Nestled around the shores of Lake Waconia approximately 37 miles west of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, Waconia Township is one of 10 townships in Carver County, Minnesota. Settled in 1855 and organized May 11, 1858 the township bears the Dakota name of its large lake, meaning a “fountain or spring.” The village of Waconia was platted and named by Roswell P. Russell in March 1857. The lake was previously referred to as Clearwater Lake: “It has about 18 miles of shore, most of which is high with a gravelly beach. The water is very clear, hence its name, and well stocked with fish.” In 2006, an estimated 1,257 residents (Metropolitan Council) made their home in Waconia Township, making it the 4th most populous township in Carver County. The township has a total land area of approximately 31 square miles (19,806 Acres). Waconia Township borders Watertown Township to the north, Camden Township to the west, Benton Township to the south, and Laketown Township to the east.
**POPULATION AND HOUSEHOLDS**

Population Trends and Forecasts

Waconia Township has experienced slow population change over the last several decades. The Metropolitan Council estimates that in 2006 Waconia Township population numbered approximately 1,257.

Waconia Township population is expected to remain stable over the next 23 years. The Metropolitan Council forecasts for 2010, 2020, and 2030, suggest minimal changes in population with the 2030 population expected to reach approximately 1,590 people.

Visit [www.metrocouncil.org/metroarea/stats.htm](http://www.metrocouncil.org/metroarea/stats.htm) for more information on the methodology behind the estimates and forecasts.

Household Trends and Forecasts

Waconia Township has experienced modest household change over the last several decades. During the decade from 1996 to 2006, 55 new homes were built in Waconia Township, which makes up 11.2% of the total new homes built in all of Carver County townships during that decade.

Visit [www.metrocouncil.org/metroarea/stats.htm](http://www.metrocouncil.org/metroarea/stats.htm) for more information on the methodology behind the estimates and forecasts.
EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

Employment Status, Educational Attainment, and Employment Forecasts

Employment Status and Commute to Work
According to the 2000 Census, Waconia Township had 864 persons 16 years and over. Of this total, 80.2% of these persons were in the labor force. The total civilian labor force (not including persons on active duty in the United States Armed Forces, unpaid volunteers or homemakers) consisted of 685 persons.

Educational Attainment
In 2000, Waconia Township had 753 people 25 years and over, 269 were high school graduates. In addition, 155 had some college with no degree, 82 obtained associates degrees, 143 graduated with bachelor’s degrees, and 40 received a graduate or professional degree. Overall, 91.5% of the population 25 years and over were high school graduates or higher.

Employment Forecast
Job growth in Waconia Township is expected to increase only minimally over the next 22 years.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

Historic Resources Profile

Historic Resources in Waconia Township
A number of known historic and archeological sites have been identified in the Standing Structures and Archaeology Inventory, a Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) survey program that has recorded over 50,000 historic structures and approximately 16,500 archaeological sites statewide. The Standing Structures and Archaeology inventories contain the County’s known archaeological sites and historic standing structures; however, according to SHPO many archaeological sites and historic standing structures remain unidentified or not inventoried across MN, including Carver County.

IDENTIFIED HISTORIC STRUCTURES (Source: SHPO, 2007)

### EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

#### Employment Status, Educational Attainment, and Employment Forecasts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>2000 Census</th>
<th>2010 MC Forecast</th>
<th>2020 MC Forecast</th>
<th>2030 MC Forecast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waconia Township</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carver County</td>
<td>28,740</td>
<td>39,860</td>
<td>51,540</td>
<td>59,080</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Forecasts include future annexation areas.
All forecasts approved by Council Actions, January 14, 2004, and August 24, 2005
Population Estimates and Forecasts for Carver County Cities and Townships

**Source**: US Census Bureau, Metropolitan Council
Waconia Township has a moderate level of participation in the Agricultural Preserve Program by landowners. About 5,272 acres (27%) of the land is entered in the Preserve Program as of 2007. Of the total land in preserve, 9,058 acres (74%) has the expiration filed. The Agricultural Preserve participation rate indicates a commitment to agriculture over the long term, particularly in the central and western portions of the township. The Agricultural Preserve covenant limits the residential density to 1/40 regardless of other zoning provisions.
The primary land use in Waconia Township is commercial agriculture centered around dairying, livestock, and cash grain farming. The amount of land in farms has remained relatively stable with the size of farms increasing both in size and operation.
PLANNED LAND USE (2030)

This map was created using Carver County’s Geographic Information Systems (GIS). It is a compilation of information and data from various City, County, State, and Federal offices. This map is not a surveyed or legally recorded map and is intended to be used as a reference. Carver County is not responsible for any inaccuracies contained herein.

Source: Carver County Planning and Water Management
Basemap: National Geographic Society
www.co.carver.mn.us/2030plan

Produced by
Carver County Planning and Water Management
Land & Water Services Division
Government Center – Administration Building
600 East 4th Street
Chaska, Minnesota 55318
Phone: (952)361-1820
Fax: (952)361-1828
www.co.carver.mn.us/pw

WACONIA TOWNSHIP LAND USE (2030)

- Mixed Use Residential (Two or more of the following: residential, industrial, commercial and/or office, and institutional uses, where the primary use is residential)
- Commercial (Provision of goods or services)
- Mixed Use Commercial/Industrial (Two or more of the following: residential, industrial, commercial and/or office uses, where the primary use is Commercial/Industrial)
- Industrial (Primarily manufacturing, and/or processing of products)
- Institutional (Primarily religious, governmental, educational, social or healthcare facilities)
- Park and Recreation (Primarily for public active recreation activities)
- Rural Residential (Residential purposes, including mostly one-family homes. Housing development should not exceed 1 housing unit per acre)
- Agricultural (Agricultural purposes, including farming, dairying, pasturage, horticulture, floriculture, viticulture, and animal and poultry husbandry)
- Wetlands (Wetlands included in the National Wetlands Inventory)
- Open Water (Permanently flooded open water, rivers, streams)
- Transition Area

Note: Land uses within city boundaries or in transition areas are not included in the legend.

Visit
www.co.carver.mn.us/2030plan
LAND USE SUMMARY

Land Use Summary
Waconia Township

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use Description</th>
<th>2008 (acres)</th>
<th>2030 (acres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Use Residential</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Use Commercial/Industrial</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and Recreation</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Residential</td>
<td>1,017</td>
<td>953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural</td>
<td>12,061</td>
<td>11,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands¹</td>
<td>2,755</td>
<td>2,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Water</td>
<td>3,614</td>
<td>3,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition Area²</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,773</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,773</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The difference in wetland and open water acreages does not reflect actual wetland loss and all Wetland Conservation Act requirements must be followed.

2 Land uses within the transition area shown on the 2030 land use map have been aggregated to create the total shown in this table. For final determination of future land use designations within transition areas, please consult City Comprehensive Plans.
The land in the Township is flat to gently rolling and is highly suited to agriculture; it is predominately SCS Class 1, 2 & 3 lands - prime and good agricultural land. A 1999 Permanent Agricultural Land study showed that much of the land in Waconia Township is "highly qualified" for permanent agricultural preservation with the exception of sections in the northeastern portion. These areas are slightly less qualified for permanent agricultural preservation. Not all land in the Township is suitable for agricultural land use however, and may be better suited for open space or residential uses. Agricultural land use however, and may be better suited for open space or residential uses.
**TOWNSHIP POLICIES**

**Land Use**

Because of the location, soils types, development trends, market demands in the area, and distance to sewer and water services, agriculture will continue to be the principal use of land in Waconia Township. Land use patterns will remain relatively stable. Very limited amounts of agricultural land will be converted to residential uses. The limited residential development that is expected to occur will generally locate in the wooded and pasture areas. Lakeshore, on the lakes listed in the County Land Use Plan, would typically be eligible under the wooded lot provision.

**TOWNSHIP POLICY LU-1**

Agriculture will continue to be the primary land use and economic base of the Township. The Township hereby adopts the Carver County Land Use Plan. A map showing future land use in the Township can be found in the County Plan. The County Plan, along with the policies in this Plan, will be used to manage land use and environmental resources in Waconia Township.

**TOWNSHIP POLICY LU-2**

POLICY AREA DESIGNATION the Township's land use policy designations are shown on the Policy Map. For the land in the Agricultural Policy Area the Township chooses to utilize Option 2 – Wooded Lot as provided for in the Carver County Land Use Plan. The density in the Township shall be limited to the basic 1 dwelling per 1/4 1/4 section, plus the additional density in wooded areas as provided in County Policy. Lakeshore in and of itself shall not constitute eligibility for "wooded lots". These lakes are Goose Lake, Rutz Lake, Burandt Lake, Patterson Lake, Hydes Lake, Rice Lake, and Lake Waconia.

**TOWNSHIP POLICY LU-3**

The Maple area is a Rural Service District (RSD) as defined in the Carver County Land Use Plan. The Maple RSD is shown on the Township Policy Map. Maple is not expected to experience significant new development.

**TOWNSHIP POLICY LU-4**

The City of Waconia borders Waconia Township. The city recently updated its comprehensive plan to include substantial additional area in its 2030 growth area. The Township’s Policy map shows a much smaller area as Transition Area. The Transition Area designation should be limited to the area shown on the Policy map. The Township is willing to work with the city to develop an orderly annexation agreement or other management tool to address the City’s needs to accommodate projected 2030 growth. The Transition Area(s) on the policy map shall be managed in accordance with the policies in the County Plan. The Transition Area(s) as identified in the County Land Use Plan and on the Township Policy Map shall be managed in accordance with the policies in the County Plan.

**TOWNSHIP POLICY LU-5**

The County Plan provides for a number of land use options the township can choose to implement. Waconia Township chooses not to implement: the transfer of 1 per 40 eligibilities to non-adjacent parcels; golf courses; additional feedlot regulations.

**Water Resources**

Waconia Township is located in the Carver Creek and Crow River Watersheds. Carver County is the Water Management Authority for these two watersheds and is required to prepare and implement a water plan which addresses surface water and groundwater issues. The Township is required to adopt a Local Water management Plan that complies with the Watershed Plan.

**TOWNSHIP POLICY WR-1**

Waconia Township hereby adopts the Carver County Water Management Organization (CCWMO) Watershed Management Plan; this plan serves as the Township’s Local Surface Water Management Plan. The CCWMO Watershed Management Plan will likely be updated in 2010 and the Township acknowledges that it will need to address updates in its township chapter to meet the requirements of MN Statute 103B.235 (Local Water Management Plans).
Waconia Township’s transportation system consists of County & State highways and Township roads (see map). The Township is responsible for the planning, construction, and maintenance of the Township road system, while the County & State are responsible for their respective systems. The primary function of local roads is to provide access to individual parcel of land and to move traffic to the collector system. The purpose of the collectors is to collect traffic from the local roads and to provide access to individual parcels of property. The principal function of the arterials is to move traffic to destinations outside the Township and to provide for connections to the regional system. In a rural area such as Waconia Township, the arterials also perform a secondary function of providing access to individual parcels of property.

TOWNSHIP POLICY TR-1

The Township’s primary responsibility is the maintenance and improvement of the Township road system as shown on the Policy map and as provided by statute. The town road system will be maintained at a level consistent with the need to serve the agricultural economy and residential development at densities provided in the Land Use Element. Improvements will be made only to maintain or attain that level of service. The Township road system consists of those roads identified as Township roads on the Waconia Township Policy Map. The system may be modified by additions or deletions to the system made on the official town road map as recorded in the Office of the County Recorder or other appropriate Township action.

TOWNSHIP POLICY TR-2

Alternatives should be investigated in cases where the approval of a change in land use would raise traffic on a gravel road substantially above 200 ADT. Individual land uses that will generate high levels of traffic and/or heavy vehicle traffic will be discouraged and may be required to participate in the upgrading of facilities.

TOWNSHIP POLICY TR-3

The Township does not foresee the need for the construction of any new roads on the Township system. The Township’s primary concern is the maintenance and improvement (when necessary) of the town road system. If new roads are needed to provide service to new development, these roads will be constructed solely at the expense of the developer. Such roads shall meet Township and County standards for local roads or a higher standard if the road will be of a higher classification as shown in the County Transportation Plan. The Township will not accept these as public roads. These roads will be maintained and repaired by a homeowner’s association or similar entity consisting of the land owners served by the road. However, the Township may accept a new road if it connects to an existing public road at either end.
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Source: Carver County Planning and Water Management