



RPC Newsletter

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Draft Black Earth Creek Resource Area Plan Available

RPC staff have been working with the Dane County Parks Department to develop a *Black Earth Creek Resource Area Plan*. The purpose of the plan is to promote cooperative partnerships among a diverse array of public and private agencies, organizations and landowners to protect, restore and enhance the significant natural resources and outdoor recreational opportunities associated with Black Earth Creek.



The *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan* identifies Black Earth Creek as a Resource Study Area. Resource area plans are prepared which identify and evaluate the resource and recommends various options available to landowners. Protecting private property rights is a key consideration in implementing the plan, which was developed with the assistance of a Steering Committee representing a cross-section of the various public and private interests in the watershed. The recommendations contained in the plan are voluntary or advisory in nature. It guides the County Parks Department in targeting financial and personnel resources where they will have the most beneficial effect as well as joining its efforts with various other partners and groups.

The draft plan was presented to the Dane County Parks Commission along with a draft resolution seeking approval by the County Board adopting the plan as an element of the *Parks and Open Space Plan*. Adoption of the plan, expected early this summer, would allow the County Parks Department to leverage county funds with other federal, state and local funding sources to acquire property or conservation easements from willing landowners to protect, restore and enhance the resources identified in the plan. These include buffer areas along the creek and adjacent wetland areas, prime farmland, significant wildlife habitat areas, as well as scenic ridgelines and hilltops. It also ties in with other efforts such as the Ice Age Trail and Reserve, the Black Earth Creek Fishery Area, trail linkages between communities in the valley, as well as overall planning and coordination necessary to protect the natural resources and outdoor recreational opportunities associated with Black Earth Creek.

To receive copies of the draft plan or if you have any questions call Mike Kakuska at 266-9111.

Urban Service Area Amendments

Urban service areas (USAs) are those areas in and around existing communities that are most suitable for urban development and capable of being provided with a full range of urban services. The urban service area boundaries represent the outer limit of planned urban growth over the long-term planning period (generally 20 years or more) and include more than enough land to accommodate anticipated growth. Local units of government in Dane County request the RPC to amend their respective urban service area when additional area can be justified. RPC and DNR approve sanitary sewer extensions and wastewater treatment facilities based on USA boundaries.

About 85 percent of the county's population and nearly 88 percent of the county's housing stock can be found within an urban service area or limited service area.

Dane County's urban areas have been designated into 24 urban service areas and 14 limited service areas (two have a population over 2,000 and two others are correctional facilities). The Central Urban Service Area (CUSA) contains about 72% of the County's urban population.

Since 1986, an average of about a dozen USA amendments were approved each year. The average USA amendment was about 100 acres and the net developable area (which does not include existing development and environmental corridors) was about 65 acres.

In 2002, eighteen urban service area amendments were processed, 50% more than in the average year. In fact, the 1,713 developable acres approved in 2002 was the second largest in the last ten years. Also in 2002, the 1,271 developable acres added to the outlying urban service areas—all service areas other than the CUSA—was the largest since 1985. In 2002, limited service area amendments were approved for two towns while urban service area amendments were approved for seven villages and four cities. The City of Madison and the Village of Cross Plains each had more than one USA amendment. Part of the reason for this surge of amendments in 2002 was the potential dissolution of the RPC.

So far in 2003, two USA amendments have been approved by the RPC. Three others are scheduled for public hearing in May, and other requests are currently being prepared by the sponsoring communities.

Limited Service Area Policy Task Force

Limited Service Areas (LSA) are areas where only one or a few urban services, such as sanitary sewer service, are provided to accommodate special or unique facilities or institutional uses which are appropriately located outside urban service areas, or areas of existing development experiencing wastewater disposal or water supply problems.

Over the years, a number of limited service areas have been established. More recently, there have been various proposals to expand various LSAs. The RPC prepared revised policies in 2002 and conducted two public hearings which generated considerable policy debate.

In December 2002, the RPC appointed the *Limited Service Area Policy Task Force* with the following charge: "To study the RPC Limited Service Area Policies and advise the Commission about what changes if any are needed."

The Task Force met for the first time in January 2003, elected Jim Vanden Brook, Chair, and Bob McGeever, Vice Chair, and scheduled monthly meetings. The Task Force has reviewed all of the background materials including testimony and written comments from the 2002 hearings. They reviewed in detail the case studies of the Town of Vienna Proposed Expansion of the Windsor Prairie LSA and the Town of Albion Request to Create the Albion LSA. The Task Force has prepared its own *Re-Draft of LSA Policies*, then prepared a second draft and is now ready for public input.

For additional information, call Tom Smiley at 266-9113.

Limited Service Area Task Force Members

Nan Fey City of Madison Plan Commission

Duane Gau Administrator, Village of DeForest (resigned)

Ramona Flanigan Administrator, City of Edgerton

Kris Hampton RPC – Towns

Sue McCallum Village of Brooklyn Plan Commission

Bob McGeever City of Stoughton Plan Commission

Judy Olson RPC - City of Madison

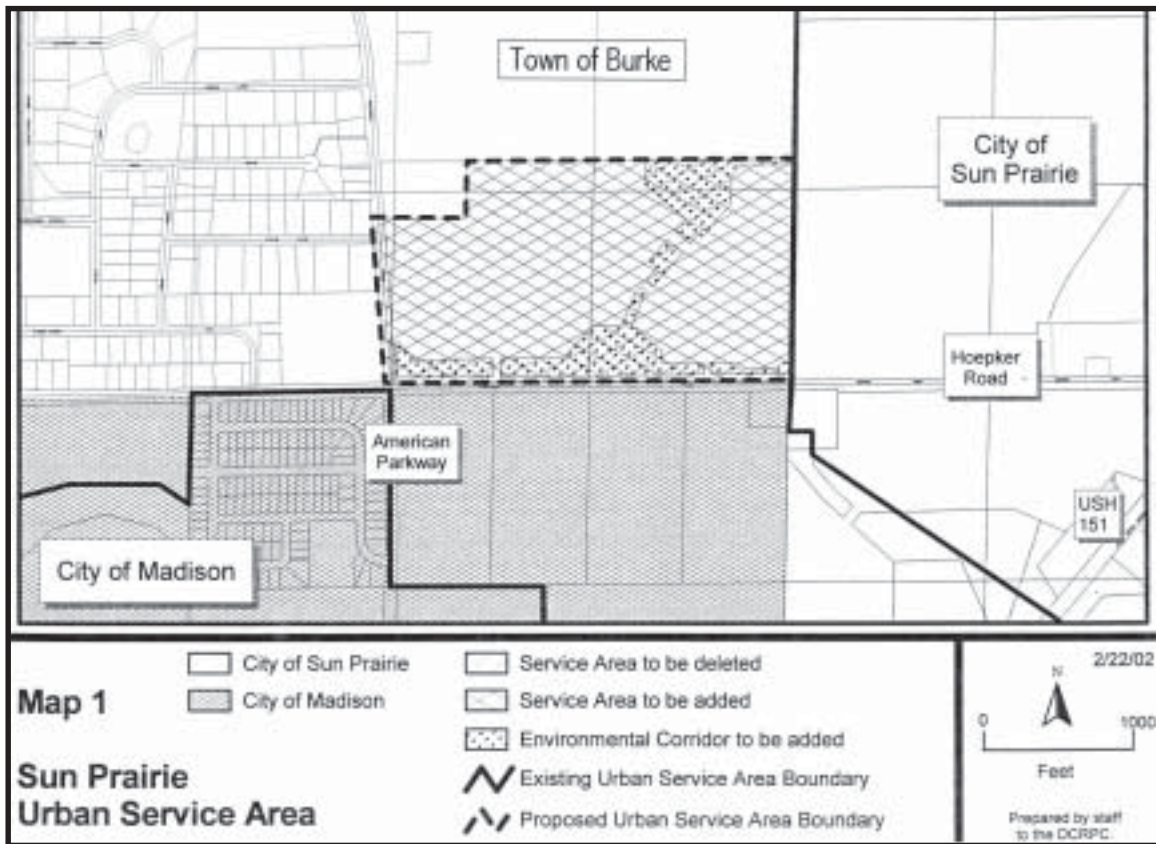
Bob Pulvermacher Clerk, Town of Vienna

Barb Quam Town of Pleasant Springs Plan Commission

Rod Scheel RPC – Cities & Villages

Jim Vanden Brook RPC – County Executive

Amy Volkmann Administrator, Town of Burke



RPC's New Office

When Dane County decided to build a new courthouse, they purchased Hamilton Place, an office building where the RPC offices had been housed for several years. Since the building was going to be razed, the RPC offices had to move elsewhere.

Our new location is on the Square at 30 West Mifflin St., Suite 402. We are located above the Veteran's Museum at the corner of State and Mifflin, so we are not hard to find! We welcome your visits.

RPC Website

The RPC has revamped its website and invites you to browse our pages at www.danecorpc.org. In addition to basic information about the Commission and its current events, you will find maps and publications available for purchase or download. You can also peruse facts and figures about urban service areas, download GIS data for environmental corridors, and find pdf files of regional plan and Land Use 2000 project maps.

New Commissioners

Since the DCRPC was re-organized with 13 Commissioners in the year 2000, three of the original appointees have resigned for various reasons: Barry Ashenfelter, Rick Roll, and Rob Kennedy.

To fill those vacancies, three new Commissioners have been appointed by their respective appointing authorities:

Jim Vanden Brook was appointed by the County Executive. Jim works for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection where he is the Water Quality Section Chief. He lives in Mount Horeb. Jim is on the Executive Committee of the RPC and currently is also Chair of the Limited Service Area Policy Task Force.

Bill Clausius was appointed by the Governor to represent small cities and villages in Dane County. Bill works for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections where he is the Public Information Director. Bill lives in Sun Prairie, is on the City Council, and is currently serving as Council President. He has also been appointed to the Dane County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee which is guiding the preparation of the Dane County Comprehensive Plan under the Smart Growth Law.

Lisa MacKinnon was appointed by the Dane County Executive. Lisa lives on the west side of Madison. She is employed as Acting Executive Director and Policy Director for 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, serving as in-house counsel for this nonprofit organization. She received her J.D. degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Dane County Regional Planning Commission

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Staff

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Kamran Mesbah

Bill Preboski

Tom Smiley

Steve Wagner

Carolyn Weede

Commission Members and Representation

Ken Golden, Chair
City of Madison

David Wiganowsky, Vice Chair
Town Governments

Wendy Sinnott, Secretary
Dane County Executive

Karen Cornwell, Treasurer
City of Madison

Lyman Anderson
Town Governments

William (Bill) Clausius
Village & City Governments

Nelson Eisman
City of Madison

Kristopher Hampton
Town Governments

Tom Hovel
Village & City Governments

Lisa MacKinnon
Dane County Executive

Judy Olson
City of Madison

Rodney Scheel
Village & City Governments

James Vanden Brook
Dane County Executive

RPC Outreach Meetings

7:00 P.M. May 9, June 26, August 28, October 23.
Locations to be announced.

RPC Regular Meetings

7:00 P.M. May 15, May 29, June 12, July 17, July 31,
August 14, September 11, September 25,
October 9, November 13, December 11.
Usual Location: Rm. 201, City-County Bldg.

Regional Trends Summary

For a brief overview of development changes in Dane County last year, check out the enclosed summary of the RPC's *Regional Trends 2002*. Copies of the full report will be available in June from the RPC office by calling 266-4137, and will be forwarded to all local units of government.

Newsletter design & layout: Steve Wagner



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