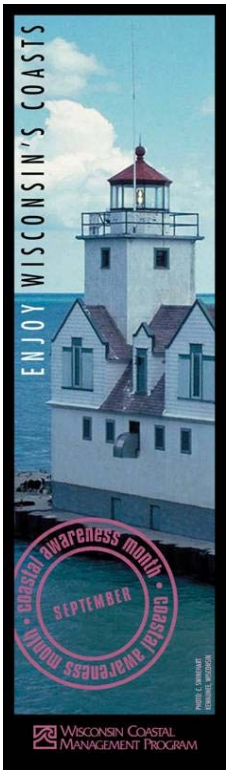
A Guide to Planning For Coastal Communities in Wisconsin



A Guide to Planning For Coastal Communities in Wisconsin

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I. INTRODUCTION

Starting in 2010, Wisconsin's local and regional governments must base decisions that affect land use on an adopted comprehensive plan. As a result there is an increase in planning activity as communities adopt new plans or update existing plans to be consistent with the new laws.

According to §66.1001 Wis. Stats., a local comprehensive plan includes at least the following nine elements: Issues and Opportunities; Housing; Transportation; Utilities and Community Facilities; Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources; Economic Development; Intergovernmental Cooperation; Land Use; and Implementation. The comprehensive plan definition is the same for cities, villages, towns, counties, and regional planning commissions. The definition is intended to provide local governments with a broad policy framework for addressing many of the issues that local governments confront on a daily basis. The definition is important because beginning on January 1, 2010, any program or action of a local government that affects land use must be consistent with that local government's comprehensive plan.

This comprehensive planning guide is for communities in Wisconsin within the coastal zone of the state. Coastal communities face unique challenges within the state when they prepare their comprehensive plans. Since the comprehensive planning statute does not address the preparation of a coastal element of a comprehensive plan, this guidebook is intended to help Wisconsin communities focus on coastal issues within each of the nine elements of their local Comprehensive Plans. This guidebook provides additional information for addressing coastal related issues within their plan. It provides reference information to the many resources available through federal, state, regional, county, and local programs that can help communities make informed decisions. It is not intended to constrain or dictate the manner in which local governments prepare their local comprehensive plan.

Other guides available for the required elements of a comprehensive plan include:

- **Guide to the Housing Element -** Available from the UW Dept. of Urban and Regional Planning at (608) 263-2627 or the Division of Intergovernmental Relations at (608) 267-2707. • Available on the Division of Intergovernmental Relations web site at http://www.doa.state.wi.us/.
- **Guide to the Transportation Element -** For more information, contact Bobbi Retzlaff, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, at (608) 264-7266 or bobbi.retzlaff@dot.state.wi.us. • Available on the DOT web site at http://www.dot.state.wi.us/dtim/bop/ planning-index.htm.
- **Guide to the Natural Resources Element -** For more information, contact Dreux Watermolen, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, at (608) 266-8931 or dreux.watermolen@dnr.state.wi.us . • Available on the DNR web site at http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/es/science/ landuse/smart_growth/urbplan_bk.pdf.
- **Guide to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Element -** For more information, contact Erich Schmidtke, at (608) 264-6102 or erich.schmidtke@doa.state.wi.us. • Available on the Division of Intergovernmental Relations web site at http://www.doa.state.wi.us/.
- **Guide to the Economic Development Element - In progress.** • Target date for completion: Fall 2002. • For more information, please contact Roger Nacker, Wisconsin Economic Development Institute, at (608) 661-4626 or rnacker@msn.com;
- **Guide to the Historic/Cultural Resources Element -** For more information, contact Rick Bernstein, State Historical Society, at (608) 264-6506 or raberstein@mail.shsw.wisc.edu. Available on the State Historical Society web site at http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/
- **An Overall Guide to Completing a Comprehensive Plan compliant with §66.1001 and the Land Use Element - In progress.** • Targeted completion date: Summer 2003. For more information, contact Joanna Schumann, Division of Intergovernmental Relations, at (608) 264-6117.

Coastal resources relate to most, if not all, of the comprehensive plan elements. As a result, coastal resources may be addressed in numerous places in the comprehensive plan.