

Chapter 1 Issues and Opportunities for Comprehensive Planning in the Town of Dewey

Section 1.1 Description of Planning Area

Dewey is the 7th largest Town (out of 17 Towns) in Portage County in terms of geographic size, encompassing an area of approximately 30,100 acres. The Town (political unit) includes all of congressional Township T25N-R8E and part of T25N-R7E. The Town of Dewey is located in north central Portage County and is bordered on the north by Marathon County, on the south by the Town of Hull, on the east by the Town of Sharon and on the west by the Wisconsin River.

The Town of Dewey is the baby of the county, but the area is older than its years. Remnants of Dewey's ties to the past still remain in the Indian arrow-heads, forgotten graves, abandoned mill sites and old roads running to former logging camps, according to Malcolm Rosholt's book "Our County Our Story."

The Town of Dewey was created on November 1898, however the white man stepped foot in the area more than 100 years earlier. Dewey was the place where John DuBay spent the winter of 1790 trading with the Indians. DuBay's Trading Post was located near Dewey just 12 miles north of Stevens Point. His father, Louis DuBay, traded with the Indians at the site in earlier years.

Everyone in the area was familiar with the trading post, from the first Portage County settlers to lumbermen all along the Wisconsin River, according to "A Standard History of Portage County, Wisconsin, Volume I." The Town finally was settled in March 1853. Its development probably was delayed because of its minimal contact with the river, "Our County Our Story" relates.

A prominent feature of the Town of Dewey is the Dewey Marsh State Wildlife Area. Owned by the Department of Natural Resources since 1973, the marsh encompasses about 5,716 acres.

The marsh fell victim to fire in 1976, but quickly began its re-growth by the following year. The marsh now is re-generating and many aspen have come back. The area is mainly used as a hunting ground, Paul Lochner (State Forester) said. Deer hunting, with both bow and gun, along with trapping of beaver, otter and fox are popular activities there, he said. Some squirrel, grouse and turkey hunting is also done there, he said.

Both the Town and marsh were named after Admiral George Dewey, who destroyed the Spanish fleet at Manila Bay and became a national hero overnight.

The Town's first election engaged many voters. By 1919, apathy marked the town residents. A referendum, probably on women's suffrage, brought only 25 voters to the polls, compared to 124 in the general election the year before. Fewer voters continued to turn out at the polls. Even in 1992, 170 people, about one-seventh of the population, voted in the primary election, according to Maurice King, Town chairman.

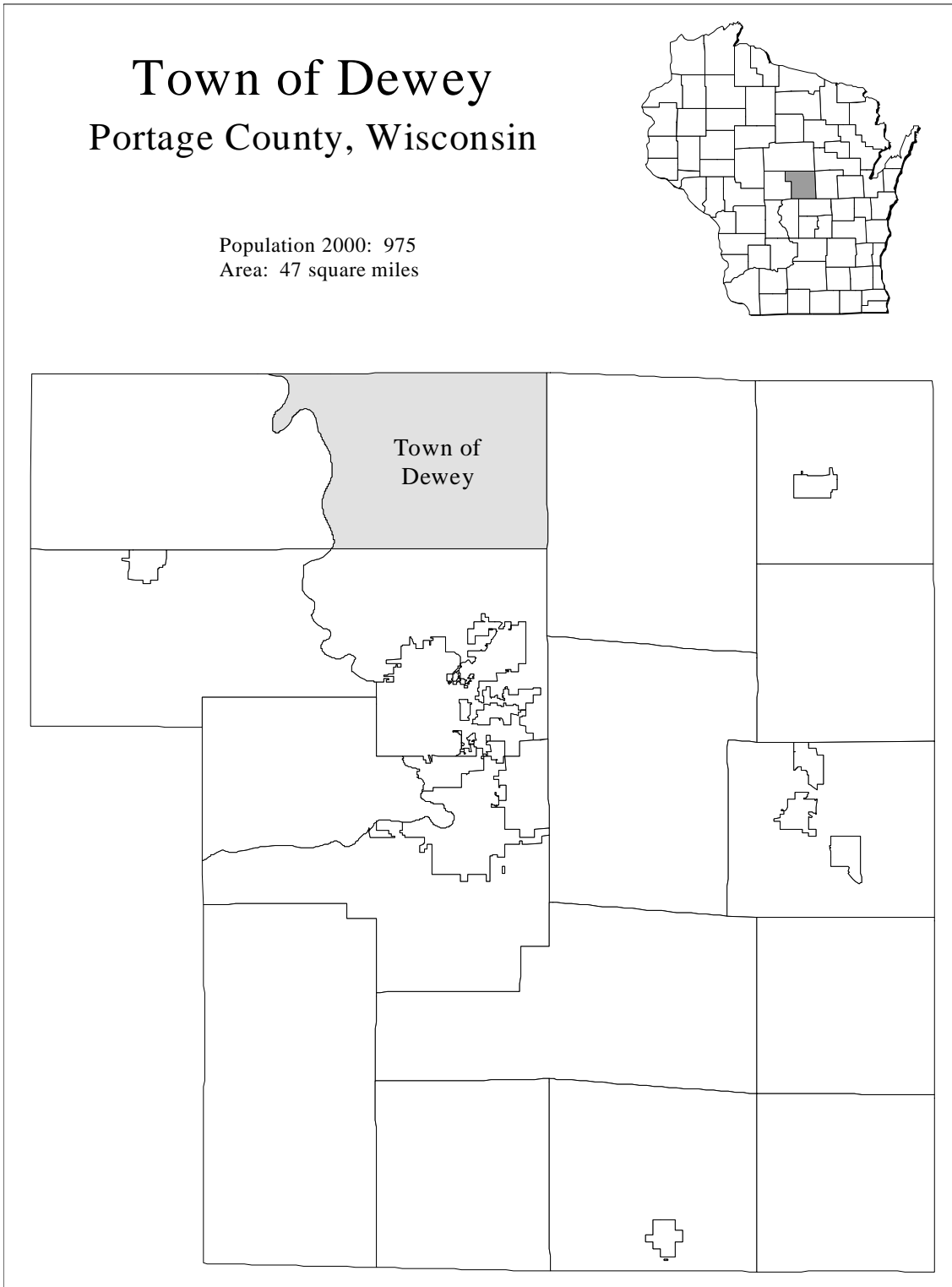
Interest in Town politics waned over the years as the county and state governments took over the responsibilities of the local government, according to "Our County Our Story."

The Town is beginning to see more inhabitants. More subdivisions are beginning to pop up around Dewey, bringing the total number of residents to 853 in 1992, according to Maurice King Town chairman.

From 1920 to 1960, the Town of Dewey was a typical rural agriculture based community with a steadily declining population, due mostly to the changes in the agricultural economy. However, during the 1970's, the population of the Town started growing again, with a significant jump in the 1970s (see Figure 1.2). The Town has experienced continued growth, but not at the rate witnessed during that decade and estimates for 2025 portray a continued growth pattern.

To accommodate this growth, tracts of land that are now void of development may see homes, farms and some businesses. If new development is not properly managed, the Town may find itself faced with unnecessarily inflated expenditure requirements for the provision of its limited services to the new areas. This Comprehensive Plan will analyze all of the lands within the Town of Dewey corporate boundary, and include the short and long range recommendations for residential, commercial and industrial development, as well as the protection of important farmlands and other natural resources as determined by the residents of the Town of Dewey.

Figure 1.1: Map of Dewey Area



Section 1.2 Past Planning In Dewey

1999 Land Use Plan

In 1998, the Town of Dewey Planning Committee began working with the Portage County Planning Department to draft the first land use plan for the Town of Dewey. This planning effort was requested by the Town due mostly to the increased development pressure the community had experienced over the past 20 years. The intent of the plan was to serve as a formal statement of Town/County policies regarding land use. In addition, the Plan was intended to serve as a guide in updating the Town's 29 year old zoning map, to reflect changing conditions and needs.

Section 1.3 Current Comprehensive Planning Process

As mentioned in the introduction to this document, this Town of Dewey Comprehensive Plan update had its beginning as a part of the County-wide planning project started in June 2001. The work during the first 18 months of the County-wide project, performed primarily by the Portage County Comprehensive Planning Joint Steering Committee, centered on public participation, visioning, and the generation of preliminary goal suggestions for the nine required Plan elements. This information was then forwarded to all local units of government in the fall of 2002. Utilizing the information provided by the Joint Steering Committee, the Town of Dewey Plan Commission began the Town Comprehensive Planning process in earnest in January 2003. The Plan Commission met monthly through February 2006 to put together the first complete preliminary draft of the plan. The Comprehensive Planning process changed at the beginning of 2004, an uprising by a large number of town residents occurred. Dewey residents met independently on Thursday, January 22, 2004 to listen to speakers discuss whether to continue with the program and the Dewey Town Board held an informational meeting on comprehensive planning on Tuesday, January 27, 2004. Both meetings had standing-room-only crowds, the first at the Starlite Ballroom in the town of Hull and the second at the county Annex in Stevens Point. The residents expressed strong concern that individual property rights were being “taken” from land owners in favor of residential lot owners without just cause or compensation. In addition these residents urged the town board to terminate the Town of Dewey’s participation in the Portage County Planning and Zoning Departments’ Multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning process in fear of losing property rights and local control of land use. One major concern was the size requirements of a lot that a home could be built on. Dewey landowners have returned two surveys focusing on planning –one formulated by the town, the other by town residents – and offered up their opinions about comprehensive planning efforts at various meetings. The town surveys indicated that 75 % of the respondents wanted out of Portage County – led comprehensive planning efforts. The Citizen survey indicated about 169 respondents favored going with a town - led plan, vs. nine who were willing to go with a county - led plan. 64% expressed a desire for 2 acre zoning in the town of Dewey. The Town Board then met and decided to pull out of the Counties multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning process and instead work on completing Dewey’s own plan.

The town of Dewey was not the only town to decide to pull out of the multi –jurisdictional planning process. The Town of Alban, Linwood and Sharon and the villages of Rosholt and Almond have also withdrawn from the County’s comprehensive planning program, which received a grant from the state to help develop a countywide plan.

From this point on the town began to work on their plan separate and apart from the counties joint planning efforts.

The Comprehensive Planning process involved several basic steps: The first step involves research. Activities include acquiring a thorough knowledge of the existing community setting, identifying problems that require solutions, and analyzing critical factors that need to be changed before progress can be made toward community goals, and establishing goals and objectives for growth and development. The second step involves the formation of planning policy. Planning policies recommend a course of action that will accommodate expected change, produce desired change, and prevent undesirable change.

The next steps involve the development of different plan alternatives for guiding future growth. The Land Use Element relates how the Town is expected to grow, and generally identifies how development should proceed in the future to achieve community goals. It proposes the most efficient use of land within the financial capabilities of the community by identifying where residential, and other anticipated land uses should occur.

The final step involves implementation of the plan and programs that will influence the day-to-day decisions made by government officials, private enterprise, and individuals. Plan implementation provides the means by which community goals can be achieved. Three major tools of implementation are the zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations, and capital improvements program.

The Comprehensive Plan is the primary link between the past, the present, and the future, making it perhaps the best resource for achieving continuity over a period of time. It is to be used as a guide by those making decisions with regard to the development of the community. The Comprehensive Plan must also remain flexible so that it can be modified to reflect the processes of actual development and the changing attitudes and priorities of the community. To maintain an updated Comprehensive Plan, new information must be continually gathered and studied to determine trends and reevaluate projections, forecasts, and plans. Even policy recommendations, which are relatively permanent statements, may require periodic review to determine their appropriateness and suitability in relation to the direction and character of community development at that time. A well thought-out and updated Comprehensive Plan, with a solid base of public involvement, is one of the most fruitful investments a local government can make. As a collection of policies and plans designed to guide future growth and development, it will help ensure continuity over time as changes occur within the Town of Dewey.

Section 1.4 Demographic Trends

A. Population Growth

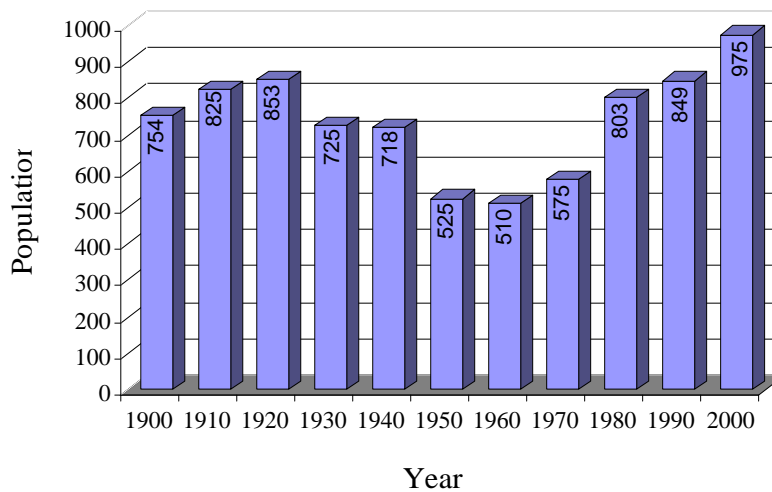
Census data reveal two major, historical population trends for the Town of Dewey (Figure 1.2). The first major trend was a steady decline in the Town's population over a forty year period from 1920 to 1960. This was characteristic of a rural-to-urban population movement which occurred during that period on a County, State and nationwide basis.

This declining trend was reversed during the 1970's, with the Town experiencing a significant upturn in population, as urban residents began moving back to rural areas. Once again, this change was characteristic of a broader urban-to-rural movement at the County, State and national levels. In Portage County, the impact of this migration back to the rural areas was greatest in those towns adjacent to the larger population centers. Accordingly, Towns such as Hull and Plover experienced the largest growth spurts due to their proximity to the Stevens Point Urban Area. Nevertheless, population growth in outlying towns, such as Dewey, was still very significant. Thus, the decade of the 1960's marked the end of the Town of Dewey's declining

population and the beginning of a growth period. This new growth was highlighted by a 39.7% increase during the 1970's. More recently, the Town experienced a more modest growth rate of 5.7% during the 1980-1990 period. The Town of Dewey currently ranks 12th in population size, out of 17 Towns in Portage County.

The Town of Dewey is predominantly rural, with a very low population density of 18.8 persons per square mile, which ranks 14th among 17 Towns in Portage County. Residences are dispersed along County roads and Town roads. A notable concentration of homes/subdivisions also exists near Lake DuBay, in proximity to the I-39/Cty Rd DB interchange. There are six subdivisions in the Town representing a total of 92 lots, 49 of which are developed.

Figure 1.2: Town of Dewey Population Change, 1900 to 2000



Source: U.S. Bureau of Census

The Town of Dewey's most dramatic growth occurred during the 1970's, with the Town documenting population increases of 39.7% for the 1970-1980 period (Table 1.1). From 1980 to 2000, the growth slowed, increasing by 21% for the period. The growth experienced by the Town of Dewey over the past thirty years was the 4th greatest percentage increase of all towns in Portage County. The Town of Stockton experienced the second greatest percentage increase with 88.4%, well shy of the 150.7% experienced in Lanark. The Wisconsin Department of Administration, which provides yearly population estimates for the census period, has projected continued growth for the Town in 2004, continuing a growth trend well above the average for other communities in Portage County.

Table 1.1: Dewey Comparison Population Change, 1970 to 2003

	U.S. Census				State of Wisconsin Estimate	1970 to 2000 Change	2000 to 2004 Change
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2004		
Town of Dewey	575	803	849	975	1,019	69.6%	4.5%
Town of Eau Pleine	784	963	944	931	941	18.8%	1.1%
Town of Hull	3,124	5,122	5,563	5,493	5,544	75.8%	0.9%
Town of Sharon	1,304	1,694	1,742	1,936	1,997	48.5%	3.2%
Portage County	47,541	57,420	61,405	67,182	68,922	41.3%	2.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; State of Wisconsin Dept. of Administration; Portage County Planning and Zoning Dept.

Population growth is a combination of many factors including birth, death, in and out migration. By examining migration patterns for the residents of the Town of Dewey, we can better understand the cause for the growth in the community is occurring (Table 1.2). The U.S. Census provides data on where residents were living five years prior to the Census. The “Same House” column identifies the Dewey residents that lived in the same dwelling in both 1995 and 2000 (or 1985 and 1990); this can be an indicator of long-term residency. The “Different House, Portage County” column identifies the Dewey residents that lived in a home outside the Town, but within Portage County, in 1995. The “Different House, Different County” column identifies the Dewey residents that lived in a home outside of the Town and Portage County, but within the State of Wisconsin, in 1995. The “Different State” column identifies the Dewey residents that lived in a home outside the State of Wisconsin in 1995. Altogether, this information provides insight into the nature and pace of new residents moving into the Town.

Based on 2000 Census information, sixty-eight percent (68%) of the Town's residents lived in the same house as they did in 1995, down one percent (1%) from the 1990 Census. This would show that long term residents are about the same fraction of the total population. The telltale statistic found in Table 1.2, is the number of residents who lived in a different house in a different county in 1995. Five percent (5%) of residents in 2000 lived in a different county in 1995. This is well below the 16% average for Portage County. We do not know what county these residents came from. These numbers provide further examples of the strength of residential expansion within the Town of Dewey: about the same percentage of residents living long term in the same dwelling; more people relocating into the Town from Portage County, but slightly fewer from beyond.

Table 1.2: Place of Residence for Town Residents, Five Years Prior to 1990 & 2000 Census

	Same House				Different House, Portage County				Different House Different County				Different State			
	1985		1995		1985		1995		1985		1995		1985		1995	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Town of Dewey	585	76%	662	68%	123	16%	194	20%	37	5%	51	5%	22	3%	18	2%
Town of Eau Pleine	669	75%	659	73%	118	13%	156	17%	76	8%	82	9%	32	4%	25	3%
Town of Hull	2,945	58%	3,669	70%	1,173	23%	939	18%	611	12%	612	12%	377	7%	246	5%
Town of Sharon	1,177	73%	1,383	75%	317	20%	332	18%	64	4%	132	7%	54	3%	36	2%
Portage County		51%		56%		21%		22%		21%		16%		7%		5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Census

B. Age Distribution

Table 1.3 below details the number of Town residents that occupied specific age groups in each of the last three Census years, along with similar information for an average of all Portage County Towns and the County as a whole.

Further insight into the nature of the Town’s population change over time can be gained through examining how the different age groups change as they move through their life cycles. Age groups for the towns and County (or “cohorts” as they are called when tracking a group of same-aged people) have been displayed in the table in ten-year increments to more easily see how their numbers increase or decline over different Census years. The boxes within Table 1.3 indicate the path of each age cohort through the three Census periods.

Table 1.3: Distribution of Population, by Ten-Year Age Groups

Age	Town of Dewey			Town Average			Portage County		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
Under 5 years	71 8.8%	48 5.7%	63 6.5%	135 9.3%	122 7.9%	97 6.0%	4,343 7.6%	4,266 6.9%	3,964 5.9%
5 to 14 years	173 21.5%	158 18.6%	128 13.1%	277 18.8%	277 18.0%	261 15.7%	8,671 15.1%	9,080 14.8%	9,118 13.6%
15 to 24 years	139 17.3%	128 15.1%	132 13.5%	263 17.7%	204 12.8%	203 12.4%	15,270 26.6%	13,081 21.3%	13,983 20.8%
25 to 34 years	144 17.9%	130 15.3%	138 14.2%	256 17.3%	246 15.7%	185 11.2%	9,180 16.0%	9,897 16.1%	8,322 12.4%
35 to 44 years	86 10.7%	142 16.7%	168 17.2%	169 11.1%	254 16.2%	297 18.1%	5,593 9.7%	8,690 14.2%	10,261 15.3%
45 to 54 years	69 8.6%	93 11.0%	161 16.5%	119 8.3%	162 10.1%	265 16.2%	4,447 7.7%	5,489 8.9%	8,945 13.3%
55 to 64 years	47 5.9%	65 7.7%	92 9.4%	105 8.1%	151 8.7%	153 9.3%	4,185 7.3%	4,299 7.0%	5,235 7.8%
65 to 74 years	47 5.9%	46 5.4%	55 5.6%	76 6.2%	88 6.7%	95 6.4%	3,391 5.9%	3,610 5.9%	3,791 5.6%
75 to 84 years	24 3.0%	30 3.5%	32 3.3%	29 2.5%	39 3.1%	53 3.7%	1,806 3.1%	2,273 3.7%	2,565 3.8%
85 years and over	3 0.4%	9 1.1%	6 0.6%	8 0.6%	9 0.8%	15 1.0%	534 0.9%	720 1.2%	998 1.5%
Total	803	849	975	1,437	1,552	1,626	57,420	61,405	67,182
Median Age	26.2	32.1	37.1	27	32	38	25.4	29.3	33.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1980, 1990, 2000 Census

The 5-to-14 year old cohort for the Town of Dewey numbered 158 in 1990. Their number declined by 30 persons (-19%) by the year 2000 (as the 5-to-14 year olds became 15-to-24 year olds). Some of this decline may be explained by children leaving home for college or jobs. For the most part, the age cohorts between 15 and 84 years old have experienced increases in numbers between 1990 and 2000. In comparing this growth trend to the Town and County, you will find less growth, or in many cases, decline within the cohorts over the ten year period.

The “median age” is the point where ½ of the population lies above and ½ lies below; the older the age is, the older the overall population for a place is becoming. The median age for the Town of Dewey is 37.1 years. This rate has increased by almost eleven (10.9) years since 1980, with the rate of increase holding steady over the two decades. The “median age” is the point where ½ of the population lies above and ½ lies below; the older this age is, the older the overall population for a place is becoming. The County as a whole has seen its median age increase at a slower rate, just less than eight years over the twenty-year period. This is an indication that the Towns overall are aging more quickly than the County’s Villages or City of Stevens Point.

As one would expect with the rise in median age, the percentage of the population for the Towns within Portage County over the age of 65 has been trending upward since 1980 as well. The Town of Dewey 65+ population segment slightly increased from 9.3% of total population in 1980 to 9.5% in 2000. The average Portage County Town saw this segment increase from 7.9% to 10%, and the County as a whole increased from 9.9% to 10.9%. The age group representing persons under 25 also declined substantially in the Town of Dewey, contributing to the large increase in median age. When examining all of the age groups, we find that all groups below the

age of 35 are declining in both raw numbers and percent for Town and County population averages, while the reverse is true for age groups above the age of 35.

C. Education Levels

Levels of educational attainment have followed a similar trend of improvement across the different municipal divisions within Portage County (Table 1.4). The Town of Dewey rose its' overall educational attainment during the 1990's. This was a result of the combination of immigration, continued educational involvement by the existing residents of the Town and the passing of older residents who did not have the educational opportunities enjoyed today. The number and percentage of Town of Dewey residents age 25 and over who had less than a 9th grade education decreased in numbers and percentage between 1990 and 2000. The percentage of 25+ year old residents who completed some college, or completed a college degree program rose from twenty-five percent (25.4%) to forty percent (39.5%) over the same period. This 10-year increase in attainment for Dewey was slightly above the gain for the Town average (29% to 41%) and for County as a whole (40% to 49%). Also, the Town of Dewey had increased both its numbers and percentage of residents who completed 9th to 12th grade but did not receive a diploma.

Table 1.4: Comparison of Educational Attainment for Residents 25 Years and Older

Ed. Attainment (Persons 25 yrs+)	Town of Dewey		Town Average		Portage County	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Less Than 9th Grade	81 16.3%	51 7.7%	120 13.5%	66 6.2%	4,065 11.6%	2,420 6.0%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	30 6.1%	41 6.2%	85 9.5%	88 8.2%	3,029 8.7%	3,019 7.5%
High School Graduate	260 52.2%	309 46.6%	395 44.3%	449 42.0%	14,082 40.2%	14,952 37.2%
Some College (No Degree)	59 11.8%	91 13.7%	117 13.1%	190 17.7%	5,205 14.9%	7,572 18.9%
Associate Degree	39 7.8%	40 6.0%	43 4.8%	75 7.0%	1,922 5.5%	2,802 7.0%
Bachelor's Degree	22 4.4%	84 12.7%	93 10.5%	144 13.5%	4,594 13.1%	6,468 16.1%
Graduate / Professional Degree	7 1.4%	47 7.1%	38 4.3%	58 5.4%	2,107 6.0%	2,910 7.2%
Total	498	663	891	1,070	35,004	40,143

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 2000 Census

D. Households and Income

The Town of Dewey residential community is made up of different types of households. The U.S. Census defines a household simply as “including all of the people who occupy a housing unit”. People not living in households are classified as living in group quarters. Table 1.5 below details the changes in the make-up of Town of Dewey households over the last 20 years, and compares them to the Portage County data and the average of the County Towns. Married-couple households, traditionally the largest group within Dewey, have seen their percentage of total households increase over the last 20 years, while the Town and County averages as a whole have also continued to increase. Single parent headed households within Dewey have increased over the 20 year period from 17 to around 21 households, an increase of nearly 1%. By

comparison, the Town average decreased and County as a whole have seen single-head households increase between 1 and 3%. Dewey's non-family households have increased from approximately 16% of total households in 1980 to 23.6% in 2000. The non-family percentage for Portage County has historically been higher than Dewey or the Town average.

Table 1.5: Household Type Comparison

	Town of Dewey			Town Average			Portage County		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE									
Family Households	191	233	272	368	414	462	13,257	14,883	16,496
Married-couple families	174 91%	209 90%	251 92%	333 90%	366 88%	410 89%	11,592 87%	12,645 85%	13,808 84%
Other family, male householder	10 5%	13 6%	9 6%	13 3%	18 4%	0 0%	437 3%	602 4%	861 5%
Other family, female householder	7 4%	11 5%	12 4%	23 6%	30 7%	30 6%	1,228 9%	1,636 11%	1,827 11%
Non-family Households	36	45	84	69	88	124	5,056	6,423	8,544
Householder living alone	30 83%	39 87%	66 79%	55 79%	69 79%	94 76%	3,730 74%	4,679 73%	6,130 72%
Householder 65 years and over	~	15 33%	19 23%	~	29 33%	35 29%	~	1,933 30%	2,196 26%
Total Households	227	278	356	437	502	585	18,313	21,306	25,040
Persons Per Household	3.54	3.05	2.74	3.27	3.00	2.71	2.93	2.71	2.54

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1980, 1990, 2000 Census

The Persons per Household (PPH) calculation for the Town of Dewey, average of Towns and the County have continued a declining trend over the last 20 years. Dewey closely matches the size and rate of decline of the Towns, while the overall County PPH rate of decline has been a bit smaller. This translates into Dewey and other Town households being a bit larger than the County average.

Another instructive piece of information on the state of households within the Town is the level of income that each household achieves. Again the Census provides insight into the range of incomes present within Dewey. Table 1.6 below describes how household incomes have changed in the last 20 years. It is a testimony to both the inflation of wages and the increased earning power of the residents of Dewey that the percentage of households making greater than \$50,000 per year has increased from 1.3% in 1979 to 50.6% 1999. Median household income has increased from \$15,741 to \$50,391 over the same period. The percent increase in households earning greater than \$50,000 for Portage County as a whole is lower over the 20-year period (3% to 42%); and the Town average, 2.5% to 48.6%.

Table 1.6: Household Income Comparison

Household Income Per Year	Town of Dewey			Town Average			Portage County		
	1979	1989	1999	1979	1989	1999	1979	1989	1999
Less Than \$10,000	59 25.4%	37 13.8%	11 3.0%	106 24.1%	49 9.7%	26 4.3%	5,300 28.9%	3,210 15.0%	1,767 7.0%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	49 21.1%	13 4.9%	12 3.3%	67 15.23%	38 7.5%	25 4.2%	2,919 15.9%	1,978 9.3%	1,608 6.4%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	70 30.2%	51 19.0%	28 7.6%	144 32.6%	87 17.1%	57 9.6%	5,423 29.6%	4,072 19.1%	3,174 12.6%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	32 13.8%	52 19.4%	47 12.7%	79 18%	86 17.0%	76 12.8%	2,907 15.8%	3,654 17.1%	3,425 13.6%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	19 0.1%	59 0.2%	84 0.2%	29 7%	127 0.4%	113 19.2%	1,223 6.7%	4,370 20.5%	4,484 17.9%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	3 1.3%	45 16.8%	87 23.6%	10 2.1%	84 16.6%	158 26.7%	380 2.1%	2,983 14.0%	5,771 23.0%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	0 0.0%	4 1.5%	44 11.9%	5 1%	22 4.3%	83 14%	193 1.1%	661 3.1%	2,820 11.2%
\$100,000 to \$149,999		5 1.9%	30 8.1%	0 0.0%	8 1.6%	36 6.1%	0 0.0%	274 1.3%	1,346 5.4%
\$150,000 or more		2 0.7%	26 7.0%	0 0.0%	5 0.9%	18 3.1%	0 0.0%	134 0.6%	717 2.9%
Total Households	232	268	369	440	505	592	18,345	21,336	25,112
Median H-Hold Income	\$15,741	\$30,694	\$50,391	\$16,798	\$31,563	\$47,889	\$16,659	\$28,686	\$43,487

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1980, 1990, 2000 Census

With the examination of income information, the Town of Dewey should also assess the poverty status of its residents. Table 1.7 below outlines poverty thresholds for 1980, 1990, and 2000.

Table 1.7: Poverty Thresholds - 1980, 1990, and 2000

Size of Family Unit (Poverty Threshold)	1980	1990	2000
One Person	\$4,190	\$6,652	\$8,794
Two Persons	\$5,363	\$8,509	\$11,239
Three Persons	\$6,565	\$10,419	\$13,738
Four Persons	\$8,414	\$13,481	\$17,603
Five Persons	\$9,966	\$15,792	\$20,819
Six Persons	\$11,269	\$17,839	\$23,528
Seven Persons	\$12,761	\$20,241	\$26,754
Eight Persons	\$14,199	\$22,582	\$29,701
Nine Persons or More	\$16,896	\$26,848	\$35,060

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: 1980, 1990, 2000

“Poverty” is generally defined as a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is poor. If a family’s total income is less than that family’s threshold, then that family, and every individual in it, is considered poor. The poverty thresholds do not vary geographically. That is, they are the same throughout the United States. However, the poverty thresholds are updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The official poverty definition counts money income before taxes and does not include

capital gains and non-cash benefits (such as public housing, food stamps, and Medicaid). Poverty is not defined for people in military barracks, institutional group quarters, or for unrelated children under age 15 (such as foster children).

Table 1.8 lists the Census information on poverty for the total number of residents, persons age 65 and above, and families within the Town of Dewey, the Town average, and Portage County as a whole. According to Census figures, the Town of Dewey has experienced a slight increase in the number of residents earning below the poverty level as compared to the County as a whole, but a slight percentage decrease. With regard to the other Towns in Portage County, Dewey has a higher percentage of persons living in poverty, but has almost none of its seniors living in poverty as compared to the average Town. While Dewey has reduced the number of families that are considered to be in poverty, the average Town has a slightly higher percentage.

Table 1.8: Percent in Poverty Comparison

	Town of Dewey		Town Average		Portage County	
	1989	1999	1989	1999	1989	1999
Persons	821	975	1,364	1,445	57,805	67,182
Below Poverty Level	62 7.6%	66 6.8%	118 8.6%	78 5.4%	7,454 12.9%	6,074 9.0%
Persons 65 Years and Over	74	93	118	151	5,327	7,354
Below Poverty Level	7 9.5%	1 1.1%	13 11.4%	15 9.7%	740 13.9%	561 7.6%
Families	228	278	366	412	14,927	16,643
Below Poverty Level	14 6.1%	8 2.9%	23 6.3%	14 3.5%	1,051 7.0%	725 4.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 2000 Census

E. Employment Characteristics

Table 1.9 below summarizes employment by industry data provided for the last three Census years. This information represents what type of industry that the working residents of Dewey were employed by, and is not a listing of the employment currently located within the Town. The discussion of the Dewey economy will take place within the Economic Development Element of this Comprehensive Plan. It should be noted that the method used for classifying industries was changed between the 1990 and 2000 Census, and therefore the information included in the industry categories of Table 1.9 is not entirely consistent for comparison between those years. The table attempts to place the three Census years in a useable context.

Table 1.9: Summary of Employment by Industry

Industry	Town of Dewey			Town Average			Portage County		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Mining	43 13.0%	29 7.4%	31 5.5%	96 16.4%	85 11.3%	60 7.0%	1,816 7.3%	1,755 5.8%	1,241 3.5%
Construction	14 4.2%	30 7.6%	29 5.1%	33 5.6%	44 5.8%	53 6.2%	1,004 4.0%	1,297 4.3%	1,707 4.8%
Manufacturing	111 33.6%	98 24.9%	132 23.2%	122 20.8%	156 20.7%	185 21.4%	4,637 18.6%	5,373 17.8%	6,314 17.7%
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	6 1.8%	34 8.6%	20 3.5%	32 5.4%	48 6.4%	56 6.5%	1,214 4.9%	1,511 5.0%	1,948 5.5%
Information	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	10 1.8%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	10 1.2%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	835 2.3%
Communications/ Other Public Facilities	7 2.1%	13 3.3%	0 0.0%	6 1.0%	6 0.8%	0 0.0%	325 1.3%	367 1.2%	0 0.0%
Wholesale Trade	23 7.0%	10 2.5%	27 4.8%	23 3.9%	25 3.3%	30 3.5%	885 3.5%	1,026 3.4%	1,235 3.5%
Retail Trade	54 16.4%	48 12.2%	70 12.3%	79 13.5%	121 16.0%	104 12.0%	4,317 17.3%	5,667 18.8%	4,813 13.5%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	19 5.8%	60 15.2%	41 7.2%	65 11.0%	82 10.8%	91 10.5%	2,971 11.9%	3,359 11.1%	3,682 10.3%
Professional, Management, Administrative	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	27 4.8%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	29 3.4%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1,627 4.6%
Business and Repair Services	10 3.0%	6 1.5%	0 0.0%	11 1.8%	19 2.5%	0 0.0%	518 2.1%	941 3.1%	0 0.0%
Personal Services	0 0.0%	8 2.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	16 2.1%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	777 2.6%	0 0.0%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation Services	4 1.2%	4 1.0%	35 6.2%	18 3.0%	6 0.7%	48 5.6%	734 2.9%	388 1.3%	3,005 8.4%
Educational, Health, Social Services	35 10.6%	44 11.2%	108 19.0%	81 13.7%	104 13.8%	143 16.5%	5,331 21.4%	5,617 18.6%	7,192 20.2%
Other	4 1.2%	6 1.5%	29 5.1%	14 2.3%	23 3.1%	33 3.8%	624 2.5%	1,362 4.5%	1,236 3.5%
Public Administration	0 0.0%	4 1.0%	9 1.6%	9 1.6%	19 2.6%	20 2.4%	571 2.3%	710 2.4%	842 2.4%
Total Employed Persons	330	394	568	587	755	864	24,947	30,150	35,677
Unemployed Persons	28	27	17	58	38	39	2,013	1,590	2,255
Total Labor Force	358	421	585	645	821	650	26,960	31,740	37,944
Percent Unemployed	8.5%	6.9%	3.0%	10%	5%	5%	8.1%	5.3%	6.3%
Persons 16 Years +	0	421	777	0	1,098	667	0	47,202	53,135

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1980, 1990, 2000 Census

Section 1.5 Forecasts

A. Population Projections

Population projections developed by the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration suggest that the Town will experience moderate growth through the year 2025, with a projected increase of 274 residents from 2000 to 2025, or a growth rate of 28%. This compares with a projected increase of 17.5% for the entire County, for the same period. It should be noted that all population projections are "best guesses" and should be used with caution.

The Town of Dewey Plan Commission has adopted the following projected population totals for the planning period:

Yr 2015: 1,135 Yr 2025: 1,249

B. Household Projections

Household projections for Dewey will be based on the above stated population projection divided by the anticipated number of persons per household in both 2015 and 2025.

The number of persons per household has been steadily declining in Dewey, from 3.54 persons in 1980 to 2.74 persons in 2000. Using a method of linear regression, the forecasted number of persons per household (PPH) in 2010 will be 2.32. The number of persons per household in 2010, 2.32, will also be used in 2025. If the linear regression method were to be applied through 2025, the forecast number of PPH will go below two and at this time that does not seem feasible. Keep in mind that these numbers represent projections and should not be used as absolute.

Using a PPH of 2.32 for this plan horizon (2025), the household projections for Dewey are:

2015: 489 households 2025: 538 households

C. Employment Projections

The Town has experienced a sharp decline in agriculture related employment since 1980. Town officials think the downward trend in this sector will continue over the next twenty years. Future job opportunities outside of the agriculture sector are projected to be created in the Stevens Point urban area, Marshfield and Wausau. Jobs will most likely be found in the service, health care, government, manufacturing, and finance sectors.

Section 1.6 Community Goals, Objectives, and Policies

The Town of Dewey recognizes the decreasing role that agricultural operations play in the economy, and toward the preservation of a rural lifestyle and community character. Town residents recognize the importance that natural resources, such as the Dewey Marsh Area, contribute toward the Town's character. Recognition of this asset and groundwater should be taken into consideration as growth and development occurs over time.

Goals, objectives and policies provide the framework for guiding future community development activities in the Town of Dewey. A means of deriving goals and policies is through issue identification. Many of the issue statements in the various plan elements are framed as questions. This was purposefully done so that answering the questions would help plan commissioners form goal or policy statements. Goals are stated as desirable conditions to strive toward in the future. They are common ideals of the community that can be achieved through the actions of government leaders, private enterprise and individuals. Objectives are general targets to be

achieved along the path of satisfying community goals. Policies are more specific recommendations or methods of action to accomplish these stated objectives. Together these three pieces express the uniqueness of the community while providing guidance for desirable patterns of growth and development. The following statements are reflective of the overall desires of the community:

A. Goal

Maintain or improve the current quality of life and rural character in the Town.

B. Objectives

1. Recognize the importance of individual property rights.
2. Protect Agricultural operations while still allowing for non-farm housing.
3. Work to protect the property owner's rights while not negatively impacting Groundwater and wetlands.
4. Ensure that newly developed or redeveloped areas are consistent with the comprehensive plan.

C. Policies

1. Effective implementation tools, such as the Portage County Zoning Ordinance, official maps, and Town ordinances should be used and enforced.
2. Set standards and guidelines to protect and support agricultural operations
3. Design plans to grant the citizen the greatest amount of freedom and latitude that is reasonably possible and yet maintain an orderly and cohesive rural environment within the town.

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