



## **Introduction**

Welcome to the Town of Plover Comprehensive Plan. This Comprehensive Plan is the centerpiece of the community planning process, stating our community's development goals and outlining public policies for guiding future growth. It establishes an identifiable destination that allows both the governing body and its standing committees to plan and budget with an idea as to the direction the Town should move in the future. It helps to ensure that future growth is not only anticipated, but planned.

## **The Portage County Comprehensive Planning Process and the Town of Plover**

The Town of Plover Comprehensive Plan has been completed as a part of a larger, county-wide planning project. State Statute requirements for long range planning (see SS 66.1001, Appendix C) stipulate that by January 1, 2010, all Towns, Villages, Cities, and Counties making decisions regulating land use will need to base those decisions on an adopted Comprehensive Plan. Two separate "large area" plan documents have been developed: an Urban Area plan which encompasses the City of Stevens Point, Villages of Park Ridge, Whiting and Plover, and a portion of the unincorporated Towns of Hull, Stockton, Plover, Linwood and Carson; and the Portage County Comprehensive Plan, which includes each of the seventeen unincorporated Towns (Alban, Almond, Amherst, Belmont, Buena Vista, Carson, Dewey, Eau Pleine, Grant, Hull, Lanark, Linwood, New Hope, Pine Grove, Plover, Sharon, Stockton) and six incorporated rural Villages (Almond, Amherst, Amherst Junction, Junction City, Nelsonville, Rosholt) that make up the rest of the County. In addition to the large area plans, the project included the adoption of a Comprehensive Plan for each of the County's 27 individual units of government.

The first step in soliciting public involvement was a County-wide opinion survey, which was conducted in the second half of September 2001. The Town of Plover adopted the Public Participation Plan on September 3, 2003 (Appendix A).

State Statute 66.1001 defines minimum requirements for content to be included within a comprehensive plan. These requirements include nine “elements” or chapters describing: *issues and opportunities; housing; transportation; utilities and community facilities; agricultural, natural and cultural resources; economic development; intergovernmental cooperation; land use; and implementation*. The Town of Plover has used the required elements as an outline for its plan document. Our Comprehensive Plan was first adopted on December 21, 2005.

State Statute 66.1001(2)(i) directs that the comprehensive plan, once implemented, should be updated no less than once every 10 years. In late 2011 the Town of Plover appointed a Comprehensive Plan Review Committee to undertake this task.

It should be noted that narrative in the 2005 Comprehensive Plan and its many tables had made comparisons of the changes in the Town of Plover over many years, and if the town had remained constant since 2005, the 2011 Committee charged with reviewing the 2005 comparisons would have continued that approach. However, sizeable annexations to the City of Stevens Point reduced the population in the Town of Plover by almost 30% making comparisons related to population meaningless. In addition, sizeable acreage annexations to the Village of Plover have had the same effect on the geographic make-up of the Town.

The Committee charged with reviewing the Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Plover has taken the position to present future postures based on what is known today. For that reason, the statistics presented in this revised document have new beginnings based on the status of 2010 census data.