



RACINE COUNTY TOMORROW

Racine County's Smart Growth Newsletter

Racine County has 100% participation in the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan—all cities, villages and towns are working cooperatively in the planning process:

- 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

Comprehensive Planning in Racine County

In 1999, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted a new comprehensive planning law, often referred to as the “Smart Growth” law. All counties and municipalities are required to adopt a comprehensive plan by January 1, 2010, or they may be subject to legal action on any land use-related action that is not backed by a valid plan.

At the foundation of comprehensive planning are the questions: What do you want your community to be, and how do you think it should function?

According to the Smart Growth Law, a comprehensive plan is required to address nine

planning elements (briefly outlined on page 2), as well as fourteen planning goals. However, the law does not specify how this must be done, so communities can address each element and goal in any way they deem appropriate.

The planning process encourages citizens and governments to work together towards a shared vision for the future. It can also support development that will meet local needs, build on each community’s economic strengths, promote public health, safety and welfare, and improve communities’ physical appearance and environmental quality.

In March 2006, Racine County received a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Administration to fund the preparation of a multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan for the County. Before accepting the grant, Racine County and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) signed a three-party Cooperative Agreement with each of the 18 participating local governments, signaling a formal commitment to the planning process.

Under the grant, Racine County and all local governments must prepare and adopt a multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan by May 31, 2009.

Public Participation

Recognizing that the people who live, work and play in a community should have input into how that community develops, the Wisconsin Smart Growth Law mandates that any governing body preparing a comprehensive plan must adopt written procedures to foster public participation throughout the planning process (Statute 66.1001 (4)(a)).

A public participation plan for the multi-jurisdictional effort was developed by Racine County and SEWRPC, with assistance from UW-Extension, and it was formally adopted by the Advisory Committee in September 2006 and by the County Board in November 2006.

The plan includes several techniques to secure

community input in the plan, including a countywide survey (see page 3), newsletters, fact sheets, press releases, a website, open committee meetings, open house meetings and community presentations.

The full participation plan is available on the Racine County website: www.racineco.com.

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Comprehensive Planning Elements

According to the Smart Growth Law, a comprehensive plan is intended to provide a vision for future land use that ensures public health and safety. Plans are required to address the following elements:



1. **Issues and Opportunities:** This element contains background information, including population, household and employment trends, demographic trends, age distribution, education levels and income levels. This element includes an overall vision of the community's future, as well as goals and objectives to reach that vision.
2. **Housing:** This element addresses how to provide an adequate housing supply to meet current and forecasted housing demand. This element assesses the age, structural value and occupancy characteristics of local housing stock.
3. **Transportation:** This element deals with future development of modes of transportation, including routes for highways, public transit, bicycles, pedestrians, railways, airports and water transportation.
4. **Utilities and Community Facilities:** This element guides the future development of utilities and facilities by assessing sanitary sewer service, storm water management, water supply, solid waste disposal, parks, power generation, police, fire and public schools.
5. **Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources:** This element promotes conservation and effective resource management. This element assesses natural resources, groundwater, wetland and wildlife habitat, along with prime agriculture land and historic and cultural resources.
6. **Economic Development:** This element addresses the stabilization or expansion of the economic base, as well as the retention or creation of quality employment opportunities. This element evaluates the local labor force, the local economic base and other issues related to economic development.
7. **Intergovernmental Cooperation:** This element supports joint planning and decision-making opportunities between various levels and units of government, especially in regards to building and sharing public facilities and services.
8. **Land Use:** This element identifies a community's vision of how lands should be developed and redeveloped. This element consists of a plan for the amount, intensity and density of future land uses in the local government unit, such as agricultural, residential, commercial and industrial.
9. **Implementation:** This element describes the steps necessary to carry out the plan, including proposed ordinance changes, and a schedule and procedure for updating and amending the plan.

Multi-Jurisdictional Advisory Committee (MJAC)

The Racine County Multi-Jurisdictional Advisory Committee (MJAC) oversees the activities necessary to develop and implement the County's comprehensive plan. Each of the 18 participating governments is represented on the MJAC, as well as representatives from the Racine County Economic Development & Land Use Committee. MJAC members

also act as liaisons—keeping their communities up-to-date on the plan's progress and returning with feedback for the committee.

A full list of MJAC members is available online on the Smart Growth section of the Racine County website: www.racineco.com.

The Racine County MJAC typically meets on the third

Thursday of every month, from 6:30—8:30 pm in the Ives Groves Complex Auditorium.

The public is welcome to attend MJAC meetings, but as meetings are subject to change, please contact Kristen Lie at 262-886-8467 or kristen.lie@ces.uwex.edu to confirm dates, times and locations.

Upcoming MJAC Meetings

June 21, 2007—6:30 PM

July 19, 2007—6:30 PM

at

Ives Grove Office Complex
14200 Washington Ave
Sturtevant, WI 53177

Countywide Comprehensive Planning Survey

This spring, you may be asked to participate in a countywide public opinion survey, encompassing all of the Smart Growth planning elements and goals. The survey will be mailed to a sample of Racine County households, and the results are likely to represent the views of the County overall.

It should take approximately fifteen minutes to complete the survey, and the information you provide will be used to help guide the MJAC in creating a comprehensive plan for the County.

The purpose of the survey is to gather honest opinions from citizens about how they think Racine County should continue to grow and develop in the future. Residents, business owners and other interested stakeholders who are not selected to be part of the random mail sample will have the opportunity to take the survey by picking up a survey at their municipal hall or taking the survey online through the County website: www.racineco.com. (The online option will be available from mid-May.)

The comprehensive planning survey is currently being developed by Racine County, SEWRPC and UW-Extension, with guidance from the Racine County MJAC. This will be the first countywide survey that Racine has conducted on planning and development issues. Both the survey and its implementation will be designed with a concerted effort to ensure that the viewpoints, hopes and concerns of all communities are taken into account.



Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Planning Progress

On July 13, 2006, Racine County hosted a kick-off meeting for the County's multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan. Participants learned background information about the Smart Growth law and the three-year planning process in Racine County. A planning workgroup was subsequently formed.

Since Summer 2006, the Racine County Multi-Jurisdictional Advisory Committee (MJAC) has been

meeting every month to work cooperatively on the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan with staff from the County, SEWRPC and Racine County UW-Extension.

Preliminary drafts of Chapters I ("Introduction and Background"), Chapter II ("Inventory of Population, Housing Stock and Economic Base") Chapter III ("Inventory of Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources") and Chapter IV ("Inventory of Existing Land Uses and Transportation Facilities and Services" have been put together by SEWRPC staff and reviewed by the MJAC. All chapters have received preliminary

approval.

More details about these chapters, including the draft chapters in their entirety, and agendas and minutes from MJAC meetings can be found on the Smart Growth section of the Racine County website: www.racineco.com. Summary information from the chapters will be provided in future newsletters.

The community survey—a key part of the public participation plan—is the next step in the planning process. The survey was finalized at the end of March 2007, and is expected to be distributed and returned through May 2007, with results to be tabulated and analyzed by summer 2007.



To keep informed about the comprehensive plan's progress, please visit the website, attend the MJAC meetings, or convey your e-mail address to Kristen Lie (262-886-8467, or email: kristen.lie@ces.uwex.edu) be added to the mailing list.



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Send us your e-mail address and
we can e-mail you the next
newsletter!
kristen.lie@ces.uwex.edu

www.racineco.com

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Racine County
Wisconsin
Since 1836

Welcome to Racine County's new website. The letters above our new logo design are our new County government directory. We have also added a new quick link section for easy access to the most popular areas of our Internet site. We hope that these changes will make your visit to online Racine County easier to use. We hope you will be back.

Jail Construction Report

Birth Certificate Application | Calendar | Contact Information | County Board Meetings | District Maps | Executive Message | Frequently Asked Questions | Go Racine

Job Postings | Medical Examiner's Office | Park Fees | Parks | Press Releases | Quality of Life Task Force | Real Estate Recording Fees | Ridgewood Nursing Care Facility

Smart Growth Planning | Tax Inquiry | Visitors Bureau | Vital Records | Web Feedback Form

Link to
Smart Growth
information