

Review of Relevant Plans



Village of Menomonee Falls 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update





REVIEW OF RELEVANT PLANS

photo courtesy of Nancy Greifenhagen

Prior to engaging the public and developing the 2015 *Comprehensive Plan Update*, Village staff conducted a review of relevant plans and studies previously adopted by the Village of Menomonee Falls, and other agencies. The findings and recommendations of these plans provide a context for past decision making, a platform for planning the future, and directives that were considered in the drafting the 2015 *Comprehensive Plan Update*. Some of the following plans directly influenced the update while other were utilized as information resources.

VILLAGE PLANS

Village of Menomonee Falls Comprehensive Plan, 2008

The *Comprehensive Plan* was developed as a to guide future development and redevelopment within the Village of Menomonee Falls within a period from 2008 to 2028. The *Comprehensive Plan* evaluated and revised the land use and transportation system plans adopted by the Village in 1990 and fulfilled all requirements of Wisconsin's comprehensive planning statutes. The planning effort included significant public outreach efforts and detailed analysis of the local housing market and economy.

The plan had 19 overarching objectives and included specific plan recommendations for six study areas. Plan recommendations were drafted with consideration for continued population growth and an aging population. Village staff relied significantly on the 2008 *Comprehensive Plan* in developing the content of the 2015 *Comprehensive Plan Update*. The objectives of the 2008 plan are reflected in the goals of the 2015 plan and all relevant study area recommendations remain intact in the revised document.

Village Centre Master Plan, 2010

This plan was drafted as an update to the 1990 *Village Centre Master Plan* and was meant to provide recommendations for the Village Centre through the year 2025. The purpose of the plan was to provide a guide to short-term and long-term improvements to the historic core of the Village. The plan evaluated Village Centre market conditions and provided recommendations for traffic circulation, parking, redevelopment, and improvements for the riverfront and streetscape.

Many of the 2010 *Village Centre Master Plan* recommendations were incorporated as part of the 2015 *Comprehensive Plan Update*. 2015 recommendations that reflect *Village Centre Master Plan* priorities include:

- Integrating residential uses into, or in close proximity to, major activity centers.
- Linking trails and paths throughout the Village.
- Identifying and promoting the places that make Menomonee Falls a great place to live, work, play, and do business.
- Reviewing directional signage and considering possible improvements in order to connect residents and visitors to local areas of interest.
- Promoting walkable destinations (i.e. coffee shops, restaurants, local retail, parks) and mixed-use projects in redevelopment corridors.
- Striving for vibrant public spaces with features and events that encourage people to gather, play, and interact.

The 2015 *Comprehensive Plan Update* also includes the following specific economic development recommendation pertaining to the *Village Centre Master Plan*:

- To develop the *Village Centre* area in conformance with recommendations in the adopted *Village Centre Master Plan*.

2011-2015 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation (COR) Plan

The 2011-2015 *COR Plan* updated the 2006-2010 *COR Plan* recommendations for future park and trail locations, improvements to existing Village parks, and an action plan for capital improvements, corridor preservation, universal access/barrier free design, playground safety surfaces, park security, park maintenance, and funding strategies.

The major recommendations of the plan include:

- Consistent design of features in Village parks and along Village trails.
- Improved connectivity for Village parks and trails through improved wayfinding signage and new trail connections
- Development of “tot lots” and other small neighborhood and mini-parks
- Restoration of environmental corridors to perform more natural functions
- Designation of Village owned property along streams as official parkways
- Snow and ice removal along multi-use trails
- Expanded recreational activities and improved shelters in at Village parks
- Land acquisition for future parks in the northwest and southwest areas of the Village

The *COR* plan recommendations were considered in the development of the 2015 *Comprehensive Plan Update* and park and open space information compiled for the *COR* plan was incorporated in the Community Overview Chapter (Chapter 4).

REGIONAL & STATE PLANS

A Comprehensive Development Plan for Waukesha County, 2009

In accordance with Wisconsin's comprehensive planning statutes, Waukesha County prepared this development plan as an update to the *A Development Plan for Waukesha County* which was adopted in 1997. The plan was drafted with the aim of establishing clear community goals, objectives, and policies regarding future use, physical development, and conservation of land.

The *Comprehensive Development Plan for Waukesha County* supports many planning goals that were also identified in Menomonee Falls' 2015 *Comprehensive Plan Update*. The Development Plan calls for higher residential densities within neighborhood planning units served by public sewer and water systems and is within walking and biking distances to local services, parks and school facilities. The Development plan also supports a strong economic base, compatible land uses, provision of a healthful physical and social environment, and protection of the natural resource base of Waukesha County.

The plan was an important resource for Village staff on issues related to groundwater and other natural resources. A portion of the groundwater analysis from the *Comprehensive Development Plan for Waukesha County* was incorporated verbatim into the Community Overview Chapter (page 128) of the 2015 *Comprehensive Plan Update* document.

A Regional Transportation System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035, 2006

The Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) updated the regional transportation system plan in 2006 to meet surface transportation needs for the seven-county Southeastern Wisconsin Region. A *Regional Transportation System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035* was adopted to serve as a guide to transportation system development through the year 2035.

The plan included eight recommended improvements to the arterial street and highway system within or immediately affecting Menomonee Falls. As of 2015, four of the eight recommended improvements had been completed.

A Regional Land Use Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035, 2006

This report documents the fifth-generation regional land use plan for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region. The plan has a design year of 2035 and reflects changes in the Region which have occurred since preparation of the design year 2020 plan.

The salient features of the plan include a regional increase in urban land uses of 13 percent between 2000 and 2035, and an increase in commercial and industrial uses of 28 percent. The plan proposes a new major economic activity center consisting of retail uses at CTH Q and STH 175. The plan also proposes the provision of public sewer and water to all but a portion of the northwest quarter of the Village by 2035.

The land use plan envisions increasing intensively used outdoor recreational land in the region from 50 square miles in 2000 to 57 square miles in 2035, an increase of 13 percent. The plan supports carefully planned efforts to restore farmland and open space to more natural conditions re-establishing wetlands, woodlands, prairies, grasslands, and forest interiors that could expand the environmental corridor network of the region by about 3 percent.

A Regional Housing Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035, 2013

This plan was completed by SEWRPC to add a housing element to the regional comprehensive plan and refine recommendations that were set forth in the adopted regional land use plan. The regional housing plan compiled detailed regional housing data, identified housing needs, and presented a plan to meet current and probable future housing needs.

The plan includes an analysis of housing cost and availability for seven counties and 39 sub-areas. The housing analysis utilized current and planned residential density to estimate housing costs across the region. The plan identified a potential current and future deficiency of moderately priced homes in the Menomonee Falls housing analysis area (which also includes the Villages of Butler and Lannon). The potential deficiency and SEWRPC analysis are discussed in the Community Overview Chapter (Chapter 4) and in Appendix D.

Vision 2050 Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan, 2016

SEWRPC is in the process of updating its regional transportation system recommendation through its *Vision 2050* plan process. The plan will provide a guide for developing the transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and streets and highways needed to serve the region. As part of the planning process, SEWRPC is developing alternative transportation planning scenarios for the region. SEWRPC plans to gather public feedback on which scenario best serves the Regional Vision developed in the early stages of the plan process. A final plan document is expected to be prepared before the end of 2015. While specific project recommendations of the plan are not available, the guiding statements of the Regional Vision are listed below.

- Strengthen existing urban areas.
- Achieve more compact development.
- Balance jobs and housing.
- Achieve a robust regional transit network.
- Maintain small town character.
- Develop an expansive, well-connected bicycle and pedestrian network.
- Preserve natural resources and open spaces.
- Preserve farmland.
- Ensure that goods move efficiently.
- Develop an integrated multi-modal transportation system.
- Provide a high-quality network of streets and highways.
- Be environmentally responsible.
- Make wise infrastructure investments.
- Work together toward common goals.
- Prepare for change in travel preferences and technologies.

Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan

WisDOT completed its pedestrian plan in 2001 with assistance from a citizen's advisory committee. The plan outlines state and local measures to support non-motorized transportation and to promote safety. It provides implementation recommendations to assist local governments in planning and designing for safe pedestrian networks. A core goal of plan is to encourage pedestrian activity across Wisconsin.

The plan promotes the concept of "universal design". The basis for this concept is that good pedestrian design

serves all users, and not just a “typical” user. A universal design not only accommodates the elderly, children, and people who are disabled, it also reduces user fatigue and minimizes the potential for pedestrian judgment error. A number of WisDOT’s *Pedestrian Policy Plan* objectives directly impact the Village. These include WisDOT partnership with local governments to:

- Increase pedestrian accommodations on State Trunk Highways.
- Design new, and retrofit old, facilities to accommodate and encourage pedestrian use.
- Improve the enforcement of laws to prevent dangerous and illegal behavior by motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists.
- Encourage more pedestrian trips by promoting the acceptance and usefulness of walking, and by promoting pedestrian safety.

Wisconsin Bicycle Policy Plan

WisDOT completed its bicycle plan in 1998 with assistance from an advisory committee made up of a diverse group of stakeholders. The plan outlines state and local measures to integrate bicycling as a legitimate mode of transportation. It provides implementation recommendations to assist local governments in planning and designing for safe bicycle networks. A core goal of the plan is to encourage bicycling across Wisconsin.

Objectives of the *Bicycle Policy Plan* are structured around the “Four E’s” of transportation safety: Engineering, Education, Enforcement and Encouragement. The plan aims to accommodate safe bicycle use through expanded bike infrastructure and traffic enforcement, and to encourage ridership through education and awareness campaigns.

A number of WisDOT’s *Bicycle Policy Plan* implementation goals directly impact the Village, including:

- Planning and designing State Trunk Highways like State Highway 175 (Appleton Avenue) and State Highway 74 (Main Street) with a strong consideration of bicycle accommodation.
- Developing a bicycle accommodation checklist to assist WisDOT and local officials in comprehensively examining projects for level and type of bicycle accommodation. The *Wisconsin Bicycle Facility Design Handbook* was completed in 2004 and updated in 2006 and 2009.
- Encouraging and supporting local governments in developing, revising and updating long-range bicycle plans and maps.