

A Comprehensive Plan For New Sweden, Maine

January 2021

Prepared with the technical assistance of:

Northern Maine Development Commission

11 West Presque Isle Road, Caribou, Maine 04736

1-207-498-8736

A Comprehensive Plan for the Town of New Sweden

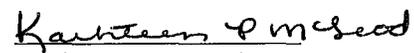
Adopted by the Residents: _____

Planning Board Members:



Rita Anderson

Jacob Cyr



Kathleen McLeod



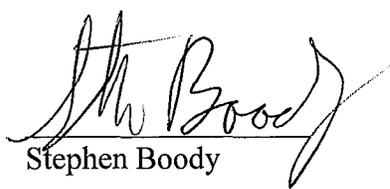
Denis Orthaus

Dale Wight

Board of Selectmen:



Sven Bondeson



Stephen Boody

David White

This Plan's development was assisted by Jay Kamm of the Northern Maine Development Commission and funded by the residents of the Town of New Sweden.

Table of Contents	Page
Introduction – Community Involvement	4-5
Inventory and Analysis	
Demographics	6-13
Existing and Future Land Use	14-22
Transportation	23-34
Public Facilities and Services	35-43
Fiscal Capacity	44-49
Housing	50-60
Local Economy	61-66
Natural Resources	67-76
Cultural and Historic Resources	77-85
Regional Coordination	86-87
Goals, Policies, and Strategies	
Goals, Policies, and Strategies	88-90
Demographics	91
Landowner Rights and Responsibilities	92
Land Use	93-94
Transportation	95-96
Public Facilities and Services	97-98
Fiscal Capacity	99-100
Housing	101-102
Local Economy	103-104
Natural Resources	105-107
Cultural and Historic Resources	108
Recreational Resources	109-111

Introduction & Community Involvement

This document is the result of an organized method of finding out what a community's needs are, and then setting goals and policies to address those needs. It allows for future growth within the community. It fosters steps to make New Sweden a better place to live as envisioned by the citizens of our town.

The Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act of 1988 established a cooperative program of comprehensive planning and land use management among the municipalities, regional planning councils, and the state. The focal points of the Act are:

1. The establishment of state goals to provide overall direction and consistency to the planning and regulatory actions of the municipalities and the state
2. The establishment of technical and financial assistance programs through the state planning office and regional planning councils to encourage and help communities develop comprehensive plans, and
3. The establishment of a process for the review of the comprehensive plans by the State Planning Office and regional planning councils to ensure that they are consistent with the Comprehensive Planning Act.

Part 1 of New Sweden's Comprehensive Plan addresses the past and present resources, analyzes recent trends, and identifies potential problem areas. This section provides the overall community profile of such things as transportation, public facilities and services, natural and cultural resources, housing, land use, the local economy and the town's fiscal capacity.

Part 2 of the Plan is the regional coordination program. New Sweden shares its natural resources and public facilities with surrounding towns and likewise utilizes other communities' services and resources. This portion of the plan identifies those natural resources and public facilities that extend beyond the town's borders and develops implementation actions for the joint management of each.

Part 3 of the plan will discuss specific goals, policies and strategies. The strategies address programs, activities and regulations that New Sweden will pursue over the next 10 year period to ensure progress toward meeting the goals and policies.

Community Involvement

New Sweden's Planning Board has taken the lead in drafting this update to the plan, assisted by Jay Kamm, Senior Planner, Northern Maine Development Commission. Early in the process, the Board reached out to New Sweden's residents through an Opinion Survey to obtain a broad perspective of satisfaction drivers and concerns. The Board's a paramount focus of the policies and strategies of this Comprehensive Plan are to enhance resident's satisfaction and diminish their areas of concerns. The Planning Board's meetings were always open to community members to participate in the discussions.

Community involvement culminated in a public hearing held on November 9, 2020. The Town Office was the venue for the discussion of the direction of the town with regards to all elements of the Comprehensive plan.

Due to COVID restrictions throughout 2020 the development of this Comprehensive Plan was hindered and required extending the development over a 2-year period. It is through the diligent efforts of the Board to produce a document that responded to community's needs that this plan came to fruition. Funding for the effort was approved by the New Sweden's residents for both years of its development.

The Planning Board, Selectmen and residents spent many evenings reviewing, editing, and providing input. Their efforts should be acknowledged.

Implementation Review and Updates

By specific New Sweden Planning Board Ordinance, the Planning Board is charged with the responsibility to maintain the Town's Comprehensive Plan and to submit an annual report to apprise citizens of its activities and administrative actions. This report, including updates on the implementation of Policies and Strategies contained in this Comprehensive Plan, will be available for review at the Town's Annual Meeting.

PART 1

Demographics

Introduction

Demographic analysis and projections are the basic elements of any comprehensive plan. Information generated from demographic projections enhances the capacity of the town to prepare for the impact of future growth or declines on such things as land use, housing demand, public services and economic development. The Maine Office of Policy and Management (OPM) provides population and demographic data discussed in this section. Actual population figures are provided by the decennial US Census while projections are based on a methodology that uses Aroostook County level projections derived from more detailed information than is available at the local level. Town projections are calculated using recent growth or decline in the town's share of the County's population and the County level population projections. The local, town level, population projections are based on assumptions and past trends that may or may not hold into the future.

Census Data Disclaimer:

Current census data contained within this chapter is compiled from the 2010 US Census and American Community Survey (ACS) 2011-2015 5-year estimate. The ACS 5-year estimates data for rural communities is based on a very small sample, and therefore is subject to often-substantial sampling variability.

New Sweden is located in the Presque Isle Labor Market Area (LMA) and depends on the region's economic health for its survival. The LMA's boundaries include Bridgewater to the south, Portage and Oxbow to the west, Stockholm, Conner and Caswell to the north, and New Brunswick, Canada to the east. The table below compares population and population change for five (5) surrounding communities, Aroostook County, and Maine.

According to the US Census, the 2010 population of New Sweden was 602, a decline of 3.16 percent from 2000. Since 1970, New Sweden's population declined by 6.15 percent down from 639. Census figures show that not one of the comparative surrounding communities had gained population between 2000 and 2010. However, Westmanland gained population between 1970 and 2010, the only selected community to grow during that time period. In the 2000s, Aroostook County's population declined by 2.8% while Maine's grew by 4.2 percent.

**Between 2000 and 2010,
New Sweden's population
declined by 3.16 percent.**

It should be noted that these population projections were developed in 2018, before the 2020-2021 COVID-19 pandemic and appear overly pessimistic. The Maine Center for Business and Economic Research based at the University of Southern Maine projects population growth in the Aroostook-Washington Economic Development District (AWEDD) in 2021, the first such gains in over two (2) decades. Town Officials should very closely monitor the American Community Survey which provides 5-year projections.

Total Population 1970-2010

Town	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	Percent Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 1970-2010
New Sweden	639	737	715	621	602	-3.16	-6.15
Perham	436	437	395	434	386	-12.44	-12.95
Woodland	1,218	1,369	1,402	1,403	1,213	-15.66	-0.41
Stockholm	388	319	286	271	253	-7.11	-53.36
Caribou	10,419	9,916	9,415	8,312	8,189	-1.50	-27.23
Westmanland	52	53	72	71	62	-14.52	16.13
Aroostook County	92,463	91,331	86,936	73,938	71,870	-2.88	-28.65
Maine	993,722	1,125,043	1,227,928	1,274,923	1,328,361	4.02	25.19

Source: US Census, 1970-2010

The following table shows historical and projected population for New Sweden and surrounding communities. Town population projections are calculated using two pieces of information:

- The recent historical growth of each town's share of its county's population and
- County population projections.

Town population projections should always be used with caution. While they provide a good building block and can point to future trends, they are based on assumptions and past trends that may or may not hold into the future. In some ways, these population projections represent what will happen under a business-as-usual scenario where all the pieces (including migration rates, life expectancies, and sprawl patterns) continue on their current trajectories. It should be noted that when projecting population numbers, even the smallest gain or loss in a small population can significantly impact statistical data.

All of the communities are projected to lose population over the next 10 years but the rate of decline is expected to slow. It should be noted that the region's efforts, including New Sweden's, to attract business and small-scale industry, the availability of agricultural lands, outdoor recreational opportunities, and its quality of life has the potential to slow or reverse this decline in population. This may be seen in the 2029 projection where the population is expected to increase back to 601. The region is an attractive area for people and families to live and changes in the regional economy help retain population.

Projected Population

Town	1980	1990	2000	2010	2019	2024	2029	Percent Change 1980-2029	Percent Change 2010-2029
New Sweden	737	715	621	602	594	598	601	-22.6	-0.17
Perham	437	395	434	386	362	355	348	-25.5	-10.9
Woodland	1,369	1,402	1,403	1,213	1,170	1,166	1,159	-18.1	-4.6
Stockholm	319	286	271	253	243	241	239	-33.4	-5.8
Caribou	9,916	9,415	8,312	8,189	7,829	7,761	7,679	-29.1	-6.6
Westmanland	53	72	71	62	59	58	57	7.0	-8.7

Source: US Census 1990, 2000, 2010 and Office of Policy and Management Projections 2019

New Sweden's Historic Population

The table below illustrates New Sweden's population from 1880 to 2016 (estimate). New Sweden's peak population occurred in 1920, when the town's population reached 964. The growth began when railroads (Aroostook Valley and Bangor and Aroostook) came to New Sweden. Other time frames where population grew was 1970-1990 when Loring Air Force Base in Limestone was at its peak. Other industries/areas that grew rapidly during this time period by the presence of the railroad were agriculture, lumbering, and the development of several inventions.

Since that peak, the overall population declined steadily to a level of 602 in 2010 and an estimated 599 in 2016. The greatest decrease occurred between 1950 and 1960, when the population decreased by 124 people. Overall decline during the years after 1950 is attributed to several factors. A decline in the potato industry occurred, not only due to mechanization, but several bad crop years. Other factors include a decline in the lumbering industry of secondary businesses, and the younger age group population looking for greater economic opportunities elsewhere.

New Sweden Population 1880 to 2016

Year	Population	Percent Change
1880	517	
1890	707	26.87
1900	867	18.45
1910	905	4.20
1920	964	6.12
1930	898	-7.35
1944	844	-6.40
1950	827	-2.06

Year	Population	Percent Change
1960	713	-15.99
1970	639	-11.58
1980	737	13.30
1990	715	-3.08
2000	621	-15.14
2010	602	-3.16
2016	599	-0.50
2019	569	-5.01

Source: US Census and American Community Survey

Age Group Population

In 2010 the largest age group was the 45-54 age group which made up 18.94 percent of the population and an estimated 17.5 percent of the population in 2016. Approximately 21 percent of New Sweden's population is under 18. It should be noted that the "under 18" age groups saw significant declines between 2000 and 2010 but increases between 2010 and 2016.

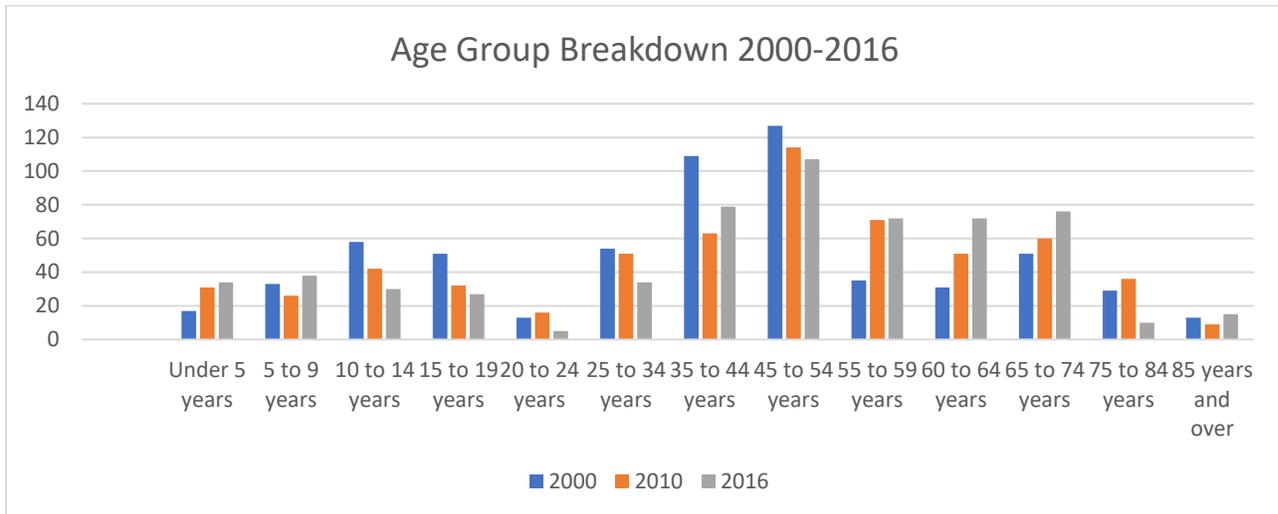
Between 2000 and 2010, the largest decline was the 35-44 age group, followed by the 85 and older. The Town also saw significant declines in the number of residents between 20 and 24, 75-84, and 10-14 between 2010 and 2016. Conversely, New Sweden saw growth in several age groups. These increases should be taken into account when completing other sections of this plan.

The 2016 American Community Survey estimates very closely mirror the 2010 US Census with many of the same age groups growing or declining.

Population by Age Group, 2000-2016

Age Group	2000	Percent of Total	2010	Percent of Total	Percent Change 2000-10	2016	Percent of Total	Percent Change 2000-16
Under 5 years	17	2.74	31	5.15	45.16	34	5.68	50.00
5 to 9 years	33	5.31	26	4.32	-26.92	38	6.34	13.16
10 to 14 years	58	9.34	42	6.98	-38.10	30	5.01	-93.33
15 to 19 years	51	8.21	32	5.32	-59.38	27	4.51	-88.89
20 to 24 years	13	2.09	16	2.66	18.75	5	0.83	-160.00
25 to 34 years	54	8.70	51	8.47	-5.88	34	5.68	-58.82
35 to 44 years	109	17.55	63	10.47	-73.02	79	13.19	-37.97
45 to 54 years	127	20.45	114	18.94	-11.40	107	17.86	-18.69
55 to 59 years	35	5.64	71	11.79	50.70	72	12.02	51.39
60 to 64 years	31	4.99	51	8.47	39.22	72	12.02	56.94
65 to 74 years	51	8.21	60	9.97	15.00	76	12.69	32.89
75 to 84 years	29	4.67	36	5.98	19.44	10	1.67	-190.00
85 years and over	13	2.09	9	1.50	-44.44	15	2.50	13.33
Total	621	100.00	602	100.00	-3.16	599	100.00	-3.67

Source: US Census, 2000 and 2010, American Community Survey 2017



Median Age

A major challenge facing Aroostook County and New Sweden is that of an aging demographic. Aroostook County's population, like the rest of Maine, has continued to get older. Maine is now the oldest state in the nation, measured by median age at 44.5 in 2016, up from 37.6 in 2000. Although above the statewide median age, Aroostook County (47.5 in 2016) is not the oldest county in the state ranking 6th and is far from the oldest county in the country, although it does fall within the oldest 15 percent of the country's 3,100 counties.

In 2000, New Sweden's median age was 43.5 years. By 2010, the median age had increased to 48.3, a change of 11 percent. The median age has shifted as a segment of the younger age population has decreased as reflected in the 2000 and 2010 US Census. This is due in part to smaller number of families, smaller number of children per family, the decline and mechanization of the agricultural and the lumber industries, and out-migration. In comparison with the other communities in the region, there are very similar occurrences as the median age increased in every community during the same time. New Sweden is slightly "older" than Aroostook County and approximately 5.6 years older than Maine's median age.

Median Age 2000-2010

Town	2000	2010	Percent Change
New Sweden	43.5	48.3	11.0
Perham	40.4	45.3	12.1
Stockholm	44.1	46.7	5.9
Woodland	38.8	46.1	18.8
Caribou	40.8	44.0	7.8
Aroostook County	40.7	45.3	11.3
Maine	38.6	42.7	10.6
United States	35.3	37.2	5.4

Source: US Census 2000 and 2010

Comparison of Households

While it might be counterintuitive, the number of households in New Sweden increased between 2000 and 2010. New Sweden and Caribou were the only selected communities that showed an increase in the number of households during that timeframe. When looking at population and population projections, even though the population is aging and declining, the increase is indicative of an older population moving into town. While the increase is not sufficient to stem population decline, it does show that people are moving into New Sweden.

New Sweden's household size decreased by nearly 6 percent. The decline in household size is similar to surrounding communities, Aroostook County, and Maine. Perham saw the largest decrease in the number of households while Woodland had the largest decrease in household size.

Comparative Number and Size of Households

Town	Number of Households			Household Size		
	2000	2010	% Change 00-10	2000	2010	% Change 00-10
New Sweden	247	255	3.2	2.51	2.36	-5.9
Perham	162	151	-6.8	2.68	2.56	-4.5
Stockholm	111	110	-1.0	2.44	2.30	-5.7
Woodland	528	508	-3.8	2.65	2.39	-9.8
Caribou	3,517	3,559	1.2	2.32	2.26	-2.6
Aroostook	30,356	30,961	2.0	2.36	2.26	-4.2
Maine	518,200	557,219	7.5	2.39	2.32	-2.9

Source: US Census, 2000 and 2010

Gender Distribution

In 2010, New Sweden's population was made up of 304 males (50.5%) and 298 females (49.5%). While this is not too dissimilar from comparable towns, it is much closer to a 50-50 split than the others. Several of the surrounding communities are dissimilar to the region, as well as the County, in the males outnumber females.

Gender Distribution 2000 and 2010

Town	2000			2010		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
New Sweden	621	314	307	602	304	298
Perham	434	216	218	386	197	189
Woodland	1,403	737	666	1,213	612	601
Stockholm	271	141	130	253	123	130
Caribou	8,312	4,009	4,303	8,189	3,930	4,259
Aroostook County	73,938	36,095	37,843	71,870	35,387	36,483
Maine	1,274,923	620,309	654,614	1,328,361	650,056	678,305

Source: US Census 2000 and 2010

Educational Attainment

According to the 2010 US Census, 84.5 percent of New Sweden’s population aged 25 and older achieved a high school diploma or greater compared to 83.9 percent in Aroostook County, and 89.8 percent statewide. In 2000, 85.7 percent of New Sweden’s population were high school graduates or greater. In 2010, 12.6 percent of the population over 25 years old had a Bachelor’s Degree or higher compared to 16.2 percent in Aroostook County, and 26.5 percent in Maine. (It should be noted that because educational attainment in the 2010 Census was not an actual count, the margin of error in these statics can be very high).

Educational Attainment of Population Age 25+, 2000 to 2010

Town	Year	25 Years or Older Population	Years of Education						
			<9th	9 to 12	HS Grad	Some College	Associates	Bachelor's	Grad Degree
New Sweden	2010	420	31	34	192	96	14	31	22
	2000	449	38	26	162	91	33	58	41
Perham	2010	261	6	19	122	67	17	20	10
	2000	302	35	31	130	57	15	30	2
Stockholm	2010	175	13	24	39	52	16	9	22
	2000	208	24	21	60	37	26	33	7
Woodland	2010	763	47	83	325	146	58	90	14
	2000	957	107	150	354	159	66	79	32
Caribou	2010	5,964	445	512	1,925	1,229	519	943	391
	2000	5,930	743	718	1,986	1,004	419	769	291
Aroostook	2010	51,788	4,089	4,272	20,176	10,257	4,619	6,116	2,259
	2000	51,439	5,802	6,066	19,799	8,893	3,345	5,544	1,990
State	2010	929,301	35,336	59,859	326,777	178,022	82,580	159,601	87,126
	2000	869,893	47,183	80,105	314,600	165,111	63,934	129,992	68,968

Source: US Census 2000 and 2010

Analysis

Over the next 10 years, the total population of New Sweden is expected to decline by approximately 3.5% person to 578. According to population projections, three significant demographic trends are expected to continue:

- 1) The decline in New Sweden’s school age population
- 2) New Sweden’s aging population will continue to increase
- 3) There will be a growing number of seasonal residents.

Smaller and declining populations mean less people to spread the costs of municipal infrastructure and government. Most municipal spending is supported through property tax revenues generated by residents. Generally speaking, taxpayers are paying more for municipal services, though it is difficult to assess strictly through changes in municipal property valuations and adjustments to mil rates. Still, both mil rates and valuations have increased since 2005, though New Sweden was able to reduce the mil rate by 6 % in 2019. This is to be expected. However, the loss of population

means there are less people living in New Sweden to contribute to the tax base and funding municipal services and commitments are spread across fewer people. In addition, the decline in federal support and state cost sharing have placed higher tax burdens on local taxpayers to support these services.

A second likely implication of the aging population will be continued demand for in-town housing, including apartment, independent living and assisted living facilities, and incentives to assist aging residents with “aging in place” renovations. Town officials will need to continue to monitor these trends and make appropriate policy decisions based on changes in the population.

The Town of New Sweden will continue to seek strategies to maintain its current population and encourage growth. Just as greater economic opportunities outside an area can cause a population decline, a trend to modest growth can occur in a community due to its recreational opportunities and the quality of life it affords. The town needs to work on initiatives that are designed to help population growth and attempts to keep younger families in the region.

In addition, the Town must monitor the effects of an aging population on the public services which it offers. They must also monitor the trend towards a smaller youth segment of the population. A smaller youth segment combined with an aging population can have an effect on school, recreational, cultural and other community programs, as well as the funding for these. An aging population will create a need to develop additional programs for the elderly such as walking programs, shopping excursions, recreation and social activities. The Town of New Sweden will examine the possibility of increased public transportation and/or additional elderly housing and services, as it continues to keep services in balance with the needs of its population.

As noted in the *Census Data Disclaimer* in the introduction of this section, the demographic data from the 2020 US Census may differ from the findings noted above. Should the findings of the 2020 Census show statistically significant different data, an addendum to modify or add to the following policies, strategies and goals may be necessary.

Land Use

New Sweden is rural and supports a “country-living” life style. Resident responses in the Public Opinion survey conducted prior to the development of this Comprehensive Plan support the importance of keeping the area rural. Over 80 % of the survey responders expressed that they liked living in New Sweden because of the privacy, peacefulness and abundance of natural resources such as clean water and air, forests, wildlife and low light pollution. Preserving land use that supports these satisfaction drivers is foundational for this section of the Comprehensive Plan.

New Sweden covers a land area of approximately 34.7 square miles or 22,208 acres. Woodland borders it to the south, Westmanland to the west, Caribou and Connor Township to the east, and Stockholm to the north.

Most of New Sweden’s residents live in the center part of the town. Route 161 and Station Road serves both as a residential street and as a major collector. Because traffic on these roads moves quickly, the direct access from resident driveways can be dangerous. Enforcement of posted speeds will be important should population growth cause increased congestion on these State maintained highway and roads.

However, it is anticipated that interest in country living may spur purchase of land and houses in outlying areas on backroads. These roads are maintained by New Sweden municipal services. Many of these roads are dirt/gravel. Enhanced attention to the development of roads that support easier maintenance adjacent to land that can support residential housing development, may afford the town the ability to influence this development in a cost-effective manner.

New Sweden Community Character

The residents of New Sweden are interested in conserving the rural quality of life and in preserving the local cultural heritage and history. The land in New Sweden is mostly hilly and wooded with numerous streams feeding into the Little Madawaska River. The local roads provide a number of scenic views. Excellent recreation trails are available for snowmobiling, mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, ATVing, and cross-country skiing. The town has a well-developed and maintained park (Thomas Park) which is the focus of Midsommar, a major annual celebration that carries on an ancient Nordic tradition and entices visitors from around the world. The park has also been used for outdoor church services, weddings and concerts. As a part of the original “Swedish Colony” established in 1871, New Sweden has a number of significant historical buildings, many of original log construction, an energetic cultural heritage program, and an active historical society, coupled with the surrounding “Swedish” communities that support a museum, a restoration of an original log house, and a working blacksmith shop among other historical assets. Although the population of New Sweden has become more diverse ethnically, the Swedish culture remains strong. There is a rich agricultural and forestry heritage, a range of cultural and historical resources, the promise of future small business development, a well-developed and maintained trail system, quality water and air, a diversity of religious denominations, accessible medical and emergency services, and a local government that is aware and responsive to the community’s needs.

New Sweden has long recognized the community advantages of managing growth. A Planning Board was established in 1971 and in 1980 the citizens adopted the first Comprehensive Plan. New Sweden was one of the first communities in the state to adopt a plan.

Over the years, ordinances have been prepared based on the goals of New Sweden's Comprehensive Plan. These ordinances have been adopted by the residents at town meetings. The ordinances adopted include Shoreland Zoning, Subdivision, Manufactured Housing, Cable Television, Timber Harvesting, and Aerial Spraying of Chemicals. Standards for Residential Development have also been adopted including lot size, setbacks, and septic systems. In 2015 New Sweden adopted a new and comprehensive land use ordinance that included, in addition to the existing ordinances, standards for commercial and industrial development, and wind turbines.

While the New Sweden Planning Board members have provided leadership in achieving the goals of New Sweden's Comprehensive Plan, the entire community has supported the general effort to maintain the positive qualities that make New Sweden unique and should continue to do so.

Land Use Regulations

Land Use Ordinance

New Sweden adopted a revised Land Use Ordinance in 2015. This ordinance regulated residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial land uses. Town officials are of the opinion that the present ordinance is working well and adequately addresses its stated purposes. However, there has not been significant development pressure in town to put the ordinance to a test.

The revised plan includes residential and commercial building standards addressing size, set-backs from roads and property boundaries, waste disposal, parking and driveway access/egress safety considerations. Building Codes regulated by the State are cited throughout the Land Use Ordinance and are thereby enforced. It includes restrictions on development in shoreland zones in accordance with the Town's specific Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. The Land Use Ordinance references State standards for agricultural land use and animal housing, including impact on run-off into waterways; mineral exploration and extraction; required parking lots for multiple family housing units; development of permanent mobile homes and trailers; seasonal campgrounds and RV parks; renewable energy systems; and timber harvesting.

Shoreland Zoning

New Sweden's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance was adopted by the Town's legislative body in 1990, amended in June 2009, and subsequently approved by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. The ordinance basically follows the State's minimum guidelines and two (2) districts have been established including: Resource Protection and Stream Protection. The two districts are also officially identified on the Town's Official Shoreland Zoning map. The zones are as follows:

- **Resource Protection:** Areas where development would jeopardize significant natural, scenic, recreational and historic resources, including but not limited to flood plains, precipitous slopes, wildlife habitat, and other areas critical to the ecology of the region or state.
- **Stream Protection:** This district generally includes areas within 75 feet of streams.

Shoreland Zoning waterbodies listed in the ordinance within New Sweden include: Fogelin Pond, Little Madawaska River, Anderson Brook, AVR Stream, Beardsley Brook, Berglind Brook, Caribou Stream, Floyd Jepson Brook, French Brook, Johnson Brook, Landeen Stream, Larsson Brook, Mill Site Brook, Mud Brook, Otter Brook, Ringdahl Brook, Sealander Brook, Spooner Brook, Stadig Mill Stream. In addition, there are 10 non-forested wetlands that are regulated under the ordinance.

New Sweden's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance identifies a number of the smaller streams by name, all of which have been zoned Stream Protection (SP) requiring a 75 foot buffer, under the Ordinance. While there is a hand drawn map located in the ordinance identifying these streams, most of the local names do not appear on USGS 15 or 7.5 minute topographical maps. Town officials may want to produce a map for the Ordinance that clearly shows the local name of each stream.

According to the *Freshwater Wetland Map*, prepared by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, New Sweden has ten (10) non-forested wetlands. All of the wetlands are over 10 acres in size, therefore requiring mandatory protection under the Shoreland Zoning Act, Title 38 MRSA, Sections 435-488. New Sweden has zoned all of the wetlands as Resource Protection affording them the highest level of protection.

New Sweden's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance was completed in 1990, but the wetlands identified in the ordinance use MDEP's older mapping system. Town officials may consider updating their wetland inventories using newer National Wetland Inventory maps. These maps identify a larger number of wetlands down to one (1) acre in size throughout the community.

New Sweden is aware that new Chapter 1000 Guidelines were adopted by the State in 2019 and that municipalities are in need of updating their local ordinances. New Sweden will review the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance and adopt the guidelines that will be at least as stringent as Chapter 1000 wording.

Floodplain Management Ordinance

New Sweden revised and updated its Floodplain Management Ordinance in June 2012. Permits granted by the Code Enforcement Officer incorporate specific development standards listed in the Ordinance. These standards are designed to ensure that floodplain management measures are appropriately applied in flood hazard areas.

The Ordinance meets all current state and federal standards. Flood damage claims in the municipality are qualified for coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Town Officials will update this Ordinance as required.

New Sweden Existing Land Uses

Land uses include:

- Residential** - The residential category includes all areas in use for residential purposes. This includes single-family, two-family, multi-family, and mobile homes.
- Commercial** - The commercial category includes retail businesses and services.

- Industrial** - The industrial category includes land devoted to railroads, warehouses, shipping facilities, and food processing.
- Public** - The public category includes churches, parks, recreation areas, cemeteries, and public buildings.
- Agricultural** - Land used for production of food and fiber (e.g., potatoes, oats, peas, broccoli, hay, etc.) or for the pasturing / feeding of livestock.
- Woodland** - Land that is wooded with harvestable trees for saw logs, wood pulp, chip board or biofuels.
- Vacant** - This category is comprised of: cropland reverting back to scrub growth, meadows, marshes, and wetlands. (Some of these are covered in greater detail in the Natural Resources section of this Plan).

There are no provisions in the current Land Use Ordinance that delineate these land areas in New Sweden and no enforcement or restrictions on such designations. Current real estate ownership maps of lots and housing development thereupon are maintained in the Town Office. These are the maps that are the basis for taxation, the town's major municipal revenue source.

Existing Land Use Analysis

Land Use Analysis

New Sweden has an attractive future as a place to work, for the rural quality of life it has to offer, and for recreation and leisure-time activities. The town contains one distinct village area and two smaller clusters of residential and commercial development. The larger outlying areas have retained much of their rural character, despite some growing residential development pressure. The maps of current land use in New Sweden and the information about development pressures will allow the municipality to effectively maintain existing land uses and prepare and plan for future land uses by prioritizing those areas of the community which are best suited for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and public uses. The town should also identify other areas where little or no growth should be encouraged, such as areas unserved and unserviceable by internet/media, prime forest lands, prime agricultural lands, wetlands, areas of endangered natural resources, aquifers, etc. The present land use ordinance attempts to direct development in those areas in which it is suitable, and will be updated following the release of the Plan to more closely promote those newly identified town goals.

Only a small portion of the available land has been developed in New Sweden and there is ample land for additional growth. As of the 2017 municipal valuation there were 11,685 acres reported as "undeveloped" which is approximately 53% of land in the Town. It is important to target future growth in specific areas able to accommodate development to preserve existing rural resources within the town. Identification of land for future commercial development and building an infrastructure of access roads and utilities for such is important for the future of citizen satisfaction.

Preservation of outdoor recreational area such as trails, streams, vistas and parks need to be considered in future land use and development, as the residents have expressed in the Public Opinion Survey the importance of these opportunities for personal and family use.

New Sweden has a number of locational pluses, including its location near two regional airports, regional trail systems, and its location on Route 161 and near US Route 1.

Whenever possible, New Sweden leaders will make use of local and regional resources such as the Northern Maine Development Commission, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Maine Departments of Environmental Protection and Transportation. Should a specific development opportunity arise, assistance in funding through State or Federal aid/grants, and cooperative resource pooling with surrounding towns will be sought.

Summary of Current Land Use Ordinance and Related Concerns

The current Land Use and Development Ordinance (“Ordinance”) was approved by the State and adopted by the residents of New Sweden in 2015. Highlights of the Ordinance are noted in the summarized below.

Application and Permits

Prior to erecting or modifying a building, and before any roadway is constructed, the owner must file for a building permit. The Building Permit Application may be found in the Town Office at 73 Station Road. This application must include a scaled drawing of the site plan. The landowner must also file a Certification of Use and Occupancy specifying.

The Code Enforcement Officer is responsible for reviewing these documents. Permit review will include general considerations about soil suitability, prevention of erosion, maintenance of buffer zones, clustering of development sites, and safe exiting from and entering onto public roadways. The Ordinance also addresses preservation of scenic vistas, and archeological and historical sites.

The Ordinance prohibits development of any land designated as “shoreland” and defines a specific Shoreland Zone as follows:

- land area located within two hundred and fifty (250) feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of any great pond or river;
- land area within 250 feet, horizontal distance, of the upland edge of a freshwater wetland;
- land area within seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a stream or tributary stream.

No permit will be issued for construction of any kind in an area that is in a flood plain. The Town of New Sweden maintains a map of all flood plain areas subject to restricted use.

Any Certification of Use and Occupancy Application that requests a use that is unlawful under Federal or State Law, or local ordinance will not be approved and the building permit will be rejected.

Prior to Occupancy, the Code Enforcement Officer will inspect the property and building, and issue the Certification, if appropriate. A temporary Occupancy permit may be approved in some situations, otherwise no occupancy will be permitted if construction is deemed in violation of the provisions of the Ordinance or Codes.

Building Standards

- Minimum lot size for the erection of a single-family dwelling must be at least one (1) acre in size. This does not include land which may provide a right-of-way to an adjacent landowner. A business lot size must be a minimum of two (2) acres.
- Any building must be set back from the public access road for a distance of 50 feet or more, and the lot where the building is to be built must be at least 200 feet wide. Any residential outbuilding such as a detached garage must also comply with this restriction.
- Structures must be set back at least 25 feet from the side and rear lot lines.
- If there is going to be any subsurface disposal of waste such as an underground septic system, the soil must be tested to determine suitability by a Maine Certified Soil Scientist, Maine Registered Professional Engineers, Maine State Certified Geologist and other person who has training and experience in the recognition and evaluation of soil properties. A list of local persons who are qualified may be obtained from the Town Office.
- If the lot is being developed for non-residential use requiring an off-road loading or parking area, additional provisions apply. These include that parking spaces must be 9 feet wide and 18 feet long for perpendicular and diagonal parking and 8 feet wide and 22 feet long for parallel parking. All non-residential parking must meet the standards of Maine Department of Transportation, the Americans with Disability Act and best management practices. Lighting of a parking lot must be shielded to illuminate only the area of the lot and its structures.
- Signs of both a permanent and temporary basis must comply with restrictions of size and location on the property as noted in the Land Use Ordinance.

Non-Residential Development Considerations

Use of land for **Agriculture** must comply with applicable laws, rules and standards including the Right to Farm Law and the Maine Nonpoint Source Control Program. Considerations include minimizing soil erosion, run off of nutrient enriched water, spreading and storage of manure. State agricultural standards for animal housing and units are incorporated by reference into the Ordinance.

The Ordinance includes specific requirements for **Mineral Exploration and Extraction**. These provisions specify a minimum size of disturbance of ground surface area for exploration, a set back from adjacent roads for excavation, restrictions of disturbance of water sources, reclamation, etc., as specified in MRSA Title 38, ¶ 490-B.

Housing development and multiple family dwellings are addressed in the Ordinance. Development of a housing project must have two parking spaces per dwelling. There must be residential open space suitable for recreational use; and preservation of large trees, native plant and wildlife cover.

Plans for any **New Roadways** must be submitted to the Town Selectmen for approval. The Ordinance requires that a plan be drawn to specific scale and dimensions; and address

curbs, storm drainage, width, subsurface, top layer, etc. Specific requirements can be found in Chapter II Section V. C.

Mobile Homes and Recreational Vehicles

A camper/RV may be parked on any lot as long as it is not used as living space, and may be occupied as living space for up to 3 weeks as long as adequate arrangements are made for waste disposal. If the Camper/RV is being lived in for a longer period there must be a permanent approval for subsurface waste water disposal system on site.

The Ordinance addresses the development of **Mobile Home and Seasonal Trailer Parks, and Campgrounds and/or Recreational Vehicle Parks** in Chapter II Section VI. An Application for the use of land as a park must be submitted prior to such use. A Mobile Home Park must conform to the provisions specified in Chapter II, Section D. A State license must be obtained, and a review of the park's development plans must be approved by both the Code Enforcement Officer and the Town Selectmen.

Wind Energy Systems

The erection of a Wind Energy Conversion System of any size requires a building permit whether for new development or as an addition to already owned land or structure. The Ordinance spells out the review process, including the need for the Town Selectmen to hold a public hearing on these systems prior to approval. Design, aesthetics, safety, noise and compliance with setback provision considerations are paramount to approval.

Timber Harvesting

A permit to harvest wood for sale requires a separate permit. Details regarding restrictions for clear cutting, maintaining buffers next to a boundary lines or public roads, construction of temporary skid trails and disposal of slash are included with the Timber Harvest application and are not part of the Land Use and Development Ordinance. However, the Ordinance does contain useful definitions regarding timber harvesting. These definitions are found in Chapter I, Section V. A timber harvesting permit application can be obtained from the Town Office.

Residential Application Fees and Administration

A fee is charged for applications for a residential Building Permit and Certification of Use and Occupancy. If the application contemplates an on-site subsurface disposal of sewage, the application must be accompanied with evidence of satisfactory subsurface soil conditions for drainage. It is the landowner's responsibility to arrange for and pay for a plumbing permit. The Code Enforcement Officer will approve or deny the application within 14 days of receiving it. Failure to approve or deny within 14 days will constitute denial of the request.

If a building permit is being denied, the Code Enforcement Officer will notify the owner by certified mail of the reason for denial and specific violations of Ordinance, building code or laws; and tell the landowner of actions necessary to correct any violations. An appeal of the Code Enforcement Officer's determination may be submitted in writing to the Town Selectmen.

Non-Residential Land Use Applications

If a person, firm or developer is applying for a non-residential use, the application may require a pre-application conference with the Town's Planning Board. The meeting with the Planning Board must

be accompanied with a written description of the scope of the project and other details as outlined in Chapter III, Section III of the Ordinance. An official Application For Preliminary Plan can be obtained from the Town Office. A request for Final Plan Approval must be submitted within 12 months of the initial Preliminary Plan Review. Approval, conditional approval or denial of the Final Plan will be issued within 45 days after application for a proposed development has been submitted. An addendum to the Ordinance provides a sample list of potential land uses which would require the Planning Board approval process noted in this paragraph.

An appeal from any order, relief, or denial of the Planning Board may be taken by any party to the Town's Board of Appeals (where applicable) or to Superior Court in accordance with the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 80 B. The hearing before Superior Court will be a trial **de novo** without jury.

ANALYSIS

The New Sweden residents have voiced their concerns in the Opinion Survey conducted at the beginning of this Comprehensive Plan update process that development of the Town not lose its "rural" character. This is perceived as the natural resources of the area including many large wooded area and nature trails be preserved or expanded.

Designation of Growth and Rural Areas

Under Title 30-A, Section 4326, Planning and Land Use Regulations, New Sweden is not required to identify growth area for numerous reasons:

- 1) New Sweden's population is expected to decrease from 602 in 2010 to 598 in 2029, continuing a trend that began in 1980. According to the 1960 US Census, New Sweden's population was 713. By 1970 the town's population declined by 74 people to 639. This reversed itself in the 1970 when the town gained 76 people. The trend over the past two Censuses has been one of a declining population. The median family and household size has also decreased during the past three Census years.
- 2) Between 2010 and 2020, New Sweden gained two (2) new housing units. With the projected population decrease and the decrease in family and household size, there is not a demonstrated need for a significant number of new residential units.

- 3) There are no plans for the town to develop public water and sewer. Presently the entire town is served by on-site wastewater disposal systems and private wells for drinking water.

Therefore, no growth or rural area will be delineated on a land use map.

Future Land Use Plan

New Sweden's adopted a Land Use Ordinance in 2015 that was certified by the Maine State Planning Office. This ordinance regulates residential, commercial, agricultural, forestry, and industrial land uses. Town officials feel that the present ordinance is working well and adequately addresses its stated purposes and protects the desired character of New Sweden. In addition, there has not been significant development pressure in town to put the ordinance to an adequate test. The ordinance directs the Planning Board to review standards every five years and revise as necessary. The Planning Board is also required to report to the Board of Selectmen annually to report on development trends and ordinance effectiveness.

The ordinance contains standards for: Site Design Review, Subdivision Review, Access Management, Off-Road Parking and Loading, and Road Design and Construction, Aquifer Protection, Automobile Graveyards, Automobile Recycling Operation, and Junkyards, Building Code, Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), Nutrient Management Plans, Financial Capacity, Financial Assurance, and Technical Capacity, Mineral Exploration and Extraction, Mobile Homes, Performance Guarantees, Signs, Wireless Telecommunication Facilities Siting, Cable Television, and Dogs, Kennels and Veterinary. There is a one (1) acre minimum lot size for residential and two (2) acre minimum lot size for commercial buildings. Various lot size requirements and setback requirements based on commercial, industrial, or agricultural uses and where they are locating within the community. Access and roadways must meet all Maine Department of Transportation Access Management rules.

The following represents New Sweden's Land Use plan.

- 1) Review and update, as needed the Land Use Ordinance.
- 2) Review and update, as needed, the subdivision ordinance.
- 3) Review the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance for any needed amendments.
- 4) Review standards in land use regulations to ensure that they protect the desired character of Town. Amend ordinances as needed.
- 5) Review the need for a system of impact fees for new development that would require developers to "pay their own way," in part or in full, for infrastructure such as roads, traffic control devices, and/or sewerage.
- 6) Recognize the importance of multi-season multi use trails when reviewing subdivision applications. Ensure that the impact of new development on the trail system is minimal.
- 7) Town officials will track new residential development in New Sweden during the next five years. Development will be mapped on a lot line base map in order to determine where growth is occurring. If the development is occurring in a small portion of the community, or if there are significantly changed conditions beyond the original projections, the planning board will review all ordinances and policies and make recommendations for changes to strengthen these items. These changes may include but not be limited to the designation of a growth area and the creation of a zoning ordinance as opposed to a land use ordinance. Changes will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen and the Town's Legislative Body for their approval.

Legend

-  Township Boundaries
-  Roads
-  Abandoned Railroad Beds
-  Power Transmission Lines
-  Streams
-  Rivers, Lakes and Ponds

0 875 1,750 3,500 5,250 7,000 Feet

1 inch equals 3,500 feet



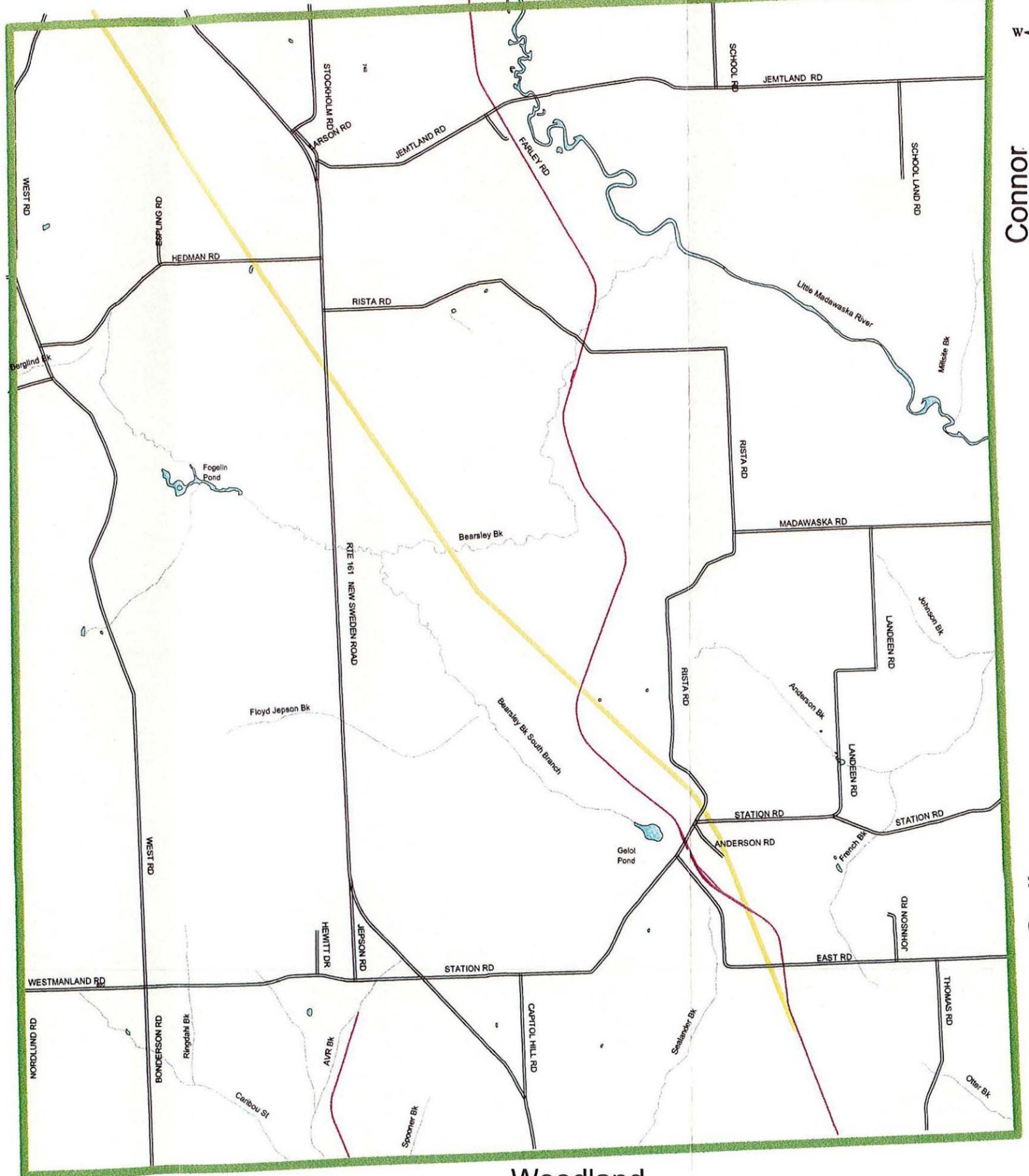
Westmanland

Stockholm

Connor

Caribou

Woodland



New Sweden
Comprehensive Plan
Base Map

Legend

- Township Boundaries
- Streams
- Lot Lines
- Power Transmission Lines
- Rivers, Lakes and Ponds

0 900 1,800 3,600 5,400 7,200 Feet
1 inch equals 3,503.82 feet



Westmanland

Connor

Caribou

Woodland



New Sweden
Comprehensive Plan
Lot Line Base Map

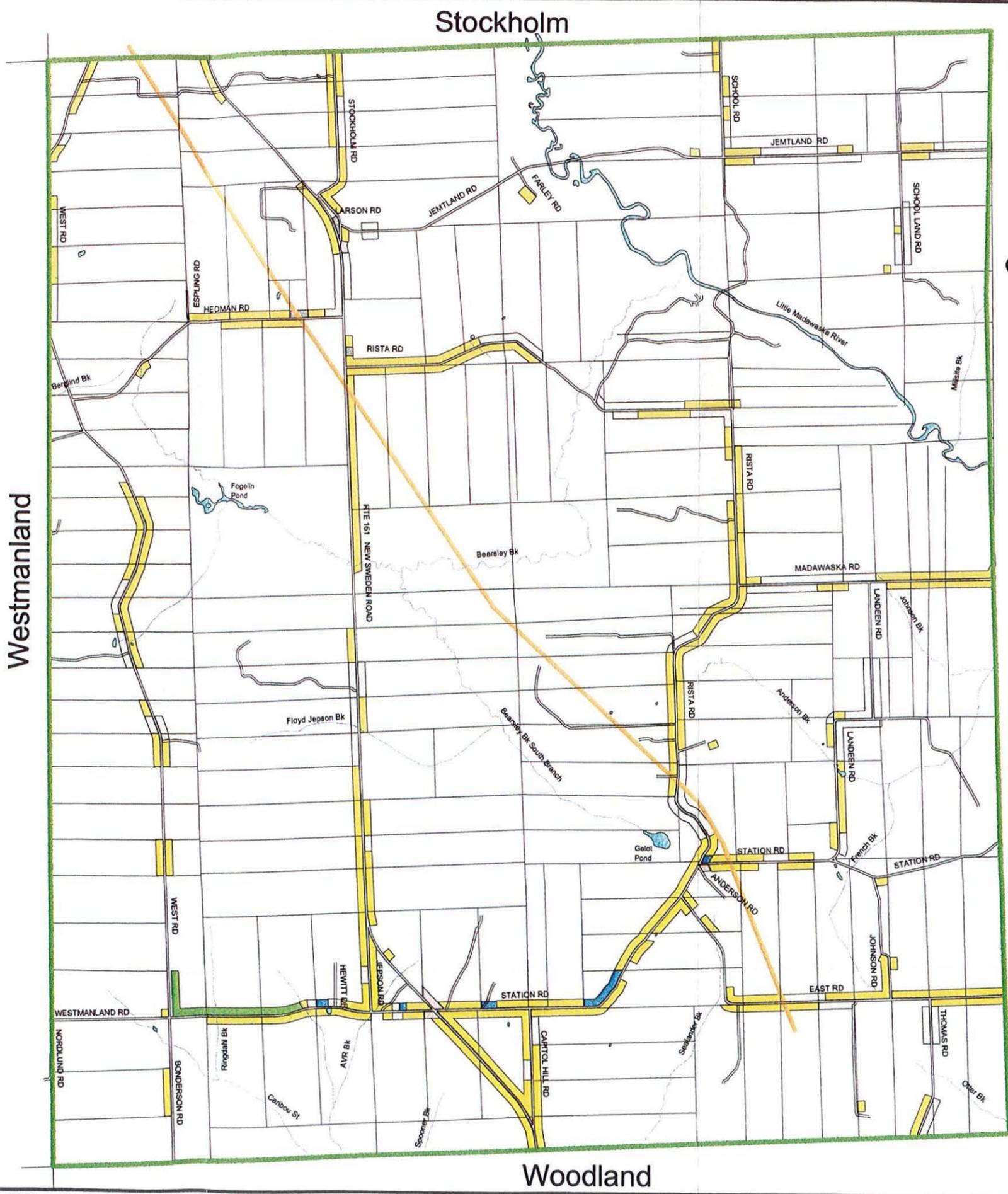
Legend

-  Township Boundaries
-  Streams
-  Lot Lines
-  Power Transmission Lines
-  Rivers, Lakes and Ponds

Existing Land Use:

-  Agricultural
-  Commercial
-  Institutional
-  Open
-  Residential
-  Vacant

0 900 1,800 3,600 5,400 7,200 Feet
 1 inch equals 3,503.82 feet



New Sweden
 Comprehensive Plan
 Existing Land Use Map

Connor

Caribou

Woodland

Transportation

Transportation networks tie a community together and link the town to the surrounding region. Local roads should provide safe, reliable access to work, schools, shopping and residences. The livelihood of the town depends on how goods and services are imported and exported. In addition, the location and size of the town affects the modes of transportation available for traveling long distances.

Transportation networks are also important to the economic growth of the community in providing needed access to goods and services not found in the town. Roads into and out of the town are the main mode of transportation in nearly all rural areas and the condition of these roads is very important. Lately, the state government has realized the great expense needed to improve our interstate highways. If the condition of any state highway or bridge is not adequate, then it is up to the community to make its needs known to the state highway department and state representatives. The information provided in this section will assist New Sweden in assessing those needs.

A safe, efficient transportation system is essential to the smooth functioning of the community. The location and quality of the local street system will have a major impact on where future growth is likely to occur. Transportation links to the outside world greatly influence the potential for economic growth, in as much as, the costs of transportation are an important factor for new businesses in searching for a location.

New Sweden Roadways

The public roads in Maine are classified into three categories based on the needs served by those roads. They are arterial, collector, and local. In total, New Sweden has 41.71 miles of roadway. With routine maintenance, the scraping back of the shoulder build-up, and the cleaning of the ditches, the life of the roadway surface can be prolonged and will save money.

New Sweden has 6.90 miles of arterial roads (Route 161). Arterial roads are the most important travel routes in the state. They carry high-speed long-distance traffic and attract a significant amount of federal funding. They usually carry interstate or US Route traffic.

There are 8.92 miles of collector roads (Station Road-3.76 miles, Jemtland Road-1.56 miles, Westmanland Road-2.21 miles, School Road-0.68 miles, and Capitol Hill Road-0.71 miles). Collector roads, sometimes called "feeder roads", are major roads that collect or "feed" traffic to the arterial roads and are maintained by the State. They serve places of lower population densities and are somewhat removed from main travel routes.

There are 25.89 miles of local roads. Local roads or town roads include all public roads not within the arterial or collector category. These roads are maintained by New Sweden for local service use and provide service to adjacent land areas and usually carry low volumes of traffic.

New Sweden Road Mileage Inventory, 2020

Road Name	Arterial	Collector	Local
Route 161	6.9		
Station Road		3.76	
Jemmland Road		1.56	
Westmanland Road		2.21	
Capitol Hill Road		0.71	
School Road		0.68	
Bondeson Road			0.83
West Road			5.75
School Land Road			0.75
Westmanland Road			0.21
Stockholm Road			0.91
Thomas Road			0.81
Johnson Road			0.3
Landeen Road			1.82
Jepson Road			0.51
Rista Road			5.31
Jemmland Road			2.34
Espling Road			0.18
Hedman Road			1.78
Madawaska Road			1.51
East Road			2.33
Larson Road			0.36
Farley Road			0.19
Total by Class	6.9	8.92	25.89
Total			41.71

Sources: Maine Department of Transportation and Town of New Sweden 2020

Problem Areas

The following areas have been observed and identified as potential trouble spots and should be reviewed in the context of this comprehensive plan's strategies. Limited sight distances, improperly designed intersections, drainage problem areas, and other problem areas have been identified. Through the drafting of policies and the application of strategies, these potential problem areas could be addressed. These problem areas include:

1. Areas with sight distance problems:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A. Station Road at Thomas Park | D. Rista Road at Station Road |
| B. Route 161 at Station Road | E. Larson Road at Route 161 |
| C. Capitol Hill Road at Route 161 | F. Route 161 at Rista Road |

2. Areas with drainage problems:
 - A. West Road at Hedman Road
 - B. Madawaska Road from Landeen Road to Connor town line
 - C. West Road from Lot #112 to Westmanland town line
 - D. Rista Road in Beardsley Brook area

3. Areas with snow drifting problems:
 - A. School Land Road
 - B. Jemtland Road from Stockholm Road to Connor town line
 - C. Route 161 on Jacobson Hill
 - D. West Road by Lots 19 and 20.
 - E. Westmanland Road by Covenant church parsonage
 - F. Station Road at Heritage View and Thomas Park
 - G. Stockholm Road before Stockholm town line
 - H. Rista Road at Chuck Huntoon's
 - I. Rista Road at Adler's
 - J. Rista Road at Roble's

Trees could be planted in areas around the Town with excessive roadway drifting. Most of the problem areas are usually along farmland with the remaining along inactive open space. A buffer strip of staggered trees could act as a snow fence and help prevent drifting (and add to the aesthetics of the area).

4. Other issues:
 - A. Intersection of School Road and Jemtland Road (needs "Stop" sign)
 - B. Intersection of Route 161 and Station Road (needs a blinking yellow caution light)
 - C. Station Road at the Thomas Park curve
 - D. Intersection of Station Road and Rista Road (speed and poor sight distance)
 - E. Need "Recreational Trail" signs on roads at trail crossings
 - F. Need "Townline" post signs on some roads
 - G. Narrow road and no shoulders at Lot 114 and school driveway

Traffic Accident Reports 2015-2020

Accident data for New Sweden is provided by the Maine Department of Transportation. Crash information is submitted to MaineDOT by the Maine State Police and Aroostook County Sheriff's Department (local police departments in municipalities that have them). The following is a summary of the accident data from January 1, 2015 to March 2020.

In total, there were 84 reported crashes in New Sweden during this timeframe. Crashes were spread throughout the year with June having the highest number (11) followed by November (10), and May (9). The two months with the fewest crashes were March and December with 4 each. Crashes with moose accounted for the highest type of crash (29), went off the road (21), and deer (14) being second and third. Over one half of the crashes occurred when the road surface was dry and the weather clear.

Eighty-one percent (81%) of the crashes involved male drivers and driver ages (all crashes) ranged from 17 to 80+. The three highest age groups (10 crashes each) were 30-34, 45-49, and 60-64. In 74 percent of the crashes, driver action did not contribute to the crash while driving too fast accounted for 15 percent of the crashes.

Passenger vehicles were the primary vehicle type in 36 crashes followed by pickups (29), and sport utility vehicles (25). ATVs and motorcycles were the fewest with one (1) each. One hundred and twenty (120) people were involved in crashes with 108 suffering no apparent injuries and 7 with possible severe injuries. One hundred and five (105) reporting using seat and lap belts at the time of the crash and 10 wore none.

There were no fatal crashes during the timeframe, nor were there any “high crash” locations identified in town.

The percentage of crashes that occurred on Route 161 was 77% (65 crashes in total) with 49 crashes occurring north of the Station Road intersection. The area between the Larson Road and Hedman Road had the highest number of crashes with 9 (6 of which involved moose.) Four crashes occurred at the Station Road/Westmanland Road intersection with Route 161 and were either vehicle sideswiping or rear-ending.

The remaining accidents were spread throughout New Sweden and involved going off the road, fire, moose/deer, and pulling in front of on-coming motorists.

Working in cooperation with MaineDOT, NMDC completes safety evaluations of area roads and intersections. In the past, staff examined only High Crash Locations (HCLs) but shifted to “areas of concern.” These have been identified by municipalities who have asked NMDC to look at them. The following areas were identified in New Sweden.

- **Jepson Road/Route 161 intersection.** This was a HCL in 2016. There is currently a Yield sign for traffic heading northbound on Jepson Road. A potential fix might be a STOP Sign.



- **Station Road, Westmanland Road, Route 161 Intersection.** This is a reduced speed limit area (40 mph) for traffic north and southbound on Route 161. Sight distance of southbound traffic on Route 161 is limited due to a sharp dip in the road north of the intersection. Enforcement of the speed limit and installing a flashing traffic signal may reduce the risk of crashes at this area of concern.

Access Management

New Sweden adopted land use regulations that include access management standards in 2015. The revised Land Use Ordinance addresses MaineDOT standards including greater sight distance requirements of the permitting of driveways and entrances for all three categories of roadways. In general, these standards shall apply to vehicular access into a proposed development. The applicable provisions of the Ordinance will be governing in the approval of new construction and development requests.

Bridges

There are 351 bridges in the northern Maine area, two (2) of which are located in New Sweden. Both bridges in New Sweden are owned by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) who is responsible for their maintenance. Bridges are generally in very good condition and the location of bridges in New Sweden are as follows:

Bridge Inventory, 2020

Name	Number	Owner	Route	Year Built	Deck Condition	Channel Condition	Culvert Condition
Beardsley Brook	3110	MaineDOT	Rt. 161	2009	N/A	8	6
East Jemtland	0128	MaineDOT	Jemtland Rd	1983	7	7	N/A

Source: MaineDOT, 2020

Key

Deck Condition: 7= Good condition with some minor problems

Channel Condition: 7=Bank Protection needs minor repairs. 8=Banks are protected.

Culvert Condition: 6=Deterioration or initial deterioration.

Culverts

MaineDOT has identified three (3) large culverts in town. MaineDOT defines a large culvert as a pipe or other structure that has a clear span between 5 and 10 feet, or multiple pipes or structures with a combined opening between 19 and 80 square feet in area. They were formally known as a “strut.” Two large culverts are located on Route 161 just north of the Stockholm Road intersection and rated in Poor condition. The third culvert is located on the Westmanland Road, just west of the Aroostook Valley Railroad (AVR) trail. It is rated in Good condition.

Culvert ID	Roadway	Type	Condition
920211	Westmanland Road	Arched Steel Pipe	Good
135122	Rt. 161	Corrugated Metal	Poor
911764	Rt. 161	Corrugated metal	Poor

Source: MaineDOT 2020

MaineDOT plans to replace the large culverts located north of the Jepson Road and north of the Stockholm Road in 2020. No other replacements are scheduled in the workplan.

Environmental Concerns

Habitat fragmentation can result from roads and other transportation facilities and is likely occurring in New Sweden. Poorly maintained culverts and water crossing structures can physically block fish passage and/or result in increased flow velocities that cause excessive channel scouring, bank slumping and flows that limit fish and aquatic invertebrate passage in streams and which can lead to local extinctions of fish species. Current practice calls for a doubling in the size of culverts when they are replaced to allow for fish passage and allowance for flooding clearance.

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) recommends, when repairing and replacing culverts, to do so with structures with a span of 1.2 times the bank's full width to comply with the Army Corps of Engineers category 1 permit requirement. In addition, IF&W recommends using bridges, three-sided box culverts and open bottom arch culverts instead of pipe style culverts because they utilize the brook's natural stream bottom and provide fish spawning and nursery habitat. The Town should implement these recommendations where feasible.

In 2007, the StreamSmart Program at Maine Audubon and IF&W began surveying culverts on local and State roads and identified those which were blocking fish passage. StreamSmart Program crossings are designed to provide enough capacity to pass sediment, debris, fish and high flows from extreme storm events without failure or damage to the structure.

Nineteen (19) culverts were surveyed in New Sweden of which seven (7) (or 37%) were considered to be blocking fish habitat. These culverts are located throughout the community (both state and local road) and town officials should consider utilizing this data to upgrade and increase the size of culverts to improve stream flow and fish passage as part of their normal culvert replacement program. Town officials should prioritize stream crossings that have been identified as barriers to fish and wildlife passage, and apply for grant funding to help offset the cost of replace these crossings.

Traffic Flow and Counts

The MaineDOT's Traffic Engineering Division and Traffic Monitoring Section is responsible for the collection of all types of traffic data and maintenance of a statewide traffic volume database. The following tables show traffic counts for New Sweden between 2012 and 2018. MaineDOT completed counts on nine (9) different roads in town. Route 161 has the highest traffic counts in New Sweden, which isn't surprising as it is a major north-south route in Aroostook County. Route 161, at the Woodland townline, had the highest Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) count with 2,670. Traffic volumes increased slightly at this location between 2015 and 2018. The area just south of Rista Road had the second highest at 2,270 AADT. The location south of Station Road was not counted in 2018 but historically had the second highest AADT in New Sweden.

Other smaller roads are also counted by MaineDOT and most have AADTs of less than 360. Stockholm Road, Rista Road and Route 161 saw slight increases in traffic volumes between 2015 and 2018. All other locations either saw decreases or cannot be determined due to non-counts. Overall, traffic counts have remained relatively stable between 2012 and 2018.

Road	Location	2012	2015	2018	Percent Change 12-15	Percent Change 12-18	Percent Change 15-18
Larson Road	South of the Stockholm Road	90	80	Not Counted	-11.11	N/A	N/A
Stockholm Road	North of Larson Road	270	220	240	-18.52	-11.11	9.09
Rista Road	East of Rt. 161	Not counted	90	Not Counted	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rista Road	North of Station Road	190	140	160	-26.32	-15.79	14.29
Rista Road	At Bridge 0112 (1.5 m from Rt 161)	Not counted	50	50	N/A	N/A	0.00
Station Road	East of Rista Road	260	280	240	7.69	-7.69	-14.29
Station Road	Northeast of East Road	410	360	350	-12.2	-14.63	-2.78
Station Road	Southwest of East Road	440	370	Not Counted	-15.91	N/A	N/A
Station Road	East of Route 161	380	370	360	-2.63	-5.26	-2.70
Westmanland Road	West of Route 161	340	360	340	5.88	0.00	-5.56
Jemtland Road	East of Larson Road	210	160	Not Counted	-23.81	N/A	N/A
Jemtland Road	East of School Road	350	360	Not Counted	2.86	N/A	N/A
East Road	Southeast of Station Road	170	170	170	0	0.00	0.00
School Road	North of Jemtland Road	220	210	210	-4.55	-4.55	0.00
Route 161	Northwest of Stockholm Road	1,550	2,040	1,720	31.61	10.97	-15.69
Route 161	South of Larsson Road	1,820	2,220	Not Counted	21.98	N/A	N/A
Route 161	South of Rista Road	1,870	2,290	2,270	22.46	21.39	-0.87
Route 161	At Woodland Townline	2,260	2,650	2,670	17.26	18.14	0.75
Route 161	Southeast of Station Road	2,100	2,540	Not Counted	20.95	N/A	N/A

Source: MaineDOT, 2020

Speed Limits

Speed limits on most of New Sweden's roads range from 40 to 45 miles per hour with the exception of the village area located along the Station Road and the Westmanland Road just west of the Route 161 intersection where speed limits drop to 25 mph. Route 161's speed limit is 55 mph except for the area around the Westmanland Road intersection where speed drops to 40 mph. The Maine State Police and the Aroostook County Sheriff's Department monitor speed. For the enhanced safety of all citizens, the Town should encourage law enforcement presence and ticketing of offenders of these posted speed limits throughout New Sweden.

Traffic Lights

There are no traffic lights in New Sweden, and none are planned for the next 10 years. Town officials may wish to consider working with Maine DOT to install a flashing beacon at the Station

Road/Westmanland Road/Route 161 intersection should this intersection continue to experience high incidents of accidents.

Parking

Parking in New Sweden does not appear to be a major day-to-day problem. There is adequate parking available at the public buildings and in front of businesses. However, there is a great deal of spill-over parking to the road on Sundays and special occasions at Covenant Church. In addition, during Midsommar activities, especially at the museum and historical society, there is spill-over vehicle parking onto Station Road and Capitol Hill Road special events. It is suggested that municipal officials meet with the church, museum, and historical society officials to explore safer options for vehicle parking during special events. If more and/or larger commercial or industrial development were to take place, the location, kind, dimensions, and quantity of the parking should be reviewed in more detail. There are marked handicap parking spaces at the Town Office, Heritage View, Post Office, and the First Baptist and Lutheran Churches.

Sidewalks and Crosswalks

There are no sidewalks or crosswalks located in New Sweden. If pedestrian traffic increases over the next 10 years due to changes in development, population growth or recreational use, the Town should move to reassess the need for sidewalks and crosswalks.

Capital Work Plan

The Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) Three-Year Work Plan (2021-2022-2023) supports the Department's mission: "To responsibly provide our customers with the safest, most reliable transportation system possible, given available resources." The Work Plan contains projections of transportation resources (federal, state, other) and MaineDOT's strategy to apply them to the planning, engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of transportation infrastructure of all modes throughout Maine. The Work Plan emphasizes focusing scarce transportation resources on existing critical infrastructure needs, primarily roads and bridges, to the greatest extent possible.

New Sweden regularly provides input to MaineDOT regarding projects listed in the Work Plan. Every two years, municipalities are asked to submit prioritized lists of projects for potential inclusion in the Plan. There are four (4) projects listed in the 2021-2023 Work Plan for New Sweden. The cost listed are the total cost of these projects, some of which may extend into neighboring towns. When asked, New Sweden Town Officials should continue to submit projects for inclusion in the Plan.

Planned Capital and Maintenance Work 2021-2022-2023

Work Plan Year	Asset(s)	Description	Community(ies)	Estimated Funding
2021	Route 161	Highway Paving, Ultra-Thin Bonded Wearing Course, beginning at the south junction of Route 1 and extending NW 10.82 miles to 0.08 of a mile SE of Station Rd.	Caribou, New Sweden, Woodland	\$2,330,000
2021	Route 161	Large culvert (#135122) located 0.02 of a Mile North of Stockholm Road	New Sweden	\$470,000
2022	Westmanland Road	Light Capital Paving, beginning at Blackstone Road and extending east 3.93 miles to Route 161.	New Sweden, Westmanland	\$188,000
2022	Station Road	Light Capital Paving, beginning at Westmanland Road intersection and extending east 4.86 miles to Route 1	Connor Twp, New Sweden	\$232,000
2021	Jemmland Road	Light Capital Paving, beginning at Route 161 and extending east 8.97 miles to Route 1.	Connor Twp, New Sweden, Stockholm	\$429,000

Source: MaineDOT Three-Year Work Plan 2021 Edition

Airports

There are no airports located in New Sweden. The closest airport is Caribou Municipal Airport. Presque Isle International Airport is the only regional airport offering passenger air service.

Caribou Municipal Airport

The City of Caribou owns the Caribou Municipal Airport. The airport currently has two asphalt paved runways: one is 4,000 feet long and 100 feet wide; and the other is 3,000 feet long and 75 feet wide. Both runways have pilot-controlled lighting.

Caribou Municipal Airport is a general aviation airport supporting flying activities conducted by private and business interests. The airport is designated as an Airport of Entry (AOE) by the US Customs Service due to its proximity to the Canadian border. Permission to land from the US Customs Service is not necessary, but one-hour advance notice is required. It is designed to serve small aircraft (12,500 lbs. or less).

There are two instrument approaches available in poor weather conditions, which provide lateral guidance only. The first is a straight in Global Positioning Satellite approach to Runway 19. It has ceiling and visibility minimums of 600 feet and one mile. The second is a circling approach using the Presque Isle Very High Frequency Omni-Directional Range (VOR) or GPS. Ceiling and visibility minimums for this approach are 700 feet and one mile. The Fixed Base Operator (FBO) terminal is located in the eastern portion of the airport property. A 7,300 square foot hangar was constructed in 2000. Aircraft charter, maintenance, rental and flight training is available. Aircraft fuel (100 LL avgas) and oil is available. The terminal is open during daylight hours and after dark by appointment only.

Presque Isle International Airport

The Presque Isle International Airport, formally the Northern Maine Regional Airport, located in Presque Isle, is one of only three certificated airports in the State and has two large, paved runways measuring 7,440' x 150' and 5,994' x 150'. The airport has been designated an economic development airport and provides Aroostook County with daily regional jet service to Newark and Dulles Airports, as well as scheduled flights, operated by a number of overnight freight companies. Principle facilities include an air terminal building, a general aviation terminal and hangar facility, a crash rescue and maintenance building, and an office and hangar complex. The airport offers a full line of aviation services including air charter, aircraft maintenance, flight instruction, fuel services, aircraft deicing, and on-call customs and agricultural clearance services. The facility offers a full instrument landing system (ILS) and a variety of additional current technology navigational aids.

Railroads

There are no rail lines in New Sweden.

Public Transportation

Aroostook Regional Transportation System (ARTS)

There are no true public transit services in Aroostook County. The Aroostook Regional Transportation System (ARTS) provides general public transportation throughout Region 1 which includes New Sweden. Services are provided from each town in the County at least once a week to the nearest commercial center. Services are available to all members of the general public from the outlying towns to the commercial center and pick-up services are available in-town to the elderly and handicapped only. Fares are charged to members of the general public and half fare is charged to the elderly and handicapped. No fare is charged to Medicaid clients going to Medicaid covered services or to the elderly and handicapped going to a medical appointment. Services are provided to individuals with special needs who attend daily work or rehabilitation programs. These daily runs are also available to the general public, but no deviation from the special runs can take place due to time limitations.

The general public is theoretically free to schedule rides with ARTS, although less than five percent of the current ridership is unsubsidized fare-paying customers. The average worker cannot use ARTS as a commuter service, because:

- a) General-public riders are taken on a space-available basis only, so even a ride scheduled well in advance will be bumped if the transit vehicle is at capacity with contracted clients;
- b) Demand-response systems serve some rural communities just one day a week, with fluctuating departure and arrival times.

The sporadic nature of demand-response service eliminates public transit as an option for rural workers with inflexible hours, shift workers, and those with on-call or overtime work responsibilities.

Cyr Bus Lines

There is currently no bus stop serving the town of New Sweden. Cyr Bus Lines provides regional bus service from northern Maine to Bangor and points south with connections to the major national bus lines. The northern most pick-up point for the bus line is in Caribou.

Taxi Service

There are several taxi services in Aroostook County. Angle Taxi, Aroostook Cab, City Cab, and Town Taxi all serve the New Sweden area.

Trails

New Sweden's Nordic Lakers Snowmobile Club (Club) maintains 18 miles of groomed snowmobile trails which are all part of the 2200 miles of trails that crisscross Aroostook County. The Club is responsible for a portion of Trail 105, as well as Trail 81, commonly known as the "Swede's" Trail. Total trail maintenance, including grooming, is approximately \$8,000 per year which is partially reimbursed through a grant from Maine Department of Conservation. Issues which effect grooming, maintenance, and trail retention include increased snowmobile traffic, trespass, and landowner relations. The Club owns a groomer which was purchased used and is reaching end of life usage. The Club is continually researching funding options to assist with the purchase of replacement grooming equipment. In recent years, the Town has allocated 100% of snowmobile registration reimbursements to the Club. Caribou Parks and Recreation are responsible for maintaining Interconnected Trail System (ITS) 83 throughout New Sweden.

The Aroostook Valley ATV Club maintains approximately 25 miles of local trails that connect directly with 79.5 miles of old railbed trails, as well as, other local trail systems. Funding is provided through a grant from the Maine Department of Conservation at \$2,500 per year. There are numerous issues with ATV use; the two primary ones are early season disruption of trail surfacing and lack of sufficient funding to maintain trails. A better system of funding the ATV trail maintenance program is required and local clubs are working with the Maine Department of Conservation to explore options. A recent growth in the number and size of ATVs purchased both locally and statewide has placed a significant amount of pressure on ATV organizations statewide to increase and improve current infrastructure.

Federally Designated Bicycle Route

NMDC, in conjunction with the Maine Department of Transportation, worked to establish a permanent federally designated bicycle route in Penobscot and Aroostook Counties. The bicycle route designation complements and connects to the existing US Bicycle Route 1 located in southern and Downeast Maine. In late 2019, the Federal Highway Administration designated US Bicycle Route 501 which utilizes existing state and local roads and/or existing bike and pedestrian trails in the region. It should be noted that there is no cost to the community for this designation nor are there any additional maintenance requirements for the route. US Bicycle Route 501 connects to the existing US Bicycle Route 1 in Bangor and terminates approximately 344 miles north at the Dickey Bridge in Allagash.

US Bicycle Route 501 is part of the United States Bicycle Route System (USBRS), which is the national cycling route network of the United States. It will be part of the interstate long-distance cycling routes and will utilize multiple types of bicycling infrastructure, including existing off-road trails, bicycle lanes, and low-traffic roads. The Route highlights the region's cultural resources including, but not limited to, the Swedish Colony, Amish communities, Acadian heritage, the University System, and highlight the importance of agriculture and forestry to the regional economy. Roads designated in New Sweden include Route 161, Capitol Hill Road, Station Road and Emond Road (Connor). MaineDOT will be installing signage in 2021.

Transportation Analysis

Unrestricted access to an arterial or collector roadway, in particular Route 161, ultimately results in traffic congestion and safety problems. Most growth in New Sweden occurs with single lot development along the collector/local roads and Route 161. The cumulative effect of numerous driveways onto Route 161 and the collectors causes "side friction" that impedes traffic flow and has proven to be a safety issue. Good access management such as the careful planning of land uses, driveways, and intersections, can reduce accidents and prolong the useful life of the roadway. Regulations which control or manage access to a highway or main road are designed to avoid or resolve conflicts arising from the use of those properties abutting the roadway, and the function of the roadway to swiftly and safely move vehicular traffic. How this will be accomplished will depend upon existing land use patterns, policies developed under this growth management program, land use plans, and the priority given to the arterial and collector function over other functions, such as providing access to local businesses, and serving the needs of the Town where the roadway also serves as the main street. Controlling accesses and land uses adjacent to roadways can be addressed through the development of the Town's Land Use Ordinances.

Except as noted in the above text (see: Problem Areas), the roads in New Sweden are, for the most part, in good condition. However, should the Highway Department budget decline, there is the potential for the roads to deteriorate at a faster pace, therefore costing more to improve in the future, if only minimal care was applied at this time. The Town should consider a management plan, such as the Road Surface Management System (RSMS), for the local roads to improve and maintain the roadways at no less than a minimal level of repair.

Some Maine communities have enacted road classification, construction, and design regulations which prohibit development on selected roads unless the roads are brought up to certain design and construction standards. These standards may include, in some cases, adequate pavement and drainage. The cost of these improvements would fall either on the developer or the landowners served by the road. This discourages development on backroads and reduces the cost of the development that does take place. New Sweden may want to consider such standards to relieve the burden on the taxpayers.

Public Facilities and Services

The Public Facilities and Services section of the Comprehensive Plan includes an assessment of capital facilities and public services necessary to support future growth and development, to protect the environment, health, safety and welfare of the people of New Sweden, and to explore the costs of these facilities and services.

The inventory of public facilities and services examines the facilities and services provided by the Town of New Sweden. The inventory includes information describing the facility and geographical service area, the condition, usage, and capacity of the facility. In addition, if the facility or service is provided outside the town limits, it will be included in this inventory. The inventory includes the following: water supply; sewage facilities; solid waste facilities; public safety; energy facilities; communications; health care; culture; education; recreation; cemeteries; and the general municipal administration and services. Where appropriate, links to online services and resources of information about public facilities and services are provided.

Municipal Administration and Services

The administration of governmental affairs is more complicated today and time consuming than in the past. The administrators of local government affairs must be well informed regarding the wishes of the majority of townspeople for the town. They must also be well informed about the details of numerous regional-state-federal assistance and regulatory programs, and have the time for necessary communication and follow through with program agency staffs. New Sweden's town affairs are handled through a Board of Selectmen with a Town Clerk to oversee the day-to-day operations of the town.

Municipal Administration

The Town of New Sweden maintains the following positions that provide services to the residents:

Position	Elected (E) or Appointed (A)	Number Serving	Term of Office (years)	Responsibilities
Board of Selectmen	E	3	3	Legislative Body of Town.
Town Clerk	A	1	Indefinite	Posting official notices and advertisements, the maintenance and preparation of official documents; the issuance of licenses and permits (such as hunting, fishing, marriage, and dog); recording various documents (death, births, marriage, burials); Registrar of Voters; supervision of the collection of excise tax; and the preparation of reports.
Tax Collector	A	1	Indefinite	Tax collecting, accounting and reporting for taxes received, placing liens, and billing.

Position	Elected (E) or Appointed (A)	Number Serving	Term of Office (years)	Responsibilities
Health Officer	A	1	3	Assessing, planning and providing needed services, investigating complaints of health-related problems, coordinating investigations with appropriate town officials, and maintaining records.
Code Enforcement Officer	A	1	1	Enforcement of municipal codes and other applicable state and federal ordinances; enforcement of rules and regulations and initiating legal action in relation to town codes and ordinances; analysis of town codes and ordinances and making revision suggestions to the Planning Board.
Planning Board	A	5	3	Facilitating and interpreting land use ordinances, preparation of comprehensive plan, and reviewing subdivision applications.
Board of Appeals	A	3	3	Hear appeals of the Town's ordinances.
Tax Assessor	A	1	Indefinite	Inspection, preparation, and valuation of all personal and real property for tax billing each year.
Road Commissioner	Duties assumed by Board of Selectman		Indefinite	Directing and coordinating the activities of the highway crew which includes maintaining roads, planning and funding current and long term road construction projects, culvert replacement, major road ditching, and winter sand and salt preparation.
School Committee	E	3	3	Overseeing the educational programs of School Union 122.
Recreation Committee	A	4	Indefinite	Development, implementation, and administering the Town's recreational program.
Plumbing Inspector	A	1	1	Reviewing plumbing plans and inspecting buildings and other structures for compliance to the State plumbing code, issuing permits, and investigating possible violations
Animal Control Officer	A	1	1	Responsible for the enforcement of town and state ordinances relating to the regulation and control of dogs and other animals. Other duties include the constant and varied contact with the public and potentially dangerous animals, maintaining records and reports, and monitoring licensure and incident reports.

New Sweden, like many communities in Maine, is heavily dependent on the large amount of time volunteered by residents for local government.

The product of the tremendous time commitment of all town volunteer boards and paid positions is a plan for and delivery of:

- The efficient delivery of public services,
- An efficient and well-maintained transportation network,
- Compatible land use patterns of development that maintain or improve property values while conserving valuable prime farm and forestlands and other important natural resources,
- Potential economic development strategies to grow the local economy,
- Conservation of unique cultural and historical features/qualities that make the community special.
- Safe and affordable housing for its citizens, and
- Stability in property taxes.

Municipal Services

Town Office

New Sweden's Town Office, located on Station Road, is in good condition and constructed of wood and concrete. There are three (3) offices and a conference room as well as a large meeting room in the basement. The primary purpose of the building is for municipal functions, including town meetings, and is open for use by various civic groups. The Town Office is open from 8:30AM to 4:30PM Monday through Friday. The building is fully accessible to those with disabilities.

At the Northwest corner of the Town Office's lower parking lot, New Sweden has a small building that is maintained as a free library. It is open to the public to borrow books that have been donated to the New Sweden by its residents. The book shelves are full and overflow donations of books are currently being stored in the Town Office's basement.

Additionally, the Town Office basement is New Sweden's polling location for all federal, state and municipal elections.

The building is adequate for current uses.

Since the closing of the New Sweden Elementary School and subsequent sale of the building in 2017, the Town has no ownership in a large community building suitable for hosting an indoor event or large gathering. There is no facility that would be able to function as a temporary emergency shelter that could be needed by residents subsequent to a natural disaster such as a tornado, earthquake, ice/snow storm or forest fire. It would be prudent for New Sweden's Selectmen to conduct an assessment of the need for such a facility and the potential to partner with surrounding towns to provide an emergency management building.

Solid Waste and Recycling Facilities

Solid waste from New Sweden is disposed of at the Tri-Community Landfill, a division of Aroostook Waste Solutions, in Fort Fairfield. Tri-Community Landfill is a regional association that provides municipal solid waste disposal and recycling services to its member municipalities. The facility located in Fort Fairfield is owned by the Towns of Fort Fairfield, Limestone, and the City of Caribou.

For an annual fee, residents may elect to register with Tri-Community Landfill and obtain a use permit. Disposal “tipping fees” apply. Additional per item fees are assessed for the disposal of electronic equipment, appliances, etc. There is no fee to dispose of corrugated box material or glass in recycle bins at the landfill site. Tri-Community also maintains drop-off igloos provided at satellite areas including igloos in New Sweden located at the Town Office parking lot. The igloos accept newspaper, magazines, steel cans, colored #2 plastics, and natural #2 plastics and are serviced by Tri-Community staff. The cost of both disposal and recycling are included in the yearly membership assessment with Tri-Community. The generators of both bulky waste and municipal solid waste are responsible for the cost of transporting the waste to the landfill. This is accomplished primarily through commercial haulers, except that bulky waste is more likely to be directly hauled to the facility by residents. Residents may contract with a local trash hauler for “curb-side” weekly pick up of their household waste.

Through the public opinion survey conducted in conjunction with preparation of this comprehensive plan, several residents expressed dissatisfaction with the cost and inconvenience of solid waste disposal in New Sweden. Presently, there is no feasible alternative to current arrangements for waste management.

Police

New Sweden is served by the Maine State Police and the Aroostook County Sheriff’s Department. The Sheriff’s Department handles most of the calls to New Sweden, with the exception of homicide. The Sheriff’s Department also performs several vital tasks including: investigation of cases of class B crimes, serving civil summons and warrants, and many public service and assistance programs.

For future municipal police protection services, the community should maintain the existing relationships regarding policy and program changes with the Maine State Police and the Aroostook County Sheriff Department. The community will benefit from maintaining a close liaison with the state police and sheriff and deputies regarding criminal incidents and patrol services requirements. The cooperative police protection arrangement gives the Town easy access to special law enforcement services.

Fire and Ambulance Services

On behalf of its residents, New Sweden has contracted with Caribou Fire and Ambulance Services. Contractual costs for these services are paid for through real estate and personal property tax collection. Paid firemen and volunteer fire fighters are trained within the Caribou Fire Department and hold certificates ranging from Fire Fighter I, II and Paramedic. Duties of the department include hazardous materials response, cold water rescue, confined space rescue, weapons of mass destruction response, and homeland security. As Stockholm is frequently called to assist the Caribou Fire Department with fire services under mutual assistant agreements, town officials may wish to work with the Stockholm Volunteer Fire Department to increase the number of their volunteers.

Public Works

The New Sweden Public Works Department maintains 34.81 miles of town roads, and associated infrastructure and buildings. The department is equipped with modern well-maintained equipment necessary for keeping the roads and streets in good repair, as well as open for traffic during the winter months.

The Public Works garage is located at Station Road was constructed in 1974 (50'x100') and is in good condition. The building contains offices and vehicle maintenance bays. The facility is large enough to house all of the highway equipment. The town leases two school buses which are stored outside. An additional equipment storage building (28'x60') was acquired in 1999 from the Loring Development Authority. The building is in fair condition and stores equipment and maintenance vehicles. A salt shed is located near the garage and is in good condition. The Board of Selectmen fulfill the duties of the Road Commissioner and oversee two (2) employees in the Public Works Department.

Water Supply

New Sweden relies exclusively on ground water resources for its drinking water. According to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, there are no superfund sites in Town at the present time or active clean-up projects.

Heritage View Estates is the only public drinking water supply as identified by the Maine Department of Human Services. The source utilized is from a drilled well and there are no known water quality problems at this site.

Sewage Disposal

All sewage in New Sweden is disposed of through on-site disposal systems. There are currently no known septic systems impacting water quality within the town. Should any water supplies in the Town be found to be contaminated, then the Town would be obligated to see that actions are taken to remedy such conditions. Soils vary in their suitability for such systems and individual septic sewage disposal systems in Maine must comply with the State Plumbing Code which allows several alternative systems to meet acceptable disposal standards.

Education

Based on majority vote on a referendum in 2017, the New Sweden Elementary School was closed. Students of this school age in New Sweden are bussed to Woodland Elementary School or Caribou Elementary School at the Town's expense. Several residents have elected to home school their children.

New Sweden has an elected School Board to provide oversight and address complaints in conjunction with the area School Superintendent for School Union 122. In addition, the School Board is the liaison with state and local officials regarding budgetary matters related to the education of school aged children in New Sweden.

Caribou High School

Caribou High School has a school population of 583 in grades 9 through 12. The High School was constructed in 1966 with the addition of the Vocational School in 1975 and the Performing Arts Center in 1987. The Caribou High School website lists the following outstanding programs and highlights:

- “Transitions Center” providing tutoring for students of all ability levels
- AP classes in Calculus, English Literature, English Composition, French, History, Physics and Psychology
- An average of 90% of seniors go on to Post-Secondary Education
- Students highly successful in Post-Secondary Education as reported by University of Maine at Orono
- Attached Vocational Technical Center
- Low dropout rate
- Above average attendance
- At or above state average on SATs and State Assessments
- Over 40 clubs, activities, or teams
- Exceptional Band and Chorus programs
- 48 Sportsmanship Banners
- 38 Eastern Maine and 16 State championship sports teams
- 55 Individual State Champions in sports

There are sporting fields, lighted cross-county ski trails, and the school is home to the Caribou Performing Arts Center.

The Caribou High School students may enroll in advance technical training with the Caribou Technology Center. The Caribou Technology Center offers career and technical instruction in the following Maine Approved CTE programs:

- Criminal Justice
- Marketing
- Food Services
- Agriculture
- Commercial Driver’s License (CDL)
- Large Equipment Maintenance
- Auto Mechanics
- Auto Body
- Welding
- Residential Construction
- Culinary Arts

These vocational programs are linked with business and organizations throughout the region to provide hands-on applications and work experiences.

Public Library

There are no public libraries in New Sweden. Residents can become members of Caribou's Public Library at a nominal annual fee. In addition, the New Sweden's book collection structure at the corner of the Town Office parking lot provides children and adult reading materials at no cost throughout the year.

Cemeteries

The Town does not maintain a cemetery but does provide financial assistance, upon request, to the private organizations maintaining cemeteries within the town.

Public Services

Television

New Sweden is served by WAGM-TV and WWPI-TV services which carry local news, weather and sports. There are an estimated 31,100 homes in the service area.

Cable Television

Cable services to the New Sweden area are provided by Spectrum to some residents. However, not all residents are able to obtain Spectrum cable services because the service is limited to areas meeting population density criteria. Satellite services such as Dish Network are available throughout the area.

Radio

There is no radio station located in New Sweden. Access to AM and FM signals from Maine and Canadian stations are readily available and include public broadcasting, and country and pop/rock music.

Telephone/Telecommunications

The status of telephone/telecommunications throughout the Town varies widely. Consolidated Communications provides land lines to all homes regardless of location. They also provide internet access through DSL and WiFi connection. Spectrum provides cable-based phone services and high-speed internet access to the same homes who have access to cable television.

Cell phone services are available from a variety of service providers including AT&T, Spectrum, US Cellular, Verizon, Consumer Cellular and others. At this time, the reception to towers in New Sweden varies by service provider and are less dependable in the northernmost region and in lower lying areas. There is pressure from citizens (principally those who have no cell phone access to 911) to expand reliable cell phone services. New Sweden officials may be able to expedite the movement towards high-speed internet access for all residents by joining our forces with those of regional and state champions of this cause.

Newspapers

New Sweden is serviced directly by the Aroostook Republican, a weekly paper with news from the central Aroostook area; one daily paper, The Bangor Daily News; and one weekend newspaper, The Bangor Daily News, Weekend Edition. Online access to newspapers is available for the Aroostook Republican and Bangor Daily News. Other weekly newspapers include The Star Herald and St. John Valley Times.

Electricity

Due to the deregulation of the energy industry, residents of the Town have options to purchase electricity from various suppliers. New Sweden residents can select an environmentally friendly (i.e., “green”) supply source. The standard service supplier in New Sweden is New Brunswick Power Generation Corporation. Versant (formerly EMERA) is responsible for the maintenance of all delivery of electrical services.

New Sweden has become a Versant hub, with high voltage electrical lines that transverse the Town in a generally north/south direction. There is one transmission substation in the central village area on Rista Road. Power lines to and from the substation were affixed to new poles throughout the Town. The lines are well maintained and most residents experience few, if any, power outages throughout the year.

Health Care Services

While there are no healthcare facilities geographically located within the New Sweden boundaries, residents have access to abundant health care services in the immediate region. Within a 40-mile radius, there are three accredited, full-service hospitals—Cary Medical Center in Caribou, Northern Light A.R. Gould Hospital in Presque Isle and Northern Maine Medical Center in Fort Kent. Each facility offers emergency room, inpatient care, operating room, same day surgery, radiological and laboratory services. Details of services offered, as well as listings of affiliated or employed physicians and specialists, can be found at websites maintained by each provider.

Outpatient and urgent care services are provided throughout the county through clinic sites affiliated with these providers.

The Aroostook County Action Program (ACAP) maintains an online listing of health care services and providers throughout the state. Residents can search the website under “Pathfinders” to locate services including child-development, long-term care, rehabilitation, hospice and home care, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc. More than 1,800 services are listed along with contact information on ACAP Pathfinders. The ACAP office located in Presque Isle has staff available to counsel and assist county residents in finding the services that best meet their needs.

Like other rural (and most urban) communities, New Sweden residents have limited access to mental health services. The County is not immune to the problems caused by our national shortage of psychiatrists, Alzheimer treatment centers and detox centers. The State of Maine does offer services to assist in dealing with substance abuse and suicide prevention through their 211 Maine, access 24-7 by calling “211.”

Advances in use of interactive counseling and follow-up care through teleconferencing with care providers offers additional opportunities to our rural community for expanded services.

The demography analysis of the Town reveals that ours is an aging population. This suggests that our health care providers should be increasingly focused on services for the elderly. The range of needs include help with alterations to homes for those focused on “aging in place” such as installation of ramps, stairs lifts, bathroom handrails/bars, etc. There is a recognized need for affordable semi-skilled and unskilled assistance with common tasks such as housecleaning, laundry, grocery shopping, transportation to medical appointments, snow removal, etc. for those who are aging and have no family support. New Sweden leaders should be engaged in ascertaining specific needs and vocalizing them as appropriate to health services leaders. The Public Opinion Survey showed residents generally support the expansion of assisted living facility for the elderly and housing rehabilitation for those “aging in place.”

There are several challenges facing rural hospitals in America. These include the recruitment and retention of qualified physicians, nurses and other health care professional staff. As the nation addresses health care issues, New Sweden leaders should encourage residents’ support for changes that will enhance services to critical health care service. Many of these services will only be provided through a regional collaborative effort.

Maine Veterans’ Home and Services

Maine Veterans’ Home-Caribou (MVH-C) is located in a beautiful country setting adjacent to Cary Medical Center in Aroostook County. Services available at MVH-C include: skilled care, respite care, comfort care, Alzheimer’s care, speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and respiratory therapy.

MVH-C has a medical team including a Medical Director, 24 hour RN coverage, and therapists. The medical and therapy’s team approach is to return the patient to their home. Staff develops an individualized plan of care for each patient that integrates nursing care with a rehabilitation program.

Veterans also have easy access to the assistance with health care access through the Caribou Bureau of Veterans, Services Office, located just 8 miles south of New Sweden in Caribou.

ANALYSIS

Overall, the Town and residents expressed satisfaction in the function of the municipal services and administration. There regional access to health care services, the educational facilities in Woodland and Caribou are recognized as high quality options for children and youth, police protection is meeting the needs of residents and public services are otherwise adequate. There is recognition of the need for expanded high-speed internet access in several areas of the Town.

Fiscal Capacity

In New Sweden, as with most other Maine towns, the demand of providing services evolves from the federal and state levels to the municipal level. This ultimately places the burden of funding these services on a town's number one source of revenue, the property tax. As New Sweden considers recommendations to make capital improvements and/or upgrade public services during the comprehensive planning process, the ability to finance improvements is a necessary consideration. This chapter will show the Town's financial history over recent years and analyze trends in revenues and expenditures.

New Sweden's Municipal Finances

Revenues

The largest source of income for New Sweden is real estate and personal property taxes. Property tax revenues are based on the assessment of the taxable municipal valuation of land, building and person property, after deducting homestead allowances and business equipment tax exemptions. The following table shows that the municipal valuation has remained relatively constant over the past seven (7) years. The calculate average percent variance is -0.22%.

New Sweden Property Tax Revenue Analysis

Year	Total Taxable Municipal Valuation	Municipal Valuation % Change From Prior Year	Property Tax Levy	Property Tax % Change From Prior Year	Full Value Tax Rate Per \$1,000	Tax Rate % Change From Prior Year
2013	\$36,447,862	-	\$648,772	-	17.80	-
2014	\$36,473,881	0.07%	\$798,778	18.78%	21.90	18.72%
2015	\$36,199,934	-0.76%	\$756,579	-5.58%	20.90	-4.78%
2016	\$35,631,350	-1.60%	\$712,627	-6.17%	20.00	-4.50%
2017	\$34,707,228	-2.66%	\$694,145	-2.66%	20.00	0.00%
2018*	\$35,059,060	1.00%	\$701,181	1.00%	20.00	0.00%
2019*	\$36,011,138	2.64%	\$677,009	-3.57%	18.80	-6.38%
5 yr Average		-0.22%		-3.39%		-3.13%

Source: New Sweden Town Annual Reports Years 2013-17

*Municipal Taxable projections from Line 19 on Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE) Form

However, the Property Tax Levy in the last five (5) years has declined by an average of -3.39% which tracks closely to the average decline of -3.13% in the Tax Rate, not to a decline in the municipal valuation.

The Excise Tax levied on vehicles provides additional revenues to the Town of approximately \$100,000 per year. This has remained relatively constant.

In addition, the State provides subsidies in the form of homestead tax relief, tree growth and veterans tax relief, etc. Revenues from these State sources is approximately \$150,000 per year and has remained relatively constant. Current income from the State for education is discussed in detail below. In recent years the State's educational subsidy has declined and is now providing less than 50% of the town's contribution.

It must be noted that these State revenue sources are subject to modifications by the State and are not within the direct control of the Town. Should there be a decrease in State funding over the next 10 years, adjustments in the tax rate will be necessary.

Additional revenue is generated from collection of fees for registrations of snowmobiles and recreational vehicles, issuance of fishing and hunting licenses, dog licenses, etc. The income from these fees represents a small percentage of total income.

Surplus Reserves

The town maintains several reserves as noted in audited financial statements. The reserve funds are categorized as “non-spendable,” “restricted,” “committed,” “assigned,” and “unassigned.” The “unassigned” fund balance has shown steady, albeit modest, growth from year to year. This account is frequently referred to as “Town’s surplus.” At the time of the most recent audited financial statement in 2017, the surplus was slightly greater than one year’s municipal expenses.

Tax Revenues Analysis

New Sweden has been able to keep its tax rate competitive with those of the surrounding communities. The following table demonstrates how New Sweden’s tax mil rates have historically compared with neighboring towns’ mil rates.

Using the most recent audited information on taxes collected and tax spending, and census projections for 2019, the following table compares New Sweden’s tax levy and spending on a per capita basis. This analysis shows that New Sweden’s per capita spending on par with that of Caribou and Stockholm, but higher than Woodland’s.

Municipality	Population Estimated 2019	Total Taxable Municipal Valuation	Full Value Per Capita	Property Tax Levy	Property Tax Levy Per Capita	Full Value Tax Rate Per \$1,000
New Sweden	569	\$36,011,138	\$63,288	\$677,009	\$1,189.82	18.80
Caribou	7593	\$354,428,200	\$46,678	\$8,701,212	\$1,145.95	24.55
Connor UT	398	Under Assessment Audit	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.46
Stockholm	232	\$15,812,224	\$68,156	\$290,945	\$1,254.07	18.40
Westmanland	57	\$18,257,634	\$320,309	\$335,940	\$5,893.69	12.00
Woodland	1143	\$46,944,810	\$41,071	\$1,044,522	\$913.84	22.25

Source: Maine Municipal Valuation Statistical Summaries and population estimates from 2010 U.S. Census Data

This analysis shows that there is some room for increasing the tax mil rate without resulting in New Sweden’s taxes becoming comparatively high, as there have been increases in the mil rate for Woodland. In the Public Opinion Survey residents were asked “Are the Town’s taxes too high?” Exactly 50 % of the respondents answered “No” and 50% said “Yes.” An ongoing concern is that if tax rates become too high relative to the surrounding communities, it will deter potential sales of homes in the area and discourage new residential growth, with a potential concern for the long-term sustainability of revenue.

New Sweden-Regional Comparative Tax Information

Town	mil rates by year					5 Year Average	5 Year Average Variance Compared to Other Towns
	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015		
New Sweden	18.80	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.90	19.94	---
Caribou	24.55	23.07	23.90	22.43	22.03	23.20	-3.60
Stockholm	18.40	19.10	17.80	17.52	18.62	18.29	+1.65
Woodland	22.25	21.25	19.75	16.18	17.02	19.29	+0.65

Source: Maine Revenue Services Estimated Municipal Full Value Tax Rates

Expenditures

There are three major categories of expenditure: municipal expenses, allocation for education, and county taxes paid to Aroostook County. The following table shows historical distributions by these major categories.

New Sweden Expenses/Appropriations by Categories

Category	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Municipal	\$365,732	\$358,922	\$427,123	\$440,788	\$415,379
Education	\$424,557	\$390,971	\$298,935	\$312,700	\$305,670
County	\$ 39,730	\$ 42,850	\$ 43,845	\$ 48,545	\$ 49,436
Total	\$830,019	\$792,743	\$769,903	\$772,231	\$770,485

Source: New Sweden Annual Reports and tax records

Municipal Expenses

Municipal expenses are noted below:

Analysis of Municipal Expenses

Year	Expenses	Change From Prior Year
2015	\$365,732	-
2016	\$358,922	-1.86%
2017	\$427,123	19.00%
2018	\$440,788	3.20%
2019	\$415,379	-5.76%
Average	\$401,589	3.64%

Municipal expenses have increased an average of 3.64% per year for the last five years. In all years reviewed, municipal revenues have exceeded expenditures and have been placed in the “unassigned reserve” fund as noted above.

The major expense categories are in highway maintenance and salaries. Increases in these expenditures reflect inflationary costs. Whenever necessary, the town appropriates funds from surplus for necessary purchases of capital equipment. The Town has been using a pay-as-you-go approach to capital outlays and never exceeds what it is able to budget within good fiscal guidelines.

Currently there is no municipal debt for any capital equipment or buildings.

Education Expenses

Upon the closing of the New Sweden Elementary School in 2017, Woodland Elementary School has been the designated school for New Sweden’s children. Approximately 45% of New Sweden’s elementary school-aged children (PreK – Grade 8) have elected to attend Caribou Elementary School.

There is a formula of state and town revenue sharing that is based upon the town valuation and the number of students enrolled in the Woodland Elementary School, Caribou High School and Special Education. There is no revenue sharing for the children attending Caribou Elementary School. In the past five years, New Sweden has noted a decline in the number of student enrollment and a corresponding decline in State subsidies, with the exception of a recent uptick in 2020-21. There has been an increase in New Sweden’s required allocation. Details of the last six school years preceding this Comprehensive Plan update are noted in the following table:

New Sweden School Department Information

School Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
State Subsidy	\$421,952	\$393,374	\$378,682	\$353,040	\$284,003	\$255,030	\$306,452
New Sweden Allocation	\$285,930	\$293,181	\$297,831	\$298,935	\$312,700	\$305,670	\$297,343
Fund Balance (Carried Over)	\$72,729	\$158,018	\$182,440	\$504,571	\$408,836	\$399,419	NA
Enrollment (Form ED279)							
PreK – Grade 8	48	53	46	51	37	27	30
Grades 9 – 12	17	19	14	14	16	20	21

Source: Woodland Superintendent’s Office Budgets
Enrollment Numbers based on details from Form ED 279

It is noted that there are substantial fund balances which have been accumulating each year. The School Board may recommend using these funds to purchase a new bus to replace one currently approaching the end of its “useful life” as defined by State guidelines. As an alternative, New Sweden could reduce its contribution. If the allocation of tax revenues does not meet the State’s calculation based on property valuation, there would be a corresponding decrease in State subsidy on a percentage basis. (If the town’s contribution were to be reduced to 80% of the required allocation, the state subsidy would fall to 80%, resulting in the gradual reduction in the surplus to cover operating expenses.)

Caribou opened a new elementary school building in 2020. The Woodland Elementary School is a much older building. The Woodland District Superintendent has informed the Planning Board that families sending their children to Woodland Elementary have been polled regarding intentions to transfer to Caribou Elementary. This polling revealed that families with their children in the Woodland School prefer the smaller class sizes and will not be transferring their children. It is believed that most of the children enrolling in Caribou Elementary have parents who may be working in Caribou or Presque Isle.

However, a study by the New Sweden School Board would be appropriate to assess the impact of more students transferring to Caribou Elementary over the next 10 years, as the tuition costs at Caribou Elementary are higher than those at Woodland School. A long-range plan to address this potential impact would be prudent.

County Taxes

The third and smallest category of expenditure is for County Taxes. These taxes have increased by 24% or approximately \$17 per person.

Per Capita Taxes and Spending

Using the 2010 US Census data estimated population figure of 569 for 2019, and annual property tax data, it is estimated that the Property Tax Levy had an overall decrease of 10.52% between 2015 and 2019. For the same period, Municipal Expenses increased 13.57 % and Education Spending per capita experienced by decrease of 28%. The following table indicates that the average property tax levy for the Town for the five-year period was \$708,308 and the average spending per capita for the same time period was \$675.

Year	Tax Levy	Tax Levy per Capita	Municipal Expenses	Municipal Expenses per Capita	Education Spending	Education Allocation per Capita	Combined Expenses
2015	\$756,579	\$1,257	\$365,732	\$608	\$424,557	\$705	\$790,289
2016	\$712,627	\$1,184	\$358,922	\$596	\$390,971	\$649	\$749,893
2017	\$694,145	\$1,153	\$427,123	\$710	\$298,935	\$497	\$726,058
2018*	\$701,181	\$1,165	\$440,788	\$732	\$282,898	\$470	\$723,686
2019*	\$677,009	\$1,190	\$415,379	\$730	\$305,670	\$537	\$721,049
Average	\$708,308	\$1,177	\$401,589	\$675	\$340,606	\$572	\$742,195
2015-19 Change	-10.52%		13.57%		-28.00%		-8.76%

Source: 2010 US Census and Maine Municipal Valuation Return Statistical Summaries

*Projections of spending for 2018 - 2020 are subject to audit and are estimated.

Fiscal Capacity Analysis

New Sweden has worked hard to control its tax rate while striving to maintain and improve the Town's services and facilities. Education is typically a town's largest expenditure and New Sweden is no exception. On average, the town spends \$340,606 annually to meet its share of the cost. Unlike many other communities, educational costs have decreased in New Sweden due to declines in enrollment of school aged residents and some savings in maintenance and administrative costs due to the closure of the New Sweden Elementary School in 2017. At the same time, property values are likely to remain fairly stable.

New Sweden's ability to generate tax revenue depends heavily on residential growth in Town. Without more infrastructure and significant increases of a trained, available workforce in the region, there can be limited expectation for commercial and industrial growth in the Town. Goals and strategies for the next 10 years will need to focus on sustaining or expanding residential growth. Investing in improvement of roads and universal access to high-speed internet is also much desired. Long range plans need to be developed around these concerns, with an eye to balance growth and natural resource preservation. The need for preparation of suitable locations for residential development should be prioritized.

NEW SWEDEN CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN

New Sweden continues to meet its mandated obligations and maintains its services and infrastructure while preserving a strong commitment to building reserves in a surplus account. Town officials utilize two sources of funding to make capital purchases and upgrades to the community's infrastructure, namely its reserve accounts and grants.

Over the next 10 years, the Town plans to make purchase for highway maintenance and surface upgrades. The following table illustrates what equipment is earmarked for replacement/purchase and how the Town plans to pay for them.

The second table indicates the plans for upgrading and maintaining Town properties.

Project	Potential Funding	Priority	Estimated Cost
Highway Department			
Plow truck	Reserve Accounts	Necessary	\$180,000
Loader	Reserve Accounts	Necessary	\$200,000
Road Paving (1 mile per year)	Reserve, URIP	Annual for 10 years (\$150,000 per mile)	\$1,500,000
Mowing/mower for Roads sides	Cost	Desirable	\$25,000

Administration			
Furnace upgrading to Public works	Cost	Necessary	\$30,000
Generator	Reserve	Desirable	\$10,000

Summary and Analysis

Town officials monitor the amount of funds in reserve accounts to ensure the surplus is sufficient to make the necessary purchases. When a capital improvement is to be funded, administration initially looks to federal and state assistance, and then to utilize reserve account funds as available. They borrow additional funds if necessary and, as a last resort, the Selectman raise taxes. The Town continues to maintain reasonable balances in its reserve accounts with a minimal debt load. Equipment and buildings are being well maintained and appropriately replaced while taxes continue to be at an acceptable level.

Housing

The following information is a summary of existing housing data for New Sweden. This section attempts to address, as completely as possible, the current availability of housing and the costs associated with obtaining decent, safe, and sanitary dwelling units. The main emphasis of the comprehensive planning process related to housing is an assessment of the affordability of the housing within the community. An important component of the process is to identify the segment of the population most significantly affected by the costs of housing, their income ranges, what type of housing stock is needed (if any), and the geographical areas which are a priority. Ultimately, the community should be able to project the future housing needs of the residents and base policy and strategy decisions upon those findings.

The inventory and analysis, with the current 2010 US Census data, complemented by the input from the Comprehensive Planning Committee, Town Officials, and other interested parties, provides the informational framework for considering the actions to be taken by the community to ensure affordable housing for all the residents. This section on housing examines various statistical housing data for Maine, Aroostook County, New Sweden and several surrounding communities.

The US Census defines a household as all the persons who occupy a housing unit. A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied as separate living quarters. The US Census defines family as a householder and one or more other persons living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

The following chart presents the 2010 US Census information for comparison of housing in Maine, Aroostook County, and New Sweden. Where available, more recent information from the 2020 US Census preliminary data or other sources has been used and footnoted.

Housing Data, Maine, Aroostook County, and New Sweden

	Maine	Aroostook County	New Sweden	Percent of Total
Total housing units	721,830	39,529	323	
Occupied housing units	557,219	30,961	255	89 %
Vacant housing units	164,611	8,568	68	21%
YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT*				
2014 or later	3,886	82	2	1%
2010 to 2013	13,011	681	6	2%
2000 to 2009	98,634	3,726	23	7%
1990 to 1999	89,559	4,171	35	11%
1980 to 1989	106,230	4,892	16	5%
1970 to 1979	102,983	6,487	28	9%
1960 to 1969	53,402	3,349	13	4%
1950 to 1959	52,079	4,358	5	2%
1940 to 1949	35,472	2,800	43	14%
1939 or earlier	180,455	9,264	144	46%
Not Listed in 2018 data source			10	
Total			313	100 %
BEDROOMS (in occupied housing units)*				
1 room	86,607	5,048	8	4%
2 rooms	223,509	11,993	61	28%
3 rooms	280,310	14,541	95	43%
4 rooms			46	21%
5 or more rooms	123,821	6,349	11	5%
Total			221	
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS*				
Lacking complete plumbing facilities	3,605	166	12	5.8%
Lacking complete kitchen facilities	5,014	157	10	4.6%
HOUSE HEATING FUEL*				
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.	344,869	20,786	148	67%
Wood	53,927	3,815	48	22%
Other fuel	8,428	401	12	6%
Electricity	48,008	3,629	9	4%
Coal or coke	1,140	318	3	1.2%
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	69,241	939	1	.8%
Solar or wind energy generated	1,047	0	Unknown	
Total			221	

Source: 2010 US Census

*Source: City-Data.com for 04762 based on US Census Bureau data and the American Community Survey 2018

5- year estimates

1990-2010 Housing Trends

The number of housing units existing today versus the past two decades helps the community better understand how the overall housing stock is growing or declining. Demographic trends within New Sweden, such as an increase or decrease in family size, as well as changes in the number of housing units, play an important part in the future housing needs of the community.

The inventory of housing trends includes data from communities within the northern Aroostook County sub-region, Aroostook County, and the State of Maine. The following table shows the change of the number of housing units over a span of 20 years. It is noted that New Sweden's numbers show the least amount of volatility either upwards or downwards, and most closely follow the changes experienced in Aroostook County as a whole.

Housing Units Comparison, 1980-2010

	1990	2000	2010	Percent Change 1990-2000	Percent Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 1990-2010
New Sweden	317	319	323	0.6%	1.3%	1.9%
Caribou	4,089	3,831	3,914	-6.3%	2.2%	-4.3%
Woodland	532	577	586	8.5%	1.6%	10.2%
Stockholm	137	135	149	-1.5%	10.4%	8.8%
Aroostook County	38,421	38,719	39,529	0.8%	2.1%	2.9%
State of Maine	587,045	651,901	721,830	11.0%	10.7%	23.0%

Source: 1990-2010 US Censuses

New Sweden Housing Trends

Of the 323 housing units noted in the 2010 Census, 255 units (79%) were occupied and 68 units (21%) were unoccupied. The majority of the housing units were single-family dwellings. At this time the trend of primarily single-family dwellings will most likely continue into the near future. However, it is noteworthy that 35 of the occupied housing units are owned by persons over age 65 living alone. As these homeowners decline due to aging over the next 10 years, the number of vacant housing units will likely increase significantly.

Of the 68 unoccupied house units, 38 were reported as being seasonal or recreational use only.

The American Community Survey from 2018 shows that the majority of New Sweden housing structures are aging. Approximately 188 or 60% of these houses were built before 1950, making them at least 70 years old as of this updated Comprehensive Plan in 2020. The age of these structures makes building maintenance and heating costs higher than newer homes. The age of houses is a significant factor in depressing their value and consequently, the price of purchasing an existing house in this Town.

The above table shows that the majority of housing units have 2 or 3 bedrooms. The most recent Public Opinion Survey of current New Sweden residents found they would only purchase a 2 or 3 bedroom home if buying a new home in the area. It appears that with regard to number of bedrooms, the majority of current houses would meet this selection criteria.

Additional Housing Characteristics, 2017

Characteristic	New Sweden	Percent of Total
VALUE		
Less than \$10,000	1	0.50%
\$20,000 to \$24,999	4	1.99%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	14	6.97%
\$50,000 to \$59,999	5	2.49%
\$60,000 to \$69,999	6	2.99%
\$70,000 to \$79,999	23	11.44%
\$80,000 to \$89,999	23	11.44%
\$90,000 to \$99,999	6	2.99%
\$100,000 to \$124,999	29	14.43%
\$125,000 to \$149,999	19	9.45%
\$150,000 to \$174,999	13	6.47%
\$175,000 to \$199,999	6	2.99%
\$200,000 to \$249,999	23	11.44%
\$250,000 to \$299,999	13	6.47%
\$300,000 to \$399,999	16	7.96%
Median	\$123,475	
Median for Maine	\$191,200	
MORTGAGE STATUS		
Housing Units with a mortgage	107	47%
Housing Units without a mortgage	119	53%
Median monthly mortgage payment	\$521	
Estimated Median Monthly Household Income in 2019*	\$3,087	
Median monthly house owner costs	\$679	
HOUSEHOLD COSTS (AS % OF INCOME)		
Less than 15%	53	65.4%
15-19.9%	10	12.3%
20-24.9%	8	9.9%
25-29.9%	4	4.9%
30-34.9%	4	4.9%
35% or more	2	2.5%
GROSS RENT		
\$200-249	6	33.3%
\$250-299	1	5.6%
\$500-549	1	5.6%
\$600-649	1	5.6%
No cash rent	9	50.0%

Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates 2017 Source:* US Census 2020

Table of Household Income and Benefits (in 2017 inflation-adjusted dollars) for New Sweden Householders

Estimate Household Income	Number Households	% of Total
Less than \$10,000	10	4%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	19	8%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	21	9%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	63	26%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	29	12%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	32	13%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	40	16%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	25	10%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2	1%
\$200,000 or more	3	1%
Total	244	
Percentage of incomes below poverty level	41	16.6 %
Residents with income below 50% of poverty level	35	14.3%
Median Household Income	\$3,087*	
Median Homeowner Cost	\$679	

Source* U.S. Census Date 2020

The Maine Housing Authority assesses the affordability of a house based on median income. The assessment makes an assumption that a homeowner should be spending no more than 30% of their income to pay for homeowner costs including principal and interest payments, real estate taxes, fire, hazard, and flood insurance payments, and mortgage insurance premiums. Because a large number of homeowners in New Sweden are not paying a mortgage on their home, it is estimated that only 7.5% are paying more than 30% of their income for their housing.

The most recent data shows that there are 68 housing units in New Sweden that are vacant. Of these, 38 are seasonal or not owned by permanent residents of the Town. It is believed that the other 30 vacant houses are being maintained by non-residents or are abandoned. Additional information regarding the actual number of available housing units available for purchase in New Sweden will be forthcoming with the 2020 US Census Data.

Mobile Homes

Mobile homes have become an increasingly popular form of housing in Maine. One reason for this is their initial price, which is especially low when compared to the cost and construction factors associated with newly constructed conventional houses. Equally important is that mobile homes are relatively inexpensive to heat and, due to their smaller size, are well-suited to the less space-intensive needs of smaller families and retired couples. New Sweden's land use regulation is fairly stringent concerning the design, placement, and safety of mobile homes and mobile home parks.

There are currently no mobile home parks in New Sweden. Information from the 2017 city-data.com for zip code 04762 indicates there are only 4 mobile homes in New Sweden. Without a specific zoning ordinance, building permit requests to establish a mobile home park could potentially have negative impact on prime agricultural or forested land in the Town.

Real Estate Agents Findings

As part of the review of the housing section of this Comprehensive Plan, the Planning Board solicited feedback from several real estate agents who have had recent experience in selling houses in New Sweden. Feedback from these agents indicated New Sweden has less “amenities” than some of the surrounding communities. It was noted that there was no grocery store or restaurant in the Town, no elementary school, and no cross-country ski trails. One agent indicated the taxes were too high, relative to the lack of amenities. Another agent stressed the problems for New Sweden caused by the lack of universal access to high-speed internet and reliable cell phone service, which was perceived as a major disincentive for home buyers, many of whom contemplate working from home. It is also problematic for anyone who might be required to have remote learning access.

The agents did express that it would be a “big help” if the Town were to have remote access to their tax cards and lot maps, similar to Caribou and Presque Isle. This would expedite their ability to provide information to potential home buyers.

It was recognized by the real estate agents that New Sweden does have houses on generous lot sizes, and easy access to amenities such as hospital services, ambulance and fire services and close proximity to regional recreation centers, cross-country skiing, bicycle routes, snowmobile and ATV trails, shopping, hunting, boating and fishing. However, the lack of a New Sweden website or social media presence puts the Town at a competitive disadvantage in attracting home buyers. It was also recommended that the Town improve its signage for street signs, ATV access road signs, bicycle paths and welcoming Town limit signage. The Town also needs to be concerned about the negative impact caused by blighted properties which buyers witness upon coming to look at houses for sale.

Federally Assisted Housing Units

Assisted living and residential care facilities are available throughout Aroostook County to assist adult and youth who are mentally ill or mentally retarded. There is a variety of assisted living housing are licensed by the State. The following are types of services and housing are available under this category.

1. **Adult Day Services:** A group program of care carried out on a regular basis for at least 2 hours per day for more than 2 adults.
2. **Adult Family Care Home:** A family-style home which provides personal care and other assisted living services for up to 5 elderly or disabled adults. Homes are equipped with life safety devices that allow residents to age in place. Home operators are trained by the Department of Human Services.
3. **Adult Foster Home (Level I Residential Care Facility):** A home caring for up to 6 residents. Homes provide a broad array of assisted living services, including 24-hour supervision.
4. **Boarding Home (Level II Residential Care Facility):** A home caring for more than 6 residents. Homes provide a broad array of assisted living services, including 24-hour supervision.

5. **Congregate Housing:** A comprehensive program of supportive services provided in individual apartments and includes a congregate meal program. Facilities must be licensed if they provide medication administration and nursing services in addition to personal care services.

While there are no assisted living facilities located in New Sweden, SeniorGuidance.org lists 42 assisted living facilities located in Aroostook County. The facilities provide housing and care services to elderly Maine senior citizens who require assisted living and help with daily living tasks. The website lists senior living communities, as well as memory care facilities in the county. SeniorGuidance.org also provides comprehensive resources information on various senior living options, including assisted living facilities, senior living communities, nursing homes, independent living communities, continuing care retirement communities (CCRC) and all other long term senior care options, including memory care such as Alzheimer's or dementia. An internet search of "senior apartments in Aroostook County, ME" provides a full list of both assisted and independent living options; "nursing homes in Aroostook County, ME" lists skilled nursing facilities; "memory care facilities in Aroostook County, ME" lists all dementia and Alzheimer's care housing and service options. Availability of openings in these facilities and prices vary considerably, however, these services appear to be adequate to cover the needs of New Sweden residents.

Other Housing Facilities

Since the Aroostook County Action Program (ACAP) began the policy of providing Section 8 vouchers to the low-to-moderate income individual and families, ACAP assists with locating single-family homes situated throughout the community.

Online resources through Maine Housing Authority (as well as through ACAP) assist low-income and elderly in finding information about grants and subsidies for purchasing and repairing a home, as well as finding subsidized rental properties.

The Maine State Housing Authority offers the Maine Housing's Home Accessibility and Repair Program and a sub-program relevant to seniors called the Elderly Hardship Grant. The objective of these programs is to help low-income homeowners maintain their homes in good repair and minimize safety risks associated with their homes. This program is relevant to seniors wishing to age in place and to families caring for loved ones at home. The grants can be used to make home modifications, not just for structural improvements, but also to improve disability access.

This program includes assistance for bathroom safety modifications to help aging in place. Home modifications include projects such as the addition of a wheelchair ramp to the home's exterior or widening of doorways and access points to allow wheelchair access in the home's interior, bathroom modifications such as the addition of a walk-in tub (with transfer bench), hand rails, modified toilet, etc. Stair-lifts, platform lifts and home elevators are possibilities for two-story homes or second story apartments in which staircases cannot be avoided.

Typically, individuals qualify should their income be equal or less than 80% of the median income for their area. For Aroostook County residents, the minimum threshold for eligibility is \$37,700 for an individual and \$53,850 for a family of four. Most New Sweden Residents household

incomes would qualify them for some of the grants and subsidies. Programs for the elderly are restricted to those 62 and older.

Federally funded Community Development Block Grants were established as part of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. It funds various community development activities for neighborhood revitalization, economic development, affordable housing, and better community facilities and services. Information on available resources can be found online at www.localhousingsolutions.org/act/housing-policy-library. The information regarding access to these resources should be maintained in the Town Office for both developers as well as residents.

Affordable Housing

The Growth Management Law requires that Maine towns prepare a Comprehensive Plan that addresses the state goal of promoting affordable housing opportunities for all Maine citizens. In an effort to determine affordability, monthly mortgage payments have been computed based on information in the list of assumptions provided below. The figures do not include points or legal fees associated with the loan.

Affordable Housing Comparison

List of Assumptions:

- No down payment.
- Legal and other closing costs **not included** in monthly housing expense.
- Interest rate is 3.49% APR. (MSHA Home Ownership Program rate).
- 30-year mortgage.
- Amount financed is the selling price of the home.
- Amount financed is the assessed value of the home.
- New Sweden' real estate mil rate of .0191 (as of 2020).
- Insurance is 2.17 percent of financed amount. (FHA Loan)

New Sweden, Affordable Housing Comparison

A measure of housing affordability is based on the premise that a household's total monthly housing expenses should not exceed 30 percent of the household monthly income. New Sweden's median household income in 2019, according to the 2020 U.S. Census, was \$37,045 or \$3,087 per month.

The average home sold in Town in recent years shown in the following table:

Property Sale Prices January 2015 – December 2020

Sale Price Range	Number	Percent
Under \$25,000	22	28%
\$25,000-\$39,999	8	10%
\$40,000-\$49,999	6	8%
\$50,000-\$59,999	6	8%
\$60,000-\$69,000	3	4%

\$70,000-\$79,999	6	8%
\$80,000-\$99,999	4	5%
\$100,000-\$119,999	9	11%
\$120,000-\$149,999	7	9%
\$150,000-\$199,999	5	6%
Over \$200,000	3	4%
Total	79	
Median Price \$55,000		
Adjusted Average \$76,938*		

Source: Real Estate Transfer Records

*Adjusted Average based on 62 sales between \$20,000 and \$185,000 sales price range, thereby minimizing the skewing of the data of the sale unusually low and high priced houses during this period.

The mathematical average sale price of property included in the table was \$72,785. It compares to a reported \$58,977 average sale price in the Comprehensive Plan adopted by New Sweden in April 2006, an increase of 23%. Further refinement of the average sale price is prudent. By including 62 sales during the 5-year period of properties with sale prices between \$20,000 and \$185,000, the adjusted average is calculated to be \$76,938 and is used as a realistic assessment of home purchases in New Sweden.

Housing prices assessed on the basis of Transfer Records do not tell the entire story. Many of the prices of these sales include several acres of woodlot or tillable land which makes comparing to houses in more urban areas such as Caribou or Presque Isle difficult. Additionally, sales of properties in New Sweden frequently are purchased solely for the harvesting of timber with no intent to use any existing sheds/barns on the property for housing. This practice skews the median of \$55,000 shown in the table, making it lower than that for the purchase of actual residential home sales only.

Affordable Housing Availability

Affordable housing availability is focused on very low income, low income, and moderate income households defined as follows:

- New Sweden's median household income in 2019 was \$37,045 as reported by US 2020 Census.
- Very low income means 50 percent of the Town's median household income.
- Low income means between 51 percent and 80 percent of the Town's median household income.
- Moderate income means 81 percent to 150 percent of the Town's median household income.

	Very Low Income	Low Income	Moderate Income
Percent of Median Income	50 %	51% to 80%	81% to 150%
Median Income In Dollars	\$18,523	\$18,893 - \$29,636	\$30,006 - \$55,568
Affordable Rent	\$463	\$472-\$741	\$750-\$1,389
Less Taxes and Insurance*	+/- \$261	+/- \$261	+/- \$261

Affordable Mortgage Payment	\$202	\$211-\$480	\$489-\$1,128
Affordable House Price	\$44,500	\$46,500-\$106,000	\$108,000-\$249,000

*4.07% of amount financed on average home price \$76,938

- 18 homes sales between January 2015 and December 31, 2020 were affordable to very low income families with sale prices between \$20,000 and \$44,500, representing 26% of all property sales in this time period.
- 25 home sales between January 2015 and December 31, 2020 were affordable to low income families with sale prices between \$45,000 and \$106,000, representing 36% of all property sales in this time period.
- 28 home sales between January 2015 and December 31, 2020 were affordable to moderately low income families with sale prices between \$108,000 and \$185,000, representing 28% of all property sales in this time period.

Affordability of housing at this time is due to relatively low interest rates being charged. Should there be a significant increase in mortgage rates, the affordability index will be impacted. However, if median income for New Sweden residents remains at current levels, and low-interest financing and low down-payment requirements are available, home ownership is an affordable option for residents at all income brackets.

Rental Affordability

Rental units comprise 37 units or 11.9% of the total housing stock in New Sweden according to the 2010 US Census. In New Sweden, there is a 24-unit apartment building for low-income rental. Periodically, apartment vacancies at Heritage View Apartments make this option available for residents. Additionally, there are single unit houses which are available for rent.

A sampling of rent paid in area code 04762 in 2017 by Maine Census City-Data.com shows that approximately 50% of renters were “no cash rent.” Forty percent paid between \$200 and \$299 per month. Five of renters were paying between \$500 - \$549 and five percent between \$600 to \$649. Of those paying rent, the median rental cost paid is \$322 per month.

The median household income reported for New Sweden from this City-Data.com survey was \$3,083 per month (30% of the median income is \$925.) As the median rental cost is less than 30% of the median household income, it is perceived the shelter costs for renters in New Sweden is affordable. However, because of the sampling size and the inherent margin of error, the reliability of these numbers needs to be verified after release of housing data from the 2020 Census.

Recent reports from Maine housing authorities note that there continues to be a shortage of rental properties in Maine. Because of demand rental costs are increasing at a rate higher than the increase in median household incomes. According to real estate agents in the area, Aroostook County and New Sweden have a similar shortage which may cause similar changes in affordability for residents.

Housing Summary and Analysis

Shelter is the primary need of every community. When a community begins to lose sight of this fact, a slow process of decay will eventually result in dilapidated and inadequate housing units and vacant businesses. A feeling of despair, evident in many small rural communities losing population can be brought on by the poor physical appearance of the community and its housing stock. The average age of residents in the county continues to rise and the population continues to shrink. If New Sweden wants to have population increases and economic development, then adequate, safe, and affordable housing will be needed for residents of differing income levels.

Affordable housing does not appear to be a significant problem in New Sweden at this time. It appears that there are an ample number of safe affordable housing units in Town, however, the stock is getting old. According to the 2020 US Census, almost 70% of the homes in Aroostook County are more than 50 years old and 28 % of these were built in 1938 or earlier. The Town should become actively involved in efforts to rehabilitate the deteriorating condition of the housing stock. Programs such as a Housing Assessment Planning grant from the Department of Economic and Community Development can help New Sweden identify and fix problem areas of the community. These housing rehabilitation efforts will also enhance New Sweden' ability to market itself to future potential businesses and industries, which is critical to the Town's economic revitalization and future job creation. The Town should continue to improve housing conditions for its residents wherever possible by actively pursuing federal and state grants for housing rehabilitation.

Municipal officials should also continue to review the Town's existing land use ordinance to ensure it is compatible with its current economic development goals. Consideration should be given to establishing a zoning ordinance to protect existing residential land uses, while discouraging incompatible land use encroachment into established neighborhoods, all-the-while providing safe and sanitary housing for present and future residents.

Finally, the Town leaders should actively monitor the needs of residents and potential home buyers, and seek ways to respond to their home ownership and rental preferences. There should be an ongoing effort to find investors and developers to build new housing and fix aging structures to retain current residents and increase emigration of new residents. Proper use of existing and proposed regulations by the CEO, Planning Board, and Board of Appeals will assure that new development will fit into the community and become a valuable asset, not a liability. Good planning means good development and this will, in turn, reduce demands upon the community's limited resources in the future.

Local Economy

New Sweden is located in the Presque Isle Labor Market Area (LMA) and depends on the region's economic health for its survival. The LMA's boundaries include Blaine to the south, Portage and Oxbow to the west, Allagash to the north, and New Brunswick, Canada to the east. Many of the job holders in New Sweden work outside the town and local retail and service establishments depend on shoppers from other areas, including Canada, for a portion of their trade. In terms of economic impact, agriculture and forest products are the most important industries located solely in town. In terms of employment, education, community service, retail sales/office, and production/material movers are the largest employers of New Sweden residents.

As noted in the Demographics Section of this document, it is estimated that the population by 2016 will be 599. Data from the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates for 2107 indicate there are approximately 489 residents between the ages of 16 or older. Of these, 208 are not in the labor force. There are 2 residents employed in the Armed Forces, leaving 279 in the civilian work force. It is estimated that 6 of these residents are unemployed and 273 are engaged in active employment.

Employment by Occupation

The following chart summarizes characteristics of the working population of New Sweden. The source of this information is from the U.S. Census Bureau 2010 reports. The following occupational categories are tabulated:

- Management, business, science and arts
- Computer, engineering and science
- Education, legal, community service, arts and media
- Healthcare practitioners and technical
- Service (e.g., healthcare support, building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations)
- Sales and office
- Natural resources, construction and maintenance (including farming and forestry occupations)
- Production, transportation and material moving

US Census Bureau Report 2010

Occupational Categories	Number Employed	% of Total
Management, business, financial	33	12.1%
Computer, engineering and science	5	1.8%
Education, legal, community service, arts and media	65	23.8%
Healthcare practitioners and technical	14	5.1%
Service (e.g., healthcare support, building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations)	53	19.4%
Sales and office	41	15.0%
Natural resources, construction and maintenance (including farming and forestry occupations)	24	8.8%
Production, transportation and material moving	38	13.9%
Total Work Force Living in New Sweden	273	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Demographic Profile Data

There is further information regarding the industries which employ residents of New Sweden reported as noted in the following table.

Industry	Number Employed	Percent
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	7	2.6 %
Construction	19	7.0 %
Manufacturing	16	5.9 %
Wholesale trade	0	0.0 %
Retail trade	22	8.1 %
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	12	4.4%
Information	3	1.1 %
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rentals	4	1.5 %
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	27	9.9 %
Education services, and health care and social assistance	120	44.0 %
Arts, entertainment and recreation, and accommodation and food services	7	2.6 %
Other services, except public administration	7	2.6 %
Public administration	29	10.6 %
Total	273	

Source: Census Bureau 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5 -Year Estimates 2017 data

Unemployment statistics

The following table compares the unemployment rates for the surrounding Labor Management Areas (LMA). For these statistics, those people are considered “Unemployed” if they meet all of the following criteria: 1) they were not employed during the survey week; 2) they were available for work at that time; and 3) they made specific efforts to find employment some time during the prior four weeks. The 2017 report indicates that of 489 residents age 16 and older, 208 are not in the labor force. Only 6 residents meet the criteria of being “unemployed.”

Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Maine Labor Market Areas, December 2019					
Region	Component	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Statewide	Civilian Labor Force	689,160	669,520	19,640	2.8%
Presque Isle LMA	Civilian Labor Force	21,030	20,100	930	4.4%
Madawaska LMA	Civilian Labor Force	2,630	2,540	90	3.5%
Houlton LMA	Civilian Labor Force	7,280	6,970	310	4.3%
New Sweden ^a	Civilian Labor Force	279	273	6	2.15%

Source: Maine DOL Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Source*: Census Bureau 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5 -Year Estimates 2017 data

New Sweden is a part of the Presque Isle Labor Management Area and includes Caribou, Presque Isle and the surrounding area. While Maine statewide has experienced very low unemployment rates overall, Aroostook County Labor Management Areas have been slightly higher. A historical information shows that Aroostook County has always been higher than the Statewide number.

As our population continues to age and retire from work over the next 10 years, the labor force will most likely shrink even further. The regional population unemployment rates also suggest that the whole region is not attractive for expansion by any labor-intensive industry.

Local and Regional Economy

The purpose of looking at the local economy is to help the community create policies and programs that can lead to steady growth over the long run. A community's economy can usually be broken down into two segments; the export base and the secondary base.

The primary exports from New Sweden are forest products from wood harvesting and agricultural products—primarily potatoes, grains and broccoli. There is a growing interest in maple syrup manufacturing, but there are no commercial enterprises in New Sweden.

The secondary base businesses serve the local economy. Secondary based businesses are not likely to grow much in New Sweden due to lack of available work force, small population and commercial infrastructure. There is no one large scale employer located in New Sweden. The community has a small number of home occupations, carpentry and construction firms, two retail establishments, small scale agricultural operations as well as commercial forestry. All of these activities help make the town a vital and viable community in northern Maine's economy. It is the goal of Town officials to enhance what is presently located in town and provide a level of protection to both residents and business from incompatible land uses coming within the community.

Although the hilly topography of New Sweden and the general acidity of its soils are not conducive to large scale farming operations, there are many opportunities to take advantage of the growing trend toward small farms, particularly the production of specialty crops. Blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, apples and various kinds of vegetables all grow exceptionally well in New Sweden. Small scale meat production such as beef, chickens and turkeys will likely increase and is a welcome addition to the local economy. New Sweden also provides good opportunity for organic farming, greenhouse, pick your own operations, and seed production. A few of New Sweden's larger fields will likely continue to produce the traditional potatoes, hay, oats, barley and canola.

Marketing opportunities for locally grown produce include farmer's markets, direct sales from the farm and, increasingly, sales to supermarkets. It is expected that the growing interest in small farms and locally grown food will provide more marketing possibilities. Like most small farms in Maine, New Sweden's small farms may continue to be part-time operations to provide supplemental income.

There is growing interest Statewide in the growing and harvesting of hemp and marijuana for medical and recreational use. At this time there are no specific guidelines from the State regarding these agricultural interests. It may fall to local towns to establish regulations and guidelines regarding both the growing and sale of these products within the Town limits. Town officials may wish to engage in advance public discussion with residents regarding the potential of this growth industry on the local economy.

Forestry

Most of the commercial forest tree species found in Maine are also found in New Sweden. The three major forest cover types include softwood, hardwood, and mixed forest stands. Generally, softwoods dominate the shorelands, wetlands, and lowlands. According to the USDA-Forest Service, balsam fir, red spruce, and northern white cedar, respectively, comprise the majority of the softwood stock growing in Aroostook County. Aspen, sugar maple, and red maple comprise the majority of the hardwood growing in the County. Other species include white birch, beech, and yellow birch.

The big tooth aspen provides raw material to be used for the production of construction plywood in the factory located in Easton. Yellow birch, beech and sugar maple are frequently cut to provide firewood to be sold for heating private homes. The soft wood is targeted to be sold to plants making pellets for wood-burning stoves and for papermills. White birch, hemlock and tamarack are seldom harvested as their commercial uses are limited.

Small woodlots located throughout Town, are also important to their owners and others in the community. The Town should encourage these small woodlot owners to contact professional forester consultant serving the area to gain technical assistance in managing their forestlands. These small woodlot owners should be aware of the requirements of Maine's Forest Practices Act. In addition, Town officials may wish to make small woodlot owners aware of the Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP) administered by the Maine Forest Service that was established to foster sound and sustainable multi-use management of forest land resources. The future use of the Town's forest lands should be planned with all of these multi-use considerations in mind. Custom milling operations are available around New Sweden, Woodland, and Stockholm.

Over the next 10 years, the demand for renewable fuels made from wood and biomass may increase. New Sweden may need to balance the demand for harvesting with the competing concern in preserving the beauty of the forested land and natural beauty of the region.

Tourism

Aroostook County provides ample opportunity for four season, outdoor entertainment for tourists. There are over 2,000 lakes, rivers, streams, and ponds in northern Maine, covering some 80,000 acres. Combined with its vast forestlands, it is an outstanding inland recreation area. Abundant, predictable snowfall in Aroostook County makes winter sports the most attractive draw. With over 1,600 groomed trails for snowmobiling, parks with groomed trails for cross country skiing, downhill skiing in Fort Kent and Mars Hill, forests for snowshoeing, and huge lakes with thick ice for ice fishing opportunities, the County attracts thousands of tourists each year from December through March.

In the warmer months from May through October, the trail system is maintained for ATV riding. Lakes, streams and rivers provide abundant opportunity for canoeing, kayaking and fishing.

Fall brings hunters for the black bear, deer and moose hunts. The turkey population continues to grow in the region, and small game such as ruffed grouse and snowshoe hare are abundant.

While the tourist industry provides much needed infusion of money into the County throughout the year, New Sweden does not currently have any restaurants or motels to capture this influx. The only business in New Sweden at this time that directly benefits from this influx of tourists is North Star Variety which sells sporting goods, live bait, and gas; and there is one Bed & Breakfast facility in the north. There are few career jobs generated by tourism in the region. Consequently, the economic impact of tourism on the Town is negligible.

It should be noted that tourism has minimal cost to the Town. Snowmobile and ATV clubs are responsible for trail maintenance and receive direct reimbursement for a portion of their costs. The State provides grants for major purchases and Clubs engage in fund raising activities for additional money as needed. There are no boat launches, trailside park-and-ride areas or any other special access roadways maintained by the Town specifically to support tourism in New Sweden.

Median Household Income

Household income includes the income of the householder and all persons age 15 and older living in the household. Median household income is derived by taking the total household incomes within the Town and dividing it by the total number of households. Because some households contain only one person, the median household income is usually less than the median family income.

In 2017, the median household income was \$37,045 and the per capita income of individuals was \$23,661. In New Sweden, 20.6 percent of the total number of households earned less than \$25,000 per year. However, 28.6 percent of all households are in the greater than \$75,000 category and 25.0 percent are in the \$35,000-\$74,999 category. The distribution of household income in 2017 is listed as follows:

Household Income, 2017

Income Level	New Sweden	Percent of Total	Aroostook County	Percent of Total	Maine	Percent of Total
<\$25,000	50	20.6	9,878	33.1	126,880	22.9
\$25,000 to \$34,999	63	25.8	3,522	11.8	58,730	10.6
\$35,000 to \$49,999	29	11.9	4,596	15.4	76,460	13.8
\$50,000 to \$74,999	32	13.1	5,133	17.2	106,380	19.2
\$75,000 to \$99,999	40	16.4	3,134	10.5	71,474	12.9
> \$100,000	29	12.2	3,581	12.0	114,137	20.6
Total Households	244	100.0	29,844	100.0	554,061	100.0

Source: Census Bureau 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5 -Year Estimates 2017 data

Median Family Income

New Sweden's median household figure of \$37,045 was significantly below the 2017 US Census estimated figure for the State which is reported at \$53,024. Additionally, New Sweden's median household income is slightly lower than the 2017 Aroostook County figure of \$39,021.

The US Department of Commerce derives family income by taking the income of all family members age 15 and older and dividing it by the total number of families within the Town. The median family income is slightly higher than the median household income for New Sweden, equaling \$49,063. This is lower than the Aroostook County median family income of \$52,023 by

\$2,960 per family. As compared to the State median family income, New Sweden is lower by \$18,277 per family, with the Maine's median family income equaling \$67,340.

Per Capita Income

Per capita income is derived by adding the incomes of all residents of the Town and dividing it by the total population of Town (even those with no income). The 2017 US Census reported that (according to 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates), the per capita income for New Sweden equals \$23,661. This is nearly identical to the per capita income for Aroostook County, which equals \$23,631, and significantly less than Maine's per capita income of \$29,886.

Poverty Status

According to the 2010 US Census, the poverty status of residents living in New Sweden shows 16.6% of all persons have incomes below the poverty level. This compares favorably to the Aroostook County statistic of 17.5%, but significantly higher than the State's 12.9% of all persons having incomes below the poverty level.

Economic Conclusions

New Sweden's geographic location and rural character are assets that make it an ideal location for many potential home owners. Industrial growth seems limited in the region due to a lack of a ready labor force over the next 10 years. New Sweden may become increasingly attractive for retirees who are interested in avoiding disastrous flooding in the interior and along ocean front properties. The community's residents have always demonstrated a strong work ethic and independent entrepreneurial spirit. Expanding targeted niche services that might be useful in attracting retirees may prove to be key in securing economic stability. Increasing the number of residents through relocation is the most likely avenue to maintain and expand the tax base.

The natural resources of the community, as well as the geographic regions as a whole, hold the potential for diverse economic development. The development of value-added products from raw forest products, organic agriculture, and ecotourism ventures are just some of the ongoing business ventures that can capitalize on the natural resource base.

It is important to note that the statistics reflected in this section are based on estimates. Most of these estimates are projections from the US Census of 2010. The studies indicate margins of error that are large. The details from the US Census of 2020 could show results that differ significantly. It is recommended that this 10-year plan be reviewed in light of the 2020 updated statistics when they become available and an assessment of the relevancy of the goals and strategies be considered.

Natural Resources

Topography

New Sweden is characterized by a moderately sloping terrain that is dissected by numerous wetlands, brooks, ponds, and streams as they flow into the Little Madawaska River and Caribou Stream. New Sweden's other significant topographic features are the forested ridges, including Fogelin, Jacobson, and Gelot Hills that rise up throughout the Town. The Town covers a land area of approximately 34.7 square miles or 22,902 acres. Woodland borders New Sweden to the south; Westmanland to the west; Stockholm to the north; and Connor and Caribou to the east. Elevations range from a low of 510 feet above Mean Sea Level (MSL) along the Little Madawaska River at the Connor town line to a high of 1,014 feet atop Fogelin Hill in the northwest part of Town. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection has identified and mapped ten (10) non-forested wetlands, the largest of these is located along Beardsley Brook.

Soils

Soils are the fundamental resource by which the suitability of the land to support a variety of land uses is determined. The United States Department of Agriculture-Soil Conservation Service (USDA-SCS) has mapped the soils found in New Sweden. The various soil types that occur have been detailed in the USDA-SCS's *Aroostook County Soil Survey - Northeastern Part* issued in 1964. (The 1964 survey and map are reported by the USDA local office as being the most current.) Usually, it is assumed that soils are somewhat different in each region. New Sweden is located in the central portion of the soil survey area and has soils similar to the surrounding region. Soil information for this natural resource inventory comes from two sources, *Soils Survey-Aroostook County, Northeastern Part* (Map #'s 58, 59, 67, 68, 69, 77, 78, 79) issued in August 1964 and *Soil Survey Data for Growth Management in Aroostook County, Maine, Northeastern Part*.

Definitions

Soil Associations - several main patterns of soil types.

Soil Types - distinct soils irrespective of slope.

Soil Series - soils with profiles that are almost alike.

Soil Group - soil series that have many internal features in common.

Phases - distinct soil type including slope.

Soil Types

Soils are listed two ways in the soil surveys. First, they are listed by name (i.e. Plaisted gravelly loam). Secondly, they are listed as a symbol containing three letters (PgC). The first two letters indicate the soil type (i.e., Pg, Ha, Ma) and the last letter indicates the slope on the map ("A" indicates a 0-2 percent slope, "B" 2-8 percent, "C" 8-15 percent, "D" 15-25 percent, and "E" 25-45 percent). For example, PgC indicates a Plaisted gravelly loam, located on an 8-15 percent slope.

There are thirteen (13) distinct **soil types** mapped by the USDA-SCS within New Sweden. Of these 13 types, Monarda and Burnham silt loams make up the greatest proportion of soils and are a couple of the dominate soil types found within the Northern Aroostook County Soil Survey area.

Soil Types

Symbol	Name	Symbol	Name
Co	Conant Silt Loam	Cg	Caribou Gravelly Loam
Da	Daigle Silt Loam	Ea	Easton/Washburn Silt Loam
Es	Easton/Washburn Stony Silt Loam	Ho	Howland Gravelly Loam
Hv	Howland Very Stony Loam	Ma	Machias Gravelly Loam
Mn	Mixed Alluvial Land	Pe	Perham Gravelly Silt Loam
Pg	Plaisted Gravelly Loam	Sg	Stetson Gravelly Loam
Th	Thorndike Shaly Silt Loam		

Source: Soil Survey, Aroostook County Maine, Northeastern Part

Soil Potentials and Limitations

Each soil type has characteristics that determine its potential and limitations, as discussed in the following categories: Prime Farmland, Woodland Productivity, Floodplain Soils, Highly Erodible Soils, Steep Slope Soils, Sand and Gravel Aquifer, Low Density Development, Secure Landfill, Subsurface Wastewater Disposal, and Hydric (wetland) Soils (See: New Sweden Soil Phases).

Prime Farmland Soils

There are eight (8) soil phases that are classified as “Prime Farmland” under certain conditions. The United States Department of Agriculture defines prime farmland as the land that is best suited for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, and all seed crops. The soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply allow for the production of a sustained yield of crops under acceptable farming practices. Prime farmland soils produce the highest yields and require minimal amounts of energy and economic resources. Crop production on prime farmland soil also results in the least damage to the environment. All prime farmland soils are located in areas with slopes less than 8 percent.

Woodland Productivity Soils

There are twenty-six (26) soil phases that have woodland productivity ratings of medium to very high with the majority rated as highly productive. These soils are considered prime forestland soils. Prime forestland is land that has soil capable of growing wood at the economic productive growth rate for a given tree species. These are the lands for which the Town and its residents may depend on for future wood needs. Twelve of the thirteen soil types or 92 % of New Sweden's soil types are classified as prime forestland soils.

Floodplain Soils

Floodplain soils are soils on low lands adjacent to a great pond, river, stream, or brook which are periodically inundated with flood waters due to the water body or course overflowing its banks. Development located on floodplain soils may be subject to severe damage, with building damage and road washout common. There are no floodplain soil types or phases located in New Sweden, however, there are flood prone areas.

Highly Erodible Soils

There are three (3) soil phases that when located on slopes greater than 8 percent are classified as highly erodible. Highly erodible soils are those soils that have the potential to erode at a rate greater than what is considered tolerable soil loss. The potential soil erodibility takes into account rainfall and runoff, the susceptibility of the soil to erode, and the combined effects of slope length and steepness. When surface vegetation is removed from areas of highly erodible soils, erosion is often the result. Sediment, which is the result of erosion, has a number of adverse effects as a pollutant. It covers spawning areas, clogs the gills of fish, reduces the amount of sunlight available to aquatic plants, silts road and drainage ditches, and shortens the life of reservoirs.

Steep Slope Soils

There are five (5) soil phases that occur on steep slopes (greater than 15 percent). Slope gradient influences the retention and movement of water potentially causes for slippage and accelerated erosion, and ease with which machinery can be used. Generally, the steeper the slope the more potential for hazards. Development on slopes greater than 15 percent requires more fill and grading as well as more sophisticated sediment and erosion control planning.

Sand and Gravel Aquifer

There are four (4) soil phases with potential as sand and gravel aquifer areas. These soils and the underlying material may be capable of transmitting sufficient groundwater for domestic use. However, the rapid permeability of these sandy and gravelly soils allows pollutants to move quickly through the soil and into the groundwater. Contamination of groundwater is possible if precautions are not taken. This subject will be covered further in the Water Resources sub-section.

Low Density Development

There are fifteen (15) soil phases that are rated medium to very high in their potential for low-density residential and urban development. All (100%) of the soil types are also classified as prime forestland soils and eight (8) are classified as prime agricultural soil. Low-density development includes single-family unit residences with basements and comparable buildings and septic tank absorption fields, with or without on-site sources of water. Development may be a single unit or a cluster of units in a development. Paved roads in a development are also included. The development potential for a particular soil is derived from a number of different considerations related to flooding, drainage, sewage disposal, maintenance costs, and site modifications. Minimizing development impacts is accomplished by recognizing soil limitations and developing corrective measures. Soils that are rated medium to very high are the best for development simply because they have the fewest limitations. Development will be the least expensive on these soils.

Secure Landfill

There are eight (8) soil phases in New Sweden that have the potential for secure landfill sites. A secure landfill is a landfill that utilizes a liner system, a leachate collection and treatment system, and a final cover system to prevent discharge of waste and leachate, and a controlled release of gas to the environment. The protection of ground and surface water is of utmost importance when the town or group of towns secure sites for landfill. Soil survey information can provide preliminary information on permeability, depth to bedrock, slope, percent rock fragments, and possible flooding locations. The soil survey can also show if a potential site has wetland soils. It should be noted that detailed on-site investigations are needed for final suitability determinations.

Hydric Soils

There are three (3) soil types (with 4 phases of saturation) which are classified as hydric soils. These are soils that were formed under very wet conditions used to determine the presence of a wetland area. The US Environmental Protection Agency defines wetlands by the presence of wetland vegetation and the degree of flooding and/or soil saturation, and by hydric soils. A good first step in the inventory of the Town's wetlands is to first inventory the extent of hydric soils that have been mapped. Wetlands will be discussed further in this section.

Subsurface Wastewater Disposal

In reference to the Maine State Plumbing Code, New Sweden has soils capable of supporting on-site private sewage disposal. On-site investigations are required, however, to determine the exact suitability of a given site. The criteria used to determine if the site is suitable includes; depth to bedrock, seasonal high-water table, restrictive layer, and possible flooding conditions. If slopes exceed 20 percent, new subsurface disposal systems are not permitted. Other limitations of a site can be overcome with certain design standards which might qualify for granting variances. The greatest assurance of groundwater protection is, however, locating systems on the most suitable soils.

The following chart shows soil phases located in New Sweden and lists their potentials and limitations.

New Sweden Soil Phases and Characteristics

Soil Phase	Prime Farm Land	Prime Forest land	Flood-plain	Highly Erodible	Soil on Steep Slopes	Sand & Gravel Aquifer	Low Density Devlmt	Secure Landfill*	Sub-surface Waste water Disposal	Hydric Soil
CoA	X	V High					High		MBP	
CoB	X	V High					High		MBP	
CgB	X	V High					V High		Permitted	
CgC		V High					High		Permitted	
CgC2		V High					High		MBP	
CgD2		V High		X	X		Low		No	
DaB	X	Medium					Low	X	No	
DaC		Medium					Low		No	

EaA		Medium					V Low		No	X
EaB		Medium					V Low		No	X
EsB		Medium					V Low		No	X
HoB	X	High					High	X	MBP	
HoC		High					Medium	X	MBP	
HvB		High					High	X	Permitted	
MaB	X	High				X	Medium		Permitted	
Mn		Low					V Low		No	X
PeB	X	High					High	X	Permitted	
PeC		High					Medium	X	Permitted	
PeD		High			X		Low		No	
PgB	X	High					High	X	Permitted	
PgC		High					Medium	X	Permitted	
SgC		High				X	Medium		Permitted	
SgD		High			X	X	V Low		No	
SgE		High		X		X	V Low		No	
ThC		High					Medium		MBP	
ThD		High			X		V Low		No	
ThE		High		X	X		V Low		No	

MBP = May Be Permitted

*Only those soils in this map unit with a permeability of less than 0.2 in/hr should be considered for a secure landfill. Detailed high intensity on-site soils and hydrogeological investigations are needed for final suitability determinations.

Agricultural and Forest Resources

Agricultural Resources

Agriculture within New Sweden has followed the regional trends of declining acreages of active farmland and declining numbers of operational farming units. Some of these declines are a result of improvements in farming mechanization that enabled a farm operation to improve crop production while reducing labor requirements, thus fewer farming operational units were needed to plant and harvest more or equal amounts of acreages with improvements in farm equipment technology. Probably a larger factor in the declining number of farmers and cultivated acreages of row crops (primarily potatoes) in New Sweden and the region were the significant decreases in per capita consumption of potatoes. (Reported by USDA as a decline of 15% from 2003 to 2009) and the importing of potatoes from Canada at lower costs due to the decline in the value of the Canadian dollar. With the recent development of the popular variety known as the “Caribou Russet”, there may be some surge in interest in expanding more acres for potato harvest over the next ten 10 years.

Most of New Sweden's prime agricultural soils are not being actively farmed. Any proposed land use ordinance amendments to be developed during the implementation phase of this comprehensive planning process might provide that the principal use of certain sections of Town be “agricultural” to potentially prevent prime farmlands from being taken out of agricultural production. Residential development that may occur along some of the rural roads surrounded by agriculture may be incompatible with agriculture as it places a different set of demands on natural resources. Through proper land use controls, nuisance conditions arising from incompatible land uses can be avoided. New Sweden should strive to maintain the operational integrity of viable farming units by controlling residential development on prime farmlands. Many of the soil types that are prime farmland are also those that are the most suitable for subsurface wastewater disposal. This places a greater demand on those areas that have suitable soils.

Forest Resources

Most of the commercial forest tree species found in Maine are also found in New Sweden. The three (3) major forest cover types include softwood, hardwood, and mixed forest stands. Generally, softwoods dominate the shorelands, wetlands, and lowlands. According to the USDA-Forest Service, balsam fir, white and red spruce, and northern white cedar, respectively, comprise the majority of the softwood stock growing in Aroostook County. Big Tooth Aspen (locally known as “popple”), sugar maple, and red maple comprise the majority of the hardwood. Other species include white birch, beech, and yellow birch.

There is a moderate amount of commercial forestland located the northeastern and southwestern portions in New Sweden. Wood harvested in this area goes to mills in St. Leonard, Ashland, Portage, Masardis, and Easton. New Sweden has an ordinance pertaining to the Practice of Timber Harvesting. This ordinance was adopted in 1987 and revised in 2009 and requires a permit for commercial logging.

Small woodlots located throughout New Sweden are important to their owners and others in the community. The Town should encourage small woodlot owners to contact a professional forester consultant serving the area to gain technical assistance in managing their forestlands. Municipal officials should attempt to make the small woodlot owners aware of the requirements of Maine's Forest Practices Act. In addition, officials may wish to make small woodlot owners aware of the Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP) administered by the Maine Forest Service that was established to foster sound and sustainable multi-use management of forestland resources.

Wetland Areas

Freshwater Wetlands are defined under Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act, MRSA Title 38, Section 480-3 as: "freshwater swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas that are: inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and for a duration sufficient to support and which, under normal circumstances, do support a prevalence of wetland vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soils; and are not considered part of a great pond, coastal wetland, river, stream, or brook. These areas may also contain small stream channels or inclusions of land that do not conform to the above criteria."

Some of the local benefits of New Sweden's wetlands relate to wildlife, flood control, and water quality protection. The amount and variety of plants found in wetlands create excellent habitat for wildlife such as moose, deer, snowshoe hare, songbirds, ruffed grouse, and waterfowl. The dense cover and available browse found in wetlands and their fringe areas are essential for the survival of wildlife during the long winter. During periods of heavy rain and spring run-off, wetlands act as catchment basins or sponges that collect and hold water and gradually release it as stream flow or groundwater recharge. All wetlands, regardless of size, perform the important function of reducing flooding. The biological composition of wetlands allows them to absorb tremendous quantities of nutrients and pollutants, which makes them act like a water purification system. The quality and quantity of ground and surface water is maintained by healthy, undisturbed wetlands.

According to the *Freshwater Wetland Map*, prepared by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, New Sweden has ten (10) non-forested wetlands. All of the wetlands are over ten (10)

acres in size, therefore requiring mandatory protection under the Shoreland Zoning Act, Title 38 MRSA, Sections 435-488. New Sweden has zoned all of the wetlands as Resource Protection affording them the highest level of protection.

New Sweden's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance was completed in 1990 and revised in 2009. Wetlands identified in the plan use MDEP's March 2019 mapping. These maps identify a larger number of wetlands down to one (1) acre in size throughout the community.

Water Resources

Water resources play a significant role in New Sweden's economic potential and quality of life and are divided into two separate categories, groundwater and surface water. Each type of water provides benefits to the community and may be threatened by certain land uses.

Groundwater

Groundwater is typically the most important resource the Town can have by providing drinking water to the residents of New Sweden. The Maine Geologic Survey has identified two sand and gravel aquifers in Town located along the Little Madawaska River, one in the northwest corner of town and the other in the southeast. The largest mapped aquifer is located in the area of the Connor town line. Both are rated as good to excellent yielding (i.e., potential for ground water yield of greater than 50 gallons per minute).

New Sweden's ground water resources, although abundant, are susceptible to contamination from a variety of sources and thus, need to be afforded a planned level of protection. Some potential sources of groundwater contamination that have been identified by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) are: faulty/substandard septic systems, agricultural chemicals, underground fuel tanks, ground discharging floor drains, old solid waste dumps, and sand/salt storage piles. There are two (2) locations in Town that have been identified as having contaminated groundwater by the MDEP. All locations are sites of present or past gasoline stations and have experienced spills. The Technical Services Division at MDEP is currently monitoring these locations.

Surface Water

There are three (3) named ponds and six (6) named rivers or brooks in New Sweden. All are part of two major watersheds, Little Madawaska River and Caribou Stream which in turn, are located in the Aroostook River watershed. In addition to these named surface waters, there are numerous unnamed tributaries and springs that feed into the larger streams and ponds. New Sweden has numerous water resources, however, due to the lack of size of many of the ponds and streams, there is not much available printed data. Presently, there is no water quality monitoring efforts taking place on any of the waterbodies.

All of the streams and brooks in Town are classified as Class A. Class A waters are the second highest classification given by the MDEP. Class A waters are suitable for drinking water after disinfection and for fishing, recreation in or around the water, industrial processing and cooling, hydroelectric power generation, and as habitat for fish and other aquatic life. No discharges to these waters are allowed that have a quality lower than the receiving waters.

New Sweden's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance identifies a number of the smaller streams by name, all of which have been zoned Stream Protection (SP), 75 foot buffer, under the Ordinance. While there is a hand drawn map located in the Ordinance identifying these streams, most of the local names do not appear on USGS 15 or 7.5 minute topographical maps. Appendix A of the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance shows the local name of each stream.

Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat

New Sweden has a wide variety of natural habitats that are capable of supporting most of Maine's major wildlife and fish species. New Sweden's tracts of woodlands and wetlands, combined with significant cropland acreages, abandoned farmlands, and other habitat (i.e.: fringe areas, regeneration areas, etc.) are capable of supporting a tremendous amount of wildlife from songbirds to large animals, such as deer and moose. The long, cold winters and the amount of winter habitat are a limiting factor in all of Aroostook County for the amount of wildlife present.

Fisheries Habitat

It should be noted that when discussing the local fisheries resource, it is essential to clarify the critical role that all the Town's streams play in the health of the resource. Though all of the streams may not support trout populations, they serve to maintain the cold water temperatures necessary for healthy, viable populations. Brook trout become stressed in water temperatures above 68 degrees Fahrenheit for extended periods of time. Maintaining shade cover along all of streams helps to keep water temperatures at more tolerable levels.

According to Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W), Regional Fisheries Biologist, the Little Madawaska River supports a significant fishery for wild brook trout and, to a lesser extent, landlocked salmon. IF&W documents the fishery through reports from anglers and other census work. Biologists feel that the fishery is seasonal as trout move from the main river into smaller tributaries and spring holes during the warmer summer months. Access to the river is located along Jemtland Road and at a boat launch located in Stockholm.

Other small streams support wild brook trout and, very likely, a locally important small-scale sport fishery. The few small ponds located in Town have not been surveyed by IF&W, but biologists feel that these likely provide little direct benefit as trout fisheries.

Wildlife Habitat

The abundance of prime forestland soil and wetlands in New Sweden are an indicator of the Town's potential to support wildlife. In addition, agricultural land that is no longer in production and reverting back to upland vegetation provides important habitat for woodcock and other upland birds, snowshoe hare, deer, bear and moose. Cut-over woodland areas also provide significant amounts of browse, provided they are near uncut areas. Most of Maine's wildlife needs a diversity of habitat, including wetlands, fields, fringe areas and woods. Populations of these important species are influenced by land use practices on both agricultural and forestlands.

Biologists from IF&W surveyed and mapped deer wintering areas and waterfowl and wading bird habitats in Town and indicated the presence or absence of any endangered and threatened wildlife

species. In March 2019, the IF&W published new maps of New Sweden showing two (2) identified Deer Wintering Areas (DWAs). One along Caribou Stream and the other along Landeen Stream. It also mapped four (4) Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitats (WWH). Town officials may want to consider working with the landowners and IF&W to develop cooperative agreements for the protection of these resources. Town officials should contact the Regional Biologist in Ashland for more information.

Unique Natural Areas

Unique natural areas include any occurrences of endangered, threatened, or rare plants, animals, and natural biological communities as identified by the Natural Areas Division of the Maine Department of Conservation. These areas also include registered, qualified (but not registered), or nominated State Critical Areas by the Maine State Planning Office, and areas designated as National Natural Landmarks by the National Park Service. On the local level, any natural resource area that is unique to the Town of recognized local value may be considered for protection as a unique natural area.

The Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) and Beginning with Habitat has documented the location of four (4) rare plant species or natural communities in New Sweden. These are shown on IF&W Primary Map 1 listing Swamp Honeysuckle and Mystery Vertigo as plant species of special concern; Lapland Buttercup as a threatened species; and Circumneutral Fen as a natural community.

Hazard Areas

There are two types of hazard areas found in New Sweden, floodplain areas and areas of steep slopes. There are fairly extensive floodplains located throughout Town along most of the major streams and waterbodies. The major flood hazard areas are, according to data supplied by the National Flood Insurance Administration, along the Little Madawaska River, Beardsley Brook, Fogelin Pond, Sealander Brook, the stream flowing out of Gelot Pond, and portions of Caribou Stream. All of the floodplains are considered un-numbered "A" zones, meaning that flood elevations have not been determined. The National Flood Insurance Program is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Program has been designed to provide flood insurance for existing properties and discourage additional development within the 100-year floodplain. A 100-year flood is a flood with a 1 % chance in any given year of being equaled or exceeded. Floodplains are best suited for uses such as open space, recreational uses not requiring major structures, wildlife habitat, or agriculture lands.

Areas of steep slopes are referred to as hazard areas for a number of different reasons. Generally, the steeper the slope the more potential hazards exist. Steep slopes generally have a high surface run-off rate and accelerated erosion. Development on steep slopes requires sound engineering and more sophisticated sediment and erosion control planning. The cost of developing roads, buildings, and other structures tends to be significantly greater because of the increased hazards. Also, the operation of machinery can be extremely hazardous on slopes 15% or greater. There is one area that contains steep slopes located on the northeastern slope of Fogelin Hill.

Natural Resources Summary and Analysis

New Sweden enjoys a wide variety of natural resources. Town officials have taken steps to protect many of these resources through the development and adoption of land use or zoning ordinances. These ordinances have been reviewed by State officials prior to adoption. They use the definitions found in State ordinances and otherwise meet applicable State regulations.

Forestry

Forestry has an impact on both New Sweden's and the region's economy. There is a moderate amount of commercial forestland located in New Sweden, most of which, is located in the northeastern and southwestern portions of Town. Prime forestlands have implications for future community growth and change. Well-managed forestlands have multiple uses, including wildlife habitat, production of wood, protection of water quality and recreation. The future of New Sweden's forestlands should be planned for these multiple use considerations.

Water Resources

The Maine Geologic Survey has identified two (2) sand and gravel aquifers in Town, both located along the Little Madawaska River, one in the northwest corner of town and the other in the southeast. The largest mapped aquifer is located in the area of the Connor townline. Both are rated as good to excellent yielding (i.e., potential for ground water yield of greater than 50 gallons per minute). These aquifers offer potential areas for growth in Town. They are, however, susceptible to contamination from a variety of sources.

New Sweden's surface waters are primarily rivers, perennial streams and brooks. Town officials have zoned a majority of these streams under a Stream Protection District (SP), 75 foot buffer, under the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. Town officials may wish to consider reviewing the Ordinance to determine if there is an adequate level of protection for these resources.

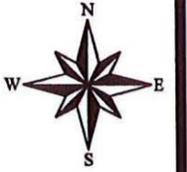
Fisheries

Several of the Town's streams, brooks, and tributaries provide good fisheries habitat. The Little Madawaska River is a well-known and prolific brook trout fishery for residents and visitors to the region. Town officials may wish to work with surrounding communities to develop protection strategies for this valuable resource.

Legend

-  Township Boundaries
-  Roads
-  Abandoned Railroad Beds
-  Power Transmission Lines
-  Streams
-  Rivers, Lakes and Ponds
-  Topography

0 875 1,750 3,500 5,250 7,000 Feet
1 inch equals 3,500 feet



Connor

Caribou

Woodland



New Sweden
Comprehensive Plan
Topography Map

Legend

-  Township Boundaries
-  Roads
-  Abandoned Railroad Beds
-  Power Transmission Lines
-  Streams
-  Rivers, Lakes and Ponds
-  National Wetlands Inventory
-  Sand and Gravel Aquifers

0 875 1,750 3,500 5,250 7,000 Feet

1 inch equals 3,500 feet

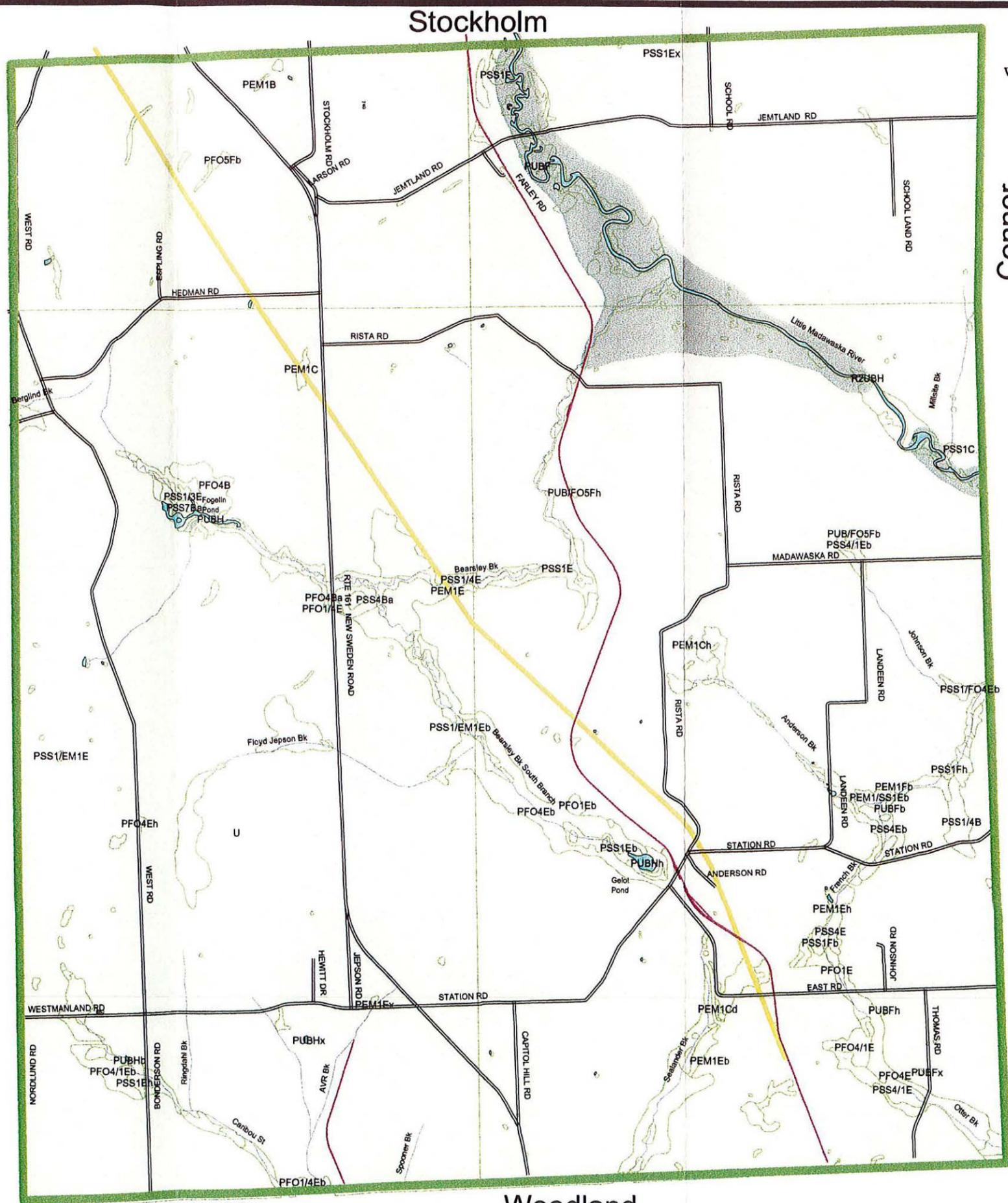


Westmanland

Connor

Caribou

Woodland



New Sweden
Comprehensive Plan
Water Resources Map

Legend

-  Township Boundaries
-  Roads
-  Abandoned Railroad Beds
-  Power Transmission Lines
-  Streams
-  Rivers, Lakes and Ponds
-  Topography
-  Floodplains
-  National Wetlands Inventory
-  Sand and Gravel Aquifers

0 875 1,750 3,500 5,250 7,000 Feet

1 inch equals 3,500 feet

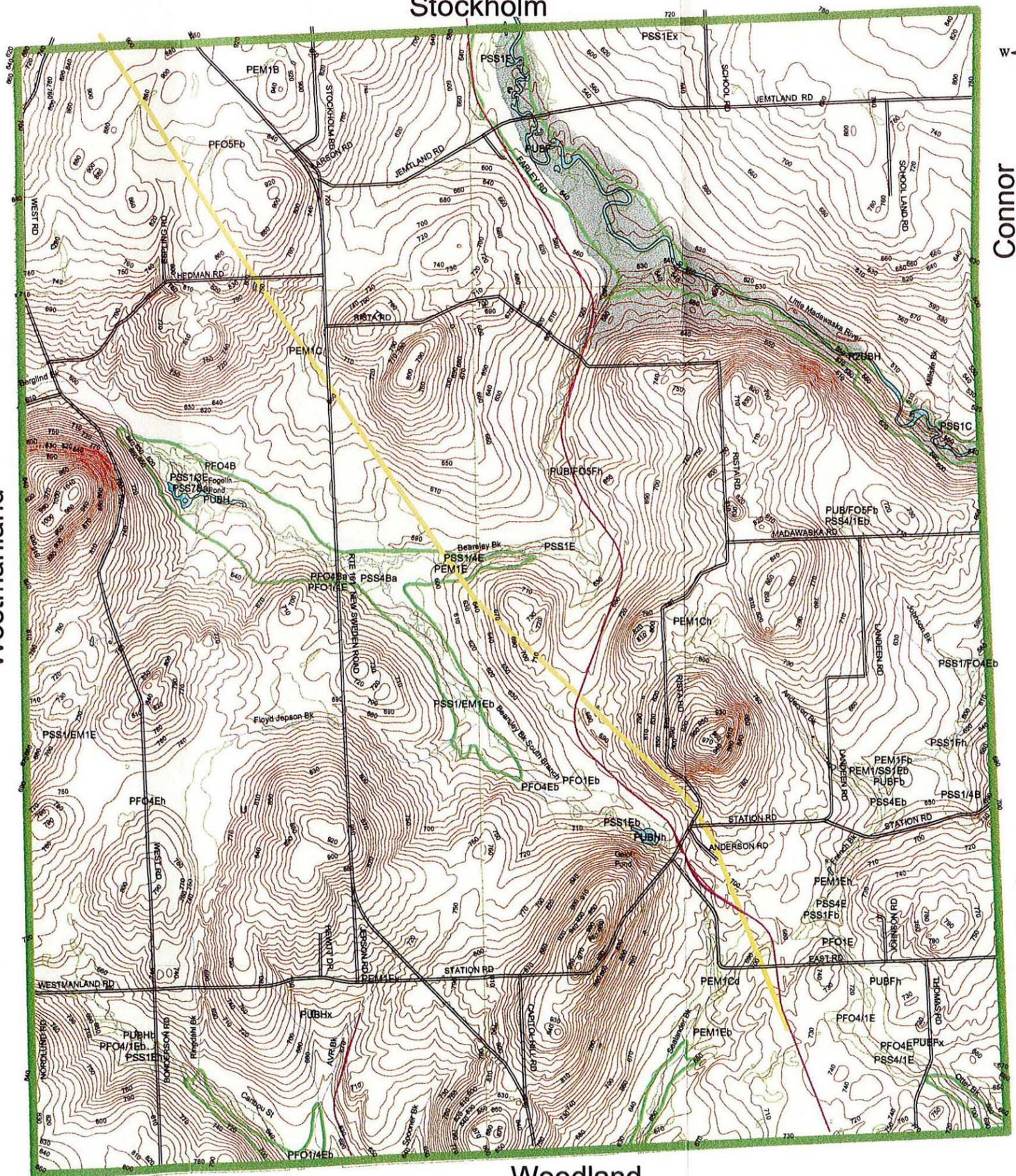
Stockholm



Westmanland

Connor

Caribou



Woodland



New Sweden
Comprehensive Plan
Development Constraints Map

Legend

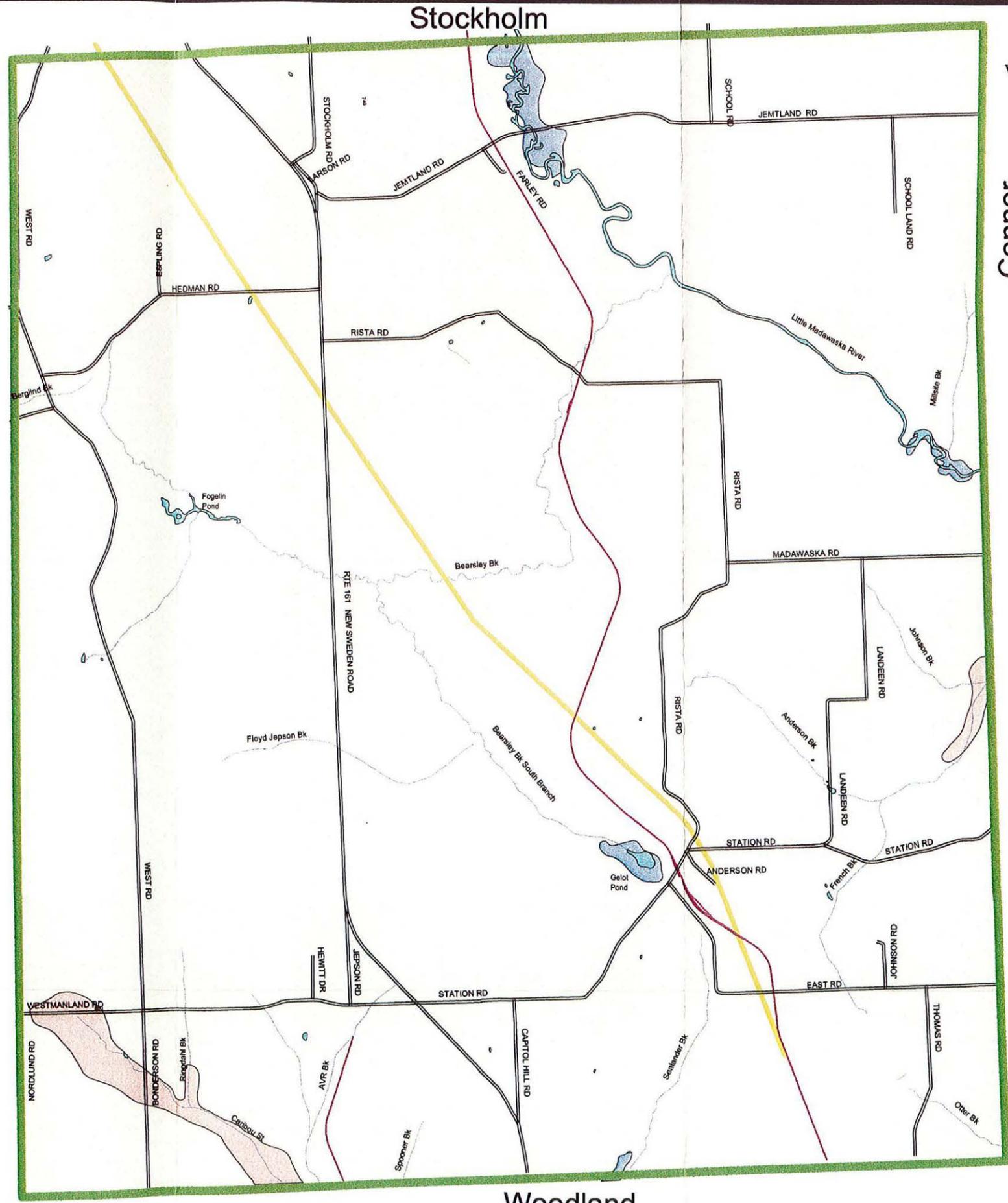
-  Township Boundaries
-  Roads
-  Abandoned Railroad Beds
-  Power Transmission Lines
-  Streams
-  Rivers, Lakes and Ponds
-  Wading Waterfowl Habitat
-  Deer Wintering Area

0 875 1,750 3,500 5,250 7,000 Feet

1 inch equals 3,500 feet



Westmanland



Connor

Caribou

Woodland



New Sweden
Comprehensive Plan
Critical Natural Resources Map

Beginning with HABITAT An Approach to Conserving Maine's Natural Space for Plants, Animals, and People
 Primary Map 2
High Value Plant & Animal Habitats
New Sweden
This map is non-regulatory and is intended for planning purposes only.



LEGEND

Beginning with Habitat (BWH) is a voluntary tool intended to assist landowners, resource managers, planners, and municipalities in identifying and making informed decisions about areas of potential natural resource concern. This data includes the best available information provided through BWH's coalition partners as of the map date. And is intended for information purposes only. It should not be interpreted as a comprehensive analysis of plant and animal occurrences or other local resources, but rather as an initial screen to flag areas where agency consultation may be appropriate. Habitat data sets are updated continuously as more accurate and current data becomes available. However, as many areas have not been completely surveyed, features may be present that are not yet mapped, and the boundaries of some depicted features may need to be revised. Local knowledge is critical in providing accurate data. If errors are noted in the current depiction of resources, please contact our office. Some habitat features depicted on this map are regulated by the State of Maine through the Maine Endangered Species Act (Essential Habitats and threatened and endangered species occurrences) and Natural Resources Protection Act (Significant Wildlife Habitat). We recommend consultation with MDIFW Regional Biologists or MNAP Ecologists if activities are proposed within resource areas depicted on this map. Consultation early in the planning process usually helps to resolve regulatory concerns and minimize agency review time. For MDIFW and MNAP contact information, visit <http://www.beginningwithhabitat.org/contacts/index.html>.

Organized Township Boundary
 Unorganized Township
 Selected Town or Area of Interest
 Developed Impervious surfaces such as buildings and roads

Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Wildlife

Known rare, threatened, or endangered species occurrence and/or the associated habitats based on species sightings
 Consult with an MDIFW regional biologist to determine the relative importance and conservation needs of the specific location and supporting habitat. The names of some species have been masked with a "Rare Animal" designation on the map for further protection. For more information regarding individual species visit our website: http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/endangered/listed_species_mn.htm for species specific fact sheets.

The Federal Endangered Species Act requires actions authorized, funded, or carried out by federal agencies to be reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If your project occurs near an occurrence of the Atlantic Salmon, Roseate Tern, Piping Plover, Canada Lynx, New England Cottontail, Fishback Loon, or Small whorled Pigeon contact the Maine Field Office, USFWS, 1168 Main St., Old Town, ME 04460.

Rare or Exemplary Plants and Natural Communities

Rare Plant Locations
 Known rare, threatened, or endangered plant occurrences are based on field observations. The names of some species have been masked with a "Rare Plant" designation on the map for further protection. Consult with a Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) Ecologist to determine conservation needs of particular species. For more information regarding rare plants the complete list of tracked species and fact sheets for those species can be found at <http://www.maine.gov/doeh/mnmap/features/plantlist.htm>

Rare or Exemplary Natural Community Locations
 The MNAP has classified and distinguished 88 different natural community types that collectively cover the state's landscape. These include such habitats as floodplain forests, coastal bogs, alpine summits, and many others. Each type is assigned a rarity rank of 1 (rare) through 5 (common). Mapped rare natural communities or ecosystems, or exemplary examples of common natural communities or ecosystems, are based on field surveys and aerial photo interpretation. Consult with an MNAP Ecologist to determine conservation needs of particular communities or ecosystems.

Essential Wildlife Habitats

Roseate Tern Nesting Area or Piping Plover/Least Tern Nesting, Feeding, & Brood-Rearing Area
 Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (MDIFW, www.state.me.us/ifw) maps areas currently or historically providing habitat essential to the conservation of endangered or threatened species as directed by the Maine Endangered Species Act (12 M.R.S.A., Chapter 225, Subchapter 3, Sections 12504 and 12505) and regulations (MDIFW Rules, Chapter 8 (05)). Identification of Essential Habitat areas is based on species observations and confirmed habitat use. If a project occurs partly or wholly within an Essential Habitat, it must be evaluated by MDIFW before state and/or municipal permits can be approved or project activities can take place.

Significant Wildlife Habitats

Candidate Deer Wintering Area
 Forested area possibly used by deer for shelter during periods of deep snow and cold temperatures. Assessing the current value of a deer wintering area requires on-site investigation and verification by IF&W staff. Locations depicted should be considered as approximate only.

Inland Waterfowl / Wading Bird
 Freshwater breeding, migration/staging, and wintering habitats for inland waterfowl or breeding, feeding, loafing, migration, or roosting habitats for inland wading birds.

Seabird Nesting Island
 An island, ledge, or portion thereof in tidal waters with documented, nesting seabirds or suitable nesting habitat for endangered seabirds.

Shorebird Areas
 Coastal staging areas that provide feeding habitat like tidal mud flats or roosting habitat like gravel bars or sand spits for migrating shorebirds.

Tidal Waterfowl / Wading Bird
 Breeding, migrating/staging, or wintering areas for coastal waterfowl or breeding, feeding, loafing, migration, or roosting areas for coastal wading birds. Tidal Waterfowl/Wading Bird habitats include aquatic beds, eelgrass, emergent wetlands, mudflats, seaweed communities, and reefs.

Significant Vernal Pools
 A pool depression used for breeding by amphibians and other indicator species and that portion of the riparian terrestrial habitat within 250 ft of the spring or fall high water mark. A vernal pool must have the following characteristics: natural origin, nonpermanent hydroperiod, lack permanently flowing inlet or outlet, and lack predatory fish.

Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act
 Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA, 1989) is administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP, <http://www.maine.gov/dep>) and is intended to prevent further degradation and loss of natural resources in the state, including the above Significant Wildlife Habitats that have been mapped by MDIFW. MDEP has regulatory authority over most Significant Wildlife Habitat types. The regional MDEP office should be consulted when considering a project in these areas.

Atlantic Salmon Spawning/Rearing Habitat

Atlantic Salmon Rearing Habitat
 Atlantic Salmon Spawning Habitat
 Atlantic Salmon Limited Spawning Habitat
 Mapped by Atlantic Salmon Commission (ASC) and US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) from field surveys on selected Penobscot and Kennebec River tributaries and the Derry, Ducktrap, East Machias, Machias, Pleasant, Narraguagus, and Sheepscot Rivers.

Data Sources

DATA SOURCE INFORMATION
TOWNSHIP BOUNDARIES
 Maine Office of GIS, March 24 (2013)
ROADS
 Maine Office of GIS, Maine Department of Transportation, March 2015
HYDROLOGY
 U.S. Geological Survey National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) Maine (2012)
DEVELOPED
 Maine Office of GIS, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and multiple other agencies (2015)
ESSENTIAL & SIGNIFICANT WILDLIFE HABITATS
 Maine Office of GIS, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, DVA, ETRC, Epsilon, Epsilon (W&H), Inc., (2008), FWRI (2003, 2013)
MAINE NATURAL COMMUNITIES & PLANTS
 Maine Natural Areas Program, MNAP, 2015 (2015)
ATLANTIC SALMON HABITAT
 Maine Office of GIS, Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, April 27 (2013)

DATA SOURCE CONTACT INFORMATION
 Maine Office of GIS: <http://www.maine.gov/dep/gis>
 Maine Natural Areas Program: <http://www.maine.gov/doeh/mnmap/index.html>
 Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife: <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/>
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Gulf of Maine Program: <http://gulf.maine.fws.gov/>
 Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission: <http://www.maine.gov/asc/>
 Maine Department of Transportation: <http://www.maine.gov/dot/>

DIGITAL DATA REQUEST
 To request digital data for a town or organization, please visit our website: http://www.beginningwithhabitat.org/the_maps/data_request.html

Map Prepared by Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
 March 2019

Cultural and Historic Resources

In the public opinion survey conducted in advance of the preparation of this comprehensive plan, current residents have expressed a deep interest in retaining the cultural heritage of New Sweden. They also expressed their appreciation for the peacefulness, privacy and closeness to nature that living in New Sweden provides. A summary of the history of New Sweden's founding is enlightening.

New Sweden – A History.

On July 23, 1870, a Swedish Colony was established by the State of Maine in the virgin forest of Aroostook County. Maine had appointed William Widgery Thomas, Jr., who had served as Lincoln's Civil War consul in Sweden as State Immigration Commissioner. He went to Sweden, recruited the first 51 immigrants and led them into the township that became New Sweden. Early hardships were overcome and the Colony prospered and grew into the neighboring towns of Westmanland (1879), Stockholm (1881) and surrounding areas.

The Evangelical Covenant Church developed from a nucleus of 20 members who joined together on November 27, 1886. Rev. O. P. Fogelin became the first Pastor. On September 22, 1891, the members met in a partially completed church, which was then incorporated as the Free Christian Gospel Mission Church of New Sweden. The church building was dedicated December 6, 1891. In 1897, the church joined the Aroostook Conference of Congregational Churches. In the 1940's, it became affiliated with the Eastern Missionary Association and then with the Evangelical Covenant Church of America.

The Gustaf Adolph Lutheran Church was organized in August, 1871, under the leadership of Pastor Andrew Wiren, as the first Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church of New Sweden, Maine. The name was changed in July, 1896. The original (and present) church building was dedicated on July 23, 1880. It is now on the National Register of Historic Places. In July, 1901, it was decided to annually celebrate the day of the founding of the Colony.

The First Baptist Church of New Sweden was organized on March 4, 1871, and Mr. Nels Olsson became the first church leader. On August 27, 1892, the present church building was dedicated. A Sunday School was started in Stockholm in 1897. In 1907, a chapel was built in Jemtland and, in 1939, another chapel was built in the B&A section of town.

The Larsson/Ostlund two-story log house was built by the Noak Larsson family. It was owned and occupied by the George Ostlund family from 1910-1989. Maine's Swedish Colony, Inc. purchased the 40 acre property in 1989 and restored the exteriors of the house, potato cellar and garage. Restoration work is continuing. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Lars Noak Blacksmith and Woodworking Shop was built by Lars Noak, the son of Noak Larsson, around 1900, on the hill known as Mt. Ararat. It is located across the road from the log house. The shop was operated until about 1940, and was preserved in original condition since then. Demonstrations and "open house" functions are held during the summer months. This building is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Capitol School is the last of the one-room schoolhouses built in various sections of New Sweden in the 1920's and it is the only one retaining its original character. After it ceased to operate as a school in 1950, it served as the Town's voting place and housed the local Grange. The school contains the original blackboards, teacher's desk, text books and student desks from the same era. In 1994, a Scandinavian Gift Shop opened in this building to benefit the restoration and maintenance of the buildings being restored by Maine's Swedish Colony, Inc.

New Sweden Historical Society Museum - a large public building, called "Kapitolium"- was built by the Swedish settlers on a public lot on Capitol Hill in the fall of 1870. It served as the immigrant reception center, school, supply store, church and town hall. When a new town hall was built, the "Capitolium" became a Museum. It burned in June, 1971 and was rebuilt by 1974. All of the artifacts and the large front doors were saved from the fire and are a part of the new building today.

The Lindsted Stuga is a typical early immigrant log home. It was built in Westmanland as the original home of Karl and Kerstin Lindsten and their children. After a new frame home was built, the log cabin was used as a tool shed. In 1980, it was moved to its present location behind the New Sweden Museum and restored. It is furnished with many of the original family furnishings. Open house tours give visitors a view of the "way it was" in the early days.

Thomas Park owes its background to the generosity of W. W. Thomas, Jr., who deeded the land to the Town for the purpose of having a community social gathering place. Through the efforts of many Town volunteers, park benches, a dining hall and a band shell were added. Many summer events are held here.

The US Post Office opened in Clase's Log Cabin, perhaps moved to the Museum building, then the Bernard Pearson place. Around 1901, it was housed in Tournquist's General Store. There was also a Post Office at "Nelson" on Andrew Nelson's farm on West Road from 1905-1908. In 1914, the Capitol Post Office was consolidated with one in the re-located log Old Center School at New Sweden Station. The new and present Post Office building was opened on January 11, 1970.

The New Sweden Cemetery grounds were deeded to the Town and a New Sweden Cemetery Association was formed in 1905. A formal dedication was held on July 27, 1909. The first cemetery, dedicated on July 23, 1870, is located behind the Museum and a large granite monument marks the area. It is engraved with the names of the first early burials.

Many "Swedish" traditional celebrations are enjoyed throughout the season as well as other occasions; beginning with Memorial Day weekend; Midsommar in June; Fourth of July; New Sweden Day on July 23rd; Labor Day in September; Leif Ericson Day in October; and Lucia Day in December.

Current Heritage Contributions and Resources

Churches

From this historical reference, one can see why citizens value the three churches located in New Sweden--Evangelical Covenant Church, Gustaf Adolph Lutheran Church and First Baptist Church. These congregations actively contribute to the community through their services and special event calendars.

The New Sweden Historical Society Museum

Housed in the Capitol (Kapitoleum), a replica of a community hall built in 1870 by the first settlers of New Sweden, this museum is located off Route 161 on Station Road. It contains collections of home utensils, farm equipment, guns, horse-drawn vehicles, hand crafted items and the records and documents brought by emigrants from Sweden.

Located beside the Museum is the Capitol School which was the last of the one-room schoolhouses built in New Sweden. Behind the Museum is the Larsson log home, a restored replica of the typical early immigrant log home.

Thomas Park and Amphitheater

The Park offers residents and families the opportunity to picnic and enjoy a beautiful overview of the region. The Park also contains a community hall and large outdoor amphitheater. Events are offered throughout the summer months, including concerts featuring local musicians. Located on the Park grounds is the Lars Noak Blacksmith and Woodworking Shop, which provides an “open house” during the Midsommar Celebration.

New Sweden's Midsommar Celebration

On the weekend nearest to June 21, the Swedes in northern Maine, like those in Sweden, celebrate the summer solstice. Activities center on the decoration of the Maypole, and includes, among other activities, Scandinavian fiddle music, Swedish dancing and a variety of traditional meals.

The Town actively supports the maintenance of the Park and Cemetery through tax revenues.

Regional Cultural Resources

In addition to the Cultural Resources within New Sweden noted above, there are a variety of opportunities for cultural and recreation within the region. Several of these are noted below.

The Tri-Cultural Museum

Tri-Cultural Museum, located in Stockholm, is listed on the National Historic Register and once served as the Town's first store and post office, and now houses the Town's historical collection.

The Caribou Performing Arts Center

The largest facility for hosting performances in the area, the Center has a seating capacity of 825. The center was built as an adjunct to the Caribou High School in 1987. Through this facility, a wide range of cultural and entertainment events are offered.

The Nylander Museum

The Nylander Museum, located at 393 Main Street in Caribou, provides a variety of geological and natural history exhibits throughout the year. The museum is typically open from Labor Day through Memorial Day and special visits can be arranged. The museum houses fossils, rock minerals, butterflies and shells collected by Olaf Nylander, a native plant garden, as well as various other items for exhibition.

The Caribou Public Library

The Caribou Public Library, with a collection total of 46,765 items, reflects a circulation figure of 65,700. The State of Maine support of libraries on a per capita level is the next to the lowest in the United States. A reserve fund for the library has been initiated as part of the City's capital improvement plans. Patron support continues to be an important element in the efforts of the librarian and the staff in implementing better and more comprehensive library services. For a nominal annual fee, New Sweden residents have access to all Caribou Public Library services and resources.

The University of Maine at Presque Isle

The close proximity of the University of Maine at Presque Isle offers Town residents significant cultural opportunities. Local concerts and live theater productions are offered throughout the year at Gentile Hall. The extensive services are available through the University Library.

The Maine Potato Blossom Festival

The Maine Potato Blossom Festival is held during the third week of July in Fort Fairfield, when hundreds of acres of potato fields come into blossom throughout Aroostook County. Events include a gigantic festival parade. The festival ends with a fireworks display.

The Northern Maine Agricultural Fair

An agricultural fair established in 1854, is held during the first week in August in Presque Isle. The Fair features the largest midway in the County, amusement park rides, agricultural exhibits, arts and craft exhibits, fireworks, and evening entertainment performances and harness racing.

Recreational Resources

Residents of New Sweden have access to a variety of recreational activities. Regional parks and recreational facilities are major community assets and concerns. They are often the tool that will help prospective residents to decide whether or not to live within a particular community or for a business to relocate. They reflect a sense of pride, community, and quality of life and they provide open space for residents and visitors and enhance a community's appearance. Although winter weather brings a shudder to our neighbors in the southern portion of the state, people in this area enjoy the snow through a variety of activities such as downhill and cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, ice-fishing, skating and tobogganing. In the summer and fall, residents and tourists alike enjoy outdoor activities ranging from bicycling, golfing, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, hunting, camping, and hiking. The area is dotted with many lakes and streams with public access

that provides the opportunity for most water sports. Many people have rented or purchased camps within the area to enjoy the season more fully. In the southwestern portion of the subregion, access to Mount Katahdin and Baxter State Park offer excellent opportunities for outdoor activities, including mountain climbing.

Because New Sweden's recreational resources are limited, residents rely on the Caribou Parks and Recreation Department for many organized sports. The focal points of the recreational resources in New Sweden are Thomas Park, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, bicycling and ATViing. New Sweden's natural resources are, and should continue to be, a major recreational asset. There is ample land for hunting and there are many ponds and streams for fishing.

There are many golf courses in the area, such as the Caribou Country Club, Mars Hill Country Club, Aroostook Valley Country Club in Fort Fairfield, Presque Isle Country Club, Community Golf Course in Houlton, Va-Jo-Wa Golf Course in Island Falls, Portage Hills Country Club, Fort Kent Golf Course, Birch Point Golf Course in Madawaska and three golf courses in New Brunswick---Edmundston, Woodstock and Grand Falls.

Residents and Town officials might consider several options to improve local recreational opportunities without expending considerable amounts of money. Resident interested in local recreation opportunities should become involved with and/or support the Recreation Committee in order to develop a Town recreation plan to meet identified needs. Access to snowmobile and AVT trails could be enhanced. Scenic spots and vistas could be preserved and provided with picnic tables, grills, benches, etc. For a modest expenditure of funds programmed over several years, a picnic area along the banks of one of the waterbodies could be developed. These waterbodies could become more attractive as recreational resources when developed and people come to recognize their importance. Continued cooperative arrangements with the Caribou Recreation Department should be maintained. All of this could mean an expansion of recreational programs and options.

Recreation Trails

New Sweden's Nordic Lakers Snowmobile Club (Club) maintains 18 miles of groomed snowmobile trails which are all part of the 2,200 miles of trails that crisscross Aroostook County. The Club is responsible for a portion of ITS-83, Connector Trail 105, and Trail 88 (referred to as the "Swede's Trail"). Total trail maintenance costs, including grooming, is approximately \$8,000 per year, which is partially reimbursed through a grant from Maine Department of Conservation. Issues that affect grooming, maintenance and trail retention include increased snowmobile traffic, trespass and landowner relations.

The Aroostook Valley ATV Club maintains approximately 25 miles of local trails that connect directly with the 79.5 miles of rail bed trail, as well as other local trail systems. Funding is provided through a grant from the Maine Department of Conservation at approximately \$2,500 per year. There are numerous issues with ATV use. The two primary issues are early season disruption of trail surfacing and lack of sufficient funding to maintain trails. A better system of funding the ATV trail maintenance program is required and local clubs are working with the Maine Department of Conservation to explore options. A recent growth in the number of ATVs purchased both locally and statewide has placed a significant amount of pressure on ATV organizations statewide to increase and improve current infrastructure.

Stockholm provides easy access to a trail for cross country skiing, snowshoeing and hiking from a parking area near the center of Town. This parking area has a public boat launch on the Little Madawaska River, which offers put-in and take-out on this popular kayaking/canoeing section of the river running from north to south through New Sweden.

Currently, there are no trails in New Sweden being maintained or groomed to serve as cross-country skiing or snow shoeing. Studies regarding potential interest for designation and maintenance of trails for these purposes should be considered.

Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat

New Sweden has a wide variety of natural habitats that are capable of supporting most of Maine's major wildlife and fish species. New Sweden's tracts of woodlands and wetlands, combined with significant cropland acreages, abandoned farmlands and other habitat (i.e., fringe areas, regeneration areas, etc.) are capable of supporting a tremendous amount of wildlife from songbirds to large animals, such as deer and moose. However, the long, cold winters and the amount of winter habitat are a limiting factor in all of Aroostook County for the amount of wildlife present.

Fishing

When discussing the local fisheries resource, it is essential to clarify the critical role that all of the Town's streams play in the health of the resource, though all of the streams may not support trout populations, they serve to maintain the cold water temperatures necessary for healthy, viable populations. Brook trout become stressed in water temperatures above 68 degrees Fahrenheit for extended periods of time. Maintaining shade cover along all of streams helps to keep water temperatures at more tolerable levels.

According to IF&W, Regional Fisheries Biologist, the Little Madawaska River supports a significant fishery for wild brook trout and, to a lesser extent, landlocked salmon. IF&W documents the fishery through reports from anglers and other census work. Biologists feel that the fishery is seasonal as trout move from the main river into smaller tributaries and spring holes during the warmer summer months. Other small streams support wild brook trout and very likely a locally important small-scale sport fishery. The few small ponds located in Town have not been surveyed by IF&W, but biologists feel that these likely provide little direct benefit as trout fisheries.

Hunting

The abundance of prime forestland soils, and wetlands in New Sweden are an indicator of the town's potential to support wildlife. In addition, agricultural land that is no longer in production and reverting back to upland vegetation provides important habitat for woodcock and other upland birds, snowshoe hare, deer, bear, and moose. Cut-over woodland areas also provide significant amounts of browse, provided they are near uncut areas. Populations of these important species are influenced by land use practices on both agricultural and forestlands. The Natural Resources Section of this Plan summarizes the deer wintering areas and bird habitats located in New Sweden.

Boating

There are no public hand carry or boat launch areas along any of the waterbodies in New Sweden. However, easy access to scenic sections of the Little Madawaska River, which runs from north to south through New Sweden, is available in Stockholm at a public boat launch and parking area. These areas are popular in the spring and summer for fishing and canoeing. Town officials may wish to consider identifying and working to obtain public access to these waterbodies in order to ensure that they remain open to the public. In addition, these areas may be developed as “waterfront” parks with picnic tables, grills, benches, etc.

Scenic and Open Space Resources

Scenic and open space resources are those areas of the community that may offer scenic vistas or large tracts of open fields, such as areas identified by the state as having scenic value, scenic views, natural or cultural features (churches, trees, fields, mountains...), and parts of the community that contribute to the character of the town (village green, historic sites...).

There are no areas in New Sweden identified by the State as having scenic value of statewide significance. However, the Town is endowed with a number of scenic and open space areas and views. The Town's topography (with several ridges and rolling hills) provides for some incredible panoramic views. These areas are a major resource and should be maintained. New Sweden has no local ordinance provisions to consider impacts of certain types of development upon scenic or open space sites. The Town should consider mechanisms for the identification, assessment, and protection (as needed) of existing or potential sites, and performance standards for development activities within or adjacent to existing or potential sites. The following scenic and open space areas have been identified:

- Thomas Park – front and back views
- Jacobson Hill (Route 161) and behind the former elementary school
- Hemberg Hill (off Rista Road)
- West Road (by Home Farm)

Public Access

Public access is defined as those opportunities people have to obtain entry to and use of waterbodies and large tracts of land for recreational pursuits. The streams and brooks in Town provide for good fishing opportunities. The Little Madawaska River (and its tributaries), which traverse the Town, affords numerous points of access off the Town's roads and the River has been recognized by the IF&W with fisheries values in need of guaranteed public access or additional access development.

As noted, New Sweden has no local ordinance provisions that consider impacts of certain types of development upon areas of public access or work to obtain guaranteed public access. The Town should consider mechanisms for; the identification, assessment and protection (as needed) of existing or potential public access sites, and performance standards for development activities within or adjacent to existing or potential public access sites.

Archaeological, Prehistoric, and Historic Resources

Archaeological, prehistoric and historic resources include sites on the National Register of Historic Places, sites on existing historical surveys, local historic areas and other sites of potential historic significance. It is important to review these resources and identify the surrounding land uses or other areas that may have an impact on these resources and then plan accordingly.

Archaeological and Prehistoric Sites

According to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC), there are no known archaeological or prehistoric sites (no surveys have been done) in New Sweden as of April, 2019. Archaeological resources are physical remains of the past, most commonly buried in the ground or very difficult to see on the surface. In many areas of Maine, these areas are generally found within 50 yards of an existing or former shoreline. These areas provided good boat access and camp locations. Although 4,500 sites have been identified in Maine, there may be an additional 12,000 sites to be discovered. No professional survey for historic archaeological sites has been conducted in New Sweden. MHPC recognizes that the Little Madawaska River Valley is archaeologically sensitive and in need of survey work.

New Sweden Historic Buildings and Sites

It is important for communities to remember and preserve traces of their past -- houses, churches, farms or grange halls, to name a few. Such buildings and sites contribute texture to the town, bring history to life for many and set a standard for other contributions into the future. The MHPC is the central repository in the State for all archaeological and prehistoric survey information. Survey files include computer files, map sets, paper data forms, field notes, detailed unpublished reports, photographic archives and published works. Most of the basic information is retrievable on a town-by-town basis. It is the policy of MHPC that the standard of historic value reflected in municipal plans should normally be eligibility to or listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

According to MHPC, New Sweden does have five (5) properties currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. They are:

1. Timmer Huset on Route 161
2. Lars-Noak Historic area on Station Road
3. Nicholas P. Clase house on Capitol Hill Road
4. Anders and Johanna Olsson farm on West Road - largest known pre-1900 log structure in New England
5. Gustaf Adolph Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill Road

MHPC recommends that future surveys need to be done to focus on historic above-ground resources to identify other properties that may be eligible for nomination to the National Register. These could include a focus on sites relating to the earliest settlement of the Town, beginning in the late-19th century and characterized by the distinctive Scandinavian ethnic group.

New Sweden, unlike many other towns in Aroostook County, does have a large number of historic buildings. The following list includes buildings and sites in New Sweden that have local historic

significance and would be beneficial to the people as a reflection of the history and development of the community and area.

- Thomas Park- off Station Road
- Museum- off Station Road
- New Sweden Cemetery- off Station Road
- Lindsted Stuga- off Station Road
- School (original)
- Rista Road Cemetery
- Jemtland Cemetery – Hedman Road
- Celia Johanson House – Rista Road
- Brian McDougal’s House- Capitol Hill Road

New Sweden local Ordinance provisions consider impacts of certain types of development upon historic structures and sites. The Town has updated mechanisms for the identification, assessment and protection (as needed) of existing or potential sites, and performance standards for ground disturbing activities within or adjacent to existing or potential sites.

PART 2

Regional Coordination

A key element of the Comprehensive Plan is the recognition that New Sweden shares many resources with surrounding communities. Caribou is a service center for New Sweden. The City of Caribou provides fire, ambulance and high school educational services to New Sweden. New Sweden's neighbors include Stockholm to the north; Westmanland to the west; Woodland to the south; and Caribou and Connor to the east. These communities were forwarded a copy of the Plan and given the opportunity for their review and comment.

The most common shared resources among the communities are natural resources, transportation facilities, public facilities and services, education and fire protection. New Sweden also is well aware of the importance of regionalism and is willing to work with surrounding communities to examine and review the need for regional services and facilities. New Sweden is also willing to work towards the implementation those services and facilities that are mutually beneficial to the communities. However, Town officials need to ensure that any regional coordination is initiated and administered at the local level.

During the comprehensive planning process, Town officials identified implementation actions to address the following elements of regional importance within the policies and strategies. These actions spell out the specific steps that will be taken by the Town over the next five to ten years in dealing with regional issues and resources.

Public Facilities and Services

- Recreation - shared with many surrounding communities
- Solid Waste Management - Tri Community Sanitary Landfill and Recycling Center
- Code Enforcement
- Fire/Ambulance/Police - mutual aid with many surrounding communities
- Education - School Union 122

Transportation

- Roads and Bridges - Route 161
- Public Transit – ARTS*
- Airports and Air Services
- Trails - regional snowmobile registrations and importance of trails to local economy
- Others

Natural Resources

- Waterbodies - Little Madawaska River, Caribou Stream and many others
- Wetlands
- Deer Wintering Areas
- Wading Bird and Waterfowl Habitats

- Fisheries
- Forestlands
- Agriculture

Land Use

- Mobility
- Corridors
- Zoning and Land Use Regulation
- Growth and Rural Areas
- Service Centers

*Aroostook Regional Transportation System, Inc. (ARTS) is a 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 1979. Since that time, ARTS has provided a demand-response door-to-door transportation services for the people of Aroostook County. ARTS provides transportation to all towns in Aroostook County, Patten/Stacyville in Penobscot County and Danforth in Washington County.

Transportation services are provided for the general public, individuals with disabilities, and the elderly at affordable rates. Services are provided for Aroostook Area Agency on Aging, Central Aroostook Association, LogistiCare (MaineCare) and the Maine Department of Health and Human Services through a contracted rate with no charge to the individuals.

ARTS demand-response door-to-door services are provided by buses or vans that are all handicapped accessible vehicles.

PART 3

NEW SWEDEN GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

This section of the Plan serves to identify community problems, needs, assets and the characteristics of local importance or value. It also serves as a reference for anyone considering New Sweden as a residential or business site. In addition, this section also serves to place New Sweden in a regional perspective in that it contains a considerable amount of comparative information.

The goals, policies, and strategies provide a comprehensive analysis of what the residents of New Sweden want their Town to be. The policies build upon the goals and refine the vision into a more detailed set of proposals for how the Town's authorities and leaders should guide its growth and change during the 21st century to assure that the future growth is continually assimilated into the community and does not overburden the ability of the Town to provide services.

Introduction

In many Maine communities, land use planning, regulations and enforcement on the part of the state and local communities have permitted some random development to spread throughout the countryside. Badly sited developments frequently degraded natural resources, destroyed farmland and woodland and filled in wetlands. In the past across the state, residential neighborhoods have been compromised and community resources strained. While increased commercial and residential development is often desirable and even necessary to the health and prosperity of the community, it is only true if such growth is managed wisely.

In response to the growth-related problems, the State legislature developed growth management laws and regulations. The mandates are guided by ten (10) goals and require that all communities accepting state funds for planning programs address these goals in their comprehensive plans.

The State goals are reprinted below for a reference followed by the local goals, policies and strategies. The policies of this Plan promote the applicable sections these State goals:

1. To encourage orderly growth and development in appropriate areas of each community, while protecting the State's rural character, making efficient use of public services and preventing development sprawl.
2. To plan, finance and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development.
3. To promote an economic climate that increases job opportunities and overall economic well-being.
4. To encourage and promote affordable, decent housing opportunities for all Maine citizens.
5. To protect the quality and manage the quantity of the State's water resources, including lakes, aquifers, great ponds, estuaries, rivers and coastal areas.
6. To protect the State's other critical natural resources including, without limitation, wetlands, wildlife and fisheries habitat, sand dunes, shorelands, scenic vistas and unique natural areas.
7. To protect the State's marine resources industry, ports and harbors from incompatible development and promote access to the shore for commercial fishermen and the public.

8. To safeguard the State's agricultural and forest resources from development, which threatens those resources.
9. To preserve the State's historic and archaeological resources.
10. To promote and protect the availability of outdoor recreational opportunities for all Maine citizens, including access to surface waters.

New Sweden has long recognized the community advantages of managing growth. A Planning Board was established in 1971 and in 1980 the citizens adopted the first Comprehensive Plan. New Sweden was one of the first communities in the State to adopt a Comprehensive Plan.

Ordinances and regulations based on the goals, policies and strategies in this Plan, were written and adopted by residents at a Town Meeting. These include Shoreland Zoning, Subdivision, Manufactured Housing, Cable Television, Timber Harvesting and Aerial Spraying of Chemicals. Standards for residential development were also adopted, including lot size, setbacks and approved septic systems. In 2001, New Sweden adopted a Land Use Ordinance. Several of the previously existing Ordinances were incorporated into the new Ordinance. The Town adopted an amended Land Use Ordinance in 2015 that included regulations for commercial and industrial development. Both the 2001 and 2015 Land Use Ordinances were approved by the Maine State Planning Office.

It is noted under Title 30-A, Section 4326 of Maine's Planning and Land Use Regulations that New Sweden is not required to identify growth areas due to it declining population and limited new housing applications in recent years. Additionally, there is no need for nor plans for constructing public water supply and sewer. Therefore, no growth or rural area will be delineated on a land use map.

Comprehensive planning is an ongoing process and, as New Sweden's Comprehensive Plan is being revised and rewritten, particular attention is being paid to the Policies and Strategies section. This section will guide the Town's decision making and provide a framework for investment and land management decisions so that future local investment may be in the best interest of all residents. This Comprehensive Plan, with its clearly stated goals, is the legal foundation from which the specific Ordinances are drawn.

It is hoped that the various State agencies will recognize these policies in their decision making. These policies should also be used by the various Town authorities and Boards in evaluating their own actions in such matters as subdivision reviews, Community Development Block Grant applications and the Town's long-range plans.

Strategic Planning

Northern Main Development Commission, who has partnered with the Town's Planning Board in the development of this Plan, has given a great deal of thought to the method of implementing the planning strategies contained in this document. New Sweden will continue periodic reviews and updates to the current Land Use Ordinance and maps contained in this Plan, as well as updating its subdivision Ordinance in compliance with State laws, expanding its criteria for site design review and making other necessary changes as needed to implement policies and goals.

New Sweden General Development Goals

The following list contains general goals outlining a basic pattern of what new Sweden is today and the vision of what its future should be. Taken as a whole, these goals are derived from the finding of a community-wide opinion survey conducted in advance of this Comprehensive Plan revision, committee meetings and personal communications. These goals are intended to provide a general policy framework on which to base the recommendations of this Plan.

1. Maintain the Town's rural character, including its desirability as a place to live and work.
2. Assure that new residential and non-residential development is in keeping with the established character of the Town, including the historic buildings, quality of life, scale of building and interdependence on neighbors.
3. Guide the growth of the Town so that it preserves the important values of the community, including its heritage, historical values and natural resources.
4. Assure that the policies and regulations of the Town recognize the legal rights of landowners while at the same time promoting the public good.
5. Recognize that there are different values and lifestyles among the residents and the diversity of opinion is worthwhile.
6. Assure that the policies and regulations of the Town recognize that new development creates impacts on the community and the Town and potential developers should work together to explore options for paying the costs of improvement to public facilities and services needed to serve the project.
7. Promote a broad-based sense of community pride that seeks to unite the various elements of the Town.
8. Ensure Town policies and procedures accommodate development and growth.
9. Create a public forum to review changes in the Town's character, shifts in location of commercial and residential development, potential conflicts between individual property rights and the public need to manage growth, changes in population demographics, and the public's ability to serve the needs of an aging population.

Goals, Policies and Strategies Timelines

The following timeline used for the Strategy implementation should be considered as:

- Short-term: 2021 – 2024
- Mid-term: 2024 – 2027
- Long-term: 2027 – 2031
- On-going: As needed or as a continuous process

Demographics

Policy and Strategy

Local Goal: New Sweden will use complete and current information about their population when making administrative and policy decisions for the town.

Policy	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
Actively monitor the size, characteristics, and distribution of New Sweden's population	Seek assistance in the collection and maintenance of census data to ensure accuracy.	Town officials	On-going and as needed

Key

BOA	Board of Appeals	MDEP	Environmental Protection	CEO	Code Enforcement Officer
S	Town Selectmen	MDIFW	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	TA	Tax Assessors
HD	Highway Department	PB	Planning Board	TC	Town Clerk
SU	School Union 122	RC	Recreation Committee		

Landowner Rights and Responsibilities

The vast majority of the land in New Sweden is in private ownership and will continue as such. The individual decisions of these landowners will play an important role in shaping the future of the Town. Public regulations such as a land use ordinance, subdivision regulation, and/or other land use criteria can accomplish some of the Town's goals. A cooperative effort balancing the rights and interests of the individual landowners with those of the Town should be encouraged.

Landowner Goal

To assure that landowner property rights are respected, while at the same time encouraging these owners to work cooperatively with the Town to achieve the goals of the Plan.

Landowner Policies

Policy	Supporting Strategy
1. Encourage landowners to view their ownership of the land as a form of stewardship in which they play a very important role in influencing the future of the land and the Town.	1,2
2. Assure that the Town's land use regulations do not impose burdens on the owners of large parcels for agricultural and/or forestry pursuit, except as may be required by state or federal mandates.	1,2
3. Encourage landowners to seek assistance in planning for uses of their land in order to develop ways that will minimize negative impacts on the property.	1,2
4. Encourage residents to join organized clubs and groups, such as the Nordic Lakers Snowmobile Club and regional ATV Clubs, in order to assist in the proper use and maintenance of trails crossing private land. Landowners who experience problems should contact these groups for assistance in policing any problems.	1,2

Landowner Strategies

Strategy	By	Year
1. Draft a report on the rights, interests and responsibilities of landowners for general distribution to include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The role landowners play in influencing the Town and land use decisions. A review of the Town's land use regulations and their impacts on landowners. Encouragement for landowners to seek information about planning from the Town, state and federal agencies, and organizations relating to how planning will impact their land. Language to create awareness of the residents as to the role landowners play in assuring the rural character of the Town. A formal statement on the role of agriculture and forestry in New Sweden. The rights and responsibilities of landowners and land users in the proper use, maintenance and policing of private land. 2. Develop a plan for the wide-spread distribution of the report to the current and new landowners.	S/PB/MDIFW	Mid-term

Key

BOA	Board of Appeals	MDEP	Environmental Protection	CEO	Code Enforcement Officer
S	Town Selectmen	MDIFW	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	TA	Tax Assessors
HD	Highway Department	PB	Planning Board	TC	Town Clerk
SU	School Union 122	RC	Recreation Committee		

Existing and Future Land Use

The use of the land in Town is one of the most important components of the Plan. From past and present land uses, the location and the amount of land available for particular purposes can be determined. Since the Plan and its policies are a long-range guide for the growth and development of New Sweden, it has to be flexible and able to adapt to unforeseen changes and demands. The New Sweden planning program inventoried forest lands, soil types and characteristics, natural resources, transportation networks, housing needs, demographics, the local and regional economy, and public facilities and services. These inventories were then analyzed as they relate to the various land uses and put into a Land Use Plan. Implementation of the Land Use Plan is accomplished through the policies and strategies. The following is an overall framework of policies and strategies to make intelligent and informed decisions within which adjustments can be made to the inevitable changes.

Future Land Use Goal

To have orderly growth by ensuring that adequate land, services and regulations are available and wisely used.

Future Land Use Policies

Policy	Supporting Strategy
1. Strive to maintain and protect the traditional character (both urban and rural) of the Town of New Sweden.	1,4,6,7
2. Reinforce the village (urban) and rural areas by accommodating growth in a manner that enhances the environment and the site, upgrades the physical condition of structures and public improvements, and protects the natural and cultural resources.	1,2,3,4,5,6
3. Ensure compact growth in the village by trying to avoid continuous "strip" development.	1,7
4. Encourage growth while ensuring that adequate services and land use regulations are in place.	1,2,7
5. Work to guide growth into those areas where it can best be accommodated and serviced while discouraging growth in areas not well suited for development.	1,2,3,4,5,6,7

Strategy	By	Year
1. Review and update, as needed, the Land Use Ordinance to include sections on installation of solar panels and incentives for new building growth in the village (near the B & A Trail at Station Road) and the four-corners areas.	PB, CEO	On-going
2. Streamline and digitize forms required by the ordinance to apply for and require land use permits.	PB, TC	Short-term
3. Review and update, as needed, the Shoreland Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances.	PB, CEO	Short-term
4. Work to control the type, scale, location, character and arrangement of new development projects as a means of influencing impacts and types of growth.	PB, CEO	On-going

Key

BOA	Board of Appeals	MDEP	Environmental Protection	CEO	Code Enforcement Officer
S	Town Selectmen	MDIFW	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	TA	Tax Assessors
HD	Highway Department	PB	Planning Board	TC	Town Clerk
SU	School Union 122	RC	Recreation Committee		

Strategy	By	Year
5. Develop an open dialogue with the surrounding communities concerning regional land use and environmental issues (such as surface waters and aquifer protection).	PB, S, CEO, MDEP	Short-term
6. Inventory all available property that is publicly owned in the village area (or throughout the Town) and explore the potential reuses of these parcels.	S	Mid-term
7. Inventory and update maps of the Town's land use as Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Public, Agricultural, Forest/Wood Lots, and Vacant (as defined in the Land Use Plan section of the Comprehensive Plan), to provide guidance in planning grow areas and updating the Land Use Ordinance.	S, PB, CEO	On-going
8. Review and update the Land Use Ordinance as needed.	PB, S	On-going
9. Review and update, as needed, the subdivision ordinance.	PB, S	On-going
10. Review the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance for any needed amendments.	PB, S	On-going
11. Review standards in land use regulations to ensure that they protect the desired character of Town. Amend ordinances as needed.	PB, S	On-going
12. Review the need for a system of impact fees for new development that would require developers to "pay their own way," in part or in full, for infrastructure such as roads, traffic control devices, and/or sewerage.	PB, S	On-going
13. Recognize the importance of multi-season multi use trails when reviewing subdivision applications. Ensure that the impact of new development on the trail system is minimal.	PB, S	On-going
14. Town officials will track new residential development in New Sweden during the next five years. Development will be mapped on a lot line base map in order to determine where growth is occurring. If the development is occurring in a small portion of the community, or if there are significantly changed conditions beyond the original projections, the planning board will review all ordinances and policies and make recommendations for changes to strengthen these items. These changes may include but not be limited to the designation of a growth area and the creation of a zoning ordinance as opposed to a land use ordinance. Changes will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen and the Town's Legislative Body for their approval	PB, S	Short Term

Key

BOA	Board of Appeals	MDEP	Environmental Protection	CEO	Code Enforcement Officer
S	Town Selectmen	MDIFW	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	TA	Tax Assessors
HD	Highway Department	PB	Planning Board	TC	Town Clerk
SU	School Union 122	RC	Recreation Committee		

Transportation

Transportation networks tie communities together and link New Sweden to the surrounding region. A safe, efficient transportation system is essential to the smooth functioning of the Town with the location and quality of the road system having a major impact on where future growth is likely to occur. Therefore, local roads should provide safe, reliable access to work, schools, shopping and residences.

Transportation links to the outside world greatly influence the potential for economic growth, in as much as the costs of transportation are an important factor for new businesses in searching for a location. In addition, transportation networks are also important for local economic growth in providing needed access to goods and services not found in Town. Roads into and out of New Sweden are the main modes of transportation and the condition of this infrastructure is very important. Money to maintain and improve our transportation infrastructure has been in short supply and State government is aware of the great expense needed to improve our network. State highways and bridges may receive only secondary attention. If the condition of any road or bridge is not adequate, then it is up to the Town to make its needs known to MDOT and State representatives.

Access and transportation play an important role in determining the quality of life in New Sweden. This includes transportation in its broadest sense, including walking, hiking, riding bicycles, etc.. The location and size of the Town will affect the modes of transportation available for traveling long distances. For example, in the past, the proximity of towns to Route 161 and I-95 has brought some form of measurable growth.

The information provided in this section will assist the Town in addressing transportation issues and needs. The Town believes that the following goal, policies, and strategies are inextricably interconnected and interdependent. The order of the goals stated below does not indicate that one has priority over another. Further, it is intended that economic development be an integral part of each goal, policy and strategy.

Transportation Goal

To provide, maintain, and improve a safe, affordable, efficient, environmentally sound, and seamless transportation network that promotes economic development and maintains a rural quality of life.

Transportation Policies

Policy	Supporting Strategy
1. Identify, assess and preserve the carrying capacity and promote reconstruction and maintenance of roads and bridges.	1,2
2. Identify and assess and, when feasible, preserve, protect and promote the development and maintenance of alternative modes of transportation (such as snowmobiles, ATVs, and bicycles) and public transportation.	1E,1F,4
3. Encourage programs that will minimize air and water pollution and promote safety for transportation systems.	1,5,6

Key

BOA	Board of Appeals	MDEP	Environmental Protection	CEO	Code Enforcement Officer
S	Town Selectmen	MDIFW	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	TA	Tax Assessors
HD	Highway Department	PB	Planning Board	TC	Town Clerk
SU	School Union 122	RC	Recreation Committee		

4. Support the deployment of universal high-speed internet access throughout the Town limits to encourage growth of “work-from-home” jobs, thereby reducing requirements for commuting.	3
---	---

Transportation Strategies

Strategy	By	Year
1. In order to maintain, improve and provide for a safe and efficient transportation network, the Town will:		
A. Review road maintenance, tree cutting, snow-plowing and related activities and recommend changes, as appropriate, in order to enhance the preservation of visual resources. Maintain and update as needed, road design and construction standards and surface management using a Road Service Management System (RSMS) computer application program through MaineDOT with funding provided through a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) grant.	PB, HD, S	On-going
B. Develop a formal policy relative to the improvement of Town roads and bridges. This policy should emphasize the Town's desire to retain its rural character, establish reasonable access strategies, cover policies and general standards for maintenance of bridges and both paved and unpaved roads, and provide for the protection of community and individual property from damage and encroachment.		Short-term
C. Continue to work annually with MaineDOT to ensure adequate maintenance, upgrading and traffic flow on the roadways.		On-going
D. Continue to monitor regional transportation goals of the Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC) and the Regional Planning Organization.		On-going
E. Support efforts to maintain, improve and provide regional and local transportation services, and improve local and regional scheduled passenger services.		On-going
F. Continue to submit transportation improvements to the MaineDOT for inclusion in the Capital Work Plan.		On-going
2. Provide funding for the continued education and training of public works maintenance and construction crews on proper environmental practices, including use of alternative materials and techniques in construction, maintenance projects, winter treatment of roads, etc. to reduce life cycle costs.	HD, S	Short-term
3. Encourage and support development of reliable and universal high-speed internet access to enhance “working from home” telecommunications as an alternative to commuting on local roads in collaboration with surrounding communities.	S	Short-term
4. Encourage the creation of safe, local bicycle routes.	S, RC, HD	Short-term
5. Utilize the standards in the local ordinances for control of erosion and sedimentation, and stormwater management along roadways.	PB, HD, RC	Short-term
6. Use appropriate signage in accordance with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Review MaineDOT historical reports of frequency of locations and types of accidents on roadways throughout New Sweden and implement signage and traffic control devices as deemed prudent.	HD	On-going

Key

BOA	Board of Appeals	MDEP	Environmental Protection	CEO	Code Enforcement Officer
S	Town Selectmen	MDIFW	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	TA	Tax Assessors
HD	Highway Department	PB	Planning Board	TC	Town Clerk
SU	School Union 122	RC	Recreation Committee		

Public Facilities and Services

The Public Facilities and Services portion of the Plan included an assessment of capital facilities and public services to protect the environment, health, safety and welfare of the people of New Sweden and explore the costs of those facilities and services. The inventory examined the facilities and services provided by/to the Town and included information describing the facility and service area and the condition, usage and capacity of the facility. The facilities and services included public safety, communications, health care, education and Town administration and services. New Sweden is responsible for providing some of these public facilities and services necessary for meeting the needs of the community. The responsibility is both a burden and an opportunity since the provision of these items is costly, but at the same time, can be used to further growth and development. New Sweden should provide suitable public facilities and services to meet the needs of the residents and use the provision of these facilities as a means for guiding growth.

Public Facilities and Services Goal

To ensure that the existing public facilities and services are well maintained and function efficiently and to plan carefully for essential new and/or expanded facilities and services.

Public Facilities and Services Policies

Policy	Supporting Strategy
1. Plan for continued and evolving needs for environmentally safe solid waste management.	1,6,7,11
2. Plan for the development and continuance of adequate and cost-effective public safety programs, facilities and services, including fire and ambulance. Identify emergency shelter areas and plans for natural disaster accommodations as may be necessary.	1,2,6,7,9,11
3. Encourage, plan and promote new affordable communication facilities and services. Pursue high speed internet and dependable mobile phone signal access throughout the Town limits.	1,4,7,11
4. Encourage, plan and support affordable and well-maintained health care facilities and services especially pertinent to an aging population and rural geography.	1,7
5. Promote and support an educational system that allows all age groups to excel in their chosen fields of interest.	3,4,11
6. Encourage and promote a variety of community services and organizations.	2,3,5,6,9,10
7. Continue to plan and support the necessary functions of the municipality.	1,5,7,11

Key

BOA	Board of Appeals	MDEP	Environmental Protection	CEO	Code Enforcement Officer
S	Town Selectmen	MDIFW	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	TA	Tax Assessors
HD	Highway Department	PB	Planning Board	TC	Town Clerk
SU	School Union 122	RC	Recreation Committee		

Public Facilities and Services Strategies

Strategy	By	Year
1. Require developments that could create an unreasonable demand on Town services to be built in stages , which parallel the planned expansion of facilities.	PB, S	On-going
2. Continue to support and provide facilities for local and regional events.	S	On-going
3. Support open dialogue with School Union 122 into funding and program options through semi-annual joint meetings; investigate student community service volunteer programs.	RC, S, SU	Short-term
4. Continue to support a regional educational system (including online remote learning) which allows both young people and adults to excel in their chosen areas of interest through a school system that emphasizes educational achievement for the entire community.	SU	Short-term
5. Continue to support existing and the expansion of cultural and recreational opportunities for all ages, such as festivals, parades and programs.	S, RC	Mid-term
6. Expand volunteer efforts to beautify the Town, to make necessary repairs to Town owned buildings and facilities, and to staff for community-sponsored events and programs.	S, RC	Mid-term
7. Sponsor a meeting with past and present Town officials and the adjoining cities and towns to identify and reinforce shared programs, opportunities for cooperation and explore joint purchasing and resolutions.	S	Short-term
8. Continue planning efforts based on input from the Town's residents, department heads, employees and administration.	S, PB	On-going
9. Establish a New Sweden website and routinely submit meeting notices, post-meeting articles and lists of accomplishments to promote public interest and awareness.	RC, S	Mid-term
10. Continue to support and publicize annual events and festivals.	RC, S	On-going
11. Work with surrounding communities to examine and review the need for regional services and facilities. Implement those services and facilities that are mutually beneficial to the communities. Ensure that any regional coordination is initiated and administered at the local level.	S, PB	On-going

Key

BOA	Board of Appeals	MDEP	Environmental Protection	CEO	Code Enforcement Officer
S	Town Selectmen	MDIFW	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	TA	Tax Assessors
HD	Highway Department	PB	Planning Board	TC	Town Clerk
SU	School Union 122	RC	Recreation Committee		

Fiscal Capacity

New Sweden, like many other Maine communities, has been struggling to keep property taxes stable in the face of budget demands and constraints. The Town has not only survived these hard times, it is moving forward. There has been a steady decline in federal and state assistance to New Sweden. The Federal Revenue Sharing Program at one time represented a federal-state-local partnership in which new policies were mandated and then largely funded by the federal government. The program became defunct in 1986-the many unfunded mandates are still in place, but the burden of funding them is now largely the responsibility of the Town. This section will show that through the policies and strategies, the Town can maintain its financial health while making some major improvements and meeting future needs through public expenditures and other fiscal policies.

Fiscal Capacity Goal

To manage and administer the Town's finances in a careful and fiscally responsible manner in order to maintain a low tax rate and low municipal expenses.

Fiscal Capacity Policies

Policy	Supporting Strategy
1. Identify trends in municipal revenues and expenditures and develop programs that increase revenues and stabilize, share and/or reduce expenditures.	1,3-8
2. Review current and projected taxes and develop a fiscal plan that will stabilize and/or reduce the tax burden.	1,3-8
3. Identify and assess trends in growth and development and create a fiscal plan to ensure the efficient and cost-effective availability of required municipal facilities and services.	1-8
4. Determine and develop a plan for capital expenditures.	1,2,3,7,8

Fiscal Capacity Strategies

Strategy	By	Year
1. Coordinate planning for municipal building construction, repair and/or modifications through the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan).	S, PB, HD, RC	Short-term On-going
2. Ensure that all municipal construction, repair and/or modifications meet federal and state requirements/codes for construction and accessibility.	PB, CEO, S	On-going
3. Work with the Budget Committee to review capital expenditures, maintain good communications with the public and create and maintain a long-range plan for investments.	S	On-going

Key

BOA	Board of Appeals	MDEP	Environmental Protection	CEO	Code Enforcement Officer
S	Town Selectmen	MDIFW	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	TA	Tax Assessors
HD	Highway Department	PB	Planning Board	TC	Town Clerk
SU	School Union 122	RC	Recreation Committee		

Strategy	By	Year
4. Ensure through periodic review and consultations that the Town's valuation keeps in step with the State valuation, since educational funding, revenue sharing and other programs are based on formulas involving State valuation figures. The program should include a periodic review of personal property tax valuations and review the desirability of TIFs (Tax Incentive Financing) as a tool to promote commercial and industrial development.	TA, S	On-going
5. Support efforts to increase State aid to cities and towns.	S, SU	On-going
6. Decrease Town reliance on the property tax as much as possible.	TA, S, SU,	On-going
7. Establish and maintain a tax rate consistent with maintaining the current and projected levels of service. Annually "zero base" the budget for municipal expenses. Review feasibility for funding depreciation expenses.	TA, S, SU	On-going
8. Continue to apply for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and/or other monies for Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs).	S	On-going and As Needed

Key

BOA	Board of Appeals	MDEP	Environmental Protection	CEO	Code Enforcement Officer
S	Town Selectmen	MDIFW	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	TA	Tax Assessors
HD	Highway Department	PB	Planning Board	TC	Town Clerk
SU	School Union 122	RC	Recreation Committee		

Housing

New Sweden has an aging housing stock and contains clusters of homes in some residential areas with additional development along the rural roadways. For the most part, the housing stock is comprised of single-family dwellings with a few mobile homes. There is one multi-family unit for subsidized rental by the elderly and lower income families. 2010 US Census data projections for 2019 provided the information of the housing analysis. This analysis provided the informational framework for considering the actions to be taken by the community to ensure housing opportunities---in particular, the needs of the elderly and first-time home buyers. It is noted that within a year or two, the 2020 US Census data will be available and should be examined in light of emerging trends.

Housing Goal

To have affordable and decent housing for all residents.

Housing Policies

Policy	Supporting Strategy	Review Status
1. Promote and encourage a wide variety of housing opportunities at appropriate locations to include affordable housing, housing for older residents, first-time home buyers and special needs groups.	1	Keep
2. Work to ensure that the needs of the various types of households and income levels are met, while assuring that housing is decent and safe.	1	Keep

Strategy	By	Year
1. The Town will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Encourage a variety and diversity of housing types. B. Determine the specific housing needs of the Town and make recommendations. C. Work with the Maine State Housing Authority, ACAP and Maine DEP to utilize programs and obtain annual program updates. Seek out other sources of funding for rehabilitation from private sources, service organizations and state and federal programs. Work with state and federal agencies to ensure that potential funding sources for elderly housing complexes are conducive to smaller, rural communities. D. Work with surrounding communities to rejuvenate the FIX-ME program with the assistance of MSHA, NMDC, ACAP and other agencies; work to develop a long-term housing replacement program for the region. E. Emphasize housing rehabilitation in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) applications. F. Assess the impacts of any proposed commercial and industrial development on abutting residential properties and make recommendations. G. Inventory and recommend the removal, if feasible, of dilapidated structures and older mobile homes that cannot be rehabilitated; investigate funding sources for revitalizing dilapidated housing units. 	PB, CEO, S	Short-term and On-going

Key

BOA	Board of Appeals	MDEP	Environmental Protection	CEO	Code Enforcement Officer
S	Town Selectmen	MDIFW	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	TA	Tax Assessors
HD	Highway Department	PB	Planning Board	TC	Town Clerk
SU	School Union 122	RC	Recreation Committee		

Housing Strategies

Strategy	By	Year
<p>H. Inform and educate residents of the various state and federal programs that offset the cost of rehabilitating substandard housing. This may include the development of a brochure to be kept in the Town office.</p> <p>I. Prepare a listing of all vacant residential lots; update both the tax maps and tax cards so that important information concerning house's age and structure type is readily available; make tax maps and property assessment records available for online retrieval.</p> <p>J. Maintain tax acquired property as a place for safe and affordable elderly housing.</p> <p>K. Preserve Route 161 as the gateway to Town by having the Land Use Ordinance increase setbacks, buffering and driveway cut restrictions on new construction.</p> <p>L. Create a packet for new developers with information on the Town's Land Use Ordinance, Shoreland Zoning Ordinance and subdivision regulations; create a Town website and social media presence listing key Town officials and fact sheets about the Town and region as well as summary information regarding ordinances.</p> <p>M. Implement Section 8 home ownership programs as appropriate and needed.</p> <p>O. Actively pursue high speed internet access for all residents of New Sweden.</p>	PB, CEO, S	Short-term and On-going

Key

BOA	Board of Appeals	MDEP	Environmental Protection	CEO	Code Enforcement Officer
S	Town Selectmen	MDIFW	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	TA	Tax Assessors
HD	Highway Department	PB	Planning Board	TC	Town Clerk
SU	School Union 122	RC	Recreation Committee		

Local Economy

New Sweden is located in the Presque Isle Labor Market Area (LMA) and depends on the region's economic health for its survival. The LMA's boundaries include Bridgewater to the south, Portage and Oxbow to the west, Allagash to the north, and New Brunswick, Canada to the east. Caribou is one of the two major Service Centers in the LMA. Local retail and service establishments depend on shoppers from Town for a majority of their trade. Education, health and social services, retail trade and manufacturing are the largest employers of New Sweden residents.

Local Economy Goal

To have a stable, diversified economy that builds upon the Town's character, public services, resources and commercial and industrial base to increase employment opportunities and economic well-being.

Local Economy Policies

Policy	Supporting Strategy
1. Promote and encourage new and existing businesses as vital components in local and regional economic development.	1-8
2. Encourage and plan for a mixture of commercial, industrial and residential development in areas physically and fiscally suited to broaden economic development opportunities.	1-4,6

Local Economy Strategies

Strategy	By	Year
1. The Town should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Develop economic, tourism, land use and transportation strategies. B. Work with surrounding communities in developing regional plans for economic development, tourism, land use and transportation-related strategies. C. Seek funding from State, Federal and private sources to support goals. D. Work with area economic development organizations to support business siting and retention. E. Strengthen the lines of communication between New Sweden and the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce and Northern Maine Development Commission to assist in efforts to attract and keep businesses in New Sweden. F. Encourage assistance to new businesses to decrease start-up costs and improve initial profitability. G. Conduct a survey of residents to determine local business and service needs. 	S	On-going
2. Consider the possibility of developing bed & breakfasts, sporting camps, three season camp grounds and motels to ensure adequate lodging for tourism throughout the year.	S	On-going

Key

BOA	Board of Appeals	MDEP	Environmental Protection	CEO	Code Enforcement Officer
S	Town Selectmen	MDIFW	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	TA	Tax Assessors
HD	Highway Department	PB	Planning Board	TC	Town Clerk
SU	School Union 122	RC	Recreation Committee		

Strategy	By	Year
3. Maintain requirements within the Land Use Ordinance to permit home occupations that meet acceptable standards and intents and do not infringe upon the rural character, neighborhood or environment.	PB, CEO	Short-term
4. Seek private funding to create local scholarship programs that stipulate students return to or do service for the community.	S, SU	Mid-term
5. Ensure that local projects are identified in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for northern Maine. Apply for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Economic Development Agency (EDA) and/or other moneys and/or programs for Town revitalization efforts and public infrastructure.	S, PB	On-going
7. Examine and promote secondary products from forestry and agricultural-based industry.	S, PB	Mid-term
8. Continue to increase communications with NMDC and similar organizations through quarterly/annual meetings on economic development programs.	S	On-going

Key

BOA	Board of Appeals	MDEP	Environmental Protection	CEO	Code Enforcement Officer
S	Town Selectmen	MDIFW	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	TA	Tax Assessors
HD	Highway Department	PB	Planning Board	TC	Town Clerk
SU	School Union 122	RC	Recreation Committee		

Natural Resources

New Sweden contains an important and diverse natural resource base, including lakes, streams, Little Madawaska River, Caribou Stream, wetlands, floodplains, rich deposits of sand and gravel, significant fisheries and wildlife habitat and valuable acreage of prime agricultural and forest lands. Through the development and implementation of locally driven management plans, the Town can conserve its valuable natural resources while also utilizing these resources to enhance economic development opportunities for natural resource-based industries and businesses. By adopting wise multi-use strategies for the many different natural resources (forestlands, water resources, etc.), New Sweden can provide for greater use of the resource base for business opportunities, recreation, wildlife and fisheries management and forestry, while also maintaining the quality of life offered by these resources. New Sweden should assure that the natural resources are conserved, preserved and/or protected from activities or uses that can damage their resource value or which create threats to the public health or safety.

Natural Resource Goal

To conserve, preserve and protect the valuable natural resources of New Sweden.

Natural Resource Policies

Policy	Supporting Strategy
1. Recognize that soils are a major factor in development suitability and guide incompatible land uses away from unsuitable, marginal or prime soils.	1,2,5,12,13,14,16
2. Protect the quality of wetland areas.	1,2,5,6,7,8,13
3. Examine potential threats to water resources and develop strategies to protect or conserve these resources.	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8
4. Develop strategies to discourage development in hazard areas, including floodplains and areas of steep slopes.	1,2,5,7,13
5. Identify, assess and conserve fisheries and wildlife habitat.	1,9,10,11,13
6. Identify, assess and preserve unique natural areas.	1,10,11,12,13,16
7. Encourage uses in conflict with forestry activities to be in suitable locations to conserve prime forest lands/resource value and work with owners to maintain and enhance resources.	5,12,13,14,15

Key

BOA	Board of Appeals	MDEP	Environmental Protection	CEO	Code Enforcement Officer
S	Town Selectmen	MDIFW	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	TA	Tax Assessors
HD	Highway Department	PB	Planning Board	TC	Town Clerk
SU	School Union 122	RC	Recreation Committee		

Natural Resource Strategies

Strategy	By	Year
1. The Town should work with appropriate State agencies and property owners to refine, enhance and update the natural resources information contained in this Plan. The Town's efforts should focus on: A. Identifying those wetlands that are significant and should not be altered. B. Accurately defining the location and value of various types of wildlife and fisheries habitats, with emphasis on deer wintering habitat.	MIFW, CEO	On-going
2. Continue to provide training to the Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) in State and local laws, including certification in accordance with 30-A M.R.S.A §4451, and the applicable Best Management Practices available to protect water quality so the CEO can effectively investigate potentially harmful activities, advise possible violators in remediation techniques and notify appropriate authorities for enforcement action, if necessary.	S, CEO	On-going
3. Inspect gravel pits for aquifers to prevent dumping of foreign materials.	CEO	On-going
4. Cooperate with state and federal authorities to identify potentially hazardous sites and urge them to take appropriate action through on-site monitoring and clean-up.	CEO, MDEP	Mid-term
5. Regulate commercial or industrial uses that utilize, process or store materials known to cause groundwater contamination on aquifers.	PB, CEO	Short-term
6. Continue to educate landowners about the requirements of the Land Use and Shoreland Zoning Ordinances. Effectively enforce both Ordinances to minimize water quality impacts from inappropriate development.	PB, CEO, S	Short-term
7. Continue to support and work with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Central Aroostook Soil and Water Conservation District, University of Maine Cooperative Extension and other groups.	PB	On-going
8. Encourage owners of above-ground storage tanks to complete an annual visual inspection of their tanks.	PB, CEO, MDEP	Short-term and On-going
9. Continue to request IF&W to conduct a fisheries census of Little Madawaska River and Caribou Stream to determine the fisheries value and appropriate management plans to improve the trout fishery in the watershed.	CEO, MIFW	Short-term
10. Work to develop long-term wildlife management goals for the Town with assistance from IF&W. This wildlife management planning may include informing landowners of various programs and practices, and technical assistance available to manage wildlife and wildlife habitat on private lands.	MIFW, PB, HD, CEO, DEP	Long-term
11. Work with wildlife management organizations and agencies to identify and protect deer wintering areas, waterfowl and wading bird habitat and other protected areas.	MIFW, PB, CEO, RC	Short-term
12. Encourage cooperation of private woodlot owners for the improved use of forest resources through responsible management, replanting, rejuvenation, exploration of alternative uses for unproductive land and the development of guidelines and incentives to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation.	PB, CEO	Mid-term

Key

BOA	Board of Appeals	MDEP	Environmental Protection	CEO	Code Enforcement Officer
S	Town Selectmen	MDIFW	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	TA	Tax Assessors
HD	Highway Department	PB	Planning Board	TC	Town Clerk
SU	School Union 122	RC	Recreation Committee		

Cultural and Historic Resources

Cultural resources are those activities, opportunities and benefits of the Town that reflect the culture and heritage of the community. They help to establish the quality of life for New Sweden and the Town's ability to attract and retain economic growth depends, to some extent, on the quality and quantity of its cultural resources. New Sweden is fortunate to host a variety of annual events, attractions, service organizations and places of worship.

The unique history of any town can be a valuable part of that town's heritage and community character. Although New Sweden has certainly changed since the late 1800's and early 1900's, some of the old buildings have been removed by man or by fire or retained and preserved, but the "feel" is still that of a small town. New Sweden should continue to preserve the Town's rich history and culture. The National Register of Historic Places and the Maine Historical Preservation Commission keep a directory of buildings, structures, districts, objects and sites that have historical importance and value. It has been suggested that through the following policies and strategies, a complete inventory of all the Town's historic resources be undertaken to identify any additional sites worthy of being placed into a local, state, or federal register.

Cultural and Historic Goal

To have an understanding of and to preserve the cultural and historic resources of New Sweden.

Cultural and Historic Policies

Policy	Supporting Strategy
1. Identify, preserve and protect archaeological, prehistoric and historic resources.	1-6
2. Assess and when feasible support, maintain and expand civic and community events, activities, organizations and facilities.	4-5

Cultural, Historic and Archaeological Strategies

Strategy	By	Year
1. Work with the New Sweden Historic Society and other interested parties to preserve archeological, prehistoric and historic resources.	PB, RC, CEO	Short-term
2. Seek the assistance of the New Sweden Historical Society and Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) in reviewing development proposals that would impact identified and potential archeological, prehistoric and historic resources.	RC, CEO, PB	Short-term
3. Promote and publicize local programs, community events and regional festivals.	S	On-going
4. Continue to host both local and regional events unique to New Sweden and continue to maintain locally important attractions.	RC	On-going
5. Recognize the importance of civic organizations to the Town and provide an annual forum to discuss coordination between the organizations, as well as issues facing the community. Compile a list of projects that civic organizations might undertake and ensure these projects are compatible with the Plan.	S	Short-term On-going
6. Inventory all areas and structures of cultural or historical significance that could be obtained through grants or other means.	S, PB	Mid-term

Key

BOA	Board of Appeals	MDEP	Environmental Protection	CEO	Code Enforcement Officer
S	Town Selectmen	MDIFW	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	TA	Tax Assessors
HD	Highway Department	PB	Planning Board	TC	Town Clerk
SU	School Union 122	RC	Recreation Committee		

Recreational Resources

Recreational resources are those facilities and programs, both public and private, that provide recreational opportunities for the residents of New Sweden. These include athletic fields, parks, nature preserves, game preserves and sanctuaries, publicly owned land, trail systems, important hunting and fishing areas and access to water bodies, to name a few. In addition, numerous clubs, groups and civic organizations sponsor recreational activities throughout the year.

Recreation Goal

To provide recreational opportunities, activities and facilities for people of all ages in New Sweden.

Recreation Policies

Policy	Supporting Strategy
1. Encourage private landowner cooperation to provide and/or maintain public access to the Town's rivers and streams, particularly Little Madawaska River and its tributaries, for recreation such as hunting, fishing and other low-intensity recreational activities.	1,5,6
2. Seek to encourage and expand cooperative recreation programs and facilities with surrounding communities and jointly seek outside funding in support of these efforts.	1-6
3. Expand the opportunities for trails and walking paths to link New Sweden's open space and recreational areas into a continuous network by utilizing abandoned transportation corridors and working with private landowners.	1-6
4. Continue to support the various recreational clubs and organizations. Encourage residents to join organized clubs and groups to assist in the proper use and maintenance of private land for recreational uses.	1,2,6
5. Work to direct the use of off-road motorized recreational vehicles away from developed areas and into appropriate areas through the designation of trails.	1,4

Key

BOA	Board of Appeals	MDEP	Environmental Protection	CEO	Code Enforcement Officer
S	Town Selectmen	MDIFW	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	TA	Tax Assessors
HD	Highway Department	PB	Planning Board	TC	Town Clerk
SU	School Union 122	RC	Recreation Committee		

Recreation Strategies

Strategy	By	Year
<p>1. The Town should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify, develop and maintain recreational resources for people of all ages, including creating maps of trails and lakes/streams access points, b. Use existing recreational facilities to their fullest potential, c. Work with existing civic groups and organizations to secure support for recreational programs, d. Work with the Planning Board in creating standards in the Town's land use regulations for the preservation and protection of all vital recreational resources, e. Develop a plan and a program for the expansion of winter recreational facilities and trails within the Town and region, f. Work with landowners to preserve and conserve water resources for recreational activities and develop plans for recreational access, g. Initiate a locally organized clean-up of river and stream embankments, roadway corridors and abandoned properties, and h. Seek out technical assistance from the State Bureau of Parks and Recreation in recreation planning. 	PB, CEO, RC	On-going
2. Pursue cooperative municipal recreational support for programs and facilities from the surrounding communities, when appropriate.	RC	On-going
3. Recognizing that tourism development is an integral part and a valuable asset to the Town's and northern Maine's future. The Town should promote tourism in the Town and region.	S, PB, CEO, RC	On-going
<p>4. Work with the State, user groups and landowners to develop a comprehensive local and regional trail system. The Town should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Research identified rights-of-way to determine their legal status and the public's right to use the areas, b. Develop a trail system using the available rights-of-way, if feasible, c. Work with landowners to obtain public use rights where crossing private land is necessary or desirable, and d. Establish a system for maintaining trail(s) and assuring rights will be respected. 	RC, PB, S	Short-term & On-going
<p>5. The development and operation of a successful open space conservation / recreation program will require commitment by the Town and will need to be an ongoing activity. The Town's efforts should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Developing an overall plan which identifying the types and locations of land that should be conserved through public/private action and establishing priorities for evaluating various parcels, b. Exploring possible funding mechanisms that can be used for acquiring open space lands, including public and private outside funding, c. Maintaining relationships with existing conservation organizations to coordinate activities and utilize their knowledge and experience, d. Working with landowners to explore the use of conservation easements or similar devices to protect all or portions of their land for the future, and e. Developing a program for the ongoing acquisition and maintenance of open space. 	PB, CEO, RC, S	Mid-term

Key

BOA	Board of Appeals	MDEP	Environmental Protection	CEO	Code Enforcement Officer
S	Town Selectmen	MDIFW	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	TA	Tax Assessors
HD	Highway Department	PB	Planning Board	TC	Town Clerk
SU	School Union 122	RC	Recreation Committee		

Strategy	By	Year
<p>6. Support recreational access to private land, the Town should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish a landowner contact program that will seek the continued cooperation of landowners, establish a system to respond to complaints about public access, and provide information on techniques of maintaining scenic value to those landowners whose property has been identified as a scenic resource, b. Publish a brochure about the recreational groups and clubs in the area and distribute it to all residents when they register motor vehicles, vote or purchase licenses, c. Provide for annual recognition of landowners who have contributed to public access and recreational opportunities, d. Maintain and publicize educational information for landowners and recreation users on the value of recreation and responsibilities that users have with the public use of private lands for recreation, e. Create a functional Recreation Committee to define annual and ongoing programs that enhance recreational opportunities for the residents of New Sweden. Budget annually for the implementation of Recreation Committee agendas as feasible and seek donations and grants as necessary to supplement budgeted funds. 	RC, Civic Groups, MDIFW	Short-term & On-going
7. Explore the establishment of a local summer concert and theater series.	RC	Mid-term
<p>8. Undertake a comprehensive review of all Town-owned land to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Research the ownership of land and review the Town's claim to those parcels, b. Conduct a natural resources inventory of the parcels to determine the resource and development potential of each, and c. Develop a policy for the future use of each of the parcels for recreational, conservation or public uses as well as disposition of the parcels to fund other open space, recreation and conservation activities. 	RC, S	

Key

BOA	Board of Appeals	MDEP	Environmental Protection	CEO	Code Enforcement Officer
S	Town Selectmen	MDIFW	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	TA	Tax Assessors
HD	Highway Department	PB	Planning Board	TC	Town Clerk
SU	School Union 122	RC	Recreation Committee		