

# Comprehensive Plan for Town of Brooklyn, Green County

2025 – 2035

Draft September 10, 2025



PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY



SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN  
**REGIONAL PLANNING**  
COMMISSION

# TOWN OF BROOKLYN, GREEN COUNTY, WI

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## **Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning**

### **Commission Staff:**

**Troy Maggied, Executive Director**

Kate Koziol

Jaclyn Essandoh

Ellen Tyler

Austin Coppernoll

Alyssa Schaeffer

Bryce Mann

Jacob Nelson

Melinda Nicely

## **Planning Assistance Provided by:**



**SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN  
REGIONAL PLANNING  
COMMISSION**

P.O. Box 262, Platteville WI 53818

p: 608.342.1636 • f: 608.342.1220

e: [info@swwrpc.org](mailto:info@swwrpc.org), [www.swwrpc.org](http://www.swwrpc.org)

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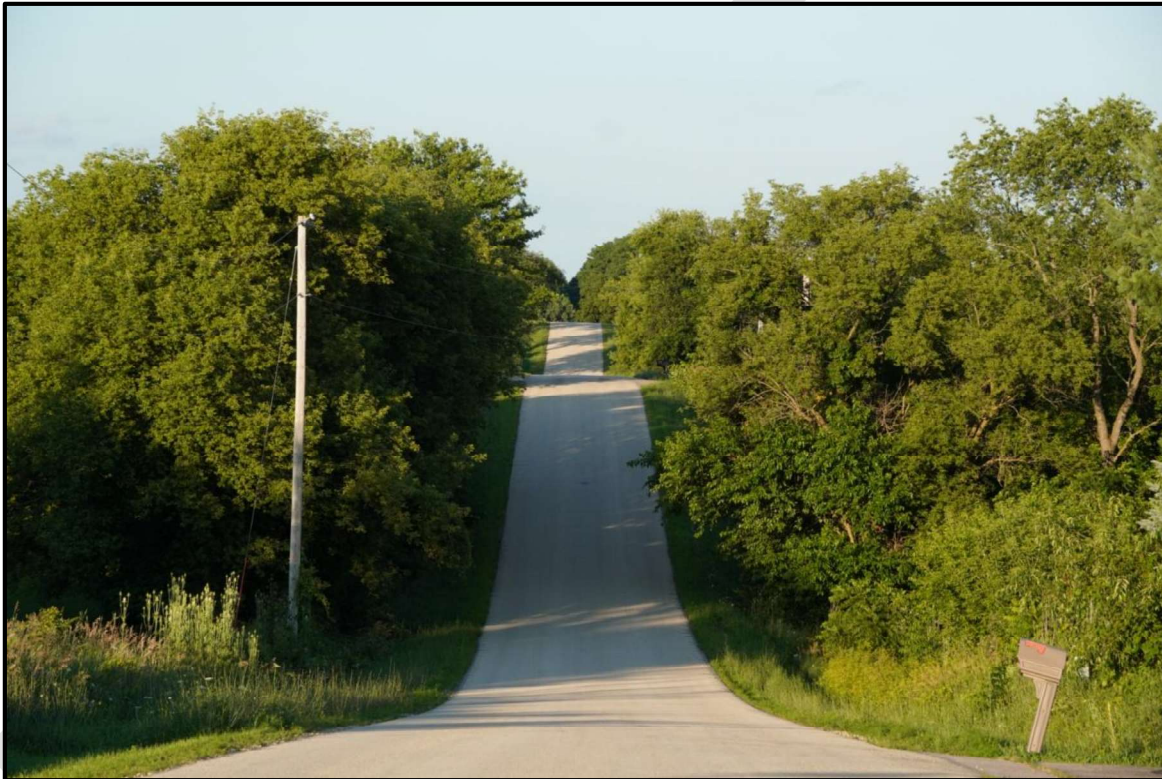
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# 1.0 Issues and Opportunities

## 1.1 Chapter Summary

The purpose of this section is to provide basic background information for the comprehensive planning process and general demographic characteristics for the Town of Brooklyn. More specifically this section includes information from meetings with elected and appointed officials, public hearing, community profile and projection data including population trends, age distribution, and population projections.



## 1.2 Goals, Objectives, Policy, and Program Recommendations

The following are the Issues and Opportunities goals, objectives, policy, and program recommendations for Brooklyn. The essence of these recommendations is reflected throughout the entire document.

1. **Protect and preserve the rural community character of the Town of Brooklyn.**
2. **Preserve and enhance the quality of life for the residents of the Town of Brooklyn.**
3. **Protect and improve the health, safety, and welfare of residents in the Town of Brooklyn.**



*Note: The above policy recommendations are further explained in other elements of this comprehensive plan. This section provides background information and overall direction. For example, the above recommendations may be carried out by implementing recommendations in other sections such as housing, economic development, and transportation.*

#### Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001(2)(a)

##### (a) Issues and Opportunities

Background information on the local governmental unit and a statement of overall objectives, policies, goals and programs of the local governmental unit to guide the future development and redevelopment of the local governmental unit over a 20-year planning period. Background information shall include population, household and employment forecasts that the local governmental unit uses in developing its comprehensive plan, and demographic trends, age distribution, educational levels, income levels and employment characteristics that exist within the local governmental unit.

## 1.3 Community Vision

A vision statement identifies both where a community intends to be in the future and how to meet the future needs of stakeholders: its citizens. The vision statement incorporates the community's shared understanding of its nature and purpose and uses this understanding to move together towards a greater purpose. On March 4, 2025, the Town of Brooklyn Board and Plan Commission convened a focus group to gather resident input for the Comprehensive Plan update. Participants were selected through a random sampling process. The Town Planning Commission utilized the visioning information from these discussions to create their formal vision statement:

***The Town of Brooklyn envisions a thriving rural community nestled in a beautiful natural setting. It is home to both large and small farms, along with a variety of agricultural enterprises. The Town is committed to maintaining quality roads that serve residents and visitors alike.***

***We value environmental stewardship, including clean water, open spaces for recreation, and the preservation of natural features and protected habitats. We acknowledge the importance of identifying and preserving our historical and archaeological sites.***

***The Town of Brooklyn is a forward-thinking community that collaborates with neighboring municipalities to share services, equipment, and ideas. We support orderly development that protects prime agricultural land and maintains the Town's safe, uncongested, and rural character.***

## 1.4 Background and Planning Area

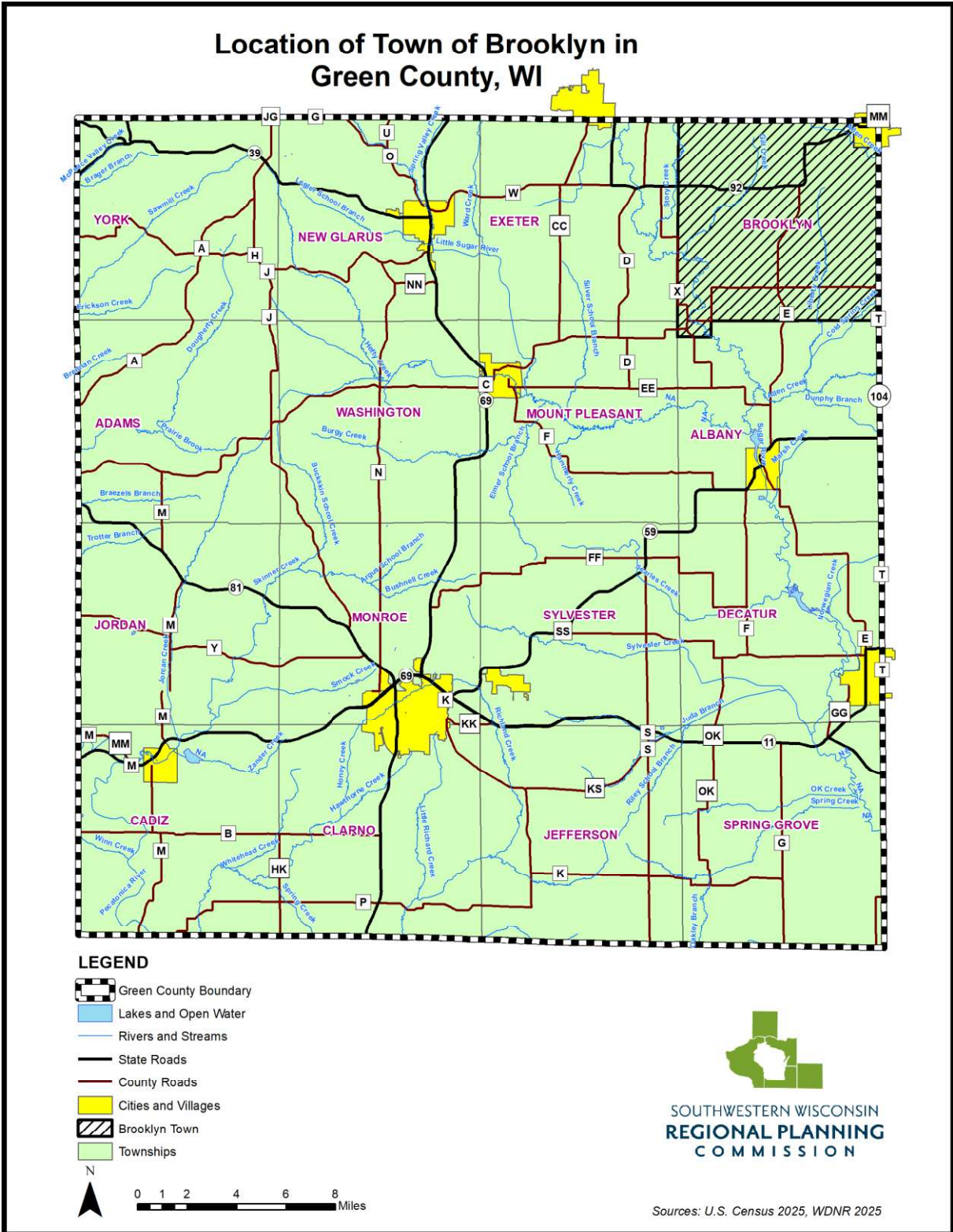
Under the Comprehensive Planning Legislation, adopted by the State of Wisconsin in 1999, beginning on January 1, 2010, if a local unit of government enacts or amends any of the following ordinances, the ordinance shall be consistent with the local government unit's comprehensive plan.

- Official Mapping
- Zoning
- Subdivision Regulations
- Shorelands or Wetlands Zoning

Comprehensive plans are a blueprint for how a community will develop and grow. Their purpose is to provide communities with information and policies that they shall use in the future to guide planning and community decisions. The Comprehensive Plan includes nine elements: Issues and Opportunities; Housing, Transportation;

Utilities and Community Facilities; Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources; Economic Development, Intergovernmental Cooperation; Land-use; and Implementation. Each element contains a compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps, and programs as a guide to planning efforts. Map 1.1 shows the location of Brooklyn Town in Green County, Wisconsin.

Map 1.1 Town of Brooklyn, Green County, WI



#### • **1.4.1 Roles and Responsibilities**

The following indicates the roles and responsibilities of each entity involved in the comprehensive planning process.

- **Southwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC)**
  - a. Provide staff services and project management for process.
  - b. Produce written plans and supplementary documents.
  - c. Plan, coordinate, and staff Town meetings.
- **Town Planning Commission**
  - a. Provide feedback and direction to SWWRPC in developing plan policies, information, and implementation measures.
  - b. Hold meetings to discuss comprehensive planning issues.
  - c. Update comprehensive plan and recommend it to the governing body for adoption.
- **Town Board**
  - a. Appoint plan commission members.
  - b. Provide funds for the process.
  - c. Provide notice for and hold local meetings and hearings for the adoption of the plan and implementation measures via ordinance.

## **1.5 Public Participation Plan**

As part of the Comprehensive Planning legislation, every community must develop a public participation plan at the beginning of the planning process. The Town of Brooklyn Planning Commission has developed guidelines for involving the public as part of the requirements of the Comprehensive Planning Process (Section 66.1001(4)(a), Stats.). The goal of a public participation plan is to promote awareness of the planning process, to keep the public informed and educated, and to obtain input and participation from the public in order to create a plan, which reflects the vision and goals of the community.

In 2005, Southwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC) and UW-Extension were involved in a variety of outreach activities throughout the planning process. SWWRPC conducted informational meetings on each of the elements throughout the planning process. There were a variety of outreach methods either SWWRPC or UW-Extension used to publish the dates, times, and locations of informational meetings and can be found in the original Comprehensive plan. For the purpose of updating the plan in 2025, the Town of Brooklyn Plan Commission used the following methods as ways for public participation throughout the planning process:

1. Focus Group Discussions were held to gather resident input for the Comprehensive Plan update. Participants were selected through a random sampling process. Approximately 120 invitations were mailed to town residents, and 13 individuals agreed to participate. Attendees included two lifelong residents (with 50 and 70+ years of residency), a new resident of less than one year, four residents with 9 to 12 years of residency, and six residents who have lived in the town for 20 years or more. The methodology and discussion questions are detailed in the Focus Group Discussion Guide, which will be included as an attachment to the plan
2. Post agendas and meeting minutes at 3 designated posting locations and on the website one week prior to the meeting.
3. Post public notices at the Town Shop and on the website.

During the implementation phase of the project, the Planning Commission adopts, by majority vote, a resolution that formally recommends the adoption of the comprehensive plan (and any future plan amendments) to the Town Board. Electronic copies of the recommended and adopted plan will be sent via email to the clerks of the towns of Exeter, Mount Pleasant, Albany, Union, magnolia, Montrose, Oregon, and Rutland and Green County. (Section 66.1001(4)(b), Stats.) In addition, a digital copy of the plan will be emailed to the Wisconsin Department of Administration and to the Public Library serving the jurisdiction. Paper copies will also be given to the Town Clerk for each member of the Planning Commission and Town Board, and one for the Town Clerk.

In order to comply with Act 307 regarding nonmetallic mining, the Town of Brooklyn will also email a copy of the plan, per a written request, to any operator who has applied for or obtained a nonmetallic reclamation permit; a person who has registered a marketable nonmetallic mineral deposit; and any other property owner or leaseholder who has an interest in property allowing the extraction of nonmetallic mineral resources.

Prior to adopting the plan, the Town of Brooklyn Plan Commission will hold at least one public hearing to discuss the recommended updates to the plan (Section 66.1001(4)(d), Stats.) and provide an opportunity for written comments by the public and respond to such comments through review and discussion at a Town Board meeting. At least 30 days prior to the hearing, a Class 1 notice will be published that contains, at a minimum, the following:

- The date, time and location of the hearing
- A summary of the proposed plan or plan amendment
- The local government staff that can be contacted for additional information
- Where to inspect and how to obtain a copy of the proposal before the hearing

The Town Board, by a majority vote, shall enact the ordinance adopting the recommended plan (Section 66.1001(4)(c), Stats.). The adopted plan and ordinance shall be distributed to the aforementioned parties in Section 66.1001(4)(b), Stats. The plan shall contain all nine elements identified in Section 66.1001(2), Stats. If the Town Board asks the Planning Commission to revise the recommended plan, it is not mandatory that these revisions be sent to the distribution list. However, in the spirit of public participation and intergovernmental cooperation, revisions constituting a substantial change to the recommended plan may be sent to the distribution list.

## **1.6 Community Profile and Projection**

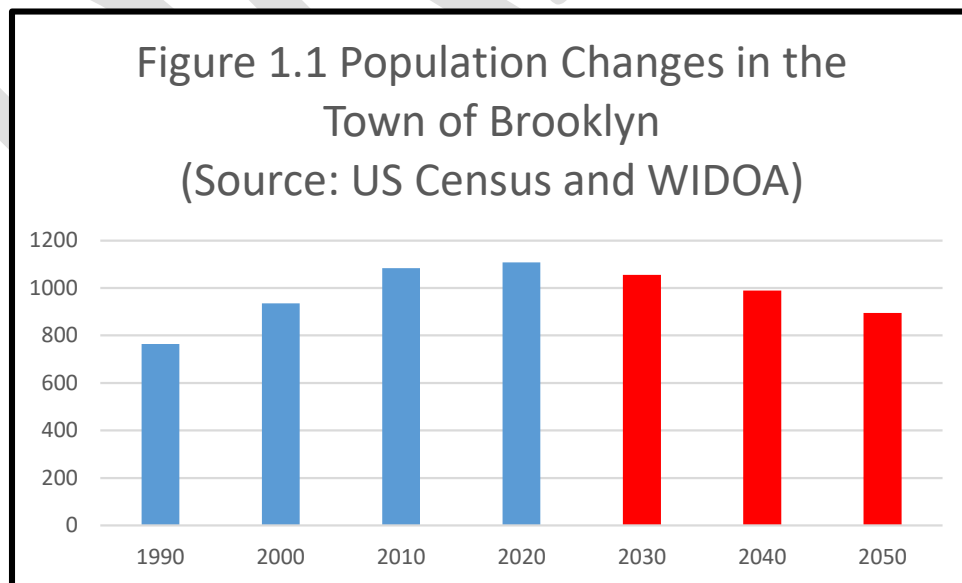
The following displays the population statistics and projections that were prepared as part of the requirements of the Comprehensive Planning legislation. Other demographic data and statistics, such as employment characteristics, are in their corresponding chapters.



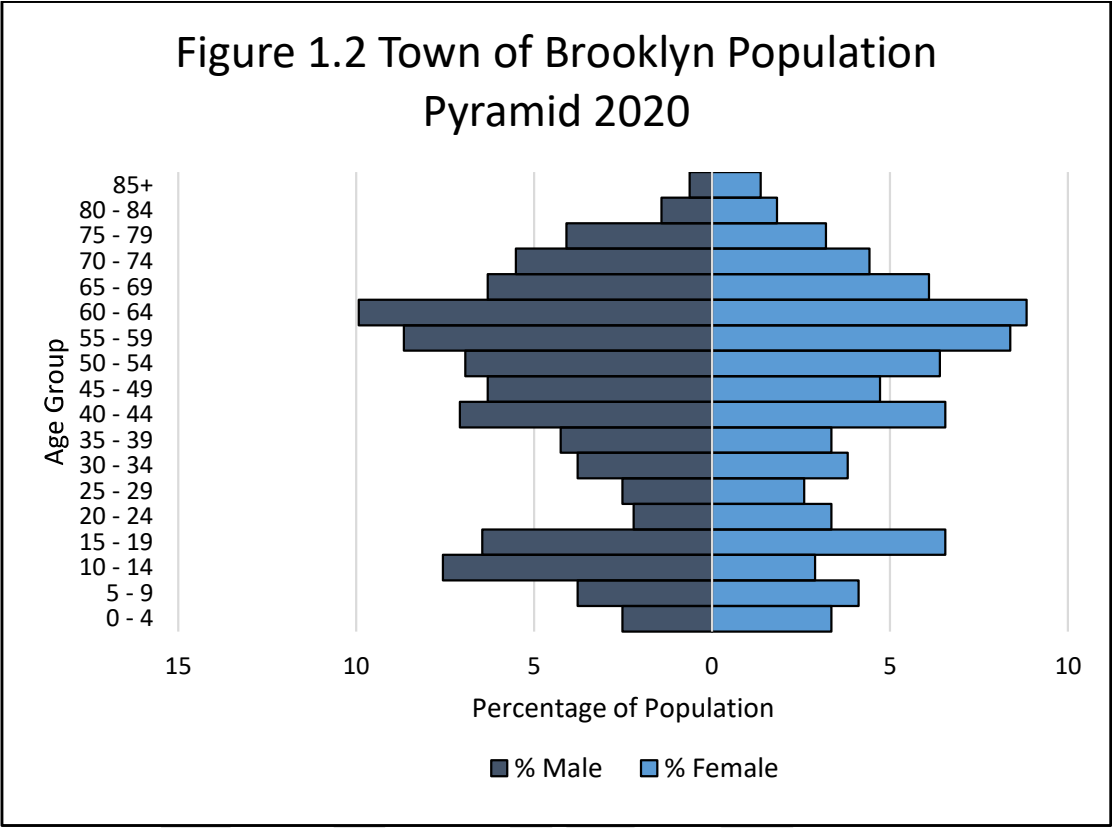
**Table 1.1:** Population Statistics (Source: DP-1, DP-2. 2020 U.S. Census).

Population	Town of Brooklyn Number	Town of Brooklyn Percent	Green County Number	Green County Percent	Wisconsin Number	Wisconsin Percent
Total Population (1990)	764	100.0%	30,339	100.0%	4,891,769	100.0%
Total Population (2000)	936	100.0%	33,647	100.0%	5,363,675	100.0%
Total Population (2010)	1,083	100.0%	36,842	100.0%	5,686,986	100.0%
Total Population (2020)	1,108	100.0%	37,093	100.0%	5,893,718	100.0%
<b>SEX AND AGE (2020)</b>						
Male	571	51.5%	18,491	49.9%	2,931,605	49.7%
Female	537	48.5%	18,602	50.1%	2,962,113	50.3%
Under 5 years	38	3.4%	1,926	5.2%	322,285	5.5%
5 to 9 years	51	4.6%	2,182	5.9%	352,714	6.0%
10 to 14 years	67	6.0%	2,620	7.1%	380,649	6.5%
15 to 19 years	84	7.6%	2,255	6.1%	386,233	6.6%
20 to 24 years	36	3.2%	1,614	4.4%	379,451	6.4%
25 to 29 years	33	3.0%	1,845	5.0%	364,175	6.2%
30 to 34 years	49	4.4%	2,158	5.8%	376,948	6.4%
35 to 39 years	49	4.4%	2,236	6.0%	376,978	6.4%
40 to 44 years	88	7.9%	2,275	6.1%	347,361	5.9%
45 to 49 years	71	6.4%	2,319	6.3%	338,173	5.7%
50 to 54 years	86	7.8%	2,429	6.5%	370,848	6.3%
55 to 59 years	110	9.9%	2,929	7.9%	424,014	7.2%
60 to 64 years	121	10.9%	2,842	7.7%	413,872	7.0%
65 to 69 years	80	7.2%	2,459	6.6%	354,789	6.0%
70 to 74 years	64	5.8%	1,937	5.2%	273,536	4.6%
75 to 79 years	47	4.2%	1,283	3.5%	182,885	3.1%
80 to 84 years	21	1.9%	840	2.3%	121,994	2.1%
85+ years	13	1.2%	944	2.5%	126,813	2.2%
<b>Median Age (2020)</b>	<b>49.3</b>		<b>43.7</b>		<b>40.1</b>	

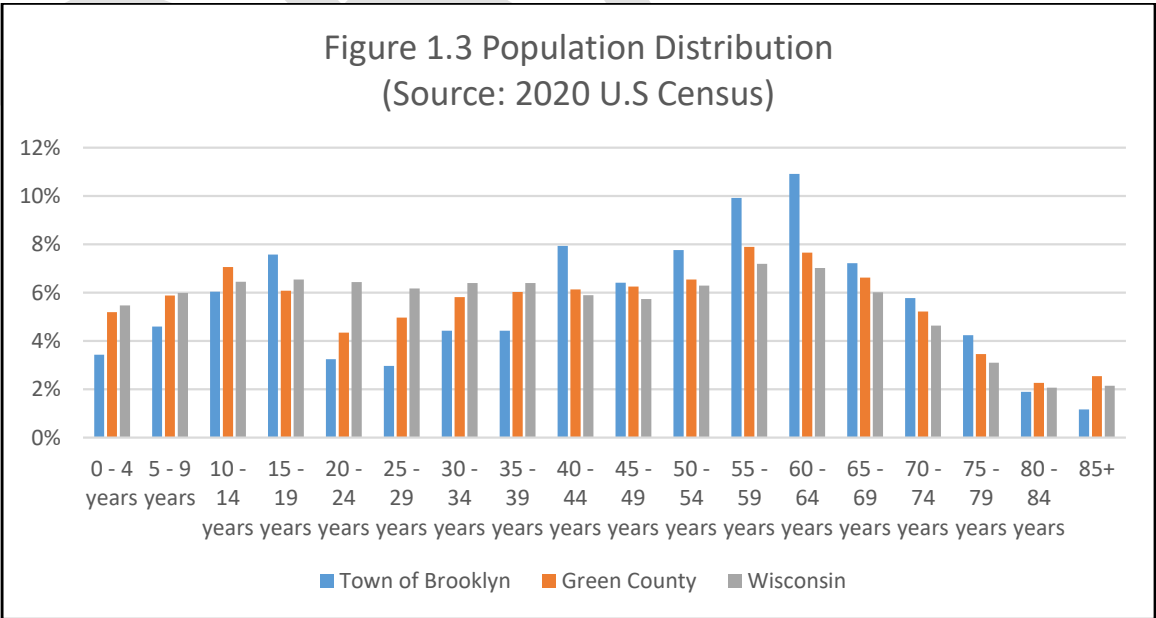
**Figure 1.1** – Shows that the Town of Brooklyn experienced an overall population increase from 1990 to 2020 of 45%. Data from the Wisconsin Department of Administration (WI DOA) shows population projections for the Town of Brooklyn for the years 2030, 2040, and 2050 as 1054, 989, and 894 respectively.



**Figure 1.2** – Shows the Town of Brooklyn population pyramid for the year 2020. The largest group is ages 60 to 64 (121 people) making up 10.9% of the population. The second largest age group of 55 to 59 (110 people) contains 9.9% of the population. The Town’s median age is 42.5.



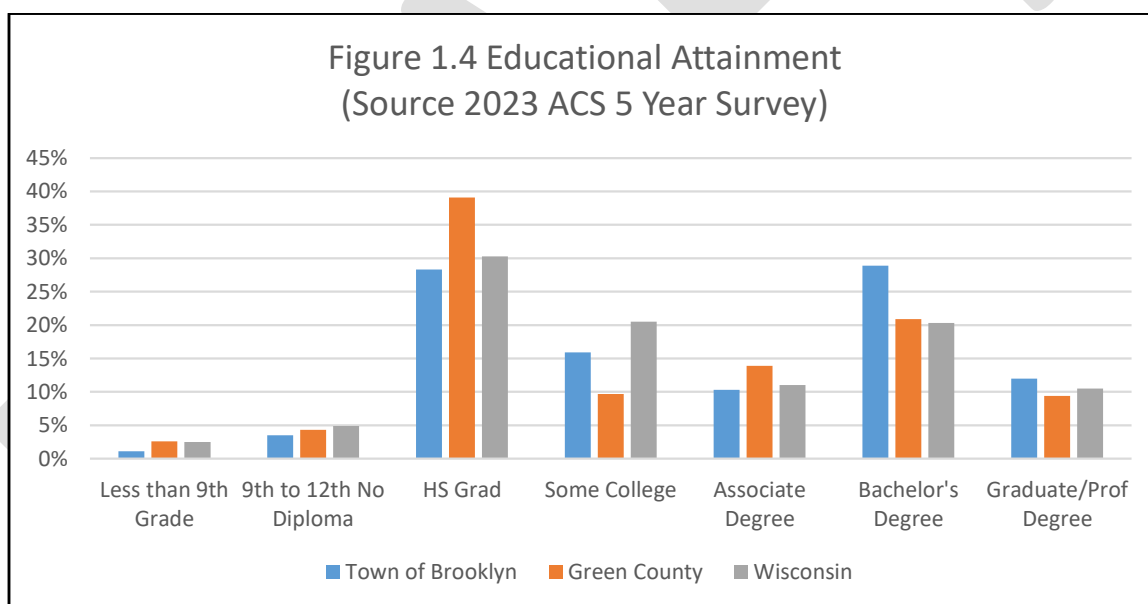
**Figure 1.3** – Comparison of the population by age group by percentage of the Town of Brooklyn, Green County, and the State of Wisconsin. Figure 1.3 shows that Brooklyn over-indexes most strongly during the “established adult” years, but not during the “senior” years.



**Table 1.2:** Educational Attainments (Source: ACS 5 Year Survey, 2020)

Educational Attainment	Town of Brooklyn Number	Town of Brooklyn Percent	Green County Number	Grant County Percent	Wisconsin Percent
Less than 9th Grade	9	1.1%	618	2.6%	2.5%
9th to 12th No Diploma	30	3.5%	1,005	4.3%	4.9%
HS Grad	242	28.3%	9,169	39.1%	30.3%
Some College	136	15.9%	2,282	9.7%	20.5%
Associate Degree	88	10.3%	3,252	13.9%	11%
Bachelor's Degree	247	28.9%	4,911	20.9%	20.3%
Graduate/Prof. Degree	103	12%	2,208	9.4%	10.5%
Percent High School Grad or Higher		95.4%		93.1%	92.6%

**Figure 1.4 –** Comparison of the population by educational attainment by percentage of the Town of Brooklyn, Green County, and the State of Wisconsin. The Town of Brooklyn has a higher proportion of college-educated residents compared to the county and state averages. This elevated level of educational attainment can have several impacts: it often correlates with higher household incomes, stronger civic engagement, and greater demand for community amenities. It may also influence the local labor force by supporting knowledge-based industries or remote work opportunities.



## 1.7 Issues and Opportunities Agencies and Programs

At the end of each chapter of this comprehensive plan is a section that lists some of the state and federal agencies and programs that exist to help communities: it is not an exhaustive list. Many of these agencies and programs (a brief program description and contact information is given) can provide expertise or funding to help implement some of the recommendations of this comprehensive plan. Your community should contact the agency of interest to obtain the most up-to-date information. Grants.gov (see below) is one source that could be used to accrue funding for all types of projects. Grants.gov ([www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov))

Grants.gov allows organizations to electronically find and apply for competitive grant opportunities from all Federal grant-making agencies. Grants.gov is the single access point for over 900 grant programs offered by the 26 Federal grant-making agencies. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is the managing partner for Grants.gov.

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## 2.0 Utilities and Community Facilities

### 2.1 Chapter Summary

The purpose of this chapter is to inventory, map, and forecast utilities and community facilities. Often referred to as public works, utilities and community facilities are the physical infrastructure of a community. They facilitate the community's ability to function and grow.



Community facilities can include garages for road maintenance, libraries, municipal offices, town halls, schools, police stations, fire stations, parks, high speed data, website etc. They are supported by utilities such as water services, sewer system, storm water drainage, electricity, etc. At times, facilities and utilities need expansion, rehabilitation, or the creation of new facilities. As near as possible, this chapter tries to forecast the future utility and community facility needs of your jurisdiction. These needs vary according to growth and level of service deemed publicly acceptable.

#### Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001(2)(d)

##### (d) Utilities and Community Facilities

A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide the future development of utilities and community facilities in the local governmental unit such as sanitary sewer service, storm water management, water supply, solid waste disposal, on-site wastewater treatment technologies, recycling facilities, parks, telecommunications facilities, power-generating plants and transmission lines, cemeteries, health care facilities, childcare facilities and other public facilities, such as police, fire and rescue facilities, libraries, schools and other governmental facilities. The element shall describe the location, use and capacity of existing public utilities and community facilities that serve the local governmental unit, shall include an approximate timetable that forecasts the need in the local governmental unit to expand or rehabilitate existing utilities and facilities or to create new utilities and facilities and shall assess future needs for government services in the local governmental unit that are related to such utilities and facilities.

## 2.2 Goals

The following are the Utilities and Community Facilities Goals.

1. Support land uses, population densities and ordinances that promote efficient development patterns, protect land and property values and minimize municipal, state governmental and utility costs.
2. Provide adequate infrastructure and public services to meet existing and future market demand for residential, small commercial, and other uses that support agriculture.

## 2.3 Objectives and Policy and Program Recommendations

The following utility and community facility resource objectives and policy recommendations (not in order of priority) support the above goals. They will guide utility and facility resource decisions in the Town of Brooklyn over the next 20 years.

*NOT IN ORDER OF PRIORITY*

1. Ensure that property owners bear a fair share of capital improvement costs.
2. Provide public utilities, services, and alternatives.
3. Evaluate public utility alternatives and services to reduce the capital facility and operating costs.
4. Ensure that adequate public utilities, including system capacity, are available before issuing new development permits.
5. Leverage popular town communication vehicles to keep residents aware of town activities.
6. Maintain a process that informs, notifies, and allows for public participation in all capital facility planning projects and proposals.
7. Encourage new development that requires urban services, to locate within the Village of Brooklyn.
8. Maintain a capital improvements program, reviewing it annually to make adjustments to meet the needs of the community.
9. Where and when appropriate, utilize county, state, and federal programs or grants to maintain, enhance, or pursue new utility and community facilities.

## 2.4 Public Utilities and Community Facilities

### 2.4.1 Sanitary Sewer Service

All Town of Brooklyn wastewater treatment is through private onsite wastewater treatment systems (POWTS). The Town of Brooklyn has approximately 356 POWTS serving households and one serving a business. POWTS, or septic systems, treat domestic wastewater, which would include domestic activities such as sanitary, bath, laundry, dishwashing, garbage disposal, etc. These systems receive domestic wastewater by retaining it in a holding tank or treating and discharging it into the soil. Any system with a final discharge upon the ground surface, or discharging directly into surface waters of the state, is subject to DNR regulation. POWTS are most commonly used in rural or large lot areas where sanitary sewer is not available. These systems are regulated under WI COMM-83 and permits are issued by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce and the WI-DNR. Refer to the WI DOC, WI DNR, and the Green County Zoning & Sanitation Department for more information on sanitary sewer regulations.

### **2.4.2 Special Service District**

A special purpose district is a government entity that is responsible for performing specific tasks and oversight essential to a community's or region's wellbeing. Special districts include sanitary districts, metropolitan sewerage districts, drainage districts, inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, business improvement districts, tax incremental financing districts, architectural conservancy districts, and port authorities. There are no special service districts in the Town of Brooklyn.

### **2.4.3 Stormwater Management**

Stormwater management involves providing controlled release rates of runoff to receiving systems, typically through the use of detention and/or retention facilities. A stormwater management system can be very simple – a series of natural drainage ways – or a complex system of culverts, pipes, and drains. Either way, the purpose of the system is to store and channel water to specific areas, diminishing the impact of non-point source pollution. The Town of Brooklyn does not currently have any programs or policies addressing the management of stormwater runoff. Refer to the Green County Department of Conservation, and the Department of Zoning & Sanitation for more information on storm water management.

Beginning in August 2004, any construction sites disturbing more than one acre of land must get state permits and keep soil on their land during and after construction (NR 151, 216). The threshold was lowered from five acres to one acre in order to comply with new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Phase 2 Storm Water Regulations. The purpose of the regulation is to lower and control the amount of sedimentation that reaches Wisconsin rivers and lakes. Refer to the WI DNR for more information.

### **2.4.4 Water Supply**

All drinking water for the residents of the Town of Brooklyn comes from private wells. The Town of Brooklyn has approximately 356 private wells serving households and one that serves a business. Because all of the Town of Brooklyn's water comes from private wells, the future demand for water will depend on the number of new homes that are constructed.

Wells are safe, dependable sources of water if sited wisely and built correctly. Wisconsin has had well regulations since 1936, and today is recognized as a national leader in well protection. NR 812 (formerly NR 112), Wisconsin's Administrative Code for Well Construction and Pump Installation, is administered by the DNR. The Well Code is based on the premise that if a well and water system is properly located, constructed, installed, and maintained, the well should provide safe water continuously without a need for treatment. Refer to the WI DNR, the Green County Department of Land Conservation, and the Department of Zoning & Sanitation for more information on water quality and well regulations.

### **2.4.5 Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Facilities**

Recycling and garbage services are both available in the Town of Brooklyn. The garbage and recycling center is located at the Brooklyn Recycling Center, 8804 Benson Road Brooklyn WI 53521. This facility is currently not being shared with surrounding jurisdictions. Private curbside collection services are currently available to residents. There are no operating landfills, and two closed landfills, in the Town of Brooklyn. One

closed landfill is located at the current site of the Brooklyn Recycling Center that was many years ago. The other closed landfill was located at County Highway E and Yarwood Road and was also closed many years ago. In 1996, Wisconsin revised its solid waste rules to exceed the Federal (Subtitle 'D') rules for municipal solid waste landfills becoming the first state to receive approval of its solid waste program by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The WI DNR authorizes solid waste disposal pursuant to Wis. Stats. 289.35, and numerous WI Administrative Codes. Refer to the WI DNR, the Green County Department of Landfill, and the Department of Zoning & Sanitation for more information on landfill regulations.

#### **2.4.6 Municipal Building and/or Town Hall**

In most towns, the Town Hall is integral to the operation of the local government, providing a location for offices, supplies, and personnel. In some cases, it also serves as a community center. The Brooklyn Town Hall is located on 400 W Main Street in the Village of Brooklyn. The Town Hall is used to hold official business and public events, and is expected to meet the needs of the community for the foreseeable future.

#### **2.4.7 Parks and Recreational Facilities**

Refer to the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Chapter for information on local park and recreation facilities.

#### **2.4.8 Telecommunication Facilities**

There are two telecommunications towers located in the Town of Brooklyn. One is located at the Town Recycling Center. The other is at W1096 HWY 92. The Town of Brooklyn has no formal position on the location, or size of cellular towers. Refer to the Green County Department of Zoning & Sanitation for more information on telecommunication regulations.

#### **2.4.9 Power Plants and Transmission Lines**

There are no electrical substations or power plants located in the Town of Brooklyn. Both Alliant Energy and Evansville Water & Light provide electric service to Town residents. Refer to the Green County Department of Zoning & Sanitation for more information on power plants and transmission lines.

#### **2.4.10 Cemeteries**

Refer to the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Chapter for information on local cemeteries.

#### **2.4.11 Postal Service**

Post Offices are available in every Green County village or city.



### 2.4.12 Police, Fire, and Rescue Services

The Green and Dane County Sheriff Departments provide police services. Fire and rescue services come from neighboring villages (Albany, Belleville, Brooklyn, Evansville, Monticello, Oregon).

### 2.4.13 Libraries

The Town of Brooklyn does not have any libraries and therefore relies on libraries in other communities. Below is a table of the libraries that are in Green County. Green County is part of the South Central Library System. In 1971, the Wisconsin State Legislature passed a law creating 17 Library Systems in Wisconsin. The purpose of the library systems is to provide free and equitable access to public libraries for all residents in Wisconsin even if their community has no library. The library systems also serve to take on projects too costly or complex for individual community libraries. The funding for the Public Library Systems comes from a set percentage of the budgets of all the public libraries in Wisconsin. It is expected that the increase in population Green County will experience over the next 20 years, will place greater demand on local libraries. Although the Town of Brooklyn does not have a library, it can support local libraries by continuing to support the Public Library System. (Brooklyn also has a reciprocal agreement with the South Central Library System in Dane County.)

**Table 2.1:** Green County Library Services (Source: WI Department of Public Instruction)

Green County Public Libraries	Address	Phone
Albany Public Library	203 Oak St., Albany WI 53502	608-862-3491
Belleville Public Library	130 Vine St., Belleville WI 53508	608-424-1812
Brodhead Memorial Public Library	902 W. 2nd Ave., Brodhead WI 53520	608-897-4070
Monroe Public Library	925 16th Ave., Monroe WI 53566	608-325-3016
Monticello Public Library	512 E. Lake Ave., Monticello WI 53570	608-938-4011
New Glarus Public Library	319 2nd St., New Glarus WI 53574	608-527-2003
<b>South Central Libraries Near Green County</b>		
Evansville Public Library	39 W. Main St., Evansville WI 53536	608-882-2260
Oregon Public Library	200 N. Alpine Pkwy., Oregon WI 53575	608-835-3656
<b>Southwest Libraries Near Green County</b>		
Argyle Public Library	401 E. Milwaukee St., Argyle WI 53504	
Blanchardville Public Library	208 Mason St., Blanchardville WI 53516	608-523-2055

#### **2.4.14 Primary, Secondary, and Higher Education Facilities**

There are no schools located within the Town of Brooklyn. The Town of Brooklyn is served by the following school district (s): Albany, Belleville, Evansville Community, Monticello, and Oregon (See Map 7.1 in the Intergovernmental Cooperation Chapter). Although the Town of Brooklyn does not have any schools, it can assist the schools that serve the community by continuing to work with and support the school districts accommodating residents in the Town of Brooklyn. None of the School District Administrators indicated any plans to expand or create new schools in the near future.

The Blackhawk Technical College in Monroe (BTC) (608-328-1660) is the only higher education facility located in Green County. In 2004, the BTC facility in Monroe was expanded by approximately 10,000 sq.ft. to accommodate a new nursing program. In addition, work will begin in 2005 at BTC's central campus in Janesville with an expansion project that will add an 80,000 sq.ft. protective services addition designed for police, fire, and EMS training. Both the Rock and Green County Sheriff's Departments will use this facility. There are several regional institutions of higher education offering a wide variety of educational opportunities including certificates, technical diplomas, associate, bachelor, and master's degrees. The nearest colleges and universities are located in Fennimore (Southwest Wisconsin Technical College), Platteville (UW - Platteville), Madison (Edgewood College, UW-Madison, Madison Area Technical College), Beloit (Beloit College), Whitewater (UW-Whitewater), and Richland Center (UW - Richland).

#### **2.4.15 Childcare Facilities**

There are no group childcare facilities in the Town of Brooklyn; therefore, residents must utilize services in other communities for their childcare needs. Below is a table of formalized childcare centers in Green County. Similar childcare facilities are available in communities outside of Green County. In addition, the Southcentral Wisconsin Child Care Resource & Referral (SCCCR&R) estimates that there are 50 independent providers found throughout Green County municipalities. Based on the Town of Brooklyn current population and projections, there does not appear to be a significant increase in demand for childcare facilities in the next 20 years.

Green County is served by Southcentral Wisconsin Child Care Resource & Referral (SCCCR&R), which is committed to improving early care and education by providing support and information to families, providers, and the public in order to create and meet a demand for high quality childcare. Services provided include information, education, and referrals for childcare consumers, recruitment and training for childcare professionals, technical assistance and support to those in the childcare business, employer assistance in addressing work/family issues, and childcare data for local community planning. SCCCR&R is part of a statewide network of community-based, childcare resource and referral agencies.

**Table 2.2:** Green County Childcare Facilities

Green County Childcare Facilities	Address	Phone
A Home Away From Home	907 24th Ave., Monroe WI 53566	608-328-2880
Albany Playhouse Children Center LLC	304 E. State St., Albany WI 53502	608-862-3888
Allen's Day Care	2104 14th Ave., Monroe WI 53566	608-325-9840
Color Me Day Care	334 S. Main St., Monticello WI 53570	608-938-1555
Heart of Brooklyn Preschool & Childcare Center	109 Hotel St., Brooklyn WI	608-455-3301
Heart of Brooklyn School Age CC	201 Church St., Brooklyn WI	608-455-6080
Helping Hands Day Care	2568 13th St., Monroe WI 53566	608-329-6172
Little Red Caboose Inc.	103 21st St., Monroe WI 53566	608-329-6103
Play Pals Family Day Care	1512 17th St., Monroe WI 53566	608-329-7618
Rainbow	2709 6 <sup>th</sup> St., Monroe WI 53566	608-328-8203
Room to Grow LLC	11 Karl Ave., Belleville WI 53508	608-424-6319
Small World Inc.	107 2nd Ave., New Glarus 53574	608-527-2954
Numerous Individual Licensed & Certified Providers		

### 2.4.16 Healthcare Facilities

There are no health care facilities located within the Town of Brooklyn. Residents must travel to other communities to receive medical care. Based on the Town of Brooklyn current population and projections, there seems to be an indication for an increased demand for health care facilities. This trend of an aging population can be found throughout Green County and Wisconsin. As the population ages there will be an increased demand for all types of health care facilities. Because residents use health care providers in other communities, the Town of Brooklyn expects to work with those communities to support any future health care needs for the towns' residents.

Below is a table of the health care facilities that serve Green County residents. The table is a list of hospitals in Green County and in the surrounding counties.

Table 2.3 Health Care Facilities Serving Green County (Source: WI Department of Health and Family Services)

Green County Health Care Facilities	Address	Phone
Dean Health System (Branch)	515 22nd Ave., Monroe WI 53566	608-324-2000
Mercy Clinic (Branch)	2310 1st Center Ave., Brodhead WI 53520	608-897-8664
Monroe Clinic (Branch)	1800 2nd St., New Glarus WI 53574	608-527-5296
Monroe Clinic (Branch)	1904 1st Center Ave., Brodhead WI 53520	608-897-2191
Monroe Clinic (Branch)	100 N. Water, Albany WI 53502	608-862-1616
Monroe Hospital & Clinic	515 22nd Ave., Monroe WI 53566	608-324-1000
UW Health Belleville Family Medical Clinic (Branch)	21 S. Vine St., Belleville WI 53508	608-424-3384
Health Care Facilities Near Green County	Address	Phone
Beloit Memorial Hospital	1969 W. Hart Rd., Beloit WI 53511	608-364-5011
Memorial Community Hospital	313 Stoughton Rd., Edgerton WI 53534	608-884-3441
Memorial Hospital of Lafayette County	800 Clay St., Darlington WI 53530	608-776-4466
Mendota Mental Health Institute	301 Troy Dr., Madison WI 53704	608-301-1000
Mercy Health System Corporation	1000 Mineral Point Ave., Janesville WI 53545	608-756-6625
Meriter Hospital	202 S. Park St., Madison WI 53715	608-267-6000
SSM Health Dean Medical Group	753 N Main St, Oregon, WI 53575	608-835-2222
St. Mary's Hospital	707 S. Mills St., Madison WI 53715	608-251-6100
Stoughton Health Oregon Urgent Care	990 Janesville St., Oregon, WI 53575	608-835-5373
Stoughton Hospital Association	900 Ridge St., Stoughton WI 53589	608-873-6611
UW Health Oregon Clinic Family Medicine Clinic	137 S Main St, Oregon, WI 53575	608-835-5588
University of Wisconsin Hospital	600 Highland Ave., Madison WI 53792	800-323-8942
Upland Hills Health Inc.	800 Compassion Way, Dodgeville WI 53533	608-930-8000
William S. Middleton Memorial VA Medical Center	2500 Overlook Terrace, Madison WI 53705	608-256-1901
Numerous Dean Health Care Clinics	1808 W. Beltline Highway, Madison WI 53713	800-279-9966

### 2.4.17 Other Community Facilities

Additional community facilities located in the Town of Brooklyn include a garage which adjoins the Town Hall (400 W Main Street) to house maintenance equipment. Town of Brooklyn residents have access to other utilities including satellite television, satellite/over-the-air Internet services, and cellular services. Independent providers, (e.g. - Direct TV and US Cellular) provide these services. Current rate information and specific services can be obtained by contacting the independent carriers.



## 2.5 Capital Improvements Plan

A Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) is a multi-year scheduling of physical public improvements based on the examination of available fiscal resources, as well as the prioritization of such improvements. Capital improvements are those that include new or expanded physical facilities that are relatively large, expensive, and permanent. Street improvements, public libraries, water and sewer lines, and park and recreation facilities are common examples of capital improvements. The Town of Brooklyn maintains a CIP, contact the Town for more information regarding the CIP.

## 2.6 Utility and Community Facility Agencies and Programs

There are a number of available state and federal agencies and programs to assist communities with public works projects. Below are brief descriptions of various agencies and programs. Contact information has been provided for each agency. To find out more specific information or which program best fits your needs contact the agency directly.

### **United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA-RD)**

#### **Community Facilities Direct Grant and Loan Program**

The community facilities grant program provides grants to assist the development of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 people. The objective of the agency is to construct, enlarge, extend, or otherwise improve community facilities providing essential services to rural residents. This can include the purchase of equipment required for a facility's operation. All projects that are funded by the RHS grant program must be for public use.

#### **Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program**

The community facilities loan program is similar to the grant program in that it provides funding for essential community facilities, such as schools, roads, fire halls, etc. Again, local jurisdictions must have a population of less than 20,000 to be able to apply. Applications are funded based on a statewide priority point system. For more information on the loan program log on to the USDA-RD website or call the office listed above.

Additional programs and services can be found at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities>

### **United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Utilities**

There are a number of available programs through USDA-RUS as part of the Water and Environmental Programs (WEP). WEP provides loans, grants, and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste, and storm drainage facilities in rural areas, cities, and towns of 10,000 or less. Public bodies, non-profit organizations and recognized Indian Tribes may qualify for assistance. WEP also makes grants to non-profit organizations to provide technical assistance and training to assist rural communities with their water, wastewater, and solid waste programs. Available programs can be found at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/agencies/rural-utilities-service>.

**United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS) United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Cooperative State Research Education Extension Service (CSREES)**

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)**

## **Bureau of Community Financial Assistance (DNR-CFA)**

The Bureau of Community Assistance administers a number of grant and loan programs. The Bureau supports projects that protect the public health and the environment and provide recreational opportunities. The Bureau has three major areas of programs, which include the following:

- **Environmental Loans:** This is a loan program for drinking water, wastewater, and brownfield projects.
- **Environmental Financial Assistance Grants:** This is a grant program for non-point source runoff pollution, recycling, lakes, rivers, municipal flood control and well compensation.
- **Land and Recreation Financial Assistance Grants:** This is a grant program for conservation, restoration, parks, stewardship, acquisition of land and easements for conservation purposes, recreational facilities and trails, hunter education, forestry, forest fire protection, gypsy moth, household hazardous waste collection, dam rehabilitation and abandonment, dry cleaner remediation, and urban wildlife damage.

These programs listed above are the major program headings. There are numerous programs available for specific projects underneath these umbrella programs. For example, under the Environmental Loans Program, there is the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP). The SDWLP provides loans to public water systems to build, upgrade, or replace water supply infrastructure to protect public health and address federal and state safe drinking water requirements. For more information on other available programs, contact the Wisconsin DNR or visit the website listed above.

## 3.0 Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources



### 3.1 Goals, Objectives, Policy, and Program Recommendations

#### 3.1.1 Goals

The following are the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Goals:

1. Protect prime farmland.
2. Protect ground water, forests, and other natural resources.
3. Protect parks and public lands.
4. Protect historical and cultural resources.

#### 3.1.2 Objectives, Policy, and Program Recommendation

The following agricultural, natural, and cultural resources objectives and policy recommendations support the above goals. They will guide decisions in the Town of Brooklyn over the next 20 years.

#### **Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001(2)(e)**

##### **(e) Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources.**

A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs for the conservation, and promotion of the effective management, of natural resources such as groundwater, forests, productive agricultural areas, environmentally sensitive areas, threatened and endangered species, stream corridors, surface water, floodplains, wetlands, wildlife habitat, metallic and nonmetallic mineral resources, parks, open spaces, historical and cultural resources, community design, recreational resources and other natural resources.

NOT IN ORDER OF PRIORITY

1. Provide resources that educate local residents about the importance of agriculture, natural, historical and cultural resources.
2. Maintain the rural and agricultural character of the community.
3. Encourage the preservation of the family farm, cropland, and farmland in the community.
4. Preserve agricultural land and natural resources in the community from encroachment by incompatible development.
5. Limit fragmentation of crop land.
6. Encourage residential and commercial development to locate in areas least suited for agricultural purposes.
7. Preserve rural roots, historical features, parks and public lands within the town.
8. Discourage isolated non-agriculture commercial and industrial uses in agricultural and natural resource areas.
9. Maintain the agricultural infrastructure to support agricultural operations.
10. Where and when appropriate, utilize county, state, and federal programs or grants to conserve, maintain, and protect agricultural and natural resources.
11. Provide residents with resources that protect dark skies.

## 3.2 Agricultural Resources

### 3.2.1 Agricultural Resources Summary

The purpose of the Agricultural element is to present agricultural data and provide direction for land use decisions that impact agriculture for the next 20 years. Agriculture is very important both economically and culturally to the Town. And, although there can be conflicts between farm operations and non-farm neighbors, it is clear that maintaining current farm operations and agriculture is very important to Town residents and for the Town to achieve its vision of the future. Agriculture, in general, is rapidly changing in response to market forces and government programs and the challenge for the Town is to maintain a balance between growth of the non-farm and agricultural sectors while focusing on the factors that are impacted by Town decisions.

### 3.2.2 Farming System

Using farm related data gathered at the County level from the Agricultural Census, it is possible to draw an inference about the state of agricultural health in the Town of Brooklyn. (The Agricultural Census does not collect data at the town level and defines a farm as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year.)

Table 3.1 Trends in Farm Numbers 2007 – 2022

Green County	2007	2012	2017	2022
Farms (number)	1,534	1,545	1,428	1,334
Land in farms (acres)	306,859	302,295	292,368	282,888
Average size of farm (acres)	200	196	205	239
Number of farms by size – 1 to 9 acres	92	169	172	159
Number of farms by size – 10 to 49 acres	428	480	454	484
Number of farms by size – 50 to 179 acres	496	445	382	296
Number of farms by size – 180 to 499 acres	395	337	279	265
Number of farms by size – 500 to 999 acres	88	71	92	71
Number of farms by size – 1,000 acres or more	35	43	49	59
Total cropland (farms)	1,341	1,329	1,246	1,145
Total cropland (acres)	240,009	238,606	239,493	231,645

(Source: 2007, 2012, 2017, 2022 US Census of Agriculture)

Table 3.1 gives the number of farms in Green County for the years 2007 through 2022. The County showed a 13% decrease in farms between 2007 and 2022. As the number of farms has decreased, the acres of farmland have decreased 7.8% in the same timeframe.

Although average farm size increased 19.5% from 2007 to 2022, in the same period, small farms (10 to 49 acres) increased 13%. Very large farms (1,000+ acres) increased 68.6%, as did farms from 1 to 9 acres (72.8%). All other farm size classes decreased. The conclusion is that there are more very large (“super”) farms, “hobby” farms have also been on the rise, while “working” or “family” farms have declined.

Table 3.2 Trends in Dairy Farms 2007 – 2022

Green County	2007	2012	2017	2022
Milk cows (farms)	365	285	216	152
Milk cows (number)	30,390	26,978	25,207	28,135

(Source: 2007, 2012, 2017, 2022 US Census of Agriculture)

Table 3.2 shows clearly that both the number dairy farms and dairy cows in Green County dropped (58.4% and 7.4% respectively) between 2007 and 2022.

### 3.2.3 Land Sales Statistics and Graphs

As required by the comprehensive planning process, statistics and graphs of land sales information are included below. Unfortunately, the data does not document land sales at the town level, nor is it as current as one would like. However, despite these limitations, it is clear from Table 3.3 that land values were relatively stable through 2020 and declined at the onset of the COVID pandemic (like most things). However, dollars per acre have risen significantly post-pandemic (55% over two years, 2021 to 2023) and agricultural land continue to be diverted to other uses. This trend of the last decade is no doubt continuing and therefore it is likely to affect future efforts by farmers to compete for the land base needed to remain in agriculture.



Table 3.3 Green County Agricultural Land Sales: Total Agricultural Land

Agricultural land continuing in agricultural use							
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of transactions	32	17	29	32	29	23	16
Acres sold	3,347	1,368	2,216	2,083	2,310	1,503	1,037
Dollars per acre	\$6,121	\$6,070	\$6,050	\$6,237	\$5,761	\$7,061	\$8,917
Agricultural land diverted to other uses							
Number of transactions	1	5	0	0	1	0	0
Acres sold	54	185	0	0	53	0	0
Dollars per acre	\$19,950	\$9,465	0	0	\$12,636	0	0
Totals							
Number of transactions	33	22	29	32	30	23	16
Acres sold	3,401	1,553	2,216	2,083	2,363	1,503	1,037
Dollars per acre	\$6,340	\$6,474	\$6,050	\$6,237	\$5,915	\$7,061	\$8,917

(Source: 2023, National Agricultural Statistics Service)

### 3.2. Agricultural Infrastructure

Farming infrastructure includes businesses and services such as feed mills, adequate roads, equipment vendors, cheese factories, seed dealers, or veterinarians might supply. Farm supply businesses and food processing facilities represent important resources to area farmers as well as the broader local economy. Brooklyn's Planning Commission reported that the Town's roads are adequate to support farming at this time. The Town of Brooklyn has numerous farming infrastructure operations within its borders.

#### 3.2.6 Conflicts and Threats to Agriculture

Agriculture is the dominant land use and a major economic factor in the Town of Brooklyn. With the changes in development pressure and the transition out of farming by many, the nature of the industry is rapidly changing. Some of the conflicts and threats are within local control and some are tied to state, national and global decisions. This comprehensive plan cannot impact the decisions such as commodity prices, which are set on the world market and the reduced marketing opportunities as a result of consolidation. However, the plan can respond to local conflicts and threats. These include:

- Conflict with new residents with non-agriculture backgrounds. These include; smells and odors and fencing requirements.
- Fragmentation of the farm fields as new parcels are created.
- Agricultural land values exceeding possible agricultural income opportunities.
- The challenge of developing the next generation of farmers.
- Spill over lighting

The jurisdiction can work with the County to maintain zoning to encourage and support agricultural activities.

#### 3.2.7 Future of Agriculture

Agriculture is rapidly changing and is likely to continue to do so. It appears that the future will include three types of operations. These include: larger commodity producers,

niche/specialty producers, and life-style farming operations. In the past the commodity producers were dominant in the Town, but this is changing as the traditional dairy producers and older farmers are leaving the business.

### **3.2.8 Agriculture Resources, Agencies, and Programs**

There are a number of available county, state and federal programs to assist with agricultural planning and protection. Below are brief descriptions of the various agencies and programs. The Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Services, and the Conservation District offices are located at the Green County Land Conservation Department, 2841 6th Street, Monroe and the UW Extension office located at the Green County Government Services Building, N3150B Hwy 81, Monroe.

#### **USDA Farm Service Agency**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has a direct financial impact on rural Wisconsin families through the programs and services they offer. They are dedicated to stabilizing farm income, helping farmers conserve land and water resources, providing credit to new or disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and helping farm operations recover from the effects of disaster. Programs and services offered by the FSA are:

- **Farm Loan Program (FLP)**

The Farm Service Agency offers direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit. Often, FLP borrowers are beginning farmers who cannot qualify for conventional loans because they have insufficient financial resources. The Agency also helps established farmers who have suffered financial setbacks from natural disasters, or whose resources are too limited to maintain profitable farming operations.

- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**

The CRP is a voluntary program that offers annual rental payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost-share assistance to establish approved cover on eligible cropland. The program encourages farmers to plant long-term resource-conserving covers to improve soil, water, and wildlife resources. The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) makes available assistance in an amount equal to not more than 50 percent of the participant's costs in establishing approved practices. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the federal agency that works with landowners on private lands to conserve natural resources. NRCS is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, formerly the Soil Conservation Service. Nearly three-fourths of the technical assistance provided by the agency goes to helping farmers and ranchers develop conservation systems uniquely suited to their land and individual ways of doing business. The agency also assists other private landowners and rural and urban communities to reduce erosion, conserve and protect water, and solve other resource problems. NRCS provides:

- **Technical Assistance for Conservation**

Conservation technical assistance is the basis of NRCS mission to conserve, sustain, and improve America's private lands. NRCS staff works one-on-one with private landowners to develop and implement conservation plans that protect the soil, water, air, plant and animal resources on the 1.5 billion acres of privately owned land in the United States.

- **Soil Survey**

NRCS is responsible for surveying the soils of the United States, publishing and interpreting soil information. Soil information is the basis for natural resource and land use planning, key to assessing site potential for specific uses and identifying soil characteristics and properties.

- **National Resources Inventory**

Every five years, NRCS conducts the National Resources Inventory (NRI) on nonfederal rural land in the United States. This inventory shows natural resource trends, such as land cover and use, soil erosion, prime farmland, and wetlands. The 1992 NRI, for example, shows that farmers are dramatically reducing soil erosion on cropland. From 1982 to 1992, erosion on all cropland declined by about one-third, going from 3.1 billion to 2.1 billion tons a year.

- **Wetlands**

Wetland conservation is an important and sensitive issue. During 1982-1992, wetland losses due to agriculture slowed to about 31,000 acres a year, a more than 90 percent reduction compared to conversion rates between 1954 and 1974. NRCS is one of the four primary federal agencies involved with wetlands.

- **Wetlands Reserve Program**

In the Wetlands Reserve Program, conservation easements are purchased from landowners to restore or enhance wetland areas. Ownership, control of access, and some compatible uses remain with the landowner.

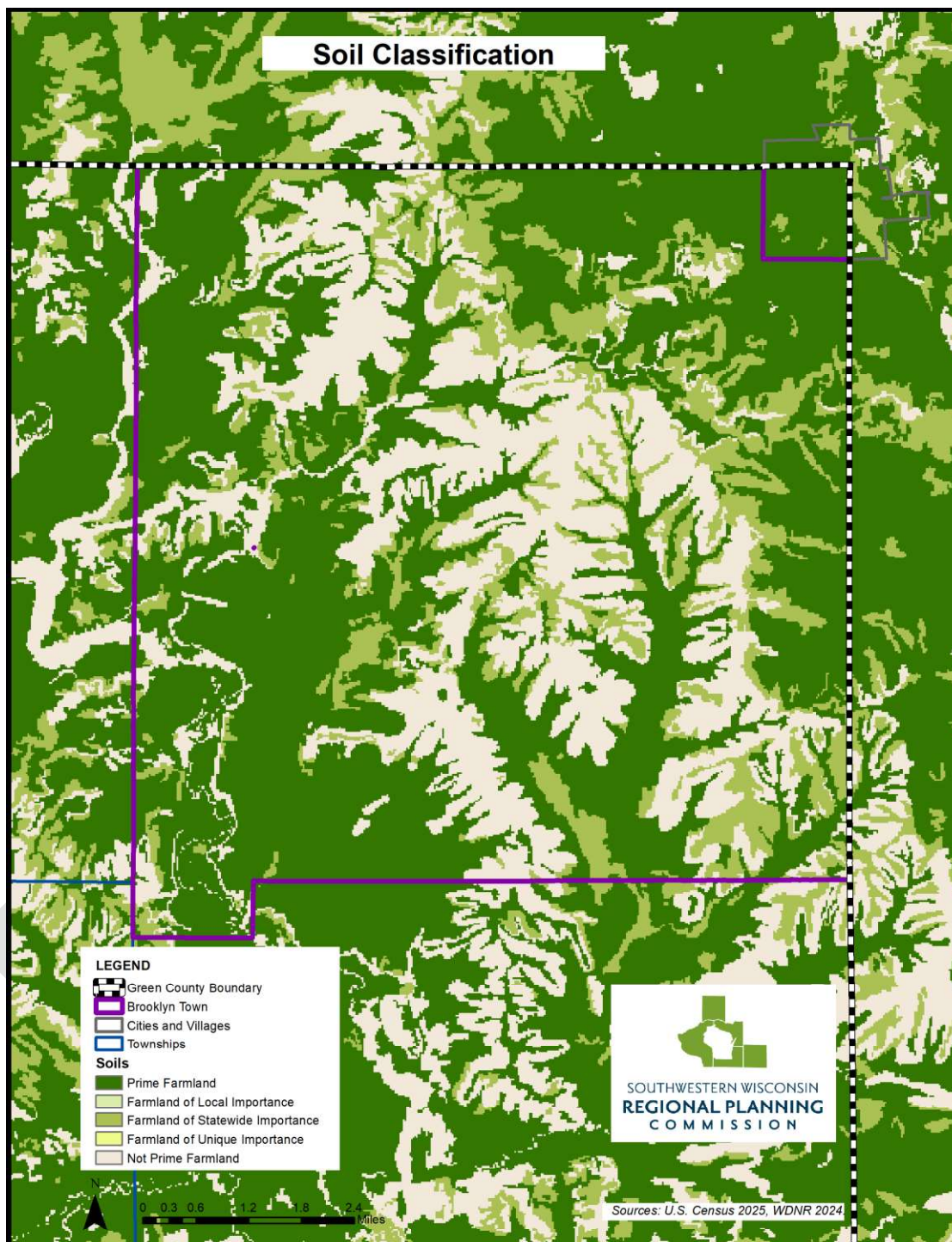
- **Wetland Identification**

NRCS has technical leadership for identification and delineation of wetlands on agricultural lands and on all USDA program participant's lands. NRCS maintains a list of hydric soils and a wetland inventory on agricultural land.

- **Soil Quality**

Over the past decade, NRCS has been helping producers develop and implement 1.7 million conservation plans on 143 million acres of highly erodible cropland as part of the conservation compliance provision of the Food Security Act of 1985. As a result, erosion on the most highly erodible cropland has been cut by two-thirds.

Map 3.1 Soil Classification Map



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) use a classification system to identify and protect the nation's most productive agricultural land. The main categories include prime farmland, unique farmland, farmland of statewide importance, and farmland of local importance. Detailed information on what the categories mean, their characteristics, suitability, and exclusion can be found at [https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/LA/Prime\\_and\\_other\\_Important\\_Farmland.html](https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/LA/Prime_and_other_Important_Farmland.html).



### 3.3 Natural Resources



#### 3.3.1 Natural Resources Summary

As the Town of Brooklyn continues to grow and change, it is vital the Town consider its future in conjunction with its natural resources. It can be very challenging for rural communities to allow new development, at the same time protect the natural environment, and preserve the character of the area. At first, development may have only a limited impact on the natural landscape, but as it continues, the visual and environmental impacts become increasingly apparent. In order to protect natural resources for the future, it is crucial to be aware of existing natural resources, such as Water Resources, Geologic Resources, Forests and Woodlands, Wildlife Habitat, Parks and Open Space, Air and Light, and Wetlands.

#### 3.3.2 Natural Resources

Natural resources are materials occurring in nature and are essential or useful to humans, such as water, air, land, forests, fish and wildlife, topsoil, and minerals. They are combined into the recognized systems in which we exist. These systems, or combinations of natural materials, can be referred to as “natural environments”, “ecosystems”, “biomes”, or “natural habitats”, among others. Humans and their activities impact all natural resources. Conversely, whether obvious or not, human impacts to the natural environment often have significant adverse impacts on the human community.

The Planning Commission of the Town of Brooklyn reported that natural resources are aesthetically and culturally important to the community. Keeping residents informed of their jurisdiction’s natural resources is a proactive first step in supporting the natural



resources and natural resource protection efforts important to the Town. Flyers included with a tax mailing, articles in the local newspaper, workshops, or other similar education efforts can all help to educate residents on natural resource issues. Fostering working relationships with neighboring jurisdictions (the Village of Brooklyn, the Towns of Exeter, Mount Pleasant, Albany, and Green, Rock, and Dane Counties) can help to protect shared, contiguous natural areas that give local residents space to pursue recreational opportunities. Tapping into state and federal programs that aim specifically at protecting farmland, wetlands, forests, historic buildings, etc., can potentially add to the Town of Brooklyn's support efforts to protect community natural resources. State and federal agencies and contact information are listed at the end of this Section.

### **3.3.3 Water Resources**

Water resources, (both surface and groundwater) are one of the most commonly used natural resources, serving intrinsic and essential functions in the community. Plants, animals, and people all consume water on a daily basis. Over 70% of all Wisconsin communities (that is, every two out of three citizens) rely on groundwater not only for domestic use, but also for agriculture, industrial uses, recreational purposes, etc. All Green County residents have groundwater for domestic water use.

Water is one of the most easily contaminated resources. Because of its mobile nature, contaminants can travel far from their source through the water cycle. Contaminants in the water cycle coming from a variety of sources are commonly known as non-point source pollution (NPSP). Non-point source pollution comes from many diffuse sources such as agriculture runoff, leaking septic systems, road salt and road building, parking lots, lawn, and golf course runoff, all of which directly impact water resources. Point source pollution comes from identifiable sources such as a single factory or overflow from a sewage treatment facility.

Green County has multiple programs and initiatives to reduce water pollution and protect water resources, including county-level efforts through the Green County Land & Water Conservation Department that develop conservation plans and practices, the Green County Water Quality Coalition focusing on groundwater quality and stewardship, and participation in state programs like the Wisconsin DNR's Nonpoint Source Program, which provides financial and technical assistance for both agricultural and urban runoff. All residents are encouraged to get their wells tested.

#### **3.3.3.1 Groundwater**

Groundwater is the water beneath the earth's surface that fills spaces between rocks and soil particles and flows between them. Groundwater fills wells and flows from springs. It is a critical resource, not only because it is used on a daily basis, but also because rivers, streams, and other surface water depends on it for recharge. Groundwater can be easily contaminated through non-point source pollution, particularly in regions with thin soils over fractured limestone, sandstone, and shale bedrock.

#### **3.3.3.2 Groundwater Contamination**

It is important to keep the groundwater resource in mind for many areas of comprehensive planning. Ultimately, what takes place above ground directly affects groundwater below. For instance, restricting access to abandoned mines or quarries helps prevent these areas from becoming source points for groundwater contamination. There

are a variety of other activities that impact water resource quality that include but are not limited to:

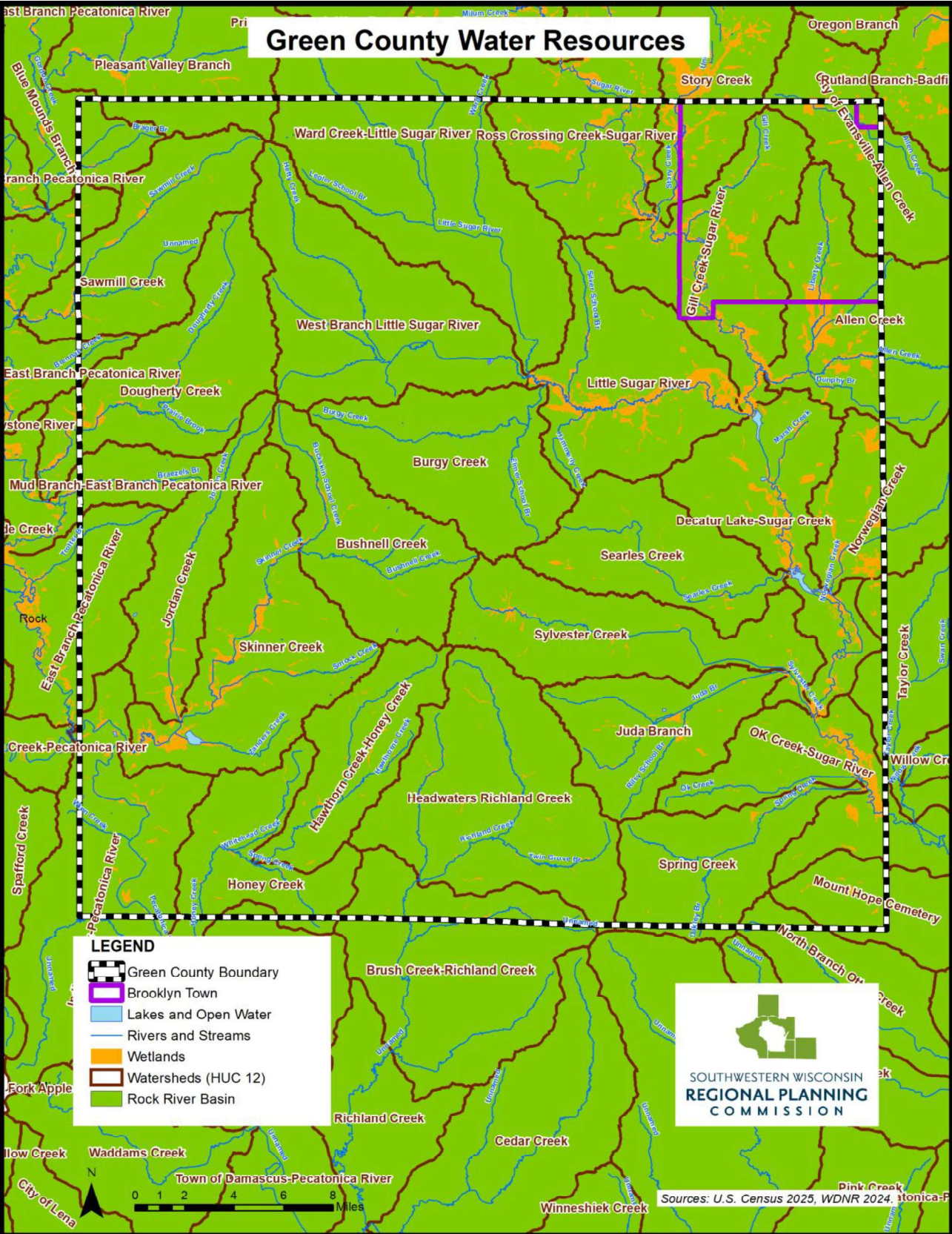
- On-site septic systems
- Sewage Treatment Plants
- Surface Wastewater Discharge
- Sanitary Landfills
- Pesticide and Fertilizer Applications
- Road Salt
- Household Cleaners & Detergents
- Unsewered Subdivisions
- Underground Storage Tanks
- Feedlots
- Junkyards
- Abandoned Wells
- Gas Stations
- Chemical Spills
- Leaking Sewer Lines
- Old Mine Openings or Shafts

Pinpointing pollution sources can be made easier by identifying the location and extent of groundwater recharge areas, as well as the extent of the local watershed, so communities can plan where and how much development can be built, with the least amount of impact to water resources. A watershed is the land area from which all surface water and groundwater drains into a stream system. Groundwater aquifers can be contained within a single watershed or can be so large that several watersheds are within the aquifer. Brooklyn is in the Allen Creek and Middle Sugar River watershed. See Map 3.2, Town of Brooklyn Water Resource Map and Map 3.3, County Depth to Water Table Map for more information.

All drinking water in the Town comes from private wells; there is no municipal well in the jurisdiction. At this time, Brooklyn has no policies specifically aimed at protecting the drinking water in the jurisdiction and the Commission listed no potential contaminants that might affect groundwater.

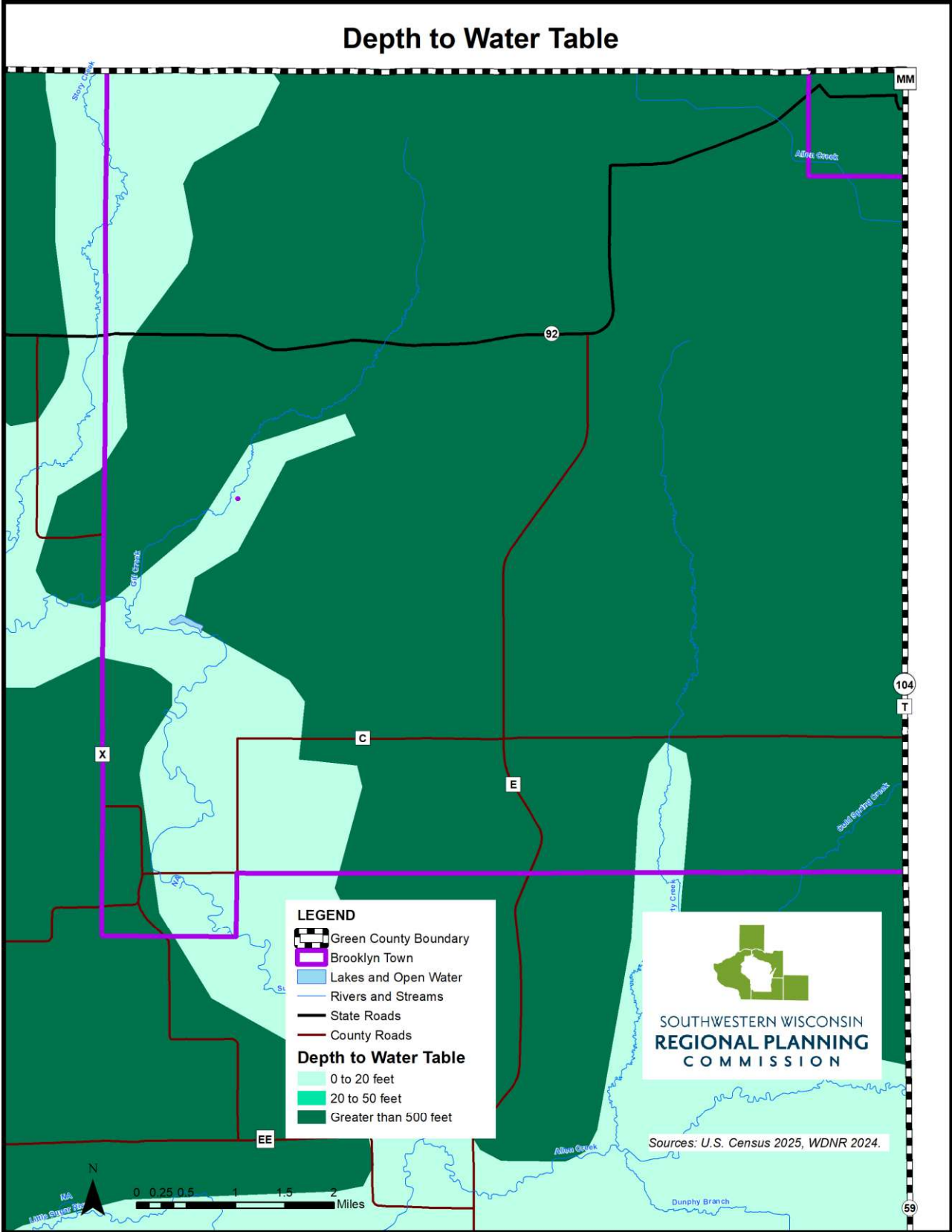
Identifying such pollutants is part of a wellhead protection plan. A wellhead protection plan aims at preventing contaminants from entering the area of land around your public water supply well(s). This area includes, "the surface or subsurface area surrounding a water well or wellfield supplying a public water system, through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach such well or wellfield" (US EPA. 1987).

Map 3.2 Water Resources in Town of Brooklyn





Map 3.3 Depth to Water Table Map



### **3.3.3.3 Groundwater Supply**

Water supply is impacted as communities grow, bringing increased demand to supply water to new homes, businesses, and industries. High-capacity wells and an increasing number of wells, both private and public, can reduce the amount of recharge to surface waters, causing streamflow reduction, loss of springs, and changes in wetland vegetative communities. The strains of meeting growing water demand from a sprawling population are starting to show. Statewide water use has increased 33% in the last 15 years and water tables are plummeting in many urban areas as the thirst for more water outstrips the land's ability to provide it. (Lisa Gaumnitz, Tim Asplund, and Megan R. Matthews, "A Growing Thirst for Groundwater", August 2004.)

The Groundwater Bill (2003 Act 310) addresses groundwater quantity issues, requiring approval for siting, fees, and an environmental review. While this legislation is currently more relevant in areas of the state experiencing severe water quantity issues (such as Southeast Wisconsin), the principle of controlling groundwater withdrawal in all parts of the state is quite important and is a growing concern for the future.

### **3.3.3.4 Surface Water**

Surface water, which is all water naturally open to the atmosphere such as rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, streams, impoundments, seas, and estuaries, in Green County includes the Sugar and Pecatonica rivers. These watercourses provide recreational opportunities, such as fishing, boating, swimming, and passive recreational opportunities like bird watching and sunbathing. The rivers and their feeder streams provide habitat for fish, mussels, insects, and other wildlife. No shoreland or wetland ordinances have been enacted in the Town.

The Town relies on the Green County shoreland and wetland ordinances at this time. See Map 3.2, Town Water Resource Map for more information.

### **3.3.3.5 Wetlands**

Wetlands serve a variety of functions, including playing an important role in stormwater management and flood control, filtering pollutants, recharging groundwater, providing a habitat for many wildlife species and plants, and offering open space and passive recreational opportunities. Wetlands include all marshes, swamps, fens, bogs, and those areas excluded from cultivation or other uses because they are intermittently wet. The Town of Brooklyn is within the Southeast Glacial Plains, a landscape that has some of the world's best examples of wetland features as a result of glacial activity. Kettle lakes, marshes, calcareous fens, bog relicts, and glacial features are evident throughout the entire area (Land Legacy Report, 2002). Many of this landscape's wetlands have been drained, but some do remain. Horicon Marsh is a prime example of a wetland complex in this landscape type.

The Wisconsin Wetland Inventory (WWI) was completed in 1985. Pre-European settlement wetland figures estimate the state had about 10 million acres of wetlands. Based on aerial photography from 1978-79, the WWI shows approximately 5.3 million acres of wetlands remaining in the state representing a loss of about 47% of original



wetland acreage. This figure does not include wetlands less than 2 or 5 acres in size (minimum mapping unit varies by county). Because the original WWI utilized aerial photographs taken in the summer, some wetlands were missed. In addition, wetlands that were farmed as of the date of photography used and then later abandoned due to wet conditions were not captured as part of the WWI. According to the 1978-79 data, Green County is 3.3% wetlands.

The WI Legislature authorized the DNR to update the WWI on a 10-year cycle. Budget constraints and lack of staff have slowed this process to a 24-year cycle at best. Digitizing wetland maps to obtain accurate wetland acreage information is on a rotation almost twice that long. As a result, there is no reliable qualitative and quantitative data about current rates of wetland loss. For more information on Wisconsin wetlands, go to <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Wetlands>.

Green County is required to zone by ordinance all shorelands, which in south central Wisconsin are often direct links to wetlands. The Town relies on the Green County shoreland and wetland ordinances at this time.

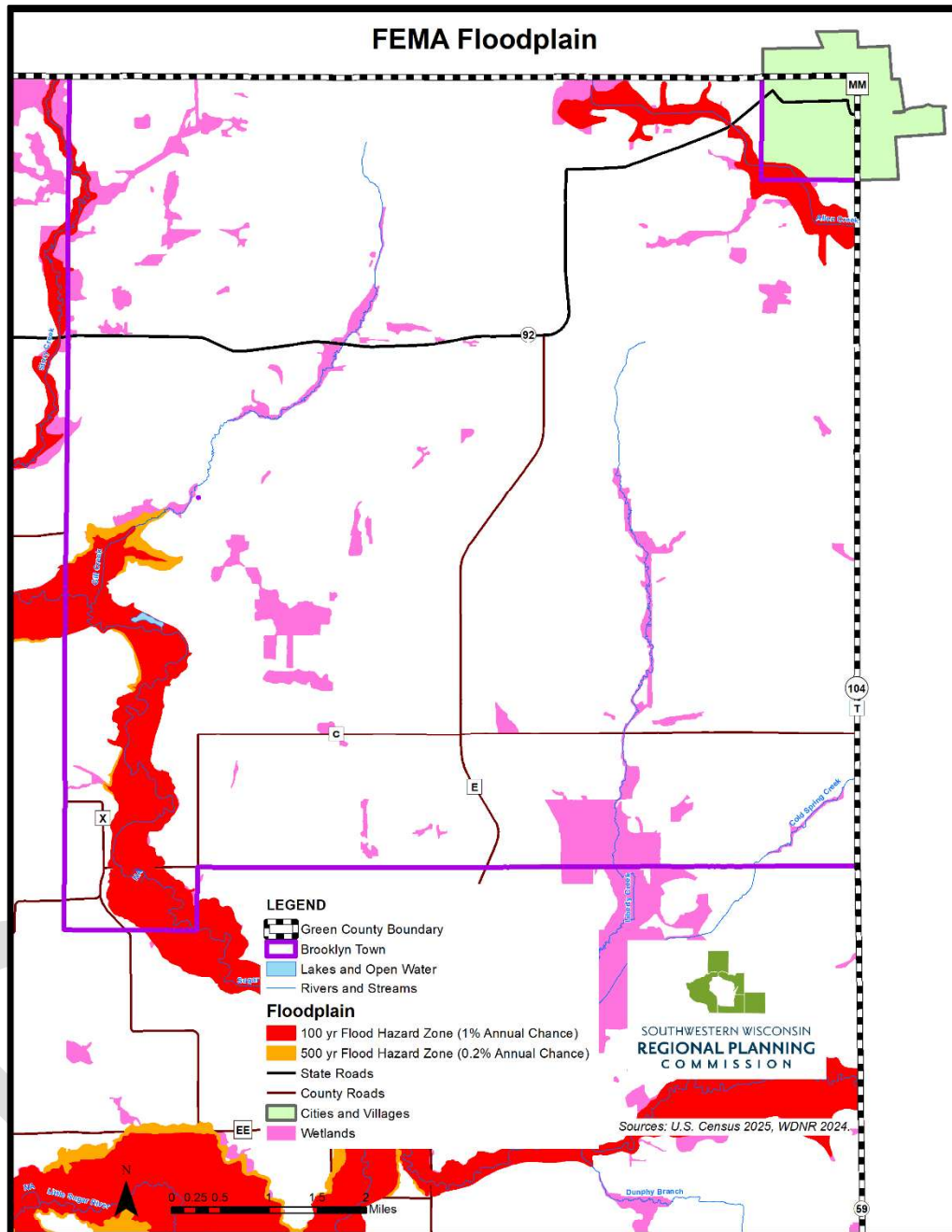
#### **3.3.3.6 Floodplains**

A floodplain is a low area of land adjacent to a stream or other watercourse that is subject to flooding and holds the overflow of water during a flood. They are delineated based on the 100-year storm event - the area that would be covered by water during a flood so big it only happens (theoretically) every 100 years. However, flooding can occur in any year. For that reason, development should not occur in drainage ways and floodplains because they serve as stormwater runoff systems and flood mitigation landscape features.

Counties, cities, and villages are required to adopt reasonable and effective floodplain zoning ordinances in order to participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA has designated flood hazard areas along many surface water resources. The importance of respecting floodways and floodplains is critical in terms of planning and development. Ignoring these constraints can cause serious problems relating to property damage and the overall safety of residents.

The Town of Brooklyn, in the Allen Creek and Middle Sugar River watershed, is susceptible to flooding. The Planning Commission reported that the Town relies on the County floodplain ordinance for flood prevention and mitigation. See Map 3.4 for the jurisdiction's FEMA map.

Map 3.4 Town of Brooklyn FEMA map



### 3.3.4 Wildlife

It is vital to provide sufficient natural habitat at a distance from human activities where wildlife will not be in contact or conflict with humans and can live and breed without interference. Wildlife can sometimes cause problems by destroying property, carrying diseases, producing unsanitary waste, or conflicting with human activities so having enough habitat is critical.

#### 3.3.4.1 Importance of Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the full spectrum of life forms and the many ecological processes that

support them. Protecting the biodiversity is essential to core values such as maintaining clean air and water, providing adequate habitat for the state's flora and fauna, maintaining a vibrant economy and providing recreational opportunities. Protecting Biodiversity depends on the sustainability of diverse ecosystems, such as the mosaic of forests, agricultural lands, grasslands, bluffs, coastal zones and aquatic communities present in Wisconsin. It also depends upon the conservation of each ecosystem's basic components – the natural communities, plants and animals within them. Ecosystems contain a variety of species that are unique in some way and provide value to the diversity of the individual ecosystem and the state overall. It is important to view biodiversity at all levels to ensure the adequate conservation of Wisconsin's environment.

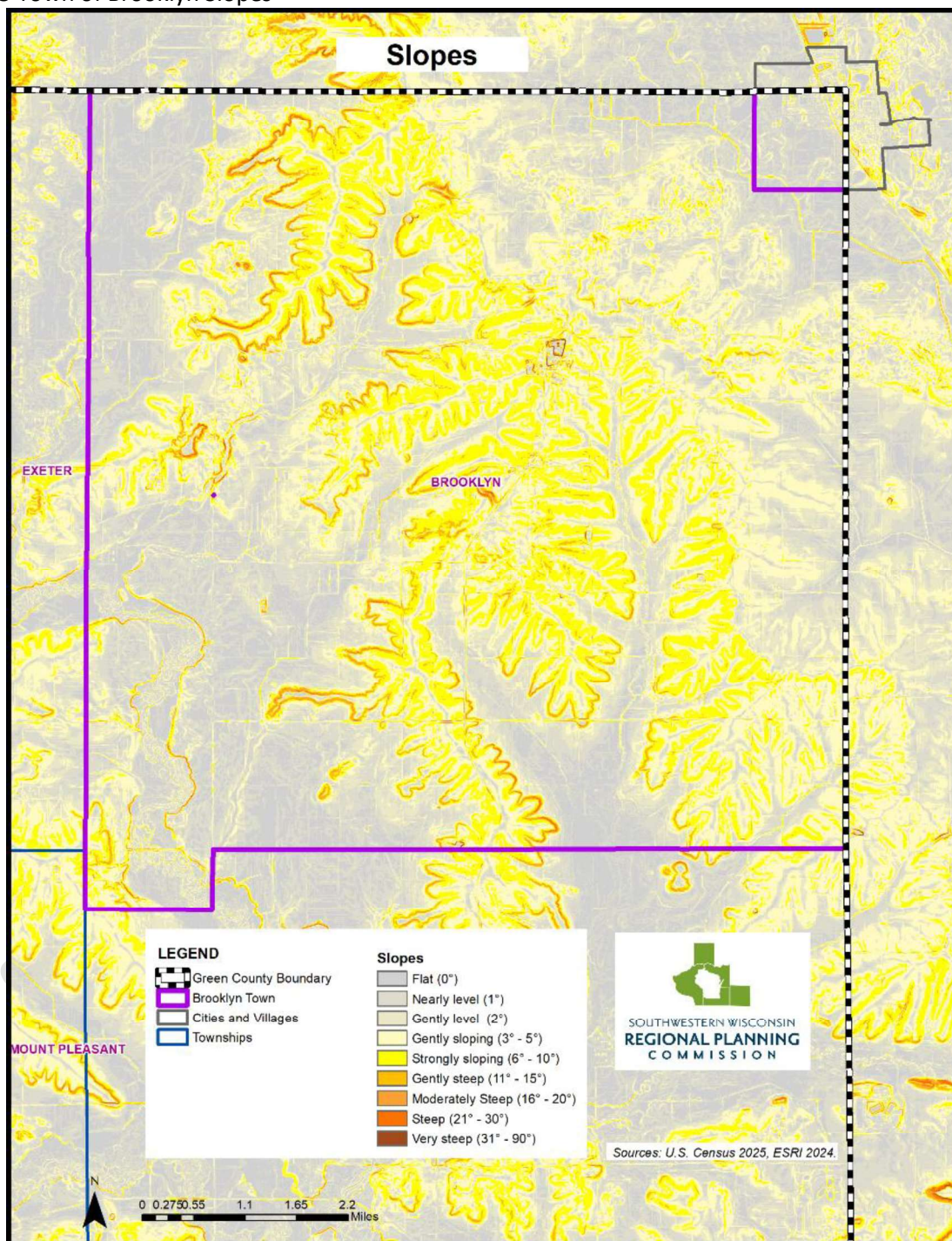
At the broadest scale, the State of Wisconsin is divided into distinct "ecological landscapes" based on unique combinations of physical and biological characteristics that make up the ecosystems, such as climate, geology, soils, water, or vegetation. They differ in levels of biological productivity, habitat suitability for wildlife, presence of rare species and natural communities, and in many other ways that affect land use and management. The Town of Brooklyn is located in the Southeast Glacial Plain landscape. Go to <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/lands/EcologicalLandscapes/SoutheastGlacialPlains#:~:text=This%20Ecological%20Landscape%20contains%20some,tamarack%20swamps%2C%20and%20floodplain%20forests>. for a detailed description of the Southeast Glacial Plain landscape.

#### **3.3.4.2 Natural Communities**

Ecological landscapes are comprised of natural communities – the assemblages of plants and animals at specific locations. Because of the biotic and abiotic differences between ecological landscapes, the natural communities within each are typically different as well. The Southeast Glacial Plain was originally composed of a mix of prairie, oak forests and savanna, and maple-basswood forests. The deeply dissected, unglaciated Southwest Savanna landscape was composed of tall grass prairie, oak savanna and some wooded slopes of oak forest. Today, both landscapes are primarily in agricultural production with scattered woodlands, savannas and remnant prairies.



Map 3.5 Town of Brooklyn Slopes



### 3.3.4.3 State Natural and Wildlife Areas

Wisconsin harbors a diverse mix of natural biotic communities and native species. Some species and natural communities have very limited distribution or only occur at small locations around the state. State Natural Areas help to protect outstanding examples of native Wisconsin landscapes, natural communities, and significant geological or archeological sites while State Wildlife Areas help to conserve and protect wildlife and their habitats, particularly for game species. In 1951, Wisconsin initiated the country's first

statewide program to identify and protect areas of outstanding and unique ecological, geological, and archeological value. These natural areas provide the best examples of natural processes acting over time with limited impact of human activity. The State Natural Areas program has grown to become the largest and most successful program of its kind in the nation. Over 335 sites have been designated in the state. State Natural Areas are important not only because they showcase the best and most pristine parts of Wisconsin, but also because they provide excellent wildlife habitat and undisturbed natural communities. Many threatened, endangered, and state special concern species can be found in these areas. There are seven State Natural Areas in Green County: none in the Town of Brooklyn. Go to <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/statenaturalareas/alpha>. The Town of Brooklyn is home to the Brooklyn Wildlife Area, the only State Wildlife Area located in Green County. Go to <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Lands/WildlifeAreas/brooklyn>.

#### 3.3.4.4 Endangered Species

Plant and animal species are considered one of the fundamental building blocks of ecological landscapes and biodiversity. The presence of one or more rare species and natural communities in an area can be an indication of an area's health and ecological importance and should prompt attention to conservation, management and restoration needs. Protection of such species is a valuable and vital component of sustaining biodiversity.

While the conservation of plants, animals and their habitat should be considered for all species, this is particularly important for rare or declining species. An endangered species is one whose continued existence is in jeopardy and may become extinct. A threatened species is one that is likely, within the foreseeable future, to become endangered. A special concern species is one about which some problem of abundance or distribution is suspected but not yet proven. The main purpose of the special concern category is to focus attention on certain species before they become endangered or threatened. Remaining examples of Wisconsin's intact native communities are also tracked but not protected by the law. Natural communities capture much of our native biodiversity and provide benchmarks for future scientific studies.

Both the state and federal governments prepare their own separate lists of such plant and animal species but do so working in cooperation with one another, as well as with various other organizations and universities. The WI-DNR's Endangered Resources Program monitors endangered, threatened, and special concern species and maintains the state's Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) database. This program maintains data on the locations and status of rare species in Wisconsin and these data are exempt from the open records law due to their sensitive nature.

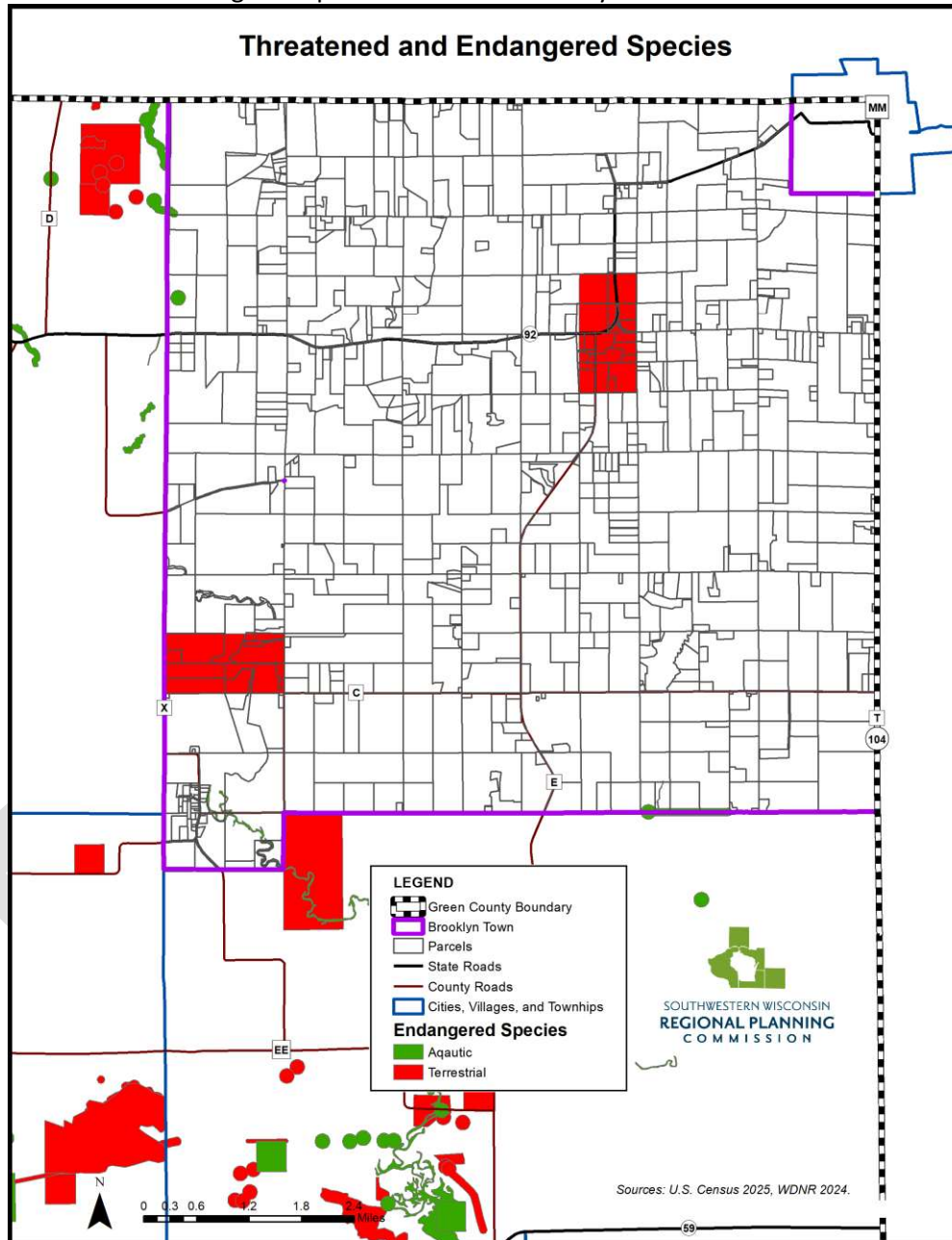
The Wisconsin Endangered Species Law was enacted to afford protection for certain wild animals and plants that the Legislature recognized as endangered or threatened and in need of protection as a matter of general state concern. It is illegal to:

1. take, transport, possess, process or sell any wild animal that is included on the Wisconsin Endangered and Threatened Species List;
2. process or sell any wild plant that is a listed species;
3. cut, root up, sever, injure, destroy, remove, transport or carry away a listed plant



on public lands or lands a person does not own, lease, or have the permission of the landowner. There are exemptions to the plant protection on public lands for forestry, agriculture and utility activities. In some cases, a person can conduct the above activities if permitted under a department permit (i.e. “Scientific Take” Permit or an “Incidental Take” Permit).

Map 3.6 Threatened and Endangered Species in Town of Brooklyn



For detailed information about Wisconsin’s Endangered and Threatened Species list, please visit the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ Endangered & Threatened Species page: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/ETList>. The Federal Endangered Species Act also protects animals and plants that are considered endangered or threatened at a national level. The law prohibits the direct killing, taking, or other

activities that may be detrimental to the species, including habitat modification or degradation, for all federally listed animals and designated critical habitat. Federally listed plants are also protected but only on federal lands. Implementation of the Endangered Species laws is usually accomplished during the state permit review process, but is ultimately the responsibility of a project proponent and property owner to ensure that they are not in violation of the laws.

### 3.3.5 Forest Resources

Forests provide raw materials for the forest products industry and a venue for hunting, hiking, and fishing. Forests help sustain water resources and provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals, including threatened and endangered species and by balancing global warming effects and air pollution by producing oxygen and storing carbon. Over half the forested lands in Wisconsin are privately owned (57%). See Map 3.7 for forested lands in the Town of Brooklyn.

Trees are important components of a community's green infrastructure, offering substantial environmental benefits, including cleaner air and water, quieter streets, cheaper energy bills, cooler temperatures, and wildlife habitat. Tree planting programs, preserving established trees, and using sustainable forestry techniques not only increase property values for Town residents, but also lower air and water remediation costs for the environment.

### 3.3.6 Environmental Corridors

Environmental corridors are physical areas containing groups of features (such as hedgerows or river bottoms) allowing animals and plants to move unobstructed across the landscape. Areas of concentrated natural resource activity ("rooms"), such as wetlands, woodlands, prairies, lakes, and other features, become even more functional and supportive of wildlife when linked by such corridors ("hallways"). If corridor resource features are mapped, they can depict linear spaces that can be helpful in future land development decisions. Fish and wildlife populations, native plant distribution, and even clean water all depend on movement through environmental corridors. For example, wildlife populations isolated in one wooded location can overpopulate, die out, or cause problems for neighbors if there are not adequate corridors to allow the population to move about and disperse freely. Over 70% of all terrestrial wildlife species use riparian corridors, according to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). By preserving environmental corridors, wildlife populations, both plant and animals can maintain themselves and be healthier. See Map 3.7, Natural and Recreational Resources, for natural resources that might lend themselves to providing wildlife unimpeded access through the landscape.

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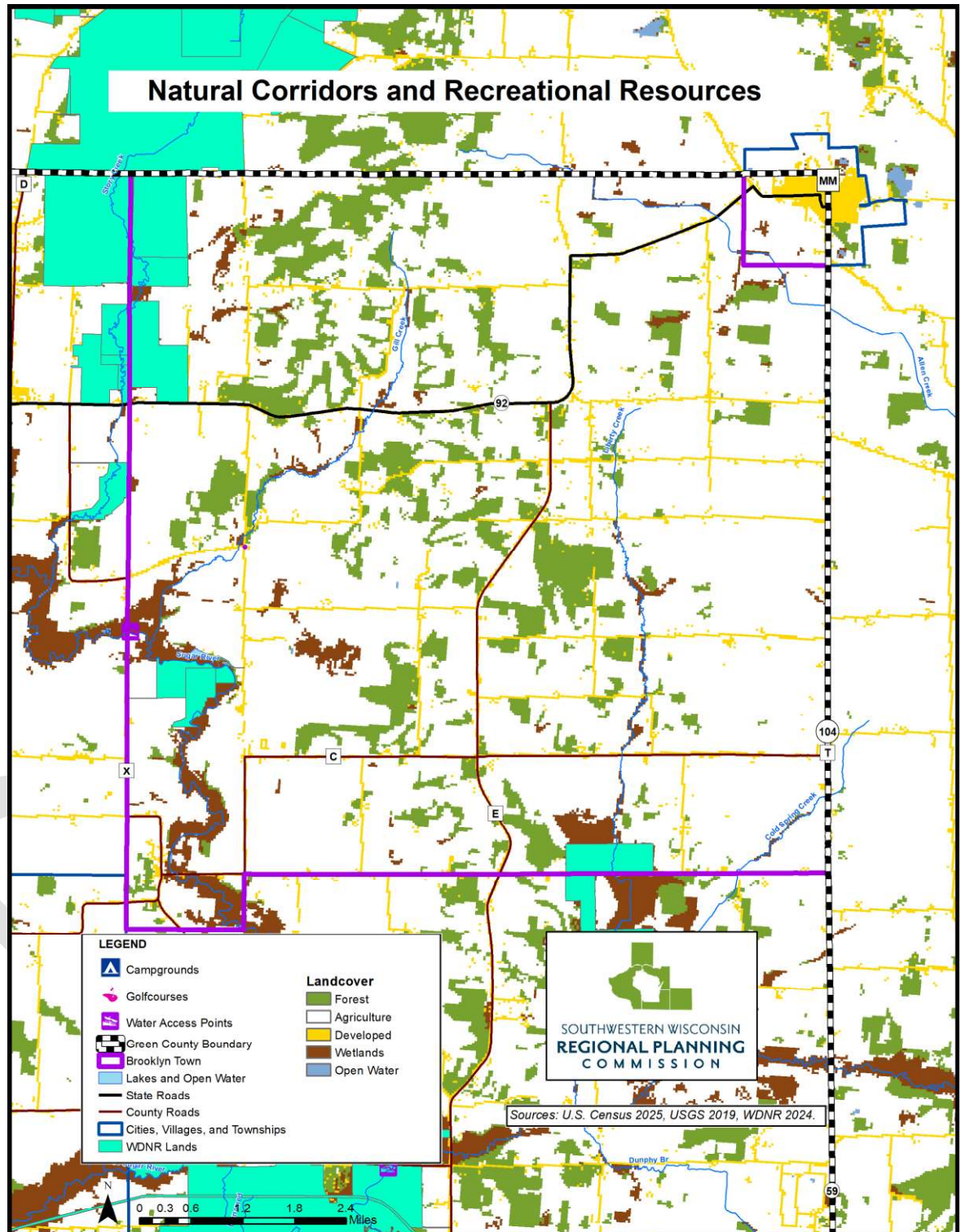
***Environmental Corridor Benefits:***

- O Improved Wildlife Habitat*
- O Greater Biodiversity*
- O Reduced Flooding*
- O Reduced Soil Erosion*
- O Improved Water Quality*
- O Improved Water Quantity*
- O Groundwater Recharge*
- O Bank Stabilization*
- O Improved Air Quality*

***Social Benefits:***

- O Walking and Hiking*
  - O Cross Country Skiing*
  - O Horseback Riding*
  - O Photography*
  - O Wildlife Viewing*
-

Map 3.7 Town of Brooklyn Natural and Recreational Resources



### 3.3.7 Light, Air, and Noise Pollution

Light, air, and noise pollution are not often considered when doing planning. However,

improper environmental controls can produce air (odor) pollution and noise pollution. The most common air pollutants (dust, pollen, fuel fumes, ash, etc.) including odors, come from industrial, automotive, and agriculture sources. Burn barrels are significant local contributors to air pollution.

Inappropriate or overly bright outdoor lighting can spill over property lines provoking altercations with neighbors or impair driving conditions (e.g. very bright lighting for businesses producing eye level glare to passing drivers).

Improper night lighting or light pollution affects the night sky anywhere improperly shaded nighttime outdoor lights are used. Lighting ordinances recognize the benefits of appropriate outdoor lighting and can provide guidelines for installation, helping to maintain and compliment a community's character.

A number of land uses can contribute to noise pollution, such as vehicle noise from highways, airport noise, or sounds from manufacturing facilities. Repetitive excessive noises like those from engine brakes, boom cars, loud stereos, powered lawn and garden equipment, and construction activities have been shown to have serious health consequences (e.g. tinnitus, balance problems), not to mention problems between neighbors.

### **3.3.8 Geologic, and Mineral Resources**

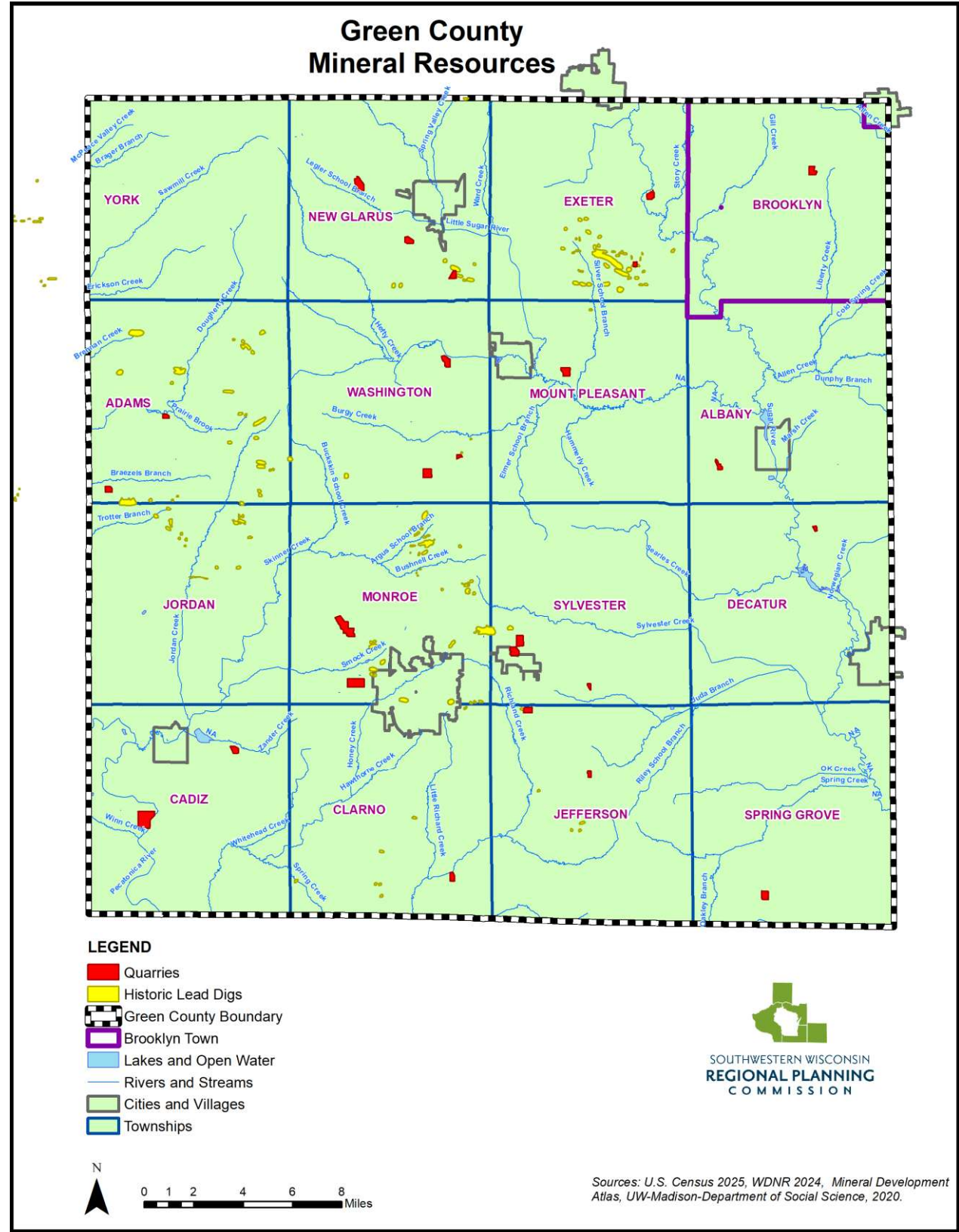
Soils and geology are important planning considerations, particularly when thinking about new development. Today, technological advances can overcome many challenges relating to soil and geology. However, it is important that these resources not be abused, overused, or contaminated. For example, particular attention must be paid to soils when development is occurring on steeper slopes. Most of south/southwest Wisconsin's bedrock is sedimentary rock, consisting of sandstone and shale or limestone. Mineral resources are divided into two categories, metallic and non-metallic. Metallic resources in the region include lead and zinc but there is no evidence of metallic mining in the Town. Non-metallic resources include sand, gravel, and limestone. Limestone for road building is one of the most significant non-metallic geologic resources in the area today.

#### **3.2.10.1 Non-Metallic Mine Reclamation**

In June of 2001, all Wisconsin counties were obliged to adopt an ordinance for nonmetallic mine reclamation. The purpose of the ordinance is to achieve acceptable final site reclamation to an approved post-mining land use in compliance with uniform reclamation standards. Uniform reclamation standards address environmental protection measures including topsoil salvage and storage, surface and groundwater protection, and concurrent reclamation to minimize acreage exposed to wind and water erosion. Brooklyn complies with the County's Non-metallic Mining Ordinance.



Map 3.8 Green County Mineral Resources





### 3.2.10.2 Quarries

Non-metallic resources include sand, gravel, and limestone, resources that come from quarries. A quarry is an open-pit mine from which rock or minerals are extracted. Such rocks and minerals are generally used as dimension stone. Rock quarries are usually shallower than other types of open-pit mines. Types of rock extracted from quarries include cinders, coquina (a type of limestone), blue rock, granite, gritstone, limestone, marble, sandstone, and slate. Limestone for road building is one of the most significant non-metallic geologic resources in the area today.

In level areas, quarries often have special engineering problems for drainage. Groundwater seeping into the quarry pit must be pumped out. Many quarries fill with water to become ponds or small lakes after abandonment. Others have become landfills. Restricting access to quarries helps protect these areas from becoming groundwater pollution source points. Therefore, determining quarry locations within the jurisdiction's local watersheds can help communities plan where and how much development can be built, with respect to its water resources.

The Town of Brooklyn has quarries in its jurisdiction. However, there is no need for the Town to have a policy regarding quarries because Brooklyn relies on Green County policies and ordinances regarding nonmetallic mining.

### 3.3.9 Natural Open Space and Parks

The value of open space lies in its inherent protection of ecologically sensitive areas including wetlands and water resources, important wildlife habitat, and sensitive soils. Preserving open spaces not only directly protects resources, but the space itself becomes a vital buffer zone because nothing can replace the visual impact of open space, whether it is agricultural land or woodlands.

Open space can take the form of parks, cropland and pastures, greenbelts, wetlands or floodplains. It can also serve many functions for a community other than recreation, such as:

- Preservation of scenic and natural resources;
- Flood management;
- Protection of water resources;
- Preserving prime agricultural land;
- Limiting development that may occur;
- Buffering incompatible land uses;
- Structuring the community environment.

At this time, the Town of Brooklyn does not have any policies protecting the viewshed (scenic views and vistas), nor does the Town have any policies or ordinances for regulating the landscaping of new or existing residential, industrial, or commercial development.

Signs and billboards exist within the open spaces of communities, at times having a negative visual aesthetic impact on the viewshed. Currently, there is no Town policy on signage.

### **3.3.10 Local Park and Recreation Resources**

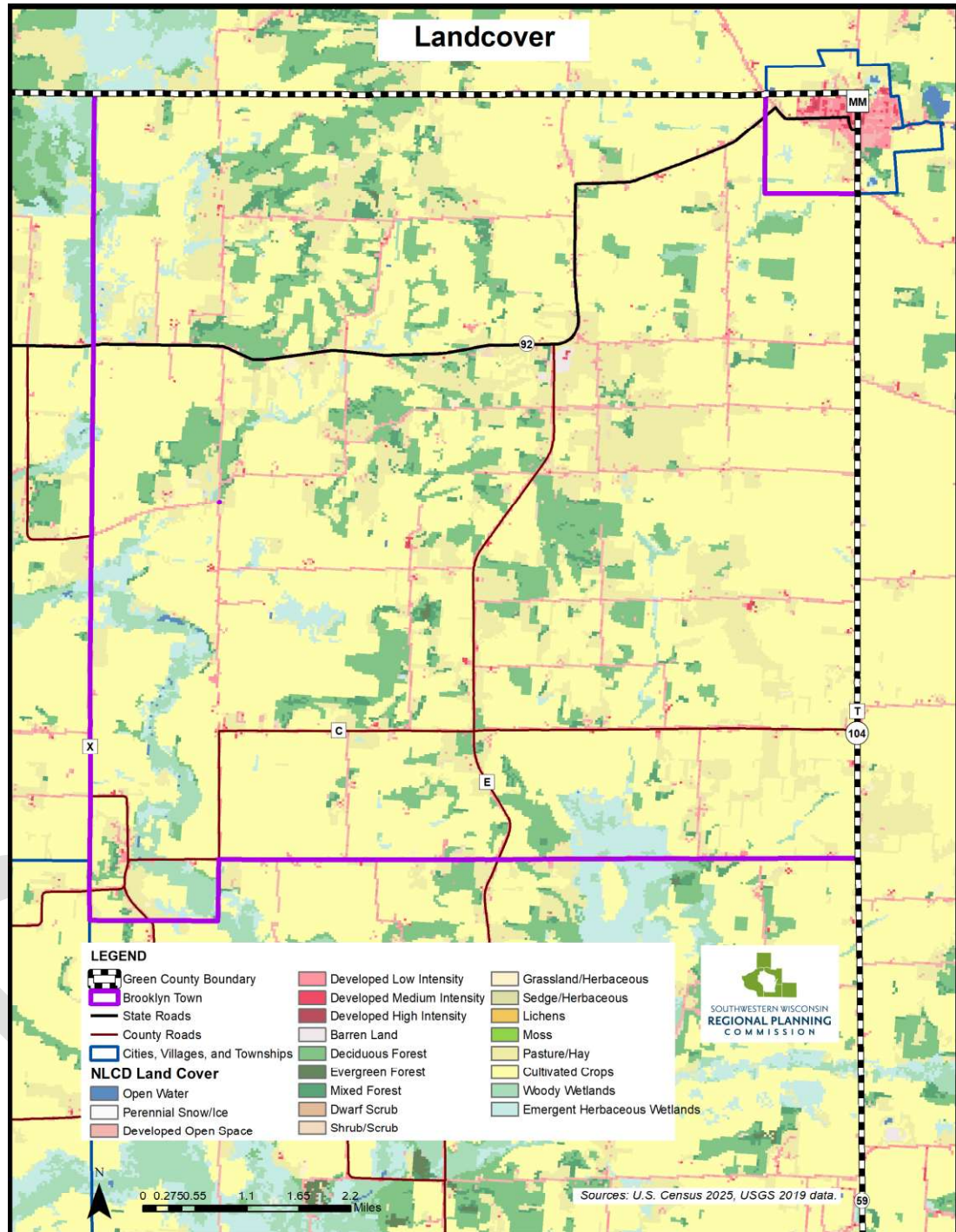
Every jurisdiction is unique and can capitalize on its significance and natural beauty. For example, biking, driving, or walking tours can be designed to thread through areas of cultural, historical, or environmental significance. Parks can be part of a “chain” along a bike, horse, or ATV trail and can serve a limited neighborhood area, a portion of the community, or the entire community or region and provide land and facilities for outdoor recreation for residents and visitors.

Green County’s natural resources attract numerous recreational users, such as campers, bird watchers, cyclists, snowmobilers, bikers, 4-wheelers, horseback riders, hunters, anglers, etc. Brooklyn has snowmobile trails and public hunting grounds (located on DNR property). The jurisdiction does not actively promote their recreational resources to visitors and the Planning Commission stated that the Town has enough outdoor recreation spaces to fulfill the needs of its citizens.

### **3.3.11 Land Cover**

Map 3.7 shows the amount of natural resources in the Town of Brooklyn. It also shows the location of forested lands, agricultural lands, open water, wetlands, rivers, and open space. Map 3.9 is the Land Cover Map for the Town of Brooklyn.

Map 3.9 Town of Brooklyn Land Cover



### 3.3.12 Natural Resource Agencies and Programs

There are a number of available state and federal programs to assist with agricultural, natural, and cultural resource planning and protection. Below are brief descriptions of various agencies and programs. Contact information is provided for each agency. To find out more specific information or which program best fits your needs contact them directly.

## **WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (WDNR)**

The Department of Natural Resources is dedicated to the preservation, protection, effective management, and maintenance of Wisconsin's natural resources. It is responsible for implementing the laws of the state and, where applicable, the laws of the federal government that protect and enhance the natural resources of our state. It is the one agency charged with full responsibility for coordinating the many disciplines and programs necessary to provide a clean environment and a full range of outdoor recreational opportunities for Wisconsin citizens and visitors. The Wisconsin DNR has a number of programs available ranging from threatened and endangered species to water quality to parks and open space to wetlands. The DNR is available to provide information on endangered and threatened species.

## **WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (DATCP)**

The Wisconsin Department of Trade and Consumer Protection inspects and licenses more than 100,000 businesses and individuals, analyzes millions of laboratory samples, conducts hundreds of hearings and investigations, educates businesses and consumers about best practices, adopts rules that have the force of law, and promotes Wisconsin agriculture at home and abroad.

Specifically, DATCP has two divisions that relate directly to the agriculture and natural resource section of the comprehensive plan.

The Environmental Division focuses on insects, land and water, as well as plants and animals. The Agricultural Division focuses on animals, crops, agricultural resources, and land and water resources.

## **WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is the federal agency that works with landowners on private lands to conserve natural resources. NRCS is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, formerly the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Nearly three-fourths of the technical assistance provided by the agency goes to helping farmers and ranchers develop conservation systems uniquely suited to their land and individual ways of doing business. The agency also assists other private landowners and rural and urban communities to reduce erosion, conserve and protect water, and solve other resource problems.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)**

The Environmental Protection Agency is a federal agency of the United States government, responsible for regulating environmental pollution and environmental quality. The EPA has been one of the lead agencies within the United States Government on the climate change issue.



## 3.4 Cultural Resources



### 3.4.1 Chapter Summary

The purpose of this section is to inventory and support the management of cultural resources in the Town of Brooklyn. Many communities often ignore cultural and historic resources in order to deal with “real” issues facing their community. However, the proper appreciation of these assets is vital to the long-term success of a community. Respecting and utilizing these available resources increase the overall quality of life and provides opportunities for tourism.

Determining what cultural and historic resources ~~are~~ exist has been left open to some interpretation. For this Plan, historic resources include historic buildings and sites (as identified by the national register of historic places), museums, archeological sites, churches, cemeteries, old country schools, and other sites deemed appropriate by the community. The information is to serve as a guide to cultural and historic resources and is not inclusive.

### 3.4.2 A Brief History of Green County

Many of the first settlers to the Green County area were European immigrants from Switzerland. The fertile land was more than suitable for dairy farming and soon a bustling cheese industry was born. In the early 1900s, the number of cheese factories in Green County peaked at just over 200. Today only twelve remain, offering many varieties of cheeses, including the only cheese factory in the nation that makes Limburger Cheese. Green County is also home to the New Glarus Brewing Company (located in New Glarus) and Minhas Brewing Company (located in Monroe), the nation’s second oldest brewery.

The Swiss heritage still has a large impact on the community and its influence can still be enjoyed in many of the County's Festivals. It can also still be seen in the architecture of many of Green County's buildings and homes, including the Green County courthouse built in 1891.

Prior to farming, many early immigrants came to the Green County region for mining purposes. The lead rush of the 1820s and 1830s attracted people to the area in masses. Many of today's cities and villages grew out of settlements platted by railroad companies. In 1835, Jacob Andrick entered a claim and platted a site for the town of New Mexico, present site of Lincoln Park. Several years later, Joseph Payne platted Monroe near the present location of the courthouse square. In 1836, the territorial legislature designated the County of Green, named after a Revolutionary War hero General Nathaniel Greene and the lush vegetation found in the region. Green County was sectioned into sixteen towns in 1850.

In 1839, Monroe was designated as the seat of Green County after Payne donated 120 acres to Green County. Eventually, Monroe absorbed the settlement of New Mexico. Monroe continued modest growth until the mid 1800s when the influx of Swiss immigrants and the dairy/cheese industry began to boom. Monroe served as the major service center for the production, warehousing, and retail sales of cheese. This economic success naturally encouraged service industries and social centers to become established.

### **3.4.3 Cultural Resource Publications or Documentations**

Maintaining a written record of cultural resources is an excellent way of educating residents about a community's past as well as encouraging tourism. The Town of Brooklyn does not have any publications or pamphlets about the local cultural resources, but may create this type of resource during the life of this plan. Green County does produce various visitor and tourism brochures and pamphlets. Contact the Green County Department of Tourism for more information.

### **3.4.4 Local Historical Societies**

Local historical societies provide an important service to communities by documenting, rehabilitating, maintaining, or promoting local cultural resources. There is no local historical society in the Town of Brooklyn. The following lists the contact information for the Green County Historical Society:

Green County Historical Society  
1218 17th Ave.  
Monroe, WI 53566  
Phone: (608) 325-2924

Local Historian  
Sharon George  
W711 Amidon Rd.  
Brooklyn, WI 53521

### **3.4.5 Museum or Cultural Resources Center**

Another way of preserving the past is through a local museum or cultural resource center. The Town of Brooklyn does not have a local museum and is not interested in forming one at this time. There is a Green County Historical Museum located at 1218 17th Ave., Monroe.

### **3.4.6 Historical Markers**

Wisconsin Historical Markers identify, commemorate and honor the important people,

places, and events that have contributed to the state's rich heritage. The Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation administers the Historical Markers program. They can be contacted for more information. The Town of Brooklyn does not have any State registered historical markers and is not interested in placing any at this time. However, it does have a marker at Liberty Pole Park (State Highway 92 & Amidon Rd.), to commemorate a Civil War camp and nine one room schoolhouse markers.

### **3.4.7 Cultural Resource Programs and Special Events**

Cultural Resource Programs and Special Events are very effective methods of bringing people (both residents and non-residents) of a community together to celebrate the cultural history of a community. Not only do these special events build community spirit, but they can also be important to a community's economy. The Town of Brooklyn does not have any cultural resource programs or special events at this time.

Contact Green County ([www.greencounty.org](http://www.greencounty.org)) to obtain the latest visitor guide to find out information about cultural resource programs and special events held in other communities in Green County. Below is a list of some of the major cultural resource programs and special events held in Green County.

- Apple Blossom Time (Monticello) – Saturday Before Mother's Day
- Breakfast on the Farm – Late May
- Depot Days of Green County (County Wide) – Last Weekend in April
- Green County Cheese Days (Monroe) – Third Weekend in September (even yrs)
- Green County Dairy Day – Late June
- Green County Fair – Begins Third Wednesday in July
- Monroe/World Honda Grand Prix Balloon Rally – Mid June
- Oktoberfest (New Glarus & Monroe) – Mid-October
- Summerfest (Browntown) – Mid-June
- William Tell Festival (New Glarus) – Labor Day Weekend
- Yesteryear Days (Albany) – Memorial Day Weekend

### **3.4.8 Threats to Lost Cultural Resources**

Unfortunately, there are many threats to the cultural resources of a community. Whether it is development pressure, rehabilitation and maintenance costs, or simply the effects of time, it is often difficult to preserve the cultural resources in a community.

### **3.4.9 Historical Preservation Ordinances and Commissions**

The establishment of a historical preservation ordinance and commission is one of the most proactive actions a community can take to preserve cultural resources. A historical preservation ordinance typically contains criteria for the designation of historic structures, districts, or places, and procedures for the nomination process, as well as regulates the construction, alteration and demolition of a designated historic site or structure. Contact the Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation for more information. The Town of Brooklyn does not have a historic preservation ordinance or commission.

Communities with historic preservation ordinances may apply for Certified Local Government (CLG) status with the Wisconsin State Historical Society. Once a community is certified, they become eligible for:

- Matching sub-grants from the federal Historic Preservation Fund,
- Use of Wisconsin Historic Building Code

- Reviewing National Register of Historic Places nominations allocated to the state.

### **3.4.10 Churches**

Churches historically have had a significant impact on the culture of a community. They are also sometimes the only places in rural areas where residents can gather to discuss important issues in their community.

### **3.4.11 Cemeteries**

Cemeteries are identified as prominent historic and cultural resources. They can provide an historic perspective of an area, providing names and ethnicities of previous residents, linking a community to its past.

### **3.4.12 Rural Schools**

The old time, one-room schoolhouses once dotted the landscape, providing public education for mainly rural communities. Over time, these buildings were utilized less and less, as larger, more centrally located schools were built and students were bused in from the country. Nevertheless, the one room schoolhouse remains an icon of American rural culture. The Town of Brooklyn has marked the past sites of nine rural schools with unique plaques describing the schools.

### **3.4.13 Architecture and History Inventory (AHI)**

The Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) is a collection of information on historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and historic districts throughout Wisconsin. The AHI contains all the documented historic sites in a community, as well as a list of those sites that are on the State and National Register of Historic Places. The AHI is comprised of written text and photographs of each property, which document the property's architecture and history. Most properties became part of the Inventory as a result of a systematic architectural and historical survey beginning in 1970s.

Table 3.4 lists the historical sites in the jurisdiction compiled by the Office of Preservation Planning, Division of Historic Preservation of the Wisconsin Historical Society.



Table 3.4 Town of Brooklyn AHI

AHI Number	Location	Historic Name	Historic Use
89251	COUNTY HIGHWAY X		house
89253	COUNTY HIGHWAYS C and X, west side .1 south of their intersection		cheese factory
89442	GLENWAY RD		house
89446	GLENWAY RD		house
89450	ALPINE RD		house
89458	SANDYHOOK RD	Gill School	one to six room school
89460	FREIDIG RD, south side, 150 feet east of Sandyhook Road		garage
89463	SANDY HOOK RD		barn
89465	KELLY RD, west side, 1.2 mi. north of Co. Hwy C	William Darkin	house
89468	YARWOOD RD, south side, 0.65 mi. east of Co. Hwy. E		barn
89472	INTERSECTION OF COUNTY HIGHWAY E AND HORAN RD		barn
89474	COUNTY HIGHWAY X, west side, 0.2 north of Co. Hwy C	Methodist Episcopal Church	church
89497	COUNTY HIGHWAY C, south side, 0.2 mi. east of Co. Hwy. E		Agricultural - outbuilding
89498	COUNTY HIGHWAY C, south side, 0.2 mi. east of Co. Hwy E		house
89499	BROOKLYN ALBANY RD		well
89547	COUNTY HIGHWAY C	Peace Church	church
89553	KRAUSE RD, east side, 0.6 mi. south of Hwy C		silo
89554	INTERSECTION OF COUNTY HIGHWAY C AND HORAN RD		Agricultural - outbuilding
89478	N 7302 COUNTY HIGHWAY X, Intersection of Co. Hwys. X and C	Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop	blacksmith shop

### 3.4.14 State and National Register of Historic Places

The State Register is Wisconsin's official listing of state properties determined to be significant to Wisconsin's heritage and is maintained by the Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation. Both listings include sites, buildings, structures, objects, and districts that are significant in national, state or local history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture. Contact the National Park Service or State Historical Society for more information on registration. The National Register is the official national list of American historic properties worthy of preservation, maintained by the National Park Service (U.S. Department of the Interior).

### 3.4.15 Archaeological Site Inventory (ASI)

The Archaeological Site Inventory (ASI) is a collection of archaeological sites, mounds, unmarked cemeteries, marked cemeteries, and cultural sites (at the town level) throughout Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation maintains the inventory.

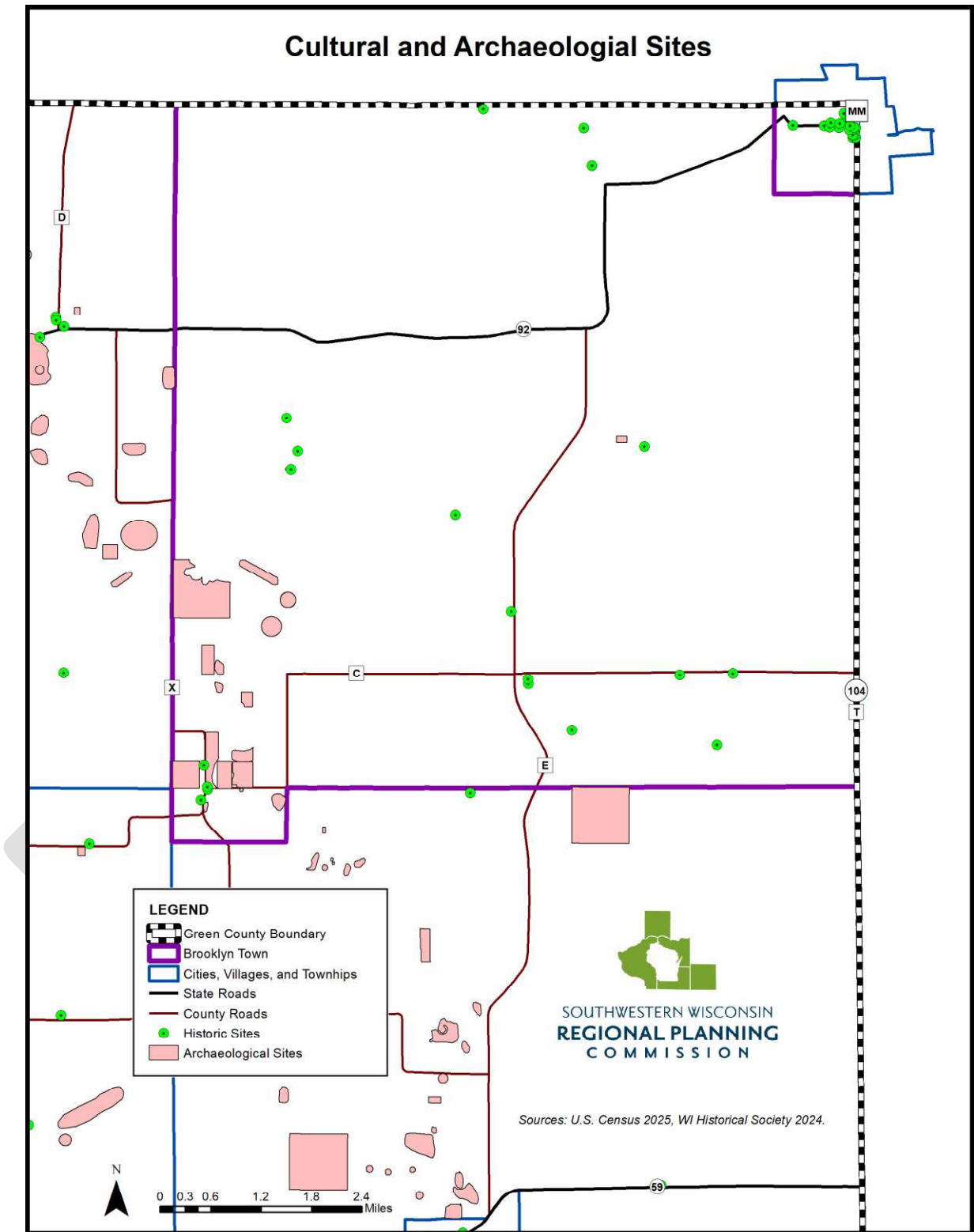
Similar to the AHI, the ASI is not a comprehensive or complete list; it only includes sites reported to the Historical Society. Contact the Wisconsin Historical Society for more information about the inventory.

Table 3.5 lists the archeological sites in the jurisdiction compiled by the Office of State Archeology, Historic Preservation Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Table 3.5 Town of Brooklyn ASI

ASI Code	Site Name	Site type / Description	Cultural Name
GR-0180	RUPPERT	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
GR-0070		Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
GR-0030	KEEHN II	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
GR-0294	Stockburn Village	Campsite/village	Historic Indian
GR-0195	TERRIE	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
GR-0088		Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
GR-0021	SWAN	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
GR-0055		Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
GR-0054		Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
GR-0023	Zimmerman	Campsite/village	Historic Indian;Unknown Prehistoric
GR-0022	Attica	Campsite/village	Historic Indian;Unknown Prehistoric
GR-0028	PATERSON III	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
GR-0196	WYSS	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
GR-0027	PATERSON II	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
GR-0056		Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
GR-0026	PATERSON I	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
GR-0024	TROW	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
GR-0029/ BGR-0079	Keehn I	Transportation site;Mound(s) - Other/Unk;Campsite/village	Historic Indian;Unknown Prehistoric;Woodland
BGR-0012	ATTICA CEMETERY	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro-American
BGR-0011	PEACE EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH CEMETERY	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro-American
BGR-0010	JUG PRAIRIE CEMETERY	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro-American

Map 3.10 Town of Brooklyn Cultural and Archaeological Sites



## 4.0 Housing

### 4.1 Chapter Summary

Housing is a necessity of life and an important part of the comprehensive planning process. The purposes of this section are to assess the current housing stock in the Town of Brooklyn and to identify policies and programs that will help meet existing and forecasted housing demand. The housing stock assessment includes the age, value, and type (e.g. single-family or multi-family) of existing housing units; as well as occupancy characteristics such as tenure (owner occupied vs. renter occupied), and affordability (the percentage of monthly income residents spend on housing costs).



### 4.2 Goals

The following are the Housing Goals:

1. Manage orderly growth of housing within the town.
2. Protect land and property values.

### 4.3 Objectives and Policies and Program Recommendations

The following housing objectives and policy recommendations support the above goals. They will guide housing land use decisions in the jurisdiction over the next 20 years.

#### NOT IN ORDER OF PRIORITY

1. Allow only single-family housing.
2. Locate multi-family apartment buildings, senior housing and special needs housing near or inside cities and villages, where there is access to public services and facilities.
3. Impose impact fees on new development to mitigate Town costs necessitated by development.
4. Where and when appropriate, utilize county, state, and federal programs or grants to maintain existing housing or to support the construction of future housing.



## 4.4 Housing Characteristics

### 4.4.1 Households and Housing Units

The Town of Brooklyn has shown total households increasing 78.5% between 1990 and 2020 (Table 4.1). A household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence. Between 1990 and 2020, total housing units increased 75.5%. Although the rate of growth of new housing units slowed considerably between 2010 and 2020.

Table 4.1 Housing Statistics

Housing	Town of Brooklyn Number	Green County Number	Wisconsin Number
Total Households (1990)*	252	11,541	1,822,118
Total Households (2000)	336	13,231	2,084,544
Total Households (2010)	419	14,541	2,279,768
Total Households (2020)	450	15,404	2,428,361
People per Household (1990)	3.03	2.62	2.6
People per Household (2000)	2.79	2.50	2.5
People per Household (2010)	2.45	2.53	2.4
People per Household (2020)	2.46	2.41	2.4
Housing Units 1990**	270	12,087	2,055,774
Housing Units 2000	355	13,878	2,321,144
Housing Units 2010	442	15,856	2,624,358
Housing Units 2020	474	16,273	2,727,726

(Source: US Census)

\*Total Households equal the number of occupied housing units.

\*\*Total Housing Units are all those available, including occupied and vacant units.

### 4.4.2 Occupancy Characteristics

Of the 474 housing units in Brooklyn in 2020, 84.8% were owner-occupied, 10% were renter-occupied, and 5% were vacant (Figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1 Total Housing Units by Category  
in the Town of Brooklyn  
(Source: US Census)

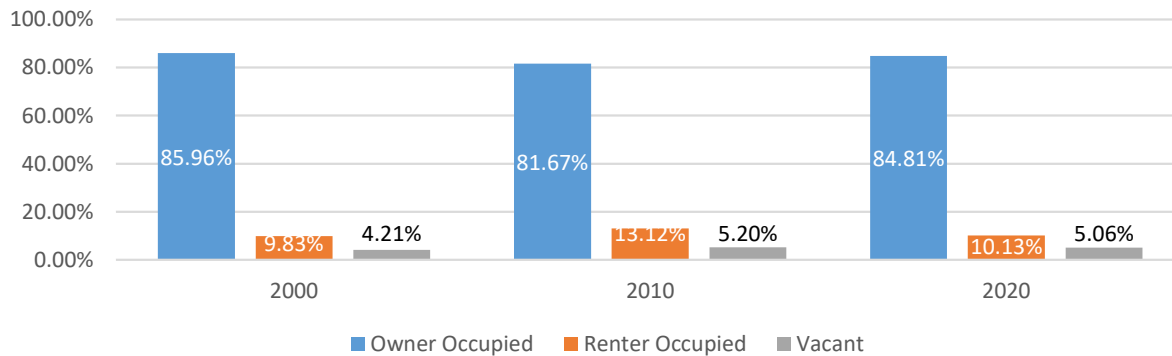


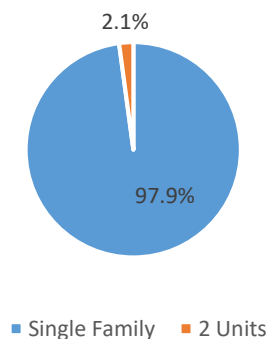
Table 4.2 Occupancy Characteristics

Jurisdiction	Total housing units (2020)	Change since 2010	Owner occupied (2020)	Change since 2010	Renter occupied (2020)	Change since 2010	Vacant Housing Units (2020)	Change since 2010
Green County	16,273	+417	11,657	+465	3,747	+73	869	+121
Town of Brooklyn	474	+32	402	+41	48	-10	24	+1

#### 4.4.3 Housing Conditions

#### 4.4.4 Structural Characteristics

Figure 4.2 Housing Unit Type in the Town of Brooklyn  
(Source: 2023 ACS 5 Year Survey)



As of the 2023 ACS 5 Year Survey, 97.9% of the Town of Brooklyn's housing units were single-family homes, while the rest were 2-unit homes (2.1%).

#### 4.4.5 Value Characteristics

The 2023 median value for specified owner-occupied homes in the Town of Brooklyn was \$433,100 in comparison of the County median value for the same year of \$236,900. The Town's median home value increased 50.4% from 2010. The Town median value also exceeds the State median value of owner-occupied homes in 2021 of \$247,400. The values for Brooklyn do reflect the full property assessments, which in many cases include large agricultural parcels as well as the home itself. This can make the "owner-occupied home value" figure appear higher compared to more residential communities. The percent of owner-occupied homes above \$750,000 in Brooklyn of 13.7% far exceeds both the county and state percentage of owner-occupied homes above \$750,000 of 4.2% and 3.5% respectively.

Table 4.3 Percent Values of Total Owner-Occupied Units in 2010, 2023

Value of Owner-Occupied Units	Town of Brooklyn Percent Value of Total Owner-Occupied Units		Green County Percent Value of Total Owner-Occupied Units 2023	State of Wisconsin Percent Value of Total Owner-Occupied Units 2023
	2010	2023		
Less than \$50,000	0.8%	1.2%	3.6%	3.9%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1.4%	0%	4.7%	5.9%
\$100,000 to \$299,999	51.6%	21.1%	57.7%	53.4%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	32.3%	40.1%	22.9%	25.7%
\$500,000 to \$749,999	10.8%	23.9%	6.9%	7.7%
\$750,000 to \$999,999	2.3%	6.7%	1.2%	2%
\$1,000,000 or more	0.8%	7%	3%	1.5%
Median (dollars)	\$287,900	\$433,100	\$236,900	\$247,400

(Source: ACS 5 Year Survey)

#### 4.4.6 Housing Affordability Characteristics

Housing is considered affordable when an owner or renter's monthly costs do not exceed 30% of their total gross monthly income. Among Brooklyn households that owned their homes in 2023, 30.8% exceeded the "affordable" threshold (Table 4.4).

Table 4.4 Housing Costs per Month as Percent of Household Income

Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income	2010	2023
Less than 20%	29.2%	47.8%
20 to 24.9%	15.9%	15.8%
25 to 29.9%	11.9%	5.6%
30 to 34.9%	5.7%	6.7%
35% or more	37.4%	24.1%
Not computed	0	0

(Source: ACS 5 Year Survey)

## 5.0 Transportation

### 5.1 Chapter Summary

A community's transportation infrastructure supports the varied needs of its residents, local businesses, visitors, and through traffic. The Transportation Chapter summarizes the local transportation system and, based on local input, provides a 20-year jurisdictional plan that will serve as a resource guide implementation guide.



### 5.2 Goal

The following is the transformation Goal for Brooklyn Township:

1. Provide good quality, safe roads.

### 5.3 Transportation Objectives and Policies Recommendations

The following transportation policies and program recommendations support the above goal to help guide transportation decisions for the next 20 years.

*NOT IN ORDER OF PRIORITY*

1. Collaborate with WisDOT and the Green County Highway Department on transportation planning initiatives to support regional connectivity and infrastructure coordination while ensuring road developments are in conformance with all established rules and regulations, as specified through local ordinances.
2. Promote transportation options that address the mobility needs of elderly and disabled residents, in partnership with local service providers and transportation agencies.
3. Enhance the safety of motorized and non-motorized transportation modes by identifying and



addressing high-risk areas for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.

4. Ensure builders are responsible for the costs of plan reviews and associated road improvements or construction, in accordance with local road and street design standards.
5. Coordinate with adjacent jurisdictions to align transportation plans and promote consistency in road design, maintenance, and development policies.
6. Explore strategies to preserve and improve road surface quality within the Town, including regular assessments and maintenance planning.
7. Continue administering a driveway ordinance and local road design guidelines to guide future development and ensure safe, consistent infrastructure. Where appropriate, shared driveways will be encouraged to minimize the number of access points on local streets/roads.
8. Utilize data from the PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating) system or a comparable pavement condition program to inform and maintain the Town's transportation plan, ensuring long-term planning for road maintenance, upgrades, and potential new road construction.
9. When appropriate, pursue county, state, and federal funding opportunities—including grants and programs—to support the maintenance, enhancement, and construction of transportation facilities and services.

## 5.4 Transportation Infrastructure

### 5.4.1 Transportation Infrastructure

The County has a total of 1,142.14 miles of roads. Of these, 277.52 are county miles and 864.62 are municipal miles, according to the county's January 2025 WISLR inventory. The County breakdown is shown in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Green County Roads

	Arterial	Collector	Local
County	1.89	244.64	30.99
Municipalities	9.32	37.8	817.5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11.21</b>	<b>282.44</b>	<b>848.49</b>

Source: WisDOT WISLR Inventory

Table 5.2: Town of Brooklyn Road Details

Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads - January 1, 2025									
				County Jurisdiction			Municipal Jurisdiction		
Road Name	Gross Miles	County Miles	Municipal Miles	Arterial	Collector	Local	Arterial	Collector	Local
Alpine Rd	1.64		1.64						1.64
Amidon Rd	2.23		2.23					2.23	
Behnke Rd	1.02		1.02						1.02
Benson Rd	2.52		2.52						2.52
Brooklyn/Albany Rd	2.51		2.51						2.51
CTH C	7.07	7.07			7.07				
CTH E	4.33	4.33			4.33				
CTH X	2.35	2.35			2.35				
Dallman Rd	0.07		0.07						0.07
Elmer Rd	3.00		3.00						3.00
Freidig Rd	2.32		2.32						2.32
Frei Rd	0.21		0.21						0.21
Glenway Rd	0.72		0.72					0.72	
Horan Rd	2.00		2.00						2.00
Kelly Rd	1.43		1.43						1.43
King Rd	4.12		4.12						4.12
Krause Rd	1.02		1.02						1.02
Legler Rd	2.25		2.25						2.25
Liberty Pole Rd	0.07		0.07						0.07
Mortensen Rd	2.81		2.81						2.81
Sandy Hook Rd	3.02		3.02						3.02
Smith Rd	2.52		2.52						2.52
Swann St (1)	0.09		0.09						0.09
Swann St (2)	0.01		0.01						0.01
Trow Rd	1.00		1.00						1.00
Yarwood Rd	3.01		3.01						3.01
Zweifel Rd	1.98		1.98						1.98
<b>Total Miles</b>	<b>56.25</b>	<b>13.75</b>	<b>42.50</b>		<b>13.75</b>			<b>2.95</b>	<b>39.55</b>
Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation WISLR Database, January 2025									

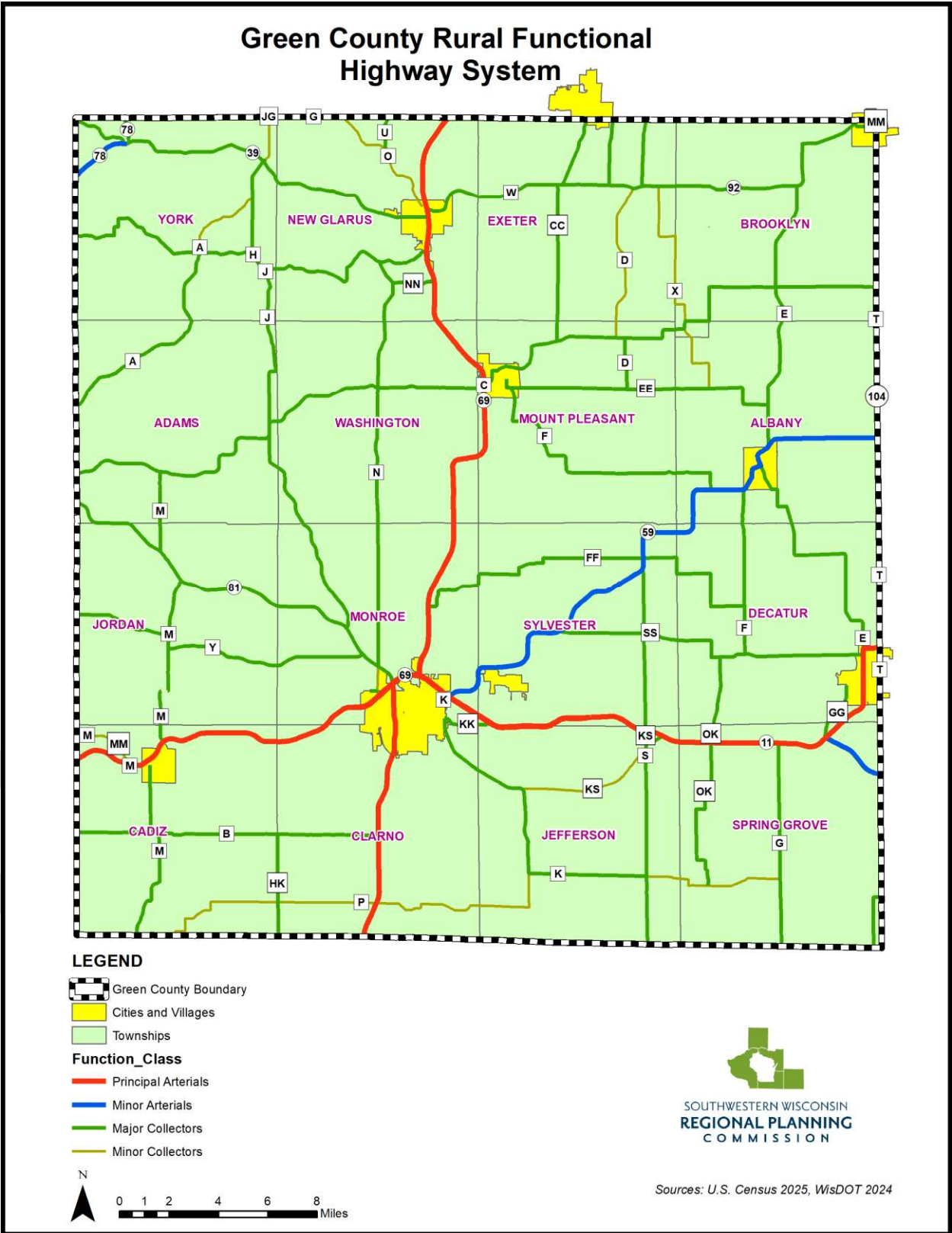
### 5.4.2 Functional Classification System

The transportation system is classified by WisDOT according to primary function representing very different purposes: 1) mobility and efficient travel and 2) access to properties. Simply put, when there are more access points, carrying capacity is reduced and safety is compromised. The responsibility for maintaining and improving roads should ordinarily be assigned based upon the functional classification of the roads. Road classifications are defined as:

- **Principal Arterials** accommodate interstate and interregional trips.
- **Minor Arterials** accommodate interregional and inter-area traffic movements.
- **Major Collectors** serve moderate-sized communities and intra-area traffic generators.
- **Minor Collectors** link local roads to higher capacity roads and smaller communities.
- **Local Roads** provide access to residential, commercial, and industrial development.

Arterials fall under state jurisdiction, collectors generally fall under county jurisdiction, and local roads are a local responsibility. See Map 5.1 for Green County's classification map.

Map 5.1 Green County Road Functional Classification



In addition to this hierarchy, jurisdictions may nominate local roads for the state's Rustic Roads Program. Currently Green County has four designated Rustic Roads in the Towns of Decatur, New Glarus, Spring Grove, Jordan, and Adams.

WisDOT classifies STH 92 and STH 104 as State Trunk Network Routes. The Wisconsin State Highway Plan 2020 uses a ranking scale for projected congestion levels: 1) extreme; 2) severe; 3) moderate; 4) not congested corridor; and 5) not congested non-corridor. State Trunk Highway (STH) 92 is scheduled for reconstruction through the Town of Brooklyn. The project spans approximately 13.1 miles, extending from East Avenue in the Village of Belleville to U.S. Highway 14, just east of the Village of Brooklyn. Construction began in late July 2025 and is anticipated to be completed by mid-October 2025. The improvements will address pavement deterioration and upgrade outdated ADA curb ramps to meet current accessibility standards. Detailed information and maps on the project can be found here: <https://wisconsindot.gov/hccidocs/bid-let/2025/20250408/plans-proposals/20250408007plan.pdf>

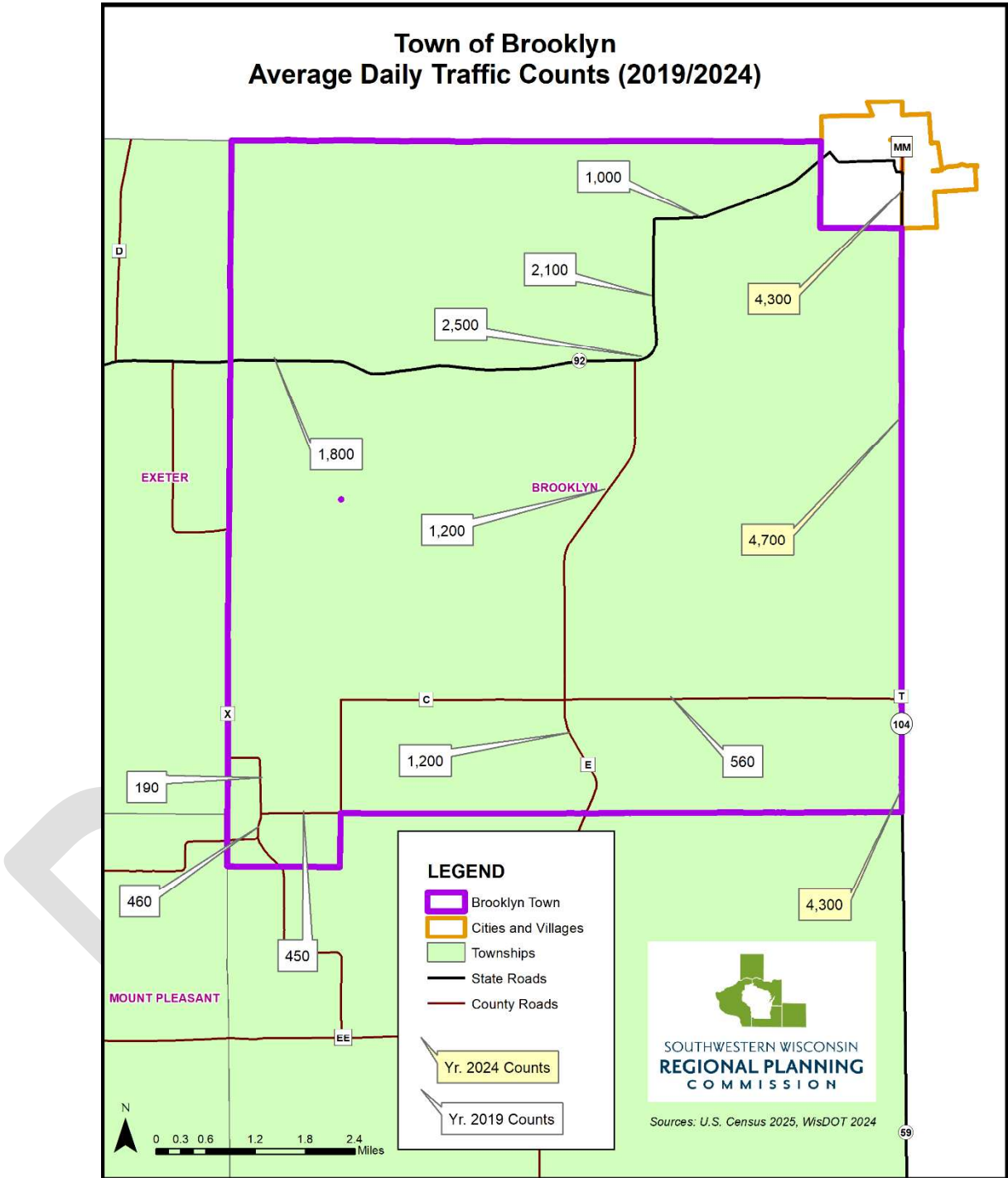
The responsibility for maintaining and improving roads is ordinarily assigned based upon the functional classification of the roads. The functional highway classification information in this document is drawn from the Green County Functional and Jurisdictional Highway Plan Update – 1991, prepared by SWWRPC, and from mapped information provided by the Green County Highway Department, circa 1996. As explained in the 1991 plan, arterials should fall under state jurisdiction, collectors under county jurisdiction, and local roads should be a local responsibility. Jurisdictional Transfers (JT), to better reflect actual use, may occur but only when there is agreement between the units of government involved (whether local, county, or state). When considering a possible JT, jurisdictions would want to take into account the level of traffic on the road, the projected responsibility for maintenance and any required improvements, and the possible impact on general transportation aids. The Functional Classification System Map illustrates the existing hierarchical breakdown of the road classification system in the Town of Brooklyn.

### **5.4.3 Traffic Counts**

Between 2000 and 2024, vehicle miles traveled (VMT) increased by 19.3% in Wisconsin. The Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) counts are an important measure when prioritizing improvements. WisDOT calculates the number by multiplying raw hourly traffic counts by seasonal, day-of-week, and axle adjustment factors. The daily hourly values are then averaged by hour of the day and the values are summed to create the AADT count. The Town of Brooklyn - Average Daily Traffic Map, can be found in Map 5.2 below.



Map 5.2 Town of Brooklyn Average Daily Traffic Counts



5.4.4 Traffic Safety

Nationwide, crash fatalities are decreasing – even as traffic is increasing. Why? The reduction in fatalities can be credited to a combination of factors, including improvements in vehicle safety, better roads, increased seat belt use, and advances in on-site and emergency room care. The AADT data show increased traffic on many Green County

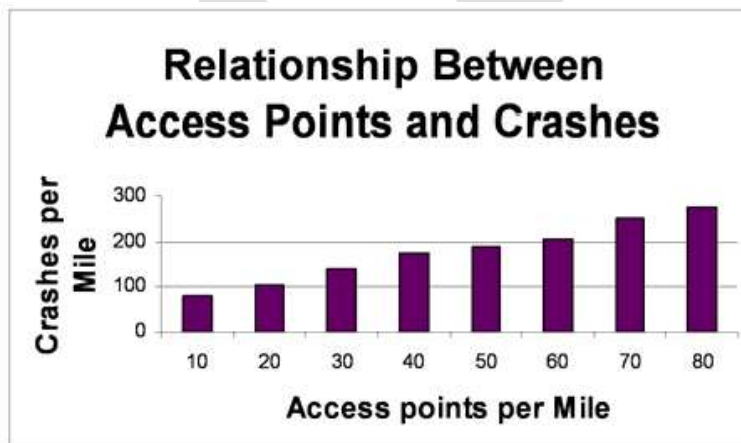
roads.

Fatalities are not merely statistics – they represent terrible tragedies. The Green County Traffic Safety Commission meets quarterly and includes the county highway safety coordinator and representatives from the county highway department, law enforcement, EMS, private citizens, a WisDOT staff engineer, county health department, and representatives from WI DOT's SW Region. Their responsibility is to: 1) represent the interests of their constituencies (including health, engineering, enforcement, and citizen groups), and 2) offer solutions to traffic safety related problems that are brought to the Commission.

#### 5.4.5 Access Management

Transportation system users frequently select routes that maximize their personal mobility and efficiency while, at the local level, property owners frequently seek to maximize access to their personal property. The latter scenario reduces mobility and safety. Studies show a strong correlation between: 1) an increase in crashes, 2) an increase in the number of commercial establishments, and 3) an increase in the total number of driveways per mile.

Figure 5.1 Relationship between Access Points and Crashes



Commercial or industrial development seeks highly visible and accessible properties, preferably on streets with high traffic volumes and, optimally, at an important intersection. If the new business is successful, it will change traffic patterns and may disrupt the efficiency of the larger transportation system. Access and development can be better accommodated by creating an area transportation plan for internal circulation and minimizing driveway access points.

The national average for trip generation for a single-family home generates 9.5 trips per day. One new home may not make much difference, but 10 new homes on a cul-du-sac street can have quite an impact on the connecting street's traffic mobility and safety. The Town currently uses the County's ordinance on use access and street design guidelines for new residential development.

#### 5.4.6 WISDOT Role In Transportation Planning

Trans 233 is part of the Wisconsin Administrative Code and defines requirements that must be met when subdividing lands abutting the state highway system. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is responsible for enforcing Trans 233 to preserve traffic flow, enhance public safety, and ensure proper highway setbacks and storm water drainage.

#### Major components of the Trans 233 Rule:

- **Review.** WisDOT reviews all subdivision plats along state highways for conformance with the rule. Along with state highway system segments in rural areas, the rule also applies to segments that extend through a village or city. A “conceptual review” can provide landowners early feedback on a subdivision proposal. Once a final map is provided, WisDOT has 20 days to complete its review.
- **Access.** Direct access to the state highway system from newly created lots is generally not permitted. The owner should determine alternative ways to provide access to the property. The preferred option is for the property to take access off an alternative street. New public streets created by a subdivision are the next preferred alternative. Joint driveways may be allowed if a special exception from the rule is requested and approved. Some developments may require a special traffic study.
- **Drainage.** Drainage is evaluated to help ensure that storm water flowing from a new development does not damage a highway or its shoulders. It is advisable to discuss drainage issues with WisDOT district office staff before submitting a subdivision for review.
- **Setback.** Setbacks are areas abutting a state highway in which buildings cannot be constructed. (This provision does not apply to county highways or town roads. County or town officials should be contacted regarding their restrictions). In general, setbacks are 110 feet from the centerline of the highway or 50 feet from the right-of-way line, whichever is more restrictive.
- **Vision corners.** Vision corners are triangular areas at intersections within which structures, improvements and landscaping are restricted because they can block the ability of motorists to see oncoming vehicles. Vision corners may be required at the time a permit is obtained and possibly sooner.

If a subdivision is not reviewed by WisDOT and is subsequently recorded, a landowner will not receive a driveway or any other permit relating to the highway. The subdivision and property must comply with the rule before a permit is issued. Landowners may be exposed to liability for drainage damage to the highway or damage to the owner’s own property from unanticipated diversion or retention of surface water. There can be other adverse consequences relating to financing, the value of the property, the safety of entrance upon and departure from the highway, and the public interest and investment in the highway. Finally, WisDOT cannot issue a utility permit for an uncertified subdivision. Utility companies must obtain a WisDOT permit before doing any work on highway right-

of-way. It may not be possible to provide utility service to a property if the service must come from lines on the highway right-of-way.

Brooklyn does not foresee growth impacting the jurisdiction's transportation system. The Town currently coordinates with the County and WisDOT when designating areas for possible new development and when it receives a request for a new development permit. The Town has its own Driveway Ordinance.

## **5.5 Transportation Users**

This section looks at transportation options for commuters, the elderly and disabled, and those who do not drive. In Wisconsin, there are limited public transportation services available in rural communities.

### **5.5.1 Transportation Facilities for the Elderly and Disabled**

Green County participated in the regional developed coordinated transit planning efforts in 2024, as part of state required efforts to increase the coordination of transit services. The results were summarized in the 2024 Green County's Locally Coordinated Transit Plan. The plan outlines the needs of the elderly and disabled will become much more significant at both the local and state level in the coming years.

The Green County Aging and Disability Resource Center provides the majority of general services transit trips in the County. Staff identified the following strengths, needs, and barriers:

- **STRENGTHS** – “We have good, reliable, regular and substitute drivers that provide friendly, helpful, and courteous service. They go the extra mile to help their riders in accomplishing their errands for the day. The drivers are trained annually on topics such as defensive driving, passenger assistance, emergency procedures, passenger sensitivity plus more. The administrative staff is very creative in trying to get people to their destinations within the limitations of our transportation guidelines.”
- **NEEDS** – “We are not able to provide transportation for: a) employment unless it fits into existing schedules; b) shopping, except on a one-on-one basis; 3) those who still live in their homes outside of the city/village limits, unless they are on the service route; 4) going to church, especially on Sundays.”
- **BARRIERS** – “Budget restraints, the size of the county, and the many different work shifts needed for someone to provide the transportation. Sometimes the size of the vehicle prevents our going into rural driveways and the time and fuel costs to go off the “beaten path” is a barrier.”

Along with the Aging and Disability Resource Center, other county and regional special transportation service providers include the Hodan Center, Inc., Southwest Opportunities Center, Inc., and SWCAP's program.



### 5.5.2 Bicycles and Pedestrians

Children under the age of 16, the elderly, and those with disabilities are the greater portion of the public using pedestrian facilities. Many youth, and some commuters, ride bicycles as their regular means of transportation. In rural areas, both bicyclists and pedestrians share the road with motor vehicles. The limited experience of children, and the limited physical ability of the elderly and disabled, should be considered when making road improvements.

The Wisconsin Bicycle Facility Design Handbook provides information to assist local jurisdictions. It provides information that can help to determine if paved shoulders are necessary. For rural highways, a methodology or rating index should be used whenever traffic volumes on town and county roads increase beyond approximately 500 vehicles per day. On quiet country roads – including town roads and many county trunk highways – little improvement is necessary to create excellent bicycling routes. Very-low-volume rural roads (those with ADT's below 700) seldom require special provisions like paved shoulders for bicyclists. A motorist needing to move left to pass a bicyclist is unlikely to face oncoming traffic and may simply shift over and bicyclists can ride far enough from the pavement edge to avoid hazards. State trunk highways, and some county trunk highways, tend to have more traffic and a higher percentage of trucks. As a result, the addition of paved shoulders may be appropriate in these areas.

### 5.5.3 Recreational Trails

Recreational users – including bicyclists and ATV riders – contribute to local economies. In Green County, cyclists and walkers have a variety of recreational options on trails that are adaptive reuses of rail corridors; ATV users have access to the Cheese County Trail.

- The 23-mile Sugar River State Trail connects New Glarus Woods with New Glarus, Monticello, Albany, and Brodhead. It is maintained by the Wisconsin DNR for hiking, bicycling, and snowmobiling.
- The Badger State Trail travels 40 miles between Madison and the Wisconsin-Illinois border while traversing farmlands, woods, rolling hills, scenic meadows, remnant prairies, ravines, glacial topography and several small communities. Highlighting the trail is the 1,200-foot long Stewart Tunnel which is set to be repaired in 2025 or 2026: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/badger/tunnel>. The tunnel is unique because it is built on a curve, and visitors cannot see the other end when first entering the tunnel. Flashlights and jackets are recommended as the tunnel is dark and cool, and water from springs above can trickle onto the trail. Bikers should walk bikes through the tunnel.
- The 47-mile Cheese Country Trail passes through the Green County communities of Browntown and South Wayne, ending in Mineral Point. It is owned by Green, Lafayette and Iowa counties and, unlike state-owned trails, allows ATVs, mini bikes, and horseback riding, along with bicyclists and hikers; in season, snowmobiling and skiing is permitted. In recent years, the trail's increasing popularity with ATV riders has changed its overall use patterns.

## 5.6 Modes of Transportation

### 5.6.1 Shipping

According to a 2004 report by TDA, trucks carry 83% of all manufactured freight transported in Wisconsin. More than 77% of all Wisconsin communities are served exclusively by trucks. Green County is fortunate to have a transport/corporate airport and freight rail service.

### 5.6.2 Agricultural Related Transportation

Transportation is critical for agriculture, yet ag-related transportation needs and impacts are often overlooked. Ag-related transportation operates on several scales, ranging from moving machinery on the system of local roads to moving commodities both through and to larger communities via truck or rail.

### 5.6.3 Rail Freight

In the early 2000's, WisDOT's commodity forecasts projected that Wisconsin's freight rail tonnage will increase by more than 50% by 2020. Like roadways, rail infrastructure requires ongoing maintenance and improvements. Much of the existing rail infrastructure dates back to the early 1900s when rail cars were smaller and lighter. By the mid-1970s, several rail segments or lines had been abandoned. The South Central Wisconsin Rail Line was abandoned and the DNR constructed a recreational trail along its right-of-way, under the federal Rails-To-Trails program. In Green County the Pecatonica Rail Line continues to operate with the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad (WSOR) serving four shippers in Monroe and Brodhead. Green County is represented on the Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission (PRTC), which oversees the corridor.

### 5.6.4 Over Road Shipping

Although commercial vehicles account for less than 10% of all vehicle-miles traveled, truck traffic is growing faster than passenger vehicle traffic according to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This share is likely to grow substantially if demand for freight transportation doubles over the next 20 years, as has been predicted (from the 2002 report Status of the Nation's Highways, Bridges, and Transit: Conditions & Performance Report to Congress). In the Town of Brooklyn, WisDOT does not classify either STH 92 or STH 104 as officially designated Truck Routes.

### 5.6.5 Airports

The publicly owned Monroe Municipal Airport is located in the Town of Sylvester and is three miles northeast of the City of Monroe. The Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2020 projected that it would remain a General Utility (GU) airport through 2020 but it has been upgraded to Transport/Corporate (TC). TC airports serve corporate jets, small passenger planes, cargo jet aircraft used in regional service, and small airplanes (piston or turboprop) used in commuter air service. According to WisDOT's Bureau of Aeronautics, these aircraft generally have a gross takeoff weight of less than 60,000 pounds, with approach speeds below 141 knots and wingspans of less than 118 feet. In Wisconsin, airports in this category normally have a primary runway length of greater than 4,500 feet. According to the WisDOT's Five-Year Airport Improvement Program (2003-2007), the airport was slated for a construction program totaling \$1,277,038.00 from federal, state, and local sources. In 2004, with the completion of a 5,000 ft. runway built to

accommodate these types of aircraft, it was reclassified. According to earlier data, there were approximately 38 aircraft based at the field and average aircraft operations of 48/day. Under the previous classification, use was 48% local general aviation, 46% transient general aviation, and 6% air taxi.

The privately owned Brodhead Airport is located in the Town of Spring Grove and is two miles south of Brodhead. There are approximately 50 aircraft based at the field; average aircraft operations are 27/day; runways are turf and the longest is 2,430 feet. Use is 80% local general aviation and 20% transient general aviation.

The nearest passenger and freight airport is in nearby Dane and Rock County. The Dane County Regional Airport-Truax Field is located five miles northeast of Madison and the Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport is located just south of Janesville Wisconsin.

### 5.6.6 Water Transportation

Green County does not have its own access to water transportation but is less than 50 miles from Mississippi River access via Dubuque, Iowa, and less than 100 miles via Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.

### 5.6.7 General Transportation Aids

General Transportation Aids (GTA) represent the second largest program in WisDOT's budget and returns to local governments roughly 30% of all state-collected transportation revenues (fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees) - helping offset the cost of county and municipal road construction, maintenance, traffic and other transportation-related costs.

Table 5.3 Town of Brooklyn General Transportation Aids

Year	GTA
2023	\$482,550.00
2022	\$277,683.00
2021	\$749,911.00
2020	\$575,129.00
2019	\$265,257.00
2018	\$526,526.00

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation

## 5.7 Maintenance and Improvements

Citizens value good roads, and maintenance of the local transportation system is the largest expenditure for many local governments. Compared to other states, Wisconsin has more local roads, the majority of them are paved, and they must be maintained through four seasons. According to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) data, Wisconsin's per capita spending on local road systems is second only to Minnesota's (the national average is \$123).

### 5.7.1 Local Roads Improvement Program

The Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP) assists local governments in improving

seriously deteriorating county highways, town roads, and city and village streets. The competitive reimbursement program pays up to 50% of total eligible costs with local governments providing the balance. The program has three basic components: Municipal Street Improvement (MSIP); County Highway Improvement (CHIP); and Town Road Improvement (TRIP).

### **5.7.2 Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating**

WISLR – the Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads – provides a data management tool for decision-makers. WISLR is an Internet-accessible system that helps local governments and WisDOT manage local road data to improve decision-making, and to meet state statute requirements. With Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, WISLR combines local road data with interactive mapping functionality that allows users to display their data in a tabular format, on a map, or both.

The Wisconsin Local Roads and Streets Council and WisDOT recognized the need and initiated WISLR – the first internet-based local road system of its kind in the United States. Local governments can use WISLR’s querying, analytical, and spreadsheet tools to organize and analyze data. They can also update and edit their data. This combination improves accuracy for both pavement condition rating submittals and road inventory assessment.

By statute, local governments are required to report the pavement condition of roads under their jurisdiction to WisDOT every two years. Local road information, including width, surface type, surface year, shoulder, curb, road category, functional classification, and pavement condition ratings are incorporated into the WISLR system. Access to inventory information has other value too, such as compliance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 34 (GASB 34), which mandates reporting the value of local roads as infrastructure assets.

### **5.7.3 Planning for Capital Improvements**

Capital improvements include new or expanded physical facilities that are relatively large, expensive, and permanent. WISLR’s budgeting module can assist local municipalities with budgeting planning for system maintenance and improvements. Using this tool, a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) can be developed to assist in planning for major project costs by creating a multi-year scheduling plan for physical public improvements. This can be incorporated into other budgeting plans, based on the projection of fiscal resources and prioritization of improvements five to six years into the future. Refer to Chapter 2, Utilities and Community Facilities, for more information on CIPs.

### **5.7.4 Environment**

Thoughtful planning for continued growth should also protect water quality, wildlife habitats, and working farms. Sound management of transportation infrastructure maintenance or expansion may include de-icing procedures and salt reduction; erosion control; storm water management; and wetland mitigation (preservation, creation, or restoration).



## 5.8 Transportation Planning

WisDOT administers a variety of state and federal programs, including:

- Airport Improvement Program (AIP)
- Connecting Highway Aids
- County Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance
- Federal Discretionary Capital Assistance
- Freight Rail Infrastructure Improvement Program (FRIIP)
- Freight Rail Preservation Program (FRPP)
- General Transportation Aids (GTA)
- Highways and Bridges Assistance
- Local Bridge Improvement Assistance
- Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP)
- Local Transportation Enhancements (TE)
- Railroad Crossing Improvements
- Rural and Small Urban Public Transportation Assistance
- Rural Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP)
- Rustic Roads Program
- Surface Transportation Discretionary Program (STP-D)
- Surface Transportation Program – Rural (STP-R)
- Surface Transportation Program – Urban (STP-U)
- Traffic Signing and Marking Enhancement Grants Program
- Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA)

For more information, contact the Green County Highway Department, SWWRPC, or the WisDOT District 1 office. More information is available at the WisDOT website at <http://wisconsindot.gov>.

### 5.8.1 State Transportation Plans

- Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2020 - <http://www.dot.state.wi.us/projects/state/docs/air2020-plan.pdf>
- WisDOT's Five-Year Airport Improvement Plan (October 2002) - <http://www.dot.state.wi.us/projects/state/docs/air-5yr-plan.pdf>
- Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan – 2020 <http://www.dot.state.wi.us/projects/state/docs/bike2020-plan.pdf>
- Wisconsin State Highway Plan – 2020 <http://www.dot.state.wi.us/projects/state/docs/hwy2020-plan.pdf>
- Wisconsin Statewide Pedestrian Policy Plan – 2020 <http://www.dot.state.wi.us/projects/state/docs/ped2020-plan.pdf>
- WisDOT *Connections 2030* (pending) - <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/state/2030-maps.htm>

### 5.8.2 Transportation Agencies and Programs

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) administers a variety of state and federal programs, including:

#### Highways & Bridges:

- Connective Highway Aids
- County Forest Road Aids

- General Transportation Aids (GTA)
- Lift Bridge Aids
- Local Bridge Improvement Assistance
- Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP)
- Surface Transportation Program – Rural (STP-R)
- Surface Transportation Program – Urban (STP-U)
- Traffic Signing and Marking Enhancement Grants Program
- Surface Transportation Discretionary Program (STP-D)

Public Transportation:

- Federal Discretionary Capital Assistance
- Rural and Small Urban Public Transportation Assistance
- Rural Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP)
- Wisconsin Employment Transportation Assistance Program (WETAP)

Specialized Transit:

- County Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance
- Elderly and Disabled Capital Assistance
- New Freedom

Other Aid:

- Airport Improvement Program (AIP)
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)
- Freight Rail Infrastructure Improvement Program (FRIIP)
- Freight Rail Preservation Program (FRPP)
- Local Transportation Enhancements (TE)
- Railroad Crossing Improvements
- Rustic Roads Program
- Safe Routes to School
- Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA)

### 5.8.3 Transportation Information Resources

In preparing this section, several plans and information resources were consulted, including:

- AirNav, LLC <http://www.airnav.com/airports/us/WI>
- Growing Wisconsin's Economy (WisDOT 2002)
- Land Use & Economic Development in Statewide Transportation Planning (FHWA 1999) <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CUTS/lu/lu-all2.pdf>
- Midwest Regional Rail Initiative <http://www.dot.state.wi.us/projects/state/docs/railmidwest.pdf>
- *Rural By Design*, Randall Arendt (APA 1994).
- "Siting rural development to protect lakes and streams and decrease road costs" (Wisconsin Center for Land Use Education) <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/landcenter/pubs.html>
- Status of the Nation's Highways, Bridges, and Transit (FHWA, 2002) <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/2002cpr/>

- TDA (Wisconsin Transportation Development Association) Report – 2004.
- WisDOT - Transportation Planning Resource Guide  
<http://www.dot.state.wi.us/localgov/docs/planningguide.pdf>
- Wisconsin Airport Land Use Guidebook – 2004  
[http://www.meadhunt.com/WI\\_landuse/](http://www.meadhunt.com/WI_landuse/)
- Wisconsin Bicycle Planning Guidance <http://www.dot.state.wi.us/projects/state/docs/bike-guidance.pdf>
- Wisconsin Bicycle Facility Design Handbook  
<http://www.dot.state.wi.us/projects/state/docs/bike-facility.pdf>
- Wisconsin County/City Traffic Safety Commission Guidelines (WisDOT 1998)
- Wisconsin Crash Facts (2004) <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/safety/motorist/crashfacts/>
- Wisconsin Rail Issues and Opportunities Report  
<http://www.dot.state.wi.us/projects/state/docs/rail-issues.pdf>
- WisDOT - Rustic Roads: <http://www.dot.state.wi.us/travel/scenic/rusticroads.htm>
- WisDOT – Transportation & Environmental Protection:  
<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/library/research/resources/environment.htm>

## 6.0 Economic Development

### 6.1 Chapter Summary

Economic development is about working together to retain and create jobs that provide a good standard of living for individuals. Increased personal income and wealth increases the tax base and allows the community to provide services that residents want. A balanced, healthy economy is essential to an area's long-term well-being.

As our economy becomes more global, local workers must advance their knowledge to keep up with technology advancements. As the demand for skilled labor increases, this region may face a shortage of skilled workers as baby boomers retire. Business owners want to locate in a community where they will attract enough workers with the right skills. This chapter summarizes the local economic situation for Green County. It also identifies policies, goals, objectives and resources to help guide the community's economic well-being over the next twenty years.



## 6.2 Goals

The economic development goals for the Town of Brooklyn are as follows:

1. Support agricultural-related businesses.
2. Support small commercial and home-based businesses.
3. Encourage all other large-scale economic development projects to be located in urban areas that currently provide appropriate infrastructure.

## 6.3 Objectives and Policies Recommendations

The following Economic Development Policy and Program Recommendations support the above goals to help guide local economic development decisions for the next 20 years.

NOT IN ORDER OF PRIORITY

1. Encourage the expansion of broadband internet service and improvements in telecommunications throughout the county to support remote work and digital connectivity.
2. Support agriculture, including crop and livestock production, and promote agriculture-related businesses as key components of the county's economic development strategy.
3. Promote entrepreneurial activity, such as the sale of locally grown or produced goods and services, through roadside markets, farmers markets, and home-based businesses.
4. Encourage home-based entrepreneurial activities that have minimal impact on surrounding properties and are compatible with residential neighborhoods.
5. Direct large-scale economic development projects, including non-agricultural commercial and industrial uses, to urban areas where full utilities, services, roads, and infrastructure are available; prioritize locations adjacent to existing commercial or industrial development where feasible.
6. Discourage unplanned or continuous strip commercial development along major transportation corridors.
7. Promote historic preservation as a strategy for economic development, supporting community character and tourism.
8. Continue to support local business and tourism organizations, such as the Green County Development Corporation and local Chambers of Commerce.
9. Collaborate with the Village of Brooklyn to attract and retain businesses that strengthen the local economy.
10. Pursue county, state, and federal funding programs or grants to support additional economic development efforts, where and when appropriate.

## 6.4 Analysis of the Economic Base and Labor

One of the most important aspects in doing an analysis of the economic base and labor force in the County starts with basic labor statistics. As indicated in Table 6.1 below, Green County has 20,964 available within the workforce. As indicated, 540 are unemployed, giving Green County an unemployment rate of 2.6%



Table 6.1 SWWRPC Labor Force Statistics

	Available Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Grant	26,462	25,674	788	3%
Green	20,964	20,424	540	2.6%
Iowa	13,866	13,512	354	2.6%
Lafayette	10,325	10,088	237	2.3%
Richland	8,693	8,444	249	2.9%

Source: Job Center of Wisconsin June 2025

Directly correlated with the above labor force statistics are the industries in which these persons are employed. Table 6.2 below outlines all industries and the percent of the population employed by each industry. The table shows the number of persons and percent population of Green County working in a particular industry. The same information is also included for surrounding Wisconsin counties. As indicated below, Green County leads the other counties in the industry of construction and manufacturing.

Table 6.2 Percent Population Employed by Industry

	Grant	Green	Iowa	Lafayette	Richland
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	7.8%	4.5%	7.6%	13.3%	6.1%
Construction	7.6%	9.5%	9.3%	8.6%	6.2%
Manufacturing	15.3%	20%	13.8%	19.1%	23.3%
Wholesale trade	1.5%	2.4%	2.5%	2.3%	2.0%
Retail trade	14.8%	12.7%	16.9%	12.0%	12.2%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	3.9%	3.9%	4.5%	5.1%	4.7%
Information	1.0%	1.5%	1.4%	0.4%	1.5%
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	4.7%	4.3%	4.2%	4.8%	3.4%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	5.1%	7.8%	8.7%	4.6%	5.4%
Educational, health and social services	22.4%	20.3%	19%	18.5%	21.5%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	8.1%	5.1%	3.7%	3.9%	6.4%
Other services (except public administration)	3.9%	4.2%	4.5%	4.2%	3.8%
Public administration	3.8%	3.8%	3.9%	3.4%	3.5%

Source: 2023 ACS 5-Year Survey

The top five industries of employment in the County include the following:

- Educational, health and social services (20.3%)
- Manufacturing (20%)
- Retail Trade (12.7%)
- Construction (9.5%)
- Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services (7.8%)

Table 6.3 indicates the educational attainment in Green County. This closely correlates with the employment of workers in particular industries as indicated in Table 6.2. Education levels also closely correlate with income levels (indicated in Table 6.4). As indicated in Table 6.3, Green County, when compared to other surrounding counties, has a middling percent of the population with a high school diploma or higher (93.9%), and has a middling percentage than other counties when it comes to a bachelor's degree or higher (27.0%).

Table 6.3 Percent Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over

	Grant	Green	Iowa	Lafayette	Richland
High School Diploma or Higher	92.9%	93.9%	95.5%	91.0%	92.1%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	24.6%	27.0%	28.5%	20.6%	20.7%

Source: 2023 ACS 5-Year Survey

As indicated above, income levels often directly correlate with educational attainment. However, this is not to imply that all individuals need to have some form of advanced education.

Table 6.4 shows that Green County had a per capita personal income of \$65,549 in 2023. Per capita personal income is the income that is received by persons from all sources. It is calculated as the sum of wage and salary disbursements, supplements to wages and salaries, proprietors' income with inventory valuation and capital consumption adjustments, rental income of persons with capital consumption adjustment, personal dividend income, personal interest income, and personal current transfer receipts, less contributions for government social insurance.

Table 6.4 Per Capita Personal Income

	Grant	Green	Iowa	Lafayette	Richland
2023 Per Capita Personal Income	\$53,781	\$65,549	\$61,591	\$55,006	\$53,743
Rank in State (out of 72 Counties)	51 <sup>st</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	48 <sup>th</sup>	53 <sup>rd</sup>

Source: 2023 Bureau of Economic Analysis

In 2022, Brooklyn Town had a median household income of \$101,979. See Map 6.1 for a breakdown of median household income for each Green County jurisdiction.

Map 6.1 Median Household Income (2022)

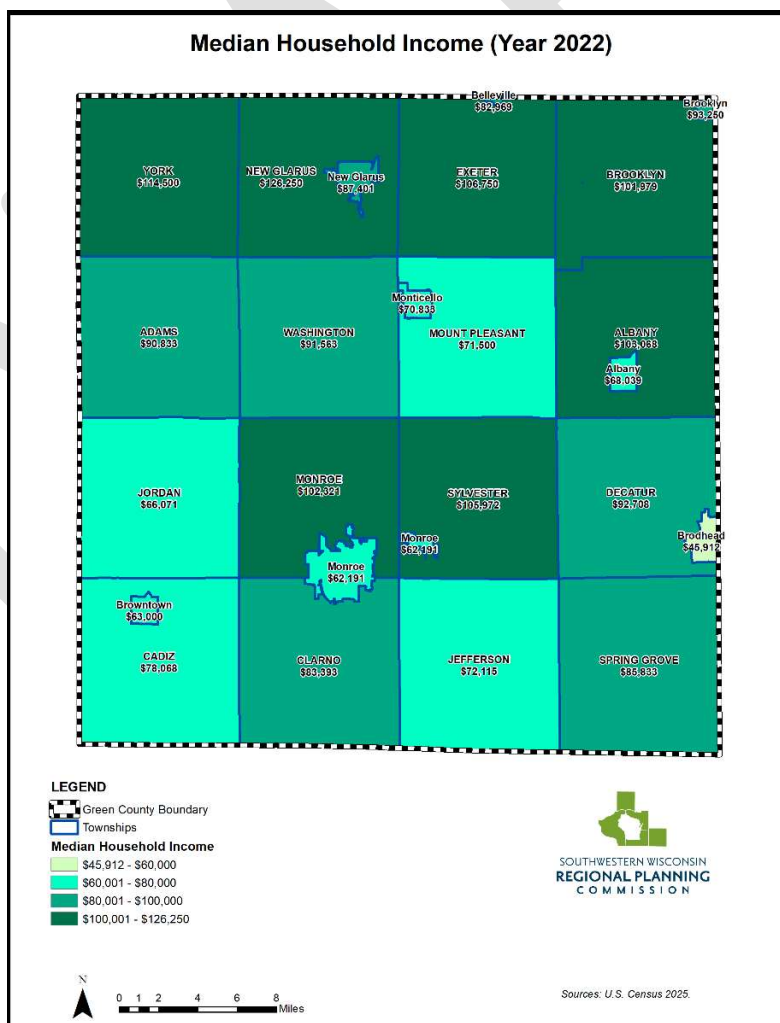


Table 6.5 pertains to the percent of the labor force working within the County of Residence. In Green County, 41% of the available County workforce works in Green County. The other 59% of available workforce are seeking employment outside the County. This can be seen as an opportunity for Green County, as there is an ample supply of workers residing within the County. Green County, compared to surrounding counties, does well at retaining its labor force.

Table 6.5 Percent of Local Labor Force Working Within the County of Residence

	Grant	Green	Iowa	Lafayette	Richland
% of Labor Force Working Within the County of Residence	39%	41%	33.9%	22.8%	33.9%

Source: 2023 Census on the Map

Tourism is another aspect of economic development that needs to be addressed. In 2024, travelers spent 49.3 million dollars within Green County. 22.7 million dollars of that supported employee wages.

Table 6.6 Tourism Spending

County	Dollars Spent by Travelers in 2024	Employee Wages from Tourism Spending
Grant	66 Million	29 Million
Green	49.3 Million	22.7 Million
Iowa	52.1 Million	13.6 Million
Lafayette	17.9 Million	4.4 Million
Richland	27.4 Million	9 Million

Source: Wisconsin Department of Tourism 2024

Since agriculture is one of the top industries in Green County, it is important to include some basic agricultural statistics in the economic development chapter. Please note that there is more detailed information available in Chapter 3, Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources. Table 6.7 below includes information from the 2002 US Agricultural Census. As indicated, Green County has 1,334 farms comprised of a total acreage of 282,888 acres. The average farm size in Green County is 212 acres.

Table 6.7 Agricultural Statistics

	Grant	Green	Iowa	Lafayette	Richland
Acres of Farmland	586,453	282,888	374,179	316,462	244,767
Number of Farms	2,264	1,334	1,534	1,162	1,062
Average Farm Size	259	212	109	272	230

Source: 2002 US Agricultural Census

### 6.5 Analysis of New Business and Industry Desired

The Town of Brooklyn desires to keep agriculture as the priority industry and is open to new agricultural related business.

- 6.5.1 Strength and Weaknesses for Economic Development

The recognition of the need and necessary support to retain existing jobs and attract new business is strong in Green County. For economic development success, a community needs to identify its strengths and weaknesses, then leverage the strengths, and minimize the effects of the weaknesses.

Following is a list of the key strengths and weaknesses as identified by county and local planning commissions and community surveys.

#### **COUNTYWIDE STRENGTHS**

1. Location/Proximity to Urban Areas - Green County is in an excellent position, just south of Madison, west of Janesville-Beloit north of Rockford. Within two hours one can easily reach Dubuque, IA, Chicago, IL and Milwaukee, WI.
2. Strong Agriculture-based industrial base and infrastructure to support it
3. Cheese making resources - Number of certified cheesemakers and Boutique cheese production
4. Transportation
  - Rail served communities
  - Well-maintained highways connecting to major interstate corridors
5. Communities with strong historical/ethnic identity
6. Good workforce
  - Good work ethic
  - Relatively low cost
7. Quality of Life
  - Small town atmosphere
  - Especially attractive to families with children
  - Good schools
  - Good medical services
  - Parks and recreational opportunities, such as Sugar River, bike, snowmobile and ATV trails, golf courses, organized sports teams, etc.
  - Low crime
8. Developed sites/business parks available for business relocations/expansion
9. Formal economic development and tourism organizations with good support from county and local government
10. Rural/natural beauty – rural character/atmosphere
11. Countywide revolving loan fund

#### **COUNTYWIDE WEAKNESSES**

1. Sprawl and unplanned growth
2. Reluctance to change
3. High taxes

4. Farmland Costs and Value
5. Lack of incentives for businesses to locate in County, especially in unincorporated areas
6. Proximity to Madison (wages higher)
7. Loss of farms and milk production
8. Average education levels below state average
9. Not close to an interstate highway
10. Image (not seen as “the place to be” for business)
11. Limited entrepreneurial support resources
12. Limited wireless services
13. Limited employment opportunities to attract young, skilled, workers
14. Limited number of sites with rail access
15. Limited understanding of development opportunities
16. Aging farm population

## 6.6 Analysis of Business and Industry Parks

The Town of Brooklyn has no business or industry parks at this time.

### • 6.6.1 Existing Business and Industry Parks

An industrial park or business park is an area of land set aside for development. A business park is a more “lightweight” version of the industrial park, having offices and light industry, rather than heavy industry which has high intensity truck traffic, noise, odor, etc. (for simplicity’s sake, the rest of this section will refer to both business and industrial parks as industrial parks). Industrial parks are usually located close to transport facilities, especially where multiple transportation modes such as highways, railroads, airports, and navigable rivers are available.

The idea of setting land aside through this type of zoning is based on several concepts:

- To be able to concentrate dedicated infrastructure in a delimited area to reduce the per-business expense of that infrastructure. Such infrastructure includes roadways, railroad sidings, ports, high-power electric supplies (often including three-phase power), high-end communication cables, large-volume water supplies, and high-volume gas lines.



- To be able to attract new business by providing an integrated infrastructure in one location.
- To set aside industrial uses from urban areas to try to reduce their environmental and social impact.
- To provide for localized environmental controls specific to the needs of an industrial area.

Different industrial parks fulfill these criteria to differing degrees. Many small communities have established industrial parks with only access to a nearby highway, and with only the basic utilities and roadways, and with few or no special environmental safeguards.

Industrial parks have also been criticized because of their frequent remoteness of urban areas, one of the characteristics that had been touted as a benefit. One reason for this specific criticism is that industrial parks often destroy productive and valuable agricultural land. Another is that industrial parks become remote to their employee pool, requiring longer commutes and limiting employment accessibility for poorer employees. Another reason is that many urban areas have extensive areas of brownfield land that many feel should be the first priority in redeveloping as industrial sites.

Currently, Green County has industrial parks in the following communities: City of Monroe, City of Brodhead, Village of Albany, Village of Monticello, Village of New Glarus, and Village of Belleville.

#### • **6.6.2 Future Business and Industry Parks**

The Town does not have any appropriate locations or infrastructure necessary for commercial development or industrial parks. The Planning Commission noted that since there are no appropriate locations for commercial development in the jurisdiction, any future commercial development would be more suitable in the cities and villages of Green County.

## **6.7 Environmentally Contaminated Sites**

Programs through the state of Wisconsin can often make it financially feasible for the owners or a municipality to remediate contaminations on a LUST or ERP site and prepare the site for redevelopment. The Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS) is maintained by the WI-DNR for the purpose of documenting and tracking spill and contaminated sites. The BRRTS list is important to economic development as it may lead to potential redevelopment opportunities. Table 6.8 indicates the location of a Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) site in Brooklyn Township as listed in BRRTS. The list omits properties where no action is required, general spills, and minor contaminations. WIDNR has detailed location information of all environmentally contaminated site here: [https://data-wi-dnr.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/59bb38278e3f4b03beca24cd7dc58b23\\_106/explore?location=42.847496%2C-89.382001%2C15.71](https://data-wi-dnr.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/59bb38278e3f4b03beca24cd7dc58b23_106/explore?location=42.847496%2C-89.382001%2C15.71)

#### • **Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST)**

A LUST site has contaminated soil and/or groundwater with petroleum, which includes toxic and cancer-causing substances. However, given time, petroleum contamination naturally breaks down in the environment

(biodegradation). Some LUST sites may emit potentially explosive vapors. LUST activities in BRRTS have an activity number prefix of '03'.

- Environmental Repair (ERP)**

ERP sites are sites other than LUSTs that have contaminated soil and/or groundwater. Examples include industrial spills (or dumping) that need long term investigation, buried containers of hazardous substances, and closed landfills that have caused contamination. The ERP module includes petroleum contamination from above ground (but not from underground) storage tanks. ERP activities in BRRTS have an activity number prefix of '02'.

Table 6.8 Town of Brooklyn Brownfield Sites

Activity Type	Site Name	Address	Municipality
LUST	Attica BAR	CTH C	TOWN OF BROOKLYN

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (BRRTS)

### 6.8 Economic Development Agencies and Programs

Providers of services can be a partner for the goals and objectives identified in this chapter. People with local government and business people can contact:

- Green County Economic Development Corporation (GCEDC)**

Green County Economic Development Corporation is a private not-for-profit 501(c)(4) development corporation in Fennimore. GCEDC focuses on all aspects of economic development including business retention and expansion, site location, tourism, etc.

- Southwest Wisconsin Small Business Development Center (SWSBDC)**

SWSBDC provides low-cost training and no-cost counseling to Wisconsin’s entrepreneurs and small business owners and managers located in Green, Grant, Iowa, Crawford, Richland, and Lafayette counties. Our Mission -- to facilitate economic growth in Wisconsin by providing Low-cost training and no-cost programming to the local small business community. We offer services in cooperation with UW- Extension, UW-Platteville, and the Small Business Administration.

- Southwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC)**

The Mission of the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission is to serve the needs of the people of our five-county region in the areas of community development planning, economic development, and transportation. The economic development program of SWWRPC works with stakeholders throughout the region for a regional approach to economic development.

- Wisconsin Department of Commerce (DOC)**

The Department has a broad array of programs to assist a full spectrum of economic development strategies. Programs range from help to start a business to assisting large employer projects. Several new programs target the development of dairying and other agriculture. Other programs target businesses in rural areas. Programs include grants, loans and assistance with financing, labor training and cleaning up brownfield sites.

- **Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCAP)**

DATCP inspects and licenses more than 100,000 businesses and individuals, analyzes millions of laboratory samples, conducts hundreds of hearings and investigations, educates businesses and consumers about best practices, adopts rules that have the force of law, and promotes Wisconsin agriculture at home and abroad.

- **Wisconsin Economic Development Association (WEDA)**

WEDA is an economic development program that targets agricultural development, businesses owned by women and minorities, small businesses and construction projects. WEDA helps find creative financing resources for business and residences.

- **USDA - Rural Development**

Rural Development programs help a rural community or business with economic development through loan guarantees, loans and grants. Rural Development achieves its mission by helping rural individuals, communities and businesses obtain the financial and technical assistance needed to address their diverse and unique needs. Rural Development works to make sure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy.

## 7.0 Intergovernmental Cooperation

### 7.1 Chapter Summary

Intergovernmental cooperation is an effective way for local governments to respond to changing and diverse needs by working with neighbors, while maintaining their own identity. Most arrangements involve only two governmental units, but there are also agreements among multiple units. Many cities, towns, villages, and counties begin cooperative arrangements to lower costs and promote efficiency.

Intergovernmental cooperation may range from formal joint power agreements to unwritten understandings. For instance, two (or more) communities may have unwritten agreements about sharing fire or EMT services, road repair equipment. A city or village and its adjoining towns may have a written agreement concerning snow removal or economic development. If an agreement is reached among two or more units of government, services can often be provided with substantial cost savings. Cooperation can also help eliminate unnecessary duplication of services or equipment purchases.

#### Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001(2)(g)

##### (g) Intergovernmental cooperation element.

A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs for joint planning and decision making with other jurisdictions, including school districts and adjacent local governmental units, for siting and building public facilities and sharing public services. The element shall analyze the relationship of the local governmental unit to school districts and adjacent local governmental units, and to the region, the state and other governmental units. The element shall incorporate any plans or agreements to which the local governmental unit is a party under [s. 66.0301](#), [66.0307](#) or [66.0309](#). The element shall identify existing or potential conflicts between the local governmental unit and other governmental units that are specified in this paragraph and describe processes to resolve such conflicts.



## 7.2 Goals

The following is the Intergovernmental Cooperation Goal, one of the 14 Smart Growth Planning Goals required by the planning grant contract.

1. Coordinate and cooperate with nearby units of government to create efficiencies, reduce costs and increase capacity.

## 7.3 Objectives and Policy Recommendations

The following intergovernmental cooperation objectives and policy recommendations (not in order of priority) support the above goal. They will guide your intergovernmental decisions in the Town of Brooklyn over the next 20 years.

*NOT IN ORDER OF PRIORITY*

1. Work with other units of government and agencies (including state and federal, the regional planning commission, school districts, etc.) to identify and coordinate policies and initiatives.
2. Explore new opportunities to cooperate with other units of government to share public services, staff, or equipment where and when appropriate.
3. Create written intergovernmental contracts or agreements with other units of governments when appropriate.

## 7.4 Existing and Potential Areas of Cooperation

### 7.4.1 Existing Areas of Cooperation

The table below indicates the existing areas of cooperation between the Town of Brooklyn and other neighboring communities.

Table 7.1 Existing Areas of Cooperation

Cooperative with	Service Shared	Is it a Legal Contract	Payment
Town of Oregon	Maintenance of Alpine Road	No	No
Town of Oregon	Two Fire Districts: Belleville & Brooklyn		
Town of Albany	Maintenance of Brooklyn-Albany Rd.	No	No
Town of Albany	Albany Fire and EMS	Yes	Fire- Equalized Value EMS- Per Capita
Town of Union	Joint Ownership in 2 Fire Districts: Evansville & Brooklyn	Yes	Fire- Equalized Value EMS- Per Capita
Village of Brooklyn	Brooklyn Fire and EMS	Yes	Fire- Equalized Value EMS- Per Capita
Village of Brooklyn	Town Hall in Village		
Town of Exeter	One Fire and EMS District	Yes	Fire- Equalized Value EMS- Per Capita
Town of Evansville	Joint Owner of Fire District/EMS	Yes	Fire- Equalized Value EMS- Per Capita



Table 7.2 below indicates what services, equipment, staff, facilities, etc. the Town of Brooklyn Planning Commission identified as a potential point of cooperation with a neighboring jurisdiction.

Table 7.2 Potential Shared Services

Service to Share	With Whom
Plows and other equipment Oil Recycling	Village of Brooklyn
Employees – Clerk & Treasurer	Surrounding Communities

## 7.5 Intergovernmental Relationships

### • 7.5.1 Existing and Potential Conflicts and Solutions

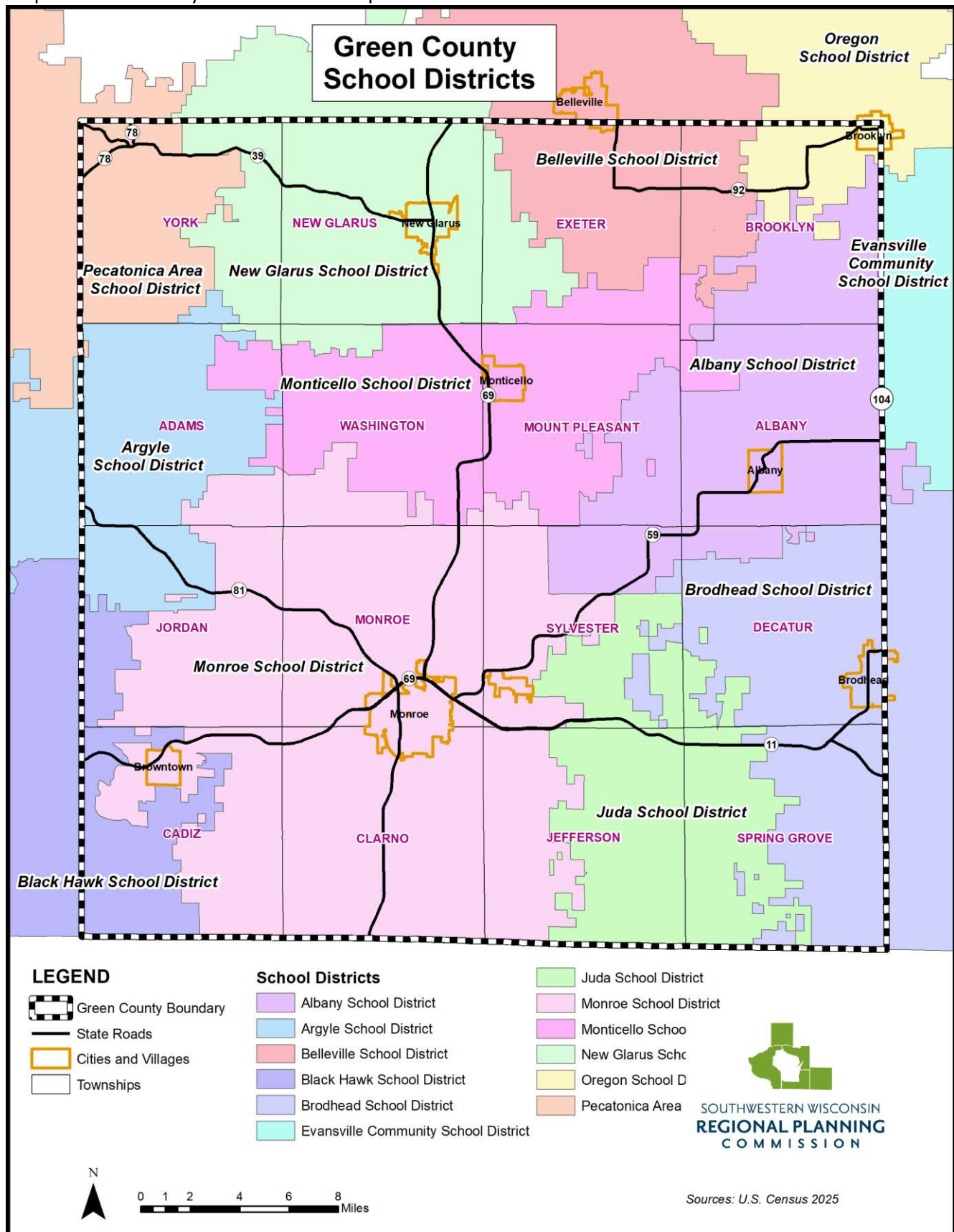
The Town of Brooklyn Planning Commission identified a good working relationship with all surrounding townships and the possibility for future shared services, including, but not limited to: garbage, recycling, snow removal, mowing, brush cutting, and sharing equipment.

Brooklyn does not have any current agreements or contracts with the school districts serving the Town. For the quality of Brooklyn's inter-jurisdictional relationships, see Table 7.3.

Table 7.3 Quality of Jurisdictional Relationships

ADJACENT JURISDICTIONS (LIST EACH SEPARATELY)	SATISFACTORY OR UNSATISFACTORY?
TOWN OF ALBANY	Satisfactory
TOWN OF EXETER	Satisfactory
TOWN OF OREGON	Satisfactory
TOWN OF UNION (ROCK COUNTY)	Satisfactory
TOWN OF OREGON (DANE COUNTY)	Satisfactory
ALBANY SCHOOL DISTRICT	Satisfactory
BELLEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT	Satisfactory
BROOKLYN/OREGON SCHOOL DISTRICT	Satisfactory
EVANSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT	Satisfactory
MONTICELLO SCHOOL DISTRICT	Satisfactory
GREEN COUNTY	Satisfactory
GREEN COUNTY UWEX	Satisfactory
SWWRPC	Satisfactory
WI-DNR	Satisfactory
WI-DOT	Satisfactory
WI-DOA	Satisfactory

Map 7.1 Green County School Districts Map



## 7.6 Intergovernmental Cooperation agencies and Programs

A number of available state agencies and programs assist communities with intergovernmental projects. Below are brief descriptions of various agencies and programs. Contact information is provided.

- **Wisconsin Towns Association**

Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA) is a non-profit, non-partisan statewide organization created under s. 60.23(14) of the Wisconsin Statutes to protect the interests of the state's 1,264 towns and to improve town government. In 2002 WTA celebrated its 55th year of service to town governments and the state's 1.6 million town residents. The association is organized into six districts and is headquartered in Shawano. WTA relies on regular district meetings, an annual statewide convention, publications, participation in cooperative training programs and other means to support the goal of keeping grassroots government strong and efficient in Wisconsin.

- **League of Wisconsin Municipalities**

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities is a not-for-profit association of municipalities. First established in 1898, the League acts as an information clearinghouse, lobbying organization and legal resource for Wisconsin municipalities. Its membership consists of 386 villages and all of the 190 cities in the state.

- **Wisconsin Counties Association**

WCA is an association of county governments assembled for the purpose of serving and representing counties. The direction of this organization is one that is determined by the membership and the WCA Board of Directors consistent with the parameters set forth by the WCA Constitution. The organization's strength remains with the dedicated county-elected official.

- **Southwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission**

The SWWRPC is the area-wide planning and development agency serving the five counties of Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland. It was created in 1970, formed by executive order of the governor. Wisconsin statutes specify that regional planning commissions are to provide intergovernmental planning and coordination for the physical, social, and economic development of the region.

Under Wisconsin law, RPC's have the following functions:

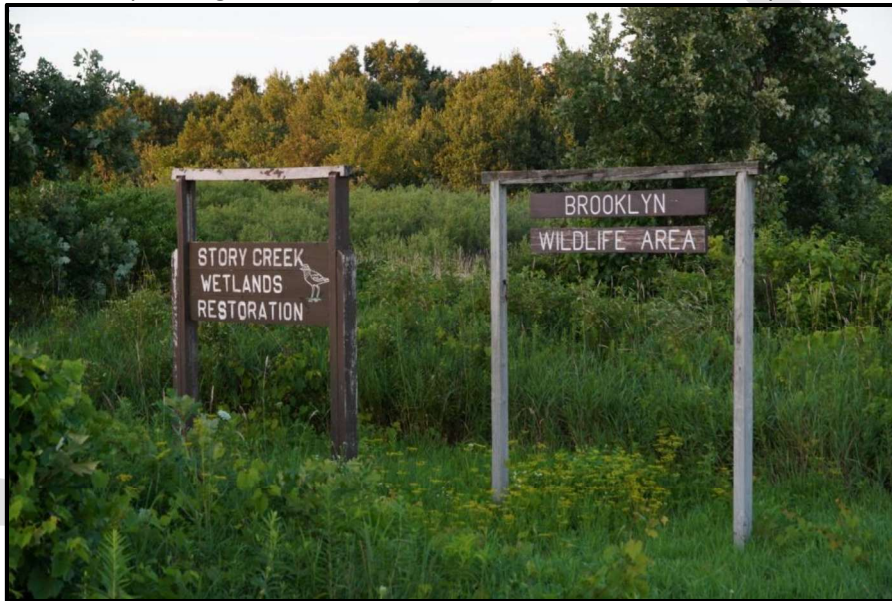
- They may conduct all types of research studies; collect and analyze data; prepare maps, charts and tables, and conduct necessary studies.
- They may make and adopt plans for the physical, social, and economic development of the region.
- They may publish and advertise their purposes, objectives, and findings, and may distribute reports thereon.
- They may provide advisory services on planning problems to the local governmental units within the region and to other public and private agencies in matters relative to its functions and objectives.

## 8.0 Land Use

### 8.1 Chapter Summary

In many cases, communities land use decisions were made with little regard to limitations on development or the interests of the community as a whole. Today, with better knowledge of these limitations, communities have the opportunity to make better choices as to where development should occur. However, instead of working with a clean slate, communities must contend with existing uses and how new development might affect or be affected by them.

The purpose of this chapter is to analyze how land in your jurisdiction is currently being used and how to guide development in the future. The land use decisions in this chapter take into account the knowledge and policies of the other elements of this plan. Based on the information in this chapter and preceding chapters, a set of goals and policies have been developed to guide land use decisions in the Town of Brooklyn over the next 20 years.



#### Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001(2)(h)

##### (h) Land Use

A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide the future development and redevelopment of public and private property. The element shall contain a listing of the amount, type, intensity and net density of existing uses of land in the local governmental unit, such as agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial and other public and private uses. The element shall analyze trends in the supply, demand and price of land, opportunities for redevelopment and existing and potential land-use conflicts. The element shall contain projections, based on the background information specified in [par. \(a\)](#), for 20 years, in 5-year increments, of future residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial land uses including the assumptions of net densities or other spatial assumptions upon which the projections are based. The element shall also include a series of maps that shows current land uses and future land uses that indicate productive agricultural soils, natural limitations for building site development, floodplains, wetlands and other environmentally sensitive lands, the boundaries of areas to which services of public utilities and community facilities, as those terms are used in [par. \(d\)](#), will be provided in the future, consistent with the timetable described in [par. \(d\)](#), and the general location of future land uses by net density or other classifications.

## 8.2 Goals

The following are the Land Use Goals.

1. Protect prime farmland.
2. Protect ground water, forests and other natural resources.
3. Protect parks and public lands.
4. Protect cultural, historical and archeological sites.
5. Manage orderly growth of housing within the town.
6. Protect land and property values.

## 8.3 Objectives, Policy, and Program Recommendations

The following land use objectives and policy recommendations support the above goals and will help the Town guide its land use decisions over the next 20 years.

### NOT IN ORDER OF PRIORITY

1. Restrict commercial activities to develop in existing commercial locations where public roads/facilities and services have capacity to accommodate high volumes of traffic, parking, and other public needs.
2. Maintain the rural character of the town by avoiding developments that would alter its character.
3. Avoid fragmentation of large tracts of farmland and woodlands.
4. Implement our land use ordinance to protect sensitive environmental features such as wood lands, lowlands, floodplains, wetlands, and steep slopes which are important in helping to define the distinctive character and scenic beauty of the community.
5. Support land uses that result in the protection of valued resources and recognize existing physical limitations while protecting our rural character.
6. Continue to administer our comprehensive land use ordinance.
7. Consider the alternative energy ordinance currently in development through UW Extension.
8. Revisit consideration of transferring of land division to an adjoining landowner.

## 8.4 Existing Land Uses

### 8.4.1 Land Use Types

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue categorizes Land Use types as follows:

**Agriculture** – Agricultural land includes land that produces a crop (including Christmas trees or ginseng), agricultural forest (forested lands contiguous with agricultural land), supports livestock, or is eligible for enrollment in specific federal agricultural programs.

**Residential** - Residential land includes any land with a residential home that does not fall into the agricultural land classification.



**Commercial** – Commercial land refers to any parcel that has a business on it, but does not include industrial properties. This may be a convenience store, car wash, bank, grocery store, tavern, etc., referring to any type of retail or business establishment.

**Manufacturing** – Manufacturing land refers to business and industry that is engaged in processing, manufacturing, packaging, treatment, or fabrication of materials and products.

**Forested** – Forested land including production forests and DNR-MFL.

**Ag-Forest** – Land that is producing or capable of producing commercial forest products if the land satisfies any of the following conditions:

It is contiguous to a parcel that has been classified in whole as agricultural land, if the contiguous parcel is owned by the same person that owns the land that is producing or capable of producing commercial forest products. In this subdivision, "contiguous" includes separated only by a road.

It is located on a parcel that contains land that is classified as agricultural land in the property tax assessment on January 1, 2004, and on January 1 of the year of assessment. It is located on a parcel at least 50% of which, by acreage, was converted to land that is classified as agricultural land in the property tax assessment on January 1, 2005, or thereafter.

**Undeveloped** – This land classification refers to areas that were formerly classified as swamp/waste. It includes bogs, marshes, lowlands brush land, and uncultivated land zoned as shoreland and shown to be wetland.

**Other** – Remaining land types that do not fall into the above categories, including federal, state, and county lands, school property, and cemeteries.

The following table lists the amount of land in each major land classifications for the Town of Brooklyn in 2025. Currently the dominant land use is agriculture.

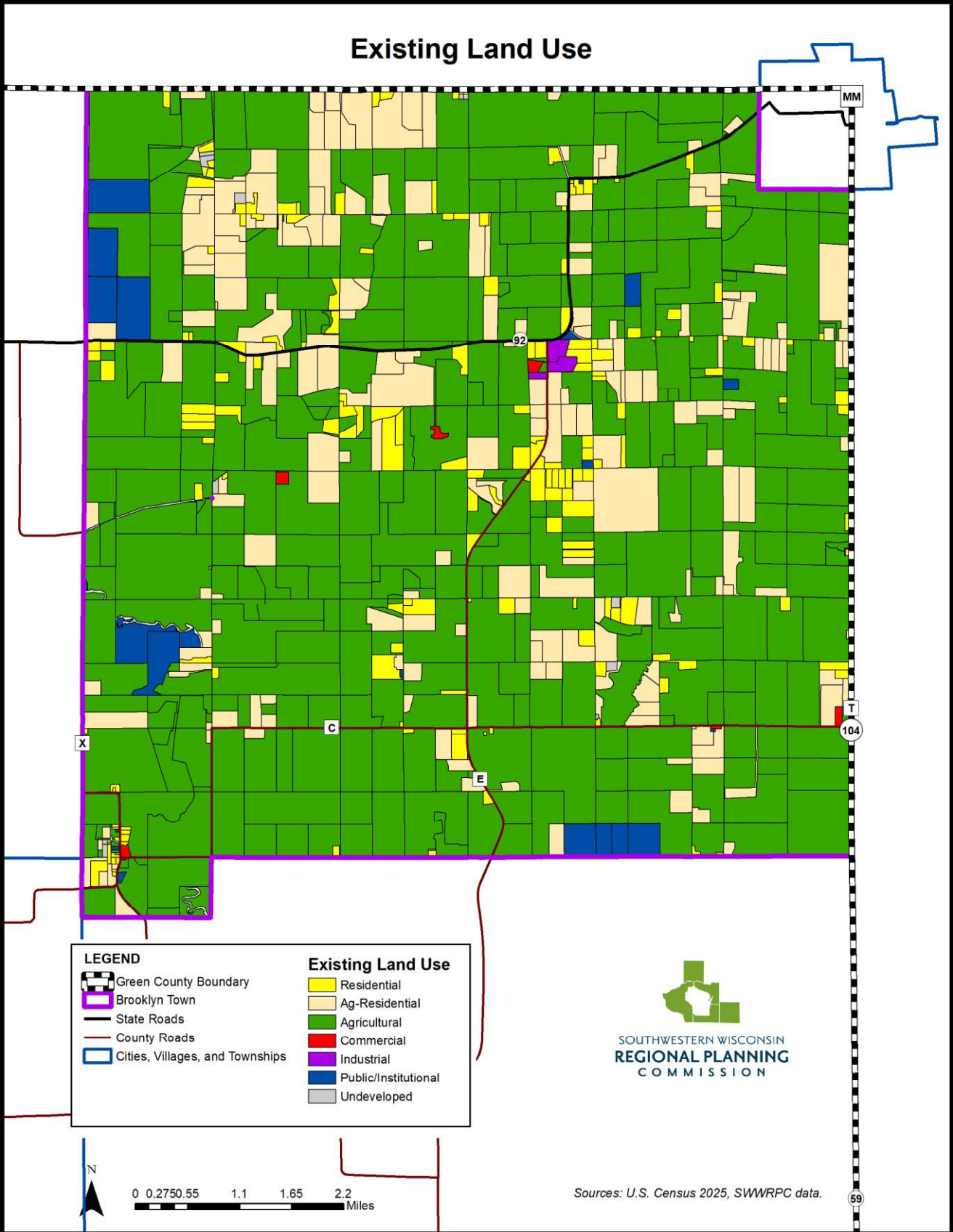
Table 8.1 Town of Brooklyn Land Use – 2024

Classification	Land in Acres	Parcel Count	Average Parcel Size	Percent of Land Area (Acres)
Residential	1,589	398	4.0	7.32%
Commercial	30	9	3.3	0.14%
Manufacturing	35	3	11.7	0.16%
Agricultural	16,532	480	34.4	76.11%
Undeveloped (formerly Swamp/Waste)	1,307	297	4.4	6.02%
AG-Forest	1,785	201	8.9	8.22%
Forest	172	16	10.8	0.79%
Other (Federal, State, County, School, Cemetery)	272	126	2.2	1.25%
<b>Real Estate Totals</b>	<b>21,722</b>	<b>1,530</b>		<b>100.0%</b>

(Source: WI Department of Revenue, 2024 Statement of Assessments)

Additionally, Map 8.1 below shows the Existing land Uses in the Town of Brooklyn. Land uses are classified into seven main categories: Residential, Ag-Residential, Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial, Public/Institutional, and Undeveloped.

Map 8.1 Existing Land Use Map for the Town of Brooklyn



## 8.5 Land Use Trends

### 8.5.1 Land Supply

Tables 8.2 to 8.6 display the trends in land use for the Town of Brooklyn over the last 6 years. The information is from the WI Department of Revenue. Technological advances have also given the WI- DOR better land identification techniques. These changes can account for some land classifications not having a value in one year but than having one in another year. Local assessors have changed over time, which also contributes differences.

Table 8.2 Town of Brooklyn Land Use Assessment Statistics - 2018

Classification	2018 Total Acres	2018 Parcel Count	2018 Percent of Land Use (Acres)
Residential	405	184	1.84%
Commercial	15	4	0.07%
Manufacturing	0	0	0.00%
Agricultural	17,424	815	79.37%
Undeveloped (formerly Swamp/Waste)	937	332	4.27%
AG-Forest	2,497	323	11.37%
Forest	471	70	2.15%
Other (Federal, State, County, School, Cemetery)	203	127	0.92%
<b>Real Estate Totals</b>	<b>21,952</b>	<b>1,855</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

(Source: WIDOR, 2018 Statistical Report of Property Values)

Table 8.3 Town of Brooklyn Land Use Assessment Statistics - 2020

Classification	2020 Total Acres	2020 Parcel Count	2020 Percent of Land Use (Acres)
Residential	1,658	388	7.63%
Commercial	27	9	0.12%
Manufacturing	35	3	0.16%
Agricultural	16,533	457	76.12%
Undeveloped (formerly Swamp/Waste)	1,262	283	5.81%
AG-Forest	1,727	189	7.95%
Forest	205	15	0.94%
Other (Federal, State, County, School, Cemetery)	272	126	1.25%
<b>Real Estate Totals</b>	<b>21,719</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

(Source: WIDOR, 2020 Statistical Report of Property Values)

Table 8.4 Town of Brooklyn Land Use Assessment Statistics - 2022

Classification	2022 Total Acres	2022 Parcel Count	2022 Percent of Land Use (Acres)
Residential	1,667	395	7.67%
Commercial	27	9	0.12%
Manufacturing	35	3	0.16%
Agricultural	16,499	464	75.92%
Undeveloped (formerly Swamp/Waste)	1,266	285	5.83%
AG-Forest	1,771	197	8.15%
Forest	197	17	0.91%
Other (Federal, State, County, School, Cemetery)	269	124	1.24%
<b>Real Estate Totals</b>	<b>21,731</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

(Source: WIDOR, 2022 Statistical Report of Property Values)

Table 8.5 Town of Brooklyn Land Use Assessment Statistics – 2024

Classification	2024 Total Acres	2024 Parcel Count	2023 Percent of Land Use (Acres)
Residential	1,589	398	7.32%
Commercial	30	9	0.14%
Manufacturing	35	3	0.16%
Agricultural	16,532	480	76.11%
Undeveloped (formerly Swamp/Waste)	1,307	297	6.02%
AG-Forest	1,785	201	8.22%
Forest	172	16	0.79%
Other (Federal, State, County, School, Cemetery)	272	126	1.25%
<b>Real Estate Totals</b>	<b>21,722</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

(Source: WIDOR, 2024 Statistical Report of Property Values)

### 8.5.2 Land Demand

Historically, land use has been agricultural throughout Green County.

### 8.5.3 Land Prices

The Town of Brooklyn is experiencing ongoing increases in land prices.

## 8.6 Future Land Use

### 8.6.1 Development Limitations

Development should only take place in suitable areas, which is determined by several criteria, including:

- A community's vision statement
- Land use goals and policies
- Surrounding uses
- Special requirements of the proposed development
- The ability to provide utility and community services to the area
- Transportation and economic development factors
- Cultural resource constraints
- Various physical constraints

### 8.6.2 Density Standards / Land Division

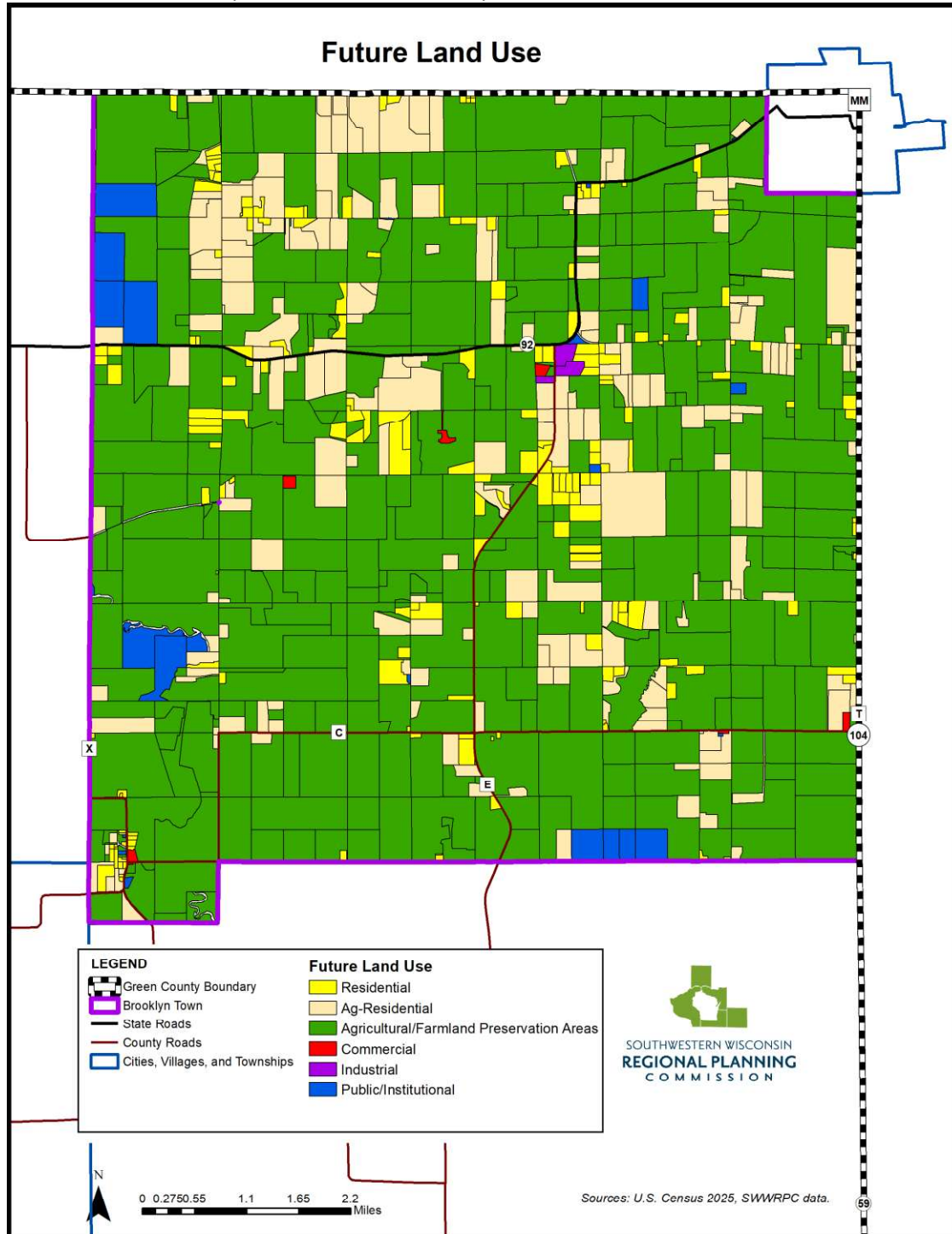
A density standard is a measure of how many lots (or homes) for a set number of acres. Density standards can have a minimum lot size requirement, a maximum lot size requirement, or both. For example, in a town with a density standard of one home per 30 acres, a landowner who owns 90 acres has three opportunities to build a home (1 per 30). The landowner may decide to sell some of this property. If there is no minimum lot size associated with the density standard, in order to build a home, a full 30 acres would be needed by a home builder. If the density standard has a minimum lot size requirement of 5 acres (for example), the landowner would only need to sell 5 acres, not the entire 30. The density standard would be met. (Farmland Preservation might need to be considered in developing a density standard as it might affect minimum lot sizes from town to town.)

Some communities have a minimum and a maximum lot size associated with their density standard. In this case, if the minimum lot size is 5 acres and the maximum 10 acres, with a one per 30 density, the landowner could sell anywhere between 5 and 10 acres to

someone to build a home. The density standard of one per 30 acres and the lot size requirement(s) would be met. The Town of Brooklyn has a Land Division and Subdivision Regulation document, Ordinance No. 6-7-93. Please refer to this document for specific policies and regulations regarding land use, land division, and subdivision.

Map 8.2 shows the Future Land Use Map for the Town of Brooklyn.

Map 8.2 Future Land Use Map for the Town of Brooklyn





## 8.7 Physical Development Limitations

### 8.7.1 Depth to Water Table / Flood Hazards

Flooding Frequency reveal development limitations associated with water resources. Because of the potential for flooding, and the problems associated with wet soils, these areas should be precluded from development.

### 8.7.2 Slope Limitations

Slopes, reveals areas in the jurisdiction where development limitations occur due to steep slopes. Slope is an important limitation to consider since problems for development are usually associated with areas with extreme slope (due to erosion and other factors). In general, areas with slopes under 12% are best suited for development.

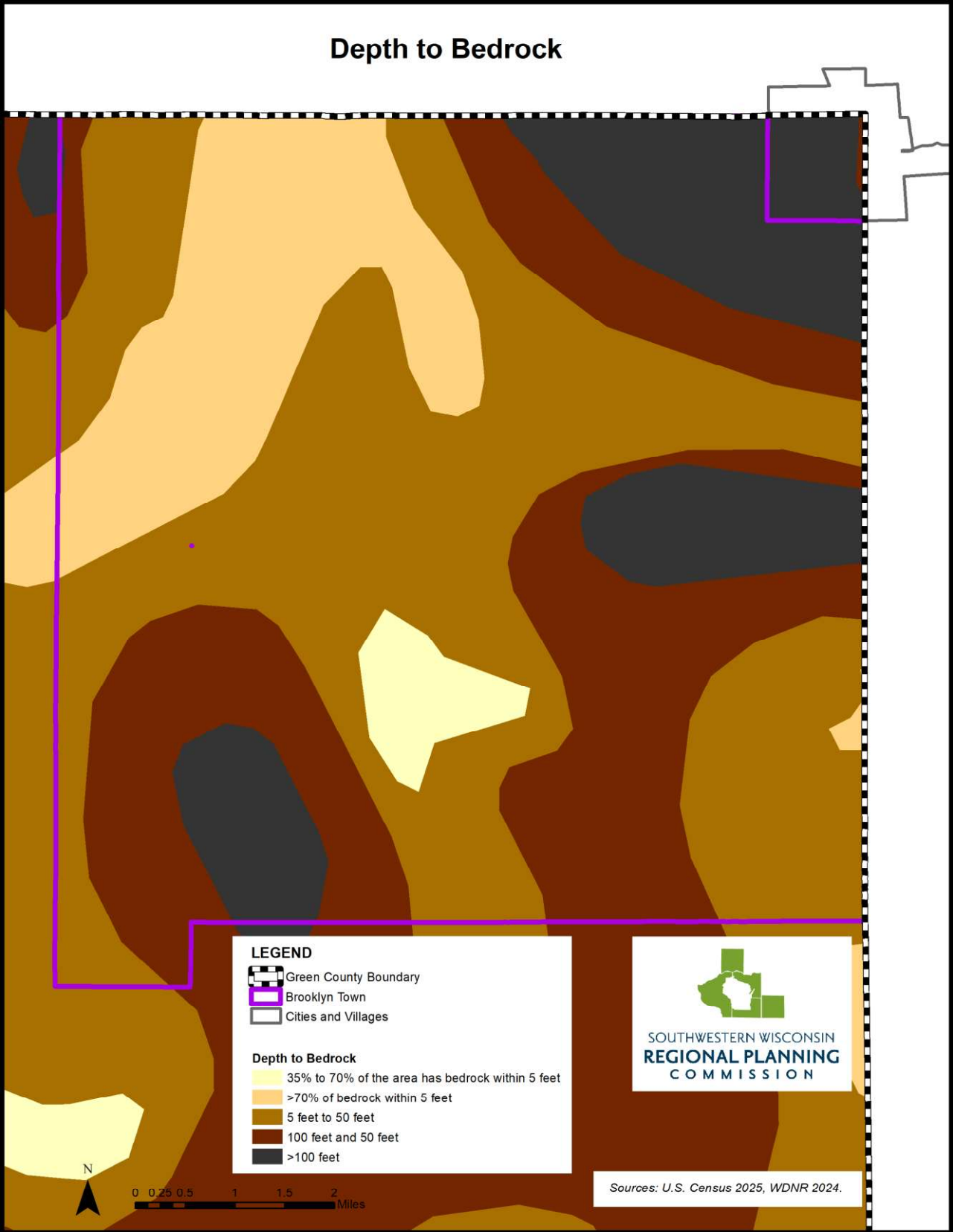
### 8.7.3 Septic Limitations

Septic limitations apply to domestic sewage disposal systems; primarily filter fields and seepage beds. How well a sewage disposal system functions depends largely on the rate at which effluent from the tank moves into and through the soil. If permeability is moderately slow, sewage effluent is likely to flow along the surface of the soil. If permeability is moderately rapid or rapid, effluent is likely to flow into the aquifer. Detailed testing at specific site locations may reveal pockets with fewer restrictions than indicated. Engineering interpretations of the soil survey indicate the degree to which sub-grade materials are influenced by surface drainage, depth of frost penetrations, and other factors.

### 8.7.4 Depth to Bedrock

Depth to Bedrock, reveals areas in the jurisdiction where development limitations occur due to the depth to the bedrock. Depth to bedrock is an important factor influencing other limitations such as septic tanks and building foundations. Bedrock too close to the surface not only hampers surface water absorption by the soil, but also poses obstacles to construction.

Map 8.3 Depth to Bedrock Map



### 8.7.5 Threatened and Endangered Species / Recreation Resources / Environmental Corridors

Natural Corridors and Recreational Resources, reveals areas in the jurisdiction where other developmental limitations may occur.

## 8.8 Redevelopment Opportunities

The WDNR Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment maintains a database listing contaminated lands and sites including the following: spills, leaks, Superfund sites, and other contaminated sites reported to the WI-DNR or otherwise discovered. These sites represent the possibility of redevelopment opportunities.

Previously, local governmental units (LGUs) and economic development corporations (EDCs) that acquired contaminated property, even if they did not purchase it, were considered responsible under Wisconsin's Hazardous Substance Discharge Law, also known as the Spill Law (s. 292, Wis. Stats.), because they "possessed or controlled" a contaminated property. As a result, they were required to investigate and clean up the contamination. The Land Recycling Law (1993 Wisconsin Act 453) and the 1997-1999 and 1999-2001 State Biennial Budgets removed this liability and created incentives for LGUs and certain EDCs to redevelop property, depending upon how the property is acquired. This exemption for local governments has helped spur renewal of many contaminated properties.

## 8.9 Existing and Potential Land Use Conflicts

A variety of land uses with no separation between incompatible uses can potentially cause conflict. Land use conflicts may arise in such situations through noise, odor, chemicals, light, visual amenity, dogs, stock damage and weed infestation, lack of understanding, and lack of communication to name a few. One of the most common occurrences, especially in a rural setting, is the presence of agricultural operations near non-farm populations. For instance, agriculture can affect adjoining small rural lots used for residential purposes. Similarly, the presence of small residential rural lots can create an adverse influence on the continued operation of agriculture enterprise.

The Planning Commission did not report any current land use conflicts the jurisdictional neighbors of the Town of Brooklyn, including the County. They do not foresee any types of land use conflicts with these neighbors in the future.

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#### **Potential Land Use Conflicts:**

- O Landfills or Waste Facilities*
  - O Jails or Prisons*
  - O Halfway Houses or Group Homes*
  - O Airports, Highways, or Rail Lines*
  - O Low Income Housing*
  - O Strip Malls and Shopping Centers*
  - O Cell Towers, Electrical Transmission Lines, and Renewable Energy Farms*
  - O Large Livestock Operations*
  - O Industrial or Manufacturing Operations*
- 

## 8.10 Land Use Agencies and Programs

There are a number of available state agencies and programs to assist communities with land use projects. To find out more specific information or which program best fits your needs contact the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Association.

## 9.0 Implementation

### 9.1 Chapter Summary

The purpose of this chapter is to explain how the comprehensive plan will be utilized to guide future growth and development in the Town of Brooklyn and is intended to serve as the blueprint for the future. As change is inevitable, the plan will need to be amended to reflect major changes. Section 9.5 will review how each chapter of the comprehensive plan elements interrelate and how the plan will be monitored and evaluated.

### 9.2 Vision Statement

The following is a review of the vision statement found in Chapter 1, Issues and Opportunities, section 1.3. The vision statement serves as the overall guide for land use decision making in the Town of Brooklyn.

***The Town of Brooklyn envisions a thriving rural community nestled in a beautiful natural setting. It is home to both large and small farms, along with a variety of agricultural enterprises. The Town is committed to maintaining quality roads that serve residents and visitors alike.***

***We value environmental stewardship, including clean water, open spaces for recreation, and the preservation of natural features and protected habitats. We acknowledge the importance of identifying and preserving our historical and archaeological sites.***

***The Town of Brooklyn is a forward-thinking community that collaborates with neighboring municipalities to share services, equipment, and ideas. We support orderly development that protects prime agricultural land and maintains the Town's safe, uncongested, and rural character.***

### 9.3 Goals, Objectives, and Policy Recommendations

The following are Implementation goals, objectives and policy recommendations. They support the goals, objectives, policies and programs specified in the previous eight chapters and will guide the implementation of this comprehensive plan in the Town of Brooklyn over the next 20 years.

1. Comply with and enforce the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Programs outlined in this Comprehensive Plan.
2. Enforce local ordinances to support the vision noted in Section 9.2.
3. Comply with applicable County, State, and Federal regulations.
4. Amend the local comprehensive plan and local ordinances only after careful evaluation of existing conditions and potential impacts.
5. Update the Town of Brooklyn Comprehensive Plan at a minimum of every ten years as required by Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001.

## 9.4 Local Ordinance and Regulations

The intent of the local ordinances and regulations is to control land development within the Town. By carefully applying these local ordinances and regulations, the Town of Brooklyn will be accomplishing goals and policies of the comprehensive plan.

Enforcement of such ordinances and regulations serve an important function by ensuring orderly growth and development. The Town of Brooklyn will continue to use the Green County Zoning Ordinance as a primary tool of enforcement. Below is a list of all of the ordinances and regulations specific to the Town of Brooklyn at the time of adoption of this comprehensive plan.

**Table 9.1 Local Ordinances and Regulations**

Chapter	Ord.#	Title	Original Ord.#	Date
1	1.1	Private Road Acquisition	03-12-92b	1992
1	1.2	Regulation of Activities on Town of Brooklyn Road Right-of-Way		08/11/2014
1	1.3	Driveway Ordinance	6-19-06	05/14/2018
1	1.4	Speed Reduction Ordinance	2012-1017	05/12/2014
1	1.5	Designation of all Town Roads as Class "B" Highways		09/09/2013
1	1.6	Manure Piping		07/08/2019
1	1.7	Broadband Forward		06/13/2022
2	2.1	Land Divisions	6-7-93	08/08/2016
2	2.2	Comprehensive Plan	12-12-2005	2005
2	2.3	Plan Commission Ordinance	2012-0409-03	
2	2.4	Wisconsin Uniform Dwelling Code	09-11-2000A	
2	2.5	Prime Land Preservation	04-13-09	
2	2.6	Electrical Code		11/11/2019
3	3.1	Comprehensive Recycling & Solid Waste Disposal	0208-2010	
4	4.1	Disposal of Waste and Recyclables at Town facilities		08-11/2014
4	4.2	Fire Protection Response Fee	11-10-97B	11/19/1997
5	5.1	Public Records Retention & Destruction		2013
5	5.2	Ordinance #5.21, Appointment of Citizen Alternates to Board of Review		08/27/2024
5	5.4	Provisional Operator's License		12/11/2014
5	5.7	Alternate Claims Procedure	2012-0409-5	08/08/2016
5	5.8	Licensees/Permittees Required to Pay Local Taxes, Assessments and Claims	06-11-2007	
5	5.9	Issuance of Citations for Violations of Town Ordinances	9-11-2000B	
5	5.10	Establishing Split Shifts for Election Officials	2013-0114	2013
5	5.11	Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policy	12-18-95	1995
5	5.12	Alcohol Control Ordinance	1-11-2010	2010
5	5.13	Weed Commissioner		03/13/2018
5	5.14	Clerk Appointment		04/10/2018
5	5.22	Ordinance #5.22, Confidentiality of Information Requested by Assessor		08/27/2024
6	6.1	Obligation for Town to Pay Green County Treasurer if Town Treasurer fails		11/10/2014



## 9.5 Consistency among Plan Elements

As required by Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001, all elements included in this plan are consistent with one another and no known conflicts exist. If there is a question regarding a decision that is not clearly conveyed in the details of this plan, then the decision should be based on the intent of the vision statement. All nine elements included in this plan work to achieve the desired future for the Town of Brooklyn.

## 9.6 Severability

If any provision of this Plan shall be found to be invalid or unconstitutional, or if the application of this Plan to any person or circumstances is found to be invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the other provisions or applications of this Plan, which can be given effect without the invalid or unconstitutional provision or application.

## 9.7 Plan Adoption

The first official action required to implement the Town of Brooklyn Comprehensive Plan is official adoption of the plan by the local Plan Commission. Once the local Plan Commission recommends the plan by resolution, the Town Board then adopts the comprehensive plan by ordinance as required by State Statute 66.1001. The Brooklyn Comprehensive Plan will take effect when the Town Board passes it. After the plan is adopted by ordinance, it then becomes the official tool for future development in the next 20 years. The plan is designed to guide development in a consistent manner.

## 9.8 Plan Amendments

Amendments may be necessary due to changes in Town policies, programs, or services, as well as changes in state or federal laws. An amendment may also be needed due to unique proposals presented to the Town. Amendments are any changes to plan text or maps. The Town Board can amend the Brooklyn Comprehensive Plan at any time. Proposed amendments should be channeled through the local Planning Commission, with final action occurring at the Town Board, including proper public notices and hearings. Amendments should be done with extreme caution: they should not be made simply to avoid local planning pressure.

## 9.9 Plan Updates

As required by Wisconsin State Statute, this comprehensive plan needs to be updated at least once every ten years. An update is different from an amendment, as an update is a major revision of multiple plan sections including maps. The plan was originally written based on variables that are ever changing and future direction might be inaccurately predicted. A plan update should include public involvement, as well as an official public hearing.

## 9.10 Measuring Progress

The success of this comprehensive plan will be measured by the extent to which the Town of Brooklyn achieves its vision of the future for their community by following the goals, objectives, policies, and programs outlined in the plan. In order to do so, the Planning Commission will review this Comprehensive Plan every two (2) years. The Town of Brooklyn should continue to work closely with the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to help guide and facilitate the successful implementation of this plan.

## 9.11 Goal and Policy Summary

Comprehensive Plans are comprised of nine elements (Issues and Opportunities, Utilities and Community Facilities, Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources, Housing, Transportation, Economic Development, Intergovernmental Cooperation, Land Use, and Implementation). Each element has policy statements, which contribute to the overall plan, supporting a jurisdiction's vision and goals. Policy statements give the jurisdiction general guidelines to help in making land use decisions.

- **Implementation Action**

- **Does not require specific action** – This policy is a general statement of direction that does not need a specific ordinance or program to be enforced. It is enforced through conscious decision making and by following the local comprehensive Plan, which is passed by ordinance.
- **Ordinance** - The policy is enforced by an existing ordinance or an ordinance currently in development.
- **Specific Action** – responsibility inherent in Planning Commission duties. Specific actions may be self-explanatory.
- **Ongoing** – The policy is currently part of the jurisdiction's actions.

- **Responsibilities**

**Town of Brooklyn**

- **Town Planning Commission** – The Planning Commission receives proposals/applications, reviews the proposal against the plan and any local ordinances, then makes a recommendation to the Town Board.
- **Town Board** – As the elected body of the community, the Town Board acts as the decision-making authority and has the responsibility to make sure that the specific policy is enforced. The Board reviews the Planning Commission's recommendation and makes a final decision.

**Green County**

- **County Planning and Zoning Commission** – The Planning Commission receives proposals/applications, reviews the proposal against the plan and County and local ordinances, then makes a recommendation to the County Board.
- **County Board** – As the elected body of the community, the County Board acts as the final decision-making authority and has the responsibility to make sure that the specific policy is enforced. The Board reviews the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation and makes a final decision.

## • Implementation Timeline

If action is not required or is ongoing, no timeline is necessary. If action is required, a timeline is indicated, depending on the recommended action. For instance, if an ordinance needs to be created or amended, a timeline of one year is recommended.

## • Implementation Tools

Implementation tools can include model ordinances, maps, or other planning documentation, depending on the need.

**Table 9.2 Goals**

<b>Chapter 1, Issues and Opportunities</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protect and preserve the rural community character of the Town of Brooklyn.</li> <li>2. Preserve and enhance the quality of life for the residents of the Town of Brooklyn.</li> <li>3. Protect and improve the health, safety, and welfare of residents in the Town of Brooklyn.</li> </ol>
<b>Chapter 2, Utilities and Community Facilities</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support land uses, population densities and ordinances that promote efficient development patterns, protect land and property values and minimize municipal, state governmental and utility costs.</li> <li>2. Provide adequate infrastructure and public services to meet existing and future market demand for residential, small commercial, and other uses that support agriculture.</li> </ol>
<b>Chapter 3, Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protect prime farmland.</li> <li>2. Protect ground water, forests, and other natural resources.</li> <li>3. Protect parks and public lands.</li> <li>4. Protect historical and cultural resources.</li> </ol>
<b>Chapter 4, Housing</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Manage orderly growth of housing within the town</li> <li>2. Protect land and property values.</li> </ol>
<b>Chapter 5, Transportation</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide good quality, safe roads</li> </ol>
<b>Chapter 6, Economic Development</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support agricultural-related businesses.</li> <li>2. Support small commercial and home-based businesses.</li> <li>3. Support all other large-scale economic development projects to be located in urban areas that currently provide appropriate infrastructure</li> </ol>
<b>Chapter 7, Intergovernmental Cooperation</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coordinate and cooperate with nearby units of government to create efficiencies, reduce costs and increase capacity</li> </ol>
<b>Chapter 8, Land Use</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protect prime farmland.</li> <li>2. Protect ground water, forests and other natural resources.</li> <li>3. Protect parks and public lands.</li> <li>4. Protect cultural, historical and archeological sites.</li> <li>5. Manage orderly growth of housing within the town.</li> <li>6. Protect land and property values.</li> </ol>
<b>Chapter 9, Implementation</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Comply with and enforce the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Programs outlined in this Comprehensive Plan.</li> <li>2. Enforce local ordinances to support the vision noted in Section 9.2.</li> <li>3. Comply with applicable County, State, and Federal regulations.</li> <li>4. Amend the local comprehensive plan and local ordinances only after careful evaluation of existing conditions and potential impacts.</li> <li>5. Update the Town of Brooklyn Comprehensive Plan at a minimum of every ten years as required by Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001.</li> </ol>

**Table 9.3 Issues and Opportunities**

POICIES	IMPLEMENTATION ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS
Protect and preserve the rural community character of the Town of Brooklyn.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA

Preserve and enhance the quality of life for the residents of the Town of Brooklyn.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Protect and improve the health, safety, and welfare of residents in the Town of Brooklyn.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA

**Table 9.4 Utilities and Community Facilities**

POICIES	IMPLEMENTATION ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	IMPLEMENTATION TIME LINE	IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS
Ensure that property owners bear a fair share of capital improvement costs.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Provide public utilities, services, and alternatives.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Evaluate public utility alternatives and services to reduce the capital facility and operating costs.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Ensure that adequate public utilities, including system capacity, are available before issuing new development permits.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Leverage popular town communication vehicles to keep residents aware of town activities.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Maintain a process that informs, notifies, and allows for public participation in all capital facility planning projects and proposals.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Encourage new development that requires urban services to locate within the Village of Brooklyn limits.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Maintain a capital improvements program, reviewing it annually to make adjustments to meet the needs of the community.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Where and when appropriate, utilize county, state, and federal programs or grants to maintain, enhance, or pursue new utility and community facilities.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA

**Table 9.5 Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources**

AGRICULTURAL POLICIES	IMPLEMENTATION ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS
Provide resources that educate local residents about the importance of agriculture, natural, historical and cultural resources.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Maintain the rural and agricultural character of the community.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Encourage the preservation of the family farm, cropland, and farmland in the community.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Preserve agricultural land and natural resources in the community from encroachment by incompatible	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA

development.				
Limit fragmentation of crop land.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Encourage residential and commercial development to locate in areas least suited for agricultural purposes.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Preserve rural roots, historical features, parks and public lands within the town.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Discourage isolated non-agriculture commercial and industrial uses in agricultural and natural resource areas.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Maintain the agricultural infrastructure to support agricultural operations.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Where and when appropriate, utilize county, state, and federal programs or grants to conserve, maintain, and protect agricultural and natural resources.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Provide residents with resources that protect dark skies.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	Ordinance

**Table 9.6 Housing**

POLICIES	IMPLEMENTATION ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS
Allow only single-family housing.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Locate multi-family apartment buildings, senior housing and special needs housing near or inside cities and villages, where there is access to public services and facilities	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Impose impact fees on new development to mitigate the capital costs of new public facilities/services necessitated by the development.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Where and when appropriate, utilize county, state, and federal programs or grants to maintain existing housing or to support the construction of future housing.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA

**Table 9.7 Transportation**

POLICIES	IMPLEMENTATION ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS
Collaborate with WisDOT and the Green County Highway Department on transportation planning initiatives to support regional connectivity and infrastructure coordination while ensuring road developments are in conformance with all established rules and regulations, as specified through local ordinances.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Promote transportation options that address the mobility needs of elderly and disabled residents, in partnership with local service providers and transportation agencies.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA



Enhance the safety of motorized and non-motorized transportation modes by identifying and addressing high-risk areas for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Ensure that developers are responsible for the costs of development plan reviews and associated road improvements or construction, in accordance with local road and street design standards.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Coordinate with adjacent jurisdictions to align transportation plans and promote consistency in road design, maintenance, and development policies.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Explore strategies to preserve and improve road surface quality within the Town, including regular assessments and maintenance planning.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Continue administering a driveway ordinance and local road design guidelines to guide future development and ensure safe, consistent infrastructure. Where appropriate, shared driveways will be encouraged to minimize the number of access points on local streets/roads.	ongoing	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Utilize data from the PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating) system or a comparable pavement condition program to inform and maintain the Town's transportation plan, ensuring long-term planning for road maintenance, upgrades, and potential new road construction.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
When appropriate, pursue county, state, and federal funding opportunities—including grants and programs—to support the maintenance, enhancement, and construction of transportation facilities and services.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA

**Table 9.8 Economic Development**

POICIES	IMPLEMENTATION ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS
Encourage the expansion of broadband internet service and improvements in telecommunications throughout the county to support remote work and digital connectivity.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Support agriculture, including crop and livestock production, and promote agriculture-related businesses as key components of the county's economic development strategy.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Promote entrepreneurial activity, such as the sale of locally grown or produced goods and services, through roadside markets, farmers markets, and home-based businesses.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Encourage home-based entrepreneurial activities that have minimal impact on surrounding properties and are compatible with residential neighborhoods.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA

Direct large-scale economic development projects, including non-agricultural commercial and industrial uses, to urban areas where full utilities, services, roads, and infrastructure are available; prioritize locations adjacent to existing commercial or industrial development where feasible.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Discourage unplanned or continuous strip commercial development along major transportation corridors.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Promote historic preservation as a strategy for economic development, supporting community character and tourism.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Continue to support local business and tourism organizations, such as the Green County Development Corporation and local Chambers of Commerce.	ongoing	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Collaborate with the Village of Brooklyn to attract and retain businesses that strengthen the local economy.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Pursue county, state, and federal funding programs or grants to support additional economic development efforts, where and when appropriate.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA

**Table 9.9 Intergovernmental Cooperation**

POLICIES	IMPLEMENTATION ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS
Work with other units of government and agencies (including state and federal, the regional planning commission, school districts, etc.) to identify and coordinate policies and initiatives.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Explore new opportunities to cooperate with other units of government to share public services, staff, or equipment where and when appropriate.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Create written intergovernmental contracts or agreements with other units of governments when appropriate.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	Written contracts

**Table 9.10 Land Use**

POLICIES	IMPLEMENTATION ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS
Restrict commercial activities to develop in existing commercial locations where public roads/facilities and services have capacity to accommodate high volumes of traffic, parking, and other public needs.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Maintain the rural character of the town by avoiding developments that would alter its character.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Avoid fragmentation of large tracts of farmland and woodlands.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA

Implement our land use ordinance to protect sensitive environmental features such as wood lands, lowlands, floodplains, wetlands, and steep slopes which are important in helping to define the distinctive character and scenic beauty of the community.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Support land uses that result in the protection of valued resources and recognize existing physical limitations while protecting our rural character.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Continue to administer our comprehensive land use ordinance.	ongoing	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Consider the alternative energy ordinance currently in development in UW Extension.	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Reopen consideration of transferring of land division to an adjoining	Does not require specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA

**Table 9.11 Implementation**

POICIES	IMPLEMENTATION ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS
Comply with and enforce the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Programs outlined in this Comprehensive Plan.	Requires specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Enforce local ordinances to support the vision noted in Section 9.2.	Requires specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Comply with applicable County, State, and Federal regulations.	Requires specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Amend the local comprehensive plan and local ordinances only after careful evaluation of existing conditions and potential impacts.	Requires specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	NA	NA
Update the Town of Brooklyn Comprehensive Plan at a minimum of every ten years as required by Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001.	Requires specific action	Planning Commission, Town Board	2035	NA



20 S. Court St.  
Platteville WI 53818  
p: 608.342.1636 • f: 608.342.1220  
e: [info@swwrpc.org](mailto:info@swwrpc.org)  
[www.swwrpc.org](http://www.swwrpc.org)

### Public Participation Plan – 2025 Brooklyn Township Comprehensive Plan Update

The update to Brooklyn Township's Comprehensive Plan will guide the next ten years of the towns' development. Public Participation is integral to inform the issues and opportunities of the community and to create goals, strategies, and actions for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan update. The following is a plan for providing opportunities to all Brooklyn Township community members to participate in the update of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Township is utilizing the Planning Commission and Town Board to work with Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. These elected and appointed officials have the responsibility of steering SWWRPC's public outreach methods, reviewing data and community input, making suggestions for goals and strategies, and taking the lead on implementing the plan once complete.

Brooklyn Township and Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission have and will provide the following opportunities to all residents and other interested parties for public participation in the update of the Comprehensive Plan:

- **Focus Group Discussions** - On March 4, 2025, the Town of Brooklyn Board and Plan Commission convened a focus group to gather resident input for the Comprehensive Plan update. Participants were selected through a random sampling process. Approximately 120 invitations were mailed to town residents, and 13 individuals agreed to participate. Attendees included two lifelong residents (with 50 and 70+ years of residency), a new resident of less than one year, four residents with 9 to 12 years of residency, and six residents who have lived in the town for 20 years or more. The methodology and discussion questions are detailed in the Focus Group Discussion Guide, which will be included as an attachment to the plan.
- **Public Notice** - A class 1 public notice will be published 30 days prior to holding a public hearing to hear comments regarding the Draft Comprehensive Plan. At this time, a notice will also be sent to the following individuals: any operator who has obtained a permit to mine non-metallic resources, any person who has registered a marketable nonmetallic mineral deposit, any property owner or leaseholder who has an interest in non-metallic resources, and any other person who has requested an individual notice.

During the course of the Comprehensive Plan, the Township Clerk shall maintain a list of individuals who wish to be informed of the update to the Comprehensive Plan.



During the 30-day notice, a draft of the plan will be made available for review on the town's website and by request from the Town Clerk.

- **Public Hearing** - A public hearing shall be held for residents and stakeholders to comment on the Draft Comprehensive Plan. Following the public hearing of the Comprehensive Plan, the Planning Commission shall make a decision to recommend to the Town Board the adoption of the plan. The Town Board shall adopt the Comprehensive Plan as recommended by the Planning Commission.

In addition to the options for public input provided in the previous items, this plan highlights the procedures to adopt the updated Comprehensive Plan.

- The Plan Commission and Town Board shall review the Draft Comprehensive Plan and recommend edits and modifications.
- The Planning Commission shall review the revised Plan and recommend, by a majority vote, a resolution recommending that the Town Board pass an ordinance to adopt the Draft Comprehensive Plan as required under Wis. Stat. 66.1001(4)(b). The Planning Commission may recommend edits and modifications to the Draft Comprehensive Plan.
- The Town Board, by a majority vote, shall enact an ordinance as required under Wis. Stat. 66.1001 (4) (c) adopting the Comprehensive Plan. The Town Board may, at its discretion approve modifications to the Draft Comprehensive Plan, as reviewed by the Planning Commission.
- Prior to adopting the Comprehensive Plan, the Town Board or the Planning Commission shall hold a Public Hearing on the Draft Comprehensive Plan, as stated in Wis. Stat. 66.1001(4) (d). The hearing must be preceded by a Class 1 notice under ch.985.
- The Town shall make a hard copy of the Draft Comprehensive Plan available for review by the public online on the Town's website and by request made to the Town Clerk.
- At least 30 days before the public hearing is held the Town shall provide written notice to all of the following, as stated in Wis. Stat. 66.1001 (4)(e) and (f):
  - An operator who has obtained, or made application for, a permit that is described under s. 295.12(3)d, within the Township.
  - A person who has a marketable nonmetallic mineral deposit under s. 295.20 within the Township.
  - Any other property owner or leaseholder within the Town who has an interest in property pursuant to which the person may extract nonmetallic mineral resources, if the property owner or leaseholder







- requests in writing that the Township provide the property owner or leaseholder notice of the hearing.
- Any person who has submitted a request to receive notice of any proposed ordinance that affects the allowable use of property owned by the person in the Town.
- An electronic copy of the Draft Comprehensive Plan, or notification on how to view/download a copy of the plan, will be disseminated to neighboring jurisdictions and appropriate governments, as stated in Wis. Stat. 66.1001 (4) (b), providing an opportunity to submit written comments. A copy, or notification on how to view/download a copy of the Draft Comprehensive Plan will be sent to:
    - The Clerk of the following local governmental units:
      - Green County
      - Town of Exeter
      - Town of Mount Pleasant
      - Town of Albany
      - Town of Union
      - Town of Magnolia
      - Town of Montrose
      - Town of Oregon
      - Town of Rutland
    - Administrator of the following School Districts:
      - Oregon School District
      - Belleville School District
      - Albany School District
      - Monticello School District
    - Executive Director of the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.
  - Any written comments submitted to the Township by the above-mentioned local government units, property owners, or members of the public, will be read into the minutes during the Public Hearing, evaluated, and incorporated as determined by the Town Board into the Comprehensive Plan. A summary of comments and subsequent action will be provided upon request.
  - An electronic copy, or notifications on how to view/download a copy, of the adopted plan and ordinance will be provided to the above-mentioned local government units and the Wisconsin Department of Administration as stated in Wis. Stat. 66.1001 (4)(c).





SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN  
REGIONAL PLANNING  
COMMISSION

20 S. Court St.  
Platteville WI 53818  
p: 608.342.1636 • f: 608.342.1220  
e: [info@swwrpc.org](mailto:info@swwrpc.org)  
[www.swwrpc.org](http://www.swwrpc.org)

If any community member, property owner, or representative of the local government units mentioned above have questions regarding public participation or the Comprehensive Plan, they can contact Jaclyn Essandoh at SWWRPC, 608-342-6005 and [jessandoh@swwrpc.org](mailto:jessandoh@swwrpc.org).

Vote: Yes 2 No 0

Adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2025.

Attest:

Kathy Pennington

Kathy Pennington, Chair

Chris Gallagher

Chris Gallagher, Clerk



SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

4

# Town of Brooklyn Comprehensive Plan Focus Group Discussion Guide

February 9, 2024

## Welcome, Introduction and Purpose:

1. Thank you for participating in this focus group. My name is Phil Molina, and I sit on the Planning Commission for our Town of Brooklyn along with several other members who are here tonight. Together with our town board, who are also here tonight, we are in the process of updating Brooklyn's Comprehensive Plan which was originally published in 2005 and required by state law. In case you're wondering, our Comprehensive Plan describes Brooklyn's future vision and how we will achieve it. This Plan is meant to guide Brooklyn's decision making over a 20-year planning period. Therefore, tonight we will be discussing various aspects of living here in the Town of Brooklyn to understand your perspectives and ideas. Your feedback tonight will then be used to help us update Brooklyn's Comprehensive Plan.
2. Please feel free to speak openly and share your honest opinions. There are no right or wrong answers. We are here to listen and learn from you. Ultimately, your feedback will help shape the future of our community.

Do you have any questions about why we're here or what we'll be doing tonight?

## Ground Rules:

1. We ask that everyone respect each other's opinions.
2. Please speak one at a time and allow others to express their views. Part of my job is to help ensure that we hear from everyone. And since we have a limited amount of time, please don't be offended if I cut you off or if I call on you to speak. Again, we need to hear from everyone.
3. We are recording this session so that we can ensure your comments are accurately represented when we compile and analyze your feedback. However, this session is confidential, and your comments will not be attributed to you individually. We also ask that comments you hear others share today not be shared outside of this meeting.
4. Lastly, in front of you is a notepad that you can use to make notes while we're talking. If you think of something while someone else is talking, jot it down so you don't forget. Before we get started, please write your name in the top right corner.

Does anyone have any questions or concerns with any of these ground rules?

## Warm-Up Question

Let's take a minute to get to know one-another by introducing ourselves. As we go around the room, state your name and how long you've lived in Brooklyn. If you grew up here, why did you stay? And if you moved here, why did you move to Brooklyn? And lastly, share one fun fact about yourself.

## General Questions

1. Let's start by jotting down your answers to three questions on your notepad.
  - a. First, what makes Brooklyn special?
  - b. Second, what's changing with Brooklyn that concerns you?
  - c. Lastly, if you had a magic wand, what would you change about Brooklyn?
2. I'm going to read the current Vision Statement for the Town of Brooklyn. As I read through it, observe what comes to mind. Please jot down any thoughts that come to you. We'll also take a couple of minutes afterwards to make your notes. Then, we'll talk about them together.

*"Being mindful of the difficulty of foreseeing 20 years into the future, but recognizing that as the population continues to grow and the amount of food producing land continues to be lost to other uses and activities at a significant rate, and so; The Town of Brooklyn continues to have a vision of being a rural community blending into a beautiful natural setting; home to large and small farms, and small agricultural enterprises; aware of the need for good roads and recreational trails; an environmentally aware community recognizing the need for good water quality, and open space for recreational activities; committed to the preservation of natural features and protected habitats; mindful of, and identifying and preserving historical and archeological sites; a progressive Town committed to working with adjacent communities by sharing services, equipment, and ideas; committed to the orderly development that is compatible with preserving the agricultural land, and maintaining a rural character that is safe and uncongested to meet the desired vision of the Town as described above."*

- a. What did you write down?
  - i. What jumps out at you?
- b. What are the most important items in this vision statement?
- c. What would you change about this vision statement?



## Focused Questions

### Land Use & Housing

1. Prime Land Preservation: Brooklyn's Comprehensive Plan encourages preservation of the family farm, cropland and farmland as well as maintaining the rural and agricultural character of the community. Therefore, housing and other "improvements" are to be done on lesser or non-prime agriculture soil, to maximize the preservation of prime farmland for agriculture use. What are your thoughts on this?
2. Land Divisions: To further our vision of maintaining Brooklyn's uncongested rural character, The Town of Brooklyn's Land Use ordinance states that "One land division shall be allowed for every thirty-five (35) contiguous acres of land under a common owner as of June 11, 1993..." and, "No land division shall result in the creation of any lot less than five (5) acres in size." What are your thoughts on this ordinance?
3. Transfer of Land Divisions: Your board is currently considering an ordinance amendment which would make it easier to transfer a Land Division to an adjoining parcel. Note that I said adjoining parcel. The land division could not "jump" over another parcel.
  - a. If this were allowed, should a land division be allowed to transfer more than once before it is used?
4. Single-Family Homes: The current plan guides us to allow only single-family housing with one home per lot. Multi-family apartment buildings, senior housing and special needs housing are encouraged near or inside cities and villages, where there is easier access to public services and facilities. What are your thoughts on this?
5. Tiny Homes: Recently, Green County updated their code to allow operating farms to also have one tiny home or single-wide manufactured home of less than 750 square feet on their property for farm employees in addition to the primary residence. Then, if the farm were to cease operations, this separate residence would have to be demolished or removed. What do you think about this? Is this something you believe Brooklyn should accommodate?
6. Future Land Uses: Other than traditional agricultural and residential, are there any types of land uses that you believe the town should promote? Are there any specific operations that the Town of Brooklyn should work to avoid?
  - a. Some common examples other municipalities have struggled with are large, confined animal farm operations, wind power farms, solar farms, junk yards and shooting ranges. Do these examples spark any thoughts of operations you believe should not be in Brooklyn?
7. Are there any other constraints or limitations that we haven't discussed of how an owner can use their property?



## Transportation

1. Over the past several years, have you noticed any change in commuter, truck and/or farm equipment traffic? Has this had any impact on our road system?
2. ATV's and UTV's are becoming more popular across rural America and many communities are allowing them on their roadways. Is this something Brooklyn should consider?

## Economic Development

1. What kind of economic development activities could the Town support to increase or expand agricultural and home-based businesses?
2. Agricultural Tourism (Agritourism): What is it? What are some examples of it? What do you think about Agritourism?

## Utilities and Community Facilities

1. The town operates or supports a variety of community services, such as our waste and recycling center, parks, cemeteries, Internet access, Fire and EMT and more. As you think about the types of services Brooklyn offers, what gaps might there be?
2. Does anyone here receive the Town of Brooklyn email updates? What do you think of them? How do we get more people to subscribe to them? What else can be done to keep residents informed and solicit input and feedback?

## Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources

Think about protecting Brooklyn's environment. Specifically, think about our wetlands, groundwater, streams, soil, air quality and limiting invasive species. Do you have any concerns or recommendations with any of these?

1. In April 2022 the town partnered with UW Extension to test residents' wells but only 30 people participated. Is this worthwhile to offer?
2. Is anyone familiar with the dark-sky observatory located here in the town of Brooklyn called the Yanna Research Station? Brooklyn has been known for its dark skies. As such, there has been conversation about asking residents to keep light fixtures from shining upwards or consider other options for minimizing light shining upwards at night. What are your thoughts about this?
3. What other environmental issues should the Town consider?

## Intergovernmental Cooperation

We share Fire, EMS and police protective services with other municipalities to keep costs down and quality up. Are there other services we should consider sharing with other municipalities?

## Conclusion

### Summary:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and ideas. Your input is invaluable and will play a significant role in shaping our Comprehensive Plan.

### Next Steps:

We will compile and analyze the feedback from all the focus groups. This information will help us draft the updated Comprehensive Plan.

### Final Thoughts:

Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered today?

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## Attachment 1

### Focus Group Summary Report

Conducted by the Town of Brooklyn Planning Commission  
as part of the Town Comprehensive Planning Process

March 4, 2025

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The Town of Brooklyn Board and Plan Commission convened a focus group on March 4, 2025 to ask town residents questions pertaining to updating the Comprehensive Plan. Participants were selected by random sample. Approximately 120 invitations were sent out to town residents and 13 individuals agreed to attend the session. Participants included two life-long residents of 50 and 70+ years, a new resident of less than a year, four residents of 9 to 12 years and six residents of twenty years or more. The methodology and questions asked are included in the Focus Group Discussion Guide in Attachment 1.

The following summarizes the focus group comments.

#### Vision Statement

1. All participants value the rural, uncongested nature of the Town. They appreciate the peace and quiet of the community.
2. No one wanted to replicate the development that has occurred in Exeter.
3. Participants predict that growth will become a bigger concern in the next 20 years. They do not want to allow encroachment such as subdivisions from Dane County.

#### Land Use and Housing

4. Crop land and wood lots could both qualify as prime land. Consider the value of wildlife habitat, timber and firewood as financial and aesthetic assets.
5. Consider one-acre parcels to save loss of farmland to larger lots. Why use up 5 acres when one acre will do for a house?
6. One acre lots are too small. Such small spaces are vulnerable to septic and well contamination problems, especially if the lots are close together.
7. Distance from neighbors is another valued characteristic of our Town. Limiting density preserves the rural character and helps with our road issues. It also protects peace and quiet as well as provides space for wildlife habitat.
8. Make information about the land division ordinance and status more easily understood and accessible. Post the status of divisions on our Town Website.
9. Support allowing transfer of land divisions to adjoining properties, clarify current requirements and reopen discussion of restrictions needed to prevent bouncing of divisions across several properties.
10. Continue support of single-family homes only.

11. A clear definition of a farm would be important prior to allowing tiny homes. They could accommodate the farming industry. Large farms with divisions available could simply use one to create a lot for a regular house.

#### **Future Land Uses**

12. Avoid Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), shooting ranges, wind farms and to a lesser extent, solar facilities. Allow private solar/wind that is sized to power an individual family home/farm.
13. Support small farms by encouraging farm tours, etc. (Also see Economic Development)

#### **Transportation**

14. Lower speed limits on all town roads to 45 miles per hour. Roads such as Sandy Hook and Yarwood were mentioned as particularly dangerous.
15. Large machines damage the sides of our narrow town roads. They can take up more than half of the road just because of their size. Large equipment is inevitable because of the nature of modern farming economics.
16. There are no shoulders to allow equipment to pull over. The roads would be safer if they were wider and had more shoulder.
17. Roads are too narrow for walkers and bikers. Bike paths would be nice especially if they connected to other paths in Oregon and/or Fitchburg. Could the Town work with the Village to create a connection to Oregon?
18. The hills make it dangerous for allowing ATVS and UTVS but they are already approved and no safety issues have come up so far. At least they have lights and turn signals.

#### **Economic Development**

19. Support agritourism such as farm tours, bed and breakfasts, vacation rentals, wedding venues, etc.
20. Appreciation was expressed for the post card sent out last year that listed local farm businesses. It helped people connect with each other.
21. Support and/or sponsor educational events, speakers and conferences about keeping farms in families and rural economic development strategies.

#### **Utilities**

22. A library would be nice but difficult to do as well as the new libraries in Belleville and Oregon. They are currently doing a good job of creating a sense of community. Our town hall has been used as a community gathering space such as for 4-H in the past but there are nicer places now.
23. Make the location to sign up for notification of Town updates more prominent on the website. Remind people of the Town updates function on the website when printed mailings go out. Use bright colored paper.
24. Close the gaps in internet access and slow transmission speeds.



### **Agricultural, Natural & Cultural Resources**

25. Preserve rural roots and historical features such as Liberty Hill Park, and the blacksmith shop at Attica. Value farming practices that protect the land and honor previous generations.
26. Consider how to protect local streams and rivers such as Allen Creek and the Sugar River. Avoid practices such as dredging that leaves the stream looking like a ditch or planting corn too close to the river's edge. Preserve fish habitat, water purity and recreational quality.
27. Protect water quality. Offer well testing again. All focus group participants indicated they would participate.
28. Become better informed about the impact of road salt and cut back on its use on town roads. Participate in the Salt Wise Training offered by the state.
29. Increase protection of and communication about the importance of dark skies. Raise the priority for deflecting light downward from outdoor light fixtures. Approximately 50% of participants knew about the Yanna Research Station on Kelly Road.
30. Support use of cover crops and tree lines for soil conservation.
31. Recognize that current economics and technology drive farmers to large farm fields and equipment. Consider how to cope with the realities of both large and small farms on the environment and roads.

### **Intergovernmental Cooperation**

32. Cooperate with other municipalities to improve Internet service and reduce costs.

Topics not mentioned above written on participant "notes to self" on tablet pages

- a. Invasive species



## Town of Brooklyn – Notice of Public Hearing

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF TOWN OF BROOKLYN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, 2025 UPDATE TOWN OF BROOKLYN, GREEN COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Please take notice that a Public Hearing and Consideration of Adoption for the Town of Brooklyn Comprehensive Plan will be held on October 15th, 2025 beginning at 7:00 PM.

The proposed Update to the Town of Brooklyn's Comprehensive Plan includes changes to the sections on Housing, Transportation, Utilities and Community Facilities, Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources, Land Use, Economic Development, and Intergovernmental Cooperation, as well as an update to the Future Land Use Map. The Town adopted its current comprehensive plan in 2005. To comply with the State requirement that comprehensive plans be updated at least once every 10 years, the Town held focus group discussions and a series of community work sessions to develop updates to the plan.

Copies of the DRAFT Brooklyn Comprehensive Plan are available for review at the Town Hall, 400 W. Main Street, Brooklyn, WI 53521. The plan is also available on the Town of Brooklyn's website at <https://townofbrooklyn.org/>. The public is invited to speak on the proposed Comprehensive Plan at the Public Hearing. Written comments may be submitted prior to, or at the public hearing. Any questions, written comments, or requests for a copy of the proposed update should be directed to the Town of Brooklyn Clerk, Chris Gallagher, 608-455-6411, or [clerk@townofbrooklynwi.gov](mailto:clerk@townofbrooklynwi.gov). Written comments will be given the same weight as oral testimony and be part of the public record. **Written comments need to be received by the end of the day on October 10th, 2025.**

The Planning Commission and Town Board will review the comments received following the public hearing. The Planning Commission and Town Board may take action to adopt the Comprehensive Plan immediately following the public hearing.

Dated the 5th of September, 2025.

## Town of Brooklyn – Resolution adopting Comprehensive Plan

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND THE ADOPTION OF  
THE TOWN OF BROOKLYN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2025-2035**

WHEREAS, the Town of Brooklyn, Wisconsin, pursuant to Sections 60.10(2)(c), 62.23, 61.35, 61.22(3), and 66.1001(4)(b) of the Wisconsin Statutes, adopted a comprehensive plan on December 12, 2005, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Brooklyn is hereby updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan pursuant to Section 66.1001(2)(i) of Wisconsin Statutes, including changes to the sections on Housing, Transportation, Utilities and Community Facilities, Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources, Land Use, Economic Development, and Intergovernmental Cooperation, as well as an update to the Future Land Use Map; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Brooklyn's Planning Commission finds that the Town of Brooklyn Comprehensive Plan, 2025-2035 addresses all of the required elements specified in Section 66.1001 (2) of the Statutes and that the Comprehensive Plan is internally consistent; and

WHEREAS, the Town has duly noticed and held a public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan, 2025-2035, following procedures in Section 66.1001 (4)(d) of the Statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 66.1001 (4)(d) of the Statutes, the Town of Brooklyn's Planning Commission hereby adopts this Resolution approving the Town of Brooklyn Comprehensive Plan 2025-2035.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Commission does hereby recommend the Town Board enact an ordinance adopting the Town of Brooklyn Comprehensive Plan, 2025 - 2035.

Recommended by the Town of Brooklyn Planning Commission this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025.

Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Kramer/Planning Commission Chair

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Gallagher, Clerk

## Town of Brooklyn – Ordinance adopting Comprehensive Plan

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

### AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2025-2035 FOR THE TOWN OF BROOKLYN, GREEN COUNTY, WISCONSIN

THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF BROOKLYN, GREEN COUNTY, WISCONSIN, DO  
ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to Section(s) 62.23 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the Town of Brooklyn is authorized to prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan as defined in Sections 66.1001(1)(a) and 66.1001(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

SECTION 2. The Town Board, by the enactment of an ordinance, formally adopted the document titled Town of Brooklyn Comprehensive Plan as the Town's comprehensive plan on December 12, 2005.

SECTION 3. The Planning Commission, by a majority vote of the entire Commission at a meeting held on October 15, 2025, recommended to the Town Board the adoption of the Town of Brooklyn, 2025-2035 as an update to the Town's Comprehensive Plan as required under Wis. Stat. sec. 66.1001(2)(i).

SECTION 4. The Town published a Class 1 public notice and held a public hearing regarding the Comprehensive Plan Update.

SECTION 5. The Town Board of the Town of Brooklyn, Green County, Wisconsin hereby adopts the proposed Town of Brooklyn Comprehensive Plan, 2025-2035.

SECTION 6. The Town Clerk is directed to send a copy of this ordinance and the plan updates and amendments to the parties listed in Section 66.1001(4)(b) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

SECTION 7. This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage by a majority vote of the full membership of the Town Board and publication as required by law.

Adopted and approved this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Pennington, Chairperson

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Gallagher, Clerk

Date Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Recorded: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Published: \_\_\_\_\_  
Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_