

REGIONAL PLANNING NEWS

A publication of the **Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission**



Scout Lake, Milwaukee County, WI
Credit: Commission Staff, July 2025

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VISION 2050: Reflection and Looking Forward

VISION 2050 serves as the framework for long-term decisions related to land use and transportation in Southeastern Wisconsin.

VISION 2050 was originally adopted in 2016 and the report is presented in three volumes. Volume I provides the inventory data and analyses that informed the plan and Volume II documents the plan development process. Volume III presents the final recommended plan and the actions, strategies, and funding necessary to implement the plan.

Commission staff incorporated the changes resulting from last year's federally required review and update into the 3rd Edition of Volume III of Planning Report No. 55. This volume represents the current Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin.



We invite you to:

- **Review the latest edition! See www.sewrpc.org/v2050vol3-3rdEd.**
- **Contact us to discuss how recommendations can be realized.**
- **Ask us questions!**
- **Have us speak with your group about why this plan matters to Southeastern Wisconsin.**

In 2026, Commission staff will begin a federally required multiyear process to develop VISION 2050's successor. This major plan update will utilize the foundation of VISION 2050 and incorporate new ideas for achieving an ambitious vision. We will reconvene the Commission's Advisory Committees on Regional Land Use and Transportation Planning. To ensure a bright future for Southeastern Wisconsin, we invite you to join us. Learn more at www.vision2050sewis.org.



Lake Updates from Across the Region

Lake surveys in Milwaukee County

As part of our Natural Areas program, Commission staff surveyed five lakes in Milwaukee County this summer, most of which have not previously been studied or surveyed. These biological inventories were conducted with grant funding from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program to assist with natural area and aquatic site inventory, protection, and management planning in Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Racine Counties over the growing seasons of 2025, 2026, and 2027.

The lakes surveyed included Jackson Park Pond, McGovern Park Pond, Scout Lake, and Whitnall Park Pond (Mallard Lake) with the assistance from the Wehr Nature Center—all of which are located within Milwaukee County Parks. Staff collected water quality data, aquatic plant inventories, flocculent sediment depths, and invasive species observations. These data will help establish the ecological status of these waterbodies and assist in management strategies to protect and restore them, so that they continue to serve the Milwaukee County communities for years to come.

Cravath and Trippe Lakes aquatic plant management in Walworth County

In August, Memorandum Report No. 275, Aquatic Plant Management Plan for Cravath and Trippe Lakes, Walworth County, Wisconsin www.sewrpc.org/mr-275.pdf was published and has received Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources approval. The plan details the aquatic plant surveys conducted in the summer of 2024 by Commission staff with the assistance of the City of Whitewater's Lake Committee. The surveys were completed following the drawdown, dredging, and controlled burns conducted for previous aquatic plant management of the lakes. The data collected and recommendations provided will help inform lake management strategies for both waterbodies. The publication of this report completes the first phase of a two-phase process in preparing a comprehensive lake management plan for Cravath and Trippe lakes.



Mallard Lake, Milwaukee County, WI
Credit: Commission Staff, September 2025



Jackson Park Pond, Milwaukee County, WI
Credit: Commission Staff, August 2025



Trippe Lake, Walworth County, WI
Credit: Commission Staff, August 2025



Invasive Starry Stonewort plant spreading in the Region

During an aquatic plant survey completed with assistance from the Lauderdale Lakes Lake Management District, starry stonewort was observed for the first time in the Lauderdale Lakes chain (Green, Middle, and Mill Lakes) in Walworth County. Starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*) is a nonnative invasive aquatic plant first observed in Wisconsin in 2014 on Little Muskego Lake in Waukesha County. In invaded lakes, starry stonewort can form dense beds, outcompete other invasive plant species, and cover fish spawning areas. However, starry stonewort can also potentially reduce sediment suspension as well as provide food and habitat for aquatic organisms.

Other lakes within the Region where starry stonewort was discovered in 2025 include Wallace Lake in Washington County, and Pine, Lac La Belle, and Golden Lakes in Waukesha County. As of September 2025, 31 lakes in Southeastern Wisconsin have documented starry stonewort populations (apps.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/AISLists.aspx?species=STARRY_STONEW). As the lake season draws to a close, it is important to remember to remove all vegetation from boats, trailers, and other equipment after removing them from the water and prior to launching in other waterbodies.

Starry Stonewort spreads through star-shaped vegetative structures called 'bulbils' or by fragmentation, which can occur when boats travel over colonized areas.



Lauderdale Lakes, Walworth County, WI
Credit: Commission Staff, July 2025

Share Your Thoughts!

Help inform our Comprehensive Pollution Reduction Plan by sharing your priorities to reduce air pollution in the Milwaukee metro area. Scan the QR code to take a short survey and stay up to date on the planning process! The plan covers the Milwaukee Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), including the counties of Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha.



Note: This planning program is supported by funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded to select MSAs.



Celebrating 65 Years

August 8 marked the 65th anniversary of the creation of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. The Commission was established at the request of the Counties by executive order to serve Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha Counties. Thank you Governor Evers for the Commendation honoring this milestone and the Commission's impact on Southeastern Wisconsin since 1960!

