

This Section provides an introduction and overview of the *Town of Turtle Comprehensive Plan 2035*. Part I identifies Rock County's (County) Vision Statement, the foundation upon which this *Plan* is built. Part II identifies the enabling legislation providing the impetus for this *Plan*. Part III states this *Plan's* purpose, intent, and use, whereas Part IV states its structure and content. Part V identifies the process utilized to develop this *Plan*, whereas Part VI outlines *Plan* future directions.

Town of Turtle Vision Statement

The Town of Turtle celebrates its rich history, while looking towards a future of balancing modern convenience with a rural landscape to provide a high quality of life in friendly and safe surroundings.

Plan Enabling Legislation

State of Wisconsin Statute 66.1001 - Comprehensive Planning mandates that local government units (Counties, Cities, Villages, and Towns) develop and adopt comprehensive plans to guide the unit's planning and development through the year 2035. Per State of Wisconsin Statute 62.23(3)(a) - Master Plan, a local government unit's comprehensive plan is to be made:

"With the general purpose of guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, adjusted and harmonious development.....which will, in accordance with existing and future needs, best promote public health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity or the general welfare, as well as efficiency and economy in the process of development."

The Town has developed this *Plan* for a 25-year planning horizon, 2010 to 2035, per the aforementioned Statutes.

Plan Purpose, Intent, and Use

This *Plan's* purpose and intent is to:

- Conform to State of Wisconsin Statute 66.1001 - Comprehensive Planning, promoting coordinated and consistent planning and development across government boundaries and through government layers, ensuring the following Town and County actions are consistent with this *Plan*:
 - Official mapping
 - Zoning ordinance development or amendment
 - Subdivision regulation
 - Shoreland and wetland/shoreland zoning
- Inventory and analyze existing, historical, and future conditions in the Town, and identify Town planning and development issues and opportunities
- State goals (including Town Vision Statement), objectives, and policies to guide Town planning and development over the next 25 years, from 2010 to 2035, and identify tools and timelines to implement policies and achieve goals and objectives

This *Plan* is to be utilized:

- As a policy document, providing clear and consistent direction in which to specifically guide the Town's day-to-day planning and development activities, from 2010 to 2035,

including but not limited to, program maintenance, expansion, and development, ordinance revision and development, and rezone, sub-division, and other development proposal review

- As a visionary document, providing clear and consistent direction in which to broadly guide the Town's planning and development activities from 2010 to 2035

Additionally, it is important to note that this *Plan* was developed (2005-2008) at a time of relative growth and stability in the local (County, State, etc.) and global economy. As recent events (2009) have shown, local economies are becoming increasingly interdependent on larger economies, subject to their broader trends of both growth and decline. Thus, this *Plan* is to be a fluid document, adaptable to changing conditions both locally and in the global marketplace.

***Plan* Structure and Content**

State of Wisconsin Statute 66.1001 - Comprehensive Planning mandates that nine Elements, as listed in the following (1.-9.), must be identified and addressed in a local government unit's comprehensive plan.

In this *Plan*, the elements are addressed in the following order:

1. Issues and Opportunities
2. Housing
3. Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources
4. Transportation
5. Utilities and Community Facilities
6. Land Use
7. Economic Development
8. Intergovernmental Cooperation
9. Implementation

This *Plan* is organized per Statute 66.1001, containing four Sections as follows:

- *Section I - Executive Summary*
This Section provides an introduction and overview of the *Plan*, including *Plan* enabling legislation, purpose, intent, and use, structure and content, development process, and future directions.
- *Section II - Elements*
This Section contains Chapters 1-9, covering Inventory, Issues and Opportunities, and Goals, Objectives and Policies concerning the nine Elements.

***Plan* Development Process**

In 2005, the County, in conjunction with thirteen other County municipalities including the Town of Turtle, was awarded a Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Planning Grant from the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA) Comprehensive Planning Grant program to aid in *Plan* development, subject to State of Wisconsin Statute 16.965 - Planning Grants to Local Governments Units. The County's Planning, Economic & Community Development Agency (Agency), the administrator of the grant, determined how the *Plan* was to be developed, with input from Town officials, compliant with State of Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001 and 16.965.

The quality and value of a comprehensive plan is dependent on citizen participation and input gathered throughout the plan development process. As a comprehensive plan is a blueprint for a community's development pace and pattern, it is essential that the opinions of its citizens are voiced throughout the plan development process and formulated in the plan document.

Key elements of the Citizen Participation Plan instituted during this planning process included:

- *Visioning*
The visioning process provides a planning effort with focus and direction. The Town held two public visioning sessions in the fall of 2005. The sessions were advertised in the local media. The input gathered from these sessions established the Town's Vision Statement, the framework upon which this *Plan* is based.
 - *Session One - November 10, 2005*: There were 13 attendees at this session. Led by Carrie Houston, a Planner with the Rock County Planning and Development Agency, questions were asked of the group, to elicit open discussion and brainstorming. Themes derived from citizen input included the desire for Turtle's population to steadily grow, the desire for future residential growth to occur near existing development areas, and the desire to create a town square type of environment in the Shopiere area.
 - *Session Two - December 1, 2005*: Eight citizens attended this session and rated responses to specific questions presented at the first session.
- *Survey*
A Town of Turtle Public Opinion Survey was conducted in 2004, with assistance from the Rock County Planning and Development Agency. Rather than undertake a new survey with this comprehensive planning process, results from the 2004 survey were utilized to help guide which issues Town residents would like to see addressed.

In addition, the County conducted a countywide survey as part of the countywide comprehensive plan. Results from that survey coming from respondents in the Beloit and Clinton zip code areas were extrapolated in some instances, to further determine issues and concerns felt by those living in or near the Town of Turtle.

Plan Future Directions

Completion of this *Plan*, and adoption by the Town Board, is not the end of the Town planning process. This *Plan* will be updated within five years of adoption, in 2014, and thereafter at a minimum of once every five years. This periodic review and update ensures that Town planning will continue to evolve and adapt to unforeseen issues and opportunities, new trends and concepts, and political and public sentiment.