



WALWORTH COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

FACT SHEET NO. 4

July 2009
Revised August 2009

The Walworth County Smart Growth Technical Advisory Committee has completed the preliminary draft of a multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan for Walworth County. That Committee consists of a representative from each of the towns that are participating with the County in the preparation of the comprehensive plan—namely, the Towns of Darien, Delavan, East Troy, Geneva, LaFayette, LaGrange, Richmond, Sharon, Spring Prairie, Sugar Creek, Troy, Walworth, and Whitewater. The Committee also includes five at-large representatives from the Walworth County Board of Supervisors. The resulting comprehensive plan will be able to be adopted by Walworth County and each participating town as its comprehensive plan, thereby satisfying State law, which becomes effective on January 1, 2010, requiring that county and local governments adopt a comprehensive plan as a basis for the administration of zoning and land subdivision regulations.

The State planning law requires that a comprehensive plan includes nine plan elements. The Advisory Committee has given preliminary approval to all nine required plan elements: issues and opportunities; land use; agricultural, natural, and cultural resources; housing; transportation; utilities and community facilities; economic development; intergovernmental cooperation; and plan implementation.

Each of the completed plan elements is documented in a chapter in the comprehensive plan report. The draft chapters may viewed online at the comprehensive plan website (www.sewrpc.org/smartgrowth/walworthcounty/) and are also available at public libraries in the County. These chapters include:

- Chapter VIII, “Issues and Opportunities and Goals and Objectives”
- Chapter IX, “Land Use Element”
- Chapter X, “Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element”
- Chapter XI, “Housing Element”
- Chapter XII, “Transportation Element”
- Chapter XIII, “Utilities and Community Facilities Element”
- Chapter XIV, “Economic Development Element”
- Chapter XV, “Intergovernmental Cooperation Element”
- Chapter XVI, “Implementation Element”

The plan element chapters generally follow a similar format, beginning with a presentation of background information relevant to each element, including a summary of related public input, and concluding with a recommended goal, objectives, policies, and programs for each element.

The goal and objectives for the respective plan elements are reproduced on the accompanying table. These goals and objectives were developed based upon a consideration of information on existing conditions and trends in the County; projections of population, households, and employment; goals and objectives that have been included in prior plans; and public input received during the planning process.

Each of the element chapters includes a set of recommended policies and programs that are intended to help achieve the goal and objectives. Some of the policies and programs are directed at Walworth County, others at towns, others at cities and villages, and others at all local units of government. The policies and programs also address certain private sector interests that have a potential role in implementing the comprehensive plan. The recommended policies and programs are included in the last part of each of the respective element chapters.

For the full text of the plan element chapters and any associated maps and tables please refer to the comprehensive plan website: www.sewrpc.org/smartgrowth/walworthcounty/.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Land Use Goal

- A sustainable land use pattern that meets the social, economic, physical, ecological, and quality-of-life needs of the County and all of its communities, maintaining a sense of place in urban and rural areas.

Land Use Objectives

- Land identified for future urban and rural uses that is properly related to anticipated growth in population and economic activity and that is consistent with the above goal.
- Spatial distribution of urban and rural development that is properly related to the natural and agricultural resource base.
- Spatial distribution of urban development land uses that is properly related to, and maximizes the use of, existing public utilities and facilities.
- Compact urban service areas, enabling the efficient provision of urban services and facilities and moderating the overall amount of open space developed for urban use.
- Conservation and revitalization, as appropriate, of existing urban areas.
- Maintenance of the rural character of areas of the County located beyond planned urban areas.
- Compatible relationship between urban and rural land uses.

Agricultural Resource Goal

- Preservation of the agricultural resource base of the County.

Agricultural Resource Objectives

- Preservation of farmland with the most productive soils, generally comprised of soils in Capability Classes I, II, and III, as identified by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- Preservation of large blocks of farmland, to promote more efficient farming and minimize conflicts between farming operations and urban-type uses.
- Maintenance of agriculture as an important component of the economic base of the County.
- Maintenance of the County's farming heritage, including the scenic values associated with rural farming areas.
- Maintenance of strong connections between agricultural and natural resource areas.
- Use of best management practices to minimize the impacts of farming activity on the environment.

Natural Resource Goal

- Preservation and conservation of the County's natural resources.

Natural Resource Objectives

- Preservation of the County's primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in natural, open use, including agricultural use where permitted by applicable regulation. These areas include most of the County's best remaining wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitat areas, prairies, and other natural features.
- Preservation of natural areas and critical species habitat sites, as identified in the regional natural areas and critical species habitat sites inventory.
- Preservation of the floodwater conveyance and storage capacity of 100-year recurrence interval floodlands.
- Preservation of wetlands.
- Maintenance and improvement of water quality.
- Protection of important groundwater recharge areas.
- Restoration of marginal farmland and other open land to a more natural condition, resulting in the re-establishment or enhancement of wetlands, woodlands, prairies, grasslands, and forest interiors.
- Appropriate consideration of sand and gravel resources and needs in decision-making on future land use.

Cultural Resource Goal

- Preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of the County.

Cultural Resource Objectives

- Preservation of significant historic sites and historic districts.
- Preservation of the County's agricultural and natural heritage.
- Preservation of traditional downtown areas and their central public squares.

Housing Goal

- The housing goal is to provide housing that meets the needs of the County's current and future population.

Housing Objectives

- Matching housing to changing household characteristics and needs.
- Provision of housing opportunities for those with special needs: low income households, persons with disabilities, the homeless, and the elderly.
- Provision of housing opportunities for workers close to their place of work.
- Restricting housing density to levels that are appropriate for available sanitary sewer service, water supply, and basic urban service and facilities.
- Maintaining and enhancing the character of existing urban and rural environments.

Transportation Goal

- The provision of an integrated, efficient, safe, and convenient transportation system meeting the anticipated travel demand generated by existing and future land uses.

Transportation Objectives

- The development and maintenance of an arterial street and highway system that is efficient, safe, and convenient.

- The development of local access and collector streets that are efficient, safe, and convenient, and properly related to the arterial street and highway system.
- Provision of safe opportunities for bicycling and walking as an alternative to vehicular travel and to promote a healthy lifestyle.
- Provision of transportation opportunities for the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Utilities and Community Facilities Goal

- The provision of high quality community facilities and services and utility services in the most cost-effective manner possible.

Utilities and Community Facilities Objectives

- Maintenance and expansion, where needed, of existing public facilities and services, commensurate with growth in population and economic activity.
- Increased cooperation in the provision of basic public services and facilities, resulting in cost reductions and/or increase in the quality of services provided: police, fire and emergency medical services, sewer and water supply, and other services and facilities.
- Full utilization of existing public facilities and service systems—through land use policies that direct most new intensive urban development to urban service areas.
- Strengthened capabilities for estimating the cost of providing public services for proposed developments.
- Accommodation, as appropriate, of community facilities typically provided through the private sector, such as child care facilities, nursing homes and other assisted living facilities, health care facilities, and cemeteries.
- Accommodation, as appropriate, of alternative energy sources.

Economic Development Goal

- Economic growth within the County that is consistent with its natural, infrastructure, financial, and human resources—and consistent with the other goals and objectives of this comprehensive plan.

Economic Development Objectives

- A range of employment opportunities for current and future County residents.
- A County work force with the knowledge and skills required for present and future businesses and industries.
- A balanced County tax base.
- Economic development that is consistent with the land use element and other elements of this comprehensive plan.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Goal

- Increased cooperation among the various County and local units and agencies of government.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Objectives

- Increased cooperation between towns and cities/villages in land use planning and decision-making.
- Increased cooperation between towns and the County in land use planning and decision-making.
- Increased sharing of, or joint provision of, local public facilities, staff, and services by neighboring communities.
- Increased consideration of the impacts of proposed developments on public school system facilities.

Plan Implementation Goal

- Maintenance of the comprehensive plan as a living document.

Plan Implementation Objectives

- Coordinated implementation of the various elements of the comprehensive plan.
- Integration of the comprehensive plan into the broad range of decision-making by the County and local units of government.
- Sufficient flexibility to accommodate needed amendments to the comprehensive plan without jeopardizing the basic structure or integrity of the plan.