



RACINE COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FACT SHEET

Inventory of Existing Plans and Ordinances (Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan Preliminary Draft Chapter VI)

Regional Land Use Plan

The regional land use plan outlines fundamental concepts to guide the development of the seven-county Southeastern Wisconsin Region (i.e., Kenosha County, Milwaukee County, Ozaukee County, Racine County, Walworth County, Washington County and Waukesha County).

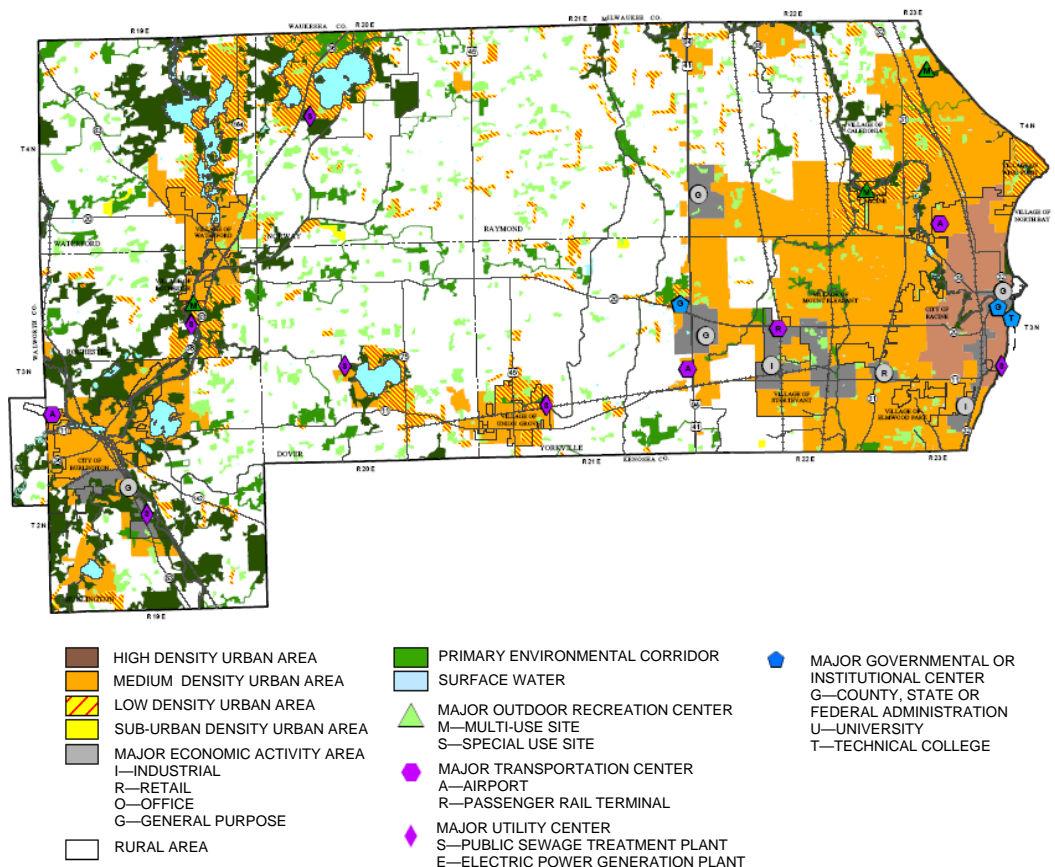
The most recent version of the plan was adopted by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) in 2006.

Over the next 30 years, the regional land use plan envisions:

- New urban land will be provided by infilling and renewal of existing urban areas and through the orderly outward expansion of existing urban areas.
- Residential development and redevelopment will occur in a variety of neighborhood types and in mixed used settings (living, working, schools and shopping areas in the same neighborhood)—with an emphasis on medium and high residential densities.
- Economic growth will be accommodated through the development and redevelopment of major economic activity centers, as well as community-level and neighborhood-level centers.
- The best remaining elements of the natural resource base and the most productive farmland will be preserved.

The regional land use plan was designed to accommodate projected growth in the Region, including an 18% increase in population, a 24% increase in households, and a 12% increase in employment.

2035 REGIONAL LAND USE PLAN AS IT PERTAINS TO RACINE COUNTY



Source: SEWRPC

Regional Transportation System Plan

The regional transportation system plan provides a vision for, and guide to, transportation system development in the Southeastern Wisconsin Region for the next 20 years, including plans for:

Public Transit

The plan envisions significant improvement and expansion of public transit in Southeastern Wisconsin, particularly in the more densely populated areas. In Racine, this includes:

- Expansion of fixed-route public transit service
- Increase in rapid transit bus route service between Racine and Milwaukee, ultimately upgrading to commuter rail service between Kenosha, Racine and Milwaukee

Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

The plan recommends:

- Facilities for bicycle travel be considered and implemented as the Region's surface arterial street system is resurfaced and reconstructed, including bicycle lanes, widened outside travel lanes, widened shoulders or separate bicycle paths
- A system of off-road bicycle paths to connect cities and villages with a population of 5,000 or more
- County and local governments prepare bicycle system plans for their jurisdictions to refine the regional plan
- Sidewalks in urban portions of the Region

Transportation Systems Management

The plan outlines measures to manage existing transportation facilities to their maximum capacity and efficiency, including installing ramp-meters at all freeway on-ramps; providing variable message signs on the entire freeway system and on surface arterials leading to the most heavily used on-ramps; expanding the closed-circuit television network to the entire regional freeway system; enhancing reference markers on the entire regional freeway system; and the evaluation and expansion of crash investigation sites to better serve the regional freeway system.

Travel Demand Management

This includes measures to reduce travel, or to shift travel to alternative times and routes, such as: development or expansion of carpool lanes; park-ride lots; transit information and marketing; transit pricing; and personal vehicle pricing.

Arterial Streets and Highways

Under the plan, in 2035, there would be about 441 miles of arterial streets and highways in Racine County.

- Approximately 389 miles are recommended to be resurfaced and reconstructed to same capacity
- Approximately 32 miles are recommended for widening
- Approximately 24 miles are proposed new arterial facilities

Regional Airport System Plan

This plan recommends a coordinated set of 11 public-use airport facilities and service improvements to serve the commercial, business, personal, and military aviation needs of the Region. Three airports in the Racine County planning area— Burlington Municipal, John H. Batten, and Sylvania Municipal — are included in the plan.

Regional Parks & Open Space Plan and Natural Areas Plan

The regional parks and open space plan was first adopted by SEWRPC in 1977, and consists of an open space preservation element and an outdoor recreation element. It provides recommendations for the preservation of primary environmental corridors, and for large parks, recreation corridors, and water access facilities. This plan has been refined and updated at the county-level, most recently in 2001.

The natural areas plan, adopted as an amendment to the park and open space plan in 1997, identifies the most significant remaining natural areas, critical species habitats, geological sites, and archaeological sites in the Region, and recommends measures for their protection and management.

Water Quality Management Plan

In 1979, SEWRPC adopted a regional water quality management plan to achieve clean and healthy surface waters, including the elements: land use, point source pollution abatement, nonpoint source pollution abatement, sludge management, and water quality monitoring. The point source abatement element has particular importance to land use planning, as it recommends major sewerage conveyance and treatment facilities and identifies planned sewer service areas.

Regional Water Supply Plan

SEWRPC is currently conducting a study to help develop a regional supply management program. The plan, to be completed in 2008, will include: water supply service areas and projected demand for water use; recommendations for water conservation efforts; evaluation of alternative sources of supply, recommended sources of supply, and recommendations for development of the basic infrastructure required to deliver that supply; identification of groundwater recharge areas to be protected; specification of new institutional structures necessary to carry out plan recommendations; identification of constraints to development levels due to water sustainability concerns.

Regional Telecommunications Plan

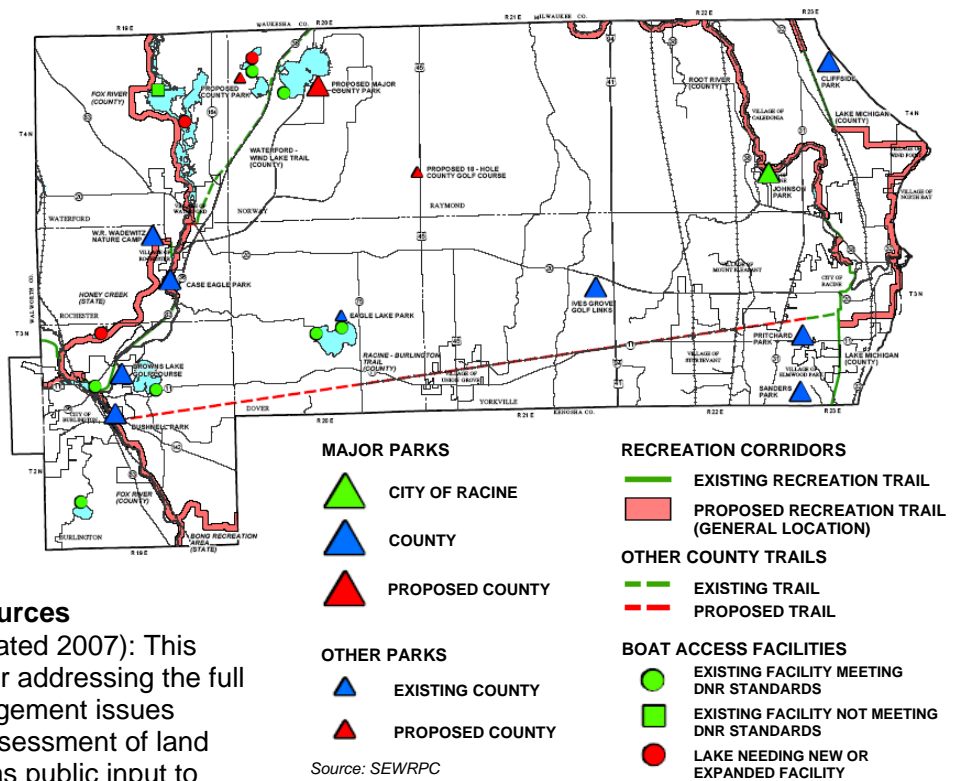
In 2003, SEWRPC initiated a regional telecommunications planning program to provide a comprehensive broadband telecommunications infrastructure, so that Southeastern Wisconsin has the capacity to compete in a global economy.

COUNTY AND LOCAL PLANS

County Plans

Racine County Park and Open Space Plan (adopted 1989, updated 2001): This plan has a design year of 2020, and consists of an open space preservation element and an outdoor recreation element to meet the needs of the current and future population of Racine County. The plan recommends: expansion of facilities at Browns Lake golf course, Cliffside Park, Sanders Park, and W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp; two new parks; 70 miles of recreation trails to be provided by Racine County and the Department of Natural Resources. In total, the plan recommends the County acquire about 3,500 acres of land for recreation and open space purposes.

OUTDOOR RECREATION ELEMENT OF THE RACINE COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN: 2020



Racine County Land and Water Resources

Management Plan (adopted 2000, updated 2007): This plan provides a comprehensive guide for addressing the full range of land and water resource management issues facing Racine County. It includes an assessment of land and water resource conditions, as well as public input to gauge citizen perspectives on conservation issues. The plan establishes ten goals, ranging from reducing sedimentation in agricultural drainageways, to protecting groundwater and surface water, to improving overall water quality and wildlife habitat. Implementation actions and activities for each goal are also identified.

Economic Development Plan 3.0 (adopted 2006): This plan provides strategies and action items specific to the future economic vitality of Racine County. The plan identifies eight challenges and action items to address each challenge. These include the creation of an entrepreneurial culture, fostering a spirit of cooperation between eastern and western Racine County, and properly linking land use with future business development.

Other Racine County plans summarized in Chapter VI include: **Farmland Preservation Plan** (adopted 1982) and **STH 36 North Corridor Design plan** (2005).

City, Village, and Town Plans

Of the 17 cities, villages, and towns* participating in the County's multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning effort, all but the Town of Norway have a plan that, at minimum, contains a map of proposed land use. Each of the cities and villages has a land use or master plan. 11 communities have adopted local park and open space plans.

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

COUNTY AND LOCAL ORDINANCES

A zoning ordinance is a public law that regulates and restricts the use of private property in the public interest. It divides a community into districts in order to regulate land use and structures; the height, size, shape, and placement of structures; and the density of housing.

Racine County Zoning and Shoreland Zoning Ordinances

With the exception of areas subject to extraterritorial zoning, the unincorporated areas of the County are under the jurisdiction of the Racine County Zoning Ordinance. It includes basic zoning districts and overlay districts with provisions for floodplains and shoreland-wetlands, and it is administered jointly by the County and the towns.

In 2000:

- Agricultural-related zoning districts were in place on about 103,000 acres (71% of the County zoning jurisdiction area)
- Conservancy districts were in place on about 21,700 acres (15% of the County zoning jurisdiction area)
- About 17,000 acres (12%) were in residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, and institutional districts
- 3,900 acres were comprised of surface water not included in a zoning district.

Local Zoning Ordinances

Each of the cities and villages has adopted and administers its own general zoning ordinance. Additionally, all cities and villages that are required to do so, have adopted and administer floodplain zoning and shoreland-wetland zoning as mandated by the *Wisconsin Statutes*.

In 2000:

- About 37,200 acres (51% of the incorporated land of Racine County) were in various residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, and institutional districts
- Agricultural-related zoning districts were in place on about 29,700 acres (41% of the local zoning jurisdiction area)
- Conservancy districts were in place on about 5,000 acres (7% of the local zoning jurisdiction area)
- 500 acres were comprised of surface water not included in a zoning district.

The City of Burlington and the Villages of Union Grove and Waterford have adopted extraterritorial zoning (ETZ) within adjacent town areas.

Subdivision Control Ordinances

The Racine County Subdivision Control Ordinance applies throughout the unincorporated area of the County. Additionally, all towns, villages, and cities have adopted and administer their own subdivision ordinances. Cities and villages also have extraterritorial plat approval authority over subdivisions within portions of towns located in their extraterritorial authority jurisdiction.

Official Mapping Ordinances

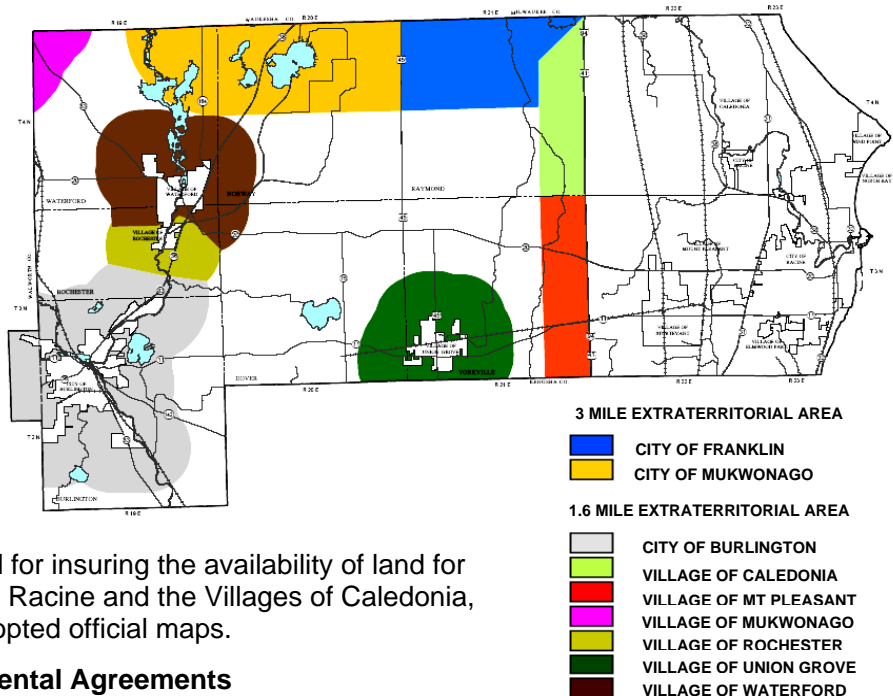
State statutes allow cities, villages, and towns to establish official maps to precisely identify right-of-way lines and boundaries of streets, highways, waterways, and parkways, and the location and scope of railroad rights-of-way, public transit facilities, parks and playgrounds. Official maps are intended to be used to implement master and comprehensive plans and for insuring the availability of land for the above features. The Cities of Burlington and Racine and the Villages of Caledonia, Rochester, Union Gove, and Waterford have adopted official maps.

Boundary Agreements & Other Intergovernmental Agreements

Section 66.0307 of the *Statutes* permits cities, towns and villages to cooperatively determine common boundaries and other terms related to shared municipal services. Boundary agreements in Racine County include: City of Burlington and Town of Burlington (September 2001), and Village of Sturtevant and former Town of Mt. Pleasant (December 2003). Several communities have adopted resolutions to participate in the preparation of a cooperative boundary plan.

The 2002 Racine Area Intergovernmental Sanitary Sewer Service, Revenue Sharing, Cooperation and Settlement Agreement is an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Racine and neighboring communities under which the City received support for redevelopment and regional facilities (e.g. the zoo and fine arts museum) in return for supporting the incorporation of then Towns of Caledonia and Mt. Pleasant.

UNINCORPORATED AREAS IN THE RACINE COUNTY PLANNING AREA SUBJECT TO EXTRATERRITORIAL PLAT REVIEW AUTHORITY



Source: SEWRPC