

Wisconsin's Smart Growth Law

Washington County Planning &
Parks Department
Planning Division

Smart Growth Law Status

- June 2005 The Joint Finance Committee (JFC) recommended removal of the Smart Growth Law and Grant Program
- July 5, 2005 State Legislature passed budget with JFC's recommendation
- July 18, 2005 Governor Doyle vetoed the removal of the Smart Growth Law and Grant Program

Smart Growth Law

- Defines comprehensive plan
- Requires public participation
- Requires adoption by ordinance by governing body
- Does not change legal relationship between Village/City/Town/SEWRPC
- Provides grant program to financially assist a municipality's planning process

Nine Elements

- Issues and Opportunities
- Housing
- Transportation
- Utilities & Community Facilities
- Agricultural, Natural, & Cultural Resources
- Economic Development
- Intergovernmental Cooperation
- Land Use
- Implementation

Public Participation

- Requires public participation at every stage of the planning process
- Adoption of a public participation plan
- Hold at least one public hearing prior to adoption
- Plan must be sent to:
 - Adjacent jurisdictions
 - Wisconsin Land Council
 - SEWRPC
 - Public Library
 - Other Jurisdictions located entirely or partially within the boundaries of the community

Fourteen Goals

1. Promotion of the redevelopment of lands with existing infrastructure and public services and the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing residential, commercial and industrial structures
2. Encouragement of neighborhood designs that support a range of transportation choices
3. Protection of natural areas, including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes, woodlands, open spaces and groundwater resources

Fourteen Goals

4. Protection of economically productive areas, including farmland and forests
5. Encouragement of land uses, densities and regulations that promote efficient development patterns and relatively low governmental and utility costs
6. Preservation of cultural, historic and archaeological sites
7. Encouragement of coordination and cooperation among nearby units of government

Fourteen Goals

8. Building of community identity by revitalizing main streets and enforcing design standards
9. Providing an adequate supply of affordable housing for individuals of all income levels throughout each community
10. Providing 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

Fourteen Goals

11. Promoting 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
12. Balancing individual property rights with community interests and goals
13. Planning and development of land uses that create or preserve varied and unique urban and rural communities
14. Providing an integrated, efficient and economical transportation system that affords mobility, convenience and safety and that meets the needs of all citizens, including transit-dependent and disabled citizens