

Town of Spider Lake



Photo by Kris Dew

Comprehensive Plan 2025-2045

TOWN OF SPIDER LAKE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2025-2045

Town Board of Supervisors

Tim Sheldon	Chair
Deb Amery	Supervisor
Quentin Johnson	Supervisor
Mark Johns	Supervisor
Sarah Delaney	Supervisor

Town Plan and Review Commission

Sarah Delaney	Chair
Tim Sheldon	Vice Chair
Fred Haueter	Member
Steve Smith	Member
Don Becker	Member

Town Comprehensive Plan Update Committee

Bill Busse
Sarah Delaney
Charlie Evenson
Donna Nickel
Kathy Schmidt

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTIONS

Introduction and Executive Summary	1
1. Natural, Agricultural & Cultural Resources	9
2. Demographics.....	23
3. Housing & Housing Trends.....	27
4. Transportation	37
5. Economic Development.....	45
6. Utilities & Community Facilities	52
7. Land Use.....	58
8. Intergovernmental Cooperation.....	75
9. Implementation Plan.....	78

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Public Participation and Adoption Documentation.....	86
Appendix B: Community Survey Summary Report and All Survey Responses.....	87
Appendix C: CAFO Ordinance Maps	88

TABLES

Table 2.1: Historic Population 1950-2020 and Population Projections 2025-2040.....	23
Table 2.2: Historic Households 1980-2020 and Household Projections 2025-2040.....	24
Table 3.1: Occupancy Status 1980-2020	28
Table 4.1: Functional Classification System	40
Table 4.2: AADT Traffic Counts	40
Table 4.3: Airfields/Airports within 30 Miles.....	41
Table 5.1: Labor Force Characteristics.....	46
Table 6.1: Utilities & Community Facilities	55
Table 7.1: Land Ownership	59
Table 7.2: Existing Land Use.....	59
Table 7.3: Future Land Use Projections 2024-2044	60
Table 7.4: Parcel Counts and Tax Assessment Values 1988-2024.....	61

FIGURES

Figure 2.1: 2023 Community Survey Responses Compared to 2020 Census Data	25
Figure 3.1: New Dwelling Permits by Year 2010-2023	29
Figure 3.2: Cumulative Dwellings Added 2010-2023.....	29
Figure 3.3: Addition & Alteration Permits 2010-2023	30
Figure 4.1: Town of Spider Lake Bicycle Map	38
Figure 5.1: Property Tax Allocation	47
Figure 5.2: Mill Rate Comparison – Spider Lake vs. Other Sawyer County Towns 2012-2022	48

MAPS

Map 1.1: Basemap	17
Map 1.2: Public Lands	18
Map 1.3: Soil Surface Texture	19
Map 1.4: Watersheds.....	20
Map 1.5: Surface Waters & Wetlands.....	21
Map 1.6: Prime Agricultural Lands.....	22
Map 3.1: New Development.....	36
Map 4.1: Functional Classification.....	44
Map 7.1: Existing Land Use.....	71
Map 7.2: General & Shoreland Zoning	72
Map 7.3: Land Cover.....	73
Map 7.4: Future Development Constraints.....	74

INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Town of Spider Lake is a rural residential community with an outdoor recreation economy. It is located in the heart of the Superior Upland region, a southern extension of the Canadian Shield of ancient mountain ranges in northern Wisconsin. Positioned near the headwaters of the Lake Chippewa and West Fork Chippewa River watersheds, the Town's waters are pristine, and flow south to join the Chippewa Flowage and River.

The overarching goal of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan update is to continue the work begun decades ago to preserve the unique Northwoods Character of the Town and to protect the irreplaceable woodlands, lakes, waterways, open spaces, and dark night sky for future generations, while also respecting the right of individuals to use land and area resources. In addition, the Plan will acknowledge and value input from the Town's property owners, which was acquired through a survey conducted in the fall of 2023.

As part of the Town's commitment to responsive governance, the Comprehensive Plan will be reviewed regularly. Changes in community sentiment, safety standards, or environmental conditions may warrant adjustments to policies, ensuring the policies acknowledge the diverse perspectives of the community and reflect the majority view for action.

This Comprehensive Plan describes the Town's vision. It defines the framework for making decisions affecting future growth and development. The Community's input is central to defining the vision for the Town. The results of the 2023 Community Survey are incorporated in this document and support the mandate for future actions by the Town. The Town Board, Plan & Review Commission, and other Town Committees use this Comprehensive Plan as a guide to develop more detailed actions. This process of planning future actions helps the Town prepare for change. Various regulatory (e.g., zoning ordinance, building codes, etc.) and nonregulatory (e.g., public education) tools will be utilized to implement the plan.

The Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 2018. In 2023, the Town Board recognized the impact of significant recent events, including the pandemic, increasing development pressures, the expanding number of short-term rental units and increasing activity from watercraft impacting fragile lake bottoms and shorelines. The Town Board conducted a survey to solicit feedback from all property owners in the Town related to land use, quality of life issues, and community character. The survey was sent to 925 property owners and achieved a 42% response rate. The full results of the survey can be found in Appendix B.

In September 2024, the Town Board commissioned a committee to integrate the 2023 Community Survey results into the Comprehensive Plan. The committee updating the Comprehensive Plan worked with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) to include the most recent data for the Plan.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following is a summary of the nine sections that comprise the Comprehensive Plan.

The 2023 Community Survey feedback provided a strong sense of the values within the community:

- Town property owners appreciate the natural environment and the host of outdoor recreational opportunities available.
- There is strong support for protecting the Northwoods Character of the Town AND the ordinances that protect it.

Additional highlights from the survey:

- The Environment (air, water, flora, and fauna) is extremely important and underpins the outdoor recreation opportunities valued by the majority of the community.
- 94% of respondents indicated that their Quality of Life was either Good or Excellent.
- 82% of respondents value peace and quiet with 67% supporting evaluating opportunities to protect peace and quiet (e.g. noise ordinance).
- There is broad support for Boating Ordinance #12 (now Boating Ordinance 02-2024). (75% of respondents agree or somewhat agree it meets their needs.)
- 68% of respondents support maintaining and enforcing the existing shoreland property ordinances (e.g., 200-foot minimum frontage, no new boathouses).
- ATV/UTV accessibility to Town roads (as detailed in Ordinance 01-01) should remain unchanged and should be enforced per 62% of respondents.
- 65% of respondents would like to see regulation of short-term rental properties beyond Sawyer County requirements at the time of the survey in 2023.
- Evaluation of regulations to reduce noise and light pollution, limit the impact of wake enhancing boats, and restrict the use of houseboats is desired by the community.
- Improved access to emergency services is desired by 83% of survey respondents.
- The majority of the respondents (70%) are dissatisfied with access to digital services (e.g., cellular and internet).

NORTHWOOD'S CHARACTER

The term "Northwoods Character" is a central theme throughout the plan and is a defining concept for the Town's identity, values, and vision for the future.

Northwoods Character refers to the unique and harmonious relationship between the Town of Spider Lake's natural environment, cultural heritage, and community values. These principles will be referenced throughout this document:

- **Natural Resource Integrity** – Pristine lakes, abundant wildlife, dark night skies, unpolluted air and water, and minimal human interference.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

- **Peace and Quiet** – A tranquil atmosphere free from excessive noise, light pollution, and urbanization.
- **Low-Density Development** – Residential and recreational use that preserves open spaces, forested landscapes, and shoreline aesthetics.
- **Sustainable Outdoor Recreation** – Activities like hiking, boating, and biking and on-trail ATV/UTV use that are compatible with the ecological health of the region.
- **Community Stewardship** – A shared commitment to protect the natural environment while respecting property rights and the town’s heritage.

Our community of full-time and seasonal residents lives in a unique but fragile natural setting with abundant wildlife and pristine lakes, wetlands, and forests. Maintaining low development density in the Town will help make it possible for celestial objects in the night skies to remain visible and manmade noise to remain somewhat limited.

Although the Town encompasses 108 square miles, almost two-thirds of its land is not available for development. Key Town land statistics will give some context:

- 59% of the land is publicly owned by Federal, State, County and Town governments and is predominantly forest.
- Another 8% is open water. The Town has a total of 109 miles of shoreline, of which 29 miles (26.6%) are publicly owned.
- Only 33% of land in the Town is available for private ownership. Eighty percent (80%) of the Town’s private owners have properties on lakeshore or river frontage property.

Property owners and visitors enjoy a wide variety of outdoor activities on the Town’s many lakes and trails within the Sawyer County and Chequamegon National Forests. Enjoying nature on foot, by boat, bicycle, skis, ATV/UTV, or snowmobile are popular pastimes in world-class resources. The Birkebeiner Trail, CAMBA mountain biking trail system, and County snowmobile and ATV/UTV trails all cross through the Town. The area lakes provide abundant fishing and recreational opportunities. While the County ATV/UTV trails utilize small sections of the Town’s roads to connect trails, Town roads, in general, are not open to ATV/UTV use. Limited high-speed motorized water sports are allowed on some lakes during specific hours, while other lakes are speed-restricted Quiet Lakes.

We call the simple yet powerful energy of our unique natural environment our Northwoods Character. This character enriches our lives and the lives of the visitors who enjoy our abundant amenities.

Over time, the Northwoods Character of the Town of Spider Lake attracted businesses, and an outdoor recreation economy evolved. These businesses are predominantly hospitality and trade-oriented. The hospitality businesses cater to the residents and visitors while the trade businesses support the property owners.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

The heritage of the Town has historically favored protecting and preserving its natural surroundings, while at the same time, attempting to strike a balance with the right of individuals to use land and area resources. This heritage has been shaped for decades by the actions of the Town's past leaders:

- 1954 – Boating Ordinance #1 enacted, regulating speed to 10 mph
- 1961 – Boating Ordinance #2 enacted, enabling 11-3 water ski hours on select lakes
- 1967 – Zoning Ordinance #4 enacted, establishing 200' shoreline mins, setbacks, etc.
- 1971 – Town Electors voted to adopt Village Powers

Village Powers enable the Town to define and administer its own zoning. The Town's Land Use Ordinance is more restrictive than the State and County regulations in a few key areas such as shoreline minimums and visual impacts (signage, lighting, onshore boat houses, view corridors). It is apparent that over time, the natural resources and character in other towns have become eroded by development and commerce, making the Town of Spider Lake unique. It is the responsibility of all property owners and visitors to respect the Town's ordinances which protect its Natural Resource Integrity. The work of preserving the natural environment, cultural heritage, and community values is ongoing. The needs and desires of our changing population—both residents and visitors—must be balanced with pressures on our natural environment.

This Comprehensive Plan lays out the vision for preserving the Northwoods Character of our town for the next 20 years and beyond. Section 9 – Implementation Plan outlines the actions, accountable parties, and timeline required to achieve this Comprehensive Plan. The following is a summary of key points and assumptions for each of the nine sections in this document, each of which is required by the State of Wisconsin. Full details can be found in the body of the Comprehensive Plan.

1. NATURAL, AGRICULTURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES

The natural resources within the Town are diverse and abundant. The 2023 Community Survey responses cited nature and the environment (quality of water, lakes, air, forests, and peace and quiet) as the most valued elements in the Town of Spider Lake. The Town is positioned at the headwaters of the Upper Chippewa River Basin watershed, contributing to the pristine waters and environment. Activities and development in the Town impact acreage downstream, and the Land Use Ordinance is the primary tool for guiding best practice. Development (construction) of cabins, resorts, and homes threatens the scenic qualities of the shoreline on all the lakes. Several of the larger lakes, which were first settled over 100 years ago, show signs of aesthetic deterioration. As developable lakeshore properties become fewer in number, demand for homesites near recreational trails will continue to cause fragmentation of forested and agricultural properties. The Town's historic bias for protection of natural resources and the Northwoods Character has enabled a Land Use Ordinance with more protective regulation than the State or County. This authority sets the Town of Spider Lake apart from other municipalities in Sawyer County and should be maintained into the future.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

Threats to the Town's natural resources include the development of forest and agricultural land for residential use, infestation of pristine lakes by aquatic invasive species, infestation of forests by terrestrial invasive species, and degradation of the natural environment as a result of human overuse. Urban elements such as fertilized lawns, cleared underbrush, and significant outdoor lighting are also emerging threats to natural shorelines.

Eighty-eight percent (88%) of the 2023 Community Survey respondents indicated that enjoying outdoor recreational activities is extremely or very important. They are satisfied or somewhat satisfied (87%) with the opportunities available.

2. DEMOGRAPHICS

The Town of Spider Lake is a community of full-time (24%) and seasonal (76%) residents. The population has increased gradually and steadily over the last 70 years, and this steady growth is expected to continue. Most of the development in the Town (80% of the dwellings) is on lake shorelines, with development on forested properties near existing trail systems rapidly expanding. Most seasonal (non-resident) owners use their properties throughout the year. Age data from the 2023 Community Survey indicates that most property owners (83%) are over the age of 45 with the highest age concentration in the 46–65 age group. For year-round residents, the age concentration is in the 55–75 age group, with many choosing to retire in the Town. The area has attracted and retained its residents: 71% of owners have been here for 10 years or more.

3. HOUSING & HOUSING TRENDS

Based on the 2023 Community Survey data, residents and owners within the Town appreciate the low density of housing and place a high priority on the surrounding natural environment. Available housing is limited by the developable land available in this amenity-rich area. Parcels on the lake shorelines are largely developed, and construction of dwellings is spreading to forested parcels in proximity to existing roads and recreational trails. Consistent with the gradual but steady population increase, the number of new dwelling permits issued by the Town has averaged between five and six new dwellings per year between 2010 and 2024, totaling 80 new homes. It is clear the housing stock in the Town is gradually increasing. Future demand for housing is driven by available properties, affordability and mortgage rates. Housing values have increased dramatically in the past ten years, with overall assessed values in the town rising by 42% following the revaluation performed in 2023.

The advent of short-term rental (STR) legislation has brought new opportunities and challenges to the community. There are currently 72 STR licenses issued in the Town, with 5 of those licenses accommodating multiple housing units. The growth in this commercial activity, typically within a residential area, has kept housing units out of the owner-occupied and long-term rental market and has caused a variety of significant concerns in the community. Sixty-five percent (65%) of those responding to the 2023 Community Survey would like to see some measure of STR regulation beyond what Sawyer County had in place at the time of the survey (September 2023).

4. TRANSPORTATION

The Town's transportation system consists of two vital components: the recreational transportation options (waterways and forested trail systems) and the traditional road system. The Town of Spider Lake is home to a diverse community with varying recreational preferences—motorized and non-motorized on land and on water. Eighty-seven percent (87%) of the 2023 Community Survey respondents indicated that recreational opportunities are very important, and they are satisfied with the opportunities available. The survey also confirmed the majority of property owners prioritize maintaining the peace, quiet, and environmental integrity of the area.

The majority of property owners (62%) prefer ATV/UTV traffic to stay on the existing woodland trails. The Survey also confirmed that the majority of property owners (75%) agree or somewhat agree that the Boating Ordinance #12 (renamed Ordinance #02-2024) meets their needs.

Another aspect of the Town's transportation system is the road network, consisting of approximately 118 miles of paved and gravel roads maintained by the Town Roads Department. Over 75% of the 2023 Community Survey respondents rate road maintenance and snowplowing as good or excellent.

5. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Town of Spider Lake's Outdoor Recreational economy evolved to serve the many people who come to the Town to enjoy the amenities. The economy includes hospitality services catering to residents and visitors, and trade services providing support for full-time and seasonal residents. Revenue sources coming into the Town itself (into the municipal budget) are property taxes, grants, and State aid. As the Town does not currently collect any sales or room taxes, the contribution from local businesses is only through property taxes.

Slow but steady growth in population and housing development has allowed the economy to naturally expand. However, the low population density and seasonality of residents and visitors make it difficult to sustain or add year-round retail businesses to the area. The priority of the community has been to protect the Northwoods Character of the area rather than to seek and promote commercial growth.

6. UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Maintaining the quality of community facilities and infrastructure is fundamental to serving current and future residents and businesses. As indicated by 2023 Community Survey respondents, delivery of Town services such as road maintenance/plowing, solid waste management, and the Town Hall complex is strong. The Volunteer Fire Department is recruiting firefighters. The need for more volunteers is a common issue in rural areas. Emergency medical services are provided by Sawyer County and are important to all members of the community. Because emergency response time is significant, the Town has already trained 110 residents through Stop the Bleed and CPR classes. The Town, through the Volunteer Fire Department, will continue its focus on improving these services and response times in the Town.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

Much of the Town lacks reliable wireless communications (cellphone) capability and consistent high-speed internet/broadband services. As technology evolves and demand grows, the Town will continue to support providers wishing to enhance service capability, as communications technology is not within the Town's control.

7. LAND USE

Land use planning is focused on understanding the relationship between human and natural influences. This is accomplished by examining past trends, present conditions, and anticipated future needs and uses. Only one-third of the Town's land is privately owned, with the other two-thirds consisting of County, State, Federal, or Town lands or waterbodies. Development pressure continues to focus on lake shorelines and in the west/northwest of the Town near the public trails systems and the relative proximity to Hayward and Cable. Development of permanent and seasonal dwellings will continue into the foreseeable future.

The Town of Spider Lake has a long-standing priority of preserving its Northwoods Character. The Town exercises its stewardship responsibility through its Land Use Ordinance, which has been in place since 1967. Analysis of the 2023 Community Survey indicated that 94% of property owners ranked 'Access to the Natural Environment' as the most important factor relative to their Quality of Life. In addition, 90% of property owners agree that the Town's Comprehensive Plan should continue to prioritize the preservation of the natural beauty of forests, lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands.

8. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Intergovernmental agreements allow local governments to provide timely and cost-effective services, contributing to mutually beneficial outcomes. The Town of Spider Lake maintains relationships at all levels of government, with close ties to neighboring municipalities such as the Towns of Round Lake and Hunter in Sawyer County, and the Towns of Namakagon and Cable in Bayfield County. These communities share common issues and resources through mutual aid. The Town also works closely with Sawyer County, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Forest Service.

9. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The first eight sections of the Comprehensive Plan establish a twenty-year vision for the Town of Spider Lake. They integrate the values expressed by the 2023 Community Survey respondents and establish goals describing the desired future for the Town. Successful implementation of the Comprehensive Plan hinges on access to the required funding, personnel with the required expertise, essential supplies, technology, and support from other governmental authorities.

The Comprehensive Plan is a living document, to be modified as conditions warrant. The Implementation Plan contains objectives and actions that may take multiple years to complete, with some objectives dependent upon others. The intent of the Plan & Review Commission and the Town Board is to review the Implementation Plan actions and progress annually during the summer period. The previous year's progress will be

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

reviewed, along with emerging actions and activity. Goals and objectives for the coming year should be prioritized, and this guidance used to create action plans for the Town's committees. These proposed plans should then be incorporated into the Town's annual budget for approval each November.

Overarching Goal

The overarching goal of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan update is to continue the work begun decades ago to preserve the unique Northwoods Character of the Town and to protect the irreplaceable woodlands, lakes, waterways, and open spaces for future generations while balancing the rights of individuals to respectfully use land and area resources. Goals for specific sections are as follows:

1. Natural, Agricultural & Cultural Resources

Goal: Conserve, protect, manage, and enhance the Town's Natural Resource Integrity in order to provide the highest quality of life for the Town of Spider Lake's property owners and visitors.

2. Demographics

Goal: Fully engage property owners in Community Stewardship.

3. Housing

Goal: Support a range of housing units to meet the needs of existing and future residents, both year-round and seasonal. Maintain the Low-Density Development and Peace and Quiet by preserving the sense of community of our residential neighborhoods.

4. Transportation

Goal: Ensure an efficient and safe road system and foster multi-use transportations systems (i.e., the trails) which accommodate the interests of community while preserving the Natural Resource Integrity of the Town.

5. Economic Development

Goal: Ensure a business climate compatible with Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and the Natural Resource Integrity of the Town.

6. Utilities & Community Facilities

Goal: Maintain and enhance community facilities and services which contribute to the overall improvement of the community.

7. Land Use

Goal: Planned and orderly development consistent with the Northwoods Character of the community.

8. Intergovernmental Cooperation

Goal: Establish and maintain cooperative relationships with local, state, and federal jurisdictions where appropriate.

1. NATURAL, AGRICULTURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES

COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

The 2023 Community Survey asked questions in various ways to understand what the community values and how it defines Northwoods Character. Overwhelmingly, the Environment, Nature, Peace & Quiet, and non-motorized recreational opportunities were at the top of the selection list. A separate, free-form question asked respondents to name the top two things they value about the Town. There were more than 500 mentions of Nature/Natural Environment, Peace & Quiet, Lake/Water/Air Quality, Forests, and Outdoor Recreation. The following describes the physical and cultural characteristics of the Town that are the basis for the Northwoods Character so valued by the community.

LOCATION

The Town of Spider Lake, Sawyer County, is geographically located in the northern highland province of Wisconsin and lies a short distance south of the Continental Divide, which separates the St. Lawrence and Mississippi River drainage systems.

Distinguishing features of the Town include the glacial lakes set in hilly conifer and hardwood forests. Picturesque hills, scenic wild rivers, spruce bogs, and scattered farmlands add variation to the landscape. The development of cottages, resorts, and homes has not yet reduced the shoreline's scenic qualities on all the lakes; however, several of the larger lakes, first settled over 100 years ago, show signs of deterioration as lakeshore parcels are developed and natural resources are used more frequently. Map 1.1 - Basemap and Map 1.2 - Public Lands provide an overview of the Town's geography.

PHYSIOGRAPHY

Continental glaciation shaped the present topography of Sawyer County. Where the ice stopped, it deposited terminal moraines—huge accumulations of rock, gravel, sand, and clay pushed along by or carried on the front of the ice sheet. One of these terminal moraines was deposited between two lobes of the Lake Wisconsin Ice Sheet along the western border of Sawyer County, in the present Towns of Edgewater, Sand Lake, Bass Lake, Hayward, Lenroot, Round Lake, and Spider Lake. The resulting topography provides a fascinating variety of landscapes to explore. Lakes and swamps occupy many of the deeper kettle holes, and it is noticeable that most of the lakes in Sawyer County are in this morainic area. Ground moraine forms the greater part of the topography east and south of the moraine. This was deposited in a broad sheet by the ice, which melted beneath it, leaving a surface that is rolling with low ridges and shallow depressions, occupied by swamps rather than lakes.

CLIMATE

The climate in the Town of Spider Lake is classified as continental, a climate type characterized by large seasonal and daily ranges in temperature. Winters are long, cold, and snowy, while summers are relatively short and warm, with brief periods of hot,

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

humid weather. Summer days are usually warm and sunny, while nights are cool. Spring and fall are often short, with sharp day-to-day temperature changes. All seasons have frequent weather changes as alternating high and low pressure systems move across the continent from west to east. The long-term annual average temperature is 41 degrees Fahrenheit (°F). December through March temperatures generally average below 32°F. The date of the last killing frost in Sawyer County has ranged from mid-May to mid-June. The growing season averages about 120 days. Average monthly temperatures range from a low of 9.6°F in January to 66°F in July. According to U.S. Climate Data, there is an average of 32 inches of rainfall in Sawyer County annually and 59 inches of annual snowfall.

Prevailing winds are from westerly directions from late fall through early spring and from southerly directions the remainder of the year. April is the windiest month, with an average of about 13 miles per hour, while July and August are the least windy, with an average of 9 miles per hour. Possible sunshine averages 60% from late spring through early fall, near 40% in late fall and early winter, and between 50% and 60% for the remaining months.

GEOLOGY

Igneous and metamorphic rocks of Precambrian age underlie Sawyer County. The principal surface deposits are glacial drift and alluvial sand and gravel, which vary in thickness throughout the County, ranging from a few feet to 250 feet. Along the Chippewa River, numerous rapids are caused by the outcroppings of the granitic rock that forms the underlying bedrock formation throughout the eastern three-fourths of the County.

SOILS

The soils in the Town of Spider Lake are upland and outwash types from glacial drift. They are acidic in nature.

The chemical constituents of the surface and ground waters reflect the soil type of a particular region. Spider Lake's waters tend to be acidic, like its soils, and low in the essential nutrients necessary for organic life. Phosphates, potassium, and magnesium levels are lower than in other soil types of the State, while the less essential iron occurs in excessive and often detrimental amounts. Low nutrient levels, or fertility, are also accentuated in the landlocked lakes, where the water source is principally from precipitation with little groundwater inflow. Geologic characteristics affecting water quality in the landlocked lakes are the uneven nature of the underlying granitic bedrock formation and deposits of impervious masses of clay in the glacial till. The lakes that form in these pockets tend to have stabilized water levels, which, combined with the acidic nature of the soil, contributes to the development of encroaching bogs on lakeshores. Soil surface textures are identified in Map 1.3 - Soil Surface Texture.

WATER RESOURCES

Surface Waters

The total inland surface water area of Sawyer County is 58,359 acres. Of this, 5,822 acres, or about 10% are found in the Town of Spider Lake. There are 50 named lakes in the Town of Spider Lake. These water resources lie within three watersheds: the Upper Namekagon River, West Fork Chippewa River, and Lake Chippewa (see Map 1.4 - Watersheds). It is important to note that the Town sits at the headwaters of the Chippewa watersheds, contributing to its high water quality. No water sources come in from elsewhere, so any negative impacts occurring in the Town of Spider Lake are felt in adjacent municipalities as the waters flow south. Eighty-five percent (85%) of the Town is in the West Fork Chippewa River and Lake Chippewa watersheds. The total length of lake shoreline is 109 miles, with 29 miles in public ownership. Roughly 80% of the Town's dwellings are on the shorelines of these surface waters.

Water Quality

The chemical quality of water in streams and lakes in the County is generally very good. The lakes of Wisconsin and Sawyer County fall into four main types when classified by water source and chemistry: hard water drainage, soft water drainage, hard water seepage, and soft water seepage lakes. Other minor types of lakes include acid bog lakes, alkaline bog lakes, and spring ponds. In terms of surface acreage, the most common type in the Town is the soft water drainage lake, which includes Ghost, Teal, Lost Land, and the Spider Chain of Lakes. They are typically clear, slightly acidic and of good fertility; traits contributing to the invasive aquatic plant species (Hybrid Eurasian Watermilfoil) emerging on Lost Land and Teal lakes in the past decade. Surface Waters & Wetlands are identified in Map 1.5 - Surface Waters & Wetlands.

Groundwater Quality

Large supplies of good quality groundwater are available in most of the Chippewa Basin, including the Town of Spider Lake. Area differences in groundwater quality are due to the composition, solubility, and surface area of the particles of soil and rock through which the water moves and its speed of movement. Minor water use problems are caused by hardness and locally high iron concentrations. Water from the deeper sandstone aquifers is slightly more mineralized, as opposed to the surficial sand and gravel aquifers. The concentration of nitrate in groundwater is generally low.

Local climatic conditions, along with recurrent seasonal fluctuations, cause variations in the groundwater level that, in turn, affect streamflow and lake levels. With natural recharge and discharge continually occurring, the greatest rise in groundwater levels usually takes place in spring and early summer due to snowmelt and rainfall. Water levels generally decline the rest of the year. Long-range fluctuations also occur from year to year. Groundwater level changes generally reflect shifts in the balance between precipitation, evapotranspiration, and runoff within the water system. Groundwater levels in the area are more stable than in surrounding areas and in areas of different soil types and greater population in other parts of the State. Spider Lake lies in a Drift

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

Province of abundant aquifers, and plentiful supplies of ground water are obtained from sands and gravels of the glacial drift and the valley alluvium.

With no municipal water supply, all of the Town's water comes from individual water wells. Its shallow soils, high water table, and sand/gravel formations make large areas susceptible to groundwater pollution. Five factors contribute to groundwater susceptibility to pollution, including type of soil, bedrock, and materials between soil and bedrock; depth to bedrock; and depth to the groundwater table. Data from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Groundwater Susceptibility Model were divided into five evenly spread categories, ranging from high to low. Of the Town's total acres, almost 60% are 'moderately high to highly susceptible,' with 24% moderately susceptible (see Appendix C: Map 1: Groundwater Contamination Susceptibility).

Lastly, more than half of the Town of Spider Lake's total acres have groundwater within 20 feet of the land surface. Approximately 95.5% have groundwater within 50 feet of the land surface (see Appendix C: Map 2: Depth to Groundwater).

The fragile nature of the Town's soils and groundwater underpins the importance of protective stewardship by the Town's leaders and property owners. In order to prevent degradation of the high quality of the Town's groundwater, an ordinance to regulate the operation of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) was approved by the Town Board in early 2024 (Ordinance 2024-01). While the Town cannot prevent the siting of a large-scale feeding operation, it has the authority to regulate the operation of a facility by requiring specific standards in order to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare of the community.

Floodplains

Areas susceptible to flooding are considered unsuitable for development because of risks to lives and property. Effective in 1990, the Sawyer County Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) is the official source for identifying areas subject to flooding in the Town of Spider Lake. The map is available for review at the Sawyer County Zoning Office, the Town Hall, or from the FEMA Flood Map Service Center located at [fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov). The FIRM is the map for which the Federal Insurance Administration has delineated both the floodplain and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.

Wetland Resources

The Wisconsin Wetland Inventory available for Sawyer County estimates that about 160,000 acres of all types of wetlands exist in the county. In comparison, the Wisconsin Wetland Inventory has mapped approximately 16,500 acres in the Town of Spider Lake. This is about 10% of the county's area. Both of these figures are an understatement of the actual wetland acreage because the inventory only maps wetlands greater than five acres in size.

Wetlands serve several critical environmental functions including flood control, water quality protection and improvement, and groundwater recharge as well as providing habitat for fish and wildlife. Map 1.5 - Surfaces Waters & Wetlands delineates wetlands five acres and over mapped by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on its

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

digital Wisconsin Wetland Inventory Maps and may not reflect all areas considered wetlands by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Streams and Rivers

Streams and rivers play a key role by supporting sport fisheries, transporting surface runoff from area forests and linking chains of lakes to one another. There are two types of streams: perennial and intermittent. Perennial streams have water flow during most of the year (> 50% of the time), the most prominent in the Town being Spider and Dead Creeks, the Teal River, and the West Fork of the Chippewa River. Intermittent streams flow only after rainstorms or during snowmelt and are otherwise dry most of the year.

BIOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

A biological community is an assemblage of different plant and animal species, living together in a particular area, at a particular time in specific habitats. Communities are named for their dominant plant species. The following biological communities are found in the area:

- **Northern Forest** – Contains mixed deciduous and coniferous forests found in a distinct climatic zone that occurs north of the tension zone.
- **Wetlands** – Water is present, near, at, or above the ground surface, at least during a portion of a natural year, in sufficient quantities to support hydrophytic plants (plants that grow in water-saturated soils). Soils are indicative of water-saturated conditions, at least during a portion of a natural year.
- **Aquatic Communities** – Including springs, ponds, lakes, streams and rivers, swamps, fens, and bogs.

WILDLIFE

The local area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species including (but not limited to) the following important waterfowl, furbearers, and game animals:

Beaver	Gray Wolf	Ruffed Grouse
Black Bear	Mallard	Sandhill Crane
Blue-wing Teal	Mink	Sharptailed Grouse
Bobcat	Muskrat	Snowshoe hare
Common Loon	Otter	Trumpeter Swans
Coyote	Raccoon	White tailed Deer
Elk	Red Fox	Wood Duck
Fisher	Ring-necked Duck	Woodcock

The two most popular game animals are the whitetail deer and ruffed grouse. These two species are primarily associated with the aspen type in the area.

Elk were reintroduced into Ashland County just to the east of Spider Lake and frequent the eastern portion of the Town.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

The most common nesting waterfowl are mallard, wood ducks, and blue-winged teal. Less common are the black ducks, hooded and American mergansers, and ring-necked ducks. The least common nesters are the American wigeon, green-winged teal, red-breasted mergansers, and lesser scaup. Only rarely do other species of waterfowl nest in this area of the State.

The most abundant migratory waterfowl in Sawyer County during the spring and fall seasons are scaup, ringnecks, coots, and mallards. Less common are goldeneyes, buffleheads, redheads, canvasbacks, black ducks, and blue-winged teal. The least common migrants are wood ducks, American wigeon, pintails, green-winged teal, shovelers, gadwall, ruddy ducks, and mergansers. Blue, snow, and Canada geese, as well as whistling swans, are part of the migratory flight. Along with waterfowl, beavers muskrats, mink, and otters play key roles as inhabitants of the local wetlands and waters.

MINERAL RESOURCES

Development of metallic mineral resources is not expected in the future. However, development of nonmetallic mineral deposits, sand, and gravel, may occur in the future. There are no active gravel pits in the Town of Spider Lake. If new deposits are proposed for mining, special consideration of adjoining residential homes should be considered to minimize noise and negative effects on air and water quality. The Town's Land Use Ordinance should be reviewed periodically to ensure current policies are applicable. A review of the Town's metallic mining provisions took place in 2018 along with Sawyer County. The resulting regulations were updated in 2019 and appear in Section 6.0 (Part I) of the Town's Land Use Ordinance.

OPEN SPACE AND PARKS

There are a number of developed park and recreational places along with hundreds of acres of open forest area. Section 6 – Utilities & Community Facilities outlines some of these places. Significant to open space is the abundant supply of recreational forest land (County, State, and Federal). The Birkie trailhead and facilities at County Road OO provide access to the Birkie trail, biking trails and fitness park. Recently, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources designated new state management areas to protect and preserve critical habitat, and the Lake Helene State Natural Area is one located in the west central part of the Town.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Agricultural activity is not a predominant land use activity, but an important one. In 2023, only 24 parcels, totaling 423 acres, were *assessed* as agricultural (meaning actively being used for agricultural activity). By contrast, there are more than 80 parcels in the A-1 zone district, with most not actively pursuing agricultural practices. Nearly all agricultural activity takes place in the southwestern portion of the Town. Even with a limited amount of agricultural activity, these and past agricultural lands play an important role in defining local and state agricultural practices. Prime farmlands are identified in Map 1.6 - Prime Farmland.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources focus on human activity. Together the natural environment and the human—cultural—uses of those resources create the basis of the Northwoods Character this Plan seeks to protect. These uses are predominantly outdoor recreational activities, and 87% of the survey respondents indicated that these activities are extremely or very important. The respondents are largely satisfied with the opportunities available.

Historic human activity in the Town of Spider Lake is not well documented. While the Wisconsin Historical Society maintains the Archaeological Site Inventory, which lists known archaeological sites and cemeteries, no specific sites are recorded within the Town. These sites are presumed to be present in the Town, though they have not yet been identified. The past travel of Native Americans and European fur traders no doubt left behind camp or villages sites now covered in dense forest cover. The lumber industry in the late 1800s also left remnants of their activity. As future development occurs, consideration should be given to exploring the clues left on the land.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

1. Natural, Agricultural & Cultural Resources

Goal: Conserve, protect, manage, and enhance the Town’s Natural Resource Integrity in order to provide the highest quality of life for the Town of Spider Lake’s property owners and visitors.

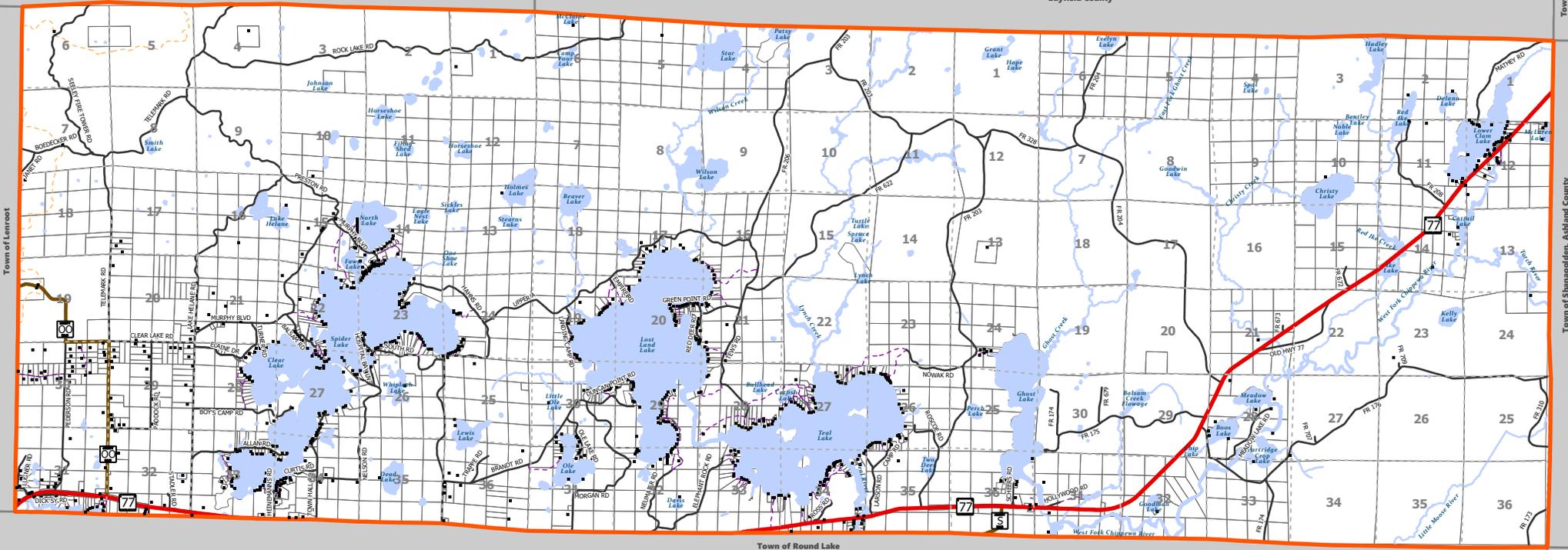
	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Objective 1: Protect surface and groundwater.		
Action: Ensure Town of Spider Lake Land Use Ordinance setbacks and impervious surface requirements are met for any new development.	Ongoing	P&RC
Action: Monitor concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) activities in the area and ensure Ordinance 01-2024 enforced when appropriate.	Ongoing	P&RC
Objective 2: Protect area lakes, rivers, wetlands, and stream shorelines.		
Action: Encourage lake associations to monitor surface water quality, support employment of staff funded by the lake associations to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (e.g., Landing Monitors, etc.), and support grant applications.	Ongoing	Town Board
Action: Educate and enforce lakeshore structure and usage regulations.	Ongoing	P&RC
Action: Encourage lakeshore property owners to establish or expand natural vegetation shoreline buffers and to minimize maintained lawn areas and the application of lawn fertilizers.	Ongoing	P&RC

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Objective 3: Protect local forested areas and maintain forest ambiance.		
Action: Encourage and enforce Best Management Practices for timber harvest operations.	Ongoing	Town Board
Action: Investigate ways to encourage logging buffer zones along clear-cut areas, and to provide forestry education materials to the community. Inform the community of location and timing of harvests before they occur if possible.	Ongoing	P&RC
Objective 4: Maintain natural shorelines.		
Action: Educate the community by circulating the Town regulations and best management practices for Shoreline Management.	Ongoing	P&RC
Action: Encourage visual aesthetics from the water (enforce signage and buffer zone regulations and encourage revegetation).	Ongoing	P&RC
Action: Work with and support lake associations to identify and control aquatic invasive species (AIS) and to educate the public about AIS.	Ongoing	Town Board
Objective 5: Maintain existing Town roadway ambiance		
Action: Understand and enforce uniform signage regulations (State, County, Town).	Ongoing	P&RC
Action: Allow vegetated buffer zones along Town roadways if deemed to be 'Firewise' and not a hindrance to road maintenance.	Ongoing	Town Board
Objective 6: Maintain dark skies for public enjoyment.		
Action: Promote and enforce outdoor lighting regulations and design standards.	Ongoing	P&RC
Action: Review Dark Sky International principles and determine whether the Town's Land Use Ordinance (Part I, Section 4.4) could be enhanced.	2025-6	P&RC
Objective 7: Reduce human-made noise where possible to protect 'Peace & Quiet' within the Town.		
Action: Determine how the Town should regulate Noise/Nuisance issues in the community.	2025-6	P&RC

Town of Cable,
Bayfield County

Town of Namakagon,
Bayfield County



Town of Lenroot

Town of Shangolden, Ashland County

Town of Round Lake

Town of Chippewa, Ashland County

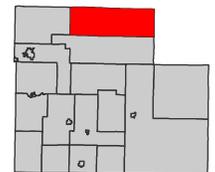
Town of Spider Lake

Comprehensive Plan 2025

Map 1.1 - Basemap

- Structure Address
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Town Road
- Private Road
- Recreation Trails
- River/Creek/Stream
- Lake/Large River/Flowage
- PLSS Section
- Town Boundary

Sawyer County, WI



Date Exported: 2/17/2025 9:33 AM

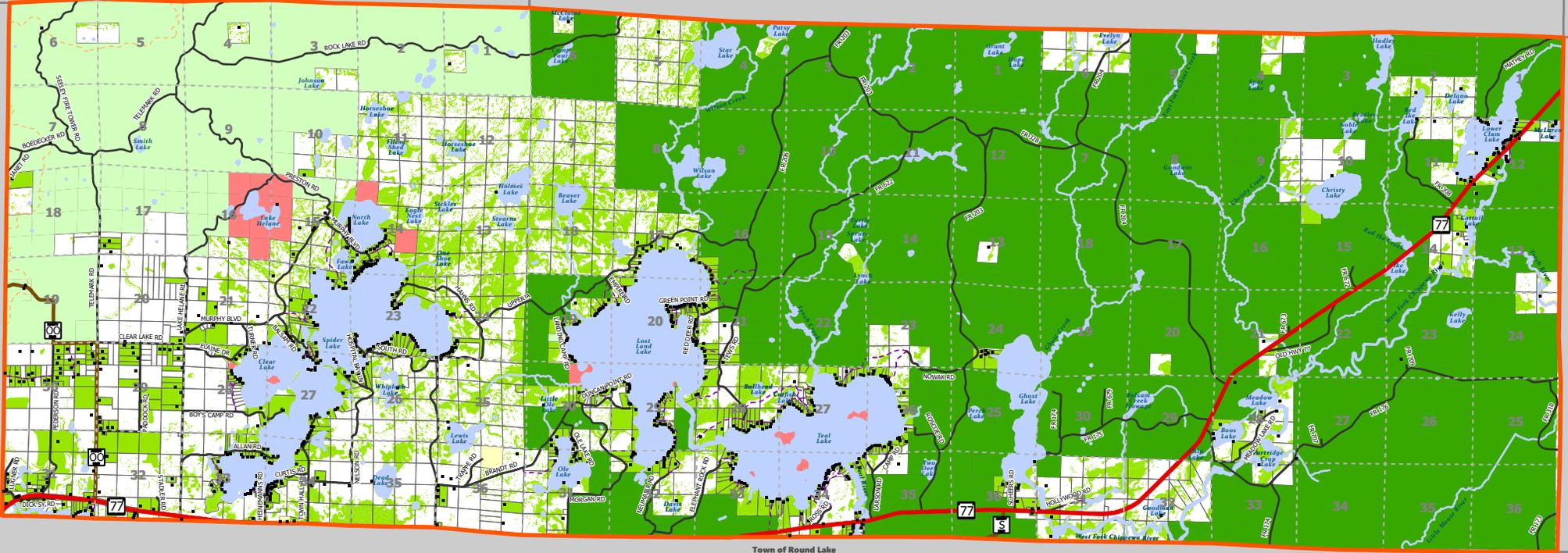
Data Sources: Town of Spider Lake, Sawyer County, WI DNR, WI DOT, NWRPC, US Census Bureau

Town of Cable,
Bayfield County

Town of Namakagon,
Bayfield County

Town of Lenroot

Town of Shangolden, Ashland County



Town of Round Lake

Town of Chippewa, Ashland County

Town of Spider Lake

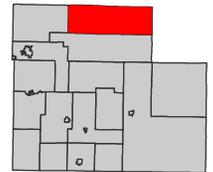
Comprehensive Plan 2025

Map 1.2 - Public Lands

- Town Land
- County Land
- State Land
- Federal Land (National Forest)

- Structure Address
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Town Road
- Private Road
- Recreation Trails
- River/Creek/Stream
- Lake/Large River/Flowage
- PLSS Section
- Town Boundary

Sawyer County, WI

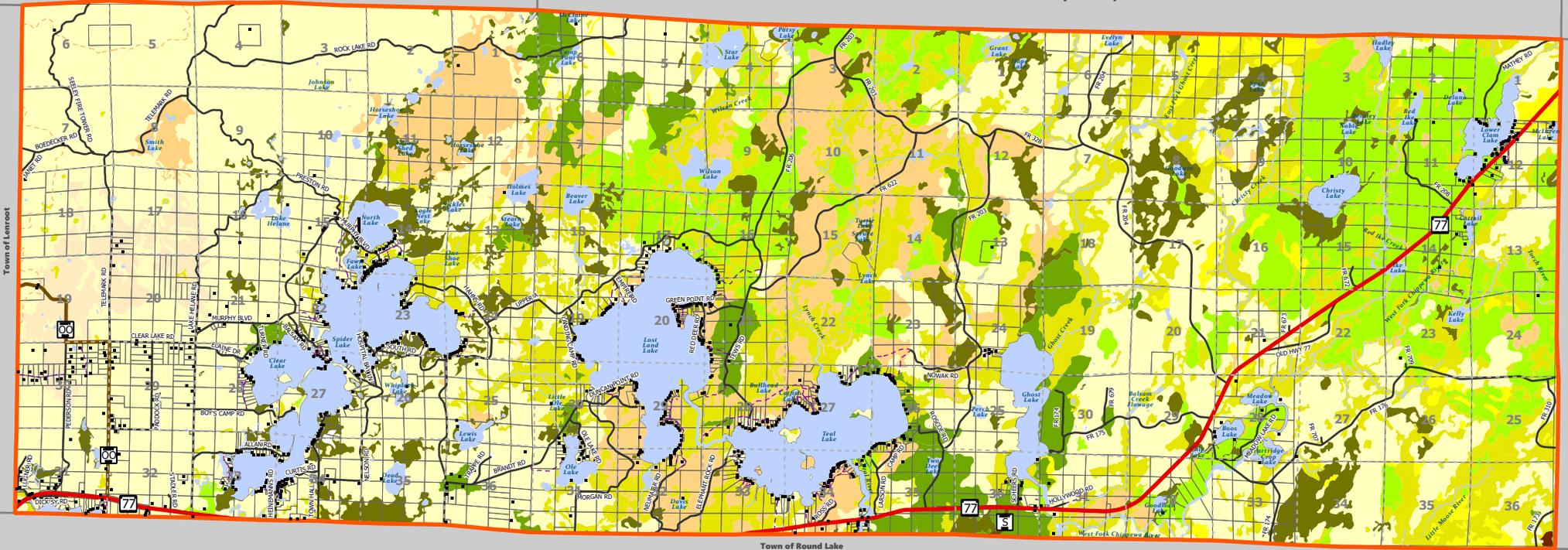


Date Exported: 2/17/2025 9:46 AM

Data Sources: Town of Spider Lake, Sawyer County, WI DNR, WI DOT, NWRPCA, US Census Bureau

Town of Cable,
Bayfield County

Town of Namakagon,
Bayfield County



Town of Lunenburg

Town of Shangolden, Ashland County

Town of Round Lake

Town of Gordon, Ashland County

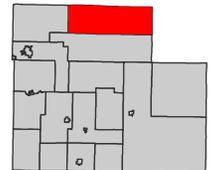
Town of Spider Lake

Comprehensive Plan 2025

Map 1.3 - Soil Surface Texture

- Slightly decomposed plant material
 - Moderately decomposed plant material
 - Highly decomposed plant material
 - Muck
 - Mucky peat
 - Peat
 - Silt loam
 - Sandy loam
 - Fine sandy loam
 - Loamy sand
- Structure Address
 - State Highway
 - County Highway
 - Town Road
 - Private Road
 - Recreation Trails
 - River/Creek/Stream
 - Lake/Large River/Flowage
 - PLSS Section
 - Town Boundary

Sawyer County, WI



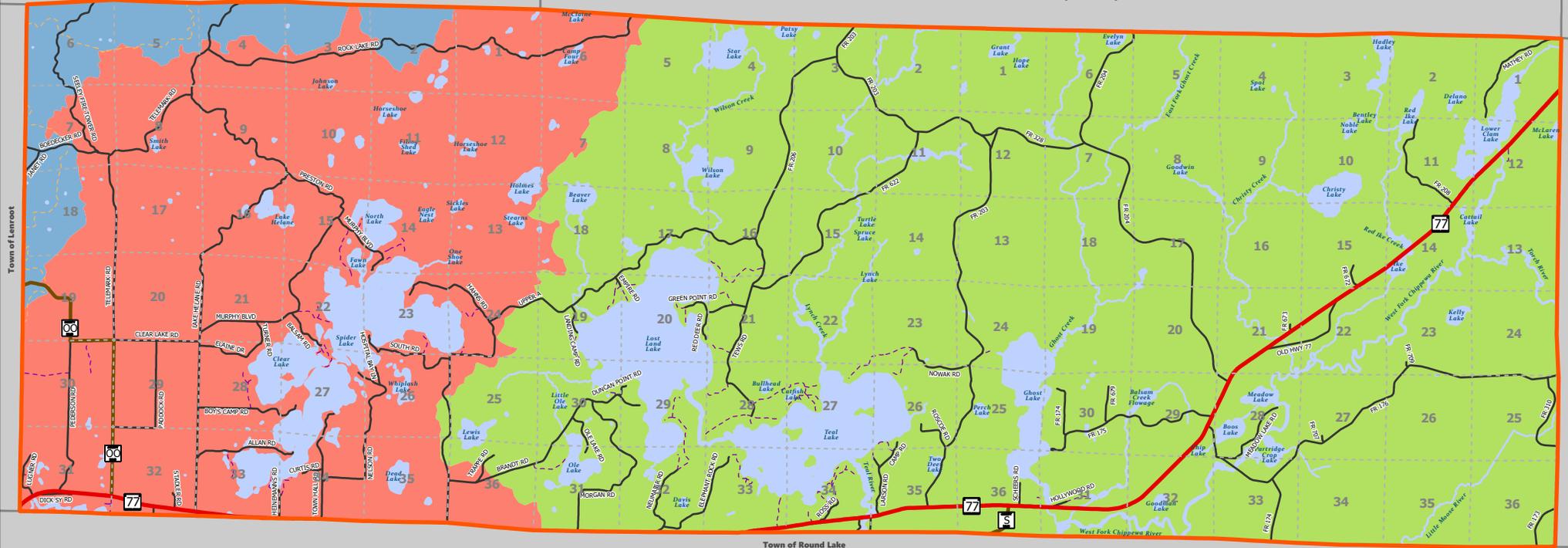
Date Exported: 1/27/2025 9:54 AM

Data Sources: Town of Spider Lake, Sawyer County, WI DNR, WI DOT, NWRPCA, US Census Bureau

Town of Chippewa, Ashland County

Town of Cable,
Bayfield County

Town of Namakagon,
Bayfield County



Town of Lenroot

Town of Shangolden, Ashland County

Town of Gordon, Ashland County

Town of Round Lake

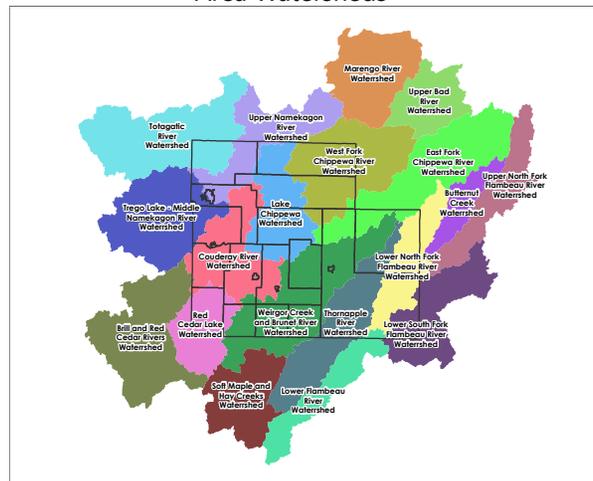
Town of Spider Lake

Comprehensive Plan 2025

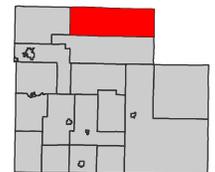
Map 1.4 - Watersheds

- █ Lake Chippewa Watershed
- █ Upper Namekagon River Watershed
- █ West Fork Chippewa River Watershed
- Structures
- ▬ State Highway
- ▬ County Highway
- ▬ Town Road
- ▬ Private Road
- ▬ Recreation Trails
- ▬ River/Creek/Stream
- ▬ Lake/Large River/Flowage
- PLSS Section
- Town Boundary

Area Watersheds



Sawyer County, WI



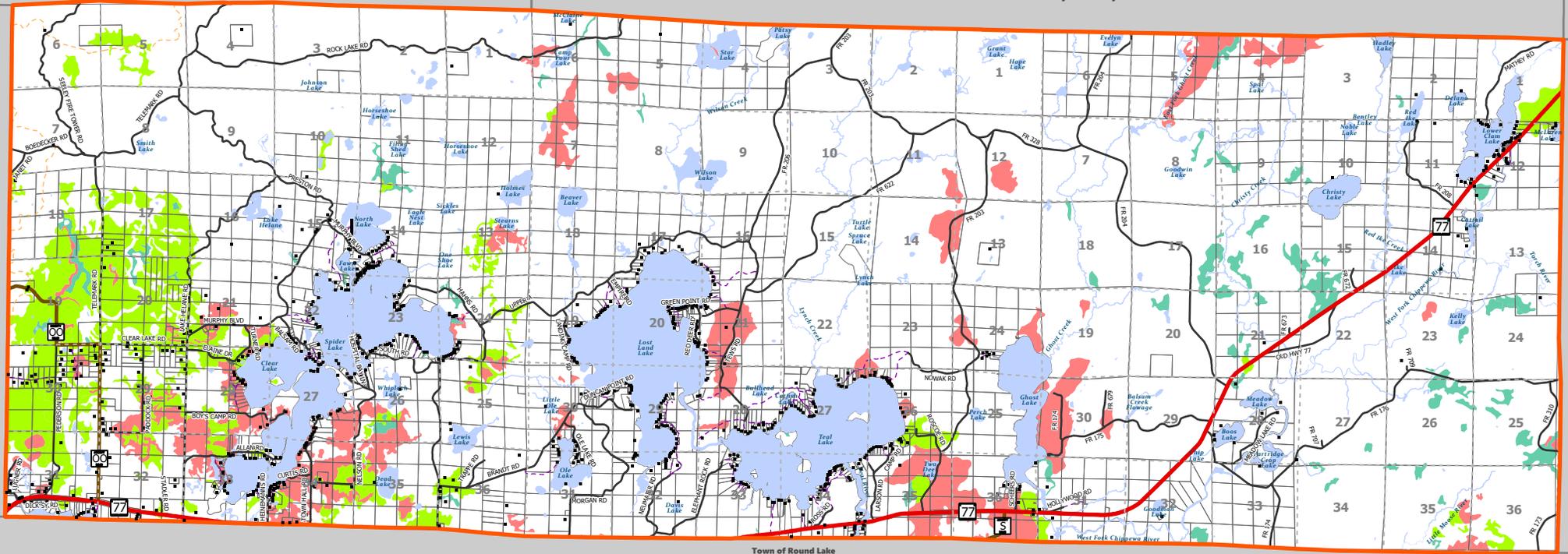
Date Exported: 2/17/2025 9:34 AM

Data Sources: Town of Spider Lake, Sawyer County, WI DNR, WI DOT, NWRPCA, US Census Bureau

Town of Chippewa, Ashland County

Town of Cable,
Bayfield County

Town of Namakagon,
Bayfield County



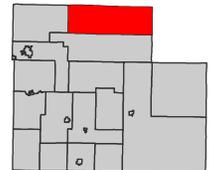
Town of Spider Lake

Comprehensive Plan 2025

Map 1.6 - Prime Farmland

-  Prime Farmland
-  Farmland of Statewide Importance
-  Prime Farmland if Drained
-  Structure Address
-  State Highway
-  County Highway
-  Town Road
-  Private Road
-  Recreation Trails
-  River/Creek/Stream
-  Lake/Large River/Flowage
-  PLSS Section
-  Town Boundary

Sawyer County, WI



Date Exported: 2/17/2025 9:35 AM

Data Sources: Town of Spider Lake, Sawyer County, WI DNR, WI DOT, NWRPC, US Census Bureau

Town of Lenroot

Town of Round Lake

Town of Shangolden, Ashland County

Town of Chippewa, Ashland County

Town of Gordon, Ashland County

2. DEMOGRAPHICS

INTRODUCTION

The Town of Spider Lake is a community of full-time and seasonal residents. As of mid-2023, there were 921 taxpaying entities (individuals, couples, trusts, etc.) who own the 1,666 parcels of land in the Town. Of these 921 property owners, 221 (24%) were full-time residents and 691 (76%) were seasonal residents. Demographic data of the entire community is difficult to obtain as most available government data sources count only the full-time residents.

POPULATION

The Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) compiled population projections of the year-round population of residents through 2040 based on historic U.S. Census population counts from 1950 to 2020, as shown in Table 2.1. These projections are not predictions but rather estimates of future population trends based on historical patterns of population change. Actual future growth will depend on a variety of social and economic factors.

Table 2.1: Historic Population 1950-2020 and Population Projections 2025-2040

Year	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Population	*200	*246	*259	*331	*362	*391	*351	*487	469	486	504	516

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1950-2020, Northwest Regional Planning Commission Projections 2025-2040

Town of Spider Lake voter registration figures support a continued increase in permanent residents, showing a 17% increase (from 326 to 382) in registered voters from the April 2020 election to the April 2024 election. Registered voters totaled 408 in the November 2024 presidential election, expanding that increase to 25%.

Prior to 2020 (pre-COVID pandemic), roughly 20% of the property owners were resident owners and 80% seasonal or non-resident. By mid-2023, this proportion shifted to 75% seasonal owners and 25% resident owners. Over and above the historic gradual development rate, this is likely due to the ease of isolation in the Town during the pandemic and the improved ability of people to work remotely.

The population has increased gradually and steadily over the last 70 years. This is expected to continue. A relatively recent demonstration of this trend is the correlation of new dwelling building permits issued over the past 14 years. The Town has averaged between five and six new dwellings per year, totaling 80 new homes built between 2010 and 2024. See Figures 3.1 and 3.2 in Section 3 – Housing & Housing Trends for more information.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

The Town of Spider Lake is located in northeastern Sawyer County. It abuts Bayfield County to the North and Ashland County to the East. Spider Lake is six miles by eighteen miles totaling 108 square miles or 69,120 acres.

Privately-owned land comprises 21,700 acres, roughly one third of the Town's acreage. Two thirds (2/3) of the land is publicly owned by the U.S. Government, the State of Wisconsin, Sawyer County, or the Town of Spider Lake (see Map 1.2 - Public Lands).

Most of the development in the Town (80% of the dwellings) is on lake shorelines and in proximity to amenities and road access. Only 1% of the land is used for agriculture and is sparsely populated (see Map 1.1 - Basemap).

HOUSEHOLDS

The Wisconsin Department of Administration compiled household projections for the year-round resident population through the year 2040, as shown in Table 2.2. These projections are not predictions but rather estimates of future population trends based on historical patterns of population change. Actual future growth will depend on a variety of social and economic factors.

A household consists of all the people who occupy a housing unit. A house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a single room is regarded as a housing unit when it is occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters.

Table 2.2: Historic Households 1980-2020 and Household Projections 2025-2040

Year	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Households	*130	*159	*186	*183	*232	235	245	257	276

Source: *U.S. Census Bureau 1950-2020, Northwest Regional Planning Commission Projections 2020-2040

PROPERTY USAGE AND OWNERSHIP

From the 2023 Community Survey, it is apparent that most of the respondents (88%) use their properties throughout the year. Only 1% use their property as a long-term rental, and there are a growing number of short-term rental properties available. The majority of the community (71%) have owned their properties for ten years or more. Many households share their property across multiple generations and among multiple families (e.g., multiple siblings sharing ownership of a family property).

Only 2% of households have children in the Hayward area schools or Chequamegon public schools.

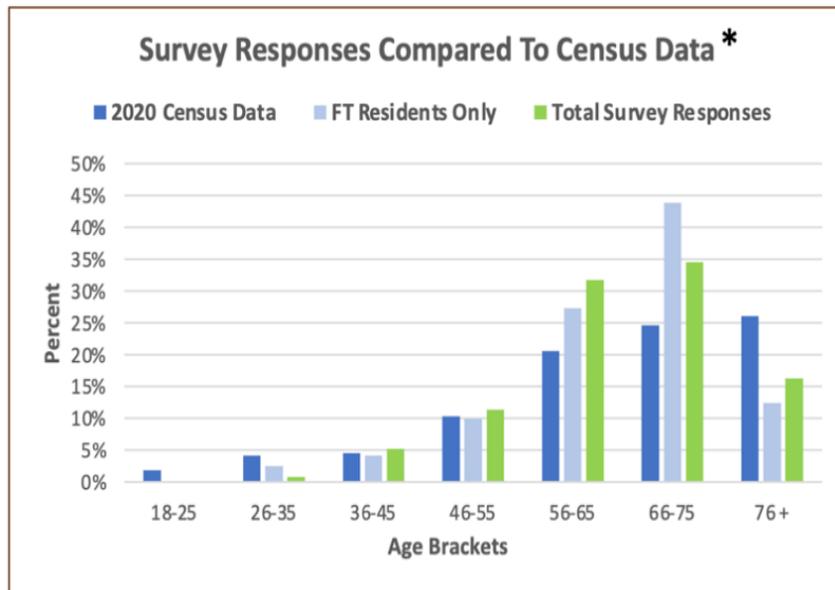
AGE

Age data from the 2023 Community Survey represents a sample of year-round and part-time residents in the community. The 2020 U.S. Census count represents only year-round residents. According to the 2023 Community Survey, most residents (83%) were

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

over age 45 with the highest age concentration in the 66-75 age group. See Figure 2.1 below.

Figure 2.1: 2023 Community Survey Responses Compared to 2020 Census Data



Source: 2023 Community Survey

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

According to the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2018-2022, an estimated 95.0% of year-round residents age 25 years and older in the Town of Spider Lake were a high school graduate (includes equivalency) or higher, and 38.4% had earned a Bachelor's degree or higher. Three quarters of the property owners are seasonal (non-resident, with second homes) and by inference will likely have a higher percentage of educational attainment.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

According to the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2018-2022, the median household income (in 2022 inflation-adjusted dollars) in the Town of Spider Lake was \$80,446, which was more than Sawyer County (\$57,519) and the State (\$72,458) respectively. Again, this data reflects the resident population, with non-resident owners likely to have a higher household income.

EMPLOYMENT

Most properties in the Town of Spider Lake are owned by seasonal residents, and the majority of community members are employed outside of the Town boundaries or are retired, a trend expected to continue over the next 20 years. The population represents a broad spectrum of occupations, training, skills, and experiences. Many year-round and seasonal residents contribute their time and expertise as volunteers for the Town, the Lake Associations, and numerous organizations throughout Sawyer County.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

2. Demographics

Goal: Fully engage property owners in Community Stewardship.

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Objective 1: Better understand the composition, values, needs, emerging issues, etc. of the community of Spider Lake.		
Action: Continue to survey the community—full-time, seasonal, business to help inform Comprehensive Plan updates.	Periodic	P&RC
Action: Maintain the Town governance structure and encourage community participation on Town committees.	Ongoing	P&RC
Objective 2: Encourage community participation in Town government.		
Action: Encourage community to phone or email Town supervisors.	Ongoing	Town Board
Action: Better understand skills and experience of community members.	Ongoing	P&RC
Action: Develop volunteer opportunities to utilize the skills and experience of community members and raise awareness of opportunities with volunteer organizations serving the community.	Ongoing	P&RC

3. HOUSING & HOUSING TRENDS

INTRODUCTION

The 2023 Community Survey respondents placed a high priority on Low-Density Development and Natural Resource Integrity. The Town's outdoor recreational economy is not likely to draw a large number of employees requiring housing to the area. Instead, housing needs are driven primarily by people who want to purchase/build a home near the amenities of the Town. As prospective owners find their desired property, they develop it as needed and consistent with the Town Land Use Ordinance to ensure the character of the Town is protected.

Available housing is limited by available land—only 21,700 acres of land (including wetlands) are available for private ownership and lakeshore property is limited. As sites on lakes become exhausted, subdivision of larger non-shoreland parcels has accelerated. Future demand for housing in the Town will be driven by available properties, affordability, and mortgage rates.

The Town does not plan to initiate any housing development but supports affordable housing for all incomes, ages, and abilities of residents.

EXISTING AND FUTURE HOUSING CONDITIONS

In 2020, the U.S. Census reported 891 housing units in the Town of Spider Lake. Of these, 232 were occupied (26.0% of all housing units) on Census Day (April 1). The remaining 659 units were vacant (74.0% of all housing units). Of the 659 vacant units, 639 were classified for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use (97.0% of all vacant housing units).

To better understand Table 3.1, the following U.S. Census Bureau housing definitions may be helpful:

Total Housing Units – This includes all houses, apartments, mobile homes, and other living quarters intended for occupancy, as well as tents, vans, and other structures used as a primary place of residence.

Total Occupied Housing Units – A housing unit is considered *occupied* if a person or group of persons is living in it on Census Day (April 1) and considers it their usual place of residence or has no usual residence elsewhere. A unit is classified as **owner-occupied** if the owner or co-owner lives there. All other occupied units are classified as **renter-occupied**, including those rented for cash rent and those occupied without payment of cash rent.

Total Vacant Housing Units – A housing unit is considered *vacant* if no one is living in it on Census Day (April 1) or if the occupants have a usual residence elsewhere. **True vacant housing units** are unoccupied and available for rent or sale or are otherwise unoccupied for economic or personal reasons. **Seasonal, recreational, or occasional-use housing units** are intended for occupancy only during certain seasons of the year

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

and are typically found in resort areas. Housing units used by migratory labor employed in seasonal farm work are also classified as seasonal.

Table 3.1: Occupancy Status 1980-2020

	1980*	1990	2000	2010	2020
Total Housing Units	786	945	776	982	891
Total Occupied Housing Units	130	159	186	183	232
<i>Owner-Occupied Housing Units</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>203</i>
<i>Renter-Occupied Housing Units</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>29</i>
Total Vacant Housing Units	636*	786	590	799	659
<i>True Vacant</i>	<i>----</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>For Seasonal, Rec or Occasional Use</i>	<i>636*</i>	<i>773</i>	<i>579</i>	<i>724</i>	<i>639</i>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1980-2020, *The 1980 Census did not identify a seasonal/recreational homes category.

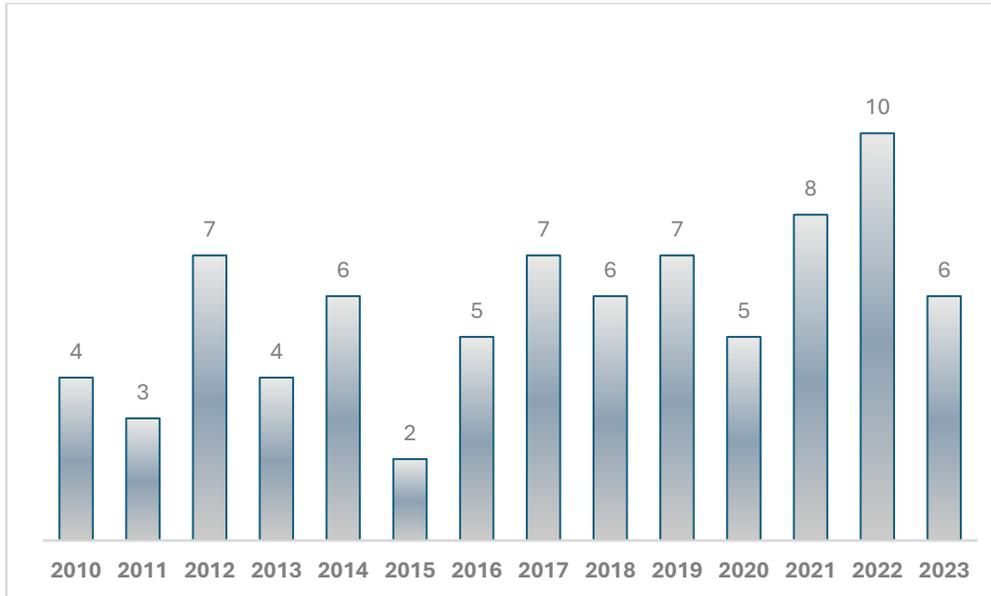
While Census data indicates a decrease in total housing units between 2010 and 2020, the Town of Spider Lake zoning information indicates a net increase based on 56 permits approved for new dwellings and eighteen demolitions during the same time period. This is consistent with the gradual but steady population increase over the last 70 years which is expected to continue.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic led to increasing demand for both year-round and seasonal homes. As remote work became more common, demand for homes in rural areas increased along with property prices. (see Map 3.1 - New Development (2018–2024).)

A revaluation of the Town of Spider Lake's property values was completed in 2023. The Town's tax assessed property value (of privately held land) increased by an average of 42% to \$417,187,900. Of that, approximately \$203,982,100 or 49% is the value of land and approximately \$213,205,200 or 51% is the valuation of homes and buildings.

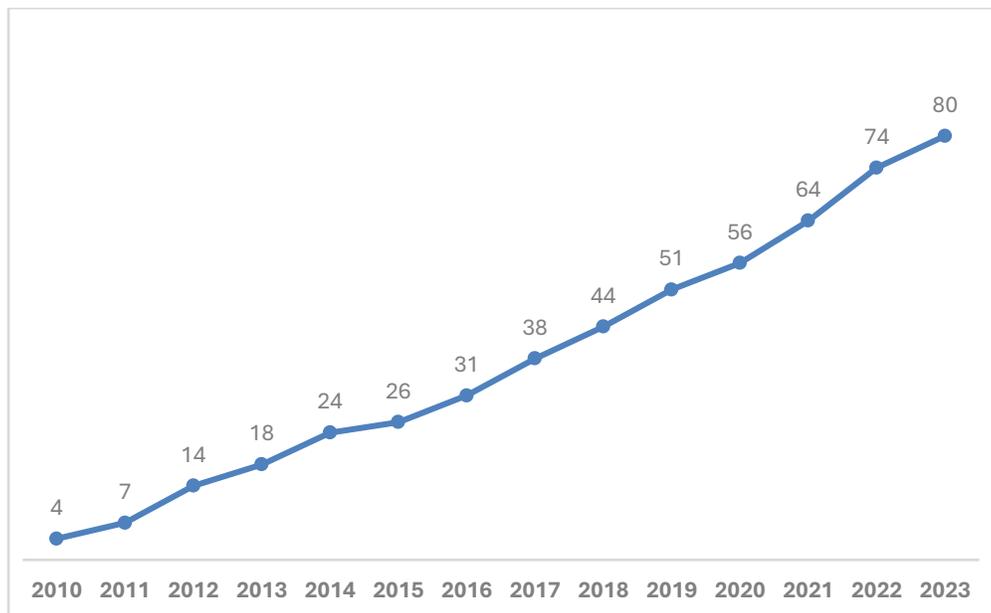
Over the past 14 years, the Town has averaged between five and six new dwellings per year, totaling 80 new homes built between 2010 and 2024. See Figures 3.1 and 3.2 below. While permits were issued to both year-round and seasonal owners, it is clear the housing stock in the Town has been gradually increasing.

Figure 3.1: New Dwelling Permits by Year 2010-2023



Source: Town of Spider Lake Zoning and Building

Figure 3.2: Cumulative Dwellings Added 2010-2023

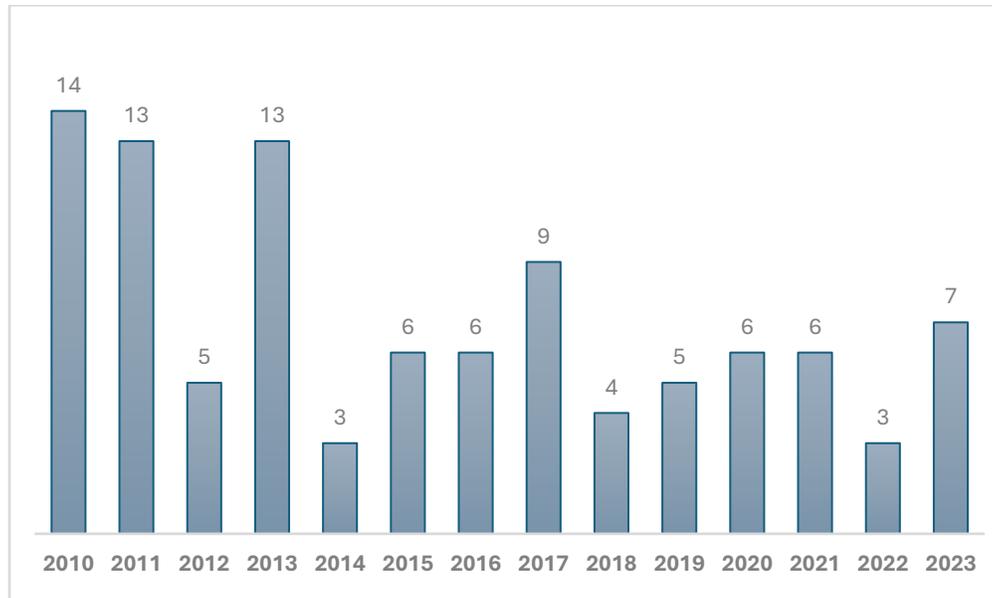


Source: Town of Spider Lake Zoning and Building

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

With the increase in remote work, there is also a trend for seasonal owners to become permanent residents in the Town. This transition often drives permit requests to remodel an existing property (see Figure 3.3).

Figure 3.3: Addition & Alteration Permits 2010-2023



Source: Town of Spider Lake Zoning and Building

The Town supports having a range of housing choices available to meet the needs of all income levels, of all age groups, and of people with special needs. The Town will not initiate development but will support housing projects that protect Northwoods Character of the Town while meeting the requirements of the Town's Land Use Ordinance. Several housing programs are identified later in this section.

Long-Term Rentals (more than 29 Consecutive Days)

U.S. Census data captures only information about the year-round residents of the Town. This information indicates a rise in the percentage of resident owners living in their homes as compared to renting them long-term to others. Registered voter data between 2020 and 2024 indicate that the number of electors renting on a long-term basis (29 days or longer) has declined to fewer than ten in the Town.

Of note, resort cabins and short-term recreational lodging are not defined as rental units by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Short-Term Rentals (STRs)

The advent of short-term rental (STR) legislation in Wisconsin has introduced notable changes for the Town of Spider Lake. STRs provide valuable opportunities for property owners to generate supplemental income and share the natural beauty of the area with visitors. This supports the local Outdoor Recreation economy. At the same time, the Town seeks to balance the benefits of STRs with the need to preserve the natural character, community values, and quality of life that residents—both full-time and seasonal value.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

In 2017, Wisconsin enacted the Right to Rent Law, which establishes a framework for STR operations. Under this legislation, local governments cannot prohibit rentals of residences for seven consecutive days or longer. This law has enabled the growth of STR platforms like VRBO and Airbnb, making it easier for property owners to offer short-term accommodations.

STRs in the Town are regulated and licensed at the State level, with Sawyer County acting as the administering agent. The County ensures that all STRs comply with health and safety standards. As of October 2024, there were 72 licensed STR units in the Town of Spider Lake, including five licenses that cover multiple units.

The 2023 Community Survey indicated diverse opinions about STRs. While recognizing their economic benefits, many residents expressed a desire for greater oversight than Sawyer County provided at the time of the 2023 Community Survey. Approximately 30% of respondents supported "some additional regulation," while 35% advocated for "fully regulating STRs to the extent Wisconsin Statutes allow." This feedback underscores the importance of finding a balance that respects both individual property rights and the broader community's interests.

STRs present several opportunities:

- **Economic Benefits** – Property owners can generate income by renting unused spaces, and visitors' spending contributes to the local economy, benefiting businesses and services across the region.
- **Enhanced Property Utilization** – STRs allow owners to make practical use of properties that might otherwise remain vacant for much of the year.

However, challenges also arise, particularly when balancing individual and community priorities:

- **Housing Availability** – STRs can limit the availability of long-term housing for locally employed individuals.
- **Strain on Amenities and Services** – Increased usage of local amenities and Town services, without corresponding revenue increases to the Town, can place pressure on infrastructure.
- **Environmental Impacts** – High usage levels and renters who lack awareness of local ordinances and practices may impact water quality, wildlife habitats, and the overall natural environment.
- **Neighborhood Concerns** – STRs can disrupt neighborhood character through increased noise, light, and traffic. They may also introduce issues such as trespassing or disregard for local ordinances.
- **Economic Competition** – STRs create competition for traditional lodging establishments, such as hotels, resorts, and bed-and-breakfasts.

Recognizing these opportunities and challenges, the Town aims to ensure that STR operations align with its commitment to safeguarding public health, safety, and the

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

natural environment. In October 2024, Sawyer County adopted a Tourist Rooming House (TRH) Ordinance to clarify requirements related to occupancy, signage, and property management for STRs. The Town of Spider Lake will closely monitor the outcomes of this ordinance as it takes effect, using this data to guide future decisions. By taking a thoughtful and measured approach to STR regulation, the Town seeks to maintain a balance between fostering economic opportunities and preserving the character of the Town.

Other Short-Term Rental Properties

Twenty-seven additional licenses for properties offering accommodation within the Town are also inspected by Sawyer County, and include bed-and-breakfasts, resorts, campgrounds, and summer camps.

WATERFRONT PROPERTY SUMMARY

There are over 50 named and unnamed lakes in both public and private ownership, in varying states of preservation and development. The largest of the Town's lakes—the Spider Lake chain, Lost Land, Lower Clam, Teal, and Ghost Lakes—all have shoreline development with permanent and seasonal residences. The west fork of the Chippewa River flows through the eastern third of the Town in a northeast to southwestern diagonal and much of its adjoining property is under federal ownership (as part of the Chequamegon National Forest), precluding any type of development.

Continued development pressure of recreational homes on the lakes and rivers of the Town of Spider Lake is pushing residential expansion beyond lakeshore properties. Over-development and inappropriate lakefront site design and land use can have a negative impact on water quality, wildlife habitat, overall aesthetic appearance of lakefront areas and further strain on the recreational resources. The Town's Land Use Ordinance strives for planned and orderly development to minimize the negative impacts of development.

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Age of Housing and Structural Characteristics

The American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2018-2022 estimated that about two-thirds of the occupied housing units in the Town of Spider Lake were built before 1989. The vast majority of occupied housing units in the Town were single-family homes with a small number of apartments and an even smaller number of mobile homes

Water and Sewer Access

At present, the Town of Spider Lake has no municipal water or sewer system in place. These wells and septic systems must be provided by property owners. The septic systems are inspected by Sawyer County.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

Heating

According to the American Community Survey 5-Years Estimates 2018-2022, most occupied housing units used bottled, tank, or LP gas for heating with the remainder using wood, electricity, or no fuel at all.

Natural gas lines do not reach the town.

HOUSING PROGRAMS

Sawyer County Housing Authority

To address housing needs of communities in the county, the Sawyer County Housing Authority (SCHA) was established in September 1972. Headquartered in Hayward, the central purpose of the SCHA is to create and maintain affordable housing units for individuals and families within the municipalities of Sawyer County. The SCHA has no housing units in the Town of Spider Lake and does not plan to introduce a facility in the Town in the coming 20-year period. The Sawyer County Housing Authority places its facilities in Sawyer County's more developed areas that have access to municipal water and sewer and to give facility residents ready access to health care services, employment, and shopping opportunities. A subsidy program available to qualifying residents of the Town of Spider Lake and to all other municipal divisions of the county is the federally funded Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. These vouchers, which are administered by the SCHA, enable residents to secure rental units from private stock at a fixed rate.

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority

The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) serves Wisconsin residents and communities by working to provide creative financing resources and information to stimulate and preserve affordable housing, small business, and agribusiness. The WHEDA Housing Grant Program is available to assist in the improvement of housing for special needs populations, and the Home Buyer Program is available for personal home improvement projects or home buyer assistance. The WHEDA Voucher Program helps families with low to extremely low incomes rent decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing of their choice. WHEDA has also released three programs catered toward municipality lead development. These programs can assist municipalities financially to increase affordable and workforce housing by converting vacant units, rehabilitating housing over commercial buildings, or replacing/upgrading infrastructure that is related to new or improved housing developments.

USDA-Rural Development

USDA-Rural Development administers federal funds to help secure loan options to assist low- to moderate-income families with home purchase and rehabilitation. Rural Development generally funds individuals who cannot obtain conventional financing.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission

The Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) administers a number of housing rehabilitation and down payment/closing cost assistance programs within the

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

towns, villages, and cities located in Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, and Washburn Counties. The Community Housing Rehabilitation Program provides financial assistance to eligible clients in these ten counties. As part of this program, financial assistance, to qualifying applicants, covers down payment assistance available in the form of a 0% deferred-payment loan and up to 50% of the down payment not to exceed 10% of the purchase price to renters to purchase their own home. Home repair assistance is available in the form of a 0%, deferred-payment loan to make necessary repairs to an owner-occupied home. Housing rehabilitation measures include new siding, roofing, windows, septic systems, wells, insulation, furnaces, etc. Rental unit repair assistance is available to landlords to help make repairs to rental units using very 0% interest loans amortized for an agreed upon time period.

NWRPC staff is certified in lead-based paint and asbestos testing, ensuring safe and compliant housing rehabilitation efforts.

Northwest Affordable Housing

Northwest Affordable Housing is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that makes housing rehabilitation and down payment assistance available to eligible clients throughout the ten counties NWRPC serves. NWAH provides financial assistance in the form of a zero percent interest, deferred-payment loan that may be used for owner-occupied housing rehabilitation or to purchase a home.

Indianhead Community Action Agency

Indianhead Community Action Agency housing services include single-family rentals, down payment assistance, emergency assistance, and supportive services for veteran families.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-EAP)

Emergency assistance funds are available to assist local governments in responding to emergency housing needs. The funds are provided to low to moderate-income families who are homeless due to natural disasters, as well as family groups who meet the state definition of homeless.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

3. Housing

Goal: Support a range of housing units to meet the needs of existing and future residents, both year-round and seasonal. Maintain the Low-Density Development and Peace and Quiet by preserving the sense of community of our residential neighborhoods.

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Objective 1: Support housing to meet the needs of persons of all income levels and physical abilities.		
Action: Thorough permit application reviews.	Ongoing	P&RC

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Objective 2: Encourage high quality construction and repair or maintenance of existing structures.		
Action: Enforce Land Use Ordinance and Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC) requirements.	Ongoing	P&RC
Objective 3: Encourage Sawyer County to strengthen monitoring for septic systems.		
Action: Review and update Town of Spider Lake dwelling compliance with septic system inspections.	Periodic	P&RC
Objective 4: Ensure short-term rental properties do not impair the sense of community of our residential neighborhoods or Northwoods Character.		
Action: Determine how the Town should regulate short-term rental (STR) properties. Possibilities to consider include requiring registration, limiting STR density in residential areas, tiered regulatory framework (casual vs full-time STR operation), requiring STR owners to educate renters about local ordinances, monitoring, and enforcement of ordinances, etc.	2025-6	P&RC

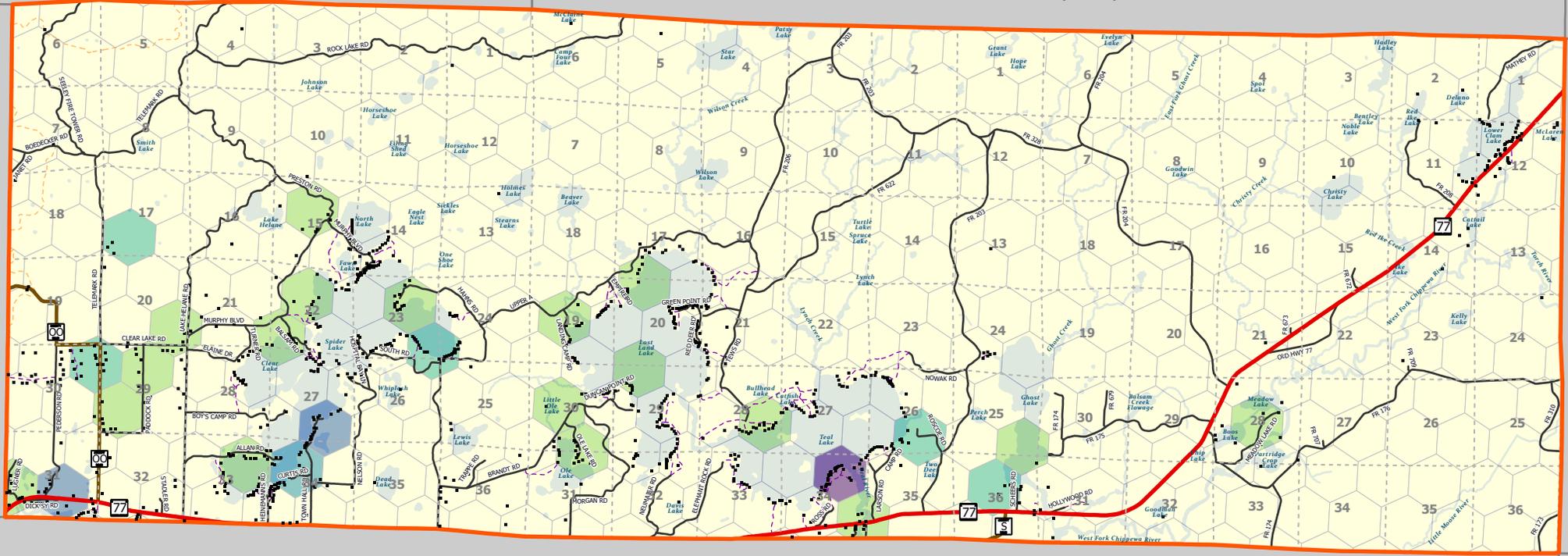
Town of Cable,
Bayfield County

Town of Namakagon,
Bayfield County

Town of Lenroot

Town of Shangolden, Ashland County

Town of Gordon, Ashland County



Town of Round Lake

Town of Spider Lake

Comprehensive Plan 2025

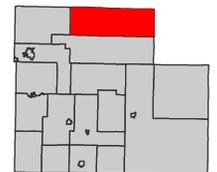
Map 3.1 - New Development (2018-2024)

Change in Number of Structures

- No New Development
- +1 New Development
- +2 New Developments
- +3 New Developments
- +4 New Developments
- +5 New Developments
- +6 New Developments

- Structure Address
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Town Road
- Private Road
- Recreation Trails
- River/Creek/Stream
- Lake/Large River/Flowage
- PLSS Section
- Town Boundary

Sawyer County, WI



Date Exported: 2/17/2025 9:37 AM

Data Sources: Town of Spider Lake, Sawyer County, WI DNR, WI DOT, NWRPCA, US Census Bureau

Town of Chippewa, Ashland County

4. TRANSPORTATION

INTRODUCTION

The Town of Spider Lake Transportation system consists of two vital components: the traditional road system and the recreational modes of transportation which the community uses to enjoy the Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resource Integrity of the Town. The Outdoor Recreation economy of the Town is both supported by and reinforces the recreational modes of transportation.

RECREATIONAL MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

Recreational modes of transportation are key enablers for the community to enjoy the amenities of the Town. They include non-motorized and motorized options and are on water and land. Eighty-seven percent (87%) of the 2023 Community Survey respondents indicated that recreational opportunities are extremely or very important and they are satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the opportunities available.

Non-Motorized Sports

This includes activities such as canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding, fishing, swimming, walking, hiking, snowshoeing, Nordic skiing, on and off-road bicycling, hunting, trapping, shooting, nature observation, photography and more.

The 2023 Community Survey revealed that 80% of respondents consider these activities extremely or very important. Moreover, most residents engage in one or more of these sports several times each season.

Waterways

The Town's abundant lakes, rivers, and streams provide prime locations for canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding, fishing, swimming, and other water-based activities. Sawyer County also offers a wealth of additional opportunities for water recreation.

When water levels are sufficiently high, the West Fork of the Chippewa River becomes an excellent location for canoeing and kayaking, providing even more options for water sports.

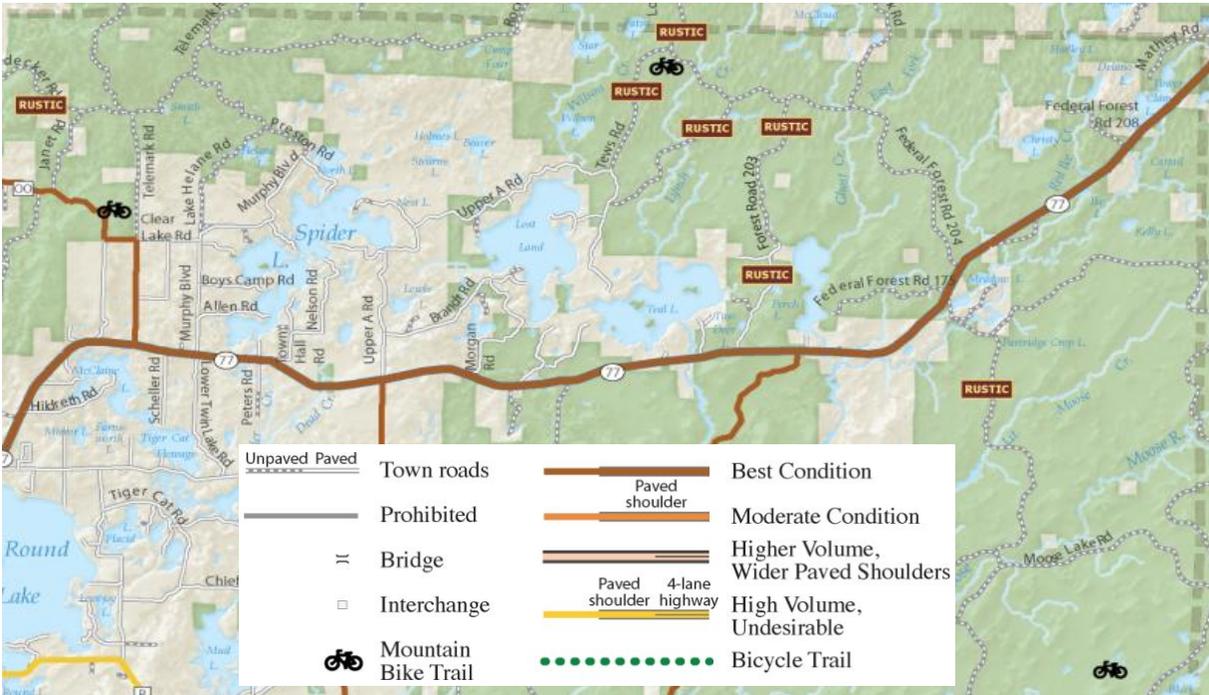
Walking

Pedestrian travel in the Town of Spider Lake is limited due to roads with narrow shoulder areas, high speed limits, dust on gravel and earth roads, and lack of sidewalks. Walking for anything other than physical and recreational enjoyment is not likely because of the low-density development pattern of the Town and the fact that nearly all goods and services are located several miles away in nearby cities.

Bicycling

The Wisconsin Bicycle Federation in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation has compiled bicycling maps, by county, which highlight bicycling conditions on select roadways. Figure 4.1 displays the various bike routes throughout the Town of Spider Lake.

Figure 4.1: Town of Spider Lake Bicycle Map



Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation Sawyer County (North) Wisconsin Bicycle Map

In addition, the Town and its surrounding area offer a wealth of recreational bicycling opportunities for riders of all types and abilities. There are many miles of well-maintained, low-traffic paved and gravel roads, as well as over 100 miles of purpose-built singletrack mountain bike trails through the CAMBA system (Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association). Nearby, Mount Telemark also features downhill bike trails. Road bike, mountain bike, gravel bike, ebike, and "fat" (winter) bike riders have a variety of options available.

Nonmotorized Recreation

The Town of Spider Lake provides extensive opportunities for non-motorized recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, Nordic skiing, bicycling (both on- and off-road), observing nature, and photography. These activities are supported by a variety of multi-use trail systems:

- **American Birkebeiner Trail** – A portion of this renowned cross-country ski trail passes through the Town, offering year-round recreational opportunities.
- **CAMBA Trails** – Numerous trails maintained by the Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) cater to cyclists of all skill levels, both on and off Town roads.
- **County and National Forest Trails and Roads** – Designated cross-country ski trails and multi-use paths contribute to the Town's appeal for outdoor enthusiasts including skiers, hikers, birdwatchers, and hunters. Managed by multiple jurisdictions, the roads also provide access to outdoor activities.

Motorized Recreation

The Town's recreational offerings extend to motorized activities, both water and land based, which are enjoyed by many residents and visitors.

- **Water-based** – The Town's numerous lakes support waterskiing, jet skiing, boating, and pontooning, highlighting the community's strong connection to water-based activities.
 - The regulation of motorized water sports has been a priority since 1957. Ordinance 02-2024 establishes a 10 mph speed limit on all primary lakes, with an exception for higher speeds during a four-hour window (11:00 AM–3:00 PM) on specific lakes for waterskiing and tubing. These lakes include the Spider Chain (excluding Fawn Lake), Ghost Lake, and Lower Clam Lake. These long-standing regulations reflect the community's desire to balance diverse recreational needs while maintaining the "Quiet Lakes" culture, a sentiment supported by two-thirds of survey respondents who oppose significant changes to the ordinance.
 - The Town is currently studying the use of wake-enhancing boats, which can disrupt lake bottoms and shorelines, particularly in shallow areas. Survey results indicate that 73% of the community supports exploring regulations to mitigate the environmental impacts of these boats.
- **Land-Based** – Motorized land-based recreation includes snowmobiling and ATV/UTV riding. Designated snowmobile trails traverse County and National Forest lands, cross private property via easements, and include segments across lakes. Similarly, ATV/UTV trails utilize designated corridors through the County and National Forest, with specific sections of Town roads (outlined in Ordinance 01-01) providing connectivity to neighboring communities. An eastern corridor trail now connects Moose Lake to the Namekagon area from May 1 through October 23, enhancing accessibility across the region.
 - Community surveys from 2019 and 2023 consistently indicate that the majority of respondents prefer to limit ATV/UTV use to designated trails, with 62% of 2023 respondents opposing expanded access to Town roads. This preference reflects a commitment to preserving the Town's Peace and Quiet while mitigating safety risks associated with narrow road shoulders and mixed-use traffic.
 - There are no plans to open Town roads to ATV traffic until it can be demonstrated that the majority of the community supports that action. However, the Town encourages collaboration with ATV/UTV advocacy groups to improve regional connectivity. Potential initiatives include enhanced signage for trailheads and partnerships with neighboring municipalities to expand designated trails without increasing road usage.

Resources for Motorized Trails

Trail maps for ATV/UTV and snowmobile routes are available through the Sawyer County Snowmobile & ATV Alliance website and can also be accessed via links on the Town of Spider Lake website. By thoughtfully managing multi-use and motorized recreation, the Town of Spider Lake aims to provide diverse recreational opportunities while safeguarding its natural environment, community character and public health.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

ROAD SYSTEM

Virtually 100% of respondents to the 2023 Community Survey indicated that Town roads are important, with 91% satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the current road system.

A functional classification system groups roads according to the level of service they provide. The Town of Spider Lake road network totals approximately 118 miles, consisting of 14.41 miles of principal arterial roadways, 8.98 miles of rural major collectors, 9.93 miles of rural minor collectors, and 84.80 miles of local roads. Table 4.1 breaks down the functional road classification by mileage.

Table 4.1: Functional Classification System

Classification Type	Mileage
Principal Arterials	14.41
Rural Major Collector	8.98
Rural Minor Collector	9.93
Local Roads	84.80
Total	118.12

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation

The Town utilizes the Wisconsin Department of Tourism Pavement Surface Evaluations and Ratings (PASER) Program to maintain an inventory of its local roads and to monitor conditions and improvements of its roads. Ideally, this system enables the Town to better budget and manage roads that are in need of repair.

There are four sites in the Town of Spider Lake where the Wisconsin Department of Transportation monitors annual average daily traffic (AADT) traffic counts. Traffic counts are reported as the number of vehicles expected to pass a given location on an average day of the year. The AADT is based on a short duration traffic count, usually 48 hours, taken at the location. This count is then adjusted for the variation in traffic volume throughout the year and the average number of axles per vehicle. Table 4.2 depicts past AADT numbers for sites located in the Town of Spider Lake.

Table 4.2: AADT Traffic Counts

	2004	2008	2011	2014	2017	2021
STH 77 West of CTH OO	320	410	760	1,130	-	980
STH 77 Between CTH OO & CTH A	1,200	-	1,300	1,000	980	1,400
STH 77 0.5 mi East of CTH S	570	420	560	-	610	-
Upper A Rd North of STH 77	-	-	350	-	-	470

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation Traffic Count Map

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

PUBLIC TRANSIT

The Town of Spider Lake has limited access to public transit opportunities at this time. Currently, Namekagon Transit and the Sawyer County Senior Resource Center operate transit services in the Town of Spider Lake.

AIR TRANSPORTATION

The nearest airports providing regular scheduled passenger flights to domestic and international destinations are located in Ironwood (limited number of flights); Duluth, Eau Claire, and Minneapolis-St. Paul. At present, there are 5 public and 11 private airfields within 30 miles of the Town of Spider Lake. Their location and status are listed in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Airfields/Airports within 30 Miles

Airfield / Airport	Location	Owner / Operator	Status
JFK Memorial	City of Ashland; T47N, R4W, S. 18.	City of Ashland	Public
Hospital Helipad	City of Ashland; Memorial Hospital	Memorial Hospital	Private, helipad
Glidden Municipal	Jacobs Twp.; T42N, R2W, S. 13.	Town of Jacobs	Public
Clam Lake Airfield	Gordon Twp.; T43N, R4W, S. 32	Don Vecchie	Private
Mellen Municipal	City of Mellen, T44N R2W, S. 5	City of Mellen	Public
Bayfield County Airports/Airfields within 30 Miles of the Town of Spider Lake			
Airfield / Airport	Location	Owner / Operator	Status
Cable Union Airfield	Cable Twp.; T43N, R7W, S. 21	Town of Cable et. al.	Public
Eau Claire Lakes	Barnes Twp.; T45N, R9W, S. 28	Jerry Freirmood	Private
Bayfield County Airfield	Iron River Twp.; T47 N, R9W, S. 2	John Pearson	Public / Private
Bayfield County Hospital	City of Washburn, T49N, R4W, S. 33	Bayfield County Hospital	Private, helipad
Fourmile Creek	Washburn Twp.; T49N, R5W, S. 22	Richard Westling	Private
Batten/Lake Owen Sea Plane Base	Drummond Twp.	(No owner listed)	Water landing
Sawyer County Airports/Airfields within 30 Miles of the Town of Spider Lake			
Airfield / Airport	Location	Owner / Operator	Status
Sawyer County Airport	Hayward Twp.; T41N, R9W, S. 24	Sawyer County	Public
Rainbow Airport	Ojibwa Twp.; T39N, R6W	Wayne Carpenter	Private (turf strip)
Lake Chippewa Field	Hunter Twp., T40N, R7W	(No owner listed)	Private (turf strip)
Round Lk. Seaplane Base	Round Lake Twp.; T41N, R8W	John Frisbe	Private (water)
Kitty-Wompus Airport	Weirgor Twp., T37N, R7W	Jordan Arvold	Private (turf)

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aeronautics

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

TRAIN TRAVEL

There are no operational railroads in the Town of Spider Lake.

TRUCKING & WATER TRANSPORTATION

Trucking in and around the Town of Spider Lake is done through the highway network and is typically subject to road weight restrictions depending on the time of year.

Water transportation in the Town is primarily for recreational purposes. Boating/pontooning and canoeing/kayaking are high in importance to the community as shown by the 2023 Community Survey and are addressed in the Recreational Transportation section.

APPLICABLE STATE TRANSPORTATION PLANS

Connect 2050

Connect 2050 is the statewide long-range multimodal transportation plan developed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The plan facilitates decision-making or improvements to and investments in all types of transportation throughout Wisconsin through the year 2050. No conflicts with the Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

Active Transportation Plan 2050

The Active Transportation Plan 2050 is a statewide long-range plan focused on human-powered modes of transportation, such as bicycling and walking. This plan evaluates active transportation opportunities and needs, resulting in policies and actions that will align with and further Connect 2050, Wisconsin's statewide long-range transportation plan. No conflicts with the Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

Wisconsin State Highway Plan 2020

The Wisconsin State Highway Plan 2020 focuses on the 11,800 miles of State Trunk Highway routes in Wisconsin. The plan does not identify any projects in the Town of Spider Lake in the next 20 years, and no conflicts with the Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

The portion of STH 77 through Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, from just east of CTH A in Sawyer County to STH 13 in Ashland County, is designated as the "Great Divide National Scenic Highway." This designation, established on November 1, 1988, by the U.S. Forest Service, runs for 29 miles through an undeveloped portion of the national forest.

Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2030

The Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2030 provides a framework for the preservation and enhancement of a system of public-use airports adequate to meet current and future aviation needs of the State of Wisconsin. There are no airports or airfields in the Town of Spider Lake, and none are planned in the next 20 years.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

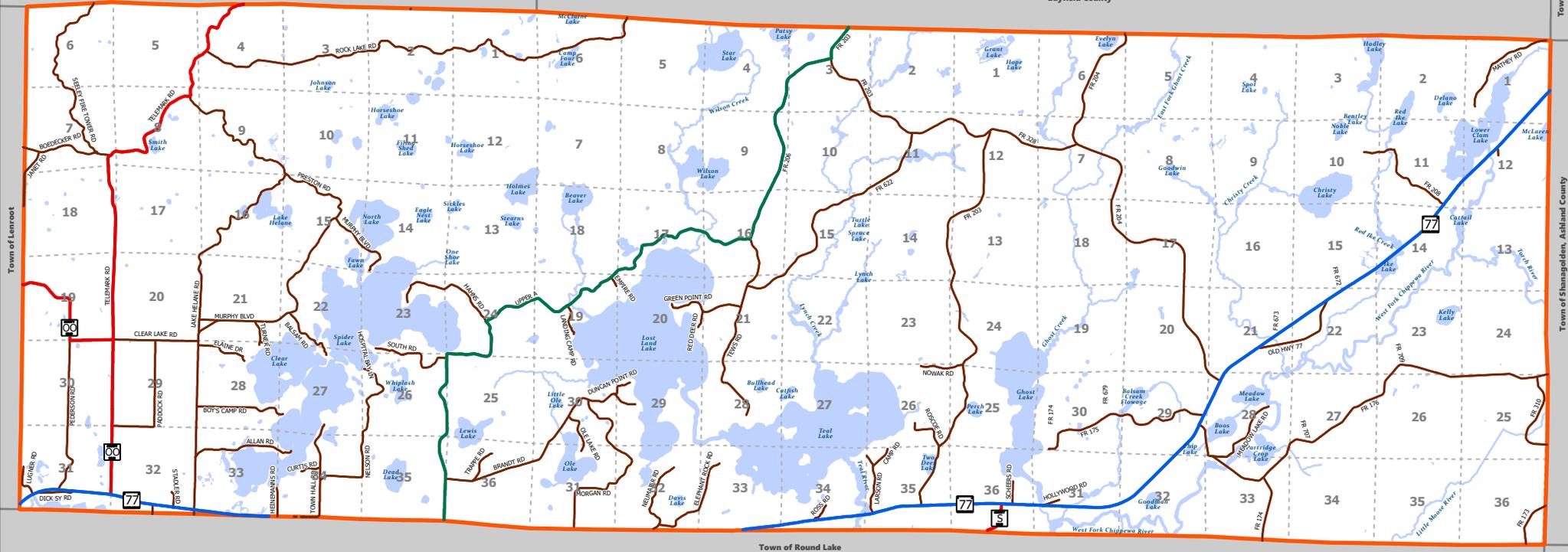
4. Transportation

Goal: Ensure an efficient and safe road system and foster multi-use transportation systems (i.e., the trails) which accommodate the interests of community while preserving the Natural Resource Integrity of the Town.

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Objective 1: Develop and maintain roads to meet the Town's current and future needs and safety requirements.		
Action: Maintain a Five-Year Road Plan with criteria for decision-making.	Ongoing	Town Board
Action: Evaluate Town roads on an annual basis according to Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) evaluation methods.	Ongoing	Town Board
Objective 2: Support recreational trails in the Town and surrounding area.		
Action: Collaborate with recreational advocacy groups and other stakeholders to explore, create, expand, maintain, and integrate recreational transportation modes.	Ongoing	Town Board
Action: Work with recreational organizations to ensure appropriate signage is provided for all trails.	Ongoing	Town Board
Action: Encourage public safety education and awareness of multi-use roadway systems.	Ongoing	Town Board
Objective 3: Ensure recreational participants on water and on land respect the Natural Resource Integrity, Sustainable Outdoor Recreation, and Peace and Quiet of the Town.		
Action: Enforce Town recreational ordinances, working with County and DNR law enforcement and/or Town appointed officials.	Ongoing	Town Board
Action: Update the Town's boating ordinance to help maintain the Town's natural resources with sustainable outdoor recreation while respecting peace and quiet by restricting enhanced wakes and prohibiting the use of a boat as a dwelling.	2025	Town Board
Action: Educate property owners of ordinances and local practice by providing materials to make available to visitors (e.g., a 'Neighbor Notebook' or Spider Lake Information Guide). This material should also be available on the Town's website.	2025	P&RC

Town of Cable,
Bayfield County

Town of Namakagon,
Bayfield County



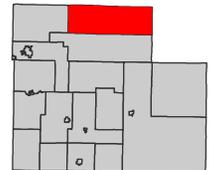
Town of Spider Lake

Comprehensive Plan 2025

Map 4.1 - Functional Classification

- Principal Arterial
- Rural Major Collector
- Rural Minor Collector
- Local Road
- Recreation Trails
- River/Creek/Stream
- Lake/Large River/Flowage
- PLSS Section
- Town Boundary

Sawyer County, WI



Date Exported: 2/17/2025 9:37 AM

Data Sources: Town of Spider Lake, Sawyer County, WI DNR, WI DOT, NWRPCA, US Census Bureau

Town of Gordon, Ashland County

Town of Shangolden, Ashland County

Town of Chippewa, Ashland County

5. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION—THE TOWN'S ECONOMIC BASE

The Town of Spider Lake is an amenity rich community with an outdoor recreational economy. This economy includes:

- Hospitality services such as resorts, short-term rentals, restaurants, bars, bait and tackle shops, etc. These businesses focus largely on serving the visitors to the Town. Business activities occur predominantly in the summer months although snowmobiling and cross-country skiing draw visitors in the winter months.
- Trade services such as builders/remodelers, plumbers, electricians, lawn care providers, property management services, etc. These businesses provide services to the permanent and seasonal residents as well as the hospitality industry business owners.
- The Town's revenue sources are property taxes, State aids, permit fees and grants. Local businesses' contribution to the revenue of the Town is through property taxes and permit fees (e.g., liquor licenses), as the Town does not currently collect any sales or room taxes.

The community has not proactively developed a larger economy because:

- The overwhelming priority is to protect the Northwoods Character of the community.
- Of the 487 year-round residents in 2020, most were in the 55–75 year age group and retired. Only 184 were participating in the labor force and 98.4% had jobs (see Table 5.1).
- 76% of the community are seasonal owners with jobs and other sources of income outside the community.
- The low population density and seasonality of residents make it difficult to sustain a year-round retail business in the Town.
- A broad range of retail shopping and other commercial enterprises are available outside the Town's boundaries in Hayward, Cable, and Clam Lake.

Since 2020, some residents, both permanent and seasonal, are participating in the national work-from-home trend. This has been driven by the increasing quality of internet services and the desire of many residents to isolate during the pandemic. The implications for the Town are that some seasonal residents are becoming permanent residents while other seasonal residents are spending more time in the Town. The changing demographics affect the need for both the trade services and the level of Town services (road maintenance, emergency services, etc.).

Another significant change is that the State Legislature has enabled owners to rent their dwellings for periods less than 29 days (short-term rentals).

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

LABOR FORCE

The labor force in the Town is small and close to fully employed as seen in Table 5.1 (aggregated over the five-year time period 2018–2022). The majority of the Town’s permanent residents are seniors and not engaged in active employment.

Table 5.1: Labor Force Characteristics

Characteristics	Town of Spider Lake	Sawyer County	State of Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force	184	8,360	3,125,976
Unemployment Rate	1.6%	6.5%	3.4%
Labor Force Participation Rate	36.9%	55.0%	65.7%
High School Graduate or Higher (25 and over)	95.0%	92.8%	93.1%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher (25 and over)	38.4%	26.9%	32.0%
Per Capita Income (in 2022 inflation-adjusted \$)	\$57,991	\$36,167	\$40,130
Median Household Income (in 2022 inflation-adjusted \$)	\$80,446	\$57,519	\$72,458
Poverty Rate	1.9%	13.2%	10.7%
Median Age	63.8	51.4	39.9

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2018-2022

ATTRACTING AND RETAINING BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

The Town has no specific commercial or industrial sites. The Future Land Use map does not differ substantially from current land use and represents the community’s desired land use pattern. The community has allowed the outdoor recreation economy to evolve organically.

The Town’s amenities draw residents and visitors and the businesses that support them to the area. Resorts and other commercial establishments rely on the natural environment to sustain and build their clientele. These businesses are sprinkled along the lake shores and in the forests. Development of these businesses is regulated by the Land Use Ordinance.

Any business in the Town must be able to accommodate the seasonal variability of population within the community. The ‘busy season’ tends to be the summer and shoulder months of the year. When winter snow is plentiful, those businesses catering to snowmobiling and winter sports benefit significantly. The low population density and seasonality of residents make it difficult to sustain a year-round retail business in the Town.

The short-term rental industry is developing in the Town. This poses challenges to the community as noted in Section 3 – Housing & Housing Trends.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

There are currently four Campground/RV parks in the Town of Spider Lake, providing nearly 160 campsites. In the 2023 Community Survey, 58% of respondents indicated they do not wish to see additional campgrounds or RV parks established in the Town.

Future growth in the Town could be fueled by better telecommunication services (cellular and broadband) which allow for home-based or remote work and could provide greater support to existing businesses. Much of the Town and northern Sawyer County is without reliable cellular service. The Town of Spider Lake supports service providers willing to invest in infrastructure to improve telecommunications services and will work to ensure the preservation of the Natural Resource Integrity of the Town.

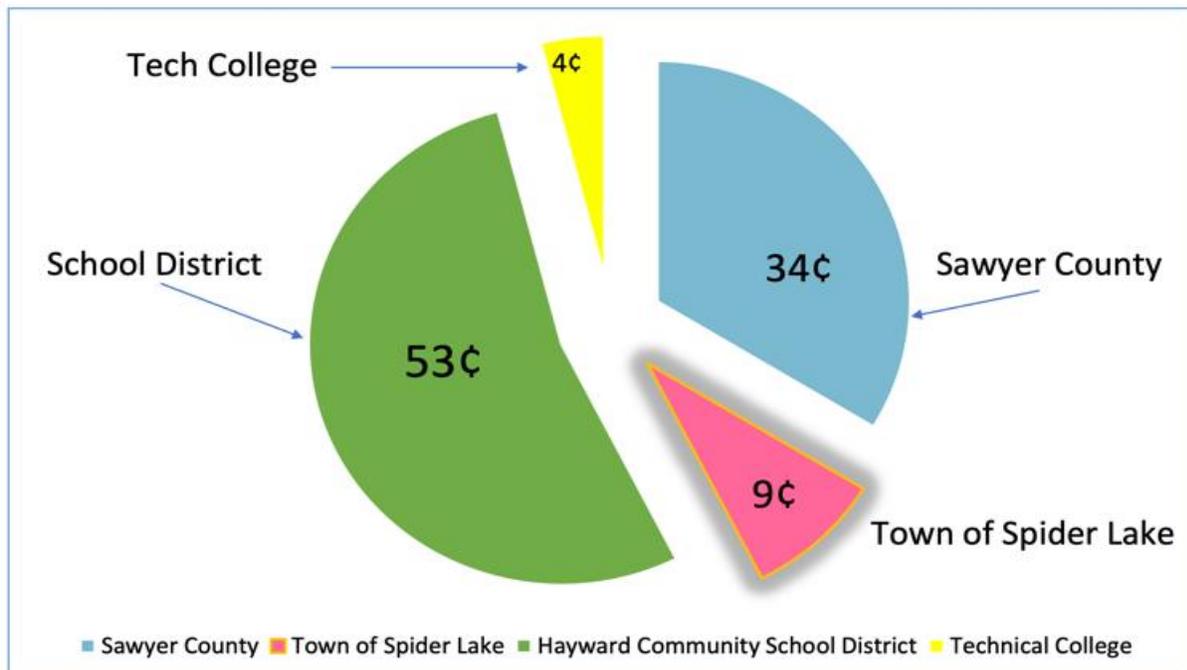
TOWN REVENUE

The Town's revenue stream is made up of:

- Property taxes paid by property and business owners (~50%)
 - It should be noted that of the property taxes paid by private property owners, only 9% goes to the Town (see Figure 5.1 below).
- Wisconsin Intergovernmental revenue (State aid) (~45%)
- Permit fees (~5%)

These revenues fund the essential services provided by the Town such as road maintenance, solid waste disposal, zoning administration, and fire department/emergency services. It should be noted that only 9 cents of every dollar paid in property taxes comes back to the Town (see Figure 5.1).

Figure 5.1: Property Tax Allocation



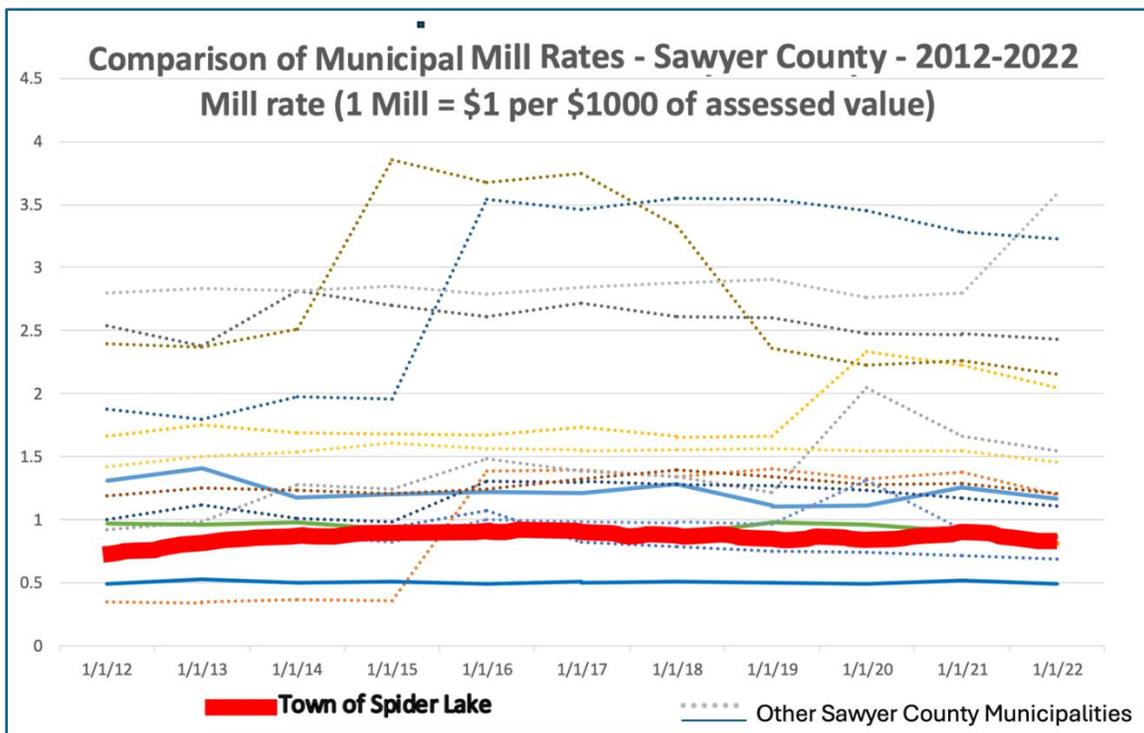
Source: Town of Spider Lake

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

The State regulates the allowable increase of the property tax levy as compared to the previous year's levy. This results in a relatively stable income stream, but issues can arise if expenditures are higher than anticipated. As can be seen in the graph below, the Town's millage rate (or mill rate, the amount of tax per \$1,000 of assessed property value) has been historically steady and lower in comparison with other municipalities in Sawyer County (see Figure 5.2).

The Town does not receive incremental revenue as the number of visitors increases. Visitors, however, place additional demands on Town services.

Figure 5.2: Mill Rate Comparison – Spider Lake vs. Other Sawyer County Towns 2012-2022



Source: Town of Spider Lake

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND ORGANIZATIONS

There are many economic development related programs at the federal, state, regional, and local level. While the list below is not intended to be all-inclusive, it does provide a listing of commonly used resources.

FEDERAL

U.S. Economic Development Administration

The U.S. Economic Development Administration offers programs for assistance with economic development that apply to the Town of Spider Lake. One of these programs is the Public Works and Economic Development Facilities Assistance Program. This supports the construction or rehabilitation of essential public infrastructure and development facilities necessary to generate private sector jobs and investment,

including investments that support technology-led development, redevelopment of brownfield sites, and eco-industrial development.

USDA Wisconsin Rural Development

Several loan and grant programs are available from the USDA Rural Development. One of those programs is the Community Facility Guaranteed Loan Program, which provides funding to local units of government to construct, enlarge, extend, or otherwise improve community facilities providing essential services in rural areas and towns.

The Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants Program helps develop projects that will result in a sustainable increase in economic productivity, job creation, and incomes in rural areas. Projects may include business start-ups and expansion, community development, incubator projects, medical and training projects, and feasibility studies.

The Community Facilities Direct Loans and Grants Program provides funding for essential community facilities (CF) such as municipal buildings, day care centers, and health and safety facilities. Examples include fire halls, fire trucks, clinics, nursing homes, and hospitals. CF loans and grants may also be used for such things as activity centers for the handicapped, schools, libraries, and other community buildings.

STATE

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) leads economic development efforts for the State of Wisconsin by providing resources, operational support, and financial assistance to companies, partners, and communities.

The WEDC Business Development Loan Program supports the retention and expansion of businesses operating in Wisconsin. The program offers financing primarily to small businesses that have limited access to standard types of debt or equity financing, particularly, but not limited to, rural areas of the state. It is intended to provide gap financing to existing businesses seeking to expand, increase operational efficiency, or enhance competitiveness in key Wisconsin industries.

Wisconsin Departments of Tourism

The Tourism Department is a multi-faceted program designed to assist tourism businesses. The program offers planning and training grants that focus on tourism development and diversification at the business and municipal levels.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Available from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is the Transportation Facilities Economic Assistance and Development Program (TEA). The intent of the TEA program is to help support new business development in Wisconsin by funding transportation improvements that are needed to secure jobs in the state. A governing body, a business, a consortium group, or any combination thereof can apply for TEA program funding.

REGIONAL

Northwest Regional Planning Commission

The Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) is a cooperative venture of the local units of governments in the ten counties of Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Sawyer, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, and Washburn and the five tribal nations of Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Red Cliff, St. Croix, and Lac du Flambeau. The purpose of NWRPC is to assist the communities of the membership to promote sustainable economic development, develop public facilities, provide planning and technical services, efficiently manage and conserve natural resources, and protect the environment.

Northwest Wisconsin Business Development Corporation

A strategic partner of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, the Northwest Wisconsin Business Development Corporation (NWBDC) administers Revolving Loan Programs in partnership with the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. NWBDC provides low-cost gap financing for businesses seeking to either start or expand their operations in rural areas of Northwestern Wisconsin. Focus is placed on high technology businesses, manufacturing, timber, secondary wood products, and the tourism industry.

LOCAL

Sawyer County/Lac Courte Oreilles Economic Development Corporation

The Sawyer County/Lac Courte Oreilles Economic Development Corporation is a volunteer organization which focuses on supporting new and existing business ventures and providing workforce resources.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

5. Economic Development

Goal: Ensure a business climate compatible with Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and the Natural Resource Integrity of the Town.

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Objective 1: Encourage businesses that maintain the Peace and Quiet of the Town.		
Objective 2: Ensure that future business development is compatible with the natural character of the Town.		
Action: Monitor Conditional Uses per the Land Use Ordinance.	Ongoing	P&RC
Action: Review commercial signage and outdoor lighting for compliance with ordinance requirements.	Ongoing	P&RC

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Objective 3: Encourage accommodation providers to educate guests of local ordinances.		
Action: Provide Resort, B&B, and short-term rental owners with information to provide to their guests.	2025	P&RC
Objective 4: Encourage business owners to interact with the Town.		
Action: Provide opportunities for open dialog with Town officials and service providers.	Ongoing	Town Board

6. UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

Maintaining the quality of facilities and infrastructure is fundamental to the health, welfare, and safety of the community. The Town provides road maintenance/plowing, solid waste management, a volunteer fire department, and emergency first responders. The majority of respondents to the 2023 Community Survey indicated that the services provided by the Town were Excellent, Good, or Average for Road Maintenance (96%), Snowplowing (85%), Solid Waste/Recycling (81%), the Town Hall (80%), Town government communications (77%), and the Fire Department (75%). An opportunity for improvement exists in recreational ordinance enforcement (52%).

Other services critical to the health, welfare, and safety of the residents and businesses, e.g., healthcare, emergency medical services, water, electric, gas, communications, septic, etc. are not provided by the Town but are sourced from regional and national businesses and governments. The Town Board and committees work with these businesses and agencies to ensure the reliable availability of these services.

UTILITIES

Water Supply – The Town of Spider Lake has no centralized municipal water supply system in place. Town residents secure their water supply from drilled or dug wells on their own property.

Sanitary Sewer System and Wastewater Treatment – The Town does not have a municipal sewer or wastewater treatment system. Sewage disposal is accommodated by drain fields and/or holding tanks on private party. The private onsite wastewater treatment systems (POWTS) program protects public health and the waters of the state by regulating onsite wastewater treatment and recycling systems, and by promoting the use of the best available technology to provide onsite sewage treatment system solutions for property owners. Sanitary permits are reviewed and issued by Sawyer County.

Stormwater Management – The Town is naturally drained by the local ditches and waterways.

Solid Waste Disposal – Republic Services is contracted for the solid waste/recycling pick-up in the Town.

Power Supply & Power Plants – Town of Spider Lake residents and businesses receive electricity from Jump River Cooperative and Bayfield Electric Cooperative.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Solid Waste and Recycling Facilities – The drop-off solid waste and recycling center is located behind the Town fire station #1 at 10896W Town Hall Road. Garbage is accepted for a fee and clean recyclables are accepted at no charge. Recyclable items include #1, #2, and #5 plastics, aluminum, steel and tin cans, glass, and mixed paper. A summer clean-up is held where white goods are taken for a charge. The total recycled material tonnage for 2013 was 29 tons. The Town recycling program now accepts electronics, TVs, and appliances for a charge.

The Town has also organized a facility for brush drop-off at specific dates in the spring and the fall. The Town website and email push notices provide notification of the brush drop-off dates.

Communication Facilities – CenturyLink and Norvado serve the Town of Spider Lake for local telephone communications. There are also a number of wireless communication providers for long-distance and Internet services. Most of the Town, however, lacks reliable wireless communications capability. In 2013, the Town approved the placement of a communications tower near the intersection of Upper A and Brandt Road. Initially erected by Norvado, the tower now hosts equipment owned by T-Mobile. Service in the area of the tower is improving for those with T-Mobile service. A tower erected and operated by Verizon was approved by the Town of Round Lake and placed near the intersection of Hwy 77 and Neumaier Road. This tower should improve cellular service to Verizon customers in the Lost Land and Teal Lake areas. Additional towers are still needed to afford coverage to the entire Town.

Lack of effective wireless communications was identified as a need for the community when it adopted a Community Wildfire Protection Plan in 2013. Currently, the countywide system is inadequate to meet the needs of the Town Fire Department and emergency response personnel. This issue is also being discussed at the countywide level as Sawyer County completes various plans.

The Town permits the placement of wireless towers through a Conditional Use and Land Use permit process. In this process, the Town considers the limitations and requirements set by state and federal law. Cellular providers typically require a market before investing in new infrastructure, and the Town of Spider Lake will offer support when providers present a viable plan.

Mail Service – There is no post office in Spider Lake. Rural mail delivery is provided from Hayward and Clam Lake, while private carriers like UPS and Federal Express handle package deliveries.

Cemeteries – There are no cemeteries located in the Town. However, the Spider Lake Cemetery is located in Round Lake, adjacent to the Spider Lake Church. The church is located in the Town of Spider Lake, just across the Town border.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

Health Care Facilities – There are no health care facilities located within the Town of Spider Lake. Some residents receive in-home care through the Sawyer County Health and Human Services Department. For full medical services, residents can visit Hayward Area Memorial Hospital, located in the City of Hayward, along with other medical services from clinics in the surrounding area.

Child Care Facilities – Licensed childcare providers are found throughout Sawyer County.

Libraries – The Town of Spider Lake does not have a library. However, residents have access to the Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library in the City of Hayward.

Schools – There are no schools located within the Town. The Town is served by two school districts: the Hayward Community School District (the primary district) and the Chequamegon School District, which covers sections 1, 2, 11, and 12 in Range 5. The Town administers the school elections for both districts.

Parks – There is a picnic ground immediately behind the Town Hall. County, State and Federal lands cater to outdoor recreation where the thousands of acres provide a variety of options to enjoy the north woods.

Other Facilities – Other government, public, private and/or institutional facilities located in the Town of Spider Lake are as follows:

1. **Town Hall** – Located at 10896W Town Hall Road, the Town Hall is used for meetings of the Town, fire department meetings, Lake Association meetings, and can be rented for both profit and non-profit functions, including reunions and other celebrations or parties as seen fit by the Town Board. The Town Hall also acts as a rally point in case of an emergency and is equipped with a backup generator to provide essential power during such events.
2. **Town Garage** – New in 2023, the Town garage, located behind and adjacent to Fire Station #1, houses the Town's road equipment, including a grader, end-loader, mowers, dump trucks, plows, and a chipper. This new facility allows the Town's road maintenance equipment to be under cover, providing a safer working environment for the Town's road crew.
3. **Fire Stations** – The Town hosts two fire stations: one adjacent to the Town Hall (Fire Station #1) and another on Tews Road (Fire Station #2). As of 2024, the fire department's equipment includes one engine, two tenders, two brush trucks and one UTV (Gator) on a trailer. The Town shares its Fire Chief with the Town of Round Lake. In the next few years, the Town will assess options for combining operations and equipment with the Town of Round Lake. The two towns share a six-mile border, with State Highway 77 running along it, making mutual aid common and allowing firefighters to respond to incidents in both towns.
4. **Churches** – The Town has two churches. The Spider Lake Church located on Twin Lake Road and St. George Catholic Church located on Hwy 77 E.
5. **Picnic Grounds** – Located behind the Town Hall, the grounds include a large BBQ pit with a roof, pavilion, and picnic tables. Picnic tables and fire pits are

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

located on state-owned islands within Teal Lake, and in the Spider Chain. These facilities are maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Police Services – The Town does not contract for law enforcement. Law enforcement is provided by Sawyer County Sheriff’s Department.

Fire Services – The Town has its own volunteer fire department, consisting of volunteer firefighters, some of whom are First Responders and EMTs. The department is equipped with two brush truck/quick response trucks, two tenders, and one pumper/engine truck. The Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating is 9, and the department responds to approximately 15 fire calls per year. The Spider Lake Fire Department serves the Town of Spider Lake and has mutual aid agreements with Clam Lake, Namakagon, and Round Lake. Assistance is also provided to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Forest Service, on an as needed basis. The Town continuously reviews alternatives for fire services. Two options under discussion are: creating a fire district or consolidating fire departments with the Town of Round Lake.

Emergency Medical and Rescue Services – Spider Lake has a First Responder team and five Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). Ambulance services are provided through Sawyer County dispatch (911). These services are important to all members of the community, as evidenced through the survey responses (90% of 2023 Community Survey respondents indicated Emergency Medical Services as Very or Extremely Important). The Town, through the Fire Department, will continue to work with Sawyer County to improve response times and services.

FUTURE NEEDS

Throughout this section, a description of existing utilities and community facilities located in and serving the Town of Spider Lake. Significant work has been done over the past few years to maintain and upgrade the Town’s buildings and equipment to ensure they will satisfy the needs for the community. Table 6.1 below describes the current perspective on key infrastructure.

Table 6.1: Utilities & Community Facilities

Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Facility	The Facility was expanded in 2023 and sized to expand the available number of bear-proof garbage and recycle dumpsters during peak periods of use (summer holidays). Needs are continuously evaluated, and space is available to make changes, as necessary.
Roads Department Facility and Equipment	The Roads department building was completed in 2023 and is equipped to meet existing and future needs. All Town equipment is now under cover and out of the elements. A new dump truck / plow was delivered in 2024, and a new tandem truck/plow has been ordered and will be delivered in 2026. Equipment needs are evaluated annually.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

Law Enforcement	There is currently no law enforcement other than the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department. The Town is evaluating the need for additional Town resources to perform recreational ordinance enforcement (ATVs, boating).
Fire and Rescue	The Fire Department has expanded into the space vacated by the Roads Department and is equipping the space with more functional and fire-specific storage options. Needs are continuously evaluated and changes made, as necessary.
Picnic Grounds / Parks	There is a picnic ground immediately behind the Town Hall. The pavilion and BBQ shed roofs are in need of repair and will require new roofs within the next few years. The picnic tables under the pavilion are also in need of repair/replacement, as the wooden tables are beginning to rot. They should also be replaced in the next few years.
Town Hall/Offices	The Town Hall and Office were repainted in 2022. Thorough review and culling of unnecessary records have enabled space to be cleared in the office. Digital archiving of information would create additional space in the future and should be evaluated.

Source: Town of Spider Lake

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

6. Utilities & Community Facilities

Goal: Maintain and enhance community facilities and services which contribute to the overall improvement of the community.

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Objective 1: Maintain Town involvement in the planning and coordination of utilities and communication services to efficiently serve existing and future development.		
Action: Review long-range plans of utility companies to identify impacts they might have on the Town, and plan for future expansion.	Ongoing	Town Board
Action: Support expansion of cellular, broadband, and high-speed internet service within the Town.	Ongoing	Town Board
Action: Support structural design, location, and service standards for communication towers to reduce negative visual impacts.	Ongoing	Town Board
Objective 2: Minimize the environmental impact of future utility expansion.		
Action: Ensure that future transmission and distribution lines follow existing utility lines/easements through the Town, and support burial of these lines where possible. For above ground lines, best management practices including 'Integrated Vegetation Management' for right of way maintenance should be required of the utility.	Ongoing	Town Board

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
<p>Objective 3: Provide quality cost-effective Town facilities and services which meet the existing and future demands of residents, property owners and visitors.</p>		
<p>Action: Ensure the Town Hall, Fire Department, and Roads buildings are maintained and assessed for capacity and functionality to accommodate anticipated future requirements.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Town Board</p>

7. LAND USE

INTRODUCTION

Community land use patterns are the physical expression of past decisions, as well as of past failures to make decisions. This section provides a framework for future land use decision-making in the Town of Spider Lake by incorporating the values and goals of the community, as well as the opportunities and constraints of geography, natural resources, and existing development. This information is the foundation for planning guidelines which promote future land use in ways which support the aspirations of the community and protect and promote its environmental integrity, quality of life, and welfare of its residents. The Town will guide development and redevelopment in a manner that maintains, improves, and protects our unique but fragile environment. The Northwoods Character of the Town is impacted by how the residents and businesses of the Town use the land. This section describes the current land use, integrates the information in the previous seven sections and creates a vision for future land use in the Town that will guide future land use decisions.

The Land Use Ordinance, established in 1967, codifies the guidance for residents and businesses to maintain the vision of Northwoods Character while enjoying their properties. The Town of Spider Lake continues to be the only town in Sawyer County with its own adopted and enforced land use (zoning) ordinance and other land use controls.

The 2023 Community Survey respondents were clear that the ordinance is working well to protect the resources, and that maintaining low-density development, not allowing additional RV/campgrounds and requiring Environmental Impact Studies for high-density development are a high priority.

LAND CHARACTERISTICS

Land Ownership

Much of the land in the Town is unavailable for development. Approximately 66.3% is publicly owned by the Town, County, State, or Federal governments and is predominantly forested. The Town has a total of 109 miles of shoreline, of which 29 miles (26.6%) are publicly owned. This leaves only 33.7% of the land available for private ownership (see Table 7.1). Eighty percent (80%) of the Town's private owners have properties in close proximity to one another due to the residential development of lakeshore and riverfront property.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

Table 7.1: Land Ownership

Ownership	Acres	% of Town Land
Public Ownership	41,691.5	66.3%
National Forest	32,873.4	52.3%
Sawyer County	8,063.8	12.8%
State of Wisconsin	692.0	1.1%
Town of Spider Lake	62.3	0.1%
Private Ownership	21,209.9	33.7%
Total	62,901.4	100.0%

Source: Northwest Regional Planning Commission GIS Database

Land Use

Table 7.2 and Map 7.1 - Existing Land Use represents current (2024) land use in the Town of Spider Lake using the following categories and descriptions:

Forested – Undeveloped, vacant parcel of any size (shoreland or not).

Improved Shoreland – Any shoreland parcel (river or lake) with an improvement value greater than \$0.

Forest Residential – Any parcel with an acreage greater than 5 acres and an improvement value greater than \$10,000.

Agriculture – Active farming areas, barns, silos, and associated residences on the property.

Commercial – A known location of an operating commercial business. This includes everything from storage units to resorts.

Institutional – Any nonprofit organization (government buildings, churches, summer camps, libraries, etc.).

Table 7.2: Existing Land Use

Existing Land Use	Acres	%
Forested	56,106.1	89.2%
Improved Shoreland	3207.3	5.1%
Forest Residential	2,575.7	4.1%
Agriculture	440.8	0.7%
Commercial	315.6	0.5%
Institutional	46.9	0.3%
Total	62,901.4	100.0%

Source: Northwest Regional Planning Commission GIS Database

*Acreage does not reflect surface waters

TRENDS IN SUPPLY, DEMAND AND PRICE OF LAND

Supply

Development of privately owned land varies from year to year but has historically been focused primarily on lakeshore properties. As lakeshore property becomes more fully developed, the trend is shifting to development away from the lakes, where vacant parcels are more plentiful. A trend to monitor is the increasing fragmentation of parcels and rezoning of land from forestry/agriculture to residential. While it is difficult to predict, parcels should be available for private purchase in the future. Any development must comply with the requirements of the Town’s Land Use Ordinance, which defines structural setbacks from wetlands, boundaries, and uses of each parcel.

Demand

Lakefront property is in the highest demand; however, demand for land in the vicinity of the Birkebeiner Ski Trail and other recreational trails, such as the Chequamegon Mountain Bike (CAMBA) Trails and Sawyer County ATV and Snowmobile trails, is increasing. This area is generally located on the Town’s west side and northwest corner, with reasonable proximity to Hayward and Cable.

The Town has not seen a demand for industrial property, nor is there expected to be one. These types of enterprises have settled in and around key communities within Sawyer County, where primary municipal services (water/sewer) are readily available and where greater access to the transportation network is found.

There is little demand for the establishment of commercial retail development. While a number of traditional resorts still remain, many have been sold and transitioned to condominiums. This may explain the downward trend in the number of commercial properties over the years (see Table 7.3).

The Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Law requires this plan to include future projections for residential, agricultural, commercial, and industrial land uses in 5-year increments for the next 20 years, based on the plan’s background information (see Table 7.3). Historic trends derived from Town land use permits were used to estimate future residential land demand. Historic trends derived from assessment statistics were used to estimate future agricultural and commercial land demand.

Table 7.3: Future Land Use Projections 2024-2044

Projected Land Demand	2024	2029	2034	2039	2044	Acre Change 2024-2044
Residential	5,783.0	5,795.1	5,807.2	5,819.4	5,831.5	48.5
Agricultural	440.8	459.3	464.2	467.7	470.1	29.3
Commercial	315.6	315.6	315.6	305.0	294.4	(-21.2)
Industrial	0	0	0	0	0	-

Source: Northwest Regional Planning Commission

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

Price

The price of waterfront land is determined per frontage foot and fluctuates year to year based on local and national economic trends. Lakeshore frontage has the highest price value, with land selling from \$1,500 to \$2,000 or more per frontage foot, depending on location and desirability. Woodlands vary from \$2,500 to \$3,500 per acre, with some 5-acre development tracts selling for between \$35,000 and \$45,000 or more. Prices saw a significant jump during and after the COVID pandemic, and it appears they will remain elevated.

LAND ASSESSMENT TRENDS

Historical information regarding land use trends in the Town of Spider Lake is largely incomplete or unavailable. However, property tax assessment data can serve as a surrogate for understanding historical land use trends. While it has limitations, this data provides a broad indication of land use changes over time. Table 7.4 demonstrates the number, acreage, improvements, and value characteristics of the Town's privately owned lands, categorized into seven tax assessment classifications: residential, commercial, forestry, manufacturing, agricultural, undeveloped, and other. These categories are determined by the Town's Property Assessor and appear on the tax bills for each owner.

2024 is the first year of information following the 2023 property assessment revaluation.

Table 7.4: Parcel Counts and Tax Assessment Values 1988-2024

Residential	1988	1993	2000	2006	2011	2017	2024
Total Parcels	754	801	945	1,011	1,088	1,139	1,200
Improved Parcels	544	606	711	789	851	890	939
Total Acres	1,986	1,955	2,325	2,824	2,881	2,829	2,419
Land Value \$	10,392,350	13,938,400	34,962,200	176,317,400	179,039,700	136,528,400	167,999,600
Improved Value \$	18,801,970	27,677,900	64,574,300	93,113,000	105,786,000	115,877,400	207,969,300
Total Value \$	29,194,320	41,616,300	99,536,500	269,430,400	284,825,700	252,405,800	375,968,900
Average Parcel Size	2.63	2.44	2.46	2.79	2.65	2.48	2.02

Commercial	1988	1993	2000	2006	2011	2017	2024
Total Parcels	67	61	56	57	38	34	33
Improved Parcels	65	58	52	49	31	28	28
Total Acres	617	542	362	416	341	244	186
Land Value \$	2,200,200	2,451,700	2,467,500	11,227,600	7,709,800	5,662,400	5,851,200
Improved Value \$	3,601,400	4,520,900	5,791,800	8,301,000	6,392,100	5,160,400	8,257,200
Total Value \$	5,801,600	6,972,600	8,259,300	19,528,600	14,101,900	10,822,800	14,108,400
Average Parcel Size	9.2	8.8	6.46	7.29	8.97	7.18	5.64

MANUFACTURING	1988	1993	2000	2006	2011	2017	2024
TOTAL PARCELS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

FORESTRY	1988	1993	2000	2006	2011	2017	2024
TOTAL PARCELS	484	480	494	537	516	498	645
IMPROVED PARCELS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ACRES	14,226	14,133	13,943	12,868	12,287	11,750	13,122
LAND VALUE \$	3,131,350	3,101,600	8,787,400	32,282,100	32,063,800	25,879,800	28,369,400
IMPROVED VALUE \$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL VALUE \$	3,131,350	3,101,600	8,787,400	32,282,100	32,063,800	25,879,800	28,369,400
AVERAGE PARCEL SIZE	29.4	29.4	28.2	23.9	23.81	23.59	20.34

AGRICULTURAL	1988	1993	2000	2006	2011	2017	2024
TOTAL PARCELS	23	23	20	21	18	19	24
IMPROVED PARCELS	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ACRES	539	515	482	611	600	630	423
LAND VALUE \$	156,050	130,700	118,500	97,100	55,100	71,200	74,300
IMPROVED VALUE \$	110,300	84,200	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL VALUE \$	266,350	214,900	118,500	97,100	55,100	71,200	74,300
AVERAGE PARCEL SIZE	23.4	22.4	24.1	29.1	33.33	33.16	17.63

UNDEVELOPED	1988	1993	2000	2006	2011	2017	2024
TOTAL PARCELS	233	232	240	232	237	245	370
IMPROVED PARCELS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ACRES	3,322	3,247	3,225	2,811	2,884	2,932	2,377
LAND VALUE \$	88,850	93,300	182,200	1,323,600	1,353,200	970,000	738,100
IMPROVED VALUE \$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL VALUE \$	88,850	93,300	182,200	1,323,600	1,353,200	970,000	738,100

OTHER	1988	1993	2000	2006	2011	2017	2024
TOTAL PARCELS	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
IMPROVED PARCELS	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL ACRES	0	0	3	3	3	3	2
LAND VALUE \$	0	0	7,500	15,500	15,500	15,500	12,800
IMPROVED VALUE \$	0	0	122,000	161,500	183,800	178,700	259,700
TOTAL VALUE \$	0	0	129,500	177,000	199,300	194,200	272,500

TOTAL TAX ACRES	20,690	20,392	20,337	19,533	19,024	18,416	18,623
TOTAL ASSESSED VALUE \$	-	-	-	322,838,800	332,628,400	290,376,100	419,642,400

Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue Statement of Assessment

An analysis of the above data reveals a number of trends taking place. These changes will have land use, taxation, and other impacts.

Residential Land Insights

The Town of Spider Lake has two primary residential zoning categories: Residential Recreational 1 and 2 (RR-1 and RR-2). Residential growth has continued to expand during the period 1988–2024, with a net gain of 446 residential acres. The average residential parcel size decreased from 2006 to 2024 from 2.79 to 2.02 acres per parcel. The decrease in parcel size reflects the subdivision of existing residential parcels (particularly in lakeshore areas) and emergence of smaller parcels in off-lake areas. The increases in parcel sizes noted in 2006 and 2011 may be attributed to the more recent development of 5-acre-plus residential lots off the water and demand for larger acreage lots.

A complex set of local, state, and federal regulations place limitations on the development and use of wetlands. The Shoreland/Wetland Zoning Ordinance adopted by Sawyer County regulates shoreland use and development within 300 feet of navigable streams and 1,000 feet of lakes (see Map 7.2 - General & Shoreland Zoning). The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regulates the placement of structures and other alterations below the ordinary highwater mark of navigable streams and lakes. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has authority over the placement of fill materials in all shoreland wetlands. And, after the enactment of Wisconsin Act 6, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has regulatory authority over non-shoreland wetlands. Prior to placing fill or altering wetland resources, the appropriate agencies should be contacted to receive authorization. The Town's Land Use Ordinance is consistent with the state and county requirements to ensure no structures are placed within 40 feet of a wetland edge. Approximately 24% (16,520 acres) of the gross land area of the Town is taken up by wetlands, with some of significant size. These wetlands include a wide diversity of types, from emergent/wet meadow to scrub/shrub, to deciduous and coniferous forest.

Commercial Land Insights

The total number of commercial parcels and improved commercial parcels has continually declined. The trend from 1988 to 2024 showed a net loss of 431 acres of commercial land. This decline suggests the sale and conversion of commercial resort and resort-related parcels to residential use, typically as condominiums.

There has been a significant rise in short-term rental activity, which is not currently reflected by zoning or by the Assessor as 'Commercial'. In light of this trend, the Town may want to consider the need for this to be reflected in zoning or in property assessment categories.

Forestry Land Insights

The number of privately owned forestry parcels declined until 2006, when forest and agricultural forest parcels were combined. From 1988-2024, forestry experienced a net loss of 1,104 acres (see Table 7.4). The conversion of some forest parcels into residential use and the transfer of private forest lands into public ownership may account for these declines. Notably, the average privately owned forestry parcel size has gradually decreased from 29.4 acres in 1988 to 20.34 acres in 2024. This change also reflects the ongoing subdivision and sale of forest parcels for residential development.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

Recreational land was added to public ownership by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources acquisition of 400 acres surrounding Lake Helene.

Forestland valuations increased dramatically in the early 2000s, partly as a result of increasing raw land values for recreational properties and partly as a result of increasing stumpage values.

Lands classified as forested represent 89.2% of all land acreage in the Town. Publicly owned forestland totals 41,691.5 acres, or approximately 66.3% of the Town. The vast majority of the public forest land is national forest (32,873.4 acres).

While harvest levels from national forest lands nationally have declined dramatically, harvest levels on the Chequamegon/Nicolet have remained fairly stable. This is expected to continue in the near future, barring major changes in policy or appeals by environmental groups. The U.S. Forest Service tends to emphasize management directed at maintaining certain wildlife and plant species or unique habitats, with the recently approved Moose/Two Axe project in the Chequamegon National Forest a good example of this intent. (More information is available on the USDA Forest Service website.) State and County land managers tend to focus more on multiple use types of oversight. The amount of management undertaken also tends to be higher on county properties compared to national forest properties on a per acre basis.

Research has also shown that most privately owned forest land will be harvested in some manner over time and that a large percentage of that harvest will be done in the absence of a management plan. Of the privately held land, 4,118.4 acres (19.4%) are enrolled in the Forest Crop, Woodland Tax, or Managed Forest Crop programs. These programs do require a management plan to be completed and executed. Current Landcover is identified in Map 7.3 - Land Cover.

Agricultural Land Insights

Assessment data indicates a net gain of one agricultural parcel and a net loss of 116 acres from 1988 to 2024.

Other Land Insights

The emergence of the "other" category also reflects the Wisconsin Department of Revenue tax classification reassessment of 1998. Parcels in this "other" category are primarily lands with buildings and improvements used for agricultural purposes.

Redevelopment of Land

Opportunities for redevelopment in the Town are relatively limited and lie in either rehabilitating or demolishing and rebuilding existing residential dwellings.

Total Taxable Acreage

Since 1988, the Town has experienced a gradual decline in taxable land. This trend suggests that a portion of the Town's privately owned land is being transferred into

public ownership, whether through direct sale, deed, or other arrangements. On average, the Town lost approximately 57.4 acres of taxable land each year between 1988 and 2024.

EXISTING LAND USE CONFLICTS

Short-term home rentals with or without local property management are an emerging trend which can create land use conflicts. A portion of these properties have impacted the neighboring area as some of the renters are not advised of or respectful of Town ordinances.

While there always remains the potential for land use conflicts, the Town sees no other major concerns at present but will continue to actively plan for anticipated needs and uses.

Future Land Use

The Town of Spider Lake's future land use strategy prioritizes preserving its unique Northwoods Character by adhering to principles that balance responsible growth with environmental stewardship and community values. The following guiding principles shape this approach:

1. Natural Resource Integrity:

- Direct development away from sensitive environmental areas.
- Protect critical natural resources, including wetlands, surface waters, and forests.
- Support the continuation of active agricultural and forestry uses.
- Preserve the Town's scenic and visual resources.

2. Sustainable Outdoor Recreation:

- Maintain active resort and recreational uses that align with the Town's natural character and ecological priorities.

3. Low-Density Development:

- Adhere to minimum parcel sizes as specified in the Land Use Ordinance, ensuring orderly and sustainable growth.

4. Peace and Quiet:

- Promote land use practices that minimize disturbances and uphold the tranquil atmosphere valued by the community.

Future Development Trends

Future land use is expected to evolve within the physical and regulatory limitations of the landscape, guided by the Town's Land Use Ordinance. Key trends and considerations include:

- **Residential Focus:** Most future development will be residential, both for year-round and seasonal use. Trends indicate continued demand for larger residential lots and homes, reflecting the lifestyle preferences of the Town's predominantly over-45 and retired population.

- **Decline in Commercial Land Use:** Commercial property needs are not anticipated to grow. The Town's existing commercial acreage includes campgrounds and RV parks, and a majority of respondents in the 2023 Community Survey (58%) opposed the development of additional campgrounds or RV parks.
- **Agricultural Land Use:** Although agriculture occupies a small percentage of land, some agricultural parcels may transition to residential use over time.
- **Urbanization Pressures:** Increasing urbanization of residential parcels poses challenges to maintaining the Town's Northwoods Character. Factors such as cleared buffer zones, traffic volume, outdoor lighting, signage, garbage dumpsters and lawn services are more evident. Short-term rentals contribute to this pressure by introducing commercial activity into residential neighborhoods.

Geographic Focus of Residential Growth

Residential development is expected to occur primarily in areas where available, undeveloped parcels exist. The western portion of the Town, particularly between Lugner Road and the Spider Chain of Lakes, is expected to see the most growth. Parcels in this area, currently zoned as a mix of Residential, Forestry, and Agricultural, are trending toward residential use.

Constraints on Future Development

Significant portions of the Town are constrained from future development due to ownership, topography, and existing land use. Factors limiting development include:

- **Public Ownership:** Federal, State, and County lands are not available for private development.
- **Topography:** Slopes greater than 20% restrict development feasibility.
- **Wetlands:** These environmentally sensitive areas are protected and not suitable for construction.
- **Active Land Use:** Agricultural lands in active use are assumed to remain so.
- **Minimum Lot Sizes:** The Land Use Ordinance restricts further subdivision of certain parcels through minimum acreage requirements in each zoning district.

Map 7.4 - Future Development Constraints illustrates areas with generic development constraints (green) and privately owned land available for potential development (white). For instance, parcels zoned F-1 or A-1 that are smaller than 20 acres cannot be subdivided further, as the minimum lot size in these zoning districts is 10 acres.

The Plan & Review Commission retains authority to review development proposals, ensuring they comply with the Land Use Ordinance and align with the Town's guiding principles. This oversight helps safeguard the character, environment, and community interests of the Town while accommodating responsible and sustainable growth.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR LANDOWNERS – BEST PRACTICES, TIPS, AND TOOLS

The goal of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan is to guide future development in a manner that preserves the unique character of the Town and protects the natural resources for future generations. This effort is significantly enhanced through collaboration with and participation by the property owners in the Town. The following insights, practices, and tools are intended as a resource and reminder for both the Town leadership and community members and should be considered at any time to enhance the character of the area.

Future Shoreland Residential Land Use

- Encourage continued establishment of and participation in lake property owners associations to further protect the Town's water and wetland resources.
- Encourage restoration of developed shoreland buffer zones through volunteer programs or mitigation tied to permitted property improvements.
- Recommend a five-acre minimum parcel size for non-waterfront property within the shorelands except for planned unit developments.
- Minimize urbanization of the shoreland by using vegetative buffers, shielded lighting and natural colors and construction materials.
- The 2023 Community Survey respondents favor low-density development in the town.
- The 2023 Community Survey respondents want to require Environmental Impact Assessments for any high-density development.
- Shoreland residents are required to **maintain shoreline naturalness** by ensuring a 35-foot riparian buffer zone is established or re-vegetated. In addition, owners should consider their property's visual aesthetics from the water (signage, visual impact of items on the shoreline, leave natural shore cover with native plants, etc.). Natural grasses instead of manicured lawns contribute to a natural shoreline. Use of fertilizers should be avoided. The Town's regulations concerning structures and usages are available online or in hardcopy form and the DNR and Sawyer County have numerous publications on best shoreline management practices.

Future Rural Residential Land Use

- Maintain the overall rural open space/forested character of this region at a development density less than adjoining shorelands. The existing minimum parcel size in the forestry and agricultural zone districts is 10 acres.
- Consider cluster or conservation subdivision provisions where they will maintain or promote Northwoods Character for multi-unit developments. The conservation subdivision tools are implemented through the Land Use Ordinance and Town zoning and include larger setback provisions, buffering, and screening and dedicated open space provisions can be used to screen dwelling units from roadways. Restricting the location of rural cluster development projects, establishing minimum and maximum project size, limiting development density, and regulating lot area dimensions and clustering of dwelling units ensure that development is consistent with maintaining rural character.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

- Commercial uses should be compatible with lower density residential development such as home businesses.
- Promote and encourage private woodland management practices that help maintain the rural open space/forested character.
- Maintain existing agricultural land use as an important part of the rural and open space character.
- Minimize urbanization of rural residential land by using vegetative buffers, shielded outdoor lighting, and natural colors and construction materials.
- The 2023 Community Survey respondents favor low density development.
- The 2023 Community Survey respondents desire Environmental Impact Assessments for new high-density development.
- The Town supports **maintaining forest naturalness**, for both private property owners as well as the County, State, and Federal lands. It recognizes the historical significance of logging to the area and the economic importance of timber harvest and sound forest management practices. Logging has been and will continue to be important to the area. The Town recommends that professional foresters be involved in the development of timber harvest plans on private lands to protect the scenic quality of our community values. Balancing the need for timber products and forest habitat is important to consider, and the Town recommends leaving visual buffers along roadways when harvesting, as well as leaving a forty-foot buffer with no cutting adjacent to all wetlands 0.1 acres in size or larger. Best Management Practices for Forestry are available from many sources, and their use is encouraged.

Land preservation tools for private property owners should be used together with public tools for land protection. Private conservation gives landowners incentives to protect natural areas on their property and can offer permanent and parcel-specific protection. Options for consideration include:

- *Conservation Easements* – Conservation easements allow landowners to protect land permanently and also maintain ownership. Easements generally restrict development, mining, and clearcutting and do not open the land to the public. Conservation easements are flexible documents tailored to unique site conditions and adapted to landowners' goals and wishes. Extra building sites can be reserved for the landowner's family in the future. Donations of easements also qualify landowners for an income tax deduction and may lower property and estate taxes as well. Conservation easements protect land "in perpetuity". The restrictions apply to all future owners and designated land trust monitors and enforce the terms of the easement.
- *Land Management Contracts* – Tax incentive-based land management contracts, like Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law, offer important temporary protection. These 15, 25 and even 50-year contracts protect forest land and open space from development and subdivision. The contracts "run with the land" and apply to future landowners until the term expires. Land management contracts delay development and shift it away from prime habitat for now.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

- *Conservation Buyers* – A conservation buyer is any private buyer interested in owning natural areas for hiking, bird watching, hunting, fishing, or other quiet enjoyment. The conservation buyer provides funds to purchase a property and typically accepts placing a conservation easement on the land. Conservation buyers also act as stewards of the property. Locating potential buyers can be difficult, but a conservation-minded real estate broker can help match buyers with ecologically sensitive land.
- *Bargain-sales, Donations and Bequests* – Landowners can donate property during their lifetime or leave the property for conservation by will. A bargain-sale is another popular option since it provides the landowner with direct income and a tax deduction as a charitable gift for the amount of the discount, if the sale is made to the government or to a qualified non-profit group. A bargain-sale makes the land more affordable, thus making it more likely to be protected.
- *Reserved Life Estates* – A reserved life estate allows private landowners to donate their land but still live on it. The land belongs to the conservation organization, but landowners reserve the right to live on the property for the rest of their lifetime and receive tax benefits from the land donation.

Practices for a municipality to protect land and habitat span a range of options and are available for the Town to consider. Some of the specific tools are listed below:

- *Direct Purchase* – Buying land and setting it aside protects unique sites and benefits recreation, but isolated nature preserves do not address fragmentation. Land acquisition remains important for critical areas, but direct purchase needs to be supplemented with other forms of land protection to connect the lands in between public lands.
- *Purchase of Development Rights* – A PDR program takes a market approach to land protection. State or local governments can set up a program to buy the right to develop a parcel and retire that right. The landowner gets paid cash compensation for the value of the development rights and continues to live on the land as before.
- *Transfer of Development Rights* – A technique for guiding growth away from sensitive resources and toward areas that can handle it through the transfer of development rights from one area to another.
- *Temporary Moratorium* – A moratorium is a growth control measure that temporarily suspends development or subdivision for up to two years. Moratoria are extreme actions and can only be used to give local governments a chance to plan or prepare stronger land use regulations.
- *Zoning* – Environmental zoning plays a critical role in preventing fragmentation. The Town's minimum acreage requirements in Forest and Agriculture lands are helpful, but owners are encouraged to consider keeping larger tracts of land intact. Zoning should be used in combination with other tools.

The Town of Spider Lake and owners in the community are encouraged to consider some of these tools. Additional information is available on request from the Town's Plan & Review Commission.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

7. Land Use

Goal: Planned and orderly development consistent with the Northwoods Character of the community.

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Objective 1: Ensure the Land Use Ordinance is appropriately protecting the resources and aesthetics in the community.		
Action: Review and update the Ordinance to maintain the Town's Northwoods Character while addressing needs within the community.	2025	P&RC
Action: Enforce the Land Use Ordinance as required when violations are identified.	Ongoing	P&RC
Objective 2: Promote positive environmental practices which protect natural resources.		
Action: Encourage protection of forests and farmland.	Ongoing	P&RC
Action: Encourage lower-density residential development which minimizes effects on the Environment.	Ongoing	P&RC
Action: Clearly define 'high-density development' for the Town of Spider Lake and determine when Environmental Impact Assessments are to be required.	2025	P&RC
Objective 3: Encourage and educate landowners about tools for protecting and conserving land.		
Action: Make information available to private landowners on conservation easements, land management contracts, donations/bequests, life estates, etc.	Ongoing	P&RC
Objective 4: Avoid practices that would result in land use conflict with environmental factors.		
Action: Educate developers and builders on the Town's requirements and environmental regulations/best practices.	Ongoing	P&RC

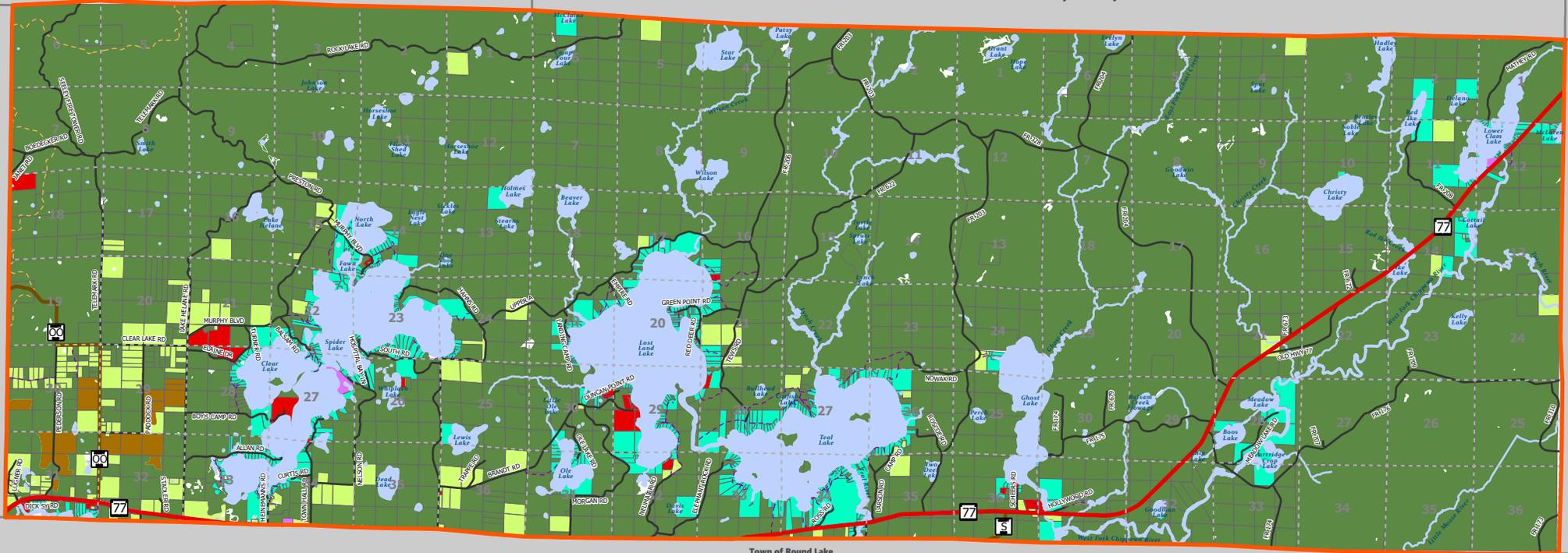
Town of Cable,
Bayfield County

Town of Namakagon,
Bayfield County

Town of Lenroot

Town of Shangolden, Ashland County

Town of Chippewa, Ashland County



Town of Round Lake

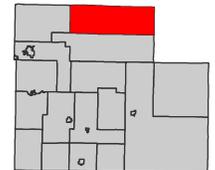
Town of Spider Lake

Comprehensive Plan 2025

Map 7.1 - Existing Land Use

- Forested
- Forest Residential
- Improved Shoreland
- Commercial
- Government/Institutional
- Agriculture
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Town Road
- Private Road
- Recreation Trails
- River/Creek/Stream
- Lake/Large River/Flowage
- PLSS Section
- Town Boundary

Sawyer County, WI



Date Exported: 2/17/2025 9:38 AM

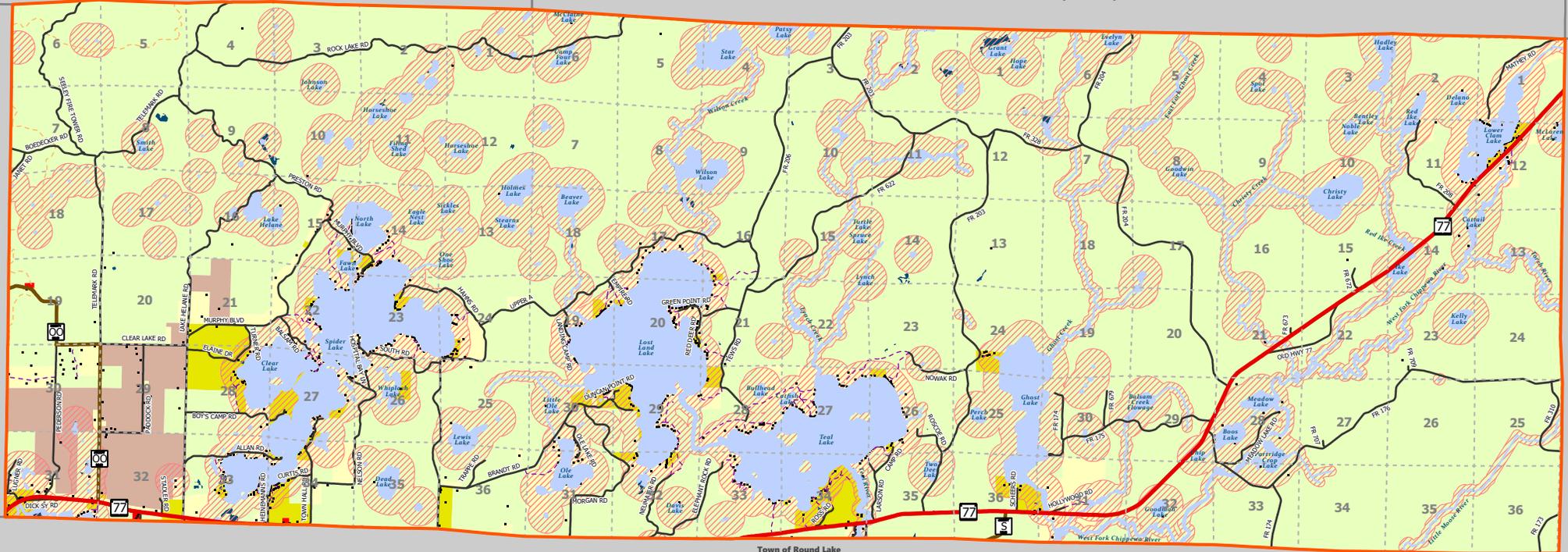
Data Sources: Town of Spider Lake, Sawyer County, WI DNR, WI DOT, NWRPCA, US Census Bureau

Town of Cable,
Bayfield County

Town of Namakagon,
Bayfield County

Town of Lunenburg

Town of Shangolden, Ashland County



Town of Round Lake

Town of Chippewa, Ashland County

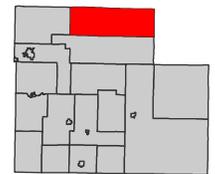
Town of Spider Lake

Comprehensive Plan 2025

Map 7.2 - General & Shoreland Zoning

- Agricultural One (A-1)
- Agricultural Two (A-2)
- Commercial One (C-1)
- Forestry One (F-1)
- Residential/Recreation One (RR-1)
- Residential/Recreation Two (RR-2)
- Wetland/Shoreland One (W)
- Shoreland Zoning
- Structures
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Town Road
- Private Road
- Recreation Trails
- River/Creek/Stream
- Lake/Large River/Flowage
- PLSS Section
- Town Boundary

Sawyer County, WI



Date Exported: 2/17/2025 9:38 AM

Data Sources: Town of Spider Lake, Sawyer County, WI DNR, WI DOT, NWRPCA, US Census Bureau

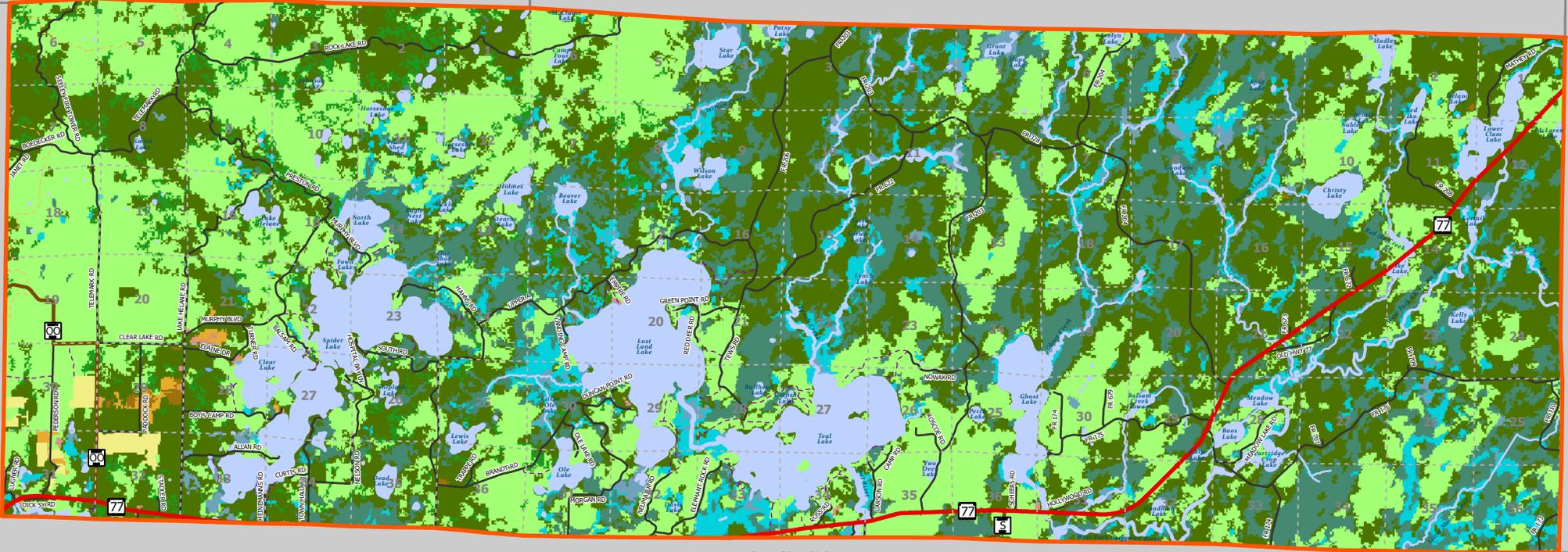
Town of Cable,
Bayfield County

Town of Namakagon,
Bayfield County

Town of Gordon, Ashland County

Town of Shangolden, Ashland County

Town of Chippewa, Ashland County



Town of Round Lake

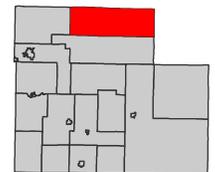
Town of Spider Lake

Comprehensive Plan 2025

Map 7.3 - Land Cover (Wisland 2)



Sawyer County, WI



Date Exported: 2/17/2025 9:39 AM

Data Sources: Town of Spider Lake, Sawyer County, WI DNR, WI DOT, NWRPC, US Census Bureau

8. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

INTRODUCTION

Intergovernmental agreements allow local governments to provide timely and cost-effective services and contribute to a mutually beneficial result. The Town of Spider Lake has relationships at all levels of government, with close ties to neighboring municipalities such as the Towns of Round Lake and Hunter in Sawyer County, and the Towns of Namakagon and Cable in Bayfield County, with whom the Town has common issues and shares resources through mutual aid. The Town also works closely with Sawyer County, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Forest Service. Intergovernmental cooperation is an expectation for any municipality wishing to receive grant funding for any number of projects. Planned cooperation and communication with other entities encourages consideration from those evaluating grant applicants.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS

Sawyer County

The Town has a good relationship with Sawyer County and strives to maintain open communication channels. A number of citizens have been called on to serve on County Committees, especially in the areas of ordinance development and land and water conservation. The Town's ability to engage in its own zoning authority strengthens the relationship between the County and Town. Joint ventures are also evident between the County and Town on road improvement projects. The WTA (Wisconsin Towns Association) also hosts a quarterly gathering (Sawyer County Unit Meeting), inviting participants from each of the sixteen Towns in the County. Common issues are discussed, along with statewide news from the WTA.

School Districts

Two school districts, Chequamegon and Hayward, represent the location for school-age children based on geographic location in the Town. The Town maintains open lines of communication with both school districts.

Other Adjacent or Overlapping Jurisdiction

The Town communicates with state and federal agencies on land/forest management objectives, since a large percentage of the Town is in federal ownership. The Town also communicates with surrounding towns, regional organizations, and provides assistance and cooperation when necessary. Generally speaking, the Town has good relations with other organizations and agencies.

PLANS AND AGREEMENTS

The Town has several cooperative efforts and agreements between agencies and organizations. The Town purchases salt and sand from Sawyer County. The County furnishes ambulance, emergency government services, police protection, and conservation assistance. The Town has agreements with the U.S. Forest Service to fight

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

forest fires and to maintain Forest Service Roads. The Town also maintains fire protection on Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) lands.

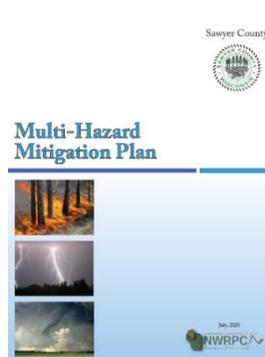
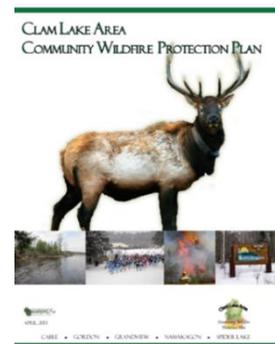
The Town works directly with the WDNR on zoning and enforcement issues. The Town has applied for and received several state and federal grants for lake monitoring and Rustic Roads.

Lastly, the Town has mutual aid for fire protection and road maintenance with many adjoining towns.

In the future, as adjoining jurisdictions, school districts, and others begin to plan for siting or developing facilities or have opportunities where bulk purchases can benefit one another, it is recommended that cooperation and partnerships be formed to maximize local efforts.

Clam Lake Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The Town of Spider Lake is a participant in the Clam Lake Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Last updated in 2023, the purpose of this plan is to give communities, local fire departments, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the USDA Forest Service the information and tools necessary to reduce the potential wildfire risks in the Towns of Cable, Namakagon, and a portion of the Town of Grand View in Bayfield County, as well as the Town of Gordon in Ashland County, and part of the Town of Spider Lake in Sawyer County.



Sawyer County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Town of Spider Lake has two representatives on the Sawyer County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), which maintains the Sawyer County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Last updated in 2021, the purpose of this five-year plan is to provide a framework for local governments in Sawyer County to understand risks from natural hazards and develop long-term strategies that will reduce the impacts of future hazard events on people, property, and the environment. The plan is a precondition for receiving certain Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants.

Town of Round Lake/Spider Lake Communications Plan

The Town of Spider Lake works with the Town of Round Lake to improve mobile communications for the fire and road crews of the two towns. Communications capacity is challenged due to limitations in the current infrastructure. In addition to mobile and emergency communications, the two towns have similar constituencies and share common issues. Collaboration with the Town of Round Lake was material to implementing the recently approved CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) Ordinance, and information has been exchanged on a number of other topics. This relationship will be nurtured and sustained into the future.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

EXISTING OR POTENTIAL CONFLICTS

Existing and potential conflicts can impede cooperation and weaken strong community development. There are no identified issues with any adjoining or overlapping jurisdictions.

While there are no known conflicts, if problems do arise in the future, addressing the issue head-on is advised. To do so, it is suggested that the Town and other parties meet jointly to resolve such conflicts. If applicable, a moderator may assist the parties in working out the issue and recommending resolution.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

8. Intergovernmental Cooperation

Goal: Establish and maintain cooperative relationships with local, state, and federal jurisdictions where appropriate.

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Objective 1: Coordinate and share community services when and where appropriate.		
Action: Continue mutual aid agreements for fire and emergency medical services and establish new agreements to share services when mutually advantageous.	Ongoing	Town Board
Objective 2: Work with Sawyer County, the Forest Service, and Utility companies to manage visual impacts.		
Action: Communicate clearly and often, especially with County Forestry Department to recommend use of buffers where appropriate and with Utility Company to bury power lines and employ Integrated Vegetation Management within easements.	Ongoing	Town Board
Objective 3: Share and learn from others' Comprehensive Plans.		
Action: Provide a copy of this Comprehensive Plan to Sawyer County, adjacent municipalities, and the U.S. Forest Service.	Ongoing	Town Board
Objective 4: Keep abreast of developing regulations from Sawyer County and the State of Wisconsin.		
Action: Attend state and county Towns Association meetings and training.	Ongoing	Town Board
Action: Review pending or enacted changes in appropriate Committees to understand impact to the Town and take action if required.	Ongoing	Town Board

9. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

INTRODUCTION – THE PLANNING PROCESS

The first eight sections of the Comprehensive Plan establish a twenty-year vision for the Town of Spider Lake, as they describe the Town, integrate the values articulated by the 2023 Community Survey respondents, and establish goals describing the desired future for the Town.

Successful implementation of the Comprehensive Plan hinges on access to the required funding, personnel with the required expertise, essential supplies and technology, and support from other governmental authorities, among other things.

The implementation Plan translates the goals into a set of multi-year objectives and actions. **Goals** are broad, overarching expressions of desired future conditions. **Objectives** are statements that are measurable benchmarks the community works to achieve. **Actions** are steps and resources needed to meet the objective and should have clear, measurable steps with a responsible party and timeframe assigned. Actions that appear as 'Ongoing' in the Implementation Plan are required to perform the general municipal obligations of the Town. Actions with a specific date and timeframe are projects that are either *new* or *a change* to the current operating process. These actions have been highlighted to indicate specific focus in the early years of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan will be reviewed regularly. Changes in community sentiment, safety standards, or environmental conditions may warrant adjustments to policies, ensuring the policies acknowledge the diverse perspectives of the community and reflect the majority view for action. The Implementation Plan contains objectives and actions, which may take multiple years to complete, with some objectives dependent upon others.

The intent of the Plan & Review Commission and the Town Board is to review the Implementation Plan actions and progress annually during the summer period. The previous year's progress will be reviewed, along with emerging actions and activities. Goals and objectives for the coming year should be prioritized, and this guidance used to create action plans for the Town's committees. These proposed plans should then be incorporated into the Town's annual budget for approval each November.

THE PLAN

Overarching Goal

The overarching goal of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan update is to continue the work begun decades ago to preserve the unique Northwoods Character of the Town and to protect the irreplaceable woodlands, lakes, waterways, open spaces, and dark night sky for future generations, while respecting the right of individuals to use land and area resources. In addition, the Plan will acknowledge and value input from the Town's property owners, acquired through a survey conducted in the fall of 2023.

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

1. Natural, Agricultural and Cultural Resources

Goal: Conserve, protect, manage, and enhance the Town’s Natural Resource Integrity in order to provide the highest quality of life for the Town of Spider Lake’s property owners and visitors.

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Objective 1: Protect surface and groundwater.		
Action: Ensure Town of Spider Lake Land Use Ordinance setbacks and impervious surface requirements are met for any new development.	Ongoing	P&RC
Action: Monitor concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) activities in the area and ensure Ordinance 01-2024 enforced when appropriate.	Ongoing	P&RC
Objective 2: Protect area lakes, rivers, wetlands, and stream shorelines.		
Action: Encourage lake associations to monitor surface water quality, support employment of staff funded by the lake associations to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (e.g., – Landing Monitors, etc.), and support grant applications.	Ongoing	Town Board
Action: Educate and enforce lakeshore structure and usage regulations.	Ongoing	P&RC
Action: Encourage lakeshore property owners to establish or expand natural vegetation shoreline buffers and to minimize maintained lawn areas and the application of lawn fertilizers.	Ongoing	P&RC
Objective 3: Protect local forested areas and maintain forest ambiance.		
Action: Encourage and enforce Best Management Practices for timber harvest operations.	Ongoing	Town Board
Action: Investigate ways to encourage logging buffer zones along clear-cut areas, and to provide forestry education materials to the community. Inform the community of location and timing of harvests before they occur if possible.	Ongoing	P&RC
Objective 4: Maintain natural shorelines.		
Action: Educate the community by circulating the Town regulations and best management practices for Shoreline Management.	Ongoing	P&RC
Action: Encourage visual aesthetics from the water (enforce signage and buffer zone regulations and encourage revegetation).	Ongoing	P&RC

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Action: Work with and support lake associations to identify and control aquatic invasive species (AIS) and to educate the public about AIS.	Ongoing	Town Board
Objective 5: Maintain existing Town roadway ambiance		
Action: Understand and enforce uniform signage regulations (State, County, Town).	Ongoing	P&RC
Action: Allow vegetated buffer zones along Town roadways if deemed to be 'Firewise' and not a hindrance to road maintenance.	Ongoing	Town Board
Objective 6: Maintain dark skies for public enjoyment.		
Action: Promote and enforce outdoor lighting regulations and design standards.	Ongoing	P&RC
Action: Review Dark Sky International principles and determine whether the Town's Land Use Ordinance (Part I, Section 4.4) could be enhanced.	2025-6	P&RC
Objective 7: Reduce human-made noise where possible to protect 'Peace & Quiet' within the Town.		
Action: Determine how the Town should regulate Noise/Nuisance issues in the community.	2025-6	P&RC

2. Demographics

Goal: Fully engage property owners in Community Stewardship.

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Objective 1: Better understand the composition, values, needs, emerging issues, etc. of the community of Spider Lake.		
Action: Continue to survey the community—full-time, seasonal, business to help inform Comprehensive Plan updates.	Periodic	P&RC
Action: Maintain the Town governance structure and encourage community participation on Town committees.	Ongoing	P&RC
Objective 2: Encourage community participation in Town government.		
Action: Encourage community to phone or email Town supervisors.	Ongoing	Town Board

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Action: Better understand skills and experience of community members.	Ongoing	P&RC
Action: Develop volunteer opportunities to utilize the skills and experience of community members and raise awareness of opportunities with volunteer organizations serving the community.	Ongoing	P&RC

3. Housing & Housing Trends

Goal: Support a range of housing units to meet the needs of existing and future residents, both year-round and seasonal. Maintain the Low-Density Development and Peace and Quiet by preserving the sense of community of our residential neighborhoods.

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Objective 1: Support housing to meet the needs of persons of all income levels and physical abilities.		
Action: Thorough permit application reviews.	Ongoing	P&RC
Objective 2: Encourage high quality construction and repair or maintenance of existing structures.		
Action: Enforce Land Use Ordinance and UDC (Uniform Dwelling Code) requirements.	Ongoing	P&RC
Objective 3: Encourage Sawyer County to strengthen monitoring for septic systems.		
Action: Review and update Town of Spider Lake dwelling compliance with septic system inspections.	Periodic	P&RC
Objective 4: Ensure short-term rental properties do not impair the sense of community of our residential neighborhoods or Northwoods Character.		
Action: Determine how the Town should regulate short-term rental (STR) properties. Possibilities to consider include requiring registration, limiting STR density in residential areas, tiered regulatory framework (casual vs full-time STR operation), requiring STR owners to educate renters about local ordinances, monitoring, and enforcement of ordinances, etc.	2025-6	P&RC

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

4. Transportation

Goal: Ensure an efficient and safe road system and foster multi-use transportation systems (i.e., the trails) which accommodate the interests of community while preserving the Natural Resource Integrity of the Town.

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Objective 1: Develop and maintain roads to meet the Town's current and future needs and safety requirements.		
Action: Maintain a Five-Year Road Plan with criteria for decision-making.	Ongoing	Town Board
Action: Evaluate Town roads on an annual basis according to Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) evaluation methods.	Ongoing	Town Board
Objective 2: Support recreational trails in the Town and surrounding area.		
Action: Collaborate with recreational advocacy groups and other stakeholders to explore, create, expand, maintain, and integrate recreational transportation modes.	Ongoing	Town Board
Action: Work with recreational organizations to ensure appropriate signage is provided for all trails.	Ongoing	Town Board
Action: Encourage public safety education and awareness of multi-use roadway systems.	Ongoing	Town Board
Objective 3: Ensure recreational participants on water and on land respect the Natural Resource Integrity, Sustainable Outdoor Recreation, and Peace and Quiet of the Town.		
Action: Enforce Town recreational ordinances, working with County and DNR law enforcement and/or Town appointed officials.	Ongoing	Town Board
Action: Update the Town's boating ordinance to help maintain the Town's natural resources with sustainable outdoor recreation while respecting peace and quiet by restricting enhanced wakes and prohibiting use of a boat as a dwelling.	2025	Town Board
Action: Educate property owners of ordinances and local practice by providing materials to make available to visitors (e.g., a 'Neighbor Notebook' or Spider Lake Information Guide). This material should also be available on the Town's website.	2025	P&RC

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

5. Economic Development

Goal: Ensure a business climate compatible with Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and the Natural Resource Integrity of the Town.

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Objective 1: Encourage businesses that maintain the Peace and Quiet of the Town.		
Objective 2: Ensure that future business development is compatible with the natural character of the Town.		
Action: Monitor Conditional Uses per the Land Use Ordinance.	Ongoing	P&RC
Action: Review commercial signage and outdoor lighting for compliance with ordinance requirements.	Ongoing	P&RC
Objective 3: Encourage accommodation providers to educate guests of local ordinances.		
Action: Provide Resort, B&B, and short-term rental owners with information to provide to their guests.	2025	P&RC
Objective 4: Encourage business owners to interact with the Town.		
Action: Provide opportunities for open dialog with Town officials and service providers.	Ongoing	Town Board

6. Utilities & Community Facilities

Goal: Maintain and enhance community facilities and services which contribute to the overall improvement of the community.

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Objective 1: Maintain Town involvement in the planning and coordination of utilities and communication services to efficiently serve existing and future development.		
Action: Review long-range plans of utility companies to identify impacts they might have on the Town, and plan for future expansion.	Ongoing	Town Board
Action: Support expansion of cellular, broadband, and high-speed internet service within the Town.	Ongoing	Town Board
Action: Support structural design, location, and service standards for communication towers to reduce negative visual impacts.	Ongoing	Town Board
Objective 2: Minimize the environmental impact of future utility expansion.		

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Action: Ensure that future transmission and distribution lines follow existing utility lines/easements through the Town, and support burial of these lines where possible. For above ground lines, best management practices including 'Integrated Vegetation Management' for right of way maintenance should be required of the utility.	Ongoing	Town Board
Objective 3: Provide quality cost-effective Town facilities and services which meet the existing and future demands of residents, property owners and visitors.		
Action: Ensure the Town Hall, Fire Department, and Roads buildings are maintained and assessed for capacity and functionality to accommodate anticipated future requirements.	Ongoing	Town Board

7. Land Use

Goal: Planned and orderly development consistent with the Northwoods Character of the community.

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Objective 1: Ensure the Land Use Ordinance is appropriately protecting the resources and aesthetics in the community.		
Action: Review and update the Land Use Ordinance to maintain the Town's Northwoods Character while addressing needs within the community.	2025	P&RC
Action: Enforce the Land Use Ordinance as required when violations are identified.	Ongoing	P&RC
Objective 2: Promote positive environmental practices which protect natural resources.		
Action: Encourage protection of forests and farmland.	Ongoing	P&RC
Action: Encourage lower-density residential development which minimizes effects on the Environment.	Ongoing	P&RC
Action: Clearly define 'high-density development' for the Town of Spider Lake and determine when Environmental Impact Assessments are to be required.	2025	P&RC
Objective 3: Encourage and educate landowners about tools for protecting and conserving land.		

Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Action: Make information available to private landowners on conservation easements, land management contracts, donations/bequests, life estates, etc.	Ongoing	P&RC
Objective 4: Avoid practices that would result in land use conflicts with environmental factors.		
Action: Educate developers and builders on the Town's requirements and environmental regulations/best practices.	Ongoing	P&RC

8. Intergovernmental Cooperation

Goal: Establish and maintain cooperative relationships with local, state, and federal jurisdictions where appropriate.

	Implementation Target	Responsible Party
Objective 1: Coordinate and share community services when and where appropriate.		
Action: Continue mutual aid agreements for fire and emergency medical services and establish new agreements to share services when mutually advantageous.	Ongoing	Town Board
Objective 2: Work with Sawyer County, the U.S. Forest Service, and utility companies to manage visual impacts.		
Action: Communicate clearly and often, especially with County Forestry Dept to recommend use of buffers where appropriate, and with utility company to bury power lines and employ Integrated Vegetation Management within easements.	Ongoing	Town Board
Objective 3: Share and learn from others' Comprehensive Plans.		
Action: Provide a copy of this Comprehensive Plan to Sawyer County, adjacent municipalities, and the U.S. Forest Service.	Ongoing	Town Board
Objective 4: Keep abreast of developing regulations from Sawyer County and the State of Wisconsin.		
Action: Attend state and county Towns Association meetings and training.	Ongoing	Town Board
Action: Review pending or enacted changes in appropriate Committees to understand impact to the Town and take action if required	Ongoing	Town Board

APPENDICES

**APPENDIX A:
PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION
AND ADOPTION
DOCUMENTATION**

RESOLUTION #2024-3

ADOPTING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES FOR AMENDING THE
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF SPIDER LAKE, SAWYER COUNTY

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 66.1001 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*, all units of government which enact or amend zoning, subdivision, or official mapping ordinances on or after January 1, 2010, must adopt a comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Spider Lake adopted a comprehensive plan under the authority of and procedures established by Section 66.1001 of the *Wisconsin Statutes* on September 18, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Section 66.1001 (4)(a) of the *Wisconsin Statutes* requires that the Town Board adopt written procedures designed to foster public participation during the preparation of amendment of a comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Spider Lake believes that regular, meaningful public involvement in the comprehensive planning process is important to assure that the comprehensive plan continues to reflect input from the public; and

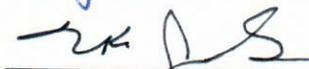
WHEREAS, a public participation plan has been developed that includes written procedures designed to foster public participation in the comprehensive plan amendment process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Spider Lake hereby adopts the Public Participation Procedures for Creation of or Amending the Town's Comprehensive Plan attached hereto as **Exhibit A** to fulfill the requirements of Section 66.1001 (4)(a) of the *Wisconsin Statutes*. These Public Participation Procedures supersede and replace any other procedures previously adopted by the Town Board.

ADOPTED this 10th day of July, 2024.



Tim Sheldon, Town Chair



Mark Johns, Supervisor



Sarah Delaney, Supervisor



Deb Amery, Supervisor



Quentin Johnson, Supervisor

ATTEST:



Bianca Cleary, Town of Spider Lake Clerk

EXHIBIT A

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES FOR CREATING OF AMENDING THE TOWN OF SPIDER LAKE, SAWYER COUNTY, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

On September 18, 2018, the Town Board adopted a comprehensive plan under Section 66.1001 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*. The ordinance indicates that the comprehensive plan was prepared in accordance with a public participation plan adopted by the Town that included activities to foster public participation in the preparation of the comprehensive plan. Under Section 66.1001 (4)(a) of the *Wisconsin Statutes*, future amendments to the comprehensive plan must also be carried out in accordance with a public participation plan, adopted by the Town Board, designed to foster public participation in the amendments process. The balance of this document describes the process to be followed by the Town to foster public participation in the consideration of amendments to the comprehensive plan or adoption of a new comprehensive plan.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES AND PROCEDURES FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS

The Town will provide opportunities for public review of materials describing a new comprehensive plan or all proposed amendments to the comprehensive plan, including the following:

- Printed copies of materials describing proposed plan amendments will be made available at the Town Hall.
- Electronic copies of materials describing proposed plan amendments may be posted on the Town website.

The Town Board or the Plan and Review Commission ("P&RC"), at their option, may schedule a public informational meeting to be held prior to the required public hearing. The public informational meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to review maps and other information relating to proposed amendments. No formal procedures or notice requirements are required for the informational meeting; however, the Town will provide notice of any meetings through its website and through publication or posting.

As required by Section 66.1001 (4)(d), the Town will hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the comprehensive plan. The hearing may be held by the P&RC, Town Board, or jointly by the P&RC and Town Board. The hearing will include a presentation by the Plan and Review Commission describing the proposed plan amendments followed by an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed amendments. The Plan Commission and Town Board will consider public testimony provided at the hearing and any written comments submitted to the Town or the P&RC at or prior to the hearing during their deliberations on the proposed plan amendments.

The public hearing will be preceded by a Class 1 notice that is published at least 30 days before the hearing is held. In accordance with Section 66.1001 (4)(d), the notice will include the date, time and place of the hearing; a brief summary of the proposed comprehensive plan amendments and/or a map illustrating the amendments and to whom written comments regarding the plan amendments may be submitted; and information regarding where and when the proposed plan amendments may be inspected before the hearing and how a copy of the proposed plan amendments may be obtained.

The Town Clerk will provide a copy of the public hearing notice and the proposed amendments at least 30 days prior to the public hearing to any person who submits a written request to receive notice of proposed amendments under section 66.1001 (4)(f). The Town may charge a fee to cover the cost of providing such notice. In accordance with Section 66.1001 (4)(e), the Town Clerk will also provide notice to nonmetallic mining operators with the Town; to persons who have registered a marketable nonmetallic mineral deposit within the Town; or to persons who own or lease property on which nonmetallic minerals may be extracted, if such person has requested notification in writing. The Town Clerk will maintain a list of persons who have submitted a written request to receive notices of public hearings under Section 66.1001 (4)(e)(3) and Section (4)(f).

Following the public hearing, the Plan and Review Commission will make a recommendation to the Town Board to approve, deny, or modify proposed amendments. The Plan and Review Commission's recommendation will be in the form of a resolution approved by a majority of the full membership of the Plan & Review Commission.

Following Plan and Review Commission action, the Town Board will consider the amendments and the P&RC's recommendation and approve, deny, or refer the proposed amendments back to the Plan and Review Commission. If approved, Town Board approval will be in the form of an ordinance adopted by a majority of the full membership of the Town Board.

If approved by the Town Board, printed or electronic copies of the amendments will be sent by the Town Clerk to the parties listed in Section 66.1001 (4)(b).

Notice of Public Hearing
Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan Update

A public hearing to discuss the proposed **Town of Spider Lake 2025 Comprehensive Plan** shall be held **February 19, 2025 at 6:00 pm** at the Town of Spider Lake Town Hall, 10896W Town Hall Road. Written comments will be accepted until 4:00 PM, Friday, February 14, 2025.

The Comprehensive Plan contains the following items and information: demographics, issues and opportunities, housing, transportation, utilities and community facilities, natural, agricultural and cultural resources, economic development, intergovernmental cooperation, land use, and implementation. The Comprehensive Plan is a guide for public officials and private citizens to use in making informed decisions affecting the community.

Emily Nelson, Community Development Planner with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) may be contacted to provide additional information on the proposed comprehensive plan revision at 715-635-2197 or by email at enelson@nwrpc.com.

A copy of the draft 2025 Comprehensive Plan may be viewed on the Town's website at: www.townofspiderlakewi.gov or may be inspected prior to the hearing at the Town of Spider Lake Town Hall by appointment with the Town Clerk (715-462-3977).

This notice should appear in the Sawyer County Record on the following dates:

January 15, 2025 (to provide 30 days' notice)

February 5, 2025 (Class 2 Notice Requirement)

February 12, 2025 (Class 2 Notice Requirement)

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Town of Spider Lake
Sawyer County

RESOLUTION 2025-01
AMENDMENT OF THE TOWN OF SPIDER LAKE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Plan & Review Commission of the Town of Spider Lake, Sawyer County Wisconsin, by this resolution, adopted by a majority of the Town Plan & Review Commission on a roll call vote with a quorum present and voting and proper notice having been given, resolves and recommends to the Town Board of the Town of Spider Lake as follows:

Amendment of the Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan.

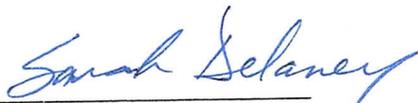
The Plan & Review Commission of the Town of Spider Lake, by this resolution, further resolves and orders as follows:

All maps and other materials noted and attached as exhibits to the Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan are incorporated into and made a part of the Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan.

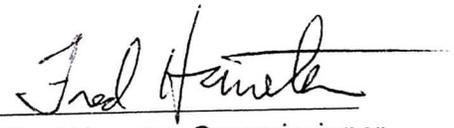
The vote of the Town Plan & Review Commission in regard to this resolution shall be recorded by the Chair of the Town Plan & Review Commission in the official minutes of the Plan & Review Commission of the Town of Spider Lake.

The Town Clerk shall properly post or publish this Resolution as required under s. 19.09, Wis. stats.

Adopted this 5th day of March, 2025.



Sarah Delaney, Chair- Plan & Review Commission



Fred Haueter, Commissioner



Tim Sheldon, Vice Chair- Plan & Review Commission



Don Becker, Commissioner

ABSENT

Steve Smith, Commissioner

TOWN OF SPIDER LAKE
SAWYER COUNTY, WISCONSIN

ORDINANCE No. 2025-01

SECTION I – TITLE AND PURPOSE

The title of this ordinance is the **Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan Ordinance (2025)**. The purpose of this ordinance is for the Town of Spider Lake, Sawyer County, Wisconsin, to lawfully adopt a comprehensive plan as required under s. [66.1001 \(4\) \(c\)](#), Wis. stats.

SECTION II – AUTHORITY

The Town Board of the Town of Spider Lake, Sawyer County, Wisconsin, has authority under its village powers under s. [60.22](#), Wis. stats., to appoint a town plan commission under ss. [60.62 \(4\)](#) and [62.23 \(1\)](#), Wis. stats., and under s. [66.1001 \(4\)](#), Wis. stats., to adopt this ordinance. The Comprehensive Plan of the Town of Spider Lake must be in compliance with s. [66.1001 \(4\) \(c\)](#), Wis. stats., in order for the Town Board to adopt this ordinance.

SECTION III – ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

This ordinance, adopted by a majority of the Town Board on a roll call vote with a quorum present and voting and proper notice having been given, provides for the adoption by the Town of a Comprehensive Plan under s. [66.1001 \(4\)](#), Wis. stats.

SECTION IV – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Town Board has adopted written procedures designed to foster public participation in every stage of the preparation of a comprehensive plan as required by s. [66.1001 \(4\) \(a\)](#), Wis. stats.

SECTION V – TOWN PLAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Plan & Review Commission of the Town of Spider Lake, by a majority vote of the entire Commission, recorded in its official minutes, has adopted a resolution recommending to the Town Board the adoption of the Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan, which contains all of the elements specified in s. [66.1001 \(2\)](#), Wis. stats.

SECTION VI – PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Spider Lake has held at least one public hearing on this ordinance, with notice in compliance with the requirements of s. [66.1001 \(4\) \(d\)](#), Wis. stats.

SECTION VII – ADOPTION OF TOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Town Board, by the enactment of this ordinance, formally adopts the document entitled Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan Ordinance under s. [66.1001 \(4\) \(c\)](#), Wis. stats.

SECTION VIII – SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

SECTION IX – EFFECTIVE DATE

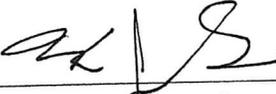
This ordinance is effective on publication or posting.

The Town Clerk shall properly post or publish this ordinance as required under s. 60.80, Wis. stats. and a copy of the ordinance and the Comprehensive Plan shall be filed with at least all of the entities specified under s. 66.1001 (4) (b), Wis. stats.

Adopted this 12th day of March, 2025.



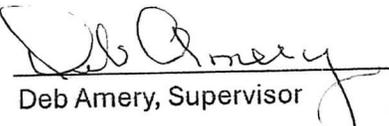
Tim Sheldon, Town Chair



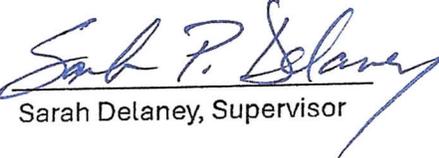
Mark Johns, Supervisor



Quentin Johnson, Supervisor



Deb Amery, Supervisor



Sarah Delaney, Supervisor

Attest:



Bianca Cleary, Clerk

**APPENDIX B:
COMMUNITY
SURVEY SUMMARY
REPORT AND ALL
SURVEY RESPONSES**



**TOSL Vision Assessment Ad Hoc Committee Survey
Summary Report and Appendices of all survey responses**

January 6, 2024

Prepared by the TOSL Vision Assessment Ad Hoc Committee and
University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension

TOSL Vision Assessment Ad Hoc Committee Survey Summary Report and Appendices of all survey responses

January 6, 2024

Prepared for the Town of Spider Lake Town Board of Supervisors

Background. At its May 10, 2023 meeting, the Town of Spider Lake Board of Supervisors approved the collection of feedback from all Town residents and property owners related to land use, quality of life issues, and community character through the use of a survey. One factor influencing the decision was input from the three summer listening sessions in 2022. Those sessions provided important information and feedback, but only from a limited number of property owners (about 60). Another factor was the Plan & Review Commission’s review of the 2018 Comprehensive Plan. The review identified some areas where input from property owners would also be helpful.

Much has happened in the past five years, including the Covid pandemic, short-term rental legislation by the State of Wisconsin, and property valuation changes. These changes have all impacted the direction and trends of property ownership. An increase in the number of people in the area (residents and visitors) has also resulted in a corresponding increase in pressure on the Town’s natural resources. The Board believes it was important to proactively solicit feedback from the Town’s property owners relative to these and other aspects of life in the Town of Spider Lake.

The Town Board named the *Town of Spider Lake (TOSL) Vision Assessment Ad Hoc Committee* to undertake this effort. The Committee’s charge was to, “*DESIGN, COMMUNICATE, AND EXECUTE A PROCESS to collect feedback from the entire population of Town of Spider Lake property owners and permanent residents to assess both the importance of, and the level of satisfaction with, topics such as, but not limited to:*

- *Town governance (effectiveness and transparency)*
- *Town services (budget and finance, facilities and infrastructure, emergency services, land use*
- *Planning and management, communications, etc.*
- *Stewardship of natural resources*
- *Level of participation in Town activities*
- *Demographics”*

The main objective of the Committee was to provide an opportunity for every property owner (“household”) in the Town to provide input. Each owner, regardless of the number of properties they own or the size of the acreage they hold, was invited to complete one survey. Owners were provided a unique TAX ID code to access the survey.

Survey Design. With guidance from the University of Wisconsin – Division of Extension consultants Karl Green and Ariga Grigoryan, the Committee designed survey items during three public meetings.

The items invited input from property owners to gauge both the importance of, and the level of satisfaction with: Quality of Life; Natural Resources; Community Facilities and Services; Outdoor Recreation; and Community issues and opportunities; as well as collecting some demographic data. Several survey items were designed to allow respondents to enter text freely without strictures. In a few instances, items were introduced with background information or context to enable survey respondents to answer those particular items more completely.

Survey Dissemination and Administration. The Town published a link to the survey on the Town website on August 3, 2023 and postcards were mailed to all property owners' tax mailing address shortly beforehand. The Town's homepage and the postcards directed all 925 property owners in the Town to the survey link. The Town posted and emailed multiple reminders from the Town's website. On a few occasions, committee members were positioned at the Town's Transfer Station to remind residents and sign them up for the survey. The survey was also offered in a hard-copy format for individuals who wished to complete the survey using a paper format. All hard-copy surveys were sealed in an envelope and mailed to the UW Extension Office in Hayward. Paper surveys were entered into the online survey software by Ariga Grigoryan, UW Division of Extension. About a dozen people used this method to complete the survey.

Survey Closure. The Survey formally closed on September 4, 2023 but remained open until September 10, 2023 to ensure that all mail-in hardcopy surveys would be included in the tabulated results.

Once the survey closed, Extension staff members verified that all tax identification numbers were valid and eliminated any duplicate or blank surveys from the data set. Ultimately, 385 survey responses were validated (a response rate of 41.6%). This high response rate ensures a 95% confidence level and a margin of error of less than 4%; meaning that there is a 95% probability that the percentages reported in this summary (and the appendices that follow) are within (+/-) four percentage points of the actual results if every property owner had participated in the survey. Taken together, the response rate, confidence level, calculated margin of error, the process verification, and the known demographics of the Town's population, Extension staff members confirm that the survey findings are representative of the overall views of the population of property owners in the Town of Spider Lake.

Survey anonymity. While the Committee worked in partnership with the University of Wisconsin Madison - Division of Extension to design, administer, and collect survey data on the UW Extension platform, Extension staff members alone validated, tabulated, and removed identifiers from all survey data prior to sharing that data with the Committee or Town officials.

Survey results. Survey results will be considered by the Board and be used as an additional tool to guide the Town Board as it considers near- and long-term priorities. Survey results will also be included in the next version of the Town's Comprehensive Plan, which is used to guide the future direction for the Town.

Key Survey Takeaways. Three-hundred eighty-five owners ($n=385$) responded to the survey, for a response rate of 42%. This response rate provides a 95% confidence level that the results are representative of the entire population of property owners in the Town. Key takeaways from the survey are:

DEMOGRAPHICS

- According to survey results, 83% of respondents were 46 years of age or older and 72% of survey respondents had owned property in the Town of Spider Lake for 10 or more years. (Tables Q49 and Q47 respectively, page A-13)

QUALITY OF LIFE

- Town of Spider Lake property owners ranked these six factors as the most important factors when they considered their quality of life: ACCESS TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (94%), SAFE COMMUNITY / LOW CRIME (92%), OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES (87%), ACCESS TO EMERGENCY SERVICES (83%), PEACE AND QUIET (82%), OUTDOOR NON-MOTORIZED RECREATION (80%). (Table Q2, page A-1)
- More than nine of every ten Town of Spider Lake property owners (94%) rated their quality of life as EXCELLENT (59%) or GOOD (39%). (Table Q3, page A-1)

LAND USE

- Nine out of ten property owners (90%) agree that the Town's Comprehensive Plan should continue to prioritize the preservation of the natural beauty of forests, lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands (the "Northwoods character") and three-fourths of all property owners believe that the Town's land use regulations (Ord.17-88) are fulfilling their purpose ABOUT RIGHT (63%) or NOT ENOUGH (12%). (Tables Q8 and Q12, page A-2)

TOWN SERVICES

- The majority of Town residents responded that all of the services that the Town provides were Excellent, Good, or Average including, ROAD MAINTENANCE (96%), SNOWPLOWING (85%), SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING (81%), TOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING (TOWN HALL) (80%), TOWN GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS (77%), FIRE DEPARTMENT (75%), with opportunities to improve ordinance enforcement. (Table Q16, page A-4)

ORDINANCES AND ENFORCEMENT

- 75% of respondents agree or somewhat agree that the Boating Ordinance (Ord. 12) meets their needs and 73% of respondents responded that the Town should

consider regulations to reduce the impact of wake enhancing boats. (Tables Q26 and Q29, page A-7)

- 18% of Town residents considered waterskiing/jet skiing an important recreational activity. With 5% of all respondents indicating that they water ski/jet ski VERY FREQUENTLY during the season and 66% of respondents indicating that they NEVER water ski/jet ski. (Tables Q20 and Q21, pages A-5 and A-6)
- Slightly under two-thirds of respondents (62%) indicated that ATV/UTV accessibility to Town roads (as detailed in Ordinance 01-01) should remain UNCHANGED AND ENFORCED, compared to 28% who would like accessibility to increase. (Table Q23, page A-6)
- 65% of respondents would like to see regulation of Short-Term Rental properties beyond the current Sawyer County requirements, compared to 35% against. (Table Q39, page A-11)

Complete set of survey responses. The complete survey including response percentages, missing counts, and response totals are included in Appendices A – F in the pages that follow. The appendices are organized as follows:

- **Appendix A:** Percentages for Multiple Choice Items
- **Appendix B:** Open-Ended Survey Item 4: *What are the two things you value most about the Town of Spider Lake?*
- **Appendix C:** Open-Ended Survey Item 5: *If you could change something about the Town of Spider Lake, what would you change?*
- **Appendix D:** Open-Ended Survey Item 24: *What change would you recommend to the Town's ATV Ordinance 01-01?*
- **Appendix E:** Open-Ended Survey Item 27: *What change would you recommend to the Town's Boating Ordinance #12?*
- **Appendix F:** Open-Ended Survey Item 40: *What two issues should the Town of Spider Lake officials be addressing?*

The Vision Assessment Ad Hoc Committee wishes to thank the property owners in the Town of Spider Lake for sharing their views through this survey. This information will be analyzed further as specific issues and actions are considered by the Town, and will be included as part of the public engagement process for the next update to the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

Committee Members:

Sarah Delaney, Ad Hoc Committee Chair
Bianca Cleary
Rex Clevenger
Michelle Conroy

Charlie Evenson
Karl Green, UW Division of Extension
Ariga Grigoryan, UW Division of Extension
Steve Lindquist

January 6, 2024

TOWN OF
Spider Lake

APPENDICES A - F

APPENDIX A: Multiple choice survey items

INTRODUCTORY NOTE: The following Appendices A – F provide all survey response data in the form of percentages, as well as “MISSING” (the missing responses for each item) and “TOTAL COUNT” (the total number of non-missing responses). To approximate the response count for any item, multiply the TOTAL COUNT for that item (row) by the percentage in cell you wish to know. Note: Due to rounding errors, the calculation may not provide you with the exact response count.

TABLE Q2. How important is access to each item below to your quality of life?

	Extremely important	Very important	Moderately important	Slightly important	Not at all important	No opinion	Missing	Total Count
Natural Environment	68%	26%	4%	2%	1%	0%	5	380
Outdoor recreational activities	63%	24%	10%	2%	1%	0%	4	381
Outdoor motorized recreation	23%	18%	19%	16%	24%	0%	2	383
Outdoor non-motorized recreation	48%	32%	11%	5%	4%	0%	2	383
Public outdoor recreation facilities	19%	29%	26%	14%	12%	0%	3	382
Safe community / low crime	69%	23%	6%	2%	0%	0%	2	383
Schools	15%	19%	21%	10%	22%	13%	2	383
Child care	6%	8%	15%	12%	40%	20%	2	383
Proximity to work	1%	3%	12%	9%	49%	27%	4	381
Peace and quiet	59%	23%	11%	4%	2%	1%	1	384
Faith institutions	11%	12%	20%	15%	29%	13%	3	382
Emergency services	54%	29%	14%	2%	0%	0%	1	384
Health care	41%	34%	16%	4%	3%	2%	2	383

TABLE Q3. Rate your quality of life in the Town of Spider Lake:

Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Missing	Total Count
55%	39%	5%	2%	2	383

APPENDIX A: Multiple choice survey items

Q4 What are the top two things you value most about the Town of Spider Lake?

Please see **Appendix B**, beginning on page B – 1.

Q5 If you could change something about the Town of Spider Lake, what would you change?

Please see **Appendix C**, beginning on page C – 1.

Q6 Background Info: Only one third of land in the town of Spider Lake is privately owned (two-thirds are public lands: Federal, State or County).

TABLE Q7. The Town Land Use Ordinance is more restrictive than the county or state for shoreland property (e.g., 200’ minimum frontage; no new boathouses) and similar to county and state for setbacks and vegetation requirements. To what degree do you think the Town’s land use ordinance protects the Town’s lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands?

Under protects	Adequately protects	Over protects	Don't know	Missing	Total Count
10%	68%	18%	4%	3	382

TABLE Q8. The Town's Comprehensive Plan supports preservation of the natural beauty of forests, lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands (the "Northwoods character"). Should this position remain a priority for the Town?

Yes, I agree it should remain a priority	No, I do not agree this should remain a priority	Don't know	Missing	Total count
90%	7%	4%	4	381

TABLE Q9. Should the Town evaluate the need for and opportunities to protect the peace and quiet of the environment? (e.g. noise limitations)

Yes	No	Don't know	Missing	Total count
67%	27%	6%	3	382

TABLE Q10. In keeping with a "Northwoods Character", should the Town of Spider Lake require contractors and owners to use natural colors and materials for new construction or remodeling?

Yes	No	Don't know	Missing	Total count
38%	49%	13%	5	380

APPENDIX A: Multiple choice survey items

*Q11 **Background Info:** The Town administers its own zoning with the intent of "planned and orderly development" and supports the Northwoods character through its minimum dimensional requirements (including setbacks), lighting and signage requirements.*

TABLE Q12. To what degree are the Town of Spider Lake's Land Use regulations fulfilling their intended purpose?

Not enough	About right	Too much	Missing	Total Count
12%	63%	25%	45	340

*Q13 **Background Info:** Increased development density can expand opportunities for property ownership. It can also result in fragmentation of land, and in close proximity to lakes can be detrimental to water quality. New multi-unit developments require a conditional use permit.*

TABLE Q14. Should Environmental Impact Assessments be required for future high-density projects (e.g., Campgrounds/RV parks, Hotels, Motels, Multi-unit developments)?

Yes	No	Don't know	Missing	Total count
89%	8%	3%	3	382

*Q15 **Background Info:** The Town of Spider Lake does not provide cellular or internet services, and receives Emergency Medical Services from Sawyer County.*

APPENDIX A: Multiple choice survey items

TABLE Q16 Select the best response for the services below that are provided by, or within, the Town of Spider Lake.

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No Opinion	Missing	Total Count
Road Maintenance	38%	45%	13%	2%	2%	5	380
Snowplowing	38%	36%	11%	1%	14%	6	379
Solid Waste/Recycling	30%	34%	17%	7%	12%	5	380
Recreational Ordinance Enforcement	6%	21%	25%	30%	17%	7	378
Fire Department	16%	40%	19%	4%	21%	5	380
Town Zoning/Code Enforcement	6%	38%	27%	9%	19%	10	375
General inquiry responsiveness	15%	34%	18%	6%	27%	6	379
Town Government communications	20%	36%	21%	10%	12%	6	379
Town municipal building (Town Hall)	11%	47%	22%	2%	18%	5	380

TABLE Q17. Select the best response for the Emergency Medical Services which are provided in cooperation with Sawyer County:

Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No Opinion	Missing	Total Count
6%	27%	21%	8%	38%	7	378

TABLE Q18. Please share how you receive information from the Town of Spider Lake:

	Yes	No	Missing	Total Count
Did you know that you can sign up to receive email notices from the Town of Spider Lake	73%	27%	5	380
Are you signed up to receive these e-mail notices?	52%	48%	5	380
Have you visited the Town of Spider Lake website at https://townofspiderlakewi.gov	85%	15%	6	379
Are you aware that all Town meetings are accessible for remote participation (via Zoom)?	66%	34%	8	377

TABLE Q19. How would you prefer to receive information from the Town of Spider Lake?

Email	Text	Website	Mail	As is*	Other	Problem^	Blank	Total Count#
72%	5%	7%	13%	2%	0%	<1%	21	429

* Currently satisfied with how they receive information

^ A problem or complaint about communications

APPENDIX A: Multiple choice survey items

Respondents provided multiple responses, so total count is greater than total number of survey respondents

TABLE Q20. Please indicate the level of IMPORTANCE of your recreational interests within the Town of Spider Lake:

	Important	Neither important nor unimportant	Unimportant	Missing	Total Count
Boating / Pontooning	84%	4%	12%	5	380
Waterskiing / Jet Skiing	18%	61%	21%	5	380
Canoeing/Kayaking/Paddle boarding	83%	3%	13%	5	380
Fishing/Ice Fishing	80%	6%	14%	5	380
Swimming	75%	5%	21%	4	381
Walking/Hiking/Snowshoeing	87%	2%	12%	4	381
Nordic skiing	50%	19%	30%	4	381
Bicycling (on road)	57%	15%	27%	6	379
Bicycling (off road)	49%	19%	32%	6	379
Hunting/Trapping/Shooting	37%	40%	23%	4	381
ATV/UTV Use	28%	56%	17%	4	381
Snowmobiling	34%	44%	22%	5	380
Observing nature/photography	79%	4%	16%	5	380
Camping (14)	20%	41%	39%	4	381

APPENDIX A: Multiple choice survey items

TABLE Q21. Please indicate the Frequency you participate in your recreational interests within the Town of Spider Lake:

	Very frequently (weekly if not daily during season)	Frequently (weekly or bi-weekly during season)	Sometimes (multiple times during the season)	Rarely (only a few times or less during a given season)	Never	Missing	Total Count
Boating / Pontooning	49%	21%	15%	9%	6%	6	379
Waterskiing / Jet Skiing	5%	3%	11%	15%	66%	7	378
Canoeing/Kayaking/ Paddle boarding	26%	28%	29%	9%	8%	7	378
Fishing/Ice Fishing	32%	18%	23%	14%	13%	6	379
Swimming	26%	24%	27%	14%	9%	6	379
Walking/Hiking/ Snowshoeing	46%	26%	21%	4%	2%	6	379
Nordic skiing	15%	11%	16%	16%	42%	7	378
Bicycling (on road)	19%	13%	22%	19%	27%	7	378
Bicycling (off road)	16%	11%	15%	15%	44%	7	378
Hunting/Trapping/ Shooting	12%	9%	12%	12%	56%	6	379
ATV/UTV Use	12%	7%	8%	7%	66%	7	378
Snowmobiling	14%	7%	8%	12%	60%	6	379
Observing nature/photography	46%	24%	21%	6%	3%	6	379
Camping	2%	3%	12%	16%	68%	6	379

Q22 Background Info: *The Town of Spider Lake ATV Ordinance 01-01 designates specific sections of its roads to be part of the Sawyer County ATV/UTV off-road trail system (parts of Rock lake, Boedecker, Janet, Telemark, Fire Tower and Lake Helane Roads and FR 203, 204, FR 328 and Scheers Road) to ensure continuity and accessibility to riders.*

TABLE Q23 Should ATV/UTV accessibility via Town roads be...

Unchanged (and enforced)	Increased	Don't know	Missing	Total Count
62%	29%	9%	6	379

APPENDIX A: Multiple choice survey items

Q24 Would you recommend a modification to the Town's ATV/UTV Ordinance 01-01? If so - please indicate the change you would recommend in the space provided.

Please see Appendix D, beginning on page D – 1.

Q25 Background Info: Ordinance #12 (Boating) limits boat speeds to 10 MPH on the primary lakes within the town (except from 11AM to 3PM when higher speed is allowed on Ghost, Lower Clam, and the Spider Chain of Lakes (excluding Fawn)).

TABLE Q26. Please respond to the following statement: **Ordinance #12 (Boating) meets my needs.**

Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Missing	Total Count
62%	13%	9%	9%	7%	6	379

Q27 Would you recommend a modification to Ordinance #12 (Boating)? If so, please indicate your suggestion in the space provided.

Please see Appendix E, beginning on page E – 1.

Q28 Background Info: According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, wake enhancing boats can generate waves that degrade shoreland (erosion) and lake beds (impacting aquatic plants and fish habitat).

TABLE Q29. Should the Town consider regulations to reduce the impact of wake enhancing boats?

Yes	No	Don't know	Missing	Total Count
73%	15%	12%	7	378

APPENDIX A: Multiple choice survey items

Q30 Background Info: *The Town does not regulate or provide cellular phone or internet service. Wisconsin State Statutes 66.0422 significantly inhibits municipalities from providing these services. EMS / ambulance services are provided by Sawyer County. The tax rate (for town services) is the third lowest of the sixteen towns in Sawyer County.*

TABLE Q31. Consider the Town of Spider Lake's attributes and indicate HOW IMPORTANT the issue or opportunity is for you:

	Extremely important	Very important	Moderately important	Slightly important	Not at all important	Missing	Total Count
Property Taxes	36%	34%	27%	3%	0%	9	376
Recreational Opportunities	57%	31%	10%	1%	1%	8	377
Town Roads	37%	45%	17%	1%	0%	10	375
Clean Drinking Water	71%	19%	7%	1%	2%	9	376
Environmental Quality	73%	20%	6%	1%	1%	8	377
Air Quality	70%	21%	7%	1%	1%	8	377
Waterfront Protection	61%	26%	10%	3%	1%	9	376
Quality of Life	74%	21%	4%	1%	0%	10	375
Peace and Quiet (noise limitations)	58%	21%	12%	5%	3%	8	377
Clear Night Sky (Light Pollution)	56%	25%	12%	3%	4%	8	377
Ordinance Enforcement	41%	24%	21%	8%	6%	9	376
Emergency Medical Services	53%	34%	12%	1%	1%	8	377
Cellular Services	51%	24%	14%	7%	5%	8	377
Internet	56%	24%	9%	7%	4%	10	375

APPENDIX A: Multiple choice survey items

TABLE Q32. Consider the Town of Spider Lake's attributes and indicate HOW SATISFIED you are with each:

	Satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Missing	Total Count
Property Taxes	37%	25%	25%	9%	4%	10	375
Recreational Opportunities	67%	20%	5%	5%	3%	10	375
Town Roads	67%	24%	7%	2%	0%	8	377
Clean Drinking Water	74%	16%	10%	0%	0%	10	375
Environmental Quality	73%	22%	3%	2%	0%	10	375
Air Quality	78%	16%	6%	0%	1%	10	375
Waterfront Protection	49%	32%	11%	7%	1%	9	376
Quality of Life	74%	21%	4%	1%	0%	9	376
Peace and Quiet (noise limitations)	57%	27%	9%	5%	2%	9	376
Clear Night Sky (Light Pollution)	65%	19%	11%	3%	2%	10	375
Ordinance Enforcement	25%	26%	27%	14%	9%	10	375
Emergency Medical Services	25%	28%	38%	7%	3%	11	374
Cellular Services	7%	15%	24%	24%	30%	9	376
Internet	11%	19%	27%	20%	23%	9	376

APPENDIX A: Multiple choice survey items

TABLE Q33. If additional funding would become available to the Town, where should it be applied? (Choose only one)

	% / Count
Fire Protection/ Equipment	33%
Road Maintenance / Plowing	20%
Town Infrastructure (facilities/buildings)	2%
Ordinance enforcement re: Boating	18%
Ordinance enforcement re: ATV/UTV	8%
Zoning/ Land Use (site visits, lighting, signage, etc.)	9%
Other	11%
Missing	14
Total Count	371

TABLE Q34. The Town currently relies on the WDNR and Sawyer County Sheriff's Department for recreational ordinance enforcement. Where should the Town direct its efforts to address boating and ATV/UTV enforcement?

	% / Count
Education (public outreach)	45%
Education & Enforcement	17%
Enforcement	29%
Don't Know	10%
Missing	7
Total Count	378

Q35 Background Info: There are four Campgrounds/RV Parks in the Town, offering 156 sites (RV, camping cabins, tent) for seasonal recreation. (These are BlackIron, ROAM, Reel Livin' and Boulder Lodge.)

TABLE Q36. Do you think the Town should allow additional campgrounds/RV parks?

Yes	No	Don't know	Missing	Total Count
12%	58%	31%	6	379

TABLE Q37. There are currently no restrictions in the Town for houseboats (boats which can be moored for use as a dwelling) on the Town's lakes. Should the Town evaluate the need for houseboat regulation?

Yes	No	Don't know	Missing	Total Count
58%	21%	21%	7	378

APPENDIX A: Multiple choice survey items

Q38 Background Info: Sawyer County currently holds 70 Short Term Rental (STR) licenses for 99 units within the Town (STR is any residential property offered for rent under 30 days). By state law, the Town has the authority to place restrictions on STRs (ex. minimum duration of stay, total days per year available, requiring owners to advise renters of all applicable Town ordinances). Currently, the Town does not exercise that authority.

TABLE Q39. To what degree should the Town regulate Short Term Rental properties?

	% / Count
Town should fully regulate STRs to the extent WI Statutes allowances	35%
Town should enact some additional regulation on STRs	30%
Town should NOT regulate STRs	35%
Missing	13
Total Count	372

Q40 In general, what two key issues should the Town of Spider Lake officials be addressing (Maximum of two)?

Please see Appendix F, beginning on page F – 1.

Q41 Background Info: This next Demographic section is **voluntary** (as is the rest of the survey), but it is helpful in our understanding of responses provided. No individualized datum will be made available to the Town from the Survey aggregator (UW Madison - Division of Extension).

TABLE Q42. Is your primary residence located in the Town of Spider Lake?

Yes	No	Missing	Total Count
35%	65%	20	365

TABLE Q43. Please select which best describes your property ownership situation in the Town of Spider Lake:

	% / Count
Dwelling (primary or seasonal)	69%
Undeveloped land only	29%
Both dwelling parcel(s) and undeveloped land parcel(s)	3%
Missing	14
Total Count	371

APPENDIX A: Multiple choice survey items

TABLE Q44. Please select the category which best describes how you use your property:

	% / Count
Year-round resident	30%
Full-time during summer and sporadically throughout the year	19%
Full-time in summer	6%
Summer (weekends primarily)	38%
Weeks/Weekends throughout the year	4%
Long-term rental (more than 30 days)	1%
Short-term rental (less than 30 days)	1%
Missing	21
Total Count	364

TABLE Q45. Is your Town of Spider Lake property (properties) in/on the following land features? (Select all that apply)

Type	% / Count
Lakeshore	60%
Woodland	35%
River Frontage	3%
Wetlands	2%
Agricultural	1%
Missing	11
Total Count	524

TABLE Q46. Do you own property on one of the lakes regulated by the Town's Boating Ordinance #12? (These are the Spider Chain, Lost Land, Teal, Ghost and Lower Clam.)

Yes	No	Missing	Total Count
80%	20%	10	375

APPENDIX A: Multiple choice survey items

TABLE Q47. How many years have you owned property in the Town of Spider Lake?

	% / Count
Less than 1 year	1%
1-4 years	13%
5-9 years	15%
10-24 years	29%
25 + years	43%
Missing	9
Total Count	376

TABLE Q48. Do you have children (K-12) enrolled in area schools?

Yes	No	Missing	Total Count
2%	98%	12	373

TABLE Q49. Please select your age range (in years):

	% / Count
18-25	1%
26-35	5%
36-45	11%
46-55	32%
56-65	35%
66-75	16%
76 +	1%
Missing	23
Total Count	362

TABLE Q50. If you have a dwelling, do you access it from a paved or gravel public road (don't include private roads or driveways)?

Gravel road	Paved road	Missing	Total Count
78%	22%	22	363

APPENDIX B: Open-ended survey item (Q4)

Q4 What are the top two things you value most about the Town of Spider Lake?

Unspoiled environment and low crime A person's thoughts matter and the Goal of keeping it quiet(like no ATVS on Roads and limits on boat speed/noise on the lakes) Q
Motorized recreation and hunting 1)Natural Resources/"Northwoods Character 2)Its ZONING and Land Use Ordinance
Ski trails and publicly owned woods seclusion, nature Our privacy. Our access to our lake and the woods. Previously had access to our wooded acreage via our UTV, until the Town took away that access. This should not have been done just because of a survey. There should have been a Yes or No vote taken on the issue before any new ordinance was passed or revoked.
The lakes laid back government; not intrusive. Well run town dump: reasonable cost and friendly , cooperative overseer
The lakes and surrounding woods The quiet lakes and the northwoods natural environment 1) Road maintenance 2) Garbage and recycling drop off
Speed limits on our lakes. Involved residents who care about the environment & work to protect it.
Low population density National forest
the quiet lakes and no atv or utv on town roads Unspoiled natural surroundings Sparsely populated
clean and inviting Adequate DNR public lake access and good road crews keeping roads open year round.
The quiet lakes!! Nature Preservation of natural resources, rural community
The Spider Lake chain of lakes, my condo community
The lakes and the quiet Good fishing and the beauty of the area Quiet. Don't hear ATV/UTV tearing up the roads or running on our property. There are plenty areas for them to ride. Also speed limit on the Quiet Lakes is very special and needs to remain at all costs. We. DO NOT need to hear the noise of speed boats or jet skis. Plus we need to protect the shoreline. There are plenty of lakes to water ski etc. Having a time to water ski and tear around is not an option.

Clean environment, low density Clean Lakes and outdoor areas Outdoor recreation opportunities, beautiful scenery Quality of the lake, protection of natural resources Quality of the lakes and the environment 1. Maintenance of roads and garbage service 2. Natural areas (lakes and forests) protected for future generations Road Maintenance, Emergency services 1) The peace and quiet as in "Quiet Lakes". 10mph speed limit on the lakes. The low activity on the lake does not require a constable, IMO. 2) Outdoor activities, motorized and nonmotorized. More ATV/UTV access would be nice.
Natural and clean environment; Low noise level Proximity to public lands. Quiet lakes and roads. 1)peaceful, natural environment and 2) respectfulness and responsiveness of town govt. officials Garbage facility and fire protection Natural environment, quiet Quiet lakes without water skiing and jet skis, quality fishing Great outdoor activities and quiet lakes Quiet, outdoors Quiet Lakes concept and low population Easy access to nonmotorized trails and nonmortozied water activities Natural resources and safety The scenery and the lakes Clean fresh air. Proximity to Hayward. Healthy, lake environment and peace and quiet Nature at its best, proper zoning The ordinances that protect our lakes and the groups that work to improve the environment. Proximity to trails and relatively quiet environment Recreational activities and good neighbors low crime and pristine enviornment The quality of Spider Lake. Natural woodlands around the lake. A quiet lake, protecting the resource rural life peace and quiet The Lakes The low density development Natural Beauty and recreation Lake/water quality and control AIS. Nature, and recreational opportunities. Right now nothing Emergency services. Peace and quiet.

APPENDIX B: Open-ended survey item (Q4)

fishing/hunting
The Quiet Lakes and the natural beauty of the area
Responsiveness to concerns
Quiet lakes and natural beauty
Quiet, Clean
Quality lakes and utilities maintenance
The beautiful setting and lakes.
elbow room and quiet setting
Tranquility and Beautiful nature
The quiet lakes atmosphere and the environmental quality of our surroundings.
Quiet natural environment.
Abundant nature and wildlife.
The rules and regulations currently in place that provide the benefits of quiet lakes,
The quality of road maintenance and accessibility year-round
Fishing and Trails
Lost Land Lake having a Quiet Lake status and the preservation of the natural beauty
Ability to run a business and provide high quality lodging for visitors which contributes to the local economy and access to nature, The two are not mutually exclusive
Natural environment and limited boat recreation
Outdoor Environments and Quiet Lakes
The "Quiet Lakes" law and 10 mph speed limit. The natural beauty and quietness of the Town.
Ten mph speed limits on Teal and Lost Land Lakes, no ATV,Â s on roads
cleanliness of lake water and access to motorized activities
peace and tranquility from the city, nature at it's finest
Recreational boating and fishing
1. A healthy lake environment/habitat that helps restore and protect the fishing, wildlife, and vegetation conditions on Spider Lake Chain, including
Good roads for road biking and peace and quiet without motorized vehicles. Safety, low crime area.
Nature and peace
National, State, and County Forests AND pleasant local and visiting people.
Quiet lakes, good fishing, and proximity to nature
Access to quiet sports.
Efforts to preserve our natural environment.
We love the beauty of the natural environment- woods, lakes, wild life, fish and the quiet character of the lakes (the 11-3 hours restricting the faster sports- in the past we have enjoyed skiing but these hours were always fine and allowed space for quieter activities at the beginning and end of the day) (note on value part of the survey: since we are not full time residents we wrote "no opinion" about child care,

health care or education although this are very important for all - we could not judge these in Spider Lake since we generally do not use them)
Public Land
Spider Lake Road Dept
Besides my property itself, the trash collection, and emergency services including the fire department
Good governance that is reasonable and reviews situations with thoughtfulness and impartiality while following the ordinances and laws as required.
Willingness to incorporate new ideas around quality of life while not restricting public access to the areas that are governed by the Town of Spider Lake.
The woods and the lakes
Access to the Spider Lake and Privacy on my own land
Freedom to do what you want via snowmobile,atv. And the quality of road care.
The natural environment, Tim Sheldon being a fair and intelligent voice for the TOSL
Nature and lakes
1. The lakes 2. The natural environment
Leaving nature alone and quiet lake fishing.
Quiet natural environment and non-motorized recreational opportunities.
Quiet, Good neighbors
ATV , Hunting
The Lakes and the natural environment
Natural environment; pro-community and environment ordinances
Ski and bike trails, and similar minded people
10 mph speed limit on lakes, and the volunteer fire department
The location and the beauty oi it as a quiet space.
peace and quiet
Quiet lakes.
10 mph on laked
Quiet Lakes
Access to National Forest
Low taxes, no people.
Quiet and wildlife
The natural environment, including quiet lake hours.
General sense of safety, even while road biking.
Natural Resources
Road management
A beautiful area. No crime
Access to surrounding recreational opportunities
Forests
Natural beauty of the Spider Lake Chain
Hunting and fishing
Natural beauty and space for family
Quality of lake water and preservation of Town ordinances

APPENDIX B: Open-ended survey item (Q4)

No ATV & UTV usage on the town roads and they are limited to a few locations. Fabulous access to forest areas.	Peace and quiet, access to non-motorized recreation
The environment, and available healthcare	My access to enjoy the woods and water
Nature and Safety	lake speed limits low crime
Good roads and clean lakes	Natural environment and good neighbors
Quiet Lakes (no-wake on Teal lake), Restricted rental properties	Natural beauty and peaceful environment
The abundance of natural spaces, shopping and entertainment options in Hayward.	outdoor access, trails
1. Natural environment; 2. Relatively low human population density	A place to get away from the daily grind
beauty of the area. low population	Peace and quiet beauty of the area
nature and non motorized outdoor activities	Natural peaceful setting
seriously... who came up with these questions	Close friends that we enjoy
Peace and Quiet	Road access is well maintained.
Scenery clean lake	Desire to maintain shoreline restrictions and the resulting "wilderness feel" of our lakes, peace and quiet
Healthy ecosystem pure good lakes	Peacefulness and quiet outdoors and the respectful and friendly neighbors.
Town dump & recycle, snowmobile trails	The road crew does a great job plowing in winter.
Lack of Density and Reasonable zoning to protect both property owners and the environment	Water recreation, the forest
Beautiful and Quiet	Activity around town.to bring in tourist.
natural environment	Festival to bring tourists.
peace and quiet	1. Current Quiet Lakes ordinances (wish they were enforced however), and 2)Northwoods peacefulness (the reason we invested in a TSL property).
Location, Peace and quiet	outdoor recreation, peace and quiet
(1) Wilderness environment (2) Peace and quiet	Nature
quiet, friendly neighbors	quiet sports
The natural aspects of the environment and preserving them and the freedom to do what we want while living on a gorgeous lake.	Natural landscape, quiet, peaceful surroundings.
Beautiful natural environment and ,Àòquiet,Àò covenants (lake speed limit and only limited - rather than unlimited) ATV/UTV routing and access	Consistent character and integrity in word and and action. #2 Abiding by the laws, policies and interests of those you serve
The environment and wildlife	Natural resources, quality lakes
Natural Environment, Safety	It's natural beauty and quiet!
Beautiful lake, quiet	200 ft. lakeshore per lot mimimum
Lakes and trails	11:00 to 3:00pm maximum water skiing time only
Spider Lake water quality and wilderness like experience (shoreline and boating hour limitations)	Quiet and access to non-motorized trails
Tranquility and environment	Reasonable tax rate. Quite Lake
Nature (i.e., the woods, the lakes, the wildlife). Peace and quiet. I love the way everything becomes so much quieter about early November.	National forest and lakes
1. Boating ordinance modernized - raise the off-hour speed limit to 20mph and ban wakeboarding outright.	Quiet lakes speed limit. Natural environment.
2. Monitor the lake levels to ensure any water level orders by the DNR or other authorities are complied with and to ensure any dams are working correctly.	1. Peace and quiet
Clean Air and peace and quite	2. Natural environment
Silent sport recreation opportunities and plenty of natural undeveloped areas	Preservation of the natural environment and the regulations that control over development.
Peacefulness; naturalness	Quality of Life, good roads
	quiet lakes and clean water
	clean air & water no noise pollution
	1.Availability of the non-motorized trails to enjoy silent sports like hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing 2. Quiet lakes with no wake and low speed especially on smaller lakes
	1. Recreational Activities on Spider Lake
	2. Road Maintenance

APPENDIX B: Open-ended survey item (Q4)

Surroundings, Recreational Opportunities
Access to natural resources, natural habitat
quiet atmosphere, no atvs on town roads!!
Access to Birkebeiner Ski Trail, access to roads and trails for biking.
Township workers, peacefulness
Natural Environment and Road Maintenance
Natural Environment
Protective Ordinances
the lake and non-motorized activities hiking, biking, skiing, etc.
Quality of lakes and trails
I like my location on my lake
1. Undeveloped Lake and woodlands. 2. Availability of tranquility in the natural environment.
Seeing wildlife and good fishing
Access to waste disposal
Fire services
Preservation of area's natural resources (woods, water & clean air); limits on high density development and urbanization activities
The outdoors
community and peace and quiet
availability of all types of outdoor recreation and lakes are rarely crowded
beautiful lakes and roads
Quiet natural environment and proximity to outdoor recreational activities
Silent sport activities and good lake water quality
Quiet.
Natural settings.
natural beauty and outdoor recreation
Pristine lakes, quiet period on the lakes
- access to public lands and lakes and rivers for silent sports.
- that it is not very populated with people.
I feel like the town works to help keep the area safe and has the best interest of most of the people that live there in mind,
Someone has to foster the modern use/historical use balance, and should be a very local group. What works on Round, or in Hayward, shouldn't be the Spider default.
1)The pristine waters and wilderness
2) Quiet and closeness to wildlife
Quiet natural environment
Town government enforcing it,Äôs ordinances.
Natural beauty and wilderness like setting
peace and quiet, water quality
Quietness, wilderness
Nature, quiet sports recreation
Safe environment and good fishing

The general tranquility of the area and Spider Lake itself
1. Peaceful natural habitat
2. Quiet Lakes rules regarding boat speed limit
Quiet boating hours on Spider Lake, well maintained roads
1. Opportunity to relax and enjoy the outdoors
2. Safe environment.
Clean water and quiet lakes
thoughtful development public land access
Natural beauty and dedicated friends.
Natural environment and peace/quiet
Peace and Quite
1. water quality. 2. Water skiing and boat speed limitations to between 11 and 3
The quality of the environment is my top priority. I came and purchased property on Teal Lake 43 years ago, to build a cabin and have my family enjoy all it has to offer. The second priority is to manage or extinguish things that are invasive, or damaging to the environment we enjoy.
Nature and Quiet Sports
Quiet lake
Clean lake
The Quiet Lakes, no jet skiers, no water skiing, no speeding boats,
No rental property: Air B&B, VRBO. The irresponsible actions of a few ruin the ,Äúquiet ,Äú experience for the rest of us.
natural environment
low development density
1. peace and quiet
2. maintain the Quiet Lakes as they were originally envisioned
Natural Beauty
Freedom
1.Protective zoning ordinances 2.Board Supervisors who support protective ordinances
1. Quality of the natural environment.
2. Maintenance of roads and lake access points.
The access to parks a trails
peace and quiet
Clean lakes, good roads
Quiet and wildlife in nature
Environment.
Reduced level of stress tied to society with lack of manners &overbearing attitude.
community, access to lakes
Quiet and peaceful
natural beauty, clean lake water
Safe and open wooded space.
Quiet
Nature
quiet/ clean environment and natural surroundings

APPENDIX B: Open-ended survey item (Q4)

Low Taxes. Woods
Natural beauty and clean lakes
Beautiful, natural surrounding (no jet skis or waterskiing); high-quality fishing
Natural beauty
Recreational opportunities
1. Recreational vehicle use. More areas should be opened up. 2.
Tranquility of the Quiet Lakes and neighbors who share similar values.
The lakes and open spaces
respect for others, Northwoods look and feel
beauty of the lake, fishing
Road maintenance and tax control
The natural environment (Chequamegon Forest/lakes)
Fishing, Dining
Quiet sports and Natural beauty
1. Out of the city(life)
2. The natural Beauty of the area
1. Governing and Transparency 2. Keeping the Lakes and environment healthy.
Clean healthy lakes. Peace and quiet.
Neighbors/Sense of Community and Access to outdoors
low density and peacefulness
people wildlife
Natural scenery and clean water
Quiet lakes with 10 mph speed limit for boats
If this question involves the Spider Lake Township Board-Nothing is valued! We moved here for fishing, snowmobiling and 4 wheeling.
Off the beaten track
peace and quiet
access to the lake and the quiet lakes
A lake without invasive species and neighbors with similar sensibilities regarding the importance of maintaining a healthy lake environment. I like our motor boat hours
Access to nature and pleasant environment for family.
The natural beauty of the area and the peace & quiet
Quality of the Lake
Safety and quiet.
Non-motorized access to natural resources, and limited short term rentals
Prioritization of Road Maintenance and the sense of community.
Peace
Beauty
Peace and quiet
1. Spider Lake (the lake)
2. Friends around the lake

The extent of the Natural Environment within our Town
The members of our community
Roads and local businesses
Environment & Recreation
beautiful views and animal life
Quiet Lakes and seclusion
Unique balance between remote, natural landscape/beauty, and yet accessibility of Hayward and its offerings
National Forest and Good Relationship with my neighbors
Privacy & no multifamily housing
Outdoor recreation and privacy
The lake and our property
1 - Quiet environment ("Quiet Lakes"); 2 - Access to natural outdoor environment (National Forest)
Proximity to outdoor recreation opportunities
Quality of our environment
Quiet Lakes
Outdoor trails
Quiet lakes, natural surroundings
Maintain current lake environment and recreational use.
Natural beauty Outdoor recreation
Quiet lake speed limit followed and .low crime
Limited ski hours on the lake and natural surroundings
Rural areas. Off road activities
Wilderness Atmosphere, Access to Water
SPEED LIMIT ON LOST LAND, TEAL AND GHOST LAKES.
SPEED LIMIT ON LOST LAND, TEAL AND GHOST LAKES.
The people and the outdoors.
Peacefulness and Tranquility
town ordinances and our lakes
Nature and Quiet
The Quiet lakes and Friendly neighbors
Environmental protection, sensible town board (as it is now.)
Access to nature and quiet.
The remaining undeveloped spots, The small town feeling
Peaceful and Quiet
Proximity to mountain biking and cross country ski trails.
Opportunities for outdoor recreation and natural beauty.
road maintenance{plowing, clearing} safety
Honest and transparent governance
Forest, lakes
Natural Environment, Peacefulness

APPENDIX B: Open-ended survey item (Q4)

Safe place to live and preserve the natural environment.
1. Preservation of Nature 2. Clean, well maintained, accessibility
Attachment to the area around family history of over 85 years. Availability of good and varied restaurants in the area and access to them.
Woods and water.
Good people & lake recreation
1) Emphasis on preserving the natural quality of the environment/habitat preservation. 2) Peace and quiet, on the lakes and onshore.
Big Spider water quality, peacefulness
Quietness, woods
Quiet; clean lake
The clean and quiet lake and its natural beauty
Proximity to natural environment, and outdoor non-motorized recreation
Beautiful scenic setting. Proximity to amenities and commute to major cities
We love that there are options for quiet lakes and full recreational lakes. We love the snowmobiling trails and easy access to them.
Natural environment and cross country ski trails
1. Beautiful unspoiled natural environment 2. Quiet Lakes that display everyday the beauty of our natural environment on the water and surrounding National Forest.
outdoor recreation and public parks and trails
Nature, non motorized trails
Spider Lake is a major part of our experience, plus we value the undeveloped woods area with a significant wildlife
Pristine natural environment Community care for the environment
low taxes, natural beauty
1. Still a natural setting. 2. Good communication within the community.
Natural outdoor environment and respect of that environment
10mph speed limit on the lakes.
Quietness
Natural and unspoiled environment, 10 mile an hour speed limit limiting boating and waterskiing/jet-skis
Availability of trash and recycling and Quality and number of lakes in the community.
Restrictions on buildings and lake uses
Access to the Birkie Ski Trail and excellent roads for bicycling.
peace and quiet on Teal and Lost land lakes
emphasis on maintaining the natural environment without excessive restrictions, safe and quiet living environment

The community Location
Living on Spider Lake / using the Lake for fun. friends and volunteers and the quiet lakes
Natural beauty and compromise of the partially quiet lakes.
Lakes and wildlife
1. Lake and woods recreational access 2. Proximity to Hayward and local business establishments
Quiet Lakes; strong community
Quiet Lakes Restaurants
The Quiet Lakes and the natural environment
Access to officials, access to refuse station
QUIET AND access to great waters
Natural Resources Safety
Natural Beauty and Public Services
Nature and quiet
quite and established with nice lake front
Zoning laws to protect our environment Quality of life here.
Northwoods Character Recreational Opportunities
Outdoor Activities, safe low crime
Rural Environment Law Development
Peace and safety
The woods. Access to bike trails.
Quiet Lakes, beautiful natural areas
Quiet Lakes, privacy

*** All responses have been printed as written*

APPENDIX C: Open-ended survey item (Q5)

Q5 If you could change something about the Town of Spider Lake, what would you change?

ATV trail access
The push of some in the minority to coerce their agenda on the majority (again what happened initially with the ATV issue)
Atv and utv access
Stronger enforcement of Ordinances
Open ATV and UTV access on Upper A and all roads north and east in TOSL
less restrictions on personal property, land use. i can't even CAMP on my own land??!!
I would make our roads ATV/UTV friendly - maybe Town of SL could issue yearly stickers at a minimal fee to town tax payers, allowing them but not the general public to use our roads? This would provide funds for the Town, plus help monitor usage. It is not right or fair that snowmobiles are allowed to use our roads, but ATV/UTV's are not. Snowmobiles disturb the peace just as much, if not more, so we don't feel that is a valid question in a survey, for determining whether or not we should have an ordinance preventing ATV/UTV use on our roads.
Take away all quiet lake restrictions ordinance
Zoning
tax less; give seasonal residents more voice in future Town direction
Enforce lake speed limits and water ski hours laws
Remove the self-serving, overly-restrictive board of supervisors that inhibit property owners' ability to reasonably improve their property. Limit the scope of power the board has on a homeowner's ability to make reasonable improvements to structures and landscape on their private property.
More community members getting involved on Town committees.
Town Board has the appearance of wanting control over citizens rather than to support them
nothing
Stricter zoning enforcement and eliminating off road motorized vehicles.
A little more info on things maybe a kiosk near maybe that town hall building
Township supervisors focus needs to be more on helping property owners with their requests to improve their property vs constantly looking for a way to deny request.
Weed level in lakes
Nothing comes to mind
Full Wakeboard ban for the Lakes and keeping the restricted hours for water skiing, tubing and wave runners

Overbearing town board
Not sure
Remove and eliminate hybrid eurasian millifol
Open some roads for Atv&Utv riding
ATV/UTV regulations for road use on gravel roads
People being able to skirt the laws/regulations
I would like to see more influence in controlling the speed on the quiet lakes
With some things, like trivial building codes and ordinances, the township seems to have a heavy hand while other things, like invasive species in lakes, the township doesn't seem to care
Dissolve the township. Vocal minority needs to go. Board governs via their personal agendas. Building codes are too restrictive. All owners should be able to vote
More ATV/UTV road access and stricter short term rental laws.
Better cell phone coverage for safety reason
No opinion.
Get a clear understanding for everyone of how the lake level is managed
No short term rentals on non-commercial property
Allow ATV'S on county roads
Nothing
Building difficulties
Would like less Motorized recreational vehicles access to roads and trails
More cluster style residential development as opposed to large individual lots to maintain natural aesthetics yet provide more residential access
I am very satisfied with the town
Open all roads to UTV traffic. There is no reason to not have this. All other townships have open access to some or all roads. It has not presented itself to be a safety issue. Also would like our council to be open to needs of all not just their friends
Allow ATV use.
No wake boats due to erosion they are causing.
Further restrictions on rentals.
Eliminate "one man rule"
I feel we need an increased presence of some organization that can enforce OWIs for motorized craft, snowmobiles and four wheelers.
Speed limits on roads in my neighborhood.
More trails open to atv use and more accessible to get to neighborhood establishments.
Fix bad pavement
Increase monitoring activities on the lake with consequences for breaking the ordinances.
If everyone would respect what we have here
better/faster internet service

APPENDIX C: Open-ended survey item (Q5)

The ridiculous political environment and township governance
Overgovernance and restrictive ordinances that create the aura that big brother is watching you.
Eliminate Town Zoning
Nothing
ATV rules
IDont think anythng
No changes at this time
Better roads
More collaboration in township politics and governance
I would like to see the town take an active role in eliminating invasive species. In particular, milfoil.
a nicer restaurant or two; an improved walking/biking path perhaps
People who come here and buy not to appreciate the beauty and peacefulness but to say they own and have zero to no respect for what Spider Lake is
A more aggressive effort to control invasive Milfoil.
Have a sheriff or police regularly patrol the quiet lakes and remove the speeding boats
provide fiber-optic/digital cable and cellphone service to all residents
Able to use the roads to get to the ATV Trails. (At least Property owners)
Difficulty in dealing with various Associations on the lake
Lose the animosity the board has toward certain residents. There is such a feeling of retaliation. Ease the zoning to the point where people willing to build and contribute to the tax base are not treated as villains. Spider Lake is a magical place, and it is more than possible to allow development, cabin rentals, promotion of local businesses all the while preserving the beauty of Spider Lake. It is so moving to see how local organizations such as cabin owners, bars, restaurants, snowmobile clubs etc all work together to make this a premier destination. Rather than fighting for the elimination of cabin owners and short term rentals, I would be interested in hearing a discussion on monetizing it. Implement a 1% sales tax on short term rentals-let all residents of Spider Lake have a stake in the success of our tourism industry and ease the tax burden of its residents.
Enforcement of boating regulations so they are followed
More paved roads
Institute a short term rental ordinance limiting the number of tenants to under 10.
More ordinance on renting of personal properties
Restrictions on the lake for water activities and lack of access to ATV trails
clean up the lakes of unwanted weeds
Better wifi

Internet and cell service
limit or restrict light polution
We like it the way it is. That is why we purchased property here.
Elimination of fireworks displays. Completely.No permits granted.
Better cell phone coverage.
Town Government
Open all roads to ATV/UTV access, lower taxes
Better enforcement of the existing rules/regulations
Make Lake Helane a non motorized lake and keep lake Helane road closed toATVs
Get rid of the Town Board (especially the over reaching, micromanaging, individuals who act outside their authority and scope of the needs of the people).
Quicker response for medical emergencies, better cell service and the user of ATVs utvs on trails.
Having the ATVs and UTVs obey the TOSL ordinances
Allow UTV travel on town roads
Center line painted on Upper A and repave Green Point Rd.
Additional hours in summer for disposing of garbage and recycling.
Better cell and internet service.
Ban ATV's
Better equiped and more responsive Fire Department
reduce motorized sports (snowmobiles, ATVs, jet skis, high powered boats, etc.); enforce ordinances
Can,Äôt think of anything
Better cell phone service
Nothing
nothing
You need to regulate short term rentals better - the verbose and other rental properties bring in people that do not respect the quiet lakes
Better cell service
Less folks
Do not over develope
Speed limits on roadways. For example, I don't feel that 55 mph on Pederson Road is reasonable or safe.
Allow ATVs & UTVs
Having accessibilty to lodging and trail systems for motorized sports.
Access to ATVs and UTVs on roadways for easier access to public trails.
More road access for UTVs
Longer summer?!
Limit the capacity of Short Term Rental facilities
Better road maint. during the winter months. The last couple of years the roads have been ice covered and unsafe.

APPENDIX C: Open-ended survey item (Q5)

Easier access to recreational trails
No changes, we like the status quo
stronger regulation/zoning of rental properties
Some type of garbage service for non-year round people/visitors
Activate the buried fiber optics line that runs past my house.
cell phone service
i don't like the atvs and snowmobiles on 77 crossing the road, or the noise they make
surveys ... eliminate them
Consider having a "soft" boat ramp at old Spider Lake landing (for non-motorized boats/canoes/kayaks/etc) and use the existing Clear Lake boat ramp for motorized boats.
Ban wake boats
Having less interference from state government on such things as VRBOs in areas zoned RR1
Stocking lakes. Get water levels up. Heard someone lowered the lake after the snow melted. Still very low even after the big storm
uniform adherence to or enforcement of ordinances; control noise and adherence to ordinances of short term renters; establish a noise ordinance
Allow better representation at Board Meetings
More enforcement of existing ordinances that protect the wilderness environment/peace and quiet (e.g. boating speed limits, snowmobile and ATV traffic in non-authorized areas) AND less toxic/politically charged/vitriolic atmosphere re: town governance issues.
access to better internet services
Our cabin is located at the Reel Livin Resort on Lost Land Lake and the change on the lake has not been for the better. The milfoil problem is going to bring down our property values if this isn't under better control soon.
Enforce lake speed limit (Teal and LLL)
Ability to utilize more of the forest roads for atv activity and to only include residents in teh survey and not landowners. We own land in other townshios and although we have input at meetings we have no actual say..
Better Cell Phone Coverage
nothing
Zoning needs to be less restrictive.
Increased Verizon cell phone coverage
Allow ATV to operate on main roads (Telemark Rd, Lake Helaine Rd, Clear Lake RD. etc.)It's extremely confusing and inconvient to travel in Namekagon Township and have access to most roads and then to come to Spider Lake and have no access.
Somehow achieve better cellphone service. It's 2023. It should be better than this.

1. Water levels are professionally managed. 2. Stewardship of the Spider Lake Chain Association should expand from it current focus of invasive species to include the extensibe researc on the damaged caused by wakeboarding boats on shoreline, fish habitats, and destruction of lake bottoms.
The speed of the A.T.V's in the town
slow down development and require substantial residential rural lots of at least 10 acres
We need reliable cellphone service!
Nothing at all
More input from the Spider Lake community. It seems very controlled by just a few. The majority of voices are not heard.
enforce speed limits and require renters to be informed of speed limits in writing
Development and access of trail system for ATV
Improved emergency medical services
more relaxed building codes
the way it is run,Ä¶one sided opinions representing the town,Ä¶ Less restrictions for motorized recreation
Stricter enforcement of the existing laws and ordinances regarding speeds at which watercraft can be operated
Widespread compliance with the existing ordinances
Better cell and internet service.
Not being able to legally ride a UTV to my neighbors house.
Political animosity
I think you,Ä¶re doing a good job .
Enforcement of the current ordinances.
improve emergency services, including cell and internet access
Better signage indicating Fawn Lake is a 10mph lake at all times
Please minimize ATV access to roads and enforce somehow
Better communication, honesty and disclosure of all matter pertaining to the Town of Spider Lake
Open the town for limited use of motorized recreational vehicles to access state trail systems.
Gun target practice by neighbors
Reduce the size and horsepower of boats and enforce rules!!!
Less UTV/ATV traffic. Keep them on trails only not roads
NA
Improved WIFI/cellular access
Not sure.....
Enforcement of ATV/UTV and lake regulations.
how the people outside the town perceive us
more friendly building codes

APPENDIX C: Open-ended survey item (Q5)

create a full time police and fire department
More public input like this survey and more public meetings and information before major changes are made.
Restrictions of our riparian rights
Designated bike lane on A
remove all UTV and ATV access
better cell phone coverage for emergencies
Reduce zoning restrictions - allow camping trailers, allow building of garage before dwelling, less restrictions on dwellings.
Some access for recreational vehicles
More brush collection days/hours
Improved Phone and Internet Services
ADD back use of UTV/ATV on trails
Building code/zoning should be uniform with the state
Put more restrictions on the use of motorized vehicles on our quiet lakes and peaceful woodlands.
UTV access to trails for residence
No comment
Better enforcement of laws, local ordinances and land use regulations
Use of ATV/utv,Ãs
stop the steady increase in property taxes and over spending by the town leadership
Allow 4 wheelers on the roads so that we can get to the trails from our home
enforcement of lake boating/wake rules
More restrictions on renting cabins
I would like to see short-term rentals go away.
minimize light intrusion on lakes, limit docks to one only with size limitation
Prohibit wake boarding
'- less granting of permits that allow businesses or individuals to skirt or ignore ordinances or rules that protect natural resources and wildlife and/or that maintain the current quiet and peaceful nature of the town.
It seems to be an additional level of bureaucracy that may not be needed. It should follow what the County or State says, unless there is an extremely unique situation.
TOSL if too small to support all the independent services. It should be partnering with other towns to provide basic, required, services...including Fire.
I would make sure that we have regulations in place to protect the lakes from invasive species and to keep shoreline lot requirements at 200 feet.
Eliminate wake boats and jet skis
get rid of the wake boats, personal watercraft etc that harm the lake/shoreline and disturb the peace
Less taxes, more emergency services personnel

Active community center
I wish someone would make the channels in Spider Lake easier to navigate by boat
cell site availability to Teal Lake needs to be improved
More convenient trash/recycling options
Cell phone coverage for safety and emergency use
Unknown
Those that want disruptive change.
More diversity
Limiting hours of those ski jets, I think they are supposed to be 11-3 but they don't adhere
requirement to limit wake boarding to the widest area of the lake - i.e. north end of Little Spider
Access to Cell phone towers and or access to broadband internet. I enjoy the sense of isolation we have but, as persons such as myself age, there is a need for reliable communication.
Enforce the regulations of boat speed and ATV use
enforcement of 11-3 ski rule to include jet skis
Reduce the rental property abusers
The influx of people who settle on the only semi quiet lake in the state and then are in a twit to change our zoning laws and our quiet hours.
those residents/owners desiring "21st century progress" - GO SOMEWHERE ELSE / PLACES LIKE THE NORTHWOODS are GOLD. They are not like everywhere else. Let's promote those things that savor and respect the traditions of the past OR we will lose what we have to a CHANGE brought about by a few who want to follow the money for their own selfish reasons.
Town Council's Direction toward more control and higher taxes
Remove "Taxpayers Alliance" whose actions hurt the Town and raise my blood pressure
modify ordinances regarding lake usage; e.g. expand during high usage times such as holiday weekends.
Quicker snow removal
Allow UTV/ATV's on town roads.
People who don't care enough to follow rules
Find dealing with TWSP Permit process a pain in the butt, for simple building maintenance projects.
Nothing
improve atv access
More inclusive!
Eliminate motorized outdoor recreation.
removal of evasive species
OPEN TOWN ROADS TO ATV, UTV USE
zoning
Garbage/recycling services open on Sundays year round
Lower property taxes, reduce regulation

APPENDIX C: Open-ended survey item (Q5)

Open up more roads/trails for recreational use.
More oversight of short term rentals.
Eliminate unnecessary restrictions - Boating hours and atv access
uniform respect for neighbors and ordinances
Less bureaucracy
Nothing comes to mind
Fewer ATV type vehicles and trails
Bitterness on the Town Board, just do your job!!!
Nothing at this time.
I would change the politics of a lot of people. In my opinion our township is dividend into two factions. It is kind of like east vs. west and the east has the majority so what they want they get.
Increase Emergency Responders - Fire and Ambulance,
No opinion
The politics
prevent atv's on roads, also short term rental noise enforcement
getting rid of milfoil
Not a thing
Better communications from board
The self-serving Bias board members. I would like to see ATV open and access to 206, Tews road, Upper A, Happy Hooker, Brandt Road
nothing
The dictatorial approach to homeowners attmepting to improve their property
enforcement of the 11-3 no wake hours. Contentious politics
Excessive rules regarding use of my private property, including rules that have absolutely not affect on others. .
Must improve the cell phone service
Nothing comes to mind.
internet
Get rid of short term rentals, and ATV,Ãs
Communication in terms of access and responsiveness to town government.
Enforce laws that are currently on the books
I like it the way it is
I would like strong leadership to lead the community in solving key problems.
Ability to use my UTV on Spider Lake roads.
I would like to have the lake assoc. to a better job adjusting the level of the lake from the middle of June to the middle of July sat in the and I could not move it
I would lengthen the skiing hours because many fishermen on my bay don't go out again untill it's cooler. The younger families and guests could enjoy

the water at least until 5PM. Most boaters are courteous to other boaters whether skiing or fishing.
N/A
I'd like a more cooperative board that helped you accomplish what you need on your property and one that held community events to get to know my neighbors better.
Nothing really, but seems to be an attitude among long time residents towards newcomers
local government overreaching its authority
ATV use should be permitted
Ignoring of the rules - e.g. speeding on Quiet Lakes, abuse by short-term renters
town government more transparent
Fewer snowmobiles
More cell phone connections
We are happy with our town. (except for the Northern Pike taking up residency, of course)
Fewer motorboats
Obnoxious speeding boaters
The snow plow continually running over and destroying my mailbox
Open all roads to atv and utv use!
Easier access to waste disposal
Board members lack of full disclosure of information, lack of listening to residents. They have their own agenda, do not give full explanations, they have hidden agendas (ex: took a vote on new firestation building, with the cost not to exceed a certain amount of dollars, what they neglected to tell us, that the their stated price did not include: water, electric, and sewer and other items to make the building useable. Now they have changed the specks and eliminated the drive through door, so they can do landscaping. This is absolutely ridiculous! Changing what was voted on without any regard to what they initially recommended, and what was voted on. Lack of information on law suits pending. They are a one-sided board, skirt the issues of residents concerns, and we need an expanded board, of other residents.
Leadership. Views are too narrow. Not welcoming.
More dining and drinking establishments
nothing
The Board of Supervisors
Insane speeding log trucks and dump trucks on Upper A road.
A public park on a lake in the township
Make it a dark sky community.
tighter restrictions on development,
Internet access (broad Band)
Allow building of smaller cabins and yurts. If they,Ãre hidden from the road it should not be a public concern.

APPENDIX C: Open-ended survey item (Q5)

I wish that the town regulations allowed people to enjoy their land as they wish.
less short term rentals
the current system of governance
Invasive weeds
Push waterski house to 12-4
Easier to find good, reliable Home services
The ability of tax paying land owners to be able to vote or have your voice heard. Non permanent residents voices are not heard and for the most part ignored.
Expanded recreational boating hours, and ATV/UTV access.
Less ordinances unless they effect our local economy
Creation/enforcement of noise ordinances. In general, an ability to ENFORCE ordinances, not simply create them.
Cell service is quite poor
Emergency services
N/A
Providing a lake monitor to enforce the current quiet rules and allow replacement of current buildings, i.e., to build a new boathouse where one currently is situated
Annual property tax request sent by December 1st and payable online
Transparency on how it operates and more active flow of communication of initiatives and issue to the broader 900+ households and tax payers
The restrictions on ATV trails. We want to have immediate access to the trails from our business. We lose a lot of business because people are looking to access us and stay with us who use the trails for ATVs and we cannot accommodate them due to the restrictions. We don't understand why snowmobiling is ok, but ATVs are not. Both are imperative to keeping our business successful and alive.
need consistent internet service
More ordinances controlling and limiting rental property density, capacity, and enforcing noise, refuse odors and other issues that arise with transient, temporary visitors that don't have a vested interest in our Community.
more brush site days
We are concerned about the lake level and how it is managed. Also limited UTV traffic would be preferred at least to allow access to northwoods trails
Owners who feel rules don't apply to them
Monitor low lake conditions during periods of low rainfall.
Price per bag of garbage should match price in Hayward.

More open minded and less controlling government resulting in a less divided population. The environment can be managed and respected in multiple ways.
Be more involved in the enforcement of lake laws on Lost Land Lake
better cell phone coverage, enforce the 10 mph speed limit on the lakes
I would like to have the mil-foil eradicated on Teal and Lost Land Lake it is a horrible problem
Quality of governance is poor.
Add more restrictions to lake use - less or no wake times/zones
2 good restaurants close by.
providing a safe walking / biking path along roadways (such as Murphy Blvd)
I think they should allow atv for residents
The highly unpopular 11am-3pm speed restrictions on the lake.
ongoing problem with milfoil
Uncompromising leadership (inappropriate overreach) and approach to change.
Every property owner has equal voting rights
Legal ATV riding on roads for access to county trails. Eliminate animosity and political strife in community.
more paved roads
nothing
Nothing
nothing
NA
Unknown at this moment
Eliminate off road vehicles
Noise/light pollution
utv on roadway limitation
Hire a recreation officer or constable to enforce the ordinances we have.
Need to improve spider fishery, set up functioning for restoring.
Better healthcare - but that is Hayward I am talking about.
minimum home sq. ft. requirements
Minimize impact of motorized recreational vehicles
Allow UTV,Ãs on roads

*** All responses have been printed as written*

APPENDIX D: Open-ended survey item (Q24)

Q24 Would you recommend a modification to the Town's ATV/UTV Ordinance 01-01? If so - please indicate the change you would recommend in the space provided.

Unlimited access
Other than crossing roads, I don't think they should be traveling down them. I've seen increased violations since June, on areas of Telemark Rd, Boedecker and Janet where the ATV/UTV's shouldn't be and they are. I'd be in favor of requiring ATV's using in Spider Lake Township having a permit to ride meaning they are registered. Maybe it's no cost, but registered so violators can be caught.
Allow access to get to routs and trails
No-just enforce
open upper A and all roads north and east in Town
no change
for me, it is okay to leave it as is
All roads should be open to all who pay taxes in the Town of Spider Lake. We should not have to trailer our vehicles in order to access trails or other properties within our township.
no
No change
Open all public roads connecting to and leading up to local businesses (including, but not limited to, Red Deer Resort, Lost Land Lake Lodge, Garmisch, Lakewoods) by permitting ATV/UTV use on FR206, Tewes Rd, Upper A, Brandt Road, Green Point.
No change.
Yes, change is needed. ATV/UTV use is way too restrictive. Properly equipped UTV is safer than other permitted vehicles (snowmobile, motorcycle, bicycle) yet is restricted. Even large, busy metro areas allow use of properly equipped UTVs. Don't understand why UTVs are not allowed on remote roadways like Upper A; especially during hunting, ice fishing, etc.
Severe penalties for violations
no opinion
none
No change
No changes needed -- just better and more consistent enforcement
It,Ãs not the end of the world buy opening some roads to connect to other trails. Some people are anti everything if it has a motor.
Yes, open all gravel roads
Yes, ATV/UTV use on all public roads. Current routes are not usable by anyone except people going around town
ATV/UTV should be allowed on all county roads
If onroad use allowed, vehicles and drivers must meet same requirements as autos
NO CHANGE
N/a
I would like to see Murphy Blvd. to be open to UTV use.

No
I would like less access TO the public roads and trails by ATVS/UTVS.
Remove ATV/UTV from Janet Rd and Boedecker Rd as they are frequently used by nonnotorized people for biking, running hiking. They already have access to the area from two additional routes, 8 and 77, both of which are connected on the north and south.
Increase access and enforcement
Open all roads to UTV/ATV traffic. It is much safer than pulling a 30 ft trailer with a big truck
Increase access to trails and general use through out the township
No change
No
There is zero enforcement. It is a free for all I see unlawful use all the time. It is a joke
Absolutely. We have never seen any atv riders destructive or disruptive. They deserve the opportunity to drive the roads to access their trails.
no change
No recommendations for modifications.
access should not be denied from residence to trails and back, so trailering would not be necessary
Increased use on town roads so long as speed limits are observed
Allow users to access trails from any property.
ATV/UTV laws should follow state guidelines
Allow ATV/UTV to use town roads to reach the trails.
no
not sure in specifics but should be allowed to go from 'Pt. 'A' to access a trail or private land
No
I think ATV/UTV chllange the environment with noise an erosion
No
Open more roads
it would be nice to have a path that parallels the highway much further east
no
Yes, tighter limits on ATV use within the town.
Leave current regulations in place
Able to ride the road to get to the trails. Use UTV to get to friends home. Expand trails
Higher fines if someone is illegally using them
Open up Town Roads-Major Economic boost
Eliminate ATV/UTV use of all Town roads
Continue to enforce current restrictions
Allowing easier access to trails and more access
more access to trails via any legal means possible
Open all roads to ATVs
no change recommended
no changes, but more limiting if there are changes
Very thoughtful increase access to atv trails with slow speed limits
more enforcement of existing regulations

APPENDIX D: Open-ended survey item (Q24)

If there are environmental concerns, then this should be changed in favor of wildlife and natural environment	ENFORCE - we see/hear ATV/UTVs (and snowmobiles!) frequently on Upper A/Tews, 206, and 622
Open all township roads	Open all township gravel roads and trails to atv/utv use
Morgan road has restricted the use of ATV, the individuals who pushed for that no longer live there, we should revisit the decision. My property runs along a good portion of the road and i don't currently own an atv, but it looks fun and i don't have an issue with people doing it safely	open all roads for atv use, Except dead ends for residents. Daylight only 20mph
Reduce/enforce the speed limit. Many ATV riders do NOT obey the speed limits	Roads that do not have a lot of homes (Haline Lake Rd. Telemark Rd. Clear Lake Rd, OO, etc). should have "NO" ATV restrictions!
No changes recommended just enforce where Atv/Utv are not allowed currently	All roads except State Highways
Increase access to town roads (and/or create more access)	I think it is adequate - so no modification is necessary
Atv and utvs should have access to all roads other than highways. If you can go thru the drive thru at McDonald's but you can not get to a restaurant in spider lake there is something wrong!	Increase access, open all town roads, extend use time beyond sunset,
No ATV UTVs on any TOSL Roads	Nothing comes to mind. Problems seem to have gone away.
Allow access to the trails via paved roads, open the roads up. Difficult to get to the "legal" trails	Yes-more roads opened
allow ATV use on Upper A and off shoot roads	no
More enforcement.	No change
Yes. Go back to where they are not allowed. They are too noisy	We don't recommend a modification. The access that the ordinance currently allows is a fair compromise and shouldn't be expanded.
open more roads	no
Upper A allowed for UTV use	No, but I often see ATVs on roads where they are not to ride on.
no	Allow UTV riding North of Upper A
204 Hywy 77 to Cty M. 208 Hywy 77 to all private property	Would like to have Atv be able to ride the roads in Rural areas from one house to others.
Noise and dust created by atv/utv use must be considered	Less ATV activity is better.
Just enforcement. We have ATVs traveling on 00 near and east of the Samuel C Johnson Center	no
Expand it to allow for more use of ATVs & UTVs	Try to enforce the restrictions
Access to lodging and businesses via town roads	More access
More access to public trails via use of roadways so people can access from their properties	Open the roads on the north side of Teal Lake (Tews, 622, Upper A, etc.) to allow access to Saywer County and Bayfield county trail systems.
In public forest or county forest areas roads should be more open.	No increase in ATV usage and enforcement of ordinance! Keep ATV's off Lake Helene Rd.
No change	no public use on private roads
DON'T ALLOW THEM AT ALL!	Only to be allowed on designated trails - not town use - limited road use
More forest roads access	No change
No	No change but should be enforced
no atv/utv use on town roads	Have a uniformed officer for enforcement duties.
It should be more restrictive	Reducing speed on access roads especially near the skiing and hiking trails. Too many times ATVs and snowmobiles have excessive speed crossing non motorized trails.
open all town roads and town regulated roads to atv/utv use year round	Make sure access to/from ALL trails is available so there is not a need to trailer ATV/UTV to trails
current use roads only	ATV use on Upper A
let them ride ... atv are no more distructive then snowmobiles or boats	Less access
Consider speed limits - but not sure how to enforce.	no! keep it as it is. This is the reason we bought our property in Spider Lake!!!!
not at this time	Increased access
Think they should be able to use roads like other townships	No Changes
no change	Allow us of ATV and UTVs
Don't Know	No ATVs on any part of Lake Helane Road and/or better enforcement of the ordnance disallowing the machines on the section that goes past the lake g
No change. Keep ordinance the same.	

APPENDIX D: Open-ended survey item (Q24)

Make it legal to access trails for local residence. charge a moderate fee for annual permits	Also access to drive to Happy Hooker and Spider Lake Golf.
No change	A couple more access roads would be nice so businesses could benefit from this sport
No. Regulations seem reasonably balanced for all at this time.	Indifferent, no comment.
ATV use for property owners who have to access there property for for recreational use, cutting wood and maintaining trails.	No
Open up all Town of Spider Lake roads for ATV/UTV use. Spider Lake is one of the only areas that does not allow access. Let everyone enjoy the trails - two wheeled and four!	reduce restrictions
We are unable to get to the trails from our cabin. Open up road upper A for assess to the trails	yes, reduce the amount of ATC traffic
?	OPEN ALL FIRE ROADS IF NOT ALL TOWN ROADS!!!!!!
I do not like ATVs/UTVs at all, but can accept the currently allowed routes for them.	no
Build staging areas at town road/trail heads for parking/access	no modifications
No	Not sure
make all roads open to ATVs and golf carts	1. Open up a small section of Hwy 77 from FR 204 to FR 174 and FR 174 south to FR 164 and FR 176 to Hwy GG. These would make great short cuts to the current trail/road system instead of having to go all the way down to FR 164 and over to Hwy GG just to come into Clam Lake from the south.
I don't know the exact ordinance wording, but I it to continue to keep ATVs/UTVs off town roads.	no
No. In fact, there needs to be more enforcement of the existing ordinance and education	Open Mathey Rd to ATVs. It is an unpopulated gravel Rd. Access for the homeowners at the end is an obvious improvement
No change	it needs to be enforces for the safety of everyone
Friendlier laws for locals. Guest and large groups can ruin it	No change
No	O change
I would recommend no atv/utv on any township roads as long as they are traveling to a designated trail from their home or hotel, riders should be permitted to utilize any internal roads (not Hwy 77) between the hours of 9am and 8pm so long as they obey traffic laws and do not ride side by side (so that they are passable).	No
Homeowners should be able to use ATVs/UTVs on the local roads	All roads in the Township, except private drives/Lanes
stronger limitations and enforcement	no change
UTVs should be allowed. They are used for work projects. Removing downed trees, repairing private roads, helping neighbors.	No opinion
no	Yes, find way to access resorts/businesses
Driving can occur on designated trails only	Atv's should not be allowed on roads-safety issue for both cars and atvs
No Change in access but putting up more permanent signs of no ATV,Âs	more accessibility
Enforcement	No
without being overly restrictive, recognize/acknowledge that there are two USE categories/ work and recreation (ATV uses for work should merit privileged dispensation)	Don,Ät know the ordinance specifics but do not want increase use by ATV
No	Allow ATV/UTV on 206, Tews road, Upper A, Happy Hooker & Brandt Rd.
No opinion	No - ATV/UTVs should NEVER be allowed on main roads but should be limited to trails only.
access of ATV's on the road for the purposes of getting to the closest trail only	No Atv/Utv usage
Add Upper A and Hwy 77 so there is access from Power Sports to all trails in Spider Lake Township. Also provide access by ATV/UTVs to National Forest from Upper A.	Right of way - ATV/UTV should yield right of way to pedestrians (walking, running, biking, etc.) ATV/UTV should not operate on roads after dark.
	NO
	Figure out how to enforce ATV/UTV Ordinance 01-01 better.
	All town roads should be open to ATV/UTV usage.
	N/A
	no changes
	We would not want non-Spider Lake residents coming here to ATV/UTV for recreation
	increased access and more flexibility
	ATV should be accessible on roads as our neighboring towns. It makes us seem unfriendly and only hurts our establishments.

APPENDIX D: Open-ended survey item (Q24)

enforcement of the Telemark Road sector. Often observed ATV going past the NO ATV signs	ability of locals to use roads to access trails.
just enforce it	Open more township roads for access
No	Allow land owners road ATV use to access trail system legally from their property. That was the case when we purchased our property.
No problem as is	no
Open all roads	Unknown
Don't Know	No recommendation
should be accessible to utilize all paved and gravel roads (NO highway). Upper A, Tews and those around Teal. Yes. Increased access on side roads.	The ordinance should remain as is, but the rules should be enforced.
Allow on roads and trails like the rest of Sawyer County no-stay as is	Use any van paved road and all town roads
No	I would prefer it not grow.
Stop drunken use of these machines!	No change
Atvs should not be allowed on town roads	With certain restrictions make all road,Ãs accessible. ATV & Utv should be road certified. Turn signals and horn and lites.. you can drive in town, why not the countryside.
No change	** All responses have been printed as written
Traveling between your own property if less that 5 miles.	
no	
increased access	
n/a	
N/a	
Go back to open use in township	
Yes. Allow owners to drive their ATV/UTV's from their homes to the designated trails.	
It would increase our local business revenue if ATV's could travel to them. Also, we feel that registered ATV/UTV's should be able to travel anywhere with no restrictions. We help the elderly in our neighborhood & use our bucket on our UTV to help them with yard work and for easy/fuel efficient travel to visit our neighbors.	
Our road is too windy to safely accommodate cars, and walkers plus ATV riders. Don,Ãt like the noise	
No	
N/A	
No opinion	
No	
No	
Open all the roads	
NA	
NO	
Allow for ATV/UTV traffic on roads to give residents access to trail systems without having to trailer	
none	
Less restrictive.	
Allow more access, but ensure rules are followed	
No	
I'm opposed to any expansion.	
More enforceable	
not a big fan of ATVs, I would limit their use, certainly not expand it	
if the shoulder of the road can support atv/utv traffic at low speeds, then access from property to local trails should be allowed	
I think atv use should be allowed	
Yes. It's far too restrictive. Allow UTV use on all roads (like the City of Hayward allows)	

APPENDIX E: Open-ended survey item (Q27)

Q27 Would you recommend a modification to Ordinance #12 (Boating)? If so, please indicate your suggestion in the space provided.

Increased speed
no
Allow water skiing when water is calm
No-just enforce
most boats can't plane out at 10 mph. need to adjust to plane out speed
i think lost land and teal should consider the 11am-3pm open rule. those lakes are huge and 10mph out there is a joke. less wake when you are on plane then when you are plowing at 8 or 10 mph
Make the hours 10 to 4 as a compromise and to help those with opposite viewpoints come together.
Increase speed limit to 15 miles per hr. Still no water sport activities.
No; but increase enforcement
No
no
Severe penalties for violations
15 mph
10mph is too slow for modern boats to even get up on plane and causes larger wakes at these slower speeds than if we allowed up to 25mph. The ordinance should be changed to allow 20-25 mph speeds when you are just going from point a to point b. The original purpose was to prevent high speed boats from flying around the shoreline at high speeds. Minimal enforcement of this ordinance has not caused any issues on the lake and minimal enforcement should be continued.
More Enforcement
The ordinance is good but the off hour speed limit should be increased to 20mph so boats can get to plane. The 10mph speed limit was created in the 1950s modernize it. The prior question is not asked properly because people who want limits will say yes as they are not given the option to increase the speed to compensate for our more modern times (ie four stroke motors).
No. Quiet Lakes are a special place and 10MPH MUST REMAIN. NO HOURS TO RACE AROUND. Plenty of lakes in the area to ski etc.
No modifications are needed--much improved enforcement is needed !!
no
No just enforcement
I would like to see some type of enforcement of the speed limit on the lakes.
Lost Land and Teal Lakes should allow waterskiing/tubing from 11AM to 3PM
yes. remove speed limit but prohibit jet skis and waterskis from quiet lakes
No boats that cause wakes.
Ordinance isn't enforced, but it should be

We need enforcement of the lake speed limits.
NO CHANGE
Consider allowing fishing boats to move faster than 10 mph at expanded hours
Needs enforcement
Limit water skiing and jet skis to weekends.
No!
No
No speed limits but also no jet skis, waterskiing or tubing though
No change
No
Ordinance should include that from 11-3 water sports should be conducted in a counter clockwise direction and this should be provided to all boat rental organizations and posted in numerous places.
No
Increase it to 20 mph
allow higher speeds on LLL Speed limit not enforced anyway
No recommendations.
no modifications
Speed restrictions outside of 11 and 3 should only apply to jet skiing, water skiing, tubing, wake boarding
Boat does not plane at 10 mph making visual hazard for driver. Increase the speed to 20 for safety
Boat hulls are designed differently in newer boats, thus displace more water at lower speeds. Also, often fisherman just want to quickly move from one fishing hotspot to another. Reassess and research this issue.
As a fisherman you should be able to go from spot to spot faster than 10mph
No speed limit and water skiing/tubing until 5 PM
no
eliminate speed limit. It is not enforced and would cost too much to enforce
No
No
No
No
No wakeboats, speeds that allow fishing boat planing speed for less waves vs 10mph
no
No jet skis or large capacity boats that rip through and destroy the eco center for fish and wildlife
The ordinance is well intentioned but seldom enforced, and thus generally disregarded.
Need to enforce this on Lost Land and Teal, we need sheriff or police to patrol these waters!
Possibly add wording on specific types of activities which are not allowed such as wakeboats, jetskis, tubing, water skiing, etc
no
I love the Quiet Lakes-I love not having to worry about jet skis and water skis-I do prefer perhaps a 15 mph speed limit-it would be nice to let your boat plane out, which is hard at 10 mph

APPENDIX E: Open-ended survey item (Q27)

Keep the current ordinance but it needs to be enforced! NO!!! Enforce the 10 mph. on the Quiet Lakes.	no
Continue to enforce current laws	Extend the wake rule to a later time of day i.e. 11-5/6pm
Get rid of it, very DANGEROUS! to many people out on the lake trying to cram in water sports all at the same time. Have been almost run over by pontoons not paying attention. Also tired of being chased by residents for going over by five minutes because they think they are cops (ie Patrick Delaney, Chris Wood)	No
none	No change
Expand hours to 10am--6pm	No changes needed
The Spider Lake Chain at 1,454 acres is the largest body of water in the TOSL. Unlike water and jet skiers, fishermen/women are particularly penalized by this rule. It inhibits travel from one fishing spot/lake to another; increases fuel consumption by reducing the efficiency of modern fishing boats ability to reach plane which may also increase damage to fish habitat. The ordinance should be more narrowly defined to address this issue. A special task force/committee of lake home owners should be convened to study and offer solutions to address this issue more completely.	No
no modifications, but more limiting if there are modifications	Current speed limits are good
15 mph	No
no	expand 10 mph/skiing hours on lower clam lake ticket people who are going super fast
Open more recreational boating activities	No speed limit
The lakes are big enough to allow a faster speed while still remaining respectful (teal and LLL anyway). Raise the limit to 15 or 20 in wide open areas	no
No - this seems to be an easy compromise for all members of the Lake community	No skiing except in time frame is great. But 10 mph to go fishing is a little too slow
Extended the speed hours to 11-5 and raise minimum speed to 15 mph outside of those hours	none
Limit jet ski and water skiing access (11-3) and open regular boating for the purpose of crossing the lake quickly when needed	Expand Hours from 10-3 to 9-5
You should be able to maintain a safe speed while boating. How can you even plane a boat at 10mph. You do more shoreline damage at a low speed.	The only change I/we recommend is better enforcement. It used to be that the DNR was visible on Lost Land Lake. I realize that there was a pandemic and there are staffing shortages but having the DNR present now and again might help to keep the speed limit of some of these high powered boats in check. Why is a 200 mph motor even allowed on these lakes? We are policing our own lake. We had jet skis on Lost Lank Lake this year. These kind of activities are going to hurt the quality of our fishing lakes.
No change on the quiet lakes	ENFORCE limits - ~25% we see on Teal are noticeably exceeding
No	Change to 200 to 400 ft from shore no wake zone. Could be more enforceable.
No- Increasing speed would ruin the quiet lakes	No change
Ghost Lake should be 10 mph all the time	None
no	Some increased level of enforcement would be great.
The ordinance, as written, is fine; but it needs to be enforced.	20 MPH. No wakeboard boats.
If anything I would shorten the time for water skiing and jet skiing and would like enforcement	Follow state regulations for speed and hours for waterskiing.
no	expand hours to 10 to 4pm - too crowded during those few hours available now
I believe it should remain in place, but better enforcement	Extend the Watersports activities to 6pm. (11am to 6pm) enforcement mechanism needed
NO, I purchased my property on Teal because of the "Lake Speed Limit"	Up the speed to allow boat to get to plane 15-18mph maybe allow 4pm on weekends and holidays
Keep the quiet lakes QUIET with speed limits no water sports	Yes, expand the hours. Too restrictive and caters to one type of user on the lake. Dangerous to expect everyone to do these higher speed activities all at once. Should be at least 10am to 6 or more.
Observance and enforcement for persons who refuse to observe the limits.	No change . This is a large reason for owning at SL
	The ordinance needs to be enforced as many people do not follow it.
	I would suggest more education for the seasonal visitors. Local residents are more aware of the speed limits and respectful of fellow residents.
	No
	Increase mph to 20. Difficult to get boat to properly plane at 10 mph. Ban waterskiing and jet skis from current "prohibited" lakes
	Add a motor size limit (under 100 or 75 hp).

APPENDIX E: Open-ended survey item (Q27)

no	I would like the ordinance to be strictly enforced on Ghost, Lower Clam, and the Spider chain.
Provide signage indicating 10mph speed limit on Fawn. Many people, especially visitors, have no idea of the rules and would follow them if they were aware. Posting the details for the other lakes would be a good idea as well	No.
No	Maybe pick a slightly higher speed that would allow most boats to get on plane
no change necessary.	Slower boat speeds
No modification! Enforcement needed!	leave as is or make more restrictive
no	Enforce it more!!! So many speeders and tubers even.
No modification recommended	No keep teal and lost land lake at 10 mph or less
No change but enforced.	I think tubing/water skiing/jet skiing should be allowed from 11-5pm
We support only 10 miles per hour at all times on Lower Clam Lake. We value safety and are concerned about quiet and good environmental habitat for wildlife. Boats at higher speeds during the 11 to 3 hours come too close to shoreline to safely swim or do quiet water activities	no - we enjoy the 10 mph speed limit on Teal and Lost Land Lake. We do not believe that it is violated enough to warrant active enforcement.
Remove ordinance #12 and its restrictions	Block all use of jet skis outside of 11am-3pm
All lakes 10 mph	limitations on wake boats more enforcement on speed limits
no	Keep the quiet lakes 10mph at all times.
Address Wake Boating to Limit Impact to the Environment	Make sure that people are adhering to the 11-3 requirements, its nice to have quite time. Also we do not need to have large wave boats on little spider, it ruins the shoreline and the lake is too small for this sport
extended hours 1-2 days a week. maybe 11am-7pm on a weekday or two and/or saturday	No
no changes	Make no rules or change any that are not actually enforced
No comment	No but we need enforcement
My boat makes a larger wake at 10mph vs. on plane. Traveling from spot to spot while fishing at 10mph makes no sense given the little boat traffic on the lake.	The abusers have increased since lack of enforcement manpower was published in news. Lack of enforcement is the issue, not more restrictions.
Ordinance should allow enough speed for a boat to plane out	no
No. Only greater enforcement and public awareness of the ordinance is recommended.	10 MPH speed limit means 10 MPH...PERIOD- END OF STATEMENT (must be respected and enforced)
Speedometers on boat don't even work until you reach the speed of 15 miles per hour. Cruising at ten miles per hour creates much bigger waves than a boat up on plain. Most boats get up on plain at about 17 -18 miles per hour. Boats up on plain would reduce shore line erosion. I do not support have a Spider lake enforcement officer.	Don't change anything or try to expand "helpful" oversight/control of Quiet Lakes Association Lakes
Expand the wake hours - too restrictive for those that like to ski	Yes, expand ordinance for longer times during holiday periods such as 10 to 4.
no	not modification but enforcement would be good
no need to modify just make boaters aware of the ordinance	11 am - 4 pm
waterskiing from 11am-6pm	Over the past ~55 years, we have yet to see or hear of LE using a radar unit to enforce the 10 MPH Speed Limit. Indifferent, no comment.
I would like to see no jet-skiing or water-skiing at all, on any lake.	No. Keep same and enforce
no	speed exceptions for fishing boats
Reduce frequency of wake boat usage, limit wake boats themselves to remaining 300 ft from a shoreline	limit higher speeds to smaller boats / fishing boats
Allow some higher speed earlier and later in the day. For example: the best skiing is early in the day and late afternoon/evening.	Lift speed restrictions
if enforced, modify for more hours on 'designated holiday weekends'. If not enforced, including slowing fishing boats, do nothing and stop pretending the hours matter.	ok to expand hours from 11-3 to 11-5 but only if hours outside this are really 10mph
	no change
	no keep it as is.
	Hours on Lower Clam should be expanded to 10-5 It is rare to have two boats on the lake. What problem are we solving? We should encourage physical activity for our youths

APPENDIX E: Open-ended survey item (Q27)

not sure how it could be managed but perhaps a later hour than 3pm, maybe 5pm on Fridays, thinking of families driving to the cabin after work on Friday and not being able to enjoy some time on the water, maybe only holiday weekends in	the ordinance is fine - it is not enforced, need better enforcement
No change	No change, but greater enforcement
NO	No change please!
no	No change
There is no way to enforce any of the ordinances on the lakes	Enforcement of speed limits on Lower Clam during restricted hours.
NO	KEEP the 10mph speed on Teal and Lost Lake. NO policing. Fishing boats often go 15-20 mph to get up on plane, so they they can see over the top of the boat, and when they get to their destination, they stop. It can be unsafe to go slowly, to kayakers (we have seen near accidents when the boat is going too slow). Add NO JETSKIS to the ordinance. If the board wouldn't have pissed off Mr. Uline, we most likely would not be going to court for his desire to change our speed limit. Tell him to buy his own lake.
No modification needed	No
None but rules are not followed and very little enforcement	I don't care for water skiers/jet skiers or wake boats
no	no-stay as is
No	No
No	No modification
For safety purposes we should be able to plane the boat which involves speed of 20mph or less.	More enforcement
NO	No wake zones within 300 feet of shore on all lakes
no change	No
no I like the way it is. Something for everyone	We paddle canoes and kayaks so we appreciate lower motor boat speeds.
I would like to see a decrease in the amount of daily skiing hours available as well as possibly limiting the number of days that skiing is available. Also, I would love to have greater restrictions on jet skis as so many do not observe any right of way or operate them safely.	The current ordinance creates unsafe conditions with too compact of a time block with too much traffic. I would suggest expanding wake hours from 10 - 5p which would create a safer environment, easier for all to enjoy and still maintain the character of the Northwoods environment.
Since boats (predominately fishing boats) transit at high speeds at most times, it seems unfair to other recreational users. Since the speed is unenforced, why is it an ordinance?	increase speed limit {15-20 mph}
No	Keep speed restrictions but slightly expand hours, and add wakeboat restrictions.
Agree with hours 11-3 but off hours speed limit of 10mph should be revisited.	Move waterski hours back to 12-4. It messes with lunch.
Expand skiing hours (10-4) to reduce congestion during short time window	10 mph seems a little low
The Town needs to enforce Ordinance #12. Figure out how.	YEs, my boat wake at 10MPH is three times larger and more danger to other boats adn ashoreline than if I could plane out. Increase to a reasonable speed of say 25 MPD H to allow boats to plane out, as they already do and how they are designed to function.
Town of Spider Lake should not govern the lakes. The lake associations should govern their own lake.	Yes. Expanded recreational boating hours, 10am-6pm.
Extend hours to 5pm	We feel the 10 mph on Teal, Lost Land and Ghost Lakes is critical for shoreline preservation. We feel that no wakeboard boats should not be aloud on any TOSL The size of boat motor does not dictate size of wake! My pontoon 50 HP motor makes more wake at 10 MPH than my bass boat 250 HP due to the weight of boat and how wake is generated. We do not not need or want a water constable.
No, 10 MPH is why I am on the lake!	An ordinance without enforcement is merely a good intention. It is obvious that self-enforcement is largely failing.
no change; helps keep peace and quiet	I would be ok adding another half hour
The speed limits mean nothing if never enforced, maybe the ability to send boaters "warning notices" if observed speeding	No
no	None
Within reason boaters should be able to enjoy their boats without restrictions to how they use them	
I don't think modification is required but enforcement needs to be done.	
we are not lake dwellers, so boat noise is of no consequence to us on the western side of the Town. We do not want to be paying for such enforcement of that ordinance.	
More policing of speed limits on 10 mph lakes	

APPENDIX E: Open-ended survey item (Q27)

No
NA
no
no
No change
none
No. The ordinance as it is has served its purpose well on Teal and Lost Land Lakes.
This should be voted on by property owners on the lakes within Spider Township. The hour restrictions should be considered, but only if the majority of owners are in agreement. Fishing has always been the focus on LLL and Teal. This history should be thoroughly documented and communicated to all voters prior to any vote. The health and quality of the lakes should always be the first priority, but we should understand the impact to the lakes if additional recreational activities are allowed.
Enforce the boating laws of Lost Land Lake!!
no keep at 10 mph & enforce it
I do not want the speed limit to change or the use of watercraft to change - i don't want jet skis it is a quiet lake they can go other places
Absolutely not!
More restrictions on speeds and no wake times, at least to some lakes. This would provide greater access for canoes and paddleboards.
No way. . . we have too many boats on the lakes that are not respecting the 10 mph speed limit. These are quiet lakes!
Recent increase in jet ski activity on north lake has totally eliminated loon population. Jet skis should be limited to 10mph (to allow access to larger lakes) at all times on north lake.
You are being sued over this! Change this law immediately. The town board is totally out of touch with what the vast majority of property owners on Spider Lake want. They want to be able to use their lake and property (they paid good money for) whenever they want instead of some some local governing body dictating to us how we can drive our boats / jet ski / waterski and tube with out children. This is the most lame law I've ever seen.
No
No wake within a distance from a shoreline
Maintain limited waterski and jet ski. Allow fisherman to travel at higher than 10 mph to get from fishing spot to another.
Keep 10MPH limit and prohibit any jetski, etc
Possibly a little higher (15 mph)
na
I think the higher speed boating restrictions should be increased for roughly an additional hour in the afternoon
no
No modification
Ordinance #12 is sufficient, but needs to be enforced.

Maintain the current Quiet Lakes as they have been for 70 years. Correct the ordinance writing so it can never be questioned or attempt to be changed ever again..
 Don't let wealthy people dictate what happens in our neighborhoods.

*** All responses have been printed as written*

APPENDIX F: Open-ended survey item (Q40)

Q40 In general, what two key issues should the Town of Spider Lake officials be addressing (Maximum of two)?

Eurasian milfoil (water quality)	Lake water level control, Åôs communication, EV charging station at TOSL
Increased Cell coverage for safety reasons and emergency response time	Short term rentals, Lighting near shore
ATV and UTV access to routs and trails	Water levels better controlled on North Lake, ATV use on county roads allowed
1)Ordinance Enforcement, 2)Short Term Rental regulation expand ATV and UTV access	Speed limit enforcement on quiet lakes
Wake boat ordinance	Cell phone and internet access and maintaining the quiet lakes aspects
ATV/UTV usage that is currently not fair, balanced or enforceable	1. Zoning codes that apply to lake property but end of being too restrictive for non-lake property.
Snowplows that destroy too many trees and mailboxes, and inadequate sanding of the roads.	Maintain a quality of life and enforce town rules
enforce all regulations and ordinances. Continue to regulate on the side of nature preservation and sustainable harvest of renewable resources ie. hunting, timber harvest, trapping etc.	Open roads for UTVs. Town council needs to represent all members not just friends
Enforcement of boating ordinances, regulate STR	1. Wake boat regulations 2. STR regulations and enforcement
1) Opening all roads to ATV/UTV access	Internet and cellular availability
2) Road maintenance	First responder avaisbility
Medical and Fire emergency services capability and responsiveness	Increased fire protection and enforcement of ordinaces.
Stricter zoning and enforcement there of to preserve environment and quiet enjoyment.	ATV enforcement and speed limits on side roads
road maintenance and noise	Better cell phone tower for safety when out and about.
Focus should be on minimal government and not overreaching on authority that causes large township/taxpayers legal fees.	Additional roads and trails opened for atv/utv riders.
Ban Wakeboarding and monitor lake levels by ensuring any DNR (or other governemental orders) lake level orders are being met and private dams working properly	Urasian Milfoil problem
Keeping Quiet Lakes present speed requirements and ATV/UTV regulations	Maintenance of the quality of the lake and shoreline.
1. Enforce lake speed limits on Lost Land and Teal and 2. Better enforcement of the prohibition of ATV's and UTV's on prohibited town roads.	Enforcement of current ordinances.
Open some roads to UTV use	Short term rentals, water safety
lack of cellular service	internet speed and ATV access
Zoning/land use and regulation enforcement	Cellular service
Boating (speed and drinking) and cell service	Internet sevice
1. Invasive species, specifically to growth of Hybrid Milfoil in Lost Land and Teal Lakes	WTA protocol applied across the board, no favoritism.
2. Consider the ability to increase boat speed during limited hours for recreational waterskiing and tubing on Lost Land and possibly Teal Lake	1.) Shoreline erosion from Wake boats should be on top of the list. Damage being caused is irreversible.
Removal of UTV ordinance, access to cellular via Verizon	Emergency services and cell coverage
More access to roads via ATV/UTVs	Invasive aquatic species (millfoil) and land usage permits
Short term rental restrictions and enforcement	Water quality and recreational vehicles
Short term rentals; boating regulation enforcement.	Aquatic invasive species (millfoil) and allowing campgrounds and multi-family dwellings
Lake speed limits. Minimize ate/utv use of roads.	Roads
	Wake boats impact on lakes and other boaters. Consider higher speed for fishing boats to the balance speed/wake with modern fishing boats
	Run what you have efficiently and don't look at add regulations. Only real improvements needed might be in EMS support.
	Individuals following ordinances through enforcement through enforcement people will be educated without it it continues people don, Åôt learn until enforced, Maintain quality of life for those who live here over those who choose to only vacation or buy to rent out to vacationers I get tourist stimulate the economy but there are so many that under appreciate the value of land water and air along with the pollution they wish to contribute
	Enforcement of existing lake speed regulation and milfoil removal and control

APPENDIX F: Open-ended survey item (Q40)

Boat lake speed	Enforcement of ATV/UTV regulations and cellular/internet availability
Regulations of short term rentals and noise	Keeping themselves in check and stop micromanaging the town and its people (work for the good of ALL the citizens/taxpayers and not for just a few or only a handful of residents)
Continue supporting land and water use laws currently in place.	Medical services and allowing atv/utv usage on all country roads.
Actively address millfoil/invasive species in our lakes.	ATV UTV regulation and STR
Expanding the ATV trails. Educate bicyclists and walker on how to be on the roads with vehicles. (Especially on hills.) (Bike and Walking trails)	UTV travel and STR regulations
Diversify the Town Board to better allow for all viewpoints to be considered. Prioritize economic development rather than pushing all tourism to other parts of the state.	Better equipment and response time for the Fire Department. Local EMS service
Boating ordinance enforcement & high density development	healthy lakes and keeping the quiet lakes quiet.
STR	Maintaining/improving emergency services and recreational ordinance enforcement.
Environmental impact of the STR	Noisy ATV's Internet
Limit/strickly regulate STR's and 10 mph. lake enforcement.	Fire Department readiness and equipment
Property short term rentals, ATV enforcement of current laws	ordinance enforcement, maintenance of current zoning focused on natural environment
Atv usage and being more transparent with the people and not in it for their own personal benefits	Continued environmental protection, and fire/road safety
better maintenance of weed/invasive species on lakes, invest in reliable cell phone/ internet services	Improve cell phone service, and enforce boating/ATV/VRBO regulations
Internet and water quality	Zoning and lake quality
1. Need to address and have full transparency regarding control of Spider Chain water levels. There appears to be no single public authority overseeing the release and retention of lake water at the dam which has a tremendous impact on lake shorelines as well as homeowners dock/boat access. If the TOSL does not or cannot assume this responsibility, it should seek county or state involvement.	fire protection
2. Amend Boating Ordinance #12 on the Spider Lake Chain which penalizes sport fisherman/women movement on the lake, increases fuel consumption/wear on fishing boats, and increases damages weed bed fish habitat. Sports fisherman/women are critical to eradicating the invasive Pike population that is the main threat to the lakes unique muskie population. Convening a working committee of homeowners on this issue is well warranted.	Maintain quiet lakes and don't let hilpisch bully you
ATV traffic where it shouldn't be.	Increase Cell Coverage: Provides for help access for emergencies in remote areas.
lakeshore protection and internet	Open more roads for ATV.
Maintain Quiet Lakes and consider restrictions STRs	Education and communication (internet and phone)
improved ems services and cell phone usage	Preserving the natural environment. Public safety.
Enforcement of current boating and ATV regulations.	ATVs & UTVs being allowed
Elimination of fireworks	Emergency services and cellular and internet services for emergency services.
Environmental protection	internet service; taxes
Less government intervention	Taxes and recreational opportunities
Open all roads to all modes of transportation	Medical response and STR limits
Taxes (keep low), invasive aquatic plants in LLL and teal lake. The invasive weeds will reduce property values and recreational use more than any other issues or topics you mentioned	Road maintenance - plow more in the winter months
Short Term rentals where there have been repeated issue	Short term rental enforcement, boat speed limit
Better coordination on internet access (perhaps grant writing?)	Internet accessibility for students/education, light pollution (dark sky areas)
	1. Snowmobiles are a major problem (noise, high speed and recklessness). Can't figure out why this survey ignores the issue). 2. The Town should become more aggressive about seeking opportunities to improve cell phone and internet service.
	911 emergency phone calls not being answered by Sawyer county sheriff but call being directed to adjoining county dispatch
	Enforcing zoning requirements to preserve public and private lands. Preserving the health and beauty of our lakes
	Noise ordinances AND ATV riding outside limited hours

APPENDIX F: Open-ended survey item (Q40)

Water depth too low	Education of seasonal renters and users as to local ordinances.
STR and Failure to enforce state and town boating regulations	Maintaining fire department and road access.
Taxes. Internet cell device for safety of residents	Better cell service and enforcement of ATV use on roads.
enforcement of current ordinances; regulation and enforcement of short term rentals	Road access for UTVs
Full Property Owner representation in voting. Don't spend money unnecessarily	Millfoil
Ordinance enforcement and STR regulations.	Fire protection, zoning regulation/enforcement
maintaining northwoods character, improving cellular and internet services	1. Restricting Short term rentals. 2. Enforcing boating speeds.
Helping the Quiet Lakes Association to get the millfoil situation under control. Extra efforts with regard to signage, equipment at all boat launches and to educate all boaters that enter these lakes. More education and enforcement of the 10 mph boat limit on the quiet lakes.	safety, water quality (invasive species)
1-educate/enforce boat speed limits, 2-educate/enforce ATV/UTV routing & access	Boating ordinance education, cellular coverage
Increase ATV/UTV access and surveys should only include residents not all landowners	Internet/cell service and enforcing ATV
boating, keeping the lakes beautiful	The loss of quality muskie fishing due to the invasion of northern pike. #2 The lack of consistent communication and full disclosure of the officials efforts and intent, ie. the cost of the new maintenance facility
Invasive lake weeds. Allow 200 ft additions to nonconforming lake cabins.	Internet service and cellular service
Wakeboats and cell phone coverage	1. Keeping boating hour ordinance 2. regulating rentals
Road maintenance (currently my road, Rock Lake Rd., is being maintained wonderfully. I'm not happy with all the road restrictions on ATV's.	Shoreline preservation (From wakes from large boats)
Enforcement of Town Ordinance #12. Helping to maintain the current level of peace and quiet, at a minimum.	Hire enforcement individuals on water
Water levels are professionally managed.	Forest management / Land management
Wakeboard boats are not allowed due to the damages caused.	Keeping Quiet Lakes quiet. Random campers to be restricted
Improving infrastructure(road equipment)and firefighting equipment with more manpower.	Road maintenance and emergency services
Reliable cellphone service; keep property taxes as low as possible	Protection of shorelines. ATV/UTV limitations
STR and water quality	1. Road quality issues
Cell phone accessibility by adding towers etc for safety reasons and increased access to the area by recreational powersports vehicles for families to enjoy the northwoods.	2. Emergency medical services issues
STR guests failure to follow boating regs. Limit vehicles & number of trailers for each STR	The enforcement of existing ATV/UTV and boating regulations.
(Maybe a Teal Lake problem only???)	more friendly building permits
Honesty in information provided to the electorate and improving cell service	enforcement & fire protection
Better method for non-resident, taxpaying homeowners to have input into town issues. Improve emergency medical services response time	1. Making Lower Clam a no wake lake with better enforcement. 2. Better emergency response to emergencies and knowing who and how to call.
Less restrictions and ordinances	1. Water/Lake Level management - Spider Lake levels should not be lowered via the outflow boards - lake levels are TOO LOW.
Restructuring of the board (board is one sided group of people)	2. Protection of lakes from invasive species.
Minimum length of stays	Resort and star,Ãs responsibilities to help enforce area rules with their guests.
Maintain and enforce the existing ordinances.	Unauthorized use of UTV and ATV's on trails and roads, implementation of examining boats at public landings to reduce spread of invasive plant, animal life.
Protect the pristine nature of our woodlands and lakes.	keep the roads atv free!
	Public safety, road maintenance/plowing
	Boating Regulations
	Cellular and Internet Services
	Use of UTV/ATVs -- and keeping the quiet lakes quiet
	remove the land use ordinances that are above and beyond the the state level.
	Appropriate use of motorized vehicles/boats compatible with a Northwoods natural environment which will continue to welcome and foster our wildlife.

APPENDIX F: Open-ended survey item (Q40)

UTV access change and no boat speed limit	1. lack of cellular service
Water levels in n spider lake chain	2. lake quality (including milfoil)
Greater enforcement of all existing laws, ordinances and regulations; do whatever it takes to preserve the "Northwoods character" of the Town through zoning, building code & land use regulations.	Keeping the lakes quiet and managing erosion from wakes
Allow at least ATV and UTV use for resident to get to there property and to the lake for ice fishing.	I feel all renters should definitely be advised of Town Ordinances. Why have ordinances if others don't abide.
road maintenance and mail delivery - recent USPS delivery change for second home owners seems to differ from other towns in Sawyer County.	Keep the lake ordinances for peace and quiet times with the quality that we enjoy now. .
Allow access for ATV to ATV trails from private property.	Keep the ordinances for shoreline restrictions of set backs and 200' minimum with stopping development from the Clear Lake Golf Course all the way to the Telemark expansion. Not in our backyard!
wake enforcement	Internet and cellphone service; emergency services
restrictions on rentals and waterskiing from 11am-6pm	Education of rules
Regulation of short-term rentals.	They don't have enough staff to do everything and owners need to be responsible
Enforcement of existing ordinances.	1.boat speed/skiing,tubing,wakeboard enforcement outside of 11-3 hours. 2.shoreline protection
light intrusion on lakes, and emergency medical services	Water, Boating in particular. And invasive species, Milfoil eradication and prevention
Enforcement of zoning & boating ordinances	Regulation enforcement and short term rentals
'- Enforcing the existing boating and ATV/UTV regulations.	Zoning
- Enforcing current land-use ordinances.	Clean Lakes
Lake quality!!! Two different issues. First and foremost: Someone needs to measure and regulate lake levels, specifically the Spider Lake Chain. It is down disproportionate to what it should be, and I'm not sure why that is. There is an outgoing dam on Little Spider, and I'm not sure who is/should be watching and/or maintaining it. Second, I am not a fan of Wake Enhancing Boats. They hurt the shoreline, and cause waves that are extremely disruptive to other boats. And I'm not sure what they do to the bottom of the lake, but it can't be good.	Rental properties near or on lakeshore and enforcing existing laws.
1. Boating speed enforcement: Stop relying on overly angry neighbors, who yell at ski/surf/tube boats and never at fishing boats.	efforts to overturn our unique quiet hours on the lakes and our 200 ft lakefront zoning law . All our cabins are on septic systems which need the room
2. Shared services within the 'area', eliminating the need for a dedicated, empty, 'town hall'	1) STR Regulations and Enforcement 2)Quiet Lakes Regulations and Enforcement
1)Zoning	1)Keep taxes and town overhead at a minimum. The town does not need a Constable. The Sawyer County sheriff should continue to fill this role.
2)Boating regulations	2) Water quality and sewer system compliance to state rules
Increasing enforcement resources of Ordinances/zoning/bldg permits/recreational uses ie atv/utv , campgrounds etc. Protection of the Northwoods Character(environment).	1. Limit Short Term Rentals; 2. Enforce existing ordinances (ALL violations of zoning: eg: illegal boathouse construction, ATV and boating; CUPs that violate zoning)
Maintain quiet hours for boating	1. emergency medical services access.
Eliminate wake boats	2. Cell and internet access
Shoreline protection from boating and development.	ordinance enforcement and road support
enforcement of Ordinance 12 (speed limit/hours); do more to protect the lakes and shoreline from wake boats and similar	Eliminate short term rentals.
Reduce short term rentals and emergency services.	Allow ATV/UTVs much more across to all of Spider Lake Township roads.
Maintaining the quiet lake status	Enforcing laws on STR
1. Make Spider Lake channels easier to navigate	Simplify a very complex Zoning Permit process.
2. Minimize regulations regarding setbacks (ie allow boat houses/remodeling/building within setbacks). So many properties were grandfathered in that it is unfair not to allow all property owners more freedom to build.	Maintain quiet and character of the area
	Environmental protection and better cell service
	Enforce ATV laws.
	Eliminiate STRs.
	noise pollution and evasive species control
	OPEN ATV, UTV USAGE!!!!!!
	zoning and boating
	Lack of cell phone coverage -- this is a safety factor; stocking lakes with fish

APPENDIX F: Open-ended survey item (Q40)

not sure	issues shouldn't be a focus. The key issues should be the ones that are causing the most problems or concerns.
Not sure	Number 1 for me would be improved internet and 2 would be eliminated or limited electrical outages.
emergency services and boat and atv ordinances	Need an ordinance on the number of times a dog can bark
Reduction of overregulation and paving of gravel residential roads	Set back from property lines should be more
equal ordinance enforcement, preserving the northwoods look and feel	Short term rentals
Fire safety, internet access	Enforcement of current ordinances
zoning and law enforcement	1. Lack of Good Internet
Cell service on the lakes and safe roads	2. Lack of Good Cell Coverage
Cell Phone service andCell PhoneService	1. The impact of STRs on the quality of life of peaceful, permanent residents.
Jet skis used along the shorelines damaging weed lines and no use of ATVs on roads,	2. The impact of ATV/UTV and snowmobile flaws and hooligans on the quality of life of peaceful residents.
Lake pollution - the spread of milfoil in the lakes.	Expanding usage of UTV/ATV on public roads.
Finding ways to compromise with the two factions of politics	Cell service/internet service availability.
Emergency management	Lake level & Boating
Lake quality e.g. EWM control.	stocking the lake to draw more fishing
Divided politics/lawsuits and tourism (increase for local businesses/revenue)	ATV usage education; introducing some festival -like opportunities to meet neighbors
atv enforcement off roads, short term rental noise enforcement	1)Find a way to eliminate STR's unless by legitimate resorts/business(no condo/home rentals), 2)Does the Eco Harvester actually help or hurt our lakes?
milfoil weeds in lost land lake, boat ramp in teal	Cellular phone access/coverage and emergency medical services
Water quality, ski hour violations	The town officials should address and release the information from the previous survey regarding ATV use on our roads. In addition, they should get a pulse on current overall public opinions on ATV use within Spider Lake.
10mph boat speed	Ordinance enforcement (e.g. speed on lakes) and Short Term Rentals.
Milfoil eradication	transparency of all decisions of the Town Board of directors
The Board members again as stated are self-serving members they are bias and their agendas are only issues they want and when the town members vote on an issue and the board disagrees they disregard the popular vote (special board meeting held March 2023 on the Fire Hall bldg is an example). The self-serving, bias board fired our competent zoning and conservation engineer and put a present board member in to fill that position which was serving the board members personal interest.	Education of users regarding ATV and Lake Quiet zones/times. We do not need the expense of a constable to enforce. One person could not possibly be everywhere!
Emergency services and maintaining the quiet lakes from the large very fast boats that have come onto the lakes and will eventually destroy the shoreline	Speed limits on lakes
zoning regulations, fighting increased waterskiing hours on our lake.	New construction on lake
Internet and Cell phone access.	enforcement of ATV use
Advising renters of all Town regulations	enforcement of boating speed limits
Trash collection and Recycling	Enforcement of Quiet Lake boating regulations and maintaining and enforcement of all shoreline regulations, ie 200 ft lake waterfront development, tree clearing, etc.
The lake level was very low this year. I believe it is somewhat controlled by the use of a dam. Boats were docked by driving them into the shore and being stuck on the sand. this year it cost me \$340 to repair the prop and replace skeg. hasn't happened before. Shallow lake levels caused this. no internet and no cell phone use. A real safety issue.	Roadside clean-up. Dead wood plus trash. Encourage member participation. A forestry program to encourage fire safety and forest health
Limiting or eliminating short term rentals, and ATV useage	Enforce current zoning. Open roads to atv and utv
Issues that have been identified as problematic. Are there currently problems with houseboats or with STRs, are there requests to add campgrounds, etc. If not, than these	Boating enforcement, Emergency services
	KEEP OUR 10mph SPEED LIMIT on LOST LAND and TEAL LAKE!!
	CELL PHONE RECEPTION...there is none on Upper A. (for emergencies, which in turn impact lack of firefighters and EMS personnel.)
	Roads and power line maintenance to avoid outages from storms.

APPENDIX F: Open-ended survey item (Q40)

No constable too strict zoning laws.	it was not mentioned anywhere on this survey. Not sure why that was omitted.
Boating and ATV enforcement	Opening of ATV trails and roads Allowing more cell towers in the area
Honesty with constituents and preserving our quality of life Maintaining the peace and quiet of the ,Áquiet lakes,Á. Preserving the Quality of ,Áda nortwoods,Á atmosphere anyway that is possible.	regulate wake boats to minimize shoreline destruction Short term rentals and getting our governmental officials access to best practices and cooperative learning and sharing of resources with our neighboring towns le: sharing a code enforcement officer and other ways to work together.
Township zoning laws, one centrally located cell tower	internet/cell services and balancing public outdoor facilities
Enforcement/education of ordinances	Lake Level of Spider Lake managing local ordinances
The threat of over development, the moterised recreational prolifercation	Land use and development Preservation of the natural environment
Roads and maintaining Northwoods	1. Quality of renters as they don't own and therefore don't have any substantial interest in community the way a property owner is. Or owners who do rent also don't care about impact on community. 2. Safety of community from transients.
Expanded wake hours, Internet availability additional cell towers or service, REGLULATE SNOWMOBILE SPEED ON LAKES	1. Cellular service 2. Emergency medical services availability/response time
Decision Making must be made more transparent and accessible to all citizens, including non-resident taxpayers!	Reviewing boating and ATV/UTV ordinances.
Fire protection, invasive water plants	Enforcement of Lake laws/regulations on Lost Land Lake & charging boat owners using public boat launch on Lost Land Lake- they should have some in skin in game to fight invasive weeds species that are now in lake to help offset costs to fight eradication- costs should not be placed solely on property owners who are estimated to provide 25% of costs that state grants if awarded will not cover!!
Atv's and Building ordinances	Lake speed limits, Building permits/ Septic permits. ie Ross's old resort
To keep the ,Ánorth woods,Á character intact and enforce the ordinances.	Milfoil on our lakes and we need better cell service
1. Milfoil issue 2. Preserve QLIA objectives	ATV usage and enforcement of boat speeds on the lakes and rivers.
Address the milfoil issues. Instead of just education at the landings, invest in some realistic solutions. If not addressed and a solution provided it will severely impact property values, which in turn will impact your budget and tax revenue. Quit trying to regulate everyone and everything that negatively impacts the few permanent residents. Your non resident population provides the majoriority share of tax revenue. People will sell and leave if you continue to do this and further devalue the areas properties and further negatively impact your tax revenues and impact your township commercial businesses.	Regulating STRs to allow it but ensure there are structures in place. Keeping lakes and lands wild as much as possible for silent sports to be enjoyed.
Cell service. Increased recreational opportunities.	milfoild on lakes, and keeping lakes quiet
Cell phone service (AT&T & all others) needed here so we can reach out for safety reasons when we are not near wifi services.	quiet time in the evenings and education of ordinances
1) Implement noise ordinance. 2) Enforce existing boating restrictions.	Getting rid of the boating restrictions on Spider Lake and be like ALL the other lakes and let people use the Lake like everybody else. Open up the roads to ATV / UTV use.
Renters ignore boating rules and courtesy	Milfoil; boating speeds
Enforcement of ATV use, emergency services	The divisiveness in the community due to the authoritarian governance and enforcement as well as overreach approach by the township and its governing body. The constant felt harassment and scrutinizing of property owners that only fuels divisiness.
Water quality, fire prevention	Equal opportunity for property owners to vote, less restrictive for property owners
Some flexibility with zoning when it is building replacement or new buildings that do not mar the lakefront; and lake rule enforcement	ATV road access to trail system. Control property/cost increases.
Maintenance of Northwoods character and enforcement of ordinances	cellular access; boating regulations
Water level issues in the lake. Ensuring strong and transparent communication on how it works today, Educating the taxpayers on the current situation and provide a game plan to invest resources to address. Should form a subcommittee of interested parties to help with this issue. That's the major issues and I am surprised	

APPENDIX F: Open-ended survey item (Q40)

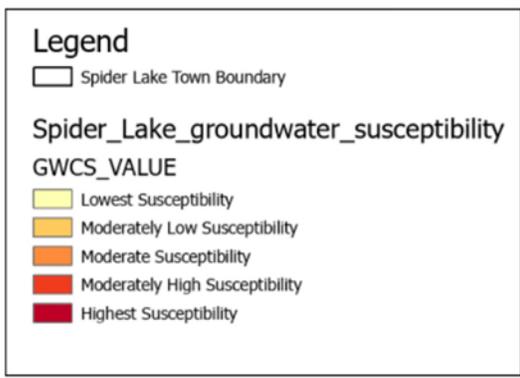
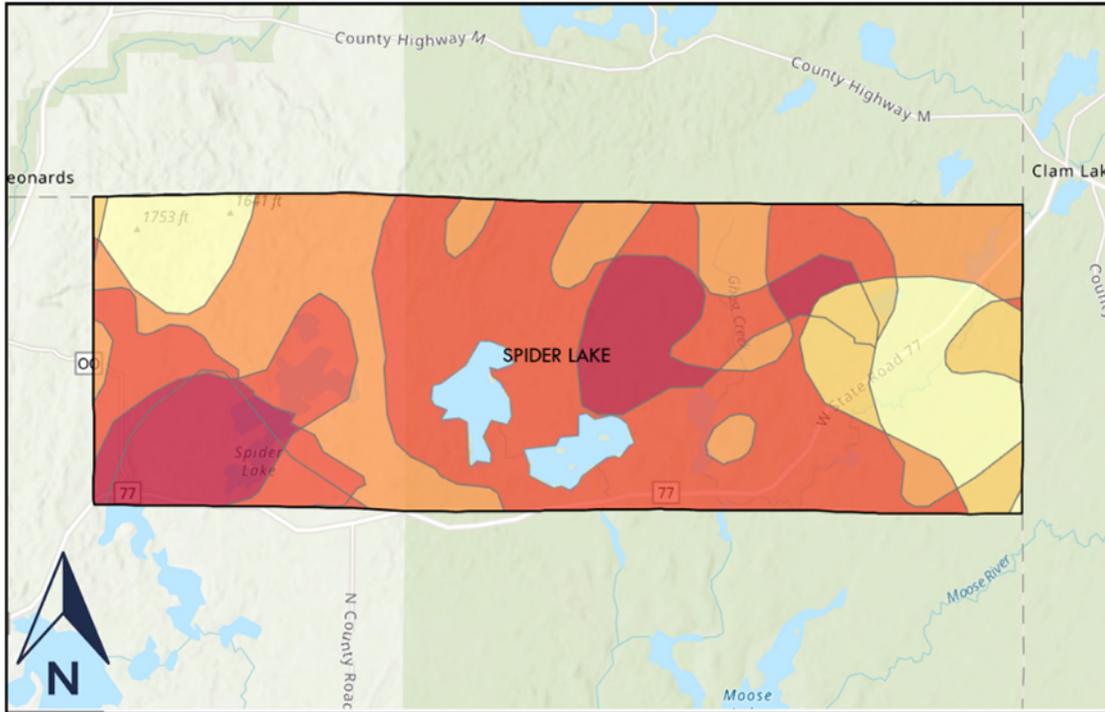
Milfoil control; speed of power boats on Lost land and Teal lakes
Require rentals to inform renters/documentation required Limit number STR,Âs
Protect water sports hours, maintain and plow roads
Air and water quality
Cellular services
Enforcement services in place now.
Spending Control
Maintaining our "Northwoods" Character
Property tax is too HIGH!!! More than at home for the same.
Too high for what I have in Door County!
Not overregulate or underregulate by going too overboard.
STR, maintain quiet lakes designations
Quiet lakes, more access for UTV,Âs

*** All responses have been printed as written*

**APPENDIX C:
CAFO ORDINANCE
MAPS**

Map 1

Town of Spider Lake Groundwater Susceptibility to Contamination

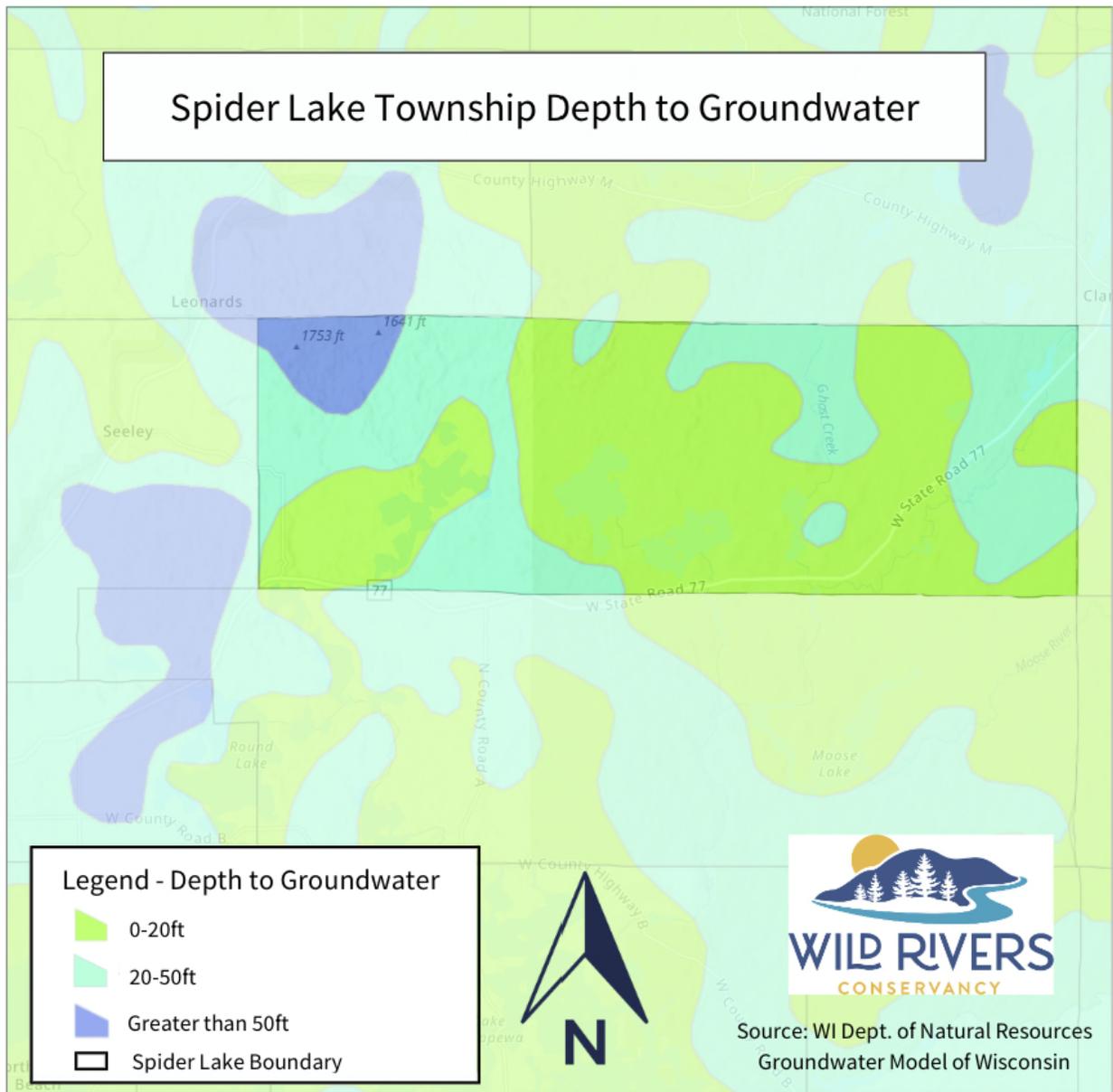


Source: WI Dept. of Natural Resources,
Groundwater Contamination Susceptibility Model

Source: Wisconsin DNR, Groundwater Contamination Susceptibility Model:
<https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=b695a885d94e459ea69b9282b63693de>

10/24/23

Map 2

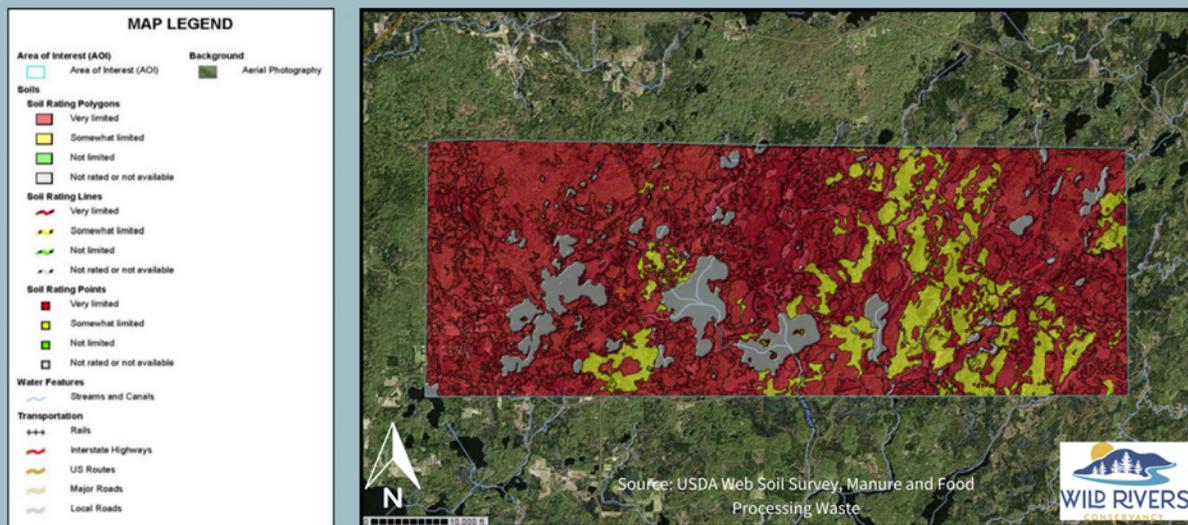


Source: Wisconsin DNR Groundwater Susceptibility Model, Depth to Groundwater:
<https://data-wi.dnr.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/wi-dnr::gcsm-water-table-depth/about>

9/28/23

Map 3

Town of Spider Lake Manure Absorption Ability



Source: USDA Web Soil Survey: Manure and Food Processing Waste - <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

9/28/2023

Map 4

