

March 2007

# Compass Points

Kenosha County's Comprehensive Planning Newsletter

## Come to Kenosha's Smart Growth Kickoff Meeting!

On March 21, Kenosha County will host a countywide comprehensive planning kickoff meeting for all citizens who are interested in learning more about the Smart Growth legislation and being part of the process here in Kenosha.

The kickoff meeting will provide background information on the comprehensive planning process and legal requirements. A strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis workshop will be conducted to help identify public perceptions of the community, as well as the issues that the Kenosha County comprehensive plan will need to address.

For more information about the kickoff meeting, please contact Kristen Lie at (262) 857-1947 or email: [kristen.lie@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:kristen.lie@ces.uwex.edu).

### Smart Growth Kickoff Meeting

Wednesday, March 21, 2007  
Kenosha County Center  
(19600 76th Street, Bristol)  
6:30—8:00 PM

## Kenosha County Public Participation Plan

The public participation plan for the Kenosha County comprehensive plan is intended to actively involve citizens in the planning process.

At the foundation of the comprehensive plan is the question: "What do you want your community to be?" Recognizing that the people who live, work and play in a community should have input in how that community develops, Wisconsin's "Smart Growth" Law, Statute 66.1001 (4)(a), mandates:

*"The governing body of a local governmental unit shall adopt written procedures that are designed to foster public participation, including open discussion, communication programs, information services and public meetings for which advance notice has been provided, in every stage of the preparation of a comprehensive plan."*

In Kenosha, there will be numerous opportunities for residents, business owners and interest groups to contribute to the comprehensive plan, including (but not limited to) those outlined on page 3.

A copy of the complete Public Participation Plan can be downloaded from Kenosha County's Smart Growth website:

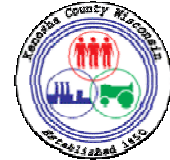
[www.co.kenosha.wi.us/plandev/land\\_dev/smart\\_growth.html](http://www.co.kenosha.wi.us/plandev/land_dev/smart_growth.html)

### In This Edition:

- ◆ Smart Growth Kickoff Meeting
- ◆ Public Participation Plan
- ◆ MJAC
- ◆ Comprehensive Plan Elements
- ◆ Participation Opportunities

### Your Comprehensive Planning Team:

- ◆ **John Roth**  
County Planning Manager  
Kenosha County Planning and Development



- ◆ **Nancy Anderson**  
Chief Community Assistance Planner  
SEWRPC



- ◆ **Annie Jones**  
Community Resource Development Educator  
Kenosha County UW-Extension
- ◆ **Kristen Lie**  
Community Planning Educator  
Kenosha County UW-Extension

**UW**  
**Extension**



## Multi-Jurisdictional Advisory Committee (MJAC)

The Kenosha County Multi-Jurisdictional Advisory Committee (MJAC) oversees the activities necessary to develop and implement the County's comprehensive plan. Each of the nine local governments participating in the plan is represented in the MJAC; there are also representatives from non-participating governments, school districts and other interested stakeholder groups—for example, the agricultural community. A complete list of MJAC members is available online at the Smart Growth website, and individual members may be featured in future newsletters.

Since September 2006, the MJAC has been meeting on a monthly basis to review preliminary draft plan chapters with staff from SEWRPC (Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission) and to discuss the ongoing planning effort. Members also act as conduits to their communities, reporting on the plan's progress at local meetings and returning with feedback.

The MJAC typically meets on the last Tuesday of every month, from 2 - 4 pm in the Kenosha County Center. The public is welcome to attend these meetings and to offer comments on the plan. However, meetings are subject to change, so please check the Smart Growth website or contact Kristen Lie (262-857-1946 or [kristen.lie@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:kristen.lie@ces.uwex.edu)) to confirm dates and times.

## Elements of the Comprehensive Plan

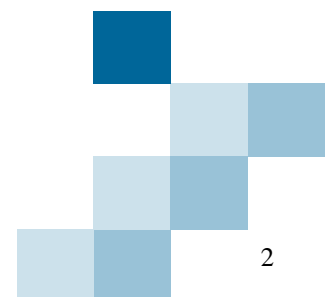
According to the Smart Growth Law, a comprehensive plan is intended to provide a vision for future land use that ensures public health and safety. Plans are required to address the following nine elements:

- 1. Issues and Opportunities:** This element contains background information, including population, household and employment forecasts, demographic trends, age distribution, education levels, income levels and employment.
- 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.



### Kenosha County Comprehensive Plan Participating Governments

- ◆ City of Kenosha
- ◆ Village of Pleasant Prairie
- ◆ Village of Silver Lake
- ◆ Town of Brighton
- ◆ Town of Bristol
- ◆ Town of Paris
- ◆ Town of Salem
- ◆ Town of Somers
- ◆ Town of Wheatland



## Upcoming Public Participation Opportunities

Do you want to have a say in the future of your community? Here are some of the opportunities to get involved with the comprehensive plan in the first half of 2007.

### **Kickoff Meeting: March 21, 2007 (6:30—8:00 pm, Kenosha County Center)**

Gain general background information about Wisconsin's Smart Growth law and Kenosha's multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan, and participate in an interactive strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) identification workshop. Results from the SWOT will help to guide future discussion of the planning elements.

### **Kenosha County Café: May 12, 2007 (9:30am—Noon, Kenosha County Center)**

The Kenosha County Café is a countywide visioning session designed to promote communication and collaboration among the participating municipalities. Invitations will be sent to a cross section of Kenosha County, ensuring that diverse viewpoints from throughout the community are heard in the discussion. Through the Café, participants will learn about the comprehensive planning legislation and process, talk about different perspectives related to growth, and generate ideas leading to a shared vision for the County.

### **Information Meetings: Summer 2007**

During the summer, an informational meeting will be held in each of the participating municipalities and at the Kenosha County Center to present the results of the inventories and analyses and to discuss land use-related issues with citizens from each community.

### **Multi-Jurisdictional Advisory Committee (MJAC) Meetings: Monthly**

Members of the public are encouraged to attend MJAC meetings to learn about the planning process and to provide comments about the comprehensive plan.

#### **Upcoming MJAC Meetings:**

April 24, 2007—2:00pm

May 29, 2007—2:00pm

June 26, 2007—2:00pm

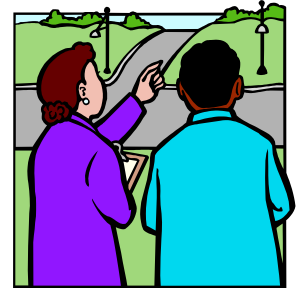
at

Kenosha County Center, 19600 75th Street, Bristol

## How can you keep informed about the planning process?

Frequent updates on the comprehensive plan will be available in various forms throughout the planning process, including:

- ♦ Website ([www.co.kenosha.wi.us/plandev/land\\_dev/smart\\_growth.html](http://www.co.kenosha.wi.us/plandev/land_dev/smart_growth.html))
- ♦ Newsletters
- ♦ Press releases and feature articles
- ♦ Special meetings and forums broadcast on cable television
- ♦ Presentations to community groups, business or professional organizations, non-profit organizations and local governments
- ♦ Educational tours and workshops for County and local officials



### Why should you get involved in the comprehensive plan?

The comprehensive plan is a map of your community's potential growth.

To reach the future you want to see in Kenosha, it is essential to share your ideas and opinions about what a good community looks like and how it should work.

For more information on public participation opportunities, please visit Kenosha County's Smart Growth website or contact Kristen Lie at 262-857-1946 or email: [kristen.lie@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:kristen.lie@ces.uwex.edu)

Send us your e-mail address  
and we can e-mail you the next  
newsletter!

[kristen.lie@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:kristen.lie@ces.uwex.edu)

**Next Issue:**

- ◆ Kenosha County Kickoff Meeting & SWOT Analysis Results
- ◆ Kenosha County Café
- ◆ Summary of Plan Chapters 1 and 2
- ◆ Online Interactive Mapping Tools

