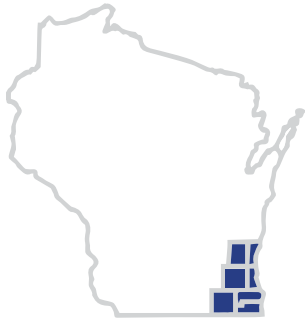


ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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)
Vacant
G (2020)

MILWAUKEE

Nancy L. Russell, *Treasurer*
C (2024)
Mary Knipper
G/C (2025)
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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Executive Committee

Charles L. Colman, *Chairman*
Michael A. Crowley, *Vice-Chairman*
Mike Dawson
James T. Dwyer
Aloysius Nelson
Robert W. Pitts
Nancy Russell
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
Aloysius Nelson
Robert W. Pitts
Nancy Russell
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
Mary Knipper
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

Dear Southeastern Wisconsin,

It is my pleasure to present to you the 2019 Annual Report for the Regional Planning Commission. 2019 was another busy year for the Commission and preparing and certifying the 2019 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.

While this 59th annual report emphasizes key work efforts during 2019, it was assembled during the global COVID-19 pandemic that began in early 2020. The Commission recognizes the significant impacts and unprecedented uncertainty the pandemic has caused. In the face of the pandemic, we are committed to continuing to provide high-quality planning services and monitoring changing conditions as they relate to our work.

Highlights from the year include:

- Maintained a \$2.95 billion transportation improvement program, allowing federal transportation dollars to continue to flow to the Region
- Initiated the 2020 Review and Update of VISION 2050, including new equity and transportation funding analyses
- Completed 10-year updates to the Walworth and Washington County comprehensive ("Smart Growth") plans
- Completed an update of the Region's environmental corridor inventory, critical to preserving the Region's natural resources
- Recorded over 2,400 plant species in the course of extensive environmental field work
- Continued a major data collection effort for the Regional Chloride Study
- Continued work on the Oak Creek Watershed Restoration Plan and ten other water quality plans
- Conducted significant public outreach, making nearly 200 contacts with the Commission's primary community organizations and staffing over 30 community events

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

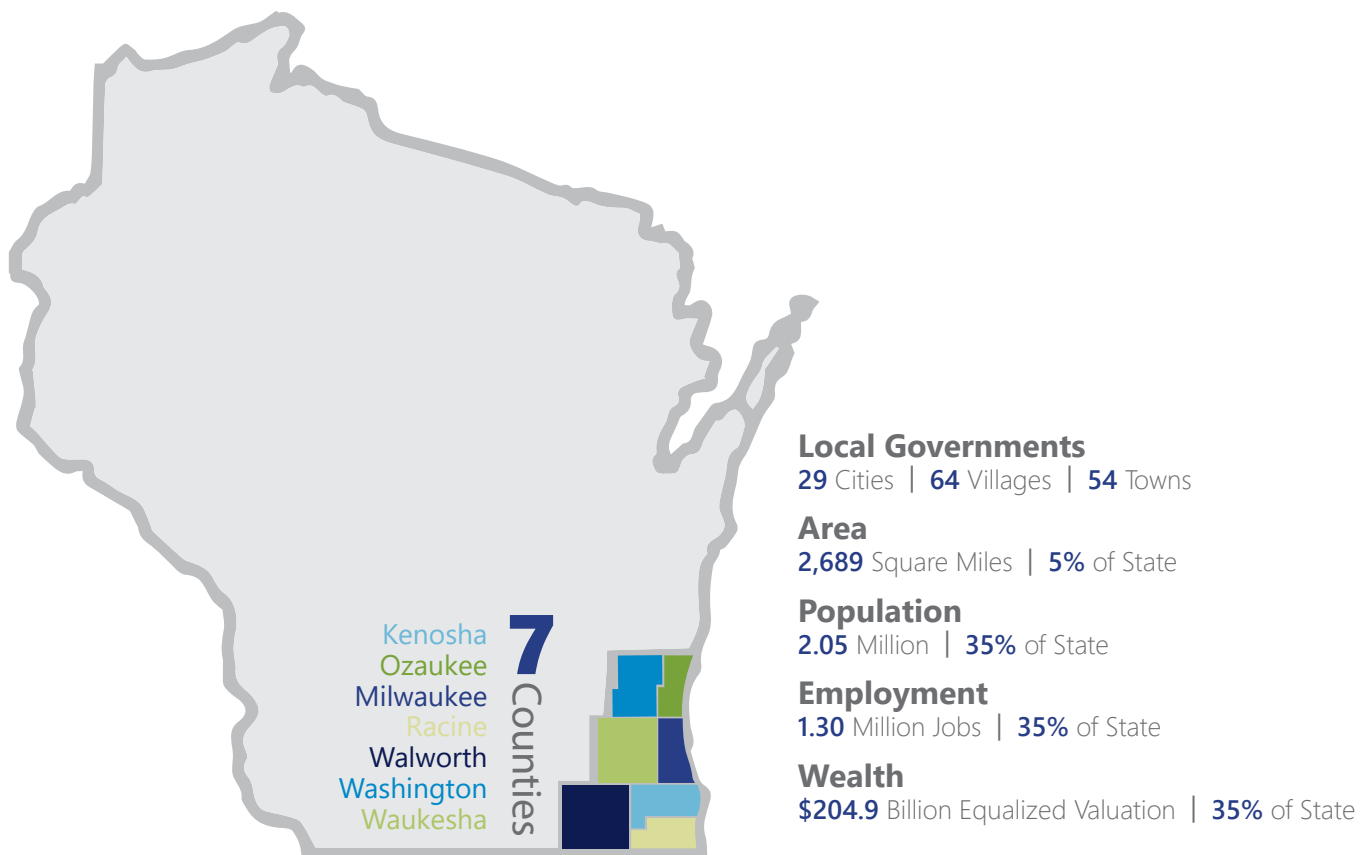
The **Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission** is the official areawide advisory planning agency for land use and infrastructure and the **metropolitan planning organization** (MPO) for the Region. **The Commission was established in 1960** under Section 66.0309 of the *Wisconsin Statutes* 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:

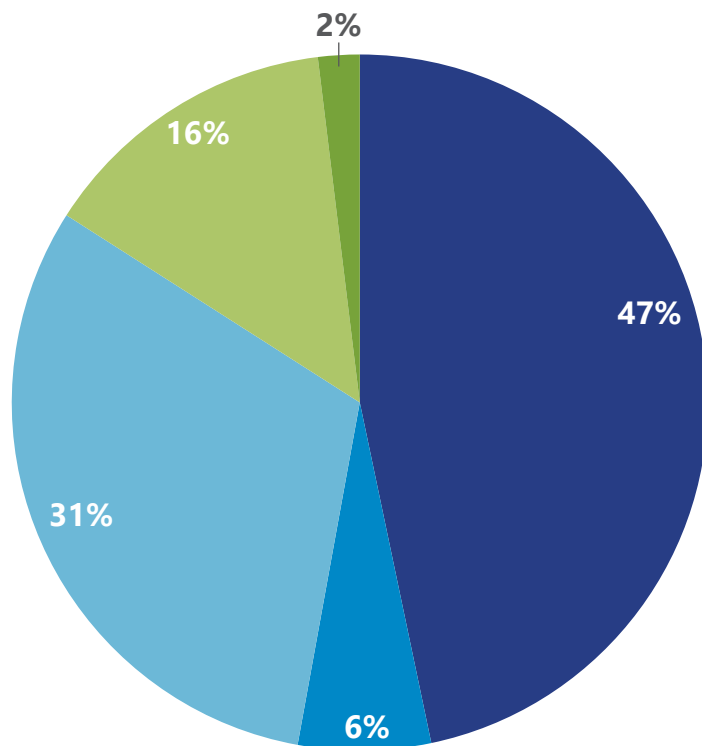
- **Providing basic planning and engineering data and analyses** to Federal, State, and local governments
- **Developing a framework of long-range areawide plans** for the physical development of the Region, which is mandated by State law
- **Coordinating day-to-day planning activities** of all the governments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



SEWRPC FINANCIALS

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 2019 can be viewed at www.sewrpc.org/funding.

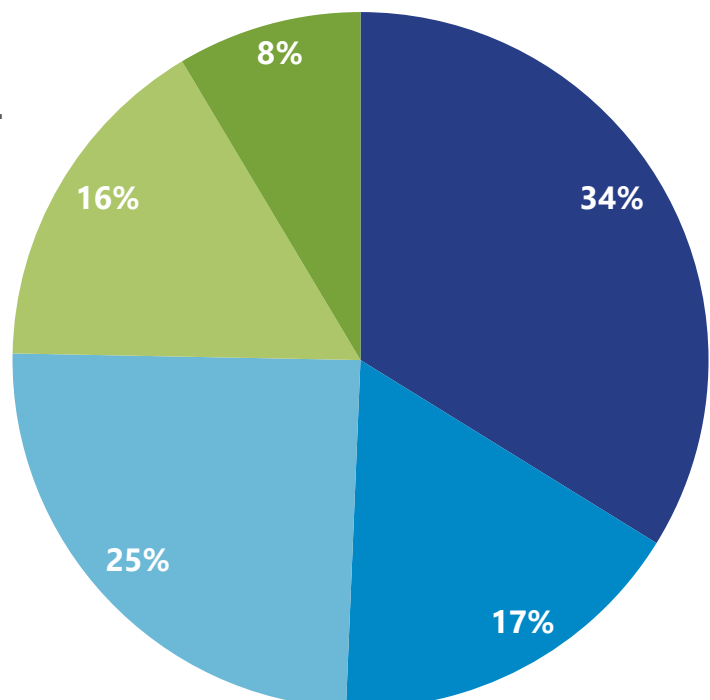


2019 Revenues **\$7,601,594**

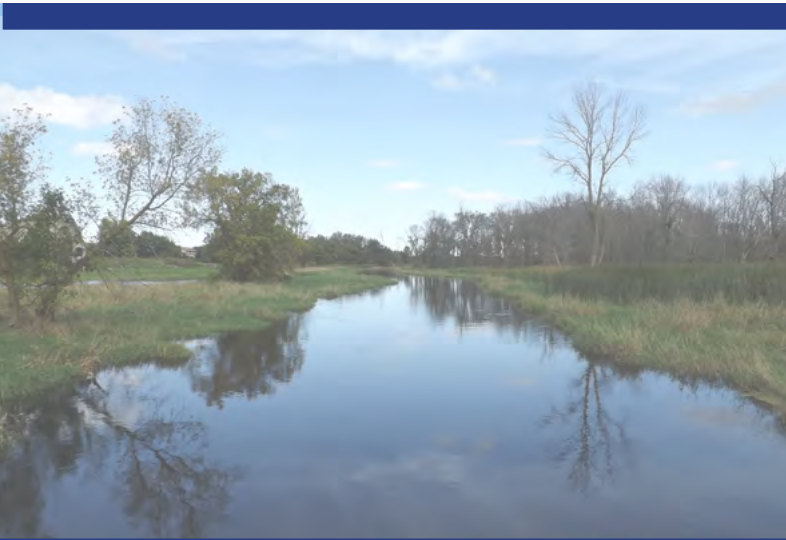
- **Federal Government**
\$3,550,216
 Federal Highway Administration (45%)
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1%)
 Federal Transit Administration (1%)
- **State Government**
\$468,099
 Wisconsin Department of Transportation (5%)
 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (1%)
 Wisconsin Department of Administration (<1%)
- **Local Government Tax Levy**
\$2,370,245
- **Service Agreements**
\$1,066,465
- **Miscellaneous**
\$146,569

2019 Expenditures **\$7,611,804**

- **Transportation Planning**
\$2,574,075
- **Land Use Planning**
\$1,282,458
- **Environmental Planning**
\$1,875,458
- **Local Planning Assistance**
\$1,227,414
- **Administration**
\$652,399



LAND USE HIGHLIGHTS



In 2019, 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 Environmental Corridor Inventory Completed

In 2019, Commission staff completed the update of the environmental corridor inventory from 2010 to 2015. This inventory, along with the previously completed effort to update the regional land use inventory, is critical to virtually all of the Commission's planning work. 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 environmental corridor inventory is updated by taking into account changes to wetlands, woodlands, and surface water identified when updating the land use inventory. In 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 scheduled to be completed in 2020.

Park and Open Space Planning

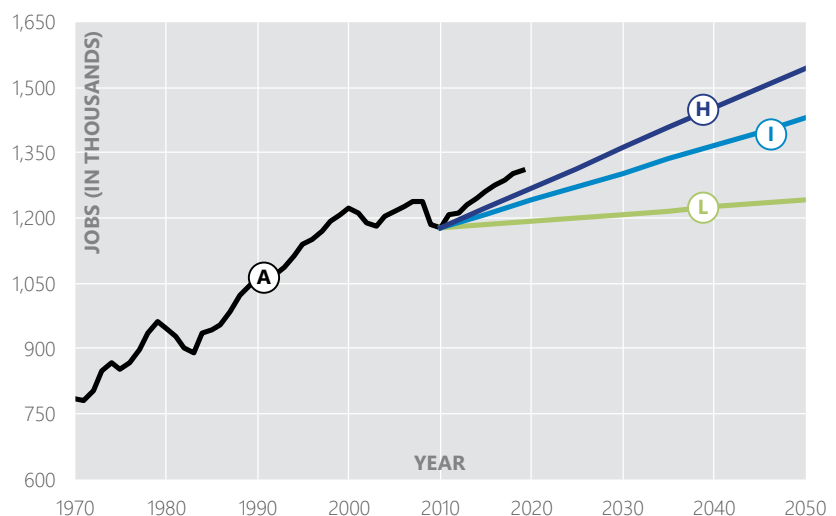
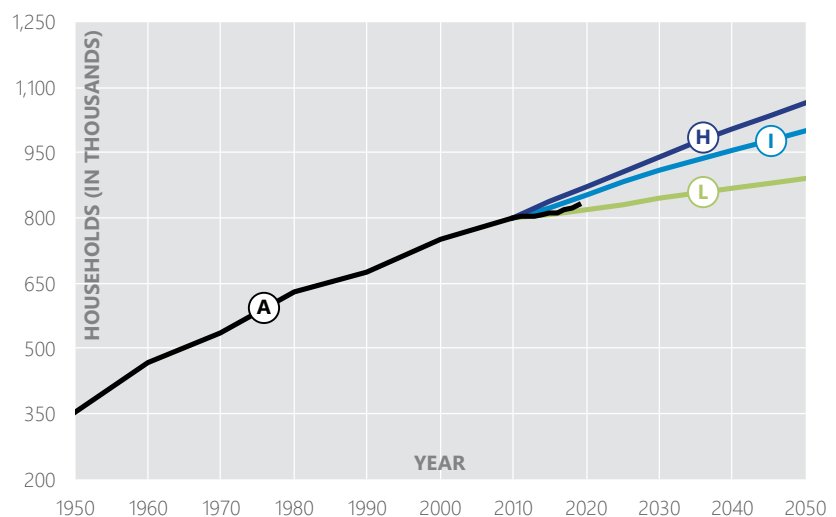
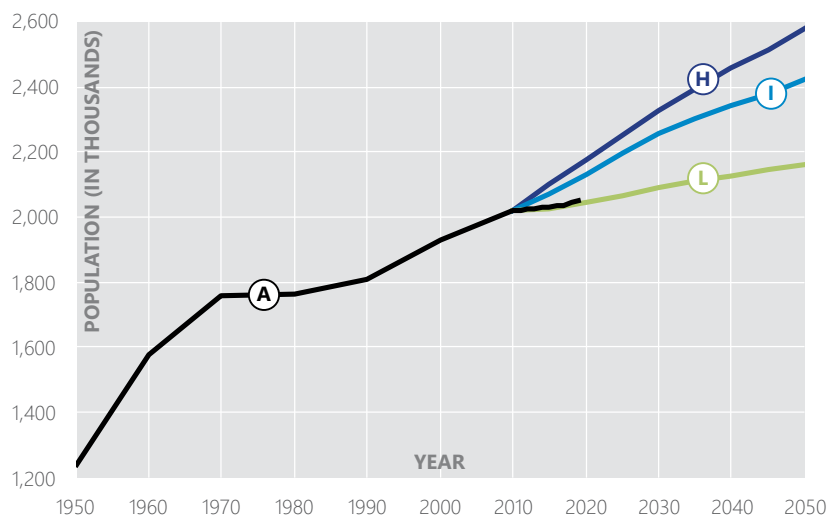
The Commission adopted a regional park and open space plan in 1977. The plan recommends preserving environmentally significant open space lands and providing sites and facilities for major resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities throughout the Region. Over time, the plan has been amended on a 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 2019, staff:

- Continued work on an update of the Milwaukee County park and open space plan
- Initiated work on an update of the Ozaukee County park and open space plan
- Completed work on the park and open space plan update for the City of Brookfield

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 2019 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

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 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 zoning, land division, or official mapping ordinances).

After 2011, work shifted to assistance with updating and implementing comprehensive plans. Major comprehensive planning activities in 2019 included:

- **Washington County Comprehensive Plan** – Staff completed 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. During 2019, staff completed such updates for the Town of Barton and the Villages of Jackson and Kewaskum.
- **Walworth County Comprehensive Plan** – Staff completed the 10-year update to the County’s multi-jurisdictional plan. The update consisted of a limited update of the original plan from 2009, including limited updates for the 13 towns that participated in that multi-jurisdictional planning effort.



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 2019 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, a court decision, or that help to implement regional plans.
- **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. Commission staff continually monitors changes in State law or court decisions that may impact the model land division ordinance.

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 2019, Commission staff responded to 17 requests from units of government for assistance with developing land use regulations and reviewing development proposals. Staff also responded to 105 data requests, providing a wide range of planning-related data, such as land use, natural resource, and demographic data.

VISION 2050



VISION 2050 is the long-range land use and transportation plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, originally 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. The development of 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 funding from the USDOT.

In 2019, Commission staff continued to share the plan and its recommendations across the Region and work with partners on implementing plan recommendations. Staff also completed one amendment to the plan and initiated an interim review and update of the plan.

Plan Amendment

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. Staff has completed two needed amendments to VISION 2050 establishing targets related to Federal Performance Management requirements. The first amendment incorporated highway safety targets and was adopted in June 2018. The second amendment incorporated targets for the remaining Federal Performance Management requirements and was adopted in June 2019.

2020 Review and Update

In late 2019, Commission staff initiated the first interim review and update of VISION 2050. The purpose of the 2020 Review and Update is to assess the progress in implementing the original VISION 2050 recommendations, the performance of the transportation system, year 2050 forecasts underlying the plan, and changes in recent years that impact the plan. This information and two rounds of public input form the basis for making updates to the plan recommendations as part of the 2020 Update. Also important to the 2020 Update are an updated financial analysis for the recommended transportation system and updated equity analyses related to the plan.

Staff conducted the first of two rounds of public involvement for the 2020 Update in November and December of 2019. This effort included holding seven public meetings across the Region and obtaining input from the Commission's nine community partners. The purpose of this first round of public involvement was to share information with the public about how well the various plan elements are being implemented and to collect feedback about this progress. We also asked for comments on changes the Commission should consider as it updates the plan's recommendations. A total of 277 individuals participated in the first round by attending one of the nine public or partner meetings or completing an online questionnaire.



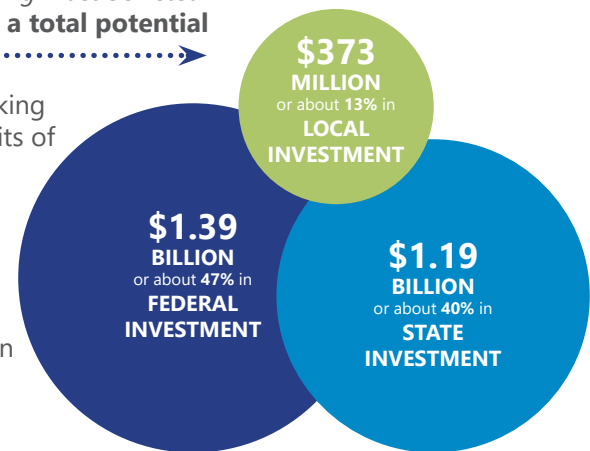
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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 includes 467 projects, representing a total potential investment of \$2.95 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.



\$701 MILLION

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



\$23 MILLION

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



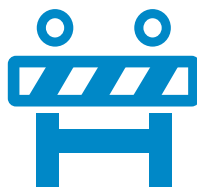
\$20 MILLION

for bicycle and pedestrian facility projects



\$1.02 BILLION

for projects that preserve the existing highway system



\$1.12 BILLION

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



\$80 MILLION

for other projects, including highway safety and environmental enhancement

Additional work activities in 2019 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 2019 to adjust the process for evaluating candidate STP-M projects, and used that process to initiate the evaluation of candidate projects for 2023-2025 STP-M funding. The Milwaukee TIP Committee will use the conclusions of this process to allocate \$85 million in funding available for these projects in early 2020.

\$85 million
in 2023-2025 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. In late 2019, WisDOT began solicitation of projects for 2023-2024 TAP funding. In early 2020, Commission staff will work with the Milwaukee TIP Committee to prioritize candidate projects for about \$1.5 million in TAP funding allocated to the Milwaukee Urbanized Area.

\$1.5 million
in 2023-2024 funding

Section 5310 Program

FTA Section 5310 program funding aims to improve mobility for seniors and people with disabilities. The Section 5310 application process occurs every other year and will next occur in 2020. The Milwaukee Urbanized Area's Section 5310 funding allocation available for 2019 and 2020 is about \$1.1 million each year. From the 2018 process, eight subrecipients had projects funded with approximately \$1.05 million for 2019 and six subrecipients had projects funded with approximately \$1.10 million for 2020. FTA Section 5310 project selection for years 2021 and 2022 will occur in late 2020.

\$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. In the summer of 2019, WisDOT solicited projects for approximately \$33 million of available 2023-2024 CMAQ funds. In late 2019, Commission staff initiated work with WisDOT and WDNR to evaluate candidate CMAQ projects. As part of evaluation, Commission staff prepared emissions estimates for each of the candidate projects and submitted the estimates to WisDOT and WDNR in December 2019. The CMAQ project selection process is expected to be completed by the three agencies in early 2020.

\$33 million
in 2023-2024 funding

TRANSPORTATION HIGHLIGHTS

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 2019 (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 2019 include:

- Continued assisting the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation with a bus rapid transit study to improve connections between downtown Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center
- Completed a review of existing conditions and a transit system performance evaluation as part of a combined transit development plan for the City of Waukesha and Waukesha County
- Completed the required transit asset management performance tracking and documentation for many of the Region's transit operators
- The Ozaukee County transit development plan was endorsed by the Ozaukee County Board of Supervisors on January 2, 2019, and adopted by the Regional Planning Commission on June 19, 2019

Freight Planning

In February 2019, Commission staff prepared a brief paper summarizing changes in the production and transportation of crude oil in the U.S. and Canada during the past decade, the safety concerns associated with transporting crude oil by rail, and key railroad industry and government actions taken to make shipping crude oil by rail safer. Learn more about this research at sewrpc.org/oilbyrail.

In September 2019, Commission staff, in consultation with WisDOT staff, completed the process of designating about 13 miles of roadways as Critical Urban Freight Corridors (CUFCs) in the Milwaukee Urbanized Area. In addition, Commission staff assisted WisDOT staff in completing the process of establishing about 10 miles of roadways as CUFCs in the Racine and Round Lake Beach Urbanized Areas and establishing about 16 miles of roadways as Critical Rural Freight Corridors (CRFCs) in Kenosha and Walworth Counties. CUFCs and CRFCs are a component of the National Highway Freight Network and provide connections to freight generators in urbanized and rural areas, such as intermodal freight facilities, logistics centers, and industrial areas.

Jurisdictional Highway System 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. The Ozaukee County jurisdictional highway system plan (2nd edition) was endorsed by the Ozaukee County Board of Supervisors on January 2, 2019, and adopted by the Regional Planning Commission on June 19, 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 2019, Commission staff completed work, in coordination with WisDOT, on revisions to the functional classifications of public roadways within the West Bend urbanized area. The Commission staff previously presented the proposed functional classification revisions to the West Bend TIP Committee, which approved the proposed classifications with some minor revisions on September 25, 2018. These proposed roadway classifications, as approved by the Committee, were approved by the Commission's Executive Committee on February 21, 2019.

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 2019, staff prepared numerous forecasts for WisDOT and other agencies and provided technical assistance for several projects and studies. Examples include:

- Milwaukee County East-West Bus Rapid Transit project
- I-94 north-south reconstruction
- Reconstruction of the Zoo Interchange
- STH 50 reconstruction

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 2019 include:

- **Regional Transit Leadership Council** – Commission staff continued to support the work of the RTLCL, which formed in November 2016 to address regional connectivity challenges and achieve a multimodal transportation system. Staff serves on the RTLCL's Executive Committee.
- **W. Washington Boulevard Traffic Engineering Study** – At the request of Milwaukee County, Commission staff completed work in early 2019 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. The results of the study were presented to Milwaukee County staff on January 29, 2019.
- **Washington County Bicycle and 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 one plan advisory committee meeting and a public workshop in 2019. Washington County adopted the plan on June 12, 2019.
- **Route of the Badger** – Commission staff worked with the Rails to Trails Conservancy (RTC) and several local governments to identify existing and proposed trails included in the Route of the Badger network. In April 2019, RTC published the Route of the Badger map, which identifies a 700-mile network of trails in Southeastern Wisconsin that would address gaps between communities and increase outdoor tourism and economic development.



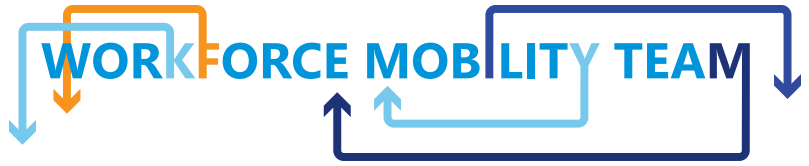
Credit: MCTS

TRANSPORTATION HIGHLIGHTS

Workforce Mobility Team

» www.sewrpc.org/mobility

The Workforce Mobility Team continued 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 RTL 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 2019 and continued to maintain 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 2019, staff updated its interactive web map to provide count information for the 64 locations counted by the Commission and the 40 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 2019.

Advisory Committee on Regional Transportation Planning

- Met twice to review and approve an amendment to VISION 2050 and initiate guidance on the first interim review and update of VISION 2050 (discussed on page 7).

Advisory Committees on Transportation System Planning and Programming

- Met in April to jointly consider and recommend projects for years 2021-2022 CMAQ funding.
- Considered and approved amendments to the 2019-2022 TIP.
- The Milwaukee Urbanized Area Committee met twice to consider and approve changes to the process to evaluate, prioritize, and recommend projects for years 2023-2025 STP-M funding.

Advisory Committees on Transit Development Planning

- The Waukesha Area Committee met four times to guide work on a transit development plan for the City of Waukesha and Waukesha County.

Advisory Committees on Jurisdictional Highway System Planning

- The Ozaukee County Board of Supervisors and the Commission approved the recommended jurisdictional highway system plan in January 2019 and June 2019, respectively.

Environmental Justice Task Force

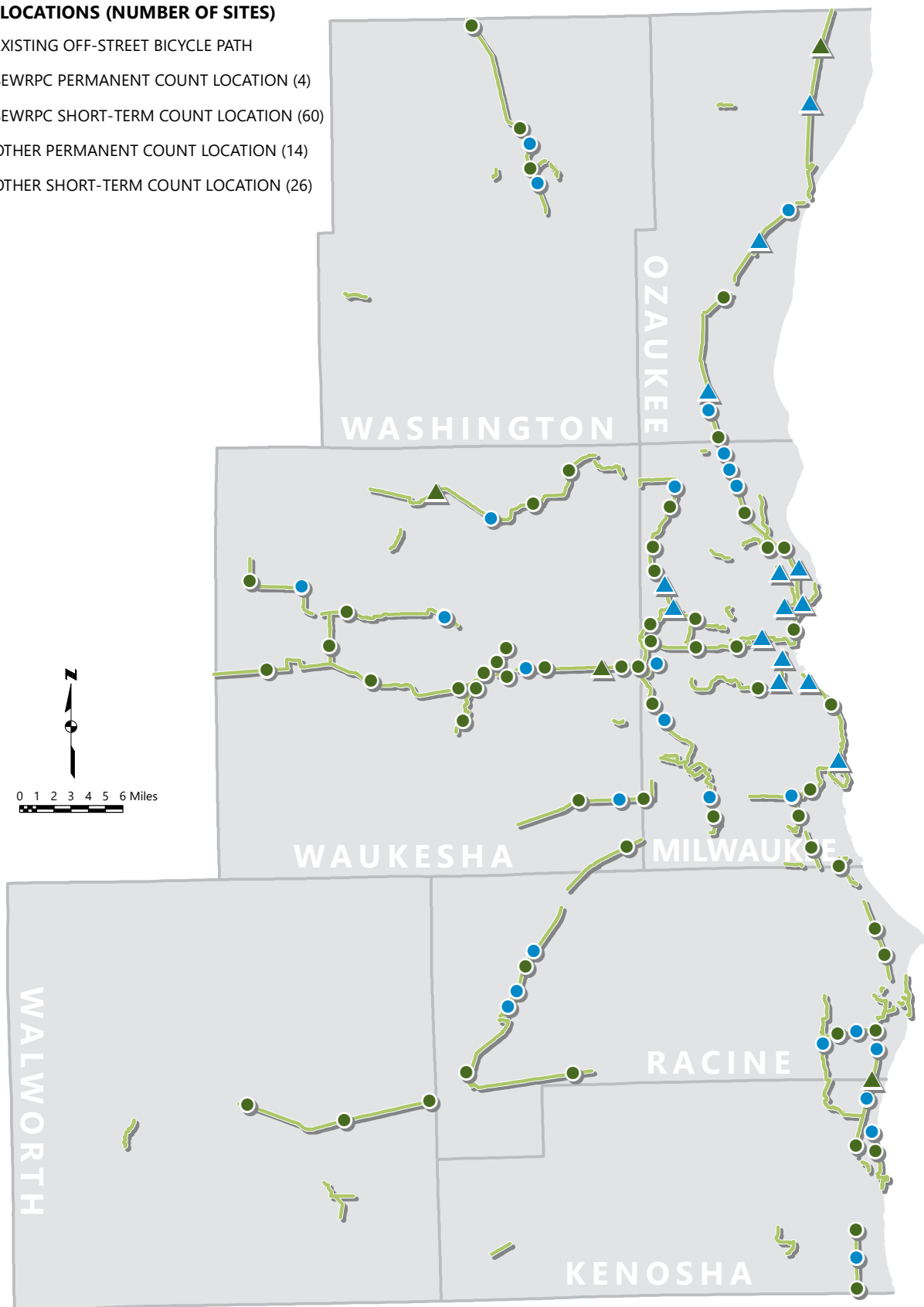
- Met three times to consider and discuss transportation-related issues (described on page 31).

Wisconsin Conformity Technical Workgroup

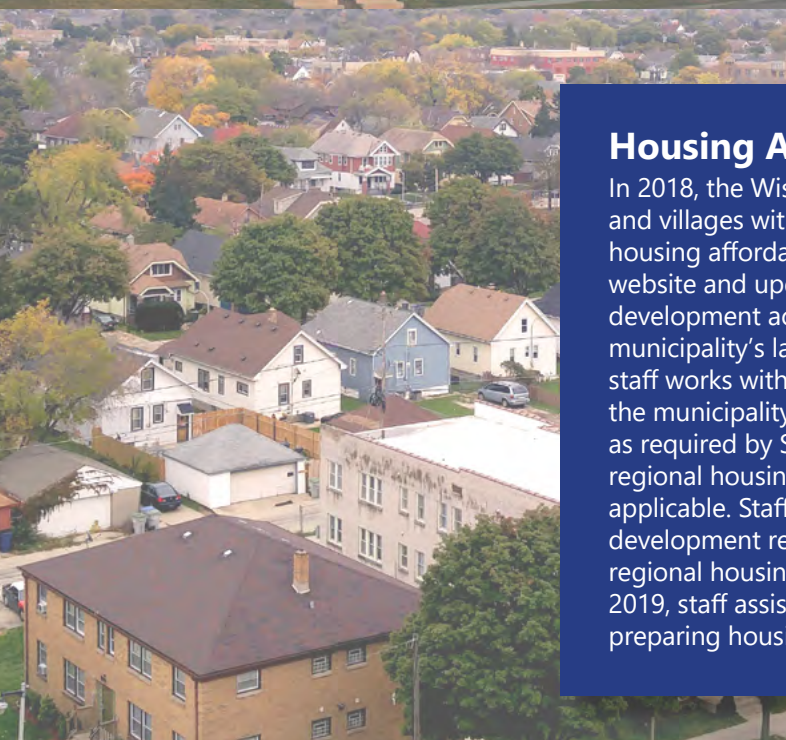
- Commission staff met quarterly with USDOT, USEPA, WisDOT, and WDNR staff to discuss and stay apprised of potential air quality issues within the State.

COUNT LOCATIONS (NUMBER OF SITES)

- EXISTING OFF-STREET BICYCLE PATH
- ▲ SEWRPC PERMANENT COUNT LOCATION (4)
- SEWRPC SHORT-TERM COUNT LOCATION (60)
- ▲ OTHER PERMANENT COUNT LOCATION (14)
- OTHER SHORT-TERM COUNT LOCATION (26)



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 2019 include:

- Participated on the City of Waukesha Housing Study Review Committee
- Presented to the Walworth County Community Alliance
- Provided existing and planned sewer and water service information to a consultant working with the Racine County Economic Development Corporation to prepare the Racine County Targeted Development Study
- Presented to an Urban Planning class at UW-Milwaukee
- Provided housing and demographic information to the Kenosha Area Business Alliance
- Presented to a class in the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture at UW-Madison

Housing Affordability Reports

In 2018, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted legislation that required cities and villages with populations of 10,000 people or more to prepare a housing affordability report, which must be posted on the municipality's website and updated annually. 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 works 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 uses regional housing plan recommendations as the basis for the analysis, as applicable. Staff also includes 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. In 2019, staff assisted the Cities of Burlington, Cudahy, and Glendale with preparing housing affordability reports.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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 2019 included:

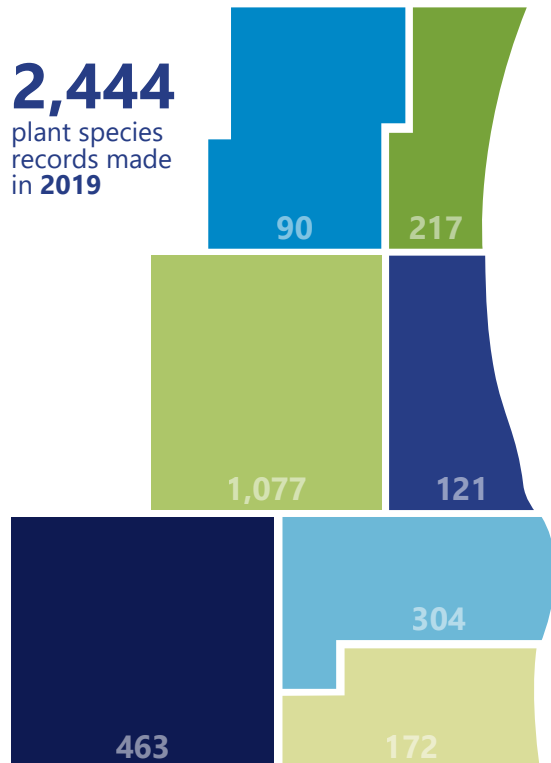
- **Economic Development Data** – In response to seven data requests, staff provided 25 reports from WEDC's web-based Economic Modeling Specialist International (EMSI) Developer software to county and local governments and economic development organizations. These reports can be customized to various 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 2019, three new loans were made and eight 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 \$20,000 at the end of 2019 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

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.

In 2019, the Commission initiated a work effort with the Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection and Management of Natural Areas in Southeastern Wisconsin to develop an amendment to SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42. Two Committee meetings were held in 2019 to discuss proposed changes to Planning Report No. 42.



The map on page 17 shows the 62 designated or proposed natural areas and critical species habitats that staff visited in 2019. 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 one new natural area of statewide significance (NA-1) in Kenosha County, one new critical species habitat site in Waukesha County, and nine new natural areas of local significance (NA-3) (one in Milwaukee County, two in Ozaukee County, one in Racine County, one in Walworth County, and four in Waukesha County) were proposed for inclusion in a future amendment to the natural areas plan.

In addition, several sites already identified in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42 were proposed to be upgraded in a future amendment. Six sites were proposed to be upgraded from critical species habitats to natural areas of local significance (NA-3) (one in Kenosha County, two in Ozaukee County, one in Washington County, and two in Waukesha County), one site from local significance (NA-3) to regional significance (NA-2) in Walworth County, and one site from regional significance (NA-2) to statewide significance (NA-1) in Walworth County.






A total of 24 sites previously classified as natural areas were recommended for removal from the future amendment to the natural areas plan as they no longer represented a locally significant natural area. Nine natural areas were recommended to be downgraded to a lower ranking natural area classification in the future amendment. The most common reason associated with rank downgrades relates to the negative effects associated with invasive species.

A total of 22 records of State endangered (1 record), threatened (5 records), and special concern (16 records) plant species were made: 12 from Waukesha County, 5 from Racine County, 3 from Walworth County, and 2 from Kenosha County. One native plant taxa not previously recorded as in the Region was observed in Racine County.







Special Environmental Inventories, Assessments, and Evaluations

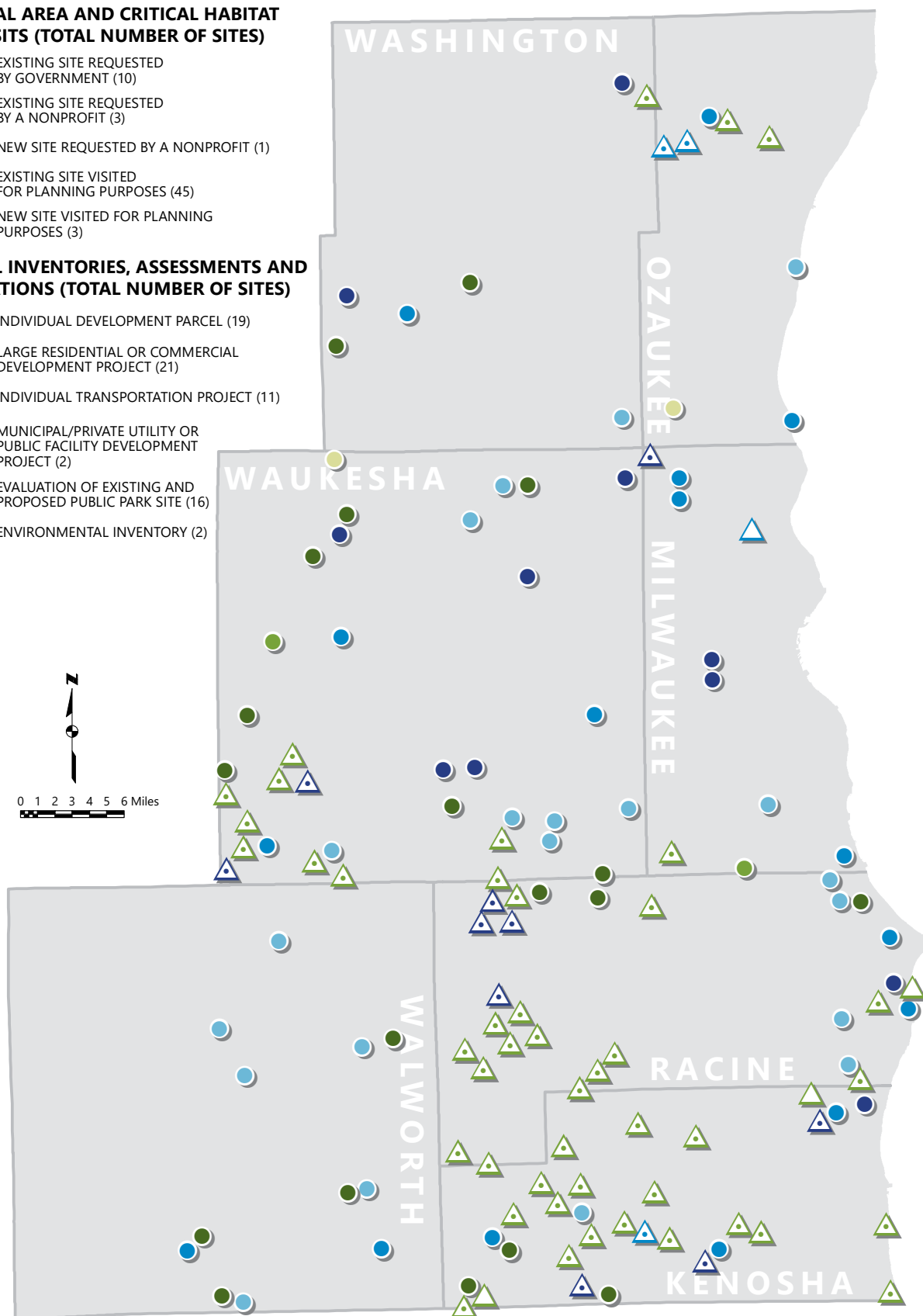
The Commission continually helps Federal, State, and local governments to evaluate and assess the environmental significance and quality of specific development and preservation sites throughout the Region. In particular, this often involves the field identification and delineation of the extent of environmentally sensitive areas, including wetlands and/or environmental corridors. The Commission fulfilled the field inspection component for a total of 71 requests in 2019 (shown on the map on page 17).

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

-  EXISTING SITE REQUESTED BY GOVERNMENT (10)
-  EXISTING SITE REQUESTED BY A NONPROFIT (3)
-  NEW SITE REQUESTED BY A NONPROFIT (1)
-  EXISTING SITE VISITED FOR PLANNING PURPOSES (45)
-  NEW SITE VISITED FOR PLANNING PURPOSES (3)

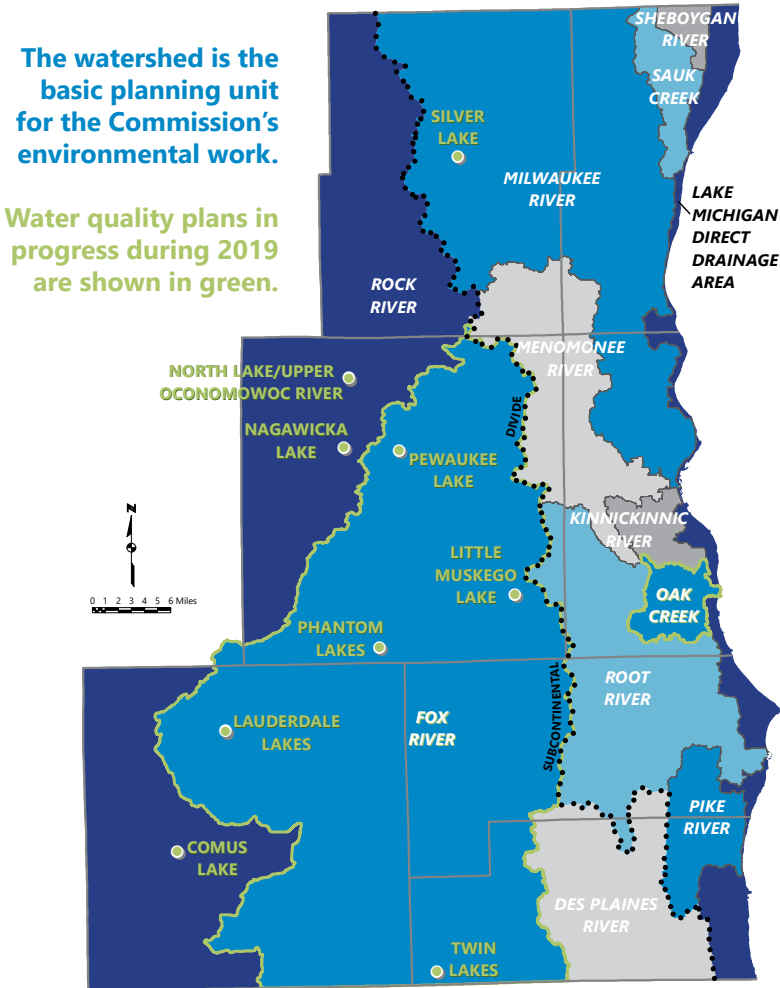
SPECIAL INVENTORIES, ASSESSMENTS AND EVALUATIONS (TOTAL NUMBER OF SITES)

-  INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT PARCEL (19)
-  LARGE RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (21)
-  INDIVIDUAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECT (11)
-  MUNICIPAL/PRIVATE UTILITY OR PUBLIC FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (2)
-  EVALUATION OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED PUBLIC PARK SITE (16)
-  ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY (2)



WATER QUALITY

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.



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 county governments and local lake community organizations including lake and stream management associations, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, conservancy groups, and land trusts.

River Management Planning

During 2019, Commission staff worked on two river management plans. These plans focused on nutrient and sediment sources and transport in the subject streams and prioritizing agricultural parcels for implementing best management practices. Work during 2019 addressed the following rivers:

- Fox River (Kenosha, Racine, and Waukesha Counties)
- Oconomowoc River (Washington and Waukesha Counties)

Lake Management Planning

During 2019, Commission staff worked on 13 ongoing lake management plans. These plans focus on multiple issues such as aquatic plant growth and management, water quality, watershed conditions, sediment and pollutant sources, algae, shoreline maintenance, recreation, public access, water levels, and wildlife. Work during 2019 addressed the following lakes:

- Elizabeth and Mary Lakes (Kenosha County)
- Comus and Lauderdale (Green, Middle, and Mill) Lakes (Walworth County)
- Silver Lake (Washington County)
- Little Muskego (published report), Nagawicka, North, Pewaukee, and Upper and Lower Phantom Lakes (published report) (Waukesha County)

Regional Chloride Impact Study

» www.sewrpc.org/chloridestudy

The chloride (salt) impact study is a major regional effort that is identifying 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 through October 2020. Lake monitoring also began in 2018, with six lakes sampled quarterly. In 2019, Commission staff also continued to collect streamflow measurements, stream monitoring data from MMSD, and state-of-the-art information on public and private deicing, fertilizers, water softening, wastewater sources, and groundwater sources.

Oak Creek Watershed Restoration Plan

» www.sewrpc.org/OakCreekWRP

Work continued in 2019 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 to increase recreational use and access
- Protecting habitat, wildlife, open spaces, and environmental corridors
- Assessing the Mill Pond and dam

In 2019, Commission staff completed work on the first three chapters of the plan, which included the introduction, a summary of prior work, and an overview of the watershed. Work continued on the fourth chapter of the plan, which summarizes a more detailed watershed inventory of the water quality, habitat, fisheries, recreational opportunities, and the Mill Pond and dam.



WATER QUALITY

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 2019 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, providing environmental outreach/education, and giving presentations to share information and management alternatives. In 2019, staff participated in events and activities with the following:

- 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
- Riveredge Nature Center
- 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
- Presentations at: Carroll University, American Water Resources Association, and the Upper Midwest Stream Restoration Symposium

Southeast Fox River Partnership

The 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 protecting, restoring, and enhancing natural resources in the Fox River watershed. Commission staff are highly active in this effort and helped SFRP and the Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission (SEWFRC) to organize and host the 7th Annual Fox River Summit in Burlington during March 2019. Staff also continued to assist SFRP, the Village of Waterford, and Kenosha, Racine, and Waukesha Counties to complete 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 2019 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/Kletzsch Park reach of the Milwaukee River
- Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern working group discussions
- 2019 Resilience Plan
- Water Quality Improvement Plan and the Fredonia-Newburg Nine Key Element 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.

- Walworth County Lakes Association (Walworth County)
- Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District (Walworth County)
- Lake Comus Protection and Rehabilitation District (Walworth County)
- Town of Delavan (Delavan Lake, Walworth County)
- Washington County in collaboration with the Ozaukee-Washington Land Trust (Mayhew Property, Washington County)
- Waukesha County (School Section Lake dam failure issue)
- Schlitz Audubon Nature Center (Milwaukee County)
- Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District and the Village of Pewaukee (outlet dam operation, Waukesha County)
- School Section Lake Management District (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 2019. Examples include:

- Coastal Lake Michigan Tributary regenerative stormwater conveyance demonstration project (Milwaukee County)
- Fish passage initiatives (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 meetings for the Walworth County Lakes Association, Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Partnership, and Lake Comus Protection and Rehabilitation District
- School Section Lake dam repair (Waukesha County)
- Streambank erosion and mapped instream bathymetry along the Fox River (Kenosha and Racine Counties)

WATER QUALITY

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 2019 include:

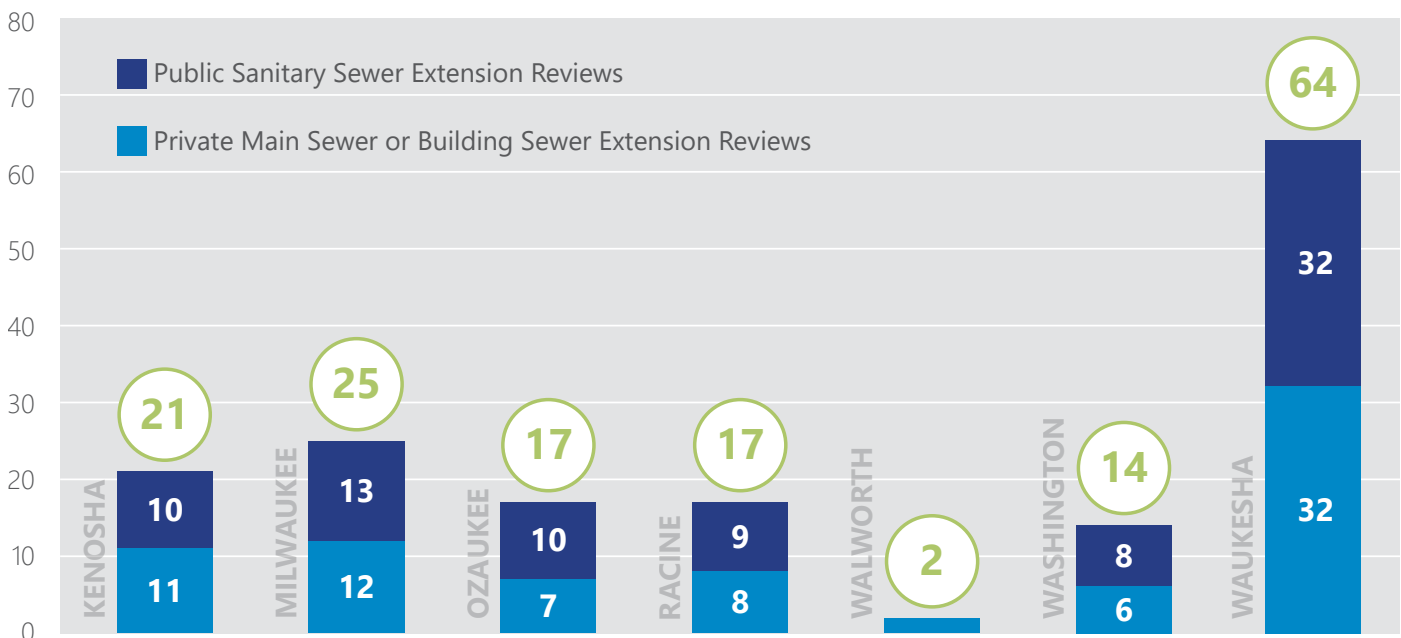
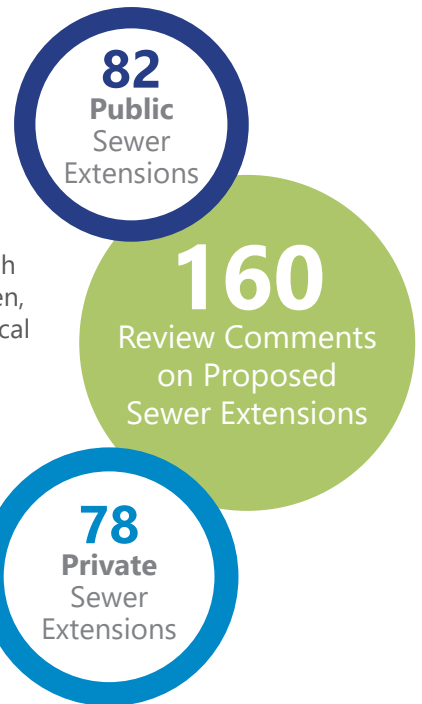
- Continuing to work with various municipalities and other non-governmental groups to implement runoff pollution and shoreline erosion abatement recommendations in the Fox River, Oconomowoc River, Mason Creek, and Root River watersheds.

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 2019, 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 many of these sewer service areas in cooperation with local units of government. During 2019, the Commission adopted amendments to sanitary sewer service area plans for the Cities of Mequon and New Berlin and the Villages of Dousman and Grafton.

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.



ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

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 2019, staff incorporated water supply plan recommendations related to preserving groundwater recharge areas into 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 2019, staff completed the hazard mitigation plan for the City of Milwaukee and continued work on the Ozaukee County hazard mitigation plan.

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 2019, 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

In addition, Commission staff are partnering with Milwaukee County Parks staff to develop coastal management guidelines for Milwaukee County. The guidelines are intended to be used to develop a formal policy to proactively manage County coastal properties with respect to vegetation and bluff buffers. The guidelines may also be used by coastal local governments within Milwaukee County. Work on the report documenting the guidelines was initiated in 2019 and is anticipated to be completed in 2021.

FLOODPLAIN AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

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 2019 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 and MMSD:

- Continued developing several hydrologic and hydraulic models for the Root River watershed
- Completed 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 13 requests for hydrologic and hydraulic data for 11 streams, rivers, and lakes throughout the Region, efforts in 2019 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
- Continued work on a Beaver Creek watercourse system plan for MMSD to address flooded structures in the Village of Brown Deer
- Completed a Stormwater Management Evaluation for the City of Burlington to address stormwater flooding on the City's southwest side
- Continued 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 2019, data were collected from 44 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 (29)

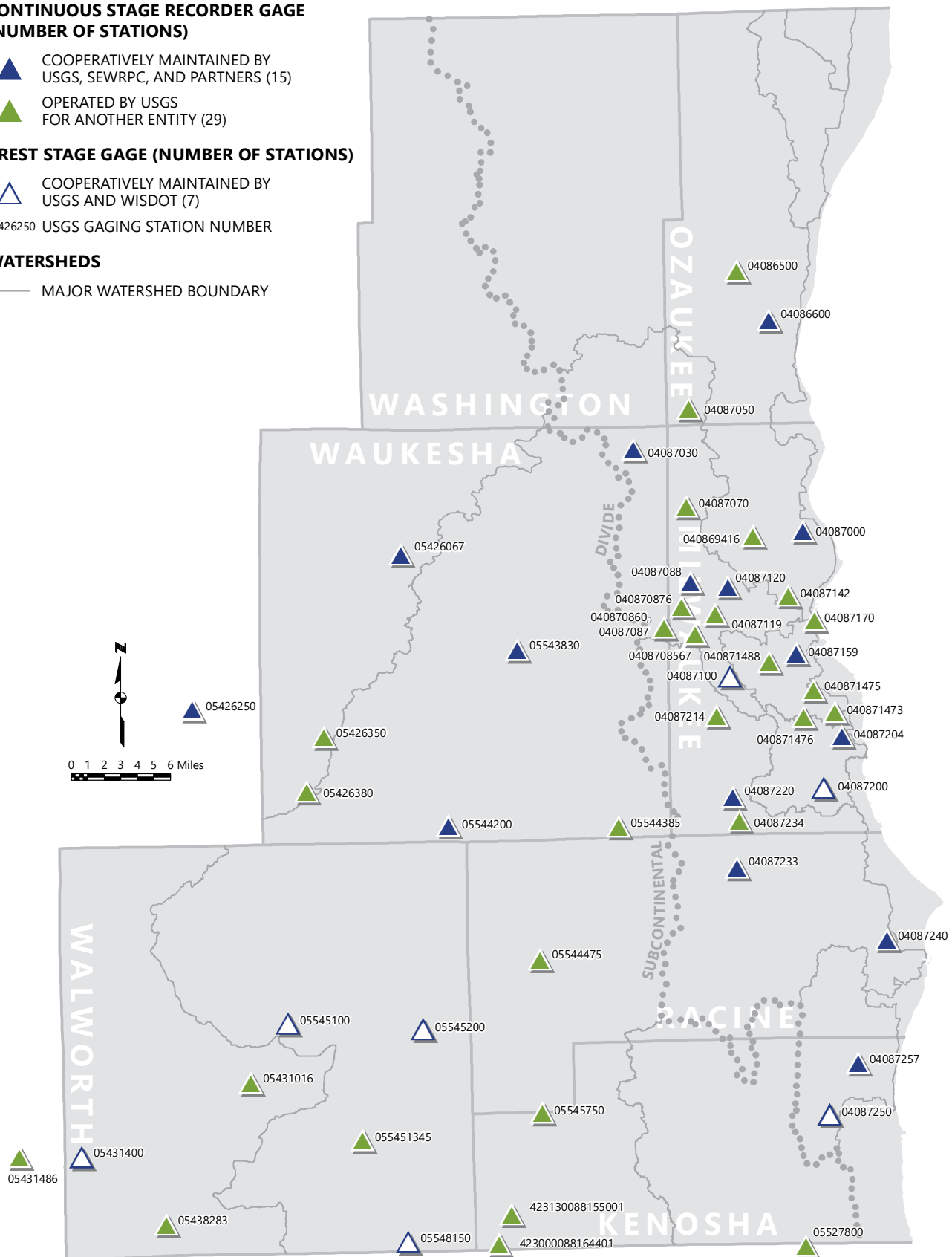
CREST STAGE GAGE (NUMBER OF STATIONS)

-  COOPERATIVELY MAINTAINED BY USGS AND WISDOT (7)

05426250 USGS GAGING STATION NUMBER

WATERSHEDS

— MAJOR WATERSHED BOUNDARY



SURVEYING, MAPPING, AND LAND INFORMATION



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 high 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 to 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 2019, staff had completed the horizontal conversions for all counties in the Region except Washington County, which is 95 percent complete. The remaining USPLSS corners in the County are located in marshy areas that require a significant freeze for staff to access these corners.



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 2019, a total of 68 dossier sheets and 160 CSSDs were updated on the website. On an average weekday during 2019, 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 and 2019 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.

68

Dossier
Sheets

228

Survey Documents
Prepared

160

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 2019, as County Surveyor, the Commission staff continued to serve on the land information committees for Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Walworth, and Waukesha Counties.

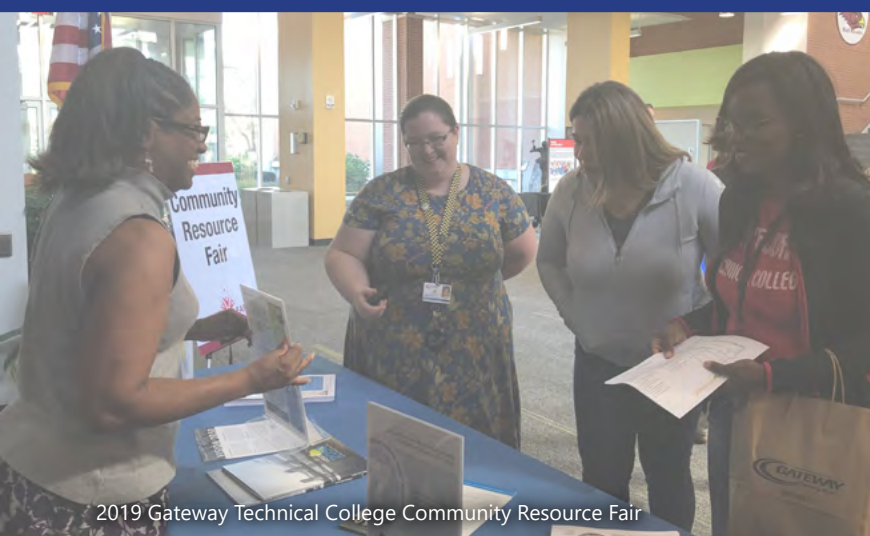
County Surveyor Activities

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 2019 to Kenosha, Ozaukee, Walworth, and Waukesha Counties along with County Surveyor support in Racine County through a Wisconsin Department of Transportation contract. During 2019, the Commission monumented a total of 153 USPLSS corners that had been disturbed or destroyed in the six counties. These activities included field work as well as substantial office work to prepare updated documentation of the corners concerned. In addition to reestablishing the USPLSS corner monuments the Commission also inspected 99 additional USPLSS corners and found the corner monument to be in excellent shape along with having the accessories supporting the corner location.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH



2019 Latino Family Expo



2019 Gateway Technical College Community Resource Fair

The Commission carries out an extensive public involvement and outreach program annually, as described in the Commission's public participation plan, which was last 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 2019, the Commission distributed four 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 2019.



In late 2019, Commission staff initiated a federally required update to VISION 2050 (described on page 7). The first of two rounds of public involvement were conducted in November and December. The following materials were distributed to the general public alerting them of the update process and public meetings: postcards for the public meetings, fourteen paid advertisements, social media posts and events, email invitations to interested parties, personal phone calls to targeted groups, and articles in *Regional Planning News*. These publications, emails, social media, and articles invited residents to attend the seven public meetings held across the Region. Staff also helped the Commission's nine Community Partners distribute customized postcards for meetings held for their constituents. The purpose of this first round of public involvement was to share information with the public about how well the various plan elements are being implemented and to collect feedback about this progress. A total of 277 individuals participated in the first round of public involvement by attending one of the public or partner meetings or by completing an online survey. For more details about the interactive public meetings, visit the VISION 2050 website (www.vision2050sewis.org).

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.

Education

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

Environmental Justice

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

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 2019, staff continued an ongoing collaboration with the Commission's nine Community Partners, which included an annual meeting with all the Community Partners. At this meeting, the concept of holding a joint community conversation involving many of the Community Partners' constituents was conceived. This community conversation, related to the VISION 2050 update, was held in December 2019.

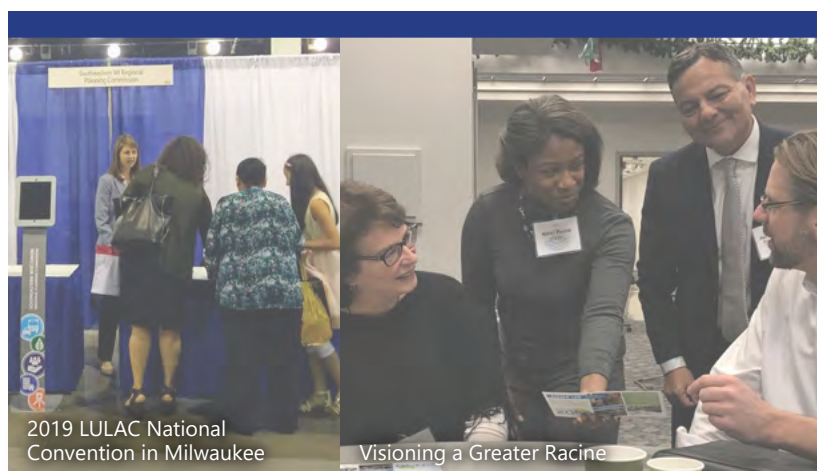


Milwaukee Urban League

REPHA at the Green School Consortium

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

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH



Organizations Serving Target Populations

SEWRPC outreach efforts include targeting organizations within the Region that 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.

31

Staffed Exhibits
at **Community
Events** in the
Region

196

Direct Contacts
Made with
**Primary
Organizations**

62

Direct Contacts
Made with
**Community
Partners**

Outreach focuses on an continuously evolving list of 75+ organizations that serve as a formal distribution network, called the **Primary Organizations**. The Commission's nine Community Partners are also included in the Primary Organizations list. 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.

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 the Primary Organizations and additionally to other community organizations that

have asked to be included in the Commission's planning efforts. In 2019, these letters provided updates about the work the Commission accomplished in 2018 and the projects underway in 2019, including introducing the VISION 2050 update. Both letters also offered opportunities to meet individually with Commission staff.

Primary Organizations

Bold text denotes SEWRPC Community Partner
Italicized text signifies operations in multiple counties within Southeastern Wisconsin

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
Gerald I. Ignace Indian Health Center
Harambee Great Neighborhood Initiative
Hispanic Business and Professional Association
Hispanic Roundtable (Racine)
Hmong American Friendship Association
IndependenceFirst
Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County
Interfaith Caregivers of Washington County
Kenosha Achievement Center
Kenosha Area Family and Aging Services
Kenosha Community Health Center
La Casa de Esperanza
Layton Boulevard West Neighbors
League of United Latin American Citizens
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Milwaukee Health Services
Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope
Milwaukee Urban League
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Ozaukee Family Services
Progressive Community Health Center
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
Root River Environmental Education Community Center
Salvation Army
Sherman Park Community Association
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 Centers
Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin
Urban League of Racine and Kenosha
Visioning a Greater Racine
Walnut Way Conservation Corporation
Walworth County Community Alliance
Washington Park Partners
Wisconsin Green Muslims
Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs
Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce
WISDOM
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 three times in 2019 (May 21, September 4, and November 6). Highlights from the EJTF's work in 2019 included participating in the UW-Milwaukee Causier Lecture featuring professor John A. Powell, discussing ways to increase diversity among candidates for open positions at the Commission, and providing initial input related to the 2020 Review and Update of VISION 2050. In addition, staff implemented a periodic review of Task Force action items, which was requested by the Task Force during a retreat held in 2018.



UW-Milwaukee Causier Lecture Reception



September EJTF 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.

2019 PUBLICATIONS

In addition to the Commission's Annual Report for 2018 and Overall Work Program for 2020, the following publications were published in 2019. Publication types are described at www.sewrpc.org/publicationtypes.

Planning Reports

No. 17 (2nd Edition) – A Jurisdictional Highway System Plan for Ozaukee County, June

Community Assistance Planning Reports

Amendments to the Regional Water Quality Management Plan (Planning Report No. 30)

- Amendment to No. 91 (2nd Edition) – Sanitary Sewer Service Areas for the City of Cedarburg and the Village of Grafton, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin, September
- Amendment to No. 188 – Sanitary Sewer Service Area for the City of Mequon and Village of Thiensville, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin, September
- Amendment to No. 192 (3rd Edition) – Sanitary Sewer Service Area for the Village of Dousman and Environs, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, September

No. 108 (4th Edition) – A Park and Open Space Plan for the City of Brookfield, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, May

No. 282 (3rd Edition) – City of Milwaukee All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update, November

No. 287 (2nd Edition) – A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Washington County: 2050, April

No. 288 (2nd Edition) – A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan Update for Walworth County, Wisconsin, June

No. 290 (2nd Edition) – A Comprehensive Plan Update for the Town of Barton: 2050, Washington County, Wisconsin, June

No. 298 (2nd Edition) – A Comprehensive Plan Update for the Village of Kewaskum: 2050, Washington County, Wisconsin, May

No. 331 – Ozaukee County Transit Development Plan: 2019-2023, June

No. 334 – A Comprehensive Plan for the Village of Jackson: 2050, Washington County, Wisconsin, November

Memorandum Reports

No. 81 (2nd Edition) – Aquatic Plant Management Plan Update for the Phantom Lakes, Waukesha County, Wisconsin: 2019, October

No. 155 (3rd Edition) – An Aquatic Plant Management Plan for Little Muskego Lake, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, June

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 6, Issue 1, March

Volume 6, Issue 2, June

Volume 6, Issue 3, September

Volume 6, Issue 4, December



SEWRPC STAFF: 2019

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 2019, the Commission staff totaled **65**, including **61** full-time and **4** part-time employees.

Executive Leadership

Kevin J. Muhs, PE, AICP, Executive Director

Benjamin R. McKay, AICP, Deputy Director

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

Administrative Services

Elizabeth A. Larsen, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, Director of Administration

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

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, *Principal Specialist*
Zijia Li, *PE, Engineer*
Alexis R. McAdams, *Research Analyst*
Nicklaus J. Neureuther, *Specialist*
Zofia Noe, *Senior Specialist*
Julia C. Orlowski, *PE, Engineer*
Aaron W. Owens, *Senior Planner*
Justin P. Poinsatte, *Senior Specialist*
Ronald J. Printz, *PE, Principal Engineer*

Land Use Planning

David A. Schilling, Chief Land Use Planner

Rochelle M. Brien, *AICP, Senior Planner*
Frank G. Fierek, Jr., *Senior Specialist*
Joyce A. Gramz, *Senior GIS Specialist*
Richard R. Kania, *AICP, RLA, Principal Planner*
Robbie L. Robinson, *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*
Montre J. Moore, *Public Involvement and Outreach Specialist*

Special Projects

Eric D. Lynde, Chief Special Projects Planner

Kaleb W. Kutz, *Planner*
John R. Meland, *Principal Specialist*
Christopher Parisey, *Senior 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*
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*
Elizabeth T. Callin, *Senior Planner*
Joseph M. Delmagori, *Senior Planner*
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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