

TOWN OF ALDEN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

DRAFT VISION STATEMENT

Vision Statement – An idealized statement that articulates the future a community wants.

We, the residents, envision that in 2030, the Town of Alden will continue to offer rural country living with a mixture of agriculture, woodlands, grasslands, residences and the natural resource and scenic qualities found in the community today.

The Town will be a peaceful and quiet place to live, with safe, clean neighborhoods, quality housing, well-maintained properties, and friendly neighbors. The community will benefit from well planned and maintained roads and services, making sure that the development that creates increased demand for them pays its fair share. The Town will be a progressive community, strengthened by local control and pride in, and loyalty to, the Town.

Historically viable farm operations associated with the best farmland in the Town will be protected while accommodating agricultural diversification on marginally productive lands. The Town will seek to limit and manage large livestock operations as they are deemed intensive industrial-like uses not in character with the Town.

Lakes, rivers, streams, shorelands, open space, woodlands, and other natural resources will provide wildlife habitat and will be available for the enjoyment and economic benefit of residents, including public access to lakes, rivers and other recreational opportunities such as parks and trails. Town treasures such as the Apple River, and the many springs and lakes are protected so development does not entirely destroy their natural beauty and function. Environmental protection of air, surface water and groundwater quality is essential. These attributes will continue to contribute to the quality of life and aesthetic beauty of the Town.

Well-planned and managed development will let the community grow while retaining a country feel, not compromising the things that make it unique. Quality construction of single-family homes in small clusters with significant open space and proper wastewater treatment will be encouraged to create a safe and attractive rural setting, reduce the visual impact of development, and minimize negative impacts on agriculture and natural resources. Transfer of Development Rights will create a win-win-win situation in the Town where landowners can be compensated for their investment in land, the community can keep valued agricultural and natural resource lands from development, and developers can still develop in appropriate locations. Mobile home parks, and large subdivisions with small lots and no retained open space will be restricted.

Controlled local-serving commercial in the rural areas, including the unincorporated villages of Horse Creek and Little Falls, limited retail/services in appropriate locations along County and State highways, agricultural operations, and in-home, cottage businesses will be the significant commercial activities in the Town, with many residents continuing to commute to other communities for employment. Other than limited light manufacturing fabricating value-added products, industrial uses will be discouraged.

This vision will be achieved with community involvement, well-considered local land use controls and community programs that are balanced with respect for individual property rights.
