

Compass Points

Kenosha County's Comprehensive Planning Newsletter

Agriculture and Natural Resources Discussions

In July 2008, local cable-access show *Community Chat* examined the current and future state of agriculture and natural resources in Kenosha County.

Host Annie Jones was joined by John Holloway (Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee member, farmer and Chairman of Town of Paris Plan Commission), Rose Skora (Kenosha/Racine UW-Extension Community Agriculture Educator), and Dan Treloar (Kenosha County Conservationist) to talk about the importance of farming to Kenosha County's economy, environment and culture, and how agriculture can be made sustainable for the County's future. Discussion continued to include an exploration of existing and anticipated development trends that may impact agriculture and natural resources, conservation tools and programs that are available to residents, and ways that the Kenosha County community can support local farmers.



Thanks to Kenosha County Media, this *Community Chat* is available on the Kenosha County Smart Growth website. This was the second of three forums designed to provide comprehensive planning information to a broad audience; the third will focus on land use.

On July 17, 2008, Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) spoke with a group of farmers, residents, and county staff, providing an update on the Working Lands Initiative and listening to suggestions about how DATCP could support local farmland. At Heritage Farm in the Town of Paris, discussion included the potential for the creation of a liaison group consisting of representatives from DATCP, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Commerce, as well as the establishment of pilot projects around Wisconsin to demonstrate farmland preservation tools, such as cluster development and Purchase of Development Rights programs.

More information about updates to the Working Lands Initiative proposal is available on DATCP's website: <http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/workinglands/>

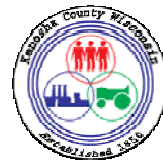
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Summary of Draft Chapter XI: Transportation Element

The transportation element is one of the nine elements required by Wisconsin's comprehensive planning law, and it must contain goals, objectives, policies and programs to guide future development of various modes of transportation in Kenosha County. Many of the County's goals and objectives are based on recommendations from the Southeastern Wisconsin regional transportation plan, which provides a guide for transportation in the seven-county region and is designed to accommodate anticipated travel demands through the year 2035.

Using data in Chapter IV, "Inventory of Existing Land Uses and Transportation Facilities and Services," and concerns identified by the community, the following recommendations were developed to address transportation issues:

- ◆ *Multi-Modal Transportation System:* This goal is to provide an integrated, efficient and economical transportation system that affords mobility, convenience and safety, and that meets the needs of all citizens, including transit-dependent residents, persons with disabilities and the elderly.
- ◆ *Transit:* If implemented, regional plan recommendations would result in a doubling of transit services Region-wide by the year 2035, including a 200% increase in rapid transit services, a 59% increase in local transit services, and the development of new express transit services.

In Kenosha County, some recommendations include: providing improved and expanded rapid transit connections from eastern Kenosha County to Milwaukee and other urban centers; increasing the number of park-and-ride lots served by public transit; and providing express bus service between downtown Kenosha and commercial and industrial development in eastern Kenosha County.

- ◆ *Services for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities:* As the number of County residents age 65 or older increases, so will the need for transportation options and connectivity between transportation services, since public transit services will be relied on for access to destinations of necessity, like medical appointments.

- ◆ *Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities:* The regional plan recommends that bicycle travel be accommodated on all arterial streets (except freeways), as those streets are constructed, reconstructed, and in some cases, resurfaced. This could be implemented through marked bike lanes, widened outside travel lanes, paved shoulders and separate bike paths.

- ◆ *Airport:* The Kenosha Regional Airport plays a vital role in fostering the County's economic development, as easy access to an airport allows businesses to move cargo and personnel efficiently.

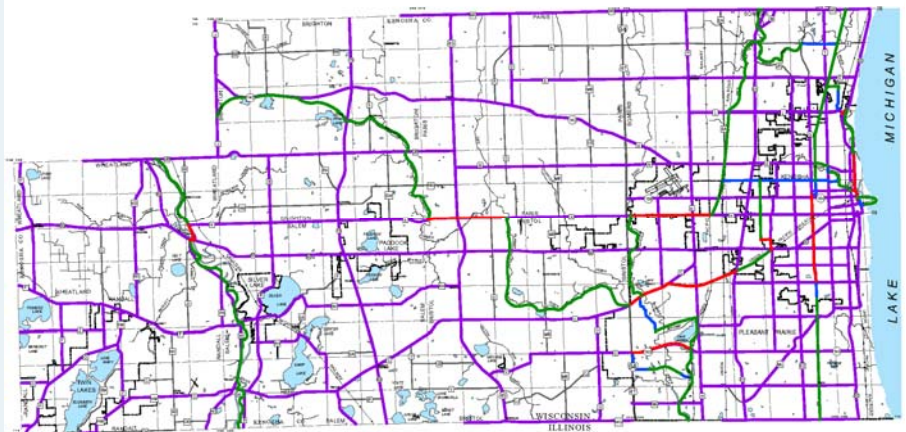
The transportation element also contains goals, objectives, policies and programs to maintain an efficient street and highway system for anticipated land use development in 2035, and to provide region-, nation- and world-wide transportation access to Kenosha County for both passengers and freight.

OVERALL ELEMENT GOAL

- ◆ Improve transportation infrastructure and land use design to support a range of transportation choices for all citizens.



BICYCLE WAY SYSTEM ELEMENT OF THE 2035 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLAN AS IT PERTAINS TO KENOSHA COUNTY



- OFF-STREET BICYCLE WAY IN UTILITY OR NATURAL RESOURCE CORRIDOR
- SURFACE ARTERIAL STREET CONNECTION TO OFF-STREET BICYCLE WAY SYSTEM

- NONARTERIAL STREET CONNECTION TO OFF-STREET BICYCLE WAY SYSTEM
- SURFACE ARTERIAL STREETS AND HIGHWAY WHERE BICYCLE ACCOMMODATION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHEN FACILITIES ARE

Source: SEWRPC

Summary of Draft Chapter XII: Utilities & Community Facilities Element

One of the nine required elements, the utilities and community facilities element is intended to guide development of public services and facilities to maintain the quality of life for current and future Kenosha County residents. Goals, objectives, policies and programs were developed to address a range of services, such as: sanitary sewer service, water supply, stormwater management, solid waste disposal, recycling facilities, parks, telecommunication facilities, health care facilities, child care facilities, police and fire protection, libraries, and several others.

Using information collected in Chapter V, "Inventory of Existing Utilities and Community Facilities," and projections of the demand for future utilities and community facilities, a few key components of this chapter include:

- ♦ **Water Supply:** Projections developed under the regional water supply plan anticipate that each of Kenosha County's six existing municipal utility water service areas will experience an increase in water demand by 2035. Between 2000 and 2035, it is expected that the population served by these systems will increase about 80% (from about 110,00 persons in 2000 to 200,000 in 2035), while the area served will increase 122% (from about 30 square miles in 2000 to 66 square miles in 2035). The regional plan also anticipates that municipal water supply systems may be developed in the Village of Silver Lake, Village of Twin Lakes, part of the Town of Salem, and the Powers-Benedict-Tombeau Lakes area by 2035.
- ♦ **Parks:** Parks are essential to an area's quality of life, providing residents with opportunities for recreational activities, social events, and physical exercise. The 2020 Kenosha County park and open space plan includes recommendations for the preservation of about 38,162 acres of open space land, including 2,368 acres recommended to be acquired by Kenosha County.

The park and open space plan also considers how to provide a well-distributed network of park sites for recreational activities that are closely related to natural resource amenities, such as picnicking, swimming, golfing, and trail activities. A couple recommendations include: developing canoe access and support facilities at Fox River Park, and developing Countywide recreational trails along Lake Michigan, the Pike River, and the Fox River.

- ♦ **Health Care Facilities:** The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) population projections anticipate changes in the age structure of the County population in the next twenty-five years. The number of County residents 65 years of age and older is expected to increase from 17,169 in 2000 to 34,147 residents in 2035. This increase is likely to correlate with an increased demand for health care services and facilities, as well as nursing homes, community based residential facilities (CBRF), adult family homes, residential care apartment complexes, and senior apartment complexes.

Recommendations for utilities and community facilities in Kenosha County were compiled and organized into the following categories: Environmental Quality, Environmental Health and Sanitation, Health Care, Safety and Emergency Management, General County Services, Other Service Providers, and Intergovernmental Cooperation.

Intergovernmental cooperation is one of the overarching goals of Wisconsin's comprehensive planning efforts. In this category, goals include cooperating with other government units, where appropriate, to provide cost-effective services; and to promote better understanding among all levels of government on the roles and responsibilities of each.

OVERALL ELEMENT GOALS

- ♦ **Maintain and enhance the existing level of public services in Kenosha County.**
- ♦ **Support and encourage sustainable energy options in Kenosha County.**
- ♦ **Encourage intergovernmental cooperation.**



PETRIFYING SPRINGS COUNTY PARK



GOT RECYCLING QUESTIONS?

Watch Your Waste!
The Kenosha/Racine Counties Recycling Guide 2008
is available online at:
<http://kenosha.uwex.edu/ag/>



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

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