

## TOWN OF EMERALD VISION STATEMENT

### *We are as green as our name.*

In the Year 2035, the Town of Emerald is a thriving agricultural-based, rural community with abundant natural resources offering prime recreational and small business opportunities supported by renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar. We are maintaining our transportation infrastructure and pursuing public transit options, especially for the elderly.

We are environmentally friendly, using farm “waste” to produce renewable energy. We have policies to protect our groundwater. We have small scattered housing developments that have preserved farmland, woodland and open space for wildlife habitat. We encourage small industry and businesses in our community.

### *ELEMENT-BASED VISION STATEMENTS*

#### *Utilities & Community Facilities, Intergovernmental Cooperation*

The town has worked with the County, neighboring communities and utility companies on the placement of transmission lines, high speed internet and fiber optics, and on regular road maintenance. The town has worked with neighboring communities and school districts to develop one unified school district.

#### *Transportation & Economic Development*

The Town of Emerald has maintained the railroad right of way and has worked with the County and neighboring communities on a rural transportation system. Small businesses flourish at major highway intersections and where appropriate as home occupations.

#### *Natural Resources*

The Town of Emerald has maintained and increased the amount and types of open space (forests, wetlands, riparian areas, and agriculture) throughout the town for both wildlife habitat and maintaining the integrity of our groundwater. In particular, the town has focused on the Willow River to maintain habitat for water fowl. The town has worked with the County and DNR to access the river for fishing and hunting. The town has worked at creating both on- and off-road routes and trails for multiple uses such as bicycles, snowmobiles and pedestrians.

#### *Cultural Resources*

The town residents also recognize and remember their history and have worked to preserve original barns and farmhouses, the town hall, and other historic building sites.

#### *Land Use, Housing, Agriculture*

The Town of Emerald has maintained tracts of agricultural land for farms while balancing private property rights by allowing small residential lots and where appropriate renewable energy systems, such as wind turbines. The town has passed a resolution in support of the right to farm allowing farmers to spread manure when appropriate and operate farm machinery when necessary. Emerald encourages residential living in clustered developments that share small water and sewer systems.