



4646 Dakota St. SE  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

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## A message from our Mayor:

Growth is a topic that civic leaders throughout the Metro Area talk about constantly. We should, because projections show the Metro Area growing by an additional 1 million people in the next 20 years.

Prior Lake has been consistently growing for many years. In 1950, our population was a robust 536 residents. When my wife, Mary, and I moved here in 1973, Prior Lake was one square mile and had a population of just over 4,200. Today, our population exceeds 22,000, and our 2030 projection is that Prior Lake will exceed 27 square miles with a population in excess of 40,000 people. That is not a goal, it's just reality.

Is growth good? Is it bad? I look at growth as an opportunity – not a problem. Growth is a sign of vibrancy, of prosperity. It's a sign that people want to live here and enjoy everything that Prior Lake represents.

Compare our growth opportunities with the problems confronting many communities in Minnesota: businesses closing, school districts consolidating, residents moving out, and, ultimately, communities dying.

We are pleased to have our 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan. This plan will guide us and our growth over the next 25 years and make certain our city council's decisions are good, not only for today, but for the long-term. Our decisions will be evaluated and ultimately measured by future generations. A key question will be asked: How have our decisions stood the test of time?

As we grow, Our 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan is critical to our ongoing growth. Our Vision emphasizes our historical roots as a “recreation-oriented community.” And that we “retain the feel of a small town located in the heart of a vibrant suburban setting.” It goes on to say that Prior Lake “is a people place for a lifetime...and that we are known for high-quality educational programs and intergenerational learning opportunities.”

As we reflect back, five, 10 or 50 years, there has been one constant in Prior Lake: change. Change mandated by growth. Our neighborhoods, our schools, our parks and roadways are not what they used to be and never will be again. Our challenge is to be proactive in dealing with change. We can't stop growth and we can't stop change.

I am confident that, through our 2030 Vision, we can effectively manage both.

Mayor Jack Haugen