

10.0 Purpose

In order to achieve the overall vision in the Town of Woodland, including the protection of natural and cultural resources, agricultural operations, and the overall quality of life, the Town must interact with many agencies and governmental units. The Town of Woodland should evaluate how the plans of Sauk County and Juneau County as well as neighboring units of government will affect it.

10.1 Adjacent Town Plans and Planning Efforts

The following planning efforts represent localized planning efforts that may affect the Town of Woodland.

10.1.1 Town of Winfield (Sauk County)

The Town of Winfield adopted a Comprehensive Plan in accordance with Wis. Stats. 66.1001 in 2007 and updated the plan in 2024. Prior to the development of this Comprehensive Plan, the Town had no development plan or land use plan. The Town of Winfield is under the Sauk County Zoning Ordinance. General Ag zoning is the predominant zoning in the Town. The comprehensive plan identifies a Smart Growth primary development district that lies within the City of Reedsburg ET-zoning district, a transition area for agriculture and limited, low-density residential uses, and a resource conservation district that is intended to protect agricultural land and the forested bluffs in the northern third of the Town. Winfield chose not to adopt a density policy or any minimum lot sizes, although its intention is to manage the rate of development through the County subdivision ordinance, and protect resources through the careful siting of residential development.

10.1.2 Town of Ironton (Sauk County)

The Town of Ironton adopted a Development Plan in October of 1986. In conjunction with the preparation of this Plan, the Town adopted Exclusive Agriculture Zoning (thereby enacting a density of 1 house per 35 acres) in order to become enrolled in the Farmland Preservation Program. In 2006 the Town adopted a Comprehensive Plan in accordance with Wis. Stats. 66.1001 and updated the plan in 2023. Overall, the underlying goal of Ironton's Plan is to, 'preserve agricultural land and protect farm operations as well as environmentally sensitive areas.' The Plan recognizes that the Town has not historically experienced rural residential growth and therefore adopted Exclusive Agricultural Zoning throughout the entire Town, excluding the Villages of Ironton, Lime Ridge and Cazenovia. The Town of Ironton is under the Sauk County Zoning Ordinance.

10.1.3 Town of Reedsburg (Sauk County)

The Town of Reedsburg adopted a Comprehensive Plan in accordance with Wis. Stats. 66.1001 in 2004 and updated in 2024. The Town of Reedsburg Comprehensive Plan has identified areas within the City of Reedsburg's extraterritorial jurisdiction as residential and commercial development areas. The Town has also identified a commitment to preserving agricultural operations, and all areas outside of the City's ET have been identified as agriculture preservation/rural residential areas. The Town of Reedsburg adopted a density-based cluster development program that applies to areas outside of the City's ET and which sets a density of 1 house per 35 acres of ownership with a maximum lot creation per parcel of not more than three in any 10-year period. The Town of Reedsburg is under the Sauk County Zoning Ordinance.

10.1.4 Town of Wonewoc (Juneau County)

The Town of Wonewoc does not have a development plan or land use plan and does not intend to develop a comprehensive plan at the time. The Town of Wonewoc does not have zoning.

10.1.5 Town of Summit (Juneau County)

The Town of Summit does not have a development plan or land use plan, however is starting the process to develop a comprehensive plan. The Town of Summit does not have zoning.

10.1.6 Town of Seven Mile Creek (Juneau County)

The Town of Seven Mile Creek does not have a development plan or land use plan and does not intend to develop a comprehensive plan at the time. The Town of Seven Mile Creek does not have zoning.

10.2 Current Intergovernmental Programs, Plans, Agreements and Opportunities

The following Sauk County plans and programs may have an impact on the Town of Woodland.

10.2.1 Sauk County Comprehensive Plan (2009)

Adopted in 2009, the mission of the Sauk County Comprehensive Plan is to “Position Sauk County for the Future”. The Sauk County Comprehensive Plan is the key strategic document that provides an integrated approach to Sauk County’s physical development and related economic and social potential, with an emphasis on moving Sauk County toward economic, social, and environmental sustainability; enhancing educational and health systems, transportation coordination, business development, supporting agriculture, and developing attractive and prosperous places to live.

The comprehensive plan seeks to:

- Inspire the community with bold ideas to shape and re-shape the communities in Sauk County
- Provide a sustainability framework to implement the plan’s strategies
- Facilitate continued and active discussion among the public to further strategy implementation
- Build on ideas and guidance from the many participants in the Sauk County Comprehensive Planning Process

Once local municipalities have adopted their updated local Comprehensive Plans, Sauk County will prepare an updated County Comprehensive Plan. This Plan will reflect and recognize the Towns' Comprehensive Plans including their Development Plans and Land Use Elements.

10.3 Current and Future Cooperative Planning Efforts

Future planning efforts that the Town of Woodland should take part in include the development and update of plans from neighboring towns as well as plans developed by Sauk County.

10.3.1 Neighboring Town Planning

It is anticipated that the Town of Woodland will be represented in the planning processes of adjacent Towns that have elected to develop a land use/comprehensive plan or are updating comprehensive plans.

10.3.2 Sauk County

The Town of Woodland should continue to work with Sauk County, particularly with the development of options related to land use and land division, which can aid the Town with the implementation of their Comprehensive Plan policies. Furthermore, the Town should continue to work with Sauk County and adjacent communities to ensure that the integrity of Woodland's Comprehensive Plan is not compromised by neighboring community decisions and vice versa.

With regard to everyday land division, land use and agriculture-related questions, residents and Town officials are encouraged to work with various County departments. The Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department administer the majority of County ordinances and programs that affect the Town.

10.4 Intergovernmental Cooperation Goal, Objectives, and Policies

Intergovernmental Cooperation Goal: Enhance and expand intergovernmental relationships with adjacent communities, state and federal governments in an effort to increase cooperation and work on common issues for the betterment of all.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Objectives/Policies:

ICO-1 Enhance relationships with all jurisdictions present in the Town of Woodland and surrounding communities in an effort to increase cooperation and discuss common issues.

ICP-1A Enhance relationships with all jurisdictions present in the Town of Woodland and surrounding communities in an effort to increase cooperation and discuss common issues.

ICP-1B Continue to participate in the Wisconsin Towns Association meetings.

ICP-1C Enhance communication with Sauk County to access information and services that will assist the Town with implementation of this plan.

ICO-2 Work with governments and non-profit agencies to identify and pursue grant opportunities beneficial to the town and its residents/landowners.

ICP-2A Require the Town's Plan Commission investigate and participate in grant writing training opportunities and apply for grants that are beneficial to the Town of Woodland. Collaborate with Sauk County and other governmental agencies pursuing grants that will benefit the regional area.

ICO-3 Develop additional recreational opportunities.

ICP-3A The Town of Woodland encourages partnerships with local recreation groups and governmental entities to promote cooperation on recreation projects.

ICP-3B The Town of Woodland encourages public recreational uses that utilize existing infrastructure and promotes interconnectivity of future recreational uses.

ICP-3C The Town of Woodland encourages the development of public use opportunities, such as camping, hiking, hunting and fishing.

ICO-4 Identify cost effective/cost-sharing opportunities in an effort to improve services and reduce duplication.

ICP-4A Encourage participation in mutual aid and sharing specialized equipment with neighboring municipalities.

ICO-5 Increase community awareness regarding quality of life issues.

ICP-5A Maintain the Town of Woodland website to provide information to Town residents, as well as increase citizen involvement by encouraging town residents with specific backgrounds to provide input in areas of their expertise.

ICO-6 Coordinate comprehensive plan implementation with neighboring communities to maintain consistency in areas where jurisdictions may overlap.

ICP-6A Coordinate policies and implementation with the Town of La Valle regarding the Dutch Hollow Lake area to improve this recreational resource.