

## **ELEMENT 4 - UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

### **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

Community facilities are buildings, lands, services, and programs that serve the public such as parks, schools, police and fire protection, health care facilities, solid waste/recycling facilities and libraries. This element identifies and evaluates existing utilities and facilities serving the Town of Sherman. Understanding the location, use, and capacity of community facilities and utilities is an important consideration when planning.

The overall impact of large-scale development has both a positive side in that this type of development fosters an increased tax base, may provide additional services to residents of the town, and may warrant an upgrade or expansion of utility services to the area. However, it can also have negative effects with increased traffic, additional responsibilities by the town for maintenance of roads and a loss of rustic character. Due to the remote nature and topography of the Town, significant large-scale, high-density development is not likely to occur.

#### **Utilities & Community Facilities Vision – 20 Year Outlook**

The Town of Sherman will coordinate with utility providers, Iron County, and the local school district to ensure that Town residents have easy access to a full range of services and choices. Support for Fire and EMS will continue, to enhance public health and safety. The Town strives to ensure that property taxes are used wisely to meet public health and safety needs. The Town also seeks to improve efficiencies in services at reduced costs by pursuing shared services with neighboring communities.

### **4.2 EXISTING FACILITIES INVENTORY – LOCATION, USE, AND CAPACITY**

What follows is a description of existing utilities and community facilities within the Town of Sherman. Iron County and private companies provide services available to town residents. Therefore, included in this element is information about utilities and community facilities provided by the Town of Sherman, Iron County, and also private companies.

#### **Sewer Services**

The disposal of domestic and commercial wastewater in the Town of Sherman is managed through individual on-site septic systems that gradually discharge the wastewater to underground drainage fields. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce regulates the siting, design, installation, and inspection of most private on-site sewage systems. In 2000, the state adopted a revised private system policy called COMM 83 that allows for conventional sewage systems and advanced pre-treatment sewage systems. There are five types of on-site disposal system designs authorized for use today: conventional (underground), mound, pressure distribution, at-grade holding tank, and sand filter systems. Development of new and upgraded on-site sanitary systems requires a permit from the Iron County Zoning Department.

## **Water Supply**

The Town of Sherman does not provide municipal water service. All residents receive their water via private wells, owned and maintained by the property owner. The Town has no plans to develop a public water system.

## **Stormwater Management**

Stormwater drains through a series of ditches and culverts along Town roadways and dissipates to local lakes, rivers, streams, or filters through the ground. Stormwater runoff from development and roads can have negative impacts on lakes and streams as sediment and nutrient delivery increases resulting in water quality degradation. Managing stormwater to increase infiltration and reduce or eliminate direct delivery to surface waters is a crucial step to protect water quality.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, stormwater management may become an issue in the Town of Sherman if development continues, especially in areas where natural drainage flows directly to lakes, rivers, and streams. The potential for additional runoff resulting from development may negatively impact local lakes, rivers, and streams. The Town of Sherman should work cooperatively with the land conservation district, WDNR, and Iron County to mitigate the adverse impact of storm water runoff and ensure that environmental resources are protected.

## **Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Facilities**

Prior to 1970, solid waste management in Iron County consisted of individuals hauling to open municipal landfills. Since that time, state and federal codes regulating landfills have become more restrictive and non-hazardous household wastes are now landfilled only in licensed facilities. Abandoned landfills are potential sources of groundwater pollution, as most facilities were not designed to capture environmentally hazardous runoff to surface or ground water. Table 4.1 identifies landfill sites in Sherman.

<b>Table 4.1: Town of Sherman: Landfill Sites</b>		
<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Legal Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
The Birch's Resort	S16 41N 03E	Inactive
Town of Sherman	NE NE S23 41N 03E	Inactive
Town of Sherman	NW NW S08 41N 04E	Inactive

Source: WDNR

The Town provides waste and recycling services. There are other nearby fee-based waste management/recycle facilities. Over the 20-year planning horizon, there are no major changes anticipated to solid waste disposal and recycling facilities.

### **Communication Facilities**

Brightspeed (formerly CenturyLink) serves the Town of Sherman for local telephone communications and has recently provided fiber optic internet service to a portion of the town. In 2018, the Town passed a cell tower ordinance. Since 2020, Cloud 1/Bug Tussel Wireless has erected three new towers in Sherman that have significantly improved coverage to the town's residents: the Springstead Tower at 1124 Springstead Road, the Lehto Lake Tower at 2414W Bearskull Road, and the Mirror Lake Tower at 2413W STH 182. In addition, Gogebic Range has a solar operated broadband tower mounted on the old fire watch tower on Flowage Road. Over the 20-year planning horizon, the hope is to build upon this momentum and continue to improve cellular service and broadband internet services in Sherman.

### **Power Plants, Substations, and Transmission Lines**

Currently, there are no power plants, substations, or major transmission lines located in the Town of Sherman. Over the 20-year planning horizon, we do not anticipate any major changes in this area.

### **Electricity and Natural Gas**

Price Electric Cooperative and Northern States Power Company - Wisconsin, provide electricity needs to town residences and businesses. Since Natural gas is not offered in the Town of Sherman, most residents and businesses use propane or electricity for heating. Over the 20-year planning horizon, service upgrades are planned by Price Electric Cooperative.

### **Law Enforcement**

The Iron County Sheriff's Department provides primary local law enforcement in the Town of Sherman. The department's administrative functions and jail facility are located at 300 Taconite Street, in the City of Hurley.

Law Enforcement services are also provided by the Wisconsin State Patrol and by surrounding jurisdictions as needed. Over the 20-year planning horizon, the Town does not plan to institute its own law enforcement agency.

### **Fire & Rescue**

The Sherman Volunteer Fire Department serves the Town of Sherman for fire protection services. The fire hall is located at 3065W Hwy 182, Springstead. Major pieces of fire equipment include a fire engine, tanker, and a brush/command truck. The department has mutual aid agreements with other surrounding fire departments.

The Town of Sherman First Responders, Inc. is a voluntary independent not for profit organization licensed to provide Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) level services to the area. Volunteer members of the group respond directly to an emergency scene, in their own vehicle, to bridge the time gap until an ambulance can arrive from Park Falls or Mercer. Each responder is equipped with emergency medical supplies and an automated external defibrillator (AED). Additional AEDs are located at the Town Hall and the Fire Department Brush Truck. The First Responders work cooperatively with the ambulance services from both Marshfield Medical Center and Mercer.

The Mercer EMS provides rescue services to the eastern one-third of the Town of Sherman. Mercer EMS has facilities located alongside the Fire Hall in Mercer. Facilities include two ambulances and a snowmobile w/rescue sled. The Marshfield Medical Center Ambulance provides rescue services to the western two-thirds of the Town. Marshfield Medical Center has three ambulances. Emergency responses are dispatched from the Iron County Sheriff's Department through the 911-emergency hotline to both EMS units.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, the Town will periodically review the need for facility, equipment, training, and service upgrades.

### **Cemeteries**

There are no known cemeteries in the Town of Sherman. The need for a local cemetery was reviewed and rejected by the Town Board in the late 1980's.

### **Medical/Health Care and Other Facilities**

Residents can receive full hospital medical services at the Marshfield Medical Center located in Park Falls, the Howard Young Medical Center – Aspirus located in Woodruff, the Marshfield Medical Center - Minocqua, and the Aspirus Ironwood Hospital. The hospitals operate facilities that are staffed 24 hours a day to respond to medical emergencies in Iron County, the Town of Sherman, and its surrounding area. Residents can receive clinic services in Park Falls, Minocqua/Woodruff, Mercer, and Ironwood. Outpatient care for veterans is available in Rhinelander.

### **Child Care Facilities**

The Iron County Human Services Department maintains a listing of all licensed and certified childcare providers. Currently, with the small number of children in Sherman, there are no known childcare providers in the Town. Over the 20-year planning horizon, the number of local children should be reviewed to see if a local childcare facility is warranted.

### **Public Library**

Residents of Sherman have access to the Mercer Public Library and the Park Falls Public Library. Both provide access to public computers, digital library, eBooks/Audiobooks, Ancestry Library Edition, educational programming, and a community calendar. Over the 20-year planning horizon, the Town expects to continue the above arrangements.

### **Educational Facilities**

The Town of Sherman is served by the Chequamegon School District. The district consists of one elementary school, one elementary/middle school, and one high school, an early learning center, a charter school, and a virtual academy. The district reported a 2019 student enrollment of 719. District boundaries cover portions of Ashland, Iron, and Price counties (including Clam Lake, Glidden, Park Falls, and Fifield).

In addition, Sherman residents make use of Nicolet Technical College for both adult education and post-secondary classes. Nicolet's main campus is in Rhinelander with classes offered in several other Northwoods locations.

### **Sherman Town Hall, Pavilion, Garage and Resale Shop**

The Sherman Town Hall is located at 3063W Hwy 182. Town Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month. The Town Hall and Pavilion are used by community groups and organizations and are available for rent for other events and gatherings.

The Town Garage is located at 3061W Hwy 182. In addition to the garage, road equipment includes three plow trucks, end-loader, backhoe, mowing tractor, chipper, and a pick-up truck.

The resale shop sells gently used clothing, household items, sporting goods, tools, books, and other treasures. It is operated by Sparks (the auxiliary to the Sherman Volunteer Fire Department) with proceeds donated to the Fire Department.

### **Recreational Facilities**

There are recreational opportunities available in the Town. Examples include county forests and area lakes.

Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area: This state-owned area, mostly in Sherman, totals over 23,000 acres. It includes the 14,000-acre Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and approximately 9,000 acres of surrounding land.

Often referred to as the "Crown Jewel of Wisconsin", the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage has more than 220 miles of shoreline (95% state owned) and 195 islands. The TFSWA is managed by the DNR to perpetuate the area's natural character and scenic beauty. The TFSWA has vast recreational opportunities including fifty-eight rustic campsites on islands, fishing, boating, swimming, snowmobiling, and wildlife watching. A brochure and map of the TFSWA is available at the Mercer DNR station and at boat landing kiosks.

Sandy Beach State Campground: This campground is located at the end of Sandy Beach Road, off Powell Road, in the northeastern corner of the Town of Sherman. Facilities include rustic campsites, toilets, tables, picnic area, fire rings, drinking water, swimming, and a boat launch.

### **Public Access Points**

Public access points are points of entry for the public to make use of public lakes, forests, and parks. Public access points would include boat landings, carry-in sites, waysides, or road crossings. In the Town of Sherman, there are twelve public access points, which are scattered throughout the town. Boat landings are often one of the most prevalent public access points, and there are seven boat landings in the town for the public to access lakes and rivers. Five are considered Boat Carry-In Access points. See Table 4.2 and 4.3 below for more details.

<b>Table 4.2: Boat Ramps</b>			
<i>Water Body</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Notes:</i>
Upper Flambeau River	T.41N.-R.2E. Sec. 3	WI-DNR	Near TFF Dam
Turtle-Flambeau Flowage	T.42N.-R.3E. Sec. 31	WI-DNR	Springstead Landing
Turtle-Flambeau Flowage	T.42N.-R.3E. Sec. 35	WI-DNR	Murray's Landing
McDermott Lake	T.41N.-R.3E. Sec. 30	WI-DNR	End of McDermott Road
Bearskull Lake	T.41N.-R.3E. Sec. 25	WI-DNR	Off Bearskull Road
Randall Lakes	T.41N.-R.4E. Sec. 17	WI-DNR	End of Randall Lake Road
Sandy Beach Lake	T.42N.-R.4E Sec. 23	WI-DNR	End of Sandy Beach Road

<b>Table 4.3: Boat Carry-In Access</b>			
<i>Water Body</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Notes:</i>
Turtle-Flambeau Flowage	T.41N.-R.3E. Sec 5	WI-DNR	Fawn Lake Road Access
Sherman Lake	T.42N.-R.4E. Sec 36	WI-DNR	Hwy. 47 @ County Line
Bear River	T.42N.-R.4E Sec. 32	WI-DNR	Borgi Canoe Landing
Mud Lake	T.42N.-R.4E Sec. 23	WI-DNR	Near Sandy Beach Lake
Mirror lake	T.41N-R.3E. Sec 12	WI-DNR	Reimer Road Access
Ess Lake		WI-DNR	Boot Lake Road Access
Stone Lake		WI-DNR	Boot Lake Road Access

## Recreational Trails

- ♦ **Cross Country Skiing** – Located just off Powell Road, near Powell Marsh, this is a DNR maintained cross-country ski trail.
- ♦ **Snowmobile Trails** – The Town of Sherman has miles of snowmobile trails that crisscross the town. These trails provide connections to adjoining trail systems and are maintained by the Mercer Sno-Goer Snowmobile Club. In addition, all Town roads are open to snowmobile traffic.
- ♦ **ATV Trails** – There are no official ATV/UTV trails in the Town of Sherman. All Town of Sherman roads are open to ATV/UTV traffic.

## 4.3 FUTURE NEEDS

The Town of Sherman has identified existing utilities and community facilities serving the town. To assess future needs for services related to such utilities and community facilities, Table 4.4 below forecasts the need to expand, rehabilitate, or provide new utilities and facilities and to assess future needs for government services in the Town of Sherman over the next 20 years.

**Table 4.4: Future Utilities and Community Facilities Timetable**

	Future Needs	Over the 20-year planning horizon...			Comment
		Expand	Rehab	New	
Sanitary Sewer Service	None				Private Systems Only
Storm Water Management	None				Monitor
Water Supply	None				Private Systems Only
Solid Waste Disposal	None				Contracted Out
Recycling Facilities	Yes		X		Upgrade as Needed
Communication Facilities	Yes	X			Improve Cell and Internet Service
Power Plants and Transmission Lines	Yes	X			Price Electric Upgrade
Cemeteries	None				
Health Care Facilities	N/A				
Child Care Facilities	N/A				
Law Enforcement	N/A				
Fire	Yes		X		Ongoing Upgrades
Rescue	Yes		X		Consider as needed
Libraries	N/A				Member of NWLS
Schools	Yes				
Parks	N/A				
Trails	Yes	X	X		
Town Hall/Garage	Yes	X	X		Upgrade as needed
Other Govt. Facilities	Yes				Evaluate

Source: Town of Sherman

#### 4.4 UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

A set of goals, objectives and actions has been developed to assist the Town of Sherman in the development of utilities and community facilities. Implementation of the identified actions will assist in achieving the overall goal.

##### **GOAL 1: TO HAVE RELIABLE UTILITY SERVICE WITHIN THE TOWN.**

Objective 1: Monitor utility providers (telephone, electric and broadband) to ensure dependable and consistent service is available for Town residents.

*Action 1: Explore ways to increase cell phone coverage and availability of high-speed internet connection within the Town.*

*Action 2: Invite current and future providers periodically to discuss current improvements, programs, and alternatives to energy delivery.*

*Action 3: Seek a Town resident to function as a liaison to keep the Town informed on current topics.*

**GOAL2: TO HAVE TOWN FACILITIES, SERVICES AND PROGRAMS THAT ARE SUPPORTED.**

Objective 1: Allocate budget dollars to provide for maintenance and upkeep of Town buildings.

*Action 1: Periodically review the need for other facilities and solicit public input to seek future changes.*

*Action 2: Encourage the public use of Town facilities through programs and community events.*

Objective 2: Provide ongoing EMS and Fire Department services.

*Action 1: Continue to provide appropriate levels of funding.*

Objective 3: Continue to make available the waste/recycling center operations.

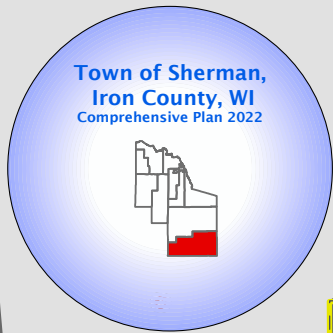
*Action 1: Periodically review needs of waste/recycling center and upgrade, as necessary.*

*Action 2: Inform residents of hazardous waste, metal disposal and electronic recycling events/sites.*

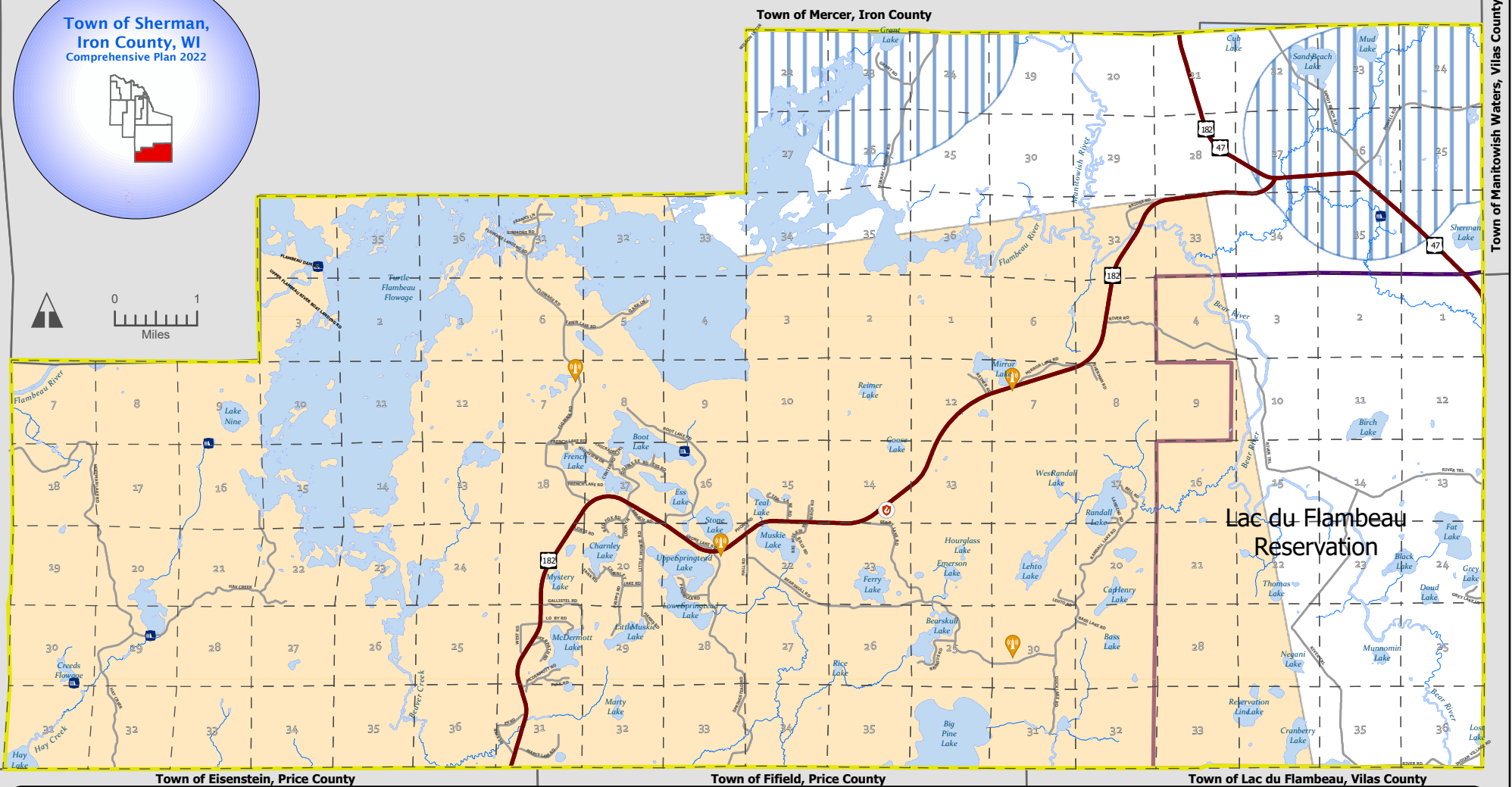
Objective 4: Maintain awareness of public health concerns and human services programs.

*Action 1: Establish and maintain relationships with various Iron County agencies.*










Town of Agenda, Ashland County







Town of Manitowish Waters, Vilas County

## Map 4.1-Utilities & Services

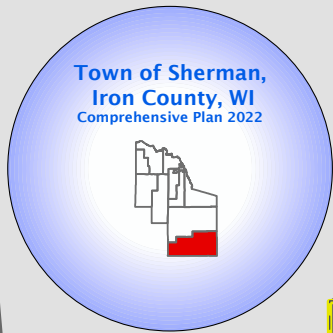
### Electricity Provider

-  Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin
-  Price Electric Cooperative
-  Fire Station
-  Dam
-  Cellular/Broadband Tower

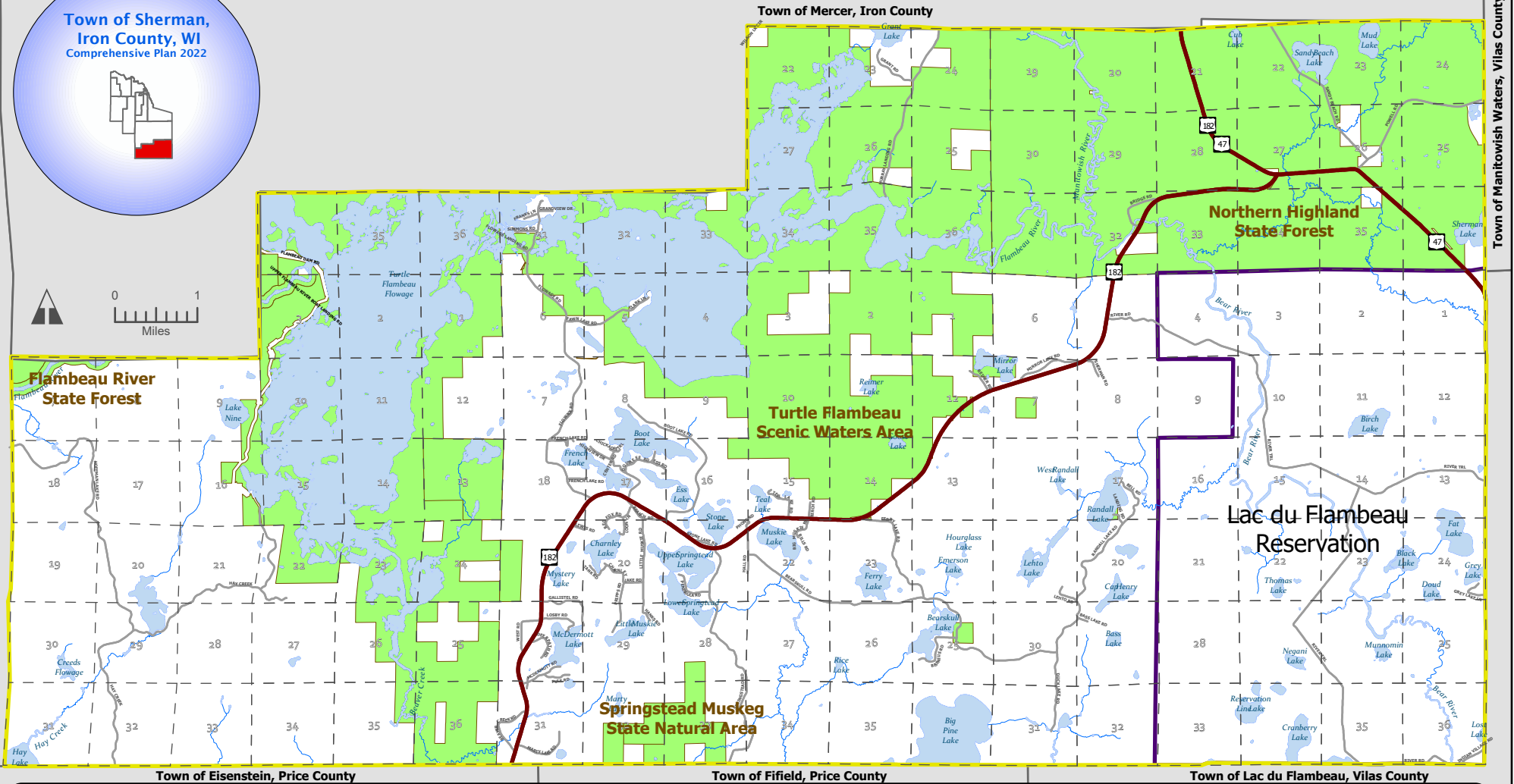
-  Minor Arterial
-  Major Collector
-  Minor Collector
-  Local Road

-  River/Stream/Creek
-  Lake/Large River/Flowage
-  Town Boundary
-  Tribal Boundary





Town of Agenda, Ashland County



Town of Manitowish Waters, Vilas County

### Map 4.1-Parks and Recreation

- Minor Arterial
- Major Collector
- Minor Collector
- Local Road
- River/Stream/Creek
- Lake/Large River/Flowage
- Town Boundary
- State Land

