

8 Physical Characteristics

The consideration of the physical characteristics (natural systems) are essential elements of the comprehensive land use plan as these characteristics often dictate how land is used. For instance, soils, topography and geology can pose limitations to certain types of developments, while an inventory of surface water resources, vegetation types, environmentally significant areas, and historical features identifies those resources and areas which should be protected from development.

This section of the plan is intended to analyze the influence of these elements before making any decisions concerning future development, and to encourage the preservation of the town's natural environment. The elements which are analyzed in this section include topography and drainage, geology, groundwater, soils, vegetation types, watersheds and sub-watersheds, water features (lakes/rivers/wetlands), environmentally sensitive areas, woodlands/forests, agricultural lands, historic and cultural sites, and state natural areas.

The town of St. Germain is located in the south central portion of Vilas County, and is bounded by Oneida County to the south, the town of Arbor Vitae to the west, the town of Plum Lake to the north, and the town of Cloverland to the east. The nearest cities are: Eagle River to the east, Woodruff (Oneida County) to the southwest, and Rhinelander (Oneida County) to the southeast. St. Germain covers 25,734 acres of land, and had an estimated 1997 population of 1,434 people.

St. Germain is primarily a recreational community with approximately 67.5% of its land being forestland or woodland. The Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest accounts for approximately 27.4% of the town (7,059 acres), while privately-owned woodlands comprise another 40.7% of the town (10,321 acres). In addition to the abundance of forested land, St. Germain includes numerous lakes and streams. Recreation is a very important element in the town's economic and employment activities. Map 8-1, U.S.G.S. Quadrangle, identifies the physical features of the town.

8.1 Topography and Drainage

The town of St. Germain is located in the Northern Highland physiographic region of Wisconsin which has some of the highest elevations in the state. Elevations, by number of feet above sea level, range in the 1,600's throughout the town. Relief in the area is low.

The landscape in St. Germain includes an area of outwash plain, much of which is pitted, resulting in a rolling or hilly topography with many enclosed basins and depressions. Also, the town of St. Germain is located on large sand flats, and includes some small end moraines and drumlins.

TOWN OF PLUM LAKE, VILAS COUNTY
T 41 N, R 7 E

TOWN OF PLUM LAKE, VILAS COUNTY
T 41 N, R 8 E

MAP 8-1

U.S.G.S QUADRANGLE Town of St. Germain Vilas County, Wisconsin



TOWN OF ARBOR VITAE, VILAS COUNTY
T 40 N, R 7 E

TOWN OF CLOVERLAND, VILAS COUNTY
T 40 N, R 8 E

TOWN OF WOODRUFF, ONEIDA COUNTY
T 40 N, R 7 E

TOWN OF NEWBOLD, ONEIDA COUNTY
T 40 N, R 8 E

This drawing is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This drawing is a compilation of records, information and data used for reference purposes only.

Source: U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute topographic quadrangles -
St. Germain (1970), Sayre, Woodruff (1982)
Vilas County

0 2000 4000 6000 8000 Feet



10/19/04/Map/Map 8-1.rpt October 21, 2004 10:01

The primary source of drainage includes the town's numerous rivers and creeks, including the Wisconsin and St. Germain Rivers, and Lost, Mud, and Plum Creeks. The Wisconsin River and its tributaries drain approximately 40% of the county. According to the Soil Survey of Vilas County, the secondary drainage system is rather poorly defined, and includes the town's numerous lakes which drain into the river systems through shallow, crooked drainageways. Glacial meltwater was unable to establish a system of deeper channels in the hummocky glacial topography of the area. In addition, many of the lakes do not have any outlets. However, the abundance of natural surface water features in the town is an asset as it attracts both tourists and residents.

8.2 Geology

As mentioned previously the town of St. Germain, like the rest of Vilas County, is located in the Northern Highland physiographic province, characterized as a gently arched dome of crystalline rock. In general, the geology of the area consists of glacial drift deposits which are underlain by igneous and metamorphic rocks of the Precambrian Period (2,500 to 900 million years ago).

The surficial geology of the town of St. Germain includes stratified glacial drift which was developed primarily during the various stages of glaciation of the last ice age. Stratified drift consists of outwash and ice-contact deposits which were laid down by meltwater during glacial stagnation. The thickness of this glacial drift, or the depth to bedrock, generally ranges from 0 - 240 feet.

The bedrock geology of the town of St. Germain is characterized by igneous and metamorphic rocks which are part of the Canadian Shield. More specifically, these rocks include gneiss from the Archean age comprising the majority of the town in the west and central areas, metasedimentary rocks which comprise a small portion of the town in the northeast, a small area of iron formations located in the northeast, metavolcanic rocks underlying the southeast, and gneiss along the southern town border, all of which are from the Early Proterozoic age. The bedrock generally slopes to the south.

8.3 Groundwater

The glacial drift which was described previously under the town's surficial geology is the only significant source of groundwater in the area. Within the town of St. Germain, groundwater is obtained from sand and gravel aquifers located within thick sections of glacial drift. According to the United States Geological Survey of the Upper Wisconsin River Basin (1975), the groundwater within the basin is generally of good quality and the supply is adequate for domestic use.

In general, well depths within St. Germain generally range from approximately 40 feet to 200 feet in the northern one-half of town, with probable well yields of 5-500 gpm (gallons per minute), and water located approximately 25-50 feet below the surface of the land. In the southern one-half of town, well depths generally range from 20 to 90 feet and have a probable well yield of 100 to 2,000 gallons per minute. Water is located approximately 10 to 30 feet below the land surface in the southern area.

Groundwater in St. Germain is generally between moderately and highly susceptible to contamination, according to the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, 1989. The groundwater in this area is at risk to contamination primarily because of shallow depth to groundwater and the high permeability of most of the subsurface materials. These characteristics increase the possibility that contaminants at the surface will percolate through the ground to contaminate groundwater. High concentrations of iron is a typical problem of groundwater throughout Vilas County, however it is not considered to be a health hazard.

Groundwater contamination can occur naturally, however is typically a result of land uses associated with modern society. The physical setting of an area usually determines how easily groundwater becomes contaminated if inadequate waste management or improper land uses occur.

8.4 Soil Conditions

Soil is composed of varying proportions of sand, gravel, silt, clay and organic material. The composition of a soil affects the specific properties of that soil. These properties must be evaluated prior to any development, as varying limitations exist for each soil.

The soils of the town of St. Germain primarily result from glacial till, glacial outwash, or glaciolacustrine deposits, and a few formed from organic material. The effects of the last glacial period which are characteristic of the Northern Highlands physiographic region are evident in the distinct soil variations which occur within relatively short distances within the town.

A detailed study of all the soils in Vilas County has been developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. As part of that study, soils are grouped into generalized soil associations, or predominant soil patterns, in addition to the more detailed, specific soil identification. The following presents a list and description of the general soil associations included within the town of St. Germain. It should be noted however, that these general descriptions are only guidelines and should be referred to as such.

- ◆ Rubicon-Sayner-Karlin Association: Nearly level to very steep, excessively drained and somewhat excessively drained, sandy soils on uplands. These soils are suited for trees and therefore most are used as woodlands, while a few areas are used for crops and pasture. Areas with little slope are suited for residential development. Septic tank absorption fields function satisfactorily in these soils, however effluent can pollute groundwater because of the rapid or very rapid permeability of the soils. This association comprises the majority of the soils in St. Germain, except for a portion in the central area of town and a small area in the north. This soil association comprises approximately 42% of Vilas County's land area.
- ◆ Padus-Pence association: Nearly level to very steep, well drained, loamy soils on uplands. Similar to the Rubicon-Sayner-Karlin association, these soils are suited to trees and mostly

used as woodlands, with a few areas used for crops and pasture. Areas with little slope are suited for residential development. Septic tank absorption fields function satisfactorily in these soils, however effluent can pollute groundwater because of the rapid or very rapid permeability of the soils. These soils are found in a small area in the north portion of town east of STH 155, and in the central area of town east and north of Big St. Germain Lake. Approximately 21% of the county's land area is made up of these soils.

- ◆ **Keweenaw-Karlin association:** Nearly level to steep, moderately well drained to somewhat excessively drained, loamy and sandy soils on uplands. Again, most of these soils are used as woodlands, while a few areas are used for crops or pasture. These soils are suited to trees. The nearly level and gently sloping areas of the Keweenaw soils are poorly suited to residential development because of the seasonal high water table, however the more sloping areas where the soils are well drained are moderately suited for residential development. The less sloping areas of the Karlin soils are suited to residential development. Septic tank absorption fields function satisfactorily in the Karlin soils, however because of rapid permeability, the effluent can pollute groundwater. This association comprises a small portion of the soils in the central portion of the town east of Big St. Germain Lake, and approximately 5% of the soils county-wide.

Soils also determine, in part, the amount of rainfall/snowmelt which runs off to streams and lakes and how much infiltrates into the ground. Low permeability soils, which consist of finer particles such as clay, silt and loam, allow rapid surface runoff and little infiltration; highly permeable soils allow rapid infiltration and little surface runoff and are characterized by larger soil particles containing higher percentages of sand and gravel. In general, the rate of permeability is related to the deposits from which the soils were derived. The town of St. Germain is primarily highly permeable, with infiltration rates of 5-10 inches per hour, indicating very sandy soils. This rapid rate of infiltration throughout the town is reflective of its rather high susceptibility to groundwater contamination.

8.5 Vegetation Types

The vegetation in the vicinity of the town of St. Germain is reported to have historically been comprised primarily of mainly coniferous forest, with some mixed coniferous - deciduous forest (mesic).

The major coniferous forest type covering the town of St. Germain in the mid-1800's was pine forest, including red and white. It is commonly thought that most of northern Wisconsin was once covered by extensive pure stands of white and red pines, however this forest type was actually extremely limited even before settlement. The most extensive block occurred in Vilas and Oneida counties. A small portion of the western side of the town included a cover of jack pine, scrub oak forests and barrens.

The mixed coniferous - deciduous forest type of sugar maple and yellow birch with a mixture of red and white pine existed in a small tract east of Big St. Germain Lake.

Presently, both the species composition and relative proportion of presettlement forest types have been greatly altered by humans in the northern forest region. The presettlement coniferous pine forests are occupied by mixtures of red oak, red maple, white birch, and aspen today, although white pine is experiencing a comeback in many areas. The mixed coniferous - deciduous forest types have primarily lost their coniferous component. The sugar maple has retained a dominant position, however yellow birch is much less common than it once was; basswood and white ash are now usually the most important associates of sugar maple. In general, the area is dominated by mixtures of sugar maple, basswood, hemlock, yellow birch, white ash, and American beech, while red oak and red maple are the most common minor associates to these stands. Stands of white pine exist within the town, however it is not a dominant species.

8.6 Watersheds and Basins

A watershed is an area of land in which water drains to a common point. In Wisconsin, watersheds vary in scale from major river systems to small creek drainage areas and typically range in size from 100 to 300 square miles. River basins encompass several watersheds. There are 32 river basins in Wisconsin which range in size from 500 to over 5,000 square miles.

The town of St. Germain is included in the Upper Wisconsin River Northern Sub-Basin, of which three watersheds are contained within the town's boundaries, including the Sugar Camp Creek Watershed in the south and east, the St. Germain River Watershed in the north and west, and a small portion of the Rhinelander Flowage Watershed in the southwest corner of the town. The most recent water quality management plan for the Upper Wisconsin River Northern Sub-Basin was published in October, 1996 by the WDNR. The plan was prepared to identify the sources of water quality problems and identify management objectives that the WDNR, communities, counties and other agencies should take to protect and improve the water resources of the northern sub-basin.

The surface water features located in each of these watersheds, along with their descriptions and classifications, are depicted in the following section and are shown on Map 8-2.

8.7 Water Features (Lakes, Rivers, Wetlands)

The Soil Survey of Vilas County reported that Vilas County ranks second in the state in total acreage of surface water with 96,321 acres, of which approximately 98% is lakes and the remaining 2% is streams. In addition, the county ranks first in the state in total number of lakes with 1,327 (WDNR PUBL-FM-800 91). The town of St. Germain contains 4,475.5 acres of surface water comprising 4.6% of the county's total surface water acreage, and has 19 lakes which is 1.4% of the county's total lakes. Overall, the surface water features within the town comprise approximately 17.4% of the town's total acreage.

TOWN OF PLUM LAKE, VILAS COUNTY
T 41 N, R 7 E

TOWN OF PLUM LAKE, VILAS COUNTY
T 41 N, R 8 E

MAP 8-2

WATER FEATURE DATA

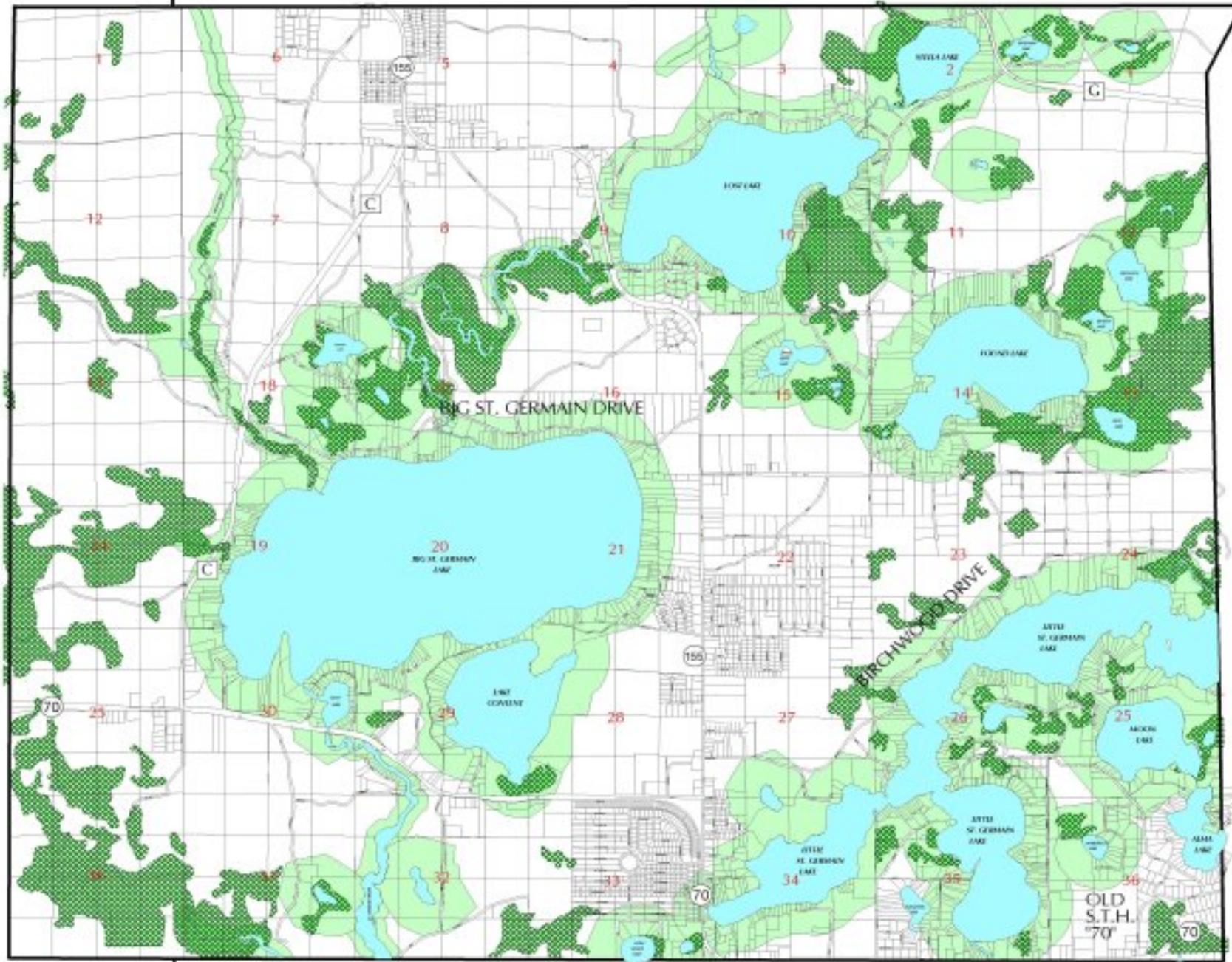
Town of St. Germain
Vilas County,
Wisconsin



State of Wisconsin

TOWN OF ARBOR VITAE, VILAS COUNTY
T 40 N, R 7 E

TOWN OF CLOVERLAND, VILAS COUNTY
T 40 N, R 8 E



- DNR Designated Wetland
- Shoreland Protection Area
- Surface Water
- Parcel Lines
- Town Border
- Local Roads
- County Roads
- State Roads
- Section Numbers

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Source: Vilas County, 1997

0 2000 4000 6000 8000 Feet



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TOWN OF WOODRUFF, ONEIDA COUNTY
T 40 N, R 7 E

TOWN OF NEWBOLD, ONEIDA COUNTY
T 40 N, R 8 E

The town of St. Germain contains numerous natural surface water features, including lakes, rivers, and wetlands. This section discusses the major surface water features located within the town. In addition, the WDNR classifies major surface water resources into one of five classes, which will be identified for each major surface water feature within the town. These classifications allow water bodies of particular importance to be identified because of their unique resource values and water quality. Two classes which are represented by surface waters in the town of St. Germain include: 1) Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) which have the highest quality water and fisheries in the state and are therefore deserving of special protection, and 2) Exceptional Resource Waters (ERW) which have excellent water quality and valued fisheries but receive or may receive wastewater discharges.

Lakes

As mentioned previously, the town of St. Germain contains 19 named lakes and several smaller, unnamed lakes. Within the area, the lakes are of glacial origin; some formed in broad, deep depressions in the drainage system while others are in depressions in the glacial drift.

As high levels of development exist on some water bodies and increased pressure for development of shorelands on many others, and given the varied sensitivity of lakes, Vilas County developed a Lakes Classification System as part of the Vilas County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. Each lake in Vilas County greater than 50 acres in surface area was individually evaluated and classified (low, medium, high) based upon its sensitivity to development and the level of existing development along privately-owned shoreline. Minimum lot size and setback requirements for specified uses were then developed based on the lakes' sensitivity level. Lakes 50 acres and less in surface area were not individually evaluated, but were classified as warranting the highest level of protection (minimum 60,000 sq. ft. lot area, 300' frontage width, and 270' lot width).

The intent of the Lakes Classification Ordinance was to control further development as determined by the waterways ability to accommodate the development, and thus protect and preserve surface water quality, fish and aquatic life, shoreland communities and natural beauty, and compatibility of proposed development with existing land and water usage. The ordinance will also maintain safe and healthful conditions, prevent and control water pollution and soil erosion, and control building sites and the placement of structures and other land uses.

Table 8-1 identifies the lakes classifications and associated development requirements for those lakes which are 50 acres or greater in surface area. Eight of the 19 named lakes in St. Germain are 50 acres or greater. The remaining lakes within the town were not evaluated and were classified as warranting the highest level of protection with minimum lot size and setback requirements of 60,000 square foot lot area, 300' frontage width, and 270' lot width. Lakes less than 50 acres in surface area were deemed highly sensitive based on their small lake surface areas, proportionately larger shoreline lengths per surface area, less water volume to assimilate excess nutrients, and generally small-sized watersheds. In addition, these lakes have the potential for higher densities of development and higher numbers of recreational watercraft access points per acre of surface water

**Table 8-1
Classification of Lakes
Town of St. Germain**

Lake Name	Surface Area (acres)	Max. Depth (ft)	Sensitivity Level	Level of Existing Development	Minimum Lot Area (sq ft)	Minimum Frontage Width (ft)	Minimum Lot Width (ft)
Alma Lake	55	19	High	High	40,000	200	180
Big St. Germain Lake	1,617	42	Low	High	30,000	150	135
Found Lake	326	21	Low	Medium	30,000	150	135
Lake Content	244	14	Low	Medium	30,000	150	135
Little St. Germain Lake	980	56	Medium	High	30,000	150	135
Lost Lake	544	20	Low	High	30,000	150	135
Moon Lake	124	40	Medium	Medium	40,000	200	180
Stella Lake	91	9	Medium	Medium	40,000	200	180

Source: Vilas County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, Article III, 3.4, A.

The lakes classification system identified that the lakes in St. Germain which are 50 acres or greater generally have low/medium sensitivity levels and have medium or high levels of existing development along their shorelines. Alma Lake, however, was identified as a highly sensitive lake on which the level of existing development is high. In this situation, the zoning standards developed were based on mitigation/restoration strategies rather than prevention strategies.

The following provides general information about the water quality and fisheries of the larger lakes in the town of St. Germain.

Little St. Germain Lake

Little St. Germain Lake is located in the southeastern portion of the town, and consists of three distinct basins (Northeast Bay, South Bay and West Bay) which are all influenced by WVIC-owned dams at the outlets. The lake is managed as a warm watery fishery, and was identified by the WDNR as an exceptional resource water. Muskellunge Creek is the lake's only inlet stream, which enters through Northeast Bay.

Big St. Germain Lake

This lake is located centrally within the town of St. Germain. Water levels are controlled by a WVIC-owned dam located downstream from the outlet. Big St. Germain is managed as a warm water fishery, and is considered an exceptional resource water. In addition, the lake is noted as a trophy muskie fishery.

Rivers

In addition to the numerous lakes in the town there are several creeks, some of which interconnect lakes within the town. The most significant stream in the town is the St. Germain River. It is located south of Big St. Germain Lake and is classified as a warm water sport fishery. Currently, there is not much information about the fishery associated with the St. Germain River; more survey work is needed. Of the town's several creeks, two are classified as exceptional resource waters, including Plum Creek and Stella Creek.

The Vilas County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance separates rivers and streams into two classes for management and development purposes, based upon factors set forth in the Vilas County Lake and River Classification Study, February 1999. Class I rivers and streams were designated as those water bodies that had low or limited adjacent development or potential for development, were classified as outstanding or exceptional resource waters by the WDNR, and those which were cold water trout streams. Class I rivers and streams are considered highly sensitive waters, and include the majority of rivers and streams in the county. Development regulations applied to class I rivers and streams include a minimum lot area of 60,000 square feet, 300' frontage, and 270' lot width. Class II rivers and streams (or segments of them) were individually reviewed and are generally larger in size and have higher flushing volumes, therefore are less vulnerable to impacts from nutrient or sediment runoff. Many rivers and streams classified as class II already have high levels of existing development along their shorelines. Development regulations for class II rivers and streams include minimum 30,000 sq. ft. lot area, 150' frontage width, and 135' lot width. In St. Germain, the St. Germain river downstream of Big St. Germain Lake is identified as a Class II river. The remaining portions of the St. Germain River, and all other streams in the town, are Class I waters.

Wetlands

Wetlands are areas where the soil is usually saturated or covered with surface water for two or more months during the year; the soil is nearly level and very poorly drained, allowing water levels to be the primary factor in controlling the environment and the associated plant and animal life. Most wetlands are dominated by plants which can tolerate various degrees of flooding, with species composition and productivity dependent on the variations in the water patterns.

A variety of benefits are received from wetlands, including:

- ◆ Wetlands are very productive wildlife habitat.
- ◆ Wetlands provide recreational activities such as hunting, trapping and bird watching.
- ◆ Wetlands provide open/greenspace.
- ◆ Wetlands recharge groundwater supplies, the source of drinking water for people within the town of St. Germain.
- ◆ Wetlands maintain surface water and groundwater quality, which promotes improved drinking water supplies and recreational experiences.
- ◆ Wetlands attenuate flood flows which decreases the risk of flood damage to property owners.

- ♦ Wetlands maintain base flows of streams and watercourses, which is important to the continued well-being of aquatic ecosystems and associated wildlife habitat.

There are numerous wetlands scattered throughout the town of St. Germain which comprise over 2,215.32 acres, or 8.6% of the town's total acreage. The wetlands included in this acreage are those which are five acres or greater in size. Primarily, these areas are located adjacent rivers, streams and lakes, or in their general vicinity.

8.8 Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Environmentally sensitive areas are those unique environmental areas which should be preserved from (urban) development. Such areas are typically identified as a requirement of sewer service area plans. However, as the town is not serviced by a public sewer system, it does not have a sewer service area plan established. In addition, the town's population is less than 10,500 persons, therefore even if a public sewer system was in place, the town would not be required to establish a sewer service area plan. Therefore, there are no designated environmentally significant/sensitive areas within St. Germain.

Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 121.05(1)(g) describes the natural features and sensitive environmental areas that are to be excluded from designated sewer service areas, which include resources such as wetlands, floodways and floodplains, shorelands, areas of steep slope adjacent wetlands or shorelands, publicly owned scientific and natural areas (i.e., fish and wildlife habitats), and identified archaeological sites. Designation of environmentally sensitive areas is intended to 1) protect general public health, safety and welfare, 2) protect surface and groundwater quality, 3) reduce damage from flooding and stormwater runoff, and 4) maintain important wildlife habitats or outdoor recreation areas. Even though such areas are not "designated" by means of a sewer service area plan in St. Germain, the town does contain numerous environmentally sensitive resources which should be preserved and protected from development.

The following environmentally significant resources exist within the town of St. Germain:

- ♦ State Forest Lands
- ♦ Other Woodlands
- ♦ Lakes
- ♦ Shorelands
- ♦ Streams
- ♦ Wetlands

These environmentally sensitive resources consume a large portion of land within the town of St. Germain (approximately over 90% of the town's total acreage), and are important to its tourist driven economy. Therefore, the town of St. Germain should take steps to ensure the protection of these resources.

8.9 Wildlife

The distribution and abundance of animals in the northern Wisconsin forest areas have changed dramatically since the 1800's (Wisconsin's Biodiversity as a Management Issue, 1995). Unregulated commercial hunting and trapping, along with significant habitat changes, has resulted in the extirpation of several species in the area including elk, wolverine, woodland caribou, Canada lynx, fisher, pine marten, moose, eastern cougar, and eastern timber wolf. Some of these species however, have been reestablished in low numbers including the fisher, pine marten, eastern timber wolf, eastern cougar, and moose.

Another factor limiting the population and presence of some animal species in the northern forest areas is the lack of large, contiguous blocks of wild land with minimal human presence. Such species include the eastern timber wolf, black bear, bobcat, moose, eastern cougar and spruce grouse. These species require extensive forest ranges which can be immature and intensively managed, however the presence of humans must be low.

Other species numbers declined when logging and settlement occurred which drastically changed their habitat, however as the forest began to mature again their numbers increased. These species include the gray squirrel, porcupine, flying squirrel, and beaver. Species such as the raccoon, striped skunk, woodchuck, ground squirrel, and eastern cottontail became more abundant young forests, and small town and resort development occurred. Other common species in the area include the otter, fox and coyote.

The white-tailed deer is a common species in the area. During presettlement time, white-tailed deer populations were low ranging between 5-15 deer per square mile, and by the 1940's their population in the northern forests peaked with 40-50 deer per square mile. The high deer populations caused widespread damage to vegetation. Deer management unit population goals in the northern forests averaged around 18 deer per square mile in the mid 1990's.

There is an abundance of bird species in the northern forest areas - over 100 - with common species including the ruffed grouse, woodcock, chestnut-sided warbler, mourning warbler, blue jay, rufous-sided towhee, brown thrasher, Nashville warbler, indigo bunting, goshawk, yellow-bellied sap sucker, chickadee, song sparrow, rose-breasted grosbeak, and the great-horned owl. A number of other species are now declining as the forests are maturing.

In addition to the abundance of common species, special attention should be directed to those species which are of special concern, threatened and endangered within the town of St. Germain. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the WDNR identify and list threatened and endangered species at the federal and state levels, respectively. The state of Wisconsin's DNR also identifies species of special concern.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service classifies a species for protection as "endangered" when it is in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Species are classified as "threatened" if they are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future. There are three federally-listed threatened and endangered species which occur in Vilas County. These species

8.10 Agricultural Lands

The presence of agricultural land within the town of St. Germain is limited primarily to hobby farms and tree farms which exist scattered throughout the town.

8.11 Historic and Cultural Sites

The identification of existing historical structures and cultural areas are an important consideration in all town planning efforts, as these features help to define a community's physical look and character.

The State Historical Society has recorded one "registered" historic properties within the town of St. Germain. This property is the Pickerel Island Site (archeological site) which encompasses all of Pickerel Island on Big St. Germain Lake. The site is listed on both the National Register and State Register of Historic Places.

In addition to this site which is listed on the National and State Register's, numerous other archeological and structural historic properties exist within the town, however these are non-listed. These sites include the following:

- ◆ The Peacock Restaurant located on STH 70, T40N, R8E, Section 30, constructed in 1935.
- ◆ A house located on STH 70, T40N R8E, Section 30, constructed in 1930.
- ◆ Dick & Joanne's, historically the Thunderbird Pass, located in T40N R8E, Section 33, constructed in 1930.
- ◆ West Bay Resort located on STH 70, constructed in 1940.
- ◆ A house located on STH 70, T40N R8E, Section 34, constructed in 1930.
- ◆ Geise's Indian Lodge Restaurant, located on STH 70, T40N R8E, Section 35, constructed in 1930.
- ◆ St. Germain State Grade School (historic name), located on STH 155, T40N R8E, Section 28, constructed in 1941.
- ◆ Standard Station (historic name), located on STH 155, T40N R8E, Section 27, constructed in 1940.
- ◆ Smith Cabin (log), located on STH 70, T40N R8E, Section 34, constructed in 1940.
- ◆ Little St. Germain Dam, located on STH 70 and Little St. Germain River, constructed in 1929.
- ◆ Big St. Germain Dam, located on STH 70 and Big St. Germain River, constructed in 1923.

If the town is interested in identifying the location(s) and/or significance of these areas, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin can be contacted for further details.

8.12 State Natural Areas

State natural areas are formally designated sites which are devoted to scientific research, the teaching of conservation biology, and especially to the preservation of their natural values and genetic diversity for future generations. These areas are not intended for recreational uses such as picnicking or camping.

As of September, 1997, 324 sites including over 100,000 acres have been designated as state natural areas. There are no state natural areas within the town of St. Germain, however, there are nine state natural areas within other areas of Vilas County including the following:

- ◆ High Lake Spruce-Balsam Forest - town of Presque Isle
- ◆ Plum Lake Hemlock Forest - town of Plum Lake
- ◆ Bittersweet Lakes - town of Arbor Vitae
- ◆ Black Tern Bog - town of Arbor Vitae
- ◆ Johnson Lake Barrens - town of Land O'Lakes
- ◆ Aurora Lake - town of Plum Lake
- ◆ Goodyear Springs, East - town of Land O' Lakes
- ◆ Day Lake - town of Boulder Junction
- ◆ Pine-Oak Grove (Location not identified)

For additional information regarding the state natural areas program or specific state natural areas, contact the WDNR, Bureau of Endangered Resources.