

# **CHAPTER 1      Issues and Opportunities for Comprehensive Planning in the Town of Lanark**

## **Section 1.1      Description of Planning Area**

Lanark is the 15th largest town (out of 17 towns) in Portage County in terms of geographic size, encompassing an area of approximately 23,128 acres or 36.14 sq. miles. The Town (political unit) includes all of congressional township T22N-R10E. The Town of Lanark is located on the eastern edge of Portage County and is bordered on the north by the Town of Amherst, on the south by the Town of Belmont, on the east by Waupaca County, and on the west by the Town of Buena Vista (Figure 1).

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

*The Town of Lanark is completely in the glaciated area of Portage County. It is therefore hilly with some flat areas, like the Town of Amherst of which it originally was a part. It was named after the City of Lanark in Scotland from where one of the first inhabitants came. The Tomorrow River or Waupaca River passes through the northeast corner and there are several lakes and small streams. Originally it was covered with forest but the best trees were logged and part of the remaining area was cleared to be used as farmland. Among the pioneer settlers were a number of Irish families who formed St. Patrick Parish with a church of the same name. It used to have several rural schools and a number of post offices. There was never a village or a central place in the town. Only one place has a special name, Little Chicago, a tavern at the junction of Highway 54 and County Rd A. It goes back to the prohibition era; moonshine is said to have been sold there and the bootleggers were considered as people similar to the gangsters of Chicago.*

Up until 1970, the Town of Lanark was a typical rural agriculture-based community with a steadily declining population, due mostly to the changes in the agricultural economy. However, during the 1970's, the population of the Town nearly doubled. Since that time the Town has continued to grow, but not at the rate witnessed during the 70's. This extended period of growth has reversed a forty-year trend of declining population, and population projections for 2025 anticipate a continuing pattern of growth.

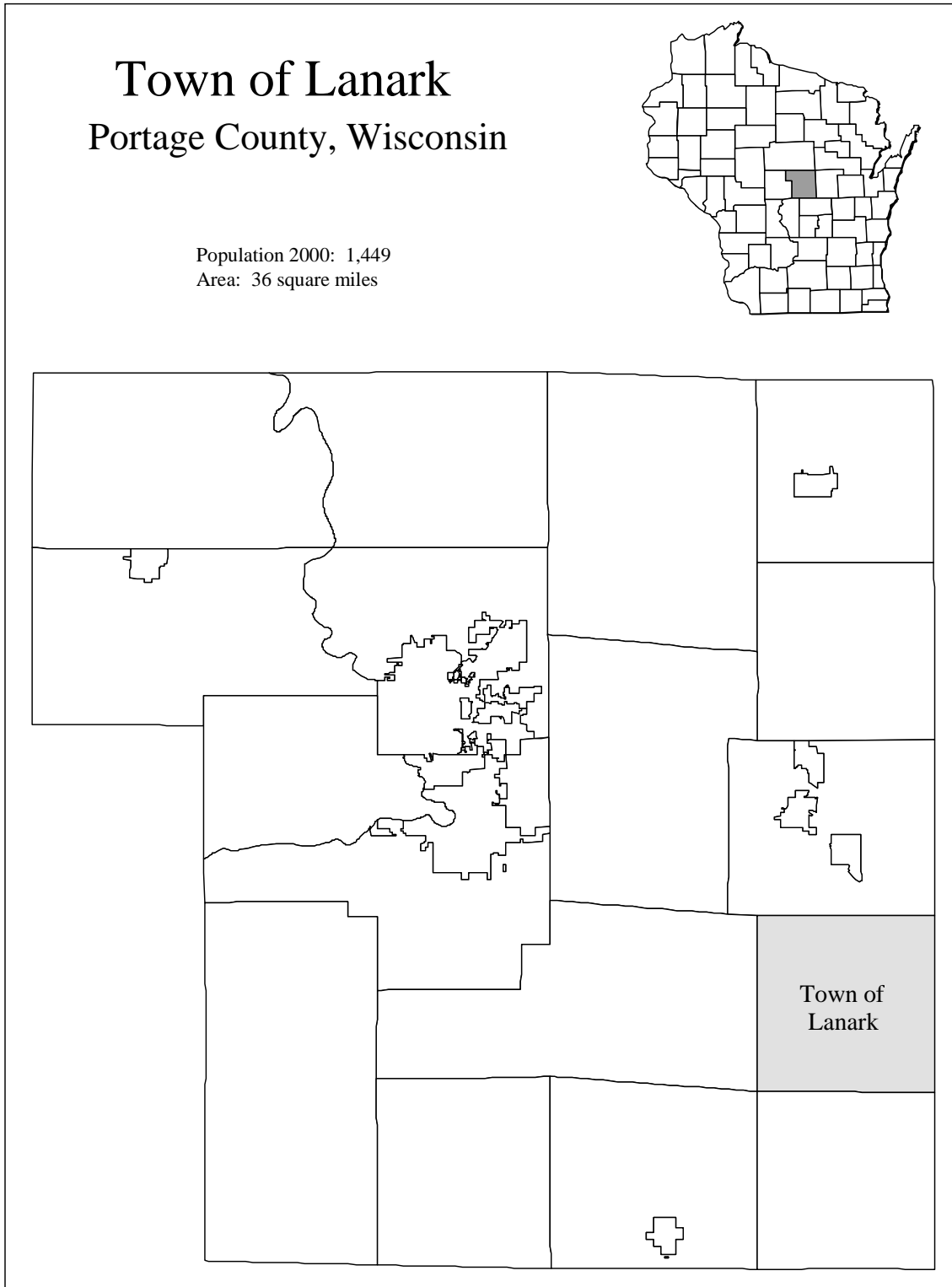
To accommodate this growth, tracts of land that are now undeveloped will see homes, hobby farms and some small businesses. If new development is not properly managed, the Town may find itself faced with unnecessarily inflated expenditures for the provision of its limited services to the new areas. This Comprehensive Plan will analyze all of the lands within the Town of Lanark corporate boundary, and include the short and long range recommendations for residential, commercial and industrial development, as well as the protection of important farmlands and other natural resources as determined by the residents of the Town of Lanark.

## **Section 1.2      Past Planning In Lanark**

### **2000 Land Use Plan**

In 1998, the Town of Lanark Planning Committee began working with the Portage County Planning Department to draft the first land use plan for the Town of Lanark. This planning effort was requested by the Town due mainly to the increased development pressure the community had experienced over the previous 20 years. The intent of the plan was to serve as a formal statement of Town/County policies regarding land use. In addition, the Plan was to serve as a guide in updating the Town's twenty-nine year old zoning map, to reflect changing conditions and needs.

**Figure 1.1: Map of Lanark Area**



### **Section 1.3 The Current Comprehensive Planning Process**

As mentioned in the introduction to this document, this Town of Lanark Comprehensive Plan update had its beginning as a part of the County-wide planning project started in June 2001. The work during the first 18 months of the County-wide project, performed primarily by the Portage County Comprehensive Planning Joint Steering Committee, centered on public participation, visioning, and the generation of preliminary goal suggestions for the nine required Plan elements. This information was then forwarded to all local units of government in the fall of 2002. Utilizing the information provided by the Joint Steering Committee, the Town of Lanark Plan Commission began the Town Comprehensive Planning process in earnest in January 2003. The Plan Commission met monthly through May 2005 to put together the first complete preliminary draft of the plan. The comprehensive planning process involved several basic phases:

The first phase involved research. Activities included acquiring a thorough knowledge of the existing community setting, identifying problems that require solutions, analyzing critical factors that need to be changed before progress can be made toward community goals, and establishing goals and objectives for growth and development. The second phase involved the formation of planning policy. Planning policies recommend a course of action that will accommodate expected change, produce desired change, and prevent undesirable change.

The next phase involved the selection of a preferred alternative for guiding future growth. The Land Use Element relates how the Town is expected to grow, and generally identifies how development should proceed in the future to achieve community goals. It proposes the most efficient use of land within the financial capabilities of the community by identifying where residential, and other anticipated land uses should occur.

The final phase will involve implementation of the plan and programs that will influence the day-to-day decisions made by government officials, private enterprise, and individuals. Plan implementation provides the means by which community goals can be achieved; three major tools used to accomplish this are the zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations, and capital improvements program.

The Comprehensive Plan is the primary link between the past, the present, and the future, making it perhaps the best resource for achieving continuity over a period of time. It is to be used as a guide by those making decisions with regard to the development of the community. The Comprehensive Plan must also remain flexible so that it can be modified to reflect the processes of actual development and the changing attitudes and priorities of the community. To maintain an updated Comprehensive Plan, new information must be continually gathered and studied to determine trends and reevaluate projections, forecasts, and plans. Even policy recommendations, which are relatively permanent statements, may require periodic review to determine their appropriateness and suitability in relation to the direction and character of community development at that time. A well thought-out and updated Comprehensive Plan, with a solid base of public involvement, is one of the most fruitful investments a local government can make. As a collection of policies and plans designed to guide future growth and development, it will help ensure continuity over time as changes occur within the Town of Lanark.

## **Section 1.4 Town of Lanark Vision**

We envision that in 2025 Lanark will be...

- a distinctive rural community blending into a beautiful natural setting;
- home to productive family farms working large blocks of tillable land;
- an environmentally aware community with distinctive open space, natural features and protected habitats;
- a diverse and progressive community working together to address issues of local importance; and
- a growing community, with growth concentrated in designated areas and occurring in ways that protect the rural character of the town.

We believe that some of Lanark's most significant opportunities include the preservation of productive agricultural land, open space and environmental corridors. We believe there is room for us to grow, but in ways that will maintain and enhance the values of rural living that we enjoy today. To do this we must build upon our community's strengths and unique qualities; avoid complacency by promoting creativity, leadership and creative problem solving; and be willing to work together to address a variety of challenging problems we will surely face in a changing future.

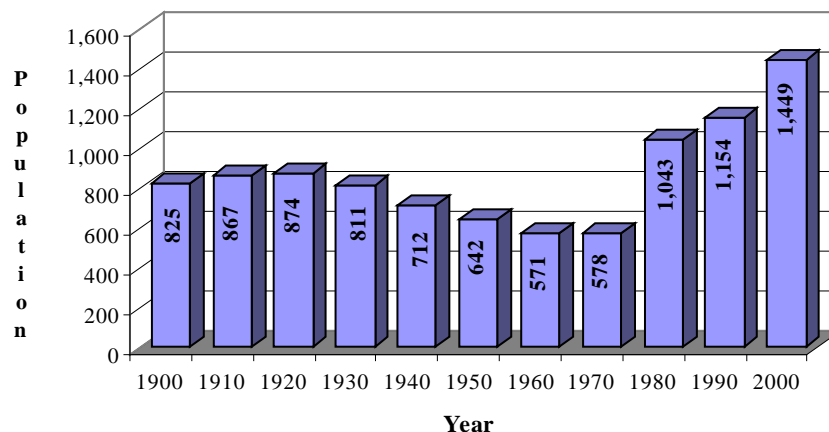
## **Section 1.5 Demographic Trends**

### **A. Population Growth**

Every 10 years the Federal government performs the national census, and these census results are the main source of the information used to understand how communities change over time. The Town of Lanark has seen a considerable variation in its growth rate over the last 100 years.

Census data reveal two major, historical population trends for the Town of Lanark (Figure 2). The first major trend was a steady decline in the Town's population over a forty-year period from 1920 to 1970. This is characteristic of an agriculture-based economy that saw a steady decline in farm numbers, but an increase in average size of farm.

**Figure 2: Town of Lanark Population Change, 1900 to 2000**



Source: US Bureau of Census

This declining population trend was dramatically reversed in the 1970's, with the Town experiencing a significant upturn in population as urban residents began moving back to rural or

semi-rural areas. In Portage County, the impact of this migration back to the rural areas occurred earlier and was greater in those towns located adjacent to the larger population centers. For the Town of Lanark, the City of Waupaca is within a 5-mile drive from its borders. During the 1970's, the Town recorded a population increase of 80.1% (Table 1.1). From 1980 to 2000, growth slowed, increasing by 39% for the period. The 150.7 % population increase between 1970 and 2000 was the greatest percentage increase of all towns in Portage County. The Town of Stockton experienced the third greatest percentage increase with 88.4%. The Wisconsin Department of Administration, which provides yearly population estimates to units of government within the State for the intercensal period, has estimated a 2004 population of 1,527 for Lanark. This represents a population growth continuing well above the average for other communities in Portage County.

**Table 1.1: Lanark Comparison Population Change, 1970 to 2004**

	U.S. Census				Wisconsin Estimate	1970 to 2000	2000 to 2004
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2004	Change	Change
Town of Lanark	578	1,043	1,154	1,449	1,527	150.7%	5.4%
Town of Amherst	936	1,215	1,335	1,435	1,464	53.3%	2.0%
Town of Belmont	387	496	540	623	644	61.0%	3.4%
Town of Stockton	1,537	2,208	2,494	2,896	2,974	88.4%	2.7%
Portage County	47,541	57,420	61,405	67,182	68,922	41.3%	2.6%

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

Population growth is a combination of many factors including births and deaths, as well as in- and out-migration. Examination of migration patterns for residents of the Town of Lanark can lead to a better understanding of the cause of growth in the community (Table 1.2). The U.S. Census provides data on where residents were living five years prior to the census. The “Same House” column identifies the Lanark residents that lived in the same dwelling in both 1995 and 2000 (or 1985 and 1990); this can be an indicator of long-term residency. The “Different House, Portage County” column identifies the Lanark residents that lived in a home outside the Town, but within Portage County, in 1995. The “Different House, Different County” column identifies the Lanark residents that lived in a home outside of the Town and Portage County, but within the State of Wisconsin, in 1995. The “Different State” column identifies the Lanark residents that lived in a home outside the State of Wisconsin in 1995. Altogether, this information provides insight into the nature and pace of new residents moving into the Town.

**Table 1.2: Place of Residence for Town Residents, Five Years Prior to 1990 & 2000 Census**

	Same House				Different House, Portage County				Different House Different County				Different State			
	1985		1995		1985		1995		1985		1995		1985		1995	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
T. Lanark	687	66%	756	56%	184	18%	251	19%	132	13%	332	25%	44	4%	80	6%
T. Amherst	823	68%	1,014	77%	235	19%	189	14%	77	6%	110	8%	79	7%	83	6%
T. Belmont	358	71%	351	65%	56	11%	73	13%	66	13%	120	22%	21	4%	34	6%
T. Buena Vista	730	69%	820	72%	228	21%	205	18%	82	8%	113	10%	23	2%	9	1%
Portage County	51%		56%		21%		22%		21%		16%		7%		5%	

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

Based on 2000 census information, fifty-two percent (52%) of the Town's residents lived in the same house as they did in 1995, down eight percent (8%) from the 1990 census. This would

show that long-term residents are becoming a smaller fraction of the total population. The tell-tale statistic found in Table 1.2, is the number of residents who lived in a different house in a different county in 1995. Twenty three percent (23%) of residents in 2000 lived in a different county in 1995. This is well above the 16% average for Portage County. While it is not known what county these residents came from, migration out from the Fox Valley is the most likely candidate. These numbers provide further examples of the strength of residential expansion within the Town of Lanark: decreased percentage of residents living long term in the same dwelling; more people relocating into the Town from Portage County and beyond.

## B. Age Distribution

Table 1.3 details the number of Town residents that occupied specific age groups in each of the last three census years, along with similar information for an average of all other Portage County Towns and the County as a whole.

The median age for the Town of Lanark is 37.3 years. This age has increased by over ten years since 1980, with the rate of increase holding steady over the two decades. The “median age” is the point where ½ of the population lies above and ½ lies below; the older this age is, the older the overall population. The other towns across Portage County have seen their median age increase at a slightly quicker pace (10.5 years on average). The County as a whole has seen its median age increase at a slower rate, just under eight years over the twenty-year period. This is an indication that the towns overall are aging more rapidly than the County’s villages or City of Stevens Point.

As one would expect with the rise in median age, the percentage of the population for the towns within Portage County over the age of 65 has been trending upward since 1980 as well. The Town of Lanark 65+ population segment increased from 9.5% of total population in 1980 to 12.5% in 2000. The average Portage County town saw this segment increase from 7.9% to 10%, and the County as a whole increased from 9.9% to 10.9%. When examining all of the age groups, we find that all groups below the age of 35 are declining in both raw numbers and percent for Town and County population averages, while the reverse is true for age groups above the age of 35. The number of seniors aged 75 and over has increased by almost 44% since 1990. In Lanark the age groups under 35 are decreasing in population percentage, as the Town is following the trend for most of Portage County.

Further insight into the nature of the Town’s population change over time can be gained through examining how the different age groups change as they move through their life cycles. Age groups for the towns and County (or “cohorts” as they are called when tracking a group of same-aged people) have been displayed in the table in ten-year increments to more easily see how their numbers increase or decline over different census years. The diagonal series of gray and white boxes within Table 1.3 indicate the path of each age cohort through the three census periods.

The 5-to-14 year old cohort for the Town of Lanark numbered 203 in 1990. Their number declined by 50 persons (-24.6%) by the year 2000 (as the 5-to-14 year olds became 15-to-24 year olds). Some of this decline may be explained by children leaving home for college or jobs. For the most part, the age cohorts between 15 and 64 years old have experienced increases in numbers between 1990 and 2000. In comparing this growth trend to the Town and County, you will find less growth, or in many cases, decline within the same cohorts over the ten year period.

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

Age	Town of Lanark			Town Average			Portage County		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
Under 5 years	90 8.6%	107 9.3%	115 7.9%	134 9.3%	118 7.7%	94 5.9%	4,343 7.6%	4,266 6.9%	3,964 5.9%
5 to 14 years	224 21.5%	203 17.6%	212 14.6%	274 18.8%	274 18.1%	255 15.6%	8,671 15.1%	9,080 14.8%	9,118 13.6%
15 to 24 years	169 16.2%	148 12.8%	153 10.6%	256 17.7%	199 12.9%	198 12.6%	15,270 26.6%	13,081 21.3%	13,983 20.8%
25 to 34 years	178 17.1%	194 16.8%	180 12.4%	253 17.4%	242 15.6%	182 11.3%	9,180 16.0%	9,897 16.1%	8,322 12.4%
35 to 44 years	95 9.1%	151 13.1%	266 18.4%	168 11.2%	253 16.4%	291 18.0%	5,593 9.7%	8,690 14.2%	10,261 15.3%
45 to 54 years	88 8.4%	96 8.3%	223 15.4%	118 8.4%	162 10.3%	262 16.3%	4,447 7.7%	5,489 8.9%	8,945 13.3%
55 to 64 years	100 9.6%	116 10.1%	119 8.2%	102 7.9%	148 8.6%	151 9.4%	4,185 7.3%	4,299 7.0%	5,235 7.8%
65 to 74 years	69 6.6%	85 7.4%	103 7.1%	75 6.1%	86 6.5%	95 6.4%	3,391 5.9%	3,610 5.9%	3,791 5.6%
75 to 84 years	25 2.4%	40 3.5%	61 4.2%	30 2.5%	39 3.1%	51 3.7%	1,806 3.1%	2,273 3.7%	2,565 3.8%
85 years and over	5 0.5%	14 1.2%	17 1.2%	8 0.6%	9 0.8%	15 1.0%	534 0.9%	720 1.2%	998 1.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>1,154</b>	<b>1,449</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,533</b>	<b>1,596</b>	<b>57,420</b>	<b>61,405</b>	<b>67,182</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	27.2	31.3	37.3	27	32	38	25.4	29.3	33.0

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

### C. Education Levels

Levels of educational attainment have followed a similar trend of improvement across the different municipal divisions within Portage County (Table 1.4).

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

Ed. Attainment (Persons 25 yrs+)	Town of Lanark		Town Average		Portage County	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Less Than 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	108 15.6%	39 4.0%	118 10.4%	65 6.2%	4,065 11.6%	2,420 6.0%
9 <sup>th</sup> to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	87 12.5%	89 9.2%	82 7.2%	85 8.1%	3,029 8.7%	3,019 7.5%
High School Graduate	261 37.6%	389 40.2%	387 34.2%	440 42.2%	14,082 40.2%	14,952 37.2%
Some College (No Degree)	104 15.0%	243 25.1%	113 10.0%	184 17.6%	5,205 14.9%	7,572 18.9%
Associate Degree	34 4.9%	67 6.9%	43 3.8%	73 7.0%	1,922 5.5%	2,802 7.0%
Bachelor's Degree	84 12.1%	106 11.0%	89 7.9%	140 13.4%	4,594 13.1%	6,468 16.1%
Graduate / Professional Degree	16 2.3%	35 3.6%	36 3.2%	57 5.5%	2,107 6.0%	2,910 7.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>1,132</b>	<b>1,044</b>	<b>35,004</b>	<b>40,143</b>

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

The Town of Lanark raised its' overall educational attainment during the 1990's. This was a result of the combination of in-migration, continued educational involvement by the existing residents of the Town and the passing of older residents who did not have the educational opportunities enjoyed today. The number and percentage of Town of Lanark residents age 25 and over who had less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education decreased significantly between 1990 and 2000. The percentage of 25+ year old residents who completed some college, or completed a college degree program rose from thirty-four percent (34%) to forty-six percent (46%) over the same period. This 10-year increase in attainment for Lanark was slightly ahead of the gain for the Town Average (29% to 41%) and for County as a whole (40% to 49%). The Town of Lanark also surpassed the Town and County averages for the number and percentage of residents who completed 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade but did not receive a diploma. The Lanark numbers for this category decreased by 3.3%, while the Town Average and Portage County both experienced a slight 1 to 2 percent decline in this category.

#### D. Households and Income

The Town of Lanark residential community is made up of different types of households. The US census defines a household simply as "including all of the people who occupy a housing unit". People not living in households are classified as living in group quarters. Table 1.5 details the changes in the make-up of Town of Lanark households over the last 20 years, and compares them to the Portage County data and the average of the other County Towns. Married-couple households, traditionally the largest group within Lanark, have seen their percentage of total households decrease at a slightly faster rate over the last 20 years than the decrease in the Town average or County as a whole, even though their numbers have continued to increase. Single-father or mother headed households within Lanark have increased dramatically over the 20 year period, particularly single-mother households. Lanark's Non-Family households have increased from approximately 14% of total households in 1980 to 22.5% in 2000. The Non-Family percentage for Portage County has historically been higher than Lanark or the Town Average.

**Table 1.5: Household Type Comparison, Town of Lanark, Town Average, and Portage County**

Households By Type	Town of Lanark			Town Average			Portage County		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
<b>Family Households</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>13,257</b>	<b>14,883</b>	<b>16,496</b>
<i>Percent of Total Households</i>	86%	82%	77%	84%	82%	79%	72%	70%	66%
Married-couple families	244	269	361	324	357	401	11,592	12,645	13,808
<i>Percent of Family Households</i>	92%	89%	85%	90%	89%	89%	87%	85%	84%
Other family, male householder	11	15	26	13	18	21	437	602	861
<i>Percent of Family Households</i>	4%	5%	6%	4%	4%	5%	3%	4%	5%
Other family, female householder	9	17	36	22	29	29	1,228	1,636	1,827
<i>Percent of Family Households</i>	3%	6%	9%	6%	7%	6%	9%	11%	11%
<b>Non-family Households</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>5,056</b>	<b>6,423</b>	<b>8,544</b>
<i>Percent of Total Households</i>	14%	18%	23%	16%	18%	21%	28%	30%	34%
Householder living alone	34	55	99	55	69	94	3,730	4,679	6,130
<i>Percent of Non-Fam Households</i>	77%	81%	80%	81%	81%	78%	74%	73%	72%
Householder 65 years and over	~	20	30	~	29	34	~	1,933	2,196
<i>Percent of Non-Fam Households</i>		29%	24%		33%	28%		30%	26%
<b>Total Households</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>18,313</b>	<b>21,306</b>	<b>25,040</b>
<b>Persons Per Household</b>	<b>3.39</b>	<b>3.13</b>	<b>2.65</b>	<b>3.28</b>	<b>3.01</b>	<b>2.72</b>	<b>2.93</b>	<b>2.71</b>	<b>2.54</b>

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



The Persons Per Household (PPH) statistic for the Town of Lanark, average of Towns and the County has continually declined over the last 20 years. Lanark closely matches the size and rate of decline of the Towns, while the overall County PPH rate of decline has been a bit smaller.

Another instructive piece of information on the state of households within the Town is the level of income that each household achieves. Again the census provides insight into the range of incomes present within Lanark. Table 1.6 describes how household incomes have changed in the last 20 years. It is a testimony to both the inflation of wages and the increased earning power of the residents of Lanark that the percentage of households making greater than \$50,000 per year increased from 1.2% in 1979 to 41.6% 1999. This increase is greater than that of Portage County as a whole (3% to 42%); and slightly behind the average Town (2.5% to 48.6%). Lanark’s median household income has increased from \$15,844 to \$41,932 over the same period.

With the examination of income information, the Town of Lanark should also assess the poverty status of its residents. “Poverty” is generally defined as a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is poor. If a family’s total income is less than that family’s threshold, then that family, and every individual in it, is considered poor. The poverty thresholds do not vary geographically; they are the same throughout the United States. However, the poverty thresholds are updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The official poverty definition counts money income before taxes and does not include capital gains and non-cash benefits (such as public housing, food stamps, and Medicaid). Poverty is not defined for people in military barracks, institutional group quarters, or for unrelated children under age 15 (such as foster children). Table 1.7 below outlines poverty thresholds for 1980, 1990, and 2000. Table 1.8 lists the census information on poverty for the total number of residents, persons age 65 and above, and families within the Town of Lanark, the Town average, and Portage County as a whole.

**Table 1.6: Household Income Comparison, Town of Lanark, Town Average, Portage County**

Household Income Per Year	Town of Lanark			Town Average			Portage County		
	1979	1989	1999	1979	1989	1999	1979	1989	1999
Less Than \$10,000	83 26.5%	35 9.5%	17 3.1%	103 24.2%	48 9.9%	25 3.1%	5300 28.9%	3210 15.0%	1767 7.0%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	59 18.8%	32 8.7%	33 5.9%	66 15.5%	36 7.4%	24 2.9%	2919 15.9%	1978 9.3%	1608 6.4%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	115 36.7%	96 26.0%	89 16.0%	139 32.7%	85 17.2%	55 6.6%	5423 29.6%	4072 19.1%	3174 12.6%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	37 11.8%	55 14.9%	68 12.3%	76 17.8%	84 17.1%	75 9.0%	2907 15.8%	3654 17.1%	3425 13.6%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	15 0.1%	93 0.3%	117 0.3%	28 0.2%	123 0.4%	111 0.2%	1223 6.7%	4370 20.5%	4484 17.9%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	2 0.6%	41 11.1%	139 25.0%	9 2.2%	82 16.7%	154 18.5%	380 2.1%	2983 14.0%	5771 23.0%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	2 0.6%	13 3.5%	55 9.9%	5 1.1%	21 4.2%	80 9.7%	193 1.1%	661 3.1%	2820 11.2%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	0 0.0%	4 1.1%	17 3.1%	0 0.0%	8 1.6%	36 4.3%	0 0.0%	274 1.3%	1346 5.4%
\$150,000 or more	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	20 3.6%	0 0.0%	5 0.9%	18 2.2%	0 0.0%	134 0.6%	717 2.9%
<b>Total Households</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>18,345</b>	<b>21,336</b>	<b>25,112</b>
<b>Median H-Hold Income</b>	\$15,884	\$28,264	\$41,932	\$16,736	\$31,512	\$48,037	\$16,659	\$28,686	\$43,487

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

**Table 1.7: Poverty Thresholds - 1980, 1990, and 2000**

Size of Family Unit	Poverty Threshold		
	1980	1990	2000
One Person	\$4,190	\$6,652	\$8,794
Two Persons	\$5,363	\$8,509	\$11,239
Three Persons	\$6,565	\$10,419	\$13,738
Four Persons	\$8,414	\$13,481	\$17,603
Five Persons	\$9,966	\$15,792	\$20,819
Six Persons	\$11,269	\$17,839	\$23,528
Seven Persons	\$12,761	\$20,241	\$26,754
Eight Persons	\$14,199	\$22,582	\$29,701
Nine Persons or More	\$16,896	\$26,848	\$35,060

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

According to census figures, the Town of Lanark has experienced a substantial decrease in the number of residents earning below the poverty level as compared to the County as a whole. With regard to the other Towns in Portage County, Lanark has similar percentages of persons living in poverty, but has approximately half the percentage of its seniors living in poverty than the average town. And while Lanark has reduced the number of families that are considered to be in poverty, the Town average has a slightly lower percentage.

**Table 1.8: Percent in Poverty Comparison, T. Lanark, Town Average, Portage County**

	Town of Lanark		Town Average		Portage County	
	1989	1999	1989	1999	1989	1999
<b>Persons</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>1,449</b>	<b>1,332</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>57,805</b>	<b>67,182</b>
Below Poverty Level	180	97	115	78	7,454	6,074
	15.7%	6.7%	8.6%	5.5%	12.9%	9.0%
<b>Persons 65 Years and Over</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>5,327</b>	<b>7,354</b>
Below Poverty Level	6	10	13	14	740	561
	4.3%	5.5%	11.3%	9.3%	13.9%	7.6%
<b>Families</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>14,927</b>	<b>16,643</b>
Below Poverty Level	28	17	23	14	1,051	725
	9.3%	3.8%	6.3%	3.5%	7.0%	4.4%

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

### E. Employment Characteristics

Table 1.9 summarizes “employment by industry” data provided from the last three census years. This information represents what type of industry that the working residents of Lanark were employed by, and is not a listing of the employment currently located within the Town. The discussion of the Lanark economy will take place within the Economic Development Element of this Comprehensive Plan. It should be noted that the method used for classifying industries was changed between the 1990 and 2000 census, and therefore the information included in the industry categories of Table 1.9 is not entirely consistent for comparison between those years. The table attempts to place the three census years in a useable context.

**Table 1.9: Summary of Employment by Industry**

Industry	Town of Lanark			Town Average			Portage County		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Mining	80 21.2%	95 18.3%	43 5.9%	93 16.4%	82 11.2%	58 6.9%	1,816 7.3%	1,755 5.8%	1,241 3.5%
Construction	33 8.8%	29 5.6%	66 9.1%	32 5.5%	43 5.9%	52 6.2%	1,004 4.0%	1,297 4.3%	1,707 4.8%
Manufacturing	87 23.1%	104 20.1%	178 24.5%	121 21.3%	153 20.9%	182 21.6%	4,637 18.6%	5,373 17.8%	6,314 17.7%
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	11 2.9%	49 9.5%	44 6.0%	30 5.3%	48 6.5%	54 6.4%	1,214 4.9%	1,511 5.0%	1,948 5.5%
Information	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	8 0.8%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	10 1.2%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	835 2.3%
Communications/ Other Public Facilities	5 1.3%	4 0.8%	0 0.0%	6 1.0%	7 0.9%	0 0.0%	325 1.3%	367 1.2%	0 0.0%
Wholesale Trade	6 1.6%	12 2.3%	18 2.5%	23 4.0%	24 3.3%	30 3.5%	885 3.5%	1,026 3.4%	1,235 3.5%
Retail Trade	44 11.7%	87 16.8%	86 11.8%	78 13.7%	117 16.0%	102 12.1%	4,317 17.3%	5,667 18.8%	4,813 13.5%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	14 3.7%	5 1.0%	52 7.1%	59 10.4%	78 10.6%	83 9.9%	2,971 11.9%	3,359 11.1%	3,682 10.3%
Professional, Management, Administrative	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	17 1.6%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	29 3.5%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1,627 4.6%
Business and Repair Services	2 0.5%	12 2.3%	0 0.0%	10 1.8%	18 2.5%	0 0.0%	518 2.1%	941 3.1%	0 0.0%
Personal Services	0 0.0%	11 1.3%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	16 2.1%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	777 2.6%	0 0.0%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation Services	15 4.0%	2 0.4%	49 6.7%	17 3.0%	6 0.8%	48 5.7%	734 2.9%	388 1.3%	3,005 8.4%
Educational, Health, Social Services	70 18.6%	81 15.6%	126 17.3%	78 13.7%	101 13.8%	141 16.7%	5,331 21.4%	5,617 18.6%	7,192 20.2%
Other	7 1.9%	21 4.1%	23 3.2%	13 2.3%	22 3.0%	33 3.9%	624 2.5%	1,362 4.5%	1,236 3.5%
Public Administration	3 0.8%	6 1.2%	18 2.5%	9 1.5%	19 2.5%	20 2.3%	571 2.3%	710 2.4%	842 2.4%
<b>Total Employed Persons</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>24,947</b>	<b>30,150</b>	<b>35,677</b>
<b>Unemployed Persons</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>2,013</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>2,255</b>
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>26,960</b>	<b>31,740</b>	<b>37,944</b>
<b>Percent Unemployed</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>
<b>Persons 16 Years +</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>1,105</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>1,198</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47,202</b>	<b>53,135</b>

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

## **Section 1.6 Forecasts**

### **A. Population Projections**

Population projections developed by the Portage County Planning and Zoning Department suggest that the Town will experience moderate to high growth through the year 2025, with a projected increase of 554 residents from 2000 to 2025, or a growth of 38%. This compares with a projected increase of 17.5% for the entire County, for the same period. It should be noted that all population projections are "best guesses" and should be used with caution. (See Appendix E for population methodology)

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

Yr 2010: 1,696      Yr 2015: 1,805      Yr 2020: 1,932      Yr 2025: 2,003

### **B. Household Projections**

Household projections for Lanark will be based on the above stated population projection divided by the anticipated number of persons per household through 2025.

The number of Persons per Household for Lanark has declined from 3.13 persons in 1990 to 2.65 persons in 2000. Using a method of linear regression from data beginning in 1980, the forecasted number of persons per household (PPH) in 2010 will be 2.32. Forecasting numbers far into the future using linear regression produces increased uncertainty, therefore, the persons per household will be held at 2.32 for 2025. Keep in mind that these numbers represent projections and should not be used as absolute.

Using a PPH of 2.32 for this plan horizon (2025, population projection of 2,003), the household projections for Lanark are:

2010: 731 h-holds      2015: 778 h-holds      2020: 833 h-holds      2025: 864 h-holds

### **C. Employment Projections**

Although employment in the agricultural sector has declined over the last twenty years (Table 1.9), the Town projects that agriculture related employment, including farm operations, will continue to provide job opportunities for some of its residents. Future job opportunities outside of the agriculture sector are projected to be created throughout central Wisconsin, including the Stevens Point urban area, Waupaca, and the Fox Valley in the service, government, manufacturing, and finance sectors.

## **Section 1.7 Goals, Objectives and Policies**

The Town of Lanark recognizes the important role that agricultural operations play in the economy and toward the preservation of a rural lifestyle and community character. Town residents wish to maintain rural character and protect as much agricultural land as practicable, while allowing for future development needs. Town residents also recognize the importance that natural resources, such as the Tomorrow River, Spring Creek, lakes and associated woodlands, and numerous wetlands contribute toward rural character. Recognition of these assets should be taken into consideration as growth and development occurs over time.

Goals, objectives and policies provide the framework for guiding future community development activities in the Town of Lanark. A means of deriving goals and policies is through issue identification. Many of the issue statements in the various plan elements are framed as questions. This was purposefully done so that answering the questions would help plan commissioners form goal or policy statements. Goals are stated as desirable conditions to strive toward in the future. They are common ideals of the community that can be achieved through the actions of government leaders, private enterprise and individuals. Objectives are general targets to be achieved along the path of satisfying community goals. Policies are more specific recommendations or methods of action to accomplish these stated objectives. Together these three pieces express the uniqueness of the community while providing guidance for desirable patterns of growth and development.