

PREFACE

The Town of Grantsburg is influenced by its rural character, emphasized by its forest and natural resources. While still maintaining large open tracts of agricultural or forest use, concerns regarding continued residential development and the projected increase in population prompted the town to embark on the development of a local planning process. As early as 1999, the town began to develop a local long range plan for its future land use. In 2003, the town began a process to ensure their local land use ordinances were consistent and based on a local comprehensive plan.

While the town has experienced mainly residential development, this development activity is projected to continue into the future, dividing the rural landscape and potentially creating negative impacts to the natural resources and rural character. Very limited commercial businesses are located in the town, largely due to the town's proximity to the Village of Grantsburg.

Overall, the town's population has been on the increase. The decade from 1990-2000 saw the population rise from 860 persons to 967 persons, an increase of 12.4 percent. Projections over the next 20 years continue to identify a population increase. Resulting from the increase in population is the addition of housing units and increased land use activity.

PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN

The *Town of Grantsburg Comprehensive Plan* is intended to assist local officials and residents make future land use decisions. The plan will assist with development and management issues by addressing short-range and long-range concerns regarding growth, development, and preservation of the community. Developing a comprehensive plan can assist in:

- identifying areas appropriate for development and preservation;
- recommending types of land use for specific areas;
- identifying needed transportation and community facilities that will serve existing and future residents;
- directing housing and other investments to areas that can best serve the community; and
- providing detailed objectives and actions to implement the overall plan goals.

This *Comprehensive Plan* has been prepared under the Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning legislation contained in Wisconsin Statute 66.1001. The plan is organized into nine chapters or elements (issues and opportunities; housing; transportation; utilities and community facilities; natural, agricultural, and cultural resources; economic development; intergovernmental cooperation; land use, and implementation) each addressing one element specified under the law.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

The comprehensive planning process began in 2003 but ultimately served as an extension of the long range planning process the town began as early as 1999. Throughout the planning process, the public was afforded several opportunities to participate directly in the development of the comprehensive plan. Meetings of the plan commission were posted and public members attending all planning related meetings were afforded an opportunity to speak and participate jointly with the commission. Upon completion of the draft comprehensive plan, the plan commission formally recommended the plan to the Town of Grantsburg Planning Commission.

The recommended draft comprehensive plan was circulated to all adjoining and overlapping jurisdictions and others required to receive the plan and made available to the public via hard copy and Internet. A public hearing was held on the comprehensive plan, again affording an opportunity for public comment. Based on the recommendations of the plan commission and the public, the Town of Grantsburg will review and consider adopting the recommended comprehensive plan.