

SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 299, 2nd Edition
A MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE FOR KENOSHA COUNTY

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Kenosha County adopted a multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan under Section 66.1001 of the *Wisconsin Statutes* by ordinance on April 20, 2010.¹ The Wisconsin comprehensive planning law requires that comprehensive plans be updated no less than once every 10 years (Section 66.1001(2)(i) of the *Wisconsin Statutes*). To address the State comprehensive planning update requirement, a cooperative comprehensive planning process was undertaken by Kenosha County, eight local government partners, and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). The towns, villages and City participating in the planning process are listed below:

City of Kenosha

Village of Somers

Village of Bristol

Town of Brighton

Village of Pleasant Prairie

Town of Paris

Village of Salem Lakes

Town of Wheatland

¹ Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 299, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035, April 2010. The plan is available on the SEWRPC website: www.sewrpc.org/SEWRPCFiles/Publications/CAPR/capr-299-comprehensive-plan-for-kenosha-county.pdf.

Under the 2010 plan, six of the local governments (the Villages of Bristol and Silver Lake and the Towns of Brighton, Bristol, Paris, and Somers) chose to adopt the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan as their local comprehensive plan; while the City of Kenosha, Village of Pleasant Prairie, and Towns of Salem and Wheatland chose to prepare and adopt a separate local comprehensive plan based on the multi-jurisdictional plan. Those local governments that chose not to partner with Kenosha County prepared and adopted their own comprehensive plans. The Village of Paddock Lake adopted a comprehensive plan in April 2005 and the Village of Twin Lakes and Town of Randall, which jointly prepared a comprehensive plan for both local governments, adopted the plan in March 2005. These three local governments were provided with comprehensive planning meeting agendas and invited to serve on the Kenosha County Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (MJAC) as non-voting members.

Since 2010, the Village of Silver Lake merged with the Town of Salem and incorporated to create the Village of Salem Lakes, the Town of Bristol incorporated into the Village of Bristol, and the Town of Somers incorporated creating the Village of Somers. All of these villages utilize the 2010 plan as their comprehensive plan.

With respect to the incorporation of the Village of Somers noted above, a relatively small area of the original Town of Somers was not included in the incorporation as identified in the boundary agreement between the town and the City of Kenosha. In this report, data relating to existing conditions for the remaining Town of Somers will be included in the tabular data. Since the boundary agreement calls for the annexation of the remaining Town into the City of Kenosha, all planned data related to the remaining Town will be included in the City of Kenosha.

1.2 NATURE OF THE PLAN UPDATE

The Kenosha County Planning and Development Division has been preparing annual reports on the comprehensive plan's implementation activities. This serves as an annual review of the comprehensive plan to ensure that the recommendations and land use plan map included in the plan are sound and continue to meet the County and participating community's vision for guiding future growth and development. While there have been several updates to County and regional planning documents that may result in minor

modifications to the current comprehensive plan,² the County has not significantly changed its policies regarding land use development, natural and agricultural resource protection, or zoning or land division since adopting the plan in 2010. The Kenosha County Planning and Development Division therefore recommended that a supplemental report be prepared to update population, household, and employment projections and other key inventory information included in the 2010 report; review and document new County and Regional plans that have been adopted that may impact the County; incorporate a new health element/ into the plan; expand upon the existing housing element in the plan; update the County land use plan map to reflect updated information; and update the plan implementation element. The Kenosha County Planning and Development Division also agreed that the County and participating local government bodies should prepare and adopt a public participation plan for amending/updating the comprehensive plan. The County and the local government bodies entered into an agreement with SEWRPC to prepare an update of the County comprehensive plan.

1.3 REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF PLAN UPDATE

The multi-jurisdictional planning effort was carried out under the guidance of the Kenosha County Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (MJAC) and the Kenosha County Planning and Development Division. The role of the MJAC is to review plan update materials and recommend the plan update for adoption by the County Board.

Section 66.1001(4) of the *Statutes* requires that a comprehensive plan or an amendment to the comprehensive plan be adopted by an ordinance enacted by the County Board, for adoption of the multi-jurisdictional County comprehensive plan. Comprehensive plans for cities, villages, and towns must be adopted by an ordinance of the common council, village board, or town board, respectively. The law further requires that all nine elements be adopted simultaneously, and that at least one public hearing be held prior to adopting the County comprehensive plan and each city, village, and town comprehensive plan. The *Statutes* require that an adopted comprehensive plan, or an amendment to a plan, be sent to all governmental units within and adjacent to the county or local government preparing a plan; the Wisconsin Department of Administration; the regional planning commission (SEWRPC); and the public library that serves the area in which the county or local government is located.

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

1.4 REPORT FORMAT

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

Chapter 1: Introduction and Background

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

Chapter 3: Update of Inventory Information

Chapter 4: Updated County and Regional Plans

Chapter 5: Updated Housing Element

Chapter 6: Updated Land Use Element

Chapter 7: County Health Plan (new)

Chapter 8: Updated Implementation Element