

Introduction

Welcome to the Town of New Hope Comprehensive Plan. This Comprehensive Plan is the center-piece of the community planning process, stating our community's development goals and outlining public policies for guiding future growth. It establishes an identifiable destination that allows both the governing body and private interests to plan and budget with an idea as to the direction the Town may move in the future, and helps to ensure that future growth is not only anticipated, but planned. The Plan functions as a practical guide to coordinate day-to-day decisions.

The Portage County Comprehensive Planning Process and the Town of New Hope

The Town of New Hope Comprehensive Plan has been completed as a part of a larger, county-wide planning project. In November of 2000, the Portage County Planning and Zoning Department submitted an application for a State of Wisconsin planning grant to help fund the creation of County-wide comprehensive plans that would meet the newly enacted State Statute requirements for long range planning (see Appendix C). The Statute stipulates that by January 1, 2010, all Towns, Villages, Cities, and Counties that make decisions regulating land use will need to base those decisions on an adopted Comprehensive Plan. In January 2001 grant funds totaling \$504,000 were awarded to Portage County to assist with the project. Two separate "large area" plan documents are to be developed: an Urban Area plan which encompasses the City of Stevens Point, Villages of Park Ridge, Whiting and Plover, and a portion of the unincorporated Towns of Hull, Stockton, Plover, Linwood and Carson; and the Portage County Comprehensive Plan, which includes each of the seventeen unincorporated Towns (Alban, Almond, Amherst, Belmont, Buena Vista, Carson, Dewey, Eau Pleine, Grant, Hull, Lanark, Linwood, New Hope, Pine Grove, Plover, Sharon, Stockton) and six incorporated rural Villages (Almond, Amherst, Amherst Junction, Junction City, Nelsonville, Rosholt) that make up the rest of the County. In addition to the large area plans, the project includes the adoption of a Comprehensive Plan for each of the County's 27 individual units of government.

In June of 2001, a committee made up of representatives from each unit of government within Portage County was appointed to draft these plan documents. The ***Portage County Comprehensive Planning Joint Steering Committee*** adopted a "Public Participation Plan" on July 25, 2001. The Participation Plan detailed the different ways that residents of the County would be invited and encouraged to participate in the formulation of the Comprehensive Plans. The Town of New Hope also adopted the Public Participation Plan on September 19, 2001 (Appendix A).

The first step in soliciting public involvement was a County-wide opinion survey, which was conducted in the second half of September 2001. Over 30,000 surveys were mailed, with an intended target of one for every household within the County. Over 6,600 of the households responded, a return rate of approximately 22%. The survey responses provided information on residents' feelings in the areas of: County trends and land use; housing; utilities and community facilities; agricultural, natural and cultural resources; commerce and employment; transportation; and quality of life within the County. The Town of New Hope was well represented in the survey results (see Appendix B). In order to follow up and build on the information gathered in the survey, a series of Hopes and Concerns Workshops were held in various locations around Portage County. A wide variety of County residents participated in the Workshops. To include as many groups as possible, workshops were scheduled in Towns and Villages across the

County, as well as junior high and high schools, UW-Stevens Point (with both faculty and students), and the Lincoln Center.

After completion of the Hopes & Concerns workshops all of the response information was forwarded to the Portage County Comprehensive Planning Joint Steering Committee, who used a series of meetings to boil the information down to 44 summarizing “issue statements.” This list then became the basis for a series of six visioning sessions held across Portage County during the spring of 2002. Again, all of the public input was returned to the Joint Steering Committee for review and discussion. An Urban Area Vision Statement and a Rural Vision Statement were approved in the fall of 2002. These Vision Statements were used as a foundation for the Urban Area and Rural Area Comprehensive Plans, respectively, and their ideas resonate throughout the individual local unit plans.

State Statute 66.1001 defines minimum requirements for what content should be included within a comprehensive plan. These requirements include nine “elements” or chapters describing: *issues and opportunities; housing; transportation; utilities and community facilities; agriculture, natural and cultural resources; economic development; intergovernmental cooperation, land use; and implementation.* The Town of New Hope has used the required elements as an outline for its Plan document.

CHAPTER 1 Issues and Opportunities for Comprehensive Planning in the Town of New Hope

Section 1.1 Description and Brief History of Planning Area

The Town of New Hope is located in northeast Portage County, abutting State Highway 161 on the south and Waupaca County on the east. The Town is approximately 18 miles northeast of the City of Stevens Point. The Town of New Hope currently ranks fifteenth in population size out of 17 Towns in Portage County, encompassing 23,319 acres (36.44 square miles).

The following excerpt comes from the online archives of the Portage County Historical Society and is reprinted by permission:

New Hope is one of the oldest Towns in Portage County. It was constituted in 1856 and at that time it included the Town of Alban which was detached from it in 1878. Despite its size it was thinly settled at the beginning and at first almost all inhabitants were Norwegians. There was a colony of them in nearby Waupaca and newcomers started farms in Portage County close to their fellow country people. In the Census of 1860 there were 105 households in the Town, 99 of which were headed by farmers, 83 from Norway, 4 from Germany, 4 from Denmark, 1 from England, 1 from Switzerland and six Americans; as occupations only three persons indicated occupations that were not farmers or laborers, one pump maker from Vermont, one seamstress from Norway (probably a widow) and one teacher whose origin was not given.

The name of New Hope is rather common in the United States among places named by immigrants and there is no evidence about those who chose it. The Town in its present limits has always remained rural. A few stores were established, post offices were open, a creamery functioned for some years and the places where these establishments were received names:

Benson Corners, Garfield, Peru, but none of them developed into a village. As the Scandinavians are Lutheran, one church was built in the north of the township and a second one in the south, near them are cemeteries with many tombstones having inscriptions in Norwegian. When a split occurred in the Lutheran church, a new church was built not far from the North New Hope church for the new group.

New Hope never had any tavern or hotel; the stores did not sell any alcoholic beverages; the town was dry. In the 1960's the town council decided to authorize the Garfield store to sell beer, but when the store closed a few years later the Town became dry again.

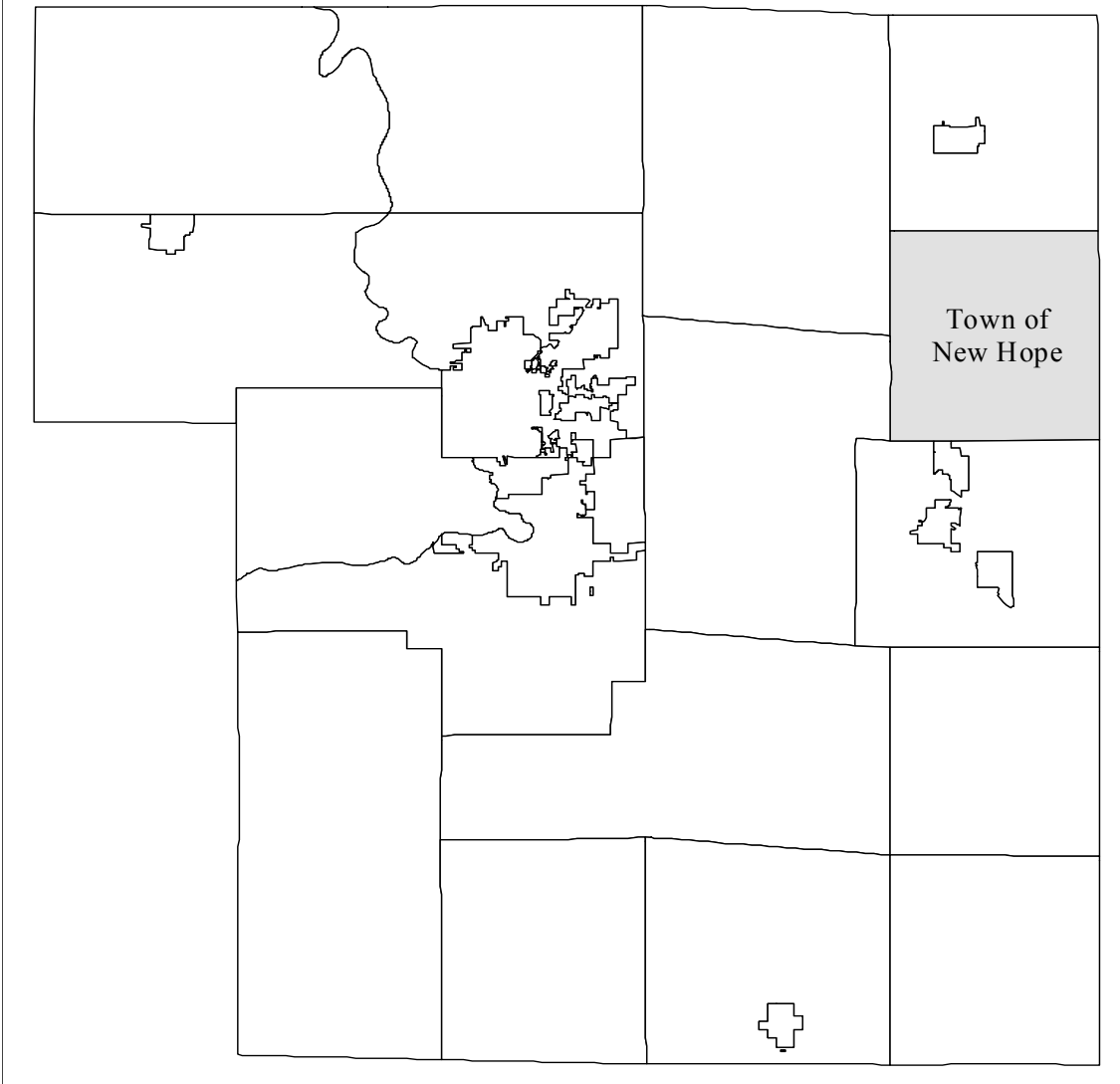
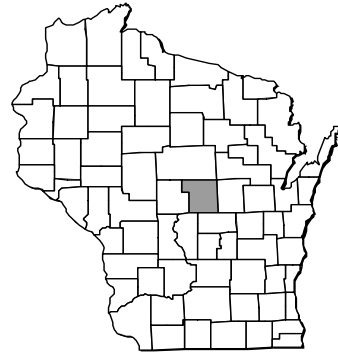
Typical of the Norwegian heritage are the farms consisting in a large number of buildings: residence, barn, stable, sheds, chicken coops, and others. At first the buildings were made of logs jointed in the typical Scandinavian dovetail way. Later frame buildings became customary and in some cases log houses were covered with boards to look like frame houses. Another cultural feature is the split rail fences made of sticks without any nail or wire as in the early times cash for purchases was scarce and labor did not cost anything. Some split rail fences can still be seen in the New Hope area.

Map 1.1: New Hope Area

Town of New Hope

Portage County, Wisconsin

Population 2000: 736
Area: 36 square miles



New Hope lies completely on the terminal moraine of the last Wisconsin glaciation. It is therefore hilly with some kettles and a number of small lakes formed in some kettles; most of these lakes have been named after pioneer families. They are not fed by streams and have no outlet but represent the surface of the water table and their level varies. For years their levels have decreased and a few dried up almost completely. It was argued that it was the result of the development of irrigation that used much water but after a few wet years their level had risen again and in 1985 this level was about the highest that had been registered. One of the most beautiful lakes and also the most popular lake is Sunset Lake, which was on the east side a public beach which is a public park.

The population in the Town of New Hope has grown 58% between 1960 and 2000, and the Portage County Planning and Zoning Department projects that the population of the Town will be 860 in the year 2025.

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 New Hope 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 New Hope.

Section 1.2 Past Planning In New Hope

1986 Development Guide

At their June 15, 1981 meeting, the New Hope Town Board voted to request the Portage County Planning Department to assist the Town in developing a Land Use Plan. The Land Use Plan was to serve as a basis for the Town to update its original zoning map, adopted in 1969, to reflect changing conditions and needs in the Town.

The Town Board was interested in utilizing Exclusive Agricultural Zoning to help preserve New Hope's agricultural lands and to help avoid conflicts with nonfarm uses. The County Planning and Zoning Departments also recommended that the County's obsolete Recreational Zoning District be eliminated. An update of the Town Zoning Map would also allow the Town to reevaluate the status of all other land.

The Planning Department presented the Town Board with a two-phase planning program option. The first phase was to include a citizen opinion survey and analysis of development needs and problems related to land use. The end result would be a Town Land Use Plan and an updated zoning map. The second phase of the planning program was to tie Phase I into an expanded analysis of other Town development factors. The end result would be a complete Town Development Guide. The Town Board decided to do only Phase I, with Phase II following as needed.

The Town Board appointed a citizen Planning Committee which held its first meeting on March 7, 1983. The Planning Committee's primary purpose was to assist and direct the County Planning Department and to advise the Town Board on the Land Use Plan and the zoning map update.

A citizen opinion survey was distributed to all residents and landowners of the Town, as the initial planning step. Analysis of the survey results were used as a data and informational base for citizen input to the land use planning process.

The Town Planning Committee conducted numerous meetings during the development of the document, with direction from the Town Board and staff support from the County Planning, Zoning, and Land Conservation Departments. The plan was officially adopted in September, 1986.

Section 1.3 Current Comprehensive Planning Process

As mentioned in the introduction to this document, this Town of New Hope 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 New Hope Plan Commission began the Town Comprehensive Planning process in earnest in January 2003. The Plan Commission met monthly through March 2005 to put together the first complete preliminary draft of the plan. The Comprehensive Planning process involved several basic steps:

The first step involved research. Activities included 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 involved 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 involved the selection of a preferred plan alternative 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 a 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 New Hope.

Section 1.4 Town of New Hope Vision

A vision statement can help serve as an overarching statement of community values and can help focus community goals for a desired future. New Hope's vision statement for the next twenty years is:

The residents of the Town of New Hope envision that the Town will remain a primarily rural community that retains its agricultural heritage. Decisions regarding new growth will be made to insure compatibility with the existing rural character of the Town.

Our citizens fully realize that the earth and water in New Hope are not mere commodities and cannot be treated solely as such. We work to sustain our fields and forests, our wetlands, our groundwater and all of our surface waters.

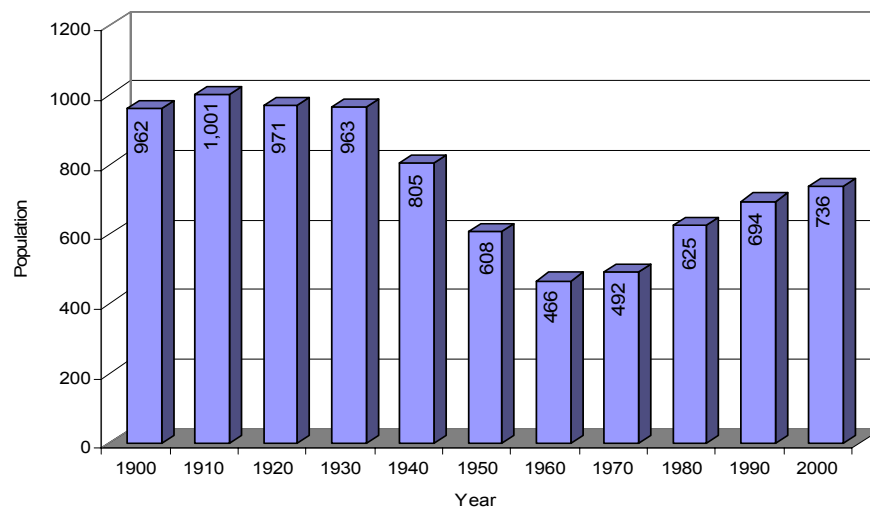
Section 1.5 Demographic Trends

A. Population Growth

Every 10 years the Federal government performs the National Census, and these Census results are the main source of the information we use to understand how communities change over time.

Census data reveal two major, historical population trends for the Town of New Hope (Figure 1.2). The first major trend was a steady decline in the Town's population over a fifty-year period from 1910 to 1960. This was characteristic of a rural-to-urban population movement which occurred during that period on a County, State and nationwide level.

Figure 1.2: Town of New Hope Population Change, 1900 to 2000



Source: 2000 U.S. Census

This declining population trend was reversed in the 1960's, with the Town experiencing a slight upturn in population as urban residents began moving back to rural or semi-rural areas. In Portage County, the impact of this migration back to the rural areas occurred earlier and was greater in those towns located adjacent to the larger population centers. Accordingly, Towns such as Hull and Plover were quicker to stem the loss of population and experienced larger growth spurts due to their proximity to the Stevens Point Urban Area. In contrast, many of the more rural towns in Portage County did not experience renewed growth until the 1960's.

The Town of New Hope's most dramatic growth occurred after 1960, with the Town documenting population increases of 27% for the 1970-1980 period, 11% from 1980 to 1990, and 6% from 1990 to 2000. The Wisconsin Department of Administration, which provides yearly population estimates for the intercensal period, has estimated the Town's 2004 population at 750, a growth of 2% from 2000.

Table 1.1: New Hope Comparison Population Change, 1970 to 2004

	U.S. Census				State of Wisconsin Estimate	1970 to 2000 Change	2000 to 2004 Change
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2004		
Town of New Hope	492	625	694	736	750	49.6%	1.9%
Town of Alban	606	768	860	897	911	NA	1.69%
Town of Amherst	936	1,215	1,335	1,435	1,464	53.3%	2.0%
Town of Sharon	1,304	1,694	1,742	1,936	1,997	48.5%	3.2%
Town of Stockton	1,537	2,208	2,494	2,896	2,974	88.4%	2.7%
Portage County	47,541	57,420	61,405	67,182	68,935	41.3%	2.6%

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

Population growth is a combination of many factors including births and deaths, and in- and out-migration. By examining migration patterns for the residents of the Town of New Hope, we can better understand the causes for how 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 New Hope 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 New Hope residents that lived in a home outside the Town, but within Portage County, in 1995. The "Different House, Different County" column identifies the New Hope 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 New Hope 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, seventy-seven percent (77%) of the Town's residents lived in the same house as they did in 1995, up four percent (4%) from the 1990 Census. Sixteen percent (16%) of New Hope residents had moved into the Town after living in other parts of Portage County in 1995, up slightly from the previous Census.

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 New Hope	489	73%	538	77%	101	15%	110	16%	45	7%	49	7%	38	6%	20	3%
Town of Alban	528	70%	545	71%	140	19%	127	16%	67	9%	99	13%	18	2%	13	2%
Town of Amherst	823	68%	1,014	77%	235	19%	189	14%	77	6%	110	8%	79	7%	83	6%
Town of Sharon	1,177	73%	1,383	75%	317	20%	332	18%	64	4%	132	7%	54	3%	36	2%
Town of Stockton	1,589	71%	1,996	73%	466	21%	500	18%	158	7%	239	9%	37	2%	66	2%
Portage County		51%		56%		21%		22%		21%		16%		7%		5%

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

Seven percent (7%) lived in a different Wisconsin County in 1995 before moving to New Hope (same as previous Census), and three percent (3%) moved to the Town of New Hope from another State (down from 6%). These numbers provide further examples of the residential expansion within the Town of New Hope: increased percentage of residents living long term in the same dwelling and more people relocating to the Town from within Portage County

B. Age Distribution

The number of New Hope residents that occupied specific age groups in each of the last three census years, along with similar information for the other sixteen Portage County Towns (as an average for all sixteen) and the County as a whole are shown in Table 1.3 below.

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

Age	Town of New Hope			Town Average			Portage County		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
Under 5 years	67 10.7%	63 9.1%	40 5.4%	135 9.2%	121 7.7%	98 6.0%	4,343 7.6%	4,266 6.9%	3,964 5.9%
5 to 14 years	99 15.8%	118 17.0%	107 14.5%	282 19.2%	279 18.1%	262 15.6%	8,671 15.1%	9,080 14.8%	9,118 13.6%
15 to 24 years	109 17.4%	53 7.6%	82 11.1%	265 17.7%	208 13.2%	206 12.6%	15,270 26.6%	13,081 21.3%	13,983 20.8%
25 to 34 years	116 18.6%	116 16.7%	61 8.3%	257 17.3%	247 15.6%	190 11.5%	9,180 16.0%	9,897 16.1%	8,322 12.4%
35 to 44 years	59 9.4%	128 18.4%	143 19.4%	170 11.2%	255 16.1%	298 17.9%	5,593 9.7%	8,690 14.2%	10,261 15.3%
45 to 54 years	51 8.2%	58 8.4%	126 17.1%	120 8.4%	165 10.3%	268 16.2%	4,447 7.7%	5,489 8.9%	8,945 13.3%
55 to 64 years	54 8.6%	60 8.6%	68 9.2%	105 7.9%	152 8.7%	155 9.3%	4,185 7.3%	4,299 7.0%	5,235 7.8%
65 to 74 years	41 6.6%	61 8.8%	59 8.0%	76 6.2%	87 6.4%	97 6.3%	3,391 5.9%	3,610 5.9%	3,791 5.6%
75 to 84 years	22 3.5%	24 3.5%	42 5.7%	30 2.4%	40 3.1%	52 3.6%	1,806 3.1%	2,273 3.7%	2,565 3.8%
85 years and over	7 1.1%	13 1.9%	8 1.1%	8 0.6%	9 0.7%	15 1.0%	534 0.9%	720 1.2%	998 1.5%
Total	625	694	736	1,448	1,562	1,641	57,420	61,405	67,182
Median Age	28.2	34.8	41.0	27	32	38	25.4	29.3	33.0

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

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 diagonal series of gray and white boxes within Table 1.3 indicate the path of each age cohort through the three Census periods.

The 5-to-14 year old cohort for the Town of New Hope numbered 118 in 1990. Their number declined by 36 persons (-31%) by the year 2000 (as the 5-to-14 year olds became 15-to-24 year olds). Children leaving home for college or jobs may explain some of this decline. The age cohorts 25 to 44 ("family aged") showed strong growth.

“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 median age for the Town of New Hope is 41 years. This rate has increased by over twelve years since 1980, with the rate of increase holding steady over the two decades. The other Towns across Portage County have seen their median age increase at a slower pace (10.5 years, see Table 1.3). The County as a whole has seen its median age increase at an even slower rate, approximately eight years over the twenty-year period. This is an indication that the towns overall are aging more rapidly 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 New Hope 65+ population segment increased from 11.2% of total population in 1980 to 14.8% in 2000. The average Portage County Town saw this segment increase from 9.2% to 10.9%, and the County as a whole increased from 9.9% to 10.9%.

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 New Hope raised its overall educational attainment during the 1990’s. The number and percentage of Town of New Hope residents age 25 and over who had less than a 9th grade education decreased between 1990 and 2000. The percentage of 25+ year old residents who completed some college, or completed a college degree program rose from forty-four percent (44%) to fifty-five percent (55%) over the same period. This college attainment for New Hope was greater than both the Town average (24% to 43%), and County as a whole (40% to 49%). The Town of New Hope also had an increase in the number and percentage of residents who completed 9th to 12th grade but did not receive a diploma. The New Hope numbers for this category increased by (5%) five percent, while the Town average experienced less than a 1% increase and Portage County experienced a 1.2% decrease in this category.

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

Educational Attainment (Persons 25 yrs+)	Town of New Hope		Town Average		Portage County	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Less Than 9th Grade	79 16.0%	45 8.7%	120 10.3%	67 6.2%	4,065 11.6%	2,420 6.0%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	34 6.9%	62 11.9%	85 7.2%	86 8.0%	3,029 8.7%	3,019 7.5%
High School Graduate	165 33.3%	125 24.0%	401 34.2%	460 42.7%	14,082 40.2%	14,952 37.2%
Some College (No Degree)	83 16.8%	102 19.6%	115 9.8%	189 17.5%	5,205 14.9%	7,572 18.9%
Associate Degree	11 2.2%	9 1.7%	45 3.8%	77 7.1%	1,922 5.5%	2,802 7.0%
Bachelor's Degree	74 14.9%	107 20.6%	90 7.7%	143 13.2%	4,594 13.1%	6,468 16.1%
Graduate / Professional Degree	49 9.9%	70 13.5%	35 3.0%	56 5.2%	2,107 6.0%	2,910 7.2%
Total	495	520	1,172	1,077	35,004	40,143

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

D. Households and Income

The Town of New Hope 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. The change in the make-up of Town of New Hope households over the last 20 years are shown in Table 1.5 below and compares them to the Portage County data and the average of the County’s other sixteen Towns. Family households, traditionally the largest group within New Hope, have seen their percentage of total households decrease slightly over the last 20 years at a faster rate than both the Town average and County as a whole. Single-parent headed households within New Hope have increased from 9% to 13% of family households since 1980. By comparison, the Town average and County as a whole have seen single-head households increase between 1 and 3%. New Hope’s non-family households have increased from approximately 18% of total households in 1980 to 21% in 2000.

The Persons Per Household (PPH) for the Town of New Hope, Town average, and the County has shown a decline over the last 20 years. New Hope has maintained a smaller PPH than the Town average, but larger than the overall County PPH. This translates into New Hope and other Town households being a bit larger than the County average.

Table 1.5: Household Type Comparison

Households By Type	Town of New Hope			Town Average			Portage County		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
Family Households	162	194	219	370	416	465	13,257	14,883	16,496
<i>Percent of Total Households</i>	<i>82%</i>	<i>79%</i>	<i>79%</i>	<i>84%</i>	<i>83%</i>	<i>79%</i>	<i>72%</i>	<i>70%</i>	<i>66%</i>
Married-couple families	147	180	189	335	368	414	11,592	12,645	13,808
<i>Percent of Family Households</i>	<i>91%</i>	<i>93%</i>	<i>86%</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>88%</i>	<i>89%</i>	<i>87%</i>	<i>85%</i>	<i>84%</i>
Other family, male householder	5	8	10	13	18	22	437	602	861
<i>Percent of Family Households</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>5%</i>
Other family, female householder	10	6	20	22	30	29	1,228	1,636	1,827
<i>Percent of Family Households</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>11%</i>
Non-family Households	35	52	59	69	88	125	5,056	6,423	8,544
<i>Percent of Total Households</i>	<i>18%</i>	<i>21%</i>	<i>21%</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>17%</i>	<i>21%</i>	<i>28%</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>34%</i>
Householder living alone	32	48	46	56	71	97	3,730	4,679	6,130
<i>Percent of Non-Fam Households</i>	<i>91%</i>	<i>92%</i>	<i>78%</i>	<i>81%</i>	<i>81%</i>	<i>78%</i>	<i>74%</i>	<i>73%</i>	<i>72%</i>
Householder 65 years and over	~	21	21	~	29	35	~	1,933	2,196
<i>Percent of Non-Fam Households</i>	<i>~</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>28%</i>	<i>~</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>26%</i>
Total Households	197	246	278	439	504	590	18,313	21,306	25,040
Persons Per Household	3.17	2.82	2.65	3.29	3.02	2.72	2.93	2.71	2.54

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

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 New Hope. Household incomes have changed in the last 20 years (Table 1.6 below). It is a testimony to both the inflation of wages and the increased earning power of the residents of New Hope that the percentage of households making greater than \$50,000 per year has increased from three percent (3%) in 1979 to forty-seven percent (47%) in 1999. Median household income has increased from \$12,708 to \$46,538 over the same period. The percentage increase in households earning greater than \$50,000 for Portage County as a whole is slightly lower over the 20-year period (3% to 43%); Town average, 3% to 34%.

Table 1.6: Household Income Comparison

Household Income Per Year	Town of New Hope			Town Average			Portage County		
	1979	1989	1999	1979	1989	1999	1979	1989	1999
Less Than \$10,000	67 36.2%	35 14.1%	13 4.5%	106 23.9%	49 9.7%	26 3.0%	5,300 28.9%	3,210 15.0%	1,767 7.0%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	32 17.3%	18 7.2%	13 4.5%	68 15.5%	38 7.4%	25 2.8%	2,919 15.9%	1,978 9.3%	1,608 6.4%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	49 26.5%	57 22.9%	29 10.1%	145 32.8%	86 17.0%	57 6.4%	5,423 29.6%	4,072 19.1%	3,174 12.6%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	27 14.6%	33 13.3%	41 14.2%	79 17.9%	87 17.2%	77 8.7%	2,907 15.8%	3,654 17.1%	3,425 13.6%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	4 0.0%	62 0.2%	57 0.1%	30 0.2%	127 0.4%	114 0.2%	1,223 6.7%	4,370 20.5%	4,484 17.9%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	4 2.2%	28 11.2%	66 22.9%	10 2.2%	85 16.8%	159 18.1%	380 2.1%	2,983 14.0%	5,771 23.0%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	2 1.1%	12 4.8%	43 14.9%	5 1.1%	21 4.2%	83 9.4%	193 1.1%	661 3.1%	2,820 11.2%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	0 0.0%	2 0.8%	10 3.5%	0 0.0%	8 1.6%	37 4.3%	0 0.0%	274 1.3%	1,346 5.4%
\$150,000 or more	0 0.0%	2 0.8%	16 5.6%	0 0.0%	5 0.9%	18 2.1%	0 0.0%	134 0.6%	717 2.9%
Total Households	185	249	288	441	507	877	18,345	21,336	25,112
Median H-Hold Income	\$12,708	\$29,750	\$46,538	\$16,988	\$31,622	\$48,130	\$16,659	\$28,686	\$43,487

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

With the examination of income information, the Town of New Hope should also assess the poverty status of its residents. “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 1.7 below outlines poverty thresholds for 1980, 1990, and 2000. Table 1.8 lists Census information on poverty for the total number of residents, persons age 65 and above, and families within the Town of New Hope, the average of all Towns, and Portage County as a whole.

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

Table 1.8: Percent in Poverty Comparison

	Town of New Hope		Town Average		Portage County	
	1989	1999	1989	1999	1989	1999
Persons	734	736	1,369	1,460	57,805	67,182
Below Poverty Level	31 4.2%	47 6.4%	120 8.8%	80 5.4%	7,454 12.9%	6,074 9.0%
Persons 65 Years and Over	117	109	115	150	5,327	7,354
Below Poverty Level	6 5.1%	0 0.0%	13 11.7%	15 9.8%	740 13.9%	561 7.6%
Families	214	230	367	415	14,927	16,643
Below Poverty Level	6 2.8%	9 3.9%	24 6.5%	14 3.5%	1,051 7.0%	725 4.4%

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

According to census figures, the Town of New Hope has experienced an increase in the percentage of residents and families earning below the poverty level, while the Town and County averages have decreased.

E. Employment Characteristics

A summary of employment by industry data for the last three Census years is provided in Table 1.9. This information represents what type of industry that the working residents of New Hope were employed by, and is not a listing of the employment currently located within the Town. The discussion of the New Hope 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.

Table 1.9: Summary of Employment by Industry

Industry	Town of New Hope			Town Average			Portage County		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Mining	77 28.9%	68 18.8%	30 7.3%	94 15.8%	83 10.9%	60 6.9%	1,816 7.3%	1,755 5.8%	1,241 3.5%
Construction	9 3.4%	32 8.8%	30 7.3%	33 5.5%	44 5.7%	53 6.1%	1,004 4.0%	1,297 4.3%	1,707 4.8%
Manufacturing	39 14.7%	56 15.5%	62 15.0%	127 21.3%	159 20.9%	190 21.7%	4,637 18.6%	5,373 17.8%	6,314 17.7%
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	12 4.5%	12 3.3%	23 5.6%	31 5.3%	50 6.6%	56 6.4%	1,214 4.9%	1,511 5.0%	1,948 5.5%
Information	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	10 1.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	10 1.2%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	835 2.3%
Communications/ Other Public Facilities	0 0.0%	3 0.8%	0 0.0%	6 1.0%	7 0.9%	0 0.0%	325 1.3%	367 1.2%	0 0.0%
Wholesale Trade	2 0.8%	8 2.2%	16 3.9%	24 4.0%	25 3.3%	31 3.5%	885 3.5%	1,026 3.4%	1,235 3.5%
Retail Trade	10 3.8%	13 3.6%	37 9.0%	82 13.8%	123 16.2%	106 12.1%	4,317 17.3%	5,667 18.8%	4,813 13.5%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	19 7.1%	20 5.5%	19 4.6%	65 10.9%	84 11.1%	92 10.5%	2,971 11.9%	3,359 11.1%	3,682 10.3%
Professional, Management, Administrative	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	14 1.3%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	30 3.5%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1,627 4.6%
Business and Repair Services	6 2.3%	8 2.2%	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%	9 1.0%	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	1 0.4%	2 0.6%	23 5.6%	18 3.0%	6 0.8%	49 5.6%	734 2.9%	388 1.3%	3,005 8.4%
Educational, Health, Social Services	31 11.7%	78 21.5%	104 25.2%	81 13.6%	102 13.4%	143 16.3%	5,331 21.4%	5,617 18.6%	7,192 20.2%
Other	10 3.8%	8 2.2%	4 1.0%	13 2.2%	23 3.0%	35 4.0%	624 2.5%	1,362 4.5%	1,236 3.5%
Public Administration	3 1.4%	6 1.9%	13 3.4%	9 1.5%	19 2.5%	20 2.3%	571 2.3%	710 2.4%	842 2.4%
Total Employed Persons	219	323	385	594	760	875	24,947	30,150	35,677
Unemployed Persons	31	21	22	58	38	39	2,013	1,590	2,255
Total Labor Force	250	344	407	652	826	662	26,960	31,740	37,944
Percent Unemployed	14.2%	6.5%	5.7%	10%	5%	4%	8.1%	5.3%	6.3%
Persons 16 Years +	0	548	578	0	1,090	680	0	47,202	53,135

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

Section 1.6 Forecasts

A. Population Projections

Population projections developed by the Portage County Planning and Zoning Department suggest that the Town will experience moderate growth throughout the planning period, with a projected increase of 124 residents from 2000 to 2025, an increase of 16.8%. This compares with a projected increase of 17.5% for the entire County, over the same period. It should be noted that all population projections are "best guesses" and should be used with caution. The methodology for this projection is included in Appendix D of this Comprehensive Plan.

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

Yr 2010: **790** Yr 2015: **807** Yr 2020: **830** Yr 2025: **860**

B. Household Projections

Household projections for the Town of New Hope will be based on the population projections in Section 1.6A above, divided by the anticipated number of persons per household through 2025.

The number of Persons per Household for New Hope has declined from 2.82 persons in 1990 to 2.65 persons in 2000. Using a method of linear regression from data beginning in 1980, the forecasted number of persons per household (PPH) in 2010 will be 2.36. For the purpose of forecasting, the persons per household will be held at 2.36 for 2025. Keep in mind that these numbers represent projections and should not be used as absolute.

Using a PPH of 2.36 for this plan horizon and a 2025 population projection of 860, the household projections for New Hope are:

2010: **335** households 2015: **342** households 2020: **352** households 2025: **365** 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, Wausau, the Fox Valley area and other outlying communities. Jobs will most likely be found in the service, health care, government, manufacturing, and finance sectors.

Section 1.7 Community Goals, Objectives, and Policies

The Town of New Hope recognizes the decreasing role that agricultural operations play in the economy, and toward the preservation of a rural lifestyle and community character. However, Town residents believe that agriculture will remain a principal land use during this planning horizon and wish to limit development densities in areas to protect existing agricultural operations and preserve the rural character of the area. Town residents also recognize the importance that natural resources, such as the many lakes, streams, and wetlands contribute toward the Town's character. Recognition of these assets 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 New Hope. 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.