

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

FINAL



Otter Tail County



In Collaboration with

White Earth Nation



**E
N
G
I
N
E
E
R
S
P
L
A
N
N
E
R
S
D
E
S
I
G
N
E
R
S**

December 2016

SRF No. 0169148

Acknowledgements

Project Management Team

Rick West	Otter Tail County
Larry Krohn	Otter Tail County
Wayne Johnson	Otter Tail County
Lee Rogness	Otter Tail County
Charles Grotte	Otter Tail County
Bill Kalar	Otter Tail County
Nick Leonard	Otter Tail County
David Hauser	Otter Tail County
Liz Foster-Anderson	White Earth Enterprises, LLC
Eugene (Jeff) Vivier	White Earth Nation
Joe Plummer	White Earth Tribal Attorney
Bill Marsh	Shooting Star Casino
Mike Smith	Shooting Star Casino
Eric Lagerquist	Cuningham Group
Mike Donoho	Star Lake Property Owners Association
Lee Mindemann	Star Lake Township
Shiloh Wahl	MnDOT District 4
Jody Martinson	MnDOT District 4
Craig Vaughn	SRF Consulting Group
Cindy Gray	SRF Consulting Group
Molly Stewart	SRF Consulting Group

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	ii
Project Management Team.....	ii
Study Intent	1
Introduction	2
Project Management Team (PMT).....	2
White Earth Nation Tribal Trust Land / Fee Land.....	3
Study Area Overview.....	3
White Earth Nation Resort and Casino Development.....	3
Study Area Subgroups.....	3
Demographic Conditions	6
Permanent Population.....	6
Age Distribution.....	6
Current Housing Profile.....	7
Income and Area Economy.....	8
Natural Resources Overview	10
Water Resources.....	10
Lakes.....	10
Wetlands.....	11
Wild Rice Harvest Areas.....	11
Management of Lakes and Wetlands.....	14
Otter Tail County Shoreland Management Ordinance.....	14
Soil Resources	15
Prime Farmland	17
Biota, Habitats, and Wildlife	17
Land Cover.....	21
Existing Land Use	24

Plan Area Growth Projections.....29

Housing Growth Potential.....30

2040 Growth Visualization.....32

Community Services36

Emergency Services36

 Emergency Medical Services.....36

 Police37

 Fire Protection37

 Current Mahnomen Shooting Star Experience.....38

 Emergency Service Collaboration Opportunities38

Utilities.....39

 Electric39

 Communications.....40

 Natural Gas.....40

 Water40

 Waste Water Treatment.....40

Transportation.....41

Existing Conditions41

 Existing Functional Classification.....41

 Existing Jurisdictional Classification.....43

 Existing Traffic Volumes43

 Current Crash Characteristics43

Roadway System Assessment47

 Historic Traffic Growth49

 Increased Traffic Growth Scenario.....49

Roadway System Needs / Improvements55

Roadway Improvement Responsibility Proportionment.....58

Plan Goals and Objectives.....60

 Rural/Community Character61

 Recreation62

 Environmental62

Land Use and Transportation.....63

Community Services.....64

Implementation Plan66

Roadway System Improvements Implementation66

Overall Plan Implementation68

 Rural/Community Character.....68

 Recreation.....69

 Environmental.....70

 Land Use and Transportation.....71

 Community Services.....71

Conclusion.....72

Public Input Process.....73

Public Open Houses.....73

Public Survey.....74

Plan Website.....74

Appendices

 Appendix 1 – Otter Tail County Shoreland Management Ordinance (excerpts)

 Appendix 2 – Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan Public Survey Results
 (March 2016)

 Appendix 3 – Public Input Received (comment forms, forum questions, etc.)

 Appendix 4 – Environmental Assessment Process

H:\Projects\9148\Final Report\161226_Final_LASLCP Document_Version_Rev5.docx

Study Intent

The White Earth Nation's announcement of their intent to develop Trust Land on Star Lake, as the Shooting Star Resort and Casino, in Star Lake Township precipitated consideration of the potential for residential and commercial developments on non-trust lands near the proposed development. As a sovereign nation, the development of this Trust Land by the White Earth Nation is not subject to local review or control.

Otter Tail County does not currently have an adopted Comprehensive Plan, nor does it regulate development with any official controls, with the exception of a County-wide Shoreland Ordinance (see Appendix 1). However, the County wants to explore the need for such controls by examining existing conditions including the demographic, geographic and environmental characteristics of the surrounding area, as well as the potential benefits and impacts that could result from development of this area. The County Board requested a study be conducted to review the area surrounding the proposed Trust Land development. The County Board's intent was clear and well understood that this effort would inform County staff and others regarding potential for additional development and redevelopment in the area given the potential land and transportation feature constraints.

The *Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan* is **NOT** intended to be formally adopted as a County Comprehensive Plan under Minnesota Statute Chapter 394, nor is it intended to be adopted as the basis for any official controls under this same statute. Rather, the intent is to take a comprehensive look at development related issues in this limited area of Otter Tail County to determine if a formally adopted Comprehensive Plan and Official Controls are needed to address subarea development concerns.

Additionally, the Plan identifies concerns of Star Lake and Dead Lake Township residents and property owners regarding development in the area as a whole, beyond specific concerns related to the Resort and Casino development (which is outside of the County's jurisdiction). A public input process was used to identify concerns related to transportation infrastructure, natural resources, utilities and land use changes (see section on Public Input Process). A summary of public input received can be found in Appendices 2 and 3.

Introduction

Otter Tail County is a large rural county in West Central Minnesota that is characterized by rolling hills, forests, farmland, and numerous wetlands, lakes, and rivers. The rural setting of Star Lake and Dead Lake Townships and the surrounding area is one that attracts many tourists and seasonal residents, and is likely to experience continued lake shore development over the next 25 years. Otter Tail County staff had the foresight to undertake a limited area planning study to understand how land development may affect public services in the area surrounding Star Lake and Dead Lake Townships.

The plan documents existing physical and socio-economic conditions of Star Lake and Dead Lake Townships, and uses input from property owners and public service providers in the study area to identify future needs and a long term vision for the limited area of Otter Tail County.

The Plan:

- Describes the demographic, geographic, and environmental characteristics of Star Lake and Dead Lake Townships.
- Provides an overview of the limited area transportation system and potential system improvements necessary to support development over the next 25 years.
- Outlines potential shared benefits relative to future redevelopment (beyond the Resort and Casino) in the limited area.
- Documents the public engagement process and summarizes the results of the community survey, which will help the community begin to consider its goals and envision more clearly the opportunities and constraints within the study area.

The Plan development process incorporated significant public stakeholder input and feedback regarding existing conditions, potential land use changes, and transportation issues; furthermore, it was guided by a diverse set of jurisdictional agencies, or quasi jurisdictional agency (White Earth Nation) with utilization of a Project Management Team.

Project Management Team (PMT)

The PMT is comprised of individuals representing engineering, planning, public relations, county and state interests, Native-American tribal land owners, and property development interests. White Earth Nation is the tribal entity with governing authority over approximately 15 acres of land immediately adjacent to Star Lake that is held in Trust or Restricted Status by the United States Federal Government. The PMT helped guide the study team and provide oversight for all aspects of the Plan development, including scheduling, coordination and conducting outreach, review and development of draft materials, and molding the implementation plan contained herein. The PMT met on six (6) occasions throughout the process.

White Earth Nation Tribal Trust Land / Fee Land

White Earth Nation has jurisdiction and exercises governmental power over approximately 15 acres of land immediately adjacent to Star Lake that is held in Trust or Restricted Status by the United States Federal Government. State, county and township governments have no jurisdiction over such lands. White Earth Nation purchased approximately 255 additional acres surrounding the Trust Land that is differentiated as Fee Land. Fee Land is land that is acquired by a tribal entity via standard statutory authority and is not held in trust by the United States Federal Government. It is subject to the usual local regulations and/or zoning.

While there is a process to convert Fee Land to Trust Land, the process is very restrictive for land not connected to Tribal Reservation lands.

Study Area Overview

White Earth Nation Resort and Casino Development

White Earth Nation has the statutory right to develop gaming operations on Trust Lands, and therefore intends to develop a resort and casino on the land under their jurisdiction. A portion of the remaining Fee Land will be used to supplement the gaming operation development with parking lots, utility operations, transportation access, and other ancillary facilities included in Phase 1 of development. Future phases are not known at this time but are anticipated to include an increase of approximately 20 to 30 percent of Phase 1 development.

Study Area Subgroups

Star Lake Township

Star Lake Township occupies 36 square miles in Otter Tail County, Minnesota. The township is located directly east of Maplewood State Park and south of State Highway 108, which links the cities of Pelican Rapids and Dent. There are no incorporated cities within Star Lake Township. Star Lake is located in the northeast quadrant of the township. A US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Waterfowl Production Area is located just west of Star Lake, covering 377 acres.

Dead Lake Township

Dead Lake Township also occupies 36 square miles within Otter Tail County and is located east of Star Lake Township and South of State Highway 108. Dead Lake spans the entirety of the township from east to west. The Dead Lake State Wildlife Management Area (895 acres) is located along the east side of the lake. A USFWS Waterfowl Production Area is located just north of Dead Lake, covering 311 acres.

Tribal Lands

The White Earth Nation is authorized by tribal law to develop approximately 15 acres of Tribal Trust Land located on Star Lake (see Figure 1). Legal title to Indian Trust Lands is held by the United States of America for the benefit of an Indian tribe. In this case, legal title to the 15 acre parcel of Trust Land is held by the United States for the benefit of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Because the White Earth Nation is one of the constituent Bands of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; and because the White Earth Nation is in the closest proximity to the Star Lake Trust Land compared to the other constituent Bands of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the White Earth Nation is authorized by tribal law to use the property for a variety of purposes, including the present planned economic development purposes.

Tribal law provides that as a condition to the use of the Trust Lands for economic development purposes the White Earth Nation must maintain access to Star Lake for tribal members who seek to gather wild rice from the property. The White Earth Nation fully intends to provide tribal members such access.

The Shooting Star Resort and Casino, and associated facilities, being planned in 2016 are expected to be constructed on both fee land and trust land. In addition to the approximate 15 acres of trust land, the tribe also owns approximately 255 acres of fee land that is adjacent to the trust parcel. This land extends west of County Hwy 41 and north of 380th Street to the middle arm of Star Lake.

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan - Tribal Land Area

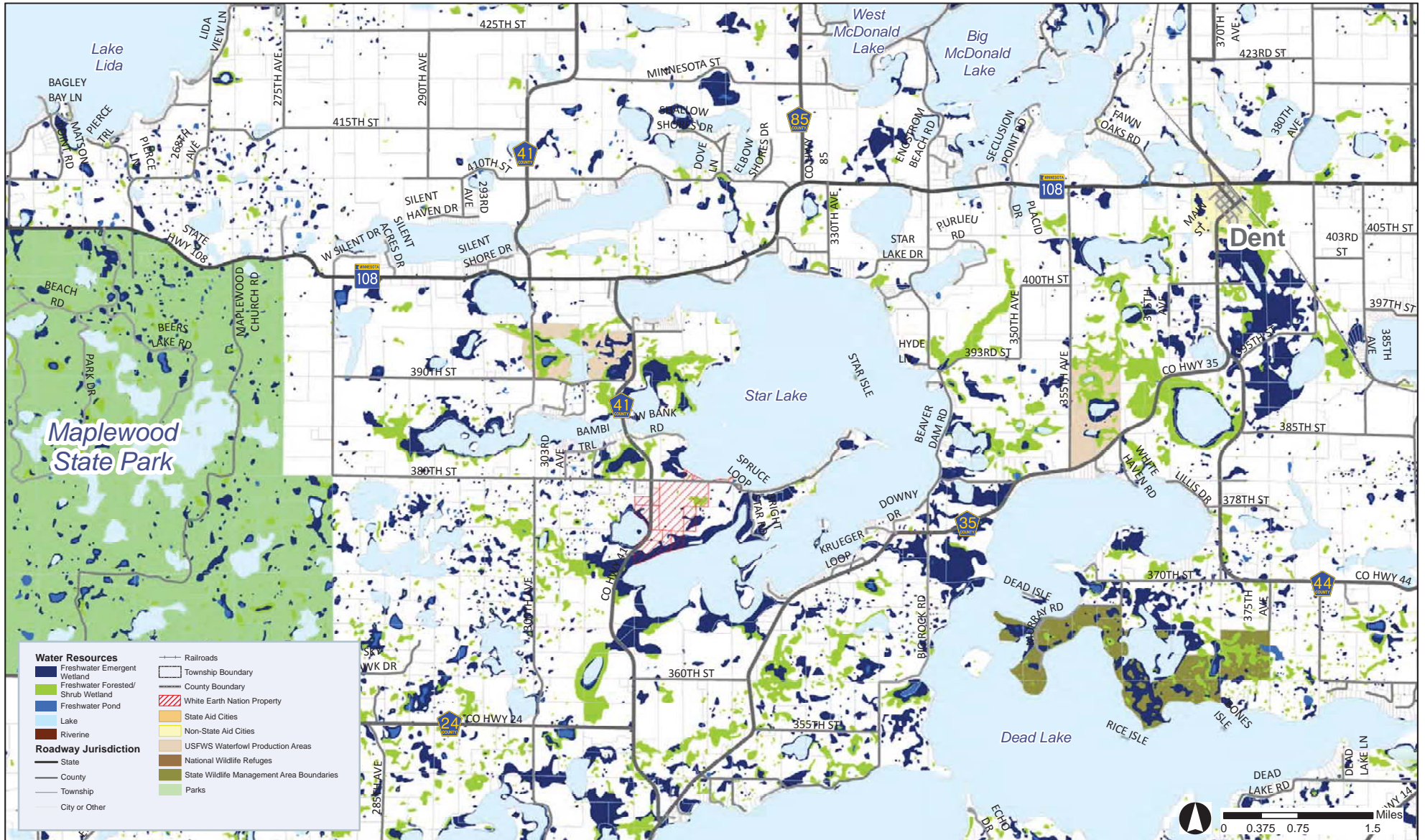


Figure 1

Demographic Conditions

This section is intended to provide background on the conditions that affect the pattern of growth within the Plan boundary. It focuses on four primary areas:

- Population
- Age Distribution
- Housing
- Income and Economy

Permanent Population

The study area is highly rural. The 2014 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated that the permanent population of each township was less than 500 (average population density < 14 people/square mile). Over the last 15 years, there has been essentially no growth in the population of Otter Tail County. The population of Star Lake Township increased marginally from 2010 to 2014, while the population of Dead Lake Township decreased (see Table 1).

Table 1. Population Trends

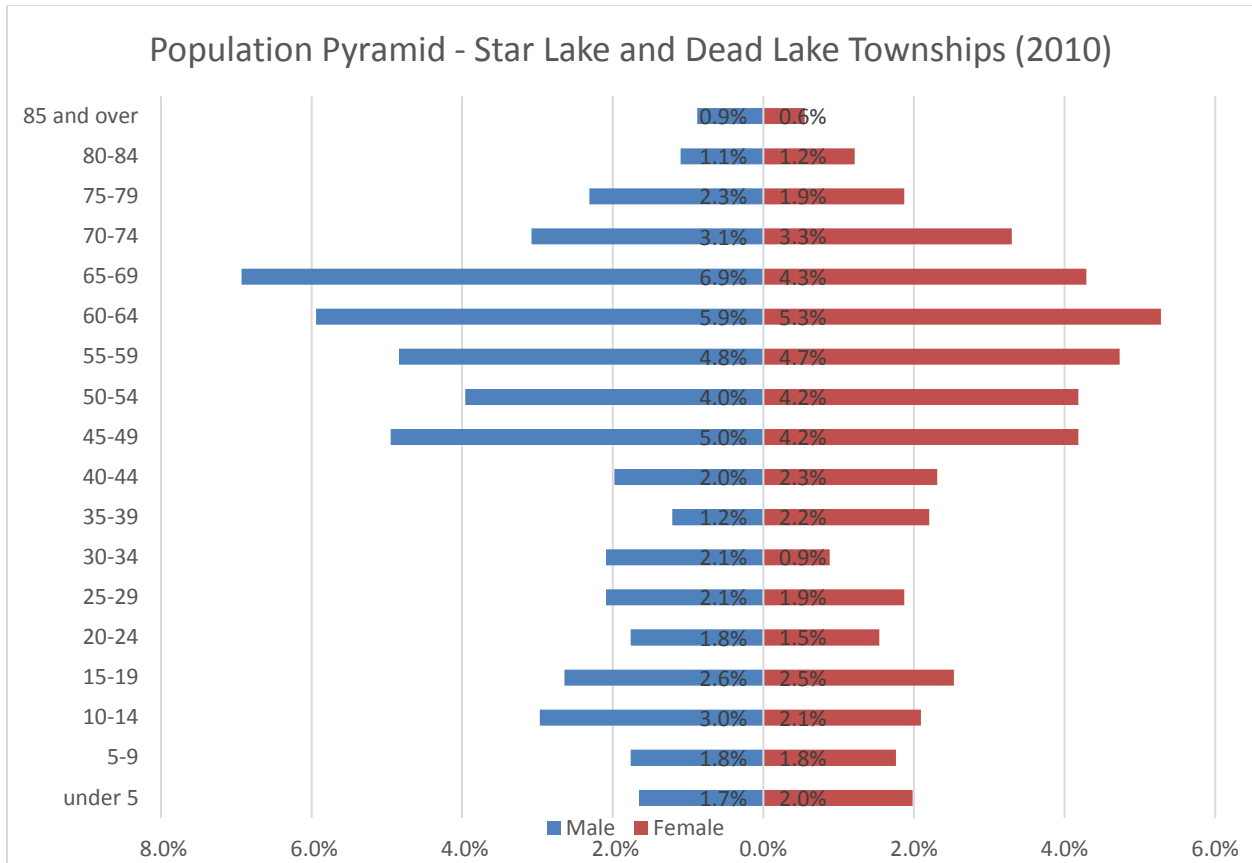
YEAR	2000	2010	2014*
STAR LAKE TOWNSHIP POPULATION	410	415	496
DEAD LAKE TOWNSHIP POPULATION	452	494	410
BOTH TOWNSHIPS	862	909	906
OTTERTAIL COUNTY POPULATION	57,159	57,303	57,417

*5-year ACS estimate

Age Distribution

The population pyramid below shows how the population of an area is distributed by age and gender. It represents the combined permanent populations of Star Lake Township and Dead Lake Township. These townships have similar demographics. The chart represents 2010 data – although the ACS provides estimates for 2014, there is a relatively large margin of error associated with estimates taken from the small sample of permanent residents. For this reason, the 2010 Census count was used.

The population pyramid for the study area townships is top-heavy, with small cohorts of children and young adults and larger cohorts of older individuals. This distribution suggests that little natural growth is occurring through births, as the population estimates confirmed. The largest age cohorts are in their 50s and 60s, and nearly two-thirds of the population is age 45 or older.



Current Housing Profile

Table 2 summarizes housing data for 2000, 2010, and 2014. It provides a breakdown of owner occupied, renter occupied, and vacant units. The vacant unit category includes what the Census classifies as “vacant seasonal” properties; the Census defines these units vacant that are intended for occupancy only during certain seasons of the year (non-homestead). This is pointed out to show that nearly all of the “vacancies” in the Plan boundary townships can be attributed to seasonal housing stock, and that seasonal housing makes up most of the overall housing stock. For tax purposes, the State of Minnesota makes a distinction between primary dwellings – homesteads and non-homesteads. In the text that follows, the terms “vacant seasonal” and “non-homestead” are used interchangeably.

Table 2. Housing Trends

	STAR LAKE HOUSING UNITS			DEAD LAKE HOUSING UNITS			TOTAL
	2000	2010	2014*	2000	2010	2014*	2014*
OWNER OCCUPIED	159	181	187	193	199	152	339
RENTER OCCUPIED	9	10	15	12	22	11	26
VACANT (VACANT SEASONAL)	315 (299)	321 (297)	329 (N/A)	319 (297)	258 (247)	268 (N/A)	597 (N/A)
TOTAL UNITS	483	512	531	524	479	431	962

*5-year ACS estimate

The housing data shows that total housing increased slightly in Star Lake Township over the last 15 years, while it appears that Dead Lake Township lost some housing. The small sample size yields a margin of error of +/- 47 units; thus, Dead Lake Township lost 1 to 95 units between 2010 and 2014. For the study area as a whole, the amount of housing has remained around 1,000 units. In making future housing forecasts, it is important to recognize that the study townships have developed slowly up to this point.

These housing statistics confirm that more than two-thirds of dwellings are categorized as seasonally occupied. The vast majority of occupied units are owned homes. Housing types consist exclusively of single-family detached homes, mobile homes, and resort cabins; there are no dwellings that could be considered multi-family housing. Average household size is estimated at 1.17 for Star Lake Township and 2.24 for Dead Lake Township – roughly 2.2 for the study area as a whole. This data is useful for forecasting the number of daily household trips that are generated in the study area.

Income and Area Economy

The 2014 ACS estimates median household income in Star Lake Township at \$55,313. Median household income in Dead Lake Township was \$51,875. These are similar to the Median Household Income for the County as a whole (with Star Lake and Dead Lake Townships included), which was estimated at \$50,914.

Median values for owner-occupied housing mirror the income data, with Star Lake (\$203,900) and Dead Lake (\$182,500) both ranking considerably higher than Otter Tail County as a whole (\$162,000).

At the township scale, the estimates that the census provides for employment by sector and industry may be unreliable. Nonetheless, agricultural and livestock production is clearly the major industry within Star Lake and Dead Lake townships. Sizeable numbers are employed in construction, manufacturing, retail trade, and professional and educational services – it is likely that many of the workers in these categories commute to larger cities in the area (i.e., Pelican Rapids or Fergus Falls).

Over the last 15 years, the rate of employment among the working-age population has stayed around 50 percent. As the population pyramid demonstrates, many residents are older and presumably retired.

In 2014, the poverty rate in Star Lake Township was estimated at 6.0 percent, while the poverty rate in Dead Lake Township was estimated at 3.4 percent. This difference is inconsequential given the small sample size and the margin of error associated with the estimates.

Natural Resources Overview

The natural contours and qualities of land help to determine how that land will be used and the extent and intensity at which development can occur. For example, the agricultural value and type of agricultural use of the land is determined by topography and soil quality. Prime farmlands are typically cultivated while areas which are less suitable for cultivation may be used as pasture and tend to be more favorable for other types of development.

Often the qualities of the land that entice rural development – rolling hills, secluded forests, miles of lakeshore and recreational amenities – are those which are most sensitive to development. As development pressures drive up the value of land for development, it is important to preserve those features which give the region its character and perform valuable environmental functions. Wetland protection regulations come into effect. Forested uplands act to improve water quality, prevent erosion, provide wildlife habitat, and contribute to the area's bucolic aura. In rural areas, forested uplands can best be protected when they are undeveloped or developed at low densities. This development pattern is indeed the case throughout the study area. The following sections detail some of the natural characteristics that have shaped the existing pattern of land use in the study area, and which will continue to shape future growth.

Water Resources

Lakes

Within the study area, Star Lake (4,468 acres) and Dead Lake (7,535 acres) are the dominant water features (and public waters). Both lakes offer year-round recreation attractions. According to the Minnesota DNR's lake finder application, the water quality of both lakes meet all standards for primary-contact recreation (swimming, wading, etc.). Mercury concentrations in fish tissue exceed the consumption standard. Furthermore, the Star Lake has been on the MPCA's list of impaired lakes for mercury since 2008, with an EPA Category 5 rating. The Category 5 rating requires a total maximum daily load (TMDL) plan by year 2020. The TMDL is a pollution budget and includes a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that can occur in the waterbody, then allocates the necessary reductions to one or more pollutant sources. Dead Lake is also on the MPCA's list for mercury, with an EPA Category 4A rating (TMDL completed in 2007). Water transparency, which is an excellent indicator of water quality, has increased over recent decades. The lakes are moderately clear with low algae levels throughout the open water season. The level of dissolved phosphorous, which is a primary ingredient in the eutrophication process, is low – on average, 17 parts per billion at Star Lake and 24 parts per billion at Dead Lake. Being public waters, these lakes are under DNR jurisdiction.

Wetlands

Otter Tail County is located within the Prairie Pothole region, which extends across the Upper Midwest and parts of Canada. In addition to lakes, this region is characterized by the presence of thousands of shallow wetlands which provide a variety of ecosystem services, such as groundwater recharge, flood and sediment control, and natural habitat for plants and waterfowl. These wetlands typically emerge in the spring and exist on a temporary to semi-permanent basis. They affect land use throughout Otter Tail County, having shaped the parceling of land as well as the extent and intensity of farming and ranching activity. Figure 2 shows wetlands in the study area.

While the vast majority of pre-settlement wetlands have been removed across the Upper Midwest, Minnesota as a whole has retained more wetlands than other states, and the Minnesota State Wetland Conservation Act classifies Otter Tail County as having 50-80 percent of its pre-settlement wetlands intact (see Figure 3).

Wild Rice Harvest Areas

Wild rice, or Manoomin as it is referred to by Ojibwe people, has fundamental cultural significance. Early cultural teachings have consistently provided that Manoomin is central to the existence of Ojibwe people, and that Ojibwe people belong in places where the food grows on the water. Every year many Ojibwe people harvest wild rice across a broad area of Northern Minnesota, which is widely recognized as the best region in the United States for the consistent bountiful production of naturally grown wild rice.

Star Lake is in the southerly reaches of this bountiful wild rice production area. In fact, the approximate 15 acre parcel of Trust Land at Star Lake was originally purchased by the federal government for the benefit of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, specifically for the purpose of providing tribal members access to the lake's wild rice. The White Earth Nation fully intends to continue to provide tribal member's access to Star Lake for the purpose of harvesting naturally grown Manoomin.

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan - Water Resources

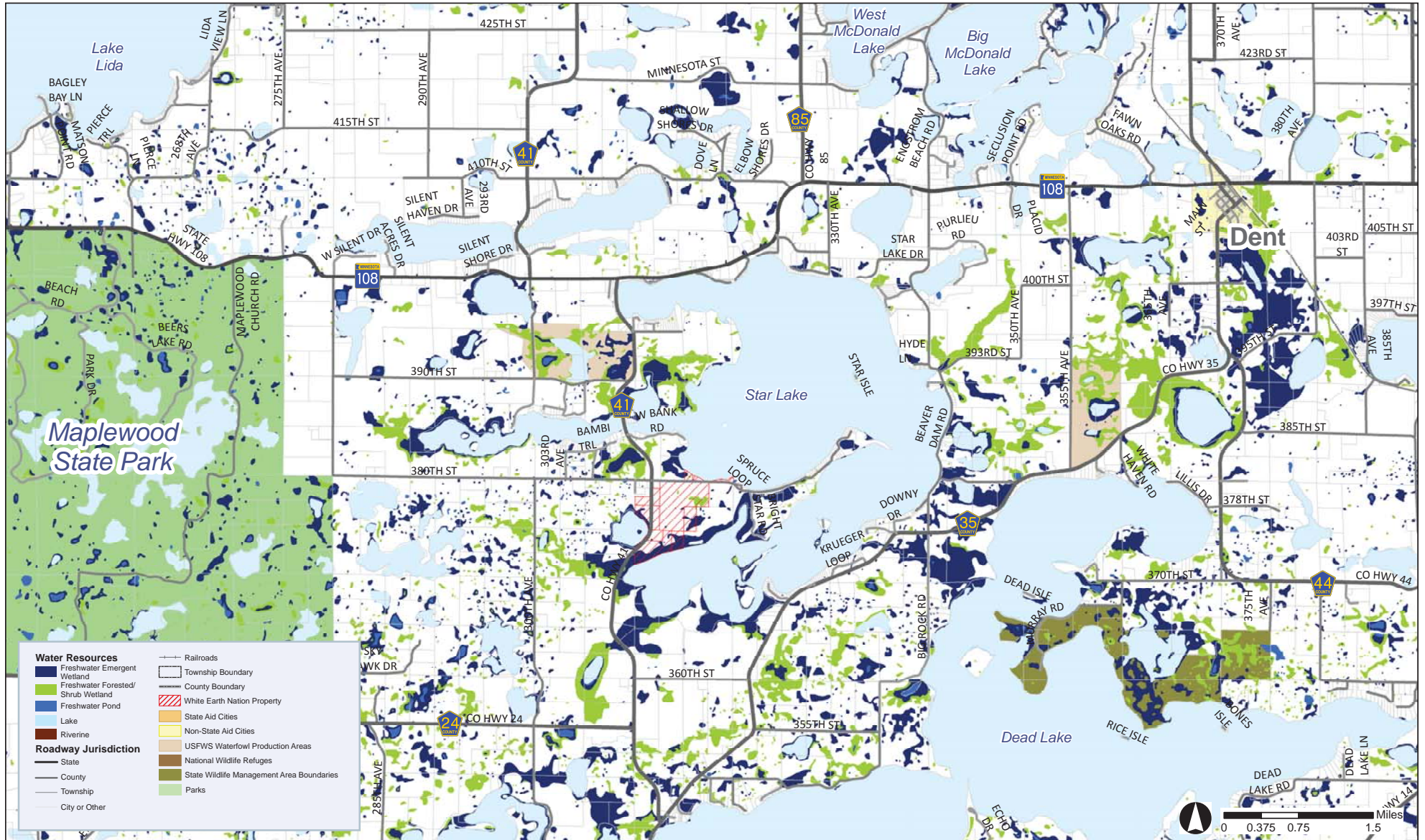


Figure 2

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan: Retention of Pre-settlement Wetlands in Minnesota Counties

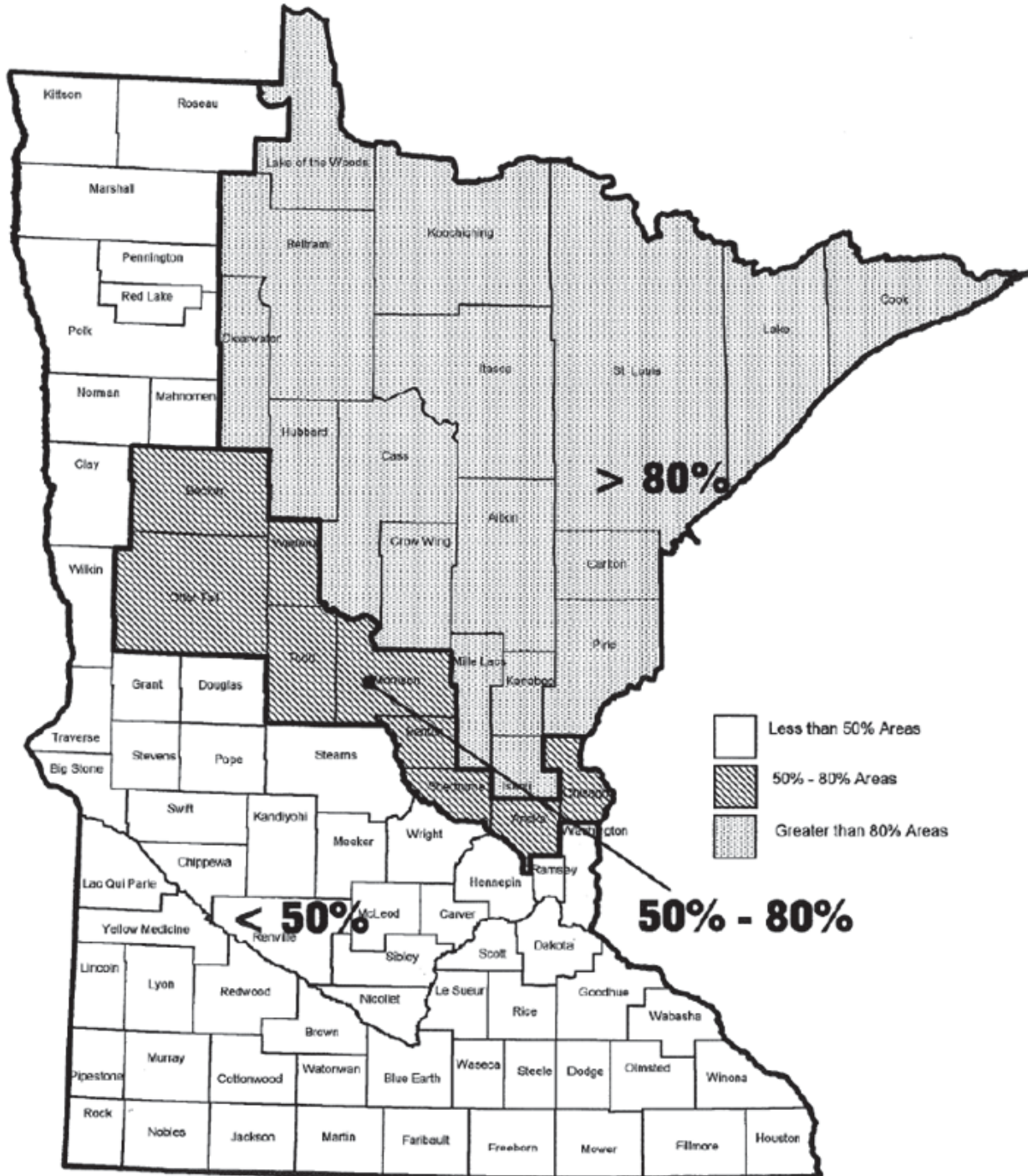


Figure 3

Management of Lakes and Wetlands

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages lakes and wetlands in several ways, including fishing, boating, water appropriations, public water works permits, aquatic weed management, wild rice, and Minnesota endangered species. The DNR Statewide Standards for the Management of Shoreland Areas regulate all land within 1,000 feet of lakes greater than 25 acres in size. These standards pertain to lot size and water frontage, sanitary codes, building setbacks, land use, and subdivision regulations, among other criteria. The level of restriction depends on how the State has classified a water body for development. There are three classifications – general development, recreation development, and natural environment. The general development classification is least restrictive and the natural environment classification is most restrictive. Star Lake is classified as a General Development lake, while Dead Lake is classified as a Natural Environment lake.

Table 3. Statewide Minimum Shoreland Standards for Unsewered Lakes

Lake Class	Lakeshore				Non-Lakeshore	
	Lot Width (ft)	Lot Area (sq ft)	Structure Setback (ft)	Shore Impact Zone (ft)	Lot Width (ft)	Lot Area (sq ft)
Natural Environment	200	80,000	150 (200*)	75 (100*)	200	80,000
Recreation Development	150	40,000	100	50	150	40,000
General Development	100	20,000	75	37.5 (50*)	150	40,000

* Represents Otter Tail County minimums for these classes and categories

Otter Tail County Shoreland Management Ordinance

It is up to local governments to enforce State standards through their zoning authority, but they may adopt a more stringent set of regulations if they choose. Otter Tail County regulates lake shore development through its Shoreland Management Ordinance. As an example, this ordinance applies to a portion of the land on which the proposed Shooting Star resort and casino would be built. While tribal trust property is exempt from County governance, the Shoreland Management Ordinance does apply to tribal fee land that is within 1,000 feet of the lake's Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL). The OHWL is indicated on the site plan that was submitted by White Earth Nation. Measuring 1,000 feet from the OHWL, the Shoreland Management Ordinance would apply to approximately 50 percent of the parking area as well as the internal site circulation roadways and driveways.

Conditional Uses

Only two uses are openly permitted in the Shoreland Management area – agriculture activities and residential (single family, duplex, triplex, and quads). Any other use must go through Otter Tail County’s Conditional Use permitting process. The proposed resort structures and associated parking and access roadways are considered permitted commercial uses; only the parking areas and access roadways located off the federal trust land require a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). The uses are eligible for a CUP provided design parameters are met. The applicable policy excerpt(s) from the Shoreland Management Ordinance is included in the Appendix.

Soil Resources

Data Sources

A good knowledge of basic soil properties is essential for agronomists, planners, and engineers, yet soil datasets are complex and can be difficult to interpret. Unlike most physical characteristics, soil data is three-dimensional, and each layer of soil can have different properties. A note on data sources and analysis tools may be a helpful reference:

Soil data can be downloaded by watershed using the Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGO) downloader tool. SSURGO data is most easily analyzed and interpreted using the Soil Data Viewer tool, a free, downloadable extension for ArcGIS. This tool is essential for aggregating and analyzing data across multiple soil horizons. GIS soil data is aggregated by map units, which are polygons with like soil characteristics. The taxonomy of individual map units within the study area is described in the Otter County Soil Survey, a publication of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Textural and Structural Classifications

The texture and structure of a soil influence its ability to hold water and nutrients, its susceptibility to wind erosion, and the ease with which land can be prepared for farming. Soils in Star Lake Township and Dead Lake Township are predominantly loam or silt (Figure 4). Loams exhibit a blend of properties of clay, silt, and sand that are ideal for farming. They contain more nutrients and humus than sand, provide better infiltration and drainage than silt, and are easier to till than clay.

As (re)development occurs shifts in soil due to impervious surfaces and infiltration has the potential to affect groundwater and groundwater contamination.

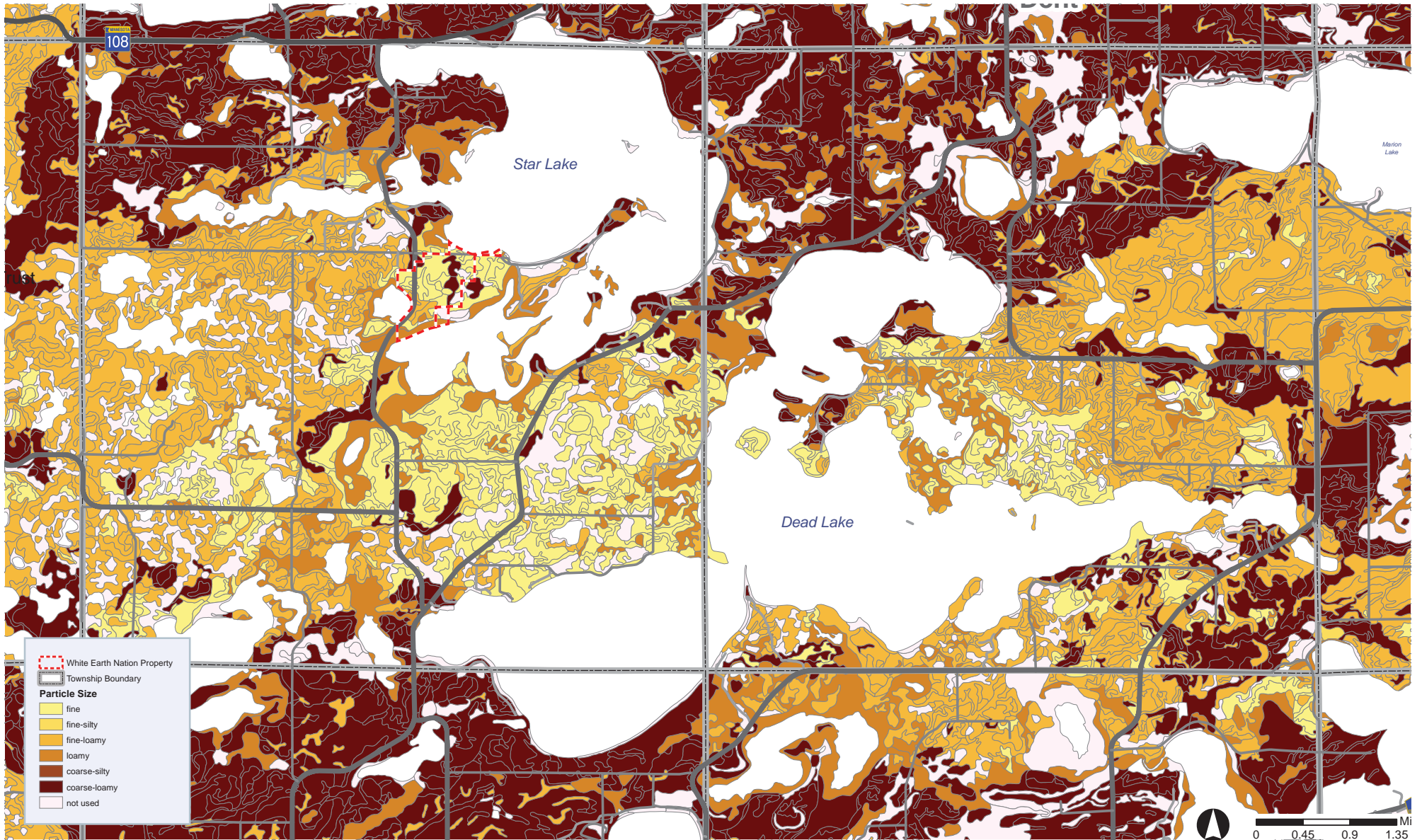


Figure 4

Hydric Classifications

The prevalence of hydric soils is a basic characteristic of wetland topography (Figure 5). Hydric soils are important to land use planning in that they can preclude or restrict structural development. In particular, hydric soils constrain the use of subsurface structures such as basements and septic tanks. When these soils are drained, they are most often put to agricultural use. The risk of soil compaction constrains development of a higher intensity.

Prime Farmland

Study area soils are a valuable agricultural resource. “Prime farmland” is a SSURGO index, which rates soils on their ability to support cultivation of common crops without deterioration over long periods. The prime farmland index accounts for a variety of variables which affect soil suitability for agriculture, including:

- Susceptibility to erosion
- Susceptibility to overflow
- Soil permeability
- Topography (slopes)
- Soil salinity
- Soil depth to water table

Figure 6 provides a map of prime farmlands in the study area, and includes areas with hydric soils that would be considered prime farmlands if drained.

Biota, Habitats, and Wildlife

Star Lake and Dead Lake Townships provide diverse wildlife habitats, including wetlands, lakes, prairie, grasslands, and woodland. These habitats support abundant populations of birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals. The townships have abundant wetland habitat, including two waterfowl production areas, which provide critical feeding and resting grounds for migratory birds of all kinds. A variety of plant and animal species holds intrinsic ecological value from the standpoint of biodiversity, but also offers a variety of opportunities for fishing, hunting, and trapping. The Minnesota DNR inventories and monitors areas of biodiversity significance via the Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS).

Plants

The Minnesota DNR qualifies plant biodiversity through its biodiversity significance index (Figure 7). This index classifies plant communities as outstanding, high, moderate, or below in terms of their ecological significance. The Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) enhances our knowledge of the distribution and status of the state's flora, fauna, and native plant communities. Other classifications on native plant communities and forested areas are also conducted by the DNR and a Native Plant Community Ecological classification system is used by DNR to additionally key out native plant communities throughout Minnesota.

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan - Hydric Soil Classification

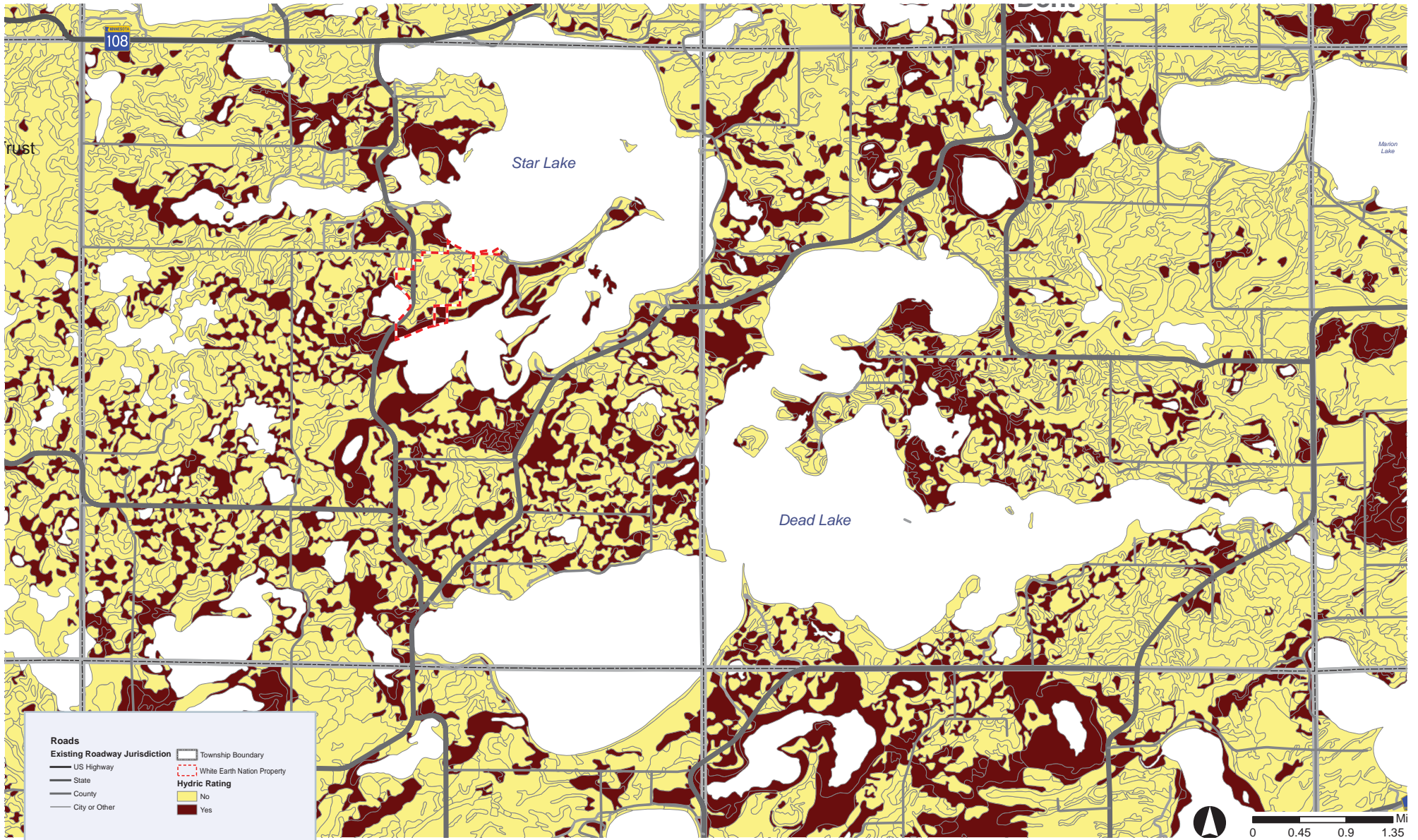


Figure 5

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan - Prime Farmlands

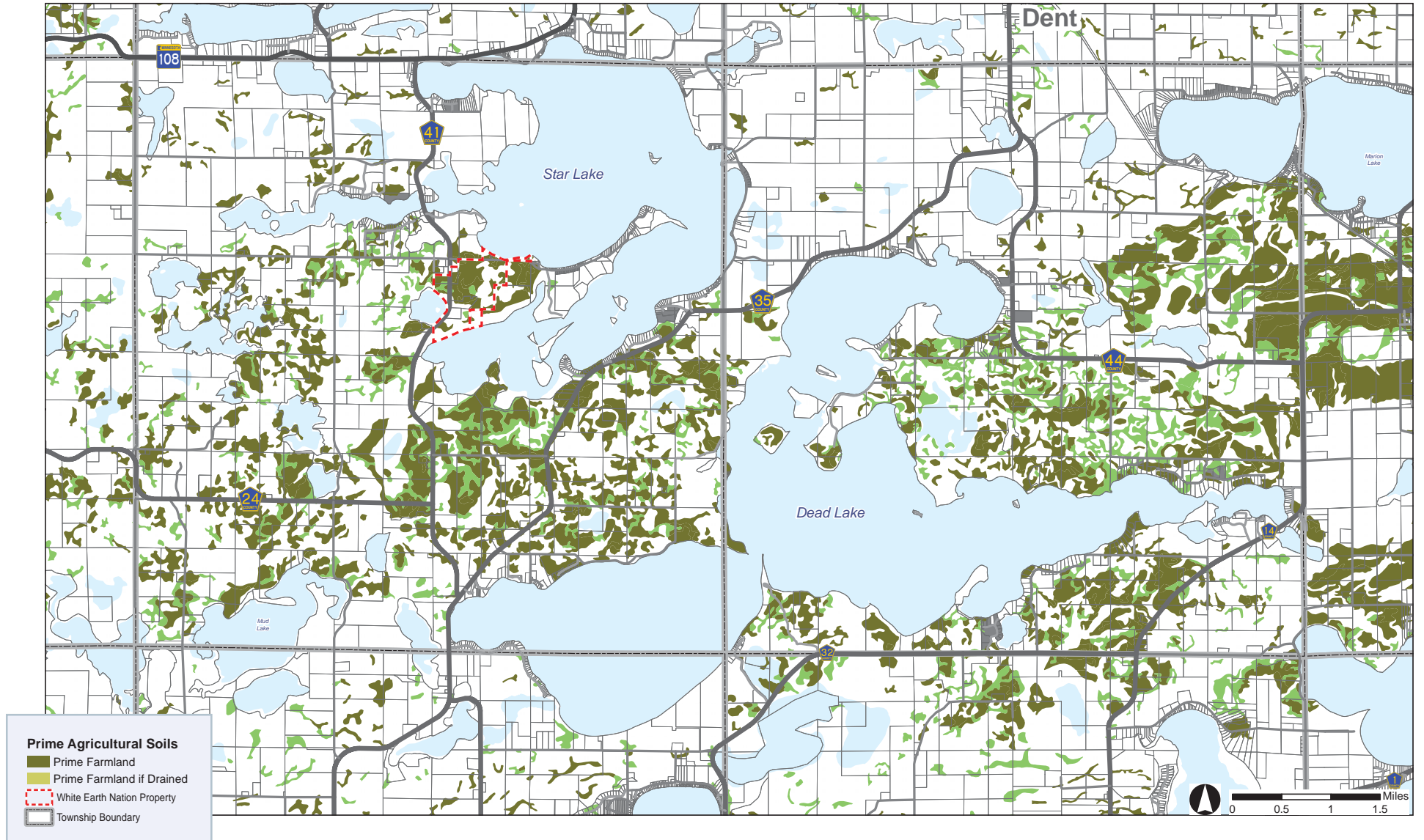


Figure 6

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan - Biodiversity

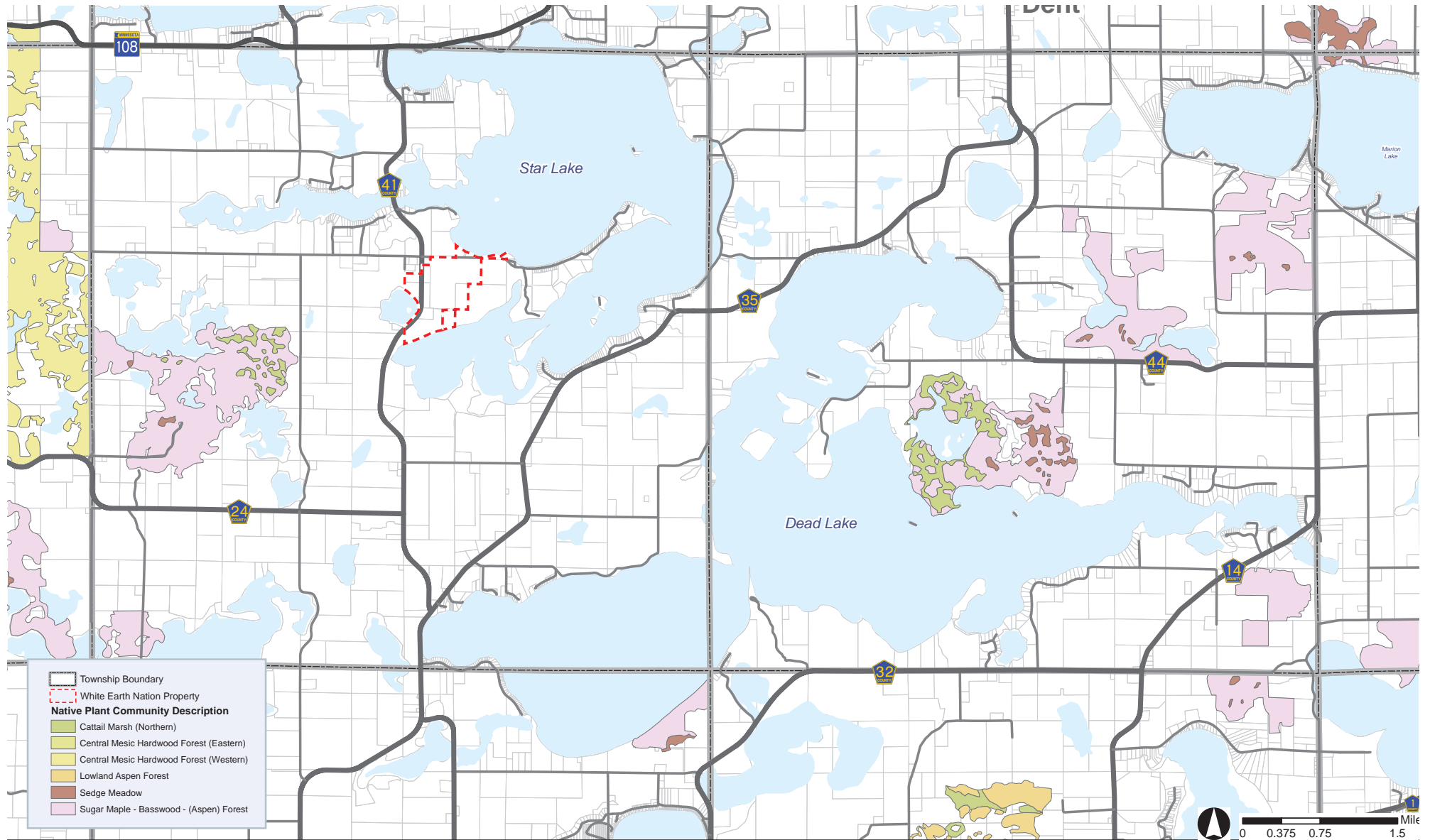


Figure 7

Within the study area, several moderately significant areas have been identified, including at the State Wildlife Management Area east of Dead Lake. These areas contain native plant communities such as cattail marsh, lowland aspen forest, sedge meadow, and sugar maple/aspen forest.

Animals

A 2004 biological survey of Otter Tail County recorded 161 species of birds, including a variety of ducks, geese, swans, gulls, herons, and raptors.¹ The survey also recorded 23 species of mammals, 17 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 35 species of fish. The Gray Wolf is listed as an endangered species with potential habitat in Otter Tail County. During the last wolf-hunting season in MN (2014), several wolves were harvested within seven miles of Star Lake. Therefore, there is precedent for wolves to occur within Otter Tail County. Also, within the county, no roost trees or hibernacula were recorded for the Northern Long-Eared Bat, which was recently listed as an endangered species statewide.

A summary of fish species is included below.

Star Lake fish species: black bullhead, black crappie, bluegill, bowfin (dogfish), brown bullhead, common carp, green sunfish, hybrid sunfish, largemouth bass, northern pike, pumpkinseed, rock bass, tullibee (cisco), walleye, yellow bullhead, yellow perch

Dead Lake fish species: *All of the above* + white sucker, banded killifish, blacknose shiner, bluntnose minnow, fathead minnow, Johnny darter, mimic shiner, sand shiner, spottail shiner

Land Cover

Land Cover data is used to identify distinctions between different geographical areas (Figure 8). It provides highly accurate data (cell resolution is 30x30 meters) about the intensity of development in terms of the extent of impervious surface coverage. Developed areas are shown in varying shades of red, with darker shades symbolizing higher levels of impervious coverage. Non-developed areas include open water (blue), wetlands (blue-green), forests (green), cropland (yellow), and pasture (brown).

¹ Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Ecological Services (2006). Rare Animals in the Hardwood Hills and Pine Moraines and Outwash Plains Ecological Subsections of West-Central Minnesota.

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan - Regional Land Cover

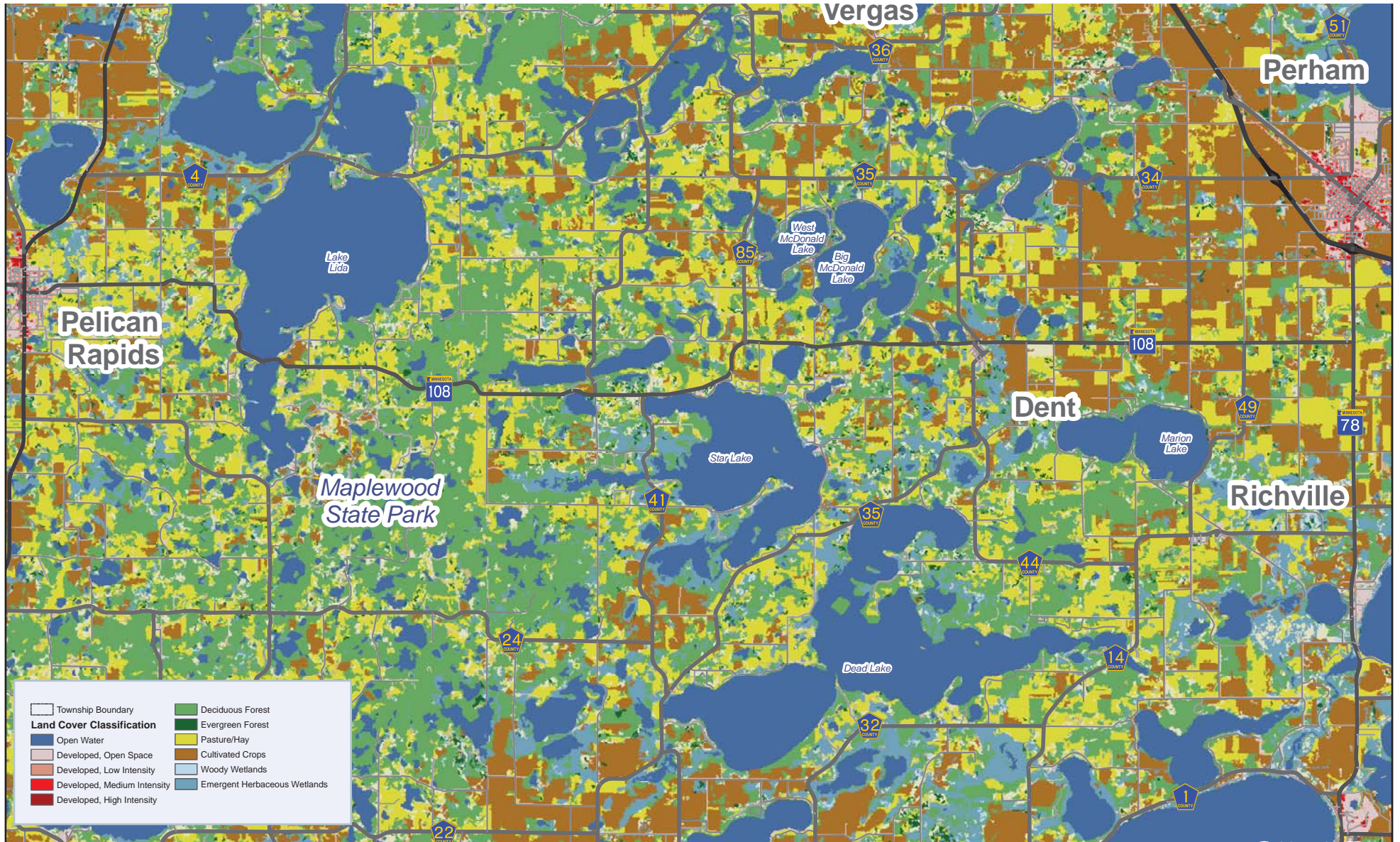


Figure 8

In Star Lake and Dead Lake Townships, the majority of impervious cover consists of roads. Very little space is devoted to building footprints and parking. More than 61 percent of the total acreage is covered in lakes and ponds. More than 15 percent of the acreage is covered in forested wetlands and emergent herbaceous wetlands. The sheer acreage and geography of these water bodies determines how the remainder of the land can be used for farming, housing, transportation, and other purposes. Minnesota state laws prohibit agriculture from encroaching on lake shores and wetlands. The large yellow areas represent dedicated pasture as well as lands that cannot or have not been farmed. Otter Tail County encourages participation in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and some yellow areas likely participate in this program.

Existing Land Use

The land use map is a parcel-based map (see Figure 9). Like the land cover map, it reflects the location of agricultural areas, but it also shows the primary use of the structure on each parcel (when no structure is present, property ownership may be indicated).

The land use map, and table 4, were created from a County dataset containing property tax records and homestead classifications. In many cases, properties have been assessed for multiple uses. For simplicity, only the primary classifications were used to create the land use map. A brief description of each land use is provided in the following the text.

Water (Light Blue Hatch)

Much of the land area within the plan boundary consists of open water and parcels that have been designated as “null.” In addition to water areas, null areas represent public ROW for roads. The percentages provided in the table were calculated with these null acreages excluded.

Agricultural Land (Green)

The largest land use component within the plan boundary is agricultural, which accounts for more than half of the total acreage in Star Lake and Dead Lake Townships. In addition, approximately 358 acres (1.2 percent) of farmable land have been set aside in a rural preserve program, such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Rural Vacant Land (Light Gray)

The second largest land use component consists of vacant rural land. These lands contain no taxable structures and are assumed to have little agricultural value due to the presence of wetlands and/or forested areas. They consist of unplatted parcels of land that provide hunting, trapping, and other recreation opportunities for private individuals. They also provide ancillary attraction for the general public, such as ecological and quality-of-life benefits.

Residential (Yellow)

The residential parcels include both permanent homesteads and seasonal homes. They include lake homes as well as homes located within the agricultural areas. According to county tax records, 412 housing units are occupied on a permanent, year-round basis and approximately 847 housing units are designated as seasonal. Many of these seasonal residences (“seasonal” being a designation of the County’s) are designed and constructed for year-round use. As the baby-boomer generation moves into retirement, the trend is for more of these homes to be occupied year-round, and if not year-round, for more than just the summer months.

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan - Existing Land Use

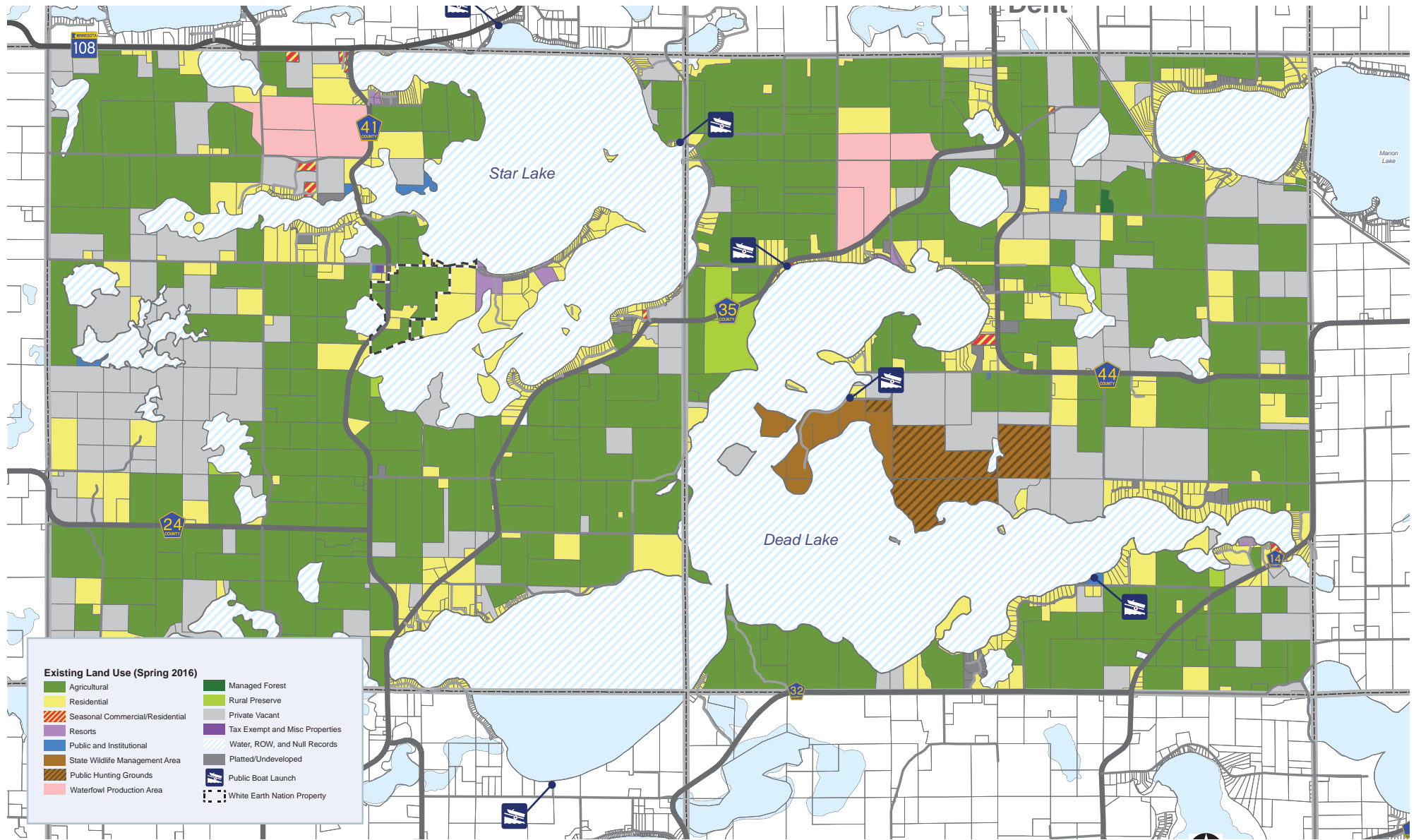


Figure 9

Table 4. Land Use Breakdown

LAND USE	PARCEL COUNT	PERCENT PARCELS	ACREAGE	PERCENT ACRES
AGRICULTURAL	270	15.0	17,554.3	56.0
RESIDENTIAL	412	22.9	2,761.0	8.8
SEASONAL RESIDENTIAL	847	47.1	2,193.7	7.0
SEASONAL COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL	24	1.3	82.5	0.3
RESORT	21	1.2	89.8	0.3
PUBLIC AND INSTITUTIONAL	12	0.7	65.4	0.2
STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA	14	0.8	283.8	0.9
PUBLIC HUNTING GROUNDS (STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA)	4	0.2	596.8	1.9
WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREA	9	0.5	752.5	2.4
MANAGED FOREST	1	0.1	14.9	0.1
RURAL PRESERVE	6	0.3	358.2	1.2
RURAL VACANT LAND	162	9.0	6,528.3	20.8
TAX EXEMPT AND MISC PROPERTIES	18	1.0	48.2	0.2
WATER, ROW, AND NULL RECORDS	137	—	21,043.1	—
TOTAL WITH NULL EXCLUDED	1,800	100.0	52,376.9	100.0
PLATTED/UNDEVELOPED	74	3.8	175.0	0.1

Resort (Light Purple)

Twenty-one parcels are classified for resort use within the plan boundary. This land use designation includes several family-owned operations as well as one church-affiliated site called Camp Joy. All resorts abut public water and are primarily devoted to seasonal residential occupancy for recreational purposes. Each resort site contains a cluster of small cabins and/or designated space for camp trailers. For taxation purposes, the term “resort” is used to make a distinction between small family-owned operations, which cannot be devoted to a commercial purpose for more than 250 days a year, and large commercial operations.

Seasonal Commercial/Residential (Red/Orange Hatch)

Currently, there are no strictly commercial properties within the study area. Twenty-four parcels are classified as seasonal commercial use. These parcels contain primarily residential structures with an accessory commercial use and do not operate at a high intensity. The most prominent commercial use appears to be a seasonal store that is located at the intersection of State Hwy 108 and County Highway 41, located near the northern boundary of Star Lake Township.

Wildlife Management Area (Brown) and Waterfowl Production Areas (Beige)

State Wild Life Management Areas (WMAs) and federally managed Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) are the most hunted lands in Minnesota. These lands are a valuable public resource for Otter Tail County, as they reflect Minnesota’s cultural heritage and the value it places on environmental stewardship.

The wildlife management area is located in Dead Lake Township. It contains approximately 896 acres, with portions of the WMA open to hunting. The wildlife management area is largely buffered from development by private forested areas.

Two federally managed waterfowl production areas are located in the study area – one in Star Lake Township and one in Dead Lake Township. Each is approximately 375 acres. All public lands combined constitute approximately 5.5 percent of the study area with lake area excluded.

It can be noted that the DNR considers WMAs and waterfowl production areas the most hunted lands in Minnesota.

Public and Institutional Land (Blue)

The public and institutional classification distinguishes general township, county, state, and federal facilities from the large waterfowl/wildlife management areas. The public and institutional classification includes the town halls for Star Lake and Dead Lake Townships.

Rural Preserve (Light Green)

This designation applies to fallow land that has been retired to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). Broadly speaking, these programs are two of the most powerful land conservation tools available. They are administered through the federal government. Eligible land can be retired to the WRP in 30-year easements or on a permanent basis. Contracts for land enrolled in the CRP range from 10-15 years. It is unlikely that rural preserve land in Otter Tail County will be farmed or otherwise developed in the near future.

Managed Forest (Dark Green)

This land use classification applies to land that adheres to a forest management plan and is used for silviculture. There is one 15 acre managed forest in Dead Lake Township.

Tax Exempt and Miscellaneous Properties (Dark Purple)

This classification refers to properties that have no tax capacity or for which no specific use has been identified.

Platted/Undeveloped (Dark Gray)

This category applies to land that has been subdivided but is not currently developed – at least not with a residential structure. Some properties include sheds that may be used for storage (or even for rental of storage space for boats or other equipment). It is assumed that most of these platted parcels are transitioning toward development. There is overlap between this classification and the land use classifications that were determined from county tax records. This designation was not derived from the County's parcel database, as most of these parcels were identified as residential or seasonal residential properties. Rather, it was prepared based on field review and study of aerial imagery to determine the current status of development on the property.

Separating out the platted, but undeveloped, parcels in the land use study provides an indication of the potential number of additional residences that could be built in the short term based on readiness of the property to be purchased as a separate parcel and the location of those potential residences. These and other potential development areas are identified in Figure 10.

Plan Area Growth Projections

This section presents preliminary growth forecasts for Star Lake and Dead Lake Townships for the period from year 2016-2040. Because the majority of this growth will consist of continued housing development around the lakes, the primary goal has been to estimate how many additional housing units could be constructed if all lakeshore areas with minimal constraints were built out (i.e., large wetlands are considered undevelopable). This represents a “buildout” scenario. Further, it was assumed that a small amount of residential development may occur on land that is not adjacent to the lakes.

The buildout scenario was evaluated in terms of whether or not it could be realistically achieved by 2040. Then, working backwards, growth was stratified over three periods: 2016-2020 (short term), 2021-2030 (mid-term), and 2031-2040 (long term). This phasing was chosen to align with the planning horizon that would typically be used in a transportation plan.

A general 2040 land use map was created for the purposes of estimating long-term growth potential and identifying locations where residential development would be possible based on a review of developable areas not hindered by natural features. It is understood that the timing, extent, and nature of any development on these lands will be at the will of the general public and private entrepreneurs. To support housing growth, supplementary commercial services are expected to develop around the lakes. These may consist of restaurants, a convenience store, recreational amenities, etc.

Future commercial services have been grouped into two categories: the resort and casino itself and other support facilities (i.e., additional commercial facilities located on tribal owned land and additional operations/businesses that are not developed by the White Earth Nation, but rather developed by other private entrepreneurs in different locations within or near the study area). This document provides growth forecasts for both types of commercial development. The forecasts were informed by conversations with the professionals familiar with commercial development and redevelopment in the region. They were also informed by a general understanding of the community’s existing needs, which were communicated through the public survey and at the first open house in March 2016, as well as knowledge of how development has proceeded around similar resorts.

While potential casino-related and non-casino-related operations are discussed in the text, due to the sensitivity of land use planning and the difficulty of forecasting precise locations of future development proposals, the land use map only depicts commercial growth that is anticipated to occur on the White Earth Nation’s fee and trust lands. Other types of private commercial development have not been assigned to specific sites. The land use map is a tool to promote constructive dialogue to develop the best plan possible, and does not refer to actual land transactions or other plans that may have been discussed. If Otter Tail County

prepares a future land use plan that is vetted through a formal public input process, it would be appropriate to identify preferred locations for auxiliary land uses.

To develop the future growth forecast, an examination of current housing trends is warranted.

Housing Growth Potential

While the stock of housing has remained stable over a 15-year period, the pace of growth is likely to accelerate. Broadly speaking, lake country should see increasing development as more baby boomers enter their retirement years – 22 percent of the current population of the study area is aged 60-69, indicating that housing demand is particularly strong for this demographic. Locally, the presence of the Star Lake Resort and Casino could attract additional housing. However, it is unlikely that the development itself will increase demand for workforce housing. It is anticipated that most employees will live in the surrounding communities.

It is reasonable to expect that the demand for lake homes and services will increase slightly during the planning and development phase of the casino (approximately 2016-2020). Housing stock should see the greatest increase during the 10-year midterm time frame (2021-2030). In the long term (2031-2040), the pace of development should level off as more lakefront property is consumed and available parcels are built out. In terms of lakefront development, the study area may not be completely built out by 2040. However, it is useful to imagine the number of units that could be constructed if development continues to a build-out scenario. Once a build-out scenario is targeted, realistic development scenarios can be derived for 2020, 2030, and 2040.

In order to identify what constitutes build-out, lakeside areas that cannot be developed (i.e., State land, WRP land) as well as areas that face significant development challenges (large wetlands) were removed from consideration. These constrained areas are unlikely to be developed if other land is available. Additionally, areas where existing roadways are located immediately adjacent to the lakeshore will not be developed. That leaves approximately 14 miles of developable shoreline: ~4 miles around Star Lake, ~8 miles around Dead Lake, and ~2 miles around Mud Lake. The density at which each lakeshore can be developed is regulated by the Otter Tail County Shoreland Management Ordinance.

The Otter Tail County Shoreland Management Ordinance was developed from the DNR's Lake Classification system (circa 1960s), which created the General Development, Recreational Development, and Natural Environment designations for lakeshore areas. Dead Lake is classified as a Natural Environment lake and Star Lake is classified for General Development. Mud Lake, located in the southwest corner of Star Lake Township, is also a Natural Environment lake. According to the DNR, Natural Environment lakes usually contain fewer than three dwellings per mile of shoreline. The General Development classification is typically associated with 25 dwellings per mile of shoreline. Otter Tail County

often experiences a higher number of dwellings per mile – higher than three dwellings per mile on Natural Environment lakes, and higher than 25 dwellings per mile of shoreland on General Development lakes. This is due to the minimum lot widths of 200 and 100 feet, respectively.

Based on these classifications, considerably more development density can be expected around Star Lake than around Dead Lake or Mud Lake, to the extent that physical conditions around the lake (i.e. topography, drainage, etc.) allow for 100-foot minimum lot sizes. The Otter Tail County Shoreland Management Ordinance has established minimum lot widths that reduce the potential density difference between Star Lake and Dead Lake. Under this ordinance, the minimum lot width is 200 feet for properties fronting Dead Lake and Mud Lake, and 100 feet for properties fronting Star Lake. Based on these restrictions and the aforementioned developable frontage areas, Table 5 shows the maximum development capacity for Star Lake, Dead Lake, and Mud Lake.

Table 5. Additional Development Capacity to Buildout

LAKE	DEVELOPABLE SHORELINE (ft)	MINIMUM LOT WIDTH (ft)	MAXIMUM LOT COUNT
STAR LAKE	21,120	100	211
DEAD LAKE	42,240	200	211
MUD LAKE	10,560	200	53
TOTAL	73,920	---	475

Practically speaking, the maximum lot count is only reached if lakeshore is developed as efficiently as possible. Some lots will be larger. But there are also likely to be some new subdivisions that are not constructed on lakefront property. Five hundred new housing units seems a reasonable estimate for housing growth over the next 25 years. If the number of existing housing units is 1,185 (1,259 total residential parcels minus 74 vacant lots), 500 additional units would represent a 42 percent increase in housing stock by year 2040.

As the number of households increases, so does the number of vehicle trips and the need for investment in roadway improvements. Long-range transportation plans typically consider the regional growth outlook at 10-year intervals – thus, growth tiers have been loosely defined as year 2020, 2030, and 2040. As stated at the beginning of this section, it is anticipated that the rate of housing growth will increase only slightly by year 2020, increase through year 2030, and stabilize by year 2040. Table 6 gives one potential scenario for lakeshore housing development. The number of additional housing units forecasted for year 2020, 2030, and 2040 have been calculated under the assumption that 10 percent of total residential growth will occur by year 2020, an additional 60 percent will occur by year 2030, and 30 percent will occur by year 2040.

Table 6. Housing Growth Scenario

	2020 (10%)	2030 (60%)	2040 (30%)	TOTAL (100%)
ALL HOUSING UNITS (100%)	50	300	150	500
HOMESTEAD (33.3%)	17	100	50	167
NON-HOMESTEAD (66.7%)	33	200	100	333

In Table 6, total housing units have been distributed into non-homesteads and homesteads using a 2:1 ratio. This determination was informed by data from the Census and parcel-based tax information received from Otter Tail County. The housing growth scenario shows a 10 percent increase by year 2020, which is realistically achievable given that 74 parcels are currently platted and could easily be developed within the next four years. The bulk of housing growth should occur from 2020-2030, given that the number of retirees will continue to increase during this period. Furthermore, the resort and casino will have begun operating by 2020 and should begin to pull in additional amenities that increase housing demand during the middle growth phase. The remaining growth, 30 percent, is anticipated to occur from 2030-2040.

Table 7 provides running housing estimates, the sum of existing units and forecasted growth. Because of the 2014 Census estimate is highly variable, the number of existing housing units was derived by subtracting the number of observed vacant units from the total number of platted properties that the county assessor has classified as primary residences or seasonal homes. This reduces variation and accounts for properties that were constructed after the 2014 ACS was conducted.

Table 7. Total Housing Units

	2016 PARCEL COUNT (VACANT AND DEVELOPED)	TOTAL EXISTING AND FORECASTED HOUSING UNITS			
		2016	2020	2030	2040
TOTAL	1,259	1,184	1,234	1,534	1,684
HOMESTEADS	412	387	404	504	554
NON-HOMESTEAD	847	797	830	1,030	1,130

2040 Growth Visualization

This section presents the year 2040 growth map that was used to visualize a “buildout” scenario. The map does not project actual acreages for residential land use, but is intended to capture the total length of shoreland that could be converted to residential use. It shows where lakeshore development is likely to occur, given where existing development is located and constraints to future construction. These locational constraints include:

- Large wetlands, including WRP lands, that will not be drained barring a major development project with a sufficient mitigation plan
- Roads that are located immediately adjacent to lakefront and cut off access to the water
- Public lands such as the State Wildlife Management Area that will not transition to rural development
- Land with restrictive covenants that prohibit development

Additional considerations include:

- All vacant platted parcels were assumed to develop
- Infill will occur where there are gaps between existing subdivisions, assuming no constraints are present
- Development around Star Lake is preferable due to the location of the casino on this lake, more lenient shoreline standards, and historical trends indicating higher growth in this township than in Dead Lake Township
- Development is most likely to occur in areas that are already served by roads, or in areas where roads can be easily extended

Based on this reasoning, it is anticipated that some growth will occur on Dead Lake in an area that is not included within the study townships. This area has been included to ensure thorough land use and transportation forecasting. It is also assumed that some residential development will occur on land that does not front the lakes. While this development was reflected in the growth calculations, it has not been shown on the map.

The 2040 Land Use Map provides existing land use as a base map. Three additional land categories are identified:

1. **Land that will potentially be developed by 2040 (Yellow).** This land includes parcels with small or no constraints to development. Only shoreland residential areas are shown.
2. **Land that is not likely to be developed by 2040 (Red).** This land includes parcels that have the development constraints outlined above.
3. **Land that is partially constrained, with some potential to develop by 2040 (Orange).** This land includes parcels that have some restricting characteristics.

In addition to residential growth, the growth phase map depicts the first phase of resort and casino development and some resort/casino-related expansion areas. Forecasted growth that is not directly related to the resort and casino is not specifically shown. Table 8 lists the growth assumptions related to Phase 1 of the proposed resort and casino development. It is understood that there may be subsequent development phases, however, they are not programmed at this time and thus too unknown to document (an assumption is that Phase 2 will be approximately a 20 percent increase of Phase 1).

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan - Future Development Areas

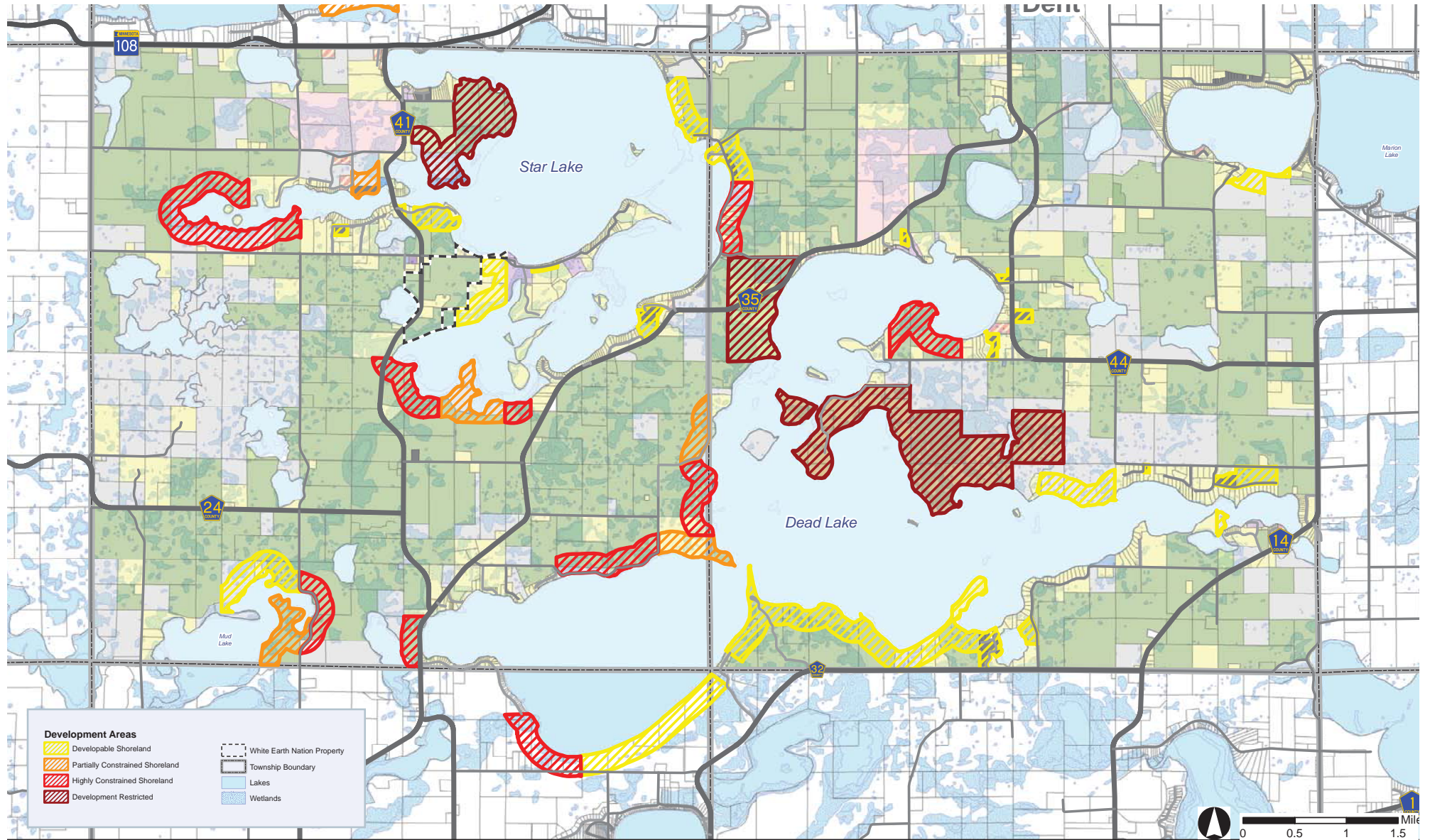


Figure 10

Table 8. Development Assumptions for Star Lake Resort and Casino

PHASE 1 – Year 2016-2020
Casino floor area - 30,000 SQ FT
Convention Space
180 hotel rooms
15-stall RV park
Three restaurant facilities within resort/casino
Varying resort and casino support services (spa, fitness/business center, etc.)
PHASE 2 – 2021 +
20 percent increase of Phase 1 program

A development such as a resort and casino is likely to generate additional development interest in the general area. Entrepreneurs tend to seek out destinations such as a resort casino, which will ensure the attraction of people to the area. A business that offers services or dining options, for example, that are not available at the resort and casino will have the ability to attract a portion of the resort and casino customer base. Since the resort and casino will provide jobs, communities or developers in the area may wish to pursue the development of additional housing options that are more affordable than lakeshore development.

Community Services

Community services and facilities provide an important means for community development and the enhancement of the quality of life for citizens. This section covers the following service areas and issues:

- Emergency Services
- Utilities
- Waste Water Treatment

Critical to the success of providing community services in the Plan area is accessibility. This includes the convenient location of important services and the expansion of services as needed. Currently the majority of citizens feel services adequately meet their needs. The continued success of these services will rely on careful analysis and attention to citizen needs and desires that may warrant expansion of services, or improvement of their implementation as the Plan area grows.

Emergency Services

Emergency Medical Services

Emergency response services for the Plan boundary are shared by the City of Dent volunteer fire department as well as responders based in Pelican Rapids. Both Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers have expressed concern about their ability to handle increased service calls as the region grows, and specifically as a result of the additional activity that will be generated by the proposed Shooting Star Resort and Casino.

The City of Dent currently staffs eight first responders. These staff are volunteers and the City expects that the number of volunteers may decrease by one or two as people move away or retire from their volunteer role, and the availability of volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) will continue to be a concern. The staff have basic medical training, but are not paramedics. Currently, Dent first responders receive 70-80 calls a year. They anticipate that the volume of calls may increase significantly once the resort and casino and associated development is operational. Concern has been expressed that an increase in the number of calls could make it more difficult to retain first response volunteers.

Ambulance service for the Plan boundary is provided by Ringdahl EMS (Pelican Rapids) and the Perham Ambulance Service (operated by Perham Hospital). Like the City of Dent, Ringdahl EMS typically receives about 70 calls a year and expects that the volume of calls will increase significantly over the next five years as resort/casino-related growth occurs.

Ringdahl EMS has indicated that response time to the Plan boundary area is approximately 25 minutes. They are concerned this response time is currently too long, and expect it may

be exacerbated with increased call volume. To improve response time, Ringdahl EMS is exploring the idea of locating a satellite facility within the Plan boundary area. This would represent a significant capital investment for a small provider. There has also been discussion about adding crew members. Adding crew members would increase service capacity, but it would not improve response times without the addition of a satellite facility or co-location with another development or emergency service provider within or near the Plan boundary area.

Police

For purposes of providing law enforcement services, the Otter Tail County Sheriff's Department has organized the county into quadrants. One officer is assigned to each quadrant. The Plan boundary area is located in the northwest quadrant. As the area develops, the number of calls is expected to increase by 5 to 10 percent countywide, with much of that increase occurring in the northwest quadrant.

Although White Earth Nation owns land in Otter Tail County, there is no governing tribal presence at this location. The tribe is not obligated to provide its own police patrols for the proposed development. During the development of this plan, the Otter Tail County Sheriff's Department and Shooting Star Casino management have begun to collaborate and share information about emergency calls to the Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen and the training of staff at that casino. This collaboration is becoming the basis for identifying anticipated impacts to the local law enforcement agencies in the Plan boundary area.

Fire Protection

Local fire service is provided by Dent Fire and Rescue. All staff are volunteers. The fire chief has had the opportunity to coordinate with the architectural team for the resort/casino. The resort and casino development will be a fully fire protected/sprinkler equipped building throughout. The Dent Fire Department is in the process of training their staff to respond to the type of buildings that are proposed at the resort and casino. Dent Fire and Rescue is currently understaffed and would not be able to handle the call volume that the resort and casino would bring to the area, along with its current call volume. At this time, the department would call upon nearby fire departments with which they have mutual aid agreements. Those departments have had training in fighting fires at larger structures such as those at the proposed resort and casino.

The proposed resort and casino development will have a water reservoir that could be made available to the fire department in an emergency if this supply is more conveniently located than other resources. The Dent Fire Department would appreciate having access to this water supply, as it would reduce the travel time and travel distance necessary to refill the tanker truck when fighting fires in that particular area. Shooting Star management has emphasized that White Earth Nation has a history of making it a high priority for casinos to assist with emergency response and mitigation.

Current Mahnomen Shooting Star Experience

Management of the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen emphasizes security and safety for its patrons. They were interviewed to help determine potential effects of the resort and casino on the Star Lake area. While the Mahnomen facility is larger and less family oriented than the proposed resort and casino in Star Lake, a review of emergency service call trends at the existing casino was performed to establish a baseline of activity that could be expected for the Star Lake Resort and Casino.

It is important to distinguish between the proposed casino at Star Lake and the existing casino in Mahnomen. The proposed resort and casino at Star Lake is about 30 percent smaller than the casino in Mahnomen. The proposed facility is also different in other ways. The casino in Mahnomen has a concert venue, with many live concerts. The facility at Star Lake will not have a concert venue and will be aimed at a different demographic. The Star Lake development is intended to have more of a north woods lodge environment and an atmosphere that caters to families and lake enthusiasts. Events at the facility will be limited to smaller events such as wedding receptions or other gatherings that are suitable for a 3,000 to 5,000 square foot ballroom. It is anticipated that these characteristics will result in fewer calls for law enforcement assistance than experienced at the Mahnomen facility.

Based on information about the Mahnomen facility and the varying characteristics of the proposed Star Lake development, approximately 200 to 275 emergency service calls could be expected annually for matters ranging from medical emergencies to law enforcement issues. According to Shooting Star management, medical emergencies are one of the biggest generators of emergency service calls at the Mahnomen facility, partly due to the fact that the facility attracts an older age demographic (i.e., senior citizens).

As with the Mahnomen facility, Shooting Star management intends to provide highly trained security staff on-site at all times. Over half of the security personnel are trained as first responders as well. Training is provided several times per year for the security personnel. Shooting Star management also allows and encourages their staff to join local volunteer fire departments and emergency response teams to ensure that adequate staffing is provided for those groups to function well. This policy can help reduce shortages of volunteers for first responders within the community. Shooting Star management offers a financial incentive for their security staff to be trained as first responders. The management also intends to have a trained canine officer on staff.

Emergency Service Collaboration Opportunities

Growth of any kind results in some level of increased demand on emergency services. In the case of the proposed White Earth Nation development, an increase in demand will certainly be experienced and it will be important for emergency responders to be prepared for this increase. The extent of the increased demand is difficult to estimate at this time, but collaboration has already begun between Shooting Star management, White Earth Nation Tribal leadership, and the Otter Tail County Sheriff's Department. This collaboration,

combined with the training provided for on-site security staff at the resort and casino, has the potential to result in a very cooperative relationship that allows all emergency service entities to work together to continue serving the area. Collaboration needs to be expanded to include the Perham Ambulance, Ringdahl EMS, and the Dent Fire Department as soon as possible. Additional opportunities for collaboration could be realized relative to the area’s ability to fight fires and respond to EMS calls if collaboration results in increased access to additional human resources at the development site (i.e., trained staff), potential use of the site’s water tower to fight fires, etc.

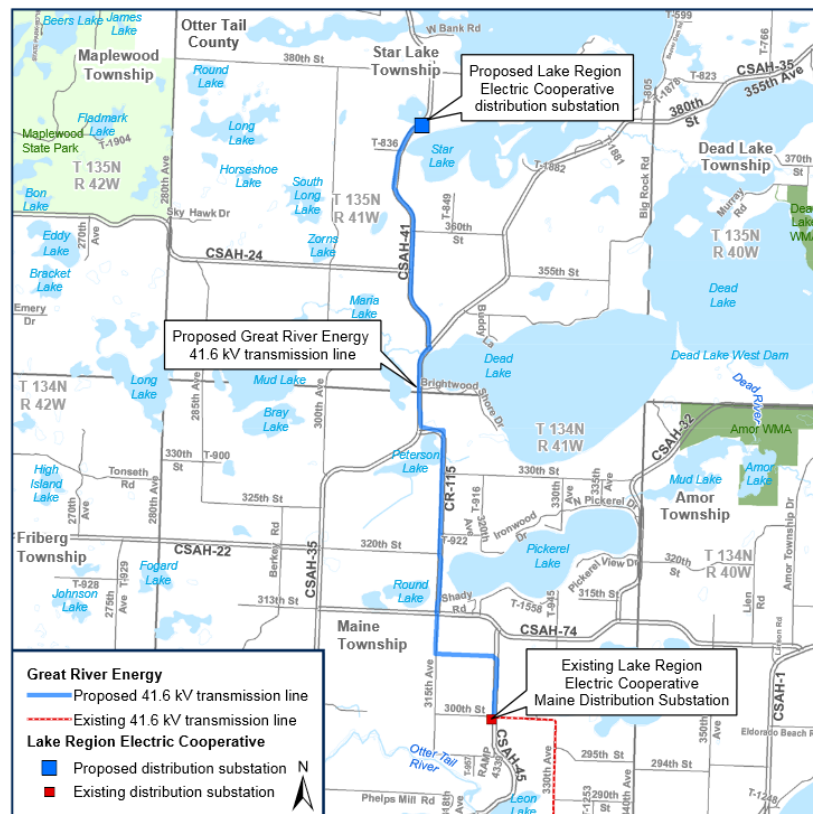
Utilities

Electric

Star Lake 41.6 kV Transmission Line and Distribution Substation Project

Great River Energy and Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) have proposed an 8.75 mile transmission line to serve the electricity needs of existing and future development in the Plan boundary area including the proposed resort and casino. The project will also ease the burden of supplying electricity to other areas, and could facilitate development within the study area, particularly in Star Lake Township around the County Highway 41/County Road 115 corridor.

A new substation will be located at the northern terminus of the transmission line in Section 15 of Star Lake Township. The survey and design of the project is completed and environmental permitting and easement acquisition is scheduled for summer 2016. The easement would run parallel to County Highway 45 for 0.75 miles, extend west 0.75 miles to 315th Avenue, and then run north along County Road 115 and County Highway 41.



Communications

Arvig Communications is coordinating with Shooting Star Enterprises to provide the necessary improvement to internet services in the area. This improvement is expected to benefit the surrounding area as well.

Natural Gas

At this time, natural gas utilities are not provided in the Plan boundary area. White Earth Nation is exploring natural gas options for their site.

Water

Neither municipal nor rural water services are available in the Plan boundary area. Water is provided via individual wells. At this time, there are no plans for provision of a municipal or rural type of water distribution system.

Waste Water Treatment

At this time, there are no community waste water collection and/or treatment systems within the study area and there are no municipal systems in close proximity to Star Lake or Dead Lake Townships. . Some of the lakeshore lots located on Peterson's Point, which is a peninsula east of County Highway 41 on 380th Street, capture their waste water in holding tanks and do not have drain fields due to their small lot size. These lots are not large enough for independent drain fields. Some of these properties could benefit from collaboration amongst themselves to work toward providing a shared drain field on an adequately sized piece of property.

A waste water treatment system is being designed as part of the resort and casino development. This system presents some opportunity for residents in the vicinity to engage in discussions with White Earth Nation and Shooting Star Enterprises to determine if it is feasible to hook up to the resort's future waste water treatment system. This would make existing developments along Peterson's Point more viable properties from a resale standpoint, and would eliminate the need to a) have septic tanks pumped, and b) seek acquisition of land for the purpose of an individual or shared drain field. No further research or investigation has occurred as part of this Plans development with respect to this waste water treatment issue.

Transportation

The various regions of Otter Tail County rely heavily on transportation, but in different ways depending on their context (i.e., urban areas, rural recreational areas, rural agricultural areas, etc.). Otter Tail County recently completed a county-wide year 2040 transportation plan – July 2015 – that assessed the transportation system as a whole. The transportation review included herein is a high-level assessment of the Plan boundary area. The following sections are included relative to transportation:

- Existing Conditions
- Roadway System Assessment
- Future Transportation System Needs
- Improvement Cost Participation

Existing Conditions

Existing information pertaining to the roadway system is summarized as provided in the Otter Tail County 2040 Transportation Plan completed in July 2015.

Existing Functional Classification

State Highway 108 is a minor arterial roadway. It links to County Highway 41 and serves as key route through the Plan boundary area. Minor arterial roadways serve the following purposes:

- Provide continuity on a sub-regional level
- Serve medium to long distance trips
- Provide limited access and higher speeds
- Serve regional travelsheds

Minor arterials are a higher functional classification than major collectors.

County Highway 41, which provides direct access to the most significant redevelopment in the Plan boundary area, is a major collector roadway. Major collector roadways serve the following purposes:

- Connect local activity centers to arterials
- Serve short to medium length trips
- Balance emphasis of access and mobility
- Provide access to localized areas
- Sample area major collectors: County Highway 24, 35, 41, and 85

There are a number of local roadways throughout the Plan boundary area (i.e., township routes). These routes connect neighborhoods, businesses, schools, access higher order roadways, allow closely spaced access points, and serve limited travelsheds. Sample local roads are: 395th Street, 390th Street, 380th Street, 360th Street, and 355th Street. See Figure 11 to reference all roadway classes.

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan - Existing Functional Classification

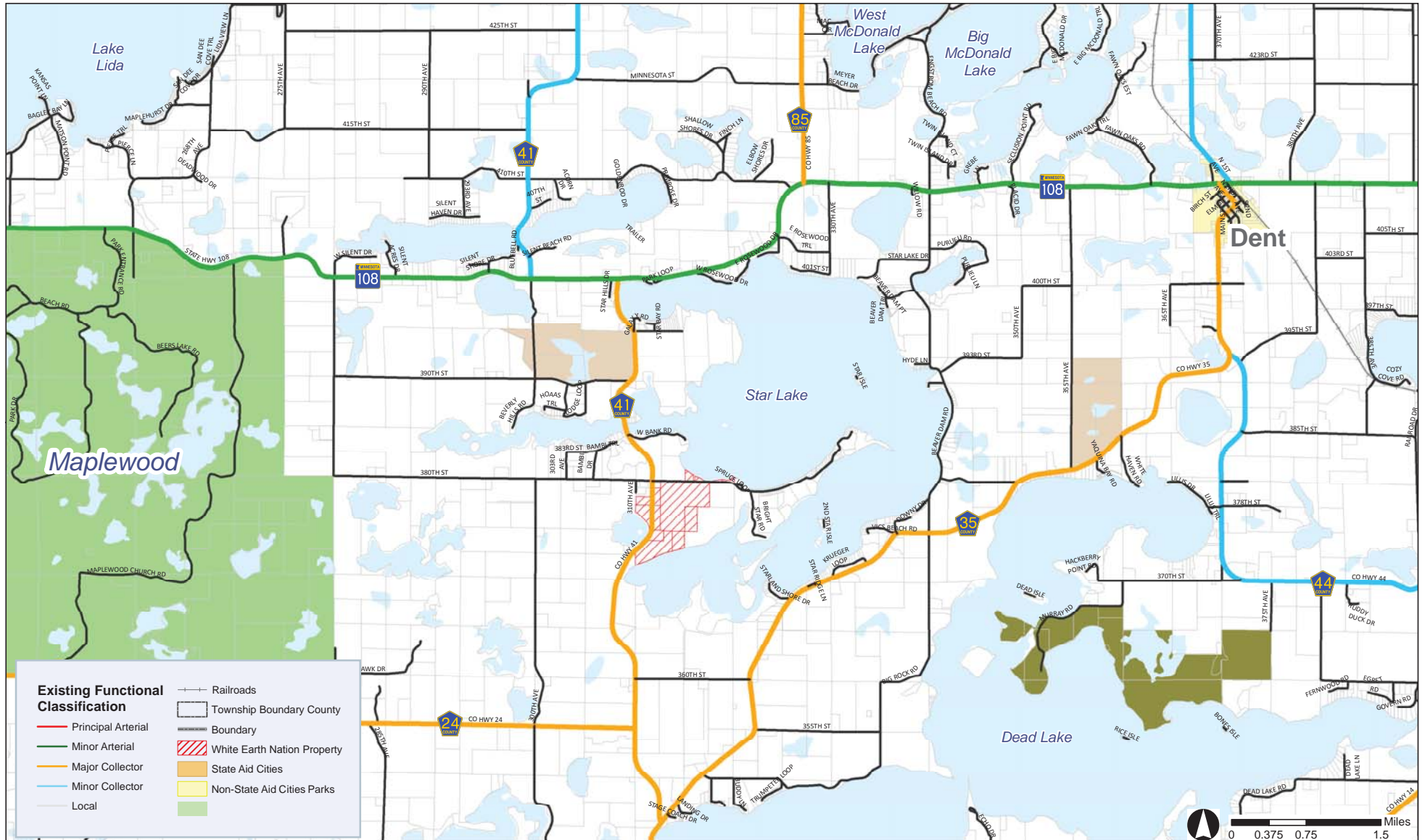


Figure 11

Existing Jurisdictional Classification

The jurisdiction of roadways is an important component to note because it defines the regulatory, maintenance, construction, and financial obligations of each governmental unit. Often times there are shared responsibilities depending on the jurisdictional authority “causing” the impact. Within the Plan boundary area there are four main jurisdictional authorities: Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Otter Tail County, and Star Lake and Dead Lake Townships. Further, there is a de facto jurisdiction to consider – White Earth Nation – due to its significant potential impact on the adjacent transportation system and its governing authority over lands in the area. See Figure 12 for jurisdictional reference.

Existing Traffic Volumes

In an effort to evaluate traffic operations within the Plan boundary area, it is critical to understand existing traffic volumes on major roadways. In order to be consistent with the current Otter Tail County Transportation Plan, the “existing” average daily traffic (ADT) volumes on the roadways throughout the Plan boundary area are reported from year 2011 (see Figure 13). The most current year 2015 ADTs were reviewed to determine if there are significant differences since – none were discovered. As presented, the highest traffic volumes are located along State Highway 108 and the northern section of County Highway 41 (south of State Highway 108).

Current Crash Characteristics

Otter Tail County takes great care to ensure that its county highway system is planned and designed for safety. A crash frequency and severity map was reviewed for the Plan boundary area to understand what the current crash characteristics are for the area surrounding Star Lake and Dead Lake Townships (see Figure 14). Two fatal crashes have occurred in the past five years (from recent, readily available data) along County Highway 35. It is understood that the general public has safety concerns at the intersection of State Highway 108 and County Highway 41. The crash data indicates a few crashes have occurred in close proximity to this intersection (or along adjacent corridor segments). In addition, a couple of crashes have occurred near the County Highway 41 and 380th Street intersection north of the proposed resort and casino development.

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan - Existing Jurisdictional Classification

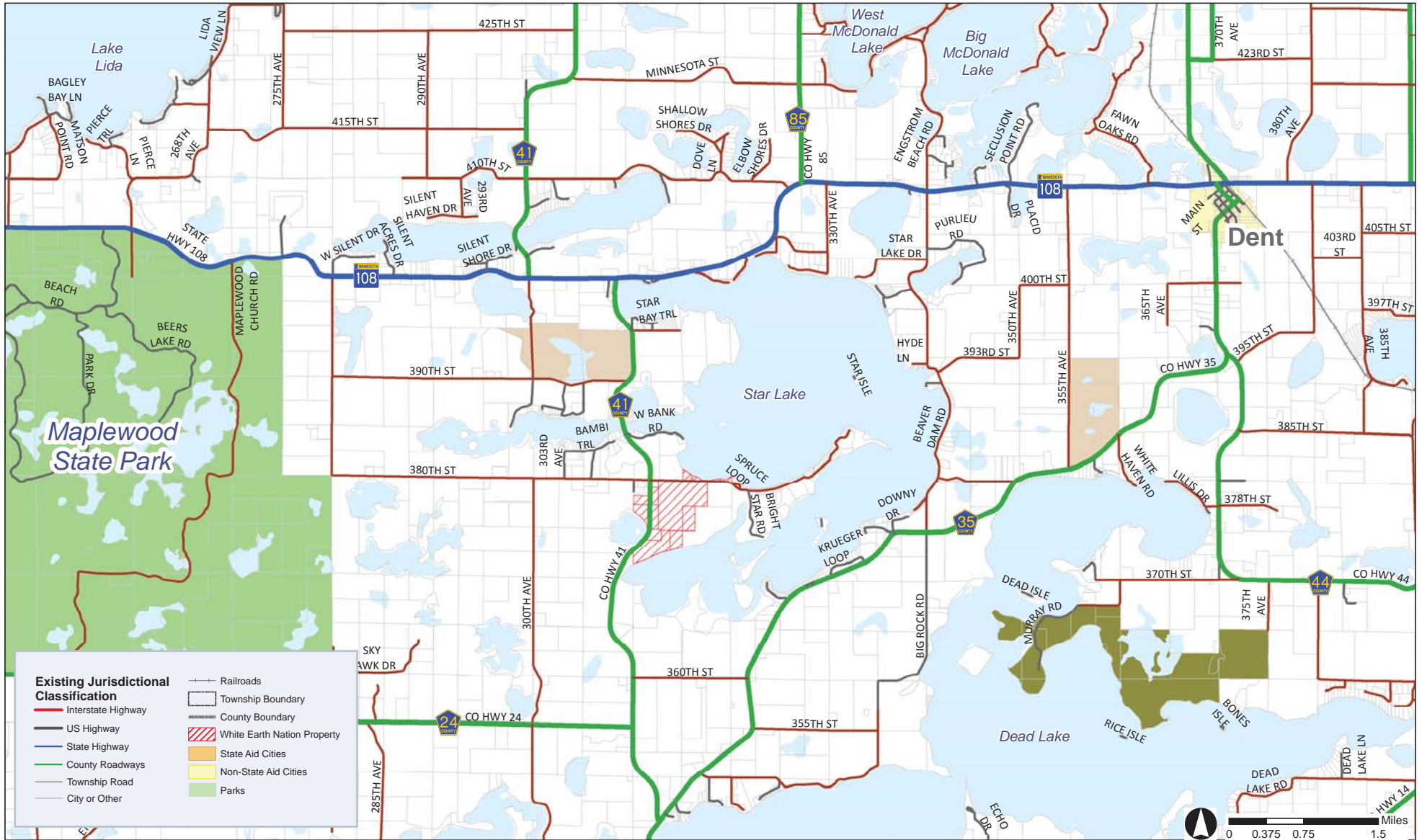


Figure 12

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan - Existing Average Daily Traffic (ADT) Volumes

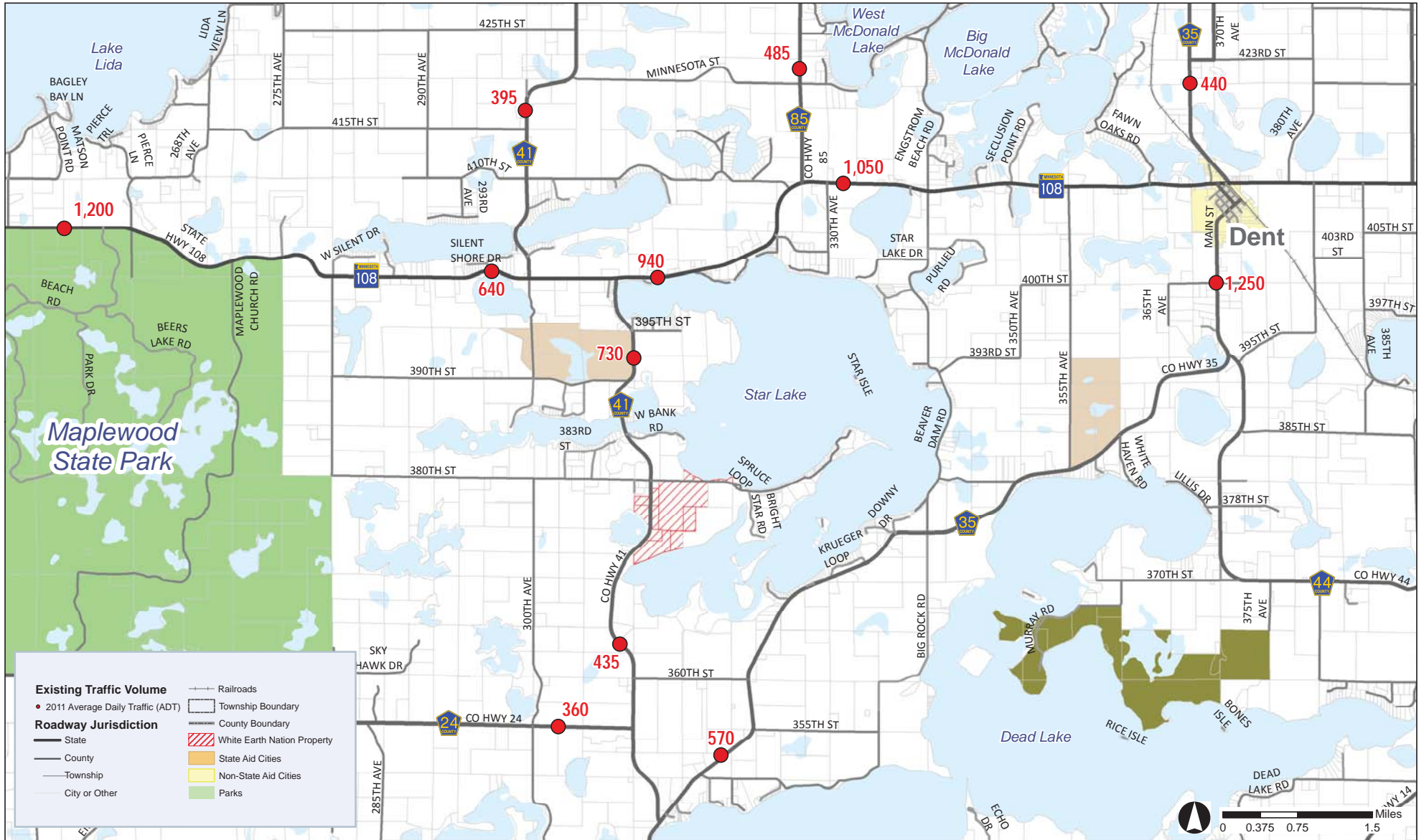


Figure 13

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan - Crash Data

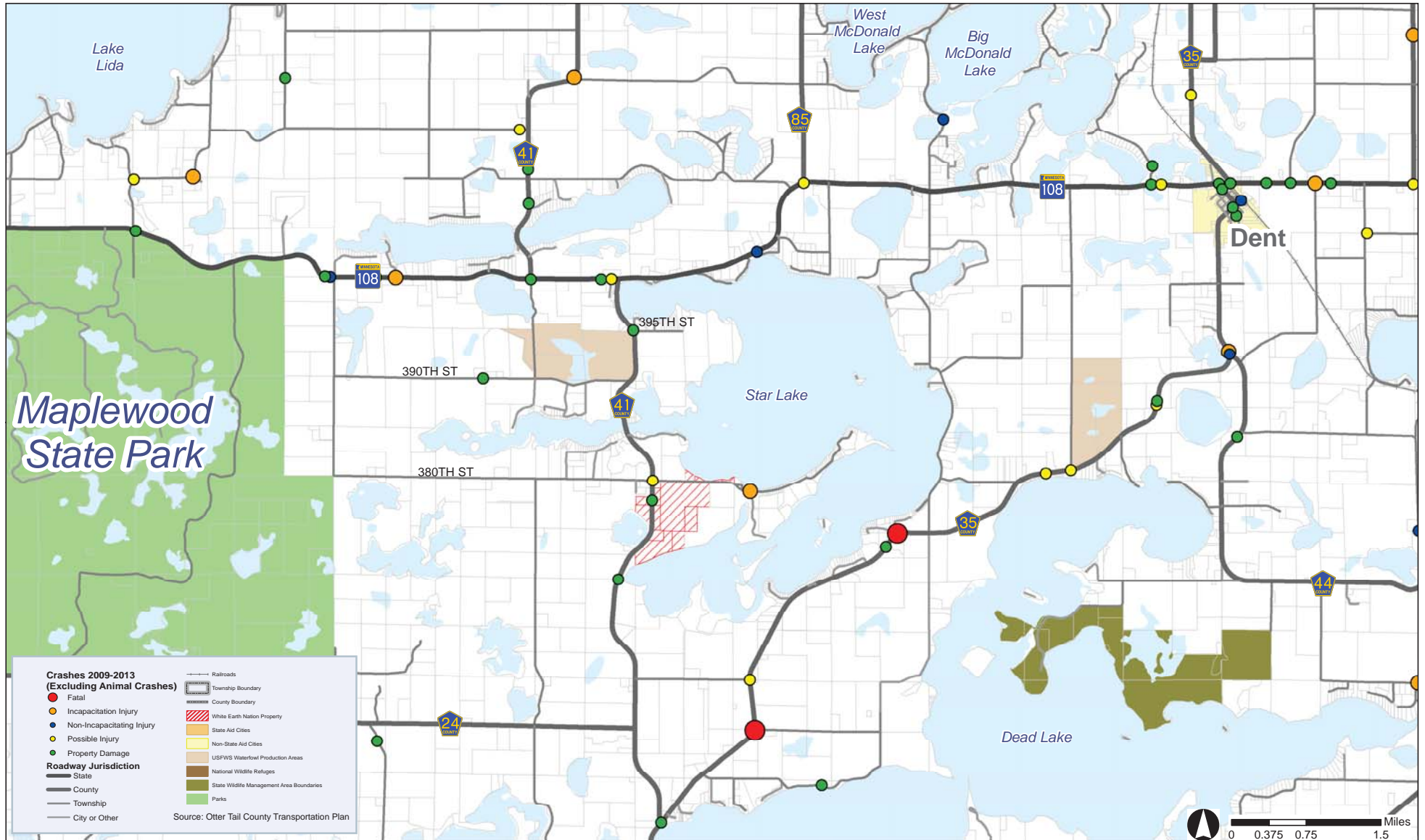


Figure 14

Roadway System Assessment

The roadway system assessment included a more detailed review of County Highway 41 from the intersection of State Highway 108 to County Highway 35. This segment of roadway was selected due to its anticipated increase in ADT as a result of the immediate proposed development. The key intersections along County Highway 41 (See Figure 15) were evaluated as well as the segments of roadway between each key intersection. The following criteria were used for the roadway system assessment:

- Crash Frequency
- Horizontal Curvature
- Pavement Quality
- Shoulder Width
- Access Spacing
- Otter Tail County Highway Safety Plan (CHSP) Considerations

The recommended access spacing used for this analysis is shown in Table 9.

Table 9. Applied Access Management Guidelines

Access Management Guidelines for CSAH 41 (*)(**)	
Functional Classification of Roadway	Collector
Typical Facility Characteristics/Configuration	2-Lane
Intersection Design/Control	Stop Sign Control
Intersection Spacing ⁽¹⁾	1/2 Mile
Driveway Spacing ⁽²⁾	300 feet
Minimum Signal Spacing	NA

* All distances are potential minimums. Individual corridors will be handled on a case by case basis.

** When addressing State owned facilities, refer to MnDOT Access Management Manual

⁽¹⁾ Primary full movement intersection

⁽²⁾ Consolidate driveways whenever possible

Historic Traffic Growth

The Otter Tail County 2040 Transportation Plan included a future roadway system analysis and a recommended implementation plan for improvements in areas throughout the county. In order to arrive upon the recommendations contained in the long range transportation plan, forecasted traffic volumes were developed. These traffic forecasts considered historical trends, previously completed studies, emerging growth areas, and economic activities throughout the county. However, they did not consider any significant increases in daily traffic volumes resulting from major land use redevelopment; that is the big departure from the current effort with the Limited Area Comprehensive Plan, which includes the proposed Star Lake Resort and Casino development.

The future ADTs from the Otter Tail County 2040 Transportation Plan serve as the further base condition from which forecasts can be augmented for the limited area comprehensive plan. Figure 16 shows the forecasted ADT volumes for the years 2020, 2030 and 2040 for the key roadways within the Plan boundary area. The year 2030 forecasts were interpolated based on the year 2020 and 2040 forecasts provided in the long range transportation plan.

Increased Traffic Growth Scenario

The immediately proposed Star Lake Resort and Casino development is anticipated to be a relatively significant traffic generator. Therefore, an increased growth scenario was developed as part of the Plan. The following sections provide background regarding this growth scenario.

Trip Generation Methodology

In order to determine the impacts on the surrounding roadway network a trip generation rate was established for the immediately proposed development. Typically, trip generation rates are calculated using the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Trip Generation Manual. The ITE Trip Generation Manual does not have a land use category that fits the proposed development. Therefore, research was conducted and data was gathered from various studies for similar type developments across the country. Nine case studies were used with characteristics such as size, location, and on-site amenities (i.e. hotel, convention center, casino, restaurant, etc.) contributing to the trip generation rate (similar to the proposed development). Table 10 presents the findings from this research and the resultant average daily traffic generated for a like-type development to the one proposed at Star Lake.

Using the provided trip generation rates from the case studies, ADTs were estimated. As shown in Table 11, the average daily trips generated based on the nine case studies was calculated to be 2,200 daily trips under Phase 1 and 450 daily trips under Phase 2.

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan - Base Traffic Forecasts

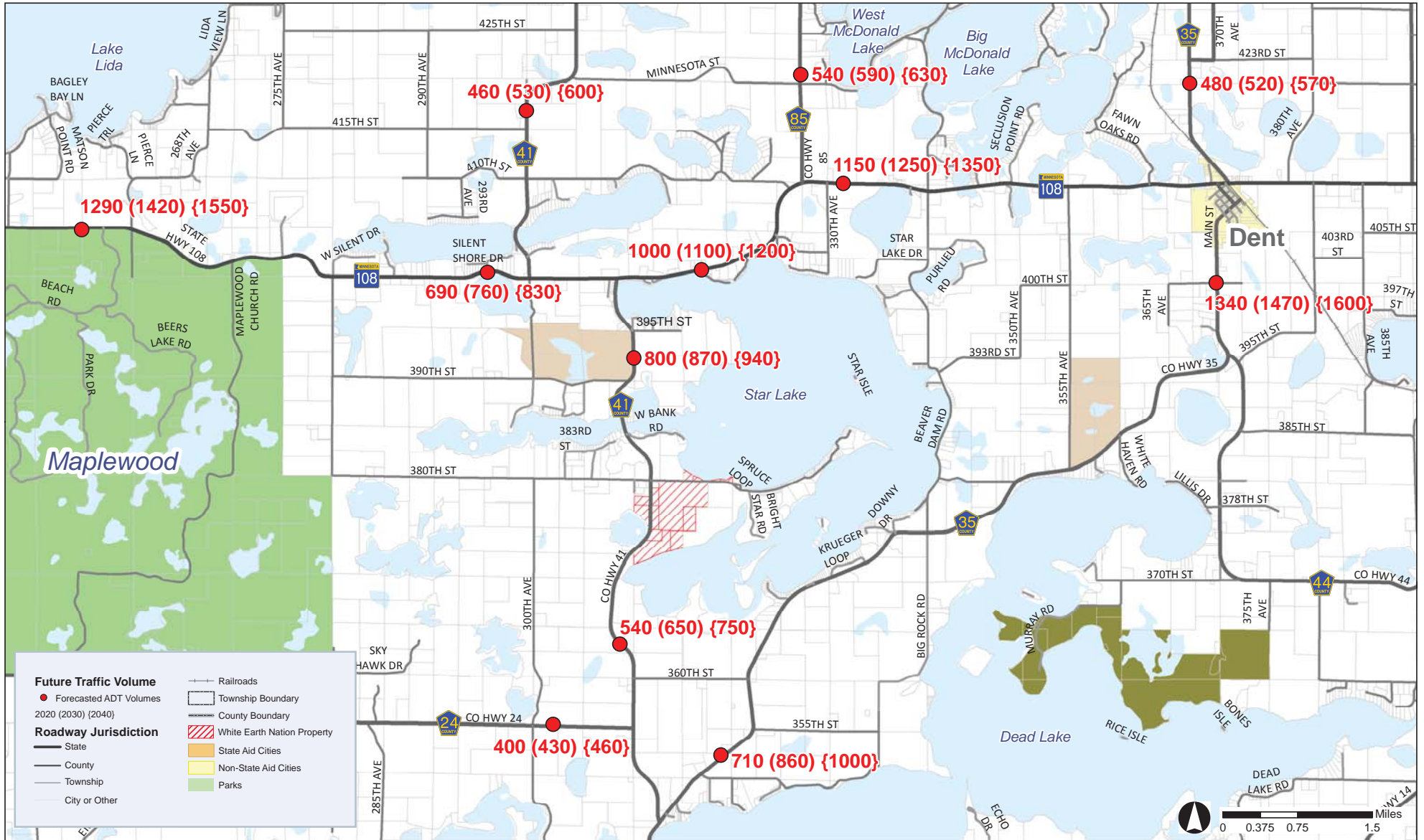


Figure 16

Table 10. Trip Generation Research and Case Studies

Case Study or Casino Development	Casino Development Location	Peak Hour Trip Generation Rate (per 1,000 square feet of gaming floor area) ⁽⁵⁾	Calculated for Shooting Star Resort and Casino		
			Gaming Floor Area for Shooting Star (SF) ⁽⁶⁾	Peak Hour Traffic ⁽⁷⁾	Daily Traffic (ADT) ⁽⁸⁾
Shingle Springs Rancheria Traffic Study	5 northern CA casinos	5.0	30,000	149	1,490
San Diego County Casino Study ⁽¹⁾	San Diego, CA	3.9	30,000	118	3,900
Jamul Indian Village Final Environmental Impact Study ⁽²⁾	Jamul, CA	4.9	30,000	148	3,150
Gun Lake Traffic Study	Wayland, MI	6.8	30,000	204	2,050
Enterprise Rancheria Traffic Impact Analysis ⁽³⁾	Butte County, CA	3.9	30,000	118	1,314
Chinook Winds Casino	Lincoln City, OR	4.8	30,000	144	1,440
Spirit Mountain Casino	Grand Ronde, OR	6.4	30,000	192	1,920
Emerald Queen Casino	Tacoma, WA	3.7	30,000	111	1,110
Cowlitz Casino ⁽⁴⁾	Clark County, WA	15.5	30,000	465	2,800
Average of the daily traffic (ADT) rates for all case studies					2,130

⁽¹⁾Daily trip rate (ADT) was provided and used (130 trips/1,000 SF of gaming floor area).

⁽²⁾Daily trip rate (ADT) was provided and used (105 trips/1,000 SF of gaming floor area).

⁽³⁾Daily trip rate (ADT) was provided and used (43.8 trips/1,000 SF of gaming floor area).

⁽⁴⁾Daily trip rate (ADT) was provided and used (93.24 trips/1,000 SF of gaming floor area).

⁽⁵⁾Peak hour trip generation rate was obtained from case study.

⁽⁶⁾Shooting Star Resort & Casino provided the estimate used for the total gaming floor area.

⁽⁷⁾Shooting Star Resort and Casino peak hour traffic was calculated based on trip generation rates supplied for each case study. Assumed peak hour traffic is 10% of daily ADT unless otherwise noted.

⁽⁸⁾Shooting Star Resort and Casino Daily traffic (ADT) was calculated based on trip generation rates supplied for each case study.

Table 11. Trip Generation for the Proposed Development

Development Phase	Year	Daily Trips Generated
Resort & Casino Development - Phase I	2020	2,200
Resort & Casino Development - Phase II	2030	450
Resort & Casino Development - Phase II	2040	0

Trip Distribution

To determine the appropriate trip distribution for the trips generated by the proposed development, a review of the region surrounding the Plan boundary area was completed. Characteristics such as population of surrounding cities and location of nearby similar-type facilities were considered along with feedback from the Project Management Team. It was concluded that the anticipated trips generated by the proposed development are expected between the following areas:

- Fargo/Moorhead
- Vergas/Detroit Lakes
- Fergus Falls
- Alexandria
- Wadena
- Little Falls

Figure 17 displays the percentage of trips expected to/from each region.

Other Traffic Generators

Ancillary land uses (i.e. gas station, resort/hotels, convenience store, etc.) are likely to develop as a result of the proposed development. These developments were not accounted for in the Otter Tail County 2040 Transportation Plan base forecasts. To account for this additional development/redevelopment growth the future base ADT volumes were increased by five percent. This additional growth was uniformly applied across the Plan boundary area given the uncertainty associated with where this type of development/redevelopment will occur.

Figure 18 shows the resultant future ADT volumes for the years 2020, 2030 and 2040 under the increased growth scenario.

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan - Regional Traffic Distribution

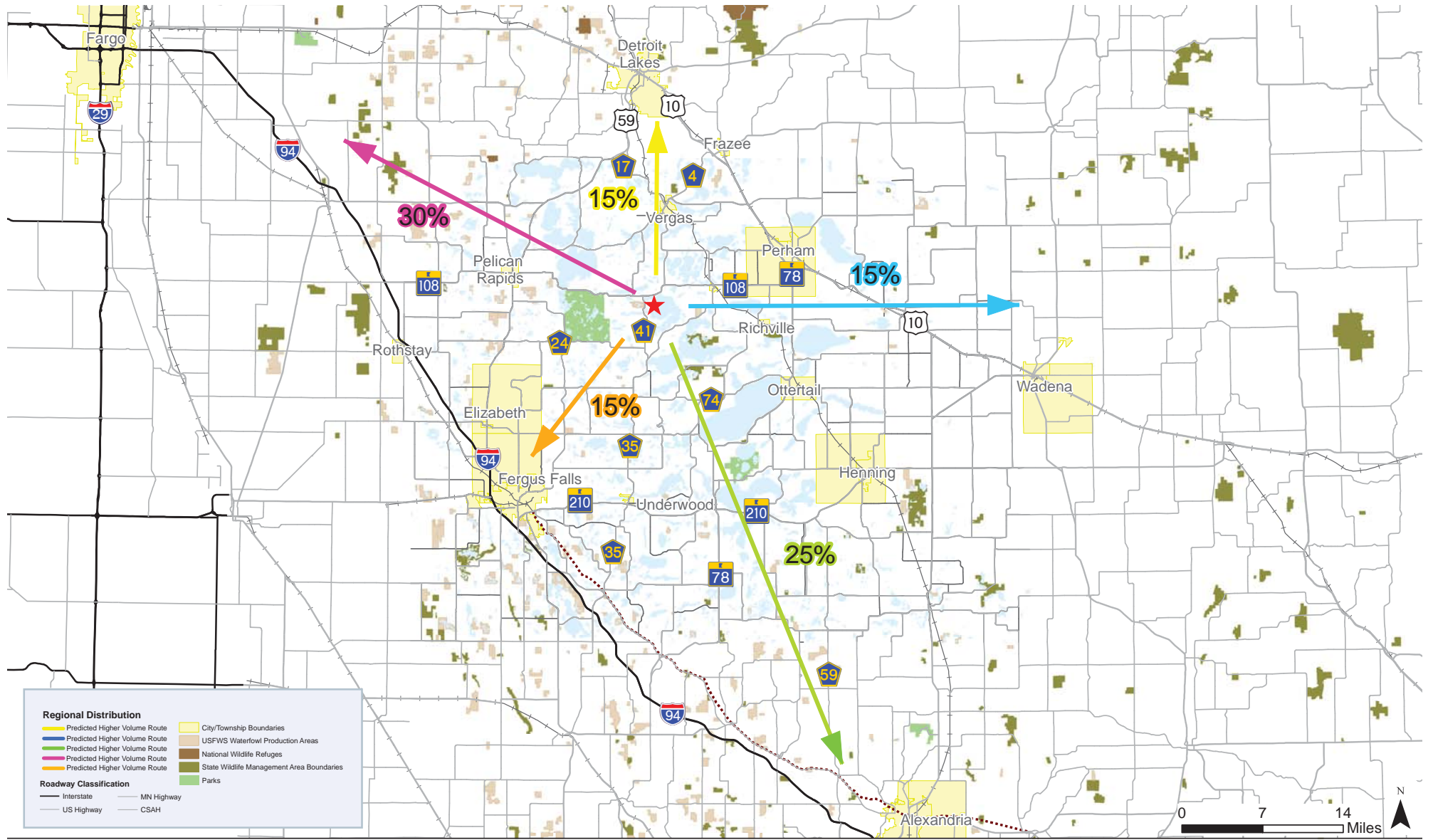


Figure 17

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan - Future Traffic Forecast (Increased Growth)

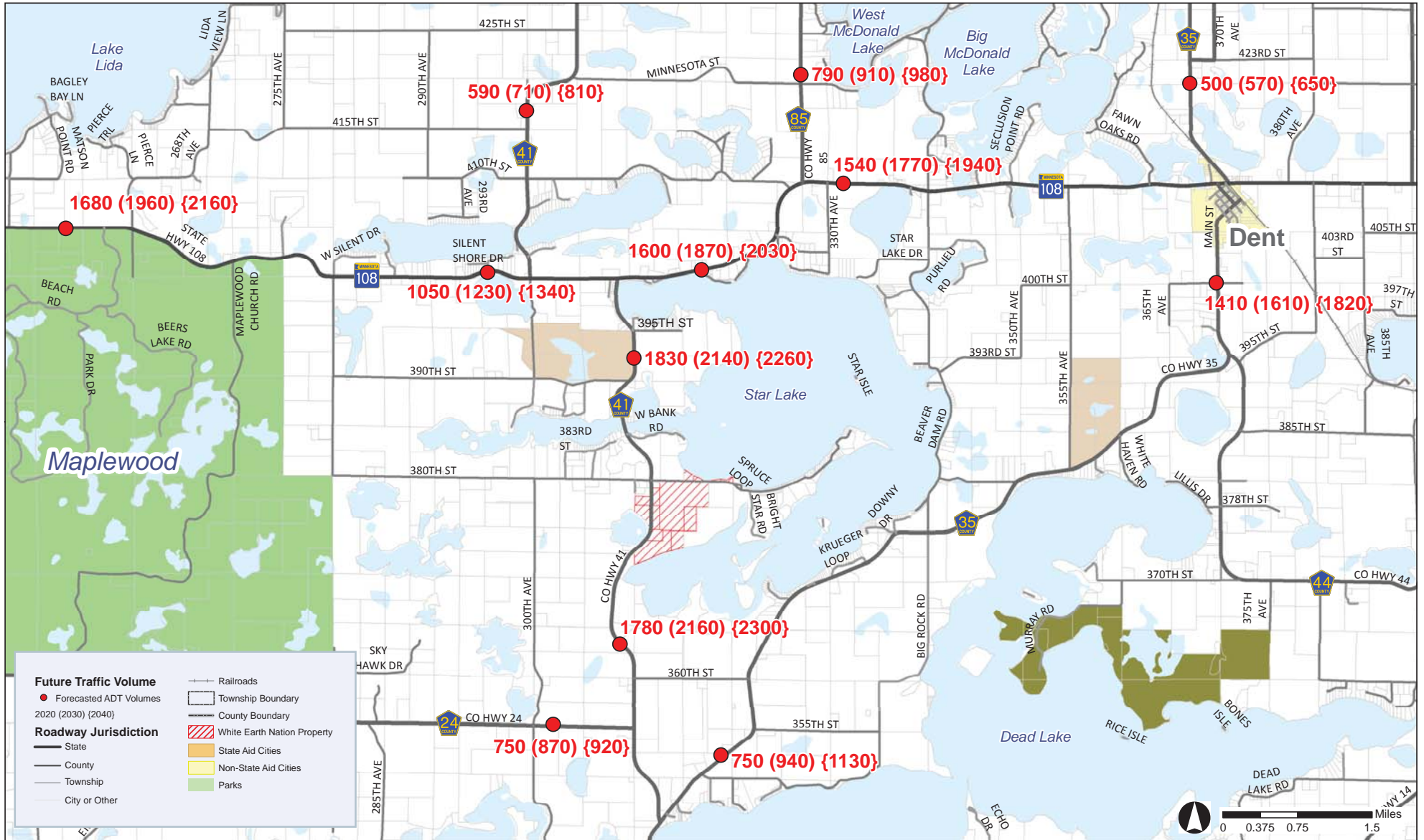


Figure 18

Roadway System Needs / Improvements

Having documented the existing roadway conditions, summarized the access considerations, and developed the future traffic forecasts – the roadway system assessment was evaluated with the use of an evaluation matrix. This allowed each of the respective criteria to be reviewed relative to one another, identifying cumulative impacts where applicable and understanding appropriate countermeasures, or improvements, necessary to mitigate potential issues.

The assessment/evaluation matrices are presented on the following pages. As shown in the evaluation matrices, there are safety and access spacing concerns for most segments of County Highway 41. Given the environmental constraints in the area it is too costly to reconstruct CSAH 41 to correct the existing deficiencies with regards to horizontal curvature and crashes. Therefore, only improvements at select key intersections are recommended as part of this plan.

There is some concern relative to safety at the intersection of County Highway 41 with State Highway 108, 380th Street, and County Highway 35. Specifically at the intersection of County Highway 41 and State Highway 108, it was determined that a more in-depth feasibility study is needed to comprehensively assess the appropriate improvement for this intersection and the roadway segments leading to it. Throughout the public input process this intersection was continually mentioned as one that caused concern for area residents and the jurisdictional agencies. A feasibility study will evaluate alternatives to relocate the intersection in order to mitigate some of the existing safety concerns identified at the intersection. Short-term improvements are being reviewed as well to see if there is something that can be done immediately to improve conditions on an interim basis. All of the County Highway 41 improvement recommendations are shown in Table 12.

Table 12. Recommended Improvements along County Highway 41

Access ID	Access Location	Summary of Recommended Improvements
1	State Highway 108	Future Feasibility Study
5	380th Street	Install intersection lighting
		Construct right-turn lane for northbound County Highway 41, OR -
		Reduce vertical curve south of intersection to improve intersection sight distance
6-1	Resort and Casino Access	Construct bypass lane for southbound County Highway 41
		Construct right-turn lane for northbound County Highway 41
		Install intersection lighting
6-2	Resort and Casino Access	Construct bypass lane for southbound County Highway 41
		Construct right-turn lane for northbound County Highway 41
		Install intersection lighting
8	County Highway 24	Install intersection lighting
9	County Highway 35	Construct bypass lane for northbound/eastbound County Highway 35 (mid term)
		Realign intersection to improve the skew angle of intersecting roads (long term)

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan
Key Segment Analysis



Corridor: County Highway 41

Corridor Limits: State Highway 108 to County Highway 35

Length: 6 miles

Corridor Area: Rural

Functional Classification: Major Collector

Segment		Spacing Compliance	Crashes	Notes	Horizontal Curvature	Notes	Pavement Quality	Shoulder Width	Capacity Used ⁽³⁾	Typical Historic Growth			Increased Growth Scenario		
From	To									2020 V/C Ratio	2030 V/C Ratio	2040 V/C Ratio	2020 V/C Ratio	2030 V/C Ratio	2040 V/C Ratio
State Highway 108	395th Street	■	■	crash rate higher than critical crash rate (CI = 1.06)	■	CHSP identified segment as a safety risk ⁽¹⁾	■	<2 feet	5%	6%	6%	7%	13%	15%	16%
395th Street	390th Street	■	■		■	CHSP identified segment as a safety risk ⁽¹⁾	■	<2 feet	5%	6%	6%	7%	13%	15%	16%
390th Street	W Bank Road	■	■		■	CHSP identified segment as a safety risk ⁽¹⁾	■	<2 feet	5%	6%	6%	7%	13%	15%	16%
W Bank Road	380th Street	■	■		■	CHSP identified segment as a safety risk ⁽¹⁾	■	<2 feet	5%	6%	6%	7%	13%	15%	16%
380th Street	360th Street	■	■	crash rate higher than Statewide average but less than critical rate (CI=0.70)	■		■	<2 feet	3%	4%	5%	5%	13%	15%	16%
360th Street	County Highway 24	■	■		■		■	<2 feet	3%	4%	5%	5%	13%	15%	16%
County Highway 24	County Highway 35	■	■		■	CHSP identified segment as a safety risk ⁽¹⁾	■	<2 feet	3%	4%	5%	5%	13%	15%	16%

⁽¹⁾ See Otter Tail County Road Safety Plan for more detail. Criteria was based on the following: curve radius, traffic volumes, intersection in the curve, visual trap, crash experience. Curves identified received the following: 2 foot shoulder paving + safety wedge + rumble strip and chevron signage.

⁽²⁾ The Otter Tail County Road Safety Plan details County Highway 41 from State Highway 108 to County Highway 35 as a high priority roadway for safety improvements to be made. Criterial was based on the following: ADT range, access density, road departure density, critical radius curve density, and edge risk assessment. Recommended improvements include installing rumble strips and wet reflective pavement markings.

⁽³⁾ For a two-lane undivided rural roadway the daily capacity range (ADT) is 14,000-15,000

Rating System Legend

■	Very Good
■	Good
■	Fair
■	Poor

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan
Key Intersection Analysis

Corridor: County Highway 41

Corridor Limits: State Highway 108 to County Highway 35

Length: 6 miles

Corridor Area: Rural

Functional Classification: Major Collector



Access ID	Access Location	Type of Access Controls	Existing Access Configuration			Primary Usage	Cross Street Function	Spacing Compliance	Crashes	Notes	CHSP High Priority Intersection	Notes	Turn Lanes Needed	Bypass Lane Needed	Intersection Lighting Needed	Notes
			Full	Tee	Ri-Ro											
1	State Highway 108	Side-Street Stop		X		Auto	Public Street (State Highway 108 - Minor Arterial)	■	■	crash rate higher than Statewide average but less than critical rate (CI=0.68)	Y	CHSP identified intersection as a safety risk ⁽¹⁾ .	X	X		Intersection lighting already installed as part of the improvements recommended in the CHSP.
2	395th Street	Side-Street Stop		X		Auto	Public Street (Local)	■	■		N					
3	390th Street	Side-Street Stop		X		Auto	Public Street (Local)	■	■		N					
4	W Bank Road	Side-Street Stop		X		Auto	Public Street (Local)	■	■		N					
5	380th Street	Side-Street Stop	X			Auto	Public Street (Local)	■	■	crash rate higher than Statewide average but less than critical rate (CI=0.44)	N		X		X	
6-1	Resort and Casino	Side-Street Stop		X		Auto	Commercial Driveway	-	-		N		X	X	X	
6-2	Resort and Casino	Side-Street Stop		X		Auto	Commercial Driveway	-	-		N		X	X	X	
7	360th Street	Side-Street Stop		X		Auto	Public Street (Local)	■	■		N					
8	County Highway 24	Side-Street Stop		X		Auto	Public Street (County Highway 24 - Major Collector)	■	■		N				X	
9	County Highway 35	Side-Street Stop (County Highway 41 stops)		X		Auto	Public Street (Local)	■	■		Y	CHSP identified intersection as a safety risk ⁽¹⁾ .		X		Intersection lighting already installed as part of the improvements recommended in the CHSP.

⁽¹⁾ See Otter Tail County Road Safety Plan for more detail. Criteria was based on the following: geometry of intersection, geometry of roadway, commercial development in quadrants, distance to previous stop sign, adt ratio, railroad crossing on minor approach, and crash history. Intersections identified were recommended to receive the following: install street lights and install signs and markings.

Rating System Legend

■	Very Good
■	Good
■	Fair
■	Poor

Roadway Improvement Responsibility Proportionment

The recommended improvements each have a cost to implement. Determining who should pay for these improvements is always an important question and one that is often discussed at length. While the future developments/redevelopments use up available corridor capacity of the existing roadway system, existing developments in the area use a percentage of its initial capacity contributing to the constraints and/or subsequent need for improvements. This initial capacity usage is taken into account when proportioning future improvement costs to governing agencies and/or significant area developers. Relative to the Plan boundary area the only significant known developer contributing to the adjacent roadway system needs is the White Earth Nation and the immediately proposed resort and casino development. Therefore, for purposes of proportioning the improvements MnDOT, Otter Tail County, and the White Earth Nation are identified as contributing jurisdictions. Star Lake Township was considered as a potential contributing entity; however, it was determined their contribution to the improvement needs was minimal and thus they are not identified as a responsible agency that should contribute to future improvement costs.

The future improvement cost should be distributed to the responsible agencies based on their contributing future ADT volumes under the increased growth scenario. This methodology was agreed upon by the respective agencies. Table 13 presents the percent breakdown for each recommended improvement.

Table 13. Improvement Cost Proportionment

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan							
Recommended Improvements on County Highway 41 - Improvement Cost Share							
Access ID	Access Location	Summary of Recommended Improvements	Cost Breakdown				
			MnDOT	Otter Tail County	White Earth Nation	Star Lake Twp	Dead Lake Twp
			%	%	%	%	%
1	State Highway 108	Future Feasibility Study					
5	380th Street	Install intersection lighting	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%
		Construct right-turn lane for northbound County Highway 41, OR -	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%
		Reduce vertical curve south of intersection to improve intersection sight distance	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%
6-1	Resort and Casino Access	Install intersection lighting	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
		Construct bypass lane for southbound County Highway 41	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
		Construct right-turn lane for northbound County Highway 41	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
6-2	Resort and Casino Access	Install intersection lighting	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
		Construct bypass lane for southbound County Highway 41	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
		Construct right-turn lane for northbound County Highway 41	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
8	County Highway 24	Install intersection lighting	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%
9	County Highway 35	Construct bypass lane for northbound/eastbound County Highway 35 (mid term)	0%	60%	40%	0%	0%
		Realign intersection to improve the skew angle of intersecting roads (long term)					

Costs associated with each improvement are difficult to estimate at this planning level; however, costs will be developed when each respective improvement is implemented. At that time the proportional share shown above will be referenced and applied. Otter Tail County's cost share is paid for from countywide tax money – i.e., share of state fuel tax,

vehicle registration funds, or county state aid highway funds. No local levy funds are applied for road construction projects.

There are potential grant funding opportunities that can be requested to reduce the future cost of these improvements – both at the federal and state level. The type of improvements that have been identified fit well with many of the grant opportunities. If a grant application (or applications) were successful, the monies applied from the grant could reduce the overall project cost prior to applying the proportional cost share.

While the improvements noted above have been identified to mitigate either existing or future potential issues, when they are implemented or constructed is discussed in the following section.

Plan Goals and Objectives

Establishing a list of community goals and objectives is a preliminary step in guiding future development in a fair and orderly manner. The goals and objectives help to set some level of follow-through, or accountability, on the part of the County, Townships, and White Earth Nation. Generally speaking, a goal is a broad statement that encapsulates the shared vision of a community, while objectives identify specific courses of action that can be taken to move toward a goal.

The goals and objectives identified herein are relative to the limited area Plan boundary area only and do not represent a countywide set of goals/objectives. Countywide goals and objectives would be shaped by a broader set of experiences and considerations, with additional context relative to the county as a whole and not one limited area of the county. That further underscores the importance of the goals/objectives relative to the Star Lake and Dead Lake Township area.

The public survey conducted as part of the Plan development process contributed to the goals and objectives considerably. These goals and objectives apply to the limited area of this Plan. It is clear that there is support for a zoning ordinance in Star Lake Township. It is also clear that the rural community greatly values environmental protection, as well as the recreational amenities, solitude, and safe sense of community afforded in lake country. Goals stemming from these values, together with the figures and text of this document, form a reasonable basis for a zoning ordinance.

In general, most of the objectives could be the responsibility of either of the Township(s) or the County in some instances (or both in some instances). Township-level initiatives may be preferable to County-driven policies because they can be aimed more specifically at local issues and implemented more quickly. On the other hand, if certain planning policies are implemented only in Star Lake Township and/or Dead Lake Township, regional issues would not be completely addressed, and development could occur in other townships that are less prepared for growth. Regardless of how the goals and objectives are addressed, continued coordination between the County and Townships is essential.

Other private or public entities may also have a role in identifying and addressing the goals and objectives of the Plan. For example, in this case, the White Earth Nation has drawn upon responses to the public survey to guide design features of the proposed resort and casino development.

The goal statements were grouped into the following categories:

- Rural/Community Character
- Recreation
- Environmental

- Future Land Use and Transportation
- Community Services

Rural/Community Character

Goal 1: Maintain the rural quality of life in Star Lake and Dead Lake Townships.

Goal 2: Preserve the quiet character of residential subdivisions and outdoor recreation areas.

- Separate and buffer incompatible land uses through the use of easements, landscaping, and structural treatments. Adopt a noise ordinance that establishes a reasonable decibel threshold for commercial, industrial, and residential uses during late evening and early morning hours.
-

Goal 3: Minimize light pollution related to commercial development.

Goal 4: Maintain public safety and the perceived level of safety in the study area.

- Discuss opportunities to increase local law enforcement presence in the study area.
 - Ensure enforcement of speed limits on roadways.
 - Evaluate land use arrangements, platting, site plans and public facility design from the standpoint of site circulation and layout.
 - Separate vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists in higher-volume traffic areas.
-

Goal 5: Maintain scenic views of natural surroundings and minimize the viewshed impacts of large development.

- Utilize three-dimensional modeling and viewshed analysis (GIS or similar software) in the process of designing new roadways and building sites. Consider quantifying what constitutes an acceptable level of visibility for developments that clash with rural character.
-

Goal 6: Preserve large, contiguous tracts of farmland for agricultural use.

- Retain large areas of contiguous farmlands on future land use map.
 - Promote the subdivision and of smaller parcels rather than large tracts.
-

Retaining the rural/community character of Star Lake and Dead Lake Townships was clearly important to the majority of survey respondents. This demonstrates that both residents who already live on farmland in the township, as well as those who live on lakeshore properties, have a strong attachment to the rural nature of the two townships. The rural nature of the area is a large reason why year-round and seasonal citizens of Star Lake and Dead Lake

Townships are so adamant that a rural atmosphere is preserved. This applies equally to residents who are year-round residents and those who are seasonal. Without zoning, the County and Townships have no way to control proposed development other than the building permit review process and Shoreland Management Ordinance of Otter Tail County.

Recreation

Goal 1: Identify land that is suitable for parks, recreation, and open space.

Goal 2: Integrate the Otter Tail County trails planning process into the land use and transportation planning process.

- Link existing and future activity nodes to the trail.
 - Obtain necessary right-of-way for all grade-separated and on-street trail segments.
 - Identify opportunities to construct roadside trail as roadway improvements occurs.
 - Apply for State and Federal Trail grant monies, when appropriate.
-

Otter Tail County is currently in the process of completing a County-wide Trail Master Plan. The recommendations of that plan will allow the County and Townships to identify how the trail system can provide connectivity to existing and future recreational opportunities.

Environmental

Goal 1: Preserve the quality and quantity of ground and surface water resources.

- Follow all applicable county, state, and federal laws.
-

Goal 2: Protect public water supplies as a long-term drinking water source.

- Continually inventory and manage wellhead protection areas.
 - Discourage development in areas that threaten a long-term drinking water source.
-

Goal 3: Protect natural wetlands and hydric soils.

- Encourage continued participation in the Wetland Reserve Program.
 - Seek preservation of existing wetlands.
-
- When necessary, utilize wetland banking to mitigate wetland impacts due to (re)development. Evaluate “no net loss of habitat” in terms of total ecosystem value, not just proportional acreage replacement. Consider geographic equity when wetland banking is necessary.

Goal 4: Preserve the integrity of valuable soils.

- Reserve prime farmland for agricultural use. Protect highly erodible soils through stabilization, protection from contamination, etc.
 - Avoid building on 15 percent or greater slopes, or any slopes that cannot be properly managed to prevent erosion or instability.
-

Public input received during the public involvement process placed a high priority on the environmental quality of the study area. The goals and objectives listed above are intended to emphasize the importance of surface water, ground water, wetlands, soils, and vegetation to the Plan boundary area stakeholders.

Land Use and Transportation

Goal 1: Develop a land use plan to identify preferred growth areas, prioritize sensitive areas for conservation, and promote organized development of compatible uses.

- Logically locate and separate differing land uses.
 - Facilitate commercial development along State Hwy 108 and County Hwy 41 in a manner that does not result in excessive or poorly placed access points or intersections.
-

Goal 2: Integrate transportation and land use plans.

- Locate planned development along existing roadways or roads that can be logically extended.
 - Coordinate regularly with the county engineer.
-

Goal 3: Maintain the function of regional roadways.

- Evaluate the impacts of proposed land use change on the transportation system.
 - Develop and maintain a transportation network that promotes safety.
 - Observe safe access spacing standards along primary corridors. Limit driveway frontage on primary corridors and consolidate driveway access as needed.
 - Build cooperation and coordination among state and local jurisdictions: coordinate roadway improvement plans with other agencies to promote cooperative intergovernmental maintenance activities that increase efficiency and effectiveness of services.
-

Goal 4: Consider drafting and adopting a township zoning ordinance.

- Establish buffer requirements for incompatible uses.
- Adopt impervious surface thresholds for commercial, industrial, and residential lots.
- Identify locations of existing detached non-accessory garages. Establish structural requirements and storm water review for all proposed garages, boat houses, and other vehicle storage structures.
- Maintain adequate public access to open water.

Goal 5: Maintain up-to-date regulatory tools to address land development.

- Review Otter Tail County's existing subdivision regulations to determine if updates should be considered.
- Maintain consistency with Minnesota's shoreland regulations through periodic and timely updates to the county's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance.

Land use and Transportation are integral, as one always influences the other. The goals and objectives included in this plan are intended to provide guidance to the Townships and the County as they address changes in the future. Steps can be taken if the Townships and/or County desire. Adoption of a formal comprehensive plan and development of a zoning ordinance at the township level may provide the Township(s) with the level of input on proposed developments that they currently do not have.

Community Services

Goal 1: Improve access to senior care facilities.

- Work with Otter Tail County to identify opportunities to expand senior care facilities and develop new services in the location/s where they are most needed.
- Promote Dial a Ride service as an alternative transportation option.

Goal 2: Facilitate timely emergency response to medical calls.

- Coordinate with White Earth Nation to seek participation in local volunteer fire department and emergency response teams.
 - Seek opportunities for joint emergency response and first responder training for local emergency responders, law enforcement and casino security staff.
 - Explore opportunities to locate an emergency response substation in the study area.
-

Goal 3: Facilitate potential improvement of utility services to township residents, such as sanitary sewer, electricity, internet and natural gas.

- Monitor and facilitate opportunities to extend natural gas service into the study area.
-

Growth and development of any kind typically results in increased demand for community services, including emergency services. The goals and objectives included above emphasize the potential need and opportunities that present themselves relative to the currently proposed Resort and Casino development, but are also relevant to other types of growth in the study area, including residential, commercial, or recreational.

Implementation Plan

To achieve the Plan's objectives, it is important to commit to a deliberate process to implement the measures described herein. The Implementation Plan section outlines an approximate time schedule for implementing roadway system improvements previously described, procedures to periodically review impacts related to immediate proposed development, and goals/objectives the county, townships and MnDOT can apply in the Plan boundary area to guide actions to realize measures set forth in this Plan.

Roadway System Improvements Implementation

It is recommended that a phased improvement plan be implemented for the identified roadway system improvements. The time line is as follows:

- Short-term - one year after opening of the immediate proposed development
- Mid-term - five years after opening of the immediate proposed development
- Long-term – 10+ years after opening of the immediate proposed development

See Figure 19 for details on the phased roadway system implementation plan.

In order to monitor progression of the proposed development and how it affects the adjacent roadways, it is recommended that the White Earth Nation perform periodic vehicle data collection (i.e., ADT volumes) at locations agreed upon with Otter Tail County. The collected data will be used to validate the forecasted ADT volumes for the increased growth scenario. It is recommended that the data collection occur at the following time intervals:

- One year after opening of the immediate proposed development
- Two years after opening of the immediate proposed development
- Five years after opening of the immediate proposed development

Overall Plan Implementation

Each element of this Plan requires follow-through on the part of township and county leaders, citizens, businesses, and both public and private organizations to achieve progress and work toward the goals and objectives contained herein. Implementation measures can consist of a variety of actions, including but not limited to programs, processes, intergovernmental coordination, organizational changes, regulatory tools (e.g. zoning, subdivision regulations, other codes), or follow-up studies that examine specific issues in greater depth.

This section of the plan identifies potential short-range (up to two years), mid-range (2 to 5 years), and long-range (5+ years) opportunities that are offered for consideration to implement the plan’s goals and objectives. Time frames for implementation fall approximately within these ranges, but flexibility is needed, as priorities evolve over time. Some opportunities are more complicated than others, and naturally require more time due to the level of effort, coordination, or funding. The following tables are intended to be used by planning area stakeholders as a tool to identify and document opportunities that correlate with the needs and strategies identified in this Plan, and which are based on public input. These tables should be periodically reviewed to assess progress towards plan implementation and re-emphasize or restructure priorities as needed.

Rural/Community Character

	OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSIDERATION	TIME RANGE			PRIMARY/SECONDARY ENTITIES
		Short	Medium	Long	
1	At the most desirable level of local government (township or county), consider initiating zoning authority. If initiated, establish a zoning ordinance in which one of the zoning districts is an Agricultural district, in which rural non-farm development is reviewed closely. Apply this zoning designation to undeveloped farmland.	●	●		Primary entity: Township Boards Secondary entity: (if there is interest in establishing county-wide zoning) Otter Tail County
2	Predecessors to establishing zoning: adoption of a comprehensive plan and formation / appointment of a planning commission.	●	●		Primary entity: Township Boards
3	As part of land use regulations (i.e. zoning), incorporate regulations regarding lighting, such as parking lot lighting, or other types of lighting intended to provide illumination of outdoor areas.	●	●		Primary entities: Township Boards, Otter Tail County (Shoreland Ordinance)

4	As part of land use regulations (i.e. zoning), incorporate building height regulations, setback regulations, buffering and screening regulations, and sign regulations to minimize the impact and views of future development.	●	●		Primary entities: Township Boards, Otter Tail County (Shoreland Ordinance)
5	Preserve undeveloped land by seeking out public land acquisition options through non-profit organizations or public agencies.	●	●	●	Primary entities: Township Boards Secondary entity: Property Owners Associations.
6	Continue to maintain a Property Owners Association to monitor lake quality, lake activities and to coordinate with the Township Boards.	●	●	●	Primary entity: Property Owners Associations
7	Consider the formation of a Lake Improvement District around applicable lakes within the Township(s) to establish a formal body with the ability to address matters of organization and funding of needed improvements.	●	●	●	Primary entities: Lake Associations Secondary entity: Township Boards

Recreation

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSIDERATION	TIME RANGE			PRIMARY/SECONDARY ENTITIES
	Short	Medium	Long	
1 As part of land use regulations (i.e. zoning), incorporate regulations regarding the zoning districts in which commercial forms of regulation are permitted or conditional uses (i.e. campgrounds, RV parks, sports facilities).	●	●		Primary entities: Township Boards Secondary entity: (if there is interest in establishing county-wide zoning) Otter Tail County

2	Seek out opportunities to provide safe bicycle and/or pedestrian connections to trails planned as part of the Otter Tail County Trail Master Plan. Work with Otter Tail County to pursue funding opportunities for these connections.	●	●	Primary entities: Otter Tail County Secondary entity: Township Boards
---	---	---	---	--

Environmental

	OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSIDERATION	TIME RANGE			PRIMARY/SECONDARY ENTITIES
		Short	Medium	Long	
1	Maintain or strengthen public awareness of potential aquatic invasive species (AIS) at public and private boat accesses.	●	●	●	Primary entities: Townships, Lake Associations, Otter Tail County AIS Task Force and DNR
2	Enforce public water regulations to preserve the quality of water in lakes, wetlands and streams.	●	●	●	Primary entities: Regulatory agencies (MPCA, DNR, etc) Secondary entity – Otter Tail County
3	Prevent impacts to wetlands by establishing land use regulations (i.e. zoning) that limit non-farmland uses around wetlands.	●	●		Primary entity: Township Boards. Secondary entity: Otter Tail County (if countywide land use regulation established)
4	Prevent impacts to wetlands with public land preservation options through non-profit organizations or public agencies.		●	●	Primary entities: Property Owners Associations Secondary entity: Township Boards, private entities (if interested), DNR
5	Continue to enforce regulations already in place	●	●	●	Primary entity: Otter Tail County

Land Use and Transportation

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSIDERATION	TIME RANGE			PRIMARY/SECONDARY ENTITIES
	Short	Medium	Long	
1 As a means of regulating land use in the area, prepare and adopt a land use plan and related policies as part of a future comprehensive plan that serves as a basis for future zoning designations.	●	●		Primary entity: Township Boards Secondary entity: (if there is interest in establishing such) Otter Tail County
2 Ensure that future land use decisions are coordinated with entities responsible for roadway design and maintenance, so that the maintenance activities can be planned for and accommodated.	●	●	●	Primary entity: Township Boards and Otter Tail County.

Community Services

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSIDERATION	TIME RANGE			PRIMARY/SECONDARY ENTITIES
	Short	Medium	Long	
1 Form a joint commission on emergency management to facilitate collaboration and cooperation between local public, private, and quasi-public emergency service providers. If the Resort and Casino development moves forward, include appropriate representation from White Earth Nation.	●	●	●	Primary entities: Dent Fire and Rescue, Otter Tail County Sheriff, Ringdahl Ambulance, Perham Ambulance, and White Earth Nation.
2 Work with Property Owners Associations to identify volunteer EMTs and fire department members, particularly those who can be present during the peak summer season. If the Resort and Casino development moves forward, seek collaborative measures such as trained staff serving on the Dent Fire and Rescue team.	●			Primary entity: Dent Fire and Rescue Secondary entity: Property Owners Associations and White Earth Nation
3 Pursue the potential for an ambulance station along Highway 108 between Pelican Rapids and Perham to improve emergency response times.	●	●		Primary entities: Ringdahl Ambulance, Perham Ambulance, Otter Tail County, Dent Fire and Rescue and, if applicable, White Earth Nation.

4	Seek out and facilitate opportunities to improve availability of infrastructure such as natural gas, sanitary sewer, internet, and electricity.	● ● ●	<p>Primary entities: Township Boards and Otter Tail County</p> <p>Secondary entity: Utility providers and potentially White Earth Nation.</p>
5	Determine feasibility of providing sanitary sewer service hook-up opportunities to Star Lake properties that do not have adequate space for replacement septic tanks and drain fields (in close proximity to the proposed Resort and Casino).	●	<p>Primary entity: Star Lake Property Owners Association</p> <p>Secondary entity: White Earth Nation.</p>

Conclusion

This Plan is an effort to document the standing planning priorities of the County and Townships while recognizing changing conditions, trends, and issues for the limited area within and surrounding Star Lake and Dead Lake Townships. At its best, this Plan reflects “A Shared Vision” for the future of this area of Otter Tail County. Technology, economic drivers, and demographic changes affect how we use and manage the land in the County, and we cannot foresee all future land uses. Although this Plan attempts to address possible future uses, it may not capture all of them. If this Plan does not mention a proposed land use or issue, it shall not be assumed the County and Townships are, or are not, supportive of the proposed land use or concerned about new issues that arise.

Public Input Process

Otter Tail County, in collaboration with the White Earth Nation, worked with the consultant team to conduct a public engagement process for the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan. An outcome of the process was the identification of concerns of Star Lake and Dead Lake Township residents and property owners relative to the White Earth Nation's plans for a resort and casino development in Star Lake Township. Throughout the process it was understood that not all concerns identified related to the proposed resort and casino development. The purpose all along was to review land in the surrounding area to understand how it may change over time, affecting the adjacent transportation infrastructure as well. Residents had an opportunity to review information as it was prepared along the way and provide feedback relative to various Plan components.

The public engagement process ensured the public was:

- Informed about the land use and transportation components of the Plan,
- Provided updated information about the proposed resort and casino development,
- Directed to other outlets to stay informed about the Plans progress (i.e., website),
- Kept informed about future meetings, and
- Given an opportunity to provide input about their concerns for growth and its impacts.

Otter Tail County and the White Earth Nation understand that residents of Star Lake Township highly value the quality of life within the township. The public input process was conducted so the County, Tribal Council, and Star Lake Township (directly) could work together to plan for the future, and ensure as best as possible that what was most valued about the area is maintained and considered.

Public Open Houses

Three public open houses were held during development of the Plan – one in late March 2016, early June 2016, and early September 2016. The purpose of each meeting was different. The first meeting was an informational session, whereby the consultant team and governing agencies presented an overview of why the Plan was being prepared, what it would review (and not review), how it would be used as time passes, and to gather feedback from the public. This first meeting was very well attended with more than 300 people in attendance at the Dent Community Center. A comprehensive survey was conducted to gather information from the public.

The second open house meeting was a more informal information session with an opportunity for one-on-one interaction between the public and the Plan development team. Technical information was presented so that the public could review the existing conditions data, land use information, and preliminary roadway assessments.

The third open house was the culmination of the Plan development process; all information reviewed and assessed throughout the Plan was presented for public comment and feedback. Most notable were: 1) the recommended roadway improvements and cost participation approach for recommended improvements, 2) the draft goals and objectives for the study area, and 3) discussion about the implementation plan and its relationship to the Plan's goals and objectives.

Public Survey

Residents of Star Lake Township and the surrounding area were given the opportunity to provide public input via a survey. This allowed affected land owners to communicate their values and express their concerns regarding the casino and development in general. The survey was distributed in hard copy and through the Survey Monkey web platform. The response rate was tremendous, with 167 respondents, including 81 residents of Star Lake Township (approximately 16 percent of the township's permanent population). No statistical tests were performed, but the high response rate for the first survey does reduce the effect of response bias and in general lends validity to the findings. A full write-up of first survey is attached in the appendices.

Subsequent surveys were facilitated to provide the public an opportunity to respond to the meeting information presented at the second and third open house.

Plan Website

A plan-specific website was established through Otter Tail County to inform the public about the Plans background and purpose, study schedule, opportunities for public participation and serve as a repository for meeting materials, and contact information. The website also provided an additional tool for agency staff and the public to keep up with key milestones of the study as it progressed.

Draft Document Review

An initial draft of the Plan was published in late August 2016 to allow the public an opportunity to review the document and provide feedback for consideration by the County, Township, White Earth Nation, and the consultant team. Comments were accepted through September 28, 2016. All comments are appreciated and duly noted. Those that were directly relatable to the Plan documentation were addressed as best as possible; all others have been noted and included Appendix 3.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Otter Tail County Shoreland Management Ordinance (excerpts)

Appendix 2 – Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan Public Survey Results (March 2016)

Appendix 3 – Public Input Received (comment forms, forum questions, etc.)

Appendix 4 – Environmental Assessment Process

**Appendix 1 – Otter Tail County Shoreland Management Ordinance
(excerpts)**

**THE SHORELAND MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE
OF
OTTER TAIL COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE
OCTOBER 15, 1971

REVISIONS
MAY 1, 1973
APRIL 1, 1978
MAY 8, 1981
APRIL 15, 1985
FEBRUARY 5, 1992*
APRIL 13, 1993
MAY 1, 1997
JANUARY 1, 2001
JANUARY 1, 2004
MAY 1, 2008
JUNE 1, 2011
AUGUST 1, 2013
APRIL 8, 2016

* AS MANDATED BY THE STATE OF MINNESOTA



LAND & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
OTTER TAIL COUNTY GOVERNMENT SERVICES CENTER
540 WEST FIR
FERGUS FALLS, MN 56537

218-998-8095
www.co.ottertail.mn.us

2. Landings for stairways and lifts on residential lots must not exceed 36 square ft. in area. Landings no larger than 64 square ft. may be used for commercial properties, public open-space recreational properties and planned unit developments.

3. Canopies or roofs are not allowed on stairways, lifts or landings.

4. Stairways, lifts and landings may be either constructed above the ground on posts or pilings, or placed into the ground, provided they are designed and built in a manner that ensures control of soil erosion, and authorized by a required Conditional Use Permit or Lot Alteration Permit.

5. Stairways, lifts and landings must be located in the most visually inconspicuous portions of lots, as viewed from the surface of the public water assuming summer, leaf-on conditions, whenever practical.

6. Facilities such as ramps, lifts or mobility paths for physically handicapped persons are also allowed for achieving access to shore areas, provided that the dimensional and performance standards of sub items 1 to 5 are complied with, in addition to the requirements of Chapter 1341 of the Minnesota Rules.

J. Decks - Except as provided in Item H., decks must meet the structure setback standards. Decks that do not meet setback requirements from public waters may be allowed without a variance to be added to structures existing on February 5, 1992, if all of the following criteria and standards are met:

1. A thorough evaluation of the property and structure reveals no reasonable location for a deck meeting or exceeding the existing OHWL setback of the structure.

2. The deck encroachment toward the OHWL does not exceed 15% of the existing shoreline setback of the structure from the OHWL or is not closer than 30 ft. to the OHWL, whichever is more restrictive.

3. The deck is not roofed or screened.

IV. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Water Supply:

Any public or private supply of water for domestic purposes must meet or exceed standards for water quality of the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Private wells must be located, constructed, maintained and sealed in accordance with or in a more thorough manner than the Water Well Construction Code of the Minnesota Department of Health.

2. Sanitation Standards:

The sanitation standards for this Ordinance are set forth in the Sanitation Code of Otter Tail County, which is incorporated herein by reference, an official copy of which is on file for use and examination by the public in the office of the County Auditor. Any lot with a dwelling unit shall have an approved method of sewage disposal.

3. Shoreland Alterations:

Vegetative alterations and excavations or grading and filling necessary for the construction of structures and sewage treatment systems under validly issued permits for these facilities are exempt from the vegetative alteration standards in this subpart and separate permit requirements for grading and filling. However, the grading and filling conditions of this subpart must be met for issuance of permits for structures and sewage treatment systems. Alterations of vegetation and topography must prevent erosion into public waters, fix nutrients, preserve shoreland aesthetics, preserve historic values, prevent bank slumping and protect fish and wildlife habitat. Wetland acreage lost as a result of a topographical alteration must be replaced in accordance with the provisions of the Wetlands Conservation Act.

A. Removal or alterations of vegetation, except for agricultural uses or forest management as provided for in subparts 4 and 5, is allowed according to the following standards:

1. Intensive vegetation clearing within the SIZ and BIZ land on steep slopes is not allowed. Intensive vegetation clearing outside of these areas is allowed if the activity is consistent with the forest management standards in Section IV.5.

2. Limited clearing of trees and shrubs and cutting, pruning and trimming of trees to accommodate the placement of stairways and landings, picnic areas, access paths, livestock watering areas, beach and watercraft access areas and permitted water-oriented accessory structures or facilities, as well as providing a view to the water from the principal dwelling unit or dwelling site, in SIZ and BIZ and on steep slopes is allowed, provided that:

- a. The screening of structures, vehicles or other facilities as viewed from the water, assuming summer leaf-on conditions, is not substantially reduced.
- b. Along rivers, existing shading of water surfaces is preserved.
- c. The above provisions are not applicable to the removal of trees, limbs or branches that are dead, diseased or pose safety hazards.

3. Use of fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides in the Shoreland Management District must be done in such a way as to minimize runoff into the SIZ, BIZ or public water by the use of earth, vegetation or both. Use of fertilizer containing phosphorous is prohibited in the Shoreland Management District, except for agricultural purposes more than 300 feet from the OHWL of a public water.

B. A Conditional Use Permit or a Lot Alteration Permit is required for grading, filling or alteration of existing topography, including the installation of retaining walls and boardwalks. (The property owner is legally responsible for all surface water drainage that may occur). Projects of less than 20 cubic yards per year, which are not in a SIZ, BIZ or a wetland, do not require a permit and are not subject to the time limits in IV.3.D.

1. Before authorizing any grading or filling activity in any type 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 wetland, the effect of the proposed activity on the following functional qualities of the wetland must be considered:

- a. Sediment and pollutant trapping and retention.
- b. Storage of surface runoff to prevent or reduce flood damage.
- c. Fish and wildlife habitat.
- d. Recreational use.
- e. Shoreline or bank stabilization.
- f. Noteworthiness, including special qualities such as historic significance, critical habitat for endangered plants and animals or others.

This evaluation must also include a determination of whether the wetland alteration being proposed requires permits, reviews, or approvals by other local, state or federal agencies such as a watershed district, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources or the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

2. Alterations must be designed and conducted in a manner that ensures only the smallest amount of bare ground is exposed for the shortest time possible.

3. Mulches or similar materials must be used, where necessary, for temporary bare soil coverage, and a permanent vegetation cover must be established within 10 days.

4. Diversions, silting basins, terraces and other methods to trap sediment must be used, where necessary, to prevent erosion.

5. Fill must be stabilized according to accepted engineering standards.

6. Fill or excavated material must not be placed in BIZ.

7. Fill must not restrict a floodway or destroy the storage capacity of a flood plain.

8. Any alterations at or below the OHWL of public waters must first be authorized by the Commissioner, under Minnesota Statutes, Section 103.G.245.

9. Any alterations of topography must only be allowed if they do not adversely affect adjacent or nearby properties.

10. Placement of natural rock riprap, including associated grading of the shoreline and placement of a filter blanket, is permitted if the finished slopes does not exceed 3 ft. horizontal to 1 ft. vertical, the landward extent of the rip rap is within 10 ft. of the OHWL and the height of the rip rap above the OHWL does not exceed 3 ft.

11. Public and private roads, driveways and parking areas must be designed to take advantage of natural vegetation and topography to achieve maximum screening from view from public waters. They must be designed and constructed to minimize and control erosion to public waters consistent with the field office technical guides of the local Soil and Water Conservation District or other applicable technical materials.

a. Roads, driveways and parking areas must meet structure setbacks and must not be placed within BIZ and SIZ, when other reasonable and feasible placement alternatives exist. If no alternatives exist, they may be placed within these areas, and must be designed to minimize adverse impacts.

b. Public and private watercraft access ramps, approach roads and access related parking areas may be placed within SIZ provided the vegetative screening and erosion control conditions of this Section are met.

12. The applicant for a Conditional Use Permit or a Lot Alteration Permit involving grading and filling or any alteration of the existing topography shall be legally responsible for all surface water runoff problems that may occur in the future.

C. Excavations on shorelands where the intended purpose is connection to a public water shall require a permit from the Administrative Officer before construction is begun. Such permit may be obtained only after the Commissioner of Natural Resources has granted permission for work in beds of public water.

D. Unless otherwise indicated by the Conditional Use Permit or a Lot Alteration Permit, all grading, filling or alteration of the existing topography, including stabilization, shall be performed between April 15th and October 1st. The April 15th to October 1st construction period shall not be applicable to Conditional Use Permits and Lot Alteration Permits for grading, filling or alteration of the existing topography involving finished grade slopes of less than 12% consistent with the steep slope requirements and when appropriate methods for preventing erosion are adhered to.

4. Agricultural Use Standards:

A. The SIZ for parcels with permitted agricultural land uses is equal to a line parallel to and 50 ft. from the OHWL.

B. General cultivation farming, grazing, nurseries, horticulture, truck farming, sod farming and wild crop harvesting are permitted uses if steep slopes and SIZ and BIZ are maintained in permanent vegetation or operated under an approved conservation plan (Resource Management Systems) consistent with the field office technical guides of the local Soil and Water Conservation District or the United States Natural Resource Conservation Service.

C. Animal feedlots must not be located in the shoreland of rivers or in BIZ and must meet a minimum setback of 300 ft. from the OHWL of all public water basins.

D. Application of fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides, animal wastes or other chemicals within shorelands must be done in such a way as to minimize impact on the SIZ, BIZ or public water by the use of earth or vegetation.

5. Forest Management Standards:

The harvesting of timber and associated reforestation or conversion of forested use to a nonforested use must be conducted consistent with the following standards:

A. Timber harvesting and associated reforestation must be conducted consistent with the provisions of the Minnesota Nonpoint Source Pollution Assessment Forestry and the provisions of Water Quality in Forest Management "Best Management Practices in Minnesota".

B. Forest land conversion to another use requires issuance of a Conditional Use Permit and adherence to the following standards:

1. SIZ and BIZ must not be intensively cleared of vegetation.

2. An erosion and sediment control plan is developed and approved by the local Soil and Water Conservation District before issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for the conversion.

C. Use of fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides or animal wastes within shorelands must be done in such a way as to minimize runoff into the shore impact zone or public water by the use of earth or vegetation.

6. Extractive Use Standards:

Processing machinery, such as crushers, conveyors and related structures, must be located consistent with the setback standards for structures from OHWL of public waters and from bluffs.

An extractive use site development and restoration plan must be developed, approved by the local government and followed over the course of operation of the site. The plan must address dust, noise, possible pollutant discharges, hours and duration of operation and anticipated vegetation and topographic alterations. It must also identify actions to be taken during operation to mitigate adverse environmental impacts, particularly erosion, and must clearly explain how the site will be rehabilitated after extractive activities end.

7. Standards For Commercial, Industrial, Public And Semipublic Uses:

Surface water-oriented commercial uses and industrial, public or semipublic uses with similar needs to have access to and use of public waters may be located on parcels or lots with frontage on public waters. Uses without water-oriented needs must be located on lots or parcels without public waters frontage, or, if located on lots or parcels with public waters frontage, must either be set back double the normal OHWL setback or be substantially screened from view from the water by vegetation or topography, assuming summer leaf-on conditions. Those with water-oriented needs must meet the following standards:

A. In addition to meeting impervious coverage limits, setbacks and other zoning standards presented elsewhere in this Ordinance, the uses must be designed to incorporate topographic and vegetative screening of parking areas and structures.

B. Uses that require short-term watercraft mooring for patrons must centralize these facilities and design them to avoid obstructions of navigation and to be the minimum size necessary to meet the need.

C. Uses that depend on patrons arriving by watercraft may use signs and lighting to convey needed information to the public, subject to the following general standards:

1. No advertising sign or supporting facilities for signs may be placed in or upon public waters. Signs conveying information or safety messages may be placed in or on public waters by a public authority or under a permit issued by the County Sheriff.

2. Signs may be placed, when necessary, within the SIZ if they are designed and sized to be the minimum necessary to convey needed information. They must only convey the location and name of the establishment and the general types of goods or services available. The signs must not contain other detailed information such as product brands and prices, and must not be higher than 10 ft. in height. If illuminated by artificial lights, the lights must be shielded or directed to prevent illumination out across public waters.

3. Other outside lighting may be located within the SIZ or over public waters if it is used primarily to illuminate potential safety hazards and is shielded or otherwise directed to prevent direct illumination out across public waters.

8. Stormwater Management:

Local governments must consider proper stormwater management in all reviews, approvals and permit issuance under shoreland management controls adopted under Minnesota Rules 6120.2500 to 6120.3900. The following general and specific standards must be incorporated into local government shoreland management controls and their administration.

A. The following are general standards:

1. When possible, existing natural drainage ways, wetlands and vegetated soil surfaces must be used to convey, store, filter and retain stormwater runoff before discharge to public waters.

2. Development must be planned and conducted in a manner that will minimize the extent of disturbed areas, runoff velocities, erosion potential and reduce and delay runoff volumes. Disturbed areas must be stabilized and protected as soon as possible and facilities or methods used to retain sediment on the site.

3. When development density, topographic features, and soil and vegetation conditions are not sufficient to adequately handle stormwater runoff using natural features and vegetation, various types of constructed facilities such as diversions, settling basins, skimming devices, dikes, waterways and ponds may be used. Preference must be given to designs using surface drainage, vegetation and infiltration rather than buried pipes and man-made materials and facilities.

B. The following are specific standards:

1. Total impervious surface coverage of lots must not exceed 25% of the lot area, of which buildings must not exceed 20% of the lot area. Impervious surface coverage within the SIZ must not exceed 260 square ft.

2. When constructed facilities are used for stormwater management, they must be designed and installed consistent with the field office technical guide of the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

3. New constructed stormwater outfalls to public waters must provide for filtering or settling of suspended solids and skimming of surface debris before discharge.

4. Surface area of a lot physically separated (i.e. public, private road right-of-way or easement) from itself or another, cannot be included for purposes of the impervious surface calculation.

5. Unless otherwise provided by the property owner, a minimum 12' wide driveway, from the nearest road right-of-way to the proposed structure(s), must be included in the impervious surface calculation.

6. Half of the area covered by professionally installed and properly maintained permeable pavers will be counted as impervious surface. Professionally installed means installed by an Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute Certified Installer, and properly maintained means following the manufacturer's suggested maintenance schedule.

7. All installation or alterations of impervious surface require a Lot Alteration Permit, except for the removal of impervious surfaces that are not being replaced.

9. Mining Of Metallic Minerals And Peat, As Defined By Minnesota Statutes, Sections 93.44 to 93.51:

Mining of metallic minerals and peat may be a permitted use provided the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Sections 93.44 to 93.51, are satisfied.

10. Subdivision Provisions:

A. Land Suitability:

Each lot created through subdivision must be suitable in its natural state for the proposed use with minimal alteration. Suitability analysis by the local unit of government shall consider susceptibility to flooding, existence of wetlands, soil and rock formations with severe limitations for development, severe erosion potential, steep topography, inadequate water supply or sewage treatment capabilities, near-shore aquatic conditions unsuitable for water-based recreation, important fish and wildlife habitat, presence of significant historic sites or any other feature of the natural land likely to be harmful to the health, safety or welfare of future residents of the proposed subdivision or of the community.

B. Platting:

All subdivisions with lots or parcels that are less than 5 acres in size must be platted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 505. No conveyance or other document creating a subdivision of any real property other than by a duly approved plat, shall be recorded, unless accompanied by a registered surveyor's drawing for recording.

C. Consistency With Other Controls:

Subdivisions must conform to all other requirements of the Subdivision Controls Ordinance of Otter Tail County. Subdivisions must not be approved that are designed so variances from one or more standards in official controls would be needed to use the lots for their intended purpose. In areas not served by publicly owned sewer and water systems, subdivisions must not be approved unless domestic water supply is available and soil absorption sewage treatment can be provided for every lot. A lot shall meet the minimum lot size as specified in Section III.3., however Natural Environment Standards may be considered to protect Sensitive Areas. The minimum undisturbed 2,500 square foot of Sewage Treatment Area, as specified in Section III.3., shall be identified on each lot. This undisturbed Sewage

C. The Administrative Officer must make such inspections as are necessary to determine compliance with this Ordinance. It is the applicant's responsibility to notify the Administrative Officer when the project is ready for inspection.

D. A Site Permit is not required for the following structures provided all other requirements of this Ordinance are met:

1. Satellite Dishes (in excess of 1 meter in diameter).
2. Licensed (most recent season) Fish Houses, no larger than 130 square feet in area and 10 feet in height.
3. Currently Licensed Recreational Camping Units located at a currently Licensed Resort.
4. One storage structure per permitted dwelling site, no larger than 20 square ft. in area and 6 ft. in height (except for W.O.A.S.).
5. A solar panel that is part of a dwelling or other building.

E. Unless otherwise indicated, a Site Permit shall be valid for a period of twelve months from the date of issue.

2. Administrative Officer:

The Board of County Commissioners hereby delegates to the Administrative Officer the duties and responsibilities as follows:

A. Issue Site Permits and inspect building location following notification by applicant.

B. Administer the terms of this Ordinance subject to any required approval of the Planning Commission.

C. Keep necessary records.

D. May issue Lot Alteration Permits for grading and filling projects of not more than 1,000 cubic yards, for conservation projects approved by a Soil and Water Conservation District, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or installation or alteration of impervious surface. The Administrative Officer may require an onsite inspection prior to issuing such a Permit. Within 3 days of completion, the Applicant for a Lot Alteration Permit must notify the Administrative Officer that the project is ready for inspection.

E. Issue Site Permits for structures with less than the OHWL setback under the following conditions:

1. The proposed structure will be on a lot that existed by virtue of a recorded plat or deed before October 15, 1971.

2. The proposed structure is not located in a SIZ or a BIZ.

3. In areas where an existing non-conforming structure exists on each immediately adjoining lot of a proposed building site, public water setback may be varied to conform to the existing setback of like use. In no instance, can the proposed structure extend closer to the public water than the closest point of the existing non-conforming structures of like use. It is the Applicant's responsibility to provide an accurate depiction of the existing non-conforming structures' location on the adjoining lots.

F. May extend a Conditional Use Permit or an Interim Use Permit expiration date upon receipt of the Applicant's written request. The Administrative Officer may require an onsite inspection prior to approving an extension.

G. May require a professional drawing as part of an application where clarification of issues such as; lotline, impervious surface, OHWL, drainage or topography is needed by the County.

3. Conditional Use Permits (see Sections III. and IV.):

Any proposed conditional use shall be presented to the Planning Commission for the determination of its applicability to the Shoreland Management District wherein proposed. The Planning Commission may impose conditions when granting Conditional Use Permits that specify: increased setbacks from public waters; vegetation allowed to be removed or required to be established; sewage treatment system location, design or use; location, design and use requirements for watercraft launching or docking and for vehicular parking; structure or other facility design, use and location; phasing of construction and other conditions considered necessary.

A. The applicant for a Conditional Use Permit shall file his complete Application along with an original scale drawing(s) or any required professional drawing(s), and 10 copies (if Applicant provides a color coded original scale drawing, it is the Applicant's responsibility to color code all copies) in the office of the Administrative Officer not less than 21 days prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Planning Commission and pay a fee as determined in the Fee Schedule when the application is filed. In addition to the scale drawing requirements (see definition), these drawings must also specifically indicate any proposed land use change including, but not limited to, structure location(s), sewage treatment system(s), and topographic alteration(s). In addition, the applicant must provide his (or next closest) E-911 address. In the absence of such number, detailed directions to the property must be provided with the application.

B. When administrative staff and Planning Commission members may not be able to view the property for which a Conditional Use Permit is requested, due to snow cover, it may not be possible to meet the legal requirement to take final action within 60 days of receipt of a completed Application. Therefore, an Applicant shall be required, as part of completing the application process in the months of October through March, to indicate by written acknowledgment whether the Applicant is willing to waive the 60 day time limit and allow time for the Planning Commission to view the property, if necessary. The acknowledgment shall inform the Applicant that the absence of a waiver of the 60 day requirement may leave the Planning Commission no alternative but to deny the Application. Circumstances may require the Planning Commission to cancel its regular meeting in one or more of the months of January through April. If meetings are canceled, no Application for a Conditional Use Permit/Preliminary Plat will be accepted as final until 21 days prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Planning Commission.

C. Within 3 days of making an application for a Conditional Use Permit, the applicant shall stake the lot lines, road right-of-ways and area under consideration in such a way as to demonstrate the area to be topographically altered or the location of a proposed structure and post his name and address in a clearly visible location on the property.

D. The Administrative Officer shall refer the Application to the Planning Commission. (See Section V.7, Notification Procedures.)

E. The Planning Commission shall consider the Application at its next regular meeting at which time is available, following compliance with the provisions of notice above specified.

F. If an EAW, EIS or any other study such as a soil test, drainage or erosion control plan is required for any proposed Conditional Use Application, the applicant shall assume all costs associated with the preparation, review and presentation of the document.

G. The applicant or his representative shall appear before the Planning Commission and answer any questions concerning the proposed Conditional Use Application.

H. Otter Tail County reserves the right to require performance bonds and establish the amount of a bond for any one or all Conditional Use Application approvals. All bonds shall be payable to Otter Tail County and shall be filed with the County Auditor prior to the issuance of the Conditional Use Permit.

I. The Planning Commission shall consider a Conditional Use Permit if the proposed change is found to be consistent with the general purposes of this Ordinance and the intent of this and all other applicable state and local regulations and laws. The Planning Commission may consider the following:

1. Compatibility with the surrounding area; both on land and water.
2. Environmental impact, including soils, topography, vegetation (land and water), fish, and wildlife.
3. Any hazards that may be created; both on land and water.
4. Density and location of development.
5. Suitability of the area, in its existing state, for the proposed use.
6. Near shore water depth.
7. Sensitive Areas may be protected through the use of Natural Environment Standards.
8. Adequate parking and traffic control.

9. Amount of noise generated.
10. Hours of proposed use.
11. Lighting.
12. Signage (number, size, lighting, and location).
13. Time frame and/or phasing.
14. Adequate lot area and water frontage for the proposed use.
15. Minimal change in the existing topography necessary to allow for the proposed use.
16. Any other possible adverse effects of the proposed Conditional Use Application and what additional requirements may be necessary to prevent such adverse effects.

J. The report of the Planning Commission shall be referred to the County Board and placed on the agenda of the Board at its first regular meeting following referral from the Planning Commission.

K. The County Board shall take action on the Application within 60 days after receiving the report of the Planning Commission. If it grants the Conditional Use Permit, the Board may impose any special conditions it considers necessary to protect the public welfare. A copy of all granted Conditional Use Permits shall be forwarded to the Commissioner within 10 days of such action.

L. The Planning Commission shall establish the valid period for each Conditional Use Permit granted.

M. After approval of the Conditional Use Application by the County Board the applicant shall secure from the Administrative Officer a written Conditional Use Permit before initiating the project.

N. Within 3 days of completion, the applicant, for a Conditional Use Permit, shall notify the Administrative Officer that the project is completed and ready for an inspection.

O. The Administrative Officer shall inspect after notification and inform the applicant in writing whether the project complies with the approved Conditional Use Permit. The purpose of the Conditional Use Permit shall not be put to use until written approval has been granted by the Administrative Officer.

4. Interim Use Permits:

A. An Interim Use Permit may be issued for a replacement dwelling on a lot with an existing dwelling, and the continued use of the existing dwelling will be temporarily authorized during construction or in cases where the impervious surface requirements will be met upon project completion, as authorized by MS 394.303.

B. Applications for Interim Use Permits must be made by an owner of the lot and are processed in the same manner and with the same considerations as a Conditional Use Permit.

C. Otter Tail County reserves the right to require performance bonds and establish the amount of a bond for any one or all Interim Use Application approvals. All bonds shall be payable to Otter Tail County and shall be filed with the County Auditor prior to the issuance of the Interim Use Permit.

1. The prior dwelling structure shall be completely removed from the lot or the impervious surface will be compliant, within one (1) year of the issuance of the Interim Use Permit.

2. The Interim Use Permit may authorize repurposing of the prior dwelling where it will no longer meet the definition of a dwelling and cannot be reused as a dwelling.

3. Only one (1) dwelling may be occupied.

5. Appeals:

A. The Board of Adjustment shall hear and decide appeals from and review any order, requirements, decisions or determinations made by any Administrative Officer charged with enforcing any provision of this Ordinance.

Appendix 2 – Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan Public Survey Results (March 2016)

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan Public Survey Results



Otter Tail County, in collaboration with the White Earth Nation, is working with SRF Consulting Group to complete a Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan. Residents of Star Lake Township and the surrounding area were given an opportunity to provide input via survey. This allowed affected land owners to communicate their values and express their concerns regarding development within the limited area identified. The survey was distributed in hard copy and through Survey Monkey.

There were 167 respondents, with 92 respondents completing the survey on the Survey Monkey website and 75 respondents completing a hard copy of the survey. Respondents identified as one of four types:

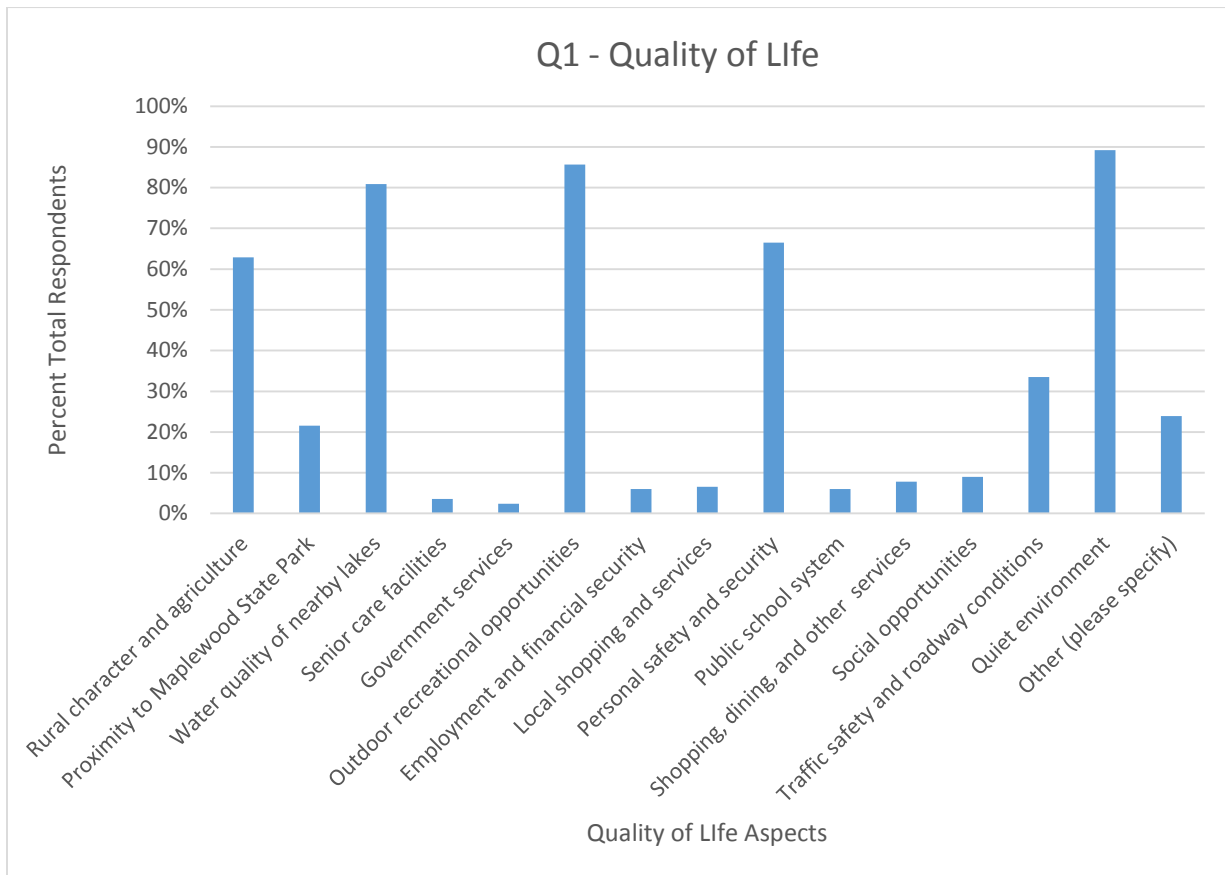
- Non-farm year-round resident of Star Lake Township (62)
- Farm year-round resident of Star Lake Township (19)
- Seasonal resident (61)
- Non-owner of a residence in Star Lake Township (23)

Star Lake Township has a permanent population of approximately 500 residents. 81 year-round residents (roughly 16% of the Star Lake Township population) responded to the survey. Seasonal residents responded to the survey in relative high numbers as well. The seasonal resident population is assumed to be roughly 1,000 (assuming similar household size as permanent residents); therefore, roughly 6% of the seasonal resident population responded to the survey. The remaining survey responses were from individuals that identified as from outside of Star Lake Township.

For most questions, respondents were asked to select more than one answer from a list of options. They were not asked to rank their selections; however, the selections that received more votes indicate a likeness amongst values, concerns, or consideration.

Quality of Life

Q1 – Please select five positive aspects that contribute most to your quality of life in Star Lake Township.



Percent total indicates the percentage of respondents who selected each attribute. The most valued attributes include **quiet environment (89%)**, **outdoor recreational opportunities (86%)**, and **water quality of nearby lakes (81%)**.

Other responses include mentions of:

- Relaxing, serene atmosphere (2)
- Undeveloped character of the lake/no close neighbors (3)
- Wildlife (2)
- Hunting and Fishing (2)
- Family gathering place (4)

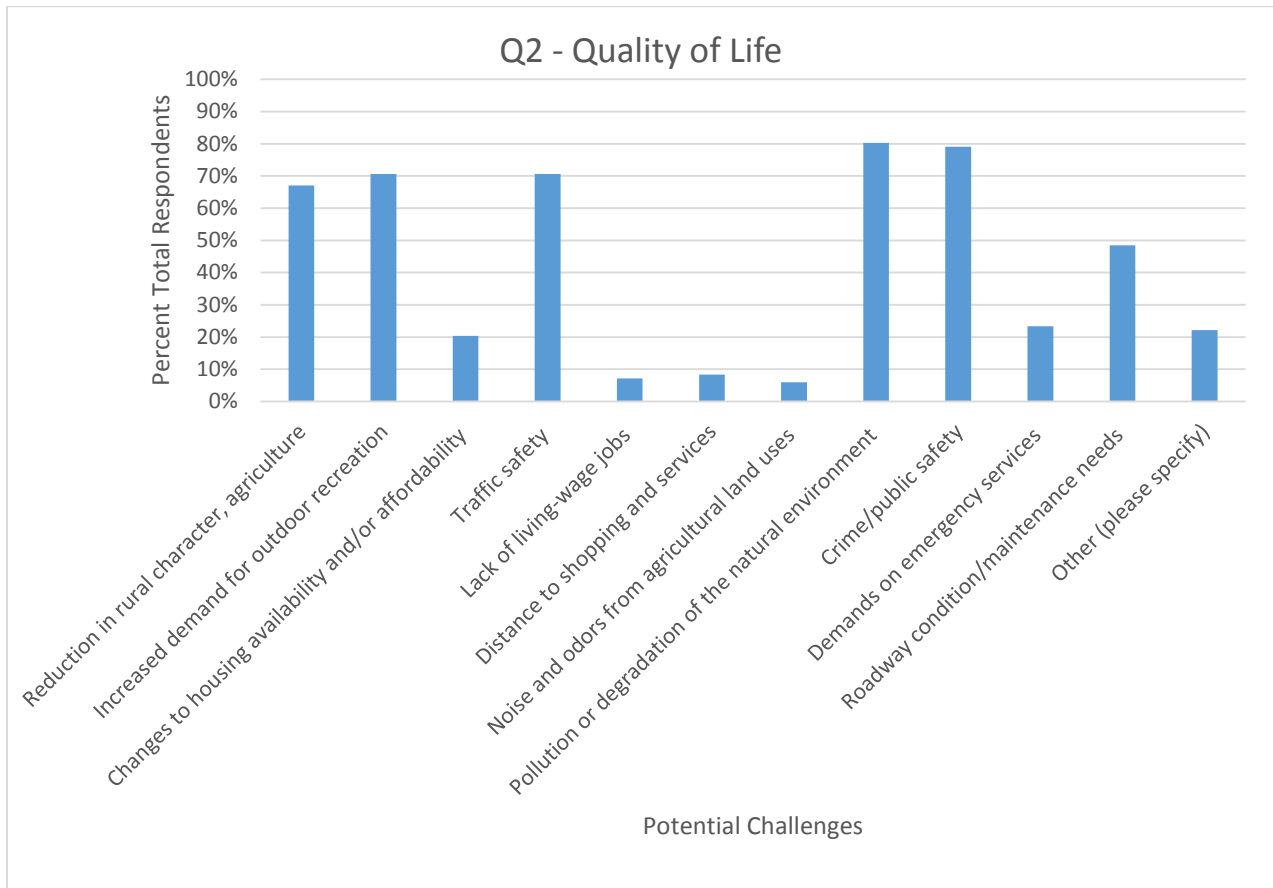
Response Breakdown

Survey Monkey Responses: 92

Written Responses: 75

Skipped Question: 0

Q2 – Please select five potential challenges impacting your quality of life in Star Lake Township.



The areas of greatest concern include **degradation of the natural environment (80%), crime and public safety (79%), increased demand for outdoor recreation opportunities (71%), and traffic safety (71%).**

Other responses include mentions of:

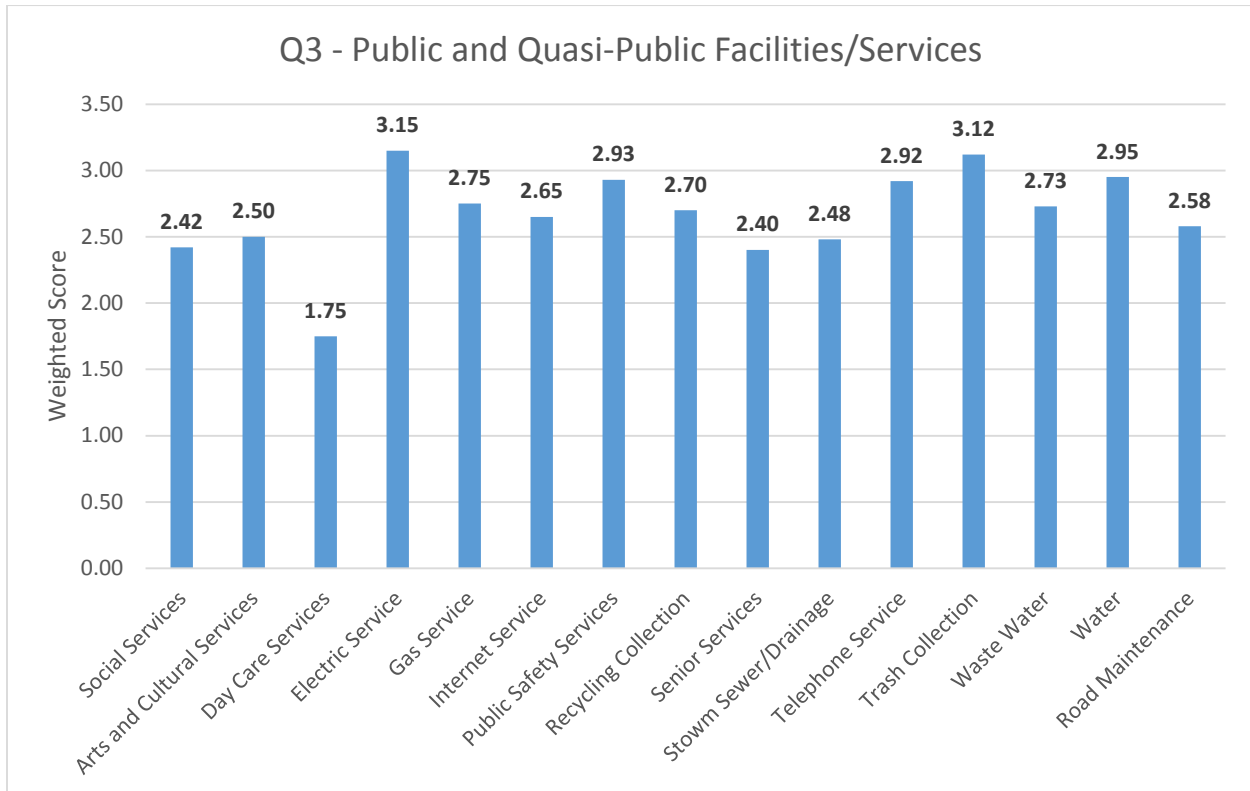
- Light and noise pollution from increased traffic and development (3)
- Property value decline (1)
- Traffic congestion and roadway degradation (3)
- Written emphasis on crime or safety (6)

Response Breakdown

Survey Monkey Responses: 92
 Written Responses: 75
 Skipped Question: 0

Public and Quasi-Public Facilities/Services

Q3 – Describe the extent to which the following services meet your needs in Star Lake Township.



Respondents were asked to assess the level of public services as poor, fair, good, or excellent. Some respondents answered “not sure” or “not applicable.” To determine weighted scores, each qualitative response was assigned a value of 1-4 (1 being “poor” and 4 being “excellent”) and the respondents indicating “not sure” or “not applicable” were removed from consideration.

The services receiving the highest composite score were **Electric (3.15)**, **Trash Collection (3.12)**, and **Water (2.95)**.

One respondent indicated a desire for more choices in TV and internet service. Another respondent expressed concern that the quality of service provided would decrease with more users, and that costs could increase.

Response Breakdown

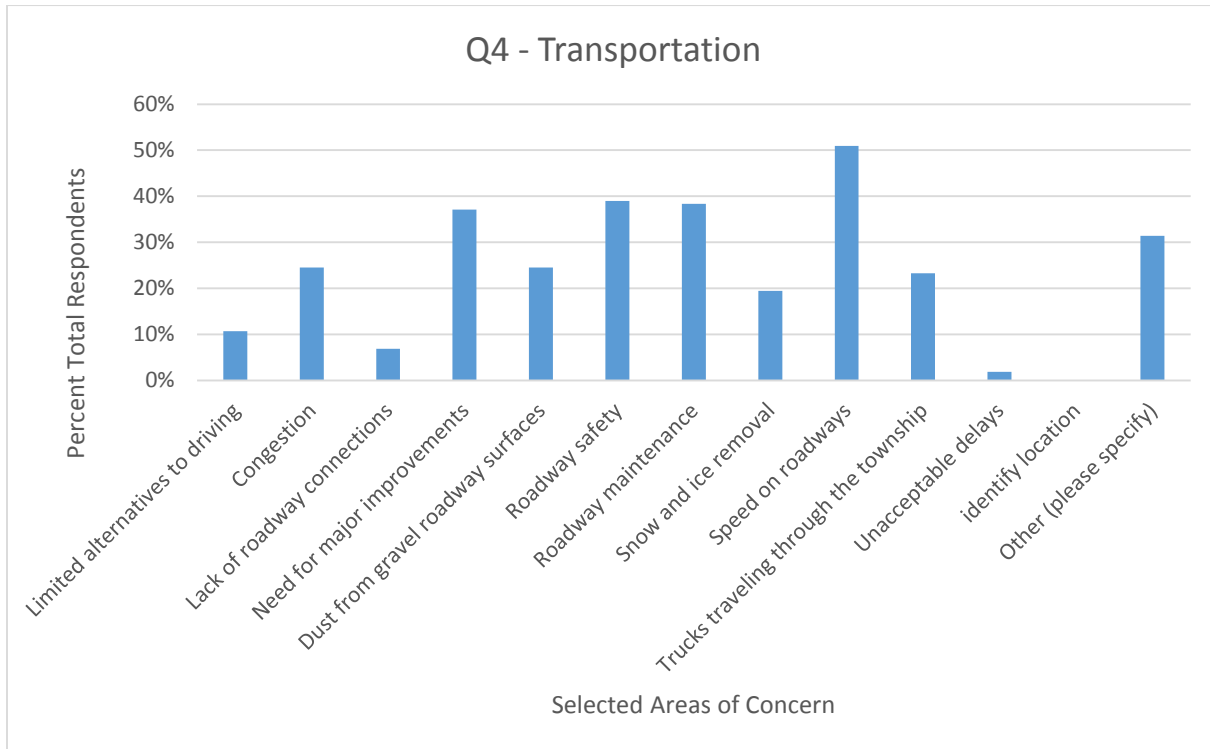
Survey Monkey Responses: 89

Written Responses: 75

Skipped Question: 3

Transportation

Q4 – Please select the top three areas of concern related to vehicular transportation in the Star Lake Township area.



The greatest transportation concerns include **high speeds on roadways (51%)**, **general roadway safety (39%)**, **roadway maintenance (38%)**, and **need for major improvements (37%)**. A few respondents identified more than three concerns and some identified fewer.

Other responses include mentions of:

Increased traffic from the casino (3)

Increased cost of funding for improvements/maintenance (2)

Respondents were asked to identify areas of congestion. State Highway 108, County Roads 41 and 35, and 380th Street were listed by many. Respondents were also asked to identify unsafe roadway locations. State Highway 108 and County Road 41 again were mentioned, as was the intersection of State Highway 108/County Road 41.

Response Breakdown

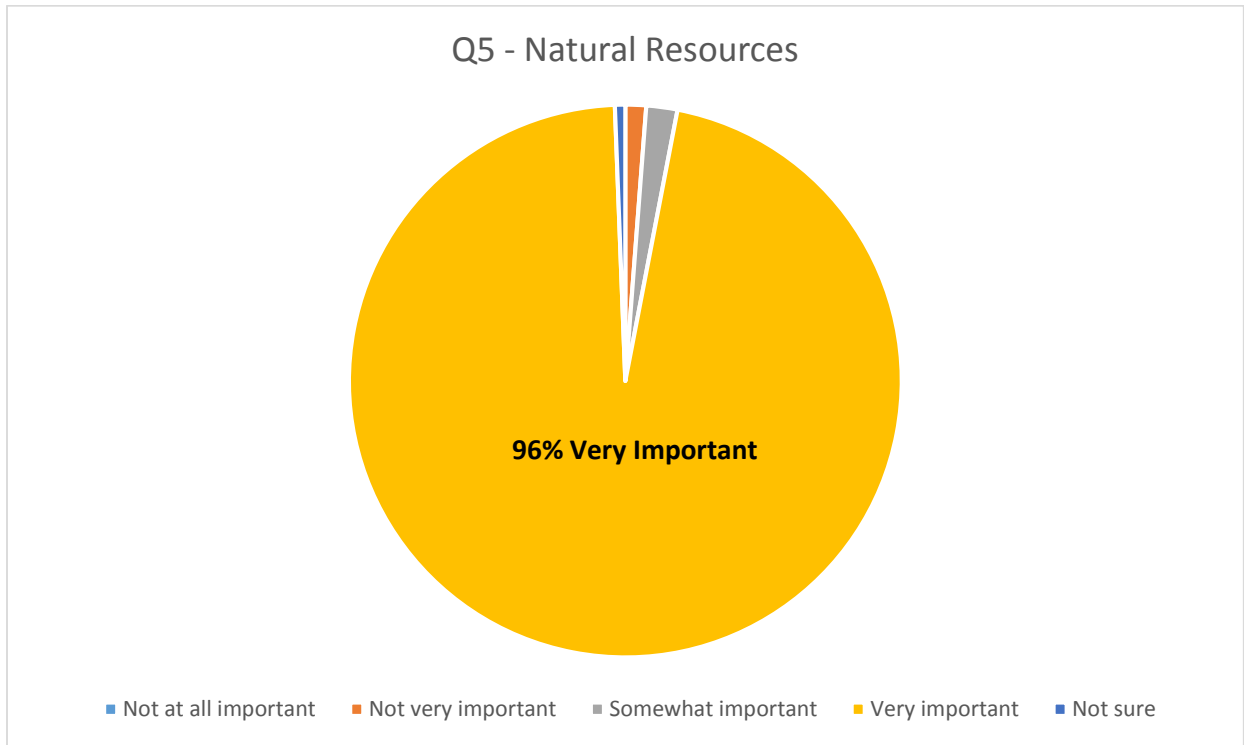
Survey Monkey Responses: 85

Written Responses: 74

Skipped Question: 8

Natural Resources

Q5 – How important are natural resources, in general, for your sense of place, quality of life, and your vision of Star Lake Township’s future?



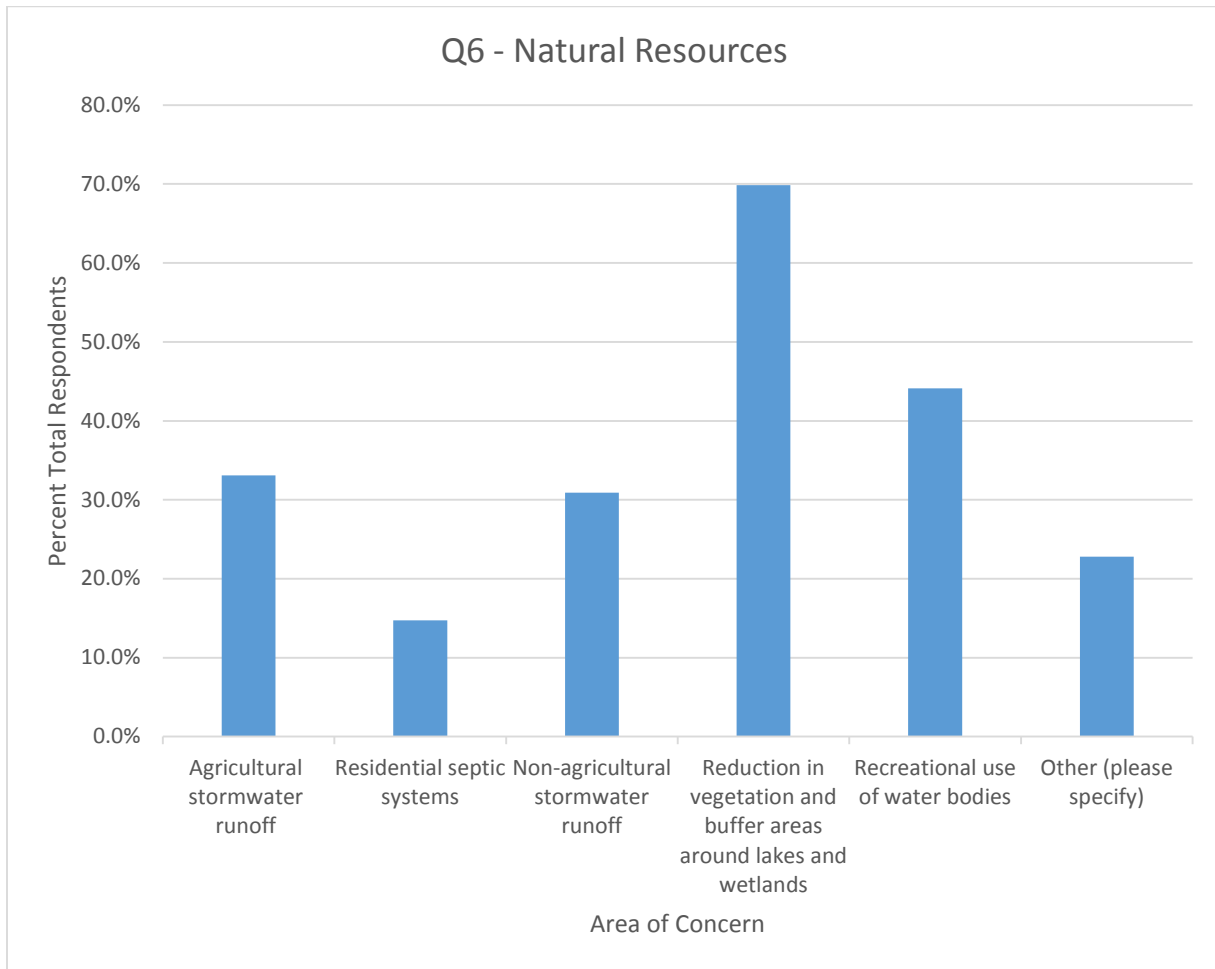
Response Breakdown

Survey Monkey Responses: 92

Written Responses: 73

Skipped Question: 2

Q6 – If you are aware of any surface water quality problems within Star Lake Township, what do you perceive to be the two biggest sources of this problem?



Nearly 70% of respondents expressed concern about shrinking buffer areas around lakes and wetlands. Other issues that were frequently mentioned include **recreational water use (44%)** and **storm water runoff from agricultural use (33%)**.

Other responses include mentions of:

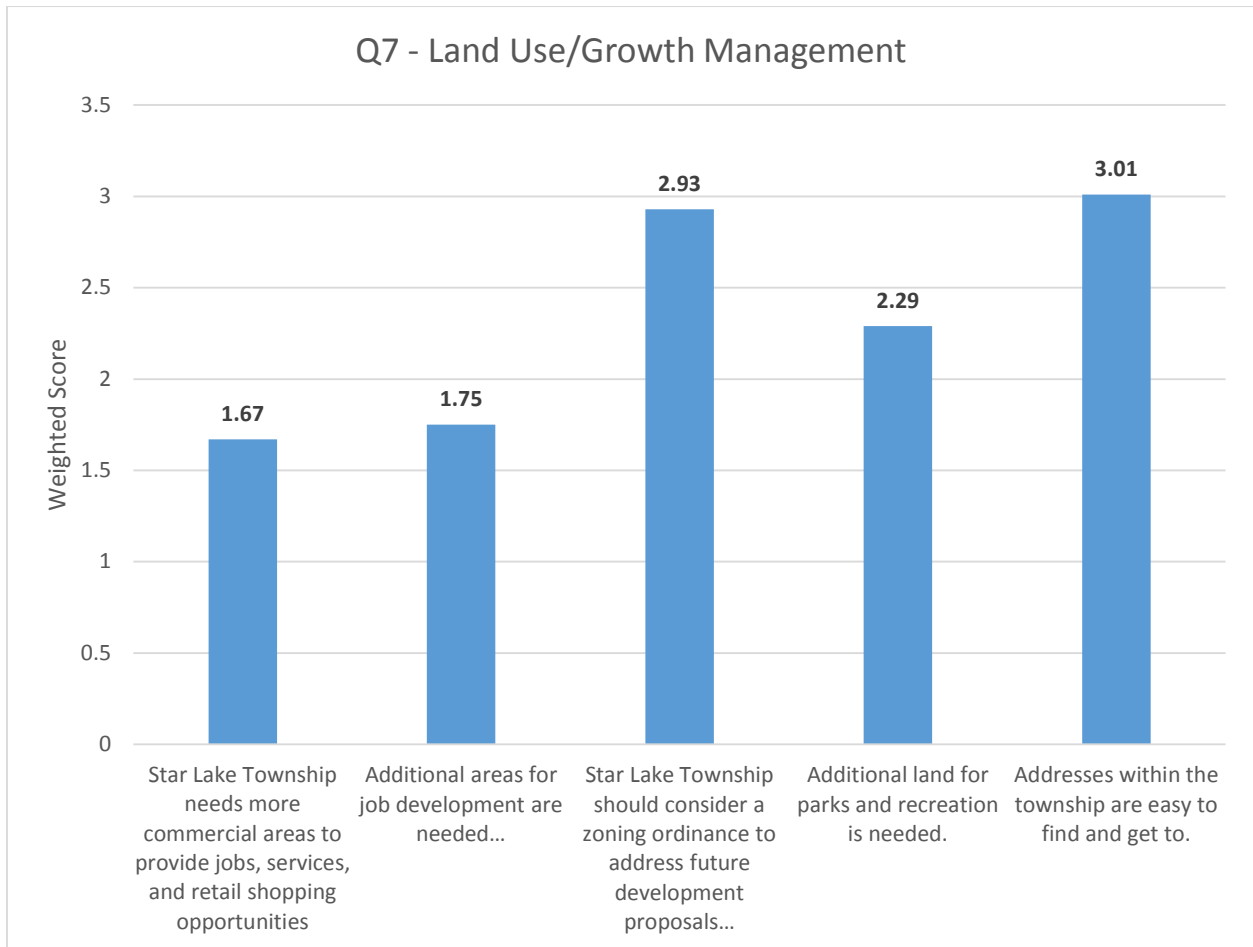
- Introduction of invasive species (5)
- Trash disposal (2)

Response Breakdown

- Survey Monkey Responses: 73
- Written Responses: 63
- Skipped Question: 31

Land Use/Growth Management

Q7 – Please state your level of agreement with the following statements.



Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed with the statements above (strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree). To determine weighted scores, each qualitative response was assigned a value of 1-4 (1 being “strongly disagree” and 4 being “strongly agree”) and the respondents indicating “not sure” were removed from consideration.

On average, respondents agreed that Star Lake Township should consider a zoning ordinance to locate and regulate land uses. In general, they disagreed with the need for more commercial areas, services, and employment opportunities.

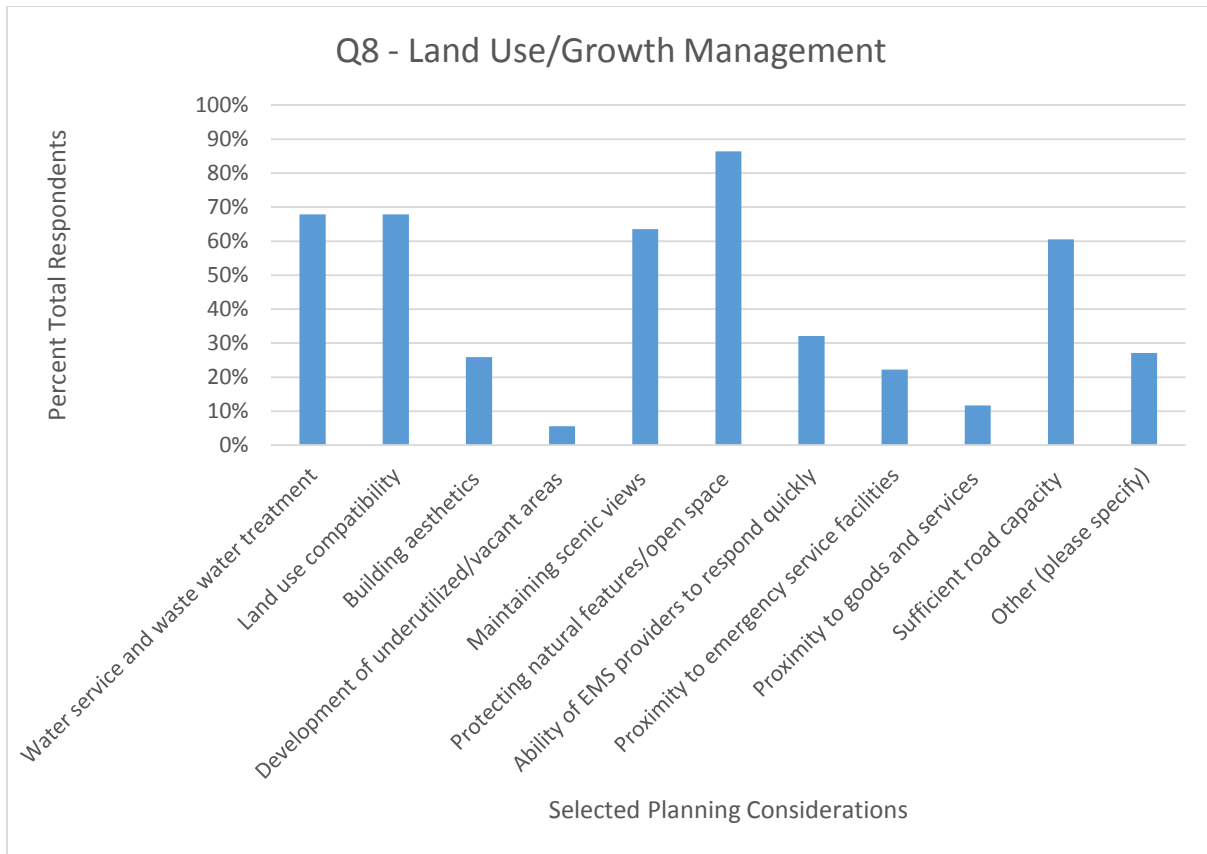
Response Breakdown

Survey Monkey Responses: 92

Written Responses: 73

Skipped Question: 2

Q8 – What are the top five elements that should be considered in making future development decisions?



The most frequently selected elements include **protecting natural features/open space (86%)**, **ensuring adequate water service and waste water treatment (68%)**, **land use compatibility (68%)**, **maintaining scenic views (64%)** and **planning for sufficient road capacity (61%)**. Many other elements were specified.

There were numerous written comments for this question, including five that specifically stated being against the proposed casino as an incompatible land use. Other written comments include:

Light Pollution and Water Quality (3)

Peace and Quiet, Safety/Crime, and Roads and Traffic (4)

Response Breakdown

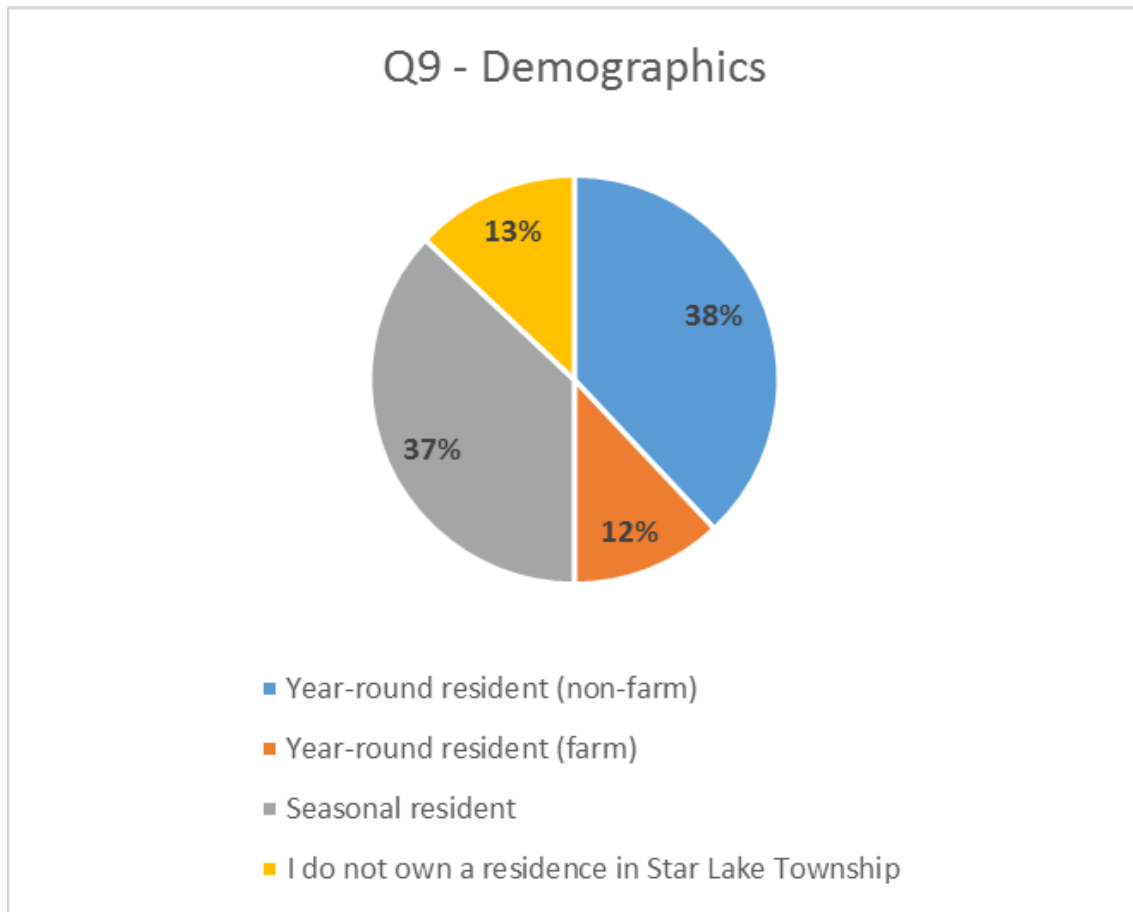
Survey Monkey Responses: 90

Written Responses: 72

Skipped Question: 5

Demographics

Q9 – Which statement best describes your residency/ownership in Star Lake Township?



As discussed in the introduction, half of respondents (50%) identified as year-round residents. 37% as seasonal residents and 13% identified as being outside of Star Lake Township.

Q10 – Please provide any other comments that would be helpful in the review of land use and transportation characteristics of Star Lake Township.

In total 93 comments were received for question 10. 51 comments were on-line responses to the Survey Monkey survey and 42 were from the paper copies. The following is a breakdown of the responses and their areas of concern.

- (42) Respondents do NOT want the casino to be built in Star Lake Township.
- (30) Respondents are concerned about traffic impacts to the roadway network.
- (21) Respondents expressed written concern about personal safety and crime.
- (20) Respondents are concerned about losing the peace and quiet they currently enjoy.
- (18) Respondents are concerned about their taxes being increased due to the infrastructure needs and additional services (police/Fire/EMT) needed for the development.
- (14) Respondents are concerned about degradation of water quality in Star Lake, and the additional wastewater and boating activity the resort/casino will create.
- (11) Respondents are in favor of the Shooting Star Resort and Casino on Star Lake.
- (10) Respondents are concerned with roadway safety and the impacts on safety that additional traffic may create.
- (7) Respondents are concerned about light pollution and suggest that an International Dark Sky Association light pollution standard be adopted.
- (6) Respondents are concerned Star Lake will become over fished with additional activity.
- (6) Respondents are concerned about increased pollution.
- (6) Respondents are concerned about invasive species being introduced into Star Lake.
- (6) Respondents are concerned about emergency response, both the number of responders available, the response times to the area, and that increased activity will put increased demands for emergency services.
- (5) Respondents are concerned about providing enough housing for casino workers and their families.
- (4) Respondents mentioned the need for improvement at the intersection of MN 108/CR 41.
- (3) Respondents are concerned about slow moving farm machinery on the roads in the area, and a need for drivers to “share the road” with local farmers.
- (3) Respondents are concerned with the impacts to spawning beds due to increased activity on Star Lake.

Appendix 3 – Public Input Received (comment forms, forum questions, etc.)



Otter Tail County – Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

Neighborhood Meeting #1

6:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 30, 2016

Dent Community Center

201 Birch Street Dent, MN 56528

The following is a summary of the questions asked during the discussion that occurred following the “neighborhood meeting” presentation:

- What is the number of people expected to use the proposed development?
- What is the timeline of the project?
 - Answer – White Earth Nation would like to break ground in October 2016, this would be phase 1 of the project that is considered the first 5 years.
- Why was the public not notified earlier of the development?
 - Answer – White Earth Nation has federal right to the approximate 15 acre parcel (it is held in Trust by the US Federal Government). The tribe is within their rights to proceed with developing a resort and casino operation within Federal law. Public notification was intended to occur once White Earth Nation was fully prepared to share information. Note, an additional 255 acres of land was purchased adjacent to the Trust land; this land is considered Fee land – subject to all County, State, and Federal laws/regulations.
- Can the fee land be converted to trust land?
 - Answer – White Earth Nation representative stated - no it cannot, there is no process in place to change land from Fee land to Trust land. Note, this was later corrected to state that while there is a process to convert Fee land to Trust land, the process is very restrictive for land not connected to Tribal Reservation lands.
- What is the plan for tribal police? Fire protection? EMS?
 - Answer – White Earth Nation is continuing to coordinate with local representatives on these issues.
- County 41 is in rough shape both north and south of the proposed development, how is this going to be accounted for?
 - Answer – the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan will address these issues as part of the study.



- Two access points are shown in the proposed development layout, what are the uses of each access?
 - Answer – As the proposed development takes shape the uses and access purposes will be determined.
- What future development is anticipated down the road on the tribal land?
 - Answer – None is specified at this time.
- Will there be lake access or a future marina?
 - Answer – This is not included in phase 1 of the development.
- For future development what is the process? Will there be another environmental review?
 - Answer – An environmental review at the state/county level could be triggered depending on the size and use of the future development only for the non-trust land.
- What if any negative impact is found as part of the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan?
 - Answer - The tribe will work to avoid or mitigate all environmental impacts; however, the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan is not an evaluation document of the proposed development and as such will not determine negative impacts related to it. It will document natural features and potential issue areas or developable areas; it will also identify potential future transportation issues.
- Where is the proposed development getting their water from?
 - Answer – Multiple well locations are being evaluated. A storm water management plan and a sanitary plan are in the early phases of development. Both of these items may be viewed as shared benefits.
- Will there be alcohol served onsite?
 - Answer – Yes, there is a bar/restaurant proposed for the site
- Resident had concern for increased crime because of development.
 - No response or answer necessary.
- How many jobs will be generated? Where will these people live or come from?
 - Answer – White Earth Nation representative stated, people are looking for well paid jobs with solid benefits. The development will provide that.
- What is the plan for waste management?
 - Answer – There is a state permitting process for the Fee land that will be followed.
- What is the county process for allowing this development so close to a wetland? How will this be mitigated? Will there be a subsurface basin, drain field, etc?
 - Answer – A storm water management plan will be part of the EAW process. A county permit will be needed for the non-trust land, it is the same process that other developers are subject which also includes a public hearing.



- Who will pay for the improvement to the roadways?
 - Answer – There will be cost participation associated with this effort and appropriate jurisdictions identified (including White Earth Nation).
- Will netting be allowed in Star Lake?
 - Answer – There are no hunting rights on the Trust land.
- Resident noted that the improved internet and electric service were good benefits to the residents of Star Lake.
 - No response or answer necessary.
- Why was the DNR excluded from the Project Management Team (PMT)?
 - Answer – The thought is that the DNR will be engaged when necessary as part of future environmental review processes.

**Subject: Ottertail County – Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan
Open Forum**

March 30, 2016

The following are a series of question/concerns offered to the PMT regarding the Comprehensive plan and related impacts

Traffic (safety/Impact Concerns)

- Mn Highway 108 & CR 41 intersection (north Major Intersection)
 - Visibility /safety
 - Large knoll to west/view obstruction East
 - Seasonal sun blindness both east & west
 - Speed
 - Local traffic vs casino (ie car/trailer, sightseeing, inattentive drivers unfamiliar with area)
 - Action items to consider
 - Acceleration/de-acceleration lanes
 - Bypass lanes (108)
 - Speed limits (require enforcement)
 - Signalized intersection

- E-W traffic on Mn Highway 108 (east of CR 41 to Public Landing)
 - Visibility/safety
 - historic speed control issues
 - Multiple vehicle access areas/pedestrians
 - De-acceleration/acceleration of boat/vehicles at public landing
 - Action items to consider
 - Enhances speed controls
 - Signage
 - Enforcement

- Highway 108 south to Galaxy Resort
 - Visibility/safety
 - Heavy pedestrian traffic/crossing from private property to shore line
 - Resident vehicle access from private property to 41
 - Traffic entering/exiting at Galaxy resort
 - Extremely dangerous corner immediately south of Galaxy. (observed non-local visitors encountering maneuvering issues at curve) (approach speed does not address hazard/no clear alert to hazard)
 - Action items to consider
 - Re-route CR 41 behind properties fronting on lake
 - Heavy speed enforcement/speed bumps (already posted to low speed with limited compliance)

- Rumble bars embedded approaching curve to alter driver to hazard
 - Acceleration/de-acceleration/by pass at galaxy entrance
- CR 41 & West Arm Bridge
 - Visibility /Safety
 - Bridge used by families for day fishing at pedestrian walk area/below bridge
 - Several cabins immediately adjacent to CR 41
 - Speed issues
 - Action items to consider
 - Ban access/use of bridge for recreational fishing
 - Posted reduced speed limit/heavy enforcement
 - Speed rumble bars for speed control
- 380th St & CR 41 intersection
 - Visibility/safety
 - Large knoll to south (obstructed vision)
 - Speed (N-S speed 55+ with low speed access or crossing intersection)
 - 380th Blind intersection approaching from south
 - Action items to consider
 - Re-grade CR to enhance visibility
 - Rumble bars embedded in south approach to intersection
 - Reduce speed limit/heavy enforcement
 - Signage/warning
 - Add Acceleration lanes (north and south)
 - Combine access to 380th with Casino entrance (see below)
- Future main entrance Casino property & CR 41 intersection
 - Visibility/safety
 - Consider location (limited unobstructed view of on-coming traffic) (hill at 41 & 380 and curve at wetland to the south)
 - Action items to consider
 - Optimizes entry location to optimize view of approaching traffic
 - Reduce speed limit from curve to beyond 380th
 - Increase width of roadway at entrance for SB left turning/ traffic bypass and NB acceleration lane.
 - High illumination of intersection
 - Possibly signalized control
 - Consider relocate 380th (combine with casino entrance and route back to Spruce lodge entrance)
- CR 41 & CR 35 (south major intersection)
 - Visibility/safety
 - History of inattentive/impaired drivers missing T in road/stop sign
 - Action items to consider
 - Enhanced approaching dead end warning devices
 - Early warning reduced speed control
 - Enhanced intersection lighting

- General items
 - CR 41 is a 2 lane highway with relatively narrow drive lane with no shoulder
 - Roadway shared by local lake pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle traffic
 - Evaluate Casino /resort traffic impact on use/road enhancement need
 - Consider adding pedestrian trails/bike trails adjacent to roadway to separate pedestrian/bicycles in high traffic areas.

- 380th (township road) Spruce point road (Immediate/future impact (township road)
 - Short term plans implies no impact on 380th road
 - Master plan development (beyond immediate casino study) to consider
 - Shore-land enhancement/relocation of 380th (golf course/marina/RV park access)
 - Dust control
 - Limit access to Peterson's point (dead end condition)
 - Gated condition
 - Speed bumps
 - Extreme low speed limits/controls
 - Sovereign nation vs public land

How is access to point guaranteed to the exiting Peterson point property owner? Based on understanding of land acquisition by White Earth Nation the properties located on Peterson's Point will be land locked once overall casino/resort is developed.

- Financial impact (who is responsible)
 - Infrastructure cost for improvements
 - Long term enforcement of safety enhancements
 - Highway patrol
 - County (satellite substation?)
 - Tribal (Sovereign nation status/policing?)
 - Future Monitoring action (follow up survey) /effectiveness/future action plans if casino impact projections/corrective actions are not effective. Who gets stuck with the future costs.

Health/safety

- Fire department (local fire protection)
 - Dent fire department capacity/training (i.e. multiple story structures/fire code inspections/life safety)
 - Current equipment/training (need for protection of new building type? (i.e. multi store/large floor plate etc) Cost impact
- EMT
 - Dent fire department capacity/training (voluntary members)
 - Response time

- Hospital (capacity/concerns)
 - Perham
 - Pelican Rapids
 - Fergus Falls

- Police enforcement
 - Traffic impact/enforcement (state/local/tribal involvement)
 - Civil disobedience/crime potential/drugs & alcohol

Environmental impacts issues: (controls/measures)

- Lake water quality/invasive species control
 - Marina impact/public access controls
 - Golf course/irrigation/fertilization/phosphate pollution
 - Parking lot run off/storm water management measures

- Light pollution
 - Parking lot illumination level controls
 - Cut off lighting controls

- Signage (active/passive/LED action signs)
 - Limit size/illumination impact/traffic distraction

- Waste water treatment
 - Water treatment vs septic systems (what is threshold for options/who controls/monitors)
 - Impact considerations (RV stations/pumping, hotel, casino, waterpark, food service)

- Noise
 - Establish noise level criteria (ie. Outdoor concerts/traffic/music etc)

- Hours of operation
 - Does county have any control regarding hours of operation

Work force/local opportunities

- Projected 500 employee base (source)
 - Source of employees (targeted minimum threshold of employee categories)
 - Impacted on surrounding communities (I. E. lessons learned from Morton MN, Hankinson ND with remote locations?)
 - Dent
 - Vergas
 - Pelican Rapids
 - Erhart
 - Amor

- Impact on surrounding community school districts
- Housing stock
- Local law enforcement
- Infrastructure

Resort/Casino project general concerns

- Shore-land development (County?)
 - Density control
 - Water/sewer/storm management infrastructure
 - Shoreline preservation
- Lake access/use
 - DNR
 - Docks
 - Shallow bay management
 - Fishery
 - Invasive species
 - Marina
 - Boat ramp/access
- Golf course
- Hotel/casino
 - Code compliance
 - Life safety standards
- Implied Shared Benefits
 - Upgraded electrical (how is Great River Energy & local Co-op absorbing enhances substation costs/new distribution lines to the Casino site (who is paying for this improvement?))
 - Waste Treatment - Is Ottertail County intending to fund the waste treatment facility Comment in PMT #1 meeting notes from county officials implies that improvement would benefit point residents. (This is factual only if infrastructure is provide and if so who bears cost of improvement?) Casino Project should be standalone project without assumption that adjacent property owners will share in improvement either thru increased taxes or mandated hookup to treatment system.
 - Upgraded internet service: Are any cost associated with the upgraded system going to be absorbed by the current Arivg consumers? Not clear how this is going to benefit the local residents.



Otter Tail County – Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

Open House #2

4:00 p.m., Thursday, June 9, 2016

Dent Community Center

201 Birch Street Dent, MN 56528

There were 127 people that signed in at the open house. Twenty-one comment cards were filled out, 10 hard copies and 11 online. The following is a summary of the comments received:

Hardcopy

- Great information – Anonymous
- I have concerns regarding the proposed improvements and who is going to pay for them? I have concerns regarding the casino competing with local small business owners (i.e. resorts, restaurants, etc.). I have concerns with the employees at the casino and where they will live and/or come from. – Angela Appell
- The marina should provide an area for a boat wash. Patrons should be required to hot wash boats and live wells to prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other invasive species. Thank you. – Arnie Schenck
- My only concern is that a detailed EIS be completed. Generally support the casino. – Dale Salberg
- We only live a couple of miles from the casino site and have to drive to Dent or Underwood for gas. So we were wondering if a gas station will be included in the casino development. – DeWayne & Lila Collins
- I really have no negative comments, I'm looking forward to this happening and possibly gaining employment as well. I enjoy going to Shooting Star and have always been treated well. We have also come up for my husband's Christmas parties, shows and slots. Thank you for all of your time, it will be well worth it in the end. – Carol Nelson
- Exciting project, looks like its proceeding well. Two questions: 1. Have you considered an environmental interpretive center with ricing and husbandry of the land as a theme/attraction? 2. Has a performance venue been looked at similar to that of Shooting Star? I am a supporter – Paul Snyder
- 1. The county needs to consider the impact of anticipated development growth on sewage. There is virtually no monitoring/validating process right now for the numerous septic tanks. 2. Lots of concern regarding odor from casino lagoons. 3. Another item for comp plan –



impact of development over next 25 years on the sensitive areas of lakes. Those need to be re-classified or something strong enough to protect those areas. – Arlette Preston

- Star Lake is a quality fishery. It's imperative that these waters are treated with sensitivity. As owners we've participated in the Minnesota Citizen Lake Monitoring Program – giving us 20 years of data on water quality. Our tropic state index places the lake at “good” to “very good”. We want to maintain that state. – Gary Sheldon
- How about a non-smoking casino or adding a movie theater? – Anonymous

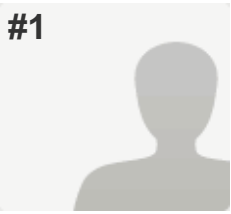
Online (via Survey Monkey)

- This seems crazy that a Casino could be built on this very ecologically sensitive area of Star Lake. Not long ago a proposal to make the West and South arms of Star Lake "Environmental" was proposed and supported by many residents. Although this was eventually dropped, it does not diminish the importance of these areas to the ecology of the lake. I also recall that the county did not approve a request by Pierre DuCharme to create an RV park on the West arm of the lake citing environmental impact, when this would be a much larger footprint and pose a greater potential risk to the lake. Don't bury your head and the sand and push this proposal through - do you due diligence and protect our lake for future generations. This is NOT A DONE DEAL! - Tim & Amy Lindgren
- The environmental impact needs to be looked at. An individual property owner, like myself, would not be able to disrupt the lake shore the way that this will. Just straight up not fair. – Tom Schwieger
- This is a mistake. One of Otter Tail County's largest assets is our environment, and this is being built on fragile habitat and nesting grounds for species that make the entire county a special place to visit. It can never be taken back. This might be a naive question, but could a casino exist elsewhere and help address other county needs - such as being located at the former Fergus Falls State Hospital and thus helping preserve that building? As a place that wrongfully hospitalized many immigrants and Native Americans it seems like a good way to repurpose it, so that the tribe can benefit economically. Please consider bridging a conversation between the tribe and the City of Fergus Falls before we lose two majorly significant assets that we can never get back again. – Michele Anderson
- 1. According to the timeline shown on the OTC website, a newsletter is scheduled for early July. Wondering when we will be getting more information. 2. FYI ... on the OTC website, the email link for Craig Vaughn doesn't work. 3. The OTC website page doesn't even have the most recent info on the casino FAQ page regarding number of hotel rooms, number of slots, etc. As a concerned citizen, I am trying to stay informed about this plan that directly impacts my quality of life on Star Lake (now and into the near and distant future). It seems very difficult to get timely information. – Brenda Ebanks



- My Name is Carl Abbott and my family has lived on the south arm of Star Lake since the early forty's. The stories I have of the south arm go back over 5 generations mostly about the fishing and hunting on the south arm of Star Lake. The biggest concern I have for the new comprehensive plan is that it does not and cannot know the history of the south arm and how it has been used by both the wild life and people of the area. It does not take into account that this is a resting area for waterfowl in both the spring and fall and by bringing in the casino this will all change. There are as many puddle ducks resting on the south arm of Star as there is on the west arm of Dead which is a protected resting area. For generations my family has been able to enjoy the sound of the early morning flights of ducks leaving the lake and the sight of hundreds coming back at dusk and I believe that this will be unable to be replaced no matter how much "other" wet lands they buy to replace this already great waterfowl area. – Carl Abbott
- Why is this plan only addressing a "limited area"? The impacts related to this project are so wide spread, multi-faceted and very diverse that the planning must be expanded accordingly..... – Jeffrey Bursey
- The Casino should be pulled way back from the lake because it shouldn't be built in a lakeshore area. – Brian Ross
- I think if the project is done collaboratively and thoughtfully it will have a good outcome for all stakeholders. – Julie Koski
- I would like to hear more about alternative sites that have been considered for the proposed Star Lake Casino (eg Pine Point, Pike Point?). – Mary Meline
- I and my wife Kris purchased a lake home on Star Lake in 2011 and planned on it to become our retirement home. We liked the relaxed life style that the Star Lake area brought and enjoy the open feeling of Star Lake. We are very concerned about the recent development of a Casino being built on the shores of our lake. We are most concerned about the over 400 people it will take to operate the casino when they are going to pay such low wages. Where will these people live and what else will they need to do to support themselves when wages at the casino are so low. Our concern is that some will look for devious ways to make extra income and with that comes drugs and theft. It is not right that when a citizen makes investments in property that it could all be dealt a harsh blow by something like a casino intruding in our lives. – Bruce Due and Kris Pladson
- I agree an environmental impact study would be a wise choice for a project of this size. I own 9 acres of land south of the west arm of Star Lake and am worried what this casino project will do to property values. – Daniel Nill

#1



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 1:59:46 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 2:09:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:37
IP Address: 137.100.105.30

PAGE 1: June 9, 2016 Open House Comment Response

Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

This seems crazy that a Casino could be built on this very ecologically sensitive area of Star Lake. Not long ago a proposal to make the West and South arms of Star Lake "Environmental" was proposed and supported by many residents. Although this was eventually dropped, it does not diminish the importance of these areas to the ecology of the lake. I also recall that the county did not approve a request by Pierre DuCharme to create an RV park on the West arm of the lake citing environmental impact, when this would be a much larger footprint and pose a greater potential risk to the lake.

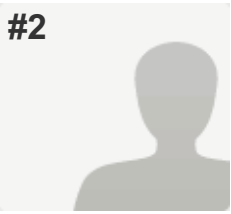
Don't bury your head and the sand and push this proposal through - do you due diligence and protect our lake for future generations.

This is NOT A DONE DEAL!

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Tim & Amy Lindgren
Address	Dent
City/Town	MN
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#2



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 10, 2016 8:48:24 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 10, 2016 8:52:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:26
IP Address: 140.186.206.17

PAGE 1: June 9, 2016 Open House Comment Response

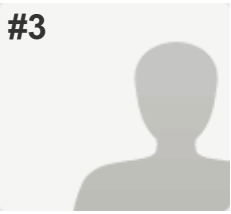
Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

The environmental impact needs to be looked at. An individual property owner, like myself, would not be able to disrupt the lake shore the way that this will. Just straight up not fair.

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Tom Schwieger
Address	Dent
Address 2	MN
City/Town	
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	

#3



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 12:18:09 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 12:24:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:58
IP Address: 209.81.116.253

PAGE 1: June 9, 2016 Open House Comment Response

Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

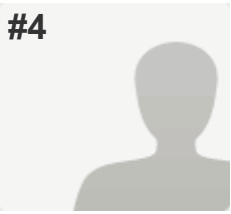
1. According to the timeline shown on the OTC website, a newsletter is scheduled for early July. Wondering when we will be getting more information.
2. FYI ... on the OTC website, the email link for Craig Vaughn doesn't work.
3. The OTC website page doesn't even have the most recent info on the casino FAQ page regarding number of hotel rooms, number of slots, etc.

As a concerned citizen, I am trying to stay informed about this plan that directly impacts my quality of life on Star Lake (now and into the near and distant future). It seems very difficult to get timely information.

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Brenda Ebanks
Address	Star Lake
Address 2	Dent
City/Town	MN
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	

#4



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 12:22:46 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 12:28:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:02
IP Address: 66.228.245.103

PAGE 1: June 9, 2016 Open House Comment Response

Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

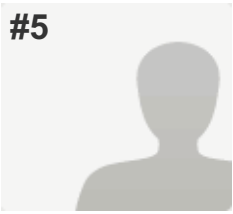
This is a mistake. One of Otter Tail County's largest assets is our environment, and this is being build on fragile habitat and nesting grounds for species that make the entire county a special place to visit. It can never be taken back.

This might be a naive question, but could a casino exist elsewhere and help address other county needs - such as being located at the former Fergus Falls State Hospital and thus helping preserve that building? As a place that wrongfully hospitalized many immigrants and native americans it seems like a good way to repurpose it, so that the tribe can benefit economically. Please consider bridging a conversation between the tribe and the City of Fergus Falls before we lose two majorly significant assets that we can never get back again.

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Michele Anderson
Address	Fergus Falls
City/Town	MN
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#5



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 29, 2016 10:11:27 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 29, 2016 10:35:47 AM
Time Spent: 00:24:20
IP Address: 216.17.52.51

PAGE 1: June 9, 2016 Open House Comment Response

Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

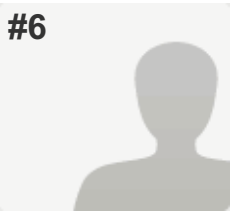
My Name is Carl Abbott and my family has lived on the south arm of Star Lake since the early forty's. The stories i have of the south arm go back over 5 generations mostly about the fishing and hunting on the south arm of Star Lake. The biggest concern i have for the new comprehensive plan is that it does not and can not know the history of the south arm and how it has been used by both the wild life and people of the area. It does not take into account that this is a resting area for waterfowl in both the spring and fall and by bringing in the casino this will all change. There are as many puddle ducks resting on the south arm of Star as there is on the west arm of Dead which is a protected resting area.

For generations my family has been able to enjoy the sound of the early morning flights of ducks leaving the lake and the sight of hundreds coming back at dusk and i believe that this will be unable to be replaced no matter how much "other" wet lands they buy to replace this already great waterfowl area.

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Carl
Address	Dent MN
Address 2	
City/Town	North Branch
State/Province	Minnesota
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#6



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, August 01, 2016 1:41:07 PM
Last Modified: Monday, August 01, 2016 1:46:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:09
IP Address: 104.129.196.49

PAGE 1: June 9, 2016 Open House Comment Response

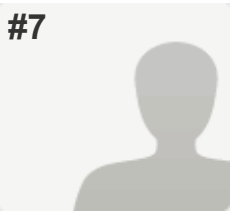
Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

Why is this plan only addressing a "limited area"? The impacts related to this project are so wide spread, multi-faceted and very diverse that the planning must be expanded accordingly.....

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Jeffrey Burse
Address	Dent MN 56528
Address 2	South St Paul MN
City/Town	
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#7



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

Started: Monday, August 08, 2016 3:09:10 PM

Last Modified: Monday, August 08, 2016 3:11:19 PM

Time Spent: 00:02:08

IP Address: 206.144.32.109

PAGE 1: June 9, 2016 Open House Comment Response

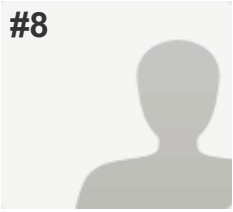
Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

The Casino should be pulled way back from the lake because it shouldn't be built in a lakeshore area.

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Brian Ross
Address	Baxter
City/Town	MN
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#8



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, August 11, 2016 10:12:22 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, August 11, 2016 10:13:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:26
IP Address: 97.127.87.127

PAGE 1: June 9, 2016 Open House Comment Response

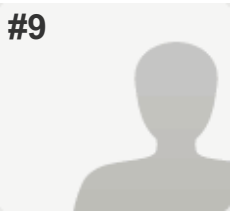
Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

I think if the project is done collaboratively and thoughtfully it will have a good outcome for all stakeholders.

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Julie Koski
Address	Plymouth
City/Town	MN
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#9



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, August 18, 2016 6:26:38 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, August 18, 2016 6:33:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:52
IP Address: 73.37.240.72

PAGE 1: June 9, 2016 Open House Comment Response

Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

I would like to hear more about alternative sites that have been considered for the proposed Star Lake Casino (eg Pine Point, Pike Point?).

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Mary Meline
Address	South Arm of Star Lake
Address 2	Dent
City/Town	Mn
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#10



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, August 18, 2016 8:01:00 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, August 18, 2016 8:12:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:23
IP Address: 174.126.150.100

PAGE 1: June 9, 2016 Open House Comment Response

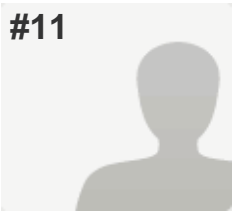
Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

I and my wife Kris purchased a lake home on Star lake in 2011 and planned on it to become our retirement home. We liked the relaxed life style that the Star Lake area brought and enjoy the open feeling of Star Lake. We are very concerned about the recent development of a Casino being built on the shores of our lake. We are most concerned about the over 400 people it will take to operate the casino when they are going to pay such low wages. Where will these people live and what else will they need to do to support themselves when wages at the casino are so low. Our concern is that some will look for devious ways to make extra income and with that comes drugs and theft. It is not right that when a citizen makes investments in property that it could all be dealt a harsh blow by something like a casino intruding in our lives.

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Bruce Due and Kris Pladson
Address	Dent
City/Town	MN
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#11



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, August 19, 2016 8:24:50 AM
Last Modified: Friday, August 19, 2016 8:28:02 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:12
IP Address: 104.128.1.20

PAGE 1: June 9, 2016 Open House Comment Response

Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

I agree an environmental impact study would be a wise choice for a project of this size. I own 9 acres of land south of the west arm of Star Lake and am worried what this casino project will do to property values. Thanks, daniel

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Daniel Nill
Address	Sabin
City/Town	MN
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Curtis Seifert <curtisseifert@ymail.com>

Date: Aug 31, 2016 7:45 PM

Subject: Re: Dent Fire Department - Star Lake Township / Resort and Casino

To: Cindy Gray <cgray@srfconsulting.com>

Cc:

Cindy,

I have a couple of changes for a couple of sentences if its ok with you. They are as follows:

The Dent Fire and Rescue squad has not been trained to respond to the type of buildings that are proposed at resort and casino.

If the above could say:

The Dent Fire Department, is in the process of training, to respond to the type of buildings that are proposed at resort and casino.

And then somewhere in the text rescue would need to be addressed with such:

Dent Rescue is currently understaffed to be able to handle the call volume that the resort and casino would bring to the area, along with its current call volume.

If you have any questions please let me know, and if either of the above needs to be worded different that is fine. If you would like to make the changes and let me

re-read the text that would be great!

Thanks,

Curtis Seifert
Dent Fire Department



Otter Tail County – Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

Open House #3

4:00 p.m., Thursday, September 8, 2016

**Dent Community Center
201 Birch Street Dent, MN 56528**

There were 99 people that signed in at the open house. Twenty-seven comment cards were filled out, nine hard copies and 18 online. The following is a summary of the comments received:

Hardcopy

- This project, hotel etc, does not fit into the environmental sensitive area on Star Lake. No company including “Donald Trump” Inc, would be allowed to build a hotel in this environmental fragile area on Star Lake. An environmental study should be absolutely required! Anything less is “negligence” on part of the county, township and State of Minnesota! – William Jacque
- Get open as soon as possible the food will be welcome addition to the area. – Lee Fransdal
- Why even ask now as the proposal is underway with no environmental impact statement even required. Casinos belong near freeways, not near wetlands. Light pollution, and random development near pristine Star Lake will follow. The proposed turn lanes on southbound 41 will be in a wet land and small lake where swans currently nest. The original document by Tenter has the tenet: “Leave the gate open.” The intention was clearly for this land to be held always for access to wild rice, not gambling. Heart breaking, really the almighty dollar rules. – Christine Parsons
- Your description of “What a Comp Plan Is Not” is why a more detailed, specific real comprehensive plan is what is needed. This is too major of a project to not do the most extensive evaluation possible. The environmental damage cannot be undone! – Steve Slatten
- It seems like a very delicate area environmentally with winding country roads. Casinos in my opinion should be located on or near major highways or freeways, easily accessible to people and placed in areas not so sensitive to wildlife. – Kim Parsons
- I am very concerned about the fact that you are ruining our wetlands. A tribe in North Dakota is protesting the building of a pipeline but you are destroying wetlands and are not concerned by this. I am concerned by the amount of fill you are bringing in and where you are getting it from. You are going to dig it out of an area on your fee land. What happens with that big hole in the ground? You have a major problem at the intersection of 108 and

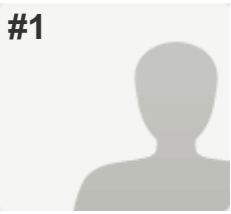


41. If that isn't fixed someone will be killed at that intersection. Who is going to support and pay for the infrastructure – roads/electricity/internet/law enforcement? Why do you no longer care about the wild rice which is why the land was given to you? Do you not care about the birds and wildlife? You are destroying nature. I think you could use your money much more wisely. – Peggy Maasjo

- It looks like you are “finding” answers – blue stations. 1. Land use – goal 1 – comp plan outline – you stated you are not addressing this so look at all the blue stations. 2. Environment Goal 1 will take care of goals 2, 3 & 4. 3. Rural Character Goal 1 will take care of goals 2 & 3, 5 & 6. Goal 4 there will be a police problem is a substation is not put in, tribe police are not qualified. I want the Otter Tail Sheriff Department serving us. – Becky Mindemann
- Looks like a good thing for the Dent area. Wondering if natural gas will be coming to Dent. – Patrick Honer
- Safety on the water and on area roads should be a high priority. Seems like you're guiding the process to a path that works best for you! Who will ensure that wildlife, especially swans and loons, are not disturbed and leave the area? Sanitary sewer will smell, close to County 41. If I need to call police, I want Otter Tail County to respond, not tribal police. – Linda Olson

Online (via Survey Monkey) – See attached document

#1



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 2 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 8:13:49 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 8:15:49 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:59
IP Address: 97.127.38.24

PAGE 1: Comments will be accepted through September 28, 2016

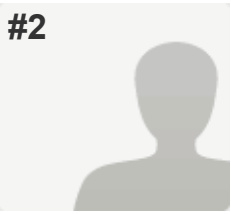
Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

I see measured development as a good thing for Star Lake. We have limited experience with Casino neighbors in Shakopee and they have proved to be good neighbors who add to the quality of life in their area.

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Julie Koski
Address	Plymouth
City/Town	Minnesota
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#2



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 2 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 8:19:52 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 8:38:53 AM
Time Spent: 00:19:01
IP Address: 71.3.178.1

PAGE 1: Comments will be accepted through September 28, 2016

Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

The Star Lake Casino has a unique opportunity to help the future health of Star Lake if the Owners commit to helping the quality of the lake water and environmental surrounds. Granted the initial construction is environmentally challenging but ongoing environmental programs could be immensely beneficial.

If the casino could sponsor environmental conferences and presentations it could help its financial operations in addition to educate people in a way that is consistent with traditional American Indian values. Groups that may be attracted would include: American Institute of Architects (AIA), American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), and American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) to name a few.

As a Star Lake Property Owner the Star Lake Casino will have a vested interest in keeping the lake free of invasive aquatic species and may be in a better position to help fund emergency measures when the need arises.

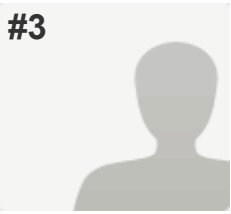
Personally I look at the Casino as another resort that may have a more beneficial impact on the lake than some other large resorts.

I also look forward to learning more about the traditional ricing that has been a part of Star Lake's history, from the White Earth point of view.

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Paul Snyder
Address	Dent
City/Town	MN
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#3



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 2 (Web Link)

Started: Thursday, September 01, 2016 12:50:46 PM

Last Modified: Thursday, September 01, 2016 12:51:31 PM

Time Spent: 00:00:45

IP Address: 209.81.116.253

PAGE 1: Comments will be accepted through September 28, 2016

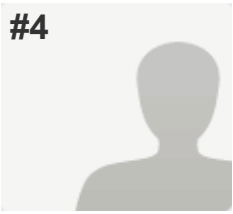
Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

Please make paper copies available at the Sept 8th meeting.

Q2: Contact Information

Respondent skipped this question

#4



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 2 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 3:47:38 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 5:22:20 PM
Time Spent: 01:34:41
IP Address: 67.4.253.92

PAGE 1: Comments will be accepted through September 28, 2016

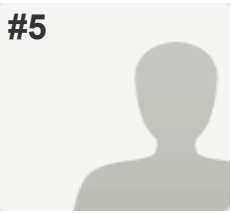
Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

I am a 35 year land owner of lake property in Star Lake Township also, I own a cabin on Dead Lake, and other land in Ottertail county. Like many of the other residents I love the quiet natural character of the county. I don't go to casino's. However, I have seen the way the current residents treat their potential new neighbors with the attitude of I've got mine but you can't have yours. It's extremely hypocritical to say I have a lake property with grass and an accessible shoreline but you can't use your property the same way. I saw how the Dead Lake Association took pride in putting a legitimate developer out of business with the Blue Heron property that would have brought 80-120 new taxpaying neighbors to the lake and not affect a thing except add to the budgets and labor force to improve the area. In this case there is nothing anyone can do to stop the trust land from being developed. The only thing that can be done is to alienate the White Earth Nation so much that they don't feel like adding value to the infrastructure of the area. I find it very hypocritical to say they can't develop their land to enhance their lifestyle but the other residents can. I would suggest that the people that object, put their money where there mouth is and build a fund of several million dollars to compensate the White Earth Nation for the lost revenue in exchange to agree not to develop the property. If it's that important to the objectors then they should have no problem funding it with their own money. If not, then let's assist the White Earth Nation to get the best outcome we all can live with. Also at the same time every objector should restore their property to as close to the original wetland it was before any development happened since it seems that is what they want everyone else to do. That would include no shoreline access or trimming or mowing of their property. Again, they should be willing to set the example they want everyone else to follow.

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Mark Miller
Address	Spring Lake Park
City/Town	Minnesota
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	

#5



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 2 (Web Link)

Started: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 8:58:31 PM

Last Modified: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 9:06:02 PM

Time Spent: 00:07:31

IP Address: 73.24.0.77

PAGE 1: Comments will be accepted through September 28, 2016

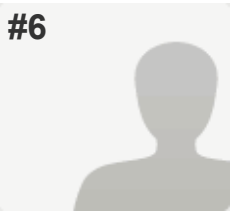
Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

1. The Natural Resources Overview section is weak and needs to be more fully vetted to identify impacts to Star Lake from major developments and waste water treatment plants that may be developed along the lake shore with direct impact to the lake.
 2. The document identifies, in the Community Services section, concerns about first responders' ability to answer calls in a timely manner and local fire departments are ill-equipped to handle the increase from a casino development.
 3. The county and state roads in this area are unsafe for the amount of traffic that will be coming with the casino or other major development. It will be extremely costly to improve roadways with the wetlands and lakes in the area.
-

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Stewart Crosby
Address	St Louis Park
City/Town	MN
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#6



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 2 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 6:47:37 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 7:20:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:33:00
IP Address: 206.188.235.117

PAGE 1: Comments will be accepted through September 28, 2016

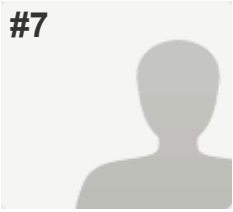
Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

We are property owners since 2005 and love what Star lake offers(quiet, fishing, safe, community, country feel etc.) My wife and I are very uncomfortable moving forward with out more due diligence on some critical issues. As an former executive of a fortune 500 company we would never move forward this fast with unanswered questions. Some of these would be the infrastructure of roads or transportation process and systems to support the next 25 years. In our opinion we have been presented a limited area Star Lake plan relative to the environmental future. We are concerned about the threat from wastewater, birds & wildlife, fish spawning area, pollution, water quality and the list goes on and on. We would respectfully request a slow down of the project and do a very comprehensive plan of addressing the issues before the environmental project has been completed. As we all know there is only "one chance" to do this in a comprehensive manner.
If this is to be, lets insure all stones have been unturned before moving forward.
In my work life whenever I felt pressured to make a decision without all the facts, it was time to slow down and continue the fact finding.
We would encourage that this would happen and let the cards fall where they fall.

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Bruce and Linda Hill
Address	Dent
City/Town	MN
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#7



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 2 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 08, 2016 2:29:46 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 08, 2016 3:01:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:31:57
IP Address: 107.77.210.5

PAGE 1: Comments will be accepted through September 28, 2016

Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

Kudos for the fine work on the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan. While I applaud your work I must also respond with my grave concerns. Of equal value my two concerns are in no particular order: The environmental destruction in the South arm will have a lasting effect to Star Lake. What benefit is there to Otertail County to destroy wild rice beds and wetlands forever and turn around and give twice the acreage to two other county's? When man plays with nature, the environment is changed forever.

This proposed project will change the township as well as the County in the way tourists and people who live here as permanent residence's or seasonally view it.

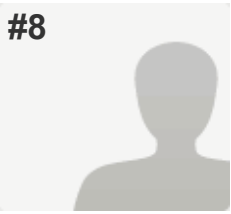
We are in the process it appears, from moving from a rural, lakeside, peaceful, secure, and beautiful lake which is family oriented to joining the multitude of pure commercial ventures which bring with them pollution, crime, traffic, and addictions. (All studies show in every area where gambling is allowed , rehab centers are sure to follow)

Is this the place we want to live? I think not!

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Grossweiler Star Lake Trust
Address	Bradenton
City/Town	Florida
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#8



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 2 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 7:08:04 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 7:20:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:25
IP Address: 76.17.227.163

PAGE 1: Comments will be accepted through September 28, 2016

Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

The disruption to the area, the current lake residents, and of course the complete disrespect to the lake environment should make the entire process a glaring reason to stop this project cold.

As usual the reckless disregard to the aforementioned has no meaning just money and the ability to manipulate the systems through politics.

There are too many casinos already in the area to bleed the locals dry of their money. Why make it worse.

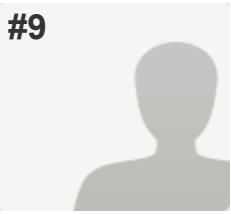
Everyone we know in the local area is against this project and there is little economic benefit except for Ottertail county except to spend millions for road and infrastructure improvements with nothing in return.

Let's all hope the project is stopped in its tracks and the lake is not filled in, massive increase in traffic and potential increase in crime.

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Gregory Peterson
Address	Maple Grove
City/Town	MN
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#9



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 2 (Web Link)

Started: Thursday, September 22, 2016 1:20:01 PM

Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2016 1:20:46 PM

Time Spent: 00:00:44

IP Address: 66.228.253.97

PAGE 1: Comments will be accepted through September 28, 2016

Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

we need a Full E I S done .

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Naomi harthun
Address	Underwood
City/Town	Mn
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#10



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 2 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2016 8:05:23 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2016 8:27:38 AM
Time Spent: 00:22:15
IP Address: 158.222.88.173

PAGE 1: Comments will be accepted through September 28, 2016

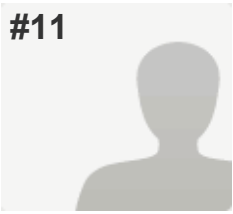
Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

This project needs a FULL E.I. S done ,its a sad example of money over environment .PLEASE , do the RIGHT thing.I would like to see the changes they Say they made on paper,for example lighting ,and the size of signs. Surely there are too many vague answers given by the spokes person for W.E. Our farm is just west of the site ,we certainly don't want sewage lagoons next to our land, would you ? Lets not let the almighty dollar over shadow some thing that can never be replaced .

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Ray & Judy Harthun
Address	Dent
City/Town	Mn.
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#11



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 2 (Web Link)

Started: Saturday, September 24, 2016 11:01:33 AM

Last Modified: Saturday, September 24, 2016 11:02:01 AM

Time Spent: 00:00:28

IP Address: 207.191.153.138

PAGE 1: Comments will be accepted through September 28, 2016

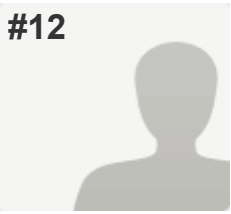
Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

Respondent skipped this question

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Lee Mindemann
Address	DENT
City/Town	Minnesota
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#12



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 2 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 24, 2016 11:49:57 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 24, 2016 11:55:26 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:29
IP Address: 184.158.22.176

PAGE 1: Comments will be accepted through September 28, 2016

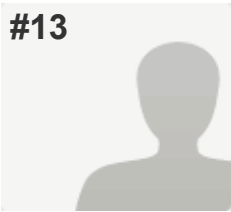
Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

I appreciate the efforts that are being made to provide proper evaluation of the environmental issues. As a property owner who must adhere to regulations that are placed upon us, I would expect that a commercial enterprise such as the casino/resort that is being proposed would be held to even stricter enforcement of these regulations! Please continue to ensure that this enforcement is maintained--whether or not money is a factor in the desire to encourage business in the area. The impact of additional visitors and residents can only have a negative effect on the water quality and general peacefulness that many of us on Star Lake have come to love!

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Fannie Snowberg
Address	Foxboro
City/Town	WI
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#13



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 2 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 26, 2016 7:26:24 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 26, 2016 7:48:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:24
IP Address: 71.220.92.111

PAGE 1: Comments will be accepted through September 28, 2016

Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

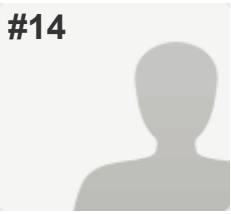
I think there should be a more comprehensive environmental study, that will review the negative impacts that this development will do to the lake and the land around it. This area is a very rich natural environment, and this large development will alter the delicate balance of the land, animals, birds, fish, water, etc. Once the area is stripped of its natural integrity the eco system and balance is destroyed and cannot be created or replicated again. The magnitude of this development will cause stormwater runoff that will destroy the clean water of this lake and it will in time resemble the metro lakes in Minnesota. Also the sanitary waste proposals need to be studied to make sure there is proper calculations of the waste and how it is handled, because if there was a mishap, it would be a catastrophic insult to the lake and the land around it. Please allow a more accurate and intense environmental study, so that a terrible mistake will not occur, that will destroy a cherished piece of land and water.

Thankyou,
Janet Moore

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Janet Moore
Address	crystal
City/Town	minnesota
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#14



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 2 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 27, 2016 8:27:46 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 27, 2016 8:33:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:54
IP Address: 209.81.116.253

PAGE 1: Comments will be accepted through September 28, 2016

Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

09-27-2016

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan (LASLCP) - comments

I think it is important and wise to be forward thinking and try to plan for the future of the area. This is a difficult task given the unknowns associated with a potential casino development on Star Lake in Otter Tail County, especially prior to permit approvals, EAW and/or EIS, as well as the unknowns of what might be planned for Phase 1 and future phases. Regardless of what happens with the casino, future planning for our area is important. Below are my comments regarding the LASLCP:

STUDY AREA OVERVIEW

P1: "OTC staff had the foresight to undertake a limited area comprehensive planning study to understand how land development may affect public services in the area surrounding Star Lake and Dead Lake Townships." And yet, Dead Lake Township was not even included on the PMT. Were Dead Lake Township included on mailing lists for the neighborhood meeting and open houses? Not very neighborly and not acceptable.

P2: "The Plan development process incorporated significant public stakeholder input and feedback." I live in Star Lake Township and participated in all of the meetings and surveys; I'm not sure I would describe it as significant public stakeholder input. Also, it was/is very confusing for myself, and I'm sure the general public, to understand how the LASLCP is related to the casino development process/project. The local community is more interested in what is likely to happen in the next couple of years than 40 years into the future. That's why I think there were way more people at the 1st meeting than the subsequent open houses.

P3: We really need to know more about future phases of the casino development. The developer (WEN) must have some ideas in mind. Of particular interest is if they have plans for more RV's or other units closer to the main lake and possible lake access or marina. This is of a HUGE concern. If this development is really being promoted as a "resort" and for families in lake country there have to be plans that include more activities involving the lake which should be addressed in a long-term comprehensive plan.

P6: The study acknowledges that "The study area is highly rural" -- both at the township and the county level. We like it that way. That is the beauty and attraction of it to residents and tourists. There are many acres of lakes and wetlands, interspersed with forest and farmland. It is not suited for large developments.

P7-8: Regarding housing, "more than 2/3 of dwellings are categorized as seasonally occupied" and "there are no dwellings that could be considered multi-family housing. Thus, for a large development expected to employ 500 people there is no place for recruited workers to live; they will have to commute (and that will be a bit difficult in winter months). Also depending on price of gas, could be expensive for those with a minimum wage job (plus costs of daycare, etc.)

NATURAL RESOURCES OVERVIEW

P10-11: "Often the qualities of the land that entice rural development - rolling hills, secluded forests, miles of lakeshore and recreational amenities - are those which are most sensitive to development. DUH. We really need to preserve the area for its sensitive, environmental status. "Lakes are currently clear and clean" (no AIS at the current time). "There are thousands of shallow wetlands which provide a variety of ecosystem services." Again, we really need to preserve the wetlands, not destroy them. The impact of an ecosystem is much larger than the footprint of a building and parking

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

the wetlands, not destroy them. The impact of an ecosystem is much larger than the footprint of a building and parking lot. It goes miles and miles beyond that (though soil, water and air).

P14: Even though Star Lake is currently classified as "general development" the south arm basin where the casino is based is really more similar to the descriptions of property defined as "natural environment". It should be reclassified. (P30 says "According to the DNR, Natural Environment lakes usually contain fewer than three dwellings per mile of shoreline." Also, the unnamed lake to the west of Hwy 41 ... I believe that is natural environment; need to make sure plans use the proper shoreland management setback of 2000 ft.

P14: Really need to enforce the OTC Shoreland Management Ordinance (w/in the 1000 ft mark) but also look at the impact to the adjoining properties ... and not just immediate adjoining but surrounding properties and family lifestyles throughout the entire OTC county! Unfortunate some of the recent changes to SMO that made it easier for higher density development; rather than more restrictive to preserve the environment. Need to research the OHWL and its trends/historical levels. This year Star Lake levels fluctuated quite a bit from spring to fall. Also many areas of Minnesota had record rainfalls this fall; need to make sure if 10-13 inches of rain happened here that anything built does not collapse (buildings, parking lots, etc.) and nasty run off doesn't go flowing into our soil and waters.

P15: Soil Resources ... this info is over my head, as well as the general public. Important to do a full EIS to make sure we really understand the soil implications before this area is disturbed. Especially do not want to disturb soil that has historical or archaeological implications. This summer there was the big dedication in Pelican Rapids. Such history could be around Star Lake as well.

P17-20: Birds-Plants-Animals-Fish: "The townships have abundant wetland habitat, including two waterfowl production areas, which provide critical feeding and resting grounds for migratory birds of all kinds." A big development (buildings, cars, people) will have a negative impact on the surrounding habitats for these waterfowl. It was important to set aside these WPAs to protect past, present and future habitats of the surrounding areas. Waterfowl don't understand property boundaries. "Within the study area several moderately significant areas have been identified" with respect to plant communities. 161 species of birds, 23 species of mammals, 17 species of reptiles and 35 species of fish. We have all of this because of our current wetlands, lakes and forests. Do not take them away.

P23: "More than 61 percent of the total acreage is covered in lakes and ponds. More than 15 percent of the acreage is covered in forested wetlands and emergent herbaceous wetlands." The area is simply unsuitable for a large scale development of a resort-casino ... it is not suitable for what is proposed for Phase 1 and certainly not suitable for the unknown beyond that.

P28: Platted / Undeveloped: Not sure if it is valid to say "It is assumed that most of these platted parcels are transitioning toward development." Why is this a valid assumption? Wouldn't many of these parcels also be subject to limited development based on SMO rules?

P29: Says "... large wetlands are considered undevelopable" ... DUH ... thus the area the resort-casino, parking lots, wastewater treatment, etc should be considered "undevelopable". I don't think the build-out scenario is valid for Star Lake. Many current owners of large parcels of property want to keep their many acres of property just as it is and not subdivide or build on them (maybe pass to their children, but not sell out to developers.) Not sure how valid the estimate (p31) is for 500 new housing units by 2040.

P30: "It is anticipated that most employees will live in the surrounding communities." Really? There are not 500 employable people in the surrounding communities that are just sitting around waiting for a job to drop in their lap. If current residents do apply for jobs at the resort-casino, they are likely leaving other businesses in the community and then where are those local business owners supposed to get replacement workers? Local business can't get enough workers now. This is true for Dent, Vergas, Pelican Rapids, Perham, Frazee, etc. Many businesses in the study area simply close down in the winter or have reduced hours because there is simply not a demand for their services.

P35: "Since the resort and casino will provide jobs, communities or developers in the area may wish to pursue the development of additional housing options that are more affordable than lakeshore development" ... this seems to be somewhat contradictory to the statement on page 30 "it is unlikely that the development itself will increase demand for workforce housing" The addition of higher density, lower income housing is of concern to me too. I am already hearing rumors of developments such as this in the study area.

COMMUNITY SERVICES - what are the cost sharing estimates for these types of services? who will pay for increased costs to staff, train, etc.? All types of services listed below have staffing issues. What if no one is available in the event of an emergency because everyone else is out on call, or all the emergency vehicles are at other calls?

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

P36: Emergency Medical Services: I am very concerned about the ability to sufficiently provide for Emergency Medical Services in the study area. There are not enough volunteers and staff to cover the current volumes let alone the projected volumes. The current staff will be stretched too thin. I didn't see any cost sharing for these services. When I asked WEN about this at the open house they said they sometimes purchase equipment (such as an ambulance). But that doesn't help with the staffing needs.

P37: Police: I have similar concerns with police and law enforcement. There are not enough current staff to cover the issues that may arise in the study area during the development and operations of the resort-casino. Response time is also a concern. I am also concerned about the types of calls that law enforcement may have to respond to. I am concerned about the possibility of an increase in various crimes that the current local law enforcement is not equipped or experienced to deal with (drugs, prostitution, increased number of assaults, thefts, etc.)

P37: Fire Protection: Same issues. The current Dent volunteer fire department is not equipped to handle issues at the resort-casino buildings. Again, not enough staff or the proper trucks etc for a large scale resort-casino complex.

P38: "the estimate is 200-275 emergency service calls could be expected annually" ... need more specifics and cost sharing information regarding emergency service collaboration and what it could cost the county and taxpayers.

In addition, have you factored in water safety and DNR staffing needs? Would seem that a new resort on a lake would attract people onto the water to boat/fish. Is OTC sheriff dept equipped to meet increased boating safety needs if boat traffic increases (and snowmobiles in winter)? How about DNR to check for fishing license and fishing limits (summer and winter).

UTILITIES

P39: Electric - Star Lake 41.6 kV Transmission Line and Distribution Substation Project. Did this project go through all the necessary permitting and review processes (like the fee land development?) It says "environmental permitting and easement acquisition is scheduled for summer 2016." I see the substation is already being worked on. Other than an informational meeting in Feb 2016 I don't recall any public comment periods. How and why is this starting when the EAW process for the resort-casino is still underway? Isn't it a bit risky to start this work if there is any question the resort-casino might not be built?

P40: Water - I'm wondering how water is going to be provided to the resort-casino for cleaning, drinking, etc. Seems like it will be pretty expensive to tap into a water source and it would be very demanding on the environment.

P40: Waste Water Treatment - the proposal of the lagoons -- yuck. Not pleasant to look at and not pleasant to smell. Are the plans for this within the 2000 ft mark for a natural lake?

Seems like it would be necessary to have a better understanding of future phases of resort and impact on utilities projections well into the future.

TRANSPORTATION

I am very concerned about traffic volumes and related safety issue in the study area (both during construction and when resort-casino is operational). There will be increased traffic during construction, for workers, for vendors, for patrons, for residents. Were all these types of people factored in for traffic forecasts? The current roadways leading to the proposed resort-casino are not good for large volumes of traffic. There are no shoulders to pull off in case of emergency. Icy conditions in winter could result in cars in the ditch or lake (or worse such as a fatal accident). There are many intersections that the visibility is poor and high likelihood of a car pulling out into oncoming traffic. It will be very unsafe for bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Currently cars travel too fast and above posted speed limits. Many people in this rural area have their mailboxes on these roadways and it will be very unsafe for both the postal carrier to deliver mail and the resident to get their mail. Similar issues for newspaper delivery.

Of special concern is the intersection of Hwy 108 and 41. The plan indicates that a future feasibility study should be done. When? We need this information now and we need to know the cost sharing on this roadway location. This corner has a lot of pedestrian traffic with the corner store that families walk to for ice cream in the summer.

PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

I think the Rural/Community Character goals are very important. If we lose our rural nature, we lose the attraction people have for this area.

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

Regarding the Recreation goals, I must admit, I would like to see bike and walking trails added along the roadways. However, I simply don't see where there is room for trails and shoulders too. It would be nice, however, to have a safe trail system within the study area that links into Maplewood State Park.

Environmental ... I simply believe you have to agree that this large scale development is not right for the proposed location. It will destroy wetlands and ecosystems beyond recovery. It will impact more than the footprint of the buildings and parking lot. It will affect entire ecosystems for miles and miles. There will be no do-overs if this is a failure once begun. And the wetland reserve/replacement program does nothing to help Star Lake and the rest of the study area.

Land Use and Transportation: I really think we must think through the impact of commercial development in the study area. The beauty of our lakes, rivers and forests is what Lakes Country of Otter Tail County is famous for. Not commercial development. Commercial development is more appropriate for the existing communities of Perham, Pelican Rapids, Fergus Falls ... not our little townships of 400 some people each. Townships in these rural areas cannot take on the added responsibilities of zoning ordinances etc.

Community Services ... the most important goal, in my opinion, is facilitate timely emergency response to medical calls.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

I see short, mid and long term phases identified but they all begin AFTER opening of the proposed development. But what about the development and construction phase for the roadway improvements? The construction traffic might actually be worse, and not to mention the wear and tear on the roads and the bridge on Cty 41 between main basin and west arm of Star Lake.

When will the action items be identified and communicated (p.68+) How will they be measured, monitored, enforced and who will be made accountable?

PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

I would have to say that it didn't feel like information was released to the public in a very timely manner. Website was slow to get updated (sometimes over a month until info was posted).

Regarding the 1st meeting that there were 300+ people in attendance, seems to indicate people are concerned about the future of their lives within the study area. (Interesting that the plan does not mention that this meeting was originally intended to only invite a few people in the neighborhood, but that word got out and the masses showed up.) For all meetings it was difficult for a large group to ask questions so all could hear the question and answer. Frustrating to hear for many questions "that we are still in the design phase".

Summary

Many of the issues I addressed above are concerns IF the resort and casino is successful. I have my doubts about that. There simply are not enough people around this area to support such a development and make it successful especially given the exorbitant costs that need to go into the building costs, mitigation, etc. And, the land itself is not suitable for such a development.

Also, the LASLCP seems to assume that the resort-casino is a done deal. It isn't until permitting is complete. Maybe after all is said and done WEN will determine this simply isn't the right thing to do for their people and/or OTC will decide environment is more important than buildings and parking lots. I also think that if OTC thinks this development will bring in added tourism dollars, please take a good hard look at the costs of those few dollars. Has a business plan been provided for the resort-casino development?

Thank you for listening.

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Brenda Ebanks
Address	Dent
City/Town	MN
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	

#15



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 2 (Web Link)

Started: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 1:10:33 PM

Last Modified: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 1:15:31 PM

Time Spent: 00:04:58

IP Address: 96.87.129.126

PAGE 1: Comments will be accepted through September 28, 2016

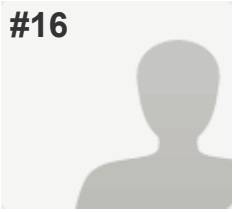
Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

The draft Limited Area Comprehensive Plan does not reflect the priorities of Star Lake Township residents. For instance, the survey of citizen concerns showed overwhelming support for protecting and preserving natural resources. Yet the draft Plan gives a primary objective with respect to wetlands as the mitigation of loss through wetland banking. If residents' concerns were truly reflected, the plan would prioritize preservation of existing wetlands and not their replacement. Further, any necessary replacement would look first to the lakeshed and surrounding areas and last to banking credits at sites geographically removed from Star Lake or Otter Tail County.

Q2: Contact Information

Name	John Heine
Address	Minneapolis
City/Town	Minnesota
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#16



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 2 (Web Link)

Started: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 4:46:31 PM

Last Modified: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 4:50:25 PM

Time Spent: 00:03:53

IP Address: 136.237.45.10

PAGE 1: Comments will be accepted through September 28, 2016

Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

Our family built our cabin on Star Lake in 1968. I have several concerns in regard to the proposed Star Lake casino. I am not opposed to development but I am opposed to development that will do permanent and irreversible harm to one of Minnesota's prized natural resources – Star Lake. It is amazing to me that the county has let this project get this far. The White Earth Tribe proposes to fill seven acres of sensitive wetlands in and adjacent to trust land in the northwest corner of the south bay. The trust land is less than two feet above the ordinary high water level. Building on this site demands a major disruption of the south arm which would permanently alter the shoreline, affect spawning beds, large areas of emergent vegetation, migratory bird habitat – as well as impact the wild rice beds that the trust land was granted to the tribe for access.

The proposed location of the casino is a poor location, in my opinion. The proposed location is not an easy place to drive to from any direction. It has been estimated that the traffic on Highway 108 (roller coaster road), from Pelican Rapids to Highway 41 a very dangerous stretch of road will more than double with the project. The casino if built should be near a more major road like highway 10 or 59.

Ottertail County - This project needs to have a complete Environmental Impact Statement before any ground is broken. I hope you make the right decision.

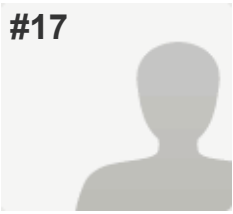
Thank You for your consideration.

John V. Carlson

Q2: Contact Information

Name	John V. Carlson
Address	St. Michael
City/Town	Minnesota
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#17



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 2 (Web Link)

Started: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 7:17:32 PM

Last Modified: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 7:21:40 PM

Time Spent: 00:04:07

IP Address: 208.123.45.48

PAGE 1: Comments will be accepted through September 28, 2016

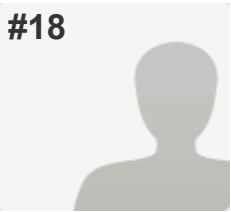
Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

Please a full EIS is entirely warranted to fully determine the impact of this project. Many people are counting on OTC to do the right thing and get this study done. Thank You

Q2: Contact Information

Name	Connie Nelson
Address	Detroit Lakes
City/Town	Mn.
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

#18



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 2 (Web Link)

Started: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 10:27:25 PM

Last Modified: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 11:22:20 PM

Time Spent: 00:54:55

IP Address: 173.22.138.31

PAGE 1: Comments will be accepted through September 28, 2016

Q1: Please provide any feedback you have regarding the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

Dear Otter Tail County Commissioners and Staff, members of the Project Management Team and White Earth Nation members who collaborated on the drafting of this comprehensive study,

I have several concerns regarding the rationale behind the results of the document's survey as it pertains to the proposed Shooting Star Resort and Casino (SSRC).

Granted, development is inevitable but thoughtful careful planning of future development should not be reactive to proposed development, but rather must be thoughtfully and planfully accomplished, framed by the type of development local communities favor and development that meet the goals of those communities. The Star Lake Limited Area Comprehensive Plan (SLLACP) is most definitely skewed to reflect assumptions that are based on a business plan projection, one that seems quite obviously to be in an inappropriate location and has a great chance of failing. Failure of the proposed SSRC would leave the majority of the SLLACP document as a planning tool inapplicable and irrelevant.

Furthermore, the presumptive goals of the SLLACP survey include retaining the rural character of the area. The result of the study indicates, and I quote the study, "Retaining the rural/community character of Star Lake and Dead Lake Townships was clearly important to the majority of survey respondents. This demonstrates that both residents who already live on farmland in the township, as well as those who live on lakeshore properties, have a strong attachment to the rural nature of the two townships. The rural nature of the area is a large reason why year-round and seasonal citizens of Star Lake and Dead Lake Public input received during the public involvement process placed a high priority on the

Environmental quality of the study area. The SSRC clearly flies in the face of the importance of the rural character to the local residents.

Another goal of the SLLACP was shaped by environmental principles. Public input received during the public involvement process placed a high priority on the environmental quality of the study area. How do the high probability of negative impacts due to drastically increased impervious surface areas immediately adjacent to the ecologically sensitive South Arm of Star Lake and the potential destruction of this critical significant species nesting and waterfowl migration area meet the clearly defined goal of the local residents? Plainly and simply, it does not.

The Land Use and Transportation Goal frames important roads and offers ideas to improve them for increased traffic rates. As it pertains to County Hwy 41 it is based on estimated transportation trips created by the proposer. These trips are based on projections of a successful business venture that the proposer has offered to the county.

Finally, goals detailed within the Community Services goal category assume the proposer assists with providing and participating in emergency services, offers the public to share access to the improved waste water treatment facilities and that the local residents will benefit from improvement of utility services, capacity of which is again based on projections and assumptions by the proposer of the SSRC.

Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

Q2: Contact Information

Name	L V. Dayton
Address	Wayzata
City/Town	MN
State/Province	
ZIP/Postal Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

Rural/Community Character

Retaining the rural/community character of Star Lake and Dead Lake Townships was clearly important to the majority of initial survey respondents. Without zoning, the County and Townships have no way to control proposed development other than the building permit review process and Shoreland Management Ordinance of Otter Tail County. The goal statements shown here speak to this importance.

Goal Statement	Preference			Total
	High (blue)	Medium (Yellow)	Low (red)	
Goal 1: Maintain the rural quality of life in Star Lake and Dead Lake Townships.	78	0	2	80
Goal 2: Preserve the quiet character of residential subdivisions and outdoor recreation areas.	7	8	4	19
Goal 3: Minimize light pollution related to commercial development.	7	22	10	39
Goal 4: Maintain public safety and the perceived level of safety in the study area.	5	25	5	35
Goal 5: Maintain scenic views of natural surroundings and minimize the viewshed impacts of large development.	5	7	7	19
Goal 6: Preserve large, contiguous tracts of farmland for agricultural use.	5	2	12	19

Recreation/Community Services

Otter Tail County is currently in the process of completing a County-wide Trail Master Plan. The recommendations of that plan will set the vision for the County as a whole. Further, growth and development of any kind typically results in increased demand for community services, including emergency services. The goals statements shown here emphasize the potential need and opportunities that present themselves relative to recreation and community services.

Goal Statement	Preference			Total
	High (blue)	Medium (Yellow)	Low (red)	
Goal 1: Identify land that is suitable for parks, recreation, and open space.	3	7	3	13
Goal 2: Integrate the Otter Tail County trails planning process into the land use and transportation planning process.	1	3	9	13
Goal 3: Improve access to senior care facilities.		3	1	4
Goal 4: Facilitate timely emergency response to medical calls.	12	6	2	20
Goal 5: Facilitate potential improvement of utility services to township residents, such as sanitary sewer, electricity, internet and natural gas.	5	5	13	23

Environmental

Public input received thus far placed a high priority on the environmental quality of the Plan boundary area. The goals shown here are intended to emphasize the importance of surface water, ground water, wetlands, soils, and vegetation to the Plan boundary area.

Goal Statement	Preference			Total
	High (blue)	Medium (Yellow)	Low (red)	
Goal 1: Preserve the quality and quantity of ground and surface water resources.	28	11	7	46
Goal 2: Protect public water supplies as a long-term drinking water source.	3	7	4	14
Goal 3: Protect natural wetlands and hydric soils.	41	8	8	57
Goal 4: Preserve the integrity of valuable soils.	0	0	8	8

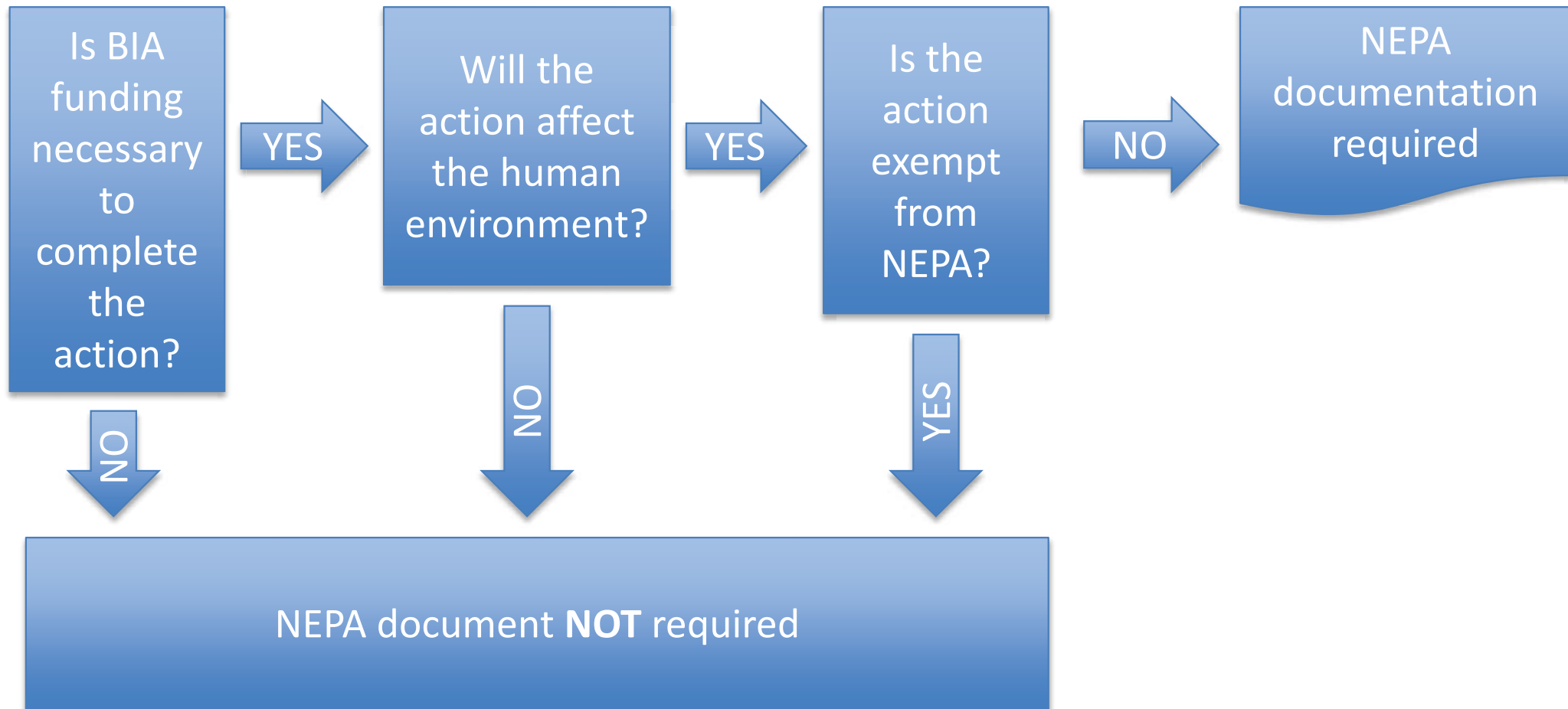
Land Use and Transportation

Land use and Transportation are integral, as one always influences the other. Adoption of a comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance at the township level may provide the Township(s) with the level of input on proposed developments that they currently do not have. The goal statements shown here provide stakeholders the option to demonstrate their level of importance.

Goal Statement	Preference			Total
	High (blue)	Medium (Yellow)	Low (red)	
Goal 1: Develop a land use plan to identify preferred growth areas, prioritize sensitive areas for conservation, and promote organized development of compatible uses.	14	2	2	18
Goal 2: Integrate transportation and land use plans.	1	3	0	4
Goal 3: Maintain the function of regional roadways.	5	2	12	19
Goal 4: Consider drafting and adopting a township zoning ordinance based on an adopted Comprehensive Plan.	10	6	2	18
Goal 5: Maintain up-to-date regulatory tools to address land development.	7	12	7	26

Appendix 4 – Environmental Assessment Process

NEPA Documentation Decision



Environmental Assessment Process



Determine appropriateness of EA & define Purpose and Need



Conduct in-house review to identify issues and alternatives



Hold Public meetings (as deemed appropriate) to identify issues



Complete necessary studies to gather background data and analyze effects



Are effects Significant?



Prepare an EIS

NO

Prepare EA to document effects



Publish notice that EA and FONSI are available for review

Federal Environmental Review Process



Federal Environmental Review Process (Tribal Trust Property)

Determine Appropriate Level of Review (NEPA Documentation)



Identify Project and Environmental Features



Assess Potential Impacts



Identify Strategies to Avoid or Mitigate Impacts



Federal Clearances
(Finding of No Significant Impact or Categorical Exclusion)



Federal Agency Permits

MN Environmental Review Process



Minnesota Environmental Review Process for Non-Tribal Trust Land

Determine if environmental review is mandatory (EAW)

If not mandatory, Otter Tail County (RGU) determines if EAW is warranted for portions of development off Tribal Trust Land

Coordinate with White Earth Nation to gather data

Identify project and environmental features

Complete environmental assessment worksheet (OTC)

Public comment period (30 Days)

Respond to comments and make decision about EIS (OTC),
Complete Record of Decision

Acquire state and local permits

If EAW is mandatory...

