This document is an update to the Town of May’s Comprehensive Plan (2000 – 2020), originally adopted in 1982, revised in 1991, and revised again in 2000. This update is submitted to the Metropolitan Council in response to its most recent update to its 2030 Regional Development Framework. Under State law, the Metropolitan Council is responsible for guiding the development of local Comprehensive Plans for governmental entities in the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

Included in its Metropolitan Development Guide, released in 2005, are plans for four regional systems: Aviation, Transportation, Regional Parks, and Water Resources Management. Each local government was issued a Systems Statement on these topics to be addressed in its 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update.

COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS

The Town has been supportive of the direction of its current Comprehensive Plan. The Town Board did not foresee any substantial policy changes to the document and directed Town staff to update the Comprehensive Plan in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Metropolitan Council.

A draft Comprehensive Plan update was reviewed by the Town Board and submitted for review to the May Town Planning Commission, which held public hearings to solicit community input. This was followed by a second review by the Town Board. As required by the Metropolitan Council, the draft Comprehensive Plan was submitted to adjoining communities for review and comment on June 6, 2008.

RELATIONSHIP TO COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING

The Town of May is authorized to exercise local planning and zoning, provided its regulations are not less restrictive than Washington County. The Town will work with the County to make sure future land use and zoning are consistent when implementing the 2030 Land Use Plan.

COMMUNITY HISTORY

The Town of May is located in the northeastern portion of Washington County, which is on the eastern side of the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area. The east boundary of the Town is the St. Croix River. The Town of May, previously part of Marine Township, was organized in 1893. A year later, the town hall was built and the first supervisors elected.
The first government was credited with providing the community with a conservative and economical management of affairs. New roads and culverts were built and plank bridges were replaced with stone arches. The first supervisors attempted to organize the settlement along the west shore of Lake Carnelian in hopes of developing a prosperous summer resort.

The Town was named after Morgan May, an English immigrant who eventually became one of the more prosperous farmers in the Town. The original township had three general stores, five public schools, a blacksmith shop, an elevator, a feed mill, and a church. The first census in 1905 showed a total population of 761. Over time, the Town has transitioned from allowing limited commercial development to an agricultural and rural residential focus.

As the metropolitan area continues to expand, the Town of May has seen increasing development of residential property. Currently, the land use is a mixture of residential, agriculture and open space. Due to the rural character of the Town, commercial development has traditionally been restricted.

**REGIONAL PLANNING DESIGNATIONS**

During the 1990s, the Twin Cities metropolitan area gained more population – 353,000 people – than in any previous decade in its history. The Twin Cities is projected to continue growing and by the year 2030, the Metropolitan Council expects the region to add nearly one million people.

The Metropolitan Council has responded to this increasing growth by developing the **2030 Regional Development Framework**, which is a plan for how the Metropolitan Council and its regional partners can address the challenges that are associated with such growth. The Framework sets out different strategies for communities based on the types of growth that are expected. The Framework has identified an urban area and a rural area, each of which occupies approximately half of the region. May Township is within the rural area of the region.

The rural area is divided into four specific geographic planning areas: Rural Centers/Rural Growth Centers, Diversified Rural Communities, Rural Residential Areas, and Agricultural Areas. Five to nine percent of the new growth is forecasted to be located in the rural areas – most of it in Rural Growth Centers. May Township has been designated as a “diversified rural” planning area. Details regarding the strategies and policies for these designations are identified within the **Land Use Plan**.
This map is for planning purposes only.
