



# RACINE COUNTY TOMORROW

*Racine County's Smart Growth Newsletter*

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## Racine County Comprehensive Planning Team:

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## Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee Meetings

This year, the Racine County Multi-Jurisdictional Advisory Committee (MJAC) will work with the Planning & Development Department, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) and UW-Extension to develop goals, objectives, policies, and programs that will help guide development through the year 2035.

According to the State "Smart Growth" law, the comprehensive plan must address the following elements: land use; agricultural, natural and cultural resources; housing; transportation; utilities and community

facilities; and economic development. The plan must also include goals, policies, and programs for intergovernmental cooperation and plan implementation. It is expected that some elements will require a subcommittee to fully explore the issues and opportunities.

"I am proud to serve as the chairman of this committee that truly cares about the future of Racine County," said Mary Kacmarcik, a supervisor in the Town of Waterford. "The public's comments and participation have and continue to guide us through this planning process. We encourage

and invite community members to attend our meetings."

A tentative timeline of the plan elements is available online; however, meetings are subject to change, so if you are interested in a particular topic, please visit the new Smart Growth website to confirm the time, location, and agenda.

### **MJAC MEETINGS**

Meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of each month, from 6:30—8:30 pm in the Ives Grove Auditorium (14200 Washington Ave). Upcoming dates include:

**February 21, 2008**

**March 20, 2008**

**April 17, 2008**

### **SMART GROWTH WEBSITE:**

<http://racine.uwex.edu/cnred/SmartGrowth.html>

## Local Government Meetings

Since Fall 2007, SEWRPC has conducted meetings with 8 of the 18 participating local governments to begin the process of identifying local planning goals and objectives. One purpose of these meetings is to create the countywide land use plan map by having each local government review and update its current land use map. (Of the 18 communities, only the Town of Norway did not have a land use plan or map prior to the comprehensive planning process.)

A second purpose is that—because future demand for land, housing, transportation facilities and services, utilities, and other community facilities is directly tied to future population, household, and employment levels—each community is selecting its population, household and job projections for the year 2035.

The remaining meetings, and any necessary follow-up meetings, will be completed in the first half of 2008.

## Draft Chapter IV: Existing Land Uses and Transportation Services & Facilities

This element inventories two components of the built environment, and consists of two sections: land use and transportation.

### Land Use

In 2000, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) conducted its most recent regional land use inventory, categorizing areas devoted to various urban and nonurban uses.

In Racine County, agriculture was the largest land use, encompassing about 125,200 acres (or about 58% of all land in the County planning area). Natural areas, consisting of surface water, wetlands, and woodlands, covered 33,800 acres, or 15.5% of the County. Residential land was the largest urban land use, encompassing 23,450 acres—almost half of all urban land in the County.

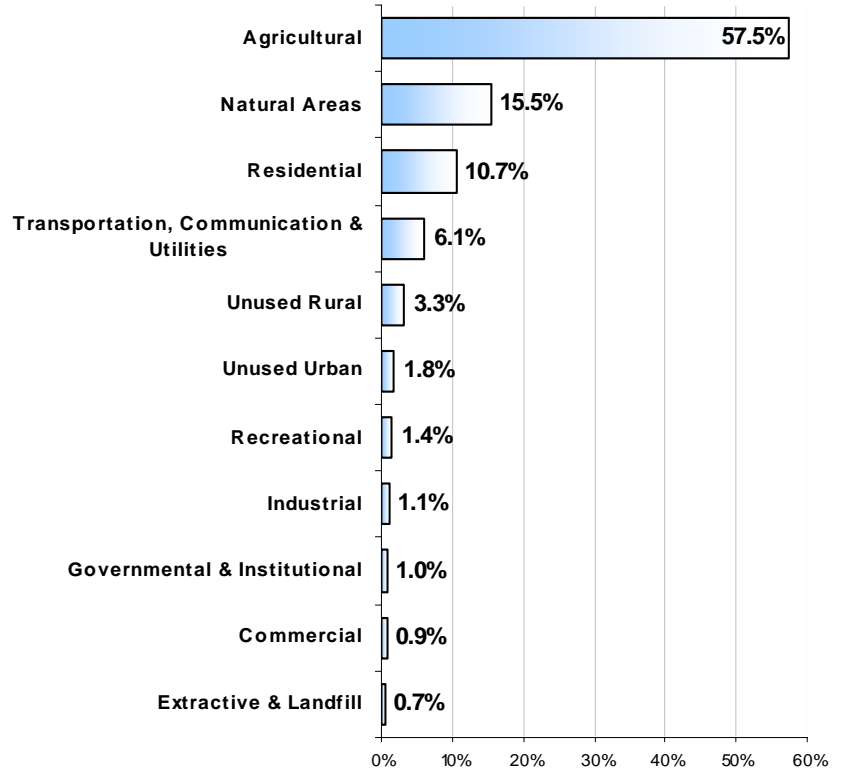
Between 1963 and 2000, the amount of land used for urban purposes increased about 20,800 acres, approximately 71%. In the same time period, 13 municipalities experienced an increase of over 75%, including five (the Villages of Sturtevant and Waterford, and the Towns of Norway, Rochester, and Yorkville) that experienced an increase of more than 100%.

### Transportation Facilities & Services

This section provides an inventory of Racine County’s existing transportation system, looking at four basic elements: arterial streets and highways, systems management, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and public transit services. Information about intercity and interregional services by rail, bus, airplane, and ferry is contained in this section, as is an inventory of park-ride facilities, rail freight facilities, airports, heliports, marinas, and harbors.

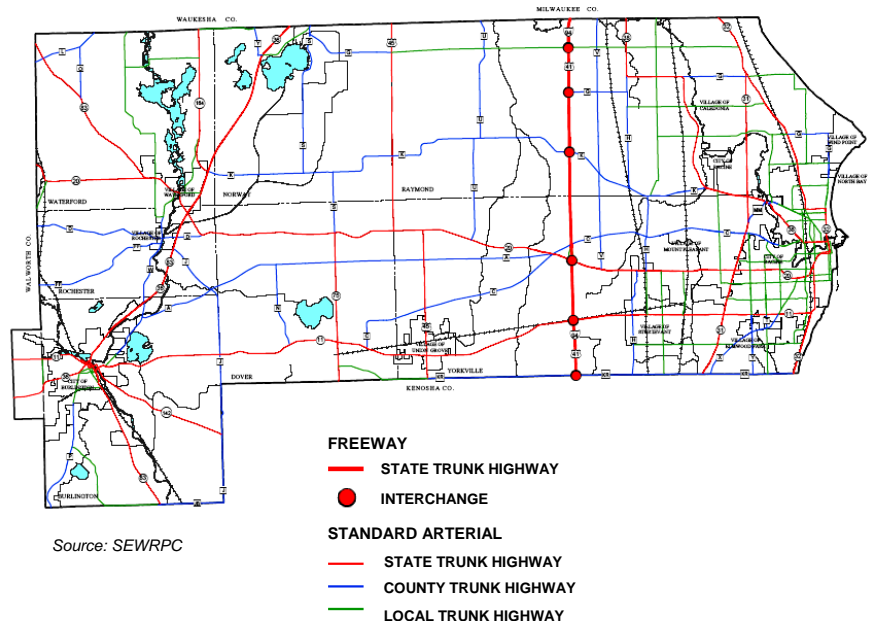
Local public transportation services in Racine County include the fixed-route bus service, provided by the city-owned Belle Urban System (BUS) in the City of Racine and surrounding area. In 2007, services included 7 regular fixed routes—5 within the City and 2 that extended beyond to the Villages of Caledonia, Mt. Pleasant, and Sturtevant, and the Town of Yorkville.

LAND USES IN RACINE COUNTY PLANNING AREA: 2000



Source: SEWRPC

ARTERIAL STREET & HIGHWAY SYSTEM IN THE RACINE COUNTY PLANNING AREA: 2005



Source: SEWRPC

## Draft Chapter V: Existing Utilities and Community Facilities

Utilities and community facilities are among the most important elements of the built environment, providing residents and businesses with electric power, natural gas, telecommunication, water, sewage disposal, and solid waste management, as well as educational, recreational, child care, medical, and other services.

### Utilities

#### Sanitary Sewer Service Areas

About 51.6 square miles (15% of the total County area) and an estimated 169,900 people (90% of the County population) were served by public sanitary sewers in 2000. In 2007, the planned sewer service areas encompassed 124.7 square miles, or 36% of the County. These areas are anticipated to be served by sanitary sewers by 2020. About 10% of County residents rely on private onsite wastewater treatment systems (POWTS).

#### Water Supply

In 2005, 12 municipal water supply systems provided water to about 147,000 persons (76% of the County population), covering a combined area of about 38 square miles. The remaining 24% of County residents were served by private domestic wells.

#### Solid Waste Management Facilities

In Racine County, there are 2 active, privately-owned landfills—one in the City of Racine, the other in the Village of Caledonia—and 5 recycling centers. All but 3 of the local communities contract with private haulers to pick up curbside solid waste and recyclables. There is currently no consolidated countywide household hazardous waste drop-off program.

### Community Facilities & Services

Information in this section includes an inventory of government and institutional buildings, police and emergency services, libraries, public and private schools, technical colleges, health care facilities, child care facilities, nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and cemetery facilities.

#### Police and Emergency Services

In 2006, there were 9 municipal police department stations and 2 Racine County Sheriff Department facilities in the County, with a total of 502 law enforcement officers. There are 14 fire departments (11 public and 3 private) located in 27 fire department facilities in the County. Of these, 11 provide both fire and emergency medical services. An additional 4 private ambulance companies also provide services.

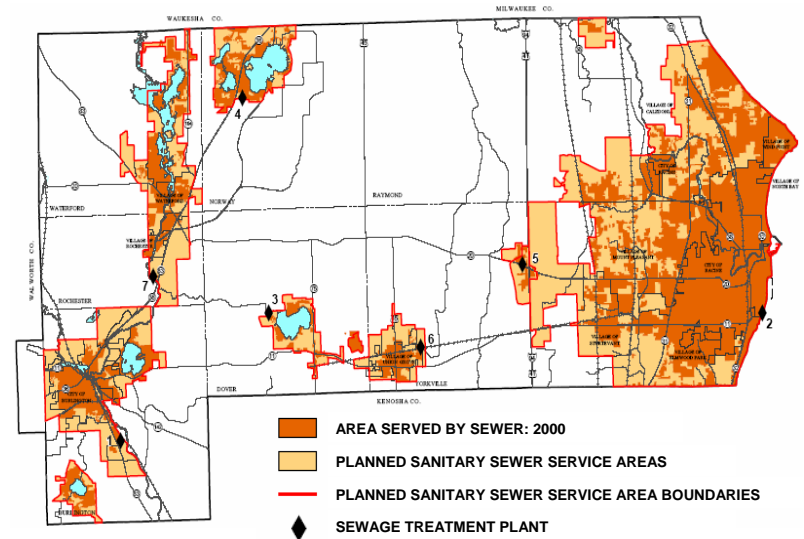
#### Schools

In 2006, there were 56 public schools in 14 school districts, and 31 private schools. In the 2005-2006 school year, there were about 31,000 school-aged children enrolled in public schools and 5,600 in private schools. An estimated 500 children in the Racine Unified School District were home-schooled that year.

#### Health Care Facilities

There are 3 hospitals in Racine County offering a full range of medical services, and 22 clinics which provide a variety of out-patient services.

#### PLANNED SANITARY SEWER SERVICE AREAS AND AREAS



Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC



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# RACINE COUNTY TOMORROW

Racine County's Smart Growth Newsletter

## Racine County Vision for 2035

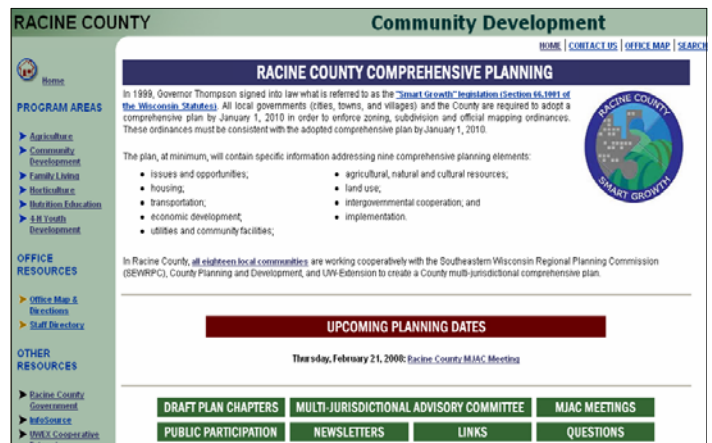
At the heart of the comprehensive plan is the question: "What do you want your community to be?" Consequently, the developing a vision statement for the 2035 Racine County multi-jurisdictional plan is an essential component of the planning process.

Using information from the public participation efforts (specifically, results from the countywide public opinion survey and comments gathered at public informational meetings), key findings of the County's various inventories (collected and mapped in Plan Chapters II-VI), and population, household, and employment projections, the following statement was developed:

*Racine County will work to preserve and enhance a vibrant, healthy, environmentally and economically sustainable community that enables opportunities for people of all ages, income levels, ethnicities, and cultural heritages.*

This statement is subject to revisions in the future. More information about the vision, as well as countywide issues, opportunities, and goals will be provided in the next newsletter.

For more information, please visit  
<http://racine.uwex.edu/cnred/SmartGrowth.html>



The screenshot shows a web page titled "RACINE COUNTY Community Development". The main heading is "RACINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING". Below this, there is a paragraph explaining that in 1999, Governor Thompson signed into law what is referred to as the "Smart Growth" legislation (Sections 66.1001 of the Wisconsin Statutes). It states that all local governments (cities, towns, and villages) and the County are required to adopt a comprehensive plan by January 1, 2010 in order to enforce zoning, subdivision and official mapping ordinances. These ordinances must be consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan by January 1, 2010.

The plan, at minimum, will contain specific information addressing nine comprehensive planning elements:

- issues and opportunities;
- housing;
- transportation;
- economic development;
- utilities and community facilities;
- agricultural, natural and cultural resources;
- land use;
- intergovernmental cooperation; and
- implementation.

Below this, it states: "In Racine County, all eighteen local communities are working cooperatively with the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), County Planning and Development, and UW-Extension to create a County multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan."

There is a section titled "UPCOMING PLANNING DATES" with a red background, containing the text: "This day, February 21, 2008: Racine County MJAC Meeting".

At the bottom, there are several green buttons for navigation: "DRAFT PLAN CHAPTERS", "PUBLIC PARTICIPATION", "MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE", "NEWSLETTERS", "MJAC MEETINGS", "LINKS", and "QUESTIONS".