

ST.
MATHIAS
TOWNSHIP

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



Adopted February 1, 2016

St. Mathias Township 2015 Comprehensive Plan

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Introduction

Legal Authority

The authority to develop and execute a comprehensive plan for the Township of St. Mathias by the St. Mathias Town Board of Supervisors is granted in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 462.351 through 462.356. This Comprehensive Land Use Plan legally replaces its Comprehensive Plan adopted in 1998.

Purpose of the Comprehensive Plan

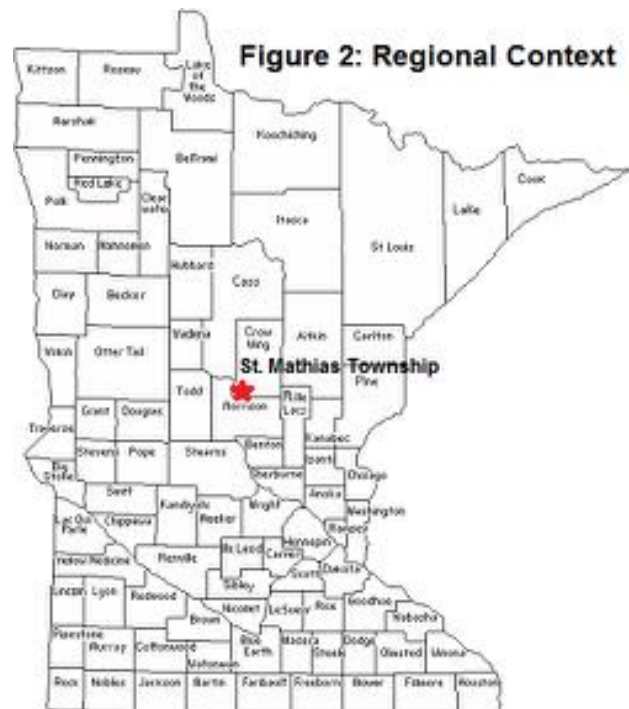
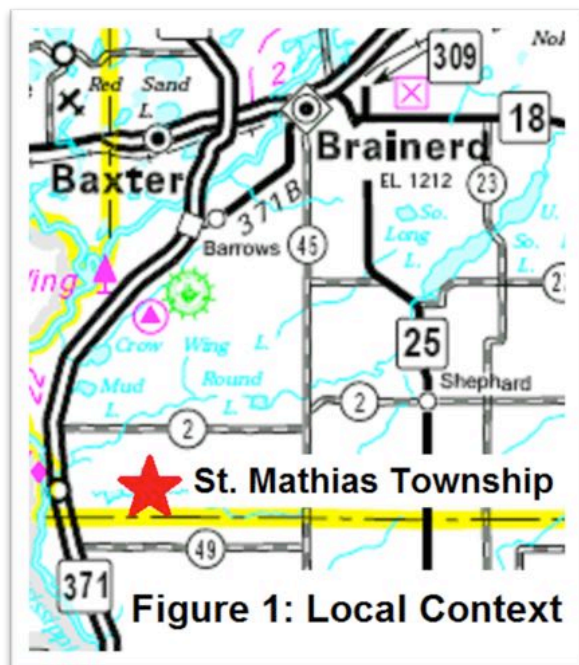
The St. Mathias Township Comprehensive Plan is a township document which acts as a planning tool to aid in future decisions about the physical growth and development of the township. First, it sets forth the vision of its desires for growth, while maintaining a rural atmosphere, and a respect for the land and the environment. Goals and policies follow which reflect how the community can move forward. These are somewhat broad in scope, recognizing that there are many factors influencing how and why the community will change. Therefore, it deals more with concepts, patterns and relationships than specific rules and ordinances.

It also serves as both a report and guideline to the Crow Wing County Commissioners, the Zoning and Planning Board, various state agencies and financial institutions that interact at some level concerning land and water resources, utility lines, transportation corridors, enforcement and emergency services, residential development, and other areas of public service affecting St. Mathias Township.

The Plan evolved through the interchange of information, analysis and response between the citizens, community leaders, staff and public officials within the township and surrounding areas through a planning process undertaken in 2013 - 2015.

Location

St Mathias Township is in Central Minnesota, approximately 15 miles south of Brainerd. It is located in the southwestern corner of Crow Wing County. Its west border abuts Fort Ripley Township, north border Crow Wing Township and east border Daggett Brook Township. It shares its southern border with Morrison County's Ripley East Township.



Comprehensive Plan Vision

St Mathias Township strives to maintain and improve the well being and quality of life of its residents and future generations while nurturing the rural atmosphere and protecting the environment.

Policies and Goals

In the next pages policies and goals focus on the following:

- A. Land Use and Water
- B. Agriculture and Forestry
- C. Residential and Housing
- D. Transportation
- E. Commercial and Business
- F. Township Assets
- G. Zoning, Land Use and Recreation
- H. Quality of Life



A. Land Use And Water

The St Mathias landscape is gently rolling countryside. About four-fifths is upland. The other fifth consists of wetland, mostly alder and scrub willow, swamp and extensive sedge and cattail marsh scattered throughout the township with some concentration along floodplains of the Hay Creek, the Nokasippi and the Little Nokasippi Rivers. Drainage is of an irregular pattern toward the western side of the township through some 25 miles of rivers and streams with the Nokasippi River emptying into the Mississippi River just north of Fort Ripley Village.

A basic life resource to township residents is water quantity and quality. The quality of drinking water is good, in spite of some dissolved iron. Round Lake [139 acres], has a few lakeside lots, though shore land development in the township is limited due to land and water interface characteristics and the ownership patterns. There are some groundwater permits for deep well irrigation within the township as well as elsewhere in the Nokasippi watershed. What is often not as visible to any particular household is the access to adequate and safe drinking water from wells that average from 105 to 140 feet deep (a potable groundwater aquifer). The proper disposal of sewage is essential to protect both surface and groundwater from contamination; this is a situation where harm may be to a wide community, not just to the household or business creating the polluting source.

Policy A1: *Protect and preserve the natural environment of St. Mathias Township's rivers, streams, lakes, woodlands, agriculture, open spaces and wetland areas in a manner consistent with existing development patterns and the comprehensive plan.*

Goal 1: Encourage enforcement of all applicable shore land and wetland regulations.

Goal 2: Assist with the enforcement of the county ordinances, involving the placement of well, septic tank and other soil absorption systems, especially near water courses and wetlands.

Goal 3: Strive to prevent the filling of wetland and low areas without careful analysis of the consequences on the hydrology of the area and the impact on wildlife and surrounding area.



Policy A2: Encourage the use of natural and open space lands in a manner that will preserve the natural habitat and keep the rural feel of St. Mathias Township. Open space is defined as a network of green spaces that protect our landscape and natural infrastructure, provides close-to-home recreation opportunities, buffers unique resources, and improves our experiences as we move through the land. Rural is typically defined as being located outside of the cities and towns, and characterized by low population density. In St. Mathias Township, we recognize low population density as homes and farmsteads being interspersed with woodlands, pasture and wetlands, open fields with crops.

Goal 1: Encourage reforestation or reclamation of the land harvested of timber.

Goal 2: Promote services provided by partners such as the DNR, USDA, Crow Wing County, and others to encourage responsible forestry and land stewardship.

Goal 3: Assist local public and civic groups with tree planting programs.

Policy A3: Capitalize on natural resources in an environmentally friendly manner for the benefit of St. Mathias Township and its residents.

Goal 1: Promote the township's trails, parks and other natural attributes.

Goal 2: Support the responsible use of trail systems within the township.

Goal 3: Be open to opportunities to expand natural recreation and tourism within the township.

Policy A4: To protect the groundwater located under St. Mathias Township for current and future generations.

Goal 1: Work with strategic partners in the protection of the quality of groundwater through various methods, and publicize opportunities for water quality testing.

Goal 2: Identify and work with partners to mitigate risks to groundwater depletion by carefully observing volumes and quantities of water pumped from aquifers.

B. Agriculture and Forestry

Soils in the township are primarily clay loam. Rocks prevail throughout. There are a few sand fields where poor moisture retention limits productivity. The soil map of St. Mathias depicts no prime agricultural land (Class 1 - nearly level, rock free, high humus content, and good drainage), but land with one or more limiting characteristics is common. Forty percent of the township land has been cultivated at some time. Many of the forest resources are typical residual generation hardwoods [oak, birch, ash, ironwood, maple] that were formerly or are now grazed by livestock. Some pine plantations are established on private lands but large scale forestry is uncommon, partly due to limited public lands in the township.

The township had a long history of small, diversified grain and livestock farms until the 1980s. Today about 10 percent of the



households are involved with some aspect of farming for economic benefit.

Policy B: Maintain agriculture as a viable industry for current and future generations in St. Mathias Township and maintain the family farm as an integral segment of the township's economic and social structure.

- Goal 1:** Encourage programs that support family farm policies including support programs and financing mechanisms.
- Goal 2:** In an effort to preserve the township's agricultural feel, consider proposals for smaller parcel development that do not detract from the rural character of the area.

C. Residential and Housing

Housing in St. Mathias Township is a mixture of older farm-type homes on large acreage, to more recently built homes on smaller (5-10 acre) parcels, and everything in between. There are few mobile homes and “pole-building style” homes. The majority of homes are owner-occupied with very little or no rental housing. There are no apartment building-type structures in the township, and any such buildings would require a conditional use permit. Many residents have “hobby farms” with horses, cows, or other livestock not used for commercial purpose, but for the family’s needs. Some residents keep chickens and sell eggs, or raise vegetables and sell their crops to locals. These “hobby farmers” make up the majority of housing in the township, allowing for residents to have a rural quality of life and all it has to offer.

Policy C1: Provide for all housing types in the Township consistent with St. Mathias development patterns.

- Goal 1:** Ensure that smaller parcels considered for housing development have adequate means of water, sewer and other infrastructure.
- Goal 2:** Encourage the upgrading of substandard housing.
- Goal 3:** Allow for housing types, which vary in cost and size therefore enabling all family income levels.
- Goal 4:** Work to mitigate blighted properties in an effort to promote the health, safety, aesthetics and well being of the township.

Policy C2: Allow for recreational residential development in those areas where such development will not adversely affect the natural environment or water quality.

Goal 1: Be open to recreational or seasonal residential development.

Goal 2: Encourage the enforcement of the applicable shore land standards, which regulate recreational development on lake and river shores.

Goal 3: Discourage recreational residential development in areas where the environment would be damaged or harmed through improper development.

Goal 4: Discourage the use of multiple dwelling units or structures on lots incapable of providing suitable sanitary, water and other services.

D. Transportation

St Mathias Township's transportation network, serves about 232 households. It is over fifty miles, about half each in the county or township jurisdiction. This road system consists of approximately 28.2 miles of County maintained roads, and 24 miles of Township maintained and controlled roads. All but 1.8 miles of the country roads are paved, while all but one mile of the Township's is gravel. The repair and continual maintenance of these roads is the largest expenditure in the township. The St. Mathias Township Board's total expenditures in 2013 were \$123,699 and in 2014, \$99,550. Between the years of 2005 and 2014 an average of \$62,863 per year was spent on roads and bridges, repairs, grading, snowplowing, brushing, and other maintenance, which makes the average per mile to cost \$2,619 per year.

According to the results of the 2013 survey (Appendix C), of the 112 surveys returned 56% of the people live on Gravel, and 51% live on blacktop. Also according to the survey on a scale of 1-5, 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, 38% gave the maintenance of blacktopped roads a 4, and 38% gave a 3 on the maintenance of the gravel roads.

Overall, more than 90% of the township households routinely partake of activities in Brainerd, Baxter, Little Falls and Pierz; several of



these events happening five days a week. These municipalities function as a regional service center (fifty mile radius) by providing employment, multiple services – including some government agencies, learning centers for students from pre-K to beyond post-secondary, shopping for food, clothing, vehicles, home furnishings, medical and dental care, etc.

Policy D1: Maintain and improve the established system of roads, highways and bridges within the township, in a manner consistent with safety, efficiency and intended purposes, as resources allow.

Goal 1: Maintain roadways according to a plan approved by the township in regards to plowing, grading and maintenance.

Goal 2: Seek the consultation and support of county and state highway officials with regard to road and highway improvements, if necessary.

Goal 3: In an effort to reduce conflict between motorized, non-motorized and pedestrian traffic, as well as landowners and neighbors, the township encourages responsible use through a variety of partnerships (residents, user groups, service groups, law enforcement, etc.) to enforce regulations on trails, roadways and private property.

Policy 4: Partner with other local units of government on transportation initiatives in an effort to reduce costs and increase efficiency.

Policy D2: Be open to new transportation corridors (roads, highways) to areas where new development can occur thereby strengthening the tax base.

Goal 1: Require developers to construct township standard roadways into new developments.

Goal 2: Follow the developed transportation plan of the county and seek meaningful road projects that will aid the township residents.

Goal 3: Be open to new construction of roadways that will link areas of the township together.

Goal 4: Coordinate integration with the county's public transit system.



E. Commercial and Business

The commercial district of St Mathias is shown in red on the “current” map on page 26 of this plan. Currently there are a bar and grill, a cabinet manufacturing shop, park, several community park buildings, and several homes within the district. Zoning allows for commercial ventures with a minimum lot size of 100,000 square feet.

Outside St Mathias, conditional use permits, as per the county are required for businesses that have employees, or do boarding, e.g. dogs and horses.

Policy E1: Provide for suitable areas in the Township where commercial and business development can take place and be accessible to the greatest number of residents, tourists, and passersby.

- Goal 1:** Encourage the responsible zoning of areas within the Township where development of commercial activity will be centered rather than scattered throughout the Township.
- Goal 2:** Capitalize on the volume of traffic moving through the township.
- Goal 3:** Consider commercial centers where public services, including main travelled roadways, utilities, and other public functions occur.
- Goal 4:** Explore development opportunities in a responsible and sustainable manner in an effort to create and retain jobs, strengthen tax base, and bring new dollars into the Township.
- Goal 5:** Discourage commercial development or activities where residential home values, residents and the natural environment will be adversely affected.

Policy E2: Further develop the commercial, business, and industrial areas approved by the township.

Goal 1: Be open to development opportunities that create and retain jobs, strengthen the tax base, and bring new dollars into the township.

Goal 2: Work with Economic Development organizations such as Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corporation, Region 5 Development Commission, and others to assist existing businesses to grow, and develop new businesses.



F. Township Assets

The assets of St. Mathias Township are derived from its land, water and people resources. As the township continues to grow (Table 2), its people, resources and desires can be expected to change. Close attention to our residents' perspectives, in coordination with natural resource changes, is necessary to both preserve and potentially grow township assets.

Policy F: Engage in long term planning for Township assets.

- Goal 1:** Create a Capital Investment Plan that outlines goals for the township's infrastructure and suggests ideas for paying for it.
- Goal 2:** Review the Comprehensive Plan on a regular basis to ensure it is consistent with the ideas and values of township residents, updating as necessary.
- Goal 3:** Strengthen communications between the township and Crow Wing County.



G. Zoning, Land Use And Recreation

Zoning authority within the township largely lies with Crow Wing County. The Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners enacts ordinances and policy decisions and the Planning and Zoning Office implements them. The St Mathias Township Board has authority to pass resolutions affecting residents. This authority encompasses the right to pass measures that can effectively impose more restrictive zoning requirements than exist at the County level. For instance, the Township Board could act to prohibit activity that residents might consider a nuisance, even if such activities might be allowed by county zoning ordinances. Under Minnesota law, the township may also elect to establish its own zoning authority. Such a move would require the Township Board to adopt its own zoning ordinance and to handle all related permitting and enforcement activities, most likely through an appointed official or committee. Funding could be appropriated by the township taxing authority.

Other means of imposing more restrictive zoning measures than currently found in the Crow Wing County Zoning Ordinances would involve adoption and enforcement of such measures at the county level.

In addition to zoning regulations, state and federal regulations concerning wetlands, wildlife habitat, air, and water quality apply within the township. Government agencies including the State of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) the United States Department of Agriculture, Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) all have authority to administer programs and enforce regulations relating to land uses within the township.

Policy G1: Protect the township's resources in an environmentally friendly manner for the benefit of St. Mathias Township and its current and future residents.

Goal 1: Support the township's existing trails, parks and other natural attributes, while maintaining the rural agricultural setting.

Goal 2: Be open to additional outdoor recreational development that enhances responsible use and is considerate of township residents and property owners.

Policy G2: Support suitable areas within the Township for open space development by planning for an intended land use (housing, recreation, business, forestry, etc.) where the result will provide for a significant portion of naturally undisturbed or restored areas.

Goal 1: Encourage preservation of unique natural areas for public open space use and provide for special protection areas.

Goal 2: Utilize, where ownership permits, lake, river and stream banks, woodlands, open areas and similar property for recreational purposes.

Goal 3: Develop park and recreational areas that will have the most benefit to the township residents and visitors, with the least detrimental effects.

Policy G3: Engage with the county on land use and zoning requests affecting the township.

Goal 1: Be current with the zoning and land use requests presented to the CWC Planning and Zoning Office. Recommend actions that will maintain or enhance the township assets and resources, and not be a hindrance to the orderly development of the community.



H. Quality Of Life

Quality of life is the general well being of individuals and societies. It includes many facets. Two of these are communications and culture. Today and in the future, communications technology plays a big role in maintaining and creating opportunities. However, in the Township's survey, 73% of survey respondents ranked high-speed internet service as being poor in St Mathias Township. Efforts need to be made to reverse this ranking.

Culture, history and the arts are important in people's lives as well. St Mathias Township as a rural community has a distinct cultural expression embedded within its landscapes and people. Culture, history and the arts are evident in private establishments, community groups, churches, families, parks, township government, recreation opportunities and its community center. It is important to make positive efforts to weave culture, history and the arts into St Mathias Township's land use decisions.

Policy H: Strive to improve the quality of life for residents and future generations.

Goal 1: Promote expansion, implementation and adoption of communications technology, such as broadband internet and wireless, for business, educational and private use.

Goal 2: Support efforts to expand the cultural and social fabric of our community.

Implementation

Use and flexibility is required for a comprehensive land use plan to be an effective tool. Things will most likely change dramatically in St. Mathias Township over the next 10 plus years. This plan will need to have flexibility to react to these changes.

Providing suggested implementation strategies and action items is one of the best ways to implement a comprehensive land use plan. Focusing on these action items allow the use of many tools over time to achieve the desired results and outcomes. The methods and ways of today may be outdated in ten years. Elected officials, appointed commission members and township staff will need a current working knowledge of all of the means in which the goals, policies and action items presented in the plan can be attained.

This plan lists a number of strategies that, when combined, have the potential to positively impact the future of St. Mathias Township. The township's resources are somewhat scarce, so it is not realistic to assume that St. Mathias Township can implement all of them at once. Therefore, it's necessary to focus the township's resources on those actions that have the most potential to have the biggest impact.



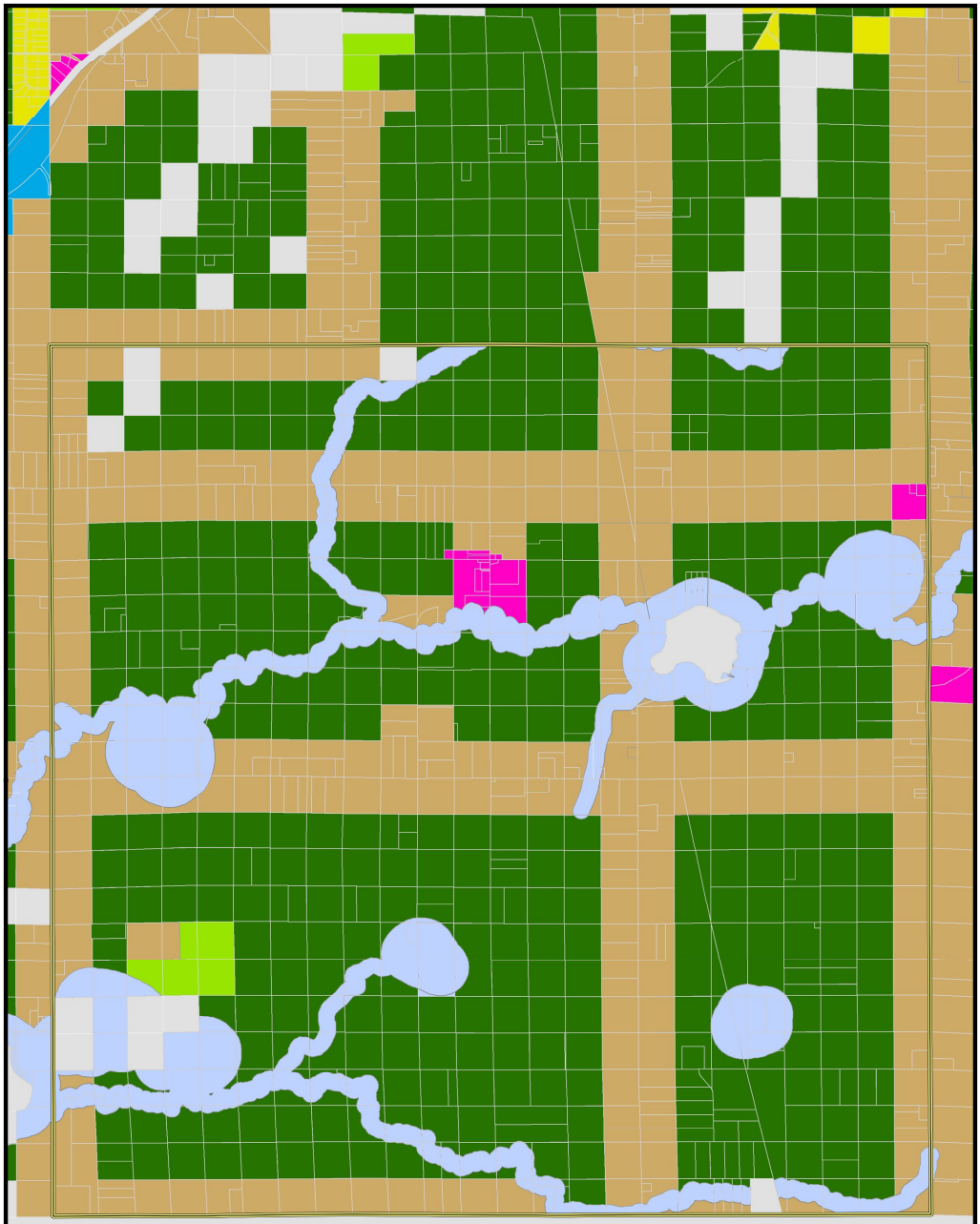
Implementation Steps

Each year, township staff should brief the Board of Supervisors on the “state of the comprehensive plan.” This briefing should reacquaint the Township Board with the content of the plan, discuss emerging facts that have a bearing on the accuracy of the plan projections, discuss land use and development activities within the last year and those on the docket for the upcoming year, and suggest an annual agenda of planning activities to assist in the implementation of the plan.


















Review the plan in five years and again in ten years to determine whether the plan recommendations are still current. Revise those sections that are determined to be in need of an update.

Review and Revision

Comprehensive planning is a continuous process and thus this comprehensive plan should be monitored and updated when necessary. The Township Board of Supervisors should carefully review proposed changes and their implications and actively seek citizen comment on such proposals. If changes are found to be appropriate, they should be formally added to the plan by legal amendment. In addition, every five years, the entire comprehensive plan should be reviewed and modified to ensure that it is an up-to-date expression of community goals and intentions.

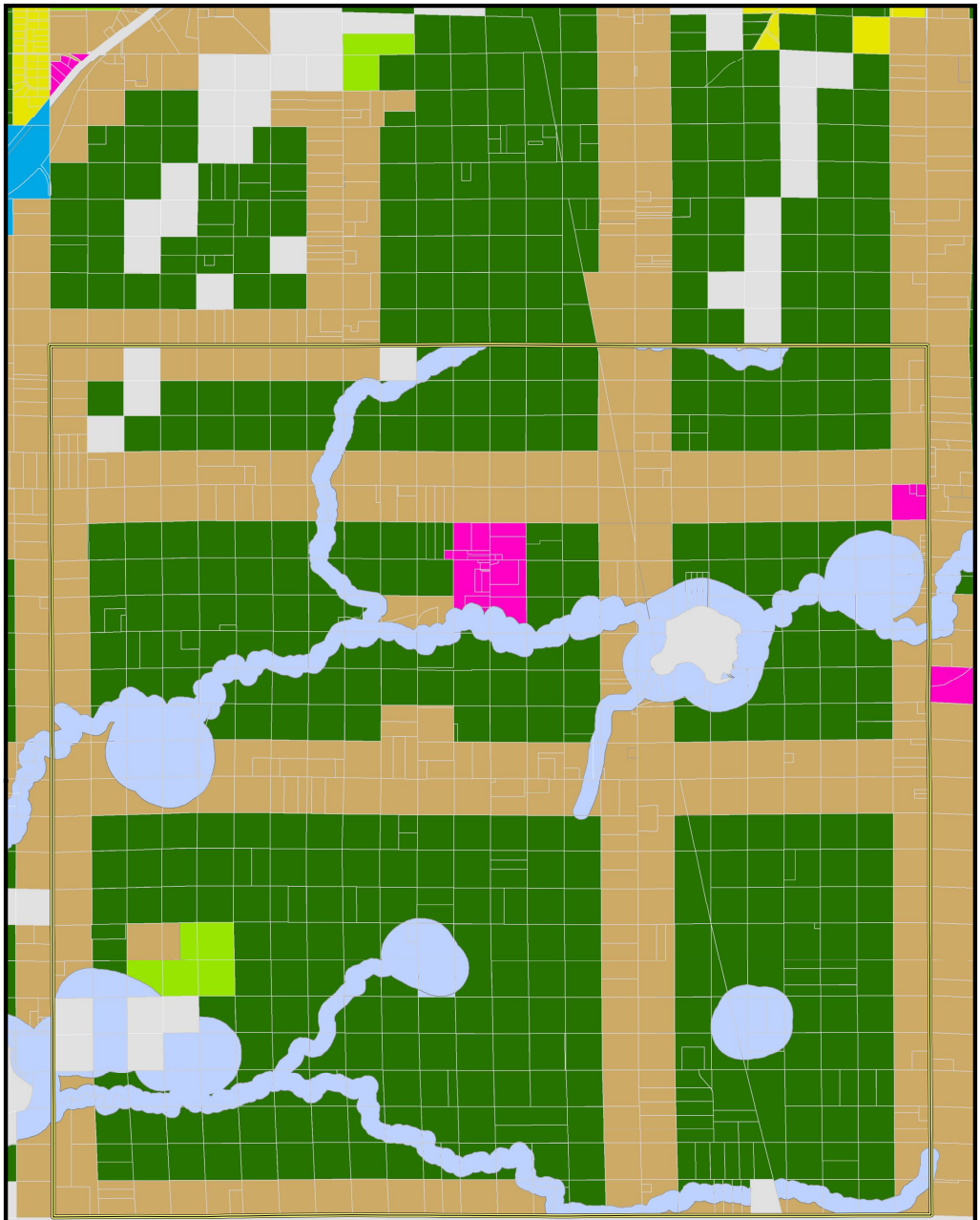


Legend

 Municipal	Land Use Classification	 Rural Residential - 10
 Parcels	Land Use Classification	 Rural Residential - 5
	 Agricultural/Forestry District	 Rural Residential - 2.5
	 Airport District	 Rural Residential - 1
	 Commercial District 1	 Sensitive Shoreland District
	 Commercial District 2	 Shoreland District
	 Commercial/Heavy Industrial District	 Urban Growth District
	 Commercial/Light Industrial District	 Waterfront Commercial
	 Rural Residential - 20	

Gray Cells are currently unzoned.





Legend

Municipal Municipal

Parcels Parcels

Land Use Classification

Agricultural/Forestry District	Rural Residential - 10
Airport District	Rural Residential - 5
Commercial District 1	Rural Residential - 2.5
Commercial District 2	Rural Residential - 1
Commercial/Heavy Industrial District	Sensitive Shoreland District
Commercial/Light Industrial District	Shoreland District
Rural Residential - 20	Urban Growth District
	Waterfront Commercial

Gray Cells are currently unzoned.

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A. BACKGROUND



Methodology

This Comprehensive Plan is the product of several entities and systemic, ongoing, forward-looking processes including:

- An Ad-Hoc Citizen Planning Task Force appointed by the St. Mathias Township Board of Supervisors composed of a cross section of the community.
- Input from the St. Mathias Board of Supervisors.
- Input from St. Mathias Residents through the township's 2013 Community Survey.
- The gathering of demographic and historical data from a variety of sources including St. Mathias Township, Crow Wing County, Region Five Development Commission, the State of Minnesota and the US Census. Review of prior planning documents, reports, studies, etc.
- Assistance from township staff.

Project Participants

This project required the coordination of many participants. Residents answered a survey. A group of citizens, staff, elected officials and other stakeholders whose members were appointed by the Township made up the Comprehensive Plan Task Force. Members represented a broad cross section of interests and perspectives throughout the community. This group gathered information, and reviewed and commented on all work products.

St. Mathias Township secured the services of planning consultant Region Five Development Commission to facilitate the development of this Plan, and was assisted by the Crow Wing County Planning and Zoning Office.

This Task Force met multiple times between fall, 2013 through fall, 2015. They reviewed demographics and statistics of the Township and surrounding area, and developed, reviewed and edited the Vision, Policies and Goals, as well as prepared the Potential Future Land Use Map, showing possible future development goals for the St. Mathias Township.

Planning Process

The planning process began with the St. Mathias Township Board of Supervisors. After much discussion, a task force was created to undertake the work.

Through spring and summer 2013 the task force met multiple times and created a resident survey, which was deployed in summer, 2013. After reviewing survey results, the task force recommended that Region Five Development Commission

meet with the task force and the Township Board to discuss a plan for completion of the project.

On November 19, 2013, staff from Region Five presented an outline and timetable for completion of the project, a demographical and statistical overview of St. Mathias Township, and a draft of policies and goals based on resident input garnered from the community survey.

The task force met several additional times in early 2014 to work on this project. In the meetings, the goals and objectives of the project were, set, reviewed and revised, as well as a Potential Future Land Use Map created.

Upon completion of a draft of this document, a public hearing, after proper notification, was held to receive resident input on May 7, 2014. After said required public hearing was held, the task force met multiple times again to incorporate suggestions heard at the meeting into the plan. A second public hearing was held on October 13, 2015. The plan was approved on November 2 and by resolution adopted on February 1, 2016. It was then submitted to Crow Wing County for recording.

Previous Plans

This document is a continuation of the ongoing planning process in St. Mathias Township. It legally amends the 1998 Comprehensive Plan, the latest official Comprehensive Plan for St. Mathias Township. The township has used this planning process as an opportunity to evaluate and reinforce the existing growth and development policies and to evaluate previous planning efforts in order to update and reinforce past decisions that are still valid. A major premise of this plan, therefore, is to utilize portions of previous community plans whenever applicable.

B. DEMOGRAPHICS AND STATISTICS

**Table 1
Historical Population**

Jurisdiction	1900	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
St. Mathias Township	439	389	368	398	440	441	490	622
Brainerd	7524	12087	12808	11667	11489	12353	13,178	13590
Baxter	***	507	1037	1556	2625	3695	5555	7610
Crow Wing County	14250	30875	32134	34826	41722	44249	55,099	62500
Minnesota	1751395	2982483	3413864	3806103	4075970	4919479	4919479	5303925

Source: US Census

St. Mathias has grown steadily in population from 1970 through today, as shown in Table 1. There are likely many reasons for this, including the economic growth and employment opportunities of the nearby regional centers of Brainerd, Baxter and Little Falls, and the quality of life St. Mathias Township provides to residents. Most residents of St. Mathias are within 15-20 miles of Brainerd, Baxter, one of the twenty largest regional services centers in Minnesota. Brainerd, Baxter have an urban population in excess of 20,000, but serves over 50,000 in a twenty-mile radius. Township residents are somewhat dependent on facilities, resources, and social connections in this urban hub, and thus strongly influenced by our urban neighbors. Regardless of cause, St. Mathias Township has seen its population increase in the past fifteen years.

Table 2
Population Projections by County, Township and City

County	Location	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
Aitkin	County total	18000	18700	19010	19370	19630
Cass	County total	32860	34500	35810	36250	36600
Crow Wing	Baxter city	9678	10701	11607	12251	12814
Crow Wing	Brainerd city	14406	14578	14689	14661	14613
Crow Wing	Crow Wing township	2051	2245	2416	2536	2640
Crow Wing	Daggett Brook township	616	653	684	704	721
Crow Wing	Fort Ripley township	765	812	855	882	905
Crow Wing	Long Lake township	1228	1289	1341	1373	1399
Crow Wing	St. Mathias township	649	683	712	730	745
Crow Wing	County total	69810	73960	77520	79750	81610
Mille Lacs	County total	33000	35970	38540	40630	42390
Morrison	Platte township	304	297	288	278	268
Morrison	Ripley township	841	891	933	965	992
Morrison	County total	36050	37470	38630	39450	40110

Source: MN Demographic Center 2007

Periodically the State of Minnesota's Demographic Center provides projections for population change by local unit of government – traditionally at the City and Township level, as shown in Table 2. Projections are based on a variety of methods – with the average of these being used. While these projections are just that, projections, the township will review these when planning for the future and making decisions that have intermediate and long-term impacts.

Table 3
St. Mathias Township Persons by Gender

Persons by Gender	Male	Female
St. Mathias Township	321	301
Crow Wing County	31260	31447
Minnesota	2670741	2708398

Source: American Community Survey 2010

Table 4
Average Household Size

Jurisdiction	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010
St. Mathias Township	2.9	2.85	2.82	2.77	2.7	2.69
Brainerd	2.23	2.22	2.21	2.2	2.18	2.23
Baxter	2.87	2.83	2.77	2.71	2.64	2.55
Crow Wing County	2.43	2.41	2.39	2.37	2.33	2.37
Minnesota	2.52	2.51	2.49	2.47	2.46	2.48

Source: American Community Survey

Table 4 demonstrates that the average household size has slowly decreased over the past decade in St. Mathias Township, as well as in area communities and the State of Minnesota. A variety of reasons may explain this, primarily demographics, but it all comes down to attributes of the individual household by the same governmental units. Please note that projections were done in 2007, prior to the upheaval felt during the "Great Recession", which took place in the late 2000s. One should note that while projections can miss the mark, based on methodology for these projections, it can be realistically inferred that local units of government in the area should be prepared for a measured uptick in births for the foreseeable future.

Table 5**Historical and Projected Births by County**

Location / Year	2000*	2010*	2015**	2020**	2025**	2030**
Minnesota	67,451	68,407	77,384	77,180	75,950	76,104
Aitkin County	136	122	129	120	116	114
Cass County	303	311	339	326	327	319
Crow Wing County	647	764	778	778	792	779
Mille Lacs County	285	316	386	394	415	422
Morrison County	392	408	437	424	421	411

Sources: * Minnesota Department of Health, **Minnesota Demographic Center 2007

Related, births projected to occur over almost the next two decades are anticipated to hold approximately steady for the area, as outlined in Table 5. One should note that these numbers are only for births that occur within the counties listed. Many factors can alter these numbers – including the geographical locations of hospitals. Also, one should note that these do not include births to county residents that take place in other places. Table 5 illustrates the historical births for the state by county, as well as projected births

Table 6**Historical Breakdown of Ages of St. Mathias Township Residents**

Ages	1990	2000	2010
Birth - 18y	130	141	168
19-24	43	18	37
25-44	123	139	166
45-64	84	258	174
65 +	61	44	77

Sources: US Census

Table 6 outlines the age of the residents of St. Mathias Township over a period of years. It illustrates that in recent years, the township has seen a small “baby boom”, and should these residents continue to call St. Mathias Township home, it could logically be inferred that an additional “baby boom” may be seen in the local area in upcoming years.

Table 7
Annual Unemployment Rate

Location / Year	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
US	4	5.8	5.5	4.6	5.8	9.6	8.1
MN	3.1	4.5	4.6	4.1	5.4	7.4	5.6
Crow Wing Co.	4	5.3	5.3	6	6.9	8.8	7.4
Aitkin Co.	6.1	6.6	6.9	6	8	9.9	7.7
Cass Co.	5.4	6.1	7.1	6.5	6.8	10.6	8.9
Mille Lacs Co.	4.4	6.5	7.1	6.9	9	11.9	8.8
Morrison Co.	4.6	5.8	5.8	5.6	7.5	9.5	7.2

Source: MN Department of Employment & Economic Development LAUS

Table 7 shows that, for the most part, the annual unemployment of Crow Wing County, surrounding counties, the state, and the nation are beginning to decline after the “great recession”. Over the past decade Crow Wing County has statistically had an unemployment rate slightly higher than the State of Minnesota’s average, and slightly below the nation’s average. When compared to neighboring counties, Crow Wing unemployment numbers are approximately average of the region.

Table 8
St. Mathias Township Household Income

Household Income	Number
Less than \$10,000	10
\$10,000 to \$14,999	12
\$15,000 to \$24,999	14
\$25,000 to \$34,999	43
\$35,000 to \$49,999	42
\$50,000 to \$74,999	88
\$75,000 to \$99,999	73
\$100,000 to \$149,999	47
\$150,000 to \$199,999	0
\$200,000 or more	0
Median household income (dollars)	56,803
Mean household income (dollars)	62,852

Source: American Community Survey 2010

Table 9
Median Household Income

Median Household Income	1990	2000	2013
St. Mathias Township	\$19,667	\$43,462	\$57,857
State of Minnesota	\$31,465	\$60,646	\$52,250

Sources: US Census and American Community Survey.

Table 10
St. Mathias Township Educational Attainment

Population 25 years and over	Number	Percent
Less than 9th grade	21	3.60%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	33	5.70%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	221	37.90%
Some college, no degree	107	18.40%
Associate's degree	116	19.90%
Bachelor's degree	49	8.40%
Graduate or professional degree	36	6.20%

Source: American Community Survey 2010

Table 11
St. Mathias Township Housing Units

Total housing units	Number	Percent
1-unit, detached	312	91.20%
1-unit, attached	0	0.00%
2 units	0	0.00%
3 or 4 units	0	0.00%
5 to 9 units	0	0.00%
10 to 19 units	0	0.00%
20 or more units	0	0.00%
Mobile home	30	8.80%
Boat, RV	0	0.00%

Source: American Community Survey 2010

The data profiled in Table 11, Housing Units, may in itself seem rather mundane. But, when one considers historical population trends, and future population projections, as shown in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively, then factor in the historically declining household size in the area, as shown in Table 4, St. Mathias Township could realistically expect increased demand for housing within the

township, and further, the township should not be surprised if it sees further growth in home construction.

These demographic and statistic population, housing trends and projections could also have a widespread impact on other attributes of the Township, such as transportation and other infrastructure.

Table 12
St. Mathias Township Home Heating Source

Occupied housing units	Number	Percent
Utility gas	3	0.90%
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	139	42.20%
Electricity	26	7.90%
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.	87	26.40%
Coal or coke	0	0.00%
Wood	74	22.50%
Solar energy	0	0.00%
Other fuel	0	0.00%
No fuel used	0	0.00%

Source: American Community Survey 2010

Table 13
St. Mathias Township Home Values

Owner-occupied units	Number	Percent
Less than \$50,000	13	5.20%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	10	4.00%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	18	7.20%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	49	19.60%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	103	41.20%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	49	19.60%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	8	3.20%
\$1,000,000 or more	0	0.00%
Median (dollars)	227,800	

Source: American Community Survey 2010

Table 13 outlines the fact that approximately 20% of St. Mathias Township homes are valued between \$150,000 and \$199,999, and over 41% of all homes are valued at between \$200,000 - \$299,999.

Table 14
St. Mathias Township Housing Occupancy

HOUSING OCCUPANCY	Number	Percent
Total housing units	342	100%
Occupied housing units	329	96.20%
Vacant housing units	13	3.80%

Source: American Community Survey 2010

According to Table 14, over 96% of all homes in St. Mathias Township are occupied, pointing to a tight housing market. Further, historical population patterns and projections for increased growth, may put further strain on this already tight housing market.

**Table 15
Home Foreclosures**

Location (County)	2011 Total #	2012 Total #	2011-12 Change %	2011 Rate	2012 Rate	2012 Rank
Crow Wing	358	281	-22%	1.44%	1.13%	13
Aitkin	71	74	4%	0.95%	0.99%	18
Cass County	123	99	-20%	1.07%	0.86%	24
Mille Lacs	193	163	-16%	2.11%	1.79%	3
Morrison	109	93	-15%	0.86%	0.73%	35

Source: Sheriff Sale Data compiled by MN Home Ownership Center. www.hocmn.org

Location (County)	2005 Total #	2006 Total #	2007 Total #	2008 Total #	2009 Total #	2010 Total #
Crow Wing	-	198	231	360	397	388
Aitkin	18	35	47	57	95	96
Cass County	33	78	91	116	107	158
Mille Lacs	61	103	229	247	225	226
Morrison	52	77	93	116	107	112

Source: Sheriff Sale Data compiled by MN Home Ownership Center. www.hocmn.org and Housing Link www.housinglink.org

Table 15 shows that while the number of home foreclosures has decreased in Crow Wing County, it still affects greater than 1% of homes in the county annually. During the banking crisis of 2006-2010, foreclosures in Crow Wing County steadily increased and from 2005-2009, Crow Wing County ranked 10th highest in the State behind the population dense Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Cloud and Duluth in the number of foreclosures. As the financial recovery lingered, Crow Wing County continued to rank in the top 14 counties with the highest number of foreclosures of the 87 Minnesota counties.

Table 16
County Health Ranking

Location (County)	County Ranking
Crow Wing	50
Aitkin	77
Cass County	87
Mille Lacs	85
Morrison	82

Source: CountyHealthRankings.org -2013

Table 16 shows the county rankings, out of 87 Counties within the State of Minnesota, in regards to overall health. This table shows that residents of Crow Wing County are healthier, on average, than residents of the surrounding Counties. However, Crow Wing County still ranks in the bottom half of Minnesota Counties in terms of overall resident health. Many factors come into play with these rankings, including mortality, resident lifestyle habits, occurrences of serious ailments, and other factors. For a complete synopsis of how this information is compiled, please visit www.countyhealthrankings.com. St. Mathias Township's proximity to the Brainerd, Baxter and Little Falls areas allows residents to enjoy high-grade health care services. Our proximity to these advanced health care centers may make us a healthier township.

C. TOWNSHIP HISTORY

The early history of what later became St. Mathias Township has been defined by transitions in Native American culture, the outcome of struggles between the governments of Britain and France to stake claims to vast areas of the North American continent, and the American colonists' victory in the Revolutionary War.

From the early 1700's, the Dakota (also known as the Sioux) co-existed here, albeit tensely, with the Ojibwe (also known as the Chippewa). The Ojibwe had



migrated into the area following settlement of the eastern areas of the continent by British and French subjects, which forced eastern tribes westward into Dakota Territory.

In 1763, when it lost the French and Indian Wars, France ceded its claim to lands east of the Mississippi River to Britain.

The Dakota lost their claim to the area in the Battle of Crow Wing, which occurred in 1768 near the confluence of the Crow Wing and Mississippi Rivers at a site now included within Crow Wing State Park. The prevailing Ojibwe, armed by French traders, expelled the Dakota from lands east of the Mississippi, although skirmishes in areas now comprising Crow Wing and Cass Counties continued for years.

When the British lost the Revolutionary War to the American colonists in 1783, they ceded their claims to territories east of the Mississippi to the new United States. In 1837, the United States signed a treaty with the Ojibwe nation, which

ceded its claims to the area. In return, the Ojibwe received certain payments and a guarantee that they would be able to retain a "privilege of hunting, fishing and gathering the wild rice upon the lands, the rivers and the lakes" included in the territory ceded.

Then, as a result of the Treaty with the Winnebagos in 1846, who were being relocated northward into the area to free their native territories in Iowa for white settlement, the United States Secretary of War ordered the establishment of a



military post near the junction of the Mississippi and Nokasippi Rivers. The site was selected because the rivers and their junction were a common boundary shared by the Dakota and Ojibwe and, with the 1846 treaty, the Winnebago, who requested protection.

In 1848, the U.S. Army dispatched an advance party from Fort Snelling to look at the site. The following year--also the year when the Territory of Minnesota was established, the Army built a military fort on the west bank of the Mississippi River. First named Fort

Marcy after the Secretary of War who had ordered its construction, the installation was shortly afterwards renamed Fort Gaines and then Fort Ripley. The site is now part of Camp Ripley.

The new military installation included a substantial reservation of territory lying to the east. More than two-thirds of what became St. Mathias Township was part of this reservation. The eastern boundary of the reservation ran north-south at a slight angle through the latter day township: some of it still defines property

lines and is visible through fence lines and different agricultural and forest usages of the land.

In 1858, Minnesota was admitted to the Union as a state.

In April 1880, Congress directed the War Department to return most of the Fort Ripley military reservation lands to the Interior Department for sale to settlers.

In 1882, Mooersville Township was organized. It consisted of the plats referred to as Township 43, Ranges 31 and 32. In 1892, after some considerable (unnamed) friction between residents of these two congressional townships, Township 43 Range 31 detached itself from Mooersville and became known as St. Mathias Township. Its name was taken from the St. Mathias Church. The petition for its organization was granted by the county commissioners on June 7th of 1892. The petition for its organization is not on file. However, the "Returns from first election" are. The officers elected were John H. Gibson. Arvid Junzens, and A.D. Edison as supervisors; V.L. Whitford as clerk; G. Mattes as treasurer; R.H. Capistrant and V.L. Whitney as justices; Win. S. Green as constable: and John Elman and James Montgomery as pound masters. The remaining Range 32 became an unorganized territory and remained so until 1904 when it was organized as Fort Ripley Township.

The 1900 census was the first taken after St. Mathias's organization and showed a population of 439. In the course of its history, seven school districts have been organized. Five of them remained active until 1960, when most rural county elementary schools were consolidated into the Brainerd School District and children were transported by bus to the city schools.

Three churches were established in the township: the Church of St. Mathias in 1887, which was composed of French and German Roman Catholics, The

Riverside Union Church in 1907, and the Church of God in 1885 at Gorstville. The latter church faded into virtual nonexistence with the demise of the Gorst Mill prior to 1900. A cemetery, now maintained under an initiative of the township board to preserve the history of the township, is located near the site of the church, which is no longer standing. Although there has never been an incorporated village in the township, a store and post office were established near the Church of St. Mathias. The store remained until the 1970's, when it was converted to a bar and grille. The post office, established in 1888, was discontinued in 1908.

For the sum of one dollar, Louis O. Manard granted the Township of St. Mathias perpetual rights to a half acre of land to be used as the site of its town hall. This donation was made on March 12, 1918, at the township annual meeting, when residents present resolved to raise and use \$8,300 along with \$8,150 that had previously been allocated for a tool shed as funds for the building of a town hall, a 16 x 24-foot building.

Currently, the Township Board consists of three supervisors, a clerk, and a treasurer. The supervisors are the decision-makers on the board, voting on decisions; the clerk and treasurer record and process the transactions of the township. The responsibility of the Board is to allocate tax dollars in such a way as to provide for the needs of its citizens. The board is elected from and by the



registered voters of the Township. The board's general goals and policies are established at the annual meeting of residents, held in March. The Township Board uses this information, the Crow Wing County Zoning Ordinance, and appropriate county and state governing policies as the framework for its decisions and actions.

St. Mathias Town Hall

In 1918, monthly township meetings were being held at the local school.

On April 6, 1918, at a regular town board meeting, the St. Mathias board moved to build a town hall. "On motion, it was resolved that \$300 be raised for building a town hall, and to use the \$150 that was voted for a tool shed shall be applied on the



Hall. Lewis Manard donated 1/2 acre on the NW corner of Section 22. Said hall to be built this year 1918, 16 x 24 feet."

April 20th, 1918

"Board met at the Town Clerk's office for the purpose of letting contract for building town hall to the lowest bidder. Lewis DeRosier being lowest bidder was awarded the contract for \$480. Hall to be built according to plans and specification on file with the Town Clerk. On motion, Board adjourned. Eugene Veillette T.C.

For the first 40 plus years, meetings were held in this building. There was no insulation, just the bare studs. In the 1960's, the board determined it would be a good idea to finish off the inside with insulation and paneling. Three election booths were built in.

In 1986, the wood stove was removed and an electric wall heater was installed. It was enough to take the chill out, but, when it got really cold, especially during March elections, an extra heater was plugged in.

With a small parking area and the increase of people attending meetings, the Township Board met with the St. Mathias Park Board to move the township meetings to the St Mathias Park Community Center. In 2001, regular monthly meetings were moved to the park. In lieu of renting the park building, the town board agreed to pay for the plowing of the Community Center and Park parking lot and driveway.

A committee was established in March, 2012, to examine the future of the township building. They were given a budget of \$5,000 to make necessary repairs. A new roof was put on and new windows installed. More repairs need to be made.

The committee was also asked to research how the building could be utilized. One of the suggestions was to make it a place for a book exchange for the local residents. It could also be a meeting place for small groups. Another suggestion was to move the building to St. Mathias Park.

As of 2015, the future of this historic building has not been determined.



St Mathias Park

In the early 1980's several local people gathered with the idea to have a local, safe area for people to gather, but there was no money to invest. In the early 1990's, the development of the park began with donations, community support, and many volunteer hours going into the clearing and construction of the buildings and recreation areas. The area is regularly used by a local amateur baseball team, an over 55 baseball team, and a summer youth softball program.

St Mathias Park is located across from the St Mathias Catholic Church and next to the St Mathias Bar and Grill. There are 120 acres with a baseball field, softball field, playground, area for picnics, outdoor restroom facilities, walking paths, trails for handicapped, disc golf course, outdoor volleyball court, horseshoe courts, and space for many more activities. There is an all season building with a complete kitchen, bathrooms, and plenty of space for a variety of activities

from wedding receptions to community meetings. An enclosed pole building is available for winter storage and summer activities.

The Park Board, made up of 15 members, sponsors a spring membership drive with a bologna feed and a spring consignment auction. The entire community has the free use of the grounds and outdoor activities. The buildings are available to rent by the paid members of the park after they have been a member for one year. Reservations are on going and extend into the next year. Another source of income comes from having a gambling license.

The park continues to grow with the completion of the handicapped trail in 2015 that meanders down to the Nokassippi River, improvements to the ball fields, and anticipated extension of another nine holes to the disc golf course.

Pine Grove Cemetery History

The Pine Grove Cemetery in St. Mathias Township is one of the visible remnants of history of the area. The first known burial was seven year-old



Henriette Gorst, December 9, 1882. But there were probably earlier burials. Many of the markers were made of wood and several fires have swept through the area during its history. The evidence that remains are indentations in the ground and burial sites framed with rocks. The remarkable aspect of this cemetery rests with the beautiful pine woods and the mystery that surrounds it.

The cemetery is located on a hill overlooking the Little Nokassippi River. It was officially established in 1883 with the deed being recorded March 7, 1888. And in 1905, the cemetery became official with a plot map drawn. Just south of the cemetery and across the river was a settlement called Gorstville or Gorst's Mill. Established in 1881, it had a lumber mill and a grist mill. A school was located nearby and a minister came by regularly to hold services in the schoolhouse. The community thrived into the 1890's until the timber supply became sparse and the estimated 100 residents began drifting away.

Little is known about those buried in Pine Grove Cemetery. What is known is that there are at least two Civil War veterans. There may be more, as many of the original settlers were Civil War Veterans. Many of those buried are children, as small pox, flu and diphtheria epidemics passed through the area. There was also a potter's field section designated for the southwest corner of the cemetery. The total number of burials may never be known.

The cemetery was kept up until the 1940's. The last burial was Anna Pfieler Shannon in 1940. She cared for the cemetery until her death since her husband,

both parents, and many of her childhood friends, were buried there too. In the next 50 years, the site became a shambles of brush, weeds and debris.

In September 1994, restoration began when the St. Mathias Town Board established a cemetery committee of interested residents. As there was no official ownership, the Township became the owner and subject to any liabilities connected with it.

In the spring of 1995, cleanup began by local residents and the sentence-to-serve work crew. Brushing, raking, tree trimming, fixing the fence and gate, it was an amazing effort! It opened up a whole new view of the history of the area. Since then, the cemetery has been regularly maintained with mowing and landscaping efforts. Some trees were removed as they had reached their prime. In 2012, a Boy Scout troop requested to do some work at the cemetery as part of a community project. They put up a permanent flag pole, two benches, and performed other landscaping projects to beautify the cemetery.

The cemetery is located approximately two miles west of Crow County Road 121 on 10th Street. About one mile of the road is minimum maintenance. It is fairly well maintained in the spring, summer and fall. However travel is at your own risk. During the winter months, the cemetery is only accessible by snowshoes, cross country skis or snowmobile as the road is not plowed and is impassable by vehicle.

The Township Board's intent is to continue to maintain the cemetery and to research the history surrounding it. Information on the two Civil War Veterans is now at the Crow Wing County Historical Museum. The committee is still looking for more information on the area and hopefully one day to share it all in book form.

Riverside Union Church History

by Pastor Harvey Peterson

The history of Riverside Union Church goes back to the year 1907. It was organized by a mission group from Pennsylvania, who established Sunday



schools in various places throughout rural areas of the country. A Sunday school was formed in a country school, District 19, in neighboring Daggett Township, Section 29. The school was located at the intersection of what is now called Buehler Road and Oakridge Road. The mission group from Pennsylvania was known as the American Sunday School Union.

By 1913, a church was built made of hand hewn logs. It was built diagonally across the intersection in a field now owned by Milo Buehler. At this time, the church was organized and chartered as the East Daggett Brook Presbyterian Church. The church was open mostly during the summer months because the snow prevented access during the winter months.

In 1947 ground was broken for what we now know as Riverside Union Church. The name was taken from the old Sunday School Union and its proximity to the Nokassippi River. The congregation moved into the basement in 1949 where they could meet in relative comfort from the heat of a wood furnace. The upper level was ready for occupancy by 1951. The first service was the wedding of Lois Sewell. Originally, the building had no indoor plumbing. By 1965, an addition was added with indoor plumbing.

In 2001, the congregation needed a larger facility. The new church, built in Section 13, was dedicated on the second Sunday of 2002.

St. Mathias Catholic Parish and Church

The beginning of the Parish of St. Mathias was in 1887, when Monsignor J.F. Buh traveled to this community to offer Mass in the homes of the French settlers.



The establishment of St. Mathias Church and Parish took root when the missionaries came to the area to help the people who were settling here. There was a settlement called Crow Wing located along the Mississippi River. It was the site of the first Catholic Church in Crow Wing County established around 1868. The settlement waned when the railroad developed to the north going through Brainerd. Mass services were discontinued in the church by 1879.

St. Mathias Church is one of the oldest parishes in the diocese of Duluth, Minnesota. In old church directories, St. Mathias first shows up as a mission of St. Francis Church in Brainerd, but being served by Fr. Arthur Lamothe, from Little Falls, which was in the St. Cloud diocese.

In July 1920, the Crosier Order from Onamia began 76 years of serving the people. Fr. John Tertooen, OSC was the first pastor from Onamia. There were over 75 families by this time.

Because of the large number of people, the old church had become outgrown. It was decided to build a new church in the early 1920s. The farmers began

digging the basement in December 1923, and on August 26, 1928, the first Mass was said in the new church. The total cost of the church was \$10,677.62.

In 1996, the Crosier Fathers from Onamia turned the pastoral duties of St. Mathias back to the Duluth Diocese. There was some apprehension when this happened. With a shortage of priests, what would that mean? In 1999, it was decided that St. Mathias would be clustered with St. Andrew's Parish in Brainerd. Later, the Brainerd area became a cluster of 3 parishes, St. Francis, St. Andrew and St. Mathias.



The Magnan Mill History

by Mervin Eisel

Part of St. Mathias Township was included in the original Fort Ripley Military Reservation. The reservation was established in 1848. The Congressional Committee of Military Affairs, on February 3, 1880, passed "An Act to Restore to public domain, a part of the Reservation, known as Fort Ripley, in the State of Minnesota....." This part was east of the Mississippi River and excluded lands that were granted for a railway right-of-way. This land included about two-thirds of the western part of St. Mathias Township.

After this land was open to settlers, two French Canadian brothers, David and Gene Magnan, came to the area searching for a swift river on which to build a mill. They selected a site on the Nokassippi River in St. Mathias section 18.

They mill ground flour and sawed lumber. It was a roller flour mill powered by a water turbine. They had customers for grinding flour and sawing lumber from as far away as Royalton and Rice.

Sometime between 1890 and 1900, the mill was damaged by a flood. In about 1895, the mill was destroyed by fire. The turbine still exists and is located on private property in St Mathias Township.. Another part of the mill is at the Weyerhauser Museum in Little Falls.

Resident Interviews

From William Austin...

In the early 1950's, a vote was held at Austin's Store (corner of Sleepy Hollow Road and County Road 45) to vote for the Rural Electric Coop (REA). The store sold a lot of wiring after the vote was held and electricity was approved. When Bill Austin bought the store in 1948, there was indoor plumbing.

In 1948, when the Austin family moved to the store, it had two crank phones. Each residence was supposed to have only one phone, but there were two people living at the store at the time, so two phones were installed.

Tractors had steel wheels until the 1930's, the first motor cars were introduced in the township in the 1920's and 1930's. By 1950, everyone had a vehicle.

In 1948, there were no paved roads in the township. The Sleepy Hollow Road was just a trail.

In the 1940's, wood and coal were replaced as home heating methods by fuel oil. Ice was cut from area lakes for ice boxes in the 1920's – 1940's.

In the early 1950's, a motor driven cream separator was sold to Everette Lodermeier, and vacuum pump milking machines were introduced in the 1950's as well. The primary crops grown in the area were hay, corn, alfalfa, clover, wheat, rye and buckwheat.

The paper mill and railroad in Brainerd provided employment for farmers, and many worked in town as well as on the farm.

From Katherine Austin...

Robert and Katherine Austin moved to St. Mathias Township in 1953; Robert is a brother of William Austin, who bought Austin's Store. Growing up, Katherine's father had his own electric plant, called a "light pant." When the lights became dim, they would use a gas engine to power the batteries. The batteries were lined up on a shelf in the barn.

From Milo Beuhler...

The Buehler farm had their first electricity in 1939, which was used to power the cream separator, well pump and refrigerator. Most people had electricity in their homes by the 1950's. They had indoor plumbing in 1942.

Their first car was a 1925 Dodge. By the 1950's most people had one car or truck.

The first tar road he remembers is Highway 371. Roads were plowed by horses until the 1940's.

There was a potato warehouse in Fort Ripley alongside the railroad tracks. There was an engine called the "Galloping Goose" that ran to Brainerd and Little Falls every day.



D. 2013 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS and SURVEY



2013 SURVEY RESULTS

2013 SURVEY RESULTS

293 Surveys sent 112 Surveys returned

Is the road you live on gravel or blacktop?

Gravel 56 Blacktop 51
 Not Live here 4

1. How would you rate the blacktopped county roads in St. Mathias Township with regard to:

Avg - Opinion	Poor					Excellent		No Opinion	Surveys answered	Expressed Opinion
	1	2	3	4	5	Opinion	Opinion			
3.47 Safety	6	3	35	42	9	95	10	105	90.5%	
3.46 Summer Maintenance	4	8	35	41	10	98	13	111	88.3%	
3.32 Winter Plowing	12	7	28	37	13	97	13	110	88.2%	
3.53 Winter Sanding	13	13	29	26	11	92	18	110	83.6%	
3.61 Right-of-Way Maintenance	5	3	44	36	8	96	15	111	86.5%	

2. How would you rate the gravel county roads in St. Mathias Township with regard to:

	Poor					Excellent		No Opinion	Surveys answered	Expressed Opinion
	1	2	3	4	5	Opinion	Opinion			
3.24 Safety	3	15	35	31	6	90	20	110	81.8%	
3.24 Summer Grading	8	13	31	25	13	90	20	110	81.8%	
3.14 Right-of-Way Maintenance	4	19	34	23	8	88	22 *	110	80.0%	
2.98 Winter Plowing	12	15	32	21	8	88	22	110	80.0%	
Right-of-Way Maintenance	5	19	28	10	6		64 *			

* Category was in twice

3. In St. Mathias Township, how would you rate:

	Poor					Excellent		No Opinion	Surveys answered	Expressed Opinion
	1	2	3	4	5	Opinion	Opinion			
3.58 Law Enforcement	1	8	33	30	15	87	24	111	78.4%	
2.89 Fire Protection	3	7	42	17	8	77	34	111	69.4%	
3.17 Animal Control	10	3	37	16	10	76	35	111	68.5%	
3.30 Emergency Response	3	10	33	21	9	76	35	111	68.5%	
4.00 Community Facilities	0	3	25	34	33	95	16	111	85.6%	
1.79 High Speed Internet Service	44	13	15	5	1	78	34	112	69.6%	

4. In St. Mathias Township, how important is the preservation of:

Avg - Opinion	Not Imp					Very In Have		No	Surveys Expressed	
	1	2	3	4	5	Opinion	Opinion	answer:	Opinion	
4.81 Farmland	2	1	16	24	58	101	10	111	91.0%	
4.31 Forests	3	2	12	29	57	103	8	111	92.8%	
4.15 Wetlands	4	5	15	26	52	102	9	111	91.9%	
4.49 Water Quality	1	1	7	26	58	93	8	101	92.3%	
4.42 Wildlife	1	1	13	26	61	102	9	111	91.9%	

5. In St. Mathias Township, how much to you value the presence of the following in our community:

Avg - Opinion	Not Imp					Very In Have		No	Surveys Expressed	
	1	2	3	4	5	Opinion	Opinion	answer:	Opinion	
2.7 Cultural Opportunities	12	15	31	13	15	86	25	111	77.5%	
3.62 Recreational Opportuni	5	8	29	29	24	95	16	111	85.6%	
3.69 Community Events	2	7	34	29	24	96	15	111	86.5%	

6. How supportive are you of the following in St. Mathias Township:

Avg - Opinion	Not Supportive					Very Si Have		No	Surveys Expressed	
	1	2	3	4	5	Opinion	Opinion	answer:	Opinion	
2.94 Feedlots	34	12	23	14	10	93	18	111	83.8%	
2.51 Large Commercial Farm	35	15	21	18	12	101	10	111	91.0%	
2.57 Agricultural Irrigation	16	20	30	22	14	102	9	111	91.9%	
3.82 Organic Farming	4	6	32	19	38	99	12	111	89.2%	
3.24 Gravel Pits	6	13	42	24	12	97	14	111	87.4%	
3.31 Forest Management	2	1	26	33	36	98	13	111	88.3%	
3.05 Community Storm Shel	14	17	28	16	17	92	19	111	82.9%	
4.4 The St. Mathias Park	1		14	28	57	100	11	111	90.1%	
2.14 Motorized Trails	41	20	21	10	15	107	5	112	91.9%	
3.33 Non-motorized Trails	13	11	28	29	21	102	9	111	91.9%	
3.93 Home Businesses	1	2	29	36	29	97	14	111	87.4%	
4.1 Small Business		1	24	28	35	88	13	101	87.1%	
Less than 10 outside employees										
3.25 Large Business	15	9	24	28	17	93	18	111	83.8%	
More than 10 outside employees										

One person who checked motorized number 5 specifically said snowmobile

Is your primary residence in St. Mathias Township

Yes

89 No

Where I live in St. Mathias Township my sense of the housing density is

Not Enough	About right	Too Many	No Opinion
4	64	21	22

My sense of the housing density in the township as a whole is

Not Enough	About right	Too Many	No Opinion
5	71	13	22

In the future, I believe that housing density should remain the same:

Strongly disagree					Strongly Agree	
1	2	3	4	5	No Opinion	
6	3	27	22	34	19	

Number of houses within 1 square mile

Number of persons "has" number of houses:

0 has 1	10 has 15	20 has 2	30 has 3
1 has 1	11 has 6	21 has 0	
2 has 3	12 has 7	22 has 1	1 person said 30 but doesn't live he
3 has 6	13 has 2	23 has 0	1 person said 65 but doesn't live he
4 has 7	14 has 2	24 has 1	
5 has 10	15 has 2	25 has 3	
6 has 7	16 has 1	26 has 0	
7 has 4	17 has 0	27 has 0	
8 has 12	18 has 0	28 has 0	
9 has 0	19 has 0	29 has 0	

MAY, 2013 Survey

St. Mathias Township is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan. This plan is a mission statement for the township and a guide to the present and the future of the township with respect to the wishes of the residents.

We are seeking your input. Your opinion is vital and timing is very important! Please complete this survey and mail back in the stamped, addressed envelope by **June 30, 2013**.

Please only one per household.

Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions. Your responses will be completely confidential.

Instructions: Please circle one number in each line with number 1 being the least and number 5 being the highest rating or check "No Opinion".

Is the road you live on gravel or blacktop? _____

How would you rate the blacktopped **county** roads in St. Mathias Township with regard to:

	Poor					Excellent	No Opinion
	1	2	3	4	5		
Safety	1	2	3	4	5		_____
Summer maintenance	1	2	3	4	5		_____
Winter plowing	1	2	3	4	5		_____
Winter sanding	1	2	3	4	5		_____
Right-of-way maintenance	1	2	3	4	5		_____

(Ditch mowing, brushing, obstruction removal, etc.)

Comments, please be specific:

How would you rate the **gravel** roads in St. Mathias Township with regard to:

	Poor					Excellent	No Opinion
	1	2	3	4	5		
Safety	1	2	3	4	5		_____
Summer grading	1	2	3	4	5		_____
Right-of-way maintenance	1	2	3	4	5		_____
Winter plowing	1	2	3	4	5		_____
Right-of-way maintenance	1	2	3	4	5		_____

(Ditch mowing, brushing, obstruction removal, etc.)

Comments, please be specific:

In St. Mathias Township, how would you rate:

	Poor					Excellent	No Opinion
	1	2	3	4	5		
Law Enforcement	1	2	3	4	5		_____
Fire Protection	1	2	3	4	5		_____
Animal Control	1	2	3	4	5		_____
Emergency Response	1	2	3	4	5		_____
Community Facilities	1	2	3	4	5		_____
High Speed Internet Service	1	2	3	4	5		_____

Comments, please be specific:

In St. Mathias Township, how important is the preservation of:

	Not important			Very important		No Opinion
	1	2	3	4	5	
Farmland	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Forests	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Wetlands	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Water Quality	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Wildlife	1	2	3	4	5	_____

Comments, please be specific:

In St. Mathias Township, how much do you value the presence of the following in our community:

	Not important			Very important		No Opinion
	1	2	3	4	5	
Cultural Opportunities	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Recreational Opportunities	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Community Events	1	2	3	4	5	_____

Comments, please be specific:

How supportive are you of the following in St. Mathias Township:

	Not supportive			Very supportive		No Opinion
	1	2	3	4	5	
Feedlots	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Large Commercial Farming	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Agricultural Irrigation	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Organic Farming	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Gravel Pits	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Forest Management	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Community Storm Shelter	1	2	3	4	5	_____
The St. Mathias Park	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Motorized Trails	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Non-motorized Trails	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Home Businesses	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Small Business	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Less than 10 outside employees						
Large Business	1	2	3	4	5	_____
More than 10 outside employees						

Comments, please be specific:
