

REGIONAL PLANNING NEWS

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



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Regional Food System Plan

Work has begun on a regional food system plan for Southeastern Wisconsin! The plan is recommended by VISION 2050, which recognizes a need to improve access to healthy foods for all residents, especially for low-income residents of the Region's "food deserts." The plan will present information about the components of the Region's food system, including the food that is being produced, how it is being distributed, and who is consuming it. Recommendations will be developed to increase food access; reduce economic and health disparities; support locally owned farms; preserve productive agricultural land and sensitive natural resources; and better connect those who produce, distribute, and consume the Region's food.

There are already many important initiatives related to the food system underway in Southeastern Wisconsin, and they could be strengthened by expanding connections and interaction at the regional level. One way to achieve this is through a regional planning effort that can address all aspects of this complex issue by "tying it all together."

The regional food system planning effort is in its beginning stages, and we will need your ideas! Stay tuned to the SEWRPC website, social media, and Regional Planning News to find out more about how to participate throughout the planning process.



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CEDS
comprehensive economic development strategy

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Ozaukee County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

In August, the Ozaukee County Division of Emergency Management (DEM) and the Commission completed an update to the Ozaukee County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Hazard mitigation planning plays an important role in reducing the risks associated with natural disasters, including loss of life; damage to buildings and infrastructure; and damage to a community's economic, social, and environmental well-being. SEWRPC assists counties and local governments with preparing and updating hazard mitigation plans.

This plan is the second update to the County's hazard mitigation plan, which was originally published in 2008. This update includes the most current analysis of natural hazard conditions in the County, the vulnerability that communities in the County face due to these hazards, and the most effective strategies to mitigate the potential loss of life and property caused by hazard events. Updating this plan assures that the County and local units of government within the County are eligible for FEMA hazard mitigation funding programs.

The hazards analyzed in this plan update include flooding, thunderstorms, high winds, hail, lightning strikes, tornadoes, extreme temperatures, coastal hazards, winter storms, drought, fog, and utility failure. A few recommended strategies to mitigate some of these hazards include:

- Continue to integrate hazard mitigation planning into other local planning efforts (i.e., comprehensive and land use planning)
- Continue to promote informational and educational resources and programs on home insurance, flood insurance (i.e., National Flood Insurance Program), and crop insurance
- Conduct surveys of up to 863 structures identified as being potentially located in the flood hazard area and pursue funding for voluntary floodproofing or acquisition and removal of those structures confirmed to be within the flood hazard area
- Construct and maintain shoreline protection structures and bluff stabilization measures where public infrastructure is at risk; and consider relocating buildings within high-risk bluff failure areas



Credit: SEWRPC Staff

The full Ozaukee County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: 2020-2025 can be accessed at: www.sewrpc.org/CAPR-332.pdf.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH



Credit: SEWRPC Staff

Public Outreach Highlights

On Monday, September 21st, our annual community partner meeting was held virtually. During this meeting, Commission Division Heads shared updates on major division projects and the Commission's nine community partners shared updates on how their organizations have been adapting in 2020 and information on any upcoming events. Although we missed seeing everyone in person, it was still helpful to gather all of the Commission's partners together to help coordinate our public involvement efforts.

On Saturday, September 26th, Commission staff participated in the Urban League of Racine and Kenosha's physically distanced Community Block Party. VISION 2050 summaries were distributed and other SEWRPC materials were on displays so that attendees were able to see the information and ask questions of staff.



Credit: VISIT Milwaukee



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Biking During COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to affect transportation choices. Some commuters are still working from home, and transit agencies are still operating buses with limited passengers allowed on each vehicle. Biking has surged during the pandemic as a form of both leisure recreation and transportation. In response to the expanded interest in biking, Commission staff prepared a brief paper highlighting how biking during the pandemic could be a great option for getting around the Region that can also safely keep riders socially distanced from others. Staff also provided examples of cycling events that the public could participate in. This brief paper was posted on SEWRPC's website and social media channels. Learn more at sewrpc.org/covidbiking.

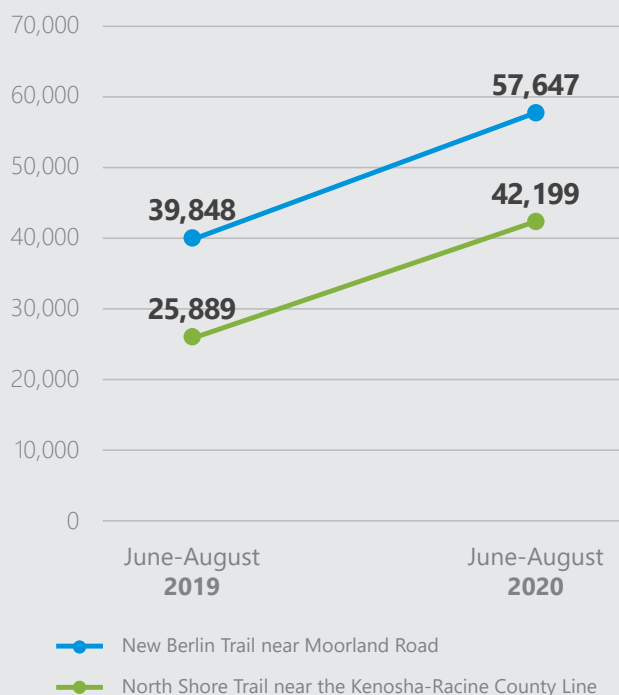
Higher Rates of Trail Usage Continue

Both nationally and locally, trails continued to experience an increase in volumes through the summer months when comparing 2020 volumes to the same time period in 2019, likely due to the coronavirus pandemic. Although summer volumes did not have increases in volume as significant as those seen in the spring, trails still had a sustained increase in volumes from June through August.

The Commission's permanent counter on the New Berlin Trail near Moorland Road recorded a 45 percent increase in volumes in summer 2020 when compared to summer 2019. The counter on the North Shore Trail near the Kenosha-Racine county line recorded 65 percent higher volumes in summer 2020 compared to summer 2019.

Commission staff will continue monitoring volumes for rest of the year to see if trail volumes remain higher than the same timeframes in 2019. More information on volumes on trails across the Region can be found at sewrpc.org/nmcounts.

June-August Trail Counts: 2019 vs 2020



Kicking Off the New 2021-2025 CEDS

The Commission is assisting the Milwaukee 7 Regional Economic Development Partnership (M7) with preparing a new 2021-2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Southeastern Wisconsin. The CEDS brings the public and private sectors together to develop a strategic plan to diversify and strengthen the Region's economy. Regions must prepare a new CEDS at least every five years for communities and organizations within the Region to qualify for funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). To kick off the process, M7 and the Commission scheduled a **virtual stakeholder meeting (1:00 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2020)** to discuss the current state of the regional economy, as well as the historical trends and future projections that will inform the goals, objectives, and strategies of the new CEDS. This virtual meeting also gives attendees the opportunity to participate in a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) exercise that will further inform the strategic direction of the new CEDS. Those unable to attend the meeting can still **contribute to the SWOT analysis through an online SWOT survey, open through Monday, November 2**. More information on the CEDS and how to provide input is available at sewrpc.org/ceds.



Know an employer struggling to get workers to the workplace? Tell them about the Workforce Mobility Team! The Team is here to work with any employers in the Region to help them address their workforce mobility challenges.

For more information:
sewrpc.org/mobility

To arrange a meeting:
mobility@sewrpc.org

