

Town of Sweden, Maine Comprehensive Plan

2004



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I. Introduction and Overview

The Town of Sweden is very small, comprising about 27 square miles, and, for the past century, has had a resident population of less than 325 persons. Situated in southwestern Maine among Oxford County foothills, it is largely undeveloped and distinctly rural-residential in character, with no concentrated village area, commercial center, or industrial activity. Most consumer needs are adequately met by neighboring towns and more commercial centers within 30 minutes in each of three directions (east, west, and northeast).

Uniquely, Sweden enjoys a characteristic natural beauty and rural tranquility, totally uncongested and seldom disturbed—scarce commodities today, but vital to sustaining a high quality of life and overall residential well-being. The town is situated among several other similar towns out of the mainstream, collectively forming an appealing niche of traditional rural New England. These characteristics have been central to Sweden's planning and preservation efforts since its original Comprehensive Plan in 1973.

Through the adoption of town-wide zoning in 1975, Sweden's property owners have opted for an emphasis on rural-residential preservation and respect for the natural environment in lieu of economic and commercial development. A revised Comprehensive Plan (1988), followed by corresponding Zoning and Land Use Ordinance revisions in 1991 and 1998, continued this emphasis by including a Rural Preservation Zone, Aquifer and Stream Protection Districts, watershed phosphorus control standards, and refining of overall land use criteria.

Recently, the gradually increasing land development and residential-commercial sprawl occurring throughout Maine continues, and is now accelerating throughout local surrounding towns. Byproducts of this neighboring activity, together with increased liquidation timber harvesting, subdivision of land, and residential construction, are being experienced in Sweden. The resulting growth and pressure place an increased demand on municipal services and threaten suburbanization of Sweden's natural and quiet rural character.

The term *rural*, as used in this document, is understood and intended to mean *country* in contrast to *urban* and *suburban*. In this context, Sweden's rural nature is characterized by open natural spaces, abundant wildlife habitats, sparsely settled residential development, agricultural and forest areas, and minimal commercialization. Noticeably absent are industrial sites, concentrations of multi-dwelling/multi-family structures, and urban/suburban traffic and support systems. All taken together, the rural nature of Sweden implies an ambiance of quieter, less congested, more relaxing, and private residential living.

Because development has a dramatic and lasting effect, it is important that Sweden continue to plan, establish, and refine growth management policies so that its citizens may determine, and remain in control of, the Town's future--so that desirable growth is accommodated while those qualities special to Sweden and its people are preserved. At the same time, the state requires periodic review and update of Comprehensive Plans. It is intended that these plans will provide a legal basis and rationale for any future ordinances or land use regulations that may be adopted by a town, as well as for all town governmental responsibilities and actions.

This second update of the Town of Sweden Comprehensive Plan is another major step in the ever-continuing planning process. In addition to being a periodic review/update of the 1988 Plan, it projects into the future and responds to new guidelines and criteria established by the State Planning Office. It is a compilation of information, analyses, policies, and strategies. It is not an ordinance or regulation in itself, but rather, a vision and set of foundation guidelines and goals for determining future development and direction for the town, its officials, and its ordinances. Specifically, the Comprehensive Plan:

- Provides an *inventory/analysis/findings* of town historical data, demographics, natural resources, land use, economics, and public facilities and services;
- Formulates town *goals and policies* that address the findings in each of the above areas;
- Sets forth *specific strategies* to implement each of the goals and policies, with corresponding timetables and responsible town officials; and
- Includes a town-wide *Land Use Plan, Regional Coordination Program, and Capital Investment Plan*.

The town Selectmen appointed the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee of four Planning Board members and four residents-at-large in January 2001. Work commenced in February 2001 and was completed in October 2003. As in previous Comprehensive Plan and Zoning and Land Use Ordinance revision processes, the public's opinions were acquired from a survey distributed in July 2001 to all residents and non-resident property owners as well as twice-monthly planning sessions and subsequent public hearings prior to approval.

As people's needs change over time, town planning needs to be responsive. Therefore, it is important that comprehensive planning be a continuous process to monitor the long-range issues facing the town, and that the Town of Sweden Comprehensive Plan be periodically reviewed and updated as necessary.

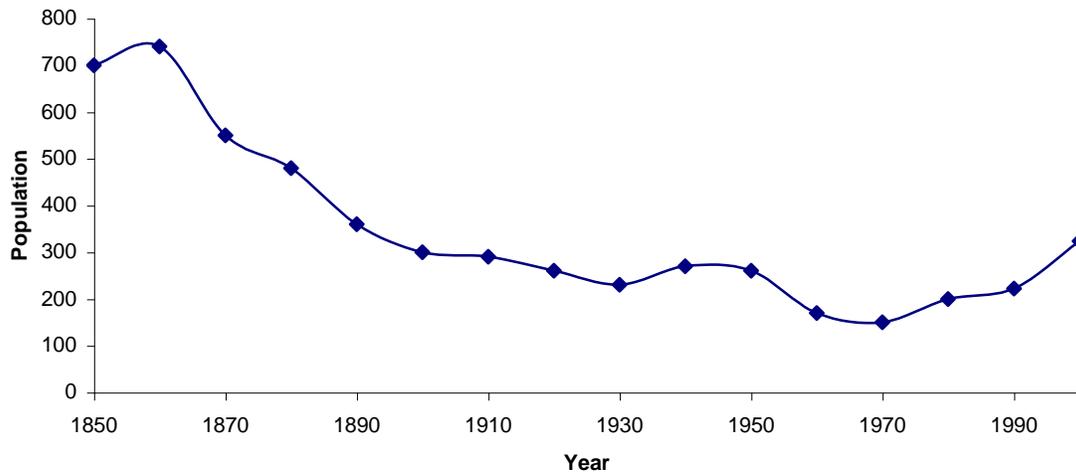
II. Inventory and Analysis, Goals, Policies, and Implementation Strategies

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A. Population

Population Changes. Since its establishment as a separate community in 1813, Sweden's population grew to a high of approximately 750 in 1850. In the period following the Civil War, Sweden experienced an exodus of families to the west where more promising farmland was available free or for little cost. The declining population in these years is illustrated in Figure 1. By 1900, Sweden's population leveled off and experienced some fluctuations in the years between 1930 and 1970. Since 1970, a steady growth of population has been experienced, reaching a level of 324 in 2000.

Figure 1. Sweden's Population (1850-2000)



As shown in Table 1, Sweden's population has experienced relatively consistent growth since 1970. Many of the neighboring towns have experienced less consistent, but overall population increases as well.

Table 1. Population of Sweden and Neighboring Communities (1970–2000)

Town	1970	1980	1990	2000	% Change 1970-1980	% Change 1980-1990	% Change 1990-2000
Bridgton	2967	3528	4307	4883	19	22	13
Brownfield	478	767	1034	1251	60	35	21
Casco	1256	2243	3018	3469	79	35	15
Denmark	397	672	855	1004	69	27	17
Fryeburg	2208	2715	2968	3083	23	9	4
Harrison	1045	1667	1951	2315	60	17	19
Lovell	607	767	888	974	26	16	10
Naples	956	1833	2860	3274	92	56	14
Stoneham	160	204	224	255	28	10	14
Stow	109	186	283	288	71	52	2
Sweden	110	163	222	324	48	36	46
Waterford	760	951	1299	1455	25	37	12

Source: US Census Reports for 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000

Population Density. As shown in Table 1, the year 2000 population of Sweden was 324. The resulting density of the population in the nearly 29.7 square mile area of the town is 11.3 people per square mile. This is significantly less than the statewide population density of 41.3 people per square mile.

School Enrollment. School Area District (SAD) #72 is a seven-town¹ school district of which Sweden has been a part since 1967. The district has experienced a steady growth since that time and further growth is projected. Sweden's school-age population is small, and the total can be significantly affected by the move of a very few families in or out of the town.

Table 2. Sweden's Student Enrollment

Year	Sweden Students in SAD #72	Year	Sweden Students in SAD #72
1969	26	1990	36
1975	28	1995	32
1980	28	2000	56
1985	36	2001	57

Source: SAD #72

Seasonal Population. One of the more reliable sources of information regarding seasonal population is the 2000 census profile of general demographic characteristics that includes data reflecting seasonal versus permanent housing units. These data also allow for a comparison of this indicator of seasonal population of the neighboring towns as shown in Table 3. As can be seen, Sweden's 49% of seasonal housing units falls roughly midway in the range of neighboring towns.

Although specific data are not available to completely characterize the seasonal population of Sweden, the following provides a general summary of this population:

- Most of the seasonal population is in residence during the summer months
- Most of the seasonal housing consists of small camps and cabins, although there are also a significant number of seasonal houses or farmhouses. All recent housing, regardless of size and use, is constructed for year-round use.
- A majority of seasonal housing is located along the shores of Sweden's lakes and ponds

Based on anecdotal information, it is believed that many seasonal residents eventually become full-time residents upon retirement. The frequency of this has not been quantified.

¹ Towns (and schools) within SAD #72 include: Brownfield (Brownfield Elementary School); Denmark (Denmark Elementary School); Fryeburg (Charles A. Snow Elementary School, Molly Ockett Middle School, Sadie Adams School, and Fryeburg Academy--a private high school supported with SAD #72 funds), Lovell (New Suncook Elementary School), Stoneham, Stow, and Sweden.

Table 3. Seasonal Occupancy (by housing unit)

Town	Occupied Units	Seasonal Units ^a	Total Units	Seasonal Units (% of total)
Bridgton	1924	1014	2938	35
Brownfield	512	239	751	32
Casco	1327	573	1900	30
Denmark	417	520	937	55
Fryeburg	1245	323	1568	21
Harrison	920	466	1386	34
Lovell	393	791	1184	67
Naples	1297	967	2264	43
Stoneham	113	223	336	66
Stow	115	47	162	29
Sweden	132	127	259	49
Waterford	590	280	870	32

Source: 2000 US Census

^a Seasonal units include those used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

Population by Age Group. As shown in Table 4, the percentage of Sweden's population is generally higher for the ages of 35 to 74 than those for Oxford County and the state. A more significant difference is shown for ages 65 to 74 (representing 11.4% of Sweden's population versus 8.6% for Oxford County and 7.5% for the state); this is perhaps indicative of the appeal of Sweden as a retirement location.

Table 4. Age Distribution of Sweden's Population

Age Group	Sweden			Oxford County	Maine
	1988 ^a (%)	1995 ^a (%)	2000 (%)	2000 (%)	2000 (%)
Under 5 years	10.7	11.0	5.2	5.3	5.5
5 to 9 years	8.3	9.9	8.3	6.5	6.5
10 to 14 years	5.2	7.9	6.5	7.7	7.2
15 to 19 years	4.0	5.7	5.6	6.9	7.0
20 to 24 years	5.2	4.0	3.1	4.3	5.5
25 to 34 years	12.3	10.2	7.1	10.8	12.4
35 to 44 years	18.3	17.3	18.5	17.0	16.7
45 to 54 years	10.3	14.7	16.7	15.2	15.1
55 to 59 years	4.8	4.5	6.8	5.6	5.4
60 to 64 years	5.2	3.1	5.2	4.7	4.3
65 to 74 years	8.3	6.8	11.4	8.6	7.5
75 years and over	7.5	4.8	5.6	7.5	6.8

^a1988 and 1995 percentages are derived from source data

Sources: Greater Portland Council of Governments (1988 and 1995 data), US Census (2000 data)

Population Projection. Projections for population growth of Sweden, Oxford County, and the state (including a historical basis) are presented in Table 5. As shown, on a percentage basis, the rate of growth of Sweden is forecast to be greater than those for both Oxford County and the state.

Table 5. Population Projections

Date	Sweden	Oxford County	Maine
7/1/00 (historical)	325	54,234	1,278,670
7/1/05	381	55,150	1,305,223
7/1/10	423	56,262	1,337,466
7/1/15	457	58,206	1,377,128
Projected Increase 2000-2015	41%	7.3%	7.7%

Source: Maine State Planning Office, 2001

Goals, Policies, and Strategies

There are no goals, policies, and strategies that are specific to population and demographic information alone. However, this information will be integrated as necessary into the issues, policies, and strategies relating to the following planning elements.

B. Housing

Housing in Sweden consists almost exclusively of single-family dwellings. These dwellings include stick-built homes as well as manufactured housing (including mobile homes). There is no housing in the town that is especially designed for the elderly or low-income residents. Year-round rentals represent only about 10% of the occupied housing. In 2000, nearly one-half of the housing units in Sweden were considered unoccupied units for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Although considered vacant, most of these housing units could accommodate year-round occupancy.

Housing Stock. Sweden has experienced a consistent growth in total housing units since 1970 as shown in Table 6. Since 1970, an increase in excess of 100% has been realized.

Table 6. Housing Units in Sweden

Year	Total Housing Units	Housing Density ^a
1970	122	4.1
1980	171	5.8
1990	228	7.7
2000	266	8.9

^a Density (housing units per square mile) is based on a total land area of 29.7 square miles
Sources: 1970 - 2000 US Census

As shown in Table 7, census data indicate that occupied units increased from 35% to 50% of the total housing units from 1990 to 2000. This reflects the trend for conversion of vacant housing (including units that are designated for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use) to year-round occupied housing.

Table 7. Profile of Occupied Housing in Sweden

Year	Population	Owner-Occupied Housing Units	Renter-Occupied Housing Units	Total Occupied Units	% of Total Housing Units that are Occupied
1990	222	77	5	82	35%
2000	324	119	13	132	50%

Sources: 1990 and 2000 US Census

Household Size. Based on findings of the 2000 census, average household sizes of Sweden, Oxford County, and the state are relatively consistent at 2.45, 2.42, and 2.39 persons per household, respectively.

Housing Characteristics. The characteristics of housing units in Sweden are summarized in Table 8. This table provides similar data for selected towns in the Sebago Lakes Region Housing Market Area as established by the Maine State Housing Authority. The selected towns include Sweden, those immediately adjacent to Sweden (including Bridgton, Fryeburg, Lovell, and Waterford), and those not adjacent to Sweden,

Table 8. Housing Characteristics of Sweden and Neighboring Communities

Characteristic	Sweden	Bridgton	Denmark	Fryeburg	Lovell	Stoneham	Waterford	Oxford County	State of Maine
Total housing units, number	266	3,063	969	1,648	1,229	349	895	32,295	651,901
Single-unit housing, % of total	88.2	82.2	91.3	75.3	94.6	88.3	78.5	72.7	69.6
Multi-unit housing, % of total	2.7	11.0	2.6	12.8	1.8	6.3	4.6	23.8	20.3
Mobile homes, % of total	7.5	6.3	7.1	11.6	3.1	5.4	16.9	12.4	9.8
Other (boat, RV, van, etc.), % of total	1.6	0.5	0	0.3	0.5	0	0	0.4	0.3
Number of rooms per unit (median)	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.5	5.3	5.1	5.7	5.3	5.3
Housing units lacking complete plumbing facilities, % of total	1.6	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.9	0.7
Housing units lacking complete kitchen facilities, % of total	1.6	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.6	0	0.7	0.5
Constructed prior to 1940, % of total	33.7	26.2	21.7	31.6	37.6	28.9	31.4	29.1	29.1
Constructed 1940 – 1969, % of total	7.5	22.4	20.4	20.4	14.8	16.0	21.0	22.0	24.4
Constructed 1970 – 1979, % of total	9.8	16.6	18.9	18.2	6.2	11.7	14.7	15.0	15.9
Constructed 1980 – 1989, % of total	28.6	15.8	20.4	15.8	9.1	8.6	15.0	16.6	16.0
Constructed 1990 – 2000, % of total	20.4	19.1	18.6	14.0	30.3	34.7	17.9	16.0	14.6

Source: 2000 US Census

but of similar size with similar seasonal occupancy characteristics (Denmark and Stoneham). Also shown are comparative data for Oxford County and the State of Maine.

It may be assumed that the higher percentage of housing units that lack complete facilities in Sweden is due, in part, to a larger proportion of housing units that are seasonal camps and cabins.

Location. A majority of Sweden's housing is located along its major roadways and in areas adjacent to Keyes and Stearns Ponds (see map A-7). While most non-waterfront housing is set on generously-sized lots (typically greater than 5 acres), housing around the lakes is generally on smaller lots (1 to 2 acres) resulting in a denser population.

Housing Affordability. Year 2000 housing values and costs for Sweden, Oxford County, and the State of Maine are summarized in Table 9.

Table 9. Median Values and Costs of Occupied Housing

Type	Sweden	Oxford County	Maine
Median value of owner-occupied housing units	\$92,700 (119 units)	\$82,800	\$98,700
Median monthly housing costs for owner-occupied housing units	\$807	\$785	\$923
Median monthly gross rent (includes utilities)	\$388 (13 units)	\$418	\$497

Source: 2000 US Census

According to the 2000 census, household median annual incomes in Sweden, Oxford County, and the state were: \$30,781, \$33,435, and \$37,240, respectively.

To evaluate the affordability of Sweden's housing, the following state guidelines for the three lower-income groups were considered:

- *Very Low Income* represented by incomes less than 50% of the median income. In Sweden, this represents an income range of 0 to \$15,391.
- *Low Income* represented by incomes between 50 and 80% of the median income. In Sweden, this represents an income range of \$15,391 to \$21,547.
- *Moderate Income* represented by incomes between 80% and 150% of the median income. In Sweden, this represents an income range of \$21,547 to \$46,172.

For each of these three income groups, maximum affordable monthly mortgage or rent payments and corresponding house selling prices were calculated as shown in Table 10. Note that the maximum monthly affordable mortgage or rent payment shown represents 30% of the total monthly income; 30% of total income is the measure of affordable expenditure for housing as established by the state.

Table 10. Affordable Housing Parameters for Lower to Moderate Incomes in Sweden

Income Level of Sweden Households	Percent of Households (Approximate) ^a	Affordable Monthly Mortgage or Rent Payment ^b (Maximum for range)	Selling Price Corresponding to Affordable Mortgage Payment ^c
Very Low 0 - \$15,391	24	\$385/mo	\$50,000
Low \$15,391 - \$21,547	19	\$539/mo	\$70,000
Moderate \$21,547 - \$46,172	26	\$1,154/mo	\$151,000

^a Values based on census data for the following income ranges: 0 - \$14,999 (corresponding to Very Low Income range), \$15,000 - \$24,999 (corresponding to Low Income range), \$25,000 - \$49,999 (corresponding to Moderate Income)

^b 30% of income divided by 12.

^c Calculated using Ginnie Mae Loan Estimator (www.ginniemae.gov). Assumes 10% downpayment, 7% interest rate, 30-year conventional mortgage.

A study of the 2000 census shows that of specified owner-occupied units², 13.8% are valued at \$50,000 or less, 63.8% are valued at \$99,999 or less, and 70.7% are valued at \$149,999 or less. Based on these values, at least 70.7% of these properties are considered affordable for very low through moderate incomes (refer to Table 10).

Since the home values provided in the census are not necessarily representative of prices for houses currently on the market, we can supplement this information with the use of regional data reflecting more current sales prices of homes in the area. In 2001, the overall median sales price of homes in the Sebago Lakes Region Housing Market Area (which includes Sweden and surrounding towns) was \$110,000³. Further analysis shows median sales prices of \$129,126 for new houses; \$108,000 for existing houses; and \$71,500 for first-time homebuyers. Assuming that these prices reflect home prices in Sweden, it appears as though housing is readily affordable for moderate (and greater) incomes and marginally affordable for low and very low incomes.

Affordable rents, as defined by the state, are those that are no greater than 30% of total monthly income. In 2000, the median gross rent (including utilities) paid by renters of specified renter-occupied units in Sweden was \$388 per month⁴. A comparison of this value with the affordable monthly rent payments shown in Table 10 indicates that the monthly rent payments of approximately 50% of renters are considered affordable in the very low-income range.

The State of Maine Growth Management Act requires that every municipality seek to achieve a goal of 10% of residential development (based on a five-year historical average)

² Specified owner-occupied units are defined by the US Census Bureau as owner-occupied, single-family houses on less than 10 acres without a business or medical office on the property.

³ Maine State Housing Authority, State of Maine Housing 2002.

⁴ Specified renter-occupied units are defined by the US Census Bureau as all renter-occupied units except single-unit houses on 10 acres or more.

that meets the definition of affordable housing. As shown in Table 11, since 1997, permits for the installation of new and used mobile homes, generally recognized to be more affordable than site-built homes, comprised over 27% of residential building permits issued. If this pattern continues, it is likely that Sweden can continue to meet or exceed the goal of 10% affordable residential development.

Table 11. Sweden Residential Building Permits

Permit Issued	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
New single family home	2	6	5	4	3
Replacement single family home/ seasonal conversion	2	0	1	0	1
New mobile home	0	0	0	2	1
Used mobile home	0	2	3	1	0
Total	4	8	9	7	5

Source: Sweden building permit records

Housing Projections. Housing needed to meet population projections to year 2015 is presented in Table 12. In 2000, there were a total of 266 housing units in Sweden, including full-time housing and seasonal housing. This total surpasses the total required to meet the needs of the population of Sweden projected out to year 2015. If current trends for new housing construction and the conversion of seasonal housing to year-round, permanent housing continues, it is expected that housing availability can easily keep up with the projected population growth.

Table 12. Housing Need Projections

Date	Population Projection ^a	Housing Needs ^b
7/1/00 (historical)	325	133
7/1/05	381	156
7/1/10	423	174
7/1/15	457	181

^a Maine State Planning Office, 2001

^b Housing needs (units) are based on an average household size of 2.45

Analysis and Findings

The primary findings that relate to housing in the Town of Sweden include the following:

- New house construction (including the installation of mobile homes) is steadily increasing. Since 1970, an increase in housing units in excess of 100% has been realized.
- Approximately 50% of the total housing units in Sweden are vacant—most of these are designated for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. There is an apparent trend for conversion of these units for year-round use.
- Housing in Sweden almost completely consists of single-family dwellings. Of these, approximately 7.5% are manufactured housing units including mobile homes.
- Sweden has no housing complexes or individual dwelling units designed specifically for low-income or elderly residents.

- At present, most of Sweden’s housing is developed on a lot-by-lot basis rather than making use of major subdivision or clustering.
- The extent of future development of shorelands in Sweden is limited due to the lack of available property and shoreland development restrictions imposed by the town ordinance.
- Since 1997, over 27% of the total residential building permits have been for the installation of new and used mobile homes. Generally recognized to be more affordable than site-built homes, this trend is indicative that Sweden can meet or exceed the goal of 10% affordable residential development. Sweden’s ordinance places no restrictions on the number or location of mobile homes.
- Sweden’s zoning and land use ordinance provides guidelines for development in Sweden. The goal of such development is to retain Sweden’s rural character and protect its natural resources. For the past five years, such growth has allowed for the inclusion of affordable housing to surpass state goals.

These findings appear to be consistent with the rural character of Sweden and the desires and expectations of its residents as reflected in the *2001 Public Opinion Survey* (Appendix C). To date, it seems that the needs of Sweden’s population are being met by existing housing opportunities available in Sweden. However, the town must acknowledge that in the future, the encouragement of alternatives such as accessory apartments (so-called “mother-in-law” apartments) or duplexes might have to be considered to continue the availability of accessible, affordable housing options for the elderly and low-income residents.

Planning Goals

State Goal To encourage and promote affordable, decent housing opportunities for all Maine citizens.

Town Goal To promote housing opportunities that meet a variety of household needs, types, and income levels, consistent with maintaining Sweden’s rural and residential character.

Town Policies

- To encourage only that rate and level of slow growth that allows Sweden to retain and sustain its rural-residential character, and maintain a reasonably stable tax rate.
- To allow for alternative, affordable housing types and options to meet the demands of the changing housing market, consistent with maintaining rural character.
- To ensure new construction and major renovations comply with established construction and safety standards as expressed in the Town Building Code.

Implementation Strategies

1. To continue to utilize various clustering, buffering, density, and lot size options and approaches to siting of subdivision housing, while sustaining natural rural character.
Responsibility: Planning Board
Time Frame: Ongoing

2. Monitor housing affordability over time to ensure compliance with a goal of 10% affordable housing availability. Develop, as necessary, ordinance provisions that allow for affordable housing types (such as accessory apartments and duplexes), and ensure that current mobile home and mobile home park provisions of the Zoning and Land Use Ordinance continue to be in compliance with state law.
Responsibility: Planning Board
Time Frame: Long-term

3. Review, and update as necessary, the Town Building Code to include approved safe construction and renovation standards.
Responsibility: Planning Board
Time Frame: Long-term

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C. Water Resources

General. A watershed is the land area that eventually drains into a water body such as a stream, pond, or lake (see Water Resources Map, Appendix A-1). In Sweden, all hills, slopes, and ravines constitute numerous smaller watersheds that converge and drain into local brooks and ponds, eventually combining with other drainage patterns to form larger watersheds. Sweden's watersheds overlap and affect those of other towns, and conversely some drainage through Sweden's watersheds originates in adjacent towns. The very hilly topography throughout the town allows for numerous smaller seasonally intermittent streams and several of the larger year-round brooks (now protected by a designated Stream Protection Overlay District).

From the east side of Sweden, Duck Pond Brook, Powers Brook, and Black Pond drain through Stearns Pond, into the Town of Bridgton's Highland Lake, then to Sebago Lake, and eventually into the Presumpscot River Basin and on to the Atlantic Ocean. This drainage forms a portion of the headwaters feeding the Greater Portland water supply.

In the center of Sweden, Keyes Pond, and its outlet Keyes Brook, Cold Brook, and Patterson Brook in northeast Sweden, all drain northerly into the Kezar River, on to Kezar Pond in Fryeburg, then into the Saco River, and finally to the Atlantic Ocean. The Saco River is a water source for the cities of Biddeford and Saco as well as the Kennebunk/Kennebunkport and Wells water districts. Webber Pond's outlet is Plummer Brook, which flows south into Berry Pond, on to Moose Pond, then into the Saco River.

On the west side of Sweden, Popple Hill Brook and Dock Brook flow westerly to the Kezar River and Kezar Pond, and then into the Saco River.

Early history of Sweden shows the local importance of this drainage flow by the use of Stearns Pond and its dam to hold water for the purpose of sending logs through the Stearns Canal into Highland Lake and on to the mills in Bridgton. In later years the logs were sawn at the Trull Mill at the head of Highland Lake.

Sweden's only river resource is limited to two short and very narrow portions of the Kezar River, totaling no more than a mile in length. These segments are not easily accessed from Sweden and are not developed or used by the town.

There are two privately-owned State-regulated public water supplies⁵ in Sweden (see Map, Appendix A-1). These supplies are transient non-community water systems servicing at least 25 persons for at least 60 days per year. One water supply is groundwater from a drilled well servicing Camp Encore Coda. The well is located on the camp's property in the woods away from the main camp. The other water supply is filtered surface water from Keyes Pond. This latter supply services Camp Tapawingo. Keyes Pond is considered to be above average water quality. The shore land is heavily wooded and there are some seasonal cottages surrounding

⁵ Terminology used by the Maine Department of Human Services.

the Pond. The Maine Drinking Water Program, Bureau of Health, in the Department of Human Services, monitors the water quality of both water supplies.

Aquifers. Aquifers serve as containment areas that can be tapped as a source of water. Containing soils are typically sand, silt, gravel, and occasionally clay. Some aquifers are near the surface and therefore especially vulnerable to pollution; others are at deeper levels, also vulnerable, and spread out over much larger areas. Sweden has both types of aquifers.

The only significant geologically-identified sand and gravel aquifer extends into the northwest corner of Sweden from Lovell to the north and Fryeburg to the west and lies along both sides of the Kezar River in both towns. At present, it is not being exploited by Sweden. It is subject to its own Aquifer Protection Overlay District in the Town's Zoning and Land Use Ordinance, where limitations on future residential density and land uses/applications are specified.

There are several free-flowing springs in Sweden. One of the most significant in terms of capacity and quality is just north of the junction between Trull Brook and Trull Brook Road. Flow capacity is estimated to be 70 to 120 gallons per minute.

Surface Water Bodies. Sweden's lakes and ponds have always been very important to landowners and the many seasonal visitors. The State of Maine has mandatory shoreland zoning and Sweden's Zoning and Land Use Ordinance gives added protection. Moose, Keyes, and Stearns Ponds all have areas with steep slopes rising from the lake. These slopes are vulnerable to erosion, which can hasten surface runoff carrying contaminants to the water bodies. Almost all of Moose Pond's shoreline in Sweden is in the Natural Resource Protection Zone with a very small portion open to Limited Residential development of shorelines. Moose Pond is on the Non-Point Source (NPS) Pollution Priority Watersheds list of the Land and Water Resources Council. These lakes and ponds allow the normal non-commercial boating and water recreational activities.

Black, Webber, and Berry Ponds are in significant containment areas and, along with the upper portion of Moose Pond in Sweden, have adjacent state-identified wetlands with Natural Resource Protection status. All of these locations provide excellent wildlife habitat for many plants and animals, as well as play a major role in maintaining water quality in the larger water bodies. Black and Berry Ponds are isolated and totally undeveloped with all shoreline zoned Natural Resource Protection. Black Pond is on the Maine Stormwater Law's list of lakes "Most at Risk" from new development. Although easily accessible and not isolated, Webber Pond's west and north shorelines are presently zoned Natural Resource Protection as well, with the remainder allowing Limited Residential development. Tiny Lily Pond, isolated in northwest Sweden on private property, is a natural kettle lake with no surface inlet/outlet drainage.

Public access to Sweden's lakes and ponds is available for Keyes, Stearns, and Webber Ponds. Public access to Moose Pond is available from the Town of Bridgton.

Characteristics of Sweden's lakes and ponds are presented in Table 13. All of the water bodies currently meet State water quality standards.

Table 13. Characteristics of Sweden's Surface Water Bodies

Water Body	Surface Area (acres)	Max Depth (feet)	Avg Secchi ^a (m)	Avg Color ^a (SPU)	Avg Oxygen ^b (ppm)	Avg Phosphorus ^b (ppb)	Avg pH ^a	Flush Rate (body vol per year)	Degree of Concern
Keyes Pond	192	42	6.4	14	6.0	9	6.8	0.3	Moderate
Moose Pond (total)	1,306	71	8.2	14	5.2	6	6.9	0.1	Moderate
Moose Pond (Sweden)	120	10	5.1	27	5.0	7	6.7	4.4	Moderate
Stearns Pond	250	48	5.3	30	4.8	10.3	6.8	1.6	Mod/High
Black Pond ^c	16	NA	2.3	NA	NA	19	NA	NA	NA ^e
Berry Pond	3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA ^e
Webber Pond ^d	34	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA ^e
Lily Pond	5	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA ^e

Reference: Lakes Environmental Association, annual water testing results, 2002 (except as noted)

^a Annual averages

^b Late August averages

^c 1988 data

^d 1995 data

^e No data currently available

Point and Non-Point Source Pollution. Due primarily to Sweden's rural-residential and non-commercial character, there are no currently known traditional point source pollution discharges into the watersheds and surface water bodies of the town. Point source pollution is most commonly thought of in terms of pollution discharges from pipes. Non-point source pollution present in the Town includes roadway culverts where salt accumulates as a result of snow removal, and public boat access ramps where oil/gas spillage may occur and non-native plant species (e.g., milfoil) may be introduced. These potential sources can be identified, monitored, and their use coordinated or integrated as necessary.

Other non-point source pollution occurring in Sweden includes acid rain resulting from industrial discharges in areas west of the state, natural phosphorous loading from surface runoff, and the normal portion of phosphorous derived from very slow progression of human development and activity. The continuous monitoring and mitigation of such non-point pollution must be addressed as necessary.

Analysis and Findings

Generally, the quality and aesthetics of Sweden's significant water resources are considered excellent and not presently being seriously compromised by current levels of growth and development and resulting living patterns. Nevertheless, concerns are always present as described below.

1. *Development on or near Sweden's sloping terrain can affect water quality.* Inappropriate land use, or alteration of the steeper slopes to accommodate development, increases the potential for soil erosion and rapid surface runoff. Moreover, shoreland development often significantly disrupts or removes the shoreline's natural soil and vegetative

buffering capacity, thereby hastening and intensifying pollution of water bodies. Development in these areas, and in areas of marginally suitable soil conditions, needs appropriate design or re-siting to less sensitive areas in order to avoid negative impacts or requirements for future protection action.

2. *The quality of Sweden's water is important to residents and neighboring communities.* The purity, beauty, and facility of the ponds in Sweden have been some of the primary reasons why permanent home and landowners, as well as non-resident taxpayers and visitors who vacation in Sweden, enjoy the environment of the town. Surface waters in Sweden provide drinking water, recreation, unspoiled natural resources, and contribute to the overall relaxing atmosphere, all of which enhance daily living. It is a constant challenge to accommodate often-conflicting uses without degrading water quality, scenic beauty, and the peaceful ambiance. In addition, these conflicting uses have the potential to negatively affect shoreline property values. Furthermore, since Sweden is a source of high quality water used by many, it is especially important to realize that Sweden's development and land use patterns not degrade the quality of water (particularly with respect to phosphorous control) that drains and flows southwesterly through Lovell and Fryeburg, eventually becoming drinking water for Biddeford, Kennebunk and Wells. Similarly, flowage southeasterly eventually becomes Portland's water supply. Coordination of common watershed management and phosphorus control efforts with neighboring towns needs to be effected.
3. *Sweden's fragile wetlands are an integral part of the total water system.* Most brooks and ponds in Sweden are surrounded by large areas of wetland and swampy bogs that provide distinctive habitats for a variety of wildlife and plants. These wetlands also act as containment reservoirs for the release of water to replenish the water table and benefit the flora and fauna in dry years. Therefore, they need to be included in any surface or underground water resource protection planning. A number of state-identified wetlands are currently classified as Natural Resource Protection Areas in Sweden's Zoning and Land Use Ordinance. However, other wetlands may need to be identified and similarly protected from watershed pollution or encroaching development.
4. *Sweden's groundwater purity is critical today and will be in the future.* Water accumulates underground in both sand and gravel and bedrock aquifers. The soils holding the water serve as filters and are extremely vulnerable to contamination from uncontrolled building encroachment, unsuitable land uses, and inappropriate disposal of wastes and hazardous materials. Although some contaminants may naturally attenuate through filtration or degradation, some may reach the aquifers and potential water supplies. The town's designated Aquifer Protection Overlay District needs to be continually monitored and protected to ensure a permanent safe supply of potable water. Furthermore, in the interests of ensuring any possible safe and adequate future town drinking water supply, all other available high quality aquifer/lake/spring water sources must be protected from contamination, exploitation, depletion, or removal. In addition, to ensure continued viability of Sweden's sand and gravel aquifer (shared geographically with Lovell and Fryeburg), development/land use patterns and impacts need to be discussed and coordinated among these towns.

5. *Sweden's ponds, and other ponds or lakes in the region, are vulnerable to eutrophication.* This natural aging process is accelerated by human activities that increase the flow of nutrients to a lake and its tributaries. Phosphorus is the key nutrient that causes algal growth and eventual loss of oxygen in Maine lakes. Attached to eroded soil particles, it is carried to the lake in storm water runoff. Once in the lake, approximately 50% of the nutrient becomes dissolved and is available as a fertilizer for algal growth.

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Lakes Environmental Association have established standards for "budgeting" phosphorus export in lake watersheds to assure that lakes do not experience noticeable deterioration. A listing of the allowable

Table 14. Phosphorous Export Limitations on Sweden's Watersheds

Pond or Lake	Maximum Allowable Phosphorus Increase (ppb)	Acres of Watershed in Sweden	Phosphorus Limits (lb/acre)
Berry Pond	1.50	1,480	0.027
Black Pond	1.50	1,198	0.040
Highland Lake	0.50	1,480	0.030
Keyes Pond	1.00	1,235	0.036
Kezar Pond	1.00	2,174	0.039
Little Moose Pond	0.75	292	0.018
Little Pond	1.00	72	0.030
Moose Pond	0.75	2,248	0.018
Stearns Pond	1.00	3,580	0.039
Webber Pond	1.00	205	0.027

Source: Lakes Environmental Association

change in phosphorus levels for water bodies impacted by Sweden's watershed is presented in Table 14. As shown, this protection level is reflected in a maximum yearly per-acre export of phosphorus allowable for any project in a lake watershed in Sweden that undergoes review by the Planning Board. The DEP manual, Phosphorus Control in Lake Watersheds, is used to determine phosphorus export from development proposals.

Thus far, Sweden's relative success with water resource protection has been fostered by early engagement in steadily advancing comprehensive planning and zoning and land use processes. This has been highlighted by the following:

- Maintenance of strong shoreland protection
- Identification and designation of Natural Resource Protection areas and Stream and Aquifer Protection Districts
- Working closely with the Lakes Environmental Association in lake monitoring and adopting phosphorous control standards
- Cooperation of landowners in considerate and slow development
- Restriction of commercial/industrial development
- Prevention of commercial exploitation, depletion, or removal of water sources potentially available for a future town drinking water supply

These existing measures have been effective, but there will always be some threatening degradation by almost any form of future growth and development. However, with continued vigilance and citizen interest and cooperation, these measures, periodically and carefully refined, form a core for ongoing protection and preservation of water resources.

Planning Goals

State Goal To protect the quality and manage the quantity of the State's water resources, including lakes, aquifers, great ponds, estuaries, rivers, and coastal areas.

Town Goal To protect, manage, and conserve Sweden's lakes, aquifers, rivers, springs, and streams against any degradation of water quality, and against depletion or removal of any potential future drinking water supply.

Town Policies

- To maintain and improve the present high quality, and level of protection, of Sweden's surface water bodies.
- To protect aquifer areas (including present and potential future drinking water supplies) from degradation of quality, depletion in quantity, commercial exploitation, and removal from town.
- To ensure protection of Sweden's total water system, to include fragile wetlands and sensitive shorelands, from detrimental development or inappropriate land uses and toxic applications.
- To permit, manage, and regulate development and land uses so as to minimize point and non-point discharges that threaten the quality of Sweden's surface and ground water resources.
- To ensure official participation with surrounding towns for regional cooperation and solution to the common protection problems of shared, contiguous water resources.

Implementation Strategies

1. Review and update Sweden's *Subdivision Regulations* and Appendix D (Phosphorous Control Standards) of Sweden's *Zoning and Land Use Ordinance* to continually ensure that current phosphorous loading standards are based on the Maine DEP's current per acre phosphorous allocation methodology, that allocations for each Sweden lake watershed are established, and that phosphorous is managed for single lot development as well as subdivisions.

Responsibility: Planning Board (in coordination with the Lakes Environmental Association (LEA))

Time Frame: Short-term

2. Tri-annually review and update the specific standards in Zone Requirements and Performance Standards in Sweden's *Zoning and Land Use Ordinance* to ensure their current sufficiency to prevent contamination and depletion of Sweden's total surface and

ground water resources from detrimental development and land use, erosion, toxic applications, stormwater runoff, and waste disposal.

Responsibility: Planning Board, LEA

Time Frame: Short-term

3. Continue strict enforcement of all current Zoning and Land Use Ordinance regulations for ensuring the high quality of Sweden's surface and groundwater resources, and for controlling development and land uses that could lead to depletion, exploitation, or removal of present or potential future drinking water resources.

Responsibility: Planning Board, Code Enforcement Officer, Appeals Board, LEA

Time Frame: Short-term/Ongoing

4. Officially cooperate with surrounding towns and participate closely with the Maine DEP, LEA, and other similar local and state-wide environmental organizations to ensure water quality monitoring of all Sweden water bodies, develop common regional watershed and aquifer protection and phosphorous control management plans, and enhance efforts to prevent the introduction of invasive aquatic plants.

Responsibility: Selectmen, Planning Board, LEA

Time Frame: Ongoing

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D. Other Critical Natural Resources

General. Sweden's inventory of natural resources is dominated by a variety of hills and heavy forestation surrounding several small ponds. In the absence of any commercial or industrial concentration, these features blend to constitute a scenic topography and environment that greatly contributes to the Town's rural character. The ponds are addressed in Section C, *Water Resources*, and forest resources are addressed in Section E, *Agriculture and Forestry Resources*. Other significant natural features of the town include wetlands, freshwater fisheries, streams and brooks, and an abundance of wildlife and plant habitats. These latter features are addressed below and located on the map provided in Appendix A-2.

Effects of the glacier age in this town are still prevalent on the mountains and hills where rocky cliffs are present on southern exposures where bedrock granite was pulled away. Grooves and striations show the scraping and sliding of rock fragments against rock. Oxford County soil surveys show most of these hills covered with glacial till soils derived mainly from granite and gneiss, without any abundance of nutrients for plant growth. A glacial drumlin can be observed as a sandy deposit on the shores of Keyes Pond. Other alluvial sediments are observed around Sweden's lakes and ponds.

Maps of Sweden show hills that vary in slope from 3 to 60%, with variations indicated as moderate, strong, and very strong. Maps also describe ground cover as stony, very stony, rocky, and sometimes hilly and rocky.

The type of hill and valley topography limits access to many areas, and, because of poor drainage and poor soil, much of Sweden's land is generally unsuitable for commercial agriculture. Despite this, many soils do produce good timber, and a large percentage of woodlots in the town are used for harvesting timber and recreation. Slopes are especially vulnerable to erosion from large logging operations. However, the presence of glacial till makes new conifer growth very slow to return after the impact of logging. Furthermore, roadway or structural development on steep slopes creates great risk for erosion and consequent water body pollution. Thus, plans for future use of the land must be carefully evaluated.

The most level area of the town is in the western part between State Route 93 and Knights Hill Road, atop the aquifer, near the Town of Lovell. This area, referred to as the Plains, consists of a sandy loam resulting from glacial melt and drainage. This land now produces quality timber (including white pine, hemlock, red maple, Norway spruce, and balsam fir) and provides for a good income for owners who use careful harvesting. However, this tree growth is vulnerable to drying of the soil caused by rapid drainage in the sandy loam. An additional feature of the Plains is a small kettle pond (with neither inlet nor outlet) named Lily Pond, just north of State Route 93.

Near the junction of Ridlonville Road and Hardscrabble Road, good quality amethyst was discovered and actively extracted for a short period of time in the early 1990s.

Hydric Soils. Hydric soils indicate the presence of wetland areas. Sweden's land area is approximately 18,000 acres of which 2,500 to 3,200 acres (13 to 18%) are considered to have hydric soils. There are two primary hydric soil areas in the town, each comprising about 700 acres. The first of these is located in the extreme western corner of the town, west of Knights Hill Road. The second extends from the north of Stearns Pond to the area around Black Pond. The remaining hydric acreage is scattered in various parts of the town.

Wetlands represent the collection of aquatic or semi-aquatic habitats commonly referred to as marshes, swamps, and bogs. The US Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, and the US Environmental Protection Agency define wetlands by the presence of wetland vegetation (hydrophytes) and hydrology (degree of flooding and/or soil saturation) and by reference to wet soils (hydric soils). The prevalence of hydrophytes and the presence of wet soil reflect the long-term hydrology and, therefore, are useful indicators of wetland.

It is important to remember that, because of map scale, very small areas of hydric soils are often not shown on the soil survey. The soil survey provides a general location of hydric soils; however, it is necessary that the exact wetland boundary be located in the field. When the boundary is not clear, it may be necessary to consult technical experts.

Sweden's identified hydric soils (as identified in the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service soil survey area information for Oxford County, Maine) include:

- Brayton-Peacham Complex, 0-4% slopes, very stony
- Brayton-Peachem Association, gently sloping, very stony
- Medomak silt loam
- Medomak and Wonsqueak soils, frequently flooded
- Naumburg loamy sand (poorly drained soil only)
- Naumburg-Croghan Association, gently sloping (poorly drained soil only)
- Roundabout silt loam
- Rumney fine sandy loam, frequently flooded
- Rumney-Podunk Association, frequently flooded (Rumney part)
- Searsport muck
- Vassalboro-Wonsqueak Association
- Wonsqueak and Searsport soils

Identified Wetlands. Some of the benefits of wetlands include providing breeding habitat for waterfowl and other birds, and the maintenance of flood control, water quality, groundwater recharge, and shoreline stabilization. Wetlands serve to replenish water tables that retain water during wet years, a process that provides a valuable resource of water during drier times, and protects the water quality in many brooks and ponds. The swampy areas with sedges, rushes, and alders provide a very different environment vital to plants, varying species of trees, as well as birds and other small wildlife that thrive in this type of habitat. Larger wildlife, such as deer, prefer the steeper slopes above the swampy areas.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW) and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) have identified 14 freshwater wetlands within the Town of Sweden. These freshwater wetlands are listed in Table 15 with their corresponding wildlife value ratings (see Table notes).

Table 15. Selected Freshwater Wetlands in the Town of Sweden, Maine

Wetland Identification # ^a	General Location	Existing and Potential Wildlife Value Rating ^b
1	East corner of Sweden	M
28	Popple Hill Brook, west Sweden	N
29	Plummer Brook, south of Webber Pond	N
30	Berry Pond	H
31	Near Berry Pond	N
32	Moose Pond	N
33	Moose Pond	N
34	Moose Pond	N
35	Plummer Brook, inlet to Moose Pond	N
41	Patterson Brook, north Sweden	N
43	Black Pond	H
44	Duck Pond Brook, north end Stearns Pond	N
45	Powers Brook	N
46	Stearns Pond, north inlet	N

^a Source: Maine Department of Environmental Protection, 1989.

^b Source: Manual for Maine Wetlands Inventory, DIFW, December 1972.

Value of existing wetlands as breeding waterfowl habitat.

(H) – High. Applies to areas of excellent waterfowl habitat that receive the heaviest usage by ducks and geese

(M) – Medium. Applies to areas of medium value that sustain a significant level of waterfowl usage, but may be lacking in one or more aspects of prime habitat.

(L) – Low. Applies to areas that generally sustain limited waterfowl use, are often deficient in habitat requirements, and may be incapable of responding significantly to habitat improvement methods.

(N) – Negligible. Applies to areas that receive little or no waterfowl usage, although it may have substantial value for other wildlife. Development necessary to increase values for waterfowl would be both extensive and expensive.

Most of these state-identified wetlands, adjacent wetland areas, and other wetland areas that straddle streams or are otherwise identified as sensitive saturated areas with wetland vegetation are included in the Town's Natural Resource Protection Zone as described in the Town of Sweden Zoning and Land Use Ordinance (1998). This zone was established to provide a measure of protection for these sensitive areas and, as such, imposes limitations on development and timber harvesting.

Aligning in many places with Sweden's wetlands are floodplain areas as designated by the National Flood Insurance Program. All floodplains in Sweden are Zone A, a 100-year flood zone, which, on occasion, could experience shallow flooding to depths between one and three feet. There is no record or current memory of in-town flooding. Sweden adopted their present Floodplain Management Ordinance in March 1996 to protect property owners, avoid or minimize flood damage, and prevent contamination of aquifers and water bodies from the incursion of pollutants through flood action. Flood areas noted in Sweden are the north and

south ends of Keyes Pond and Stearns Pond. A narrow floodplain exists on each side of Trull Brook down to Highland Lake in Bridgton. Powers Brook, east and north of Stearns Pond, has a similar designation. Black Pond has a more extensive flood area, round in shape, and a floodplain that continues down the outlet joining with Duck Pond Brook and continuing into Stearns Pond. Popple Hill Brook leads to Kezar River, both of which share floodplain areas in Sweden. Portions of uppermost Moose Pond in Sweden are also designated floodplain areas.

Significant Wildlife Habitat. Due to minimal human settlement, development, and traffic, Sweden has maintained an excellent degree of natural animal and plant habitats throughout its boundaries. The most predominant habitat in size is the extensive forest coverage; but, perhaps most critical are the protected wetlands that harbor wildlife and plants that can survive only in that type of habitat. Many of these wetlands form special corridors between ponds, through flowages, and along woodland edges. Deer, moose, fox, and coyote are among the more common larger mammals evidenced throughout the town in all seasons. There appear to be no major barriers in town that inhibit free movement of the wider-ranging animals. There are no known endangered wildlife species in Sweden.

Mammals known or sighted in Sweden number at least 30 species and range in size from moose and bear, to river otter and bobcat, to weasel and bat. Other wildlife species known to be in Sweden include many varieties of reptiles, amphibians, and insects.

Bird habitat is extensive and varied, and documented species number over 180, with 38 of these listed as rarely seen. For the past 30 years, Sweden has been a geographical center for the National Audubon Society's locally-conducted Christmas bird count throughout Sweden and parts of five surrounding towns.

Sweden provides excellent habitats for wildlife. Specific habitats are in and around the wetlands, especially the large unsettled open forested tracts surrounding the Black Pond, Berry Pond, and Moose Pond marshes, as well as those tracts northwest of Black Mountain Road (between State Route 93 and Knights Hill Road) and the tract encompassing Patterson Brook and Goshen Road in extreme north Sweden. In particular, the upper reaches of Moose Pond in south Sweden possess the DIFW rating of W2 (moderate value wetlands for wildlife/waterfowl). Known, well-established deer wintering areas are located on/around Popple Hill and Winns Hill, and between Berry and Moose Ponds. Berry Pond and the lower portions of Plummer Brook contain several active beaver communities.

Sweden's large contiguous tracts of forest are special to the town, and necessary for those wildlife species that cannot thrive in human-altered habitat. Upon fragmentation of these large tracts, the size of the remaining blocks of habitat limit the type of animals that can continue to live there. For example, as habitat size decreases, bobcat will start disappearing, followed by moose, beaver, certain species of turtles, and so on. Declining bird species needing large forested tracts, and known in Sweden, are the wood thrush, veery, rose-breasted grosbeak, and pileated woodpecker.

Significant Fisheries Habitat. Of Sweden’s four fishing ponds (Keyes, Stearns, Webber, and the upper basin of Moose Pond), only Keyes and Stearns Ponds possess the depth and therefore cooler temperatures, to provide suitable trout habitat. Both Stearns and Keyes Ponds are currently stocked annually with trout. Although not all the streams in Sweden have been inventoried by DIFW, many that have support desirable brook trout fisheries. According to Maine DIFW, the ponds should also be managed for warm water species including pickerel and sunfish in all four town ponds and perch and large- and small-mouth bass in Moose and Stearns Ponds. Other species that may be present are shiners, suckers, eels, bullheads, and smelt. The DIFW (per letter to Sweden Planning Board, July 1989) has specifically rated the Upper Basin, Moose Pond as F3 (High Value Pond) for fisheries, in that: “The Upper Basin offers excellent habitat for largemouth bass and pickerel, and these two species thrive and provide good fishing in this part of the lake.”

In the past, 13 species of fish have been taken by fishermen from Sweden’s water bodies. Although public access to these ponds has never been heavy, and overfishing has not been evident, evolving natural conditions and competition have favored survival of warm-water species over cold-water species. Other than the collection of baitfish, there is no commercial fishing in Sweden’s waters.

Significant Plant Communities. As previously discussed, those same settlement/development conditions that have fostered viable and thriving wildlife habitats in Sweden also contribute to its thriving and diverse plant communities. Sweden is host to a large number of known plant species, generally spread throughout the town. Documented species include at least 180 wildflowers, 30 ferns, 31 shrubs, and 33 trees. There are no known plant species in Sweden specifically protected by state law.

Perhaps the most significant plant community in Sweden is the varied, prolific, and thriving hard and softwood forest that covers more than 80% of the Town’s area of almost 27 square miles. It is healthy, of high quality, and is steadily harvested for commercial forest products, while subject to the usual threats of deterioration and corresponding measures of protection. An inventory and analysis of these forests is provided in Section E, *Agriculture and Forestry Resources*.

Significant Scenic Areas and Views. Sweden’s numerous hills and its rolling terrain provide many vantage points from which are afforded beautiful views of the mountains of western Maine, and the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The highest elevations in the town are:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Elevation (feet)</u>
Winns Hill	1225
Popple Hill	1168
Woodbury Hill	1160
Plummer Mountain	1105
Picket Hill	1082
Black Mountain	1064
Marr Hill	948
Evans Hill	921

At approximately 400 feet in elevation, the lowest location is located along Knights Hill Road in an area known locally as “The Plains”. Waterbodies within the town lie in the range of 400 to 664 feet above sea level.

Along roadways, fine distant views exist throughout the town including toward the west and north from Knights Hill Road; Waterford Road; Black Mountain Road; and along State Route 93 in locations near Popple Hill, Plummer Mountain, and south and west of “Four Corners” in central Sweden. Scenic areas also include those associated with Sweden’s ponds including wooded shorelines, islands, and surrounding hills. To date, no views are interrupted by development along roadways or marred by construction or extensive clear-cuts.

Unique Natural Areas. There are no unique natural areas in Sweden registered pursuant to 5 MRSA §3314, designated as National Park Service National Natural Landmarks, identified as part of the Maine Natural Heritage Program, or as defined in the Natural Resources Protection Act as a “fragile mountain area” over 2,700 feet in elevation.

Analysis and Findings

Overall, on a town-wide basis, the critical natural resources in the above categories, like the Town’s water resources, are not at present being significantly compromised. However there are three primary concerns with maintaining these resources:

1. *Increased human settlement and development seriously threaten and degrade critical natural resources.* Human settlement and development, however gradual their progress, produce tradeoffs often detrimental to the natural environment if pursued too aggressively. Impacts of such settlement and development include land alteration; reduction of natural habitat; interruption of natural corridors; disregard of wetlands; introduction of noise, light, traffic, pollution; and increased intrusive human activity. These impacts can eventually erode natural resources to the point where the natural balance is upset and the rural character and quality of living in the Town of Sweden are degraded. Particularly, gradual fragmentation and elimination of the larger heavily-forested uninterrupted habitat in town (required by “area-sensitive species” sensitive to human disturbance) would eventually lead to the gradual disappearance of birds such as the woodthrush and pileated woodpecker, and mammals such as the moose, bobcat, and fisher.
2. *Excessive rates of timber harvesting, fishing, hunting, and trapping threaten the natural resources inventory.* The strong economic significance of timber harvesting, along with the more recreational significance of hunting, fishing, and trapping represent human “taking,” which, if uncontrolled, could result in the eventual depletion or total disappearance of the respective resource. In the case of quality timber, this would diminish the economic advantage available over time, seriously alter the forest habitat for certain wildlife, and erode the rural character of Sweden. In the case of excessive hunting, fishing, and trapping, the natural environmental balance could be upset and the recreational aspects of rural character and quality of life would be diminished, if not lost entirely.

3. *Sweden's beautiful and widely-appreciated views could be seriously compromised by the threat of clearcuts, telecommunication towers, over development, or other visible scarring or forms of visual pollution.* These views vitally contribute to the rural character, ambient natural beauty, and general quiet and uncongested countryside—all of which are at the heart of the Town's past and present character, attractiveness, and contribution to the surrounding region. These features need to be preserved, and the necessary ordinance provisions need to be instituted and enforced, particularly in light of the recent explosive quest for commercial hilltop telecommunication tower sites.

Since their inception in the early 1970s, Sweden's Comprehensive Plan and its Zoning and Land Use Ordinance have placed a primary emphasis on preserving/protecting the Town's critical resources and curbing or channeling development so as to maintain rural character. Accordingly, current existing measures ensure the maintenance of Natural Resource and Stream Protection Districts (including wetlands), enforce detailed land use performance standards, allow very limited commercial/industrial development, and provide for reasonable control of residential densities. These measures, together with stringent timber harvesting regulations, conscientious land stewardship by most current land owners, and 98 parcels (comprising 10,373 acres) of forest land presently registered in the State's Tree Growth Program, have served well in the past to maintain Sweden's natural resources, environmental viability, and overall rural character. Furthermore, this all serves as a reference base for continued thoughtful review to address new threats to preservation of resources and rural character.

Planning Goals

State Goal To protect the State's critical natural resources, including without limitation, wetlands, wildlife and fisheries habitat, shore lands, scenic vistas and unique natural areas.

Town Goal To conserve, protect, and manage Sweden's other critical natural resources and those it shares with other towns.

Town Policies

- To protect environmentally-sensitive areas, such as wetlands and fragile shore lands, from detrimental development.
- To manage hazardous materials and wastes to ensure preservation of soil and water resources. To control pesticide, herbicide and road salt application to ensure no immediate or residual harm to residents, wildlife, plant life, and soil or water quality.
- To preserve significantly large known natural wildlife habitat areas that support indigenous plant, fish, and animal species to ensure continued availability for recreation and observational uses. Also, preserve habitat for known existing endangered species.
- To preserve large contiguous forested tracts, ensuring uninterrupted habitat for Sweden's "area-sensitive species."

- To ensure official participation with surrounding towns toward developing regional solutions to the problems associated with other critical natural resources, especially large shared contiguous forested wildlife habitat.
- To ensure land development and timber harvesting are compatible with Sweden's natural scenic, aesthetic, and environmental qualities.
- To ensure timber harvesting operations prevent undue erosion, safeguard natural habitat areas, and reforest/stabilize damaged areas as appropriate.

Implementation Strategies

1. Ensure that Sweden's land use policies and strategies (including those in the Zoning and Land Use Ordinance), are consistent with state laws and are strictly adhered to.

Responsibility: Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Selectmen, Appeals Board, Code Enforcement Officer

Time Frame: Short-term/Ongoing

2. Review the Town's existing Zoning and Land Use Ordinance and utilize local environmental and land use groups to add and update changes to the Aquifer Protection District. Continue to strengthen long-term protection measures for watersheds, significant wetland areas, and known critical wildlife habitats, particularly through official coordination with surrounding towns for areas of common concern. Ensure buffering of development along Sweden's shorelines.

Responsibility: Planning Board, LEA

Time Frame: Short-term, Ongoing

3. Establish hazardous materials, household waste and recycling/disposal regulations, and work with other towns, contractors, and waste companies as necessary to develop proper disposal and scheduled pickups that will help protect land and water resources from contamination.

Responsibility: Selectmen

Time Frame: Short-term

4. Expand and strengthen the existing Zoning and Land Use Ordinance to continue the control and safe application of pesticides, herbicides, and road salt.

Responsibility: Selectmen, Road Commissioner, Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term

5. Review, update, and strengthen the existing Zoning and Land Use Ordinance and Subdivision Review Standards (in coordination with the Maine Forest Service) to ensure land development and timber harvesting controls that limit severe-slope operations, prevent undue erosion, safeguard natural wildlife habitat areas, require reforestation/stabilization of damaged fragile areas, and to gain town approval of any significant logging operation and/or any timber harvesting proposed in, or adjacent to, designated fragile areas.

Responsibility: Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term

6. Encourage participation and testimony of various Sweden boards and commissions during the Subdivision Review process, to help ensure future development compatibility with the preservation of Sweden's natural resources, agricultural areas, and scenic qualities.

Responsibility: Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Historical Society, Road Commissioner

Time Frame: Short-term

7. Encourage land trusts and open space conservation easements that would establish and protect large, unfragmented critical natural resources, especially contiguous forest tracts.

Responsibility: Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term/Ongoing

8. Encourage forest and open land space owners to participate in current use tax incentives, such as the Maine State Tree Growth Tax Law and State Farm and Open Space Law programs, that help conserve the rural character of Sweden, specifically throughout the Rural Preservation Zone, and as feasible in the Residential Zone.

Responsibility: Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Planning Board

Time Frame: Ongoing

9. Amend the Zoning and Land Use Ordinance to include strict standards for the siting of telecommunications towers in order to prevent their location on (or access through) environmentally sensitive land, and to minimize any impact on the surrounding aesthetics and scenic views. Key views to be protected need to be delineated on appropriate maps.

Responsibility: Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term

10. Officially cooperate with surrounding towns whenever possible to ensure the mutually preferred siting of telecommunication towers in order to minimize any regional detrimental aesthetic and environmental impact.

Responsibility: Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term

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E. Agricultural and Forestry Resources

General. Of Sweden's approximately 18,000-acre total land area, about 85% (15,300 acres) is covered by forest, much of which is held in large undeveloped tracts of non-commercial ownership. This land area provides uninhabited open space for hunting, recreation, and wildlife habitat, as well as a significant contribution to maintenance of Sweden's rural character. Forestland is evenly distributed throughout the town and has historically proven to be a valuable and reliable economic resource for many of its landowners. Prime softwood species present in Sweden's forests include pine, spruce, fir, and hemlock; hardwoods include oak, maple, birch, and ash.

Agricultural farmland, although historically evident for family sustenance and commercial crops and animal husbandry, has virtually dwindled to non-existent. The only significant related resources are a 91-acre commercial apple orchard of long standing, and a recently developed seasonal home occupation garden nursery of a few acres. Both of these businesses are doing well, but have very limited impact on the local/regional economies.

Agricultural and forestry resources for the town are illustrated in Appendix A-3.

There are no forestry-dependent or agriculture-dependent facilities presently in town, other than the small storage/administrative building at the apple orchard and the several small greenhouses at the nursery.

As of 2001, 98 parcels comprising 10,373 acres, or 68%, of Sweden's forestlands participate in the State Tree Growth Tax Law program (Title 36, MRSA, Sections 571-584-A). This is particularly significant in that it requires a long-term maintenance/harvesting plan prepared by a licensed Maine forester, encourages landowner management for the forest products industry by reduction of property taxes, promotes conservation of forests in the town, and helps to support the state-wide forest products industry. The 2001 breakdown of Tree Growth total acreage in the town by timber growth was 1,811 acres of softwood; 3,179 acres of hardwood; and 5,383 acres mixed. The total assessed valuation of this acreage was \$1,265,964.

Analysis and Findings

The most significant threat to the existence of Sweden's present/future farmland and forests is gradual subdivision of these lands into housing lots and developments, often as a follow-on to short-term speculation in land and subsequent timber liquidation. The Maine Tree Growth Tax Law defines liquidation harvesting as "the purchase of timberland followed by a harvest that removes most or all commercial value in standing timber without regard for long-term forest management principles, and the subsequent sale or attempted resale of the harvested land within five years." This is generally inconsistent with accepted principles of forest stewardship and can lead to volatility in timberland prices, hasty land subdivision, and disposition of timberland with little regard for its continued use as forestland. This type of forest liquidation threatens not only the communities trying to preserve rural character, but also the long-term interests of the timber industry and the wildlife that depends on large

tracts of sustainably-managed woodlands. It wastes land, spawns rural sprawl, and delays mature timber lots for future sustainable forestry.

The most significant recent large-scale local liquidation harvesting occurred in 1994 by an out-of-country timber company operating in Lovell and Sweden. Essentially, three impacted areas were in Sweden: (1) both sides of the western-most mile of Knights Hill and Lovell Roads; (2) the Fern Drive-Ellis Road area in the northwest part of town; and (3) the area on Lee Gray Road east of Berry Pond in south Sweden. The first two areas are witnessing subsequent development, while the third is now registered in the Tree Growth Program for long-term harvesting. The events of large-scale liquidation harvesting, perhaps due in part to resultant local criticism have not reoccurred. However, it is acknowledged that such events could occur at any time.

Sweden's strong participation in the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law program is an important and effective base point for reducing the loss of quality forestlands because of the associated property tax incentive, planning requirements, built-in restraints, and encouragement for long-term sustainable forest management. The Town of Sweden would further benefit in this aspect by legislative tuning of loopholes in the State's Tree Growth Tax Law, stronger enforcement of the industry's Sustainable Forestry Initiative, greater support for the Forest Stewardship Council's certification program, and more state legislation of new harvesting rules targeting liquidation harvesters.

A protective measure to be developed by the town would be the creation of a Forest Conservation District, comprising selected large forest tracts from the Residential and Rural Preservation Zones, accumulated over time through voluntary participation by land owners, for purposes of long-term sustainable timber harvesting (see policies and strategies below, and Section III, Land Use Plan).

Existing town measures providing protection and preservation of Sweden's farmlands, forests, and open space have derived from the original Comprehensive Plan of 1973 and its major revision of 1988. Therein, emphasis is given to the Town's rural character being dependent on these natural resources. This is further expressed in the parallel Zoning and Land Use Ordinance (as revised and updated in 1975, 1979, 1983, 1991, and 1998). These protection and preservation measures include:

- Establishment of specific Subdivision Review Standards;
- Establishment of larger required minimum parcels (i.e., lots of five acres) together with mandatory clustering and deeded open space for major subdivisions in the Rural Preservation Zone;
- Broad encouragement of agricultural land use by not requiring Conditional Use approval and allowing less restricted clearing; and
- Development of detailed timber harvesting and vegetative clearing performance standards for districts/zones, with emphasis on Natural Resource Protection and Shoreland Zones, as well as along streams.

Additionally, protection and preservation of large contiguous forest tracts can be further facilitated by abandonment of discontinued old town roads in the Rural Preservation and Natural Resource Protection Zones and the Aquifer and Stream Protection Overlay Districts, thereby better guiding future subdivision and growth to the designated “growth” areas of town. This, coupled with less acceptance of, and capital investment in, any new roads can significantly enhance retention of timber resources and rural character.

These protective measures are considered basic and effective, without undue interference, for the necessary protection of Sweden’s farmlands and forests. However, they require continual monitoring and enforcement as necessary to stay abreast of the ever-present phenomenon of rural sprawl and forest liquidation that counter the goal of preserving rural character. It is difficult, at best, to get this process under control without more help from innovative smart growth legislation at the state level, specifically very stringent controls for, or banning of, liquidation harvesting, as mentioned above.

Planning Goals

State Goal To safeguard the State’s agricultural and forest resources from development that threatens those resources.

Town Goal To protect, manage, and conserve Sweden’s agricultural and forest resources in a sound and ecologically sustainable manner, not degraded by development or misuse.

Town Policies

- To maintain Sweden’s continued strong participation in the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law program.
- To encourage forest and agricultural landowners to participate in current use tax incentives to conserve agricultural, forest, and conservation lands.
- To encourage preservation, conservation, and agricultural use of any lands determined to be of prime agricultural soil.
- To facilitate only economically and ecologically sustainable management, productivity, and multi-use of agricultural and forest resources.
- To support state legislative efforts to replace the practice of liquidation timber harvesting with sustainable forestry practices.
- To ensure strict compliance with state timber harvesting regulations and the Town’s timber harvesting performance standards expressed in the Sweden Zoning and Land Use Ordinance.
- To facilitate forest resource preservation and guide future growth/development toward designated growth areas, by abandonment of discontinued roads accessing designated rural areas, and not making significant capital investment for any new town roads in designated rural areas.

Implementation Strategies

1. Periodically review, update, and revise, as necessary, Sweden's Subdivision Review Standards and Zoning and Land Use Ordinance to ensure continuing compliance with the State's Forestry Practices Act and encourage responsible and sustainable forestry during in-town harvesting operations.

Responsibility: Planning Board, Conservation Commission

Time Frame: Short-term/Ongoing

2. Administer and enforce Sweden's timber harvesting standards to ensure in-town operations prevent undue erosion, safeguard natural habitat areas, reforest/stabilize damaged fragile areas as appropriate, and prevent degradation of water bodies. Ensure these actions are compatible with Sweden's scenic, aesthetic, and environmental qualities.

Responsibility: Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Code Enforcement Officer

Time Frame: Short-term/Ongoing

3. Seek conservation easements, and/or funding to purchase easements or titles to property, in order to conserve agricultural, forest, and conservation lands.

Responsibility: Conservation Commission, Property Owners, Selectmen

Time Frame: Ongoing

4. Make widely available to landowners information regarding the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law, Farm and Open Space Tax Law, and other land use tax incentives, land trusts, and conservation easements.

Responsibility: Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission

Time Frame: Ongoing

5. Establish in Sweden's Zoning and Land Use Ordinance an overall housing density requirement to maintain the character of the Rural Preservation Zone.

Responsibility: Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term

6. Initiate road abandonment procedures for discontinued town roads accessing the Rural Preservation and Natural Resource Protection Zones, as well as the Aquifer and Stream Protection and Forest Conservation Overlay Districts, and develop very stringent road acceptance and capital investment criteria/standards for any new town roads proposed in the future for those designated rural areas, as opposed to the designated growth areas.

Responsibility: Planning Board, Selectmen, Road Commissioner

Time Frame: Short-term

7. Establish and regulate a Forest Conservation District (Overlay) to be comprised of large contiguous forest tracts dedicated to long-term sustainable timber harvesting, assembled through voluntary participation (see Land Use Plan, Section III).

Responsibility: Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term

8. Engage in the state process to eliminate liquidation harvesting in favor of sustainable forestry practices through encouragement and support for appropriate and effective legislative action.

Responsibility: Selectmen

Time Frame: Short-term/Ongoing

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F. Transportation

General. Sweden's transportation system (illustrated in Appendix A-4) consists of 36.5 miles of public roadways, some short private vehicular roads, private driveways and trails, and 25 miles of snowmobile trails (including a 15-mile segment of Snowmobile Interstate #80). There are no sidewalks or other similar pedestrian ways, no existing or abandoned rail lines, and no public bus or airline service. The nearest available bus transportation is in Conway, New Hampshire (20 miles) and Portland, Maine (40 miles). The nearest public airport facility and ferry terminal are in Portland. Public transportation is supplemented by private services such as Western Maine Transportation and various limousine services to shuttle passengers locally and to nearby transportation hubs.

State Aid Roads. The main public thoroughways in town are state aid roads that comprise about 41% (13.9 miles) of total roads in Sweden (see Sweden Transportation Network Map, Appendix A-5). The state aid roads include State Route 93 (7.03 miles), Knights Hill Road (4.15 miles), and Waterford Road (2.75 miles). These are open year-round, form basic access to all parts of Sweden, and connect Sweden with Waterford to the east, Bridgton to the south, and Lovell to the west. The primary state aid road is State Route 93 that connects US Route 302 in Bridgton to State Route 5 in Lovell. Routine repair/maintenance is provided by the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT), with any major upgrade through state matching funds with the town. The town performs winter state aid road maintenance.

Access Management. For improved safety and speed preservation along the State's highways, the MDOT has developed a set of access management rules in response to legislation concerned with arterial capacity, poor drainage, and the high number of driveway-related crashes. Any new or changed driveway or entrance on state and state aid highways located outside of urban compact areas must meet specifications described in the rules in order to obtain a permit from MDOT. The rules regulate sight distance, corner clearance, spacing, with, setbacks, parking, drainage, and mitigation requirements.

The rules are organized into a four-tiered system with increasing regulation of driveways and entrances for roads with poorer mobility and safety. The tiers are:

1. Basic Safety Standards apply to all state and state-aid roadways. (In Sweden, these include Knights Hill Road, Route 93, and Waterford Road)
2. Major Collector and Arterial Standards provide more relation for entrances only onto major collector and arterial roadways. (None in Sweden)
3. Mobility corridors are non-urban compact corridors that connect service centers and/or urban compact areas and carry at least 5,000 vehicles per day along at least 50% of the corridor's length. (None in Sweden)
4. Retrograde arterials are mobility corridors where the number of crashes related to a driveway or entrance exceeds the statewide average for arterials with the same posted speed. (None in Sweden)

Local Roads. The remaining roadways (about 19.5 miles total) interconnect the state aid roads, and, in some cases, come to dead ends in remote areas of the town. About eight miles of the less traveled of these local roads are unpaved. There are 19 of these local roads, of

which portions of six (for a total of four miles) are closed during the winter. These winter-closed roads include all of Bennett and Evans Hill Roads and portions of Fern Drive, Black Mountain Road, Trull Brook Road, and Marr Road. The town performs year-round maintenance of all local roads.

Local roads programmed for some degree of repair in the immediate years ahead include Tapawingo Road (0.5 mile), Berry Road (0.2 mile), Webber Pond Road (0.4 mile), Marr Road (0.2 mile), Smarts Hill Road (0.8 mile), Black Mountain Road (0.5 mile), Ridlonville Road (0.9 mile), and Plummer School Road (1.0 mile).

Traffic Volumes. Average annualized daily traffic counts for Sweden's primary roads are presented in Table 16.

Table 16. Daily Traffic Counts

Roadway	Location	Average Annualized Daily Traffic		
		1996	1998	2001
Tapawingo Road	North of Route 93	110	--	--
Plummer School Road	North of Waterford Road	100	--	--
Knights Hill Road	South of Route 93	530	640	650
Webber Pond Road	South of Route 93	70	--	--
Route 93	North of Knights Hill Road	--	--	580
Route 93	South of Waterford Road	170	--	270
Route 93	West of Plummer School Road	370	480	550
Route 93	West of Webber Pond Road	380	510	540
Trull Brook Road	At Trull Brook Bridge	--	--	30
Waterford Road	East of Route 93	330	--	--
Waterford Road	East of Marr Road	360	--	--

Source: MDOT 2000 and 2001 Traffic Count Books

Bridges. There are four bridges that carry motor vehicles in Sweden. Each of these four publicly-owned bridges is identified on the transportation map (Appendix A), that includes a table indicating the Federal Sufficiency Rating (FSR) on each bridge. Responsibility for these bridges is determined by the MDOT Local Bridge Program, which became law in July of 2001. Bridges of at least 20 feet in length on town or state-aid roadways are the responsibility of MDOT. Minor spans, which are bridges at least 10 feet and less than 20 feet in length, that are on town roadways are the responsibility of the municipality. If a minor span is located on a state or state aid roadway, maintenance responsibility falls with MDOT. As such, the Town of Sweden is responsible for the maintenance of two bridges.

MDOT inspects all bridges and minor spans on public ways every two years in accordance with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and MDOT's Bridge Management Coding Guides. The inspections result in a FSR for each bridge, which is calculated by analyzing the condition of each of the bridge's components, such as the deck, substructure, and superstructure. The FSR scale used by the MDOT Bridge Management Division is described as follows:

<u>FSR Range</u>	<u>Condition Description</u>	<u>FSR Range</u>	<u>Condition Description</u>
90-100	Excellent	40-49	Poor
80-89	Very Good	30-39	Serious
70-79	Good	20-29	Critical
60-69	Satisfactory	1-19	Imminent Failure
50-59	Fair	0	Failed

If the FSR on a state-owned bridge located on a state or state aid highway is less than 50, the bridge may qualify for federal funding, depending on the individual condition ratings of the bridge's various components. As a low-use redundant bridge with an FSR of 0, the Trull Brook Road Bridge, through petition, might qualify for these funds.

Parking Capacity. Sweden currently has three designated low-capacity parking areas including the adjacent areas surrounding the Town Office and Town Meeting House (maximum of 20 spaces), the immediate town beach area at Keyes Pond (maximum of six spaces), and the immediate town beach area at Stearns Pond (maximum of six spaces).

The areas around the Town Office and Town Meeting House have been sufficient for most routine town business situations and meetings. The primary exceptions are larger events such as the occasional posted town meeting or public hearing, fundraisers, town-wide social events, and any privately reserved functions (e.g., wedding receptions). For these events, parallel roadway shoulder parking along State Route 93 has been used.

The two town beach areas are very small (approximately one-half acre each) and tightly confined between adjacent shorefront properties. Each presently is used as both a swimming beach and as a boat launch point. As such, there is often congestion at these sites caused by vehicles and boat trailers. Very little, if any, spillover parking is possible near these beach areas.

Snowmobile Trails. Sweden's 25 miles of snowmobile trails are situated throughout most areas of town, and the 15-mile segment of Snowmobile Interstate #80 traverses the town in a generally east-west fashion. Local clubs have good relationships with property landowners and maintain the trails, receiving funds reimbursed to the town from snowmobile registration fees. These trails are maintained by grooming and include several bridges and signage. The trails are also available for cross-country skiing and off-season hiking.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (Region 6). This committee (RTAC-6) represents all of York County, most of Cumberland County, and 18% of the Oxford County population, including Sweden. The Committee was formed to assist in the study, planning, and coordinating of possible solutions to the transportation and associated issues/problems experienced by included towns. For example, it is concerned with aging infrastructure, traffic congestion, development growth and sprawl, access management, travel safety, transportation funding, and environmental and cultural protection. Sweden can benefit by participating with the RTAC-6 regarding town traffic and transportation issues, as well as shared regional issues.

Analysis and Findings

State Aid Roads. Sweden's state aid roads are well paved and considered in good condition. There is no congestion on these roadways, and traffic volume is light throughout the day with a slight increase for the normal morning and evening commutes. In most recent years, the Town's increase in new residential housing has occurred mostly along Knights Hill Road. The associated increase in residential traffic is felt primarily along Knights Hill Road, but it is still well within its carrying capacity. State Road 93 will require capital improvements within the next five years on a half-mile section west of Tapawingo Road. Excepting this section of State Route 93, at the present level of routine state maintenance and recent road upgrades, the state aid roads are considered adequate now and for the next 10-year projection of Sweden's growth.

Access Management. It is important to apply MDOT's Access Management Rules regarding state and state aid roads to ensure Sweden's traffic safety, protect roadway systems from negative drainage impact, preserve mobility and productivity of the system, reduce long-term construction/improvement costs, and improve roadway aesthetics. These rules have been involved in the past on both individual driveway and subdivision entrance siting issues, and should continue to be in the future.

Furthermore, these rules, in conjunction with stringent new road acceptance/capital investment policies, will contribute to realization of "growth" and "rural" area objectives, the long-term preservation of large tracts of forested open space, and the maintenance of Sweden's overall rural character. Presently, any new roads accepted by the town must meet the road standards as expressed in the Sweden Zoning and Land Use Ordinance and Sweden Subdivision Regulations.

Local Roads. In the past 10 years, Sweden's local roads (paved and unpaved) have proven to be adequate in size and location to handle the slight increase in traffic associated with the population increase of approximately 100 during that period. The Town's policy of repaving one mile per year (using \$35,000 to \$45,000 from surplus) has been consistently and sequentially applied, and will be adequate for the foreseeable future growth to keep the poorer roads in a least fair-to-good condition. In addition, ongoing ditching roadsides and regrinding road surfaces where necessary will help prolong pavement life. Ownership status of some local roads that may be abandoned or discontinued requires some resolution. The status of such roads will impact future maintenance and control of development. Candidate roads for resolution are Ellis Road, Evans Hill Road, Goshen Road, parts of Ledge Hill Road, Lane Road between Webber Pond and Bridgton Roads, and the "Old City" Road from Black Mountain Road to Moose Pond. For the most part, these roadways are totally within or bordering the designated rural areas, with only some short segments within or bordering the designated growth areas.

Traffic Volumes. No congestion exists on any of the local roads; traffic is light, and the present carrying capacity of these roads is considered adequate to accommodate the minimal amount of traffic growth expected over the next 10-year period. Overall, road maintenance

comprises one of the largest budget categories for Sweden--second only to education. However, spending at this level should be able to be continued.

Bridges. Of the several roadway bridges in Sweden, all are for steam crossings and minor in size and construction. Most recent state aid repair was for the Waterford Road bridges crossing Duck Pond Brook and the Black Pond outlet stream (completed in the autumn of 2002). The only remaining significant town bridge repair required soon is for the old bridge over Trull Brook. Trull Brook Road traffic is minimal now and for the foreseeable future, through traffic is not a critical issue, and the portion of road on each side of Trull Brook has equal access to and from higher-grade roadways. Consequently, bridge repair should be limited to that necessary for maintaining present safe bridge capacity without any further size or weight upgradings.

Parking Capacity. Parking capacity in the Town Office/Meeting House/Community Church area is adequate to allow the town to get by for the present. Completion in 2003 of the new Town Office on recently purchased property on Route 93 adjacent to the old Town Office (to be transferred to the Sweden Historical Society) will include additional parking spaces, better organized and capable of handling future expected needs in this area.

Parking at the two town beach areas is poor, but little can be done to increase the capacity due to the absence of adjacent expansion opportunities. One possible solution would be to acquire new boat launch sites, separate from the swimming sites, to alleviate the combined parking pressure and the obvious complications arising from combined use in such small areas. However, available shoreland property on these ponds is scarce, and property that is available is very expensive.

Occasional off-road and shoulder parking by individuals or small groups for snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, hunting, hiking, and other activities has not yet been a significant problem. This is because of the limited amount of this type of parking, the very light traffic on Sweden's roads, the type of roads involved (typically minor, dead-end roads), and local property owner cooperation.

Snowmobile Trails. The present system of trails is excellent, well-supported by the town, and utilized by numerous Sweden, as well as non-resident, snowmobilers and cross-country skiers.

Planning Goals

State Goal To encourage orderly growth and development in areas of each community, while protecting the State's rural character, making efficient use of public services, and preventing development sprawl. To plan for, finance, and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development.

Town Goal To manage and maintain Sweden's existing and future system of public roadways to accommodate safe, efficient, uncongested transportation commensurate with rural community and character, limited finances, and planned land use.

Town Policies

- To maintain town roads, rights-of-way, and bridges at a reasonable and affordable level to meet the Town's year-round residential growth and associated requirements, and in keeping with the Town's rural character.
- To manage new development toward minimal adverse impact on the existing public roadway system, to include the areas of transportation safety, construction and maintenance costs, congestion, and roadway curb cuts.
- To minimize the impact of traffic through Sweden.
- To encourage pedestrian, bicycle, and public transportation options as appropriate and feasible.
- To provide safe and secure parking in public areas consistent with the requirement for use of that area.
- To encourage and support maintenance of existing snowmobile trails throughout the town.
- To establish and maintain coordination and participation with the RTAC-6.
- To abandon those discontinued town roads in the Rural Preservation and Natural Resource Protection Zones and the Aquifer and Stream Protection and Forest Conservation Overlay Districts that are no longer needed or maintained as town ways.

Implementation Strategies

1. Establish and maintain a public road improvement plan for the maintenance and upgrade of public roads. The plan should assign a low priority for improvements to those roads and road segments that are closed to winter maintenance, and those located in the designated Rural Preservation and Natural Resource Protection Zones and the protective Overlay Districts.

Responsibility: Selectmen, Road Commissioner

Time Frame: Ongoing

2. Continue the current policy of paving an average of one mile of town roads per year. Ditch, regrind, and resurface where necessary to maintain road longevity. Priority should be given to through-roads (rather than dead end roads) and to designated Growth Areas (rather than Rural Areas and Overlay Districts). Dead end roads should have a safe and easy turn around at the end to accommodate school buses, snow removal vehicles, and fire/emergency vehicles.

Responsibility: Selectmen, Road Commissioner

Time Frame: Short-term/Ongoing

3. Identify roads in the Rural Preservation Zone and the protective Overlay Districts that may have been abandoned or discontinued in the past, and review the status for abandonment, discontinuance, or maintenance. Initiate road discontinuance/abandonment procedures for any town roads that no longer serve as needed town ways, and/or would require significant capital investment to upgrade.

Responsibility: Selectmen, Town Clerk, Fire Department, Planning Board, Road Commissioner

Time Frame: Short-term

4. Amend Sweden's Zoning and Land Use Ordinance and Subdivision Review Standards to include provisions that residential subdivisions in the Rural Preservation Zone and/or the protective Overlay Districts, proposed to be accessed by roads closed to winter maintenance, by newly constructed roads, or by roads deemed inadequate to carry traffic associated with subdivisions, be prohibited unless road improvements are undertaken by the subdivider.

Responsibility: Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term

5. Review, amend, and strongly enforce Sweden's Zoning and Land Use Ordinance and Subdivision Review Standards, incorporating MDOT's Access Management Rules, to ensure strict regulations for the safe location of single lot development curb cuts, as well as for the minimizing, layout, and safe location of minor and major subdivision entrance/exit roads along local public town roads.

Responsibility: Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term

6. Review town ordinances, regulations, and standards to ensure a clear policy of no town acceptance of privately built roads servicing approved subdivisions in the designated Rural Preservation Area and Protection Overlay Districts, and clear delineation of specific responsibility for maintenance and improvement of roadways that are to remain privately owned and maintained.

Responsibility: Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term

7. Participate with the RTAC-6 and MDOT to address regional transportation issues including highway improvements, movement of freight, pedestrian and bicycle traffic/facilities, and the impacts of through traffic.

Responsibility: Planning Board, Road Commissioner

Time Frame: Ongoing

8. Present to the Town a policy or article to add a percentage of the Town's annual surplus to the road account, and develop a written plan for use of that money for capital projects of State Aid roads with specific priority given to the designated Growth Areas.

Responsibility: Selectmen

Time Frame: Short-term

9. Extend support, and funds (reimbursed snowmobile registration fees) as acquired and needed, to local snowmobile organizations for continued upkeep and improvements of snowmobile trails.

Responsibility: Selectmen

Time Frame: Ongoing

G. Historic and Archeological Resources

Historical Sketch. In the 1700s, the area along the Saco River valley near Fryeburg was occupied by the Pequawket branch of the Sokokis Indian tribe. Their occupation of this area was violently disrupted when, in 1725, Captain John Lovewell of New Dunstable, Massachusetts organized a company of nearly 50 men and led an expedition against the Pequawket settlement in the Fryeburg intervale. The expedition resulted in a bloody fight known as “Lovewell’s Fight”, which took a heavy toll on both Captain Lovewell’s company and the Pequawket. In compensation for their losses, survivors and descendants of Captain Lovewell’s company were provided with a grant of land from the General Court of Massachusetts in an area of the District of Maine called “New Suncook”, later named Lovell in honor of Captain Lovewell. In 1812, citizens of “Southlan”, an area of approximately 18,000 acres in southerly Lovell, appealed to the General Court of Massachusetts for separation from Lovell. In 1813, with the concurrence of Lovell, Southlan broke away from Lovell and became Sweden.

In the nineteenth century, the settler generation occupied most of the best sites in Sweden for agricultural purposes including the raising and maintenance of livestock and timber harvesting. As the town matured, residents established supporting businesses such as saw mills, tanneries, and apple presses. In addition, town residents maintained four small stores, a blacksmith shop, cooperages, at least one wheelwright shop, a post office, and eventually even a dance hall and bowling alleys. All of this development took place within a hamlet framework, with no single commercial center, no immediate access to railroads, and roads kept unpaved until 1948. Most physical remains of those years appear only in landscape traces such as roads, stone walls, cellar holes, and an occasional shed that once served a rural business.

The period following the Civil War saw an exodus of families to the west where more promising farmland was available at little or no cost. By 1900, the population of Sweden had decreased from a high of over 700 in the 1850s to about 300 (see Figure 1). Through abandonment and fires, the old homesteads disappeared, leaving only foundations to identify their locations. Tracts of second and third growth trees dominate Sweden’s landscape today, interspersed with a multitude of stone walls attesting to the once-cleared farmlands.

Since 1900, commercial activities in the town have been limited to low-impact, low-intensity businesses including timber harvesting, apple growing, and two summer recreational camps for young people. In recent decades, the summer and year-round population has rebounded with an influx of vacationers, retirees, and commuters.

Identified Resources. Historic and archaeological resources in Sweden are illustrated in Appendix A-5. As part of a living historical resource area, Sweden’s prominent surviving physical monuments include a 19th century blacksmith shop (now the location of the Sweden Historical Society); an old Methodist Church moved to the town center in 1871 and still serving as the Sweden Community Church; and the 1827 Town Meeting House recently renovated through a State Block Grant and a major donation from the Sweden Heritage Fund. One of the 15 original schoolhouses located in the town currently serves as the Selectmen’s

Office and several others have been converted for residential use. The old Congregational Church at the intersection of Black Mountain and Webber Pond Roads has been transformed into a private home. The Town's 13 cemeteries, plus a tomb of one of the original settlers (Colonel Nevers), have been carefully catalogued and preserved. Numerous connected farmhouses dating back to the 19th century have been repaired, restored, and renovated.

Identified archaeological resources in Sweden include numerous old foundations and cellar holes, dug wells, granite quarrying sites, as well as split-stone bridge abutments, town line markers, and sawmill water-wheel abutments. Perhaps most prevalent and timeless, however, are the many miles of stone walls (and wall remains) that meander throughout Sweden, specifically indicating town boundaries and right-of-ways, outlining agricultural fields, and often, defining individual property lines and cemeteries. These walls are composed primarily of glacial fieldstones, at times interspersed with leftover quarried split-granite pieces.

Contact with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) has revealed their Sweden records (as of June 2003) indicate the following:

- No *Prehistoric Archaeological Sites* (i.e., those sites known to be associated with Native Americans or others prior to the arrival of Europeans) are known. Although no formal surveys have been completed, pond/lake shores and "The Plains" are delineated archaeologically-sensitive resource potential areas, and survey/inventory/analysis are desirable prior to further development in these regions (see map, Appendix A-5). This delineation for Sweden is based on a predictive model that shows a potential for sites located within 50 yards of likely stream/river/lake/pond canoe routes and at likely encampment or settlement areas over nearby pervious, sandy soils.
- One *Historic Archaeological Site* (i.e., a European-American site occupied during a period with written historic records) has been identified. This site is an unidentified American mill with cellar hole. Although no professional surveys have been conducted, other sites might be present in resource potential areas such as the site of Sweden's earliest settlement and mill sites of the late 18th century.
- With respect to *Historic Buildings/Structures/Objects*, Sweden was surveyed for publication of "Oxford County, Maine: A Guide to Its Historic Architecture" (Bennett, 1984). No other evaluation has been performed to determine if any Sweden properties merit nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Analysis and Findings

Through assets and efforts of the Sweden Historical Society, Sweden's history is quite well documented, showing consistent function as a rural town. With no commercial center, residents travel to neighboring towns for shopping. Local occupations are unobtrusive, and presently most residents earn their living or derive their support from sources outside of Sweden.

The challenge for protection of Sweden's historical heritage is intense and significant. The essential character of the town is closely associated with its history as a beautiful and unpretentious place where its people live in close harmony with the landscape. Sweden's historical physical character is largely evidenced by a complementary composite of natural

scenery, older farmsteads among newer homes, and fields outlined and crisscrossed by original stone walls. These walls, preserved and visible, are continual reminders of the Town's past human activities and endeavors. Precisely because this is a simple town with an amiable and honest history as a small rural place, its tranquility and simplicity need to be preserved. But a town with these characteristics is perhaps especially vulnerable to careless and aggressive development and requires careful attention to planning.

There are a number of houses and buildings in the heart of Sweden that together make an assemblage perhaps even worthy of designation as a historic district. At present, this area, known as Four Corners, anchors the town with the Town Meeting House, the Community Church, brick schoolhouse serving as the Selectmen's Office, and several attractive connected farmhouses. It is notable that Thomas Hubka's important study of Maine architecture began here in Sweden.⁶ Any obtrusive business development in this section of town would be particularly damaging to its historical stature and atmosphere.

The town remains vulnerable to inappropriate development. Pressures from surrounding towns, with "strip suburbanization" connecting Sweden to Bridgton on the increase, are likely only to continue and possibly threaten the preservation of historic resources. An important part of protecting and preserving historic and archaeological resources is to ensure encouragement for landowners contemplating development/improvement of their property, to incorporate goals to save, restore, or incorporate these resources into their plans. For example, stone walls exist throughout the town on many properties. They are an available natural and historic resource that contributes greatly to the historic and rural character of the town. Further, walls defining town cemeteries, boundaries, and public road right-of-ways need to be preserved for those functions through land use regulation.

Another important consideration is including the interest, expertise, and participation of the Sweden Historical Society in monitoring the potential situation of historic/archaeological resources, and encouraging and including its participation in development and subdivision hearings with appropriate comments. The Society's future liaisons and coordinations with the MHPC will be vital to acquiring and assisting any further survey, inventory, and analysis of Sweden's historic and archaeological resource potential areas. This will increase the Town's awareness, knowledge, and inclination toward preservation and protection. Moreover, it will prove most valuable before and during the Town's review and permitting processes for development and construction proposals in designated historically and archaeologically sensitive areas or situations.

The Sweden Heritage Fund is a local non-profit fund-raising organization dedicated to historic preservation. This organization was highly instrumental in accomplishing recent renovations to the Town Meeting House, and is an available and able asset to likewise assist in future similar efforts such as relocation of the 19th century blacksmith shop, and restoration/adaptation of the old brick schoolhouse (currently the Selectmen's Office) as the new Sweden Historical Society building.

⁶ "Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn," University Press of New England, 1984.

Planning Goals

State Goal To preserve the State's historic and archaeological resources.

Town Goal To preserve and maintain the value and context of Sweden's historic and archaeological resources.

Town Policies

- To coordinate with the MHPC to facilitate investigation, identification, protection and preservation of Sweden's historic and archaeological resources, particularly in MHPC-designated resource potential areas.
- To preserve, protect, maintain, and utilize Sweden's historic and archaeological areas, sites, and structures as an integral part of the Town's rural character.
- To preserve, safeguard, and make publicly available, town historical documents, records, and information.
- To assess the impacts of development that threaten known historic and archaeological resources.
- To protect identified historic and archaeological resources from destruction, degradation, dismantling, or removal by future development.

Implementation Strategies

1. Identify, catalog, and assess Sweden's historic and archaeological resources, and develop regulatory measures ensuring protection from destruction, degradation, dismantling, or removal by future development

Responsibility: Historical Society, Selectmen, Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term

2. Continue collection, cataloging, and safeguarding of the Town's historical documentation and materials.

Responsibility: Selectmen, Historical Society

Time Frame: Short-term/Ongoing

3. Amend the Zoning and Land Use Ordinance to prohibit destruction of stone walls/stone wall traces that define cemeteries, town boundary lines and public road right-of-ways, and split stone town boundary line markers at intersections with entering roadways.

Responsibility: Planning Board, Code Enforcement Officer

Time Frame: Short-term

4. Amend the Zoning and Land Use Ordinance to designate MHPC historical and archaeological resource potential areas for which appropriate development review criteria, use conditions, and protective buffers are established.

Responsibility: Planning Board, Historical Society

Time Frame: Short-term

5. Amend the Zoning and Land Use Ordinance to seek MHPC verification, survey coordination, and advice prior to any formal subdivision review or issuance of individual building permits regarding development or construction proposals within MHPC-designated historical or archaeological resource potential areas.

Responsibility: Planning Board, Historical Society

Time Frame: Ongoing

6. Encourage full participation of the Sweden Historical Society (research assessment, formal comment, testimony as relevant) prior to, and during, individual development, conditional use, and variance review/approval processes and meetings in terms of preservation and protection of the Town's historic and archaeological resources.

Responsibility: Planning Board, Historical Society

Time Frame: Ongoing

7. Amend the Subdivision Review Standards to encourage landowners and developers to, wherever possible, shape proposed lot boundary lines along existing stone walls or remnants of walls, and in such a manner as to maximize future potential aesthetic landscaping possibilities of all stone walls on the property.

Responsibility: Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term

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H. Outdoor Recreation

General. The Town of Sweden has very limited outdoor public recreational facilities (see map, Appendix A-6), and no public or private indoor recreational facilities. Generally, however, the Town's four ponds, many hills, and vast forest tracts provide good four-season opportunities for hiking, canoeing, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. The majority of lands are essentially open access, with some by permission only, such as for hunting and snowmobiling. Alpine skiing is available in adjacent Bridgton at Shawnee Peak Ski Area, and at Sunday River Ski Area near Bethel, about one hour to the north. Larger lake boating is available in many adjacent and neighboring towns, as well.

Sweden does possess two town swimming beach/boat launch ramp properties, each less than ½-acre in size and open to the public. One is located at the north end of Stearns Pond with public access off Wint Road. The second is located on the east shore of Keyes Pond with public access over private roadway off Perry Hill Road. Both properties are tightly confined between adjacent shorefront lots and have very limited parking capacity. Canoe and kayak deeded public access to Webber Pond is possible by a short trail from Webber Pond Road. Access for boating on the upper portion of Moose Pond in Sweden is available from public boat launch points along the US Route 302 causeway crossing the Pond in Bridgton.

There are numerous unmarked hiking trails throughout Sweden, and about 25 miles of well-groomed and marked snowmobile trails (including a 15-mile segment of Snowmobile Interstate #80). Local snowmobile clubs keep these maintained and open during the winter. The trails are also used for cross-country skiing and year-round hiking.

A broad range of year-round, mostly outdoor, activities are offered by the adjacent Town of Lovell Recreation Program. Sweden's residents and property owners may participate in any of these due to an annual budgeted stipend provided by Sweden. Sweden also provides a town representative to the Lovell Recreation Council.

Analysis and Findings

Obviously, all outdoor recreation opportunities are important to the Town of Sweden, whether year-round or seasonal, and whether conducted in town or outside of town. Their continued availability is a prime ingredient of the Town's overall rural character and part of the attractiveness and quality of rural living. Traditional outdoor activities, such as snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, hiking, hunting, and fishing, can be substantially enjoyed with a minimum of infrastructure, and thus at little cost to the Town's taxpayers, as long as large tracts of open lands and a minimum trail network are retained and access granted by willing landowners is maintained. Many small privately owned trails, tote roads, logging trails, etc., exist throughout town. These are most often freely accessed and there does not seem to be any appreciable trend toward posting of lands previously open/utilized by the public, except in a minimum number of cases where the occasional dwelling has been established and/or privacy rights are being enforced.

A wide range of outdoor recreation should always be a baseline priority for any Sweden recreation program. It can easily be broadened and refined if funds become available to

acquire additional lands, or as parcels might be donated for specific purposes (e.g., ball fields, picnic areas). In the face of today's steady sale, subdivision, and development of open land, it would be prudent to soon commence an ongoing search for new town lands prior to further reduced availability and higher market prices. Acquired lands (e.g., through purchase, subdivision set-aside, use donation) could be utilized for playgrounds, town events, hiking/nature trails, etc.

Other activities (e.g., certain indoor/outdoor sports, entertainment, theater, etc.) may require various structures and ancillary facilities (such as restrooms), thereby becoming more costly, particularly for a small town with a limited number of participants. A good variety of these kinds of recreational activities are available to Sweden through an annual budgeted stipend to Lovell. This efficient and satisfactory arrangement for Sweden's particular situation should continue to be maintained and supported as required.

With respect to Sweden's two combined swimming beach/boat launch sites, and the very limited parking for each, acquisition of any new possible sites in order to eliminate their combined use, improve recreational capacity, and reduce parking pressure, should be an ongoing consideration.

Overall, considering the Town's current population, anticipated growth pattern, budgetary constraints/priorities, large accessible tracts of woodlands, and present level of cooperation with Lovell, Sweden's recreational opportunities are adequate now and for the foreseeable future.

Planning Goals

State Goal To promote and protect the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities for all Maine citizens, including access to surface waters.

Town Goal To ensure the preservation and availability of Sweden's traditional outdoor recreational lands, and promote continued public access for a wide range of activities.

Town Policies

- To conserve and maintain Sweden's current intact open spaces, and encourage their availability, access, and interconnecting to form a network for multipurpose outdoor recreation.
- To ensure future subdivision/development plans are compatible with, contribute to, and improve town-wide traditional outdoor recreational opportunities.
- To maintain, improve, and expand as feasible the existing points of public access to Sweden's four ponds to facilitate usage and protect water and shoreline quality.
- To support the local snowmobile/cross-country skiing clubs; recognize the needs of traditional outdoor recreation activities such as hunting and fishing; and to encourage education, safety, and respect for private property.
- To cooperate with surrounding towns in support of mutual recreation programs.

Implementation Strategies:

1. Encourage and promote, whenever feasible, methods to integrate important outdoor recreational open spaces into a network of physical and ecological connections (such as trails, greenbelts, stream corridors, etc.) to link recreational, cultural, scenic, and natural areas.

Responsibility: Planning Board, Conservation Commission

Time Frame: Ongoing

2. Amend the Subdivision Review Standards as necessary to allow negotiation of incentives during the subdivision review process with developers of waterfront property or important open spaces to dedicate outdoor recreational spaces and provide long-term public access for recreation.

Responsibility: Planning Board, Conservation Commission

Time Frame: Ongoing

3. Amend the Zoning and Land Use Ordinance to require a clustering format for both major and minor subdivisions in the Rural Preservation Zone, with provisions for the preservation, management, and maintenance of outdoor recreational open space in perpetuity.

Responsibility: Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term

4. Create reserve funds as feasible, and consider use of development impact fees, for the purchase of important open space, easements for open space, and for public recreation as opportunities arise. Seek donations of open space properties.

Responsibility: Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission

Time Frame: Ongoing

5. Encourage owners of qualifying open space to participate in the open space provisions of the Farm and Open Space Tax Law (Title 36 MRSA, Ch. 105).

Responsibility: Selectmen

Time Frame: Ongoing

6. Maintain Sweden's financial, organizational, and participatory efforts with Lovell to support a wide range of recreational opportunities for both towns.

Responsibility: Selectmen

Time Frame: Ongoing

7. Coordinate and cooperate with surrounding towns, outdoor sporting clubs, and the State of Maine to encourage and support standards of education, safety, mutual respect, and snowmobile trail creation and maintenance.

Responsibility: Selectmen

Time Frame: Ongoing

I. Economics

General. Sweden's small area and population, rural setting, off-route location, lack of congestion, and absence of significant commercial/industrial development have all combined (historically and currently) to make the town an attractive and economically feasible place for people to make their home. Close proximity to commercial/industrial centers in adjacent/neighboring towns makes employment opportunities, commercial goods and services, and health/welfare facilities readily available. This availability, coupled with Sweden's willingness to participate in mutual services with neighboring towns to supplement municipal services and infrastructure needs, is important. It alleviates the need to unnecessarily and uneconomically duplicate certain municipal and commercial services and related development at the expense of its natural setting and rural character.

As of 31 December 2001, Sweden had a total valuation of about \$33,000,000, and the budget for the year ending at that date was about \$584,000. Major budgeted expenses for the town during 2001 included education (\$335,000), roads/bridges (\$117,000), trash removal (\$32,000), and administration (\$31,000). These major expenses, totaling \$522,000, represent about 89% of the total budget. The town has tight budgetary controls and is in sound financial condition.

Economic Base and Employment. While there are few signs of industrial or commercial activity, Sweden is not devoid of an economic base. For example, there are approximately 15,000 acres of commercial and individual woodlands in town under active management for the forest products industry, as well as a large commercial apple orchard in east Sweden. However, neither of these produces significant employment opportunities for Sweden residents, although some logging work is occasionally available.

Being in a recreational area, two summer camps (Camp Tapawingo on Keyes Pond and Camp Encore Coda on Stearns Pond – see Appendix A maps), many rental properties, and summer cottages, provide some seasonal and occasional year-round employment for a few local people.

A number of Sweden residents are employed in-town with small home occupations such as retailing (e.g., plant/seedling nursery, hunting/shooting supplies, antiques), upholstery/interior decorating, small business/property management, landscaping, maintenance services, carpentry, in-home clinics, and sawyering. In addition, telecommuting has permitted residents to work at home while employed by out-of-area businesses.

The significant, slowly increasing number of non-resident second home property owners does provide some opportunity for occasional local employment in conjunction with site preparation, landscaping, and carpentry improvements associated with new and/or renovated second homes.

An increasing number of retirees continue to settle in Sweden, and many are involved in part-time and/or volunteer work, both in and out of town. Residents also participate in service on

town boards and committees, without pay, can significantly reduce town administrative costs and thus relieve some taxation burden as well.

As has been true for many years, the bulk of Sweden's working population commutes to jobs in nearby areas, with a mean travel time of 39 minutes. According to the 2000 Census, about 95% of Sweden's employed workforce of 128 were employed outside of Sweden. Of this total, 27% were employed in the education/health/social services, 12% in recreation and food services, 11% in construction, and 10% in retail. In 2000, per capita income was \$14,991 and median household income was \$30,781.

Significant employment opportunities available in Bridgton, the nearest built-up commercial center, include Shawnee Peak Ski Area, Dielectric Corporation, Pleasant Mountain Moc Company, and Bridgton Hospital. Throughout Bridgton and the other adjacent towns of Fryeburg, Lovell, and Waterford, exist employment opportunities in machine and wood products manufacturing, commercial retail/services, restaurants, and some professional services. The area's only major employer loss in the last ten years was Bridgton's Malden Mills knitting mill in 1998. The area's major employer gain was Dielectric Corporation in 1999.

Throughout the larger surrounding area roughly defined by a triangular area between Windham, Norway/South Paris/Oxford, and North Conway, New Hampshire, there exists the full array of commercial retailing and services, industrial manufacturing forest products, health care, construction, and recreational employment opportunities. This area also includes the employment opportunities available in local School Administrative Districts (SAD) #17 (Oxford), #61 (Bridgton), and #72 (Fryeburg).

Analysis and Findings

Although the Town of Sweden is readily serviced and essentially satisfied by the usual variety of nearby surrounding commercial goods and services, and although the town is presently in good financial conditions (possibly, in part, by its simplicity, tight management, and still basic infrastructure), there are conditions and concerns that should be monitored throughout the foreseeable future. These include:

- *A significant degree of local/regional economic success is seasonal and dependent on tourism and weather.* The local saying, "You survive or not, depending on how you do from June through October!", is largely true for most retail shops, vacation accommodations, homebuilders, etc. Success is also dependent on weather conditions including the obvious implication of summertime weather as well as the typically more fickle winter snow conditions that impact the winter sports business. The dependence of local economics and jobs on these factors must be recognized.
- *Sweden has a very narrow tax base.* The narrow tax base of Sweden puts heavy pressure on the individual homeowner for tax revenues. However, it is unrealistic to expect a broadening of this base through an influx of either commercial or industrial business to the town due to its remote geographic location and topography, limited municipal facilities/infrastructure, and small work force. Maintaining the simplicity of town

infrastructure and cautious, thoughtful, restrained development goals in the town are advisable.

- *Large blocks of undeveloped land are in the hands of a small number of people.* This feature does not pose a problem for Sweden at the current time. In fact, in almost every instance, the present use of these blocks of land is consistent with, and contributes to, the rural character of the town. However, the town could be adversely affected by any significant change in that land use.
- *Land costs have risen in recent years and will probably continue to rise.* There has been an overall rise in property values throughout the town, which may make it increasingly difficult for some property owners to absorb tax increases, perhaps prompting increased subdividing and sale of properties.

As Sweden approaches the end of its second century as a community, it has clearly retained much of its character as a rural-residential town. Its economic assets can be measured in terms of the thousands of acres of valuable timberland, summer camps and cottages, the apple orchard, and the few home occupations that operate in town. Less easy to measure, but vitally important to the present and future residential attractiveness and quality of life in Sweden, are its natural assets such as open spaces, woodlands, clear lakes and streams, abundant wildlife, beautiful views, and peaceful ambiance as well as its very lack of insensitive development, traffic congestion, and noise. Results of the recent survey (Appendix C), indicate that an overwhelming percentage of the respondents are satisfied with the present degree of commercial/industrial activity in town and prefer that any expansion that may be proposed be very slowly and thoughtfully considered and that any permitted activities do not disturb, compromise, or detract from Sweden's rural-residential character.

Planning Goals

State Goal To promote an economic climate that increases job opportunities and overall economic well-being.

Town Goal To maintain an environmentally sound economic climate that retains Sweden's rural and residential character, and supports regional economic well-being.

Town Policies

- To continue to limit commercial development to small-scale, low-impact, and non-polluting enterprises, such as home occupations.
- To encourage sustainable agriculture and forestry, commensurate with Sweden's natural, rural, and residential character.
- To ensure any commercial development does not detract from, or degrade, Sweden's natural and rural-residential character, or unfavorably impact surrounding property conditions and values, or municipal resources.

Implementation Strategies

1. Continue to support agriculture, forestry, and home occupations at the level, and to the extent, currently allowed in Sweden's Zoning and Land Use Ordinance.

Responsibility: Planning Board, Code Enforcement Officer

Time Frame: Ongoing

2. Strictly enforce the agriculture, forestry, and home occupations performance standards of the Sweden Zoning and Land Use Ordinance.

Responsibility: Planning Board, Code Enforcement Officer, Appeals Board

Time Frame: Ongoing

3. Cooperate with, and support, adjacent and nearby towns on mutual economic matters and concerns of regional importance.

Responsibility: Selectmen

Time Frame: Ongoing

J. Public Facilities and Services

General. Sweden's small size and population (about 27 square miles and 324 persons), with few roads and minimal commercial/industrial activity, has resulted in a small and uncomplicated system of public facilities and services. These received adequate ratings from 60 to 92% of respondents to the public questionnaire (Appendix C), with demands for necessary improvement reasonable and consistent with a rural setting and for rural living. For example, the town has no public water supply, central sewerage system, designated solid waste site, public works department, in-town schools, or health care facilities. These and other necessary services have been provided through regional/municipal consolidation and cooperation, or by contracting out to nearby providers of such services. This has proven effective and necessary to maintaining low infrastructure/staffing costs and avoiding uneconomical redundancy of services in the region.

However, no matter how small a town may be, it still has an obligation to provide basic municipal services to its citizens through its elected officials. The extent of such services, of course, is dependent on the taxpayers' ability and willingness to pay for them, and on whether those services are mutually/regionally/privately available elsewhere on an economical and practical basis. Sweden's municipal facilities and services are categorically profiled and analyzed in the following paragraphs. Refer to Appendix A maps for locations.

Inventory, Analysis, and Findings (by area)

Water Supply. There is no town-wide central water supply in Sweden; however, there are two privately-owned, State-regulated public water supplies (see Section II, C. Water Resources, General). With an average density of 12 persons per square mile, with no concentrated growth centers, a costly public water supply is presently not feasible or desired. Residents rely on individual private wells, which have typically provided good and sufficient water. Recent droughts have caused a temporary shortage of well water to a small group of homeowners. Considering the foregoing factors, a public water supply system is not considered desirable or necessary for the next 10 to 20 years at least. Surface and ground water quality protective measures are in place by the town, particularly in the identified Aquifer Protection District (see Appendix A), which could be utilized as a public water supply source in the distant future if necessary.

Sewerage. For the same factors cited above for a public water supply, Sweden presently has no centralized public sewage system, and likewise, it does not appear feasible, necessary, or desirable for the next few decades. Individual residences must utilize approved septic systems or vaulted privies (in accordance with the State Plumbing Code) in tandem with existing surface and groundwater protective regulations. In addition, with various mandated minimum lot sizes (1-1/2, 3, or 5 acres depending on the zoned district), sufficient lot space is available for septic systems. Since subdivision clustering is overall encouraged, and is specifically mandated for major subdivisions in the Rural Preservation Zone, some future private centralization of water supply and sewage disposal may result. Septic waste is individually contracted for disposal by licensed haulers to state-approved sites outside of the Town of Sweden. There has never been a sludge or toxic waste site within town boundaries.

Solid Waste. No public waste disposal (dump) facility has ever been located in the Town of Sweden. Since 1986, Sweden has contracted for weekly roadside collection to an outside collection service. Solid waste is transported to the city of Auburn where it is converted into energy at the Mid-Maine Waste Action Corporation (MMWAC) facility. Sweden was one of the original towns to sign a formal long-term bond agreement with MMWAC. The overall arrangement has proven thus far to be economical and satisfactory. Sweden should realize more savings upon bond completion in 2014. A total of approximately 137 tons per year of household rubbish is hauled for the town (about one ton per year for each resident household, or a half ton per year for all households). The Town's solid waste program ranked highest in adequacy of town services according to Sweden's July 2001 survey: 86% of respondents cited adequate town initiatives on recycling, 87% cited trash collection as adequate.

From 1995 to 2002 individual recycling was accommodated by contractual agreement with the neighboring Town of Lovell to allow Sweden taxpayers to use Lovell's recycling facility. The contract agreement was terminated in 2002 and subsequently, monthly roadside pickup was contracted with the Town's household rubbish hauler. A rough estimate from the contractor hauler indicates the household tonnage remains about the same, and the percent of recycling tonnage is approximately 9% of total household rubbish. Efforts are ongoing with the hauler and townspeople to increase this percentage.

Stormwater Management. The Town of Sweden has no public stormwater sewer system. The efforts to channel, control, collect, and prevent stormwater damage and runoff erosion of roadways consists entirely of maintaining roadside ditching, certain small-scale catch basins, specific functional culverts, and numerous turnout ditches for the runoff, all as part of the annual roadways maintenance contract. There is no concentrated built-up area and no urban/suburban-type street network, and none are envisioned in the next 10 to 20 years with the continued growth forecast; there should be no requirement to develop a more sophisticated management system. However, two specific areas for which monitoring of major stream runoff may be needed are: (1) the Black Mountain runoff over the Black Mountain Road to Dock Brook; and (2) the low point at the junction of Route 93 and the stream feeding into the south end of Keyes Pond, which handles the converging runoff from Plummer Mountain and from both directions of the roadway.

Public Safety. Sweden's in-town public safety assets consist of a Volunteer Fire Department, a minimum First Responder capability, and an appointed Emergency Management (civil defense) Director. Several resident constables are also appointed annually. As explained above, for further additional services or more extensive support, the town relies upon regional mutual agreements and certain hired services that are annually budgeted. This has proven necessary, effective, and feasible as a small-town solution, and will probably continue well into the future.

The Sweden Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) possesses fire attack/suppression/rescue, water transport, and (at the present time) very limited first responder/life-saving capabilities including vehicles. Through contractual mutual aid, the adjacent towns of Bridgton, Lovell, and Waterford assist as required for any fire situation beyond Sweden's means. Budget support from the town has been supportive; however, as in most small towns, firefighter

volunteers are often scarce, membership/attendance fluctuates, and training is difficult. Membership ranges between 10 and 20 members, usually with 6 to 12 active. Serious fires, fortunately, are few and far between, and none have ever been without sufficient support through mutual aid. The present, outdated fire station is not satisfactory, and complete plans for replacement of an updated fire station need to be researched and developed, to include details of location, siting, design, funding, and equipping. Funding will need to be pursued through a matching block grant and/or town appropriations, loans, and donations, and will depend upon the viability of future SVFD membership. The optimum location should be somewhere in the Town's designated "growth" area (Residential Zone), near the geographical center of Sweden to realize best response times for all areas.

Sweden has no police force or municipal law enforcement capability. Any necessary recourse for police dispatch is through the Oxford County Sheriff's Department, quartered in South Paris, 25 miles from the Town of Sweden. The present situation does not require a costly in-town presence—in 2001, there were a total of 29 reported, mostly minor, incidents requiring response (note, this is the lowest number in the last five years of declining incidents).

In the area of emergency services, the Town's appointed/funded emergency Management Director assists in coordination of town and outside assets during a civil defense or town-wide disaster (e.g., the January 1998 ice storm response). For medical emergencies, several trained first responders reside in town, and the SVFD has a rescue aid vehicle, but those readily on call fluctuate, so the town funds and relies mostly on direct response by the Bridgton 911 dispatcher. On call, around-the-clock, private ambulance service based in adjacent Bridgton is provided by annual contract, and has proven immediately responsive, highly effective, and is considered adequate by 81% of respondents to the 2001 survey (see Appendix C). This service is funded by the town and should continue as a viable solution for the next 10 to 20 years. The new enhanced 911 Committee is in the final stages of the addressing process and expects completion in early 2003.

Education. Pequawket Valley School Area District (SAD #72), to which Sweden has belonged since 1967, includes six other surrounding towns: Stoneham, Lovell, Stow, Fryeburg, Brownfield, and Denmark. The schools within this district are described in Table 17.

Table 17. SAD #72 Schools

School	Location	Grades	Capacity	Enrollment (2002)
Brownfield Elementary	Brownfield	K – 2	100	56
Denmark	Denmark	3 – 5	125	82
New Suncook ^a	Lovell	K – 5	300	213
Charles A. Snow	Fryeburg	K – 5	250	196
Molly Ockett Middle ^a	Fryeburg	6 – 8	300	391 ^b
Fryeburg Academy ^{a,c}	Fryeburg	9 – 12	600	506
Sadie Adams	Fryeburg	Special education	100	7

^a Sweden's children attend these schools

^b Modular classrooms are used to offset crowding due to high enrollment

^c Private academy with tuition paid by SAD #72

The SAD #72 School Board consists of 22 Directors, meeting monthly with the District Superintendent. The Town of Sweden is represented on the Board by one full-time member elected for a three-year term, and one alternate member elected for a one-year term. Overall, the District has always experienced a small, steady annual growth, and this trend is expected to continue. School buildings and facilities are well maintained, and no specific major construction is anticipated at present.

Sweden's school-age population is small, and consequently, its school enrollment numbers can show a relatively dramatic percentage change by the addition or subtraction of one family from the population of the town. Recent enrollment figures indicate a steady increase in the number of children Sweden is sending to SAD #72 as shown in Table 18.

Table 18. Sweden's School Population Since 1992

School Year	Grade School	High School	Total
1992 – 1993	23	13	36
1993 – 1994	30	11	41
1994 – 1995	25	13	38
1995 – 1996	21	11	32
1996 – 1997	23	13	36
1997 – 1998	26	16	42
1998 – 1999	26	16	42
1999 – 2000	27	14	41
2000 – 2001	43	13	56
2001 – 2002	40	17	57
2002 – 2003	35	19	54

Sweden's students are bussed to District schools in Lovell and Fryeburg. Grades K – 5 attend New Suncook School, grades 6 – 8 attend Molly Ockett Middle School, and grades 9 – 12 attend Fryeburg Academy.

Sweden's largest budget item, by far, has always been the school appropriation, consistently above 50% of total recurring expenditures. The Town's payment is based on 60% of its state valuation, plus a formula based on 40% of its student enrollment. For 2001, this payment was \$335,167. This includes Sweden's share of the SAD #72 overlapping debt, determined by yearly assessment. In June 2001, Sweden's share of this latter amount was \$138,150.

Health Care. No health care facilities are presently located in Sweden. However, most types and levels of care are available in adjacent and nearby towns. The nearest hospital is the Bridgton Hospital with full emergency and inpatient facilities. Seven miles from the center of Sweden, it is the priority first dispatch destination for local emergency vehicles. Other nearby hospitals include Stephens Memorial Hospital in Norway; Maine Medical Center and Mercy Hospital in Portland; Memorial Hospital in North Conway, New Hampshire; and Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston. Nearby residential nursing care facilities are located in Bridgton, Waterford, Fryeburg, Norway, Casco, and North Conway.

Cultural Facilities. There are no major cultural facilities such as libraries, museums, or art centers located in Sweden. The only in-town culturally-related facilities include the Sweden Community Church (renovated in 2001) and the Sweden Historical Society Museum, presently housed in a small well-kept historic blacksmith shop, with fragile records stored at the Selectmen’s Office. Current plans call for relocation of the Historical Society to the present historic brick Selectmen’s Office building, followed by relocation of the blacksmith shop Museum to the same site, both activities pending completion of the new Town Office building on an adjacent lot in 2003.

The town provides an annual stipend to the Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library in Lovell, which allows all residents and taxpayers in Sweden full free library privileges. Library services ranked highest (92%) in adequacy of town-funded services in the 2001 survey (see Appendix C). The other adjacent towns (Bridgton, Fryeburg, and Waterford) all have public libraries to which Sweden residents may obtain individual memberships.

Other nearby cultural facilities include Deertrees Theatre in Harrison, the Denmark Arts Center in Denmark, the Magic Lantern movie theater and Narramissic Farm in Bridgton, McLaughlin Gardens in South Paris, and local concerts in season. Of course, major musical, drama, art, and museum facilities are available in Portland, 40 miles from Sweden.

Sweden presently does not have the means, nor by population the demand, to develop an array of cultural facilities and services in town. No doubt, over time, these may evolve in type and extent as specific interests and support are realized. In the meantime, the regional facilities are varied and within easy access.

Municipal Administration and Services. Sweden’s form of government is that of an open town meeting held annually in March. Administration of town policy as well as all articles and ordinances approved by Town Meeting lies in the hands of a three-person Board of Selectmen elected for three-year terms on a staggered basis with one Selectman’s term expiring each year. Selectmen have recently been assisted by a newly approved (2002) part-time Administrative Assistant. Overall adequacy of all town-funded services was rated as 78% in the 2001 survey (see Appendix C).

Other elected officials include:

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Term Length</u>
Road Commissioner	1	1 year
School Board Director	1	3 years
School Board Director Alternate	1	1 year
Planning Board Members	5	5 years
Planning Board Alternates	2	1 year
Appeals Board Members	5	5 years
Appeals Board Alternates	2	1 year

Official positions held by appointment include:

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Term Length</u>
Town Clerk	1	1 year
Treasurer/Tax Collector	1	1 year
Conservation Commission Members	5	5 years
Emergency Management Director/ Fire Chief/Fire Warden	1	1 year
Animal Control Officer	1	1 year
Health Officer	1	3 years
Constables	4	1 year
Code Enforcement Officer	1	1 year
Plumbing Inspector	1	1 year
MMWAC Representative	1	1 year
Lovell Recreation Program Representative	1	1 year

Special ad hoc committees are formed by appointment as required.

Town properties/facilities are few and are comprised of the Selectmen's Office, Town Meeting House, Volunteer Fire Department building, sand-salt shed/road maintenance area, and a small beach/boat ramp for each of Keyes and Stearns Ponds. The Town Office, Fire Department, and Meeting House, along with the Community Church, are located within ¼-mile of each other in the center of town. The historic Town Meeting House completed a major restoration in 1998 (with assistance from a Community Block Grant and the Sweden Heritage Fund). The new sand-salt shed was completed with town funding and a DOT sand-salt shed grant in 2000. The present Town/Selectmen Office, an historic brick schoolhouse, is planned for restoration with assistance from the Sweden Heritage Fund, and turnover to the Historical Society for their office space upon expected completion of a new Town Office in 2003. The Fire Department Building is now unsatisfactory, and plans need to be developed to situate and construct its replacement. Sweden does not own road maintenance equipment, nor maintain a public works department, but a limited amount of equipment can be staged at the sand-salt shed/road maintenance area by the contracted provider. Sweden maintains 13 small cemeteries. Volunteers help with cleanup of roadside trash and cemeteries.

Overall Summary

Sweden's municipal facilities and services are considered adequate for this small, rural, and sparsely populated town. Although not now anticipated, any significant continued surge in population will require a reassessment of citizen demands for expanded facilities and maintenance capabilities. Despite what must be classified as limited public resources in land, buildings, and equipment, in the face of some steady slow growth, the town continues to function effectively. Credit for this must be given to that large group of conscientious citizens/taxpayers who serve the town now, or have in the past, as elected officials, volunteer firemen, members of boards/committees, and providers of financial support for the town budget.

Planning Goals

State Goal To plan for, finance, and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development.

To encourage orderly growth and development in appropriate areas of each community, while protecting the State's rural character, making efficient use of public services and preventing development sprawl.

Town Goal To provide and maintain efficient and essential services and facilities (to the maximum extent feasible) to meet the needs of the citizens of Sweden including public health, safety, education, and welfare and to discourage development sprawl in keeping with the Town's rural character.

Town Policies

- To encourage and develop only those new in-town services and facilities, within Sweden's physical and financial means, that cannot be as feasibly accomplished through regional consolidation/cooperation efforts, mutual municipal agreements, or outside contracting.
- To maintain long-term planning and appropriations for capital improvements to town properties, avoiding unnecessary and uneconomical regional redundancy of public services, infrastructure, staffing, and funding.
- To ensure that, as development and growth might increase, the demand for increased town facilities and services does not exceed the ability and willingness to provide them.
- To continue strong support, both conceptually and financially, for sustaining the consolidation and educational efforts of SAD #72.
- To ensure protection and preservation, and prohibit commercial exploitation and/or removal from town, of any water resources potentially available as a future public water supply for the town and citizens of Sweden.

Implementation Strategies

1. Continue, as feasible, to support and rely upon regional services such as the Oxford County Sheriff's Office, Bridgton Hospital, and Community Concepts; participate in mutual service agreements such as with adjacent town fire departments and recreation programs; and contract out town services such as snow plowing, trash removal, recycling, emergency ambulance response, road maintenance, and public library access.

Responsibility: Selectmen

Time Frame: Ongoing

2. Develop a long-term capital improvement plan for current and future public facilities and services, with siting of any approved facilities to be within the designated Growth Area.

Responsibility: Selectmen, Budget Committee

Time Frame: Short-term

3. Consider reestablishment of first-responder capabilities for the Town of Sweden.
Responsibility: Selectmen
Time Frame: Short-term
4. Revise the *Subdivision Review Standards* and other growth management policies to ensure that increased demands on town facilities and services from new development can be adequately met prior to approval. Consider strategies, such as the use of impact fees, to prevent excessive costs of development to the town.
Responsibility: Planning Board
Time Frame: Short-term
5. Commence detailed planning, make grant applications, and appropriate funds for the construction, in the designated Growth Area, of a new OSHA-approved fire station, if feasible, and maintain the standards required for continual mutual aid with neighboring communities.
Responsibility: Selectmen, Fire Department
Time Frame: Short-term
6. Strengthen and strictly enforce the Subdivision Review Standards and Zoning and Land Use Ordinance regulations on development and activities as necessary to ensure the protection and preservation, and prohibit commercial exploitation and/or removal, of any potential source of public drinking water supply for the town.
Responsibility: Planning Board, Code Enforcement Officer, LEA
Time Frame: Short-term
7. Expand the Town's capability to recycle a broader range of materials and safely dispose of toxic materials. Consider a small-scale recycling facility, possibly manned by volunteer townspeople on a limited basis.
Responsibility: Selectmen
Time Frame: Ongoing
8. Increase communication between the Town's school representatives and selectmen to facilitate a better understanding of the school budget and the Town's ability to support it.
Responsibility: Selectmen, School Representatives
Time Frame: Short-term, Ongoing
9. Maintain support of, and coordination with, the Sweden Historical Society and other in-town cultural activities.
Responsibility: Selectmen
Time Frame: Ongoing

K. Land Use, Growth, and Development

General. The Town of Sweden is a sparsely populated rural community, situated on approximately 18,000 acres of primarily open space and forested tracts. Illustration of land use and zoning in the town is provided on the map in Appendix A-7.

Year 2000 census information indicates a total of 259 housing units, of which 49% are seasonal dwellings. The corresponding resident population was 324. Census information from 1970 through 1990 shows that Sweden remained the least populated among 12 neighboring towns, although steady population increase was experienced. From 1990 to 2000, this steady increase has resulted in Sweden now being ranked third least populated of these 12 towns.

New development accompanying this population increase and corresponding changes in land use patterns, has consisted almost entirely of single-family dwellings (both year-round and seasonal), along with a few home occupations. While the population increase is statistically significant, in real development and land use terms, it is not the intense pressure of diverse development being experienced by many southern Maine communities. This is due principally to Sweden's out-of-the-way location, its lack of major facilities to attract or support tourists, and the presence of substantially large land holdings in long-term tree-growth ownership. The only commercial or industrial activity affecting land use patterns in town has been in traditional agriculture and timber harvesting.

Sweden enjoys clean air and water, privacy and quiet, scenic views, and miles of open, undeveloped countryside, all of which contribute to its high quality of life. The Town's early development of a Comprehensive Plan, together with regulations guiding growth, change, and location of existing land uses, have involved some of the most thoughtful, but difficult and important decisions made by the town. Consequently, they have contributed to its present rural character, physical appearance, and quality of life. Today's decisions will be equally important in determining to what extent these characteristics will be available to future generations of Sweden residents. This is particularly true as the region continues to grapple with the inevitable tradeoffs between the combined sprawl of development/technology/traffic/noise, and preservation of the diminishing commodity of quality human habitat.

Forest Land. Forest covers about 85% (15,300 acres) of Sweden's total land area. Currently, 10,373 acres of that forest land (or about 68%) is specifically enrolled in the State's Tree Growth Program dedicated to the forest products industry.

Agricultural Land Use. Very little land in Sweden is devoted to agriculture. Two of most significant agricultural uses include a commercial apple orchard of about 90 acres and a home occupation garden and flower nursery. Other minor agricultural land applications, mostly for personal use, include a few hay fields, some pastures for home/farm animal raising, and numerous home garden plots. Any future clearing of land for significant agricultural use is not anticipated at present.

Municipal and Public Land Use. Sweden has only a few acres of public lands, consisting of two small beaches/landings on Stearns Pond and Keyes Pond, a road maintenance storage area, 13 small cemeteries, land where the Town Meeting House is located, and land on which the new Town Office is being built. Additionally, the Fire Department and old Selectmen's Office are on lots with deeded reversion clauses.

Public lands are sufficient for the level of activity at present. Certain town services are contracted out (see Section J, Public Services and Facilities) eliminating the need for associated town land and infrastructure. At the current level of development, acquisition of more town property does not appear necessary for at least the next decade. However, if increased growth demands expansion of in-town recreational infrastructure, or renders certain contracted services uneconomical, the acquisition of new town properties may become a necessary priority, and planning will need to be accomplished. Monies will have to be cumulatively budgeted, and potential land sites within the designated Growth Area will have to be identified for purchase or donation.

Residential Land Use. By map zoning, residential use is permitted on about 89% of Sweden's lands. Residential land use in Sweden (as of the 2000 Census) consists of 132 year-round and 127 seasonal single-family dwellings. Most year-round houses are scattered throughout town along roadways, while most seasonal houses are concentrated along the shores of Stearns Pond, Webber Pond, Keyes Pond and the portion of the upper northeast shore of Moose Pond located in Sweden. Most year-round house lots are considered large with a majority being at least five acres and many 50 acres or more. Because of the high demand for shoreland, most of shorefront properties consist of smaller lots less than several acres. Many of these lots are on undersized and currently non-conforming lots since they were developed prior to the current shoreland zoning standards of the state and town. Older seasonal homes are gradually being improved for eventual year-round use. Almost all recently-constructed seasonal houses are built initially as year-round homes.

Since 1980, a number of major subdivisions have been developed on Plummer School Road, Knights Hill Road, and adjacent to Moose Pond. The sizes of most of the subdivided lots range from five to ten acres with some smaller lots adjacent to roadways. Approximately one-half of the approved subdivision lots have not yet been developed.

There is no specific village area in Sweden, and the few informal neighborhoods are generally characterized by road or pond names. Some of these small concentrations, in addition to those around the four ponds, are located on Ridlonville Road, in the Four Corners area, atop Ledge Hill, on Berry Road, and on Black Mountain Road.

Past population growth and future population predictions indicate a slow continuance of land subdivision, sale, and residential development. Exact trends and related economics are difficult to predict. For year-round residency, much depends on the economic viability of the nearby commercial centers and their job opportunities. Non-resident seasonal housing is dependent on the economic vitality of the nation as a whole with emphasis on the northeast. Additionally, any disruption in the quality of Sweden's lakes (such as an increase in algae

blooms and the introduction of the invasive Eurasian milfoil), could seriously affect present shorefront property values as well as the overall attractiveness of the entire town.

Commercial/Industrial Land Use. Since the 19th century, commercial land use in Sweden has been minimal. It currently comprises less than one percent of the Town's land and consists of a few cottage industries and home occupations, a Central Maine Power high tension electrical power distribution line and towers traversing the town, two summer camps for children, and some rental cabins. To a limited extent Sweden does possess and satisfy a small quality corner of the region's tourism market.

The lack of a commercial center in Sweden is due, in part, to little demand for local retail and service facilities. Most of the service and retail needs of Sweden's residents are met by those in surrounding towns.

Industrial land use is presently non-existent due to the small work force, lack of the essential infrastructure/transportation needs of industry, and the Town's remoteness from urban areas.

Analysis and Findings

Despite Sweden's ability to remain rural-residential in terms of physical appearance, quality of life, and overall ambiance, the following land use issues require continued attention:

- *Sweden still retains its basic rural character.* Recent increases in residential subdivision of land for new home construction have raised concern that Sweden's basic character is shifting from rural to suburban. The Public Opinion Survey (see Appendix C), indicated that 99% of the 138 resident and non-resident property owner respondents specifically desired to preserve the Town's rural character. Special considerations about the nature, location, and density of construction will continue to be necessary to ensure that future growth harmonizes with the special and traditional identity of Sweden as a small, rural New England town. Perhaps greater specific steps need to be taken to discourage development in the most rural areas as delineated by the Rural Preservation Zone. Examples of steps to be considered include mandating clustering for both major and minor subdivisions; requiring Planning Board conditional reviews for any lot-by-lot development; and establishing a limited density requirement (e.g., house per acre for any plot) for all subdivisions.
- *Residential and recreational development has increased on or near town water bodies.* Development and activity on Sweden's ponds (Stearns, Keyes, Moose, and Webber) including their watershed brooks, threatens the Town's most sensitive areas. Local water quality (and its ultimate effects on drinking water sources for towns such as Portland, Biddeford, Saco, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, and Wells), shoreland solitude and scenic qualities, fragile fish and wildlife habitats, and water recreation are all placed at greater risk. This situation demands that the Town's attention continue to be directed toward reducing the pressures from development on these sensitive areas.

- *Residential “strip” development along roadways has not yet altered the Town’s rural character.* Concentration of evenly-spaced housing along and close to roads makes the Town’s appearance more suburban, complicates traffic flow, and can eventually devalue properties. Such residential development could erode Sweden’s rural character. Utilizing alternative land development techniques (e.g., access management, off-road clustering, roadway buffers) can help prevent this erosion. The town will better control strip development through limiting direct access to subdivision lots from the Town’s major roads by requiring access off internal roads created within the subdivision. For lot-by-lot development along the roadways, significantly larger lot frontages could be required.
- *Large tracts of undeveloped forest land continue to exist and comprise most of the acreage in town.* Thousands of acres, maintained in support of timber harvesting and trapping, provide open space, contribute favorably to the Town’s rural character, and provide some accessibility for public recreational use. Experience indicates that preservation and protection measures for these large open-space resources need to be in effect prior to development occurring, or a prime ingredient for rural character will be lost. It is estimated that no more than 10% of Sweden’s property is physically cleared or developed at present. In addition, it is estimated that about 25 to 30% of Sweden’s property is not suitable for development due to steep slopes, protected wetlands and fragile areas, and inaccessibility. Placement of any lands into Maine’s Tree Growth or Open Space Programs, into Private Land Trusts, or into contracts limiting development rights, will greatly assist the long-term preservation of rural lands and character.
- *Sweden has experienced minimal commercial/industrial land use.* Due primarily to the Town’s remoteness and its inability to meet the usual labor, infrastructure, and transportation needs of prospective companies, Sweden has no industry. Moreover, it is unlikely that industry will be introduced in the foreseeable future. Other than timber lots and summer camps, commercial land use is minimal and consists only of a few scattered cottage industries, home occupations, and an apple orchard. Since Sweden’s commercial and retail needs are adequately satisfied by surrounding communities, there is little demand for greater commercial activity. Any change in the nature of commercial/industrial activity in town could significantly impact the rural character of Sweden as well as the demand placed on its municipal facilities and services.

Several measures from the 1988 Sweden Comprehensive Plan were enacted in the 1991 and 1998 revisions of the Sweden Zoning and Land Use Ordinance to assist the control of future growth and development patterns, preserving the Town’s rural-residential character, and protecting natural resources and the environment (see Section III, Land Use Plan).

For the 97% of Sweden’s land area that does not include water bodies, a graduated structure of land use zoning is in place in terms of specific purpose, varied minimum lot sizes/frontages/setbacks, and permitted/conditional/prohibited land uses. This structure consists of the following:

- *Growth Area*
 - Limited Residential Zone (about 3% of this land) in which minimum lot sizes of 1½ acres are established
 - Residential Zone (about 31% of this land) that includes the more developed areas in which minimum lot sizes of 1½ acres are established
- *Rural Area*
 - Natural Resource Protection Zone (about 8% of this land) in which no structures, facilities, or roads are permitted
 - Rural Preservation Zone (about 55% of this land) that includes undeveloped open lands in which minimum lot sizes of 5 acres are established
- *Protective Overlay Area*
 - Stream Protection (Overlay) District with town-wide land use requirements
 - Aquifer Protection (Overlay) District across the town where minimum lot sizes of 3 acres are established
 - Future Forest Conservation (Overlay) District containing forest lands voluntarily preserved for sustainable forestry (See Section III, Land Use Plan)

Other growth and development controls over land use include:

- Mandate of clustering of housing for major subdivisions in the Rural Preservation Zone
- Establishment and enforcement of town-wide phosphorous control standards
- Use of specific Subdivision Review Standards by the Code Enforcement Officer and the Planning Board
- Performance Standards for 25 specific land use areas of application

Planning Goals

State Goal To encourage orderly growth and development in appropriate areas of each community while protecting the State's rural character, making efficient use of public services and pre-development sprawl.

Town Goal To continue a pattern of slow, limited growth and development, compatible with existing land use and commensurate with municipal resources, that prevents development sprawl and maintains the predominant rural character of Sweden.

Town Policies

- To encourage landowners to maintain large non-fragmented agricultural lands and forest conservation areas.
- To preserve and maintain large open space areas in the Rural Preservation Zone, encouraging sparse residential settlement.
- If monitoring of housing affordability indicates a need for affordable housing, develop ordinance provisions that encourage affordable housing types (such as accessory

apartments and duplexes) to be located in growth areas so as to preserve rural character and control suburbanization of the town.

- To avoid “strip” development along public roadways, by requiring access management and development design that limits direct access to subdivision lots, and lessens the impact of lot-by-lot development.
- To limit, control, and locate any commercial development to ensure it blends with, and does not detract from, the existing rural character, or adversely impact town resources.
- To protect Sweden’s historical areas, sites, and structures as an integral part of the Town’s rural character.
- To ensure residential development patterns do not detract from Sweden’s overall rural character, promote sprawl, or threaten the high quality ambiance of Sweden’s shorelands.
- To guide growth away from the Rural Preservation Zone and other areas unsuitable for development (e.g., natural resource protection areas, fragile wetlands, overburdened shorelands, steep slopes) toward the Residential Zone.
- To include watershed and land-carrying capacity data in all development designs, and limit development accordingly.
- To encourage development design that avoids “funnel development” on shorelands and promotes the safe and desirable recreational use of Sweden’s lakes and ponds, in keeping with the Town’s rural character.
- To encourage aesthetically appealing and compatible land uses in all zones.
- To utilize land use controls to ensure that development has minimal negative impacts on the site and surrounding areas.

Implementation Strategies

1. Inform and encourage landowners to preserve large non-fragmented lands by participating in Maine’s Tree Growth and Open Space Programs, entering into conservation easements, creating land trusts, making charitable gifts, and voluntarily transferring development rights.

Responsibility: Selectmen, Planning Board

Time Frame: Ongoing

2. Review Sweden’s Residential and Rural Preservation Zones to ascertain suitable and voluntarily-available forest lands for inclusion in a Forest Conservation (Overlay) District.

Responsibility: Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term

3. Review, and amend as feasible, development criteria for the Rural Preservation Zone, to include mandated clustering for minor, as well as major, subdivisions subject to the performance standards for cluster developments specified in the Zoning and Land Use Ordinance.

Responsibility: Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term

4. Continue, through Conditional Use, to review and allow only that commercial development that does not degrade Sweden's rural character, and ensure commercial land use controls are strengthened accordingly.

Responsibility: Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term

5. Amend the Zoning and Land Use Ordinance and the Subdivision Review Standards to incorporate access management criteria that limit direct access to subdivision lots off public roadways by requiring access off an internal roadway created within the subdivision, thus reducing the potential for strip development.

Responsibility: Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term

6. Develop ordinance provisions as feasible for all lot-by-lot development in the Rural Preservation Zone, outside the purview of subdivision law, requiring Planning Board conditional review, low maximum densities, increased setbacks, roadway buffers, and significantly larger frontages along public roadways to help mitigate strip development.

Responsibility: Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term

7. Review current public roads accessing, or not maintained in, the Rural Preservation Zone to determine those that might be discontinued or abandoned, and initiate appropriate action accordingly.

Responsibility: Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term

8. Review and revise road acceptance and construction standards for both growth and rural areas in order to encourage future development in designated growth areas rather than rural areas.

Responsibility: Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term

9. Ensure that Sweden's Subdivision Review Standards require all development designs under purview of state Subdivision Law to provide detailed watershed and land-carrying capacity data, and that Sweden's phosphorous control standards for other lot-by-lot developments are strictly enforced.

Responsibility: Planning Board, LEA

Time Frame: Short-term

10. Continue to require through update of the existing Subdivision Review Standards that development designs (under purview of state Subdivision law) proposed for the Rural Preservation Zone detail the impact on existing town facilities and services, the need for expanding those facilities/services, and all potential costs to the town.

Responsibility: Planning Board

Time Frame: Short-term

11. Participate with surrounding towns to address commonly-shared land use issues, and support resultant multi-municipal regionalization efforts determined compatible with Sweden's goals and policies.

Responsibility: Planning Board, Selectmen

Time Frame: Ongoing

12. Continue to strictly enforce the applicable provisions of the Subdivision Review Standards and the Zoning and Land Use Ordinance provisions for shorefront common areas, piers and docks, and lot sizes/depth-to-shore-frontage ratios, to avoid "funnel development" and overuse of shorelands, thus facilitating optimum lake recreation and preserving rural character.

Responsibility: Planning Board, Code Enforcement Officer

Time Frame: Ongoing

L. Fiscal Capacity

General. A community's fiscal capacity refers to its ability to meet current and future financial needs through public expenditures. As Sweden develops over the next ten years, demand to maintain and/or improve various municipal services, facilities, and equipment will be placed on its fiscal capacity. Financial demands may include improved roads, public facilities, and equipment as well as personnel to help manage the town. The comprehensive plan will make various recommendations that will require public investment. These recommendations must be considered in light of Sweden's fiscal capacity or its ability to finance such improvements.

Financial Indicators. Sweden appears to be in strong fiscal condition. As shown in Table 19, the year-end undesignated surplus has averaged 33% of the budget over the last five years. During that period Sweden has been able to renovate the Town Meeting House, build a sand/salt shed, and meet regular expenditure commitments. The financing of new town construction has been aided by state grants. The favorable surplus during the past five years has enabled Sweden to allocate funds or reserve accounts and limit the use of Tax Anticipation Notes.

Table 19. Comparison of Undesignated Surplus to General Fund Budget

Year	General Fund Budget \$	Undesignated Surplus \$	Surplus as % of Budget ^a
1994	505,204	67,972	14
1995	521,684	108,016	21
1996	553,454	118,572	21
1997	549,973	172,042	31
1998	636,954	177,242	28
1999	663,975	269,113	40
2000	886,253	257,679	29
2001	774,555	293,470	37

^a (Undesignated Surplus/General Fund Budget) x 100

Source: Annual Auditors Financial Report

Valuation. An analysis of the valuation of Sweden from 1991 to 2001 is presented in Table 20. As shown, the mil rate has increased 0.6% in the past five years, significantly less than the 2% increase in town valuation. This suggests that a growth in valuation has been one factor helping to maintain a fairly stable mil rate for the town. However, a study may prove this to be untrue if the valuation growth is mainly from young families with school-age children, which would require an increase in the school budget in future years. This school budget (see below) has a significant impact on the Town's expenditures.

The town valuation shows a slow to moderate growth impact on the town. This is supported by the observed building growth.

Table 20. Town of Sweden Valuation Analysis

Year	Town Valuation ^a		State Valuation		Mil Rate		Comments
	Value (\$)	% Change ^b	Value (\$)	% Change ^b	Rate	% Change ^b	
1991	22,677,015	-	23,050,000	-	12.8	-	
1992	22,846,310	1	26,300,000	14	13.72	7	
1993	23,428,775	3	28,050,000	7	15.70	14	
1994	23,692,880	1	28,300,000	1	17.40	11	
1995	24,311,571	3	28,300,000	0	18.10	4	
1996	29,979,254	23	28,050,000	-1	15.10	-17	Revaluation performed
1997	30,330,733	1	28,650,000	2	14.96	-1	
1998	29,892,672	-1	29,050,000	1	15.10	1	
1999	30,468,950	2	29,350,000	1	15.10	0	
2000	31,351,692	3	31,000,000	6	15.45	2	
2001	32,957,608	5	33,300,000	7	15.65	1	
1997 - 2001	--	2	--	3.4	--	0.6	5-year growth

^a Town Valuation does not include the homestead valuation exemption

^b Unless otherwise shown, this represents the change from previous year

Source: State Planning Office (State Valuation), Sweden Valuation Report (Town Valuation)

As shown, Sweden had a total state valuation of \$33,000,000 as of the year ending 31 December 2001. State valuation is expected to increase by five million dollars in 2003. The increase may be due to the extremely high selling price for waterfront property. This increase is expected to impact county and state expenses.

Revenue and Expenses. A summary of recurring and non-recurring revenue is presented in Table 21. As shown, 2001 property taxes are 80% of the recurring revenue. The trend for recurring revenue for the next five years is expected to be similar to that shown in this table. The contribution of investment income will continue to be variable due to their dependence on prevailing interest rates.

Sources of 2001 municipal revenue include the following (source, Sweden's 2002 Auditor's Annual Financial Report):

- MDOT sand/salt shed grant
- Licenses and various fees
- Automobile and boat registration
- Interest on savings, investments, and late taxes
- Reimbursements (plumbing, veterans)
- Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) funds
- Tree growth revenue
- Tree growth penalties
- Property taxes
- State road funds
- State revenue sharing
- Homestead

Table 21. Town Revenue 1997 - 2001

Revenue Source	1997 (\$)	1998 (\$)	1999 (\$)	2000 (\$)	2001 (\$)	Increase 1997-2001
Recurring Revenue						
Property Taxes	491,044	487,978	501,837	522,918	557,670	14%
Licenses and Permits	3,702	7,143	9,864	10,248	6,976	88%
Intergovernmental Revenue	65,746	81,704	80,722	91,476	91,480	39%
Investment Income	4,480	7,845	9,1113	12,478	8,572	91%
Other	340	9,765	3,071	2,864	492	24%
Total Recurring Revenue	565,312	594,435	604,607	639,984	665,190	18%
Annual Increase in Recurring Revenue	--	5.15%	1.71%	5.85%	3.93%	--
Non-Recurring Revenue ^a	8,724	39,107	7,686	117,549	22,998	168%
Total Revenue	574,036	633,542	612,293	757,533	688,188	20%

Sources: Annual Financial Report and the Town's General Ledger

^a Non-recurring revenue includes irregular income such as grants, tree growth penalties, and sale of tax-acquired property

A summary of recurring and non-recurring expenditures since 1997 is presented in Table 22.

Table 22. Town Expenditures 1997 - 2001

Expenditure	1997 (\$)	1998 (\$)	1999 (\$)	2000 (\$)	2001 (\$)	Change 1997-2001
Recurring Expenditures						
Administration	26,880	31,579	31,467	29,741	31,334	17%
Protection	17,948	17,751	13,969	15,864	10,861	-39%
Health and Sanitation	30,079	29,431	28,772	29,206	32,922	9%
Highways and Bridges	125,437	144,093	142,528	174,407	147,006	17%
Education	247,814	260,062	273,350	297,665	335,167	35%
Maintenance	784	4,486	2,186	735	1,221	56%
Welfare	166	119	559	319	0	-100%
Special Assignments	20,028	220,771	20,857	21,015	23,095	15%
Debt Service	17,021	16,566	16,559	16,515	16,522	-3%
Other	13,635	13,205	12,646	15,086	14,203	4%
Total Recurring Expenditures	499,791	538,063	542,892	600,552	612,330	23%
Annual Increase in Recurring Expenditures	--	7.66%	0.90%	10.62%	1.96%	--
Non-Recurring Expenditures ¹	NA	23,440	0	184,240	52,000	NA
Total Expenditures	499,791	561,503	542,892	784,792	664,330	33%

Sources: Annual Financial Report and the Town's General Ledger

¹ Non-recurring expenditures include various one-time charges

A direct comparison between total recurring revenue and total recurring expenditures for years 1997 through 2001 is presented in Table 23. As can be seen, the revenue less expenditures has been relatively consistent with the exception of year 2000 in which highways and bridges expenses were higher than previous or subsequent years (see Table 22).

Table 23. Town Recurring Revenue versus Town Recurring Expenditures

Year	Recurring Revenue (\$)	Recurring Expenditures (\$)	Revenue Less Expenditures (\$)
1997	565,312	499,791	65,521
1998	594,435	538,063	56,372
1999	604,607	542,892	61,715
2000	639,984	600,552	39,432
2001	665,190	612,330	52,860

As shown in Table 22, education expenses represent the largest expense to the town. Table 24 and Figure 2 illustrate the Town's total expense requirement for SAD 72 school expenses. As shown, since 1991, school expense has increased from 47% to 59% of the total expenses. Further, as can be seen in Figure 2, since 1996, although the total expense has increased, the "other" expenses (meaning that part of the total expense that is not required to support SAD 72) have increased only slightly compared to the significant increase in school spending. This reflects the significant increases in school expenses that have occurred during that time.

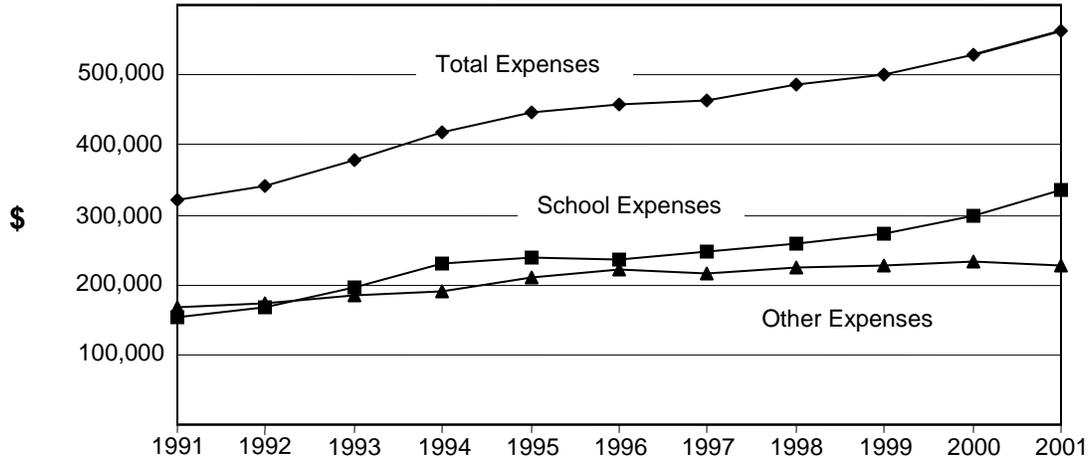
It is expected that the Town's ability to accommodate the increasing school commitments at the expense of other town expenses cannot be maintained. As a result, Sweden should be prepared to work closely with the school system to contain rising education costs.

Table 24. Annual Town Expense Requirements and SAD 72 Expenses

Year	School Expense (\$)	Other Expense (\$)	Total Expense Requirements (\$)	School Expense as % of Total Expense
1991	152,270	168,872	321,142	47
1992	168,589	173,041	341,630	49
1993	195,071	184,209	379,280	51
1994	230,026	189,336	419,362	55
1995	238,001	209,392	447,393	53
1996	237,115	221,439	458,554	52
1997	247,827	216,666	464,493	53
1998	260,062	224,800	484,862	54
1999	273,350	226,413	498,862	54
2000	297,665	231,789	529,454	56
2001	335,167	228,865	564,032	59

Source: Sweden Town Reports, 1991-2001

Figure 2. Growth of School Expenses



Municipal and County Debts. As of December 31, 2002, the municipal debt for the Town of Sweden was \$198,330. Sweden is fortunate not to have an infrastructure requiring heavy borrowing. The legal town debt limit is 15% of the state-assessed valuation, with certain limits on shares that apply to school and other purposes. When applied to the state valuation for 2001 of \$33,300,000, the allowed debt limit is approximately \$4,995,000 long-term debt. Realistically, the allowable debt percentage should not exceed 5% or about \$1,665,000.

As of December 31, 2002, there is one long-term debt outstanding for \$198,330 (including interest of \$61,745 and principal of \$136,585), which is the 20-year bond for part ownership of Mid-Maine Waste Action Corporation, Sweden's household trash facility. This bond is to be paid up in 2013. The overlapping debt for SAD 72 is \$119,838.

For the past several years, Oxford County has not carried any long-term debt. Borrowing is short-term and covered by Tax Anticipation Notes. The total county budget for 2002, including its unorganized townships, was \$2,929,202. Sweden's share was \$26,307. This figure is arrived at by the same method the town uses to determine its tax rate. The county mil rate equals the total county appropriation divided by its total valuation. Sweden's state valuation is then multiplied by the county mil rate, which results in the \$26,307 share of the county tax.

Ten-Year Projection. A summary of the ten-year projection of Sweden's revenues, expenditures, and debt and their impact on the fiscal cash running balance is presented in Table 25.

Table 25. Ten-Year Projection of Sweden's Revenues, Expenditures, and Debt

Year	Projected Recurring Revenues ^a (\$)	Projected Recurring Expenditures ^b (\$)	Capital Item	Capital Expenditure (\$)	Total Expenditure ^c (\$)	Fiscal Cash Running Balance ^d (\$)
as of 12/31/2001						372,966 ^e
2002 ^f	658,314	610,000	--	--	610,000	421,280
2003	685,700	642,208	Town office	135,000	807,208	299,772
			Town land	30,000		
2004	714,225	676,117	Fire station	300,000	976,117	37,880
2005	743,937	711,816	SVFD equipment	20,000	731,816	50,001
2006	774,885	749,399	Town roads	40,000	789,399	35,487
2007	807,120	788,968	State roads	75,000	863,968	-21,361
2008	840,696	830,625	Development rights	50,000	880,625	-61,291
2009	875,669	874,482	Town Beach shore frontage	30,000	904,482	-90,104
2010	912,097	920,65	Town roads	40,000	960,655	-138,662
2011	950,040	969,265	Recycle facility	10,000	979,265	-167,888

^a Reflects a 4.16% yearly increment, based on previous four-year average increase in revenues

^b Reflects a 5.28% yearly increment, based on previous four-year average increase in recurring expenditures

^c Total expenditure equals the sum of the projected recurring expenditure and capital expenditure

^d Beginning with year 2002, the fiscal cash running balance is the sum of the prior year balance and the current year recurring revenues less current year total expenditures

^e The starting fiscal cash balance includes \$18,500 designated for the new Town office

^f Year 2002 figures are from the Tax Anticipation Note Calculation

As shown, projected capital expenditures will have a significant impact on the fiscal cash running balance. These capital expenditures are summarized as follows:

- *Town office.* The new town office is planned for a 2003 completion. Appropriations and reserve funds for this construction have been allocated and set aside in designated surplus.
- *Town land and fire station.* The town is currently trying to apply for grant awards to supplement town funds to finance the new fire station. The location of land on which to site the fire station is being investigated for purchase.
- *Fire fighting equipment.* The Sweden Volunteer Fire Department is in need of up-to-date fire fighting and ancillary equipment. \$20,000 has been allocated for this purpose, and a majority of the necessary funding is expected to come from grants.
- *Town and state roads.* \$75,000 is allocated for state aid road improvements: funds for this project are taken from undesignated surplus annually. Town road expenses will include major surface regrind and ditching work on older roads. The funds for this are mainly MDOT revenues and town-designated surplus.
- *Development rights.* Reserved funds plus grants and donations (monies, trusts, etc.) should be pursued to help the town acquire development rights in the Forest Conservation (Overlay) District (see Section III, Land Use Plan).
- *Town Beach shore frontage.* The projected population expansion for the next ten years is expected to place a burden on existing town beach facilities. Reserve funds, grants, donations, and possible time-phased financing will be required in this area for new acquisition.

- *Recycle facility.* Sweden currently manages its recyclables through contractor roadside pick-up and delivery to the Lewiston Recycling Center and to Mid-Maine Waste in Auburn. The ability of Sweden to more effectively recycle its solid waste could be improved. A first step should be taken to more accurately measure existing recycling volumes. Further education of why recycling is needed should be pursued. Articles in the Town Report, posters and other advertising are sources for improvements in recycling. A small storage facility for collection of recyclables may be required and could be financed from reserve funds.

It is anticipated that there will be various grants, donation sources, and/or time-phased payment plans available to help finance the cost of the proposed capital improvements. Sweden appears to have strong borrowing power to help support these capital expenditures if necessary. However, the fiscal cash balance shown in the ten-year projection reflects a significant dependence on the use of surplus funds, thus diminishing the Town's cash position. The selectmen must annually review the cash position and accommodate spending utilizing alternate methods of funding capital projects, including postponing projects until funding is financially feasible without over-burdening the town's citizens with higher taxes.

Planning Goals

State Goal To plan for, finance, and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development.

Town Goal To develop and sustain a system to carry out the financial requirements necessary to maintain efficient and essential services and facilities to meet the needs of Sweden's community.

Town Policies

- To maintain long-term planning and appropriate for capital improvements and acquisition of town properties and facilities, avoiding unnecessary and uneconomical regional redundancy of public services funding.
- To ensure that town spending is based on an established capital investment and improvement plan.

Implementation Strategies

1. During the annual budget process, review, and update as needed, Sweden's Capital Investment and Improvement Plan, and ensure that the budget process is guided by investments consistent with that Plan.

Responsibility: Selectmen, Budget Committee

Time Frame: Short-term

2. Key municipal officials attend meetings that increase cooperation and understanding of SAD 72 and Oxford County budget issues that affect Sweden's spending.

Responsibility: Selectmen, School Representatives

Time Frame: On-going

3. Before finalizing the annual budget, develop an annual budget analysis to help determine monthly income and spending requirements, and ascertain the need for the annual Tax Anticipation Note (loan).

Responsibility: Selectmen, Budget Committee

Time Frame: Short-term

III. Land Use Plan

A. Background and Evolution

Since the original Sweden Comprehensive plan of 1973, land use planning has emphasized preservation of the Town's rural character, natural environment, wildlife habitats, and large open forested/agricultural spaces. Furthermore, it encouraged compatible residential settlement, sustainable forestry and agriculture, and minimal commercial development. This first materialized in 1975 through follow-on implementation of a town-wide Sweden Zoning Ordinance that defined three zones:

- Natural Resource Protection, for identified wetlands
- Limited Residential, for development along lakes and ponds
- Residential, for remaining areas

Included in this ordinance were accompanying land use and conditional use criteria, as well as performance standards for each of these zones.

In 1988, a revised Town of Sweden Comprehensive Plan more completely validated and conceptualized the goals and direction of the town. It included various background data, addressed community conditions and concerns, set forth planning goals and objectives, and recommended 40 action steps. Regarding land use development, it emphasized the following:

- Continued maintenance of rural character and large tracts of open space
- Protection of water/forest/natural habitat/agricultural resources as well as natural scenic features
- Continued conditional use procedures for commercial development
- Stepped-up control of subdivisions

More specifically, this plan advocated greater delineation between those areas most acceptable for future growth and development and those large undeveloped areas of contiguous open space and forestland most critical to preserving Sweden's rural character.

The Plan, among its recommended action steps, called for the following:

- Appropriate expansion of the *Natural Resource Protection Zone*
- Discouragement of strip development
- Identification of suitable growth areas
- Increased buffering of development along Sweden's streams and shorelines
- Establishment of an *Aquifer Protection District* and forest/open space conservation areas
- Creation of a rural *Residential/Preservation Zone*

Implementation of the above precipitated a complete reorganization, expansion, and third revision of the Sweden Zoning Ordinance (including the revisions of 1979 and 1983), to become the Sweden Zoning and Land Use Ordinance in 1991. This document embodies and implements Sweden's "future" land use plan, primarily through the specific designation of:

- Growth areas suitable and intended for future planned growth and development
- Rural areas intended for long-term protection of large natural open spaces/forested tracts/scenic lands from incompatible development and for the preservation of rural character.

For over 12 years, Sweden’s concept of establishing and maintaining a Growth Area (i.e., *Limited Residential Zone* and *Residential Zone*), Rural Area (i.e., *Rural Preservation Zone* and *Natural Resource Protection Zone*), and Protective Overlay Area (i.e., *Aquifer Protection District Overlay* and *Stream Protection District Overlay*) has served to effectively guide and control the Town’s slow growth and development, while promoting and preserving its rural character. Its only revision during this time frame, in 1998, improved the areas of non-conforming structures, home occupations, floodplain management, and definitions.

B. Future Land Use Plan

General. The Land Use Plan currently in effect, and envisioned for the future, derives from comprehensive planning, an ongoing process. It is realized that as times, situations, and demands change, the Land Use Plan and Map may require periodic revisions and will thereby evolve. The existing concept of Sweden’s Land Use Plan is portrayed on the Land Use Map (Appendix A-7), illustrated in Figure 3, and described by area and zone in the following paragraphs.

Figure 3. Structure of Sweden’s Land Use Area Concept



Growth Area. The *Growth Area* is comprised of those designated land areas to which the town intends to encourage and direct future growth and development. This area, composed of the *Residential Zone* and the *Limited Residential Zone*, is sufficient in size and physically suitable for anticipated development over the next 10 to 20 years, except for several small insular wetland areas, small traversing stream corridors, and surrounded small ponds. Collectively, this area represents about 34% of the Town’s total area and is sufficiently segmented and configured to discourage extensive development sprawl. It is accessed by existing public roadways, and allows sufficient provision of anticipated public services.

Residential Zone

The purpose of the *Residential Zone* is to provide a least-restrictive area for residential development and living (primarily single-family, but extending conditionally to multi-family and mobile home parks); other compatible recreational, agricultural/forestry, and commercial uses as specified and limited; and maintenance of rural character.

In the *Residential Zone*, the types of land uses, permitted and conditional, are the most varied allowed in all zones. The land uses center upon specified categories such as municipal, agricultural, timber harvesting, educational, social services/care, open space recreation, and various home occupations. The nature and extent of use is governed through detailed Performance Standards.

Dimensional requirements for development in the *Residential Zone* are:

- Minimum lot size of 1.5 acres
- Minimum lot frontage along the roadway of 150 feet
- Structure setbacks including 75 feet from roadway center line; 75 feet from stream or wetland; and setback from rear/side lot lines equal to, or greater than, the height of the structure, but not less than 30 feet

Limited Residential Zone

The purpose of the *Limited Residential Zone* is to designate residential-recreation development areas on all Sweden's ponds that can sustain more intensive land use than in the *Natural Resource Protection Zone*, but require less intensive land use than permitted in the Residential Zone. This designation provides greater buffering and preserves and maintains rural-residential character along the populated ponds. This zone includes all shoreland areas (not designated Natural Resource Protection, and essentially already partially developed) on Keyes Pond to a distance of 500 feet from the normal high-water mark and on Stearns Pond, Moose Pond, and Webber Pond, to a distance of 250 feet.

Among the types of land uses, permitted or conditional, many remain the same as for the Residential Zone, except for the addition of standards for piers/docks and the elimination of multi-family housing and mobile home parks. Furthermore, within these shoreland areas, the government Performance Standards are significantly more restrictive and controlling for agriculture, timber harvesting, vegetative clearing, clustering, erosion/sedimentation, mineral extraction, road construction, and shorefront common areas.

Dimensional requirements for development in the *Limited Residential Zone* are:

- Minimum lot size of 1.5 acres
- Minimum lot frontage along the roadway of 200 feet; along the shoreline of 200 feet
- Structure setbacks including 75 feet from roadway center line; 75 feet from stream or wetland; and setback from rear/side lot lines equal to, or greater than, the height of the structure, but not less than 30 feet

Rural Area. The Rural Area is comprised of those designated land areas within which the town intends to provide long-term protection of natural habitats, agricultural and forestry resources, open space, and scenic lands from incompatible development. This area, composed of the *Rural Preservation Zone* and *Natural Resource Protection Zone* represents approximately 63% of Sweden's total acreage. It contains the Town's most remote areas not accessible by public roads; these include economically important agricultural and forest lands, significant scenic hills and valleys, as well as many streams, shorelands, and associated wetlands.

Rural Preservation Zone

When officially established in 1991, the *Rural Preservation Zone* was configured to include no lots of record non-conforming to the minimum lot size of five acres, nor any lots containing residential dwellings. This zone, including Sweden's four geographical corners, is 95% contiguous, with only one segment (near the center of town between Webber Pond Road and Route 93) slightly separated near the CMP transmission line. Over the past 13 years, this rural area has experienced one subdivision application (four lots) and 22 individually-constructed dwellings. It includes no land areas in which any significant portion of the Town's future residential development is planned, and few where it might occur. Incompatible development sprawl and strip development along roadways should be minimized. This zone contains a diversity of terrain and many vantage points that contribute to Sweden's rural landscape and its overall rural character.

The objectives of establishing and maintaining the *Rural Preservation Zone*, which includes predominantly undeveloped lands, are to:

- Maintain Sweden's rural character and natural scenic beauty
- Encourage preservation of existing larger open spaces and forest conservation areas
- Ensure significantly less intensive residential development and land uses than allowed in the Residential and Limited Residential Zones
- Reduce development pressures on certain of the Town's environmentally-sensitive areas

Allowed uses in the *Rural Preservation Zone* are the same minimal development and minimal impact uses as those allowed in the Residential and Limited Residential Zones, with the exception of mobile home parks. The allowed uses are considered to be those that are compatible with preserving rural character and are governed by Conditional Use approval and specific Performance Standards. Clustering, with specified set-aside of open space, is mandatory for major subdivisions within this zone.

Dimensional requirements in the *Rural Preservation Zone* are:

- Minimum lot size of five acres
- Minimum lot frontage along the roadway of 300 feet and 200 feet along the shoreline

- Structure setbacks including 125 feet from roadway center line; 100 feet from the high-water line of a great pond; 75 feet from stream or wetland; and setback from rear/side lot lines equal to, or greater than, the height of the structure, but not less than 30 feet

Natural Resource Protection Zone

The *Natural Resource Protection Zone* comprises approximately 8% of the Town's total land acreage and contains many critical areas in which most development and uses would have an adverse and irreparable effect. It is intended that such areas provide for the effective long-term management and protection of significant, rare, or irreplaceable natural land areas, resources, wildlife habitats, biological ecosystems, and other natural values. The objectives of establishing and maintaining this zone are to:

- Protect surface water quality and reduce the potential for pollution of drinking water resources
- Preserve and buffer fragile natural fish and wildlife habitats and breeding areas
- Preserve natural habitat for known endangered plant and endangered wildlife species
- Preserve and maintain specific natural scenic and aesthetic areas in support of rural character
- Prevent excessive human intrusion into environmentally-sensitive wetlands

Permitted uses within the *Natural Resource Protection Zone* are confined to hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, and any openspace recreation not involving structures or motorized vehicles. Exceptions include the use of snowmobiles on pre-existing defined trails; erection of signs necessary for recreational public safety, sale of property, and habitat preservation; and maintenance of existing roads trails, and stream crossings. Development and structures not specifically excepted are not permitted. Conditional use approval is required for, and limited to, new trails and stream crossings, timber harvesting and vegetative clearing, signs not specifically permitted, and agriculture/fisheries/wildlife enhancement.

Dimensional requirements in the *Natural Resource Protection Zone* are:

- Minimum lot size of 1.5 acres
- Minimum lot frontage along the roadway of 200 feet and 200 feet of shoreline

Protective Overlay Area. The purpose of the Protective Overlay Area is to protect special, critical, natural entities characteristically dispersed throughout the town, not confined to any one particular zone, and often overlapping several zones. The “overlay” focus and delineation on the map are specific, use is restrictive, and development often prohibited. This area includes the *Stream Protection District (Overlay)*, *Aquifer Protection District (Overlay)*, and *Forest Conservation District (Overlay)*.

Stream Protection District (Overlay)

The objectives of establishing the *Stream Protection District Overlay* are to:

- Protect surface waters
- Reduce the potential for pollution of drinking waters

- Preserve and protect fish and wildlife habitat and breeding areas
- Minimize the detrimental effect of development and land use in areas adjacent to streams

The *Stream Protection District* Overlay parts of all four previously described zones. It includes all land areas within 75 feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of all non-intermittent streams appearing on the US Geological Survey topographic map, scale 1:24,000, exclusive of those areas within 250 feet of the normal high-water line of a great pond, or within 250 feet of the upland edge of a fresh-water wetland. Where streams are located within 250 feet of the above water bodies or wetlands, the standards for the district/zone adjacent to that water body or wetland shall apply.

All permitted and conditional uses allowed in the underlying zones of the *Stream Protection District* are allowed except buildings or structures of any kind (other than those necessary for minimum stream crossing structures), home occupations, recreational vehicles, and mineral extraction. For any uses regarding timber harvesting, agriculture, and roads, strict Performance Standards apply.

Dimensional requirements in the *Stream Protection District*, however applicable, are the same as those in the underlying zone.

Aquifer Protection District (Overlay)

The *Aquifer Protection District* overlay derives from the Maine Geological Survey Sand and Gravel Aquifer Map, and is depicted on the Sweden Land Use Map. The objectives of establishing this district overlay are to:

- Prevent destruction or pollution of Sweden's identified sand and gravel aquifers
- Minimize the detrimental effect of development and land use in areas overlying the aquifer

The *Aquifer Protection District* overlays parts of four zones: approximately 71% of the district overlays the Rural Preservation Zone; 16% overlays the Natural Resource Protection Zone; 12% overlays the Residential Zone; and 1% overlays the Limited Residential Zone. The district also overlays several significant brooks and about four miles of paved roadway.

In general, with respect to permitted land uses, the criteria of the underlying zone apply to the *Aquifer Protection District*; however, criteria specific to the Aquifer Protection District will prevail when they are more restrictive. Specific uses prohibited include: off-road motorized vehicles except snowmobiles on existing trails; disposal or storage of certain solid waste, hazardous wastes, and leachable materials; salt application on certain specified roads; use of hazardous materials other than for normal domestic use; aerial spraying of herbicides and pesticides; and mineral exploration/extraction. All agriculture requires conditional use approval, to include spreading of chemical fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides, and manure beyond

reasonable domestic use. All Performance Standards apply, and a nitrate study is required prior to any development or construction.

Dimensional requirements in the *Aquifer Protection District* are:

- Minimum lot size of 3 acres (5 acres over Rural Preservation Zone)
- Minimum lot frontage along the roadway is the same as that in the underlying zone
- Structure setbacks are the same as those for the underlying zone

Forest Conservation District (Overlay)

Over the past decade, the Town of Sweden has experienced the effects of liquidation harvesting, to include extremely “hard” cutting of large timber tracts, subsequent subdividing of the land into smaller lots, and eventual marketing for sale and development. The land is frequently purchased by individual or corporate speculators. Fortunately, a significant number of larger tracts were purchased by responsible individuals who practice conscientious and sustainable forestry. Such tracts are being held and managed for long-term return to valuable timber stands, suitable for future sustainable harvesting.

Overall, Sweden is approximately 85% forested with 68% of that forestland presently enrolled in the Maine Tree Growth Program. It is increasingly apparent that special town attention should be given to organizing and conserving Sweden’s non-fragmented forestlands to ensure their continued existence as such, and their continued viability as a natural economic resource. This is important for meeting goals and supporting policies of the Town’s Comprehensive Plan, for contributing to community and landowner economic well-being, and for preservation of large non-fragmented undeveloped lands in support of the Town’s overall rural character.

Envisioned as a partial strategy, is the establishment of a gradually expanding *Forest Conservation District Overlay*, configured as a voluntary collective of separate important forest parcels from the Residential Zone and Rural Preservation Zone, eventually evolving ink-blot style into a few large non-fragmented tracts and corridors. Separate lands are to be accumulated for long-term participation in sustainable forestry management and non-development, as opportunities arise or through voluntary landowner agreements. Potential sources or avenues include:

- Current Tree Growth Program members
- Creation of formal land trusts or conservation easements
- Voluntary agreement to deed covenants
- Transfer, or town purchase, of development rights
- Landowner charitable gifts/donations

The purpose of the *Forest Conservation District* is to designate and protect certain identified and available forest resource lands for: future long-term forest conservation and sustainable forestry management; preservation of wildlife habitat, scenic vistas, and other natural aesthetic qualities; providing minimally-intrusive outdoor recreation; and to establish a core anchor for Sweden’s rural character.

Allowable or conditional uses in the *Forest Conservation District* are limited to those necessary for sustainable forestry practices and access, and those qualifying as low-intrusion outdoor recreation activities. Specific provisions/conditions to be addressed might include:

- No development structures, except for stream crossings and dirt roads required for minimum lot access and logging
- No future subdivision of land unless dimensional minimums are met
- Willingness to grant road access or easement to any back (land-locked) lots created
- No creation of public roadways
- No clear-cutting
- Use of off-road motorized vehicles must acquire land-owner's permission
- Natural buffering desired to a depth of 100 feet from public road right-of-way
- All logging yards to be left clean and properly seeded upon termination of any harvesting operations
- Minimum lot size of ten acres

IV. Regional Coordination Program

General. Historically, the Town of Sweden has been especially sensitive to the need for, and advantages of, local/regional coordination and cooperation with neighboring towns and collective entities to function as a viable municipality and to maintain the well-being of the community. Recognition of this derives from various sources including: Sweden's very small size and population, and lack of municipal infrastructure; its continued goal to maintain quiet rural-residential character, and sustainably preserve its natural resources; nearby availability of commercial/industrial/municipal facilities and services; and the Town's inherent fiscal responsibility to not attempt duplication of all desired infrastructure, facilities, and services.

Maintaining current, and devising new, efforts of regionalization (e.g., coordinating, sharing, common problem solving, consolidation, mutual aid, out-sourcing, etc.), is not only a short-term financial necessity, but also a requirement for economy-of-effort and efficiency-of-scale in order to realize and sustain Sweden's long-term goals. The idea goes far beyond the more tangible financial/physical arrangements of municipal mutual aid, sharing, and consolidation, as important as those are. It also involves more subtle, abstract arrangements that provide for quiet outdoor recreation, sightseeing, rural-cultural appreciation, historical context, restorative retreat and relaxation, and gentle tourism appeal. These are all fragile, elusive commodities sought by both the nearby, more built-up and busier towns (e.g., Bridgton, Fryeburg, Norway), as well as by more distant, sophisticated, and out-of-state towns on a broader regional scheme. Collectively, the smaller communities such as Sweden, Waterford, Lovell, Stoneham, and Stow already provide a beautiful rural character niche, a "commodity" of sorts, in western Maine stemming from similar planning goals and the possession of larger unfragmented, undeveloped lands. Perhaps this can even be considered an effect of regionalization--useful, important, and perhaps necessary--for the State of Maine and beyond.

Regional Planning Issues. In Section II of this Comprehensive Plan, ongoing and prospective issues pertinent to regional coordination were identified and discussed within the following areas of concern:

- Protection of water bodies (lakes, streams), drinking water sources for Sweden and southern areas (town aquifer, Saco River, Sebago Lake), and watershed areas common to adjacent and nearby towns.
- Protection/preservation of common/abutting critical resource land areas such as shorelands (i.e., shared Moose Pond shoreline), wetlands, wildlife habitat, large forest tracts, and scenic views).
- State-aid highway improvement/safety, and mitigation of increased through-traffic impacting the region.
- Maintenance of sharing/financial/participatory arrangements with neighboring towns in the area of outdoor/indoor recreation, library privileges, and inter-town snowmobile trails.
- Contribution to regional economy through encouragement of agriculture, participation in the Tree Growth Program, local home occupations compatible with rural character, patronage of nearby commercial retailers/services, and out-sourcing of certain municipal functions.

- Reliance on certain established regional institutions in the area for law enforcement/police protection, emergency ambulance, hospital services, public education, and municipal insurance through the Maine Municipal Association.
- Continued out-sourcing of municipal public services such as snow plowing, town road maintenance, trash pick-up/removal, and recycling.
- Continued efficient in-town volunteer fire protection, supplemented by regional mutual aid agreements.
- Coordination with Oxford County and SAD 72 to mitigate impacts on the Town's annual budget process.

Implementation of Regional Coordination The foregoing issues led to formulation of certain policies and strategies pertinent to regional coordination, derived from the following goal:

To seek solutions to regional concerns and issues, and to coordinate the management of those resources, facilities, and services Sweden shares with other nearby municipalities or entities.

The specific implementation strategies that address this goal, as described in respective parts of Section II of this Comprehensive Plan, are summarized as follows:

- Section II. C. Water Resources (p. 23)
 - Strategy #4. Cooperation/participation with surrounding towns, DEP, and LEA for protection of regional water bodies/watersheds, aquifers, and development of common phosphorus control standards.
- Section II. D. Other Critical Natural Resources (pp. 32-33)
 - Strategy #2. Participation/coordination with surrounding towns for protection of common wetlands and wildlife habitat.
 - Strategy #10. Cooperation with surrounding towns on mutually preferred siting of telecommunications towers to minimize regional impact.
- Section II. F. Transportation (p. 47)
 - Strategy #7. Participation with RTAC and MDOT regarding roadway improvements and through-traffic impact.
- Section II. H. Outdoor Recreation (pp. 57-58)
 - Strategy #6. Continued participation with Lovell and support for common recreational opportunities for both towns.
 - Strategy #7. Coordination with surrounding towns/sporting clubs regarding standards of safety, behavior, and trail maintenance.
- Section II. I. Economics (p. 62)
 - Strategy #3. Cooperation with, and support for, nearby towns on mutual regional economic matters.

- Section II. J. Public Facilities and Services (pp. 69-70)
 - Strategy #1. Continued use/support of regional services of Oxford County Sheriff, Bridgton Hospital, and Community Concepts; participate in local mutual aid fire protection; out-source important town public works and other services.
 - Strategy #8. Increased communication with SAD 72 for better regional understanding/ability to support school budget.
- Section II. K. Land Use, Growth, and Development (p. 78)
 - Strategy #11. Cooperation and participation with adjacent towns to address commonly-shared land use issues.
- Section II. L. Fiscal Capacity (p. 86)
 - Strategy #2. Attendance at SAD 72 and Oxford County meetings to better understand/mitigate the impact of school costs on Sweden's budget.

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V. Capital Investment Plan

Introduction. The Capital Investment Plan (CInP) identifies the facilities needed to accommodate projected growth, assigns them priorities, and identifies possible funding sources. A formal Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a more detailed document that builds upon the capital investment plan. The CIP includes detailed costs (often based on engineering, architectural, or other studies) and an actual capital budget for the coming year.

Capital investments as contained in the Capital Investment Plan are expenditures greater than \$10,000 that do not recur annually, have a useful life of greater than three years, and result in fixed assets. They include new or expanded physical facilities, rehabilitation of existing facilities, major pieces of equipment that are expensive and have a relatively long period of usefulness, the cost of engineering or architectural studies and services, and the acquisition of land for community facilities. Capital investments or improvements usually require the expenditure of public funds, town, state, federal, or some combination thereof. Funding limitations will make it impossible to pay for or implement all needed major public improvements at any one time, or even over a multi-year period. The recommended Capital Improvement Program will be the process whereby the needs identified here will be formalized and specific priorities and implementation periods targeted.

Capital Improvements. The capital requirements for the next ten years are presented in Table 26. As shown, the most significant of these capital improvements are a new Town Office and a new fire station facility. Funding for these projects will be from current reserve, reserve funds, and possibly an infrastructure grant for the fire station.

Table 26. Identified Capital Improvement Needs, 2002 - 2011

Item	Year	Priority	Estimated Cost (\$)	Probable Funding Source ^a
Town Office	2003	High	135,000	CR/RF
Land for Town Office/Fire Department	2003	High	30,000	D/RF
Fire Station	2004	High	300,000	G/RF/D
Fire Equipment	2005	High	20,000	RF/G/D
Town Road Improvement	2006	Medium	40,000	CR/RF/TP
State Road Work (1 mile)	2007	Medium	75,000	CR/RF
Development Rights	2008	Medium	50,000	RF/G/D
Town Beach Shore Frontage	2009	Medium	30,000	RF/G/D/TP
Town Road Improvement	2010	Medium	40,000	CR/RF/TP
Recycling Facility	2011	Low	10,000	RF

^a Key:

CR- Current Reserves RF- Reserve Funds D- Donations
 TP- Time Phased G- Grants

The town should continue their annual plan to maintain town roads by improving drainage and repaving one mile of road each year. In addition, about one mile of state road in the town requires major work. Funding for the road improvements should be from current reserve, and reserve funds over the ten-year period. State local road work should be funded by the

establishment of a reserve fund with a percentage of the Department of Transportation (DOT) annual revenues.

Grants should be pursued and a reserve fund should be started for fire fighting equipment upgrades within the next ten years.

Land is needed for the new fire station and Town Office. Surplus monies and financial donations should be set aside in a reserve fund for that purpose.

The town has recently changed their method for managing recyclables. Prior to this change, recyclables were taken by the residents to the town of Lovell transfer facility. Due to limitations in Lovell's capacity for this service, this agreement was terminated and Sweden made provisions with the Sweden refuse hauler to provide periodic roadside pick-ups of recyclables. Further changes may be required to make this process more efficient. To accommodate these changes, there may be a need for a small recycling transfer facility in the future. The plan should be reviewed during the next two years. If the need is still there, a reserve fund should be started for that purpose.

A large expense item is household trash. Mid-Maine Waste Action Corporation (MMWAC) is a facility located in Auburn, Maine that processes household trash for member municipalities. Sweden pays an annual bond installment (paid up to 2013) for a percentage ownership in the facility. This relationship has kept Sweden's tipping fees to a minimum compared to non-member towns, and has minimized Sweden's need to seek and maintain other types of household rubbish facilities.

Section III, Land Use Plan, explains a new concept to help protect non-fragmented forest lands and the rural characteristics of Sweden, as well as promote sustainable forestry. The Forest Conservation District (Overlay) is a lot-owner voluntary participation program. One potential method for encouraging inclusions of important undeveloped forest parcels is one in which the town would work with the landowner to acquire development rights through transfer or purchase.

The projected population expansion through 2010 shows about a 25% increase. The town must consider the burden the increase will place on town facilities. The Town Beaches are currently limited in area, and consideration should be given to the acquisition of land to expand these recreational facilities.

The current level of revenue from the state will help to keep tax rate increases to a minimum. The town should be able to continue its current pattern of growth and project planning without increasing their debt. Grants, Tax Anticipation Notes (TANs), and loans will be important sources of funds to have if needed. Spending in areas such as Oxford county taxes and SAD 72 education will continue to be difficult to control and will require involvement of the town through committees to help understand and contain costs.

Annual budget functions should include calculating the monthly cash balances for the coming year. This is required to determine the need for TANs. The monthly cash balance

function should be part of the selectmen's budget for the annual Town Meeting warrant articles. The process will allow the selectmen to allocate the spending requirements with revenue income on a monthly basis.

Capital Improvements Financing. Capital improvements, as they are prioritized and scheduled for implementation through Sweden's multi-year Capital Improvement Program, require a funding source or means of financing. A variety of techniques for financing capital improvements exist. State laws usually govern which techniques are authorized and how they are carried out. These techniques include:

- *Current Revenues.* The most fundamental and simplest means of paying for capital improvements is on a pay-as-you-go basis; that is, funding capital improvements from current revenues. This has the advantage of avoiding bonding and its interest costs. The disadvantage of this technique is that large-scale capital improvements may require a similarly large amount of money to finance them. That could create an inordinate tax burden for the implementation period and extreme fluctuations in the tax rate. Spreading these costs over a longer period reduces such sudden impacts and rate swings.
- *Bonding.* Borrowing against future taxes (general obligation bonds) or future service charges or fees (revenue bonds) to finance long-term public improvements is widely practiced and makes good sense from the standpoint of "paying-as-you-use." Bonding evens out the tax impact over time and allows the municipality to obtain vital improvements earlier in time than current revenue or reserve fund arrangements would permit. As a general rule, no improvement or equipment should be bonded beyond its service life and, thus, violate the pay-as-you-use rule. The chief disadvantage of bonding is the payment of interest on the borrowed money. The fact that purchasers of municipal bonds are usually exempt from payment of taxes on interest received causes the interest rate on such bonds to fall below market rates.
- *Reserve Fund.* A reserve fund is analogous to a family savings account for a future big-ticket purchase (e.g., car, appliance, etc.). Reserve funds are often used to replace equipment with a known service life for which cost and date of replacement are fairly accurately known and can be planned for. The full replacement cost thus becomes available at the time when replacement is necessary without the necessity of bonding or suffering a sudden impact on the tax rate. Other advantages are that reserve funds may be invested to collect interest on their principal, thus reducing the tax revenue contribution required. Reserve funds, like bonding, even out the flow of revenues required for capital improvements.
- *Time-Phased Projects.* Some very large-scale projects can be broken up into time-phased increments, and thus, paid for over a period of several years through annual bonding or pay-as-you-go arrangements. This, again, avoids sudden tax increases.
- *Municipal Assessment and User Fees.* Development fees, assessment and user charges, if appropriate and feasible, may also be applied by the municipality to recapture costs from direct beneficiaries or users of specific capital improvements. Assessments, for example,

are commonly used to recapture road improvements for which fees, assessments, and service charges are appropriate and may lend themselves to the use of revolving funds. Under this arrangement, the income so generated, after paying off the original improvements, is placed in a fund dedicated to financing future improvements of the same sort.

- *Developer Financing of Infrastructure.* Shifting public sector costs to the private sector is becoming a more frequently-used option. The infrastructure required for large-scale developments becomes part of the developer's investment costs. If built to municipal specifications, the improvements may later be accepted by the municipality for maintenance.
- *Grants and Cost Sharing.* A number of state and federal grant-in-aid programs exist to share the cost of certain categorical public improvements. Full advantage should be taken of these cost-sharing programs to maximize the benefits to the community, recapture and equitable share of locally-generated taxes, and secure vitally-needed public improvements. Cost-sharing grant programs potentially applicable to Sweden, exist in a wide variety of areas such as highways and roads, water quality, parks, community development, conservation, and recreational paths.
- *Low-Interest Loans.* In some cases, the federal and state governments have developed special low-interest loan programs to support certain categories of public improvements. These should be investigated as possible funding mechanisms for capital improvements falling within those categories.

Capital Investment Plan Implementation. To implement the Capital Investment Plan, the Town of Sweden should develop a formal Capital Improvement Program.

The Capital Improvement Program provides a mechanism for:

- Estimating capital requirements
- Scheduling all projects over a fixed period with appropriate planning and implementation
- Budgeting high-priority projects and developing a project revenue policy for proposed improvements
- Coordinating the activities of various departments in meeting project schedules
- Monitoring and evaluating the progress of capital projects
- Informing the public of projected capital improvements

In its most basic form, the Capital Improvement Program is no more than a schedule listing capital improvements and their priority, together with cost estimates and the proposed method of financing. Each year, the Capital Improvement Program should be reviewed and updated to reflect changing community priorities, unexpected emergencies or events, unique opportunities, cost changes or alternate financing strategies.

Appendix A Town of Sweden Maps

(prepared by the Lakes Environmental Association)

- A-1 Water Resources**
- A-2 Other Critical Natural Resources**
- A-3 Agriculture and Forest Tracts**
- A-4 Transportation**
- A-5 Historic and Archaeological Resources**
- A-6 Outdoor Recreation**
- A-7 Land Use/Zoning**

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Appendix B. Strategy Implementation Timetable

Strategy (Keyed to text)	Time Frame for Completion Short-term < 2 yr Long-term 2-5 yr Ongoing	Responsible Agency												
		Selectmen	Planning Board	Appeals Board	Road Commissioner	Town Clerk	Code Enforc. Officer	Fire Department	Budget Committee	School Representatives	Conservation Commission	Historical Society	Property Owners	Lakes Environ. Association
B. Housing (Section II B, p. 15)														
1. Subdivision siting	Ongoing		✓											
2. Affordable housing	Long-term		✓											
3. Sweden Building Code	Long-term		✓											
C. Water Resources (Section IIC, pp. 22-23)														
1. Phosphorus management and control	Short-term		✓											S
2. Protection of surface and groundwater resources	Short-term		✓											S
3. Protection of future drinking water supplies	Short-term/ Ongoing		✓	S			S							S
4. Regional watershed and aquifer protection	Ongoing	✓	S											S
D. Other Critical Natural Resources (Section IID, pp. 32-33)														
1. Land use policies and strategies	Short-term/ Ongoing	S	✓	S			S				S			
2. Protection of natural resources	Short-term/ Ongoing		✓											S
3. Control of hazardous materials and wastes	Short-term	✓												
4. Application of pesticides, herbicides, road salt	Short-term	✓	S		S									
5. Land development and timber harvesting	Short-term		✓											
6. Subdivision review	Short-term		✓		S					S	S			
7. Land trusts and open space conservation	Short-term/ Ongoing	✓	S							S				
8. Current use tax incentives	Ongoing	✓	S							S				
9. Siting of telecommunications towers	Short-term		✓											
10. Regional siting of telecommunications towers	Short-term		✓											

✓ - Primary S - Supporting

Appendix B. Strategy Implementation Timetable

Strategy (Keyed to text)	Time Frame for Completion Short-term < 2 yr Long-term 2-5 yr Ongoing	Responsible Agency												
		Selectmen	Planning Board	Appeals Board	Road Commissioner	Town Clerk	Code Enforc. Officer	Fire Department	Budget Committee	School Representatives	Conservation Commission	Historical Society	Property Owners	Lakes Environ. Association
E. Agricultural and Forestry Resources (Section IIE, pp. 38-39)														
1. Compliance with Forestry Practices Act	Short-term/ Ongoing		✓								S			
2. Timber harvesting standards	Short-term/ Ongoing		✓				S				S			
3. Conservation easements	Ongoing	S									✓		S	
4. Land use incentives, land trusts, easements	Ongoing	✓	S								S			
5. Housing density in Rural Preservation Zone	Short-term		✓											
6. Road abandonment and new roads	Short-term	S	✓		S									
7. Forest Conservation District	Short-term		✓											
8. Liquidation harvesting legislation	Short-term/ Ongoing	✓												
F. Transportation (Section IIF, pp. 46-48)														
1. Public road improvement plan	Ongoing	✓			S									
2. Road improvements	Short-term/ Ongoing	✓			S									
3. Road abandonment	Short-term	✓				S		S						
4. Subdivision access roads	Short-term		✓											
5. Access management	Short-term		✓											
6. Privately-built roads	Short-term		✓											
7. Regional transportation issues	Ongoing		✓		S									
8. Application of surplus to state aid road account	Short-term	✓												
9. Snowmobile trails	Ongoing	✓												

✓ - Primary S - Supporting

Appendix B. Strategy Implementation Timetable

Strategy (Keyed to text)	Time Frame for Completion Short-term < 2 yr Long-term 2-5 yr Ongoing	Responsible Agency												
		Selectmen	Planning Board	Appeals Board	Road Commissioner	Town Clerk	Code Enforc. Officer	Fire Department	Budget Committee	School Representatives	Conservation Commission	Historical Society	Property Owners	Lakes Environ. Association

G. Historic and Archaeological Resources (Section IIG, pp. 52-53)

1. Protection of historic and archaeological resources	Short-term	S	S									✓		
2. Historical documentation and materials	Short-term/ Ongoing	✓										S		
3. Protection of stone walls	Short-term		✓			S								
4. Historical/archaeological resource potential areas	Short-term		✓									S		
5. Development and MHPC coordination	Short-term		✓									S		
6. Historical society participation in reviews	Ongoing		✓									S		
7. Development and stone walls	Short-term		✓											

H. Outdoor Recreation (Section IIH, pp. 57-58)

1. Integration of open spaces	Ongoing		✓									S		
2. Subdivisions and open space	Ongoing		✓									S		
3. Clustering and open space	Short-term		✓											
4. Funding for purchase of open space	Ongoing	✓	S									S		
5. Farm and Open Space Tax Law	Ongoing	✓												
6. Recreational coordination with Lovell	Ongoing	✓												
7. Coordination with surrounding towns	Ongoing	✓												

I. Economics (Section II-I, p. 62)

1. Agriculture, forestry, and home occupations	Ongoing		✓			S								
2. Enforce agriculture, forestry and home occupation performance standards	Ongoing		✓	S		S								
3. Regional economic matters and concerns	Ongoing	✓												

Appendix B. Strategy Implementation Timetable

Strategy (Keyed to text)	Time Frame for Completion Short-term < 2 yr Long-term 2-5 yr Ongoing	Responsible Agency											
		Selectmen	Planning Board	Appeals Board	Road Commissioner	Town Clerk	Code Enforc. Officer	Fire Department	Budget Committee	School Representatives	Conservation Commission	Historical Society	Property Owners

✓ - Primary S - Supporting

J. Public Facilities and Services (Section IIJ, pp. 69-70)

1. Regional services	Ongoing	✓												
2. Capital improvement plan	Short-term	✓						S						
3. First responder capabilities	Short-term	✓												
4. Growth impacts	Short-term		✓											
5. New fire house and mutual aid	Short-term	✓					S							
6. Protection of drinking water supply	Short-term		✓				S							S
7. Recycling and management of toxic materials	Ongoing	✓												
8. School budget management	Short-term/ Ongoing	✓							S					
9. Support of Sweden Historical Society	Ongoing	✓												

K. Land Use, Growth, and Development (Section IIK, pp. 76-78)

1. Landowner participation in land preservation	Ongoing	✓	S											S
2. Establishment of Forest Conservation District	Short-term		✓											
3. Development in Rural Preservation Zone	Short-term		✓											
4. Commercial development	Short-term		✓											
5. Subdivision access management	Short-term		✓											
6. Ordinance provisions for subdivision review	Short-term		✓											
7. Abandonment of roads	Short-term		✓											
8. Road acceptance and construction standards	Short-term		✓											
9. Environmental considerations in subdivisions	Short-term		✓											S

Appendix B. Strategy Implementation Timetable

Strategy (Keyed to text)	Time Frame for Completion Short-term < 2 yr Long-term 2-5 yr Ongoing	Responsible Agency												
		Selectmen	Planning Board	Appeals Board	Road Commissioner	Town Clerk	Code Enforc. Officer	Fire Department	Budget Committee	School Representatives	Conservation Commission	Historical Society	Property Owners	Lakes Environ. Association
10. Impact of subdivisions on facilities and services	Short-term		✓											
11. Land use coordination with surrounding towns	Ongoing	S	✓											
12. Enforcing shorefront development regulations	Ongoing		✓				S							
✓ - Primary S - Supporting														
L. Fiscal Capacity (Section IIL, pp. 85-86)														
1. Capital Investment and Improvement Plan	Short-term	✓							S					
2. Involvement of municipal officials in school budget issues	Ongoing	✓								S				
3. Annual budget analysis	Short-term	✓							S					

✓ - Primary **S** - Supporting

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Appendix C Public Opinion Survey

In July 2001, a survey questionnaire was mailed to all residents and non-resident property owners to solicit public opinion on town issues as input for use by the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee during the latest review/revision/update process. As shown below, of the 392 questionnaires sent out, a total of 143 responses were received reflecting a response rate of 36%.

	<u>Number</u>
Total Questionnaires issued	392
Responses received from year-round residents	50
Responses received from seasonal residents	43
Responses received from non-resident property owners	50
Total responses received	143

In general, responses were similar in nature and magnitude to those received in the previous 1987 comprehensive planning survey except as noted below (note, there were some slight differences between the two surveys). In addition, responses of residents and non-residents were generally comparable.

The questionnaire with a breakdown of the results is shown on the pages C-2 and C-3. A general summary of the results follows:

Questions 1 - 6: Most of the respondents have been associated with the Town of Sweden for more than 10 years, are of middle age, and, by a large margin, make their living outside of the town or are retired. They live or own property in Sweden primarily because of the Town's prevailing natural environment and character.

Questions 7 - 9: By overwhelming margins, respondents continue to indicate a strong desire to preserve the Town's rural-residential character. They express the desires that residential growth be slow, commercial growth be from none to slow, and industrial growth be avoided. Additional topics suggested for consideration were addressed in the updated Comprehensive Plan.

Question 10: Opinions of current and future development in the town indicated strong preferences for single-family housing, housing for the elderly, lodges/summer camps, small-scale tourist accommodations, and home occupations. There was strong opposition to multi-family housing, condominiums, subdivisions, fast food enterprises, service stations, shopping centers, amusement parks, hotels/motels, and heavy industry/manufacturing. Majority opinions, although not strong, generally were receptive to commercial agriculture, professional offices, nursing homes/health care facilities, and municipal facilities, but generally did not favor manufactured housing, tent/RV campgrounds, restaurants, retail stores, high-tech industries, and commercial forest product industries.

Question 11: Opinions of current town services/facilities were across-the-board higher than in 1987 and indicated majority satisfaction, with some desired improvement in all areas. Particularly noted for possible improvements were town conservation activities, recreational facilities, road maintenance, and fire protection. Greatest satisfaction was expressed for public education, trash collection/removal, library services, winter trails, and ambulance services.

Town of Sweden Comprehensive Town Plan Public Opinion Survey

July 2001

Please complete both sides of this survey and return the completed form before August 15, 2001 to: Comprehensive Plan Committee, Town of Sweden, RR 2, Harrison, ME 04040

- 1. What is your resident status? (a) 35% Year-round (b) 30% Seasonal (c) 35% Non-resident property owner
2. If year-round resident, how long have you maintained a residence in Sweden? (a) 28% Fewer than 5 years (b) 24 5-10 years (c) 18 10-20 years (d) 30 More than 20 years
3. Where are you employed? (a) 4% Sweden (b) 40 Other town (c) 35 Retired (d) 21 Other
4. Do you own shoreland property? (a) 39% Yes (b) 61 No
5. What is the age group of the person answering this survey? (a) 0% Under 22 (b) 22 22-45 (c) 46 46-65 (d) 32 Over 65
6. Why do you choose to live, have a second home, or own property in Sweden (please check two of the following)? (a) 1% Employment (b) 3 School system (c) 1 Available housing (d) 11 Family origins (e) 40 Natural environment (f) 11 Recreational activities (g) 8 Investment (h) 21 Character of town (i) 4 Other (describe) People, privacy, historical, 2nd home, lakes
7. Should Sweden continue to emphasize the preservation of its rural character? (a) 99% Yes (b) 1 No
8. The following topics will be considered in preparing a revised Comprehensive Town Plan for the Town of Sweden: Land use, growth, and development; Scenic roadways; Limited shoreline development; Undisturbed wildlife habit; Agricultural and forestry resources; Economic development; Public facilities, services, and land needs; Recreational facilities; Historical sites and building preservation; Transportation; Demographics; Housing; Natural resource protection (of lakes, ponds, woodlands, etc.)

If you believe there are other topics, items, or Town goals that should be considered, please list and/or explain them below. Use an additional sheet if necessary.

Milfoil Town beach road recycling
youth programs telecommunications towers
development sprawl fire department
water rights junked vehicles
power boats, jet skis historic buildings/Town center

- 9. For the following, what rate of development growth do you prefer to see over the next 10 years? Residential: (a) 15% No growth (b) 81 Slow growth (c) 4 Rapid growth Commercial: (a) 54 No growth (b) 43 Slow growth (c) 3 Rapid growth Industrial: (a) 82 No growth (b) 15 Slow growth (c) 3 Rapid growth

(Complete other side)

Town of Sweden Comprehensive Town Plan Public Opinion Survey (side 2)

July 2001

10. What is your opinion of the following forms of possible development in Sweden? Check appropriate box.

	Promote	Allow	Discourage	Oppose
a. Single family housing	21%	78%	0%	1%
b. Multi-family housing (e.g., apartments, duplexes)	1	17	41	41
c. Manufactured housing (e.g., mobile/modular homes)	3	37	36	24
d. Condominiums	1	22	27	50
e. Housing for the elderly	6	68	16	10
f. Subdivisions	2	20	37	41
g. Campgrounds for tents and/or recreational vehicles	2	41	32	25
h. Sporting lodges/summer camps	9	60	23	8
i. Fast food drive-ins	2	6	23	69
j. Restaurants	8	35	17	40
k. Service stations/garages	2	26	24	48
l. Shopping centers	1	6	21	72
m. Individual retail stores	3	32	27	38
n. Amusement parks	2	6	15	77
o. Bed and breakfasts/guest houses	15	66	14	5
p. Hotels/motels/inns	4	27	30	39
q. Clean industries (e.g., high-tech facilities)	6	28	22	44
r. Heavy industry/manufacturing	2	6	20	72
s. Commercial agriculture	11	54	15	20
t. Commercial forest products industry	8	37	29	26
u. Professional offices	5	48	18	29
v. Nursing homes/health care facilities	2	50	23	25
w. Home occupations	23	68	6	3
x. Municipal facilities (e.g., office, recreation, other)	13	53	19	15
y. Other (write in)				

11. What is your opinion of the following tax-supported Town services and facilities? Check appropriate box.

	Adequate	Needs Some Improvement	Needs Much Improvement
a. Public education	84%	15%	1%
b. Fire protection	60	26	14
c. Road maintenance (summer)	70	23	7
d. Road maintenance (winter)	70	23	7
e. Trash removal	87	8	5
f. Recycling (Lovell facility)	86	9	5
g. Library services (Lovell library)	92	7	1
h. Town conservation activities	71	25	4
i. Town office hours	67	22	11
j. Winter trails (snowmobiles/ski)	86	12	2
k. Town beach	75	19	6
l. Town boat landings	79	15	6
m. Public buildings	78	15	7
n. Ambulance services	81	17	2

12. Additional comments, suggestions, or clarifications will be appreciated. Please use additional sheet as necessary.

Desire to improve: road maintenance, recycling, conservation, fire department, code enforcement

Support for: home occupations, slow growth, logging controls

Thank you for your cooperation

Please return survey to address on reverse before August 15, 2001

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Appendix D List of Sources and References

Local:

Pike's Genealogy, Town of Sweden

Sweden Comprehensive Planning Public Opinion Surveys, 1987 and 2001

Sweden, Maine - A Conservation & Historical Guide to a Rural Community, Penelope Richards and the Sweden Conservation Commission, July 1977

Sweden, Maine - The Early Years, Philip W. Richards

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Town of Sweden Records and Files

Town of Sweden Subdivision Regulations, adopted 1986

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Waterford Comprehensive Plan, March 2001

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Comprehensive Planning: A Manual for Maine's Communities, Maine State Planning Office

Comprehensive Plan Review Criteria Rule, Maine State Planning Office

Greater Portland Council of Governments (1988 and 1995 data)

Lakes Environmental Association (LEA), Bridgton, Maine

Land Use Team, Maine State Planning Office, Augusta, Maine

Maine Audubon Society, Conservation Department

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Timber Liquidation in Maine, Maine Forest Service, 1999

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US Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service - Soil Maps

US Department of Agriculture, Soil Survey Area Information for Oxford County

US Census Reports - 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000

