Located within the watershed of the Crow River, approximately 32 miles west of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, Watertown Township is one of 10 townships in Carver County, Minnesota. Settled in 1856, organized April 13, 1858, Watertown Township received this name "because of the township's large water supply," by five or six lakes and the South fork of the Crow River. A number of industries developed there, including sorghum, saw, and flour mills, plow works, hotels, a creamery, and a brewery; it had a station of the Electric Short Line. In 2006, an estimated 1,346 residents (Metropolitan Council) made their home in Watertown Township, making it the 3rd most populous township in Carver County. Watertown Township has a total land area of approximately 33 square miles (21,180 Acres) and is included in the Luce Line trail route. It borders Wright County to the north, Hollywood Township to the west, Waconia Township to the south, and Hennepin County to the east.
Watertown Township has experienced modest population change over the last several decades. This trend is expected to continue for several decades to come. During the decade from 1990 to 2000 the township had a change in population of 6.15% (83 actual). During the period from 2000 to 2006 population was estimated to have had a negative change of -6.01% (-86 actual). The Metropolitan Council estimates that in 2006 Watertown Township population numbered approximately 1,346. Watertown 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 1800 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.

### POPULATION TRENDS AND FORECASTS

**Carver County and Watertown Township**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Watertown Township</td>
<td>1,432</td>
<td>1,346</td>
<td>1,470</td>
<td>1,620</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carver County Total</td>
<td>70,205</td>
<td>86,236</td>
<td>110,740</td>
<td>163,830</td>
<td>195,400</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

### HOUSEHOLD TRENDS AND FORECASTS

Watertown Township has experienced modest household change over the last several decades. This trend is expected to continue for several decades to come. During the decade from 1990 to 2000 the township had a change in households of 8.88% (39 actual) with 2.88 persons per household in 2000, and during the period from 2000 to 2006, households were estimated to have had no change from 478 to 478, with an estimated 2.81 persons per household in 2006. Watertown Township households are expected to increase gradually over the next 23 years. The Metropolitan Council forecasts for 2010, 2020, and 2030, suggest households will increase at a rate of approximately 4 per year. During the decade from 1996 to 2006, 56 new homes were built in Watertown Township, which makes up 11.4% 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.

### HOUSEHOLD ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

**Carver County and Watertown Township**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Watertown Township</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carver County Total</td>
<td>24,356</td>
<td>30,986</td>
<td>41,780</td>
<td>62,680</td>
<td>76,180</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
EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

Employment Status, Educational Attainment, and Employment Forecasts

Employment Status and Commute to Work
According to the 2000 Census, Watertown Township had 1061 persons 16 years and over. Of this total, 72.2% 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 766 persons, 69.4% of which were employed and 2.8% unemployed. Unemployed statuses included all civilians looking for work and were available to accept a job. The mean travel time to work in 2000 was 29.7 minutes.

Educational Attainment
A skilled and well-educated workforce is a key attraction for businesses. Minnesota has been leading the country in quality education and continues to do so with the Profile of Learning – Basic Skills Test requirement for graduation. Schools serving Watertown Township (Districts 111 & 110) appear to be successful at preparing students who continue for postsecondary education as well as fulfilling the need to ensure that those students who enter the work force full-time after high school are ready for the work place.

In 2000, Watertown Township had 922 people 25 years and over, 342 were high school graduates. In addition, 188 had some college with no degree, 57 obtained associates degrees, 140 graduated with bachelor’s degrees, and 59 received a graduate or professional degree. Overall, 85.2% of the population 25 years and over were high school graduates or higher.

Employment Forecast and Land Use
Job growth in Watertown Township is expected to increase modestly over the next 22 years. The land use policy directing commercial and industrial activities to cities will limit job growth in most of the township. Most new jobs will be generated in the Hwy 7/CSAH 10 Opportunity Area.

EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS
Carver County and Watertown Township

<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>Watertown Township</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carver County Total</td>
<td>28,740</td>
<td>39,860</td>
<td>51,540</td>
<td>59,080</td>
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</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
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, National Cooperative Soil Survey, SSURGO

Visit www.co.carver.mn.us/2030plan
The primary land use in Watertown Township is 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.
WATERTOWN 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)
- **Industrial** (Primarily manufacturing, and/or processing of products)
- **Extractive** (Extraction of nonmetallic metals, quarrying sand and gravel)
- **Institutional** (Primarily religious, governmental, educational, social or healthcare facilities)
- **Park and Recreation** (Primarily for public active recreation activities)
- **Roadway Rights-of-Way** (Public or private vehicular, transit and/or pedestrian rights-of-way)
- **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 Areas**

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

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 for informational and general use only 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, Land & Water Services Division

Visit: www.co.carver.mn.us/2030plan
## Land Use Summary

**Watertown Township**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use Description</th>
<th>2008 (acres)</th>
<th>2030 (acres)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Use Residential</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extractive</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and Recreation</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roadway Rights-of-Way</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Residential</td>
<td>1,122</td>
<td>926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural</td>
<td>14,773</td>
<td>12,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands¹</td>
<td>3,341</td>
<td>2,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Water¹</td>
<td>1,407</td>
<td>1,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition Area²</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,137</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,137</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.
TRAIL AND BIKEWAY PLAN

2030 Regional Trail
- Highest-value trails. Alignment to be determined based on opportunities from municipal expansion and willing landowners.

Existing Destination Trail or Trail Corridor
- Highest-value trails. Already established trails or trail corridors.

Bikeway/Linking Trail
- Paved trail located within road rights-of-way or utility easements; emphasis is on safe travel to/from destinations throughout the county.

Transition Area
- Based on policy areas as described in the County Land Use Plan.

2030 City Boundary
- Based on planned city expansion as indicated in each city's comprehensive plan.

City
- Incorporated areas determine individual land use policy and activities.

Existing Parks & Public Recreation Areas
- Note: not all parks and public recreation areas are shown on this map.

Notes: Actual trail alignments will be determined at the time of annexation and based on landowner willingness.

In the event of rail line abandonment of either the Union Pacific Rail Line, Chaska Industrial Lead, or the Twin Cities Western Railroad Line in Carver County, the County would seek to preserve these corridors for future transportation, including trail purposes.

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 survey map 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, Carver County Public Works, Carver County GIS

www.co.carver.mn.us/2030plan
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 Watertown 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. Some of the land in the Opportunity Area at the Hwy 7/CSAH 10 intersection will likely be converted to uses other than agriculture.

TOWNSHIP POLICY LU-1
Agriculture will continue to be the primary land use and economic base of the Township. The Township hereby concurs with and 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 in Watertown Township.

TOWNSHIP POLICY LU-2
POLICY AREA DESIGNATION The entire Township outside the designated Transition Policy Area is hereby designated as being in the "Agricultural Policy Area". 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 3 – High Amenity as provided for in the Carver County Land Use Plan. The waterbodies eligible for additional density under Option 3 are: Rice Lake, Oak Lake, Mud Lake, Swede Lake, Buck Lake, Goose Lake, Lippert Lake, and the Crow River.

TOWNSHIP POLICY LU-3
The Transition Areas (s) as identified in the County Land Use Plan and on the Township’s Policy Map shall be managed in accordance with the policies in the County Plan. Those areas which lie within the City of Watertown and City of Mayer Orderly Annexation Agreements where planning and zoning authority have been transferred to the Cities will be managed according to policies in the City plan.

TOWNSHIP POLICY LU-4
Watertown Township, in concert with the County and the Cities of Watertown and Mayer, studied the concept of the designation of an economic development opportunity area near State Highway 7 and County State Aid Highway 10. Appropriate land uses in the area would be for the purposes of enhancing energy use, generation, transmission, and operations; public service operations, agricultural based activities which support area land uses, and other uses which do not require municipal services. Actual development would need to be preceded by a comprehensive plan amendment which would include, but is not limited to: land use change, development plan, environmental analysis, traffic studies, stormwater management, sewer and water needs, and development standards. The Opportunity Area is designated on the Policy Map.

TOWNSHIP POLICY LU-5
Watertown Township adopts the animal agriculture operations policy and standards contained in the County Land Use Plan and the County Feedlot Ordinance. In addition, the Township adopts standards which apply to areas east and west of a division line which runs from State Highway 25 on the north township boundary to State Highway 7, east on Hwy 7 to CSAH 10, then south on CSAH 10 to the south township boundary. The following standards will apply to animal agriculture operations in Watertown Township: New and expanded animal agriculture operations feedlots greater than 50 AU will be required to obtain a conditional use permit (CUP). New animal agriculture operations east of the line are restricted to 200 animal units (AU) or less; New animal agriculture operations west of the line are restricted to 400 animal units (AU) or less. Expansion of existing animal agriculture operations is restricted to a 25 percent above existing AU. After 2005, no expansions above 200 AU will be allowed east of the line and no expansions above 400 AU will be allowed west of the line.

TOWNSHIP POLICY LU-6
Watertown Township recognizes golf courses as a compatible and desirable land use within the township as defined in the Carver County Land Use Element. Development standards and guidelines as defined in the County Comprehensive Plan and County Water Plan will be followed for any golf course development.

TOWNSHIP POLICY LU-7
Watertown Township chooses to provide for the transfer of building eligibilities to non-adjacent parcels as provided in the County Plan.
TOWNSHIP POLICIES (cont.)

Water Resources

Carver County is the Water Authority for the Crow River and Carver Creek watersheds and is required to prepare and implement a water plan which addresses surface water and groundwater issues.

TOWNSHIP POLICY WR-1

Watertown Township hereby concurs with and adopts the Carver County Water Management Organization (CCWMO) and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) Watershed Management Plans; these plans serve 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 and will do so based on input into the CCWMO plan update process. The Township will work with the CCWMO and MCWD to have the land currently in the MCWD reassigned to the CCWMO.

Parks, Open Space, and Trails

TOWNSHIP POLICY POST-1

Watertown Township acknowledges that the Metropolitan Council’s regional park policy plan identifies the Crow River Regional Trail (referred to as the Western Carver County Regional Trail in the 2030 County Plan) with a potential future alignment through the township as a linking trail. The establishment of any future trail alignment will result from a master plan process done in cooperation with Watertown Township, Carver County, and others. Within Watertown Township, the Western Carver County Regional Trail will run along State Highway 25 within the right of way of the State Highway. At the time the trail is to be built, the Watertown Township Board will determine the final location of the trail through public process with Watertown Township residents.

Transportation

Watertown Township’s transportation system consists of County & State highways and Township roads (see Policy 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 parcels 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 Watertown 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 Watertown 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 residential 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. 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 or if it serves at least three new homes.
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Source: Carver County Planning and Water Management

Visit www.co.carver.mn.us/2030plan