



# RACINE COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SUMMARY SHEET

## Intergovernmental Cooperation Element (Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan Preliminary Draft Chapter XVI)

One of the State's required nine elements, the intergovernmental cooperation element must identify goals, objectives, policies, programs, and maps to encourage joint planning and decision making between Racine County and its local governments—along with school districts, drainage districts, and adjacent County and local governments—for the siting and building of public facilities and for sharing public services.

Building cooperation between neighboring and overlapping units of government is one of the key goals of Wisconsin's comprehensive planning law, and is an important aspect of the Racine County multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan. This planning process was undertaken as a cooperative project that engaged every city, village, and town in the County as a full partner.

### SOME BENEFITS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Some benefits of intergovernmental cooperation include:

- **Cost savings:** Cooperation between local communities can save money by increasing efficiency and avoiding unnecessary duplication. It may also enable some communities to provide services and facilities that would otherwise be too costly. Some examples of cost saving projects include: shared library services, police and fire protection, recycling, and shared village and town halls.
- **Builds understanding and trust:** Increased communication and collaborative efforts between communities can lead to more awareness and a better understanding of one another's needs and priorities. Over time, these experiences, if positive, can build trust and good working relationships between communities.
- **Promotes early identification of issues:** Cooperation allows communities to identify and resolve potential conflicts at an early stage, before the issues become conflicts or crises.
- **Reduces litigation:** Communities that work together may be able to resolve issues before they become mired in litigation; avoidance of legal proceedings would also save communities money.
- **Builds consistency:** Cooperation can result in consistency of the land use and development goals, objectives, plans, policies, and actions of neighboring communities and other jurisdictions.
- **Addresses Regional Issues:** By communicating and coordinating their actions, and working with regional and State agencies, County and local governments have the capacity to address and resolve issues that are regional in nature. Examples include the construction and maintenance of highways and the provision of transit service.



MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS IN RACINE COUNTY

This element provides information on existing relationships between various government agencies—that is, Racine County and its communities, school districts, adjacent counties, the Region, the State, and other government units. Some examples of intergovernmental cooperation include:

- *Racine County Planning & Development*: Racine County Planning & Development staff perform land use planning functions for the County, including short-range activities such as analyzing rezoning requests and conditional use permits, and long-range planning activities such as working with towns to development land use plan maps. The department is also responsible for shoreland, floodplain and shoreland-wetland zoning for all unincorporated areas in the County.
- *Racine County Public Works*: Racine County Public Works provides essential services to plan, design, construct, maintain, repair, manage and operate Racine County's buildings, facilities, public infrastructure, natural resources, and park and highway systems.
- *Racine County Sheriff's Department*: Racine County Sheriff's Department provides police protection throughout the County, and contracts with some communities to provide additional police protection. It also operates the County Communications Center, which provides police dispatch services not only for the Sheriff's Department but also for the police departments of the Villages of Waterford and Wind Point, and the Towns of Burlington, Norway, and Waterford.
- *Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC)*: SEWRPC provides regional planning services, such as the preparation of regional plans for land use, water supply, water quality, transportation, telecommunications, and housing, as well as assisting counties with planning efforts, such as multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning.

A few examples of numerous existing cooperative plans or agreements within Racine County include:

- Under a municipal revenue sharing agreement between the City of Racine and the Villages of Caledonia and Mt. Pleasant (both towns at the time of the agreement), the City of Racine receives shared revenue payments for use in renovating older residential areas, redeveloping brownfield sites, and supporting regional facilities like the City zoo, fine arts museum, and library. In return, the City of Racine agreed to: support the incorporation of both towns, refrain from annexations without consent from the towns, refrain from extraterritorial and plat review powers, and move ahead with sewerage system improvements to accommodate growth in the towns.
- Prior to the comprehensive planning effort, joint land use plans were prepared by the Village and Town of Rochester and by the Village of Union Grove and the Town of Yorkville. This represents a significant effort to maximize efficiencies with respect to land use and government services.
- Consolidation of the Village of Mt. Pleasant and Village of Sturtevant fire department into the South Shore Fire Department.

## POTENTIAL LAND USE CONFLICTS

Many intergovernmental land use conflicts—e.g., annexations, extraterritorial plat review—may be resolved through the development of cooperative or boundary agreements between cities and villages and adjacent towns. Boundary agreements offer the best means of resolving conflicts between local governments, particularly when disputes are based on conflicting recommendations for future land uses or residential densities within a city or village's extraterritorial area and/or sewer service area. For the comprehensive planning process, each jurisdiction in Racine County developed a land use plan map (these are provided in Appendix IX-2); when compiled, these maps show two areas where adjacent local land use plans conflict:

- City and Town of Burlington: An area in the Town that is identified as "Agriculture Estate" and "Residential Unsewered" on the Town land use map is identified as "Medium Density Residential" on the City map. Another area in the Town that is identified as "Agricultural Preservation" on the Town map is identified as "Industrial/Business Park" on the City map, and a small area north of an existing business park in the Town is identified as "Industrial" and "Primary Environmental Corridor" by the Town, but as "Commercial" by the City.
- Village and Town of Waterford: Two areas in the Town that are identified as "Suburban Residential," "Prime Agricultural Land," and "Other Agricultural, Rural Residential, and Open Land" on the Town land use plan map are identified as "Residential," "Mixed Use Commercial and Residential," and "Industrial" on the Village map.

## OVERALL ELEMENT GOALS

Goal XVI-1: Encourage intercommunity planning efforts to make effective use of resources and to resolve conflicts.

Goal XVI-2: Encourage public participation process that provides equity and fairness to landowners and other stakeholders, balanced with responsible land use.