with Sherburne County the ages of the systems within the township and seek copies of permits for at least the past two years to begin a data base. Seek copies when a new system is put into place, especially into a platted subdivision.
2. Identify different methods to deal with small tracts of land through a Subordinate Service District model or by other means. Work with Sherburne County to review and understand their rules and regulations pertaining to Baldwin Township.
3. Review plats that contain multiple lots and most especially those that have very small lot sizes in order to avert the issues of water and wastewater contamination. Identify placements with a secondary wastewater treatment site. Consider a community system that is maintained and managed properly when it is feasible or needed to repair and/or replace existing systems.
4. When a new plat is proposed, review options to protect the natural resources of the area by the use of larger lot sizes, combinations of wells and/or wastewater treatment or community systems.

**Goal No. 2:** Implement an education program for Baldwin Township residents to understand their water and wastewater treatment systems, ways to protect and take care of it, as well as what they can and cannot do with it.

1. Seek out information from the Minnesota Extension Service in regards to water/wastewater information.
2. Identify financing to repair and restore wastewater treatment systems when they fail for those parties that have needs. Consider the implementation of a revolving loan program with local banks or the neighboring regional development commission or Sherburne County.
3. Use the township newsletter to annually educate the community about how to manage their wastewater treatment system long term and extend its life.

Sources and excerpts courtesy of Commissioners Peggy Patton and Ross Perry. Planning Commission Materials are on file.

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<sup>i</sup> August, 2011. Minnesota Ground Water Provinces. Minnesota DNR Waters website [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/ground\\_water/provinces/mngwprov.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/ground_water/provinces/mngwprov.html)

<sup>ii</sup> March, 2011. Results of the Minnesota Pilot Study for the National groundwater Monitoring Network. Minnesota department of Natural resources. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

## ENVIRONMENT

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- iii October, 2011. Handout entitled *Where Does Your Drinking Water Come From?* Minnesota Department Of Health.
  - iv October 18, 2011. Princeton Public Utilities Wellhead Protection Plan. Part 2 Amendment
  - v July, 2012. Sherburne County. Local Water Management Plan. 2007 through February, 2017. Amended July, 2012
  - vi April, 2011. Sherburne County. Section 17.5 – Subsurface Sewage Treatment system Program

## ENVIRONMENTAL



### SENSITIVE SHORELANDS AND FLOODPLAINS CRITICAL HABITATS AND WETLANDS

#### SHORELANDS/ FLOODPLAINS

Sherburne County defines shorelands as: "Shoreland" means land located within the following distances from public water: 1,000 feet from the ordinary high water level of a lake, pond, or flowage; and 300 feet from a river or stream, or the landward extent of a flood plain designated by ordinance on a river or stream, whichever is greater. The limits of shorelands may be reduced whenever the waters involved are bounded by topographic divides which extend landward from the waters for lesser distances and when approved by the commissioner.<sup>1</sup>

Shorelands are around the lakes, streams and rivers in Baldwin Township. These are the surface waters within the township and the county. The goal is to regulate the use and development of the shorelands of those public waters. The delegation of authority goes to the state and is passed down to Sherburne County. Their goals are to regulate the subdivision, use and development of the shores of all of these public waters and to preserve, protect and enhance the quality of the surface waters. By doing this, they can protect and keep the economic and natural environmental standards and values of shorelands while also providing for their use and enjoyment of these public waters and their related land uses for residents.

Baldwin Township has a map showing the following features related to land use: the shoreland classification in the township, each wetlands classification, the regulated setbacks for surface water, and the floodplain areas within Baldwin Township which are normally in their present state, but also could flood due to a 100 year event. This map is on file at the town offices in the planning and zoning files.

Sherburne County has a portion of their Sherburne County Zoning Ordinance called *Section 14 – Shoreland District* in which it spells out the following items:

- Statutory Authorization and Policy
- General Provision and Definitions
- Administration

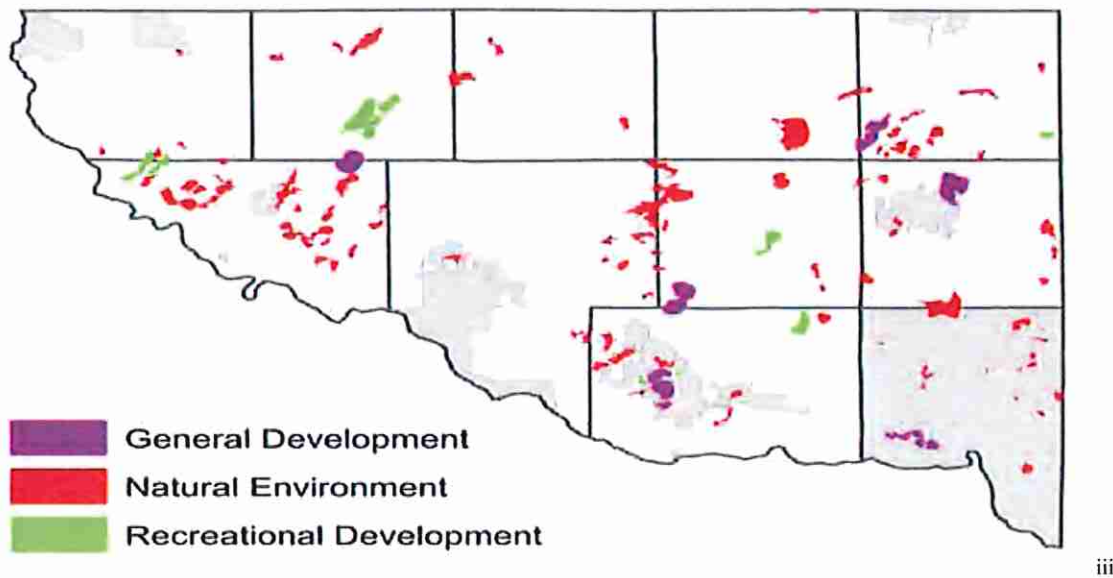


## ENVIRONMENTAL

- Shoreland Classification System and Land Use Districts
- Dimensions, Design and Utilities
- Nonconformities
- Subdivision/Platting Provisions
- Planned Unit Development (PUD's)

These rules and regulations are used in what is called a Shoreland Overlay Zoning District which are rules that are laid over the existing land use district and its regulations. The more restrictive rules normally apply. This section of the Sherburne County Zoning Ordinance was amended in February 2000. A copy can be reviewed by going on line to [www.co.sherburne.mn.us.gov](http://www.co.sherburne.mn.us.gov). Landowners requesting land use and building permits within the shoreland areas of the township and county will need to be aware of the shoreland rules and regulations.<sup>ii</sup>

If you look at the map below, you will see that most of the township's lakes and streams fall into the natural environment designation with some general development lakes to the west of the township.



**General Development Lakes** (1 lake in the township) exceed 15' in depth, are large enough to show the highest resilience to water quality degradation, and have more than 25 homes per mile of shoreline.

**Recreational Development Lakes** (1 lake in the township) exceed 15' in depth, and exhibit moderate resilience to degradation.

## ENVIRONMENTAL

**Natural Environment Lakes** (10 lakes in the township) are small and shallow, with few lakeshore homes.

### CRITICAL HABITATS

With the beauty and pristine nature of the lakes and streams in the township, the flip side to this usually means a somewhat sensitive environment and therefore a community needs to find a balance to the land use that comes with it. Some of the most natural and valuable resources in the township are their lakes, streams and wetlands which are where critical habitat can thrive and survive. Protections of these natural habitats provide residents and visitors to the area with an abundance of animals, flowers and plants. Once destroyed, the plants and animals may never return.



The Sherburne County Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2010-2030 identifies some of the critical habitat in Baldwin Township. The map called the *Biodiverse and Regional Significant Plant Communities in Sherburne County* (dated 22 February 2005) shows some areas in Baldwin Township that are generally moderate in terms of the variety of plant communities. These areas are generally seen around water, Rum River and Sherburne County Wildlife Refuge, and in most cases are presently being protected. A copy of this map is available in Appendix D.<sup>iv</sup>

### WETLANDS

Wetlands are a concern when development threatens an area's physical environment. Despite their benefits, wetlands have too often been considered a nuisance and have been drained for agriculture and residential development. Historically, government policies have encouraged draining and filling of wetlands. Out of Minnesota's 55 million acres, 10 million were originally comprised of wetlands. Half of that amount has been lost due to drainage.

Their most recognizable features such as cattails, lily pads, wildlife such as ducks and geese usually identify wetlands; however, there are wetlands that have less recognizable features. Two indicators for wetlands are: 1) hydric soils; during the growing season the soil is saturated long enough to take on hydric conditions, and 2) the ability to support vegetation adapted to saturated soil conditions. Wetlands areas have many direct benefits to the community. They serve to protect water quality by filtering contaminants, help with flood control by absorbing run off, during droughts they help maintain rivers and streams by releasing water and provide a wildlife habitat.<sup>v</sup>

## ENVIRONMENTAL

Wetlands classifications are shown and located as general areas in the Baldwin Township's wetlands mapping (on file at town offices). They must be delineated further when a property owner purposes a use. There are eight types of wetlands: 1) flooded basins or floodplains, 2)



inland fresh meadows, 3) inland shallow fresh marshes, 4) inland deep fresh marshes, 5) inland open fresh water wetlands, 6) shrub swamps, 7) forested swamps, and 8) bogs. A copy of *Wetlands in Minnesota* (based on the Circular 39 system) is available at the town hall. The circular explains the importance of the different types of wetland described and their role in providing great

benefits to the area.

Examples of great places where wetlands exist and are protected are the Sherburne County Wildlife Refuge, the Rum River Wild and Scenic Waterway and the Vietnam Memorial Wildlife Management Area.<sup>vi</sup>

# ENVIRONMENTAL

## SHORELAND, CRITICAL HABITAT AND WETLANDS

### Goals/Objectives (Action Plans)

#### Shoreland

**Goal No. 1:** Support and educate township residents about the benefits of proper shoreland practices and the results of poor practices.

1. Implement a Natural Resources Inventory and Analysis for the township using the Natural Resource Guidance Checklist from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
2. Use the inventory to identify property best management practices to implement and use.
3. Use different media methods for dispersing materials to the community regarding protections of their shoreland.
4. Advertise workshops provided by different groups, such as Sherburne County, Department of Natural Resources and Board of Soil and Water for shoreland repairs and maintenance so landowners can become informed.
5. Work with Sherburne County to develop property around the lakes with low or minimum natural resource impacts through rules, education and workshops.

**Goal No. 2:** Reduce pollutant levels to the lakes and streams. To be aware of the stormwater impacts from residential and urban development, especially on smaller, shallower lakes that will have more impacts.

1. Implement land use practices that reduce nutrient loading to surface water resources.
2. Educate landowners on the importance of shoreland buffers in order to protect the lake environment. This can also be done through pairing up with the local lake associations groups.
3. Work with landowners and citizens to secure local grant and low interest loan financing for shoreland repairs and restoration.
4. Support and advertise in the township media when shoreland training is available so that the community has an opportunity to be educated on the protection of their lakes and streams.

#### Critical Habitat

**Goal No. 1:** Critical habitats are usually associated with wetlands and natural resources and go hand in hand to make the environment unique and special. These natural areas need to be protected, yet be available for the public to see and understand while keeping it safe.

## ENVIRONMENTAL

1. Identify critical habitat areas in a protected registry, and develop land practices to preserve them.
2. When development comes into an area, a prepared natural resource inventory will help the landowners and governmental permitting agencies to protect the area.
3. Support local lake and landowner associations regarding the preservation and care of their shoreline, re-vegetation and shoreland repair practices and what permitting is required.
4. Since a portion of the Rum River Scenic and Recreational Waterway is located in the Township, work with local authorities to understand the area and help residents to protect this vital resource.

### Wetlands

**Goal No. 1:** Wetlands play a very important role in the environment such as vegetation that prevents erosion around lakes, and with neighboring streams, they help to reduce wave action. Among other things, they also act as filters and natural storage areas during flooding periods. Wetlands and their various types should be maintained and preserved. The township should work to prevent their destruction.

1. Promote wetland delineation in areas where it has been identified that there are sensitive environments. Work with Sherburne County on wetlands delineation in order to understand the process.
2. Use education, and distribute through different media, the necessary materials for landowners and contractors to understand the benefits of wetlands and the need for correct permitting when working nearby them.
3. Working with DNR and Sherburne County, do a resource inventory to determine the types of wetlands and species specific to Baldwin Township and work labor towards protection of them through setbacks and proper land controls.
4. Identify land practices that will be beneficial for wetland protections.

Sources and Excerpts from Ms. Peggy Patten, Planning Commissioner

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<sup>i</sup> Section 14. Shoreland District. Sherburne County Zoning Ordinance. Amended February 2000

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid.

<sup>iii</sup> Shoreland lake designations. Sherburne County Zoning Ordinance. February 2000

<sup>iv</sup> Map *Biodiverse and Regional Significant Plant Communities in Sherburne County*. 22. February. 2005

## ENVIRONMENTAL

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- <sup>v</sup> Wetlands Brochure. *Wetlands in Minnesota*. Minnesota board of Water and Soil Resources.  
One West Water Street, Suite 200 St. Paul, MN 55107
- <sup>vi</sup> Ibid

## PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION



## PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP has very distinctive and special natural resource areas within the township. Parks, trails and recreational spaces are an integral part of a community and provide places for residents to enjoy the beauty of the area, find peace and healthy activities to de-stress their busy lives and to go to for educational and learning possibilities. Parks are often the center of a community's beauty and social gatherings, and most often are used for other multiple purposes.

Examples are family reunions, weddings, summer concerts, contests, and theatre. They also give a sense of belonging to a community and townships often have a variety of things going on such as community picnics, art in the park, weddings and car shows.

Baldwin Township has the exceptional distinction of having federal, state, county, regional and local parks and spaces in their township for all types of uses. These irreplaceable areas are recognized below and should be treated as special treasures for protection and care.

### FEDERAL PARKS AND PROGRAMS

#### **Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge**

The Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, under the auspices of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services, was established on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1965 by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission who authorized the purchase of the area with federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp funds. Its mission is to restore the wildlife of the St. Francis River Valley. This 30,700 acre refuge now encompasses oak savanna, wetland, and big woods habitats which are home to a large array of wildlife. This refuge is an important flyway for migratory stopover for many birds and a

## PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION

breeding ground for many others. Over 200 species of birds, 50 mammals, 30 types of fish, 20 reptiles and amphibians, and thousands of insects and other invertebrates can be found within the refuge. While there are some closed areas in the refuge, most of the refuge has roads, trails, canoe launches, fishing accesses, an old school house, picnic areas, and campgrounds for the public to view and use. Mushroom and berry picking are permitted for personal consumption within one-hundred feet (100 feet) of trails or public right of ways. While there is only a very small portion of the refuge which is located in the southwest corner of the township, the refuge is a treasured resource for all of the regions' residents.<sup>i</sup>

Public use is permitted during the daylight hours, but camping, overnight parking, and campfires are not permitted. Horses, dog sled, skijoring, snowmobiles, trail bikes, and all other off-road vehicles are also not permitted in the refuge. Dogs and pets must be kept on a leash at all times. Firearms and bows are not permitted in *Closed Areas* and *No Hunting Zones*. Target shooting is also not permitted.



Educational programs are available for organized groups and the public to learn about the refuge. The refuge offers a wide variety of volunteer opportunities and their offices have an application form should you have interest.

The Friends of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge are a non-profit group to give assistance and support for refuge projects and educational programs. They provide a quarterly newsletter, work on special events in the refuge such as wildlife festivals and films, spring clean-up, bird counts and activities to raise awareness, create environmental awareness and financial backing for programs and projects in the refuge. For more information on their activities or on becoming a member, check their website at: <http://www.exploressherburne.org> or call the refuge offices during office hours. Materials regarding the refuge are on file at the town hall office (planning & zoning files).<sup>ii</sup>

## STATE PARKS AND PROGRAMS

### Rum River Wild and Scenic River Program

These river segments are located in the northeast portion of the township and are part of the boundary line between the township and city of Princeton. The Rum River, which was added to Minnesota's Wild and Scenic Rivers Program in 1978 is located in the Rum River Watershed. The Rum River Watershed covers 997,060 acres in east-central Minnesota. The headwaters for the Rum begin at Mille Lacs Lake and the river flows 145 miles to its confluence with the Mississippi River at Anoka. The major lakes which are a part of the watershed are Mille Lacs, Onamia, and Borden with the major rivers and streams contributing are the Rum, Bogus Brook and Mike Drew Brook.<sup>iii</sup> The Rum River itself has the designation of all of the three





## PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION

characteristics; wild, scenic and recreational. Wild designations are those sections of the river that exist in a free-flowing state with excellent water quality and with adjacent lands that are essentially primitive. Wild river sections are not usually paralleled by conspicuous and well-traveled road or railroads.

Scenic designations of the rivers are portions that exist in a free-flowing state with adjacent lands that are largely undeveloped (i.e., adjacent lands still present an overall natural character, but in places they may have been developed for agricultural, residential, or other land uses. The final classification is the recreational river segments that may have undergone some impoundment (confined within or by an enclosure) or diversion in the past. Recreational river segments may also have adjacent lands which are considerably developed, but they are still capable of being managed. This means that bordering lands may have already been developed for a full range of agricultural or other land uses, and may also be readily accessible by pre-existing roads or rail beds. The original management plan for this stretch of the Rum River was adopted in 1978 by the MN Pollution Control Agency.

Since 2007, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and its partners have begun implementing a ten (10) year rotation for watersheds to do watershed restoration plans to address Minnesota's waters at the major watershed level. At this time, certain segments have been completed for monitoring and some of the lake segments have had lake monitoring and assessments. Currently, the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management program is in progress. The upper river valley of this river has one of the highest concentrations of prehistoric sites in Minnesota.<sup>iv</sup>

### **Vietnam Veterans Wildlife Management Area**

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are part of Minnesota's outdoor recreation system and are established to protect those lands and waters that have a high potential for wildlife production, public hunting, trapping, fishing, and other compatible recreational uses. The Minnesota WMA system was established in 1951, when Minnesota began its "Save the Wetlands" program to buy wetlands and other habitats from willing sellers to address the alarming loss of wildlife habitat in the state. Initiated by a handful of visionary wildlife managers, the WMA program evolved into the present-day system of WMAs. Today there are over 1.29 million acres of high quality habitat in 1,440 WMAs located throughout the state, making it one of the best and largest WMA systems in the country.

The Vietnam Veterans WMA is 66 acres and is located in Section 21 of Baldwin Township. It is composed of hardwood forest, lowland brush lands, and cattail dominated wetlands. The diverse mix of habitat communities provides a haven for a diverse number of wildlife species. There are good opportunities for hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, and hiking. This WMA honors those individuals who served in the Vietnam War. It is a special place for personal reflection and also a good place to introduce youth to the outdoors. The objectives of this area will be to manage it as a nesting and brood-rearing area for grassland dependent species with an emphasis on



## PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION

pheasant and dabbling duck production. All wetland areas will be managed for breeding and migrating wetland-dependent birds and furbearers as well as for winter cover for resident species. Finally the wooded and shrub components of this WMA unit will be managed to provide winter cover, nesting sites and food for dependent species such as deer, turkey, squirrels and songbirds. Since this WMA unit is adjacent to MN Highway 169, contamination via vehicle traffic has often facilitated new infestations into the wetland areas such as the invasive species known as purple loosestrife. Efforts to maintain and enhance site diversity within the habitat types will remain as a management goal for this WMA unit. The public is encouraged to use this diverse area for the numerous identified uses above as well as for contemplative and quiet efforts and enjoyment.<sup>v</sup>

## REGIONAL AND COUNTY PARKS AND TRAILS

Sherburne County recently completed their Comprehensive Plan in 2011. They also have a *Sherburne County Parks, Trails, and Open Space Policy Plan*, adopted in June, 2005 (available online). Listed in this document are a compilation of the public parks, trails and an open space inventory, including what is located in Baldwin Township. Listed for the Township are Goose Lake Park which was recently given to Baldwin Township by the County (to be discussed below under local), the Vietnam Veterans Memorial WMA discussed above, Baldwin Township Young Park (to be discussed), and the Little Elk Lake Park. County parklands are acquired for the purpose of public recreation, education, or open space preservation.

The qualifications for any regional county park must be a minimum of one-hundred acres (100 acres) in size and preferably two-hundred acres (200 acres) or more, sustainable, provided with a high quality wildlife habitat, and features opportunities for natural resources based on recreation. There are exceptions for the above criteria when unique spaces are available and need protection.

Primary funding for the county's acquisition of park land and facilities is through a Sherburne County Park Dedication Fee Ordinance pursuant to MN Statute § 394.25, subdivision 7. As of 2010, Sherburne County's Park Dedication was \$800/new residential lot. Other funding has been provided through a property tax levy system which generates about \$70,000 per year. Besides Goose Lake Park, Sherburne also has two other regional areas for the public located in Big Lake and Becker Township.

The county is presently pursuing land and easement acquisition from private landowners for a regional trail between Elk River and Princeton, known as *The Great Northern Trail*, named after The Great Northern Railroad. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the land needed has already been acquired by the county, cities, and townships. The trail route follows an abandoned railroad bed, with some segments planned along county roads, and an existing township trail. This trail will be paved once fully acquired. Baldwin Township's portion parallels along State Highway 169 and a copy of the map is on file at the Township



## PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION

offices. Two small portions in the township are still privately owned and need to be acquired. This will add to the township's parks and trails system in the future. It offers an opportunity for Baldwin Township residents and others to travel safely and enjoy the area when biking and hiking along the trail.<sup>vi</sup>

### LOCAL TOWNSHIP TRAILS AND PARKS

#### Rum River Recreation and Resources Board – 4R Board

Discussions began in 2006 for a need to have a regional planning entity for parks, trails and open spaces. The 4R Board was inspired by a grass-roots, citizen led initiative. The vision was to encourage and provide an extensive network of appropriately maintained parks, interconnected non-motorized trails, and protected open spaces for betterment of recreation for residents and visitors as well as natural resource components. In February 2011, the 4R Board adopted the *Regional Trail and Open Space Corridor Plan*. One of the participants and strong supporters of this 4R Board is Baldwin Township. A preliminary Regional Trails and Open Space Corridor Map is available to show the future projects and implementation of the plan. Biking, hiking and walking trail connections as well as the Great Northern Trail program are included. Parks and open spaces are also part of the implementation plans. A copy of the *Regional Trail and Open Space Corridor Plan* is available at the town offices (Planning & Zoning files).<sup>vii</sup>

Baldwin Township has two township representatives and one layperson that attend the monthly meetings. One is a town board supervisor and the other is a planning commissioner. Both serve similar roles; the supervisor deals with updating the town board and helps to make management decisions while the planning commissioner works with the planning commission and helps to coordinate the park plans and working relationships with others to implement projects with efficiency and no duplication of efforts.<sup>viii</sup>

On November 1, 1999, Baldwin Township passed the *Resolution For The Establishment Of The Baldwin Township Park And Recreation Committee*. The primary duties of the commissioners are to advise the town board regarding the systematic, comprehensive and effective development of parklands, park facilities, and recreational programs necessary for the physical, mental, and emotional health and welfare of the Baldwin Township residents. The committee membership consists of five (5) members and one (1) non-voting town board member, all of whom are citizens of Baldwin. This resolution has been amended twice since the original document (dates are December 6, 1999 and April 9, 2001).

## PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION

### Young Park

Young Park was acquired from Kermit and Margritte Young in January, 2005. It is eighty (80) acres in size and is located in Section 22. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of February, 2006, Baldwin Township passed a Resolution to request that the county rename the lake in the park to honor Ms. Margritte Young to Margritte Lake. An oral history of the background on Young Park can be found on the Baldwin Township website.<sup>ix</sup>

The annual Funfest program has been held at the Park to highlight the area and its activities. Hiking and trails are available and are in the process of being completed and a rain garden were planted in June 2012 as a cooperative effort between Baldwin Township, the residents of Baldwin and the Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District. A sign has recently been purchased and will be installed at the park this next year.

### Goose Lake Park

In 2012, the county park was donated to Baldwin Township. It is 37 acres and will be used as an open space with limited park/trail use. This park is located in section 29 on the northeast side of Goose Lake. The township is in the process of developing a park plan for the new park including trails and open spaces.



Baldwin Township also has a park ordinance. It is called *AN ORDINANCE GOVERNING PARKS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE BALDWIN TOWN BOARD*. It deals with regulations of general conduct, protections of the natural resources and wildlife in the parks and the regulation of recreational activities that are allowed within the township's parks, including vehicles and hours of operation. There are sections dealing with enforcement and penalties for violations. This ordinance was originally adopted on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January, 2007 and recently updated in April of 2012.<sup>x</sup>

Baldwin Township has many small pieces of trails and possibly other areas for future parks. The township will continue to develop these areas as time and money permits and maintain them through volunteers and their public works department. All of these efforts will help to develop a sense of community and vitality in the future, will help sustain the environment, and provide a balance between work and play as residents live out their lives.<sup>xi</sup>

### Other Parks

## PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION

It was discovered recently, through doing research, that the Plat of Lake Diann Acres in Section 32, which was platted in 1955, has land allocated to two possible park sites. One is called *Dorothea Park* which is to be a playground and the other is *Loren Park*. Both sites have a road around them called Leah Drive. It is unknown at this time if they are even in use. It presently appears that these two parks are possibly privately owned by the landowners in the Plat. The Township park committee can review this in the future to see if there is value in the development of the sites for the area residents. This could be done through park dedication funds.

### Deer Trail Addition

It is understood by Baldwin Township that these are walking and biking paths throughout this Addition which is located in Section 21 near MN State Highway 169 and that these paths will someday be part of the Great Northern Regional Trail from Princeton down to Zimmerman.



## PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION

### PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION

#### Goals / Objectives (Action Plans)

**Goal 1:** Develop and sustain a series of connected trails in the Baldwin Township community for the enjoyment and benefit of everyone in the area. This will give the community and its families a path to good health, community friendship and pride.

1. Identify and clarify the status of all trails and parks within the township system.
2. Develop a unified park and trails plan that will show the inventory, future connections and management of the parks and trail system and how they can interconnect for the whole system to be available to the community.
3. Create a future and realistic capital improvement plan which details the cost for construction (through dedicated funds) and how to fund the ongoing operations and management of the parks and trail system.
4. Coordinate with the 4R Board and Sherburne County to provide a unified regional parks and trail system for the community to encourage good health and wellbeing.
5. Increase the informational stream with additional brochures and online social media to encourage the use of the parks and trails system.
6. Consider an annual bike trail ride to bring awareness and publicity to the trail system. Prepare bike trail guides for use to area trails and parks and highlight their assets.
7. Work with local groups such as Lions, Jaycees, and others to promote and support the local community parks by offering summer events in the parks. Work towards building of pavilions, equipment and other items to bring families into the area to use the parks.
8. Using the township website, link information regarding recreational opportunities in the community and surrounding areas as well as any parks and trail events that are happening.
9. When a potential opportunity exists in a new subdivision for a trail connection, request that the developer purchase the needed easements and dedicate them.

## PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION

Excerpts and Sources provided courtesy of Mr. Terry Carlile, Planning Commissioner

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- <sup>i</sup> Brochure. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Sherburne National wildlife Refuge.
  - <sup>ii</sup> Brochure. Friends of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge
  - <sup>iii</sup> [www.baldwintownship.govoffice.com](http://www.baldwintownship.govoffice.com). The Rum River
  - <sup>iv</sup> [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/wastermgmt\\_section/wild\\_scenic/wsriivers/classification.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/wastermgmt_section/wild_scenic/wsriivers/classification.html) Wild & Scenic Rum River. Map and materials by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources- Division of Waters.2008 DNR Data 04.18.2013.
  - <sup>v</sup> [www.dnr.state.mn.us.wmas./description](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us.wmas./description). Wildlife Management Areas. Vietnam Veterans Memorial WMA
  - <sup>vi</sup> Chapter 7. Parks & Recreation. Sherburne County. County Comprehensive Land Use Plan
  - <sup>vii</sup> Brochure. Rum River Recreation & Resources Board
  - <sup>viii</sup> Rum River Recreation and Resources Board. *Regional Trail And Open Space Corridor Plan*. Adopted February 2011
  - <sup>ix</sup> 07. February.2006. Resolution. Baldwin Township. Young Park
  - <sup>x</sup> 09. January.2007, amended 2012. *An Ordinance Governing Parks Under the Jurisdiction of the Baldwin Town Board*. Baldwin Township
  - <sup>xi</sup> [www.baldwintownship.govoffice.com](http://www.baldwintownship.govoffice.com). Oral History of Baldwin Park

## COMMUNITY SERVICES



## COMMUNITY SERVICES

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP is very fortunate in that they have a range of community services in and out of the township proper. As people of all ages move into a new area, they will usually have a list of needs with priorities about what they want for services. With younger couples or professionals, they usually look at schools and a range of activities while an older person will want to know if there are health services and other conveniences such as transportation available to get around. In addition, many have personal preferences for their denominational churches, familial organizations that they may be in, the quality of life around them and the ability to get to work by different transportation options. There will always be the issue of property taxes, septic and well versus city infrastructure and other conveniences.

The township and surrounding area are rich in many of these items including health, civic and governmental organizations. There are also many opportunities to get involved in the township. At this time, Baldwin Township has the Baldwin Volunteer Committee (BVC) created in August of 2011(after combining a number of committees from the Healthy Communities Partnership Task Force) which is moving forward with work on business development opportunities, parks and recreational activities such as the Young Park Funfest. There is a Park Board and membership in the 4R (Rum River Recreational and Resources Board) Board which works with the neighboring Townships and the City of Princeton to develop a coordinated recreational and open space planning and trail system. The township recently acquired a new park from the County called Goose Lake Park in 2012 and these volunteers will begin to work on development of this park for the future.<sup>i</sup> In addition to the park and recreational opportunities, there is a Cemetery committee to manage the long standing Baldwin Cemetery.



Baldwin Township is in the process of identification of their small home and commercial business directory. There will be a map on file at the township offices of the business ownerships in the township, both small and large.



## COMMUNITY SERVICES

The cities of Princeton and Zimmerman have Chamber of Commerce sites on their websites. The township also has a website for residents to see what is happening in the township. The website is at: [www.baldwintownship.govoffice.com](http://www.baldwintownship.govoffice.com)<sup>ii</sup>

If you are looking for health and wellness, the area has the Fairview Northland Medical Center with twenty-four (24) hour care, including emergency and surgical services, pediatric care, intensive care, coronary care and obstetric care. Located in Princeton is the Fairview Northland Health Services which offers comprehensive rehabilitation services, a retail pharmacy, home health care and hospice services, counseling, and outpatient services. There are many senior housing complexes, and senior care options that are available through providers in and near Baldwin Township. There is a dialysis center located in Princeton as are many professional care facilities including dental, chiropractic, optometrist, hearing, and other holistic services.<sup>iii</sup>



Should you be looking for civic and performing arts, there are some in Baldwin Township as well in the neighboring city of Princeton. Examples of these are the Princeton Performing Arts Center, the Thunder Blades Roller Rink in Baldwin, and the Princeton Golf Club. There are numerous public and private schools, hockey and sporting events as well as swimming pools and tennis courts located for healthy activities. Through May-September, there is a Farmer's Market featuring locally grown food and locally produced products.

There are numerous eating establishments along with local summer activities available to families and residents in the township and area such as walking paths, bicycling paths, roller rink, hockey rink, tennis and basketball opportunities. On file at the Baldwin Town Hall are local biking and hiking trails and the Minnesota Bike Map provided by the Minnesota Department of Transportation dated 2013. There are also numerous abundant lakes and parks within Baldwin Township such as the Rum River Scenic and Wild River, the Sherburne Natural Wildlife Refuge, Young Park and the new Goose Park which may be an environmental learning area. Some of the local lakes in Baldwin Township have public accesses for use.

Civic activities available to the area and residents are the Lions, Jaycees, Kiwanis, Kinship Mentoring, Volunteer Bridge (Linking Volunteers to Community Needs in the Sherburne County Area) and the Princeton Area Library. A compilation of brochures and items are available at the Baldwin Town Hall.

There is an Industrial Park in Princeton along Hwy 169 as well as the township's commercial and industrial area.

The Princeton Municipal Airport, located on Airport Road, is a general aviation airport, covers 304 acres, and has one runway which is 75 feet by 3900 feet long. The airport averages 36 airplanes per day. In 1978, an airport zoning board was created, consisting of representatives of the City of Princeton, Mille Lacs and Sherburne counties. An ordinance regulating zoning use was also adopted and approved by



## COMMUNITY SERVICES

MNDOT (MN Department of Transportation), in compliance with MN Statute § 360 of the Airport Zoning Act. The joint Zoning Board's jurisdiction includes land use within the Airport Hazard Area as defined in the ordinance, and within two (2) miles of the airport boundary, and height restrictions within 1.5 miles of the airport boundary. The ordinance regulates land use and airspace in proximity of two planned runways. Runway 15-33 was planned for a length of 2,600 feet, and runway 04-22 was planned for a length of 2,133 feet. As of 2010, runway 15-33 is constructed at 3,900 feet in length. Runway 04-22 was never constructed. The joint Airport Planning Board is semi-active, with membership consisting of representatives from Baldwin Township sitting on it. The Board reviews all land use applications with Airport Zones A, B, and C. The Board has submitted an Airport Layout Plan (ALP), to the FAA for approval (pending as of 2010), which includes a planned second runway. The ALP does not include an updated zoning ordinance. It is the intention for land use zoning to be left to applicable land use authorities (i.e. city, county and township). It will be the intent of Baldwin Township to obtain a copy of the prior ordinance so an updated one can be developed in the future.<sup>iv</sup>

The Baldwin Township Hall and Maintenance complex is located at 30239 - 128th Street in the township. In addition, the Northeast Sherburne Fire Department and the Public Works garage are also located on the same complex.

In review, it seems that Baldwin Township has the best to offer in the township and can meet its mission of providing for the health, safety and welfare of its community. It is but a small distance to travel to work in the metropolitan area and to be home in time to enjoy the area and its activities. Baldwin Township provides the best of both worlds for work and play.

### **Baldwin Township Community Survey 2013-2014**

In the fall of 2013, the planning commission asked the town board if they could do a community-wide survey to ask some general questions. The town board authorized the survey and it was sent out at the end of November, 2013. Subsequently, a smaller amended survey was also sent out to possible landowners that may have not received the initial survey.

The Baldwin Township Planner presented the final survey results to the town board of Supervisors, the Baldwin Township Planning Commission and the residents at a March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 special meeting. In addition to the recent survey with its amendment portion, the Planner also reviewed and collated four other surveys that were done in the past. They were as follows:

Community Visioning Session done in 2005 / 2006  
Business Community Survey (Business Luncheon) done in 2011  
Business Community Survey (Business Luncheon) done in 2012  
Community Visioning Session done in 2010

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

The survey was sent out to 2,382 parties with 698 surveys returned for a 29% response. The survey was completed by mostly full time residents with agricultural, seasonal, commercial and renters following. Ownership showed the majority of residents have lived here longer than ten years meaning that the township shows a very stable community. This was further borne out in the other surveys above and in the census data to date.

Overall, landowners in the township were satisfied with the quality of life in the township. Those that were not were in the minority and their reasons were poor roads, taxes, poor development processes in the past, and town board procedures (finding them difficult to understand or do).

Main concerns within the township are the same as every township such as roads, taxes, land use conflicts, business climate, not wanting change versus those that do and those wanting better communications between the town board and the community.

When asked about orderly annexation and/or incorporation and if they wished to know more, the community was split almost equally on this subject. More information in the future may help this to shift one way or the other. This is a very difficult subject to understand with passions on both sides felt and expressed.

Roads were discussed and how to proceed with them. Here the community showed that they were incredibly astute on the subject. They stated the following:

- ~Leave them as they are or improve and repair more roads
- ~If more roads are to be improved or repaired, then the township should implement a capital improvement plan or assess the landowners involved.

When asked about land use and permitting in the township, the community was again split almost evenly with slightly more in the negative than positive. Since this questions was asked with a yes or no response, understanding their concerns either way was not completed.

The community was very interested in keeping their parks and trails available to be used. They stated that they would like to see the township consider a park capital improvement plan to develop more parks and trails. The only consideration here is that the maintenance and operation of the parks and trails would ultimately increase taxes in the township. So the consequences of creating and constructing parks would need additional consideration in the future.

Finally, the qualities important to the community of Baldwin were almost the same in all of the surveys when asked. They were in order of the highest to the lowest: a.) Natural resources, b.) Low crime, c.) Friendly people, d.) Community activities, e.) Business opportunities, and f.) Near to public services.

Overall, the survey did reinforce that most of the Baldwin Township community is content with their life and where they live. That while there are always some nagging issues, that they can be handled. If you wish to see the full survey, a copy of the final survey with attachments will be

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

on the website at [www.baldwintownship.govoffice.com](http://www.baldwintownship.govoffice.com). The survey in its entirety is also attached as an Appendix B in the Baldwin Township Community Comprehensive Plan once it is completed.

### **Business Community General Comments in Surveys**

The most recent survey did not have a focus on the business community, but there were general comments. Past surveys that are identified above were reviewed and this gave some common thoughts to the business community itself. Below are the comments presented:

The following comments were made regarding business:

- Community would like to see growth
- Possibly want a main street to identify with Baldwin Township
- Internet speed increased
- Promotion of job opportunities
- Expand and attract businesses to the area
- More infrastructure for business / streets, water and sewer where necessary
- Manage commercial, but don't have a lot of regulations
- Need more light commercial
- Decrease impact of lighting / more consistent and uniform
- Retail stores
- Have businesses that the residents can use all of the time

There were some other themes that presented themselves throughout all of the surveys and they are listed below:

- Develop a business community redevelopment plan which could also lead to business retention and expansion
- Consider an "incubator" (for beginning businesses that might wish to grow larger) business option to attract and allow local home based businesses to grow
- Review and implement plans for improvements for all types of infrastructure inclusive of more wireless opportunities
- Identify a road improvement plan for just the business area / inclusive of tree planting and walking trails for residents to use the retail stores that are available. Possibly create a main street theme for the business area.

The Baldwin Township downtown business area is a valued area for and by the township community. It has provided part of the township's revenue and tax base and reduces taxes to residential property by being here. Many of those with businesses do live here and wish to remain. Further consideration to enhance their business climate is a goal the township desires in order to keep and expand their business base for the future.

# COMMUNITY SERVICES

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Goals / Objectives (Action Plans)

**Goal No. 1:** Initiate, through the business, health and community sectors, a conversation on how to work together to help make Baldwin Township and the neighboring communities more efficient in their delivery of services to the residents of the area.

1. Cultivate quarterly work meetings rotating around the area consisting of local leaders, both in the public and private sector with the goal of economic improvement to the area. Some examples of topics could be the following: business and home protection, community public service events and cultural and economic activities which promote the local area as a whole.
2. Consider green models at businesses to help citizens understand how to be more efficient and how to be efficient with their budgets.
3. Consider a standing committee comprised of all interested jurisdictions to review the public transportation network and its changing nature including road, rail, light rail, airport services, bus and their facilities. Look for efficiencies in networking together for the area.
4. Working with Sherburne County and others, develop and implement an economic development policy for Baldwin Township. This will give direction to the business community and help growth to happen in a managed way.

**Goal No. 2:** Build harmonious relationships with Sherburne County, the neighboring townships and the city of Princeton that will benefit the business and commercial communities.

1. Assist in different transport methods for those that are disabled or in need of transportation.
2. Consider a coffee chat dialogue with neighboring jurisdictions wherein all gather together and discuss the challenges begin faced. Some call it on the 5<sup>th</sup> Friday of those months where it happens. Rotate the meetings and topics.
3. Working together as a joint group, leverage your knowledge and talent toward financing projects when it is necessary and beneficial for the communities in the area.
4. Encourage the use of mentoring programs for small businesses and/or those that might be interested in an “incubator” business model to see if their idea works. Implement workshops for business people to come and learn and to listen to their concerns.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

Information and Resources courtesy of Ms. Elly Rittenour (retired) and Ms. Judy Thorson,  
Planning Commissioners

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- i Numerous local brochures and informational materials on file at the Baldwin Town Hall offices
  - ii Chapter 7. Parks & Recreation. Sherburne County. County Comprehensive Land Use Plan
  - iii <http://rumriverhs.org> Rum River Health Services. 11/16/2012
  - iv <http://www.princetonmchamber.org/index.php/community-information>. Princeton Chamber of Commerce website. 2012

## TRANSPORTATION



BALDWIN TOWNSHIP is located in Sherburne County which is a short commute to the communities of Zimmerman, Elk River and the Minneapolis and St. Paul area. During the time between 1990 and the early 2000 decade, Baldwin Township had extraordinary growth and an increase in road infrastructure. Over those ten years, the township experienced an increase in road mileage from 58.7 miles to 75.3 paved miles. In 2012, the township certified the current mileages as 78.58 miles in the township to Sherburne County. The Public Works Department in the township has a map showing the 2011 road mileage and what roads are covered to confirm the total mileage and the breakdown of each road. Only Big Lake Township in Stearns County has more roads than Baldwin Township.

Sherburne County has an online map showing Baldwin Township's road orders (TROs). This is a map showing the locations and indexing numbers involved. Individual "TROs" are kept at the county in boxes. TROs were prepared only during the late 1800s and early 1900s and they have basically been neglected since then. In the early 1970s many townships went through a process to identify widths, legally describe the roads in their township and to record those documents. Baldwin Township actually recorded their roads and a copy of this map is on record at the Sherburne County Recorder's Office. A copy of the TROs for Baldwin Township is on file at the town offices (planning and zoning files). A very important case in Cass County that went to the Supreme Court found that the recording process was flawed if there had been no compensation for taking the property for the road. Therefore, the road recordings done at that time would need to be refiled in the future. At any rate, it gives townships a starting point and then engineers can resurvey and complete the process in the future.

# TRANSPORTATION

## **Present Road System / Standards**

There are two maps for viewing Baldwin Township's road transportation system; one is the transportation map showing the whole road system in the Township while the other is the Baldwin Township Estimated Road Conditions dated 12.06.2011. Both maps are on file at the town hall offices. The township road map is included at the end of this section.

In January of 2003, the Baldwin Township Board of Supervisors developed and began to implement a twenty year Road Plan for the 77 miles of road within the township. They identified what their costs would be and what projects to prioritize for improvements.

On January of 2009, Baldwin Township employed the firm of Bogart, Pederson and Associates to review and update the prior plan and to develop road standards for the township as well as maintenance schedules to keep the roads in optimum shape within the township. The board identified the township's policy on roads, budget models, and a five year capital improvement plan. In 2004, the township converted to the GASB 34 financial system which has the township capitalize their road assets and to begin to identify their historical costs. Now the township inventories and assesses the condition of their roadways with a ranking system, decides on a minimum level of acceptability for that road, estimates the amount of repairs needed to maintain and renew the roadways and then determines their target for each years' improvements. The levy, which is annually set at the town meeting of the residents, is proposed for each year to be collected and used the next year for the maintenance and improvements. This plan was revised on May 7, 2012 and a set of engineering standards was attached to the plan on June 4, 2012.

The engineering and road standards identify and show road section profiles and construction standards for the town's roads, driveways, drainage profiles and standards, utility construction and standards, and plans for landowners that wish to develop their properties. It has the plates for review and defines and identifies what is arterial, collector, commercial and minor roadways within the township. It further discusses trails attached to roads, right of way widths, signage and mailbox standards. Finally, erosion control and construction practices are also described in the document. While the township does not have any aggregate resources within the township that they use, the travel time from the neighboring township is so small that the economies of having a pit and all of the equipment to crush and trucks to hauls are made up by the short distance. The Township has one shared road agreement with Livonia Township on file. It is unknown at this time if there are others that should be considered and updated.



# TRANSPORTATION

## Budgets

The Baldwin Township budget for the past three years for Road and Bridge are as follows;

<u>Budget / Levy and other Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
2010	\$390,000.00	2010	\$390,000.00
2011	\$385,000.00	2011	\$383,500.00
2012	\$480,256.00	2012	\$482,256.00

The budget and expense breakout for the past years show that the road repairs, salt and sanding and signs for road work has increased dramatically while salaries and wages have declined. Presently, there are two public works staff which increases to include temporary seasonal staff during the winter months. Since the staff are employees of the town including the Clerk/Treasurer and Deputy Clerk, the township has an employee handbook with job descriptions, maintenance worksheets, and they all work under OSHA safety procedures.

The Sherburne County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement services to Baldwin Township. An annual report for 2011 shows that total calls for service/arrests have declined since 2009 with theft, burglary, driving under the influence of alcohol, and criminal damage to property being the primary concerns to the area.

## Ordinances and Policies

Baldwin Township has two important documents; one is *Ordinance No. 100 An Ordinance Regulating Town Road Rights-Of-Way* and *Ordinance No. 500 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 100 Related to Use of Rights-of-Way by Utility Providers* and the other is a *Snow Plowing and Sanding Policy*.

Ordinance No. 100 & No. 500 regarding utilities in Baldwin Township's Road Rights-of-Way deals with what is allowed and not allowed in order to protect the traveling public. The rights of way for townships are very important in that they provide for sightline requirements for safety, regulatory signage for the traveling public, snow storage in the winter, accident relief if necessary to protect people, and to reduce obstructions that could be deadly to parties traveling in the ditched areas. The ordinance sets forth the rules and regulations for the right of way, mailbox standards and other receptacles, standards for headwalls and approaches, culverts and drainage, and parking.

## TRANSPORTATION

Ordinance No. 500 (revisions to Ordinance 100) more specifically deals with utility contractors and their use and construction within and under the township's rights of way. Finally, both ordinances provide the violation process and penalties for parties that do not follow the rules. Both of these ordinances follow the multiple statutory authorities that townships use to regulate their road transportation system and keep the motoring public's health, safety and welfare in the township protected.

The last revisions with the *Snow Plow and Ice Control Policy* were on December 8, 2009. The township is divided into two main routes with MN State Highway 169 as the divider for the snow



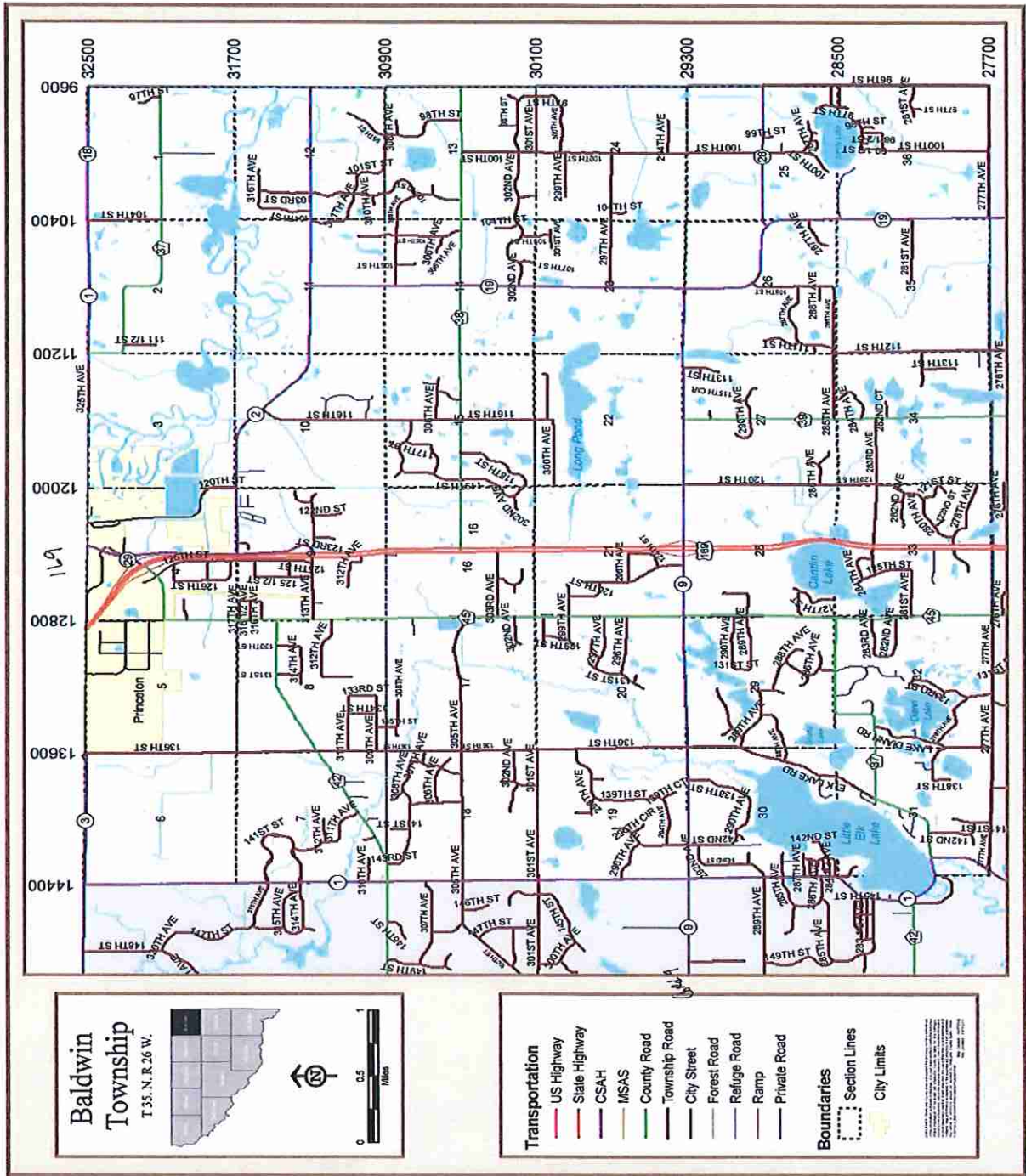
plow trucks. Then the township roads are plowed with the priority roads, intersections, hills and curves first and the secondary roads, stop intersections and moderate volume intersections second. Finally, residential roads and intersections are completed. Salt/sand is applied during and after plowing operations as needed.

Residents are responsible to clear their own driveways, clear areas for trash receptacles, clear around mailboxes and newspaper delivery tubes. Residents must not deposit any snow into the street. The township does not plow private driveways, and mailboxes may not be placed on the township's streets. And residents need to be aware that while snow plow trucks try not to add to their driveways when plowing the township's roads, there will be times when a resident may have to clean the end of their driveway again.

Recently, townships have had to deal with the inventory, repair and maintenance of their signs which are regulatory in nature and are used to inform the public of such things as the following: stop signs, railroad crossings and certain speeds signs. Baldwin Township has adopted a sign policy, per requirements of the federal programs, which is called *Baldwin Township Sign Reflectivity Replacement Policy* adopted by *Resolution No. 13-01* on the 7<sup>th</sup> day January, 2013.

Other Ordinances and policies are the following: *Ordinance No. 301 To Establish Emergency Address Identification* and a *Parking Ordinance No.2003-01(revised December 1, 2003)*. Copies of all of these Ordinances are on file at the town hall offices and each planning commissioner has a copy of the most current in their planning books.

# TRANSPORTATION



Township Road Transportation System

# TRANSPORTATION

## TRANSPORTATION

### Goals / Objectives (Action Plans)

**Goal No. 1:** Build a database and work sheets for the townships road transportation system in order to track the needs and develop budgets for the future.

1. Review the present road system materials and try to identify the key themes to use to build a database and a set of forms for the township public works staff to use when out on the roads.
2. Identify a capital improvement plan for ongoing maintenance of the system and to purchase geographic information system (GIS) location equipment for all signage and culverts to build an inventory.
3. Identify sensitive environments near roadways and implement designs to protect these areas from unwanted dirt and other debris from the roads.
4. Develop a second driveway application and update the Road and Access Ordinance.
5. Identify shared roads with neighboring entities and consider implementation of an agreement so everyone's responsibilities are understood.
6. Identify the widths of the existing township roads and the problems with the road in order to build into the budget or the capital improvement plan, a realistic amount of money to reconstruct and rebuild the road(s) in the future when they are identified to be repaved.
7. Put together a sign and culvert inventory that can be user friendly to show the types, purchases, ages, repair and replacements, etc.

**Goal No. 2:** Develop a future transportation plan with interconnected roads for the health, safety and welfare of the landowners of the community.

1. Implement a road corner on the website or in the newsletter to inform residents of pending construction or a contact to call for signs down, items in ditch, stones and rocks misplaced in the road right of way, etc.
2. Working with neighboring townships and the cities of Princeton and Zimmerman, update your shared road agreements on a two-three year basis. If construction is pending on the shared roads, a contact should be used.
3. Work with the business area to consider paving all of the road within the business community to a heavier tonnage to allow semi traffic to travel on the roads. Encourage the business community to give input into the process.
4. Road counters can be leased and/or purchased to identify the traffic counts for the roads in the township. This will help with prioritization of the roads and guide the budgets.

## TRANSPORTATION

5. Activate a committee for Recycle Day. The committee would be charged to see how many items that they can get recycled and help motivate the community to recycle. Offer options and incentives to the residents to encourage these actions

Source and Excerpts for the Transportation Section courtesy of Mr. Terry Carlile, Planning Commissioner

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1. Baldwin Township Capital Improvement Plan 2010-2015. Revised and approved with Engineering Standards and Plates on 06.04.2012.
2. Baldwin Township Snow Plowing and Ice Control Policy. Adopted on 12.08.2009.
3. Baldwin Township Ordinance No. 100. An Ordinance Regulating Town Road Rights-Of-Way adopted 09.15.2009 and Ordinance No. 500. An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 100 Related to Use of Rights-of-Way by Utility Providers revised and adopted on 11.07.2011.
4. Baldwin Township Resolution No. 13-01 Resolution Adopting Sign Retro-Reflectivity and Replacement Policy adopted on 01.07.2013.
5. Baldwin Township Parking Ordinance #2003-01. Revised December 1, 2003.
6. Baldwin Township 2011 Road Mileage Map. Includes specific road mileage breakdowns.
7. Baldwin Township Road Order Map. Website of Sherburne County. August 3, 2007.
8. Baldwin Township Estimated Road Conditions 2011. Map. Courtesy of Bogart, Pederson & Associates. 12.06.2011.
9. Baldwin Township Transportation Map. Website of Sherburne County. 06.27.2012.
10. Baldwin Township Budgetary Information. Courtesy of Public Works Department. 2012.



## BALDWIN TOWNSHIP

30239 128<sup>th</sup> Street, Princeton MN 55371

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### RESOLUTION NO. 2014 - \_\_\_\_\_

#### RESOLUTION ACCEPTING RECOMMENDATION OF BALDWIN PLANNING COMMISSION AND ADOPTING BALDWIN TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors of Baldwin Township has continued to see new growth and development within the Township over the past five-seven years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Baldwin has begun to consider the issues and problems associated with said growth; and

**WHEREAS**, the Baldwin Township Board wishes to work with their residents and has discussed Planning to manage said growth within their Township boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Baldwin has statutory authority to do planning and zoning under Minnesota Statutes § 462; and

**WHEREAS**, the Baldwin Township Board of Supervisors established the Baldwin Township Planning Commission on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2011, under Ordinance 200 – An Ordinance Establishing A Planning Commission, to deal with the planning and growth issues in the Baldwin Township community, pursuant to M.S. § 462, and , and;

**WHEREAS**, the Baldwin Township Planning Commission has held the required statutory Hearing on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at the Baldwin Town Hall located at \_\_\_\_\_, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Baldwin Township Planning Commission has reviewed all comments and made the necessary changes and recommends adoption of the Baldwin Township Comprehensive Community Plan to the Town Board;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Board of Supervisors of Baldwin Township, Sherburne County, Minnesota:

That the Baldwin Township Board of Supervisors does hereby accept the Baldwin Township Planning Commission's recommendation to adopt the Baldwin Township Community Comprehensive Plan which shall be effective and in force after adoption of this Resolution.



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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Town Board of Supervisors of Baldwin Township, Sherburne County, Minnesota;

That the Baldwin Town Board of Supervisors instructs the Baldwin Planning Commission Secretary to do the following:

1. Make the necessary final copies of the Baldwin Township Community Comprehensive Plan and distribute them accordingly to the required governmental entities.
2. That a final formal copy be placed on file with the Baldwin Township Clerk/Treasurer and another formal copy be placed with the Baldwin Planning Commission Secretary.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was made by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ and upon a vote being taken thereon was duly passed.

**AYES:**

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAINED:**

**ABSENT:**

**ADOPTED** by the Baldwin Town Board of Supervisors this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

**BALDWIN TOWNSHIP**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jay Swanson, Chairman

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy Stevens, Clerk/Treasurer





## INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

citizens of Baldwin Township with the City of Princeton. It is a reminder that citizens suffer when governmental entities cannot work together jointly.

Today, governments have become more interdependent in order to sustain themselves. Developing working arrangements with the local governmental entities in the area and pooling their efforts will help everyone to keep costs down for their residents. Further, long-term land use management will help identify what the future of Baldwin Township and the surrounding area will look like. These cooperative efforts may advance the whole regional area and allow everyone to benefit and continue to grow.<sup>1</sup>



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

## GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

### Goals / Objectives (Action Plans)

**Goal 1:** Identify and implement different methods to interact with neighboring cities and townships to provide better communication, knowledge of needs and trust in order for the area to prosper economically and to build a better community.

1. Exchange newsletters with Town Board /City Council / Sherburne County quarterly in order to keep current with what is happening.
2. Rotate quarterly and have board members visit with council members to discuss like issues and how they could be handled over a cup of coffee before they become contentious. Improve communication efforts to build a rapport with others.
3. Review where there could be shared visions and economies of services in order to reduce costs for everyone.
4. Identify when there are possible grant dollars that could impact the whole area and work towards the common goal. An example of this is the 4 R Park Board which uses this concept to finance the regional goals and objectives for the park system.

**Goal 2:** Communicate and educate the township, its residents, and the neighboring entities regarding options on incorporation, consolidation, orderly annexation agreements, and contractual working relationships in order to have better understanding by all parties regarding future relationships together.

1. Identify a subcommittee of board and planning commission members to educate themselves on the merits and drawbacks, including legal ramifications of incorporation, consolidation, orderly annexation agreements and other mechanisms.
2. Review and consider other prior agreements from entities that have met these challenges successfully.
3. Educate the community on these same issues and how the town board may wish to deal with them. Consider actively seeking input through informal coffee meetings to allow residents to come in and sit down and have frank discussions.
4. Interact with the city of Princeton to discuss, without any decisions, the future of the area and the options for the future such as cooperation, orderly annexation and/or joint contract

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

arrangements. Consider this in an unhurried, unhampered manner and take the time to consider everything.

**Goal 3:** Prepare and implement working agreements with the neighboring townships and cities regarding reciprocity and emergency planning for problems such as natural disasters, water and wastewater issues, and storm preparedness.

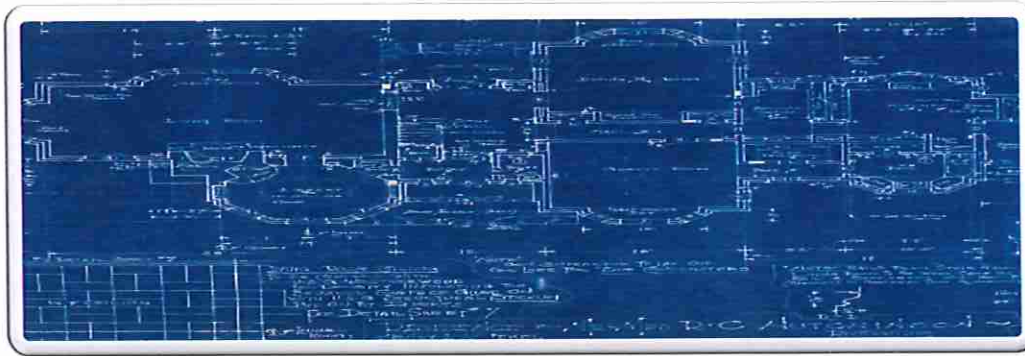
1. Discuss reciprocity agreements for the fire departments and initiate those agreements in advance of problems.
2. Review MN Rural Water Association Emergency Water/Wastewater Plans for disaster situations and work towards implementation with neighboring entities
3. Implement a preparedness action plan and convey its contents to the residents of the township, inclusive of road exits, water and wastewater tools and who to contact in case of an emergency situation. Consider drills to practice.
4. Prepare a capital improvement plan and place dollars aside to purchase necessary equipment and signage for possibly emergency situations.
5. Coordinate with Sherburne County Liaison Services where possible to affect the necessary steps to a successful plan for the regional area.

Source Information provided by Mr. Rich Harris, Planning Commissioner

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<sup>i</sup> Documents on file at the Township Hall / Planning Commissioners files

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS



## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

IN ORDER for Baldwin Township to work towards the future, planning begins with some ideas and the development of an annual budget. This is usually presented to the community in March of each year at the annual town meeting of the residents. A Capital Improvement Plan is defined as follows: “Capital Improvement Plan” means an itemized program setting forth the schedule and details of specific contemplated public improvements by fiscal year, together with their estimated cost, the justification for each improvement, the impact that such improvements will have on the current operating expense of the municipality, and such other information on capital improvements as may be pertinent (MN Statute 462.352 definitions). Some uses for capital improvement plans are to do new town halls, fire department equipment and buildings, road improvements, park improvements and wastewater/water improvements. Essentially, it is setting aside the necessary money to do what is needed without having to borrow all of the funds to complete a project(s).<sup>1</sup>

Townships always have a challenge explaining their levies and why they need them when they are at annual town meetings. It is because the levy in March is not certified until September 15<sup>th</sup> at the end of the year and the money does not come in until the next year, but in only two payments. June’s payments come in the latter part of June (70%) and the rest of the payment is received in July and the second payment is received around December. So at the meeting in March when asking the community for a set levy, the residents don’t realize that the fund accounts are sitting with money just received in December, but they must last until July. This is a difficult concept for residents to comprehend and consequently a community will not authorize enough. Therefore, the town’s responsibility is to budget carefully, to show the need and to explain how to reach that goal. A capital improvement plan is a method to do this, especially for a large project or large ongoing projects that need capital. Planning ahead and developing a well thought out plan helps the citizens to understand these budgetary changes.

Baldwin Township has developed plans over the years to deal with such large expenses. In 2006, the town board showed the community expenses for town hall financing, fire hall maintenance, equipment and blacktop planned projects. Today, Baldwin Township has



## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

a capital improvement plan to reconstruct and pave their town roads. A copy of this is located on the wall at the Town Hall along with the proposed costs for the future year. The Town employs an engineering firm to develop their road plans and specifications so proper bidding can take place. They also project work each year for doing crack sealing and repairs to the roads.

In 2010, Baldwin Township worked with their engineer to update and implement what is called the Capital Improvement Plan 2010-2015. The townships' goal was to determine a way to maintain their infrastructure and determine the costs associated with this. The board developed a policy regarding standards for evaluating its transportation system and adopted a budget maintenance model to do this. They rated their roads on criteria developed and then determined a road plan to follow. Basic road data and budget models are also included in this plan. Each year, the township will identify and request road and bridge levies from the residents at their annual meeting of the town to complete their road projects. A copy of the plan is on file at the offices.

Capital Improvement Plans are long term pictures that help a community to decide on where they wish to spend their funds and plan for their future.



## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

## Goals / Objectives (Action Plans)

**Goal 1:** Repair and build infrastructure, through a road capital improvement program, within the township so that it will continue to provide a safe and healthy environment for the residents in the township.

1. Improve road arteries to accommodate increased heavy road and truck traffic by cleaning ditch areas and paving entrances to the existing business and industrial district.
2. Project ahead for the population needs for the road transportation system for 5, 10, 20 years and what advances should the transportation system look like. Develop models.
3. Build support by using the township website and newsletter to educate the residents regarding capital improvement plans and how they work to help improve the townships' tax base and keep taxes low overall. Identify and enlist a writer to provide articles on a bi-annual basis.

**Goal 2:** Provide for the support and enhancement of the existing business and possibly consider beginning a secondary business district area to provide all areas to the township convenience to services and marketable items without traveling in many directions.

1. Consider wireless opportunities for the existing business area and social media usages by surveying the businesses.
2. Begin to identify the area around County Road 9 and speak with area residents to see if this is a feasible option for the southern portion of the township for a business town square.
3. Advertise the existing businesses (as a business park) to increase the road traffic into the area by placing a business sign announcing that you are entering the Baldwin business area.
4. Invest in an area improvement plan for beautification of the area along the Highway 169 corridors.
5. Consider signage for all businesses in one sign so that those traveling through the area will know what is available. May wish to consider a subtle flashing sign for the viewing public.

**Goal 3:** Increase the use of green alternatives for public structures as well as residential structures in the township.

1. Coordinate a Capital Improvement Green Plan for use to assist industrial, commercial and private entities as well as residential parties to understand and build with green energy components.
2. Plan a road trip to the neighboring township to do a workshop and explore their structures to understand what can and was done and how the structures were financed and paid.
3. Review a work plan to begin small by doing things that everyone can consider not only for their businesses, but for their homes such as solar energy, window repairs and other minor changes to

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

save on energy costs. Work with suppliers to hold small trade opportunities at the town hall for landowners and business parties to come in and learn together.

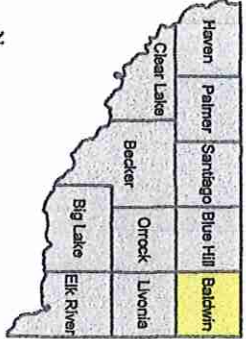
Source materials provided courtesy of Mr. Scott Case, Commissioner (Retired)

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<sup>i</sup> Baldwin Township Capital Improvement Plan 2010-2015. Bogart, Pederson and Associates, Inc. January, 2009

# Baldwin Township

## Proposed Land Use Plan



Township Boundary

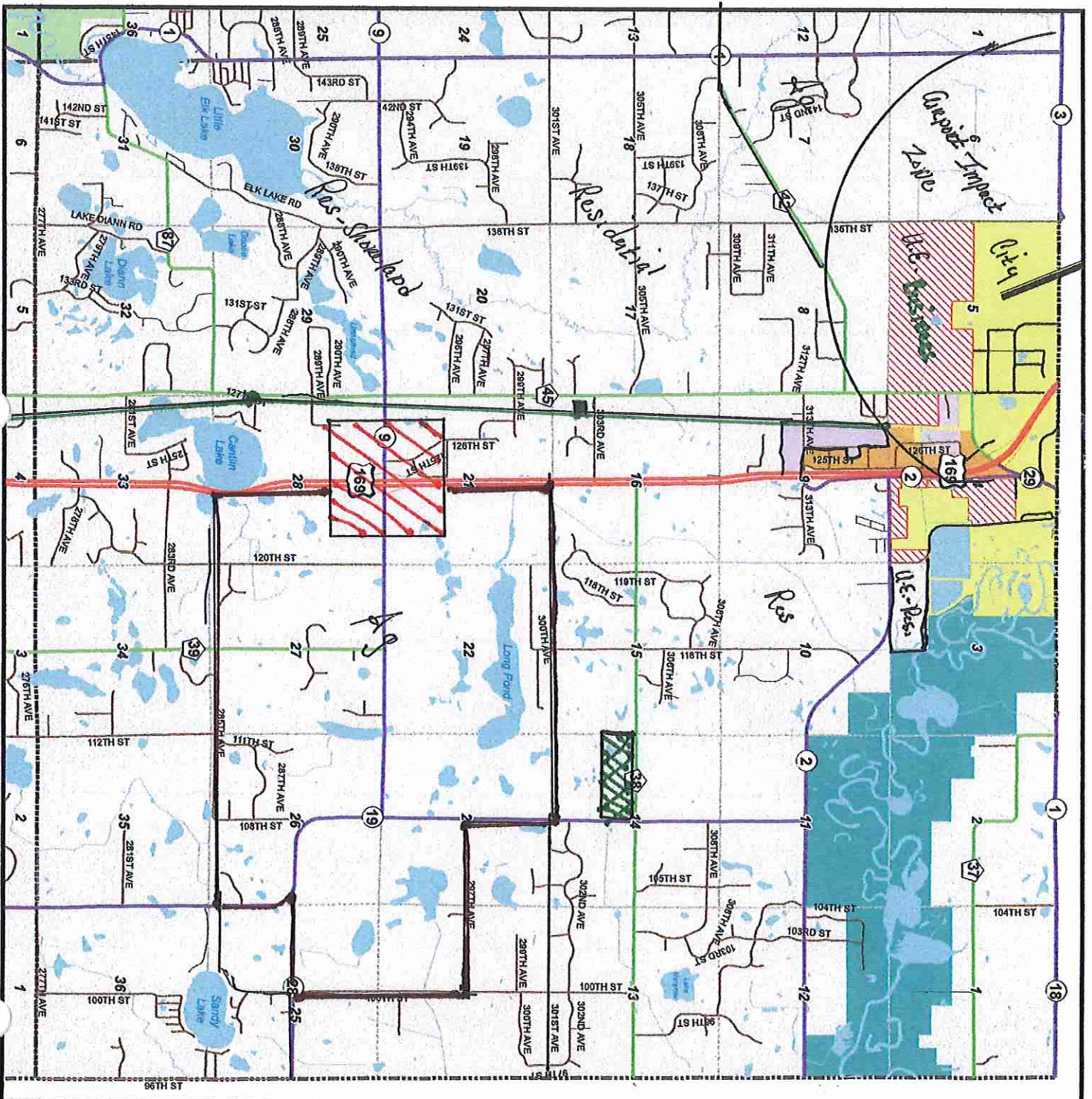
### Zoning

- Agricultural
- City Limits
- Commercial
- General Rural
- Industrial
- Urban Expansion
- Scenic River

Refuge Road  
 Private Road

*Proposed Commercial*  
*169+9*  
*Park*  
*Ag - Right Middle*  
*NW Corner*  
*Res - Streets to be determined*

DISCLAIMER: Shastara County does not warrant the accuracy for the construction of the information contained in this map. It is your responsibility to verify the accuracy of the information. The information is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used for any other purpose. The information is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used for any other purpose. The information is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used for any other purpose.



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### 2014 – 2017 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN POLICY (ACTION PLANS) TIMELINES

<u>ACTION PLANS</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>COMMUNITY HISTORY</b> ✓ Historical Preservation						
<b>DEMOGRAPHICS</b> ✓ Housing						
<b>LAND USES</b> ✓ Land Use Goals ✓ Economic Development						
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b> ✓ Environmental ✓ Shorelands, Critical Habitat, Wetlands						
<b>PARKS AND RECREATION</b> ✓ Parks & Recreation						
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES</b> ✓ Public Infrastructure						
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b> ✓ Transportation						
<b>GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS</b> ✓ Governmental						
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS</b> ✓ Capital Improvements						











