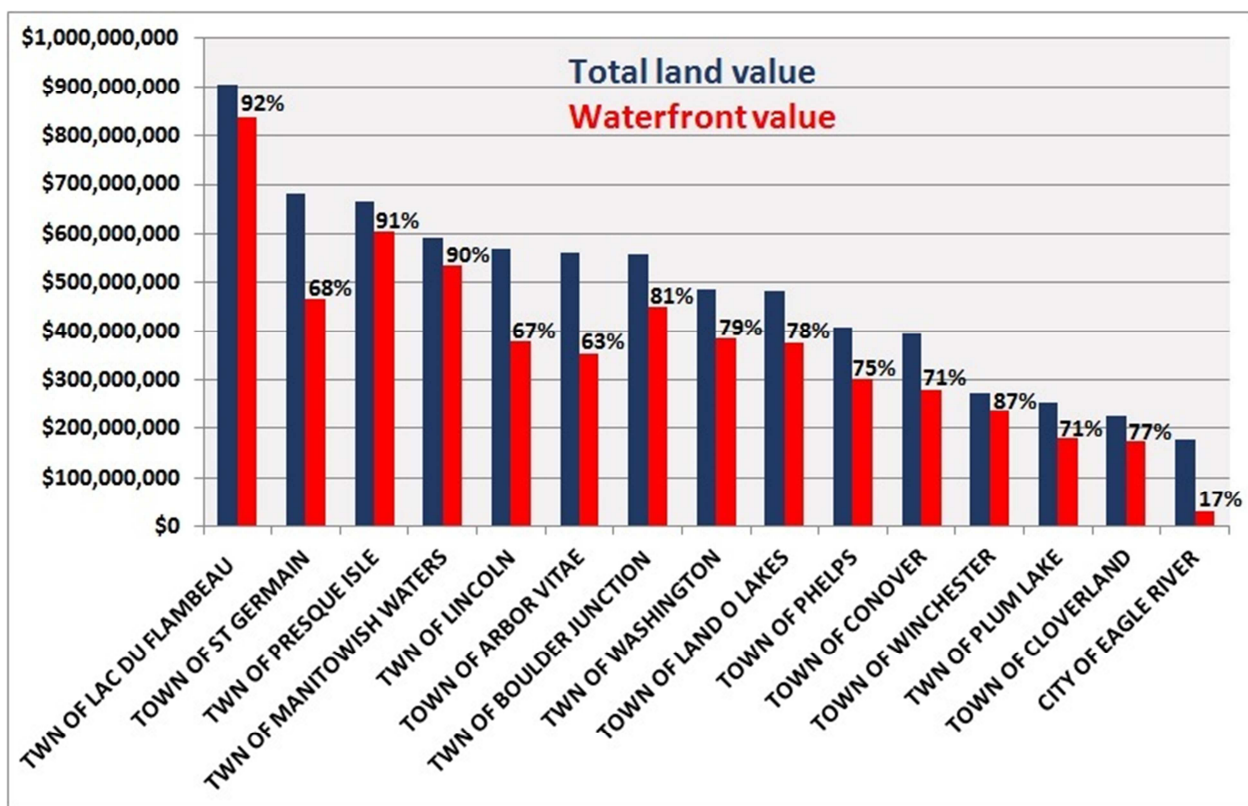


Economic Value of Vilas County Lakes

Vilas County is home to one of the highest densities of inland lakes in the world. Straight roads do not exist as travel from any one point to another nearly always requires circumventing one lake or another, more likely several. Of the 1,320 lakes in the county less than half are named and only about 200 have public access. But perhaps the most significant statistic about these lakes is their collective economic value.

A 2015 study conducted by the Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Department revealed that 77 per cent of the county tax base consists of waterfront properties. That number varies among the county's 15 municipalities as reflected in the following chart.



Taxable property in the Town of Saint Germain is valued at nearly \$700 million. Sixty-eight percent of the town's property taxes come from waterfront properties valued at over \$475 million.

There is no other county in the State of Wisconsin where lakefront property represents such a large portion of the local tax base. Protection and proper management of these lakes is critical to our economic foundation.