



RACINE COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FACT SHEET

Introduction and Background **(Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan Preliminary Draft Chapter I)**

Introduction

In 1999, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted a new comprehensive planning law, which is set forth in Section 66.1001 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*. This law, often referred to as the “Smart Growth” law, provides a framework for the development, adoption and implementation of comprehensive plans in the State.

To address the comprehensive planning requirements, a multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning process has been undertaken by Racine County, all of the cities, towns and villages in the County, UW-Extension and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC).

The eighteen local governments are:

- City of Burlington
- City of Racine
- Village of Caledonia
- Village of Elmwood Park
- Village of Mt. Pleasant
- Village of North Bay
- Village of Rochester*
- Village of Sturtevant
- Village of Union Grove
- Village of Waterford
- Village of Wind Point
- Town of Burlington
- Town of Dover
- Town of Norway
- Town of Raymond
- Town of Rochester*
- Town of Waterford
- Town of Yorkville

**The Town and Village of Rochester were consolidated as the Village of Rochester in December 2008.*

Statutory Requirements

The multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan provides a long-range guide for Racine County officials, staff and citizens to effectively address future development and natural resource protection through the year 2035, and it sets forth the County’s planning goals and objectives.

According to the Smart Growth Law, a comprehensive plan must address the following elements: issues and opportunities; housing; transportation; utilities and community facilities; agricultural, natural and cultural resources; economic development; intergovernmental cooperation; land use; and implementation.

The law includes “consistency” requirements: beginning on January 1, 2010, all zoning, subdivision and official mapping ordinances adopted by a County, City, Village or Town must be consistent with the comprehensive plan adopted by the government unit concerned.

The comprehensive plan must also address 14 state planning goals, set forth in Section 16.965(4)(b) of the *Wisconsin Statutes*. These goals include promoting the redevelopment of urban areas (e.g. brownfields); providing a range of transportation options; protecting natural areas, farmland and productive forests; encouraging cooperation between neighboring governments; providing affordable housing for all income levels; promoting the expansion or stabilization of local economies; and building community character.

More information about the Wisconsin Comprehensive Plan Law, planning elements and state planning goals can be found online on the Department of Administration’s website: www.doa.state.wi.us/.

Public Participation Plan

The Smart Growth law requires any County or local government preparing a comprehensive plan to adopt written procedures that are designed to foster public participation in the planning process. The Racine County Multi-Jurisdictional Advisory Committee has developed a public participation plan to enhance public awareness of the planning effort and its importance; to educate citizens about the planning process; and to provide opportunities for citizens to help identify key community issues. Activities to secure public input include a countywide public opinion survey; open committee meetings; newsletters and fact sheets; informational meetings and open houses; an informational booth at the Racine County Fair; and other public meetings to encourage discussion of the comprehensive plan.

The full public participation plan is available on the Racine County Smart Growth website: [http://racine/uwex.edu/cnred/SmartGrowth.html](http://racine.uwex.edu/cnred/SmartGrowth.html)

Plan Review and Adoption

State Statutes require that a multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan be adopted by ordinance by the County Board. Comprehensive plans for cities, villages and towns must be adopted by ordinance of the common council, village board or town board, respectively.

The law also requires that all nine elements be adopted simultaneously, and that at least one public hearing be held prior to adopting a County or local comprehensive plan.

An adopted comprehensive plan, or amendment to a plan, must be sent to neighboring local governments, the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), the regional planning commission, and the local public library.

Multi-Jurisdictional Partnership

In March 2006, Racine County and its local government partners were awarded a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Administration to fund the preparation of a multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan. Prior to accepting the grant, Racine County and SEWRPC signed a three-party Cooperative Agreement with each of the 18 local government partners. The agreements are a formal commitment between the local government, Racine County and SEWRPC to participate in a coordinated comprehensive planning effort.

Committee Structure

The Racine County Multi-Jurisdictional Advisory Committee (MJAC) is comprised of representatives from each of the participating local governments and one member of the Racine County Board Economic Development and Land Use Planning Committee. MJAC members act as liaisons between their local plan commissions and the joint comprehensive planning process, and they oversee the development of the plan chapters.

Relationship to Existing Plans

Racine County and its local communities have a long history of planning for many of the elements included in the comprehensive plan. The multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning effort will build on the land use and master plans and official maps adopted by cities, villages and towns prior to the start of the planning process.

It is recognized that Racine County may choose to disagree with one or more proposals included in the city, village or town plans, and that cities, villages and towns may choose to disagree with County positions on certain matters. Issues between the County and local plans or between the plans of adjacent local governments that cannot be resolved as part of the planning process will be documented in the plan's intergovernmental cooperation element.

Comprehensive Planning Process

The three-year planning process consists of the following steps: 1. Start up tasks; 2. Inventory and analysis; 3. Preparation of population and employment projections; 4. Issue identification and goal formulation; 5. Preparation of plan elements; 6. Identification of plan implementation measures; 7. Plan review, refinement and adoption.