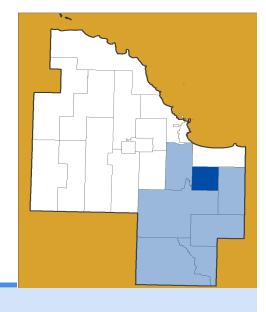
Marquette County 2040 Master Plan Community Profile

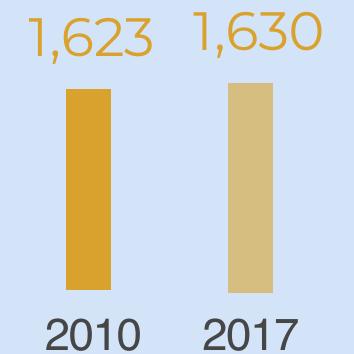
WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP

Planning Region: Blueberry Farms



Quick Facts

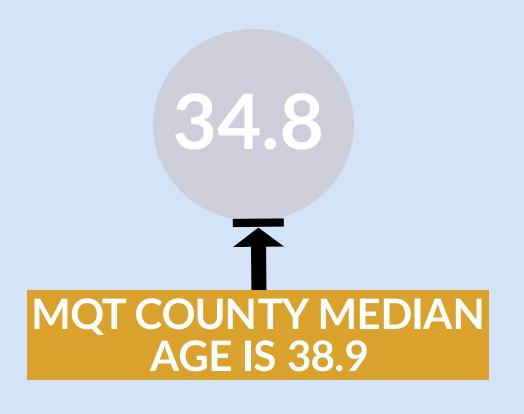




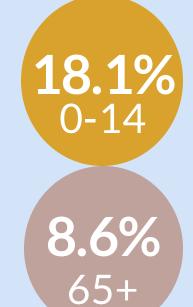
PEAK POPULATION



MEDIAN AGE



AGE PROFILE



LAND OWNERSHIP

34.3% 18.5%



owned by owned by top 10 forestry landowners companie

PORTION OF COUNTY TOTAL

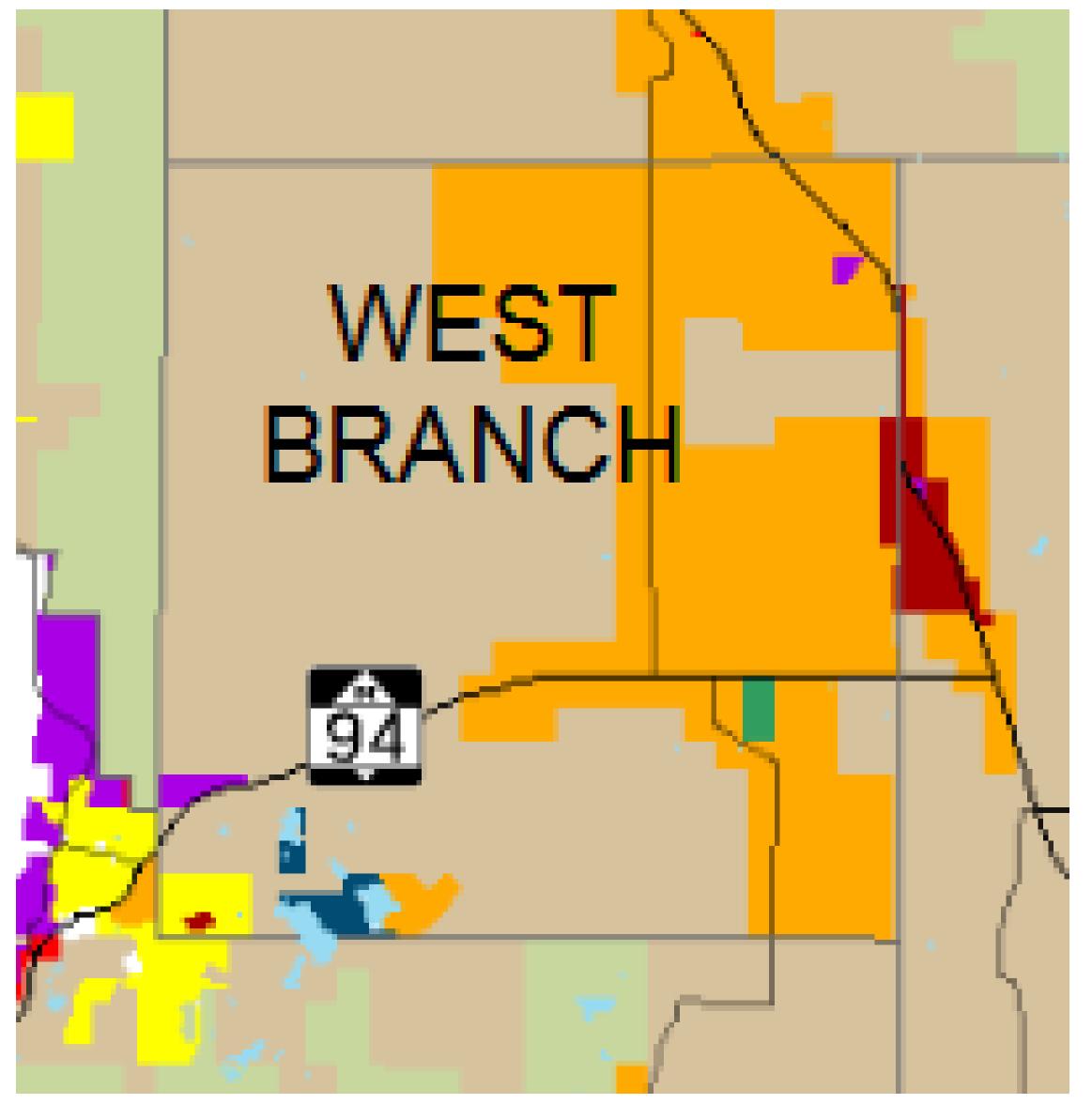
2.5%
POPULATION

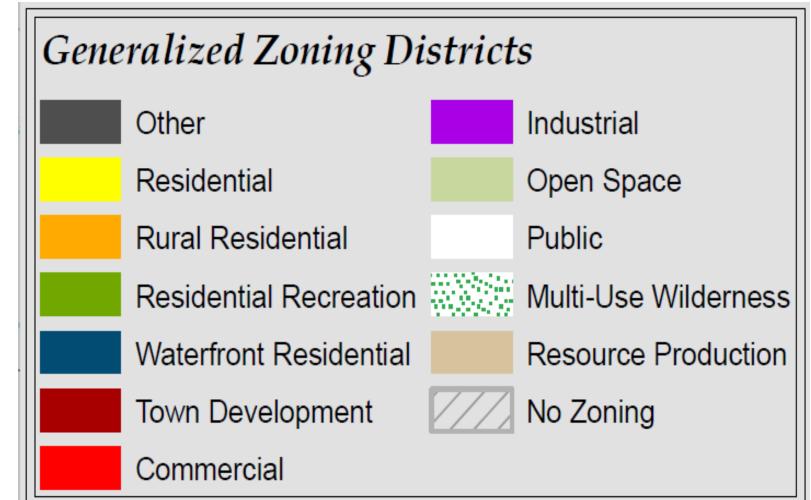
2.0%

LAND AREA

1.3%

LAND VALUE







Comprehensive Plan Summary (2005)

Single-family homes are majority; housing stock not balanced

Propose residential growth control zoning program; protect and develop rural image

The Township will ensure an adequate supply of affordable, safe housing that is consistent with needs of all current and future residents

HOUSIN

Home affordability may be an issue outside former military housing

Consider Natural Resources Zoning Overlay District; reference cluster development, buffers & design guidelines

The Township will conserve natural systems and resources, integrating them with development and recreation opportunities to provide a sustainable community

ENVIRONMENTAL

RESOURCES

Outstanding natural features are of high value to community: Chocolay River, inland lakes, extensive woodlots

Participate in Chocolay River Watershed Advisory Council

Continue to

work with

MCRC to plan

& implement

construction

projects

Improvements needed to CR 545

Continue to support Marq Tran services; optimize to provide alternatives for residents & workers

A transportation network that allows for the safe and efficient movement of goods and people will be supported and enhanced

TRANSPORTATION

West Branch Community Center operated by Twp

Joint Skandia-

West Branch

Plan

A wide variety of recreational opportunities will be provided to all residents and visitors to the Township. Use of recreational opportunities offered by the area's natural environment will be maximized

Twps Recreation ♥ **PARKS** & RECREATION

Recommended facilities include hockey rink, picnic area, fishing platform, soccer field, camping area

Wide variety of recreational opportunities within Twp & in neighboring communities

Continue to work w/Marquette Countyon redevelopment of KI Sawyer

he Township's economic vase will be expanded to create diverse employment opportunities, encourage additional investment & reinvestment int he community & ensure sufficient revenues are available to support the

Township **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

range of well-funding community facilities and services will be provided that sustain Sawyer water & and/or enhance the wastewater Township's quality of systems; life and fulfill the expand Township's needs as services to the Township grows & other areas of changes Twp

Joint fire protection & emergency medical services w/Skandia Twp

Expand home-

based

business

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & SERVICES

Ruraloriented zoning ordinance; eleven zoning districts

A consistent, orderly pattern of land use and development will be established that will take into consideration the desire for growth, while preserving the rural character of the community and protecting the natural environment

LAND USE

Farming continues to play a vital role in Twp's evolving character

> Highway commercial & light industry often most challenging uses

Conserve lands identified for business or light industry to ensure balance

Growth will be managed in a manner that ensures the best development that is compatible with the community's values and aspirations, while ensuring sufficient revenues to provide facilities and services

Promote 'move up' housing

Anticipated growth & development of residential areas, increase in population

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Establish welldefined edges by placing signs identifying entrances into Twp

The rural atmosphere and natural features of the Township will be used as a template to shape future growth and development

Consider adopting Design Overlay Districts for key corridors

COMMUNITY CHARACTER