

Southeastern Wisconsin
**REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION**

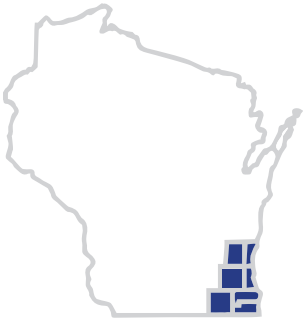


2018

ANNUAL REPORT

COMMISSIONERS AND COMMITTEES

» www.sewrpc.org/commissioners



Under State law, SEWRPC is governed by 21 Commissioners (three from each county):

- C** Appointed by county board or appointed by county executive and confirmed by county board
- G/C** Appointed by Governor from a county-supplied list of candidates
- G** Appointed directly by Governor

Commissioners are appointed to six-year terms. Term end dates are shown in parentheses.

Jeffrey D. Schleif
C (2020)
Daniel S. Schmidt
G/C (2022)
David L. Stroik
G (2024)

WASHINGTON

Jennifer K. Rothstein
C (2020)
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.
Secretary
G/C (2020)
Thomas H. Buestrin
G (2024)

OZAUKEE

James T. Dwyer
C (2024)
Michael A. Crowley, *Vice-Chairman*
G/C (2022)
Jose M. Delgado
G (2022)

WAUKESHA

Donna Brown-Martin
C (2020)
Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.
G/C (2022)
William R. Drew, *Treasurer*
G (2020)

MILWAUKEE

Nancy L. Russell
C (2024)
Vacant
G/C (2020)
Charles L. Colman, *Chairman*
G (2024)

WALWORTH

Mike Dawson
C (2020)
Peggy L. Shumway
G/C (2024)
James A. Ladwig
G (2022)

RACINE

Steve Bostrom
C (2022)
Aloysius Nelson
G/C (2022)
Robert W. Pitts
G (2024)

KENOSHA

Standing Committees

Executive

Oversees work efforts and is empowered to act for the Commission in all matters except adopting regional plan elements and the budget

Administrative

Oversees financial and personnel matters

Planning and Research

Reviews all technical work carried out by the Commission staff and its consultants

Intergovernmental and Public Relations

Serves as the principal arm in communicating with the constituent county boards

Executive Committee

Charles L. Colman, *Chairman*
Michael A. Crowley, *Vice Chairman*
Mike Dawson
William R. Drew
James T. Dwyer
Aloysius Nelson
Robert W. Pitts
Daniel S. Schmidt
David L. Stroik
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.
Thomas H. Buestrin, *Alternate*

Administrative Committee

James T. Dwyer, *Chairman*
Thomas H. Buestrin
Charles L. Colman
Michael A. Crowley
Mike Dawson
William R. Drew
Aloysius Nelson
Robert W. Pitts
Daniel S. Schmidt
David L. Stroik
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

Planning and Research Committee

Daniel S. Schmidt, *Chairman*
Jose M. Delgado, *Vice Chairman*
Steve Bostrom
Donna Brown-Martin
Charles L. Colman
Michael A. Crowley
William R. Drew
James A. Ladwig
Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.
Aloysius Nelson
Robert W. Pitts
Jennifer K. Rothstein
Nancy L. Russell
Jeffrey D. Schleif
Peggy Shumway
David L. Stroik

**Intergovernmental and
Public Relations Committee**

Michael A. Crowley, *Chairman*
Steve Bostrom
Mike Dawson
Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.
Jennifer K. Rothstein
Nancy L. Russell
Jeffrey D. Schleif

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Southeastern Wisconsin,

It is my pleasure to present to you the 2018 Annual Report for the Regional Planning Commission. 2018 was a busy year for the Commission and preparing and certifying the 2018 Annual Report for the Wisconsin State Legislature, the seven counties, and the local units of government in our Region, gives us the opportunity to review and reflect on our valuable partnerships and the year's accomplishments.

The Commission has taken a fresh approach to producing this 58th annual report, with a goal of presenting the year's activities in a way that is approachable, easy-to-follow, and emphasizes key work efforts. In conjunction with preparing the report, the Commission is also working to develop an interactive online tool that will allow users to access and explore the monitoring data documented in previous annual reports—and much more.

As a preview, highlights from the year include adopting a new \$1.89 billion transportation improvement program, allowing federal transportation dollars to continue to flow to the Region; amending VISION 2050 to reflect land use and transportation changes related to the Foxconn development in Racine County; creating a Workforce Mobility Team to assist employers in identifying ways to better connect workers to jobs; preparing several local and county comprehensive ("Smart Growth") plans; and initiating a major regional data collection effort for the Regional Chloride Study. In addition, work progressed on the Oak Creek Watershed Restoration Plan and eight other water quality plans; over 2,900 plant species were recorded in the course of extensive environmental field work; and staff conducted significant public outreach, made nearly 300 contacts with community organizations, and held a retreat for its Environmental Justice Task Force.

We hope that county and local public officials, as well as other interested residents, find this report useful and informative. To learn more about the Commission's work or become more involved in our efforts, please contact us. We look forward to continuing to serve the Region's county and local governments and State and Federal agencies to improve the quality of life of all residents.

Very truly yours,



Charles L. Colman
Chairman

ABOUT SEWRPC

» www.sewrpc.org/about

The **Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission** is the official areawide advisory planning agency for land use and infrastructure and the **metropolitan planning organization** (MPO) for the Region. **The Commission was established in 1960** under Section 66.0309 of the *Wisconsin Statutes* in response to petitions submitted by each of the seven Southeastern Wisconsin counties. It is the largest of the nine regional planning commissions in Wisconsin.

Regional planning is needed in large metro areas across the United States because development and infrastructure problems often transcend the political boundaries and fiscal capabilities of individual communities. A regional approach assists in providing efficient, cost-effective public works systems such as public transit, highways, sewerage and water supply, and parks. Regional planning is also a sound approach to address issues such as flooding, air and water pollution, changing land use, and preserving natural and agricultural resources.

The Commission performs three basic functions to address regional issues:

- **Providing basic planning and engineering data and analyses** to Federal, State, and local governments
- **Developing a framework of long-range areawide plans** for the physical development of the Region, which is mandated by State law
- **Coordinating day-to-day planning activities** of all the governments operating in the Region

The Commission is assisted greatly in its work by advisory committees, which include both elected and appointed public officials and interested residents with knowledge in the Commission work program areas. The committees perform a significant function in both formulating and executing those work programs. A listing of the current advisory committees can be found at: www.sewrpc.org/advisorycommittees.

7

Counties

147

Units of Government

29 cities • 63 villages • 55 towns

2,689

Square Miles

5% of the State

2.03M

People

35% of the State

1.22M

Jobs

35% of the State

\$173.5B

Equalized Valuation

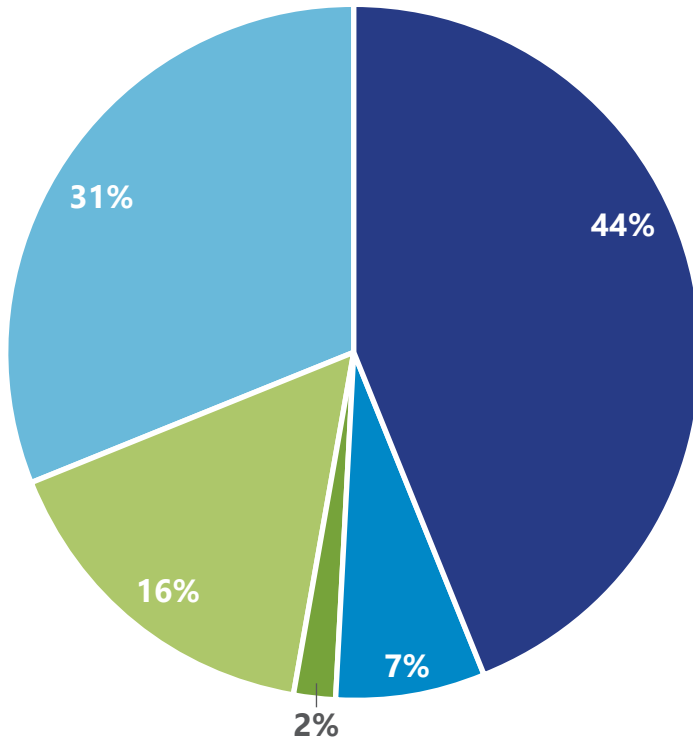
36% of the State

SEWRPC FINANCIALS

» www.sewrpc.org/funding

Basic financial support is provided by a regional tax levy apportioned to each county on the basis of equalized valuation, which is supplemented by Federal and State aids. The regional tax levy for the Commission has not increased since 2007. A financial audit report for 2018 can be viewed at www.sewrpc.org/funding.

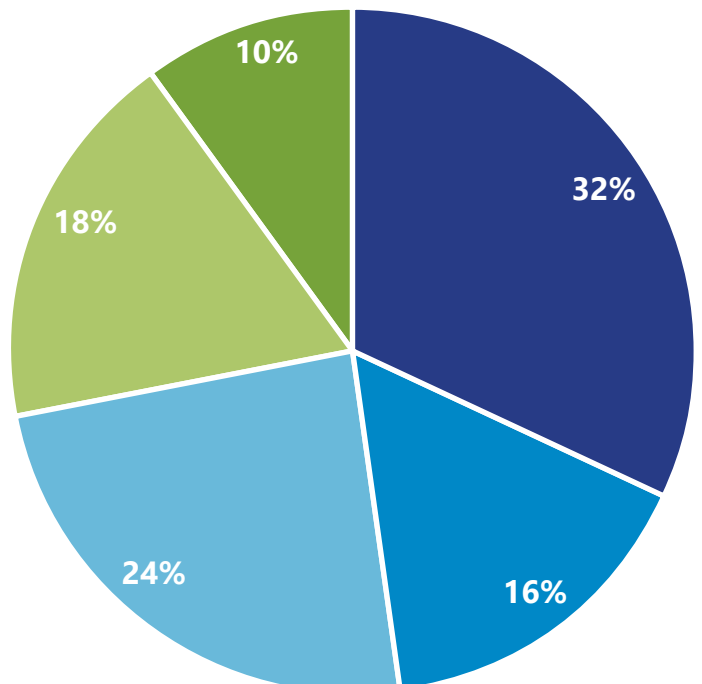
2018 Revenues \$7,565,765



- Federal Government**
\$3,393,081
 - Federal Highway Administration (43%)
 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1%)
 - Federal Transit Administration (<1%)
- State Government**
\$401,191
 - Wisconsin Department of Transportation (5%)
 - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (1%)
 - Wisconsin Department of Administration (<1%)
- Local Government Tax Levy**
\$2,370,245
- Service Agreements**
\$1,225,757
- Miscellaneous**
\$175,491

2018 Expenditures \$7,146,425

- Transportation Planning**
\$2,273,691
- Land Use Planning**
\$1,173,033
- Environmental Planning**
\$1,690,886
- Local Planning Assistance**
\$1,313,135
- Administration**
\$695,680



LAND USE HIGHLIGHTS

» www.sewrpc.org/landuse



In 2018, the Commission undertook a wide range of activities related to land use planning—planning intended to help guide land use development and open space preservation in the Region.

2015 Land Use Inventory Completed

The Commission's land use inventory identifies existing land uses throughout the Region using a classification system with over 60 land use categories. Updating the inventory is a major undertaking and is critical to virtually all of the Commission's planning work. The inventory, which was updated to 2010 for use in VISION 2050, serves as the primary basis for updating each new regional land use plan. Orthophotographs serve as the primary basis for identifying existing land use, augmented by available oblique aerial photographs, other online resources, and field surveys as needed. In 2018, staff completed the multi-year effort to update the land use inventory to 2015.

Updating the 2015 Environmental Corridor Inventory

In conjunction with updating the Commission's land use inventory, staff also updates the inventory of environmental corridors. Environmental corridors are elongated areas in the landscape that contain concentrations of natural resource features such as wetlands, woodlands, surface water, and wildlife habitat. Preserving environmental corridors is a key recommendation of VISION 2050. The Commission updates the environmental corridor inventory taking into account changes to wetlands, woodlands, and surface water identified when updating the land use inventory. In 2018, Commission staff continued work on updating the environmental corridor inventory from 2010 to 2015, which is scheduled to be completed in early 2019. Staff also continued work to prepare a digital 1980 environmental corridor file to aid in evaluating changes to environmental corridors over time, which is also scheduled to be completed in 2019.

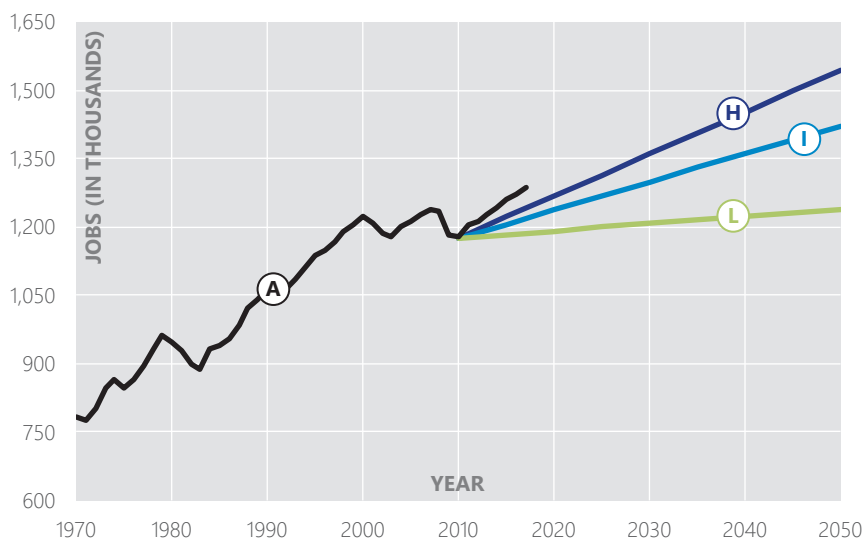
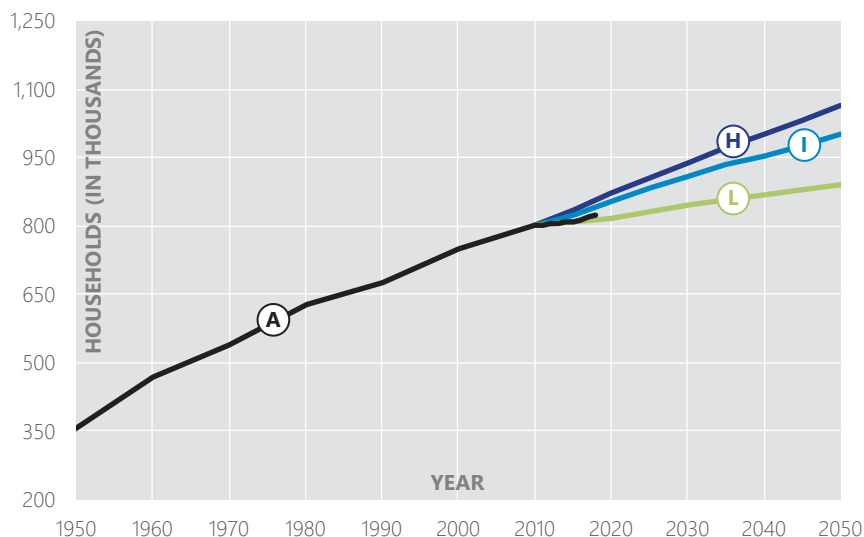
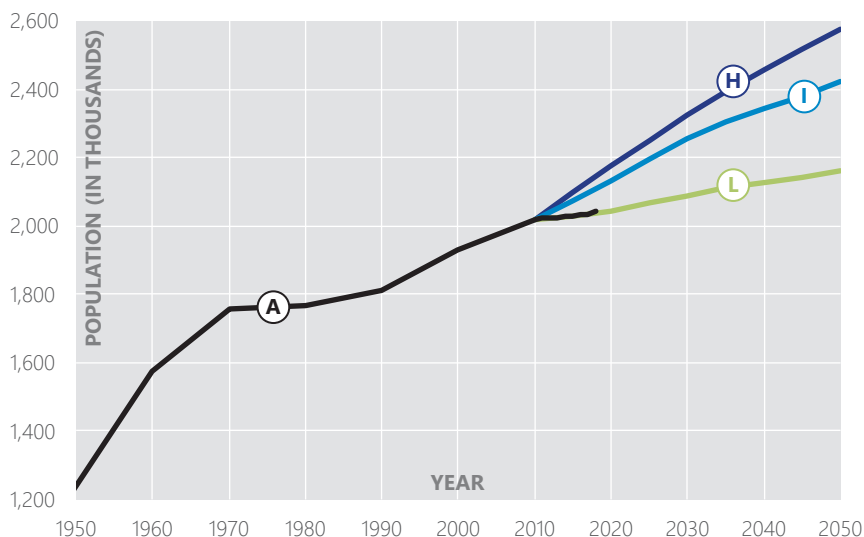
Park and Open Space Planning

The Commission adopted a regional park and open space plan in 1977. The plan recommends preserving environmentally significant open space lands and providing sites and facilities for major resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities throughout the Region. Over time, the plan has been amended on a county-by-county basis, with Commission staff assisting in most county plan updates and the Commission adopting them as amendments to the regional park and open space plan. Staff also prepares park and open space plans for communities by request. In 2018, staff continued work on an update of the Milwaukee County park and open space plan, completed work on park and open space plan updates for the City of Racine and the Village of Caledonia, and initiated work on the City of Brookfield park and open space plan.

Monitoring Growth and Change

The Commission gathers and analyzes available information on the Region's population and economic base every year, primarily relying on annual estimates of population, housing, and employment prepared by State and Federal agencies. This monitoring is done within the context of the Commission's forecasts of future growth and change that the Commission's regional plans are designed to accommodate.

Based on this year's review, the 2018 population and household estimates for the Region are slightly lower than the forecast levels while 2018 employment estimates are considerably higher than the forecast level. It should be noted that the intent of employment projections is to reflect the overall long-term future trend rather than fluctuations during periods of growth and decline in the economy.



(A) Actual Level (H) High Projection (I) Intermediate Projection (L) Low Projection

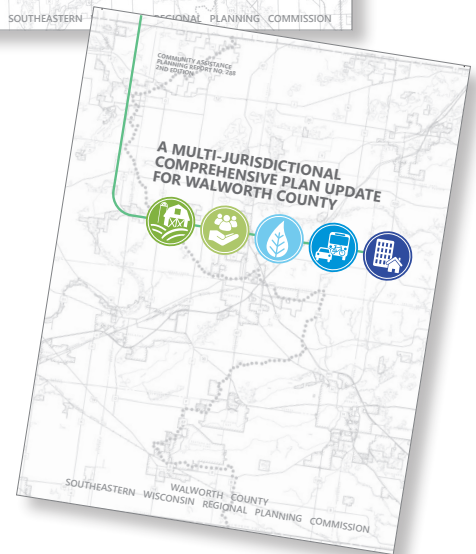
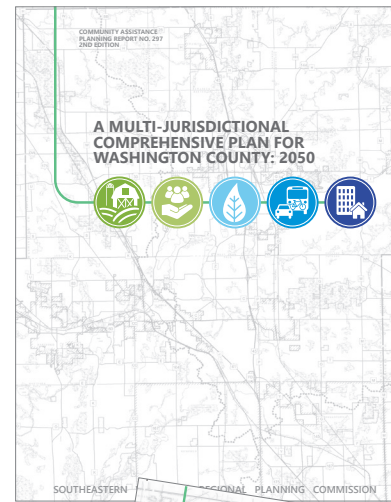
COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

» www.sewrpc.org/compplans

The Commission works closely with county and local governments in implementing its regional plans and also provides a wide variety of additional local assistance. In a major effort between 2004 and 2011, Commission staff assisted county and local units of government in preparing comprehensive plans in accordance with the State comprehensive planning law (Section 66.1001 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*). Assistance included preparing multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plans for Kenosha, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, and Washington Counties, with a total of 78 cities, villages, and towns participating in those efforts. Staff also provided data and technical assistance to Waukesha County and to cities and villages in Milwaukee County (Milwaukee County itself has not prepared a comprehensive plan because it does not administer a zoning, land division, or official mapping ordinance).

After 2011, work shifted to assistance with updating and implementing comprehensive plans. Major comprehensive planning activities in 2018 included:

- **Washington County Comprehensive Plan** – Staff completed work on the preliminary draft of the 10-year update to the County's multi-jurisdictional plan. In conjunction, staff has been assisting the 14 local governments participating in the multi-jurisdictional planning process with updating their local comprehensive plans upon request.
- **Walworth County Comprehensive Plan** – Staff continued work on the 10-year update to the County's multi-jurisdictional plan. The update will consist of a limited update of the original plan completed in 2009 for the 13 towns that participated in that multi-jurisdictional planning effort. It will focus on incorporating new plans adopted by the County since 2009 and updating population, employment, land use, and natural resource information. Work on the plan update is expected to be completed in 2019.



Model Planning Guides and Ordinances

» www.sewrpc.org/modelguidesordinances

In addition to comprehensive plans, the Commission prepares planning guides and model ordinances that contain examples of good planning practice and aid local and county governments in their planning efforts. Work efforts during 2018 included:

- **Zoning Guide** – Staff continued work on updating the Commission's zoning guide, with sections posted to the Commission website as they are completed. Priority is placed on sections impacted by changes in State law or a court decision or that help to implement VISION 2050 or the regional housing plan.
- **Model Land Division Ordinance** – Staff completed a comprehensive update to the Commission's model land division ordinance in May 2018, which is posted on the Commission website.

Planning Data and Analysis Services

One of the basic functions of the Commission is to provide planning data and analyses to county, local, and special units of government within the Region. During 2018, Commission staff responded to 38 requests from units of government for assistance with developing land use regulations and reviewing development proposals. Staff also responded to 111 data requests, providing a wide range of planning-related data, such as land use, natural resource, and demographic data.

VISION 2050

» www.vision2050sewis.org



VISION 2050 is the long-range land use and transportation plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, adopted by the Commission in 2016. It makes recommendations to local and State government to shape and guide land use development and transportation improvement, including public transit, arterial streets and highways, freight, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities, to the year 2050. VISION 2050 was guided by the Commission's Advisory Committees on Regional Land Use and Transportation Planning and involved a three-year visioning and scenario planning process. The plan's transportation component is essential to ensure that State, county, and local governments maintain eligibility to obtain highway and transit project funding from the USDOT.

In 2018, Commission staff shared the plan and its recommendations across the Region, worked with partners on implementing plan recommendations, and completed two amendments to the plan.

Amendment Related to Foxconn

VISION 2050 was adopted prior to any knowledge of the Foxconn development in Racine County. Given the size and significance of this development, it was necessary to amend the plan to incorporate land use changes accommodating additional residents and jobs directly or indirectly related to the Foxconn campus. It was also desirable to incorporate transportation improvements to serve the campus area. In December 2018, the Commission adopted an amendment incorporating these land use changes and transportation improvements following extensive public outreach (described on page 28) and Advisory Committee approval.

As part of the plan amendment, staff updated an analysis of the estimated costs and reasonably expected revenues for the recommended transportation system. This analysis is key to identifying the "fiscally constrained" portion of the recommended transportation system. Two primary conclusions of the updated analysis include:

- **Need for Additional Transit Funding** – Without additional funding for transit, transit services are expected to decline rather than significantly improve as recommended under VISION 2050
- **Insufficient Highway Funding** – Due to changes in State transportation funding in recent years, expected funding levels are insufficient to complete the recommended reconstruction of several portions of the arterial street and highway system

Staff also prepared updated equity analyses of the plan's land use and transportation components as amended. The transportation analysis indicates that the more than doubling of transit service under VISION 2050 would greatly improve transit access to jobs, healthcare, education, and other activities for the Region's minority populations, low-income populations, and people with disabilities. A disparate impact on these population groups is likely to occur unless additional Federal or State funding is made available for transit services or the State allows local governments and transit operators to generate such funds on their own.

National Performance Management Framework

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), enacted in 2012, created a national performance management framework that established uniform performance measures and target setting to, in part, create a consistent nationwide process for monitoring the effectiveness of Federal transportation investments. As part of implementing this framework, the Commission is required to annually establish short-term targets for certain federally defined performance measures and to incorporate the targets into VISION 2050. Related activities in 2018 included:

- **Safety Targets Adopted** – Staff set targets for five safety performance measures related to the number and rate of fatalities and serious injuries. The Commission adopted these targets and the process to establish the targets in June 2018, following public comment and approval by the Advisory Committees guiding VISION 2050.
- **Work Done on Additional Targets** – Staff completed a joint effort with WisDOT and The Wisconsin Traffic Operations and Safety Laboratory to establish statewide targets for National Highway System, freight reliability, and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) performance measures. Commission staff also assisted in the calculation and target-setting for two additional CMAQ measures related to congestion, for which WisDOT and the Commission are required to establish joint targets. In addition, staff coordinated with transit providers in the Region to assess transit asset conditions related to setting Transit Asset Management targets.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

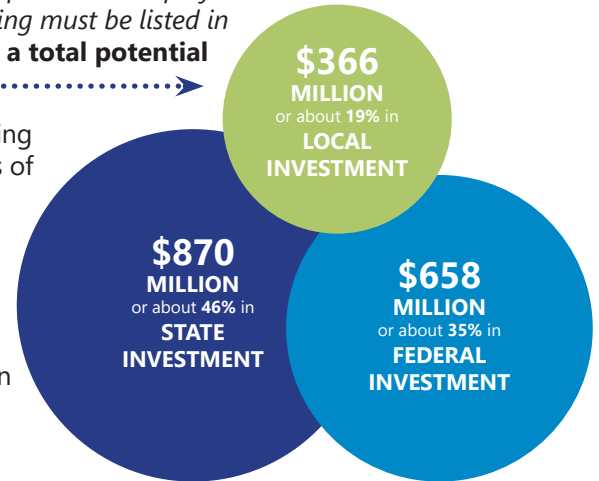
» www.sewrpc.org/tip

The Commission adopted the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in December 2018.

→ **What is the TIP?** The TIP is a listing of all arterial highway, public transit, and other transportation improvement projects proposed to be carried out over a four-year period by county and local governments and WisDOT within the Region. *Arterial highway and public transit projects proposed to be funded with FHWA (highway) and FTA (transit) funding must be listed in the TIP. The 2019-2022 TIP contains 321 projects, representing a total potential investment of \$1.89 billion.*

→ **How is it developed?** The Commission develops the TIP working with WisDOT staff, area transit operators, and county and local units of government within the Region. The Commission's TIP Committees (one for each of the Region's five urbanized areas) guide the TIP. These Committees are made up of local elected officials and staff, including all of the area transit operators.

→ **Plan consistency:** The TIP must be consistent with VISION 2050 and conform to State of Wisconsin air quality implementation and maintenance plans for specified national ambient air quality standards, given the presence of nonattainment and maintenance areas for ozone and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) in the Region.



\$667 MILLION

for projects that preserve the extent and level of service of the existing transit system



\$17 MILLION

for projects that improve the existing transit system and add new transit services



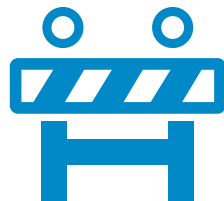
\$18 MILLION

for bicycle and pedestrian facility projects



\$716 MILLION

for projects that preserve the existing highway system



\$421 MILLION

for roadway reconstruction projects that preserve the highway system and add capacity to address congestion



\$55 MILLION

for other projects, including highway safety and environmental enhancement

Additional work activities in 2018 related to project selection and implementation activities drawn from the TIP:

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Milwaukee Urbanized Area (STP-M)

FHWA provides STP funding to preserve and improve Federal-aid highways, bridge and tunnel projects on any public road, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects. Commission staff worked with the Milwaukee TIP Committee in 2018 to prioritize 15 candidate projects for \$40 million in 2021-2022 STP-M funding. The Milwaukee TIP Committee approved the priority list of projects in October 2018.

\$40 million
in 2021-2022 funding

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

FHWA TAP funding supports transportation alternatives such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, and safe routes to school programs. Commission staff worked with the Milwaukee TIP Committee to prioritize 10 candidate projects for about \$7 million in TAP funding allocated to the Milwaukee Urbanized Area. The Milwaukee TIP Committee approved the prioritized projects in April 2018. In addition, a project in Kenosha County was approved for a portion of the statewide TAP funding.

\$7 million
in 2021-2022 funding

Section 5310 Program

FTA Section 5310 program funding aims to improve mobility for seniors and people with disabilities. Commission staff coordinated with Milwaukee County staff and WisDOT in 2018 on the Section 5310 application process, which moved from an annual to biennial cycle in 2018. The Milwaukee Urbanized Area's Section 5310 funding allocation available for 2019 and 2020 is about \$1.1 million each year. Commission staff managed the project selection process during fall of 2018, and notified successful applicants in December 2018.

\$2.2 million
in 2019-2020 funding

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)

FHWA provides CMAQ funding on a biennial basis for surface transportation projects and other efforts that provide congestion relief and improve air quality. A total of 31 projects requesting \$76 million applied for approximately \$20 million of available 2021-2022 CMAQ funds. Commission staff prepared emissions estimates for each of the candidate projects and submitted the estimates to WisDOT in May 2018 for use in the project selection process to be completed in early 2019.

Obligated Highway and Transit Projects

The Commission, in accordance with Federal requirements, prepares annual lists of highway and transit projects for which the FHWA and FTA have obligated funds, drawing on projects listed in the TIP. The 2017 lists were made available on the TIP webpage in early 2018, with the 2018 lists to be completed in early 2019.

TRANSPORTATION HIGHLIGHTS

» www.sewrpc.org/transportation

As the Region's federally recognized Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the Commission is responsible for conducting a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process as prescribed in Federal laws and regulations. The following are highlights of work done under the Commission's transportation planning program in 2018 (in addition to VISION 2050 and the TIP).

Public Transit Planning Assistance

The Commission regularly provides staff services and data to assist transit operators in transit-related planning activities, which includes developing five-year transit development plans. Highlights from 2018 include:

- Assisted the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation with a bus rapid transit study to improve connections between downtown Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center.
- Assisted Ozaukee County in completing a five-year plan for public transit services in the County.
- Completed work on a Group Transit Asset Management Plan for small transit operators in the Region and a Tier I Transit Asset Management Plan for Kenosha Area Transit.

Freight Planning

In 2018, Commission staff analyzed potential Critical Urban Freight Corridors (CUFCs) in the Milwaukee Urbanized Area in coordination with WisDOT. CUFCs are a component of the National Highway Freight Network and provide connections to freight generators in urbanized areas, such as intermodal freight facilities, logistics centers, and industrial areas. Based on analysis and local input, staff proposed 13 miles of roadways in October 2018 to WisDOT for inclusion in the 75 miles of CUFCs being defined for the State.

Jurisdictional Highway Plans

Jurisdictional highway system plans recommend which level of government—State, county, or local—should be responsible for each of the various facilities that make up the total arterial system. The Commission works cooperatively with each County in the Region to produce these plans and keep them up-to-date. In 2018, Commission staff completed work on the Ozaukee County jurisdictional highway system plan, which was approved by the Ozaukee County Jurisdictional Highway Planning Committee in June 2018. The plan was sent to the County's Public Works Committee, with the County Board of Supervisors to consider adoption in 2019.

Functional Classification of Roadways

Federal law requires public streets and highways to be functionally classified as arterial, collector, or local facilities based on how they function. This functional classification is primarily used for determining project eligibility under various FHWA funding programs and can also be used in determining appropriate roadway design. In 2018, Commission staff completed work, in coordination with WisDOT, on revisions to the functional classifications of public roadways within two urbanized areas:

- **Round Lake Beach Urbanized Area (Wisconsin portion)** – Approved by the Round Lake Beach TIP Committee in December 2017 and by the Commission's Executive Committee in February 2018
- **West Bend Urbanized Area** – Approved by the West Bend TIP Committee in September 2018 and transmitted to WisDOT

Credit: MCTS

Data and Technical Assistance

The Commission spends a considerable amount of time and effort each year responding to requests for transportation data and technical assistance. Future-year traffic forecasts to support engineering studies make up the bulk of the data requests and include long-range traffic forecasts, detailed origin-destination information, construction-related traffic diversion forecasts, and data used in project-level air quality impact assessments. Technical assistance in support of various specific transportation projects includes serving on technical advisory committees, providing information and materials, and reviewing reports and documents. During 2018, staff prepared numerous forecasts for WisDOT and other agencies and provided technical assistance for several projects and studies. Examples include:

- Milwaukee County Bus Rapid Transit project
- I-94 north-south reconstruction
- Reconstruction of the Zoo Interchange
- Roadway construction projects associated with the Foxconn development

In addition to traffic forecasts, the Commission provides transportation data upon request during special studies being conducted by other entities in the Region. The Commission also conducts traffic engineering studies for local governments and participates in other types of transportation-related activities within the Region. Highlights from 2018 include:

- **Regional Transit Leadership Council** – Commission staff continued to support the work of the RTLCC, which formed in November 2016 to address regional connectivity challenges and achieve a multimodal transportation system. Staff serves on the RTLCC's Executive Committee.
- **Eastern Racine County Transportation Task Force** – At the request of the Racine County Executive, WisDOT formed this task force to develop recommendations for improving east-west travel times between the City of Racine and I-94 and to provide options for workers to access jobs in eastern Racine County. Commission staff assisted WisDOT staff in conducting a study and served as technical staff to the task force. The task force approved the study's final recommendations in August 2018.
- **W. Washington Boulevard Traffic Engineering Study** – At the request of Milwaukee County, Commission staff initiated work in early 2018 on a traffic engineering study to address safety concerns along W. Washington Boulevard between STH 175 and W. Vliet Street in the City of Milwaukee.
- **Washington County Crash Study** – In 2018, Commission staff assisted County staff in preparing a crash study to identify the most unsafe intersections along County highways.
- **Washington County Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan** – At the request of Washington County, Commission staff provided technical assistance and data to the County and the consultant preparing this plan. Staff participated in two plan advisory committee meetings and a public workshop during 2018.
- **Western Racine County Traffic Counts** – At the request of communities in western Racine County, Commission staff collected traffic and vehicle class counts along STH 11 and STH 20 in the County.

Air Quality Standards

Commission staff has been assisting local governments and counties along Lake Michigan in responding to a new lower national ambient air quality standard for ozone. This work includes assisting with data regarding the sources of ozone-causing pollutants, which are largely generated outside Southeastern Wisconsin, and briefing local officials on the impacts of US EPA decisions regarding attainment or nonattainment of air quality standards.

TRANSPORTATION HIGHLIGHTS

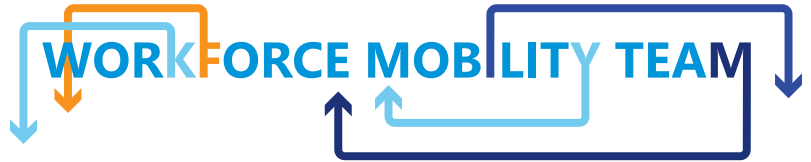
» www.sewrpc.org/transportation

Workforce Mobility Team

» www.sewrpc.org/mobility

In July 2018, the Workforce Mobility Team was created to assist employers in identifying ways to better connect workers to jobs. The Team is staffed by the Commission and was developed cooperatively with the RTLC in response to concerns from employers in the

Region who experience challenges retaining and attracting workers as a result of those workers having limited or no commuting transportation options. The Team worked with a number of employers or employer groups in 2018 and maintains a webpage with workforce mobility resources.



Bicycle-Pedestrian Count Program

» www.sewrpc.org/nmcounts

Since an initial FHWA-funded pilot in 2015, the Commission has continuously collected count data under its regional non-motorized (bicycle and pedestrian) count program. Staff provides summary reports to the respective local government that owns and maintains each off-street path. In 2018, staff created an interactive web map that provides count information for the Commission's 55 count locations and 42 additional count locations managed by WisDOT, Milwaukee County, Ozaukee County, and the City of Milwaukee (shown on the map on page 13).

Regional Consultation Activities

In addition to actively seeking participation by residents, the Commission obtains considerable input through consultation with the Federal, State, and local agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities affected by transportation. One of the primary ways the Commission conducts consultation is through its extensive use of advisory committees and task forces.

The following highlights some of the regional transportation-related consultation activities conducted during 2018.

Advisory Committee on Regional Transportation Planning

- Met four times to consider, guide, and approve the two amendments to VISION 2050 discussed on page 7.

Advisory Committees on Transportation System Planning and Programming

- Met jointly or individually up to two times regarding consideration and approval of the 2019-2022 TIP and projects selected to receive 2021-2022 STP funding.
- Considered and approved amendments to the 2017-2020 TIP.

Advisory Committees on Transit Development Planning

- Ozaukee County Committee met in June 2018 and reviewed, considered, and approved the draft recommended transit service plan and an associated record of public comments from the planning process.

Advisory Committees on Jurisdictional Highway System Planning

- Ozaukee County Committee approved the recommended jurisdictional highway system plan in June 2018.

Environmental Justice Task Force

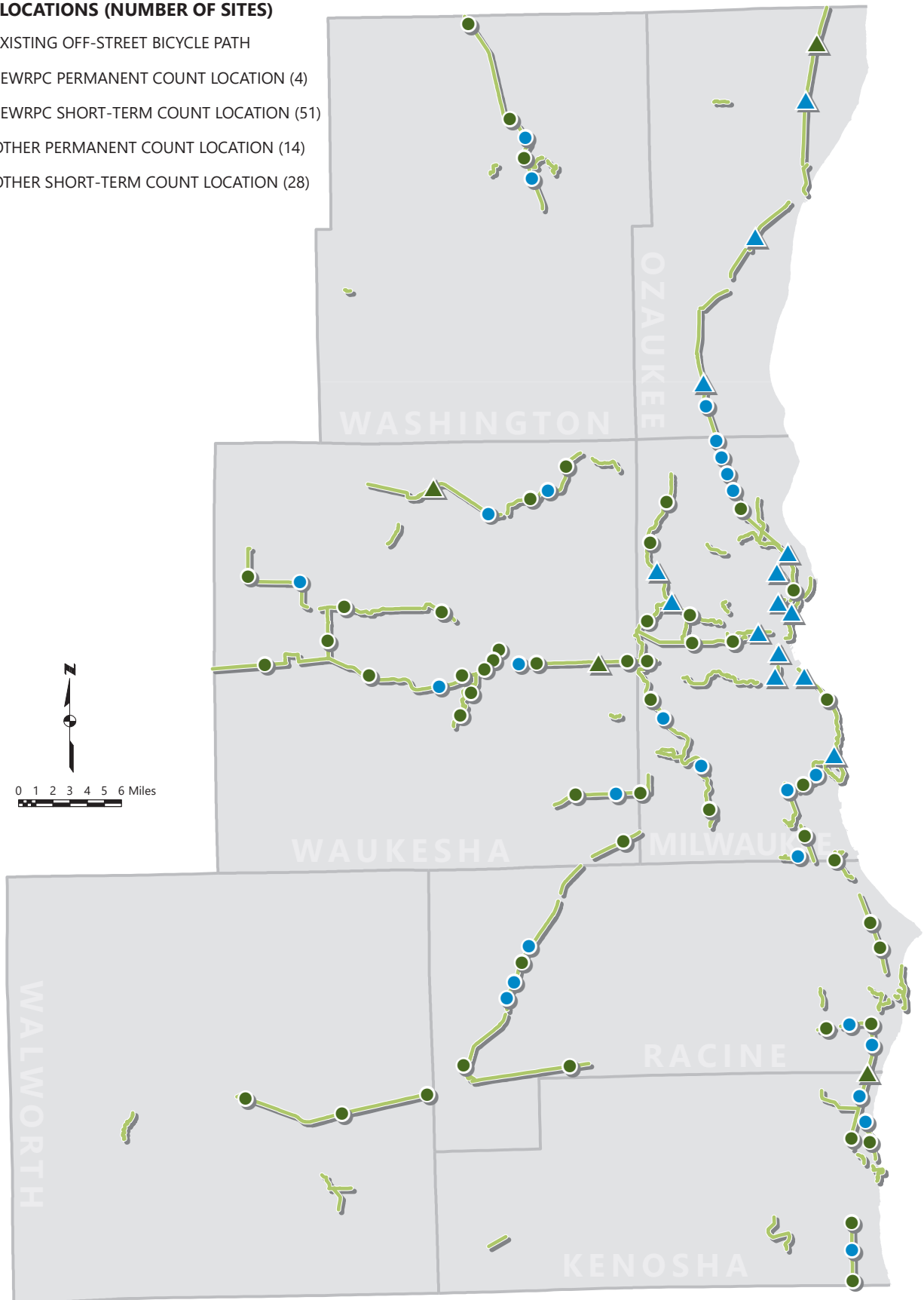
- Met four times to consider and discuss transportation-related issues (described on page 31).

Wisconsin Conformity Technical Workgroup

- Commission staff met quarterly with USDOT, USEPA, WisDOT, and WDNR staff to discuss and stay apprised of potential air quality issues within the State.

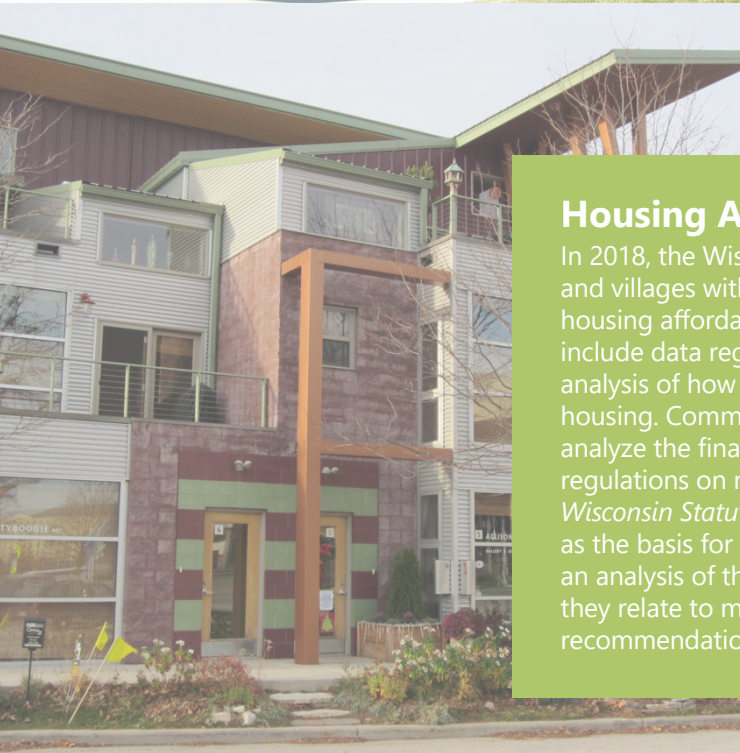
COUNT LOCATIONS (NUMBER OF SITES)

- EXISTING OFF-STREET BICYCLE PATH
- ▲ SEWRPC PERMANENT COUNT LOCATION (4)
- SEWRPC SHORT-TERM COUNT LOCATION (51)
- ▲ OTHER PERMANENT COUNT LOCATION (14)
- OTHER SHORT-TERM COUNT LOCATION (28)



HOUSING

» www.sewrpc.org/housing



The regional housing plan was adopted by the Commission in 2013 with a vision of providing financially sustainable housing for people of all income levels, age groups, and needs. Plan recommendations address six key areas, many of which are geared toward the cities and villages in the Region that administer land use regulations. Every year Commission staff works to inform those in the Region concerned with housing about the regional housing plan and its recommendations.

Highlights of housing-related activities in 2018 include:

- Presented to a UWM Urban Planning class
- Provided housing, land use, and transportation data from the regional housing plan and VISION 2050 to a consultant working with the Racine County Economic Development Corporation to prepare the Racine County Targeted Development Study
- Presented at the Southeastern Wisconsin Housing Summit, hosted by Racine County and WHEDA
- Participated in a panel regarding housing at a plan commission workshop in Waukesha County, which was organized by UW-Extension
- Provided housing and demographic information to Kenosha County and Kenosha Area Business Alliance for the Kenosha County Housing Roundtable
- Presented to a Carroll University Environmental Health Class
- Participated on the City of Waukesha Housing Study Review Committee

Housing Affordability Reports

In 2018, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted legislation that requires cities and villages with populations of 10,000 people or more to prepare a housing affordability report by January 1, 2020. The report needs to include data regarding development activity in the municipality and an analysis of how the municipality's land use regulations impact the cost of housing. Commission staff will be working with interested municipalities to analyze the financial impact of the municipality's residential development regulations on new subdivisions as required by Section 66.10013 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*. Staff will use regional housing plan recommendations as the basis for the analysis, as applicable. In addition, staff will also include an analysis of the municipality's residential development regulations as they relate to multifamily housing, again using regional housing plan recommendations as the basis for the analysis.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

» www.sewrpc.org/econdev

The Commission's role in economic development is to assist county and local units of government and economic development organizations in the Region in pursuing economic development activities and to promote the coordination of local economic development plans and programs. Assistance during 2018 included:

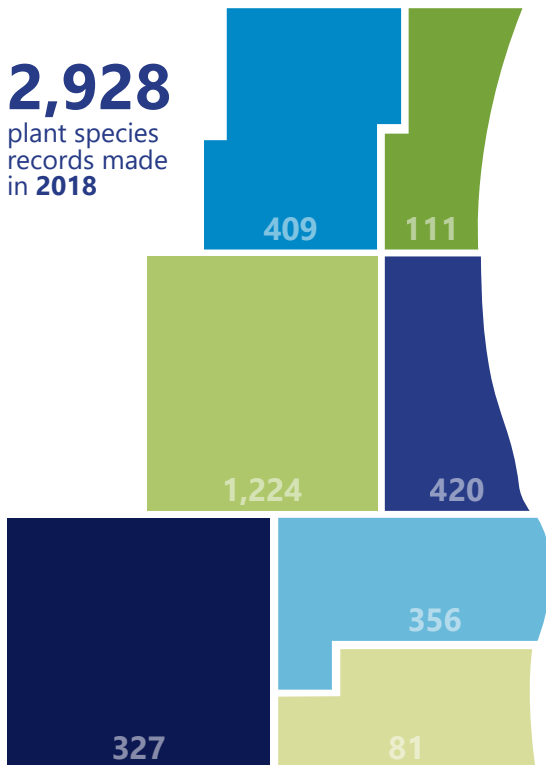
- **Waukesha County Community Profiles** – Staff worked with the Waukesha County Center for Growth (WCCG) and We Energies to prepare economic profiles for 12 participating communities in Waukesha County (available on the Commission's website). Staff also worked with Waukesha County and WCCG to provide demographic and economic development data for an update to the Business Growth Strategy for Waukesha County.
- **Economic Development Data** – In response to four data requests, staff provided 21 reports from WEDC's web-based Economic Modeling Specialist International (EMSI) Developer software to county and local governments and economic development organizations. These reports can be customized to various geographies and provide valuable industry, occupation, and workforce information.
- **Federal and State Grant-In-Aid Support** – In aid to Kenosha County, staff administered several Federal grant awards to acquire and remove homes located in the Fox River floodplain, and provided assistance in seeking funding opportunities for future acquisitions.
- **Revolving Loan Fund Support** – Staff provided assistance to the City of Muskego and the Villages of Menomonee Falls and Shorewood in administering existing loans, and approving new loans, from Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) programs that support business development. A Commission staff member also serves as the Kenosha County Housing Authority's Program Coordinator and administers the County's housing rehabilitation RLF. The Commission is responsible for providing information to Kenosha County residents outside the City of Kenosha for the packaging and closing of new housing assistance loans and for servicing outstanding loans. During 2018, two new loans were made and seven loans were serviced. In addition, staff coordinated the County loan program and loan applications with the Southern Housing Region established by the Wisconsin Department of Administration. Staff worked diligently to reduce the Kenosha County Housing Authority RLF balance from approximately \$127,000 in mid-2014 to approximately \$11,000 at the end of 2018 by making additional loans to qualified low- and moderate-income households.
- **Aerotropolis Milwaukee** – Commission staff continued to participate in and support Aerotropolis Milwaukee development efforts, including serving on the Aerotropolis Milwaukee Board of Directors. Staff also worked with Gateway to Milwaukee staff to support implementation of the MKE Aerotropolis Development Plan prepared by Commission staff in 2017.



NATURAL AREAS PLANNING

» www.sewrpc.org/naturalareasplan

The Commission adopted a regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan in 1997 (SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42) and has amended the plan several times since, most recently in December 2010. The plan identifies and includes recommendations for preserving the most significant remaining natural areas—essentially, the highest quality remnants of the pre-European settlement landscape—as well as other areas vital to maintaining endangered, threatened, and rare plant and animal species in the Region.



The map on page 17 shows the ten designated or proposed natural areas and critical species habitats that staff visited in 2018. These visits were conducted either to inform the Commission's natural areas planning or at the request of various governments or conservation nonprofit organizations. No formal amendments were made to the regional natural areas plan this year, but two new critical species habitat sites and one natural area of local significance (NA-3) were proposed for inclusion in a future amendment to the natural areas plan (also shown on the map):

- A Waukesha County Land Conservancy preserve known as the Albert Thiesen Donation (critical species habitat site)
- A roadside supporting a population of hoptree (*Ptelea trifoliata*) that will be known as the Lannon Road Ptelea Site (critical species habitat site)
- The Sidney Woods Preserve, which is owned by the Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy (natural area of local significance)

A total of 7 records of State threatened (3 records) and special concern (4 records) plant species were made: four from Waukesha County and three from Walworth County.

Two exotic plant taxa never previously recorded as naturalized or established in the Region were observed by Commission staff in 2018:

- Graceful cattail (*Typha laxmannii*) was observed by staff in a roadside ditch in Waukesha County
- Goldencreeper (*Thadiantha dubia*) was reported from two locations in Waukesha County

Commission staff also responded to 14 various information requests from local government, government agencies, and conservation nonprofits related to natural areas, critical species habitats, ecosystem management, and rare native species:






- One request in Milwaukee County
- One request in Walworth County
- Twelve requests in Waukesha County










Special Environmental Inventories, Assessments, and Evaluations

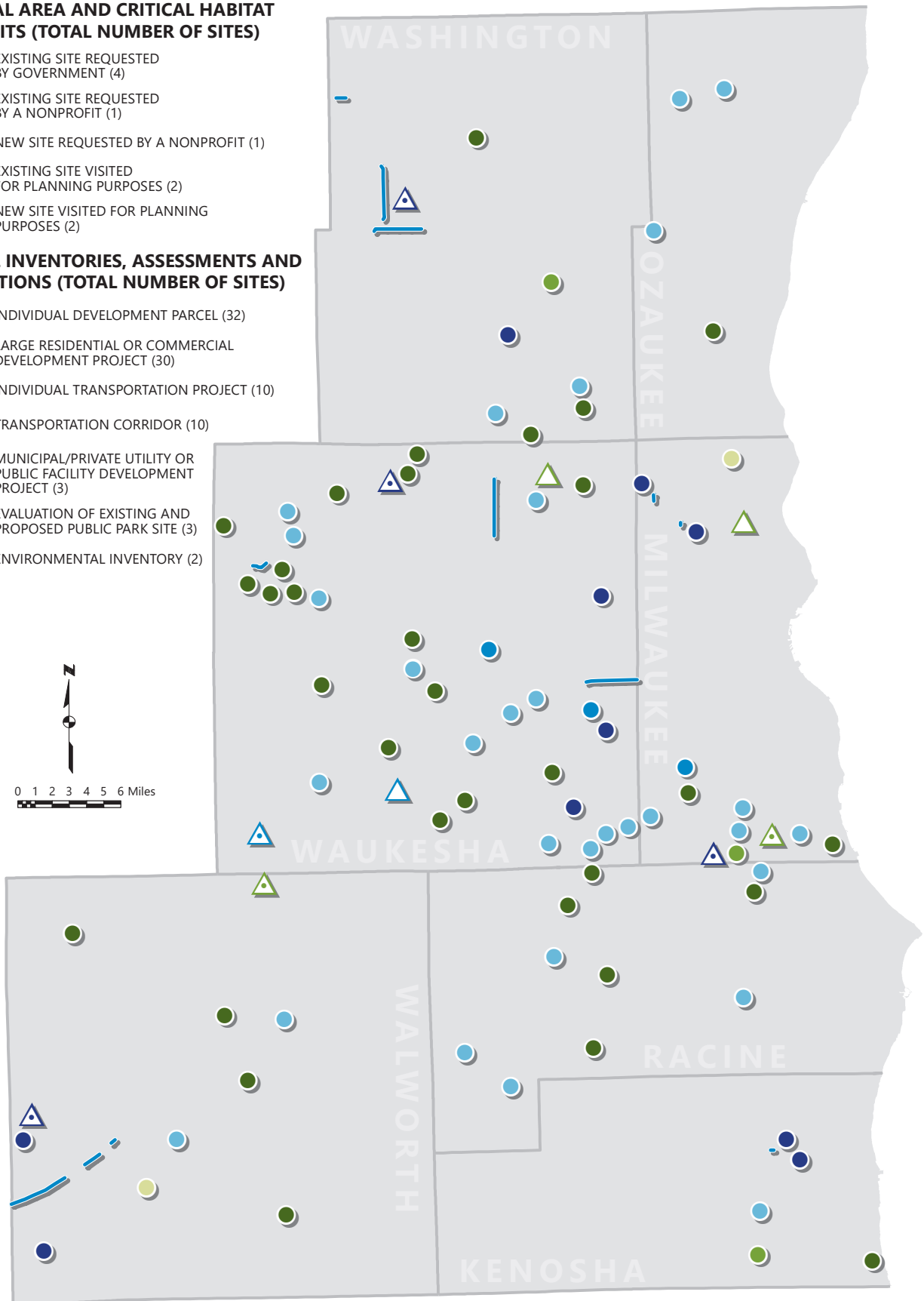
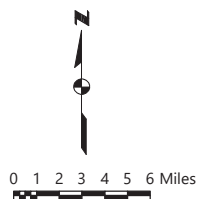
The Commission continually helps Federal, State, and local governments to evaluate and assess the environmental significance and quality of specific development and preservation sites throughout the Region. In particular, this often involves the field identification and delineation of the extent of environmentally sensitive areas, including wetlands and/or environmental corridors. The Commission fulfilled the field inspection component for a total of 90 requests in 2018 (shown on the map on page 17).

NATURAL AREA AND CRITICAL HABITAT SITE VISITS (TOTAL NUMBER OF SITES)

-  EXISTING SITE REQUESTED BY GOVERNMENT (4)
-  EXISTING SITE REQUESTED BY A NONPROFIT (1)
-  NEW SITE REQUESTED BY A NONPROFIT (1)
-  EXISTING SITE VISITED FOR PLANNING PURPOSES (2)
-  NEW SITE VISITED FOR PLANNING PURPOSES (2)

SPECIAL INVENTORIES, ASSESSMENTS AND EVALUATIONS (TOTAL NUMBER OF SITES)

-  INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT PARCEL (32)
-  LARGE RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (30)
-  INDIVIDUAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECT (10)
-  TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR (10)
-  MUNICIPAL/PRIVATE UTILITY OR PUBLIC FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (3)
-  EVALUATION OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED PUBLIC PARK SITE (3)
-  ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY (2)



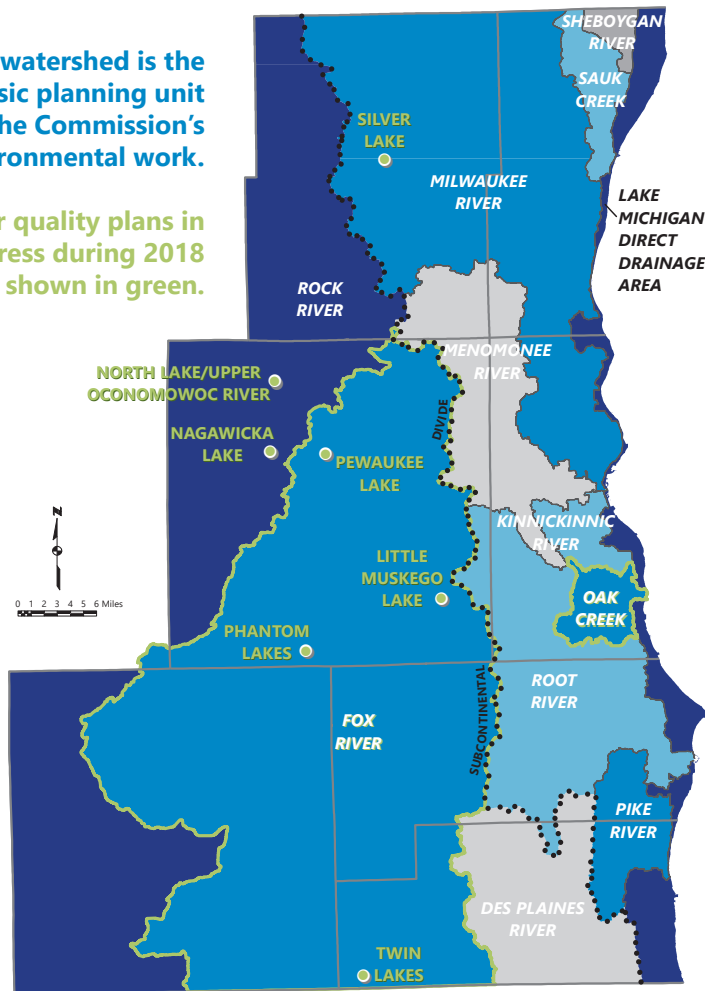
WATER QUALITY

» www.sewrpc.org/waterquality

The Commission carries out a number of duties and responsibilities as the State-designated water quality management planning agency for Southeastern Wisconsin. In 1979, the Commission completed an initial regional water quality management plan, which has since been frequently updated and amended. The plan was designed, in part, to meet the Congressional mandate that waters be made “fishable and swimmable” to the extent practicable. The water quality plan provides recommendations for controlling water pollution from point sources (e.g., sewage treatment plants, sewer overflows, and industrial waste outfalls) and nonpoint sources (e.g., urban and agricultural runoff). The plan also serves as the basis for maintaining local governments’ eligibility for certain Federal and State loans and grants, issuing waste discharge permits, and reviewing sanitary sewer extensions. Going forward, the water quality plan will supplement WDNR-established Total Maximum Daily Load goals for point and nonpoint pollutant sources.

The watershed is the basic planning unit for the Commission’s environmental work.

Water quality plans in progress during 2018 are shown in green.



Lake and Stream Management

» www.sewrpc.org/lakeandstream

The water quality plan recommends preparing lake and stream management plans for select watersheds throughout the Region, including areas directly tributary to each of the Region’s 101 major lakes and certain smaller lakes and streams. To prepare these plans, the Commission and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) work with local lake community organizations, including lake and stream management associations, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, and land trusts.

Lake Management Planning

During 2018, Commission staff worked on six lake management plans that focus on multiple issues such as aquatic plant growth, water quality, blue green floating algae, shoreline maintenance, recreation, public access, and wildlife. These plans cover the following lakes:

- Twin Lakes (Kenosha County)
- Silver Lake (Washington County)
- Little Muskego Lake, Nagawicka Lake, Pewaukee Lake, and Phantom Lakes (Waukesha County)

Stream Management Planning

Related to stream management, staff performed the following planning activities during 2018:

- Completed a streambank erosion and natural resource inventory on the Lower Fox River (IL) from the Waterford dam to the Wisconsin-Illinois state line
- Assisted Washington County and the Ozaukee-Washington Land Trust on work to naturalize a ditched and eroded ephemeral tributary of the Milwaukee River
- Completed an on-the-water examination of sediment accumulation and bed morphology of the Oconomowoc River between the Monches Dam and North Lake
- Served on the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center’s (SANC) Conservation Committee, assisting with site development for a property abutting the Milwaukee River and ravine stabilization along Lake Michigan

Regional Chloride Impact Study

» www.sewrpc.org/chloridestudy

The chloride impact study is a major regional effort that will identify the significant sources and magnitudes of chloride loads to the Region's surface water and groundwater resources. A number of potential sources are being examined, such as road salt, water softeners, and septic systems. Study analyses will identify the surface water and groundwater resources that are being significantly impacted and assess the state-of-the-art of activities affecting chloride in the environment. Staff will also develop alternative scenarios for reducing chloride loads and abating the adverse effects of chloride on our water resources.

Study work began in 2017, with a stream pilot site installed to evaluate conductance monitoring equipment. In 2018, conductance and telemetry equipment was purchased and staff established stream monitoring sites at 37 locations throughout the Region. The official study monitoring period began in October 2018 and data will be collected for two years. Lake monitoring also began in 2018, with six lakes sampled quarterly.

Oak Creek Watershed Restoration Plan

» www.sewrpc.org/OakCreekWRP

Work continued in 2018 on a restoration plan for the Oak Creek watershed in partnership with the municipalities in the watershed and Milwaukee County, MMSD, WDNR, and Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network (WIN). The plan will address the USEPA's Nine Key Elements for a watershed plan, which must be met for recommended projects to be eligible for future Federal grants. The plan focuses on:

- Strategies to reduce pollution from urban runoff and rural runoff
- Recommendations for increased recreational use and access
- Protection of habitat, wildlife, open spaces, and environmental corridors
- Assessment of Mill Pond and dam



WATER QUALITY

» www.sewrpc.org/waterquality

Partnerships, Collaborations, and Technical Assistance

Within Southeastern Wisconsin, many water-related initiatives require ongoing partnerships and collaborations in some fashion. The Commission, in addition to specifically serving the counties and municipalities, regularly participates in a number of important initiatives across the Region. Select examples from 2018 are included in this section.

Partnerships

Staff actively participated in organizational events and activities at local, regional, and statewide scales, including efforts such as attending meetings, supporting event logistics, serving on committees/boards, environmental outreach/education, and giving presentations to share information and management alternatives.

- Mid-Kettle Moraine Partners Group
- Mukwonago River Fisheries Committee
- Mukwonago River Watershed Initiative
- Oconomowoc River Watershed Protection Program
- Ozaukee Treasures Network
- Ozaukee-Washington Land Trust
- Root-Pike Watershed Improvement Network
- Schlitz Audubon Nature Center
- Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission
- Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust
- Tall Pines Conservancy
- Wisconsin Association for Floodplain, Stormwater, and Coastal Management
- Starry stonewort-aquatic invasive species workshop with Wind Lake Management District and WDNR
- Presentations at: Carroll University, Wisconsin Lutheran College, and UW-Extension Lake Leaders Program

Southeast Fox River Partnership



SFRP represents a wide range of Federal, State, county and local agencies; nonprofit organizations; and private sector interests. The partnership gives citizens, environmental and conservation groups, businesses, and local governments the ability to share resources while working toward common goals associated with the protection, restoration, and enhancement of the natural resources in the Fox River watershed. The Commission staff is highly active in this effort, and helped SFRP and the Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission (SEWFRC) to organize and host the 6th Annual Fox River Summit in Burlington in 2018. Staff also continued to assist SFRP, the Village of Waterford, and Kenosha, Racine, and Waukesha Counties to develop the Fabulous Fox River Water Trail access site inventory and mapping project (web portal: www.fabulousfoxwatertrail.org).

www.southeastfoxriver.org

Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

MMSD provides water reclamation and flood management services for about 1.1 million people in 28 communities in the Greater Milwaukee Area. The agency serves 411 square miles that cover all or part of six watersheds. Commission staff participated in several initiatives in 2018 that are integral to or allied with MMSD's efforts, including:

- Aquatic and riparian habitat enhancement projects in the Lincoln Park area
- Dam management and channel manipulation in the Estabrook/Lincoln/Kletsch Park reach of the Milwaukee River
- Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern working group discussions
- 2019 Resilience Plan



www.mmsd.com

Collaborations

Staff provided technical information, guidance, advice, and training to entities throughout the Region. This includes facilitating project scope development, which in turn supports grant funding requests. This work aids in obtaining significant grant funding, initiating studies, and completing on-the-ground corrective actions.

- City of Whitewater, Tripp and Cravath Lakes (Walworth County)
- Lake Comus Protection and Rehabilitation District (Walworth County)
- Lake Lorraine Protection and Restoration Association (Walworth County)
- Lauderdale Lakes Management District (Walworth County)
- Pell Lake Association (Walworth County)
- Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network and City of Franklin, East Branch of the Root River (Milwaukee County)
- Waterville Lake Association (Waukesha County)

Technical Assistance

The Commission's work each year to support improving water quality necessitates providing a wide range of technical assistance. Much of this work involves field data collection. Staff worked with all seven county governments and several municipalities on various water quality/aquatic habitat initiatives in 2018. Examples include:

- Coastal Lake Michigan Tributary regenerative stormwater conveyance demonstration project (Milwaukee County)
- Fish passage initiative (Milwaukee County)
- Mapping stream sediment distribution along the Oconomowoc River (Washington and Waukesha Counties)
- Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern fish and wildlife technical team (Milwaukee County)
- Milwaukee River tributary stream connectivity (Ozaukee County)
- Novel channelized stream naturalization (Washington County)
- Presentations at annual meetings for the Districts/Associations of Twin Lakes (Kenosha County) and Silver Lake (Washington County)
- School Section Lake dam repair (Waukesha County)
- Streambank erosion and mapped instream bathymetry along the Fox River (Kenosha and Racine Counties)

WATER QUALITY

» www.sewrpc.org/waterquality

Runoff Pollution Abatement

The Commission is involved in a number of programs that support implementing the water quality plan's runoff (nonpoint source) pollution abatement recommendations. These include programs administered by WDNR and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Related activities undertaken in 2018 include:

- Incorporating runoff pollution abatement considerations in development of eight watershed projects in Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, Washington, and Waukesha Counties
- Continuing to work with various municipalities and other non-governmental groups to implement runoff pollution abatement recommendations in watershed protection plans for Jackson Creek, Mason Creek, and the Root River

Sanitary Sewer Service Area Planning

» www.sewrpc.org/sewerserviceplanning

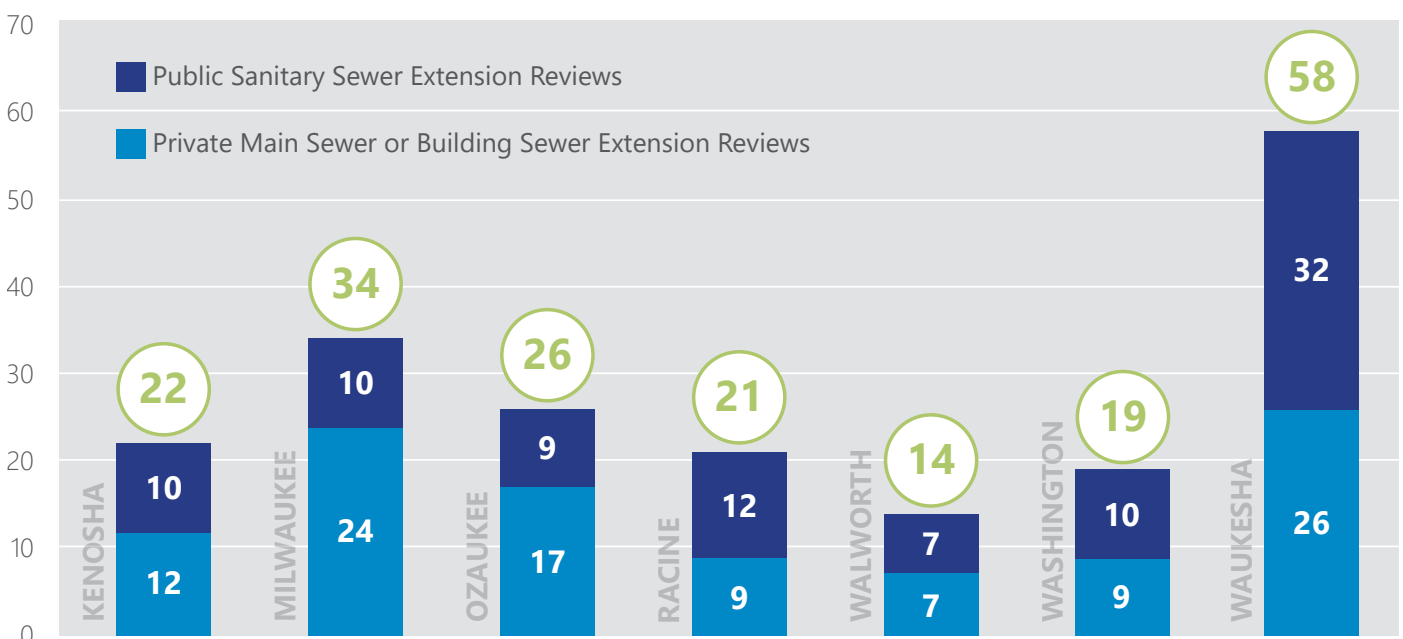
An important element of the water quality plan relates to recommendations for wastewater treatment plants and the wastewater conveyance systems that flow to those plants. In 2018, the Commission continued to work with local engineering staffs and consultants to prepare detailed local sewerage facilities plans designed to meet Federal Clean Water Act and Wisconsin Clean Water Fund requirements. The initial water quality plan delineated 85 sanitary sewer service areas tributary to each recommended public sewage treatment plant in the Region. In ongoing work since then, staff has refined and detailed these sewer service areas in cooperation with local units of government. During 2018, the Commission adopted amendments to sanitary sewer service area plans for the Cities of Kenosha and Racine and the Villages of Germantown and Union Grove.

As part of its sewer service area planning efforts, the Commission is required to review and comment on all proposed public sanitary sewer extensions and certain proposed private sanitary sewer extensions and large onsite sewage disposal systems and holding tanks relative to their conformance to the adopted water quality plan.

90
Public
Sewer
Extensions

194
Review Comments
on Proposed
Sewer Extensions

104
Private
Sewer
Extensions



ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

» www.sewrpc.org/environment

Water Supply

» www.sewrpc.org/watersupply

The Commission's water supply planning program includes three elements, which were completed through interagency partnerships with the USGS, the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (WGNHS), UWM, WDNR, and the public water supply utilities serving the Region:

- Basic groundwater resource inventories (completed in 2002)
- Groundwater simulation model for the Region (completed in 2004)
- Regional water supply plan (completed in 2010)

During 2018, staff incorporated water supply plan recommendations related to preserving groundwater recharge areas in five ongoing lake plans: Twin Lakes (Kenosha County); Silver Lake (Washington County); and Nagawicka Lake, Pewaukee Lake, and Phantom Lakes (Waukesha County).

Hazard Mitigation Planning

Hazard mitigation plans outline local strategies for mitigating hazards such as flooding, drought, lakeshore erosion, severe weather, hazardous material leaks and spills, and other hazards that primarily involve the physical environment. They provide preventative recommendations such as infrastructure improvements to reduce damages from flooding and manage stormwater flows. These plans are required by FEMA for local governments to receive Federal funding for mitigation projects. In 2018, staff continued work on updates to hazard mitigation plans for the City of Milwaukee and Ozaukee County.

Coastal Management Planning

The Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) was established in 1978 under the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act to preserve and improve Wisconsin's Great Lakes coastal resources. During 2018, the Commission continued to provide assistance to the Wisconsin Department of Administration related to the program, including:

- Conducting field investigations associated with wetlands and other sensitive lands in the coastal management area
- Reviewing proposed sanitary sewer extensions in the coastal management area
- Assisting counties, local governments, and other organizations with programs to improve near-shore water quality and habitat value
- Briefing the Wisconsin Coastal Council on relevant Commission activities

Staff also continued work on the Southeastern Wisconsin Coastal Resilience Study in collaboration with the WCMP, the UW Sea Grant Institute, and the UW-Madison Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. The three-year study focuses on the Lake Michigan coast in Ozaukee, Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha Counties. Deliverables for the study will include:

- Projecting future shoreline recession
- Developing guidance materials for implementing risk reduction practices and communicating risk along the coastal shoreline
- Organizing a network for communities to collaborate
- Identifying coastal resilience projects to fund



FLOODPLAIN AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

» www.sewrpc.org/floodstormwatermgt

The Commission maintains a continuing program to address stormwater and floodplain management issues, which was initiated long before the concepts of local floodplain zoning and Federal flood insurance had been widely adopted. From 1966 through 2003, staff prepared comprehensive plans for most of the Region's watersheds. Each plan included development of hydrologic and hydraulic computer simulation models and detailed flood profiles and floodplain maps along numerous streams and rivers within each watershed. That information, refined and updated over time, serves as the basis for local floodplain zoning and Federal flood insurance mapping throughout much of the Region. Due to significant expertise in hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, Commission staff are regularly involved in floodplain and stormwater management planning activities across the Region. Highlights during 2018 are included in this section.

Menomonee River Floodplain Revisions

Staff provided continued support on the FEMA-approved conditional letter of map revision (CLOMR) for the floodplain along an approximately 8.4-mile-long reach of the Menomonee River's main stem. This work is based on a hydraulic model of the River created by staff in 2010, which is an important tool for the Cities of Milwaukee and Wauwatosa and MMSD.

Milwaukee Area Floodplain Mapping Updates

Staff performed the following work under the floodplain mapping program for the Milwaukee County Land Information Council (formerly MCAMLIS) and MMSD:

- Continued developing several hydrologic and hydraulic models for the Root River watershed
- Continued an update of the hydraulic model and floodplain mapping for the Menomonee River main stem upstream of W. North Avenue
- Completed an update of the hydraulic model and floodplain mapping for Fish Creek and three of its tributaries

FEMA Risk MAP Program

FEMA's Risk MAP Program aims to identify and reduce flood risk. Staff continued to coordinate with FEMA, WDNR, and concerned counties to address issues related to the Risk MAP program for the Milwaukee River Basin (Kinnickinnic, Menomonee, and Milwaukee River watersheds) in Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha Counties. Staff also continued to coordinate with the FEMA study contractor regarding the Great Lakes Coastal Flood Hazard Study being conducted under the Risk MAP Program.

Technical Services



The Commission provides a wide range of educational and technical advisory services relative to floodplain and stormwater management planning. In addition to responding to 32 requests for hydrologic and hydraulic data for 18 streams, rivers, and lakes throughout the Region, efforts in 2018 included:

- Continued work on a Schoonmaker Creek watercourse system plan for MMSD to address flooding and stormwater mitigation in the Cities of Wauwatosa and Milwaukee
- Initiated a Beaver Creek watercourse system plan for MMSD to address flooded structures in the Village of Brown Deer
- Initiated a Stormwater Management Evaluation for the City of Burlington to address stormwater flooding on the City's southwest side
- Began updating floodplains on the South Branch Pike River in Kenosha County, including hydraulic model development and revised floodplain mapping for the River's main stem and five of its tributaries


Stream Gaging Program

Streamflow data are essential to managing the Region's water resources and the Commission has been instrumental in establishing a cooperative streamflow-gaging program. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) assists in funding and operating the stream gages and annually publishes streamflow data. In 2018, data were collected from 38 continuous-recording streamflow gages, including 15 financially supported by Waukesha County, MMSD, the Kenosha Water Utility, the City of Delafield, the Upper Nemahbin Lake Management District, and the City of Racine and the Racine Water and Wastewater Utilities. There were also seven gages at which water levels, but not streamflow, were continuously recorded.

**CONTINUOUS STAGE RECORDER GAGE
(NUMBER OF STATIONS)**

-  COOPERATIVELY MAINTAINED BY USGS, SEWRPC, AND PARTNERS (15)
-  OPERATED BY USGS FOR ANOTHER ENTITY (23)

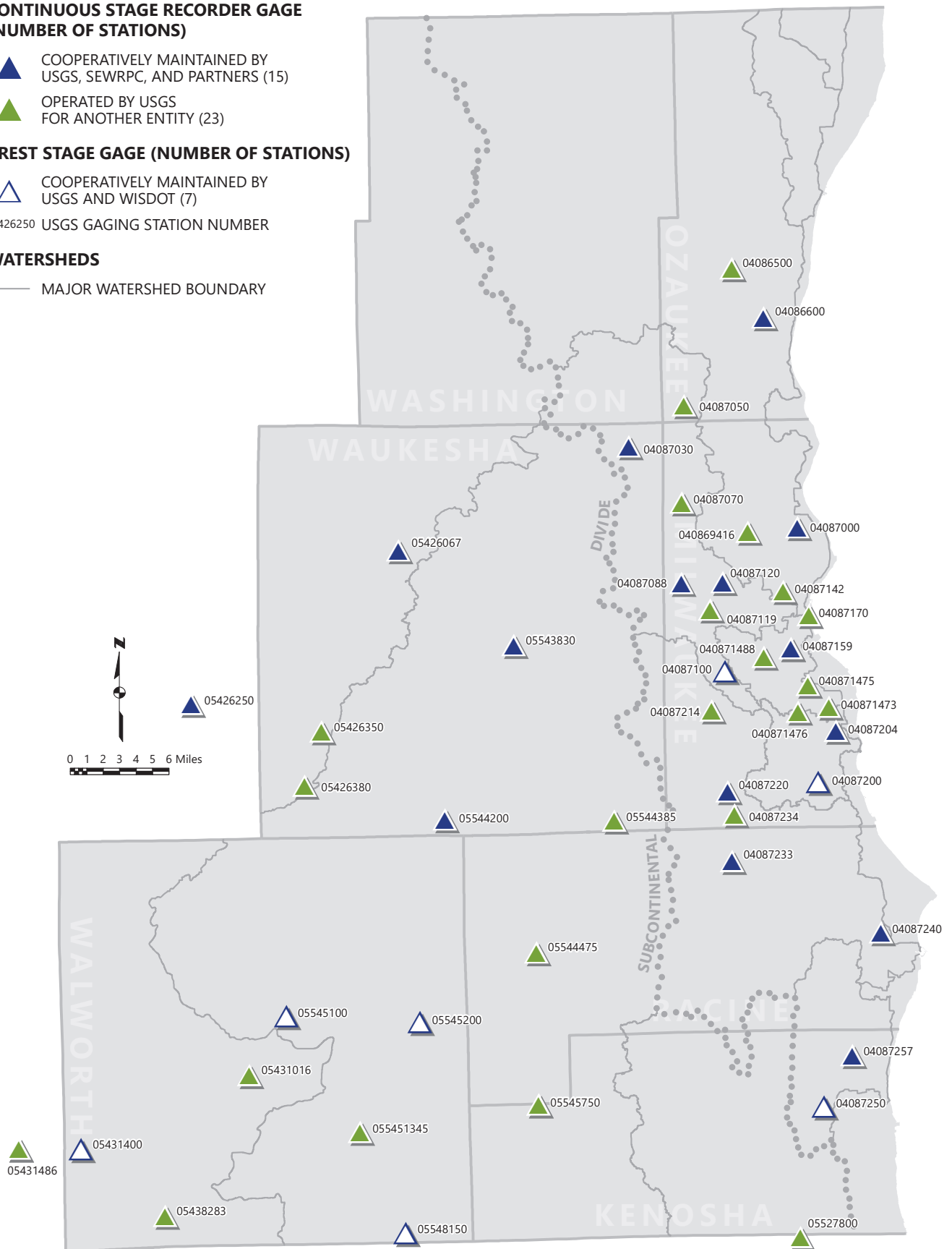
CREST STAGE GAGE (NUMBER OF STATIONS)

-  COOPERATIVELY MAINTAINED BY USGS AND WISDOT (7)

05426250 USGS GAGING STATION NUMBER

WATERSHEDS

— MAJOR WATERSHED BOUNDARY



SURVEYING, MAPPING, AND LAND INFORMATION

» www.sewrpc.org/surveyingandmapping



The Commission has long recognized the need for accurate base maps depicting the shape of the land's surface and the precise location of its physical features, both natural and manmade. Since 1961, the Commission has been a resource for counties and communities regarding surveying and mapping practices. In this role, the Commission prepared general purpose base maps of the entire Region in the 1960s and has ensured that they stay current. The Commission has also long recommended keeping up-to-date maps with a higher degree of accuracy and precision for use in more localized planning efforts. To this end, the Commission has continuously worked with county and local governments to implement a survey control system and various mapping recommendations. The recommended approach to surveying and mapping has provided a strong foundation for the Region's county and local digital land information systems and public works management systems. The four key aspects of this process include:

- **Corner Monumentation** – The permanent monumentation of all U.S. Public Land Survey System (USPLSS) section and quarter section corners in the Region.
- **Control Surveys** – Field surveys to enhance each monument as a station of a known horizontal and vertical position on both the USPLSS and State Plane Coordinate System, along with documentation of the entire control network.
- **Topographic Mapping** – Large-scale (1 inch=100 feet or 1 inch=200 feet) topographic base maps meeting Commission-recommended standards.
- **Cadastral Mapping** – The preparation of companion, correlated real property ownership maps based on Commission-recommended standards.

What is a Monument?

Monuments are physical objects used to mark key points on the Earth's surface. Each monument has a unique set of geodetic coordinates and elevation. In Southeastern Wisconsin, there are about 11,800 monuments placed at all USPLSS section and quarter section corners. These monuments are a critical piece of the Region's survey control network.



Survey Datum Conversion

A survey datum is a system for the coordinate locations of positions on the Earth's surface. A major component of a horizontal datum is an ellipsoid. This allows horizontal positions to be calculated along the curved Earth, which is necessary to accurately survey larger areas. A vertical datum provides a reference point to allow a location's height to be calculated. The first national datums, established in the 1920s, were used to calculate the horizontal coordinates and vertical elevations of the Region's survey stations.

In 2015, following changes to survey technology, the Region's county land information officers jointly asked the Commission to develop a method for converting the legacy datums to the newest Federal datums. All seven counties agreed to a conversion process and contracted with the Commission to complete the datum conversion. Through 2018, staff had completed horizontal conversions for Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, Ozaukee, and Walworth Counties and nearly completed horizontal conversions for Washington and Waukesha Counties.

Regional Land Information

» www.sewrpc.org/regionallandinfo

The Commission's regional planning program relies heavily on a large database of information about the Region, much of which can be viewed on the regional land information website. This interactive website represents a cooperative effort between the Commission and the seven county land information officers. The Commission works with the counties to continually enhance the website with the addition of new orthoimagery, updated resource inventories, and additional planning-related mapping. The website provides access to the following:

- **Survey Documents** – Surveyors and engineers can search for two types of survey documents: control station (dossier) sheets and Control Survey Summary Diagrams (CSSDs). A dossier sheet is a record of a USPLSS control station. CSSDs summarize horizontal and vertical control survey information obtained from high-order control surveys. Updated survey documents are added to the website to ensure the site is the best source for current survey documentation for the Region. During 2018, a total of 257 dossier sheets and 79 CSSDs were updated on the website. On an average work day during 2018, the website was accessed by 35 individuals working in the Region.
- **Aerial Imagery** – Users can view the most recent orthoimages and select older orthoimagery, as well as order digital orthoimage files. The Commission has regularly acquired aerial photography since 1963, when they were hardcopy images in black and white. Today, the aerial photos are digital images in color and are referred to as orthoimages, which have been enhanced to remove horizontal displacement. The Commission obtained the most recent orthos in 2015, along with LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) and other elevation data. The orthos and elevation data are used in a variety of regional and local planning activities. The Commission initiated a 2020 orthoimagery project in December of 2017 and coordinated meetings throughout 2018 with the seven county land information officers to plan the 2020 flight. The group collectively decided to obtain imagery at an enhanced resolution (3-inch pixels).
- **Regional Map Server** – This mapping application provides access to selected planning and natural resource maps of the Region. It allows users to select and view different types of planning data sets, including maps of land use, environmental corridors, soils, wetlands, and parcels. Local government boundaries and previous orthos are also accessible through the application.

257

Dossier
Sheets

336

Survey Documents
Prepared

79

Control Survey
Summary
Diagrams

County-Based Land Information Systems

The Commission works closely with the seven counties as they develop and deploy online county land information systems. Each county system incorporates the survey control, topographic base mapping, and cadastral base mapping developed in cooperation with the Commission over many years. They also provide information from Commission planning efforts, such as land use and environmental corridors, and a broad array of land-based information. In addition, counties are increasingly making LIDAR and other elevation data available.

From time-to-time, the Commission provides assistance to counties as they update their land information data bases. In 2018, as County Surveyor, the Commission staff continued to serve on the land information committees for Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Walworth, and Waukesha Counties.

County Surveyor Activities

Since 1984, the Commission staff has acted as the Milwaukee County Surveyor, including ensuring the perpetuation of USPLSS corners that are destroyed, removed, or buried during construction or other activities. The Commission has offered to perform this function in the other six counties and provided County Surveyor services during 2018 to Kenosha, Ozaukee, Walworth, and Waukesha Counties. During 2018, the Commission remonumented a total of 126 USPLSS corners that had been disturbed or destroyed in the five counties. These activities included field work as well as substantial office work to prepare updated documentation of the corners concerned.

126

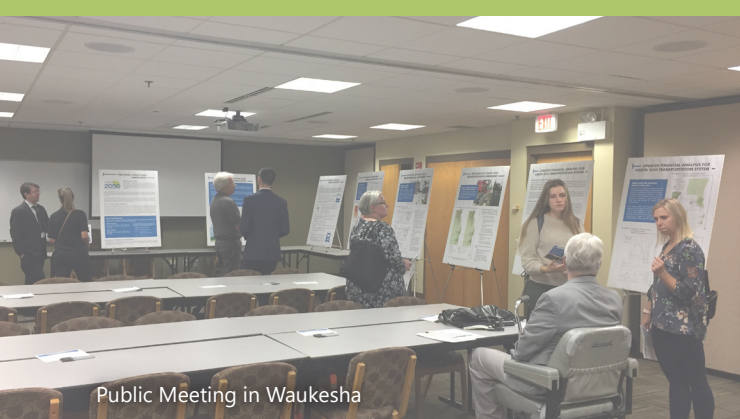
USPLSS Corners
Re monumented

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH

» www.sewrpc.org/involvement



Public Meeting in Milwaukee



Public Meeting in Waukesha



Public Meeting in Racine

The Commission carries out an extensive public involvement and outreach program annually, as described in the Commission's public participation plan, which was updated in 2017. In addition to public meetings during planning efforts, particularly for major regional plans, staff regularly conducts outreach to the general public through avenues such as the Commission website, newsletters, social media, presentations, events, and public meetings. Staff also spends considerable time engaging members of specific population groups that traditionally have had lower levels of participation than the population as a whole in regional planning activities and events.

General Outreach Highlights

While the Commission's work is often technical and challenging to communicate concisely, staff is constantly trying to improve the way it reaches residents and incorporates their input. During 2018, the Commission distributed three issues of its Regional Planning News newsletter and maintained active Facebook and Twitter accounts to keep followers up-to-date on its planning efforts and on other ongoing efforts being undertaken by the Commission's various partners across the Region. Staff also distributed numerous summary publications across the Region in 2018.



A particularly intensive outreach effort in 2018 revolved around an amendment to VISION 2050 to incorporate land use changes and transportation improvements related to the Foxconn manufacturing campus in Racine County (amendment described on page 7). Staff held two public comment periods and about 100 residents attended one of six public meetings on the proposed amendment in the fall of 2018. As with all public participation efforts, the Commission staff fully documented and responded to all comments received. Those comments and responses were provided to the advisory committees guiding VISION 2050 for review.

Public Outreach to Target Populations

Engaging specific population groups, notably low-income populations, people of color, and people with disabilities or other particular needs, is a particular focus of the Commission's public participation program. This targeted outreach has four major objectives: Outreach, Public Involvement, Education, and Environmental Justice.

Outreach

Objective: Build awareness and inform residents of the Commission's purpose, activities, resources, and participation opportunities.

Public Involvement

Objective: Target key populations and organizations to increase participation in Commission planning efforts and promote understanding of plan recommendations.

Objective: Convey facts and findings to audiences of all ages so they better understand and act upon plan recommendations

Education

Objective: Promote the consideration and integration of environmental justice principles throughout the planning process.

Environmental Justice

Community Partners

The Commission first began a formal partnership with a number of partner nonprofit community organizations as part of the extensive public outreach for VISION 2050 between 2013 and 2016. In 2018, staff continued an ongoing collaboration with the Commission's nine Community Partners, including an annual meeting with all partners.



Ethnically Diverse Business Coalition Event



Annual Community Partner Meeting



Common Ground Event

Common Ground | The Ethnically Diverse Business Coalition
Hmong American Friendship Association | IndependenceFirst | Milwaukee Urban League
Renew Environmental Public Health Associates | Southside Organizing Center
Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin
Urban League of Racine and Kenosha

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH

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Organizations Serving Target Populations

Outreach with target populations over the years has led to an expanding list of approximately 100 organizations that serve as a formal distribution network for information about Commission planning activities. These organizations serve low-income areas; areas predominantly consisting of communities of color and targeted ethnicities; people with disabilities; women's groups; veterans; seniors; and/or communities or neighborhoods where issues related to employment, transportation, land use, economic development, housing, and environmental deterioration relate directly to the Commission's planning efforts.

295

Direct Contacts
Made with
Community
Organizations

99

Direct Contacts
Made with Primary
Organizations

Commission contacts with these groups are intentionally long-term, so as to generate lasting working relationships and familiarity with the Commission's work efforts. As part of this goal, staff bi-annually sends letters to the leaders of these organizations. In 2018, these letters provided updates about the work the Commission accomplished in 2017 and the projects underway in 2018. The letters also offered opportunities to meet individually with Commission staff, specifically to discuss the VISION 2050 amendment process.

Within the larger group of about 100 organizations, staff has identified **Primary Organizations** that have become a primary focus of the Commission and its targeted outreach efforts. This list is reviewed and updated annually in collaboration with the Commission's Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF), described on page 31, and can be found on the EJTF webpage.

Primary Organizations

30th Street Industrial Corridor Corporation
Aging and Disability Resource Centers
Association for the Rights of Citizens with handicaps
Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative
Common Ground
Community Action, Inc.
Congregations United to Serve Humanity
Eras Senior Network
Ethnically Diverse Business Coalition
Family Sharing of Ozaukee County
Harambee Great Neighborhood Initiative
Hispanic Business and Professional Association
Hispanic Roundtable
Hmong American Friendship Association
HOPES Center
IndependenceFirst
Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County
Interfaith Caregivers of Washington County
Kenosha Achievement Center
Kenosha Area Family and Aging Services
Kenosha Community Health
La Casa de Esperanza
Layton Boulevard West Neighbors
League of United Latin American Citizens
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope
Milwaukee Urban League
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Northwest Side Community Development Corporation
Ozaukee Family Services
Racine County Family Resource Network
Racine Interfaith Coalition
Racine Kenosha Community Action Agency
Renew Environmental Public Health Advocates, Inc.
Riverwest Neighborhood Association/
Riverworks Development Corporation
Salvation Army
Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers
Social Development Commission
Society's Assets
SOPHIA
Southside Organizing Center
The Threshold, Inc.
United Migrant Opportunity Services
United Way
Urban Ecology Center
Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin
Urban League of Racine and Kenosha
Visioning a Greater Racine
Walnut Way Conservation Corporation
Washington Park Partners
Wisconsin Green Muslims
YWCA Southeast Wisconsin

Environmental Justice Task Force

» www.sewrpc.org/ejtf

The primary role of the EJTF is to enhance the consideration and integration of environmental justice throughout the regional planning process. Environmental justice (EJ) refers to the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. EJ populations include people of color, low-income populations, and people with disabilities. The EJTF consists of 15 representatives from throughout the Region who meet regularly to gain an understanding of the Commission's technical work program and to provide input to that program through the lens of environmental justice.

The EJTF met four times in 2018 (February 13, July 12, September 13, and December 18). The July meeting was a half-day retreat that included guest speakers providing information on the history of discriminatory practices within the Region and suggestions on how regional planning can help eliminate disparities in the Region. The EJTF also provided valuable feedback on the VISION 2050 amendment related to Foxconn at its September meeting.

Involvement and Participation

The EJTF facilitates the involvement of, and helps ensure the full and fair participation of, EJ populations at all stages in relevant areas of regional planning.

Address Relevant Issues

The EJTF makes recommendations on, and helps monitor, issues and analyses relevant to the needs and circumstances of EJ populations.

Identify Benefits and Effects

The EJTF helps identify potential benefits and adverse effects of regional planning programs and activities with respect to EJ populations.

Advise and Recommend

The EJTF advises and recommends methods to a.) prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits to EJ populations, and/or b.) avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on EJ populations.

Enhance Planning Awareness

The EJTF enhances awareness, understanding, appreciation, support, and implementation of plan recommendations and benefits, with emphasis on the needs of EJ populations.



2018 PUBLICATIONS

» www.sewrpc.org/publications

In addition to the Commission's Annual Report for 2017 and Overall Work Program for 2019, the following publications were published in 2018. Publication types are described at www.sewrpc.org/publicationtypes.

Planning Reports

Amendments to No. 55 (VISION 2050: A Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin)

- First Amendment – Establishing Targets for Federal Performance Measures: Highway Safety, June
- Second Amendment – Land Use Changes and Transportation Improvements
Related to the Planned Foxconn Manufacturing Campus, December

Technical Reports

No. 54 – Conversion of Horizontal Survey Control Network in Ozaukee County
from Legacy Datum to New Federal Datum, July

No. 55 – State Plane Coordinates of U.S. Public Land Survey Corners
in Walworth County Referred to NAD 83 (2011) Datum, September

Community Assistance Planning Reports

No. 179 (3rd Edition) – A Park and Open Space Plan for the Village of Caledonia: 2035, Racine County, October

No. 270 (3rd Edition) – A Park and Open Space Plan for the City of Racine: 2035, Racine County, Wisconsin, October

No. 292 (2nd Edition) – A Comprehensive Plan Update for the Town of Farmington: 2050, Washington County, May

No. 295 (2nd Edition) – A Comprehensive Plan Update for the Town of Polk: 2050, Washington County, February

No. 296 (2nd Edition) – A Comprehensive Plan Update for the Town of Trenton: 2050, Washington County, January

No. 321 – Mason Creek Watershed Protection Plan, June

No. 326 – Washington County Hazard Mitigation Plan, March

No. 333 – Waukesha County Aquatic Invasive Species Strategic Plan, February

Memorandum Reports

No. 238 – Group Transit Asset Management Plan for Tier II Operators in Southeastern Wisconsin, September

No. 239 – Transit Asset Management Plan for Kenosha Area Transit, September

Transportation Improvement Programs

A Transportation Improvement Program for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2019-2022, December

Other Reports

The Commission prepares a number of additional types of reports as needed. These report types include: planning guides, technical records, planning program prospectuses, study designs, regional planning conference proceedings, staff memorandums, public meeting minutes, planning program reports, and lake use reports.

Newsletters

Sign up to receive Regional Planning News and access past issues at www.sewrpc.org/enews.

Volume 5, Issue 1, March

Volume 5, Issue 2, September

Volume 5, Issue 3, December



SEWRPC STAFF: 2018

» www.sewrpc.org/staff

The Commission prepares an annual work program that is reviewed and approved by Federal and State funding agencies. This work program is then carried out by a core staff of full-time professional, technical, and clerical personnel, supplemented by additional temporary staff and consultants as needed. At the end of 2018, the Commission staff totaled **69**, including **63** full-time and **6** part-time employees.

Executive Leadership

Michael G. Hahn, PE, PH, *Executive Director*

Kevin J. Muhs, PE, AICP, *Deputy Director*

Dr. Kurt W. Bauer, PE, PLS, AICP, *Executive Director Emeritus*

Administrative Services

Elizabeth A. Larsen, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, *Assistant Director*

Megan I. Deau, *Graphic Designer*
Crystal S. Edwards, *Accounting Clerk/HR Assistant*
Robert J. Klatkiewicz, *Office Clerk*
Nancee A. Nejedlo, *Receptionist*
Jean C. Peters, *Principal Planning Draftsman*
Richard J. Wazny, *Print Shop Supervisor*

Community Assistance Planning

Benjamin R. McKay, AICP, *Chief Community Assistance Planner*

Richard R. Kania, AICP, RLA, *Principal Planner*
John R. Meland, *Principal Specialist*
Christopher D. Parisey, *Senior Planner*
Robbie L. Robinson, *Senior Planner*

Environmental Planning

Laura K. Herrick, PE, CFM, *Chief Environmental Engineer*
Dr. Thomas M. Slawski, *Chief Specialist-Biologist*

Megan A. Beauchaine, *Planner*
Michael A. Borst, *Research Analyst*
Dr. Joseph E. Boxhorn, *Principal Planner*
Dale J. Buser, *Principal Specialist*
Dr. Daniel L. Carter, *Principal Specialist*
Jennifer L. Dietl, *Senior Specialist*
Shane T. Heyel, *Specialist*
Karin M. Hollister, PE, *Senior Engineer*
Christopher J. Jors, *Senior Specialist*
Zijia Li, *Engineer*
Alexis R. McAdams, *Technician*
Joshua A. Murray, PE, *Senior Engineer*
Nicklaus J. Neureuther, *Specialist*
Zofia Noe, *Specialist*
Julia C. Orlowski, *Engineer*
Aaron W. Owens, *Planner*
Ronald J. Printz, PE, *Principal Engineer*
Emma Weiss-Burns, *Technician*

Land Use Planning

David A. Schilling, *Chief Land Use Planner*

Rochelle M. Brien, *Senior Planner*
Frank G. Fierek, Jr., *Senior Specialist*
Joyce A. Gramz, *Senior GIS Specialist*
Laurie B. Miller, *Senior Planner*
James P. Siegler, *Planner*
Kathryn E. Sobottke, *Principal Specialist*

Public Involvement and Outreach

Nakeisha N. Payne, *Public Involvement and Outreach Manager*

Gary K. Korb, *Public Involvement and Outreach Specialist*
Marcus L. Smith, *Public Involvement and Outreach Specialist*

Special Projects

Eric D. Lynde, *Chief Special Projects Planner*

Kaleb W. Kutz, *Planner*

Surveying and GIS

Robert W. Merry, PLS, *Chief Surveyor*
Michael G. Gosetti, *GIS Manager*

Patricia L. Bouchard, *GIS Specialist*
Paul J. Clavette, *Principal Systems Analyst*
Joseph W. David, *Land Survey Assistant*
Timothy R. Gorseger, *GIS Specialist*
Benjamin O. Johnson, *Land Survey Assistant*
Bradley T. Subotnik, *Senior GIS Specialist*
Andrew J. Traeger, *Certified Survey Technician*
John T. Washburn, PLS, *Senior Specialist—Land Surveyor*

Transportation Planning

Christopher T. Hiebert, PE, *Chief Transportation Engineer*
Ryan W. Hoel, PE, *Deputy Chief Transportation Engineer*

Dr. Gom B. Ale, *Principal Planner*
Robert E. Beglinger, *Principal Planner*
Jeffrey A. Cross, *Engineering Technician*
Joseph M. Delmagori, *Senior Planner*
Joshua W. Depies, *Senior Engineer*
Victor T. Helin, *Senior Planner*
Ethan S. Johnson, *Senior Planner*
Nicholas A. Koncz, *Senior Engineer*
Reginald L. Mason, *Research Analyst*
Gabriel A. Rosenwald, *Engineering Technician*
Xylia N. Rueda, *Planner*
Jennifer B. Sarnecki, *Principal Planner*

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