

I. Community Profile

This plan mitigates the threat of natural disasters, human created and technological hazards. Coordinated use and implementation of these combined documents form a sound basis for all hazard mitigation projects, plans, activities and ensure that they are tied to the county's land use and environmental regulations. In doing so Benton County will

1. Harbor communication between cities, townships, community organizations, public and private facilities, businesses and lead people into a solution forward in times of trouble
2. Ensure a solid foundation for public policy is in order to protect life and property from these disasters
3. Answer questions during a time of disaster like "who's in charge" or "what should we do"
4. Raise public awareness of risks associated with all types of hazards
5. Continue to maintain sustainable living for the community countywide

Definition of Mitigation:

Hazard Mitigation can be defined in this document as any action taken by Benton County to prevent or lessen the impact of natural disasters, human created and technological hazards on the community. Mitigation measures might include but are not limited to public education, development of regulations or public policy, alter or modify facilities, acquiring or relocation of structures, hazard control or protection projects, and the development of an upgraded warning system.

The Community Profile provides a board overview of Benton County's physical and socioeconomic characteristics, based on the most currently available information.

It draws on and incorporates by reference other documents created within Benton County, including but not limited to, for a complete listing of documents see Section V, Planning.

- Benton County Emergency Operations Plan - Approved 2010
- Benton County Comprehensive Plan prepared and adopted by the County Board in 2006.
- Benton County Comprehensive Local Water Plan prepared and adopted by the County Board that was updated 10/21/2008 and is valid until 2018.

These documents should be consulted for further details on the subjects presented.

❖ General County Overview

Benton County (**See Map 1, Appendix D**) is located in Central Minnesota and is part of the rapidly growing St. Cloud Metropolitan Area. Since it was first settled in the late 1850's, Benton County has been primarily an agricultural and rural community, as family farmers found its rich soil suitable for horticultural production, animal pastureland, and dairy operations. Today the county remains primarily agricultural in its land use, although its southwestern corner is under increasing pressure to accommodate urban development around the Cities of St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, and Sartell. The economic resources of the county are diverse in terms of income sources from agriculture, industry and retail.

Benton County has an area of 408 square miles or about 260,000 acres. The county is bounded on the east by Mille Lacs County, on the south by Sherburne County, on the west by Stearns County and by Morrison County directly to the north.

There are six urbanized and urban cluster cities located in Benton County (**See Map 10, Appendix D**). The County Seat is Foley, located in the central part of the County (**See Maps 2 & 3 Appendix D**). Other incorporated cities include Gilman (**See Maps 4, 5, Appendix D**), Rice (**See Maps 6, 7, Appendix D**), each of which are smaller than 800 residents. Sauk Rapids (**See Maps 8, 9, Appendix D**) is situated entirely within Benton County, and is the county's largest city by population. The cities of St. Cloud and Sartell are located partially in the county. However, they will not be addressed at length in this plan, being they are covered under the Stearns County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The City of Ronneby unincorporated in 2009 and is now under Maywood Township.

Cities participating in this plan are Foley, Gilman, Rice and Sauk Rapids.

❖ Historical Setting

Benton County was one of nine counties that were formed by the territorial legislators on May 11 1849, the year that Minnesota was officially declared a territory. Originally, Benton County was 100 miles in length and 40 miles at its widest point. It included all or part of Crow Wing, Morrison, Sherburne, Mille Lacs and Aitkin Counties. It was reduced to its present size between 1856 and 1860. Of these new counties, Benton County was one of only three that were officially opened to settlers. When naming the new counties, legislators often desired to honor well-respected political figures. Benton County was named for Thomas Hart Benton, a distinguished U.S. Senator from Missouri who was well known for his work on the country's homestead laws.

Agriculture and dairying, logging, lumbering, granite quarrying and manufacturing have been active industries in the past. The economy was based mainly on agriculture and dairy farming for many years. In recent years, industrial parks have been established in Sauk Rapids, St. Cloud, Foley, and Rice to attract industry to the county.

When the first explorers came to the county, it was ranged by the Sioux and Chippewa Native American tribes. The first European settlers chose the land along the Mississippi River. The earliest settlement was a trading post in Watab established in 1848 by David Gilman. David

Gilman was also the first Benton Count Sheriff (1849-1851). Jeremiah Russell arrived in 1849 to take charge of the American Fur Company's trading post in Sauk Rapids. Settlement expanded into the interior of the county in the 1860's and 1870's. Yankees and immigrants from several European countries settled in the county in the nineteenth century. The most predominant ethnic group of the settlers was the Germans. The Germans developed the area around Duelm and Mayhew Lake. The second largest nationality represented in the county are the Polish. "Alberta Colony" was promoted by several prominent Poles in Chicago, it grew quickly after 1877. This area around the community of Gilman is still the most recognizable of the county's ethnic communities. The Scandinavians are the third largest group; they settled mainly in the southern and eastern parts of the county. Smaller groups of Irish, Belgians, French, and French-Canadians had small settlements also.

The first census of the county in 1850 counted 418 residents. The population grew slowly until the 1870s, when large numbers of people from Norway, Sweden, Germany, and Poland arrived to farm. By 1880, much of the land in Benton County had been claimed. The County Seat was originally selected to be Sauk Rapids, but moved twice before Foley became its permanent location with 1284 votes in favor and 788 opposed in 1901.

Source: http://www.co.benton.mn.us/sheriff/documents/Sheriff_History.pdf
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnbchsm/>

❖ Physical Characteristics

Benton County's land use and economy are greatly influenced by its climate and natural resources. It has rich agricultural land and abundant water resources. The overall topography of the county is generally flat with localized contours. This section will include information on Topography and Soils, Climate, Geology, Hydrology, Lakes, Rivers, Wetlands and Land Use.

♦ Topography and Soils

The general topographic relief in Benton County is generally flat with localized contour changes. The overall elevation ranges from about 1000 feet to 1250 feet above sea level. There are three major watersheds in Benton County - the Mississippi, Elk, and Rum Rivers. The Mississippi River Watershed has an elevation ranging from 1000 feet to 1100 feet sloping gradually to the Mississippi River. There is generally very little relief in this area and the slopes range from zero to two percent. The Elk and Rum River watersheds have an elevation ranging roughly from 1100 feet to 1250 feet. This area of the county has undulating topography with slopes ranging from 2 to 12 percent. There are many low areas lying between higher formations resulting in numerous wetlands. Generally, this creates a gently rolling terrain with small to medium relief.

There are six major soil associations in Benton County, three upland soil associations and three outwash soil associations. A soil association is a landscape that has a distinctive proportional pattern of soils. It normally consists of one or more major soils and at least one minor soil, and is named for the major soils. The soils in one association may occur in another,

but in a different pattern. Soil types also affect the quantity and quality of runoff water. Different soils have different infiltration characteristics that influence runoff rates, susceptibility to ground water contamination, and limitations for on-site septic systems. The soil associations and their size include Parent-Ronneby-Prebish with approximately 22% of the county, Mora-Ronneby-Parent with roughly 27%, Brainerd-Nokay-Prebish with around 28%, Hubbard-Duelm with about 12%, Hubbard-Sartell with close to 6%, and Sartell-Isanti-Mucky Peat also with nearly 6%.

Topography	Map # Appendix D
Benton County	11

♦ **Climate**

The climate of Benton County is classified as continental. Wide variations in temperature from summer to winter characterize this climate. Although the climate is essentially uniform throughout the county, variations in microclimate may occur as a result of differences in vegetation, soil and relief. The following results are the average precipitation, snowfall and temperature from 1971-2000 and 2001-2009.

Average Precipitation in Benton County, Minnesota

Station: 217294 ST CLOUD WSO AP, MN 1971-2000 Averages

Precipitation Summary

Element	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANN
Precip (in)	0.76	0.59	1.50	2.13	2.97	4.51	3.34	3.93	2.93	2.24	1.54	0.69	27.13

Average Precipitation in Benton County, Minnesota

Station: 217294 ST CLOUD WSO AP, MN 2001-2009 Averages

Precipitation Summary

Element	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANN
Precip (in)	.50	.93	1.54	3.18	3.50	4.51	3.22	3.54	3.87	3.40	1.14	.91	31.23

Source: <http://climate.umn.edu/doc/historical.htm>

Annual precipitation between 2001 and 2009 was 31.23 inches, which is 4.1 Inches more on average than 1971-2000. Normal total precipitation during the growing season (May - September) is average for the annual amounts. Growing season totals range from 18 inches along the western edge of the County to 19 inches along the eastern edge of the County. This data is based on the 1941-1970 precipitation norms for Minnesota, as prepared by the State Climatology Office, Department of Natural Resources Division of Waters.

Average Snowfall Summary 1971-2000 in Benton County, Minnesota

Element	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANN
Snow(in)	10.7	7.3	8.5	2.9	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	9.2	9.0	48.4

Source: Minnesota Climatology Working Group

http://mcc.sws.uiuc.edu/Snow/MN/217294_ssum.html

http://mcc.sws.uiuc.edu/Precip/MN/217294_psum.html

Average Snowfall Summary 2001-2009 in Benton County, Minnesota

Element	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANN
Snow(in)	5.59	9.75	9.39	3.42	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.28	4.20	8.8	39.92

Source: Minnesota Climatology Working Group <http://climate.umn.edu/HIDradius/radius.asp>

Average Temperature 1971-2000 in Benton County, Minnesota

Station: 217294 ST CLOUD WSO AP,

Temperature Summary

Element	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Max °F	18.7	25.7	37.7	54.9	69.0	77.3	81.7	78.9	69.0	56.3	37.2	23.2
Min °F	-1.2	6.4	19.1	32.2	44.1	52.9	57.9	55.5	45.7	34.3	20.4	5.5
Mean °F	8.8	16.1	28.4	43.6	56.6	65.1	69.8	67.2	57.4	45.3	28.8	14.4

Source: Minnesota Climatology

Working Group

<http://mcc.sws.uiuc.edu/Temp/MN/2>

17294_tsum.html

Average Temperature 2001-2009 in Benton County, Minnesota 2001-2009

Temperature Summary

Element	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Max °F	22.5	25.6	37.5	56.0	66.7	76.5	81.6	78.9	71.8	55.7	43.7	26.5
Min °F	4.4	4.0	17.2	29.4	43.6	54.6	58.6	56.0	49.1	35.5	21.2	10.1
Mean °F	13.4	14.8	9.8	42.7	55.1	65.5	70.1	67.4	60.4	45.6	32.4	18.3

Source: <http://climate.umn.edu/HIDradius/radius.asp>

The lowest temperature recorded at nearby St. Cloud Regional Airport was -43 degrees on January 9 1977. The highest temperature on record was 107 degrees on July 22, 1934.

♦ Geology

Benton County's surficial and bedrock geology has directly influenced its topographic and soil characteristics. These, in turn, have indirectly influenced agricultural practices and other land uses.

Benton County was greatly affected by glacial activity. Two outwash plain areas are located along the western and southern borders of Benton County. These outwash plain areas are identified as the Crow Wing Outwash Plain and the Mississippi Valley Outwash Plain. These areas have a high recharge capability, which is indicated by the high yield rates of water. The remaining geology in the county consists of till. These till areas are part of the Brainerd-Pierz Drumlin Area and the McGrath Till Plain. These areas are generally poorly drained to very poorly drained. As a result, ground water recharge in the area is slow.

- ♦ **Hydrology**

Benton County's lakes, streams and ground water are some of its most significant resources (See Map 59 Appendix - Maps). They are vulnerable to pollution from a wide variety of human activities and or disasters. Water quality has become one of the most important environmental issues facing the county and state. Water is used for domestic and residential purposes, industry, agriculture and recreation. The health, safety and welfare of the public are directly linked to the county's water supply. The County Comprehensive Local Water Plan provides additional information about surface and groundwater resources.

In 1977, Minnesota was stricken by drought conditions that nearly rivaled the infamous drought of the 1930s. That crisis prompted the Legislature to look at how the state's water supplies were being managed. They saw fragmentation at the state level and disorganization at the local level. The Legislature responded by passing the Comprehensive Local Water Management Act (Minnesota Statutes sections 103B.301 to 103B.355) in 1985. In this act, Benton County developed and implemented comprehensive water plans.

Hydrology	Map # Appendix D
Benton County	12

- **Lakes.**

There are only a few lakes located in the county, the largest being Little Rock Lake, followed by Mayhew Lake, Donovan Lake.

- **Rivers.**

The county's western border is formed by the Mississippi River, which is a source of recreation and industry. There are a number of other rivers and streams that run through the County including the Platte River, Collner Creek, Stony Brook Creek, Baily Creek, Little Rock Creek, Bunker Hill Creek, St. Francis River, and Mayhew Creek.

- **Wetlands.**

In the past wetlands have been seen as a roadblock in the development process often times drained and filled to be built on. In Minnesota, over 52 percent of our original wetlands have been lost due to development. Wetlands serve a greater purpose to help with erosion control, flood control, fisheries habitat, natural filter of pollutants, is habitat for rare species, recreation education of natural environment, ground water recharge and discharge, income and farming. To date, there are 13.1 million acres left of wetland in Minnesota it is estimated that there are 40 thousand acres of wetlands remaining in Benton County. The term "wetland" refers to land that is transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. Benton County has many protected wetland areas, mainly located in the western and southwestern areas of the county

Source: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/wetlands/benefits.html>

Wet Lands	Map # Appendix D
Benton County	13

- **Land Cover and Use**

When Benton County was originally founded, an abundance of pine and hardwood forests encouraged thriving industries including logging, railroad construction and sawmill operations. Scattered remnants of those settler days can still be seen and felt in Benton County. Filled with grassy hillsides, granite outcroppings, small wetlands and other natural treasures, residents enjoy the quiet of the farm fields and forests.

Source: <http://www.co.benton.mn.us/EconDev/land.htm>

According to the 2000 census Benton County is predominantly cultivated land, with 52.4 percent, or approximately 138,267.0 acres of tillable land. Hay/Pasture/Grasslands compose an additional 24.0 percent of the land, while deciduous forest (12.4 percent) is also found (See Map 101, Appendix - Maps). About 3 percent of the county is classified as urban.

2000 Land Use Benton County

Area(acres)	%Area	Description
9,502	3.60%	Urban and Rural Development
138,267.0	52.4%	Cultivated Land
63,2967	24.0%	Hay/ Pasture/Grassland
10,044	3.8.0%	Brush land
32,632	12.40%	Forested Deciduous Forest
3588.00	1.40%	Water Rivers & Lakes
6,424.0	2.39%	Bog/Marsh/Fen Wetlands
353.0	0.1%	Mining
Total = 264,107	100.00%	

Source: <http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/datanetweb/landuse.html>

Land Cover	Map # Appendix D
Benton County	14

❖ Community Infrastructure

A community's infrastructure is important for its normal functioning as well as the health, safety, and welfare of its people. This portion of the profile identifies Benton County's important infrastructure including schools, Important Public Facilities, Farming and Agriculture, Telecommunications Facilities, Transportation, Sewer Systems, Water Systems, Health Care and Health Care Facilities.

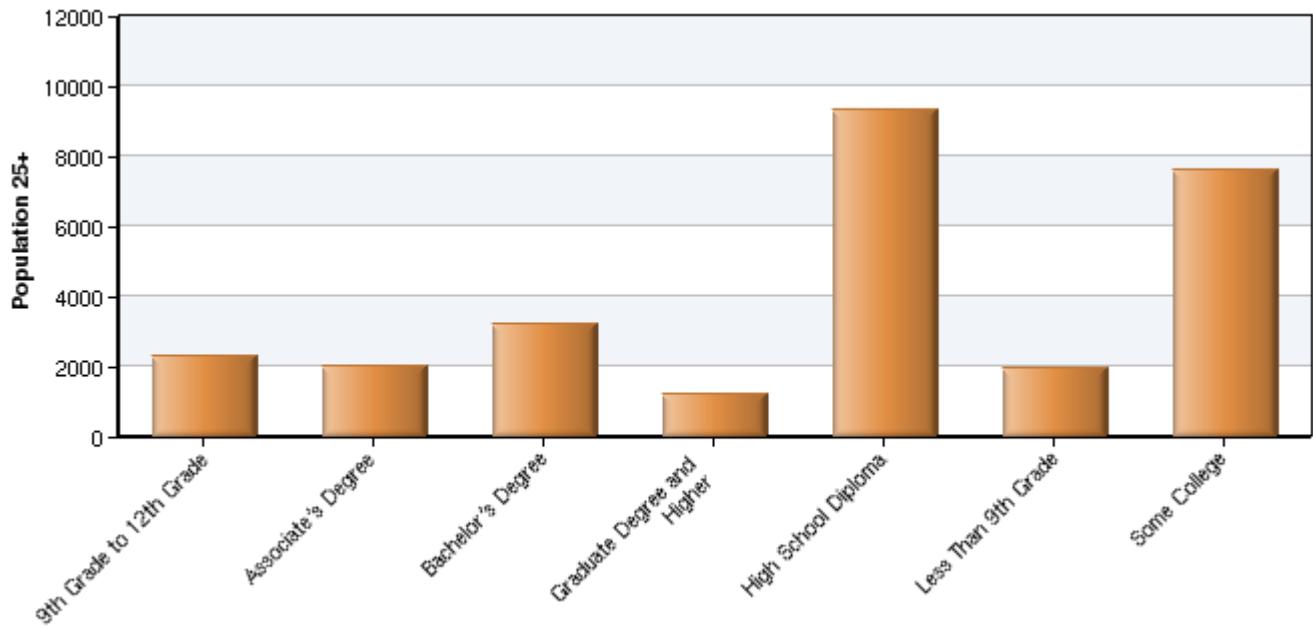
♦ Schools

There are public schools located in several Benton County communities. The schools in the county also serve as community centers. These include Lincoln Elementary School in St. Cloud, as well as Hillside ECFE/Adult Education, Mississippi Heights Elementary School, Pleasant View Elementary School, and Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School in Sauk Rapids. Rice Elementary School is located in Rice. In addition, Foley is the home to Foley Elementary School, Foley Intermediate School, and Foley Senior High. Parochial schools in the county include St. Johns Area School in Foley, Trinity Lutheran School, Petra Lutheran, and Sacred Heart Catholic School in Sauk Rapids and St. Augustine Catholic School in St. Cloud. Seven different school districts serve at least a small portion of Benton County. These include Sauk Rapids District #47, Foley District #51, Princeton District #477, Pierz District #484, Royalton District #485, St. Cloud District #742, and Milaca District #912.

*Note: The following data on pages 13-15 only include population over the age of 25 and are projected totals.

Schools	Map # Appendix D
Benton County	16

Benton County 2010 Educational Attainment Demographics

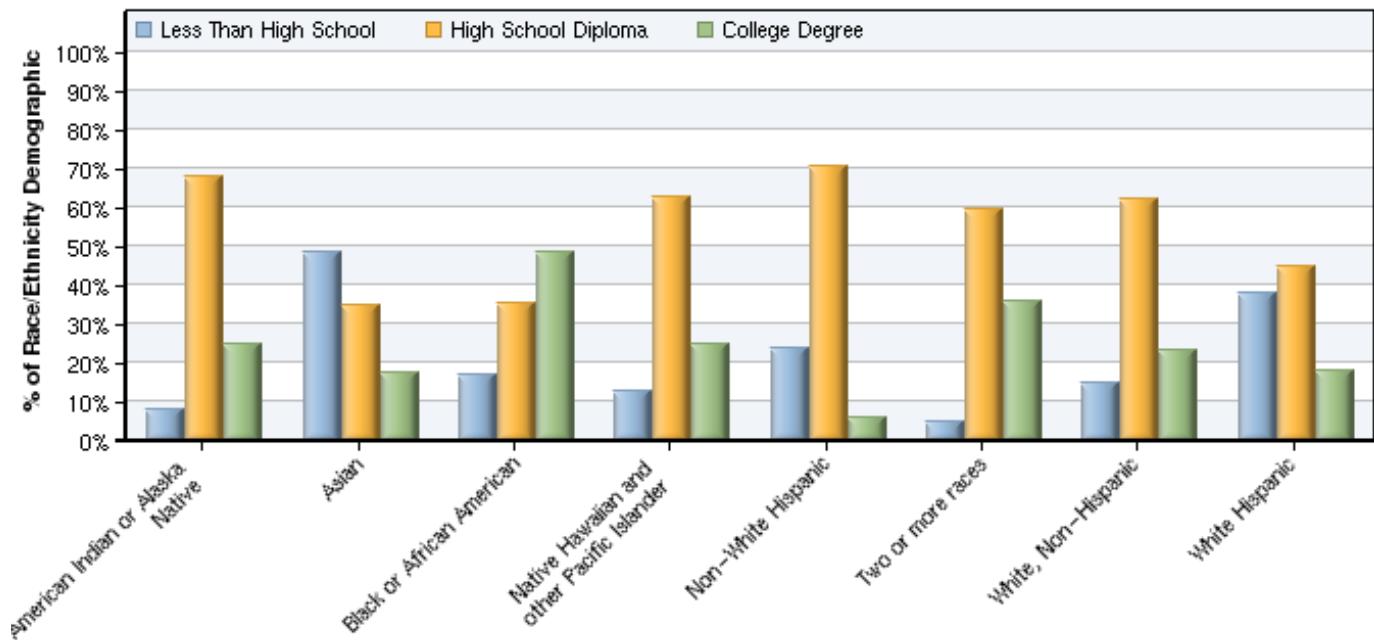


<u>Education Level</u>	<u>2010 Population</u>	<u>% of Population</u>	<u>State % Population</u>	<u>Nat. % Population</u>
9th Grade to 12th Grade	2,308	8%	8%	11%
Associate's Degree	2,023	7%	7%	6%
Bachelor's Degree	3,206	12%	19%	17%
Graduate Degree and Higher	1,196	4%	8%	10%
High School Diploma	9,290	34%	28%	28%
Less Than 9th Grade	1,939	7%	5%	6%
Some College	7,618	28%	26%	22%
Total	27,579	100%	100%	100%

Source: EMSI Complete Employment - 4th Quarter 2009

*Note: The following data on pages 9-11 only include population over the age of 25 and are projected totals.

Benton County Schools 2010 Race/Ethnicity Demographics

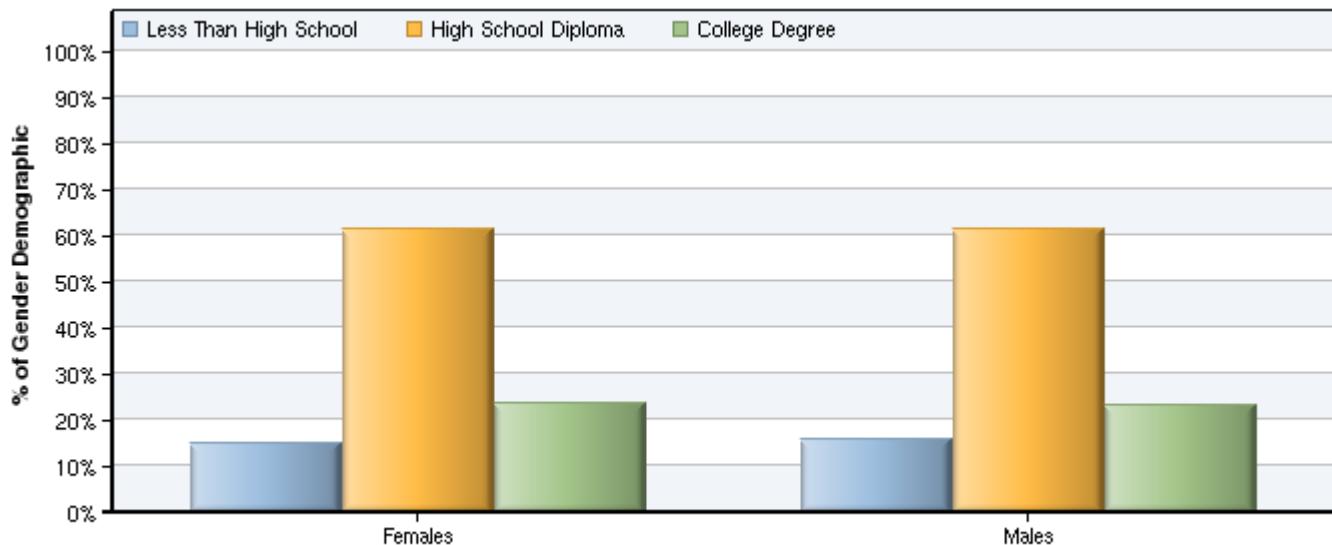


<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	<u>2010 Population</u>	<u>Less Than High School</u>	<u>High School Diploma</u>	<u>College Degree</u>
American Indian or Alaska Native	143	11	97	35
Asian	403	195	139	69
Black or African American	388	65	137	187
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	8	1	5	2
Non-White Hispanic	17	4	12	1
Two or more races	148	7	88	53
White, Non-Hispanic	26,156	3,844	16,288	6,024
White Hispanic	316	119	142	56
Total	27,579	4,246	16,907	6,425

Source: EMSI Complete Employment - 4th Quarter 2009

*Note: The following data on pages 10-11 only include population over the age of 25 and are projected totals.

Benton County 2010 Gender Demographics



<u>Gender</u>	<u>2010 Population</u>	<u>Less Than High School</u>	<u>High School Diploma</u>	<u>College Degree</u>
Females	13,917	2,082	8,556	3,279
Males	13,662	2,164	8,351	3,146
Total	27,579	4,246	16,907	6,425

Source: EMSI Complete Employment - 4th Quarter 2009

Data Sources and Calculations

Educational Attainment Data

EMSI's educational attainment numbers are based on Census 1990, Census 2000, the Current Population Survey, and EMSI's demographic data. By combining these sources, EMSI interpolates for missing years and projects data at the county level. Educational attainment data cover only the population aged 25 years or more and indicate the highest level achieved.

Demographic Data

The demographic data in this report is compiled from several sources using a specialized process. Sources include US Census Bureau annual estimates, birth and mortality rates from the US Health Department, and projected regional job growth.

State Data Sources

This report uses state data from the following agencies: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

♦ **Important Public Facilities**

Important public and semi-public facilities in Benton County include the library and the County Courthouse in Foley, city and town halls (See Figure 10, Section VIII), water treatment plant(s), municipal public works facilities, parks, churches and historic resources. These places provide both public services and create an important sense of community character.

Other public facilities include township halls and governmental buildings.

Government Buildings	Map # Appendix D
Benton County	15

Historic Resources.

There are several locations in Benton County listed in the National Register of Historic Places. These include sites in the church of Saints Peter and Paul in Gilman (a highly visible architectural landmark of Polish influence in the community), the Cota Round Barns in Duelm (reinforced concrete barns built 1920-23 by local veterinarian-turned-contractor Al Cota), the Esselman's Store in Mayhew (a multipurpose store built in 1897 that served as center of crossroads community), the Posch Site near Rice (a Habitation site on sandy ridge overlooking Platte River valley, yielding stone tools from Pre-contact period (5000-1000 B.C.), the Leonard Robinson House in Sauk Rapids (a house of locally quarried granite built in 1873 by leading pioneer of area's granite quarrying industry, the Ronneby Charcoal Kiln in Ronneby a Rare Minnesota example of early 20th-century industrial kiln, used to manufacture coal from hardwood slabs that has been removed), Wippich's Rock Garden in Sauk Rapids, the Indian Hill Site in the Royalton area, the Ice Service Company Building in St. Cloud, Bend in the River Regional Park has been deemed eligible for the historic registry due to the historic buildings.

Another site of historic note is Peace Rock, a large granite outcrop located on the east bank of the Mississippi River in Watab Township that marked the 1825 boundary between the Chippewa territory to the north and the Sioux lands to the south. It was named Peace Rock in 1832 by Henry Schoolcraft when he charted the Mississippi. There are also Native American burial grounds located on the eastern side of Little Rock Lake. The Benton County History Museum is located in Sauk Rapids.

Source: National Register of Historic Places <http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/mn/Benton/state.html>

County and State Parks and Natural Areas.

Benton County has a stated goal to develop, maintain and manage a County park, trail and open space system to meet the needs of the community by utilizing various methods of fiscally responsible strategies. The County hopes to achieve this goal by enhancing and maintain the existing park system to meet the intergenerational needs of the community; ensure that there is a balance within the County park system that creates connections between rural and urbanizing areas of the County; take advantages of opportunities to acquire new park and open space areas;

promote the development of trails; Promote the sharing of facilities of recreational facilities and consider various funding options in acquisition of parkland.

Benton County parks consist of approximately 354 acres with frontage on the Mississippi River and access onto Little Rock Lake. County resources include seven county parks – Benton Beach, St. Regis Park, Rose Anna Beach, Mayhew Lake Park, Bend in the River Regional Park and two undeveloped parks (St. George and Wapicadia Parks). There are nine Wildlife Management Areas in Benton County, which total 1846.5 acres and an additional 300 acres owned by the state and open for public hunting. The county wildlife management areas include Graham WMA, Benton WMA, Collner Creek WMA, Sartell WMA, Michaelson Farm WMA, BenLacs WMA, Glendorado WMA, and two Bibles WMAs (one in Glendorado Township, the other in Graham Township).

Source:

Benton County Parks Department http://www.co.benton.mn.us/departments/park_department/ Minnesota DNR <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/compass.html> Comprehensive Water Plan

♦ **Telecommunication Facilities**

Services include the following cable companies, telephone companies and cell towers:

-Cable companies –Clearwire, Benton Cablevision, Charter Communications, US Cable

-Telephone companies – Qwest Communications, Benton Cooperative Telephone Company, TDS Metrocom, and Sherburne County Rural Telephone Company

-Internet companies- Clearwire, Cloudnet, Wild Blue High Speed Internet, Benton Co-op Telephone Company, Integra Telecom, Victor Communications

- Cell phone towers – There are 29 Cell Phone towers through out the County. There is also one cell phone tower that is physically outside of the county lines however, it does give cell phone reception within the county lines.

Benton County understands the ever-growing importance on internet, and is currently applying for grants that would set up countywide broadband internet connections.

♦ **Power Facilities**

There are several different energy companies that have facilities in Benton County. The electrical companies are Minnesota Power & Light, East Central Energy and Xcel Energy. Natural gas companies that operate in Benton County include Viking Gas Transmission, Minnesota Pipe Line Company, and Northern Natural Gas Company through Xcel Energy. Electric Substations are located in Minden, Alberta, Maywood, and St. George Townships. Gas Substations can be found in Minden, Mayhew Lake, and Gilmanton Townships, as well as the City of Foley.

Utility Sub-stations	Map # Appendix D
Benton County	31

♦ **Transportation**

Benton County's transportation system is primarily composed of roads, highways, and railroads. This system is designed to serve the residents, business activities, agriculture and tourism.

Major Transportation Corridors	Map # Appendix D
Benton County	27

- **Roads.**

Due to its central location, Benton County is well served by the State's regional highway network. U.S. Highway 10 runs along the Mississippi River in the western part of the County, and State Highways 95, 23, and 25 also connect Benton County to the region and the state. It is also well traversed with county and farm-to-market roads, giving all landowners access to a regional transportation network. There are 141 bridges in the county. The larger bridges include the overpasses along the U.S. and State Highways and the bridges that cross the Mississippi on the western border of the county.

- **Railroads.**

The Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) rail line, located roughly parallel to U.S. Highway 10, sends 50 to 60 freight trains through the county a day.

- **Air Transportation.**

Air transportation is a relatively minor component of the Benton County's overall transportation system. Outside of the county, there is regional access to the St. Cloud Regional Airport and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

- **Transit.**

Currently, the transit option available to Benton County residents is the MTC Metro Bus Service, which operates in Sauk Rapids, Sartell and Waite Park.

- **Trails.**

Bike and walking trails are being out through the Benton County Park Department and the cities' park departments.

- ♦ **Sewer and Water Systems**

There are six incorporated communities lying either partly or wholly within Benton County. Of those six, all have access to water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer systems. The St. Cloud wastewater treatment facility treats all wastewater from the city of St. Cloud and the cities of Sauk Rapids and Sartell.

Starting in December 2005, some residents in the City of Foley called with complaints of an odor in the water. At the time of the complaints, well No. 2 was in operation, and the water smelled like fuel oil or diesel. The Minnesota Department of Health was notified of a possible potential problem. The MDH had done a complete test of Well No. 2 in February 2005, which included 68 organic tests of VOC's (volatile organic compounds) in the water. All tests passed for drinking standards.

Well No. 2 was then shut off and water tests for diesel organics were performed, as well as many other tests. These tests were performed by Pace Analytical (a large lab in Minneapolis) on December 21, 2005. The results of the tests indicated NO diesel range organics in the well water. The well was also turned on and run for three days, with all the water flowing into Stony Brook, not into the City water system. This was a means of flushing a large amount of water out of the well. As the smell was still present after the flushing, the City Council approved the removal and cleaning of the well.

The well piping and pump were removed and the well was chlorinated. A new casing, submersible pump and piping were all installed in February 2006.

The water was again tested before putting it on line, with all tests meeting the State of Minnesota and EPA guidelines for safe drinking water. The well water was again pumped into Stony Brook for over three hours with no detectable smell. The well was then put on line into the City water system on March 15 2006, having met all standards. Over 40 residents called about a smell in the water in the following weeks. The well stayed in-service until April 4th 2006, as the Health Department recommended running it to see if it would clear up. City staff could also smell it at the well.

The Minnesota Department of Health again sampled the well on April 25, 2006. The well was used May 4th, 5th and 8th while hydrant flushing was taking place, along with two other wells. At this writing, the well has been tested and is safe to drink, even with a smell.

The City and the Health Department have been looking and researching other possible causes of the smell. There have been other cities that have experienced similar problems and those wells over time have lost the odor through use. At the present time any possible contaminants are consistently below the (MCL) maximum contaminant level for safe drinking water standards, **It is safe to drink.**

City well #2, located on the corner of Broadway Avenue and Highway 23 was drilled in 1969 to keep up with growth of the City. Until that time there was only one well in the City. Well #2 has always had some none life threatening issues. Two years after it was drilled the water levels dropped and in 1971, a third well was drilled, because water levels in well #2 were causing supply problems. In the 1970's the well had an odor problem but the water always met health

standards when tested. When the odors disappeared, the water had a white, milky appearance, but again passed sampling tests for public water supplies.

Due to growth and fire protection demands another well was drilled behind Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church in the fall of 2005. At this time well #2 again was having an odor and complaints were received by City Staff. Tests were taken by the Minnesota Dept. of Health and the City used two private labs also, in an effort to find a cause of the odor in the water.

In January of 2006 the well pipe and pump were pulled, a new casing and submersible pump were installed, and the well was once again disinfected. The first few days of startup the well was odor free and then shortly thereafter it returned. Again testing indicated that it met public drinking water standards. The well was used as a backup this past summer while the water tower was being painted and was tested even more often than required by law.

In doing the extra testing some small amounts of benzene were detected. The amounts were not high enough (non-life threatening) to cause public notification but caused concern about future contamination. The well has not been in use since October 2006, but testing of the water has continued. It has been determined that the smell is an iron bacterium that is not harmful, but smells like oil. The smell and the benzene are two different issues. The amounts of benzene in the water have increased and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) was notified as benzene is usually found in old gas and fuel oil tank basins.

The City notified the Minnesota Dept. of Health and taken the well out of primary service. MPCA began a drilling test site around the well in an effort to locate the possible source of the benzene. The cost of this project is being done with Petrol funds.

Source: http://www.ci.foley.mn.us/City%20Utilities_1.htm ----March 27, 2007 and May 16, 2006---

For a listing of Wells, Water Treatment Facilities and Waste Treatment view the following Maps - Appendix D - Maps

Jurisdiction	Wells	Waste Facilities	Water Treatment
Benton County	25	28	29

❖ Population and Housing

Benton County's current population and housing characteristics are a result of early settlement patterns related to agriculture and the railroad expansion. Benton County has a relatively young population. 71 percent of Benton County's population is made up of working-age people (age 15 to 69). If trends continue in 2015, number of females to males will still be fairly even with a total population of 44,129 people (22,112 Female and 22,016 Male). If that trend continues, an over all 14 percent (5,488 people) increase in population would happen between 2005 and 2015. This 14 percent increase would be double of the state average for population growth and 4 percent more than the national population growth. The following pages 20-23 will give an in depth look at the Benton County by age, race and gender.

Benton County Demographics

Area	2005 Population	2015 Population	2015 Change	2015 % Change
County	38,641	44,129	5678	14%
State	5,104,890	5,470,397	160,099	7%
Nation	295,560,549	325,542,626	16,797,088	10%

Source: EMSI Complete Employment - 4th Quarter 2009

Demographic Data

The demographic data in this report is compiled from several sources using a specialized process. Sources include US Census Bureau annual estimates, birth and mortality rates from the US Health Department, and projected regional job growth.

State Data Sources: This report uses state data from the following agencies: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Benton County 2005-2015 Age Breakdown

Age	2005 Population	2015 Population	Change	% Change	2005 % of Cohort
5 to 9 years	2,682	3,196	514	19%	6.94%
10 to 14 years	2,599	2,980	381	15%	6.73%
15 to 19 years	2,492	2,546	54	2%	6.45%
20 to 24 years	3,351	2,833	-518	-15%	8.67%
25 to 29 years	3,964	3,239	-725	-18%	10.26%
30 to 34 years	3,032	4,014	982	32%	7.85%
35 to 39 years	2,805	4,039	1,234	44%	7.26%
40 to 44 years	2,866	3,152	286	10%	7.42%
45 to 49 years	2,657	2,751	94	4%	6.88%
50 to 54 years	2,264	2,797	533	24%	5.86%
55 to 59 years	1,818	2,327	509	28%	4.70%
60 to 64 years	1,248	2,026	778	62%	3.23%
65 to 69 years	972	1,672	700	72%	2.52%
70 to 74 years	923	1,146	223	24%	2.39%
75 to 79 years	725	837	112	15%	1.88%
80 to 84 years	607	654	47	8%	1.57%
85 years and over	736	782	46	6%	1.90%
Under 5 years	2,900	3,138	238	8%	7.51%
Total	38,641	44,129	5,488	14%	100.00%

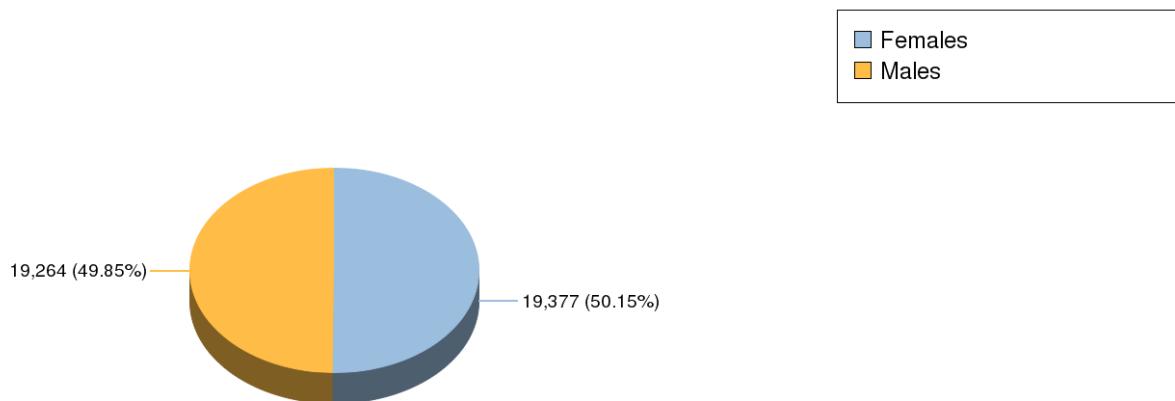
Source: EMSI Complete Employment - 4th Quarter 2009

Benton County 2005-2015 Race/Ethnicity Breakdown

Race/Ethnicity	2005 Population	2015 Population	Change	% Change	2005 % of Cohort
American Indian or Alaska Native	215	292	77	36%	0.56%
Asian	553	753	200	36%	1.43%
Black or African American	576	902	326	57%	1.49%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	17	19	2	12%	0.04%
Non-White Hispanic	26	40	14	54%	0.07%
Two or more races	426	671	245	58%	1.10%
White, Non-Hispanic	36,352	40,672	4,320	12%	94.08%
White Hispanic	476	780	304	64%	1.23%
Total	38,641	44,129	5,488	14%	100.00%

Source: EMSI Complete Employment - 4th Quarter 2009

Benton County 2005-2015 Gender Breakdown



Gender	2005 Population	2015 Population	Change	% Change	2005 % of Cohort
Females	19,377	22,112	2,735	14%	50.15%
Males	19,264	22,016	2,752	14%	49.85%
Total	38,641	44,129	5,488	14%	100.00%

Source: EMSI Complete Employment - 4th Quarter 2009

Demographic Data

The demographic data in this report is compiled from several sources using a specialized process. Sources include US Census Bureau annual estimates, birth and mortality rates from the US Health Department, and projected regional job growth.

State Data Sources

This report uses state data from the following agencies: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

County population continues growth.

Benton County has the highest population density along the western part of the county (**See Figure 14, Section VIII**). The largest city in the county is Sauk Rapids, which boasts a population of over 10,000. The part of St. Cloud that is located in Benton County includes about 6,400 residents. Sartell's Benton County section includes more than 2,000 people. Rice, with a population of over 700, is located on the northwestern edge of the county. The County Seat of Foley has a population of over 2,000. In May 2009 Ronneby City dissolved and became part of Maywood Township, the population as stated in the 2000 census was 16 people.

Source: U.S. Census <http://www.census.gov/population/cencounts/mn190090.txt>

Township and City Populations

	1990	2000	% Change
Alberta township	760	772	1.6
Foley city	1854	2154	16.2
Gilman city	192	215	12.0
Gilmanton township	775	769	-0.8
Glendorado township	762	785	3.0
Graham township	549	567	3.3
Granite Ledge township	615	685	11.4
Langola township	795	916	15.2
Mayhew Lake township	751	804	7.1
Maywood township	845	860	1.8
Minden township	1900	1790	-5.8
Rice city	610	711	16.6
St. Cloud city (part)	5950	6391	7.4
St. George township	856	924	7.9
Sartell city (part)	1844	2011	9.1
Sauk Rapids city	7823	10213	30.6
Sauk Rapids township	852	723	-15.1
Watab township	2394	2920	22.0

Source: State Demographic Center

-Residents predominately English speaking.

Language can be a significant barrier to communicating during emergencies. .6% (47 in Sauk Rapids and 51 in Foley) of the Benton County population in school is limited in English. At the time of the 2000 Census in Benton County, roughly 95 percent of the population spoke only English at home. Only about 2 percent of the population spoke English less than "very well." However, it should be noted that there have been significant increases in some immigrant populations since that time, so these figures may not be entirely accurate.

Source: <http://www.co.benton.mn.us/HServices/documents/Limited%20English%20Proficiency.pdf>

Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English

Subject	Number	Percent
Population 5 years and over	31,756	100.0%
Speak only English at home	30,168	95.0%
Speak a language other than English at home	1,588	5.0%
Speak English less than "very well"	628	2.0%
Language spoken by those who speak English less than "very well"	628	2.0%
Spanish	275	0.8%
Other Indo-European languages	206	0.6%
Asian and Pacific Island languages	139	0.4%
All other languages	9	0.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 3
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet?_lang=en

- Number of household's increased, household size declined.

Even as the population has increased since 1990, the number of housing units and number of households has increased proportionally more, as the average household size decreased to roughly 2.5 persons, according to the 2000 Census. The number of people in-group quarters also has increased, reflecting the rise in elderly population and number of people in nursing homes.

Benton County Population and Household Size Over Time

2000 Census: Benton County

Population Profiles: Population in 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000

	1970	1980	1990	2000	'90-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	20,841	25,187	30,185	34,226	4,041	13.39
Density (persons per sq. mile)	51.84	62.65	73.95	83.83	9.88	13.37
Housing Units	6,018	8,812	11,521	13,460	1,939	16.83
Households		8,275	10,935	13,065	2,130	19.48
Persons Per Household		2.98	2.71	2.56	-0.15	-5.43
Persons in Group Quarters		545	584	769	185	31.68

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	'2000-2002 Change	
				Actual	Percent
Population	34,226	35,286	36,355	2,129	6.22
Households	13,065	13,528	13,977	912	6.98
Persons Per Household	2.56	2.55	2.55	-0.01	-0.39
Persons in Group Quarters	769	760	781	12	1.56

* The 2001 and 2002 estimates are not available for American Indian Reservations, Unorganized Townships and Tracts.

Source: DataNet

<http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/datanetweb/>

Household characteristics have a direct impact on land use, housing needs, social services, and educational expenses. Changes in household size have a direct and proportional effect on demand exerted and types of housing necessary for communities. As household size decreases, the demand for housing units will increase. Only 2.9 percent of the county's housing units were vacant at the time of the 2000 Census.

Persons per household statistics are reduced because of later family formation, no children or delayed child rearing and an increase in single person households. In 2000, more than 36 percent of the county's households included individuals less than 18 years of age. Only 6.3 percent of households consisted of an individual 65 years of age or older living alone.

Benton County Household Profile

Subject	Number	Percent
Household and Group Quarters Population		
Total population	34,226	100.0%
In households	33,457	97.8%
In group quarters	769	2.2%
Institutionalized population	518	1.5%
Non-institutionalized population	251	0.7%
Household Type		
Total households	13,065	100.0%
Family households	8,518	65.2%
Households with individuals under 18 years	4,747	36.3%
Nonfamily households	4,547	34.8%
Householder living alone	3,377	25.8%
Average Household Size	2.56	(X)
Average Family Size	3.14	(X)
Occupancy Status		
Total housing units	13,460	100.0%
Occupied housing units	13,065	97.1%
Vacant housing units	395	2.9%

(X) Not applicable

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet?_lang=en

- Housing is newer, mostly single family. Most of the housing in Benton County was built relatively recently, as 63.8 percent of housing in the county has been built since 1970. While single family dwellings make up the majority of housing units in Benton County with over 60 percent, there is also almost 20 percent that is made up by structures with 20 or more units. Many of these are apartment buildings that were built to accommodate the immense growth that has occurred in the area over the past few decades. Mobile homes make up 8.6 percent of housing in Benton County. Only 1.1 percent of the counties' housing units lack telephone service.

- Population projected to increase and age.

Benton County's population has been on the increase, both the number and percentage of people more than 65 years old are projected to increase. This age group is projected to make up nearly 20 percent of the county's population by 2030, up from 13.9 percent in 2000.

Townships and cities in Benton County will invariably be impacted by the changing age structure in their communities. They must insure that services and needs are met as the

population gradually becomes older, and will need to consider issues related to lifecycle housing, the workforce and long term care. In the next 20 years, communities throughout the state will find themselves with the challenge of dealing with an aging population while attempting to improve the safety and welfare of an entire community that has become more diverse.

-Vulnerable Populations

Benton County has a large vulnerable population distributed throughout the county. Following table lists the maps available for the county, townships and cities that show the location of long-term care facilities, adult foster care, childcare, assisted living facilities and other vulnerable populations.

Vulnerable Population

Jurisdiction	Map # Appendix D
Benton County	26

Benton County Housing Profile

Subject	Number	Percent
Total housing units	13,460	100.0%
UNITS IN STRUCTURE		
1-unit, detached	8,134	60.4%
1-unit, attached	167	1.2%
2 units	347	2.6%
3 or 4 units	177	1.3%
5 to 9 units	341	2.5%
10 to 19 units	757	5.6%
20 or more units	2,371	17.6%
Mobile home	1,158	8.6%
Boat, RV, van, etc.	8	0.1%
YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT		
1999 to March 2000	379	2.8%
1995 to 1998	1,112	8.3%
1990 to 1994	1,399	10.4%
1980 to 1989	2,762	20.5%
1970 to 1979	2,940	21.8%
1960 to 1969	1,304	9.7%
1940 to 1959	1,480	11%
1939 or earlier	2,084	15.5%

VEHICLES AVAILABLE			
None		1,046	8%
1		3,760	28.8%
2		5,435	41.6%
3 or more		2,824	21.6%
HOUSE HEATING FUEL			
Utility gas		7,234	55.4%
Bottled, tank, or LP gas		1,754	13.4%
Electricity		2,214	16.9%
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.		1,046	8%
Coal or coke		0	0%
Wood		393	3%
Solar energy		4	0%
Other fuel		266	2%
No fuel used		154	1.2%

Subject	Number	Percent
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS		
Lacking complete plumbing facilities	34	0.3%
Lacking complete kitchen facilities	33	0.3%
No telephone service	146	1.1%
Specified owner-occupied units		5,784
		100%
VALUE		
Less than \$50,000	230	4%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	2,722	47.1%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	2,211	38.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	434	7.5%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	137	2.4%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	43	0.7%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	3	0.1%
\$1,000,000 or more	4	0.1%
Median (dollars)	99,100	(X)

(X) Not applicable. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3
http://factfinder.census.gov/bf/_lang=en_vt_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U_DP4_geo_id=05000US27009.html

❖ Economic Synopsis

Benton County's economic atmosphere supports an agricultural base, recreation, services, retail, trade and government. With manufacturing and service-related industries, Benton County provides an ideal location for expansion of established businesses, as well as additional ventures. With excellent access to transportation systems, close proximity to the major urban centers, Benton County is positioned to have a vibrant economy for many years to come.

Benton County's Largest Employers

Firm	Product/Service	Employees
Coborn's Superstore	Supermarket	1,025
Knife River	Highway and Bridge Construction	721
Woodcraft Industries	Hardwood Manufacturer	498
Verso	Paper Mills	471
Country Manor Health Care	Nursing Care Facilities	462
World Color	Printing	365
Good Shepherd	Nursing Care Facilities	350
Vistar/ VSA Specialty Dist.	Groceries, General Line	350
Sauk Rapids Schools-ISD #47	Schools	310
Array Services Group	Business Services	250
Benton County	Government	235
Foley Public Schools	Schools	225
National Vision	Optical Retailer	140
Ferche Millwork	Millwork	128
Wilkie Sanderson	Woodwork	87

Source: MN Dept. of Trade & Economic Development Community Profiles (mnpro.com)

• Benton County Economic Trends

Roughly, 70 percent of Benton County residents 16 years old and over are in the labor force and 8.58 percent are unemployed. 81.4 percent of employed people are private wage and salary workers; 12 percent are government workers. The median household income is \$41,968 annually. Most workers, more than 80 percent, drive alone to work with a mean travel time of about 20 minutes. Pages 30-32 are the weekly wages and Benton County employment made by the labor force in 11 different economic sectors. The numbers show economic trends from the first, second and third quarters and range in the years 2000, 2005 and 2009. In addition, you will get an idea of how many people commute to the work place.

Labor Force Commuting Trends

Since the 2000, Census was taken most of the Benton County workforce population (81.3 %) drives a car, truck or van alone to work.

Commuting to Work			
Workers 16 and over		18,652	100.0%
Car, truck, or van – drove alone		15,163	81.3%
Car, truck, or van – carpooled		1,877	10.1%
Public transportation (including taxicab)		266	1.4%
Bicycle		61	0.3%
Walked		357	1.9%
Other means		95	0.5%
Worked at home		828	4.4%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)		21.1	(X)

(X) Not Applicable. Source: Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3

http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet?_lang=en

- **Farming and Agriculture**

Farming and Agriculture is one of the key infrastructures within Benton County. There have been some changes in farming since 2002. In 2007 there were 919 farms covering 185,994 acres of land. This is a -5 percent change from the 965 farms covering 195,949 acres of land in 2002. The average size of a farm is 202 acres and Benton County total market value of production is \$113,874,000 ranking Benton County 767 in the United States.

- **Health and Wellness**

Benton County has the goal to promote health and prevent disease, injury, and disability of Benton County residents. The health and wellness of our residents is very important, there are 5 different medical facilities in and near Benton County. The following pages 35-36 give a snapshot of Benton Counties health ranking compared to the rest of the counties in Minnesota.

- ❖ **Emergency Response Capabilities**

A county's ability to respond to an emergency or event is based on service areas, facilities and equipment. An understanding of response times and abilities is critical in protecting the citizens of Benton County. The existing facilities and equipment in the county are intended to address local needs and support regional needs. Benton County is considered a mutual aid county, which provides and receives support from adjacent counties. The following summary and description serves as an inventory of the response facilities for Benton County.

Emergency Responders	Map # Appendix D
Benton County	20

♦ **Medical Facilities**

Benton County has one medical clinic, the Foley Medical Center. St. Cloud Hospital is a fully equipped regional medical center that services the area. It is located directly across the Mississippi River from Benton County in St. Cloud. Two ambulance services provide coverage to the County, Gold Cross Ambulance Service out of St. Cloud and North Ambulance Service out of Milaca. Also in the time of an emergency all dentists can be called upon by Human Services to act as short-term medical doctors.

Medical Facilities	Map # Appendix D
Benton County	31

Benton County Medical Resources-

This resource to the county has 68 volunteers ready to help when called upon. Emergency Operations Center

- **St. Cloud Hospital-** The hospital has more than 4,300 employees, 380 physicians and 1,250 volunteers
- **Foley Medical Center-** 12 total medical staffed members
- **Gold Cross Ambulance Service-** Has a staff of 76 and 13 emergency vehicles.
- **North Ambulance Service –** There is a total of 80 ALS ambulances in their entire system for North Ambulance Service. One of those ambulances are in the city of Milaca could respond in minutes and could provide back up from Princeton and Zimmerman within a 15 minutes if there were an emergency. If there were a large incident, the use of mutual aid services that surround North Ambulance could pull from our Metro operation. That could respond ambulances within about 45 minutes or so to ground zero of a disaster.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

Located in Foley in the Benton County Sheriff's Department, the center provides a secure location that can be used to coordinate the county's emergency response services. The Emergency Management Department also has a Mobile Command Trailer, which can also provide a mobile point of strategic command for all events in Benton County.

♦ **Fire Services**

Fire protection in Benton County is the responsibility of the seven fire departments with fire response zones within the county. The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for fire protection on state forest and parkland. The DNR works closely with local fire units for protection of these lands through contracting agreements. Both the U.S. Forest Service and the DNR work closely with local fire fighters whenever danger of woodland and urban fires is elevated. Additionally, all fire departments have mutual aid agreements. Fire departments and resources based in Benton County include:

Emergency Responders - Fire	Map # Appendix D
Benton County	17

Emergency Service Zones	Map # Appendix D
Benton County	19

- Foley Fire Department –

The Foley Fire Department is a volunteer fire department serving parts of Benton and Morrison counties. The Foley Fire Department members are responsible for protecting life and property from the hazards of fire and other hazardous situations. The Foley Fire Department responds to emergency calls to provide efficient and immediate care to the critically ill and injured and lends assistance at the scene of automobile, industrial, and agricultural accidents. Foley Fire Department has 9 different vehicles to combat fires and 25 volunteers for help.

-Rice Fire Department –

The Rice Volunteer Fire Department is composed of 20 trained volunteer fire fighters. The fire department has 7 fire fighting and rescue vehicles with the capacity to pump 2,000 gallons per minute.

The department currently maintains a classified insurance rating of 5, and is continually upgrading equipment and skills.

The Rice Fire Department also protects the adjoining Townships of Watab, Langola, and Graham and has a Mutual Aid Agreement with other surrounding communities for back up fire suppression and rescue support.

The City of Rice has recently entered an agreement with Gold Cross, and emergency medical rescue provider. Gold Cross staffs until 1:00 a.m. and houses the rescue vehicle at Rice City Hall. This agreement will help provide quicker response to our citizen's emergency medical needs.

The department has Two tanker trucks, two four-wheel drive vehicles, one step van, and two boats; 22 volunteers

Source: http://www.cityofrice.com/fire_dept.html

-Sauk Rapids Fire Department –

Sauk Rapids Fire Department has 30 volunteer staff able to help in case of a fire; three pumper trucks (2 aerial), 2 tanker trucks, 2 4-wheel drive vehicles, 2 boats, one Polaris ATV for Equipment/Rescue. In estimation, it takes 10-12 minutes to reach the furthest part in their jurisdiction and they are fully capable to tap into lakes, rivers and streams for water to fight fires

. The St. Cloud Fire Department and the Sartell Fire Department

These two departments serve their respective municipalities. The Milaca Fire Department and the Royalton Fire Department each cover a small rural portion of the county. Aside from the St. Cloud Fire Department, all of the departments that serve Benton County are volunteer departments.

♦ Law Enforcement Centers

In addition to the Sheriff's department located in Foley, there are police stations located in the Sauk Rapids City Hall and the Rice City Hall .These facilities have the following features:

-Benton County Sheriff's Department – 27 cars, one four-wheel drive vehicle, one all-terrain vehicle, two snowmobiles, a personal water craft, and two boats; 24 full-time officers. Benton County Sheriffs headquarters is located in Foley MN and have an agreement to act as main law enforcement for the city.

-Sauk Rapids Police Department – 13 full time officers, 6 emergency vehicles and it takes approximately 10 minutes to reach the furthest point within Sauk Rapids jurisdiction.

-Rice Police Department – One car; two full-time officers

Emergency Responders - Law Enforcement	Map # Appendix D
Benton County	18

♦ Emergency Warning Systems

Outdoor warning sirens are located in St. Cloud, Sartell, Foley, Ronneby, Rice and Sauk Rapids. The WJON/WWJO Radio Stations are used to notify the population not covered by these sirens by activating the Emergency Alert System (EAS). Secondary radio stations that are also used for alerting residents are KCLD, WVAL and KVSC.

♦ **Heavy Equipment Inventory**

- **County Highway Department.** The Benton County Highway Department main maintenance garage is in Foley. (City Public Works also have heavy equipment available)

Major County Equipment List	Quantity
Dozer- D4	1
Wheel Loader-950G, IT18F	2
Motor Grader- Caterpillar, John Deere	3
Backhoe – John Deere	1
Tractor- 6300, 6400, 6420	4
Dump Truck- Single Axle	1
Tandem Truck- Dump	9
Other Large Truck- Semi Tractor and Trailer	1
Pickup Truck	8
Suburban- Tahoe	1
Car	0
Crew Cab Pickup- FORD Flat Bed, Dump Box	2
Small Dump Truck- FORD	1
Survey Truck- FORD	1
Sign Truck- GMC	1
Forklift- Caterpillar	1
SUB TOTAL	37