

VII. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

INTRODUCTION

Successful implementation of the recommendations of a comprehensive plan involves a complex set of intergovernmental factors. The City and Town of Platteville cannot achieve a common vision on their own. First, the vision extends beyond their existing boundaries into areas in which other units of government also have visions and usually, more authority. Second, even within its boundaries, other units of government have substantial influence (e.g., county, schools, state highways, etc.). Often, coordination with other units of government is the only way, or the most effective way, to solve a problem or achieve an objective.

A critical goal of this planning process, which is central to the successful implementation of the plan, is to promote good communication between all governments affected by the plan. A great deal can be accomplished if leaders can communicate openly and negotiate issues in good faith. Genuine effective planning must enable local officials and citizens to openly communicate and to understand that land use change has cumulative impacts that extend far beyond a single community.

VISION STATEMENT

By 2021, the City, Town, UW-Platteville, School District, and County will all work jointly for the health and welfare of all their citizens. Each governmental unit will appreciate, respect and be fully aware of the unique role and strengths of the other, resulting in a better quality of life for all Platteville residents.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Improve communications among local governments.

- Initiate quarterly meetings between the City, Town, County, UW-Platteville, Chamber of Commerce, and School District to communicate services and programs to build mutual respect and cooperation (joint commissions).
- Expand the City newsletter with updates and information from other governments.
- Governmental entities will work together to coordinate efforts and prevent duplication, and identify gaps in services and areas of need.

Identify area-wide resources of all types and use in an efficient, cooperative manner.

- Identify opportunities for obtaining area-wide grants.
- Investigate the formation of joint commissions.
- Explore area-wide emergency preparedness.

Strengthen area-wide marketing.

- Revitalize Ag-Tourism.
- Promote economic development and business growth.

POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Following are several examples of intergovernmental cooperation. In most cases, the greatest benefit of coordination will be the result of a proactive effort initiated by the City and Town.

Services/Equipment

The City and Town should work together and with other units of government, both formally and informally to enhance service delivery. Examples:

- Mutual Aid Agreements between area fire departments/districts.
- Joint agreements between the school district and local parks and recreation interests to cooperatively share facilities, programs, and education.
- The sharing between the City and Town of building and public improvement inspection services.
- To reduce costs and eliminate unnecessary duplication of equipment purchases, and to share specialized pieces of equipment.

Annexation

In Sections 66.021, 66.024, and 66.025 of the State Statutes, provision has been made for property owners to transfer contiguous parcels from towns to cities or villages, generally in order to receive urban services such as water and sanitary sewer. Conversely, cities and villages may annex adjoining parcels in Towns for similar reasons or to provide room for urban growth and expansion.

Annexation is often one of the most contentious issues between incorporated and unincorporated areas. Incorporated areas often feel that annexation is the only way the community can grow and prosper while Towns see it as an assault on their territory and an erosion of their tax base. Very often, relations between jurisdictions are damaged by historic concerns about annexation. Development decisions should not be made based upon a fear of annexation or a desire for territory, but rather with the best interests of the community as a whole.

Through this plan, the City and Town of Platteville have agreed upon future expansion of the City. This decision should be formalized in the form of an intergovernmental agreement detailing areas for future annexation. This agreement should cover a variety of annexation issues, such as the provision of urban services, costs of providing urban services, timing of annexations, and long-range annexation boundaries.

Extraterritorial Powers

State Statutes provide for some planning oversight for developing areas around cities and villages. These include extraterritorial zoning and plat review, and official mapping. These powers are granted to cities for lands within 1.5 miles of City boundaries. Communities are able to review zoning changes in the extraterritorial areas through a joint committee with members of both the City and the affected Town. Cities also share review authority over platting and subdivisions in their extraterritorial area. This review authority is mainly concerned with land division standards and subdivision improvement standards, rather than land use or zoning. Towns and cities can also officially map right-of-ways for future streets and drainageways in their planning areas. In the City and Town of Platteville, an extraterritorial zoning area has been established which will greatly aid in implementing this plan.

Joint Planning

Comprehensive planning is a shared responsibility between the State, municipalities, Towns, and counties. Several policies are recommended to encourage joint planning and cooperation between governments to promote the efficient use of land and other resources.

- Publicize and update the plan to encourage its use in the decision-making process. This includes making copies of the plan available at the Town Hall, City Hall, and library, and presenting the plan to various organizations throughout the community. The Comprehensive Plan should be reviewed annually and updated every 5 years to remain consistent with current local conditions.
- Ensure compliance with the intents of the Comprehensive Plan as a prerequisite to development within the City's and Town's jurisdictions.
- Update both City and County zoning and subdivision regulations to assure consistency with the Plan, and work to implement the goals and objectives.
- Establish a rational balance and coordination of City, Town, and County authority over the use and development of land.
- Encourage coordinated and cooperative agreements between the City, Town, and other public agencies that lower the cost of providing public services. In particular, promote joint agreements to share equipment and purchase supplies in bulk.
- Encourage land use, boundary, and administrative agreements between the City and Town to eliminate defensive municipal annexation or private developer influence of municipal or county approval processes.
- Open direct channels of communication between County agencies, Town and City authorities that promote the exchange of ideas and meaningful dialogue on important issues. Conduct annual meetings between the County, Town, and City planning commissions.
- Coordinate with utility providers in controlling development and preventing land uses that would hinder the orderly provision of utilities.

Education and Involvement

- Raise the standard of development by educating developers about good planning and design standards for subdivision layout, site planning, landscaping, building and sign appearance, highway access, parking capacity, and stormwater management. This can be accomplished formally through training seminars and informally through suggestions during the development review process.
- Require conspicuous public notices to residents and surrounding government agencies that provide relevant information about proposed developments, potential impacts, and the ability to participate before the decision-making process begins.

Information

- Maintain up-to-date and easily accessible records of information regarding land-use conditions, environmental conditions, jurisdictional boundaries, public facility capacities, and land use plans.
- Coordinate data collection and data sharing between the City, Town, and County to provide the most efficient and least expensive source of commonly used data.

Other Implementation and Plan Follow-up Activities

- Continue to seek grants from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and other State and Federal agencies for the acquisition of outdoor recreation sites, open space, and conservancy lands.
- Support the formation of a private, nonprofit Land Trust to purchase land and development rights of environmentally significant resource areas and natural areas.
- Support stormwater management and erosion control efforts to protect the surface and groundwater resources of the area.

Additional Planning and Zoning Activities

- Continue to support cooperative planning between the Town and City.
- Work with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and other regional agencies to assure that transportation and other major infrastructure improvements are consistent with the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Explore the use of “impact fees” and other capital cost recovery mechanisms to finance the costs of new development in the Town and City.
- Explore tools for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the zoning and development review process.
- Establish mutually agreeable edges and edge character to the City.
- Coordinate “trans-jurisdictional” issues such as transportation, open space, sanitary sewer service, stormwater, and environmental corridors.
- Coordinate to create attractive gateways into the joint community.

Existing Intergovernmental Agreements

Fire Protection/EMS
Police Protection - agreement is with Grant County
Street Maintenance Agreement

Potential Conflicts and Processes to Resolve Conflicts

The State law requires identification of existing and potential conflicts between governments in the planning area, including processes to resolve any conflicts. The following addresses this issue for each government in the area:

City of Platteville/Town of Platteville:

- Land use in area north of new bypass to the City limits.
- Emergency Services (future Town growth)

City/Town/School District:

- No apparent conflicts or future conflicts

City/Town/County:

- Police protection
- 911 Backup System
- Emergency Services

City/Town/University:

- No apparent conflicts or future conflicts

Town of Platteville/Surrounding Towns:

- No apparent conflicts or future conflicts

Resolution of Future Conflicts

The City and Town should continue to collaborate on planning, land use, and zoning concerns by:

- Explore the formation of a Joint Planning Commission, which will have a regular meeting date, and will be used to resolve land use disputes.
- Jointly initiating discussions with Grant County to establish procedures that will allow the Platteville community to successfully implement its Comprehensive Plan. Of particular concern is county zoning in the Town and the application of county land division ordinances to lands addressed by the Comprehensive Plan.