



# City of Lake Shore Comprehensive Plan

August 2019



*A vision for the City of Lake Shore – now and for the future.*



## Purpose of a Comprehensive Plan

A comprehensive plan is a community-created document that identifies goals to shape the future of development within the community. Growth of a community places significant pressures on the community's resources, which could ultimately lead to impacts on water quality, natural beauty, recreational demand, wildlife habitat and quality, and property values.

Without a plan for managing growth, many communities simply react to change and growth, meaning that the community develops policies on the go as development proposals are submitted. This method of growth management often leads to controversial, extended decision-making processes which benefits neither party.

The comprehensive plan takes the guesswork out of land use decision making by laying out these items and providing a framework for decision-making, both for the public officials making the decisions and the people making the land use requests.



*Lake Shore's annual Easter Egg Hunt at Fritz Loven Park*

The **City of Lake Shore's Comprehensive Plan** will guide land-use decisions to manage anticipated growth within the City while also protecting the distinct characteristics of our community for the next 20 years. This plan identifies our collective priorities and values, directs growth to areas where it is best suited to promote these priorities, and provides our community with strategies for achieving our goals, implementing policies, and protecting and enhancing our community. Within each element of the plan, the city and its residents have laid out a list of strategies to accomplish the goals listed specifically within that element.

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## History

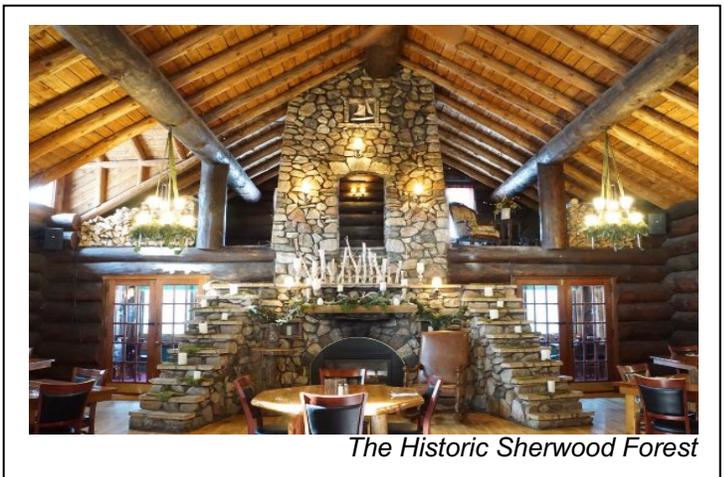
The City of Lake Shore was founded as a village in 1930, incorporated on March 19, 1947, and adopted its first land use ordinance in 1969.

Some of the region's earliest inhabitants were "Mound Builders" and given their name by the unique mounded effigies and burial mounds they created, some of which can be found in Lake Shore. They resided in this area until about 1840. Other Native American tribes inhabited the area, including the Sioux, but most were eventually driven west by the Ojibwa. Explorers and trappers made their way through Central Minnesota's lakes region and early settlers engaged in farming and hunting.



In 1880, Charles A. Pillsbury formed the Gull River Lumber Company and built a sawmill west of Brainerd. All timber, particularly white pine, that surrounded the lakes was harvested for lumber. In 1889, tracks were laid for an inland railroad to move logs from the lakes. This narrow-gauge railroad extended some 12 miles northwest from the landing at Gilpatrick Lake (now known as Margaret Lake). By 1894, the surrounding timber had been harvested and the tracks were removed, ending the brief railroad history and intensive logging in Lake Shore. The old railroad grade can still be seen in the western part of Lake Shore.

Early lakeside homesteaders quickly discovered that the area attracted others who wanted to enjoy the lakes and forests. Primitive log cabins were constructed to accommodate these first tourists and a new economic era began. Tourism brought resorts of various size and function along the shores of Gull and Margaret Lakes, with Ozonite, Sandy Beach, and Rocky Point said to be the earliest resorts. Many of the resorts were simple family-owned operations with two or three cabins and a small store that provided tourists with necessities such as bread, milk, and eggs. Others were large and grand, such as Sherwood Forest and Inwood Lodge.



From a high of approximately 35 resorts in the 1930s and 1940s, lodging operations in the City have diminished now to under 10. Increasing demand for residential and tourist-oriented lakeshore property have made it profitable to convert resorts to privately-owned dwellings and town homes. In addition, many seasonal and/or private home residences are also rented out when not being used by the immediate family, creating a new lodging option for the vacationer. These types of rentals are regulated by the city.

Before WWII when gambling was legal, slot machines could be found at some resorts. Bar Harbor also became one of Minnesota's most famous nightclubs.

Population growth and demand for lake-front property has resulted in the development of nearly all available shoreline, as well as second-tier and off-lake development. Land values have allowed some rural owners to divide their land into smaller parcels for residential development. Thanks to the abundant availability of goods and services, Lake Shore continues to be positioned as a desirable community in which to live, work and retire.

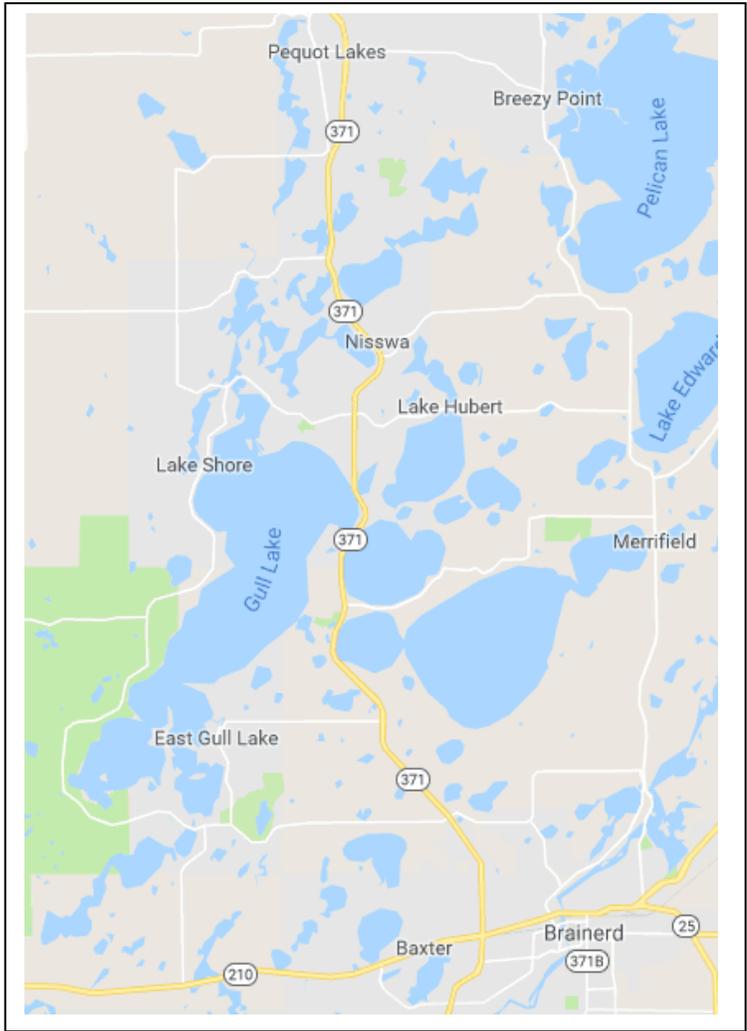
# Community Profile

The City of Lake Shore is located on the northwestern shore of Gull Lake in Cass County, Minnesota. Lake Shore is only 18 square miles and covered by approximately 1/3 water (with nearly 36 miles of shoreline) and the remaining 2/3 of forestland, intermingled with non-forested wetlands.

Lake Shore surrounds the west and northern shore of Gull Lake. Gull Lake is the largest lake of the Gull Lake Chain's seven interconnected waterways. The Gull Lake Chain is rated as one of the top recreational lakes not only in Minnesota, but the United States. The Gull Lake area also represents the heart of the Brainerd Lakes Area vacationland community, and thanks to the neighboring resorts, accounts for nearly HALF of the lodging rooms for the entire region.



*CSAH 77 in Lake Shore*



CSAH 77 is the primary transportation artery for the city and it connects the community to Hwy 371 on both the north and south of the city limits. Lake Shore is a short 15-20-minute drive to the region's business hub, Brainerd & Baxter, as well as other tourism communities of Nisswa, Pequot Lakes and Breezy Point. The speed limit within the majority of the city is 35 mph or under.

**Business**

Lake Shore is home to several premier dining establishments, as well as a handful of lodging facilities and service businesses. Two distinct types of commercial uses exist in the City, waterfront commercial oriented to lake usage and neighborhood commercial oriented to providing goods and services to the community.

Neighborhood commercial areas are necessary to provide the minimum goods and services needed in close proximity for the residents of the community. Lake Shore feels that the majority of the goods and services are adequately handled in adjoining communities such as Nisswa, Pequot Lakes, Brainerd and Baxter.

## Population

The City of Lake Shore is home to 1,067 full-time residents making it the largest city in Cass County.

Lake Shore is experiencing an increase in its year-round population as baby boomers are reaching retirement age and choosing to relocate or stay at their seasonal home.

The Brainerd Micropolitan Statistical Area (defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as including both Cass and Crow Wing Counties), was ranked as the fourth fastest growing micropolitan area in the Midwest, and ranked 28th in the nation. This region is projected to increase by over 60 percent by the year 2030.

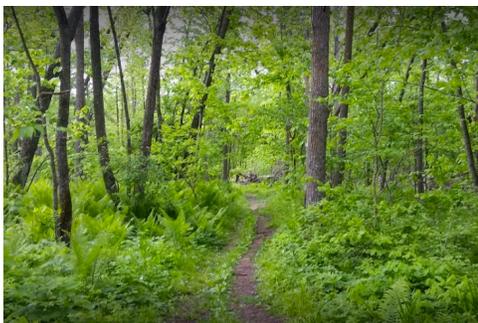
The population of Lake Shore, like the other Gull Lake communities, also increases two to three times during the summer months, with a large influx of seasonal residents and vacationers.

## Recreation

In addition to the water sports and fishing, the Gull Lake chain of lakes offers, the City of Lake Shore has an 80-acre park, Fritz Loven Park. Fritz Loven Park was created in 1977 and offers 1.8 miles of nature trails with several spectacular outlook sights, accessible fishing pier, two picnic pavilions with picnic tables, electrical outlets, outdoor grills, a playground, and restrooms. The park is primarily rolling hills intermixed with small ponds and Stony Brook Creek with steep slopes covered in white and red pine, as well as jack pine, black spruce, tamarack and some white cedar, intertwined with several low-lying swampy areas. Oak, maple and ash are also present. The trails are available for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Snowmobilers have also enjoyed miles of trails throughout Lake Shore — some on old logging railroad paths — for more than 51 years. Stony Brook is a clear, spring fed stream providing habitat for brown and brook trout. It runs through the park and alongside the trail in several spots.

Lake Shore is also situated in the middle of the Gull Lake Trail, a 21-mile, multi-use paved trail along and in the right-of-way of the west side of CSAH 77, wrapping around Gull Lake. This trail will eventually connect to a pedestrian tunnel under State Highway 371 (at the Nisswa Lake Park & Recreational Area) to Nisswa's downtown district and onto the Paul Bunyan State Trail. The Paul Bunyan State Trail is a primary trail artery through Central Minnesota, which offers 130+ paved miles from Brainerd to Bemidji.

Lake Shore provides multiple public boat/water accesses, including a major boat access coordinated by the Minnesota DNR at the Gull Lake Narrows that includes a handicapped-accessible, year-round fishing pier that is only a few feet away from the paved parking lot.



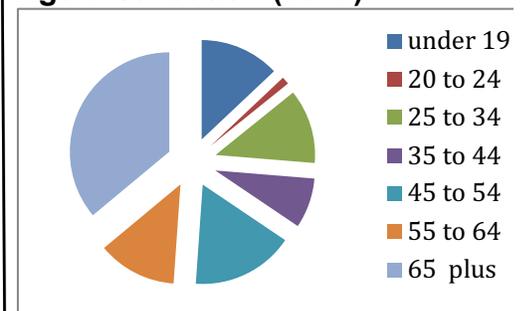
The city of Lake Shore was recently named a “**Best place to escape**” by expedia.com. Expedia wrote: “we were looking for places that truly embody a get-away-from-it-all spirit. One criterion were places that allow visitors to revel in outdoor beauty, fresh air and nice people. We like Lake Shore for its small size yet status as a getaway location with enough relaxing activities to make it a true retreat. It struck us as the kind of place where a long, solo walk, a day on the lake, or a chat with the locals would be restorative in ways you don't get in bigger cities.”

## Population Growth

1950	326
1970	410
1990	693
2000	975
2010	1,004
2017	1,062

Source: MN State Demographic Center

## Age Distribution (2017)



Source: US Census ACS Demographic & Housing Estimates, 2013-2017

## Community Character



Lake Shore is a beautiful place to live, work and play. As the City is on the edge of major development in Central Minnesota, Lake Shore draws many residents and visitors with its abundance of lakes and other natural resource amenities. Lake Shore doesn't have a typical "downtown" district yet residents are able to feel connected within the community.

The City strives to maintain the characteristics that distinguish it from other communities in the region, while maintaining convenient access to larger scale commerce readily available in neighboring towns.

### Goals

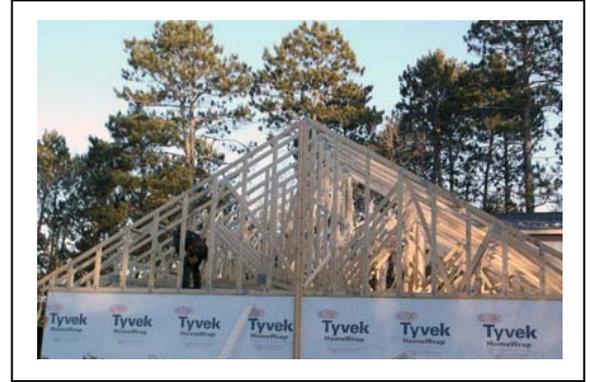
1. Reinforce a sense of community and community pride by strengthening the bonds and connections of the people that live, visit, and work in the City of Lake Shore.
2. Maintain and enhance the appearance, integrity, identity, and character of the City of Lake Shore.
3. Promote the safety, well-being, and comfort of the residents of Lake Shore.
4. Protect the quality of the lakes and environmental resources within and around the City.

### Strategies

- Maintain ordinances to limit high density or multi-family structures to those areas that are compatible with and have the infrastructure to support this type of development but recognizing the need for different housing types.
- Require screening and vegetative buffers for new developments to protect the wooded, quiet nature of the City, particularly in the less densely developed areas of the community.
- Maintain storm water management standards for all new and existing developments and implement these standards through requirements in the permitting process.
- Continue to create ordinances that provide for orderly and quality development within the guidelines of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Encourage citizens to volunteer with the many city committees and inform residents of volunteer opportunities on the City website, in the official City newspaper (Pine and Lakes Echo Journal) and other media.
- Invite residents to attend and participate in City Council meetings and other city committee meetings.
- Strengthen and enforce all nuisance standards, including light, noise and visual. Develop lighting standards that protect the night sky and prevent glare.
- Maintain sense of community by enforcing residential short-term rental properties within Lake Shore to reduce impacts upon surrounding properties.
- Strengthen and enforce animal control ordinances throughout the City.
- Complete the development and use of walking trails throughout the city and plan for trail connections with adjacent communities.
- Continue to sponsor community events, such as the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, and continue to explore options for other community events such as a sliding day, wiener roasts and hayrides.
- Actively encourage and utilize resident participation in the local decision-making process.

## Land Use/Planning & Zoning

Our community's brand, or identity, is made up of the scenic beauty, recreational amenities and a rural feel. All new development should reinforce this brand by preserving or enhancing this rural character that distinguishes Lake Shore from other local communities. To maintain this quality of life, the City of Lake Shore's Board of Adjustments/Planning Commission will strive ensure all new developments are compatible with these community desires:



### Goals

1. Promote compatible land use development to protect investments and to protect our high quality of life.
2. Support growth patterns that reinforce our lake-oriented and rural development brand.
3. Ensure new residential development/redevelopment is efficient, environmentally sensitive, and offset any increased demand for services through valuation.

### Strategies

- Establish adequate transitions between different land uses and densities, while maintaining screening and buffering standards, that are compatible with the community.
- Regulate large-scale extractive uses in appropriate locations but prohibit new large-scale extractive uses in environmentally sensitive areas.
- Maintain concise regulations establishing standards, requirements, and procedures for subdividing land.
- Maintain standards for conservation design for subdivisions and large tracts using the principle of density instead of lot size.
- Develop a community resource plan that identifies unique environmental, cultural and architectural sites within the community. Establish guidelines for preserving such features while allowing development.
- Maintain standards specific to resorts for continued use and expansion and maintain standards for resort conversions to residential use.
- Require that areas within proposed developments that are unsuitable for development be protected as open space.
- Support and maintain ongoing shoreland zoning and enforcement.
- Create an ordinance to provide for higher densities in areas with the infrastructure and suitability to support them.
- Implement and enforce a nuisance ordinance (via an administrative fine) to help clean up substandard properties.
- Develop home occupation regulations to eliminate outside storage nuisances but allow the continuation of home-based businesses.
- Continue to require a park dedication fee with all new subdivisions to upgrade existing recreational resources and expand recreational resources.
- Create a future land use map based off of development suitability and the physical characteristics of the land.
- Require that applications for metes and bounds subdivisions of larger tracts include a long-term development plan for the property.
- Review the standards for commercial development to make sure that future commercial development is compatible with adjoining properties and ensure a need exists for such development.
- Re-examine where properties are zoned commercially to ensure those neighborhoods are the appropriate place for that type of development.
- Review and evaluate existing zoning districts and regulations with adjacent communities and within the City to provide logical transitions between zoning districts.
- Recognize the need for different types of housing for various population (age) groups.

## Environment

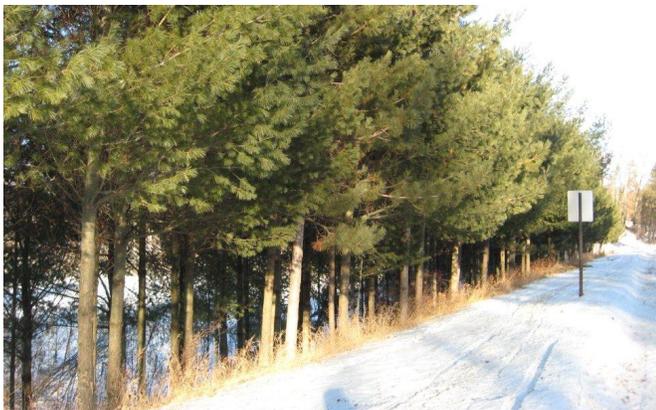
Lake Shore has an abundance of natural resources and open spaces, but unmanaged growth and development has the potential to erode the quality of these resources. The City must actively protect and enhance the natural resources, including those under new development pressure as well as natural resources that currently exist on already developed land. Open natural areas add to the character of Lake Shore, provide vital habitat for native plant and animal species, and offer scenic, recreational, environmental, and functional benefits. Our night sky offers a view of the Milky Way that is not available in more urban areas and helps protect wildlife who depend on darkness.



Through the Environmental Committee, the City of Lake Shore strives to educate both residents and visitors about the value and importance of preserving the natural environment and its role in supporting the local economy and quality of life. For example, residents should try to prevent the pollution of their drinking water resource by limiting the overuse of landscaping, fertilizing and by bringing failing individual septic systems into compliance. For more than a decade, the City has been actively involved in shoreline enhancement projects and preventing stormwater runoff. Volunteers helped the DNR in one project which stabilized the bank of Stony Brook in Fritz Loven Park. Volunteers have also helped the DNR with a tree planting program on Grassy Point.

### Goals

1. Protect, enhance, and restore the City's natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas for the community's long-term environmental, social, and economic benefit.
2. Maintain and improve the quality of surface and groundwater resources for the benefit of residents and wildlife as well as protect property values.
3. Protect and enhance open space and manage it in an environmentally sound manner.
4. Ensure the night sky is visible to all.
5. Promote environmental stewardship among residents, visitors, and businesses to maintain a high quality of life in the City and to keep citizens involved in protecting the environment for current and future generations.



*White Pine plantings*



*Wood Duck House*

## Environmental Strategies

- Require that wetlands and natural drainage systems be maintained and preserved when accommodating new growth or redevelopment.
- Limit development on unsuitable soils, including steep slopes, bluffs, wet soils, floodplain soils, and other environmentally-sensitive areas.
- Identify areas that would not be compatible with development, suitable for increased density, or areas that should be left as open space and then zone these areas accordingly. Direct development, through the use of appropriate zoning classifications, to areas that are more suitable.
- Discourage the use of wetland mitigation as an alternative to conservation design. Instead, strive to preserve and work around wetlands.
- Maintain collaboration with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on Storm Water Management and ground water monitoring, the Department of Natural Resources, other governmental agencies, and lakeshore property owners to improve the water quality of impaired waters.
- Encourage shoreline owners to establish natural vegetation along the shoreline and within the Shore Impact Zone (SIZ) to reduce erosion, filter storm water runoff, preserve scenic views and provide wildlife habitat, and use as an alternate to rip-rap.
- Maintain setbacks and vegetation buffers around wetlands.
- Require that dark sky light fixtures be used for all outdoor lighting as a condition in granting all variances and conditional use permits and continue working with local power companies and residents to change current outdoor lighting fixtures to dark sky compliant fixtures.
- Continue work in conjunction with GCOLA (Gull Chain of Lakes Association) and other lake and environmental organizations as a means to promote good stewardship and to get residents involved in protecting the environment.
- Encourage cluster-style residential development incorporating open spaces as a method of protecting natural resources and open spaces.
- Encourage property owners to re-vegetate with native species when mature trees die out or become diseased and continue to look for opportunities to educate the public.
- Maintain public lands within the city that are suitable for development, or establish as open/green spaces.
- Require that interconnecting wildlife corridors be set aside when subdivision or development of larger parcels occurs.
- Work with the Gull Chain of Lakes Association (GCOLA) to continue monitoring on area lakes for patterns of degradation and possible exotic species; expand lake monitoring to include all of the lakes within the City.
- Use all communication tools possible (city newsletter, website and social media – Facebook, YouTube, etc.) as an environmental educational tool, to advise and describe good resource management practices to property owners and inform residents on changes to zoning regulations.
- Maintain annual City-wide cleanup day to promote picking up yard waste and other refuse and encourage residents to take pride in the appearance of their properties.
- Continue to promote use of conservation easements to protect open space and environmentally sensitive areas. Work with land trust organizations to preserve and protect rural and scenic areas of the community.
- Investigate the feasibility of a solar farm to utilize renewable energy sources.

## Infrastructure: Roads & Waste Water

Promoting interconnected roadways improves the overall safety, provides alternative routes, and ensures a more efficient transportation network. A well-developed transportation network also reduces maintenance costs and facilitates future growth and development in areas that are suitable and capable of handling this growth. Providing for alternate modes of transportation, such as walking and biking, is important for protecting air quality, providing affordable transportation options, and preserving the recreational character of the community. The city strives to not subsidize road infrastructure in new developments, especially when doing so increases City expenses in proportion to other developments.



The abundance of lakes coupled with the concentration of development on the lakes puts the importance of the City's sewer system on the forefront to protect the water quality in the City. To ensure the continued quality of both the ground and surface water, The Wastewater/Road Committee will maintain the city's sewer system and expand it when financially feasible.

### Goals

1. Work to develop an efficient and high-quality transportation network that supports the land use development policies, is sensitive to environmental concerns, promotes safe and efficient transportation movements, supports alternative transportation uses, and is fiscally responsible.
2. Avoid unfunded road maintenance cost by encouraging new residential growth at densities that can support maintenance costs or in the close proximity to existing roads.
3. Maintain and enhance the City's sewer system to ensure that adequate capacity is available for existing and future demand. Explore partnering with adjacent communities for potential shared sewage facilities.

### Strategies

- Through developer's agreements, require all roads to be dedicated to the public within new plats and discourage the use of private roads.
- Require new roads be brought up to minimum City standards including blacktop before the City accepts the road for maintenance.
- Require new developments to provide connections to adjacent properties wherever possible in order to promote road connectivity within the City.
- Review agreements with adjacent communities on sharing maintenance work and costs on shared roadways.
- Work to retain the rural character of local roadways by developing standards for road design that promote rural character.
- Work with Cass County to classify CSAH 77 as a scenic roadway and to maintain the unique character of the roadway while providing a safe mode of transportation.
- Review and upgrade the existing road inventory to include plans that would identify and delineate right-of-way for future road and trail expansion.
- Execute a road evaluation and update the road maintenance plan for inspecting roadways, maintaining roadways, and for upgrading roadways through various funding mechanisms including bonding.
- Coordinate road construction and infrastructure improvements to reduce costs and provide for more efficient construction.
- Continue to review issues relating to speed and parking with engineering staff and the Cass County Engineer to ensure the safety of the City's roads.
- Develop a "share the road" plan to support multi-uses of roadways and work with the Park & Recreation Committee to compliment driving roads with walking/biking trail usage.
- Evaluate the City's sewer system on a regular basis to ensure that development is not overextending the sewage treatment system.
- Continue to promote maintenance and best management practices for septic systems and enforcing Minnesota Rules 7080-7083.

## Parks & Recreation



The recreational facilities in the City should serve residents and visitors with a wide range of activity options. Recreational opportunities should vary from active opportunities, such as biking or hiking, to more passive opportunities, such as bird watching or wildlife viewing. Hunting, snowmobiling and fishing are also encouraged throughout the park lands. These facilities should be well-maintained and should be interconnected with trails and open spaces. Walking and biking should be encouraged by creating safe trails to businesses, Fritz Loven Park and water access points. The City of Lake Shore's Parks & Recreation Committee will strive to ensure all activities are compatible with these community desires:

### Goals

1. Provide active and passive park and recreational facilities to meet the needs of a growing population and the diverse groups of people within the community.
2. Create a trail system for the community to access regional trails, businesses, and for recreational purposes.
3. Provide opportunities for public education and youth outdoor education to engage local youth, work with local schools, and create a family friendly atmosphere within our City's Parks.

### Strategies

- Maintain a Park & Recreation Plan for the future development of the City. Create and implement a Capital Improvement Plan that identifies possible expenditures related to Parks & Recreation.
- Establish and collect a park dedication fee or land dedication from new developments to fund capital expenditures related to parks and to ensure that the park system grows with the population.
- Where appropriate, enhance existing lake accesses to accommodate passive, low-impact uses by adding landscaping, signage, and park benches or picnic tables.
- In the review of development proposals, encourage and look for potential recreational opportunities and trail connections.
- On a year-round basis, promote outdoor activities in the City, such as hiking, snowshoeing, sledding, cross country skiing, canoeing, snowmobiling, fishing and other related activities.
- Retain all public lands adjacent to public waterways. Actively manage these lands to ensure their functionality and vitality and incorporate these lands into the City's trails/recreation system.
- Identify public access points to water throughout the City with signage and possible benches.
- Maintain and improve the park's infrastructure and amenities.
- Work in collaboration with the MN DNR to establish more handicapped accessible fishing platforms.
- Develop a Trail Plan that identifies existing trails within the City including walking, cross-country skiing, and snowmobile trails along with identifying areas that could be linked with existing trails.
- Work with partners to complete the Gull Lake Trail, a 21-mile multi-use paved trail, as well as connecting spur routes (like to Fritz Loven Park) in an effort to provide a regional network of trails.
- Establish unified trail signage for the Gull Lake Trail.
- Continue to work with Cass County on establishing a trail head facility on county land at the southern city limits of the Gull Lake Trail.
- Establish an "Adopt the Trail" system to allow volunteers/groups to help maintain trail sections and establish native plants along the trail.
- Replant and regenerate growth in park, as needed.
- Consider plant, tree, wildflower identification markings within Fritz Loven Park.
- Review and, where appropriate, incorporate trail construction when improving existing roads within the City.
- Acquire permanent easements for trail corridors through private lands when feasible.

## Commerce & Technology



Lake Shore is currently a destination because of the abundance of healthy lakes, natural beauty, recreational activities, and rural community charm. Protecting these features will attract people looking to vacation in the City, as well as live and work.

Supporting year-round businesses and facilities will be vital if Lake Shore is to be a year-round destination. All businesses, particularly recreational commerce play an important role in the economic development of Lake Shore. This commerce serves the influx of visitors during the summer months as well as the year-round residential population. These

businesses pay taxes, fund local improvements, provide employment opportunities, and also enhance the recreational opportunities available in the City.

The City feels that the residential suburban character of the area is not conducive to heavy commercial or light industrial activity. The community endorses commercial endeavors that would integrate with the residential nature of the area.

Supporting high-speed internet capabilities throughout the City will also encourage start-up and home-based businesses that are unobtrusive to neighborhoods. This vital service will also help retirees and seasonal residents who prefer to manage their businesses from Lake Shore and avoid the traffic of their typical commute.

### Goals

1. Encourage development that supports Lake Shore as a year-round community for residents and an attractive destination for visitors.
2. Facilitate the coexistence of residential properties and recreational businesses as well as educate property owners on the value of recreational and service-oriented commerce to the community.

### Strategies

- Develop zoning ordinances that regulate home-occupations so that such businesses do not detract from the surrounding neighborhood but contribute to the character of the City, and are appropriately located. Clarify and enforce regulations for location, duration, and signage related to home occupations.
- Review and amend the zoning ordinances as necessary to ensure the compatibility of the businesses with the surrounding residential development and to maintain the lake-oriented and rural feel of the community.
- Keep residents informed of pending renovations and expansions of resorts and other businesses within the City.
- Encourage the expansion or use of new technology (cell service) to keep up with the high demand for cellular service.
- Develop flexible design guidelines for businesses in order to accentuate the aesthetics and distinct character of Lake Shore.
- Encourage the development of service-oriented businesses to support the increasing number of full-time residents.
- Work with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to maintain the quality of fishing on lakes in the City.
- Create expansion plans for sewer and telecommunications so that businesses can anticipate future availability and develop or invest accordingly
- Continue to work with area service providers to expand broadband to all unserved/underserved areas of the city.



## Government Services, Public Safety

Lake Shore strives to maintain reasonable government budget levels and responsibly manage the budget while ensuring the maximum overall benefits to the community with minimized unexpected tax increases.

Lake Shore is one of several regulatory bodies bordering the Gull Lake Chain of Lakes. Many of the issues that the City faces, such as wastewater management and land use impacts, may be more properly and effectively addressed on a regional basis. The City of Lake Shore seeks opportunities to increase communication and strengthen relationships with neighboring jurisdictions so that these regional efficiencies can be achieved.

Above all else, the City government should be transparent and make all decisions -- and information regarding these decisions -- open and widely available. By encouraging and supporting civic engagement, the City will strengthen its community pride and build strong traditions. Decision-making processes will be less contentious and will be more focused on the issues and values important to the community.

### Goals

1. Maintain spending policies that account for responsibly planned increases in expenditures.
2. Promote regional planning and cooperation to ensure compatible development across municipal boundaries and to increase government efficiency.
3. Maintain zoning strategies that ensure Lake Shore remains a predominantly residential/recreational community.
4. Work to ensure the safety and welfare of all residents in the City of Lake Shore.
5. Lake Shore City government needs to be transparent and inclusive and should encourage ongoing public participation in decision-making.

### Strategies

- Participate in planning activities with Cass and Crow Wing County, surrounding cities and townships, and other government entities as they consider issues that affect the greater regional community.
- Maintain Ordinances to ensure that new development and redevelopment is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.
- Maintain a hazard mitigation plan for the City that would address natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other similar events.
- Continue to participate in trainings to ensure that the Lake Shore Police Department is adequately trained to respond efficiently to emergencies.
- Review the Comprehensive Plan regularly to measure the progress made and conduct updates that involve the public as needed.
- Continue to work with Cass County by inviting the County Commissioner to meetings, and encouraging the County to hold County Board meetings in Lake Shore or in nearby communities.
- Encourage the expansion or use of new technology (cell service) to keep up with the high demand for cellular service.
- Educate elected and appointed officials, residents, business owners, and landowners to ensure that they are informed of the goals and strategies in the Comprehensive Plan and Ordinances and make decisions accordingly.
- Promote the protection and enhancement of recreational and natural resources in all decision-making and planning processes.
- Encourage neighborhood watch groups to assist in public safety and crime prevention.
- Encourage residents to sign up for the Nixle program on their cell phones for immediate local emergency notifications.
- Continue to use a variety of tools (newsletters, website, city email list, Nixle, social media) to communicate with the citizens, businesses, and property owners in Lake Shore about happenings in the City, information regarding ordinances and permits, and other pertinent community information.
- Maintain and update the City's website on a regular basis.

## **Government Services, Public Safety Strategies**

- Continue to maintain a comprehensive GIS database that tracks permits, sewage treatment status, and links digital photos of all properties to each respective parcel.
- Continue community outreach programs such as the Emergency Services Appreciation program held at Fritz Loven Park.
- Continue partnering with the Gull Chain of Lakes Association by providing an officer at the Gull Lake Narrows access for enforcement of Aquatic Invasive Species Laws.
- Continue to expand the outdoor warning siren system for complete coverage of the city.
- Continue partnering with neighboring jurisdictions and area communities to discuss regional planning issues, coordinate the planning and provision of services, and identify and work on projects of regional significance.