

Compass Points

Kenosha County's Comprehensive Planning Newsletter

Comprehensive Planning Update

Kenosha County's multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning process is nearing completion, with only one chapter (the implementation element) remaining to be developed. The Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee anticipates reviewing the remaining portions of the plan in December.

According to the Wisconsin *Statutes*, beginning on January 1, 2010, any governmental unit that engages in certain land use actions (specifically, official mapping, subdivision regulation, zoning ordinances, and zoning of shorelands or wetlands) must ensure that these actions are consistent with the governmental unit's comprehensive plan. There is currently a bill in the Wisconsin Assembly (AB-243) to delay the implementation of this consistency requirement until 2012; however, communities that have not yet completed their comprehensive plans are considering what the legal ramifications may be if the extension is not granted.

In June 2009, Kenosha County received a six-month extension from the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) to continue preparing the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan. Although a draft plan for Kenosha County will be completed in December, formal adoption of the plan by most local governments and the County Board will not be considered until community members have had the opportunity to review and comment on the document through informational meetings, open houses, and public hearings.

While completing the public participation, potential revision, and adoption processes in early 2010, Kenosha County and several of its local governments plan to utilize the MJAC-approved draft plan as the comprehensive plan to guide land use decisions until a plan is formally adopted by local governing bodies and the County Board. According to Dr. Brian Ohm, UW-Extension State Specialist in land use law, environmental regulation, and growth management, this course of action is likely to adequately demonstrate County and local government efforts to comply with the State comprehensive planning law.

Following committee approval of the draft comprehensive plan, eight of the nine communities participating in the multi-jurisdictional planning process will conduct an open house and public hearing. These meetings are expected to take place in early 2010. The Village of Pleasant Prairie has prepared its own comprehensive plan, which is based on the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan. The Village has tentatively scheduled an open house for public review of the plan on December 1. A public hearing and consideration of the plan for adoption by the Village Plan Commission and Village Board may also occur in December. Please contact the Village for additional information.

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KENOSHA COUNTY SMART GROWTH WEBSITE:
http://www.co.kenosha.wi.us/plandev/smart_growth/



Summary of Chapter IX, “Land Use Element”

One of the nine State-required plan elements, the land use element is required to identify goals, objectives, policies, and programs to guide future development and redevelopment of public and private property. In addition, this chapter contains information about:

- ◆ Existing land use conditions and trends;
- ◆ Opportunities for redevelopment;
- ◆ Projections, in 5-year increments, of future residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial land uses;
- ◆ Potential land use conflicts;
- ◆ Descriptions of local land use plans for all the County’s communities; and
- ◆ The preliminary 2035 land use plan map for Kenosha County, which indicates where certain types of urban development should occur, as well as the areas that should be preserved for farmland and natural resources.

County Land Use Plan Map

The Kenosha County land use plan map is a compilation of the land use plan maps prepared by each local government. In 2007, about 28% of the County (approximately 49,000 acres) was in urban uses; 18% (about 32,000 acres) was encompassed in natural resource areas; 46% (about 82,000 acres) was in agricultural use, and 1% (about 1,350 acres) was farmed wetlands.

The 2035 land use plan map designates approximately 43% of the County (about 77,000 acres) for urban uses; 21% for environmentally significant areas (about 37,600 acres); and 21% for farmland protection (about 37,400 acres).

Land Use Projections

As required by State law, the element contains projections for land use needs in 5-year increments. Due to the uncertainty in predicting the rate of future development, for purposes of fulfilling this plan requirement, it was assumed that the same amount of growth would occur in each 5-year period.

The Kenosha County land use plan map includes an increase of about 238% (about 40,000 acres) for urban residential land uses between 2000 and 2035; the amount of land designated for commercial use would increase 395% (5,700 acres); and the amount of land designated for industrial use would increase 361% (5,200 acres).

Potential Land Use Conflicts

Conflicts are most common in town areas directly adjacent to cities and villages where no boundary agreement is in place. According to state law, a city or village planning area can include areas outside its corporate limits, including any unincorporated land outside its boundaries that, in the plan commission’s judgment, relates to the development of the city or village. Conflicts can arise in these areas because they may be planned for the town comprehensive plan and the city or village comprehensive plan with different land uses recommended in each plan.

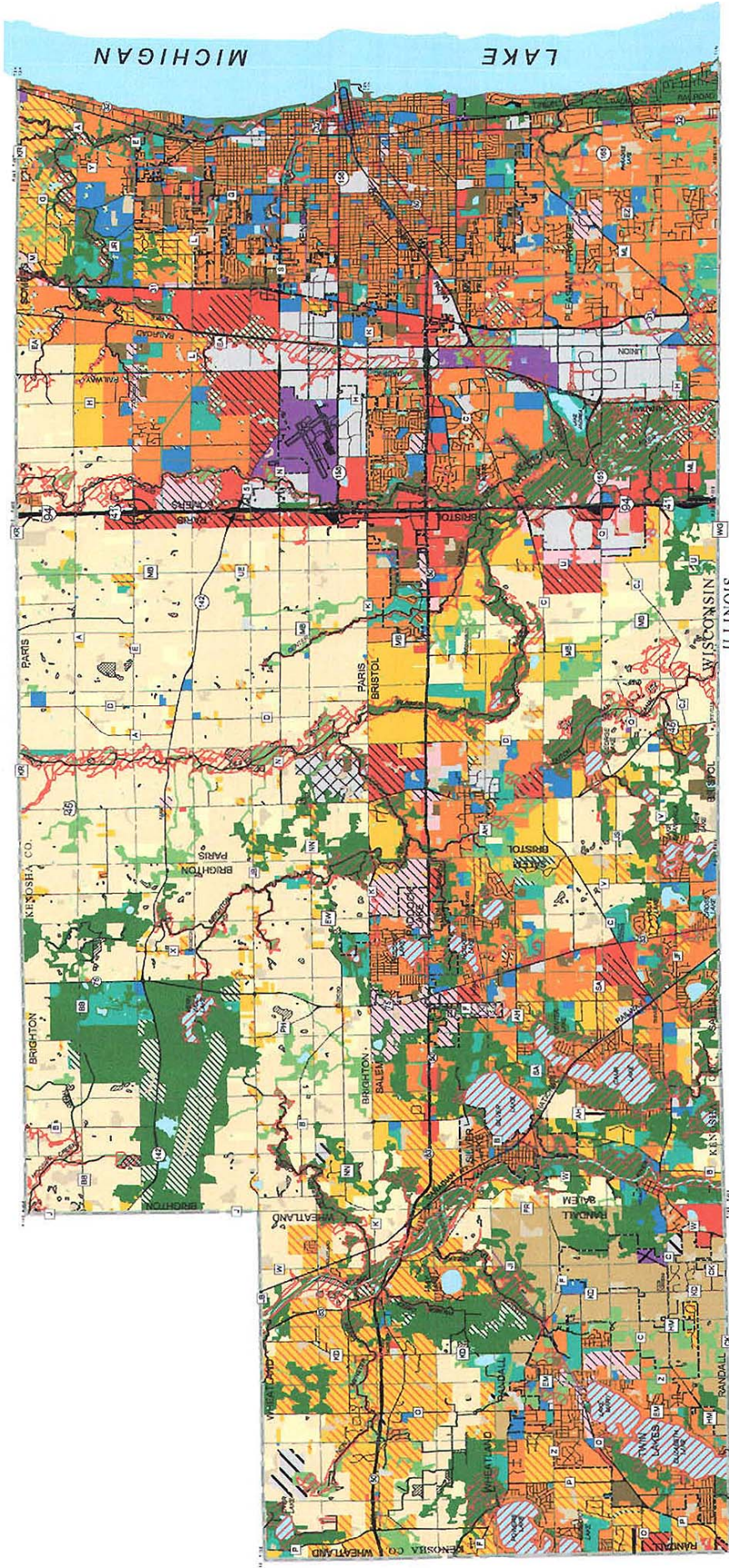
In Kenosha County, potential conflict areas between local land use plan maps have been identified between the Village of Genoa City and the Town of Randall, and between the Village of Silver Lake and the Town of Salem.

OVERALL LAND USE GOALS

- ◆ Encourage a balanced and sustainable spatial distribution among various types of land uses to meet the social, physical, and economic needs of County and community residents.
- ◆ Accommodate the projected growth in population, households, and employment in the County and each community through the comprehensive plan design year 2035.
- ◆ Encourage sustainable development of land for business and residential use.
- ◆ Guide the projected growth in a manner that protects Kenosha County’s agricultural and natural resource base and the character of local communities and neighborhoods, including those communities that wish to retain an agricultural economy and rural character.



PRELIMINARY LAND USE PLAN MAP FOR KENOSHA COUNTY: 2035



- FARMLAND PROTECTION
- GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AND OPEN LAND
- RURAL-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
- AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
- SUBURBAN-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
- MEDIUM-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
- HIGH-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
- MIXED USE
- COMMERCIAL
- OFFICE/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
- INDUSTRIAL
- BUSINESS/INDUSTRIAL PARK
- GOVERNMENTAL AND INSTITUTIONAL
- PARK AND RECREATIONAL
- STREET AND HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY
- OTHER TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, AND UTILITY
- EXTRACTIVE
- LANDFILL
- PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
- SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
- ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA
- OTHER CONSERVANCY LAND TO BE PRESERVED
- NONFARMED WETLAND OUTSIDE ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR, ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA, AND OTHER CONSERVANCY LAND TO BE PRESERVED
- SURFACE WATER
- FARMED WETLAND (OVERLAY)
- 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN (OVERLAY)



Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Local Governments, Kenosha County, and SEWRPC

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

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Census 2010

As required by the U.S. Constitution, on April 1, 2010, the United States will conduct its 10-year count all of its residents — this includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens, and non-citizens, living in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Island areas.

Data collected through the census is used by decision-makers on all levels of government, as well as businesses and community organizations. Planners look at census data to help determine where and when to develop new roads, houses, schools, day cares, health care facilities, senior centers, park and recreational facilities, and other public services.

The 2010 Census will differ from earlier censuses in that each household will receive only the "short form" questionnaire: 10 questions that can be answered in about 10 minutes. The dreaded "long form," which was previously distributed to one in six households in order to gain detailed socio-economic data, has been eliminated.

In Kenosha County, a Complete Count Committee has been established to work in partnership with the US Census Bureau to ensure that our communities are counted completely and accurately in 2010. This committee, which consists of representatives from each of the local communities and other stakeholder groups, will be working cooperatively over the next five months to increase awareness of the census, to encourage local participation, and to reduce any public concerns.



For more information on Census 2010 in Kenosha County,
please visit: <http://www.co.kenosha.wi.us/census2010/>

Yes, your participation in the 2010 Census does matter!

- ⇒ Over \$400 billion in federal funds are distributed every year throughout the country, based in part on population-driven formulas.
- ⇒ Census data are used to determine how many seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- ⇒ Local governments use the census data to draw their district boundary lines.

Yes, your participation is mandatory!

If you live in the United States of America, your full participation in the census is required by law (Title 13 of the US Code, Section 221). Though no one has been prosecuted for not returning their census form, keep in mind that if our population is undercounted, then our community will not receive all the federal resources to which we are entitled.

Yes, your information is strictly confidential!

It is illegal (Title 13 of the US Code, Section 9) for the Census Bureau or its employees to share your personal information with anyone, including other government agencies such as the IRS, Welfare, Immigration, or law enforcement until 72 years after it is collected for the decennial census. Bureau employees are subject to a \$250,000 fine and/or a 5-year prison term for disclosing information that could identify a respondent or household.