



# REGIONAL TRENDS

## 2008 Summary

September 2009

Full Report Available at [www.CapitalAreaRPC.org](http://www.CapitalAreaRPC.org)

### Population

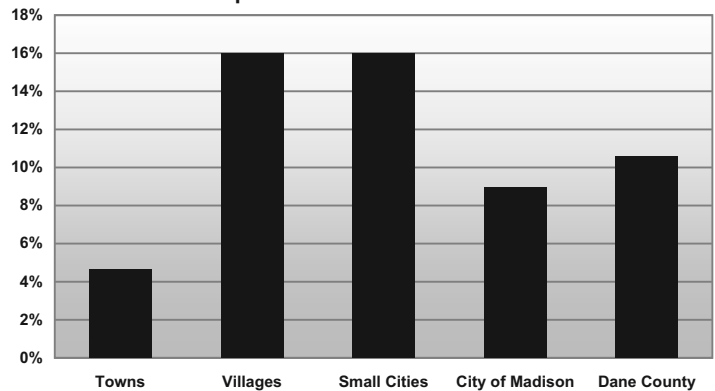
Dane County had a population of 471,559 on January 1, 2008 according to estimates by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, a 0.6% increase over the January 2007 population. The county has added 45,033 residents since 2000, a 10.6% increase. Small cities in Dane County have grown 16% since 2000, adding 13,444 residents. Villages have also seen 16% growth, adding 9,524 new residents. The population of the City of Madison has increased by 18,596, or 8.9%, since 2000, and towns have gained 3,469 residents, a 4.6% increase.

According to 2008 estimates, 48.1% of Dane County residents reside in the City of Madison, 20.6% reside in small cities, 16.6% in towns, and 14.7% in villages.



CARPC Photo: Grandview Commons Development, City of Madison

Population Growth: 2000-2008



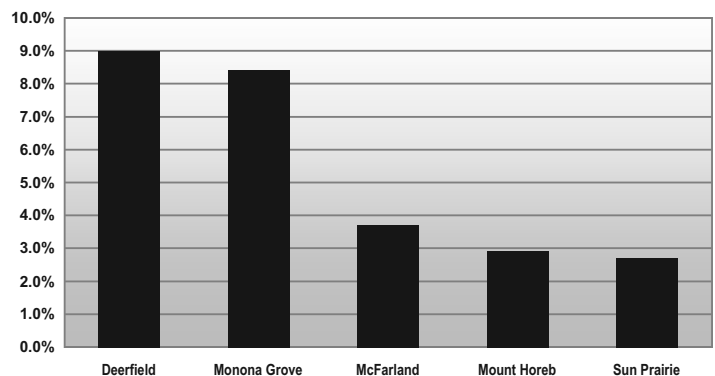
### School Enrollment

K-12 public school enrollment in Dane County saw a 1.2% increase from the 2007-08 school year to 2008-09, growing from 66,598 students to 67,377. Private school enrollment decreased by 273 students (-4.0%) over the same period. Public school enrollment continued to make up 91% of total county school enrollment, as it has for the last decade. Thirteen of the 15 suburban school districts in Dane County experienced increased enrollment over the last year. Two suburban districts, Cambridge (-2.4%) and Wisconsin Heights (-3.7%), and the Madison Metropolitan School District (-0.7%) saw enrollment declines. School districts with the highest percentage growth over the 2007-08 school year were Deerfield (9.0%) and Monona Grove (8.4%).



CARPC Photo: Glacial Drumlins School, Village of Cottage Grove

Top Public School Enrollment Growth Rate: 2007-08 to 2008-09

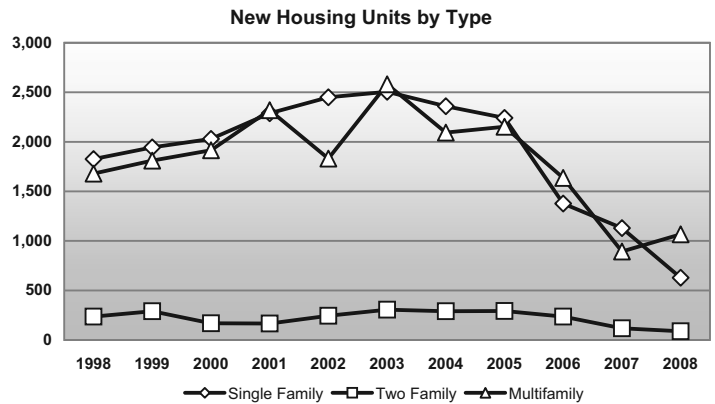


## Residential Development

Construction permits were issued for 1,784 new housing units in Dane County in 2008, a 16.6% decrease from 2007 levels. Single-family housing construction permits were down 44% from the previous year and two-family housing construction was down 25%. Multifamily housing unit construction was up 19%.



CARPC Photo: City of Madison

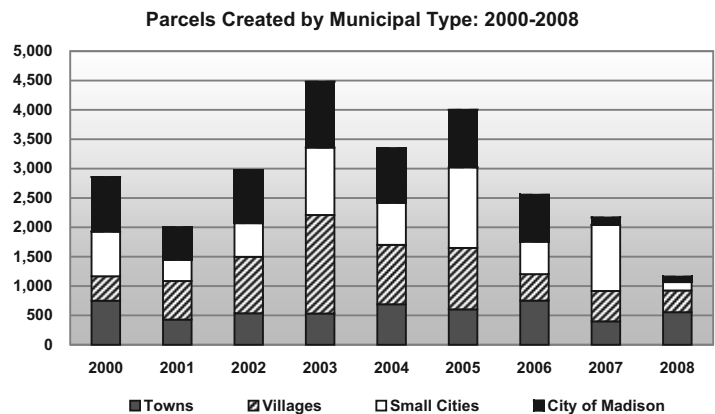


## Land Division

In 2008, land divisions in Dane County were down 46% from the previous year as 1,159 new parcels were created. While towns saw the creation of 554 parcels, a 39% increase over the previous year, the number of parcels created in villages decreased by 40% to 368 parcels, small cities dropped by 87% to 144 parcels, and City of Madison was down 27% to 93 parcels.



CARPC Photo: City of Sun Prairie

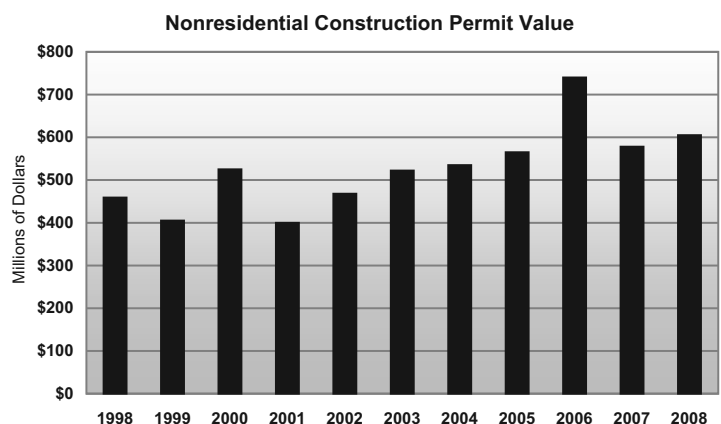


## Economic Development

Total nonresidential construction permit value was estimated at \$605 million in 2008, \$27 million higher than 2007 and the second highest annual value over the last decade. High value nonresidential projects permitted in Dane County in 2008 included: the first phase of the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery in Madison (\$75 million); Sun Prairie High School in Sun Prairie (\$60 million); phase one of the West End Development retail center in Verona (\$48 million); phase two of Arbor Gate offices in Madison (\$25 million); and the Sigma Aldrich manufacturing facility in Verona (\$20 million).



CARPC Photo: Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery, City of Madison



## Employment

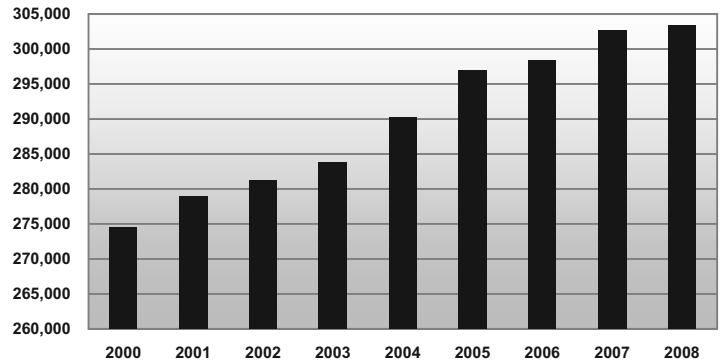
Employment held steady in Dane County from 2007 to 2008. The 2008 average annual employment of 303,418 was an increase of less than 0.1% from 2007 employment levels. The greatest gain in employment (number of jobs and % increase) was seen in educational and health services sectors (3.0% increase, or 2,097 jobs). This employment category accounts for 24.4% of all Dane County jobs.

The unemployment rate in Dane County averaged 3.3% in 2008, the same annual average as 2007.



CARPC Photo: American Family Children's Hospital, City of Madison

Average Annual Employment in Dane County: 2000 - 2008



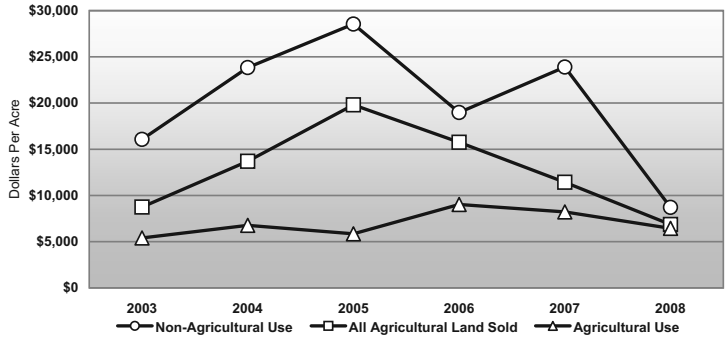
## Agricultural Lands

The price of agricultural land fell in 2008. The average value of all agricultural land sold in Dane County in 2008 was \$6,851 per acre, down from \$11,430 in 2007. The value of land sold for continued agricultural use averaged \$6,437 per acre, down 22% from \$8,218 in 2007. The value of land sold for non-agricultural use dropped 64% from an average of \$23,896 in 2007 to \$8,709 in 2008.



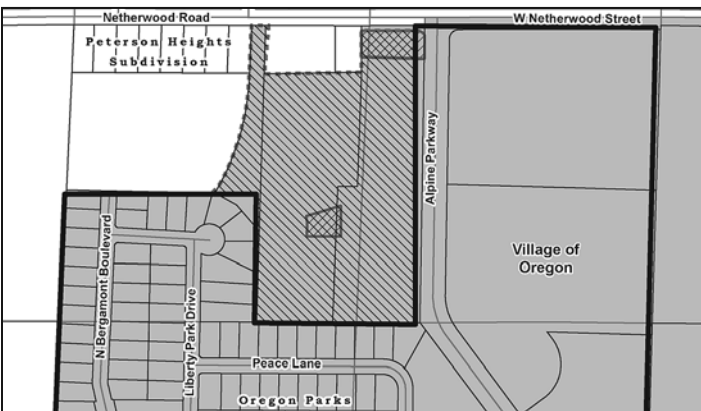
CARPC Photo: Town of Sun Prairie

Average Value of Agricultural Land Sold: Dane County



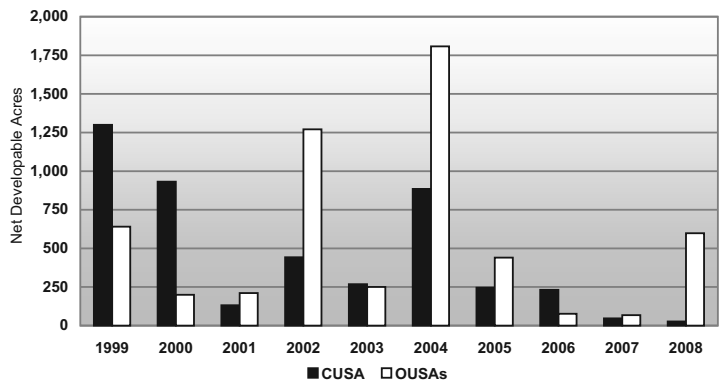
## Urban Service Areas

In 2008, 13 amendments added 625 developable acres to Dane County urban service areas. From 1986 through 2008, a total of 18,058 acres were added to urban service areas for development.



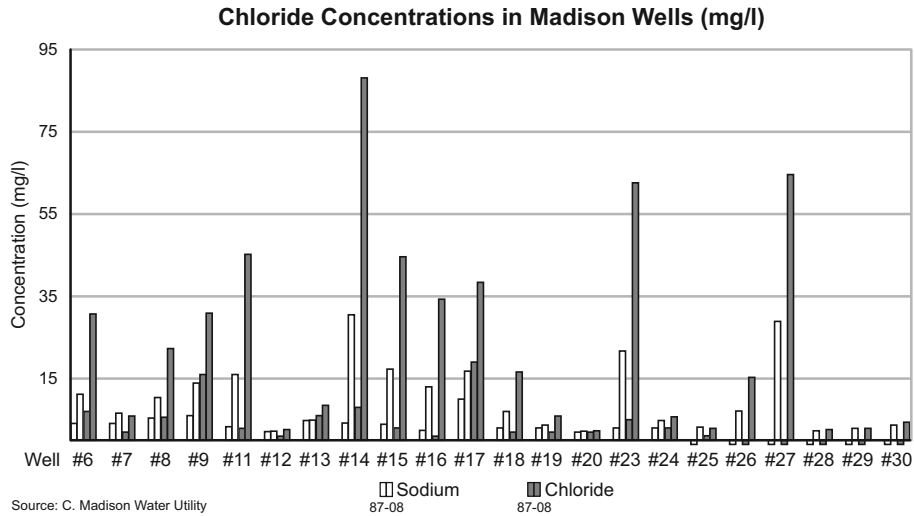
CARPC graphic: USA amendment area, Village of Oregon

Urban Service Area Amendments: 1999-2008

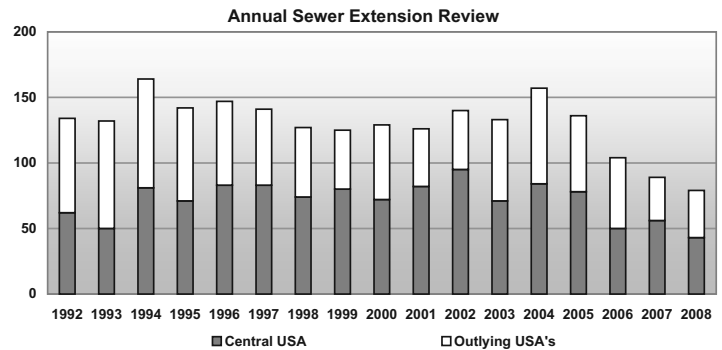


## Environmental

While the quality of groundwater and surface water in Dane County is generally good, water quality problems do exist. Although progress is being made, over-fertilization and sedimentation of our lakes and streams from urban and rural runoff continues to be a problem. Groundwater quality indicates worsening trends for nitrates and salt. Yet, despite the significant growth and development that has occurred, surface water quality in streams may actually be improving due to better wastewater treatment and stormwater management practices. Despite the progress being made, more work will be needed to maintain our successes as well as keep problems from getting worse - particularly in the face of the significant growth and development in the region.



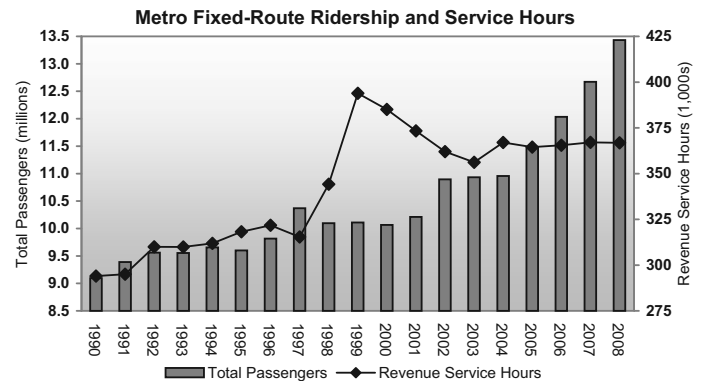
In 2008, the CARPC reviewed 79 sewer extensions for consistency with the *Dane County Water Quality Plan* and also assisted communities in water resources management and planning. These efforts help to address the impacts of new development on the urban fringe.



## Transportation

The Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) (now the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board) adopted *Regional Transportation Plan 2030: Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County* in November 2006. Total Metro fixed-route ridership was 13.4 million in 2008, a 6.0% increase compared to 2007 and the highest total since 1982. Since 1989, ridership has increased 49%. During this same period, the total annual number of revenue service hours has increased 28%.

According to the 2000 Census, 77 percent of Dane County residents working outside the home commuted via single-occupant vehicle, 10 percent carpooled, 4 percent used public transportation, 6 percent walked, and 2 percent bicycled. The mean travel time to work was 19.9 minutes, up 10 percent from 1990.



It is estimated that daily vehicle miles of travel (VMT) in the central Dane County area increased from 3.5 million in 1980, to 7.6 million in 1990, and to 10.1 million in 2000. The total personal vehicles in Dane County increased from 196,000 in 1980, to 243,000 in 1990, and to 300,000 in 2000.