

## 1. Introduction

### Plan Scope

The 1999 Wisconsin Legislative Act 9 created a framework in the State of Wisconsin for community planning. In addition, the law created a plan grant program intended to help local governments (cities, towns, and villages) with the cost of producing new and/or updated comprehensive plans. There are nine elements of a comprehensive plan that must be addressed under the current legislation. These elements will be addressed as separate chapters in this comprehensive plan. The nine elements include the following:

1. Issues and Opportunities
2. Housing
3. Transportation
4. Utilities and Community Facilities
5. Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources
6. Economic Development
7. Intergovernmental Cooperation
8. Land Use
9. Implementation

Because Recreation is integral to Cable's identity, Recreation will be addressed as an additional element/chapter in this comprehensive plan.

According to Wisconsin Statute 66.1001, each element addresses required content resulting in a compilation of goals, objectives, actions. Maps and programs are also included if relevant to the element. The comprehensive plan shall be made with the general purpose of guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, adjusted, and harmonious development of the community. In accordance with existing and future needs, the comprehensive plan will promote public health, safety, and general welfare of the entire community.

### What is a comprehensive plan?

A comprehensive plan is a local government's guide to community physical, social, and economic development<sup>1</sup>. Comprehensive plans are not meant to serve as land use regulations in themselves; instead, they provide a **rational basis** for local land use decisions with a twenty-year vision for future planning and community decisions. The Town of Cable Comprehensive Land Use Plan (comprehensive plan) presents the uniqueness of the community and reflects community-specific and locally driven planning processes.

The comprehensive plan offers a "bird's eye" look at the above listed elements, providing overarching guidance for Cable's well-being. The comprehensive plan functions as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Wisconsin Statute 66.1001(1)(a). It should be further noted that "[t]he enactment of a comprehensive plan by ordinance does not make the comprehensive plan by itself a regulation." (Wisconsin Statute 66.1001(2m)(a)).

- It addresses Town-related trends and future needs through a hierarchy of a vision, goals, objectives, and actions<sup>2</sup>, making the plan useful and usable;
- It guides decision-making for decision makers (namely, the Cable Town Board);
- It prioritizes topics for action, yet it does not propose, approve, or deny any specific project; and
- Finally, it can block certain actions if those actions contradict<sup>3</sup> a desired outcome (aka, a goal or future land use).

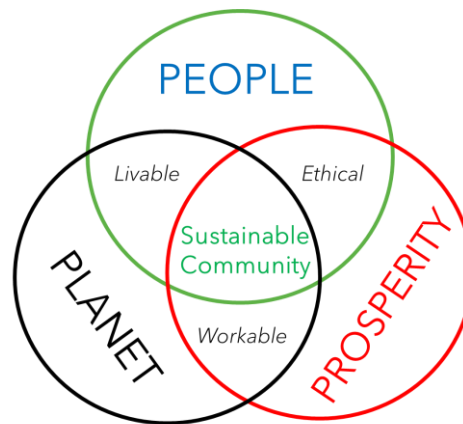
The intent of this comprehensive plan is to offer guidance to the residents, stakeholders, landowners, and decision makers of the Town of Cable to ensure and sustain the long-term health, safety, and well-being of Cable.

### Foundation for the comprehensive plan

The comprehensive plan is founded on balancing three primary components that comprise the Cable community:

- ❖ Physical ("planet")
- ❖ Social ("people")
- ❖ Economic Development ("prosperity")

The relational terms “Livable”, “Ethical”, and “Workable” describe the desired relationships between overlapping components. Community members should strive for these relationships as they contemplate actions designed for desired change to Cable.



To create a sustainable community, the Cable community should strike a balance between these three components, focusing on the interactions between each component. Over-emphasizing any one of these three components will affect the other two components. The key to achieving a balance is focusing on a sustainable

#### <sup>2</sup> Definition of terms:

- ❖ **Vision** - The overarching idea(s) that a community aspires towards
- ❖ **Goal** – A statement of a desired outcome (it should describe a condition, NOT an action). The goal statement should help answer the question, “what is the desired ‘picture’ we want to see?”
- ❖ **Objective** - A strategic and intended action to invest in over a period.
  - An objective may have different specific actions (see below) that achieve the intent of the objective.
  - An objective should support a goal - accomplishing an objective should result in achieving the desired “picture” of the goal.
- ❖ **Action** - A specific, identified action that is rooted in accomplishing the strategic objective, and ultimately the goal that this action supports.

<sup>3</sup> The consistency requirement under Wisconsin Statute 66.1001(1) (am) defines “consistent with” to mean: “further or does not contradict the objectives, goals, and policies contained in the comprehensive plan.”

community rather than the singular benefit to a particular component. When necessary, compromise should be sought to maintain harmony among the three components.

### **The comprehensive plan revision process and public involvement**

The Town of Cable is committed to an open public involvement/outreach program that invites participation from all residents at every level in the decision-making process. The Town will continue to engage the community in the development of plan-related items and tasks that are discussed in the comprehensive plan. The following list details how the revision process was made available to Cable residents and landowners:

- ❖ In August 2022, the Cable Town Board approved Resolution 2022-06 to approve the Public Participation Plan, which officially initiated the plan revision process; the participation plan specifically offers “opportunities for public comment (oral and written), and consideration of, and response to, public comments.”
- ❖ Meeting notices for all Plan Commission monthly (and scheduled work) meetings were advertised and publicly posted, and open to the public; public comments on the comprehensive were accepted when offered by residents.
- ❖ A public meeting held in November 2022 invited community “influencers” to hear about the plan revision process.
- ❖ In February 2023, attendees of the November 2022 meeting received an email update describing the progress on revising the comprehensive plan.
- ❖ A public information meeting was held in July 2023 to describe the process used to revise the comprehensive plan and to announce a 30-day review period of the plan starting in mid-July.
- ❖ In July 2023, attendees of the November and July public information meetings received an email announcing the end of the 30-day review period and how a person could access the draft comprehensive plan for their review/comment.
- ❖ After the 30-day review period ended in mid-August, the draft comprehensive plan was finalized.
- ❖ In late September 2023, the Cable Town Board held a public hearing to receive public comment on the finalized comprehensive plan.
- ❖ In October 2023, the Cable Town Board adopted the finalized comprehensive plan.

INSERT HERE: Proposed additional section to summarize Cable's history and describe its current condition (under development)

## **2. Issues and Opportunities**

Numerous issues were discussed throughout the Plan revision process and preparation of the comprehensive plan. The following items were formulated at Plan Commission work meetings throughout the Plan revision process, incorporating many community perspectives. The items have been grouped by “like” topics in alphabetical order to assist the reader.

### **Key Issues**

#### **Economic Development**

- ❖ Job availability is mostly service-based work: is Cable investing appropriately in available opportunities, such as the trade industry (i.e., plumbing, electrical), health caregivers, or telecommuting?
- ❖ Cable struggles to find a diverse economy that is not natural resource-based (i.e., timber harvest) or based on “destination resorts” (i.e., Telemark), plus the growing tourism economy is heavily influenced by weather patterns (i.e., low snow years limited skiing/snowmobiling opportunities).
- ❖ Cable may not be economically vibrant to attract/retain young adults - who will be responsible to operate existing and future community businesses and services?
- ❖ With Cable being attractive to an affluent retired/senior population, are the Town’s businesses an attractive opportunity for their shopping?
- ❖ A strong desire for continued environmental resource protection may limit business opportunities that challenge prudent natural resource use.
- ❖ As Cable becomes more widely known, corporate business interests could choose to locate in Cable, taking advantage of this increasing notoriety, threatening long-standing family-based, locally owned businesses.

#### **Government**

- ❖ Seek more diverse and frequent information that keeps Cable residents apprised of the Town government’s discussions/decisions.

#### **Health**

- ❖ Cable residents are susceptible to social isolation with limited access to public transportation, community support, technology, or interpersonal interaction, all of which can increase their health risks.
- ❖ Cable residents have reduced geographic access to primary/urgent health care and pharmaceutical services.
- ❖ Non-emergency medical transportation is limited.
- ❖ Caregivers who care for ailing family members may not have adequate support from other family members, friends, or professional caregivers, risking their own isolation and health condition.

**Housing**

- ❖ Sustainable economic and affordable living opportunities<sup>4</sup> (exacerbated by short-term rentals) are presently limited for young adults/families, begging the question, “Where is the next generation of workforce going to live?”
- ❖ Cable’s housing shortage adversely affects its senior population who would like to downsize their living accommodations and still live within the community (including those seniors who need assisted living accommodations or nursing home care).

**Infrastructure**

- ❖ Cable’s aging infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, handicap accessibility, energy poles) could possibly adversely affect business growth as well as hindering pedestrian accessibility to Town amenities (i.e., Town Recreation Park).
- ❖ Cable’s infrastructure is not keeping pace with resident/visitor wants/desires for renewable energy services (i.e., electric vehicle charging stations).

**Key Opportunities****Cultural**

- ❖ Continue Cable’s culture of being people-centered, connected, active, and helpful, where seeing and visiting results in a net-positive outcome.
- ❖ Cable’s suite of amenities (e.g., Cable Natural History Museum, Cable/Namakagon History Museum, Forest Lodge Library), amazing number of events, and outreaching activities should continue to succeed due to residents well-known for their strong volunteer spirit of helping others, wide range of interests, curiosity, and desire for life-long learning.
- ❖ Continue promoting Cable’s newly created “Children’s Museum” and the Cable Natural History Museum to promote young children’s social interaction.
- ❖ Continue promoting the Forest Lodge Library expansion project to meet the community’s literary and media needs.
- ❖ Continue investing in providing activity outlets for people of all ages.
  - Examples of Cable’s investments since 2019:
    - New playground equipment at Town Recreation Park
    - Bicycle skills course and a concrete pump track
    - Skate park
    - Children's Museum,
    - Pickleball courts
    - Walk-in, tent-only campground

**Economic Development**

- ❖ Leveraging the past ten years of investment, continue developing a customer-friendly economic center with diverse amenities while retaining Cable’s “small town” feel.

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<sup>4</sup> Several prominent factors are affecting Cable’s living opportunities: increasing presence of short-term rental units, lost housing due to lack of maintenance, and housing construction difficulties (building costs, supply chain issues, lack of people in skilled trade occupations).

- ❖ Continue Cable's economic character by emphasizing family-based, locally owned businesses over corporate business enterprises.'
- ❖ Inspire cooperative business development, linking businesses to each other, that creates a friendly atmosphere to patrons.
- ❖ Promote work-from-home opportunities, using the Town's excellent high-speed internet service, to attract a younger workforce.

**Environment**

- ❖ Continue emphasizing the desire for high water quality by effectively managing development and recreational use around lakes, streams, and associated water bodies.

**Health**

- ❖ Encourage additional local medical services to effectively serve all the community's population (infants to elderly).
- ❖ Encourage community health by supporting fitness/physical activity facilities and events.
- ❖ Look for ways to support caregivers who care for ailing family members to avoid the caregiver's own isolation and health condition.
- ❖

**Housing**

- ❖ Provide desirable and available amenities and services (particularly high-speed Internet) to attract people to visit or reside in Cable.
- ❖ Explore how to provide housing to Cable's senior population who would like to downsize their living accommodations and still live within the community.

**Recreation**

- ❖ Facilitate cooperation between all recreational user groups to continue appropriate access to and within the Town of Cable.
- ❖ Continue Cable's excellent reputation for hosting highly desirable year-round recreation events where the community's well-known volunteer spirit and renowned and diverse trail networks are on full display.
- ❖ Be attentive to recreation trail connectivity between desired destinations as well as developing new destinations to attract recreation users.
- ❖ Promote Cable based on the unparalleled available recreation trail miles per capita and the diverse and vast opportunity to recreate in the outdoors (hunting, fishing, motor sports, silent sports).
- ❖ Explore possibilities for an indoor recreation facility for all ages and abilities.

The issues and opportunities stated above reflect the concerns and desires of the community and what characteristics in the Town of Cable are important to address in the comprehensive plan. These issues were the guiding forces for developing the goals and objectives presented in this comprehensive plan.

Many of the issues and opportunities are interrelated. Throughout the planning process, the Plan Commission was challenged to identify strategies which balance and address these different topics.

These stated issues and opportunities should not preclude the discussion of additional issues at future meetings. Furthermore, future efforts should be made to solicit additional public input on a regular basis, and updates to the comprehensive plan should be made as deemed necessary.

### **Vision Statements**

The following vision statements have been prepared for the Town of Cable. These statements are intended to assist the Town Plan Commission, Town Board, and Bayfield County in decision making for future Town activities related to the discussed elements.

Goals, objectives, and actions that support the vision statement for each plan element are presented in the following chapters. These vision statements, goals, objectives, and actions are reasonable pathways to fully achieve the future vision of the community.

#### **Housing Vision Statement**

Housing availability and occupancy in the Town of Cable is suitable for all income, age, and functional levels. Housing developments in all locations reflect a desirable living environment, integrating the area's natural beauty while respecting the environment's integrity (particularly water quality). Cable's housing exhibits a Northwoods personality while also fostering contemporary living considerations (e.g., telecommuting opportunities).

#### **Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Vision Statement**

The Town of Cable's open space and surrounding natural environment reflect a sense of pride with appropriate land use while conserving resources for future generations. Sustainability is the foundation for any land use. Cable is a friendly, small town, where people (both residents and visitors) feel they are part of the community. Personal investment in the community results in meaningful outcomes. The community's visual appeal and curiosity represent investments in the arts and continuous learning.

#### **Transportation Vision Statement**

The Town of Cable's road network provides safe and efficient travel for both residents and visitors. Road conditions are appropriately maintained and constructed commensurate with their expected use. An effective public transportation system keeps residents connected to their surrounding community. Renowned and diverse trail mileage (both motorized and non-motorized) is unparalleled in providing entry to, and passage through the area's natural resources.

#### **Utilities and Community Facilities Vision Statement**

The Town of Cable's quality of life is enhanced by efficient, reliable, and appropriately priced utilities. Connectedness to the outside world is available through forward-thinking Internet and fiber optic coverage. Community facilities provide amenities and services in a pedestrian-friendly town center while also providing infrastructure for highly regarded recreation events.

#### **Intergovernmental Cooperation Vision Statement**

The Town of Cable works in strong collaboration with the surrounding Towns of Drummond, Grand View, and Namakagon on topics/issues that jointly affect them. The Town of Cable demonstrates



cooperative behavior when working with local school districts, Bayfield County, Wisconsin state agencies, and federal agencies.

#### **Economic Development Vision Statement**

The Town of Cable is a vital and attractive community working together to provide a healthy, diverse, stable economy that preserves our Northwoods resources, lifestyles, and attitudes for our current and future populations. The Town leverages its natural resource assets to attract economic opportunities (i.e., desirable living environment for telecommuters). Retail businesses are appropriate to Cable's long-standing character, receiving vibrant support from permanent/part-time residents and visitors. Employment opportunities are sustainable, appropriately compensated, and attractive for long-term residency. Businesses offer a diverse mix of employment opportunities, including service, retail, commercial<sup>5</sup>, agricultural, and industrial.

#### **Land Use Vision Statement**

Land use in the Town of Cable emphasizes connectivity among its residents, a casual lifestyle that draws people to live and recreate. Local land use reflects the community's vibrancy as well as its uniqueness, especially with the emphasis on arts and continuous learning. People are enriched by the diversity of the available opportunities to enjoy the surrounding landscape.

#### **Recreation Resources Vision Statement**

The Town of Cable's desired living environment is premised on easily accessible outdoor recreation activities (trails, wildlife viewing, forests, rivers, and the "wildness" of the area). Particularly, the sheer number of trails per capita remains unparalleled in providing an entryway to the Cable area's natural resources. Cable is an excellent host of multiple recreation events that draw visitors to the area.

#### **Demographics**

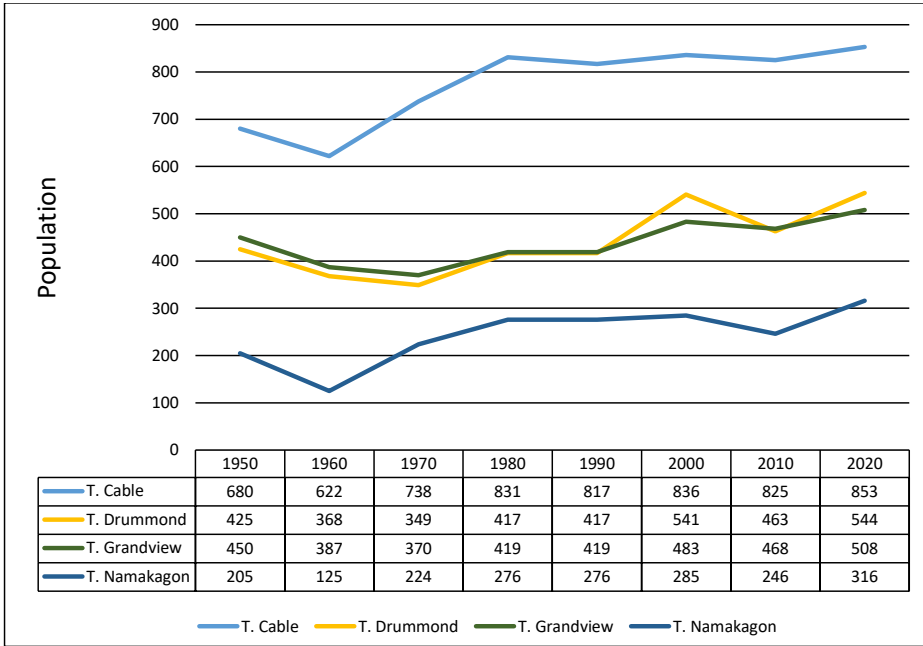
Population change is the primary component in tracking a community's growth as well as predicting future population trends. Population characteristics directly influence Cable's housing, education, utility, community, and recreation facility needs, as well as its future economic development. Over time, there can be fluctuations in the local and regional economies, which can influence population change.

#### **Population Counts**

**Figure 2-1** displays the decennial population trends for the Town of Cable and surrounding communities from 1950 to 2020. Population levels during the seventy-year period have slowly increased with slight fluctuations between decades. From 1950 to 2020, the Town experienced an overall increase of 173 persons, which is a 25.4% increase. In the most recent decade, the population increased by 28 people (a 3% increase) to bring the Town's population to its 2020 count of 853.

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<sup>5</sup> "Commercial" refers to businesses intended to make a profit.



**Figure 2-1: Historical Population Trends**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and WI DOA

\*Note: The Town of Cable figures for 1950, 1960, 1970, and 1980 include the Village of Cable, which dissolved into the Town of Cable in 1984.

**Population Projections**

Population projections provide a look to the future. These projections are a representation of the future population based on past trends. Significant variances in future population can result due to future economic changes, changes in land prices, the number of seasonal homes being converted to year-round status (or vice versa), and the number of jobs available in the Town or region. As the Town cannot predict today what the future population levels will be, the projections provide a guide for what might occur in the future.

The population projections produced by the Wisconsin Department of Administration are the state’s official projections. Alternative population projections based on historic population counts were also derived by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission for Cable and surrounding towns. **Figure 2-2** charts the population projections for the Town of Cable and surrounding towns through 2040. Anecdotally, these projections do not account for the population dynamics witnessed during the COVID pandemic (2020-2023). Those dynamics may have lessened the projected population decreases between 2020-2025.

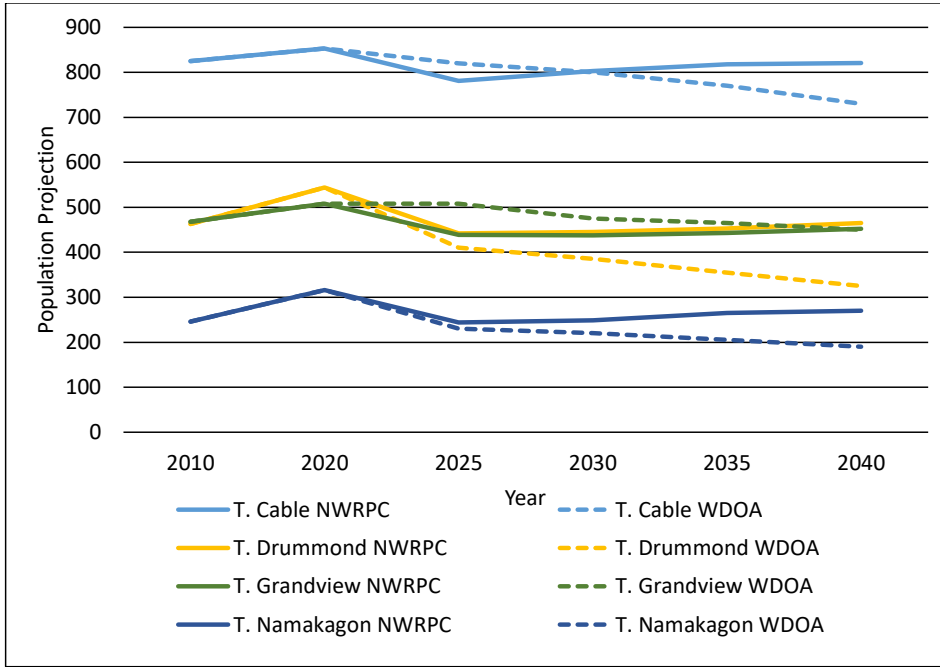


Figure 2-2: Town of Cable Population Counts & Projections 2010-2040

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010-2020, Wisconsin Department of Administration Official Projections 2010-2040, Northwest Regional Planning Commission Alternative Projections 2010-2040

**Age Trends**

Population figures and growth rates do not provide any insight into the characteristics of the population. To learn more about the people of the Town of Cable, information about race, sex, and age of the population must be examined. **Figure 2-3** displays the age distribution of the Town from the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020. The median age within the Town was estimated at 58.9; Bayfield County’s median age is 52.8. As a comparison, the Wisconsin median age is 40.1 years, thus Cable is distinctly an older community compared to the rest of the state.

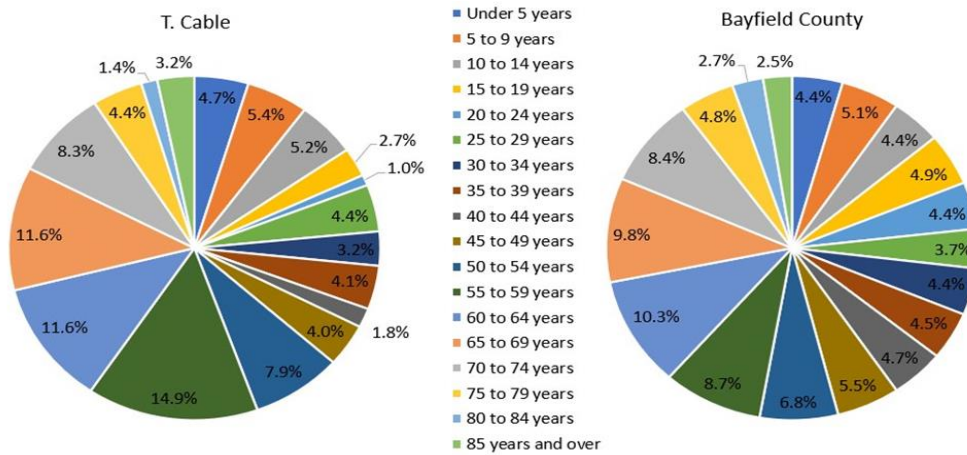


Figure 2-3: Age Distribution for Cable and Surrounding Towns

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020

Figure 2-4 displays the population pyramid for the Town of Cable depicting male and female age distribution. As is typical with most towns in northern Wisconsin, there is a lack of people in the 18 to 24 age range and more people 50 years and older. This can be attributed to young people leaving for educational and employment opportunities elsewhere and coming back to live and retire in the area.

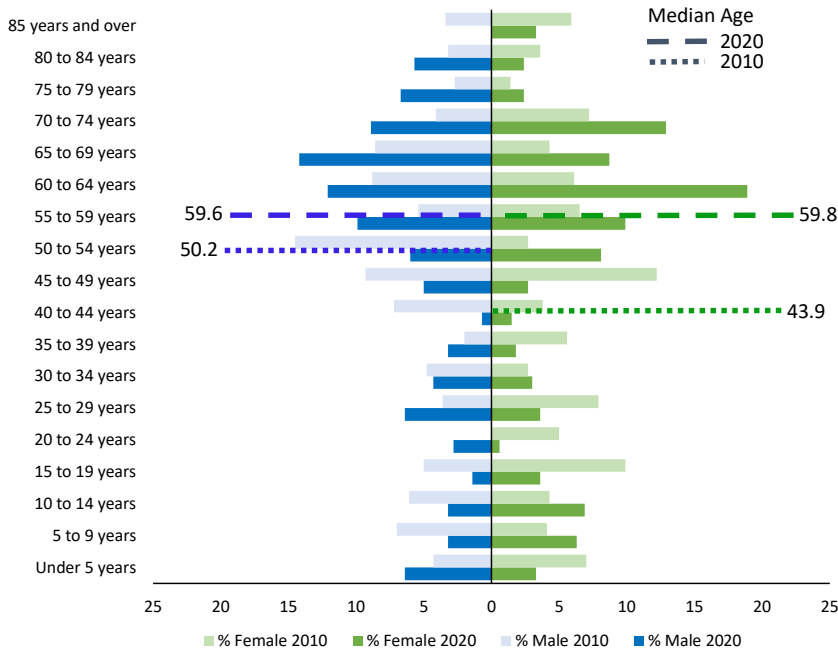


Figure 2-4: Town of Cable Population Pyramid

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020

**Racial Composition**

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the racial makeup of the Town of Cable is mostly represented by white (96.2%). African American, Native American, and Asian make up the remaining 3.8% of the Town’s population.

**Education Levels**

Figure 2-5 shows the educational attainment of individuals 25 years and over in the Town of Cable compared to Bayfield County and the State of Wisconsin. According to survey data, of the 626 eligible individuals in Cable, 94.1% were high school graduates or higher. The relatively high level of educated individuals can be linked to the high proportion of college-educated retirees in the Town.

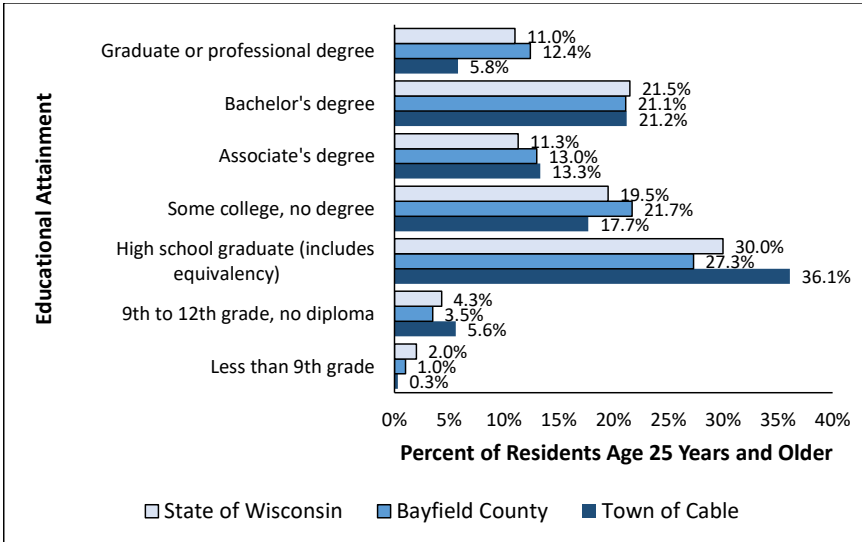


Figure 2-5: Town of Cable Education Attainment

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020

**Income and Poverty**

The median family income for the Town of Cable was \$47,313 according to the 2020 Census (compared median income in Wisconsin is \$63,293). Cable has the lowest median income compared to Bayfield County (whose median income is \$57,257) and the surrounding towns (Figure 2-6).

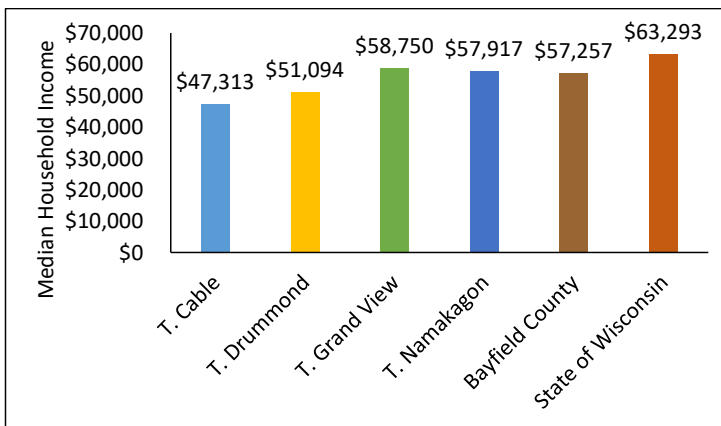


Figure 2-6: Median Household Income

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020

Employment rates in the Town of Cable are comparable to surrounding towns and Bayfield County, yet lower than the State of Wisconsin as a whole (Figure 2-7). This is likely related to higher numbers of retirees who are eligible to work but choose not to do so. This is a common occurrence in the area. Additionally, poverty rates are low in Cable (4.7%) compared to surrounding towns, Bayfield County, and Wisconsin (Figure 2-7).

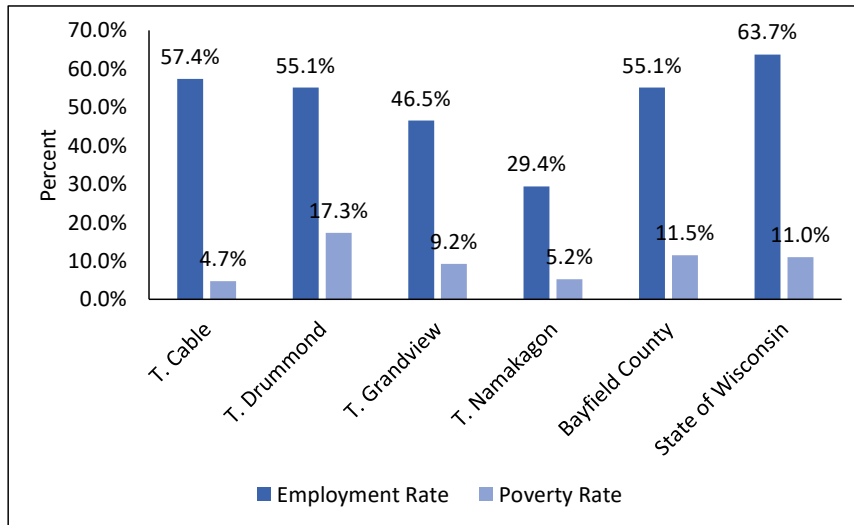


Figure 2-7: Employment and Poverty Rates

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020

**Household Characteristics, Trends & Projections**

References to some housing characteristics can be confusing. As a result, definitions referring to household characteristics may assist the reader in further understanding household figures. According to the U.S. Census Bureau:

A **housing unit** is a house, apartment, mobile home, group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied (or if vacant, is intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live and eat separately from any other person in the building, and which have direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall.

A **household** consists of all the people who occupy a housing unit. There are two major categories of households, "family" and "nonfamily".

A **family household** is a household maintained by a householder who is in a family (two or more people residing together, and related by birth, marriage, or adoption), and

includes any unrelated people (unrelated subfamily members and/or secondary individuals) who may be residing there. The number of family households is equal to the number of families.

A **nonfamily household** consists of a householder living alone (a one-person household) or where the householder shares the home exclusively with people to whom he/she is not related.

**Occupants** may consist of a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated people who share a housing unit.

**Table 2.1** below portrays estimates of some of the types of households in the Town of Cable.

**Table 2-1: Cable Household Characteristics**

Households by Type	Number
<b>Total households</b>	<b>388</b>
Family households (families)	241
With own children under 18 years	48
Nonfamily households	178
Householder living alone	126
Householder 65 years and over	52
Average household size	1.99
Average family size	2.52

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2016-2020

National and state trends have all moved towards an increase in the number of households, along with a decrease in the average number of people per household. The main reasons for this decrease in household size include but are not limited to a decrease in birth rates, people waiting longer to get married, and an increase in the average life span thereby resulting in more elderly people living alone. The Town of Cable has followed this trend, with an overall increase in households and a decrease in the number of people per household.

Based on historic estimates, the total number of households (occupied year-round dwellings) for Cable and most surrounding towns will remain consistent to the year 2040 followed by a slight predicted decrease (**Figure 2.8**). This trend is consistent with the County as a whole.



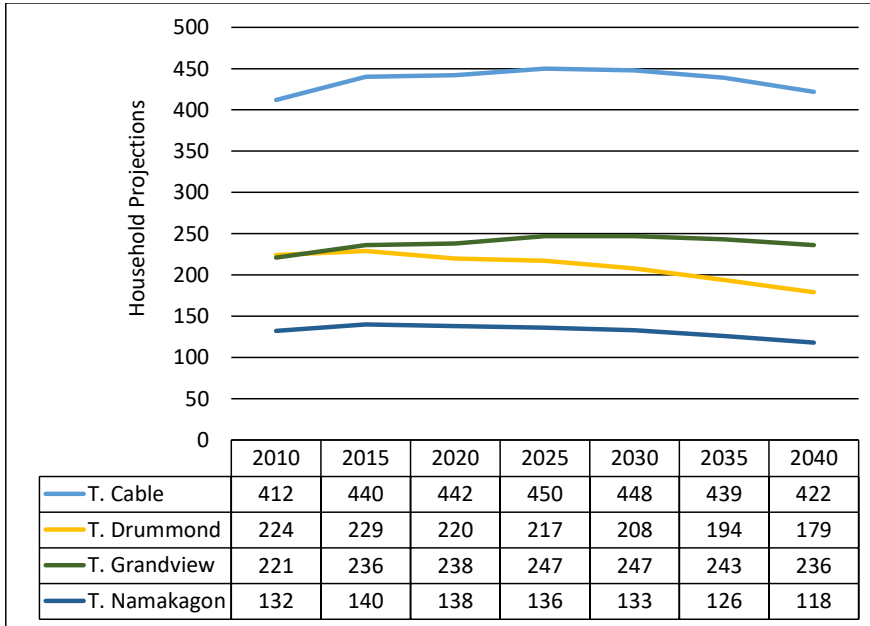


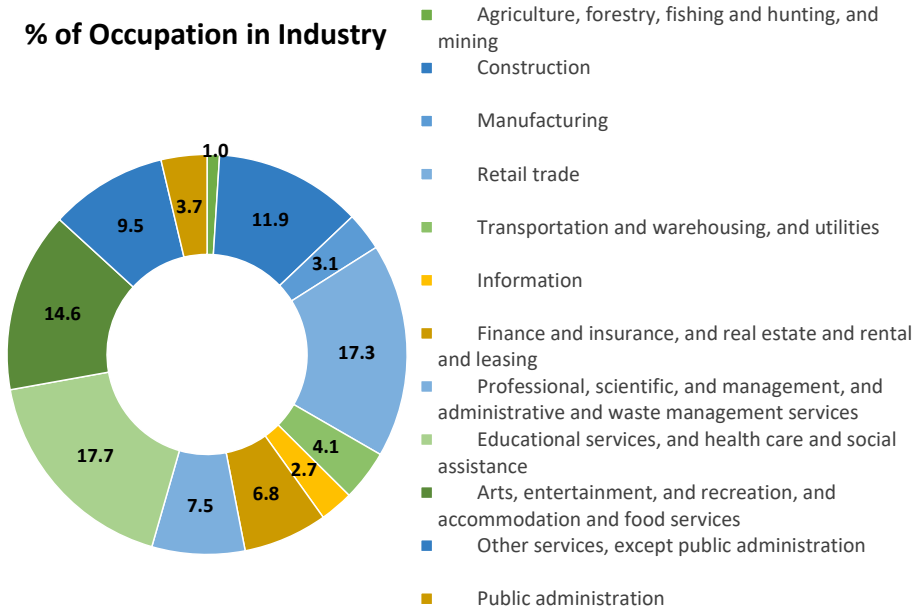
Figure 2-8: Household Projections

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2006-2010, 2011-2015, 2016-2020 & Northwest Regional Planning Commission

**Employment Characteristics**

Nearly 18% of Cable residents are employed in educational services and health care and social assistance. This is reflective of the aging population. However, retail and arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services make up nearly 32 percent (32%) of industry employment (Figure 2-9). This is an indication of the importance of tourism to the Town and surrounding areas. During the summer season, area lakes and resorts draw tourists from around the region to the area for rest and relaxation. During the winter seasons, the snowmobile, ski, and fat bike trails, as well as ice fishing, draws tourists.

**% of Occupation in Industry**



**Figure 2-9: Town of Cable Occupation by Industry**

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020

**Employment Status**

Employment status for the labor force is shown in **Table 2-2**. Of the population aged 16 years and over, 65.6% were in the labor force and 34.4% were not in the labor force<sup>6</sup>. Of those in the labor force, 63.2% were employed and 2.3% were unemployed.

**Table 2-2: Cable Employment Characteristics**

Characteristic	Number	Percent
Population 16 years and over	639	100.0%
In labor force	419	65.6%
Civilian labor force	419	65.6%
Employed	404	63.2%
Unemployed	15	2.3%
Armed Forces	0	0.0%
Not in labor force	220	34.4%

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020

<sup>6</sup> “Not in the labor force” refers to people who are retired or choose not to work.

**Commuting to Work**

Based on the American Community Survey Estimates 2016-2020, of the 404 Town of Cable residents 16 years and over who commuted to work:

- 61.9% drove a car, truck, or van
- 16.1% carpooled
- 4.5% walked
- 16.3% worked at home
- 1.0% used other means
- 0.2% used public transportation.

The mean travel time to work is 25.4 minutes. The high number of people who work from home is indicative of a change in the workforce to home-based businesses and telework opportunities (which is possible through the availability of high-speed internet).

### 3. Housing

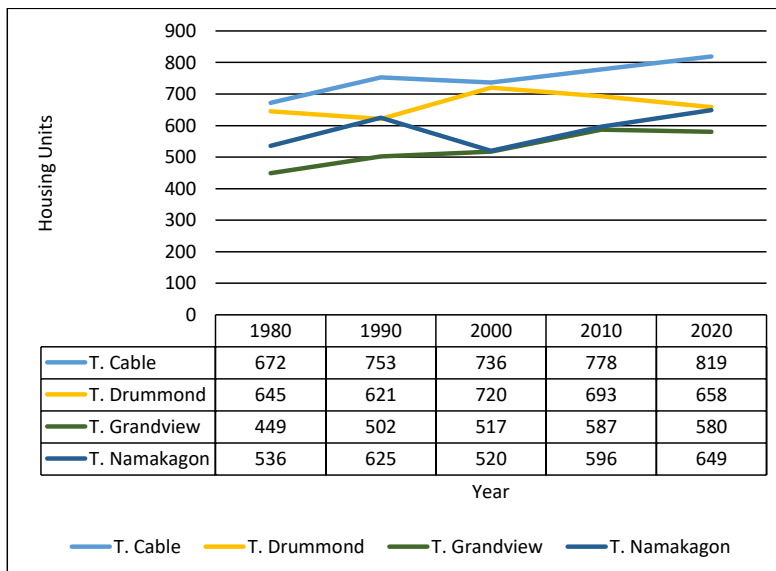
#### Introduction

Housing characteristics are related to the social and economic conditions of a community’s residents. Information in this element will provide data about the current housing stock, as well as identify significant changes in the number of housing units and other housing characteristics. The ability of a community to provide an appropriate housing supply is crucial to its economic viability and the wellbeing of its inhabitants.

#### Existing Housing Conditions

##### Housing Units

**Figure 3-1** addresses the number of housing units in the Town of Cable and surrounding areas between 1980 and 2020. According to the 2020 Census, within that timeframe, the total housing units increased by 21.9% (+147 units), putting the total housing units at 819. There are 335 owner-occupied housing units, 63 long-term renter occupied units, 287 seasonal units, and 19 “true” vacant units in Cable (**Figure 3-2**). Vacant housing units have decreased over time. The conversion of seasonal, recreational, or occasional use units to permanent dwellings by retiring seasonal homeowners most likely caused this slight decrease (see the “Seasonal Home” section below for a more detailed discussion).



**Figure 3-1: Housing Units**

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020

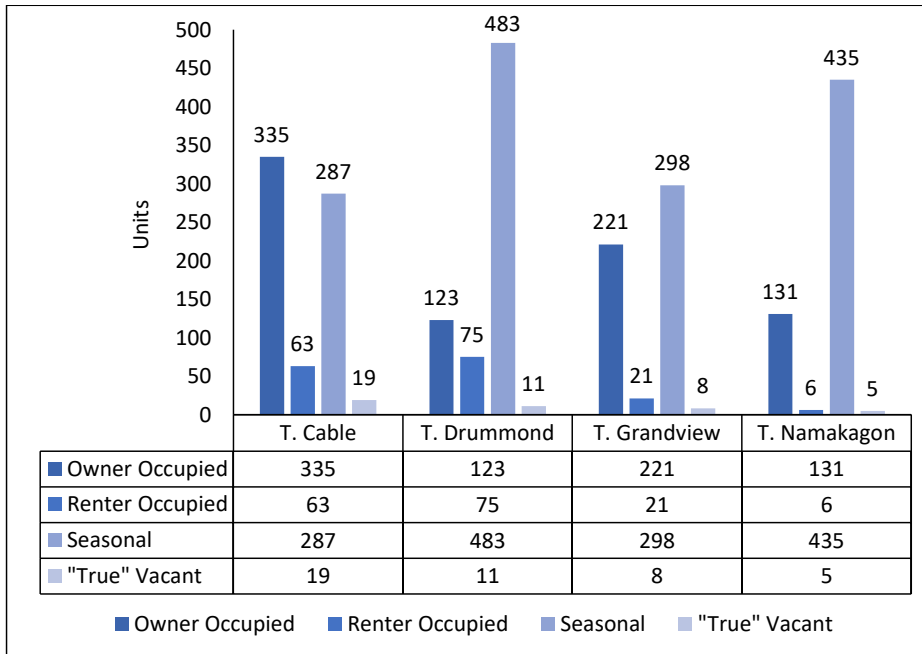


Figure 3-2: Housing Unit Classifications

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020

**Average Household Size**

A gradual decline of inhabitants per occupied household is occurring throughout Bayfield County and northern Wisconsin. However, the Town of Cable saw its person per household barely decline, from an average of 1.99 persons per household<sup>7</sup> to an average of 1.97 persons per household<sup>8</sup>. Cable may be an outlying trend relative to the surrounding area because the general trends causing this decline include the out migration of inhabitants over the age of 18 for work or school, overall smaller family sizes, fewer families with children moving into the Town, and fewer children being born to Town residents. Additionally, many Cable households are composed of retirees (single or couples) or are single person households.

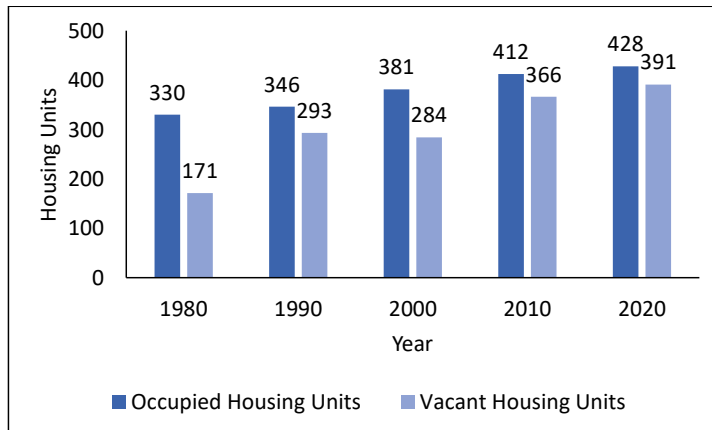
**Occupancy Status**

Since the Town of Cable, like much of Bayfield County, is transitioning to a vacation and retirement destination, the number of seasonal, recreation, or occasional use housing units is comparable to that of occupied housing units. As occupied housing units increased from 1980 to 2020, vacant housing

<sup>7</sup> According to the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020

<sup>8</sup> According to the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2011-2015

units increased at a faster rate, indicating the rising prevalence of converting seasonal, vacation, and retirement home into year-round occupied housing (**Figure 3-3**).

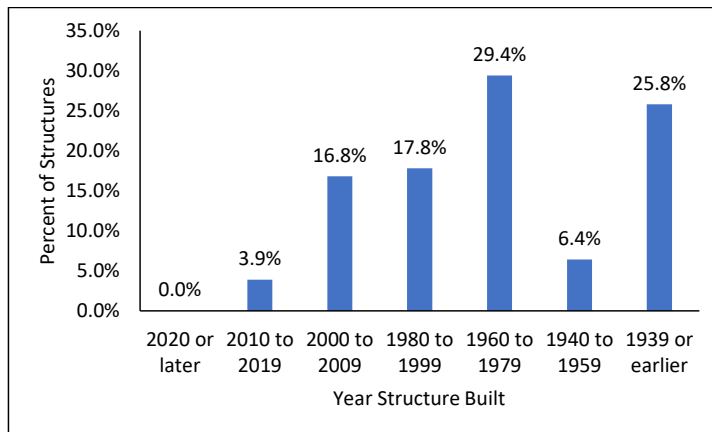


**Figure 3-3: Town of Cable Occupied and Vacant Housing Units, 1980-2020**

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020

**Housing Stock Characteristics**

Understanding the relative age of the housing stock in a community is a good indicator of the condition of the available housing units. **Figure 3-4** lists the percentage of homes built for a given time. Recent trends following 2020 may not be reflected in **Figure 3-4** due to the recent changes in the volume of construction related to increased development in the area following the COVID-19 pandemic. The median year built for homes in Cable is 1974 (+/- 4 years).



**Figure 3-4: Age of Housing Stock**

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020

Owner-occupied homes in the Town of Cable are valued at a median range of \$142,900 +/- \$29,530 (Figure 3-5). Of the 335 units, 32.5% were valued between \$50,000 to \$99,999. These estimates are subject to a moderate margin of error due to changing housing markets, construction costs, and other regional trends.

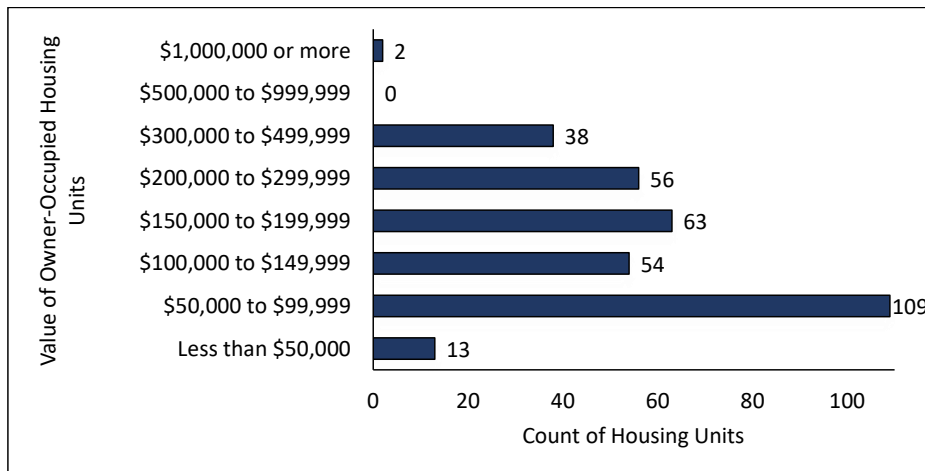


Figure 3-5: Town of Cable Housing Value

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020

Affordability of owner and renter occupied units is critical to sustaining population and employment levels for local businesses. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), affordable housing costs (which include utilities, taxes, mortgage or rent payments, and insurance) should not be greater than 30% of the total household income. If the housing costs are greater than 30%, households may have difficulty making ends meet. Table 3-1 shows the monthly owner costs as a percent of household income, as reported by the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020. In the Town of Cable, 20.3% of housing units with a mortgage cost 30% or more of the monthly household income<sup>9</sup>.

Table 3-1: Monthly Owner Costs as a Percent of Household Income

Percent of Household Income	Units	Percent of Units
Less than 20%	107	55.7%
20.0 to 24.9%	16	8.3%
25.0 to 29.9%	30	15.6%
30.0 to 34.9%	11	5.7%

<sup>9</sup> Nine (9) units could not be computed in the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020).

Percent of Household Income	Units	Percent of Units
35.0% or More	28	14.6%
<b>Total Housing Units</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020

Long-term rental costs vary based on many factors, including the quality of housing, number of bedrooms, and overall size of the housing unit. **Table 3-2** gives the number of renter-occupied units by amount of gross rent. During that timeframe, there were 42 occupied units paying rent, and the median gross rent was estimated at \$636 per month.

**Table 3-2: Long-term Renter-Occupied Housing Units by Gross Rent**

Gross Rent	Units	Percent of Specified Units
Less than \$500	-	-
\$500 - \$999	38	90.5%
\$1,000 - \$1,499	4	9.5%
\$1,500 - \$1,999	-	-
\$2,000 - \$2,499	-	-
\$2,500 - \$2,999	-	-
\$3,000 or more	-	-
<b>Total Housing Units</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
No Rent Paid	11	-

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020

### Structural Characteristics

**Table 3-3** references the type of structural housing units in the Town of Cable. One-unit detached homes are the typical housing unit for the Town, with an estimated 87.6% of Town housing units being 1-unit, detached dwellings. Structures with 3 or 4 units are less numerous at 4.1%.

**Table 3-3: Units in Structure**

Units in Structure	Number	Percent
1-unit, detached	617	87.6%
1-unit, attached	19	2.7%
2 units	3	0.4%
3 or 4 units	29	4.1%
5 to 9 units	10	1.4%
10 to 19 units	12	1.7%
20 or more units	3	0.4%
Mobile home	11	1.6%
Boat, RV, van, etc.	0	0.0%
<b>Total Housing Units</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020



**Table 3-4** shows the number of rooms in total housing units for the Town of Cable. The median number of rooms was estimated at 5.4, which follows the general regional trend of moving towards larger dwellings with more rooms.

**Table 3-4: Number of Rooms in Housing Units**

Units in Structure	Number	Percent
1 room	0	0.0%
2 rooms	24	3.4%
3 rooms	33	4.7%
4 rooms	91	12.9%
5 rooms	219	31.1%
6 rooms	118	16.8%
7 rooms	98	13.9%
8 rooms	35	5.0%
9 rooms or more	86	12.2%
<b>Total Housing Units</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020

#### Demographic Changes Affecting Housing

The continued increase of Town residents aged 65 and over (see Figure 2-3) is an important factor affecting housing as older residents often forgo home ownership for apartment living, assisted living facilities, or move to be closer to family or health care facilities. The growth of this age group in the Town of Cable can be attributed to two main reasons. First, the Town is characterized by a stable, aging population. Secondly, many retirees and a few seasonal homeowners have chosen to make the Town of Cable their permanent place of residence.

#### Seasonal Homes

The Town of Cable is well situated within easy traveling distance from several popular tourism and recreation destinations ranging from the Hayward area in Sawyer County to the Lake Superior Shore and Bayfield Peninsula to the north. Closer to the Town itself, numerous lakes, rivers, and forest resources are available for recreation. Because of its proximity to these natural resources, the Town has been evolving into a tourist destination and has experienced substantial seasonal home construction over the years. This trend is expected to continue in the coming years. As ideal sites on lakefront or in wooded seclusion become unavailable or too expensive, undeveloped areas within the Town of Cable or existing undeveloped subdivision lots emerge as a new site of seasonal home construction.

A trend taking place throughout northern Wisconsin in the past 10 to 15 years, which may also be impacting the Town of Cable, is the conversion of seasonal homes into permanent residence. This is especially created by individuals at retirement age or people discovering telecommute opportunities in the area. Additionally, the presence of short-term rental units has been increasing in the past several

years. While no specific Town- or County-level data exists to support this observation, many recently purchased housing structures have been converted into short-term rental housing by the new homeowner. Many of these owners cite the financial advantage of offering their housing structure as a short-term rental versus a long-term rental. Plus, some of the older housing structures that have been purchased would not be suitable for long-term living: no garage, no closets or other storage, no central air/heat, and limited living space.

Numerous world-class recreation events throughout the year take place in the area that attract visitors in all four seasons. The large number of seasonal properties in the Town proper and in surrounding communities have an important impact on the local economy and tax base.

### **Housing Programs**

The Wisconsin comprehensive planning legislation requires the Town of Cable to compile a list of programs to provide an adequate housing supply that meets existing and forecasted housing demand. Below are housing programs available to developers, citizens, or the Town Board.

#### **Bayfield County Housing Authority**

The Bayfield County Housing Authority administers the County's Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program and the Rural Development Multifamily program. The Voucher program provides rental assistance to clients who rent through private landlords but need help paying rent. The Rural Development program provides income-based rent for two- and three-bedroom units in Washburn, Bayfield, Port Wing, Iron River, Drummond, Grand View, and Cable. The Housing Authority also owns rental units that do not require income restrictions.

#### **Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA)**

The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority serves Wisconsin residents and communities by working with others to provide creative financing resources and information to stimulate and preserve affordable housing, small business, and agribusiness.

#### **USDA-Rural Development**

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

#### **Bayfield County Housing Rehabilitation Program**

Housing rehabilitation funds are made available through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC as a pass through to the State of Wisconsin. Rehabilitation funds are available to municipalities to help offset rehabilitation costs by eligible homeowners, renters, and landlords.

Bayfield County has a housing rehabilitation loan program targeted to income-eligible permanent residents. These loan funds may be used for home rehabilitation purposes, such as replacing heating systems, shingles, windows, siding, doors and adding insulation. Funds are also available to assist

eligible individuals with down payment and closing costs on purchasing a home in the County. Funds are provided to recipients in the form of deferred payment zero percent (0%) interest rate loans.

**Community Development Block Grant Emergency Assistance Program (CDBG-EAP)**

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

**Northwest Affordable Housing**

Northwest Affordable Housing is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization that can obtain funds that are not available to the public for the purpose of promoting affordable and accessible housing for low- and moderate-income persons. These loan funds may be used for major home rehabilitation needs or for down payment and closing costs when purchasing a home. Funds are provided to recipients in the form of deferred payment zero percent (0%) interest rate loans.

**Northwest Regional Planning Commission**

The Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) administers several housing rehabilitation and down payment/closing cost assistance programs within the towns, villages, and cities located in Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, and Washburn Counties. The NWRPC Housing Cost Reduction Initiative Program provides housing assistance to low and moderate-income households, the HOME Homebuyer and Rehabilitation Program provides essential home purchase assistance and necessary home rehabilitation for low- and moderate-income households, and the Community Development Block Grant-Small Cities Housing Program provides grants to towns, villages, and cities with populations less than 50,000 for housing unit rehabilitation, homebuyer assistance, and small neighborhood public facility projects.

**Housing Goals, Objectives, & Actions**

These goals, objectives, and actions are developed to assist with Town decisions that affect the housing situation in Cable. It should be assumed that any housing development, construction, and reconstruction will comply with the Town, County, and State requirements. The following guidance is displayed in a nested format to highlight how each item is related to the other items. The reader should refer to Footnote 2 in Chapter 1 to understand the hierarchy of this guidance.

***Housing Vision Statement***

Housing availability and occupancy in the Town of Cable is suitable for all income, age, and functional levels. Housing developments in all locations reflect a desirable living environment, integrating the area's natural beauty while respecting the environment's integrity (particularly water quality). Cable's housing exhibits a Northwoods personality while also fostering contemporary living considerations (e.g., telecommuting opportunities).

**GOAL:** The housing stock in the Town of Cable has an appropriate range of housing opportunities to meet the income levels and age groups of existing and future community residents.

OBJECTIVE: Maintain viable, properly zoned areas that are available for new residential development.

OBJECTIVE: Coordinate all public services and utilities so they are available for new residential development in the Town.

ACTION: Incorporate walking paths as a design component of all new housing developments in Section 18.

ACTION: Promote universal design concepts<sup>10</sup> in all new housing and remodeling projects, especially if the housing is prioritized for senior living.

OBJECTIVE: Discourage unregulated short-term rentals to maximize available housing opportunities.

OBJECTIVE: Develop strategies to balance housing needs between short-term housing that supports the tourism economy and needed long term housing for residents.

OBJECTIVE: Proactively engage private and non-profit organizations to create additional housing for individuals/families of all income levels, age groups, and persons with special needs when developing housing within the Town.

ACTION: Cooperate with Bayfield County Housing Authority to assess the need for another eight housing units at the Whispering Pines facility.

ACTION: As opportunities arise, locate senior housing in the downtown Cable area.

ACTION: Explore feasibility of constructing hostel/dorm living units with common work, kitchen, and recreation spaces to house seasonal workers.

ACTION: Collaborate with Cable's real estate businesses and Chamber of Commerce to market telecommuting as an attraction for property purchase.

GOAL: New housing developments do not adversely affect sensitive natural resources (lakes and wetlands), emphasizing the Town of Cable as an attractive place to reside.

OBJECTIVE: Emphasize "low impact" development (i.e., retain natural vegetation) to reduce stormwater runoff and minimize impact on water quality, especially along lakeshores and wetlands.

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<sup>10</sup> "Universal design" is the process of creating products that are accessible to people with a wide range of abilities, disabilities, and other characteristics.

**ACTION:** Inventory and map sensitive natural resources so they are preserved (to the greatest extent possible) when development adjacently occurs.

**GOAL:** Existing housing stock in Cable displays the quality (market value), livability, and character of the Town.

**OBJECTIVE:** Proactively eliminate substandard, blighted, or deficient housing throughout the Town.

**ACTION:** Aggressively enforce residential codes and nuisance ordinance standards that restrict and/or prohibit the accumulation of unsightly debris.

**ACTION:** Encourage the use of available federal, state, and local funds for housing rehabilitation grants and loans to help owners improve their homes and building sites.

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

### **Introduction**

This element provides a baseline assessment of the Town of Cable’s agricultural, natural, cultural, & recreational resources. The following information includes productive agricultural areas, a natural resource inventory, and a cultural resource inventory (including an assessment of the arts and leisure events/activities in Cable). This information provides a basis for creating goals, objectives, maps, and actions to guide the future development and maintenance of agricultural, natural, and cultural resources in the Town of Cable. It should be noted that reference to “Section 18” in this section refers primarily to Cable’s town center (and its associated downtown amenities and services) as well as the immediate surrounding residential areas.

The most distinguishing landscape characteristics of the Town are the glacial lakes set in hilly conifer and hardwood forests. Picturesque hills, scenic free-flowing rivers and streams, spruce bogs, and scattered farmlands add variations to the landscape. The Namekagon River Valley is a dominant landscape feature. The development of cottages, resorts, and homes are present along lake shorelines, but the scenic qualities remain high; however, several of the larger lakes, first settled over 100 years ago, show signs of aesthetic deterioration due to human occupation.

The Town of Cable, like other communities in Bayfield County, has an abundance of high-quality natural resources worth protecting for the economic, recreational, and ecological needs of current and future residents. Throughout the planning process, specific resources within the Town of Cable will be considered for protection. This comprehensive plan’s goals will be updated to support resource protection and maintenance over time.

### **Agricultural Resource Inventory**

The following section details some of the important agricultural resources in Bayfield County as most farming and agricultural data is not collected at the town level. However, reasonable assumptions can be made based on data collected at the County level. The information comes from a variety of resources including the U.S. Census of Agriculture. Several other relevant plans exist (i.e., Bayfield County Farmland Preservation Plan<sup>11</sup>) and should be consulted for additional information.

### **Agriculture in Bayfield County**

In the mid to late 1880s, with the major forest cut-over nearly complete, prospective development of farming the cleared land was marketed not only locally, but nationally. Small, ready-to-go farms (with a home, pigs, chickens, etc.) were available for people to purchase and instantly start a farm. Agricultural activity over the past four decades has remained relatively constant compared to the sharp declines in both acres of land in farming and total number of farms during the period from 1940-1980. The total number of farms within Bayfield County has declined significantly since 1940. However, during the period from 1980 to 2017, the total number of farms has stayed relatively the same. Agricultural land use within Bayfield County represents a small percentage of the total land area. WISCLAND 2 land

<sup>11</sup> For more information, see this plan at <https://www.nwrpc.com/974/Bayfield-County-Farmland-Preservation-PI>

cover data indicates that two percent (2%) or approximately 12,156 acres of the County's land base is farmland. Based on 2023 Town of Cable assessment data, only four parcels were assessed as agricultural, totaling 100 acres. By comparison, the Existing Land Use Map has a total of 161.5 acres represented on the map.

#### **Productive Agricultural Areas**

The Town of Cable is generally not an agriculturally productive area. However, based on soil types and other conditions, some areas of the Town may have the ability to sustain crop development. Productive or prime agricultural lands is defined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as "land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops. The land must also be available for these uses (cropland, pastureland, forestland, or other land but not water or urban built-up land)."

Prime farmland has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed, including water management, according to acceptable farming methods.

#### **Natural Resource Inventory**

The following section details some of the important natural resources in the Town of Cable and Bayfield County. This information also comes from a variety of resources including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Bayfield County Land and Water Conservation Department.

#### **Physiography**

Continental glaciation is responsible for the present topography of Bayfield County. Where the ice stopped, it deposited terminal moraines - huge accumulations of rock, gravel, sand, and clay pushed along by or carried on the front of the ice sheet. One of these terminal moraines was deposited between two lobes of the Lake Wisconsin Ice Sheet along the western border of Bayfield County. The resulting topography can only be described as rough and is distinguished in the hills south of the Namekagon River from Mt. Telemark Village to U.S. Highway 63. Lakes and swamps occupy many of the deeper kettle holes and it is characteristic that many of the lakes in Bayfield County are in this morainic area. Ground moraine forms the greater part of the topography east and south of the moraine. This was deposited in a broad sheet by the ice, which melted away beneath the ground moraine; and the present surface is rolling with low ridges and shallow depressions, occupied by swamps rather than lakes.

#### **Climate**

The climate in southern Bayfield County is classified as continental, a climate type characterized by large seasonal and daily ranges in temperatures. Winters are long, cold, and snowy. Winter days are typically gray with cloud cover, though the periodic sunny sky uplifts the spirit. Nights are quite cold, even becoming bitterly frigid several times during the season. Summers are relatively short and warm with brief periods of hot, humid weather. Summer days are usually warm and sunny, while nights are cool. Spring and fall are often short with sharp day-to-day temperature changes. All seasons have

frequent weather changes as alternate high- and low-pressure systems move across the continent from west to east.

The long-term annual average temperature is 41 degrees Fahrenheit (F.). December through March temperatures generally average below 32 degrees F. The growing season averages about 120 days. Average monthly temperatures range from a low of 9.6 degrees F. in January to 66 degrees F. in July. Annual precipitation, including snowfall, is about 32 inches. Snowfall averages between 60 and 70 inches per year.

### **Geology**

Igneous and metamorphic rocks of Precambrian age underlie Bayfield County. The principal surface deposits are glacial drift and alluvial sand and gravel. It varies in thickness throughout the County ranging from a few feet to 250 feet.

### **Soils**

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

### **Topography & Slope**

The Northern Highland was once a mountain range similar to the Alps or Rocky Mountains of today. Over hundreds of millions of years, these mountains were worn and flattened out by erosion and glaciation. The region is mostly a smooth plain, but it remains higher than the rest of the state and some hilly regions continue to exist.

Surface elevations in Cable range from a maximum of 1,674 feet at Mt Telemark to a minimum of 1,280 feet near along the Namekagon River near the Bayfield/Sawyer County line. Steeply sloping lands can present challenges or pose barriers to development. Steepness of topography is commonly expressed as percent slope. Generally, slopes more than 20% are of greatest concern for any land disturbing activity. Steep slopes do not necessarily preclude all forms of development, although costly engineering and site preparation/mitigation measures are required to minimize potential adverse impacts.



**Forests**

Forested lands are one of the most defining characteristics of northern Wisconsin (hence, the moniker “Northwoods”) and play a significant role in the Town of Cable. This resource represents significant cultural, social, environmental, and economic assets to citizens and communities. Forests provide a range of benefits including wildlife habitat, forest products, recreational opportunities, aesthetics, and other benefits. According to existing land use data, over 65% of the land in Cable is some type of forest.

**Surface Water Resources**

The total inland surface water area of Bayfield County is 23,676 acres. Of this, approximately 1,400 acres are found in the Town of Cable. There are 15 named lakes in the Town of Cable along with numerous unnamed lakes. These water resources lie mostly within the Upper Namekagon River and Totagatic River watersheds. The total miles of lake shoreline are 25 miles with six miles in public ownership. Lakes Rosa, Owen and Tahkodah are only partially located in the Town of Cable.

The Namekagon River and St. Croix Wild and Scenic Riverway is prominent water resource that runs through the Town of Cable. The Namekagon River flows through the Town from the northeast to the southwest. Nearly all the river’s frontage is under federal government ownership<sup>12</sup>, precluding its development as waterfront property for private residences. The main tributaries of the Namekagon River in the Town include Cap Creek, Spring Creek, and Big Brook – these flow through a combination of private and publicly held lands.

Cable is blessed with diverse lakes that have productive fisheries. Lake Totagatic is completely under public ownership and is managed as a “natural area” for wildlife by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The remaining large and medium sized lakes in the Town—Cable Lake, Wiley Lake, Perry Lake, Price Lake and Ole Lake—all have partially developed shorelines with a combination of seasonal and year-round residential dwellings. Additionally, three other lakes—Lake Tahkodah, Rosa Lake, and Lake Owen—fall partially into the Town. The shorelines of these lakes are also residentially developed. All other lakes are privately owned property.

**Water Quality**

The chemical quality of water in streams and lakes in the County is generally very good. The lakes of Wisconsin and Bayfield County fall into four main types when classified by water source and chemistry:

- hard water drainage,
- soft water drainage,
- hard water seepage, and
- soft water seepage.

The other minor types of lakes include acid bog, alkaline bog, and spring ponds. In terms of surface acreage, the most common lake type in the Town is the soft water drainage lake (examples are

<sup>12</sup> The riverway is administered by the National Park Service.

Totagatic Lake and Cable Lake). The following waterbodies are designated by the WDNR as “Outstanding Water Resources”:<sup>13</sup>

- Big Brook
- Lake Owen
- Little Brook
- Namekagon River
- Totagatic River

#### **Groundwater Quality**

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

#### **Wetland Resources**

Wisconsin Wetland Inventory data for Bayfield County indicates that approximately 7,526 acres of wetlands (of various types) are present in the Town of Cable. This accounts for about 16 percent (16%) of the Town’s total surface land area. Wetlands in Bayfield County are mapped at two acres and greater in size.

Wetlands serve several important environmental functions including flood control, water quality improvement, and groundwater recharge as well as providing habitat for fish and wildlife.

A complex set of local, state, and federal regulations place limitations on the development and use of wetlands. The Shoreland/Wetland Zoning Ordinance adopted by Bayfield County regulates shoreland use and development within 300 feet of navigable streams and 1,000 feet of lakes. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and WDNR regulate the placement of fill in wetlands and the alteration of wetland resources. Before proceeding with any activities that affect wetlands, these agencies must be contacted, and the appropriate authorization must be received. Some significant sized wetlands are scattered throughout the Town of Cable. These wetlands include a wide diversity of wetland types from emergent/wet meadow to scrub/shrub to deciduous and coniferous forest.

#### **Watersheds**

The Town of Cable is located on the border of the continental divide separating the Mississippi River drainage basin and the Lake Superior drainage basin. The area covered by these two drainage basins covers much of central North America. A watershed, as defined by the University of Wisconsin-

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<sup>13</sup> “Outstanding Water Resources” are surface waters that provide outstanding recreational opportunities, support valuable fisheries and wildlife habitat, have good water quality and are not significantly impacted by human activities.

Extension, is “the entire physical area or basin drained by a distinct stream or riverine system, physically separated from other watersheds by ridge top boundaries”.

Parts of four watersheds are in the Town of Cable. Most of the Town is covered by the Headwaters Namekagon River watershed. Other watersheds that cover small portions of the Town area include the White River, Totagatic River, and Lake Chippewa watersheds.

### **Biological Communities**

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

- Northern Forest: Contains mixed deciduous and coniferous forests found in a distinct climatic zone that occurs north of the tension zone.
- Wetlands: Characterized by soils or substrate, which is periodically saturated or covered by water.
- Aquatic Communities: Including springs, ponds, lakes, streams, and rivers.

In 2022, the conservation group, Landmark Conservancy, established the Telemark Forest Preserve in the Town of Cable. The 218-acre preserve is located just south of Cable, Wisconsin. The topography is a rolling and hummocky landscape of sand, gravel, and rock. The forest community is entirely intact, containing older growth forest characteristics, which will only improve over time.

### **Wildlife**

The local area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species including culturally important waterfowl, furbearers, and game animals:

- The most common nesting waterfowl are mallard, wood ducks, and blue-winged teal. Less common are the hooded and American mergansers and ring-necked ducks. The most abundant migratory waterfowl during the spring and fall seasons in Bayfield County are scaup, ring-necks, coot, and mallards. Less common are goldeneyes, buffleheads, redheads, canvasbacks, black ducks, and blue-winged teal.
- Besides the waterfowl and beaver inhabiting the local wetlands and waters, muskrats, mink, and otter are also important water-related furbearer species.
- The two most popular game animals are the whitetail deer and ruffed grouse. These two species are primarily associated with most of the forested land in the area.

### *Threatened & Endangered Species*

While the conservation of plants, animals and their habitat should be considered for all species, this is particularly important for rare or declining species. The presence of one or more rare species and natural communities in an area can be an indication of an area's ecological importance and should

prompt attention to conservation and restoration needs. Protection of such species is a valuable and vital component of sustaining biodiversity.

Both the state and federal governments prepare their own separate lists of such plant and animal species but do so working in cooperation with one another. The WDNR's Endangered Resources Bureau monitors endangered, threatened, and special concern species<sup>14</sup> and maintains the state's Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) database. The NHI maintains data on the locations and status of rare species in Wisconsin and these data are exempt from the open records law due to their sensitive nature. According to the Wisconsin Endangered Species Law it is illegal to:

- 1) take, transport, possess, process, or sell any wild animal that is included on the Wisconsin Endangered and Threatened Species List;
- 2) process or sell any wild plant that is a listed species; and
- 3) cut, root up, sever, injure, destroy, remove, transport, or carry away a listed plant on public lands or lands a person does not own, lease, or have the permission of the landowner.

Within the Town of Cable are two important rare and threatened species: the bald eagle and osprey (the osprey is listed as "threatened" by the WDNR). Several other species in the area are listed as endangered, threatened, or special concern: American bittern (bird), golden-winged warbler (bird), Blanding's turtle (turtle), Vasey's pondweed (aquatic plant), and the yellow banded bumblebee (bee). For a full review of listed species known to occur in Cable, Bayfield County, and Wisconsin visit the WDNR's Endangered Resources Bureau.

#### **Northwest Wisconsin Flood Impact Study: Bayfield County**

On July 11-12, 2016, multiple rounds of severe thunderstorms impacted seven counties in northwest Wisconsin, including Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Bayfield, and Washburn Counties, as well as the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa. During a 24-hour period, parts of the region received historically heavy rainfall, with 8 to 12 inches of precipitation falling in some areas. The heavy rainfall caused flash flooding and widespread and severe damage to roads and infrastructure, homes, businesses, and public facilities across the region. Travel across much of northwestern Wisconsin was not advised due to inundated roadways and washouts. The timing of these storms also coincided with the peak of tourist season in the region. Regionwide, the flood event impacted over 350 homes and left behind tens of millions of dollars in public sector damage.

In 2018, the Northwest Wisconsin Flood Impact Study was completed by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC). The full Northwest Wisconsin Flood Impact Study and links to

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<sup>14</sup> Endangered Species - one whose continued existence is in jeopardy and may become extinct.

Threatened Species - one that is likely, within the foreseeable future, to become endangered.

Special Concern Species - one about which some problem of abundance or distribution is suspected but not proven.

interactive 100-year and 500-year flood event<sup>15</sup> maps are located on the project webpage available at: <http://nwrpc.com/986/Map-Servers>. The study area included the counties of Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Bayfield, and Washburn, all of which were declared in the 2016 Presidential Disaster Declaration DR-4276. NWRPC prepared a Level 2 (customized) flood inundation analysis for the affected counties using FEMA's HAZUS software to demonstrate the potential impacts of historic flood events, pre-identify likely impact areas, and assesses the economic impacts to communities, businesses, and residents. The study focused on building community economic resiliency through a broad range of strategies and mechanisms needed to reduce risk and vulnerability. The study is also incorporated into the Bayfield County Hazard Mitigation Plan and serves as a point of reference to guide flood mitigation activities across the County.

Through this analysis, two tables were generated, one table representing 100-year flood loss estimates and the other representing 500-year flood loss estimates. Cable has low to moderate estimated losses with these events.

**Table 4-1: Bayfield County 100-Year Flood Estimates**

Municipality	Structures Impacted	Estimated Building Losses	Estimated Content Losses	Estimated Inventory Losses <sup>16</sup>	Debris Generated (tons)
T. Barksdale	3	\$3,160.00	\$1,252.00	\$ -	31
T. Barnes	25	\$386,859.00	\$137,575.00	\$ -	313
T. Bayfield	2	\$30,064.00	\$9,891.00	\$ -	17
T. Bayview	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	6
T. Bell	7	\$844.00	\$9,553.00	\$ -	44
<b>T. Cable</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$24,705.00</b>	<b>\$8,864.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>6</b>
T. Clover	6	\$32,384.00	\$11,146.00	\$ -	44
T. Delta	2	\$54,462.00	\$17,211.00	\$ -	15
T. Drummond	8	\$127,962.00	\$47,133.00	\$ -	84
T. Grand View	3	\$15,400.00	\$4,026.00	\$ -	36
T. Iron River	2	\$28,498.00	\$12,049.00	\$ -	20
T. Kelly	1	\$18,585.00	\$14,018.00	\$ -	27
T. Keystone	1	\$1,680.00	\$161.00	\$ -	41
T. Lincoln	7	\$33,580.00	\$12,866.00	\$ -	48
T. Orienta	2	\$15,115.00	\$6,402.00	\$ -	44
T. Port Wing	5	\$16,898.00	\$6,698.00	\$ -	360
V. Mason	1	\$6,580.00	\$41,904.00	\$ -	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>\$796,776.00</b>	<b>\$340,749.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>1,139</b>

<sup>15</sup> A 100-year flood has an annual exceedance probability of 1%, meaning it's likely to occur once every 100 years. The annual exceedance probability of a 500-year flood is 0.2%, meaning an event at this magnitude is likely to occur once every 500 years.

<sup>16</sup> Table 4-1 is the Bayfield County portion of a larger study. At this time of the study, only one loss in Cable was reported.

Table 4-2: Bayfield County 500-Year Flood Estimates

Municipality	Structures Impacted	Estimated Building Losses	Estimated Content Losses	Estimated Inventory Losses	Debris Generated (tons)
T. Barksdale	3	\$3,160.00	\$1,245.00	\$ -	31
T. Barnes	37	\$777,918.00	\$271,633.00	\$ -	718
T. Bayfield	4	\$66,238.00	\$21,015.00	\$ -	40
T. Bayview	2	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	18
T. Bell	9	\$2,785.00	\$19,087.00	\$ -	46
<b>T. Cable</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$45,260.00</b>	<b>\$20,142.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>25</b>
T. Clover	7	\$40,251.00	\$12,818.00	\$ -	49
T. Delta	3	\$84,348.00	\$27,697.00	\$ -	19
T. Drummond	12	\$197,339.00	\$66,737.00	\$ -	121
T. Eileen	1	\$490.00	\$980.00	\$270.00	4
T. Grand View	4	\$17,950.00	\$6,897.00	\$ -	54
T. Iron River	5	\$247,964.00	\$66,407.00	\$ -	142
T. Kelly	1	\$21,468.00	\$18,015.00	\$ -	27
T. Keystone	1	\$1,680.00	\$161.00	\$ -	41
T. Lincoln	7	\$60,070.00	\$18,486.00	\$ -	57
T. Namakagon	2	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	22
T. Orienta	2	\$5,680.00	\$2,304.00	\$ -	31
T. Oulu	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	2
T. Port Wing	7	\$23,871.00	\$8,798.00	\$ -	372
T. Tripp	1	\$6,236.00	\$2,268.00	\$ -	26
V. Mason	1	\$7,326.00	\$47,000.00	\$ -	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>\$1,610,034.00</b>	<b>\$611,690.00</b>	<b>\$270.00</b>	<b>1,848</b>

## Cultural Resource Inventory

### Sites

Cultural sites and features are important community resources documenting a community's rich history. Countywide, there are over 100 culturally or historically significant landmarks, buildings, or areas. There are countless other cultural and historical resources (fur trader villages or Native American settlements) that remained undocumented along rivers and lakes.

The Wisconsin Architectural and Heritage Inventory (AHI) includes historical and architectural information on over 120,000 properties throughout Wisconsin. The AHI contains data on buildings, structures and objects that illustrate the unique history of Wisconsin and local communities. The AHI is a permanent record maintained by the Wisconsin Historical Society.

The archaeological site inventory (ASI) maintained by the Wisconsin Historical Society is the most comprehensive list of archaeological sites, mounds, unmarked cemeteries, marked cemeteries, and

cultural sites available. Archaeological sites, cultural sites, and cemeteries in Bayfield County are non-renewable resources and are typically valued by their owners, thus such sites are not listed here.

Locally, the Cable-Namakagon Historical Museum focuses specifically on Cable's history. The museum has information on local historical sites and maintains an impressive archival collection that covers local events and notable residents both historical and present-day.

#### **Metallic & Non-Metallic Mineral Resources**

Mineral resources are divided into two categories, metallic and non-metallic resources. Metallic resources include lead and zinc. There are no active metallic mineral mines in Cable. Nonmetallic resources include sand, gravel, and limestone. Two non-metallic sites exist within the Town of Cable.

In June of 2001, all Wisconsin counties were obliged to adopt an ordinance for nonmetallic mine reclamation (refer to the Bayfield County Department of Zoning). The purpose of the ordinance is to achieve acceptable final site reclamation to an approved post-mining land use in compliance with uniform reclamation standards. Uniform reclamation standards address environmental protection measures including topsoil salvage and storage, surface and groundwater protection, and concurrent reclamation to minimize acreage exposed to wind and water erosion. After reclamation many quarries become possible sites for small lakes or landfills. Identification of quarry operations is necessary to minimize nuisance complaints by neighboring users and to identify areas that may have additional transportation needs related to trucking.

#### **Arts and Leisure**

The Town of Cable's artistic appeal and available learning experiences provide a rich environment for people to create and celebrate the Town's human culture.

##### *Art*

Many of the Town's downtown visual appeals have resulted from local citizen groups and artists collaborating for the public's enjoyment. Examples are building murals, decorative benches for seating, and refuse containers adorned with photos of area wildlife. Of particular note is a wealth of public sculpture. Many local organizations and businesses have worked with area sculptor Sara Balbin in the development of extraordinary metal sculptures that reference area history and culture. A few examples include:

- an eagle in front of the Chippewa Valley Bank,
- the Birkebeiner figures in front of the Community Centre, and
- a dragonfly in front of the Cable Natural History Museum.

See My Art, Inc. (SMART) is a not-for-profit corporation that inspires, empowers, validates, and supports people with all abilities through art. Since 2012, SMART has sought to open doors and unlock minds by providing public venues on land and online for displaying art by individuals with all disabilities, and by educating the public about the health benefits of artistic expression.

The Cable-Hayward Area Arts Council, LTD (CHARAC) is another charitable organization of artists and individuals interested in promoting the arts in the areas since 1996 by:

- encouraging the production, performance, and appreciation of the arts through networking among artists and the community,
- supporting artists,
- increasing public awareness of the arts, and
- facilitating the arts through cultural programming, and education.

Since the creation of the Chequamegon Children’s Theater in 1987, it has been incorporated as a non-profit and has exposed hundreds of children across two generations to the joy of theater and performance.

The Portage (“The Biggest Little Bar in Bayfield County”) strives to be a house of entertainment and has been instrumental in bringing local music talent to Cable.

#### *Learning*

The Town of Cable possesses a desired mix of amenities and modern conveniences even though it is in a socially remote location. This mix is not disconnected from nature but exists in partnership with it.

The historically significant Forest Lodge Library, built in 1925 and first called the Cable Community House, is listed on the State Register of Historic Places. The library has provided residents and visitors decades of exemplary access to cultural, intellectual, technical and informational resources.

The recently developed “Children’s Museum” provides children social play opportunities while also providing educational opportunities.

The Cable Natural History Museum is a nationally accredited museum that seeks to connect area residents and visitors to the wonders of our region. In addition to outstanding exhibits, the CNHM offers ongoing programs and lectures that offer bounteous opportunities to learn and experience the natural world. First established in 1967, the Museum has been in its current building since 2008.

The Cable/Namakagon Historical Museum, located in a former potato warehouse on the historic railroad line, offers exhibits on the history of area industry, founding families and displays historic area artifacts. This exceptional museum has entertained and educated thousands of visitors about the wonders and history of the area.

### **Agricultural, Natural, & Cultural Resources Goals, Objectives, & Actions**

These goals, objectives, and actions are developed to assist with Town decisions that affect the environment- and cultural-related situations in Cable. The following guidance is displayed in a nested



format to highlight how each item is related to the other items. The reader should refer to Footnote 2 in Chapter 1 to understand the hierarchy of this guidance.

***Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Vision Statement***

The Town of Cable is a friendly, small town, where people (both residents and visitors) feel they are part of the community. Personal investment in the community results in meaningful outcomes. Cable's open space and surrounding natural environment reflect a sense of pride with appropriate land use while conserving resources for future generations. The community's visual appeal and curiosity represent investments in the arts and continuous learning.

GOAL: Agriculture, Natural, and Cultural Resources in the Cable area are a demonstration of an attractive and sustainable community, which is aware of its impact on the environment.

OBJECTIVE: Design development (including housing) to minimize or avoid adverse environmental impacts, especially to sensitive areas (especially lakeshores and wetlands).

ACTION: Develop campgrounds away from sensitive natural areas

OBJECTIVE: Encourage (and maintain) natural buffers between public lands and human development.

ACTION: Aggressively implement WI DNR guidelines and best management practices to prevent the introduction or translocation of exotic and invasive species associated with human actions (e.g., development or recreational uses).

OBJECTIVE: Protect valued landscape scenery from visual impacts associated with new developments and structures.

ACTION: Develop criteria to identify "valued landscape scenery" and create an inventory of such sceneries.

ACTION: Develop and implement local ordinances to protect valued landscape scenery.

GOAL: The long-term productivity of the land demonstrates the investments by people of multiple generations (such as, timber harvesting, agricultural production, and bioenergy production).

OBJECTIVE: Encourage community groups to identify interests and pursue specialty agriculture products and/or practices (for example, organic food, community gardening, maple syrup, specialty cheeses).

OBJECTIVE: Encourage efforts to bridge local food businesses, grocery stores, health care providers, or area schools with locally produced foods (e.g., "Farm to Table").

**ACTION:** Create a coalition<sup>17</sup> to address the community’s food security concerns (i.e., nutrition and food independence).

**GOAL:** Agricultural land and open spaces are prevalent across the Cable area and in balance with residential and commercial development.

**OBJECTIVE:** Promote higher density residential development that avoids adversely impacting existing open spaces

**ACTION:** For large parcel holdings (e.g., 40 acres), provide an incentive to reduce the minimum building lot size when subdividing IF at least 50 percent (50%) of the large parcel is retained as “open space”.

**GOAL:** Cable’s groundwater is high quality and available to supply current and future resident needs.

**OBJECTIVE:** Encourage water conservation (including best management practices for farmers) to protect available groundwater resources.

**OBJECTIVE:** Encourage residents in areas with high density development to participate in monitoring the water quality of private wells.

**ACTION:** Designate Section 18 as a “special concern” for protection of groundwater resources.

**ACTION:** Educate water consumers, especially those residing in areas with high density development, about possible sources of nonpoint pollution that can result in groundwater contamination.

**ACTION:** Limit high-capacity wells in the Town of Cable and specifically restrict high-capacity wells in Section 18.

**ACTION:** Identify and map aquifer recharge areas in the Town of Cable.

**ACTION:** Consistently monitor publicly available drinking water quality through comprehensive testing methods for a broad spectrum of contaminants.

**OBJECTIVE:** Diversify management approaches that result in protecting Cable’s groundwater.

**ACTION:** Use Clean Sweep or other programs to reduce waste products that contaminate groundwater.

<sup>17</sup> Coalition stakeholders could include local farmers, restaurants, grocery stores, and schools as well as established organizations, such as the Cable Area Food Shelf, Free Food Pantry (United Church of Christ) and Cable Community Garden.

ACTION: Where appropriate, set aside park land or open space within the wellhead protection area to protect groundwater recharge.

ACTION: Develop a contingency plan in case one or more wells becomes contaminated.

ACTION: Establish water protection design standards when developing facilities within the wellhead protection area.

GOAL: Cable's surface water is high quality and is managed at a watershed scale for proper hydrologic function that sustains the watershed's aquatic life.

OBJECTIVE: Prevent nonpoint source pollution through construction site and erosion control programs.

ACTION: Use public boat landings to distribute educational materials.

OBJECTIVE: Support Lake Districts' and Lake Associations' efforts to protect their surface water resources.

OBJECTIVE: Emphasize fish passage and long-term stream dynamics when designing new and replacement bridge crossings.

OBJECTIVE: Support conservation development designs that establish protection buffers around public waters (Example: encourage developers to design water capture instead of water runoff into a lake).

OBJECTIVE: Direct large-scale impactful commercial development away from area lakes that have no such development (Exception: home-based businesses that have no impacts on lake resources). *(Note: see "Shoreland Residential" future land use category in "Land Use" element for discussion on small-scale commercial resorts)*

ACTION: Develop a lake or river protection plan through a WI DNR grant.

OBJECTIVE: Work cooperatively with the Town of Cable Sanitary District to evaluate stormwater run-off issues in the Cable downtown area and develop a long-term management plan.

OBJECTIVE: Maintain a sustainable aquatic invasive species (AIS) control program for local lake waters (i.e., Clean Boats, Clean Waters).

ACTION: Develop lakeshore trails on any of the Town of Cable's lakes to highlight and educate about water-related features.

GOAL: The rich cultural diversity and history of Cable is readily apparent to residents and visitors for their education and enjoyment.

OBJECTIVE: Support local artist projects (painting, sculpture, music) that demonstrate their passion for the arts and learning.

ACTION: When a local project is proposed, seek financial support through grants.

OBJECTIVE: Assist the promotional efforts by the Forest Lodge Library Board to improve the library's facility and function while retaining the library's historical significance to Cable.

OBJECTIVE: Continue to encourage Forest Lodge Library-sponsored conversations ("Community Conversations") that allow people to share perspectives on a variety of topics.

OBJECTIVE: Work with landowners to identify and protect specific natural or cultural locations in the Town for their scenic value.

ACTION: Designate unique visual scenery along travel routes as "rustic roads" to emphasize Cable's cultural history.

ACTION: Develop a walking tour of historic, cultural, or natural resources throughout the downtown Cable area.

OBJECTIVE: Increase the awareness of Cable's significant historical events with assistance from the Wisconsin State Historical Society Division of Historic Preservation and in cooperation with the Cable-Namakagon Historical Museum.

ACTION: Encourage community groups to identify historical sites and appropriate local properties and owners for historical markers or plaques.

ACTION: Develop a historic preservation ordinance to protect historic landmarks.

OBJECTIVE: Encourage publicly displayed art throughout Cable to depict the value of the Town's natural and cultural resources.

ACTION: Regularly recognize individuals for their contributions to and/or curation of Cable's culture and history.

## 5. Transportation

### Introduction

This element includes a compilation of background information, state and federal plans, goals, objectives, and actions to guide the future development and maintenance of transportation systems within the Town. This element also compares the Town’s transportation policies and programs to other local, state, and regional transportation plans as required under Wisconsin State Statutes 66.1001.

### Existing Conditions

Private vehicular travel is the primary form of transportation within the Town of Cable as few other forms of transportation are available. Public transit options are substantially limited due to the rural nature of the Town. However, strides are being made to make public transit more available to residents to address their social isolation.

The Town of Cable’s roadway network is comprised of 88.0 miles of highways and Town roads. Roads within the Town are classified by their functional use, indicating the type and amount of traffic they are intended to carry. **Table 5-1** indicates the function classification of Cable’s roadway network.

Within the Town of Cable, County Trunk Highway “M” is categorized as a “minor collector” road. This roadway corridor serves as the primary road route into, out of, and through the Town. The principal highway, U.S. Highway (USH) “63” carries the highest traffic numbers through the Town.

**Table 5-1: Functional Classification of Roads**

Classification	Roadway Miles	Percent of Total
Principal Arterials (USH 63)	6.5	7.4%
Major Collectors (State Highways)	0.0	0.0%
Minor Collectors (CTH M)	5.8	6.6%
Municipal Local Roads	75.7	86.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>88.0</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation

### Public Transit

Currently, Namakagon Transit has only a weekly route that travels through the Town of Cable. Namakagon Transit makes one stop in downtown Cable and connects to the public transportation system in Hayward, 17 miles south in Sawyer County. The Town, in conjunction with Bayfield County seeks to create greater transportation and transit alternatives through partnerships with Bay Area Rural Transit (BART) and other agencies, as needed.

### Bicycles

There are no dedicated on-road bicycle routes. Bicycling can occur on the Town streets but is limited due to the small overall scale of the Town. However, the Town's policy since 2000 is to reconstruct wider roads to accommodate bicycles, pedestrians, and other recreational uses.

### ATV/UTV and Snowmobile Routes

In 2012, Town roads were designated<sup>18</sup> to be ATV/UTV and snowmobile routes to facilitate vehicle movement to and within the Town of Cable.

### Railroads

There is no rail service in Cable.

### Air Transportation

The Cable Union Airport is in the eastern portion of the Town. The airport provides needed transportation alternatives for Cable, Drummond, and Namakagon. As more aircraft are registered and based in Cable, the Airport Commission strives to maintain the airport as a safe and functional flying destination while keeping it aesthetically pleasing and compliant with Federal Aviation Administration and Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics requirements.

### Commuting To Work

Commuting is the process of traveling between one's place of residence and regular place of work. According to the American Community Survey, 404 of the Town's residents were 16 years or older and working. About 84% of these residents traveled to work in a car, truck, or van, while 4.2% walked, and 10.4% worked from home. It takes an average of 16.6 minutes for residents to get to work (**Table 5-2**).

**Table 5-2: Commuting to Work**

Means of Transportation to Work	Percent Using Transportation Mode
Car, truck, or van -- drove alone	83.7%
Car, truck, or van – carpoled	13.8%
Public transportation (including taxicab)	0.3%
Walked	4.2%
Other means	1.4%
Worked at home	10.4%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	16.6

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020

<sup>18</sup> Refer to Town Ordinance No. 24-00 and Amendatory Ordinance No. 2022-11

### **State, Regional, and Other Transportation Plans**

State, regional, and county agencies have developed guidance and improvement schedules for roadways or infrastructure under their responsibility. It is important that the Town of Cable and these agencies continue communicating on proposed implementation schedules and coordinate local and regional activities. State, regional, and county plans are summarized to reflect their overlapping jurisdictional control or recommendations.

#### **Connect 2050**

Connect 2050 is a multimodal statewide long-range plan which will facilitate decision-making for improvements to and investments in all modes and means of transportation in Wisconsin, including cars, roads, transit, biking, walking, rail, aviation, and water transport. No conflicts with the Town of Cable comprehensive plan have been identified in association with Connect 2050.

#### **Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2030**

The Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2030 and its accompanying Environmental Evaluation (SEE) are the statewide long-range airport transportation plan. The identification of potential projects in the plan is not a commitment for federal or state project funding, nor does it provide project justification.

#### **Wisconsin Active Transportation Plan 2050**

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is updating the Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan and the Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan, which were adopted in 1998 and 2002, and combining them into the Wisconsin Active Transportation Plan 2050. The Active Transportation Plan will be a statewide long-range plan focused on human-powered modes of transportation, such as bicycling and walking. This plan will evaluate the state's active transportation opportunities and needs, resulting in policies and actions that will align with and further Connect 2050, Wisconsin's statewide long-range transportation plan.

#### **Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020**

The Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020 presents a blueprint for improving and expanding bicycle transportation routes throughout the state. No identified bicycle route expansion or development is detailed in this comprehensive plan for the Town of Cable. However, when Town, County, and state transportation roadways are reconstructed, development of bicycle lanes should be earnestly considered.

#### **Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan 2020**

This plan provides a statewide framework to increase walking and to promote pedestrian safety. The plan establishes goals, objectives, and actions regarding the provision of pedestrian accommodations that could be implemented. The plan also serves to help communities identify actions they can take to establish pedestrian travel as a viable, convenient, and safe transportation choice throughout Wisconsin. No specific recommendations exist in this comprehensive plan for the Town of Cable. However, when Town, County, and state transportation roadways are reconstructed, development of pedestrian access should be earnestly considered.

**Wisconsin State Freight Plan**

The State Freight Plan is a long-range multimodal plan that addresses the state's freight transportation needs and provides a vision for WisDOT's freight program for the next eight years. The State's Freight Plan is updated every four years so that it accurately reflects, considers, and addresses current and future freight needs. The current State Freight Plan was adopted in 2018.

**Wisconsin Rail Plan 2050**

The Wisconsin Rail Plan 2050 includes policies for railroad crossings, freight rail, Wisconsin's state-owned rail system, long distance passenger rail, intercity rail, and commuter rail. The plan will specifically discuss rail data trends, existing and possible future service levels, rail system conditions, and commodity freight movements. There are no foreseeable plans to expand rail lines into the Town.

**Wisconsin DOT Projects**

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) continually plans to update multiple roadways in the Cable area. A portion of U.S. Highway 63 from Drummond Lake Road to U.S. Highway 2 was reconstructed in 2022. Reconstruction included installing rumble strips, replacing culverts, adding gravel and rip rap to shoulders, replacing guardrails, and marking the pavement.

**Transportation Goals, Objectives, & Actions**

These goals, objectives, and actions are developed to assist with Town decisions that affect the transportation situations in Cable. The following guidance is displayed in a nested format to highlight how each item is related to the other items. The reader should refer to Footnote 2 in Chapter 1 to understand the hierarchy of this guidance.

***Transportation Vision Statement***

The Town of Cable's road network provides safe and efficient travel for both residents and visitors. Road conditions are appropriately maintained and constructed commensurate with their expected use. An effective public transportation system keeps residents connected to their surrounding community. Renowned and diverse trail mileage (both motorized and non-motorized) is unparalleled in providing entry to, and passage through the area's natural resources.

**GOAL:** The transportation system in the Town of Cable facilitates the safe and efficient movement of its citizens within the Town while preserving the identity of the community.

**OBJECTIVE:** Continue Town of Cable policies of open and clear right-of ways with proper slopes and drainage to provide safe and easily maintained roads.

**OBJECTIVE:** Design new Town road construction for road widths of 20 to 22 feet that safely allow multiple uses (i.e., pedestrians, bicycles, and other recreational users).



OBJECTIVE: Maintain existing, and design new, municipal parking sites to facilitate local economic development.

OBJECTIVE: Promote multiple use and minimize road use conflicts.

ACTION: Develop a courtesy travel code of ethics for the Cable downtown area and distribute it through the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses.

ACTION: When reconstructing Town roads, development of bicycle lanes should be earnestly considered.

GOAL: The Town of Cable is well-coordinated with other jurisdictions when maintaining, enhancing, and improving transportation services.

OBJECTIVE: Establish open lines of communication with Bayfield County, WisDOT, and local or regional transit authorities to maintain, enhance, and improve transportation facilities throughout the Town.

OBJECTIVE: Design a local network of roads that is connected, coordinated, and affordable, linking residents to important community facilities and regional highways.

ACTION: Improve safety for vehicle traffic, transportation users, and pedestrians, especially in thinking about the future expansion of businesses in the significant Cable travel corridors (south on Hwy 63 or east on Hwy M.)

ACTION: Advocate for desired travel corridor modifications (i.e., turn lanes, bicycle lanes) in coordination with WI Dept. of Transportation or Bayfield County.

ACTION: Develop ride-share site(s) to allow efficient use of transportation services. Identified possible ride-share sites include:

- the State wayside on Highway 63 South.,
- Town parking lot adjacent to restrooms
- the Cable Community Centre parking lot.

OBJECTIVE: Collaborate with Namakagon Transit, Bay Area Regional Transit (BART), or other public transportation providers, to provide reliable public transportation.

GOAL: Transportation improvements are a balance of environmental interest, transportation needs, and desired land uses (as described in the “future land use” section of the Land Use chapter).

OBJECTIVE: Plan, design, and construct transportation improvements that respect the natural environment and reflect the aesthetic character and cultural values of the Town.

**GOAL:** The future transportation system is flexible and provides diverse transportation opportunities for citizens, visitors, and businesses in the Town of Cable.

**OBJECTIVE:** Expand walking, bicycling, and motorized modes of transportation.

**ACTION:** Work with local businesses and organizations to develop pedestrian, bicyclist, and ATV/UTV/snowmobiles travel ways that facilitate movement around the Cable downtown area.

**ACTION:** Encourage trail connections in new developments and retain existing trail corridors to already established non-motorized and motorized trail systems.

**ACTION:** Develop bicycle and walking connectors from recreational hubs and residential areas to the Cable downtown area.

**ACTION:** Develop bicycle maps, historic walking paths, and neighborhood rides to assist visitor enjoyment of the downtown Cable community.

**OBJECTIVE:** Design multiple-use non-motorized corridors that connect Cable, Namakagon, and Drummond.

**OBJECTIVE:** Focus landscape design plans on signage in downtown Cable area that improves pedestrian safety and driver awareness.

**OBJECTIVE:** Develop airport facilities that support airplane travel commensurate to a runway of at least a minimum of 3,400 feet.

**ACTION:** Support airplane hangar expansion at the Cable Union Airport when a proposal is developed.

## **6. Utilities & Community Facilities**

### **Introduction**

This element contains a compilation of background information and existing condition of Cable's many utilities and community facilities that residents rely on for their day-to-day living and enjoyment. Goals, objectives, and actions are described to help guide the future maintenance and development of these utilities and community facilities. County and state policies are described related to their relevance to Cable.

The availability and level of utilities and community facilities vary greatly depending on ability to pay for them and citizen or taxpayer interest. This element is designed to assess the current utility and community facility situation and analyze its effectiveness in meeting the current and future demand. Utilities can shape the future development within our communities, as well as establish a community identity. Combined with roads, the construction, maintenance, and operation of utilities and community facilities are often the largest portion of a community's budget.

This section evaluates anticipated needs for utilities and community facilities serving the Town of Cable. Based on an inventory and assessment of the existing conditions, the plan recommends only minor improvements to ensure that services are adequate to meet local population demands over the next 20-year planning period. In most cases, existing services will continue to provide adequate serve to the community. However, as development patterns or other influences effect change, it may be necessary to recommend and/or implement improvements to such things as a municipal water supply, sewers, solid waste removal, recycling, parks, telecommunication facilities, power plants, cemeteries, health care facilities, fire and rescue services, libraries, schools, and other government facilities.

### **Existing Conditions**

High quality utilities and community facilities help increase property values, stabilize taxes, and positively affect many aspects of quality of life in a community. Utilities are those services that are overseen by the Town of Cable; hence they should be considered within local municipality control. Cable's utilities typically include infrastructure to bring a particular service to a Cable resident. For example, the Town Sanitary District has the authority to construct (and manage) sewer lines for public use through the alleys, streets, and public grounds of the Sanitary District.

Community facilities are public or quasi-public facilities that offer services to all residents and in some cases serve specific needs of a segment of the local population. Some community facilities such as health care and schools offer services to a population outside the corporate limits. For example, the Town of Cable relies on services of Bayfield County, the Forest Lodge Library, a joint library with the Town of Namakagon and adjoining school districts. The Forest Lodge Library's services primarily serve full-time residents, but many library services are available to part-time residents and visitors. Even those visitors passing through Cable can access many library services (for example, scanning documents and sending those documents via email). Recreation-related facilities in the Cable area

(particularly trail systems) are typically owned/managed by non-governmental entities (e.g., non-profit or volunteer organizations) – these facilities are discussed in the “Recreation” chapter.

## Utilities

### *Telecommunication Services*

CenturyLink, Alliance Communication, and Norvado provide telephone services. These providers also offer other amenities, such as broadband internet services. Additionally, national telephone companies provide long distance and internet services.

Access to wireless communication facilities is becoming more and more important to Cable’s economic development. Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not expected that the Town of Cable will engage in the development of its own communication facilities. However, it is expected the Town will actively participate in discussions and planning with local communication providers and Bayfield County to ensure that area residents have access to the latest technology. Any future siting of these facilities should be in the best interest of the Town.

### *Power Substations, and Transmission Lines*

Substations are industrial installations at which electricity is received from one or more power stations for conversion, reducing the voltage or switching before distribution by a low-tension network for general consumption. Cable has an electric substation and transmission lines that transmit power to other communities. The Town’s electric demand is served by the 161/69 kV Bay Front-Stone Lake line via a distribution substation on the east side of Cable.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, the Town does not anticipate the development of their own power plants, substations, or transmission lines. Transmission lines are the largest electric lines in the landscape. These lines generate the most public interest because they are the most noticeable electric lines and because of the potential human and animal hazards that can be associated with them. Transmission lines transport electricity from power plants to substations and operate at several thousand volts. They often stand between 60 and 100 feet tall and serve several hundred thousand customers. However, the Town will continue to coordinate and discuss future development of power plants, substations, or transmission lines with electrical power providers proposing such facilities to ensure the local quality of life and environmental integrity is not harmed due to poor design or siting of facilities.

### *Electricity and Natural Gas*

Xcel Electric and Bayfield Electric Cooperative provide electricity to most of the Town’s residents and businesses.

Propane utilities are available in the Town. Como Oil and Propane is a local propane provider, but Cable is served by several other propane providers in the region. In the next 20 years, it is expected the Town will engage in discussions and planning with companies providing or proposing propane storage and distribution facilities to ensure siting is done in the best interests of the community.

#### *Sanitary Sewer Service*

The Town of Cable has a small sanitary district that provides services to a portion of the Town of Cable (primarily Section 18). Wastewater is collected and transported to a community-wide wastewater treatment plant northwest of Cable's town center.

In areas outside of Section 18, residents use on-site septic systems to treat their residential or business wastewater. Many innovative designs for septic systems are making it possible for them to be installed in areas with shallow soils or other environmental conditions that would make it difficult for a traditional system to be installed.

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (COMM) regulates the siting, design, installation, and inspection of most private on-site sewage treatment systems in the state. In 2000, the state adopted a revised private system policy called COMM 83 that allows for conventional systems and advanced pre-treatment systems. Under COMM 83, Bayfield County regulates on-site sewage treatment systems through sanitary codes. All private domestic wastewater must enter a private sewage system unless the County grants an exception. Holding tanks are a method of last resort. If any COMM 83 approved system can be installed, a holding tank will not be allowed.

#### *Stormwater Management*

Most of Bayfield County uses ditches and culverts to route and manage stormwater. For new developments that will disturb an acre or more of land, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requires landowners to obtain a stormwater discharge permit and have an erosion control plan in place. County-wide, there are increased concerns regarding new development's impacts on storm water erosion and the sediments that are carried into the lakes, rivers, streams, and other receiving water bodies. The Town of Cable must work cooperatively with the DNR and Bayfield County to mitigate the adverse impacts of stormwater runoff and ensure that environmental resources are adequately protected. Reviewing construction site erosion control, stormwater management practices and regulations is an important first step in reducing site erosion and storm water management issues. Implementation of NR216 and following Best Management Practices on construction sites can help minimize the possible impact of runoff to local waterways.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, stormwater management will likely become an issue in the Town of Cable as continued development occurs. The current sanitary sewer system has limited capacity to accept stormwater run-off.

#### *Water Supply*

Bayfield County residents receive their water from groundwater sources. These sources include drilled, dug, or screened wells, including those with or without gravel packs.

Unincorporated community residents rely on private wells to obtain their water. The County requires that all new wells must be permitted. These wells utilize groundwater for the water source. In general,

private wells are not nearly as deep as municipal wells and are therefore more susceptible to contamination from surface water flow. Property owners are encouraged to protect surface and ground water from contamination.

High-capacity water wells at Mt. Telemark Village are also using groundwater to support the existing facilities as well as snowmaking operations.

#### *Solid Waste*

Solid waste, or garbage disposal, is important to the health and quality of life of residents and business owners. Private property owners must contract their own solid waste collector. All local landfills in Bayfield County have been closed. Most local communities send solid waste to a local transfer station facility where the materials are stored and then transferred to regional landfills in Sarona, Wisconsin or Ontonagon, Michigan.

Many communities maintain their own transfer site locations. Cable's transfer site allows people to come and drop off their solid waste, recycling materials, white goods (i.e., appliances), and yard waste. People are charged a small per bag fee for non-recycled materials. In the future, an opportunity to partner with adjoining townships to participate in the collection and recycling of yard waste may be possible.

The County also tries to provide an annual special collection program to recycle hazardous household products, appliances, computers, and tires. Cable typically has such an annual event to encourage residents to eliminate needless trash and special items.

#### *Recycling*

Wisconsin State Statute 287 encourages waste reduction and recycling in the state by requiring that certain items be recycled. This law assigns responsibilities for recycling to municipalities and provides grant assistance to support local recycling programs.

All municipalities in Bayfield County have developed and now manage a recycling program. Under these programs each municipality arranges for transport of recyclables to processors and pays the cost for materials delivered from their municipality. These costs are in turn paid through tax levy appropriations, grants, and other fees implemented through local budgeting procedures. Cable has a drop-off program for free at a local recycling center/local transfer station. Cable residents can also negotiate contracts with haulers to provide a curbside recycling program.

Over the next 20-year planning horizon, it is not anticipated the Town will provide its own curbside pickup of garbage, recyclables, brush, or white-goods. The Town will continue to provide additional options for waste management and services through its recycling center if the cost to provide these services continues to be financially efficient.

#### *Telecommunication Facilities*

Connectivity to local, regional, and even global locations is important for individuals in terms of quality of life and public safety, but this is also vital to business survival. Local telephone, internet services, and television services within the Town of Cable are provided primarily by CenturyTel and Norvado.

Wireless telephone service is available throughout most of the County. Two cell phone towers exist in the Cable area: one in downtown Cable and another tower located approximately three (3) miles south of Cable. There are several dead areas, however. Additional towers have been constructed over the past several years, but there are still significant areas that do not have cellular coverage.

#### **Community Facilities**

##### *Cemeteries*

The Town of Cable has two cemeteries. The known cemeteries obtained from the Bayfield County USGENWEB are the Cable Township/St. Anne's Catholic Cemetery and the Greenwood Cemetery. Smaller cemeteries, family plots on private property, and Native American burial sites are not listed for privacy reasons.

##### *Dams*

Bayfield County is in a water-rich area of Wisconsin, and for this reason, it has quite a few dams. However, the Town of Cable does not own or maintain any of them.

##### *Law Enforcement*

There are several law enforcement departments that serve Bayfield County and its communities. At the state level, the State Patrol primarily monitors and enforces traffic regulations on the State Highways through Bayfield County. Incorporated communities throughout Bayfield County primarily rely on local law enforcement agencies and departments to protect their communities. Unincorporated communities, however, rely on the Bayfield County Sheriff's Department to protect their communities. Therefore, a great deal of communication and coordination occurs with Bayfield County for this service in these communities. The Bayfield County Sheriff's Department is responsible for providing 24-hour service to an area that covers 1,500 square miles. The Town also hires a Community Service Officer for basic law enforcement issues.

Bayfield County Emergency Management provides additional support to the County's emergency response providers and local governments through emergency operations planning, training, coordination, crisis response, and recovery.

##### *Fire & Rescue*

Fire protection within Bayfield County is handled by 16 fire departments. Wildfires are typically handled by the DNR. Many of the dispatch services for fire departments are handled by Bayfield County. The Cable Fire Department is an all-volunteer department that provides 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, fire and rescue services to the Town of Cable. The fire department's primary jurisdiction is the

72 square miles that make up the Town of Cable. Cable Fire Department also provides mutual aid assistance to its neighboring fire departments. This service is anticipated to continue over the next 20 years and will be expanded if community demand warrants it.

Nine (9) ambulance services in Bayfield County provide emergency medical responses. These come from Ashland, Barnes, Bayfield, Great Divide, Iron River, Mason, South Shore, Red Cliff, and Washburn. The Town of Cable is serviced by the Great Divide Ambulance service. This is the first ambulance service in the state to provide high quality hybrid service that provides EMT and Paramedic care to the region, bringing quality service unusual for a community the size of Cable.

#### *Medical/Health Care Facilities*

As the population of Bayfield County ages, medical facilities are becoming increasingly important assets to local communities. There are no hospitals in Bayfield County. People needing services provided by hospitals can use Memorial Medical Center in Ashland, the Hayward Area Memorial Hospital in Hayward, or St. Mary's in Superior. Helicopters are available from Superior and Duluth hospitals for extreme emergencies. The Bayfield County Health Department also provides immunizations and prenatal care coordination.

Several medical clinics existing in surrounding communities (Hayward, Iron River, Ashland). In addition, the Cable community benefits from the Fogarty Health Care Clinic (a weekly medical clinic) located in the downtown area, including chiropractic and "alternative medicine" providers. It is anticipated that the clinic will continue providing a much-needed service for the area residents.

#### *Assisted Living Facilities*

Senior care facilities are becoming an increasingly important regional asset to meet the changing needs of our aging population in a manner that permits residents to age with dignity. Many area residents who grew up and have spent a large portion of their lives in Bayfield County and the Cable area will wish to remain here during their retirement years. In addition, the rural atmosphere has led northern Wisconsin to attract a lot of transplant retirees. These individuals occasionally need assisted living facilities. Without an adequate supply of facilities to accommodate these individuals, Bayfield County and Cable could lose that segment of their population.

There are five assisted living facilities throughout Bayfield County. These are categorized into groups, described by the services they provide. Also listed are nearby facilities that provide home health services. The full list is shown in **Table 6-1**. Additionally, Adult Day Care (ADC) provides services for a portion of a day in group settings. These facilities are not licensed but may be certified. Adult Family Homes (AFH) provide residence care for up to four adults who are not related to the operator.



Table 6-1: Bayfield County Assisted Living Facilities

Facility Name	Address	Gender	Capacity
<b>Community Based Residential Facilities<sup>19</sup></b>			
The Oaks at Northern Lights	702 Bratley Dr Washburn, WI	M/F	17
Willow Manor	68290 N District St Iron River, WI	M/F	8
<b>Residential Care Apartment Complexes<sup>20</sup></b>			
Birch Haven North RCAC	320 Superior Ave Washburn, WI	M/F	13
Chequamegon Area Assisted Living	320 Superior Ave Washburn, WI	M/F	12
<b>Nursing Homes<sup>21</sup></b>			
Northern Lights Health Care Center	706 Bratley Dr Washburn, WI	M/F	50 beds
<b>Home Health Agencies</b>			
Avanti Home Care	1601 Beaser Ave Ashland, WI	M/F	NA
Interim Healthcare Lake Superior	322 West Superior St, Suite 204 Duluth, MN	M/F	NA
International Quality Homecare of Wisconsin LLC	15614 Windrose Ln, Suite 300 Hayward, WI	M/F	NA
St. Luke's Home Health Service	220 N 6th Ave East Hayward, WI	M/F	NA

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health & Family Services

NOTE: Sawyer County offers two geographically closer facilities for Cable residents' consideration (Aspen Acres Assisted Living and Water's Edge Senior Living – both located in Hayward, WI).

### Libraries

Bayfield County residents have several area libraries available to them throughout the County. The communities of Bayfield, Cable, Drummond, Iron River, and Washburn have public libraries. All these libraries are members of the Northern Waters Library Service. This system covers eight counties in northern Wisconsin and allows and assists libraries to share materials with each other to better suit the requests of the users. All five of these libraries are open at least five days per week, and provide internet access, books, magazines, newspapers, videos, and books on tape. With a population increase, there may be some deficiencies that these libraries face in terms of space needed to adequately serve their user population. Based on the above numbers, it appears that all libraries except the Drummond Public Library could use additional space to accommodate their service populations.

Cable residents prominently use the Forest Lodge Library, located right in Cable. The Forest Lodge Library is a joint library of the Cable and Namakagon communities and is located on County Highway M in downtown Cable. This facility is open six days per week and its services and programs are available

<sup>19</sup> Community-Based Residential Facilities (CBRF) are residential facilities serving five or more adults with treatment, care, and services that are beyond the room and board level.

<sup>20</sup> Residential Care Apartment Complexes (RCAC) are independent living facilities for five or more adults. These may be attached portions of nursing homes or community based residential facilities.

<sup>21</sup> Nursing Homes (NH) provide constant care to residents that have significant difficulty completing daily living activities.

to area patrons and visitors alike. The library shares a campus-like learning environment with the Cable Natural History Museum. This library facility is unique in that it is one of two log cabin libraries<sup>22</sup> in the State and is on the State Register of Historic Places.

### *Schools*

Bayfield County is served by a wide assortment of educational facilities at the elementary, primary, secondary, vocational, and postsecondary levels. In addition, some facilities offer preschool, kindergarten, special education, religious, business, industrial, trade and vocational training. Schools not only provide a place for education they also provide several recreational opportunities for the community and are an important source of employment.

Children that live in Cable attend the Drummond Area School District (**Table 6-2**).

**Table 6-2: Drummond Area School District Enrollment**

District	School	Grades	Type	Municipality	Enrollment
Drummond Area School District	Drummond Elementary	4K-6	Public	Drummond	162
	Drummond Junior High	7-8	Public	Drummond	50
	Drummond High	9-12	Public	Drummond	113
	<b>Total</b>				<b>325</b>

Some children in Cable are also homeschooled. In 2022-23, there were 45 children homeschooled who would qualify for public school enrollment in the Drummond Area School District. This equates to approximately 14 percent (14%) of the current public-school enrollment.

### *Colleges*

No adult education centers that offer higher education and continuing education classes and programs are located directly in Bayfield County. However, there are abundant opportunities through Northland College and Wisconsin Indian Technical College facilities in Ashland, and the University of Wisconsin-Superior, in the City of Superior. Additionally, the service provided by the available broadband internet provides users access to educational information from across the country and globe.

### *Child/Daycare Services*

Child-care facilities are an important community asset to many individuals. Dual-earner households with young children need daycare locations for their children if both parents are working. Single-parent households also need a place for their children to go when the parents go to work.

<sup>22</sup> The other log cabin library is in Wabeno, WI.

There are six licensed child-care facilities located throughout Bayfield County. A list of these is provided below in Table 6-3. Many of these facilities are family facilities, meaning they have a capacity of eight children or less. However, about half are group facilities, which allow for nine or more children. The status depends on the size of the facility and the staffing available during the hours of operation.

Many of the facilities listed below are in Ashland; however, they are listed under Bayfield County as well because they are the primary services for residents in Bayfield County.

**Table 6-3: Bayfield County Childcare Facilities**

Facility Name	Municipality
<b>Northwoods Preschool<sup>23</sup></b>	<b>Cable</b>
Smiling Faces Child Care-Preschool	Iron River
Family Forum Hs Center 5	Bayfield
Red Cliff Early Childhood Center	Bayfield
St. Louis Early Childhood Center	Washburn
Washburn Early Learning Center	Washburn

### Utilities and Community Facilities Goals, Objectives, & Actions

These goals, objectives, and actions are developed to assist with Town decisions that affect the utility and community facility situations in Cable. The following guidance is displayed in a nested format to highlight how each item is related to the other items. The reader should refer to Footnote 2 in Chapter 1 to understand the hierarchy of this guidance.

#### **Utilities and Community Facilities Vision Statement**

The Town of Cable's quality of life is enhanced by efficient, reliable, and appropriately priced utilities. Connectedness to the outside world is available through forward-thinking Internet and fiber optic coverage. Community facilities provide amenities and services in a pedestrian-friendly Town center while also providing infrastructure for highly reputed recreation events.

GOAL: Gray water from facilities does not adversely impact the high-water quality in the Cable area (see "surface water" goal in the "Agricultural, Natural, Cultural, & Recreational Resources" element).

OBJECTIVE: In association with Bayfield County, develop comprehensive gray water and storm surface water management plans for the Cable area to ensure high water quality.

GOAL: Essential health and emergency services are readily available to respond to the public health, safety, and welfare of the community.

<sup>23</sup> This preschool is now closed after being active from 1980-2021.

OBJECTIVE: Ensure appropriate emergency assistance (e.g., police, fire, rescue, hazardous event responders and emergency medical services) are sustainable to provide long-term service to the community.

ACTION: Ensure Town Board representation on the Great Divide Ambulance Board so the Town's expectations are well known.

OBJECTIVE: Support local health providers to provide responsive and effective health care and education facilities with the Town of Cable.

OBJECTIVE: Support the Cable Rod and Gun Club continued importance to the local law enforcement firearm training.

OBJECTIVE: Encourage community gatherings to address residents becoming potentially socially isolated (example: Cable Area Resources in Emergencies (CARE) community dinners allow people to interact with each other during the winter months).

GOAL: Community utilities, facilities, and services are well maintained and staffed to serve the needs of area residents.

OBJECTIVE: Regularly evaluate existing facilities, and potential new facility opportunities, for their effectiveness to serve the Cable community.

ACTION: Develop and catalog an inventory of equipment having the potential to be shared between units of the Town government.

ACTION: Encourage development of a preschool/day care facility within Cable

ACTION: Explore the feasibility of establishing a "drop in" senior center (providing care and companionship for older adults who need assistance or supervision during the day).

OBJECTIVE: Encourage use of Town services to support County-wide tourism efforts and promotional efforts through Chamber of Commerce.

OBJECTIVE: Coordinate with Forest Lodge Library, Bayfield County, and area school districts to ensure that Cable residents' library needs are satisfied.

OBJECTIVE: Collaborate with the Forest Lodge Library to ensure the community library is sustainable in providing a diversity of library-related services.

OBJECTIVE: Regularly communicate with area school districts to discuss potential changes in student enrollment and their effect on community facility growth and development.

GOAL: Utility infrastructure is in balance with environmental resources, especially when maintaining, rehabilitating, or expanding utility services or networks.

OBJECTIVE: Actively participate with energy entities when considering future development of energy-related infrastructure, including alternative energy (such as, solar arrays or wind turbines) to preserve the local quality of life, and ensure environmental integrity is not harmed due to poor infrastructure siting or design or siting.

ACTION: Develop electric vehicle charging stations throughout downtown Cable.

GOAL: Shared service agreements with neighboring communities provide appropriate public services.

OBJECTIVE: Regularly review existing shared service agreements to (a) assess their effectiveness in providing public services and (b) explore opportunities for additional joint community efforts to provide public services.

OBJECTIVE: When appropriate, enter into written agreements with other government jurisdictions or agencies to formalize arrangements that share services and facilities.

## **7. Intergovernmental Cooperation**

### **Introduction**

Per the requirements of Wisconsin's comprehensive planning legislation, this element of the comprehensive plan includes a compilation of goals, objectives, and actions for joint planning and decision making with other jurisdictions. Open communication and participation in land use and state-level transportation decisions, which may impact the Town, is an important priority for intergovernmental cooperation in the future.

This chapter takes a closer look at intergovernmental cooperation between Cable and adjacent local governmental units, school districts, the State of Wisconsin, and federal agencies. It also identifies existing and potential conflicts between the units of government, and some probable solutions to resolve those conflicts.

### **Adjacent Jurisdictions**

#### **Adjacent Towns**

The Town of Cable maintains a cooperative relationship with all adjoining towns. There were past issues regarding annexation with the surrounding townships; however, no current issues exist.

Overall, there are no major conflicts between the adjoining towns. Currently, the Town of Cable shares ownership of Great Divide Ambulance Service with the Towns of Namakagon, Drummond, and Grand View. The Cable Union Airport is also jointly owned with the Towns of Cable, Drummond, and Namakagon.

Existing and future land use activities and community facility developments are not anticipated to adversely impact the Town or its residents or property owners. As the need to provide services to an increasing population and resulting housing density, cooperative ventures between the Town of Cable and the adjacent towns must be explored.

#### **County and Regional Agencies**

The Town of Cable is in Bayfield County. Therefore, the Town and the County regularly interact on certain issues. The relationship between the Town and County can be characterized as one of "general agreement" characterized by open communication. Continued coordination and cooperation will be important when zoning is used as a tool to realize the vision statements of this plan.

For example, Bayfield County forest lands are in the Cable block of the County's Integrated Resource Management Unit 7 (5,475 acres). These forest lands contain much of the recreation trail mileage used by both non-motorized and motorized recreation users. Ski, bicycle, ATV/UTV, and snowmobile recreational trails within these forest lands are connected to surrounding trail systems and land ownership, requiring cooperation between the Town of Cable and several other jurisdictional entities as well as Bayfield County. Thus, it is crucial that communication is frequent and transparent as management considerations change for these forest lands.

**State Agencies**

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) are the primary state agencies the Town of Cable must coordinate with to achieve the goals and objectives of this plan.

*WDNR*

WDNR has a lead role in wildlife protection and the protection and sustained management of woodlands, wetlands, and other natural wildlife habitat areas. The activities of the WDNR are discussed further in the “Agricultural, Natural, & Cultural Resources” chapter of this plan. Additional information is also available on-line at [www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us).

*WisDOT*

WisDOT is also a key player in the planning and development of transportation facilities in the Town of Cable. WisDOT is primarily responsible for the maintenance of State Highways. For additional information about WisDOT activities in the Town of Cable, refer to the “Transportation” chapter of this plan. Additional information is also available online at: [www.dot.state.wi.us](http://www.dot.state.wi.us).

*Bureau of Aeronautics (BOA)*

BOA supports a network of commercial service airports and general aviation public-use airports (including the Cable Union Airport). The Cable Union Airport receives funding from BOA to meet air transportation needs responsibly and efficiently, while enhancing the economic vitality of Cable.

**Federal Agencies***Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)*

The FAA mission is to provide the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world. The Cable Union Airport receives funding from FAA as well as regulatory oversight.

*National Park Service (NPS)*

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world. The Town of Cable has worked closely with the NPS in managing the scenic designation of the Namekagon River portion of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.

**Possible Future Cooperation Efforts**

While none are currently identified, opportunities will be explored as future efforts may be identified.

### Existing/Potential Conflicts

Intergovernmental issues between municipalities sometimes surface over several different matters. The comprehensive planning process examined the existing and potential conflict situation(s) in the Town of Cable.

- **Existing Conflicts** - None currently identified.
- **Potential Conflicts** - None currently identified.

### Conflict Resolution Procedures

The Town recognizes the importance of coordinating with neighboring communities. If conflicts arise, initial attempts to resolve such conflicts could involve written or face-to-face communication between elected or appointed community officials. If these efforts do not result in a mutually satisfactory agreement, more formal conflict resolution methods could be explored, such as mediation or arbitration. Additional conflict resolution techniques are available in Wisconsin State Statute 802.12.

### Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals, Objectives, & Actions

These goals, objectives, and actions are developed to assist with Town decisions that affect the intergovernmental cooperation in Cable and surrounding governmental entities. The following guidance is displayed in a nested format to highlight how each item is related to the other items. The reader should refer to Footnote 2 in Chapter 1 to understand the hierarchy of this guidance. Finally, this element is organized by the different governmental levels, helping the reader understand how the guidance relates to a specific governmental level.

#### *Intergovernmental Cooperation Vision Statement*

The Town of Cable works in strong collaboration with the surrounding Towns of Drummond, Grand View, and Namakagon on topics/issues that jointly affect them. The Town of Cable demonstrates cooperative behavior when working with local school districts, Bayfield County, Wisconsin state agencies, and federal agencies.

GOAL: Cooperation and communication with area school districts, State agencies, neighboring towns, Bayfield County, Town government, federal agencies, and academic institutions are regular and transparent.

#### **School Districts**

OBJECTIVE: Assist with the changing needs of the Drummond Area School District to ensure a high-quality education.

OBJECTIVE: Involve the area school districts when considering proposed residential developments so the districts may provide input and plan accordingly.



**State agencies**

OBJECTIVE: Coordinate with WisDOT-Highways, WisDOT-Aeronautics, and WDNR to ensure transportation facilities comply with the Town’s goals and land use plans, are safe, and protect natural resources.

ACTION: Notify appropriate State agencies of proposed land use changes and development plans.

ACTION: Notify WisDOT when proposed development projects are adjacent to state trunk highways so they can plan accordingly for future improvements.

ACTION: Petition the BOA and FAA (in association with the Cable Union Airport Commission and the Towns of Drummond and Namakagon) for funding to support and improve the Cable Union Airport.

**Neighboring Towns**

OBJECTIVE: Proactively share community facilities and services with neighboring communities for mutual benefit (e.g., road development/maintenance, garbage collection, etc.).

ACTION: Continue cooperative multi-Town management of the Great Divide ambulance service and Cable Union Airport.

OBJECTIVE: Coordinate on multi-jurisdictional topics whenever possible.

ACTION: Stay apprised of equipment and services of adjacent jurisdictions when considering sharing equipment/services.

ACTION: Continue to participate/coordinate Four-Town meetings on a quarterly basis (or as needed).

ACTION: When collaborating on a multi-jurisdictional topic, establish intergovernmental cooperation memorandums of understanding with other government jurisdictions with the Town of Cable.

OBJECTIVE: Proactively identify existing or potential conflicts between local governmental units, including future land use trends, to minimize conflicts.

ACTION: Establish a local conflict resolution process (if needed) with adjoining and overlapping jurisdictions.

**County Government**

OBJECTIVE: Cooperatively work with Bayfield County and the surrounding Towns on land use and zoning issues.

ACTION: Proactively address potential annexation and boundary adjustments with neighboring municipalities before they become an issue.

ACTION: Use the Forest Lodge Library to display and distribute educational materials available to the public from local agencies (e.g., UW-Extension, Bayfield County Land and Water Conservation, etc.).

ACTION: Actively participate in decisions related to Bayfield County forest management and its related recreational services (trails, yurts, etc.).

OBJECTIVE: Coordinate transportation needs and improvements with the County to ensure the established goals and land use plans for the Town of Cable are adequately met.

OBJECTIVE: Leverage Bayfield County authority to provide desired resources at the Town level.

ACTION: Request Bayfield County grants to continue conducting household and agricultural chemical hazardous waste Clean Sweep programs.

ACTION: Request that Bayfield County initiate an annual County-wide recycling program for unused pharmaceuticals in cooperation with local pharmacies, medical centers, and veterinarians.

ACTION: Request that Bayfield County provide a permanent County household hazardous waste drop-off site for use by all County residents.

ACTION: Request Bayfield County grants that assist with “community improvement” (examples include housing, economic development, transportation, and downtown revitalization).

OBJECTIVE: Continue to offer quality Cable Gun Club facilities for law enforcement firearm training.

**Town Government**

OBJECTIVE: Facilitate communication between the Town Board and its governing bodies: Plan Commission, Fire Department, Sanitary District, Forest Lodge Library Board of Trustees, and the Airport Commission.

**ACTION:** Disseminate information through multiple media platforms to the public regarding information/issues related to the Town’s governing bodies.

**OBJECTIVE:** Determine suitable locations for public and quasi-public facilities (e.g., parks, schools, libraries, and healthcare facilities) through cooperation with other local governments, Town governing bodies (i.e., school and library board), and private service providers.

**Federal Government**

**OBJECTIVE:** Actively cooperate in protecting the environmentally sensitive areas within federal agencies’ jurisdiction/responsibilities.

**ACTION:** Explore hiking trail development through NPS land along the Cable portion of the scenic Namekagon riverway to enhance non-motorized recreation opportunities within the Town.

**University of Wisconsin**

**OBJECTIVE:** Continually support the Northwoods Economic Development Council, the WI-Extension Housing Specialist (Bayfield County), or other WI-Extension initiatives to promote economic development in the Cable area.

## **8. Economic Development**

### **Introduction**

This element assesses categories or types of existing and new businesses and industries desired by the Town, assess strengths and challenges with respect to attracting and retaining businesses and industries, and shall designate an adequate number of sites for such businesses and industries. County, regional and state economic development programs that apply to the Town shall also be identified.

### **Existing Conditions**

Cable's existing economic well-being is premised on the quality of life experience in the area. Residents and visitors have access to a diverse suite of amenities and retail services found only in a larger community.

### **A Unique Quality of Life**

In many respects, the quality of life enjoyed by the Cable area residents is unique as displayed by the following "strength" characteristics:

- An excellent public school system PreK-12
- Access to Bayfield County forest lands and Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest
- Lakes and scenic river ways
- Resorts, cabins, and camping
- Retail business offering a wide range of high-quality products made by local artisans.
- Restaurants and recreational activities
- Access to a full range of medical services
- Clean air, clean water and people who care.

### **Economy**

Cable's solid Northwoods economy is represented by:

- A vibrant downtown where small, locally owned businesses provide connecting points to bring people together.
- Vacation resorts, retail shops, trail systems for both silent and motorized sports
  - Recreation events for both silent and motorized sports help support local businesses by bringing visitors to the Town, attracting them to shop for supplies or pleasure.
- A creative environment for sculptors, painters, photographers, potters as well as other artists and artisans
- Government activities associated with education and natural resources management
- Construction and its supporting elements
- Local auto repair, grocery, and hardware stores
- Quality workforce

Overall, the Town of Cable is like other rural towns in the northern third of Wisconsin with its reasonably stable population (see Figure 2-3 for Cable's age distribution). The American Community Survey shows the Town of Cable unemployment was 3.6 percent (3.6%) as compared to Bayfield County's 4.6 (4.6%) percent (as of April 2020). Also, over 94.1% of residents of the Town of Cable possessed at least a high school diploma (See Figure 2-5).

The median household income in the Town of Cable is \$47,313, while Bayfield County's median household income is \$57,257 and Wisconsin's state-wide median income being \$63,293 (See Figure 2-6).

#### Labor Force Profile

Labor force characteristics reflect the Town of Cable's high median age (**Table 8-1**). Nearly 66% of the population of the Town of Cable, 16 years and over, are in the labor force.

**Table 8-1: Labor Characteristics**

Characteristic	Town of Cable	Bayfield County	Wisconsin
Total Population	853	16,217	5,895,908
Civilian Labor Force	639	13,620	4,773,326
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	4.6%	3.5%
Labor Participation Rate	65.6%	55.7%	65.1%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher (25 & over)	27.0%	33.5%	32.5%
Cost of Living Index	-	92.7	89.9
Median Household Income (2020)	\$47,313	\$57,257	\$63,293
Poverty Rate	10.7%	10.9%	10.8%
Median Age	58.9	52.8	40.1

Source: American Community Survey 2016-2020

#### Current Businesses/Industry/Government

There are several large employers<sup>24</sup>/businesses located in the Town of Cable, including Norvado (a technology provider), Rondeau's Shopping Center, and Cable Lumber and Home. There are also several small businesses that employ persons in the services, retail, realtors, restaurant, museum, grocer, hardware, banking, tavern, outdoor recreation, logging, vehicle service, car dealership and specialty services. Also, many local, county, state, and federal government employees live and work in the Town of Cable.

<sup>24</sup> It should be recognized that Lakewoods Resort also employs many Cable residents – it is in the Town of Namakagon.

The Town of Cable has several healthy businesses and industries where Cable’s natural and cultural resources are the driving economic factor. For example, the tourism industry can participate in the following:

- Canoe the scenic Namekagon River;
- Experience outdoor activities in the 850,000 acres of public forests;
- Golf on one of several courses in the area;
- Cross-country ski the world famous Birkebeiner Trail or North End Ski Trails;
- Shoot trap, skeet and sporting clays ranges at the Cable Rod and Gun Club;
- Snowshoe, snowmobile, or use ATV/UTVs on area trails;
- Mountain bike on over 300 miles of mountain biking trails;
- Visit the Cable Natural History Museum or Cable/Cable Historical Museum;
- Read at the Forest Lodge Library;
- Attend the Chequamegon Children’s theatre productions; or
- Participate in a conference or program with Telemark Education Foundation.

The ripple effect of this tourism is felt by the local grocer, retail businesses, restaurants, service stations, lodging facilities, etc.

Residents have easy access to current businesses as well as other service businesses in Town, as the downtown is compact. The downtown is diverse but is also partially dependent upon the tourism seasons for continued success. Several retail businesses depend on a customer base of year-round and part-time residents and vacationers. These retailers promote Cable as a shopping destination to attract visitors. These businesses employ primarily part-time people from the immediate area.

The increasing retiree population offers volunteer service opportunities while contributing to the intellectual and community resources.

The top three industries that Cable residents were employed are listed in Table 8-2:

**Table 8-2: Top employment industries in Cable**

<b>Employment industry</b>	<b>Percent (%) of employment</b>
“Educational services, health care, and social assistance”	17
“Retail”, plus “arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services”	32

Source: 2020 United States Census

Detailed information about the Town’s labor force is presented in the “Issues and Opportunities” chapter. The labor force is that portion of a population that is 16 years or older who are employed, or

unemployed but actively seeking employment opportunities. Business owners find it helpful to know information about the population that will be depended on to fill open positions in the future.

**Table 8-3: Labor Force Participation**

Labor Force	2010	2020
Persons 16 and over	741	639
In Labor Force	427	419
Percent in Labor Force	57.6%	65.6%
Employed	375	404
Unemployed	52	15
Percent Unemployed	7.0%	2.3%

#### **Brownfield Redevelopment Sites**

Cable's past economic activities have created contaminated properties requiring clean-up and redevelopment actions. A search of the WDNR Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS) database revealed that the Town of Cable has nine (9) "Closed" sites. This means that the sites have been satisfactorily cleaned according to state standards. One site, however, is labeled "Continuing Obligations Apply," meaning continued clean-up actions apply.

#### **Education**

The Cable area is proud of the fine education children receive from the Drummond Area School District:

- Students perform at or above state and national levels on the ACT;
- there are small class sizes;
- 75 percent (75%) of the graduates attend either a two- or four-year college; and
- there is a short commute to colleges and continuing education.

#### **Opportunities, Challenges, and Constraints**

The availability of quality natural resources within the Town of Cable offers a wide array of outdoor recreational opportunities that support the local tourism industry.

Because the local economy is primarily based on tourism, many jobs in Bayfield County are lower paying jobs in the service and retail trade sectors. That fact likely accounts for the Town of Cable lower than the statewide average Median Household Income (MHI) levels (See Figure 2-6). The lower wages from these jobs challenge households to afford basic needs, including housing, goods, and services. On the other hand, Bayfield County does not have an excess of qualified workforce to fill the available jobs within the area; and, as a result, many employers, to attract employees, are beginning to pay more for the same work than they paid in past years. There is clearly an upward pressure on the hourly rate of pay for lower wage jobs in Bayfield County as employers compete to attract workers. Bayfield County employers may soon feel a tangible impact from the upward pressure on wages; however, such jobs in

Bayfield County typically lack fringe benefits, which are often costly to employers. Cable's wage earnings are similar to the County's.

### **Economic Development Programs**

Several regional, state, and federal economic development related programs are available to the Town of Cable, surrounding communities, Bayfield County, local economic development organizations, and/or local businesses.

#### **Bayfield County Economic Development Corporation**

The Bayfield County Economic Development Corporation (BCEDC) provides economic development services to the communities of Bayfield County. It plays a coordinating role for economic development issues that affect Bayfield County and its communities, helps with retention and recruitment, and assists in marketing the County to business and industry. The corporation has a revolving loan fund, provides site selection services for industrial and technology parks, and can be a conduit for state and federal funding.

BCEDC staff and board offer the following services:

- Business Planning
- Funding Assistance
- Coaching and Mentoring
- Marketing Assistance
- Site Selection
- Business Advocacy
- Management and Staff Training
- Workforce Search
- Single point contact for referrals to local, regional, and nationwide resources
- Online services related to business resources, business bookstore, export, agriculture business, stimulus funding, nonprofit, business start-up, business finance, legal, marketing, statistics, and industry specific
- BCEDC has additional online data related to:
  - Planning
  - Statistics

Additional information can be obtained at: [bayfieldcountyedc.com/](http://bayfieldcountyedc.com/). To contact BCEDC, write to:

BEDEC  
409 West Bayfield Street  
PO Box 704  
Washburn, Wis. 54891



**Northwood Technical College**

Northwood Technical College (NTC) provides educational programs in support of business and industry in the region, including customized training and technical assistance programs. It also runs an affiliate center of the Northwest Wisconsin Manufacturing Outreach Center which helps manufacturers access and use modern tools and strategies.

- NTC offers over 100 career programs and over 60 certificates
- Ashland, WI is home to a NTC campus
- 24-Hour Phone: (800) 243-9482
- Additional information can be obtained at: [northwoodtech.edu/](http://northwoodtech.edu/)

**Northwest Regional Planning Commission**

On a multi-county level, the Northwest Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission conducts economic development, transportation planning, and project development. The Commission is designated as an economic development district by the Economic Development Administration. It is required to undertake economic development planning and project identification for ten (10) northwest Wisconsin counties and the tribal nations of Bad River, Red Cliff, Lac du Flambeau, Lac Courte Oreilles, and St. Croix. The Commission provides local economic strategies, industrial site analyses, economic development financing, County economic and population profiles, and community and industrial park profiles.

NWRPC staff provides the following services:

- Planning
- Grant Writing
- Revolving Loan Fund Administration
- Additional information can be obtained at: [nwrpc.com/](http://nwrpc.com/)

To contract, write or call:

NWRPC:  
1400 South River Street  
Spooner, WI 54801  
(715) 635-2197

**Realtors Association of Northern Wisconsin**

The Realtors Association of Northern Wisconsin is the local association of real estate brokers. This organization plays an important supportive role in economic development by providing access to the real estate market and relocation services for business and people.

**U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA)**

The EDA offers two programs for assistance with economic development that apply to the County and municipalities within the County where partnerships can be formed:

1. The Public Works and Economic Development Facilities Assistance Program, which supports the construction or rehabilitation of essential public infrastructure and development facilities necessary to generate private sector jobs and investment, including investments that support technology-led development, redevelopment of brownfield (contaminated) sites, and eco-industrial development.
2. The Economic Adjustment Assistance Program is available to:
  - a. address the immediate needs of businesses and communities presently undergoing transition due to a sudden and severe job loss; and
  - b. demonstrate new and proactive approaches for economic competitiveness and innovative capacity for threatened regions and communities.

**Rural Development**

The USDA Rural Development Community Facility Loan Program provides funds to local units of government to construct, enlarge, extend, or otherwise improve community facilities providing essential services in rural areas and towns.

**Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation**

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) leads economic development efforts for the state by providing resources, operational support and financial assistance to companies, partners, and communities in Wisconsin. Working with more than 600 partners across the state, including regional economic development organizations, academic institutions, and industry clusters, WEDC develops and delivers solutions that help businesses, communities and people maximize their potential in Wisconsin.

**Wisconsin Department of Transportation**

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation administers the Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA) Program. The TEA Program provides matching state grants to governing bodies for road, rail, harbor, and airport projects that help attract employers to Wisconsin, or encourage business and industry to remain and expand in the state. The goal of the TEA program is to attract and retain businesses in Wisconsin and thus create and increase the number of jobs. The business cannot be speculative and local communities must ensure that the number of jobs anticipated from the proposed project will materialize within three years of the date of the project agreement and remain for another four years.

**Enterprise Development Zone Program**

The Enterprise Development Zone Program provides tax incentives to new or expanding businesses whose projects will affect distressed areas. Based on the economic impact of a proposed business project, the Wisconsin Department of Commerce will be able to designate an enterprise development zone. A zone is "site specific" and applies to only one business. To participate in the program, a business should work with one of Commerce's Area Development Managers and complete a prospect

data sheet to submit to the Department. Projects must affect distressed areas suffering from high unemployment, low-incomes, declining population, and declining property values.

### **Community Development Zones**

The Wisconsin Community Development Zone Program can help to expand businesses, start a new one, or relocate a current business to Wisconsin. The Community Development Zone Program is a tax benefit initiative designed to encourage private investment and to improve both the quality and quantity of employment opportunities.

### **Economic Development Goals, Objectives, & Actions**

These goals, objectives, and actions are developed to assist with Town decisions that affect the economic development conditions in Cable. The following guidance is displayed in a nested format to highlight how each item is related to the other items. The reader should refer to Footnote 2 in Chapter 1 to understand the hierarchy of this guidance.

#### ***Economic Development Vision Statement***

The Town of Cable is a vital and attractive community working together to provide a healthy, diverse, stable economy that preserves our Northwoods resources, lifestyles, and attitudes for our current and future populations. The Town leverages its natural resource assets to attract economic opportunities (i.e., desirable living environment for telecommuters). Retail businesses are appropriate to Cable's long-standing character, receiving vibrant support from permanent/part-time residents and visitors. Employment opportunities are sustainable, appropriately compensated, and attractive for long-term residency. Businesses offer a diverse mix of employment opportunities, including service, retail, commercial, and industrial.

**GOAL:** Economic development is diverse (i.e., not just tourism-centric), maintains scenic views and local community character, has a low-impact on the environment, and is well-supported by the Town, thus enhancing its sustainability.

**OBJECTIVE:** Encourage Eco-friendly tourism.

**OBJECTIVE:** Emphasize diverse, local, family-owned businesses with year-round employment.

**OBJECTIVE:** Actively seek health care facilities and/or other senior services in the Town of Cable to serve the community's senior population.

**OBJECTIVE:** Emphasize technology opportunities to future business development, highlighting the telework niche that Cable provides.

**ACTION:** Establish an effective partnership with Norvado to allow a Northwoods lifestyle while keeping a strong technological connection with the world.

OBJECTIVE: Support home-based businesses in residential areas provided they fit into the character of the neighborhood.

OBJECTIVE: Provide guidance for property owners who wish to use their residential structures as a short-term rental (*NOTE: Bayfield County issues short-term rental permits; property owners with permitted short-term rentals are expected to comply with Town of Cable guidance and pay the requisite room tax to the Town Treasurer*).

OBJECTIVE: Actively promote public recreational opportunities in the Town of Cable (as well as the surrounding areas).

OBJECTIVE: Partner with existing and new companies to seek financial assistance and/or incentives (i.e., State, and federal grants, low interest loans and other relevant financial instruments) that sustain and/or create economic opportunities.

ACTION: Continue membership in the Connect Communities program through the WEDC, connecting local businesses with financial resources to maximize their potential.

OBJECTIVE: Regularly engage businesses to use Town-adopted architectural and site design guidance that highlight the historic and natural resource-based nature of Cable (examples: visually appropriate building materials, buffer zones, setbacks from natural resources, signage, lighting, landscaping, Green or LEED certification features, energy efficiency, etc.).

ACTION: Create an ordinance to address recreational vehicles or other types of temporary/nonpermanent structures not consistent with Cable's character.

OBJECTIVE: Provide existing businesses with the necessary services and utilities are the lowest possible cost to enhance retention.

OBJECTIVE: Recommend new commercial development be built within or with access to the sanitary district service area.

ACTION: Utilize available tools and resources to eliminate blighted areas and/or revitalize the downtown area.

OBJECTIVE: Market downtown Cable as a distinct opportunity for commercial and service businesses and housing.

OBJECTIVE: Locate commercial strip development to existing commercial areas.

ACTION: Limit new commercial and industrial activities to appropriate areas displayed on the Future Land Use Map to minimize adversely impacting residential areas.

OBJECTIVE: Actively promote downtown beautification and associated downtown aesthetic opportunities.

OBJECTIVE: Coordinate economic development planning between active local and regional partners.

GOAL: Job opportunities in the Cable area appeal to young professionals and their families or the community's retiree population.

OBJECTIVE: Partner with local businesses and influential citizens to market Cable economic opportunities at young professionals.

ACTION: Complete a survey of the Cable senior population that evaluates their skills and resources, as well as their service needs.

ACTION: Use the Cable senior population survey to identify appropriate services and employment opportunities.

ACTION: Complete a survey of Cable's young professional families that evaluates what attracted them to Cable, what is needed to attract other young professionals, and identify missing resources that affect Cable's attractiveness for young professionals.

OBJECTIVE: Promote the Cable area's telecommuting capabilities and opportunities at local and regional economic development events.

ACTION: Create a pamphlet highlighting Cable's telecommuting capabilities and opportunities with the Chamber of Commerce.

**Commented [VE1]:** Norvado had a pretty slick "commercial". I wonder how they have used that, if they still are...

## 9. Land Use

(TO BE UPDATED WITH MAPS OF EXISTING AND FUTURE LAND USES)

### Introduction

The Land Use Chapter provides important background data, analyzes trends, and define future needs related to land use. This information serves as the foundation for the development of goals, objectives, and actions. This land use element must be defined and utilized in conjunction with the other planning elements (including Recreation) and will serve as a guide to future growth and development within the Town of Cable.

Defining appropriate land use involves more than making ecological and economical choices. It is also about retaining values, lifestyles, cultural assets, and community character. The planning of future land uses is sometimes perceived as an intrusion on the rights of private property owners. The actual purpose of this activity is to protect the rights of the individuals and to give landowners, citizens, and local communities the opportunity to define their own destiny. As required, this Chapter contains a listing of the amount, type, and intensity of existing uses of land and discusses opportunities for redevelopment through future land uses within the Town. This chapter will contain a future land use map that identifies the community's vision for future land uses.

### Existing Land Use

The Town of Cable is largely forested. According to 2011 assessment records, over 65 percent (65%) of the Town is forested, with another 15 percent (15%) being undeveloped. Developed uses (residential, commercial<sup>25</sup>, and manufacturing) make up approximately nine percent (9%) of the Town's assessed acreage.

Between 2006 and 2011, 18 residential parcels were created, a 1.3 percent (1.3%) increase. Commercial parcels decreased by one, while there was no change in manufacturing.

When looking at land value assessments, some land is valued less in Cable than elsewhere in Bayfield County. Most of this likely has to do with high value lots and structures located along lakes in other communities throughout the County. All land classes saw increases in their value per acre from 2006 through 2011 in both the County and the Town of Cable.

### Future Conditions

New classifications for the land use categories have been developed in accordance with future demands and the vision<sup>26</sup> for the Cable. Below is an overview of each future land use category and intentions for future land use found within this plan. The use of land is the most important factor in managing the future growth of any community. Land use trends indicate what changes are occurring regarding type, location, and intensity of land uses over time. It is these changes that must be managed

<sup>25</sup> "Commercial" refers to businesses intended to make a profit.

<sup>26</sup> See each element's vision statement to understand the "vision" for Cable.

in a manner that is a sustainable balance of Cable's three primary components (e.g., People, Planet, Prosperity) to area residents and the environment.

Future land use activities and their resulting change to the landscape over the next 10-year period is difficult to predict. Changes in the local, regional, state, or national economy, natural disasters, and the overall change in year-round residents are some of the factors that will influence how land use activities may change in the future. Future land use changes for the period 2023 to 2033 have been developed to assist in predicting future development activities relating to Cable's agricultural, residential, and forestland use. According to the U.S. Census, the County will experience a small increase in total housing units and only a small increase in the total number of households; therefore, no significant land use changes associated with housing are anticipated. However, as Cable continues to be a recreation and tourism destination, it is expected that changes to land use will occur as more people become familiar with the community landscape.

Wisconsin Chapter 66.1001 requires local communities to explore and plan for redevelopment options and identifying potential smart growth areas. Smart Growth Areas are areas with existing infrastructure and services in places where development and redevelopment can be easily directed. These areas may also be recently developed land contiguous to existing development where public service costs are low, both now and into the future.

#### **Land Jurisdictions**

Cable has several jurisdiction ownership patterns that influence land use. As such, these jurisdictions are mapped separately from the below listed future land use categories. The surrounding landscape is dominated by public lands (federal, state, and county), comprising greater than 65% of the landscape. The overall purpose of these mostly forested public lands is to conserve and protect public forest lands for future generations<sup>27</sup>. As such, the public lands offer opportunities to responsibly harvest the existing resources (such as timber) while also providing access to desirable activities, such as camping, hunting, fishing, trail use (motorized and non-motorized) as well as simply enjoying the natural environment. It is important to understand that the Town of Cable does not have the authority to alter how these public lands are used.

The Town of Cable does have municipal property to support Town services. These properties may be individually owned by the Town of Cable or cooperatively owned with another government entity, such as an adjacent Town. Examples of Cable municipal property include:

- Town of Cable Office
- Cable Fire Hall/Station
- Cable Community Centre
- Town of Cable maintenance yard and garbage/recycling facility
- Cemeteries

<sup>27</sup> The reader is encouraged to review the land use plans associated with each jurisdiction to understand how those lands are to be managed.

- Cable Union Airport
- Town of Cable Sanitary District #1

**Future Land Use vs. Zoning**

Confusion can arise when comparing future land use categories to zoning regulations. Which of these planning instruments takes precedence in deciding whether land uses are to be approved/disapproved? Table 9-1 presents a comparison that clarifies how each planning tool is to be used in decision making.

**Table 9-1: Comparison of “future land use” and “zoning”**

Future Land Use	Zoning
<p>The Future Land Use Categories (plus Map) are planning tools required by state statutes to enact zoning. The categories are adopted by Town Board resolution as part of this Comprehensive Plan.</p> <p>The categories do not carry the weight of the law, but are <b>used as a guide</b> (i.e., does not require compliance) when making land use decisions. The Future Land Use Categories are <u>general in nature</u> and describe preferred land use actions and locations for those actions. However, Future Land Use Categories can highlight which land uses are inconsistent with the desired conditions described by the Comprehensive Plan.</p>	<p>Zoning is <b>the regulatory tool</b> to implement the Comprehensive Plan. It is adopted by ordinance and is an enforceable law.</p> <p>Zoning is the law regarding land use. It establishes districts with <u>specific regulations</u> for land use, lot sizes, setbacks, and heights. Zoning enforces compliance with acceptable land uses.</p>

**Future Land Use Categories**

The below future land use categories describe the desired housing density for a category where residential development is appropriate. The following definitions of residential housing density illustrate the expectations of how much open space should be available associated with a residential structure. Thus, a **minimum** parcel size to construct a residence is identified for each category. Additionally, the density definitions describe how close people may live to each other.

- **Dense Housing**
  - Zoning District R-1 – 30,000 sq ft lots in outlying neighborhoods, including lakeshore parcels
    - examples are Nordmore, Village Kame, Wilde River, Lake Districts
  - Zoning District R-4 – 20,000 sq ft lots in areas included in a Sanitary District or centralized sewer/water
    - examples are the Village (aka, Section 18) and existing condo developments



- **Standard Housing** - 30,000 sq ft to 2.5 acre lots
- **Rural Housing** - 2.5 to 4.9 acre lots
  - Zoning Districts R1 and R3
    - Examples are homes along Riverside Road, County Highway M, & Highway 63
- **Limited Housing** - 5 acre lots and larger
  - Zoning Districts R-2, AG, Forestry
    - Examples are the majority of the Town of Cable’s forested acreage.

A map showing where the future land use categories are located is under development.

*Agricultural*

Suitable lands allocated for ongoing, well-established agricultural uses as well as intended permanent agricultural use, including aquaculture.

Primary Use	Secondary Use	Minimum Parcel Size
Agriculture	“Limited Housing”	10 acres

**Intention**

Land is actively managed for agricultural purposes, including idle crop rotations and pastureland. Residences are present when they are associated with agricultural uses. As a means of protecting active agricultural land, the County should incorporate the Land Evaluation Site Assessment (LESA) tool<sup>28</sup>.

**Constraints**

- No commercial businesses are allowed other than farm-related business.
- No intense animal husbandry or fertilizer/herbicide/pesticide use adjacent to rivers, streams, and lakes.

*Conservation*

Natural resource areas reserved for conservation and public recreation. They include wetlands, steep slopes, rivers, lakes, streams, bluffs, floodplains. Other natural resource features may be determined as desired. These areas can also include parks and public (non-commercial) recreation areas.

Primary Use	Secondary Use	Minimum Parcel Size
See underlying zoning district	~	Not applicable

<sup>28</sup> In determining agricultural land evaluation, soils are rated and placed into groups ranging from the best to the least suited for a specific agricultural use, such as cropland, forestland, or rangeland.

**Intention**

These areas are prioritized for protection from development to remain in an undeveloped condition using special restrictions. However, these areas remain available for recreational use. Primary designation is for properties along the Namekagon River.

**Constraints**

- Residential development is inappropriate.
- When development is proposed, a master plan will be presented to the Cable Town Board prior to requesting a formal review by the County.

*Forested*

Land that has a predominant forested condition that includes woodlands, wetlands, and infrequent open spaces. The land is producing, or can produce, commercial forest products (if desired) when pursuing conservation objectives.

Primary Use	Secondary Use	Minimum Parcel Size
Forested landscape	"Limited Housing"	10 acres

**Intention**

Forested areas are kept intact for their aesthetic and recreational use opportunities (dispersed and trail-related, such as ATV/UTV, snowmobile, skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, etc.). These areas also provide "Limited Housing" opportunities (year-round homes or seasonal cabins). Additionally, forested land use areas may offer home-based recreation business opportunities if a residence is developed.

**Constraints**

- No commercial businesses.
- Employ view-shed standards to protect views.
- Encourage conservation design to protect natural resources, scenic qualities, recreation opportunities, and forestry activities.

*General Mixed Use*

Suitable lands allocated for a mixture of residential<sup>29</sup>, commercial<sup>30</sup>, governmental, and utilities. These areas are typically associated with unincorporated village centers, including those with central utilities.

<sup>29</sup> See "Residential" future land use category below for details.

<sup>30</sup> Commercial opportunity within the Town of Cable should be confined to:

- South along Kavanaugh Road to Philippi Road
- North along Kavanaugh Road to Perry Lake Road
- East from the Town Recreation Park on Cable Sunset Road, through Cable on County Highway M to the bottom of the hill east of Walker Street.
- Within the Highway 63 corridor, from Perry Lake Road at the northern end to Leonard School Road at the southern end.

Where appropriate, sand and gravel operations are treated as temporary use, with the land eventually being reclaimed.

Primary Use	Secondary Use	Minimum Parcel Size
Mixed commercial, institutional uses	“Standard Housing”	$\frac{3}{4}$ acre

#### **Intention**

These lands provide a wide variety of land uses. Example uses can include office buildings, retail sales businesses, rental storage facilities, “Standard Housing”, service stations, and Town parks. The commercial aspect refers to businesses intended to make a profit. The uses typically occur within or adjacent to community centers.

#### **Constraints**

- Higher density development should be designated in traditional village centers or municipal areas.
- Contextual design standards may be considered to avoid out-of-scale development.
- Discourage large utilities (example: high-voltage power line) that will adversely affect the rural character of residential neighborhoods.
- For sand and gravel operations, a mitigation and restoration plan will be required.

#### *Industrial*

Suitable lands that recognize existing industries and manufacturing, which produce goods for sale. These lands offer potential new business park locations. These lands can also include gravel pits and salvage operations.

Primary Use	Secondary Use	Minimum Parcel Size
Industrial	Limited commercial	Not applicable

#### **Intention**

These lands offer the opportunity to manufacture goods for sale.

#### **Constraints**

- Residential development is inappropriate.
- Design standards and guidelines for industrial land use will be encouraged throughout the County.
- Review and update design guidelines for environmental protection.

#### *Open Space*

Undeveloped land not used for agricultural purposes. These lands can exist within forested areas under private ownership and private forest woodlots.

Primary Use	Secondary Use	Minimum Parcel Size
Non-development	Conservation, Recreation, "Limited Housing"	5-40 acres

**Intention**

Keep intact Cable’s landscape character of rural open spaces that offer outstanding recreational opportunities and viewing vistas. “Limited Housing is an opportunity.

**Constraints**

- Avoid subdividing large parcels for commercial or “Dense Housing” interests.

*Residential*

Residential neighborhoods within the Cable unincorporated village that have single-family structures including permanent or seasonal housing units. The structures are served by a municipal sanitary district as well as other available services and utilities. Short-term rentals may be offered by individual property owners.

Primary Use	Secondary Use	Minimum Parcel Size
Single-family “Dense Housing”	Other types of “Dense Housing”, senior housing, etc.	Zoning District R1 = approx. ¼ acre (30,000 sq. ft.) * Zoning District R4 = approx. ½ acre (20,000 sq. ft.) **

\* See Bayfield County zoning regulations (Title 13, Chapter 1, Article D (Section 13-1-60 (a)))

\*\* See Bayfield County zoning regulations (Title 13, Chapter 1, Article D (Section 13-1-60 (f)))

**Intention**

Residential developments occur on individual small lots, occurring within the Cable community as well as Wilde River, Nordmoor, and Village Kame. Development on “Dense Housing” lots should meet the size, scale, and context of the Cable landscape. Multi-family (i.e., two-family attached units and town homes) developments may be considered to address housing needs in the community.

**Constraints**

- Designated mobile home parks are not appropriate, nor are individual recreational vehicles used for housing.
- Design standards should be considered to avoid out-of-scale development.

*Rural Residential*

Areas designated for large-lot residential structures in a rural setting. Landscape character can be agricultural, open lands, or forested,

Primary Use	Secondary Use	Minimum Parcel Size
Large-lot or clustered "Rural Housing"	Forestry, recreation, limited home-based businesses	5 acres

**Intention**

Encourage conservation design and landscape scenery standards to protect scenic views and rural character. Larger residential lots strive to provide a "feel right at home" experience.

**Constraints**

- Discourage multi-family use and housing developments.
- Campgrounds are inappropriate.
- Where designated "Rural Housing" lands are adjacent to lands protected for resource use, a reasonable dwelling setback from the resource land should be required.
- Minimize the potential for conflicts between accepted rural resource management practices and rural residents.

*Shoreland Residential*

Suitable areas to develop shoreland for residential purposes while also encouraging protection of water quality and natural habitat. Small-scale commercial resorts provide recreational opportunities.

Primary Use	Secondary Use	Minimum Parcel Size
"Dense Housing" (including limited multi-family residential)	Limited, low-impact recreational uses; limited small-scale commercial	Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ acre (30,000 sq. ft.) <sup>31</sup>

**Intention**

Provide the opportunity to capture the historical culture associated with lakeshore resorts. Conserve the natural beauty of shorelands with lakes, streams, and rivers while balancing residential development.

**Constraints**

- Incorporate cluster development, conservation design and vegetative buffer standards.
- Refer to County and Town of Cable guidance for driveway access, setback standards, vegetative buffer setbacks and conservation design guidelines within these areas.

**Land Use Goals, Objectives, and Actions**

These goals, objectives, and actions are developed to assist with Town decisions that affect the land use in Cable. The following guidance is displayed in a nested format to highlight how each item is

<sup>31</sup> Several Cable area lakes currently have large parcels along the shoreline. This "future land use" category does not direct that these parcels be reduced to the minimum parcel size. If those large parcels were to be subdivided, the minimum parcel size should be  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre; however, a subdivided parcel could remain larger than the minimum parcel size.

related to the other items. The reader should refer to Footnote 2 in Chapter 1 to understand the hierarchy of this guidance.

***Land Use Vision Statement***

Land use in the Town of Cable emphasizes connectivity among its residents, a casual lifestyle that draws people to live and recreate. Local land use reflects the community's vibrancy as well as its uniqueness, especially with the emphasis on arts and continuous learning. People are amazed at the diversity of the available opportunities to enjoy the surrounding landscape.

GOAL: Cable's landscape character of rural open spaces remains intact, offering outstanding recreational opportunities and "feel right at home" experiences.

OBJECTIVE: Encourage clustered rural residential development and densities to avoid adversely impacting existing open spaces.

OBJECTIVE: Monitor zoned areas for their impact on new land use development.

ACTION: Develop and administer a site plan review process to ensure a uniform image throughout the community.

ACTION: Determine if existing zoning classifications are sufficient to meet the future needs of the Cable.

OBJECTIVE: Coordinate with neighboring towns and Bayfield County anticipating how future growth could affect Cable's landscape.

ACTION: Develop with Bayfield County additional requirements for conserving Cable's lakeshore areas (e.g., preserving a minimum percentage of area, creating buffers zones and screens along roads and sensitive natural resources (i.e., steep slopes, wooded areas, wetlands, lakes, etc.)).

ACTION: Develop overlay requirements in conjunction with Bayfield County to create special protection provisions for sensitive areas.

OBJECTIVE: Using the Plan Commission's regular review of the Comprehensive Plan, consider recommended land use changes based on use patterns or changes in use trends.

## 10. Recreation Resources

### Introduction

The Recreation Chapter assesses the numerous recreation facilities and opportunities that define Cable as a desired tourist destination. This information will serve as the foundation for the development of goals, objectives, policies, and actions. This recreation element connects many considerations from the other elements, demonstrating how recreation can be a bridge across the Cable community's interests.

### Existing Conditions

Following are several characteristics that define the exceptional recreational opportunities in the Cable area:

- **Scenic roads.** A combination of Town, County, and National Forest roads offer a network of "driving for pleasure" opportunities, particularly in the autumn months when the vibrant fall leaf colors are at their peak.
- **A rich variety of recreational trails.** Activities such as snowshoeing, cross country skiing, hiking and mountain biking are supported by Mt. Telemark Village's trail system, the North End ski and hiking trails, the American Birkebeiner ski trails, and the Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) trail system. Additionally, motorized recreation enthusiasts can choose from a wide array of snowmobile (winter) and ATV/UTV (spring, summer, fall) routes and trails.

### Recreation Opportunities

Between hiking, cross-country skiing, ATV/snowmobiling, camping, hunting, fishing, etc., nearly endless recreational opportunities are available in the Town of Cable and the surrounding area. In 2018, a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan<sup>32</sup> was adopted by the Cable Town Board. This Recreation Plan outlines foreseeable outdoor recreation programs and facilities in the Town of Cable to meet the needs of Cable residents and visitors. The following summarizes recreational facilities and events associated with the Cable area. Please see the *Bayfield County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2024* for more information on the area's recreational opportunities.

Several public boat landing sites on Cable's lakes and rivers are available with additional public access locations. Perry Lake has restrooms, changing rooms, a picnic area, and a swimming area. Cable Lake and Tahkodah Lakes have seasonal restrooms. Other lakes in the Town offer additional opportunities for fishing, paddling, and boating activities. The Namekagon River flows through Cable and offers a world class fishery that is wadable or floatable. The river can be accessed at several locations: at County Highway M east of Cable, the State wayside on U.S. Highway 63 south of Cable, and Randysek Road within Cable (which has a canoe landing, picnic tables, and restrooms).

### Recreational Facilities (Parks, Recreational Areas, & Trails)

Bayfield County is the second largest county in Wisconsin. Over half of the land in the Bayfield

<sup>32</sup> See Appendix ##

is publicly owned, making for abundant park and recreational opportunities for residents and tourists alike. A variety of federal special areas (Scenic Riverway (NPS) and designated wilderness areas (USDA Forest Service)) and state owned natural and wildlife areas exist throughout the County. Additionally, campgrounds, boat ramps, and canoe landings are prevalent access points to recreation activities.

The Cable area is known for its many multi-use trails and has earned the nickname “Charter Trail Town USA.” Locals and visitors alike will say that Cable is home to the best trails in the United States.

#### *Town Facilities*

The Cable Recreational Park (located ½ mile west of Cable) has an abundance of opportunities to relax and recreate: ballfields, picnic areas, playground equipment, restrooms, walk-in campsites (five (5) sites), a pavilion, bike park, skate park, tennis/pickleball courts, basketball courts, and a pavilion (which is available for rent to the public). The Cable Rod & Gun Club<sup>33</sup> has a trap range, club house, pistol range, rifle range, and skeet range. The Community Centre has playground equipment and three (3) kilometers of hiking/snowshoe/bike trails.

#### *Motorized (ATV/UTV/Snowmobiling) Routes<sup>34</sup> and Trails<sup>35</sup>*

ATV/UTV (spring/summer/fall) and snowmobile (winter) trail riding is very popular in the Bayfield County region. ATV/UTV and snowmobile organizations prepare and monitor trail conditions to ensure they are safe and passable. These trail systems reach throughout Bayfield County; by Town ordinance, these vehicles are allowed on all Town roads. All users must carefully follow trail signs to ensure that they are in allowable areas.

Bayfield County has several motorized trails throughout nearby public lands, including Bayfield County forest land and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. ATV/UTV and snowmobile trails are typically separate trail systems since snowmobile trails are relocated on frozen wetlands (but are wet terrain in the summer/fall). Over 600 miles of snowmobile groomed trails, and over 1,000 miles of forest roads, are available for riding enjoyment in the region.

National Forest motorized trails are best found using the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest’s Motor Vehicle Use Map, available for free on a smartphone/tablet or the Avenza Maps app. Also, Motor Vehicle Use Maps are available from National Forest offices throughout the Northwoods region. Route/trail maps are also published by the Wisconsin ATV Association (WATVA). The Cable Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with the Great Divide ATV Riders user group, publishes an annually updated route/trail map that is available to the public.

#### *Mt. Telemark Village*

Located at the former Telemark resort site, the Mt. Telemark Village is a family friendly, outdoor facility that provides access to a wide variety of outdoor activities: hiking, bird watching, access to an

<sup>33</sup> See Appendix ## for a summary of this recreation facility

<sup>34</sup> “Routes” are typically Town and County roads

<sup>35</sup> “Trails” provide a “through the woods” experience



observation tower, an interpretative nature trail, cross-country skiing, biathlon, and mountain biking. Over five (5) kilometers of paved trail, 20+ miles of mountain bike trails, over 30 kilometers of cross-country ski trails for both classic and freestyle skiing (as well as summer hiking/trail running). Additional Village amenities include showers, bathrooms, gear rental, food vendors, meeting space, strength park, camping, ice skating and adjacent housing rentals.

#### *Ski Trails, Hiking, Walking and Biking Trails*

The Town of Cable is known for its quality trail systems that attract visitors to southern Bayfield County. These trail systems support diverse user groups who seek both adventure and enjoyment in the Northwoods environment. Notable events that use these trail systems include the American Birkebeiner, Fat Bike Birkie, Epic Bike Fest, and the Chequamegon Mountain Bike Festival.

Hiking trails are plentiful throughout Bayfield County, including the nationally recognized North Country Trail (located in the Town of Drummond). Nearly all skiing trails in the Cable area are used as hiking trails during the months when there is no snow on the ground. Within the Town, the Cable Town Trails pass through the 20-acre Marvin Fagg Memorial Forest (which was generously donated to the Town), as well as two adjacent private properties. Hiking and snowshoeing are allowed on all narrow trails year-round; wider trails are groomed for fat biking in winter and available for hiking at other times of the year.

The American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation (ABSF) Trailhead is the home of the start of the legendary American Birkebeiner ski race<sup>36</sup> and is the crown jewel that is the Birkebeiner Trail. It's a great launching point for the Birkebeiner Skate and Classic trails. Enthusiasts experience glacial potholes, ridges, and a continuous series of rolling hills. Amenities at the American Birkebeiner Trailhead include the Derksen Cabin, a beautiful warming shelter available 24/7, complete with heat, water, and a flush toilet. The American Birkebeiner Trailhead's Derksen Great Hall, also located at the trailhead, is a hub for a variety of events all-year-through. The American Birkebeiner Trailhead is used for many events of all sizes and is a daily training facility for mountain biking, cross country skiing, biathlon, roller skiing, walking, and running.

Adjacent to the American Birkebeiner Trailhead is Mt. Telemark Village. Located at the former Telemark resort site seven (7) miles from downtown Cable, the Mt. Telemark Village is a family friendly, outdoor facility that provides access to a wide variety of outdoor activities: hiking, bird watching, an interpretative nature trail, cross-country skiing, mountain biking/cycling, biathlon, roller skiing, snowshoeing, and more. The area is contiguous with the American Birkebeiner Trailhead and the over five (5) kilometers of paved trail, 20+ miles of mountain bike trails, and over 30 kilometers of cross-country ski trails for both classic and freestyle skiing (as well as summer hiking/trail running), and an observation tower can be accessed at the site. Additional Village amenities include showers, bathrooms, gear rental, food vendors, meeting space, strength park, camping, ice skating, sledding, and adjacent housing rentals.

<sup>36</sup> The American Birkebeiner race is the largest cross-country ski race in North America, attracting thousands of competitors from all over the world to the area.

The North End Ski Trail system is over 13 kilometers long and connects to the Birkebeiner trail system as well. This system is located two miles south of downtown Cable. The trailhead provides a warming cabin, ski/snowshoe/hiking trails, and a pit toilet.

The Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) has over 300 miles of off-road single-track and gravel routes throughout Bayfield and Sawyer Counties. These routes exist mostly on public land and roads (Bayfield County and Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest north, east, and south of Cable).

### Recreational Events

The Town of Cable and the surrounding area hosts several events that are of recreational importance to the identity of the Town.

The **American Birkebeiner** is the largest cross-country skiing race in North America, attracting thousands of competitors from all over the world to the area. It debuted in 1973 and is a founding member of the Worldloppet federation of cross-country ski marathons. The two premier events are the 50-kilometer skate and the 55-kilometer classic races from Cable to Hayward, Wisconsin. There are additional events within the Birkebeiner week as well.

The **Fat Bike Birkie** is the premier snow bike event in North America. The event is the only weekend of the year that bikes are allowed on the snow-covered American Birkebeiner Trail. Riders test their skill and endurance on the professionally groomed course that they are otherwise not able to utilize during the winter.

The **Birkie Trail Run** (held in the fall) traverses the rolling hills, twists, and turns of the famous [Birkebeiner Trail](#), along with narrow and flowing sections of single track mountain bike trails. Runners see beautiful vistas from atop Mt. Telemark and run on challenging hills, all within the beautiful forests of northwest Wisconsin. Seven (7) different races are offered:

- Marathon (26.2 miles)
- 3-Person Marathon Relay (26.2 miles)
- 6-Person Marathon Relay (26.2 miles)
- Half Marathon (13.1 miles)
- Nordic Trek (8.5 mile hike with or without trekking poles)
- 5 km Run/Walk
- 1 km Kids Dash

Offered early in the calendar year, the **Chequamegon 100** is an endurance event held on the CAMBA system routes and trails. Options exist to race either one hundred or sixty-two miles, with the great majority of it on single-track trails.

The **Tour de Chequamegon** is designed to be a self-supported ride. It is a 3-day, 109 mile ride from start to finish that traverses the hills and gravel roads of the area.

The **Chequamegon Mountain Bike Festival** has several mountain bike race events over a weekend in September. The races range from 40 miles to 16 miles and traverse the Birkebeiner Ski trail, public forest roads, and CAMBA routes and trails.

The **Seeley Hills Classic**, started in 1992, is the second-largest annual classic cross-country ski event on the Birkebeiner Trail. The 42 kilometers race is an American Birkebeiner qualifying race.

The **Epic Bike Fest** is the second largest mountain bike event in the Town of Cable, challenging bike riders to a single track mountain bike race and a challenging gravel race on the local gravel roads. Participants can choose between a full single-track race of 37 miles, a half single-track race of 18 miles, a full gravel race of 75 miles, or a short gravel race of 27 miles.

The **North End Classic Ski Race** offers 12.5 kilometer and 25 kilometer distances across the North End trail system. The **North End Snowshoe Classic** is a 5- or 10-kilometer race that traverses segments of the North End Classic Ski Trail through rolling hills throughout the North End Ski Trail System. Additionally, the **North End Trail Run** offers five (5) kilometer, 10 kilometer, half marathon distances at this springtime event.

Several prominent recreation events occur outside the Town of Cable, but have a positive influence on the Town:

- **“Fun in the Forest”** is an annual ATV ride on the renowned ATV forest trails in the Cable and Hayward area. This great event supports children, families, and individuals in need in Bayfield, Sawyer, and Ashland counties with food, toys, and cash to help make their Holidays extra special. Hundreds of toys and pounds of food are donated every year.
- **The World’s Longest Weenie Roast** (sponsored by Lakewoods Resort) is known throughout the region as the most fun on ice. Held to raise funds for the local emergency services and other area charities, events such as snowmobile speed runs and outlaw drags (all on Lake Namakagon) provide fun for motorized recreation enthusiasts.
- **Ammo’s Tavern ATV/UTV rides** take place during the spring (after the snowmobile trails close) and fall (typically in October) seasons to get people outside and to invite visitors to the area. They are also used to introduce motorized enthusiasts to each other and create friendships. Since 2016, these approximately 60-mile rides use a variety of routes and trails to visit a different destination each year.

### Recreation Goals, Objectives, Actions

These goals, objectives, and actions are developed to assist with Town decisions that affect the recreation resources and uses in Cable. The following guidance is displayed in a nested format to

highlight how each item is related to the other items. The reader should refer to Footnote 1 in Chapter 1 to understand the hierarchy of this guidance.

### **Recreation Vision Statement**

The Town of Cable's desired living environment is premised on easily accessible outdoor recreation activities (trails, wildlife viewing, forests, rivers, and the "wildness" of the area). Particularly, the sheer number of trails per capita remains unparalleled in providing an entryway to the Cable area's natural resources. Cable is an excellent host of multiple recreation events that draw visitors to the area. The Cable Recreation Park continues to have an amazing number of diverse recreation opportunities not expected of a small community.

**GOAL:** High-quality outdoor recreation areas, facilities, and activities in the Town of Cable meet current and future needs/desires of Town citizens and visitors.

**OBJECTIVE:** Proactively evaluate outdoor recreational needs by engaging local recreation groups/organizations.

**OBJECTIVE:** Support existing and create new economically viable and environmentally sustainable events and activities that encourage community engagement and well-being.

**ACTION:** Require organizers of new and existing recreational events to coordinate with the Town Special Event coordinator to address emergency medical preparedness, public safety, available Town resources, and local business needs.

**ACTION:** Use the Recreation Park to bring people together around certain activity events (i.e., Pickle Ball tournament, Bike Park challenge)

**OBJECTIVE:** Provide desired recreational areas and facilities through partnerships with other governmental and regional entities (Town, County, State).

**OBJECTIVE:** Promote a balance of recreational opportunities that meet the needs of recreational user groups on trails (motorized and non-motorized), pedestrian walkways, and public roads and lands and within the Town's business district.

**ACTION:** Regularly update Town of Cable's Outdoor Recreation Plan to address the community's outdoor recreational needs.

**ACTION:** Emphasize primitive campground design over contemporary campgrounds when considering new campground development.

## **11. Implementation**

### **Introduction**

This element serves as a “priority” list for implementing and realizing the plan. It prescribes those actions necessary to realize the visions, goals, and objectives highlighted in previous chapters of the plan. The plan addresses many important components critical to sustaining a healthy community while preserving the area’s rural character, natural resources, and history. As change is inevitable, the plan may need to be amended to appropriately reflect land use changes.

### **Action Plan**

The Town of Cable comprehensive plan is intended to help guide land use decisions within the Town. The plan is an expression of the Town’s wishes and desires and provides a series of policies for assisting the community in attaining its visions, goals, and objectives. The plan is not an attempt to predict the future, but rather an attempt to document the community’s values and philosophies that citizens of the Town of Cable share. The plan guides a variety of community issues including housing, transportation, land use, economic development, and intergovernmental cooperation.

The Cable Plan Commission, Town Board, and citizens in reviewing all proposals pertaining to development in the Town of Cable should utilize the comprehensive plan. Proposals should be examined to determine whether they are consistent with community wishes and desires as expressed in the plan. As part of the review, a thorough review of the plan is necessary with particular attention given to the goals and objectives. Where the impact of a proposed development is minimal, the evaluation may simply be a determination of whether the plan provides relevant direction and whether the requested action is in conformance with the plan. Development proposals with significant potential impacts will require a more detailed analysis to determine consistency.

### **Plan Integration and Consistency**

Within this implementation element, it is required to “describe how each of the elements of the comprehensive plan will be integrated and made consistent with the other elements of the comprehensive plan.” As a result of the comprehensive plan being developed in a coordinated and simultaneous effort, the planning process has ensured that the development and review of each element is consistent with the others; and based on that analysis, there are no known inconsistencies between the planning elements. In the future, as plan amendments occur, it is important that the Cable Plan Commission and Town Board both conduct consistency reviews. Those reviews will ensure the document continues to represent an integrated approach to planning.

To ensure consistency across jurisdictional boundaries, the Town of Cable encourages early dialog between all adjoining and overlapping jurisdictions (towns and counties) as they develop or revise their comprehensive plans and ordinances. Where inconsistencies are identified and a resolution cannot be reached, future actions can be developed to bring the parties together to address their concerns.

### **Plan Monitoring and Evaluation**

As part of the comprehensive planning process, a few goals, objectives, and action items were developed that when implemented are intended to build stronger relationships and give direction to the Town Board and its residents. The goals are the “purpose or end” that provides direction for the Town and other governmental organizations, such as Bayfield County. Objectives are statements that are measurable benchmarks the community works to achieve, and the actions are more specific statements that set preferred courses of action to carry out the objectives in the future. While many of the objectives and actions can be accomplished in the short term several others will be continuous or ongoing and do not have a specific implementation target date. As stipulated in 1999 Wisconsin Act 9, a comprehensive plan must be updated at least once every 10 years. However, to ensure that the Town’s plan is an effective management tool, the Town of Cable Plan Commission will review the plan goals and objectives annually to track those activities that have been completed to realize its accomplishments and identify areas where additional resources or actions are needed. Part of this effort will also include addressing conflicts which may arise between the elements of the plan.

As a means of measuring progress towards achieving the goals of the comprehensive plan, an implementation schedule has been developed that assigned a target date to the plans’ objectives and actions.

### **Plan Amendments and Updates**

Evaluating the comprehensive plan is an ongoing process and will, at some time, lead to the realization that the plan requires updating and amendments. The time that elapses between the completion of the plan and the need to amend the plan depends greatly on evolving issues, trends, and land use conditions. Periodic updates will allow for updates to statistical data, and to ensure the plan’s goals, objectives, and actions reflect the current conditions, needs, and concerns. The comprehensive planning legislation requires plan updates at least every 10 years. The Town of Cable Plan Commission will remain flexible in determining when and how often the plan should be updated. A tremendous amount of change can occur in a community over just a couple of years and the Town of Cable will be prepared to address changing conditions with timely plan updates. Amendments to the plan will follow the requirements of State law and will be evaluated for consistency with the existing plan, including all elements.

### **Conclusion**

The Town of Cable comprehensive plan is intended to be a dynamic and evolving document. Periodic revision and update of the plan will ensure that it is accurate and consistent with the wishes and desires of the community. Plan recommendations in this document provide the basis for evaluation of development proposals and give the community a means for achieving their community vision. The specific action statements are meant to serve as the mechanisms for achieving the goals and objectives, which were defined throughout the planning process. Ultimately the success of the planning process will be measured by the future quality of life experienced by both residents and visitors. Overall, the comprehensive plan provides a guide and policy framework for the development of the Town of Cable.

**Implementation Schedule of Actions by Element****Housing**

Action	Page reference	Target Date
Incorporate walking paths as a design component of all new housing developments in Section 18.		
Cooperate with Bayfield County Housing Authority to assess the need for another eight housing units at the Whispering Pines facility.		
As opportunities arise, locate senior housing in the downtown Cable area.		
Inventory and map sensitive natural resources so they are preserved (to the greatest extent possible) when development adjacently occurs.		
Emphasize “low impact” development (i.e., retain natural vegetation) to reduce stormwater runoff and minimize impact on water quality, especially along lakeshores and wetlands.		
Aggressively enforce residential codes and nuisance ordinance standards that restrict and/or prohibit the accumulation of unsightly debris.		
Encourage the use of available federal, state, and local funds for housing rehabilitation grants and loans to help owners improve their homes and building sites.		

**Agricultural, Natural, & Cultural Resources**

Action	Page reference	Target Date
Develop campgrounds away from sensitive natural areas (e.g., lakeshores and wetlands)		
Aggressively implement WI DNR guidelines and best management practices to prevent the introduction or translocation of exotic and invasive species associated with human actions (e.g., development or recreational uses).		
Develop criteria to identify "valued landscape scenery" and create an inventory of such sceneries.		
Develop and implement local ordinances to protect valued landscape scenery.		
For large parcel holdings (e.g., 40 acres), provide an incentive to reduce the minimum building lot size when subdividing IF at least 50 percent (50%) of the large parcel is retained as “open space”.		
Designate unique visual resources as “rustic roads” to emphasize Cable’s cultural history.		

Action	Page reference	Target Date
Develop a walking tour of historic, cultural, or natural resources throughout the downtown Cable area.		
Encourage community groups to identify appropriate local properties and owners for historical markers or plaques.		
Develop a historic preservation ordinance to protect historic landmarks.		
Regularly recognize individuals for their contributions to and/or curation of Cable's culture and history.		
Designate Section 18 as a "special concern" for protection of groundwater resources.		
Educate water consumers, especially those residing in areas with high density development, about possible sources of nonpoint pollution that can result in groundwater contamination.		
Limit high-capacity wells in the Town of Cable and specifically restrict high-capacity wells in Section 18.		
Identify and map aquifer recharge areas in the Town of Cable.		
Consistently monitor publicly available drinking water quality through comprehensive testing methods for a broad spectrum of contaminants.		
Use Clean Sweep or other programs to reduce waste products that contaminate groundwater.		
Where appropriate, set aside park land or open space within the wellhead protection area to protect groundwater recharge.		
Develop a contingency plan in case one or more wells becomes contaminated.		
Establish water protection design standards when developing facilities within the wellhead protection area.		
Use of public boat landings to distribute educational materials.		
Develop a lake or river protection plan through a WI DNR grant.		
Develop lakeshore trails on any of the Town of Cable's lakes to highlight and educate about water-related features.		
Require organizers of new and existing recreational events to coordinate with the Town Special Event coordinator to address emergency medical preparedness, public safety, available Town resources, and local business needs.		



Action	Page reference	Target Date
Regularly update Town of Cable's Outdoor Recreation Plan to address the community's outdoor recreational needs.		
Emphasize primitive campground design over contemporary campgrounds when considering new campground development.		

**Transportation**

Action	Page reference	Target Date
Develop a courtesy travel code of ethics for the Cable downtown area and distribute it through the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses.		
When reconstructing Town roads, development of bicycle lanes should be earnestly considered.		
Improve safety for vehicle traffic, transportation users, and pedestrians, especially in thinking about the future expansion of businesses in the significant Cable travel corridors (south on Hwy 63 or east on Hwy M.)		
Advocate for desired travel corridor modifications (i.e., turn lanes, bicycle lanes) in coordination with WI Dept. of Transportation or Bayfield County.		
Develop ride-share site(s) to allow efficient use of transportation services. Identified possible ride-share sites include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the State wayside on Highway 63 South.,</li> <li>Town parking lot adjacent to restrooms</li> <li>the Cable Community Centre parking lot.</li> </ul>		
Work with local businesses and organizations to develop pedestrian, bicyclist, and ATV/UTV/snowmobiles travel ways that facilitate movement around the Cable downtown area.		
Encourage trail connections in new developments and retain existing trail corridors to already established non-motorized and motorized trail systems.		
Develop bicycle and walking connectors from recreational hubs and residential areas to the Cable downtown area.		
Develop bicycle maps, historic walking paths, and neighborhood rides to assist visitor enjoyment of the Cable community.		

**Utilities & Community Facilities**

Action	Page reference	Target Date
Ensure Town Board representation on the Great Divide Ambulance Board so the Town's expectations are well known.		
Develop and catalog an inventory of equipment having the potential to be shared between units of the Town government.		
Encourage development of a preschool/day care facility within Cable		
Explore the feasibility of establishing a "drop in" senior center (providing care and companionship for older adults who need assistance or supervision during the day).		

**Intergovernmental Cooperation**

Action	Page reference	Target Date
Notify appropriate State agencies of proposed land use changes and development plans.		
Notify WisDOT when proposed development projects are adjacent to state trunk highways so they can plan accordingly for future improvements.		
Petition the BOA and FAA (in association with the Cable Union Airport Commission and the Towns of Drummond and Namakagon) for funding to support and improve the Cable Union Airport.		
Continue cooperative multi-Town management of the Great Divide ambulance service and Cable Union Airport.		
Stay apprised of equipment and services of adjacent jurisdictions when considering sharing equipment/services.		
Continue to participate/coordinate Four-Town meetings on a quarterly basis (or as needed).		
When collaborating on a multi-jurisdictional topic, establish intergovernmental cooperation memorandums of understanding with other government jurisdictions with the Town of Cable.		
Establish a local conflict resolution process (if needed) with adjoining and overlapping jurisdictions.		
Proactively address potential annexation and boundary adjustments with neighboring municipalities before they become an issue.		

Action	Page reference	Target Date
Use the Forest Lodge Library to display and distribute educational materials available to the public from local agencies (e.g., UW-Extension, Bayfield County Land and Water Conservation, etc.).		
Actively participate in decisions related to Bayfield County Forest management and its related recreational services (trails, yurts, etc.).		
Request Bayfield County grants to continue conducting household and agricultural chemical hazardous waste Clean Sweep programs.		
Request that Bayfield County initiate an annual County-wide recycling program for unused pharmaceuticals in cooperation with local pharmacies, medical centers, and veterinarians.		
Request that Bayfield County provide a permanent County household hazardous waste drop-off site for use by all County residents.		
Request Bayfield County grants that assist with “community improvement” (examples include housing, economic development, transportation, and downtown revitalization).		
Disseminate information through multiple media platforms to the public regarding information/issues related to the Town’s governing bodies.		

**Economic Development**

Action	Page reference	Target Date
Establish an effective partnership with Norvado to allow a Northwoods lifestyle while keeping a strong technological connection with the world.		
Create an ordinance to address recreational vehicles or other types of temporary/nonpermanent structures not consistent with Cable’s character.		
Utilize available tools and resources to eliminate blighted areas and/or revitalize the downtown area.		
Limit new commercial and industrial activities to appropriate areas displayed on the Future Land Use Map to minimize adversely impacting residential areas.		
Complete a survey of the Cable senior population that evaluates their skills and resources, as well as their service needs.		
Use the Cable senior population survey to identify appropriate services and employment opportunities.		

Action	Page reference	Target Date
Create a pamphlet highlighting Cable’s telecommuting capabilities and opportunities with the Chamber of Commerce.		

**Land Use**

Action	Page reference	Target Date
Develop and administer a site plan review process to ensure a uniform image throughout the community.		
Determine if existing zoning classifications are sufficient to meet the future needs of the Cable.		
Develop with Bayfield County additional requirements for conserving Cable’s lakeshore areas (e.g., preserving a minimum percentage of area, creating buffers zones and screens along roads and sensitive natural resources (i.e., steep slopes, wooded areas, wetlands, lakes, etc.).		
Develop overlay requirements in conjunction with Bayfield County to create special protection provisions for sensitive areas.		