

Ideal Township



Community-based Comprehensive Plan

June 14, 2004

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTIONS

Section One: Introduction	1
Section Two: Demographic Indicators	6
Section Three: Community Assessment	13
Section Four: The Ideal Action Plan	26
Section Five: Implementation Schedule	34

APPENDICES

Appendix One: 2003 Community Survey Executive Summary	49
Appendix Two: Community Meeting Notes	54
Appendix Three: Community Mapping (Expected completion 2/27/04)	63

COMMON ACRONYMS

ADT	Average Daily Traffic
ATV	All-Terrain Vehicle
CUP	Conditional Use Permit
CSAH	County/State Aid Highway
DNR	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)
ISTS	Individual Septic Treatment System
MAT	Minnesota Association of Townships
MNDOT	Minnesota Department of Transportation
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
ROW	Right of Way
WAPOA	Whitefish Area Property Owners Association
WMA	Wildlife Management Area

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The People, Businesses, and Community Organizations and Associations
of
Ideal Township, Crow Wing County, Minnesota

Township Board of Supervisors

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Chairperson

David Steffen
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Jim Brandt
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WEB RESOURCES

Ideal Township

<http://www.idealtownship.com>

Crow Wing County General

<http://www.co.crow-wing.mn.us>

Crow Wing County Lakes & Rivers Alliance

<http://www.mnlakes.org/SubAssociations/index.cfm?ID=1028&NAV=504>

Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning

<http://www.co.crow-wing.mn.us/Planning/zoning.htm>

Minnesota Board of Soil & Water Resources

<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us>

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>

Minnesota Department of Transportation

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us>

Minnesota Lakes Association

<http://www.mnlakes.org>

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/>

Shoreland Management Resource Guide

<http://www.shorelandmanagement.org>

State of Minnesota

<http://www.state.mn.us>

University of Minnesota Extension Service

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/index.html>

Whitefish Area Information

<http://www.whitefish.org>

Whitefish Area Property Owners Association

<http://www.wapoa.org>

To add your web link contact Ideal Township via Email at idealck@uslink.net

Resolution of Adoption of the Ideal Township Community-based Comprehensive Plan

Whereas, The Board of Supervisors of Ideal Township, Crow Wing County, Minnesota has determined the need for future visioning and planning of the Township’s natural and human resources, and

Whereas, Ideal Township is authorized and encouraged to prepare a comprehensive plan to serve as a basis for land use decisions within the Township, and serves as a future vision for the community under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 462, and

Whereas, The Ideal Township Board of Supervisors has conducted community meetings and held a public pre-adoption hearing as required by Minnesota Statutes, and

Whereas, The Citizen Planning Committee enacted by the Township Board of Supervisors has recommended the adoption of the *Ideal Township Comprehensive Plan* on May 24, 2004, and

Now, Therefore be it Resolved, that the Ideal Township Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the Ideal Township Community-based Comprehensive Plan to be effectuated on the date provided, and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Ideal Township Board of Supervisors shall implement the Ideal Township Community-based Comprehensive Plan in a manner not inconsistent with the implementation chapter of the plan, striving to implement the plan in the time schedule provided.

On a motion by Board Member _____, seconded by Board Member _____, the Ideal Township Comprehensive Plan is hereby adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Ideal Township, Crow Wing County, MN on this _____ Day of _____ Two Thousand and Three.

Chairperson

Attest:

Clerk

Effective:

_____ Day of _____ Two Thousand and Four

SECTION ONE: Introduction

1.1 Introduction to Ideal Township

Surrounding the beautiful Whitefish Chain of Lakes, Ideal Township is located in the northwest corner of Crow Wing County, Minnesota. Communities neighboring Ideal Township include the Cities of Cross Lake, Manhattan Beach and Fifty Lakes to the east and northeast, and the Cities of Breezy Point, Jenkins and Pequot Lakes to the south and southwest. A variety of opportunities exist within the Township for those who desire a place to call home, or a place to get away from the traffic, noise, and bustle of urban living to enjoy the rural way of life. Because of this highly attractive lifestyle Ideal Township and much of the Crow Wing County area is experiencing tremendous growth and development resulting in increasing demands on the community and a buffet of new community challenges.

This plan strives to address these new challenges and demands and provide a starting point for a plan of action to ensure these challenges and demands result in a positive impact on the community. Being “comprehensive” in its scope, the plan addresses not only issues in land use and growth, but for several aspects of the community including those listed in Section 3.1: Community Assessment. In closing, it is important to recognize and understand that the role of this plan is to guide an ever-changing community, and not to create, maintain or portray any terminal effect or end result.

1.2 Purpose of the Ideal Township Community-based Comprehensive Plan

The Ideal Township Community-based Comprehensive Plan was developed by the community to serve as a “blueprint” for the future of Ideal Township through the goals, objectives, and vision presented within the plan. By working within the framework of these goals and objectives and vision developed by the community, both Ideal Township and Crow Wing County will have the ability to make informed decisions related to the Ideal Township area. This comprehensive plan was created and adopted to serve the following purpose:

1. To protect the general health, safety, and welfare, and morals of the Ideal Township community.
2. To protect the quality of life enjoyed by Ideal Township residents, landowners, business owners, and the community as a whole.
3. To protect and promote the wise utilization of the natural resources of Ideal Township.

4. To reinforce Crow Wing County planning and zoning regulatory functions within Ideal Township.

1.3 The Public Participation Process

Developed with strong community participation, the *Ideal Township Community-based Comprehensive Plan* truly presents a “community-based” vision for the future. Countless hours were spent in the creation of this plan with community participation in visioning sessions and citizen planning committee meetings. The following provides a synopsis of the public participation provided by the Ideal Township community.

The Community Survey

The first public information gathering mechanism utilized in the Ideal Township planning process was a community survey distributed to a sampling of 500 households and landowners of record within the Township. Survey results were then used throughout the planning process to promote discussion within community meetings to gather the information necessary to develop the goals and objectives presented within this plan. Community survey information can be found in the appendices of this plan.

Public Meetings

Rich with community participation in the many opinions, suggestions, and individual views expressed, the community meetings held in conjunction with the Ideal Township planning process provided the information vital to developing the vision of the community. The following community meetings were held in developing the Ideal Township Comprehensive Plan:

Visioning Session #1

Held: June 24, 2003

The first in the series of three public meetings held to gather crucial public input for the Ideal Township planning process focused on assessing community strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges. Information obtained through the visioning of the community were used to develop the goals and objectives presented within this plan.

Visioning Session #2

Held: July 21, 2003

Through the second meeting in the public participation component, community discussion focused primarily on current and future land use. The community provided views and opinions on residential, commercial, waterfront uses, and all of the land uses within Ideal Township. These views and opinions were also used in developing the goals and objectives presented within this plan.

Visioning Session #3
Held: August 4, 2003

The third meeting in the public participation component of the Ideal Township comprehensive planning process offered members of the community an opportunity to express their views and opinions on facilities, services, and quality of life aspects of the community. These aspects included community facilities and services, sense of community and community beautification, infrastructure and transportation. This information was also used to formulate the goals and objectives presented within this plan.

Committee Meetings

Prior to the start of the comprehensive planning process, the Ideal Township Board of Supervisors appointed a group of interested citizens to serve on the Citizens Planning Committee to refine the information obtained through the public participation process. The Committee held two meetings boasting great attendance by the general community to develop the goals and objectives presented within the Ideal Township action plan.

1.4 Key Players of the Community-based Planning Process

The Community

Participation by citizens, landowners, business owners, and persons with many different backgrounds and experience provided information vital to the process in the way of many collective thoughts, opinions, feelings, and viewpoints. This information is the foundation of the *Ideal Township Community-based Comprehensive Plan*.

The Ideal Township Board of Supervisors

Identifying the strong need for future planning by observing new growth, development, and change within the community, the Ideal Township Board of Supervisors set the community planning process in motion spring of 2003. Throughout the process, the Board of Supervisors provided an atmosphere that supported a “free-flowing” exchange of ideas and information by the community. Understanding the need for assistance in developing a plan for the future the Board of Supervisors also secured planning assistance to facilitate the Ideal Township planning process.



The Region 5 Development Commission

The Region 5 Development Commission is one of many Regional Development Commissions organized by the Minnesota State Legislature through the *Regional Development Act* of 1969. Since that time, the Region 5 Development Commission has provided planning assistance and services to dozens of communities within Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena Counties. In keeping with the mission to provide

planning assistance to local communities within the five county service area, the Region 5 Development Commission provided technical assistance to Ideal Township by facilitating the planning process.

Crow Wing County

The continuous cooperation of Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning staff strengthens the Ideal Township Comprehensive Plan immensely. This cooperation ensured the consistency of the Ideal Township Comprehensive Plan with the overall Crow Wing County comprehensive plan, and also ensures that crucial requirements of township planning set forth in Minnesota Statutes were met. The key to implementing the Ideal Township Comprehensive Plan will be the continued positive relationship between Ideal Township and Crow Wing County officials and staff.

1.5 Reviewing the Ideal Township Comprehensive Plan

Prior to the adoption of the *Ideal Township Community-based Comprehensive Plan* a public hearing as required by Minnesota Statutes was conducted on Monday, June 14, 2004. Approximately three months prior to the adoption of the plan copies were distributed for review and comment.

1.6 Agreement and Adoption

The adoption of the plan represents an agreement between the Ideal Township community and the Ideal Township Board of Supervisors to strive to implement the vision, goals and objectives developed herein.

1.7 Severability

Although the *Ideal Township Community-based Comprehensive Plan* is intended to serve as an expressed community vision and not as an ordinance the following shall apply:

If any provision or provisions of this plan shall be held to be invalid, illegal, unenforceable, or in conflict with any law of proper jurisdiction, the validity, legality, and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall not be affected or impaired.

1.8 Maintenance, Revisions and Amendments

Evaluating, maintaining, and revising a comprehensive plan is vital to ensure the plan reflects the current views of the community and to ensure that community goals and objectives are being carried out according to budget and schedule. The evaluation and

maintenance of the *Ideal Township Community-based Comprehensive Plan* shall be conducted according to the following:

1. The long-range Planning Committee shall annually conduct a review of the *Ideal Township Community-based Comprehensive Plan* and report the progress of plan goals and objectives to the Ideal Township Board of Supervisors.
2. The Ideal Township Board of Supervisors shall update and revise the *Ideal Township Community-based Comprehensive Plan* at least every five years from the year of the plan's adoption.

Amendments to the *Ideal Township Community-based Comprehensive Plan* may become necessary to adapt to any number of internal and external forces or to maintain consistency with adjacent community planning or the Crow Wing County comprehensive plan. Any such amendments may be necessary prior to the five-year maintenance and revision schedule. The following shall be the process for making amendments or revisions to the *Ideal Township Community-based Comprehensive Plan*.

1. An amendment may be initiated or proposed by the Township Board of Supervisors, the Township long range planning committee, or by petition of landowners within Ideal Township.
2. A public hearing shall be conducted to review the proposed amendment and receive public comment. The hearing shall be published in the official Township newspaper at least ten (10) days prior to the public hearing date. In all cases where the amendment shall focus on a particular property, rezoning, etc., all property owners of record within three hundred fifty (350) feet shall be noticed by regular mail.
3. The Ideal Township Board of Supervisors shall approve or disapprove of the proposed amendment within 60 days of initiation of amendment. Failure to act upon a proposed amendment shall deem the initiated amendment as approved.
4. Upon approval of the proposed amendment, the amendment shall be written into the text of the *Ideal Township Community-based Comprehensive Plan* as soon as is feasible. All revisions shall be given to each member of the Township Board of Supervisors, the Township Clerk, the Township Planning Commission in the event such body shall exist, and in all copies of the plan maintained by the Township.

SECTION TWO: Demographic Indicators

2.1 Demographic Information Introduction

Ideal Township is a community that has experienced many demographic changes in recent decades. The information provided within this section is intended to show not only these changes, but also future patterns and trends in growth. Sources of this information provided include the U.S. Census Bureau and the Minnesota Planning Agency.

Note on All Census Data: Information provided may not add to 100% due to rounding. The data presented throughout this document is presented in an altered format for display purposes only, however all data presented is original data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Office of the Minnesota State Demographer. All population estimates provided have been prepared by the Office of the Minnesota State Demographer. Due to potential and known errors in sampling the author(s) of this document cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information presented. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions refer to information provided by the U.S. Census Bureau (Online: www.census.gov) or the Minnesota State Demographer (Online: www.mnplan.state.mn.us).

2.2 Population Information

General Population

Ideal Township has experienced significant population growth over the past four decades through the year 2000. Estimates prepared by the Office of the Minnesota State Demographer also show how Ideal Township has grown in the two years between 2000 and 2002. Table 2-1 shows the population of the Ideal Township since the 1960 Census.

Table 2-1 Total Population (1960-2000)

Census Year	Ideal Township	% Increase	Crow Wing County	% Increase
1960	303	x	32,134	x
1970	345	13.9	34,826	8.4
1980	760	120.3	41,722	19.8
1990	724	-4.7	44,249	6.1
2000	950	31.2	55,099	24.5
2002	960	1.1	57,132	3.69

*Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau (2000)
Minnesota Planning Agency - Datnet

Population by Age and Gender

Table 2-2 shows the population of gender and age groups of persons within Ideal Township.

Table 2-2 Population by Age and Gender (2000)

	Ideal Township		Crow Wing County	
<u>Gender:</u>				
Male	471	49.6%	27,098	49.2%
Female	479	50.4%	28,001	50.8%
<u>Age:</u>				
Under 5 years	28	3.0%	3,346	6.1%
5 to 9 years	50	5.3%	3,708	6.7%
10 to 14 years	51	5.4%	4,034	7.3%
15 to 19 years	50	5.3%	4,193	7.6%
20 to 24 years	25	2.7%	2,857	5.2%
25 to 34 years	55	5.8%	5,867	10.7%
35 to 44 years	120	12.6%	8,264	15.0%
45 to 54 years	136	14.3%	7,452	13.5%
55 to 59 years	89	9.4%	3,059	5.6%
60 to 64 years	71	7.5%	2,709	5.3%
65 to 74 years	168	17.7%	5,048	9.2%
75 to 84 years	84	8.8%	3,227	5.7%
85 years and over	23	2.4%	1,135	2.1%
Median Age	52.3		39.4	

*Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau (2000)
Minnesota Planning Agency - Datamet

Regional Population

Significant population growth has occurred in townships and cities adjacent to Ideal Township. Table 2-3 shows the population of cities and townships located within the vicinity of Ideal Township.

Table 2-3 Regional Population (2000)

City or Township	Population	Percent (%) Increase 1990-2000
City of Breezy Point	979	126.6
City of Crosslake	1,893	67.2
City of Fifty Lakes	392	31.1
Gail Lake Township	92	5.8
Jenkins Township	425	51.8
City of Manhattan Beach	50	-18.0

Mission Township	733	42.6
Pelican Township	400	63.3
Timothy Township	147	14.0

*Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau (2000)
Minnesota Planning Agency - Datnet

2.3 Housing Information

Households

Consistent with the new population growth, the number of households within Ideal Township and Crow Wing County has also increased significantly in recent decades. Estimates presented also show this recent climb in the number of households in Ideal Township over the past two years. Table 2-4 shows the total number of housing units within Ideal Township from 1970 to 2000.

Table 2-4 Total Households (2000)

Census Year	Ideal Township	% Increase	Crow Wing County	% Increase
1970	136	x	10,974	x
1980	314	130.9	15,171	38.2
1990	304	3.3	17,204	13.4
2000	435	43.1	22,250	29.3
2002	448	2.5	23,262	4.6

*Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau (2000)
Minnesota Planning Agency - Datnet

Persons Per Household

The average number of persons residing in households within Ideal Township has declined over the past few decades, a trend that can also be observed with Crow Wing County. In addition, for each of those decades Crow Wing County has exceeded Ideal Township in the average number of persons per household. Table 2-5 shows the total persons per household for Ideal Township from 1980 to 2000.

Table 2-5 Persons Per Household (2000)

Census Year	Ideal Township	Crow Wing County
1980	2.42	2.69
1990	2.38	2.52
2000	2.18	2.43

*Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau (2000)
Minnesota Planning Agency - Datnet

Housing Units

Primarily, housing within Ideal Township is composed of owner-occupied, single-family dwelling units, however there is a significant portion of recreational or seasonal dwelling units within the Township. Table 2-6 shows the total housing units within the Ideal Township broken down by Occupied, Vacant, Seasonal, Owner-occupied, and Renter-occupied units.

Table 2-6 Total Housing Units (2000)

	Number	Percent of Total (%)
Total housing units	1,416	100.0
Occupied housing units	435	30.7
Vacant housing units	981	69.3
Seasonal or recreational	969	98.7
Renter- occupied units	28	6.4
Other Vacant	3	.3

*Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau (2000)
Minnesota Planning Agency - Datatnet

Age of Housing

Growth and development over longer periods of time can be monitored by observing the age of housing within the community. This is helpful in assessing the overall housing condition of the community. Table 2-7 shows the age of all housing units within Ideal Township.

2-7 Age of Housing (2000)

Year Built	Number	Percent
Total housing units	1,408	100.0%
1999 to March 2000	48	3.4
1995 to 1998	122	8.7
1990 to 1994	103	7.3
1980 to 1989	405	28.8
1970 to 1979	174	21.4
1960 to 1969	187	3.3
1940 to 1959	328	23.3
1939 or earlier	41	2.9

*Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau (2000)
Minnesota Planning Agency - Datatnet

2.4 Education

School Enrollment

Ideal Township exceeds State of Minnesota averages in persons aged three years and older enrolled in school. Table 2-9 shows the current enrollment of Ideal Township residents in schools from nursery or preschool to college or university study. Percentages represented within the table are based from the total population aged three years and over for both Ideal Township and the State of Minnesota.

Table 2-9 School Enrollment (2000)

Type of Education	Number	Percent	State Percent
Population 3 years and over enrolled in school	190	100.0%	96.1%
Nursery school, preschool	15	7.9	1.9
Kindergarten	15	7.9	1.5
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	96	50.5	12.6
High school (grades 9-12)	48	25.3	6.5
College, undergraduate	11	5.8	5.2
Graduate or professional education	5	2.6	1.1

*Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau (2000)
Minnesota Planning Agency - Datamet

Educational Attainment

Table 2-10 shows educational attainment among Ideal Township residents.

Table 2-10 Educational Attainment (2000)

Level of Education	Number	Percent of Total (%)	State Percent
Population 25 years and over	755	100.0%	X
Less than 9th grade	14	1.9	5.0%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	54	7.2	7.0
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	224	29.7	28.8
Some college, no degree	154	20.4	24.0
Associate degree	70	9.3	7.7
Bachelor's degree	165	21.9	19.1
Graduate or professional degree	74	9.8	8.3

*Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau (2000)
Minnesota Planning Agency - Datamet

2.5 Economic Indicators

Employment

Table 2-11 indicates the number of Ideal Township residents, 16 years and older, in the labor force.

Table 2-11 Employment (2000)

	Number	Percent of Total (%)
Population 16 years and over	819	100.0%
In labor force	406	49.6
Civilian labor force	406	49.6
Employed	385	47.0
Unemployed	21	2.6
Percent of civilian labor force	X	5.2
Armed forces	0	0.0
Not in labor force	413	50.4

*Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau (2000)
Minnesota Planning Agency – Datanet

Household Income

Table 2-12 shows 2000 income distribution information for Ideal township households.

Table 2-12 Household Income (2000)

	Number	Percent of Total (%)
Less than \$10,000	29	6.6
\$10,000 to \$14,999	25	5.7
\$15,000 to \$24,999	54	12.3
\$25,000 to \$34,999	51	11.6
\$35,000 to \$49,999	77	17.5
\$50,000 to \$74,999	91	20.7
\$75,000 to \$99,999	54	12.3
\$100,000 to \$149,000	28	6.4
\$150,000 to \$199,999	16	3.6
\$200,000 or more	14	3.2
<i>Average Household Income</i>	\$65,015	

*Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau (2000)
Minnesota Planning Agency - Datanet

Commuting to Work

Table 2-13 displays the method of travel and average travel time to work for the Ideal Township workforce.

Table 2-13 Method of Commuting to Work, Ideal Township (2000)

	Number	Percent (%)
Sampled workers 16 Years of Age and Over	378	100.0
Car, truck or van-drove alone	280	74.1
Car, truck or van- carpooled	35	9.3
Public Transportation (including taxicab)	2	0.5
Walked	22	5.8
Other means	3	0.8
Worked at home	36	9.5
<i>Average travel time to work</i>	24.7 Minutes	

*Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau (2000)
Minnesota Planning Agency – Datamet

Occupation

Table 2-14 displays information on Ideal Township workforce distribution among a variety of occupations as presented by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 2-14 Workforce by Occupation, Ideal Township (2000)

	Number	Percent (%)
Sampled workers 16 Years of Age and Over	385	100.0
Management, professional, and related occupations	153	39.7
Service occupations	50	13.0
Sales and office occupations	105	27.3
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	2	0.5
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	39	10.1
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	36	9.4

*Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau (2000)
Minnesota Planning Agency – Datamet

SECTION THREE: Community Assessment

3.1 Introduction to Ideal Township Community Assets

Ideal Township is a community rich with natural and human resources as well as the amenities, services, and facilities to support the Township population. These resources provide for strong community values, pleasant sense of community, and many possibilities for the entire community. Through the public participation component of the Ideal Township comprehensive planning process, the community identified several assets of the Township and the challenges that lay ahead. These assets and challenges are presented within the following categories:

- Community Growth & Population
- Land Use
- Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation
- Community Services & Facilities
- Sense of Community & Community Beautification
- Infrastructure, Utilities & Communications
- Transportation

3.2 Community Growth & Population Assets

The significant growth Ideal Township has experienced over the past decades has added to the overall quality of the Township in many ways. New growth within the community not only includes a significant retirement population seeking to enjoy the rural, natural resources rich environment, but also a strong skilled and professional base. Through community discussion, this new growth has been expressed as an asset to the community, especially in bringing fresh new ideas, activism, and opportunities. The following assets were inventoried by participants in the Ideal Township visioning process:

Community Growth

ASSETS

Growth seen as an asset “People Asset”
Community Activism
Strong skilled and professional population base
Retirement population
Population growth
Current residential base, including recreational base

3.3 Land Use Assessment

Community character and sustainability pivots on the use of land within a community. The rural residential character of Ideal Township is clearly shown through the significant use of land for green space, agricultural, and residential purposes. These uses are blended with commercial and public uses to strengthen this community character and sustain the physical and human resources within the Township into the future. The information and mapping provided throughout this section is intended to provide general background information on land use districts within Ideal Township as maintained by Crow Wing County.

This land use assessment is intended for general information purposes only. No guarantee or warranty is given expressed or implied as to accuracy or completeness. For specific land use and zoning information, contact the Crow Wing County Planning and Zoning Office at (218) 824-1125

Residential Land Use

Crow Wing County Zoning Ordinance (2003)

- Classification: Residential
Rural Residential
- Symbol: (R) Residential
(RR) Rural Residential
- Primary Use: Single and two-family dwellings
- Conditional Uses (R): Multiple-family dwellings
Residential PUD
Limited home occupational uses
Limited public uses
Mobile Homes
Clubs & Community Organizations
- Conditional Uses (RR): Additional Uses
- General Characteristics:

Residential (R) land use is focused primarily along shoreland areas within Ideal Township. Generally, residential uses include single-family dwelling units used for permanent, seasonal, and recreational purposes as well as some multiple-family uses and planned development. Rural residential (RR) land uses within Ideal Township are also primarily located along or near shoreland areas within the Township. Primarily, the differences between residential and rural residential land uses include larger lot size minimums and the agricultural uses allowed within rural residential districts.

Residential
(Residential, Rural Residential, Agricultural)

NEEDS/DESIRES

(Lakeshore)

1. Maintain Single-family Environment (Development)
2. Focus multiple-family Development off lakeshore areas

(Non-Lakeshore)

1. Keep Rural Residential lot size minimum 2.5 acres
2. Strengthen performance measures to maintain rural residential/single-family character
3. Focus residential development on golf course area and similar areas to promote consistency
4. Promote development design in rural residential and agricultural areas that provide for open space/green space

Agricultural Land Uses

Crow Wing County Zoning Ordinance (2003)

Classification: Agricultural

Symbol: (A)

Primary Use: Single and two-family dwellings
Extensive agricultural uses including crop production
Limited animal and poultry production

Conditional Uses (A): Same as (R) and (RR) Districts
Commercial Uses

General Characteristics:

Agricultural land is sporadically located throughout Ideal Township. Generally, agricultural land is used for limited agricultural activity and not for large animal or crop production due to the relatively small tracts of agricultural land.

Commercial Uses

Crow Wing County Zoning Ordinance (2003)

Classification:	Commercial 1 (Downtown Commercial) Commercial 2 (Additional Commercial Uses) Waterfront Commercial (Shoreland Commercial Uses)
Symbol:	(C1) Commercial 1 (C2) Commercial 2 (WC) Waterfront Commercial
Commercial 1 Uses:	Traditional downtown businesses such as convenience stores, shops, bakeries, banks, etc. Residential use such as multiple family housing adjoining residential zoned areas also generally permitted. Other residential and public uses conditionally permitted.
Commercial 2 Uses:	Additional commercial uses such as auto sales, service stations, etc, usually of a greater impact than those uses permitted under C1. Residential uses and public uses similar to that of C1 commercial uses.
Waterfront Commercial Uses:	Uses such as resorts, campgrounds, marinas, restaurants and supper clubs, and similar waterfront related uses.

General Characteristics:

Most commercial land use within Ideal Township is of a waterfront commercial (WC) character. These waterfront commercial uses include resorts, marinas, campgrounds, and similar uses within the Township. Other non-waterfront commercial related uses within Ideal Township include convenience store facilities and similar uses generally of a C1 commercial nature. Few C2 uses exist within Ideal Township.

**COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL
NEEDS/DESIRES**

(Lakeshore)

1. Maintain or increase resort and tourism related businesses along lakeshore areas (Tourism, Local Economic Development, Employment Opportunities, etc.)
2. Limit the impact of Commercial development on lakeshore
3. Commercial development on lakeshores must be consistent with “up north” aesthetics

(Non-Lakeshore & Lakeshore)

1. Limit advertising signage (Limit billboards)
2. Commercial development in all areas must be consistent with “up north” aesthetics
3. Focus Commercial along CSAH 16 (access/capacity)
4. Focus industrial uses such as Junk Automobiles in other Industrial areas of Crow Wing County

Industrial Uses

Crow Wing County Zoning Ordinance (2003)

- Classification: Industrial 1 (Light Industrial)
Industrial 2 (Most Industrial Applications)
- Symbol: (M1) Industrial 1
(M2) Industrial 2
- Industrial I Uses: General light industrial uses, manufacturing, warehousing, etc.
- Industrial II Uses: Any other industrial related uses not included under the M1 district. Conditional use may be needed for some greater impact uses.
- General Characteristics:

Industrial land use within Ideal Township is extremely limited. The resources available and the general characteristics of the Township are generally not consistent with typical industrial use.

Public Uses

Crow Wing County Zoning Ordinance (2003)

Classification: Public Use District

Symbol: (P)

Public Uses: Includes public use facilities such as urban parks, public landings, churches, hospitals, golf courses, and similar uses. Conditional uses include adjoining residential uses, public assembly uses, or similar uses.

General Characteristics:

The public use land use district delineates land uses related to public or community-related facilities or services. Public golf courses, churches, public landings and similar uses are the primary public land uses within Ideal Township. Assets, challenges, needs, and desires related to community facilities are located in section 3.5 of this plan.

Green Space

Crow Wing County Zoning Ordinance (2003)

Classification: Green Space

Symbol: (G)

Green Space Uses: Protection of environmentally sensitive areas, forests, etc. Includes rural parks, campgrounds, game/wildlife management areas, crops and agricultural use, seasonal or temporary recreational uses are conditionally permitted.

General Characteristics:

Located sporadically throughout Ideal Township, green space is intended to protect open lands from development while promoting their use for recreational and seasonal enjoyment. In addition, green space areas within the Township are used for limited agricultural purposes and seasonal single-family use. Assets, challenges, needs, and desires related to community facilities are located in section 3.4 of this plan.

Generally, the Ideal Township community expressed satisfaction with the current organization of land resources within the Township, and a community view depicting current development as an asset to the community. Participants in community discussion addressed all types of development within Ideal Township including residential and rural residential, agricultural, green space and buffer, public, commercial and industrial, waterfront commercial zoning as issued by Crow Wing County.

3.4 Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation

The Ideal Township community takes great pride in the many natural resources within the Township and the Whitefish Chain of Lakes. Several public and private community groups work to ensure the future of these natural resources including property owners associations, natural resources conservation groups, and state and local units of government. This section observes the community vision and viewpoints expressed through the public participation component of the Ideal Township planning process. These viewpoints and visions were used in the development of the goals and objectives presented within the implementation section of this plan.

NATURAL RESOURCES

ASSETS/CHALLENGES

ASSETS

Plentiful supply and variety of lakes & trees
Wildlife
Good lake access
Tourism
Resorts
Golf Courses
Recreational opportunities, including trails, etc.
Campgrounds
Topography
Water Quality
Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway

CHALLENGES

Development of Natural Resources
Threats to wildlife
Threats to surface & ground water
Wetland preservation

NEEDS/DESIRES

1. Need to maintain Green Space
2. Need increased Township participation in community organizations created to enhance or preserve natural resources including lakes, etc.
3. Need to ensure future water quality through community organizations and associations dedicated to the improvement of water quality.
4. Need to promote wise use of lakes and natural resources

3.5 Community Services & Facilities

Through participation in community meetings, members of the Ideal Township community developed an inventory of key community facilities and services within the Township and adjacent communities. Although there are many other community facilities and services of importance not listed here, the following presents a brief inventory of community facilities and services compiled by community visioning participants:

Community Facilities & Services	
ASSETS/CHALLENGES	
FACILITIES (ASSETS)	SERVICES (ASSETS)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Town Hall & Fire Facility -Parks: Rollie Johnson Natural and Recreation Area -Public Boat Landings -Nature Conservancy -Golf Courses -Marinas -Transfer Station -Resorts -Lakes -Roads -Camps -First Responders -Dike System -Schools in neighboring communities -Churches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Volunteer Fire Department -First Responders and other emergency services -Transfer Station & recycling -Neighboring communities, medical and other services -Extensive adult education opportunities -Garbage collection -Senior services -CW Co. transit & volunteer drivers -Veterans Organizations -Access to septic services, installation and service -Access to goods and services -Commitment to arts & cultural activities
FACILITIES (CHALLENGES)	SERVICES (CHALLENGES)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Facilities to serve growth -Need for fire facility on north shore of Whitefish Lakes -Need improved warning system “can’t hear sirens from the lake” -Need for non-government facilities such as churches, assisted living facilities, recreational facilities, expanded nature conservation facilities, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Services for retirement & aging community -Need for more cost-effective waste management services -Extensive need for adult education services -

In addition to looking to current community facilities within the Ideal Township area, the community also developed a vision as to the community facilities that will be needed to serve the community into the future. Consisting of primarily public facilities, this list was used in the development of the community facilities goals and objectives provided in the implementation section of this plan.

Community Facilities

NEEDS/DESIRES

1. Fire Station on North Side of Lake [Whitefish]
2. Storm Warning Signals
3. Trails System
4. Natural resources conservation facilities
5. Need to retain public lands
6. More dedicated parks – nature conservatories
7. Need public beach areas
8. Increased Tourism Facilities/Information/Community Buildings/Enlarged tourism facilities to accommodate visitors
9. Need more cost effective Transfer Facility
10. Central Septic Facility/Wastewater Treatment Facility depending on future community growth
11. Improved or increased park facilities with recreational fields
12. Public Library facility
13. Assisted living facilities

Community Services

NEEDS/DESIRES

1. Public education for boating, etc.
2. Need for Emergency Services
3. Enforcement of Ordinances
4. Enforcement of surface water use by training of landowners
5. Increased Cooperation with Crow Wing County Sheriff
6. Garbage/Rubbish/Recycling
7. Animal Control Opportunities
8. Clinic/Medical Facility Growth *Community Growth
9. Day Care Facilities
10. Assisted Living Facilities
11. More Contact (Liaison) With County and other Townships
12. Public Transportation to Brainerd
13. Water Patrol
14. Public Library
15. Public education for the following:
 - Environment/Lakeshore Management
 - Senior Assistance Programs
 - Computer Classes
 - Land Use-Planning & Zoning Education
16. Need ongoing long-term planning

3.6 Sense of Community & Community Beautification

Sense of community and maintaining an aesthetically beautiful community is an important component to the vitality of the community and general community morale. Combined with natural beauty, it is a strong sense of belonging and of place that adds to the strength of the Ideal Township community. This sense is fostered by the many community events and activities that promote citizenship and sense of belonging as well as an aesthetically beautiful place to live, work, and play that develops the Ideal Township community character. Through the community visioning process, members of the community offered viewpoints on Ideal Township sense of community and community beautification.

Sense of Community & Community Beautification

ASSETS/CHALLENGES

ASSETS

- Strong Sense of Community
- Community events including the Beef Feed, Centennial Event, Ideal Day, etc.
- Seasonal activities
- Safe community and sense of security
- Quality landscaping and cleanliness
- Clean community

CHALLENGES

- Junkyards, junk on properties
- Maintaining community closeness
- Maintaining safe community

NEEDS/DESIRES

1. Need for community volunteerism/activism
2. Need increased communication of Township activities
3. Need updated website
4. Need monthly Township newsletter (posted on website)
5. Keep the community clean, i.e. junkyards, screening, etc.
6. Encourage organization of neighborhood watches

3.7 Infrastructure, Utilities, Communication & Transportation

Communication, Drinking Water, Wastewater, Stormwater

Providing the means of communication, drinking water, wastewater treatment, stormwater, and other essential day-to-day functions, infrastructure is a very important component to the overall health and vitality of a community. Through community visioning the Ideal Township community offered their viewpoints and opinions on the current state of all types of infrastructure within the Township as well as infrastructure that will be needed into the future. This information was used in the development of community goals and objectives presented in the implementation section of this plan.

Infrastructure, Utilities & Communication

ASSETS & CHALLENGES

- Good communications including, newspaper, Internet and computer servers, radio, television including cable television, emergency weather, cellular telephone access, and electricity providers.
- Generally good individual septic treatment system (ISTS) compliance

NEEDS/DESIRES

1. Need for Cluster/Municipal System (Expansion)
2. Look to inspection options (Lakeshore Association Assistance)
3. Monitor septic system impacts over time – create benchmarks for pollution, etc.
4. Monitor water quality of both surface water and ground water.
5. Look to a geological assessment of the Ideal Township area
6. Look to community drinking water options
7. Look to Stormwater Management options including impervious surface coverages
8. Coordination with adjacent communities on water quality initiatives

Transportation

With safety at the forefront of community discussion, the Ideal Township community identified the many transportation assets and challenges through community visioning sessions. These assets and challenges were also used to identify community desires and in the development of the transportation goals and objectives presented in the implementation section of this plan. Community discussion focused on several modes of transportation including roadways, trails, waters, and light discussion on air travel.

TRANSPORTATION
ASSETS & CHALLENGES

ROADWAYS	TRAILS
<p>ASSETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Good access to employment, goods & services, etc. -Current incorporation of access management on CSAH 16 and other roadways. -Roads well maintained <p>CHALLENGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Enforcement issues w/ speed, etc. -Narrow shoulders -Non-striped center lines -Structure closeness to roads -No pedestrian walkways -Inadequate roadway signage 	<p>ASSETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Existing trails in neighboring communities, i.e. Paul Bunyan Trail -Existing parks & trails -Existing snowmobile trails <p>CHALLENGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Limited educational/nature trails -Limited multiple use trails
WATERS	AIR TRAVEL
<p>ASSETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Safe use of surface water in general -Access throughout Whitefish Chain <p>CHALLENGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Misuse and abuse of surface waters -Need for additional buoys 	<p>ASSETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -International Airports (Minneapolis, Duluth, Fargo) -Regional Airport Facilities (Crow Wing County, Pine River) -Adjacent community airport facilities -Surface water <p>CHALLENGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No transportation to and from Crow Wing Regional Airport

TRANSPORTATION

NEEDS/DESIRES

ROADWAYS	TRAILS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enforcement issues w/ speed, etc. 2. Construct wider shoulders on roadways 3. Stripe Township roadways 4. Ensure sufficient road right of way 5. Construct pedestrian walkways simultaneously with roadway construction projects 6. Need quality workmanship on roads, existing and new 7. Increase signage on roadways 8. Restrict billboards along all roadways 9. Ensure proper capacity of future roadways to ensure capacity needs are met 10. Incorporate access management principles in all future and existing roadways 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase number of trails in parks within the Township 2. Trails to serve multiple uses including ATV, snowmobile, horses, bicycles, walking/hiking, and future technology including Segways (human transporters) 3. Future off-road connection to the Paul Bunyan Trail 4. Trails for nature observation/education
WATERS	AIR TRAVEL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Placement of Buoys -Water surface use enforcement -Widened/Increase capacity of channels Clamshell-Bertha-Lower Hay-Trout, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Brainerd Airport Limousine Service

SECTION FOUR: The Ideal Action Plan

4.1 Keys to Implementation

A variety of goals and objectives are presented within this plan in order to provide for an Ideal Township community that can be enjoyed by all residents, whether seasonal or permanent, their children, grandchildren, and future generations to come. While many of the goals and objectives presented are more general nature than specific, they provide a platform that the Ideal Township community can develop upon as internal and external forces drive future planning. The primary key to implementing the *Ideal Township Community-based Comprehensive Plan* is to work to achieve all objectives for each goal presented according to the implementation schedule, and continually monitor the progress of all ongoing objectives as there will be no specified completion of that objective. All of the goals and objectives presented are a product of many members of the community offering their views, opinions and support throughout the community meeting process and in citizen committee meetings.

4.2 Community Character, Natural Resources & Land Use Goals

GOAL A: To maintain the rural, recreational, and single-family character of Ideal Township

A general overtone of any community discussion on community character throughout the public participation process was that Ideal Township is a community of rural, single-family character. The following objectives work to promote the rural, recreational, and single-family character of the Township:

1. Maintain 2.5-acre lot sizes for each unit, or combinations of units on rural residential non-lakeshore areas of Ideal Township.
2. Look to incorporating any residential or agricultural zoning districts created by Crow Wing County resulting in lot sizes between 2.5 and 15 acres within Ideal Township.
3. Encourage open space and green space preservation within rural residential areas of Ideal Township.
4. Limit the approval of variances within Ideal Township except in cases strictly meeting hardship criteria established by Crow Wing County.
5. Maintain natural open areas of the Township such as tax forfeited lands for wildlife management, hunting land, etc.
6. Restrict the clear cutting of trees in residential/agricultural areas of Ideal Township with the exception of cutting for agricultural uses such as crop production or for the normal construction of structures.

7. The Township Board will comment on all development proposals and applications specific to Ideal Township.
8. Encourage resort and tourism related businesses along lakeshore areas to foster local economic development and provide job opportunities.

GOAL B: To preserve and maintain the natural character and environment of lakeshore and shoreline areas of Ideal Township.

Ensuring the protection of shoreland areas and the shoreline of lakes within Ideal Township for their enjoyment by all residents, visitors, etc., and future generations to come is very important to the Ideal Township community. The objectives listed below provide a platform to protect the character of lakeshore and shoreline within the Township.

1. Take an active role in coordinating with the MN Department of Natural Resources, Crow Wing County, residents, landowners, business owners and lakes/property owners associations in minimizing impacts of boat slips and docks in all waterfront areas within Ideal Township. In addition, adherence to Minnesota Rules Chapter 6120 and all other state regulations will be vital to minimize overcrowding of shorelines within Ideal Township.
2. Develop incentive options to encourage shoreland and shoreline property owners to maintain natural vegetation and screening along shoreland/shoreline.

GOAL C: To protect the surface and groundwater quality within Ideal Township.

Maintaining quality groundwater and surface water resources is extremely important to the Ideal Township community. The following objectives will provide a beginning point for insuring quality of all water resources within the Township.

1. Test the water quality of lakes within Ideal Township for those lakes without such testing and maintain water quality data and information for all lakes in which such testing is performed by local organizations, agencies, etc.
2. Test the water quality of groundwater by requiring individual well system testing whenever property is sold within Ideal Township to the extent allowed by law. If previously tested, maintain water quality data for long-range planning purposes.
3. Prevent and eradicate Eurasian Watermilfoil, Zebra Mussels and other invasive exotic species within Ideal Township lakes through coordination with the MN Department of Natural Resources and property owner's associations, lakes associations, and similar organizations.
4. Monitor surface and groundwater quality related programs, public and private, to aid in completing objectives one and two.

GOAL D: Provide ongoing planning coordination with Crow Wing County and secure long-range planning tools to assist Ideal Township in future long-range planning.

The ability to plan to the future is a strong concern for the Ideal Township community. Internal and external forces in growth, etc., may provide for situations not addressed through this plan. The implementation of a long range planning committee can address these situations and monitor community growth and planning into the future. The following objectives provide a few tools to ensuring proper long-range planning of Ideal Township.

1. Secure consultation to assess the “buildout” of Ideal Township projecting growth and development at least 20 years into the future to provide data in long-range planning of Ideal Township.
2. Coordinate with Crow Wing County in the implementation of the Ideal Township Community-based Comprehensive Plan, the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Plan, and the Crow Wing County Zoning Ordinance.
3. Implement a long-range planning committee with membership representing a wide cross section of the citizenry of the Township to address long-range planning issues within Ideal Township.

GOAL E: Maintain and enhance the “up-north” feel and the rural residential, single-family character of Ideal Township through the following recommendations:

The recommendations for creating and maintaining the community character established by the community are intended to assist Crow Wing County in development related decisions specific to the Ideal Township area. Not implemented like the many other objectives presented within this plan, these recommendations are to be ongoing until updated, removed, or otherwise altered through a revision of this plan.

1. Recommend and encourage development designs that preserve open space and green space.
2. Encourage structure exteriors that are consistent with the “up-north” feel and character of Ideal Township such as neutral tone color exteriors, wood siding, log structures/exteriors, stone exteriors, and similar exteriors.
3. Recommend that all lighting be directed downward or covered in such a way as the light source is not directly visible from lakes, public right of ways, etc., within Ideal Township.

4. Recommend that commercial development be approved only along roadways capable of handling increased volumes of traffic, with the exception of waterfront commercial businesses such as resorts, campgrounds, and other recreation-oriented business.
5. Recommend strict enforcement of Crow Wing County performance standards and encourage community involvement in ensuring the standards are met. These standards include requirements related to screening, lighting, signage, noise, vibration, glare, etc.
6. Recommend and encourage landscaping consistent with the rural, natural “up-north” feel and character of Ideal Township including utilizing native vegetation, natural ground cover, planting of deciduous and coniferous trees, etc., and similar landscaping.
7. Recommend that dense development such as condominiums, multiple-family dwelling units, apartment buildings, etc., be located in other areas of the County that are capable of supporting such development with necessary wastewater/drinking water, transportation systems and other infrastructure.
8. Encourage Crow Wing County wide building inspection services.

4.3 Transportation Goals

GOAL A: Ensure proper capacity of roadways and internal circulation of traffic within Ideal Township

Ensuring a road network that promotes smooth ingress and egress in and out of the Township is important to the community. Also of importance is the ability of roadways within Ideal Township to serve the transportation needs of people and goods. The following objectives work to ensure property road capacity and internal circulation in Ideal Township.

1. Incorporate Access Management guidelines into future and existing roadway planning to provide smooth internal circulation including ingress and egress, and identify access management needs within Ideal Township.
2. Take an active role in obtaining and maintaining Township road information such as average daily traffic (ADT) counts and accident or incident information for long-range planning purposes.
3. When possible, incorporate pedestrian design features such as pedestrian walkways, bicycling paths, etc., in all new and existing roadway improvement projects.

4. Implement a consistent roadway maintenance policy to improve Township right-of-ways and update the policy yearly.

GOAL B: Ensure a safe roadway system within Ideal Township

Promoting the safest possible community is a primary goal of the Ideal Township community. This includes working to improve and maintain the safety of roadways within the Township from the time of roadway construction and as growth and development occurs on and around roadways. The following objectives work to improve roadway safety in Ideal Township.

1. Increase public awareness of roadway safety and encourage/support public education opportunities.
2. Assess the need for, and construct where deemed necessary, safety features such as roadway stripping, rumble strips, increased signage, and other safety features within Ideal Township.
3. Increase the safety for school bus transportation within Ideal Township including assessing and maintain problem areas within the Township.
4. Work with the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Department on the enforcement of speeds within areas of Ideal Township including the use of unmanned radar, increased patrols, etc.

GOAL C: Develop and maintain an enhanced trails network within Ideal Township in a cooperative spirit with Crow Wing County and adjacent communities.

Mentioned several times throughout this plan, the recreational aspect of Ideal Township is important to community. As discussed through community meetings, the establishment and maintenance of trails within Ideal Township will enhance this recreational aspect as well as minimize the impact of recreational vehicles within the Township. The implementation of these objectives may require the assembling of a Township trails committee or other citizens group to ensure community trails objectives are successfully completed.

1. Develop trails to serve the needs of ATV, Dirt Bike and Motocross users.
2. Look at trail alternatives other than the use of right-of-way for trails within Ideal Township.
3. Build and maintain pedestrian travel (hiking, bicycling, walking, etc.) trails within the Township especially in areas of concentrated development.

4. Maintain and increase Ideal Township’s role in local and regional trails planning including strong cooperation and coordination with surrounding communities, community, regional, and interregional trails planning organizations, and the Crow Wing County Parks and Recreation Department.

GOAL D: Ensure the safe, enjoyable use of all waters within Ideal Township

Being the lakes community that Ideal Township is, the safe and enjoyable use of surface waters is extremely important to the community. An important balance in promoting the safety of waters is minimize the sense of intrusion or “big brother” measures taken with the actual improvement of safety and enforcement. The following objectives provide a platform for promoting water surface safety within Ideal Township while minimizing the intrusion on the enjoyment of waters.

1. Increase patrolling of water surface use on lakes within Ideal Township.
2. Develop policy related to large temporary structures on lakeshore and shoreland areas of Ideal Township.
3. Work with State and local agencies to develop speed limit policy on lakes within Ideal Township.

4.4 INFRASTRUCTURE

GOAL A: To provide for safe, clean, and plentiful drinking water for existing residents and future population growth

Every member of the Ideal Township community has the right to a safe, clean, and plentiful drinking water supply. The following objectives work to protect the Ideal Township water supply through water quality monitoring and promoting safer drinking water options for future development.

1. Maintain well testing records and soil testing records from within Ideal Township.
2. Encourage the use of community drinking water systems to serve high-concentration development.
3. Assess the feasibility of constructing a municipal drinking water system or expanding adjacent systems to serve population growth.

GOAL B: To provide for wastewater options that serve the existing community and future population growth

Individual septic treatment systems were the ideal choice of wastewater treatment for the past development trend of sparse development. New trends in more dense development brings the need for assessing new wastewater treatment options to protect the precious groundwater and surface water within the Township into the future. The following objectives work to look to options to serve this new trend of development.

1. Encourage the use of wastewater systems that serve multiple users of concentrations of development, i.e., community septic systems.
2. Ensure compliance with County and State individual septic treatment system regulations and assist Crow Wing County in achieving 100% compliance with those regulations through periodic inspections.
3. Continue coordination with lakeshore owners including the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA), to ensure compliance with individual septic treatment regulations and maintain compliance data.

GOAL C: To minimize the impacts of Stormwater on natural, human, and physical resources within Ideal Township

New pattern of more dense development has also brought new issues with stormwater and runoff issues. This more dense development may result in more impervious surface coverage which may impede the natural filtration of stormwater and create adverse impacts on water quality within the Township. For these reasons the following objectives have been created to minimize stormwater related impacts on the community.

1. Maintain the Crow Wing County Zoning Ordinance impervious surface requirement for lakeshore residential zoning districts within Ideal Township.
2. Require a Stormwater Management Plan to be filed on all proposed plats within Ideal Township, consistent with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permitting Program. In addition, forward all stormwater related plans to the Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District and request comment.
3. Encourage storm water management design features for all new plats within the Township that promote the safe and natural flow and absorption of stormwater. In the event such natural design is not feasible the installation of storm sewers, curb and gutter, etc. within new and existing plats is encouraged.

4.4 COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES

GOAL A: To provide high-quality community services and facilities for use by current and future citizens of Ideal Township.

Community facilities and services are necessary to provide essential and non-essential services to the community. A brief listing of these services can be found in section 3.5 of this plan. The following objectives are designed to guide community facility and service requirements into the future.

1. Work to improve planing and zoning services within Ideal Township by working closely, courteously, and effectively with property owners, developers, Crow Wing County, and any other persons involved in a development-related project within Ideal Township.
2. Coordinate with the Crow Wing County Parks and Recreation Department on parks projects within Ideal Township.
3. Acquire lands within Ideal Township through incentives and land donations to develop community parks, and increase the capacity of existing parks within the Township.
4. Increase the capacity of Ideal Township services in the future by reviewing options in expanding the Township Board of Supervisors and the capacity of its services, etc. Additional Township staff may also be necessary to provide increased services to accommodate future growth.
5. Create an Ideal Township community facility needs inventory to discover future facility needs costs, and timelines, etc, through the Long-range Planning Committee established by the Ideal Township Board of Supervisors.
6. Look at options in solid waste disposal to accommodate the future growth of Ideal Township including, but not limited to a centralized recycling facility, and coordinate with adjacent communities and Crow Wing County on solid waste issues.
7. Assist Crow Wing County in enforcing the County Zoning Ordinance leading up to and including removing structures or performing restoration for non-compliance with County regulations.

SECTION FIVE:

Implementation Schedule

LAND USE

GENERAL/RURAL RESIDENTIAL

Goal A: To maintain the Rural Residential character of Ideal Township

Objectives	Timeframe							Cost
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ongoing	
<p>A1: Maintain 2.5-acre lot sizes for each unit, or combinations of units on rural residential non-lakeshore areas of Ideal Township.</p> <p>Task Leader: Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning, Ideal Township Board of Supervisors</p>							X	None
<p>A2: Look to incorporating any residential or agricultural zoning districts created by Crow Wing County resulting in lot sizes between 2.5 and 15 acres within Ideal Township.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board of Supervisors, Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning</p>		X						Township Board
<p>A3: Encourage open space and green space preservation within rural residential areas of Ideal Township.</p> <p>Task Leader: Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning, Ideal Township Board of Supervisors</p>							X	None
<p>A4: Limit the approval of variances within Ideal Township except in cases strictly meeting hardship criteria established by Crow Wing County.</p> <p>Task Leader: Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning</p>							X	None
<p>A5: Maintain natural open area of the Township such as tax-forfeited lands for wildlife management, hunting land, etc.</p> <p>Task Leaders: Wildlife Management Areas</p>							X	Costs in securing land

(WMA)'s, Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning, Ideal Township Board of Supervisors										
A6: Restrict the clear cutting of trees in residential/agricultural areas of Ideal Township with the exception of cutting for agricultural uses such as crop production or for the normal construction of structures. Task Leaders: Ideal Township Board of Supervisors, Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning									X	None
A7: The Township Board will comment on all development proposals and applications specific to Ideal Township. Task Leaders: Ideal Township Board of Supervisors, community participation									X	None
A8: Encourage resort and tourism related businesses along lakeshore areas to foster local economic development and provide job opportunities. Task Leaders: Resort Owners, Tourism related businesses									X	None

LAND USE

LAKESHORE/ShORELAND

Goal B: To preserve and maintain the natural character and environment of lakeshore and shoreland areas of Ideal Township.

Objectives	Timeframe							Cost	
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ongoing		
B1: Take an active role in coordinating with the MN Department of Natural Resources, Crow Wing County, residents, landowners, business owners and lakes/property owners associations in minimizing impacts of boat slips and docks in all waterfront areas within Ideal Township. In addition, adherence to Minnesota Rules Chapter 6120 and all other state regulations will be vital to minimize overcrowding of shorelines within Ideal Township.								X	Staff Time Supervisor Time

Task Leaders: Ideal Township Board of Supervisors, MN DNR, Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning									
B2: Develop incentive options to encourage shoreland and shoreline property owners to maintain natural vegetation and screening along shoreland/shoreline. Task Leader: Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning, Ideal Township Board of Supervisors, Developers, Land Owners, Lake Associations							X	Staff Time Supervisor Time	

LAKES & NATURAL RESOURCES

WATER QUALITY

Goal C: To protect the surface and groundwater quality within Ideal Township.

Objectives	Timeframe							Cost
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ongoing	
<p>C1: Test the water quality of lakes within Ideal Township for those lakes without such testing and maintain water quality data and information for all lakes in which such testing is performed by local organizations, agencies, etc.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board of Supervisors, MN DNR, Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District, Lakes Associations</p>	X	X						<p>Project Consultation</p> <p>\$3,000 to \$5,000</p> <p>Staff Time</p>
<p>C2: Test the water quality of groundwater by requiring individual well system testing whenever property is sold within Ideal Township to the extent allowed by law. Maintain water quality data for long-range planning purposes.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board of Supervisors, MN DNR, Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District</p>	X	X						<p>Project Consultation</p> <p>\$3,000 to \$5,000</p> <p>Staff Time</p>
<p>C3: Prevent and eradicate Eurasian Watermilfoil, Zebra Mussels and other invasive exotic species within Ideal Township lakes through coordination with the MN Department of Natural Resources and property owner's associations, lakes associations, and similar organizations.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board of Supervisors, MN DNR, Lakes Associations, Property Owners Associations</p>		X					X	<p>Supervisor Time</p> <p>Staff Time</p>
<p>C4: Monitor surface and groundwater quality related programs in objectives C1 and C2.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board of Supervisors Partners: Lakes Associations, Property Owner Associations</p>	X						X	Staff Time

LAND USE

LONG-RANGE PLANNING

Goal D: Provide ongoing planning coordination with Crow Wing County and secure long-range planning tools to assist Ideal Township in long-range planning.

Objectives	Timeframe							Cost
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ongoing	
<p>D1: Secure consultation for the development of a “buildout scenario” for Ideal Township projecting growth and development at least 20 years into the future to provide data in long-range planning of Ideal Township.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board of Supervisors, Consultation</p>		X						<p>Project Consultation</p> <p>\$3,000 to \$7,000</p>
<p>D2: Coordinate with Crow Wing County in the implementation of the Ideal Township Comprehensive Plan, the County Comprehensive Plan, long-range planning, and the County Zoning Ordinance.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board of Supervisors, Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning</p>		X	X				X	Staff Time
<p>D3: Implement a long-range planning committee with membership representing a wide cross section of the citizenry of the Township to address long-range planning issues within Ideal Township.</p> <p>Task Leaders: Ideal Township Board of Supervisors, Citizens Appointed to Long-range planning committee.</p>			X	X				Committee Costs (Per Diem, travel, etc.)

LAND USE

RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal E: Maintain and enhance the current “up-north” feel and character of Ideal Township through the following recommendations:

E1	Recommend and encourage development designs that preserve open space and green space.
E2	Recommend and encourage structure exteriors that are consistent with the “up-north” feel and character of Ideal Township such as neutral tone color exteriors, wood siding, log structures/exteriors, stone exteriors, and similar exteriors.
E3	Recommend that all lighting be directed downward or covered in such a way as the light source is not directly visible from lakes, public right of ways, etc., within Ideal Township.
E4	Recommend that commercial development be approved only along CSAH 16 and adjacent roadways capable of handling increased volumes of traffic, with the exception of waterfront commercial businesses such as resorts, campgrounds, and other recreation-oriented business.
E5	Recommend strict enforcement of Crow Wing County performance standards and encourage community involvement in ensuring the standards are met. These standards include requirements related to screening, lighting, signage, noise, vibration, glare, etc.
E6	Recommend and encourage landscaping consistent with the rural, natural “up-north” feel and character of Ideal Township including utilizing native vegetation, natural ground cover, planting of deciduous and coniferous trees, etc., and similar landscaping.
E7	Recommend that dense development such as condominiums, multiple-family dwelling units, apartment buildings, etc., be located in other areas of the County that are capable of support such development with necessary wastewater/drinking water, transportation systems and other infrastructure.
E8	Encourage Crow Wing County wide building inspection services.

TRANSPORTATION GOALS & OBJECTIVES

ROADWAYS

Goal A: Ensure proper capacity of roadways within Ideal Township.

Objectives	Timeframe							Cost
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ongoing	
<p>A1: Incorporate Access Management guidelines into future and existing roadway planning to provide smooth internal circulation including ingress and egress, and identify access management needs within Ideal Township.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township, Crow Wing County Engineer Department Partner: Minnesota Department of Transportation</p>		X					X	Engineering Costs Potential Construction Costs
<p>A2: Take an active role in obtaining and maintaining Township road information such as average daily traffic (ADT) counts and accident or incident information for long-range planning purposes.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board, Crow Wing County Engineer Department, Crow Wing County Sheriff</p>		X					X	Staff Time
<p>A3: Incorporate pedestrian design features in all new and existing roadway improvement projects.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board of Supervisors, Crow Wing County Engineer, Planning & Zoning</p>		X					X	Engineering Costs Construction Costs
<p>A4: Implement a consistent roadway maintenance policy to improve Township right-of-ways and update the policy yearly.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board, Crow Wing County Engineer Department</p>		X	X				X	Staff Time

TRANSPORTATION

ROADWAYS

Goal B: Ensure a safe roadway system within Ideal Township.

Objectives	Timeframe							Cost
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ongoing	
<p>B1: Increase public awareness of roadway safety and encourage/support public education opportunities.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board, Designee of the Township Board</p>		X	X				X	Staff Time
<p>B2: Assess the need for, and construct where deemed necessary, safety features such as roadway stripping, rumble strips, increased signage, and other safety features within Ideal Township.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board, Crow Wing County Engineer</p>		X	X					Engineering Costs Supervisor Time
<p>B3: Increase the safety for school bus transportation within Ideal Township including assessing and maintain problem areas within the Township.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board of Supervisors, Designee of the Township Board</p>		X					X	Staff Time Supervisor Time
<p>B4: Work with the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Department on the enforcement of speeds within areas of Ideal Township including the use of unmanned radar, increased patrols, etc.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board, Crow Wing County Sheriff's Department</p>	X	X					X	Supervisor Time

TRANSPORTATION

TRAILS

Goal C: Develop and maintain an enhanced trails network within Ideal Township in a cooperative spirit with Crow Wing County and adjacent communities.

Objectives	Timeframe							Cost
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ongoing	
<p>C1: Develop trails to serve the needs of ATV, Dirt Bike, and Motocross users.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board Partners: Surrounding Communities, Crow Wing County Parks & Recreation Department</p>				X	X	X		Preparation, Engineering, Construction
<p>C2: Look to trail alternatives other than the use right-of-way for trails within Ideal Township.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board, Designees of the Township Board</p>				X	X	X		Engineering Costs Staff / Supervisor Time
<p>C3: Build and maintain pedestrian travel (hiking, walking) trails within the Township especially in areas of concentrated development.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board, Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning</p>		X	X				X	Potential Costs to Developer Engineering Costs Construction Costs
<p>C4: Maintain and increase Ideal Township's role in local and regional trails planning including strong cooperation and coordination with surrounding communities and the Crow Wing County Parks and Recreation Department.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board Partners: Surrounding Communities, Crow Wing County Parks & Recreation Department</p>	X	X					X	Potential Volunteer

SURFACE WATER USE

WATERS

Goal D: Ensure the safe, enjoyable use for all waters within Ideal Township.

Objectives	Timeframe							Cost
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ongoing	
<p>D1: Increase patrolling of water surface use on lakes within Ideal Township.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board Partners: Citizens, Crow Wing County Sheriff's Department, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)</p>		X					X	Enforcement-related costs including staff time
<p>D2: Develop policy related to large temporary structures on lakeshore and shoreland areas of Ideal Township.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board, Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning</p>		X						Staff Costs Supervisor Costs Consultation Costs
<p>D3: Work with State and local agencies to develop speed limit policy on lakes within Ideal Township.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board Partners: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Community Examples, etc.</p>		X	X					Staff Costs Supervisor Costs Consultation or Potential Attorney Costs

INFRASTRUCTURE

DRINKING WATER

Goal A: To provide for safe, clean, and plentiful drinking water for existing residents and future population growth.

Objectives	Timeframe							Cost
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ongoing	
<p>A1: Maintain well testing records and soil testing records from within Ideal Township.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board Partners: Landowners, Minnesota Department of Health, Public and Private Well Inspectors</p>		X					X	Staff Costs
<p>A2: Encourage the use of community drinking water systems to serve high-concentration development.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board, Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning</p>							X	None
<p>A3: Assess the feasibility of constructing a municipal drinking water system or expanding adjacent systems to serve population growth.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board Partners: Adjacent Communities</p>					X	X		Preliminary Costs – Staff Costs, Supervisor Costs, Consultation Costs

INFRASTRUCTURE

WASTEWATER

Goal B: To provide for wastewater options that serve the existing community and future population growth.

Objectives	Timeframe							Cost
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ongoing	
<p>B1: Encourage the use of wastewater systems that serve multiple users of concentrations of development, i.e., community septic systems.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board Partners: Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning</p>	X						X	Costs to Developers, Landowners
<p>B2: Ensure compliance with County and State individual septic treatment system regulations and assist Crow Wing County in achieving 100% compliance with those regulations through periodic inspections.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board, Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning, Designees of the Township Board Partners: Landowners, Septic Treatment System Inspectors</p>		X	X				X	Costs to Landowners Staff Costs
<p>B3: Continue coordination with lakeshore owners including the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA), to ensure compliance with individual septic treatment regulations and maintain compliance data.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board, Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning Partners: Landowners, Septic Treatment System Inspectors, WAPOA and other property owners/lakes associations</p>		X	X				X	Staff Costs Supervisor Costs Volunteer Opportunity

INFRASTRUCTURE

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Goal C: To minimize the impacts of Stormwater on natural, human, and physical resources within Ideal Township.

Objectives	Timeframe							Cost
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ongoing	
<p>C1: Maintain the Crow Wing County Zoning Ordinance impervious surface requirement for lakeshore residential zoning districts within Ideal Township.</p> <p>Task Leader: Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning, Lakeshore Property Owners, Ideal Township Board of Supervisors</p>							X	None
<p>C2: Require a Stormwater Management Plan to be filed on all proposed plats within Ideal Township, consistent with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permitting Program.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board of Supervisors, Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning Partners: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</p>							X	Costs to Developer (This objective is currently required by Crow Wing County)
<p>C3: Encourage storm water management design features for all new plats within the Township that promote the safe and natural flow and absorption of stormwater. In the event such natural design is not feasible the installation of storm sewers, curb and gutter, etc. within new and existing plats is encouraged.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board of Supervisors, Developers Partners: Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning</p>		X	X	X	X	X	X	Costs to Developer, Landowners

COMMUNITY SERVICES & FACILITIES

GENERAL SERVICES & FACILITIES

Goal D: To provide high-quality community services and facilities for use by current and future citizens of Ideal Township.

Objectives	Timeframe							Cost
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ongoing	
<p>A1: Work to improve planning & zoning services within Ideal Township by working closely, courteously, and effectively with property owners, developers, Crow Wing County, and any other persons involved in a development-related project within Ideal Township.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board of Supervisors, Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning Partners: Property Owners, Developers, and other persons working with development-related projects pending Crow Wing County review.</p>							X	None
<p>A2: Coordinate with the Crow Wing County Parks & Recreation Department on parks projects within Ideal Township.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board of Supervisors, Crow Wing County Parks & Recreation</p>	X	X						Staff Costs Potential Volunteer Opportunity
<p>A3: Acquire lands within Ideal Township through incentives and land donations to develop community parks, and increase the capacity of existing parks within the Township.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board of Supervisors, Designees of the Ideal Township Board of Supervisors.</p>	X	X	X					Land Acquisition Costs Staff Time Supervisor Time

Objectives	Timeframe							Cost
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ongoing	
<p>A4: Increase the capacity of Ideal Township services in the future by reviewing options in expanding the Township Board of Supervisors and the capacity of its services, etc. Additional Township staff may also be necessary to provide increased services to accommodate future growth.</p> <p>Task Leader: Citizen Participation, Ideal Township Board of Supervisors. Partners: Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT)</p>				X	X	X		Attorney Costs
<p>A5: Create an Ideal Township community facility needs inventory to discover future facility needs costs, and timelines, etc, through the Long-range Planning Committee established by the Ideal Township Board of Supervisors.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board of Supervisors, Citizen Participation</p>		X	X				X	Staff Costs Supervisor Costs Potential Volunteer Opportunity
<p>A6: Look to options in solid waste disposal to accommodate the future growth of Ideal Township including, but not limited to a centralized recycling facility, and coordinate with adjacent communities & Crow Wing County on solid waste issues.</p>			X	X			X	Staff Costs Supervisor Costs
<p>A7: Assist Crow Wing County in enforcing the County Zoning Ordinance leading up to and including removing structures or performing restoration for non-compliance with County regulations.</p> <p>Task Leader: Ideal Township Board of Supervisors, Crow Wing County Planning & Zoning</p>							X	Staff Costs Supervisor Costs Project Costs

APPENDIX ONE: 2003 Community Survey Executive Summary

Executive Summary of the Ideal Township Community-based Planning Survey

In preparing for the Ideal Township community-based comprehensive planning process a community survey was issued to a sample of roughly 1/3rd of Township residents selected at random. The purpose and intent of the survey was to gather general community feelings, opinions, and attitudes toward a variety of community land use, community service, and quality of life topics to foster discussion in public participation meetings. This executive summary presents results from the 180 respondents to the survey including permanent, seasonal, and recreational residents. Of the survey respondents within this summary, 61% indicated they were permanent residents, 13% indicated seasonal residency, and 24% indicated residency of a recreational nature. This summary is intended for brief presentation of survey results.

NOTE: Not all answers will add to 100% due to missing responses (no answer indicated on the survey form) and rounding.

Summary of Findings

Questions One through Four: Demographic Indicators

Summary: Responses to questions one through four indicate that the majority of survey respondents were permanent residents (61%), resided in Ideal Township for an average of 22 years, owned their own home (97%), and lived on non-lakeshore areas (73%).

Question Five: What do you find most appealing about Ideal Township?

Summary: Question five was asked to gather opinions on what respondents find most appealing about Ideal Township based upon a list provided. Opportunity was also given to add comments as to respondents' own words of what is most appealing about the Township. The results of the survey indicate that lakes and natural resources are the largest appeal of Ideal Township (82%) followed by the location (51%), community atmosphere (33%), and size (29%).

Question Six: Please write in the location of your employment (city or town) in the space provided. If you are retired, please write Retired in the space.

Summary: The majority, or 43% of survey respondents indicated that they were retired with the remaining respondents indicating the location of their employment to be local

and throughout Minnesota, including a significant portion specifying locations within the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Question Seven: Are you satisfied with public road access in Ideal Township?

Summary: This question was asked to gather community opinions on public road access within the Township. Responses to this question show that the majority (93%) of respondents is satisfied with access within the Township. This indicates that there may not be an issue with, or need for improving public road access within the Township.

Question Eight: Are you satisfied with road maintenance within Ideal Township?

Summary. Generally, respondents indicated a strong satisfaction with road maintenance within the Township (88%). This indicates that there may not be an issue with, or need for increased or improved roadway maintenance within the Township.

Question Nine: Are there any special transportation needs within Ideal Township including recreational trails, senior transportation, transportation for disabled persons, etc.?

Summary: Responses to this question indicate that there may not be a strong need for special transportation within the community. Eighty-three percent of respondents indicating a negative response on the survey form while 36% indicated that they were unsure of special transportation needs.

Question Ten: Community Services

Summary: Overall, survey respondents indicated strong satisfaction with all of the services listed within question ten. The following indicates the combination of positive “Excellent” and “Fair” responses and negative “Poor” or “Unsatisfactory” on the survey form:

<i>Type of Service</i>	Positive Responses	Negative Responses
Police Protection	78%	9%
Fire Protection	89%	1%
Ambulance Service	85%	1%
Parks and Recreation	83%	3%
Planning & Zoning	62%	23%
Road Maintenance	91%	3%
Water Patrol	76%	10%

Question Eleven: What additional services, if any, would you like to see provided within Ideal Township in the future?

Summary: The narratives provided indicated that there may be an increased need for law enforcement within the area with many respondents indicating issues with break-ins,

enforcement of trails use, and surface water use enforcement. Other responses also include animal control, some road maintenance issues, planning and zoning issues, and other service-based issues.

Question Twelve: Should Ideal Township look into more options for increasing community awareness and/or provide community information?

Summary: The majority of survey respondents (37%) indicated that there was no need for increasing community awareness or providing community information while a significant portion (29%) indicated that there was such a need. Careful consideration should be given to providing community information and promoting community awareness in the future.

Question Thirteen: How would you describe the current character of Ideal Township?

Summary: This question was designed to gather general public opinion on community character by providing a list of choices within the survey and by allowing respondents to write-in their opinions. Responses to question thirteen indicate a general feeling that Ideal Township is a Rural-Recreational community. In the top two responses, 69% of respondents indicated Ideal Township as a recreational community while 50% had indicated a rural community character.

Question Fourteen: What types of development would you like to see within Ideal Township up to 15-20 years into the future?

Summary: One of the most critical questions within the survey, this question as respondents to indicate the types of development they would like to see in Ideal Township fifteen to twenty years into the future. Generally, the responses and narratives to the question indicate a desire to limit development within the Township area, however narratives did indicate a need for business development primarily regarding existing businesses. The responses to the question are listed below in order from one being the most frequent of responses to ten, the least frequent of responses.

Rank	Type of Development	(%)
1.	Open Space or Green Space	56%
2.	Lakeshore Restoration	49%
3.	Residential (Greater than 1 acre)	41%
4.	Low-impact Commercial	36%
5.	Recreational Development	29%
6.	Lakeshore Residential	17%
7.	Waterfront Commercial	12%
8.	Other	9%
9.	Residential (Less than 1 acre)	7%
10.	Greater-impact Commercial	4%

Question Fifteen: Do you feel Crow Wing County provides adequate planning and zoning services within the Township?

Summary: Responses to the question indicate survey respondents' overall satisfaction with planning and zoning services provided by Crow Wing County. Of these responses, 38% of indicated satisfaction with the services, while 34% indicated that they were not. The results of the question indicate that there may be a need for improved planning and zoning services specifically within the Ideal Township area.

Question Sixteen: Please list up to three (3) land use issues you feel need to be addressed through the Ideal Township community-based planning process.

Summary: The narratives provided by respondents to the question indicate concerns with a variety of land use-related topics. Of the responses, population density, types of development including multiple-family and commercial development, lakeshore development issues, lakeshore usage issues, and ATV and snowmobile usage issues were frequently mentioned by respondents.

Question Seventeen: Do you feel there are adequate public facilities within Ideal Township?

Summary: Responses to question seventeen show general satisfaction with the current public facilities within Ideal Township. Out of all survey respondents, 76% indicated that there are adequate public facilities within the Township, while 8% felt that there are not. Despite the positive results of the question, the Township should continue to provide additional public facilities as the need arises.

Question Eighteen: Do you feel there is adequate enforcement of, and compliance with Septic Treatment System regulation within Ideal Township?

Summary: The results of question eighteen show that despite a majority of respondents indicated a positive response to the question (48%), 21% felt there was significant concern with septic system enforcement and compliance. The results of the question show a need for further examining of septic system enforcement and compliance issues, and/or increased public education on the issue.

Question Nineteen: Do you feel there are any issues with contamination of drinking water within Ideal Township?

Summary: Generally, the narrative responses to the question indicated a lack of survey respondents' knowledge of any drinking water issues, however issues and concerns with drinking water were raised. As in question eighteen, the need for monitoring drinking water within Ideal Township is necessary to ensure future water quality.

Question Twenty: Are there any major eyesores or nuisances within Ideal Township you would like to see addressed?

Summary: The results of the question show that 41% of respondents do not feel there are any major eyesores or nuisances within the Township while 31% felt that there is. Addressing these issues will establish a common understanding as to desirable use of land within the Township in an effort to create a desirable atmosphere. Narratives to the question generally indicate a need to resolve nuisance and eyesore issues such as unused buildings and providing for screening of such uses.

Question Twenty-one: Do you feel Planned Unit Development (PUD) within Ideal Township has been positive for the community?

Summary: The majority of survey respondents (50%) indicated that they were unsure of an answer to the question while the remaining respondents (27%) indicated that they feel PUD has been positive for the community and 13% felt that it has not. The narratives to the question support these responses in that they indicate a lack of understanding of PUD while also indicating both positive and negative aspects of the development practice.

APPENDIX TWO: Community Meeting Notes

Ideal Township Community Meeting #1

(June 24, 2003 7:00PM Ideal Town Hall)

Strengths

NATURAL RESOURCES

Plentiful supply and variety of lakes & trees - Wildlife
Good lake access
Tourism
Resorts
Golf Courses
Natural Recreational opportunities, including trails, etc.
Campgrounds
Topography
Water Quality

GROWTH & LAND USE

“People Asset”
Community Activism
Strong skilled and professional population base
Retirement population
Population growth
Current residential base, including recreational base
Not many big billboards
Current development, including commercial development

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & SERVICES

Services and amenities in the area
Schools
Churches
Volunteer Fire Department
Community facilities including the Town Hall, Parks, etc.
First Responders and other emergency services
Transfer Station & recycling
Neighboring communities, medical and other services
Extensive Adult education opportunities
Garbage collection
Senior services

CW Co. transit & volunteer drivers
Veterans Organizations
Access to septic services, installation and service
Access to goods and services
Commitment to arts & cultural activities

SENSE OF COMMUNITY & COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION

Strong Sense of Community
Community events including the Beef Feed, Centennial Event, Ideal Day, etc.
Seasonal activities
Safe community
Quality landscaping and cleanliness
Clean community
Quality landscaping

INFRASTRUCTURE, UTILITIES, ETC.

Communications including Newspaper, Internet and computer servers, Radio, Television, Emergency Weather, Cellular phone access
Utilities including MN Power, Excel Energy, Charter communications

LOCAL GOV'T COOPERATION, TRANSPORTATION

State & Public land
Corps of Engineers
Township Government
Good Roads
Access to employment opportunities

GENERAL Township Needs

Need long-term planning
Need revised Zoning - Out-of-date Zoning
Need follow-through on County permits and enforcement
Need more quality planning & zoning personnel
Need zoning for tourism
Need to maintain Green Space
Need to maintain a balance of land uses (Sustainable community)
Need increased awareness of Township Government
Need increased communication of Township activities
Need monthly newsletter and updated website
Need more participation by Township Board in watershed groups (1. Participation, 2. Financial contributions)
Need more work on Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway
Need more services for Youth
Law enforcement response
Lack of enforcement (general comment)

Township-wide alarm system
Tax burden on residents
Sewage treatment options – look to cluster septic systems or municipal water/wastewater options
Too many golf courses
Excessive lake use and lake misuse (Speed, noise, and personal watercraft)
ATV & golf cart misuse
Lack of ATV lands and trails
Lack of ability for the community to work together – no tolerance
Water quality future
Eurasion Water Milfoil
Need for community volunteerism
Lack of participation in Lakeshore Organizations
Limited commercial development

Ideal Township Community Meeting #2
(July 21, 2003 7:00PM Ideal Town Hall)

Existing Land Use – RESIDENTIAL

(Lakeshore)

Single-Family homes
Changes from cabins to homes
Decline in resorts
Some dense development – PUD Townhouse development
Trees/natural shoreline & vegetation/undevelopable land/Bluffs/Peninsulas

(Non-Lakeshore)

Single-family homes
Some mobile home development
Cabins
Less dense residential development (larger lot sizes)
Pole Barns

Existing Land Use – COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

(Waterfront)

Resorts
Small resorts/more dense
Marinas
Restaurants

(Non-Waterfront)

Storage
General Commercial/Industrial along CSAH 16
Golf Course/Driving Range
Restaurants/Bars/Off-sale
Mini Golf
Home-based occupations
Grocery Store
Kennel
Campgrounds
Convenience stores

Future Land Use Vision – RESIDENTIAL

(Lakeshore)

1. Maintain Single-family Environment (Development)

- Maintain larger lot sizes
- Require 100' of lakeshore
- Give incentives for screening and maintaining natural lakeshore (Tax Incentives)
- Height Restrictions to 2-story
- Lighting restrictions
- Keep areas not suited for development open space
- Plan infrastructure for future development/community septic, municipal system, & other

(Non-Lakeshore)

1. Keep Rural Residential lot size minimum 2.5 acres

2. Focus multiple-family Development off lakeshore areas

- Require larger setbacks
- Require screening if exterior, etc., not consistent w/ area development
- Shift Agricultural land to Rural Residential where feasible
- Maintain lighting requirements (focus lighting on the development)
- Look to requiring Green Space for multiple-family developments & PUD's
- Focus multiple family development along roads that will support the extra capacity
- Maintain 35' height requirement for multiple-family

3. Focus residential development on golf course area

Future Land Use Vision – COMMERCIAL

(Lakeshore)

1. Maintain or increase Resort businesses along lakeshore areas (Tourism, Local Economic Development, Employment Opportunities, etc.)

2. Limit the impact of Commercial development on lakeshore

- Consider watercraft impact on lake
 - Setbacks from lake as not to be clearly seen from the lake as much as possible
 - Lighting requirements - low-impact lighting for ID & navigation,
 - Limit advertising signage on lakeshores
- ### 3. Commercial development on lakeshores must be consistent with “up north” aesthetics

(Non-Lakeshore & Lakeshore)

1. Limit advertising signage (Limit billboards)

2. Commercial development in all areas must be consistent with “up north” aesthetics

- Construction materials
- Noise requirements

-Screening

-Lot Size

-Lighting

3. Focus Commercial along CSAH 16 (access/capacity)

4. Focus industrial uses such as Junk Automobiles in other Industrial areas of CW.
County

Ideal Township Community Meeting #3
(August 4, 2003 7:00PM Ideal Town Hall)

Community Facilities Inventory:

- Town Hall & Fire Facility
- Parks: Raleigh Johnson Park
- Public Boat Landings
- Nature Conservancy
- Golf Courses
- Marinas
- Transfer Station
- Resorts
- Lakes
- Roads
- Camps
- First Responders
- Dike System

Discussion on Future Community Facilities:

- Fire Station on North Side of Lake [Whitefish]
- Storm Warning Signals
- Trails System
- DNR Conservation
- Retaining Public Lands
- More dedicated parks – nature conservatories
- Public Beach
- Increased Tourism Facilities/Information/Community Buildings/Enlarging Tourism Facilities to Accommodate Guests
- Free Transfer Facility
- Central Septic Facility/Wastewater Treatment Facility *Community Growth
- Improved or increased park facilities with recreational fields
- Widened/Increase capacity of channels Clamshell-Bertha-Lower Hay-Trout, etc.

Discussion on Future Community Services:

- Public education for boating, etc.
- Public education for the following:
 - Environment/Lakeshore Management
 - Senior Assistance Programs
 - Computer Classes
 - Land Use-Planning & Zoning Education
- Need for Emergency Services
- Enforcement of Ordinances

- Enforcement of surface water use by training of landowners
- Increased Cooperation with Crow Wing County Sheriff
- Water Patrol
- Public Library
- Township Government Structure *Community Growth
 - Township Planning & Zoning
 - Public Works Department (Roads & Bridge Department)
- Garbage/Rubbish/Recycling
- Animal Control Opportunities
- Clinic/Medical Facility Growth *Community Growth
- Day Care Facilities
- Assisted Living Facilities
- More Contact (Liaison) With County and other Townships
- Public Transportation to Brainerd

Discussion on Infrastructure:

CURRENT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Individual Septic Treatment Systems
- Increasing Density

FUTURE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

- (20 Years) Need for Cluster/Municipal System (Expansion)
- Look to inspection options (Lakeshore Association Assistance)
- Monitor septic system impacts over time – create benchmarks for pollution, etc.
- Monitor water quality of both surface water and ground water.
- Look to a geological assessment of the Ideal Township area
- Look to community drinking water options
- Look to Stormwater Management options including impervious surface coverages
- Coordination with adjacent communities on water quality initiatives

Discussion on Transportation:

ROADWAYS (SAFETY)

- Enforcement issues w/ speed, etc.
- Narrow shoulders
- Non-striped center lines
- Structure closeness to roads
- No pedestrian walkways
- Need quality workmanship on roads, existing and new
- Proper signage
- Billboards (Restrictions Needed)
- Need increased patrols or neighborhood watches
- Need capacity adjustments
- Incorporation of Access Management

TRAILS - USES

- Upguard Trail
- Rollie Johnson Trails
- Snowmobile Trails
- Bike Trails
- ATV Trails
- Hiking/Walking/Cross-Country Trails
- Horse Trails
- Connection on state trail – Pequot
- Human Transporters (Segway) use
- Nature Trails

WATERS

- Placement of Buoys
- Water surface use enforcement

AIR TRAVEL

- Brainerd Airport Limousine Service
- Area International Airport Travel (MSP, DLH, FAR, etc.)

APPENDIX THREE: Community Mapping