

## What Type of Plan is the Dane County Comprehensive Plan?

A county comprehensive plan is a multi-jurisdictional plan if the county and 2 or more local governmental units located in the county participate and adopt the plan.

**Single planning effort, multiple plans.** Multiple plans are developed as part of a single multi-jurisdictional planning effort. Each plan that is developed is a comprehensive plan in itself, containing the nine required elements, but is intrinsically connected to all of the other plans that result from the effort. Using a county as an example of this approach, a multi-jurisdictional planning effort could result in:

- Individual comprehensive plans that are developed for, and adopted by, each participating town, city, and village, with the county ultimately adopting all of these plans together as its comprehensive plan.
- Individual comprehensive plans developed for, and adopted by, each participating town, city, and village, with the county also adopting an individual county comprehensive plan. The county plan could address more general county-level issues while the municipal plans could be more specific. The county could develop its plan first, followed by the municipalities, or municipalities could go first with the county following, or the county and municipal plans could be developed simultaneously.

### TIP\*

Participating in a multi-jurisdictional planning effort does not mean that your community gives up authority to another jurisdiction. The Comprehensive Planning Law did not alter the legal relationships between cities, villages, counties, towns, regional planning commissions (RPC), and the state. These jurisdictions continue to have the same powers and authority over land use that they had before the law was passed. Therefore, developing a plan does not give your community any more or less authority than you had before. A comprehensive plan must be specifically adopted by a community's governing body in order for it to apply to the community and effect future decisions. This means that communities are in control of their future, including communities participating in multi-jurisdictional planning efforts.

A multi-jurisdictional plan does not need to resolve all of the conflicts between participating communities. However, in their Intergovernmental Cooperation Elements communities will need to identify conflicts and describe how they will be resolved.