

Land Cover, Land Use and Development

The dominant land cover in Lake Township is of an “open space” character including farmland, woodlands, wetlands, meadows and similar environments. The most dominant active land use is farming. Together, agricultural operations and other open spaces account for approximately 62% of the land area of Lake Township. The more urbanized areas of the township, including those developed for commercial, industrial, and suburban residential uses, are along the M-25 corridor including a nearly continuous pattern of residences and residential neighborhoods. The principal exception to the residential character of the M-25 corridor is the presence of the Sleeper State Park in the township’s northwest quarter and straddles M-25.

Table A-1 provides a breakdown of general land use/land cover in Lake Township. Table A-1 is followed by a review of some of the more significant characteristics of land use and development in the township.

**Table A-1
Approximate General Land Use/Land Cover Allocation, 2019**

Land Use-Land Cover	Approximate Acreage (ac.)	Approximate Portion (%) of Township
Agriculture	7,630 ac.	57.6%
Open Space, comprised of water courses/bodies, woodlands, wetlands, and meadows, including outdoor conservation-based recreation areas such as Sleeper State Park and Rush Lake Wildlife Area.	4,558 ac.	34.4%
Residential	600 ac.	4.5%
Transportation, comprised of road/highway rights-of-way.	420 ac.	3.2%
Industrial, comprised of manufacturing and similar processes.	1 ac.	---
Commercial, comprised of retail, office and service-oriented uses.	1 ac.	---
Other, comprised of golf courses, cemeteries, substations, and municipal buildings.	45 ac.	0.3%

Table is based on aerial imagery, township records and “windshield” survey.
“—” denotes less than 0.1%