



RUSK COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

ADOPTED -

9 Implementation

Overview

The overall planning process has resulted in the review of information and background data relating to the past, present, and future of Rusk County. Key statistical data and other trends have been reviewed and discussed pertaining to future impacts on all aspects of the county. As a result of this review and discussion, the Implementation Chapter sets forth identified actions and policies intended to advance methodologies to address issues and opportunities throughout the county. The action statements alone point towards a desired direction, but with the included identification of key groups for implementation and timeframe for execution of the actions, each action statement truly has direction as which to begin its overall implementation.

Throughout the life of the comprehensive plan, key action statements contained within this plan will be completed. In addition, as change is inevitable, new action statements not prioritized for inclusion in this plan will be identified and may need to be considered as it (action) relates to new circumstances.

9.1 Plan Consistency

Wisconsin's comprehensive planning law (Wisconsin Statutes, Section 66.1001) states that beginning on January 1, 2010, if a local governmental unit engages in any of the following actions (see list below), those actions shall be consistent with that local governmental unit's comprehensive plan.

- Official mapping established or amended under s.62.23(6)
- Local subdivision regulation under s.236.45 or 236.46
- County zoning ordinances enacted or amended under s.59.69
- City or village zoning ordinances enacted or amended under s.62.23(7)
- Town zoning ordinances enacted or amended under s.60.61 or 60.62
- Zoning of shorelands or wetlands in shorelands under s.59.692, 61.351 or 62.2131

Rusk County has adopted, by ordinance, both shoreland zoning and land subdivision



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regulations. As a result, by January 1, 2010 actions resulting from those ordinances must be consistent with the county's adopted comprehensive plan. The overall development of the county comprehensive plan is one of the first steps in the process of reviewing, modifying and developing, where necessary, changes to ordinances where potential inconsistencies may exist.

Development of the comprehensive plan was done so in a way in which integration of information and data was reviewed within and between plan chapters. In so much, this integration was intended to make the chapters consistent with one another. Key to this integration and consistency was also the review of other known county, state, federal, and other organizations plans that may be applicable to Rusk County.

9.2 Mechanism to Measure Plan Progress

Implementation progress made in relation to Rusk County's Comprehensive Plan will be measured based on progress towards achieving its goals and objectives and implementing the identified actions. The overall measurement will be focused on accomplishing the specified actions within the documented timeframes. The listed actions identify what is to be completed, who the key groups are for implementing the action statement, and when action is to be completed. It is possible that some actions may not have a specific end target date, but rather a continuous or ongoing work element. It is recommended that the Zoning Department and/or other appropriate committee review the plan's objectives and actions annually, in an effort to realize its accomplishments and identify where modifications may be needed.

9.3 Future Updates

From time-to-time Rusk County may need to make revisions and amendments to individual or multiple chapters of the comprehensive plan. When making necessary revisions or amendments, it is recommended the process follow the adopted Public Participation Plan and 66.1001(4).

At a minimum, the comprehensive plan shall be updated no less than once every 10 years. As opposed to an amendment, an update is often a substantial re-write of the plan document and maps. An update shall also follow the Public Participation Plan and requirements set forth within 66.1001(4).



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9.4 Programs and Implementation Tools

While the overall comprehensive plan provides detailed information regarding Rusk County, the Committee on Committees and public input through a survey established a set of goals and objectives for which key strategies or recommendations (actions) have been made. Implementation of these actions is important to advancing particular recommendations participants of the planning process saw as important to the county.

A key component not stated within, is developing a more detailed work plan to address the goals, objectives, and actions. The work plan should assign responsible parties and specific timelines. This will be the first implementation item.

9.5 Summary

Housing

Goal: Promote a diversified, affordable, and safe housing stock that meets the needs of current and future residents.

Objectives:

1. Support the development of housing units that meet the needs of current and future residents.
2. Promote the development/maintaining of housing to meet the needs of an aging population.
3. Promote the development/maintaining of properties that are suitable for first time home buyers and new residents to the County.

Actions:

- A. Identify suitable sites for housing.
- B. Identify areas, types of housing stock needs.
- C. Monitor affect of housing/development on County.



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Transportation

Goal: Strive for a safe, maintained, and adequate transportation system that supports a variety of users that supports and grows the economy of the County.

Objectives:

1. Support the maintenance and improvement of existing transportation assets.
2. Promote a variety of transportation methods.
3. Encourage the development and growth of State and Federal transportation corridors in the County.

Actions:

- A. Identify State and Federal funds to develop, maintain, and/or expand various transportation systems
- B. Develop a maintenance and reinvestment plan for transportation assets.
- C. Monitor the population's transportation needs.
- D. Communicate with the appropriate State and Regional entities to ensure that Rusk County's transportation system is coordinated with surrounding transportation systems.

Utilities & Community Facilities

Goal: Support the maintenance and development of area utilities and community facilities that serve residents and property owners of Rusk County.

Objectives:

1. Work with utility and telecommunication companies to plan for future development and expansion.
2. Encourage the utilization of existing community facilities.



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3. Promote the adoption and utilization of new technologies and green/energy efficient methods by utilities, and implementation in community facilities.
4. Monitor the needs of the County, to ensure timely compliance with future expansion or rehabilitation of utilities and community facilities.

Actions:

- D. Support the development and utilization of alternative energy production.
- E. Encourage municipalities to maintain up-to-date utility mapping, including water/sewer, fiber optics, electric, telephone, etc.
- F. Promote recycling and appropriate disposal of refuse and hazardous materials.
- G. Encourage utilization of community facilities and collaboration/joint efforts by government bodies to avoid duplication of services.

Natural, Agricultural & Cultural Resources

Goal: Protect, preserve, and efficiently utilize natural resources in the County, as well as provide employment and recreational opportunities. Encourage production agriculture and preservation of agricultural lands. Promote the preservation of historic and cultural resources of the area.

Objectives:

1. Promote the responsible use of Rusk County resources.
2. Protect natural resources from pollution and degradation, and encourage proper land/timber management by government and private owners.
3. Promote use of farmland for agricultural purposes
4. Seek and promote educational opportunities for people to learn more about local historic and cultural resources.

Actions:

- A. Promote development and agricultural practices which protect surface and



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- groundwater quality, including proper erosion control, manure management, and stormwater management practices.
- B. Work with the Rusk County Historical Society and other organizations interested in the preservation of historic and cultural resources.
- C. Continue formulation of the County Forest Management Plan and Land & Water Conservation Plan.
- D. Promote education opportunities for residents and property owners that provide natural resource conservation practices, proper land management, agri-business issues, and historic and cultural resource understanding.

Economic Development

Goal: Promote, attract, and maintain the expansion and development of the economic base in Rusk County.

Objectives:

1. Encourage the growth of new job opportunities and higher paying job opportunities in Rusk County.
2. Promote the development of manufacturing and industry where infrastructure is readily available.
3. Promote the education and skilled training of the work force.
4. Encourage the start-up of new business and the retention of existing businesses.

Actions:

- A. Work with job training and education providers to provide opportunities for local workers to prepare for current and future job opportunities.
- B. Maintain a business retention/expansion program.
- C. Seek new opportunities for business growth and encourage the pursuit of emerging technology companies.
- D. Monitor the availability of suitable sites for industry and the skill base of the workforce to attract companies.



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Intergovernmental Cooperation

Goal: Encourage and promote intergovernmental cooperation between the various governmental –tax payer supported entities internal and external of Rusk County.

Objectives:

1. Promote having active communication channels between governmental agencies.
2. Work to eliminate duplication of services by government entities internal and external of Rusk County
3. Encourage State and Federal agencies to eliminate unfunded mandates on local bodies.
4. Work with other governmental bodies to accurately inform the public of current policies and practices.

Actions:

- A. Work with other government entities to address the goals and objectives found in this plan.
- B. Encourage cooperation among municipalities to find efficiencies in service delivery and cost savings.
- C. Be proactive in resolving current and potential conflicts with other government entities.

Land Use

Goal: Work in cooperation with municipal bodies and the public to promote development and land use that is sustainable and compatible and also respects private property rights.



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Objectives:

1. Promote communication between government entities and the property owners.
2. Work to educate the public on comprehensive planning, development and zoning.
3. Monitor land use activities within the County and region for public sentiment and emerging trends.

Actions:

- A. Review the need for and update current ordinances and regulations as deemed necessary.
- B. Maintain the comprehensive plan so that it is consistent with existing ordinances and regulations.

9.6 The Future

The Rusk County Comprehensive Plan was developed in order to comply with State Statute and also to assist the County in making decisions moving forward based on project change and historic data. The plan was not intended to provide every detail on the County, but a snapshot in time of historic data, current conditions, and the projected future. The landscape and environment change daily, affected by happenings within the County, and by outside influences. However the Plan allows the County to provide some guidance to components contained within (Housing, Transportation, Economic Development, etc.) in order to provide some shape and direction.

This plan is not the end, it is the beginning, and should be reviewed periodically and updated as the County evolves and as more data is made available.