



2014 Comprehensive Plan



Town of Eau Pleine Portage County, Wisconsin

Town of Eau Pleine

Comprehensive Plan 2014

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Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Chapter 1 - Issues and Opportunities	3
Section 1.1 - Description and Brief History of the Planning Area	3
Section 1.2 - Past Planning in Eau Pleine	5
Section 1.3 - The Current Comprehensive Planning Process	5
Section 1.4 - Demographic Trends	7
Section 1.5 - Forecasts	14
Section 1.6 - Community Goals, Objectives and Policies	15
Chapter 2 - Housing Element.....	17
Section 2.1 - Introduction	17
Section 2.2 - Housing Inventory and Analysis	17
Section 2.3 - Housing Programs	22
Section 2.4 - Housing Issues	23
Section 2.5 - Housing Goals, Objectives and Policies.....	24
Chapter 3 - Transportation Element.....	25
Section 3.1 - Introduction	25
Section 3.2 - Transportation Facility Inventory	25
Section 3.3 - Inventory of Applicable Transportation Plans and Programs	31
Section 3.4 - Transportation Related Programs	35
Section 3.5 - Transportation Issues.....	35
Section 3.6 - Transportation Goals, Objectives and Policies.....	35
Chapter 4 - Utilities and Community Facilities Element	37
Section 4.1 - Introduction	37
Section 4.2 - Public Utilities Inventory.....	37
Section 4.3 - Community Facilities Inventory and Analysis	41
Section 4.4 - Summary of Future Needs.....	46
Section 4.5 - Utility and Community Facilities Issues	46
Section 4.6 - Utility and Community Facilities Goals, Objectives and Policies	46
Chapter 5 - Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Element	48
Section 5.1 - Introduction	48
Section 5.2 - Agricultural Resources	48
Section 5.3 - Agricultural Programs	51
Section 5.4 - Agricultural Issues.....	51
Section 5.5 - Agricultural Goals, Objectives, Policies.....	52
Section 5.6 - Natural Resources Inventory	52
Section 5.7 - Natural Resource Issues.....	64
Section 5.8 - Natural Resource Goals, Objectives and Policies	64
Section 5.9 - Cultural Resources.....	65
Section 5.10 - Cultural Resource Issues	66
Section 5.11 - Cultural Resource Goals, Objectives and Policies	66

Chapter 6 - Economic Development Element	67
Section 6.1 - Introduction	67
Section 6.2 - Labor Force and Economic Base.....	67
Section 6.3 - Strengths and Weaknesses for Attracting/Retaining Business	70
Section 6.4 - Desired Business.....	70
Section 6.5 - Environmentally Contaminated Sites	70
Section 6.6 - Economic Development Resources	71
Section 6.7 - Economic Development Issues.....	72
Section 6.8 - Economic Development Goals, Objectives and Policies.....	73
Chapter 7 - Intergovernmental Cooperation Element	74
Section 7.1 - Analysis and Inventory of Intergovernmental Agreements.....	74
Section 7.2 - Identification of Existing or Potential Conflicts with Other Governmental Units.....	76
Section 7.3 - Issues/Conclusions Regarding Intergovernmental Relations	76
Section 7.4 - Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals, Objectives and Policies.....	76
Chapter 8 - Land Use Element	77
Section 8.1 - Existing Land Use	77
Section 8.2 - Land Use Trend Analysis and Projected Land Use.....	80
Section 8.3 - Land Use Conflicts	82
Section 8.4 - Land Use Goals, Objectives, and Policies	82
Section 8.5 - Future Land Use Recommendations.....	83
Section 8.6 - Future Land Use Categories	85
Chapter 9 - Implementation Element	90
Section 9.1 - Comprehensive Plan Adoption Procedures	90
Section 9.2 - Comprehensive Plan Implementation	92
Section 9.3 - Relationship Between the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning.....	94
Section 9.4 - Integration, Amendment, and Update of Comprehensive Plan Elements	95
Section 9.5 - Monitoring/Formal Review of the Plan.....	97

Maps

Map 3.1 - Transportation Networks and Functional Class	27
Map 4.1 - Utilities	39
Map 4.2 - Community Facilities	40
Map 5.1 - Highly Productive Agricultural Soils.....	50
Map 5.2 - Topography	55
Map 5.3 - General Soil Associations	56
Map 5.4 - Wetlands and Watersheds	57
Map 5.5 - Floodplain.....	60
Map 5.6 - Groundwater Flow.....	61
Map 5.7 - Forested Land.....	62
Map 8.1 - Existing Land Use	79
Map 8.2 - Future Land Use	84

Appendices

Appendix A - Public Participation Plan and Resolution.....	A-1
Appendix B - Town of Eau Pleine Survey (2001).....	B-1
Appendix C - Wisconsin Statutes 16.965(4) and 66.1001.....	C-1
Appendix D - Population Projection Methodology	D-1
Appendix E - Land Evaluation Site Assessment System.....	E-1
Appendix F - Eau Pleine Town Plan Commission Resolution to Adopt.....	F-1
Appendix G - Eau Pleine Town Board Ordinance to Adopt	G-1

Introduction

Welcome to the Town of Eau Pleine Comprehensive Plan. This Comprehensive Plan is the center-piece of the community planning process, stating our community's development goals and outlining public policies for guiding future growth. It establishes an identifiable destination that allows both the governing body and private interests to plan and budget with an idea as to the direction the Town may move in the future, and helps to ensure that future growth is not only anticipated, but planned for. The Plan functions as a practical guide to coordinate day-to-day decisions so they make sense now and in the future. This document can not be changed by the County, Regional Plan Commission, or State unless the change is initiated by the Town Board.

The Portage County Comprehensive Planning Process and the Town of Eau Pleine

The first Town of Eau Pleine Comprehensive Plan was completed in 2005 as a part of a larger, County-wide planning project. In November of 2000, the Portage County Planning and Zoning Department submitted an application for a State of Wisconsin planning grant to help fund the creation of County-wide Comprehensive Plans that would meet the newly enacted State Statute requirements for long range planning (see SS 66.1001). The Statute stipulated that by January 1, 2010, all Towns, Villages, Cities, and Counties that make decisions regulating land use needed to base those decisions on an adopted comprehensive plan. In January 2001 grant funds totaling \$504,000 were awarded to Portage County to assist with the County-wide project which included creation of a more general Portage County Comprehensive Plan and the adoption of a Comprehensive Plan for each of the County's 27 individual units of government.

In June of 2001, a committee made up of representatives from each unit of government within Portage County was appointed to draft the County plan documents. The *Portage County Comprehensive Planning Joint Steering Committee* adopted a "Public Participation Plan" on July 25, 2001. The Participation Plan detailed the different ways that residents of the County would be invited and encouraged to participate in the formulation of the Comprehensive Plans. The Town of Eau Pleine also adopted the Public Participation Plan on January 31, 2002.

The first step in soliciting public involvement was a County-wide opinion survey, which was conducted in the second half of September 2001. Over 30,000 surveys were mailed, with an intended target of one for every household within the County. Over 6,600 of the households responded, a return rate of approximately 22%. The survey responses provided information on resident's feelings in the areas of: County trends and land use; housing; utilities and community facilities; ag, natural and cultural resources; commerce and employment; transportation; and quality of life within the County. The Town of Eau Pleine was well represented in the survey results (see Appendix B). In order to follow up and build on the information gathered in the survey, a series of Hopes and Concerns Workshops were held in various locations around Portage County. A wide variety of County residents participated in the Workshops. To include as many groups as possible, workshops were scheduled in towns and villages across the County, as well as junior high and high schools, UW-Stevens Point (with both faculty and students), and the Lincoln Center.

After completion of the Hopes & Concerns workshops all of the response information was forwarded to the Portage County Comprehensive Planning Joint Steering Committee, who used a series of meetings to boil the information down to 44 summarizing "issue statements". This list then became the basis for a series of six visioning sessions held across Portage County during the spring of 2002. Again, all of the public input was returned to the Joint Steering Committee for

review and discussion. A Rural Vision Statement was approved in the fall of 2002. The Vision Statement was used as a foundation for the Portage County Comprehensive Plan, and these ideas resonate throughout the individual local unit plans.

The Eau Pleine Town Board and Plan Commission have found the 2005 Comprehensive Plan to be an effective and flexible document. When discussing how to begin the required full-scale review of this document (minimum of once every 10 years), Town officials made the decision to use the existing document as a solid base to start from. The Plan Commission proceeded Chapter by Chapter to verify and update existing background information, review and validate any issues identified in each of the Chapter, and review, validate, and revise the Goals, Objectives, and Policies accordingly.

State Statute 66.1001 defines minimum requirements for what content should be included within a comprehensive plan. These requirements include nine “elements” or chapters describing: *issues and opportunities; housing; transportation; utilities and community facilities; agriculture, natural and cultural resources; economic development; intergovernmental cooperation, land use; and implementation.* The Town of Eau Pleine continues to use the required elements as an outline for its Plan document. This is the Town of Eau Pleine’s Comprehensive Plan and cannot be changed by the County, Regional Plan Commission, or State.