

**KENOSHA COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

**APPENDIX O**

**SUMMARY OF KENOSHA COUNTY CAFE**





**Kenosha County**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan**  
*Kenosha County Café*  
**May 12, 2007**



**Q1. What makes Kenosha a great community?**

- Diversity – cultural, recreational, geography
- Location – accessibility/proximity to other locations and amenities, including lakefront, Chicago and Milwaukee
- Good size compared to Chicago and Milwaukee – small community atmosphere w/Big City – arts, transportation, airports, entertainment
- City of Kenosha redevelopment – lakefront and Harbor Park
- Education
- Schools on local level
- Pro-family
- Civic/volunteerism, active people
- Neighborhoods
- Diverse activities
- Control growth
- Less traffic
- Aesthetic and care of community
- Green space – even in subdivisions, yards are planted
- Natural resources
- Fair society and legal system
- Peaceful and calm
- Good communication
- Bike trails
- Ever-changing
- Good lay-out (grid-wise)
- Services
- Variety of development (urban  $\leftrightarrow$  rural)

**Why is it important to you, personally, that Kenosha County is a great place to live, work, learn and play?**

- Proper planning to preserve and promote variety of development
- Future for youth



**Q2. What benefits have you experienced from the growth that has occurred in Kenosha County over the past several years?**

- Good momentum → increased variety in education, commercial & recreational opportunities
- Countywide library system
- Positive economic benefit from new residents
- Sewer capacity (e.g. Salem)
- Neighborhood level planning in several areas
- Expanded retail – less outflow of local dollars
- Expanded health and public safety resources
- New & renewed interest in Green Preservation
- Schools are good
- Job opportunities – diversity in jobs and business growth
- Cost born to those that want or need by development
- Lakefront revitalization
- Diversity
- Family atmosphere

**What negative impacts have you observed?**

- Taxes up due to fast growth
- Uncontrolled growth: impact on taxes & infrastructure
- Infrastructure → sewer/water issues, including sewer capacity
- Zoning → existing zoning plans vs. developers
- School taxes and growth concerns
- Jobs → mixed bag (types of industry?)
- New residents searching for employment
- Concerns about impact on environment → water and air quality concerns
- Over-consumption of natural resources (e.g., water)
- Growth requires economic balance and problems with bedroom communities; balanced development
- Housing concerns → less density; waiting lists (i.e., affordable housing concerns)
- Diminishing agricultural base – specifically dairy
- Loss of farmland → change of life; also change in farming methods impacted farmland, even more so than sprawl
- Disappearance of small farmers
- Need for economic balance → residential growth puts too much load on tax base; diversify land use for economic diversity
- Transportation: disconnect of City of Kenosha to freeway → bypass
- Concern with roads and access; Highway 50 the only east-west hwy in County; better East-West system to get into City of Kenosha and Lakefront

- Increase in traffic
- Inconvenient bus system
- Bars, lack of decent restaurants in some communities
- Litter

## HARVEST

- Communication helps things happen
- Redevelopment of brownfields and of downtown Kenosha – attracting business and diversity of people with job skills
- Housing – more affordable and higher quality than Illinois
- More apartment houses but less dense
- Impact on farmers – adjacent land uses are incompatible
- Cost of services
- Variety in options – shopping, services, libraries, recreational, fitness
- Festivals in downtown Kenosha bring people downtown
- Colleges draw teaching staff with broader skills and more students



### **Q3. What conditions and structures will help or hinder our working together to strengthen our Kenosha County?**

#### Help:

- Want local input for planning – home grown planning
- Developing trust between developers, government agencies and citizens
- Tax issues → taxing entities working together → provision of high quality services
- Water divide issues – Great Lakes Annex
- What we are doing now is a step in the right direction. What is best for the whole group. Keep it going → Momentum
- “Think futuristically”

#### Hinder:

- Too many layers of government → takes too long to get approval
- Time of putting together multi-jurisdictional agreements
- Extra Territorial Zoning creates a war
- Lack of inter-governmental cooperation – political egos (e.g. agencies)
- Self-interest
- Ordinances that discourage development
- Not following through on plans
- People not keeping their word
- Outsiders coming in and “taking over” communities

- Urban vs. rural issues → prejudice and disconnect
- Lack of trust between rural and urban – someone has to win or it's not a good deal
- Focus not on benefit, but on what's missing
- Lack of education and interest
- Large city takes blame and that cascades and trickles down
- Growth is a strain on public services – limited dollars; County has to cooperate with local municipalities
- Density of housing impact on schools → developers don't worry about it
- Pressure from property taxes: relationship to Lake County, IL

**As we move forward with comprehensive planning, what can we do to create the best possible future for Kenosha County?**

- Focus on the end result – keep eye on the prize
- Consult expertise
- Need strong leadership
- Build and grow communication
- More interest by community leaders
- More participation



**Q4. Imagine it is the year 2040 and we've done all that we can do to create the best possible future for Kenosha County.**

**What is Kenosha County like?**

- 2040 – won't be relying on gas-powered cars
- “Healthy” communities/people
- Stay as is now, but with improvements like bike trails
- Traffic movement is independent
- United services: police and fire utilities
- Schools of higher education are greater part of Kenosha, Pleasant Prairie and Somers
- Energy, lively people
- Healthy options: run/walks

**What is the one thing we should do together, now, to make that happen?**

- Economic development – energy – incentives for solar and wind power and energy-related products – tax
- Generate local businesses – provide incentives – must be done on a countywide basis
- Attract businesses = more jobs
- Creation of jobs/careers
- Bio-fuels – tap into market through growing corn
- KRM
- East-West Transit corridor
- Increase in public transit, trail systems

- Better planning/retro-fitting to reduce dependence on driving – walk and bike to places
- Ecologically balanced development; green space requirements with development
- Keep environmental protection local
- Water issues: we have low H<sub>2</sub>O rates compared to others; concerns over infrastructure costs
- Cluster zoning/green development/infill development/mixed use development
- Have investment grow in Kenosha
- Have individuals do more to help their children, becoming involved
- Community involvement

**What is the one thing that you will do to make that happen?**

- Help youth plan for future
- Walk around, find out about things
- Involvement, fairs
- Be a role model/creative
- Be a part of having government cooperate

**LEAVING HARVEST**

**What is your 2040 vision for Kenosha County?**

- Communities must work together to make Smart Growth happen.
- Diversity, Economic Energy Producer 1% in County of Kenosha
- A diverse community with economic diversity, mass transit and strong zoning
- A Green community with sustainability polices to protect the environment.
- Unified services
- Healthy people
- Start providing incentives and training to build industries related to the wind and solar energy
- Diversified economy while protecting the environment
- Keep growth under control. Let's not have another Chicago in 50 years.
- Natural areas/Quality of life
- I see Kenosha County as part of urban sprawl of Milwaukee & Chicago Metro. Public transportation will be more available.
- Together we should create a comprehensive plan for forest preserve and open spaces.
- Keno Cty is a community where people love to live, work, play, etc. and a leader in bio-fuel alternatives.
- Countywide transportation
- Employment opportunities
- Great schools
- Maintain/preserve natural resource bases, esp. environmental corridors
- Healthy
- Mass transit

**What is the one thing we should do to make that vision a reality?**

- Keep working together.
- Participation is the key
- Governmental leaders and boards need to communicate with each other. Leadership starts at the top.
- More diversified with proper infrastructure
- Stick to the plan
- Keep the lines of communication open – “don’t drop the ball”
- Stricter ordinances in planning depts.: more qualified employees

- Change East/West mentality
- Manage growth
- Low density land use!
- How do we make the desirable Kenosha County vision happen? Key is a strong partnership of all cities/villages/towns being knit together by strong, focused leadership anchored at the County level
- Make the community more attractive to commercial and the industrial business w/o forgetting to hold them accountable and remind them we like our community nice and clean. So that the youth have employment options
- Proper planning of roads and main arteries
- Mass transit to get cars and pollution off roads
- More involvement from County on and with the smaller communities west of 94

**What is the one thing you will do to make that vision a reality?**

- Get involved
- Participate
- Work well with others!
- We should get involved in community planning and speak out on the issues that are important to our community
- Be a role model
- Continue to attend events like today's to spread the word
- Be a part of intergovernmental cooperation
- Stay active in community government and planning
- I will continue to donate my time to the MJAC and will continue this "conversation" with other citizens