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Comprehensive Planning Newsletter

This Newsletter is intended to keep Washington County citizens, elected officials and other interested persons current on the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Planning (Smart Growth) process in Washington County.

In this issue:

- Gain insight on the grant application process.
- Gain insight on the grant evaluation criteria.
- Learn more about the 14 Planning Goals.
- Get an update on the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Planning Process.



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 This newsletter is also available on the Planning & Parks Department website:
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Comprehensive Planning Newsletter

This newsletter provides an opportunity for Washington County residents to gain insight into the process of planning the future of our County

Comprehensive Planning Grant Process

The Purpose of this Newsletter

The aim of this quarterly newsletter is to keep Washington County citizens, elected officials and other interested persons current on the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Planning (Smart Growth) process in Washington County.

This newsletter will have information on upcoming meetings and contain articles and statistics related to planning issues.

The newsletter is also available on the Washington County Planning and Parks Department website. To add a name to this mailing list, please write or contact the Department.

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To defray the costs of completing a comprehensive plan, the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) created a Comprehensive Plan Grant Program. This program currently provides \$2 million annually to help local communities develop comprehensive plans. To date, the comprehensive planning grant program has awarded \$11.5 million to 645 Wisconsin communities. Applications for funding were due November 1, 2004. Grants will be awarded by February 2005.

Washington County Planning & Parks Department has prepared and submitted a multi-jurisdictional application for the Comprehensive Planning Grant for the 2005 grant cycle. This comprehensive planning grant will provide over 50% of base funding for the development of a multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan under s. 66.1001, Wisconsin Statutes. Currently, 12 municipalities, including the County, have agreed to participate in the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning process. The table below shows the potential dollar amount that is available to Washington County. If Washington County is awarded a grant, the planning process will begin by March 2005.

Governmental Unit	Base Funding ^a	Grant Funding ^b	Required Match ^c
Washington County	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Town of Addison	30,000	18,000	12,000
Town of Barton	30,000	18,000	12,000
Town of Erin	30,000	18,000	12,000
Town of Farmington	30,000	18,000	12,000
Town of Germantown	20,000	12,000	8,000
Town of Hartford	30,000	18,000	12,000
Town of Kewaskum	20,000	12,000	8,000
Town of Polk	30,000	18,000	12,000
Town of Trenton	30,000	18,000	12,000
Town of Wayne	20,000	12,000	8,000
Village of Kewaskum	30,000	18,000	12,000
Total	\$500,000	\$280,000	\$220,000

^aThe base funding level is the amount determined by the Wisconsin Department of Administration to be adequate to prepare a comprehensive plan based on a County's or local government's population.

^bGrant funding is equal to half of the base funding, plus an incentive equal to 10 percent of the base funding for each local government participating in the multi-jurisdictional planning effort.

^cRequired match will be satisfied by in-kind services of Washington County.

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Comprehensive Planning Evaluation Criteria

Grant applications are evaluated through a peer review process. There are four sections to the grant: Section I: General Information, Section II: Funding Information, Section III: Project Criteria, Section IV: Budget Information. Scores are ranked according to the points received in the review process of Section III. The final screening will examine the number and amount of grant funds requested based on the final scores of the applications.



Part III, a critical section of the grant, provides the opportunity for Washington County to describe the planning process and identify the need for the development of a comprehensive plan.

The Comprehensive Planning Grant is highly competitive. This grant cycle, a total of 27 applications have been filed representing a total of 246 communities and one tribe requesting \$5.5 million dollars. However, only \$2 million dollars are available.

Farmland and Open Space Preservation Study Group

On July 28, 2004, the Washington County Planning, Conservation, and Parks Committee requested the Washington County Planning and Parks Department to study various means of preserving farmland and open space in Washington County. The study group, composed of farmers, conservationists, developers, realtors, and local municipal representatives, will research and analyze different tools, techniques and funding sources that can be used in Washington County for land preservation.

The purpose of this report is to provide the Washington County Planning, Conservation, and Parks Committee, local municipalities, the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Planning Advisory Committee and Work Groups a resource guide to assist decision making. The report will describe tools and techniques that can be used to preserve farmland and open space, their related costs, and potential funding sources. This report will **not** recommend which tools and techniques should be applied. These recommendations will be made by each local municipality and as part of the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Planning process.

The mission of this study group is as follows:

“To objectively research, analyze, and develop a variety of tools and techniques for farmland and open space preservation accommodating projected growth in Washington County.”

PLEASE JOIN US!!

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the 1st Tuesday of the month at the Washington County Public Agency Center, 333 E. Washington St., West Bend. Since room location may vary, please contact the Washington County Planning and Parks Department for exact room location at 262-335-4445. The next meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2005 at 7 p.m. on the 3rd floor of the Public Agency Center in Room 3224.

Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Planning Process

Since January 2004, the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Planning Work Group (MJCP) has held monthly meetings to prepare the necessary documentation for the Wisconsin Department of Administration Comprehensive Planning 2005 grant application. The documentation includes: Public Participation Plan, Multi-Jurisdictional Work Plan, Intergovernmental Agreements, and Draft Resolution for partners to participate in comprehensive planning and to support Washington County's application for a comprehensive planning grant.

In addition to the twelve local government partners identified on page 1, four other local municipalities have passed resolutions in support of the multi-jurisdictional planning process and will be attending intergovernmental meetings.

A series of intergovernmental meetings will be held quarterly or semi-annually throughout the multi-jurisdictional planning process. These meetings provide an opportunity for all local municipalities to discuss issues of mutual concern.

The 14 Planning Goals - Continued

While local governments continue to control their own planning and decision-making, state law identifies 14 local planning goals that provide a vision for state and local land use and planning programs, policies, infrastructure, and investments. The first 8 goals were covered in the March and May 2004 newsletters. Goals 9-11 are briefly described below.

9. Provide an adequate supply of affordable housing for individuals of all income levels throughout each community.

Housing is often considered affordable when monthly payments do not exceed 30% of a household's income. According to the 2000 U.S. Census Washington County's median household income was about \$4,750 per month, which calculates to an affordable monthly payment level of \$1,425 or less. Communities contain young families, singles, and an aging population who seek adequate, reasonably priced housing. Communities are urged to 1) explore public/private partnerships that create and maintain a broad choice of safe and affordable housing, 2) remove unnecessary regulatory and financial barriers to the delivery of all types of housing at appropriate locations, and 3) provide housing options for the people who work in the community.

10. Provide adequate infrastructure and public services and an adequate supply of developable land to meet existing and future market demand for residential, commercial and industrial uses. This goal doesn't mean every community has to have an industrial park or a commercial corridor. However, where these uses are desired, infrastructure and related services should be well-planned in order to meet future needs. Communities should also consider cooperating with other jurisdictions to more efficiently supply public infrastructure and shared services. Finally, lands should be identified where development and redevelopment can take place.



11. Promote the expansion or stabilization of the current economic base and the creation of a range of employment opportunities at the state, regional and local levels.

This begins with an understanding of how market trends will affect future land use. Community planners should also seek an understanding of the needs of existing and potential businesses to create a positive economic climate that will retain existing businesses as well as attract a variety of businesses to the County.