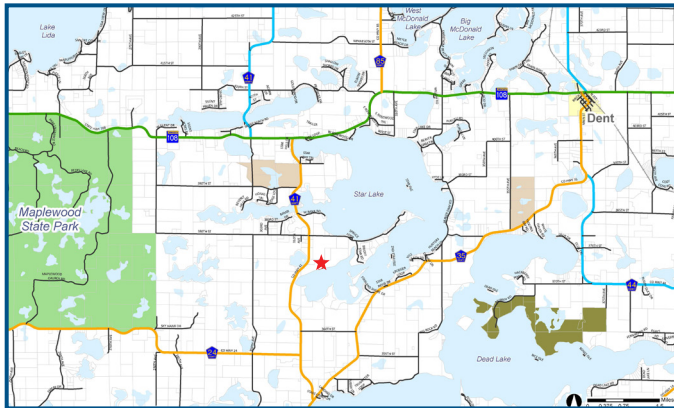




Study Overview

Otter Tail County, in collaboration with the White Earth Nation, is working with SRF Consulting Group to complete a Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan. The purpose is to better understand and plan for potential changes in transportation, utilities, land use, recreation, housing, and more. An outcome will be the identification of the concerns of Star Lake and Dead Lake Township residents and property owners relative to the White Earth Nation's plans for a resort and casino development in Star Lake Township. It is understood that not all concerns identified will relate to the proposed resort and casino development. Adjacent land in the surrounding area will also be reviewed to understand how it may change over time and how those changes may affect the adjacent transportation infrastructure of the study area.



Comprehensive Plan Understanding

A Comprehensive Plan is intended to be a long-range plan – looking 20-30 years into the future to address a wide range of information relating to land use, natural features, community character and identity, housing and neighborhoods, potential future development, and transportation among other matters. In essence, the plan sets the foundation for land use decisions, from broad understanding to certain site developments. However, it is not regulatory. It does not approve specific developments nor dictate their location.

Once the County adopts the Plan, they will continue to use it as a guide for future land use/development and potential investment decisions.

White Earth Nation Tribal Trust Land / Fee Land

The White Earth Nation has jurisdiction and exercises governmental power over approximately 15 acres of land immediately adjacent to Star Lake that is held in Trust or Restricted Status by the United States Federal Government. State, county and township governments have no jurisdiction over such lands. White Earth Nation purchased approximately 255 additional acres surrounding the Trust Land that is differentiated as Fee Land. Fee Land is land that is acquired by a tribal entity via standard statutory authority and is not held in trust by the United States Federal Government. It is subject to the usual local regulations and/or zoning.

While there is a process to convert Fee Land to Trust Land, the process is very restrictive for land not connected to Tribal Reservation lands.

White Earth Nation Star Lake Resort and Casino Development

White Earth Nation has the statutory right to develop gaming operations on Trust Lands, and therefore intends to develop a resort and casino on the 15 acre parcel under their jurisdiction. A portion of the remaining 255 acres of Fee Land will be used to supplement the gaming operation development with parking lots, utility operations, transportation access, and other ancillary facilities included in Phase 1 of development. Future phases are not known at this time but are anticipated to include an increase of approximately 20 to 30 percent of Phase 1 development.

Recent Activity

A neighborhood/open house meeting was held at the Dent Community Center on March 30, 2016 to share information with the public and gather feedback regarding local resident concerns relative to potential development in the limited area surrounding Star Lake. Residents of Star Lake Township and the surrounding area that attended were given an opportunity to provide input via survey. The survey was distributed in hard copy at the meeting and was also available to complete online.

Survey results will be shared with the public at a future public engagement meeting and online thereafter.



Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan



Next Steps / Coming Soon...

The Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan Team continues to evaluate the area surrounding Star Lake. It is our intention to meet with and share outcomes from this analysis at a public open house in early June. This will be the second of three public engagement meetings held for the limited area comprehensive plan. It should be noted that additional public outreach may also take place as part of any future environmental review conducted for the proposed resort and casino development.

Open House

Save the date for an Open House style meeting to be held June 9, 2016 at the Dent Community Center. An Open House style meeting is an informal meeting with information on display for review by the public and interested persons. **No formal presentation will be conducted.** Anyone that would like to attend can do so anytime throughout the stated time period of the meeting. Additional information regarding the Open House meeting time will be mailed in advance of the meeting.

If possible, stay connected at: <http://www.co.otter-tail.mn.us/1150/Limited-Area-Star-Lake-Comprehensive-Pla>

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