

# POLK COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2009-2029



**ADOPTED OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

## ***Forward***

***Special thanks goes out to all of the local level Plan Commissions, county level Plan Commission, contributing citizens, and survey respondents, for all their hard work and dedication to this process and for helping provide their input for this plan.***

Polk County

ORDINANCE No. 74-09

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE POLK COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Polk County Board of Supervisors does ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to sections (59.69(2) and (3) of the Wisconsin Statutes, Polk County is authorized to prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan as defined in sections 66.1001(1)(a) and 66.1001(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

SECTION 2. The Polk County Board of Supervisors has adopted written procedures designed to foster public participation in every stage of the preparation of a comprehensive plan as required by section 66.1001(1)(a) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

SECTION 3. The Polk County Land Information Committee, designated as the planning commission of Polk County, by a majority vote of the entire commission recorded in its official minutes, has adopted a resolution recommending to Polk County Board of Supervisors the adoption of the document entitled "The Polk County Comprehensive Plan" containing all of the elements specified in section 66.1001(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes and the additional element of Energy and Sustainability.

SECTION 4. Polk County has held at least one public hearing on this ordinance, in compliance with the requirements of section 66.1001(4)(d) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

SECTION 5. The Polk County Board of Supervisors does, by the enactment of this ordinance, formally adopt the document entitled "The Polk County Comprehensive Plan", attached hereto and incorporated herein, pursuant to section 66.1001(4)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

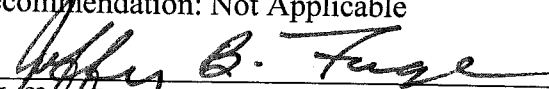
SECTION 6. This ordinance shall take effect upon passage by a majority vote of the members-elect of the Polk County Board of Supervisors and publication as required by law.

Funding amount: None      Funding source: Not Applicable

Date Finance Committee Advised: Not Applicable

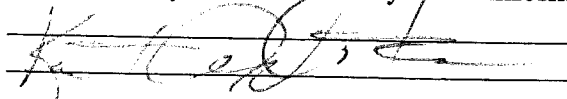
Finance Committee Recommendation: Not Applicable

Approved as to form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey B. Fuge, Corporation Counsel.

Date Submitted to County Board:      October 20, 2009

Submitted By the Polk County Land Information Committee;

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Ordinance to Adopt the Polk County Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the Polk County Board of Supervisors by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ for and \_\_\_\_\_ against on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2009.

*adopted by  
voice vote*

*B. JL* 10/29/09  
Bryan Beseler, Chairperson

Attest: *Carole Y. Wondra* <SEAL>  
Carole Wondra, County Clerk

The above enacted ordinance was published on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carole Wondra, County Clerk

**POLK COUNTY  
PLAN COMMISSION RESOLUTION #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF THE  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2009-2029  
OF THE POLK COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

**WHEREAS**, §66.1001(4), Wisconsin Statutes, establish the required procedure for a local government to adopt a comprehensive plan, and §(2) identifies the required nine elements and the additional element of Energy and Sustainability of a comprehensive plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Polk County Planning Commission has the authority to recommend that the County Board adopt a "comprehensive plan" under §66.1001(4)(b); and

**WHEREAS**, the County has prepared the attached document (named *Polk County Comprehensive Plan 2009-2029*), containing all maps, approved comments and changes, and other descriptive materials, to be the comprehensive plan for Polk County under §66.1001, Wisconsin Statutes; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Planning Commission of the Polk County hereby recommends the adoption the *Polk County Comprehensive Plan 2009-2029* as the County's comprehensive plan under §66.1001(4); and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Planning Commission hereby recommends that the County Board adopt an ordinance, which will constitute its adoption of the *Polk County Comprehensive Plan 2009-2029* as the County's comprehensive plan under §66.1001.

Resolution adopted: October 7, 2009

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim O'Connell, Planning Commission Chair

ATTEST:

  
  
sec 

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Wondra, Polk County Clerk

# **POLK COUNTY, WISCONSIN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2009-2029**

## **POLK COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

---

**Kim O'Connell  
Keith Rediske  
Ken Sample  
Larry Voelker  
Craig Moriak**

## **CURRENT COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS:**

---

Bryan Beseler - Chair  
Keith Rediske -1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman  
Patricia Schmidt -2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman  
Bob Dueholm  
Joan Peterson  
Dean Johansen  
Herschel Brown  
Kathryn Kienholz  
Marvin Caspersen  
James Edgell  
Brian Masters  
Ken Sample

Craig Moriak  
Russell Arcand  
Michael Larsen  
Jay Luke  
Diane Stoneking  
Larry Jepsen  
Kim O'Connell  
Gary Bergstrom  
Neil Johnson  
Larry Voelker  
Gerald Newville

## **ELEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

### **Housing:**

Don Althoff  
Jenny Bergmann-Mortel  
Bonnie Leonard  
Ed Gullickson  
Craig Moriak

### **Transportation:**

Keith Rediske  
Craig Moriak  
James Beistle  
Steve Stocker  
Larry Voelker  
Brad Johnson  
Moe Norby

### **Utilities and Community Facilities:**

Neil Soltis  
William Johnson  
Jeff Peterson  
Gene Krull

### **Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources:**

Carol Wallin  
Jean Schermer  
Tim Ritten  
Ryan Sterry  
Paul Pedersen  
Deb Peterson  
Brian Hobbs  
Dan Graf  
Patti Lehman

### **Economic Development:**

Kim O'Connell  
Darcy Long  
Mike Welch  
Chris Nelson  
Tonya Weinert

### **Intergovernmental Cooperation:**

Andrea Jerrick  
Marv Caspersen  
Steve Hanson  
Ken Sample  
Jeff Fuge  
Malia Malone

### **Land Use:**

Steve Arduser  
Justin Duncan  
Bruce Paulson  
Gary Spanel  
Pam Blegen  
Dwayne Rasmussen  
Jose Trejo  
Milton Johnson  
Gretchen Sampson

### **Energy and Sustainability:**

Jeff Peterson  
Nancy Stewart  
Marc Cutter  
Cindy Cutter  
Bob Kazmierski  
Tom Engel  
Wendy Olney-Rattel  
Cindy Collins  
Sue Sopiwnik  
Alan Pearson  
Jean Schermer  
Jim Skemp  
Mike Bauer  
Janice Bauer  
Donald Hoffman  
Dan Beal  
Evie Beal  
Kathryn Kienholz  
Kathleen Melin  
Ed Spiess  
Dan Worrell  
Cory Ruona  
Cindy Stimmler  
Kris Schmid  
Kathleen Kolar  
Donna Mumm  
Mark Buley  
Nancy Buley  
Win Herberg  
David Ammend  
Don Keseler  
Joyce Keseler  
Jerry Viebrock  
Polk County Renewable Energy Committee

Polk County has chosen, as part of the multi-jurisdictional grant, to develop its Comprehensive Plan through a bottom-up approach. This means that the common themes, ideas, and concepts detailed in the local level plans of towns, villages, and cities were used to build the county plan and give direction for the county for the future. This means that all plans developed within the county were used to develop the Polk County Comprehensive Plan. In addition to the names listed above input was received from local Plan Commissions, citizens who made their opinions known by completing surveys and participating in their local plan development process. More detail on the grant process is available in the Issues and Opportunities Element.



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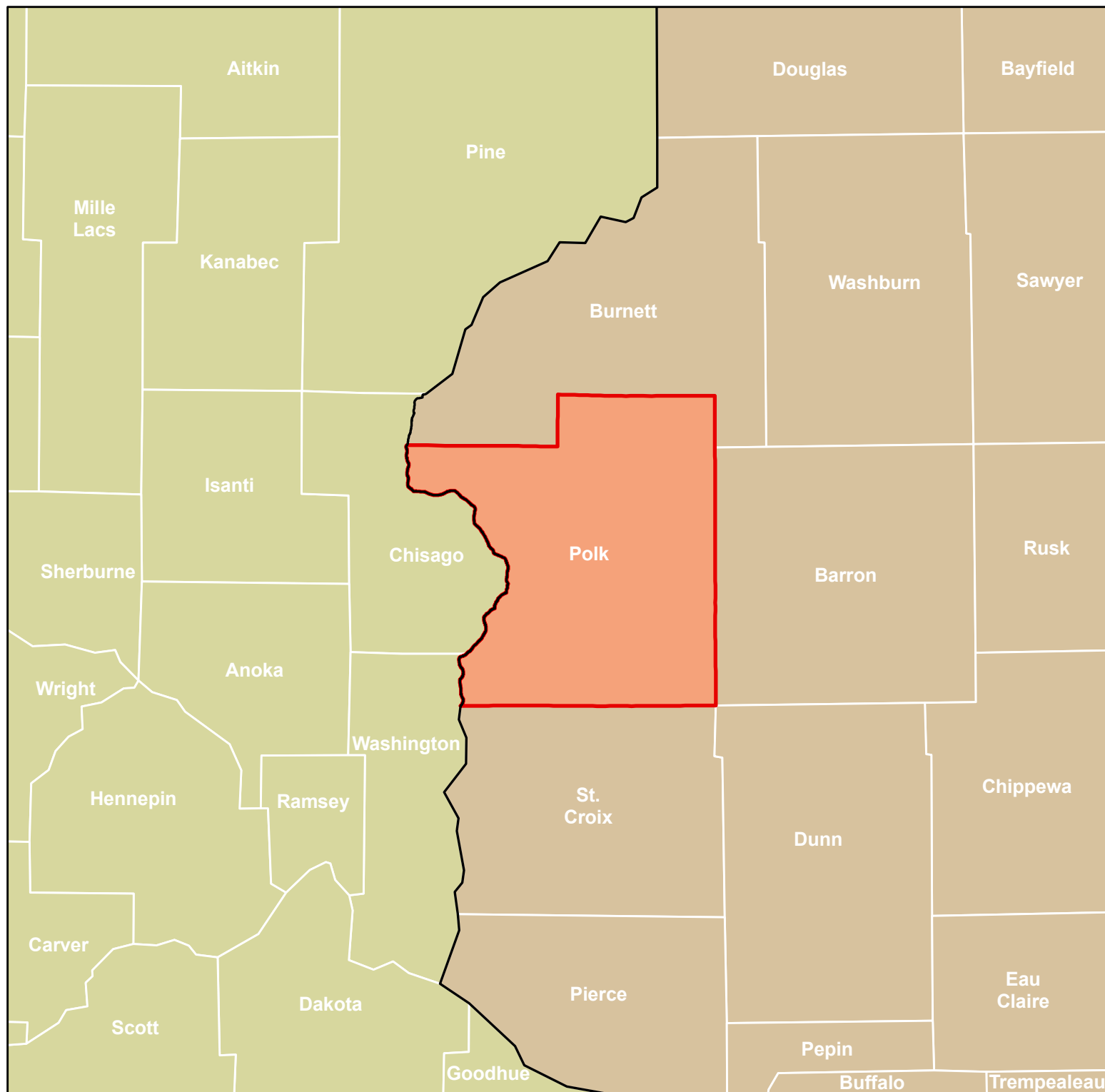
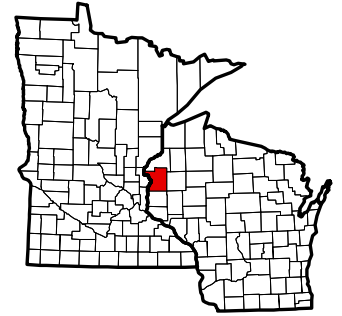
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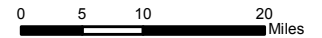
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- Public Participation Plan.....i

# MAP 1-1 LOCATION MAP POLK COUNTY



-  POLK COUNTY
-  WISCONSIN COUNTIES
-  MINNESOTA COUNTIES



Created by:  
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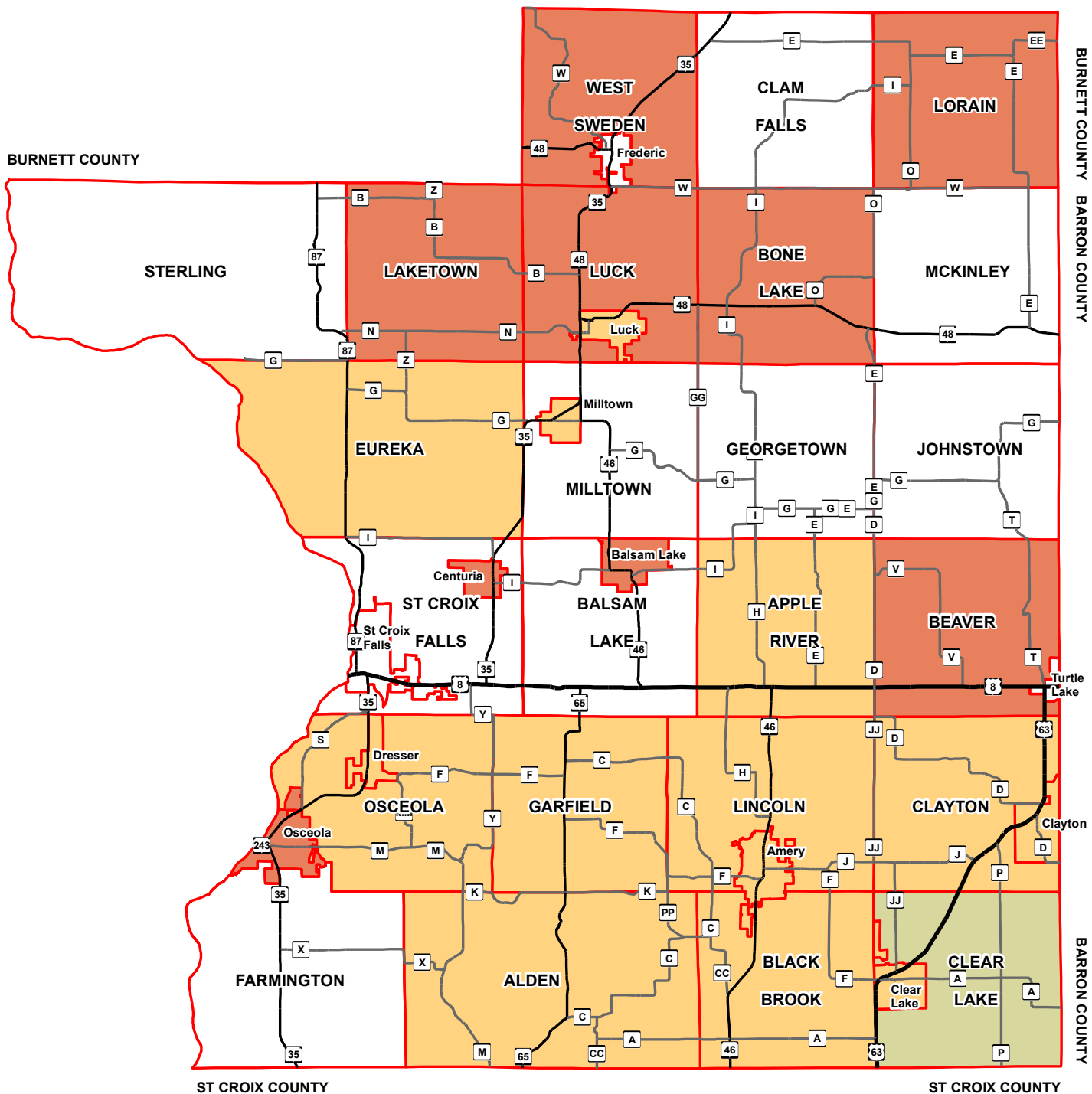
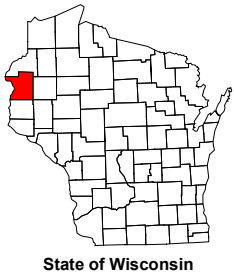


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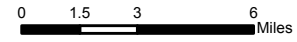
This drawing is the result of a compilation and reproduction of land records as they appear in various Polk County Offices. The drawing should be used for reference purposes only. Polk County is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.

# MAP 1-2 COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING GRANT PARTICIPANTS

## Polk County Wisconsin



- US HIGHWAY SHIELD
- STATE HIGHWAY SHIELD
- COUNTY ROAD SHIELD
- Consultant: County
- Consultant: Other
- Planning Commission
- Not Participating
- US HIGHWAY
- STATE HIGHWAY
- COUNTY ROAD



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8/7/09

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## **ELEMENT 1: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

This element will cover the items that are important to Polk County and will offer ideas on what the public values and detail some background data relevant to the plan development. In order to address these things, this element will cover the following:

- 1.1 BACKGROUND**
- 1.2 ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**
  - 1.2.1 STRATEGIC PLAN**
  - 1.2.2 SUSTAINABILITY**
- 1.3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE**
- 1.4 SWOT ANALYSIS**
- 1.5 SUMMARY**

### **1.1 BACKGROUND**

#### **Introduction**

The availability of natural and recreational resources and its proximity to the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area has made Polk County a desirable place to live. Ongoing improvements in the transportation system, modes of transportation, and communications technology continue to expand the limits of acceptable distances between home and the workplace.

With the allure of the County's natural and recreational resources, rural character, and the area's continued strong economy, development pressures are likely to continue.

It is important to understand that growth and development activities have an impact on the social, economic, and natural environments, and, in some instances, can negatively impact the desired characteristics that originally made the location an attractive place to live.

In 2007, Polk County, along with 24 of its municipalities, received a comprehensive planning grant from the State of Wisconsin. The communities included in the grant are shown on Map 1-2. Polk County decided on a process that would utilize a ground-up approach to planning within the County. This means that local municipalities built their plans with the input of their citizenry and crafted their issues, opportunities, goals, and objectives. These plans were then reviewed at the county level, where common themes in the issues, opportunities, goals and objectives were integrated into the County Plan. This approach was selected to best ensure that the views, needs, and desires of the

residents of Polk County are represented in their plan. It was also done to reconnect the County to its municipalities and to further strengthen bridges between the parties in regards to a common vision for the future.

### **Regional Setting**

Polk County is located in west-central Wisconsin along the Minnesota-Wisconsin border (see Map 1.1). The county has a total surface area of 605,672 acres, or 946 square miles, of combined land and water area. The county is bordered on the west by the St. Croix River, the north by Burnett County, the east by Barron County, and the south by St. Croix County. Polk County had a 2008 population estimate of 45,892 which is an 11.1 percent increase since 2000.

Generally, Polk County is moderately rolling, becoming increasingly more rugged in the western portion of the county, particularly in the St. Croix River valley. The surface geology of Polk County is primarily the result of glacial deposition over bedrock. The modern landscape was most strongly influenced by the glaciers that invaded the county from about 25,000 to 15,000 years ago from the north and northwest, and by a glacier that moved into the county from the west about 12,300 years ago. Landforms produced by glacial activity include a diverse landscape ranging from broad, nearly level glacial outwash plains to rough, broken glacial moraines and areas of pitted outwash. Two terminal moraines extending from the southwest to the northeast are the most significant glacial features in the county. These areas are characterized by rough hills and undrained depressions or kettles. The eastern-most moraine extends from New Richmond northeast to Turtle Lake, while a second moraine extends from a point east of St. Croix Falls to near Indian Creek in the northeast corner of the county. Between these moraines the landscape is gently rolling to level with poorly developed drainage and many lakes. The northwestern portion of the county is level sand and gravel deposits. This area, which is mostly forested, is known as the "Pine Barrens". Since the last period of glacial activity, the landscape has been further sculpted by naturally occurring and man-induced erosion and drainage activity.

Polk County is almost entirely in the St. Croix River Basin with a small part of the southeastern part of the county lying within the Chippewa River Basin. The St. Croix River, which borders the county along its entire western length, was designated by Congress as the Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. In all, Polk County has a total surface water area of 22,626 acres consisting of 437 lakes (20,900 acres) and about 200 miles of rivers and streams (1,726 acres).

Polk County comprises all or parts of 36 civil divisions including 24 towns, 10 villages, and two cities. This includes the Village of Turtle Lake, the rest of which

lies in Barron County. The Village of Balsam Lake, population 1,075, is the county seat. The largest community is the City of Amery with 2,919 people.

Polk County is located northeast of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, and is contiguous to the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The Census Bureau defines a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as a county or counties with a central city of at least 50,000 people, a total population over 100,000 people, and significant social and economic ties between the central city and outlying counties. By that definition, St. Croix County became part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA in 1980 and Pierce County in 1990. Consequently, even though Polk County is not currently a part of the MSA, it is apparent that the influence of the metro area is spreading, and that Polk County is becoming more economically and socially interconnected to the MSA.

Major transportation corridors in Polk County are U.S. Highway 8, which runs east-west through the county, U.S. Highway 63 which travels through an eastern portion of the county, and five state trunk highways (STH 35, 46, 48, 65, & 87). A relatively fine network of town roads distributes traffic to numerous county trunk highways.

Polk County's climate is classified as mid-latitude continental. Warm, humid summers and cold, snowy winters are the main characteristics. The average monthly temperature ranges from 15 degrees Fahrenheit in January to 73 degrees Fahrenheit in July. Annual precipitation averages 32 inches, with approximately two-thirds of this occurring as rain. Seasonal snowfall ranges from 12 to 75 inches. Currently the area is experiencing a multi-year dry spell in which precipitation amounts have been well below normal and thus the surface water and groundwater have receded, in some cases quite dramatically.

### **Need for a Plan**

Polk County completed a countywide land use plan in 2003, which, for a variety of reasons, never served to give direction for the future of the county. A Zoning Ordinance was adopted in 1971, and has not been comprehensively revised since that time. Consequently, it is likely that the information upon which development decisions are being made in the County, and the implementation tools used to guide development, are inadequate to meet the challenges of effectively directing current or future growth. Budget crises of recent years have also driven home the point that planning and prioritizing are needed to ensure the provision of cost-effective and efficient governmental services.

The proximity to the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area has a profound impact on Polk County. Population growth alone indicates the magnitude of that

impact on the County. Significant increases in population occurred during the 1970s and 1990s, and this growth appears to be continuing in the 2000s.

Towns, villages and cities in the southwestern part of the county have experienced the greatest rates of growth, especially in rural residential development. Similar to trends in other areas of Wisconsin, non-farm residential development has increased significantly in rural areas. Although this transition is not yet as pronounced as in areas closer to the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, continued growth will foster an increased demand for this type of development. This residential growth has led to a change in the rural character by transforming the previously rural farm areas into rural residential areas.

Another indicator of development is the increased economic growth as indicated by employment increases within the county. Although commuting patterns indicate that a significant portion of residents living in southwestern Polk County are driving to the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area to work, Polk County has maintained a presence in the region's economy. Between 1990 and 2000 there was a 33% increase in employment within the County, while having a 19% increase in population. Consequently, even though a significant number of people are commuting to Minnesota to work, employment increases within the County have also contributed to growth in the residential, industrial and commercial sectors of the Polk County economy.

Although increases in employment and development are generally viewed as positive, it is important to understand that this growth has increased the demand for public services, required significant investment in public infrastructure, and impacted natural resources and the physical environment. Unfortunately, local units of government have limited capacity to deal with these issues. This is primarily due to a lack of resources and non-existent or outdated planning information and enforcement tools.

Polk County's 2003 Land Use Plan's expressed purpose was to facilitate a rewrite of the outdated zoning ordinances that the county currently has. Due to a number of circumstances, those implementation recommendations for the most part went unfulfilled. The 2009 Polk County Comprehensive Plan is an update and expansion of the 2003 Land Use Plan. The 2003 Land Use Plan was not developed under the Comprehensive Planning legislation and does not meet the State requirements. Because of these new requirements, revisions and updates to the 2003 plan were needed. The comprehensive plan covers many more subjects than the Land Use Plan and is subject to the new requirements of the Comprehensive Planning Legislation, which necessitated this additional planning process. Therefore, after a few years of capacity building for planning within the county, Polk County began polling interest among its municipalities for a new



approach to planning through a multi-jurisdictional grant. Polk County wanted plans at the local and county level to reflect the desires and needs of its residents. The process chosen was one of building plans at the local level and capitalizing on the common themes that emerged, meaning that these are the important issues to those who live, work, and play in Polk County.

### **Planning Background and Authority**

Under Section 59.69 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the stated purpose of planning and zoning is to promote the public health, safety, convenience and general welfare of the County. In addition, other identified reasons for planning and zoning are:

- To encourage planned and orderly land-use development;
- To protect property values and tax bases;
- To permit careful planning and efficient maintenance of highway systems;
- To ensure adequate highway, utility, health, educational, and recreational facilities;
- To recognize the needs of agriculture, forestry, industry, and business in future growth;
- To encourage the appropriate use of land and natural resource conservation;
- To encourage the protection of ground water resources;
- To preserve wetlands and conserve soil, water, and forest resources;
- To protect the beauty of the landscape and man-made developments;
- To provide healthy surroundings for family life; and,
- To promote the efficient and economical use of public funds.

With these purposes in mind, the Polk County Board of Supervisors may plan for the physical development and zoning of territory within the County. According to Wisconsin Statute, a plan may include, without limitation, comprehensive surveys, studies, and analyses of:

- County history;
- Existing land use;
- Population and population density;
- Economy;
- Soil characteristics;
- Forest cover;
- Wetland and floodplain conditions; and,
- Other human or natural features of the county.

### **Purpose of a Plan**

The purpose of the Polk County Comprehensive Plan is to develop a complete set of informational resources and a policy framework to assist the county and local units of government in managing development. To address growth and development occurring in Polk County, the plan explores the physical and economic conditions of the county; identifies what the residents, groups, organizations and institutions believe are the important development issues affecting the County; and articulates a countywide development policy to assist local and County governments in building their capacity to deal with development issues. When adopted by the Polk County Board of Supervisors, the Comprehensive Plan is certified by designated state statutes to serve as a guide for public and private actions and decisions to assure the appropriate development of public and private property in Polk County.

If conscientiously implemented, the plan will act as the basis for ensuring the appropriate development of the County. The plan, along with the implementation tools, will provide local governments with the ability to effectively and efficiently make public investment decisions and work with developers to ensure private investments are compatible with the public interest.

The primary objective of the Comprehensive Plan is to minimize the impacts and maximize the opportunities that growth and development brings to the County. Development, acceptance and implementation of the plan can also provide many other benefits including:

- An allocation of land uses that provides for the health, safety, and welfare of the residents, and maximizes the amenity and convenience;
- An allocation of land uses that maintains a balance between the activities of people and the natural environment which supports them;
- the establishment of a relationship of land uses to soil type in order to maximize existing natural resources, avoid costly development activities, and protect irreplaceable resources;
- the protection of lakes, streams, wetlands and woodlands, and other natural habitats, which are essential in order to maintain environmental values, provide recreational opportunities and maintain a desirable aesthetic setting;
- The preservation of the most productive agricultural land for agricultural use;
- the development of an efficient and cost effective transportation system that provides accessibility and service essential to support the surrounding land uses;

- The establishment of residential areas conveniently located proximate to commercial, educational, health, transportation and recreational facilities and employment opportunities; and
- The savings of public and private expenditures through wise investment decisions based on sound development policy.

The result of the Polk County Comprehensive Plan will be an enhanced ability of the County and local governments to promote the health, safety and welfare of the public and make wise investment decisions.

### *Planning Process*

Given the scope of this plan, a considerable number of financial, political, technical, and legal resources were necessary to complete it. These resources included the respective County and local governments; the Wisconsin Departments of Revenue, Transportation, Natural Resources, and Workforce Development; West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; University of Wisconsin-Extension; Soil Conservation Service; Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission; the private sector (developers, engineers and lawyers); and the Wisconsin Legislature.

In addition, throughout the entire process, oversight for the development of the Polk County Comprehensive Plan was the responsibility of the Land Information Committee, which is the acting Plan Commission for Polk County.

The planning process relied heavily on the participation of local governments and individual citizens. Without their involvement and support, the plan would not be an accurate reflection of what Polk County is, what it wants to be, and how it wants to get to its desired future.

Perhaps the most important element of the planning process occurred in all phases of the plan's development - Community Involvement. The process chosen by Polk County and its municipalities was an intentional effort to reconnect the local municipalities with the County and to jointly develop a plan informed by local issues and needs. The stated goal of the bottom-up approach is to organize the priorities and direction of County government to match the needs and goals of the citizens of Polk County. This process, which began in 2007, has involved the input of the 24 local municipalities as well as the input of those communities who developed Comprehensive Plans, but were not part of the grant. In addition, the Polk County Plan Commission (Land Information Committee) held a series of meetings, all open to the public, as part of the development of the Polk County Comprehensive Plan. The Plan Commission then developed sub-commissions -- the Rural Plan Commission and the Urban Plan Commission. These sub-committees were charged with review of the local level

plans to identify common themes, goals, needs, visions, etc. and bring these forth into the Polk County Comprehensive Plan.

Since there are issues that are specific to the local level, the County's plan cannot be as specific as some of the local plans. Instead, the County plan will be an umbrella plan that encompasses the shared goals and vision of all the towns, villages, and cities. The County also has responsibilities that are different than the city, village or town. Therefore, additional issues were brought up and discussed at the County Planning meetings.

## **1.2 ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Throughout the planning process at the local and county levels, several common themes were noted that indicated what the citizens of Polk County value and want to see maintained as part of life here, they are:

- high quality surface and groundwater
- farming, especially small-scale
- small town character in the incorporated areas and rural character in the unincorporated areas
- ensuring that development fits the qualities mentioned above

Since before the arrival of Europeans, the place we now call Polk County has been known for its natural resources. The Anishinabe found everything they needed in the area's woods and waters, and the original European settlers likewise came here because of abundant natural resources, most notably timber. Today, we are struggling to protect those natural resources, especially water. Groundwater provides the sole source of drinking water for the county; this means that the health of the citizens of the county is directly linked to the quality of the groundwater. There is wide consensus that this is one of the major long-term issues that should be addressed by the County.

Another key issue in the county is the preservation of farmland and agriculture. Since the end of the logging era, farming has been part of the landscape of Polk County. The County has been losing substantial farmland over the past decades, primarily due to development pressures from the Twin Cities metropolitan area. An interesting trend at the time of this plan is that, in contrast to most of the rest of the country, Polk County's farms are increasing in number and decreasing in size, while national and statewide trends are just the opposite. This could be due to the rising interest in locally produced agricultural products. Or it could be that hobby and horse farms are becoming more prevalent. The vast majority of the local level plans expressed a preference for small-scale, family farming operations. These local plans also indicated a desire that farmland and farming as a way of life in Polk County should be maintained, if not expanded. Polk

County should continue to research the ways in which it can facilitate these things. Possibilities include: evaluating the State of Wisconsin's Working Lands Initiative, Transfer of Development Rights programs, Purchase of Development Rights programs, Density Bonuses, conservation developments, and voluntary easements. There are already numerous farmers' markets within the county and several communities have implemented incentives to buy local.

The final common issue from the local level plans is retaining the rural and small town character of the County. The rural lifestyle in the towns and the small-town atmosphere in the villages and cities are intangible characteristics of the county that are difficult to quantify. A number of methodologies to reach these goals are out there and have been explored at the local level and county level in this planning process. Tools such as purchase of development rights and transfer of development rights to preserve farmland and design review criteria to preserve small-town character are just a couple examples of ways to achieve the goals set forth in this plan. The high quality of water resources and farming operation are key components to maintaining this character as well. Much of the rest of this plan deals with these issues and explains the background data and discussions that led to the formation of goals.

In addition to the issues and opportunities listed above, another major issue remains, that being the aging population of Polk County. The "Baby Boomer" generation will be reaching retirement age within the timeframe of this plan; this means that the services in place for this segment of the population will have increased demand placed on them. This is both an issue and an opportunity. The demographic data contained later in this element details the increase in retirement age population over the next 20 years. While this increased population could strain the current level of services, if planned for properly, it could become an asset that the county benefits from.

### **1.2.1 POLK COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN**

Integration of other key planning documents is an important component of the Comprehensive Plan. One such document is the Polk County Strategic Plan developed in 2007. The goal of the Polk County Comprehensive Plan is to fit within the stated vision, mission, and directional statements outlined below.

## **Polk County Strategic Plan**

### **Vision Statement**

*“Improve the quality of life for all who live, work, and play in Polk County.”*

### **Mission Statement**

*“The mission of Polk County Government is to serve and represent the public with integrity.”*

### **Polk County Slogan:**

*“Polk County-Gift of the Glaciers”*

### **Directional Statements:**

#### **Foster a Diverse Economic Base**

##### Goals:

- Support and enhance Polk County Economic Development Corporation – county wide
- Lobby for state incentives that support area main street businesses
- Provide hard-skills training to everyone through trade schools/workforce development programs

#### **Promote Quality Education for All**

##### Goals:

- Explore post-secondary campus
- Make technology available to everyone
- On-going assessment of needs

#### **Design Good land Use Practices That Recognize Distinctions**

##### Goals:

- Create opportunity with protections
- Balance between public and private interests
- Create fair policy to include local input

#### **Preserve and Enhance the Environment**

##### Goals:

- Preserve and protect water quality
- Identify and implement environmental best management practices

#### **Responsive Transportation System**

##### Goals:

- Investigate alternative fuels
- Upgrade roads
- Develop local transportation options

Each of the elements of the Strategic Plan is addressed at various points throughout the Comprehensive Plan. This should further emphasize the importance of those goals and provide additional detail on background information and desired ways to move forward.

### **1.2.2 SUSTAINABILITY**

At the time when most municipalities were putting the finishing touches on their comprehensive plans, questions started surfacing about the possible inclusion of additional language supporting goals related to sustainability: local food production, renewable energy, etc. Concurrently, the West Central Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) was facilitating the development of a regional comprehensive plan that was envisioned to include an additional element – beyond the nine required elements – dealing with Energy & Sustainability.

Polk County had already experienced a great deal of interest in sustainability issues through a loose-knit network of over a hundred citizens who had studied a book called *The Natural Step for Communities* and were looking for ways to apply those principals locally. Members of this group collectively drafted a proposed additional Element for Polk County that was modeled on the WCWRPC draft. This was submitted during the 30-day comment period on the County's draft plan along with a list of 34 supporters, including the County's Ad Hoc Renewable Energy Committee.

The comprehensive plans developed at the local level, as well as the development meetings for the County Plan; produced areas within the elements of the Polk County Comprehensive Plan that already address issues of sustainability. Here are a few examples:

#### Housing Element:

- Allow for conservation subdivisions to preserve open space, farmland, unique physical features, etc.
- Ensure the housing needs of the people of Polk County are met

#### Transportation Element:

- Park 'n' ride facilities, promote alternative transportation options, like trails, rail service, and buses
- Promotion of an alternatively powered fleet vehicles for the county
- Encouraging establishment of alternative energy fueling sites

#### Utilities and Community Facilities Element:

- Promotion of alternative/renewable energy sources for utilities

- Encouragement of energy efficiency measures
- Promoting the full utilization of existing infrastructure before expanding

Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element:

- Conservation of our natural resources
- Preservation and enhancement of surface and groundwater quality
- Preservation of prime farmland
- Support for locally grown and produced agricultural products

Economic Development Element:

- Promotion of local businesses
- Promotion of local and organic agriculture
- Promotion of “green” business parks and industrial parks

Land Use Element:

- conservation/cluster subdivision provision option to preserve farmland
- Support of sustainable practices within the county

Even with these items already in place, the Planning Commission concluded that it would make a stronger statement to add an additional element that expands on many of these objectives and brings them together under a common heading.

## **1.3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE**

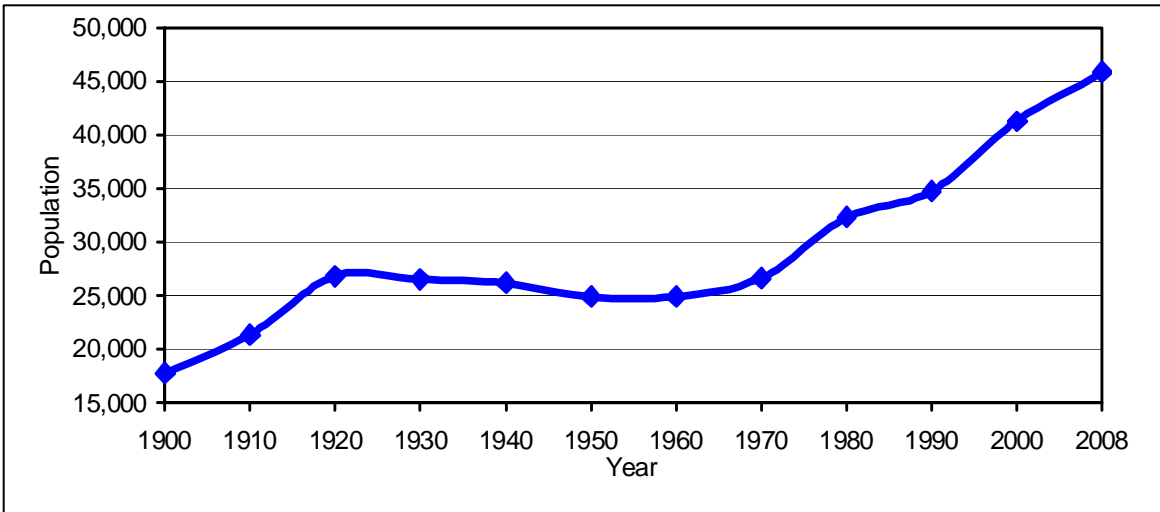
### *Population*

Analyzing population size, growth, density, characteristics and distribution trends reveals important facts about the most important component of growth and development in Polk County — its residents. Reviewing population characteristics will reveal important indicators of change that must be recognized to effectively prepare for change.

After increases for the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Polk County's population has remained fairly steady through 1960. Since 1960, the County's population has increased significantly, with the county's highest growth decade in the 1970s (21.3%). The population growth rate declined somewhat in the 1980s (7.5%) only to have the 1990s (18.8%) approach the growth of the 1970s. Recently, between 2000 and 2008, the County's population increased by 4,573 people, or 11.1 percent. If such a rate of growth were continued throughout the decade it would result in a decennial rate of about 14 percent. See Figure 1.1 below, and Tables 1.1 and 1.2 at the end of this section.



**Figure 1.1**  
**Polk County Historical Population 1900 to 2008**



source: U.S. Census Bureau; Wisconsin Department of Administration 2008 estimate

**Table 1.1 Polk County Historical Population 1900 to 2008**

Year	Population	Numerical Change	Percent Change
1900	17,801	--	--
1910	21,367	3,566	20.0
1920	26,870	5,503	25.8
1930	26,567	-303	-1.1
1940	26,197	-370	-1.4
1950	24,944	-1,253	-4.8
1960	24,968	24	0.1
1970	26,666	1,698	6.8
1980	32,351	5,685	21.3
1990	34,773	2,422	7.5
2000	41,319	6,546	18.8
2008	45,892	4,573	11.1

source: U.S. Census Bureau, WisDOA 2007 preliminary estimate

**Table 1.2**  
**Polk County and Area Counties Historical Population Change 1960 to 2000**

County	1960 to 1970		1970 to 1980		1980 to 1990		1990 to 2000	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
Barron County	-315	-0.9	4,775	14.1	2,020	5.2	4,213	10.3
Burnett County	62	0.7	3,064	33.0	744	6.0	2,590	19.8
Chisago County, MN	4,073	30.4	8,225	47.0	4,804	18.7	10,580	34.7
Polk County	1,698	6.8	5,685	21.3	2,422	7.5	6,546	18.8
St. Croix County	5,190	17.8	8,908	25.9	6,989	16.2	12,904	25.7
Washington County, MN	30,516	58.2	30,623	36.8	32,289	28.4	55,270	37.9

source: U.S. Census Bureau

From 1990 to 2000, the Town of Osceola had the highest rate of population growth as a percentage of its population in Polk County at 55.9 percent (see Table 1.3). The following communities also had significant population growth:

Town of Osceola	55.9%
Town of Bone Lake	41.2%
Town of Apple River	30.9%
Town of Garfield	30.4%
Town of Balsam Lake	29.7%
Town of Georgetown	28.7%
Town of Farmington	28.3%

In terms of actual population increases, the Town of Osceola had the largest number of new residents (+748) between 1990 and 2000. Seven other communities (City of St. Croix Falls, Village of Osceola, and Towns of Alden, Balsam Lake, Farmington, Garfield, and Lincoln) had population increases of 300 to 500. Only the Town of Clam Falls experienced a population decrease between 1990 and 2000 (-49 or -8.2%).

Map 1.2 shows the population change for Polk County communities between 1970 and 2000. The highest growth during this period occurred in the Town of Osceola, Town of Balsam Lake, and Village of Balsam Lake.

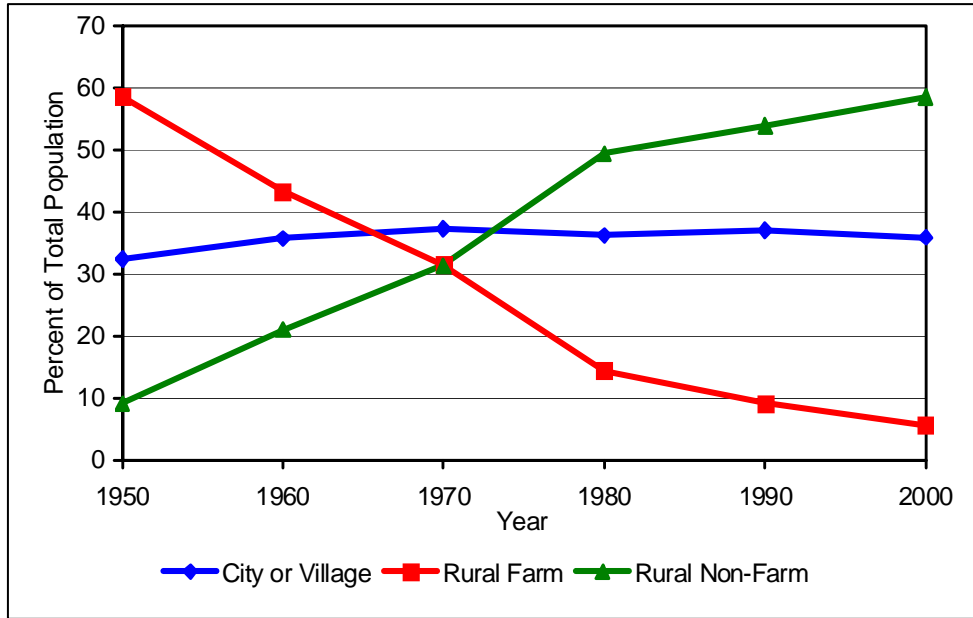
Two trends are apparent. The highest growth since the 1970's has occurred in unincorporated areas, with the exception of the Village of Osceola. The towns with the highest growth also tended to be located in the southwestern portions of the county (closest to the Minneapolis/St. Paul MSA) or with attractive lakeshore development areas.

**Table 1.3**  
**Polk County Historical Population and Population Change, 1970 to 2008, by MCD**

	Year					Percent Change			
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2008	'70-'80	'80-'90	'90-'00	'00-'08
<b>Towns</b>									
Alden	1,406	1,862	2,133	2,615	2,927	32.4%	14.6%	22.6%	11.9%
Apple River	544	819	815	1,067	1,182	50.6%	-0.5%	30.9%	10.8%
Balsam Lake	631	960	1,067	1,384	1,464	52.1%	11.1%	29.7%	5.8%
Beaver	641	755	663	753	853	17.8%	-12.2%	13.6%	13.3%
Black Brook	775	949	964	1,208	1,416	22.5%	1.6%	25.3%	17.2%
Bone Lake	416	466	503	710	807	12.0%	7.9%	41.2%	13.7%
Clam Falls	522	614	596	547	593	17.6%	-2.9%	-8.2%	8.4%
Clayton	713	789	780	912	1,048	10.7%	-1.1%	16.9%	14.9%
Clear Lake	793	777	744	800	887	-2.0%	-4.2%	7.5%	10.9%
Eureka	1,043	1,135	1,201	1,338	1,605	8.8%	5.8%	11.4%	20.0%
Farmington	1,156	1,195	1,267	1,625	1,902	3.4%	6.0%	28.3%	17.0%
Garfield	768	1,010	1,107	1,443	1,678	31.5%	9.6%	30.4%	16.3%
Georgetown	526	746	780	1,004	1,103	41.8%	4.6%	28.7%	9.9%
Johnstown	328	401	410	520	590	22.3%	2.2%	26.8%	13.5%
Laketown	725	909	921	918	972	25.4%	1.3%	-0.3%	5.9%
Lincoln	1,198	1,683	1,835	2,304	2,483	40.5%	9.0%	25.6%	7.8%
Lorain	275	280	299	328	332	1.8%	6.8%	9.7%	1.2%
Luck	663	863	880	881	864	30.2%	2.0%	0.1%	-1.9%
McKinley	297	337	327	328	358	13.5%	-3.0%	0.3%	9.1%
Milltown	691	943	949	1,146	1,270	36.5%	0.6%	20.8%	10.8%
Osceola	769	1,066	1,337	2,085	2,793	38.6%	25.4%	55.9%	34.0%
St Croix Falls	783	873	1,034	1,119	1,256	11.5%	18.4%	8.2%	12.2%
Sterling	379	497	591	724	780	31.1%	18.9%	22.5%	7.7%
West Sweden	691	718	682	731	758	3.9%	-5.0%	7.2%	3.7%
<b>sub-total</b>	<b>16,733</b>	<b>20,647</b>	<b>21,885</b>	<b>26,490</b>	<b>29,921</b>	<b>23.4%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>21.0%</b>	<b>13.0%</b>
<b>Villages</b>									
Balsam Lake	648	749	792	950	1,075	15.6%	5.7%	19.9%	13.2%
Centuria	632	711	790	865	939	12.5%	11.1%	9.5%	8.6%
Clayton	306	425	450	507	572	38.9%	5.9%	12.7%	12.8%
Clear Lake	721	899	932	1,051	1,143	24.7%	3.7%	12.8%	8.8%
Dresser	533	670	614	732	875	25.7%	-8.4%	19.2%	19.5%
Frederic	908	1,039	1,124	1,262	1,239	14.4%	8.2%	12.3%	-1.8%
Luck	848	997	1,022	1,210	1,226	-	-	-	1.3%
Milltown	634	732	786	888	914	15.5%	7.4%	13.0%	2.9%
Osceola	1,152	1,581	2,075	2,421	2,732	37.2%	31.2%	16.7%	12.8%
Turtle Lake*	0	0	6	65	153	0.0%	0.0%	983.3%	135.4%
<b>sub-total</b>	<b>6,382</b>	<b>7,803</b>	<b>8,591</b>	<b>9,951</b>	<b>10,868</b>	<b>22.3%</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>15.8%</b>	<b>9.2%</b>
<b>Cities</b>									
Amery	2,126	2,404	2,657	2,845	2,919	13.1%	10.5%	7.1%	2.6%
St. Croix Falls	1,425	1,497	1,640	2,033	2,184	5.1%	9.6%	24.0%	7.4%
<b>sub-total</b>	<b>3,551</b>	<b>3,901</b>	<b>4,297</b>	<b>4,878</b>	<b>5,103</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,666</b>	<b>32,351</b>	<b>34,773</b>	<b>41,319</b>	<b>45,892</b>	<b>21.3%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>18.8%</b>	<b>11.1%</b>

source: U.S. Census Bureau; 2008 Wisconsin Department of Administration Estimate

**Figure 1.2**  
**Polk County Population Distribution by Incorporated & Rural Residents, 1950 to 2000**



source: U.S. Census Bureau

For the first time, in the 1960s, the percentage of urban residents surpassed the percentage of rural farm residents (see Figure 1.2), with rural non-farm residents surpassing rural farm residents about 1970. The number of rural farm residents continued to decrease, constituting only 5.6 percent of the county's population in 2000-- a decrease from 43.3 percent in 1960. Since 1960, the urban population has remained quite stable as a proportion of the overall population, while the percentage of the total, non-farming population choosing rural living has increased tremendously.

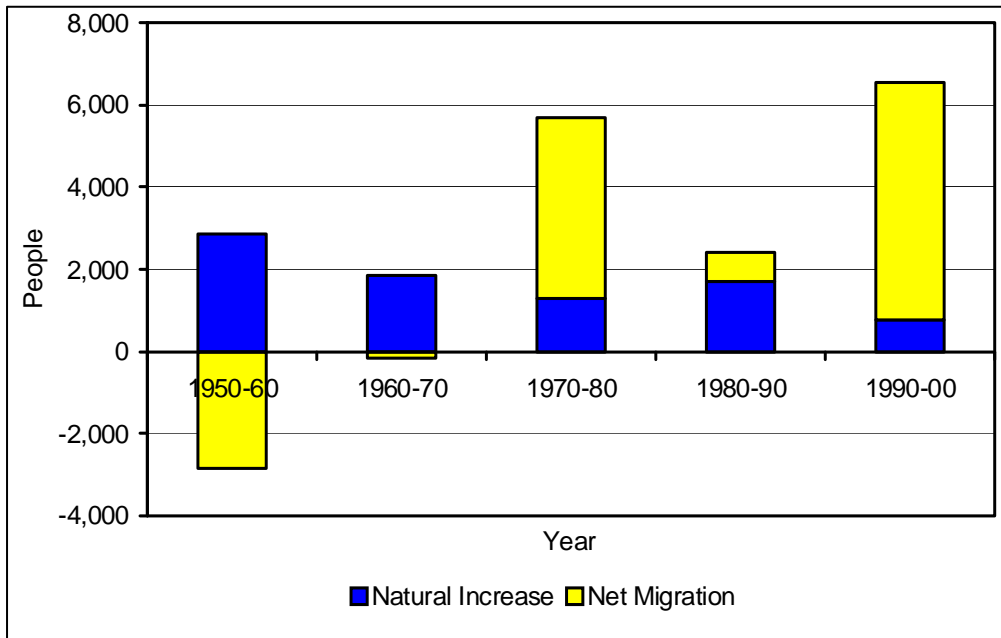
**Polk County Population Distribution by Incorporated and Unincorporated Communities, 1950 to 2008**

Area	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2008
Incorporated	8,085	8,916	9,933	11,704	12,888	14,829	15,671
Unincorporated	16,859	16,052	16,733	20,647	21,885	26,490	30,221
% Incorporated	32.4	35.7	37.2	36.2	37.1	35.9	34.1

source: U.S. Census Bureau, WisDOA Demographic Services 2008

The 1970s and 1990s are the only recent decades in which the population increase in Polk County has been more from the in-migration of new residents than natural increase (see Table 1.4 and Figure 1.3). The natural increase rate for the 1990s was at a 50-year low for the county.

**Figure 1.3**  
**Polk County Components of Population Change 1950 to 2000**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Table 1.4**  
**Polk County Components of Population Change 1950 to 2000**

	1950 to 1960	1960 to 1970	1970 to 1980	1980 to 1990	1990 to 2000
Births	5,382	4,603	4,481	5,150	4,565
Deaths	2,519	2,739	3,183	3,424	3,782
Total Natural Increase	2,863	1,864	1,298	1,726	783
Natural Increase Rate	11.5%	7.0%	4.0%	5.0%	1.9%
Net Migration	-2,839	-166	4,387	696	5,763
Net Migration Rate	-11.4%	-0.6%	13.6%	2.0%	13.9%
Total Population Change	24	1,698	5,685	2,422	6,546
Percent Population Change	0.1%	6.8%	21.3%	7.5%	18.8%

\*NOTE: Calculated as a percent of the County's total population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services

The average age of Polk County residents increased 7.3 years between 1980 to 2000 to 38.7 years (see Table 1.5). Population increased in every age group except 0-4, 20-24, and 25-34 between 1980 and 2000 (see Table 1.5 and Table 1.6). The middle-age groups (35-60) increased substantially during this timeframe, with a very large population increase of over 100 percent in the 35-44 and 45-54 age groups.

The 1990 and 2000 age-by-sex breakdowns and percentage change for each municipality in Polk County are included in Tables 1.7, 1.8, and 1.9.

**Table 1.5**  
**Polk County Historical Population by Age and Sex 1980 and 2000**

Age	Male		Female		Total	
	1980	2000	1980	2000	1980	2000
0-4	1,293	1,253	1,234	1,174	2,527	2,427
5-9	1,434	1,506	1,211	1,456	2,645	2,962
10-14	1,330	1,655	1,274	1,638	2,604	3,293
15-19	1,523	1,663	1,449	1,482	2,972	3,145
20-24	1,151	947	1,138	841	2,289	1,788
25-34	2,437	2,373	2,334	2,260	4,771	4,633
35-44	1,706	3,421	1,670	3,373	3,376	6,794
45-54	1,418	3,076	1,501	2,871	2,919	5,947
55-64	1,533	2,053	1,676	2,030	3,209	4,083
65-74	1,403	1,491	1,503	1,620	2,906	3,111
75+	925	1,212	1,208	1,924	2,133	3,136
Median Age					31.4	38.7

source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Table 1.6**  
**Polk County Change in Age-Sex Structure 1980 to 2000**

Age	1980 to 2000		Total	
	Male	Female	# Change	Pct Change
0-4	-40	-79	-100	-4.0
5-9	72	-50	317	12.0
10-14	325	-17	689	26.5
15-19	140	-181	173	5.8
20-24	-204	-106	-501	-21.9
25-34	-64	-113	-138	-2.9
35-44	1,715	-48	3,418	101.2
45-54	1,658	-205	3,028	103.7
55-64	520	-23	874	27.2
65-74	88	129	205	7.1
75+	287	712	1,003	47.0

source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Table 1.7 Population by Age and Sex by Municipality – 2000 Polk County**

	Alden (T)	Apple River (T)	Balsam Lake (T)	Beaver (T)	Black Brook (T)	Bone Lake (T)	Clam Falls (T)	Clayton (T)	Clear Lake (T)	Eureka (T)	Farmington (T)	Garfield (T)	Georgetown (T)	Johnstown (T)
<b>Total</b>	2615	1067	1384	753	1208	710	547	912	800	1338	1625	1443	1004	520
<b>Median Age</b>	38.4	38.9	38.8	40.2	35.6	39.8	44	39.4	35.4	38.6	34.4	37.4	45.8	41.7
<b>Male</b>	1357	554	722	392	632	357	275	485	427	699	826	745	523	272
<b>Female</b>	1258	513	662	361	576	353	272	427	373	639	799	698	481	248
<b>Male</b>														
Under 5 years	74	35	58	24	46	17	10	25	21	46	54	40	20	12
5 to 9 years	81	42	59	30	54	30	14	38	41	49	74	52	34	21
10 to 14 years	107	42	46	28	67	31	18	35	32	58	81	59	36	25
15 to 17 years	81	31	34	15	36	19	5	25	21	34	61	49	39	12
18 and 19 years	45	18	18	5	27	6	6	14	16	15	29	22	11	10
20 years	19	8	1	2	3	6	4	4	7	12	5	7	4	2
21 years	6	1	6	2	4	1	5	5	5	7	5	4	4	4
22 to 24 years	31	12	10	15	11	7	7	6	19	15	14	30	11	3
25 to 29 years	62	23	33	15	28	15	8	24	19	30	28	24	26	10
30 to 34 years	84	33	48	31	41	15	14	27	37	41	64	50	29	17
35 to 39 years	124	49	57	36	57	33	21	39	38	59	75	54	29	15
40 to 44 years	139	48	71	28	63	25	26	37	39	68	78	73	23	16
45 to 49 years	108	38	62	30	62	26	30	51	27	44	76	55	42	19
50 to 54 years	130	38	51	40	29	27	18	43	32	57	57	49	36	24
55 to 59 years	82	38	45	22	29	21	18	26	30	45	41	50	42	19
60 and 61 years	30	12	15	11	7	12	9	13	2	22	11	16	15	12
62 to 64 years	33	18	26	11	17	11	11	14	7	18	13	24	30	14
65 to 69 years	46	27	31	16	23	21	15	20	14	28	20	36	38	11
70 to 74 years	24	20	25	9	13	17	13	15	7	25	12	18	25	15
75 to 79 years	23	13	18	13	7	10	12	12	7	9	15	19	18	6
80 to 84 years	12	4	7	7	3	3	7	9	2	11	7	14	8	3
85 years and over	16	4	1	2	5	4	4	3	4	6	6	0	3	2
<b>Female</b>														
Under 5 years	84	34	42	21	30	19	11	25	22	36	44	34	19	11
5 to 9 years	92	40	51	21	57	28	13	40	27	41	74	66	26	16
10 to 14 years	109	34	51	23	59	29	23	31	35	64	80	68	29	20
15 to 17 years	77	21	42	20	29	13	14	19	30	30	58	34	25	20
18 and 19 years	20	3	14	4	12	10	9	10	10	13	26	11	11	6
20 years	14	4	2	4	3	0	1	3	4	8	11	3	3	2
21 years	6	1	3	2	4	0	2	1	3	5	8	4	1	2
22 to 24 years	24	10	11	5	15	6	6	7	3	21	22	22	3	5
25 to 29 years	64	33	34	20	26	18	4	27	18	20	27	29	23	10
30 to 34 years	66	32	36	25	43	25	14	24	24	48	67	57	25	13
35 to 39 years	134	44	64	27	63	29	23	37	39	49	89	68	25	16
40 to 44 years	122	43	59	22	50	28	27	34	31	66	68	46	33	16
45 to 49 years	98	42	48	43	51	24	21	36	31	43	68	52	46	15
50 to 54 years	105	38	55	27	31	31	17	27	23	59	46	51	32	20
55 to 59 years	88	41	47	23	24	22	12	36	17	36	33	43	39	18
60 and 61 years	27	17	17	13	7	10	9	10	4	11	10	18	15	10
62 to 64 years	19	19	24	14	16	9	8	7	14	15	12	23	28	9
65 to 69 years	29	23	18	13	20	26	17	23	9	20	18	30	38	12
70 to 74 years	32	10	17	14	20	14	9	10	8	20	11	16	23	11
75 to 79 years	28	15	17	15	8	7	18	12	11	16	12	8	10	8
80 to 84 years	13	7	6	4	5	4	7	5	4	10	12	13	14	3
85 years and over	7	2	4	1	3	1	7	3	6	8	3	2	13	5

Table 1.7 continued on next page

**Table 1.7 continued**  
**Population by Age and Sex by Municipality – 2000 Polk County**

	Laketown (T)	Lincoln (T)	Loran (T)	Luck (T)	McKinley (T)	Milltown (T)	Osceola (T)	St. Croix Falls (T)	Sterling (T)	West Sweden (T)	Balsam Lake (V)	Centuria (V)	Clayton (V)
<b>Total</b>	918	2304	328	881	328	1146	2085	1119	724	731	950	865	507
<b>Median Age</b>	40.9	40.3	38.4	39.8	44	40.4	35.5	39.2	37.2	41.1	45.5	34.6	30.1
<b>Male</b>	456	1169	171	464	182	600	1074	600	380	369	488	416	245
<b>Female</b>	462	1135	157	417	146	546	1011	519	344	362	462	449	262
<b>Male</b>													
Under 5 years	20	61	7	28	9	31	80	33	18	14	24	29	22
5 to 9 years	29	77	11	36	17	50	89	37	26	25	20	39	22
10 to 14 years	40	101	19	38	10	48	97	61	31	39	27	23	20
15 to 17 years	23	64	11	27	13	27	67	33	21	17	20	24	13
18 and 19 years	10	32	5	12	4	20	32	20	7	14	7	16	7
20 years	5	10	1	6	0	4	12	8	1	2	9	7	2
21 years	0	12	1	3	2	1	5	4	1	5	13	6	6
22 to 24 years	10	19	7	15	3	12	19	10	12	6	14	9	8
25 to 29 years	27	53	9	18	8	23	46	30	19	11	29	34	22
30 to 34 years	16	62	9	12	9	34	89	34	30	19	37	31	20
35 to 39 years	30	75	10	39	5	47	111	40	33	24	36	35	23
40 to 44 years	50	122	12	43	17	46	98	60	44	33	26	21	22
45 to 49 years	41	96	13	50	20	56	95	61	32	44	39	37	16
50 to 54 years	43	76	10	34	17	56	74	41	27	25	33	24	10
55 to 59 years	31	76	10	30	11	35	45	24	17	16	24	16	9
60 and 61 years	5	29	2	7	4	12	13	14	11	11	8	5	0
62 to 64 years	20	47	9	9	5	20	20	16	11	10	17	7	6
65 to 69 years	15	60	4	21	9	21	33	14	19	11	27	12	6
70 to 74 years	13	49	8	12	11	26	25	28	9	17	28	10	4
75 to 79 years	15	30	5	15	7	19	16	16	4	21	24	11	4
80 to 84 years	8	10	7	5	1	7	6	10	5	4	10	10	2
85 years and over	5	8	1	4	0	5	2	6	2	1	16	10	1
<b>Female</b>													
Under 5 years	25	50	7	32	7	27	83	35	22	24	26	30	21
5 to 9 years	30	72	12	25	9	38	98	25	34	22	24	31	20
10 to 14 years	37	98	16	31	6	49	80	40	34	26	19	40	30
15 to 17 years	31	73	13	27	8	31	38	32	16	24	13	25	14
18 and 19 years	11	29	5	7	2	14	17	9	8	11	7	5	4
20 years	1	13	0	3	2	1	6	2	1	1	4	5	5
21 years	2	10	0	3	1	2	8	6	1	1	10	9	4
22 to 24 years	13	18	3	10	2	9	15	16	13	4	10	10	13
25 to 29 years	16	47	4	13	8	23	58	23	19	13	15	39	24
30 to 34 years	30	68	8	19	3	34	86	30	19	17	19	27	17
35 to 39 years	37	94	15	39	10	40	115	53	38	33	24	33	21
40 to 44 years	33	92	13	37	19	48	99	56	28	38	34	40	18
45 to 49 years	58	109	10	32	11	52	87	47	20	32	31	31	11
50 to 54 years	35	75	9	38	15	42	57	30	14	20	38	17	10
55 to 59 years	24	70	11	23	6	36	41	33	30	16	30	17	6
60 and 61 years	7	32	3	10	5	7	11	7	3	6	9	3	3
62 to 64 years	9	35	3	15	7	20	21	12	8	12	19	9	9
65 to 69 years	22	61	5	20	10	25	32	19	12	19	26	21	8
70 to 74 years	12	31	12	13	9	22	29	18	6	22	27	19	8
75 to 79 years	16	30	6	9	3	13	14	11	11	11	37	7	7
80 to 84 years	6	14	1	4	2	6	10	7	4	3	18	12	5
85 years and over	7	14	1	7	1	7	6	8	3	7	22	19	4

Table 1.7 continued on next page



**Table 1.7 continued**  
**Population by Age and Sex by Municipality – 2000 Polk County**

	Clear Lake (V)	Dresser (V)	Frederic (V)	Luck (V)	Milltown (V)	Osceola (V)	Turtle Lake (V)*	Amery (C)	St. Croix Falls (C)	Polk County
<b>Total</b>	1051	732	1262	1210	888	2421	65	2845	2033	41319
<b>Median Age</b>	38.3	35.1	43.6	40	39.9	32.8	21.5	44.6	40.7	38.7
<b>Male</b>	500	360	557	556	408	1163	31	1241	954	20650
<b>Female</b>	551	372	705	654	480	1258	34	1604	1079	20669
Male										
Under 5 years	35	27	39	26	21	96	3	84	64	1253
5 to 9 years	34	34	32	55	23	88	3	75	65	1506
10 to 14 years	34	19	53	47	23	104	1	86	69	1655
15 to 17 years	25	10	32	19	23	57	4	65	50	1107
18 and 19 years	15	2	9	10	10	33	4	23	22	556
20 years	7	5	9	4	5	16	0	11	7	215
21 years	5	2	8	5	1	13	1	11	13	177
22 to 24 years	14	20	17	23	16	55	1	43	31	555
25 to 29 years	28	35	34	31	28	90	2	85	52	1059
30 to 34 years	32	31	28	37	27	96	2	70	58	1314
35 to 39 years	45	30	44	47	34	95	0	80	66	1635
40 to 44 years	39	30	30	43	31	121	2	77	85	1786
45 to 49 years	38	15	40	35	32	76	1	77	84	1668
50 to 54 years	23	28	26	28	25	50	2	67	58	1408
55 to 59 years	19	15	14	19	6	34	0	66	49	1074
60 and 61 years	5	5	8	9	8	15	0	29	17	404
62 to 64 years	7	11	11	14	10	16	0	39	23	575
65 to 69 years	20	13	28	17	23	27	0	47	24	797
70 to 74 years	22	9	18	28	21	20	1	61	36	694
75 to 79 years	22	9	27	15	21	27	1	69	30	590
80 to 84 years	14	4	23	23	13	15	3	44	26	347
85 years and over	17	6	27	21	7	19	0	32	25	275
Female										
Under 5 years	23	24	30	25	30	85	5	76	55	1174
5 to 9 years	40	30	28	37	40	85	2	93	69	1456
10 to 14 years	38	34	50	62	22	104	4	89	74	1638
15 to 17 years	28	12	26	23	18	57	2	61	42	1046
18 and 19 years	19	10	12	16	7	34	4	29	17	436
20 years	5	3	1	3	7	16	0	13	4	158
21 years	6	3	7	6	6	9	0	6	10	152
22 to 24 years	18	12	17	17	15	62	1	56	37	531
25 to 29 years	31	26	29	27	26	100	3	77	50	1024
30 to 34 years	24	26	29	33	31	91	0	70	56	1236
35 to 39 years	32	29	36	53	32	115	4	87	75	1722
40 to 44 years	45	28	52	49	33	88	0	68	88	1651
45 to 49 years	34	22	40	43	28	79	2	101	69	1567
50 to 54 years	27	22	29	29	21	53	1	91	69	1304
55 to 59 years	21	23	26	13	15	50	0	69	43	1082
60 and 61 years	11	10	6	9	12	16	0	34	13	395
62 to 64 years	12	11	13	16	13	15	0	51	26	553
65 to 69 years	25	8	31	23	23	35	1	70	52	844
70 to 74 years	27	14	45	29	35	44	2	89	48	776
75 to 79 years	29	7	57	41	32	38	2	109	49	724
80 to 84 years	28	6	72	42	20	35	0	102	58	562
85 years and over	28	12	69	58	14	47	1	163	75	638

source: U.S. Census, 2000 \*Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only

**Table 1.8  
Population by Age by Municipality – 1990 Polk County**

	Alden (T)	Apple River (T)	Balsam Lake (T)	Beaver (T)	Black Brook (T)	Bone Lake (T)	Clam Falls (T)	Clayton (T)	Clear Lake (T)	Eureka (T)	Farmington (T)	Garfield (T)	Georgetown (T)	Johnstown (T)
Total	2133	824	1088	654	964	516	609	796	728	1201	1267	1107	765	425
Median Age	34.6	36.4	35.4	34.2	33.1	36.6	36.1	33.2	31.2	33.9	30.4	35.6	42.2	35.9
Under 5 years	169	50	74	40	79	25	51	54	55	78	102	74	33	32
5 to 9 years	195	71	107	56	99	26	35	88	77	122	148	83	76	34
10 to 14 years	190	63	90	60	66	54	56	62	52	83	118	109	45	31
15 to 17 years	112	44	56	32	58	32	37	38	34	52	74	50	32	17
18 and 19 years	63	16	6	22	25	17	9	20	18	46	32	17	21	13
20 years	23	9	7	6	6	4	2	11	6	9	10	12	5	4
21 years	18	10	9	0	9	5	4	3	3	13	12	6	4	4
22 to 24 years	60	20	24	18	21	14	16	28	26	43	40	21	9	8
25 to 29 years	159	48	77	56	73	36	48	68	65	89	98	66	32	25
30 to 34 years	180	61	118	42	71	33	54	76	63	88	116	103	44	44
35 to 39 years	193	78	81	56	106	46	51	51	56	99	136	119	55	34
40 to 44 years	184	74	94	55	53	44	40	67	51	90	87	82	47	42
45 to 49 years	161	43	81	29	65	29	6	55	41	77	69	53	38	21
50 to 54 years	101	58	58	37	44	19	33	22	39	65	39	61	55	12
55 to 59 years	78	56	38	16	51	26	18	40	28	53	39	52	35	23
60 and 61 years	19	11	11	16	9	9	8	19	3	31	13	25	33	5
62 to 64 years	46	19	35	23	38	16	20	16	25	32	18	31	41	25
65 to 69 years	67	35	53	43	28	32	40	26	19	42	40	37	40	20
70 to 74 years	57	26	40	18	23	20	40	24	36	23	36	61	58	13
75 to 79 years	36	20	11	9	24	18	27	18	11	36	30	25	45	6
80 to 84 years	13	8	12	12	12	5	8	9	14	17	7	13	15	8
85 years and over	9	4	6	8	4	6	6	1	6	13	3	7	2	4

Table 1.8 continued on next page

**Table 1.8 continued**  
**Population by Age by Municipality – 1990 Polk County**

	Laketown (T)	Lincoln (T)	Loran (T)	Luck (T)	McKinley (T)	Milltown (T)	Osceola (T)	St. Croix Falls (T)	Sterling (T)	West Sweden (T)	Balsam Lake (V)	Centuria (V)	Clayton (V)
Total	921	1835	315	868	298	943	1337	1034	603	669	771	784	416
Median Age	34.3	33.3	33	35	35.8	35.5	33.1	33.1	31.4	35.9	41.3	33.1	29.6
Under 5 years	64	136	40	65	16	82	97	72	59	44	51	68	30
5 to 9 years	88	171	38	70	27	84	109	104	68	82	15	77	35
10 to 14 years	103	173	9	88	26	69	116	83	41	50	46	57	30
15 to 17 years	40	83	6	38	24	53	52	61	29	18	32	29	36
18 and 19 years	25	45	3	16	7	24	49	17	10	13	20	14	6
20 years	7	12	6	4	0	6	11	7	5	0	6	4	4
21 years	5	21	5	8	6	9	15	6	2	2	5	7	1
22 to 24 years	8	54	6	16	3	20	33	18	14	6	37	19	13
25 to 29 years	56	119	15	39	8	50	120	84	64	19	54	81	48
30 to 34 years	75	155	41	69	26	67	113	106	76	71	35	44	28
35 to 39 years	109	137	20	68	30	80	138	104	25	67	37	81	41
40 to 44 years	53	132	13	55	20	91	112	64	40	44	45	50	13
45 to 49 years	62	126	15	69	13	60	86	52	37	43	29	24	15
50 to 54 years	37	123	3	46	30	40	64	60	20	35	35	22	12
55 to 59 years	24	87	12	52	15	51	55	40	18	33	34	35	8
60 and 61 years	11	34	10	17	2	16	22	13	4	9	29	14	13
62 to 64 years	31	50	22	27	9	40	26	36	13	35	26	19	15
65 to 69 years	51	82	24	36	13	59	55	34	26	31	51	14	22
70 to 74 years	30	26	9	29	8	20	25	31	26	17	60	48	27
75 to 79 years	28	32	2	37	6	8	15	30	12	29	53	24	11
80 to 84 years	12	22	8	12	7	11	20	11	12	9	44	20	4
85 years and over	2	15	8	7	2	3	4	1	2	12	27	33	4

Table 1.8 continued on next page

**Table 1.8 continued**  
**Population by Age by Municipality – 1990 Polk County**

	Clear Lake (V)	Dresser (V)	Frederic (V)	Luck (V)	Milltown (V)	Osceola (V)	Turtle Lake (V)*	Amery (G)	St. Croix Falls (C)	Polk County
Total	972	620	1124	1022	792	2075	0	2657	1640	34,773
Median Age	35.4	30.6	41.5	41.9	37.2	30.8	10	40.1	37.8	34.6
Under 5 years	78	35	83	71	54	185	0	189	107	2542
5 to 9 years	89	62	72	50	66	179	0	208	109	3020
10 to 14 years	71	49	70	69	50	159	0	210	112	2760
15 to 17 years	31	42	49	30	24	99	0	110	51	1605
18 and 19 years	16	11	11	21	18	37	0	41	44	773
20 years	5	10	6	4	13	29	0	21	16	290
21 years	13	14	4	6	4	23	0	22	23	301
22 to 24 years	38	34	35	34	38	78	0	70	45	967
25 to 29 years	68	65	74	81	45	211	0	144	96	2481
30 to 34 years	91	53	58	55	61	221	0	168	141	2847
35 to 39 years	68	45	73	57	49	147	0	135	126	2798
40 to 44 years	43	36	69	72	43	109	0	209	115	2438
45 to 49 years	30	25	39	40	12	90	0	93	85	1813
50 to 54 years	38	28	36	29	18	77	0	112	83	1591
55 to 59 years	42	17	54	30	19	67	0	83	77	1406
60 and 61 years	13	4	19	15	12	33	0	35	28	565
62 to 64 years	31	17	29	32	21	40	0	91	32	1027
65 to 69 years	56	14	73	38	51	63	0	145	87	1547
70 to 74 years	40	16	85	67	77	49	0	135	62	1362
75 to 79 years	38	28	83	67	51	60	0	144	83	1157
80 to 84 years	43	10	66	45	52	50	0	139	49	799
85 years and over	30	5	36	109	14	69	0	153	69	684

source: U.S. Census, 1990 \*Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only

**Table 1.9  
Percent Change in Age by Municipality – 1990 to 2000 – Polk County**

	Alden (T)	Apple River (T)	Balsam Lake (T)	Beaver (T)	Black Brook (T)	Bone Lake (T)	Clam Falls (T)	Clayton (T)	Clear Lake (T)	Eureka (T)	Farmington (T)	Garfield (T)	Georgetown (T)	Johnstown (T)
Under 5 years	-6.5	38.0	35.1	12.5	-3.8	44.0	-58.8	-7.4	-21.8	5.1	-3.9	0.0	18.2	-28.1
5 to 9 years	-11.3	15.5	2.8	-8.9	12.1	123.1	-22.9	-11.4	-11.7	-26.2	0.0	42.2	-21.1	8.8
10 to 14 years	13.7	20.6	7.8	-15.0	90.9	11.1	-26.8	6.5	28.8	47.0	36.4	16.5	44.4	45.2
15 to 17 years	41.1	18.2	35.7	9.4	12.1	0.0	-48.6	15.8	50.0	23.1	60.8	66.0	100.0	88.2
18 and 19 years	3.2	31.3	433.3	-59.1	56.0	-5.9	66.7	20.0	44.4	-39.1	71.9	94.1	4.8	23.1
20 years	43.5	33.3	-57.1	0.0	0.0	50.0	150.0	-36.4	83.3	122.2	60.0	-16.7	40.0	0.0
21 years	-33.3	-80.0	0.0	n.a.	-11.1	-80.0	75.0	100.0	166.7	-7.7	8.3	33.3	25.0	50.0
22 to 24 years	-8.3	10.0	-12.5	11.1	23.8	-7.1	-18.8	-53.6	-15.4	-16.3	-10.0	147.6	55.6	0.0
25 to 29 years	-20.8	16.7	-13.0	-37.5	-26.0	-8.3	-75.0	-25.0	-43.1	-43.8	-43.9	-19.7	53.1	-20.0
30 to 34 years	-16.7	6.6	-28.8	33.3	18.3	21.2	-48.1	-32.9	-3.2	1.1	12.9	3.9	22.7	-31.8
35 to 39 years	33.7	19.2	49.4	12.5	13.2	34.8	-13.7	49.0	37.5	9.1	20.6	2.5	-1.8	-8.8
40 to 44 years	41.8	23.0	38.3	-9.1	113.2	20.5	32.5	6.0	37.3	48.9	67.8	45.1	19.1	-23.8
45 to 49 years	28.0	86.0	35.8	151.7	73.8	72.4	750.0	58.2	41.5	13.0	108.7	101.9	131.6	61.9
50 to 54 years	132.7	31.0	82.8	81.1	36.4	205.3	6.1	218.2	41.0	78.5	164.1	63.9	23.6	266.7
55 to 59 years	117.9	41.1	142.1	181.3	3.9	65.4	66.7	55.0	67.9	52.8	89.7	78.8	131.4	60.9
60 and 61 years	200.0	163.6	190.9	50.0	55.6	144.4	125.0	21.1	100.0	6.5	61.5	36.0	-9.1	340.0
62 to 64 years	13.0	94.7	42.9	8.7	-13.2	25.0	-5.0	31.3	-16.0	3.1	38.9	51.6	41.5	-8.0
65 to 69 years	11.9	42.9	-7.5	-32.6	53.6	46.9	-20.0	65.4	21.1	14.3	-5.0	78.4	90.0	15.0
70 to 74 years	-1.8	15.4	5.0	27.8	43.5	55.0	-45.0	4.2	-58.3	95.7	-36.1	-44.3	-17.2	100.0
75 to 79 years	41.7	40.0	218.2	211.1	-37.5	-5.6	11.1	33.3	63.6	-30.6	-10.0	8.0	-37.8	133.3
80 to 84 years	92.3	37.5	8.3	-8.3	-33.3	40.0	75.0	55.6	-57.1	23.5	171.4	107.7	46.7	-25.0
85 years and over	155.6	50.0	-16.7	-62.5	100.0	-16.7	83.3	500.0	66.7	7.7	200.0	-71.4	700.0	75.0

Table 1.9 continued on next page

**Table 1.9 continued**  
**Percent Change in Age by Municipality – 1990 to 2000 – Polk County**

	Laketown (T)	Lincoln (T)	Loran (T)	Luck (T)	McKinley (T)	Milltown (T)	Osceola (T)	St. Croix Falls (T)	Sterling (T)	West Sweden (T)	Balsam Lake (V)	Centuria (V)	Clayton (V)
Under 5 years	-29.7	-18.4	-65.0	-7.7	0.0	-29.3	68.0	-5.6	-32.2	-13.6	-2.0	-13.2	43.3
5 to 9 years	-33.0	-12.9	-39.5	-12.9	-3.7	4.8	71.6	-40.4	-11.8	-42.7	193.3	-9.1	20.0
10 to 14 years	-25.2	15.0	288.9	-21.6	-38.5	40.6	52.6	21.7	58.5	30.0	0.0	10.5	66.7
15 to 17 years	35.0	65.1	300.0	42.1	-12.5	9.4	101.9	6.6	27.6	127.8	3.1	69.0	-25.0
18 and 19 years	-16.0	35.6	233.3	18.8	-14.3	41.7	0.0	70.6	50.0	92.3	-30.0	50.0	83.3
20 years	-14.3	91.7	-83.3	125.0	n.a.	-16.7	63.6	42.9	-60.0	n.a.	116.7	200.0	75.0
21 years	-60.0	4.8	-80.0	-25.0	-50.0	-66.7	-13.3	66.7	0.0	200.0	360.0	114.3	900.0
22 to 24 years	187.5	-31.5	66.7	56.3	66.7	5.0	3.0	44.4	78.6	66.7	-35.1	0.0	61.5
25 to 29 years	-23.2	-16.0	-13.3	-20.5	100.0	-8.0	-13.3	-36.9	-40.6	26.3	-18.5	-9.9	-4.2
30 to 34 years	-38.7	-16.1	-58.5	-55.1	-53.8	1.5	54.9	-39.6	-35.5	-49.3	60.0	31.8	32.1
35 to 39 years	-38.5	23.4	25.0	14.7	-50.0	8.8	63.8	-10.6	184.0	-14.9	62.2	-16.0	7.3
40 to 44 years	56.6	62.1	92.3	45.5	80.0	3.3	75.9	81.3	80.0	61.4	33.3	22.0	207.7
45 to 49 years	59.7	62.7	53.3	18.8	138.5	80.0	111.6	107.7	40.5	76.7	141.4	183.3	80.0
50 to 54 years	110.8	22.8	533.3	56.5	6.7	145.0	104.7	18.3	105.0	28.6	102.9	86.4	66.7
55 to 59 years	129.2	67.8	75.0	1.9	13.3	39.2	56.4	42.5	161.1	-3.0	58.8	-5.7	87.5
60 and 61 years	9.1	79.4	-50.0	0.0	350.0	18.8	9.1	61.5	250.0	88.9	-41.4	-42.9	-76.9
62 to 64 years	-6.5	64.0	-45.5	-11.1	33.3	0.0	57.7	-22.2	46.2	-37.1	38.5	-15.8	0.0
65 to 69 years	-27.5	47.6	-62.5	13.9	46.2	-22.0	18.2	-2.9	19.2	-3.2	3.9	135.7	-36.4
70 to 74 years	-16.7	207.7	122.2	-13.8	150.0	140.0	116.0	48.4	-42.3	129.4	-8.3	-39.6	-55.6
75 to 79 years	10.7	87.5	450.0	-35.1	66.7	300.0	100.0	-10.0	25.0	10.3	15.1	-25.0	0.0
80 to 84 years	16.7	9.1	0.0	-25.0	-57.1	18.2	-20.0	54.5	-25.0	-22.2	-36.4	10.0	75.0
85 years and over	500.0	46.7	-75.0	57.1	-50.0	300.0	100.0	n.a.	150.0	-33.3	40.7	-12.1	25.0

Table 1.9 continued on next page

**Table 1.9 continued**  
**Percent Change in Age by Municipality – 1990 to 2000 – Polk County**

	Clear Lake (V)	Dresser (V)	Frederic (V)	Luck (V)	Milltown (V)	Osceola (V)	Turtle Lake (V)*	Amery (C)	St. Croix Falls (C)	Polk County
Under 5 years	-25.6	45.7	-16.9	-28.2	-5.6	-2.2	n.a.	-15.3	11.2	-4.5
5 to 9 years	-16.9	3.2	-16.7	84.0	-4.5	-3.4	n.a.	-19.2	22.9	-1.9
10 to 14 years	1.4	8.2	47.1	58.0	-10.0	30.8	n.a.	-16.7	27.7	19.3
15 to 17 years	71.0	-47.6	18.4	40.0	70.8	15.2	n.a.	14.5	80.4	34.1
18 and 19 years	112.5	9.1	90.9	23.8	-5.6	81.1	n.a.	26.8	-11.4	28.3
20 years	140.0	-20.0	66.7	75.0	-7.7	10.3	n.a.	14.3	-31.3	28.6
21 years	-15.4	-64.3	275.0	83.3	75.0	-4.3	n.a.	-22.7	0.0	9.3
22 to 24 years	-15.8	-5.9	-2.9	17.6	-18.4	50.0	n.a.	41.4	51.1	12.3
25 to 29 years	-13.2	-6.2	-14.9	-28.4	20.0	-10.0	n.a.	12.5	6.3	-16.0
30 to 34 years	-38.5	7.5	-1.7	27.3	-4.9	-15.4	n.a.	-16.7	-19.1	-10.4
35 to 39 years	13.2	31.1	9.6	75.4	34.7	42.9	n.a.	23.7	11.9	20.0
40 to 44 years	95.3	61.1	18.8	27.8	48.8	91.7	n.a.	-30.6	50.4	41.0
45 to 49 years	140.0	48.0	105.1	95.0	400.0	72.2	n.a.	91.4	80.0	78.4
50 to 54 years	31.6	78.6	52.8	96.6	155.6	33.8	n.a.	41.1	53.0	70.5
55 to 59 years	-4.8	123.5	-25.9	6.7	10.5	25.4	n.a.	62.7	19.5	53.3
60 and 61 years	23.1	275.0	-26.3	20.0	66.7	-6.1	n.a.	80.0	7.1	41.4
62 to 64 years	-38.7	29.4	-17.2	-6.3	9.5	-22.5	n.a.	-1.1	53.1	9.8
65 to 69 years	-19.6	50.0	-19.2	5.3	-9.8	-1.6	n.a.	-19.3	-12.6	6.1
70 to 74 years	22.5	43.8	-25.9	-14.9	-27.3	30.6	n.a.	11.1	35.5	7.9
75 to 79 years	34.2	-42.9	1.2	-16.4	3.9	8.3	n.a.	23.6	-4.8	13.6
80 to 84 years	-2.3	0.0	43.9	44.4	-36.5	0.0	n.a.	5.0	71.4	13.8
85 years and over	50.0	260.0	166.7	-27.5	50.0	-4.3	n.a.	27.5	44.9	33.5

source: U.S. Census Bureau \*Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only

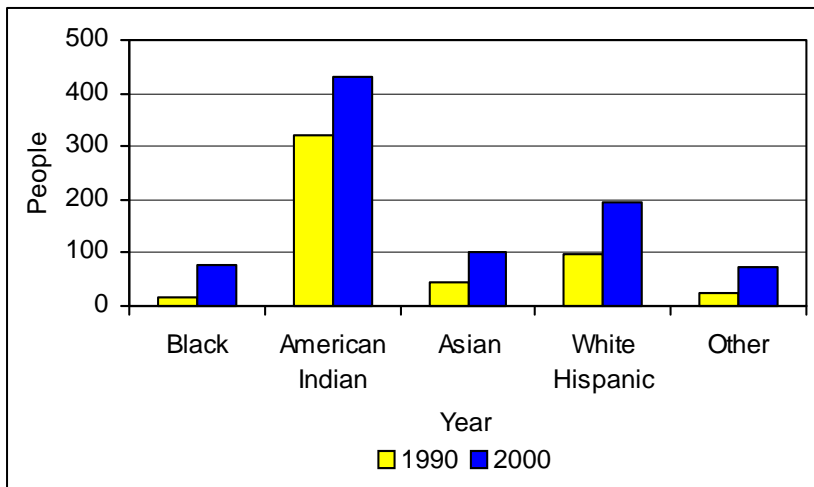
The most notable statistic from Table 1.17 is the marked increase in population percentage in the 45 to 59 year old age groups. If one were to fast-forward the 20 years that this plan covers, these age groups would be in the age bracket where they will be retiring in large numbers. This could mean several things: one, that demand for elder care services will be inadequate without proper planning; two, cost of services could go up as demand for these services increases, while the available pool of workers who contribute taxes to the pay for these services decreases; third, employment opportunities could rise as a substantial portion of the current workforce reaches retirement age.

Overall, Polk County’s population is relatively homogenous, with 97.1 percent of the population in the white, non-Hispanic racial group in 2000. Figure 1.4 shows

the distribution of the population by race for much of the remaining population<sup>1</sup> (representing about 880 persons in 2000) for 1990 and 2000. During the past decade, the population in all racial groups increased, with the White Hispanic and Native American populations increasing most in Polk County. Native Americans, largely members of the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin which has Tribal communities in the County, most notably near Big Round Lake, continue to be the County's largest minority population.

Table 1.13 shows the race characteristics of Polk County by municipality in 2000. Hispanic/Latino is not shown in Table 1.13 since this is considered an ethnicity by Census standards and not a race; individuals of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity are included as part of the other race categories shown. In 2000, a total of 303 persons in Polk County were identified as being of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, an increase of 184 persons from 1990.

**Figure 1.4**  
**Polk County Racial/Ethnic Population Characteristics 1990 and 2000**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

<sup>1</sup> Due to differences between the 1990 and 2000 Censuses in the collection of data by race and ethnicity, Figure 1.4 does not include persons of two or more races and Pacific Islanders in the 2000 figures.



**Table 1.13 Polk County Race Characteristics – 2000**

Municipality	Total Population	White	% White	Black/African American	American Indian & Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	Other Race	Two or More Races	% Other Race
<b>Towns</b>										
Alden	2,660	2,636	99.1%	0	0	15	0	9	0	0.9%
Apple River	1,053	1,033	98.1%	0	19	0	0	0	1	1.9%
Balsam Lake	1,392	1,360	97.7%	0	12	0	0	0	20	2.3%
Beaver	708	708	100.0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Black Brook	1,249	1,232	98.6%	0	0	1	0	3	13	1.4%
Bone Lake	718	704	98.1%	0	12	0	0	0	2	1.9%
Clam Falls	564	550	97.5%	2	10	0	0	0	2	2.5%
Clayton	927	922	99.5%	0	2	0	0	0	3	0.5%
Clear Lake	815	791	97.1%	3	0	0	0	0	21	2.9%
Eureka	1,353	1,315	97.2%	7	6	0	0	9	16	2.8%
Farmington	1,593	1,538	96.5%	12	8	14	0	1	20	3.5%
Garfield	1,350	1,331	98.6%	2	0	0	0	3	14	1.4%
Georgetown	1,025	930	90.7%	1	86	3	3	0	2	9.3%
Johnstown	520	410	78.8%	0	91	0	0	0	19	21.2%
Laketown	895	867	96.9%	4	0	8	0	7	9	3.1%
Lincoln	2,371	2,338	98.6%	0	7	1	0	2	23	1.4%
Lorain	307	292	95.1%	0	4	0	0	0	11	4.9%
Luck	896	879	98.1%	3	0	2	0	1	11	1.9%
McKinley	315	313	99.4%	0	2	0	0	0	0	0.6%
Milltown	1,155	1,140	98.7%	0	15	0	0	0	0	1.3%
Osceola	2,145	2,133	99.4%	0	0	0	0	2	10	0.6%
St Croix Falls	1,073	1,058	98.6%	0	0	6	0	5	4	1.4%
Sterling	736	730	99.2%	2	0	0	0	0	4	0.8%
West Sweden	684	665	97.2%	0	10	0	0	3	6	2.8%
<b>sub-total</b>	<b>26,504</b>	<b>25,875</b>	<b>97.6%</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>Villages</b>										
Balsam Lake	970	919	94.7%	0	37	8	0	0	6	5.3%
Centuria	859	840	97.8%	0	5	0	0	0	14	2.2%
Clayton	522	513	98.3%	8	0	0	0	0	1	1.7%
Clear Lake	1,004	970	96.6%	0	7	7	0	17	3	3.4%
Dresser	716	714	99.7%	0	0	0	0	2	0	0.3%
Frederic	1,317	1,247	94.7%	2	31	17	0	0	20	5.3%
Luck	1,185	1,152	97.2%	3	10	4	0	0	16	2.8%
Milltown	889	861	96.9%	8	16	0	0	0	4	3.1%
Osceola	2,409	2,377	98.7%	0	0	5	0	2	25	1.3%
Turtle Lake*	44	37	84.1%	7	0	0	0	0	0	15.9%
<b>sub-total</b>	<b>9,915</b>	<b>9,630</b>	<b>97.1%</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
<b>Cities</b>										
Amery	2,857	2,797	97.9%	15	35	0	0	5	5	2.1%
St. Croix Falls	2,043	2,001	97.9%	0	4	11	0	4	23	2.1%
<b>sub-total</b>	<b>4,900</b>	<b>4,798</b>	<b>97.9%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
<b>Polk County</b>	<b>41,319</b>	<b>40,303</b>	<b>97.5%</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>2.5%</b>

Source: U.S. Census \*Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only.

## *Educational Attainment*

The Decennial Census provides information on educational attainment levels, which are listed in Table 1.14. All Polk County communities saw a greater percentage of residents 25 years or older with high school or higher education levels in 2000 than in 1990. These indicators certainly demonstrate a well-educated population.

With the large investments in education and the increasing requirement for technical or post-secondary degrees for job placement, more people are pursuing higher education. Polk County communities have had a significant percentage of people who have attained high school or higher educational levels (85.9 percent in 2000). Since 1990, more Polk County residents have pursued post-secondary education. In 2000, 44.8 percent of Polk County residents 25 years or older had attended a post-secondary institution, with 22.9 percent achieving a degree.

**Table 1.14 Educational Attainment for Polk County**

Polk County	Persons 25 Years and Over	22,515	100.0	27,725	100.0
	Less than high school diploma	4,957	22.0	3,911	14.1
	High school graduate	9,720	43.2	11,395	41.1
	Some college, no degree	3,652	16.2	6,081	21.9
	Associate degree	1,613	7.2	2,022	7.3
	Bachelor's degree or higher	2,573	11.4	4,316	15.6
	High school graduate or higher	17,558	78.0	23,814	85.9

source: U.S. Census Bureau

## *Employment*

The area's current economic growth is a major contributor to the employment opportunities available to Polk County residents. The principal economic factors that influence an individual's quality of life and provide a choice of residential options are employment opportunities and income. A comparison of labor force and employment statistics for 1990 to 2000 provides some insight into the economic well-being of Polk County residents.

Personal income is derived primarily from employment wages. An individual's occupation determines the range of that wage scale and influences the personal standard of living. A comparison of the occupations of those employed in the labor force helps to determine the economic affect of the employment opportunities available to area residents, and the ability to increase their standard of living.

While the segment of the population eligible for the labor force in Polk County grew by 23 percent between 1990 and 2000 (see Table 1.15), the actual number in the labor force increased by 29.1 percent. Employed residents in the labor force increased by 33 percent over the same period, while the percentage of unemployed residents decreased by 4.1 percentage points. Based on these statistics, it appears that a growing number of county residents had been finding employment opportunities in the 1990s. The trend of rising employment opportunities in Polk County came to a halt due to the latest economic downturn. A number of factors played into the downturn, but the result has been exceedingly high unemployment rates and numerous foreclosures of homes. The most recent economic data states that as of August, 2009, the unemployment rate for the Polk County is 8.8%. This figure is well over 3-times the rate in 2000.

**Table 1.15**  
**Labor Force – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**

<b>Polk County</b>							
		<b>Total Population</b>	<b># in Labor Force</b>	<b>% in Labor Force</b>	<b>Employed</b>	<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>% Unemployed</b>
	1990	25,896	16,574	64.0	15,455	1,105	6.7
	2000	31,857	21,400	67.2	20,553	830	2.6
	2008	45,892	25,087	54.7	23,254	1,842	7.9

*source: U.S. Census*

Table 1.16 shows the employment trends between 1990 and 2006 for employers in Polk County based on tax and employee information. However, the Census Bureau only collects place-of-residence employment data; this means these data can tell us in what industries or occupations the residents of Polk County communities work. Table 1.17 compares the industries in which Polk County residents worked between 1990 and 2000. During this timeframe, Polk County residents were increasingly employed in manufacturing, construction, and educational, health and social services industries. Perhaps surprising is the significant decrease in County residents' employment in the retail trades. This trend, as well as several other trends noted by data here in the Issues and Opportunities Element, show that in some areas Polk County may be heading in the opposite direction from national and state trends, where manufacturing has been heading downward and retail heading upward.

**Table 1.16**  
**Polk County Employment – 1990 to 2006**

Industry Category	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	% Chg '90- '06
Ag Forestry Fishing & Hunting	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	109	118	152	154	n.a.
Mining Quarrying & Oil & Gas Extraction	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	24	29	32	30	n.a.
Utilities	143	182	153	154	165	167	140	132	119	-16.8%
Construction	422	514	500	554	623	722	790	788	741	75.6%
Manufacturing	2,192	2,262	2,568	3,719	4,074	4,361	3,813	3,812	3,827	74.6%
Wholesale Trade	191	409	733	251	228	284	303	354	476	149.2%
Retail Trade	1,240	1,226	1,336	1,587	1,721	1,806	1,817	1,729	1,756	41.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	239	264	297	326	322	334	364	346	344	43.9%
Information	319	307	309	332	329	342	300	456	323	1.3%
Finance & Insurance	340	356	384	386	397	402	431	436	437	28.5%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	63	77	66	76	78	80	89	74	88	39.7%
Professional & Technical Services	147	157	179	200	191	n.a.	253	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Management Of Companies & Enterprises	n.a.	n.a.	10	10	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Admin & Waste Services	n.a.	n.a.	144	142	n.a.	n.a.	190	n.a.	434	n.a.
Educational Services	943	963	1,014	1,107	1,203	1,253	1,328	1,315	1,346	42.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,331	1,502	1,613	1,776	1,970	2,063	2,146	2,275	2,315	73.9%
Arts Entertainment & Recreation	180	249	229	247	236	212	251	277	263	46.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	881	818	910	1,003	983	1,064	1,129	1,209	1,227	39.3%
Other Services, except Public Admin	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	251	266	n.a.	258	n.a.
Public Administration	551	502	526	553	544	597	598	618	626	13.6%
Unclassified	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	0	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,182</b>	<b>9,788</b>	<b>10,971</b>	<b>12,423</b>	<b>13,064</b>	<b>14,071</b>	<b>14,355</b>	<b>14,005</b>	<b>14,764</b>	<b>60.8%</b>

*note: Only includes employers participating in the State unemployment insurance program. Some employment numbers not available in order to maintain confidentiality due to a small number of firms.*

*source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, WORKnet*

Table 1.18 shows the occupations in which Polk County residents were employed as opposed to the industries in which they work. Polk County communities experienced very little change in residents' occupations, except for farming, forestry and fishing, which decreased by 78.7 percent between 1990 and 2000, and managerial, professional, and technical occupations, which increased by 6.4 percent. No 1990 data for construction occupations was available for comparison.

**Table 1.17**  
**Employment By Industry – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County**  
*(yellow shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Polk County</b>				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	1,678	10.9	991	4.8
Construction	995	6.4	1,520	7.4
Manufacturing	4,066	26.3	5,780	28.1
Wholesale trade	380	2.5	530	2.6
Retail trade	2,274	14.7	2,074	10.1
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	813	5.3	885	4.3
Information	---	---	330	1.6
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	630	4.1	780	3.8
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	784	5.1	948	4.6
Educational, health and social services	2,402	15.5	3,698	19.3
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	949	6.1	1,262	6.1
Other services, except public administration			853	4.2
Public administration	484	3.1	632	3.1
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	15,455	100.0	20,553	100.0

source: U.S. Census

**Table 1.18**  
**Employment By Occupation – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County Municipal Units**  
*(yellow and green shading indicates combined categories)*

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Polk County</b>				
Executive, administrative and managerial	1,193	7.7		
Professional	1,541	10.0	5,418	26.4
Technician	362	2.3		
Sales	1,372	8.9	4,458	21.7
Administrative support, including clerical	1,964	12.7		
Service	2,021	13.1	2,839	13.8
Farming, forestry, fishing	1,575	10.2	335	1.6
Construction, extraction and maintenance	----	----	2,135	10.4
Precision production, craft and repair	2,120	13.7		
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	1,722	11.1	5,368	26.1
Transportation and material moving	786	5.1		
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers & laborers	799	5.2		
<b>Total Employment (16 years and over)</b>	<b>15,455</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20,553</b>	<b>100.0</b>

source: U.S. Census

The economic downturn early in the decade starting in 2000 makes it uncertain how the labor force and employment has been affected in Polk County; however, in Table 1.16 we can see indicators in employment for Polk County that may reveal the recent economic slowdown. Table 1.16 shows Polk County non-farm employment. Although one cannot see what is happening in each municipality, one could infer that the trend defined for Polk County is likely to show changes in employment opportunities for the residents of most Polk County communities. After steady employment growth in the 1990s, some variability in employment is evident since 2000 with decreasing employment between 2002 and 2004, perhaps reflecting the national economic downturn. The 2006 data shows a rebound in employment but it is not enough information to indicate the impact of the current economic situation in Polk County. Information due out next year associated with the 2010 census will give a much better picture of what the conditions are on the ground.

Although the Decennial Census's standard available information limits employment information to place of residence, it also provides information that can indicate Polk County's commuting characteristics. Table 1.19 shows how long it took Polk County residents to get to work in 1990 and 2000. During this period, the number of residents who worked at home or commuted less than 20 minutes to work increased by nine percent, while the number of residents who commuted 20 minutes or more to work increased by 70.5 percent. In 1990, only 39.7 percent of employed residents commuted 20 minutes or longer, which increased to 50.8 percent by 2000.

In general, Polk County residents are experiencing even longer commutes to work. This is important, in part because it is one indicator of the use of the existing transportation infrastructure. For example, growing commute times, coupled with a growing population, results in an increased demand for road maintenance and expansion. It is uncertain if this trend will continue with recent increases in energy prices and the slumping economy.

**Table 1.19**  
**Travel Time to Work – 1990 and 2000 – Polk County**

	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked at home	1,733	11.4	1,268	6.3
Less than 5 minutes	1,219	8.0	1,226	6.0
5 to 9 minutes	2,450	16.1	2,577	12.7
10 to 19 minutes	3,761	24.7	4,915	24.2
20 to 29 minutes	1,905	12.5	3,002	14.8
30 to 44 minutes	1,752	11.5	2,830	13.9
45 to 59 minutes	850	5.6	1,668	8.2
60 minutes or longer	1,537	10.1	2,802	13.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,207</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20,288</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*source: U.S. Census*

Studying the special distribution of workers and employment centers is helpful with economic development efforts and transportation infrastructure management. The Census information that reveals actual commuting patterns is called Place of Residence/Place of Work shown in Table 1.20.

In 2000, about 61.7 percent of the workers living in the County worked within Polk County. About 7.6 percent commuted to nearby St. Croix County. Almost 20 percent commuted to Chisago, Washington, Ramsey, or Hennepin counties in Minnesota.

**Table 1.20**  
**Place of Work – 2000 – Polk County Residents**

	2000	
	Number	Percent
Polk County	12,522	61.7%
Barron County	902	4.4%
St. Croix County	1,542	7.6%
Burnett County	359	1.8%
Ramsey County, MN	1,185	5.8%
Chisago County, MN	609	3.0%
Washington County, MN	1,423	7.0%
Hennepin County, MN	802	4.0%
Other	944	4.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,288</b>	<b>100.0</b>

source: U.S. Census

## *Income*

The combined effect of advanced education and increased employment opportunities, and evidence of well-paying occupations, is also reflected in the earning capability and increasing incomes of Polk County residents. Table 1.21 shows household income distribution for Polk County households in 1989 and 1999. Table 1.22 shows the changes in income of Polk County and surrounding county residents between 1990 and 2000. Finally, Table 1.23 shows the median household income for all Polk County communities.

Household income is the sum of monetary income received in the calendar year before the Decennial Census is collected by all household members 15 years old and over, including household members not related to the householder, people living alone, and other non-family household members. Included in the total are amounts reported separately for wage or salary income; net self-employment income; interest, dividends, or net rental or royalty income or income from estates and trusts; Social Security or Railroad Retirement income; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); public assistance or welfare payments; retirement, survivor, or disability pensions; and all other income. The median is the mathematically derived middle value with 50 percent above and 50 percent below that number.

It can be seen from Table 1.22 that Polk County is above average when compared to the incomes of surrounding counties to the north and east, but below the median income levels of Dunn and St. Croix counties to the south. Certainly counties with, or closer to, larger urban centers have a greater “economic engine” that provides employment opportunities and resultant higher



income. Those counties with lower incomes all have smaller urban centers or are further away from significant employment centers such as the Twin Cities.

The data indicates that between 1990 and 2000 incomes for Polk County households increased faster than inflation. Indeed, the county median household income has increased faster than the State of Wisconsin average as a whole, but remains below the state median household income. It can also be seen that the median household income in fourteen communities -- including many of the municipalities which have been experiencing some of the highest rates of growth -- is above the county median.

**Table 1.21**  
**Households by Household Income – 1989 and 1999 – Polk County**

Household Income	1989		1999		Number Change	Percent Change
	Number of Households	% of Total Households	Number of Households	% of Total Households		
Less than \$10,000	2,320	17.8	1,291	7.9	-1,029	-44.4
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1,581	12.1	1,017	6.2	-564	-35.7
\$15,000 to \$24,999	2,790	21.4	2,169	13.3	-621	-22.3
\$25,000 to \$34,999	2,186	16.8	2,306	14.1	120	5.5
\$35,000 to \$49,999	2,107	16.2	3,126	19.2	1,019	48.4
\$50,000 to \$74,999	1,498	11.5	3,703	22.7	2,205	147.2
\$75,000 or greater	546	4.2	2,693	16.5	2,147	393.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,028</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>16,305</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,277</b>	<b>25.2</b>

source: U.S. Census

**Table 1.22**  
**Median Household Income – 1989 and 1999 – Polk and Surrounding Wisconsin Counties**

County	1989	1999	Change	
			Number	Percent
Polk County	\$24,267	\$41,183	16,916	69.7
Barron County	22,570	37,275	14,705	65.2
Burnett County	20,153	34,218	14,065	69.7
Dunn County	24,452	38,753	14,301	58.5
St. Croix County	36,716	54,930	18,214	49.6

source: U.S. Census

**Table 1.23**  
**Median Household Income – 1989 and 1999 – Polk County**

	Dollars		Change	
	1989	1999	Dollars	Percent
<b>Towns</b>				
Alden	35,732	57,337	21,605	60.5
Apple River	24,911	43,500	18,589	74.6
Balsam Lake	29,118	34,276	5,158	17.7
Beaver	22,500	40,114	17,614	78.3
Black Brook	28,011	48,125	20,114	71.8
Bone Lake	19,000	39,821	20,821	109.6
Clam Falls	23,026	34,844	11,818	51.3
Clayton	29,063	29,135	72	0.2
Clear Lake	21,806	32,269	10,463	48.0
Eureka	27,404	45,625	18,221	66.5
Farmington	37,600	58,833	21,233	56.5
Garfield	27,050	48,000	20,950	77.4
Georgetown	18,750	38,487	19,737	105.3
Johnstown	22,292	37,500	15,208	68.2
Laketown	24,643	40,156	15,513	63.0
Lincoln	27,448	45,904	18,456	67.2
Lorain	18,295	25,208	6,913	37.8
Luck	23,889	32,138	8,249	34.5
McKinley	21,964	37,083	15,119	68.8
Milltown	26,964	28,309	1,345	5.0
Osceola	35,000	39,000	4,000	11.4
St Croix Falls	29,018	46,500	17,482	60.2
Sterling	22,237	36,042	13,805	62.1
West Sweden	23,182	41,250	18,068	77.9
<b>Villages</b>				
Balsam Lake	17,778	45,909	28,131	158.2
Centuria	20,625	32,560	11,935	57.9
Clayton	17,656	41,719	24,063	136.3
Clear Lake	22,917	48,542	25,625	111.8
Dresser	22,446	37,500	15,054	67.1
Frederic	15,602	25,380	9,778	62.7
Luck	20,263	40,417	20,154	99.5
Milltown	13,654	46,944	33,290	243.8
Osceola	25,641	55,509	29,868	116.5
Turtle Lake*	0	19,750	19,750	n.a.
<b>Cities</b>				
Amery	19,828	30,710	10,882	54.9
St. Croix Falls	26,016	39,350	13,334	51.3
<b>Polk County</b>	<b>24,267</b>	<b>41,183</b>	<b>16,916</b>	<b>69.7</b>
State of Wisconsin	29,442	43,791	14,349	47.1

source: U.S. Census. \* Portion of Turtle Lake in Polk County only

## *Population Projections*

Population projections have long been used to assess development prospects and community facility needs. Small area population forecasts can be used to evaluate potential residential development and economic conditions, and the level of demand for public facilities and services. Businesses, schools and government frequently use these forecasts to determine the future needs or design of public facilities or services. This estimate of future growth is also valuable for establishing management techniques to guide orderly growth and development.

Projecting population is not a science of absolutes. Consequently, there are limitations that should be remembered when reviewing and evaluating these forecasts. These limitations include:

- Population projections are based on historical trends of population growth that are extended into the future, and the assumption that those trends, and the factors behind them, will continue to some point in time.
- Forecasts of large area populations (e.g., states or counties) are more reliable. The smaller the area for which a projection is produced, like an individual community, the greater the possibility for error.
- The closer the projection year is to the base year; the more likely the population for that projection will be close to the true population.
- Population projections are, at best, guides, and their limitations must be considered. Intimate knowledge of local conditions can help build local variables into population projections to enhance their validity.

The Wisconsin Department of Administration (WisDOA) population projections are, by state statute, the official population projections for Wisconsin. Between 2000 and 2030, the WisDOA projections predict a 42.5 percent increase in the Polk County population (about 17,547 more residents). The percentage increases within the towns are anticipated to be a bit higher on average than in the villages and cities (see Map 1.3 and Table 1.10). The largest rates of increase are expected in the Towns of Black Brook, Bone Lake, Eureka, Farmington, Garfield, and Osceola, and the Village of Dresser.

**Table 1.10 Population Projections – 2000 to 2030 - Polk County by Minor Civil Division**

Municipality	Census 2000	Estimate 2005	Proj. 2010	Proj. 2015	Proj. 2020	Proj. 2025	Proj. 2030	% Change 2000-2030
<b>Towns</b>								
Alden	2,615	2,876	3,089	3,335	3,579	3,803	3,991	52.6
Apple River	1,067	1,143	1,217	1,304	1,390	1,468	1,533	43.7
Balsam Lake	1,384	1,464	1,556	1,665	1,773	1,871	1,951	41.0
Beaver	753	839	883	936	989	1,035	1,073	42.5
Black Brook	1,208	1,387	1,511	1,650	1,790	1,919	2,030	68.0
Bone Lake	710	776	843	918	993	1,062	1,121	57.9
Clam Falls	547	566	562	563	564	562	555	1.5
Clayton	912	979	1,028	1,088	1,148	1,200	1,243	36.3
Clear Lake	800	859	890	930	970	1,003	1,029	28.6
Eureka	1,338	1,537	1,654	1,790	1,924	2,047	2,151	60.8
Farmington	1,625	1,831	1,990	2,168	2,347	2,510	2,652	63.2
Garfield	1,443	1,639	1,791	1,963	2,133	2,292	2,428	68.3
Georgetown	1,004	1,070	1,137	1,167	1,294	1,365	1,424	41.8
Johnstown	520	562	599	642	686	724	757	45.6
Laketown	918	925	922	929	935	935	928	1.1
Lincoln	2,304	2,446	2,592	2,765	2,938	3,092	3,219	39.7
Lorain	328	332	337	347	356	364	367	11.9
Luck	881	875	869	869	869	863	851	-3.4
McKinley	328	341	344	351	358	364	366	11.6
Milltown	1,146	1,237	1,310	1,396	1,481	1,557	1,619	41.3
Osceola	2,085	2,681	3,078	3,506	3,934	4,338	4,700	125.4
St Croix Falls	1,119	1,237	1,315	1,405	1,494	1,575	1,641	46.6
Sterling	724	758	799	849	898	942	977	34.9
West Sweden	731	763	779	803	827	846	858	17.4
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>26,490</b>	<b>29,123</b>	<b>31,095</b>	<b>33,388</b>	<b>35,670</b>	<b>37,737</b>	<b>39,464</b>	<b>49.0</b>
<b>Villages</b>								
Balsam Lake	950	1,035	1,100	1,178	1,254	1,324	1,382	45.5
Centuria	865	948	1,001	1,065	1,129	1,185	1,231	42.3
Clayton	507	556	589	627	666	699	727	43.4
Clear Lake	1,051	1,098	1,137	1,188	1,238	1,282	1,314	25.0
Dresser	732	833	896	969	1,041	1,107	1,162	58.7
Frederic	1,262	1,241	1,251	1,275	1,298	1,313	1,318	4.4
Luck	1,210	1,228	1,260	1,309	1,357	1,397	1,425	17.8
Milltown	888	915	944	981	1,020	1,051	1,074	20.9
Osceola	2,421	2,641	2,826	3,042	3,254	3,450	3,612	49.2
Turtle Lake*	65	80	92	105	118	129	141	116.9
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>9,951</b>	<b>10,575</b>	<b>11,096</b>	<b>11,739</b>	<b>12,375</b>	<b>12,937</b>	<b>13,386</b>	<b>34.5</b>
<b>Cities</b>								
Amery	2,845	2,919	2,989	3,080	3,177	3,253	3,302	16.1
St. Croix Falls	2,033	2,127	2,235	2,369	2,502	2,620	2,714	33.5
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>4,878</b>	<b>5,046</b>	<b>5,224</b>	<b>5,449</b>	<b>5,679</b>	<b>5,873</b>	<b>6,016</b>	<b>23.3</b>
<b>Polk County</b>	<b>41,319</b>	<b>44,744</b>	<b>47,415</b>	<b>50,576</b>	<b>53,724</b>	<b>56,547</b>	<b>58,866</b>	<b>42.5</b>

source: U.S. Census Bureau & Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services Center, October 2008.

Projections are Pre-Release Version for Research and Analysis Only.

\*Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only.

## Household Projections

A household forecast is used to help develop housing and land-use forecasts. The Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services has prepared household projections for year 2000 to 2030 in five-year increments found in Table 1.11.

**Table 1.11 Household Projections - 2000 to 2030 - Polk County by Minor Civil Division**

Municipality	Estimate 2000	Estimate 2005	Proj. 2010	Proj. 2015	Proj. 2020	Proj. 2025	Proj. 2030	% change 2000-2030
<b>Towns</b>								
Alden	973	1,091	1,208	1,332	1,451	1,557	1,650	69.6
Apple River	418	457	501	549	594	633	668	59.8
Balsam Lake	529	570	625	682	739	787	829	56.7
Beaver	304	345	375	406	435	460	481	58.2
Black Brook	419	491	551	614	676	733	782	86.6
Bone Lake	264	294	330	366	402	435	463	75.4
Clam Falls	237	250	256	262	266	268	268	13.1
Clayton	360	393	426	461	494	522	546	51.7
Clear Lake	276	302	323	344	365	380	394	42.8
Eureka	503	589	653	722	788	847	898	78.5
Farmington	525	603	675	752	827	892	952	81.3
Garfield	529	612	689	772	852	924	989	87.0
Georgetown	433	471	516	563	608	648	683	57.7
Johnstown	203	224	245	269	291	311	328	61.6
Laketown	350	359	369	380	388	393	393	12.3
Lincoln	864	934	1,021	1,112	1,201	1,276	1,342	55.3
Lorain	117	120	127	133	138	143	145	23.9
Luck	339	343	352	358	364	365	364	7.4
McKinley	130	137	144	149	154	158	162	24.6
Milltown	441	485	530	577	621	659	692	56.9
Osceola	744	974	1,154	1,342	1,529	1,704	1,864	150.5
St Croix Falls	420	473	519	566	611	651	684	62.9
Sterling	280	299	325	352	378	401	420	50.0
West Sweden	285	303	319	336	352	363	372	30.5
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>9,943</b>	<b>11,119</b>	<b>12,233</b>	<b>13,399</b>	<b>14,524</b>	<b>15,510</b>	<b>16,369</b>	<b>64.6</b>
<b>Villages</b>								
Balsam Lake	428	447	489	536	579	617	651	52.1
Centuria	343	386	420	457	492	522	547	59.5
Clayton	199	223	243	264	285	302	317	59.3
Clear Lake	453	483	516	550	582	609	629	38.9
Dresser	302	350	388	429	468	503	532	76.2
Frederic	536	534	556	578	598	611	619	15.5
Luck	500	525	555	589	620	644	664	32.8
Milltown	420	441	469	498	525	547	565	34.5
Osceola	1,002	1,116	1,231	1,353	1,470	1,574	1,664	66.1
Turtle Lake*	25	31	37	43	49	54	61	144.0
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>4,208</b>	<b>4,536</b>	<b>4,904</b>	<b>5,297</b>	<b>5,668</b>	<b>5,983</b>	<b>6,249</b>	<b>48.5</b>
<b>Cities</b>								
Amery	1,231	1,289	1,360	1,432	1,502	1,551	1,591	29.2
St. Croix Falls	872	932	1,010	1,093	1,172	1,240	1,297	48.7
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>2,103</b>	<b>2,221</b>	<b>2,370</b>	<b>2,525</b>	<b>2,674</b>	<b>2,791</b>	<b>2,888</b>	<b>37.3</b>
<b>Polk County</b>	<b>16,254</b>	<b>17,876</b>	<b>19,507</b>	<b>21,221</b>	<b>22,866</b>	<b>24,284</b>	<b>25,506</b>	<b>56.9</b>

source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services Center, October 2008.

Projections are Pre-Release Version for Research and Analysis Only.

\*Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only.

## *Employment Projections*

In May 2008, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (WDWD) Office of Economic Advisors (OEA) released a series of publications entitled *OEA 2006-2016 Statewide Long-term Projections*. In addition, a WDWD-OEA report entitled *Occupation Projections for West Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Area, 2004-2014* was also released in August of 2006. These reports make economic projections regarding the state's labor force, industries and occupations.

Municipal units within Polk County have employment patterns that are similar to the State's. It is expected that during the next several years, Wisconsin's population is will grow slower and older than the nation as a whole, leading to lower participation rates in the workforce. Wisconsin is also having difficulty attracting domestic migrants and retaining its own citizens. However, international immigrants are increasing significantly. The industries that are projected to add the most jobs from 2006-2016 are ambulatory health care services, administrative and support services, eating and drinking establishments, hospitals, social assistance and professional, scientific and technical services. The top six occupations in Wisconsin with the greatest expected job growth for 2006-2016 are retail salespersons (32,400); cashiers (31,400); waiters/waitresses (30,900); registered nurses (21,800); customer service representatives (21,000); and combined food preparation/serving workers (20,800). For further labor force and economic base indicators refer to Section 6: Economic Development Information section.

Table 1.12A presents employment and wage projections by the top 10 occupations for the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development West Central Wisconsin Region. This represents the occupation opportunities available for Polk County residents. The greatest demand for workers is in the occupations on the 'Most Openings' list. This list includes many occupations considered as first-time, or temporary, jobs that workers often leave as other opportunities open up. Turnover is high and wages are low. There is one exception on the list: registered nursing, which requires a greater degree of education or training and reflects a higher wage scale.

The 'Fastest Growth' occupations are often referred to as hot jobs, with more training requirements and better wages. There are often fewer openings in these jobs since the list is based on the greatest percent change in employment; for example, an occupation that increases from 5 to 10 jobs increased 100 percent, whereas an occupation that increases from 2,000 to 2,200 jobs increased only 10 percent.

**Table 1.12A**  
**West Central Wisconsin Region Occupation Projections – 2014**

	Top 10 Occupations	Typically Required Education/Training	Average Wage
Fastest Growth	Home Health Aides	1-month on-the-job training	\$9.29
	Medical Assistants	1-12 mo. on-the-job training	\$12.63
	Network and Data Analysts	Bachelor's degree	\$22.19
	Computer Software Engrs, Applications	Bachelor's degree	\$37.08
	Personal and Home Care Aides	1-month on-the-job training	\$8.82
	Dental Assistants	1-12 mo. on-the-job training	\$12.50
	Dental Hygienists	Associate degree	\$23.34
	Employment, Recruitment & Placement	Bachelor's degree	\$19.67
	Medical Records & Health Information	Associate degree	\$12.71
	Occupational Therapists	Master's degree	\$25.53
Most Openings	Cashiers	1-month on-the-job training	\$7.64
	Retail Salespersons	1-month on-the-job training	\$11.06
	Comb Food Prep/Serv Wrk/Incl Fast	1-month on-the-job training	\$7.04
	Waiters/Waitresses	1-month on-the-job training	\$7.34
	Registered Nurses	Associate's or Bachelor's degree	\$25.83
	Labrs/Frght/Stock/Matrl Movers/Handlers	1-month on-the-job training	\$10.09
	Janitors/Cleaners, except Maids/Housekpg	1-month on-the-job training	\$10.67
	Team Assemblers	1-12 mo. on-the-job training	\$12.94
	Stock Clerks/Order Fillers	1-month on-the-job training	\$9.47
	Bartenders	1-month on-the-job training	\$8.16

*West Central WDA includes Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties.  
source: Wisconsin Dept. of Workforce Development, Bureau of Workforce Information, 2006*

Table 1.12B shows employment projections by industry for the West Central Wisconsin Region. The greatest potential growth for employment appears to be in health and education related fields, while computer and electronic product manufacturing appears to be at risk of losing employment. Information and professional services and the leisure and hospitality industry have the potential to add significant employment by 2014.

**Table 1.12B**  
**West Central Wisconsin Region Industry Projections – 2004-2014**

Industry Title	2004 Estimated Employment	2014 Projected Employment	2004-2014 Employment Change	2004-2014 Percentage Change
Total Non-Farm Employment	173,880	194,330	20,450	11.8%
Construction/Mining/Natural Resources	8,380	9,880	1,500	17.9%
Manufacturing	31,990	32,030	40	0.1%
Paper Manufacturing	1,720	1,720	0	0.0%
Plastics and Rubber Products	3,400	3,670	270	7.9%
Computer and Electronic Product	3,220	3,020	-200	-6.2%
Trade	28,800	30,900	2,100	7.3%
Food and Beverage Stores	5,040	5,250	210	4.2%
Transportation and Utilities (Including US Postal)	8,270	9,520	1,250	15.1%
Financial Activities	7,010	7,710	700	10.0%
Education and Health Services (Including State and Local Gov Educ and Hosp)	37,330	45,540	8,210	22.0%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	5,540	7,570	2,030	36.6%
Hospitals (Including State and Local Government)	7,050	8,640	1,590	22.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	17,300	19,930	2,630	15.2%
Information/Prof Services/Other Services	21,470	24,920	3,450	16.1%
Government (Excluding US Postal, State and Local Educ and Hosp)	13,310	13,930	620	4.7%

*West Central WDA includes Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties.  
source: Wisconsin Dept. of Workforce Development, Bureau of Workforce Information, 2006*

## 1.5 SUMMARY

Certain trends become apparent after reviewing the countywide demographic and economic information. Studying these trends and their implications on local quality of life will be useful in guiding public decision making. Since 1960, Polk County has been increasing significantly in population in part due to its proximity to the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area.

And, since 1960, there has been an explosion of rural non-farm residents. Indeed, amongst the rural population there has been a transformation from a largely farm population to a rural non-farm population. This is due in part to a decrease in the number of active farms, but also from the significant increases in the in-migration of new residents, especially during the 1970s and 1990s, many of which are attracted to the County's many natural amenities and shorelands.

It is clear that the national trend of an aging population is reflected in Polk County. Large numbers of people will be reaching retirement age over the next 20 years. While the Polk County population will be aging, it will also be changing its racial and ethnic characteristics. The county's minority population can be expected to continue to increase significantly.



Polk County residents have become more educated over the past several decades. Without adequate employment opportunities this can lead to the loss of increasingly well-qualified individuals moving to other areas offering those opportunities. And residents have been increasingly willing to travel longer to places of employment with almost 20% of Polk County workers commuting to Minnesota. This is a trend that may be reversed if transportation costs rise sharply in the future.

Overall, the previously analyzed trends reveal that Polk County will continue to experience growth in population and employment with a growing inter-relationship to the Minneapolis/St. Paul MSA, and its communities will face several challenges as a result. However, rising energy costs and recent troubles with the housing market and economy have curtailed new construction throughout much of west-central Wisconsin and some of these trends may be changing, at least for the short-term.

Polk County is in a unique spot at present. While still within the sphere of influence of the Twin Cities in Minnesota, the downturn in the economy has slowed development pressures. This has given Polk County the opportunity to get on top of its most pressing issues and establish its priorities for how it will develop in the future before it loses its character and the resources it is known for. The goal of this plan is to set the framework so decisions are based on the thoughts and opinions of its citizens.