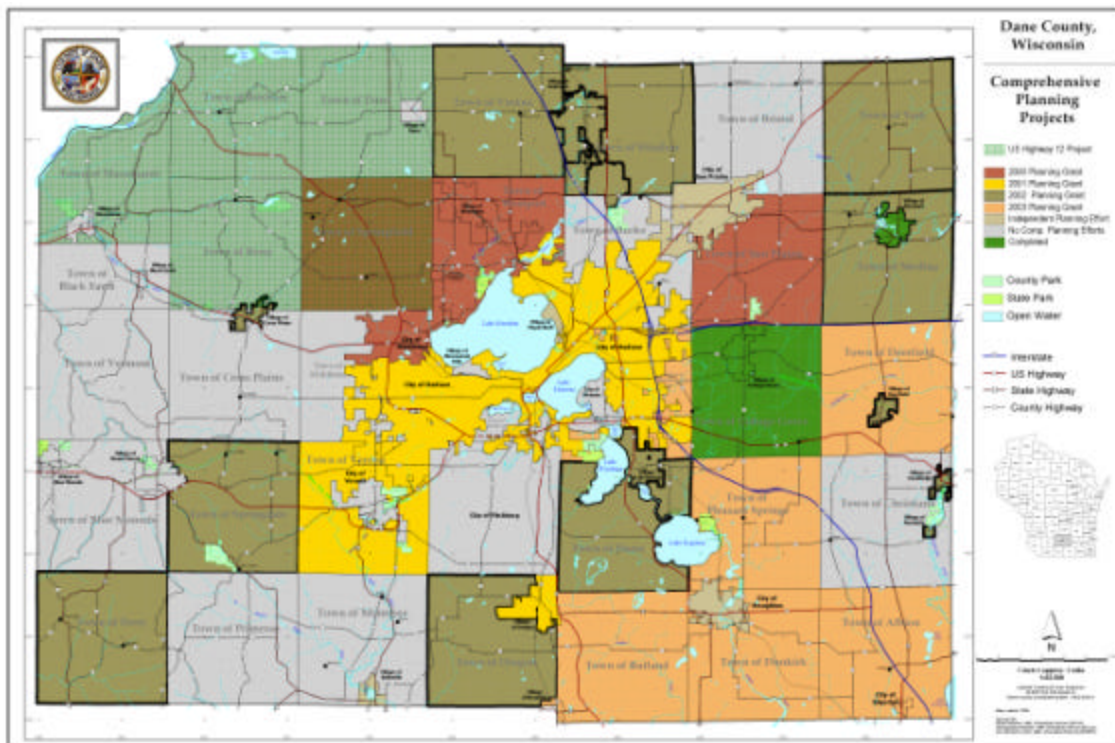


BACKGROUND OF THE DANE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

How did we get to where we are now?

In May 2002, Dane County, along with 14 participating local communities, was awarded a multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning grant by the Wisconsin Land Council to assist in the creation and implementation of a comprehensive plan. Commonly referred to as “Smart Growth”, the state legislation requires all Wisconsin communities that exercise land use authority to develop a comprehensive plan by 2010 that addresses nine required elements.

Under the terms of the state grant, Dane County and the 14 participating communities must complete comprehensive plans by mid-2006. The result of this planning effort will be 15 separate, yet consistent and coordinated, comprehensive plans specific to each participating community.



A map showing the comprehensive planning status of the communities in Dane County, participating communities are outlined with a heavy line.

Over the past year, the Dane County Board of Supervisors and staff from several County agencies have conducted “pre-planning” activities. These activities included the creation of a Comprehensive Planning Steering Committee to oversee the planning process; the development, adoption, and implementation of a Public Participation Plan; and coordination with communities participating under the state grant.

In accordance with the state comprehensive planning legislation and Dane County ordinance, the Comprehensive Planning Steering Committee (CPSC) was created as a sub-committee of the County Zoning and Natural Resources (ZNR) and Strategic Growth Management (SGM) Committees. The CPSC is composed of 12 members representing as follows:

- Three members appointed by the Chair of the ZNR Committee.
- Three members appointed by the chair of the SGM Committee.
- The president of the Dane County Towns Association, or his designee.
- The Mayor of the City of Madison, or his/her designee.
- A representative of the builders and realtors.
- A representative of the environmentalist community.
- A farmer.

One of the first tasks accomplished by the Steering Committee was the development and implementation of a public participation plan that provides diverse opportunities for public involvement throughout the development of the plan. The public participation plan, adopted by the Dane County Board in January of 2003, also identifies a broad planning framework of 4 distinct steps and calls for the creation of 3 work groups to address each of the nine required comprehensive planning elements. The 4 planning steps are:

1. Pre-Planning
2. Generate Baseline Data and Goals
3. Develop Plan Alternatives
4. Plan Review, Adoption, and Implementation.

The three work groups are:

- Housing and Economic Development
- Agriculture, Natural, and Cultural Resources; and
- Transportation, Community Facilities, and Utilities.

The Chairs of the ZNR and SGM Committees recently announced the appointed and advisory membership of each work group (see enclosed list).

What is next?

The first quarterly meeting of the work groups is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 4th at 1 Fen Oak Court on the east side of Madison (see enclosed map). The meeting will be devoted primarily to orientation and preparation for the second step in the planning process, generating baseline data and goals. Much of this planning step will involve reviewing trends in each work group's various subject areas, and revisiting the goals and objectives identified in previous and current planning efforts. A second quarterly meeting for each work group will be scheduled for sometime in July.

The success of the Dane County Comprehensive Plan depends upon the inclusion and active involvement of a diverse range of Dane County voices and opinions. Please refer to the other sections of this newsletter to find out how you can become involved.