

SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 288, 2nd edition

A MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE FOR WALWORTH COUNTY

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

Walworth County adopted a multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan under Section 66.1001 of the Wisconsin Statutes by ordinance on November 10, 2009.¹ The Wisconsin comprehensive planning law requires that comprehensive plans be updated no less than once every 10 years (Section 66.1001(2)(i) of the Wisconsin Statutes). To address the State comprehensive planning update requirement, a cooperative comprehensive planning process was undertaken by Walworth County, 13 of the 16 towns in the County, and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). The 13 towns participating with the County in the planning process are listed below:

Town of Darien	Town of Sharon
Town of Delavan	Town of Spring Prairie
Town of East Troy	Town of Sugar Creek
Town of Geneva	Town of Troy
Town of LaFayette	Town of Walworth
Town of LaGrange	Town of Whitewater
Town of Richmond	

¹ Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 288, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Walworth County: 2035, November 2009. The plan is available on the SEWRPC website:

<http://www.sewrpc.org/SEWRPCFiles/Publications/CAPR/capr-288-comprehensive-plan-for-walworth-co-2035.pdf>

Each of the aforementioned 13 Towns adopted the original multi-jurisdictional County plans in 2009 as their local comprehensive plan. The Towns of Bloomfield, Linn, and Lyons completed comprehensive plan updates independently. The land use elements of their comprehensive plans have been incorporated into the 2009 countywide land use plan map, and will be incorporated into the plan update.

NATURE OF THE PLAN UPDATE

The County Zoning Agency and each participating Town Plan Commission reviewed the comprehensive plan in 2016 and determined that the recommendations and land use plan map included in the plan are sound and continue to meet the County and participating Town's vision of maintaining a primarily rural, agricultural landscape. While there have been several updates to County and regional planning documents that may result in minor modifications to the current comprehensive plan,² the County has not significantly changed its policies regarding land use development, natural and agricultural resource protection, or zoning or land division since adopting the plan in 2009. The County Zoning Agency therefore recommended to the County Board and the town boards that a supplemental report be prepared to update population, household, and employment projections and other key inventory information included in the 2009 report; review and document new County and Regional plans that have been adopted that may impact the County; update the County land use plan map to reflect updated information; and update the plan implementation element. The County Zoning Agency also agreed that the County and participating Towns should prepare and adopt a public participation plan for amending/updating the comprehensive plan. The County Board and the town boards entered into an agreement with SEWRPC to prepare an update of the County comprehensive plan.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF PLAN UPDATE

The multi-jurisdictional planning effort was carried out under the guidance of the Walworth County Zoning Agency. The role of the County Zoning Agency is to review plan update materials and recommend the plan update for adoption by the County Board.

² Described in Chapter 4 "Updated County and Regional Plans".

As required by 66.1001(4) of the *Wisconsin Statutes*, the plan update documented in this report went through a public participation and adoption process which involved each participating town and the County. The statute requires that the governing body of any county or local government preparing a comprehensive plan adopt written procedures that are “designed to foster public participation, including open discussion, communication programs, information services, and public meetings for which advance notice has been provided”. To satisfy the public participation requirement, the County and local governments provided opportunities for the public to review materials describing the comprehensive plan update prior to their public hearings. Printed copies of these materials were made available at each town hall and the Walworth County Government Center. Some towns also opted to make electronic copies available on their website and/or held an informational meeting.

The law further requires that at least one public hearing, preceded by a Class I notice published 30 days before the hearing, must be held prior to adoption of the plan update. Following the public hearing, a recommendation in the form of a resolution from the plan commission is required prior to the concerned government body adopting the plan update by ordinance. Copies of the adopting resolutions and ordinances are included in Appendix A.

REPORT FORMAT

This report documents the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning process and the resulting comprehensive plan update. It consists of the following chapters:

Chapter 1: Introduction and Background

Chapter 2: Update of Population, Household, and Employment Data and Projections

Chapter 3: Update of Inventory Information

Chapter 4: Updated County and Regional Plans

Chapter 5: Updated Land Use Element

Chapter 6: Updated Implementation Element

Chapter 7: Summary

PRELIMINARY DRAFT