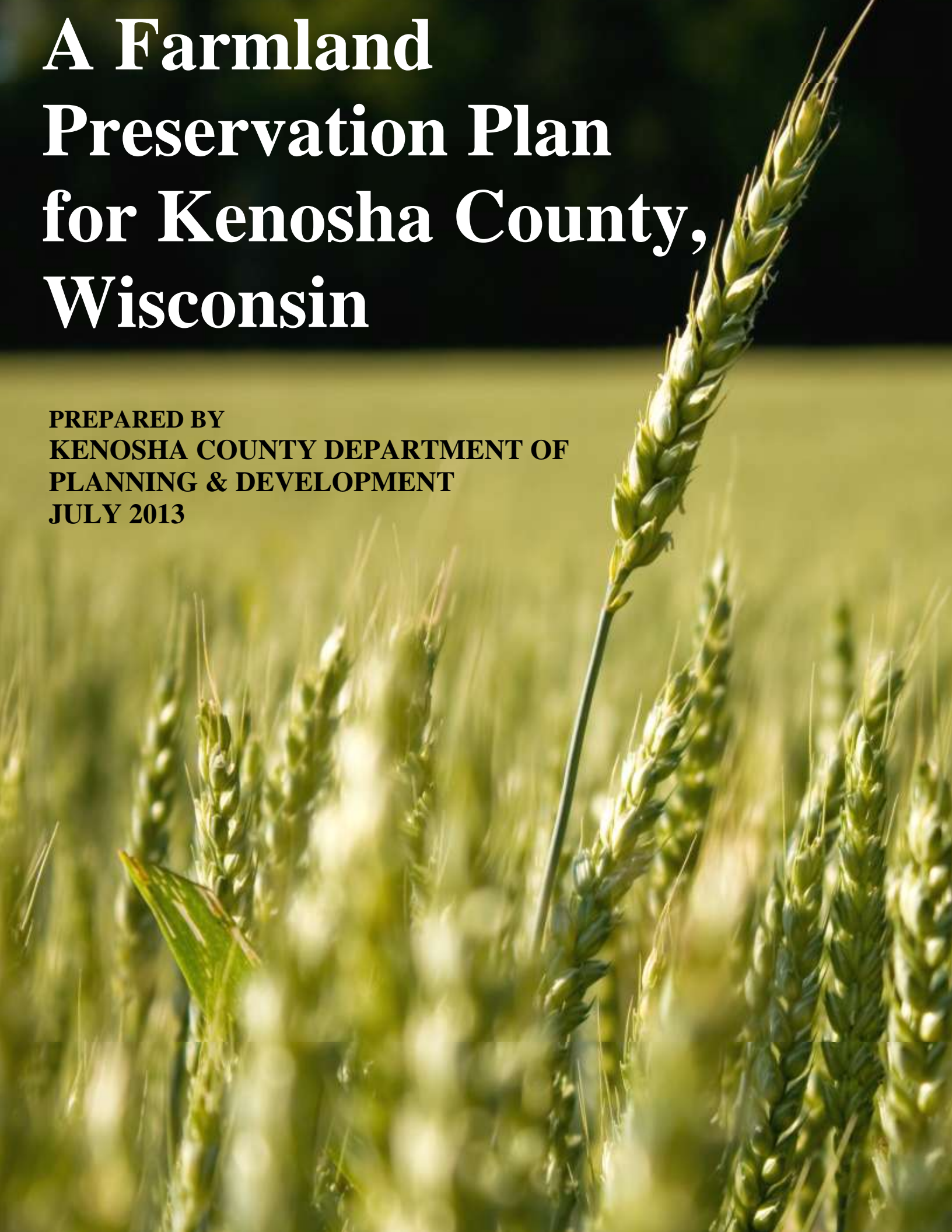


A Farmland Preservation Plan for Kenosha County, Wisconsin

**PREPARED BY
KENOSHA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
JULY 2013**



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A FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN FOR KENOSHA COUNTY, WISCONSIN 2ND EDITION

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KENOSHA COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN

PLAN SUMMARY (Cover Document)

Introduction

Kenosha County has a long history of land-use planning activities and actions directed towards the preservation of the County's rich and productive agricultural lands. The Kenosha County Agricultural Preservation Plan and the exclusive agricultural zoning has served as the foundation to preserve Kenosha County farmland and enable owners of farmland to be eligible and participate in the State Farmland Preservation tax credit program for nearly 30 years.

In 2009 Wisconsin Act 28 (2009-2011 Budget Bill) created what is known as the "Working Lands Initiative". This new law made significant revisions to Chapter 91 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, which has been the Wisconsin's farmland preservation law since 1977. The Working Lands Initiative expands and modernizes the state's existing farmland preservation program. Creating new tools to assist in local program implementation, including:

- Expanding and modernizing the state's existing farmland preservation program
- Creating new tools to assist in local program implementation, including:
 - ✓ Establishing the Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEAs) program
 - ✓ Creating a Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) matching grant program

An important element in modernizing the existing program is a requirement for every county in the state to update their existing farmland preservation plan, which is the purpose of this document. Under the new law, the Kenosha County farmland preservation plan must be updated by December 31, 2011. This update to our existing *Farmland Preservation Plan for Kenosha County*, adopted in 1981, will continue to lend strong support to the preservation of productive and potentially productive agricultural land and environmentally significant natural areas, while providing for well planned urban growth, which is compatible with the County's agricultural and natural resources.

Key Changes from the Farmland Preservation Plan for Kenosha County, 1981

The adoption of our first Plan in 1981 and the adoption of the Countywide Zoning Ordinances in 1983 together have helped protect Kenosha County farmland and enable owners of farmland to participate in the State Farmland Preservation tax credit program. The Farmland Preservation Plan has guided both land use patterns and land use decisions. Population growth and urban development pressure in Kenosha County over the past 30 years has been significant, but the major losses of farmland have occurred within the planned urban service and growth areas, and within the County's cities and villages. Annexation and incorporation has also diminished the plans influence and countywide zoning authority to protect farmland. The initial Farmland Preservation Plan recommended 74,980 acres or 42.1 percent of the total area of Kenosha County. In 2011 Kenosha County still retains 61,372 acres in agricultural preservation zoning district or about 82 percent of the county, where agricultural preservation zoning still exists. The Farmland Preservation Plan update recommends certified farmland preservation areas that encompass a total area of 38,552 acres, or about 61 square miles of land in Kenosha County,

as shown in Map 5-1. The certified agricultural preservation areas comprise 63 percent of the County's existing farmland preservation zoning district and were based on the following criteria:

1. Lands that are predominately in active agricultural, agriculture accessory, agriculture-related or natural resource use;
2. Lands that are planned to support a predominance of agriculture, agricultural accessory, agriculture-related and natural resource uses for fifteen years or more based on the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*;
3. Are clearly shown as "Farmland Protection" on planned land use maps and neighborhood planning maps in town and village plans adopted as part of the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*;
4. Are completely outside designated sanitary sewer service areas, delineated in the regional water quality management plan as amended and approved by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources;
5. Are located primarily within areas previously identified in the *Farmland Preservation Plan for Kenosha County (1981)*;
6. At least 50 percent of the farmland must be covered by soils which meet the U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS, standards for National Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Significance.

This plan applies the same criteria for designating prime farmland in Kenosha County as the initial Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan and Agricultural Zoning Districts. The Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan Update continues to concentrate its efforts to preserve farmland with the most productive soils, generally comprised of soils in Capability Classes I, II, and III, as identified by the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service. The plan also supports the preservation of large, contiguous blocks of farmland, to promote more efficient farming and minimize urban-rural land use conflicts. The plan recommends the maintenance of agriculture as an important component of Kenosha County's economic base and rural heritage. The plan stresses the importance of conformance to the state agricultural standards and prohibitions for agriculture in NR 151 of the Wis. Adm. Code.

The farmland preservation plan update, like our original plan, is intended to serve as a guide for the preservation of agricultural lands in Kenosha County. In addition, the updated plan includes recommendations for the protection of environmentally significant areas and recommendations regarding the location and density of urban development within the County for at least the next fifteen years.

The major changes in the plan update include:

1. The adoption of a Farmland Preservation Areas Map, designating certified agricultural preservation areas for preservation for agriculture and agricultural uses.
2. Support for the establishment of Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA), a new program in the State Working Lands Initiative, and designates specific areas in Kenosha County for potential AEA Agreements.
3. Encourages the implementation of the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) program, which provides State funding of the purchase of such easement from willing landowners in order to preserve agricultural capacity and conserve unique agricultural resources.

4. Monitor compliance of the State land and water conservation performance standards to maintain farmer eligibility in the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program and incentive tax credits.
5. Develop methods to ensure nutrient management plans required by Section NR 151.07 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code are implemented throughout the County.
6. Promotes agriculture and associated agricultural industries in Kenosha County and recommends additional agricultural related uses allowed in agricultural preservation districts.

The farmland preservation plan as presented provides a long-range guide that effectively addresses agricultural and natural resource protection for the next 15 years, based on the vision set forth in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*, which serves as the basis for decision-making on land use-related matters in Kenosha County. The Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan up-date continues and reaffirms the long-range commitment to preserving farmlands and working farms in the County.

Relationship between the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan Update and the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*.

The *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*, was adopted by the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors on April 7, 2010. The *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* serves as the basis for decision-making on land use-related matters by Kenosha County, Town, and Village officials. The Comprehensive Plan includes the vision of a strong agricultural resource base closely connected to resource-rich open spaces; a clean and sustainable water resource, all while retaining the County's cultural heritage and rural character. The Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan update in harmony those principles has established Certified Farmland Preservation Areas on those lands identified as "farmland protection" on the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map.

The *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* will be amended in 2012, to include the text and Farmland Preservation Areas Map adopted in the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan Update. The agricultural resource issues and concerns originally identified and documented in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* were prioritized by the Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee and specific recommendations were created as framework for the development of overall goals and objectives to guide the future of agricultural land use in Kenosha County. These goals include;

- Preserve soils suitable for agricultural production in Kenosha County.
- Preserve a sufficient amount of agricultural land to ensure farming remains viable and sustainable in Kenosha County.
- Identified areas to be certified for farmland preservation in Kenosha County. Certified Farmland Preservation Areas are not to be developed within the next 15 years, consistent with *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*.
- Protect farms and farming in Kenosha County.

The Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan is consistent with the goals and objectives of the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*.

Plan Development and Public Participation

The public participation plan for the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan is intended to serve three purposes. First, the plan provided opportunities for public input throughout the planning process. Second, in accordance with section 91.10(3), Wisconsin State Statutes, the adoption of the farmland preservation plan followed the plan preparation process and public participation procedures in accordance with Section 66.1001(4), Wisconsin State Statutes. Third, it adheres to the intent of the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors who have recognized the importance of regular, meaningful public involvement in the planning process and plan amendments to assure that the resulting plan is based on public input.

The Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan agreement and work plan was approved by the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors and signed on December 15, 2009. The Land & Water Conservation Committee approved the formation of the Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee (FPAC) and public participation on December 10, 2010. The farmland preservation planning effort was coordinated through a FPAC and was made up of farmers, local board/planning supervisors, town and village planners, local and county elected officials, Land & Water Conservation Committee members, and County Planning & Development staff, with assistance from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Farm Services Agency. The FPAC provided a formal role for participating local governments, citizens and farmers to work with County, Village and local officials to shape the Farmland Preservation Plan for Kenosha County. The FPAC made every effort to incorporate each agricultural resource issue and concern identified by the public into the plan. The FPAC convened four public meetings and approved the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan on June 28, 2011. The Farmland Preservation Plan was approved by the Land & Water Conservation Committee on July 18, 2011 and the unanimously recommended for adoption by the Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee on November 13, 2013, and final adoption by the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors on November 19, 2013. The Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan was certified by DATCP on September 20, 2013. The public participation plan enhanced public awareness and provided opportunities for citizens to identify key community issues.

Unresolved Issues between Kenosha County and Other Government Units

The Kenosha County farmland advisory committee was made up of members from all the participating government units. Any controversial issues were resolved during the planning process.

Farmland Preservation Zoning Ordinances

Chapter 12 - Kenosha County General Zoning and Shoreland/Floodplain Zoning Ordinance
Chapter 420 - The Municipal Code of the Village of Pleasant Prairie

The newly incorporated Village of Bristol is in the process of recodifying their zoning ordinance in the interim they have adopted Chapter 12 Kenosha County General Zoning and Shoreland/Floodplain Zoning Ordinance

To meet the new provisions within the Working Lands Initiative and to satisfy the requirements of Section 91.38 Wisconsin State Statutes, Kenosha County, the Village of Bristol and the Village Pleasant Prairie are proposing to amend their zoning ordinances and the purpose and

characteristics of their Agricultural Preservation Zoning District for the purpose of determining which lands are located in the certified agricultural preservation areas.

Primary Contact Person

The primary contact person for correspondence related to the certification of the farmland preservation plan: Dan Treloar - County Conservationist 262-857-1895 or email dan.treloar@kenoshacounty.org

Farmland Plan Certification Requirements

The certification of the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan is required by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Farmland Preservation Program under Chapter 91, Wisconsin State Statutes. The plan must contain specific elements, as a prerequisite of certification, in order to participate in Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Program. Kenosha County must have a certified farmland preservation plan for farmers to qualify for tax credits under Chapter 71, Wisconsin State Statutes. The requirements for farmland plan certification in accordance with section 91.16 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, including plan text and maps are referenced by page number below.

	<u>Page</u> <u>Reference</u>
1. The plan states the county's policy <i>and goals</i> related to farmland preservation and agricultural development, including the development of enterprises related to agriculture.	<u>7</u>
2. The plan identifies, describes and documents other development trends, plans, or needs that may affect farmland preservation and agricultural development in the county, including:	
▪ Population	<u>16</u>
▪ Municipal expansion	<u>19</u>
▪ Economic growth	<u>21</u>
▪ Business development	<u>21</u>
▪ Housing	<u>24</u>
▪ Utilities	<u>27</u>

▪ Transportation	<u>30</u>
▪ Communications	<u>27</u>
▪ Community facilities and services	<u>29</u>
▪ Energy	<u>27</u>
▪ Waste management	<u>30</u>
▪ Environmental preservation (may include a map of natural resource areas and environmental corridors).	<u>63</u>
3. The plan identifies, describes and documents all of the following:	
▪ Agricultural uses of land in the county at the time that the farmland preservation plan is adopted, including key agricultural specialties, if any (include maps where appropriate).	<u>40</u>
▪ Key agricultural resources, including available land, soil, and water resources.	<u>35</u>
▪ Key infrastructure for agriculture, including key processing, storage, transportation and supply facilities.	<u>41</u>
▪ Significant trends in the county related to agricultural land use, agricultural production, enterprises related to agriculture, and the conversion of agricultural lands to other uses.	<u>81</u>
▪ Anticipated changes in the nature, scope, location, and focus of agricultural production, processing, supply and distribution.	<u>87</u>
▪ Actions that the county will take to preserve farmland and promote agricultural development.	<u>93</u>
▪ Key land use issues related to preserving farmland and promoting agricultural development, and plans for addressing those issues.	<u>99</u>
▪ Policies, goals, strategies and proposed actions to increase housing density in areas other than farmland preservation areas.	<u>86</u>

4. The plan meets the following requirements for the designation of farmland preservation areas:	
▪ Clearly identifies <i>farmland preservation areas</i> that the county plans to preserve for agricultural use and agriculture-related uses. (These may include undeveloped natural resource and open space areas but may not include any area that is planned for nonagricultural development within 15 years after the date on which the plan is adopted).	<u>97</u>
▪ Describes the rationale used to identify the farmland preservation areas and explains how the rationale was used to map plan areas. (The rationale may include criteria such as soil type; topography; agricultural productivity; current agricultural use; agricultural related infrastructure; and proximity to incorporated areas, major arterials, and rural subdivisions).	<u>98</u>
▪ Includes maps that clearly delineate the farmland preservation areas, so that a reader can easily determine whether a parcel is within an identified area	<u>110-117</u>
▪ Clearly correlates the maps with plan text to describe the type of land uses planned for each farmland preservation area on a map. There are no material inconsistencies within the plan, such as inconsistencies within the plan text, between the plan text and maps, or between maps.	<u>99</u>
▪ Identifies programs and other actions that the county and local governments within the county may use to preserve the farmland preservation areas.	<u>67</u>

PART C: CONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE FARMLAND PLAN AND THE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

If the County has a Comprehensive Plan, the County must include the Farmland Preservation Plan in its Comprehensive Plan under s. 91.10(2), Wis. Stats. The County should treat the Farmland Preservation Plan and the Comprehensive Plan as the same document rather than two separate plans. Because the Farmland Preservation Plan is part of the Comprehensive Plan, the entire document must be internally consistent.

If there are inconsistencies, the County may clarify that the Farmland Preservation Plan supersedes the Comprehensive Plan and any and all inconsistencies between the two shall be resolved in favor of the Farmland Preservation Plan. The County must include a statement in both the Comprehensive Plan and the Farmland Preservation Plan declaring that the Farmland Preservation Plan supersedes the Comprehensive Plan so that a person referring to either plan

will be aware of each plan's relationship to the other. If inconsistencies appear in the maps, then the legends in both maps should include a note explaining that the Farmland Preservation Plan supersedes any inconsistencies with the Comprehensive Plan. If inconsistencies appear in the text, then the appropriate language should be added to the text where the inconsistencies are present.

To complete certification of the Farmland Preservation Plan, the County board must officially adopt the language in both the Farmland Preservation Plan and the existing Comprehensive Plan stating that, in the event of any specific inconsistency between them, the Farmland Preservation Plan takes precedence. The County should ensure that this clarifying language appears in the Farmland Preservation Plan that is submitted to the department. In addition, the County should submit the proposed amended pages from the Comprehensive Plan with the appropriate clarifying language.

Once the department approves the Farmland Preservation Plan for certification, the County board must adopt both the Farmland Preservation Plan in the form certified as well as the proposed language in the Comprehensive Plan clarifying the resolution of inconsistencies. Following adoption, the County must send documentation to the department that the Farmland Preservation Plan was adopted in the form certified and that the County also adopted the clarifying language in the Comprehensive Plan.

If the County does not take this step to clarify and resolve inconsistencies, the department will compare the Farmland Preservation Plan with the County Comprehensive Plan for consistency. In the event inconsistencies are found, the County will need to reconcile these inconsistencies either by changing the Farmland Preservation Plan or the Comprehensive Plan.

Signatures: I have reviewed the attached county farmland preservation plan and certify that it meets the applicable requirements for certification as listed above:

Signed and certified this 3rd day of October, 2011

By: 
Kenosha County Corporation Counsel

Signed and certified this 3rd day of October, 2011

By: 
Kenosha County Planning Director

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

INTRODUCTION

The rapid conversion of farmland to urban use has become a matter of increasing public concern. Some of this concern centers on the perceived loss of the local agricultural economic base, some on the loss of agricultural land as a valuable natural resource with the attendant loss of the aesthetic and environmental values associated with that resource, and some on the loss of the rural lifestyle and the unique cultural heritage which emanates from that lifestyle. There is also concern over the attendant high costs of providing urban services, as well as over resolving potential urban-rural conflicts which arise as a result of urban encroachment into rural areas.

Kenosha County has a long history of land-use planning activities and actions directed towards the preservation of the County's rich and productive agricultural lands. The Land and Water Resource Management Plan, County Comprehensive Plan, Park and Open Space Plan, and Farmland Preservation Plan continue to guide many land use and development decisions. The Kenosha County Agricultural Preservation Plan and the exclusive agricultural zoning was approved by Kenosha County Board of Supervisors and certified by the State of Wisconsin in 1981. For over 30 years, this plan served as the foundation to preserve Kenosha County farmland and enable owners of farmland to be eligible and participate in the State Farmland Preservation tax credit program. The Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan up-date continues and reaffirms the long-range commitment to preserving farmlands and working farms in the County.

In 1983, with the comprehensive revision of the Kenosha County Zoning Ordinance, the A-1 Agricultural Preservation District was created to maintain, enhance, and preserve agricultural lands historically utilized for crop production and the raising of livestock. The preservation of such agricultural lands is intended to conserve energy, prevent urban sprawl, maintain open space, retain natural systems and natural processes, control public cost, preserve the local economic base, promote local self-sufficiency, preserve the rural lifestyle, and maintain regional, state and federal agricultural reserves.

Kenosha County has demonstrated strong support for the principles and concepts underlying the regional plans, prepared by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, as the area wide planning agency for the seven-County Southeast Region. County plans and regional plans formally adopted by the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors are detailed later in this chapter.

PUBLIC PURPOSE IN SAVING AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Kenosha County continues to recognize the need to preserve farms and prime agricultural lands. These prime agricultural lands are defined as land devoted to agricultural use, covered by soils which are highly productive for agricultural purposes, which produce crop yields, and exhibiting a relatively heavy investment in capital improvements such as farm irrigation and drainage systems and good soil and water conservation practices.

The conservation and wise use of agricultural and natural resources are fundamental to achieving strong and stable physical and economic development as well as maintaining community identity. The *Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* recommends that much of the prime agricultural land be preserved and that future urban growth be encouraged to occur in proximity to existing urban communities, rather than being scattered throughout the rural countryside.

The Kenosha County Comprehensive Plan has recognized that preserving soil quality and open farmland are not the only agricultural issues in Kenosha County. Agriculture cannot remain in the County if farming is not economically viable. The agricultural activity statistics show that agriculture is still economically viable in Kenosha County. County farms combined to sell about \$60 million worth of agricultural products in 2007, although several indicators of agricultural activity have been declining in recent years. The total number of farms decreased from 505 in 1987 to 460 in 2007, while the average size of farms decreased from 199 to 183 acres, respectively. This Farmland Preservation Plan up-date is consistent with and further clarifies the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*

PURPOSE OF THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN UP-DATE

The purpose of the Farmland Preservation Plan up-date is to reaffirm support for the County agricultural resource goals and objectives, documented in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*, and adopted by the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors April 2010. The update of the Farmland Preservation Plan identifies Kenosha County's farmland preservation areas and describes policies and programs that provide positive opportunities for protection and conservation of farms and farmland in Kenosha County.

The Farmland Preservation Plan up-date describes and documents the process used to identify valuable agricultural and environmentally important land in Kenosha County, so these lands can be preserved for farming and open-space uses. It is anticipated that the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan up-date will help influence land use patterns, and guide development decisions, in conformance with State and County farmland preservation goals and objectives. In addition, the plan up-date meets the farmland preservation requirements of the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative, adopted in the state's 2009-2011 biennial budget and codified in Chapter 91 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. Adoption and State Certification of the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan up-date will enable Kenosha County farmers within the certified farmland preservation areas to claim State farmland preservation tax credits and qualify owners of farmland for other state-funded programs and opportunities available through the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative, such as the State grant program for the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements, (PACE).

The update of the 1981 *Farmland Preservation Plan for Kenosha County, Wisconsin* will continue to lend strong support to the preservation of productive and potentially productive agricultural land and environmentally significant natural areas, while providing for well planned urban growth that is compatible with the County's agricultural and natural resources, and *Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*. This plan will provide a guide for protecting and utilizing the agricultural and natural resources within Kenosha County.

WORKING LANDS INITIATIVE

The Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program authorizing statute, Chapter 91 Wisconsin State Statutes, has remained largely unchanged for nearly thirty years until Governor Doyle and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) adopted revisions, known as the "Working Lands Initiative", to Chapter 91 in Assembly Bill 75 which was signed into law as 2009 Wisconsin Act 28 in June, 2009. The new law offers new tax incentives and program options to preserve farmland and protect the environment by expanding and modernizing the state's existing farmland preservation program and creating new tools to assist in local program implementation. More specifically the Working Lands Initiative will:

- Pursuant to Section 91.10 and 91.14, Wisconsin State Statutes., require Kenosha County to update and adopt a farmland preservation plan in accordance with Chapter 91.01(17),

Wisconsin State Statutes, by December 31, 2011, to enable farmers to continue to be eligible for the state tax farmland preservation tax credit.

- The Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Act calls for continuous review and evaluation of changing needs and conditions and requires Kenosha County to update and certify the County farmland preservation plan every 10 years.
- Enable farmers to form agricultural enterprise areas and enter into farmland preservation agreements with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, (DATCP).
- Require Kenosha County to monitor each farm for which an owner claims farmland preservation tax credits for compliance with state land and water conservation standards.
- May provide state funding to local governments or non-profit conservation organization, for the purchase of permanent agricultural conservation easements from willing landowners.

The Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan Up-date shall satisfy the requirements of Section 91.01(1) and (2) Wisconsin State Statutes which specifies the content to be included in the plan and the plan's consistency with the Kenosha County Comprehensive Plan. DATCP is responsible for certifying the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan.

STATE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING LAW

In 1999, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted a new law, often referred to as the "Smart Growth" law, which provided a new framework for the development, adoption, and implementation of comprehensive plans by counties, cities, villages, and towns. The law, which is set forth in Section 66.1001 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, requires counties and local units of government to have an adopted comprehensive plan by January 1, 2010, in order to be able to continue to administer zoning, subdivision, or official map ordinances. The law further requires that those ordinances be consistent with the comprehensive plan beginning on January 1, 2010. The State planning law specifies in detail the topics and elements that must be addressed and included in a comprehensive plan and the procedures for plan preparation and public participation. The following nine required topics and elements are included in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*:

- Issues and opportunities;
- Housing;
- Transportation;
- Utilities and community facilities;
- Agricultural, natural, and cultural resources;
- Economic development;
- Intergovernmental cooperation;
- Land use; and
- Implementation.

The *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*, adopted by the Kenosha County Board in April 7, 2010, serves as the basis for decision-making on land use-related matters by Kenosha County, Town, and Village officials. In addition the Comprehensive Plan serves to increase the awareness and understanding of County and Town planning goals and objectives by landowners and other private interests. The *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*, provides a guide for sustainable land use patterns, served by efficient public facilities and services, that meet the social, economic, physical, ecological, and quality-of-life needs of Kenosha County. This vision includes relatively compact urban service areas providing basic urban services and facilities; a safe efficient transportation system; a strong agricultural resource base closely connected to resource-rich open spaces; a clean, sustainable water resource, and abundant public and private recreational opportunities all while retaining the County's cultural heritage and rural character.

STATE SOIL AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

In 1997, the Wisconsin State Legislature amended Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin State Statutes related to Soil and Water Conservation and Animal Waste Management, requiring Counties to prepare land and water resource management plans. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection are responsible for approving the Land and Water Resource Management Plans. ATCP 50.12 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code includes specific requirements and procedures for development, public participation, approval and implementation of a County land and water resource management plan. A County land and water resource management plan must be reviewed and up-dated every 5 years. The current *Kenosha County Land and Water Resource Management Plan: 2008-2012* was adopted by the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors on August 21, 2007 and the State Land and Water Conservation Board on October 2, 2007.

The *Kenosha County Land and Water Resource Management Plan: 2008-2012* presents the best evaluation of the current condition of Kenosha County's natural resource base and how citizens, conservation professionals and elected officials can preserve, protect and restore important environmental features and attributes. In addition, this plan serves as an instrument to capitalize on opportunities, cooperation, and innovation to conserve Kenosha County's vital environmental resources in a cost-effective manner. The goals, activities and the actions in this plan chart a general direction and encourage the cultivation of new ideas.

A priority goal of the *Kenosha County Land and Water Resource Management Plan: 2008-2012* is the implementation of the statewide agricultural performance standards and directs the Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation Committee and the Land & Water Conservation staff to assist County farmers with compliance strategies. The plan sets forth planned actions to accomplish this priority and budgets resources in a cost-effective way.

The *Kenosha County Land and Water Resource Management Plan: 2008-2012* is used by those making decisions and shaping policy that effect Kenosha County's natural resource base. The plan is also helps guide public decisions about how to use and enjoy Kenosha County's land and water resources.

PLAN PREPARATION PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Pursuant to Section 91.10(3), Wisconsin State Statutes, the adoption of the farmland preservation plan shall follow the plan preparation process and public participation procedures in accordance with Section 66.1001(4), Wisconsin State Statutes. The Kenosha County Board of Supervisors also recognizes the importance of regular, meaningful public involvement in the plan process and plan amendments to assure that the resulting plan is based on public input.

The Kenosha County Farmland Preservation planning effort was carried out under the guidance of the Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation Committee. The Kenosha County Board approved the submittal of an application to receive funds from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to update the County's Farmland Preservation Plan. The County received \$30,000 from the DATCP to evaluate, analyze, and update the Farmland Preservation Program in Kenosha County. The initial step of the planning process was the formation of a Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee. The Committee convened several public meetings to discuss the provisions of the Working Lands Initiative and to begin development of the Farmland Preservation Plan up-date. The Committee reviewed existing goals and objectives, inventories, and policies and then evaluated the Farmland Preservation Program in the County. The subsequent public meetings served as the basis for public input for the preparation and approval of the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan. Areas of

general concern noted by the committee included the low number of participants and acres in the existing Farmland Preservation Program, the areas of the County experiencing urban-type growth in agricultural areas, and the numbers of acres removed from the program through past annexation, rezoning, and land divisions. The public participation plan conducted by Kenosha County and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission enhanced public awareness and provided opportunities for citizens to identify key community issues. Public participation activities included a “Kenosha County Café” Countywide visioning session; public meetings; planning-related programs on cable television; a bus tour; newsletters; newspaper articles; and a comprehensive planning website. The results of these outreach efforts are documented in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* and were invaluable in compiling a list of agricultural land issues and concerns, as well as affirming the agricultural resources goals and objectives of the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan.

Additional sources of public input, such as the Countywide Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) workshop, Kenosha County Café, planning goals, objectives, principles, and policies from existing County and local plans; input from the nine local comprehensive plan informational meetings; and public comments obtained via the Kenosha County comprehensive planning website and e-mails identified that there is a high level of agricultural activity in the County and that agriculture and agricultural-related businesses are an important segment of the County economy. Further analysis of this data refines the general agricultural resources issue into the following:

- Management of Productive Agricultural Areas Issue
- Farmland Protection Issue
- Viability of Agribusiness Issue

The Wisconsin Farmland Preservation law requires that a public hearing be conducted pursuant to Chapter 59.97, Wisconsin State Statutes before the adoption of the plan by the County board. The public participation plan, summary of attendance and public comments at the public information meetings, and minutes of the Land & Water Conservation Committee meetings relative to the preparation of the County farmland preservation plan up-date are contained in Appendix A. The Land & Water Conservation Committee and the conservation staff made every effort to incorporate each agricultural resource issue and concern identified by the public into the plan. A series of public meetings on the provisions of the Working Land Initiative generated very thoughtful support for preserving Kenosha County farmland from County residents, specifically Kenosha County farmers.

The Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation Committee unanimously approved the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan and recommended its adoption to the Kenosha County Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee (PDEEC) on July 18, 2011. A public hearing on the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan up-date was held on September 14, 2011 in conjunction with the PDEEC, their unanimous recommendation of approval was sent to the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors. Copies of the proposed plan were sent for review and comment to all the towns and participating villages within the County at least 30 days before the public hearing. Upon approval from the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors, the plan was sent to the State of Wisconsin Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection for final review and certification.

EXISTING PLANS AND PLANNING EFFORTS

Kenosha County has always shown strong support for programs and planning efforts that protect agricultural land and the County's natural resource base. The Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan is not intended to replace any current plan approved by Kenosha County. This Plan revision is intended to supplement those plans and address County-wide farmland preservation needs, issues, goals, policies, programs and opportunities.

The following are plans that were used in the preparation of this Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan up-date.

Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035, SEWRPC, Planning Report No. 28, adopted by the County Board of Supervisors in 2010.

Kenosha County Land and Water Resource Management Plan for Kenosha County: 2008-2012, SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 255, 2007.

A Farmland Preservation Plan for Kenosha County Wisconsin. SEWRPC Community Assistance Report No. 45, 1981.

Kenosha County Agricultural Soil Erosion Control Plan. SEWRPC Community Assistance Report No. 164, 1989.

A Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin. SEWRPC, Planning Report No. 42, 1997.

A Land Use Plan for Kenosha County: 2020. SEWRPC Community Assistance Report No. 252, 2001.

Groundwater Resources of Southeastern Wisconsin, SEWRPC, Technical Report No. 27, 2002.

Flood Mitigation Plan for Kenosha County, Wisconsin SEWRPC Community Assistance Report No. 269, 2001.

A Park and Open Space Plan for Kenosha County. SEWRPC Community Assistance Report No. 131, 1987, amended 1999.

A Regional Water Supply Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin. SEWRPC Planning Report No. 52, 2010.

A Regional Water Quality Management Plan Update for the Greater Milwaukee Watersheds. SEWRPC Planning Report No. 50, 2007.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

This section serves to document the agricultural resource management concerns and issues facing Kenosha County. These issues were voiced by the Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee and were also identified and documented in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*. The County Comprehensive Plan, the County Land and Water Resource Management Plan, the initial County Farmland Preservation Plan and current County zoning ordinances have been developed in a way that strongly supports the preservation and conservation of the County's agricultural resources. Nearly one half of the area of Kenosha County was devoted to agriculture in 2010, with much of that land consisting of prime farmland

and farmland of statewide significance. Agriculture is an important component of the County's economic base, with the total value of agricultural products sold annually reaching nearly \$60 million. The County's location and proximity to large metropolitan areas fosters the efficient distribution of its agricultural products. The growing demand for bio-fuels is expected to increase the demand for the County's agricultural products and spur agriculture-related industry. In addition to the provision of food and fiber products, agricultural lands provide wildlife habitat, contribute to the ecological balance between plants and animals, and contribute to the conservation of the scenic beauty and rural heritage of the County.

Although each year brings a change in farm size, livestock herd size and the use of more annual and cash crops, these adjustments require the land & water conservation staff to develop new tools, methods and incentives to encourage farm operators to use best management practices aimed at protecting their soils, nearby waterways and other natural resources. The County land & water conservation staff continue to seek out grant funding to carry-out cost-effective conservation programs. The goals and objectives outlined below are the foundation for the development of the updated County farmland preservation plan.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

Management of Productive Agricultural Area Issues and Recommendations

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has classified the agricultural capability of soils based on their general suitability for most kinds of farming. The classifications are based on the limitations of the soils, the risk of damage to soils when used, and the way in which the soils respond to treatment. Using this methodology, Class I and II soils are considered "National Prime Farmlands," and Class III soils are considered "Farmlands of Statewide Significance." The location and amount of Class I, II, and III soils, as indicated in Table 3-1 and Map 3-4 in Chapter 3, were critical in identifying farmland preservation areas in the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan. Proper land management practices can help retain the amount of high quality soils which will be a key to sustaining agriculture in the County.

Goal:

- Preserve soils suitable for agricultural production in Kenosha County.

Objective:

- Encourage soil conservation practices to reduce farmland erosion and sustain and increase farmland productivity in the County.

Policies:

- Implement strategies regarding soil sustainability and sedimentation as recommended in the *Land and Water Resource Management Plan for Kenosha County: 2008-2012* and subsequent updates.
- Encourage wise soil management practices to protect farmland for continued agricultural use.
- Encourage the use of best management practices (BMPs) by farmers.

Programs:

- Support the efforts of Land & Water Conservation Staff to protect land and water resources, including farmland, and to implement recommendations set forth in the *Land and Water Resource Management Plan for Kenosha County: 2008-2012*.
- Continue to update the County's land and water resource management plan every five years.
- Continue to support the educational programs that distribute educational materials regarding farming techniques that promote soil conservation such as no till and zone tilling farming, contour stripping, grass waterways, terracing, crop rotation,

and nutrient management planning. The educational program focus should continue to include local governments and individual farmers. Information and application assistance for Federal and State programs to implement farming practices that promote soil conservation should continue to be provided to farmers through the County educational programs.

- Continue to provide technical advice and program assistance for the implementation of soil conservation and best management practice installation administering grants available through State agencies such as the DATCP and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).
- Continue to increase the use of best management practices including conservation tillage.
- Work with the UW-Discovery Farms and Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative programs to promote an increased understanding of agricultural impacts on soil quality and how to implement best management practices among farmers and government officials in Kenosha County.
- Continue to pursue Federal and State soil resource conservation grant funds available to County governments.
- Develop methods to ensure nutrient management plans required by Section NR 151.07 of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code* are implemented in the County.
- Continue to actively promote the use of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in Kenosha County.
- Study the potential to implement a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in Kenosha County.
- Continue to identify croplands that do not have a conservation plan and help develop such plans. Also, continue to assist in updating existing conservation plans.
- Inspect compliance of the State land and water conservation standards required of participants in the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program (FPP).
- Develop a contribution agreement between the County and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide technical assistance for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Farmland Protection Issue and Recommendations

Kenosha County residents have placed a high priority on ensuring that farming in the County remains viable in the future for economic, cultural, and aesthetic purposes. A sufficient amount of land should remain in agricultural use to ensure that farming remains viable in the County. There are many programs and techniques for protecting farmland and associated rural lands available to the County and local governments and individual farm operators and owners. Some of the programs include the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program (FPP), and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Although there are many government programs available to promote farmland protection, resources are often limited.

Historically there has been strong support for the preservation of farmland in Kenosha County. Farmland preservation remains a difficult and challenging issue, one that involves balancing land preservation objectives with the economic realities faced by farmers. Historically, efforts to ensure the preservation of farmland have relied on zoning and other land use controls. Use-value assessment and tax credit programs have provided some relief to farmers.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) established the Working Lands Initiative to develop a consensus vision on managing farmland in Wisconsin. Updates to the FPP tax credit system, zoning requirements, Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA), and Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) will have a significant positive effect on farmland preservation in Kenosha County and throughout the State.

Goals:

- Preserve a sufficient amount of agricultural land to ensure farming remains viable and sustainable in Kenosha County.
- Identify areas to be certified for agricultural preservation in Kenosha County. Certified agricultural preservation areas are not proposed to be developed within the next 15 years, planned land use is agricultural, nonfarmed wetlands, primary/secondary environmental corridor or isolated natural areas, consistent with *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*.

Objectives:

- Protect the most productive agricultural lands in the County for long-term agricultural use.
- Modify the existing County and Village zoning ordinances to ensure that the ordinance contains district characteristics that will adequately preserve certified agricultural areas.
- Protect farmland outside of planned urban (sewer) service areas for long-term agricultural use.

Policies:

- Protect prime agricultural lands with Class I, II and III soil classifications as shown on Map 3-4 in Chapter 3.
- Discourage urban development on productive farmlands and in large contiguous areas of agricultural use located outside of planned urban (sewer) service areas.
- Discourage incompatible uses near farms and large contiguous areas of agricultural use.
- Support implementation of the Agricultural Enterprise Areas program in areas shown on Map 5-10 in Chapter 5.
- Encourage the use of development transitions between urban development and agricultural development using, where practicable, open space development concepts such as rural cluster and other cluster development as the transitional development type.
- Encourage and assist, where requested, in developing boundary agreements between towns and adjacent cities and villages to limit conversion of farmland to urban uses.
- Encourage denser, more compact development within urban service areas to minimize the development of farmland.
- Implement strategies regarding the preservation and protection of farmland and other working lands recommended in the *Land and Water Resource Management Plan for Kenosha County: 2008-2012*.
- Encourage development of highways, streets, and utilities in a manner that minimizes disruption of productive farmlands.
- Update the Kenosha County, the Village of Bristol, and the Village of Pleasant Prairie zoning ordinances A-1 Agricultural Preservation District purpose and characteristics to identify certified agricultural preservation areas to be preserved for agricultural use and agriculture and agricultural related uses, including undeveloped natural resource and open space areas that are not planned for nonagricultural development within 15 years, consistent with *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*

Programs:

- Analyze and update County and Villages regulatory tools, such as zoning and land division ordinances and zoning maps, to identify any necessary revisions to protect the agricultural lands.
- Study the concept of a transfer of development rights (TDR) program and/or a purchase of development rights (PDR) program for local and county government use that focuses on the protection of agricultural areas.

- Work with the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust (KRLT) and other land trusts to protect productive agricultural lands through PDR, easements, and/or land purchases.
- Work with UW-Extension to develop an informational handout to educate residents on the State's right-to-farm law and what to expect when moving into a rural area.
- Support Wisconsin's Working Lands Initiative recommendations and work with appropriate organizations to develop programs that support Wisconsin's Working Lands Initiative recommendations and programs.
- Work with UW-Extension to develop a public educational program and distribute educational materials to the public regarding the benefits of farming and the need to protect enough farmland in Kenosha County for farming to remain viable in the future. Publicize and furnish information on sustainable and alternative agricultural practices.
- Develop an educational program outlining farmland preservation grants available through Federal and State agencies. The County should continue to act as a liaison between those interested in Federal and State agency assistance and Federal and State agencies as part of program implementation.
- Continue to pursue Federal and State farmland protection grant funds available to County governments.
- Encourage local governments to participate in developing and implementing the updated County Farmland Preservation Plan.
- Update the Kenosha County and Villages Zoning in accordance with Section 71.613 and Chapter 91 of the *Statutes*, in order to maintain farmer's eligibility for State income tax credits.
- Designate Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA) containing contiguous lands devoted primarily to agricultural use as recommended in the updated County Farmland Preservation Plan. An AEA should be part of a broader strategy to protect farmland and promote agriculture and agriculturally-related development.
- Encourage implementation of the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) program, which provides State funding of the purchase of such easement from willing landowners in order to preserve agricultural capacity and conserve unique agricultural resources.
- Continue to encourage the use of the WDNR Managed Forest Land program.
- Continue to encourage intergovernmental cooperation to protect farmland, including the use of boundary agreements.
- Promote the Wisconsin Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) and assist communities, non-government organizations, and the WDNR in identifying appropriate areas to apply for FRPP grants.
- Work with UW-Extension to develop a fact sheet outlining the impact of agricultural land conversion in Kenosha County and an informational handout to educate farmers on benefits and tax advantages to preserving farmland.
- Continue to pursue, through the Planning and Development Department, Federal and State farmland protection grant funds available to County governments.
- Work with local governments to explore County and/or local adoption of a Livestock Facility Siting Ordinance under Section 93.90 of the Wisconsin State Statutes.

Viability of Agri-business Issue and Recommendations

Preserving soil quality and open farmland are not the only agricultural issues in Kenosha County. Agriculture cannot remain in the County if farming is not economically viable. The agricultural infrastructure and activity statistics inventoried in Chapter 3 show that agriculture is still economically viable in Kenosha County. County farms combined to sell about \$60 million worth of agricultural products in 2007. It has also been noted that several indicators of agricultural activity have been declining in recent years. The total numbers of farms have decreased from 505 in

1987 to 460 in 2007 and the average sizes of farms have also decreased from 199 to 183 acres, respectively.

While the number of farms and dairy farms has decreased in the County over the last three decades, there are 30 farms growing vegetables for sale and 23 farms with orchards located in the County. Some of these farms may fit into the category of “small scale farming” and “niche agriculture”. Kenosha County has nine seasonal farmer’s markets, and an assortment of you-pick, on-farm sales or roadside stands (see Map 3-6 in Chapter 3) as advertised in the 2011 Farm Fresh Atlas. These types of operations are sustainable and desirable near the County’s urban areas where parcels are generally smaller than in the County’s historically rural areas, and a market for fresh, locally grown agricultural products is located nearby.

Past development pressure in Kenosha County has created additional challenges for the agricultural industry. Rising land values and nearby incompatible uses, including urban-density residential development in rural areas, pose a threat to long term agricultural use for some areas of the County. Programs such as the Working Lands Initiative may help to promote the long term viability of agriculture in the County. Kenosha County should also study methods to market the County’s agricultural industry and educate the public about the benefits of farming.

Goal:

- Protect farms and farming in Kenosha County.

Objectives:

- Preserve the economic viability of agricultural activities in Kenosha County.
- Retain existing farm operations outside planned urban (sewer) service areas in Kenosha County.
- Retain and expand existing agri-business in Kenosha County.
- Encourage agricultural activity on lands identified for long-term agricultural use.

Policies:

- Support economic initiatives to ensure farming remains viable in Kenosha County, including funding programs, agri-tourism, and direct marketing of farm products.
- Farmlands outside of planned urban (sewer) service areas should be encouraged to remain in agricultural use.
- Protect agricultural infrastructure in Kenosha County to support farm operations.
- Encourage niche farming operations in Kenosha County, such as organic farms, vineyards, orchards, and landscape nurseries.
- Encourage farming by younger age groups in Kenosha County.
- Encourage retiring farmers to pass farms on to heirs or to sell farms to other farmers.
- Support implementation of the Working Lands Initiative recommendation to establish a beginning farmer program to recruit and train the next generation of farmers.
- Encourage the use and development of bio-fuels as an alternative energy source.
- Educate both local officials and the non-farm community about the contributions of agriculture and the effect of land use decisions on farmers.

Programs:

- Work with Kenosha Area Business Alliance (KABA) to study the use of State and Federal bio-fuel grants to promote agriculture and associated agricultural industries in Kenosha County.
- Support Conservation staffs efforts to distribute NRCS, WDNR and DATCP educational materials to appropriate landowners, through the County’s *Ties to the Land* newsletter, County website, public informational meetings, and individual contacts with landowners.

- Develop an educational program outlining grants and loans available through Federal and State agencies for farm infrastructure, operation costs and beginning farmers.
- Work with NRCS and UW-Extension to establish a program to promote agri-tourism in Kenosha County through agricultural-related special events. Events could include dairy breakfasts, farm tours, corn mazes, and you-pick farms. The program could include an educational component for farmers regarding possible agri-tourism enterprises.
- Continue to organize an annual Rural Landowners Expo and Farmers Market to promote small scale and hobby farm operations and appropriate agri-businesses on lands designated for agricultural use.
- Where feasible, Kenosha County and local road departments can consider creating “farm travel lanes” by widening shoulders on key roads used by farmers to transport farm equipment.
- Develop a program to market and link Kenosha County agricultural products, including organic products, to restaurants, stores, schools, and group residential facilities (nursing homes, for example) in Kenosha County and surrounding areas.
- Continue support for the Farm Fresh Atlas – A year-round local food guide providing information for buying locally and sustainably grown food.
- Work with UW-Extension to develop an educational program outlining grants and loans available through Federal and State agencies for youth programs, including 4-H Clubs and Future Farmers of America (FFA).
- Work with UW-Extension and local high schools and colleges to promote agribusiness education programs. Revive the Local Strategies for Environmental Education program.
- Support Annie’s Project, a UW-Extension program that focuses on the educational needs of beginning farm women or farm women who are considering a new farm business on their farm.
- Continue to allow produce stands, bed-and-breakfast establishments, and other types of home occupations or “home-based” businesses on farms to help supplement farming incomes. Consider incentives for activities such as produce stands and farmers markets through an expedited permitting process and reduced permitting fees.
- Implementing a permanent signage program to alert and direct tourists and local residents to agri-tourism destinations to help increase business and income for these farming establishments.
- Support Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) a partnership between the farmer and the consumer to buy local, seasonal food directly from the grower.

Key policies described above relate to the preservation of agriculture and agricultural lands in the County and are tied to related recommendations of the land use element presented in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*. In order to maintain consistency with the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* and town and village adopted land use plans and to protect the County’s natural resources and agricultural base in those local governments that have placed a priority on preserving agricultural lands this plan will certify farmland preservation areas recommended for no non-agricultural development (in accordance with adopted zoning district restrictions), through 2025. The County and local governments have developed a long-range Countywide comprehensive plan that is designed to accommodate projected population, household, and employment growth; provide for the infrastructure and institutions required to serve residential, commercial, and industrial uses; to protect the County’s natural resources; and to preserve agricultural lands. This Farmland Preservation Plan envisions that the lands identified as Certified Farmland Preservation Areas on the Certified Farmland Preservation Plan Map (Map 5-1 in Chapter 5) will be retained in agricultural and in agricultural related uses throughout the planning period.

The Farmland Preservation plan presented in this report provides a long-range guide that effectively addresses agricultural and natural resource protection through the year 2025, based on the vision for the future of the land use in Kenosha County developed by the Farmland Preservation Advisory committee and consistent with the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*.

SUMMARY

Kenosha County has a long history of land-use planning activities and actions directed towards the preservation of the County's rich and productive agricultural lands. Kenosha County continues to recognize the need to preserve farms and prime agricultural lands. The *Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* recommends that much of the prime agricultural land be preserved and that future urban growth be encouraged to occur in proximity to existing urban areas, rather than being scattered throughout the rural countryside.

The Working Lands Initiative offers new tax incentives and program options to preserve farmland and protect the environment by expanding and modernizing the state's existing farmland preservation program and creating new tools to assist in local program implementation. The Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan up-date satisfies the requirements of Section 91.01(1) and (2) Wisconsin State Statutes which specifies the content to be included in the plan and the plan's consistency with the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*.

In 1997, the Wisconsin State Legislature amended Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin State Statutes related to Soil and Water Conservation and Animal Waste Management, requiring every county to prepare a land and water resource management plan. The *Kenosha County Land and Water Resource Management Plan: 2008-2012* was adopted in 2007. The plan serves to guide to help preserve and protect Kenosha County's land and water resources.

In 1999, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted a new law, often referred to as the "Smart Growth" law, which provided a new framework for the development, adoption, and implementation of comprehensive plans by counties, cities, villages, and towns. The *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*, was adopted in 2010 and serves as the basis for decision-making on land use-related matters by Kenosha County, Town and Village officials.

The plan preparation process and public participation section in Chapter 1 describes the farmland preservation plan adoption process and public participation procedures. Plan preparation and adoption was conducted in accordance with the comprehensive planning process in section 66.1001(4) of the Wisconsin State Statutes. The Kenosha County Board of Supervisors also recognizes the importance of regular, meaningful public involvement in the plan process and plan amendments to assure that the resulting plan is based on public input.

Southeastern Wisconsin, Kenosha County, and Kenosha County's communities have a rich history of planning. Numerous plans have been developed at the regional level including a regional land use plan, transportation system plan, natural areas plan, water quality management plan, telecommunications plan, and the regional water supply plan. Plans developed at the county level include a farmland preservation plan, Multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan, flood mitigation plan, County Park and open space plan, urban planning district plan, land and water resources management plan, Des Plaines River and Pike River watershed plans, jurisdictional highway system plan, hazard mitigation plan, and a freeway corridor plan. These existing plans among others provided the foundation for developing this farmland preservation plan.

The agricultural resource issues and opportunities section of Chapter 1 serves to document the agricultural resource management concerns and issues facing Kenosha County. These issues were originally identified and documented in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*. These issues and concerns were prioritized by the Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee and specific recommendations were created as framework for the development of overall goals and objectives to guide the future of agricultural land use in Kenosha County. These goals include;

- Preserve soils suitable for agricultural production in Kenosha County.
- Preserve a sufficient amount of agricultural land to ensure farming remains viable and sustainable in Kenosha County.
- Identified areas to be certified for agricultural preservation in Kenosha County. Certified Farmland Preservation Areas are not proposed to be developed within the next 15 years, planned land use is agricultural, nonfarmed wetlands, primary/secondary environmental corridor or isolated natural areas, consistent with *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*.
- Protect farms and farming in Kenosha County.

SCHEME OF PRESENTATION

The Kenosha County farmland preservation plan is presented in five chapters. Following this INTRODUCTORY chapter, Chapter 2, "OVERVIEW OF KENOSHA COUNTY," presents the Population, Municipal Expansion, Economic Growth, Housing, Utilities and Community Facilities, Transportation of Kenosha County.

Chapter 3, "INVENTORY OF AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES," presents data on the agricultural resource base and the natural resource base which facilitates the identification of lands that should be preserved for agricultural purposes as well as those lands which possess special environmental or open space significance. Chapter 3 also presents data on the existing economic and demographic base, agricultural infrastructure relevant to farmland preservation.

Chapter 4, "AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMS AND CONSERVATION APPROACHES," describes conservation funding programs used to preserve agricultural and natural resources that are available in the County, including Federal, State, and local programs. Included are sources of grant funds for the acquisition, preservation, and development of park and open space sites and information regarding current practices, programs, and methods used to preserve agricultural and natural resources.

Chapter 5, "FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION," utilizes the inventory, analysis, and land use trends presented in previous chapters to identify both the quantity and spatial distribution of certified agricultural lands that should be preserved; locate other areas of environmental or open space significance that should be protected and potential Agricultural Enterprise Areas. Discussion of the important role agricultural support services and businesses play in the future of a successful farm economy. Agricultural land use plan recommendations designed to facilitate implementation of the plan by the County, towns and villages and modifications to the County and villages zoning ordinances to identify certified and non-certified agricultural preservation areas that will adequately preserve farmland as well as other identified environmental and open space lands.

Chapter 6, "SUMMARY" summarizes the salient findings and recommendations of the plan.

Chapter 2

OVERVIEW OF KENOSHA COUNTY

INTRODUCTION

Kenosha County is located in extreme southeastern Wisconsin, and is bordered on the east by Lake Michigan, on the north by Racine County, on the west by Racine and Walworth Counties, and on the south by Lake and McHenry Counties in Illinois. The impacts of urbanization in the Milwaukee and Racine metropolitan areas, and in particular, in northeastern Illinois, are increasingly affecting the County.

The County covers about 278 square miles and contains one city, all or parts of six villages, and six towns. There are all or parts of five natural watersheds and a total of about 4,800 acres of inland surface waters within the County. The sub-continental divide between the Mississippi River and Great Lakes drainage basins traverses the County and has important implications for some aspects of land and water resources planning.

The majority of the population resides in the eastern portion of Kenosha County, within the City of Kenosha, the Village of Pleasant Prairie, the Village of Bristol and the Town of Somers. However, population centers are also found in the vicinity of some of the major lakes, including the Villages of Paddock Lake, Silver Lake, and Twin Lakes and in the partially urbanized town areas. These urban centers play an important role in the County's agricultural infrastructure, as well as providing centers for processing, marketing, and sales of agricultural products and supplies. Much of the land in the County remains in agriculture, but the dairy industry has steadily declined. The primary form of agriculture involves cash-grain farming for corn and soybeans. Additionally, as urban and nontraditional rural development has expanded into rural areas, the horse industry has grown significantly, and the number of small-scale and hobby farms has greatly increased, as has the horticulture industry. The major industries within the County are generally located east of IH 94, with smaller industrial development being located in nearly all of the other urban centers.

Kenosha County has experienced significant urban growth and development pressure, and faced the challenge of balancing this growth in conjunction with protecting and maintaining its natural resources. The County has a rich agricultural history and a diversified natural resource base, including the Lake Michigan nearshore area, several inland lakes, as well as major river systems. Additionally, the County contains significant areas of quality wetlands, woodlands, and grasslands, the most important of which are incorporated into the areas designated as environmental corridors.

The rural setting of Kenosha County – with its delicate combination of natural areas, farmlands and small towns is rare in southeastern Wisconsin. Productive cropland and dairy farms, profitable nurseries and orchards highlight the rural beauty and cultural heritage of Kenosha County. Niche markets, such as equine facilities and sustainable farms have become prominent in the County. Kenosha County has an important and valuable agricultural base that is integrated into its rich natural resource environment.

POPULATION

The historical and current population of Kenosha County is set forth in Table 2-1. Between 1860 and 1890, the total population in Kenosha County increased modestly from 13,900 to 15,581 residents. The County experienced rapid growth rates in the decades between 1890 and 1930, including population gains of almost 40 percent between 1890 and 1900 and over 50 percent in each of the two decades between 1900 and 1920. Growth stagnated during the 1930s Depression Era, but increased again during the decades from 1940 to 1970, including a population gain of almost 34 percent from 1950 to 1960. Rapid growth during this period can be attributed to both the migration of new residents to Kenosha County and the natural increase of the existing population (more births than deaths). After World War II, the existing population grew as soldiers returned home and began families, creating the baby-boom generation. Federal subsidies for home ownership led to suburban migration, as families sought newer single-family homes outside

Table 2-1
Historical Population of
Kenosha County: 1850-2010

Year	Population	Change From Preceding Period	
		Number	Percent
1850	10,734	--	--
1860	13,900	3,166	29.5
1870	13,147	-753	-5.4
1880	13,550	403	3.1
1890	15,581	2,031	15
1900	21,707	6,126	39.3
1910	32,929	11,222	51.7
1920	51,284	18,355	55.7
1930	63,297	12,013	23.4
1940	63,505	208	0.3
1950	75,238	11,733	18.5
1960	100,615	25,377	33.7
1970	117,917	17,302	17.2
1980	123,137	5,220	4.4
1990	128,181	5,044	4.1
2000	149,577	21,396	16.7
2010	166,426	16,849	11.3

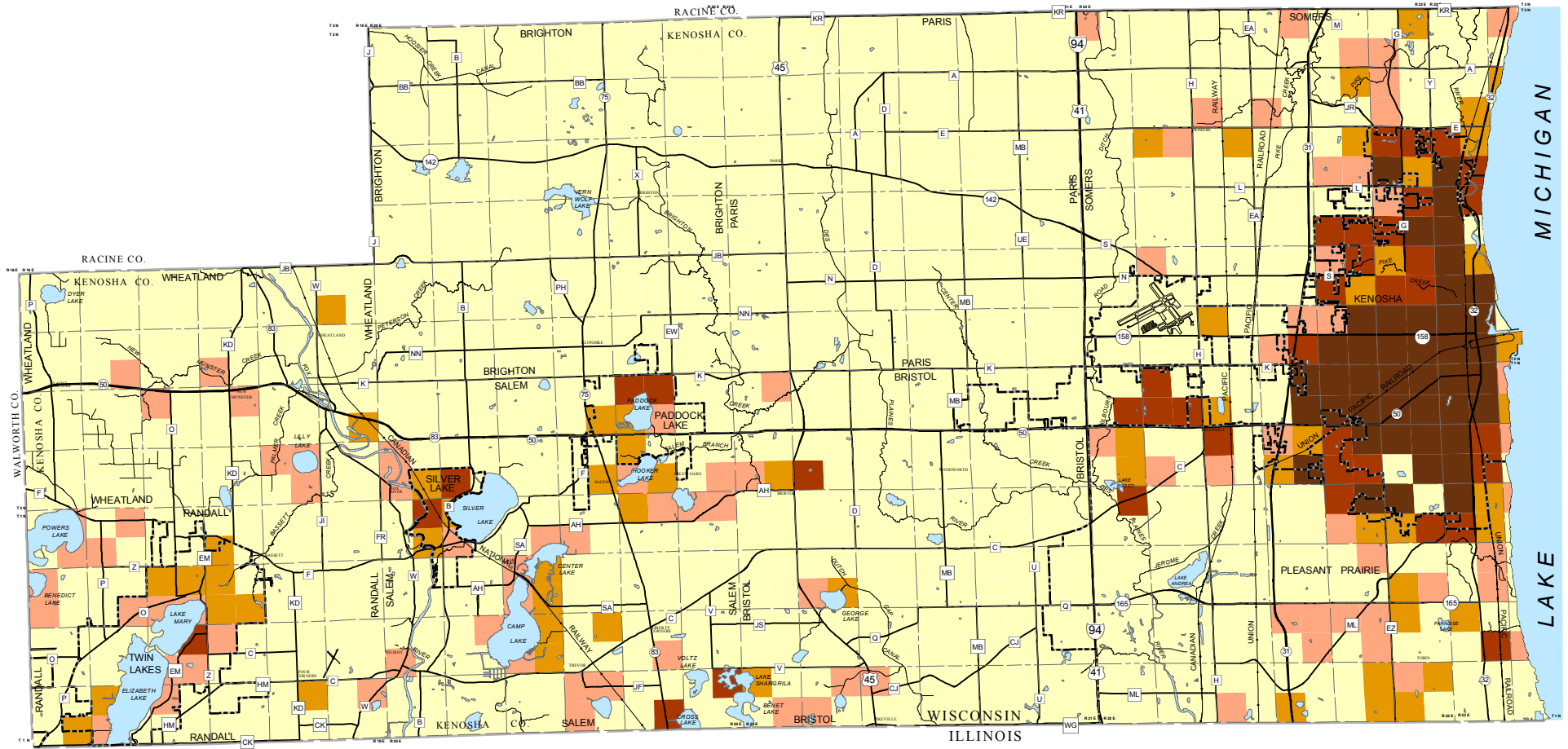
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

the central city. Federal legislation adopted in 1956 led to the construction of a new network of freeways and expressways, providing convenient highway access between suburbs and the central city. The County continued to grow between 1970 and 2000 at more modest rates of around 4 percent in each of the decades between 1970 and 1990 and almost 17 percent between 1990 and 2000. According to the U.S. Census Bureau the County population grew over 11 percent between 2000 and 2010, from 149,577 to 166,426 residents. The total population of Kenosha County in 2010 is 166,426.

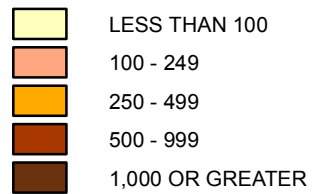
Kenosha County's population grew by 86,072 people, or about 136 percent, between 1940 and 2000. During this same period, the Southeastern Wisconsin Region experienced an increase of 863,466 residents, or about 81 percent; the State experienced an increase of 2,226,088 residents, or about 71 percent; and the United States experienced an increase of about 150 million residents, or about 113 percent. Thus, Kenosha County experienced a higher rate of growth than the Region, State, and Nation during this period.

Map 2-1

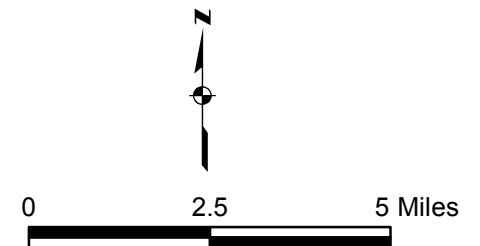
POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN KENOSHA COUNTY: 2000



PERSONS PER U.S. PUBLIC LAND
SURVEY ONE-QUARTER SECTION



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Kenosha County Planning & Development, and SEWRPC.



Population changes in Kenosha County communities between 1980 and 2000, and 2010 population estimates from the U.S Bureau of Census, are shown on Table 2-2. Between 2000 and 2010, about 53 percent of the County's population growth occurred in the City of Kenosha, about 18 percent occurred in towns, and about 29 percent occurred in villages. In 2010, about 60 percent of the County's population lived in the City of Kenosha, about 19 percent lived in towns, and about 21 percent lived in villages, as shown on Map 2-1.

Many of the communities in Kenosha County witnessed significant increases in population from 2000 to 2010. The largest numerical increase in community population occurred in the City of Kenosha, where the population grew by 8,866 residents, or over 9.8 percent. The Town of Salem witnessed an increase of 2,196 residents, or about 22 percent, during the decade. The population of the Village of Pleasant Prairie grew by about 3,583 residents, or 22 percent. The Village of Twin Lakes grew by nearly 17 percent between 2000 and 2010 and the Village of Silver Lake by 3 percent. The Village of Paddock Lake was the only community that decreased in population; 0.66 percent or 20 residents. According to the U.S. Census Bureau the state of Wisconsin population grew 6 percent from 2000 to 2010 from 5,363,675 to 5,686,986, respectively.

Table 2-2
Population Trends In Kenosha County Communities: 1980-2010

<u>Community</u>	Year				Change 2000-2010	
	1980	1990	2000	2010	Number	Percent
City Kenosha	77,685	80,426	90,352	99,218	8,866	9.8
<u>Villages</u>						
Bristol	3,599	3,968	4,538	4,747	570	14.4
Paddock Lake	2,207	2,662	3,012	2,992	-20	-0.7
Pleasant Prairie ^a	12,703	12,037	16,136	19,719	3,583	22.2
Silver Lake	1,598	1,801	2,341	2,411	70	3.0
Twin Lakes	3,474	3,989	5,124	5,989	865	16.9
<u>Towns</u>						
Brighton	1,180	1,264	1,450	1,456	6	0.4
Paris	1,612	1,482	1,473	1,504	31	2.1
Randall	2,155	2,395	2,929	3,180	251	8.57
Salem	6,292	7,146	9,871	12,067	2,196	22.3
Somers	7,724	7,748	9,059	9,597	538	5.9
Wheatland	2,908	3,263	3,292	3,373	81	2.46
Kenosha County	123,137	128,181	149,577	166,426	16,849	11.3

^a In 1989, the Town of Pleasant Prairie was incorporated as the Village of Pleasant Prairie and the Town of Pleasant Prairie ceased to exist. The figure used for 1980 represents the population of the former Town of Pleasant Prairie. At the time of incorporation in 1989, a large populated land area was boundary-adjusted from the Village into the City of Kenosha and the Town of Somers. This adjustment accounts for the population reduction in the Village from 1980 to 1990. The City of Kenosha gained an estimated 66 residents and the Town of Somers gained an estimated 588 residents. Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Municipal Expansion

The size, composition and spatial distribution of the population have a profound influence on the quantity and quality of the natural resource base, including agricultural resources of Kenosha County. According to the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), the increase in population in Kenosha County has outpaced the regional and state population growth. Significant changes in the proportional distribution of households, jobs, and commercial developments in the Region have occurred. The proliferation of un-sewered scattered residential development in the Region has resulted in a trend toward lower urban densities and increased dependency on the automobile. A substantial portion of new residential development has occurred in a dispersed pattern outside of public services, such as public drinking water, waste treatment and public transportation. The automobile and the efficient roadway system has enabled the population to live further from job sites, public services and shopping areas.

SEWRPC utilizes an urban growth analysis and a land use inventory to monitor urban growth and development in the Region. The urban growth analysis delineates concentrations of urban development and depicts the urbanization of the Region over the past 170 years. The Commission land use inventory places all land and water areas in the Region into one of 66 land use categories, providing a basis for analyzing specific urban and nonurban land uses. The inventory results are summarized below;

- A small portion of the City of Kenosha was developed prior to 1850. In 1900, urban development was still largely confined to the City of Kenosha. The period from 1900 to 1950 saw continued expansion of the City of Kenosha, incorporation of the Villages of Silver Lake and Twin Lakes, and development around several inland lakes and the Lake Michigan shoreline in the Town of Somers. The period between 1950 and 1963 saw significant growth outward from existing urban areas and incorporation of the Village of Paddock Lake. The period from 1963 to 2000 saw significant urban growth in scattered locations throughout the County, particularly in the eastern and southern portions of the County.
- Urban service areas are identified in the regional land use plan based on the sanitary sewer service areas delineated in the regional water quality management plan. Urban service areas in Kenosha County include the City of Kenosha; the Villages of Paddock Lake, Silver Lake, Twin Lakes; Pleasant Prairie and portions of the Village of Bristol, and the Towns of Paris, Randall, Salem, and Somers. Although the Greater Kenosha planned sanitary sewer service area includes a small portion of the Town of Paris, the Paris Town Board did not adopt the sewer service area plan, and does not support the inclusion of lands in the Town in the sewer service area. Urban service areas are typically currently served by, or planned to be served by local parks, elementary, middle, and high schools, shopping areas, fire/rescue facilities, and public sanitary sewers within a 25- year period. Portions of the sewer service areas in the City of Kenosha and portions of the Village of Pleasant Prairie, Village of Paddock Lake, and Village of Bristol and the Town of Somers are also served by public water.
- Urban land uses consist of residential; commercial; industrial; governmental and institutional; and transportation, communication, and utility uses. Urban land uses encompassed about 38,051 acres, or about 21 percent of the County, in 2000. Residential land comprised the largest urban land use category in the County, encompassing 18,597 acres, or about 49 percent of all urban land and about 10 percent of the total County. Commercial land encompassed about 1,443 acres or about 4 percent of all urban land and about 1 percent of the total County. Industrial land encompassed about 1,436 acres or about 4 percent of all urban land and about 1 percent of the total County. Land used for transportation, utilities, and communications facilities encompassed about 11,475 acres, or about 30 percent of all urban land and about 6 percent of the total County. Land used for government and institutional uses encompassed about 1,691 acres, or about 4

percent of all urban land and about 1 percent of the total County. Intensively used recreational land encompassed about 3,409 acres, or about 9 percent of all urban land and about 2 percent of the total County.

- Nonurban land uses consist of agricultural lands; natural resource areas, including surface waters, wetlands, and woodlands; extractive sites and landfills; and unused land. Nonurban land uses encompassed about 140,151 acres or about 79 percent of the County in 2000. Agricultural land was the predominant land use in the County in 2000. It encompassed 94,716 acres, or about 68 percent of nonurban land uses and 53 percent of the total County. Natural resource areas consisting of surface water, wetlands, and woodlands combined to encompass 30,367 acres, or about 22 percent of nonurban land uses and about 17 percent of the total County. Extractive uses combined encompass about 518 acres, or less than 1 percent of nonurban land uses and the total County. Open lands encompassed about 14,181 acres, or about 10 percent of nonurban land and about 8 percent of the total County. To ensure that future planning reflects land use development that has occurred to date, the 2000 land use inventory was supplemented by identifying major development projects that occurred between 2000 and 2007, based on the 2005 aerial photographs produced by SEWRPC, field inspections, and consultation with local and county officials and staff.

Based on the 2007 generalized inventory, approximately 49,000 acres, or about 28 percent, of the County were in urban uses. Also, approximately 32,246 acres, or about 18 percent, were encompassed in natural resource areas (woodlands, nonfarmed wetlands, and surface waters). Almost half of the County, about 82,089 acres, or approximately 46 percent, were in agricultural use with an additional 1,358 acres, or 1 percent, consisting of farmed wetlands

Between 1975 and 2000, all urban land uses, with the exception of railroad rights-of-way, experienced an increase in acreage. Residential land uses experienced an increase of 4,617 acres, which was the largest increase of all land use categories in the County between 1975 and 2000. Single-family residential accounted for 3,939 acres, or about 85 percent of the total residential land increase. The second largest urban land use category increase was transportation, communications, and utilities. These land uses increased by 3,059 acres. Street and highway rights-of-way accounted for about 78 percent of the increase in this category between 1975 and 2000. The third largest increase in urban land use was recreational land uses. Recreational land use increased by 969 acres, due primarily to the development of the Prairie Springs Park in the Village of Pleasant Prairie and the Kenosha County golf courses. Commercial land use increased by 686 acres (fourth largest increase), and industrial land use increased by 488 acres (fifth largest increase). Between 1975 and 2000, nonurban land uses decreased by about 10,000 acres, or by about 7 percent. Agricultural, woodlands, and extractive land uses were nonurban land use categories that decreased in acreage. Agricultural lands decreased by 14,077 acres, or by about 13 percent, between 1975 and 2000. Woodlands decreased by 463 acres, and extractive land uses decreased by 309 acres between 1975 and 2000. All other nonurban land uses, including wetlands, surface water, landfills, and open lands, experienced an increase in acreage. These trends indicate a post-recession potential demand for additional land to accommodate urban land uses, especially for single-family residential and the transportation infrastructure that serves it, in Kenosha County.

There has also been a decreasing supply of land for agricultural use. If this trend continues it poses several challenges to the desire of County residents to preserve productive farmland while identifying an adequate amount of land to accommodate the projected increase of about 26,800 additional households and 19,850 additional jobs expected to be created in the County between 2000 and 2035.

Economic Growth and Business Development

Future employment or job levels in the County are expected to be strongly influenced by the strength of the regional economy relative to the rest of the State and Nation. The Regional Planning Commission's economic study, which was prepared as part of the regional land use planning program, concluded that the regional economy is unlikely to significantly increase or decrease in strength relative to the State or Nation over the projection period of 2000 to 2035. The Commission used a disaggregate approach to the preparation of regional employment projections. This approach involved the explicit consideration of employment in dominant and subdominant industry groups and the preparation of projections for those groups. Dominant industries are those which accounted for at least 4 percent of total regional employment in 2000 and subdominant industries are those that accounted for 2 to 3.9 percent. At the regional level, employment projections for industries were developed based on consideration of past industry trends, available indicators of future trends nationally and in the State and Region, and relative industry and sector strength in the Region as compared to the State and Nation. Another variable taken into account was the future available labor force. Population projections indicate that a leveling-off in the regional labor force may be expected as much of the baby-boom generation reaches retirement age in the middle of the projection period (2000-2035). The anticipated leveling-off of the labor force is expected to moderate the number of jobs able to be accommodated in the Region and in Kenosha County.

Projections of total employment, or jobs, for Kenosha County were prepared within the framework of the regional employment projection largely on the basis of trend analysis. Based on the regional land use plan, the total number of jobs in the County is projected to increase by 19,850 jobs, or by about 29 percent, to about 88,500 jobs by 2035. The number of jobs by industry group in 2000 and the projected number of jobs in 2035 are shown on Table 2-3. Most of the job growth is expected to occur in the "General" category, which includes service jobs and jobs in finance, insurance, and real estate. Retail jobs are also expected to increase, while the number of industrial, government, transportation, communications, and utilities, and those categorized as 'other' jobs are expected to remain the same or to slightly decrease.

Table 2-3
Employment Projections for Kenosha County
Under the Regional Land Use Plan: 2000-2035

Industry Group	Existing Number of Jobs 2000	Projected Number of Jobs 2035	2000-2035 Number Change in Employment	2000 Percent of Total Employment	2035 Percent of Total Employment
Industrial ^a	20,116	19,569	-547	29.3	22.1
Retail	13,349	15,674	2,325	19.4	17.7
General ^b	22,432	40,705	18,273	32.7	46
Transportation, Communication, and Utilities	2,651	2,504	-147	3.9	2.8
Government ^c	8,534	8,636	102	12.4	9.8
Other ^d	1,572	1,416	-156	2.3	1.6
Total	68,654	88,504	19,850	100	100

a Includes construction, manufacturing, and wholesale trade categories.

b Includes finance, insurance, and real estate (FIRE), and service categories, including educational services for those employed by private schools and colleges.

c Includes government and public education jobs.

d Includes agricultural, agricultural services, forestry, mining, and unclassified jobs.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Manufacturing Industries

Following the deep recession of the early 1980s, the regional manufacturing sector demonstrated a relatively stable level of employment through much of the 1980s and 1990s, but recently lost numerous jobs. The outlook for manufacturing in the Region does not look promising, except for the printing and publishing sector. Labor intensive sectors may be expected to continue to lose workers due to productivity gains and to lower-cost foreign competition. Labor supply may be a problem for the manufacturing sector toward the middle of the projection period.

A key factor expected to impact the manufacturing sector in the Region, and also the State and the Nation, is the movement of jobs overseas. Overseas labor, particularly in Asia, is substantially cheaper than the American counterpart. Low overseas labor costs more than offset the transportation costs of raw materials and finished goods to market. Some of this dynamic will change as the overseas demand for personnel and material raises prices, decreasing the profit margins for goods produced overseas. However, that shift is not expected to offset job losses in U.S. manufacturing over the foreseeable future.

Productivity gains are also expected to affect manufacturing employment. Manufacturing output continues to increase, but with less labor. There is relatively less demand for manufacturing labor even within growing manufacturing industries as a result. The rate of decline in manufacturing employment may be expected to slow

Construction

Construction industry establishments are engaged in all forms of building construction as well as heavy construction such as roads, bridges, sewer and water lines, and sewage treatment facilities. The industry includes employment in activities involving new construction, additions, alterations, reconstructions, installations, and repairs. The number of jobs in this industry is projected to grow by 6 percent in the Region, from 53,800 in 2000 to 57,100 in 2035.

Retail Trade

Retail trade industry establishments sell merchandise primarily for personal and household consumption. It includes a wide variety of establishments, ranging from discount department stores to automobile dealerships to restaurants and coffee shops. Retail trade employment is projected to grow in the Region through 2035; however, a focus on reducing costs, more emphasis on e-commerce, and the lower wages associated with the retail sector are all issues that may slow job growth. The rate of growth will also depend on the health of the economy and personal income. Retail trade jobs are projected to grow by 6 percent between 2000 and 2035, from 193,700 to 205,400 jobs in the Region.

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale trade industry establishments primarily sell merchandise to retailers and industrial, commercial, institutional, farm, construction contractor, and professional business customers; or to other wholesalers. The highly competitive nature of this industry and the constant need to control costs may limit the overall growth in wholesale trade employment. The recent decline in manufacturing employment is reflected in the decline in wholesale trade employment because the industries are closely linked. Therefore, as the employment outlook for the manufacturing sector is not promising, the wholesale trade sector is not projected to support a large increase in employment. These jobs are projected to decrease in the earlier portion of the projection period and recover in the later portion of the period to the 2000 level of 64,400.

Transportation, Communication, and Utilities

This industry includes establishments which provide to the general public or to other business enterprises—all forms of passenger and freight transportation; shipping services; communications services; and gas, electricity, steam, water, and sanitary services. Regional employment in this industry is expected to decrease by 7 percent from 54,800 jobs in 2000 to 51,100 jobs in 2035.

Services Sector

The greatest future gains in employment for the Region, State, and Nation may be expected to be in the services sector. Employment in the business services sector, in particular, may be expected to experience significant growth in the future. As companies focus on core competencies, cost competition, and market expansion, many tasks that were completed in-house will be subcontracted to other firms specializing in auxiliary tasks such as marketing, payroll, human resources, and information technology. Employment in the health and social services may also be expected to increase. The most profound effect on health and social services in the Region will be the aging of the population. As the baby-boomers reach retirement age, health and social services will be in greater demand, directly affecting employment in these sectors. The outlook for entertainment services is also promising; rising personal income and retirees having more leisure time in the future are expected to play a role in that growth.

Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

These establishments include banks and credit unions; other personal and business credit institutions; security brokerages; insurance carriers, agencies, and brokerages; real estate agencies; and land development firms. Regulatory changes, the increasing use of the Internet, demographic trends, and legislation allowing financial institutions to provide a greater variety of financial products and services may result in growth in this industry. However, new technology applications, including increasing Internet transactions and data base management tools, will continue to be used to control costs, as firms substitute technology for labor. This sector is expected to grow by 11 percent from 93,700 jobs in 2000 to 103,600 jobs in 2035.

Government

Government includes employment in all nonmilitary government agencies and enterprises. This includes city, village, town, County, state, and Federal units and agencies of government; public schools; publicly owned enterprises; and the U.S. Postal Service. Government employment is projected to increase slightly over the next 30 years from 114,400 in 2000 to 115,300 by 2035.

Agriculture

This industry includes establishments (e.g., farms, orchards, greenhouses, nurseries) primarily engaged in the production of crops, plants, and trees, excluding forestry operations. It also includes establishments (e.g., farms, dairies, feedlots, egg production facilities) primarily engaged in raising livestock for sale or for the sale of livestock products. While the agricultural sector constitutes a small and declining share of the regional economy, it still constitutes a viable economic sector. Wisconsin agriculture is expected to hold a comparative advantage in the dairy and vegetable segments. However, due to continued technological advances in genetics and mechanization, cost pressures from national and global competition, and modern management practices, the employment levels in agriculture may be expected to continue to decline. The continued conversion of farmland to urban uses may also be expected to reduce agricultural employment in the Region. Agricultural employment is expected to decrease by 20 percent, from 6,000 jobs in 2000 to 4,800 jobs in 2035.

Other Employment

This category includes jobs in forestry, commercial fishing, mining, and agricultural services such as crop services, veterinary services, landscaping services, and lawn and garden services. The regional projection shows a 39 percent increase, from 11,700 jobs in 2000 to 16,200 jobs in 2035.

Agriculture contributes significantly to the economy of Kenosha County, and it is important to promote programs that will preserve farmland in order to enhance agricultural industries. Development pressure in Kenosha County creates challenges for the agricultural industry. Rising land values and nearby incompatible uses, such as certain residential developments, pose a threat to long term agricultural use in some areas of the County. Programs such as the Working Lands Initiative may help to promote the long term viability of agriculture in the County. Kenosha County strives to improve the marketability the County's agricultural industry and educate the public about the economic benefits of farming.

Housing

The summary below provides an inventory of existing housing stock, including age, structural condition, value, and occupancy characteristics. This information is used to analyze future housing needs for residents of the County and participating local governments. Household projections provides a description of government programs which facilitate the provision of housing for residents of Kenosha County, including affordable housing, and information on community policies and ordinances affecting housing, including policies established for the percentage distribution of single-family, two-family, and multi-family units and zoning regulations for minimum home sizes, minimum lot sizes, maximum densities, and housing types established by local governments. The following is a summary of the inventory information:

- There were 59,989 total housing units in the County in 2000. About 65 percent, or 38,716 were owner occupied and about 29 percent, or 17,341, were renter-occupied. About 7 percent of the total housing units, or 3,932 units, were vacant.
- The overall vacancy rate in the County was about 6.6 percent in 2000. Although the overall County vacancy rate exceeded the guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of at least 3 percent, the rate included a significant portion of vacant units (42 percent) that were used for seasonal, recreational, and occasional occupancies, such as summer cottages. Eliminating such units from the total number of vacancies, the vacancy rate was about 4 percent.
- The vacancy rate in Kenosha County for owner-occupied units was about 1.2 percent, in 2000, slightly lower than the minimum vacancy rate of 1.5 percent recommended by HUD. The vacancy rate for rental units was 5.1 percent, which met the HUD guideline of 5 percent. Only three local governments met the HUD guideline for the vacancy rate for owner-occupied housing units in 2000; the Villages of Paddock Lake and Twin Lakes, and the Town of Salem. Four local governments met the HUD vacancy rate guideline for renter-occupied housing units; they included the Villages of Pleasant Prairie and Twin Lakes, and the Towns of Salem and Somers.
- The median value for owner-occupied housing units in the County in 2000 was \$120,900.
- In 2007, the median sale price for a housing unit was \$169,000; this is an increase of nearly 45 percent from the median sale price in 2000.
- The median monthly housing cost for homeowners with a mortgage in the County was \$1,113 in 2000.

- The median monthly housing cost for homeowners without a mortgage in the County was \$366 in 2000.
- The median monthly cost for rental housing in the County was \$589 in 2000.
- Three bedroom dwellings comprised about 54 percent of the owner-occupied units in the County. Four bedroom dwellings and two bedroom dwellings comprised about 18 percent and 23 percent, respectively, of the owner-occupied units. Dwellings with five or more bedrooms and one or no bedrooms comprised about 3 percent each of the owner-occupied dwellings.
- Two bedroom units comprised about 48 percent of the rental units in the County. Units with one bedroom or no bedrooms and three bedroom units comprised about 33 percent and 16 percent, respectively, of rental units. Four bedroom units and units with five or more bedrooms comprised about 3 percent and less than 1 percent, respectively, of the rental units in the County.
- In 2000, about 69 percent of housing units in the County were in single-family structures and about 19 percent were in multi-family structures. About 8 percent of units were in two-family structures and about 4 percent were mobile homes or other types of residential structures.
- The number of residential units in the County increased from 59,989 to 67,426, or by 12 percent, between 2000 and 2006. Although there was an increase in the total number of housing units between 2000 and 2006, the percentage of units in single-family, two-family, multi-family, and other residential structures remained similar.
- There were 1,279 condominium units in Kenosha County in 2000 and about 3,195 units in 2006, an increase of 150 percent. This is nearly twice the number of new condominium units added from 1990 to 1999 (1,005).
- The median year homes were built was 1964 for the County as a whole and in the 1960's and 1970's for all communities, with the exception of the Town of Paris which had a median year built of 1958.
- Less than 1 percent of the housing units in the County were rated as "unsound." About 90 percent of the housing units were rated as either "average" or "good" and about 1 percent of housing units were rated as poor" or "very poor."
- HUD defines housing affordability as households "paying no more than 30 percent of their income for housing." About 24 percent of households in Kenosha County spent over 30 percent of their monthly income on housing costs in 2000. About 12,103 households in the County were either extremely low income or very low income households. About 72 percent of extremely low income households spent over 30 percent of their monthly earnings on housing costs. About 54 percent of very low income households spent over 30 percent of their monthly earnings on housing costs. An extremely low income household could afford monthly housing costs of no more than \$352.
- In 2006, the fair market rent for a one bedroom apartment in Kenosha County was \$596; for a two bedroom apartment, it was \$739.
- Based on the HUD recommended affordable housing standard of paying no more than 30 percent of gross monthly income for housing costs, the minimum annual household income needed to afford a median priced home in 2006 (\$168,500) was \$61,858, or \$5,155 per month. A household earning the median household income in 2006 (\$53,323 annually), could afford about a \$140,000 house.

- About 27 percent of households in the County, or 15,128 households, experienced a housing problem in 2000. About 24 percent of households, or 13,214 households in the County, experienced a housing cost burden.
- In 2000, the median percentage of monthly income spent on housing costs in the County by owner occupied households with a mortgage was about 21 percent. The median percentage spent by owner occupied households without a mortgage was about 13 percent and the percentage spent by renter occupied households was about 24 percent.
- About 23,695 persons ages five and older, or about 17 percent of County residents, reported having a disability in 2000. The 65 and over age group had the highest percentage of people reporting a disability, at about 38 percent or 16,426 residents. About 17 percent of residents ages 21 to 64, or 84,519 people, reported having a disability and about 8 percent of people ages five to 20, or 36,560 people, reported having a disability.
- Agencies involved in administering housing programs include the Kenosha County Housing Authority; the City of Kenosha Housing Authority; the Wisconsin Department of Commerce Division of Housing and Community Development (DHCD); the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development; the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA); and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- Zoning in the Towns of Brighton, Paris, Randall, Salem, Somers, and Wheatland is regulated by the Kenosha County General Zoning and Shoreland/Floodplain Zoning Ordinance. This zoning ordinance allows for single-family residential zoning districts, two- and three-family zoning districts, and multiple-family districts.
- Zoning ordinances for the City of Kenosha, Villages of Bristol, Paddock Lake, Pleasant Prairie, Silver Lake and Twin Lakes include a variety of single-, two-, and multi-family residential zoning districts.
- The Kenosha County and Village of Bristol zoning ordinances contain a specific overlay zoning district for conservation subdivisions under the RC Rural Cluster Development Overlay District. The RC Rural Cluster Development Overlay District zoning is allowed in the A-2, R-1, and C-2 Zoning Districts, setting forth specific rules regarding the preservation, ownership, and maintenance of common open space and facilities.
- About 34,324 housing units should be added to the existing housing stock in the County to meet the projected housing demand by the plan design year of 2035.
- Based on SEWRPC's regional land use plan, the average household size in the County is expected to decline between 2000 and 2035 from 2.67 to 2.46 persons per household. This trend in declining household size has been experienced in the County and throughout the United States since the 1950's and is anticipated to continue into the future.

Utilities, Energy, and Community Facilities

Development in Kenosha County is supported by private and public utilities that provide residents and businesses with electric energy, natural gas, communication, water, sewage disposal, and solid waste management facilities and services, and community facilities that provide educational, recreational, administrative, and other services.

The inventory information on existing utilities and community facilities in Kenosha County and participating local governments is presented below:

Wastewater Treatment

Adopted sanitary sewer service area plans within the County include the Greater Kenosha Area (the City of Kenosha and portions of the Village of Pleasant Prairie and Town of Somers, and eastern portions of the Village of Bristol); the Village of Silver Lake, the Village of Twin Lakes, the Village of Paddock Lake, and portions of the Town of Salem and western portions of the Village of Bristol. About 74,070 acres, or 42 percent of the County, were located within adopted sanitary sewer service areas in 2007. About 26,400 acres, or about 15 percent of the County, and an estimated 133,800 residents, or 89 percent of the population, were served by public sanitary sewers in 2000. There is also a sanitary sewer service area in the County which is not served by a sewage treatment plant. This area in the Town of Randall, which is part of the unrefined Powers-Benedict-Tombeau Lakes sanitary sewer service area that lies in both Kenosha and Walworth Counties, fits the urban characteristics used to delineate sanitary sewer service areas in the regional water quality management plan and is envisioned to be served by the Pell Lake sewage treatment plant.

Kenosha County regulates private onsite waste treatment systems (POWTS) for any development that is not served by sanitary sewer. Development in this case applies to residential, commercial, and industrial uses. Chapter 15, "Sanitary Code and Private Sewage System Ordinance," of the Kenosha County Code of Ordinances sets forth the regulations for POWTS in both incorporated (city and village) and unincorporated (town) areas of the County. Between 1980 and 2006, permits were issued for 3,865 POWTS in Kenosha County.

Water Supply

Portions of Kenosha County served by public water utilities encompassed about 27,452 acres, or about 15 percent of the County, in 2005. An estimated 116,900 residents, or about 74 percent of the County population, were served by public water utilities in 2005. Private water supply systems served about 266 acres in 2005. Users not served by a public or private water utility obtain water from private wells. As provided in the Great Lakes Compact and 2007 Wisconsin Act 227, communities located partially within the Lake Michigan watershed (the City of Kenosha, Village of Pleasant Prairie, and Town of Somers) can utilize Lake Michigan as a source of water supply provided certain provisions are met. Communities located entirely outside the Lake Michigan watershed, but within a County that straddles the watershed (such as Kenosha County), may request approval from the DNR to use Lake Michigan water as a public water source, provided the spent water is returned to the Lake via a sanitary sewerage system. In this case, approval is also contingent upon the community meeting the provisions of the Great Lakes Compact and Act 227. Based on the long-standing coordinated water supply and sanitary sewerage planning program and the provisions of Wisconsin Act 227 that include the Village of Bristol Utility District No. 3 planned water supply service area as part of the Greater Kenosha Area system, it may be expected that the utility district will be able to continue using its existing allotment of Lake Michigan water for the currently approved sanitary sewer service area.

Electric Power

Most of Kenosha County is provided with electric power services by We Energies. A We Energies electric power generation facility, powered by low-sulfur coal, is located in the Village of Pleasant Prairie. We Energies also owns and operates the Paris Generating Station, a natural gas-based plant, in the Town of Paris. The Village of Twin Lakes and the western portion of the Town of Randall receive electric power service from Alliant Energy. Electric power is also provided to the electric power system from Waste Management's Pheasant Run Landfill Gas-To-Energy facility.

Natural Gas

Natural gas service is provided within Kenosha County by We Energies. ANR Pipeline Company operates an interstate system of natural gas pipelines, and provides natural gas to We Energies. ANR Pipeline owns a major underground pipeline that runs primarily east-west through the northern portion of Kenosha County in the City of Kenosha and Towns of Brighton, Paris, and

Somers. A separate branch of the ANR Pipeline runs through the Town of Wheatland. The North Shore Gas Company underground natural gas pipeline runs parallel to and west of IH 94 through the eastern portion of the Village of Bristol and portions of the City of Kenosha and Village of Pleasant Prairie until it connects with the ANR Pipeline in the Town of Paris. We Energies also has underground natural gas pipelines that branch off natural gas mainline pipelines, and are located in the City of Kenosha and Towns of Paris, Randall, and Somers. The West Shore Pipeline, a transporter of refined petroleum products, runs north-south centrally through the County.

Communications

Telecommunication service providers in Kenosha County include AT&T, Charter Communications, Cingular (acquired by AT&T in 2007), Cyberlynk, Nextel, Sprint, TDS Metrocom, T-Mobile, SBC, U.S. Cellular, Verizon Wireless, Verizon North, and Time-Warner Cable, and Wisconsin Internet. Wireless antennas providing wireless cell phone service were located at 63 sites throughout Kenosha County in 2005.

Community Facilities and Services

Government and institutional buildings in Kenosha County include Federal, State and County offices; 12 municipal halls; seven libraries; and 16 U.S. post offices as of 2006. The City of Kenosha and the Villages of Pleasant Prairie and Twin Lakes each have a municipal police department that provides service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Village of Silver Lake Police Department provides service 20 hours a day. The Kenosha County Sheriff's Department provides service to the Village of Silver Lake for the remaining four hours of each day. The University of Wisconsin - Parkside also has a police department, which provides service to the campus 24 hours a day. All unincorporated areas in the County, the Village of Bristol, the Village of Paddock Lake, and portions of the Village of Genoa City located in the County are served by the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department also provides backup to all police departments in the County.

There were 11 fire departments serving the County in 2010, which include the Bristol, Kansasville, Kenosha, Paris, Pleasant Prairie, Randall, Salem, Silver Lake, Somers, Twin Lakes, and Wheatland Fire Departments. There were eight emergency medical service areas in Kenosha County in 2010. Many fire department personnel are cross-trained to provide both fire fighting, emergency medical, and/or hazardous materials handling. In addition, most fire and emergency service agencies have mutual aid agreements in place with other departments if additional equipment or personnel are needed to respond to an emergency. There were four dispatch centers (Public Safety Answering Points) in Kenosha County taking emergency calls. The Kenosha City/County Joint Services PSAP takes calls 24 hours a day, and dispatches personnel or transfers calls, where appropriate, to a local dispatch center. Local PSAP's are operated by the Village of Pleasant Prairie and Village of Twin Lakes Police Departments. The UW-Parkside Police Department also maintains a PSAP for incidents on its campus.

There were 54 public schools and 21 private schools in 2006 serving elementary and secondary grades. There were also five institutions of higher learning in the County consisting of three private colleges, one public technical college, and one public university. There were 34 cemeteries in the County encompassing about 243 acres in 2006. There were three hospitals in the County offering a full range of medical services in 2006, Aurora Medical Center–Kenosha and Kenosha Medical Center Campus in the City of Kenosha and St. Catherine's Medical Center in the Village of Pleasant Prairie. Children's Hospital of Wisconsin–Kenosha is one of the nation's top pediatric facilities and a major teaching affiliate of The Medical College of Wisconsin. In 2006, there were 51 licensed family child care centers, 63 licensed group child care centers, and two licensed day camps in Kenosha County.

Waste Management

Solid waste collection in Kenosha County was provided by a combination of public and private services in 2006. Solid waste facilities in Kenosha County include transfer stations, solid waste storage facilities, recycling facilities, processing facilities, and compost sites. Most of the solid waste collected in the County is deposited in the Pheasant Run Landfill, owned by Waste Management, Inc., in the Town of Paris. Solid waste collected by Veolia Environmental Services is deposited at the Mallard Ridge landfill in Walworth County.

Transportation

This section presents inventories of the existing transportation system in Kenosha County. Much of the inventory information included in this section is drawn from the 2035 regional transportation system plan and the preceding plan for the year 2020, includes five elements: public transit, transportation systems management, travel demand management, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and arterial streets and highways. Inventory information relating to these elements is presented in this section. Information on rail, harbors, and airport services is also provided.

The street and highway system serves several important functions, including providing for the movement of through vehicular traffic; providing for access of vehicular traffic to abutting land uses; providing for the movement of pedestrian and bicycle traffic; and serving as the location for utilities and stormwater drainage facilities. The arterial street and highway system is intended to provide a high degree of travel mobility, serving the through movement of traffic between and through urban areas. Arterial streets and highways accounted for 365 miles in the County in 2010, shown on Map 2-2. The primary function of land access streets is to provide access to abutting property. Collector streets are intended to serve primarily as connections between the arterial street system and the land access streets.

Public transportation service to the general public may be divided into the following three categories:

- Intercity or interregional public transportation that provides service across regional boundaries includes Amtrak railway passenger service, Metra Commuter rail service, interregional bus service, and commercial air travel.
- Urban public transportation, commonly referred to as public transit, is open to the general public and provides service within and between large urban areas. The Kenosha Area Transit System and the Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee Commuter Bus fall into this category.
- Rural and small urban community public transportation, which is open to the general public and provides service in and between small urban communities and rural areas, may also provide connections to urban areas. The western Kenosha County transit system operated by the County falls into this category.

Rail, bus, ferry, and airline carriers provided Kenosha County residents with public transportation service between the Southeastern Wisconsin Region and a number of cities and regions across the Country. Commuter rail service is provided between the City of Kenosha and Chicago by Metra's Union Pacific North line with intermediate stops between Kenosha and downtown Chicago. On weekdays in 2006, service to the Kenosha station consisted of nine commuter trains operating in each direction between Kenosha and Chicago. On Saturdays, five southbound trains and seven northbound trains operate, and on Sundays and holidays, three trains operate in each direction. Studies are underway to potentially extend commuter rail service coordinated with the Metra service from Chicago/Kenosha to Milwaukee.

Kenosha Area Transit provides seven regular, numbered bus routes serving all portions of the City of Kenosha and its immediate environs. Three additional routes serve major commercial, recreational, and employment centers, including limited stops in the Village of Pleasant Prairie and Bristol and the Town of Somers. The transit system also operates peak-hour tripper routes

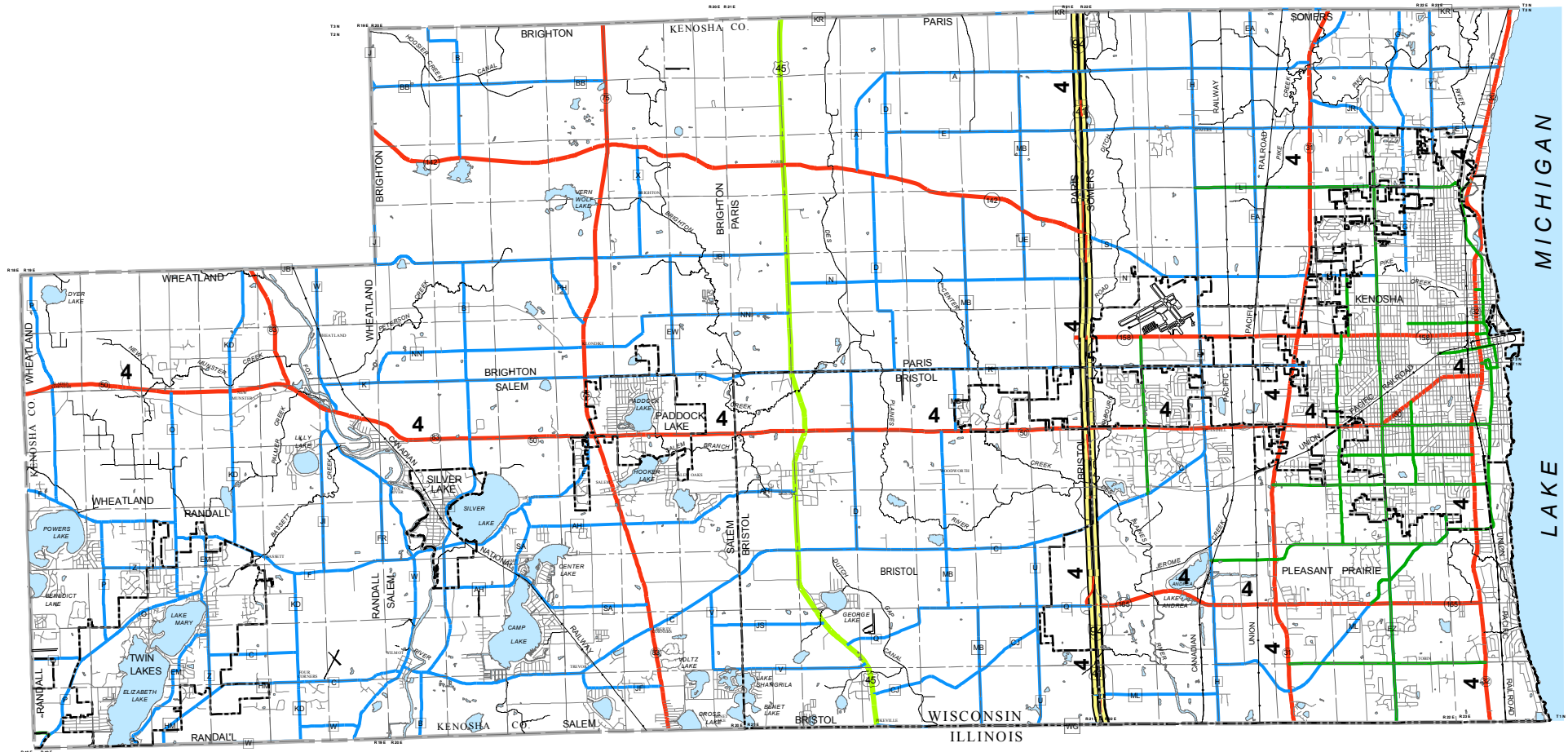
designed to serve Kenosha secondary schools, including 20 morning routes and 10 afternoon routes. Lastly, Kenosha Area Transit operates a 1.7-mile streetcar loop in the downtown central business district, which also connects the Metra commuter rail station and the Harbor Park residential development. The Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee Commuter Bus, operated by Wisconsin Coach Lines/Coach USA offers fixed-route express transit service between the Cities of Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee. This service consists of eight round trips on weekdays and four round trips on weekends and holidays.







Specialized transportation services provide demand-responsive service to individuals who are elderly, disabled, or assessed as unable to use other transportation services. The Kenosha Care-A-Van Program, provided by the Kenosha County Department of Human Services-Division of Aging Services and the Kenosha Achievement Center, provides door-to-door service for elderly or disabled residents of Kenosha County. The Volunteer Escort Service, also provided by the Kenosha County Department of Human Services-Division of Aging Services, coordinates volunteer door-to-door service for elderly or disabled residents. Free or discounted transportation service to and from medical facilities is also offered to qualifying residents through Bucko Ambulatory Transport, CMB Taxi, KAS Transportation, and Southport Transportation. Bikeways are classified as either “on-street” or “off-street” bikeways. On-street bikeways include bikeways located in a street right-of-way, which include bike lanes, shared roadways signed as bike routes, and bike paths separated from motor vehicle lanes but within the street right-of-way. “Off-street” bikeways are bike paths not located in a street right-of-way. The longest bikeway in the County is the Kenosha County Bicycle Trail, which spans north and south eight miles through the Village of Pleasant Prairie and the Town of Somers. The northern and southern segments of the Kenosha County Bicycle Trail are connected in the City of Kenosha by the Pike Trail. Additional on-street and off-street bikeways are located in the City of Kenosha with about 8.5 miles on-street miles and seven miles of off-street bikeway. A 3.1-mile paved multi-use trail encircles Lake Andrea in the Village of Pleasant Prairie. The Village of Paddock Lake has about 1.5 miles of on-street bikeways. The Village of Twin Lakes has a one-mile off-street bikeway. A 6.0 mile on-street bikeway is also located along CTH KR along the Kenosha-Racine County border in the Towns of Paris and Somers, which is part of a Racine County bike route.

Chartered air service and air freight services are provided at the publicly-owned Kenosha Regional Airport. Commercial (passenger) airline service is provided to residents of the County by General Mitchell International Airport, located in Milwaukee County, and Chicago’s O’Hare and Midway International Airports. There are three privately-owned, public-use airports in Kenosha County, Vincent and Westosha Airports in the Town of Randall and Camp Lake Airport in the Town of Salem. There are also eight privately-owned, private-use airports and six privately-owned, private-use heliports in the County.

Map 2-2

ARTERIAL STREETS AND HIGHWAYS IN KENOSHA COUNTY: 2011




-  INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
-  US HIGHWAY
-  STATE TRUNK HIGHWAY
-  COUNTY TRUNK HIGHWAY
-  LOCAL ARTERIAL
-  LOCAL STREETS AND ROADS
- 4** NUMBER OF LANES (TWO WHERE UNNUMBERED)

Source: Kenosha County Planning & Development.



0 2.5 5 Miles



SUMMARY

Chapter 2 identifies, describes, and documents development trends, plans, or needs that may affect farmland preservation and agricultural development in Kenosha County. How to meet the land development needs of Kenosha County while preserving the best remaining elements of the natural resource base and the most productive farmland. The size, composition and spatial distribution of the population, infrastructure, and services have a profound influence on the quantity and quality of the natural resource base, including agricultural resources of Kenosha County. Chapter 2 summarizes the important elements below:

- Population
- Municipal Expansion
- Economic Growth And Business
- Housing
- Utilities And Community Facilities
- Community Facilities And Services
- Communications
- Energy
- Water Supply
- Waste Management
- Transportation

The most sustainable land use patterns are served by efficient public facilities and services that meet the social, economic, physical, ecological, and quality-of-life needs of Kenosha County. This vision includes relatively compact urban service areas providing basic urban services and facilities; a safe efficient transportation system; a strong agricultural resource base closely connected to resource-rich open spaces; a clean, sustainable water resource, and abundant public and private recreational opportunities all while retaining the County's cultural heritage and rural character, founded in agriculture.

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Chapter 3

INVENTORY OF AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION

The conservation, preservation and wise use of agricultural and natural resources are fundamental to achieving strong and stable physical and economic development as well as maintaining community identity. The Kenosha County recognizes that agricultural and natural resources are limited and very difficult or impossible to replace if damaged or destroyed. Information on the characteristics and location of agricultural, natural, and cultural resources in the County is needed to help properly locate future land uses. This information is necessary to avoid serious environmental problems and to ensure the protection of those precious resources.

In addition to providing food and fiber, agricultural areas contribute significantly to the maintenance of an ecological balance between plants and animals; provide locations proximal to urban centers for the production of certain food commodities which may require nearby population concentrations for an efficient production-distribution relationship; contribute to wildlife habitat; and provide open space which gives form and structure to community development. The maintenance of agricultural lands in agricultural use also serves to prevent urban sprawl, control public costs, maintain the local economic base, and preserve the rural lifestyle which is part of the unique cultural heritage of southeastern Wisconsin.

The collection and analysis of basic planning data are essential to the formulation of a workable farmland preservation plan for Kenosha County. Such a plan requires detailed information on agricultural resources, as well as on other elements of the natural resource base, if agricultural lands and areas of environmental or open space significance are to be preserved. Sound planning for the preservation of agricultural lands and other areas having environmental or open space significance also requires an understanding of the demographic and economic base as described in Chapter 2. Increasing population levels typically result in the conversion of agricultural and other open lands to residential, industrial, commercial, or other intensive urban land uses. Once converted to urban use, these resources are lost forever. The need for prompt action to preserve the best remaining elements of the natural resource base while at the same time allowing for the efficient and economical expansion of urban areas necessitated by increased population and economic activity levels thus becomes apparent. An understanding of County Comprehensive Plan, Town and Community Plans and land use devices is also important to farmland preservation, since such plans and regulatory devices provide the best indicator of community development objectives and provide insight into the probable amount and distribution of agricultural and open space lands envisioned to be converted to urban uses.

This chapter provides inventory information on existing agricultural and natural resources in Kenosha County. Information regarding soil types, existing farmland, farming operations, topography and geology, nonmetallic mineral resources, water resources, woodland resources, natural areas, critical species habitat sites, environmental corridors, park and open space sites, and climate is included in this chapter. The base year for inventory data presented in this chapter ranges from 1982 to 2010. The inventory data has been collected through regional land use and natural area planning activities conducted by Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) State and Federal agencies including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Kenosha County Department of Planning & Development (P&D).

SOILS AND AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Soil Survey

The USDA Soil Conservation Service, now the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), issued a soil survey for Kenosha County documented in the USDA Soil Conservation Service, Soil Survey of Kenosha and Racine Counties, Wisconsin, 1971. Soils were identified and mapped and organized by soil association, soil series, and soil type. The soil survey results, including the attributes of each soil type, are now available on the NRCS website as part of the Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) database. Unless otherwise noted, the soil information in this chapter was obtained from the SSURGO database.

The soil survey can play an important role in land use decisions. The information contained in the soil survey can help identify which areas of the County are suitable for agricultural use and areas with limitations for development due to the hydric characteristics of the soil or bedrock near the surface.

Soil Associations

A soil association is a landscape that has a distinctive pattern of soils. It normally consists of one or more major soils and at least one minor soil, and is named for the major soils. Map 3-1 shows soil associations in Kenosha County. The map provides a general idea of the soils in the County and is useful for comparing different parts of the County. Planning decisions should be based on the more detailed soils information, including soil mapping units and interpretations for various land uses, contained in the soil survey. The nine soil associations in Kenosha County are briefly described below:

The **Boyer-Granby association** consists of well-drained to very poorly-drained soils that have a loam-to-sand subsoil, underlain by sandy glacial outwash. The soils are nearly level or gently sloping, occupying a low, long terrace adjoining Lake Michigan. This association encompasses about 1 percent of the County.

The **Casco-Rodman association** consists of well-drained and excessively-drained soils that have a clay-loam or gravelly-loam subsoil, shallow over sand and gravel, on stream terraces and moraine ridges. This association encompasses 2 percent of the County and is located in the western portion of the County.

The **Fox-Casco association** consists of well-drained soils that have a clay loam and silty clay loam subsoil. The soils are nearly level to rolling and occur mainly on terraces and on hills. This association encompasses about 12 percent of the County and is located primarily in the western portions of the County and along the Pike River in the Town of Somers.

The **Hebron-Montgomery-Aztalan association** consists of well-drained to poorly-drained soils that have a loamy to silty clay subsoil. The soils are nearly level to rolling and are located on lake plains close to Lake Michigan, along the Fox and Des Plaines Rivers, and along other streams. This association encompasses 24 percent of the County.

The **Houghton-Palms association** consists of very poorly-drained organic soils occurring in basins and depressions. This association encompasses less than 1 percent of the County and is located in limited areas in the western portion of the County.

The **Miami association** consists of well-drained soils that have silty clay-loam and clay-loam subsoil, formed in thin loess and the underlying loamy glacial till on ridges and knobs. This association encompasses about 3 percent of the County and is located in limited areas in the western portion of the County.

The ***Morley-Beecher-Ashkum association*** consists of well-drained to poorly-drained soils that have a silty clay or silty clay-loam subsoil. These soils are nearly level or gently sloping and occupy low, broad ridges and knobs that are dissected by drainageways and depressions. This association occurs throughout much of the County and is the second largest soil association, encompassing about 25 percent of the County.

The ***Varna-Elliott-Ashkum association*** consists of well-drained to poorly-drained soils that have a silty clay-loam-to-clay subsoil. These soils are nearly level or gently sloping and occur on low, broad ridges and knobs. This association is located throughout much of the northern and eastern areas of the County. This is the largest soil association within the County, encompassing over 32 percent of the total area.

The ***Warsaw-Plano association*** consists of well-drained soils that have a loam to silty clay-loam subsoil, moderately-deep to deep over sand and gravel on stream terraces. This association encompasses less than 1 percent of the County and is located in a small area in the southwestern portion of the County.

Soil Limitations for Development

A variety of soil characteristics can impact the suitability of land for agriculture and development. Soils that are saturated with water or that have a water table at or near the surface, known as hydric soils or severe wet soils pose significant limitations, especially for development. High water tables often cause wet basements and poorly-functioning absorption fields for POWTS. The excess wetness may also restrict the growth of landscaping plants and trees. Wet soils also restrict or prevent the use of land for crops, unless the land is artificially drained. Map 3-2 depicts the hydric soils in Kenosha County, as identified by the NRCS. There are 43,840 acres of hydric soils in the County. Although such areas are generally unsuitable for development, they may serve as important locations for restoration of wetlands, or as wildlife habitat.

Topographical features, particularly slopes, have a direct bearing on the potential for soil erosion and the sedimentation of surface waters. Slope steepness affects the velocity and, accordingly, the erosive potential of runoff. As a result, steep slopes place moderate to severe limitations on development and agricultural activities, especially in areas with highly erodible soil types. Map 3-3 indicates portions of Kenosha County that have slopes exceeding 6 percent. Approximately 456 acres, or 0.25 percent of the County, have slopes of 18 percent or greater, about 1,327 acres, or about 0.75 percent of the County, have slopes in a range from 12 to 18 percent, while about 6,496 acres or about 3.6 percent of the County with slopes greater than 6 percent and less than 12 percent. Areas with slopes exceeding 12 percent are located primarily in the western portion of the County. Steeply sloped agricultural land may make the operation of agricultural equipment difficult or even hazardous. Development or cultivation of steeply sloped lands is also likely to negatively impact surface water quality through related erosion and sedimentation.

Soil Suitability for Agricultural Production

The NRCS has classified the agricultural capability of soils based on their general suitability for most kinds of farming. These groupings are based on the limitations of the soils, the risk of damage when used, and the way in which the soils respond to treatment. Generally, lands with Class I and II soils are considered "National Prime Farmlands." Almost 72 percent of the County is covered by prime farmland soils. Lands with Class III soils are considered "Farmlands of Statewide Significance," which cover about 16 percent of the County. Class I soils have few limitations, the widest range of use, and the least risk of damage when used. The soils in the other classes have progressively greater natural limitations. Class II soils have some limitations that reduce the choice of plants that can be grown, or require moderate conservation practices to reduce the risk of damage when used. Class III soils have severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants, require special conservation practices, or both, and Class IV

soils have very severe limitations. Class V, VI, and VII soils are considered suitable for pasture but not for crops, and Class VIII soils are so rough, shallow, or otherwise limited that they do not produce economically worthwhile yields of crops, forage, or wood products.

The location and amount of Class I, II, and III soils, as set forth in Map 3-4 and Table 3-1, were an important consideration when farmland preservation areas were identified in the initial County farmland preservation plan (adopted in 1981).

Table 3-1

AGRICULTURAL SOIL CAPABILITY IN KENOSHA COUNTY COMMUNITIES

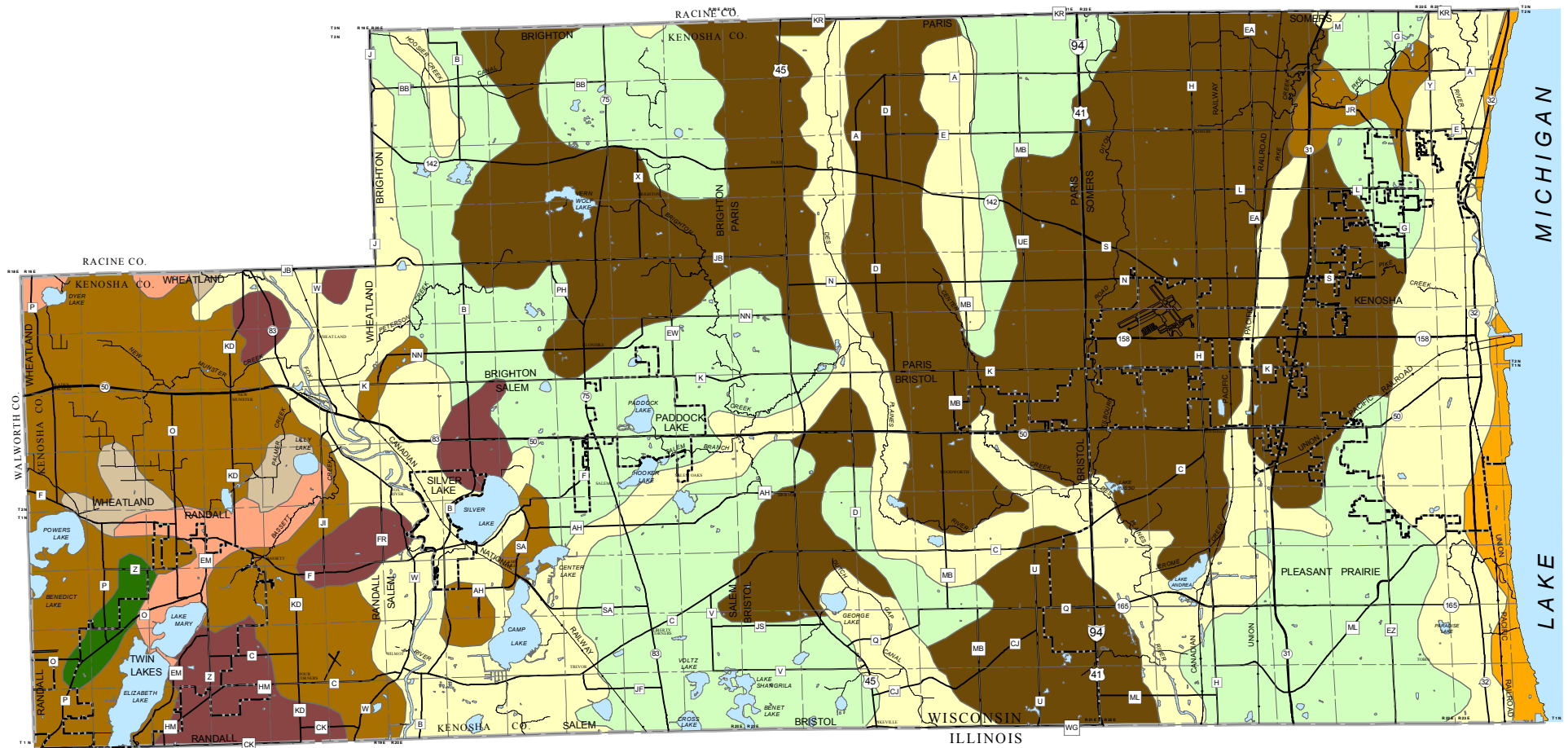
Local Government	Class I Soils (acres)	Class II Soils (acres)	Class III Soils (acres)	Class IV, V, VI, VII, and VIII Soils Unclassified Areas (acres)	Surface Water (acres)	Total (acres) ^a
City of Kenosha	- -	12,079	2,669	1,765	84	16,596
Village of Bristol	- -	16,418	3,840	816	318	21,393
Village of Pleasant Prairie	150	16,492	3,525	993	337	21,498
Village of Silver Lake	- -	448	284	137	1	871
Town of Brighton	2	16,230	3,243	3,091	330	22,896
Town of Paris	- -	18,500	3,723	741	49	23,013
Town of Salem	3	12,698	3,998	2,074	1,876	20,648
Town of Somers	20	16,962	1,166	451	60	18,658
Town of Wheatland	311	7,816	3,965	2,992	333	15,417
Village of Genoa City	34	111	1	1	- -	147
Village of Paddock Lake	- -	1,138	337	140	141	1,755
Village of Twin Lakes	28	1,995	829	901	1,028	4,782
Town of Randall	582	5,669	1,701	2,054	470	10,475
Kenosha County	1,130	126,556	29,281	16,154	5,028	178,149
Percent of Total Lands	0.6	71.0	16.4	9.1	2.8	100.0










^aTotal acreage by community is based on 2005 civil divisions.

Source: USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and SEWRPC.

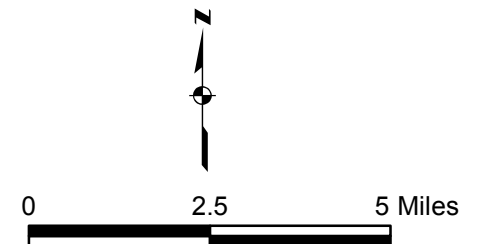
Map 3-1

GENERAL SOIL ASSOCIATIONS IN KENOSHA COUNTY



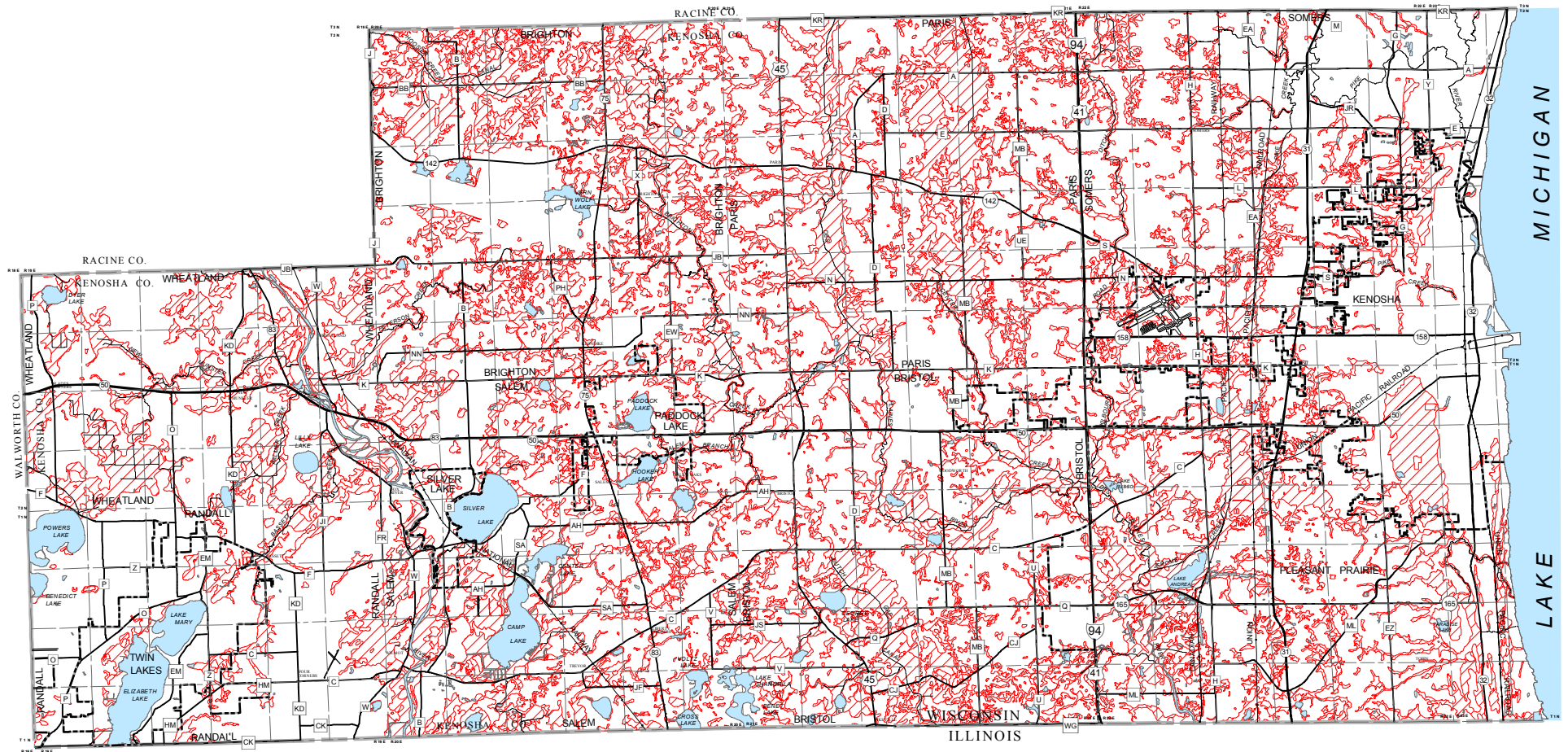
- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|
|  | BOYER - GRANBY ASSOCIATION |  | MIAMI ASSOCIATION |
|  | CASCO - RODMAN ASSOCIATION |  | MORLEY - BEECHER - ASHKUM ASSOCIATION |
|  | FOX - CASCO ASSOCIATION |  | VARNA - ELLIOTT - ASHKUM ASSOCIATION |
|  | HEBRON - MONTGOMERY - AZTALAN ASSOCIATION |  | WARSAW - PLANO ASSOCIATION |
|  | HOUGHTON - PALMS ASSOCIATION | | |


Source: Kenosha County Planning & Development, NRCS, and SEWRPC.



Map 3-2


HYDRIC SOILS IN KENOSHA COUNTY



 HYDRIC SOIL



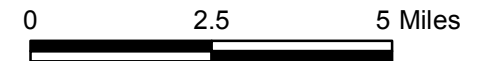
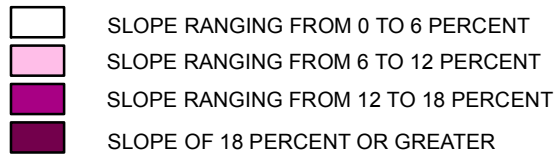
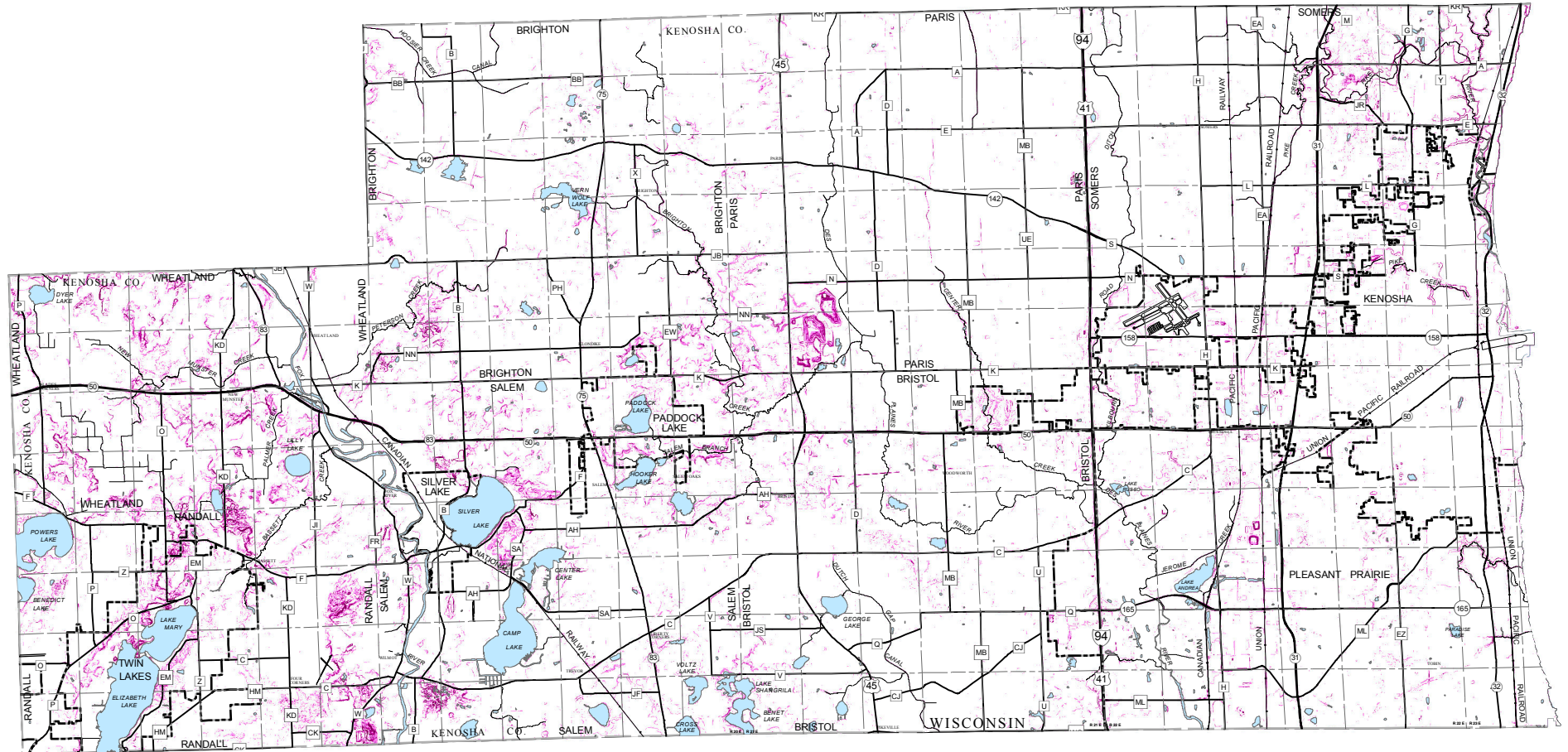
0 2.5 5 Miles



Source: Kenosha County Planning & Development and NRCS.

Map 3-3

SLOPE ANALYSIS FOR KENOSHA COUNTY: 2010



Source: Kenosha County Planning & Development based on 2010 LiDAR Data

Existing Farmland

Farmland in Agricultural Preservation or General Agricultural Zoning Districts was inventoried in 2011. Kenosha County has 61,491 acres Agricultural Preservation District land and 18,993 acres of General Agricultural District lands in 2011, where such zoning districts existed. Agriculture is a major part of Kenosha County's heritage as significant farmlands and working farms dominate the landscape. According to the USDA 2007 Census of Agriculture Countywide Kenosha County farmers owned and managed the resources on 84,345 acres of prime and general agricultural land or about 132 square miles, representing almost 47 percent of the total acres in the County.

Map 3-5 shows the agricultural preservation and general agricultural lands in Kenosha County in 2011. Excluded incorporated areas are urban or urbanizing areas that do not have agricultural preservation districts. Agricultural lands are used for the cultivation of crops including row crops, grain crops, vegetable crops, hay, and pasture lands. Orchards, nurseries, and identified specialty crops such as mint, ginseng, and berry fields. Farm buildings shown include barns, silos, and other buildings used to store farm equipment or supplies or house farm animals and were drawn from SEWRPC 2000 land use inventory.

Cropland Erosion

From 1999 to 2010, the Kenosha County Conservation conducted the Transect Cropland Erosion Survey program, which is a method to determine the average rate of cropland erosion throughout the County. In 2010, 71 percent of all cropland within the County was eroding at or below tolerable (T) soil loss rates. In 2010, 76.7% of all cropland surveyed was eroding at or below tolerable (T) soil loss rates, 14.3 percent at 1-2 T, 6.9 percent at 2-3 T and less than 1 percent greater than 3 T. Kenosha County has demonstrated improvements in crop erosion, but further efforts are needed to promote no-till practices.

Farm Production and Revenue

Farm production and revenue inventory data are useful in determining the economic impact of agriculture in Kenosha County and the major types of agricultural products (Table 3-2). Kenosha County farms combined to sell about \$60 million worth of agricultural products in 2007. The top crop grown in Kenosha County by acreage consist of corn for grain, soybeans for beans, forage (hay and haylage), wheat for grain and corn for silage. These crops were grown on 64,029 acres in 2007. Grain crops were the predominant source of agricultural revenue in the County in 2007, accounting for about 36 percent of agricultural revenue.

Table 3-2

AGRICULTURAL SECTORS IN KENOSHA COUNTY AND WISCONSIN: 2007

Sector	Kenosha County		State of Wisconsin	
	2007 Sales (in thousands)	Percent of Total Agricultural Revenues	2007 Sales (in thousands)	Percent of Total Agricultural Revenues
Dairy	\$12,300	20.5	\$4,573,294	51.1
Horticulture	15,100	25.1	244,216	2.7
Grains (Crops)	21,500	35.8	1,643,341	18.3
Cattle and Calves	3,000	5.0	1,014,553	11.3
Vegetables	4,100	6.8	422,639	4.7
Other	4,000	6.7	1,069,315	11.9
Total	\$60,000	100.0	\$8,967,358	100.0

Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002 Census of Agriculture.

The production and sale of nursery stock, greenhouse, floriculture and sod was the second-largest source of agricultural revenue in Kenosha County in 2007, a value in sale of over \$15 Million and accounting for over 25 percent of total market value of agricultural products sold. The relative importance of the horticultural industry in the County compared to the State is likely a response to the demand for landscaping material for urban development in the County and the Milwaukee and Chicago metropolitan areas. According to the USDA Agricultural Statistics Service, Kenosha County ranked 4th in total horticultural sales in the state of Wisconsin.

The sale of livestock, poultry and their product sales grossed \$17,393,000 or 29 percent of the total agricultural products sold. The greatest proportion, 71 percent, was from milk and dairy products. Kenosha County had 34 dairy farms in 2007. Statewide agricultural revenue from dairy farming was much higher, accounting for over 48 percent of the total revenue.

Average net income from farm operations in the County in 2007 was \$38,954, which was higher than the State average of \$34,909. Farming was the principal occupation of the farm operator on 216 farms, or about 47 percent, and was not the primary occupation of the farm operator on the remaining 244 farms, or 53 percent. Statewide, in 2007 farming was the principal occupation of the farm operator on about 47 percent of farms and was not the principal occupation of the farm operator on the remaining 53 percent of farms.

Number and Size of Farms

Much of the land in the County remains in agriculture, but the dairy industry has steadily declined. The primary form of agriculture involves cash grain farming for corn and soybeans. Additionally, as urban and nontraditional rural development has expanded into rural areas, the horse industry has grown significantly, and the number of small-scale and hobby farms has greatly increased. According to the USDA 2007 Census of Agriculture there were 460 farms in Kenosha County. The average farm size was 183 acres. The largest percentage of farms in the County, about 36 percent, was between 10 and 49 acres, an additional 27 percent of farms were between 50 and 179 acres. Approximately 15 percent of farms were between 180 and 499 acres. Only about 8 percent of farms were more than 500 acres in size. The remaining 14 percent were less than 9 acres in size.

Agricultural Infrastructure and Support Services

The Working Lands Initiative and the farmland preservation program is more than just a program to provide tax credits as an incentive to preserve farmland for production, it is also a program designed to limit soil erosion and improve and protect water quality. New programs such as the Agricultural Enterprise Areas, and the Purchase of Agricultural Easements, will aid in maintaining an agricultural base for an extended future. This agricultural base will be essential in attracting agricultural related businesses, and, help define Kenosha County's image as a rural community, and suitable location to establish and maintain a farm or farm-related business or service.

As farming has declined in Kenosha County, so have the agricultural infrastructure and support services. The vast majority of cropland in Kenosha County is rented, which often means longer travel distances for farm machinery during planting and harvesting times, and competition with commuter traffic on the roads. Table 3-3 summarizes the some of the known agricultural related businesses, agencies and cooperatives in Kenosha County. No specific sources are listed for the data in Table 3-3 because it came from numerous sources and the information is not easy to find or verify, and becomes dated quickly.

It should be noted that many local businesses that serve a majority of non-farm customers do provide some support services to farmers. Examples include builders, electricians, plumbers, rental services, and various parts suppliers, repair or other business related services. Farmers often lend their services to other farmers, for trucking, storage, drying, implement repair, general labor and other support

services, many of these types of services may not even be counted in the various agricultural inventories.

For purposes of this plan, it was not attempted to quantify these types of support services because it would be difficult to set standards or verify much of the information, especially if agriculture is a secondary client base for several of the noted businesses. Many of these businesses are not strictly tied to Kenosha County farmers, but are providing services to local farmers within the region. Although local agricultural infrastructure is not as prevalent as it once was agriculture services can survive and even flourish in an urbanizing area.

Table 3-3

AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS AND SUPPORT SERVICES IN KENOSHA COUNTY

Company	Street Address	City	Activity
Burlington Farm Supply	P O Box 237	Burlington	Ag Business
C.P.I.- Burlington	638 Kane Street	Burlington	Ag Cooperative
C.P.I.- Union Grove	107-200th Ave	Union Grove	Ag Cooperative
C.P.I.- Elkhorn	230 S. Wisconsin Street	Elkhorn	Ag Cooperative
C.P.I.- Genoa City	407 Platt Street	Genoa City	Ag Cooperative
Community State Bank	25360 75 th Street	Paddock Lake	Ag Lender
Conserv FS	P O Box 580	Kansasville	Ag Cooperative
Farm & Fleet	8401 Durand Ave	Sturtevant	Ag Supplier/Business
First Star Bank	30822 Ketterhagen Rd	Burlington	Ag Lender
Hansen's Meat Service	10407 County Road K	Franksville	Ag Processor/Wholesaler
Henderson Seed	15611 Plank Rd	Union Grove	Ag Business
Highway C Service	13325 Wilmot Rd	Kenosha	Ag Business
Horn/Trevor Feed	P O Box 3	Trevor	Ag Supplier/Business
Interstate Farm Equipment	19805 60 th St	Bristol	Ag Business
Kenosha/Racine - Farm Bureau	1701 Main St	Union Grove	Ag Agency
Klema Feeds	10450 County Trunk K	Franksville	Ag Cooperative
Lake Geneva Country Meats	5907 State Road 50 East	Lake Geneva	Ag Processor/Retailer
Leedles Sales & Service	N474 Armsby Rd	Lake Geneva	Dairy Equipment/Business
M&I Bank	4235 52nd Street	Kenosha	Ag Lender
Otter Sales & Service	HWY 36 North	Burlington	Ag Equipment/Business
Pfieffer Sales & Service	22821 83 rd St	Salem	Ag Business
Proven Power	31521 Bushnell Rd	Burlington	Ag Equipment/Business
Racine Grain	1313 S Colony Ave	Union Grove	Ag Cooperative
Scharines	N4213 Scharine Rd	Whitewater	Dairy Equipment/Business
Schmidt Implement	P O Box 10	Salem	Ag Business
Schmidt Implement	8841 Antioch Rd	Salem	Ag Business
Surge Supply	1615 Main St	Union Grove	Ag Lender
T & C Sales & Service	13301 Wilmot Rd	Kenosha	Ag Business
Tractor Supply Company	1801 Milwaukee Ave	Burlington	Ag Supplier/Business
Tri-County Supply	901 Main St	Union Grove	Dairy Equipment/Business
USDA – FSA – NRCS	826 Main St	Union Grove	Ag Agency
Vanderwerff Feed Service	7610 Mchenry St	Salem	Ag Supplier/Business

Community Supported Agriculture

In addition to horse stables and small-scale hobby farms, a few other agricultural related industries that have a connection to urbanization have been on the increase. Many Kenosha County farmers offer direct producer-to-consumer marketing of commodities such as fresh produce, meat, pumpkins, Christmas trees, greenhouse and nursery stock, hay, straw, sod, specialty crops, and farm tourism. Kenosha County residents are rediscovering the benefits of buying local food. Most consider locally \ produced food fresher, tastier and more nutritious. It is also good for your local economy; buying

directly from local family farmers helps keep them in business. Family farmers sell their products directly to the public through various channels including farmer's markets, roadside stands, on-farm sales, pick-your-own and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). CSA's has become a popular way for consumers to buy local, seasonal food directly from the farmer. Typically, members or "share-holders" pledge to cover the anticipated costs of the farm operation. In return, they receive shares in the farm's bounty throughout the growing season. Members also share in the risks of farming, including poor harvests due to unfavorable weather or pests. By direct sales to community members, growers may receive better prices for their crops, gain some financial security, and are relieved of much of the burden of marketing. Regionally the numbers of farmers markets have doubled in recent years. Map 3-6 shows some of the local farms, farmer's markets and businesses available in Kenosha County.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Topography and Geology

The landforms and physical features of Kenosha County, such as topography and drainage patterns, are an important determinant of growth and development. The physiography of the area not only must be considered in sound land use and supporting transportation, utility, and community facility planning and development, but it also contributes directly to the natural beauty and overall quality of life in the County. Kenosha County varies from gently rolling glacial plains in the eastern half to steeper hills in the western half. Additionally, the subcontinental divide, which separates the Mississippi River Basin and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin, traverses the eastern half of Kenosha County. The County is adjacent to Lake Michigan, one of the five Great Lakes.

Glaciation has largely determined the physiography and topography, as well as the soil within the County. Generalized landforms and topographic characteristics in primarily 50-foot interval contours are shown on Map 3-7. Topographic elevations range from 580 feet above sea level at the Lake Michigan shoreline to approximately 950 feet in the Town of Randall, along the Wisconsin-Illinois state line. There is evidence of four major stages of glaciation in the Southeastern Wisconsin Region. The last, and most influential in terms of present physiography and topography in Kenosha County, was the Wisconsin stage, which is believed to have ended in the State about 11,000 years ago.

The dominant physiographic and topographic features occur in the western portion of the County. On the western side of the Fox River, gentle slopes give way to steeper hills which are comprised of sand and gravel outwash deposits. The majority of the County is dominated by gently sloping ground moraines. Ground moraines were laid down directly by the glacier, and are typically made up of dense basal till, which contains a combination of silt and clay. Kenosha County also contains wetland areas made up of peat and organic materials. Glacial outwash deposits are common along the major rivers and streams of Kenosha County. Outwash is alluvial in origin and was deposited by glacial meltwaters. A few places in the County also contain lacustrine deposits which consist of sediments from glacial lakebeds. In addition, there are areas of steep bluffs along the Lake Michigan shoreline, particularly near the Racine County line. There are approximately 12.6 linear miles of Lake Michigan shoreline in Kenosha County. The nature of the shoreline varies considerably within the County. At the north end, the shoreline is characterized by clayey bluffs ranging up to about 35 feet in height. The height of the bluff decreases steadily so that it is about 20 feet high at the northern limits of the City of Kenosha and typically four or five feet along the southern shoreline reaches of the County. The beach width also varied considerably, ranging from complete absence of beach in some places to over 275 feet in others. Shoreline erosion and bluff stability conditions can change over time because they are related to changes in climate, water level, the geometry of the near-shore areas, the extent and condition of shore protection measures, the type and extent of vegetation, and the type of land uses in shoreland areas. Bluff stability safety factors and shoreline recession rates are detailed in the 1995 SEWRPC Lake Michigan shoreline recession and bluff stability report (Technical Report No. 36).

Table 3-4**ACTIVE NONMETALLIC MINING SITES^a IN KENOSHA COUNTY: 2011**

Location	Owner of Mining Site	Site Area (acres)
Town of Brighton	Pirelli/Marotta (ADAM Enterprises)	43
Town of Randall	Kenosha County Public Works	51
Town of Wheatland	Powers Lake Construction	31
Town of Wheatland	Meyer Materials Company	54
Total Four Sites	- -	179

^aThese sites have received permits in accordance with the Kenosha County Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance.

Source: Kenosha County and SEWRPC.

Nonmetallic Mineral Resources

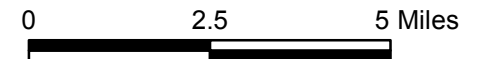
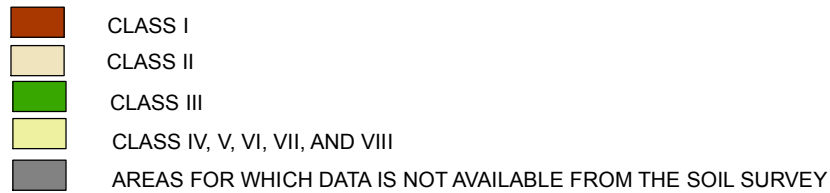
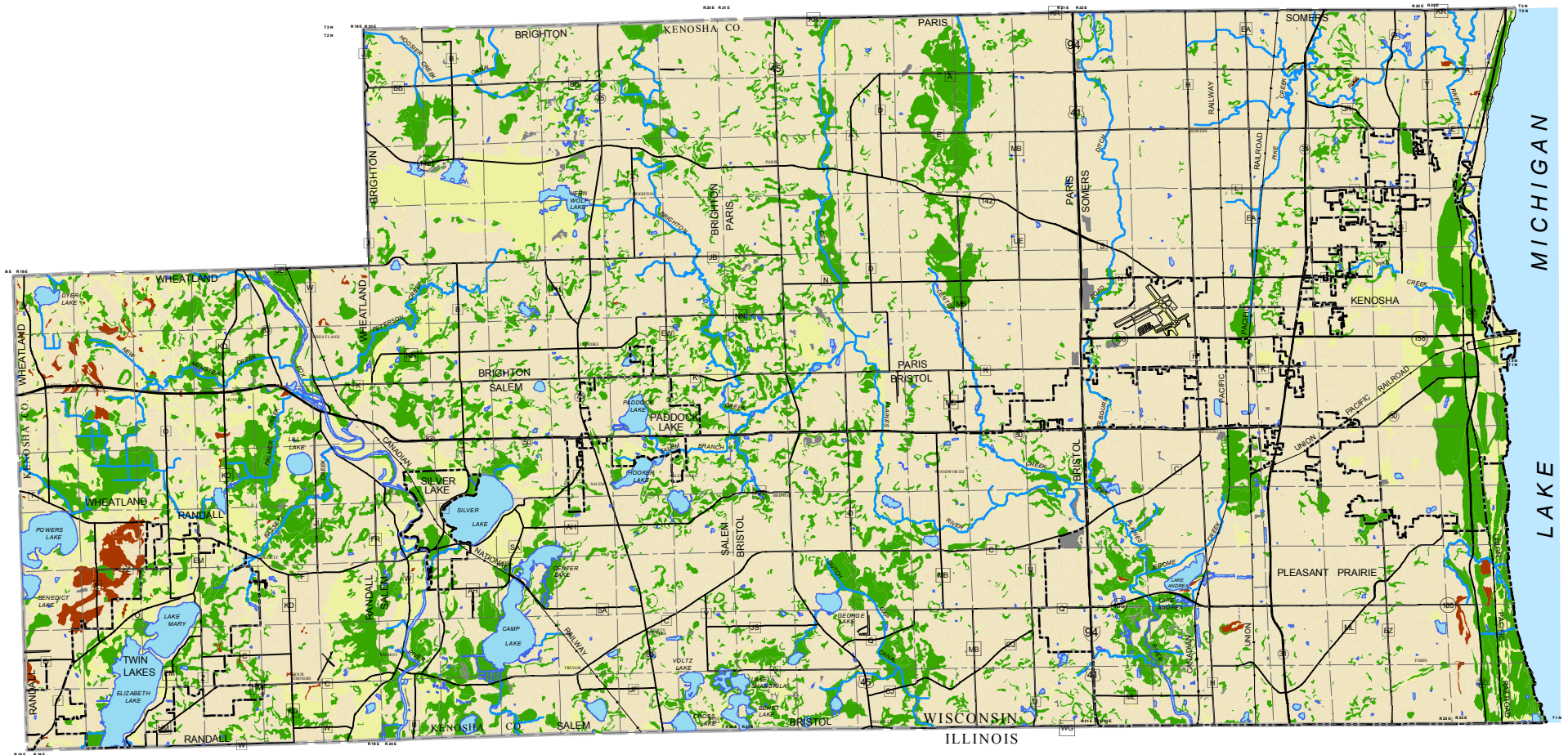
Nonmetallic minerals include sand, gravel, crushed stone, building (dimension) stone, peat, clay, and asbestos. Nonmetallic mines (quarries and pits) in southeastern Wisconsin provide sand, gravel, and crushed limestone or dolomite for structural concrete and road building; peat for gardening and horticulture; and dimension stone for use in buildings, landscaping, and monuments. Nonmetallic minerals are important economic resources that should be taken into careful consideration whenever land is being considered for development. If an adequate supply of stone and sand is desired for the future, wise management of nonmetallic mineral resources and access to them is important.

Existing Nonmetallic Mining Sites

In 2011 there were 4 active nonmetallic mining sites in Kenosha County. Table 3-4 lists the mine owner and the local government in which the mine is located. There are currently four nonmetallic mining sites in Kenosha County, all of which produce sand and/or gravel. The four sites have received nonmetallic mining reclamation permits in accordance with the Kenosha County Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance, adopted in April 2002. Chapter NR 135 of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code* requires each County to adopt and administer a nonmetallic mining reclamation ordinance. Cities, towns, and villages may also adopt a reclamation ordinance if they are willing to take responsibility for reviewing reclamation plans and issuing and enforcing permits for mines in their community. The Village of Pleasant Prairie is the only local government in Kenosha County that has adopted a nonmetallic mining and reclamation ordinance; as of 2010, there were no active sites in the Village of Pleasant Prairie.

Map 3-4

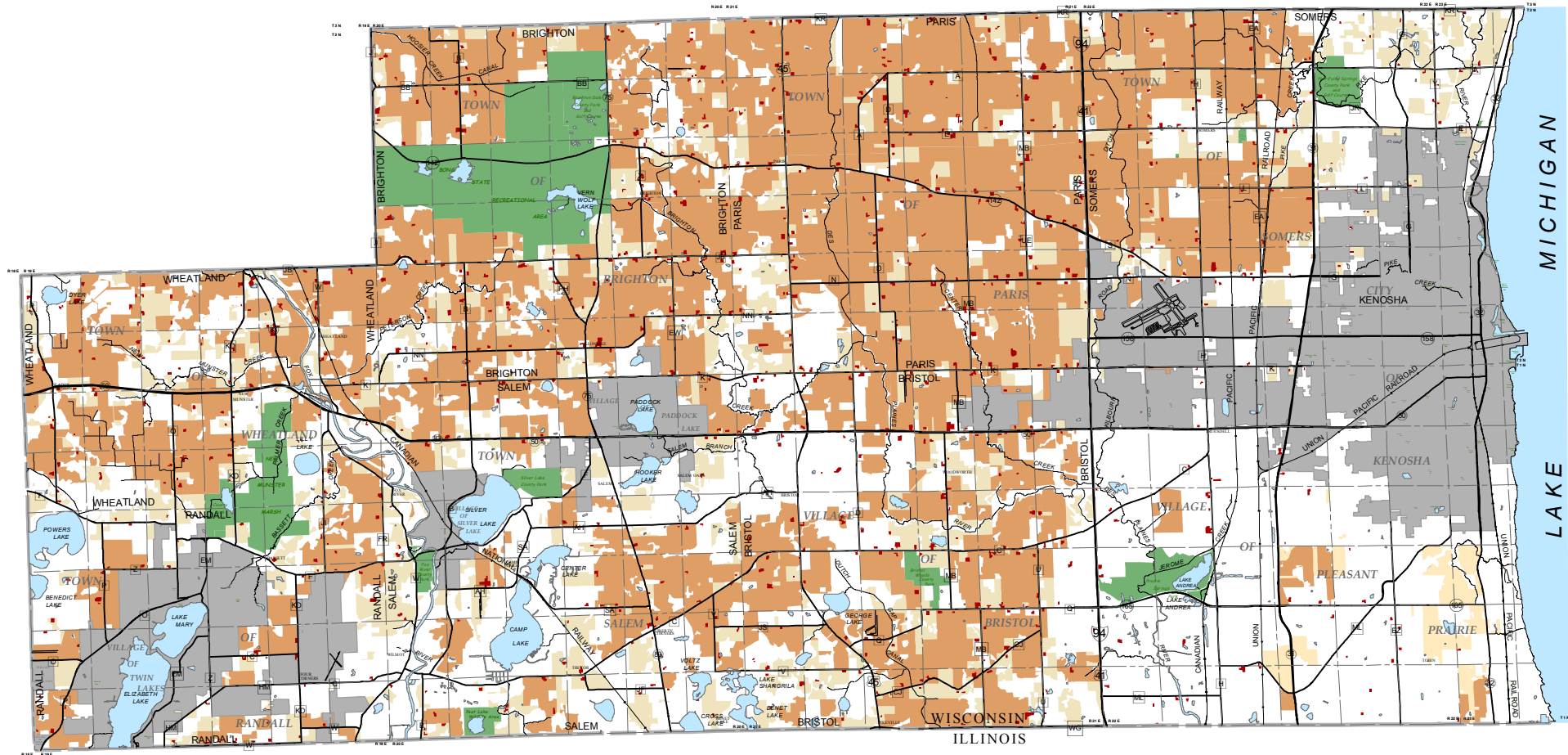
AGRICULTURAL SOIL CAPABILITY CLASSES IN KENOSHA COUNTY



Source: Kenosha County Planning & Development, NRCS, and SEWRPC.

Map 3-5

AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION ZONING DISTRICTS IN KENOSHA COUNTY: 2011



- AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION ZONING DISTRICT
- GENERAL AGRICULTURAL ZONING DISTRICT
- PARK AND RECREATIONAL LAND
- FARM BUILDINGS
- EXCLUDED INCORPORATED AREAS (without farmland preservation zoning)

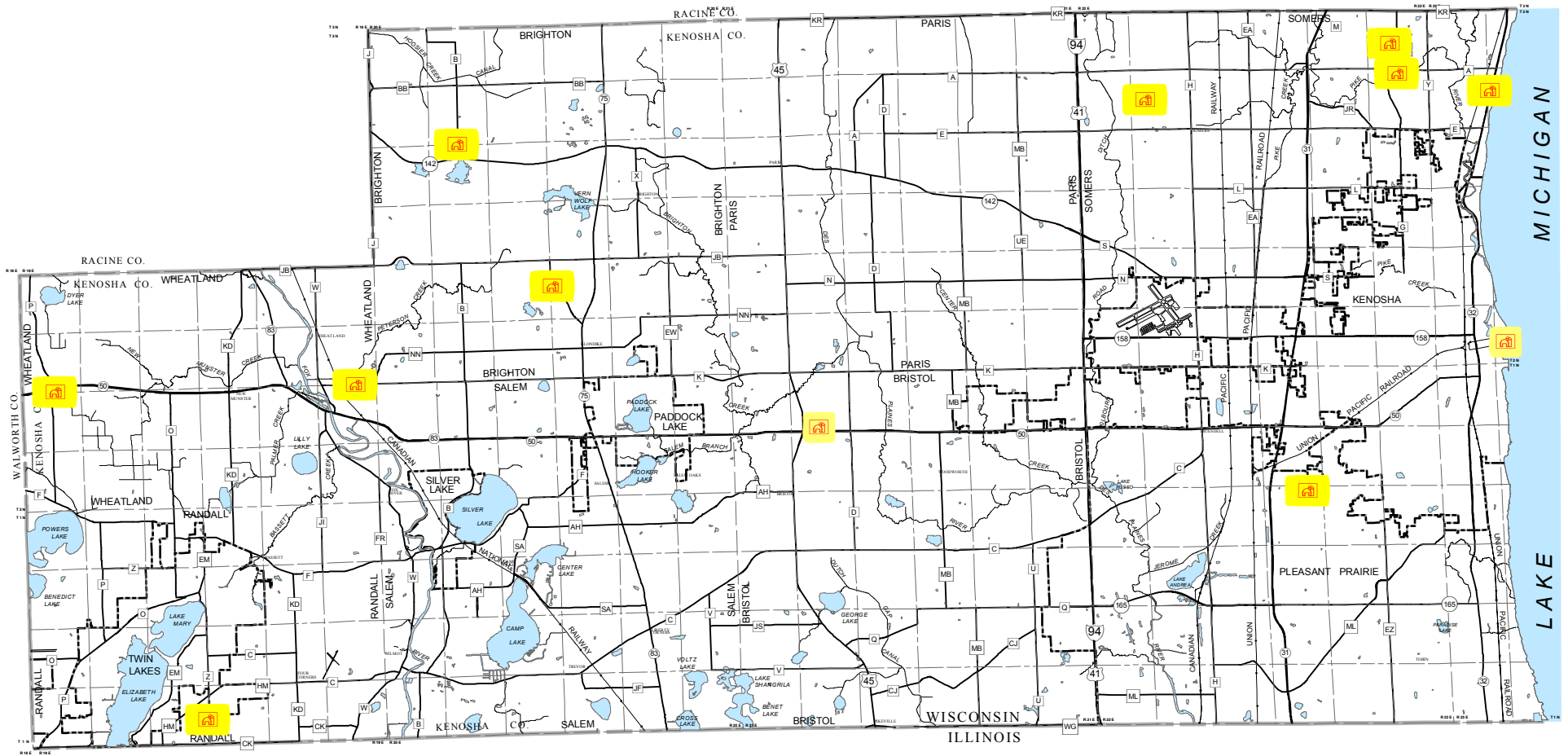


0 2.5 5 Miles

Source: Kenosha County Planning & Development

Map 3-6

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE IN KENOSHA COUNTY: 2011a



COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

- a THIS MAP PROVIDES A GENERAL REFERENCE AND IS NOT INTENDED FOR NAVIGATION. PLEASE CONSULT THE 2011 FARM FRESH ATLAS FOR CONTACT INFORMATION OR DIRECTIONS VISIT www.farmfreshatlas.org/southeast

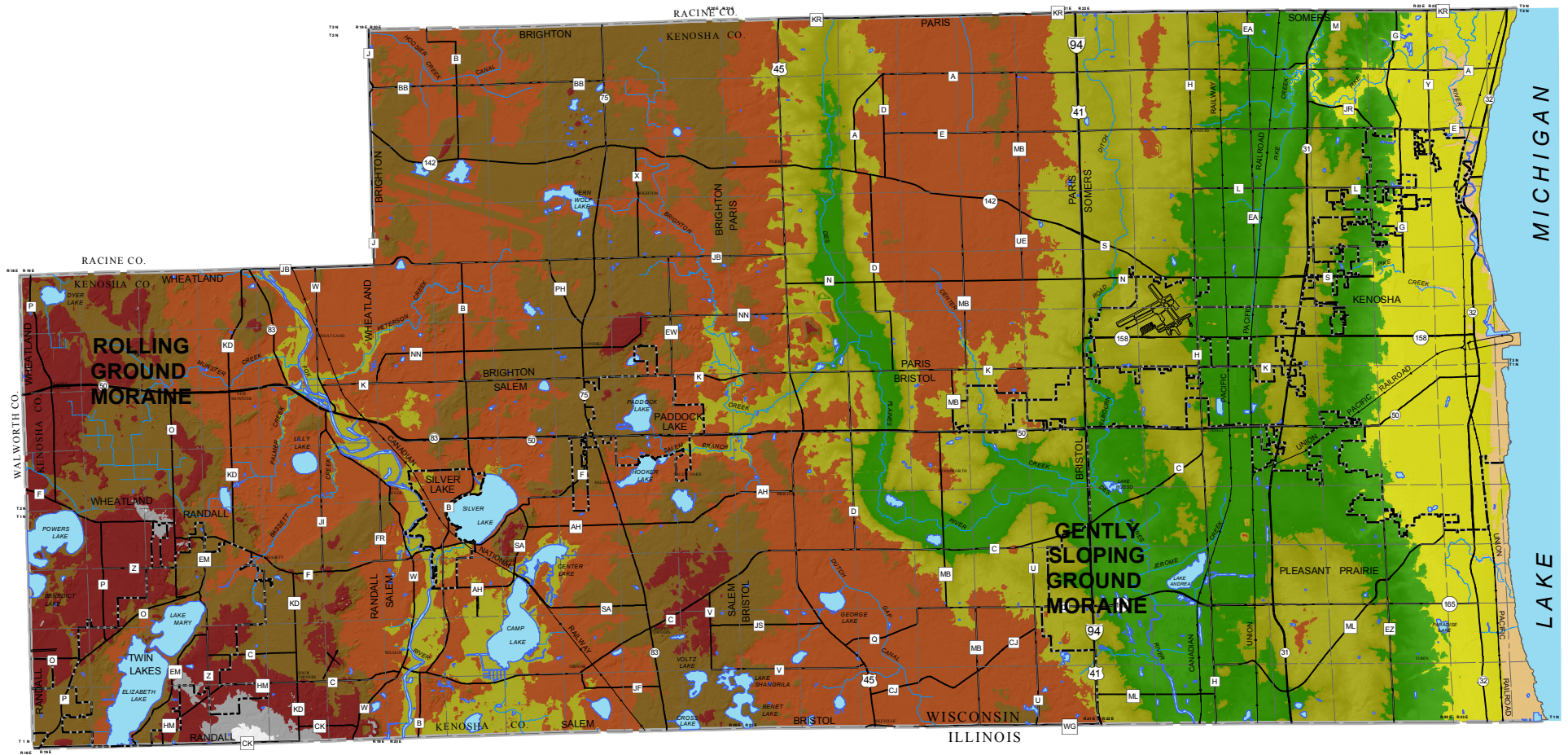
Source: Kenosha County Planning & Development and 2011 Farm Fresh Atlas



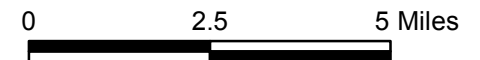
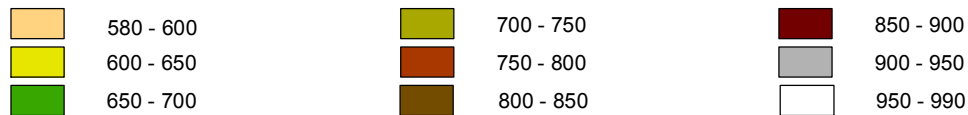
0 2.5 5 Miles

Map 3-7

GENERALIZED TOPOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS IN KENOSHA COUNTY: 2010



ELEVATION IN FEET ABOVE NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM



Source: Kenosha County Planning & Development based on 2010 LiDAR Data

Potential Sources of Sand, Gravel, Clay, and Peat

Map 3-8 shows the location of potential commercially workable sources of sand, gravel, clay, and peat in Kenosha County. The Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (WGNHS) identified these resources using a variety of sources, including geologic studies, data from Road Material Survey records collected by WGNHS for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, information on existing extractive sites, and information on closed extractive sites that were recently active. The sand and gravel potential is categorized as high, medium, and low by the WGNHS based on the glacial geology.

Kenosha County has a moderate supply of sand and gravel deposits as a result of its glacial history. The areas categorized as “outwash deposits” have the highest potential for significant deposits of sand and gravel, and account for 19,641 acres, or 11 percent of the County. Areas categorized as “glacial till” have medium to low potential for yielding commercial workable sources of sand and gravel, and encompass 117,017 acres, or 66 percent of the County. The highest-quality deposits are found in the outwash areas of the County, particularly west of the Fox River, where the washing action of glacial meltwaters has sorted the sand and gravel into somewhat homogeneous deposits that are commercially more attractive. Most of the sand and gravel mining occurs in the Towns of Wheatland and Randall. The areas categorized as “glacial lake deposits” contain clay deposits useful for construction, and account for 13,450 acres, or about 7 percent of the County. Areas categorized as “peat and organic sediment” may contain economic deposits of peat, and account for 8,715 acres, or 5 percent of the County. These areas are scattered throughout the County, generally in association with wetlands, which limits access to the peat due to regulatory constraints. Although 3-8 shows potential areas of commercially viable clay and peat deposits, many of the areas so depicted are wetlands or environmentally sensitive areas (such as the Peat Lake State Natural Area) that are unlikely to be disturbed for material extraction.

Water Resources

Surface water resources consist of lakes, rivers, streams, and their associated wetlands, floodplains, and shorelands that form important elements of the natural resource base of the County and local communities. Their contribution to economic development, recreational activity, and scenic beauty is immeasurable. The number of acres of surface waters, wetlands, and floodplains in the County and each local community is listed in Table 3-7.

Surface water resources from Lake Michigan constitute the major source of supply for domestic, municipal, and industrial water users in the City of Kenosha, Villages of Bristol and Pleasant Prairie, and portions of the Town of Somers. Villages and towns in the central and western parts of the County rely on groundwater for domestic, municipal, and industrial water.

Both surface water and groundwater are interrelated components of a single hydrologic system. The groundwater resources are hydraulically connected to the surface water resources inasmuch as the former provide the base flow of streams and contribute to inland lake levels.

Watersheds and Subwatersheds

A subcontinental divide that separates the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River drainage basins crosses Kenosha County from the Town of Somers on the north to the Village of Pleasant Prairie on the south, as shown on Map 3-9. A portion of the Root River watershed, located in the Town of Paris, also drains to Lake Michigan. About 38,304 acres, or 22 percent of the County, drain to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River system; the remaining 139,836 acres, or 78 percent of the County, drain south and west to the Mississippi River.

The subcontinental divide not only exerts a major physical influence on the overall drainage pattern of the County, but also carries with it legal constraints that, in effect, would prohibit any new diversion of substantial quantities of Lake Michigan water across the divide. Areas east of the divide can utilize

Lake Michigan as a source of water supply, with the spent water typically returned to the lake via the sanitary sewerage system. Areas west of the divide must utilize groundwater as the water source (the Village of Pleasant Prairie and Town of Bristol are permitted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to use Lake Michigan water, provided the wastewater is returned to Lake Michigan via the sanitary sewerage system). The Great Lakes Charter Annex, signed by the governors of the eight States bordering the Great Lakes and the premiers of the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec in June 2001, would ban most diversions of Great Lakes water outside the drainage basin, but makes limited exceptions for communities and counties that straddle the watershed boundary.

Watersheds and subwatersheds within the County are shown on Map 3-9. The Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River drainage basin includes the Pike River watershed, which encompasses about 11 percent of the County, and the Root River watershed, which encompasses about 1 percent of the County. An additional 10 percent of the County drains directly to Lake Michigan. The Mississippi River drainage basin includes the Des Plaines River watershed, which encompasses about 44 percent of the County, and the Fox River watershed, which encompasses about 35 percent of the County.

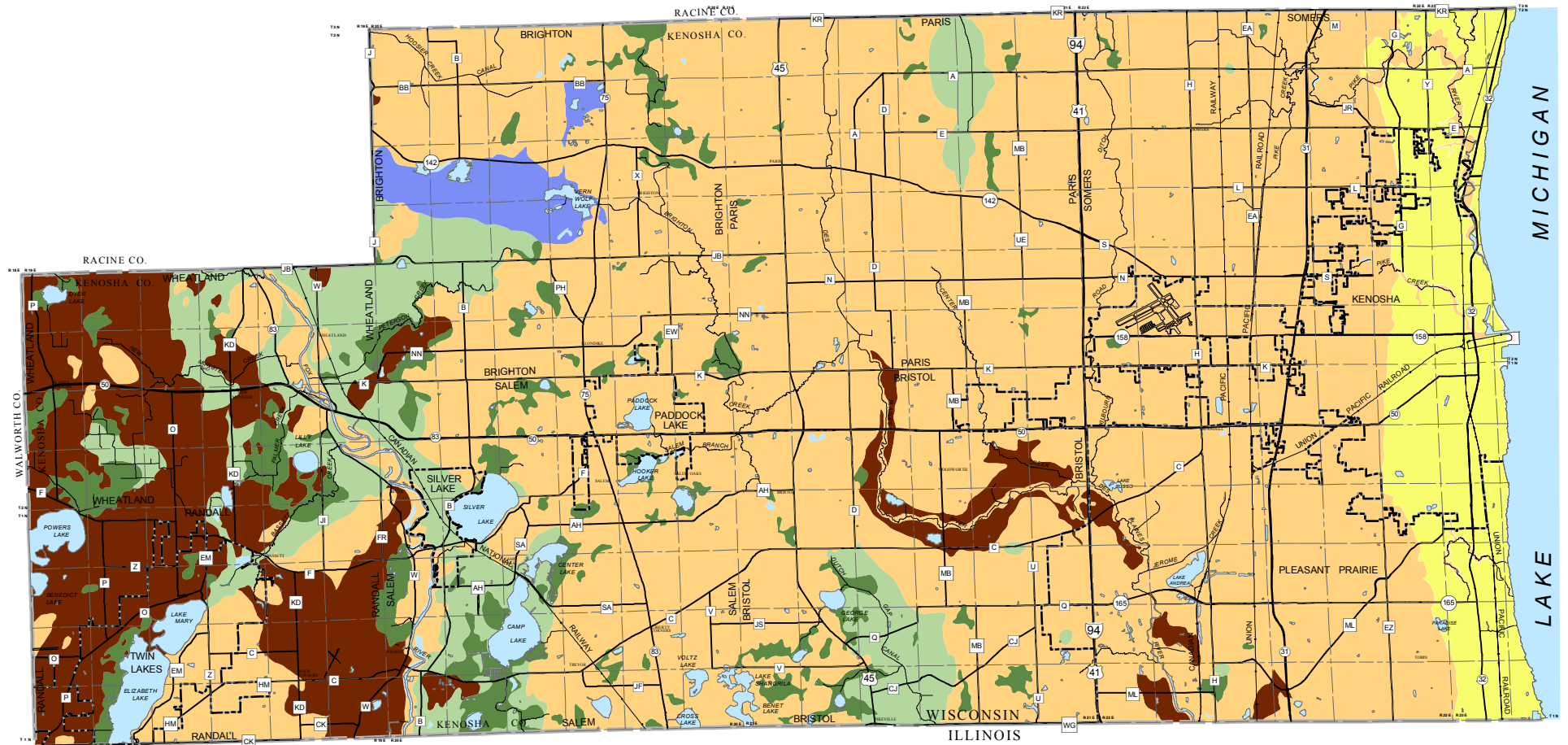
Lakes, Rivers, and Streams

Rivers and streams are identified as either perennial or intermittent. Perennial streams are defined as those which maintain, at a minimum, a small continuous flow throughout the year except under unusual drought conditions. Intermittent streams are defined as watercourses which do not maintain a continuous flow throughout the year. There are approximately 110 miles of named perennial rivers and streams in Kenosha County. An additional 55 miles of unnamed tributary streams draining into the named watercourses were also identified in the adopted regional water quality management plan. As noted above, the County includes portions of the Des Plaines River, Fox River, Pike River, and Root River watersheds. Major streams in the Des Plaines River watershed, which is located in the central portion of the County, are the Des Plaines River, Brighton Creek, Center Creek, Dutch Gap Canal, Jerome Creek, Kilbourn Road Ditch, and the Salem Branch of Brighton Creek. Major streams in the Fox River watershed, which generally includes the area in the western portion of the County, include the Fox River, Bassett Creek, Hoosier Creek Canal, Karcher Creek, New Munster Creek, Palmer Creek, Peterson Creek, and Trevor Creek. Major streams in the Pike River watershed include Nelson Creek, the Pike River, Pike Creek, School Tributary, Somers Branch, and Sorenson Creek located in the eastern portion of Kenosha County, which all drain to Lake Michigan. Barnes Creek and Pike Creek drain directly into Lake Michigan. The East Branch of the Root River Canal, part of the Root River watershed located in the Town of Paris, also drains to Lake Michigan.

Of the 169 stream miles for which data were available in 1982, about 95 miles, or about 56 percent were reported to be of poor quality, and about 66 miles, or about 39 percent were reported to be of fair quality, based upon calculated biotic indices and/or the best professional judgment of WDNR staff conducting the assessments, as shown on Map 3-9 and Table 3-5. With the exception of Pike Creek and Pike River, where modifications were recently implemented to these channels, it is likely that the water quality conditions of the perennial streams have not significantly changed since 1982. No water quality data were available for the remaining eight miles of stream courses within Kenosha County. Major streams are shown on Map 3-9.

Map 3-8

POTENTIAL SOURCES OF SAND, GRAVEL, CLAY, AND PEAT IN KENOSHA COUNTY



OUTWASH DEPOSITS

Highest potential for significant deposits of gravel and coarse to medium sand

GLACIAL TILL

May contain locally economic deposits of sand and gravel, but generally consists of poorly sorted clayey, silty to sandy material with boulders and cobbles. Resource potential medium to low

GLACIAL LAKE DEPOSITS

Predominantly clay and silt. Not a potential source for sand and gravel, but may contain clay deposits useful for construction

PEAT AND ORGANIC SEDIMENT

Not a potential source for sand and gravel, but may contain economic deposits of peat

MODERN STREAM SEDIMENT

May contain local concentrations of sand and gravel, but environmental issues make development impractical. Not considered a significant future resource

LAKE MICHIGAN BEACH SEDIMENT

Generally thin sand and some gravel overlying till. Not considered a significant resource

SURFACE WATER



0 2.5 5 Miles

There are a total of 27 named lakes located entirely or partially within Kenosha County, 20 of which are major lakes of 50 or more acres in area, as shown on Map 3-9 and 3-6. Major lakes in the Des Plaines River watershed are Lake Andrea, Benet Lake, George Lake, Hooker Lake, Montgomery Lake, Paddock Lake, Lake Shangri-La, and Vern Wolf Lake. Major lakes in the Fox River watershed are Camp Lake, Center Lake, Dyer Lake, Lilly Lake, Lake Mary, Rock Lake, Silver Lake, and Voltz Lake. Lake Benedict, Cross Lake, Elizabeth Lake, and Powers Lake, also in the Fox River watershed, are located partially in Kenosha County. Paradise Lake located in the Village of Pleasant Prairie is in the Lake Michigan watershed. Together, these major lakes have a combined surface area of about 3,861 acres in Kenosha County. The three largest lakes located entirely within the County are Silver Lake, with a surface area of about 526 acres; Camp Lake, with a surface area of about 464 acres; and Lake Mary, with a surface area of about 329 acres. The lake areas of Elizabeth Lake and Powers Lake located within Kenosha County are 689 and 377 acres, respectively. The majority of the streams and lakes within Kenosha County are fully or partially meeting recommended water use objectives in accordance with the Land and Water Resource Management Plan for Kenosha County. The WDNR, however, identified in 2006 portions of two watercourses (Fox and Pike Rivers) and several Lake Michigan beaches (Eichelman, Pennoyer Park, and Simmons Island Lake Michigan beaches) in Kenosha County as being impaired or threatened by impairment.

Lakes and streams are readily susceptible to degradation through improper land use development and management. Water quality can be degraded by either point source¹ or nonpoint source² pollution sources including excessive pollutant loads, including nutrient loads, which enter from malfunctioning and improperly located onsite wastewater treatment systems, from sanitary sewer overflows, from construction and other urban runoff, and from careless agricultural practices. The water quality of lakes and streams may also be adversely affected by the excessive development of riparian areas and by the filling of peripheral wetlands, which remove valuable nutrient and sediment traps while adding nutrient and sediment sources. It is important that existing and future development in riparian areas be managed carefully to avoid further water quality degradation and to enhance the recreational and aesthetic values of surface water resources. The trophic status of most of the lakes in Kenosha County is set forth in Table 2-5. Trophic status is an indicator of overall water quality. As of 1993, nine of the lakes for which data were available were classified as eutrophic, eight as mesotrophic, and four lakes as meso-eutrophic, in the regional water quality management plan update.³ It is likely that the trophic status of the lakes have not changed since 1993. Before humans, mesotrophic status is the likely historical natural state of these lakes.

¹Point source pollution is defined as pollutants that are discharged to surface waters at discrete locations, such as a sanitary sewer overflow.

²Nonpoint source pollution, also referred to as diffuse source pollution, consists of various discharges of pollutants to the surface waters which cannot be readily identified as point sources. Nonpoint source pollution is transported from the urban or rural land areas of a watershed to the surface waters by means of direct runoff from the land via overland routes (i.e. runoff from parking lots or farmlands) and by flow during and shortly after rainfall or snowmelt events. Nonpoint source pollution also includes pollutants conveyed to surface waters via groundwater discharge, also known as base flow, which is a major source of stream flow between runoff events.

³SEWRPC Memorandum Report No. 93, A Regional Water Quality Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: An Update and Status Report, March 1995.

Table 3-5

PERENNIAL STREAM CHARACTERISTICS IN KENOSHA COUNTY: 1982

River or Stream	Length (river miles)	Watershed	Water Quality ^a
Barnes Creek	3.0	Direct Drainage to Lake Michigan	Fair
Bassett Creek	5.1	Fox	Fair
Brighton Creek	17.5 ^b	Des Plaines	Fair to Good ^c
Center Creek	5.8	Des Plaines	Poor ^c
Des Plaines River	24.5	Des Plaines	Poor ^c
Dutch Gap Canal	5.8	Des Plaines	Poor ^c
Fox River	14.1	Fox	Fair
Hoosier Creek Canal	21.8 ^d	Fox	Fair
Jerome Creek ^e	4.0	Des Plaines	- ^f
Karcher Creek	1.3	Fox	- ^{f,g}
Kenosha South Creek ^h	1.0	Direct Drainage to Lake Michigan	- ^f
Kilbourn Road Ditch	14.8	Des Plaines	Poor ^c
Nelson Creek	0.8	Pike	- ^f
New Munster Creek	4.7	Fox	Fair
Palmer Creek	- ^d	Fox	Fair
Peterson Creek	- ^d	Fox	Fair
Pike Creek	3.7	Direct Drainage to Lake Michigan	Poor ⁱ
Pike River	38.5	Pike	Poor to Fair ^j
Salem Branch of Brighton Creek	- ^b	Des Plaines	Poor ^c
School Tributary	2.4	Pike	- ^f
Somers Branch	2.3	Pike	- ^f
Sorenson Creek	1.0	Pike	- ^f
Root River Canal, East Branch	2.0	Root	Poor ^k
Trevor Creek	3.0	Fox	- ^f
Total	176.1	- -	- -

^aWater quality status as determined by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources based upon a calculated biotic index and/or the best professional judgment of staff conducting assessment.

^bThe length of Brighton Creek includes both Brighton Creek and the south branch (Salem Branch) of Brighton Creek.

^cThe Des Plaines River and its tributary streams, excluding Brighton Creek, have had major physical modifications to their channels, are impacted by high rates of siltation, and generally have had reported water quality problems associated with low dissolved oxygen, high phosphorus, and high fecal coliform concentrations. The lower reaches of the Des Plaines River mainstem have had reported water quality problems associated with toxic contaminants (heavy metals, hydrocarbons, and the pesticide heptachlor epoxide).

^dHoosier Creek Canal stream length includes Hoosier, Palmer, and Peterson Creeks.

^eJerome Creek was formerly known as Pleasant Prairie Ditch, which is documented in the 1961 Department of Natural Resources plan, Surface Water Resources of Kenosha County.

^fWater quality data are not available to make an accurate assessment.

^gData analysis and recommendations relating to the proposed relocation of Karcher Creek for the STH 83 roadway improvement project was conducted from 2003 through 2007, as documented in a SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated April 12, 2007. Based on findings in the plan, SEWRPC staff considered the water quality of Karcher Creek to be "Good."

^hKenosha South Creek no longer exists. The creek was once a City of Kenosha stormwater sewer ditch before the 1970's. The ditch was eventually removed to accommodate additional urbanized development from 1970 through the early 1980's. Existence of the stream is documented in the 1961 Department of Natural Resources report, Surface Water Resources of Kenosha County.

ⁱPike Creek has had major modifications to its channel, is impacted by high rates of sedimentation, and has had reported water quality problems associated with high fecal coliform concentrations.

^jThe Pike River and its tributary streams have had moderate to major physical modifications to their channels, are impacted by high rates of sedimentation, and generally have had reported water quality problems associated with low dissolved oxygen and high fecal coliform concentrations.

^kThe East Branch of the Root River Canal has had reported water quality problems associated with low dissolved oxygen and high fecal coliform concentrations.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

Table 3-6

MAJOR AND MINOR LAKES WITHIN KENOSHA COUNTY: 2007

Lake	Surface Area (acres)	Watershed	Lake Type ^a	Maximum Depth (feet)	Trophic Status ^b
Paddock Lake	132	Des Plaines	Drained lake	32	Meso-eutrophic
Hooker Lake	120	Des Plaines	Drainage lake	27	Meso-eutrophic
Vern Wolf Lake	118	Des Plaines	Drainage lake	12	Eutrophic
Benet Lake	103	Des Plaines	Drained lake	24	Eutrophic
Lake Andrea	110	Des Plaines	Seepage lake	45	- - ^c
Lake Shangri-La	81	Des Plaines	Drained lake	- - ^d	Eutrophic
George Lake	72	Des Plaines	Drainage lake	16	Eutrophic
Montgomery Lake	62	Des Plaines	Drained lake	23	Mesotrophic ^e
Lake Russo	23	Des Plaines	Seepage lake	- - ^c	- - ^c
Mud Lake	23	Des Plaines	Drained lake	15	Eutrophic ^e
Paasch Lake	22	Des Plaines	Drained lake	20	- - ^c
Lake Francis	17	Des Plaines	Drained lake	22	- - ^c
Elizabeth Lake	689 ^f	Fox	Drainage lake	32	Mesotrophic
Silver Lake	526	Fox	Drainage lake	43	Mesotrophic
Camp Lake	464	Fox	Drainage lake	17	Meso-eutrophic
Powers Lake	377 ^f	Fox	Drainage lake	33	Mesotrophic
Lake Mary	329	Fox	Drained lake	33	Mesotrophic
Center Lake	137	Fox	Drainage lake	28	Mesotrophic
Lilly Lake	84	Fox	Seepage lake	22	Meso-eutrophic
Voltz Lake	64	Fox	Drained lake	24	Eutrophic
Dyer Lake	63	Fox	Drainage lake	13	Eutrophic
Cross Lake	63 ^f	Fox	Drained lake	35	Eutrophic
Lake Benedict	59 ^f	Fox	Drained lake	38	Mesotrophic
Rock Lake	53	Fox	Drained lake	33	Mesotrophic ^e
Peat Lake	43	Fox	Drained lake	8	- - ^c
Flanagan Lake	11	Fox	Seepage lake	24	- - ^c
Paradise Lake	25	Lake Michigan	Seepage lake	35	Eutrophic
Total	3,861	- -	- -	- -	- -

^a Drainage lakes have both an inlet and outlet where the main water source is stream drainage. Drained lakes have no inlet, but like spring lakes, have a continuously flowing outlet. These lakes are not groundwater-fed since their primary source of water is from precipitation and direct drainage from the surrounding lands. Seepage lakes do not have an inlet or an outlet, and only occasionally overflow. As landlocked waterbodies, the principal source of water is precipitation or runoff, supplemented by groundwater from the immediate drainage area.

^b Trophic status is an indicator of overall water quality (measurements of potential and actual biological activity) as determined by SEWRPC based upon water chemistry data reported by DNR, and/or the U.S. Geological Survey, except as noted. Lakes with high concentrations of nutrients and algae, generally accompanied by low transparencies, are eutrophic ("poor" water quality) or highly productive, because the algae grow and reproduce at a high rate. Lakes with low concentrations, most often accompanied by high transparencies, are oligotrophic ("good" water quality) or low in productivity. Lakes with intermediate concentrations, or between eutrophic and oligotrophic, are mesotrophic, or in the middle. Meso-eutrophic lakes are those leaning towards or approaching a eutrophic state. Eutrophic status supports rough fish (i.e. carps and bullheads); mesotrophic status supports the largest range of game fish (i.e. bass and walleyes), and oligotrophic status supports few aquatic plants and productive fisheries, but are excellent for swimming and boating.

^c No data available.

^d Maximum depth of Lake Shangri-La is not available separately. Historically, it has been combined with Benet Lake.

^e Trophic status as determined by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources based upon satellite telemetry.

^f The area listed for Elizabeth Lake, Powers Lake, Cross Lake, and Lake Benedict include only those lake areas that fall within the jurisdictional boundaries of Kenosha County. The total areas are 865, 459, 87, and 78 acres, respectively.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development, Village of Pleasant Prairie, and SEWRPC.

Wetlands

Wetlands are generally defined as areas that have a predominance of hydric soils and that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of hydrophytic (water loving) vegetation.⁴ Wetlands generally occur in depressions and near the bottom of slopes, particularly along lakeshores and stream banks, and on large land areas that are poorly drained. Wetlands may, however, under certain conditions, occur on slopes and even on hilltops. Wetlands perform an important set of natural functions which include support of a wide variety of desirable, and sometimes unique, forms of plant and animal life; water quality protection; stabilization of lake levels and streamflows; reduction in stormwater runoff by providing areas for floodwater impoundment and storage; and protection of shorelines from erosion.

Table 3-7

SURFACE WATER, WETLANDS, AND FLOODPLAINS IN KENOSHA COUNTY COMMUNITIES

Local Government	Surface Water (acres in 2000)	Floodplains ^a (acres in 2009)	Wetlands (acres in 2000)	Nonfarmed Wetlands (acres in 2005)
City of Kenosha	84	822	298	363
Village of Pleasant Prairie	337	3,715	3,168	3,486
Village of Silver Lake	1	171	176	146
Village of Bristol	318	3,303	2,409	2,708
Town of Brighton	330	1,050	2,037	2,411
Town of Paris	49	1,416	808	1,069
Town of Salem	1,876	3,622	2,945	3,123
Town of Somers	60	2,146	573	784
Town of Wheatland	333	1,818	2,275	2,552
Village of Genoa City	--	--	1	1
Village of Paddock Lake	141	240	154	173
Village of Twin Lakes	1,029	1,192	410	533
Town of Randall	470	698	814	846
Kenosha County	5,028	20,193	16,068	18,195

^a Acres based on SEWRPC detailed floodplain delineations and FEMA approximate floodplain delineations (see text description). Acres are also based on 2008 civil divisions, except where adjusted to the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and SEWRPC.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources wetland inventory has identified 17,012 acres of wetlands in Kenosha County. This inventory was completed by SEWRPC under contract with the WDNR, based on 2005 orthophotographs. The current wetland inventory includes wetlands of ¼ acre or larger in size. The new WDNR wetland inventory includes a “farmed wetland” category, which has

⁴The definition of “wetlands” used by SEWRPC is the same as that of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Under this definition, wetlands are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency, and with a duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstance do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. This definition differs somewhat from the definition used by the WDNR. Under the WDNR definition, wetlands are areas where water is at, near, or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophytic vegetation and which has soils indicative of wet conditions. As a practical matter, application of either the WDNR definition or the EPA-Army Corps of Engineers-SEWRPC definition has been found to produce relatively consistent wetland identification and delineations in the majority of the situations in southeastern Wisconsin.

not been included in previous inventories. "Farmed wetlands" are defined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as "land that is partially altered but because of wetness, cannot be farmed every year."⁵ The Wetland Conservation provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill, as amended, require agricultural producers to protect the wetlands on the farms they own or operate if they want to remain eligible for farm program benefits. Normal farming practices, including plowing, harrowing, planting, cropping, fertilizing, and grazing, can be conducted on farmed wetlands; however, there may be restrictions on drainage improvements in farmed wetlands. Farmers should consult with the NRCS before making any drainage improvements. Wetlands are shown on Map 3-9. Wetland acreage within each community is provided in Table 3-7.

Wetlands and their boundaries are continuously changing in response to changes in drainage patterns and climatic conditions. While wetland inventory maps provide a basis for areawide planning, detailed field investigations are necessary to precisely identify wetland boundaries on individual parcels. Field investigations are generally conducted at the time a parcel is proposed to be developed or subdivided.

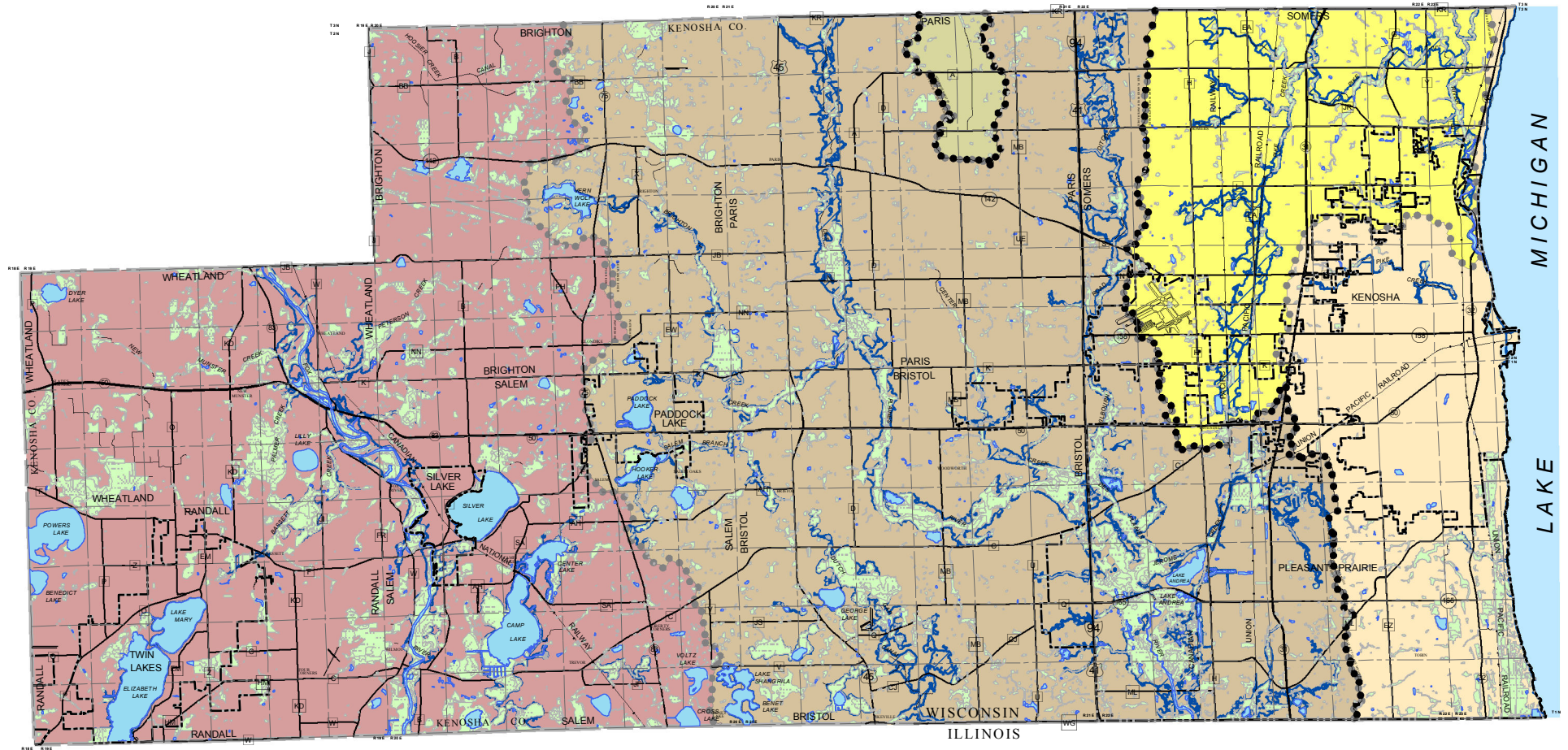
Shoreland and Floodplain

Shorelands are defined by the Wisconsin Statutes as lands within the following distances from the ordinary high water mark of navigable waters: one thousand feet from a lake, pond, or flowage; and three hundred feet from a river or stream, or to the landward side of the floodplain, whichever distance is greater. In accordance with the requirements set forth in Chapters NR 115 (shoreland regulations) and NR 116 (floodplain regulations) of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, the Kenosha County shoreland and floodplain zoning ordinance restricts uses in wetlands and limits the uses allowed in the 100-year floodplain to protect wetland function, prevent damage to structures and property and to preserve floodwater conveyance areas and the storage capacity of floodplains. The ordinance also limits the removal of vegetation and other activities in shoreland areas and requires structures to be set back a minimum of 75 feet from navigable waters. State law requires that counties administer shoreland and floodplain regulations in unincorporated areas. The natural floodplain of a river is a wide, flat-to-gently sloping area contiguous with, and usually lying on both sides of, the river channel and the channel itself. The floodplain, which is normally bounded on its outer edges by higher topography, is gradually formed over a long period of time by the river during flood stage as that river meanders in the floodplain, continuously eroding material from concave banks of meandering loops while depositing it on the convex banks. The flow of a river onto its floodplain is a normal phenomenon and, in the absence of flood control works, can be expected to occur periodically. For planning and regulatory purposes, floodplains are defined as those areas subject to inundation by the 100-year recurrence interval flood event. This event has a 1 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. Floodplains are generally not well suited for urban development because of the flood hazard, the presence of high water tables, and/or the presence of wet soils.

⁵Definition taken from the "Wetland Restoration Handbook for Wisconsin Landowners, 2nd edition, written by Alice L. Thompson and Charles S. Luthin, WDNR Publication No. PUB-SS-989, 2004.

Map 3-9

SURFACE WATERS, WETLANDS, FLOODPLAINS, AND MAJOR WATERSHEDS IN KENOSHA COUNTY: 2005



MAJOR WATERSHEDS

- DESPLAINES RIVER
- FOX RIVER
- PIKE RIVER
- ROOT RIVER
- DIRECT DRAINAGE TRIBUTARY TO LAKE MICHIGAN

Note: Floodplains will be updated once the Map Modernization project is completed.

Source: FEMA, Kenosha County Planning & Development, and SEWRPC

- 100 - RECURRENCE FLOODPLAIN
- WETLANDS
- SURFACE WATER
- MAJOR WATERSHED
- SUBCONTINENTAL DIVIDE



0 2.5 5 Miles

Floodplains in Kenosha County were identified as part of the Kenosha County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and the accompanying Flood Insurance Rate Map. Flood elevations and floodplain limits were identified through detailed studies along the Des Plaines River, Fox River, and Pike River as part of the FIS. The FIS depicts “approximate” floodplains along streams and lakes where no detailed engineering studies were conducted. All three watersheds in the County have adopted and published watershed plans. Floodplain delineations developed as part of the FIS and the Des Plaines River, Fox River, and Pike River detailed studies are shown on Map 3-9. Floodplains identified as part of the shoreland and floodplain zoning map update adopted by Kenosha County in 2004. Floodplains encompass an area of approximately 20,193 acres, or approximately 11 percent of the County.

FEMA is conducting a Map Modernization Program for Kenosha County which will result in updated FEMA floodplain maps for both incorporated and unincorporated areas. Preliminary maps are currently available, and final maps are expected to be available in late 2011. The County and each city and village will be required to update their floodplain zoning maps and ordinances to reflect the new floodplain mapping and to be consistent with the State model floodplain ordinance within six months of the date the final maps are released by FEMA.

Groundwater Resources

Groundwater resources constitute another key element of the natural resource base of the County. Groundwater not only sustains inland lake levels and wetlands and provides the base flow of streams, but also serves as the water supply for domestic, municipal, and industrial water users in Kenosha County, with the exception of the City of Kenosha, the Village of Pleasant Prairie, and portions of the Town of Somers and Village of Bristol, which obtain their water from Lake Michigan.

To satisfy future water demands in southeastern Wisconsin, including Kenosha County, coordinated regional water resource management is needed to optimize the use of ground and surface water. The regional water supply planning program is documented in the SEWRPC Planning Report No. 52, *A Regional Water Supply Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin* and provides guidance in this regard.

The subsurface units within Kenosha County that supply useable amounts of groundwater to wells are known as aquifers, and they differ widely in their ability to store and transport water. There are three major aquifers within Kenosha County. From the ground surface downward, they include: 1) the sand and gravel aquifer, 2) the Niagara dolomite aquifer, and 3) the sandstone aquifer. The first two aquifers are commonly referred to as the “shallow” aquifer, because of their proximity to the land surface and their intimate hydraulic interconnection. The latter, accordingly, is commonly known as the “deep” aquifer.

The sand and gravel aquifer consists of unconsolidated sand and gravel deposits in glacial drift and alluvium. These deposits occur over much of the County, either at the land surface or buried beneath less permeable drift, such as glacial till.

The Niagara dolomite aquifer in Kenosha County consists of Silurian Age dolomite, which overlies Maquoketa shale. The Maquoketa shale separates the Niagara and the deep sandstone aquifers. The shale layer has very low permeability which restricts the vertical movement of water and largely confines water within the sandstone aquifer. The bottom of the sandstone aquifer is the surface of the impermeable Precambrian rocks. This aquifer is continuous throughout the County and is a part of a large regional aquifer that is used as a source of water supply for major concentrations of urban development throughout Southeastern Wisconsin and Northeastern Illinois.

The source of most groundwater that is contained in the shallow aquifer is precipitation, which infiltrates and recharges this groundwater reservoir. The amount of infiltrate largely depends on the type of soils that cover the land surface. Towards the eastern half of the County the soils are high in clay content

and have a high density, which reduces infiltration and permeability. The soils in the western half of the County, especially in the Fox River basin, are predominately composed of glacial outwash, which is an assortment of stratified sands and gravel with a higher infiltration rate and much greater permeability. The deep sandstone aquifer is primarily recharged west of Kenosha County, where the confining shale layer is absent. Discharge primarily occurs from pumping of wells, with limited additional discharge to surface waters directly or through wetlands.

Two of the greatest concerns of the groundwater supply include contamination and over-usage. The vulnerability of groundwater to contamination is a combination of several factors; however, two of the most important elements are soil and subsurface material characteristics and depth to groundwater levels. Since the eastern half of the County is largely covered by glacial till soils with high clay content, contamination is not as much of a concern compared to the western part of the County. As illustrated on Map 3-10, the western region of Kenosha County has a large portion that ranges from zero to 25 feet to groundwater. The shallowness to groundwater, in combination with the stratified sand and gravel characteristics of glacial outwash soils, makes the Fox River basin the most sensitive to contamination in the County.

Over the last century, the sandstone aquifer has seen a drawdown of its water levels. In the latter part of the 1800s and the early part of the 1900s, Racine and Kenosha Counties began to experience a decline in groundwater levels. The water levels in the sandstone aquifer are declining at a rate of up to five feet per year in some areas. The regional groundwater resources report prepared by SEWRPC and the initial analyses conducted under the regional water supply plan indicate that there is an adequate supply of groundwater in the aquifers which underlie Kenosha County, provided those aquifers are properly managed and protected. This is due, in large part, to the fact that over 80 percent of the water supply for Kenosha County comes from the City of Kenosha Water Utility, which utilizes Lake Michigan as a source of supply. Over 80 percent of the groundwater used in Kenosha County is withdrawn from the shallow aquifer. However, it is important to note that there have been historic documented drawdown impacts in the deep aquifer due to groundwater withdrawals in northeastern Illinois. Currently, it is uncertain what the future impacts of those northeastern Illinois groundwater uses will be in the future.

Table 3-8

**WOODLANDS AND MANAGED FOREST
LANDS IN KENOSHA COUNTY COMMUNITIES**

Local Government	Woodlands (acres in 2000)	Managed Forest Lands (acres in 2006)
City of Kenosha	138	0
Village of Pleasant Prairie	940	0
Village of Silver Lake	59	0
Town of Brighton	1,375	130
Town of Paris	997	121
Town of Salem	1,514	87
Town of Somers	603	63
Town of Wheatland	1,008	93
Village of Bristol	1,344	23
Village of Genoa City	4	0
Village of Paddock Lake	86	0
Village of Twin Lakes	265	38
Town of Randall	912	19
Kenosha County	9,243	574

Source: Kenosha County, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and SEWRPC.

Like surface water, groundwater is susceptible to depletion in quantity and to deterioration in quality as a result of urban and rural development. Consequently, comprehensive planning must appropriately consider the potential impacts of urban and rural development on this important resource. Land use planning must also take into account, as appropriate, natural conditions that may limit the use of groundwater as a water supply source.

Forest Resources

Woodlands

With sound management, woodlands can serve a variety of beneficial functions. In addition to contributing to clean air and water and regulating surface water runoff, woodlands help maintain a diversity of plant and animal life. The destruction of woodlands, particularly on hillsides, can contribute to excessive stormwater runoff, siltation of lakes and streams, and loss of wildlife habitat. Woodlands are

defined as upland areas of one acre or more in area, having 17 or more trees per acre, each deciduous tree measuring at least four inches in diameter 4.5 feet above the ground, and having canopy coverage of 50 percent or greater. Coniferous tree plantations and reforestation projects are also classified as woodlands. Table 3-8 lists the number of acres of woodlands in the County and each local government. In 2000, woodlands encompassed over 9,243 acres, or about 5 percent of the County.⁶

Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites

A comprehensive inventory of important plant and animal habitats was conducted by SEWRPC in 1994 as part of the regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan. The inventory systematically identified all remaining high-quality natural areas, critical species habitat, and sites having geological significance within the Region. Ownership of identified natural areas and critical species habitat sites and the size of each area in the County were reviewed and updated in 2006.

Natural Areas

Natural areas are tracts of land or water so little modified by human activity, or sufficiently recovered from the effects of such activity, that they contain intact native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the landscape before European settlement. Natural areas are classified into one of three categories: natural areas of statewide or greater significance (NA-1), natural areas of Countywide or regional significance (NA-2), and natural areas of local significance (NA-3). Classification of an area into one of these three categories is based on consideration of the diversity of plant and animal species and community type present, the structure and integrity of the native plant or animal community, the uniqueness of natural features, the size of the site, and the educational value. A total of 39 natural areas, encompassing about 3,500 acres, or about 2 percent of the County, have been identified. Of the 39 identified sites, six are classified as NA-1 sites and encompass about 600 acres, 16 are classified as NA-2 sites and encompass about 1,800 acres, and 17 are classified as NA-3 sites and encompass about 1,100 acres. Natural areas are shown in detail on Map 22 and described in Table 31 of the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035.

Critical Species Habitat and Aquatic Sites

Critical species habitat sites consist of areas outside natural areas that are important for their ability to support rare, threatened, or endangered plant or animal species. Such areas constitute “critical” habitat considered to be important to the survival of a particular species or group of species of special concern. Fifteen sites supporting rare or threatened plant and animal species have been identified in Kenosha County. These sites encompass an area of 5,329 acres, or 3 percent of the County, and are shown in detail on Map 22 and described in Table 33 of the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035. There are also 33 aquatic habitat sites supporting threatened or rare fish, herptile, or mussel species in the County, including 77 miles of rivers and streams and 3,658 acres of lake waters. Critical aquatic habitat sites are shown in detail on Map 22 and described in Table 33 of the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035.

Reestablishment of Grasslands

In addition to setting forth recommendations for the protection of existing areas with important biological resources, the regional natural areas plan also recommends that efforts be made to reestablish relatively large tracts of grasslands and forest interiors in the Region. Reestablishment of such tracts would serve to provide additional habitat for bird populations, which have been adversely affected by loss of habitat due to development in the Region.

⁶*This data includes upland woods only, not lowland woods classified as wetlands, such as tamarack swamps. Lowland woods may be enrolled in the Managed Forest Law program as discussed in the following section.*

One site in Kenosha County was identified for reestablishment of grasslands is centered on the Bong State Recreation Area and the adjoining Kenosha and Salem School Forest properties in the Town of Brighton. It is envisioned that this site could serve as one of several relatively large grassland reserve sites proposed to be established in Wisconsin by the WDNR. The WDNR envisions that large sites would consist of at least 10,000 acres of land that are as treeless and open in character as possible, although not all such land would have to be in public ownership. The present Bong State Recreation Area is approximately 4,520 acres, or about seven square miles and could serve as the core area of one such large site. To supplement the present publicly owned lands, it is proposed that the WDNR enter into appropriate land management agreements with landowners in the proximity of the Bong site with a view toward meeting the goal of establishing a minimum area of 10,000 acres to serve as suitable habitat for grassland birds.

Invasive Plants and Animals

Invasive plant and animal species threaten the biodiversity of high-quality natural resources in Wisconsin. The WDNR recognizes 148 species of plants and 24 species of animals as invasive to the State of Wisconsin as of 2007. Purple loosestrife, Phragmites, and reed canary grass have been identified as significant invasive plant species present in Kenosha County. Additional invasive plant species that can be found in Kenosha County include garlic mustard and buckthorn. Certain invasive animals, such as the gypsy moth and forest tent caterpillar, pose threats to native plant species. Prevalent throughout the Midwest, the emerald ash borer⁷ (a type of beetle) poses a threat to ash tree populations in the Kenosha County and the State of Wisconsin.

Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas

Environmental corridors are concentrations of the best remaining elements of the natural resource base. It has been recognized that preservation of these areas are essential to both the maintenance of the overall environmental quality of the County and well being of its residents. The Southeastern Wisconsin Region Planning Commission has identified and delineated the environmental corridors within the Southeast region of Wisconsin and Kenosha County,

Primary environmental corridors include a wide variety of the most important natural resources and are at least 400 acres in size, two miles long, and 200 feet wide. Secondary environmental corridors serve to link primary environmental corridors, or encompass areas containing concentrations of natural resources between 100 and 400 acres in size. Where secondary environmental corridors serve to link primary corridors, no minimum area or length criteria apply. Secondary environmental corridors that do not connect primary corridors must be at least 100 acres in size and one mile long. An isolated concentration of natural resource features at least five acres in size and 200 feet wide, but not large enough to meet the size or length criteria for primary or secondary environmental corridors, is referred to as an isolated natural resource area.

Environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in Kenosha County in 2000 are shown on Map 3-11. The preservation of environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in essentially natural, open uses can help reduce flood flows, reduce noise pollution, and maintain air and water quality. Corridor preservation is important to the movement of wildlife and for the movement and dispersal of seeds for a variety of plant species. In addition, because of the many interacting relationships between living organisms and their environment, the destruction and deterioration of any one element of the natural resource base may lead to a chain reaction of deterioration and destruction. For example, the destruction of woodland cover may result in soil erosion and stream siltation, more rapid stormwater runoff and attendant increased flood flows and stages, as well as destruction of

⁷The emerald ash borer was found in Kenosha County in 2009.

wildlife habitat. Although the effects of any single environmental change may not be overwhelming, the combined effects will eventually create serious environmental and developmental problems. These problems include flooding, water pollution, deterioration and destruction of wildlife habitat, reduction in groundwater recharge, as well as a decline in the scenic beauty of the County. The importance of maintaining the integrity of the remaining environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas thus becomes apparent. As shown on Map 3-11, the primary environmental corridors in Kenosha County generally lie along rivers and streams and adjacent to lakes, or are associated with woodlands, wetlands, or park and open space sites. In 2000, about 28,000 acres, comprising about 16 percent of the County, were encompassed within primary environmental corridors. Secondary environmental corridors are located chiefly along the smaller perennial streams and intermittent streams in the County, including wetlands associated with these streams. About 6,400 acres, comprising about 4 percent of the County, were encompassed within secondary environmental corridors in 2000. Isolated natural resource areas within the County include a geographically well-distributed variety of isolated wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife habitat. These areas encompassed about 3,870 acres, or about 2 percent of the County, in 2000.

Climate

Its midcontinental location gives Kenosha County a continental climate that spans four seasons. Summers generally occur during the months of June, July, and August. They are relatively warm, with occupation periods of hot, humid weather and sporadic periods of cool weather. Lake Michigan often has a cooling effect on the County during the summer. Winters are cold and generally occur during the months of December, January, and February. Winter weather conditions can also be experienced during the months of November and March in some years. Autumn and spring are transitional weather periods in the County when widely varying temperatures and long periods of precipitation are common. (See Table 3-9). The median growing season, the number of days between the last freeze in the spring and the first freeze in the fall, is 170 days and can range from 150 to 192 days. Precipitation in the County can occur in the form of rain, sleet, hail, and snow and ranges from gentle showers to destructive thunderstorms. The more pronounced weather events, such as severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, can cause major property and crop damage, inundation of poorly drained areas, and lake and stream flooding.

Table 3-9

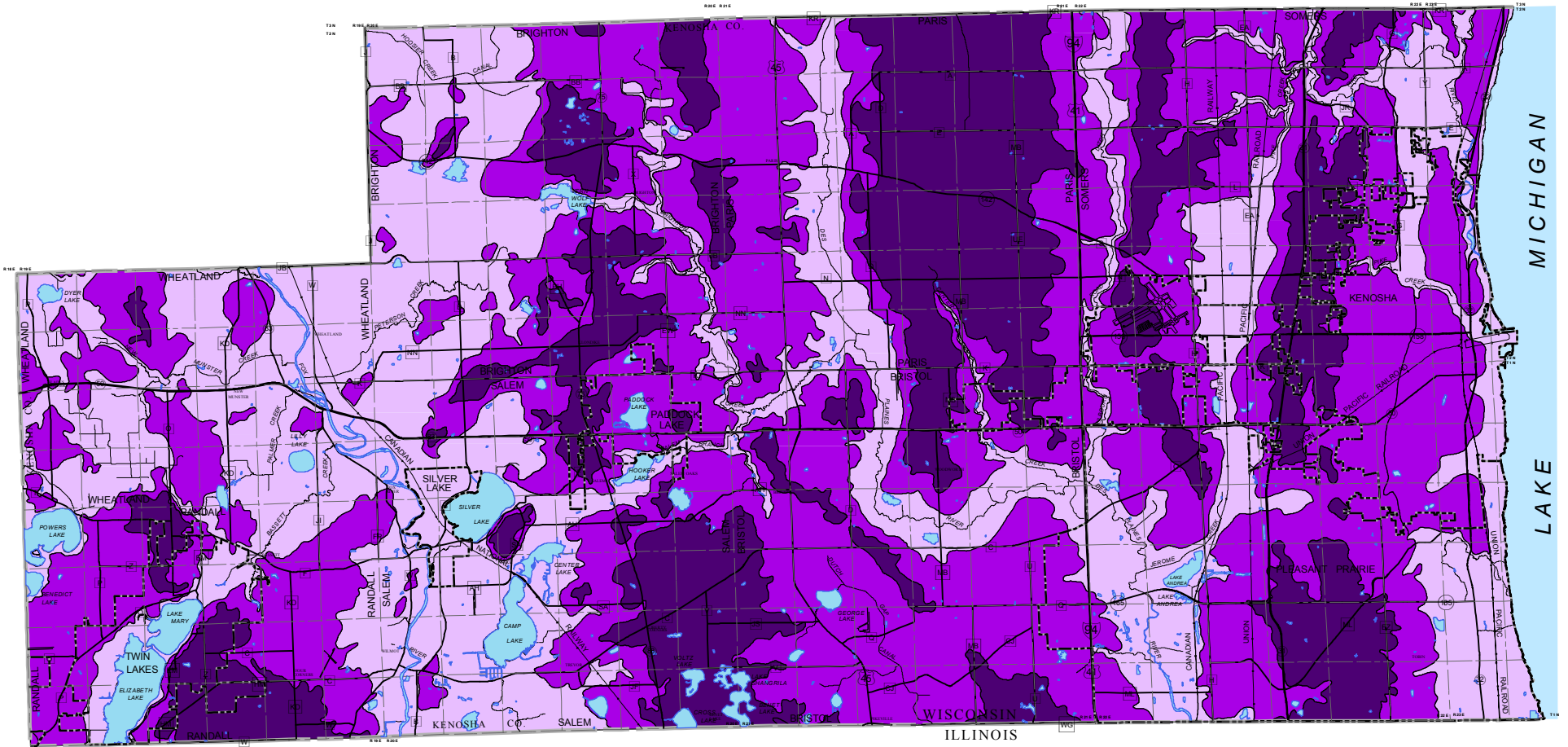
CLIMATE NORMALS IN KENOSHA COUNTY

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ave Daily High (F°)	28.2	32.2	41.7	52.1	62.6	73.4	78.7	78.0	70.8	59.8	46.8	33.4
Ave Daily Low (F°)	11.7	16.2	26.2	35.5	44.6	53.9	60.6	60.0	52.9	41.9	30.9	17.9
Ave Precipitation (")	1.34	1.03	2.19	3.43	3.02	3.44	4.00	3.85	3.89	2.52	2.49	2.01

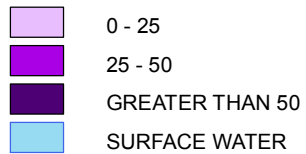
Data from the weather station at Kenosha, latitude 42°33' N, longitude 87°48' W, elevation 600 ft

Map 3-10

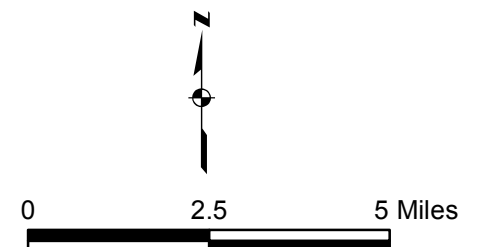
DEPTH TO SEASONAL HIGH GROUNDWATER TABLE IN KENOSHA COUNTY



DEPTH IN FEET

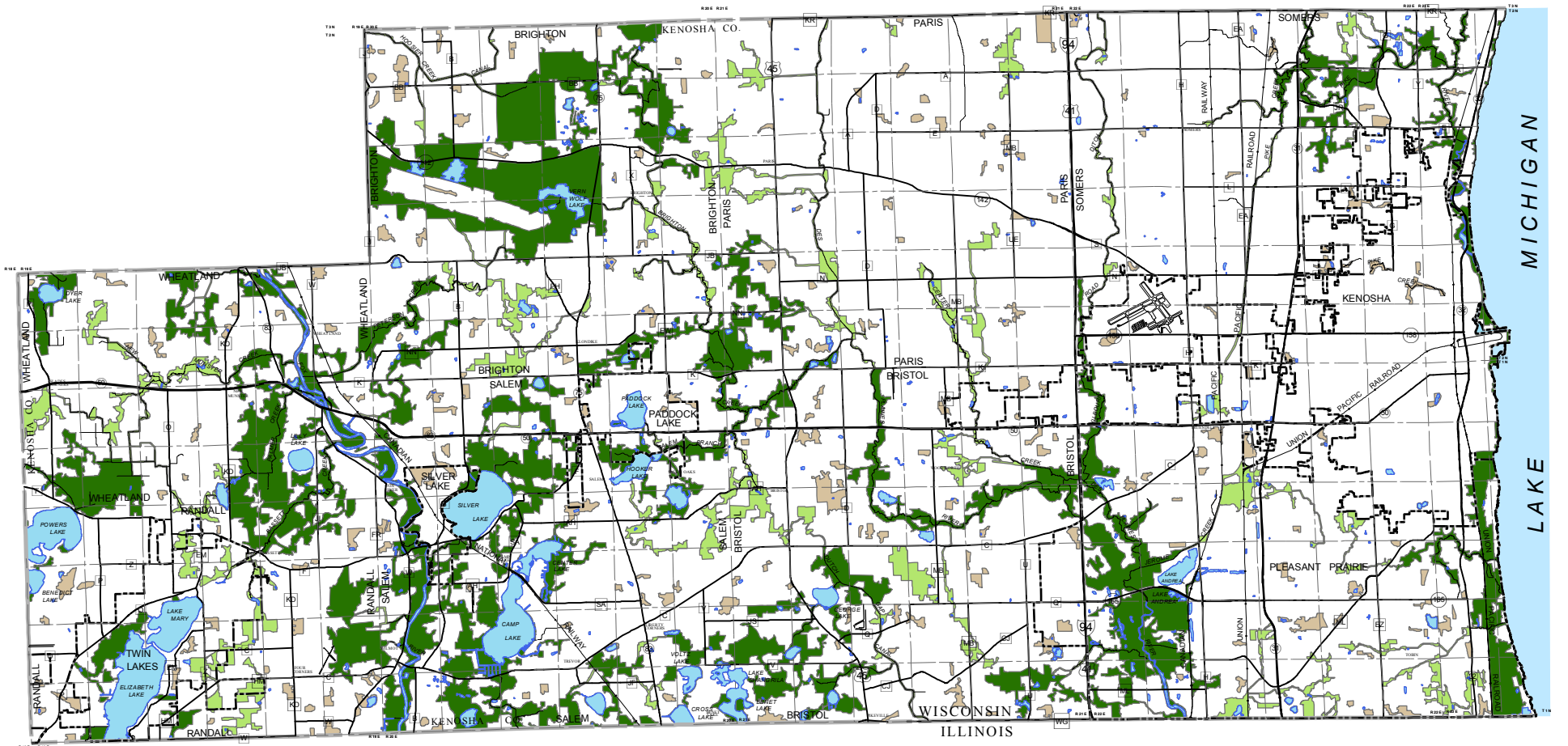


Source: University of Wisconsin - Extension, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, Kenosha County Planning & Development, and SEWRPC.



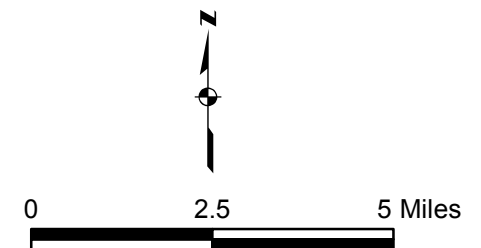
ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDIORS AND ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS IN KENOSHA COUNTY: 2000

64



- PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS
- SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS
- ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA
- SURFACE WATER

Source: Kenosha County Planning & Development and SEWRPC.



SUMMARY

This chapter provides inventory information on existing agricultural and natural resources in Kenosha County. Information regarding soil types, existing farmland, farming operations, nonmetallic mining resources, topography and geology, water resources, forest resources, natural areas and critical species habitat sites, and environmental corridor is included in this chapter. A summary of the agricultural and natural resources inventory findings are highlighted below:

- There are nine soil associations in Kenosha County: the Boyer-Granby association, Casco-Rodman association, Fox-Casco association, Hebron-Montgomery-Aztalan association, Houghton-Palms association, Miami association, Morley-Beecher-Ashkum association, Warsaw-Plano association, and the Varna-Elliott-Ashkum association.
- The U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has classified the agricultural capability of soils based on their general suitability for most kinds of farming. These groupings are based on the limitations of the soils, the risk of damage when used, and the way in which the soils respond to treatment. Generally, lands with Class I and II soils are considered “National Prime Farmlands” and lands with Class III soils are considered “Farmlands of Statewide Significance.” The soils in Classes IV through VIII have progressively greater natural limitations.
- Lands in farms were identified in the 2007 Census of Agriculture for Kenosha County and include all croplands, pasture lands, orchards, and nurseries. In 2007, agricultural lands occupied 84,345 acres, or about 134 square miles, representing almost 47 percent of the total acres in the County.
- Kenosha County farms produce an array of agricultural products, including many varieties of crops and livestock. Grain crops were the predominant source of agricultural revenue in the County in 2007, accounting for 35.8 percent of the agricultural revenue.
- There were 460 farms in Kenosha County in 2007. The average farm size in the County was 183 acres in 2007, while the median farm size was 45 acres. This compares to 194 acres and 95 acres, respectively, for farms in the State.
- Surface elevations in the County range from a low of 580 feet above sea level along the Lake Michigan shoreline to a high of 950 feet in the southwestern portion of the County, near the Wisconsin-Illinois state line.
- In 2011, there were four nonmetallic mining sites in the County. No sites in Kenosha County have been registered as sites having marketable nonmetallic mineral deposits.
- About 78 percent of the County is located west of the subcontinental divide and drains to the Mississippi River. The remaining 22 percent of the County is east of the divide and drains to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River. The subcontinental divide not only exerts a major physical influence on the overall drainage pattern of the County, but also carries with it legal constraints that, in effect, prohibit any new diversions of substantial quantities of Lake Michigan water across the divide.
- Adequate and quality infrastructure is essential for sustainable agriculture in Kenosha County. It is difficult to quantify the various support services available to Kenosha County farmers, but agribusiness can survive and even flourish in an urbanizing area.
- Kenosha County residents are rediscovering the benefits of buying local food. That food purchased directly from local family farmers is fresher, tastier and more nutritious. There has been a popular

movement to support farmer's markets, roadside stands, on-farm sales, pick-your-own and Community Supported Agriculture.

- There are 20 major inland lakes located in the County. The total surface area of major and minor lakes is 3,861 acres, or more than 2 percent of the County. There were approximately 110 miles of perennial streams and approximately 18,195 acres of nonfarmed wetlands in the County in 2005.
- Environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas include the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, plant and wildlife habitat areas, and other natural resources and have truly immeasurable environmental and recreational value. Environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas are identified by SEWRPC and classified depending on their size. Primary environmental corridors are at least 400 acres in area, two miles in length, and 200 feet in width. Secondary environmental corridors are between 100 and 400 acres in size and at least one mile in length except where secondary corridors serve to link primary environmental corridors, in which case no minimum area or length criteria apply. Isolated natural resource areas are between five and 100 acres in size and at least 200 feet in width.
- Primary environmental corridors in Kenosha County are located along major stream valleys, around major lakes, and in large wetland areas. In 2000, about 28,000 acres, comprising about 16 percent of the County, were encompassed within primary environmental corridors. Secondary environmental corridors are located chiefly along the smaller perennial streams and intermittent streams. About 6,400 acres, comprising about 4 percent of the County, were within secondary environmental corridors in 2000. Isolated natural resource areas include a geographically well-distributed variety of isolated wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife habitat. These areas encompassed about 3,870 acres, or about 2 percent of the County, in 2000.

* * * * *

Chapter 4

AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMS AND CONSERVATION APPROACHES

INTRODUCTION

This Chapter describes conservation funding programs used to preserve agricultural and natural resources that are available in the County, including Federal, State, County, and local programs. Included are sources of grant funds for the acquisition, preservation, and development of park and open space sites and information regarding current practices, programs, and methods used to preserve agricultural and natural resources.

Federal and State agencies have developed conservation and preservation programs to protect agricultural and natural resources. Although there are numerous programs offered by a wide variety of public agencies, the most significant agencies that provide the majority of conservation and preservation programs include the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (which are agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)); the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP); the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR); and the National Parks Service (NPS), an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Programs that focus on agricultural and natural resources include the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program, Working Lands - Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easements Program, Soil and Water Resource Management Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and the Wetland Reserve Program. Federal and State programs are also available to help County and local governments and nonprofit conservation organizations acquire park and open space lands, and to help County and local governments provide recreational facilities, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have several programs to help reduce erosion, protect wildlife habitat, restore wetlands, and improve water quality. All programs involve cost-share assistance from the Federal government, provided the landowner follows the prescribed practices of each program.

The NRCS administers a variety of incentive programs which indirectly may help prevent nonfarm development in agricultural areas. These programs include the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), among others. Under these programs, a landowner enters into an agreement to restore or protect lands for a 10-year or longer period in return for cash payments or assistance in making land conservation improvements.

Conservation Reserve Program

The USDA administers the Conservation Reserve Program to help provide water quality protection, reduce soil erosion, protect the Nation's ability to produce food and fiber, reduce sedimentation in streams and lakes, improve water quality, establish wildlife habitat, and enhance forest and wetland resources. The CRP is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners that provide annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-

conserving covers on eligible farmland.¹ It encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as a prairie-compatible, noninvasive forage mix; wildlife plantings; trees; filter strips; or riparian buffers. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract based on the agriculture rental value of the land, and up to 50 percent Federal cost sharing is provided to establish vegetative cover. The program is administered by the FSA with technical assistance provided by NRCS. NRCS works with landowners to develop their application, and to plan, design, and install the conservation practices on the land.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Like CRP, CREP is administered by the FSA and contracts require a 10- to 15-year commitment to keep lands out of agricultural production. By combining CRP resources with State and private programs, CREP provides farmers and ranchers with a sound financial package for conserving and enhancing the natural resources of farms.

The program is intended to help protect water quality and wildlife habitat. Farmers enrolled in CREP remove land from agricultural production and plant native grasses, trees, and other vegetation to improve water quality, soil conditions, and wildlife habitat. CREP provides rental payments and other financial incentives to encourage producers to voluntarily enroll in 10- to 15-year contracts. Goals of CREP are to reduce fertilizer and sedimentation runoffs (non-point pollution runoff), and establish riparian buffers and grassland habitat. It can provide a viable option to supplement farm income as well. Such land usually contains poor soils for agricultural production including flooded areas (low-yielding land) and land along streams which usually yield less than in the center of fields. CREP is not currently available in Kenosha County, but eventually could be available.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program is a voluntary conservation program that supports agriculture and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, farmers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land. EQIP offers contracts for practice implementation for periods ranging from one to 10 years, and it pays up to 50 to 75 percent of the costs of eligible conservation practices. Incentive payments and cost share payments may also be made to encourage a farmer to adopt land management practices such as nutrient management, manure management, integrated pest management, or wildlife habitat management.

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

The NRCS helps to keep productive farmland in agricultural use by providing assistance in purchasing development rights from farmers and placing an agricultural or conservation easement on eligible farmlands through the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), commonly referred to as purchase of development rights (PDR). The FRPP provides State or local governments, or non-profit organizations, with up to 50 percent of the purchase price of such perpetual voluntary easements. In order to be eligible, the farmland must be prime or of statewide importance, unique, or other productive farmland, must meet highly erodible land provisions set forth in the Food Security Act, or include important historical or archaeological sites. Additionally, the farmland must have the location, size, and existing protections, including appropriated zoning, that support long-term agricultural use.

¹ The USDA adopted a policy in 2005 that prohibits the agency from releasing specific data regarding parcels enrolled in USDA programs, so information cannot be mapped.

Resource Conservation and Development

The Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program was established by the Federal Agricultural Act of 1962. This act directs the USDA to help units of government conserve and properly utilize all resources in solving local issues. Wisconsin has seven RC&Ds, covering all Wisconsin counties. In 2005, Kenosha County became a member of the Town and Country RC&D area which was organized to cover thirteen counties in southeastern Wisconsin. The Town and Country RC&D helps to facilitate the development and coordination of existing and innovative projects, and will assist in finding funding to implement them. Town and Country RC&D has helped promote agricultural, energy, water quality, and educational projects and programs throughout the Region.

Wetlands Reserve Program

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is another voluntary program designed to restore and protect wetlands on private property. It is an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives to restore wetlands that have been drained for agricultural purposes. Landowners who choose to participate in WRP may sell a conservation easement or enter into a cost-share restoration agreement with NRCS to restore and protect wetlands. The landowner voluntarily limits future use of the land, yet retains private ownership. The landowner and NRCS develop a plan for the restoration and maintenance of the wetland. This program offers landowners three options; permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements of a minimum 10-year duration.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Administered by the NRCS, the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program to develop or improve wildlife habitat on private lands. It provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent Federal cost sharing to help establish and improve wildlife habitat. Landowners agree to work with NRCS to prepare and implement a wildlife habitat development plan which describes the landowner's goals for improving wildlife habitat, includes a list of practices and a schedule for installing them, and details the steps necessary to maintain the habitat for the life of the cost-share agreement. WHIP emphasizes re-establishment of declining species and habitats, including prairie chickens, meadowlarks, sharp-tailed grouse, Karner blue butterfly, smallmouth bass, blue-winged teal, and many other species of grassland birds, reptiles, insects, and small mammals. Some of the opportunities that exist are installing in-stream structures to provide fish habitat, restore prairie and oak savannahs, and brush management and control of invasive species.

Cost shared practices include burning, seeding, and brush management of prairies, grasslands, and savannahs; installing instream structures and bank stabilization in streams; and improving timber stands and managing brush on woodlots. Federal or State wildlife agencies or private organizations may provide additional funding or expertise to help complete a project. Contracts normally last a minimum of five years from the date the contract is signed and cost sharing does not exceed \$10,000. Eligible lands must be a minimum of five acres of agricultural or nonagricultural land, woodlots, pasture land, streambanks, and shorelands. Lands currently enrolled in other conservation programs are not eligible to participate in WHIP.

Conservation Stewardship Program

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary program that encourages agricultural and forestry producers to address resource concerns by undertaking additional conservation activities and improving and maintaining existing conservation systems. CSP provides financial and technical assistance to help land stewards conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. CSP pays participants for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment. It provides two possible types of payments. An annual payment is available for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing practices. A supplemental payment is available to participants who also adopt

a resource conserving crop rotation. Through five-year contracts, NRCS makes payments each fiscal year for contract activities installed and maintained in the previous year.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (DATCP)

Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative

The Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative includes three programs as part of the 2009 – 2011 state budget signed into law by Governor Doyle on June 29, 2009; the Farmland Preservation Program, The Agricultural Enterprise Area Program, and the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.

Farmland Preservation Program

The Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative provides landowners with an opportunity to claim farmland preservation tax credits through participation in the program. These tax credits are income tax credits that are applied against tax liability and are available for the 2010 tax year and beyond. Eligible landowners may collect one of the following per acre amounts:

- \$5.00 for farmers with a farmland preservation agreement signed after July 1, 2009 and located in an agricultural enterprise area
- \$7.50 for farmers in an area zoned for farmland preservation
- \$10.00 for farmers in an area zoned for farmland preservation and in an agricultural enterprise area, with a farmland preservation agreement signed after July 1, 2009

There is no cap on the amount of credit that an individual can claim or on the amount of acreage eligible for a credit. However, if the total amount of claims exceeds \$27 million in a given year, the state is obligated to prorate the value of the credits available to individuals. Eligibility requirements

- 1) Acres claimed must be located in a farmland preservation area identified in a certified County farmland preservation plan. Eligible lands include:
 - A-1 Agricultural Preservation District lands, and/or
 - located in a designated agricultural enterprise area and under a farmland preservation agreement.
- 2) Claimants must have \$6,000 in gross farm revenue in the past year or \$18,000 in the past three years. Income from rental receipts of farm acres does not count toward gross farm revenue. However, gross farm revenue produced by the renter on the landowner's farmland can be used to meet this eligibility requirement.
- 3) Claimants must be able to certify that all property taxes owed from the previous year have been paid.
- 4) Farmers claiming farmland preservation tax credits must certify on their tax form that they comply with state soil and water conservation standards. New claimants must also submit a certification of compliance with soil and water conservation standards that has been issued by the Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation committee.

In addition to the Farmland Preservation program, landowners can also claim an income tax credit under the Wisconsin Farmland Tax Relief Credit Program. The acreage and production requirements of this separate program are the same as for the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation program indicated above; however, this is solely a tax relief program where the credit is not affected by the claimant's household income. In addition, there are no land use planning requirements or required compliance with County soil and water conservation standards.

Agricultural Enterprise Areas

The Working Lands Program established the "agricultural enterprise area" (AEA) program. Established AEA's will maintain large areas of contiguous land primarily devoted to agricultural use, encourage farmers and local governments to invest in agriculture, provide an opportunity for

farmers to enter into farmland preservation agreements to claim higher income tax credits, and encourage compliance with state soil and water conservation standards. Under state law, DATCP has the authority through administrative rule to designate up to 1,000,000 acres as AEAs

Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements

The Working Lands Initiative offers the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) program to provide funds to cover the cost of purchasing agricultural easements. Under the program, DATCP pays up to 50 percent of the cost of purchasing an easement and may pay up to the full amount of the related transaction costs, such as the costs of land surveys and appraisals. Through the PACE program, the state will provide funding to cooperating local governments or non-profit organizations to purchase easements from willing landowners. Land with an agricultural conservation easement cannot be developed for any purpose that would prevent its use for agriculture. Landowners may not apply for PACE funding directly. Instead, DATCP will work in conjunction with local governments and nonprofit conservation organizations to purchase agricultural conservation easements from willing landowners. Our farms are a vital part of ensuring a healthy future for Kenosha County and Wisconsin through supporting the economy, helping to face environmental challenges, and guaranteeing access to food, programs such as PACE secure farmland for future generations.

Soil and Water Resource Management Program

DATCP administers Wisconsin's soil and water resource management program (SWRM) under the provisions of Chapter 92 of the *Wisconsin Statutes* and Chapter ATCP 50 of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code*. The SWRM grant program was developed to support locally-led conservation efforts. Counties are awarded grant funds to pay for conservation staff and provide landowner cost-sharing to develop and implement a Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRMP). The current version of Chapter ATCP 50, revised in October 2004, relates specifically to agricultural programs and it establishes requirements and/or standards for:

- Soil and water conservation on farms
- County soil and water programs, including land and water resource management plans
- Grants to counties to support County conservation staff
- Cost-share grants to landowners for implementation of conservation practices
- Design certifications by soil and water professionals
- Local regulations and ordinances
- Cost-share practice eligibility and design, construction, and maintenance

Eligible projects include grade stabilization structures, livestock fencing, riparian buffers, filter strips, streambank and shoreline protection, water and sediment control basins, well abandonment, and wetland restoration.²

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (WDNR)

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund program was established by the Wisconsin Legislature in 1989 for a ten-year period. The program was renewed for an additional ten years as part of the 1999-2001 Wisconsin State Budget. The goals of the Stewardship Program are to protect and restore nature-based outdoor recreation areas and areas having scenic or ecological value.³ The

² The USDA adopted a policy in 2005 that prohibits the agency from releasing specific data regarding parcels enrolled in USDA programs, so information cannot be mapped.

³ The WDNR defines "nature-based" outdoor recreation as activities where the primary focus or purpose is the appreciation or enjoyment of nature. Such activities include hiking, bicycling, wildlife or nature observation, camping, nature study, fishing, hunting, picnicking, cross-country skiing, canoeing, and

Stewardship Program is financed through the issuance of general obligation bonds and is expected to distribute about \$80 million annually Statewide for the ten-year period of the program. The WDNR administers the Stewardship Program. The program is an umbrella for a number of subprograms, each with its own goals, priorities, and criteria, which are summarized below. Projects submitted for grants under the Stewardship Program must be included in a locally-adopted park plan.

Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)

The ADLP program is a regional allocation program which provides up to 50 percent matching grants to local and County units of government and nonprofit conservation organizations (NCOs) to provide assistance for the acquisition and development of local and County parks. NCOs can use these funds for the acquisition of land or easements only. County and local governments may use ADLP funds for the purchase of land and easements and the development of outdoor recreation areas for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes.

Acquisition of Development Rights

The Acquisition of Development Rights program is a Statewide program which provides up to 50 percent matching grants to local and County units of government and NCOs to acquire development rights (conservation easements) in areas where restrictions on residential, commercial, or industrial development would help protect natural, agricultural, or forestry values and enhance nature-based outdoor recreation.

Urban Green Space (UGS)

The Urban Green Space program is a Statewide program which provides up to 50 percent matching grants to local and County units of government and NCOs to acquire or protect scenic, ecological, or other natural features within or near urban areas and provide land for nature-based outdoor recreation, including noncommercial gardening. These funds can be used for the acquisition of land only.

Urban Rivers (URGP)

The Urban Rivers grant program is a Statewide program which provides up to 50 percent matching grants to local and County units of government and NCOs to purchase land or easements, or to develop shoreline enhancements on or adjacent to rivers that flow through urban or urbanizing areas. This program is intended to preserve or restore urban rivers or riverfronts for the purpose of revitalization and nature-based outdoor recreation activities. NCOs can use these funds for the acquisition of land or easements only.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON or LWCF) Program

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) program was established by the U.S. Congress in 1964 to provide funding for the acquisition of land for park or open space preservation purposes and the development of outdoor recreation facilities. In Wisconsin, LAWCON funds are administered by the WDNR. Up to 50 percent of project costs are eligible for funding under this program. A portion of the awarded amount is available to local and County units of government for the acquisition of land and the development of parks and trails. The “nature-based facilities” restriction in the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program does not apply to LAWCON funds.

multi-use trail activities. Playgrounds are also considered “nature-based” facilities. Support facilities such as access roads, parking, signs, utility and restroom buildings, and habitat restoration are also eligible for funding under the Stewardship program.

River Protection Grant Program

The River Protection Grant Program, administered by the WDNR, is intended to protect or improve rivers and natural river ecosystems, including water quality, fisheries habitat, and natural beauty. The program includes the following two subprograms:

River Planning Grants

This program provides grants of up to 75 percent to County and local units of government, nonprofit conservation organizations, and qualified river management organizations. Eligible activities include river organization development, educational efforts, assessments of water quality and aquatic life, and non-point source evaluations. Reimbursement is limited to \$10,000 per project.

River Management Grants

This program provides grants of up to 75 percent to County and local units of government, nonprofit conservation organizations, and qualified river management organizations. Eligible activities include purchase of land or easements, development of local ordinances, and restoration of in-stream or shoreland habitat. Reimbursement is limited to \$50,000 per project.

Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program

The Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program, administered by the WDNR, provides grants of up to 50 percent to County and local units of government and nonprofit conservation organizations for urban forestry activities. Eligible activities include development of an urban forestry plan or urban open space program, development of a tree ordinance, development of a public awareness program, conducting street tree inventories, and tree planting and maintenance. Reimbursement is limited to \$25,000 per project.

Wisconsin Managed Forest Land Program

The Managed Forest Land (MFL) program is an incentive program intended to encourage sustainable forestry on private woodlands in Wisconsin. Owners of at least 10 acres of contiguous wooded land that is used primarily for growing forest products are eligible to apply for the program through the WDNR. Following approval of the application, the WDNR prepares a management plan for the property, which will require some timber harvest at prescribed intervals and payment at that time of a “stumpage” tax. The program can provide significant property tax savings for participating landowners.

Under this program, lands enrolled in the “closed” category are not available to the public while the “open” lands are accessible for such recreation activities as hunting, fishing, and cross-country skiing. Enrollment is by contract between the WDNR and the landowner; the landowner can choose a 25- or 50-year contract; landowners make payments in lieu of property taxes amounting to less than what the property tax would be; and must consist of at least 10 acres of contiguous forest land located in the same municipality. Landowners must agree to follow a forest management plan. The MFL Program was created in 1985, replacing similar programs—the Wisconsin Forest Crop Law program and Wisconsin Woodland Tax Law program. Some contracts under the Forest Crop Law program remain in effect in Wisconsin; all Woodland Tax Law program contracts have expired. Lands enrolled in the MFL program are listed in Table III-15 and shown in Map III-17 in Chapter III.

Managed Forest Land Public Access Grant Program

This public access grant program is available under the MFL program to award grants to local units of government, the WDNR, and nonprofit conservation organizations for acquiring easements or purchasing land for public access to offset the impact of closed acreage under the MFL program.

Lake Protection Grants

The lake protection program provides grants of up to 75 percent, to a maximum of \$200,000, to protect or restore lakes and their ecosystems. Local and County units of government, tribal governments, lake and sanitary districts, nonprofit conservation organizations, and certain lake associations are eligible for this program. Eligible activities include the acquisition of land or conservation easements to protect lake water quality, the restoration of wetlands tributary to a lake, the development of ordinances to protect water quality, and lake improvement projects included in a WDNR-approved lake management plan.

Lake Planning Grants

The lake planning program provides grants of up to 75 percent, to a maximum of \$10,000, for the preparation of lake management plans and for gathering and analyzing lake-related information. Local and County units of government, lake and sanitary districts, nonprofit conservation organizations, and certain lake associations are eligible for this program. Lake management plans in Kenosha County are listed on Table VI-3 in Chapter VI.

Lake Protection and Rehabilitation Districts have been formed under Chapter 33 of the *Wisconsin Statutes* for Lake Benedict, Camp Lake, Center Lake, Elizabeth Lake and Lake Mary (Twin Lakes), George Lake, Hooker Lake, Lilly Lake, Lake Mary, Paddock Lake, Powers Lake, Lake Shangri-La, and Voltz Lake. Lake districts are a special-purpose unit of government formed to maintain, protect, and improve the quality of a lake and its watershed.

Recreational Boating and Facilities (RBF)

RBF is a State program intended to encourage the development of recreational motorized boating facilities. The program provides up to 50 percent matching grants to local and County units of government and lake districts for projects such as boat ramps and piers and support facilities such as parking lots and restrooms. Initial dredging and construction of bulkheads and breakwaters may also be eligible for funding. The Wisconsin Waterways Commission awards RBF grants.

Sport Fish Restoration Act (SFR)

SFR is a Federal program intended to support restoration of sport fishing habitat and to provide facilities for public access to sport fishing areas, including piers and boat landings. The program provides up to 75 percent matching grants to County and local units of government to develop fishing piers and public boating access sites.

NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION ABATEMENT PROGRAMS

Nonpoint source abatement programs⁴ are aimed at improving surface water quality (lakes and rivers) by abating pollution caused by stormwater runoff. In addition to the assistance provided by DATCP, the WDNR may provide grants to governmental units and special purpose districts to assist the implementation of nonpoint source pollution abatement practices and projects, where pollution abatement cannot be achieved through the implementation of County soil and water resources activities funded under DATCP cost-shares. Funding is generally targeted to areas such as those listed on the State's list of impaired waters, public health threat situations, and areas considered high priority areas such as outstanding or exceptional resource waters. Programs include the following:

⁴ For the latest information regarding nonpoint source and water pollution abatement and soil conservation programs, refer to the Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau Informational Paper 66, January 2006.

Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grant Program

To help control polluted runoff from both agricultural and urban sites, TRM grants are available to address high-priority resource problems. Eligibility is limited to local units of government, special-purpose districts (i.e., school or stormwater utility districts), tribal commissions, and regional planning agencies. Governmental units may be granted 70 percent of eligible costs for various (urban or rural) best management practices (BMPs), up to a cap of \$150,000. Property purchases (from willing sellers only) granted at 50 percent of WDNR-approved appraised value can be included in the \$150,000 grant cap. Rural easements, funded at 75 percent of the WDNR-appraised value, can also be included in the \$150,000 grant cap. For rural Best Management Practices (i.e. barnyard relocation and manure storage), County land conservation departments hold contracts on behalf of County residents. Funds are disbursed on a reimbursement basis upon completion of the project according to a two-year grant contract terms.

Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water (UNPS&SW) Planning Program

UNPS&SW grant funds are used to control polluted runoff in urban project areas. Funds are typically awarded for either planning or construction projects. The grant period is two years. Projects funded by these grants are site-specific, serve areas generally smaller in size than a subwatershed, and are targeted to address high-priority problems. An “urban project area” must meet one of these criteria:

- Has a residential population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile,
- Has a commercial or industrial land use,
- Is a portion of a privately owned industrial site not covered by a WPDES permit issued under Chapter NR 216 of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code*, or
- Is a municipally-owned industrial site (regardless of Chapter NR 216 permit requirements)

Governmental units are eligible for a grant even if the governmental unit is covered by a stormwater permit under Chapter NR 216 of the *Wisconsin Administration Code*.

UNPS&SW planning grants can be used to pay for a variety of technical assistance activities. Eligible activities such as stormwater management planning, related information and education activities, ordinance and utility development and enforcement are cost shared at 70 percent. Eligible UNPS&SW construction grant costs may include such projects as stormwater detention ponds, filtration and infiltration practices, streambank stabilization, and shoreline stabilization. Those eligible costs are cost shared at 50 percent up to a maximum of \$150,000. Additional cost-share reimbursements may be available for project design, land acquisition, and permanent easements costs with approval by the WDNR regional staff.

Additionally, a municipal flood control and riparian restoration program provides financial assistance for the collection and transmission of stormwater for flood control and riparian restoration under the urban nonpoint program. Grants may be used for developing flood control facilities and structures, purchasing conservation easements on land within a floodway, or flood proofing structures within the 100-year flood plain.

COUNTY AND LOCAL PROGRAMS

Kenosha County Land and Water Conservation (LWC)

As part of the Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development, LWC manages most natural resource and agricultural conservation programs in Kenosha County, including development and implementation of recommendations contained in the County Land and Water

Resource Management Plan.⁵ LWC staff provide technical and engineering assistance for the control soil erosion and water pollution through a variety of local programs. LWC staff will conduct resource inventories, including soils, drainage, topography, water resources, land use and vegetation through on-site visits or map interpretations. They will develop resource management recommendations and plans, complete engineering and design activities for construction projects, including site surveys, runoff and flow calculations, preparation of construction drawing and supervise the construction of conservation practices.

LWC staff also administers local regulations aimed to prevent water pollution from construction site erosion, urban stormwater runoff and manure storage facilities. LWC staff will help determine what programs a farmer might be eligible for and can assist in obtaining available funds. They administer the state financial assistance program and assist with several federal programs. Kenosha LWC administers local ordinances and program compliance requirements for the Farmland Preservation Program, erosion control and stormwater management for new developments in unincorporated areas, shoreland, floodplain and wetland zoning requirements and restrictions. They also help landowners meet the conservation requirements for participation in a variety of state and federal programs.

In addition, Kenosha LWC conducts a wide variety of information and education programs to raise awareness and encourage citizens to take action to preserve their soil and water resources. Outreach tools include: Tie to the Land Newsletter, Conservation Poster Contest, Rural Landowner Workshops & Expos, Nutrient Management Training, Tree Program, Lake Landowners Packet, etc....

Kenosha County Tree and Shrub Program

Kenosha County Tree & Shrub Program has been offered for over 25 years and has sold nearly one million trees. The purpose of the program is to encourage area residents to plant native trees and shrubs for the purpose of conservation and wildlife enhancement. The program offers a variety of pines, hardwoods, and shrubs. This sale is open to the interested public in the area. The tree program also offers an opportunity to introduce the community to Kenosha County conservation staff and programs.

Kenosha/Racine Land Trust

The Kenosha/Racine Land Trust may purchase lands containing significant natural resources or hold conservation easements for such lands in Kenosha and Racine Counties. This nonprofit conservation organization (NCO), established in 1993, holds conservation easements and monitors the conservation restrictions within these easements. Kenosha/Racine Land Trust recently purchased its first land in Kenosha County in the Village of Bristol, which is called the Jean McGraw Memorial Preserve, consisting of approximately 15 acres of wetlands and upland woodlands with public access. Land trusts help protect land and water resources for the public benefit and are eligible to participate in State grant programs that fund land or conservation easement acquisitions.

⁵ *SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 255 (2nd Edition) A Land and Water Resource Management Plan for Kenosha County: 2008-2012, October 2007.*

OTHER CONSERVATION APPROCHES⁶

In addition to zoning, other conservation programs and approaches that have proven successful in other communities in Wisconsin and across the nation experiencing development pressures may have relevance for Kenosha County communities. These include:

Conservation Easements

A conservation easement is a legally recorded agreement of deed restrictions that landowners voluntarily place on their property to protect agricultural, natural, or cultural resources, such as farmland, water resources, open space, wildlife habitat, or historic sites, by prohibiting specified uses. For example, most agricultural easements restrict uses other than those associated with agricultural practices, such as residential, commercial, or industrial uses. Lands remain on the tax rolls, sometimes at a reduced rate. Landowners can sell⁷ or donate either a portion or the entire parcel to either a governmental unit or a qualified conservation organization such as a land trust (i.e. the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust) to monitor and enforce the restrictions set forth in the easement. In return, landowners can receive tax benefits for granting easements.

Usually, the terms of an easement are specific and include instructions on allowable uses on the property and the time period set for the easement. Although most conservation easements are permanent, some impose restrictions for a specified number of years. The easement also legally binds future landowners to the terms set forth in the legally recorded easement attached to the land.

Conservation Subdivisions

Conservation subdivision design, sometimes referred to as cluster development design, involves the grouping of dwellings on a portion of a development parcel in order to preserve the remainder of the parcel in open space. Management options for the open space areas include, among others, preservation of existing natural features, restoration of natural conditions, and continued agricultural use. The open space may be owned by a homeowners association, the local municipality or County, the State, a land trust or other private conservation organization, or the original landowner. Conservation easements and attendant deed restrictions should be used to protect the common open space from future conversion to more intensive uses.

In comparison to conventional subdivision designs, conservation subdivisions afford greater opportunity for preserving open space and maintaining the natural resources of the parcel being developed. When properly designed, the visual impact of new residential development from surrounding streets and adjoining parcels can be minimized and significant natural features and agricultural lands can be protected from development. Infrastructure installation and maintenance costs may be reduced due to shortened street and utility lengths.

Lot Averaging

In some cases it may be determined that a cluster development is not appropriate for a particular parcel. In other cases, the community may be uncomfortable with the idea of joint ownership of common open space. In such cases, the community concerned could consider allowing lot averaging as a means of preserving rural areas. Maintaining an overall rural density, the lot sizes would be permitted to vary as long as the lot area that is taken from one lot is transferred to one or more other lots, so that a minimum “average” lot size required by the zoning ordinance is

⁶ Additional information relative to farmland preservation can be found in *Saving American Farmland: What Works*, American Farmland Trust, 1997.

⁷ Purchase of development rights (PDR) programs typically involve the placement of a conservation easement on a parcel in return for compensation to the property owner.

maintained within the development site concerned. Lots within the development larger than the minimum lot size required by the zoning ordinance would be deed restricted to prevent further division. Although no common open space is created, the advantage of lot averaging is flexibility of site design and the ability to concentrate some of the permitted dwellings on smaller lots in certain areas of the development parcel while the remaining dwellings would be located on a few larger lots. Alternatively, a large parcel could be maintained in agricultural use with smaller lots developed with homes. Features of the rural landscape or environmentally sensitive areas can be preserved, albeit on private lots.

Lot averaging is a development technique providing for great flexibility in the type of rural residential options accommodated, including historic farmsteads, retaining a rural flair and possibly use, as well as large nonfarm estates which are held in individual private ownership. Concomitantly, the balance of smaller than normal lots in a given development would be less expensive than their counterparts within conservation subdivisions, because no common open space is being leveraged.

Purchase of Development Rights (PDR)

Purchase-of-development-rights programs, or “PDR” programs, represent another potential means to ensure the preservation of agricultural lands as well as other natural areas and open space. Under a PDR program, landowners are compensated for permanently committing their land to agricultural and open space use. Deed restrictions or easements are used to ensure that the lands concerned remain in agricultural or other open space use. Such restrictions are attached to the land and remain in effect regardless of future sale or other transfer of the land.

PDR programs may be administered and funded by State, County, or local units of government, land trusts and other private organizations, or combinations of these. The amounts paid to farmland owners under PDR programs may be calculated on the basis of the number of dwelling units permitted under existing zoning, on the basis of the difference between the market value of the land and its value solely for agricultural purposes, or on some other basis.

PDR programs provide assurance that farmland will be permanently retained in open use. Landowners receive a potentially substantial cash payment while retaining all other rights to the land, including the right to continue farming. The money paid to the landowner may be used for any purpose, such as debt reduction, capital improvement to the farm, or retirement income. Lands included in a PDR program remain on the tax roll and continue to generate property taxes. Since the land remains in private ownership, the public sector does not incur any land management responsibilities.

PDR programs have not been widely embraced within the Region to this point. The primary drawback of PDR programs is the potentially high cost. Given the attendant costs, PDR programs should be strategically targeted toward agricultural lands where long-term preservation is particularly important. A PDR program could, for example, be directed at existing farmland surrounding a public nature preserve or major park in order to ensure a permanent open space buffer around the park or nature preserve.

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)

Under transfer-of-development-rights programs, or “TDR” programs, the right to develop a specified number of dwelling units under existing zoning may be transferred from one parcel, which would be maintained in open space use, to a different parcel, where the number of dwelling units permitted would be correspondingly increased. When the parcels are held by the same owner, the development rights are, in effect, simply transferred from one parcel to the other by the owner; when the parcels are held by different landowners, the transfer of development rights involves a sale of rights from one owner to another, at fair market value. In either case, the result is a shift in density away from areas proposed to be maintained in farming

or other open use toward areas recommended for development. The transfer of development rights may be permanent or may be for a specific period of time or set of conditions.

The transfer of development rights may be implemented only if authorized under County or local zoning. To enable the transfer of development rights, the zoning ordinance must establish procedures by which the TDR technique will be administered, including the formula for calculating the number of residential dwelling units which may be transferred from the “sending” area to the “receiving” area. The zoning district map must identify the sending and receiving areas, or at least identify the districts within which development rights can be transferred from one parcel to another.

While the creation and administration of a TDR program is somewhat complicated, the technique is another means for preserving open space and maintaining rural densities, while directing development to areas where it may best be accommodated. Currently, the Wisconsin Statutes do not authorize TDR programs at the County level, which may limit their use at the County level.

SUMMARY

Chapter 4 describes conservation funding programs used to preserve agricultural and natural resources that are available to county and local governments, including federal, state, county, and local programs. Included are sources of grant funds for the acquisition, preservation, and development of park and open space sites and information regarding current practices, programs, and methods used to preserve agricultural and natural resources.

Programs that focus on agricultural and natural resources include the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program, Working Lands - Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easements Program, Soil and Water Resource Management Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and the Wetland Reserve Program. Federal and State programs are also available to help County and local governments and nonprofit conservation organizations to acquire park and open space lands, and to help to provide recreational facilities, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

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Chapter 5

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION

INTRODUCTION

The preceding chapters of this plan characterized Kenosha County as a county which includes a large, expanding urbanized area and smaller free-standing urban communities, as well as substantial areas of prime farmlands and environmentally significant areas. In recent decades there has been a substantial conversion of farmlands and other open lands to urban uses within the County. Although the recent economic recession has slowed development in Kenosha County the forecasts presented in Chapter 2 indicates that population increases and the attendant conversion of agricultural lands to low density residential land use beyond the urban fringe will require the further conversion of land from rural uses to urban uses within the planning period. Through proper planning, the impact of such conversion on remaining agricultural and other open lands can be guided in the public interest. This chapter presents a plan for farmland preservation in Kenosha County which is intended to meet, insofar as practicable, the agricultural land preservation, open space preservation, and land use development goals and objectives presented in Chapter 1. The farmland preservation plan presented herein seeks to retain in essentially rural uses the most productive farming areas of Kenosha County. Moreover, the plan seeks to discourage incompatible urban uses in the environmentally significant areas of the County. Finally, the plan, consistent with the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*, recommends that intensive urban development occur only in those areas of the County which are covered by soils suitable for such development, which are not subject to special hazards such as flooding, and which can be readily served with essential municipal facilities including public sanitary sewerage and water supply. The following sections of this chapter describe land use trends, the basic elements of the farmland preservation plan for Kenosha County namely, the Farmland Preservation Areas and the Agricultural Enterprise Areas and criteria for their determination.

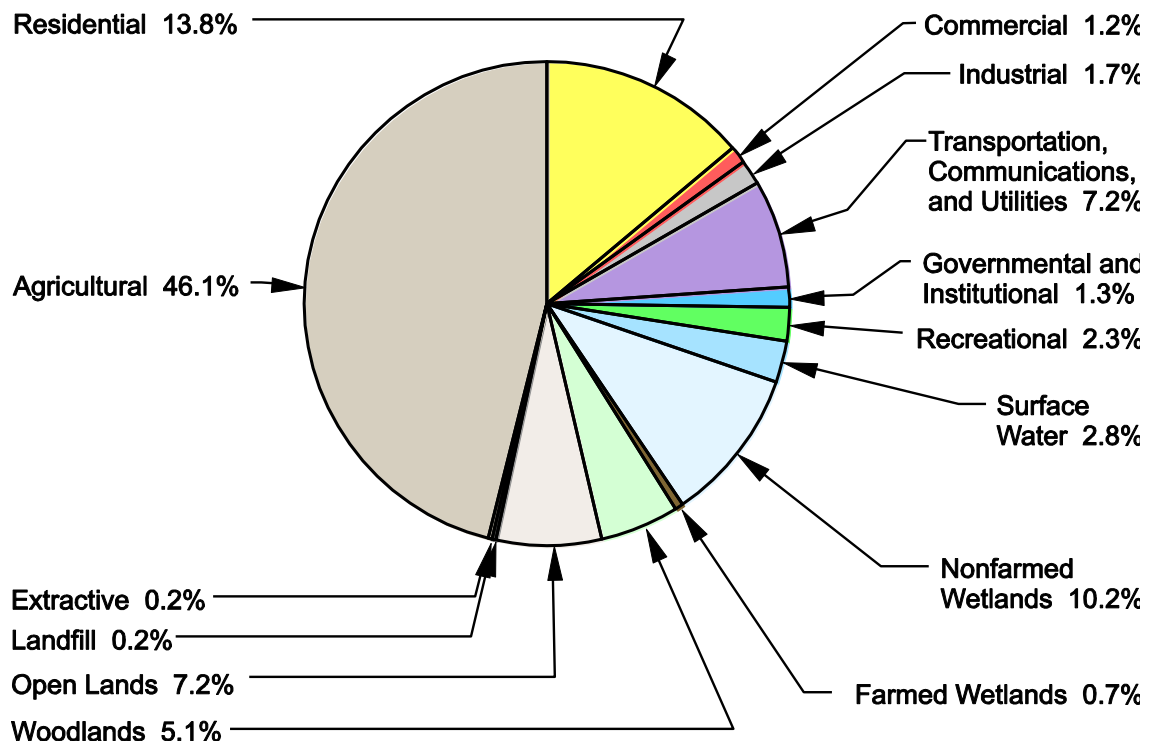
LAND USE TRENDS

Based on the 2007 generalized inventory, approximately 49,000 acres, or about 28 percent, of the County were in urban uses. Also, approximately 32,246 acres, or about 18 percent, were encompassed in natural resource areas (woodlands, nonfarmed wetlands, and surface waters). Almost half of the County, about 82,089 acres, or approximately 46 percent, were in agricultural use with an additional 1,358 acres, or 1 percent, consisting of farmed wetlands. Chapter 2 includes a map and description of development trends in the County from 1830 to 2000. Between 1975 and 2000, all urban land uses, with the exception of railroad rights-of-way, experienced an increase in acreage. Residential land uses experienced an increase of 4,617 acres, which was the largest increase of all land use categories in the County between 1975 and 2000. Single-family residential accounted for 3,939 acres, or about 85 percent of the total residential land increase. The second largest urban land use category increase was transportation, communications, and utilities. These land uses increased by 3,059 acres. Street and highway rights-of-way accounted for about 78 percent of the increase in this category between 1975 and 2000. The third largest increase in urban land use was recreational land uses. Recreational land use increased by 969 acres, due primarily to the development of the Prairie Springs Park in Pleasant Prairie and Kenosha County golf courses. Commercial land use increased by 686 acres (fourth largest increase), and industrial land use increased by 488 acres (fifth largest increase). Between 1975 and 2000, nonurban land uses decreased by about 10,000 acres, or by about 7 percent. Agricultural, woodlands, and extractive land uses were nonurban land use categories that decreased in acreage. Agricultural lands decreased by 14,077 acres, or by about 13 percent between 1975 and 2000. Woodlands decreased by 463 acres, and extractive land uses decreased by 309 acres between 1975 and 2000. All other nonurban land uses, including

wetlands, surface water, landfills, and open lands, experienced an increase in acreage. The percentage of the County devoted to various types of land uses in 2007 is shown on Figure 5-1. These trends indicate a demand for additional land to accommodate urban land uses, especially for single-family residential and the transportation infrastructure that serves it, in Kenosha County. There is also a decreasing supply of land for agricultural use. This trend poses several challenges to the desire of County residents to preserve productive farmland while identifying an adequate amount of land to accommodate the projected increase of about 26,800 additional households and 19,850 additional jobs expected in the County between 2000 and 2035.

Figure 5-1

EXISTING LAND USES IN KENOSHA COUNTY: 2007



PLANNED LAND USES IN KENOSHA COUNTY: 2035

The land use plan for Kenosha County for the year 2035 is presented on Map 65, page 340 in Chapter IX in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*. The Kenosha County land use plan map is a compilation of the land use plan maps prepared by each local government in the County. The plan map indicates where certain types of urban development should be allowed while preserving agricultural and environmentally significant land and resources. Figure 5-2 presents a comparison of the percentage of the County devoted to various types of planned land uses in 2035. A summary of planned land use categories is described in the following paragraphs.

Farmland Protection

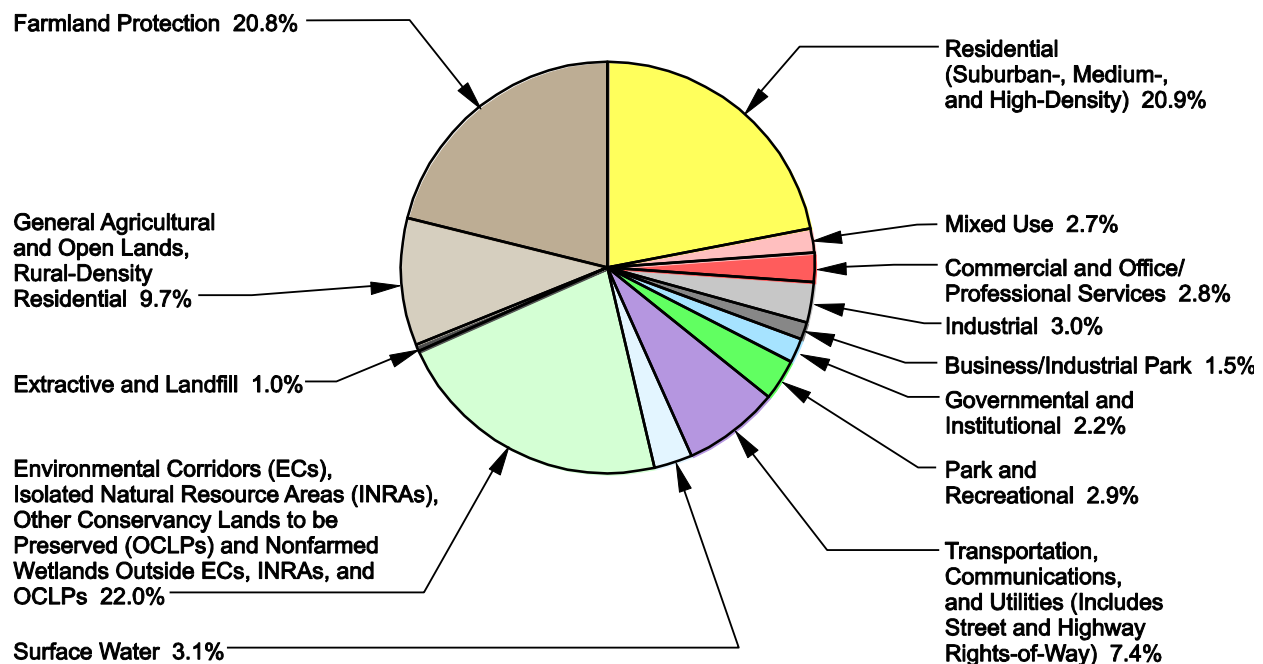
Areas designated for farmland protection occupy 37,129 acres, or about 21 percent of the County, on the 2035 land use plan map. This category allows for all agricultural uses and consists primarily of parcels at least 35 acres or greater in size that contain soils suitable for agricultural production. The comprehensive plan encourages continuation of agricultural activity in these areas, including dairy farming, row crops, and niche agriculture, such as orchards and organic farming.

General Agricultural and Open Land

General agricultural and open land uses occupy 8,621 acres, or about 5 percent of the County, on the 2035 land use plan map. The general agricultural and open land use category would allow all agricultural uses, as well as residential development with an average density of one home for each 10.0 to 34.9 acres of land. The comprehensive plan encourages continuation of agricultural related activity in this area, including dairy farming, row crops, equestrian farms, agricultural related warehousing and food processing, plant nurseries, and niche agriculture such as orchards, organic farming, and hobby farms. Open lands may include pasture lands and fallow fields.

Figure 5-2

PLANNED LAND USES IN KENOSHA COUNTY: 2035



Rural-Density Residential

The rural-density residential use category occupies 5,653 acres, or about 3 percent of the County, on the 2035 land use plan map. This category includes single-family homes at lot sizes or densities equating to five acres to 9.9 acres per dwelling unit. Rural-density residential land is mostly rural in character. The use of conservation subdivision design or lot-averaging techniques is encouraged to help preserve rural character in areas where rural-density residential development is allowed.

Extractive & Landfill

Extractive land uses involve onsite extraction of surface or subsurface materials. Extractive lands identified on the County 2035 land use plan map include existing and planned areas to be used for nonmetallic mining operations, and encompass 1,384 acres, or about 1 percent of the County. All extractive uses require the preparation of a reclamation plan for re-use of the site when mining is completed. Existing extractive sites have prepared such plans, and the sites will be reclaimed in accordance with those plans when mining operations have been completed. A landfill is an engineered facility for the disposal of nonhazardous solid waste that is located, designed, constructed, and operated to contain the solid waste and pose no substantial hazard to human health or the environment. The two active landfills in the County, Pheasant Run Landfill and the

WE Energies boiler and coal ash landfill, are identified on the County land use plan map, and encompass 421 acres, or less than 1 percent of the County

Environmentally Significant Areas

Primary Environmental Corridor (PEC) - Environmental corridors are linear areas in the landscape that contain concentrations of high-value elements of the natural resource base. Primary environmental corridors contain almost all of the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat areas, as well as floodplains and steeply sloped areas where intensive urban development would be ill-advised. Primary environmental corridors are at least two miles in length, 400 acres in area, and 200 feet in width. Primary environmental corridors occupy 23,616 acres, excluding associated surface water areas, or about 13 percent of the County. This land use category includes certain areas of “planned” primary environmental corridors consisting of existing “farmed wetlands” adjacent to such corridors that are located within existing or planned urban or cluster developments.

Secondary Environmental Corridor (SEC) - contains concentrations of high-value elements of the natural resource base, but is smaller in area than primary environmental corridors. Such corridors are at least one mile in length and 100 acres in area, except where secondary corridors connect to or serve to link primary environmental corridor segments. Secondary environmental corridors, under the plan, occupy 6,409 acres, excluding associated surface water areas, or about 4 percent of the County.

Isolated Natural Resource Area (INRA) - consist of areas with important natural resource values which are separated geographically from primary and secondary environmental corridors. Most of the isolated natural resource areas in the County are wetlands or tracts of woodlands that are at least 200 feet wide and five acres in area. Isolated natural resource areas, under the plan, occupy 3,903 acres, excluding associated surface water areas, or about 2 percent of the County.

Other Conservancy Land to be Preserved - The plan also recommends that 3,671 acres of other conservancy lands be preserved. This land use category includes woodlands, natural areas, and critical species habitat sites located outside environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas; a significant geological site; and common open areas of residential developments, including conservation subdivisions. This category also includes portions of State-owned wildlife areas and certain nonfarmed wetlands that are outside environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.

Nonfarmed Wetlands outside PEC, SEC, INRA, and Other Conservancy Land to be Preserved - This category consists of primarily nonfarmed wetlands (wetlands with natural vegetation), typically less than five acres in size, that are located outside environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, and other conservancy lands to be preserved. These areas contain soils that are poorly drained and support wetland vegetation during years of normal or high precipitation or periods of normal or high water table. Wetlands under this land use category encompass 1,509 acres, or about 1 percent of the County.

Surface Water - The surface water land use category includes lakes, ponds, and major rivers, including those associated with environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. Surface waters encompass 5,607 acres, or about 3 percent of the County.

Residential Suburban, Medium and High Density

Suburban-Density Residential the average density equating to one home per 40,000 square feet to 4.9 acres. Medium-Density Residential the average density equating to one dwelling unit per 6,000 to 39,999 square feet. High-Density Residential the average density is less than 6,000

square feet per dwelling unit. Combined residential land use categories occupies 37,352 acres, or about 21 percent of the County, on the 2035 land use plan map.

Mixed-Use

The mixed-use category occupies 4,742 acres, or about 3 percent of the County, on the 2035 land use plan map, and would include a mix of residential and compatible commercial and/or institutional uses. Development in this category would typically be subject to planned unit development (PUD), traditional neighborhood development (TND), transit-oriented development (TOD), or mixed use related regulations in the applicable zoning ordinance. Mixed-use areas generally include traditional downtown business districts, infill development sites, and areas adjacent to arterial streets, highways, and transit stops (bus or rail) within urban service areas of the County.

Commercial Office/Professional Services

Commercial uses occupy 4,397 acres, or about 3 percent of the County, on the 2035 land use plan map. This category includes retail stores; services, such as drycleaners, barber or beautician shops, banks, and restaurants; and offices and professional services of doctors, dentists, architects, engineers, attorneys, computer programmers, graphic artists, insurance agents, financial planners, and other similar recognized professions and consultation services. This category may also include downtown business districts, neighborhood and community shopping centers, highway and regional shopping areas, financial institutions, and medical facilities. The office/professional services category occupies 581 acres, or less than 1 percent of the County, on the 2035 land use plan map. This category includes a variety of business uses such as the offices and professional services of doctors, dentists, architects, engineers, attorneys, computer programmers, graphic artists, insurance agents, travel agents, financial planners, and other similar recognized professions and consultation services. This category may also include corporate headquarters, financial institutions, and medical facilities.

Industrial

The plan envisions that the areas devoted to industrial land uses would occupy 5,307 acres, or about 3 percent of the County. This category would accommodate manufacturing and other industrial uses, such as warehouses and outdoor storage of commercial vehicles and building materials.

Business/Industrial Park

The business/industrial park category occupies 2,725 acres, or about 2 percent of the County, on the 2035 land use plan map. This category would allow a mix of office, retail, service, and industrial uses, and reflects the modern business park where a mix of office and compatible service and/or industrial uses are typically accommodated. It is anticipated that these areas would be developed in an attractive park-like setting with landscaping, consistent signage, and similar or compatible building materials and designed to present an integrated image to customers.

Governmental and Institutional

The governmental and institutional land use category includes governmental and institutional buildings and grounds for which the primary function involves administration, safety, assembly, or educational purposes. This includes public and private schools, government offices, police and fire stations, libraries, cemeteries, religious institutions, hospitals, nursing homes, and similar facilities. In the City of Kenosha and the Village of Pleasant Prairie, this category would also allow commercial office buildings that are not associated with a government or institutional use. The plan envisions that areas devoted to governmental and institutional uses would occupy 3,861 acres, or about 2 percent of the County.

Park and Recreational

The park and recreational land use category includes lands developed with facilities for public and private outdoor recreation and publicly-owned indoor recreational facilities. It includes both public parks and privately-owned recreational areas, such as a ski hill and golf courses. The plan envisions that the areas devoted to park and recreational uses would occupy 5,090 acres, or about 3 percent of the County, in 2035.

Transportation, Communication, Utility Street, and Highway Right-of-Way

Transportation, communication, and utility category include airports, park-ride lots, and railroad rights-of-way. It also includes parcels used for private and public utilities that provide residents and businesses with electric power, natural gas, communications, water, and sewage and solid waste management facilities and services. This category occupies 2,367 acres, or about 1 percent of the County, on the 2035 land use plan map. Existing street and highway rights-of-way includes future street rights-of-way shown on adopted neighborhood plans, and the proposed right-of-way for the IH 94 freeway corridor, including inter-changes, currently under development. There are 10,910 acres, or about 6 percent of the County, within street and highway rights-of-way category.

LAND USE PLANNING TO SUSTAIN AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Chapter 2 estimates that about 34,324 housing units should be added to the existing housing stock in the County to meet the projected housing demand by the plan design year of 2035. New urban and suburban growth is generally intended to occur within existing or planned sanitary sewer service area. The Farmland Preservation Areas identified in this plan will serve to preserve and protect Kenosha County's agriculture and farmlands outside planned urban (sewer) service areas. The *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* has also identified the areas below as potential "Smart Growth Areas" in Kenosha County:

- Sites identified by local governments as suitable for redevelopment.
- Abandoned industrial buildings and parcels.
- Support businesses and agribusiness that use "green" development techniques and focus on renewable, alternative, or sustainable energy resources.
- Industrial or commercial development on environmentally contaminated sites identified by County or local governments as potential redevelopment sites
- Underutilized parcels in and adjacent to traditional downtowns, including older shopping centers.
- Aging commercial districts located on urban service area fringes.
- Undeveloped land within planned sanitary sewer service areas that is adjacent to existing development, provided significant natural resources are protected and that such areas do not create a need for additional community facilities such as a new fire station, new emergency medical service facilities, or new libraries that are not designated on a comprehensive plan.

The Town and Village land use plan maps designate enough land for residential, commercial, and industrial uses to accommodate the projected increase in population, households, and jobs in the County in 2035. These land use plans is also the foundation for the design of the transportation system and utility and community facilities systems. The *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* adopted by each Village and Town in the County discourages urban development on productive farmlands and in large contiguous areas of agricultural use located outside of planned urban (sewer) service areas and discourage incompatible uses near farms and large contiguous areas of agricultural use. The Villages and Towns in Kenosha County have expressed their desire to locate rural and suburban residential development in areas that will minimize impacts on the natural resource base, minimize impacts on the scenic beauty and character of rural areas, and alleviate some of the pressure on agricultural land.

- The Village of Pleasant Prairie land use plan map shows where certain types of urban development are proposed while preserving environmentally significant lands and resources. The plan map envisions that all areas within the planned sanitary sewer service areas may be developed for urban uses on an incremental basis as the population of the Village grows, which will increase the demand for additional commercial and industrial development to provide employment opportunities.
- The Village of Bristol land use plan seeks to encourage new urban development in those portions of the Village that are within or contiguous to a sanitary sewer service area, and which are currently provided with or can readily be provided with sewer service.
- The coordinated land use plan for the Town of Salem includes land use recommendations for portions of the Town outside the planned sanitary sewer service area, which are expected to remain in rural uses through at least the year 2035.
- The Town of Somers envisions that urban development will continue to occur within the planned sanitary sewer service area during and beyond the planning period, while the northwest portion of the Town is anticipated to remain primarily in agricultural use.
- In communities without sanitary sewer service areas, the County and local land use plan maps and ordinances support the provision of housing types and densities appropriate to the community. Rural and suburban residential development will be located and designed to minimize impacts on the natural resource base, minimize impacts on the scenic beauty and character of rural areas, and minimize the loss of farmland. When accommodated, rural residential development will be located in such a way as to minimize conflicts associated with dust, odors, and noise from farming activity that may arise when residences are located in the vicinity of agricultural operations.

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES AND BUSINESSES

Adequate and quality infrastructure is essential for sustainable agriculture in Kenosha County. Strengthening rural infrastructure like, roads and bridges, railroads, irrigation, post-harvesting facilities, etc. results in improved productivity/efficiency, reduced production costs, and post-harvest losses, which further enhance income and employment for farming community. Farming is an important element of Kenosha County's economy. Kenosha County farms combined to sell about \$60 million worth of agricultural products in 2007. Farming supports a variety of agri-businesses such as implement and parts dealers, veterinarians, bottling facilities, feed and grain suppliers, fertilizer and pesticide suppliers, as well as packers, haulers and shippers. It is a mutually beneficial relationship, the farmers need the support businesses and the support businesses need the farmers. If the farms disappear, the support businesses will also disappear. Thus, by preserving farms, communities also protect the quality and character of their local agricultural economic base.

Kenosha County is ideally situated to take advantage of the many agricultural businesses and support services that are located throughout southeast Wisconsin. Kenosha County has a vast network of County and state highways making it inviting for agri-business in that they are guaranteed access to major transportation routes. Kenosha County farmers patronize the variety of local agricultural businesses and are also within close proximity to businesses in the neighboring counties, including Racine and Walworth, which have significant concentrations of agriculture-oriented businesses. However, local support businesses are often insufficient to meet all the supply and repair needs of Kenosha County's agricultural community. The County's farmers rely heavily upon mail order retailers and non-local processing and storage facilities in Illinois. Some farmers have found that reliance upon non-local suppliers imposes high shipping and transportation costs that can cut into the profitability of their operations. Consequently, certain

farmers have become adept at minimizing the need for supply and repair services by fixing many mechanical problems themselves and maintaining their equipment. Farmers tend to specialize in some kind of agricultural repair and supplement their incomes by offering their services to other farmers. There are not a lot of resource documents that provide information about the agricultural businesses and support services available to Kenosha County's farmers.

Grain drying, storage and management are also a critical issue to Kenosha producers. Much of the profit or loss of farming can result from decisions that the producer makes after harvest. Kenosha's temperate climate requires that producers who store grain be continually aware of its condition. The uncertainty of market prices provides opportunity to reap a profit or realize a loss merely from storing grain. Harvest time activities, coupled with the proximity of local commercial grain elevators, makes on-farm storage a necessity for many Kenosha producers. With the high cost of fuel, haulage rates and turn-around times, it is ideal that storage facilities be located within a 20-mile radius.

On-farm storage usually requires the purchase of storage facilities, which are then available for use for many years. However, on-farm storage can be rented from neighbors or landowners. The advantages of on-farm storage include:

- Avoid selling the grain at seasonally low harvest time prices.
- Easier and quicker transportation of grain from the field to storage facilities.
- Allows the producer to harvest grain at a higher moisture level and to condition the grain on the farm without receiving a high discount from commercial elevators.
- Gives more marketing flexibility.

The disadvantages of on-farm storage include:

- Cash costs of purchasing and maintaining storage facilities.
- Concern with maintaining grain quality.
- Additional grain handling compared to commercial storage.
- Weight loss due to shrink.
- Risk of loss due to losing condition, rodent and insect infestation and natural disasters
- Owning on-farm storage results in a fixed cost (taxes, insurance, depreciation and interest on investment) regardless of whether or not grain is stored.

Urban – Rural Conflicts

The intrusion of scattered, low-density suburban development into agricultural areas not only results in a direct reduction in the supply of farmland, but also generates certain less tangible, but very real, adverse impacts on the agricultural sector.

First, conflicts can arise between the traditional agricultural uses and the new urban uses. Town roads once used primarily by farmers for the movement of farm products and farm machinery often become dominated by nonfarm-oriented traffic, making farm operations more difficult. Odors associated with certain agricultural activities often prove objectionable to new residents, straining social relationships. Noise associated with periodic around-the-clock farming operations during portions of the year may also cause conflicts with nonfarmers living nearby.

Second, agri-business firms such as those engaged in the provision of farm supplies and machinery, which relies on a concentration of farms requiring goods and services, may find it difficult to remain in business as the number of farms in the area dwindles. The disappearance of such supportive businesses is, of course, injurious to those farmers who remain since they may not be able to readily obtain the necessary goods and services to continue farming.

Third, scattered, low-density suburban development results in a settlement pattern consisting of isolated and disassociated areas to which the provision of urban services and facilities is difficult

and costly. The cost of providing such services may contribute to increased property tax levies and to the imposition of special assessments on remaining agricultural land.

Finally, the intrusion of urban growth into basically agricultural areas may have the effect of inflating the market value of remaining land far above its inherent worth as farmland. Conflicts between urban and agricultural activities, loss of agricultural-related businesses, increasing property taxes not necessarily related to services provided, and inflated land values all encourage additional conversion of farmlands to other uses. Agricultural preservation areas represent concentrations of farmland capable of supporting agricultural-related businesses, such as distributors of farm supplies and farm machinery. Moreover, the maintenance of concentrations of prime agricultural lands helps to ensure that individual farm units and agricultural-related businesses will remain relatively free of conflicts with urban uses.

Agriculture directly supports ancillary businesses, such as equipment suppliers and livestock veterinarians. Farm related businesses provide contributions to the local economy. The production, sales, and processing of farm products generates economic activity, employment, income, and tax revenue opportunities for the County. Sales from these businesses, as well as direct sales to consumers, are not fully encompassed within Census agriculture sales figures. However, these sales are entirely dependent upon an active local agriculture industry to create the necessary demand for their services. UW Extension, Farm Bureau and the Farm Services Agencies should cooperatively publish a guide to Kenosha County Farm Products that includes an up-to-date comprehensive directory of agricultural support services and businesses.

The viability of agri-business was a goal element discussed in Chapter 1 of this report and an agricultural priority goal of the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*. Program recommendations included: working with Kenosha Area Business Alliance to promote agriculture and associated agricultural industries in Kenosha County. This plan recommends an investigative study targeted at funding, technical support, and siting to increase necessary farm services. New or expanding agricultural cooperatives, implement dealers and agricultural service establishments should be located central to farming concentrations and Farmland Preservation Areas. These businesses require a great financial commitment to the community, and, anticipate the area will remain agricultural and the farmers cooperate and support their establishments. Lands identified for new agri-business need to be fairly close to, or accessible via a County highway, or well maintained, weight applicable town road, to a state or federal highway. Have access to an active or within a short drive to a rail location. Although no new roads or railway extensions are planned in any of the County's agricultural areas, access to urban areas will be improved with an \$88 million construction overhaul and expansion beginning in 2018 for Highway-50 (75th Street) under an agreement with the City of Kenosha, Village of Pleasant Prairie and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The project will extend west from 43rd Avenue to I-94, with the municipalities each contributing \$1.9 million to the total cost. State and federal dollars will fund the remaining \$84.2 million. The project includes expanding the roadway from four lanes to six lanes. Farming becomes very limited if the infrastructure it needs to conduct business is obsolete or lacking. Without proximal feed cooperatives, farm service centers, well maintained roads with reasonable weight limits, accessible rail, adequate truck terminals, farming becomes very restricted, if not impractical.

STATE AGRICULTURAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND PROHIBITIONS

Under Chapter 91 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, conformance with conservation standards and procedures is necessary for land owners to establish and maintain eligibility for farmland preservation tax credits. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) rule, NR 151, sets performance standards and prohibitions for both agricultural and non-agricultural non-point pollution.

The rule also sets urban performance standards to control construction site erosion, manage runoff from streets and roads, and manage fertilizer use. In March of 2010, Kenosha County adopted a Stormwater Management, Erosion Control and Illicit Discharge Ordinance for commercial, industrial, some residential, and some agricultural development. These rules help to manage the non-point pollution sources other than agriculture.

The State soil and water conservation standards, administered by the Land and Water Conservation staff, apply to all land owners who claim a farmland preservation tax credit, including:

- Land owners claiming the tax credit on land located in a Farmland Preservation area.
- Land owners claiming the tax credit subject to a Farmland Preservation Program agreement as part of an Agricultural Enterprise Area.

Each new Farmland Preservation Program participant must certify each year that they are complying with the State soil and water conservation standards to be eligibility for farmland preservation tax credits. Certification may be made by mail or in person to the County Land and Water Conservation. At a minimum, the Land and Water Conservation staff will determine individual compliance with the required soil and water conservation standards once every four years. Table 5-1 summarizes the state agricultural standards and prohibitions for agriculture in NR 151 of the Wis. Adm. Code.

Table 5-1

STATE AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS AND PROHIBITIONS

Farming activity on qualified acres	Required Standards
1. Grow agricultural crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet tolerable soil loss ("T") on cropped fields. • Follow a nutrient management plan designed to limit entry of nutrients into groundwater and surface water.
2. Raise, feed, or house livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure into state waters. • Limit livestock access to maintain adequate sod cover along waterways.
a.) Have or planning manure storage facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain structures to prevent overflow. • Repair or upgrade any failing or leaking structures that pose an imminent health threat or that violate groundwater standards. • Close abandoned structures according to accepted standards. • Meet technical standards for newly constructed or substantially altered structures.
b.) Within a Water Quality Management Area (300 feet from a stream, 1,000 feet from a lake, or in areas susceptible to groundwater contamination)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not stack manure in unconfined piles. • Divert clean water away from feedlots, manure storage areas, and barnyards located within this area.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection

Nutrient Management Planning

A farm nutrient management plan is a strategy for obtaining the maximum return from your on- and off-farm fertilizer resources in a manner that protects the quality of nearby water resources. Nutrient management planning reduces both over and under application of nutrients by balancing the need of the crop with the nutrients provided by the soil through legume credits, manure, and/or commercial fertilizer. The plan will serve as a guide for the farm so that only the proper amounts of nutrients are applied where needed. Without proper management, continuous crop production can reduce nutrient reserves in the soil. As reserves become depleted, crop growth and productivity can decrease. Excessive nutrient applications can also be a problem resulting in wasted fuel and

fertilizer, toxicity to the crop, and harm to the environment. By crediting their on-farm nutrients properly, a farmer may reduce their fertilizer costs.

As of January 1, 2008 all farmers who mechanically apply manure or commercial fertilizer to cropland (not just livestock operators) are required to have a qualified nutrient management plan. Nutrients include nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium from manure, legumes, organic byproducts, and commercial fertilizer. In addition, a nutrient management plan can be required when producers:

- Are offered or accept cost-share dollars for nutrient management;
- Accept cost-share for installing manure storage;
- Participate in the Farmland Preservation Program;
- Are regulated under a WDNR Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit, mostly farms over 1,000 animal units or are required by local manure storage or livestock siting ordinances;
- To gain protection from liability and reduce risks from improperly or over-applied manure; and
- To provide protection to groundwater, rivers and lakes.

Basic Components of a Farm Nutrient Management

Soil Test Reports

Complete and accurate soil tests are the starting point of any farm nutrient management plan. All cropland fields must be tested or have been tested within the last three years. From the soil test results, the base fertilizer recommendations for each field are given. To meet the new nutrient management standards farmers may have to hire an agronomist. They may also prepare their own nutrient management plans if they complete a DATCP approved training course or otherwise demonstrate they are qualified to prepare such plans. According to Wisconsin Administrative Code ATCP 50, the plans must:

- Rely on soil nutrient tests from a DATCP certified laboratory;
- Comply with current USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) nutrient management standard 590;
- Follow the recommendations for nutrient applications and the soil test recommendations for field, vegetable and fruit crops, UW-Extension Publication A2809, unless there are circumstances that justify more than the recommended application; and
- Include additional management practices to reduce runoff of phosphorus or other nutrients if the farms have WPDES permits, or have fields near high priority waters (high priority waters are defined as impaired, exceptional-outstanding resource waters, or surface water protection areas).

Assessment of On-Farm Nutrient Resources

The amount of crop nutrients supplied to your fields from on-farm nutrient resources such as manure, legumes, and organic wastes needs to be determined and deducted from your base fertilizer recommendations. Just like balancing your checkbook, this accounting ensures that you don't over apply nutrients; it saves you money and reduces your risk of nutrients negatively impacting the environment.

Nutrient Crediting

Once the on-farm nutrient resources are determined, your commercial fertilizer applications should be adjusted to reflect these nutrient credits. This action will not only reduce your commercial fertilizer bills, but it will also protect water quality by eliminating nutrient applications that are in excess of crop need. Management skills come into play when determining nutrient credits. For example, to properly credit the nutrients supplied from manure, a grower must know both the manure application rate and the crop available nutrient content of manure. To credit the

nitrogen available to crops following alfalfa, the condition of the alfalfa stand as well as last cutting date need to be known.

Consistence with existing Farm Conservation Plan

A nutrient management plan needs to be consistent with your farm conservation plan. If a farmer participates in any federal farm programs, they will probably have a soil conservation plan for their farm. The conservation plan is another important component of any nutrient management plan, for the conservation plan contains needed information on your planned crop rotations, identification of the slopes of all fields (which is important when planning manure applications), and the conservation measures you are following to maintain your soil erosion rates at 'T' or tolerable rates.

Manure Inventory

Probably the most challenging aspect of developing and implementing a farm nutrient management plan is the advance planning of manure applications to cropland fields. This involves estimating the amount of manure produced on the farm and then planning specific manure application rates for individual cropland fields.

Manure and Fertilizer Application/Spreading Plan

Nutrient management plans for farms with livestock will deal primarily with manure spreading plans. Planned manure applications should be made at rates that do not exceed crop nutrient need as identified in the soil test report. The nutrient management plan will also prioritize those fields that would benefit the most from the manure supplied nutrients, while posing little threat to water quality. Also, the nutrient management plan will identify those fields that have manure spreading restrictions - fields adjacent to lakes and streams, sloping fields with excessive runoff, fields in the vicinity of wells, sinkholes or fractured bedrock. The seasonal timing of manure applications to cropland will also be identified in the farm nutrient management plan. The timing of planned manure applications will depend upon each farm's manure handling system.

The 590 Nutrient Management Standards

The '590 Standard' is a NRCS Technical Standard that lists the minimum requirements and components of an acceptable nutrient management plan. Federal and state farm cost share programs require that a plan meet the 590 Standard for cost sharing development of the plan. A farm nutrient management plan that meets the 590 Standard is also a requirement for County ordinances which deal with construction of manure storage facilities or siting livestock operations.

Cost Sharing

Some farmers voluntarily install conservation practices to help improve water quality and habitat for wildlife. They also voluntarily install conservation practices to help prevent soil erosion. Cost sharing is sometimes available for these practices funded through the Wisconsin's soil and water resource management program described in Chapter 4. As mentioned earlier, the agricultural performance standards and prohibitions became effective in October 2002. The standard for nutrient management plans was phased in and became effective for all farms on January 1, 2008. Farmers who are in compliance on or after October 1, 2002 do not have a right to cost share if they later fall out of compliance. Farmers who establish new facilities may be eligible for cost sharing, but the cost sharing is not required for compliance. Farmers covered by WPDES permits are not eligible for state cost sharing to meet performance standards and prohibitions required under their permits. Farmers who do not participate in the Farmland Preservation Program cannot be required to change existing cropland practices unless they receive cost sharing. Farmers are eligible for at least 70% cost sharing, more if there is an economic hardship. If there's an economic hardship, the farmer may be eligible for up to 90%.

In conclusion, the Working Lands Initiative is more than just a program to provide tax credits as an incentive to preserve farmland for production, it is also a program designed to reduce soil erosion

and improve and protect water quality. New additions to the program, such as the Agricultural Enterprise Areas, and the Purchase of Agricultural Easements, will help in maintaining Kenosha County's agricultural resource base for the future.

ACTIONS TO PRESERVE FARMLAND AND PROMOTE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

This section serves to document the actions the county will take to preserve farmland and promote agricultural development. Many of these actions were recommended the *Land & Water Resource Management Plan for Kenosha County: 2008-2012* and in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*. The County Comprehensive Plan, the County Land and Water Resource Management Plan, the initial County Farmland Preservation Plan and current County zoning ordinances have been developed in a way that strongly supports the preservation and conservation of the County's agricultural resources. The Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan recommends the implementation of the actions outlined below to help preserve farmland and promote agricultural development in Kenosha County.

- Continue the ongoing efforts of Land & Water Conservation staff to protect land and water resources and to implement the actions set forth in the *Land and Water Resource Management Plan for Kenosha County: 2008-2012*. Update the County's land and water resource management plan as required and to reflect the most current priorities and resource concerns.
- Support the educational programs that distribute informational materials regarding farming techniques that promote soil conservation such as no till and zone tilling farming, contour stripping, grass waterways, terracing, crop rotation, and nutrient management planning. Information and application assistance for programs to implement farming practices that promote soil conservation should continue to be provided to farmers through the Federal, State and County educational program efforts.
- Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation staff will provide technical advice and program assistance for the implementation of soil conservation and best management practice installation administering grants available through State agencies such as the DATCP and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).
- Support the work of UW-Discovery Farms and Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative programs to promote an increased understanding of agricultural impacts on soil quality and how to implement best management practices among farmers and government officials in Kenosha County.
- Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation staff will continue to pursue Federal and State soil resource conservation grant funds available to County and local governments. Grant funds for the acquisition, preservation, and development of park and open space sites and to preserve agricultural and natural resources.
- Develop methods to ensure nutrient management plans (NMP) required by Section NR 151.07 of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code* are implemented throughout the County. A NMP prescribes the fertilizer budget for the entire farm for a minimum of four years, maximizing crop yields while minimizing nutrient over application.
- Continue to actively promote the use of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in Kenosha County. Under CRP environmentally desirable land is devoted to certain conservation practices to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns. Participants enroll in CRP contracts for 10 to 15 years. Form a contribution agreement between the County and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide technical

assistance for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Promoting good land stewardship insures farmland for future generations

- Study the potential to implement a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in Kenosha County. CREP provides rental payments and other financial incentives to encourage producers to protect environmentally sensitive land next to rivers and streams by improving impaired water resources and enhancing wildlife habitat, by enrolling in long-term contracts.
- Update the Kenosha County and Villages Zoning in accordance with Section 71.613 and Chapter 91 of the *Statutes*, in order to maintain farmer's eligibility for State income tax credits. Monitor compliance of the State land and water conservation performance standards to maintain farmer eligibility in the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) and incentive tax credits.
- Work with County policy makers and local governments to periodically analyze and update County and Village regulatory tools, such as zoning and land division ordinances and zoning maps, to identify any necessary revisions to protect the agricultural lands.
- Study the concept of a transfer of development rights (TDR) program and/or a purchase of development rights (PDR) program for local and county government use that focuses on the protection of agricultural areas.
- Partner with the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust (KRLT) and other land trusts to purchase lands containing significant natural resources or hold conservation easements to protect productive agricultural lands.
- Work with UW-Extension to develop a public educational program and distribute educational materials to the public regarding the benefits of farming and the need to protect enough farmland in Kenosha County for farming to remain viable in the future. Publicize and furnish information on sustainable and alternative agricultural practices. Develop an informational handout to educate residents on the State's right-to-farm law and what to expect when moving into a rural area.
- Encourage participation in the WDNR Managed Forest Land program. The MFL program is an incentive program intended to encourage sustainable forestry on private woodlands in Wisconsin. Landowners enroll in a 25- or 50-year contract.
- Advocate for increased intergovernmental cooperation to protect farmland, including the use of boundary agreements. The agreement could create a fringe around an urban area, a sort of boundary beyond which development would not be considered.
- Promote the Wisconsin Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) and assist communities, non-government organizations, and the WDNR in identifying appropriate areas to apply for FRPP grants.
- Recommend that County policy makers and local governments explore the adoption of a County and/or local of a Livestock Facility Siting Ordinance under Section 93.90 of the Wisconsin State Statutes.
- Work with Kenosha Area Business Alliance (KABA) to study the use of State and Federal bio-fuel grants to promote agriculture and associated agricultural industries in Kenosha County.

- Maintain and support conservation staff efforts to distribute NRCS, WDNR and DATCP educational materials to appropriate landowners, through the County's *Ties to the Land* newsletter, County website, public informational meetings, and individual contacts with landowners.
- Work with Kenosha Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and UW-Extension to establish programs to promote agri-tourism in Kenosha County through agricultural-related special events. Events could include dairy breakfasts, farm tours, corn mazes, and you-pick farms. The program could include an educational component for farmers regarding possible agri-tourism enterprises.
- Recommend to the Kenosha Area Convention & Visitors Bureau that they implement a permanent signage program to alert and direct tourists and local residents to agri-tourism destinations to help increase business and income for these farming establishments.
- Kenosha Land and Water Conservation staff will continue to work with NRCS, FSA, the SENO Center, Racine County Land Conservation Division, and UW-Extension to organize our annual Rural Landowners Expo and Farmers Market to promote sustainable small scale and hobby farm operations and appropriate agri-businesses on lands designated for agricultural use.
- Kenosha Land and Water Conservation staff will lobby Kenosha County highway and local road departments to consider creating "farm travel lanes" by widening shoulders on key roads used by farmers to transport farm equipment, where feasible.
- Continue to distribute and support for the Farm Fresh Atlas – A year-round local food guide providing information for buying locally and sustainably grown food. In addition, search for partners to help develop a program that would market and link Kenosha County agricultural products, including organic products, to restaurants, stores, schools, and group residential facilities (nursing homes, for example) in Kenosha County and surrounding areas.
- Support Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) a partnership between the farmer and the consumer to buy local, seasonal food directly from the grower. Foster existing relations with local, State and Federal Partners including; the Sustainable Edible Economic Development (S.E.E.D.) a new economic development initiative with local organizations from Racine and Kenosha Counties and Slow Food Wisconsin Southeast (WiSE) in advocating the support of family farms and cooperatives, promotion of locally grown food, support for school gardens, conservation of regional culinary traditions and the maintenance of biodiversity.
- Work with UW-Extension to develop an educational program outlining grants and loans available through Federal and State agencies for youth programs, including 4-H Clubs and Future Farmers of America (FFA) and continue offering the annual National Conservation Poster Contest which provides kindergarten through twelfth grade students an opportunity to convey their thoughts about soil, water and related natural resource issues through art.
- Revive the Local Strategies for Environmental Education program that brought together UW-Extension Agriculture Educators and local high school students to promote good conservation practices by preparing short video exposé that is shown on local cable channels.

- Support Annie's Project, a UW-Extension program that focuses on the educational needs of beginning farm women or farm women who are considering a new farm business on their farm.
- Kenosha County Planning & Development will continue to allow produce stands, bed-and-breakfast establishments, and other types of home occupations or "home-based" businesses on farms to help supplement farming incomes. They will also consider incentives for activities such as produce stands and farmers markets through an expedited permitting process and reduced permitting fees.
- Continued active involvement with the Root/Pike Watershed Initiative Network, Sustainable Racine Environmental Group, American Farmland Trust, S.E.E.D., Seno Woodland Education Center, Racine/Kenosha Land Trust, Town & Country RC&D, SEWRPC, Local Lake Districts and Associations, Soil & Water Conservation Society, Southeast Fox River Basin Partnership, WALCE, and WLWCA. These grassroots groups are at the heart of local environmental movement.
- Designate Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA) containing contiguous lands devoted primarily to agricultural use as recommended in the updated County Farmland Preservation Plan. An AEA should be part of a broader strategy to protect farmland and promote agriculture and agriculturally-related development.
- Encourage implementation of the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) program, which provides State funding of the purchase of such easement from willing landowners in order to preserve agricultural capacity and conserve unique agricultural resources.
- Encourage County policy makers and local governments to participate in implementing the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan and preserving for and in agricultural use all lands identified as Farmland Preservation Areas.

PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Prime agricultural lands are those lands which, in terms of farm size, the aggregate area being farmed, and soil characteristics, are best suited for the production of food and fiber. A number of important public purposes are served by the preservation of prime agricultural lands. Such public purposes include maintenance of agricultural reserves; maintenance of open space; control of public costs by avoiding the need to provide urban services such as sanitary sewer, public water, schools, and full-time police and fire protection; and preservation of the local economic base.

Prime agricultural lands in Kenosha County were originally identified by the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan, which was adopted by the Kenosha County Board in June 1981. Prime agricultural land was defined based on the following criteria: each farm must be at least 35 acres in size; at least 50 percent of the farm must be covered by soils which meet NRCS criteria for "Prime Farmland" or "Farmland of Statewide Importance" (generally Class I, II, or III soils); and the farm should be located in a contiguous farming area at least 100 acres in size.

The farmland preservation objectives set forth in Chapter 1 of this report seeks to preserve in agricultural and other compatible uses both Prime Farmland and farmlands of Statewide Significance. Prime Farmland are those lands which are well suited for agricultural use, and which meet the specific mapping criteria established by the NRCS based on their general suitability for most kinds of farming. The agricultural capability classification of soils is based on the limitations of the soils, the risk of damage to soils when used, and the way in which the soils respond to treatment. Using this methodology, Class I and II soils are considered "National Prime

Farmlands,” and Class III soils are considered “Farmlands of Statewide Significance.” The location and amount of Class I, II, and III soils, as indicated in Table 3-1 and Map 3-4 in Chapter 3, were used in identifying Farmland Preservation Areas in the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan. Farmlands of Statewide Significance are those agricultural lands which are more limited for general agricultural purposes but which nevertheless represent an important part of the local agricultural resource base. Consistent with the before mentioned goals and objectives, both prime Farmlands and farmlands of Statewide Significance have been included in the Farmland Preservation Areas delineated on the farmland preservation plan maps. As already noted, in addition to prime agricultural lands, farmlands of statewide significance are included in the farmland preservation area. Such lands, while not meeting the established prime agricultural land mapping criteria, are deemed to be an important part of the local farming community. It is important to note that the farmland plan calls for the preservation of most, but not all, of the identified prime agricultural lands in Kenosha County. Open space land, including some prime agricultural land, provides a necessary reserve for the expansion of urban areas required to meet the needs of a growing urban population.

PLAN DESCRIPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION POLICIES

Map 5-1 shows the Farmland Preservation Areas identified under the Kenosha County farmland preservation plan. All Farmland Preservation Plan Maps include parcel lines, roads, railways, park and recreational areas, major surface water features, section lines, municipal boundaries, and areas excluded from farmland preservation. Designated Farmland Preservation Areas are those lands which meet the recommended prime agricultural land mapping criteria and such additional lands of local significance as were identified by local officials and farmers. As shown on Map 5-1 and Table 5-2 the Farmland Preservation Areas encompass a total area of about 38,519 acres, or about 61 square miles of land in Kenosha County. This represents approximately 25 percent of the total area of the County. Farmland Preservation Areas are identified within five Kenosha County townships and the Village of Bristol, except for the Town of Randall and the Village Pleasant Prairie. All areas identified for farmland protection in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* are designated Farmland Preservation Areas.

The Farmland Preservation Areas in Kenosha County were originally identified by the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan, which was adopted by the Kenosha County Board in June 1981. In 2012, the Agricultural Preservation Zoning District in Kenosha County encompassed 61,372 acres. The Agricultural Preservation Zoning District was intended to meet and comply with the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Act of 1977, as amended, which requires that all urban counties, of which Kenosha County is one, adopt, prior to 1982, an exclusive agricultural zoning district, so as to allow the owners of such lands an opportunity to continue to claim the farmland preservation credit permitted pursuant to section 71.09(11) of the Wisconsin Statutes. Farmland Preservation Areas allow for all agricultural uses and consist primarily of parcels at least 35 acres or greater in size that contain soils suitable for agricultural production. The Farmland Preservation Plan encourages the continuation of agricultural activity in these areas, including dairy farming, row crops, and niche agriculture, such as orchards and organic farming. In accordance with Chapter 91 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, Map 5-1 clearly identifies areas that Kenosha County plans to preserve for agricultural use and agriculture and agricultural related uses, which includes undeveloped natural resource and open space areas but does not include any area that is planned for nonagricultural development within 15 years after the date on which this plan is adopted. Under the farmland preservation plan the development of prime agricultural lands for urban uses would occur only as necessary to meet the urban development needs of the resident population of the County. Prime agricultural lands which may potentially be converted to urban use are located on the periphery of existing urban development in areas where new urban development can best be accommodated in an economic, efficient, and environmentally sound manner, as detailed in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*.

The plan recommends that all land within the identified farmland preservation area be preserved for and in agricultural use. The following public policies were recommended for application within Farmland Preservation Areas:

1. With the exception of incompatible land uses, all land contained in the farmland preservation area should be preserved for and in agricultural use.
2. Additional residential development should be restricted to that required for occupancy by the farmer, his parents or children, or farm laborers.
3. Only those forms of development which are compatible with agricultural uses, such as essential agri-businesses, should be permitted in addition to farming.
4. Other than for the exceptions provided, land should not be subdivided to form parcels of less than 35 acres, in size.

As identified through this Farmland Preservation Plan, mapped Farmland Preservation Areas are distinguished as Farmland Preservation Areas. Farmland Preservation Areas are not proposed to be developed within the next 15 years or more, planned land use is agricultural, nonfarmed wetlands, primary/secondary environmental corridor or isolated natural areas. Areas excluded from farmland preservation are proposed to be developed within the next 15 years, consistent with *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* and any adopted town or village land use plan or zoning ordinance. Landowners of Farmland Preservation Areas are eligible to claim the farmland preservation tax credit through certified farmland preservation zoning or agreements and permitted pursuant to section 71.613 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. Landowners claiming farmland preservation tax credits under s. 71.613 shall comply with applicable land and water conservation standards promulgated under ss. 92.05 (3) (c) and (k), 92.14 (8), and 281.16 (3) (b) and (c) of the Wisconsin State Statutes.

Areas labeled excluded from farmland preservation are those lands not zoned exclusive agriculture or did not meet the farmland preservation area delineation criteria listed below or are lands designated in *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* for future non-farm development or are used for governmental or institutional purposes. Areas labeled excluded incorporated areas are lands within the county's cities and villages that do not have exclusive agricultural zoning. Areas labeled park and recreational land are county, state or town owned parks and wildlife areas permanently set aside for public use to provide for outdoor recreation or for the protection of wildlife or natural habitats.

This farmland preservation plan is subject to and must meet the statutory requirements identified in Section 91.10 of Wisconsin State Statutes. Any and all changes to Section 91.10 of Wisconsin State Statutes will prompt a review by Kenosha County of this farmland preservation plan for compliance. If necessary, amendments to the farmland preservation plan will be made to ensure that statutory requirements are met. However, during the period of county review and updating there may be inconsistencies between Section 91.10 of Wisconsin State Statutes and this farmland preservation plan. As a result, Section 91.10 of Wisconsin State Statutes shall supersede the county farmland preservation plan and any inconsistencies between the two would be resolved in favor of Section 91.10 of Wisconsin State Statutes. Further, under Section 91.10(2) of the Wisconsin State Statutes, if a county has a comprehensive plan, the farmland preservation plan must be included in the comprehensive plan and the two plans must be consistent with each other. Because Kenosha County has a comprehensive plan that was adopted in 2010 (prior to developing the farmland preservation plan) and are only required to perform a comprehensive update of the county comprehensive plan once every 10 years, there may be inconsistencies with the farmland preservation plan not resolved through the annually permitted minor amendments to the county comprehensive plan. As a result, this farmland preservation plan supersedes the county comprehensive plan and any inconsistencies between the two plans would be resolved in favor of this farmland preservation plan, with respect to the delineation and location of Farmland Preservation Areas and farmland protection recommendations.

Farmland Preservation Areas Delineation Criteria

Farmland Preservation Areas, as shown on the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan Map (Map 5-1), include lands that meet all of the following criteria:

1. Are predominately in active agricultural, agriculture accessory, agriculture-related or natural resource use;
2. Are planned to support a predominance of agriculture, agricultural accessory, agriculture-related and natural resource uses for fifteen years or more;
3. Are clearly shown as "Farmland Protection" on planned land use maps and neighborhood planning maps in town and village plans adopted as part of the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*.
4. Are completely outside designated sanitary sewer service areas, delineated in the regional water quality management plan as amended and approved by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
5. Are located primarily within areas previously identified in the *Farmland Preservation Plan for Kenosha County (1981)*;
6. At least 50 percent of the farmland must be covered by soils which meet the U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS, standards for National Prime Farmland or farmland of Statewide Significance.

The farmland preservation plan maps were reviewed by the Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee at public meetings held on February, 28, 2011, March 28, 2011, May 23, 2011, and final versions were approved June 28, 2011 and subsequently at a public meeting held concurrently with the Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation Committee on July 18, 2011. The Planning, Development & Extension, Education Committee held a class II noticed public meeting and hearing on September 14, 2011 and voted unanimously to adopt the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan.

Table 5-2

FARMLAND PRESERVATION AREAS

Town/Village	Total Acres*	Agricultural Preservation Zoned Acres	Farmland Preservation Acres	Acres Excluded from Farmland Preservation	Percentage of Agricultural Zoned Acres Preserved
Brighton	22,896	11,650	11,046	604	94.8
Bristol	21,299	9,629	4,165	5,464	43.25
Paris	22,954	17,403	16,602	801	95.40
Pleasant Prairie	21,497	700	0	700	0.00
Randall	8,861	2,586	0	2,586	0.00
Salem	20,452	5,376	936	4,440	17.41
Somers	18,136	7,415	2,088	5,327	28.15
Wheatland	15,417	6,613	3,683	2,930	55.60
TOTALS	151,512	61,372	38,519	22,853	62.76

**Excluding incorporated areas without farmland preservation zoning*

Source: Department of Planning & Development

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE AND ZONING

To meet the new provisions within the Working Lands Initiative and to satisfy the requirements of Section 91.38 Wisconsin State Statutes, Kenosha County and the Village of Bristol are proposing

to amend their zoning ordinances and the purpose and characteristics of their Agricultural Preservation Zoning District for the purpose of determining which lands are located in the Farmland Preservation Areas. The Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development and the Village of Bristol Planning and Zoning Administration shall provide district maps reflecting the mapped locations of the Farmland Preservation Areas. The Farmland Preservation Areas are clearly shown as “Farmland Protection” or “Agricultural Preservation” on the planned land use maps in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*. In accordance with section 91.10 (d) of the Wisconsin State Statutes Farmland Preservation Areas of the county are to be preserved for agricultural use and agriculture-related uses and do not include any area that is planned for nonagricultural development within 15 years after the date on which the *Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan* is adopted, consistent with *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*. The proposed text amendments to the County and Village zoning ordinances are presented in Appendix B.

Agricultural Land Use in the Town of Brighton

The County Comprehensive Plan shows the land use plan map for the Town of Brighton for the year 2035. Map 75 in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* was adopted by the Town Board as the Town land use plan map when it adopted this multi-jurisdictional plan as the Town comprehensive plan. The Town land use plan generally envisions a rural town based on an agricultural economy, with small concentrations of urban and rural-density residential development at various locations. The Farmland Preservation Areas in the Town of Brighton are shown on Map 5-2 and include 11,046 acres The Bong State Recreation Area, formerly a U.S. Air Force base, and the adjacent Brighton Dale County Park and Kenosha School District Forest are major recreational and open space uses in the Town.

Town of Brighton is interested in allowing the development of Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA) to support the Town’s agricultural base. Potential Agricultural Enterprise Areas in the Town of Brighton are shown on Map 5-8. A proposed Agricultural Enterprise Area application must comply with all of the requirements for certification under Section 91.18 of the Wisconsin State Statutes and will follow the application process detailed in the Plan Amendment Procedures section below.

Agricultural Land Use in the Village of Bristol

The Village of Bristol comprehensive plan seeks to encourage new urban development in those portions of the Village that are within or contiguous to a sanitary sewer service area, and which are currently provided with or can readily be provided with sewer service. Existing and planned urban development is primarily located on the south side of STH 50 on the east side of the village; in areas adjacent to the City of Kenosha and the Village of Pleasant Prairie; and in residential subdivisions near Lake Shangri-La and Mud Lake. The plan encourages a variety of land uses within the planned sewer service areas to assure a diverse tax base, while preserving the rural character of the village outside planned sewer service areas. The plan also recommends the protection of most of the remaining prime agricultural lands through the use of a farmland preservation zoning district. Additionally, the plan recommends the preservation in essentially natural, open uses of primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.

The Village of Bristol land use plan is divided into three phases: Phase I is intended to serve the area up to the year 2015, Phase II is intended to serve between 2015 and 2025, and Phase III is intended to serve between 2025 and 2035. The Bristol Town Board resolved to use the Town of Bristol’s 2025 Phase II Land Use Plan versus the 2025 Phase III Land Use Plan for designating the Farmland Preservation Areas in the Town of Bristol for this Farmland Protection Plan, on April 26, 2011. The Phase II Village of Bristol land use plan map is shown on Map 100 in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*. The Farmland Preservation Areas in the Village of Bristol are shown on Map 5-3 and include 4,165 acres. The Village of Bristol has designated these areas to be preserved for agricultural use and is

consistent with the Phase II Bristol land use map intended to serve the village until 2025. The farmland preservation plan supersedes the county comprehensive plan with respect to the delineation and location of Farmland Preservation Areas and farmland protection recommendations.

Agricultural Land Use in the Town of Paris

Map 77 in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* shows the adopted land use plan map for the Town of Paris for the year 2035. The Town land use plan generally envisions a rural town based on an agricultural economy. The Farmland Preservation Areas in the Town of Paris are shown on Map 5-4 and include 16,602 acres. Exceptions include the Pheasant Run landfill and a potential expansion of the landfill, potential light industrial development on the perimeter of the landfill, potential commercial and light industrial uses along IH 94, and a limited area of commercial and small-lot residential development around the hamlet of Paris at the intersection of USH 45 and STH 142.

The Town of Paris recognizes the desire of some landowners and developers to develop land along IH 94 for commercial or light industrial uses. The Town has designated an area extending about one-quarter mile west along IH 94 from north of CTH E to the southern Town line for future commercial or light industrial uses. Commercial uses could include retail, service, and office uses. Redevelopment of existing residential lots within the corridor to commercial or light industrial uses will also be considered by the Town.

Town of Paris is interested in allowing the development of Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA) to support the Town's agricultural base. Potential Agricultural Enterprise Areas in the Town of Paris are shown on Map 5-8. A proposed Agricultural Enterprise Area application must comply with all of the requirements for certification under Section 91.18 of the Wisconsin State Statutes and will follow the application process detailed in the Plan Amendment Procedures section below.

Agricultural Land Use in the Village of Pleasant Prairie

Agricultural lands occupy 32.8 acres, or less than 1% of the Village as depicted on the 2035 Land Use Plan. Pleasant Prairie is an urbanizing Village with nearly 77% of the Village located within Sewer Service and Water Service Areas; therefore, the preservation of farmland as a long term use in the Village is not planned. However, the Land Use Plan allows for and encourages the continuation of existing agricultural related activities on lands zoned for such purposes pursuant to the Village Official Zoning Map in accordance with the specific zoning district requirements, including uses such as dairy farming, row crops, pasturelands, plant nurseries, and niche agriculture uses such as orchards, organic farming, and hobby farms. The Village does not discourage properties that are currently zoned agricultural to continue farming; however, at the time that property owners wish to develop their land, the Village 2035 Land Use Plan Map 72 in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* and detailed neighborhood plans will provide the framework for how the land can be developed for urban uses.

Since the majority of the Village is located within sewer and water urban service areas, agricultural lands within the Village are only intended to remain in agricultural uses until the property owner wishes to develop their land for urban purposes. It is anticipated that these agricultural lands may likely be converted to urban uses by or before 2035. The Village of Pleasant Prairie has chosen to remove their exclusive Agricultural Zoning District from their Ordinance and not participate in the Farmland Preservation Program. There will be no areas designated as Farmland Preservation Areas in the Village of Pleasant Prairie. The Village of Pleasant Prairie will be designated on the Farmland Preservation Plan Map for Kenosha County as an Excluded Incorporated Area.

Agricultural Land Use in the Town of Randall

The *Town of Randall and Village of Twin Lakes Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan: 2005-2024* was a joint planning effort between the Village of Twin Lakes and the Town of Randall. The plan

was adopted by both the Village and the Town on March 14, 2005. The Village of Twin Lakes adopted an updated land use plan map for a defined Village planning area on December 21, 2009. The Town of Randall land use plan map has not changed since the Town adopted the joint plan in 2005. The land use plan map adopted by the Town Board is shown on Map 78 in the Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035. The comprehensive plan map for the Town of Randall contains multiple plan area designations on a single parcel i.e. Agricultural/Forest/Wetland Preservation (Overlay) and a Rural Residential land use category. This creates difficulty in implementing the plan, specifically when crafting zoning ordinances. In accordance with their adopted land use plan the Town of Randall will contain no Farmland Preservation Areas.

Agricultural Land Use in the Town of Salem

The Town of Salem Town Board, based upon recommendation of the Town of Salem Plan Commission, adopted a comprehensive plan for the Town of Salem on March 8, 2010. The comprehensive plan is documented in the report titled *A Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Salem: 2035* dated March 2010, and was prepared with assistance from the firm Meehan and Company, Inc. and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. The Town of Salem comprehensive plan incorporates and replaced the *Coordinated Land Use Plan* adopted by the Town Board in 2009 and prepared with assistance from Meehan & Company, Inc. The coordinated land use plan also included land use recommendations for portions of the Town outside the planned sanitary sewer service area, which are expected to remain in rural uses through at least the year 2035.

The adopted Town of Salem comprehensive plan dated March 2010 includes a Phase 1 map for the period 2008 to 2025 (Map 23); a Phase 2 map for the period 2025 to 2035 (Map 24); and a Phase 3, or build-out, map for the period beyond 2035 (Map 25). Based on Town of Salem Comprehensive Plan: 2035, the Town of Salem adopted the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*, as the community's official comprehensive plan.

The Town of Salem Board resolved to use the Town of Salem's 2035 Comprehensive Plan Phase 2 versus the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Phase 1 map for designating the Farmland Preservation Areas in the Town of Salem for this Farmland Protection Plan on May 9, 2011. The Town of Salem's Phase 2 land use plan map for the period 2025 to 2035 is shown on Map 24 in the *Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Salem: 2035*. Additional information about the phased approach is included in the Town comprehensive plan dated March 2010.

The Farmland Preservation Areas in the Town of Salem are shown on Map 5-5 of the Farmland Preservation Plan and include 936 acres. The Town of Salem has designated these areas to be preserved for agricultural use and is consistent with the Phase 2 Salem comprehensive plan map (Map 24) intended to serve the town until 2035. The farmland preservation plan supersedes the county comprehensive plan with respect to the delineation and location of Farmland Preservation Areas and farmland protection recommendations.

Agricultural Land Use in the Town of Somers

The *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* shows the land use plan for the Town of Somers to the year 2035 and beyond (Map 80). The Town envisions that urban development will continue to occur within the planned sanitary sewer service area during and beyond the planning period, while only the northwest portion of the Town is anticipated to remain primarily in agricultural use. The Farmland Preservation Areas in the Town of Somers are shown on Map 5-6 and include 2,088 acres. The neighborhood plans were also adopted as components of the Town comprehensive plan. The Town has been active in land use planning through participation in the preparation and update of a comprehensive plan for the Kenosha Urban Planning District in 1967 and 1995, respectively; and most recently by preparing neighborhood plans for most of the Town. The northwest portion of the Town is not included within a neighborhood plan.

Agricultural Land Use in the Town of Wheatland

The *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* shows the land use plan Map 81 for the Town of Wheatland for the year 2035. The Town land use plan was designed to locate new urban development, primarily suburban-density residential development, contiguous to existing residential subdivisions and other urban-density development. Existing and proposed future urban development is generally located along STH 50 and other arterial highways, and surrounding the hamlet of New Munster. Existing extractive uses in the Town of Wheatland are reflected on the land use plan map, as are general locations for future commercial and industrial development. Additionally, the plan recommends the preservation in essentially natural, open uses of primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas and other areas with natural limitations to development, specifically areas with steep slopes, hydric soils, and severe structural soils.

The land use plan for the Town of Wheatland includes a “Phase 2 line” that indicates areas where the Town Plan Commission and Town Board will consider applications for zoning map amendments (rezonings) to allow urban development between 2009 and the year 2035, provided the proposed rezoning is contiguous to a parcel that has been developed for urban use. Rezonings to the A-2 or R-1 zoning districts will be considered at any time anywhere within the Phase 2 line. Outside the Phase 2 line, the Plan Commission and Town Board will consider land use plan map amendments from the Farmland Protection or General Agricultural and Open Lands land use categories to the Rural-Density Residential land use category. Any rezoning from the Farmland Protection category would require an amendment to the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*. Proposed amendments must be consistent with goal, objectives, policies, and programs of the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*. The Farmland Preservation Areas in the Town of Wheatland are shown on Map 5-7 and include 3,683 acres.

Kenosha County Agricultural Land Use

Farmland Preservation Areas were identified within each of the five towns and the Villages of Bristol in Kenosha County, except for the Town of Randall and the Village of Pleasant Prairie. Working in cooperation with the Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee, town and village boards and planning commissions, local officials, farmers, and stakeholders; and within the limits of the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*, adopted by the Kenosha County Board in April 2010, which serves as the basis for decision-making on land use-related matters, this Farmland Preservation Plan has designated 38,519 acres, or 61 square miles, representing approximately 25 percent of the total area of the County (without farmland preservation zoning) as Farmland Preservation Areas, see Map 5-1 and Table 5-2.

Kenosha County and local regulating authorities are confident that the Farmland Preservation Areas identified in this plan will be preserved for agricultural use and agriculture and agricultural related uses, and do not include any areas that are planned for nonagricultural development within the next 15 years or longer. To insure that Kenosha County will take reasonable steps to prevent landowners from collecting farmland preservation tax credits on land not covered by a farmland preservation area the County shall implement the steps outlined below to inform landowners with property containing multiple zoning designations their exact acreage of Farmland Preservation Area eligible for tax credits.

- The Farmland Preservation Plan Maps, certified by DATCP, shall be adopted and approved with the text as part of the Kenosha County Zoning ordinance and Comprehensive Plan and shall be available to the public for inspection in the Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development. Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development staff will be available to precisely ascertain Farmland Preservation Area acreage inquires via phone or email.

- All lands eligible to receive a tax credit shall be identified as Farmland Preservation Areas as shown on the Farmland Preservation Plan Map for Kenosha County in the Farmland Preservation Plan. Kenosha County will provide a flexible dynamic map that is responsive to parcel and zoning changes. Property owners and community managers will be able to quickly, easily, and precisely ascertain acreage within an identified Farmland Preservation Area correlated with an individual tax parcel number. The web-based interactive mapping program will be transparent and readily available so that anyone can identify the Farmland Preservation Areas on his/her property quickly and without any need for planning department assistance.

AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE AREAS

The new farmland preservation law establishes a program that allows for DATCP to designate by administrative rule certain lands as Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA) in order to foster agriculture in certain designated geographic regions. DATCP defines an AEA as a contiguous land area devoted primarily to agricultural use and locally targeted for agricultural preservation and agricultural development. The premise of the AEA program is to support agriculture in targeted areas where there is a commitment to agricultural preservation in order to bolster agricultural investment. Designation as an AEA is voluntary, with those who elect to participate being eligible for greater tax benefits, as discussed in the following sections. Once an area is officially designated as an AEA, eligible farmers owning land within the area may enter into a farmland preservation agreement with the state. This enables the landowners to receive tax credits in exchange for agreeing to keep their farm in agricultural use for at least 15 years. The program allows for a minimum of five individual farm owners to submit a petition for consideration with the support of their local government. There currently is no minimum size for an AEA, but state law requires the DATCP to give higher priority to any AEA application that contains at least 1000 contiguous acres. To be eligible for AEA designation, properties must be consistent with the *Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan*.

Potential AEA areas are located where Kenosha County and the local government have prioritized the preservation of farmland and agricultural development. Designation of an Agricultural Enterprise Area is a tool that Kenosha County and the local government can use to help promote the future viability of existing agricultural and agriculture-related land use.

In Kenosha County, the Towns of Brighton and Paris show the greatest potential to successfully petition DATCP for AEA designation. These two townships border each other and have both envisioned a rural township based on an agricultural economy in the future. Both of these townships have concentrations of farmland capable of supporting agricultural-related businesses, such as distributors of farm supplies and farm machinery. The long-term maintenance of concentrations of agricultural lands will help to ensure that farmers will remain relatively free of urban conflicts. Planned nonurban land use for 2035 in the Town of Brighton is 21,472 acres, approximately 94% of the township. Planned nonurban land use for 2035 in the Town of Paris is 21,283 acres, approximately 92% of the township. Agricultural soil capability class I, II & III in the Towns of Brighton and Paris total 41,698 acres or 91% of the total acres are covered by prime farmland soils or soils of statewide significance.

The Kenosha County planned AEA encompasses 27,648 acres (44 square miles) in the Towns of Brighton and Paris, as show in Map 5-8. Planned land use in the Town of Brighton is made up of 47.5% farmland protection, 9.9% general agricultural land, and 34.7% natural areas, with 58% of the parcels within the AEA being 35 acres or greater. Planned land use in the Town of Paris is made up of 70.1% farmland protection, 9.7% general agricultural land, and 11.0% natural areas, with 77% of the parcels within the AEA being 35 acres or greater. Within the Towns of Brighton and Paris are located the larger, more contiguous farms. These larger contiguous farms suggest

possible areas which would be excellent candidates for the Agricultural Enterprise Area program (although small farms can petition as well to be in an AEA, and, many should due to their commitment to an agricultural future). This program defines an AEA as a contiguous land area devoted primarily to agricultural use and locally targeted for agricultural preservation and agricultural development. The designation of an AEA by DATCP is based on a voluntary local application. Requirements for establishing an AEA include voluntary participation by County and local government, the participation of at least five farm owners, the land needs to be located in a farmland preservation area, the land is contiguous, the land is primarily in agricultural use, and DATCP approves the AEA application.

Map 5-8 will be an invaluable tool as the County moves forward to help support Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA) or lands eligible for a Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (PACE).

PLAN AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

The *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* will be amended to include reference of this up-dated Farmland Preservation Plan. The Comprehensive Plan provides for an amendment process. Text amendments are considered on an annual basis; however a special plan amendment can be scheduled under unique circumstances. Map amendments can be considered at any time. Text and/or map amendments to the Comprehensive Plan that potentially affect all towns would be considered by the County, only after the approval by the Multi-jurisdictional advisory committee.

The Farmland Preservation Plan is to be consistent with the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*. Any amendment to policy or maps will have to be consistent among both plans. The amendment process will follow that which is established within the Comprehensive Plan. Plan amendment procedure for the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* are detailed in Chapter XV beginning on page 638. Comprehensive Plan amendments may include changes to map and text.

Text amendments may include:

- Changing, adding, or modifying a goal, objective, policy, or program in any of the element chapters in response to changing conditions or new information.
- Adding or changing the land use plan categories in the Land Use Element to provide for a category of development that is not included in the current set of categories.

Map amendments may include:

- Changing the land use designation on a parcel or parcels on the land use plan map.
- Changing or updating maps of inventory data (for example, floodplains, wetlands, or existing zoning).

Amendments to Village Plans

Because primary authority for regulating land use development in the villages rests with the associated village through implementation of local ordinances, land owners wishing to amend the comprehensive plan must first receive approval from the local plan commission or village board. The village should then submit a written request to amend the multi-jurisdictional plan to the Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development, together with a copy of the local ordinance adopting the plan amendment. In some cases, the plan amendment may affect only the locally-adopted village comprehensive plan. The Village Board may also initiate an amendment to the multi-jurisdictional plan by filing an application with the Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development.

Amendments to Town Plans

Since the authority for regulating land use development in towns rests with both the towns and Kenosha County through implementation of the County zoning and land division ordinances, land owners wishing to amend this comprehensive plan must receive approval from both the Town Board and the County Board. A Town Board may also initiate an amendment to the multi-jurisdictional plan by filing an application with the Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development.

Amendment Procedure for Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan

The State comprehensive planning law requires that local governments and the County use the same procedures required by Section 66.1001(4) of the *Statutes* to initially adopt this plan when amending or updating the plan. A summary of the procedures for amending the multi-jurisdictional plan is provided below.

1. An application for a plan amendment will be submitted to the appropriate village or town official.
2. The local plan commission and governing body will review the proposed amendment and make a decision to approve or deny the application. A copy of the written decision of the local governing body will be provided to the Kenosha County Planning and Development Department. Kenosha County will review only those amendments that have been approved by the local governing body.
3. Text amendments to the comprehensive plan that would affect all or several local governments will be reviewed by the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Planning Advisory Committee (MJAC) at the annual meeting. If approved by the MJAC, the proposed amendment will be forwarded to the County PDEEC and County Board for consideration.
4. The County Planning and Development Department will review the proposed amendment and prepare a recommendation for consideration by the Kenosha County PDEEC. Amendments to this multi-jurisdictional plan will be reviewed based on the following criteria and any other factors determined to be relevant by the County Planning and Development Department:
 - Is the proposed amendment consistent with the goals, objectives, policies, and programs of this plan?
 - Is the proposed amendment compatible with surrounding land uses?
 - Will the proposed amendment have any detrimental environmental effects?
 - Has a substantial public benefit been demonstrated by the proposed plan amendment?
 - Are public roads, services, and utilities available, or planned to be available in the near future, to serve the proposed development?
 - Existing or planned facilities and services are adequate to serve the type of development associated with the amendment?
5. The Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee (PDEEC) will schedule a public hearing on the proposed amendment and direct the publishing of a Class 1 notice, with such notice published at least 30 days before the public hearing and contain the information required under Section 66.1001(4)(d) of the Wisconsin State Statutes. A copy of the public notice will be sent to affected local governments and to the parties listed in Sections 66.1001(4)(e) and (f) of the Wisconsin State Statutes. The PDEEC may, at its discretion, hold a public informational meeting prior to the public hearing on the amendment.
6. The PDEEC will review the Department's recommendation and take public comments at the public hearing. Following the hearing, or at a subsequent PDEEC meeting, the PDEEC will make a recommendation to the County Board.

7. The County Board will consider the proposed amendment, together with supporting information and the recommendation of the PDEEC, and approve or deny an ordinance adopting the plan amendment.
8. Following County Board action, the Planning and Development Department will send a copy of the adopting ordinance and the plan amendment to those parties listed in Section 66.1001(4)(b) of the Wisconsin State Statutes.
9. For plan amendments that will also require approval of a rezoning application, the County will coordinate the application process, public notice, public hearing, and PDEEC and County Board consideration of the amendment and rezoning to the extent possible, if such coordination is desired by the applicant.

Amendment Procedure for the Farmland Preservation Plan

The procedures for amending the farmland preservation plan or a proposed Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) application would comply with all of the requirements for certification under Section 91.18 of the Wisconsin State Statutes and would include the following:

A landowner(s) wishing to amend the farmland plan must first receive approval from the local town or village board. The town or village board may also initiate an amendment to the farmland plan. The local government submits a request to the County Planning and Development Department for support of the amendment or proposed AEA application, detailing the proposed text/map amendments or proposed AEA and documentation supporting the request and consistency with the goals, objectives, policies, and programs of this plan.

- In the case of a Farmland Preservation Areas change the amendment will advance in accordance with the amendment procedures for the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*¹ detailed above. Changes affecting the Farmland Preservation Areas shall be incorporated into the official farmland preservation plan/maps immediately following the approved comprehensive plan amendment and a notification will be sent to DATCP before the County will hold a public hearing held in conjunction with the Kenosha County PDEEC meeting on a proposed amendment to the farmland preservation plan. The County will include a copy of the proposed farmland amendment in the notice.
- In the case of an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) if the petition meets all the minimum criteria, in accordance with 91.86 of the Wisconsin State Statutes a resolution would be advanced to the Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation Committee to support the AEA application and a notification will be sent to DATCP on a proposed amendment to the farmland preservation plan. The County will include a copy of the proposed farmland amendment in the notice.
- The County and other local units of government affected will amend their comprehensive plan and zoning codes, as applicable and necessary.

SUMMARY

This chapter describes current and forecasted land use trends, the importance of sustainable agribusiness and services, conservation performance standards and compliance, and the implementation strategies for the farmland preservation plan for Kenosha County namely, the designation of Farmland Preservation Areas and the Agricultural Enterprise Areas and criteria for

¹*Guidelines for updating the Comprehensive Plan are detailed in Chapter XV-Part 8 of the Multijurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035.*

their determination. A summary of land use trends, plan description and implementation policies are highlighted below:

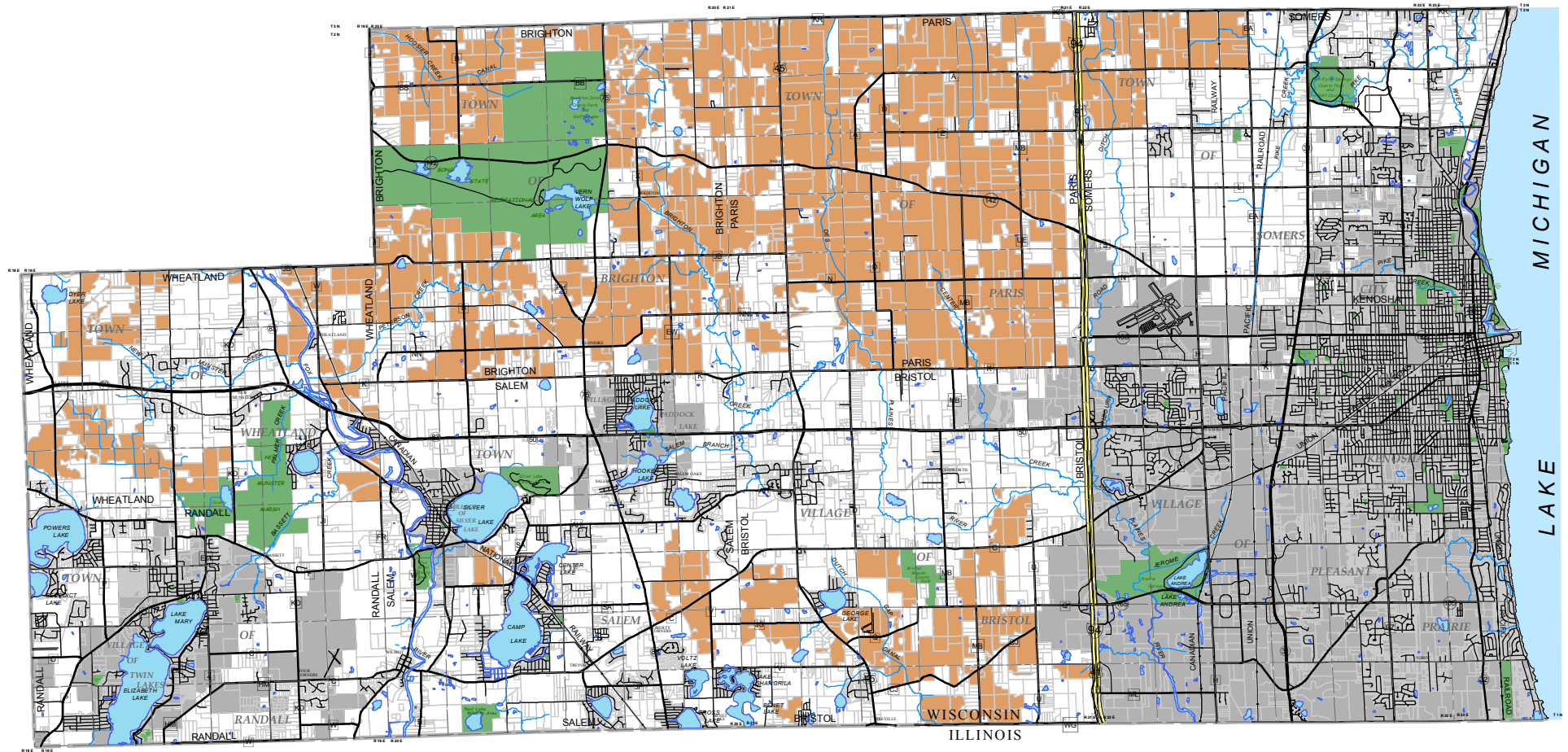
- Based on the 2007 land use approximately 49,000 acres, or approximately 28 percent, of the County were in urban uses and about 82,089 acres, or approximately 46 percent, were in agricultural use.
- Land use trends indicate a demand for additional land to accommodate urban land uses; especially for single-family residential and transportation infrastructure this will directly impact the supply of land for agricultural use.
- Chapter 91 of the Wisconsin State Statutes set forth conformance standards and procedures necessary for land owners to establish and maintain eligibility for farmland preservation tax credits. The WDNR rule, NR 151, sets performance standards and prohibitions to be met by individual farms and farm activities.
- Nutrient Management planning is a cornerstone best management practice to limit soil erosion and improve and protect water quality.
- The comprehensive plan map indicates where certain types of urban development should be encouraged while preserving agricultural and environmentally significant land and resources.
- Farmland Preservation Areas are those lands which meet the recommended prime agricultural land mapping criteria and such additional lands of local significance as were identified by the advisory committee.
- The recommended farmland preservation area encompasses a total area of 38,519 acres, or about 61 square miles of land in Kenosha County, as shown in Map 5-1. The Farmland Preservation Areas comprises approximately 63 percent of the County's existing Agricultural Preservation Zoning District.
- Land use planning to sustain agricultural lands section lists "Smart Growth Areas" and the Town, Village and County's goal to site new development within sewer service areas.
- Agricultural support services and businesses is a symbiotic relationship with the farming community. Farmers need the support businesses and the support businesses need the farmers. Without feed cooperatives, farm service centers, well maintained roads with reasonable weight limits, accessible rail, and truck terminals, farming becomes very difficult.
- This chapter recommends an investigative study of agricultural support services and businesses targeted at funding, technical support, and siting of new facilities.
- The Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan recommends the implementation of a suite of actions to help preserve farmland and promote agricultural development in Kenosha County.
- The agricultural land use section sets forth the land use plan maps and agricultural land use-related plan maps adopted or recently prepared by each village and town in the County.








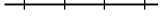




- The Farmland Preservation Areas correspond with the recommended land use plan Map 65 in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*, unless a town or village had a phased land use plan that supercedes the 2035 land use plan map
- Kenosha County, the Village of Bristol are proposing to amend their zoning ordinances for the purpose of determining which areas are to be located in the Farmland Preservation Areas
- Potential AEA areas were identified in Kenosha County where the preservation of farmland is a priority. Kenosha County AEA encompasses 27,648 acres in the Towns of Brighton and Paris, as show in Map 5-8.
- Agricultural Enterprise Areas will also represent high quality areas with an existing commitment to farmland protection for future Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program requests.
- The *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* will be amended to include reference of this up-dated Farmland Preservation Plan.
- The Farmland Preservation Plan is to be consistent with the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*. Any amendment to policy or maps will have to be consistent among both plans. The procedures for amending the comprehensive plan and farmland preservation plan are discussed

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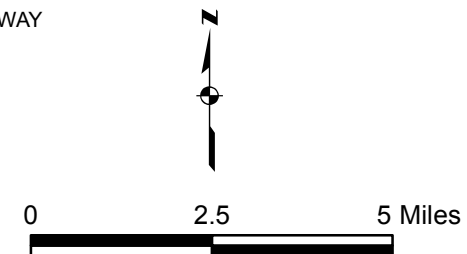
Map 5-1

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN MAP FOR KENOSHA COUNTY



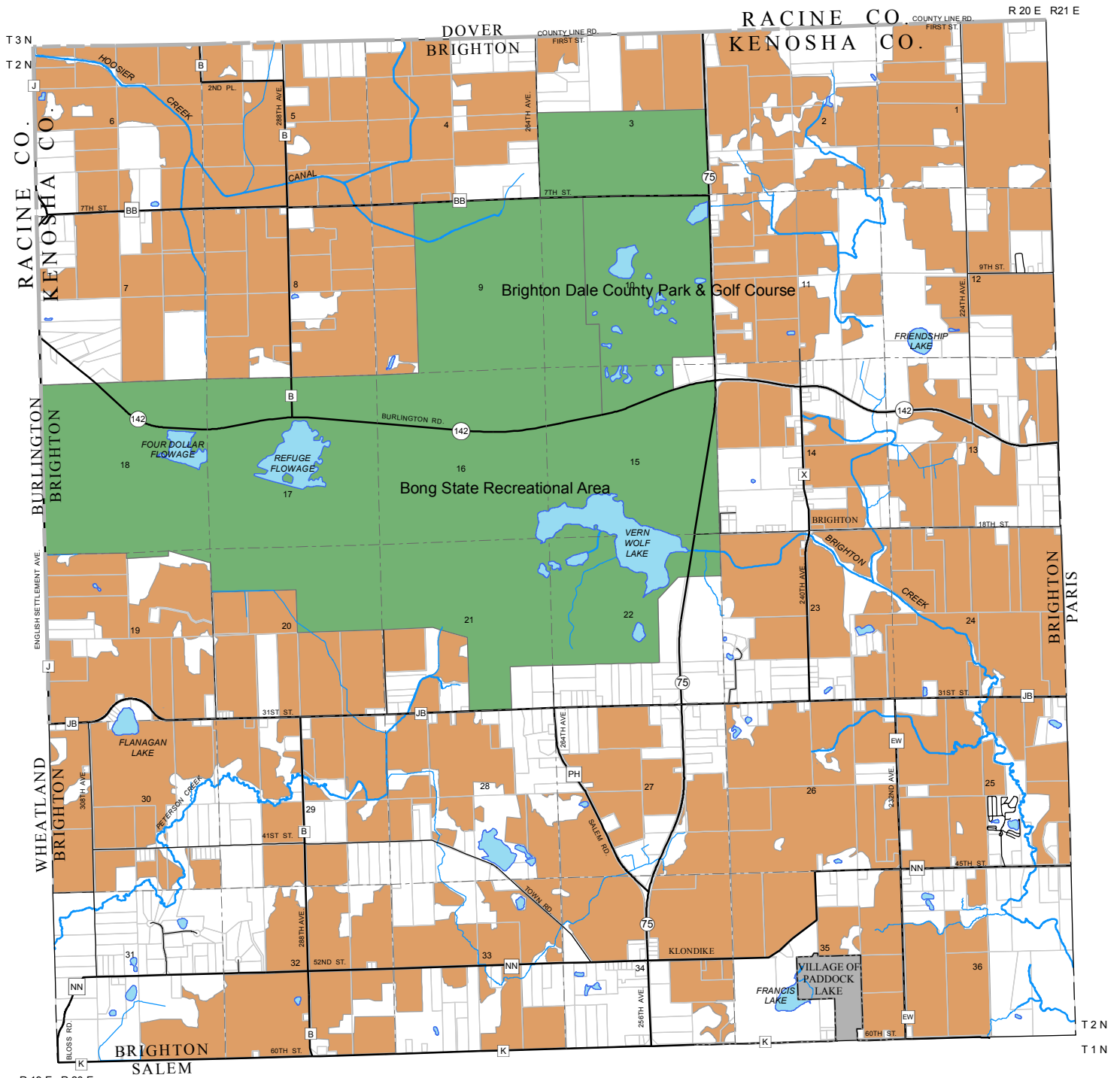
- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------|
|  | FARMLAND PRESERVATION AREAS |  | INTERSTATE HIGHWAY |
|  | EXCLUDED INCORPORATED AREAS (without farmland preservation zoning) |  | U.S., STATE AND COUNTY HIGHWAY |
|  | PARK AND RECREATIONAL LAND |  | LOCAL STREETS AND ROADS |
|  | SURFACE WATER |  | RAILWAY |
|  | AREA EXCLUDED FROM FARMLAND PRESERVATION |  | CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY |
|  | PARCEL LINES |  | SECTION LINES |

Map produced and municipal and parcel boundaries current as of July 1, 2013.
 Source: Kenosha County Planning & Development. All information subject to errors and omissions and is not certified by Kenosha County.
 The Farmland Preservation Plan map supersedes the County Comprehensive Plan and any inconsistencies between the two plans would be resolved in favor of the Farmland Preservation Plan, with respect to the delineation and location of farmland preservation areas and farmland protection recommendations.



Map 5-2

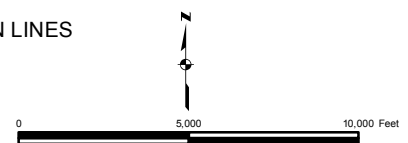
FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN MAP FOR THE TOWN OF BRIGHTON



- FARMLAND PRESERVATION AREAS
- EXCLUDED INCORPORATED AREAS (without farmland preservation zoning)
- PARK AND RECREATIONAL LAND
- SURFACE WATER
- AREA EXCLUDED FROM FARMLAND PRESERVATION
- PARCEL LINES

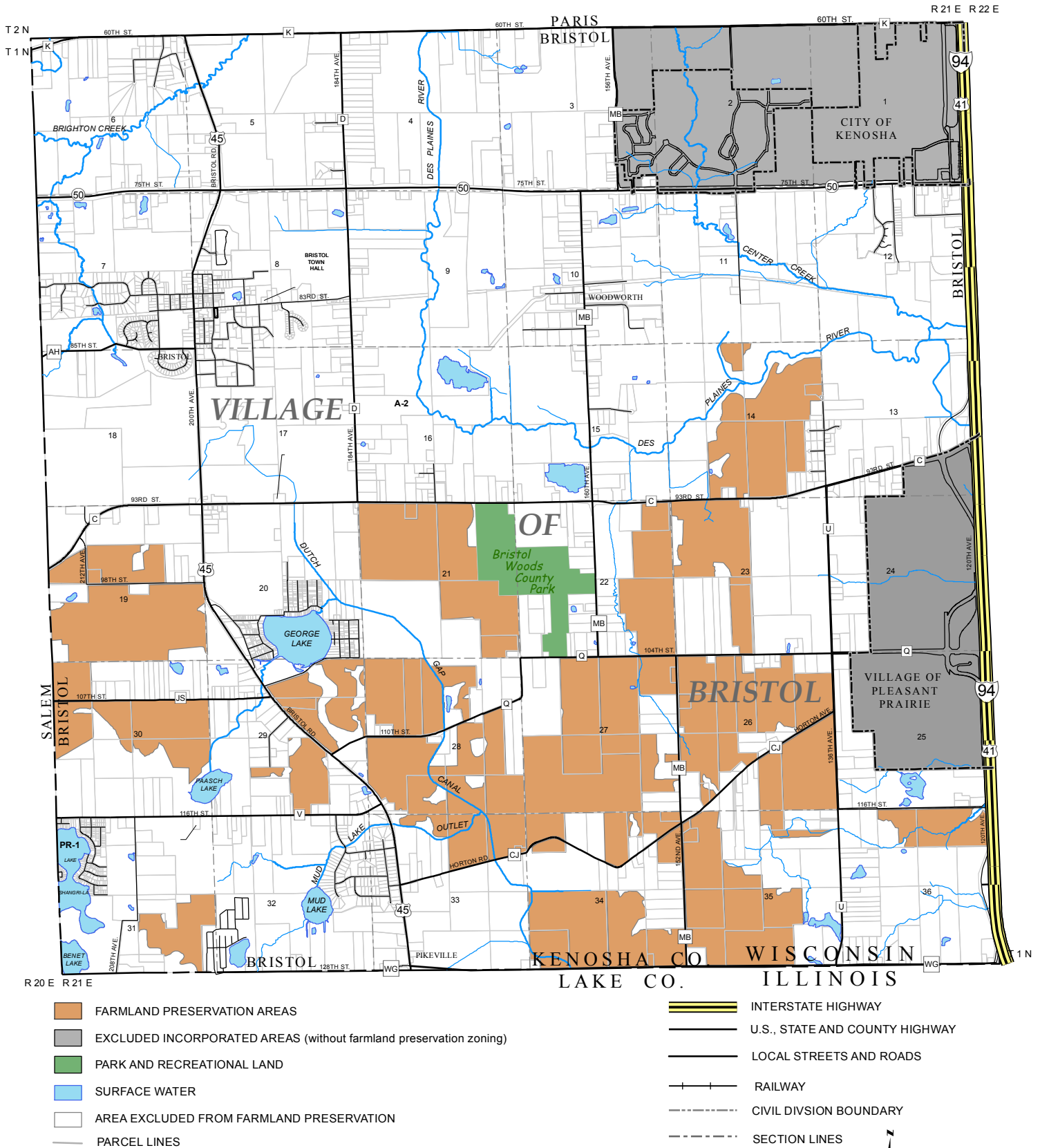
- INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- U.S., STATE AND COUNTY HIGHWAY
- LOCAL STREETS AND ROADS
- RAILWAY
- CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
- SECTION LINES

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Map 5-3

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN MAP FOR THE VILLAGE OF BRISTOL

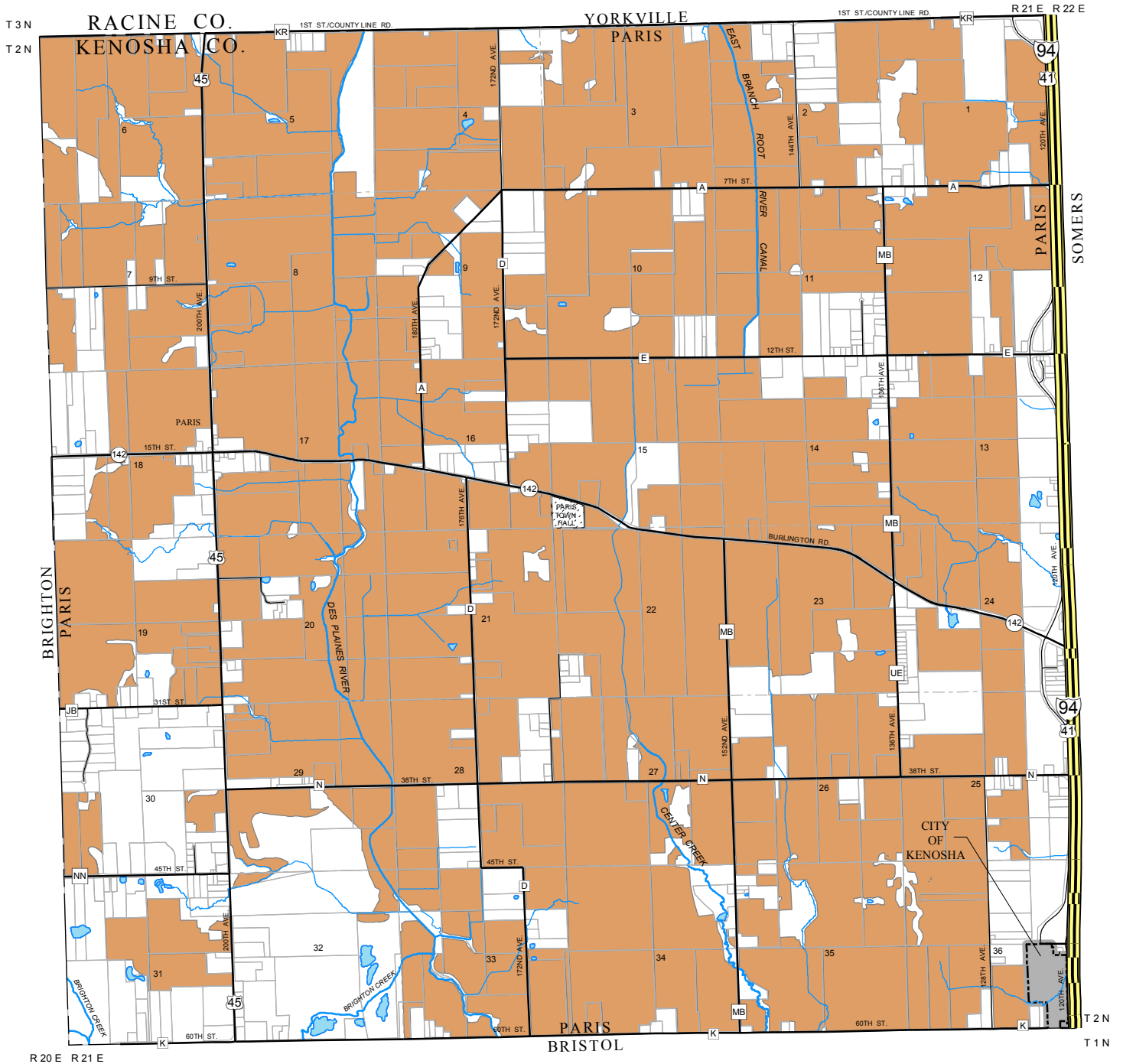


Map produced and municipal and parcel boundaries current as of July 1, 2013.
Source: Kenosha County Planning & Development. All information subject to errors and omissions and is not certified by Kenosha County.

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Map 5-4

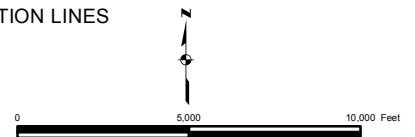
FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN MAP FOR THE TOWN OF PARIS



- FARMLAND PRESERVATION AREAS
- EXCLUDED INCORPORATED AREAS (without farmland preservation zoning)
- PARK AND RECREATIONAL LAND
- SURFACE WATER
- AREA EXCLUDED FROM FARMLAND PRESERVATION
- PARCEL LINES

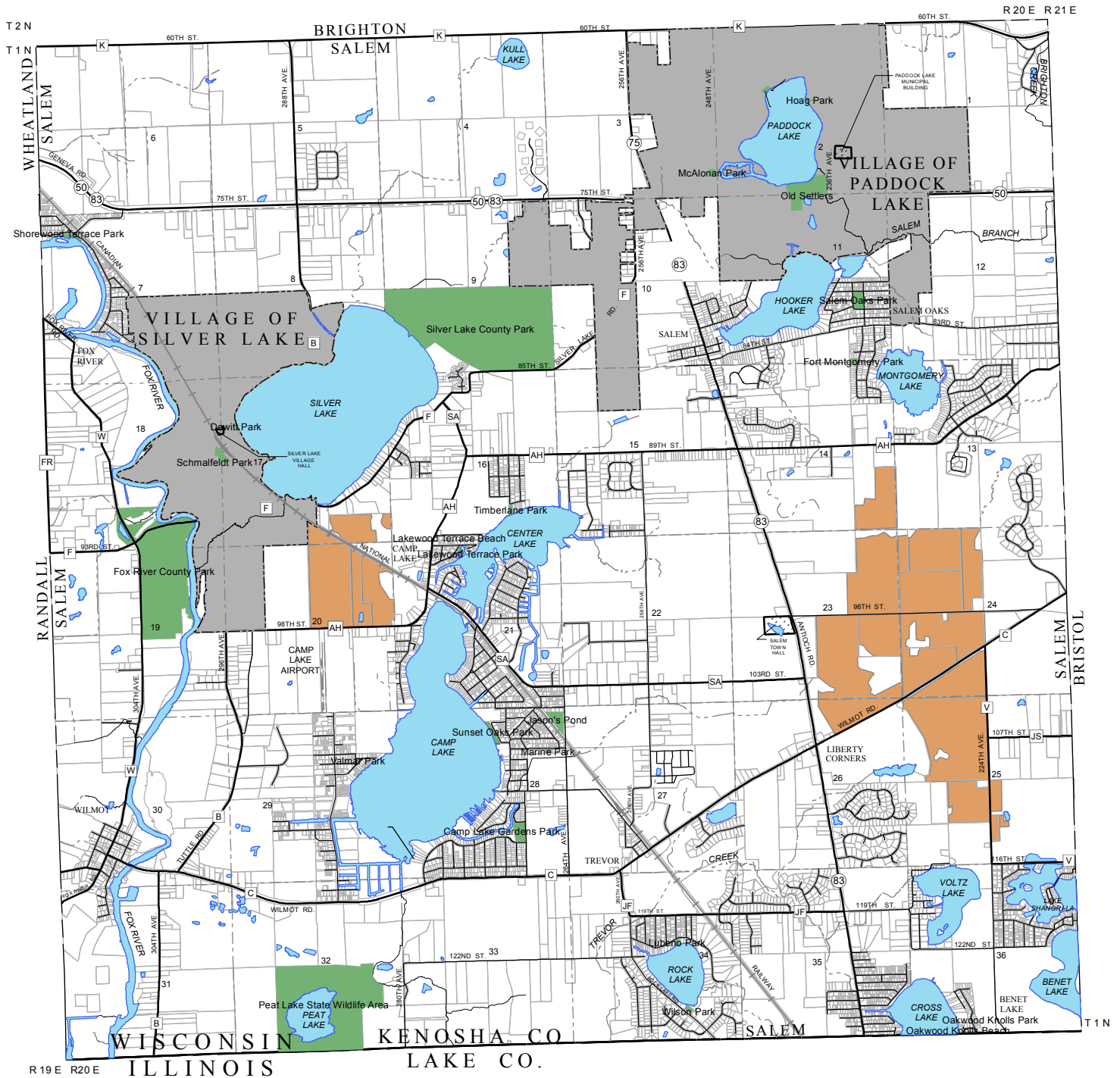
- INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- U.S., STATE AND COUNTY HIGHWAY
- LOCAL STREETS AND ROADS
- RAILWAY
- CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
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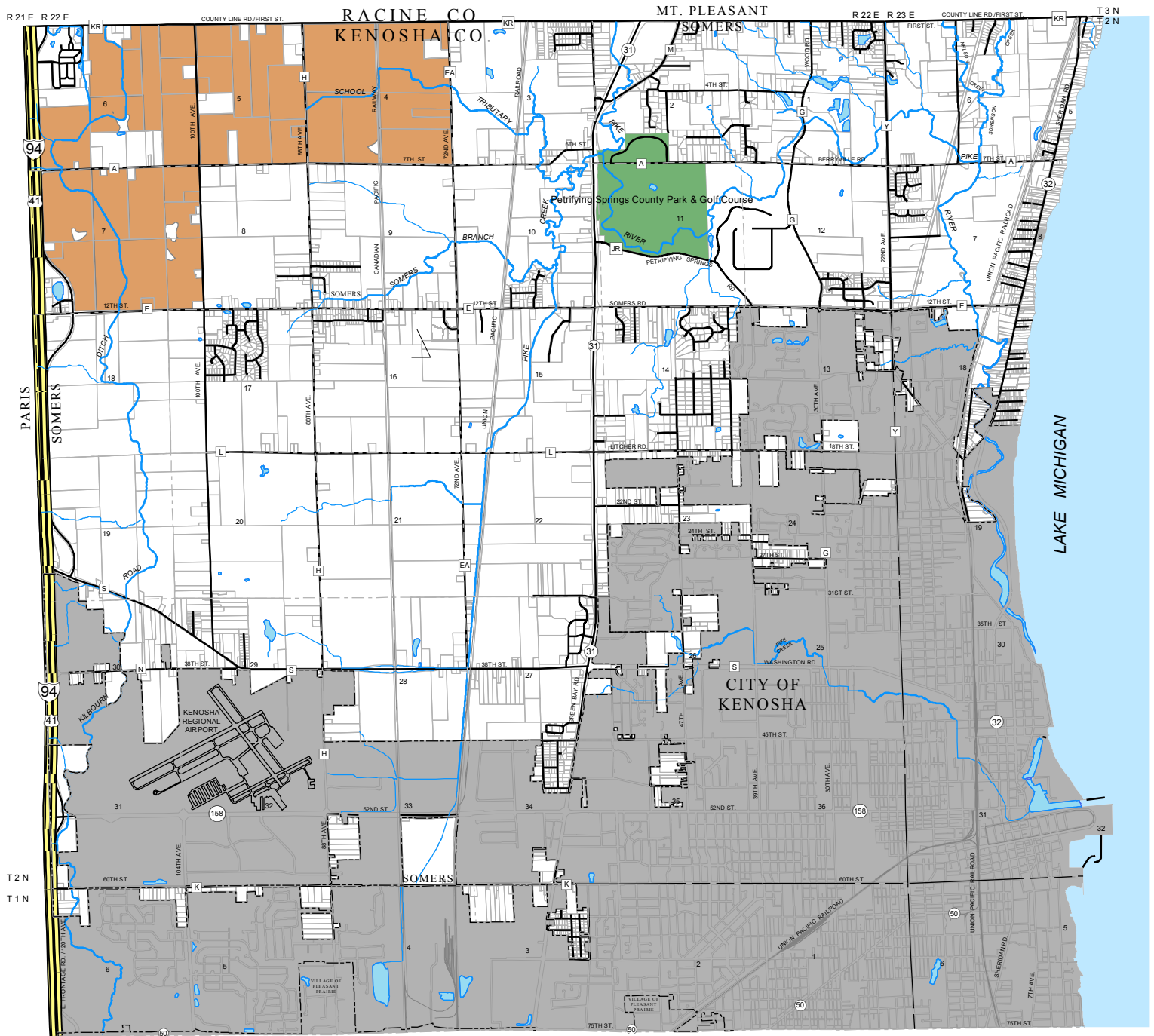
Map 5-5

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN MAP FOR THE TOWN OF SALEM



Map 5-6

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN MAP FOR THE TOWN OF SOMERS



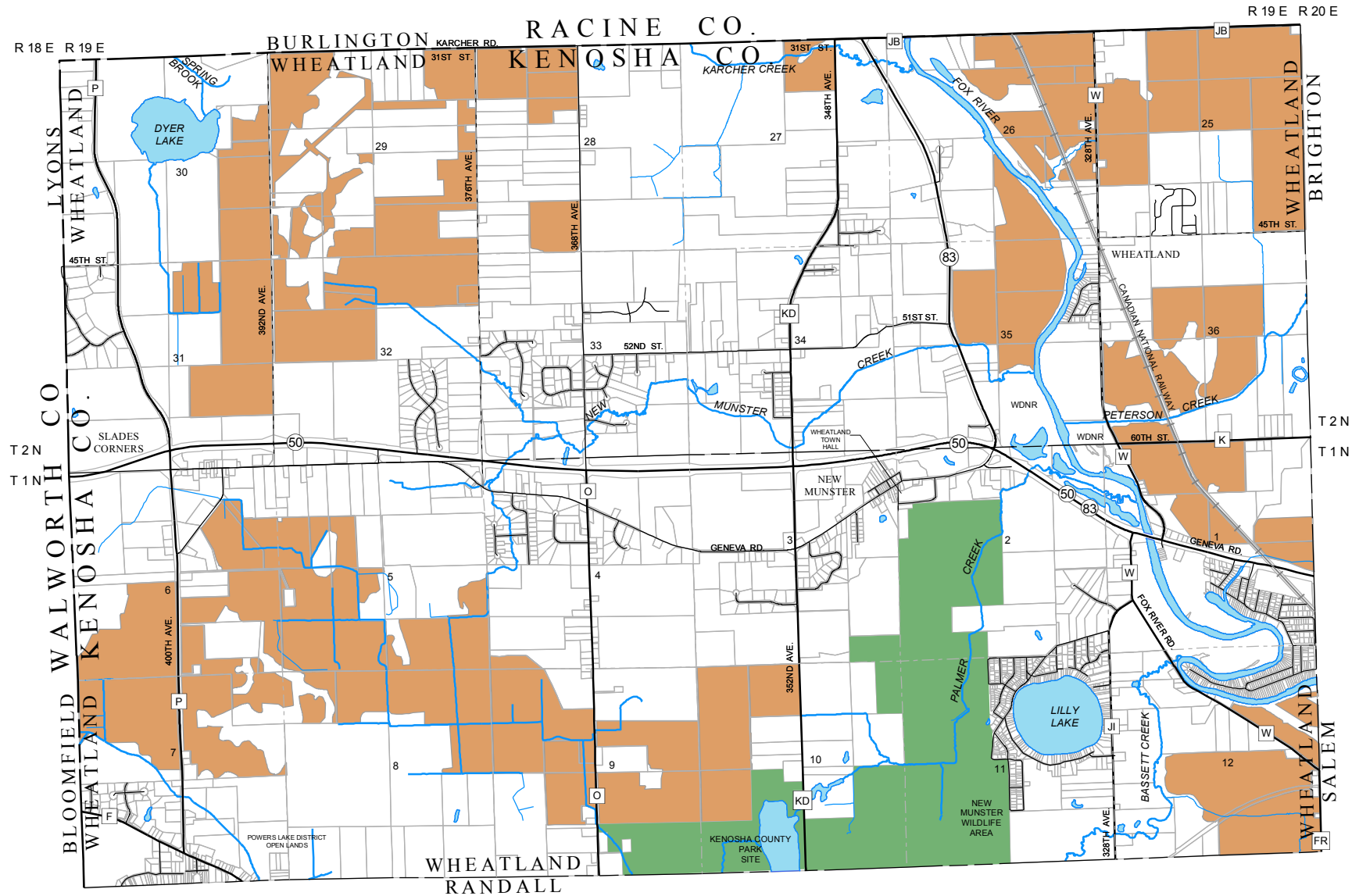
- FARMLAND PRESERVATION AREAS
- EXCLUDED INCORPORATED AREAS (without farmland preservation zoning)
- PARK AND RECREATIONAL LAND
- SURFACE WATER
- AREA EXCLUDED FROM FARMLAND PRESERVATION
- PARCEL LINES

- INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- U.S., STATE AND COUNTY HIGHWAY
- LOCAL STREETS AND ROADS
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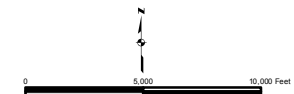
FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN MAP FOR THE TOWN OF WHEATLAND



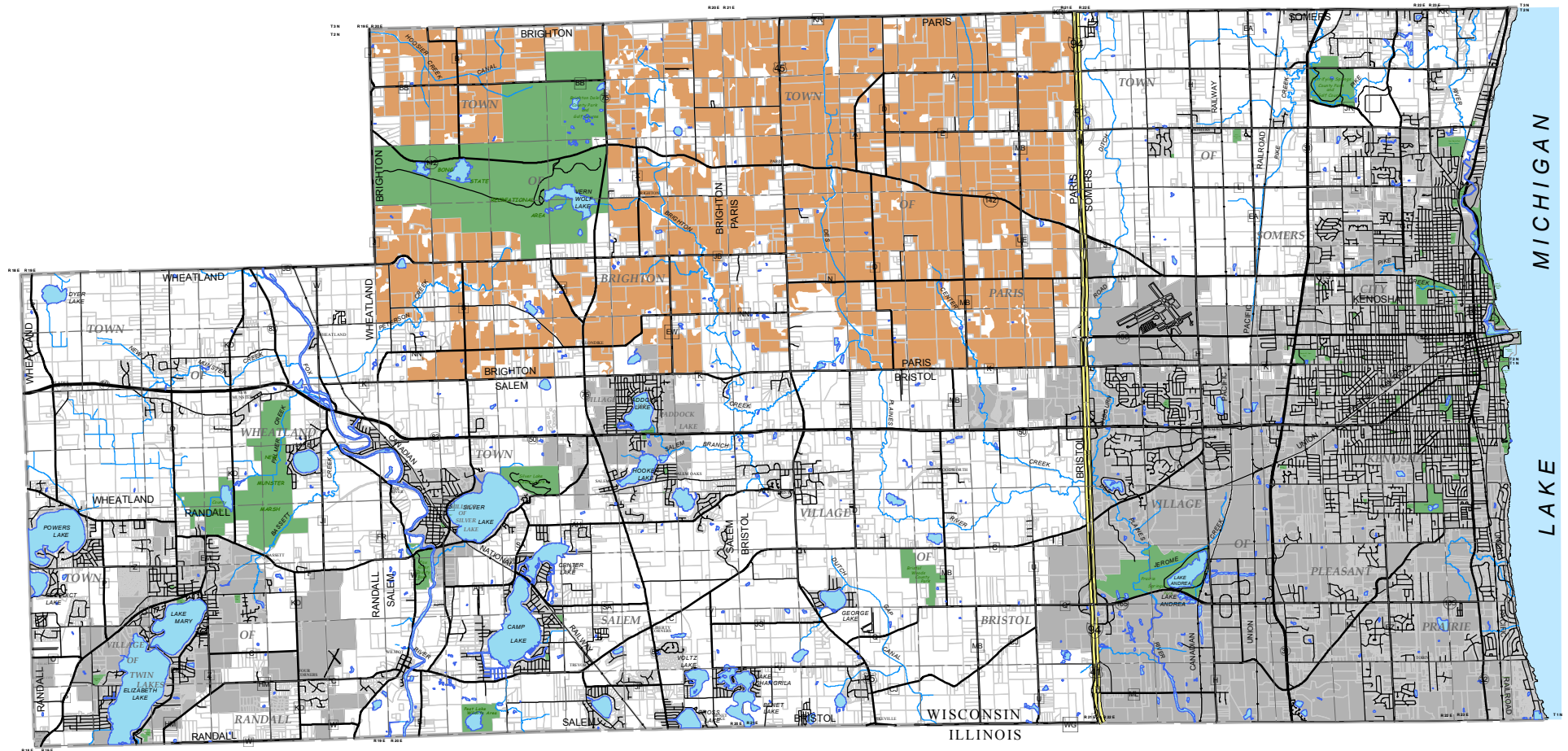
- FARMLAND PRESERVATION AREAS
- EXCLUDED INCORPORATED AREAS (without farmland preservation zoning)
- PARK AND RECREATIONAL LAND
- SURFACE WATER
- AREA EXCLUDED FROM FARMLAND PRESERVATION
- PARCEL LINES













- INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- U.S., STATE AND COUNTY HIGHWAY
- LOCAL STREETS AND ROADS
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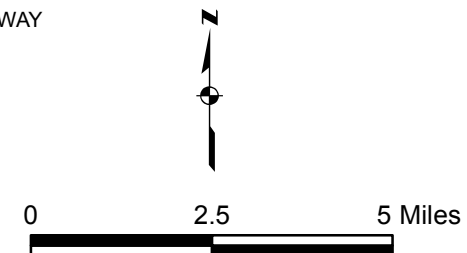


POTENTIAL AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE AREAS IN KENOSHA COUNTY



- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------|
|  | FARMLAND PRESERVATION AREAS |  | INTERSTATE HIGHWAY |
|  | EXCLUDED INCORPORATED AREAS (without farmland preservation zoning) |  | U.S., STATE AND COUNTY HIGHWAY |
|  | PARK AND RECREATIONAL LAND |  | LOCAL STREETS AND ROADS |
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Chapter 6

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

A Farmland Preservation Plan for Kenosha County herein presented is intended to serve as a guide to the preservation of agricultural lands in Kenosha County. In addition, this plan, together with the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*, includes recommendations for the protection of environmentally significant areas, and recommendations regarding the location and intensity of urban development within the County for the next 15 years and beyond. The Farmland Preservation Plan for Kenosha County also sets forth goals and objectives concerning the manner in which the farmland preservation, natural resource preservation, and land use development objectives can be implemented.

Planning to preserve farmland in Wisconsin received strong impetus when the Wisconsin State Legislature passed landmark legislation in 2009 Wisconsin Act 28 (2009-2011 Budget Bill) to create what is known as the "Working Lands Initiative". This new law made very significant revisions to Chapter 91 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, the defining document for Wisconsin's farmland preservation law since 1977. The Working Lands Initiative continues a long history of relying on local governments to lead program implementation efforts, and attempts to improve on the success of these efforts by:

- Expanding and modernizing the state's existing farmland preservation program
- Creating new tools to assist in local program implementation, including:
 - ✓ Establishing the Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEAs) program
 - ✓ Creating a Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) matching grant program

One of the first steps in modernizing the existing program is a requirement for every county in the state to update their farmland preservation plan, which is the purpose of this document. Under the new law, the County farmland preservation plans must be updated by December 31, 2011. This update to our existing *Farmland Preservation Plan for Kenosha County*, adopted in 1981, will continue to lend strong support to the preservation of productive and potentially productive agricultural land and environmentally significant natural areas, while providing for well planned urban growth that is compatible with the County's agricultural and natural resources.

The farmland preservation planning effort was coordinated through a Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee made up of farmers, local board/planning supervisors, town and village planners, local and county elected officials, Land & Water Conservation Committee members, and County Planning & Development staff, with assistance from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

The farmland preservation plan as presented provides a long-range guide that effectively addresses agricultural and natural resource protection for the next 15 years, based on the vision set forth in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*, which serves as the basis for decision-making on land use-related matters in Kenosha County.

Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Kenosha County has a long history of land-use planning activities and actions directed towards the preservation of the County's rich and productive agricultural lands. Kenosha County continues to recognize the need to preserve farms and prime agricultural lands. The *Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* recommends that much of the

prime agricultural land be preserved and that future urban growth be encouraged to occur in proximity to existing urban areas, rather than being scattered throughout the rural countryside.

The Working Lands Initiative offers new tax incentives and program options to preserve farmland and protect the environment by expanding and modernizing the state's existing farmland preservation program and creating new tools to assist in local program implementation. The Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan up-date satisfies the requirements of Section 91.01(1) and (2) Wisconsin State Statutes which specifies the content to be included in the plan and the plan's consistency with the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*.

In 1997, the Wisconsin State Legislature amended Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin State Statutes related to Soil and Water Conservation and Animal Waste Management, requiring every county to prepare a land and water resource management plan. The *Kenosha County Land and Water Resource Management Plan: 2008-2012* was adopted in 2007. The plan serves to guide to help preserve and protect Kenosha County's land and water resources.

In 1999, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted a new law, often referred to as the "Smart Growth" law, which provided a new framework for the development, adoption, and implementation of comprehensive plans by counties, cities, villages, and towns. The *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*, was adopted in 2010 and serves as the basis for decision-making on land use-related matters by Kenosha County, Town and Village officials.

The plan preparation process and public participation section in Chapter 1 describes the farmland preservation plan adoption process and public participation procedures. Plan preparation and adoption was conducted in accordance with the comprehensive planning process in section 66.1001(4) of the Wisconsin State Statutes. The Kenosha County Board of Supervisors also recognizes the importance of regular, meaningful public involvement in the plan process and plan amendments to assure that the resulting plan is based on public input.

Southeastern Wisconsin, Kenosha County, and Kenosha County's communities have a rich history of planning. Numerous plans have been developed at the regional level including a regional land use plan, transportation system plan, natural areas plan, water quality management plan, telecommunications plan, and the regional water supply plan. Plans developed at the county level include a farmland preservation plan, Multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan, flood mitigation plan, County Park and open space plan, urban planning district plan, land and water resources management plan, Des Plaines River and Pike River watershed plans, jurisdictional highway system plan, hazard mitigation plan, and a freeway corridor plan. These existing plans among others provided the foundation for developing this farmland preservation plan for Kenosha County.

The agricultural resource issues and opportunities section of Chapter 1 serves to document the agricultural resource management concerns and issues facing Kenosha County. These issues were originally identified and documented in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*. These issues and concerns were prioritized by the Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee and specific recommendations were created as framework for the development of overall goals and objectives to guide the future of agricultural land use in Kenosha County. These goals include;

- Preserve soils suitable for agricultural production in Kenosha County.
- Preserve a sufficient amount of agricultural land to ensure farming remains viable and sustainable in Kenosha County.

- Identified Farmland Preservation Areas in Kenosha County. Farmland Preservation Areas are not proposed to be developed within the next 15 years, planned land use is agricultural, nonfarmed wetlands, primary/secondary environmental corridor or isolated natural areas, consistent with *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*.
- Protect farms and farming in Kenosha County.

The loss of agriculture and farmland due to development pressures and changes in the economy are considered by residents as major threats to Kenosha County. Agriculture is seen as an important contributor to the local economy and, given the changes in farming practices and the demand for new and innovative agricultural products such as bio-fuels, there is potential growth for businesses and industries based on agriculture. The overall goals and objectives described above relate to the preservation of agriculture and agricultural lands in the County and are tied to related recommendations of the land use element presented in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*. This Farmland Preservation plan provides a long-range guide that effectively addresses agricultural and natural resource protection based on the vision for the future of the land use in Kenosha County.

BACKGROUND AND INVENTORY INFORMATION

Chapters 2 through 4 of this plan provide background and inventory information about Kenosha County and its local governments required by Chapter 91 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. A brief summary of each chapter is provided in the following sections.

Chapter 2: OVERVIEW OF KENOSHA COUNTY

Chapter 2 identifies, describes, and documents development trends, plans, or needs that may affect farmland preservation and agricultural development in Kenosha County. How to meet the land development needs of Kenosha County while preserving the best remaining elements of the natural resource base and the most productive farmland. The size, composition and spatial distribution of the population, infrastructure, and services have a profound influence on the quantity and quality of the natural resource base, including agricultural resources of Kenosha County. Chapter 2 summarizes the important elements below:

- Population
- Municipal Expansion
- Economic Growth And Business
- Housing
- Utilities And Community Facilities
- Community Facilities And Services
- Communications
- Energy
- Water Supply
- Waste Management
- Transportation

The most sustainable land use patterns are served by efficient public facilities and services that meet the social, economic, physical, ecological, and quality-of-life needs of Kenosha County. This vision includes relatively compact urban service areas providing basic urban services and facilities; a safe efficient transportation system; a strong agricultural resource base closely connected to resource-rich open spaces; a clean, sustainable water resource, and abundant public and private recreational opportunities all while retaining the County's cultural heritage and rural character, founded in agriculture.

Chapter 3: INVENTORY OF AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

This chapter provides inventory information on existing agricultural and natural resources in Kenosha County. Information regarding soil types, existing farmland, farming operations, nonmetallic mining resources, topography and geology, water resources, forest resources, natural areas and critical species habitat sites, and environmental corridor is included in this chapter.

Agricultural Resources

There are nine soil associations in Kenosha County: the Boyer-Granby association, Casco-Rodman association, Fox-Casco association, Hebron-Montgomery-Aztalan association, Houghton-Palms association, Miami association, Morley-Beecher-Ashkum association, Warsaw-Plano association, and the Varna-Elliott-Ashkum association.

The 2010 Transect Cropland Erosion Survey program, which is a method to determine the average rate of cropland erosion throughout the County, showed that 71 percent of all cropland within the County was eroding at or below tolerable (T) soil loss rates.

Kenosha County farms produce an array of agricultural products including many varieties of crops and livestock. Kenosha County has 61,491 acres of Agricultural Preservation District land and 18,993 acres of General Agricultural District lands in 2011, where such zoning districts exist. Grain crops were the predominant source of agricultural revenue in the County in 2007, accounting for about 36 percent of agricultural revenue. County farms combined to sell about \$60 million worth of agricultural products in 2007. There were 460 farms in Kenosha County in 2007. The average farm size in the County was 183 acres, while the median farm size was 45 acres.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has classified the agricultural capability of soils based on their general suitability for most kinds of farming. These groupings are based on the limitations of the soils, the risk of damage when used, and the way in which the soils respond to treatment. Generally, lands with Class I and II soils are considered "National Prime Farmlands" and lands with Class III soils are considered "Farmlands of Statewide Significance." The soils in Classes IV through VIII have progressively greater natural limitations. Nearly 72 percent of the agricultural lands in Kenosha County were classified as Class I or II soils.

Adequate and quality infrastructure is essential for sustainable agriculture in Kenosha County. It is difficult to quantify the various support services available to Kenosha County farmers, but agribusiness can survive and even flourish in an urbanizing area. Kenosha County residents are also rediscovering the benefits of buying local food. That food purchased directly from local family farmers is fresher, tastier and more nutritious. There has been a popular movement to support farmer's markets, roadside stands, on-farm sales, pick-your-own and community supported agriculture.

Natural Resources

Surface elevations in the County range from a low of 580 feet above sea level along the Lake Michigan shoreline to a high of 950 feet in the southwestern portion of the County, near the Wisconsin-Illinois state line.

In 2011, there were four nonmetallic mining sites in the County. No sites in Kenosha County have been registered as sites having marketable nonmetallic mineral deposits.

About 78 percent of the County is located west of the subcontinental divide and drains to the Mississippi River. The remaining 22 percent of the County is east of the divide and drains to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River. The subcontinental divide not only exerts a major physical

influence on the overall drainage pattern of the County, but also carries with it legal constraints affecting new diversions of Lake Michigan water across the divide.

There are approximately 13 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline in Kenosha County. The shoreline contains areas of clay bluffs with heights of up to 35 feet in the northern reaches of the County and only four or five feet in the southern reaches. There are 20 major inland lakes located in the County. The total surface area of major and minor lakes is 3,861 acres, or more than 2 percent of the County. There were approximately 110 miles of perennial streams and approximately 18,195 acres of nonfarmed wetlands in the County in 2005.

Environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas include the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, plant and wildlife habitat areas, and other natural resources and have truly immeasurable environmental and recreational value. Environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas are identified by Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and classified depending on their size. Primary environmental corridors are at least 400 acres in area, two miles in length, and 200 feet in width. Secondary environmental corridors are between 100 and 400 acres in size and at least one mile in length except where secondary corridors serve to link primary environmental corridors. Isolated natural resource areas are between five and 100 acres in size and at least 200 feet in width.

Primary environmental corridors in Kenosha County are located along major stream valleys, around major lakes, and in large wetland areas. In 2000, about 28,000 acres, comprising about 16 percent of the County, were encompassed within primary environmental corridors. Secondary environmental corridors are located chiefly along the smaller perennial streams and intermittent streams. About 6,400 acres, comprising about 4 percent of the County, were within secondary environmental corridors in 2000. Isolated natural resource areas include a geographically well-distributed variety of isolated wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife habitat. These areas encompassed about 3,870 acres, or about 2 percent of the County, in 2000.

Chapter 4: AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMS AND CONSERVATION APPROACHES

Chapter 4 describes conservation funding programs used to preserve agricultural and natural resources that are available to county and local governments, including federal, state, county, and local programs. Included are sources of grant funds for the acquisition, preservation, and development of park and open space sites and information regarding current practices, programs, and methods used to preserve agricultural and natural resources.

Programs that focus on agricultural and natural resources include the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program, Working Lands - Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easements Program, Soil and Water Resource Management Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and the Wetland Reserve Program. Federal and State programs are also available to help County and local governments and nonprofit conservation organizations to acquire park and open space lands, and to help to provide recreational facilities, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Chapter 5: FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION

Chapter 5 describes current and forecasted land use trends, the importance of sustainable agribusiness and services, conservation performance standards and compliance, and the farmland preservation implementation strategies for Kenosha County namely, the designation of Farmland Preservation Areas and the Agricultural Enterprise Areas and criteria for their determination. A summary of land use trends, plan description and implementation policies are highlighted below:

- Land use trends indicate a demand for additional land to accommodate urban land uses, especially for single-family residential and transportation infrastructure this will directly impact the supply of land for agricultural use.
- Chapter 91 of the Wisconsin State Statutes set forth conformance standards and procedures necessary for land owners to establish and maintain eligibility for farmland preservation tax credits. The WDNR rule, NR 151, sets performance standards and prohibitions to be met by individual farms and farm activities. Nutrient Management planning is a required performance standard and a cornerstone best management practice to limit soil erosion and improve and protect water quality.
- Agricultural support services and businesses share a symbiotic relationship with the farming community. Farmers need the support businesses and the support businesses need the farmers. Without feed cooperatives, farm service centers, well maintained roads with reasonable weight limits, accessible rail, and truck terminals, farming becomes very difficult.
- Chapter 5 recommends the implementation of a suite of actions to help preserve farmland and promote agricultural development in Kenosha County. In addition, the section on land use planning to sustain agricultural lands lists “Smart Growth Areas” and the Town, Village and County’s goal to site new development within sewer service areas.
- Farmland Preservation Areas are those lands which meet the recommended prime agricultural land mapping criteria and such additional lands of local significance as were identified by the Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee. The recommended Farmland Preservation Areas encompass a total area of 38,519 acres, or about 61 square miles of land in Kenosha County. The Farmland Preservation Areas comprise 63 percent of the County’s existing farmland preservation zoning district.
- Potential AEA areas were identified in Kenosha County where the preservation of farmland is a priority. Kenosha County AEA encompasses 27,648 acres in the Towns of Brighton and Paris. Agricultural Enterprise Areas represent high quality agricultural areas with an existing long-term commitment to farmland protection.
- The Farmland Preservation Plan is to be consistent with the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*. Any amendment to policy or plan maps will have to be consistent among both plans. The procedures for amending the comprehensive plan and farmland preservation plan are described in Chapter 5.

FARMLAND PLAN CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The certification of the Kenosha County farmland preservation plan is required by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Farmland Preservation Program under Chapter 91, Wisconsin State Statutes. The plan must contain specific elements, as a prerequisite of certification, in order to participate in Wisconsin’s Farmland Preservation Program. Kenosha County must have a certified farmland preservation plan for farmers to qualify for tax credits under Chapter 71, Wisconsin State Statutes. The requirements for farmland plan certification in accordance with section 91.16 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, including plan text and maps referenced by page number, were presented in the cover document.

CONCLUSION

This plan has set forth the findings and recommendations of the Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee, consistent with *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*. Specifically, this plan presents pertinent data on the agricultural and natural resource base of Kenosha County; presents a set of goals, objectives, policies, and programs related to the preservation of agricultural lands, the location of urban growth in relation to such lands, the provision of public facilities and services to support sound rural and urban development, and the preservation of significant natural resources other than agricultural lands; identifies both the amount and spatial distribution of agricultural lands and lands of environmental significance that should be preserved in agricultural and natural open space uses, respectively; consistent with the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* identifies areas of land use within which existing agricultural lands may be converted to urban use and to which urban services will have to be extended. Finally, the plan sets forth recommendations for the designation of Farmland Preservation Areas by Kenosha County and the Village of Bristol.

Adoption and implementation of the farmland preservation plan will enable farmers participating in the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program to receive the maximum tax credit for which they are eligible. Farmland owners participating in the program will be eligible for the maximum tax credit only if the County has also adopted a farmland preservation plan and that plan is certified by DATCP. To maintain eligibility, farms must comply with the conformance standards and procedures set forth in the most recently amended version of Chapter 91 of the Wisconsin State Statutes.

In addition, a number of important public purposes will be served through implementation of the farmland preservation plan. Implementation of the plan would serve to maintain the agricultural reserves required for the production of food and fiber to meet the basic needs of Kenosha County society. Other public purposes include the protection of environmentally significant areas, the preservation of the local economic base, the prevention of urban sprawl, the control of municipal service costs, and the preservation of the rural lifestyle. Accordingly, the importance of the adoption and implementation of the farmland preservation plan to Kenosha County cannot be over emphasized.

Kenosha County and local government officials and staff should routinely consult the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan when carrying out administrative functions and when making land use decisions. The recommendations set forth in this plan should be used to guide the protection of agricultural land and agricultural related services and direct future urban developmental design to minimize the loss of valuable agricultural lands while providing for the efficient and economical provision of public facilities to areas of urban growth and development.

* * * * *

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Appendix A

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This public participation plan for the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan is intended to serve three purposes. First, the plan provided opportunities for public input throughout the planning process. Second, in accordance with section 91.10(3), Wisconsin State Statutes, the adoption of the farmland preservation plan followed the plan preparation process and public participation procedures in accordance with Section 66.1001(4), Wisconsin State Statutes. Third, it adheres to the intent of the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors who have recognized the importance of regular, meaningful public involvement in the planning process and plan amendments to assure that the resulting plan is based on public input.

KENOSHA COUNTY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN SUMMARY

The Kenosha County Farmland Preservation planning effort was carried out under the guidance of the Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation Committee (LWCC). The Kenosha County Board approved the submittal of an application to receive funds from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to update the County's Farmland Preservation Plan. The County received \$30,000 from the DATCP to evaluate, analyze, and update the Farmland Preservation Program in Kenosha County. Preliminary planning and discussion for the revision to the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan began in the fall of 2009. Kenosha County Planning & Development staff attended several informational meetings on the new Farmland Preservation Program and Working Lands Initiative. These meetings were organized by DATCP, SEWRPC, the Farm Bureau, or County Land Conservation Departments. In 2010, preliminary maps were developed based on the adopted land use maps in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*. Staff also reviewed the goals and objectives established in the *Land & Water Resource Management Plan for Kenosha County: 2008-2012* and priorities recognized by the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035* for the protection of farmland and other potential natural resources and environmental concerns.

In 2011 a Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee (FPAC) was formed to continue the planning process. The FPAC which was created by the County specifically for plan development purposes and was comprised of one representative appointed by each of the participating local governments, agency personnel, farmers and citizens knowledgeable in land and water resource matters and chaired by a member of the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors. The members of the FPAC and their affiliation are listed in Table A-1. The FPAC provided a formal role for participating local governments, citizens and farmers to work with County, Village and local officials to shape the Farmland Preservation Plan for Kenosha County.

It must be noted that the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan was developed through the collective effort of a number of agencies and organizations under the overall direction of the Kenosha County Land and Water Conservation Committee (LWCC). Like the original plan an important aspect of the development of the revised plan relied on the participation from both citizens of the County, as well as representatives from various intergovernmental agencies. The agencies that were involved include the Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), the University of Wisconsin-Extension Service, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA).

The FPAC convened several public meetings to discuss the provisions of the Working Lands Initiative and to begin development of the Farmland Preservation Plan up-date. The Committee reviewed existing goals and objectives, inventories, and policies and then evaluated the Farmland Preservation Program in the County. The public meetings served as the basis for public input for the preparation and approval of the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan. Areas of general concern noted by the committee included the low number of participants and acres in the existing Farmland Preservation Program, the areas of the County experiencing urban-type growth in agricultural areas, and the numbers of acres removed from the program through past annexation, rezoning, and land divisions. The FPAC made every effort to incorporate each agricultural resource issue and concern identified by the public into the plan. The public participation plan conducted by Kenosha County enhanced public awareness and provided opportunities for citizens to identify key community issues. Public participation activities included:

- Kenosha County Planning and Development Department maintained a Farmland Preservation Plan website <http://www.kenoshacounty.org/index.aspx?NID=2542> with updates regarding Farmland Preservation Plan progress, upcoming public participation sessions, Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee agendas and minutes, PowerPoint presentations from public meetings, public notices, newsletters and informational links. Public access to the Internet is available at public libraries throughout the County for residents without other Internet access.
- *Ties to the Land* and *Compass Point* newsletters both provided plan and program information, fact sheets were made available at the main lobby conservation booth and at the service counter. Walk-in and over-the-phone plan and program information was always readily available from Land & Water Conservation staff.
- All meetings on the Farmland Preservation Plan were open to the public. For all meetings, attendance sign-in sheets were made part of the record. On occasion Farmland Preservation Plan meetings were attended by local citizens. A complete set of meeting agendas and minutes are on file at the office of the Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development and are also available on the website. FPAC members provided regular updates on plan progress and status to the communities they represented.
- Digital copies of the draft Farmland Preservation Plan were provided to all local governments in the County and paper copies were available for review at the Kenosha County Planning and Development Department, and the complete draft plan was available on the farmland preservation plan website.
- Kenosha County Planning & Development staff gave Farmland Preservation Plan informational presentations at several local town planning commission meetings.
- Consistent with the requirements established in Section 66.1001 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*, The public hearings will be noticed as a Class 1 notice at least 30 days prior to the hearing. The public informational meeting will be held in conjunction with the Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee (PDEEC) at the Kenosha County Center. The public hearing will consist of a presentation summarizing the planning process and the recommended Farmland Preservation Plan. Citizens will have the opportunity to provide formal comments. An official public record including all comments received will be created for the public hearing and included in the final draft of the Farmland Preservation Plan.

- Following review and approval of the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan by the Land & Water Conservation Committee, their recommendations were sent to the Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee (PDEEC), upon their approval the plan was forwarded to the Kenosha County Board for adoption. Upon adoption by the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors the plan, was be sent to the State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection for final review and certification
- A copy of the adopted plan will be provided to the parties listed in Section 66.1001(4)(b) of the Wisconsin State Statutes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND PLAN ADOPTION

The Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan agreement and work plan was approved by the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors and signed on December 15, 2009. The Land & Water Conservation Committee approved the formation of the Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee (FPAC) and public participation on December 10, 2010. The FPAC convened four public meetings and approved by the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan on June 28, 2011. The Farmland Preservation Plan was approved by the Land & Water Conservation Committee on July 18, 2011 and the unanimously recommended for adoption by the Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee on November 13, 2013, and final adoption by the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors on November 19, 2013. The Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan was certified by DATCP on September 20, 2013.

The plan was adopted by the participating local governments on the following dates:

Village of Bristol: July 26, 2011

Village of Pleasant Prairie: September 12, 2011

Town of Salem: August 8, 2011

Table A-1

**KENOSHA COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND SUPPORTING STAFF**

Name	Title or Affiliation
Committee Member Ronald Johnson, Chairman	Kenosha County Supervisor, 12th District; Chairman, Kenosha County LWCC
Dave Daniels	Dairy Farmer, Town of Brighton, Member Kenosha County LWCC
Brandi Richter	District Conservationist, U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service
Kimberly Iczkowski	Executive Director, U.S.D.A. Farm Services Agency
Mark Edquist	Row Crop Farmer, Town of Paris
Vigil Gentz	Chairman, Town of Paris
Dave DeVito	Chairman, Town of Brighton
Jerry Helmert	Supervisor, Town of Brighton / Farmer
Randy Kerkman	Administrator, Village of Bristol
Andrew Lois	Supervisor, Town of Wheatland / Farmer
Tim Popanda	Paddock Lake Zoning Administrator / Wheatland Building Inspector
Jean Werbie-Harris	Director, Pleasant Prairie Zoning & Community Development
Bill Morris	Administrator, Town of Somers
George Stoner	Supervisor, Town of Somers
Susan Crane	Dairy Farmer, Town of Brighton
John Holloway	Chairman, Town of Paris Planning Commission / Farmer
Fred Loomis	Supervisor, Town of Somers
Brad Zautcke	Director, Planning & Land Use, Town of Salem
Robert Stoll	Chairman, Town of Randall
Rose Skora	Agriculture Educator, University of Wisconsin Extension Service
Supporting Staff Members Dan Treloar	County Conservationist, Kenosha County Planning Division
Andy Buehler	Director, Kenosha County Planning Division
Scott Schutze	GIS Coordinator, Kenosha County Land Information Division

Source: Kenosha County Planning & Development

Appendix B

AGRICULTURAL ZONING DISTRICT AMENDMENT

A-1 AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION DISTRICT

(a) Primary Purpose and Characteristics.

The Kenosha County Board of Supervisors recognizes that the rapid conversion of farm land to urban use has lead to increasing public concern over such conversion. This concern centers on the perceived loss of the local agriculture economic base, loss of agricultural land as a valuable natural resource with the attendant loss of the aesthetic and environmental values associated with that resource, and the loss of the rural lifestyle and the unique cultural heritage which emanates from that lifestyle, and the attendant high costs of providing urban services as well as resolving potential urban-rural conflicts which arise as a result of urban encroachment into rural areas. Therefore, the A-1 Agricultural Preservation District is intended to maintain, enhance, and preserve agricultural lands historically utilized for crop production and the raising of livestock. The preservation of such agricultural lands is intended to conserve energy, prevent urban sprawl, maintain open space, retain natural systems and natural processes, control public cost, preserve the local economic base, promote local self-sufficiency, preserve the rural lifestyle, and maintain regional, state and national agricultural reserves. The District is further intended to prevent the premature conversion of agricultural land to scattered residential, commercial and industrial uses.

Furthermore, this district contains areas designated for farmland preservation. For the purpose of determining the location of farmland preservation areas, refer to the map entitled Farmland Preservation Plan Map for Kenosha County, as may be amended from time to time, in the *Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan* adopted by the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors on November 19, 2013, and certified by the State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) on September 20, 2013. Areas designated for farmland preservation are consistent with areas designated for "Farmland Protection" on the planned land use maps in the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*. In accordance with s. 91.10 (d) of the Wisconsin State Statutes areas designated for farmland preservation are preserved for agricultural use and agriculture-related uses. Areas designated for farmland preservation are intended to meet and comply with the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation program and are designated under s. 91.38 (1) (c) (g) and an ordinance described in s. 91.32 (2) of the Wisconsin State Statutes, so as to allow the owners of such lands an opportunity to continue to claim the farmland preservation tax credit permitted pursuant to section 71.613 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. An owner claiming farmland preservation tax credits under s. 71.613 shall comply with applicable land and water conservation standards promulgated under ss. 92.05 (3) (c) and (k), 92.14 (8), and 281.16 (3) (b) and (c) of the Wisconsin State Statutes.

It is recognized that it is neither possible nor practicable to list all of the principal and accessory uses that are compatible with those listed below and therefore, it is intended that the following list of principal and accessory uses only be illustrative. The principal and accessory uses in the Certified Farmland Preservation Areas are to remain unchanged. Any individual aggrieved by a failure to list a particular principal or accessory use in this subsection shall have the right to file a petition with the Kenosha County Office of Planning and Zoning Administration pursuant to section 12.35 of this ordinance for a determination as to the similarity of the intended use with the principal and accessory uses listed below.

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Appendix C

COUNTY AND STATE RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS

resented to County Board

Date NOV 19 2013

ction by County Board

☒ Adopted as presented NOV 19 2013

☐ Adopted as amended

☐ Referred to

☐ Defeated

☐ Withdrawn

ounty Board Chairman

Jeffrey Hardy

Action by County Executive

☒ Approved 11 - 16 - 13

☐ Vetoed

☐ Vetoed in part

☐ Effective without signature

By

James K. ...

County Executive

Veto action by County Board

☐ Overridden

Vote

to

☐ Sustained

Vote

to

resented to County Executive

NOV 19 2013

By

Chris ...

County Clerk

Kenosha



County

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RESOLUTION NO. 69

Subject: REQUEST THAT THE KENOSHA COUNTY BOARD ADOPT THE KENOSHA COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN (2ND EDITION)			
Original <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Corrected <input type="checkbox"/>	2nd Correction <input type="checkbox"/>	Resubmitted <input type="checkbox"/>
Date Submitted: November 19, 2013		Date Resubmitted:	
Submitted By: Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee			
Fiscal Note Attached <input type="checkbox"/>		Legal Note Attached <input type="checkbox"/>	
Prepared By Andy M. Buehler, Director Division of Planning Operations		Signature: 	

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative was included as part of the 2009-2011 State Budget which repealed and recreated Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Program under Chapter 91 of the Wisconsin State Statutes and signed into law as 2009 Wisconsin Act 28, The Act has three main components: First, it updates the state's current Farmland Preservation Program; secondly, it gives the ability for farmers and local units of government to establish voluntary Agricultural Enterprise Areas; finally it provides a state program to help with the purchase of agricultural conservation easements; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 91.10 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, Kenosha County, is authorized to prepare and adopt a farmland preservation plan as defined in section 91.10(1) of the Wisconsin State Statutes; and

WHEREAS, an agreement exists between Kenosha County and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) for the County to submit a farmland preservation plan to DATCP for certification under section 91.16 of the Wisconsin State Statutes; and

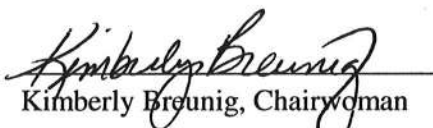
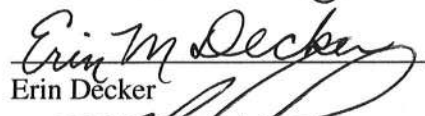
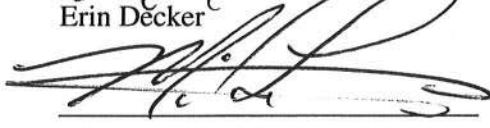
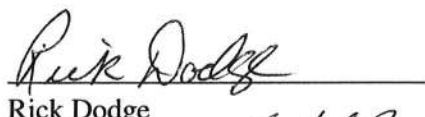
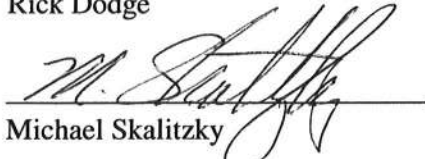
WHEREAS, adoption of a certified farmland preservation plan makes farmers and landowners eligible to participate in the state tax credit program, agricultural enterprise areas and the purchase of agricultural conservation easement program; and

WHEREAS, the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan has been prepared by the Kenosha County Department of Planning & Development with input from, and with the oversight of, the Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee and through public open houses and meetings; and

- WHEREAS, the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan contains data, maps, goals, objectives policies, actions required by, and in accordance with section 91.10(1) of the Wisconsin State Statutes; and
- WHEREAS, the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan has been reviewed for consistency with the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035*; and
- WHEREAS, the Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation Committee approved the adoption of the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan (2nd Edition); and
- WHEREAS, the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan (2nd Edition) text and maps are hereby certified by Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection under s. 91.16, of the Wisconsin State Statutes on September 20, 2013, contingent upon Kenosha County Board of Supervisors adoption of the plan; and
- WHEREAS, the Planning, Development & Extension, Education Committee held a public meeting on November 13, 2013 and recommends the adoption of the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan (2nd Edition).
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Sections 91.16 of the Wisconsin State Statutes that the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan (2nd Edition).

Approved by:

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT
& EXTENSION EDUCATION
COMMITTEE

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Excused</u>
 Kimberly Breunig, Chairwoman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Erin Decker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Michael Underhill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Rick Dodge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Michael Skalitzy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RECEIVED
DEC 6 2013
Kenosha County
Planning and Development

COPY OF NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Planning, Development & Extension
Education Committee Hearing
Wednesday, November 13, 2013
at 7:00 p.m.

Kenosha County Center,
Public Hearing Room
19600 - 75th Street
Bristol, WI 53104

Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 starting at 7:00 p.m., the Kenosha County Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee will conduct a public hearing on the update to the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan (2nd Edition) (FPP). This is the second edition Farmland Preservation Plan for Kenosha County and is intended as an update to the initial FPP, adopted by the County Board in 1981. This ten-year plan is to be used as a guide for the Kenosha County and the Village of Bristol in carrying out their duties related to farmland protection in the County. Adoption of the plan is intended to meet and comply with Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program designated under s. 91.38 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, so as to allow the farmers the opportunity to continue to claim the farmland preservation tax credit permitted pursuant to section 71.613 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. The public hearing will be held at the Kenosha County Center, Public Hearing Room 19600 - 75th Street, Bristol, WI 53104.

The Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan (2nd Edition) may be viewed online at <http://www.kenoshacounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/2542>. The plan may also be reviewed in the Department of Planning and Development at the Kenosha County Center. For additional information regarding this hearing, please contact Dan Treiber at 262-457-1900. All interested parties will be heard.
Publication Date: October 11, 2013 - in the Kenosha News.

WNA:LP

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF KENOSHA
ss.

Stephanie Junk being duly sworn, on oath says, that he/she is one of the printers of THE KENOSHA NEWS, a daily newspaper printed and published in the City of Kenosha, County and State aforesaid, and that a notice, of which the annexed printed slip is a true copy, has been published in the said KENOSHA NEWS for the term of

1 weeks, once each week successively, commencing the 11th day of October, A.D. 2013, and ending October 11th, A.D. 2013.

Stephanie Junk

Subscribed and Sworn To before me this 4th Day of December, A.D. 2013.



Theresa L. Hesse

Notary Public

My commission expires 04/19/15



State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Ben Brancel, Secretary

September 26, 2013

Dan Treloar, Kenosha County Conservationist
Kenosha County Planning and Development
19600 – 75th Street, PO Box 520
Bristol, WI 53104-0520

Dear Dan:

Re: Certification of the Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan

Attached is a department order certifying Kenosha County's Farmland Preservation Plan under s. 91.16, Wis. Stats.

The certification is contingent upon the county adopting the Farmland Preservation Plan text and maps (dated July 2013) in the form certified. Please send a letter confirming the County Board adoption of the plan. The certification will be effective on the date the county adopts the Farmland Preservation Plan, not the date of the Certification Order (s. 91.16(7), Wis. Stats.).

We look forward to working with you in the future on farmland preservation in Kenosha County. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Keith Foye, Chief
Land Management Section
608-224-4603

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**STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**KENOSHA COUNTY FARMLAND
PRESERVATION PLAN**

**DATCP DOCKET NO. 13-F-19-30-PC
DARM DOCKET NO. 059-00000-P-13-F-0813
ORDER CERTIFYING PLAN THROUGH
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

INTRODUCTION

Kenosha County has asked the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection ("DATCP") to certify a proposed comprehensively revised county farmland preservation plan pursuant to s. 91.16, Wis. Stats. DATCP has considered the request and adopts the following decision:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- (1) DATCP is an agency of the State of Wisconsin, and is responsible for administering Wisconsin's farmland preservation law under ch. 91, Wis. Stats., as repealed and recreated by 2009 Wis. Act 28.
- (2) Kenosha County is a county of the State of Wisconsin.
- (3) In order for a county and its residents to participate in the farmland preservation program, a county must have a state-certified farmland preservation plan. Among other things, the certified plan must clearly designate farmland preservation areas that the county plans to preserve for agricultural use.
- (4) Kenosha County has a state-certified farmland preservation plan that expires on December 31, 2013.
- (5) Under s. 91.16(8), Wis. Stats., the certification of a farmland preservation plan does not cover any subsequent plan revision (adopted after July 1, 2009) unless DATCP certifies that plan revision.
- (6) On October 4, 2011, DATCP received from Kenosha County a request to certify a comprehensively revised county farmland preservation plan under s. 91.16, Wis. Stats. The county submitted the application in the form required under s. 91.20, Wis. Stats. The application included the certifications required under s. 91.20(3), Wis. Stats.
- (7) On November 21, 2011, DATCP received a request from Kenosha County to extend the certification of the Kenosha County FPP plan through December 31, 2013. Kenosha County received a two year extension of its certification for the county's plan, DARM Docket No. 11-39-30-000-P.
- (8) Under s. 91.16(3)(a), Wis. Stats., DATCP may certify a county plan based on the county's certification under s. 91.20(3), Wis. Stats., that the plan meets applicable certification standards under s. 91.18, Wis. Stats.
- (9) DATCP may certify a farmland preservation plan if the plan meets applicable statutory standards under s. 91.18, Wis. Stats. DATCP may certify based on the representations contained in the county's application, but may conduct its own review and verification as it deems appropriate.
- (10) Under s. 91.10(2), Wis. Stats., the farmland preservation plan must be consistent with the Kenosha County Comprehensive Plan, and the County must include the farmland preservation plan in the County Comprehensive Plan.

(11) Under s. 91.16(2)(a), Wis. Stats., DATCP may certify a county farmland preservation plan for a specified period of up to 10 years. Under s. 91.16(6), Wis. Stats., DATCP may make its certification contingent upon the county adoption of the certified plan text and maps, in the form certified.

(12) Under s. 91.16(9), Wis. Stats., DATCP may withdraw its certification at any time if DATCP finds that the certified plan materially fails to meet applicable certification standards under s. 91.18, Wis. Stats.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

(1) Based on Kenosha County's certification that the attached county farmland preservation plan meets applicable certification requirements under s. 91.18, Wis. Stats., DATCP may certify that plan for up to 10 years.

(2) DATCP may make its certification contingent upon the county adoption of the certified plan text and maps, in the form certified, and contingent upon its adoption as part of the County comprehensive plan.

(3) Certification does not apply to plan amendments made after the certification date, unless DATCP certifies those amendments.

(4) DATCP may withdraw its certification at any time if DATCP finds that the certified plan text and maps materially fail to meet applicable certification standards under s. 91.18, Wis. Stats.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) The attached Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan text and maps (July 2013) are hereby certified under s. 91.16, Wis. Stats., contingent upon county adoption of the plan, included as part of the County comprehensive plan, in the form submitted, before December 31, 2013.

(2) The certified farmland preservation plan area for Kenosha County is titled "Farmland Preservation."

(3) This order takes effect on the date on which the county adoption of the plan text and maps, in the form submitted, takes effect.

(4) This certification expires at the end of the day on December 31, 2023.

Dated this 20th day of Sept, 2013.

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

By Ben Brancel
Ben Brancel, Secretary

Parties for Purposes of Review Under s. 227.53, Wis. Stats.:

Dan Treloar, Kenosha County Conservationist
Kenosha County Planning and Development
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