

City of

# Wisconsin Dells



**Intergovernmental  
Cooperation Element**

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## s. 66.101(2)(g) Wis. Stats

*City of Wisconsin Dells – Intergovernmental Cooperation Element*

### *s. 66.101(2)(g) Wis. Stats*

The purpose of the *Intergovernmental Cooperation Element* is to provide a compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs for joint Planning and decision making with other jurisdictions, including school districts and adjacent local governmental units, for siting and building public facilities and sharing public services. The Element shall analyze the relationship of the local governmental unit to school districts and adjacent local governmental units, and to the regions, the state and other governmental units. The Element shall incorporate any Plans or agreements to which the local governmental unit is a part under s. 66.0301, 66.0307 or 66.0309. The Element shall identify existing or potential conflicts between the local governmental unit and other governmental units that are specified in this paragraph and describe processes to resolve such conflicts.



# Introduction

## Introduction

Given the number and range of public and quasi-public entities that can affect the daily lives of City residents, intergovernmental cooperation is a very important consideration in this Plan.

Cooperation can take many forms. Relationships may be informal, based on verbal agreements or other informal arrangements. Or, cooperation may be more formal as expressed in a legally binding agreement. Most intergovernmental cooperation is done for the purpose of delivering services or exercising joint powers. Some cooperation is undertaken to receive services or make cooperative purchases.

Intergovernmental relations can be described as vertical or horizontal. Vertical relationships are those linking a municipality to governments of broader jurisdiction. For example, the relationship between a local unit of government to the state and the federal government is vertical. Actions of one, often has a direct bearing on the others. For the most part, this relationship occurs in a top down fashion. For example, when the state adopts a statewide policy Plan, it in essence directs future activities with counties, villages, cities, and towns. As discussed in the Transportation Element of this Plan, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation has adopted a number of statewide policy Plans that directly affect transportation activities within the jurisdictions of local units of government. It is therefore imperative that when such policies are considered, local units of government, individually or cooperatively, work with the appropriate state bodies to develop a mutually beneficial relationship.

“Intergovernmental cooperation is any arrangement by which two or more governmental entities work together to address an issue of mutual interest”

### Examples of Intergovernmental Cooperation

- Transfer of Territory (Annexation, Detachment)
- Sharing Information, Staff, Resources, Etc.
- Communication
- Consolidating Services / Trading Services
- Areawide Planning
- Special Purpose Districts Serving Multiple Jurisdictions
- Joint Ventures
- Revenue Sharing
- Boundary Agreements
- Areawide Service Agreement
- Joint Use Of A Facility
- Cooperative Purchasing

Horizontal relationships describe the City’s connection to adjacent towns. Together, these relationships cut across each of the nine functional Elements of this Plan.

# Introduction

*City of Wisconsin Dells – Intergovernmental Cooperation Element*

Over the years, and most recently with the Kettl Commission report, there has been a statewide push for consolidating governmental services at the local level. The Commission on State-Local Partnerships (Kettl Commission) calls for the creation of “growth-sharing areas: within which local units of government would collaborate to serve the needs of their citizens. The report recommends that local governments adopt “Area Cooperation Compacts” with at least two other governments in at least two functional areas including: law enforcement, housing, emergency services, fire, solid waste, recycling, public health, animal control, transportation, mass transit, land-use Planning, boundary agreements, libraries, parks, recreation, culture, purchasing or e-government. The Commission also advocates for the reform of state aids to municipalities.



# Organizational Structure of the City

*City of Wisconsin Dells – Intergovernmental Cooperation Element*

## Organizational Structure of the City

The Council of Wisconsin Dells consists of six board members and a mayor. There are two special utility districts, the Wisconsin Dells Power and Light Utility District and the Wisconsin Dells-Lake Delton Sewerage Utility District. Both of these districts are discussed in greater detail in the Utilities and Community Facilities Element.

### Intergovernmental Entities

#### *Baraboo-Dells Airport*

The City of Wisconsin Dells jointly owns and operates this airport with the City of Baraboo, Village of Lake Delton, Town of Delton, and Sauk County. At present, the City's share in the airport is approximately 26%. More detail about the airport can be found in the Transportation Element of the Plan.

### Area Local Units of Government

#### *County Governments*

The City is situated in Columbia, Sauk and Adams Counties.

#### *Columbia County*

The Board of Supervisors consists of 31 county board supervisors each representing a geographic area. City residents are located in supervisory districts 1 and 2.

#### *Sauk County*

The Board of Supervisors consists of 31 county board supervisors each representing a geographic area. City residents are located in supervisory district 12.

#### *Adams County*

The Board of Supervisors consists of 20 county board supervisors each representing a geographic area. City residents are located in supervisory district 2.

#### *Surrounding Towns*

Nearby towns are the Towns of Dellona, Lyndon, Dell Prairie, and Newport.

#### *Surrounding Cities and Villages*

Adjacent to the City is the Village of Lake Delton.



# Regional Government Bodies

*City of Wisconsin Dells – Intergovernmental Cooperation Element*

## Regional Government Bodies

### Regional Planning Commission (RPC)

There are eight regional Planning commissions within Wisconsin created pursuant to §66.0309, Wis. Stats. The governor, with consent of local governing bodies, creates them. RPCs are formed to provide a wide range of services to local units of government within its geographic boundary, including Planning assistance on regional issues, assist local interests in responding to state and federal programs, provide advisory service on regional Planning problems, act as a coordinating agency for programs and activities, and provide cost shared Planning and development assistance to local governments. A six-county area in the southern part of the state is not served by an RPC (Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Jefferson, Rock and Sauk counties). The City is located within this unrepresented area.

*Regional Planning Commissions in Wisconsin*



### Metropolitan Planning Organization

Metropolitan Planning organizations (MPOs) are federally-sanctioned entities charged with transportation Planning on a regional basis and are designated for each urbanized area in the United States with a population greater than 50,000. Within Wisconsin, there are 12 MPO that take on a variety of forms. Some are housed within existing regional bodies, while others are agencies created for this single purpose. Still others are simply committees staffed by state or county employees.



# Regional Government Bodies

*City of Wisconsin Dells – Intergovernmental Cooperation Element*

The City is not located within the jurisdiction of an MPO. The closest MPO is the Madison Area Planning Commission and it is located about 60 miles south of the City. Based on population growth trends in this part of the state, it will be decades before another MPO is established in the area or the current MPO expands its Planning area.

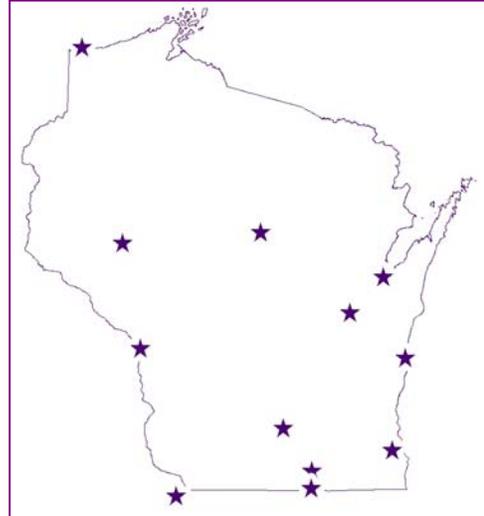
MPOs are administered by a board consisting primarily of elected officials from the local jurisdictions within the geographic boundary of the MPO. Funding for MPOs is provided through a combination of federal, state, and local funds. Each MPO is governed by board consisting primarily of chief elected officials who represent different parts of the area served by the MPO. A technical committee (typically referred to as a Technical Advisory Committee or TAC) advises the policy board. In some MPOs, a citizen advisory committee and other specialized committees serve as advisory bodies to the policy board.

Over the years, the responsibilities of MPOs have changed, but currently, MPOs fulfill several important roles. First, they prepare and adopt a long-range transportation Plan that provides a multi-modal investment strategy for meeting the mobility needs of people and businesses within its jurisdiction. Second, an MPO has the responsibility of developing a short-range transportation improvement program to prioritize federally funded improvement projects. MPOs also ensure that state and federal requirements relating to regional transportation Planning are implemented.

## Special Purpose Districts

Special purpose districts are local units of government that are created to provide a specified public service. Like municipalities, special purpose districts derive their authority from state statutes. They have geographic boundaries that may or may not coincide with those of counties, villages, cities, or towns. Once a special district is created, it becomes an autonomous body often with its own taxing authority. In a few instances, state statutes create unique districts (e.g., professional team districts) but typically authorize counties, towns, cities, and villages to create special districts according to the requirements contained in the statutes. The following chart provides a sample of non-educational special purpose districts authorized by state statute. Local school districts and the vocational educational districts in the state are also considered special districts because they have been created to provide a single service – education.

*Metropolitan Planning Organizations in Wisconsin*



# Regional Government Bodies

*City of Wisconsin Dells – Intergovernmental Cooperation Element*

Sample of Non-Educational Special Purpose Districts in Wisconsin	
Type of District	State Authorization
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metropolitan sewerage district</li> <li>• Town sanitary district</li> <li>• Drainage district</li> <li>• Public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district</li> <li>• Local exposition districts</li> <li>• Local professional baseball park district</li> <li>• Local professional football stadium district</li> <li>• Local cultural arts district</li> <li>• Architectural conservancy district</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 200</li> <li>• Subchapter IX, Chapter 60</li> <li>• Chapter 88</li> <li>• Chapter 33</li> <li>• Subchapter II, Chapter 229</li> <li>• Subchapter III, Chapter 229</li> <li>• Subchapter IV, Chapter 229</li> <li>• Subchapter V, Chapter 229</li> <li>• §66.1007</li> </ul>

## Wisconsin Dells Water and Light

The City owns and operates its own electric utility from a building on Illinois Avenue that also houses the water utility. There are three electric substations and four water towers fed by six wells that are part of the City’s distribution system.

## Wastewater Treatment Facility

Jointly owned and managed by the Wisconsin Dells-Lake Delton Sewerage Commission, the City’s wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) is located at the south end of Bowman Road. Overall, the condition of the facility is very good to excellent but capacity is an issue.

## School District

The City is located in the Wisconsin Dells School District, which is governed by a board. Board members may serve on various subcommittees of the Board. The school district’s offices are located at 811 County Road H Wisconsin Dells.

## Technical College District

In Wisconsin there are 16 technical college districts. The City is located in the Madison Area Technical College District. It has campuses located in Reedsburg, Portage, Watertown, Fort Atkinson, and Madison Wisconsin.



# State Agencies

*City of Wisconsin Dells – Intergovernmental Cooperation Element*

## State Agencies

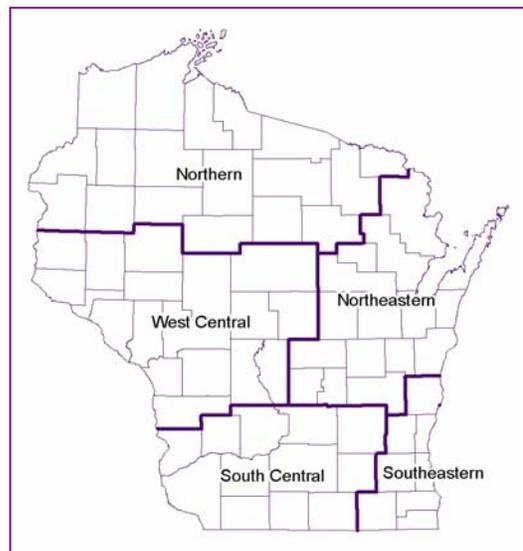
By virtue of their roles, there are a number of state agencies that are integral partners in City policies, programs, and projects.

### WI Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

The WDNR has a wide range of statewide responsibilities for environmental quality, state parks, and recreation. From an organization standpoint, the WDNR is divided into five regions as depicted in the WDNR Region map. The City is located in the South Central Region of the state.

Wisconsin Dells is part of the South Central Region, which serves the following counties: Crawford, Grant, Richland, Iowa, Lafayette, Sauk, Columbia, Dane, Green, Rock, Jefferson and Dodge. Local WDNR service centers are found in the following communities: Dodgeville, Fitchburg, Horicon, Janesville Madison, and Poynette.

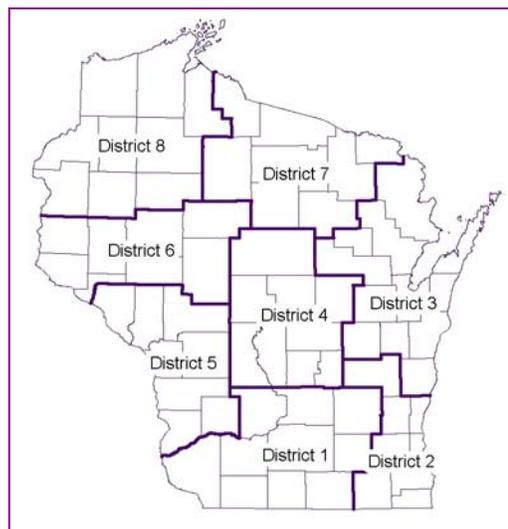
*Department of Natural Resources Regions*



### WI Department of Transportation (WisDOT)

The WisDOT is divided into eight districts for administrative and programmatic purposes. The City is located in District 1 which includes the following counties: Sauk, Columbia, Dodge, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Dane, Green, Rock, and Jefferson. The district office is located in Madison.

*Department of Transportation Districts*



# State Agencies

*City of Wisconsin Dells – Intergovernmental Cooperation Element*

## **Department of Commerce (DOC)**

The DOC is another state agency with regulatory responsibility. The Safety and Buildings Division administers and enforces state laws and rules relating to building construction and safety and health. Plan review and site inspection is part of the division's role in protecting the health and welfare of people in constructed environments.

## **Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)**

The DATCP has regulatory duties concerning the Farmland Preservation Program and certain agricultural practices.

## **Department of Revenue (DOR)**

The DOR is responsible for assessing real estate under its purview. Because of its role, there is little interaction between DOR and the City.

## **Department of Administration (DOA)**

The DOA fulfills a number of functions. It reviews annexation requests, incorporations, and cooperative boundary Plans. Additionally, the Land Information Office (LIO) within DOA is charged with identifying ways to enhance and facilitate Planning of local governments and improve coordination and cooperation of state agencies in their land use activities. LIO also provides technical assistance and advice to state agencies and local governments with land information responsibilities, among other things. LIO will review this Comprehensive Plan to ensure consistency with the state's "Smart Growth" legislation.

Along with regulating local activities, all of these agencies provide information, education and training and maintain funding programs to assist local governments in development efforts and maintaining a basic level of health and safety.



# State Agencies

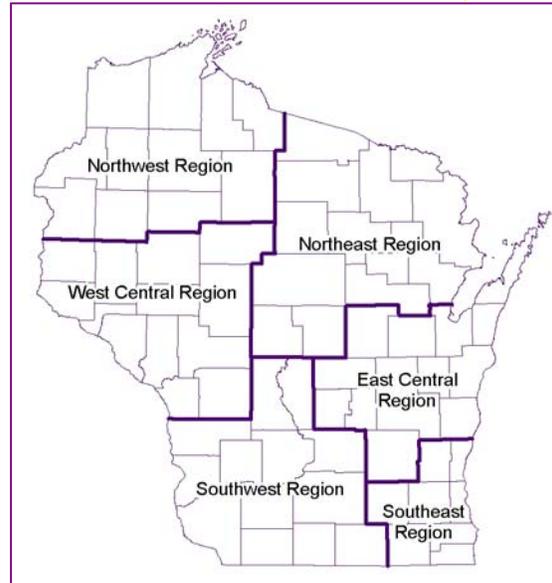
*City of Wisconsin Dells – Intergovernmental Cooperation Element*

## Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM)

WEM is an agency charged with a wide range of responsibilities for disaster mitigation, Planning, response, and education. It administers a number of grants to local communities and is responsible for preparing and administering several statewide policy Plans. Most recently, it completed a statewide hazard mitigation Plan for natural and technological hazards in conformance with the Disaster Mitigation Plan of 2000.

Regional directors are located in each of the six regional offices throughout the state. They work directly with municipal and county programs in Planning, training exercising, response and recovery activities, as well as the coordination of administrative activities between the Agency and local governments. When disasters and emergencies strike, they are the Agency's initial responders and serve as field liaisons with the state. The office of the Southwest Region is located in Madison.

*Wisconsin Emergency Management Regions*



# Interstate Agencies

*City of Wisconsin Dells – Intergovernmental Cooperation Element*

## Interstate Agencies

As allowed by the state's constitution, Wisconsin is party to a number of interstate organizations and compacts.

The **Wisconsin Great Lakes Compact Commission** is multi-state organization that works to:

- promote the orderly development of the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin;
- offers advise on balancing industrial, commercial, agricultural, water supply and residential and recreational uses of the Lakes' water resources; and
- enables basin residents to benefit from public works, such as navigational aids.

The Wisconsin Great Lakes Compact Commission is comprised of commissioners from the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

The **Great Lakes Protection Fund** is multi-state organization that works to:

- prevent toxic pollution;
- identify effective clean-up approaches;
- demonstrates natural resource stewardship; and
- classifies the health effects of toxic pollution.

In 1989 the governors from Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin created the Great Lakes Protection Fund.



# Nongovernmental Organizations

*City of Wisconsin Dells – Intergovernmental Cooperation Element*

## Nongovernmental Organizations

In addition to governmental organizations, there are other types of organizations that can affect the daily lives of City residents. These may include a chamber of commerce, non-profit organizations, and similar organizations that are actively working to promote the quality of life in the area. It is imperative that governmental and nongovernmental organizations work together for the good of all residents. The following section briefly describes some of these organizations and how they are organized and their purpose.

### **Forward Wisconsin**

Forward Wisconsin, Inc., is a public-private statewide marketing and business recruitment organization. It was created in 1984 as a not-for-profit corporation. Its job is marketing outside Wisconsin to attract new businesses, jobs, and increased economic activity to the state. It is governed by a board of directors, which reflects the public-private partnership. Governor Jim Doyle is chairman of the board. Private sector representation includes Wisconsin's utilities, banks, educational institutions, investment firms, law firms, and manufacturers. Public sector representation includes four state legislators and the Secretary of the Department of Commerce. Funding for Forward Wisconsin comes from private-sector contributors and from the state through a contract with the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. Forward Wisconsin is headquartered in Madison and has offices in Eau Claire, Milwaukee, and Chicago.

### **International Trade, Business and Economic Development Councils (ITBECs)**

Since 1992, five regional ITBECs have been created in Wisconsin to expand economic development in the state by promoting tourism from foreign lands and the exporting of Wisconsin products to other countries. ITBECs are a public-private partnership between business leaders, county elected officials, and tribal representatives. What began as 11 counties in the northwest part of the state now includes 54 counties.

*International Trade, Business and Economic Development Councils*



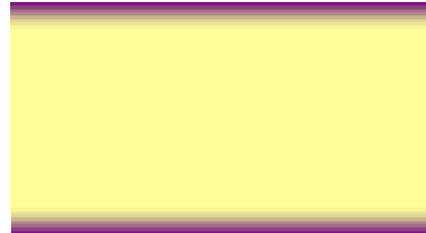
# Nongovernmental Organizations

*City of Wisconsin Dells – Intergovernmental Cooperation Element*

## Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&Ds)

RC&Ds are private, non-profit organizations created pursuant to state enabling legislation to improve the social, economic, and environmental opportunities of the area. Nationally, there are more than 200 districts and there are five in Wisconsin. The City is located in the Southwest Badger RC&D.

Working through its RC&D council, local citizens provide leadership and work together to set program priorities. Each RC&D district establishes an area Plan (also known as a resource conservation and utilization Plan), which provides direction for the council in making community improvements and conducting activities. A variety of government agencies, organizations, and companies provide assistance in accomplishing program goals.

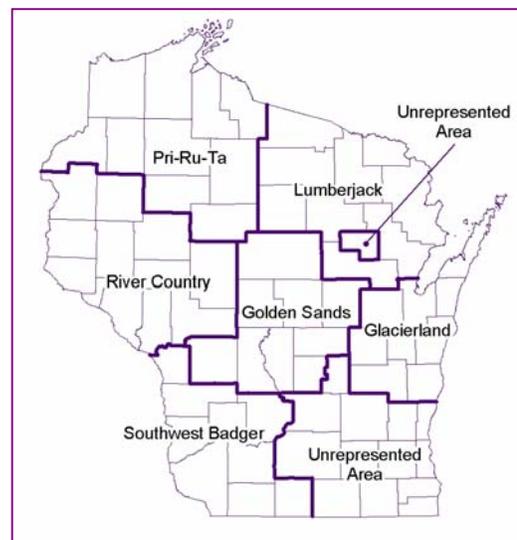


RC&D councils have broad authority to seek help from a variety of sources including federal or state agencies, local government, community organizations, and private industry. Help may be technical or financial assistance in the form of donations, loans, grants, or cost-sharing programs.

The Southwest Badger RC&D strives to improve the local economy by wise development and use of local resources. This may be done in many ways, including: developing wood products industries, promoting tourism, encouraging alternative energy source development, and assisting in marketing local products.

A coordinator, an administrative coordinator, and a project assistant support the Southwest Badger RC&D Council. The coordinator is a WDNR employee, the administrative coordinator is a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employee, and the project assistant is a council employee. They help the Council carry out its missions, goals, and objectives. This work includes Planning, proposal writing, facilitating, motivating, and negotiating. The coordinator is responsible for arranging for assistance from the WDNR and acts as liaison to other agencies.

*Resource & Conservation Development Councils in Wisconsin*



# Existing Intergovernmental Cooperation

*City of Wisconsin Dells – Intergovernmental Cooperation Element*

## Existing Intergovernmental Cooperation

State statutes set up a number of tools for local units of government to formally cooperate on a number of issues of common concern. The following chart summarizes these tools.

Types of Intergovernmental Agreements				
	General Agreements	Stipulations and Orders	Municipal Revenue Sharing Agreement	Cooperative Boundary Agreements
State Authorization	\$66.0301	\$66.0225	\$66.0305	\$66.0307
Uses	Services	Boundaries	Revenue sharing	Boundaries, services, & revenue sharing
Who decides?	Participating municipalities	Municipalities involved in the lawsuit, the judge, and area residents if they request a referendum	Participating municipalities	Participating municipalities and Department of Administration, Municipal Boundary Review
Referendum?	No	Binding referendum possible	Advisory referendum possible	Advisory referendum possible
Source: <i>Intergovernmental Cooperation</i> , Wisconsin Department of Administration				

The following text describes each tool in greater detail and whether the City is currently using them.

### General Agreements

State statute (§66.0301) authorizes local units of government to cooperate for the “receipt or furnishing of services or the joint exercise of any power or duty required or authorized by law”.

### Stipulations and Orders

Section 66.0225, Wis. Stats., allows local units of government to resolve an on-going legal battle over a boundary conflict with a legally binding stipulation and order. The City is not party to a Stipulation and Order.

# Existing Intergovernmental Cooperation

*City of Wisconsin Dells – Intergovernmental Cooperation Element*

## **Municipal Revenue Sharing Agreements**

Under §66.0305, Wis. Stats., adjoining local units of government can share taxes and fees with a municipal revenue sharing agreement. This type of agreement can also include provisions for revenue sharing. The City is not party to any revenue sharing agreement.

## **Cooperative Boundary Agreements**

Cooperative boundary agreements (§66.0307, Wis. Stats.) can be used to resolve boundary conflicts between villages, cities, and towns and may include revenue sharing or any other arrangement. With adoption of a cooperative boundary agreement, the rules of annexation do not apply. The City is not party to any cooperative boundary agreement.

## **Existing or Potential Areas of Conflict**

The City of Wisconsin Dells enjoys a good working relationship with the surrounding towns and the Village of Lake Delton. It is imperative that this cooperation continues through the implementation of this Plan and those of the surrounding towns'. There are goals and objectives throughout this document that describe the ways in which Wisconsin Dells will attempt to avoid and/or minimize conflict with its surrounding neighbors.



# Policies, Goals and Objectives

*City of Wisconsin Dells – Intergovernmental Cooperation Element*

## Policies, Goals and Objectives

- Policy:** Provide citizens with up-to-date information on community events, issues affecting the City, the Planning process, and their opportunities to participate.
- Policy:** Seek out and use the skills and expertise of residents to serve on volunteer committees.
- Policy:** Encourage residents to get out and vote.
- Policy:** Support programs and events that help integrate new residents into the community.
- Policy:** Encourage cultural activities through the school, civic clubs, private organizations, and foundations.
- Policy:** Initiate joint Plan Commission meetings with surrounding jurisdictions.
- Policy:** Coordinate the siting, building, and redevelopment of public facilities and the sharing of public services when possible.
- Policy:** Maintain existing service sharing agreements with neighboring communities and explore opportunities to create new alliances.
- Policy:** Invite area village and town governments and school districts to participate in facility Planning meetings.
- Policy:** Provide residents with the opportunity to review draft Plans, propose Plan amendments, and participate in the development of rules and regulations.
- Goal:** Achieve a high level of intergovernmental cooperation and citizen participation.
- Objective:* Open lines of communication with nearby towns, municipalities, school districts, special districts, and other government entities to discuss common issues and solutions.
- Objective:* Coordinate the siting, building, and redevelopment of public facilities and the sharing of public services when possible.
- Objective:* Continue to share services with neighboring jurisdictions to provide for residents and businesses in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.
- Objective:* Enhance coordination/communication with the (WDNR, WisDOT, other state agencies).



# Policies, Goals and Objectives

*City of Wisconsin Dells – Intergovernmental Cooperation Element*

*Objective:* Provide opportunities for resident involvement in the functions and operation of the City.

*Objective:* Encourage each household to become involved in their community.

