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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

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### Location and General Regional Context

The Village of Woodville was founded in the 1870's; one of its first settlers was J.M.S. Anderson. The community primarily prospered off of the heavily forested areas, which was spoken of as "The Big Woods". Lumbering was the primary attraction for the first settlers. A saw mill was erected along Carr Creek in 1874. Soon after, the railroad was constructed through the Village. A switching station was constructed and called "Kelly's Switch", but was later changed to Woodville. The first post office was established in 1876. The Village was incorporated in 1911 (Source: Baldwin-Woodville School District; Wisconsin Historic Society).

The Village of Woodville is located in southeastern St. Croix County, Wisconsin (Map 1-1). The Village is located along Interstate 94, which takes a large percentage of area residents to larger metropolitan areas for work each day. The Twin Cities Metro is about 40 minutes west of the Village, while the Eau Claire/ Chippewa area is about 40 minutes east of the Village.

Woodville is neighbored by the Town of Baldwin to the north and the Town of Eau Galle to the south. The Village of Baldwin is located 3 miles west. Woodville residents enjoy the "small town" feel they have been able to maintain while benefiting from the prosperous industrial park and access to major transportation corridors.

### Comprehensive Planning Law

Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Law or "Smart Growth Law" was passed in October 1999 as part of the State's biennial budget. This law requires that every town, village, and city be guided by a comprehensive plan by January 1, 2010. Smart Growth was enacted to encourage long-range planning for communities and provide consistency in land use decision making.

Smart Growth planning also calls for public participation throughout the entire planning process. Before 1999, public participation and a public hearing were not required for adoption of a local plan.

State statutes require the plans to consist of nine elements, each focusing on an important sector of your community. These elements are:

- Issues and Opportunities
- Housing
- Transportation
- Utilities and Community Facilities
- Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources
- Economic Development
- Land Use
- Intergovernmental Cooperation
- Implementation

The goal of Smart Growth is to ensure that communities look at how all of these elements intertwine and affect each other, creating an awareness and overall cohesive vision for the Village of Woodville.

## Plan Purpose

The purpose of the Village of Woodville's Comprehensive Plan is to ensure that the qualities of the community that residents enjoy most remain and areas that can be improved upon are addressed. The plan will act as a guide for not only Village government, but also local organizations and community residents. The plan will look at how the Village fits into the regional context of St. Croix County.

The Comprehensive Plan can provide a variety of benefits to a community by coordinating community activities, departments, or policies; protecting resources like historic buildings/locations or natural features; promoting economic development by revitalizing downtowns, developing housing/facilities, and retaining businesses; and save the community money through intergovernmental cooperation.

## Public Involvement and Public Participation Policy

Wisconsin State Statutes Section 66.1001 requires a public participation plan to be developed for the adoption of a Comprehensive Plan. The plan must address public meeting notices, publications, and open discussions must be written for every stage of the preparation of the Comprehensive Plan.

It is required that the local governing body adopts any Comprehensive Plan, or amendments to a plan, by ordinance, passed by a majority vote. Once a Comprehensive Plan is adopted, one copy must be provided to the following: every governing body within the boundaries of the local government unit; the clerk of all adjacent governing bodies; the Wisconsin Land Council; the Wisconsin Department of Administration; West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, and the local public library.

Wisconsin State Statutes also requires that all Comprehensive Plans must meet the minimum requirements; the ordinance shall not be adopted by the regional planning commission if those requirements are not met.

The Village acknowledges, in order for the Comprehensive Plan to be utilized effectively, it must be created and embraced by its residents. The Village has adopted a Public Participation Plan that helps identify key stakeholders for each element and various methods to generate public involvement. The outline of the Public Participation Plan, along with the Public Participation Resolution passed by the Village Board, can be seen in Appendix A.

Initial public involvement was generated through the Plan Commission. The Plan Commission developed a community survey that was mailed to 557 residents. There was a 45% return rate for the survey. The Plan Commission also held a brainstorming session to look at the strengths and weaknesses of the Village as well as the how residents would like to see their community in 20 years. Additionally, the Plan Commission held a visual preference workshop to identify specific images that residents and the Plan Commission felt they would or would not like to see in the Village in the near and distant future. The ideas and thoughts generated from these meetings were used to develop the Village's vision statement and overall planning goals for their Comprehensive Plan.

Every Plan Commission meeting that addressed the Comprehensive Plan was a public meeting and notice was given in the local newspaper. Nearing completion of the Comprehensive Plan, a public hearing was held to discuss the plan with the public.

## Vision Statement

**We are dedicated to preserving our small town identity and the Norwegian heritage of our community. We will continue to provide a friendly, safe, and welcoming atmosphere for residents and visitors, while encouraging responsible growth.**

## Overall Planning Goals

- Maintain the “small town” character of the Village.
- Encourage the revitalization of the downtown commercial area.
- Support a stronger tax base through controlled industrial and commercial growth in the Village.
- Continue good working relationships with the School District, County, and surrounding Towns.
- Maintain a friendly atmosphere while promoting a sense of community pride.

- Maintain and protect the Carr Creek corridor.

## Regional Planning Jurisdictions and Government Agencies

While the Village of Woodville plans for its own future, it also is within multiple planning and government agency districts that do their own planning. Available plans will be reviewed to address any inconsistencies between the agencies. Some of the planning and government agencies that will be contacted include:

- West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation
- St. Croix County
- Baldwin-Woodville School District
- Village of Baldwin
- Town of Baldwin
- Town of Cady
- Town of Eau Galle
- Town of Springfield

## Goals, Objectives, and Policies

For each planning element, Goals, Objectives, Policies, Programs, and Actions will be created. These will be used to create planning goals and identify ways to achieve each goal. Definitions of these terms are listed below.

**Goal:** A general statement that describes a desired future result.

**Objective:** Objectives are statements that describe what the Village hopes to achieve by a goal.

**Policies:** Policies, programs, and actions describe specific implementation strategies to be carried out in order to meet a goal and achieve the objectives. A policy can be an ordinance, a program can be a series of policies and actions, and an action can be something carried out by a group without the need of an official policy.

# PROJECT AREA

Village of Woodville  
St. Croix County, Wisconsin

