

WADENA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



2013

Wadena County Comprehensive Plan

INTRODUCTION

Comprehensive plans are intended to anticipate and plan for change, not merely reflect it. Change, whether in a county, township, or city, can be subtle and slow to emerge, or it may be rapid and dramatic. In either case, a well-crafted Comprehensive Plan should foresee where and how the community is changing, as well as be responsive to change as it occurs during the life of the Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan is the legal basis for the land use controls, or Zoning Ordinances, adopted by the County. The state of Minnesota gives counties the authority to adopt Comprehensive Plans and subsequent land use and zoning ordinances under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 394. Counties exercise their authority under this statute to promote and protect the “health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community”.

This Plan provides for growth and development within Wadena County, but only if such growth is not injurious to the overall health of the County’s agricultural, forestry, recreational, and community areas. It also encourages stability by acknowledging that growth is constrained by the physical resources of the County and the demands and preferences of the marketplace. It encourages the long term sustainability of Wadena County by recognizing the long term consequences of present actions and the interrelatedness of decisions. This plan strives to give the citizens of this County an opportunity to have a meaningful impact on the development of the County by providing open, adequate, and accurate information. And, this plan strives to protect the integrity of the natural environment by recognizing wetlands, the Crow Wing and Red Eye River and watersheds, forests, and other natural features as an important consideration in land use decisions.

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The purpose of the Wadena County Comprehensive Plan is to serve as a guide for the future development of, and use of the land in, Wadena County. It is to be an extension of the needs and wants of the citizens of this County.

This Plan should be the foundation for the day to day activities of the County and its officials and staff. It should be referenced regularly and used in justification of specific actions when making land use decisions. The Plan also needs to be adaptive to change when and where it is necessary, and, so, should be reviewed with residents, business owners, and other stakeholders from time to time to ensure it is in step with changing trends. Those reviews and potential updates should be conducted at regular intervals to keep the Plan current.

Public meetings were held during the review process for this Plan update to gather input and determine the County's **current** strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities. The information, ideas, thoughts, and feelings of the participants of each of these public meetings can be found in Section 1 of this plan, and will be used for future reference in the planning process for Wadena County.

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SECTION 1: Public Participation

All communities in Minnesota exist in a changing economic and social environment. Within this challenging framework, communities must work particularly hard to stay strong. A comprehensive plan for the future is an important part of this effort.

Although comprehensive planning has been a part of the county's history since 1971, with the passing of time and changing circumstances, attitudes and opinions will also change. Priorities and goals will also have a tendency to vary in some manner. Our plan needs to grow and change to reflect those changes in priorities and goals. Changes can be driven by a number of things including some form of change in the population. Perhaps it comes with an aging of the population, a more diverse population residing within the county, or a population who have obtained a better understanding and broader knowledge of the purpose of land use planning and the benefits it can produce. Change in attitudes and opinions can also be the direct effect of a growing or slumping economy, a difference in social influences, or changes being made on a higher governmental level.

However, the change is derived, we know it happens, and it is very important to hear from the people living, working, and raising families in Wadena County. In order to obtain public input and to provide opportunities for the most people, in the most effective and economical manner, to participate, the County was divided into 5 localized areas and notices sent out to townships and cities situated within those areas to invite local officials, as well as the general public, to attend and participate in the meetings. This provided an opportunity, on a smaller scale, to reflect on the strengths and weaknesses, and the priorities and goals documented within the current plan, and then to discuss possible changes to those which may have occurred during the past several years. Because local citizens have a broad range of attitudes toward growth and development, it is important to note that, although all of the public input from the meetings is documented within Section 1 of this Plan, the input provided from the public was reviewed and discussed through the appropriate processes and blended to produce a document that would serve Wadena County, as a whole, in the best possible manner. The following documents these meeting and the outcomes of each.

Meeting #1 – Nimrod Area Community Hall

This meeting location was not well attended, however, numerous topics were brought up, resulting in a good round table discussion.

Strengths: water quality and current quantity, agriculture and forestry and the revenue generated by them, community pride, the Crow Wing River and other water systems



Weaknesses: large tracts of land purchased for seasonal use and taken out of production, not purchasing locally resulting in lost businesses, clear cutting of large tracts of land for agri-business irrigated fields, poor economy, poor tax base, school districts suffer some because non-resident large tracts of land are not part of any bond issue for them

Suggested Changes to Current Goals: None

Suggested Added Objectives:

Natural Resources:

- Preserve and protect the quantity and quality of surface waters as well as ground water

Economic Development:

- Promote and encourage patronization of local, in-county businesses whenever and wherever possible

Other Suggestions & Points of Discussion:

- Adding a page to the Plan Update to define what the different Zoning Districts are
- Possible revisions to the Zoning map to allow for more ease in opening a business along some of the main road ways in the County

Meeting #2 – Blueberry Township Hall

This group, though small, had the greatest attendance and was quite diversified in backgrounds and interests. Aside from a few differing views on certain topics that were covered, this group brought some great input to the table.

Strengths: lakes and rivers, parks, recreation (i.e. snowmobile trails, horse trails, camping, golf courses), clean water, parks, exceptional emergency services, orderly development practices, natural environment & wildlife, fresh air, the work force, major highways coming in and going out of the county, the railroad in the southern tier of the County, the school systems, friendly people



Weaknesses: livable wages, people not knowing each other anymore or the businesses that do exist in the county, high property taxes, lack of transportation options, lack of promotion of the things we do have to offer

Suggested Changes to Current Goals: None

Suggested Added Objectives:

Natural Resources:

- Protection of the County's surface waters

Land Use:

- Encourage and support services to be available along the highway corridors

Economic Development:

- Research and plan the best way to add commercial zoned areas to the County's highway corridors and take measures to amend the official zoning map to include those new districts
- Work toward centralizing our development and work together with cities and townships where existing commercial buildings are empty and ready to be used

Transportation:

- Explore innovative ways to fund road improvements and general maintenance (wheelage tax, .5% sales tax)

Parks & Recreation:

- Research and support the development of a bike/walking trail connecting communities in Wadena County

Other Suggestions & Points of Discussion:

- Use of Legacy funding for financial support of building a trail system
- Possible light rail from the County to another strategic location in another county
- Impact of large agri-business (clear cutting, fertilizing, & irrigation) on surface & ground water quality and quantity, forests, wild life habitat, and rural residential property owners
- Develop collaborative efforts with other counties in the areas of economic development, transportation, environmental protection, human services, and public safety

- Encourage organic grower's that can be certified – demand for these products is increasing
- Increase collaborative agreements with State agencies for funding sources
- County Board needs to maintain communication with state legislators so when funding is available to finance efforts outlined in the Comprehensive Plan we are working to procure it
- Blueberry Township walking trail should be added to the Comprehensive Plan under Parks & Recreation
- Wind Farms – do we want them in our county

Meeting #3 - Sebeka Senior Citizen Center

This meeting was not well attended but citizens who did attend provided great input and were primarily interested in economic development and promotion of the things that the county has to offer presently.

Strengths: Agriculture, Crow Wing River, School Systems, exceptional emergency services, wetlands, close proximity to medical care, lots of city and county parks, campsites county, state, and city, golf courses, community festivals, snowmobile trails, golf courses, 2 college campuses, available land and buildings for commercial use, telecommunications systems-fiber optics, two major highways run through the county



Weakness: Limited number of lakes, lack of productive soils for agriculture, lack of promotion of the things the county does have to offer, not enough senior services, an aging population and work force, lack of infrastructure in areas where commercial development might be suited to take place, only two major highways run through the county

Suggested Changes to Current Goals:

Natural Resources:

- Incorporate language into the Goal to include protection against ground water depletion

Economic Development:

- Incorporate language into the Goal to say that we not only “encourage” economic development but that we “support it” as well.

Transportation:

- Incorporate language into the Goal to encourage and support alternative methods of transportation, including bike trails which connect communities.

Suggested Added Objectives:

Transportation:

- Explore options for funding to assist with developing bike routes in the County

Economic Development:

- County support of the West Central Economic Development Alliance
- Develop and exercise a collaborative effort between the County and the Cities in locating businesses and other forms of development
- Promote and support community awareness of and for the need for infrastructure to bring and keep business & industry in the County

Facilities & Services:

- Promote community support for infrastructure
- Study services provided by similar sized counties to determine where we lack or where we provide more

Parks & Recreation:

- Better promotion of what we already have to offer
- Better promotion of wintertime outdoor activities, i.e., cross country skiing, ice skating, snow shoeing, sledding
- Research possible Legacy funding for procurement to assist with potential larger scale projects

Meeting #4 – Thomastown Township Hall

This small group provided a terrific discussion that centered mostly around natural resources and parks and recreation; however, there was also some very good input with regard to economic development.



Strengths: Rivers & streams, Wahoo Valley, good balance of forest and open land, two college campuses, technology infrastructure is good in parts of the county

Weaknesses: lack of technology infrastructure in parts of the County, no electrical access in most County Parks, lack of promotion of some of the recreation the County does have to offer

Suggested Changes to Current Goals: None

Suggested Added Objectives:

Natural Resources:

- Take action to alleviate the negative effects of clear cutting large tracts of forest land for center pivot irrigated farm fields (i.e. erosion, lost animal habitat, overuse of chemicals, water depletion and soil depletion)

Economic Development:

- Provide assistance in the form of staff or other outreach to people with an idea for a business but who do not have the knowledge or information they need to market their product
- Support more recreational trails

Transportation:

- Research and consider alternative funding sources for road maintenance and improvement

Parks & Recreation:

- Road improvements to county parks
- Upgrade at least one county park to include RV parking and some amenities like showers and modern bathroom facilities
- Work on bike trails
- Allow geocaching and promote it within the county and the county parks systems
- Consider the county taking over the River Trail Riders Saddle Club grounds for public use

Meeting #5 – Wadena County Courthouse Auditorium

There were no members of the general public at this particular meeting. Some of the topics brought up at the other meetings by members of the public were mentioned with some brief discussion between staff, the two County Commissioners, and the two Planning Commission members who were there. However, due to the lack of public participation, the meeting was adjourned early.

SECTION 2: Wadena County Early History

Wadena County, with its vast geographic differences was long overlooked as a source of abundant agricultural wealth. The Indians used it as hunting grounds, the French and British saw it as a land rich with fur bearing animals, and even the logging industry used only the northern and northeastern portions of the county for harvesting the rich, white pine they sought. Even after Minnesota was organized as a state and Wadena County was plotted in 1858, few white people had settled on the land. It would take over three decades before the true agricultural wealth of Wadena County would take its place of prominence in Minnesota's agricultural economy.



Mill dam on the Wing River near Verndale

Wadena County was established by the state legislature in June of 1858. Although this act was passed in 1858, it was not until February 21, 1873, that the county was officially organized. The city of Wadena was established as the county seat.

The completion of the Northern Pacific railroad through the county gave rise to the genesis of many communities along its right of way. One of the earliest hamlets to begin growing was Aldrich, which was settled about 1871. The laying of track reached Aldrich in 1872, and gave such a tremendous flourishing to the burg that between 1872 and 1883 the population of the site grew to over one hundred.



The Great Northern Railroad laying track north of Wadena

By the early 1880's only six townships had been populated enough to allow formal organization of the areas into townships, and they were Wadena, Leaf River, Bullard, Wing River, Aldrich, and Thomastown. The northern portions of the county remained sparsely populated except for isolated pockets of settlers. In 1885, the settlers in and around Shell City petitioned the county for recognition as a township. As the population of the county continued to grow, other townships sought organization. Red

Eye Township was organized on January 15, 1889, Rockwood followed on July 8, 1893, North Germany on December 18, 1893, Lyons on January 7, 1896, Meadow on March 13, 1896, Blueberry around 1888, Huntersville around 1898, and Orton in September of 1898. The population of the county, which was listed as six by the Federal Census in 1870, showed a tremendous growth to over 2,000 inhabitants by 1880. Within the next decade the population had reached just over 4,000, and by the turn of the century there were over 7,900 settlers.



Dickinson General Store - Verndale, MN

With increasing population growth came the genesis of other communities through the county. Wadena, Verndale, and Aldrich came into existence with the building of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Shell City and Nimrod came into existence as a result of logging operations and wheat growing as these industries spread northward into the county by 1880. The construction of the Wadena-Park Rapids railroad in 1891 brought into being the communities of Sebeka and Menahga, with other smaller communities such as Blue Grass and Central springing up around 1905. (Taken from *"Silhouettes of Time: A History of Wadena County Focusing on Shell City and Nimrod, MN"*).

Wadena County was on one of the original trapper-trader routes connecting Pembina to Fort Snelling. Later this route was to become the northern Red River oxcart trail so heavily used before the coming of the railroad. Though Wadena County was included in the 1855 Indian land cession, it remained unsettled until the superior prairie land further to the west had been taken and the railroads made the territory more accessible.



Chief Wadena

During the late 1800's, large numbers of northern Europeans migrated to Minnesota. The northern part of Wadena and adjoining sections of Becker and Ottertail Counties gained large numbers of Finnish settlers. The east central portion of the County around Nimrod was strongly German, with Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, and English occupying the southern townships. Much of the evidence of ethnic ties are still apparent on the landscape and in the names of people in the area today, especially in the Finnish areas.



Early farming in Wadena County

With the railroads came increased numbers of farmers and service towns along the lines. Compared to southern Minnesota, the farms, especially in the north, were small and the farmers supplemented their incomes with forestry. Ironically, today, farmers in Wadena County continue to supplement their incomes, only with jobs off the farm instead of forestry.

TOWNS & VILLAGES – Brief History

Information provided here is from an article provided by the Wadena County Historical Society entitled, *“An Early History of Wadena County Towns and Villages”*, and from information obtained from current city administration.

Aldrich

Aldrich has the distinction of being the first settlement in Wadena County. In the year 1872, the railroad arrived, giving a terrific boost to the town’s population. W. A. Bryant and Bro.’s opened the first regular store in 1876. In 1881, Delos Helmer built a beautiful hotel which he called the “Aldrich House”. In 1882, L.D. French, W.F. Markus and J.M. Russ built the first saw mill. The population in 1883 had reached the all-time high of 100 people. In 1883, the town witnessed their first industrial strike, when five mill hands left their work on general grievances. The strike wasn’t too drastic, however, as new mill hands were hired and the mill resumed operation two days later. By 1922, the population had grown such that a new residential section was built, adding new homes, and improving, greatly, the already popular town of Aldrich. Here the first post office and the first Catholic Church in Wadena County were established.

Aldrich is still in existence today with a population of 46, governed by a Mayor and 3 member City Council.

Bluegrass

The village of Bluegrass actually began developing in 1917. The Co-op Creamery was long remembered as one of the outstanding businesses. Today there are only a few residences occupied at Bluegrass along with St. Hubert’s Catholic Church and the Bethany Free Lutheran Church, also known as the Hay Creek Congregation.

Huntersville & Orton

Not a great deal of actual history has been recorded for these two villages. We know only that they were small and that the good neighbors living there kept quite closely to themselves. J.N. Wiley, promoting a new railroad from Minneapolis to Winnipeg, Canada, to run through Orton and Huntersville voted \$8,200 in bonds to assist the venture. The bonds, however, were soon voided as the deal failed to go through.

Today the little village of Orton is non-existent, while the village of Huntersville is a recreational hub for tubing and canoeing traffic on the Crow Wing River and horseback riding and hiking in the Huntersville State Forest. The Huntersville Outpost Bar and Grill provides dining and entertainment to visitors and area residents alike.

Leaf River

At one time in Leaf River, there were so many deer killed that buckskins adorned the cabin walls and fences around most of the homestead cabins. In November 1879, a Mr. Wiswell threshed around 800 bushels of wheat, which was a goodly amount for those days. The saw mill arrived shortly after that time and soon was running, utilizing the huge timber of the forests that existed at that time. Leaf River town site did not flourish or develop into an incorporated town.

Menahga

D.E. Jones was responsible for establishing the Menahga town site in January of 1891. Late summer 1891, the railroad came through for the first time. When the railroad was established, Chet Eddy, Charles, Barney Kelly, and Joseph Askew immediately set up a sawmill. W.R. Baumbaugh is reported to have opened the first store. The town was given the name, "The Gateway to the Pines" by the Governor of Louisiana on his visit, when the Jefferson Highway, now US Highway 71, was opened. Joseph A. Quinn was one of the outstanding bankers in the village. Menahga, too, had a terrible fire, which nearly destroyed the village in 1903. Midsummer Days has long since been established as an annual celebration.

Menahga's current population is 1306, and they are governed by an elected Mayor and 4 member City Council. Each year in July, Menahga's Mid-Summer Celebration takes place. In mid-March, St. Urho Days provide a variety of fun activities attracting visitors from all over to celebrate the legend of St. Urho driving the grasshoppers out of Finland and saving the vineyards.

Nimrod

Located on the banks of the beautiful Crow Wing River, in the township of Orton, Nimrod was established in 1879 by a man named Savoy in the days when the “log drives” down the river were increasing. It was not incorporated as a village until 1924, and as a city until 1946. In the early years of lumbering, it was first only a tie camp, but still a very important little village. Jake Graba was recorded to have kept the first stopping place for lumbermen, offering them room and board for a nominal fee. Nimrod was also recorded as a very important village between the wheat prairies and Verndale, since its location was such that the early settlers could get supplies there.

Today, Nimrod is a small town of 69, governed by an elected Mayor and a 3 member City Council. The city holds a town celebration known as Jubilee Days that swells the town’s population sometimes by the thousands over Labor Day weekend.

Oylen

In 1913, a co-op creamery opened in Oylen, long since known as the “Village with the friendly people”. A few residential sites and the Christian Missionary Church and assembly grounds is all that exists there today.

Sebeka

Sebeka was built close to the banks of the Red Eye River and came into existence a little ahead of the railroad. The earliest mention of the Sebeka area dates back to 1878. According to the diary writings of E.H. Pelton, grandson of Revolutionary war hero, Oscar Pelton, there was a log landing on the site where the pioneer monument now stands in the Sebeka Park. The logs from the N.P. Clark Company were landed on the river here and during the spring flood stage were floated down the Red Eye River to the Crow Wing River to Motley. Although Sebeka was incorporated as a village in 1898, it actually was put on the map several years earlier when the Great Northern Railway established the “K” Line from Sauk Centre to Cass Lake. Surveying for the rail line took place in 1881, with the town sites plotted at distances approximating a day’s round trip with a horse and wagon, six or seven miles as a rule. The town site was originally the farm of E. Alfred Olson.

Currently Sebeka’s population is 711, and they are governed by an elected Mayor and 5 member City Council. The Sebeka Economic Development Authority (SEDA) is an appointed 5 member board established in 1996. The Red Eye River celebration is the town’s summer celebration and occurs in June every year.

Shell City

Although now only a memory, Shell City was first established as a lumbering camp in 1879, and boasted a population of nearly 75, which in those days was quite large. Shell City was a thriving, though temporary, community on the “Wheat Trail” between Verndale and the Hubbard Prairies. The Shell City town site did not continue to develop and there is nothing left there today.

Thomastown

S. Dower had 50 men in the woods making ties and getting out wood for the railroad company in Aldrich. In the year 1913, H.I. Davey of Thomastown had 40 Acres of alfalfa which yielded some 2,000 bushels of seed. Thus, alfalfa growing in Wadena County began. This site, like so many others, never developed.

Verndale

Verndale, once known as the most beautiful town site along the Northern Pacific Railroad between Brainerd and Fargo, was settled in 1877 when Capt. John E. Butler, Charles W. Brown, John B. Kelly, and Charles C. Kelley arrived from Iowa. Judge L. W. Smith laid out the first town site in October of 1877 and it was named for his granddaughter, Helen Vernetta “Vernie” Smith. The first school house was built in 1878 and cost about \$1200 to build. There were 25 pupils the first term. One of the first newspapers was started in 1877, and went under the name of the Wadena County Tribune. Dr. Harding opened the first drug store in Verndale about 1878. Verndale boasts the organization of the first lodge in the county when, in January of 1880, the Fidelity Lodge (Masonic) was organized with H. Brintell as the master. In 1883, the population had grown to 700. Verndale boasted two grain elevators and was developed as a wheat trading center for the county, and much of central Minnesota. The grist mill, on the hillside on the east bank of the Wing River, was completed in 1880 at a cost of \$12,000 (\$235,000 in 2008 dollars) in an attempt to keep Verndale moving forward. The dam for the mill was destroyed during spring flooding in 1910 and the mill itself was destroyed by a lightning strike in 1912.

Today Verndale has a population of 602 and is governed by an elected Mayor and 4 member City Council. Straw Hat and Sun Bonnet Days are hosted every summer in the still beautiful city of Verndale.

Wadena

Wadena, named for Chief Wah-de-Nah, an Ojibway Indian Chief of the late nineteenth century, was established in the early part of 1878. At that time, Wadena had a population of 96 residents. The Merchant’s Hotel, Meyer and Coon’s Store, S.S. Garner’s land office were some of the early businesses, and Charley Peake held the honor of opening the first

store. In 1891, a terrible grippe epidemic hit Wadena, causing illness to the majority of the residents. In 1903, Thomas Miller brought the first horseless carriage into Wadena, and Henry Ebner purchased a Rambler at the same time. Carl and Roller built the first brewery in 1881. Harry Hutton, a telegraph operator had the first high wheel bicycle in town in 1883. On October 15, 1901, Burch's new opera house opened with the "Quo Vadis" presented by the Sanford Dodge Co. In 1903, Standard Oil Company built the first oil station. The Pioneer Journal, Wadena County's largest newspaper, was established in 1877 and is one of the oldest business firms still in operation today.

Today, the City of Wadena has a population of 4088. It is governed by an elected Mayor and 4 member City Council. The Wadena Housing and Redevelopment Authority (WHRA), throughout its 45 year history, has served as a technical and financial resource and is continually finding new and innovative ways to meet its goals. Wadena's June Jubilee town celebration is traditionally held the 3rd weekend in June.

SECTION 3: Demographics and Housing Trends

Because changes in attitudes and opinions can be driven by changes to the population, it is important to look at where the County is at presently with trends in its population, where it came from in terms of growth over the course of time, and where it is projected to go in the future.

For the most part, the population of Wadena County, outside of its seven municipalities, would be considered sparse. The City of Wadena, being a little stronger trading center, is supported by a higher density in all directions. Regional population change during the 1950's showed a strong trend toward reduction of rural population, particularly away from main centers or transportation routes. Again, regionally, improved transportation, a desire for higher pay, and lack of job opportunities found people migrating to larger cities.

Wadena County has always been a rural, agriculturally dominated, county; however, recent trends indicate that, in 2000, 55% of the population in Wadena County resided in the urban areas of the county, while 45% were rural. According to the U.S. Census in 2010, not much changed in 10 years, as 56% of the population resided in the urban areas, while 44% was rural. While the overall population of the county increased by only 130 people in 10 years, 110 of those people were added into the urban population. The overall increase in the population in those 10 years was about 1%.

Table 1: Population of Wadena County- Adjacent Counties 1970-2010

Adjacent Counties Populations 1970-2010					
	Wadena County	Todd County	Otter Tail County	Cass County	Hubbard County
1970	12,412	22,114	46,097	17,323	10,583
1980	14,192	24,991	51,937	21,050	14,098
1990	13,154	23,363	50,714	21,791	14,939
2000	13,713	24,426	57,159	27,150	18,376
2010	13,843	24,865	57,303	28,567	20,428

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Historical population counts

<http://www.census.gov/population/cencounts/mn190090.txt>

Minnesota State Demographic Center 2010

<http://www.demography.state.mn.us/resource.html?Id=31945>

Population Age - Current characteristics of the population of Wadena County show the median age of males in 2010 to be 42 years old, while the median age of females was 45 years old. Statistics taken from the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census reports indicate that while the population is increasing between the ages of 45 and 69 for both males and females in Wadena County, numbers have primarily decreased in the age groups from 5 to 44 years, and ages 80 to 85 and older have increased dramatically.

Table 2: Persons by Age – Wadena County 2000 - 2010

Persons By Age 2000 - 2010				
Age	2000		2010	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
<i>Under 5</i>	441	430	448	468
<i>5-9</i>	488	456	444	426
<i>10-14</i>	600	497	447	476
<i>15-19</i>	530	499	537	444
<i>20-24</i>	372	338	364	276
<i>25-29</i>	325	284	339	354
<i>30-34</i>	347	348	336	349
<i>35-39</i>	464	465	374	339
<i>40-44</i>	512	496	386	348
<i>45-49</i>	477	464	500	506
<i>50-54</i>	409	369	522	479
<i>55-59</i>	349	359	470	489
<i>60-64</i>	319	348	411	393
<i>65-69</i>	311	323	373	378
<i>70-74</i>	315	352	273	336
<i>75-79</i>	229	335	231	291
<i>80-84</i>	157	269	212	276
<i>85+</i>	140	296	164	384
<i>Gender totals</i>	6,785	6,928	6,831	7,012
<i>Total Population</i>	13,713		13,843	

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Demographic Profile 2010 Census Data

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/27/27159lk.html>

Minnesota State Demographic Center

<http://www.demography.state.mn.us/resource.html?Id=16025>

Table 3: Wadena Counties Elderly Population Changes 1980 - 2010

Populations by Persons 65+			
	United States	Minnesota	Wadena County
1980	25,614,000	479,564	2,328
1990	31,241,831	546,934	2,527
2000	34,991,753	594,266	2,727
2010	40,267,984	683,121	2,918

Populations by Persons 75+			
	United States	Minnesota	Wadena County
1980	9,966,000	209,416	1,058
1990	13,135,273	525,412	1,265
2000	16,600,767	298,441	1,537
2010	18,554,555	328,694	1,558

Populations by Persons 85+			
	United States	Minnesota	Wadena County
1980	2,239,700	52,789	285
1990	3,080,165	68,835	355
2000	4,239,587	85,601	430
2010	5,493,433	106,664	548

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Older Population s 2010

<http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-09.pdf>

U.S. Bureau of the Census, General Housing and Population Characteristics 2000, 2010

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk>

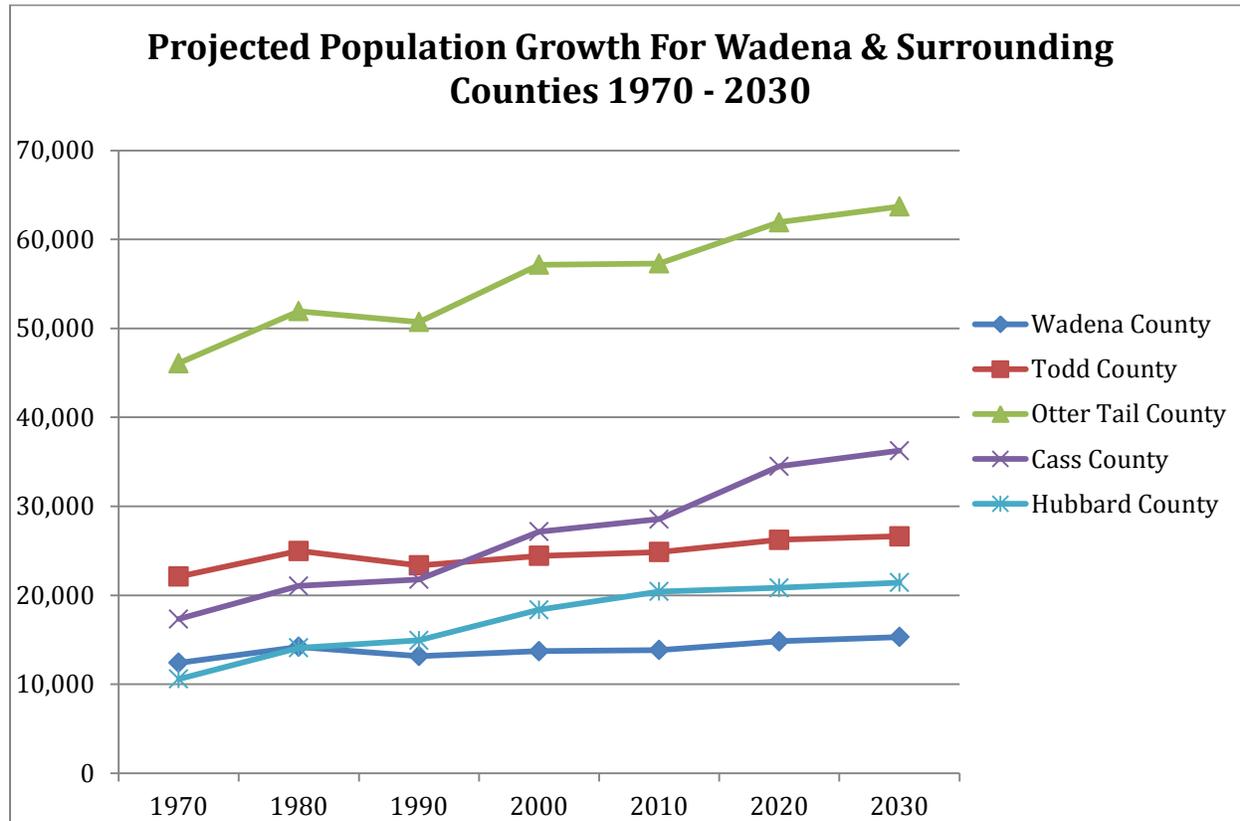
Minnesota Compass, Demographics by Age

<http://www.mncompass.org/demographics/key-measures.php?km=Age#1-5224-d>

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the elderly population in the United States is significantly increasing. The State of Minnesota and the County of Wadena reflect that same trend.

Projected Growth - Contrary to projections estimated in 1999, the population for Wadena County is estimated to increase slightly between now and 2030. Regionally, surrounding counties, especially Cass and Otter Tail Counties, are projected to have significant growth in the next 20 years.

Graph 1: Population Growth of Wadena County & Adjacent Counties 1970 - 2030



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Historical population counts

<http://www.census.gov/population/cencounts/mn190090.txt>

Minnesota State Demographic Center 2010, Predicted Population

<http://www.demography.state.mn.us/projections.html>

Current and Projected Growth Trends of Cities - The cities of Wadena County overall experienced a certain amount of growth in population according to the U.S. Census from 1990 to 2012, although, except for the cities of Menahga, Verndale, and Staples, population decreases were seen in each of the other cities in 1990. The City of Wadena saw a significant decrease of 13 % in their population in 1990. From 2000 to 2010 the City of Aldrich has progressively decreased in numbers, while the populations in the Cities of Nimrod and Sebeka have managed to remain somewhat stable. The Cities of Menahga, Staples, and Verndale continue to show growth and the city of Wadena has shown a slight decrease between 2000 and 2010. Projections between now and 2030 are reflective of these recent

trends. Note that only part of the City of Staples lies within Wadena County and growth rates there are not indicative of the growth in Wadena County alone.

Table 4: Historic and Projected Wadena County City Populations 1970 - 2030

Population Projections for Wadena County Cities 1970 - 2030							
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020*	2030*
Aldrich	85	88	70	53	48	38	33
Menahga	835	980	1,076	1,220	1,306	1,437	1,543
Nimrod	64	69	65	75	69	83	88
Sebeka	668	774	662	710	711	718	725
Staples (part)	98	264	397	642	871	946	1,103
Verndale	570	504	560	575	602	582	579
Wadena	4,640	4,699	4,109	4,244	4,022	4,249	4,249
Total	6,960	7,378	6,939	7,519	7,629	8,053	8,320

*Projections based on 2000 U.S. Census Data

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population & Housing Characteristics

<http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/phc-1-25-pt1.pdf>

Minnesota State Demographics Center, City Profiles

<http://www.demography.state.mn.us/CityProfiles2010/cty159yr2010.pdf>

Minnesota State Demographics Center, Extrapolated Population Projections

<http://www.demography.state.mn.us/resource.html?Id=19332>

Table 5: Historic and Projected Wadena County Township Populations 1970 - 2030

Historic & Projected Wadena County Township Populations 1970 - 2030							
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020*	2030*
Aldrich	445	559	475	418	430	388	369
Blueberry	338	567	526	732	721	958	1,084
Bullard	129	163	156	207	219	302	344
Huntersville	70	89	105	128	119	167	186
Leaf River	748	663	575	515	531	467	443
Lyons	162	185	162	180	192	195	202
Meadow	240	270	215	228	217	286	306
North Germany	373	374	322	327	313	320	319
Orton	187	234	217	220	204	257	266
Red Eye	332	406	378	421	490	535	582
Rockwood	465	491	375	338	390	437	451
Shell River	153	220	233	276	233	326	355
Thomastown	748	934	887	714	819	733	702
Wadena	794	1,094	1,134	1,010	868	958	948
Wing River	366	512	455	430	468	428	424
Total	5,550	6,761	6,215	6,144	6,214	6,757	6,981

*Projections based on 2000 U.S. Census Data

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population & Housing Characteristics

<http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/phc-1-25-pt1.pdf>

Minnesota State Demographics Center, City Profiles

<http://www.demography.state.mn.us/CityProfiles2010/cty159yr2010.pdf>

Minnesota State Demographics Center, Extrapolated Population Projections

<http://www.demography.state.mn.us/resource.html?Id=19332>

Current and Projected Growth of Townships – Although most of the townships in the County have fluctuated slightly up and down between the 1990 and the 2010 census, the township of Bullard has noticed a 28% increase in population, Blueberry following with a 27% increase and Red Eye gaining 22%. Leaf River experienced a 7% decrease in population and the Township of Wadena also experienced a decrease of 23% in population.

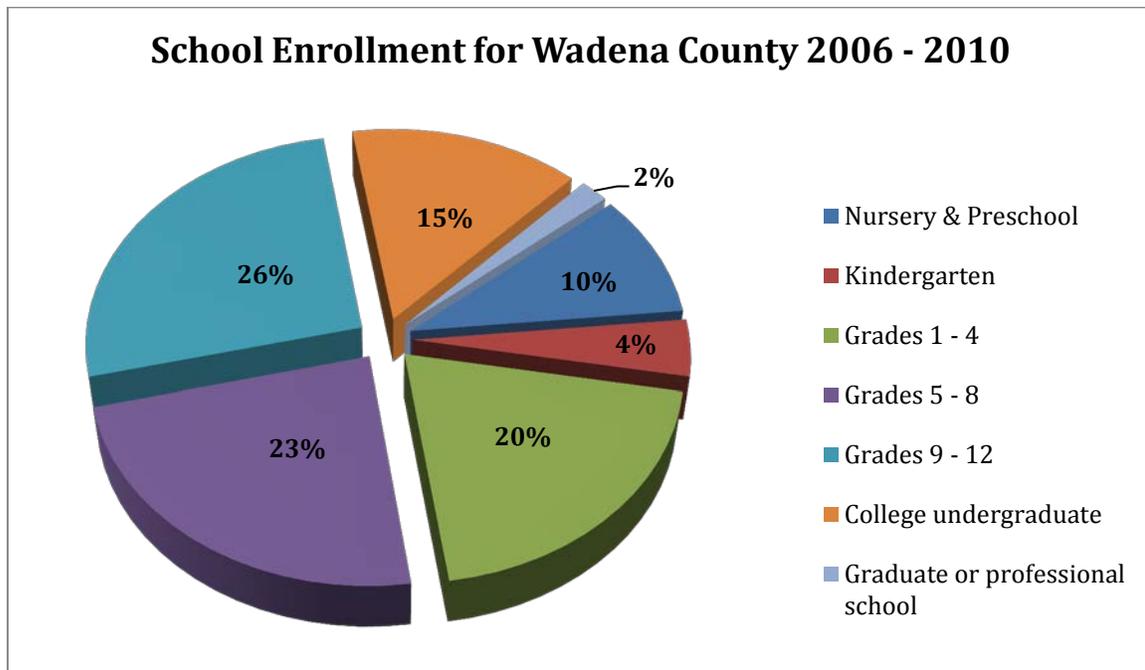
Other Related Population Characteristics – According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population in Wadena County in 2010 was predominantly White at 98%. The other 2% was made up of a mix of other races. The population includes a greater number of females than males by about 2%.

EDUCATION – A major concern of local communities and school boards across rural Minnesota is the maintenance of quality education within areas of declining school age population. Some districts are using their proximity to each other to pool resources to provide education programs such as foreign languages, developmental education, and the education of exceptional children, as well as combining sports teams in order to be able to continue to offer those opportunities for children to participate.

There are presently 4 public school systems located in Wadena County: Menahga, Sebeka, Wadena, and Verndale. In addition, Central Lakes College has a main campus and a West Campus located in the City of Staples in Wadena County, and Minnesota State Community and Technical College located in the City of Wadena. Both schools offer a variety of courses ranging from business management and administration to trade and industry programs. Table 6 below depicts the percentages of school enrollment numbers between 2006 and 2010 for children ages 3 and older for Wadena County.

School Enrollment for Wadena County, 3 years and older							
	Nursery & Preschool	Kindergarten	Grades 1 - 4	Grades 5 - 8	Grades 9 - 12	College undergraduate	Graduate or professional school
Number of Students	307	140	641	756	844	470	58

Graph 2: School Enrollment for Wadena County 2006 - 2010, Age 3+ Years

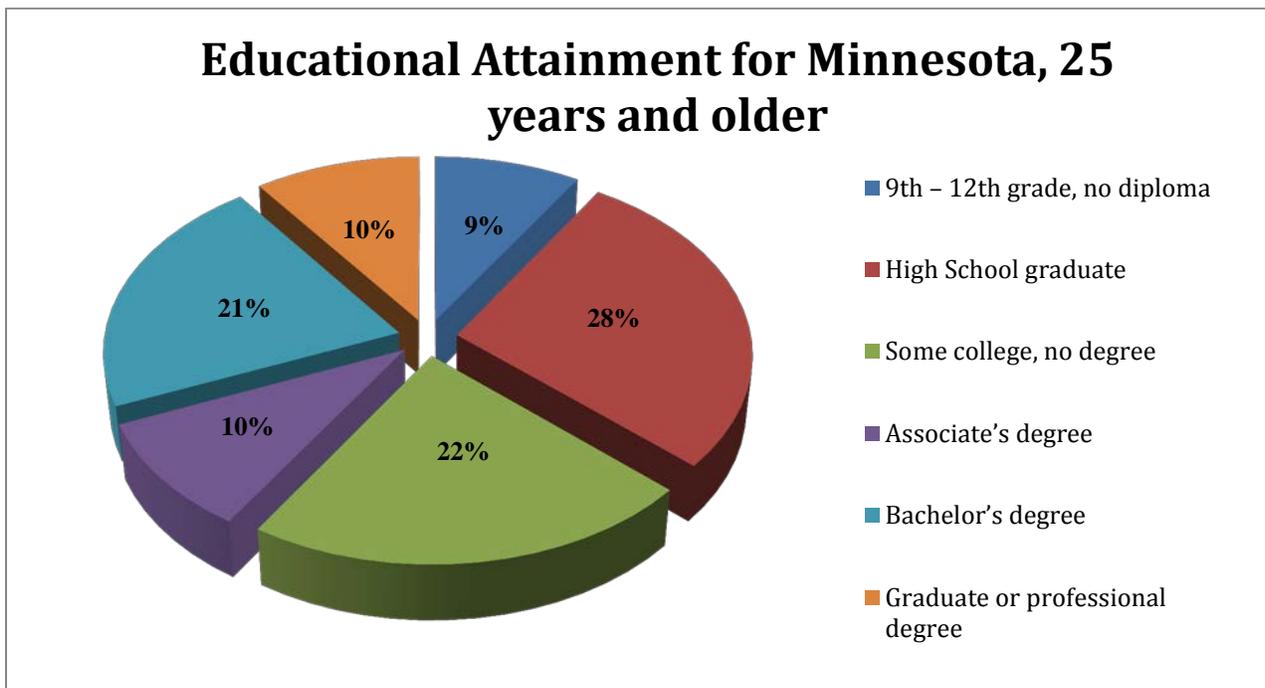
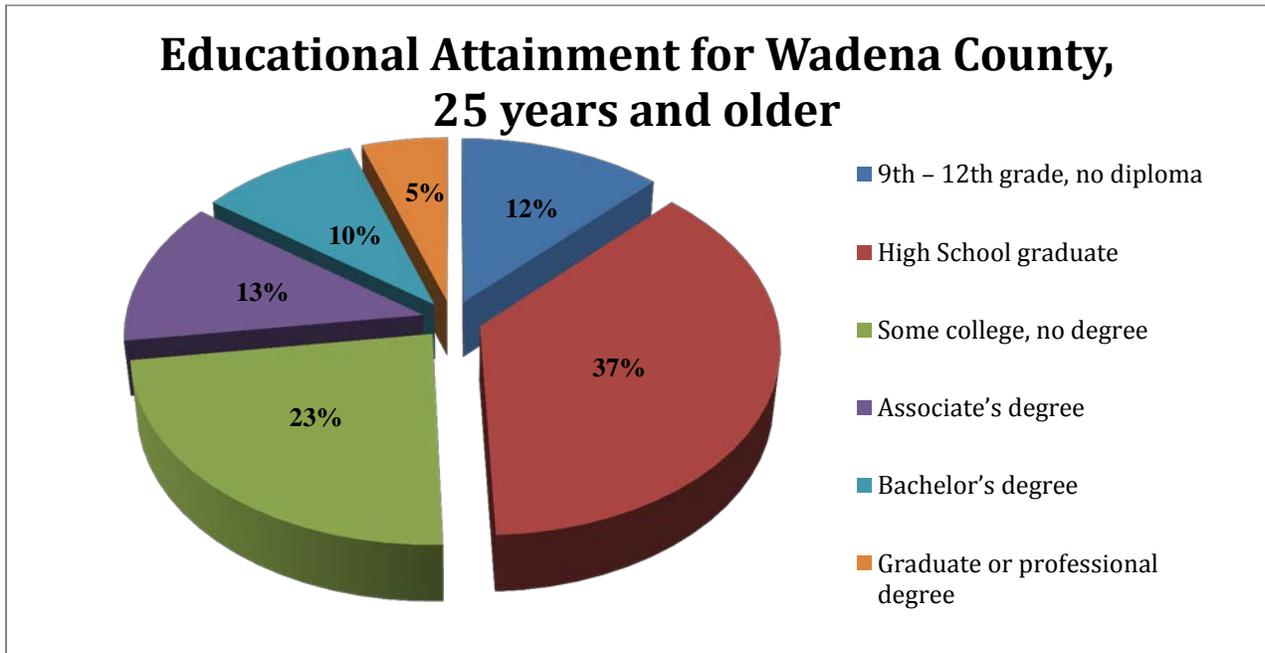


Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, School Enrollment 2006-2010

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t>

Information from the U.S. Census indicates that all levels of educational attainment for residents of Wadena County age 25 and older have increased in the numbers gathered from 2006 to 2010 in comparison to previous years.

Graph 3: Educational Attainment for Wadena County & Minnesota 2006-2010, 25 years and older

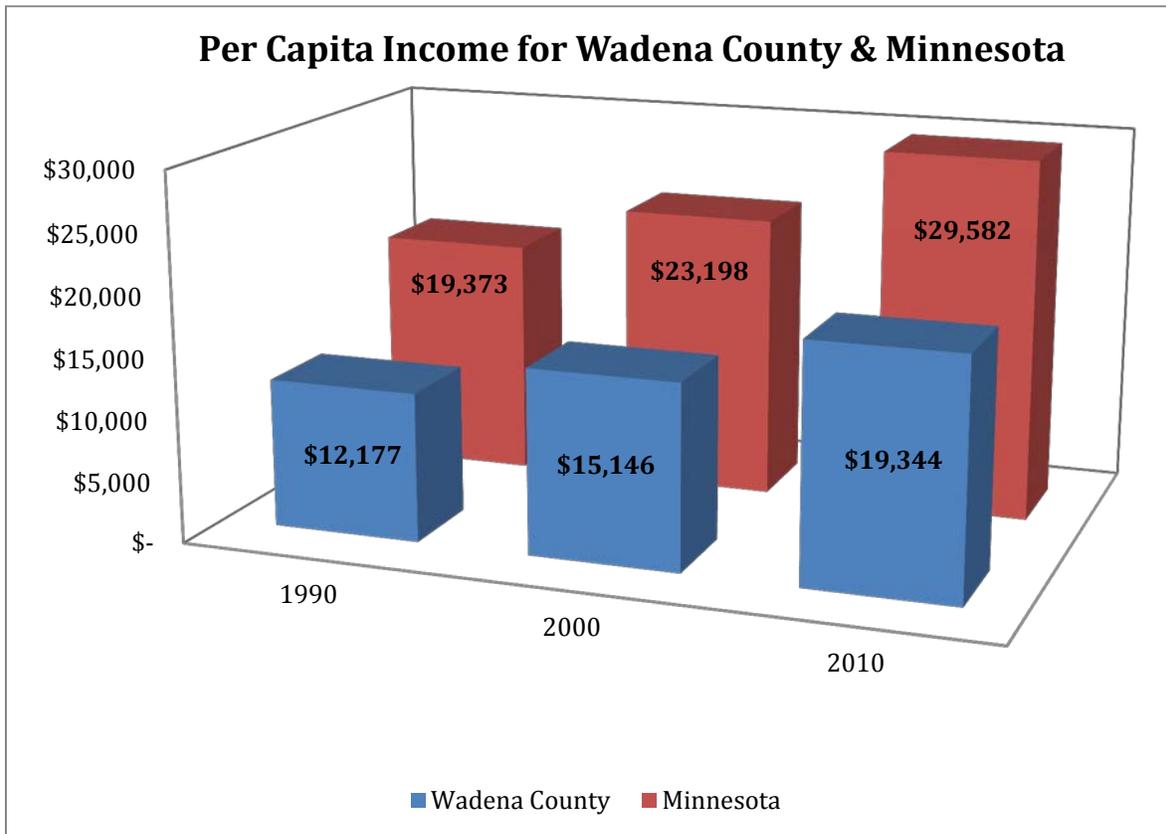


Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Educational Attainment 2006-2010
<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

In comparison to the State of Minnesota totals, Wadena County is nearly 10% higher than the state average for residents receiving a high school diploma, but slightly lower than the state average for persons receiving a Bachelor’s Degree, Graduate, or Professional Degree.

INCOME – Per Capita - Although Wadena County is still well below the state average in per capita income, the percentage of increase in per capita income is the same at 21%. In the ten years from 2000 to 2010, an average increase in income per capita for Wadena County was slightly lower than \$4200 per year, while the state, on average, increased per capita approximately \$6400 per year. Wadena County ranks below the state’s average by approximately \$10,238 or 34%.

Graph 4: Per Capita Income for Wadena County & Minnesota

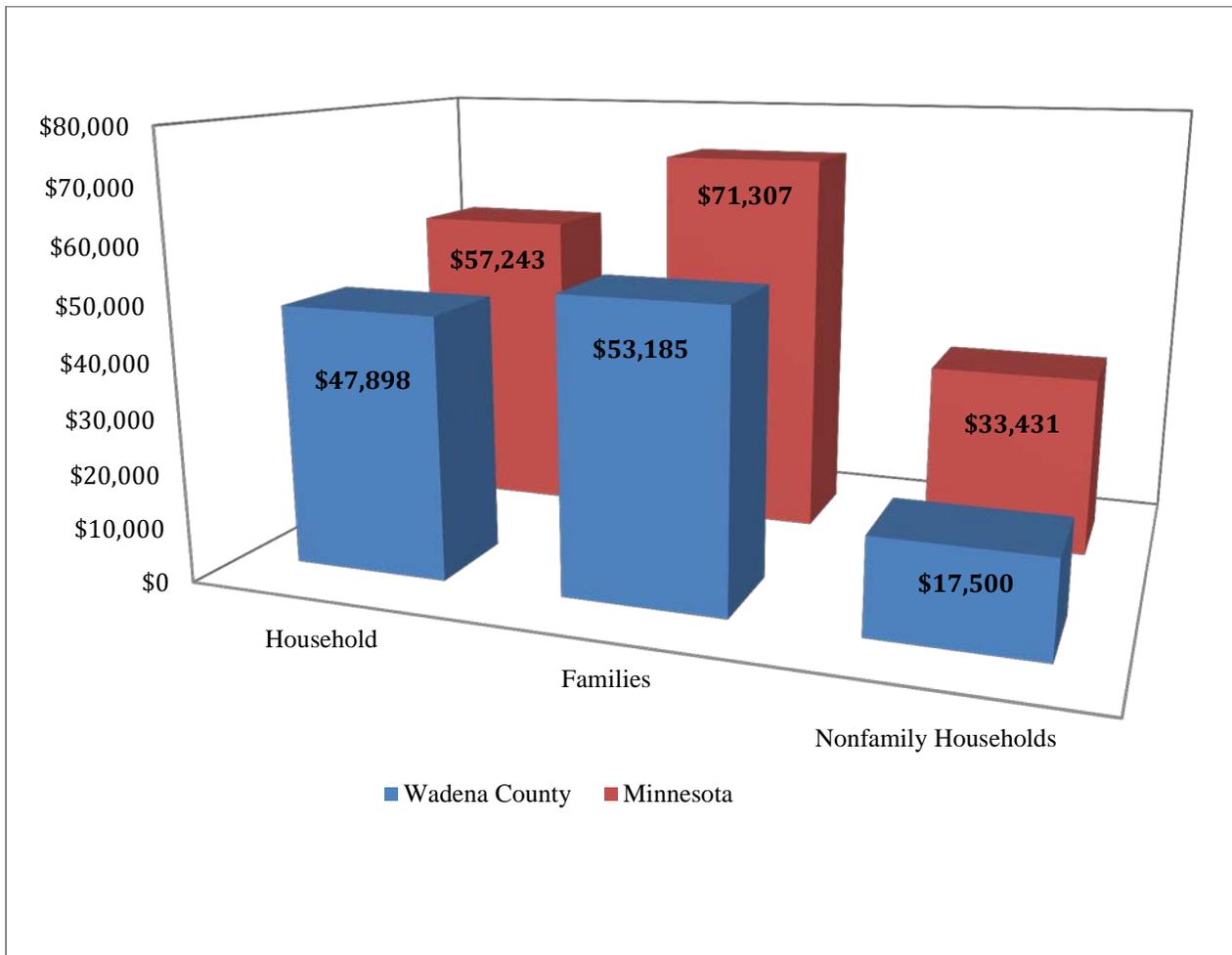


Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics, 2000, 2010

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t>

Median Income - In conjunction with the per capita income analysis above, the median income for households in Wadena County is also well below the state average at 84%, a difference of \$9,345. Estimates for median family incomes are considerably lower at 75% of the state average or \$18,122, and a difference of \$15,931 or 47% below the state average for median incomes for non-family households.

Graph 5: Median Income of Wadena County & Minnesota, 2010



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics, 2010

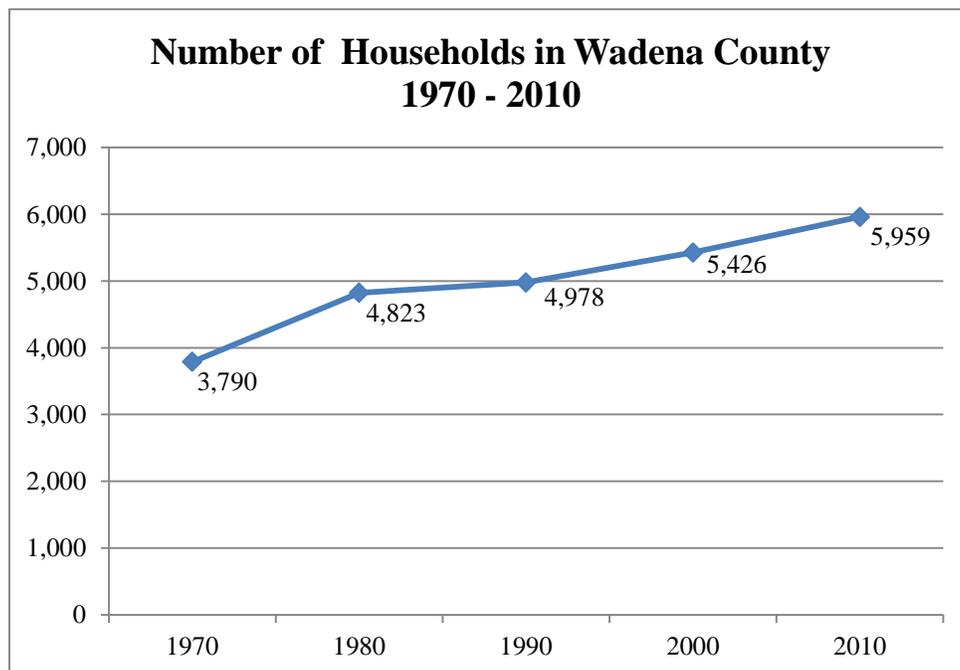
<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t>

HOUSING INVENTORY – In previous reports, Minnesota’s households were projected to become older, more diverse and more concentrated in metropolitan areas. This has proved true, however, in some areas of Minnesota, where zoning rules have not been adopted, scattered development in rural areas have also been noticed. Between 1990 and 2020, the projected growth of the number of households in Minnesota is projected to increase by 28.7%, compared to a 15.5% growth rate in the number of people.

The aging of the population is the main reason suggested for a faster growing number of households versus the growth rate of the population. People ranging in age from 40 to 70 are more likely to head a household than are younger adults. Although the number of households will continue to grow, the increases will be far less dramatic than in the past. Future household growth is suggested to be moderate for two reasons: 1) population growth is projected to be slower than in the past, and, 2) the total householder rate within each age, race, and gender group is projected to remain stable, instead of increasing as it did in previous decades.

Projections for Wadena County will most likely follow the pattern of the state. The table and graph below identify the trend in housing growth from 1970 to 2010. From 1970 to 1980, the number of households in Wadena County grew by 21%. In contrast, between 1980 and 1990 there was only a 3% increase, an 8% increase was recognized between 1990 and 2000, and between 2000 and 2010 the number of households grew by only 9%.

Graph 6: Number of Household 1970 - 2010

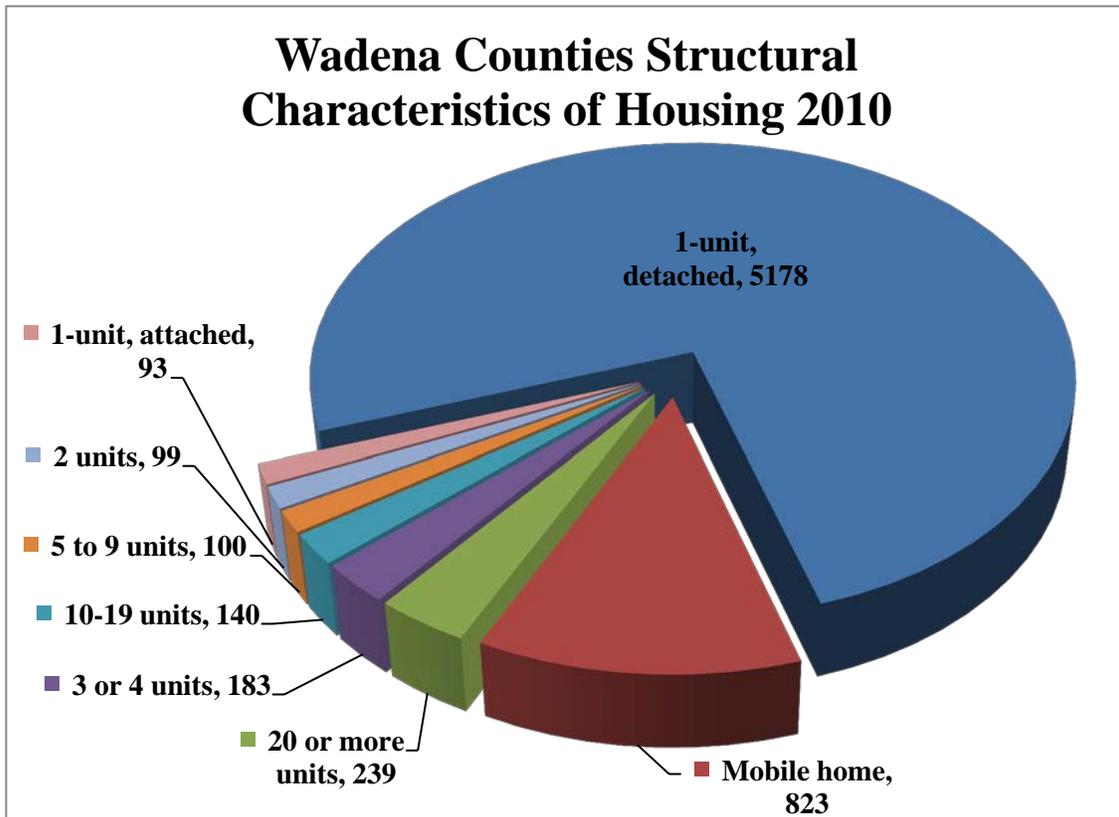


Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Selected Housing Characteristics 2000, 2010

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml>

Structural Characteristics of Housing – Housing in Wadena County is predominantly single family in nature at 76% of the total number located in the County with mobile homes following as a distant second at 12%.

Graph 7: Wadena County Structural Characteristics for Housing 2010



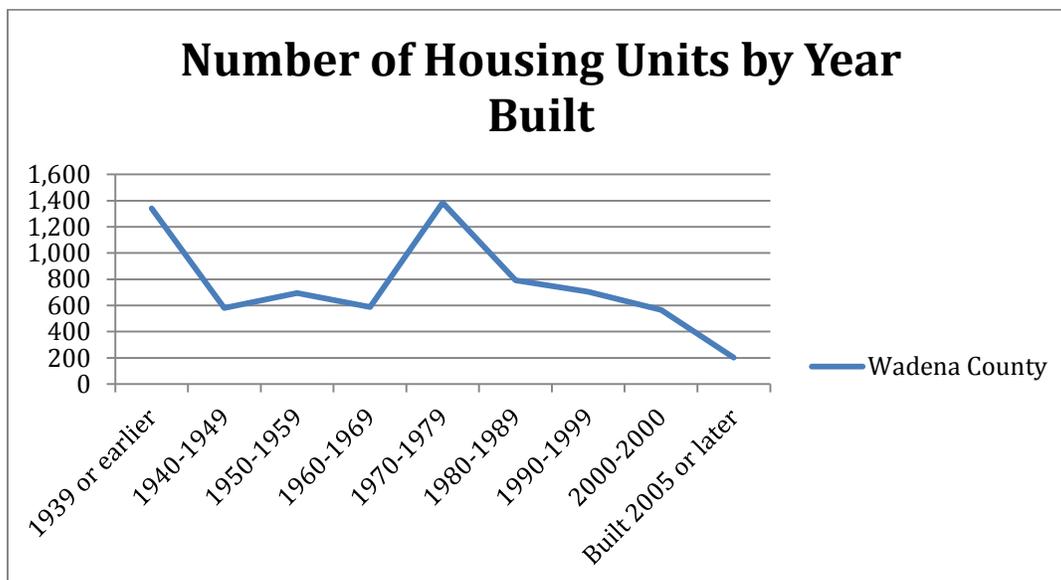
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Selected Housing Characteristics 2000, 2010

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml>

Year Built – The number of housing units built in each decade after 1939 was fairly consistent until 1970. In the decade that followed the number of housing units constructed more than doubled from previous decades. This trend began to fall off in the 1980’s and 1990’s and then made a huge drop after 2005, only adding 201 additional housing units between 2005 and 2010. A lack of available jobs and a declining economy during this time period are suspect in the significant decrease in the number of new housing units being added in the county.

Table 6: Number of Housing Units by Year Built

Number of Housing Units by Year Built	
	Wadena County
Total Housing Units	6,855
Built 2005 or later	201
2000-2004	565
1990-1999	705
1980-1989	793
1970-1979	1,385
1960-1969	589
1950-1959	695
1940-1949	580
1939 or earlier	1,342



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Selected Housing Characteristics 2000, 2010
<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml>

Value of Owner-occupied Housing 2010 – Median values for owner-occupied housing in Wadena County has drastically increased since the 1990 Census when the estimated median value was reported to be \$36,200. In the 2000 Census that figure increased to \$64,600 and in 2010 it nearly doubled when it came in at \$113,800. This trend is not unique to Wadena County but can be seen in the surrounding counties of Todd, Otter Tail, Cass, and Hubbard as well.

Table 7: Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units 2010

Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units 2010					
	Wadena County	Todd County	Otter Tail County	Cass County	Hubbard County
Owner-occupied units	4,552	8,334	19,410	10,793	7,080
Less than \$50,000	637	921	1,555	932	474
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1,300	1,834	3,848	1,537	1,036
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,070	1,815	3,668	1,754	1,299
\$150,000 to \$199,999	611	1,585	3,143	1,527	1,220
\$200,000 to \$299,999	703	1,320	3,788	1,851	1,490
\$300,000 to \$499,999	181	715	2,496	1,885	1,120
\$500,000 to \$999,999	46	224	803	1,035	380
\$1,000,000 or more	4	20	109	227	61
Median value	\$113,800	\$139,400	\$158,600	\$184,900	\$175,500

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Selected Housing Characteristics 2000, 2010
<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml>

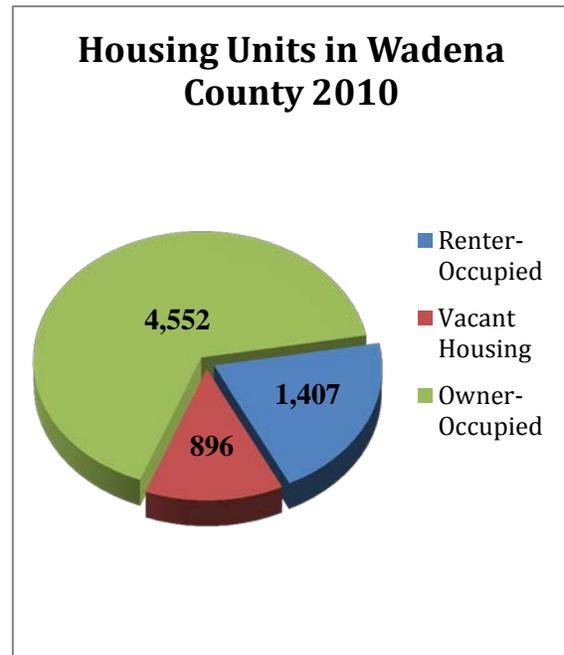
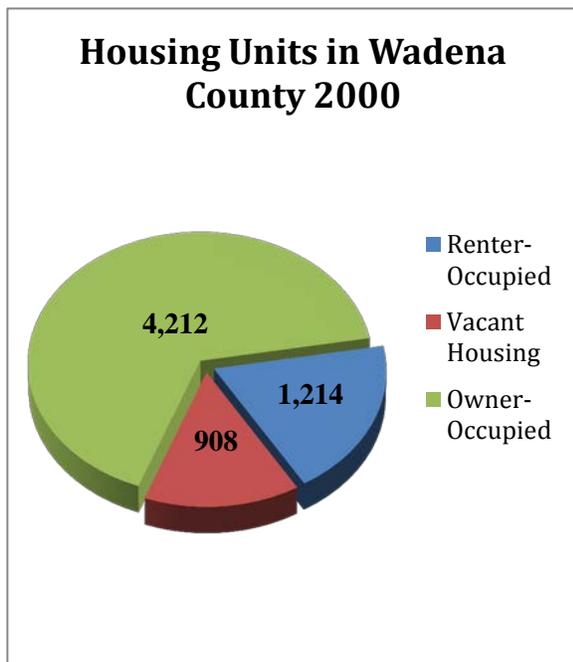
Table 7b: Primary Heating Fuel for Occupied Units 2010

Primary Heating Fuel for Occupied Units 2010	
	Wadena County
Bottled, Tank or LP Gas	889
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.	643
Wood	726
Electricity	1420
Utility Gas	2205
Coal	2
Solar energy	2
Other fuel	59
No fuel used	13

Occupancy - Of the existing housing units in the County, in 2010 the majority of them were occupied by their owners. 21% were occupied by renters and 13% were vacant. This trend is relatively consistent with previous results in the 2000 census reports.

Graph 8: Housing Units in Wadena County 2000 – 2010

Housing Units in Wadena County 2000 - 2010				
	Owner-Occupied	Renter-Occupied	Vacant Housing	Total Housing Units
2000	4,212	1,214	908	6,334
2010	4,552	1,407	896	6,855



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Selected Housing Characteristics 2000, 2010

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml>

Persons Per Household – Previously the number of persons occupying a housing unit in Wadena County was projected to drop slightly. This projection was correct in that 2.58 persons per household was reported in 1990. Twenty years later, in 2010, the average number of persons occupying a household was 2.38. This trend was also noticed in Otter Tail, Hubbard and Cass Counties, while Todd County noticed a slight increase in the number of persons per household.

Table 8: Persons per Household for Wadena & Surrounding Counties 2000 -2010

Persons per Household for Wadena & Surrounding Counties 2000 - 2010				
	2000		2010	
	Renting	Owner	Renting	Owner
Wadena County	2.00	2.58	1.75	2.38
Todd County	2.70	2.01	1.93	2.54
Otter Tail County	1.91	2.60	1.84	2.40
Cass County	2.41	2.46	2.10	2.20
Hubbard County	2.08	2.52	2.13	2.39

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Selected Housing Characteristics 2000, 2010

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml>

Projections for the next twenty years do not predict a significant increase in the number of households for Wadena County with a projected increase of 13%. In comparison Todd County is projected to notice a 22% increase in the number of households, Otter Tail a 33% increase, Cass a 45% increase, and Hubbard County an increase of 41%.

Table 9: Household Projections for Wadena & Surrounding Counties 2000 - 2030

Household Projections for Wadena & Surrounding Counties 2000 - 2030					
	Wadena County	Todd County	Otter Tail County	Cass County	Hubbard County
2000	5,426	9,342	22,671	10,893	7,435
2010	5,959	10,065	24,691	12,944	8,616
2020	6,390	11,270	30,210	17,270	11,100
2030	6,880	12,030	34,150	20,080	12,730

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration, Household Projections 2005-2030

<http://www.demography.state.mn.us/resource.html?Id=5422>

U.S. Bureau of the Census, Selected Housing Characteristics 2000, 2010

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml>

SECTION 4: Natural Resources



This section is a compilation of available natural resources data to aid in decision making and directing physical planning and development in Wadena County. For the purposes of this document, natural resources are the geology, water, soil, vegetation, and topography of Wadena County.

SOILS, VEGETATION, AND TOPOGRAPHY

The soils in Wadena County are formed in glacial till, in material sorted out of glacial meltwater, and in organic matter. About 60% of the soils were formed in sandy and gravelly outwash, 25% in glacial till, and 15% in organic matter.

The Wadena drumlin field of the Wisconsin Glaciation is the most recent evidence of glacial action in the county. At one time, this drumlin field extended across the entire county in a northeast to southwest alignment. The meltwater from more recent glacial events has significantly altered the appearance of the drumlin field. The most evident drumlins are in the west-central part of the county, near Sebeka and Blue Grass. The landscape is gently sloping. Blowers, Paddock, Rockwood, and Runeberg soils formed in the glacial till on the Drumlins.

Two distinct glacial outwash areas are in the county. One area of outwash is generally north and east of the drumlin field and the Red Eye and Leaf Rivers. It extends into Hubbard and Cass Counties. It is dominantly sand, some of which is fine or coarse, and small amounts of gravel. The landscape is nearly level to gently sloping, except along the rivers.

Another distinct area of outwash is south of the Leaf River, and it extends into Todd County and the southeastern part of Otter Tail County. The outwash in this area consists of calcareous sand and gravel which is dominantly sand and coarse sand with moderate amounts of gravel. Carbonates are leached to a depth of about four feet. The landscape in this area is also nearly level to gently sloping with sand covered drumlins existing there as well. Dorset, Nymore, Verndale, Oylen, and Forado soils formed in this outwash material.



Wetland area in Bullard Township

The organic material in the County consists of herbaceous plant material. Soils that formed in this material have a high water table. Plants such as cattails, sedge, reeds, grasses and some shrubs thrive in these soils. Because the high water table affects the rate of decomposition, materials from these plants accumulate faster than they decompose. The organic material is eight inches to more than seven feet thick, and is moderately decomposed to highly decomposed. The organic soils are in depressions, potholes, and broad drainage ways through the County. Seelyville, Rifle, Markey and Cathro mucks are examples of the soils in these areas.

Erosion Prone Soils – The Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) classification of erosion prone soils include those prone to either wind or water where there is a soil loss of “T” (3 to 5 tons of soils loss per acre per year). Presently the County has about 20,683 acres of high priority wind erosion, on about 129,400 acres of cropland. The severest problem is found on cropland located in the southern one-third of the county on soil classes SSWD and SLWD (example, Verndale-Nymore-Forada association) and also in the northern half of the County on soil classes SSWL and SSPL. The irrigated acres are of special concern with regard to wind erosion. *(Soil Definitions: H=Water, S=Sand, L=Loam, P=Poorly drained, W=Well drained, A=Alluvial (floodplain) Peat (high organic)*

Original Vegetation – The original vegetation of Wadena County reflected its position within the transition zone from the “great prairie” to the “big woods”. According to the original survey done during the time period of 1847-1907, the most dominant vegetation was the conifer forest with a mixture of Jack Pine, Red Pine, Oak and Hazel. Nearly fifty percent of the County ranging from the north, middle, and eastern parts of the County was covered with it. The western edge of the county was covered with a Boreal Hardwood-Conifer Forest mixture containing Aspen, Birch, Balsam, Fir, White Spruce, and White Cedar. The southeastern corner of the County was covered with a mixture of prairie grasses and wetland grasses.



Stand of Jack Pine trees in Huntersville Township



Gently sloping farm fields near Aldrich in Aldrich Township

and vary in distance. Closed depressions are common in the outwash. The outwash plains make up about 70% of the county.

In the northwest part of Wadena County, the drumlin field has an elevation of about 1,510 feet, which is the highest area in the county. The lowest area, which is about 1,225 feet, is along the southeast corner of the county. The mean elevation for the county is at about 1,350. All the runoff in the county eventually will flow into the Crow Wing River and its tributaries. The major tributaries are the Cat, Leaf, Partridge, Red Eye, Shell, and Wing Rivers. Watersheds in the county contain series of depressions rather than through a carved valley.

Topography – Wadena County is divided into two distinct areas, the Wadena drumlin field and the outwash plains. The drumlin field is dominantly in the west-central part of the county. A few small areas are in the eastern and southern parts. The drumlins are nearly level to sloping. Slopes are smooth and are short to moderately long. The drumlin fields make up about 30% of the county. The sandy outwash areas are dominantly level to gently sloping except where they are adjacent to rivers and lakes. Slopes are smooth



Wooded bank above the Kitten Creek near Menahga in Blueberry Township

GEOLOGY AND WATER RESOURCES

All of Wadena County is underlain by Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks that are from 100 to 400 feet below a glacial till layer. This bedrock layer does not have any water aquifers except locally in faults and fractures.

Aquifer Systems – Most ground water in the county is in pores or openings between particles of sand and gravel in glacial outwash or glacial till. The thickness of the saturated area is as much as 70 feet, but it averages about 36 feet. Some areas do not have a saturated zone. The ground water is shallow in the outwash areas because the thick layers of glacial till restrict the downward movement of water. In areas that have glacial till above and below outwash sand and gravel, well water is available in lenses of sand and gravel

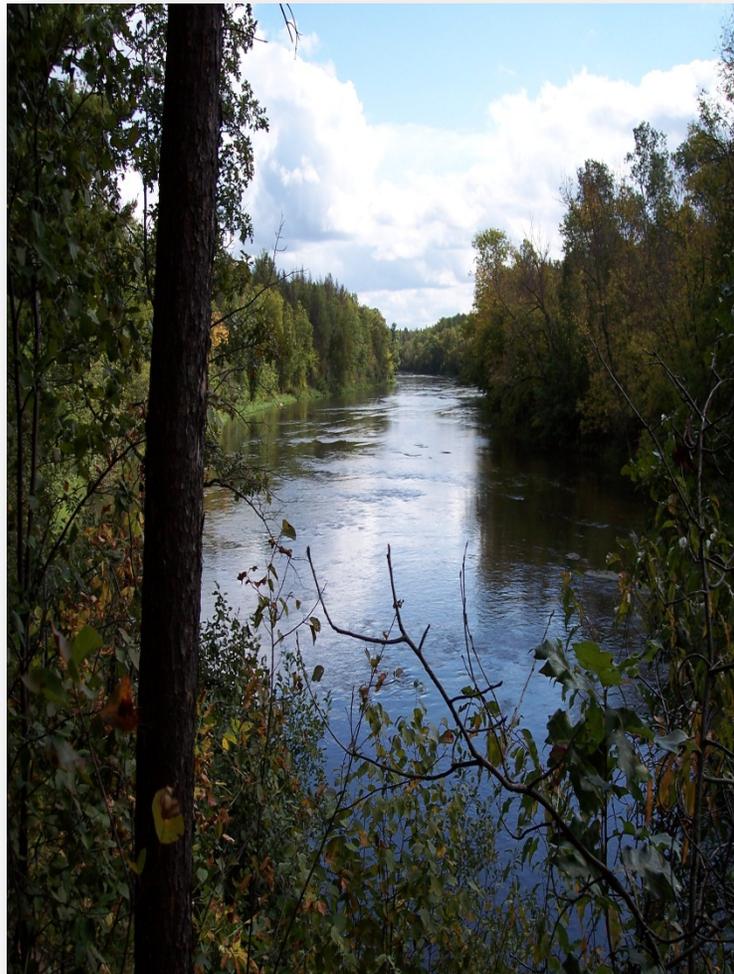
within the glacial till. In Wadena County well yields of up to 1000 gallons per minute in the thicker saturated aquifers are common. Most water throughout the county is of the calcium bicarbonate type and is normally suitable for most purposes, although certain uses may require water treatment. Recharge of the water aquifers is done primarily by precipitation. Most discharge occurs as evapotranspiration, base flow is to the Crow Wing River on the eastern side of the county, and base flows to other smaller streams and lakes.

Watersheds – Wadena County has three major watersheds as defined by the State of Minnesota:

CROW WING: Sixty-nine watersheds from Wadena County drain into the Crow Wing River. Presently, the state has it classified as a Canoeing River. Mostly a forested river, population along this river is sparse. There is one city located along its banks, however, it is quite small and does not have community sewer and water.

RED EYE: The Red Eye River is a tributary of the Crow Wing River and has 25 watersheds. It flows through some major farming areas and one community which does have sewer and water services.

LONG PRAIRIE: The smallest of the three watersheds, the Long Prairie river only has one watershed located within Wadena County.



View of the beautiful Crow Wing River near the Indian Mounds at Nimrod

Protected Waters, Ditches,

and Control Structures – The protected waters inventory is divided by state regulation into two categories: waters and wetlands. There are 29 lakes in Wadena County which occupy a total of 3343 acres. There are 32 wetlands with a total of 907 acres and 23 natural and altered natural watercourses which are protected by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). These numbers are from the final inventory for

Wadena County dated July 5, 1984. The DNR is responsible for issuing protected waters permits. The biggest protected water is Blueberry Lake with 555 acres and the smallest is 10 acres and is unnamed. Wadena County shares four lakes that are inventoried in two other counties, two in Cass County and two in Hubbard County. The following is a listing of lakes located in Wadena County:

Lakes In Wadena County

<u>Lake Name</u>	<u>**Lake Location</u>	<u>Lake Number</u>
Radebaugh Lake	T-134 R-33 S-1	80-2
Simon Lake	T-134 R-33 S-12	80-3
Lovejoy Lake	T-134 R-33 S-16/21	80-4
Unnamed	T-135 R-33 S-1/2	80-8
Sand Lake	T-135/136 R-33 S-1/36	80-11
Granning Lake	T-136 R-33 S-16	80-12
Strike Lake	T-136 R-33 S-16/17	80-13
Unnamed	T-138 R-33 S-10/11/14/15	80-15
Unnamed	T-138 R-33 S-12	80-16
Unnamed	T-138 R-33 S-17	80-17
Burgeon Lake	T-138 R-33 S-32/33	80-18
Round Lake	T-138/139 R-33 S-4/33	80-19
Yaeger Lake	T-137 R-34 S-3/4/9/10	80-22
Mud Lake	T-137 R-34 S-8/9	80-23
Rice Lake	T-137 R-34 S-9/16	80-24
Unnamed	T-138 R-34 S-14/23	80-26
Jim Cook Lake	T-138 R-34 S-19/20/29/30	80-27
Finn Lake	T-138 R-34 S-22/23	80-28
Unnamed	T-138 R-34 S-23/24	80-29
Lower Twin	T-138 R-34 S-6/1	80-30
Blueberry	T-138 R-35 S-2/3/9/10/11	80-34
Stocking	T-138 R-35 S-13/14/23	80-37
Spirit	T-138 R-35 S-21/22/27/28	80-39
Unnamed	T-136 R-33 S-16/17	80-48
Unnamed	T-138 R-33 S-15/22	80-50
Unnamed	T-138 R-33 S-19	80-52
Unnamed	T-138 R-34 S-1/2	80-57
Unnamed	T-138 R-34 S-14	80-61
Unnamed	T-138 R-34 S-14	80-62
Unnamed	T-136 R-33 S-29/32	80-82
Farnham	T-135 R-32 S-18/13	11-513
Dry Sand	T-135/136 R-32/33 S-6/1/31/36	11-514
Duck	T-138/139 R-33/34 S-6/1/31/36	29-142
Upper Twin	T-138/139 R-34 S-6/31	29-157

**T=Township R=Range S=Section



Wetlands in Bullard Township near Wahoo Valley

Wetlands – The 1987 Soil Survey of Wadena County lists 46 different soil descriptions for the County. Of these, 17 have a drainage class of very poorly drained to poorly drained. These 17 soil types make up 30.5% of the County lands for a total of 109,355 acres. Wadena County is considered among the counties in the state of Minnesota who still have 80% or greater original wetlands existing within their borders.

There are six controlled wetland areas in Wadena County. Huntersville Water Impoundments use four water control units to help maintain water levels. Stocking Creek also has control units to help maintain water levels in Stocking Lake. Duck Lake is mostly in Hubbard County. The control outlet is also located in Hubbard County.

Floodplains – The 1987 Soil Survey of Wadena County lists four different classes of soils that flood frequently and they cover about 2.3% of the County, or 7,690 acres. Snow melt and large thunder storms resulting in run off to rivers and streams are the main causes of flooding.

Wildlife Habitat - Several hundred acres of shallow and deep freshwater marshes and wetlands exist in the County. These areas provide habitats for furbearers, such as muskrat, mink, and beaver.

Wadena County is also home to big game animals like deer and bear. Bobcat, fox, coyote, and timberwolves are also prevalent in the forested areas of the County. These areas also provide habitat for smaller animals such as rabbits, squirrels, skunks, raccoon badgers and furbearing mammals. A wide variety of songbirds and game type birds like pheasant and grouse occupy these areas as well as the rural farm areas.



Doe & fawn in Red Eye Township – compliments of Rebecca Komppa

Public fishing is provided in most of the major lakes in the County as well as on the main waterways of the Crow Wing, Shell, and Leaf Rivers and numerous other smaller bodies of water and streams. The fish in these areas include Northern Pike, Bass, Walleye, and a variety of panfish. Some coldwater streams support trout or have the potential to provide habitats for trout. There are four designated trout streams in the County, those being: Cat Creek, Farnham Creek, Hay Creek, and Union Creek. There are no designated trout lakes in the County. "Designation" means that conditions are favorable for a trout habitat.

In addition to the fish, these water bodies, along with the numerous marshes and wetlands, provide a habitat for a variety of waterfowl.

Soils also affect the kinds and amount of vegetation that is available to wildlife as food and cover. Much of the county is made up of forest and agriculture lands which normally provide enough food and cover for the wildlife that already exists in the County. Wildlife habitats can also be created or improved by planting appropriate vegetation, by maintaining the existing plant cover, or by promoting the natural establishment of desirable plants.

Wildlife/Fish Management Areas - In Wadena County, between sportsman's organizations and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, there are between 4,000 and 5,000 acres of managed Wildlife Areas.

Agency Resources - There are several agencies available from which to gather information regarding Wadena County's natural resources:

Soil & Water Conservation District Office
4 Alfred Street SE
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-3195, Ext. 4

Natural Resource Conservation Service
4 Alfred Street SE
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-3195, Ext. 3

MN Dept. of Natural Resources
Forestry Office
30066 Huntersville Road
Sebeka, MN 56477
(218) 472-3262

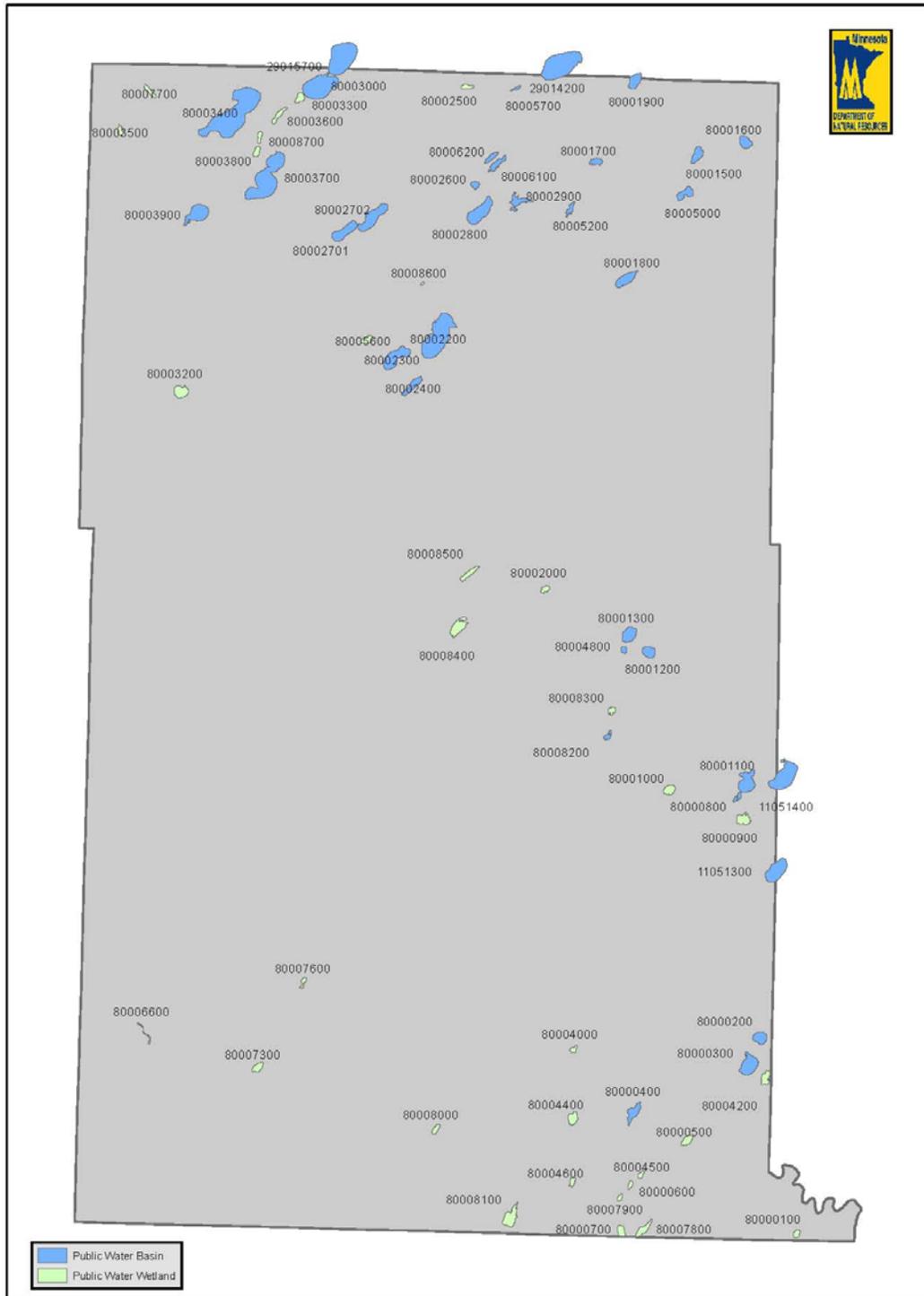


Nice Smalley out of the Crow Wing River

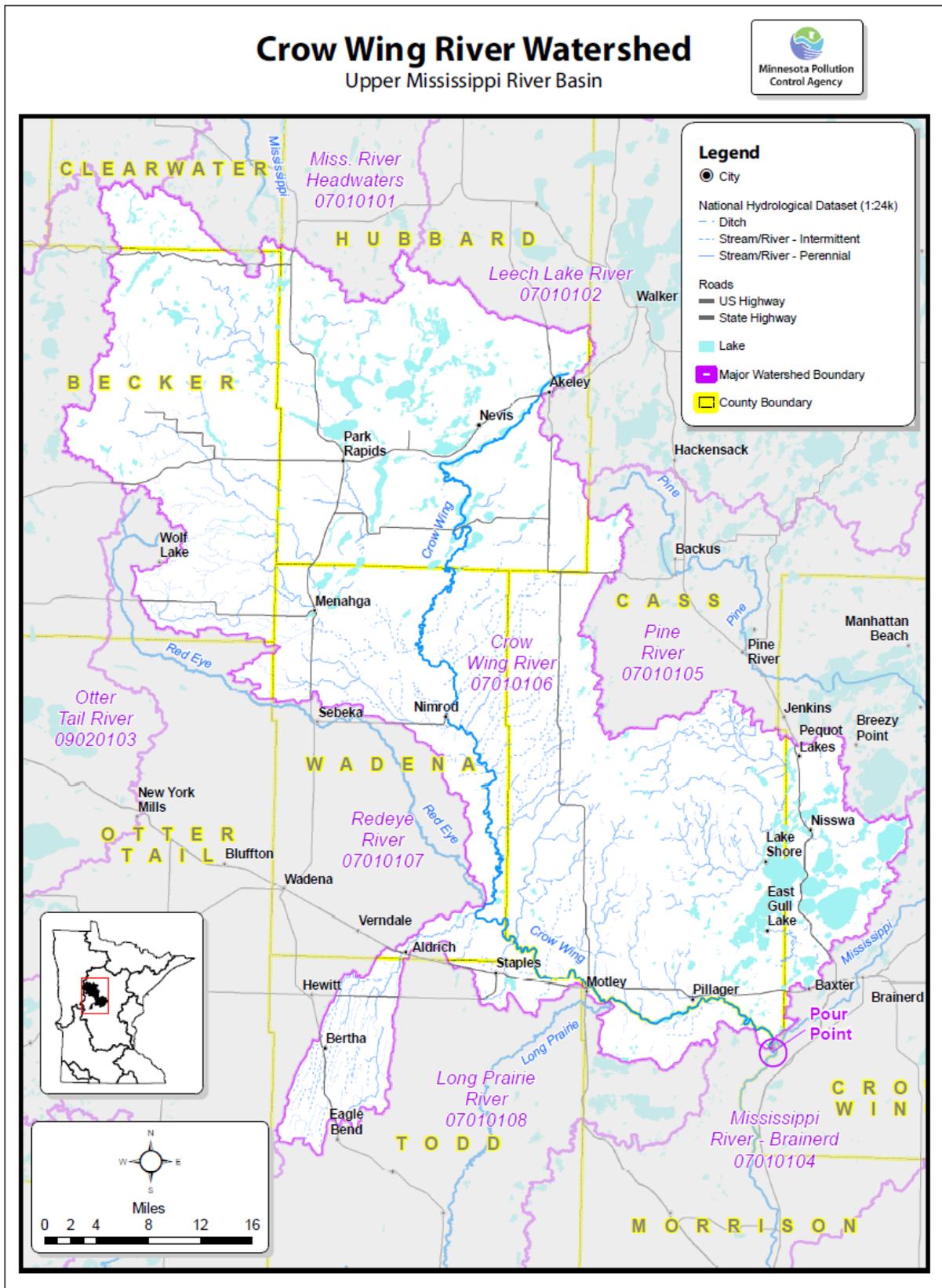


Pair of swans on the Crow Wing River at Knob Hill Campsite

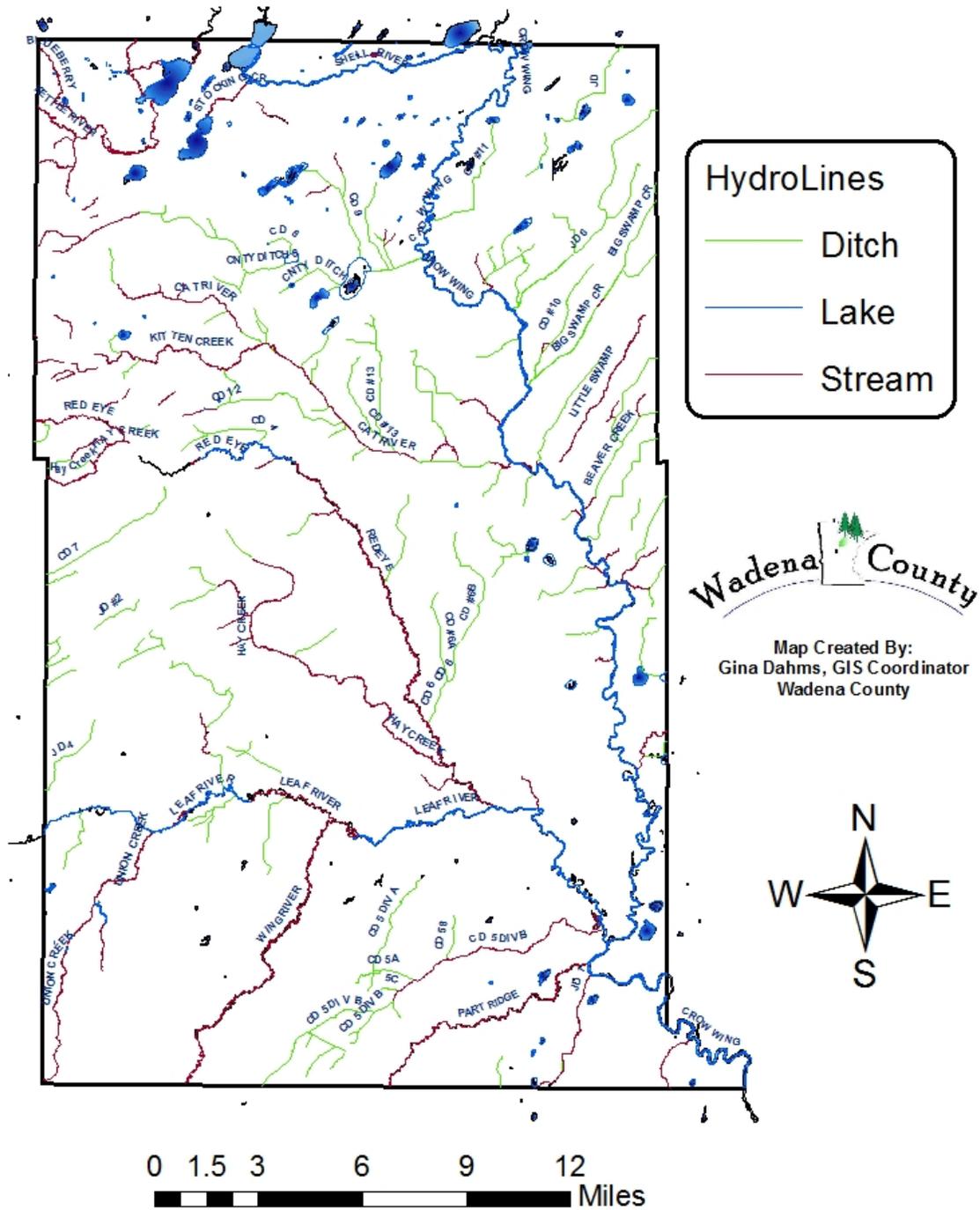
Public Water Basins and Wetlands in Wadena County



May 23, 2013



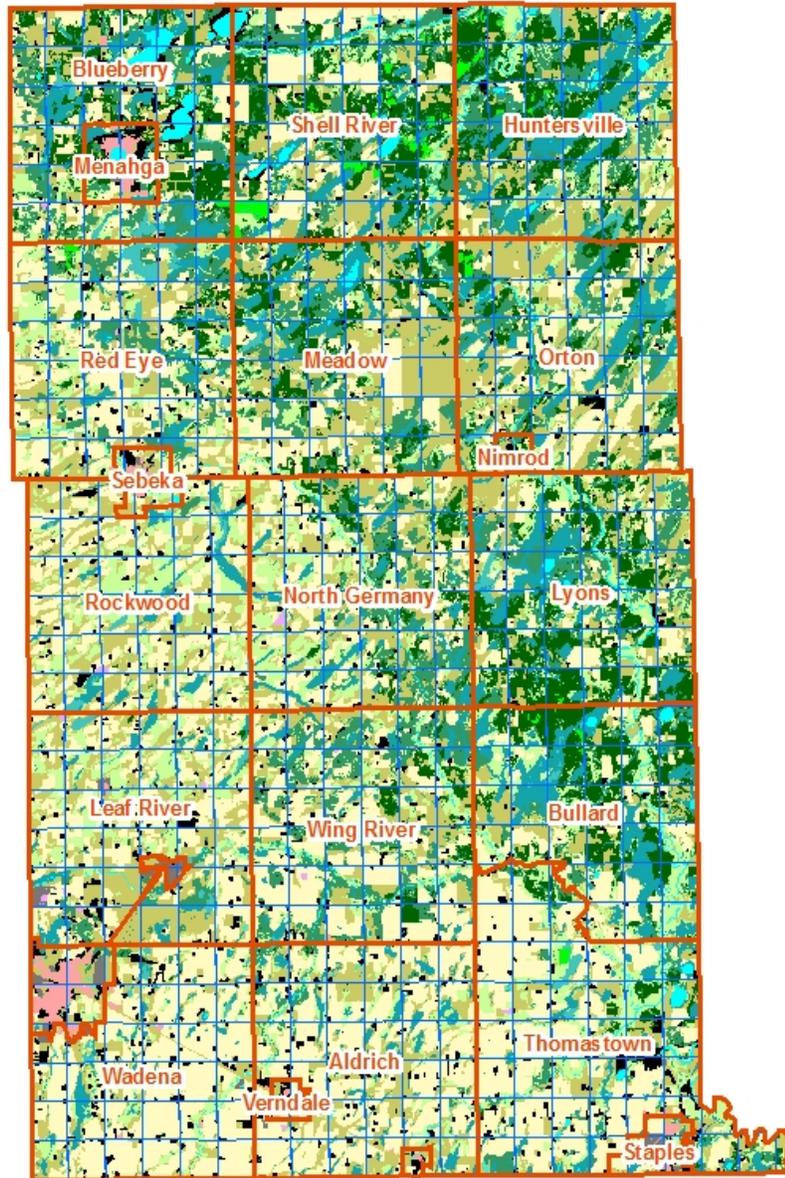
HYDROLOGIC SYSTEMS OF WADENA COUNTY



State and County: MN, WADENA

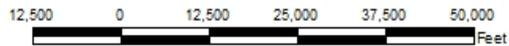
Land Use Map

Date: 4/9/2013
 Field Office: WADENA SERVICE CENTER
 Agency: NRCS

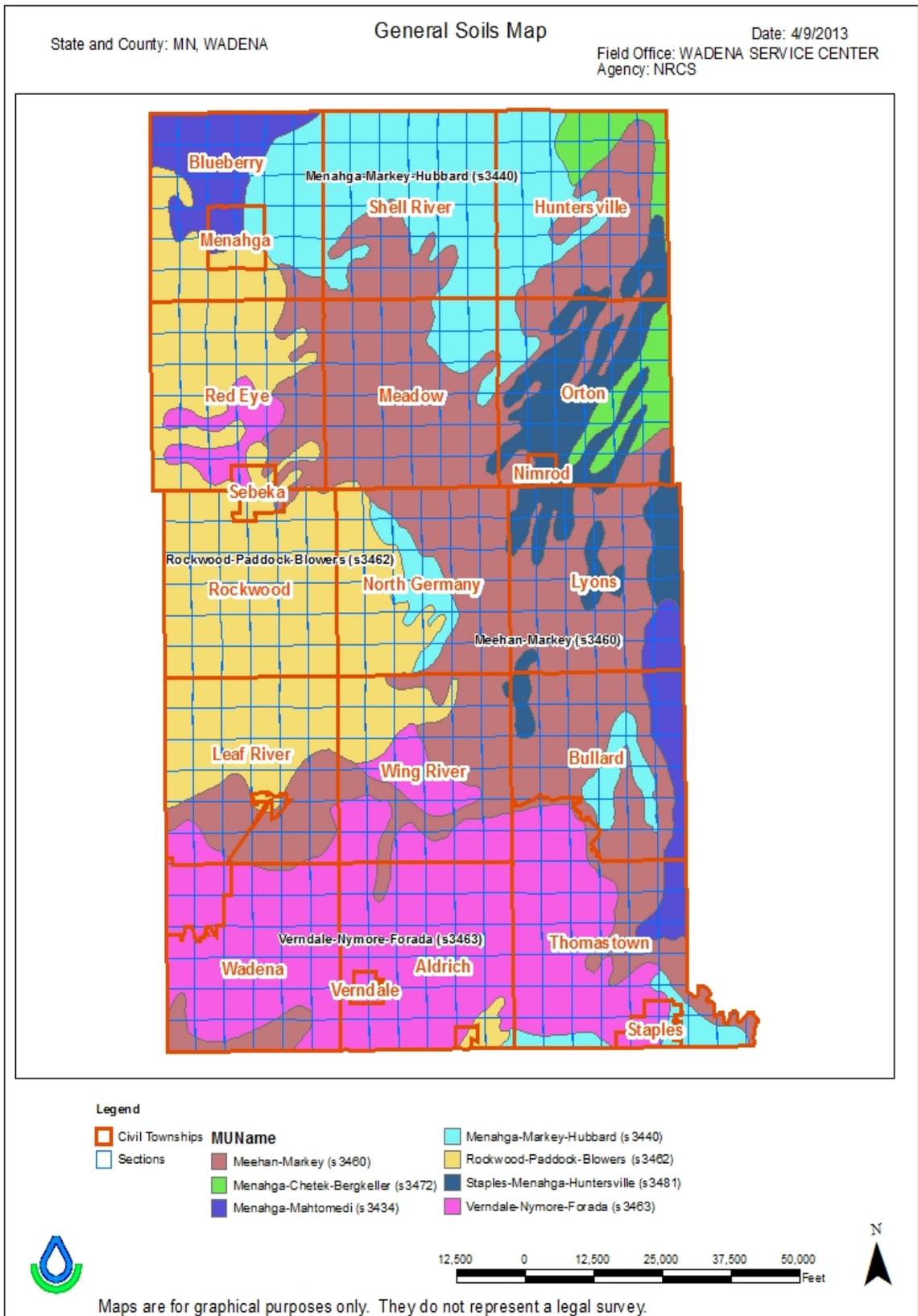


Legend

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Civil Townships | Urban/industrial (cities) | Shrubby grassland | Open water |
| Sections | Farmsteads and rural residences | Deciduous forest | Wetlands - marsh and fens |
| | Other rural developments | Mixedwood forest | Wetlands - bogs |
| | Cultivated land | Coniferous forest | Gravel pits and open mines |
| | Grassland | Forest cut-overs | Bare Rock |



Maps are for graphical purposes only. They do not represent a legal survey.



SECTION 5: Land Use



The scenic beauty of Wadena County's approximate 563 square miles of area can be seen in its abundant forests and its farm fields, across its open wetlands, and along the banks of the beautiful Crow Wing River. These also offer a variety of recreational opportunities like tubing and canoeing, hunting and fishing, snowmobiling, and horseback riding, to name a few. The combination of these elements makes Wadena County an attractive place to live and potentially work. This is evidenced by the fact that, although Wadena County has a considerably lesser land mass than its surrounding Counties, its population density is nearly as great as Todd and Ottertail County.

Since the initial adoption of the Comprehensive Plan in the early 1970's, and subsequent adoption of county-wide Zoning, Wadena County and its residents have taken a strong stance on protecting its agricultural lands, the forests, the open spaces, the lakes and rivers, and the recreational opportunities those resources provide, from development that might prove to be harmful or detrimental to these resources. The residents of the County take a great deal of pride in the land on which they live, and, for many, on the land by which they make a living.



Wheat field in Aldrich Township

The purpose of a land use inventory is to quantify the existing development of the County. From this inventory and other background information, areas for potential development, the intensity of the development, and in some cases, the need to protect areas from development, can be determined.

Table 10 - Total Land Area for Wadena & Surrounding Counties

Total Land Area for Wadena & Surrounding Counties					
	Wadena County	Todd County	Otter Tail County	Cass County	Hubbard County
2010 Population	13,843	24,895	57,303	28,567	20,428
Land Area (Sq. Mile)	536.27	944.98	1,972.07	2,021.54	925.67
Density: Persons/Sq. Mile	25.80	26.30	29.10	14.10	22.10

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010 Population, Housing Units, Area, & Density, Wadena County

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t>



A review of the land mass that makes up Wadena County was accomplished in 2007 by the DNR. Their research indicated a strong agricultural presence still exists within the County with total cropland, pastureland, native pastures, hay land, irrigated land, barn

lots, and farmsteads alone making up 42% for the total acreage in the County, or 144,331 acres. The influence of total acres determined to be coniferous forest, natural coniferous areas, mixed woodlot forest, natural mixed areas, natural deciduous forest, and deciduous is greater still with a total acres of 150,240.3, or 44% of the total land mass.



Farm fields and mixed forests in Red Eye Township

Below is the complete breakdown of land use according to the research that was conducted:

Table 11: Wadena County Land Use Summary

Wadena County Land Use Summary		
	Acreage	% of County
Abandoned Farmstead	156.8	0.05%
Gravel Pits	165.2	0.05%
RIM (Reinvest in MN)	349.9	0.10%
Altered Water	570.7	0.16%
Commercial / Industrial	1,017.1	0.29%
Recreation Land	1,159.8	0.33%
Community Service	1,197.7	0.34%
Barn Lots	1,727.5	0.50%
Wildlife Land	3,674.9	1.06%
Farmstead	3,715.8	1.07%
Natural Areas - Coniferous	4,627.5	1.33%
Residential Land	4,933.8	1.42%
Water	5,558.8	1.60%
CRP	5,943.0	1.71%
Transportation Services	9,670.6	2.78%
Native Pastures	12,356.1	3.56%
Hay Land	15,991.7	4.60%
Deciduous Forest	17,340.4	4.99%
Irrigated Land	17,659.8	5.08%
Natural Areas - Grass	18,549.5	5.34%
Pasture Land	19,717.4	5.67%
Natural Areas - Deciduous	22,070.4	6.35%
Natural Areas - Mixed	23,980.8	6.90%
Mixed-Woodlot Forest	26,169.7	7.53%
Coniferous Forest	56,051.5	16.13%
Cropland	73,162.7	21.05%
Total	347,520.05	100.00%

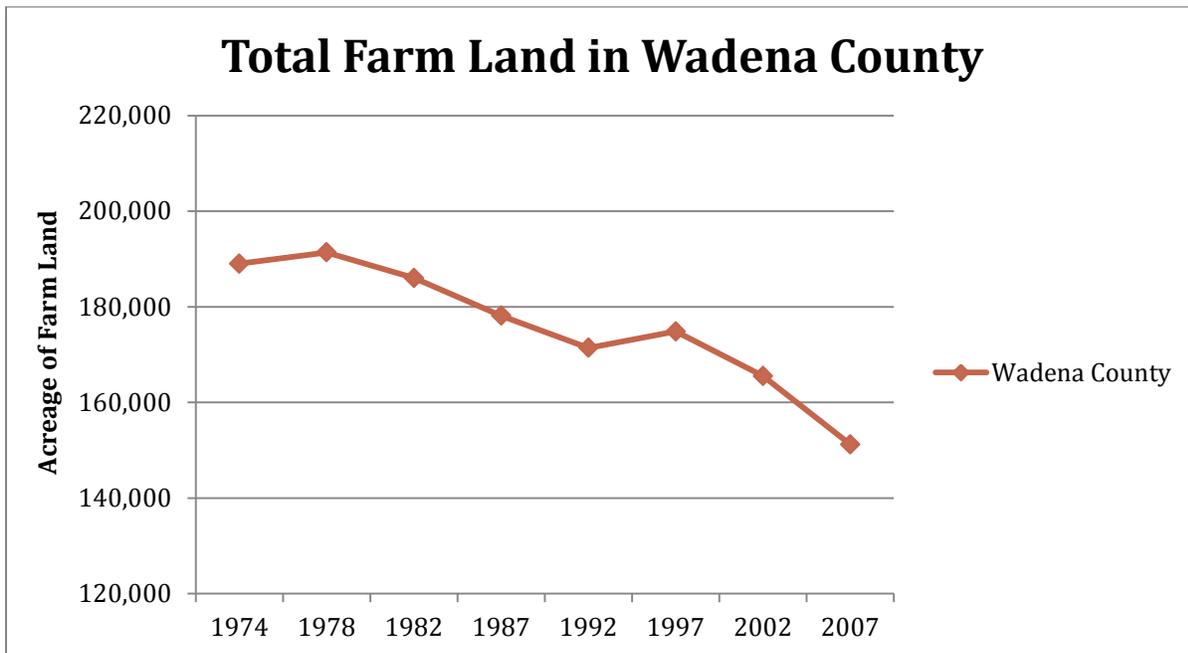
AGRICULTURE LAND USE

Although Wadena County has a strong agricultural influence, the number of farms in the county has steadily decreased from the 1960's forward. Today the number of farms located in the county is down to about half of what they were during that era. The average number of acres held by each farm has, however, increased slightly since that time period, increasing by 100 acres from 1950 to the mid 1990's and then dropping again after 2000.

The tables and graphs below give the averages and the actual numbers and depict the trend accordingly.

Table and Graph 12: Total Estimated Farm Land in Wadena County

Total Farm Land in Wadena County	
	Wadena County
1974	189,007
1978	191,372
1982	186,019
1987	178,124
1992	171,412
1997	174,833
2002	165,519
2007	151,212



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2007 Census of Agriculture, Wadena County Profile

http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/Minnesota/cp27159.pdf

Table 13 – Average Size of Farms in Wadena County by Acreage 1950 - 2007

Average Size of Farms in Wadena County by Acreage 1950 - 2007		
	Number of Farms	Average Farm Size in Acres
1950	1590	178.9
1960	1107	201.4
1970	803	239.1
1980	708	240.0
1987	689	259.0
1992	602	285.0
1997	625	280.0
2002	734	226.0
2007	657	230.0

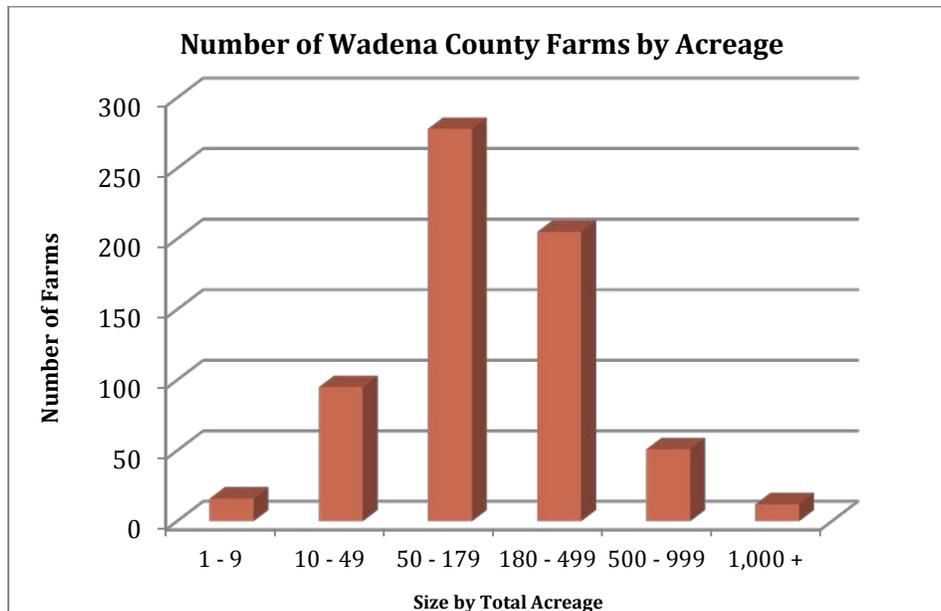
Table & Graph 14: Farms by Size

Actual Number of Farms by Size in 2007	
Size of Farm in Acres	Number of Farms
1-9	16
10-49	95
50-179	278
180-499	205
500-999	51
1000+	12

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2007 Census of Agriculture, Wadena County Profile

http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/Minnesota/cp27159.pdf

Graph 15: Farms by Acreage



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2007 Census of Agriculture, Wadena County Profile

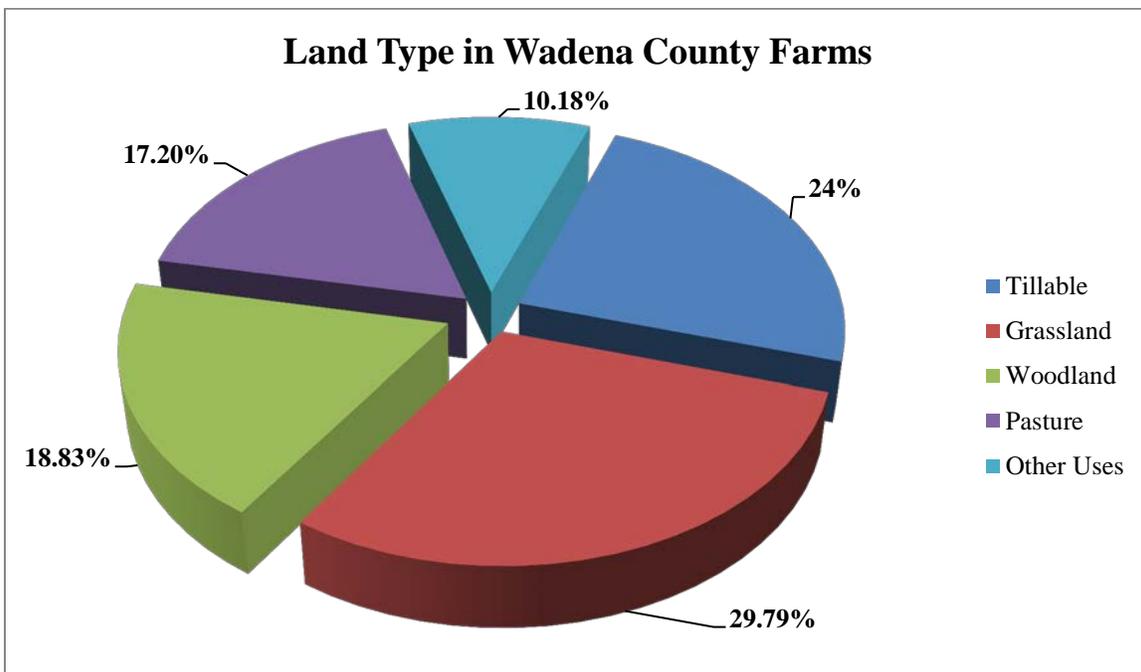
http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/Minnesota/cp27159.pdf

Total Ag Parcels – According to the Wadena County Assessor’s assessment for 2012, there are a total of 13,891 parcels of property in Wadena County. Of those parcels, 2,430 total parcels were classified as agriculture. An additional 3,567 parcels are tied to agriculture, but are classified as rural vacant land or forest management. There are a total of 284,800 acres tied to those parcels, or 79% of the total land mass of the County. The breakdown of those acres into different categories of use is shown in the graph below.



Corn and alfalfa crops in Rockwood Township

Graph 16: Land Type in Farms



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2007 Census of Agriculture, Wadena County Profile

http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/Minnesota/cp27159.pdf

Wadena County Assessor’s Office – 2012 Assessment Records

Irrigation – A noticeable difference in the agriculture industry has been the addition of irrigation to farm fields. In 1978, a total of 7,786 acres was irrigated in the County, but by 2007 those acres have more than doubled to 18,406. Irrigated acres have continued to grow in the county with more commercialized agri-business purchasing land within Wadena County and surrounding counties and adding irrigation wells and center pivots. As the size of farms increase, we can probably anticipate more growth in the number of irrigated acres in the future.



Irrigated land in Wing River Township

Land Values – The value of agricultural land in Wadena County, according to the USDA, started climbing in the 1990's and continued to increase drastically in 2008 when values began to level out and even decrease slightly. Minnesota, including Wadena County, is in a region of the United States where the value of farmland has the highest average of between \$2,500 to \$4,999 per acre. That is up over double the value in 1999 when the average value was slightly over \$1,000. Of course, these values are highly dependent on the existence of a

residence on the property and the value of the sales from the operation.



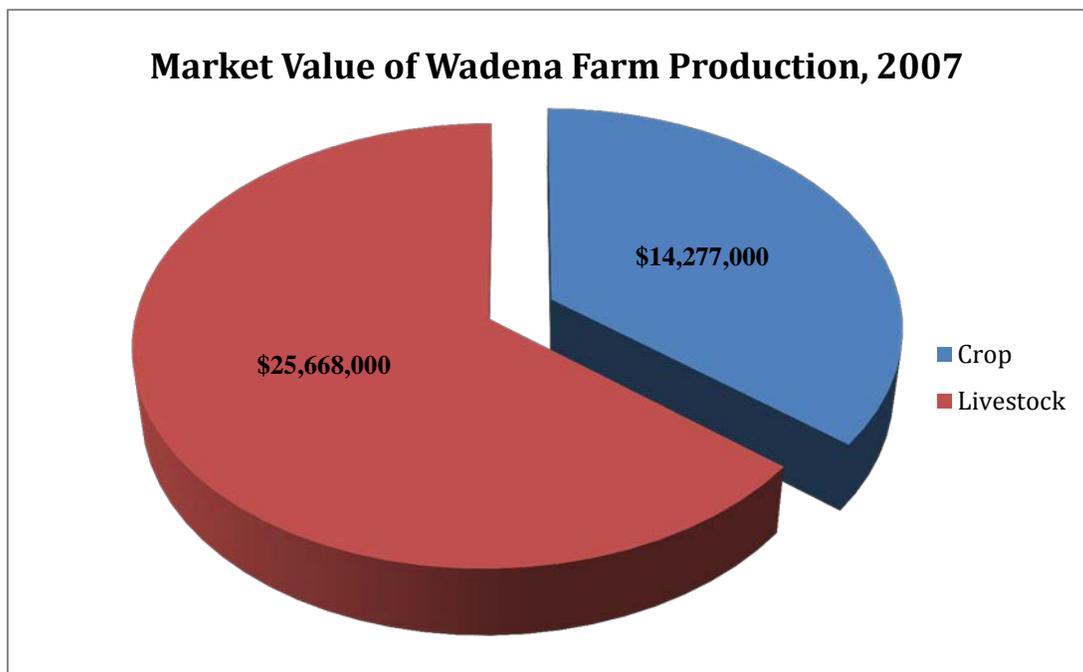
Holstein cows resting in an Aldrich Township pasture

Market Values of Ag Products

– Agriculture has and still does provide a great deal of income to Wadena County. According to the United States Department of Agriculture census from 2007, the market value of agricultural products sold in Wadena County was \$39,945,000. This number is up from 2002 with a reported

\$39,310,000, increasing the average farm product market value per farm from \$53,555 to \$60,798. Livestock market values from the County made up approximately 64% of the total agricultural market value in 2007 with 34% being from crop sales. Out of the 87 Minnesota counties, Wadena County ranks 14th in the production of oats for grain, 15th in the production of vegetables and potatoes, as well as bee colonies, 18th in the production of corn for silage, 24th in the production of forage products such as hay, haylage, grass silage, and greenchop, 35th in the production of milk and other dairy products from cows, 42nd in the production of fruits, tree nuts, and berries, 46th in the production of poultry and eggs, 48th in the production of cattle and calves. Other agriculture related products grown in Wadena County such as hogs, sheep and goats, horses, corn for grain, soybeans, and other small grains were ranked between 52nd and 73rd among Minnesota counties.

Graph 17: Market Value of Production on Wadena County Farms



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2007 Census of Agriculture, Wadena County Profile

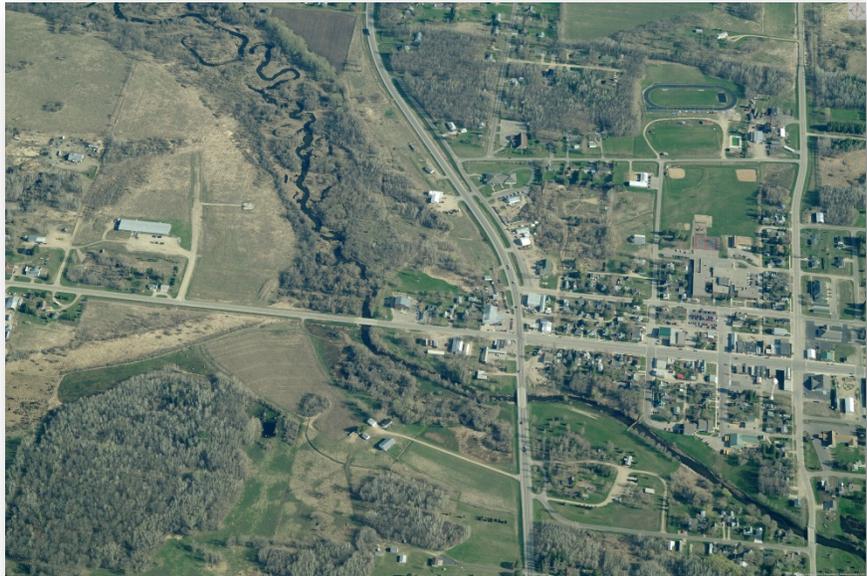
http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/Minnesota/cp27159.pdf

RESIDENTIAL LAND USE

Single family dwellings still constitute the majority of residential uses in Wadena County. According to the Wadena County Assessor's Office, there are total of 5,014 parcels which carry some sort of residential classification. Of these parcels, 4,856 parcels are classified as single unit dwellings. A total of 83 parcels have up to 3 units attached and 57 parcels are 4 units or more. There are 17 parcels that are classified as Qualified Low Income Rental Housing. All of these parcels combined represent about 36% of the total parcels listed in the County and 10,985 total acres or 3% of the total land mass of the county. This does not include an approximate 32 acres in mobile home parks.

Primarily, rural residences and farmsteads are scattered along the County's road network. Table 10 above depicts the population density for Wadena County. Although our population is considerably less than surrounding counties, our population density is higher, or, nearly as high as those counties because the land mass is so much smaller.

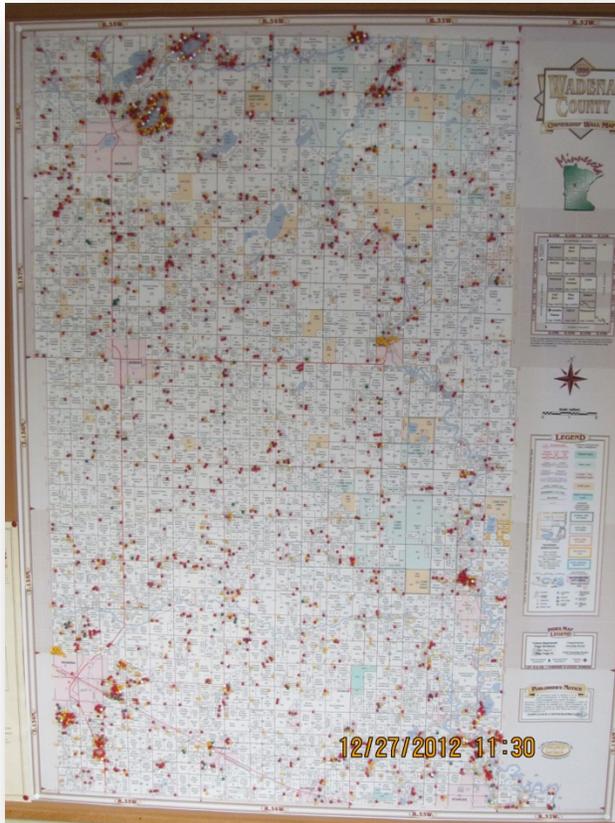
New residential development occurs primarily in or near the city limits of any particular venue and is encouraged to do so through the Counties current Comprehensive and



City of Sebeka – Intersection of US Highway 71 and State Highway 227



1971 to 1999 Growth Map located in the Wadena County Planning & Zoning Office – Wadena County Courthouse



1999 to Present Growth Map located in the Wadena County Planning & Zoning Office – Wadena County Courthouse

Other development that is occurring in the county presents itself in the single division of a $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ section or government lot. Smaller tracts of land in rural areas are in the greatest demand as lenders prefer to hold mortgages on 5 acres tracts and less when lending to construct a non-farm, residential homestead.

COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL

Commercial and industrial land use in Wadena County accounts for approximately 1% of the overall land mass in Wadena County. According to records provided by the Wadena County Assessor's Office, roughly 1365 acres of land are associated with some type of commercial or industrial activity. Although there are several Industrial Zones outlined in the County, there is only one industrial park located outside of the city limits of a municipality. This



Aerial view of the Industrial Park located on the south side of the City of Menahga

Land Use Plan. Research indicates that allowing development to occur in rural or remote areas of the County can increase services required and can put a strain on the financial capabilities of the County.

The greatest amount of residential development in the past 10 years has occurred around the city of Menahga in Blueberry Township. There has also been a noticeable amount of development along the Crow Wing River where the Potlatch Corporation, previously known as the Northwest Paper Company, had divided $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ section tracts of land into two parcels for the purpose of land sales with access to the river. Most of the tracts purchased from Potlatch have some form of building site located on them with approved onsite sewage treatment system. Others were purchased for resale and have not yet been developed.

park was developed with three phase power in the early 2000's by the local electrical cooperative. To date, there is one business located within the industrial park.

FORESTED LAND USE



Hardwood forest along the Crow Wing River near McGivern Park in Thomastown Township

Wadena County has a total of 160 parcels associated with an actual Forest Management classification with a total of about 9,072 acres attached to them. Numerous acres associated to agriculture also contain forest or woodlot land use as well as thousands of acres of forest owned and administered by the Department of Natural Resources, State of Minnesota. Although the forestry industry has suffered decreases in Wadena County for several years, it continues to be a part of the land use and economy, as

well as a practice for conservationist on many different levels.

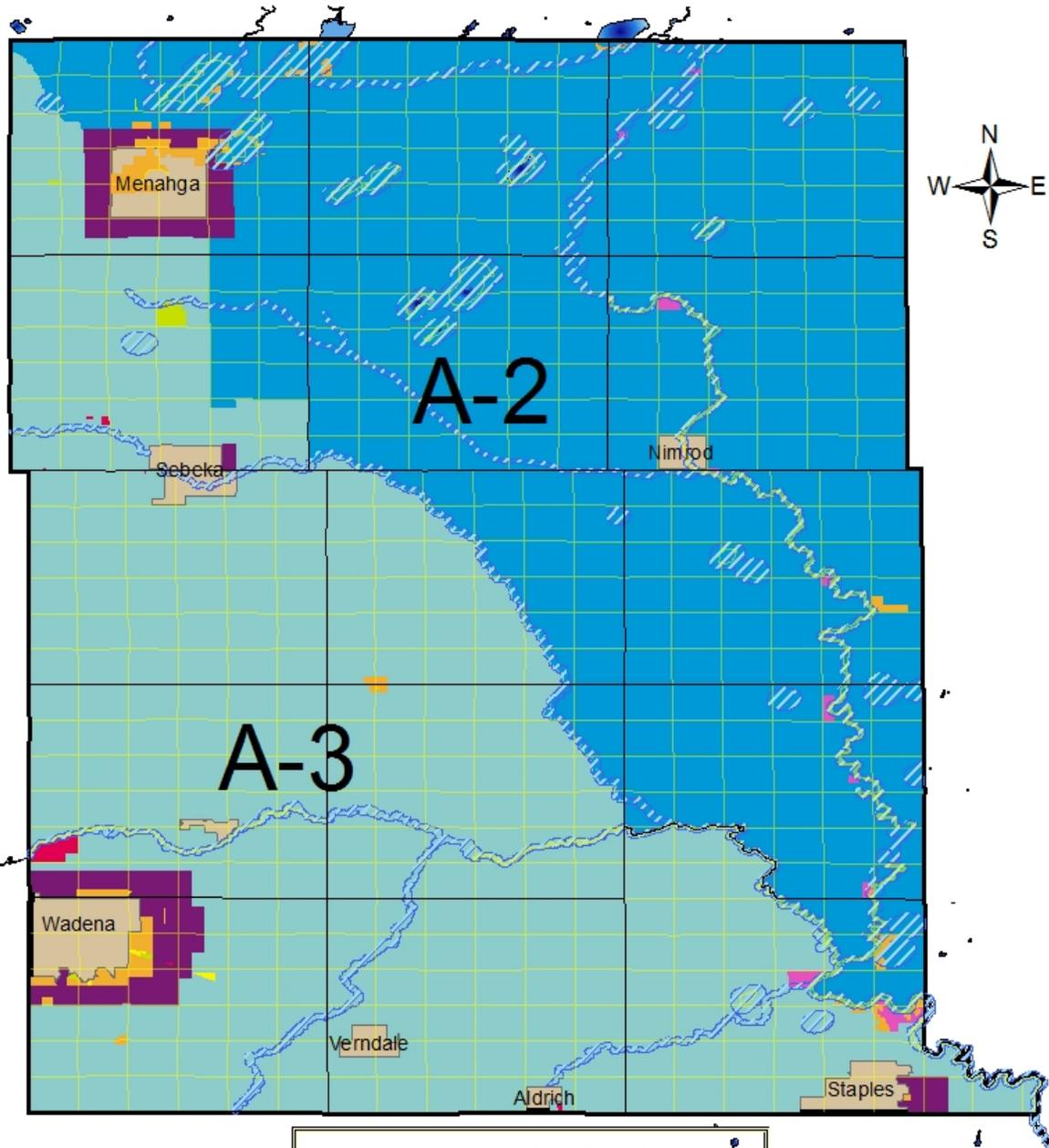
PUBLIC LAND USE

Several thousands of acres are also available to the public. Wadena County is home to the Huntersville and Lyons State Forests, 10 county campgrounds with adjoining lands for hiking, and a number of state administered wildlife management areas and parks. There are also several hundred acres associated with the public school systems in Wadena County, churches, and townships.



Tree re-growth on harvested Potlatch land purchased by the County and added to Tree Farm Landing Campground on the Crow Wing River

WADENA COUNTY ZONING DISTRICTS



Map Created By: Gina Dahms
GIS Coordinator
Wadena County

Zoning Districts					
	A-1		B-1		R-1
	A-2		B-2		R-A
	A-3		I-1		S-1

*Zoning Districts are defined on page 61.

Zoning Districts

A-1 Transitional Agriculture – Provides a district that will: 1) provide a buffer between communities and general agricultural land uses; 2) provides for orderly urban development and expansion in conjunction with the approved Wadena County Comprehensive Plan; 3) prevents scattered, non-farm growth; and 4) secures economy in governmental expenditures for public services, utilities and schools.

A-2 Mixed Agriculture and Forestry – Establishes a district suitable for livestock and cash crop farming activities, and commercial timber removal in productive forest areas; prevents scattered, non-farm development in out-county areas.

A-3 General Agriculture – Provides a district allowing suitable areas of Wadena County to be retained for general farming activities including cash crop products and animal husbandry; regulates the encroachment on agriculture land by non-farm land uses.

B-1 Highway Service Business District – Provides a district that will: 1) allow compact and convenient limited highway-oriented business, closely related to existing urban areas in the County, and 2) provides development standards that will not impair the traffic-carrying capabilities of abutting roads and highways.

B-2 General Business District – Provides a district that will retain and allow general commercial uses in the small, unincorporated urban communities in the County.

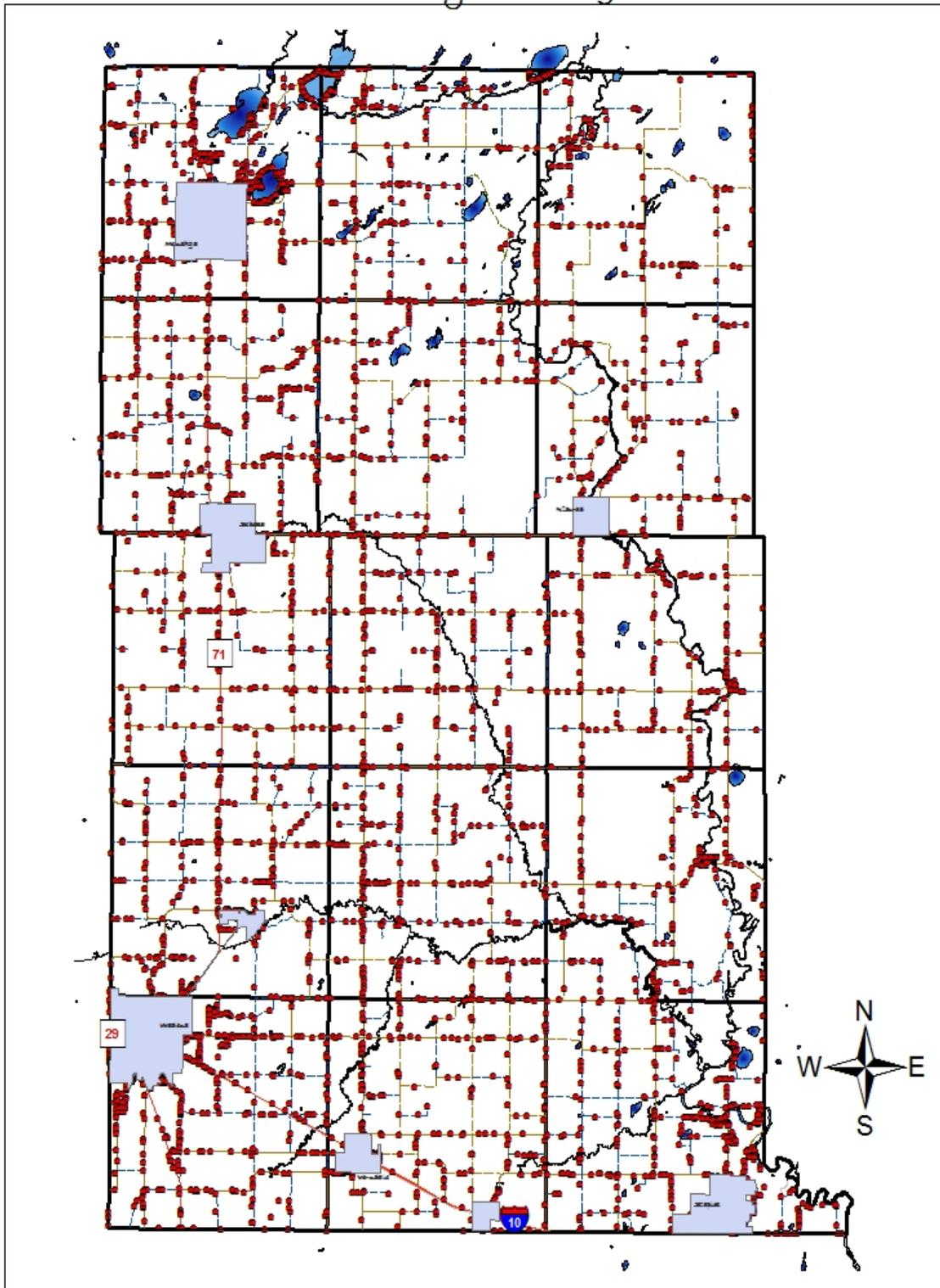
I-1 General Industry District – Intended to provide a district that will allow compact, convenient, limited highway-oriented industry closely related to existing urban areas in the County and at standards that will not impair the traffic-carrying capabilities of abutting roads and highways. It is recognized that industrial uses are an important part of the County's land use pattern. The regulations for this district are intended to encourage industrial development that is compatible with surrounding or abutting districts.

R-1 Suburban Residence District – Provides a district that will allow low-density residential development and on-lot utilities in areas adjacent to urban development, but where municipal utilities are not available.

RA Recreational District – Reserves appropriate areas within Wadena County for recreation areas; to retain existing recreation areas for public use; to prevent development that would adversely affect new and existing recreation areas, provided that purposes herein stated shall not restrict the use of adjoining lands classified or zoning as agriculture districts. All recreation areas created shall contain a minimum of 20 acres.

S-1 Shoreland Overlay District – Provides a district that will: 1) allow for the wise utilization of the shoreland resources of Wadena County, and 2) provide shoreland development guidelines consistent with MN Statutes, Chapter 105, and MN Rules Chapter 6120.

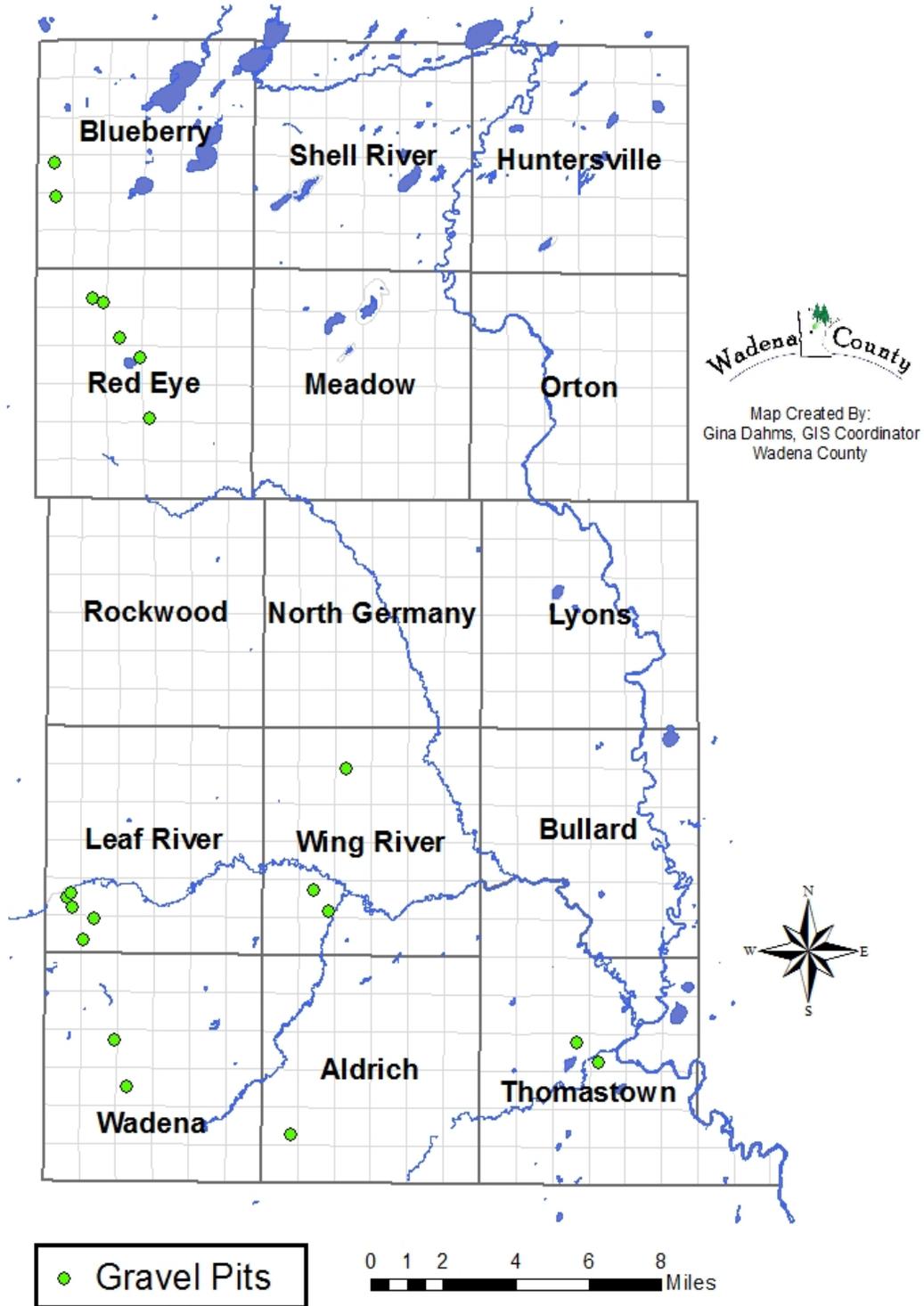
Wadena County Building Sites



■ Building Site Location

Map Created By:
Gina Dahms, GIS Coordinator
Wadena County
April 2013

WADENA COUNTY GRAVEL PITS MAP



SECTION 6: Economic Development



LABOR FORCE - EMPLOYMENT

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Wadena County has a labor force of an estimated 6,443 people. This is about the same as reports from 2000; however, over the ten year period from 2000 to 2010 that number has been as low as an estimated 6030 around 2005, and as high as an estimated 7040 in the early part of 2000.

The unemployment rate for Wadena County at the end of 2012 is 6.6%. This is up nearly double from the beginning of 2000 with a reported 3.6% unemployment rate. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has steadily increased over the past ten years with a huge spike in March of 2005 of 14.2% to where it is now, with spikes also occurring in the winter months of each year due to employment opportunities that are seasonal in nature.

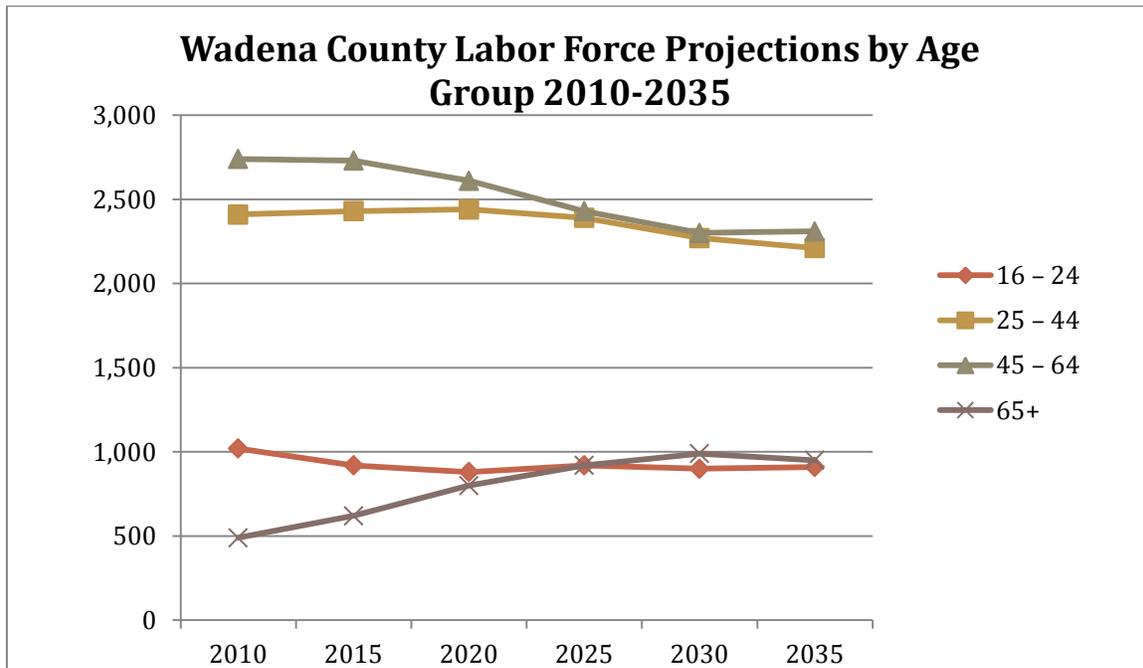
In comparison, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the State of Minnesota had a 2.8% unemployment rate beginning in 2000, gradually increasing to the current 5.7% rate of unemployment at the end of 2012. The state of Minnesota, as a whole, does not necessarily experience the highs and lows in the unemployment rate due to the winter months and seasonal employment, rather, it maintains a more steady existence and moves up and down with more consistency.

According to the Wadena County Human Services Department, while the number of households receiving food support assistance has increased by 40% since 2008, the number of households receiving Minnesota Family Investment and Diversionary Work Program assistance has gone down. In 2008, the number of households receiving this form of assistance numbered 107, with that number actually increasing over the next 3 years, but then dropping back to 103 in 2012. Households receiving Medical Assistance and General Assistance Medical Care, however, increased by 10% from 2008. This could be directly attributed to the current economy, with its increased cost of living and jobs available that do not include medical benefits.

The labor force for Wadena County, according to the Minnesota State Demographics Center, is projected to grow over the next several years to an estimated 6,720 and then gradually

come back down below even the current labor force numbers to an estimated 6,380. The following graph breaks these numbers down by age as well. It is anticipated that a larger number of people will continue to work past the normal retirement age of 65 presumably due to a higher cost of living and medical insurance needs.

Graph 18 - Wadena County Labor Force Projections 2010-2035



Source: Minnesota State Demographics Center, Labor Force Projections 2010-2035

<http://www.demography.state.mn.us/documents/MinnesotaLaborForceProjections20052035.pdf>

RETAIL TRADE

In the early 1970’s, Wadena County adopted its first Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinances that encouraged trade and industry to take place in those areas designated for such business. It allows for smaller business, Mom and Pop type operations, to take place in other zoning districts through a process known as Conditional Use. Even so, Wadena County does not boast a tremendous amount of trade and industry. According to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, the rubber product manufacturing industry has reported the most growth within the years 2005 to 2010 with an addition of 87 new jobs created. The job growth in rubber product manufacturing makes up 27.2% of the total growth in Wadena County in those years. The top five growing industries in the County besides rubber product manufacturing are: general freight trucking, plastics product manufacturing, auto repair and maintenance, and newspaper, book and directory publishers.

The depository credit intermediation industry faced the greatest employment loss with a total loss of 119 jobs between 2005 and 2010. This decline makes up 15.9% of the total employment decline in Wadena County for that time period. Other industries in Wadena

County that noticed a decline in those five years are: automobile dealers, amusement and recreation industries, general merchandise stores, and wood product manufacturing industries.

The 2007 U.S. Census Bureau reported the following for Wadena County retail trade:

Table 18- Retail Trade in Wadena County

Retail Trade in Wadena County				
	Number of Establishments	Value of Sales, Receipts, Shipments, or Business Done (\$1,000)	Number of Employees	Annual Payroll (\$1,000)
Wholesale Trade	16	243,381	487	22,392
Retail Trade	98	177,697	892	17,318
Information	7	N/A	89	2,834
Real Estate	7	707	25	271
Professional, Scientific, Technical Services	18	4,539	49	2,325
Administrative, Support, and Waste Management Services	13	4,175	147	1,618
Educational Services	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Health Care & Social Assistance	46	128,239	1,976	57,863
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Accommodation & Food Service	35	10,906	400	2,962
Other Services	28	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Economic Census

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t>

INDUSTRIAL PARKS

Wadena County has a number of Industrial Parks scattered throughout its boundaries. All but one are located in the city limits of a municipality. The County had one industrial rezoning east of Wadena, in Wadena Township, along U.S. Highway 10. This particular development was accomplished by the local electrical cooperative, who supplies 3-phase power to the site.

Sebeka Industrial Park

Located on Industrial Park Road just west of US Highway 71 off of County Road 8, the Industrial Park is owned by the Sebeka Economic Development Authority (SEDA) and is a total of approximately 50 acres in size, with 40 acres available for sale in 5 to 10 acre lots.

Services available at the industrial park include electricity only. Onsite sewage treatment and private wells would serve any new development. There are currently two businesses located in this park with lots available for sale, and Zoning regulations apply.

The City of Sebeka has some funding available in a revolving loan fund to assist new or expanding business.

Wadena Industrial Parks

The 60 acre Wadena Industrial Park is located on the east side U.S. Highway 71 south with 49 acres developed and services including: sewer, water, storm sewer, gas, electricity, and telecommunication capability. There are 12 businesses located in the park that employ around 118 people.

The 28 acre publicly owned Wadena Business Park is located on the west side of Highway 71 south with 4 developed acres and services including: electricity, gas, and telecommunication capability available. There are 2 businesses located there which employ 6 people. In both of these industrial parks lot sizes vary and Zoning regulations apply.

The City of Wadena has a variety of options available to assist new business and development within the city. Some of these include: the City Fix-up Loan, tax abatement, JOBZ Tax Free Development, Tax Increment Financing (TIF), the WDA Revolving Loan Fund, and the MIF Loan Fund.

Staples Industrial Park

The City of Staples Industrial Park is located in the Wadena County portion of the city on Prairie Avenue West and includes the original industrial park property which is now fully developed and an additional 154 acres that was recently acquired by the Staples Economic Development Authority for future development. The EDA Industrial Park is not yet platted which allows for flexibility to meet the needs of new businesses locating there. Water,

sewer, electricity, natural gas, fiber and phone services are all available in the park. The park houses 7 manufacturing business which employ in excess of 100 people.

The City of Staples Economic Development Authority and the City of Staples can provide a variety of options to assist business expansion and/or development. These options include: Tax Increment Financing (TIF), Tax Abatement, Business Financing, and subsidized land purchasing. Additionally, a variety of business revolving loan funds are available to assist businesses including the Staples EDA, North Central Economic Development Association, Initiative Foundation, and Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative.

Another attribute to industry in the City of Staples and Wadena County as a whole is the Central Lakes College training programs such as: Robotics, Machine Tool Technology, Diesel Mechanics, Heavy Equipment Operations and Maintenance, Welding and many more. Companies have located in the proximity of Staples in order to have direct access to the best trained workforce in Central Minnesota.

[Menahga Industrial Park](#)

The City of Menahga Industrial Park is located in the south-central portion of the city and includes the plats: Menahga Industrial Park and Southgate First Addition. It consists of 95 acres with 5 vacant lots available for development through the city and one tax forfeited lot that can be acquired through Wadena County. Lot sizes vary between .7 and 5 acres and have access to sewer, electricity, natural gas, fiber, and phone services and readily available access from U.S. Highway 71. There are currently 11 manufacturing and service oriented businesses in the park.

A variety of options are available through the City of Menahga to assist with business expansion or development. These include: Tax Increment Financing (TIF), the Initiative Foundation, North Central Economic Development Association, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, and several business revolving loan funds from the City.

[Verndale, Nimrod, & Aldrich](#)

Although the City of Verndale has areas and services available for industry, they do not have a developed Industrial Park.

The cities of Nimrod and Aldrich do not have Industrial Parks, neither do they provide city sanitary and water services.

New Residential and Other Development in Wadena County

Since 1999 there have been four new developments in the unincorporated areas to the north of Menahga, in Blueberry Township. The plat names are: Deer Haven, Pine Haven, Forest Haven, and Tall Timbers. They are residential, single dwelling developments with individual onsite sewage treatment and individual wells. The lots are a minimum 80,000

square feet and varying up from there in size. These developments range from three to eight lots.

Four new developments were also approved north of Staples, in Thomastown Township, in close proximity to the Crow Wing River. The plat names are: River Ridge Addition, Vintage Villas, First Addition to Pine Valley Estates, and Pine Ridge Estates. Three of these developments are residential, single dwelling developments with individual onsite sewage treatment and individual wells. The lots are a minimum 80,000 square feet and varying up from there in size. One of these developments consists of five lots, another of eight lots, and another of seven lots. The other development is a Planned Unit Development (PUD) consisting of twelve lots with six duplex-style townhomes. For this development, a clustered onsite sewage treatment system was designed and installed along with private water sources. An association was also formed to govern the PUD, the operation & maintenance of the septic system, and the management of the green space.

City of Wadena

Since 1999, the City of Wadena has added water and sanitary services, along with electricity, curb and gutter to another 19 lots in Folkestad's East, which is a development that was platted in 1981 located in the southeast portion of the city. There are 16 lots available in this newest phase of the plat to receive services.

Another new development in the City of Wadena is White Tail Estates near the White Tail Run golf course located north on Highway 71. There are 25 lots available in this plat with lot sizes varying. The roads are developed; however, no services are available. Individual septic systems and wells would be installed to serve each site.

Since 1999, the City of Wadena has also completed a 4005 feet, hard surface runway airport, and the Chamber of Commerce completed a downtown beautification program.

City of Staples

The City of Staples has seen a lot of growth over the past 10 years, much of it in the Wadena County portion of the City. Since 2003, 46 single family residential structures and 44 multi-family residential units were added. In addition, the Central Lakes College Heavy Equipment facility located on the westerly edge of Staples was planned and developed, and Lakewood Health Systems implemented a 40 unit complex for senior tenants, attractively designed in a comfortable, affordable environment that promotes an independent lifestyle for its residents.

Lakewood Health Systems also expanded their Care Center which is located in the Wadena County portion of the City. It is a 100-bed long-term care facility which has been recently renovated and includes services such as: dialysis, pharmacy, rehabilitation nursing, spiritual care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, oxygen and IV therapy, speech therapy, and psychiatric services, to name a few. This facility also includes Lakewood Reflections, which is designed for persons who are experiencing an emotional decline and mental changes.

[City of Sebeka](#)

Since 1999, the City of Sebeka has added and developed Northern Acres Estates. This is a publicly owned development with 25 lots in three blocks. The lots vary somewhat in size, however, most lots are about 11,085 square feet in area and have municipal water and sewer, utilities, and street curb and gutter. There are currently 17 lots available in Northern Acres Estates.

[City of Menahga](#)

New residential development in the City of Menahga in the past 10 years consists of a residential plat in the northeasterly portion of the City, all have access to electricity, natural gas, fiber and phone services, but would require individual onsite sewage treatment systems and private wells. The Menahga Development Corporation has also purchased an additional 40 acres for anticipated residential, single family housing development.

The cities of [Verndale](#), [Aldrich](#) and [Nimrod](#) have not had any newly platted residential areas in more than 10 years.

SECTION 7: Transportation



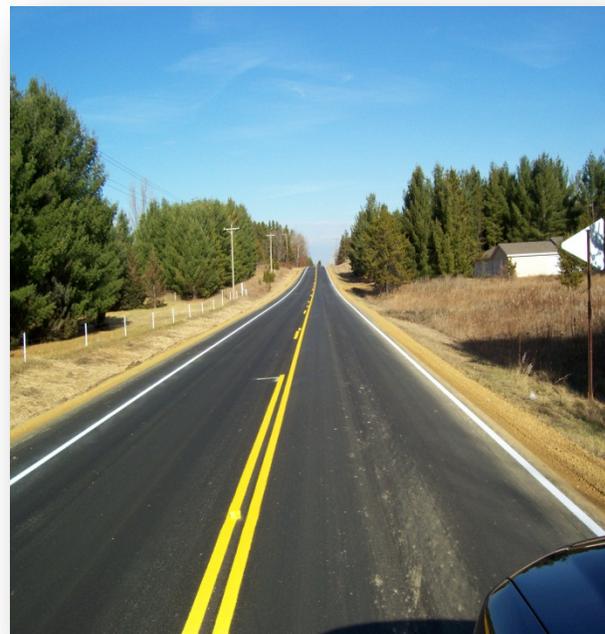
EXISTING SYSTEMS

Wadena County strives to maintain a safe and well constructed road system with convenient circulation patterns for internal and external traffic movement throughout the County.

The Wadena County Highway Department operates and maintains a 460 mile road system in the County. 252 miles (56%) of this system consists of paved or also referred to as *bituminous* surfaced roads.

The County highway system is publically owned and is its largest asset valued at over \$45 million. The paved portion of the road system accounts for the greatest part of this value and these routes serve as the primary highways in the County. Wadena County currently invests approximately \$2.7 million dollars annually to maintain, improve, and preserve the highway system. Of this amount, \$2 million is spent on pavement improvements and preservation. Every year as these paved roads age they deteriorate more and their service life diminishes from traffic use, weather, and environment.

Because the paved road system represents a significant investment, in 2008, Wadena County chose to implement a Pavement Management Program to assist engineering with making critical funding decisions.



County Road 160 – Fall of 2012

Pavement Management – Pavement Management is the process of collecting, organizing, and analyzing highway pavement data. These highway components include: length, width, thickness, age, condition, strength, costs, history, and traffic counts. The data is analyzed and combined with the highway department’s funding amounts and needs, along with political considerations, to identify the most cost effective ways to maintain the paved highway system in a satisfactory condition. A pavement management software program can organize all of this data, forecast pavement conditions, analyze priorities, and create budget “what-if” scenarios. These “what-if” results can find opportunities to provide a higher level of service and save tax dollars.

Main Highways

The two main roadways within Wadena County are U.S. Highway 10 and U.S. Highway 71. Highway 10 accommodates traffic in an east/west direction and passes through the County connecting Staples to the east and Wadena to the west. Highway 71 runs in the north/south direction connecting Menahga to the north and Wadena to the south. State Highway 29 is a short segment within the County (.87 miles) that connects the community of Deer Creek in Ottertail County with the city of Wadena. U.S. Highway 87 comes into Menahga from the west and follows U.S. Highway 71 north out of the County.

Major Collectors in the County include: *(ADT – Average Daily Traffic)*

CSAH #2: 7.85 miles running east-west in Staples between Todd County at Aldrich and Staples. The projected ADT for year 2013 is between 720 and 756 with a projected ADT of Menahga from the west and follows U.S. Highway 71 north out of the County.

CSAH #3: 1.46 miles running east-west in Staples between the Crow Wing River and 4th Street. The 2013 ADT is between 1950 and 2048 and a projected ADT of 2458 in 2033.

CSAH #4: 10.97 miles running east-west in between Highway 10 in Wadena and CSAH #26 north of Aldrich. The ADT numbers for 2013 are between 1700 and 1785 with a project ADT in 2033 of 2142.

CSAH #6: 4 miles running east-west between Highway #71 and CSAH #23. The projected ADT is 400 to 420 for 2013 and 504 for 2033.

CSAH #7: 16.88 miles running east-west between CSAH #26 and Oylen, then north to the Cass County Line. The ADT for 2013 is 367.

CSAH #8: 2.99 miles running east-west between the Ottertail County line and Highway #71 at Sebeka. This road segment was CSAH #11 until 1997 when it was renumbered to coincide with the Ottertail County numbering system. The projected ADT is between 1350 and 1418 for 2013 and 1702 for 2033.

CSAH #12: 15.34 miles running east-west connecting Sebeka and Nimrod and beyond to the Cass County line. The projected ADT in 2013 is 770 to 809 and is projected to be 971 in 2033.

CSAH #17: 4.39 miles running east-west between Menahga and CSAH #23. The projected ADT varies from 3600 in Menahga to 1168 at CSAH #23.

CSAH #18: 17.62 miles east-west and north-south between CSAH #23 and CSAH #12 at Nimrod. The projected 2013 ADT is 345 to 362, with the estimated ADT for 2033 being 434.

CSAH #19: 3.30 miles running east-west between CSAH #18 and the Cass County line with a projected ADT of 60 to 63 in 2013 and 76 in 2033.

CSAH #20: 4.79 miles running north and east between Highway #10 in Wadena and Highway #71 with a projected ADT of between 1000 and 1050 in 2013 and 1260 in 2033.

CSAH #21: 6 miles running northeast-southwest between Highway #71 in Menahga and CSAH #23 at the Hubbard County line. The projected ADT varies from 990 to 1040 in 2013 and is projected to be 1248 in 2033.



Bridge project over the Crow Wing River on CSAH #12 at Nimrod

CSAH #23: 30.91 miles running north-south the entire length of Wadena County. The projected ADT on this entire route is between 1150 and 1208 for 2013 and is projected to be 1450 in 2033.

CSAH #25: 1.9 miles running north-south between the Hubbard County line and CSAH #18 at Huntersville. The projected ADT for 2013 is between 190 and 200 in 2013 and is projected to be 240 in 2033.

CSAH #26: 18.80 miles running north-south between Highway #10 near Aldrich and CSAH #12 at Nimrod. The projected ADT for 2013 varies from 490 to 515 and is projected to be 618 in 2033.

CSAH #30: 1.63 miles running south and east of Staples from CSAH No. 2 to 4th Street in the City of Staples and 8.86 miles north-south from the City of Staples to CSAH #7. The projected ADT in 2013 is between 530 and 557 and is projected to be 668 in 2033.

CSAH #31: 4.15 miles running west to east between Trunk Highway 71 and CSAH #23. The projected ADT in 2013 is between 315 and 331 and projected in 2033 to be 397.

CSAH #53: .09 miles running north-south on Crooks Street between CSAH #17 and CSAH #21 in Menahga. The projected ADT for 2013 is between 1400 and 1470. The projected ADT for 2033 is 1764.

Minor Collectors:

There are 96.54 miles of minor collector routes on thirteen County State Aid Highways and one county road. In general, these routes carry less than 200 ADT.

The table below shows all the miles of roads in the county according to their functional classification.

Table 19 – Wadena County Highway Mileage by Functional Classification

Wadena County Highway Mileage by Functional Classification					
	Principal Arterial	Minor Arterial	Major Collector	Minor Collector	Local
U.S. Trunk	45.188	-	-	-	-
MN Trunk	-	0.866	-	-	-
County State Aid	-	-	135.51	94.90	10.941
County	-	-	-	1.640	205.748
Township	-	-	-	0.310	366.966
Municipal Streets	-	-	-	-	63.116
State Forest	-	-	-	-	3.827

Source: Minnesota Department of Transportation, Roadway Data - Functional Classification

http://www.dot.state.mn.us/roadway/data/html/functional_class.html

Deficiencies: The preceding County State Aid Highway inventory shows approximately 54% of the Wadena County State Aid Highway system is deficient in design speed, cross section, or structural capacity. This is down 22% from 1999 when the reported deficiencies were at 76%. There are approximately:

- 32.8 miles (14%) deficiencies in all three categories;
- 56.2 miles (25%) are deficient in two categories;
- 104.7 miles (46%) are NOT deficient in any of these categories.

Future County State Aid Highway projects will be programmed to continue to try to correct deficiencies as surface conditions deteriorate and as construction funds become available.

Means of Transportation to Work: Of the 6,288 persons in the civilian labor force in Wadena County the average length time it takes to travel to their employment is 22.5 minutes. This is very similar to the numbers generated in 1999 where the average travel time to work was between 20 and 24 minutes. Although the means by which this work force is traveling to their jobs has not changed, the numbers related to those means have changed. The chart below indicates numbers reported on the 2010 Census.

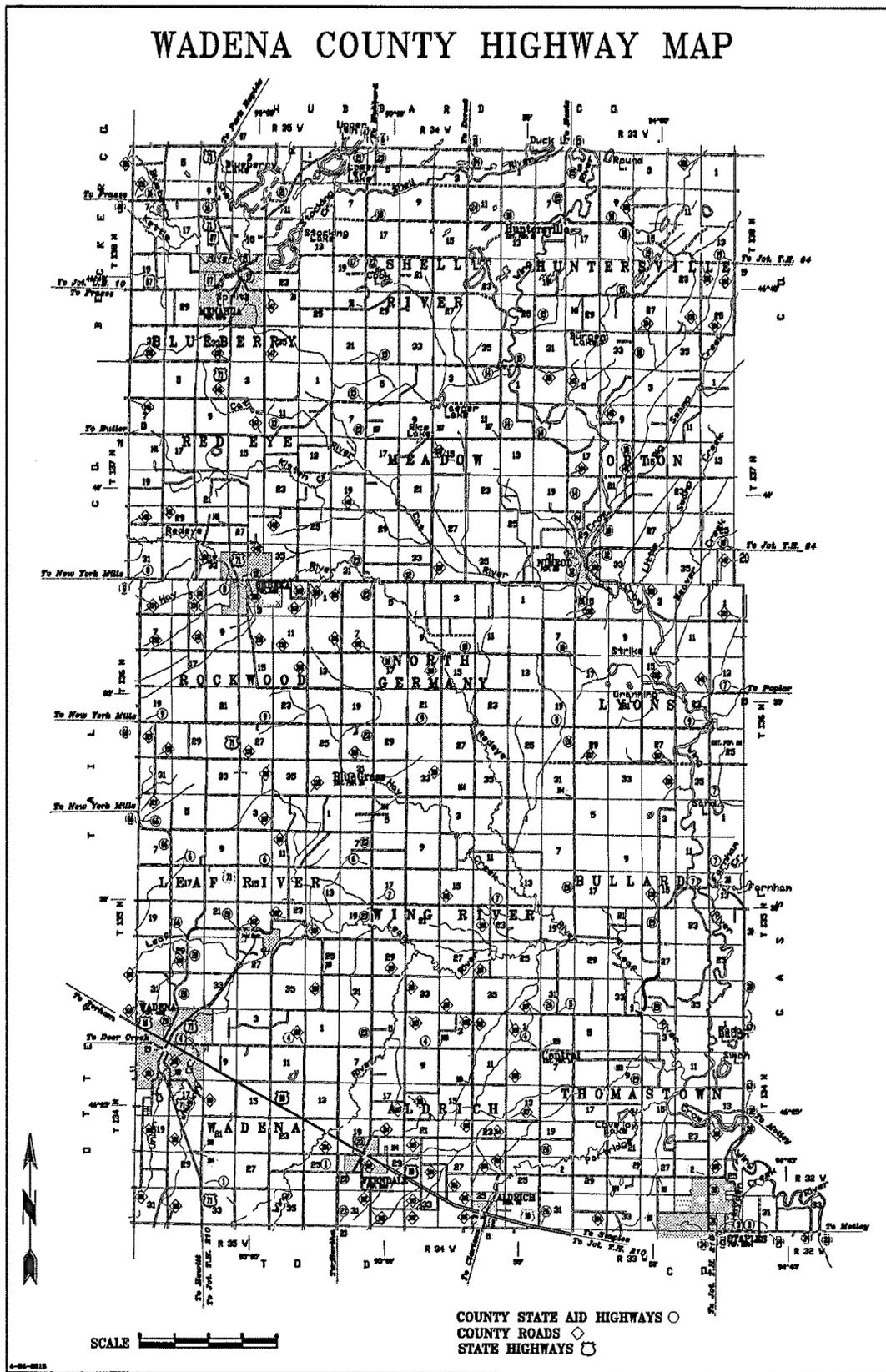
Table 20 - Method of Transportation to Work

Method of Transportation to Work	Number of Persons
Car, Truck, or Van (Alone)	4,471
Car, Truck, or Van (Carpooled)	646
Public Transportation	12
Walked	216
Other Means	69
Working at Home	417
Mean Travel Time to Work (Minutes)	22.5

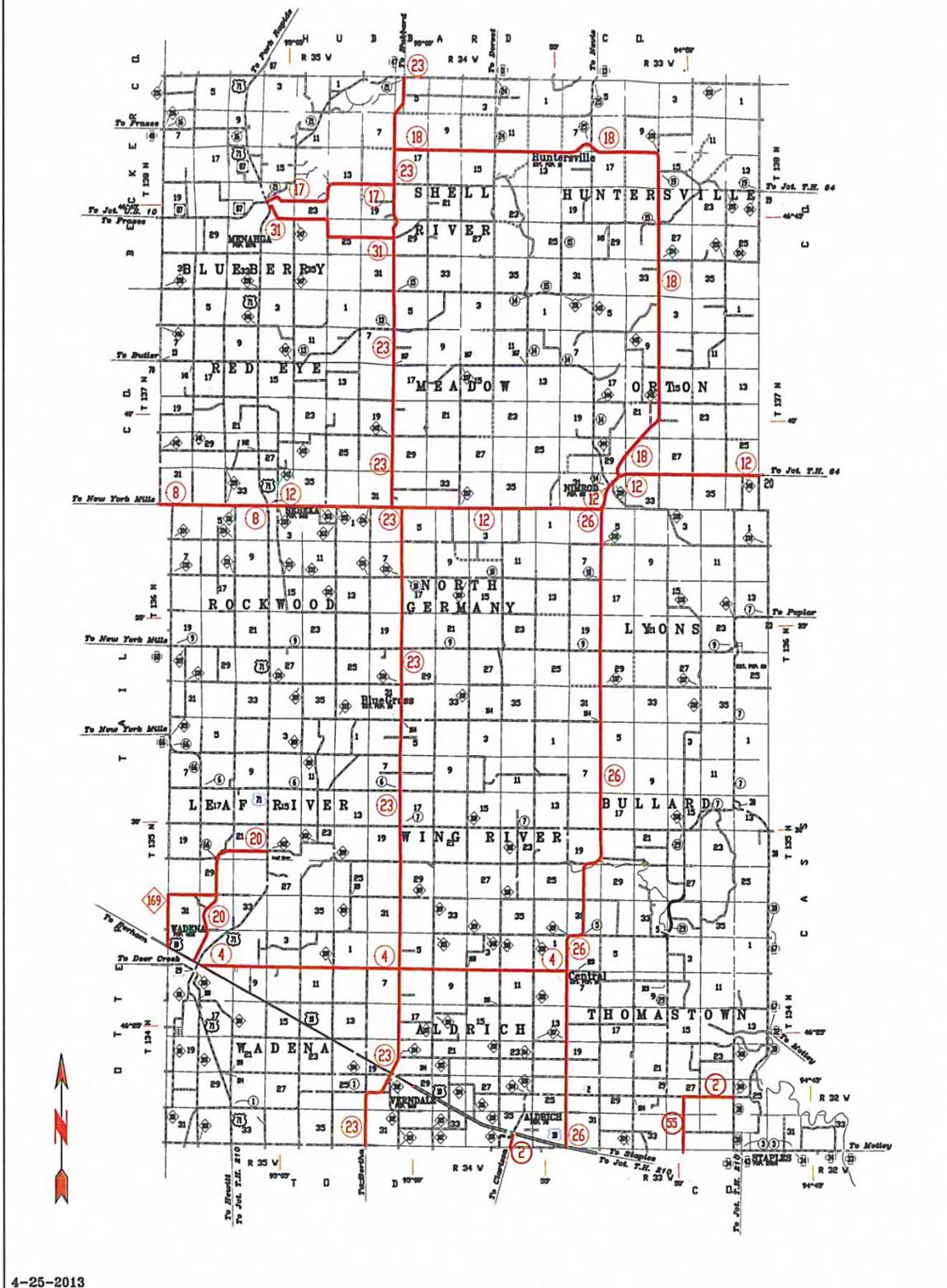
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Selected Economic Characteristics 2010

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t>

In contrast to numbers reported in 1999, 3,644 people drove to work alone, with 482 carpooling. 17 people used public transportation and 337 people walked to work. 71 people either rode a bicycle to work or used some other form of transportation and 625 people worked at their place of residence.

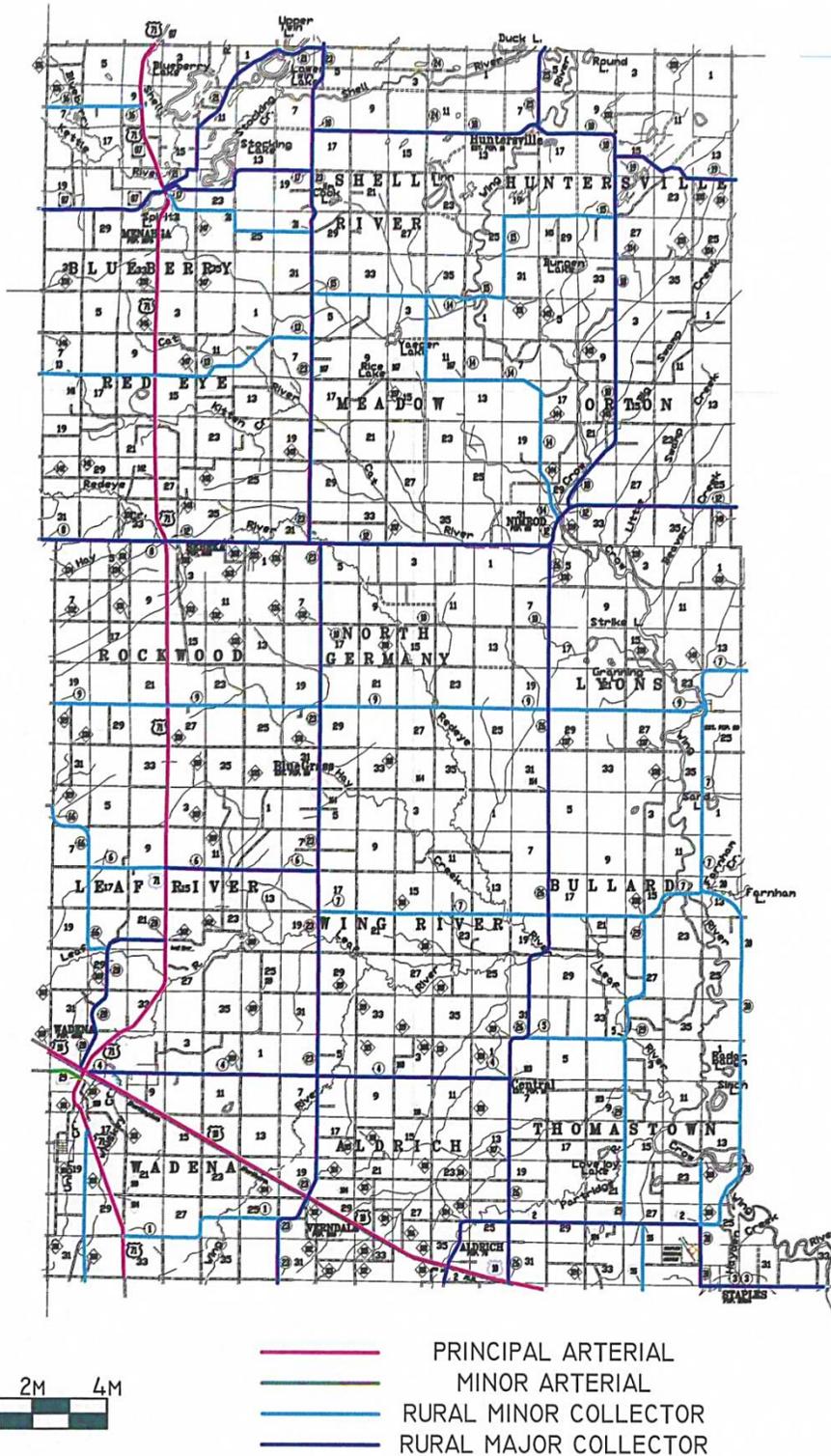


WADENA COUNTY CONCEPTUAL 10-TON SYSTEM



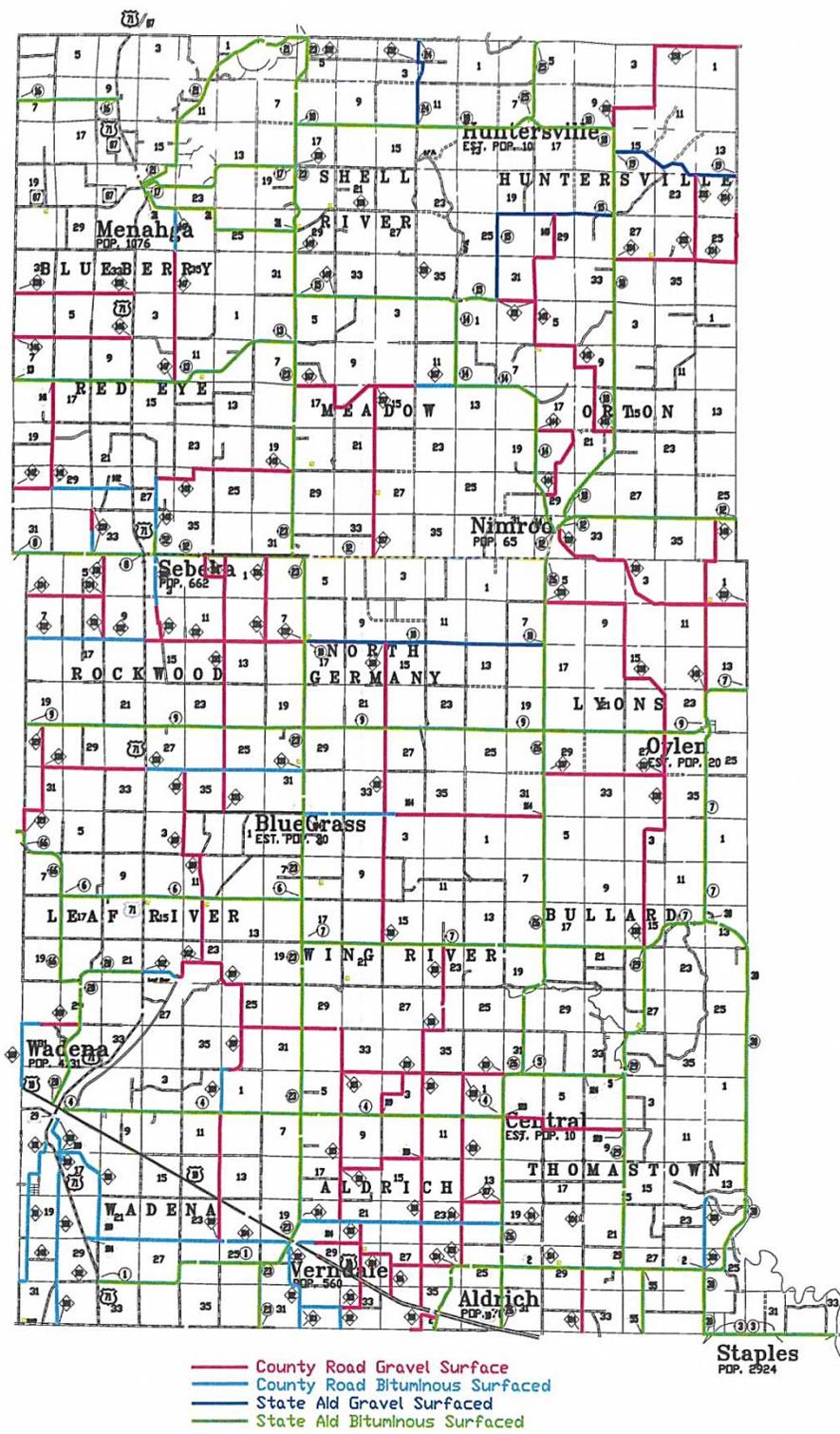
4-25-2013

WADENA COUNTY - CURRENT FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION



4/2013

WADENA COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM



4/25/2013

Section 8: Facilities & Services



Wadena County, though small, provides a host of services necessary to support the resident and business population within the County. Most of the information provided here was received from the municipalities within the county and the school districts whose facilities are housed within the boundaries of the County.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS

The school facilities that serve Wadena County are provided by the Independent School Districts (ISD):

Menahga Public School District #821

Facility Location: 216 Aspen Avenue
Menahga, MN 56464

Facility Contact Info: (218) 564-4141
www.menahga.k12.mn.us

Superintendent: Ms. Mary Klamm

Elementary Principal: Ms. Ariana Wright

High School Principal: Mr. Daniel Stifter

Elementary Enrollment: 553

High School Enrollment: 327 **Elementary Class Size:** 22 **High School Class Size:** 25

Avg. Teacher to Student Ratio: 1-15 **Students participating in Post-Secondary:** 20



Special Academic Programs

Menahga Public School promotes academic achievement through Project Lead the Way. This is a pre-engineering program in grades 5th, 7th, and 8th, with 9th through 12th grades elective. Grade 6 is slated to begin Project Lead the Way in 2014. They also offer a foreign language program in partnership with Rosetta Stone. Students may choose from 26 different languages. A suite of high school and college online learning opportunities are also provided for grades 10 through 12, and starting in 2013 grades 9 through 12 will participate in an initiative to incorporate iPads into the curriculum.

Extra-curricular Activities

Menahga Public School systems offer a wide variety of extra-curricular activities. These opportunities for students include:

- Future Farmers of America (FFA)
- Business Professionals of America (BPA)
- Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)
- Cross Country (paired with Sebeka)
- Football (paired with Sebeka)
- Girls Volleyball
- Wrestling (paired with Sebeka)
- Girls Basketball
- Boys Basketball
- Hockey (paired with Park Rapids)
- Knowledge Bowl
- Student Council
- National Honor Society
- Band
- Choir



Co-curricular:

- Spelling Bee
- History Day
- One Act Play
- FIRST Robotics Competition

Sebeka Public School District #820



Facility Location: 200 1st Street Northwest, Sebeka, MN 56477

Facility Contact Info: (218) 837-5101 or www.sebeka.k12.mn.us

Superintendent & K-12 Principal: Mr. David Fjeldheim

Assistant Principal & Activities Director: Mrs. Jill Walter

Elementary Enrollment: 245

High School Enrollment: 249 **Elementary Class Size:** 17 **High School Class Size:** 22

Avg. Teacher to Student Ratio: 1-17 Elementary & 1-22 High School

Students participating in Post-Secondary: 36

Percentage of Students Attending Post-Secondary after Graduation:
4 Year College – approx. 30% M-State Technical Colleges – approx. 75%

Special Academic Programs

Sebeka Public School offers the following in special academic programs & classes:

- Elective Art
- Criminal Justice
- College Algebra
- College Accounting
- Foreign Languages



- College Biology
- Pop Culture
- Political Science
- Contemporary Issues
- College Stats
- Desktop Publishing
- Robotics
- Anatomy
- Applied Physics
- College Political Science
- College Psychology
- College Economics
- Webpage
- College English
- Forensics
- Auto Cad



Extra-curricular Activities

Sebekka Public School systems offer a wide variety of extra-curricular activities. These opportunities for students include:

- Future Farmers of America (FFA)
- Business Professionals of America (BPA)
- Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)
- Cross Country (paired with Menahga)
- Football (paired with Menahga)
- Girls Volleyball
- Wrestling (paired with Menahga)
- Girls Basketball/Boys Basketball
- Hockey (paired with Wadena)
- Knowledge Bowl
- Student Council
- National Honor Society
- Drama
- Speech
- Cheerleading
- Baseball
- Softball
- Track
- Golf

Other special services offered at Sebeka Public School are:

- Targeted Services for elementary students and grades 7 and 8
- Math Masters for grades 5 and 6
- Grad Standards Remediation

Wadena-Deer Creek Public School District #2155-01



Facility Location: 600 Colfax Avenue Southwest, Wadena, MN 56482

Facility Contact Info: (218) 632-2155 or www.wdc2155.k12.mn.us

Superintendent: Mr. Lee Westrum

Kindergarten – 4 Principal: Mr. Louis Rutten

5-12 Principal: Mr. Tyler Church

Elementary Enrollment: K-4: 381 5-6: 145 Total: 526

High School Enrollment: 456 **Elementary Class Size:** 20 **High School Class Size:** 19

Avg. Teacher to Student Ratio: 1-11 Elementary w/Specialist & 1-16 High School w/Specialists

Students participating in Post-Secondary: 50

Percentage of Students Attending Post-Secondary after Graduation: 75%

Special Academic Programs:

Wadena-Deer Creek Public School promotes academic achievement through Project Lead the Way (PLTW) in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). This program offers 36 credits of concurrent coursework, which is college level, within the school.

Extra-curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities at Wadena-Deer Creek Schools include a wide variety of both athletic and academic related activities such as:

- Boosters
- Science Club
- Choir
- Student Council
- Yearbook
- Marching Band
- Drama
- Spanish Club
- Speech
- Peer Helpers
- Knowledge Bowl
- CHAMP
- Big Buddy
- LEO's Club (Lions)
- Yellow Ribbon/SADD
- Robotics
- Girls Volleyball
- Girls/Boys Tennis
- Football
- Girls/Boys Basketball
- Wrestling
- Danceline
- Cheerleading
- Baseball
- Softball
- Cross Country Running
- Girls/Boys Track
- Girls/Boys Golf
- Girls/Boys Hockey
- Weightlifting
- Special Olympics
- Cross-country Skiing (non-sport)
- Youth Badminton (non-sport)
- Project Friendship/Friends for Rachel
- Business Professionals of America
- National Honor Society
- Family Career & Community Leaders of America
- Future Farmers of America (FFA)



Verndale Public School District #818



Facility Location: 411 Southwest Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481

Facility Contact Info: (218) 445-5184 or www.verndale.k12.mn.us

Superintendent & K-4 Principal: Mr. Paul Brownlow

5-12 Principal & Assessment Coordinator: Mr. Thomas Riitters

Elementary Enrollment: 262 **High School Enrollment:** 223

Elementary Class Size: 38 **High School Class Size:** 37

Avg. Teacher to Student Ratio: 1:12

Students participating in Post-Secondary: 27

Percentage of Students Attending Post-Secondary after Graduation: 20

Extra-curricular Activities:

- Football
- Volleyball
- Wrestling
- Girls Basketball
- Boys Basketball
- Baseball
- Softball
- Track
- Cheerleading
- Summer Band
- Marching Band
- Color Guard

- School Play
- Speech
- Annual Staff
- SADD
- Knowledge Bowl
- FCCLA
- Driver's Training
- National Honor Society
- Student Council
- Future Farmers of America (FFA)



Staples-Motley Public School District #2177

Although the Staples-Motley Public School's buildings are not located within the boundaries of Wadena County, the school district itself is a part of the area of the county and is definitely considered as a service to residents within Wadena County whose children attend school there.

Facility Locations:

Motley Elementary & Staples- Motley Middle School

132 First Avenue, Motley, MN 56466

Facility Contact Information: (218) 352-6315 Phone

Principal: Mr. Justin Sperling

Staples Elementary School

1025 4th Street NE, Staples, MN 56479

Facility Contact Information: (218) 894-2433 Phone (218) 894-1545 Fax

Principal: Mr. Jason Luksik

Staples-Motley High School

401 Centennial Lane, Staples, MN 56479

Facility Contact Information: (218) 894-2431 Phone www.isd2170.k12.mn.us

Principal: Mr. Ryan Luft

Superintendent: Mr. Mark Schmitz

Current enrollment numbers: 1174

Average Class Size: 20

Avg. Teacher to Student Ratio: 1:20

Students participating in Post-Secondary: 15

Students Attending Post-Secondary after Graduation: 50 from the Class of 2012

Special Academic Programs:

Special academic programs offered to students attending Staples-Motley schools are: ITV, on-line classes, and College in the Schools

Extra-curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities at Staples-Motley Schools include a wide variety of both athletic and academic related activities such as:

- Football
- Volleyball
- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Wrestling
- Baseball
- Softball
- Track & Field
- Cross Country
- Girls Tennis
- Girls Swimming
- Boy & Girls Golf
- Knowledge Bowl
- Speech
- Orchestra
- Drama
- Choir
- Band
- Future Farmers of America (FFA)

Freshwater Education District 6004



Facility Location:

Office: 910 Ash Ave. NE, Wadena, MN 56482

Learning Centers located in Wadena County: 624 Jefferson St. North, Wadena, MN 56482
Menahga, MN 56466

Facility Contact Info: Wadena Office: (218) 631-3505 www.fed.K12.mn.us
Wadena Learning Center: (218) 631-2281
Menahga Learning Center: (218) 564-6115

Director: Mr. Jerald R. Nesland

Enrollment at Learning Centers: 50

Class Size: 11

Avg. Teacher to Student Ratio: 1:11

Students participating in Post-Secondary: 0

Number of Students Attending Post-Secondary after Graduation: 4

Special Academic Programs – Freshwater offers independent study in a quiet, supervised environment to students at risk of not graduating.



Freshwater Education District's Wadena Learning Center

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Central Lakes College – Staples Campus



Facility Location: 1830 Airport Road, Staples, MN 56477

Facility Contact Information: (218)
894-5100 or (800) 247-
6836 www.clcmn.edu

President: Dr. Larry A. Lundblad

Interim Dean of Students and Career & Tech Programs: Dr. Wendy Schluender

Central Lakes College provides education in career and college transfer programs, provides continuing and customized training offerings, and offers a broad array of student life activities including athletics, student organizations, music, and theater. CLC is rapidly developing on-line programs to meet the needs of students. Central Lakes College partners with over 30 school districts in the region to offer “college in the school” options to high school students.



Central Lakes College – West Campus at Staples, MN

Minnesota State Community and Technical College (M-State)



Facility Location: 405 SW Colfax, Wadena, MN 56482

Facility Contact Information: (218) 631-7821 www.minnesota.edu/wadena

President: Dr. Peggy Kennedy

Senior Dean of Students: Monty Johnson

M-State in Wadena has an enrollment of around 707 students on campus, with an additional 258 students using the convenience of on-line courses offered through the school. Class sizes are approximately 17 students and a student to teacher ratio of approximately 17:1. They currently have around 35 high school students participating in a post-secondary education option for the fall semester and 42 during the spring semester.

M-State in Wadena is affiliated with four other campuses located in Fergus Falls, Detroit Lakes, and Moorhead, as well as their on-line campus. They offer a variety of sports and assorted arts programs via their Fergus Falls Campus.

The Wadena campus offers 23 career programs and the University Transfer (Associate of Arts) degree that allows students to complete the first two years of a four-year degree at M-State. The college's Electrical Line Worker program also offers a diploma program in the northern Minnesota community of Baudette.

Additionally, the campus has a Nursing Club, Student Senate, and a chapter of SkillsUSA (a national career preparation organization). Student life activities include organized ski trips, sponsored student trips, musical performances on campus and community service activities.

Scholarships are available through the Wadena Area College Foundation.

HEALTH CARE

Hospitals

Tri County Health Care System
415 Jefferson St. N.
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-3510
(800) 631-1811
Fax (218) 631-7503
www.tricountyhospital.org

Lakewood Health System
49725 County Rd. 83
Staples, MN 56479
(218) 894-1515
(800) 525-1033
Fax (218) 894-8581
www.lakewoodhealthsystem.com

Clinics

Wadena Medical Center
4 Deerwood Ave. NE
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-1100
(800) 631-1811
Fax (218) 631-7571
www.tricountyhospital.org

Lakewood Clinic
49725 County Rd 83
Staples, MN 56479
(218) 894-1515
(800) 525-1033
Fax (218) 894-8581
www.lakewoodhealthsystem.com

Sebeka Medical Clinic
(Tri County Health Care)
106 Minnesota Ave. E.
Sebeka, MN 56477
(218) 837-5333
Fax (218) 837-5944
www.tricountyhospital.org

Essentia Health Clinic
212 Aspen Ave. NE
Menahga, MN 56464
(218) 564-4131
Fax (218) 564-5827
www.essentiahealth.org

ELDERLY CARE SERVICES

Nursing Homes

Fair Oaks Lodge Inc.
201 Shady Lane Dr.
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-1391
Fax (218) 632-5028
www.fairoakslodge.org

Lakewood Care Center
401 Prairie Ave. NE
Staples, MN 56479
(218) 894-8345
Fax (218) 894-8353
www.lakewoodhealthsystem.com

Green Pine Acres
(Greenwood Connections)
427 Main St. NE
Menahga, MN 56474
(218) 564-4101
Fax (218) 564-5309
www.greenwoodconnections.com

Assisted Living

Comfort Care Cottage
1232 Jefferson St. S
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-4873

Little Bit Of Country
813 Harmony Lane
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-7105

Fair Oaks Apartments
131 Shady Lane Drive
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-1163

Woodside Manor
(Greenwood Connections)
427 Main St. NE
Menahga, MN 56474
(218) 564-4101

Rose Haven Assist Living
37 6th St. SE
Menahga, MN 56464
(218) 564-4268

Fax (218) 564-5309
www.greenwoodconnections.com

Heritage House of Sebeka
1005 Wells Ave. SW
Sebeka, MN 56477
(218) 837-6406
www.heritagehouseofmn.com

Home Health Care Services

Caring Hands Home Care, Inc.
113 Minnesota Ave. W
Sebeka, MN 56477
(218) 837-5572
Fax (218) 837-6155

Lakewood Health System
Home Care & Hospice
401 Prairie Ave. NE
Staples, MN 56479
(218) 894-8080
Fax (218) 894-8353

Legacy Home Health & Hospice
201 Shady Lane Dr.
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 632-1335
Fax (218) 632-1336
www.legacyofwadena.org

www.lakewoodhealthsystem.com

Mental Health Care

Treatment Centers

Bell Hill Recovery Center
12214 200th St.
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-3610
www.bellhill.org

Library

Wadena City Library –
 Kitchigami Regional Library System
 304 1st Street SW
 Wadena, MN 56482
 Phone: (218) 631-2476
 Fax: (218) 632-5029
www.krls.org



Wadena City Library

The Wadena City Library was built in 1984 and covers 4,000 square feet. Previously, there was a meeting room that held up to 25 people within the library but a demand for more children's area and the lack of use of the meeting room eliminated that room and it was opened up to expand the children's area of the library. The total collection at the library is around 34,985 items which include: books, videos, sound cassettes, CD's, computer programs, toys, and magazines. The library has 11 computer terminals with internet capabilities, 3 terminals with access to their card catalog and several search engines, and, through a contract with 3M, have added e-audio, e-reader books, and much more. This is the only public library in Wadena County and in 2012 it had a total checkout number of 5,205. As it is part of the Kitchigami Regional Library System, whose headquarters are in Pine River, MN, the Wadena City Library had previously been able to service the rest of the county through bi-weekly stops by the Book Mobile to Nimrod, Sebeka, and Menahga. In 2012, the Book Mobile had 1517 checkouts in Nimrod, 976 checkouts in Sebeka, and 5,788 checkouts in Menahga. The Regional Library System has also begun servicing the county by the use of e-books and through book bins situated throughout the county for physical books. These techniques are being explored as options in lieu of the Book Mobile bi-weekly stops because funding for the library and its operations has been reduced and beginning in 2014 the Book Mobile will no longer be making stops out in the county.

Public Transit

The Friendly Rider

124 1st Street SE
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-5730

Wadena County provides public transit services through the Friendly Rider Transit, a bus service managed by Wadena County Human Services. Friendly Rider Transit began operation in 2003. It currently provides daily services in Wadena and Staples with weekly or monthly trips to other parts of Wadena County and Northern Todd County. In 2012, Friendly Rider transported over 52,000 individuals.



Wadena County Public Transit – The Friendly Rider Bus

Fares for these services are presently:

- \$1.25 per ride for trips of less than two miles
- \$2.50 per ride for trips from 2-9 miles
- \$3.75 per ride for trips over 9 miles

Booklets of 12 tickets are \$12.50, a savings of \$2.50 with monthly passes also available for \$30. These prices are, of course subject to change with each yearly budget.

Solid Waste & Recycling

Wadena County offers a wide variety of waste disposal and recycling opportunities through its Solid Waste and Recycling Department. A transfer station, located at 10542 170th Street, Wadena, was newly constructed and fully operational in October, 1999, and is now operated by the County. The original purpose of the transfer station was to provide local haulers with a site within the County in which to dispose of the waste collected by their packer trucks,



Wadena County Transfer Station & Recycling Center



Oil Recycling Shelter at the Transfer Station

rather than transport it to another County's transfer station at a higher cost. The waste is then hauled by semi-trailer loads to the Perham Resource Recovery Facility or to a Waste Management owned sanitary landfill where it is properly disposed.

The Transfer Station also serves as the hub for the recycling program in the county. Recyclables are collected at this site not only from residents but also from recycling containers strategically placed around the county for collection of recyclables from rural Wadena County. Presently, recyclables, except for cardboard, are co-

mingled and taken to a Waste Management Recycling facility in the twin cities. Besides recycling, the Transfer Station offers Household Hazardous Waste collection, recycling of electronics, receiving of scrap metal (not for payment), used oil collection, and demolition landfill services. A complete listing of items accepted and fees attached to each of these collections can be found under the Solid Waste Department at www.co.wadena.mn.us.

Rural garbage collection services can be obtained in any part of Wadena County through commercial haulers.

Law Enforcement and Fire Protection



Law Enforcement

The Wadena County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement services throughout the county and extends services also to those cities which do not employ their own police departments. The Sheriff's Department and Jail is based at the Wadena County Courthouse located at 415 Jefferson Street South, in Wadena.

Although the County Sheriff's Department provides the hub for all law enforcement services, the Cities of Menahga, Sebeka, Verndale, and Wadena staff and budget for their own Police Department. Police services are also budgeted and staffed by the City of Staples for that portion of Staples located in Wadena County. The various Police Departments, the State Patrol, and the Sheriff's Department often assist each other and work together toward the greater good of the county and the protection of its residents.

[Fire Protection, Rescue, & EMS Ambulance Services](#)

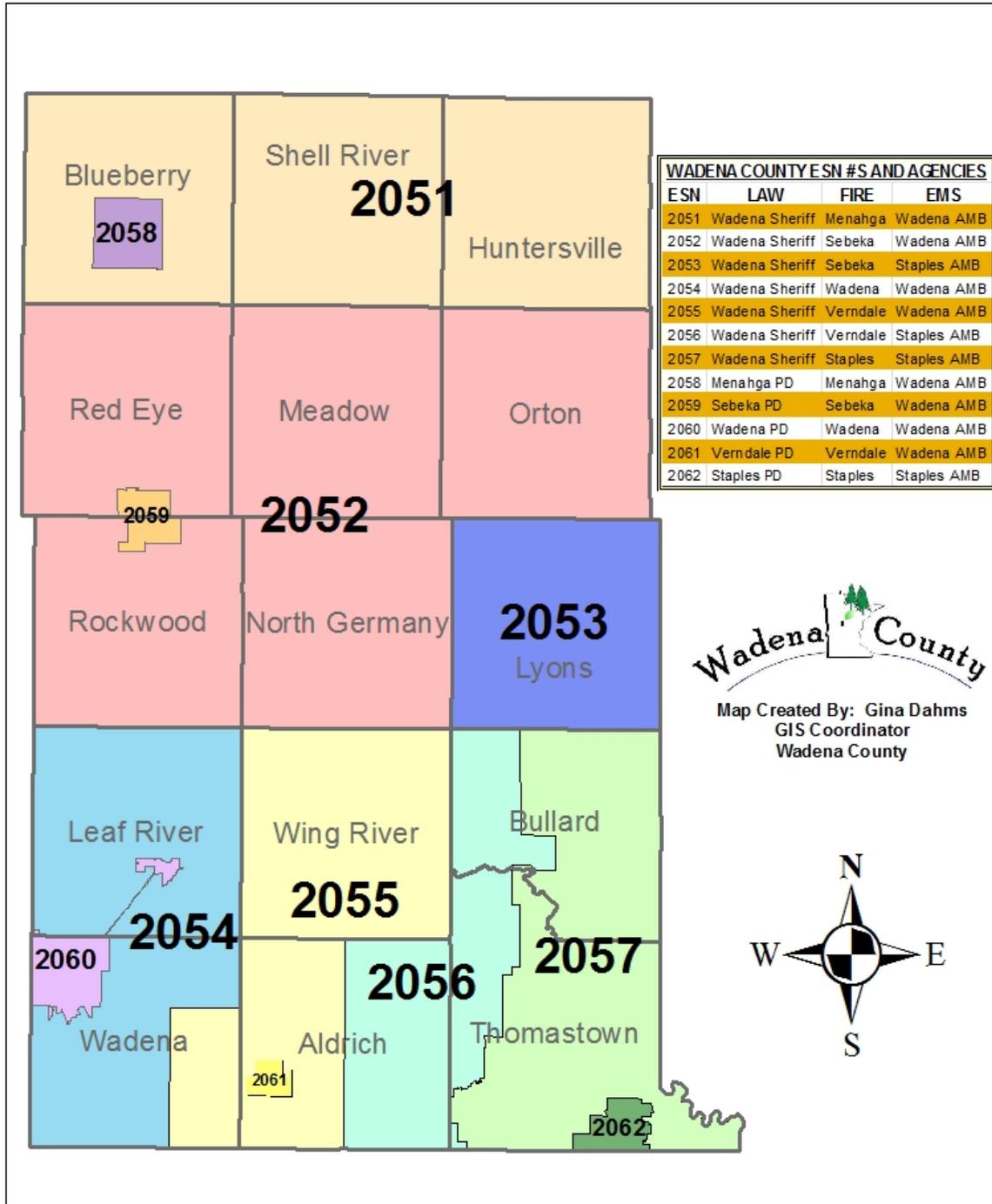
Fire protection is realized through established Volunteer Fire Departments located in each of the four larger cities of Menahga, Sebeka, Verndale, and Wadena, and also including the City of Staples. Each department also has first response teams who respond and are usually the first people on sight when an accident or medical call is made for help. Each volunteer fire department covers the rural areas designated to them, providing outstanding fire and rescue services throughout the county.

Like the local law enforcement, these fire departments often work together to battle blazes and to provide rescue services whenever the need arises.

The majority of ambulance service is provided through Tri County Hospital EMS in Wadena and Ambulance Service of Staples, also providing excellent triage and first response.

The map on the following page provides information depicting the different Emergency Services zones and the providers for each zone.

WADENA COUNTY 911 EMERGENCY




 Map Created By: Gina Dahms
 GIS Coordinator
 Wadena County



Churches of Wadena County

Aldrich

First Congregation Church of Aldrich
262 Central Ave. S

Balsamlund Lutheran Church (ELCA)
19550 490th St.

Menahga Area

Assumption of Our Lady Catholic Church
113 Aspen Ave. NW

Bethany Lutheran Church (LCMC)
52943 140th St.

First English Lutheran (LCMC)
17 Main St. NW

United Methodist Church
18 4th St. SW

Redeemer Lutheran Church
15 12th St. SE

West Side Laestadian Lutheran
25 Juniper Ave. NW

Assembly of God Church
37863 US Hwy 71

Nimrod Area

Nimrod Lutheran Church
28134 Co. Rd. 26

Sebeka Area

The Old Country Church
19973 145th Ave.

Bethany Free Lutheran Church
21987 Co. Rd. 23

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
401 2nd St. SE

Grace Lutheran Church
500 Wells Ave. NW

United Methodist Church
100 Jefferson Ave. S

Friends Of Christ Lutheran Church
305 5th St. SW

Staples Area

Thomastown Covenant Church
15940 251st Ave.

Verndale Area

Family Life Church of The
Assemblies of God
402 Clark Dr. NE

Bethany Free Lutheran
21987 Co. Rd. 23, Bluegrass

St. Hubert Catholic Church
22008 Co. Rd. 23, Bluegrass

St. Frederick Catholic Church
20 Mason Ave. W

Hope Chapel Alliance, Inc.
18126 Co. Rd. 7

Central United Methodist
15384 Co. Rd. 26

Christian & Missionary Alliance
Church of Verndale
106 Farwell St.

United Methodist Church
213 Farwell St. S

Wadena

Assembly of God Church
421 1st St. NW

First Missionary Baptist
222 First St. NE

St. Ann's Catholic Church
512 1st St. SE

The Church of Christ
509 King Ave. SW

Wadena Evangelical Church
421 2nd St. NE

St. Helen's Episcopal Church
24 Dayton Ave. SW

First Congregational United
Church of Christ
110 Colfax Ave. SW

Zion Free Lutheran Church
602 Jefferson St. S

Seventh Day Adventist Church
14711 125th Ave.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
403 2nd St. SE

St. John Lutheran Church
710 Franklin Ave. SW

United Methodist Church
23 Dayton Ave. SE

Christian Missionary & Alliance Church
1428 Jefferson St. S

Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Hall
625 3rd St. NW

Southbrook Baptist Church
1842 2nd St. SW

Other Available Services

Municipal Water and Sewer

The cities of Menahga, Sebeka, Verndale, Wadena, and that portion of the City of Staples located in Wadena all provide sanitary sewer and water services to most of the extent of their city limits. In the areas not linked to the city sanitary or water lines, private wells and onsite septic systems may be permitted according to the County's Sub-Surface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) Ordinances. The cities of Nimrod and Aldrich are served by private wells and onsite septic systems.

Table 21: Wadena County Community Water Systems

Wadena County Community Water Systems							
Water System Name	Population Served	Primary Water Source Type	Storage Capacity	Pumping Capacity	Average Demand	Peak Demand	Water System ID
Bell Hill Recovery Center	100	Ground Water	-	-	-	-	MN1800005
Menahga	1220	Ground Water	205,000 gal	300 gal/min	84,500 gal/day	180,000 gal/day	MN1800001
Sebeka	710	Ground Water	50,000 gal	250 gal/min	124,000 gal/day	262,500 gal/day	MN1800002
Verndale	575	Ground Water	55,000 gal	250 gal/min	50,334 gal/day	83,000 gal/day	MN1800003
Staples	3104 (314 in Wadena)	Ground Water	-	-	-	-	MN1770011
Wadena	4294	Ground Water	500,000 gal	1,830 gal/min	665,740 gal/day	1,627,200 gal/day	MN1800004

Source: 2012 Wadena County Hazard Mitigation Plan, Waterworks

http://www.co.wadena.mn.us/county_directory/emergency_manage/PDFs/Hazard%20Plan%20Revision%20072307-Public.pdf

The cities of Wadena, Verndale, and Staples have all developed and adopted Well Head Protection Plans in a proactive effort to minimize the vulnerability of their public water supply wells. Well Head Protection Plans for the cities of Sebeka and Menahga are in the beginning stages of planning and should be completed sometime in 2013-2014.

Table 22: Wadena County Storm and Waste Water

Wadena County Storm and Waste Water							
Community	Storm Supply	Sanitary Sewer / Discharge	Sewer Discharge	Treatment Type	Capacity	Average	Peak
Aldrich	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Menahga	Yes	Yes, Spirit Lake & Blueberry River	Yes, Yaeger Lake	Pond System	111,000 gal/day	85,000 gal/day	120,000 gal/day
Nimrod	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sebeka	Yes	Yes, Red Eye River	Yes	Pond System	432,000 gal/day	100,000 gal/day	200,000 gal/day
Verndale	Yes	Yes, Wing River	Yes	Pond System	83,500 gal/day	82,795 gal/day	170,000 gal/day
Staples	Yes	Yes, Hayden Creek	Yes	Mechanical System	-	-	-
Wadena	Yes	Yes, Union Creek	Yes	Mechanical System	1,000,000 gal/day	500,000 gal/day	750,000 gal/day

Source: 2012 Wadena County Hazard Mitigation Plan, Waterworks

http://www.co.wadena.mn.us/county_directory/emergency_manage/PDFs/Hazard%20Plan%20Revision%20072307-Public.pdf

Electric and Gas Services

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, Itasca Mantrap Electric Cooperative, and Minnesota Power and Light provide the electrical utilities that supply Wadena County with power for its residents, business, and industry. Natural gas service for properties with access to it is provided by Northern Minnesota Utilities. The City of Wadena is unique in that it provides electrical services to city residents and business. They are a member of the Missouri River Electric services, which is their exclusive provider.

Postal Services

Rural mail delivery is customary in Wadena County. Each city has a post office serving post office box customers as well as the rural route deliveries for their areas. Nimrod is the only city that no longer has a post office.

Banking & Finance

Each city is host to, at least, one bank and lending institution, with multiple institutions in most of the cities. In addition, there are a number of finance and investment agencies located throughout the cities in Wadena County.

Gas, Groceries, Restaurant, & Mercantile

From most areas of the county residents are within 20 miles or less of everyday needs such as gas, groceries and basic mercantile items such as hardware, other household items, and farm supplies. In addition, specialty shops and other privately owned service oriented businesses are also conveniently located in the different towns within the county. A number of eating establishments mark the County from Huntersville to Aldrich and every town in between with a wide variety of menus and venues.

Wadena County is home to Senior Citizen organizations serving most areas of the county, as well as many civic organizations in which residents may participate such as: Booster Clubs, Lions Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, Veterans of Foreign Wars clubs, Legion Club organizations, Farm Bureau, Cattlemen's Associations, and 4-H organizations scattered around the County, to name a few.

SECTION 9: Parks and Recreation



COUNTY

Wadena County is well known for the beautiful Crow Wing River Canoe Trail. Its name has its origin with the Chippewa Indians; they called it “Kagiwegwon”, or “Raven’s Wing”. The river winds its way through the County from north to south, beginning at the Blueberry Bridge northeast of Menahga and exiting the County at the very southeasterly corner just west of the City of Staples. There are 14 campsites located along the trail and spaced at convenient intervals to accommodate all levels of canoeing enthusiasts and tubers. There are no dams or portages to obstruct the flow and no charging rapids to navigate, so travel is very enjoyable at whatever pace you choose, and is generally uninterrupted so long as the water stays at a normal level. The average current is about 3 miles per hour, however, this may vary depending on wind direction and speed, as well as the level of the water. All but one campground are “first come, first served” and are primitive, but offer some amenities in that there are outhouses, hand-pumped water sources, fire rings, and picnic tables. Campfire wood is supplied at the County operated campgrounds only. A quiet, picturesque, family oriented setting is what you will find at each of these primitive but peaceful campgrounds.

SHELL CITY CAMPGROUND

Once the location of a flourishing factory which made buttons from the shells of fresh water clams, this campsite is the first in the long line of campgrounds along the Crow Wing River in Wadena County. This campsite is also adjacent to many miles of horseback riding trails in the Huntersville State Forest. Shell City Campground is owned and operated by the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources. From here it is approximately 6 miles to the next campground on the river.



TREE FARM LANDING CAMPGROUND



This campground was formerly part of the surrounding Potlatch Paper Company. In October of 2007, the County did a land exchange with Potlatch Corporation to add 17 acres to the campground for future campsite expansion, as well as to allow more area for

walking and hiking trails. The forested area at the Tree Farm Landing is managed by the Department of Natural Resources – Forestry Division and sports a very picturesque view of the river from above while the campsites are located on the flat next to the river with a calm, generally shallow, and sandy swimming area and place to launch tubes and canoes. Another attraction at the Tree Farm Landing is a memorial placed at the Tree Farm during the summer of 2010, recognizing long-time supporter of the Crow Wing River Trail, John Rife, Sr. for his contribution in getting the designation for the canoe trail. From here it is approximately 3.5 miles to the next campground.



HUNTERSVILLE TOWNSHIP & BIG BEND CAMPGROUNDS



Huntersville Township campground is a small, privately owned campground accessible to the public which is .75 miles upstream from the Big Bend Campground which is accessible only from the river. Big Bend is a relatively small campground as well and is owned by the State of Minnesota. From Big Bend it is 2.75 miles to the next campground.

HUNTERSVILLE FOREST CAMPGROUND

Located in the heart of the Huntersville State Forest, this campground is also along the Crow Wing River and offers a great place to put in, and take out, canoes and tubes from the river as it winds through the forest. This campground is owned and operated by the State of Minnesota and also offers miles and miles of old logging trails for hiking.



ANDERSON'S CROSSING CAMPGROUND

Lying to the north of Nimrod, this campground was once an Indian crossing, that was later named for a pioneer settler, and is the beginning of the Butterfield Rapids. Despite the name, these rapids are a short series of rippling water posing little to no threat as it is navigated by tubers and canoeists. Surrounded by over 100 acres of County-owned land, this campsite not only allows access to the river, but also to a number of trails for walking and hiking. It is 5 miles to the next available landing.



STIGMAN'S MOUND PARK

Located in the little town of Nimrod, Stigman's Mound Park was originally established by the Nimrod Grange organization, and is now owned by the County. It is named for Dick Stigman, who was raised in Nimrod, and later went on to play professional baseball and pitch for the Minnesota Twins. This little park does not offer overnight camping but hosts a good sized shelter for family picnics and outdoor organizational meetings, and outhouses are available. Canoes cannot be landed at this site, however they can be landed across the river from this picnic area and access to the park gained by walking across the bridge. From here it is 1 mile to the next available landing.



FRAME'S LANDING CAMPGROUND



Down river one mile from Nimrod is the 14 acre County campground named for one of Nimrod's first citizens. In the early 1940's a Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) camp was set up in this location. This popular campground on the river is a terrific place for swimming with its sandy bottom and gentle current. From here it is 6 miles to the next available landing.

LITTLE WHITE DOG CAMPGROUND



Legend has it that this former Indian lookout point was used for Indian gatherings and ceremonies that honored the Indian deities. Regardless of the legend, this landing on the river will provide you with a beautiful and vast view of the river. This campground is somewhat more remote. From this County-owned campground it is approximately 5.5 miles to the next available landing.

KNOB HILL CAMPGROUND

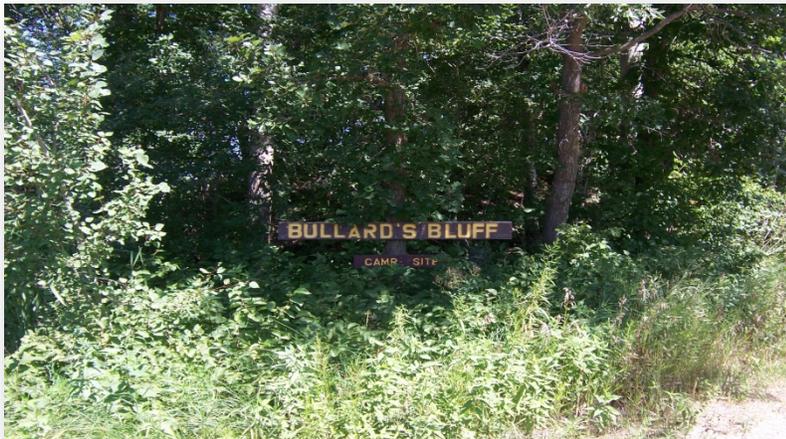


This unique County-owned campground has an upper and a lower level for camping. The lower level allows a panoramic view of the river accessed by the gently descending rustic stairway. The upper level, while providing access to the river via the stairway, is surrounded by forest and really gives the effect of camping in the woods. A popular place for tubers to get on the water, it is approximately 3 miles to the next available landing.

COTTINGHAM PARK CAMPGROUND

Cottingham is a very popular park for picnicking and swimming. It is part of a 56 acre property owned by Wadena County with trails for walking. A through trail from Cottingham Park to Bullard's Bluff Park provides approximately 2.5 miles of nature walking, horseback riding, ATV riding, and hiking. Cottingham is also unique in that it has campsites available for accommodating horse

enthusiasts. Located just to the south of Wahoo Valley, this is also a popular spot for landing tubes and canoes. From here it is 5.5 miles to the next available landing.



BULLARD'S BLUFF CAMPGROUND

Although easily accessed by the river, Bullard's Bluff Campground can be found at the end of a mile long low maintenance road that winds through the woods and the wetlands. Called Hog Haven in early Wadena County history, this area was known for the wild

hogs that inhabited it. This remote campground and park offers a view from above while easily being able to land a canoe or take tubes off the water. From here it is 5 miles to the next available landing.



OLD WADENA PARK CAMPGROUND



Between the mouths of the Leaf and the Partridge Rivers, you will find this history-filled campsite. In 1783, the fur traders built the Crow Wing's first trading post on the "little round hill", which means Wadena in the Chippewa language. A great battle was fought here between the voyagers and the Sioux Indians over the prized hunting ground; and, while history records say the voyagers won this battle, it was also noted that it was 9 years before the traders returned to the Crow Wing River country. This is also the first townsite for the City of Wadena, and also where the Red River Ox Cart trail crosses the Crow Wing River. This is the only park in the County's park system that may be reserved for a party. It boasts a large open area with plenty of shade for family reunions and weddings, a small shelter, and electricity that can be accessed by request if the park is reserved. There are numerous trails for walking to enjoy and a foot bridge that crosses over the Leaf River to access the little round hill site. Another interesting draw to the park is the Old Wadena Society's Bogwalk. Constructed of donated docking sections and secured by metal pilings driven deep into the mire, this offers an interesting and educational opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of the wetland while walking through it. The Old Wadena Society's Rendezvous is hosted at Old Wadena Park the 2nd weekend in August annually. From here it is 1.5 miles downstream to the next available landing.

MCGIVERN PARK CAMPGROUND



McGivern Park marks the end of the designated Crow Wing River Canoe Trail that winds its way through Wadena County. This quaint little park with its mix of hardwoods and pine is also the home of the Staples Sportsmen's Club and Shooting Range. With its close proximity to the City of Staples, McGivern Park is used often for picnicking and other small gatherings.

THE CROW WING WILDERNESS SADDLE AND SNOWMOBILE TRAIL

With 31 miles of developed trails for saddle horses lying along the Crow Wing River Canoe Trail, this particular trail has become quite popular. Campsites at Shell City and the Huntersville State Forest provide overnight accommodations for horse enthusiasts. The trail doubles as a snowmobile trail in the wintertime with the added miles and miles of old logging trails that pattern the state forest.



In addition to the Crow Wing Wilderness Saddle and Snowmobile Trail, Wadena County has about 150 miles of additional snowmobile trails throughout its boundaries that are mapped and marked. These trails are groomed and maintained by the Wadena County Trail Breakers, Inc., snowmobile club.

Included in this section on the following pages are maps depicting the Crow Wing River Canoe Trail, the Wadena County Snowmobile Trails, Off-Highway Vehicle and All-Terrain Vehicle Trails in Huntersville State Forest, and Horseback Trails and State Forest Roads through Huntersville State Forest.

Township & City Parks and Recreation in Wadena County

Blueberry Township

Blueberry Township located at 37493 US Highway 71, Menahga, offers 40 acres with two walking trails: a one mile and a one quarter mile. This is also a hot spot for Wi-Fi.

Aldrich

Aldrich City Park, located at 348 Central Ave. S offers picnicking and a basketball court.

Menahga

Memorial Garden, located at 825 Aspen Ave. SW, has a pavilion surrounded by flower beds, shrubs and trees which offers visitors a beautiful setting in which to relax. Campsites and restrooms are available here as well.

Spirit Lake Public Access

Beautiful Spirit Lake with its white sugar sand beach is a favorite place in the summertime. The swimming beach has lifeguards on duty and swimming lessons are available. A large T-shape fishing pier is available for public use and there is a public boat access with a courtesy dock near the pier.

Menahga also offers tennis and basketball courts.

Nimrod

The Swimmn' Hole, located on the south side of the bridge on St. Hwy. 227, offers swimming access to the river as well as a small playground for children.

Nimrod is also home to Stigman Baseball Field and the Nimrod Gnats.

Sebeka

Sebeka City Park, located on US Hwy 71 South, offers overnight camping sites with full hook ups and showers. Shelters and seating are available in the park which also offers horseshoe pits, Frisbee golf, and a playground. Seasonal rates and reservations are available.

Town Square Park, located at 200 Minnesota Avenue W, though small, offers beautiful flower gardens, some seating, and even a fountain.

Sebeka also has a public swimming pool that is popular during the months of June, July, and August and is manned by a certified lifeguard at all times when it is open.

Verndale

McNair Park, located on 1st Ave S., offers a railroad theme with restrooms, playground and picnic area.

Verndale is also home to Anderson Park Baseball Field with concessions and restrooms available.

Wadena – Wadena County Portion of the City

Sunnybrook Park is located at 951 Sunnybrook Road and 210 Harry Rich Drive. This beautiful park features fishing (age 0-16 & 65 and older) in Whiskey Creek, (stocked with rainbow trout, crappies, and sunfish), picnic area, children's playground, semi-enclosed shelters, campground area with full hook-up and tent sites, two camping cabins, showers, frisbee golf, volleyball area and a children's zoo, which includes buffalo, whitetail deer, peacocks, and golden pheasants.

Northside Playground, located at 600 1st St. NW, offers a bicycle and skateboard track, picnic tables, playground, basketball, ice rink and warming house.

Ehlen Park, located at 716 3rd St. SE, offers playground, basketball and softball field.

Southwest Athletic Park, located at 310 7th St. SW, offers a playground, picnic area, shelters, tennis courts, softball fields, basketball and restrooms.

Burlington Northern Park, located at Aldrich Ave. SW, offers picnic area and restored Historic Depot Visitor Center.

Tapley Park, located at 617 Lincoln Ave. SW, offers playground, shelter, restrooms, basketball and soccer fields.

Southwest Complex, located at 1701 2nd St. SW, offers softball fields, horseshoes, shelter with restrooms, sledding hill.

Leaf River Bike Trail - Take in nature's beauty and enjoy the abundant wildlife and birds along the recreation trail that begins at Sunnybrook park and winds its way through a wetland area with 3.5 miles of recently resurfaced blacktop (map is included at the end of Section 9).

Staples – Wadena County Portion of the City

Wilson Park is located in the 100 block of Park Avenue.

Lakewood Park is located at the intersection of 4th Street and Prairie Avenue.

In addition to all the parks and trails offered in Wadena County, there are also three golf courses located in Wadena County:

Whitetail Run Golf Course

Located at 13379 Leaf River Road, Wadena, MN, offering 18 holes, carts, clubhouse, and pro shop.

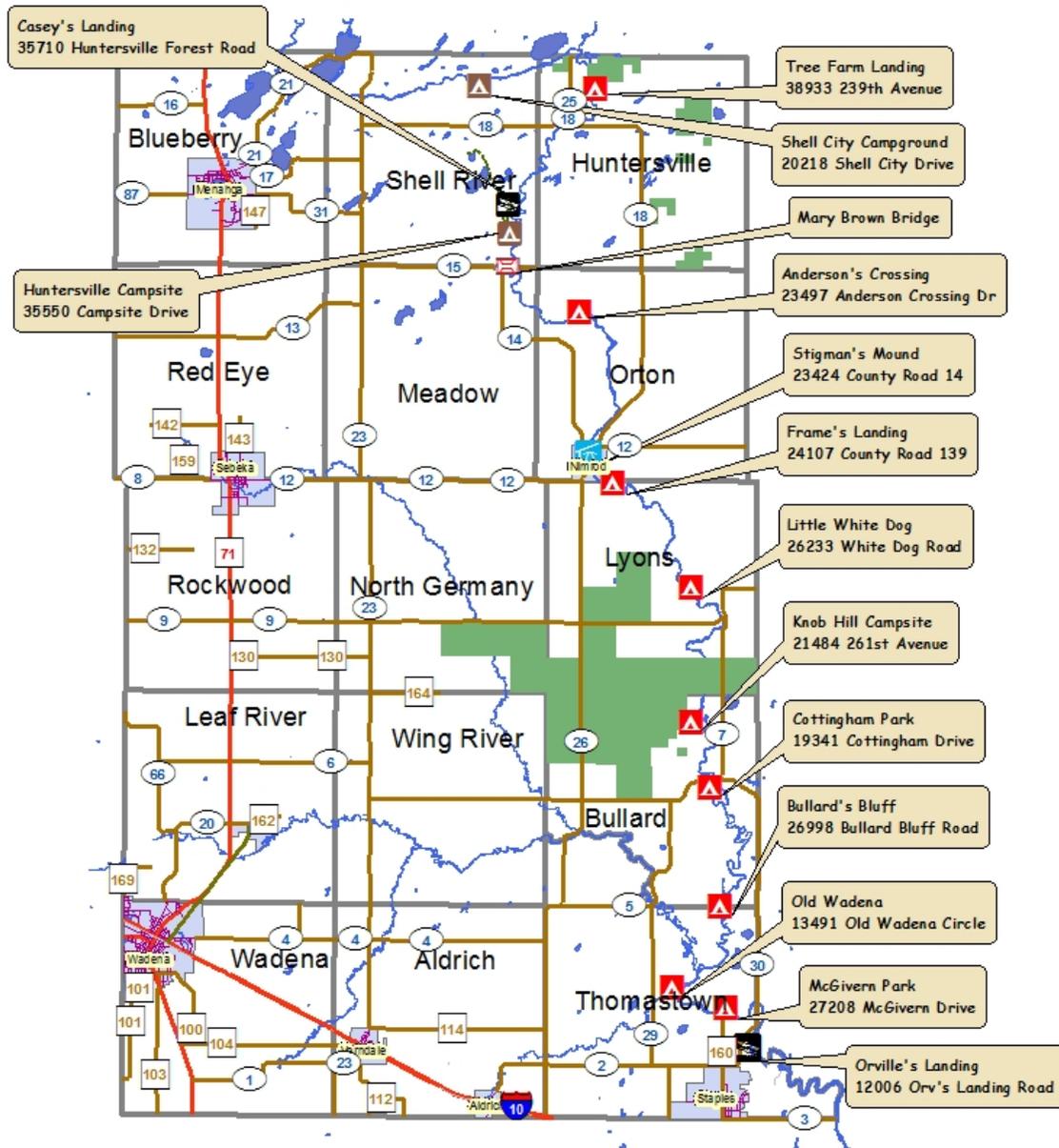
Blueberry Pines Golf Course

Located at 39161 U.S. Highway 71, Menahga, MN, offering 18 holes, carts, pro shop, and restaurant.

Vintage Golf Course

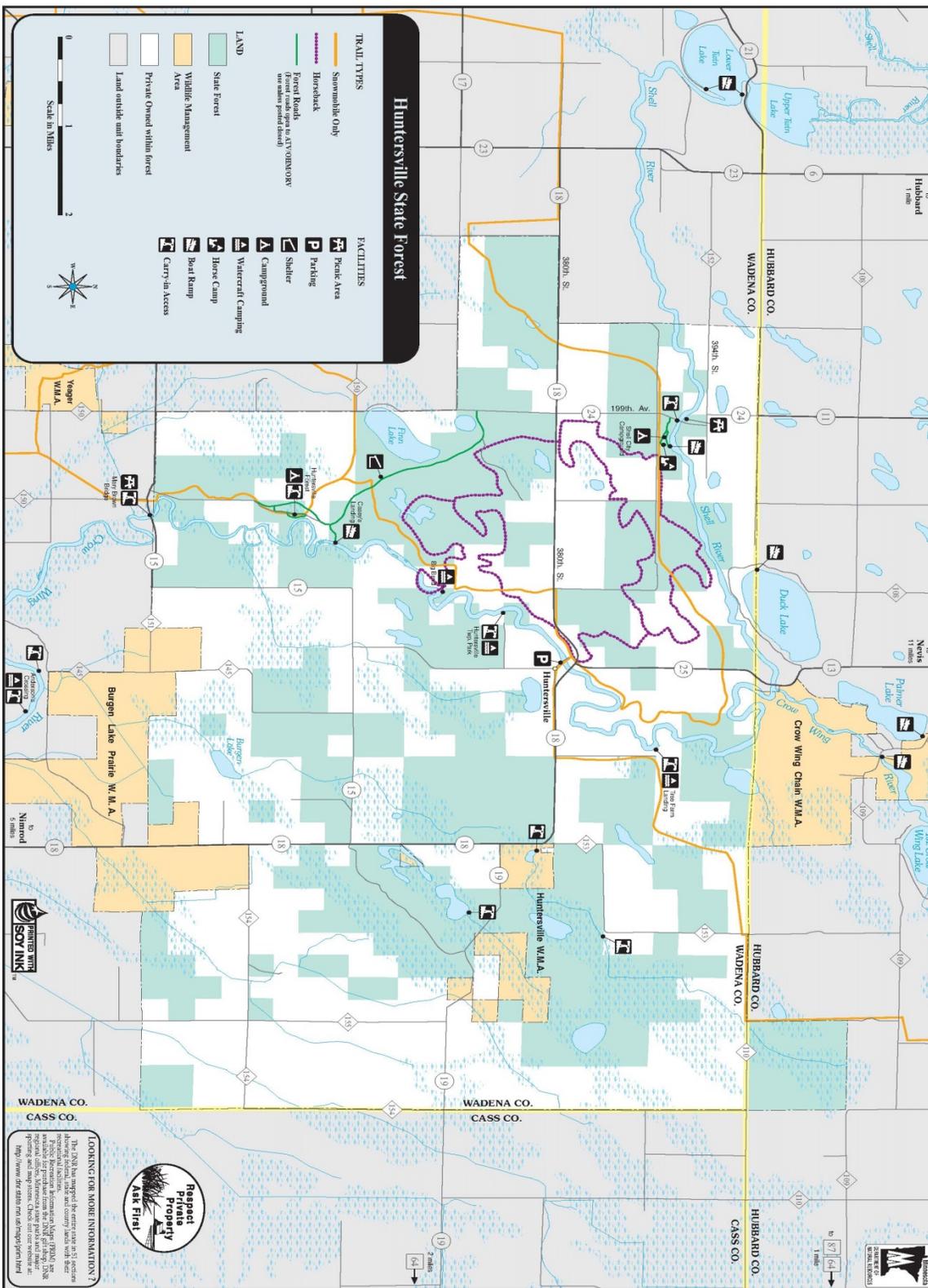
Located at 27923 McGivern Park Drive, Staples, MN, offering 18 holes, carts, and club house.

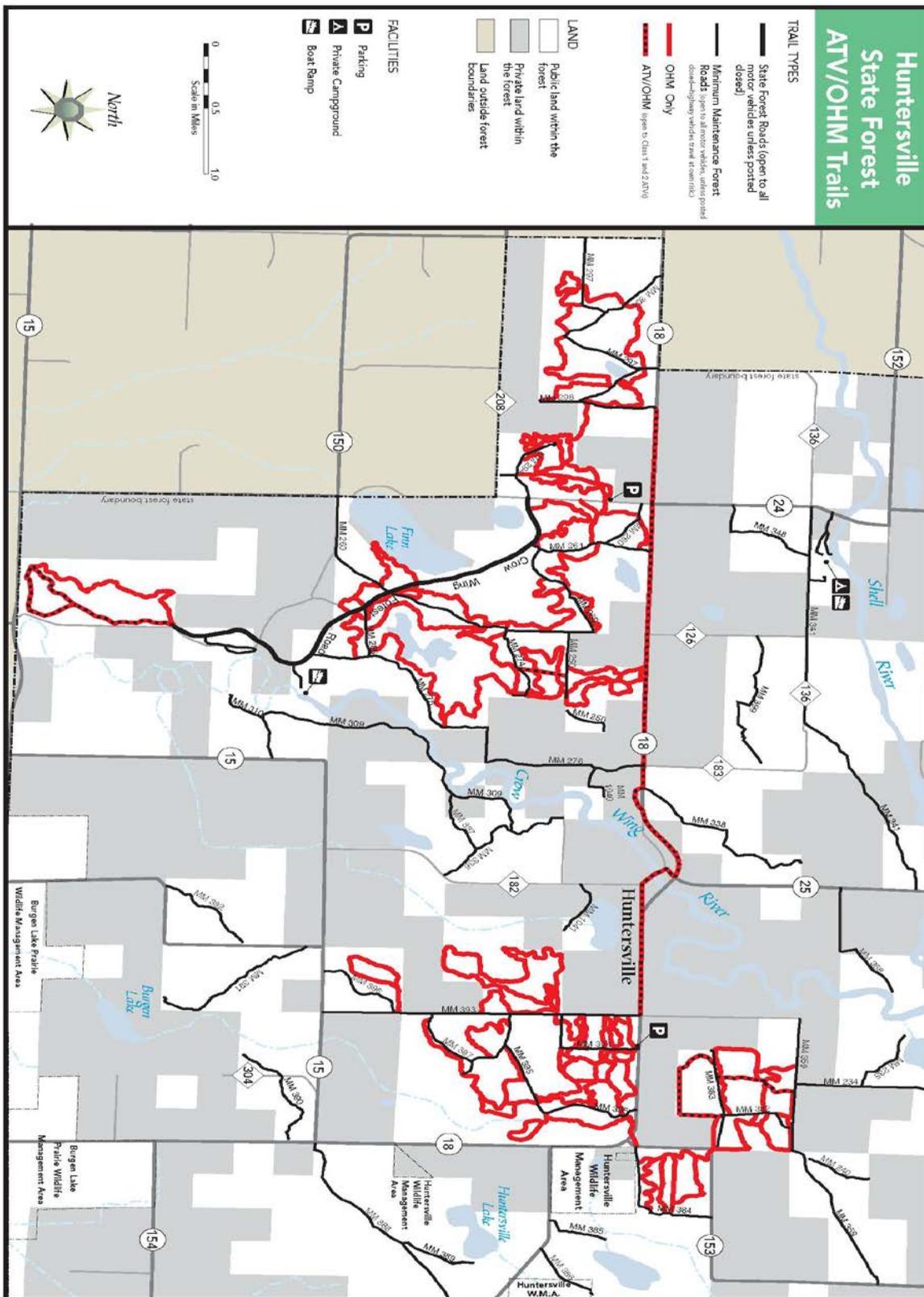
Wadena County Crow Wing River Campsites

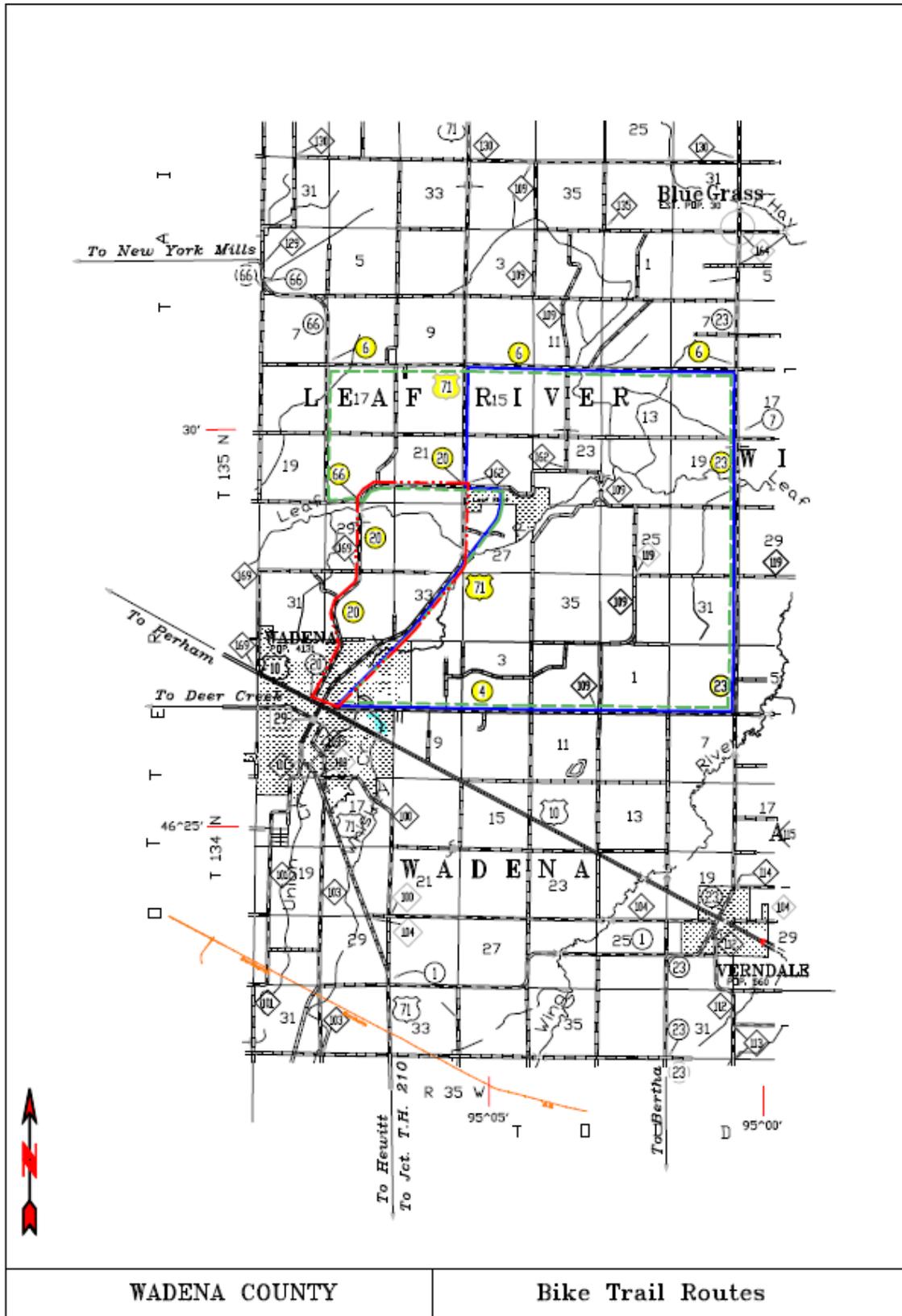


N		County Owned Campground
		County Owned Picnic Area
		State Owned Campground
		State Owned Landing
		Carry-in Access


 Map Created By:
 Gina Dahms-GIS Coordinator
 Wadena County







WADENA COUNTY

Bike Trail Routes

SECTION 10: Goals & Objectives



If you look up the word “GOAL” in the dictionary, one definition will tell you that a goal is “that toward which effort is directed, an aim or an end”. In setting goals with regard to the future, both near and farther out, the citizens of Wadena County who were involved in the public meetings used a realistic, common sense approach to their view of the future, their “aim”, and the efforts that need to be made to ensure we are not only surviving as a county into the future... but thriving! The set of goals outlined in Section 10 of the Wadena County Comprehensive Plan 2013, for the most part, are attainable goals, and the objectives, or efforts, sited to help reach those goals are realistic and practical in nature as well. Regular review of these efforts with appropriate participants will keep key players, including citizen groups, in a forward motion toward obtaining and/or sustaining each goal.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Identify and classify important natural resources and consider the impacts on each when planning and directing future development in Wadena County.

OBJECTIVES:

It is recognized that the Wadena County Soil and Water Conservation District Office works directly with the natural resources issues outlined in this Section 4 of the Comprehensive Plan. It is also recognized that certain goals and strategies of the Wadena County Comprehensive Local Water Plan are included into this portion of the Plan. The Wadena Soil and Water Conservation District is charged with carrying out these objectives along with all other County agencies when and where natural resources are a factor.

- **Protect, conserve, and preserve the natural resources of the County in an effort to create an environmentally healthy and vibrant place for current and future residents.**
- **Recognize the value of preserving the remaining wetlands in Wadena County to maintain their value as fish and wildlife habitat, storm-water runoff storage areas, water filtering basins, and socioeconomic benefits, when reviewing and planning for areas of development:**
 - Identify and map all wetlands with initial priority going to those of at least five acres in size or those along lakes and streams
 - Inventory drained wetlands in the County and investigate restoration of critical wetlands.
 - Identify the Wadena County Soil and Water Conservation District Office as the lead agency for jurisdictions for all wetlands in the County.
 - Work with and give technical advice to Sportsmen's Clubs within the County on the development of wildlife refuges and wetland areas.
- **Prevent contamination and preserve the quality and quantity of Wadena County's ground and surface waters:**
 - Support and encourage the continuation of agriculture conservation plans and Best Management Practices (BMP's) for farmers, and provide educational opportunities and materials with regard to the same.
 - Inventory and evaluate current feedlot regulations and livestock producer representatives. Provide public notice and receive public comment prior to any recommendations for change. Provide education and information to ensure good management practices of livestock producers.
 - Through landowner cooperators, create a database of wells around large tracts of irrigated farm fields to monitor water depths and change in quality to better understand effects for planning purposes.
 - Continue sealing abandoned wells within the county and provide financial support for well sealing whenever possible.
 - Adopt and initiate specific plans for the provision of adequate waste water collection and treatment systems for all areas of the County with dense development that are lacking such systems.
- **Develop and computerize land use maps and use that information to protect water quality and guide County policy decisions regarding future land use:**
 - Identify areas within the County that are sensitive to water contamination from land use, such as, Leaf and Shell River Watersheds, and urban growth areas.
 - Identify soil erosion areas along critical lakeshores and stretches of rivers and streams
- **Provide for proper disposal of sewage, municipal sewage sludge, solid waste, industrial waste and by-products, and agricultural waste and by-products:**
 - Encourage strict enforcement of individual sewage treatment regulations and give high priority to systems in highly developed areas.
- **Make protection of groundwater quality and quantity a routine consideration in all government decisions involving planning and zoning.**

LAND USE

GOAL:

Preserve Wadena County's rural character, farmland, woods, streams, and open spaces by directing development to growth areas and areas designated for a particular use.

OBJECTIVES:

- **Encourage future residential, commercial, and industrial development adjacent to urban areas:**
 - Designate areas for residential development in order to prevent "leap frog" development.
 - Encourage development of multiple family housing units in areas deemed appropriate.
 - Encourage development of higher density in growth areas to encourage efficient development that will support public facilities and services and preserve open space.
 - Encourage commercial and industrial development in areas adjacent to major transportation routes in order to prevent routing truck traffic through residential areas.
 - Encourage and support commercial services to be allowed along major highway corridors by providing appropriate zoning districts along those routes.
 - Protect agricultural use throughout the County.
- **Protect the Crow Wing Recreation area to retain the pristine quality of the corridor:**
 - Provide adequate funding for long range capital improvements.
 - Protect important historical, cultural, and natural resources as a means to maintain the County's character and heritage.
- **Achieve an ongoing relationship between the County, Cities, and Townships in all matters related to planning:**
 - Recognize issues and concerns and work cooperatively with all municipalities.
- **Natural features and resources that may be unproductive for farming (wooded areas, wetlands, floodplains) are also important components of the natural systems and rural character which the County wishes to preserve:**
 - Agricultural zoning should be designed to protect environmentally sensitive areas for forest and open space purposes.
- **Wadena County should take steps to reduce potential conflicts with non-farming property owners living adjacent to agricultural zones where farming operations are taking place.**
 - The County should support and promote county and state programs that encourage sound farming practices relating to surface water protection, soil erosion control, nutrient management, sedimentation control, and manure controls in an effort to minimize conflicts.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOAL: Encourage and support economic development activity appropriate to Wadena County which creates employment and business opportunities to meet County residents' current and future economic needs.

OBJECTIVES:

- **Research and plan the best way to add commercial zoned areas to the County's highway corridors and residential zones around urbanized areas, then take measures to amend the official zoning map to include those districts.**
- **Provide assistance in the form of staff or other outreach to people wanting to start a business but that do not have knowledge or information they need to get started or to market their product or service.**
- **Encourage stable economic growth and steady development of new jobs and recognize and support the business and industrial activities that already exist.**
 - Promote and encourage patronization of local, in-county businesses whenever and wherever possible
 - Promote and support community awareness of and for the need for infrastructure to bring and keep business, industry and forms of development into the County
 - Encourage and support the use of well-planned public and private financing partnerships to enhance economic development.
 - Encourage the development of businesses that process agricultural products.
 - Support regional cooperation between local governments, educational institutions, and businesses to create high skill, living wage jobs.
 - Work with cities and townships to locate existing commercial buildings that are empty and ready to be used for new business, and then encourage the use of those buildings for new business development whenever possible.
- **Recognize and support the economic development commitment and activities provided by area organizations and surrounding communities.**
 - Participate with Economic Development Authorities and/or Alliances whenever possible
 - Support and encourage expansion and development of manufacturing and agriculturally related business and industry.
- **Encourage development of a county-wide tourism plan to incorporate the municipal tourism efforts with the County recreation areas.**
 - Create a Wadena County Tourism Advisory Group.
 - Research grant opportunities for funding of this plan with the Minnesota Office of Tourism.
 - Support the addition of more recreational trails.
- **Encourage county pride and county-wide awareness of the value of economic growth. Promote Wadena County unity and pride which enhances our identity and quality of life.**
 - Encourage and utilize resident participation in all local decision-making procedures.

TRANSPORTATION

GOAL: Maintain a safe, well-constructed road system, and convenient circulation patterns for internal and external traffic movement through Wadena County.

OBJECTIVES:

- **Wadena County should provide a grid-type network of 9 ton capacity roads at reasonable intervals throughout the county.**
- **Wadena County should research and consider alternative funding sources for road maintenance and improvement (i.e. wheelage tax and ½ percent sales tax)**
- **Wadena County should continue its program of upgrading and improving, existing deficient and inadequate transportation facilities, and maintaining improved roads in good standards.**
 - Develop and maintain an ongoing project list of roads in need of improvements.
 - Maintain all county roads, regardless of traffic counts, in the same standard.
- **Wadena County will encourage a variety of transportation uses.**
 - Promote a cooperative effort between the county, county municipalities, and townships in designing and implementing a county trails system.
 - Explore funding to assist with developing bike routes in the County.
- **Wadena County will continue its support of the development of a long range transportation road improvement and management plan.**
 - County road planning should be coordinated with Federal, State, City, and Township road plans.
 - Analyze existing and future traffic volumes versus road capacities and provide appropriate improvements.
- **In areas designed for growth, Wadena County should promote efficient and innovative land use patterns that minimize negative traffic problems.**
 - Wadena County should consider the development of a Highway Access Plan to manage access to roads. A highway access plan defines how new development may interface with local roadways by regulating the spacing and number of access points and turning movements relative to the capacity and volumes existing or proposed on the highway.
- **Wadena County should consider the Scenic Byways program. This program recognizes outstanding scenic roads and landscapes.**
 - Work with the Minnesota State Scenic Byways program for criteria and application rules. Roads that follow the Crow Wing River area may fall under the historical, natural, and recreational areas of the program. Designating Scenic Byway roads normally results in increased tourism activity/dollars in the area.

FACILITIES & SERVICES

GOAL: Ensure that proposals for new facilities and services and expansion of existing public service facilities meet the needs of Wadena County's residents and businesses.

- **Future public or private improvements should be reviewed by the Planning Commission to determine whether the proposed project is in accordance with the County's adopted Comprehensive Plan when the project relates to the following:**
 - **The location, opening, vacation, extension, widening, narrowing, or enlargement of any street, public ground, or water course;**
 - **The location, erection, demolition, removal, or sale of any public structure located within the municipality;**
 - **The construction, extension, or abandonment of any water line, sewer line, or sewage treatment facility.**
- **Wadena County should continue with its program to ensure the proper operation and maintenance of onsite sewage treatment systems.**
- **Wadena County should encourage the use of alternative wastewater disposal technologies and collection technologies where individual onsite sewage treatment is not compatible with existing conditions.**
- **Wadena County should continue and improve on its program for solid waste disposal and recycling.**

PARKS & RECREATION

GOAL: Provide park and recreation amenities for all age groups in convenient locations.

- **Adequate funding should be appropriated for development and maintenance of public parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities.**
 - Private/public funding sources should be sought and a County Park plan developed
 - Research possible Legacy funding for procurement to assist with potential large scale projects.
- **Promote recreation opportunities that are already available in the County and promotion of wintertime recreation opportunities in the county such as: cross country skiing, ice skating, snow shoeing, and sledding.**
- **Public/private partnerships should be encouraged and developed to enhance recreation opportunities and services.**
 - Encourage development of a Scenic Byways road that travels the route through the County Parks system.
 - Continue to support the Old Wadena Society efforts at Old Wadena Park.
 - Create a network of business and organizational providers of recreation, leisure, and cultural opportunities in the County in order to coordinate

seasonal calendars of activities, expand services, and create viable business opportunities in areas of need.

- **Continue in the trails development that follow river courses, utility easements and abandoned railways to create and enhance a trail system linking recreation areas and commercial areas.**
 - Encourage cooperation between Wadena County and municipalities in efforts to link recreation opportunities.
 - Support development of a bike/walking trail connecting communities in Wadena County.
- **Preserve the wilderness setting of the Crow Wing River corridor recreation area for future generations.**