

Compass Points

Kenosha County's Comprehensive Planning Newsletter

Attend Your Local Community Informational Meeting

From September through November 2007, the Comprehensive Planning Team will be conducting informational meetings in every community participating in the multi-jurisdictional plan for Kenosha County. Residents and other interested stakeholders are encouraged to attend and to offer their input into the planning process.

These public meetings will provide general background information about the comprehensive planning legislation, as well as more detailed information for each community regarding land use, natural resources, intergovernmental cooperation, transportation, housing, economic development, and demographics.

COMMUNITY	DATE	LOCATION/TIME
CITY OF KENOSHA	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25	KENOSHA PUBLIC MUSEUM 6:00—7:00 PM
VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE	MONDAY, OCTOBER 22	RECPLEX LAKEVIEW ROOM 6:30—7:30 PM
VILLAGE OF SILVER LAKE	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7	SILVER LAKE VILLAGE HALL 6:00—7:00 PM
TOWN OF BRIGHTON	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3	BRIGHTON TOWN HALL 7:30—8:30 PM
TOWN OF BRISTOL	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23	BRISTOL TOWN HALL 7:00—8:00 PM
TOWN OF PARIS	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20	PARIS CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL 6:00—7:00 PM
TOWN OF SALEM	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17	SALEM TOWN HALL 6:00—7:00 PM
TOWN OF SOMERS	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17	SOMERS TOWN HALL 6:00—7:00 PM
TOWN OF WHEATLAND	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29	WHEATLAND TOWN HALL 7:00—8:00 PM

Inventory Chapters Receive Preliminary Approval

As of June 2007, Draft Chapters I, II, III, IV, V and VI of the Comprehensive Plan have been reviewed and received preliminary approval from the Multi-Jurisdictional Advisory Committee (MJAC). Chapters II through VI consist of inventories of existing and historical data.

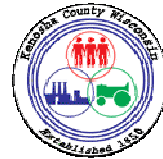
Chapter III is summarized in this newsletter. Fact sheets for all completed draft chapters, as well as complete copies of each chapter, can be found on the Kenosha County Smart Growth website:

In This Edition:

- ◆ Local Informational Meetings
- ◆ Summary of Draft Chapter III
- ◆ Kenosha County Café

Your Comprehensive Planning Team:

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Summary of Draft Chapter III: Inventory of Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources

Chapter III provides information about existing agricultural, natural and cultural resources in Kenosha County, as well as in cities, villages, and towns participating in the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning effort. Protecting these resources is fundamental to achieving strong, stable physical and economic development, and to preserving community identity.



Agricultural Resources

Based on SEWRPC’s land use inventory in 2000, about 94,715 acres (almost 53% of Kenosha County) were in agricultural use. Approximately 72% of County soils are classified as “National Prime Farmland”; 16% are “Farmlands of Statewide Significance.”

Grain crops were the predominant source of agricultural revenue in 2002, accounting for 32% of all agricultural revenue in Kenosha County. Of the 466 farms in the County in 2002, 161 were grain crop farms. Horticulture was the second-largest source of agricultural revenue, accounting for over 23% of countywide sales (compared with 3.5% statewide). Dairy farming was the third-largest source of revenue in Kenosha County (just under 22%); statewide, dairy farming accounts for 47% of agricultural revenues.

In 2002, the average net income from farm operations in Kenosha County was \$17,132 — lower than the State average of \$17,946. Farming was the principal occupation of the farm operator on 54% of the farms.

AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN KENOSHA COUNTY COMMUNITIES: 2000

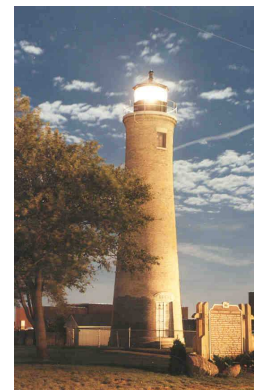
AREA	CULTIVATED LANDS (ACRES)	PASTURE LAND & UNUSED AGRICULTURAL LAND (ACRES)	ORCHARDS, NURSERIES & SPECIALITY CROPS (ACRES)	FARM BUILDINGS (ACRES)
Partnering Local Governments				
City of Kenosha	2,243	251	154	24
Village of Pleasant Prairie	6,505	1,366	38	98
Village of Silver Lake	66	17	—	2
Town of Brighton	12,182	888	17	254
Town of Bristol	11,162	1,954	230	256
Town of Paris	17,750	864	53	356
Town of Salem	7,294	1,339	130	134
Town of Somers	10,754	794	62	167
Town of Wheatland	7,837	1,315	89	158
Non-Partnering Local Governments				
Village of Genoa City	128	4	—	2
Village of Paddock Lake	630	64	—	7
Village of Twin Lakes	998	257	—	17
Town of Randall	4,654	869	183	99
KENOSHA COUNTY	82,203	9,983	955	1,574
% OF TOTAL LANDS	86.8	10.5	1.0	1.7

Source: SEWRPC

Natural Resources

Kenosha County contains numerous natural resource elements, including 13 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, 110 miles of perennial streams, 16 major inland lakes (lakes of 50 or more acres), 39 natural areas (tracts of land or water so little modified by human activity that they contain intact native plant and animal communities), 15 critical species habitat sites, and 11 aquatic sites.

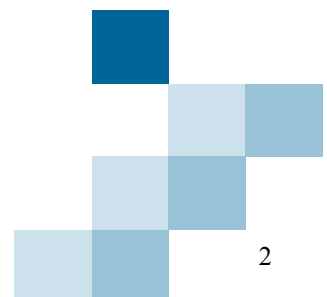
In 2000, about 34,400 acres of the County were encompassed in environmental corridors (areas with a concentration of natural resources and scenic, recreational and historic resources). 10% of the County (17,800 acres) was park and open space land in fee simple ownership. 5% of the County were woodlands, and approximately 16,068 acres were wetlands.



Cultural Resources

In 2006, there were 25 historic places and districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register of Historic Places, including 16 historic buildings/structures, 3 historic districts and 6 historic sites. The City of Kenosha has designated an additional 71 structures, 4 districts and 7 sites as landmarks.

As of 2006, there were 438 known prehistoric and historic archeological sites in Kenosha County.



Kenosha County Café

On May 12, 2007, approximately 35 people came together to develop a long-range vision for Kenosha County. Using the World Café process, residents from diverse communities, backgrounds, and experiences participated in small group discussions to answer the question: "What do we want Kenosha County to look like in 30 years?"

Conversations centered around the following questions:

What makes Kenosha a great community?

- ◆ Location (proximity to Chicago and Milwaukee, the lakefront)
- ◆ City redevelopment (Harbor Park)
- ◆ Educational system and opportunities
- ◆ Civically-minded, active people — volunteerism

What positive and negative impacts have you experienced or observed from the growth that has occurred in Kenosha County over the past several years?

Positive

- ◆ Economic benefit from new residents
- ◆ Expanded retail (less outflow of local dollars)
- ◆ Job opportunities
- ◆ More neighborhood planning
- ◆ Increased diversity

Negative

- ◆ Over-consumption of agricultural and natural resources
- ◆ Concerns about impact on environment (water and air quality)
- ◆ Increased traffic
- ◆ Inconvenient bus system

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

Help

- ◆ Building trust between developers, government agencies and residents
- ◆ Local input for planning (home-grown planning)
- ◆ Foster interest and participation
- ◆ Build and grow communication

Hinder

- ◆ Urban vs. Rural issues
- ◆ Lack of education and interest
- ◆ Difficulties with inter-governmental cooperation

Imagine it is the year 2040 and we've done all that we can do to create the best possible future. What is Kenosha County like?

- ◆ Healthy communities and people
- ◆ More healthy transportation options, like bike trails, paths to run and walk
- ◆ Schools of higher education are a greater part of Kenosha, Pleasant Prairie and Somers
- ◆ United services (e.g. fire and police protection)

A full report on the Kenosha County Café is available on the County's Smart Growth website: www.co.kenosha.wi.us/plandev/smart_growth/.

For more information on the World Café process, please visit:
www.theworldcafe.com/.



Send us your e-mail address
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newsletter!
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