

SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 291  
A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF ERIN: 2035

## Chapter XIII

# SUMMARY

### INTRODUCTION

In 1999, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted a comprehensive planning law, set forth in Section 66.1001 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*. The requirements supplement earlier provisions in the *Statutes* for the preparation of county development plans (Section 59.69(3) of the *Statutes*) and local master plans (Section 62.23 of the *Statutes*). The requirements, which are often referred to as the "Smart Growth" law, provide a new framework for the development, adoption, and implementation of comprehensive plans in Wisconsin. The law includes a "consistency" requirement, whereby zoning, subdivision, and official mapping ordinances adopted and enforced by the Town of Erin must be consistent with the comprehensive plan adopted by the Town Board.

To address the State comprehensive planning requirements, a multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning process was undertaken by Washington County; 11 local government partners, including the Town of Erin; UW-Extension; and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). As a result of the multi-jurisdictional process, a comprehensive plan that satisfies the planning requirements and is in compliance with Section 66.1001 of the *Statutes* has been developed for the Town of Erin, and is documented in this report.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To ensure opportunities for public involvement in the planning process, a public participation plan was developed for the Town. Section 66.1001(4) of the *Statutes* requires that the Town Board adopt written procedures that are "designed to foster public participation, including open discussion, communication programs, information services, and public meetings for which advance notice has been provided, in every stage of the preparation of a comprehensive plan." Proposed plan elements must be widely distributed, and opportunities must be provided for written comments to be submitted by the public to the governing body. A procedure for the governing body to respond to those comments must also be identified. A kick-off meeting and a visioning workshop for the Town of Erin, as well as a countywide public opinion survey, were conducted as part of the public participation plan.

The multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning workgroup, with assistance from County and UW-Extension staff, developed a public participation plan for the multi-jurisdictional plan and the Town plan. The public participation plan was adopted by resolution of the Erin Town Board on September 27, 2004.

### VISION STATEMENT 2035

#### Visioning Process

To develop a vision statement for the Town, Washington County University of Wisconsin – Extension (UWEX) staff examined the opinions generated by the public during the input opportunities carried out as part of the comprehensive planning process, along with the Town's existing planning and zoning documents, and identified recurring "key concepts" that could be appropriate for the Town's vision. UWEX staff then met with the Town

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Plan Commission and Town Board on May 17, 2007, to review the key concepts and determine which ones might best describe the Town's future. The most supported concepts were subsequently used to draft a vision statement that was brought back to the Town on June 21, 2007, for approval.

### **Vision Statement**

*"In 2035, the Town of Erin is a community known for its natural beauty and unique heritage. Traditional and alternative forms of agriculture are encouraged while allowing quality residential development at densities and locations compatible with the Town's rural character. The Town takes protection of the environment seriously and works cooperatively with neighboring communities for the benefit of all."*

## **INVENTORY INFORMATION AND PLAN ELEMENTS**

The Introduction, Existing Plans and Ordinances: 2007, and Population and Employment Trends and Projections chapters of the Town comprehensive plan were prepared in 2007, and are included in the Town plan as Chapters I, II, and III, respectively.

The element chapters of the Town comprehensive plan include inventory information and recommendations, identifying future needs and containing a compilation of goals, objectives, policies, and programs for each of the nine required elements of a comprehensive plan. The element chapters were prepared in late 2007 and early 2008, and include:

- Issues and Opportunities Element – Chapter IV
- Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element – Chapter V
- Land Use Element – Chapter VI
- Housing Element – Chapter VII
- Transportation Element – Chapter VIII
- Utilities and Community Facilities Element – Chapter IX
- Economic Development Element – Chapter X
- Intergovernmental Cooperation Element – Chapter XI
- Implementation Element – Chapter XII

## **TOWN OF ERIN LAND USE PLAN**

This Town of Erin Comprehensive Plan is intended to serve the Town of Erin to the year 2035. The Town Land Use Plan Map is shown on Map VI-4 in Chapter VI (Land Use Element). Use of the land use plan map, when implementing the Town plan, is described in the Implementation Element (Chapter XII).

The Town of Erin land use map indicates primarily rural density single-family residential uses in the Town through 2035. Agricultural uses are encouraged to continue in areas designated for rural residential use. The land use map also identifies areas for commercial development along STH 83 and STH 167.

The Town plan map also identifies substantial areas for park and recreational use. These areas are owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (including the Kettle Moraine State Forest – Loew Lake Unit), other public agencies, and private recreational clubs and organizations. The Town land use plan map also identifies primary and secondary environmental corridors as an overlay. Environmental corridors contain concentrations of the best remaining elements of the natural resource base. Preservation of environmental corridors is essential to maintaining the overall environmental quality of the Town. Primary environmental corridors in the Town are located principally along the Ashippun River, Mason Creek, the Little Oconomowoc River, the Oconomowoc River and east of Druid Lake. Primary environmental corridors are also found throughout the Kettle Moraine and the Town's numerous woodlands and wetlands.

## **PLAN ADOPTION**

The Town of Erin held a public informational meeting on May 7, 2008, and a public hearing on \_\_\_\_\_ to review the draft Town comprehensive plan. The Town Plan Commission approved the plan on \_\_\_\_\_ and the Town Board adopted the plan by ordinance on \_\_\_\_\_. A copy of the adopting ordinance is included in Appendix F.

## **PLAN UPDATES AND AMENDMENTS**

The comprehensive planning law requires that the adopted Town comprehensive plan be reviewed and updated at least once every ten years. While there is no limit on the number or frequency of amendments that may be made to a comprehensive plan, the public participation, plan review, and plan adoption procedures required for a full comprehensive plan also apply to plan amendments. The Implementation Element (Chapter XII) recommends a procedure for amending the plan.