Dodge County, WI

2045 Comprehensive Plan

Adopted: February 11, 2026

Our Plan, Our Future!



Cedar Corporation

Dodge County 2045 Comprehensive Plan

Approved by the Dodge County Board

February 11, 2026

Prepared for:

Dodge County
127 East Oak Street
Juneau, Wisconsin 53039

Prepared by:

Cedar Corporation
1695 Bellevue Street
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54311

Cedar Corporation Project Number: 07152-0001

Acknowledgements

Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Committee

Supervisor Dan Siegmann
Supervisor Dale Macheel
Supervisor Mary Bobholz
Supervisor Larry Bischoff
Supervisor Kevin Burnett

Ad Hoc Comprehensive Plan Update Working Group

Rich Appel – Superintendent at Horicon School District (retired)
Melanie Budde – Realtor / Beaver Dam Chamber President
Liz Herzmann – WDNR, Horicon Marsh
Kurt Keach – T. Portland Board
Dirk Langfoss - Executive Director, YMCA of Dodge County
Dale Macheel – T. Westford Chair / Farmer / LRPC member
Jim Meyer – T. Ashippun Chair, Business Owner
Lisa Pollard – Dean of Beaver Dam Campus, Moraine Park Technical College (MPTC)
Paul Scharfman - Specialty Cheese Company, Inc.
Linda Schraufnagel – T. Leroy Chair
Ashley Tracy – John Deere Corporation
Jeffery Tucker – (former) Marshfield Clinic

Land Resources & Parks Department Staff

Bill Ehlenbeck, Director
Nathan Olson, Community Development Administrator
Morgan Muche, Community Development Marketing & Communications Mgr.
Terry Ochs, Code Administration Manager
Jesse O'Neill, GIS Administrator
Bryce Johnson, Land Use/Sanitation Specialist

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Executive Summary

Background

The general purpose of the Comprehensive Plan is to guide and accomplish coordinated, adjusted, harmonious development within Dodge County. The *Dodge County 2045 Comprehensive Plan* positions the county to guide future land development over the next 20 plus years in a way that preserves the rural character of the county, protects natural resources, and preserves agricultural lands, yet targets areas for essential development. The Dodge County *2045 Comprehensive Plan* was prepared to addresses nine comprehensive planning elements as established by Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Law:

1. Issues and Opportunities
2. Population and Housing
3. Transportation
4. Community Facilities and Services
5. Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources
6. Economic Development
7. Intergovernmental Cooperation
8. Land Use
9. Implementation

Since the planning law was established in 1999 (WI Stats 66.1001), this is the county's third major update of its comprehensive plan. According to the statute, communities practicing land use authority must have their comprehensive plans updated at least once every ten years. Adoption of the *2045 Comprehensive Plan* fulfills the county's obligation for the next ten years. However, amendments to a comprehensive plan can occur anytime. Amendments are typically warranted by changing conditions and preferred policies.

Public Participation & Issue Identification

Public participation is key to any long-range planning effort and, through the use of various tools and techniques, the county received a wealth of input on how the next twenty years may play out and how it should position itself to proactively address a variety of issues. Working with the Ad Hoc Comprehensive Plan Update Committee, the Land Resources & Parks Committee, as well as engaging with residents and landowners via an on-line survey, an on-line project hub, and the hosting of two in-person Public Involvement Meetings, a multitude of issues and opportunities were expressed, which help frame topics the plan needs to address.

The top issues identified during the planning process included:

- Affordable/Workforce Housing, including Senior Housing
- Workforce Development / Employee Attraction
- Water Quality of Lakes and Streams
- Flooding and Stormwater Management
- Accommodation of Renewable Energy
- Access to Medical Care (incl. Mental Health Support)
- Access to Child Care
- Coordinated EMS/Fire Services
- Aging Infrastructure (roads) / Capital Improvement Funding
- Access to High-Speed Internet.

The top opportunities identified include:

- Tourism
- Resident Attraction Based on Quality of Life
- Leverage Agricultural Economy
- Leverage Education System
- Improve Work-Related Transportation

The *Dodge County 2045 Comprehensive Plan* sets the stage to successfully address the current issues and opportunities and to achieve the county's vision for the future. The county's vision for the future further clarifies priorities and speaks primarily to the importance of its proactive involvement to control the amounts and density of development to maintain Dodge County as a desirable place to live, work, and visit. This will mainly be accomplished by maintaining the county's current land use management system by which development must conform. This system has served the county well over the past 20 plus years.

Planning from the Outside-In: A Sustainable Approach

Planners have long taken the approach to land use planning that future development would grow out of the established core of developed incorporated communities (cities and villages). Land within the path of development would be consumed for more intensive-type land uses (residential, commercial, industrial). This approach is certainly valid for growing urban communities as they plan their infrastructure and service systems, but it does little to preserve the value of natural resource which both urban and rural residents value. The traditional approach also assumes that land used for undeveloped purposes such as agriculture doesn't hold the same economic value as "developed" land. In addition, many future land use plan maps for cities and villages grossly overestimate the actual land required to accommodate future growth. Often, the intent is to hold back the encroachment of incompatible agricultural use and make it ready for accommodating development if, and when, the time comes.

A better approach to land use planning for rural counties, especially towns, is to "Plan from the Outside-In." Basically, this approach gives all land equal value and establishes future use based on the strengths of the features of the land. Current or existing land use plays a big part in determining future use. The reason for this is current land use has weathered economic challenges (such as the 2008 recession) and stands a greater chance of carrying that use forward into the future. Changes from the existing land use pattern are considered in certain locations (such as cities, villages, and town sanitary districts) but are driven by how the local town interprets pressure (or market) for that change and what services it may require. Should unique land use opportunities arise, they will most likely be addressed on a case-by-case basis and be weighed against compatibility with existing uses around them, much like a conditional use permit. A recent example is the influx of renewable energy systems in rural areas. Proactive planning by rural communities can help guide their location and impacts.

When working with the rural public, landowners and residents seem to better understand where development shouldn't occur versus where it should occur. The "Planning from the Outside-In" approach caters to that logic. Since most of the towns within the county are rural by nature and heavily influenced by farming and natural resources, all farmland preservation planning efforts should be used as the baseline to identify areas to be preserved for agricultural use and those where development could be accommodated. Maps within the farmland preservation plan clearly show the location of farmland preservation areas in the county towns. That presents a huge head start to the land use planning process.

The concept of "Planning from the Outside-In" was integrated with the Comprehensive Plan Update to seamlessly ensure areas designated for farmland preservation are consistent between the two maps and documents.

In addition to using farmland preservation planning as a baseline for future agricultural activities, planners can also use other physical land features to preserve and protect areas important to the natural culture of rural communities. Environmentally sensitive and public lands are also included in this approach. The public "value" of these lands continues to increase in importance for numerous reasons. Designating these areas for long-term preservation is embraced by this approach and is therefore not recommended for transition.

The result of "Planning from the Outside-In" can create a Future Land Use Plan Map that:

- Represents a better reality for attaining the projected future land uses.
- Uses an established and adopted criterion for farmland preservation planning as a baseline.
- Elevates agriculture and natural resource features as a future land use type (not just a holding area for future development).

- Accommodates agricultural related business as an economic opportunity.
- Directs development away from areas that may have an impact on natural resources or land use compatibility.
- Focuses future intensive development closer to established communities able to provide necessary infrastructure.
- Makes incorporated communities more accountable for land consumption to accommodate growth.

2045 Comprehensive Plan Summary

Goals, Objectives, Policies & Recommendations

Each element of the comprehensive plan includes a specific set of goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations that the county will use as a guide to future land use, development and preservation decisions over the next 20 years. Goals, objectives, policies and recommendations are defined as follows

- Goals are broad, value-based statements that express general public priorities and preferences about how the county should address issues over the next 20 years and beyond. Goals address key issues, opportunities and problems that affect the county.
- Objectives are more specific than goals and are measurable statements usually attainable through direct action and implementation of plan recommendations. The accomplishment of objectives contributes to the fulfillment of the goal.
- Policies are general rules, principles, strategies or courses of action used to guide decision making and actions as necessary to accomplish goals and objectives. Policies are intended to be used by decision makers on a regular basis.
- Recommendations are specific actions, projects or activities that are intended to achieve a particular plan goal, objective, or policy.

All of the statements contained in the original comprehensive plan were reviewed, discussed, and modified mainly through discussions and deliberations with the Ad Hoc Comprehensive Plan Update Committee. Issues and topics identified through other public engagements were also brought forth to the Ad Hoc Committee for their consideration. The result was a completely overhauled set of updated statements which better reflect the conditions and needs of Dodge County.

Priority Recommendations

In order for plans to be meaningful, they must be implemented, so the *Dodge County 2045 Comprehensive Plan* was developed with implementation in mind. Chapter 9 of the plan contains an Implementation Action Plan intended to jump start the implementation process by addressing the county's most critical needs, which can then help provide focus and progress on meeting its long-term goals.

The updated Comprehensive Plan contains just over 100 individual recommendations and tasks, and it is unlikely that each and every one of them will be accomplished based on the capacity of county staff. Therefore, a process using input from the Ad Hoc Committee, Land Resources & Parks Committee, and key Department Heads helped to narrow down the relative importance and implementation timing of these recommendations into three categories: Short Term (1-2 years), Medium-Term (3-10 years), and Long-Term (11-20 years). The purpose was ultimately to identify those recommendations which would "move the needle" the most, in the shortest amount of time.

Based on this evaluation, a total of 22 "priority recommendations" were identified for implementation over the next two years and are shown in Table 9.1. A secondary set of 14 priority recommendations were established for implementation in the 3 to 10 year timeframe following the first two-year period and can be found in Chapter 9. It is important to note that items within each table are NOT listed in priority order, as this will provide the county flexibility in addressing factors such as timing, budgets, and capacity.

2045 Future Land Use Map

The 2045 Future Land Use Map (see Map 8.2) is the primary component of the comprehensive plan and will be used as a guide for officials when considering future development within the county. The 2045 Future Land Use Map is also long-range in nature and will need to be re-evaluated periodically to ensure it remains consistent with changing trends and conditions.

Pursuant to the "smart growth" comprehensive planning law, Section 66.1001 Wis. Stats., the Land Use element must specify the general location of future land uses by net density or other categories. To address this requirement, land use categories were developed to allow the county and local officials the opportunity and flexibility to promote a desired pattern and density of land use in their communities and throughout the county consistent with county plans and ordinances for those communities under general county zoning jurisdiction, or, consistent with their own local plans and ordinances in the case of those communities NOT under general county zoning jurisdiction. The 2045 Future Land Use Map, therefore, applies specifically to the unincorporated areas of Dodge County and not to the incorporated villages and cities.

Table 9-1: Implementation Action Plan – Priority Recommendations (1-2 Years)

Plan Element	Recommendation Statement
Issues & Opps	Continue to use the existing development review system which encourages towns, villages and cities to comment on plan amendments, code revisions, and development proposals before the proposals are acted upon, and encourage municipalities to offer the same opportunity to the county.
Housing	Develop educational materials that talk about the benefits of all housing types.
Housing	Continue Dodge County's participation in the Southern Housing Region and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which provides no interest loans for home improvements for low and moderate income persons.
Housing	Continue the funding and utilization of the Dodge County Community Development Fund to support the construction of local level workforce housing projects.
Economic Dev	Develop a county program to attract childcare providers. For example, consider the provision of facilities, become a licensor for child-care, "bridge" pay gaps and/or provide benefits (e.g., healthcare).
Economic Dev	Develop the "Education Story" for Dodge County and determine market audience for sharing and distributing. a. Leverage the county's proximity/access to higher education (MPTC, UW-Madison, etc.). b. Incorporate comparison with state-level scores for education system.
Economic Dev	Develop and distribute tourism information promoting the county.
Economic Dev	Continue participation and cooperation with the Madison Region Economic Partnership (MadREP) and its successor organization.
Transportation	Leverage local transportation dollars by applying regularly for state road funding opportunities (LRIP, ARIP, etc.)
Transportation	Promote and support the expansion of the Gold Star Memorial Trail.
Transportation	Continue to produce a county Five Year Capital Improvement Plan on an annual basis.
Utilities & CF	Study the re-use of the Henry Dodge Building property for a renewable energy project if the structure is removed.
Utilities & CF	Enhance the county-wide dispatch system with features such as text to 911, sheriff apps, and more focus on citizen interaction.
Utilities & CF	Support eligible cities, villages and sanitary districts who attempt to obtain grants for needed infrastructure expansion and improvements.
Utilities & CF	Utilize the Friends of Dodge County Parks to develop a fundraising strategy to help offset the cost of park improvements.
Utilities & CF	Work with the Friends of Dodge County Parks in communicating parks information to the County Board, the local news media, and to the general public through the Land Resources and Parks Department.
Ag/Nat/Cul	Develop incentives for farmers to leave unplowed and unfertilized buffers along waterways ways and wetlands. Regularly apply for DNR grants for the following uses: a. Shoreland restoration projects. b. Park improvement projects. c. Development of new or existing trails (such as the Gold Star Memorial Trail). d. Other projects that enhance the county's natural resources base.
Ag/Nat/Cul	Assist and support the county's Lake Districts in the implementation of locally created plans, programs, and implementation recommendations regarding water quality improvements
Land Use	Amend the County Land Use Code as needed to implement the Comprehensive Plan.
Land Use	Amend county regulations to allow for creativity in small to medium scale solar energy system siting which encourages placement in/on parking lots, building rooftops, closed landfills, and existing brownfield sites.
Intergov. Cooperation	Host a bi-annual forum in which cities, village, towns, and the county can constructively discuss land use and zoning issues, especially the current issues facing those communities, as well as to improve communication and coordination (i.e., Wis. Stats. 66.023 regarding cooperative boundary agreements, and Wis Stats. 66.30, regarding cooperative inter-governmental agreements).
Implementation	Provide IT advancements to make county government more secure, yet citizen-centric with respect to planning and zoning processes and activities.

The Future Land Use categories are simply designated areas of consistent character, use, and density that share similar goals and objectives for future use, preservation and/or development. The 2045 Future Land Use Map and plan goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations will be used as a general guide to assist county and local officials when making decisions regarding the protection and preservation of the county's agricultural and natural resources and when considering specific development proposals. Decisions and actions to allow specific types of development will be further guided by specific county ordinance and/or Land Use Code provisions established to further define and implement the general goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations of the *2045 Comprehensive Plan*.

The 2045 Future Land Use Map was generated using a significant amount of town-level input and feedback. Each town was provided a current county-level Future Land Use map for its specific community and was asked to review the map and provide input to county staff on any desired changes. The type, amount and distribution of land uses by category as depicted on the 2045 Future Land Use Plan Map are "driven" by the same land use types, amounts, and distribution of land uses contained in the applicable local comprehensive plans. Some of these local level plans are more aggressive in terms of the projected conversion of farmland and, therefore, this "bottom up" plan building process allowed those local units of government the opportunity to have direct input into determining the pattern and density of future development for the county. Noteworthy to the process was the utilization of the Farmand Preservation Plan maps, which clearly identify the areas for long-term agricultural activity. These areas were incorporated into the "Agriculture" future land use category.

For the purposes of describing the future land use map, a set of Future Land Use Categories was developed and includes:

- Conservancy Overlay
- Agriculture
- Recreation
- Single-Family Residential
- General Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Utility & Community Facilities

Overall, the Future Land Use Plan Map recommends protecting the vast majority of the county's landscape for continued agricultural production (see Table 8-3 below) while also allowing for limited amounts of new development (i.e., planning from the outside-in concept). Key implementation tools include utilizing the farmland preservation zoning ordinance, development density management, development site planning, maximum lot sizes, and voluntary land conservation programs.

Table 8-3: 2045 Future Land Use Map Acreages (Unincorporated Dodge County)

Future Land Use Category	Acres	Percent of Total Acres
Single Family Residential	28,214.4	4.86%
General Residential	1,537.7	0.26%
Commercial	3,265.4	0.56%
Industrial	5,313.6	0.92%
Utilities & Community Services	1,900.0	0.33%
Transportation	13,285.1	2.29%
Recreation	39,602.7	6.82%
Agriculture	441,181.2	75.98%
Cities & Villages	40,685.3	7.01%
Water	5,701.2	0.98%
Conservancy Overlay	*105,729.4*	*18.21%*
Niagara Escarpment Corridor Overlay	*1,366.5*	*0.24%*
Totals (Excludes both Overlay Districts)	**580,686.7**	**100.00%**

Source: Dodge County and Cedar Corporation, 2025.

"Participating in this [Ad Hoc] Work Group was a valuable experience. It provided visibility into issues I might not have otherwise encountered and offered an excellent opportunity to network and collaborate on initiatives to strengthen the Dodge County community."

- Ashley Tracy, Human Resources Manager, John Deere® / Member of the Dodge County Ad Hoc Comprehensive Plan Update Work Group

1 Issues and Opportunities

1.1 Introduction

The general purpose of the Comprehensive Plan is to guide and accomplish coordinated, adjusted, harmonious development within Dodge County. The *Dodge County 2045 Comprehensive Plan* positions the county to guide future land development over the next 20 plus years in a way that preserves the character of the county, protects natural resources, enhances economic and housing opportunities, and provides for efficient service delivery.

More specifically, this document recommends how lands within the county should be used. The recommendations in this document are based on county trends and public input. County plan recommendations are also based on and consistent with plan goals, objectives, and policies. The recommendations should be used for specific actions and development decisions in the county. Wisconsin Statutes, Section 66.1001, further defines a comprehensive plan and a local unit of government's responsibilities. This legislation requires a local government that enacts land use regulations develop and adopt a comprehensive plan. The plan must contain nine elements as specified in the statutes. It also requires that local subdivision and zoning ordinances be consistent with the community's comprehensive plan. This document will meet the requirements of Wisconsin's comprehensive planning law, Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001.

Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning legislation identifies nine elements that must be addressed in order for the plan to be in conformance with the law. The elements include:

1. Issues and Opportunities
2. Housing
3. Transportation
4. Utilities and Community Facilities
5. Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources
6. Economic Development
7. Intergovernmental Cooperation
8. Land Use
9. Implementation

Planning for Dodge County's future begins with a basic understanding of the county's current situation. Each element provides a detailed inventory and analysis of the county's situation, which is then used to help create recommendations for future actions. All nine elements contain a list of goals, objectives, policies, recommendations and programs that will be used to guide the future use and development of land within the unincorporated areas of the county over a 20-year planning period.

The location of Dodge County heavily influences the trends and changes that are expected during the next 20 years. The county is strategically located in the middle of the triangle formed by the metropolitan communities of Madison, Milwaukee, and Fond du Lac. As urbanization within these areas continues to grow, many people will be attracted to Dodge County because of its location and the amenities that can be found there. Counties that border Dodge County include Dane, Columbia, Green Lake, Fond du Lac, Washington, Waukesha, and Jefferson. See Map 1-1 for a regional map showing the location of Dodge County.

Dodge County consists of 23 towns, 11 villages, and nine cities. Portions of five municipalities are located in adjacent counties. The largest community entirely within Dodge County is the City of Beaver Dam which had a January 1, 2024 population estimate of 16,587 (WDOA, 2024).

Dodge County History

Dodge County was created in 1836 and named in honor of Henry Dodge, then territorial governor of Wisconsin. The Town of Victory was chosen as the County Seat. The Town of Victory was later renamed City of Juneau after Paul Juneau, the son of Solomon Juneau, founder of Milwaukee. In 1845 iron ore was discovered in Mayville and an iron ore works operated there for several decades until competition from mines in the Lake Superior region closed it. Sawmills and gristmills were widely distributed over Dodge County in the 1870s. In 1875, the first brick cheese factory in the United States opened in Watertown, operating until 1943. Dodge County has a rich heritage that includes a unique blend of natural resources, small town charm, and agricultural history.

1.2 Planning Process

The Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Department and the county's Land Resources & Parks Committee (LRPC) are assigned the task of maintaining and updating the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan. The update of the current *Dodge County 2040 Comprehensive Plan* (adopted in 2015) began in the late summer of 2024.

Goals, Objectives, Policies and Recommendations stated in this document reflect the deliberations of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors, the LRPC, the Ad Hoc Comprehensive Plan Update Work Group, and Dodge County staff, based on the comments and opinions expressed by the people who reside, or own land, within Dodge County. References made to specific state, county, and other governmental programs do not imply endorsement of such programs, but are presented for background and reference only.

The comprehensive planning process used to prepare the *Dodge County 2045 Comprehensive Plan* involved numerous public meetings and the statutorily required public hearings to direct and react to the work on the Comprehensive Plan update.

1.3 Public Participation Efforts

Dodge County adopted an updated Public Participation Plan in October, 2024 (Appendix A) to guide the development of the *Dodge County 2045 Comprehensive Plan*. The Public Participation Plan is intended to foster public participation throughout every step of the planning process. The following core efforts were identified to foster public participation in accordance with the statutory requirements of Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning law:

- All meetings will be open to the public;
- The process will be guided by an Ad Hoc Working Group who will make broad recommendations on the plan's content (Appendix B).
- Notices and press releases will be sent to local media outlets identifying the time and location for any public informational meetings and any public hearings;
- Information about meetings, the Comprehensive Plan, and related materials are available on a separate Project Hub, linked to the Dodge County website's homepage (Appendix C contains a summary of received comments and feedback, including written comments submitted by representatives of various Lake Districts). Between August 27, 2024 and November 10, 2025, the Project Hub received more than 9,460 'views' of its homepage.

In addition, several other forms of outreach were used to obtain thoughts and comments on current issues and opportunities facing the county over the next 20 years. This included two Public Involvement Meetings (February and October 2025 – See Appendix D), one-on-one interviews with key County Department Heads, a county-wide on-line Resident Opinion Survey (Appendix E), and a Towns Survey specific to identifying planning and zoning administration issues (Appendix F). Information obtained from these efforts has been incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan and was used to help develop the goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations found in the Comprehensive Plan document.

The *Dodge County 2045 Comprehensive Plan* was recommended to the County Board by the Land Resources and Parks Committee via resolution on December 8, 2025. After holding the required public hearing, the Dodge County Board approved the plan as an ordinance at its February 11, 2025 meeting. Plan approval documentation is contained in Appendix A.

1.4 Population & Household Characteristics

Population change is the primary component in tracking a community's past growth as well as predicting future population trends. Population characteristics relate directly to the county's housing, transportation, educational, utility, community service, and recreational facility needs, as well as its future economic development.

Historic Population

As shown in Table 1-1 and Figure 1-1, from 1970 through 2020, Dodge County saw an estimated population increase of over 20,000 persons, an increase of about 29.6%. The decade between 1990 and 2000 was the strongest, with an increase of over 9,300 persons (+12.2%)s. This contrasts with the decade between 2000 and 2010, and 2010 and 2020, which had the lowest population increase (+637) in the county's history. The latter decade was influenced heavily by the 2008 housing bubble collapse and subsequent recession.

The County's total Census populations, as well as its WDOA projected populations, include those living in group quarters, which comprises state and federal prisons, nursing facilities, and student housing. According to data from 2012 produced by the Prison Policy Initiative, there were approximately 4,400 individuals in Dodge County's four state correctional facilities: Dodge County Correctional Institution, Fox Lake Correctional Institution, John C. Burke Correctional Center, and Waupun Correctional Institution. According to the 2020 Census, there were 4,669 individuals who were in these correctional facilities.

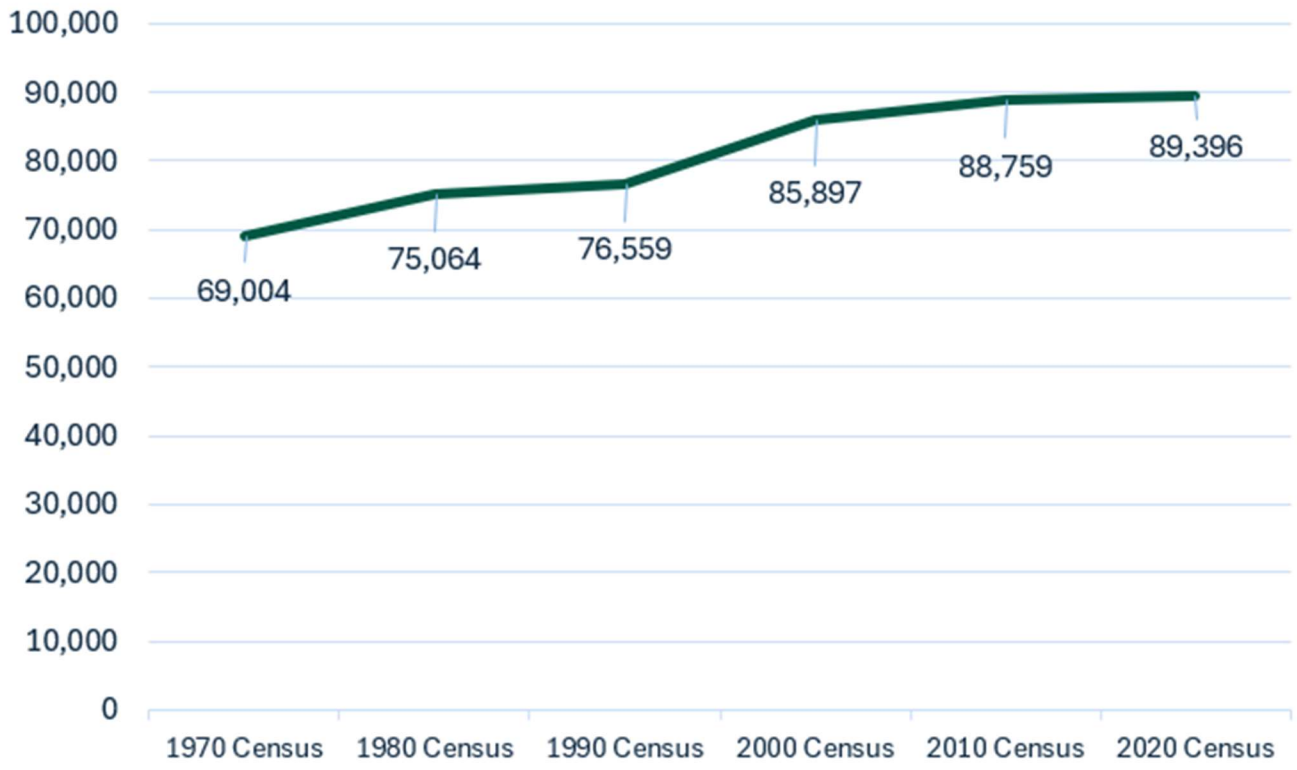
Table 1-1: Dodge County Historic Population, 1970-2020

Geography	Year						Total Change 1970-2020	Percent Change 1970-2020
	1970 Census	1980 Census	1990 Census	2000 Census	2010 Census	2020 Census		
Dodge County	69,004	75,064	76,559	85,897	88,759	89,396	20,392	29.55%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020.

Population change for the communities within Dodge County shows similar patterns (Table 1-2). Large population increases were generally experienced by villages between 1990 and 2000 (21.1%). In contrast, from 2000 to 2010, villages and towns grew by only 1.2%, while cities increased by 5.4%. Towns have been growing at the slowest overall rate since 1980.

Figure 1-1: Dodge County Historic Population, 1970-2020



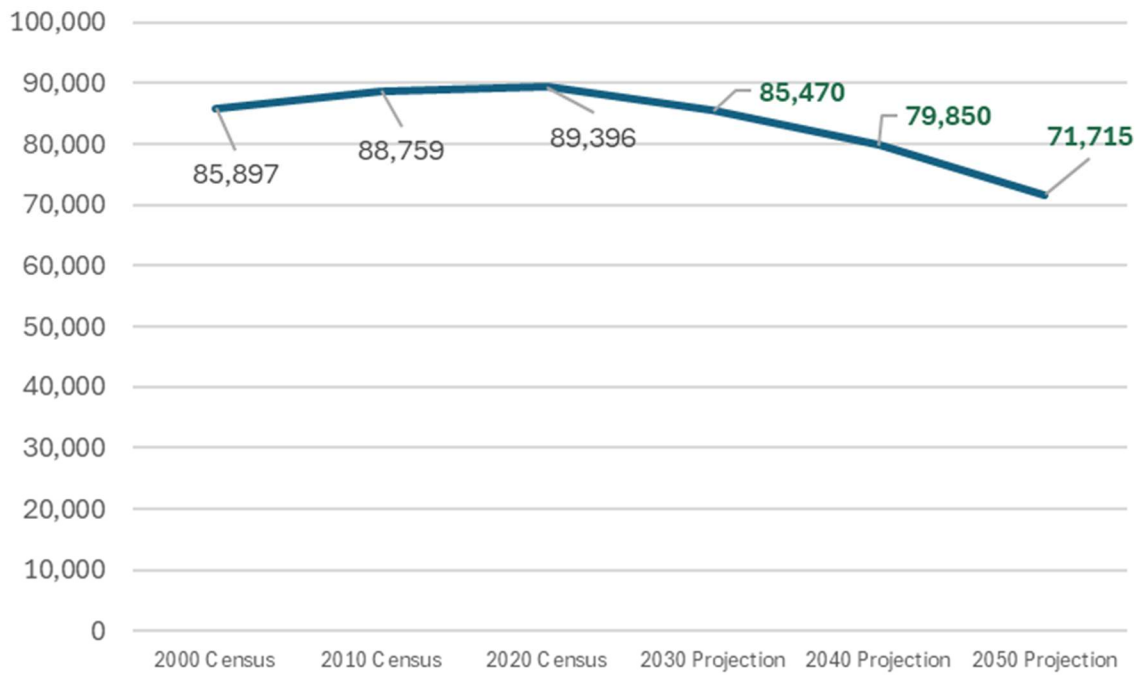
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020.

Population Projections

A review of the most current (December 2024) Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA) county and municipal-level population projections shows a steep downward trend in expected population levels (Table 1-2 and Figure 1-2). This data is in drastic contrast to the previously issued projections by WDOA, which were completed about 10 years earlier (2013). Based on the new projections, Dodge County's total population is now expected to decline by 17,681 persons, or -19.8%. Nearly every community in Dodge County is expected to decline with few exceptions. Demographers have identified several causes for these declines in projected population levels based on recent Statewide trends, including:

- **An aging population.** By 2050, the trailing edge of baby-boomers (1964) will be 86 years old and those on the leading edge (born in 1946) would be 104 years old. Therefore many individuals within this generation will have passed on, contributing to the overall reduction in population.

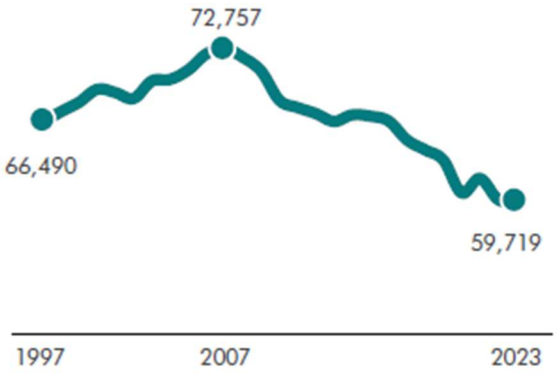
Figure 1-2: Dodge County Projected Population, 2030-2050



Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2024.

- **Lower birth rates.** A decline in residents, particularly young residents and families, contributed to the state's overall waning growth due to declining births since 2007 (Figure 1-3). These low birth rates, combined with higher death rates means that the current population is not even being replaced.

Figure 1-3: Wisconsin Births, 1997-2023



Source: Forward Analytics, Jan. 2025

- **Lower in-migration levels.** While migration slowed the decline in the youth population segment, it still contributed to the state's overall declining growth. The state added fewer than 54,000 people due to net migration between 2010 and 2020. Net migration was significantly less than the 80,000 added during 2000-2010 and the 228,000 added during 1990-2000. However, the Wisconsin Policy Forum recently released data showing this may be changing. Wisconsin's net migration levels were at their highest point since at least 2004. Each of the last three years, net migration to the state was at least 25,000 – more than twice the previous annual record during the last two decades. Reasons may include more stable weather patterns than other regions of the U.S. and a more acceptable cost of living.

Table 1-2: Dodge County Population Projections, 2030-2050

Place Name	2020 Population	2030 Projection	2040 Projection	2050 Projection	Number Change 2020-2050	Percent Change 2020-2050
T Ashippun	2,663	2,641	2,560	2,386	(277)	-10.4%
T Beaver Dam	4,062	3,979	3,811	3,509	(553)	-13.6%
T Burnett	831	758	673	572	(259)	-31.2%
T Calamus	1,043	1,008	952	865	(178)	-17.1%
T Chester[2]	676	642	595	530	(146)	-21.6%
T Clyman	712	664	604	527	(185)	-26.0%
T Elba	1,041	1,008	954	868	(173)	-16.6%
T Emmet	1,310	1,288	1,238	1,145	(165)	-12.6%
T Fox Lake	2,588	2,255	1,894	1,502	(1,086)	-42.0%
T Herman	1,135	1,108	1,057	970	(165)	-14.5%
T Hubbard	1,772	1,711	1,615	1,466	(306)	-17.3%
T Hustisford	1,357	1,303	1,223	1,104	(253)	-18.6%
T Lebanon	1,587	1,495	1,376	1,216	(371)	-23.4%
T LeRoy	956	910	846	756	(200)	-20.9%
T Lomira	1,099	1,056	993	897	(202)	-18.4%
T Lowell	1,166	1,103	1,020	906	(260)	-22.3%
T Oak Grove	1,028	969	892	788	(240)	-23.3%
T Portland	1,091	1,048	985	889	(202)	-18.5%
T Rubicon	2,117	2,070	1,979	1,819	(298)	-14.1%
T Shields	503	484	454	411	(92)	-18.3%
T Theresa	1,089	1,047	984	889	(200)	-18.4%
T Trenton	1,219	1,142	1,045	918	(301)	-24.7%
T Westford	1,313	1,306	1,268	1,185	(128)	-9.7%
V Brownsville	598	690	760	791	193	32.3%
V Clyman	397	367	330	284	(113)	-28.5%
V Hustisford	1,101	1,041	961	852	(249)	-22.6%
V Iron Ridge	904	886	850	783	(121)	-13.4%
V Kekoskee	896	861	809	731	(165)	-18.4%
V Lomira	2,678	2,720	2,695	2,565	(113)	-4.2%
V Lowell	309	276	240	198	(111)	-35.9%
V Neosho	591	572	540	491	(100)	-16.9%
V Randolph	1,338	1,269	1,176	1,047	(291)	-21.7%
V Reeseville	763	775	769	732	(31)	-4.1%
V Theresa	1,255	1,210	1,139	1,032	(223)	-17.8%
C Beaver Dam	16,708	16,250	15,446	14,120	(2,588)	-15.5%
C Fox Lake	1,604	1,693	1,736	1,703	99	6.2%
C Hartford	9	10	10	10	1	11.1%
C Horicon	3,767	3,718	3,587	3,327	(440)	-11.7%
C Juneau	2,658	2,234	1,788	1,327	(1,331)	-50.1%
C Mayville	5,196	5,103	4,899	4,523	(673)	-13.0%
C Watertown	8,252	7,881	7,354	6,597	(1,655)	-20.1%
C Waupun[2]	8,014	6,919	5,743	4,484	(3,530)	-44.0%
Dodge County Total	**89,396**	**85,470**	**79,850**	**71,715**	**(17,681)**	**-19.8%**

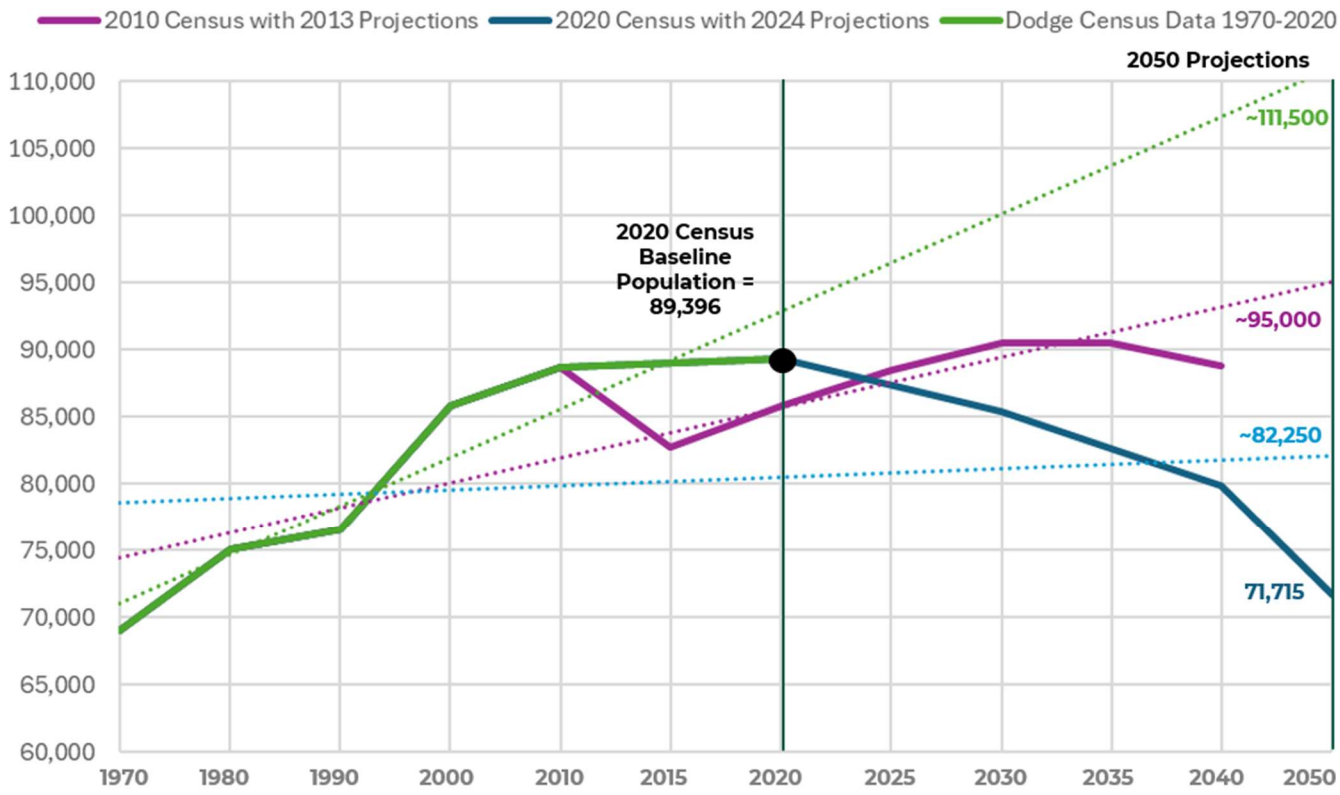
Source: WDOA, 2024

WDOA's new 2050 projection figures are certainly of concern to the county and its municipalities as population declines to this degree were not expected given past growth rates. As such, Cedar Corporation conducted additional analyses to examine alternative population projection scenarios based on previous historic and projected population data sets.

As shown in Figure 1-4, the new **WDOA 2024 projections** and three additional 'straight line' projection scenarios were prepared out to the year 2050 (dashed lines) to show potential growth after the year 2020. These three scenarios are described below and represent drastic differences as compared to the county's previous (Jan. 2013) WDOA projections (purple solid line):

- **1970-2020 Census Data.** This straight line projection results in a 2050 population of 111,500.
- **2010 Census data with WDOA's vintage 2013 population projections.** This straight line projection results in a 2050 population of 95,000.
- **2020 Census with WDOA's vintage 2024 population projections.** This straight line projection results in a 2050 population of 82,250.

Figure 1-4: Dodge County Year 2050 Population Projection Scenarios



Sources: WDOA 2013, WDOA 2024, U.S. Census Bureau, and Cedar Corporation, 2025.

These scenarios were shown as part of the first Public Involvement Meeting (PIM) held on February 19, 2025. Attendees were asked about their opinion on which 2050 population projection might be most realistic. The four responses received were split, with two respondents feeling the continuation of increased growth will occur, from 89,396 up to perhaps 95,000 (+5,604). The other two respondents indicated their concurrence with the most recent WDOA population projections and agree that a significant decrease in population, from 89,396 down to 71,715 (-17,681) may likely occur.

Based on the feedback from this meeting as well as from county staff, it was determined that **the 2050 population projection target to be utilized in this plan will be 95,000 persons**. While this may be counterintuitive to the trends discussed earlier, Dodge County is such that its geographic location, proximity to major metropolitan areas, and the quality of life features it offers, positions it well to attract new growth and new residents over the 20-year planning period. In order to make this projection come true, the county will need to place extra efforts into business and workforce attraction efforts and marketing.

Age Characteristics

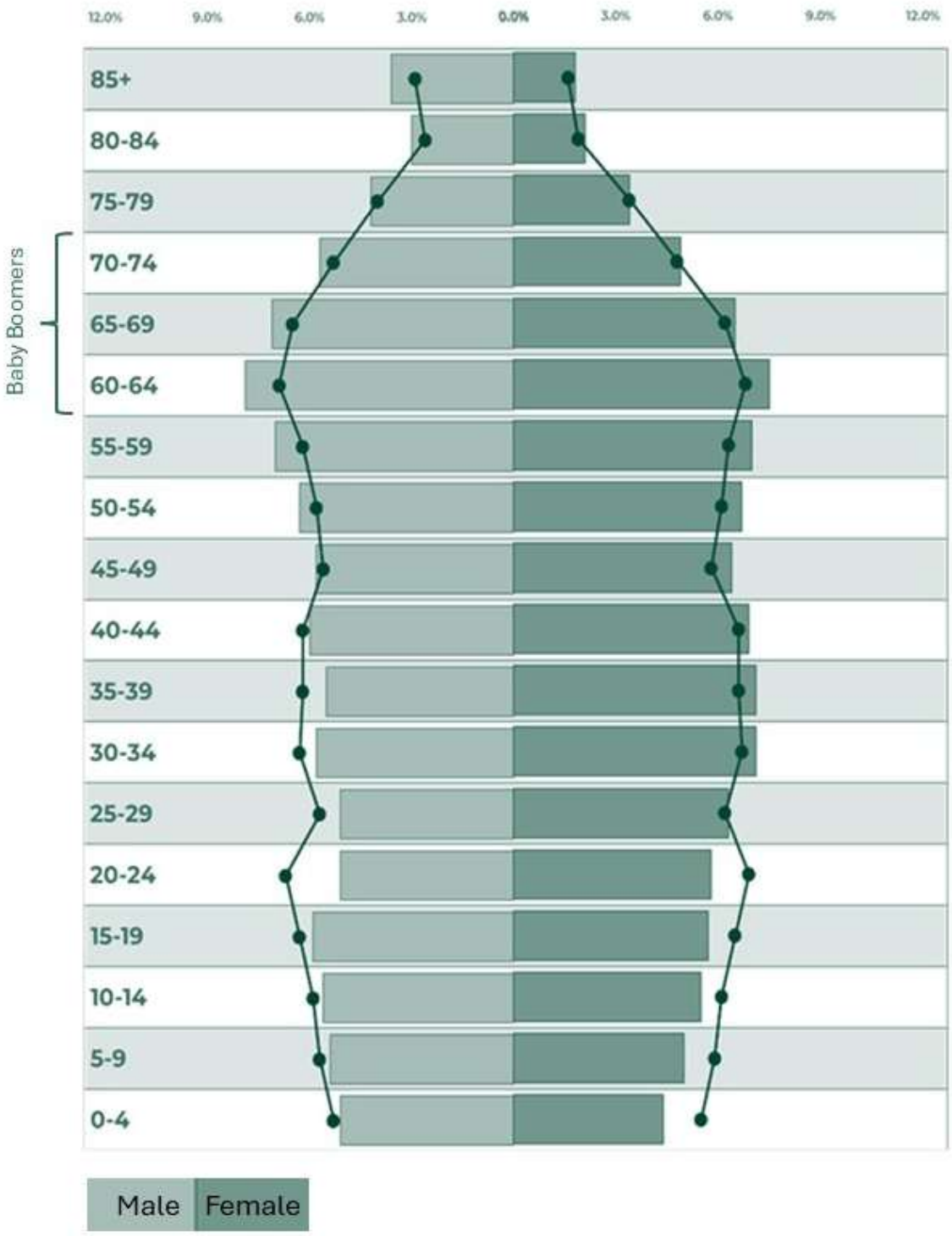
A shifting age structure affects a variety of services and needs within the county. Wisconsin has an aging population, which is consistent with the national trend. As shown in Table 1-3 and Figure 1-5, the county's age cohorts are fairly evenly distributed, with the 35-59 year age group being the largest at 34%. The baby-boomer generation, which is the second largest segment of the overall population (26%), are at retirement age. As these age groups gets older, the demands for services such as health care and transportation will increase and a younger workforce will need to take the place of retirees. It is important to recognize these trends and determine how to deal with the effects.

Table 1-3: Population by Age Cohort, Dodge County, 2019-2023

Age Category	Number of Persons	Percent of Total	
Under 5 years	4,052	4.56%	22%
5 to 9 years	4,589	5.17%	
10 to 14 years	5,375	6.05%	
15 to 19 years	5,506	6.20%	
20 to 24 years	4,930	5.55%	18%
25 to 34 years	10,764	12.12%	
35 to 44 years	11,570	13.03%	34%
45 to 54 years	11,705	13.18%	
55 to 59 years	7,060	7.95%	
60 to 64 years	6,869	7.73%	26%
65 to 74 years	9,789	11.02%	
75 to 84 years	4,502	5.07%	
85 years and over	2,107	2.37%	
Median age (years)	**42.9**	**n/a**	
Male	46,831	**53%**	
Female	41,987	**47%**	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

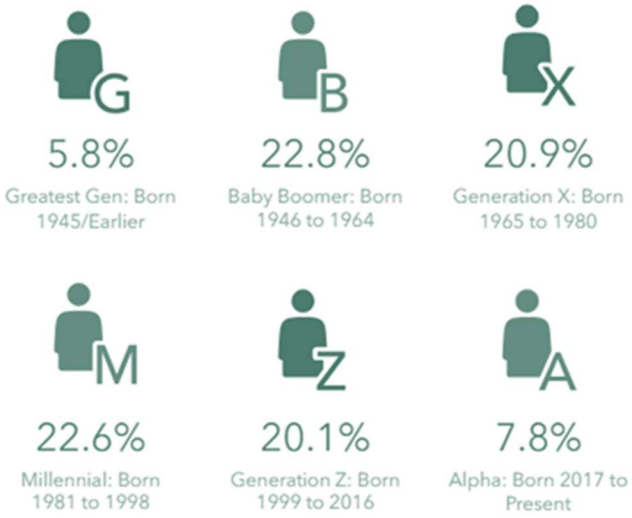
Figure 1-5: Population by Age Cohort, Dodge County, 2000-2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey five-year Estimates.

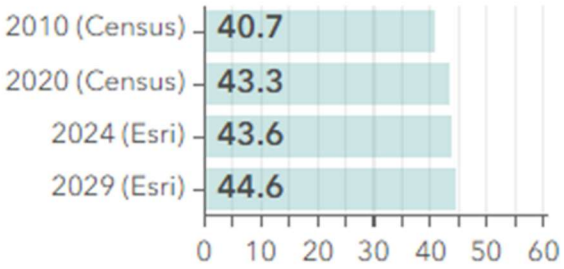
Additional characteristics pertaining to the age structure of Dodge County are shown below. These data show that the Millennial Generation is becoming the largest segment of the county's population (Figure 1-6), that the median age of the population is increasing (Figure 1-7), and that the county's "under 18" population has decreased between 10 and 20 percent between 2000 and 2023 (Figure 1-8).

Figure 1-6: Population by Generation, 2022



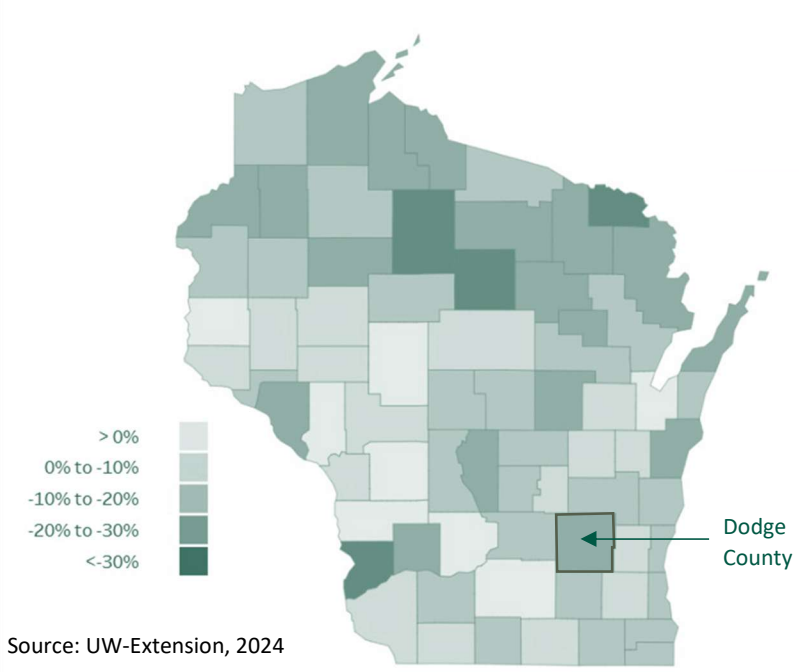
Source: ESRI, 2024.

Figure 1-7: Median Age, 2010-2029



Source: ESRI, 2024.

Figure 1-8: Under 18 Population Change, 2000-2023



Source: UW-Extension, 2024

Race

The vast majority of Dodge County's population is white, with Black/African American being the largest minority group (Table 1-4). Based on population growth rate trends for these differing segments, it is likely that the county will continue to see a shift in these proportions.

Table 1-4: Population by Race, Dodge County, 2019-2023

Age Category	Number of Persons	% of Total
Total population	**88,818**	**100.0%**
White	79,899	90.0%
Black or African American	2,374	2.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native	404	0.5%
Asian	478	0.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	32	0.0%
Some Other Race	1041	1.2%
Two or More Races	4,590	5.2%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	5,696	6.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Households & Household Projections

Over 65% of the county is comprised of one and two-person households (Table 1-5). This figure is expected to increase in the future based on local, statewide, and national trends. The formation of new one and two-person households is the highest it's ever been and is due to several factors, but mainly the aging of the population (more widows/widowers), and the cultural aspects of younger couples who are choosing to wait to have children, or have decided not to have children at all. As a result, this trend will impact the type and amount of housing needed in the county and is further discussed in Chapter 2: Housing.

Table 1-5: Households and Household Size, Dodge County, 2019-2023

Household Size	Number of Households	Percent of Total
1-person household	10,658	29.8%
2-person household	12,854	35.9%
3-person household	5,258	14.7%
4-or-more-person household	7,025	19.6%
Total Occupied Housing Units	**35,795**	**100.0%**

Source: ESRI 2025 / U.S. Census, 2019-2023 ACS five-year Summary

In terms of household projections, this plan will need to rely on older data sources as the WDOA has not yet completed nor released the updated household projection figures which correspond to the 2024 population projections. Therefore, WDOA's vintage 2013 household projections are shown in Table 1-6. This data showed an expected increase of approximately 6,500 new households between 2020 and 2040, or approximately 326 new households per year.

Table 1-6: Household Projections, Dodge County, 2020-2040

Households	2020 Census	2025 Projection	2030 Projection	2035 Projection	2040 Projection	Change 2020 to 2040
Households	33,840	38,470	39,910	40,600	40,367	6,527
# Change	-	4,630	1,440	690	- 233	6,527
% Change	-	13.7%	3.7%	1.7%	-0.6%	19.3%
Person/HH	2.30	2.27	2.23	2.20	2.17	- 0.13

Source: US Census 2020, 2019-2023 5 Year ACS & WDOA, 2013.

1.5 Issues and Opportunities Trends & Key Facts

Below are important factors, trends and predicted changes for the population of Dodge County.

Population Growth

- Population growth has been historically steady in Dodge County; however, the most recent WDOA projections are showing a significant decrease from 89,396 (2020 Census) to 71,715 in 2050, a reduction of 17,681, or -19.8%.
- The projected population decline is a result of three main factors: an aging population, lower birth rates, and lower in-migration levels at the State.
- Alternate growth scenarios – based on a variety of straight-line projections – along with input received from the general public and county staff have determined a 2050 target population of 95,000 persons, or an increase of just over 5,000 persons.

Population Age

- The largest age group in the county was the 35 to 59-year olds, comprising 34% of the population (2019-2023 ACS five-year). The second largest was the 65 to 85+ year old category with 26% of the population.
- Dodge County's population is almost evenly divided into those born in 1980 or earlier (49.5%) and those born in 1981 or later (50.5%). This means that together, the Greatest Generation, Baby Boomer, and Generation X age group populations are roughly equal to the Millennial, Generation Z, and Alpha age group populations.

- From the ACS five-year Estimates, the 2010 median age was 40.7 years and increased to 43.3 years of age by 2020. The most recent data obtained from the 2019-2023 ACS estimates the median age to be 43.2 years, but is expected to increase to 44.6 years by 2029.
- Dodge County has been losing a significant amount of its 18-year old and under population with a decrease of between 10 and 20 percent between 2000 and 2023.

Household Characteristics

- A majority of the county's households (65%) are comprised of only one or two persons.
- Household growth is projected to increase from 33,840 in 2020 to 40,367 in 2040, an increase of just over 6,500 households, or 19.3% (based on vintage 2013 projection data from the WDOA). This equates to about 326 new households per year. This is primarily driven by the trend of fewer people living in each household, which ties to the increasing number of one and two person households.

1.6 Comprehensive Plan Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Recommendations

Each element of the comprehensive plan includes a specific set of goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations that the county will use as a guide to future land use, development and preservation decisions over the next 20 years. Goals, objectives, policies and recommendations are defined as follows:

- **Goals** are broad, value-based statements that express general public priorities and preferences about how the county should address issues over the next 20 years and beyond. Goals address key issues, opportunities and problems that affect the county.

- **Objectives** are more specific than goals and are measurable statements usually attainable through direct action and implementation of plan recommendations. The accomplishment of objectives contributes to the fulfillment of the goal.

- **Policies** are general rules, principles, strategies or courses of action used to guide decision making and actions as necessary to accomplish goals and objectives. Policies are intended to be used by decision makers on a regular basis.

- **Recommendations** are specific actions, projects or activities that are intended to achieve a particular plan goal, objective, or policy.

Issues and Opportunities Goals and Objectives

Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001 requires a statement of overall goals and objectives to guide the future development and redevelopment of the county over a 20-year planning period. The following goals and objectives were developed by Dodge County with regard to the Issues and Opportunities element:

Goals

Goal 1: Continued maintenance, preservation and enhancement of the county's rural character, natural resources and open spaces, and preservation of the varied and unique urban and rural communities.

Goal 2: New development occurs in a well-planned, aesthetically and architecturally pleasing manner.

Goal 3: Achieve a balance between the appropriate land use regulation and the rights of the property owners focusing on the best interests of the county as a whole.

Goal 4 : Have a well-informed citizenry concerning planning and development issues with ample opportunity for citizen participation.

Goal 5: Proactively address the projected decline in the county's population during the 20-year planning period in order to maintain a total population of around 90,000 persons.

Objectives

1. Select appropriate land use patterns which protect and restore natural resources and open spaces, and protect the county's rural character.

2. Balance local and county roles and responsibilities for growth management, planning, implementation and monitoring.

3. Balance the protection of good agricultural lands and non-farm, rural development by directing it towards existing areas of development and community services (thereby knowing where growth "impacts" are appropriate and expected).

4. Maintain "right-to-farm" regulations to encourage the continued use and improvement of agricultural land to support the agricultural industry and preserve rural character.

5. Leverage the county's relatively low cost-of-living and high quality of life appeal to retain young adults within the county, as well as attract new residents and families.

6. Prepare for an aging population and promote the county as a good place to live for young and old.

7. Encourage relationships between the public, non-profit, and private sector to meet the long term goals of the county.

8. Maintain a formal communication system to involve citizens in the planning process.

9. Maintain a positive relationship with local news media to create greater public awareness of planning related matters.

10. Improve cooperation efforts with local government to ensure coordinated decision making.

11. Reduce incompatible land uses by utilizing the county's comprehensive plan.

12. Maintain opportunities for citizen participation throughout the county's stages of planning, ordinance development and policy implementation, and development review.

Issues and Opportunities Policies and Recommendations

Policies and recommendations build on goals and objectives by providing more focused responses and actions to the goals and objectives. Policies and recommendations become the tools that the county should use to aid in making decisions. Policies that direct action using the words "will" or "shall" are advised to be mandatory and regulatory aspects of the implementation of the comprehensive plan. In contrast, those policies that direct action using the word "should" are advisory and intended to serve as a guide.

Recommendations are specific actions or projects that the county should be prepared to complete within the 20-year planning period. The completion of these actions and projects are consistent with the policies, and therefore will help fulfill the comprehensive plan goals and objectives. The following policies and recommendations have been developed by Dodge County with regard to the Issues and Opportunities element and serve to support the goals and objectives:

Policies

1. The Land Resources and Parks Department should provide information and education on land use issues at regularly scheduled meetings with all interested municipalities.

2. The comprehensive plan shall be utilized as a tool to guide decision making in accordance with state statutes.

3. The Land Resources and Parks Committee should continue to utilize the existing development review process that objectively examines the type, location, and quality of the proposed development, and potential long-term impacts on the county.

4. Public notification shall be required as part of the development and/or amendment to any county plan, ordinance, or program.

Recommendations

1. Continue to use the existing development review system, which encourages towns, villages and cities to comment on plan amendments, code revisions, and development proposals before the proposals are acted upon, and encourage municipalities to offer the same opportunity to the county.

1.7 Issues and Opportunities Programs

See Appendix G for a complete listing of programs which pertain to this element of the Comprehensive Plan.

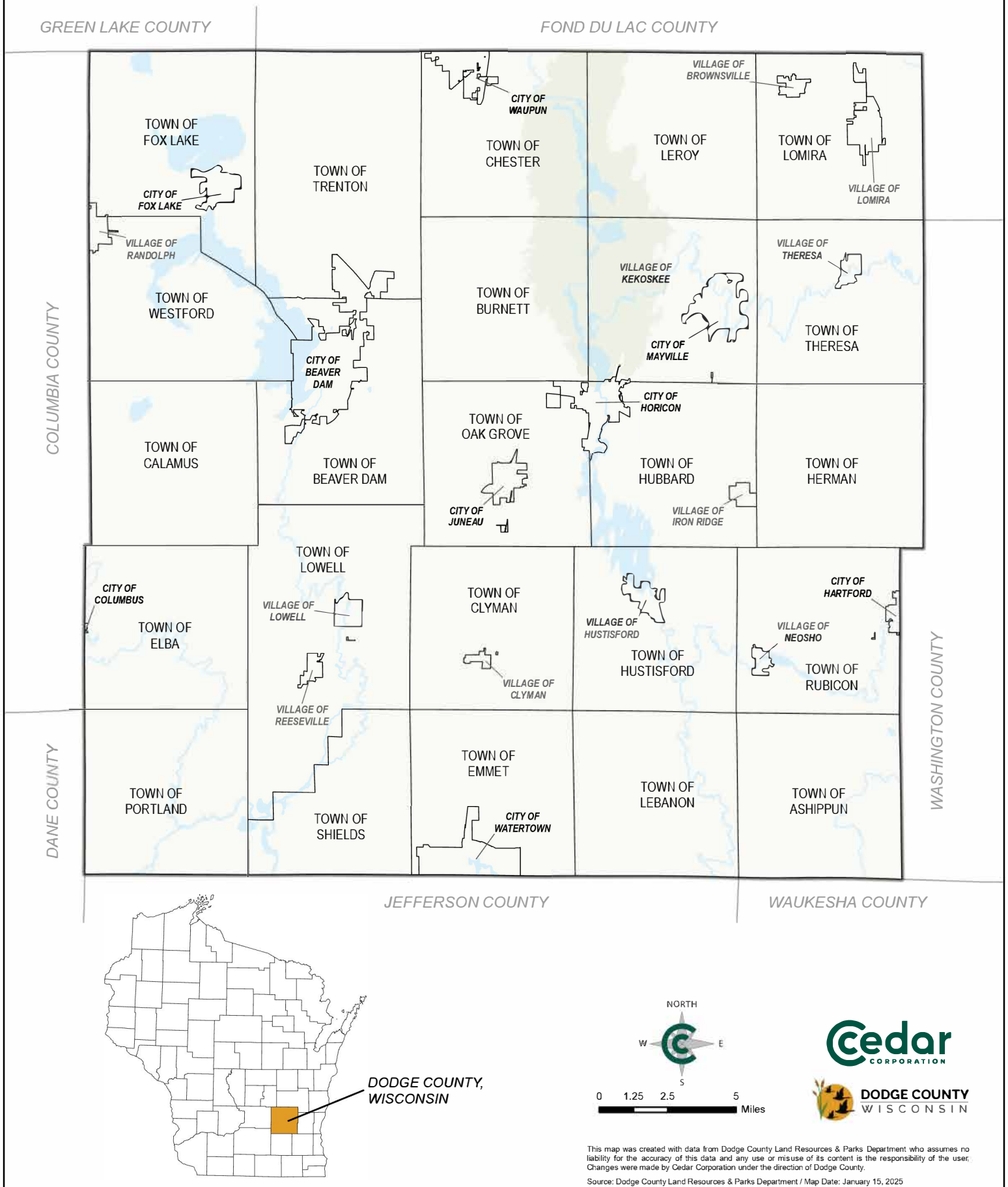
1.8 Maps

Map 1-1: Regional Setting

Map 1-1

Regional Setting

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Cedar Corporation

DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

This map was created with data from Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department who assumes no liability for the accuracy of this data and any use or misuse of its content is the responsibility of the user. Changes were made by Cedar Corporation under the direction of Dodge County.

Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: January 15, 2025

2 Housing

2.1 Introduction

The lack of affordable housing is a nationwide problem. Counties and communities, including a majority of those in Dodge County, are experiencing shortages of housing that meet the physical and economic needs of residents. These shortages have generally resulted in higher rents and homes that are selling higher than assessed values, but even more so, housing is the single biggest factor impacting economic mobility for most Americans. When residents have stable living conditions, the benefits are apparent — students do better in school, health outcomes improve, and personal wealth grows. Communities benefit as a whole from this stability.

While there is no single reason for the decline of affordable housing, several factors and trends have emerged that have affected housing costs since the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. These are mainly national-level trends; however, many of them can be seen to one degree or another at the county and local levels:

- Housing supply decreased significantly due to lack of construction and lot creation over the last 10 to 20 years.
- Housing market shortages have enabled sellers to price homes higher.
- Incomes have not kept up with rents and home values.
- Interest rates have increased, making the costs of borrowing more prohibitive, which further contributes to slowing the turnover rate.
- People are staying in their homes longer, partly due to the desire for aging in place, and partly due to having longer life spans, which in turn slows the turnover rate.
- Due to technology and work from home policies, people are moving to locations based on quality of life, not based on where their job is.
- There is a labor shortage in the new home construction sector.
- The cost of construction materials has risen greatly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated supply chain issues.
- There is less profit made on entry-level or starter homes as demand for market rate homes continues.
- There is a higher demand for rental housing.
- Multi-family housing and denser development continue to have a negative image.

Elected officials at every level of government are hearing from constituents that housing is a major problem where they live. In response, cities and states are pursuing a wide range of different, and sometimes contentious, solutions. Local leaders are pushing the boundaries of what's possible for local governments to meet demand for housing. Communities are experimenting with zoning and code reforms and, lacking other alternatives, some are building housing on their own.

Since housing is inextricably linked to the county's workforce, addressing the housing issues laid out in this Chapter will be key to maintaining or improving Dodge County's economic future.

2.2 Housing Characteristics

Housing Supply

The U.S. Census Bureau classifies housing units as a house, apartment, mobile home or trailer, a group of rooms, or a single room occupied as separate living quarters, or if vacant, intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live separately from any other individuals in the building and have direct access from outside the building or through a common hall.

Table 2-1 displays the number of housing units found in Dodge County in 2010, 2020, and 2023, as well as their occupancy status. The American Community Survey (ACS) information is a sample of the county and is subject to sampling variability. However, the survey provides the most recent data available and provides necessary background information for this report. In 2020, Dodge County had 38,123 housing units, an increase of 1,118, or a 3.02% increase from 2010. This figure increased to 38,290 housing units according to the 2019-2023 ACS five-year data.

Table 2-1: Total Housing Units, Dodge County, 2010 and 2020

Occupancy Status	2010 Census	Percent	2020 Census	Percent	2023 ACS Estimate	Percent
Total housing units	**37,005**	**100.0%**	**38,123**	**100.0%**	**38,290**	**100.0%**
Occupied housing units	33,840	91.4%	35,437	93.0%	35,723	93.3%
Vacant housing units	3,165	8.6%	2,686	7.0%	2,567	6.7%
Homeowner vacancy rate	3.3%	n/a	1.10%	n/a	0.60%	n/a
Rental vacancy rate	12.0%	n/a	5.60%	n/a	2.70%	n/a

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010, 2020 and 2019-2023 5-Year ACS.

The 2023 ACS data also shows a high level of housing occupancy – over 93% - which has steadily increased since 2010. Vacancy rates for both homeowner and rental properties have also decreased steadily between 2010 and 2023. This is indicative of the current nation-wide housing shortage problem.

Structural Characteristics

Units in Structure

Table 2-2 and Figure 2-1 display the most recent data on the number of housing units within a structure for Dodge County as reported in the 2023 ACS. Detached housing units are defined as one-unit structures detached from any other house, with open space on four sides. Structures are considered detached even if they have an attached garage or contain a business unit.

Table 2-2: Number of Units in Structure, Dodge County

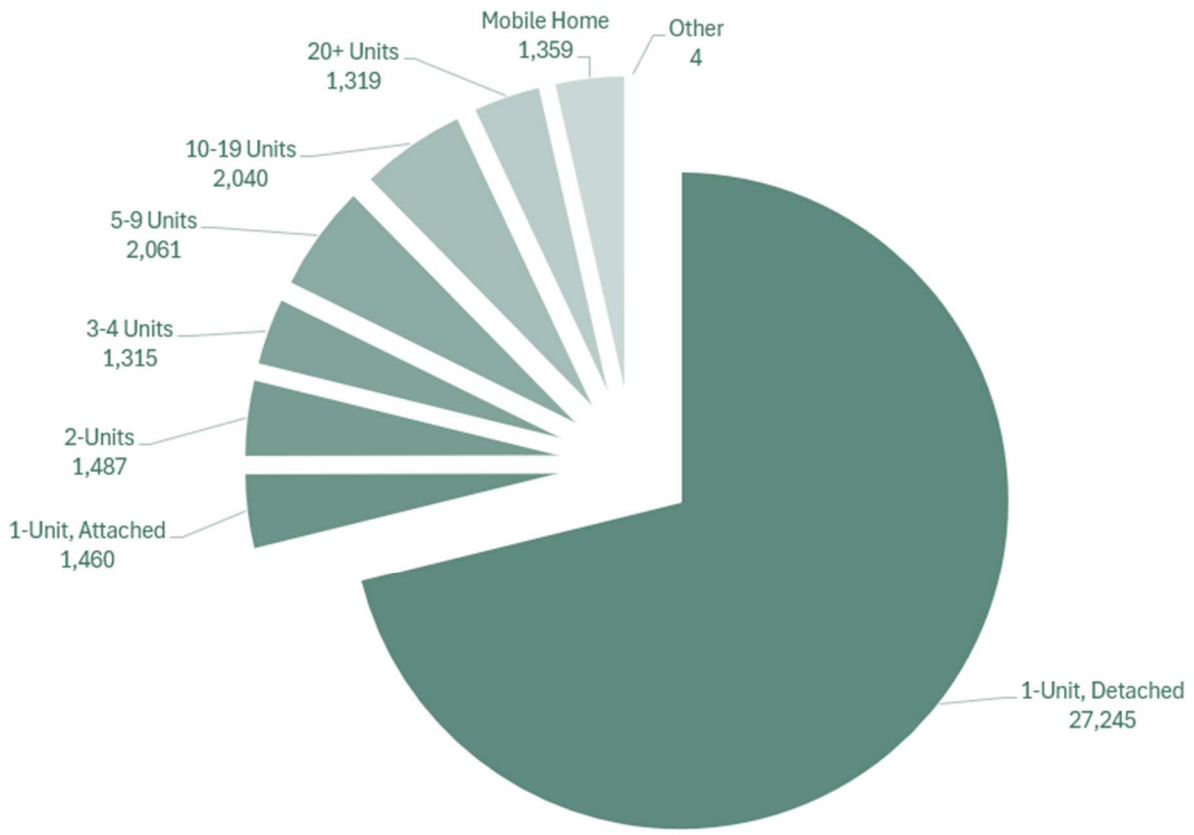
Units in Structure	Estimate	Percent
Total housing units	38,290	100.0%
1-unit, detached	27,245	71.2%
1-unit, attached	1,460	3.8%
2 units	1,487	3.9%
3 or 4 units	1,315	3.4%
5 to 9 units	2,061	5.4%
10 to 19 units	2,040	5.3%
20 or more units	1,319	3.4%
Mobile home	1,359	3.5%
Boat, RV, van, etc.	4	0.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2019-2023 5-Year ACS.

The majority of the housing structures in the county are a one-unit detached structure, comprising over 71% of all housing structures. If one-unit attached structures are factored, then 75% of all housing structures are single-family in nature. Structures with 5 to 9 units come in a distant second at 5.4 percent, with structures containing 10 to 19 units coming in third at 5.3%.

Overall, multi-family structures (3+ units) now comprise 17.5% of all housing structures, which is a marked increase from 2010 when this figure was 15.9%. This increase is likely related to the recent housing shortage and the need to construct more apartment units.

Figure 2-1: Number of Units in Structure, Dodge County

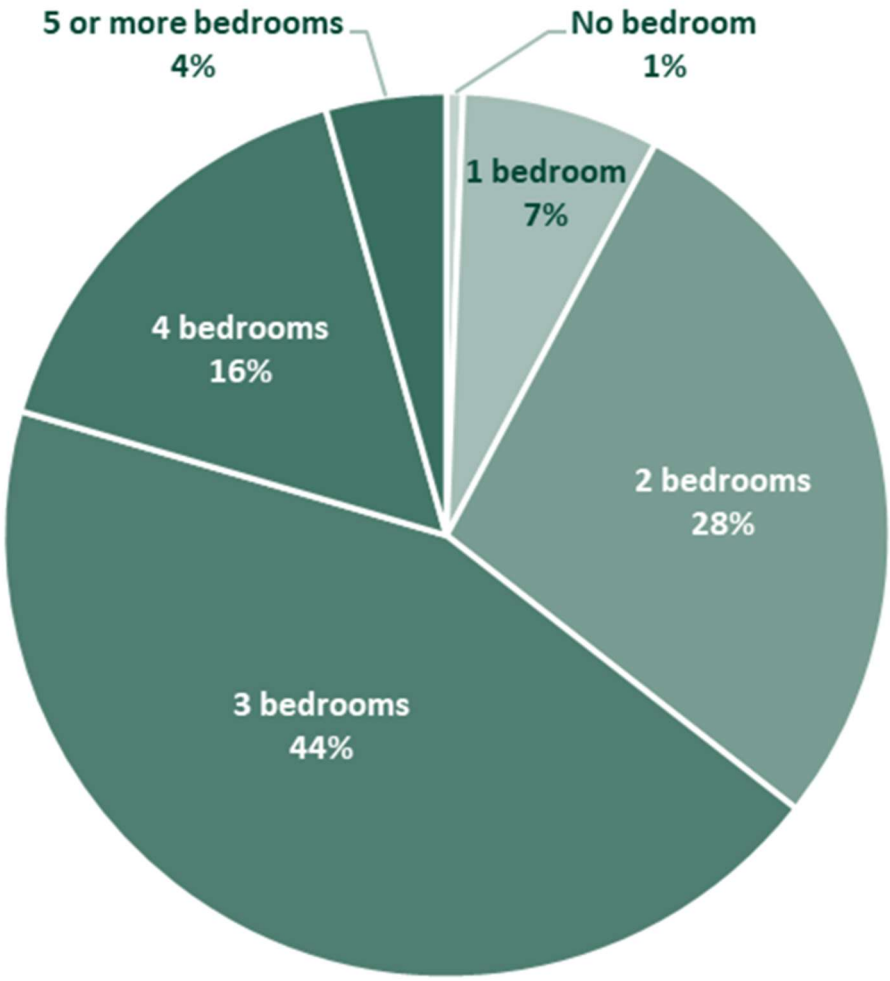


Source: U.S. Census, 2019-2023 ACS five-year Summary

Number of Bedrooms

The number of bedrooms available within a housing unit relates closely to the size and type of existing households within the county. In 2023, 64% of all housing units had three or more bedrooms, as compared to 35% of units having one or two bedrooms (Figure 2-2). The types and size of future housing may need to change given the recent trends in household size reduction and the increased creation of new one and two-person households.

Figure 2-2: Number of Bedrooms, Dodge County



Source: U.S. Census, 2019-2023 ACS five-year Summary

Age of Housing

An examination of the age of the county's housing stock will provide an indication of its overall condition. The age of the housing stock is an important element to be analyzed when planning for a future housing supply. If there is a significant amount of older housing units within the housing supply, they will most likely need to be replaced, rehabilitated, or abandoned for new development within the planning period. Allowing for a newer housing supply also requires planning regarding infrastructure, land availability, community utilities, transportation routes, emergency services, and a variety of other things affected by new housing development.

Table 2-3 and Figure 2-3 display the most recent information for the year structures were built in Dodge County as reported by the 2023 ACS.

Table 2-3: Age of Housing, Dodge County

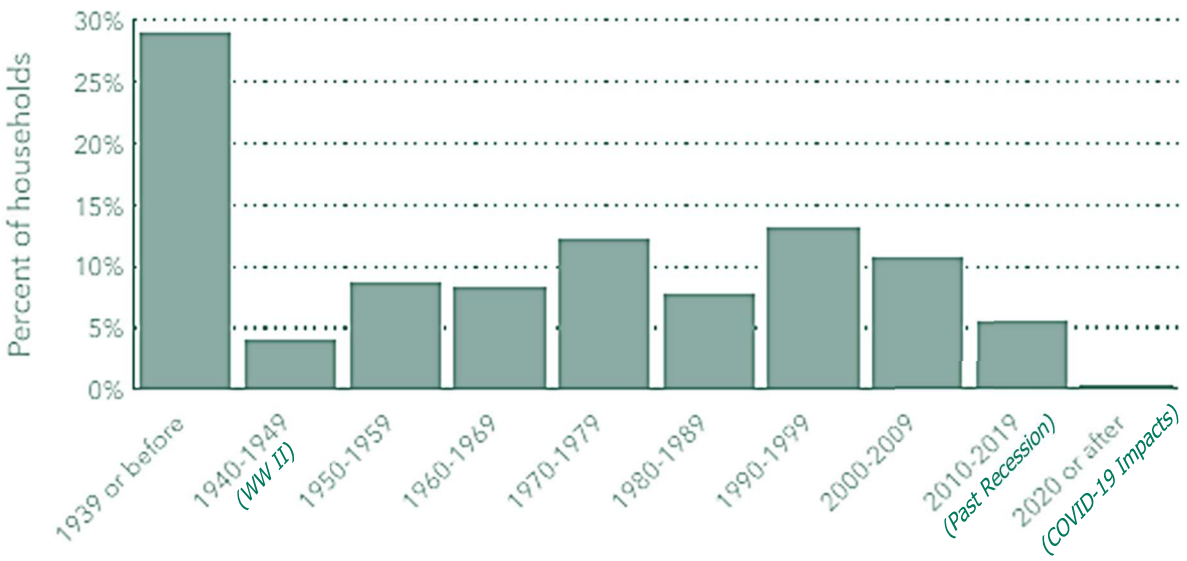
Year Structure Built	Estimate	Percent
Built 2020 or later	240	0.6%
Built 2010 to 2019	2,215	5.8%
Built 2000 to 2009	4,283	11.2%
Built 1990 to 1999	4,944	12.9%
Built 1980 to 1989	2,909	7.6%
Built 1970 to 1979	4,550	11.9%
Built 1960 to 1969	3,206	8.4%
Built 1950 to 1959	3,573	9.3%
Built 1940 to 1949	1,585	4.1%
Built 1939 or earlier	10,785	28.2%
Total housing units	**38,290**	**38,290**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2019-2023 5-Year ACS.

The greatest percentage of Dodge County's existing housing units were built in 1939 or earlier, accounting for 28.2% of the total. This compares to 30.8% in 2010. Taking into account the area's settlement history, it is not surprising that the greatest percentage of the existing housing units in the county were built prior to 1940.

The second largest housing age time frame is 1990-1999, with 12.9% of the total. The third largest time frame is 1970-1979, with 11.9% of the total. Units built in 2010 or later comprise only 6.5% of the total units, while those built 2020 or later comprise only 0.6%.

Figure 2-3: Age of Housing, Dodge County



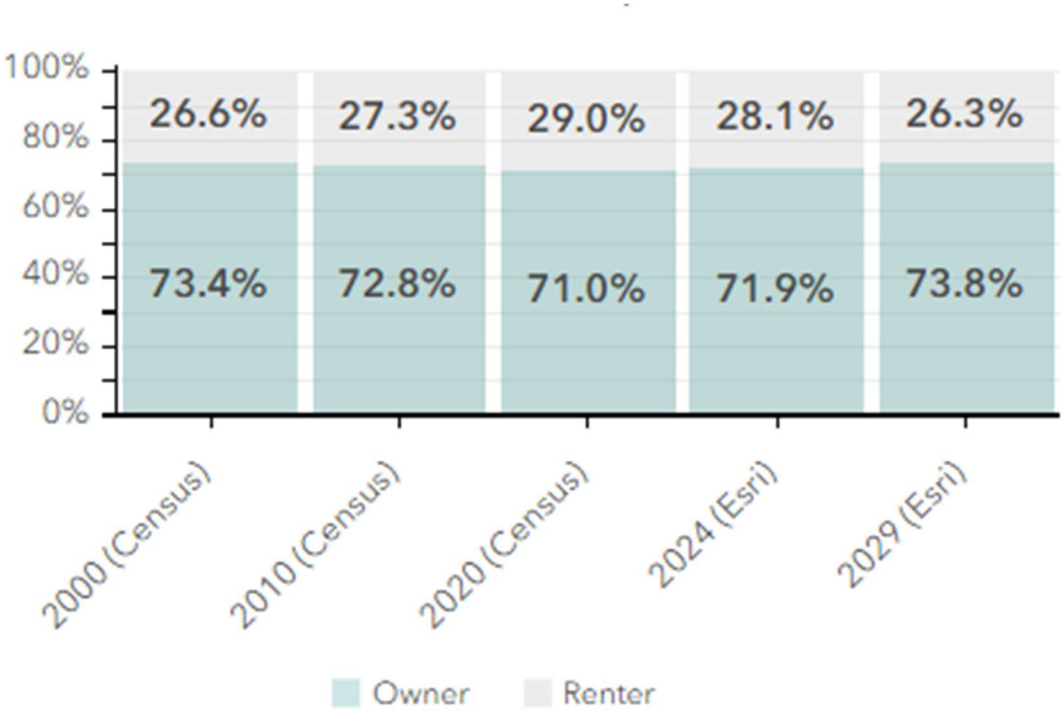
Source: U.S. Census, 2019-20232 ACS five-year Summary.

Occupancy Characteristics

Table 2-1 and Figure 2-4 display occupancy and tenure characteristics of housing units for Dodge County in 2010, 2020, and 2023. As indicated by the table, there were 38,290 housing units in Dodge County in 2023, a 0.44% increase from 2020.

In 2023, approximately 93.3% of the county's housing units were occupied. In 2020, of the total housing units, approximately 71% were occupied by owners and 29% were occupied by individuals renting the housing unit. Vacant units accounted for 6.7% of the total housing supply in 2023, which continues the trends associated with a tightening housing market.

Figure 2-4: Owner Occupied vs. Renter Occupied Units, Dodge County



Source: U.S. Census, 2019-2023 ACS five-year Summary, and ESRI, 2024.

Average Household Size

As discussed earlier, Table 1-7 in Chapter 1 illustrates the historic and projected persons per household size for Dodge County. In general, the average size of households has decreased from years ago; families are having fewer children than the large traditional families. In 2000, the average household size in Dodge County was 2.56. In 2020 it had declined to 2.30 persons per household. Looking forward to 2040, the county is projected to have additional decline, with a persons per household of 2.17.

This trend has significant impacts not only on the availability of housing (i.e., it takes more homes to house the same number of people), but also the associated change in the market for more homes accommodating one and two-person households (i.e., more one and two-bedroom homes/apartments versus three to four-bedroom homes).

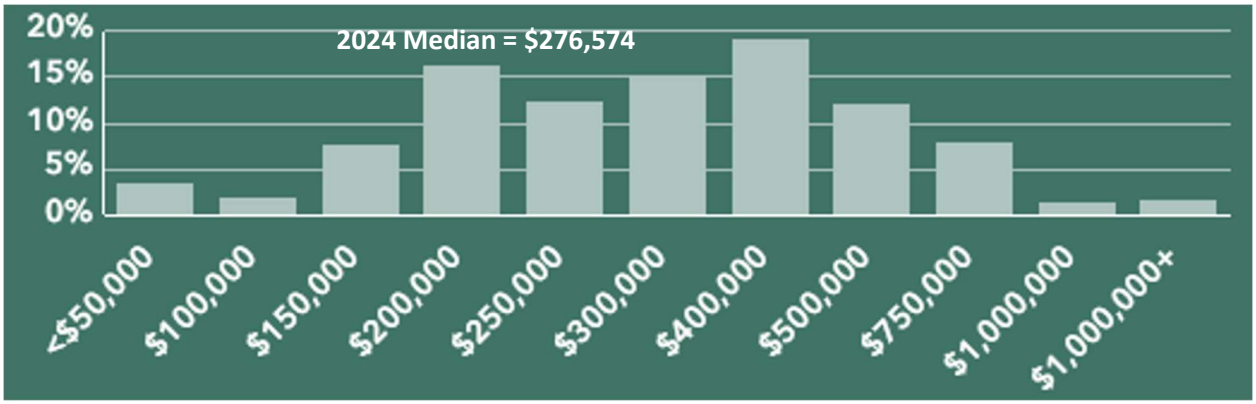
Value Characteristics

Housing Values

Figure 2-5 displays the most recent information for housing values of specified owner-occupied units for Dodge County as reported by the 2023 ACS. A housing unit is owner-occupied if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for. The Census determines value by the respondent's estimate of how much the property (house and lot, mobile home and lot, or condominium unit) would sell for if it were for sale.

In 2023, approximately 61% of all homes in Dodge County were valued between $200,000 and $400,000. Another 20% were valued at $500,000 and above, while the remaining 19% were valued at $150,000 or less. The county's 2024 median housing value was $276,574, slightly above the Wisconsin median housing value of $265,000.

Figure 2-5: Housing Values, Dodge County



Source: ESRI 2024 / U.S. Census, 2019-2023 ACS five-year Summary.

Even though only one or two years have passed since this data was released, continued increases in home values have likely shifted all of these figures upward. The median priced home has risen 49.8% in the past five years, from $206,213 in March 2020 to $389,672 in March 2025. Meanwhile, median household income has increased only 18.6% (Wisconsin Dept. of Revenue, March 2025).

Rent Values

According to the 2023 ACS, the median gross rent in Dodge County was between $895 and $1,041 per month. This was below the median rent level for Wisconsin, which was between $1,061 and $1,081 per month. Given the dynamics of the recent housing shortage and rapid housing cost increases, these figures are likely to be lower than the current market rate rents. A quick review of available two-bedroom rental apartments on Zillow.com showed units generally ranging from $900 to $1,500 per month depending on location, size, and age, as well as provided amenities.

2.3 Housing Affordability

Affordability Defined

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has a standard definition for affordability: households should pay no more than 30% of their gross income for housing and related costs (property taxes, utilities, maintenance, etc.), which would leave 70% of a household's income for food, clothing, transportation, and other necessities.

If a household spends more than 30% of its income on housing and related costs, then the household is considered overburdened. These housing related costs are then measured against the income levels of the typical 'workforce' using a range of 60%-120% (green shade) of the county's median household income (Table 2-4).

Table 2-4: 2025 County Median Household Income (CMI) Limits, Dodge County

Income Limits	1 Person	2 People	3 People	4 People	5 People	6 People	7 People	8 People
30% CMI Very Low Income	$20,700	$23,650	$26,600	$29,550	$31,950	$34,300	$36,650	$39,050
50% CMI Low Income	$34,500	$39,400	$44,350	$49,250	$53,200	$57,150	$61,100	$65,050
60% CMI	**$41,400**	**$47,280**	**$53,220**	**$59,100**	**$63,840**	**$68,580**	**$73,320**	**$78,060**
80% CMI	**$55,200**	**$63,050**	**$70,950**	**$78,800**	**$85,150**	**$91,450**	**$97,750**	**$104,050**
100% CMI	**$69,000**	**$78,800**	**$88,700**	**$98,500**	**$106,400**	**$114,300**	**$122,200**	**$130,100**
120% CMI	**$82,800**	**$94,560**	**$106,440**	**$118,200**	**$127,680**	**$137,160**	**$146,640**	**$156,120**
150% CMI	$103,500	$118,200	$133,050	$147,750	$159,600	$171,450	$183,300	$195,150
180% CMI	$124,200	$141,840	$159,660	$177,300	$191,520	$205,740	$219,960	$234,180

Source: HUD, 2025

Housing Cost Burden

Housing cost burden is essentially a measurement of how much gross income is being spent by households for their housing costs, whether they are owners or renters. A household that spends more than 30% of their income on housing costs is considered 'Cost Burdened'. Households that spend more than 50% of their income on housing are considered 'Severely Cost Burdened'.

As shown on Table 2-5 for those households with a mortgage, 23% were cost burdened (paying more than 30% of gross income), while an additional 8.9% were severely cost burdened. For renters, just over 32% were cost burdened, while over 13% were severely cost burdened.

Table 2-5: Housing Cost Burden, Dodge County

Selected Monthly Costs	Estimate	Percent
Total Housing Units	**35,723**	
Owned Units with a Mortgage	15,767	100.0%
Over 30 Percent	3,631	23.0%
Over 50 Percent	1,407	8.9%
Not Calculated	5	
Owned Units without a Mortgage	9,689	100.0%
Over 30 Percent	1,105	11.4%
Over 50 Percent	517	5.3%
Not Calculated	99	
Rented	10,267	100.0%
Over 30 Percent	3,329	32.4%
Over 50 Percent	1,375	13.4%
Not Calculated	549	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2019-2023 5-Year ACS.

Home Affordability Examples

In further examining the housing cost issues within Dodge County, it is possible to generate some rough examples of how housing prices can affect the ability of the average family when it comes to seeking out a new home. Table 2-6 illustrates the relative affordability of homes at different prices for a two-person household making 100% of the median income (as derived from Table 2-4).

As an example, an “affordable” home for two-person household at 100% of the median income ($78,800) should be no more than $165,000 based on current mortgage rates and various assumptions regarding other housing costs as shown. While there may be some existing older housing stock for sale in the $165,000 area, this household certainly could not afford a newly constructed home costing nearly $300,000 or more to build.

Table 2-6: Affordable Housing Income Need Examples, Dodge County

Home Ownership Costs	Home Value Range / Income Needed				
Home Value/Sales Price	**$ 165,000**	**$ 210,000**	**$ 275,000**	**$ 310,000**	**$ 360,000**
Down Payment (@ 10%)	$ 16,500	$ 21,000	$ 27,500	$ 31,000	$ 36,000
Loan Value	$ 148,500	$ 189,000	$ 247,500	$ 279,000	$ 324,000
30-Yr. Mortgage Rate	6.89%	6.89%	6.89%	6.89%	6.89%
Monthly Payment (w/PMI)	**$ 1,413**	**$ 1,697**	**$ 2,107**	**$ 2,327**	**$ 2,641**
Monthly Taxes (@ 2%)	$ 275	$ 350	$ 458	$ 517	$ 600
Monthly Insurance (@ 0.75%)	$ 103	$ 131	$ 172	$ 194	$ 225
Monthly Utilities (@ 1.5%)	$ 206	$ 263	$ 344	$ 388	$ 450
Total Monthly Costs	**$ 1,997**	**$ 2,441**	**$ 3,081**	**$ 3,425**	**$ 3,916**
Total Annual Cost	$ 23,969	$ 29,289	$ 36,972	$ 41,099	$ 46,992
Annual Household Income Required to Achieve 30% Standard	**$ 79,895**	**$ 97,630**	**$ 123,238**	**$ 136,997**	**$ 156,640**

Source: Cedar Corporation, 2025

NOTE: 2025 Median HH Income is $78,800 for a 2-Person Household per HUD.

Mortgage Rate Impacts

The rate on the average 30-year mortgage rose to 6.89% as of May 29, 2025. This is up from a recent low of 6.08% last October and more than twice the 2.65% January 2021 rate (Figure 2-6). Borrowing against these higher interest rates substantially lessens the ability of a home buyer to achieve the “less than 30%” standard noted earlier.

Additionally, according to the Journal of Finance, most U.S. mortgage borrowers have a rate below 4% and are reluctant to take on a new mortgage with a higher rate, effectively locking them into their current home. This further contributes to the shortage of existing homes on the market and further drives up prices, particularly on more affordable units.

Figure 2-6: Average 30-Year Fixed Mortgage Interest Rates



Source: Freddie Mac and Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, June 3, 2025.

2.4 Housing Unit Growth & Projections

Housing Unit Projections

Housing unit projections are an important element in preparing the comprehensive plan. Specifically, they are used as a guide to estimate required acreage to accommodate future residential development, as well as prepare for future demands growth places on public facilities and services throughout the planning period. Similar to population projections, it is important to note that housing projections are based on past and current trends, and therefore should only be used as a guide for planning.

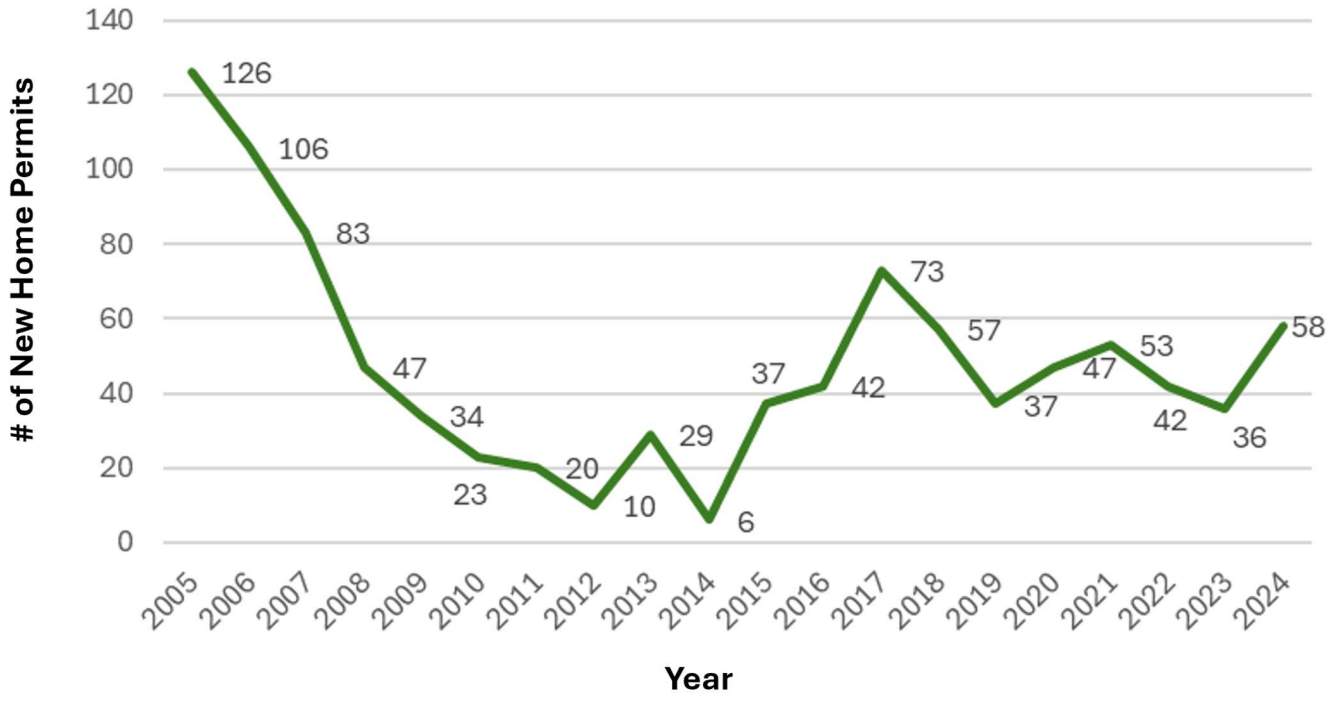
In 2013, the Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA) developed household projections (Table 1-7), which essentially indicate how many new homes will be needed in the county as a whole. These projections indicated a need for nearly 1,900 additional housing units between 2025 and 2040. With the predicted continued decrease in household size, it is likely this figure will exceed 2,000 housing units by 2045. This equates to roughly 100 new housing units per year for the next 20 years. The immediate challenge for the county will be to determine where these new housing units will be built and at what densities. For the purposes of this plan, it is assumed that approximately 70% (1,400) of all units will be constructed within the incorporated urban communities of the county, while the remaining 30% (600) of units will be constructed within the county rural towns.

As mentioned previously, while the WDOA did issue updated population projections in 2024, it has not yet finalized the updated household projections. This information should be reviewed by the county once released to identify any potential impacts it may have on this plan.

Building Permit Data

A review of Dodge County's Land Use Permit data for the past 19 years (2004 to 2024) reveals a total of 982 permits for new homes were issued over this time period (Figure 2-7). This averages out to 51 new dwelling units per year, or about one-half of the rate needed to meet the future demands as discussed previously. The data also shows the steep decline in permits issued leading up to and during the Great Recession of 2008. While numbers began to recover a bit by 2018, the beginnings of the housing shortage, coupled with the impacts of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, began to decrease new construction activity. A slight uptick is noted between 2023 and 2024 and may continue as housing demands and market activity are reaching new high points.

Figure 2-7: Dodge County New Home (Land Use) Permits, 2005-2024



Source: Dodge County, 2024

2.5 Housing for All Age Groups and Persons with Special Needs

As the general population ages, affordability, security, accessibility, proximity to services, transportation, and medical facilities will all become increasingly important. Many of these issues are already important to those with disabilities or other special needs. As new residents move into the area and the population ages, other types of housing must be considered to meet all resident needs. This is particularly true in communities where a large proportion of the population has been long-time residents, where there is a desire for these residents to remain in the area during their retirement years.

The population structure of Dodge County is shifting to older age groups. In 2023, the majority of Dodge County's population was in the 45 to 54 age group (13.2%) followed by the 35-44 age group (13.0%). The 65-74 age group represented 11.0% of the population, up significantly from its 2013 level of 7.6%. It is anticipated that there will be continued upward shifts in the age of the county's population, requiring the need to provide housing for these age groups (who are typically looking for downsizing opportunities), and persons with special needs. The county intends on providing housing for all age groups by providing opportunities for a variety of housing types to be built.

2.6 Promoting Availability of Land for Development/Redevelopment of Low-Income and Moderate-Income Housing

Promoting the availability of underdeveloped or underused land is one way to meet the needs of low and moderate income individuals. The county needs to ensure there is an adequate supply of land that is planned or zoned for housing at higher density or for multi-family housing should demand warrant the need for such housing in the future. The county as a whole likely has an adequate supply of available land for low-to-moderate income housing within the city and village boundaries based on a review of locally adopted comprehensive plans. As such, the county should use its Comprehensive Plan in coordination with developed goals, objectives, and policies to promote the availability of such housing.

2.7 Maintaining and Rehabilitating the Existing Housing Stock

The maintenance and rehabilitation of the existing housing stock within the county is one of the most effective ways to ensure safe and generally affordable housing while not sacrificing land to development. Over the course of the planning period, the county should continually monitor local housing stock characteristics including, but not limited to, price, aesthetics, safety, cleanliness, and overall suitability with community character. The monitoring process will become important to ensure that steps are taken to preserve the current housing supply before allowing for new development, which has far greater impacts on community resources.

Dodge County actively participates in the Southern Housing Region's Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Program along with Columbia, Jefferson, Kenosha, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Sauk, Walworth and Washington Counties. This program loans funds at 0% interest to eligible households for home repairs. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Additional housing-related programs are listed in Appendix G.

2.8 Housing Trends & Key Facts

A variety of trends and projections lay out the future for housing within Dodge County. Some of the important items to consider when developing this plan's goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations include:

- Of the estimated 35,723 occupied housing units in 2023, a majority of those (27,245 units or 71.2%) were detached single-family dwellings.
- 64% of the county's housing units had three or more bedrooms, which does not match the current demands for the increasing number of smaller (one and two person) households.
- Dodge County's housing stock is aging, with 70% of units being built before 1990, and 28.2% of the total units built prior to 1940.
- The majority of homes (71%) within Dodge County are owner-occupied, with around 29% being rental units.
- The average household size has, and will continue to, decrease over the planning period. In 2020, the county had 2.3 persons per household and is projected to decline to 2.17 persons per household by 2040. This will increase demands for the number of smaller housing units.
- The majority of homes in Dodge County are valued in the $200,000 - $400,000 bracket (61% of housing stock) with the median home value being $276,574.
- Monthly rents across Dodge County range from $900 to $1,500 per month depending on location, size, and age of unit, as well as provided amenities.
- For those households with a mortgage, 23% were cost burdened (paying more than 30% of gross income), while an additional 8.9% were severely cost burdened. For renters, just over 32% were cost burdened, while over 13% were severely cost burdened.
- It is projected that nearly 1,900 additional housing units will be needed between 2025 and 2040 according to WDOA estimates. With the predicted continued decrease in household size, it is likely this figure will exceed 2,000 housing units by 2045. This equates to roughly 100 new housing units per year for the next 20 years.

2.9 Housing Goals, Objectives, Policies & Recommendations

Each element of the comprehensive plan includes a specific set of goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations that the county will use as a guide to future land use, development and preservation decisions over the next 20 years. Goals, objectives, policies and recommendations are defined as follows:

- **Goals** are broad, value-based statements that express general public priorities and preferences about how the county should address issues over the next 20 years and beyond. Goals address key issues, opportunities and problems that affect the county.

- **Objectives** are more specific than goals and are measurable statements usually attainable through direct action and implementation of plan recommendations. The accomplishment of objectives contributes to the fulfillment of the goal.

- **Policies** are general rules, principles, strategies or courses of action used to guide decision making and actions as necessary to accomplish goals and objectives. Policies are intended to be used by decision makers on a regular basis.

- **Recommendations** are specific actions, projects or activities that are intended to achieve a particular plan goal, objective, or policy.

Housing Goals and Objectives

Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001 requires a statement of overall goals and objectives to guide the future development and redevelopment of the county over a 20-year planning period. The following goals and objectives were developed by Dodge County with regard to the Housing element:

Goals

Goal 1: Allow opportunities for an adequate supply of new housing to meet the needs of existing and future residents and provide a range of housing choices for all income levels, age groups, and special housing requirements.

Goal 2: Provide for housing development that maintains the rural and small-town characteristics of Dodge County's unincorporated areas.

Goal 3: Maintain and encourage rehabilitation of Dodge County's existing housing stock.

Goal 4: Leverage new workforce housing as a method to attract a new and younger workforce.

Objectives

1. Promote an adequate supply of appropriate housing for all in Dodge County.

2. Promote all types of residential development, including higher end housing (which keeps the market churning by freeing up less expensive housing), low-income, multi-family, small (900-1,200 sq. ft.) market-rate and affordable single-family housing, and group living quarters in proportion to the demand for such housing.

3. Plan for the housing needs of an aging population, including small apartments, assisted living facilities, campus style senior living communities, and condominiums.

4. Encourage multi-family and group housing to be balanced (less concentrated) within urban areas where public utilities will be available.

5. Discourage the construction of housing near heavily traveled highways where traffic noise may become a concern.

6. Encourage the use of cluster design for rural residential development in those rural areas suitable for limited residential development to minimize impacts on farming operations.

7. Increase the availability of incentives to promote new housing development (e.g., TIF dollars for infrastructure, land donations, etc.).

8. Formulate creative partnerships to increase housing supply, including leveraging the support/assistance of the Dodge County Housing Authority and Clearview.

9. Increase opportunities for home ownership within the county.

Housing Policies and Recommendations

Policies and recommendations build on goals and objectives by providing more focused responses and actions to the goals and objectives. Policies and recommendations become the tools that the county should use to aid in making decisions. Policies that direct action using the words “will” or “shall” are advised to be mandatory and regulatory aspects of the implementation of the comprehensive plan. In contrast, those policies that direct action using the word “should” are advisory and intended to serve as a guide.

Recommendations are specific actions or projects that the county should be prepared to complete within the 20-year planning period. The completion of these actions and projects are consistent with the policies, and therefore will help fulfill the comprehensive plan goals and objectives. The following policies and recommendations have been developed by Dodge County with regard to the Housing element and serve to support the goals and objectives:

Policies

1. The county should promote affordable housing in all of its municipalities in order to attract young families with children.

2. The county should discourage the development of major subdivisions (defined as five or more lots) on agriculturally zoned land within Towns under county zoning jurisdiction.

3. Residential development should be pursued on lands adjacent to existing developed areas.

4. The county should review the potential impact of new residential developments to ensure adequate services can be provided to the development.

5. New residential developments should provide adequate public amenities (such as open spaces, streetscape features and amenities, sidewalks, terraces, street lights, signage, etc.) that contribute to the positive character of the neighborhood.

6. New non-farm residential development should be designed to reduce the impact to natural vegetation, preserve quality farmland, reduce farmland fragmentation, limit conflict with existing agricultural operations, preserve drainage patterns, and not block potential road extensions.

7. New non-farm residential development should be subject to a "nuisance disclaimer", stringent deed restrictions or other mutual agreement intended to protect the "right-to-farm" of existing and future agricultural operations.

8. Cluster residential development should be promoted to minimize land use impacts while accommodating development and green space.

9. New multi-family residential development should be limited to designated areas on the County Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map, or any village or city Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map.

10. Any multi-family residential development that abut~~s~~ established low-density residential areas should be very carefully designed and buffered to minimize potential negative impacts on existing homes.

Recommendations

1. Develop educational materials that talk about the benefits of all housing types.

2. Continue Dodge County's participation in the Southern Housing Region and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which provides no interest loans for home improvements for low and moderate income persons.

3. Continue the funding and utilization of the Dodge County Community Development Fund to support the construction of local level workforce housing projects.

4. Initiate a pilot project to examine opportunities for new housing through the adaptive re-use of older buildings, perhaps acquiring structures through the foreclosure process.

5. Assign county resources to work with area employers to advocate for employee housing needs and seek employer assistance to supply housing for employees.

6. Formulate private partnership solutions to facilitate the construction of new workforce housing.

2.10 Housing Programs

See Appendix G for a complete listing of programs which pertain to this element of the Comprehensive Plan.

2.11 Maps

No maps included in this section.

3 Economic Development

3.1 Introduction

Economic development planning is the process by which a community organizes, analyzes, plans, and then applies its energies to the tasks of improving the economic well-being and quality of life for those in the community. This can be done by addressing issues ranging from enhancing a community's competitiveness, establishing industrial policy, encouraging sustainable development, creating jobs, increasing wages and enhancing worker training, and improving overall quality of life. All of these issues affect residents within a community and are addressed directly or indirectly in this comprehensive plan.

Economic development expenditures are a community investment. They leverage new growth and redevelopment to improve the area. Influencing and investing in the process of economic development allows community members to determine future direction and guide appropriate types of development according to their values. The reason to plan for economic development is straight- forward - economic development helps pay the bills and builds wealth. It requires working together to maintain a strong economy by creating and retaining desirable jobs which provide a good standard of living for individuals. Increased personal income and wealth increases the tax base, so a community, county, or state can provide the level of services residents expect. A balanced, healthy economy is essential for community well-being.

Figure 3-1: Economic Development "Waves" and Best Practices



Adapted from Steve Deller, University of Wisconsin - Division of Extension 2025, and; Brigid Tuck, University of Minnesota Extension, 2025.

There are a variety of economic development plans, but successful communities tend to have one thing in common – an articulated, shared vision of where they want to go and of what things residents and businesses value in their community. Times have changed on how economic development is "practiced", but successful communities have blended successful past methods with newer trends based on our collective understanding of the economy and sociology of our environs. Recent work by UW-Extension's Steve Deller discusses the newer "4th Wave" of economic development focus – that being the attraction of people. As shown in Figure 3.1, the previous three "waves" and their typical components are still relevant in terms of practices used to achieve a community's vision.

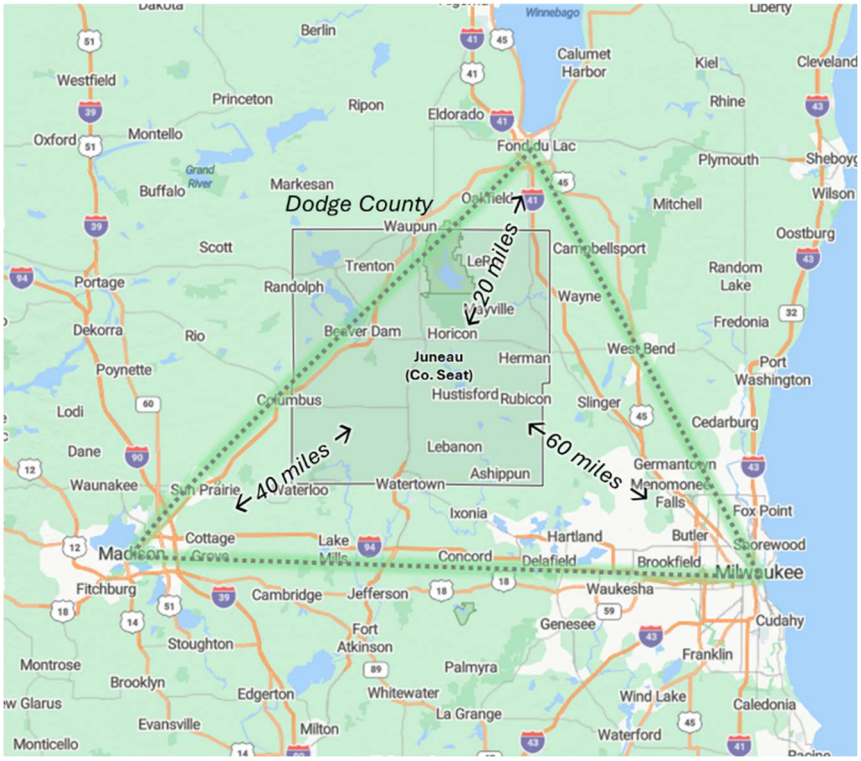
For the reasons cited, it is important to the planning process to identify the county's economic characteristics or resources. These characteristics include: education, income and poverty, labor force statistics, and industry base descriptions. The assessment of these characteristics and resources provides insight into the historical and current economic situation in the county, thereby providing direction for planning the future of the economic base.

Furthermore, economic development is an element of the Comprehensive Plan which should not be segregated by municipal boundaries. Dodge County needs to take a lead role in promoting regional economies and their benefits to attract future workers. Although individuals may choose a specific community to live in, when it comes to employment, typically the best job wins regardless of its location. This element identifies those economic characteristics and trends in Dodge County, which will help identify deficiencies and opportunities related to the economic base in order to promote the stabilization, retention, and expansion of quality employment opportunities.

Geographic Importance & Triangle of Opportunity

Dodge County lies within the southeastern portion of Wisconsin and is strategically located in what is often referred to as the "Triangle of Opportunity" (Figure 3-2). The reference speaks to the county's location, which is in close proximity to three major metropolitan areas of the State: Milwaukee (60 miles from Juneau), Madison (40 miles), and Fond du Lac (30 miles).

Figure 3-2: Dodge County & Triangle of Opportunity

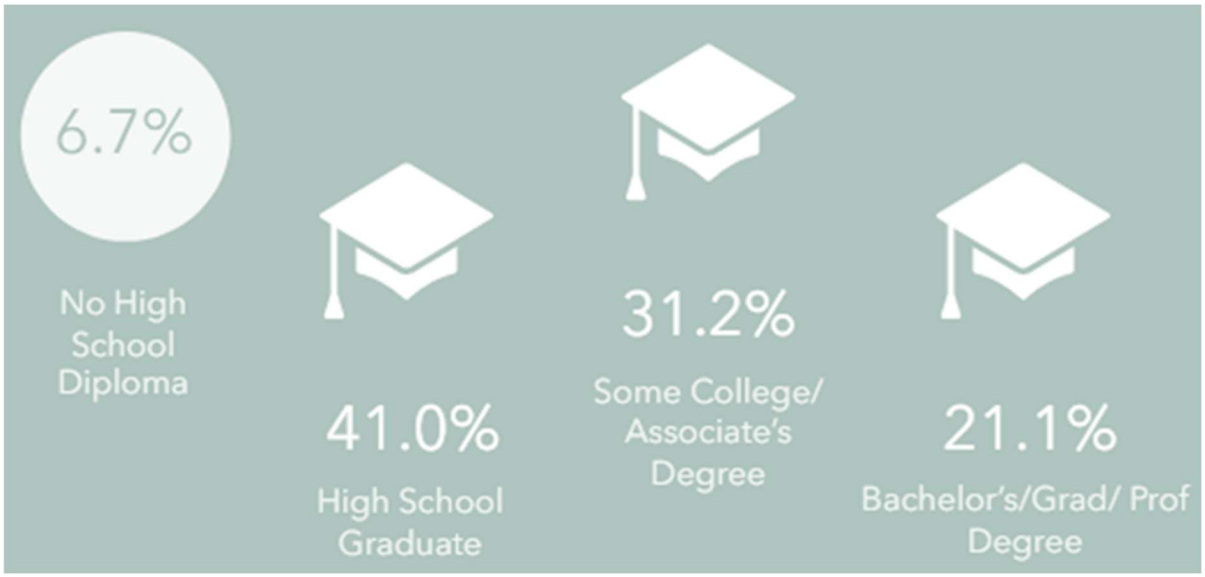


Nearly 2.4 million people live within these three metropolitan statistical areas alone, not counting populations of the dozens of the medium to small size communities lying within the Triangle. This provides Dodge County with a great advantage in terms of accessing employees for local businesses, as well as attracting residents who may wish to relocate to the more bucolic rural setting of Dodge County versus living in a major urban or suburban environment.

3.2 Education Levels

Dodge County has a well-educated population and workforce with over one-fifth having a post-secondary degree and nearly a third having some college or an associate's degree (Figure 3-3). Those with no high school diploma comprise only about 6.7% of the population, which is nearly equal to the State of Wisconsin.

Figure 3-3: Education Levels, Dodge County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS five-year, 2019-2022.

3.3 Income Levels

Table 3-1 and Figure 3-4 display the household incomes for the State of Wisconsin and Dodge County as reported in the 2019-2023 five-year ACS. The median household income for Dodge County was $73,992, slightly lower than the State's reported median income of $75,670 (Figure 3-5).

The highest percentage (22.7%) of residents in the county had a household income between $100,000 and $149,000. The next largest percentage (21.3%) of household income was $50,000 to $74,999 followed by $75,000 to $99,999 (15.5%).

Table 3-1: Annual Household Income, Dodge County, 2019-2023

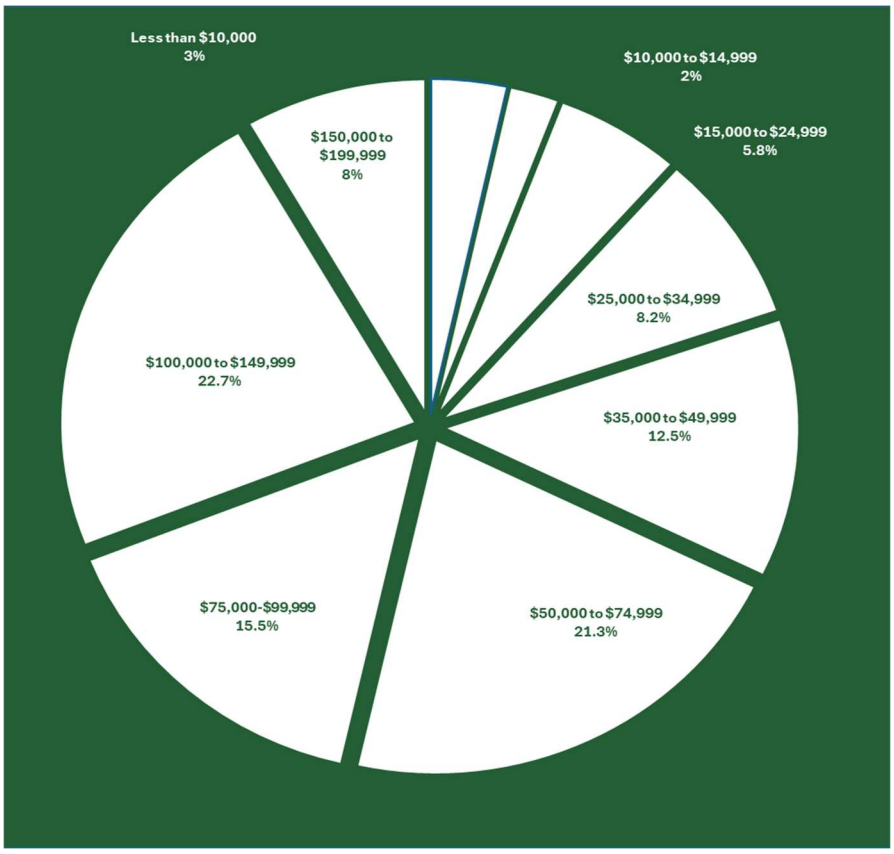
Income Range	State of Wisconsin		Dodge County	
	Number of Households	% of Total Households	Number of Households	% of Total Households
Less than $10,000	98,678	4.0%	1,172	3.3%
$10,000 to $14,999	77,536	3.2%	772	2.2%
$15,000 to $24,999	152,471	6.2%	1,954	5.5%
$25,000 to $34,999	180,361	7.4%	2,793	7.8%
$35,000 to $49,999	267,136	10.9%	4,244	11.9%
$50,000 to $74,999	436,343	17.8%	7,229	20.2%
$75,000 to $99,999	342,136	14.0%	5,253	14.7%
$100,000 to $149,999	462,040	18.9%	7,684	21.5%
$150,000 to $199,999	218,631	8.9%	2,815	7.9%
$200,000 or More	210,696	8.6%	1,807	5.1%
Totals	**2,446,028**	**100%**	**35,723**	**100.0%**

Source: U.S. Census, 2019-2023 ACS 5-Year Summary

While household incomes are substantially high within the county, there are still a significant number of households with lesser incomes. Almost one-fifth (6,691 households, or 19.8%) of households had incomes of $34,999 or less.

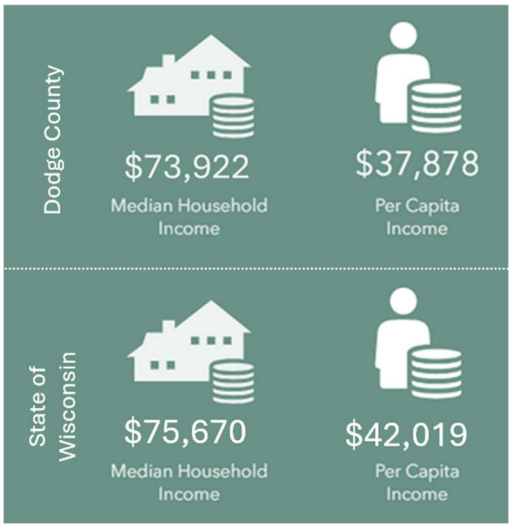
In Wisconsin, to be at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (or under the poverty line) a family of four would need to make $30,000 per year in 2023. Approximately 11% of Wisconsin residents currently live below the poverty line (at or below 100% FPL). Within Dodge County, about 8% of households are below the poverty line (Figure 3-6).

Figure 3-4: Annual Household Income, Dodge County, 2019-2023



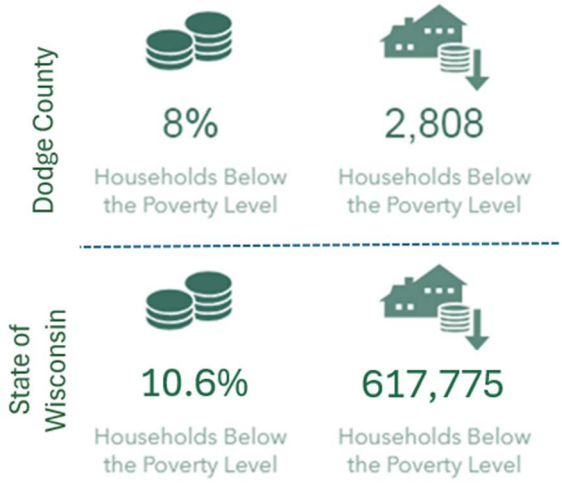
Source: U.S. Census, 2019-2023 ACS five-year Summary

Figure 3-5: Median Household Income, Wisconsin & Dodge County



Source: U.S. Census, 2019-2023 ACS five-year Summary

Figure 3-6: Poverty Level Income, Wisconsin & Dodge County



Source: U.S. Census, 2019-2023 ACS five-year Summary

3.4 Labor Force and Employment Status

According to a 2023 report by the University of Wisconsin-Extension, Wisconsin experienced a significant labor shortage with more job openings than job seekers. This shortage, coupled with a declining labor force participation rate, created a barrier to economic growth. There are four solutions to the macroeconomic labor quantity challenge: 1) offshoring production, 2) immigration, 3) mitigating barriers to employment of the chronically unemployed, and 4) technological advancement (DWD, 2023).

Table 3-2 shows the labor force in Dodge County and Wisconsin for the 2019-2023 time period based on American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates. The county's total labor force was approximately 48,192 persons giving it a labor participation rate of approximately 65.4%. Dodge County's unemployment rate was at 2.80% in June, 2025, compared to 2.60% the previous month and 2.40% in 2024. This is lower than the long term average of 4.63%.

Table 3-2: Employment Status of Population 16 Years and Older, 2021

Employment Status	Wisconsin	Dodge County
Population 16 years and over	4,771,274	73,647
In labor force	3,125,057	48,192
Civilian labor force	3,121,577	48,153
Employed	3,018,918	46,272
Unemployed	102,659	1,881
Armed Forces	3,480	39
Not in labor force	1,646,217	25,455
Civilian labor force	3,121,577	48,153
Females 16 years and over	2,394,888	34,681
In labor force	1,486,334	22,297
Civilian labor force	1,485,740	22,297
Employed	1,441,522	21,252

Source: U.S. Census, 2019-2023 ACS 5-Year Summary

Place of Employment and Commuting Patterns

Job commuting patterns can vary over time based on a number of factors such as gas prices, housing availability and costs, as well as personal preference. In addition, COVID-19 pandemic changed the entire workforce and employment landscape with respect to the number of people working from home. Data showed that during the initial stages of the pandemic in 2020, about 70% of people across the nation worked from home.

This has since declined but has held steady at about 30% and is expected to continue at or near this rate for the foreseeable future. Furthermore, while Dodge County has many local jobs for its residents, the reality is that many residents work outside of the county. Conversely, quite a few of Dodge County's workers reside in other nearby counties. These trends and patterns must be considered when planning for the future of the county.

Worker Inflow/Outflow

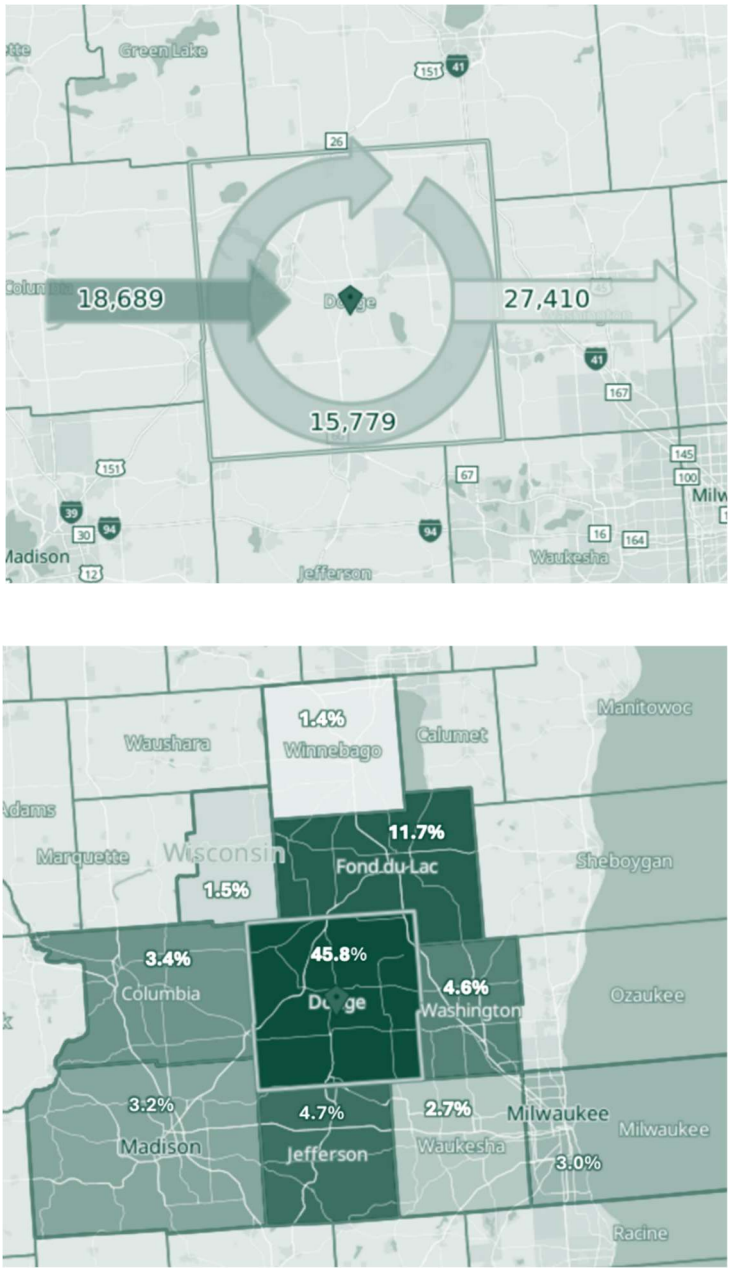
When evaluating commuter patterns, it is helpful to understand the amounts and general locations that workers commute to and from. According to 2022 data (Figure 3-7) obtained from the U.S. Census's "On The Map" program shows that:

- Of the 43,189 workers in Dodge County, 27,410 (63.4%) left the county for employment in other nearby counties.
- 18,689 workers who reside in other counties came into Dodge County for employment.
- 15,779 workers both lived in and worked in Dodge County.

This data shows that while some of the existing industries within Dodge County are a draw for regional employment, the county is also losing a significant percentage of its residents to jobs in other nearby counties.

As shown in Figure 3-5, approximately 11.7% of Dodge County's working residents go to Fond du Lac County for employment, while 4.7% go to Jefferson County, and 4.6% to Washington County.

Figure 3-7: Worker Inflow/Outflow, Dodge County, 2022



Source: U.S. Census, On The Map, 2024.

Barriers to Employment

Barriers to employment encompass various obstacles individuals face when seeking or maintaining a job, ranging from personal attributes to external factors. These can include a criminal record, disability, lack of education or skills, employment gaps, childcare needs, mental health challenges, age, and biases. Additionally, socioeconomic factors like poverty, lack of transportation, and cultural barriers can also impede employment. Three of the largest employment barriers in Dodge County are discussed below.

Transportation

Lack of affordable and reliable transportation can significantly impede employment opportunities, especially for low-income individuals and those in rural areas. This barrier can make it difficult to access jobs, education, health care, and other essential services, hindering individuals' ability to find and maintain employment. The lack of public or private transportation opportunities in Dodge County for workers was mentioned numerous times during the initial stages of plan preparation and will need to be addressed more holistically in the future.

Broadband

The lack of broadband internet access can pose a significant employment barrier, particularly in rural areas, making it harder to find and apply for jobs, access online training, and engage in digital job-seeking activities. This is because broadband is crucial for modern job searching, including utilizing online job boards, creating resumes, and applying for positions electronically, not to mention having the ability to work from home.

Child Care

Under Wisconsin law, no person may, for compensation, provide care and supervision for four or more children under the age of seven for less than 24 hours a day unless that person obtains a license to operate a child care center from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. This does not include a relative or guardian of a child who provides care and supervision for the child; a public or parochial school; a person employed to come to the home of the child's parent or guardian for less than 24 hours a day; or a county, city, village, town, school district or library that provides programs primarily intended for recreational or social purposes. There are two different categories of state licensed child care; they depend upon the number of children in care:

1. *Licensed Family Child Care Centers* provide care for up to eight children. This care is usually in the provider's home, but it is not required to be located in a residence.

2. *Licensed Group Child Care Centers* provide care for nine or more children. These centers are usually located somewhere other than a residence and may be small or large in size.

Child care availability is also a barrier to employment for Wisconsin families. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) tracks and collects data from all regulated childcare facilities within the State. According to its database, as of April, 2025, Dodge County has 39 child care providers for a potential capacity of 1,758 children (Table 3-3). The number of child care providers has decreased significantly within the county over the past decade as there were 60 providers in the county in 2014. A separate 2024 report from the Center for Policy, Research and Engagement estimated a current childcare gap of 1,556 slots within the county.

Due to its high cost, child care is a significant barrier to employment for families across Wisconsin. Child care remains expensive with weekly costs for Group Child Care in the Madison area ranging from $325-$395 for 4-year-olds to $430-$550 for infants (UW-Madison, 2025).

Even families that have child care struggle with disruptions to access. Easing the cost and access burden would allow parents to fully participate in the labor market. Employers could play a major role in improving participation by providing flexibility to employees with child care responsibilities.

Additionally, a new "WisconSays" Survey conducted in 2025 found that 90 percent of Wisconsinites, including those without kids, say finding affordable, high-quality child care in Wisconsin is a problem, and over three-quarters of Wisconsinites support an increase in state funding to fix it. Meanwhile, for families currently using child care, the survey found approximately half reported missing work or school due to lack of child care and a shocking over 12 percent reported leaving the workforce entirely.

A separate assessment survey of child care providers was conducted by the county in 2024 (Appendix H). This survey indicated that enrollment is generally below maximum capacity, especially for infants and preschoolers. Most centers are operating under capacity due to staffing limitations or funding issues, not lack of demand. Additionally, the survey found five facilities were actively expanding or planning improvements, although staff and funding capacity were cited as a major barrier to expanding existing facilities or creating new ones.

Table 3-3: Childcare Providers, Dodge County, April 2025.

Provider Type	Active Providers	Regulated Capacity of Children
Certified Family	2	8
Licensed Camp	1	0
Licensed Family	8	63
Licensed Group	27	1,663
Public School	1	24
Grand Total	39	1,758

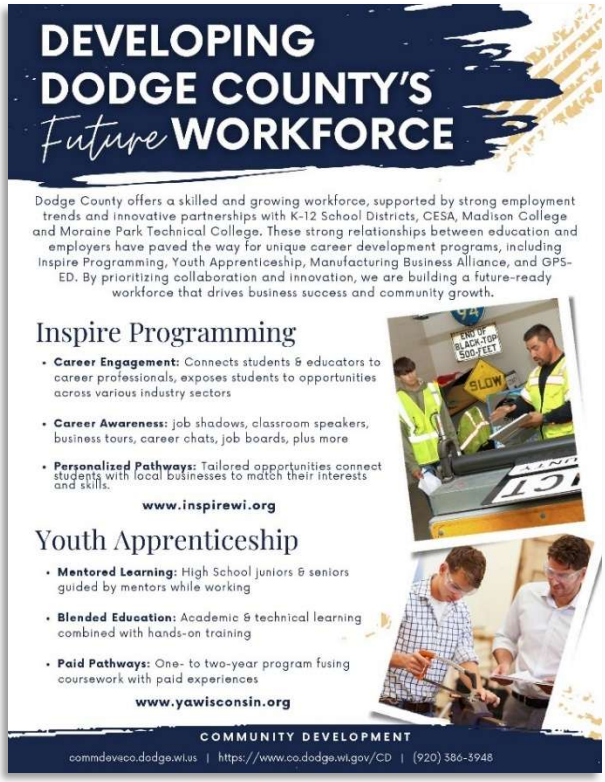
Source: Department of Children & Families, 2025.

Workforce Development Activities

The county's commitment to workforce development has gone beyond providing access to skilled workers as they have fostered a culture of collaboration and innovation to build a future-ready workforce which benefits businesses, residents, and the entire community. Dodge County offers a compelling proposition for businesses seeking a skilled and qualified workforce:

- Strong Labor Force: A dedicated labor force with a diverse range of skills and experience is available to meet needs.
- Growing Workforce Pool: Recent employment growth trends indicate a steady rise in the available workforce.
- Educational Pipeline: Partnerships with institutions like CESA, K-12 School Districts, Madison College, Moraine Park Technical College and Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin ensure a pipeline of qualified talent.

The county actively participates in a number of existing programs, including Inspire Programming, Youth Apprenticeship, Manufacturing Business Alliance of Dodge County Region, GPS Education Partners, and Dodge County Career Exploration Internship Program, among others. Information on these and other workforce development programs are shown on below and are also included in Appendix G.





3.5 Economic Base Analysis

Employment by industry within an area illustrates the structure of the economy. Historically, Dodge County has had a high concentration of employment in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors of the economy. Recent state and national trends indicate an increasing concentration of employment in the manufacturing sector and the services sector. This trend is partly attributed to the aging of the population.

Table 3-4 displays the number and percent of employed persons by industry group in Dodge County as reported by the 2019-2013 ACS. The ACS information is a sample of the county and is subject to sampling variability. However, the survey provides the most recent data available and provides necessary background information.

Table 3-4: Employees by Industry Type, Dodge County, 2019-2023

Industry	Wisconsin (#)	Wisconsin (%)	Dodge County (#)	Dodge County (%)
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	**3,018,918**	**100.0%**	**46,272**	**100.0%**
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	62,644	2.1%	1,933	4.2%
Construction	188,476	6.2%	3,778	8.2%
Manufacturing	544,544	18.0%	12,425	26.9%
Wholesale trade	74,745	2.5%	917	2.0%
Retail trade	331,673	11.0%	5,336	11.5%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	148,248	4.9%	2,433	5.3%
Information	43,417	1.4%	451	1.0%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	184,973	6.1%	1,982	4.3%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	274,289	9.1%	2,309	5.0%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	703,648	23.3%	8,571	18.5%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	227,255	7.5%	2,463	5.3%
Other services, except public administration	127,591	4.2%	1,720	3.7%
Public administration	107,415	3.6%	1,954	4.2%

Source: U.S. Census, 2019-2023 ACS 5-Year Summary

In the 2019-2023 ACS time period, the greatest percentage of employment for the county was in the manufacturing sector (26.9%), which is nearly nine percentage points above the statewide figure. Educational, health and social services still had the second largest percentage of employment (18.5%). Dodge County is becoming less dependent on the manufacturing sector. Retail trade came in third at 11.5% of the workforce. Dodge County surpasses the statewide percentages in several other industries, including: Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing/Hunting/Mining, Transportation/Warehousing/Utilities, and Construction. This is quite typical for more rural based counties.

3.6 Employment Forecast

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) releases employment forecasts and local labor market data through its WisConomy platform, accessible on the Job Center of Wisconsin website (Table 3-5). These projections provide insights into industry and occupational employment trends, including projected job openings, growth rates, and potential areas of workforce needs. In 2023, DWD released Industry Employment Projections for 2020 to 2030 for the South Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Area. Employment projections are made by industry for the South Central Wisconsin counties of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Jefferson, Marquette and Sauk.

Industry Employment Forecast

As shown in Table 3-5, the four industries that are projected to add the most jobs in the South Central Wisconsin Region during this time period are Education & Health Services, Leisure & Hospitality, Professional & Business Services, and Trade/Transportation & Utilities. The four fastest growing industries by percentage are Leisure & Hospitality (+30.2%), Information (+22.4%), Education & Health Services (+14.9%), and Professional & Business Services (12.5%). No expected job losses are projected out to 2030 for this region.

Table 3-5: Industry Employment Forecast, Dodge County, 2030

Industry	2020 Employment	Projected 2030 Employment	Employment Change	Percent Change (2020-2030)
Total All Industries	499,791	555,692	55,901	11.2%
Natural Resources and Mining	5,120	5,714	594	11.6%
Construction	21,828	24,116	2,288	10.5%
Manufacturing	56,216	59,779	3,563	6.3%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	74,318	79,221	4,903	6.6%
Information	17,045	20,865	3,820	22.4%
Financial Activities	27,323	28,485	1,162	4.3%
Professional and Business Services	56,958	64,097	7,139	12.5%
Education and Health Services	112,033	128,729	16,696	14.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	37,990	49,464	11,474	30.2%
Other Services (except Government)	30,679	32,945	2,266	7.4%
Public Administration	37,053	38,867	1,814	4.9%
Self Employed and Unpaid Family Workers	23,228	23,410	182	0.8%

Source: Department of Workforce Development, 2023.

Occupational Employment Forecasts

Occupational projections are separated into three categories: growth, labor force exits, and occupational transfers. Retirements are a key driver in the labor force exits category, and Wisconsin is approximately halfway through the baby boomer retirement period. Occupational transfers can include workers that advance in careers or make lateral movements into different occupations. As a rule, a higher need for replacements due to transfers can be expected in lower paying occupations as workers leave for higher-paying occupations.

As shown in Table 3-6, the four largest growth occupations in terms of projected employment needs are in the Food Preparation & Serving, Office & Administrative Support, Sales & Related, and Education, Training & Library categories. From a percentage increase standpoint, the four fastest growing occupations for this region are: Food Preparation & Serving (+24.9%), Computer & Mathematical (+21.9%), Education, Training & Library (+21.0%), and Personal Care & Service (19.6%).

Table 3-6: Occupational Employment Forecast, Dodge County, 2030

Occupation Title	2020 Employment	Projected 2030 Employment	Occupational Openings	Percent Change (2020-2030)
Total All Occupations	499,791	555,692	61,891	11.2%
Management	25,169	28,018	2,386	11.3%
Business and Financial Operations	37,543	40,722	3,691	8.5%
Computer and Mathematical	27,016	32,922	2,701	21.9%
Architecture and Engineering	9,877	10,856	826	9.9%
Life, Physical, and Social Science	8,329	9,821	993	17.9%
Community and Social Service	6,718	7,503	771	11.7%
Legal	3,231	3,497	245	8.2%
Education, Training, and Library	34,625	41,878	4,099	21.0%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media	8,211	9,276	987	13.0%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	30,568	33,689	2,106	10.2%
Healthcare Support	21,424	24,531	3,069	14.5%
Protective Service	8,450	9,512	1,237	12.6%
Food Preparation and Serving Related	32,669	40,688	7,282	24.6%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenan..	15,994	17,941	2,396	12.2%
Personal Care and Service	14,463	17,294	2,532	19.6%
Sales and Related	41,898	43,987	5,765	5.0%
Office and Administrative Support	61,869	61,708	6,868	-0.3%
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	3,449	3,687	578	6.9%
Construction and Extraction	20,702	22,903	2,338	10.6%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	17,083	19,014	1,905	11.3%
Production	38,525	39,865	4,388	3.5%
Transportation and Material Moving	31,978	36,380	4,724	13.8%

Source: Department of Workforce Development, 2023.

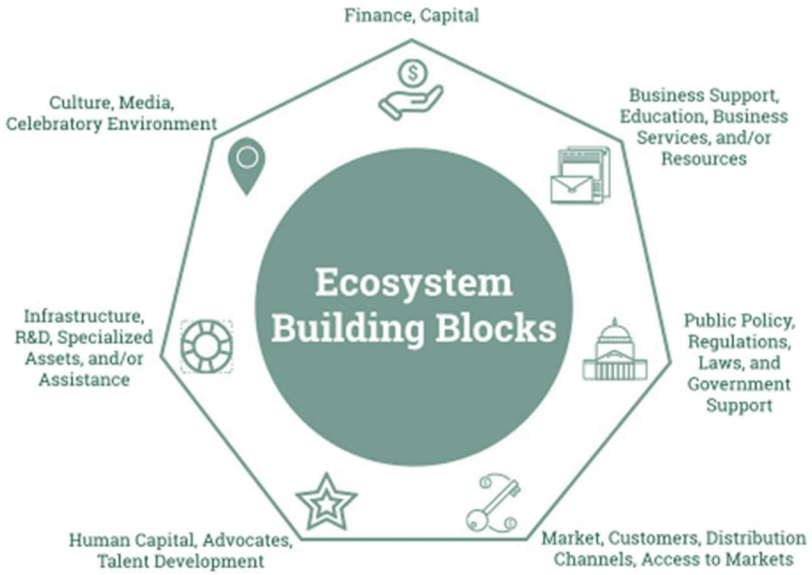
3.7 Desired Business and Industry

Based on discussions with local and regional economic development professionals, Manufacturing, Machining, Agricultural, and Food Processing types of industries would be the most successful in the county and therefore are the desired types of businesses. These types of businesses have had longstanding success in Dodge County due to its strong agricultural base, geographic location, and workforce availability. Certain types of businesses, such as large grocery stores or shopping complexes, may be desired by residents, however such businesses would most likely not locate in the more rural areas of Dodge County nor would they be successful. Most local residents are also very loyal to local business owners and establishments. Overall, the basic services and products that are needed by residents are adequately being supplied by current businesses. Desired improvements may include providing more retail options, larger facilities, lower prices, and more convenient locations.

Dodge County is known for a strong worker ethic. Therefore, opportunities for local entrepreneurs to develop specialty or 'niche' markets could exist. These developed products could be exported or draw buyers into the county. Due to the rural nature of Dodge County, desired businesses and industry should include light manufacturing, food processing and similar industries as well as continued support for small retail providers and basic services providers throughout the county. The location of any larger retail, services or shopping facilities will likely occur in areas of concentrated population easily accessed by a major transportation route.

Diversification of the Dodge County economy over the next 20 years will continue to be important as over-dependence on one industry sector can have detrimental effects. Dodge County should pursue new business and industry, including the support of entrepreneurs and their ecosystem components (See Figure 3-8), which can leverage its existing economic base to diversify the overall economy. Parallel efforts must also occur to develop higher skills (and thus higher wages) for the residents of the county.

Figure 3-8: Entrepreneurial Ecosystem



3.8 Attraction of New Business and Industry

New business and industry attraction typically relies on a combination of key components designed to draw businesses to a community, county, or region. These include strong infrastructure such as transportation networks, utilities, and digital connectivity; a skilled and available workforce; and access to raw materials or supply chains. Competitive advantages like favorable tax policies, financial incentives, and streamlined permitting processes also play a role. In addition, quality of life factors—such as housing, education, health care, and cultural amenities—help make a location more appealing to both companies and employees, ensuring long-term growth and retention. Dodge County has been very active in recent years regarding the attraction of new business and industry, including the expansion of existing manufacturing facilities.

Figure 3-9: Industry Site Selection Process



MadREP

The county works closely with the Madison Area Regional Partnership (MadREP) to further regional efforts on the strategic pursuit of job creation and business growth in target clusters, as well as for a coordinated talent development pipeline. It should be noted that this organization will be changing its name and structure at the beginning of 2026. Monitoring and responding to Requests for Information (RFIs), and interactions/outreach to professional site selectors is typically coordinated by this organization and is a critical component of industry and business attraction (Fig. 3-9). These interactions with site selectors offer the opportunity to showcase Dodge County and share data and information which set it apart from other nearby counties.

Site & Buildings

Promotion of existing buildings and development sites is also part of the work required to attract business and industry. To that end, several tools are available for site selectors and others to learn about the available opportunities within Dodge County. The on-line Location One (LOIS) interface is a location analysis tool designed to highlight available commercial and industrial buildings and sites in Dodge County. MadREP has its own on-line inventory of available buildings and sites, and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation hosts the on-line Locate in Wisconsin inventory of buildings and sites.

County Programs & Support

The county's Community Development Division provides valuable resources and fosters strong business partnerships. Its staff and programs are committed to creating sustainable development and economic growth, and strong community partnerships, making it an ideal place live, work, and play.

Dodge County Community Development Fund (CDF)

Dodge County created a new Dodge County Community Development Fund in 2024 to support economic development. This program is unique within the State and consists of a sales-tax funded grant program that reinvests local sales tax dollars into the county's communities to help drive projects that enhance infrastructure, economic growth, and overall community development. The Community Development Fund supports new investments in Dodge County in an effort to help meet the following objectives:

- Collaborate and support positive partnerships with communities that are investing and working to support business and residential growth in Dodge County.
- Support the objectives outlined in the County Board's Strategic Plan.
- Encourage new investment into the County in the form of fixed asset investment, particularly in infrastructure needed to support new business and residential developments.
- Perpetuate a positive and proactive business climate to encourage the retention and expansion of existing businesses and helps to attract new businesses.
- Support new residential developments, further supporting workforce needs and growing demand for diverse housing options.
- Re-invest sales tax revenue into communities to stimulate economic growth.

The County Administration Office serves as the program administrator and supports the application/review process. Staff works with the Dodge County Community Development Grant Fund Advisory Board to administer the program. To ensure the Community Development Grant Fund is used effectively and delivers impactful projects, this five-member Advisory Committee was established with members being approved by the Dodge County Executive Committee.

Full program guidelines and application requirements are contained on the Dodge County Community Development Fund page.

In 2025, the county awarded its first funding from this program totaling $1.4 million. which was distributed to four communities (C. Beaver Dam, C. Fox Lake, C. Watertown, and C. Waupun) to support a variety of workforce housing projects.

3.9 Sites for Business and Industrial Development

New industrial development usually occurs in urban areas to take advantage of utility and transportation services found there. Some fringe areas around traditional urban centers have recently seen development of open land for industrial uses due to the expansion of utilities and transportation networks and the desire for clean ("green field") locations on which to build.

Dodge County Industrial Parks

Industrial parks are found in all of the cities in Dodge County. The Villages of Hustisford, Randolph, Iron Ridge, Lomira, and Reeseville also have industrial parks. There are an adequate number of sites available for businesses and industries to locate or expand in Dodge County.

Having available and desirable business or industrial sites within the county "ready to go" is vital if business recruitment is a goal. Having available sites also allows for existing businesses to expand locally, thereby not only retaining current employers, but also capturing any employee growth they may have. For specific areas designated for business and industrial development in the county, refer to Chapter 8 Land Use.

The further development or recruitment of industrial and manufacturing firms in Dodge County will be closely linked to the availability of land within industrial parks, availability of infrastructure, and the availability and access to transportation routes. The county should continue to support the local development of these resources as a means to support local employment and the overall improvement of economic development for the county as a whole.

Available Buildings & Sites

More information about available sites and buildings for business expansion can be found in the previous section. Dodge County's Buildings and Sites website currently shows nine existing buildings currently available which have re-use or redevelopment potential. In addition to 18 business/industrial sites (some being noted as industrial parks having multiple lots available).

Brownfield Sites

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) encourage the clean-up and use of environmentally contaminated sites for commercial and industrial use. The WDNR has created the Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS) to identify environmentally contaminated sites for communities in Wisconsin.

According to the BRRTS database, there are 1,441 environmentally contaminated sites in Dodge County. Of the 1,441 sites, 1,178 are closed, 31 sites are open, three are noted as historical spills only, and four are noted as VPLE ineligible or withdrawn. Closed sites have completed all clean up requirements and have received a case closure letter from the DNR. Open sites are in need of clean up or clean-up is underway. Of the 31 open sites or conditionally closed sites, one is a reported spill site, 10 are LUST sites, and 20 are ERP sites.

The remaining 225 sites are shown as General Property Information (records of various milestones related to liability exemptions, liability clarifications, and cleanup agreements that have been approved by the DNR to clarify the legal status of the property), No Action Required (there was, or may have been, a discharge to the environment and, based on the known information, the DNR has determined that the responsible party does not need to undertake an investigation or cleanup in response to that discharge), or Off Sites (properties that were affected by contamination from another property).

Redevelopment Sites

In addition to environmentally contaminated sites, vacant or under-utilized buildings and vacant lots represent opportunities for redevelopment. A majority of these opportunities exist in villages and cities. No significant areas of land are in need of redevelopment in the rural portions of Dodge County.

3.10 Economic Development Trends and Key Facts

Education

- Almost all of Dodge County's population (93.3%) graduated high school or holds the equivalent degree, with 52.3% having at least some college experience, including associate degree graduates. Around 21% of the county's population has a bachelor's or higher degree.

Income

- Household incomes are similar to surrounding areas, with the median household income being $74,263, slightly lower than the State's median household income of $75,670.
- Around 8% of the county's population is considered to be living at or below the poverty level.

Workforce

- The composition of the labor force will change due to continued decreases in family size and the continued aging of the population.
- Population disbursement in the county will continue to limit economic development in some areas.
- Increases in automation and technology in agriculture, production, processing, and manufacturing will change the existing labor force.
- Barriers to employment include transportation options, housing availability and cost, and child care availability and cost.
- About 63% (27,410) of the county's workforce leaves the county for employment in nearby counties. Conversely, just under 17,000 workers reside in nearby counties, but work within Dodge County.

Industry

- The four fastest growing industries by percentage are Leisure & Hospitality (+30.2%), Information (+22.4%), Education & Health Services (+14.9%), and Professional & Business Services (12.5%).
- Dodge County will likely continue to depend heavily on the manufacturing sector of the economy, but international and national economic trends will continue to affect the manufacturers found in Dodge County.
- The Education, Health, and Social Services sector will continue to increase in importance as the population ages.
- Tourism will continue to increase as a factor in the county's economy.
- Increases in automation and technology will also change the existing manufacturing base.
- The service-based sector of the economy will continue to grow, particularly health-related services, as the population ages.

3.11 Economic Development Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Recommendations

Each element of the comprehensive plan includes a specific set of goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations that the county will use as a guide to future land use, development and preservation decisions over the next 20 years. Goals, objectives, policies and recommendations are defined as follows:

- **Goals** are broad, value-based statements that express general public priorities and preferences about how the county should address issues over the next 20 years and beyond. Goals address key issues, opportunities and problems that affect the county.

- **Objectives** are more specific than goals and are measurable statements usually attainable through direct action and implementation of plan recommendations. The accomplishment of objectives contributes to the fulfillment of the goal.

- **Policies** are general rules, principles, strategies or courses of action used to guide decision making and actions as necessary to accomplish goals and objectives. Policies are intended to be used by decision makers on a regular basis.

- **Recommendations** are specific actions, projects or activities that are intended to achieve a particular plan goal, objective, or policy.

Economic Development Goals and Objectives

Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001 requires a statement of overall goals and objectives to guide the future development and redevelopment of the county over a 20-year planning period. The following goals and objectives were developed by Dodge County with regard to the Economic Development element:

Goals

Goal 1: Balance land uses within all communities of Dodge County and enhance urban areas necessary to sustain the economic stability of the county.

Goal 2: Maintain, enhance, and continue to diversify the economy consistently with other county goals and objectives in order to provide a stable economic base.

Goal 3: Expand quality employment opportunities.

Goal 4: Promote the productive farmlands of Dodge County and support their preservation and management as an important economic resource.

Objectives

1. Focus efforts on attracting and expanding the agricultural, commercial service and retail, and industrial (warehousing, processing, transportation, manufacturing) business sector within the county.

2. Take steps to encourage a broader range of commercial and service businesses in communities throughout the county.

3. Encourage and promote a healthy and sustainable agricultural economy through existing and new programs designed to support the farm economy.

4. Assist in promoting and attracting agricultural services and related industries to help keep agricultural production a viable business.

5. Continue diversification of agricultural activities and leverage the existing producer and manufacturing base in terms of access to capital.

6. Utilize existing manufacturing businesses as a method to leverage additional growth and development.

7. Increase efforts to retain existing manufacturers and to attract new ones.

8. Capture and/or expand the Food & Beverage industry cluster within the county.

9. Encourage and support existing industrial and business leaders to participate in economic development organizations' efforts to recruit new business, industry, and workers to Dodge County.

10. Seek and implement new incentive programs that encourage industrial and commercial expansion.

11. Attempt to preserve and expand rail service in Dodge County as an economic development tool.

12. Promote the Dodge County Airport and existing railroads as economic development benefits for manufacturers.

13. Leverage the county Highway Department's role in economic development related to road improvement needs for major manufacturing, warehousing, and distribution projects.

14. Assist in addressing barriers to employment for adult workers, such as immigration, mental health, transportation, child care, and housing.

15. Support the removal of barriers to home occupations for child care (i.e., state and local licensing/regulation efficiencies).

16. Continue to support/work with YMCA Kids Care program to expand services.

17. Maintain competitive health services.

18. Attract new residents by ensuring housing availability, good schools, and high quality of life.

19. Promote the county's characteristics in order to attract new workers, including:
    a. Current manufacturing job opportunities.
    b. Strong work ethic of area's workforce.
    c. Proximity of Dodge County to Milwaukee/Madison metro areas (Triangle of Opportunity).
    d. Lower cost of living.
    e. Recreational facilities and amenities.

20. Retain youth in the county with the Inspire/CESA 6 career paths program (including participation by the Highway Department to showcase county career options) and continuing to integrate "backyard careers" into the K-12 program.

21. Promote tourism emphasizing the natural resource base and the unique historical heritage of Dodge County.

22. Leverage recreational and camping resources with new large events to attract tourism dollars.

23. Increase agritourism activities and encourage young, small, niche farms.

24. Foster additional collaboration between/amongst communities to build better tourism experiences and recreational trail facilities.

25. Promote downtown revitalization to help enhance community character and business climate.

26. Promote ongoing dialogue between planning staff and economic development groups to ensure that economic development projects are consistent with plan goals and objectives.

27. Encourage networking opportunities to assist in transferring the ownership of existing businesses to successors.

28. Encourage local governments to establish or strengthen partnerships with community-based organizations to carry out economic development projects.

29. Cooperate with local Chambers of Commerce in the promotion of their communities.

30. Promote and support the generational expertise and transfer of knowledge in the agricultural sector.

31. Communicate regularly with site selectors and the realty sector regarding the county's assets and opportunities.

32. Promote Dodge county as an "Entrepreneurial Friendly" location for new businesses.

Economic Development Policies and Recommendations

Policies and recommendations build on goals and objectives by providing more focused responses and actions to the goals and objectives. Policies and recommendations become the tools that the county should use to aid in making decisions. Policies that direct action using the words "will" or "shall" are advised to be mandatory and regulatory aspects of the implementation of the comprehensive plan. In contrast, those policies that direct action using the word "should" are advisory and intended to serve as a guide.

Recommendations are specific actions or projects that the county should be prepared to complete within the 20-year planning period. The completion of these actions and projects are consistent with the policies, and therefore will help fulfill the comprehensive plan goals and objectives. The following policies and recommendations have been developed by Dodge County with regard to the Economic Development element and serve to support the goals and objectives:

Policies

1. The county shall support efforts to maintain or expand agriculture and agriculture related businesses as a major component of the local economy.

2. Industrial and large scale commercial development should be steered to municipalities capable of providing sewer and water services.

3. Future economic development should include export businesses that produce goods and services within the community but are sold primarily to outside markets.

4. Economic development programs and incentives should focus on development and businesses that include higher quality buildings and facilities, as well as those providing greater job opportunities with relatively high wages.

5. The retention and expansion of existing businesses should be supported through facility improvements and the implementation of increased technology.

6. Future businesses and industrial development in the county shall be reviewed for potential financial, service, and visual impact to surrounding landowners.

7. Commercial and Industrial development should be directed to those areas identified for such uses on the Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use Map.

8. The county should promote cooperation between all of the communities in the county on economic development-related issues.

9. Locate new childcare facilities near schools to take advantage of travel and social dynamics.

10. The county should assist in the coordination of child care issues with local employers.

11. The county should support employer contributions and/or new programs which address employee child care needs.

12. Dodge County should continue to work collaboratively on workforce development and workforce availability tasks and opportunities (recruitment, career path education, youth apprenticeships, etc.).

Recommendations

General:

1. Create a county database of existing and potential new economic development programs and policies in order to formulate strategies for sustaining and improving the economic stability of the county.

2. Allocate sales tax revenues for priority economic development projects, including business retention and attraction.

3. Utilize the UW-Extension office as needed to assist on addressing economic issues in the county.

4. Further develop the county's media/social media footprint with regard to economic development assets and opportunities. Add county staff capacity to do this regularly.

5. Continue to meet with the City of Juneau on integration of county facilities into downtown planning and economic development activities.

Business Improvement & Attraction:

1. Develop the "Education Story" for Dodge County and determine market audience for sharing and distributing:

2. Leverage the county's proximity/access to higher education (MPTC, UW-Madison, etc.).

3. Incorporate comparison with state-level scores for education system.

4. Leverage the county's location as the "Triangle of Opportunity".

5. Develop the "Agriculture Story" to promote the special qualities of Dodge County focusing on items such as:
   a) Nationally recognized high quality soils that are sustainably managed.
   b) High quality milk for cheesemaking.
   c) Highly trained and educated farmers and producers.

6. Continue to administer and promote the Dodge County Community Development Fund to area municipalities for economic development-related projects, including infrastructure to foster new housing.

7. Work with the WEDC to study the feasibility of a county-wide program to improve central business districts.

8. Study a joint venture with the City of Juneau to create an industrial park adjacent to the Dodge County Airport.

9. Continue participation and cooperation with the Madison Region Economic Partnership (MadREP) and its successor organization.

Affordable Child Care:

1. Develop a county program to attract child care providers. For example, consider the provision of facilities, become a licensor for child care, "bridge" pay gaps and/or provide benefits (e.g., health care).

2. As part of the Physical Facilities Master Plan being prepared, examine utilization of county building facilities to accommodate child care uses.

Workforce Development & Attraction:

1. Conduct additional market research focusing on: 1) identifying the barriers to employment; 2) what would attract outside people to move to the county, and; 3) How many people are not working but want to work.

2. Develop a program to target youth/residents who had left the county to return.

3. Assist in addressing workforce development issues within the county's Health and Human Services arena, as well as for jail staffing.

4. Create a county-wide leadership program (similar to Fond du Lac) and offer more support and resources to entrepreneurs and young professionals.

5. Maintain and improve the existing workforce transportation program run by Health & Human Services.

Resident Attraction:

1. Develop the story of all the "Good Stuff" happening in the county regarding outdoor recreation, housing costs, quality of life, and cost of living. Use to attract residents from adjacent urban areas.

2. Develop a targeted campaign to attract and retain younger population (positive way of life, quality of life in Dodge County).

Tourism:

1. Develop a Dodge County history based document that brings together the fields of historic preservation, economic development, and tourism. Such document would raise awareness of the county's historic resources and promote heritage tourism.

2. Increase county capacity for tourism promotion (most successful at attracting higher earners). Having a dedicated county staff person for tourism will foster more consistency and sustainability.

3. Develop and distribute tourism information promoting the county.

4. Continue Joint Education Marketing (JEM) Grant initiatives and apply for more funding as needed.

3.12 Economic Development Programs

See Appendix G for a complete listing of programs pertaining to this element of the Comprehensive Plan.

3.13 Maps

No maps included in this section.

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4 Transportation

4.1 Introduction

A transportation system can be defined as any means used to move people and/or products. The land use patterns of Dodge County, its municipalities, and the region are tied together by the transportation system, which includes roads, multi-use trails, railroads, airports, and any other method of travel used to move people and products. Residents, businesses, agricultural producers, and manufacturers all rely on a dependable transportation system to function and provide linkages to other markets. Dodge County's transportation network plays a major role in the efficiency, safety, and overall desirability of the area as a place to live and work.

Roads and highways account for the majority of a transportation system and are probably the most common paths, however, they are not the only component. Rail lines, waterways, airways, and trails are all additional opportunities that contribute to the entire transportation system. Taken together, these individual transportation options create a community's transportation system.

A Transportation System Includes:

- Roads, Streets, & Highways
- Transit Services
- Passenger and Freight Rail Services
- Bicycles Lanes, Paths, Recreational Trails
- Passenger and Freight Air Travel
- Sidewalks and Pedestrian Accommodations
- Harbors and Ports

4.2 Existing Road System

According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), there is a total of 2,022 miles of highway in Dodge County. Jurisdictionally, this includes 228 miles of state highway, 541 miles of county highway, and 1,253 miles of local roads (See Map 4-1 at the end of this Chapter). The extensive system of local roads provides for circulation between and within communities for local residents and provides the link to other transportation routes.

Two major four lane U.S. Highways and well-developed railway services connect Dodge County to the surrounding region. U.S. Highway 151 runs in a northeast, southwest direction through the northwest portion of the county and provides vehicular access from several cities in Dodge County to Madison, Fond du Lac, and beyond. Interstate 41 runs in a north-south direction through the northeast portion of the county and provides access to Milwaukee, Fond du Lac, Green Bay, and beyond. Interstates 90 and 94 pass to the west and south of Dodge County, respectively.

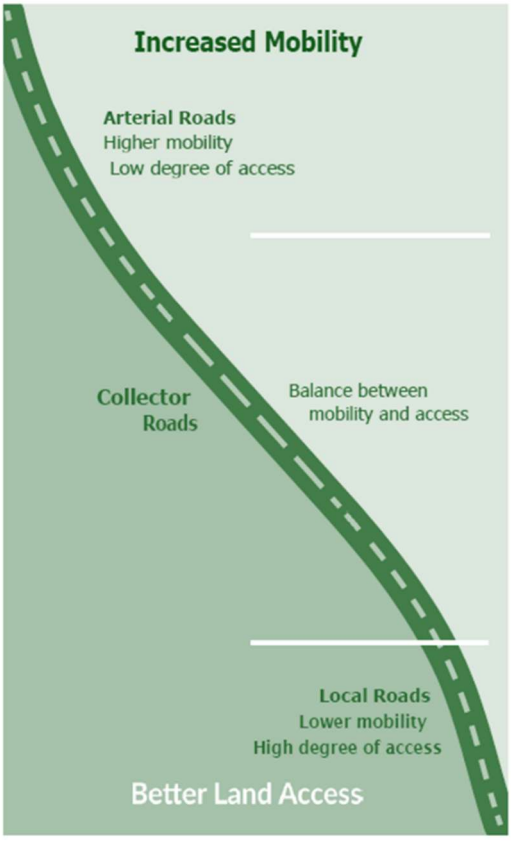
Dodge County contains an extensive system of State highways. WIS 26 runs in a north-south direction through the center of the county. WIS 33 runs in an east-west direction through the northern portion of the county, including routes through the Cities of Fox Lake, Beaver Dam, and Horicon. WIS 60 runs in an east- west direction through the southern portion of the county. Several other state highways, including WIS 68, WIS 49, WIS 175, WIS 28, WIS 67, WIS 73 and WIS 19 also provide major transportation routes throughout the county.

Dodge County also contains an extensive system of County Trunk Highways providing efficient inter-county connections between its communities and the state highway system. County Trunk Highways AW, A, M, H, J, P, G, D, E, W, S, R, O, T, CW, Y, and YY are all viewed as major connecting highways helping to move people, goods, and services across and through the county.

4.3 Functional Classification of Roads

While the road system is composed of four levels of government jurisdiction, each roadway within the county can also be classified by function. The function that the road serves in relation to existing traffic patterns, the adjacent land use, land access needs, and the average daily traffic volumes determines its functional classification. There are both urban and rural classification systems, both of which are detailed below. In general however, functional classification is a tool for measuring and managing the balance between level of mobility and land access as shown in Figures 4-1 and 4-2. For a picture of the functional classification of highways in Dodge County, refer to Map 4-1 at the end of this chapter

Figure 4-1: Functional Classification Levels



Urban Functional Classifications

Urban functional classifications are used for roads in urban areas (i.e., places of 5,000 population or more). Therefore, these classifications would be used for the Cities of Mayville, Beaver Dam, Watertown, and Waupun.

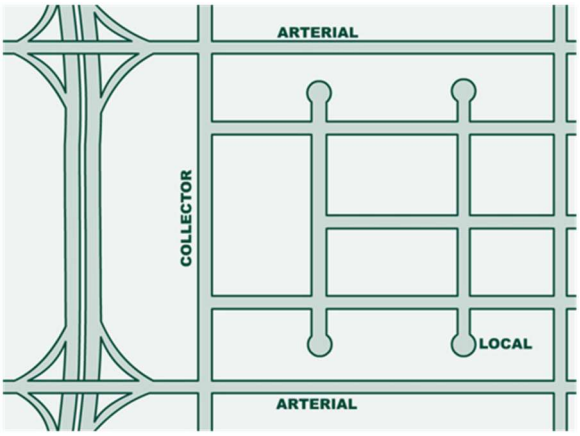
- Principal Arterials serve longer intra-urban trip and traffic traveling through urban areas. They carry high traffic volumes and provide linkage to major activity centers. The urban principal arterials are connected to the system of rural principal and minor arterials.

- Minor Arterials provide intra-community continuity and service to trips of moderate length with more emphasis on land access than principal arterials. The minor arterial system interconnects with the urban arterial system and provides system connections to the rural collectors.

- Collectors provide both land access service and traffic circulation within residential neighborhoods, commercial areas, and industrial areas. These facilities collect traffic from the local streets in residential neighborhoods and channel it onto the arterial system.

- Local Streets comprise all facilities not on one of the higher systems. They primarily provide direct access to adjacent land and access to higher order systems. Local streets offer the lowest level of mobility, and through-traffic movement on this system is usually discouraged.

Figure 4-2: Functional Classification Hierarchy



Rural Functional Classifications

Rural functional classifications are used for all roads outside of urban areas. The majority of Dodge County's transportation system would be classified under the rural functional system.

- Principal Arterials serve interstate and inter-regional trips. These routes generally serve all urban areas greater than 5,000 population. Principal arterials in Dodge County include USH 151, I-41, WIS 26, and WIS 33 (east of Beaver Dam).

- Minor Arterials, in conjunction with the principal arterials, serve cities, large communities, and other major traffic generators providing intra-regional and inter-area traffic movements. Minor arterials include WIS 49, 68, 28, 67, 33 (north of Beaver Dam), 73, 60, 16, 19, 175, and CTH YY and Y.

- Major Collectors provide service to moderate sized communities and other intra-area traffic generators, and link those generators to nearby larger population centers or higher function routes. Major collectors include CTH AW, A, M, H, P, G, D, E, W, S, R, O, T, CW, Y, and J.

- Minor Collectors collect traffic from local roads, and provide links to all remaining smaller communities, locally important traffic generators, and higher function roads. All developed areas should be within a reasonable distance of a collector road. Minor collectors include CTH F, Z, AY, C, B, V, KW, EE, ME, MM, DJ, K,Q, KK, CP. Lake Emily Road, Pond Road, St. Helena Road, Raasch Hill Road, Crawfish Road, and a portion of CTH I.

- Local Roads provide access to adjacent land and provide for travel over relatively short distances. All roads not classified as arterials or collectors are local function roads.

Traffic Counts

WisDOT takes periodic counts of traffic along different segments of federal, state and county highways, as well as some local roads. This information is reviewed for changes in traffic levels and is often used to support safety and improvement analyses. The counts represent Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) for selected roadways and time periods (2021-2024) and are shown on Maps 4-2a and 4-2b at the end of this chapter. AADT counts are calculated by multiplying raw hourly traffic counts by seasonal, day-of-week, and axle adjustment factors. The daily hourly values are then averaged by hour of the day and the values are summed to create the AADT count.

Overall, traffic levels have changed significantly in some portions of Dodge County over the past 20 years or so. Map 4-3 illustrates WisDOT traffic counter points, which have increased in total AADT over the past (approx.) 20 years - between 2000 and the last year the counts were taken (typically in 2022). Map 4-4 illustrates the opposite, with traffic counter points shown that have decreased AADTs during this same time period. Data tables associated with these maps are contained in Appendix H. The general traffic circulation pattern and traffic counts in the county can be summarized as follows:

- The greatest amounts of traffic exist along Interstate 41 in the northeast portion of the county. A segment just north and south of Lomira had a 2024 AADTs ranging from 35,400 to 37,100 vehicles. This segment has seen an approximate 27% increase in traffic since 2000, and a 4.9% increase over the past 10 years (2015). I-41 is a major north south interstate corridor and the amounts of traffic are reflective of its importance in moving people and products across Wisconsin.

- The USH 151 corridor has the next highest levels of traffic with 2024 AADTs ranging from 20,200 to 23,200 vehicles. This corridor has seen increases in traffic ranging from 25-30% over the past 10 years as continued growth and development occurs in communities such as Beaver Dam and Waupun. WisDOT continues to study the long-term future of USH 151 based on the increases in traffic and safety issues associated with its many at-grade crossings.

- Other State Highways generally fall next in line for usage, with AADTs generally higher than 10,000 vehicles for WIS 26 near Watertown. WIS 60 and WIS 33 commonly hover between 3,000 and 7,500 AADT depending on location.

- CTH A also fits the same usage pattern as many State Highways, with AADTs ranging from 5,400 to 7,600 in 2021. This corridor has seen as much as a 52% increase in traffic over the past seven to eight years as it has become an increasingly important connection southward for truck-based cargo. Corresponding decreases in traffic along WIS 26 between 151 and Juneau are likely due to the increased use of CTH A after it was improved, as well as it serving as somewhat of an informal bypass of Juneau.

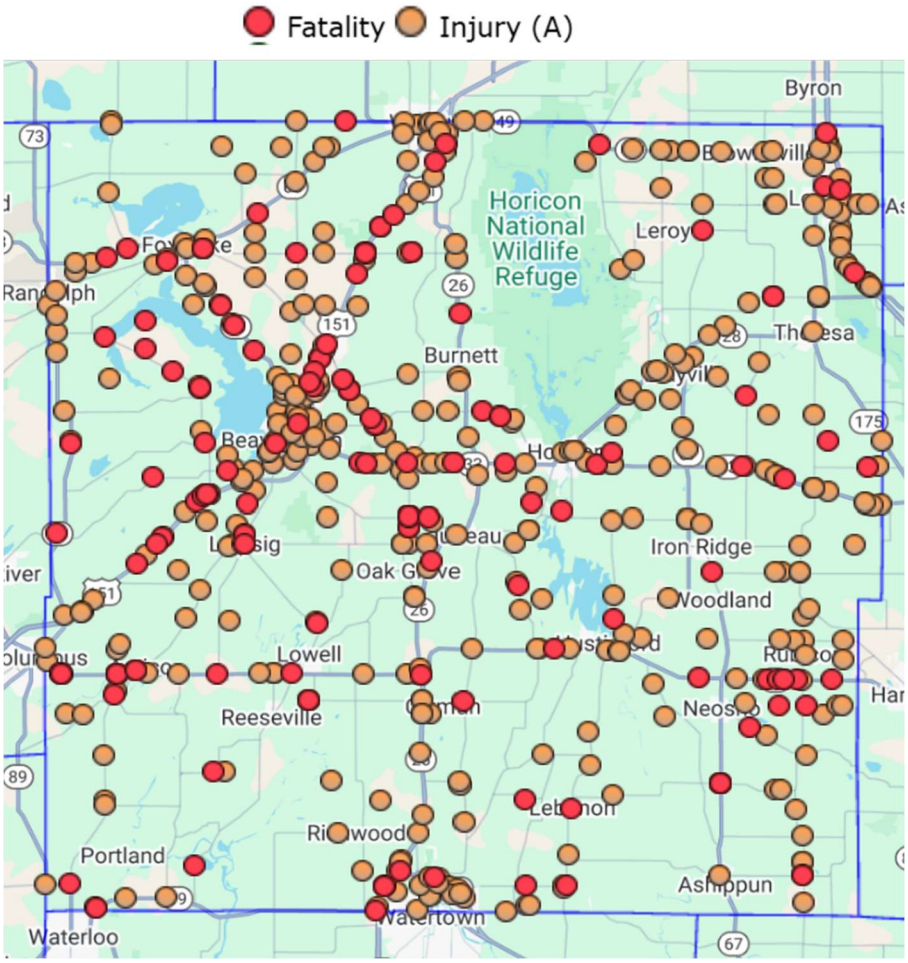
- Most county highways have much lower AADTs, which commonly range from 500 to 1,200 vehicles per day with some exceptions. Overall, many segments of the county highway system have decreased in traffic, which may relate to higher amounts of city and village growth in residents and businesses, versus town growth.

4.4 Highway Safety

Traffic safety is a top concern for the county. Major improvements have been made over the years to the county highway system to increase safety for the traveling public. While many serious crashes are the fault of the driver(s) and not due to the design of the roadway, there are still opportunities to increase the safety of certain highway segments and intersections. To further analyze the county's road system, the frequency of motor vehicle accidents is studied to identify problem areas. The frequency of motor vehicle accidents tends to correlate directly with traffic volumes.

According to WisDOT's Community Map interface, between Jan. 2014 and Dec. 2024 there were 577 total crashes reported, resulting in 138 fatalities and 863 injuries. Of this total, 571 crashes are mapped (See Figure 4-3). A general observation of Figure 4-3 is that most accidents tend to occur along arterials adjacent to cities and villages where drivers are typically entering or existing the highway, hence the continued emphasis on more controlled access.

Figure 4-3: Vehicle Crash Data, 2014-2024



Source: WisDOT, 2024.

4.5 Additional Modes of Transport

Trucking

Trucking is an integral part of the Dodge County economy and depends on a safe and efficient highway system, as well as adequate local roads and streets. Infrastructure to support trucking is abundant in Dodge County and the surrounding region. I-41 is the only federal interstate roadway and carries significant amounts of truck traffic through the county. State highways designated as truck routes in Dodge County include: USH 151, I-41, STH 26 (Juneau to Waupun), STH 28, STH 33 (Beaver Dam to STH 73), STH 67 (North of STH 33), STH 49, STH 68, and STH 175. There is one state rest area in the county located off I-41 south of Lomira.

There are no weight restrictions on county trunk highways other than the 30-ton posting on the CTH TT bridge over the Crawfish River. The Dodge County Highway Department does require a Moving Permit for moving any oversize/overweight item on Dodge County roads.

Air Service

Dodge County has three general aviation airport facilities within its boundaries while several commercial service airports exist within a reasonable drive time. For a map of airport locations serving Dodge County, refer to Map 4-1 at the end of this Chapter.

- The Dodge County Airport in Juneau was originally built in 1963 and is classified as a Medium General Aviation Airport in the Wisconsin State Airport System Plan. Airports in this classification support most single and multi-engine general aviation aircraft, including those aircraft commonly used by businesses. These airports support regional and in-state air transportation needs. The primary runway (08/26) is 5,070 feet long by 100 feet wide. The Dodge County Highway Committee is responsible for planning and operating the Dodge County Airport and is currently in the process of preparing an updated Airport Master Plan.

- The Watertown Municipal Airport, located approximately 30 miles south of the Dodge County Airport in the City of Watertown, is also a Medium General Aviation Airport. The primary runway (05/23) is 4,429 feet long by 75 feet wide.

- The Hartford Municipal Airport is classified as a general utility airport. This airport is intended to serve virtually all small general aviation single and twin engine aircraft with a maximum takeoff weight of 12,500 pounds or less. The primary runway (06/27) is 3,401 feet long by 75 feet wide.

Commercial service is available at: General Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee; Madison's Dane County Airport; Appleton International Airport, and the Austin Straubel International Airport in Green Bay. These facilities have regularly scheduled service with a variety of commercial airlines, which can access locations across the globe.

Freight & Passenger Rail Service

At least one rail line passes through every town in the county, except the Towns of Portland, Hustisford, and Leroy. The Dodge County network of railroads includes rail lines operated by the Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC), Union Pacific (UP), Canadian National (CN), and Wisconsin & Southern Railroad (WSOR). Refer to Map 4-1 at the end of this Chapter for specific location and operator information.

This network allows for the easy flow of products throughout the county, with freight lines connecting Dodge County to Milwaukee, Madison, Fond du Lac, Oshkosh, Green Bay, and beyond. These railroads are important also for attracting industrial uses to the county.

Amtrak passenger rail service is also available from nearby Columbus with connections to Milwaukee and Chicago (Hiawatha Service) and Minneapolis/St. Paul (Empire Builder and Borealis Services)

Water Transportation

There are a number of rivers, streams, and major lakes in Dodge County. Some of these water bodies and waterways are utilized by commercial businesses to provide recreation services such as boat tours and boat rentals. There are no known businesses that utilize Dodge County waterways for commercial or industrial business purposes, such as moving cargo or freight. It is not anticipated that this type of activity will occur in Dodge County during the planning period.

Pedestrian Travel

Walking is one of the most common and elementary forms of transportation and is still an important part of the county's work-trip commutes. According to the 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 2.9% of workers in Dodge County walk to work. This compares to 2.7% of the workers in the State of Wisconsin. Dodge County has several multi-use hiking trails for recreational walkers, including the Wild Goose Trail, the Gold Star Memorial Trail, Glacial River Trail, and other trails contained within county park properties (See Bicycles sub-section for more descriptions, as well as Map 5-4 in the Utilities & Community Facilities Chapter). Dodge County adopted the *Dodge County Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Plan* in 2003 as a guide for the development of pedestrian facilities. The following are key recommendations from the plan to enhance walking in Dodge County.

- Dodge County's top pedestrian priority is to focus its attention on and draw countywide attention to "Walk to School" initiatives for children of all ages. Dodge County will work with community leaders, decision makers, voters, and citizens to encourage school districts and/or municipalities to:
  - Build new schools in close proximity to homes of the children who will attend so that they can walk to school. Utilize existing neighborhood schools whenever possible.
  - Complete sidewalk gaps along safe routes to school.
  - Urge groups of children to walk together.
  - Encourage parents to walk with their children to school if they have safety concerns, employing effective strategies like "the walking school bus."

- Commit to working with local governments to promote an ongoing, countywide educational campaign involving all possible partners to help motorists understand and comply with their legal responsibility to yield to pedestrians. Such an educational campaign would include information about safe speed and traveling distance.

- Encourage municipal governments to complete sidewalk gaps on all frequently used walking routes in and through their communities. Focus should be on connections between retail development and multi-family housing.

- Encourage individual communities to work together and create partnerships to: (1) develop maps of short, medium, and long walking routes with historical information and points of interest/destinations to promote walking by residents and visitors; (2) promote walking for transportation, recreation, physical fitness (including weight control and heart health), and community enjoyment. Local town roads, which are often less traveled by vehicles provide area residents with walking and biking opportunities for leisure and physical exercise needs.

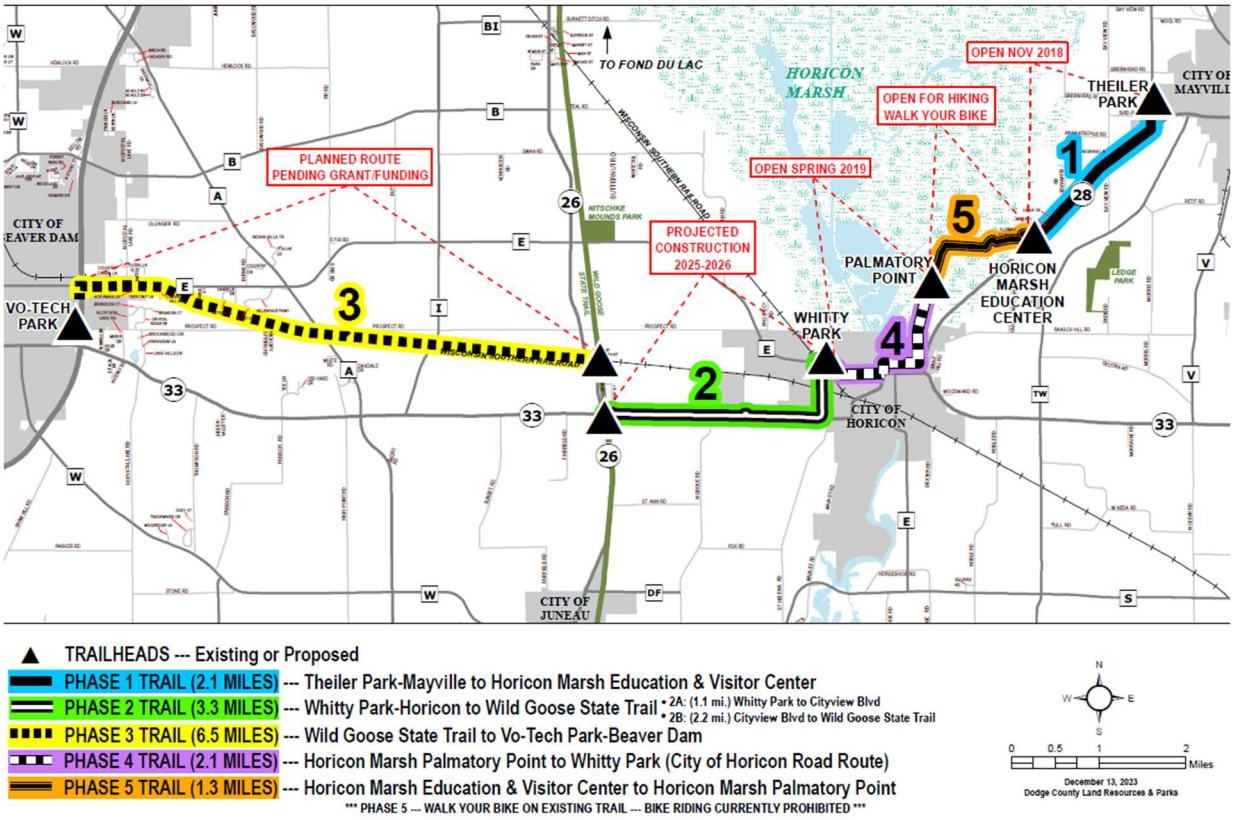
Bicycle Travel

Bicyclists have several excellent facilities in Dodge County for recreational or commuting purposes:

- **Wild Goose State Trail:** This 34-mile trail begins in the Town of Clyman, passes through the City of Juneau, and follows an abandoned railroad bed along the edge of Horicon Marsh, before proceeding to the City of Fond du Lac. The trail is surfaced with compacted limestone screening and passes cultivated farm fields, wood lots, prairie remnants, abundant wildlife, and historic small communities. In addition to bicycles, this multi-use trail accommodates hiking and snowmobile riding, as well as horseback riding in a section between WIS 60 and the City of Juneau. No future expansion plans exist and most new projects involve resurfacing and basic maintenance only. However, long-term plans exist to acquire clear title to the remaining reversionary property in the East Waupun area.

- **Gold Star Memorial Trail (GSMT):** The GSMT is a more recent citizen initiated, public-private project in Dodge County that will provide an important recreational trail facility for the citizens and visitors and is intended to serve as a memorial to fallen service members of Wisconsin. The proposed non-motorized trail will stretch from Mayville to Beaver Dam, traversing approximately 15 miles (See Figure 4-4). The trail connection between the cities of Mayville and Beaver Dam will also provide important trail links to the Wild Goose Trail, Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area (which also has biking opportunities) and its world class Education and Visitor Center, the City of Horicon, and Nitschke Mounds County Park. Phase 1 and 4 of five planned phases were opened in 2019. As of 2023, 2.1 miles of the paved trail have been completed from Mayville to the Horicon Marsh, running along the WIS 28 right-of-way. In 2022, a WisDOT grant was received to design and construct Phase 2 of the trail from the west side of Horicon to the Wild Goose State Trail near WIS 33 and WIS 26. This Phase is now moving into WisDOT review and the start of real estate work. The next phases of the trail are planned to follow WIS 33 west from the Wild Goose State Trail to Beaver Dam and potentially beyond. The consultant contract for this phase was recently completed and the forthcoming study will identify the most feasible trail alignment, design requirements, and needs as related to Phase 3.

Figure 4-4: Gold Star Memorial Trail Concept Plan



- **Glacial River Trail:** This 3.5- mile trail is a paved hiking and biking only path along HWY 26, running from HWY CJ near Clyman, south to Second Street near Watertown. It is part of the multi- county trail that runs south through Jefferson County and into Rock County. This trail connects to the Wild Goose State Trail via road routes to and through Clyman, and then to the WGST's southern trailhead at Highway 60. The goal of this trail project is to eliminate road route connections, although no major improvements are planned for this facility in the short term.

- **Pelican Path:** The Pelican Path is a new project effort spearheaded by a group from Hustisford to develop an approximate five-mile, paved, multi-use trail from Hustisford, Wisconsin to the Wild Goose Trail southern trailhead on highway 60. It will connect to the elementary school, high school, library, downtown, and Neider Park in Hustisford, giving over 1,100 village residents and over 500 Lake Sinissippi residents access to Dodge County and Wisconsin trails networks. The Pelican Path is an effort initiated through PATH of Hustisford, a 501c3 non-profit organization committed to the Progress, Advancement, Transformation, and Heritage of the greater Hustisford, WI area (Town of Hubbard, Town of Hustisford, and the Village of Hustisford). The project has received over 30 letters of support from legislators, businesses, and local political organizations. It also integrates with other PATH initiatives to increase economic development in the Hustisford area.

The *Dodge County Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Plan* was prepared in 2003 to promote and improve conditions for bicycling throughout Dodge County. While this plan is somewhat dated, the following are key recommendations from the plan are still relevant to improve bicycling in Dodge County:

- Improve bicycle safety around the Horicon Marsh by paving shoulders and adding signage to increase motorists' awareness of bicyclists.

- Paved shoulders should be included for County Trunk Highways (CTH) identified in the plan when the highway is resurfaced. This is most important on the recommended routes, but bike use should always be considered when repaving county highways to determine if a paved shoulder is needed.

Because of the relatively low annual average daily traffic (AADT) and typical traffic speeds, a key recommendation of the plan is to sign popular bike routes whether on town roads or county roads with "Caution Bike" signs to raise motorists' awareness of bicyclists on the highway. The final mile of a state trunk highway or county trunk highway can be particularly busy with motor traffic approaching or leaving a village or city. The plan recommends paving the shoulders of the main roads leading out of communities in Dodge County to the first major intersection when other road improvements are made.

Public Transit

Public transportation is usually in the form of bus service. Transit bus service has fixed routes and schedules. Since a certain population size and make up is needed to provide transit services cost-effectively, Dodge County does not have transit bus service in any of its communities. However; the City of Beaver Dam had recently studied the feasibility of a new public transit system, favoring an option to upgrade its shared-ride taxi system instead due to the study's inconclusiveness. Shared-ride taxi services are also available in Watertown and Waupun. Additionally regional bus service provided by Greyhound can be accessed in Beaver Dam and Columbus.

Transportation for Persons with Disabilities

Paratransit is a specialized transit service to specific segments of the population that require more accessible vehicles and flexible routing. Paratransit services provide transportation to the elderly and disabled, or those individuals with limited transportation alternatives. Providers of the service include municipally owned buses and vans, taxis, limousines, and privately owned buses and vans, including those operated by nursing homes, senior citizen activity centers and hotels.

Coordination among the providers is often accomplished through contractual agreements between a provider and various supplemental providers. Paratransit service is provided in Watertown, Beaver Dam, and Waupun as shared-ride taxi service. Shared-ride taxi service is a contracted taxi that may pick up more than one person for routes to separate locations.

The Dodge County Specialized Transportation Program is a county-wide coordinated system run by the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) that primarily serves residents that are elderly (age 65 and over) and physically and mentally disabled. The program also provides for veterans and the general public. Requests should be made by calling the ADRC at least three (3) business days in advance and contributions are based on miles traveled per trip.

ATVs & UTVs

Chapter 7 of the Dodge County Code of Ordinances addresses All-Terrain Vehicle and Utility Terrain Vehicle Routes. Currently, all Dodge County highways are approved ATV/UTV routes. However, although all Dodge County highways are approved ATV/UTV routes, not all roads in Dodge County are open to ATV/UTV traffic. All State highways are closed to ATV/UTV traffic. City, Town, and Village streets or roads are only open to ATV/UTV traffic if the municipality has adopted ordinances allowing this use. Riders must research which City, Town, or Village streets or roads are approved by each municipality.

Electric Bicycles (E-Bikes)

E bikes are rapidly increasing in use across Wisconsin, shifting from recreation to commuting, cargo, and utility roles. Dodge County should prepare for more e-bike use on roads, trails and in parks with implications for safety, infrastructure and policy.

Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices

In Wisconsin, electric personal assistive mobility devices are treated the same as bicycles. Please refer to the bicycle subsection above.

Electric Vehicles & Charging Stations

Demands for electric vehicles, and their associated charging facilities (EV chargers) are ever increasing. As such, motorists will become more reliant on the availability of EV chargers. According to www.OpenChargeMap.org there are only five (5) public charging stations in the county: two in Beaver Dam, one in Fox Lake, one in Mayville, and one in Lomira.

Locating new EV chargers in the right spots to meet the demands of both local and through travelers will be critical for EV use to expand. Funding for the planned network of chargers is now up in the air as the State attempts to implement its Wisconsin Electrification Initiative which is tied in with the National Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program.

Locally, units of government should begin to research and contemplate how they would fit within such a system. Additionally, a zoning and site plan regulatory structure may be needed to address the location and design aspects of such facilities on private property from a land use and infrastructure standpoint. Communities and the county could also evaluate opportunities for placing EV chargers on public lands. It is expected that private enterprises such as gas stations and semi-parking locations (truck stops) will offer recharging services as well for a fee.

Transportation Plans & Planned Improvements

Transportation Plans

A variety of existing plans address transportation at all levels of government. Some plans are only strategy and policy oriented – providing guidance on statewide priorities, as well as to county and local units of government regarding their roles and implementation responsibilities (or opportunities) with respect to a variety of transportation modes. Other plans are more budget-oriented and identify future critical maintenance, repair, and upgrade projects for specific facilities. A summary of transportation plans is provided below, with specific plans and planned projects identified in Table 4-1 and Map 4-5:

- **Local:** A number of communities in Dodge County utilize a Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) process to prioritize transportation projects and necessary expenditures. Often these plans cover a five to 10-year period and serve as the primary transportation planning document. Approved CIPs are often required to submit grant applications to WisDOT for funding consideration.

- **County:** In addition to the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan, the county's Capital Improvement Plan details future highway and bridge projects. The plan also provides information on future projects at the Dodge County Airport. The Dodge County Highway Department completes a five-year Capital Improvement Plan, which is updated each year.

- **Regional:** Dodge County is not a member of a regional planning commission or a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). These organizations often coordinate and plan for transportation systems within a regional context. There are no regional transportation plans that apply to Dodge County.

- **State:** The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) maintains several plans with statewide policies, recommendations, and strategies regarding various aspects of transportation. These plans should be taken into consideration and utilized when transportation decisions or plans are made in Dodge County.

Planned Transportation Improvements.

Due to their high cost, local roads are funded locally by using a variety of methods and approaches. Typically, a blend of funding sources is used in order to capitalize on interest rates or to leverage other available funding. The types of funding mechanisms available to counties and municipalities is provided in Appendix G.

Table 4-1: Planned Transportation Projects, 2025-2030

Plan Name	Dodge County Project / Year	Location	Description
Connection 2050 Wisconsin's Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan	No	n/a	This is a strategic plan / policy document
Six-Year Highway Improvement Program (2023-2028)	Ongoing	USH 151	Major Project Study: STH 73 (Columbus) to STH 49 (Waupun)
	2025	STH 028	ELLSWORTH STREET TO N JCT CTH TW (CONST/MILL & OVERLAY)
	2025	STH 028	CTH V TO STH 175 (CONST/MILL & OVERLAY)
	2025	USH 151	CTH C INTERSECTION (CONST/RCUTS/MISC)
	2025	USH 151	BEAVERLAND PKWY TO HEMLOCK RD (CONST/MEDIAN CABLE GD REPL/MISC)
	2025	USH 151	CTH DE/JACKSON ROAD INTERSECTION (CONST/HSIP/MISC)
	2026	STH 026	0.2 MI S OF MILLIGAN RD TO DOTY ST (CONST/ RSRF30)
	2026	STH 033	STH 73 TO FOREST STREET (CONST/MILL & OVERLAY)
	2026	STH 067	WAUKESHA CO LINE TO CTH MM (CONST/MILL & OVERLAY)
	2026	STH 067	STH 60 TO W JCT CTH S (CONST/MILL & OVERLAY)
	2027	STH 026	CENTER STREET TO STH 33 (CONST/MILL & OVERLAY)
	2027	STH 028	E BR ROCK R BRIDGE B-14-067 (CONST/ REPLACE DECK)
	2027	STH 060	LEVEL VALLEY & CTH R BRS B-14-61/62 (CONST/ CONCRETE OVERLAYS)
	2027	STH 175	S MENOMONEE STREET TO CTH DD (CONST/ PSRS40/SEWER/WATER)
	2027	STH 175	EAST COUNTY LINE TO CTH DD (CONST/MILL & OVERLAY)
	2028	STH 016	CTH L/ BUS 26 TO E MAIN STREET (CONST/MILL & OVERLAY)
	2028	STH 033	CTH B INTERSECTION (CONST/SIGNALS/LEFT TURN LANES/MISC)
	2028	STH 033	0.1MI W OF FOREST STREET TO STH 68 (CONST/PVRPLA)
	2028	STH 060	STH 67 TO WASHINGTON CO LINE (CONST/PVRPLA)
	2028	STH 067	STH 175 TO EAST COUNTY LINE (CONST/ PAVE REPLACE)
	2028	STH 067	STH 175 TO IH 41 (CONST/WATER/SEWER/PVRPLA)
	2028	STH 068	STH 33 TO EDGELAWN DRIVE (CONST/PVRPLA)
	2028	USH 151	0.4 MI N OF STH 33 TO STH 49; SB (CONST/REPAIR SB ROADWAY/PSRS30)
	2028	USH 151	0.5 MI S CNW RR TO 0.4 MI N STH 33 (CONST/REPAIR PAV'T BOTH RDWYS/PSRS)
	2029-2030	IH 041	S COUNTY LINE TO N COUNTY LINE (CONST/RESURF BOTH RDWYS/RSRF20)
	2029-2030	STH 026	HOLL ROAD TO WESTERN AVENUE (CONST/RSRF)
	2029-2030	STH 033	HORICON C LIMIT TO WASHINGTON CO (CONST/PVRPLA)
	2029-2030	STH 033	CTH TW INTERSECTION (CONST/RAB/RECST)
	2029-2030	STH 049	USH 41 TO CENTER DRIVE (CONST/PVRPLA)
	2029-2030	STH 049	CENTER DRIVE TO ROCK RIVER BRIDGE (CONST/PVRPLA/B-14-030)
	2029-2030	STH 049	HILLDALE COURT TO CTH Y (CONST/WATER)
	2029-2030	STH 067	CTH MM TO STH 60 (CONST/PVRPLA)
	2029-2030	STH 073	COMMERCE COURT TO STH 33 (CONST/PVRPLA)
	2029-2030	USH 151	0.4 MI N OF STH 33 TO STH 49; NB (CONST/REPAIR NB ROADWAY/PSRF30)
Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2030	No	n/a	This is a strategic plan / policy document

Continued on Page 96.

Table 4-1: Planned Transportation Projects, 2025-2030, continued

Plan Name	Dodge County Project / Year	Location	Description
Wisconsin Airports Capital Improvement Program 2025-2029	2025 (2022)	Dodge Co. Airport	Develop New Airport Master Plan - Phase 1 (Aeronautical Survey)
	2025 (2024)	Dodge Co. Airport	Develop New Airport Master Plan - Phase 2 (Master Plan)
	2026 (2022)	Dodge Co. Airport	Reconstruct Fuel Farm
	2026	Dodge Co. Airport	Reconstruct Runway 2/20 Visual Guidance System (PAPIs) - Phase 1 (Design)
	2026	Dodge Co. Airport	Reconstruct Weather Reporting Equipment (AWOS III) - Phase 1 (Design)
	2027	Dodge Co. Airport	Develop New Airport Master Plan - Phase 3 (Airport Layout Plan)
	2027	Dodge Co. Airport	Reconstruct Runway 2/20 Visual Guidance System (PAPIs) - Phase 2 (Construction)
	2027	Dodge Co. Airport	Reconstruct Weather Reporting Equipment (AWOS III) - Phase 2 (Construction
	2027 (2024)	Dodge Co. Airport	Reconstruct Terminal Apron - Phase 1 (Design)
	2028 (2025)	Dodge Co. Airport	Reconstruct Taxiway F - Phase 1 (Design)
	2028 (2025)	Dodge Co. Airport	Reconstruct Taxiway F Lighting - Phase 1 (Design
	2028	Dodge Co. Airport	Reconstruct Taxiway F Signage - Phase 1 (Design)
	2029 (2027)	Dodge Co. Airport	Reconstruct Terminal Apron - Phase 2 (Construction)
Wisconsin Rail Plan 2050	No	n/a	This is a strategic plan / policy document
2023 Wisconsin State Freight Plan	No	n/a	This is a strategic plan / policy document but also lists major projects.
Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan 2020 / Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020 (1998) *(currently being updated as the Wisconsin Active Transportation Plan 2050)*	No	n/a	This is a strategic plan / policy document
Dodge County Capital Improvement Plan (2024-2028)	2025	CTH O	BRIDGE DESIGN CTH O OVER ROCK RIVER
	2025	CTH G	HIGHWAY REPLACEMENT PROJECT CTH G
	2025	CTH N	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT CTH N OVER BUTLER CREEK
	2025	MAYVILLE	MAYVILLE SHOP TRUCK WASH FACILITY
	2026	TRENTON	TRENTON SHOP HVAC IMPROVEMENTS
	2026	AIRPORT	RUNWAY 8 OBSTRUCTION CLEARING
	2026	CTH TT	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT CTH TT OVER CRAWFISH RIVER
	2026	TRENTON	TRENTON SHOP TRUCK WASH FACILITY
	2026	TRENTON	TRENTON SHOP HVAC IMPROVEMENTS
	2026	AIRPORT	DESIGN S. HALF OF TERMINAL APRON, REPLACE/REHAB RUNWAY 26 MALSF, REPLACE AWOS / AIRPORT BEACON, REPLACE RUNWAY 2/20 AND RUNWAY 8/26 PAPI'S
	2026	AIRPORT	AIRPORT FUEL FARM REPLACEMENT
	2027	CTH O	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT CTH O OVER ROCK RIVER
	2027	TRENTON	TRENTON SHOP COLD STORAGE BUILDING
	2027	AIRPORT	DESIGN TAXIWAY F RECONSTRUCT /REHAB, RECONSTRUCT/REHAB S. HALF TERMINAL APRON
	2028	AIRPORT	DESIGN N. HALF TERMINAL APRON RECONSTRUCT / REHAB, RECONSTRUCT/ REHAB TAXIWAY F

Source: State and County Plans indicated, 2025.

4.6 Transportation Trends and Key Facts

Highways

- There are 541 miles of county highways, which represent just under 27% of all roads in Dodge County.
- Dodge County has excellent regional travel connections to Madison, Milwaukee, and Fond du Lac, with USH 151 and Interstate 41 being major corridors for the movement of goods and people.
- Traffic counts on some key state and county highways have increased significantly over the past 10 to 20 years. This includes segments of Interstate 41, USH 15, WIS 60 and WIS 33, as well as CTH A.
- County highways are generally in good condition, and a robust system for managing future maintenance is in place. Numerous highway improvements are identified in the county's Capital Improvement Plan over the next four years.
- While many highway safety improvements have, and will continue to be installed, there were 577 total crashes reported over the 10 year period of 2014 to 2024, with 138 (23.9%) resulting in fatalities.
- There has been increased use of electric vehicles by both county residents, visitors, and passers-by, and a need for additional electric vehicle charging stations will be needed since only five exist within the county.
- E bikes are rapidly increasing, and Dodge County should prepare for more e-bike use on roads, trails and in parks with implications for safety, infrastructure and policy.
- Increases in infrastructure funding (grants, general transportation aids, shared revenue, etc.) is anticipated through WisDOT in the short term.

Other Transportation Modes

- Passenger and freight air service, as well as passenger and freight rail service, is easily accessible for residents and businesses within the county.
- Public bus transit services do not exist within the county; however some paratransit and specialized transportation options are available.
- There has been an increasing need for employment transportation services (see Economic Development element for additional discussion)
- Nearly three percent of workers in Dodge County walked to work.

- Bicycle use, as well as walking, has increased since the COVID-19 pandemic, and numerous sidewalk, bike lane, and multi-use trail facility improvements and expansions have occurred in many municipalities within the county over the past 10 years. The county has responded by continuing to support the expansion of existing trail systems such as the Gold Star Memorial Trail.

- Increased use of ATVs/UTVs has occurred over the past 10 years, with the county responding by making all Dodge County highways approved routes.

- Private sector alternatives have developed (Uber, Lyft, etc.) to help meet local specialized transportation needs.

4.7 Transportation Goals, Objectives, Policies & Recommendations

Each element of the comprehensive plan includes a specific set of goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations that the county will use as a guide to future land use, development and preservation decisions over the next 20 years. Goals, objectives, policies and recommendations are defined as follows:

- **Goals** are broad, value-based statements that express general public priorities and preferences about how the county should address issues over the next 20 years and beyond. Goals address key issues, opportunities and problems that affect the county.

- **Objectives** are more specific than goals and are measurable statements usually attainable through direct action and implementation of plan recommendations. The accomplishment of objectives contributes to the fulfillment of the goal.

- **Policies** are general rules, principles, strategies or courses of action used to guide decision making and actions as necessary to accomplish goals and objectives. Policies are intended to be used by decision makers on a regular basis.

- **Recommendations** are specific actions, projects or activities that are intended to achieve a particular plan goal, objective, or policy.

Transportation Goals and Objectives

Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001 requires a statement of overall goals and objectives to guide the future development and redevelopment of the county over a 20-year planning period. The following goals and objectives were developed by Dodge County with regard to the Transportation element:

Goals

Goal 1: Achieve a safely designed and well-maintained transportation network.

Goal 2: Support a transportation system which, through its location, capacity, and design, will effectively serve the existing land use development pattern and meet anticipated transportation demand generated by existing and planned land uses.

Goal 3: Proactively address the general lack of funding to fix roads.

Goal 4: Study, and when appropriate, embrace new transportation modes and technologies to diversify transportation choices.

Objectives

1. Improve existing safety-deficient roadways in the most economical and efficient manner to reduce accident exposure and maintain and upgrade those existing roads before developing new major highways.
2. Place a priority on maintaining local and county roads.
3. Objectively determine the environmental and economic impacts of proposed transportation improvements.
4. Place additional focus on new or improved public/employment transportation services throughout the county.
5. Seek opportunities to assist and expand the railroad system operating in Dodge County, including opportunities for expanded Amtrak or commuter rail service.
6. Maintain a safe, high quality airport to meet air transportation needs of those living and working in Dodge County.
7. Encourage the adoption of adequate town road standards in all the towns and to require developers to build any new town roads to those standards.
8. Encourage WisDOT to improve existing highways to include passing and turning lanes where appropriate and necessary.
9. Maintain an access management plan for arterial and collector highways.
10. Place a focus on the expansion of trail connections over the next 10 years.
11. Work with local governments to create bicycle and pedestrian linkages between neighborhoods and subdivisions.

Transportation Policies and Recommendations

Policies and recommendations build on goals and objectives by providing more focused responses and actions to the goals and objectives. Policies and recommendations become the tools that the county should use to aid in making decisions. Policies that direct action using the words “will” or “shall” are advised to be mandatory and regulatory aspects of the implementation of the comprehensive plan. In contrast, those policies that direct action using the word “should” are advisory and intended to serve as a guide.

Recommendations are specific actions or projects that the county should be prepared to complete within the 20-year planning period. The completion of these actions and projects are consistent with the policies, and therefore will help fulfill the comprehensive plan goals and objectives. The following policies and recommendations have been developed by Dodge County with regard to the Transportation element and serve to support the goals and objectives:

Policies

1. Work to limit new rail crossings and eliminate existing crossings whenever possible to improve safety.
2. Support the jurisdictional transfer of highways in accordance with periodic updating of the functional classification of highways.
3. Implement and preserve access controls along all arterial and collector highways, and consider the need for additional access control for other county trunk highways and some town roads with similar characteristics.
4. Minimize creation of smaller remnant parcels or severance of active agricultural operations in the planning and construction of highway improvements.
5. In cooperation with the county Highway Department and Wisconsin Department of Transportation, plan to preserve abandoned rail corridors as recreational trails so that they are available for future transportation uses if needed.
6. Ensure that major subdivision streets can connect to future streets on abutting properties whenever practical to do so.
7. Require developers to provide access roads meeting minimum town road standards.
8. Road development and new driveway accesses on active agricultural land should be limited to the fullest extent possible.
9. Accident exposures should be reduced by improving deficient roadways and intersections by citing such deficiencies during road inspections.

10. All new development projects should accommodate the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, and the physically challenged.

11. Recognize and accommodate e-bikes' increasing use for commuting and utility roles on multi use trails without compromising safety of recreational trail users of all ages and abilities

12. Dead-end roads and cul-de-sacs should be avoided whenever possible.

13. New driveways shall be regulated to ensure adequate emergency vehicle access, to maintain safe driveway spacing standards, and to prevent damage to county Highways caused by drainage impacts.

14. Developers should bear all of the costs for improvements and extensions to the road network as part of development projects.

15. New homes requiring new individual driveways should be discouraged along federal and state highways.

16. Traffic impact studies shall be required for new developments as deemed appropriate by the Land Resources and Parks Committee.

17. Construct new road connections in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use Map or the county's Capital Improvement Program.

Recommendations

1. Develop a long-term transportation plan to prioritize roadway improvement projects, preserve high aesthetic quality, and minimize disruption of natural, historical and cultural resources.

2. Continue to produce a county Five Year Capital Improvement Plan on an annual basis.

3. When addressing long-term expansion, consider the potential regional re-alignment of the highway shops using a quadrant system. The Trenton highway shop is oldest and most likely to need improvements in the short term.

4. Construct a frontage road system along the east side of US 151 between WIS 33 and CTH G to improve emergency services access by avoiding travel through City of Beaver Dam.

5. To expedite through-traffic and improve safety, request that WisDOT study a four-lane expansion of WIS 33 from WIS 26 to East county Line. Additional passing lanes may assist in the short term.

6. Address critical safety concerns at key intersections by considering the following studies and/or projects:
    a. CTH A & CTH W (potential roundabout)
    b. CTH G & CTH S
    c. CTH TT & WIS 60 (coordinate with bridge replacement project and potentially remove segment of TT)
    d. CTH T & WIS 60
    e. WIS 60 near Dollar General in Hustisford.

7. Implement a program to address undersized drainage pipes and culverts based on inventory data and known flood hazard areas.

8. Develop a coordinated project bidding process in conjunction with local units of government to obtain better material and construction prices.

9. Leverage local transportation dollars by applying regularly for state road funding opportunities (LRIP, ARIP, etc.)

10. Complete and maintain the current Airport Master Plan.

11. Seek opportunities for off-road trail connections to replace current road routes where feasible to connect the Glacial River Trail to the Village of Clyman, Wild Goose State Trail, and City of Watertown.

12. Prepare an updated Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan to identify priority trails and connections, as well as to provide better guidance to the Highway Department for accommodating such uses.

13. Promote and support the expansion of the Gold Star Memorial Trail and the development of the national Gold Star Families Memorial Monument along the trail.

14. Promote the development of a bicycle/pedestrian trail from the City of Waupun to the Wild Goose State Trail and from the Village of Hustisford to the Wild Goose Trail (along the Pelican Path Trail route).

15. Work with the WDNR to acquire clear title to the remaining reversionary property in the East Waupun area of the Wild Goose State Trail.

16. Audit existing trails for e-bike suitability and design/build new trails with e-bike use in mind with appropriate policies and ordinances to minimize safety concerns

17. Develop more trails by leveraging existing and new private funding sources.

4.8 Transportation Programs

See Appendix G for a complete listing of programs which pertain to this element of the Comprehensive Plan.

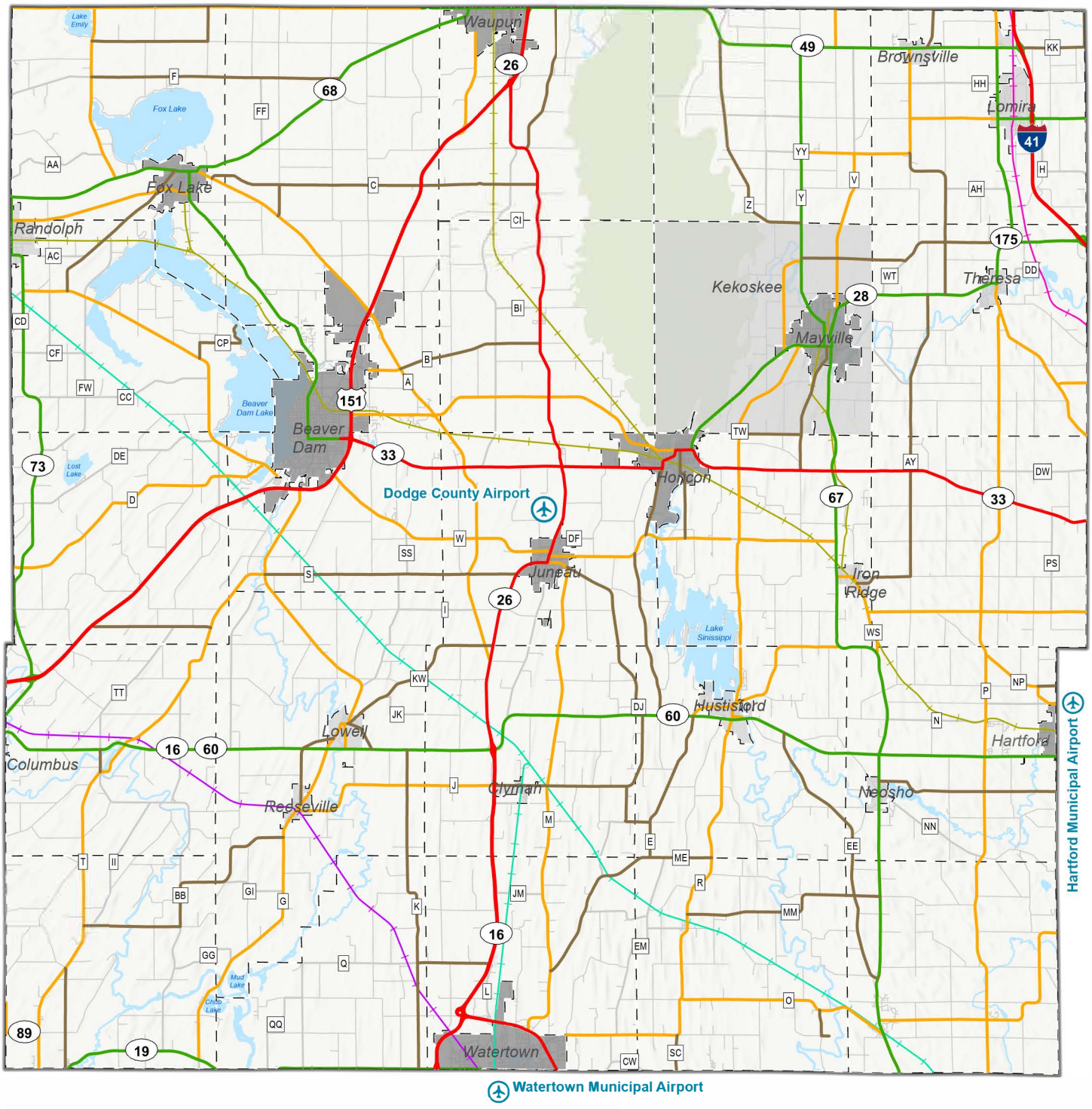
4.9 Maps

Map 4-1 Functional Classification of Highways, & Location of Railroads and Airports
Map 4-2a Average Annual Daily Traffic Counts, State & Federal Highways
Map 4-2a Average Annual Daily Traffic Counts, County Highways
Map 4-3 Increasing AADT Counts
Map 4-4 Decreasing AADT Counts
Map 4-5 Planned Transportation Projects

Map 4-1

Functional Classification of Highways & Location of Railroads and Airports

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Functional Roadway Classification

- Principal Arterial
- Minor Arterial
- Major Collector
- Minor Collector
- Local
- Airport

- Canadian National Rail
- Canadian Pacific Rail
- Union Pacific Rail
- Wisconsin & Southern Rail

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

NORTH

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

Cedar CORPORATION

DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

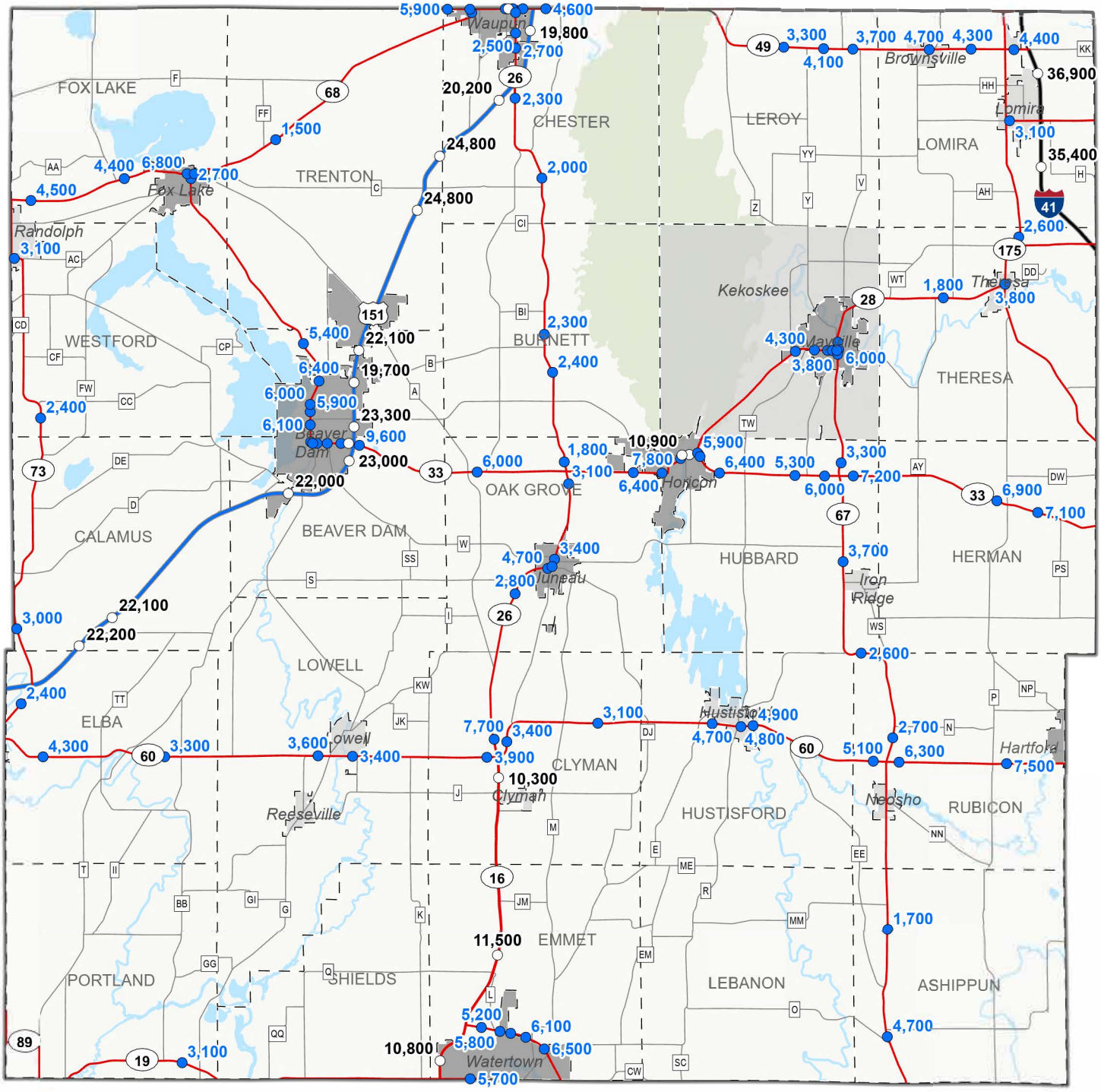
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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: August 12, 2025

Map 4-2a

Average Annual Daily Traffic Counts
State and Federal Highways

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Average Annual Daily Traffic*

- 0 - 999
- 999 - 9,999
- 9,999 - 49,999

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

*WisDOT Traffic Counts; 2022, 2023, 2024.

NORTH

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



Cedar CORPORATION

DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

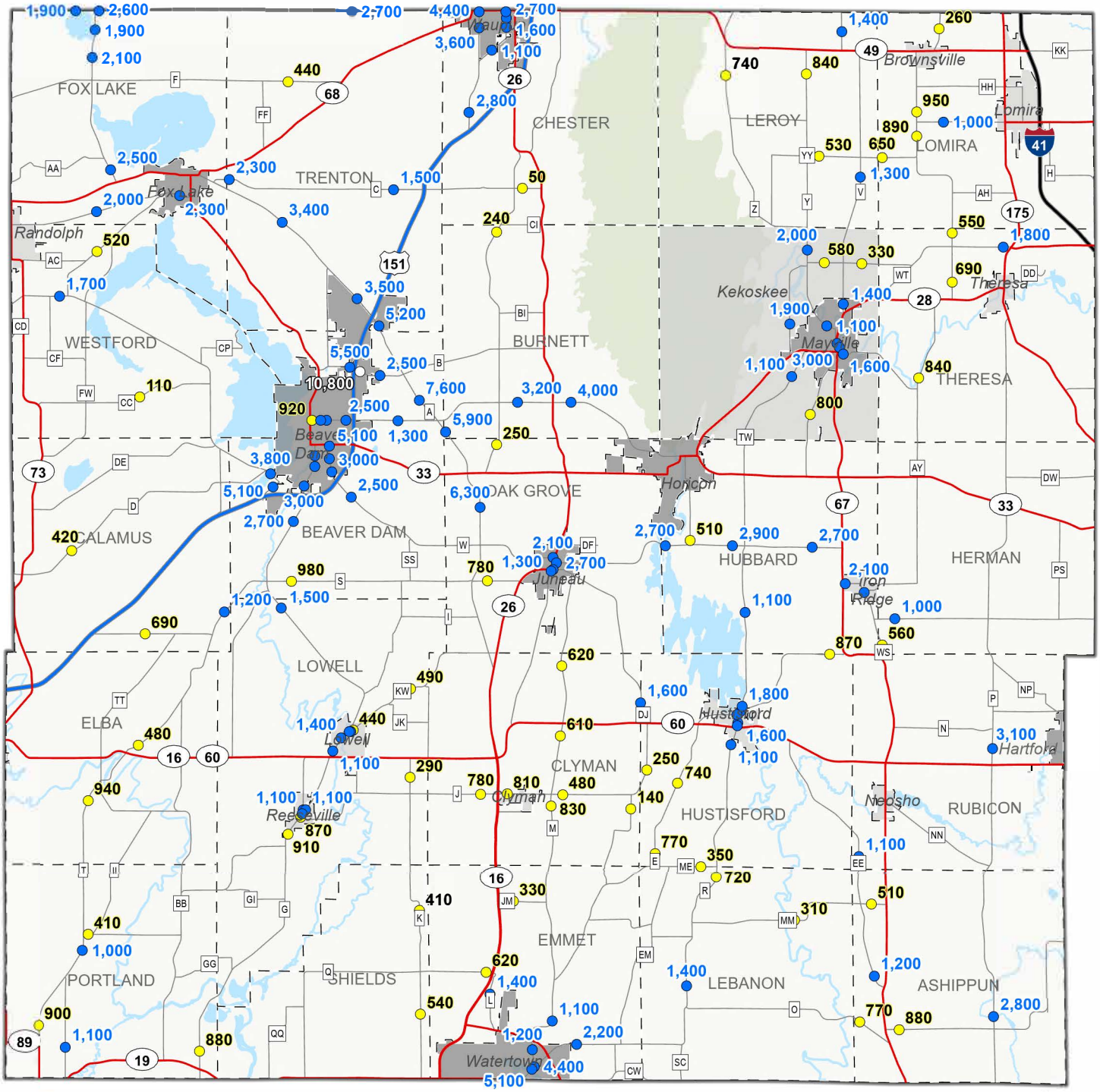
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Map 4-2b

Average Annual Daily Traffic Counts
County Highways

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Average Annual Daily Traffic*

- 0 - 999
- 999 - 9,999
- 9,999 - 49,999

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

*WisDOT Traffic Counts; 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

NORTH
W E
S

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



Cedar CORPORATION

DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

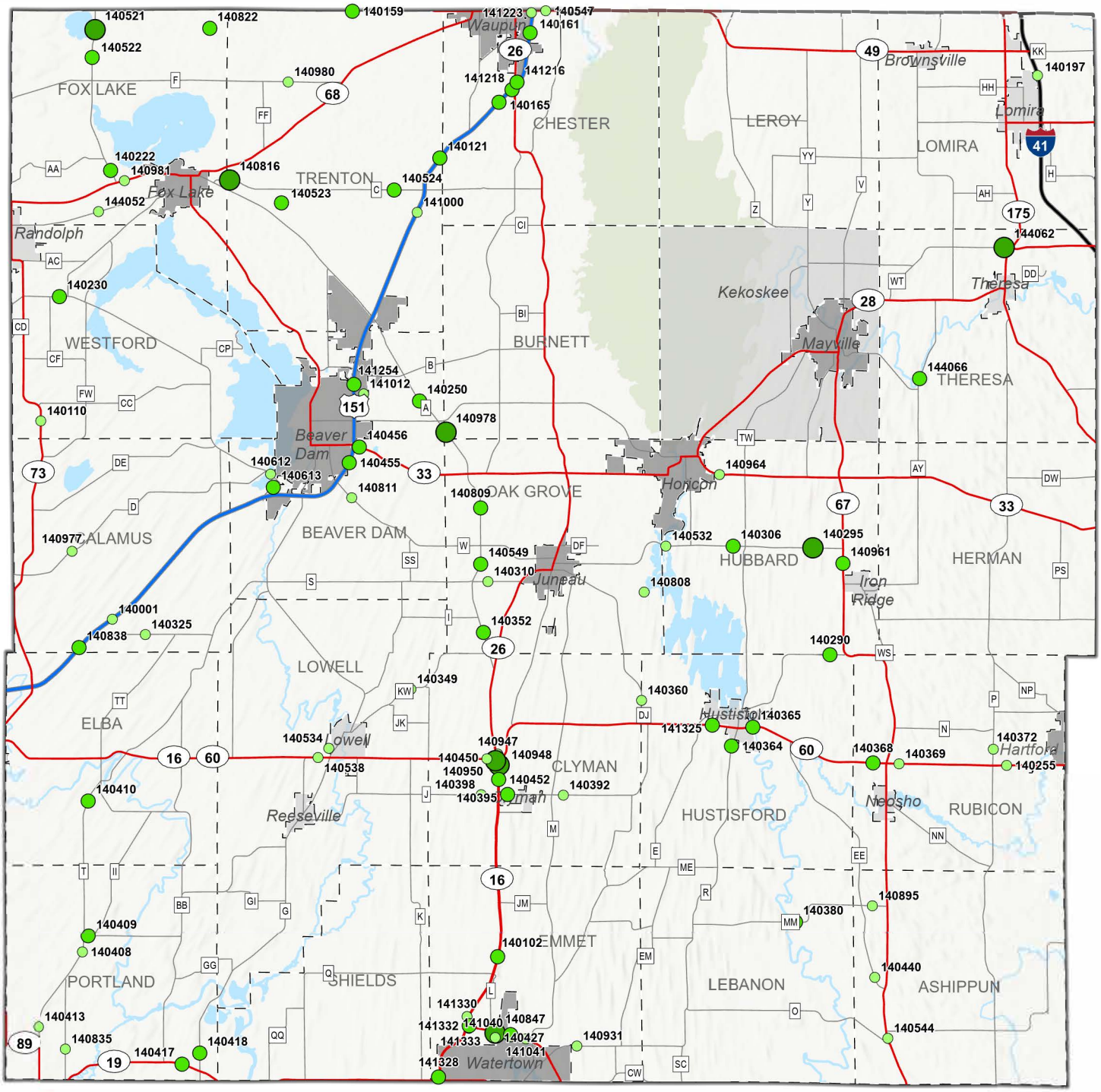
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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: November 4, 2025.

Map 4-3

Increasing AADT Counts

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Increasing AADT Counts Between 2015 - 2022*

- 0% to 14%
- 15% to 34%
- 35% to 65%

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

*WisDOT Traffic Counts; 2014, 2015, 2022.

NORTH W E S

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



Cedar CORPORATION

DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

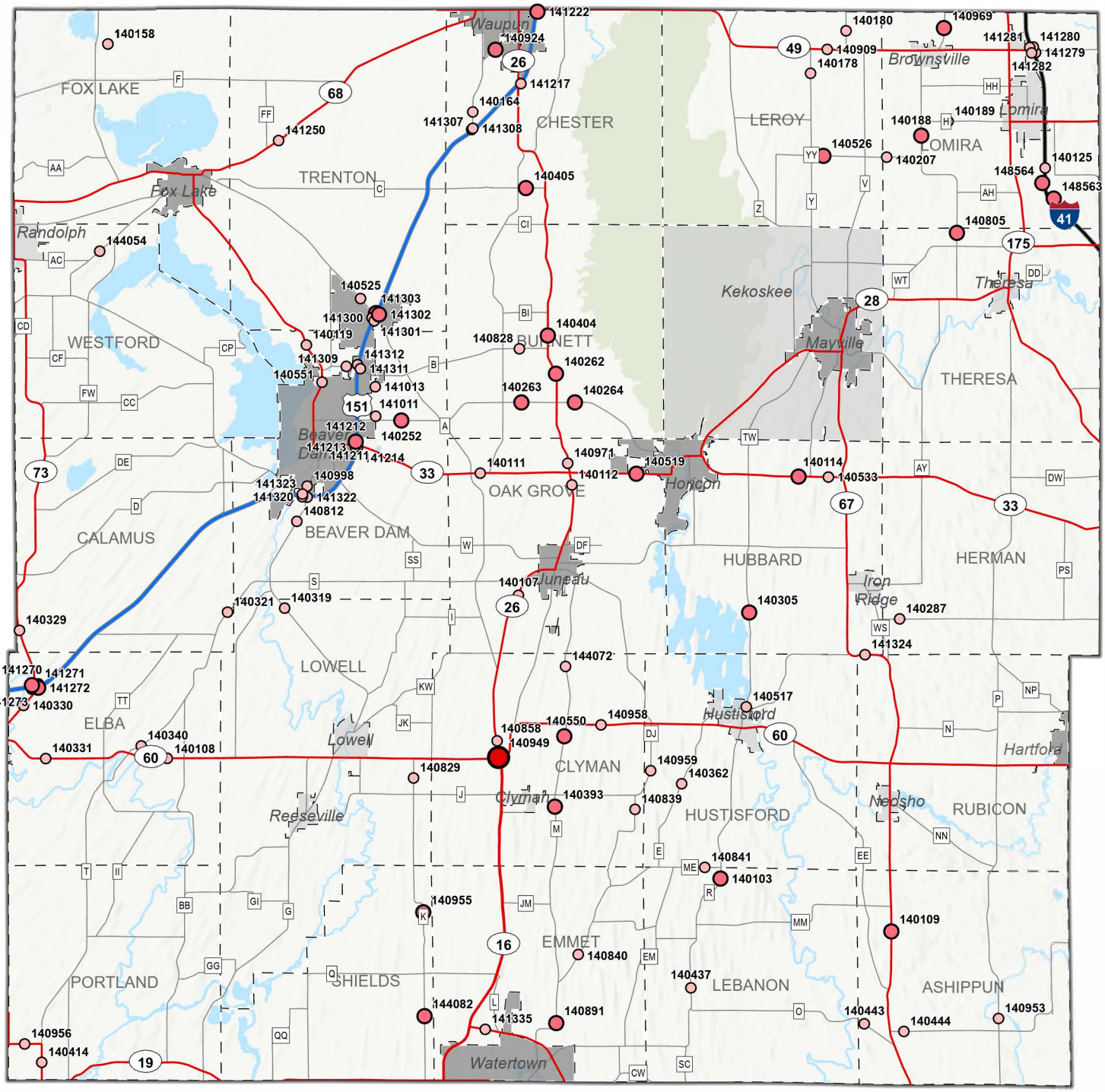
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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: August 12, 2025.

Map 4-4

Decreasing AADT Counts

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Decreasing AADT Counts Between 2015 - 2022*

- 0% to -30%
- -31% to -100%
- -364%

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

*WisDOT Traffic Counts; 2014, 2015, 2022.

NORTH W E S

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

Cedar Corporation

DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

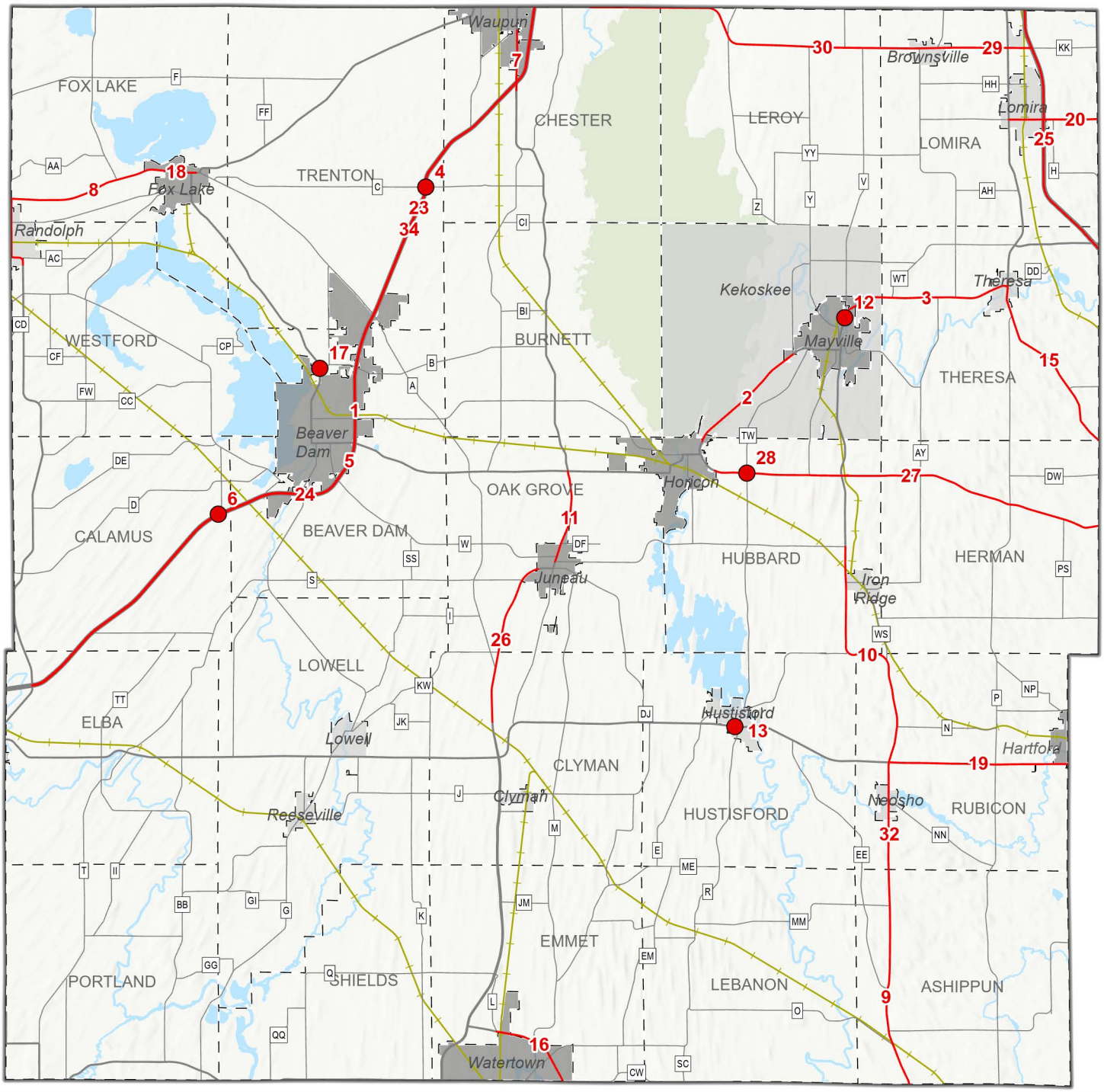
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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: August 12, 2025.

Map 4-5

Future Transportation Projects

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Six-Year Highway Improvement Program (2023-2028)*

- Intersection / Bridge
- Road

Refer to table 4-1 for project description.

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

*Planned Transportation Projects, Dodge County 2025-2030

NORTH

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

Cedar Corporation

DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: August 12, 2025.

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5 Utilities and Community Facilities

5.1 Introduction

Addressing community service needs is becoming even more challenging for local and county governments. In this age of budget deficits and shrinking revenues, municipal governments are constantly looking for ways to provide needed and expected services with fewer resources. In order to facilitate wise decisions and policies, it is valuable to estimate the future utility and facility needs of the county.

Not only do service provisions need to meet resident demands, the type and cost of facilities and services affect property values and taxes and contribute to many aspects of the quality of life within the county. Quality of life is further attributed to local features such as parks, schools, utilities, and protective services. These services require substantial investment supported by local tax bases or user fees. The level of service is generally influenced by the users' ability or interest in paying for the service.

This element includes a summary of existing facilities and services and details future needs for services and facilities. Goals, objectives, policies, recommendations, and programs are also provided.

Utilities and Community Facilities Include:

- Administrative facilities and services
- Police, fire, and emergency medical services
- Schools
- Quasi-public facilities (libraries, cemeteries, post offices)
- Parks and recreation
- Solid waste and recycling services
- Communication and power facilities
- Sanitary sewer services
- Public water services and supply
- Stormwater facilities
- Health and day care facilities

5.2 Administrative Facilities and Services

Dodge County

Dodge County administrative facilities are located in the Administration Building at 127 East Oak Street in the City of Juneau. The Dodge County Board of Supervisors consists of 33 Supervisors, with each supervisor representing approximately 2,700 people. The Board of Supervisors functions as the policy making and legislative branch of county government. There are also 30 designated County Board Committees overseeing much of the activity within the county.

Dodge County owns and maintains an extensive number of buildings and facilities (not including parks), most of which are located in the City of Juneau. The county is currently completing a county-wide *Physical Facilities Master Plan*. The following are facilities currently owned by Dodge County:

1. Dodge County Administration Building – 127 East Oak Street, City of Juneau
2. Henry Dodge Office Building – 199 CTH DF, City of Juneau (currently vacant)
3. Clearview - 198 CTH DF, City of Juneau
4. Dodge County Law Enforcement Center (J Pod) – 141 N. Main Street, City of Juneau
5. Dodge County Justice Facility – 210 West Center St, City of Juneau
6. Dodge County Detention/Jail Facility – 216 West Center St, City of Juneau
7. Legal Services Building (Sheriff's Office) – 124 West Street, City of Juneau
8. Dodge County Airport – N6471 STH 26, Town of Oak Grove
9. Dodge County Highway Building – 211 East Center St, City of Juneau
10. Mayville Highway Shop, 850 Mallard Drive, City of Mayville
11. Reeseville Highway Shop, 404 North Main St, Village of Reeseville
12. Neosho Highway Shop, 271 West Lehman St, Village of Neosho
13. Trenton Highway Shop, N8856 CTH A, Town of Trenton

5.3 Police Services

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office serves as the primary law enforcement agency to many communities in the county and also operates the County Jail in Juneau. The Dodge County Sheriff's Office has approximately 165 employees. The Dodge County Sheriff is elected on a partisan ballot for a four-year term.

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office conducts criminal investigations, apprehends suspects, and provides patrol services to prevent crime and respond to emergencies. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office is responsible for operating the county jail, ensuring the secure and humane treatment of inmates, and operating the county's 911 dispatch center. The Sheriff's Office also handles civil process, courthouse security, transportation of inmates, and recreational vehicle patrol.

The Sheriff's Office has a long history of a Law Enforcement Liaison Program with the various municipalities in Dodge County that have no law enforcement agencies and has assigned one deputy to each municipality for continuity of communication and addressing concerns those municipalities might have locally. Currently, incorporated communities that contract with the Sheriff's Office include the Village of Reeseville, Village of Lomira, and the Lomira School District.

5.4 Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services

Dodge County is adequately served by an extensive system of fire departments and emergency medical service providers. Some departments in the county provide both of these services. See Maps 5-1 and 5-2 located at the end of this chapter for the individual service areas for each entity listed below. Table 5-1 details the fire service providers serving the county and the square mileage they serve. Table 5-2 details the emergency medical service providers serving the county.

Table 5-1: Fire Districts, Dodge County, 2025

Fire District	Service Area - Sq. Mi.	Percent of County
Allenton	9.9	1.09%
Ashippun	35.8	3.94%
Beaver Dam	98.3	10.83%
Brownsville	24.5	2.70%
Burnett / Horicon / Juneau	36.5	4.03%
CLR	98.2	10.82%
Columbus	51.8	5.71%
Fox Lake / Randolph	51.3	5.66%
Hartford	18.7	2.06%
Horicon / Juneau / Burnett	22.9	2.52%
Hustiford / Neosho / Iron Ridge	40.8	4.50%
Iron Ridge / Neosho / Hustisford	45.4	5.01%
Juneau / Horicon / Burnett	30.7	3.39%
Kekoskee	42.9	4.73%
Knowles	24.7	2.72%
Lebanon	48.2	5.31%
Lomira	12.4	1.37%
Mayville	3.4	0.37%
Neosho / Hustisford / Iron Ridge	16.4	1.81%
Randolph / Fox Lake	30.3	3.34%
Theresa	36.4	4.02%
Waterloo	24.0	2.65%
Watertown	47.9	5.28%
Waupun	55.9	6.16%
Totals	**907**	**100.0%**

Source: Dodge County, 2025

Table 5-2: EMS Providers, Dodge County, 2025

EMS Provider	EMS Code	Service Area - Sq. Mi.	Percent of County
Allenton	ALEM	24.1	2.66%
Beaver Dam	BDEM	146.4	16.14%
Lifestar	LSEM	122.7	13.52%
Fond du Lac	FDEM	0.7	0.07%
Fox Lake/Randolph	FLEM	50.8	5.60%
Hartford	HAEM	84.1	9.27%
Horicon	HOEM	106.6	11.75%
Juneau	JUEM	67.4	7.43%
Mayville	MVEM	65.0	7.16%
Randolph	RAEM	30.3	3.34%
Theresa	THEM	53.4	5.88%
Waterloo	WLEM	24.0	2.65%
Watertown	WTEM	96.1	10.59%
Western Lakes	WEEM	35.7	3.94%
Totals		**907**	**100.0%**

Source: Dodge County, 2025

There are 24 separate Fire Districts within Dodge County. Beaver Dam and Clyman have the largest service areas for fire protection. With 27 full-time staff, Beaver Dam is one of the few fire departments in the county to have full time staff. Mayville has the smallest fire service area, but has a much larger area for emergency medical services. Fourteen separate Emergency Medical Service providers also exist across the county with Beaver Dam also having the largest service area, followed by Lifestar (Columbus). The smallest service area is associated with Fond du Lac EMS, which only considers a small portion of Dodge County in the Brownsville area.

5.5 School Facilities

Dodge County is served by 17 different school districts (Map 5-3). Table 5-3 provides details for each school district serving the county as well as its service area in square miles. As indicated by the table, the Beaver Dam School District serves the largest geographic area of Dodge County. The Mayville School District, Waupun School District, and Watertown School District also serve large portions of the county.

Table 5-3: School Districts, Dodge County, 2024

School District	Sq. Miles	% of County	Total Enrollment	12th Graders	6 Year Enrollment Increase / Decrease
Beaver Dam	116.8	12.9%	3,061	287	-345
Columbus	46.7	5.1%	1,130	86	-188
Dodgeland	85.2	9.4%	713	63	-33
Fall River	9.9	1.1%	496	37	28
Hartford J1	9.3	1.0%	3,097	336	1474
Herman-Neosho-Rubicon	81.4	9.0%	304	0	-347
Horicon	52.5	5.8%	787	71	99
Hustisford	51.4	5.7%	282	22	-128
Lomira	56.2	6.2%	953	72	-32
Markesan	0.7	0.1%	757	60	-2
Mayville	97.9	10.8%	921	95	-134
Oakfield	1.6	0.2%	531	35	-11
Oconomowoc Area	22.7	2.5%	4,951	450	-289
Randolph	30.1	3.3%	502	50	-25
Waterloo	49.4	5.4%	748	71	-36
Watertown	91	10.0%	3,231	322	-468
Waupun	104.5	11.5%	1,890	144	29
TOTAL	**907.3**	**100%**	**24,354**	**2,201**	**-408**

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2024.

School Enrollment

During the 2023-2024 school year, the Oconomowoc Area School District had the largest enrollment (4,951), but has only a small area it serves in Dodge County. The Watertown Unified School District had an enrollment of 3,231, while the Beaver Dam Unified School District had an enrollment of 3,061. Hustisford was the smallest school district in the county with an enrollment of 282.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, only four of the 17 school districts in the county did not experience declines in school enrollment between the 2017-2018 and 2023-2024 school years. The Herman-Neosho-Rubicon School District had the largest percentage drop between these time periods of -53.3%. Hustisford School District had the next largest percentage drop at -31.2 percent, followed by the Columbus School District at -14.3 percent.

District Report Cards

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction prepares a District Report Card for each school district in the state. An Overall Accountability Score and Rating is given to every school district each year. The only school districts to achieve a rating of "Exceeds Expectations" for the 2023-2024 school year were Columbus School District, Lomira School District, Oakfield School District, and Oconomowoc Area School District. All of the remaining districts in the county were given scores in the range of "Meets Expectations".

Private Schools

In Dodge County, private schools also play an important role in education. Most of the areas within the county contain private religious schools that offer a K-8 education. Wayland Academy is a nondenominational, liberal arts preparatory school located in Beaver Dam and is the oldest continuously coeducational boarding school in America.

Post-Secondary Schools

The main post-secondary schools located in Dodge County are Shepherds College (private) in the City of Horicon and Maranatha Baptist University (private) in Watertown. In addition, Moraine Park Technical College serves the region and has a campus in the City of Beaver Dam with a branch located in Horicon. Other options include programs through the Wisconsin Technical College System (Madison Area Technical College has a branch in Watertown) and the University of Wisconsin System.

5.6 Other Public and Quasi Public Facilities

Libraries

Dodge County is served by 14 municipal libraries, as indicated in Table 5-4.

Table 5-4: Existing Libraries, Dodge County, 2024

Site Name	Community
Hustisford Public Library	V. Hustisford
Iron Ridge Public Library	V. Iron Ridge
Brownsville Public Library	V. Brownsville
Lomira Public Library	V. Lomira
Hutchinson Memorial Library	V. Randolph
Reeseville Public Library	V. Reeseville
Theresa Public Library	V. Theresa
Beaver Dam Community Library	C. Beaver Dam
Fox Lake Public Library	C. Fox Lake
Horicon Public Library	C. Horicon
Juneau Public Library	C. Juneau
Ted & Grace Bachhuber Memorial Library	C. Mayville
Watertown Public Library	C. Watertown
Waupun Public Library	C. Waupun

Source: Dodge County and Cedar Corporation, 2025

Dodge County Fairgrounds

The Dodge County Fairgrounds, located along HWY 33 about three miles east of the City of Beaver Dam, covers 62.5 acres and is owned and operated by the Dodge County Fair Association. The fairgrounds are best known as the site of the annual Dodge County Fair in August and stock car racing during summer. The site contains a number of large exhibition buildings, a horse show arena, a racetrack, and other facilities to accommodate other types of events such as horse shows, circuses, rallies, and outdoor conventions. Parking on the site is unimproved with mostly grassed areas used.

Correctional Institutions

There are four correctional facilities located in Dodge County. The John C. Burke Correctional Center, located in Waupun, consists of 12 acres with a prisoner capacity of 250 adult males. The Dodge Correctional Institution is a 57-acre intake facility located in Waupun, which had a population of 1,647 adult males in 2024. Fox Lake Correctional Institution in the Town of Fox Lake is a minimum-security facility on 85 acres, which had a population of 1,365 adult men in 2024. The Waupun Correctional Institution is a maximum-security facility located on 20 acres in Waupun and had a population of 1,001 adult males in 2024. Additionally, the Waupun State Prison Farm includes almost 300 acres of agricultural land and farm support buildings. These facilities employ a significant number of individuals from Dodge and surrounding counties.

Post Offices

There are 21 Post Office facilities serving Dodge County as follows:

1. Neosho, Rubicon Street
2. Fox Lake, West State Street
3. Waupun, Franklin Street
4. Mayville, North School Street
5. Theresa, Church Street
6. Horicon, East Lake Street
7. Iron Ridge, North Street
8. Burnett, 2nd Street
9. Lomira, Railroad Ave.
10. Brownsville, Main Street
11. Juneau, East Oak Street
12. Hustisford, E. Griffith Street
13. Rubicon, Rome Road
14. Hartford, E. Wisconsin Street
15. Beaver Dam, N. Spring Street
16. Clyman, Main Street
17. Lebanon, Highway 109
18. Lowell, North River Street
19. Ashippun, Highway 67
20. Reeseville, Main Street
21. Randolph, Stroud Street

Churches and Cemeteries

There are numerous churches within Dodge County and many have cemeteries associated with them. Table 5-5 lists all of the cemeteries located in the unincorporated communities within Dodge County. There are many more churches and cemeteries located in such places as the cities of Beaver Dam, Watertown, Waupun, and the villages of Reeseville, Lowell, Kekoskee, and Randolph.

Table 5-5: Dodge County Cemeteries (Unincorporated Towns Only), 2025

Town	Parcel #	Cemetery Name
Ashippun	002-0917-0533-002	CITIZEN'S CEMETERY
	002-0917-0723-001	TOWN OF ASHIPPUN CEMETERY
	002-0917-2244-001	ASHIPPUN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
	002-0917-2333-002	ST PAUL'S CHURCH & CEMETERY
	002-0917-2434-002	ST OLAF'S CEMETERY
	002-0917-2443-001	ST OLAF'S CONGREGATION CEMETERY
	002-0917-2812-001	MT HOPE CEMETERY
	002-0917-2832-001	ASHIPPUN LUTHERAN CEMETERY
	002-0917-2833-000	ASHIPPUN LUTHERAN CEMETERY
Beaver Dam	004-1114-0312-016	OAKWOOD CEMETERY
	004-1114-0313-000	OAKWOOD CEMETERY
	004-1114-0822-000	EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CEMETERY
	004-1114-1942-001	SOUTH BEAVER DAM CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
	004-1114-2422-002	BEAVER DAM CEMETERY ASSOC
Burnett	006-1215-0412-000	BURNETT UNION CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
	006-1215-2032-001	BURNETT CENTRAL CEMETERY
Calamus	008-1113-0641-001	WANDERER'S REST CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, LOST LAKE GERMAN M E CEMETERY
	008-1113-1242-001	CALAMUS CEMETERY
Chester	010-1315-2941-001	ATWATER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
Clyman	012-1015-1744-002	MENGEL CEMETERY
	012-1015-1944-001	ST JOHN'S CONGREGATION CEMETERY
	012-1015-2011-004	CEMETERY
Elba	014-1013-2111-004	OKEAG CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
Emmet	016-0915-1714-002	EMMET UNION CEMETERY
	016-0915-2731-001	ST JOHN'S & ST MARK'S CEMETERY
	016-0915-2734-000	MORAVIAN CEMETERY
	016-0915-2734-002	IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CEMETERY
Fox Lake	018-1313-0121-001	GRAND PRAIRIE CEMETERY
Herman	020-1117-2021-002	METHODIST CEMETERY
	020-1117-3044-002	COLE CEMETERY, HERMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
	020-1117-3133-034	ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
	020-1117-3133-035	ST JOHANNA'S CEMETERY
	020-1117-3512-001	EVANGELICAL LUTH CHURCH & CEMETERY
	020-1117-3611-001	CEMETERY
Hubbard	022-1116-0232-002	ST JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
	022-1116-0344-001	ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, MACE CEMETERY
	022-1116-1121-002	TOWN OF HUBBARD CEMETERY
	022-1116-1441-003	IRON RIDGE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
	022-1116-2133-001	TOWN OF HUBBARD, REX CEMETERY
	022-1116-3523-001	MICHAEL'S BURIAL GROUND ASSOCIATION, ST MICHAEL'S CEMETERY
	022-1116-3534-002	CEMETERY ASSOCIATION OF THE CHURCH OF ST PAUL, LICHTENBERG CEMETERY
Lebanon	026-0916-0521-000	UNION CEMETERY ASSN
	026-0916-2931-001	IMMANUEL'S CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LEBANON
	026-0916-2931-003	BAPTIST CEMETERY
	026-0916-2933-003	PILGRIMS REST CHURCH & CEMETERY
Leroy	028-1316-0144-002	MT PLEASANT CEMETERY
	028-1316-0431-002	MILES FARM CEMETERY
	028-1316-3344-003	ST PAUL'S CEMETERY
	028-1316-3432-003	TIDYMAN KANTIN CEMETERY
Lowell	032-1014-1841-001	GROVE PRAIRIE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
Oak Grove	034-1115-0133-001	MARGARET JANET HERRICK CEMETERY
	034-1115-0712-001	HYLAND PRAIRIE CEMETERY
	034-1115-2244-001	ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH CEMETERY
Portland	036-0913-0322-003	AUSTIN CEMETERY, TOWN OF PORTLAND
	036-0913-1842-001	GERMAN METHODIST CEMETERY (UNION)
	036-0913-2621-001	TOWN OF PORTLAND, MORAVIAN CEMETERY
	036-0913-3213-001	WASHINGTON CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
Rubicon	038-1017-0822-002	CEMETERY
	038-1017-1122-003	NORTH RUBICON CEMETERY
	038-1017-2222-001	NORTON FARM CEMETERY
	038-1017-2644-003	SAYLESVILLE CEMETERY
Shields	040-0914-1343-004	GERMAN CEMETERY, RICHWOOD CEMETERY
Theresa	042-1217-1021-003	UNION CEMETERY ASSOCIATION OF THERESA
Trenton	044-1314-3634-002	HIGHLAND MEMORY GARDENS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION INC
Westford	046-1213-0714-001	WESTFORD CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
	046-1213-2431-001	ENGLISH PRAIRIE CEMETERY

Source: Dodge County, 2025

5.7 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

A wide variety of parks, recreation, and open spaces are provided throughout Dodge County. The following section details the park, recreation, and open spaces resources found in the county. Refer to Map 5-4 at the back of this Chapter to view locations of county, state, and federal recreation facilities in Dodge County. Additional recreational resources provided by state or federal agencies are detailed in the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources element. Table 5-6 details the acreage of public land and parks found in the towns of Dodge County.

Table 5-6: Dodge County Parks & Recreation Facility Acreages, 2024

Type	Acreage	% of Total
County Recreation Areas	390	0.84%
State Recreation Areas	24,490	52.57%
Federal Recreation Areas	21,701	46.59%
Total	**46,581**	100.00%

Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department, 2024.

Dodge County Parks, Recreation and Open Space

Ledge Park

This park is an 82.8-acre campground park located about two miles northeast of the City of Horicon in the Village of Kekoskee. It is situated on the "ledge" of the Niagara Escarpment, which provides a dramatic and scenic change in topography in the park. The park is basically divided into two functional areas: upper ledge and lower ledge. Each area has a single roadway access to it. Lower ledge is primarily a picnicking area with two open shelters, a toilet building, a small playground, a pond with natural stream, and some open areas. Some group and individual camping has been permitted on the extreme north end of the lower ledge area. The upper ledge area is primarily wooded with most of its campsites and its trails found there, including a recently constructed, ADA accessible boardwalk and viewing platform. The park is served by flush toilets and a shower facility. Two large open areas, one with a shelter and picnic facilities, the other with a playground area, are located to the west and south of the wooded areas. The park contains 45 campsites and is best known for its interesting rock formations and phenomenal scenic views of the Horicon Marsh along its hiking trails atop the ledge as well as from the viewing platform. Ledge Park is open year round to provide winter recreational opportunities such as cross-country skiing.

Astico Park

Astico Park is a 102-acre park located in southwestern Dodge County, east of the City of Columbus in the Town of Elba and along the Crawfish River and historic Danville Millpond. Approximately 40 acres of the park were acquired in the late 1990s and are located to the east of the river and connected via the restored and relocated historic Ninabuck and Scofield Road Bridges. The park features two miles of river shoreline, is situated on a drumlin, and is predominantly wooded. It contains campsites, picnic shelters, playground areas, hiking trails, large open play fields, and fishing and canoeing access areas. The park features a restroom facility with showers and a sewage tank dump station, in addition to other scattered, vault toilet building facilities. Most facilities are connected by paved paths; however the varying topography of the park does provide some extra difficulties for those in wheelchairs or with walking issues, especially access to the river crossing on the west side of the park. Two continually flowing artesian wells in the park have become an attraction for many visitors. The "Point" area and the "Danville" sections of the park experience occasional river flooding every few years affecting usability of the campsites located there. The remainder of the park and facilities are more elevated and less impacted by river flooding. The park is open year-round for day-use activities and for camping from April through October. During the winter months only the main park road is plowed up to a small parking area. Winter use includes cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking. The remainder of the park roads are closed to vehicle traffic in winter.

Derge Park

Derge Park is a 14-acre park located on the west central shore of Beaver Dam Lake, providing access to the 6,600-acre lake with good fishing and water sports opportunities. The park is very small for County Park standards but is well developed and attracts a high number of campers. The once heavily wooded park experienced a massive loss of trees during a winter storm in the late 1990s, which led to significant redevelopment at the park. The park mostly provides camping (24 sites feature electric hookups), a playground and picnicking areas, fishing access, accessible kayak launch, and a boat launch. The site contains flush toilets, showers, a sewage tank dump station, and a waterless vault toilet. Derge Park is open year-round for day use activities and is open for camping from April through October. Park roads are not plowed during the winter months. A system of paved paths connecting the primary facilities in the park combined with a mostly level topography makes the park fully accessible for those in wheelchairs or with walking difficulties. A fully accessible kayak launch dock was donated and installed in 2017.

Nitschke Mounds Park

Nitschke Mounds Park is located near the center of Dodge County adjacent to the Wild Goose State Trail and just west of the Horicon Marsh. The property is nearly 54 acres in size and contains up to 46 effigy, conical and linear mounds believed to have been constructed between 800 AD – 1100 AD by the Late Woodland Effigy Mound Culture. The mounds represent one of the best surviving examples of the Mound Builders culture that once occupied the Dodge County area. A one-mile wood chipped trail with interpretive signs is available around the mounds and through the park.

Harnischfeger Park

Harnischfeger Park, located in the southeast portion of the Town of Lebanon, was acquired by the county in 2004 from Harnischfeger Employees Benefits Association. The 133-acre park borders the Rock River with nearly one mile of shoreline. This park offers a wide variety of facilities and recreational opportunities, including two shelters, miniature golf, volleyball court, disc golf, hiking and horse trails, play equipment, kayak rentals, camping, antique farm equipment interpretive trail and museum, and a boardwalk trail system. Trails are groomed in the winter for cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking. The park is a scouting group favorite, and several features of the park were done as Eagle Scout projects. The key facility in the park, the clubhouse, is reserved most Saturday and Sundays throughout the summer months and provides a nice venue for small weddings, company picnics, family reunions, graduations, and other group gatherings. The park hosts the annual FallFest event held by the Friends of Dodge County Parks to promote the parks and raise funds for park improvements. Paved roads and paths to most facilities provide fairly good accessibility. Some steeper grades and graveled areas do provide some accessibility limitations that need to be addressed. Continued upgrades to the clubhouse bathrooms and building access will improve accessibility; however, the men's and women's bathrooms are on separate levels. The park is mostly level in topography providing good access to all parts of the park.

Wild Goose State Trail

This 34-mile trail begins in the Town of Clyman, passes through the City of Juneau, and follows an abandoned railroad bed along the edge of Horicon Marsh, before proceeding to the City of Fond du Lac. The trail is surfaced with compacted limestone screening and passes cultivated farm fields, wood lots, prairie remnants, abundant wildlife, and historic small communities. In addition to bicycles, this multi-use trail accommodates hiking and snowmobile riding as well as horseback riding in a section between WIS 60 and the City of Juneau. No future expansion plans exist and most new projects involve resurfacing and basic maintenance only.

Local Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

Dodge County is also home to a large number of municipally owned parks and recreation facilities that are available to the public. Individual community comprehensive plans and outdoor recreation plans can be consulted for details about these local facilities.

5.8 Solid Waste Management and Recycling

The majority of towns in Dodge County provide Saturday morning drop-off of solid waste and recyclables, while others contract with private companies for curbside collection of solid waste and recycling services. Commercial and industrial businesses generally arrange for private solid waste collection. According to the DNR, there are 43 responsible units for recycling in the county, indicating that each town, village, and city is responsible for complying with recycling regulations.

Solid waste landfills in Wisconsin are professionally designed, constructed and operated to minimize the risk of pollution. The DNR regulates landfills to prevent negative impacts to people and the environment. Landfills must collect and treat liquids and gases they generate before releasing them to the environment. Landfill operators must monitor their facilities to detect any contamination, report monitoring data to the DNR, and respond quickly to any problems. Money is set aside during landfill operation to ensure that monitoring and maintenance continue after the landfill closes. DNR staff inspect landfills regularly.

There is one privately operated landfill in Dodge County, the Green For Life (GFL) - Glacier Ridge Landfill, located in the Village of Kekoskee, just southeast of Ledge Park. Dodge County does not provide any services related to solid waste or recycling. The county does coordinate a Clean Sweep Program annually in late summer, however.

5.9 Communication and Power Facilities

Telecommunications

AT&T and Verizon North have the largest service areas for providers of land-based telephone services. Other regional providers include CenturyTel, TDS, and Cellcom, which have smaller service areas. Please refer to Map 5-5 at the end of this chapter for telephone service areas. Cellular telephone service is available throughout the county through a variety of providers, including Verizon, U.S. Cellular, and Cellcom. Strength of the signal will vary depending on tower locations and topography.

Electricity

Two private firms – Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WE Energies) and Wisconsin Power & Light Company (Alliant Energy), and one cooperative – Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative) provide electrical services to a majority of residential and commercial users in Dodge County. In addition, six separate municipal electric systems also provide service to portions of the county – Columbus Water & Light, Hartford Utilities, Hustisford Utilities, Juneau Utility Commission, Waterloo Water & Light Commission, and Waupun Public Utilities. Refer to Map 5-6 at the end of this chapter to view the various utility service areas.

Natural Gas

All communities in Dodge County have natural gas service available. Three companies - Wisconsin Gas (WE Energies), Wisconsin Electric Power Company (also WE Energies), and Wisconsin Power & Light Company (Alliant Energy) provide natural gas service throughout the county; refer to Map 5-7 at the end of this chapter. The split service boundaries do not inconvenience local users; however, each of the companies provides different support services to their customers.

Renewable Energy Facilities

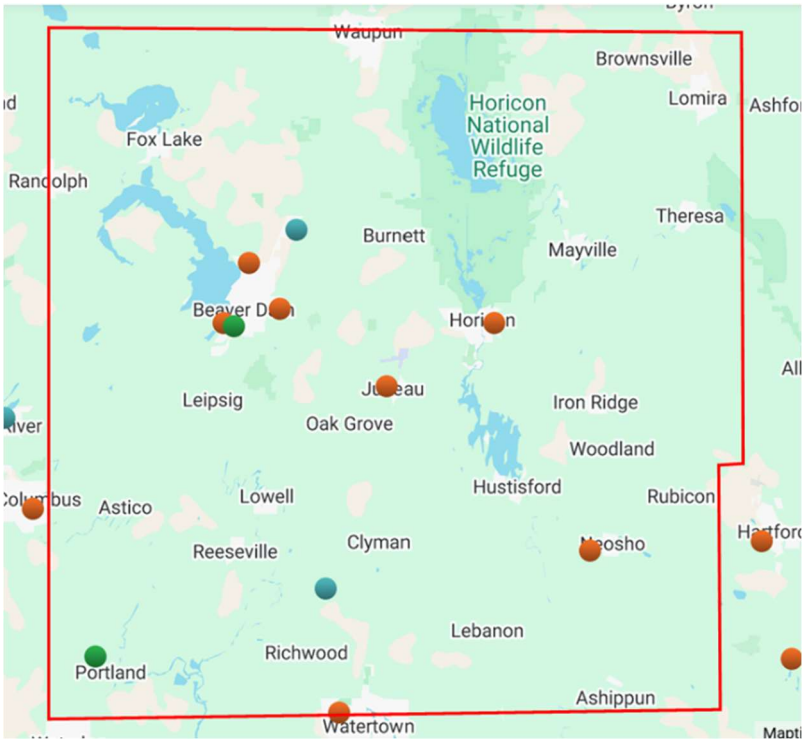
Wind Energy Facilities

There are two major wind energy facilities in Dodge County, both located in the northeastern portion of the county, along the higher elevation Niagara Cuesta landscape. One facility, the Butler Ridge Wind Farm, owned and operated by Nextera Energy Resources, is located in the Town of Herman. The wind farm consists of 36 turbines, each producing 1.5 megawatts for a total of 54 megawatts of power - enough to power 18,000 homes.

Another facility, the Forward Wind Energy Center (Forward I and Forward II phases) is located in the Dodge County Towns of Leroy and Lomira as well as two neighboring towns in Fond du Lac County. The project area consists of approximately 32,400 acres of predominantly agricultural land with 133 turbines constructed in 2008 and 2009. Forward I produces 99 megawatts, and Forward II produces 30 megawatts of power – enough to power about 42,000 homes.

The Dodge County regulations (Section 4.11, Wind Energy System Overlay District) are in the Land Use Code and apply in areas subject to County Zoning. In general, all utility-scale wind energy systems are allowed in all zoning districts with a conditional use permit. The Code also allows for personal wind energy systems of 75 feet in height or less, without the need for a conditional use permit (public hearing). There are several smaller wind energy systems built on private property located throughout the county.

Figure 5-1: Existing Solar Energy System Locations, Dodge County, 2025



Source: RENEW Wisconsin, 2025.

Solar Energy Facilities

Solar Energy Systems (SESs) are typically divided into three categories based on scale and the amount of regulation required. Small-scale SESs generates 30kW or less, a medium-scale SES generates between 30kW and 100MW, and large-scale SESs are 100MW or more in size.

A good rule of thumb is that a utility-scale solar farm requires 5 to 7 acres per megawatt (MW) of capacity, though this can range from four to 10 acres depending on factors like panel technology and layout. This acreage includes not only the panels themselves but also necessary spacing for maintenance, access roads, and auxiliary equipment like inverters.

A number of small to medium scale (less than 1 MW) solar facilities exist within the county, with most being located at public school facilities, wastewater treatment plants, and on properties associated with existing private businesses (Figure 5-1). Additional systems for individual residences likely exist as well, but are not shown on this map. No large-scale (100 MW+) solar energy systems (SESs) exist within the county at this time.

State regulations require the allowance of all types and scales of solar energy systems across counties and municipalities as long as they abide by Wisconsin Statute §66.0401(1m) provisions, which state:

> *"Local governments may not place any restriction on the installation or use of solar energy systems unless the restriction:*
> • *Serves to preserve or protect public health or safety.*
> • *Does not significantly increase the system cost or decrease the efficiency.*
> • *Allows for an alternative system of comparable cost and efficiency."*

Furthermore, the State of Wisconsin has a preemption provision as defined by 196.491(3), which states: *"If installation or utilization of a facility for which a certificate of convenience and necessity has been granted is precluded or inhibited by a local ordinance; the installation and utilization of the facility may nevertheless proceed."*

A Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) is required by the Public Service Commission (PSC) for systems generating 100MW or greater. The process includes an application, public notice, environmental review, community impact review, and public hearings before a decision is rendered by the PSC.

The current Dodge Code Land Use Code only has minimal mentions of solar energy systems and does not regulate these facilities to any extent. The only substantial provision within the code exempts ground-mounted solar energy collectors from lot coverage provisions if they are located within the Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural Zoning Districts and if they are designed to comply with the Stormwater management and Erosion Control provisions of the Code.

Taking a more pro-active approach in the siting of future large scale SESs and to assist in the application process, Dodge County could pre-determine levels of restrictions within the county. Using its planning authority granted under Wis. Stats. 66.1001, the county could create broad policy which better directs these facilities to preferred locations while protecting the investments made to existing development patterns across the county. A detailed assessment and mapping of the county would be required to generate such a policy statement.

5.10 Sanitary Sewer Service

The majority of Dodge County's municipalities are served by sanitary sewer systems, while many concentrated areas of rural development are served by Town Sanitary Districts. One village, Neosho, and the hamlets of Knowles and Minnesota Junction do not have sanitary sewer systems. Refer to Map 4-8 at the end of this chapter for locations of these systems. In addition, a recently approved change by the WDNR will now regionalize wastewater collection and treatment by having the Burnett Sanitary District abandon its treatment plant and connect to the City of Beaver Dam's treatment facility through the construction of a new forcemain system. The following is a list of municipal sewer providers and sanitary districts found in Dodge County:

1. Village of Brownsville
2. Village of Clyman
3. Village of Hustisford
4. Village of Iron Ridge
5. Village of Lomira
6. Village of Lowell
7. Village of Randolph
8. Village of Reeseville
9. Village of Theresa
10. City of Beaver Dam
11. City of Columbus
12. City of Hartford
13. City of Horicon
14. City of Juneau
15. City of Mayville
16. City of Watertown
17. City of Waupun
18. Ashippun Sanitary District
19. Burnett Sanitary District
20. Fox Lake Inland District
21. Herman Sanitary District
22. Hubbard Sanitary District #1
23. Hubbard Sanitary District #2
24. Hustisford Sanitary District
25. Lebanon Sanitary District
26. Portland Sanitary District
27. Rubicon Sanitary District
28. Elba Sanitary District
29. LeRoy Sanitary District

5.11 Private On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS)

Private on-site wastewater treatment systems, or POWTS, are systems that receive domestic quality wastewater and either retain it in a holding tank, or treat it and discharge it into the soil, beneath the ground surface. The Dodge County Sanitary Ordinance regulates POWTS in accordance with Wis. Stats. 59.70(5). All POWTS are required to be properly maintained so as not to create a human health hazard that could result from effluent discharge to the ground surface, surface water, groundwater or other discharges indicative of a failing system. Maintenance inspections and/or pumping of a POWTS by a licensed professional is required to be reported to the county at least every three years.

Communities that are not identified in Section 5.10 as having a publicly owned wastewater treatment system or sanitary district rely on private onsite wastewater treatment systems for disposal of wastewater.

5.12 Public Water Supply

In general, the public water supply for Dodge County's communities is of good quality and plentiful. Based on historical information, future quantities of groundwater for drinking purposes should not be of a major concern unless severe extended drought conditions exist. The U.S. Department of Interior, United States Geological Survey (USGS) has maintained a ground water level test well since 1964 in Dodge County. The well is located south of the City of Beaver Dam near USH 151. The water level is measured by the depth to water level expressed in feet below land surface. The depth to ground water has remained relatively constant since 1964. The highest water level of 14.13 feet was recorded in July of 2010, while the lowest water level of 28.45 feet was recorded in June of 2009. As of 2024, measurements have fluctuated between 16 and 21 feet. Historically, the water levels do fluctuate significantly on a yearly and seasonal basis, but it appears to be a normal occurrence. The amount of fluctuation seems to be increasing over time, however.

Municipal Water Systems

Nineteen communities in Dodge County provide public water supply systems, either through a municipal system or one managed by a sanitary district as listed below. For locations of these systems, refer to Map 5-8 at the end of this chapter, as well as Appendix H which contains more detailed information about each of these public water supply systems.

1. Beaver Dam Water Utility
2. Village of Brownsville Water Utility
3. Clyman Utility Commission
4. Columbus Water & Light Department
5. City of Fox Lake Water Utility
6. City of Hartford Utilities
7. City of Horicon – Water Utility
8. Hustisford Utilities
9. Iron Ridge Water Utility
10. Juneau Utility Commission
11. Lomira Water Utility
12. Lowell Municipal Water and Sewer Utility
13. Mayville Water Utility
14. Town of Portland Sanitary District #1
15. Randolph Water Utility
16. Reeseville Water Utility
17. Watertown Water Commission
18. Waupun Utilities
19. Village of Theresa Municipal Water and Sewer Utility.

5.13 Stormwater Management

The goal of stormwater management is to prevent runoff from delivering pollutants or sediment to lakes, rivers, streams, or wetlands. Commonly applied stormwater management tools include: ditches, culverts, grassed waterways, rock chutes, retention basins or settling ponds, curb and gutter, storm sewer, and construction site erosion control.

State law currently requires certain construction sites, municipalities, and industries to obtain a Stormwater Discharge Permit from the WDNR. Construction sites with more than one acre of bare soil and non-metallic mine sites of any size must obtain a permit. Incorporated areas with a population of less than 50,000 are not required to obtain a permit. Industrial sites are categorized based on their potential for contamination of stormwater runoff. The highest potential sources of pollution are regulated more strictly than the lowest.

Ditches, culverts, and local topography are the primary stormwater management tools for the majority of towns in Dodge County, while a majority of the incorporated areas address stormwater management by requiring the installation of storm sewer and curb and gutter as part of all new development. The Dodge County Land Use Code regulates stormwater management in major subdivisions and in environmentally sensitive areas.

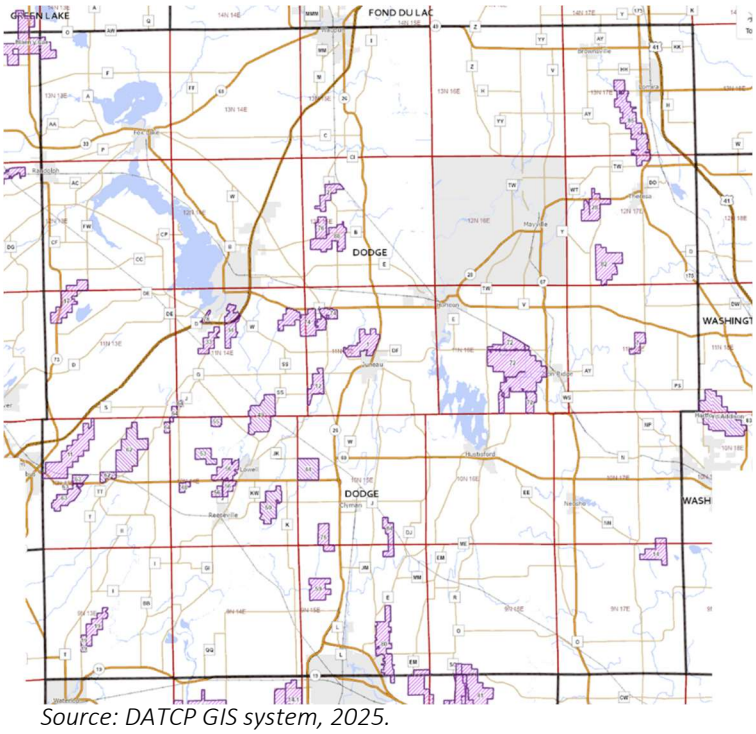
Dodge County Drainage Districts

Chapter 88, Wisconsin Statutes, enables the establishment of local drainage districts and drainage boards. The drainage district program is responsible for the systematic drainage of lands for agricultural practices.

Primary responsibility for planning for and administering drainage districts resides with the county drainage board. The board also resolves drainage disputes among landowners.

Twenty-seven counties, including Dodge County, have drainage boards with jurisdiction over about 190 individual drainage districts. The Dodge County Drainage Board oversees all or portions of 36 separate districts across Dodge County (Figure 5-2).

Figure 5-2: Dodge County Drainage Districts, 2025



Source: DATCP GIS system, 2025.

Drainage boards are responsible for planning to meet specific rule requirements established by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP). DATCP has established standards for the maintenance of district drains and facilities, procedures for assessments of land benefited by drainage, and procedures for investigating districts for compliance. DATCP also reviews and approves construction and restoration plans, provides on-site inspections, and performs other activities that will bring drainage districts into compliance.

In addition, county drainage boards are authorized to assess landowners for the cost associated with making improvements and/or correcting problems when the landowner is the source of adverse impacts on downstream water quality. Landowners must receive drainage board approval before taking any action potentially affecting a drainage system.

5.14 Health Care Facilities

State of Health Care

The availability of adequate health care facilities and services is becoming increasingly important for measuring the attractiveness of a place in which to live and work. Today, health services are seen by most as a right, similar to the right to education, and residents want to be assured that most of their health needs can be taken care of within a reasonable distance.

For Dodge County, one of the biggest changes in health care is associated with the early 2025 merger of Marshfield Clinic Health System into Sanford Health, the largest rural health system in the U.S., headquartered in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. These entities are now one nonprofit integrated health system operating as Sanford Health, marking the beginning of a new chapter for the future of health care.

Health Care Facilities Inventory

Sanford Health Facilities

A number of health care facilities exist across Dodge County and are listed below. It should be noted that any Marshfield Clinic locations in Dodge County are now under Sanford Health.

- Marshfield Medical Center-Beaver Dam (Beaver Dam Community Hospital): This campus, located at 707 S. University Ave., includes a hospital and medical offices that provide a range of services from primary and specialty care to emergency services and surgical procedures. This hospital provides full inpatient and outpatient services, 24-hour emergency services, medical clinics, cancer care, and a full range of senior services, as well as having the region's only Level III trauma center.

- Marshfield Medical Center-Beaver Dam, Horicon Center: Found at 610 Washington St. in Horicon, this center offers family medicine.

- Marshfield Medical Center-Beaver Dam, Waupun Center: This center is located at 180 Gateway Dr. in Waupun and provides various services.

- Waupun Eye Clinic: A separate eye care clinic in Waupun, located at 180 Gateway Dr..

Hospitals

The following additional hospitals serve Dodge County and its residents:

- Columbus Community Hospital (Prairie Ridge Health): This hospital is located at 1515 Park Avenue in the City of Columbus and offers 24-hour emergency, obstetrics, general surgery, ambulatory surgery, cardiopulmonary, Home Oxygen Therapy, Lifeline, and Swing Bed services. Additional services offered include allergy, dermatology, ear/nose/throat, oncology, ophthalmology, orthopedics, plastic surgery, podiatry, urology, and urgent care.

- Waupun Memorial Hospital (SSM Health): This hospital is located at 620 W. Brown Street in the City of Waupun and has been serving the area for over 50 years. Its medical staff physicians provide care in more than 20 medical specialties. A number of medical services and specialties can be found at the hospital, including a state-of-the-art emergency department, urgent care services, intensive care unit, physical medical services, obstetrics unit, and more.

- Watertown Regional Medical Center: This hospital is located at 125 Hospital Drive in the City of Watertown and consists of approximately 60 physicians and mid-level practitioners. The hospital provides an array of services ranging from emergency room and urgent care to obstetrics, surgery, and chronic pain management.

- The Aurora Medical Center in Hartford (Washington County) is located at 1032 E. Sumner Avenue and offers a variety of services and departments including adult day care, rehabilitation center, birth day center, cancer services, emergency department, GI services, orthopedics, pain management center, sleep disorders center, wound care, and hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

5.15 Senior Living Facilities

As the population ages and the baby-boomers move into older age groups, there will be increasing demand for long-term care, nursing homes, community-based residential facilities, and similar other elder care facilities. According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the following nursing home facilities are currently located in Dodge County:

- Golden Living Center, Beaver Dam, 90 beds, privately owned facility
- Hillside Manor, Beaver Dam, 123 beds, Beaver Dam Community Hospital (Nonprofit)
- Clearview, Juneau, 140 beds, Dodge County owned
- Clearview Behavioral Health I & II, Juneau, 20 beds, Dodge County owned
- Clearview Brain Injury Center, Juneau, 30 beds, Dodge County owned
- Hope Health and Rehabilitation Center, Lomira, 42 beds, privately owned
- Mayville Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Mayville, 133 beds, privately owned
- Golden Living Center-Continental Manor, Randolph, 84 beds, privately owned
- Golden Living Center, Watertown, 112 beds, privately owned
- Marquardt Memorial Manor Inc., Watertown, 140 beds, Nonprofit corporation
- Christian Home and Rehabilitation Center, Waupun, 50 beds, Nonprofit corporation

5.16 Day Care Facilities

See Chapter 3 Economic Development for information on day care facilities within Dodge County.

5.17 Utilities and Community Facilities Trends and Key Facts

The following trends are anticipated with regard to planning for future utilities and community facilities:

- The County will need to complete its Physical Facilities Master Plan and use it to make recommendations on improvements moving forward.

- Local government budget constraints will continue to drive the need for intergovernmental cooperation for services and programs.

- There is a need to coordinate fire protection and EMS services across the county to ensure efficiencies.

- There will be an increased need for volunteer or paid on-call fire fighters and EMS professionals during the planning period.
- There will be continued demands for the availability of reasonable-cost child day care.
- Communities and other jurisdictions will need to coordinate the development of trails and other recreational facilities.
- As the population ages and the baby-boomers move into older age groups, there will be increasing demand for general health care, mental health care, long-term care, nursing homes, community-based residential facilities, and similar other elder care facilities.
- Improved broadband internet access across the county will be needed over time.
- Additional planning and regulation development for solar energy systems would benefit the County.
- School Districts will need to prepare for continued declines in student enrollment unless significant changes occur in the amount of new residents the county can attract.

5.18 Expansion or Rehabilitation of Existing Utilities and Community Facilities Timetable

Wisconsin comprehensive planning statutes require that the utilities and community facilities element of a comprehensive plan identify the need for the expansion or rehabilitation of existing utilities and facilities or to create new utilities and facilities.

Each Dodge County Department has identified various utilities, facilities and services that will need expansion, construction, or upgrading over the planning period as part of the Dodge County Capital Improvement Program for 2024-2028.

5.19 Utilities & Community Facilities Goals, Objectives, Policies & Recommendations

Each element of the comprehensive plan includes a specific set of goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations that the county will use as a guide to future land use, development and preservation decisions over the next 20 years. Goals, objectives, policies and recommendations are defined as follows:

- **Goals** are broad, value-based statements that express general public priorities and preferences about how the county should address issues over the next 20 years and beyond. Goals address key issues, opportunities and problems that affect the county.

- **Objectives** are more specific than goals and are measurable statements usually attainable through direct action and implementation of plan recommendations. The accomplishment of objectives contributes to the fulfillment of the goal.

- **Policies** are general rules, principles, strategies or courses of action used to guide decision making and actions as necessary to accomplish goals and objectives. Policies are intended to be used by decision makers on a regular basis.

- **Recommendations** are specific actions, projects or activities that are intended to achieve a particular plan goal, objective, or policy.

Utilities & Community Facilities Goals and Objectives

Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001 requires a statement of overall goals and objectives to guide the future development and redevelopment of the county over a 20-year planning period. The following goals and objectives were developed by Dodge County with regard to the Utilities & Community Facilities element:

Goals

General

Goal 1: Provide a full range of quality, efficient and cost-effective community facilities and services that meet the existing and future demands of residents, land owners, and visitors.

Goal 2: Support the provision of needed public facilities in an economic and efficient manner that accommodates planned growth without adversely affecting farmland or farm operations.

Goal 3: Re-examine the county for opportunities to expand infrastructure along major corridors so as to leverage new growth and development.

Goal 4: Promote the use of Capital Improvement Planning at the county and local level to better plan for the replacement and upgrades to aging infrastructure.

Stormwater Management

Goal 5: Promote stormwater management practices to reduce property and road damage and maintain a high level of water quality.

Water Supply

Goal 6: Protect the quality and quantity of the county's ground and surface water features.

Goal 7: Ensure that the water supply for Dodge County has sufficient capacity, remains drinkable and is available to meet the needs of current and future residents.

Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) and Sanitary Sewer

Goal 8: Ensure proper disposal of private onsite wastewater to ensure public health and protect ground and surface water quality.

Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Facilities

Goal 9: Promote effective solid waste disposal and recycling services and systems that protect the public health, natural environment, and general appearance of land use within Dodge County.

Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Goal 10: Maintain a high quality network of park and recreational lands with safe and accessible facilities meeting the needs and demands of the residents of Dodge County and its visitors.

Goal 11: Provide a planned system of parks and recreation areas that offer a diversity of recreational opportunities.

Utilities and Communication Services

Goal 12: Ensure the provision of reliable, efficient, and well-planned utilities (i.e., gas, electric) and communication services (i.e., telephone, cable, telecommunications) to adequately serve existing and future development.

Libraries and Schools

Goal 13: Promote quality schools and library access allowing educational opportunities for everyone.

Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services and Facilities

Goal 14: Ensure a level of police, fire and emergency medical services that meets existing and future demands of residents and development patterns.

Government Facilities

Goal 15: Maintain the quality and functionality of all Dodge County facilities.

Health and Child Care Services and Facilities

Goal 16: Ensure that Dodge County residents have reasonable access to health care facilities and child care.

Energy

Goal 17: Support renewable energy projects not in conflict with other elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

Objectives

1. Direct more intense, urban forms of development into areas that can provide adequate municipal services, including public sewer and public water to support the development.

2. Examine the costs to publicly service proposed new developments, including roads, sewer and water services, stormwater management, schools and other costs to determine the economic feasibility of the development.

3. Encourage municipalities, sanitary and lake management districts to adopt five and 10-year phasing plans for the expansion of public facilities and development in their service areas.

4. Encourage the installation of public sewer and water systems where appropriate by the existing sanitary districts.

5. Support the use of green infrastructure approaches to stormwater management.

6. Work with the providers of communication services to improve coverage.

7. Provide a full range of emergency services to serve the people of Dodge County and better address the multi-county nature of these services.

8. Improve collaboration amongst existing Fire and EMS Departments to ensure the efficient provision of these services and coordination of equipment purchases to avoid increased costs.

9. Promote opportunities for emergency services volunteers and support efforts to improve access/ability to obtain required training through the following methods:
    a. Incentivize volunteers and reduce barriers to volunteerism.
    b. Promote flexibility by employers for volunteers.
    c. Improve county-wide recruitment/placement efforts for volunteers (volunteerdodge.org)
    d. Break up volunteer opportunities into smaller bite-sized tasks.
    e. Avoid scrutiny on volunteers and address concerns over personal liability.
    f. Volunteer training standards need to be lowered to increase numbers.
    g. Require volunteering (by businesses, schools, orgs.)

10. Work with the health care industry to provide a full range of services, including behavioral health support, for all age groups in Dodge County, particularly in anticipation of an aging population.

11. Improve health care in rural areas through improved tele-health options and increased broadband services.

12. Discourage the construction of schools along arterial highways. Encourage new schools to be located along minor collector roads with adequate buffers from traffic.

13. Establish means to utilize input and resources from the public, organizations, municipalities and other agencies in the planning, development and operation of the county Park System.

14. Continue to sponsor programs and events in Dodge County's parks to draw public attention to the system.

15. Systematically expand the amount of land in the park system to reach the average per capita county parkland ratio for Wisconsin Counties and National Recreation and Parks Association Standards and then maintain periodic land acquisitions to remain at or above the State average and National standards.

16. Retain tax delinquent land that would be an appropriate addition to the county park and open space program.

17. Holistically think about ALL renewable energy sources and the benefits they may provide. Renewables are not just solar and wind, but include geothermal, hydro-electric, manure digesters, landfill gas recovery, and the like.

18. Support increasing of revenues for towns who host 50MW+ renewable energy projects.

19. Further the notion of lifecycle costs into infrastructure maintenance and replacement projects, as well as budgeting exercises.

Utilities & Community Facilities Policies and Recommendations

Policies and recommendations build on goals and objectives by providing more focused responses and actions to the goals and objectives. Policies and recommendations become the tools that the county should use to aid in making decisions. Policies that direct action using the words “will” or “shall” are advised to be mandatory and regulatory aspects of the implementation of the comprehensive plan. In contrast, those policies that direct action using the word “should” are advisory and intended to serve as a guide.

Recommendations are specific actions or projects that the county should be prepared to complete within the 20-year planning period. The completion of these actions and projects are consistent with the policies, and therefore will help fulfill the comprehensive plan goals and objectives. The following policies and recommendations have been developed by Dodge County with regard to the Utilities & Community Facilities element and serve to support the goals and objectives:

Policies

1. Residential growth should only expand as the municipality’s ability to supply municipal services increases.

2. Limit rural residential development to sites with soil conditions suitable for a private sanitary system other than a holding tank.

3. Unsewered development should not be allowed if there is a reasonable possibility that the subject property would be served by public sewer within five years.

4. New on-site private waste water treatment facilities shall not be allowed within a public sanitary sewer district.

5. New major subdivisions should not be approved in a sanitary district with the waste treatment plant operating near its capacity level or if the proposed development would cause the treatment plant to exceed capacity levels.

6. Sanitary Districts and Lake Management districts should provide a public water system along with their sanitary sewer systems.

7. Allow development in areas identified for future park and recreation use only after a determination by the Land Resources and Parks Committee that the use of the land for public recreation would be impractical and not in the best interest of the county.

8. Future schools and other public buildings should only be located where a public sanitary sewer system is available.

9. Construction of new schools should not be allowed in productive agricultural areas or along arterial highways.

10. Residential, commercial and industrial growth should occur in relation to each municipality's ability to supply additional police and fire protection.

11. Shared police and fire protection services between municipalities should be considered, particularly in urban service areas and other high growth areas.

12. The county should ensure that police, fire, and emergency services adequately meet the existing and future demands of the county by doing an annual review of such services.

13. Municipalities should consider sharing library services where appropriate, especially in areas designated for growth.

14. Storm water management should be addressed as part of the review of all development proposals in order to evaluate the potential to increase storm water runoff to adjacent lands.

15. The county's Facilities Master Plan should be a top priority and will guide the county's future in terms of facility functionality and any needed investment in new facilities.

16. Incorporate renewable energy systems (solar, wind, etc.) into public and private building developments.

17. Require that all mid to large scale solar energy systems (>50 MW) incorporate agrivoltaics or "dual use" components over a majority of the project area within all permitted solar energy systems.

18. Ensure that existing topsoil remains in place (or if not, determine where and how it should be spread or stored) to retain, or ideally improve, soil productivity over time. This includes guidance on when construction activities should and should not take place, and other best practices to reduce compaction. Require soil testing before any construction commences to establish a baseline for restoration after decommissioning, and periodically during operation.

Recommendations

General

1. Produce an annual Capital Improvement Program Plan to assess needs in regard to county facilities.

2. Support eligible cities, villages and sanitary districts attempting to obtain grants for needed infrastructure expansion and improvements.

Fire/EMS Services

1. Conduct an annual review of police, fire and emergency services offered in the county to ensure that the services adequately meeting the needs of the county.

2. Study contract models for EMS similar to Fox Valley with Gold Cross, which may include county incentives.

3. Apply for WDOA Innovation Grants to improve efficiencies.

4. Encourage the leveling of State rules regarding police/fire training and certifications. Work with WCA, WTA, and LWM to effect change.

Parks/Recreation

1. Develop criteria for identifying the primary corridors suitable for permanent trails and obtain snowmobile development grants to purchase long-term rights to trail lands meeting the criteria for permanent trails.

2. Update, as required every five years, the county's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP).

3. Develop site plans for all county parks, including provision for implementation of recommendations of the Americans with Disabilities Act and identify four possible new sites for large natural resource-oriented parks.

4. Establish a Dodge County Parks Coalition of all providers of park and recreational lands and facilities in the county to coordinate opportunities, share information and promote multi-jurisdictional approaches to acquiring, developing and managing parks and recreational lands.

5. Work with the Friends of Dodge County Parks in communicating parks information to the county Board, the local news media, and to the general public through the Land Resources and Parks Department.

6. Utilize the Friends of Dodge County Parks to develop a fundraising strategy to help offset the cost of park improvements.

7. Regularly apply for WDNR Stewardship Grants to expand recreational resources and provide ADA compliant county parks and facilities.

Renewable Energy

1. Require agrivoltaics as a method to balance agricultural land loss impacts from solar energy systems and related uses such as battery energy storage systems.

2. The county should work with Alliant Energy and the City of Juneau to examine options for renewable energy at the Dodge County Airport.

3. Study the re-use of the Henry Dodge Building property for a renewable energy project if the structure is removed.

4. Study the potential for one or more centralized manure digester systems within the county.

County Facilities

1. Complete a radio communications study and implement in order to ensure well-coordinated coverage.

2. Enhance the county-wide dispatch system with features such as text to 911, sheriff apps, and more focus on citizen interaction.

3. Monitor the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) facility reporting requirements. EPCRA requires facilities to report on their use, storage, and release of hazardous substances. This law helps communities plan for chemical emergencies and provides citizens with information about chemicals in their area.

4. Integrate appropriate IT solutions amongst local police departments to improve regional communications.

5. Expand the usage of GIS as a component of the county's asset management system.

6. Work toward the expansion of fiber and broadband for not only county use, but also for businesses and residents.

5.20 Utilities and Community Facilities Programs

See Appendix G for a complete listing of programs which pertain to this element of the Comprehensive Plan.

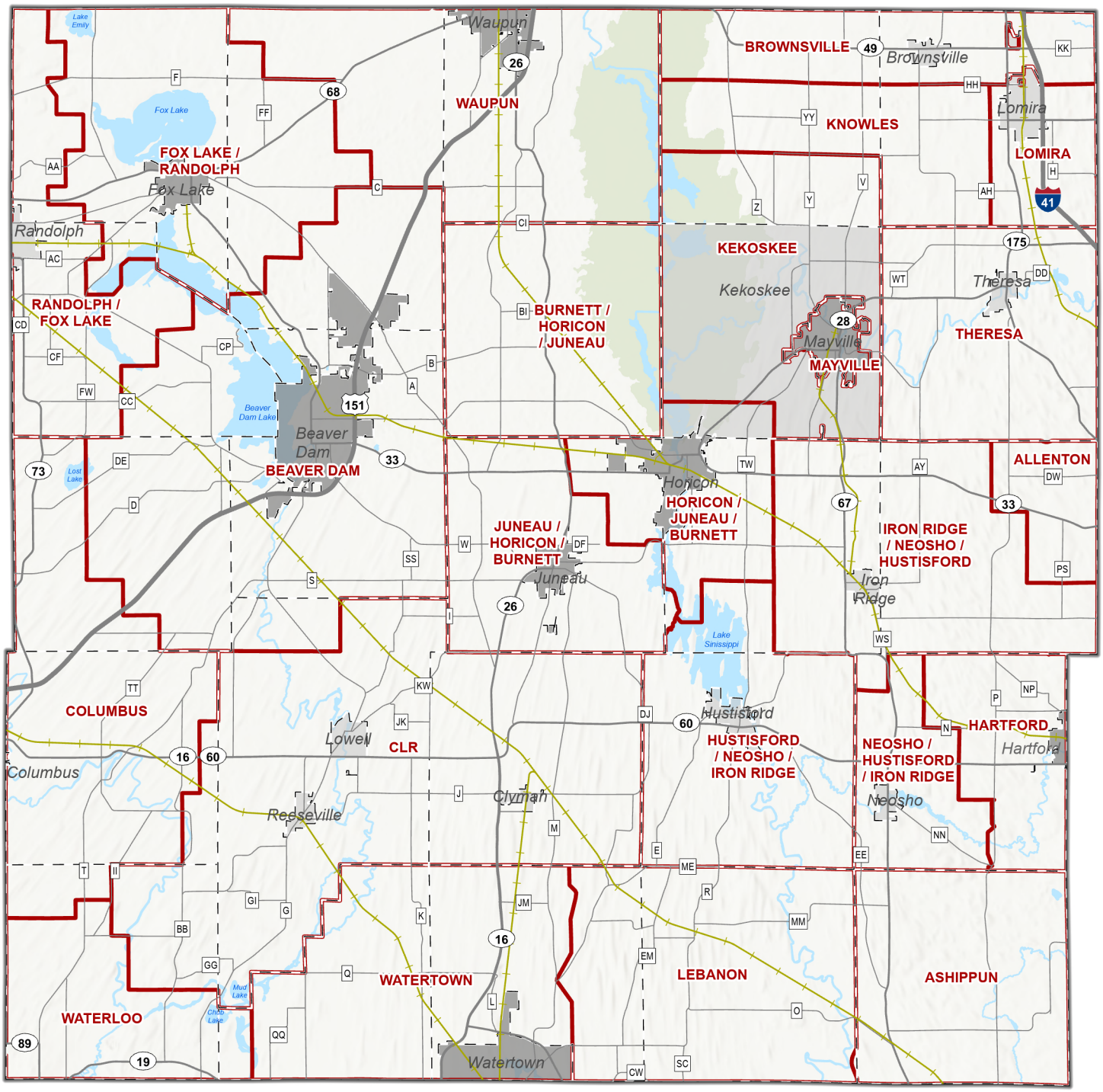
5.21 Maps

Map 5-1: Fire Emergency Service Areas
Map 5-2: Emergency Medical Service Areas
Map 5-3: School District Boundaries
Map 5-4: County, State and Federal Recreational Facilities
Map 5-5: Telephone Service Providers
Map 5-6: Electric Utilities Service Areas
Map 5-7: Natural Gas Service Providers

Map 5-1

Fire District Service Areas

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Fire Coverage Zone

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

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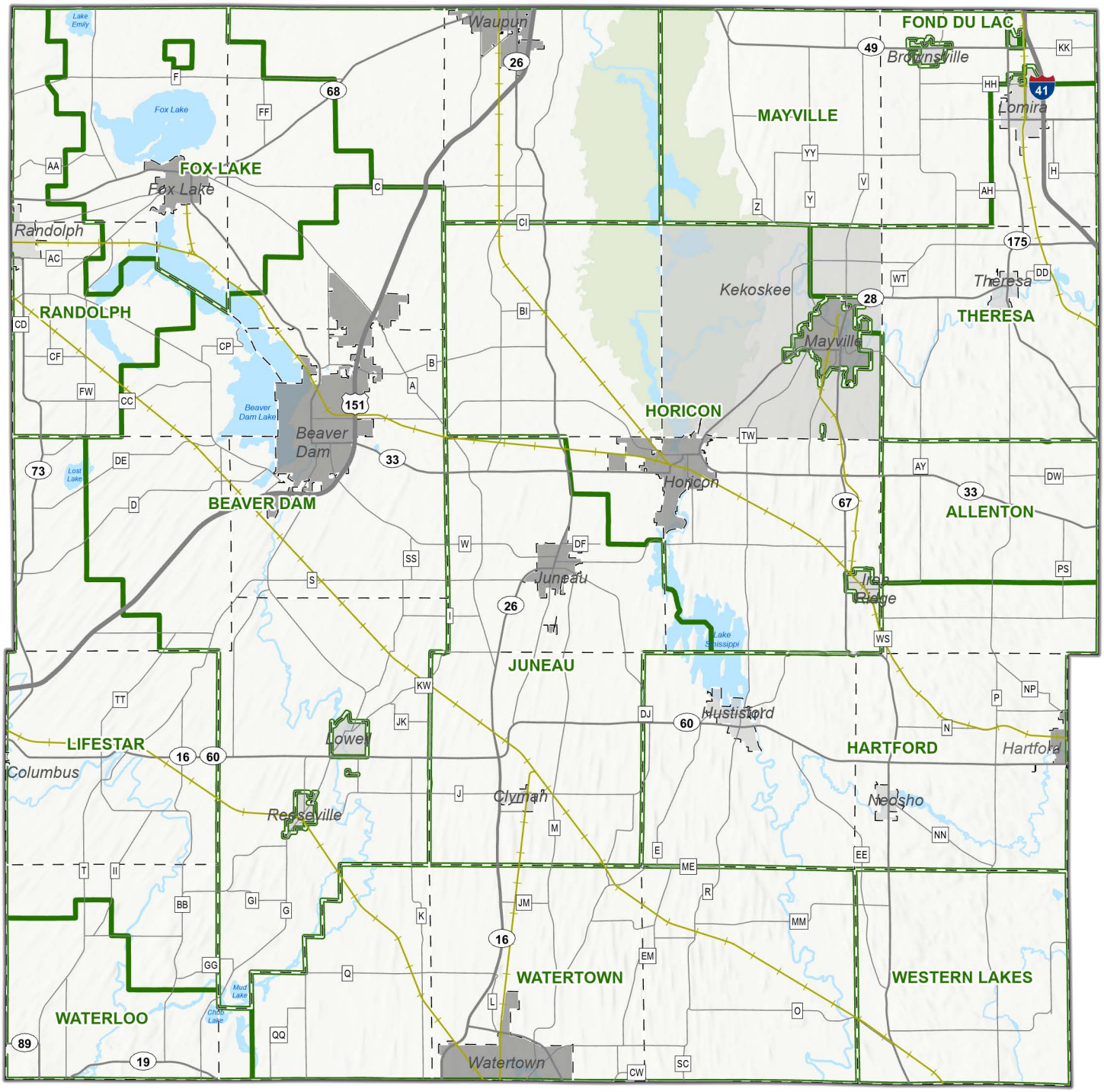
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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: February 18, 2026.

Map 5-2

Emergency Medical Service Areas

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

EMS Coverage Areas

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

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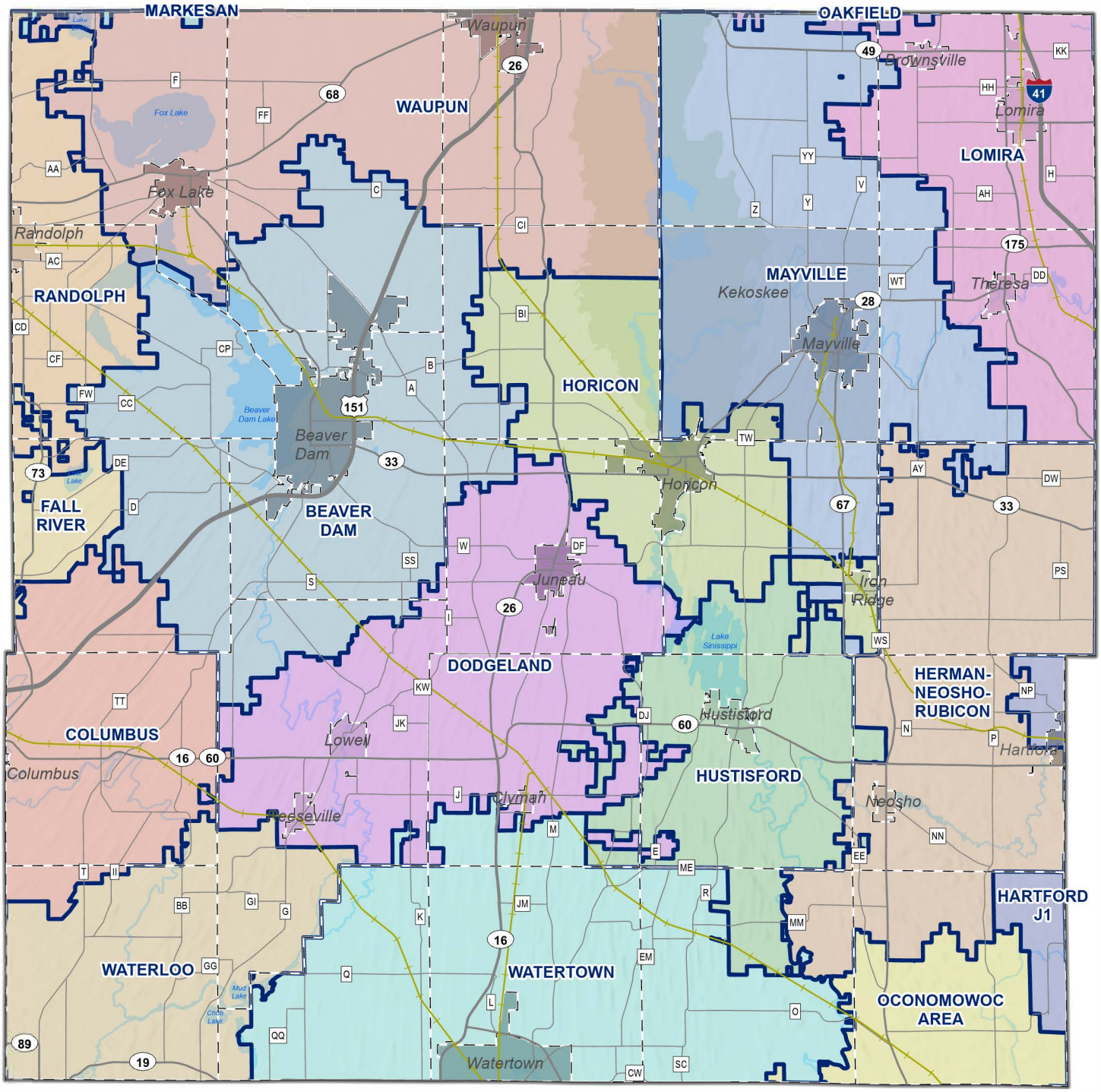
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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: January 15, 2025

Map 5-3

School Districts

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

School District Boundary*

**2024/2025 School Year, Wisconsin DPI.*

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

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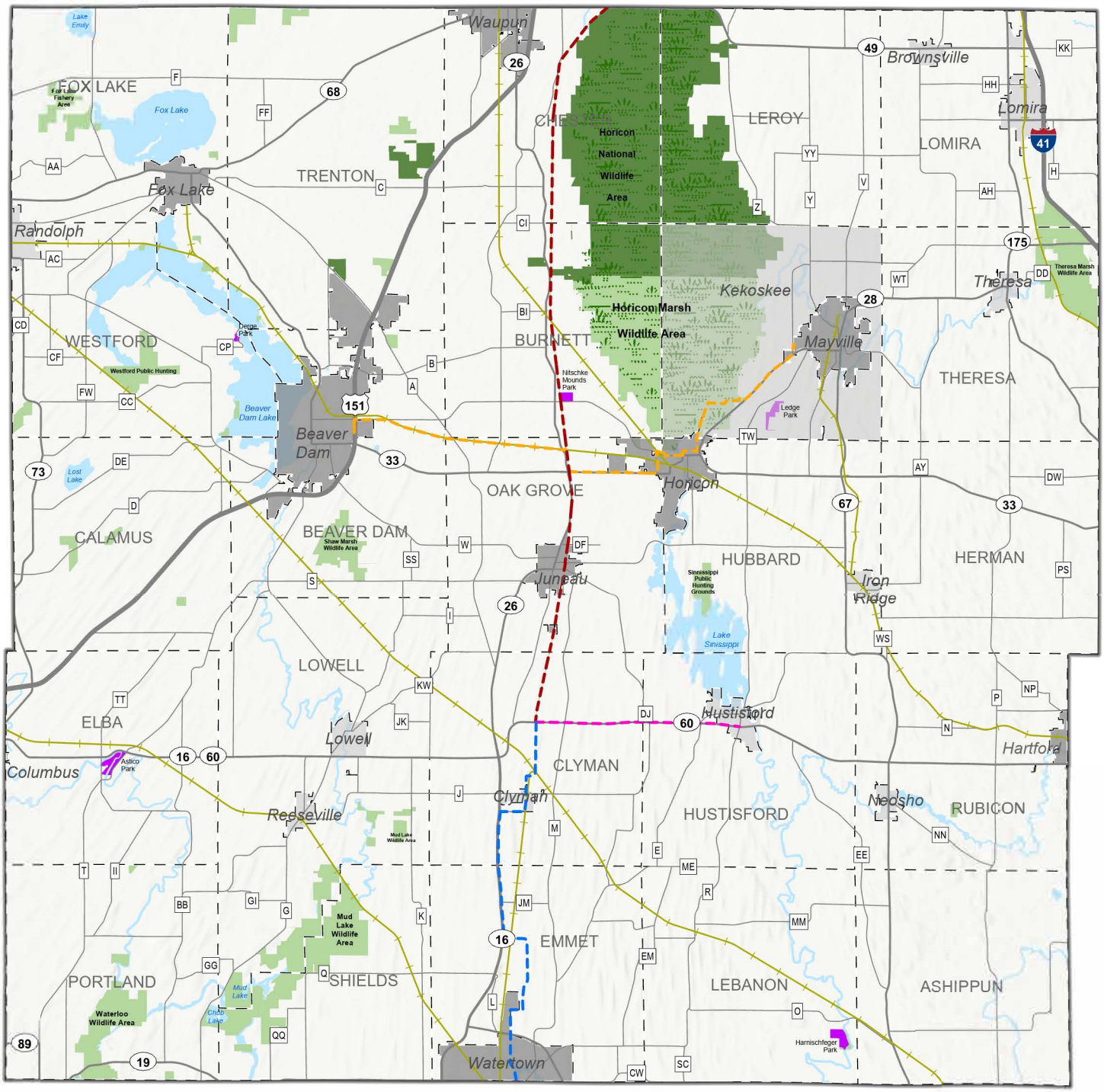
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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: January 15, 2025

Map 5-4

County, State, & Federal Recreation Areas

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Recreation Areas
- County-Owned Land
- State-Owned Land
- Federal-Owned Land

Recreational Trails

Existing
- Wild Goose State Trail
- Gold Star Memorial Trail

Proposed
- Glacial River Trail
- Pelican Path

Base Layers
- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

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DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

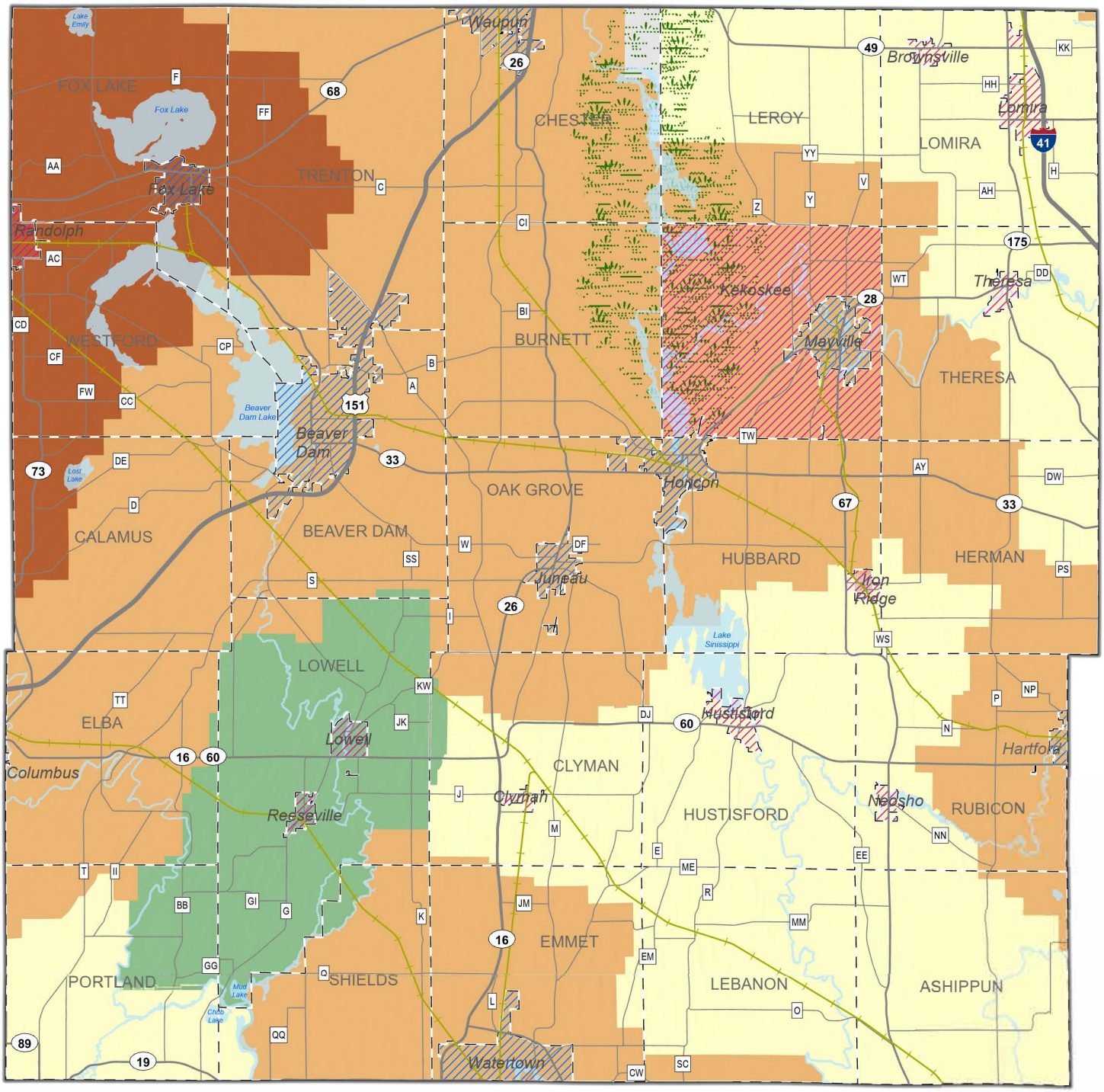
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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: November 18, 2025

Map 5-5

Telephone Service Providers

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Telephone Exchange Boundaries*

- AT&T
- CenturyTel, Inc.
- Open Territory
- Telephone and Data Systems, Inc.
- Unassigned Territory
- Verizon North, Inc.

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

*Wisconsin PSC, 2021.

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DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

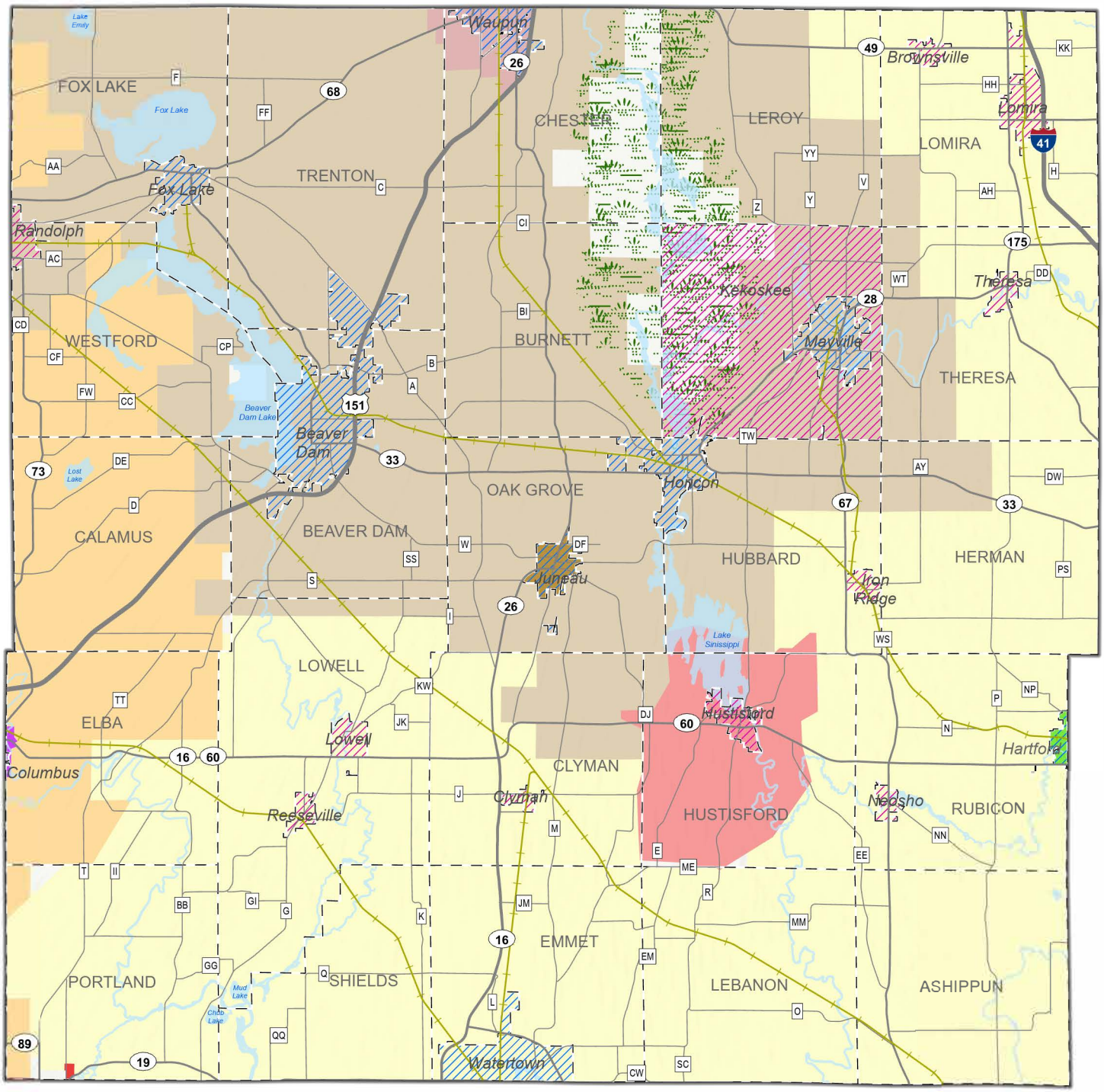
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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: January 15, 2025

Map 5-6

Electric Utilities Service Areas

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Electric Service Areas*

- Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative
- Columbus Water & Light Dept.
- Hartford Utilities
- Hustisford Utilities
- Juneau Utility Commission
- Waterloo Water & Light Commission
- Waupun Public Utilities
- Wisconsin Electric Power Company
- Wisconsin Power & Light Company

*Wisconsin PSC, 2021.

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

NORTH W E S

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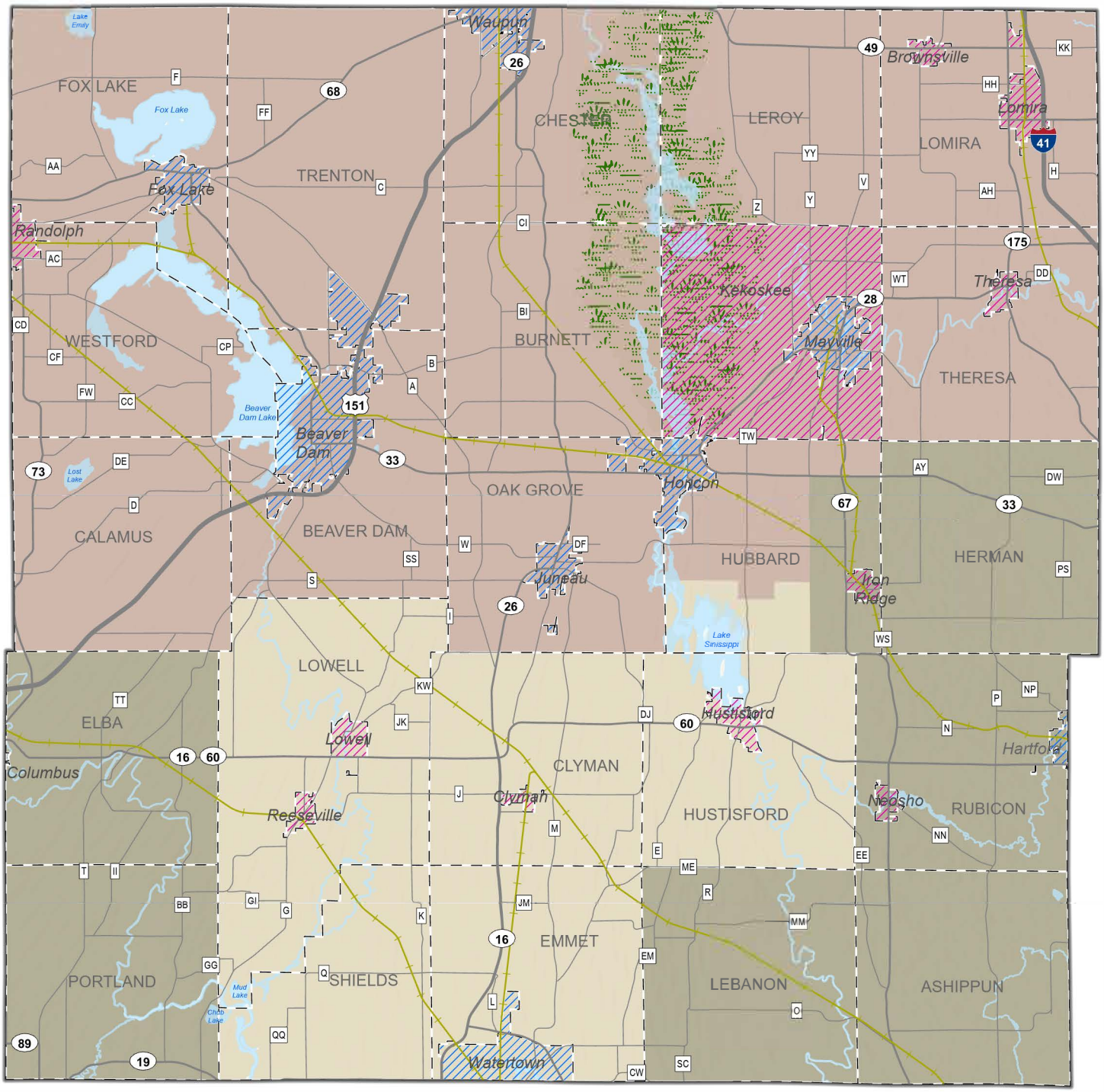
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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: January 15, 2025

Map 5-7

Natural Gas Service Providers

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Natural Gas Service Areas*

- Wisconsin Power & Light Company (Alliant Energy)
- Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WE Energies)
- Wisconsin Gas (WE Energies)

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

*Wisconsin PSC, 2021.

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DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: January 15, 2025

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6 Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources

6.1 Introduction

Natural resources are essential to Dodge County's vibrant economy. The value of natural resources can be measured in tourism revenues, enhanced property values, sustainable agriculture and forestry, low cost raw materials (such as sand, gravel, and stone), available water for manufacturing processes, and more. Natural resources also provide opportunities for parks, trails, scenic areas, and other outdoor places people rely on for recreation.

While Wisconsin's natural resources benefit each community, they are also susceptible to internal and external forces. For example, the increasing human demands by a growing state population increase consumption of water, land, and raw materials. Our natural resources generally do not increase to meet this extra demand. Additionally, unplanned or poorly planned development patterns in the last several decades are often the result of a demand for "healthy country living", which is transforming our rural landscapes. This rural migration along with the expansion of the urban fringe, forces local governments to consider expanding their services to meet the demands – sometimes costing more than will be recovered in new tax base revenues.

There are many state and some federal regulations designated to protect Wisconsin's natural resources. Some state laws, including those for floodplains, shorelands, and wetlands, establish minimum use and protection standards that must be adopted and administered by local governments. But not all natural resources are protected by state law. Local governments throughout the state have the flexibility to plan for and develop their own local ordinances to deal with the unique land use issues/conflicts in their community and to protect the natural resources that they value most. As population growth, land consumption, and technological improvements continue, communities need to take on the additional role of stewards and protectors of these resources.

Land development patterns are directly linked to the natural, agricultural, and cultural resource bases of each community. Therefore, these features need to be considered before making any decisions concerning future development within the community. Development must be carefully adjusted to coincide with the ability of the agricultural, natural and cultural resource base to support the various forms of urban and rural development. This balance must be maintained to prevent the deterioration of that underlying and sustaining base, because these resources make each community unique.

This element provides an inventory and assessment of the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources of Dodge County. Dodge County has many unique natural features, including the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the United States, the Horicon Marsh. The Marsh provides residents and visitors with a wide variety of recreational opportunities in a beautiful setting. The county's agricultural, natural, and cultural resources contribute greatly to the quality of life.

6.2 General Soil Characteristics

Soil is composed of varying proportions of sand, gravel, silt, clay, and organic material. The composition of a soil must be evaluated prior to any development, as varying limitations exist for each soil. Dodge County soils are products of the deposits left after the glacier receded about 12,000 years ago. These deposits consisted of sand, gravel, large rocks, clay, limestone fragments, and igneous and metamorphic rocks. The deposits have prompted mineral and sand and gravel extraction throughout the county. The Niagara escarpment is a source of commercial grade stone and crushed lime. Iron deposits were also once mined on the escarpment.

The majority of soils in the county are upland silt loam considered good for agricultural uses. Topsoil generally ranges between 10 and 14 inches in depth. The seven general soil associations found in the county include Fox-Casco-Rodman, McHenry-Pella, Plano-Mendota, Houghton-Pella, St. Charles-LeRoy-Lomira, Theresa-Lamartine-Hochheim, and St. Charles-Miami-Elburn.

6.3 Agricultural Soils & Farmland Preservation Planning

Prime Agricultural Soils – NRCS

The soils in Dodge County are classified by the United States Department of Agriculture to represent different levels of agricultural use potential. Prime farmland is defined as land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and that is available for these uses. It has the combination of soil properties, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields of crops in an economic manner if it is treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. In general, prime farmland has an adequate and dependable water supply from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, an acceptable level of acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable content of salt or sodium, and few or no rocks. Its soils are permeable to water and air. Prime farmland is not excessively eroded or saturated with water for long periods of time, and it either does not flood frequently during the growing season or is protected from flooding. Users of the lists of prime farmland map units should recognize that soil properties are only one of several criteria that are necessary.

As shown in Table 6-1 and Map 6-1, located at the end of this chapter, over 61% of the county is considered to be Prime Farmland. Farmlands of Statewide Importance comprise nearly 24% of the county and is defined as lands that nearly meet the criteria for unique farmland as determined by state agencies to be important for producing crops. Areas not considered to be prime farmlands consist of waterbodies and wetland areas, areas of steep slope, and some areas along the Niagara Escarpment.

Table 6-1: Prime Agricultural Soils, Dodge County

Farmland Classification	Acres	Percent of Total Acres
Prime Farmland	204,677.55	35.01%
Prime Farmland if Drained	152,794.73	26.14%
Prime Farmland if Drained & Flood Protected	4,006.09	0.69%
Farmland of Statewide Importance	139,623	23.88%
Not Prime Farmland	83,465	14.28%
Total	**584,566**	**100.00%**

Sources: NRCS SSURGO dataset, 2024.

Productive Agricultural Lands – American Farmland Trust

The American Farmland Trust's (AFT) *Farms Under Threat Productivity, Versatility, and Resiliency* (PVR) analysis identifies the agricultural lands best suited for intensive cultivation, with a focus on production of human-edible food crops. American Farmland Trust developed this detailed spatial dataset to represent soil productivity and capacity, land cover and use, food production for direct human consumption, production limitations, and length of growing season. The PVR model combined these datasets using weights elicited from a group of national agricultural experts. The higher the PVR value, the more productive, versatile, and resilient the land is for long-term cultivation. These values identify two important land classifications: Nationally Significant agricultural land, which is the land best-suited to long-term, intensive crop production within the contiguous United States; and each state's "best land," which is approximately the better half of all agricultural land in each state.

Map 6-2 shows AFT's land cover and use within Dodge County as of 2016. This map represents national land use with a special focus on agricultural land. It includes four distinct agricultural land classes: cropland, pastureland, rangeland, and woodland associated with farms. In addition, this layer includes a new land use class, low-density residential, in which the average housing density is above the level where agriculture is typically viable.

Map 6-3 shows where non-federal farmland and rangeland were converted to urban and highly developed and low-density residential land uses from 2001-2016. Conversion to UHD or LDR has occurred in all areas shown in red, but this does not indicate that every acre in those areas has been converted. Farmland includes cropland, pastureland, and woodland associated with farms.

Land with PVR values above the state median are shown in dark green and dark yellow, respectively. Lands with PVR values below the state median are shown in lighter shades. Map 6-4 shows Nationally Significant agricultural land as the land best suited for long-term production of food and other crops. To identify Nationally Significant land, a team of experts calculated a minimum PVR value threshold. All agricultural land with PVR values above this threshold was classified as Nationally Significant.

Dodge County Farmland Preservation Plan

For decades, Dodge County has been heavily involved in the preparation, administration, and oversight for the *Dodge County Farmland Preservation Plan* and utilization of Farmland Preservation Zoning. The *Dodge County Farmland Preservation Plan* and map (Map 6-5) was an integral component of this *2045 Comprehensive Plan Update.* The county's associated Farmland Preservation Zoning Ordinance creates opportunities for farmers to make an economic living and protect their right to farm by keeping them eligible for state tax credits, hence sustaining the farming culture.

Farmland preservation also opens the door for ag-related businesses and agri-tourism which have also grown in popularity. The farmland preservation efforts also make clear the responsibility by agricultural producers to use best management practices in preserving these resources for today, tomorrow, and beyond. The Farmland Preservation Plan formally documents the basis for farmland preservation activities in the county and contains a wealth of information about agricultural land use and various farm and production statistics.

6.4 Forests

Dodge County in southeastern Wisconsin has a mix of public and private forest lands that offer a variety of recreational opportunities and environmental benefits. The forests are managed for different purposes, from habitat protection to sustainable timber harvesting. There is approximately 27,265 acres of woodland in Dodge County, which is about 4.6% of the county's surface area based on WDNR's Wiscland 2.0 dataset (2016). Main woodland species in Dodge County are oak, elm, maple, and other hardwoods.

There is limited economic potential from the remaining woodlots within the county since they tend to be small and widely scattered. They are commonly used for hunting, shade for pasturing livestock, and firewood. Many contain residential development or are located in public parks and recreation areas. Some of these woodlots are enrolled in the WDNR's Managed Forest Law (MFL) programs. According to WDNR records, in 2025 Dodge County had a total enrollment of 30 acres open to the public, and another 2,050 acres closed to the public.

The Managed Forest Law (MFL) program is a landowner incentive program that encourages sustainable forestry on private woodlands. To qualify for MFL designation, a parcel of land must be at least 20 contiguous acres under the same ownership, or be at least 10 contiguous acres and be connected by a tract of land under the same ownership to at least one other parcel of at least 10 contiguous acres. Furthermore, at least 80% of each parcel must be productive forest. To apply for the MFL program, an application must be submitted with a management plan written by a certified plan writer. The management plan addresses items such as landowner objectives, timber management, wildlife management and water quality. In exchange for following sound forest management, the enrolled landowner pays reduced property taxes and, in certain circumstances, must make those woodlands accessible to the public for recreation and hunting.

6.5 Metallic and Non-Metallic Mineral Resources

Metallic and non-metallic mineral resources are concentrations of naturally occurring solid materials in or on the earth's crust, which occur in such a form or amount that economic extraction of a commodity from the concentration is currently or potentially feasible. Metallic mineral resources, of which none are available in Dodge County, include such substances as nickel, copper, lead, iron, gold, and zinc. Non- metallic mineral resources include sand, gravel, topsoil, clay, and stone. Non-metallic mineral deposits are abundant however, and in Dodge County consist primarily of sand, gravel, and stone. Stone is one of the most valuable and versatile mineral resources and is used either as dimension stone for building and ornamental purposes or crushed stone as an aggregate for concrete and other construction and agricultural purposes. Non-metallic mining provides many of the most basic construction materials. Because non-metallic mineral deposits are where you find them, and it is not economically feasible to transport them even moderate distances, it is essential that current and potential non-metallic mineral sites be identified and protected for future use.

Wisconsin Administrative Code, Chapter NR-135 was established in late 2000 to ensure non-metallic mining sites are properly abandoned. This law required the adoption of non-metallic mining reclamation ordinances, the permitting of all active non-metallic mining sites, and the preparation and approval of site reclamation plans by permit holders. This law promotes the removal or reuse of non-metallic mining refuse, removal of roads no longer in use, grading, replacement of topsoil, stabilization of soils, establishment of vegetative groundcover, stormwater management and groundwater withdrawal, prevention of pollution, and other activities associated with site reclamation.

Dodge County's Land Resources and Parks Department administers the NR-135 program, which is supported partly through a series of annual fees charged to the mine operators. Dodge County also has a Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Overlay District as part of its adopted Land Use Code. The purpose of this overlay district is to establish a local program to ensure the effective reclamation of non-metallic mining sites on which non-metallic mining takes place in the County. In 2025, there were 25 permitted sites with 22 of them being actively mined. These 22 sites are scattered across the county and comprise 874 total active acres along with an additional 1,543 reserve acres which are approved for mining.

6.6 Wetlands

The hydrology of soils, or the amount of water saturation present, largely determines how the soil develops and the types of plant and animal communities living in and on the soil. Wetlands may support both aquatic and terrestrial species. The prolonged presence of water creates conditions that favor the growth of specially adapted plants (hydrophytes) and promotes the development of characteristic wetland (hydric) soils.

Wetlands may be seasonal or permanent and are commonly referred to as swamps, marshes, fens, or bogs. Wetland plants and soils have the capacity to store and filter pollutants ranging from pesticides to animal wastes. Wetlands can make lakes, rivers, and streams cleaner, and drinking water safer. Wetlands also provide valuable habitat for fish, plants, and animals. In addition, some wetlands can also replenish groundwater supplies. Groundwater discharge from wetlands is common and can be important in maintaining stream flows, especially during dry months.

Local, state, and federal regulations place limitations on the development and use of wetlands and shorelands. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has inventory maps for each community that identify wetlands two acres and larger. The wetland inventory map should be consulted whenever development proposals are reviewed in order to identify wetlands and to ensure their protection from development. Often, more detailed study (wetland delineations) will be required by the WDNR before any development occurs.

Based on WDNR's Wiscland 2.0 data set (2016), there were approximately 113,000 acres of wetlands found in Dodge County (refer to Map 6-6, located at the end of this chapter). Wetlands are found throughout Dodge County, but significant concentrations of wetland can be found in the Towns of Leroy, Chester, Burnett and the Village of Kekoskee, all associated with the Horicon Marsh. Other significant concentrations of wetland exist in the Towns of Portland, Shields, Lebanon, Theresa, and Hustiford.

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge and Horicon Marsh Wildlife Area

These two protected wildlife areas, collectively known as the Horicon Marsh, make up the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the United States. This marsh has been designated as "A Wetland of International Importance" by the Ramsar Convention and accepted as a "Globally Important Bird Area" by the American Bird Conservancy. The Green Bay Lobe of the Wisconsin glacier formed the Horicon Marsh during the last Ice Age more than 10,000 years ago. The glacier left behind a shallow, 50-square mile lake as it receded. Over time, this lake and the deposit of silt and organic materials reduced the depth of the basin. Due to its geological significance, Horicon Marsh has been included as a unit of the Ice Age National Scenic Reserve in cooperation with the National Park Service. The northern two-thirds of the marsh is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the southern one-third is under the jurisdiction of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

After many years of damming, ditching, and draining in an attempt to alter the marsh, the Wisconsin Legislature passed the Horicon Marsh Wildlife Refuge Bill in 1927 for the restoration of the Marsh, including land acquisition and dam construction to re-flood this drained wetland. Today, the Horicon Marsh covers about 32,000 acres, making it the largest freshwater marsh in the upper Midwest.

6.7 Floodplains

For planning and regulatory purposes, the floodplain is normally defined as those areas, excluding the stream channel, that are subject to inundation by the 100-year recurrence interval flood event. This event has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year.

Because of this chance of flooding, development in floodplain should be discouraged and the development of park and open space in these areas encouraged. The floodplain includes the floodway and flood fringe. The floodway is the portion of the floodplain that carries flood water or flood flows, while the flood fringe is the portion of the floodplain outside the floodway, which is covered by waters during a flood event. The flood fringe is generally associated with standing water rather than rapidly flowing water.

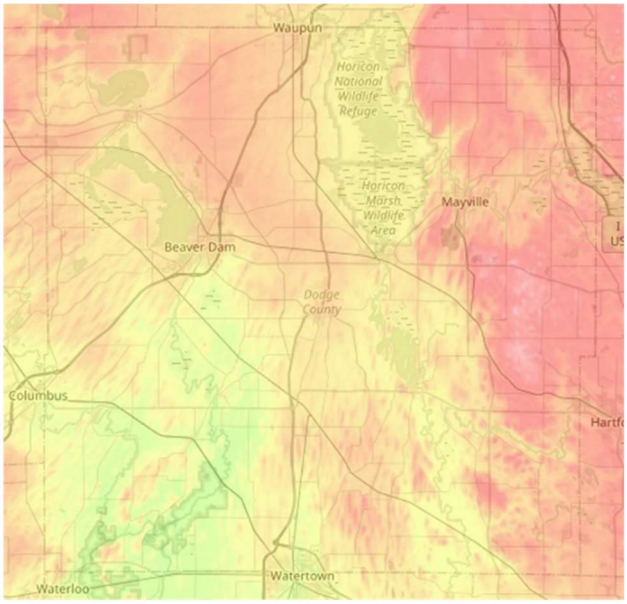
Wisconsin Statute 87.30 requires Counties, Cities, and Villages to implement floodplain zoning. In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed flood hazard data. Dodge County addresses the need for floodplain management through its existing Floodplain Zoning Ordinance. Proper administration and enforcement of the County Floodplain Zoning Ordinance allows participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which makes discounted flood insurance available and maintains Federal disaster assistance eligibility. Approximately 113,300 acres of floodplain exist within Dodge County as shown on Map 6-7 at the end of this chapter.

6.8 Topography & Steep Slopes

The topography of Dodge County and surrounding area is primarily the result of its bedrock geology and past glacial activity. Elevations across the county range from about 790 to 1,240 feet above sea level (Figure 6-2).

The lowest elevation lands are located in the southwest portion of the county (Towns of Portland and Shields), and the highest elevations are found in the eastern portion of the county, associated with the Niagara Escarpment corridor (Town of Herman). Additionally, due to the past glacial activity hundreds of drumlin features have been created on the landscape, as well as many areas of steep slope (12% or greater). Refer to Map 6-8 at the end of this chapter for more details.

Figure 6-2: Generalized Land Elevations, Dodge County



Source: https://en-gb.topographic-map.com/, 2025

6.9 Surface Water Features

Over 31,000 acres (5.3% of the total county land area) of surface water cover parts of Dodge County, including 31 lakes and 50 rivers and streams. These lakes provide recreational opportunities, including hunting and fishing, and are often important as waterfowl habitat. A description of major surface water features within the county follows with locations illustrated on Map 6-9.

Lakes

The glacial history of Dodge County left a poorly developed drainage system, shallow depressions for lakes, and numerous wetland areas. As a result, there are very few lakes in the county, and the existing lakes are very shallow in depth, averaging only about seven feet. The major lakes in the county are highlighted below.

Beaver Dam Lake

Beaver Dam Lake is the largest lake in Dodge County and the 16th largest in Wisconsin. It was formed in 1842 when a 10-foot dam was constructed on the Beaver Dam River to provide water power. The lake experienced problems when carp were introduced at the turn of the century. None of the procedures used to reduce the carp population have been entirely successful. Today the lake experiences problems of pollution due to agricultural and urban runoff, including industrial cooling water discharge and storm water discharge from the City of Beaver Dam. The shallow depth and resulting turbidity contribute to problems of rough fish, winter fish kills, and shoreline erosion. The fishery consists primarily of buffalo fish, crappie, bullheads, walleye, northern pike, and carp. Despite its problems, the lake is valuable for boating and has many boat launching and parking facilities. Area parks provide shore fishing and picnic areas. Additionally, the lake provides hunting opportunities for waterfowl during the fall migration. Winter uses include snowmobiling, ice fishing, and ice skating. However, open water is a hazard in some locations due to aerators. Beaver Dam Lake has a very active Lake District associated with it, as well as the voluntary Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association, Inc. to assist and support management activities.

Sinissippi Lake

Sinissippi Lake was formed by a 12-foot dam, originally erected in 1845, which flooded a marshy valley of the Rock River. Siltation, coupled with deposition from deteriorating marshes, contributes to its shallowness. The fishery consists mainly of carp, bullheads, and northern pike. A large number of waterfowl visit the lake in the spring. Sinissippi Lake experiences problems of algae blooms during the summer and fish kills in winter. The Lake Sinissippi Improvement District (LSID) has been formed to help improve and protect the lake and its watershed. There is also a voluntary Lake Sinissippi Association that further supports management efforts.

Fox Lake

Fox Lake was originally a smaller natural lake formed by glacial activity. In 1845 it was greatly increased in size and depth by construction of an 11-foot dam on Mill Creek. The City of Fox Lake is located on the southeast shore of the lake where city parkland with a boat landing provides recreational access.

A town park with a boat landing provides access on the north side of the lake. Because Fox Lake is deeper, it is experiencing less pollution than Beaver Dam or Sinissippi Lakes. Fox Lake is heavily used for boating, water skiing, and fishing. Despite stocking and rough fish removal projects, the original game fish population is being reduced by over abundant carp populations. Fox Lake drains toward Beaver Dam Lake via Mill Creek. The protection of Fox Lake is assisted by the Fox Lake Inland Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District, as well as a voluntary Lake Association called the Fox Lake Preservation Organization.

Neosho Millpond

The millpond is a shallow impoundment of the Rubicon River created by an 11-foot high dam at Neosho. The fishery is of moderate quality with turbid water and lack of aquatic vegetation. The millpond is largely undeveloped with pasture lands and steep hill sides in the adjacent rural areas. Housing developments are primarily located within the Village of Neosho. The millpond is best suited for fishing, small boats, and hunting. A public boat landing and swimming beach are some of the facilities available in adjacent Neosho Park. The Village of Neosho acts as the designated Lake District to oversee management of this resource.

Lake Emily

Lake Emily is a shallow, fertile lake located in the extreme northwest corner of Dodge County. The lake is principally fed by seepage, springs and runoff. A four-foot dam assists in maintaining the water levels. The lake provides a quality fishery primarily of perch, bluegills, largemouth bass, and northern pike and receives heavy usage year round. Much of the lakeshore is developed with cottages and homes, except for the west side, which is still undeveloped. A town-owned boat landing provides good fishing and boating access on the southern end of the lake. Management of this resource is supported by a Lake Association known as the Lake Emily Fishing Improvement Club.

Lost Lake

Lost Lake is located in west-central Dodge County. The lake is mainly seepage fed and drains to Beaver Dam Lake. The lake is popular for fishing and hunting, although freeze-out conditions limit the fishery. Much of the shoreline consists of marshy areas, thus development is limited. Boat ramps exist on the north and south sides of the lake as extensions of the town roads. In addition to the six lakes described above, Dodge County has 25 other lakes, which are relatively small and shallow.

Rivers and Streams

A total of 387 miles of streams and rivers can be found in Dodge County. The most prominent are the Rock, Beaver Dam, and Crawfish Rivers. Numerous intermittent streams and creeks are scattered throughout Dodge County. Major river and stream features are highlighted below.

Rock River

The Rock River drains Dodge County toward the south, eventually emptying into the Mississippi River. It is located in the eastern half of the county and is generally oriented north-south. The main stem of the Rock River begins in the Horicon Marsh where the east, south, and north branches converge. The east branch begins around Allenton in Washington County and flows in a northwesterly direction through Theresa and Mayville before it reaches the Horicon Marsh. The south branch begins west of Waupun and flows through Waupun, while the west branch begins near Brandon in Fond du Lac County, where it flows east a distance before heading south to the Horicon Marsh. Upon exiting the Horicon Marsh, the Rock River flows through the City of Horicon and then into Lake Sinissippi, which was created by a dam in the Village of Hustisford. As it leaves the Village of Hustisford, the Rock River begins a long meandering journey through miles of the flat rural countryside of the Towns of Hustisford and Lebanon and portions of northeast Jefferson County before it flows north back into Dodge County at the City of Watertown.

The fall of the river from the upper federal dam in the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge to the upper Watertown dam is just 34 feet over 58 miles. It meanders through Watertown as it heads south flowing through such cities as Fort Atkinson, Janesville, Beloit, and Rockford, Illinois before reaching its ultimate destination – the Mississippi River. A number of boat landings and park facilities can be found along the Rock River. Canoe, kayak, and paddle boat rentals are available at Harnischfeger Park in the Town of Lebanon. Paddlers can travel upstream for 17 miles to Hustisford or downstream 25 miles to Watertown. The Rock River Trail was designated into the National Water Trails System in 2013. The Rock River Trail links counties in both Wisconsin and Illinois along the 320- mile river course. The Rock River Trail is the first national water trail in Wisconsin.

Crawfish River

The Crawfish River is a major tributary of the Rock River, primarily draining the western half of Dodge County. The river flows from Columbia County into Dodge County near the City of Columbus and meanders in an erratic fashion in an easterly and southeasterly direction. The river is impounded at Danville creating a millpond, where a historic mill remains. Astico County Park lies adjacent to the river and millpond providing canoeing and fishing access. After merging with the Beaver Dam River in the Mud Lake Wildlife area in southwestern Dodge County, the Crawfish River continues southward where it empties into the Rock River in the City of Jefferson.

Beaver Dam River

The Beaver Dam River is the major river draining the northwestern portion of Dodge County. From its start at Beaver Dam Lake, it flows southward 31 miles before flowing into the Crawfish River at Mud Lake. Fishing and canoeing opportunities are possible, especially during periods of high flow. A dam at Lowell with some adjacent parkland provides the primary access to the river.

According to the Department of Natural Resources, the river is severely affected by polluted runoff from barn yards and soil erosion, leading to degraded water quality and higher populations of rough fish. Designating parkland and environmentally sensitive lands in the City of Beaver Dam along the river, in conjunction with other efforts, could better protect the river and provide recreational access to it.

Water Quality Management Organizations

A number of organizations exist within Dodge County that are focused on the quality of water within its lakes and stream/river systems. These organizations take two major forms - voluntary Lake Associations and municipally established Lake Districts. Table 6-2 lists the existing water quality organizations within the County.

Table 6-2: Water Quality Organizations, Dodge County, 2025

Regional Water Group	Group Type	Formation Year
Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association, Inc.	Lake Association	2002
Beaver Dam Lake District	Lake District	2020
Lake Sinissippi Association	Lake Association	1946
Lake Sinissippi Improvement District	Lake District	2000
Fox Lake Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District	Lake District	1979
Fox Lake Preservation Organization	Lake Association	1954
Lake Emily Fishing Improvement Club	Lake Association	1963
Village of Neosho (Neosho Millpond)	Local Government	n/a
Dodge County Healthy Soil - Healthy Water Alliance Group	Regional 501c(3) Water Group	2020

Source: UW-Extension Lakes, 2024 (https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/organizations/lakelist/default.aspx)

Lake Associations

Lake associations are voluntary groups, and include unincorporated associations, qualified lake associations (incorporated associations), and nonprofit corporations. Lake associations can form without any formal requirements, although many incorporate under Chapter 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes to be eligible for state cost sharing grants. Lake associations have no powers over lake community residents; membership and dues are voluntary. A voluntary association can have genuine advantages over a lake district because they may be able to act more quickly than governmental bodies on some issues. Some folks may be more willing to support a voluntary organization rather than forming a new unit of government, particularly one with taxing power. However, if your lake management goals are ambitious, the more stable funding of a lake district may be essential. On the other hand, voluntary lake associations are sometimes frustrated by low participation and monetary support.

To be eligible for state lake planning, protection, and recreational boating facilities grants, a lake association must be "qualified," which includes being incorporated and meeting other standards. Per UW-Extension, lake districts are special purpose units of government, and include: public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, sanitary districts, special districts, and commissions formed by local governments. The purpose of a district is to maintain, protect, and improve the quality of a lake and its watershed for the mutual good of the members and the lake environment.

Lake Districts

Lake districts are established by town, county or village boards, or city councils, and usually based on a formal petition of lake area owners. Lake district formation and operations must comply with Chapter 33 of the Wisconsin Statutes. The boundaries of a lake district usually include the property of all riparian owners and can include off-lake property that benefits from the lake or affects the lake's watershed. The district may include all or part of a lake or more than one lake. A city or village must give its approval to be included in a district.

Lake districts are governmental bodies with elected or appointed leaders and annual budgets funded from tax levies or special assessments. Districts also have some capabilities to regulate lake use, such as local boating ordinances and sewage management. Within a lake district, all property owners share in the cost of management activities undertaken by the district. Residents who live in the district are eligible voters, and all property owners have a vote in the affairs of the district.

It should be noted that the Lake Districts within Dodge County collaborated early in the planning process to develop a number of positive recommendations for future land and water enhancements, which should be considered for incorporation into the final Comprehensive Plan. These comments and suggestions are included in Appendix C.

6.10 Groundwater Resources

The source of all groundwater is precipitation, which percolates down through the soil until it reaches the saturated zone called an aquifer, where it is then contained. Water in an aquifer travels from its source to a discharge point such as a well, wetland, spring, or lake. During periods of increased precipitation or thaw, this vast resource is replenished with water moving by gravity through permeable soils and is called a water table system. In some instances, groundwater moves because of pressure created by a confining layer of impervious rock, which is called an artesian system. The availability of groundwater within the county varies locally and should be investigated before any development occurs.

Most groundwater contamination is related to poorly sited land uses. For example, agricultural manure, petroleum, and salt storage in areas of high groundwater tables or fractured bedrock are all potential sources of groundwater pollution. Contamination of groundwater reserves can also result from such sources as percolation of water through improperly placed or maintained landfill sites, private waste disposal (septic effluent), runoff from livestock yards and urban areas, improper application of agricultural pesticide or fertilizers, excessive lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides, leaks from sewer pipes, and seepage from mining operations.

Runoff from leaking petroleum storage tanks and spills can also add organic and chemical contaminants in locations where the water table is near the surface. Once groundwater contamination has occurred, successful remediation is expensive and can take years, or may never occur, depending upon the pollutant. Therefore, when considering specific land uses for an area, it is vital to consider the physical characteristics of the area and the relationships between the land and the proposed/actual use in order to ensure that groundwater contamination does not occur.

Within Dodge County, there are areas that have natural occurring and human-influenced well contamination. According to studies performed by University of Wisconsin-Extension offices, there are multiple types of contamination in Dodge County. One major contamination is nitrates, which are mainly human influenced and a major concern in parts of Dodge County. According to UW-Extension studies conducted between 1994 and 2006, there were higher than average nitrate levels in the Town of Lomira and in areas north of the City of Beaver Dam.

This same study also showed that in Dodge County 26% of the well tests showed low levels of chloride in groundwater while 22% were only slightly elevated. The remaining 42% of wells tested above 25 mg/L of chloride which may indicate human influence. These areas are located primarily in the northern portion of the county and along a north/south band through the central portion of the county. These two types of contamination may be linked to agricultural practices, shallow bedrock, or uncontrolled spreading of contaminants.

Another contamination that raises concern is the higher number of positive bacteria samples in the area. The Town of Fox Lake has a higher number of bacteria samples than any other town in Dodge County. Almost all of the high bacteria samples were found around Fox Lake. Some of these contaminations can be linked to unique bedrock or groundwater features, or current or past land use practices in the area. To help control future well contaminations, individual communities should conduct testing to identify contaminated areas and reduce development in those areas.

6.11 Environmental Corridors/Sensitive Areas

Environmental corridors are continuous systems of open space that often include environmentally sensitive lands including woodlands, wetlands and habitat areas, natural and cultural resources requiring protection from disturbance and development, and lands needed for open space and recreational use (refer to Map 6-10, located at the end of this chapter).

Environmental corridors serve multiple functions. Protection and preservation of environmental corridors contribute to water quality through reduction of non-point source pollution and protection of natural drainage systems. Environmental corridors can also protect and preserve sensitive natural resource areas, such as wetlands, floodplains, woodlands, steep slopes, native grasslands, prairies, prairie savannas, groundwater recharge areas, and other areas that would impair habitat and surface or groundwater quality if disturbed or developed.

The Dodge County Land Use Code includes an Environmental Protection Overlay District promoting the public health, safety, and general welfare by providing for uses compatible with protecting, preserving, and enhancing significant natural areas within the county. These areas include wooded areas of environmental importance, significant archaeological sites, slopes in excess of 12 percent, soil depths less than 60 inches, or other areas in which the public has interest in preserving or protecting. Dodge County also has a Shoreland Protection Ordinance that provides additional protection for the county's lakes and rivers.

6.12 Threatened and Endangered Species

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) lists species as "endangered" when the continued existence of that species as a viable component of the state's wild animals or wild plants is determined to be in jeopardy on the basis of scientific evidence. "Threatened" species are listed when it appears likely based on scientific evidence that the species may become endangered within the foreseeable future.

The WDNR maintains Wisconsin's Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) Program as part of an international network of inventory programs, and it is one part of the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation. The NHI program tracks the locations and viability of rare species occurrences along with high-quality examples of natural communities and geological features throughout the state. These elements make up the "NHI Working List." Based on this list, the county's threatened and endangered species include several bird, mussel, and mammal species, such as big and little brown bat, black tern, and Forester's Tern. Table 6-3 identifies the threatened and endangered species, as well as other rare species of concern, that can be found in Dodge County.

Table 6-3: Natural Heritage Inventory Working List, Dodge County, 2025

Common name	Scientific name	WI Status	Group
Black Tern	Chlidonias niger	END	Bird
Callused Vertigo (Hubricht's Vertigo)	Vertigo arthuri	END	Snail
Blanchard's Cricket Frog	Acris blanchardi	END	Frog
Forster's Tern	Sterna forsteri	END	Bird
Red-necked Grebe	Podiceps grisegena	END	Bird
Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Federal High Potential Zone	Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Federal High Potential Zone	NA	Bee
Shrub-carr	Shrub-carr	NA	Community
Lake--Shallow, Hard, Seepage	Lake--shallow, hard, seepage	NA	Community
Southern Dry-mesic Forest	Southern dry-mesic forest	NA	Community
Mesic Prairie	Mesic prairie	NA	Community
Northern Wet Forest	Northern wet forest	NA	Community
Calcareous Fen	Calcareous fen	NA	Community
Moist Cliff	Moist cliff	NA	Community
Emergent Marsh	Emergent marsh	NA	Community
Southern Mesic Forest	Southern mesic forest	NA	Community
Wet-mesic Prairie	Wet-mesic prairie	NA	Community
Southern Tamarack Swamp	Southern tamarack swamp	NA	Community
Riverine Mud Flat	Riverine mud flat	NA	Community
Bat Hibernaculum	Bat Hibernaculum	SC	Other
Bird Rookery	Bird Rookery	SC	Other
Swamp Bedstraw	Galium brevipes	SC	Plant
Kentucky Coffee-tree	Gymnocladus dioicus	SC	Plant
Herp Hibernaculum	Herp Hibernaculum	SC	Other
Golden-seal	Hydrastis canadensis	SC	Plant
Rope Dodder	Cuscuta glomerata	SC	Plant
Short's Rock-cress	Boechera dentata	SC	Plant
Butternut	Juglans cinerea	SC	Plant
Rusty Patched Bumble Bee	Bombus affinis	SC/FL	Bee
Butler's Gartersnake	Thamnophis butleri	SC/H	Snake
Plains Gartersnake	Thamnophis radix	SC/H	Snake
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	SC/M	Bird
Least Bittern	Ixobrychus exilis	SC/M	Bird
King Rail	Rallus elegans	SC/M	Bird
American Bittern	Botaurus lentiginosus	SC/M	Bird

Continued on Page 165.

Table 6-3: Natural Heritage Inventory Working List, Dodge County, 2025, continued

Common name	Scientific name	WI Status	Group
Black-necked Stilt	Himantopus mexicanus	SC/M	Bird
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus	SC/M	Bird
Wilson's Phalarope	Phalaropus tricolor	SC/M	Bird
Gorgone Checker Spot	Chlosyne gorgone	SC/N	Butterfly
American Eel	Anguilla rostrata	SC/N	Fish
Least Darter	Etheostoma microperca	SC/N	Fish
Cantrall's Bog Beetle	Liodessus cantralli	SC/N	Beetle
Franklin's Ground Squirrel	Poliocitellus franklinii	SC/N	Mammal
Blanding's Turtle	Emydoidea blandingii	SC/P	Turtle
Elktoe	Alasmidonta marginata	SC/P	Mussel
Northern Long-eared Bat	Myotis septentrionalis	THR	Mammal
Henslow's Sparrow	Centronyx henslowii	THR	Bird
Redfin Shiner	Lythrurus umbratilis	THR	Fish
Ellipse	Venustaconcha ellipsiformis	THR	Mussel
Great Egret	Ardea alba	THR	Bird
River Redhorse	Moxostoma carinatum	THR	Fish
Slippershell Mussel	Alasmidonta viridis	THR	Mussel
Tricolored Bat	Perimyotis subflavus	THR	Mammal
Little Brown Bat	Myotis lucifugus	THR	Mammal
Big Brown Bat	Eptesicus fuscus	THR	Mammal
Acadian Flycatcher	Empidonax virescens	THR	Bird
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus		Bird

Source: WDNR, Natural Heritage Inventory Working List, 2025.

Key: State Status

NA = Not Applicable (this is assigned to all natural community records in the database)

END = Endangered (legally protected)

THR = Threatened (legally protected)

SC = Special Concern — those species about which some problem of abundance or distribution is suspected but not yet proved.

SC/P = fully protected (e.g., NR 10.02, Wis. Adm. Code, Protected Wild Animals [exit DNR])

SC/N = no laws regulating use, possession or harvesting

SC/H = take regulated by the establishment of open-closed seasons

SC/FL = federally protected as endangered or threatened, but not so designated by Wisconsin DNR

SC/M = fully protected by federal and state laws under the Migratory Bird Act

6.13 Wildlife Habitat and State Natural Areas

Wildlife habitat can be simply defined as the presence of enough food, cover, and water to sustain a species. The wildlife habitat of Dodge County is particularly accommodating to waterfowl. In addition to hundreds of thousands of geese that migrate to the Horicon Marsh each spring and fall, the county's numerous marshlands are home to ducks, herons, egrets, and swans. The county also has an excellent pheasant habitat. Dodge County is also home to a variety of song birds and the typical upland animals of southern Wisconsin, including deer, rabbit, fox, raccoon, squirrel, and muskrat.

Wisconsin's Land Legacy Program

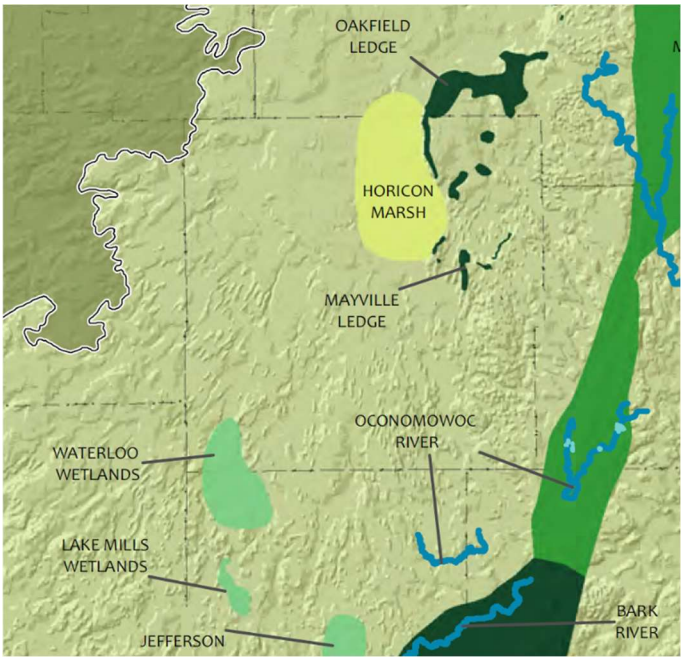
The WDNR has conducted a study of places that may be important in meeting the state's conservation and recreation needs over the next 50 years. The following areas or features have been identified in Dodge County:

- Crawfish River – Waterloo Drumlins
- Glacial Habitat Restoration Area
- Horicon Marsh
- Niagara Escarpment
- Upper Rock River

Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan

The Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan (2015-2025) identifies Conservation Opportunity Areas (COA) and contains maps by ecological landscape for aquatic and terrestrial sites with significant ecological features, natural communities or "Species of Significant Concern" habitat for which Wisconsin has a responsibility for protecting and conserving when viewed from a global, continental, upper Midwest regional or state perspective. They are some of the best places in our state to implement conservation actions described in the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan. This plan specifically notes four Conservation Opportunity Areas within Dodge County (Figure 6-3) as follows: Oakfield Ledge, Mayville Ledge, Horicon Marsh, and the Waterloo Wetlands.

Figure 6-3: Conservation Opportunity Areas, Dodge County



State Natural Areas

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) identifies State Natural Areas (SNAs), which are defined as tracts of land in a natural or near natural state managed to serve several purposes, including scientific research, teaching of resource management, and preservation of rare native plants and ecological communities. There are five State Natural Areas in Dodge County, including Fourmile Island Rookery, Waterloo Prairie, Mayville Ledge Beech-Maple Woods, Waterloo Quartzite Outcrops, Chub Lake Oak Savanna, and the Chub and Mud Lake Riverine Marsh. While not a designated SNA, the WDNR is involved with bat monitoring efforts at the Neda Mine which is owned by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for research purposes.

Four Mile Island Rookery

The Four Mile Island Rookery is located within the Horicon Wildlife Area. The island contains one of the largest heron and egret rookeries in the Midwest. The narrow island is forested with large oaks, basswood, elm, aspen, and cottonwood trees used for nests by great blue herons, black-crowned night herons, and great egrets. The Four Mile Island Rookery is owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and was designated a State Natural Area in 1965.

Waterloo Prairie

Waterloo Prairie is located within the Waterloo Wildlife Area. Waterloo Prairie contains two separated units of wet grasslands along Stony Brook and its tributaries. The northern portion features a large, raised calcareous fen and spring complex with numerous wet seepage slopes, while a more extensive wet prairie meadow lies to the south. The prairie is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1968.

Mayville Ledge Beech-Maple Woods

Mayville Ledge is a one-half mile exposure of Niagara dolomite escarpment, ranging from 40 to 60 feet in height. The escarpment slope supports an ungrazed forest of sugar maple, basswood, red oak, and American elm. The level plain above the escarpment supports a variable-aged wood of ironwood, American beech, sugar maple, and yellow bud hickory. Mayville Ledge is owned by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and was designated a State Natural Area in 1987.

Chub and Mud Lake Riverine Marsh

Chub and Mud Lake Riverine Marsh is part of an extensive, 7,000-acre wetland impacted by "pulse-flooding" of the Beaver Dam and Crawfish Rivers that join 1.5 miles away. In years of very high water, the upper half of the marsh is inundated with four to five feet of water with the deepest occurring in the southern portion. Aside from spring snowmelt flooding, the wetland holds about six to 18 inches of water following a storm event. This occurs approximately two to three times per season.

Much of the year, however, the marsh does not have any standing water, so drought has a major influence on the wetland vegetation. The highly dynamic nature of this riverine wetland creates very unique ecological conditions.

Chub Lake Oak Savanna

The Chub Lake Oak Savanna features a small, 21-acre savanna located on the south shore of Chub Lake. Large oaks dominate with bur, white, and red oaks along with shagbark hickory. Oaks have regenerated successfully at this site and have created a more closed canopy and shading, eliminating many of the native forbs and grasses. Thinning of trees along with prescribed burning and reseeding of locally collected native ground-layer species will help restore the integrity of this site. Although this is a relatively small site, it is restorable, easily accessible, and offers a good opportunity for educational outreach on the imperiled nature of oak savanna ecosystems, which are globally rare today. Chub Lake Oak Savanna is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 2010.

Neda Mine (not an SNA)

Neda Mine is an abandoned iron mine at the base of the Niagara dolomite escarpment that contains one of the largest bat hibernacula in Wisconsin. Both shaft and open pit mining occurred here from the mid-1800s until 1914. Over time, the old mine shafts and tunnels collapsed providing “cave” habitat for at least three species of bats. More than 300,000 bats have been estimated hibernating in the maze of mine shafts. Neda Mine is owned by the University of Wisconsin and was designated a State Natural Area in 1978.

6.14 Historic Places

State and National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places recognizes properties of local, state, and national significance. Properties are listed in the National Register because of their associations with significant persons or events, because they contain important information about our history or prehistory, or because of their architectural or engineering significance. The National Register also lists important groupings of properties as historic districts. In addition, the National Park Service highlights properties that have significance to the nation as a whole by conferring on them the status of National Historic Landmark. The Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places parallels the National Register. However, it is designed to enable state-level historic preservation protection and benefits. Most of the properties in Wisconsin listed in the National Register are also listed in the State Register. There are 43 sites in Dodge County that are listed on the State or National Register as shown in Table 6-4 and on Map 6-11 at the end of this chapter.

Wisconsin Architecture & History Inventory

The Wisconsin Architecture & History Inventory (AHI) provided by the Wisconsin Historical Society lists historical and architectural information on properties in Wisconsin. The AHI contains data on buildings, structures, and objects that illustrate Wisconsin's unique history. The majority of properties listed are privately owned. Listed properties convey no special status, rights, or benefits. As of 2025, Dodge County had 2,020 properties listed on the AHI.

6.15 Cultural Resources

Cultural Facilities

Cultural amenities enhance the quality of life, encourage residential development, and attract tourism. Generally, such amenities are limited in Dodge County since its communities are small and lack the support populations needed for diverse cultural opportunities. However, some exceptions exist, particularly in the Cities of Beaver Dam and Waupun where arts and performing arts have a large focus (Beaver Dam Area Community Theatre, Community Choir, and Orchestra, as well as the Waupun Players Theatre/Community Players). Otherwise, the primary cultural facilities in Dodge County consist of museums, designated historical markers, and other historic and archeological sites. As shown on Table 6-4 and Table 6-5, as well as on Map 6-12, there are 11 museums, and nine official historical markers. As shorter trips and historical attractions continue to become more popular, local museums will likely be in greater demand as recreational destinations. Many local museums have limited hours due to low budgets and the number of available volunteers.

Table 6-4: State & National Historic Register Sites, Dodge County

Commuity	Map #	Site Name
T. Ashippun	1	Meissner Store
T. Burnett	2	Willard Greenfield Farmstead
T. Chester	3	Horicon Site
T. Emmet	4	Kliese House Barn
T. Herman	5	Zirbel-Hildebrandt Farmstead
T. Lebanon	6	Schoenicke Barn
T. Leroy	7	St. Andrew's Church
T. Lowell	8	Sock Road Bridge
T. Portland	9	Hensler Petroglyph Site
T. Shields	10	St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
V. Hustisford	11	John Hustis House
	12	Ferdinand Schulze House
V. Kekoskee	13	Kekoskee Archeological District
V. Lomira	14	Boller, W.H., meat market and residence
V. Neosho	15	Neosho Village Hall
V. Randolph	16	Hutchinson Memorial Library
V. Theresa	17	Juneau, Solomon, and Josette House
	18	Widmer's Cheese Cellars
C. Beaver Dam	19	Hotel Rogers
	20	Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Co. Passenger Depot
	21	St. Mark's Episcopal Church
	22	Swan House and Vita Spring Pavilion
	23	Weyenberg Shoe Factory
	24	Williams Free Library
	25	Fountain Inn
	26	Paramount Knitting Mill
C. Fox Lake	27	Fox Lake Railroad Depot
	28	Indian Point Site
C. Horicon	29	Daniel C. Van Brunt House
	30	Van Brundt Memorial School
	31	Horicon State Bank
C. Juneau	32	Dodge County Courthouse
C. Mayville	33	Beaumont Hotel
	34	Hollenstein Wagon and Carriage Factory
	35	Main Street Historic District
	36	White Limestone School
C. Watertown	37	Ferdinand C. Hartwig House
	38	N. Washington Street Historic District
C. Waupun	39	Central State Hospital Historic District
	40	Marin K. Dahl House
	41	Waupun Commercial Historic District
	42	Waupun Public Library
	43	Wisconsin State Prison Historic District

Source: Wisconsin State Historical Society, 2025

Table 6-5: Museums, Historical Markers, and Other Cultural Resources, Dodge County

Community	Map #	Site Name
T. Ashippun	1	Honey Acres (Honey and Beekeeping Museums)
T. Burnett	2	Nitschke Mounds
T. LeRoy	3	LeRoy Effigy Mounds
T. Lowell	4	Lowell Women Firefighters (Historical Marker)
V. Hustisford	5	John Hustis House (Museum – Hustisford Historical Society)
T. Oak Grove	6	Dodge Co. Cemetery "Potter's Field"
V. Kekoskee	7	Upper Dam turbine
V. Kekoskee	8	Lower Dam Marker
V. Kekoskee	9	Malt House Ground Marker
V. Lomira	10	World War II, Rest Area #64 (Historical Marker)
V. Neosho	11	Old Village Hall (Museum/Neosho Historical Society/Historical Marker)
	12	Soloman Juneau Homestead Museum (Theresa Historical Society / Historical Marker)
V. Randolph	13	Lost Lake - Randolph Historical Society / Museum
C. Beaver Dam	14	Williams Free Library (Dodge County Historical Museum)
	15	Beaver Dam Area Community Theatre
	16	Frederick Douglass (Historical Marker)
C. Fox Lake	17	Fox Lake Railroad Depot (Museum – Fox Lake Historical Society)
	18	Bernard 'Bunny' Berigan (Historical Marker)
C. Horicon	19	Satterlee Clark House (Museum – Horicon Historical Society)
C. Juneau	20	Northwestern Hotel (Museum – Dodge Centre Historical Society)
	21	Adrian "Addie" Joss (Historical Marker)
C. Mayville	22	White Limestone School (Museum)
	23	Holstein Wagon and Carriage Factory (Museum – Mayville Historical Society)
	24	First Iron Smelter (Historical Marker)
C. Waupun	25	Waupun Heritage Museum
	26	Public Sculptures (7)
	27	Auto Race: Green Bay to Madison (Historical Marker)
	28	Waupun Players Theatre

Source: Dodge County and Cedar Corporation, 2025

6.16 Community Design

Community design as a cultural resource helps explain the origins and history of how a given community looks, feels, and functions in the present day. Components of the origin of community design include historic settlement patterns, resource use (like mining, farming, and forestry) in rural areas, the industries and businesses that influenced urban areas, transportation features and traffic flow patterns, natural features like rivers, lakes, and wetlands, and the heritage and values of the people that lived in a community in the past and that live there today. These factors might be expressed through street layout, building architecture, landscaping, preservation of natural features, development density, and other components of development design.

The design of a community as seen today might also be influenced by community decisions including the use of zoning and subdivision controls, the establishment of parks and other community facilities, the use of historic preservation, and in some cases, the use of land use planning. In recent years, the "quality of place" has become increasingly important as an element used to attract new residents and families into communities. Each community within Dodge County has its own unique community design which, when all taken into consideration, make up the community design of Dodge County.

6.17 Agricultural, Natural & Cultural Resources Trends & Key Facts

Below are important factors, trends and predicted changes for the population of Dodge County.

Agriculture & Forestry

- Agriculture is a key component of Dodge County's economy:
  - 61% of the county is considered Prime Farmland. 24% is classified as Farmland of Statewide Importance.
  - 374,456 acres (64% of the county) are in farms, down 6.9% from 2012.
  - There were 1,489 farms with an average size of 251 acres reported in 2022, down from 2,012 farms and 200-acre average size in 2012.
- Dodge County has approximately 27,265 acres of woodland, about 4.6% of the county. Main species include oak, elm, and maple. Limited economic potential due to small, scattered woodlots.

Non-Metallic Mining

- Dodge County has abundant non-metallic mineral resources, primarily sand, gravel, and stone.
- The county has 25 permitted sites with 22 of them being actively mined.
- These 22 sites comprise 874 total active acres, along with an additional 1,543 reserve acres approved for mining.

Surface & Groundwater Water Resources

- Dodge County has approximately 113,000 acres of wetlands identified. Wetlands play a critical role in water quality and habitat support. Many of the wetlands are part of the internationally significant 32,000-acre Horicon Marsh.
- Approximately 113,300 acres of floodplain exist in Dodge County. Floodplain areas are crucial for managing flood risks and preserving natural landscapes.

- Dodge County has numerous lakes and rivers, providing recreational opportunities and ecological habitats. Over 31,000 acres of surface water, including 31 lakes and 50 rivers/streams comprising 387 miles of waterways, with the Rock River being the most prominent.
- Groundwater is a vital resource in Dodge County, but it faces contamination risks from various land uses:
  - 26% of well tests showed low chloride levels.
  - 42% indicated human influence with elevated chloride.
  - Bacterial contamination is notably high in the Town of Fox Lake, necessitating community testing and development restrictions.

Wildlife & Habitat

- Dodge County is home to various threatened and endangered species, highlighting the need for conservation efforts. Notable species include the Black Tern, Forster's Tern, and several bat species.
- Five designated State Natural Areas exist in Dodge County, including: Four Mile Island Rookery, Waterloo Prairie, Chub and Mud Lake Riverine Marsh, Chub Lake Oak Savanna, and Mayville Ledge. The county is also home to the Neda Mine, which is owned by UW-Milwaukee for bat research.

Cultural Resources

- Dodge County has numerous historic sites and cultural resources that reflect its rich history:
  - 43 sites are listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places.
  - The Wisconsin Architecture & History Inventory includes 2,020 properties, primarily privately owned.
  - Cultural facilities include 11 museums and nine historical markers enhancing local quality of life.

6.18 Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Goals, Objectives, Policies & Recommendations

Each element of the comprehensive plan includes a specific set of goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations that the county will use as a guide to future land use, development and preservation decisions over the next 20 years. Goals, objectives, policies and recommendations are defined as follows:

- **Goals** are broad, value-based statements that express general public priorities and preferences about how the county should address issues over the next 20 years and beyond. Goals address key issues, opportunities and problems that affect the county.

- **Objectives** are more specific than goals and are measurable statements usually attainable through direct action and implementation of plan recommendations. The accomplishment of objectives contributes to the fulfillment of the goal.

- **Policies** are general rules, principles, strategies or courses of action used to guide decision making and actions as necessary to accomplish goals and objectives. Policies are intended to be used by decision makers on a regular basis.

- **Recommendations** are specific actions, projects or activities that are intended to achieve a particular plan goal, objective, or policy.

6.19 Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Goals and Objectives

Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001 requires a statement of overall goals and objectives to guide the future development and redevelopment of the county over a 20-year planning period. The following goals and objectives were developed by Dodge County with regard to the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources element:

Goals

Goal 1: Protect, preserve, and enhance the county's agricultural, natural, historical and cultural and aesthetic resources.

Objectives

1. Control development in areas that possess valuable natural resource characteristics and wildlife habitats.

2. Protect the Horicon Marsh as a valuable natural resource and tourist attraction.

3. Provide more focus on the protection of sensitive areas along the Niagara Escarpment corridor.

4. Focus future groundwater monitoring programs on targeted areas in future, particularly in the northern part of the county.

5. Identify areas in the rural parts of Dodge County that are suitable for limited residential development and are designed to minimize adverse impacts on agriculture and maintain the rural character.

6. Encourage all Towns in Dodge County to participate in the Farmland Preservation Plan / Program (five towns are currently not participating).

7. Maintain the integrity of agricultural zoning districts allowing for accepted agricultural practices.

8. Minimize non-farm development on productive agricultural soils.

9. Maintain agricultural preservation policies for land within urban service areas until such time as sanitary sewer service is available and the land can be rezoned and developed on public sewer and water systems.

10. Promote the use of regenerative agricultural practices within the county. Regenerative agriculture is a holistic approach to farming that aims to improve soil health, biodiversity, and overall ecosystem function, while also enhancing crop yields and climate resilience.

11. Promote farm succession planning to better ensure the continuation of agriculture.

12. Promote and support the addition or expansion of new, compatible, agriculturally related (including agri-tourism) businesses within the county.

13. Preserve the ability to access non-metallic mining resources within areas that have low potential for conflict.

14. Implement a system of proactively siting of solar energy systems and battery energy storage systems to minimize their impacts on areas of productive farmland.

15. Assist local historical societies to preserve structures and artifacts that reflect Dodge County's past.

16. Use public acquisition, dedication, or conservation easements in areas of critical environmental importance.

17. Increase the use of rivers for canoeing/kayaking/paddle-boarding through the development and expansion of designated water trails.

Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Policies and Recommendations

Policies and recommendations build on goals and objectives by providing more focused responses and actions to the goals and objectives. Policies and recommendations become the tools that the county should use to aid in making decisions. Policies that direct action using the words “will” or “shall” are advised to be mandatory and regulatory aspects of the implementation of the comprehensive plan. In contrast, those policies that direct action using the word “should” are advisory and intended to serve as a guide.

Recommendations are specific actions or projects that the county should be prepared to complete within the 20-year planning period. The completion of these actions and projects are consistent with the policies, and therefore will help fulfill the comprehensive plan goals and objectives. The following policies and recommendations have been developed by Dodge County with regard to the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources element and serve to support the goals and objectives:

Policies

1. Land currently under a Farmland Preservation Agreement or Zoning should not be subdivided for non-agricultural purposes. The Farmland Preservation Program is intended to preserve farmland and should be respected if a landowner has entered it voluntarily.

2. Minimize the severance of agricultural parcels for highway improvement projects.

3. Land divisions in productive agricultural areas and not in accordance with the applicable residential density standard provisions should be discouraged.

4. Small pockets of untillable land surrounded by agricultural land should not be approved for residential development because future non-agricultural residents may be offended by agricultural practices and cause agriculture to be curtailed.

5. Focus new growth in areas that will not adversely impact productive agricultural areas or farming operations within the county.

6. New non-metallic mining sites, and the expansion of existing sites, should be allowed with reasonable conditions when located in areas with limited conflicts.

7. Prevent structural development on FEMA 100-year floodplains in order to protect floodwater storage capacity and reduce property damage from floods.

8. Require storm water management plans and erosion control efforts to protect the surface and groundwater resources in high growth areas.

9. Prevent development on archaeological sites containing burials and require deed restrictions on other property containing mapped archaeological sites to protect the archaeological significance of the site when development of such a site is approved.

10. Residential development within agricultural areas should not be approved if recommended for denial by the affected town.

11. General farming, harvesting of wild crops, and sustained yield forestry should be permitted in privately owned open space areas.

12. Each request for land division approval, conditional use permit approval, and change of zoning should be reviewed for possible conflict with an archaeological site.

13. Erosion control plans should be required for any development on slopes between 12 and 20 percent.

14. Development on slopes in excess of 20 percent should be prohibited.

15. The county should direct growth away from environmentally sensitive areas, such as environmental corridors, wetlands, forests and floodplains.

16. The county should direct growth away from productive wildlife habitat areas and public hunting and fishing grounds.

17. The county shall control the impact of new residential development in agricultural areas by enforcing density standards within the agricultural zoning districts.

18. The county will continue to encourage farmland preservation zoning in targeted agricultural preservation areas in accordance with the state farmland preservation program.

19. New non-farm residential development should be discouraged on large tracts of productive agricultural land in areas of existing agricultural operations.

20. The county's Land Conservation and Emergency Management Departments should continue to coordinate discussions and provide potential solutions for water flow management issues and communications associated with the Rock River flooding.

21. The county shall support the preservation and protection of critical lands within close proximity to the Niagara Escarpment.

22. Agrivoltaics should be incorporated into all newly permitted renewable energy projects.

23. Require deed restrictions on property containing mapped archaeological sites if development is permitted on the site.

Recommendations

1. Update the county's Farmland Preservation Plan to maintain certification with DATCP requirements.

2. Update the county's Farmland Preservation Ordinance to maintain certification with DATCP requirements.

3. Establish an inventory of livestock farm operations, feedlots and manure storage facilities.

4. Utilize farmer-led groups to support the development of cost-shared manure storage and nutrient management/conservation plans.

5. Continue to enforce density standards within the agricultural zoning districts in order to control the development of new non-farm residences.

6. Continue enforcement of the Dodge County Shoreland Protection Ordinance in applicable areas.

7. Fund a study of groundwater quality and quantity in order to identify if there are problem areas where growth should be limited.

8. Develop a drinking water monitoring and contamination response plan to proactively address groundwater protection and emergency response procedures.

9. Study the use and integration of carbon credits, and other methods of monetizing environmental protection, as economic opportunities for farmers and rural landowners.

10. Develop incentives for farmers to leave unplowed and unfertilized buffers along waterways ways and wetlands.

11. Continue to administer the state required NR-135 Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Program and regularly monitor the operation and reclamation of all permitted sites.

12. Develop a historic preservation document that reflects on the county's past in a non-traditional manner. Create a website map and database of historical sites within the county's geographical information system.

13. Conduct naturalist programs in the county's parks on a regular basis.

14. Regularly apply for DNR grants for the following uses:
    a. Shoreland restoration projects.
    b. Park improvement projects.
    c. Development of new or existing trails (such as the Gold Star Memorial Trail).
    d. Other projects that enhance the county's natural resources base.

15. Apply for tourism grants and other funding sources to acquire sites of historical significance.

16. Support and provide promotional assistance to local historical societies and Chambers of Commerce to help preserve and promote the cultural and historic resources of Dodge County.

17. Assist and support the county's Lake Districts in the implementation of locally created plans, programs, and implementation recommendations regarding water quality improvements (See Appendix C)

18. Support Town-level protection of the Niagara Escarpment through the codification of standards and requirements for development within or near this corridor (See Future Land use Map).

6.20 Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Programs

See Appendix G for a complete listing of programs which pertain to this element of the Comprehensive Plan.

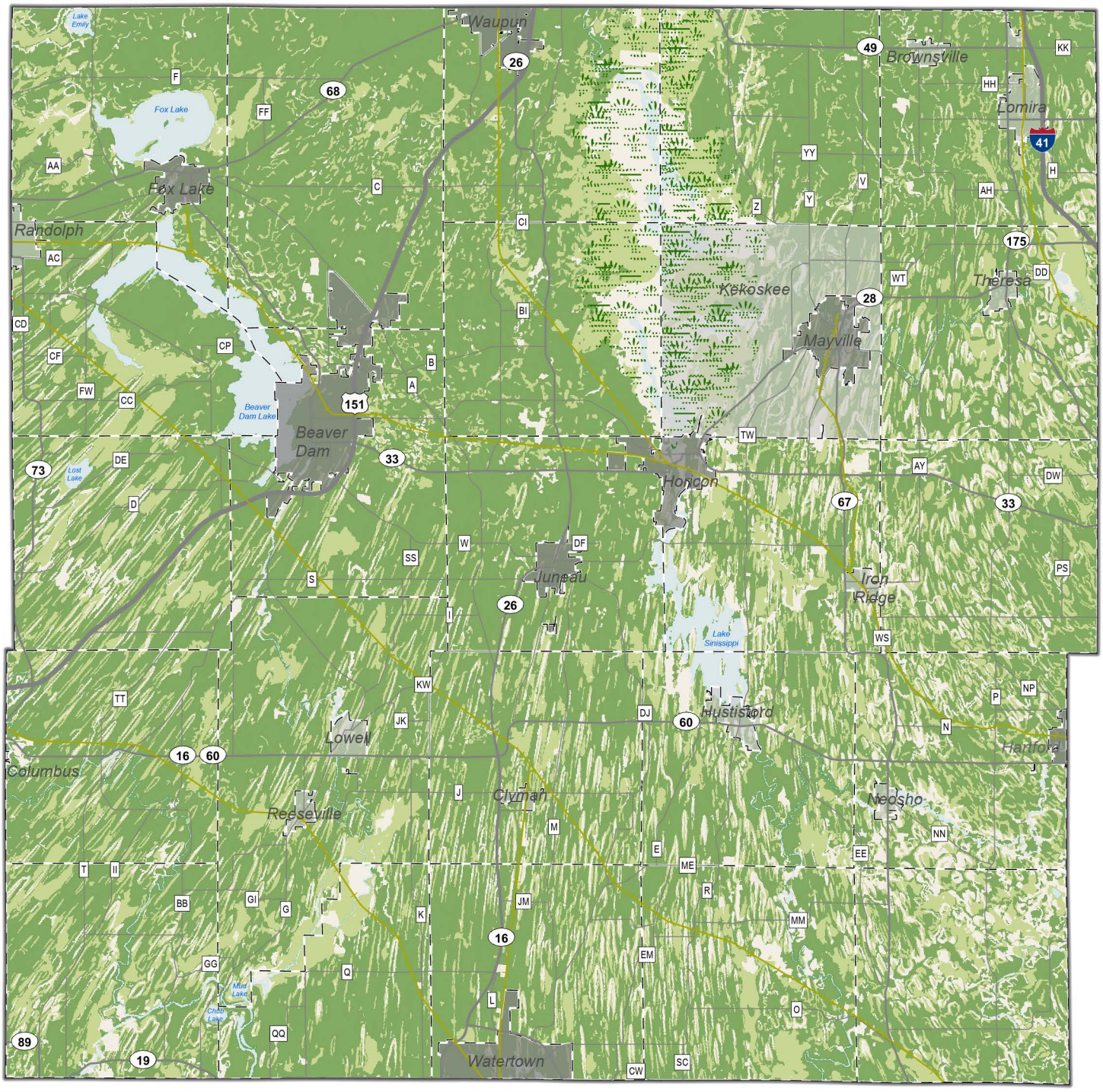
6.21 Maps

Map 6-1: Prime Agricultural Soils
Map 6-2: American Farmland Trust Land Cover and Use
Map 6-3: American Farmland Trust Conversion of Agricultural Lands
Map 6-4: American Farmland Trust Nationally Significant Agricultural Land
Map 6-5: Farmland Preservation Areas
Map 6-6: Wetlands
Map 6-7: Floodplains
Map 6-8: Steep Slopes
Map 6-9: Watersheds, Streams and Surface Water
Map 6-10: Environmental Corridors
Map 6-11: State & National Register Historic Sites
Map 6-12: Museums, Historic Markers, and Other Cultural Resources

Map 6-1

Prime Agricultural Soils

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Farmland Classification*

- Prime Farmland
- Farmland of Statewide Importance
- Not Prime Farmland

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

*NRCS, SSURGO, 2024.

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Cedar Corporation

DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

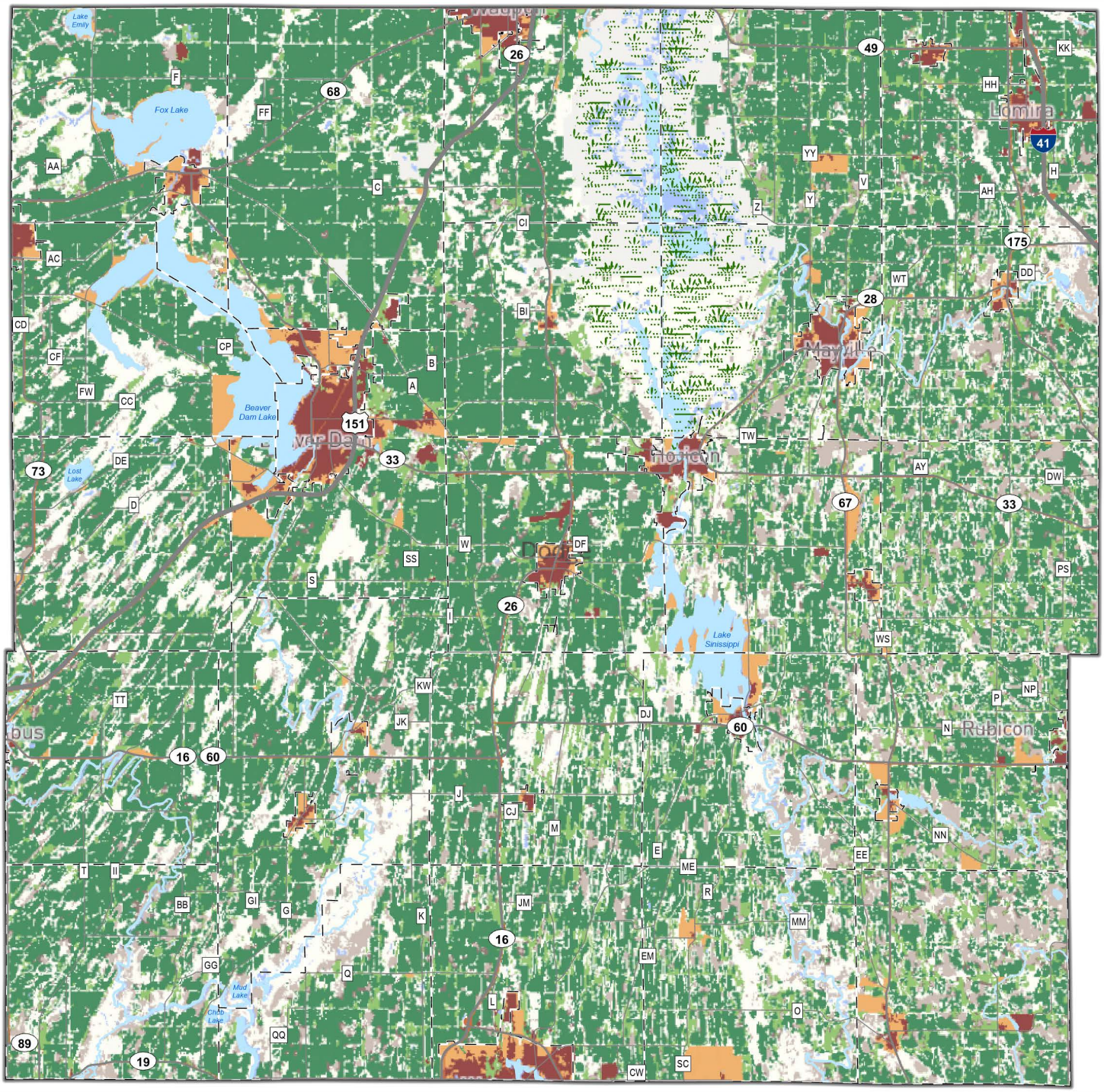
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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: September 16, 2025

Map 6-2

Land Cover and Use (2016)

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Land Cover and Use*
- Cropland
- Pastureland
- Woodland
- Forestland
- Urban and Highly Developed
- Low-Density Residential
- Water
- Transportation

Base Layers
- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

*American Farmland Trust, 2016

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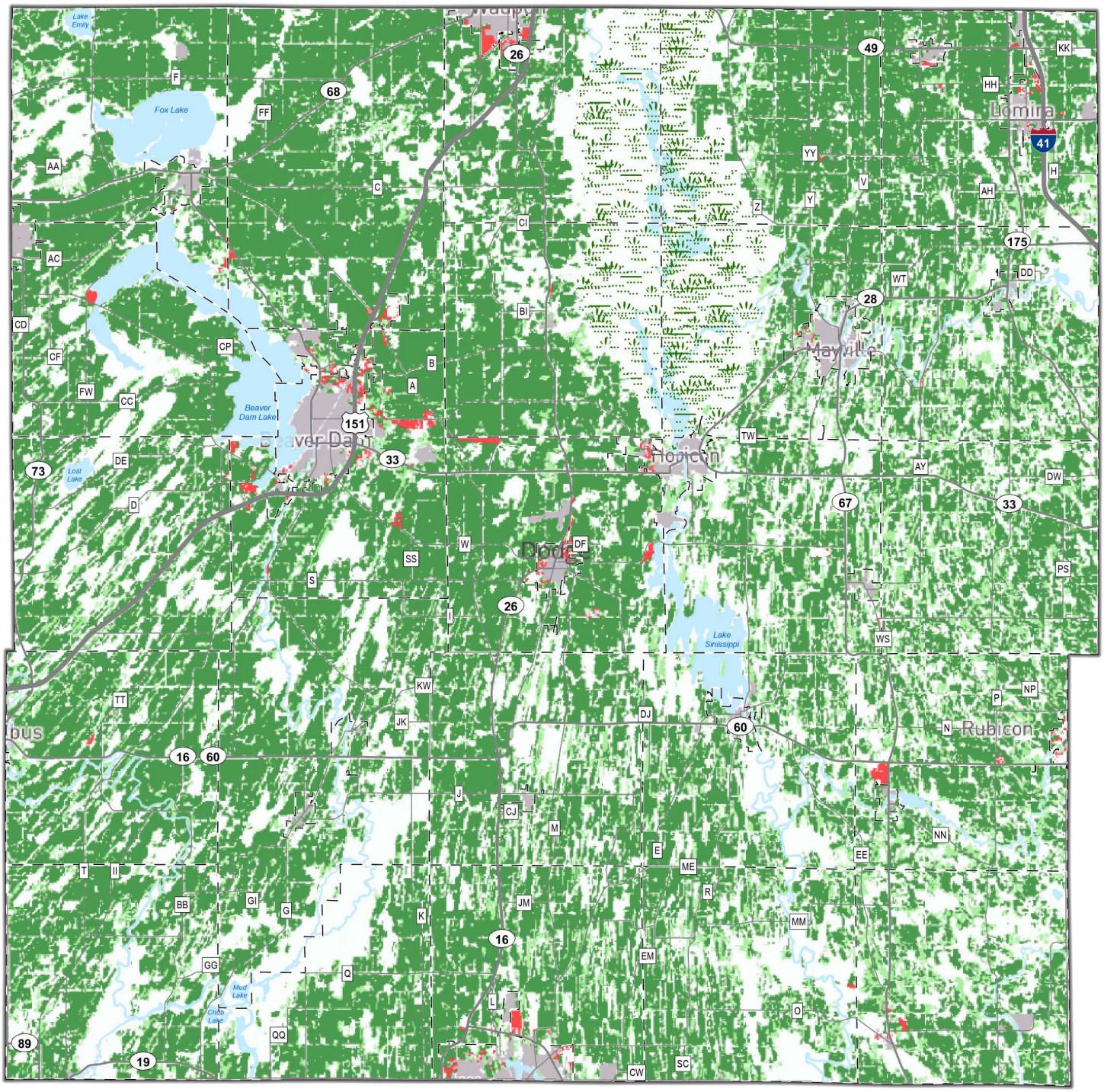
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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: September 16, 2025

Map 6-3

Conversion of Agricultural Land (2001 - 2016)

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Conversion of Agricultural Land*

- Conversion of Agricultural Land to UHD and LDR Land Uses
- Farmland (Above State Median PVR)
- Farmland (Below State Median PVR)
- Federal, Forest, and Other Lands
- Urban Areas

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

*American Farmland Trust, 2016

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DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

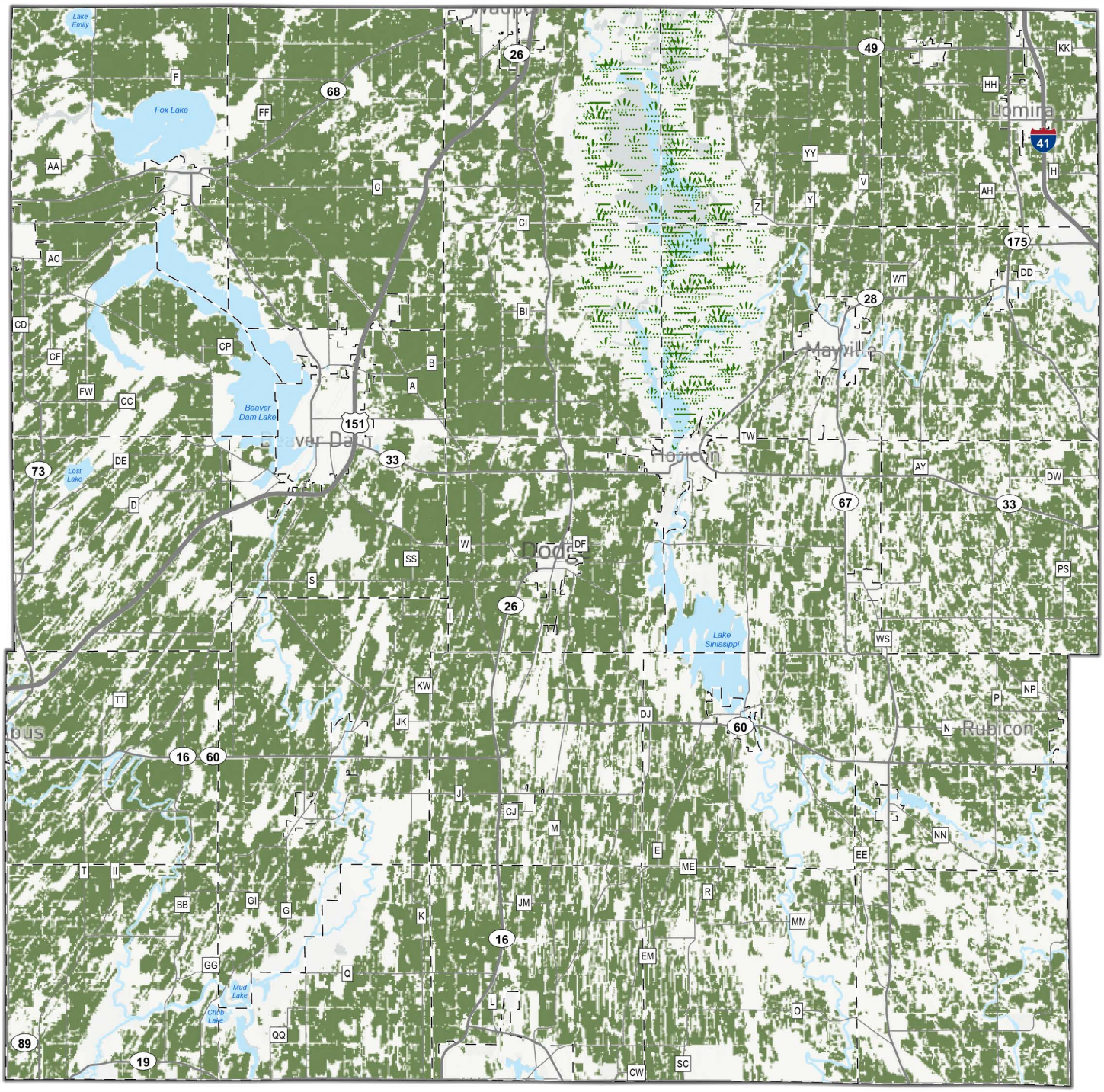
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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: September 16, 2025

Map 6-4

Nationally Significant Agricultural Land (2016)

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Nationally Significant Ag Land*

- Nationally Significant Agricultural Land

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

*American Farmland Trust, 2016

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Cedar Corporation

DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

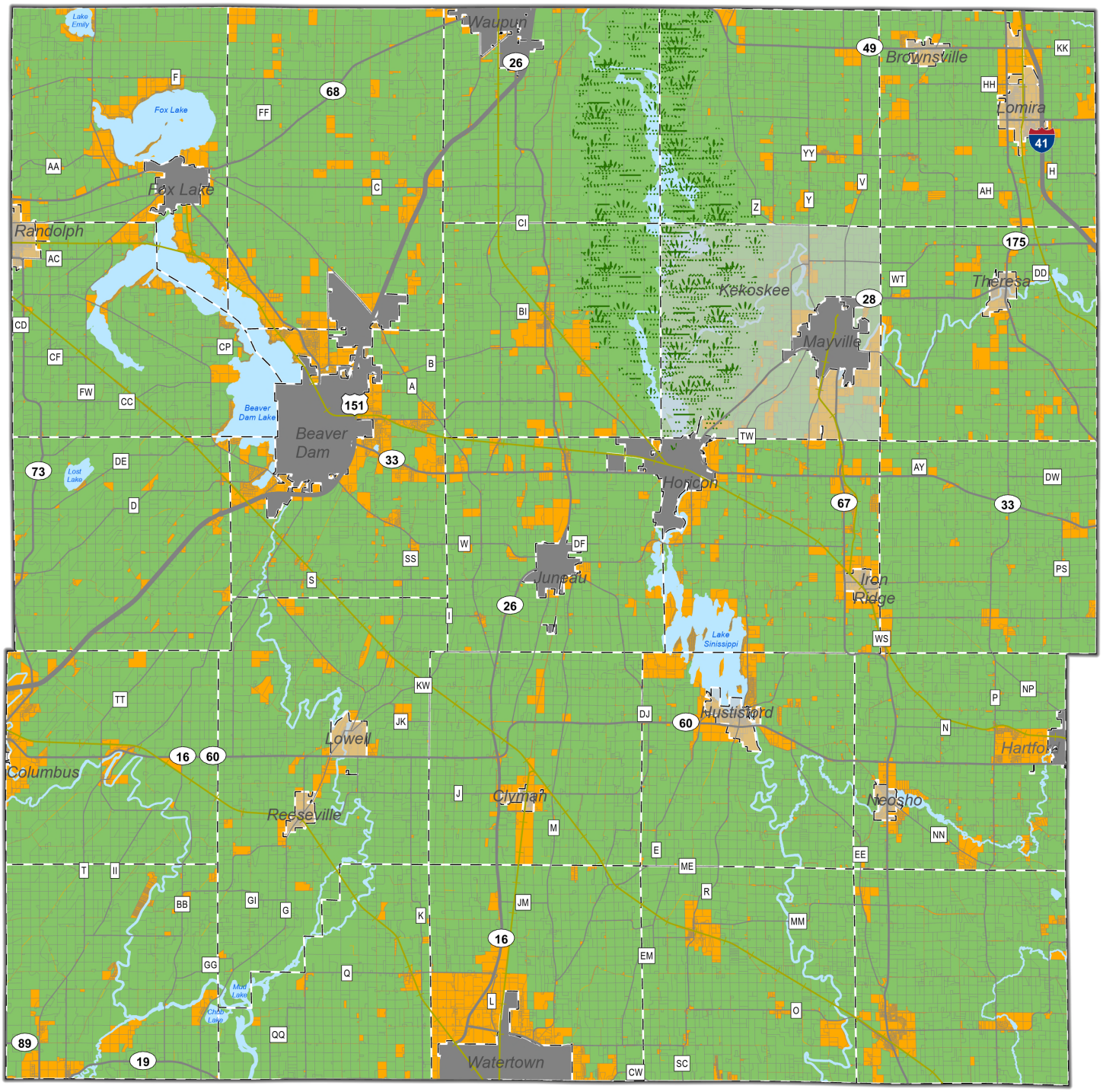
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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: September 16, 2025

Map 6-5

Farmland Preservation

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Farmland Preservation Areas*

- Areas of Agricultural Use and Agriculture Related Use
- Areas of Nonagricultural Development

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

*Dodge County, 2025.

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DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

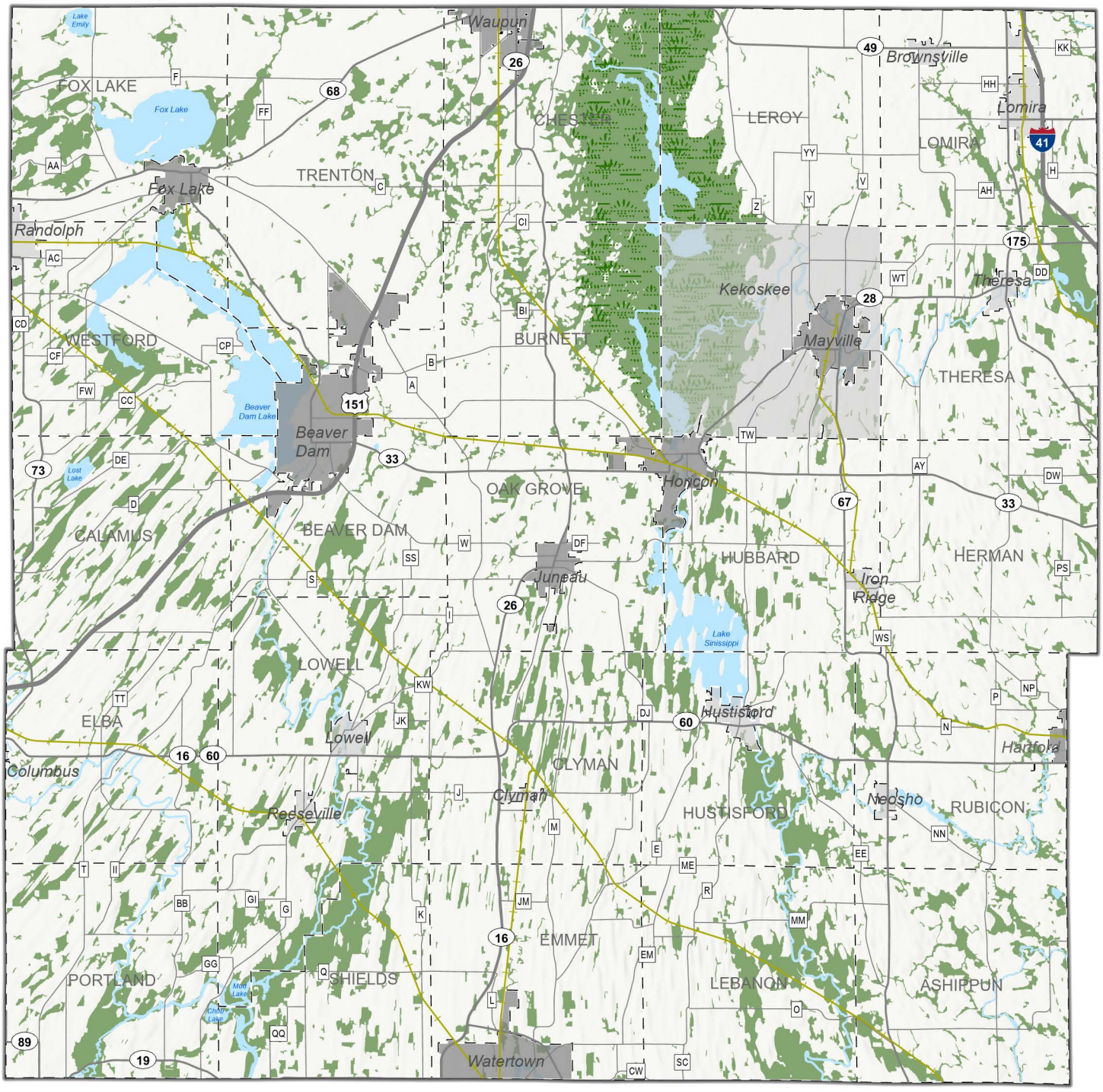
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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: December 5, 2025

Map 6-6

Wetlands

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Wetlands*

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

*Wisconsin Wetland Inventory Layer, WDNR, 2024.

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Cedar Corporation

DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

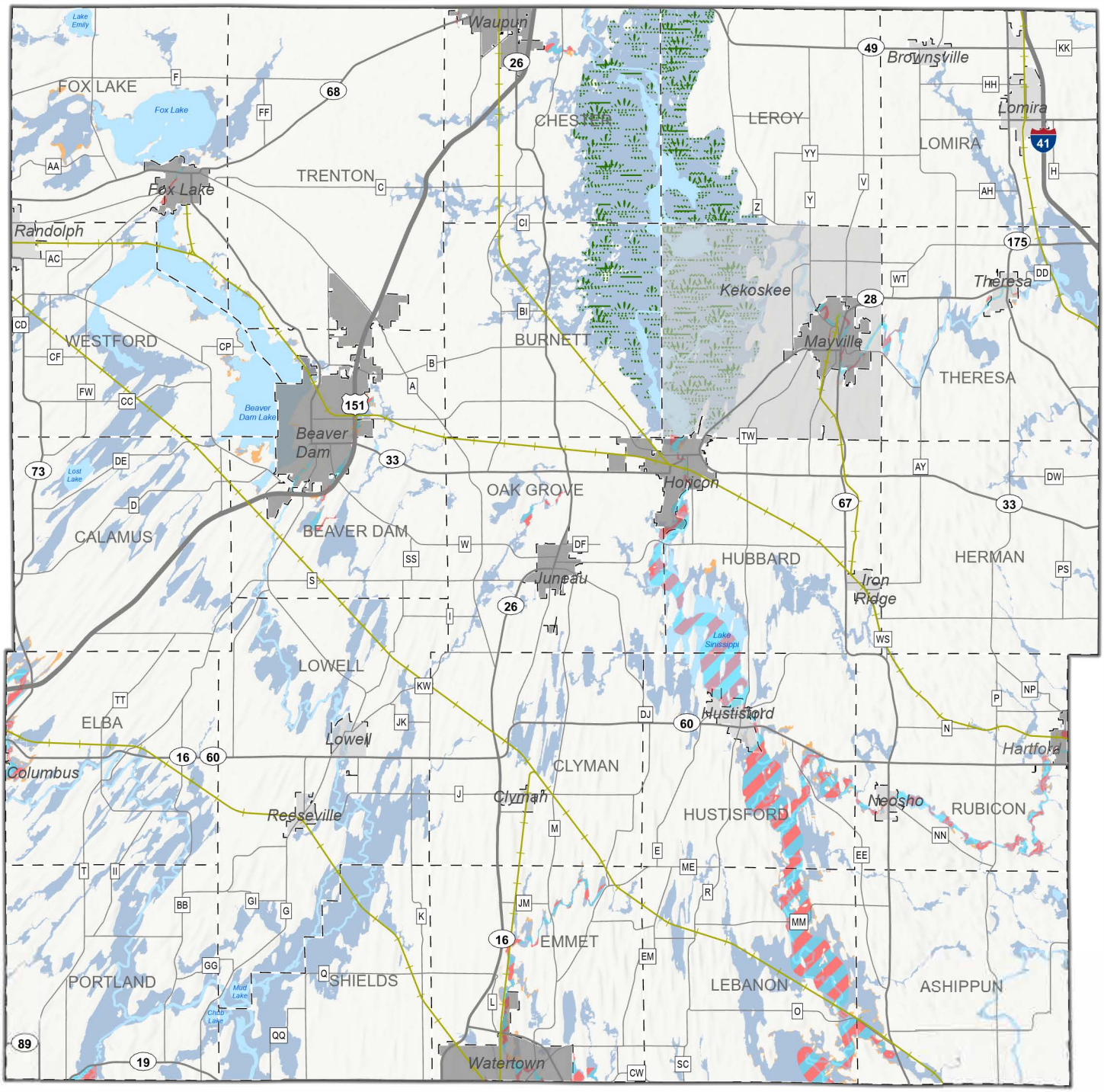
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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: September 16, 2025

Map 6-7

Floodplains

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Flood Hazard Zones*

- 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Regulatory Floodway
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

*National Flood Hazard Layer, FEMA, 2024.

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Cedar Corporation

DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

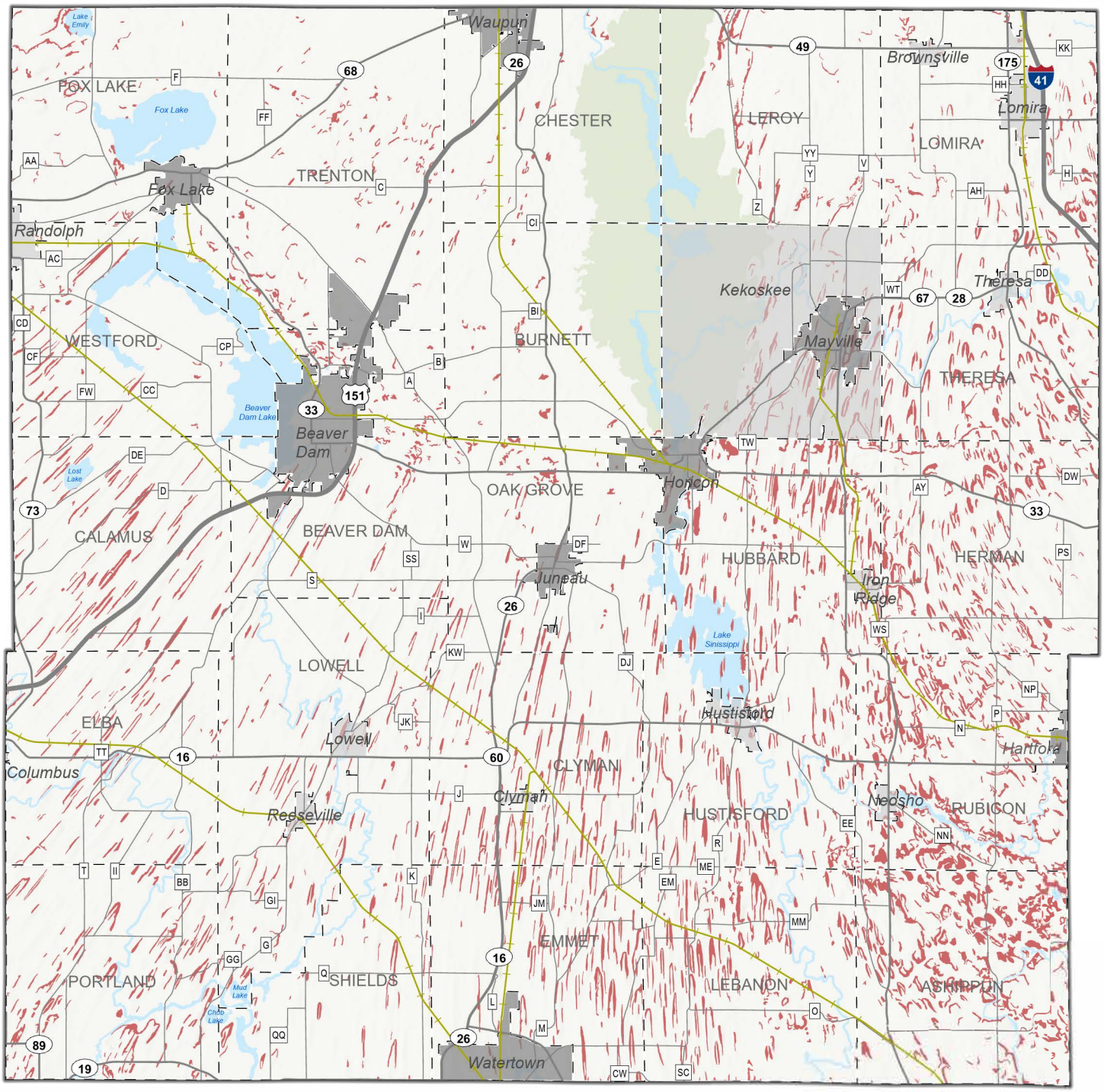
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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: September 16, 2025

Map 6-8

Steep Slope

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Steep Slope (>=12%)*

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

*Soil Survey Geographic Dataset (SSURGO), NRCS, 2023.

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Cedar CORPORATION

DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

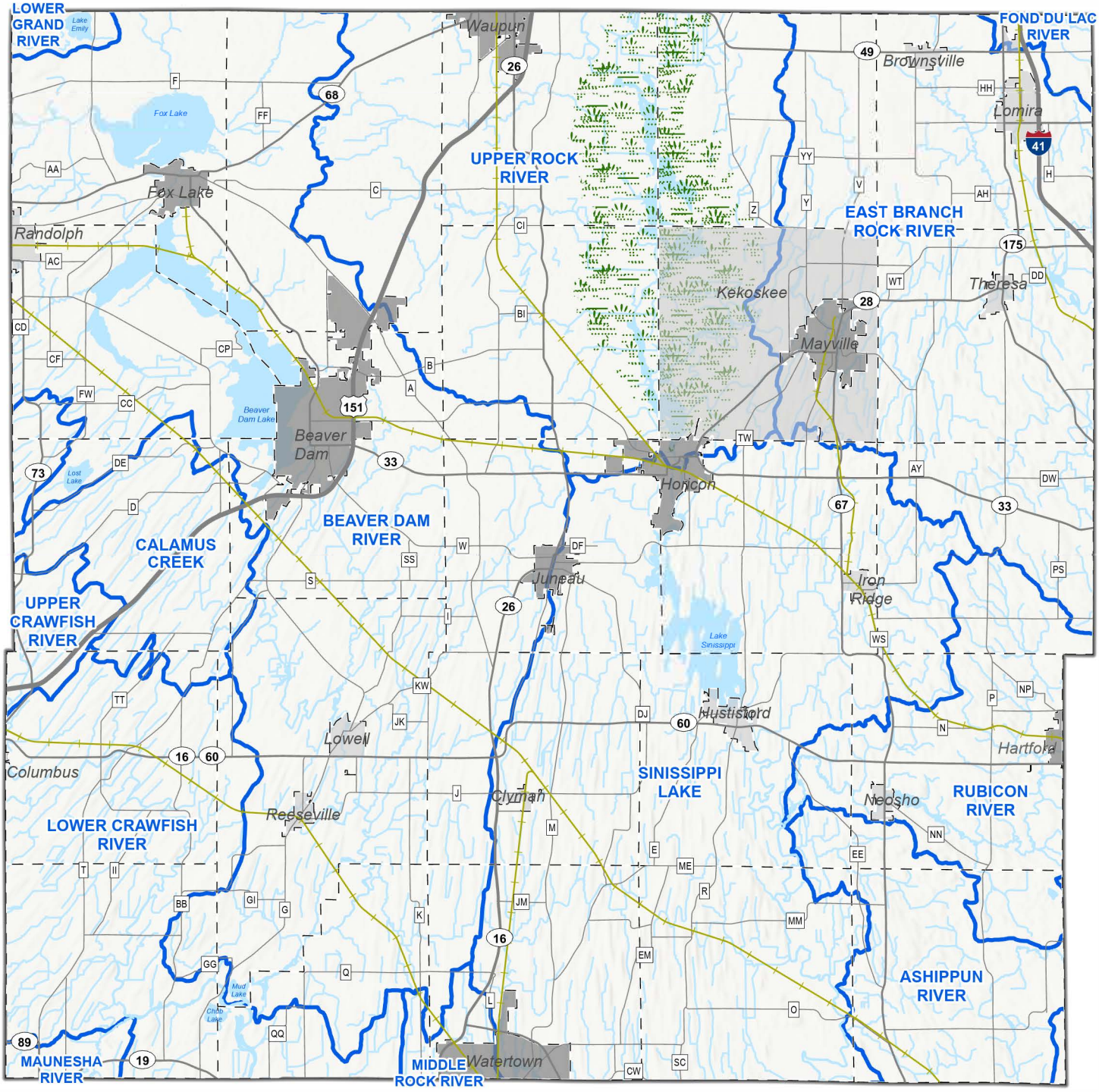
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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: September 16, 2025

Map 6-9

Watersheds, Streams, and Surface Water

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Watershed Boundary*

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Hydro Flowlines
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

*Watershed Layer, WDNR, 2024.

NORTH W E S

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



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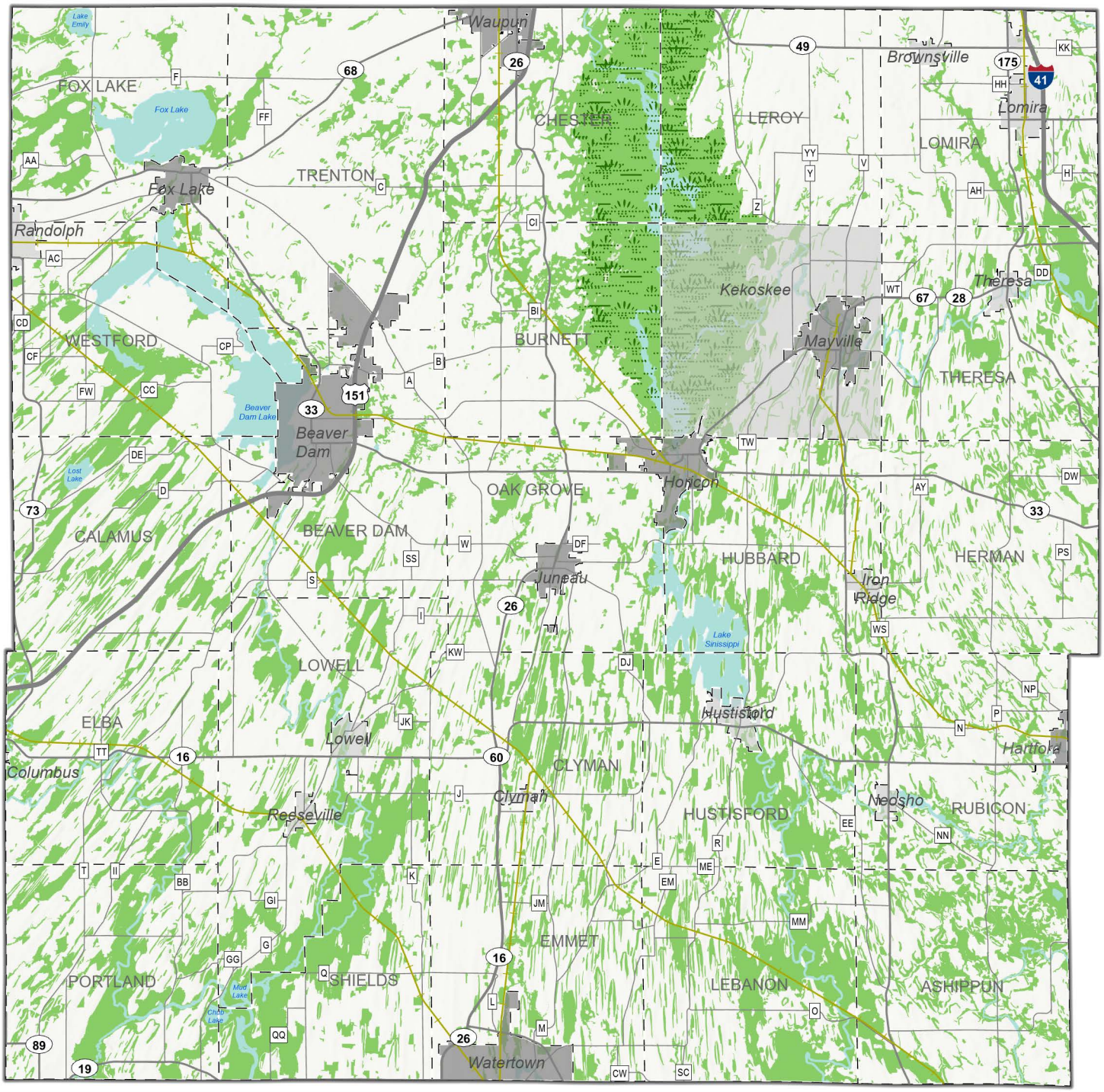
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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: September 16, 2025

Map 6-10

Environmental Corridors

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Environmental Corridors*

- Environmental Corridors

Consists of:
- *Wetlands*
- *Floodplain Hazard Zones*
- *Steep Slope (>=12%)*

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

**Wisconsin Wetland Inventory Layer, WDNR, 2024;*
National Flood Hazard Layer, FEMA, 2024;
Soil Survey Geographic Dataset (SSURGO), NRCS, 2023.

NORTH
W E
S

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



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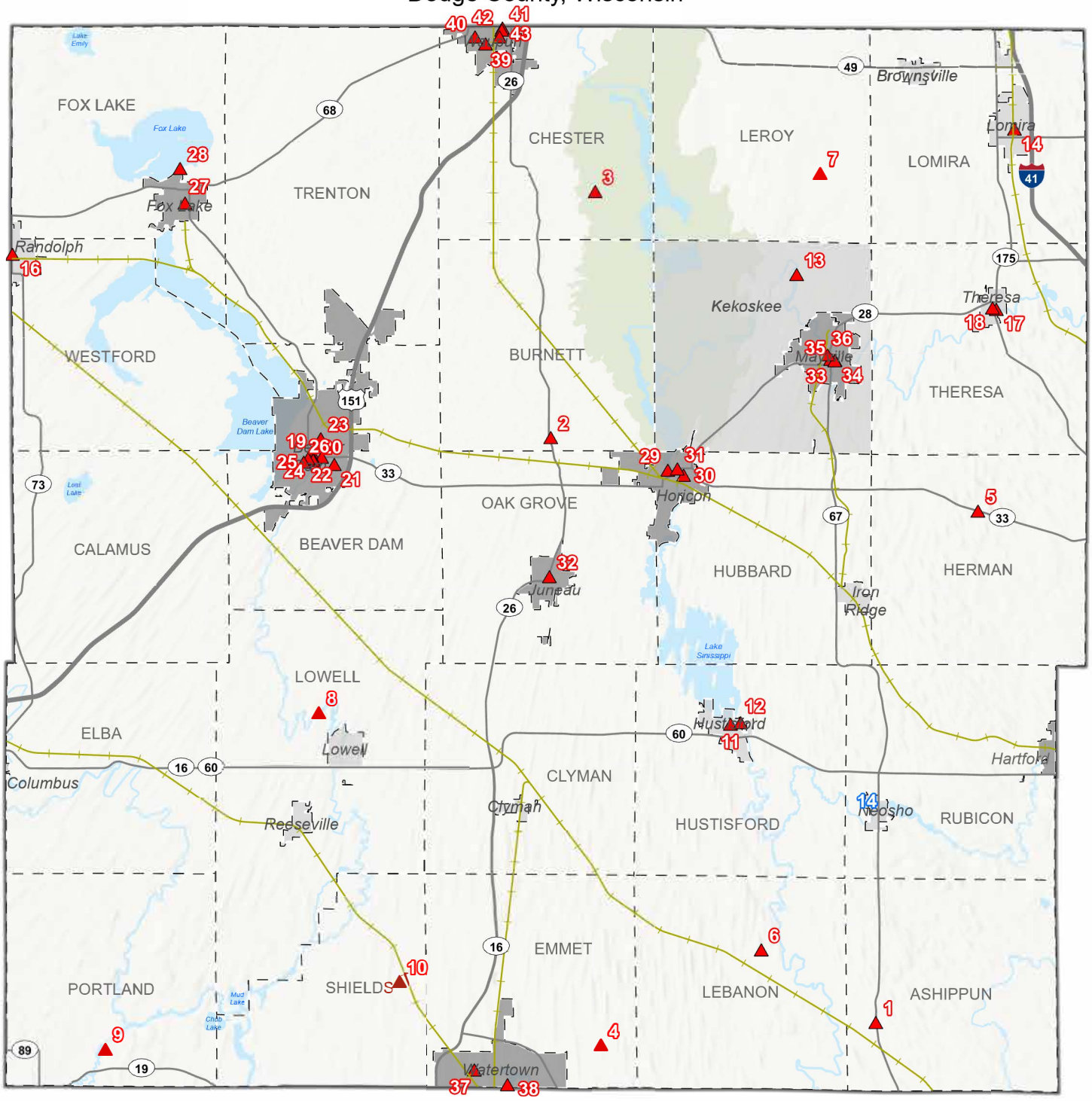
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Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: September 16, 2025

Map 6-11

State and National Registered Historic Sites

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

▲ State or National Registered Historical Site*

Refer to Table 6-6 for site name.

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

*Wisconsin State Historical Society, 2025

NORTH
W E
S

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



Cedar CORPORATION

DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

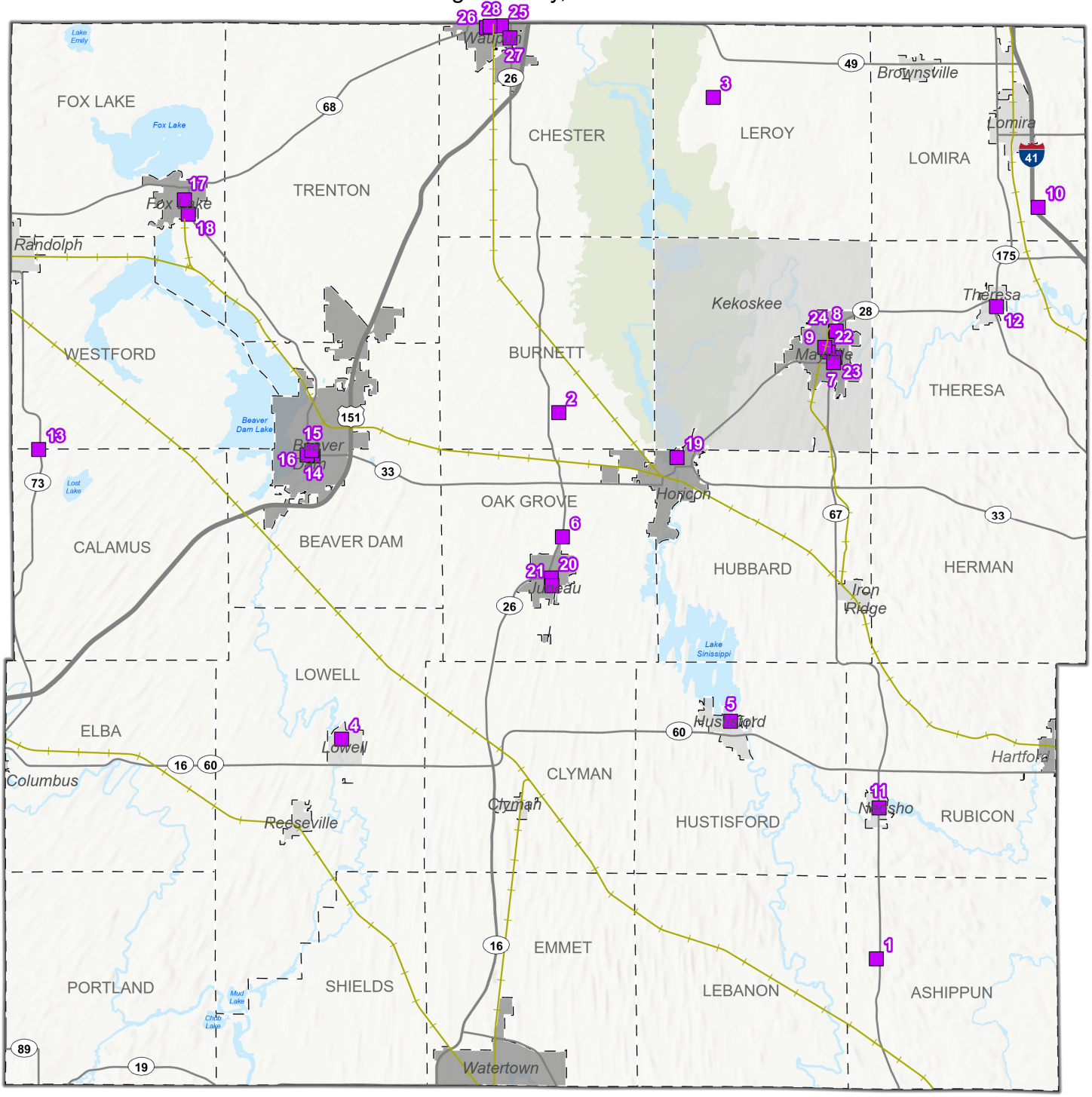
This map was created with data from Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department who assumes no liability for the accuracy of this data and any use or misuse of its content is the responsibility of the user. Changes were made by Cedar Corporation under the direction of Dodge County.

Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: September 22, 2025

Map 6-12

Museums, Historical Markers, and Other Cultural Resources

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

- Museums, Historical Markers, and Other Cultural Resources*

Refer to Table 6-7 for site name.

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

*Dodge County and Cedar Corporation, 2025.

NORTH W E S

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



Cedar CORPORATION

DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

This map was created with data from Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department who assumes no liability for the accuracy of this data and any use or misuse of its content is the responsibility of the user. Changes were made by Cedar Corporation under the direction of Dodge County.

Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: November 21, 2025

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7 Intergovernmental Cooperation

7.1 Introduction

This element identifies planning activities in Dodge County and provides a description of Wisconsin's statutes associated with intergovernmental cooperation. The Intergovernmental Cooperation element will also provide information regarding existing plans or agreements, opportunities for the future, existing and potential conflicts,
and identify goals, objectives, policies, recommendations, and programs for intergovernmental cooperation.

In general terms, intergovernmental cooperation is any arrangement by which officials of two or more jurisdictions coordinate plans, policies, and programs to address and resolve issues of mutual interest. It can be as simple as communicating and sharing information, or it can involve entering into formal intergovernmental agreements and sharing resources such as equipment, buildings, staff, and revenue. It can even involve consolidating services, jurisdictions, or transferring territory.

Many issues cross jurisdictional boundaries, affecting more than one community. For example, air, water, and wildlife pass over the landscape regardless of boundaries so that one jurisdiction's activities with regard to air, water, and wildlife impact other jurisdictions downwind or downstream.

Today, increased communication technologies and personal mobility mean that people, money, and resources also move across jurisdictions, as quickly and freely as air and water. Persons traveling along roadways use a network of transportation routes, moving between jurisdictions without even realizing it.

Frequently, the action of one governmental unit impacts others. Increasingly, we have come to the realization that many vital issues are regional in nature. Watersheds, economic conditions, commuter patterns, housing, media markets, and effects from growth and change are all issues that spill over municipal boundaries and impact the region as a whole. That's where a county comprehensive plan can provide some insight.

Dodge County has 43 units of local government as well as dozens of special purpose districts defined as follows:

- 23 Towns
- 9 Cities
- 11 Villages
- 16 School Districts
- 12 Sanitary Districts
- 36 Drainage Districts
- 4 Lake Associations
- 3 Lake Districts

Having so many governmental units allows for very local representation and means that Dodge County residents have numerous opportunities to participate in local decision making. However, the number of governmental units with overlapping decision-making authority presents challenges. More governmental units can make communication, coordination, and effective action more difficult, creating a greater potential for conflict. Instead of communicating ideas within one jurisdiction, communication needs to move across multiple jurisdictions and involve multiple boards, commissions, committees, executives, administrators, and citizens. Goals between communities may differ and present challenges. More governmental units may also mean unwanted and wasteful duplication in the delivery of community services. Cooperation can help avoid those situations.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Benefits

There are many reasons intergovernmental cooperation makes sense. The following are some examples:

- Cost Savings – Cooperation can save money by increasing efficiency and avoiding unnecessary duplication. Cooperation can enable some communities to provide their residents with services that would otherwise be too costly.

- Address Regional Issues – By communicating and coordinating their actions, and working with county, regional and state jurisdictions, local communities are able to address and resolve issues which are regional in nature.

- Early Issue Identification – Cooperation enables jurisdictions to identify and resolve potential conflicts at an early stage, before affected interests have established rigid positions, before the political stakes have been raised, and before issues have become conflicts or crises.

- Reduced Litigation – Communities that cooperate are able to resolve issues before they become mired in litigation. Reducing the possibility of costly litigation can save a community money, as well as the disappointment and frustration of unwanted outcomes.

- Consistency – Cooperation can lead to consistency of the goals, objectives, plans, policies, and actions of neighboring communities and other jurisdictions.

- Predictability – Jurisdictions that cooperate provide greater predictability to residents, developers, businesses, and others. Lack of predictability can result in lost time, money, and opportunity.

- Understanding – As jurisdictions communicate and collaborate on issues of mutual interest, they become more aware of one another's needs and priorities. They can better anticipate problems and work to avoid them.

- Trust – Cooperation can lead to positive experiences and results that build trust between jurisdictions.

- History of Success – When jurisdictions cooperate successfully in one area, the success creates positive feelings and an expectation that other intergovernmental issues can be resolved as well.

- Service to Citizens – The biggest beneficiaries of intergovernmental cooperation are the citizens for whom government was created in the first place. They may not understand, or even care about, the intricacies of particular intergovernmental issues, but all county residents can appreciate their benefits, such as costs savings, provision of needed services, a healthy environment, and a strong economy.

7.2 Wisconsin Intergovernmental Agreement Statutes

Intergovernmental Cooperation

Wisconsin Statute, 66.0301 permits local agreements between the state, cities, villages, towns, counties, regional planning commissions, and certain special districts, including school districts, public library systems, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, sanitary districts, farm drainage districts, metropolitan sewerage districts, sewer utility districts, Indian tribes or bands, and others.

Intergovernmental agreements prepared in accordance with s. 66.0301, are the most common form of agreement and have been used by communities for years, often in the context of sharing public services such as police, fire, or rescue. This type of agreement can also be used to provide for revenue sharing, determine future land use within a subject area, and to set temporary municipal boundaries. However, the statute does not require planning as a component of any agreement, and boundary changes have to be accomplished through the normal annexation process.

Boundary Agreements Pursuant to Approved Cooperative Plan

Under 66.0307, Wisconsin Statutes, combinations of municipalities may prepare cooperative boundary plans or agreements. Each city, village, or town that intends to participate in the preparation of a cooperative plan must adopt a resolution authorizing its participation in the planning process.

Cooperative boundary plans or agreements involve decisions regarding the maintenance or change of municipal boundaries for a period of 10 years or more. The cooperative plan must include a plan for the physical development of the territory covered by the plan, a schedule for changes to the boundary, plans for the delivery of services, an evaluation of environmental features, and a description of any adverse environmental consequences that may result from the implementation of the plan. It must also address the need for safe and affordable housing. The participating communities must hold a public hearing prior to its adoption. Once adopted, the plan must be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA) for approval. Upon approval, the cooperative plan has the force and effect of a contract.

Creation, Organization, Powers, and Duties of a Regional Planning Commission

Wisconsin Statute 66.0309 permits local governments to petition the governor to create an advisory regional planning commission (RPC). If local support for a commission is unanimous, the governor may create it by executive order. The governor may also create a commission if local governments representing over 50% of the population or assessed valuation of the proposed region consent to the creation. Commission members are appointed by either local governments or the governor. State Statutes require the RPC to perform three major functions:

1. Make and adopt a comprehensive plan for the physical development of the region.

2. If requested by a local unit, report recommendations to that local unit on the location or acquisition of land for any of the items or facilities included in the adopted regional comprehensive plan.

3. Make an annual report of its activities to the legislative bodies of the local governmental units within the region.

Dodge, Columbia, Jefferson, Rock, and Sauk Counties are the only counties in the state that are not part of a Regional Planning Commission. There is however; a formalized coalition which includes some of these non-RPC counties, referred to as the Intercounty Coordinating Committee (ICC). Adams, Columbia, Dodge, Green Lake, Jefferson, Juneau, Marquette, Sauk, and Waushara Counties are part of this Committee, which has three members from each county.

The Committee meets regularly and is charged with fostering a cooperative effort in resolving problems, establishing program priorities, coordinating planning, exchanging information and providing educational programs. The event that triggered formation of the ICC was the state's second rejection of the petition to create a four-county RPC back in 1972, and the continued realization that urban growth pressures from Dane and Rock Counties would impact land use, transportation, and economic development sectors within the surrounding rural counties.

Municipal Revenue Sharing

Wisconsin Statute, 66.0305, Municipal Revenue Sharing, gives authority to cities, villages, and towns to enter into agreements to share revenue from taxes and special charges with each other. The agreements may also address other matters, including agreements regarding services to be provided or the location of municipal boundaries. Boundaries of the shared revenue area must be specified in the agreement, and the term of the agreement must be for at least 10 years. The formula or other means for sharing revenue, the date of payment of revenues, and the means by which the agreement was made may be invalidated after the minimum 10-year period.

Annexation

Wisconsin Statute, 66.0201, Annexation of Territory, provides three petition methods by which annexation may occur. Annexation involves the transfer of one or more tax parcels from a town to a city or village. Cities and villages cannot annex property without the consent of landowners as required by the following petition procedures:

1. Unanimous approval - A petition is signed by all of the electors residing in the territory and the owners of all of the real property included within the petition.

2. Notice of intent to circulate petition (direct petition for annexation) - The petition must be signed by a majority of electors in the territory and the owners of one-half of the real property either in value or in land area. If no electors reside in the territory, then only the landowners need sign the petition.

3. Annexation by referendum - A petition requesting a referendum election on the question of annexation may be filed with the city or village when signed by at least 20% of the electors in the territory.

Incorporation

Wisconsin Statutes, 66.0201, Incorporation of Villages and Cities; Purpose and Definitions, and 66.0211, Incorporation Referendum Procedure, regulate the process of creating new villages and cities from town territory. Wisconsin Statute, 66.0207, identifies the criteria that have to be met prior to approval of incorporation.

The incorporation process requires filing an incorporation petition with circuit court. Then, the incorporation must meet certain statutory criteria reviewed by the Municipal Boundary Review Section of the Wisconsin Department of Administration. These criteria include:

- Minimum standards of homogeneity and compactness, and the presence of a "well developed community center;"
- Minimum density and assessed valuation standards for territory beyond the core;
- A review of the budget and tax base in order to determine whether or not the area proposed for incorporation could support itself financially;
- An analysis of the adequacy of government services compared to those available from neighboring jurisdictions;
- An analysis of the impact incorporation of a portion of the town would have on the remainder, financially or otherwise; and
- An analysis of the impact the incorporation would have on the metropolitan region.

Extraterritorial Zoning

Wisconsin Statute, 62.23(7a), Extraterritorial Zoning, allows a city with a population of 10,000 or more to adopt zoning in town territory, three miles beyond a city's corporate limits. A city or village with a population less than 10,000 may adopt zoning 1.5 miles beyond its corporate limits. If the extraterritorial area of two municipalities overlaps, jurisdiction is divided between them as provided under s. 66.0105.

Under extraterritorial zoning authority, a city or village may enact an interim zoning ordinance that freezes existing zoning, or, if there is no zoning, existing uses while a plan and regulations are developed. The statute provides that the interim ordinance may be for two years. A joint extraterritorial zoning committee must be established consisting of three city or village plan commission members and three town members. The city or village plan commission works with the joint committee in preparing the plan and regulations. The joint committee must approve the plan and regulations by a majority vote before they take effect.

Currently, only the City of Hartford exercises extraterritorial zoning, which regulates lands east of CTH P in the Town of Rubicon as approved under an intergovernmental agreement adopted by both entities in 2007.

Extraterritorial Subdivision Review

Wisconsin Statute, 236.10, allows a city or village to exercise its extraterritorial plat review authority in the same geographic area as defined within the extraterritorial zoning statute. Refer to Map 7-1 at the end of this chapter for extraterritorial jurisdictions in Dodge County.

Extraterritorial zoning requires town approval of the zoning ordinance, while extraterritorial plat approval applies automatically if the city or village adopts a subdivision ordinance or official map. The town does not approve the subdivision ordinance for the city or village. The city or village may waive its extraterritorial plat approval authority if it does not wish to use it. Intergovernmental agreements between towns and incorporated communities (cities and villages) often address extraterritorial plat review authority.

The purpose of extraterritorial plat approval jurisdiction is to help cities and villages influence the development pattern of areas outside their boundaries that will likely be annexed to the city or village. Overlapping authority by incorporated municipalities is prohibited. This situation is handled by drawing a line of equal distance from the boundaries of the city and/or village so that no more than one ordinance will apply.

7.3 Inventory of Existing Intergovernmental Agreements

Mutual aid agreements exist between communities throughout the county to address police, fire, and ambulance services. Mutual aid agreements allow communities to share equipment and resources. Various informal and formal agreements exist between communities throughout the county to address sharing services and facilities such as parks, road maintenance, snowplowing, and library funding.

In Dodge County there are two formal boundary agreements in place. One is an Intergovernmental Cooperative Plan agreement (Wis. Stat. §66.0307) between the City of Watertown and the Town of Emmet, which was approved in 2014 and expires in 2032. The second is an intergovernmental agreement (Wis. Stat. §66.0301) between the City of Hartford and Town of Rubicon adopted in 2007.

Additionally, in 2018, the Village of Kekoskee and the Town of Williamstown attempted to consolidate via a plan under Wis. Stat. § 66.0307, but the City of Mayville successfully challenged it. They later used Wis. Stat. § 66.0301(6) to create a new agreement transferring most of the Town's territory and governance to the Village, leaving four small, uninhabited parcels. When the Village enacted a triggering ordinance in 2021, the City again sued, claiming it was an unauthorized consolidation. The Wisconsin Court of Appeals upheld the agreement, ruling it was a lawful boundary adjustment—not a full consolidation—since the Town technically still existed.

7.4 Analysis of Dodge County's Relationship with School Districts, Local Governmental Units, Other Jurisdictions, Neighboring Counties, Region, and State

Local Governmental Units

There are 43 municipalities located at least partially in Dodge County. The 43 local municipalities consist of nine cities, 11 villages and 23 towns. Five of the municipalities (four cities and one village) are divided between Dodge County and another county. These include the Cities of Columbus, Hartford, Watertown, Waupun, and the Village of Randolph.

Dodge County's relationship with the local governmental units can be characterized as one of mutual respect. The county is often the neutral party in disputes or issues between municipalities. The county also serves as a source of information that is available to the local governmental units.

The update of the Comprehensive Plan was an opportunity to further examine the relationships between the County's Land Resources & Parks Department and the towns with respect to roles, responsibilities, communication, information sharing, and land use regulation review and approval processes. In early 2025, a survey was developed and sent to all Dodge County towns (both county zoned and non-county zoned – See Map 7-1 at end of chapter). A general summary of key results relating to intergovernmental cooperation and the use of the department's services is provided below:

- 76% of towns utilize Dodge County's GIS tools, and most towns were open to increasing GIS use if support is provided.
- 76% of the towns rated department staff as very supportive and responsive, showing strong service quality. A few towns report only moderate or neutral experiences with staff, indicating occasional communication gaps.
- The highest demand for assistance is in comprehensive planning, zoning code or ordinance updates, and grant writing. Additional needs include GIS mapping, educational workshops, and parks/trails planning.

When addressing only the county-zoned towns, the following findings were generated:

- 79% of towns are satisfied or extremely satisfied with the administration and enforcement of the County Zoning Ordinance, though a few are neutral, and one town expressed dissatisfaction. Some feedback suggests a desire for more proactive review processes before formal complaints are required.
- Most towns (nine) were satisfied or extremely satisfied with county staff communication and notification about land use activities, four towns are neutral, and one town noted a need for communication improvement from the building inspector's perspective.

- Most towns (11) are not considering withdrawing from county zoning, citing concerns about the burden, costs, and staffing needs. Two towns are unsure, and two towns are not applicable due to either no zoning or other reasons.

For those towns not under county zoning, the following findings were generated:

- Of the towns without county zoning, one expressed interest in discussing adoption of County Zoning regulations, two were unsure, and the remaining five declined or found the question not applicable.
- For zoning ordinance administration, towns use a mix of local part-time zoning administrators, consultants, and other town officials fulfilling the role.
- Annual costs vary significantly, from as low as $4,000 up to $35,000, reflecting differences in staffing approaches and zoning activity levels.

Siting and Building Public Facilities

There is no formal process established for siting and building public facilities with local governments.

Sharing Public Services

County Departments such as the Sheriff's Office and Highway Department offer services to those communities seeking additional assistance beyond the required level of service.

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office provides police protection and services throughout the county. Service is provided to all communities, including those that are served by a local municipal police department. For an additional fee, the Sheriff's Office can provide enhanced or primary police protection services to those cities and villages that choose to use the Sheriff's Office in lieu of their own police department. Currently, incorporated communities that contract with the Sheriff's Office include the Village of Reeseville, Village of Lomira, and Village of Kekoskee.

In addition to maintaining all county highways, the Dodge County Highway Department will perform any service it does on the county and state highways for towns, as well as cities and villages with populations less than 5,000. Some of these services include, but are not limited to: shoulder maintenance, culvert replacement, paving, traffic markings, sign replacement and repair, tree and brush removal, etc.

The county also contracts for snow and ice removal service with several towns at this time. All work performed is invoiced monthly on an actual cost basis monthly. At this time, the county does not coordinate mass purchasing or contracting; however, it will be hosting a meeting in late Fall, 2025 to propose this concept to all municipalities. Mass purchasing is often used by other counties to reduce unit prices via larger order volumes.

School Districts

Dodge County is served by a total of 19 school districts. Dodge County's relationship with the school districts can be characterized as limited as the school districts tend to operate rather independently and interaction with the county tends to be minimal.

The siting of new school facilities is mainly conducted by the school districts. The county has historically had little input into the location of new school facilities. In addition, no formal agreement between the school districts and Dodge County exist for the shared use of school facilities. However, school facilities have, on occasion, been used by the county to hold meetings or events. School recreation facilities are also often used by residents in close proximity to them.

Region

Dodge County is located in the south-central region of the State of Wisconsin. The county is not part of a regional planning commission. Dodge County has limited overall interaction at a regional level; the majority of contacts and relationships are between Dodge County and a single neighboring county. However, Dodge County is part of the 10-County Southern Housing Region, which was established in 2013 as a means to distribute CDBG housing funds to each county. The county is also part of the Madison Region Economic Partnership (MadREP), and the Intercounty Coordinating Committee (ICC) as described earlier.

State

Dodge County's relationship with the State of Wisconsin mainly involves administering various state mandates that have been delegated to counties. Most interactions are had with the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Drainage Districts

There are 36 drainage districts within the County containing a total of 8,865 acres. County staff maintains an inventory of District mapping and works with district officials when development proposals occur within the drainage district.

Other Governmental Units

Other Governmental Units in Dodge County include Lake Associations and Lake Districts. Lake Associations are voluntary groups, which can be informal, or they can incorporate under Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 181 to be eligible for state cost-sharing grants. Lake Districts, however, are governmental bodies with elected or appointed leaders and annual budgets funded from tax levies or special assessments. As shown in Table 7-1, 10 lake, or water-quality related, organizations exist within Dodge County. County staff cooperates with these organizations as needed, especially when a development proposal occurs in that jurisdiction.

Table 7-1: Regional Water Quality Organizations, Dodge County, 2024

Regional Water Group	Group Type	Formation Year
Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association, Inc.	Lake Association	2002
Beaver Dam Lake District	Lake District	2020
Lake Sinissippi Association	Lake Association	1946
Lake Sinissippi Improvement District	Lake District	2000
Fox Lake Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District	Lake District	1979
Fox Lake Preservation Organization	Lake Association	1954
Lake Emily Fishing Improvement Club	Lake Association	1963
Village of Neosho	Local Government	
Dodge County Lakes Association	Regional Lake and River Association	
Dodge County Healthy Soil - Healthy Water Alliance Group	Regional Water Group	

Source: UW-Extension Lakes, 2024 (https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/organizations/lakelist/default.aspx)

7.5 Existing or Potential Conflicts and Resolutions

Several potential conflicts may develop through the course of the planning period. Potential conflicts can be most effectively addressed in a “pro-active” fashion. In other words, pursuing opportunities will often avoid future conflicts.

As part of the planning process, the Land Resources & Parks Department surveyed Dodge County Towns to gain insights on their respective activities and interactions. The survey was responded to quite well and the results were very supportive regarding the county’s current planning and regulation processes. Potential conflicts, which still could arise in the future, and the process to resolve the conflicts, are summarized in Table 7-2 as follows.

Table 7-2: Intergovernmental Conflicts & Potential Resolutions, Dodge County

Potential Conflict	Process to Resolve
1. Concern over unregulated land use in some municipalities negatively impacting other municipalities, landowners, and residents.	A. Meet with local town and municipal officials to encourage and discuss local land use planning efforts and coordination. B. Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Department reviews and provides comments on draft local comprehensive plans.
2. Concern over too much intervention by Dodge County and state relative to local control of land use issues.	A. Encourage municipalities to develop, update, and administer local land use ordinances and programs. B. Maintain communication between the Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Department and local municipalities on land use issues. C. Ensure ample opportunities for public involvement during land use planning and ordinance development efforts.
3. Maintain the "Right to Farm"	A. Maintain the comprehensive plan and ordinances with adequate language to protect farming practices and avoid land use compatibility situations. B. Maintain a current Farmland Preservation Plan and seek Farmland Preservation Area Mapping and Zoning certifications as required.
4. Conflicts over land use and development in extraterritorial jurisdiction of cities and villages.	A. Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Department provides assistance and support to cities, villages, and towns on uses in extraterritorial areas as well as with potential boundary and service agreements. B. Encourage communities to continuously discuss infrastructure and growth needs and plans.

7.6 Intergovernmental Cooperation Trends and Key Facts

The following intergovernmental trends are anticipated during the planning period in Dodge County.

- Intergovernmental cooperation will increase as state, county, and local governments strive to spend less money more efficiently.

- The sharing of staff, equipment, and facilities will increase locally to meet demand at reduced costs.

- Comprehensive planning will continue to help communities share information and identify opportunities for shared services and facilities.

- Given the large number of small cities and villages in Dodge County, annexation and other land use conflicts will continue between towns and incorporated communities.

- The use of boundary agreements and extraterritorial review tools may increase as development pressures increase near municipal borders.

- Economic development will further require leveraging the strengths of the county as a region rather than an uncoordinated, individual focus on the community level. Furthermore, the county will need to work with its neighboring counties in a strategic manner to accomplish various comprehensive plan goals.

- Successful intergovernmental cooperation will require sustained commitment and investment by all affected parties to produce value over time.

7.7 Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals, Objectives, Policies & Recommendations

Each element of the comprehensive plan includes a specific set of goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations that the county will use as a guide to future land use, development and preservation decisions over the next 20 years. Goals, objectives, policies and recommendations are defined as follows:

- **Goals** are broad, value-based statements that express general public priorities and preferences about how the county should address issues over the next 20 years and beyond. Goals address key issues, opportunities and problems that affect the county.

- **Objectives** are more specific than goals and are measurable statements usually attainable through direct action and implementation of plan recommendations. The accomplishment of objectives contributes to the fulfillment of the goal.

- **Policies** are general rules, principles, strategies or courses of action used to guide decision making and actions as necessary to accomplish goals and objectives. Policies are intended to be used by decision makers on a regular basis.

- **Recommendations** are specific actions, projects or activities that are intended to achieve a particular plan goal, objective, or policy.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals and Objectives

Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001 requires a statement of overall goals and objectives to guide the future development and redevelopment of the county over a 20-year planning period. The following goals and objectives were developed by Dodge County with regard to the Intergovernmental Cooperation element:

Goals

Goal 1: Initiate and maintain intergovernmental cooperation among the county, cities, villages and towns.

Goal 2: Establish mutually beneficial intergovernmental relations between the county and other units of government.

Goal 3: Coordinate and communicate planning activities with other communities in the county, and state and federal agencies to realize individual and shared visions, goals, and objectives; to address regional issues that cross political boundaries and jurisdictions; to ensure efficient use of resources; and to provide for increased certainty between all levels of government, developers, and landowners.

Goal 4: Seek opportunities to enhance the provision of coordinated public services and facilities such as police, fire, emergency rescue, waste management, transportation systems (e.g., roads, bike/pedestrian routes, transit, parks, and recreation with other units of government.

Objectives

1. Promote cooperation by providing the cities, villages and towns with opportunities to comment on specific development proposals, comprehensive plan and zoning changes.

2. Encourage incorporated municipalities and towns to enter into boundary agreements to address annexation and development issues within delineated urban service areas and assist these communities in the formation of such agreements.

3. Encourage communities to create intergovernmental cooperative agreements for services, governmental activities and programs wherever deemed appropriate.

4. Encourage cooperative arrangements with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for mutual benefits.

5. Work with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and other agencies to assure that transportation improvements are consistent with the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan.

6. Promote cooperative projects with area schools to educate and encourage participation in planning and land use among youth.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Policies and Recommendations

Policies and recommendations build on goals and objectives by providing more focused responses and actions to the goals and objectives. Policies and recommendations become the tools that the county should use to aid in making decisions. Policies that direct action using the words “will” or “shall” are advised to be mandatory and regulatory aspects of the implementation of the comprehensive plan. In contrast, those policies that direct action using the word “should” are advisory and intended to serve as a guide.

Recommendations are specific actions or projects that the county should be prepared to complete within the 20-year planning period. The completion of these actions and projects are consistent with the policies, and therefore will help fulfill the comprehensive plan goals and objectives. The following policies and recommendations have been developed by Dodge County with regard to the Intergovernmental Cooperation element and serve to support the goals and objectives:

Policies

1. The county should continue to support local intergovernmental agreements pertaining to growth and service delivery.

2. The county should work with the towns, cities, and villages to match land use plans and policies along municipal borders to promote consistency and minimize potential conflicts.

3. The county shall coordinate the review of land division proposals for land within the extraterritorial platting areas of incorporated villages and cities with all affected municipalities.

4. The county will coordinate implementation of its comprehensive plan with the towns, cities and villages to avoid conflicting regulations and to minimize the duplication of services.

5. Before the purchase of new facilities or equipment, or the reinstatement of service agreements, the county should pursue options for trading, renting, sharing, or contracting such items from neighboring jurisdictions in order to provide services efficiently and save taxpayers money.

6. The county should encourage the adoption of common environmental protection standards between jurisdictions.

7. The county should continue to have a presence at the Wisconsin Towns Association county Unit meetings.

Recommendations

1. Host a bi-annual forum in which cities, village, towns, and the county can constructively discuss land use and zoning issues, especially the current issues facing those communities, as well as to improve communication and coordination. Educate local governments on Section 66.023 of the Wisconsin Statutes, regarding cooperative boundary agreements, and Section 66.30, Wisconsin Statutes, regarding cooperative inter-governmental agreements and encourage their use.

2. Provide county planning staff to serve as facilitators and educators to assist municipalities with ordinance administration and local plans to induce cooperation across levels of government.

3. Create a more integrated code administration process whereby all affected political jurisdictions are afforded an opportunity to influence the outcome.

4. Coordinate activities and facilities of the county Park System with private, municipal, state, and federal agencies. Coordinate regular meetings of the representatives of park and recreation providers to exchange information and evaluate information needs and opportunities in the county.

5. Offer technical assistance to support town and village planning activities.

7.8 Intergovernmental Cooperation Programs

See Appendix G for a complete listing of programs which pertain to this element of the Comprehensive Plan.

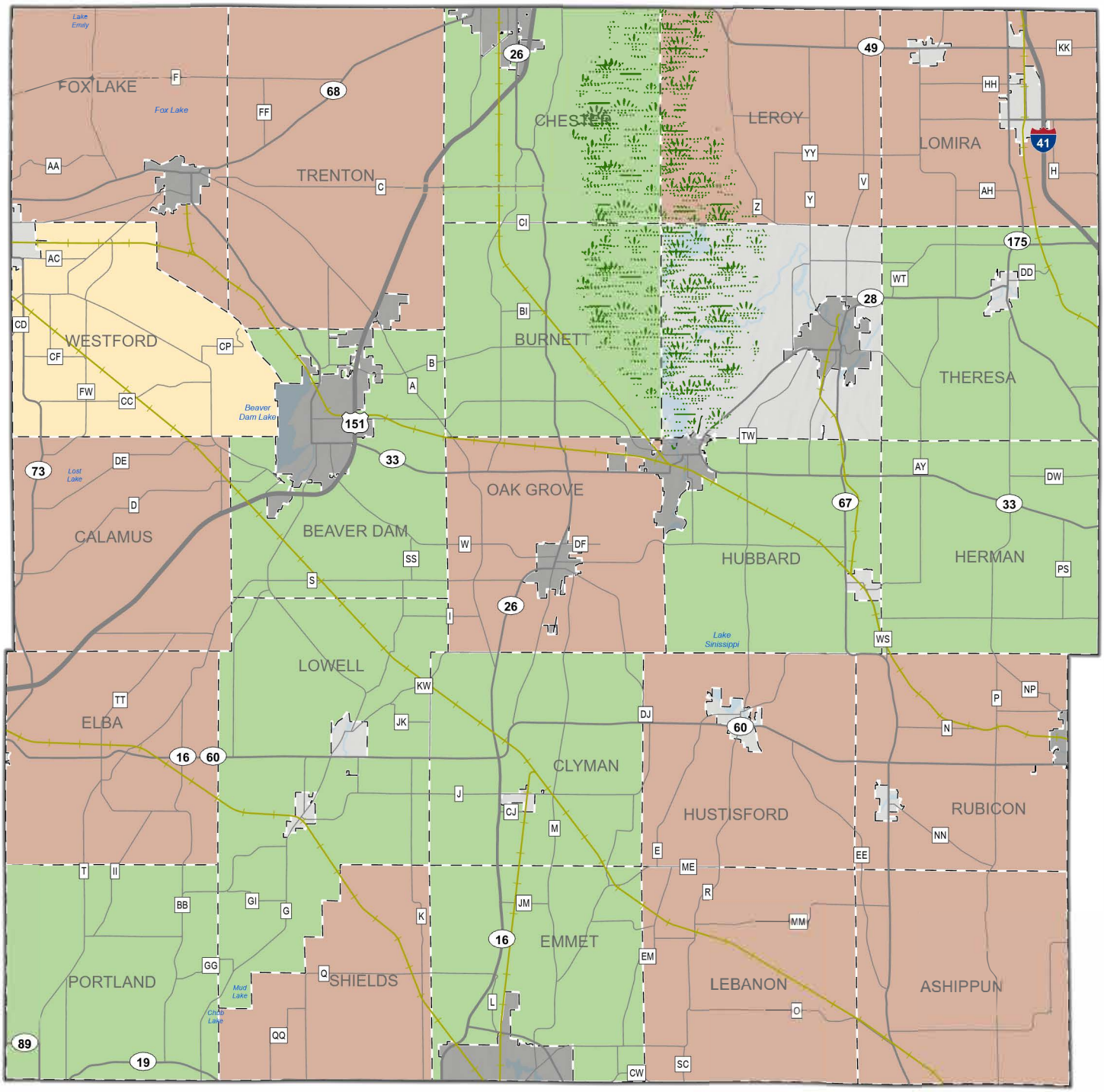
7.9 Maps

Map 7-1: Zoning Jurisdiction in Dodge County

Map 7-1

Zoning Jurisdiction

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Zoning Jurisdiction

- County Zoning
- Town Zoning
- No Zoning

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Villages
- Cities
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh
- Water

NORTH

W E

S

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



Cedar CORPORATION

DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

This map was created with data from Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department who assumes no liability for the accuracy of this data and any use or misuse of its content is the responsibility of the user. Changes were made by Cedar Corporation under the direction of Dodge County.

Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: January 15, 2025

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8 Land Use

8.1 Introduction

This element provides an analysis of existing land use in Dodge County. Transportation networks, ownership patterns (public and private), natural resources, market forces, existing ordinances, and resource management activities all contribute to the pattern of development that occurs in Dodge County.

8.2 Existing Land Use

Land use is a means of broadly classifying different types of activities relating to how land is used. The type, location, density, and geographic extent of developed and undeveloped lands influence community character, quality of life, public service needs (e.g., roads, utilities, parks, emergency services), tax base, and availability of jobs throughout the county. The maps developed in the planning process (particularly the existing land use map) are used to analyze the current development pattern, and serve as the framework for formulating how land will be used in the future.

A primary function of this Land Use element is to help assess the development pattern and how it potentially impacts future land use. The analysis should result in some perspective as to how the components of land use relate to each other, and develop some ideas on land use management that is compatible and desirable for Dodge County's long-term development pattern.

Land Use Integration

Land use is highly integrated with all the planning elements. Changes in land use are not isolated; typically changes in land use are the end result of change to another element. Growth in population, development of new housing, and building of a new road all have land use impacts.

The land use pattern in Dodge County consists of rural towns containing mostly agricultural land and scattered residential development, along with several small, incorporated communities providing centers for commerce, services, and cultural resources. The existing land uses in Dodge County are generally described on the next pages and summarized in Table 8-1 and Figure 8-1. Map 8-1, contained at the end of this chapter, displays the county's existing land use patterns.

Table 8-1: 2024 Existing Land Use, Dodge County

Existing Land Use	Acres	Percent of Total Acres
Single Family Residential	19,497.0	3.32%
Two Family Residential	97.4	0.02%
Multi Family Residential	62.7	0.01%
Mobile Home	178.1	0.03%
Commercial	538.4	0.09%
Industrial	2,221.9	0.38%
Communication & Utilities	1,333.5	0.23%
Public & Quasi-Public	952.7	0.16%
Parks & Recreation	29,916.7	5.10%
Agriculture - Other Resources	435,596.9	74.23%
Transportation Facilities	64.4	0.01%
Transportation Rights-of-Way	19,795.0	3.37%
Water	31,342.1	5.34%
Other Urban - Incorporated Cities/Villages	45,230.4	7.71%
Total	**586,827.2**	**100.00%**

Source: Dodge County and Cedar Corporation, 2024.

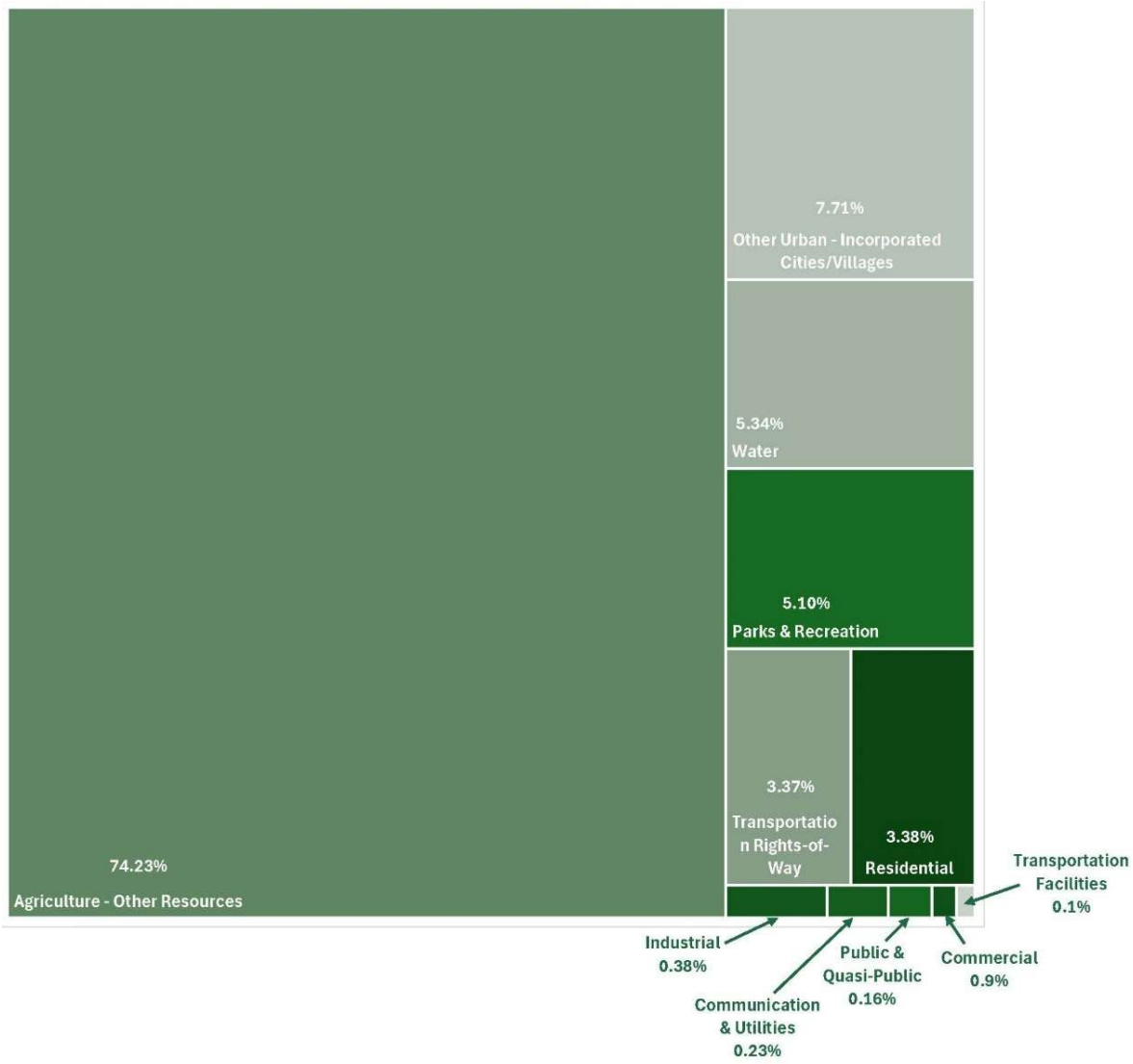
Agricultural and Other Use

By far the largest of the land use categories is the combined total for agriculture and undeveloped/vacant land, which is a reflection of the large amount of prime agricultural soils found in the county. This category also includes wetlands and open space areas and totals 435,597 acres, or 74.2% of the county. The question of how much land is converted to urban uses and where this conversion takes place is a key element of the land use planning process.

Residential

Residential development in Dodge County consists mainly of single-family housing, including farmsteads. Limited multi-family housing, manufactured housing, and two-family housing units are also present. Residential development is mostly scattered throughout the county, and generally follows transportation corridors. However, small concentrations of residential development can be found along lake shorelines, and adjacent to incorporated municipalities. More intensive residential development, such as duplexes, condominiums, and apartments can be found in the villages and cities in Dodge County. Approximately 19,835 acres (3.4%) of land are dedicated to residential uses within the rural portions of the county and is the fourth largest land use in the county.

Figure 8-1: 2024 Existing Land Use, Dodge County



Commercial

Commercial growth can be witnessed throughout the county and accounts for 538 acres within its rural portions. Many of the major roadways attract businesses. In recent years, commercial growth has occurred in the City of Mayville along WIS 28 and also on the WIS 151 and WIS 33 corridors in the City of Beaver Dam. The Beaver Dam area continues to capture the most substantial number of traditional highway and big-box commercial uses such as gas stations, fast-food restaurants, and convenience shopping. Commercial uses within towns are often more closely associated with agricultural related enterprises.

Industrial

Most industrial development can be found in Dodge County's cities and villages, which have the infrastructure (i.e., sewer and water) to support this type of development. Most of the cities and villages have industrial parks. However, some fringe areas around traditional urban centers have recently seen development of open land for industrial uses, due to the expansion of utilities and transportation networks. The most recent example being the creation of the Alliant Energy 151 Business Park, which has a first phase of 500 state-certified aces available for new development. Within the rural portions of the county, approximately 2,222 acres are considered as industrial uses, or about 0.4% of the county's total acreage.

Public and Quasi-Public

The residential, commercial, and industrial land use categories account for the majority of the land area devoted to urban uses. Public and Quasi-Public land uses perform a support function to the people living and working in both urban and rural environments. Land uses within this classification include hospitals, schools, cemeteries, and churches, along with government offices, prisons, and public buildings. The 953 acres of land devoted to these uses is not large in comparison to the other land use categories, but these facilities provide critical support and employment opportunities to the population of the county.

Parks and Recreation

Dodge County has many areas that are dedicated for use as parks and recreational land and accounts just under 30,000 acres (5.1%) of land use within the unincorporated portions of the county - the third largest land use category. The effects of a growing county population, growing interest in outdoor activities, and increased mobility will place greater demands on recreational facilities in the county. The preservation of public recreational areas as the county continues to grow is a key element in maintaining the quality of life in Dodge County.

Transportation

Nearly 3.4% of the county (19,859 acres) is dedicated toward transportation-related land uses, including features such as local/county/state highway rights-of-way, railroad rights-of-way, and park-n-ride facilities.

Communication and Utilities

Communication and utilities land use features, including power lines, electrical substations, wastewater treatment plants, water towers, solid waste and recycling centers, and telecommunication towers, comprise 1,334 acres, or about 0.2% of the county's total land area.

Surface Water

Surface waters account for 31,342 acres in Dodge County (5.34%), making it the third largest category. Surface waters are more prevalent in the northern one-half of the county as a result of the waters of Horicon Marsh, Fox Lake, Lake Emily and Beaver Dam Lake.

Other Urban Incorporated Cities/Villages

Just over 7.7% of all lands in the county are within incorporated villages and cities, not under the jurisdiction of the county in terms of planning. All of these lands are not developed, and each has a similar mix of different land uses, including substantial amounts of vacant agricultural and open space lands that are expected to accommodate much of the county's future growth.

8.3 Land Use Trends

Supply of Land

The supply of land in Dodge County is fixed overall, but accommodating new development is not of great concern as every community within the county has some land areas which are suitable for, and in many cases planned for, some type of growth. Cities and villages, being incorporated municipalities, do have the power to annex land from adjacent towns and thereby increase their land area. Within the county and around the boundaries of cities and villages, there is sufficient available land to develop if the need for further development arises.

Demand for Land

Demand for land in the county for development purposes can be classified as low to moderate. However, the demand for agricultural land has continued to increase as prices for agricultural products increase and the needs rise for lands to accommodate manure spreading from large dairy operations. The county's location in the middle of a triangle formed by Milwaukee, Madison, and the Fox River Valley cities continues to make it a desirable place to locate a residence or business.

As a result, demand for land in the county will likely continue at this level throughout the planning period barring any national economic downturns. Demand for commercial land may also increase as residential development increases in an effort to provide services to new residential development. Industrial lands are also expected to be in continued high demand as evidenced by the creation of the Alliant Energy 151 Business Park in Beaver Dam.

Price of Land

According to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), in 2024, the average value of agricultural land sales in Wisconsin without buildings or improvements continuing in agricultural use averaged $8,937 per acre, while land being diverted to other uses averaged $19,083 per acre. The average value of forest land continuing in forest land for 2024 averaged $3,668 per acre, while land being diverted to other uses was $5,793 per acre.

Within Dodge County, 2024 sales of agricultural land without buildings and other improvements averaged $10,972 per acre (based on 10 transactions totaling 454 acres). The range of sales for these lands were between $9,257 and $16,000 per acre. There were no sales of agricultural land for other uses within the county in 2024; however, in 2023 one sale was recorded which indicated a price of $40,476 per acre for 34-acre parcel. Previous years' sales had averages of $7,353 per acre (2022), and $12,359 per acre (2021).

The value of agricultural land that is sold for other uses continues to be valued higher than agricultural land that continues in agricultural use. To substantiate this, a review of Zillow.com and Landsearch.com was conducted to identify listing prices (not necessarily the final price paid) for a variety of agricultural lands within the county being sold for development. These prices ranged from $8,184 per acre to $30,947 per acre. Other lands listed as rural home sites have listing prices ranging from $8,606 per acre to $60,978 per acre, with an average around $18,000-19,000 per acre, depending on location and natural amenities. Lands along the periphery of the county's cities and villages targeted for residential or commercial development will likely have values higher than the rural properties due to their marketability for urban expansion.

The Concept of Sustainability

A concept of sustainability has emerged, especially in planning, to better balance the use of local and global resources while protecting natural areas and ecosystems. It's a basic "call to arms" in sustaining life on this planet. However, actions to support sustainability can be local, global, and anywhere in-between.

Given the rise of sustainability as a concept over the last several decades, there are many different versions or definitions of sustainability. Most definitions reference the need to respect environmental, economic, and social conditions. Another common element is managing resources for both current and future generations.

Although sustainability may be touted as a new planning concept, it is deeply rooted in plain common sense that has been around for centuries. Many grandparents preached phrases like "Don't waste your food", "Use what you take", "Share with others" and "Leave the campground better than you found it". Generations who were U.S. immigrants or children of immigrants, remember the sacrifices well, especially during the time of the Great Depression. Resources were scarce, costly, and valued. With that respect, they were used wisely. Today waste and overindulgence seem to be commonplace and virtually accepted in society. Sustainability as a concept is not new (maybe except for the fancy name), but how it could be successfully embraced and implemented in today's culture is. The implementation of sustainable concepts will require adjustment to behavior patterns and social priorities.

Planning for Sustainability in Dodge County

The concept of sustainability is a common goal for many communities across the globe, but the specific action to achieving sustainability is not a one size fits all solution. It can't be because all areas are different in terms of their resource value and the opportunities they present. The objectives of sustainability may be the same, but how to support those objectives will vary substantially among small towns, large cities, rural and suburban environments. For example, a county or region may identify the development of supporting and enhancing local foods systems as a sustainable goal. This could be achieved by the protection of farmland closer to urbanizing areas (the users). However, in a more suburban or urban community with no farmland to protect, this goal could be accomplished by the creation of farmer's markets, urban gardens, or agriculture specialty shops to bring those products closer to users.

The initial step in the sustainability planning process is the assessment of area resources. In Dodge County, this is undoubtedly nationally significant agricultural land and designated wildlife areas. The concept of sustainability will lie within how well the County moves to utilize these resources economically, yet protects the environment for future generations. The push for the use of more renewable energy by the state, country and the world will challenge rural areas in the role they will play in its generation.

The *Dodge County Farmland Preservation Plan* is a big component of the *Dodge County Comprehensive Plan*. The farmland preservation plan and subsequent farmland preservation ordinances create opportunities for farmers to make an economic living, hence, sustaining the farming culture. It also opens the door for ag-related businesses and agri-tourism, which have grown in popularity. The farmland preservation efforts also make clear the responsibility by agricultural producers to use best management practices in preserving these resources for today, tomorrow, and beyond.

The magnitude of this comprehensive planning effort with respect to addressing sustainability cannot be ignored. In numerical terms, a total of 441,000 acres have been designated to be maintained as "Agriculture" on the 2045 Future Land Use Map. Another 40,000 acres of land are managed as wildlife habitat and/or recreation areas by county, state and federal governments. Together these future land use designations account for 481,000 acres of land, or 83% of the county's total land area. Most of this acreage consists of nationally recognized agricultural soils as its base.

It must be noted that in the context of sustainability for a region, for that matter, the planet, decision makers all possess some level of responsibility to the greater good. Dodge County, for example, will export most of its agricultural products produced from its farmland preservation efforts. Those exports will provide the economic influx from which the activity will be able to "sustain". Simply put, the world's growing populations, especially those in urban environments, will need the Dodge Counties of the world to produce the food and nutrition that will be required to "sustain" the population. However, this so-called obligation will need to be tempered with the responsibility of protecting area soil, groundwater, surface water and air quality.

So, does Dodge County's land use approach support the concept of sustainability? Yes, it certainly does. But truly, it sounds more like just good old common sense. Thanks Grandpa. And yes, we will leave Dodge County better than we found it.



8.4 Opportunities for Redevelopment

Opportunities for redevelopment of land in Dodge County are abundant. While continued improvements have been made in recent years, many of the downtown and underutilized lands within cities and villages still have opportunities for redevelopment. Redevelopment of downtown and underutilized urban areas would help strengthen the economic vitality of the cities and villages and the county as a whole. In addition, environmentally contaminated sites (brownfields), vacant or under-utilized buildings and vacant lots represent opportunities for cost-effective infill and redevelopment projects. A majority of these opportunities exist in cities and villages, but there are a few scattered sites throughout the rural parts of the county, but not at any significant level.

8.5 Existing and Potential Land Use Conflicts

Existing and potential land use conflicts can occur throughout the county. Concern over too much intervention by Dodge County and the state relative to local control of land use issues is one of those conflicts. County and state regulation of shorelands, floodplains, and wetlands are often seen as an intrusion to local land use control.

Conflict between nonfarm residences and farm operations has been and will continue to be a problem in rural areas. Provisions within the County Land Use Code are in place to help lessen the potential for conflict. More recently, newer land uses, such as utility-scale solar farms and large data centers (one currently proposed in C. Beaver Dam) have gotten a fair amount of attention. The county will need to monitor these uses with respect to their desire and ability to regulate them.

Conflicts over land use and development in extraterritorial jurisdiction of cities and villages can happen. Cities and villages are allowed to take extraterritorial jurisdiction over land divisions within the surrounding towns. Conflict occurs between the town government and the city or village that is controlling development outside of their existing borders.

8.6 Land Use Projections

Table 8-2 displays estimates for the additional acreage that will be utilized by residential, commercial/industrial, institutional, and agricultural land uses for five-year increments through the year 2045 in Dodge County. These future land use demand estimates are largely dependent on population increases and should only be utilized for planning purposes in combination with other indicators of land use demand.

Table 8-2: Projected Land Use (additional acres) Unincorporated Dodge County, 2025-2045

Year	Residential	Commercial/Industrial	Institutional	Agricultural
2025	42.6	5.9	111.7	-160.2
2030	291.1	40.5	763.9	-1,095.5
2035	334.3	46.5	877.4	-1,258.2
2040	334.3	46.5	877.4	-1,258.2
2045	334.3	46.5	877.4	-1,258.2
Total Land Consumption (2025-2045)	**334.3**	**46.5**	**877.4**	**(1,258.2)**

Source: Cedar Corporation, 2025.

Year 2025 to 2045 acreage calculations were projected by utilizing the targeted population projection of 95,000 persons for the entire county as described in Chapter 1: Issues & Opportunities as a guide in terms of overall rates of growth. For this projection however, only the rural (town) populations were considered, as the existing land use inventory did not break out acreages associated within the incorporated portions of the county. Therefore, the projected demand for residential, commercial/industrial, and institutional land uses assumes that the ratio of the county's 2024 WDOA population estimate for just the towns (32,728) is used to calculate the current area taken up by individual land use categories (based on Table 8-1) and makes the assumption that this ratio will remain constant in the future. In other words, each person will require the same amount of land for each particular land use as they did in 2024 when the existing land use survey was conducted. The projected decline in agricultural land use is based on the projected growth of other land use categories and the assumption that the city and village boundaries remain unchanged.

As indicated by Table 8-2, the county is projected to face increased demands for residential, commercial/industrial, and institutional land uses. Within the unincorporated areas, another 334.3 acres will be used for residential development by the year 2045. Another 46.5 acres will be needed for commercial/industrial use and another 877.4 acres will be needed for institutional use. That means 1,258 total acres will need to be removed from the agricultural category to allow for the new development over this time period.

Where the additional housing units are built and at what density they are constructed will play a role in determining the actual amount of land used in the future. In-fill development and higher density development can reduce the amount of land used for new development and reduce the amount of agricultural land used for development.

8.7 Future Land Use Plan Map (Classifications)

The future land use map is the primary component of the comprehensive plan that will be used as a guide for officials when considering future development within the county. The map is long range and will need to be reevaluated periodically to ensure that it remains consistent with changing trends and conditions.

Pursuant to the “smart growth” comprehensive planning law, Section 66.1001 Wis. Stats., the Land Use element must specify the general location of future land uses by net density or other categories. To address this requirement, the land use categories described later were developed to allow the county and local officials the opportunity and flexibility to promote a desired pattern and density of land use in their communities and throughout the county consistent with county plans and ordinances for those communities under general county zoning jurisdiction, or, consistent with their own local plans and ordinances in the case of those communities NOT under general county zoning jurisdiction.

The 2045 Future Land Use Map applies specifically to the unincorporated areas of Dodge County and not to the incorporated villages and cities. The Future Land Use categories are simply designated areas of consistent character, use, and density that share similar goals and objectives for future use, preservation and/or development. The Future Land Use Map and plan goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations will be used as a general guide to assist county and local officials when making decisions regarding the protection and preservation of the county’s agricultural and natural resources and when considering specific development proposals. Decisions and actions to allow specific types of development will be further guided by specific county ordinance and/or Land Use Code provisions established to further define and implement the general goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations of the *Dodge County 2045 Comprehensive Plan*.

It is important to point out that the 2045 Future Land Use Plan Map was generated using a significant amount of town-level input and feedback. Each town was provided a county-level Future Land Use map for its specific community and was asked to review the map and provide input to county staff on any desired changes. The towns were to utilize their own, locally adopted, Future Land Use Maps as a guide to help determine if changes are needed at the county level. Therefore the type, amount and distribution of land uses by category as depicted on the 2045 Future Land Use Plan Map are “driven” by the same land use types, amounts, and distribution of land uses contained in the applicable local comprehensive plans. Some of these local level plans are more aggressive in terms of the projected conversion of farmland, for example, and therefore, this "bottom up" plan building process allowed those local units of government the opportunity to have direct input into determining the pattern and density of future development not only in their own communities, but also for the overall county.

The future land use plan is comprised of the Future Land Use Map shown at the end of this chapter, coupled with any associated development-related policies contained within this and previous chapter. For the purposes of describing the future land use map, a set of Future Land Use Categories was developed and includes:

1. Conservancy Overlay
2. Agriculture
3. Recreation
4. Single-Family Residential
5. General Residential
6. Commercial
7. Industrial
8. Utility & Community Facilities

The following subsections provide a general description of each Future Land Use category and its intent, while Table 8-3 contains details on the amount of acreage associated with each Future Land Use Classification.

Table 8-3: 2045 Future Land Use Map Acreages (Unincorporated Dodge County)

Future Land Use Category	Acres	Percent of Total Acres
Single Family Residential	28,214.4	4.86%
General Residential	1,537.7	0.26%
Commercial	3,265.4	0.56%
Industrial	5,313.6	0.92%
Utilities & Community Services	1,900.0	0.33%
Transportation	13,285.1	2.29%
Recreation	39,602.7	6.82%
Agriculture	441,181.2	75.98%
Cities & Villages	40,685.3	7.01%
Water	5,701.2	0.98%
Conservancy Overlay	*105,729.4*	*18.21%*
Niagara Escarpment Corridor Overlay	*1,366.5*	*0.24%*
Totals (Excludes both Overlay Districts)	**580,686.7**	**100.00%**

Source: Dodge County and Cedar Corporation, 2025.

Conservancy Overlay (Dark Green Hatch)

The previous Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use Map had the Conservancy classification as a separate and distinct future land use. The new, updated 2045 Future Land Use Map changes this land use classification slightly in an effort to improve and ease administration of the County's Comprehensive Plan. This change modifies the current mapping of the Conservancy District to be an Overlay District, instead of a stand-alone District. This change basically allows for any underlying land uses (such as agriculture, or park lands) to be visible and acknowledged from a mapping standpoint, and no changes to written policies or standards occurred as part of this change.

The Conservancy Overlay therefore continues to include mapped areas of wetlands as designated by the WDNR. Agricultural activities such as crop harvesting and pasturing are recognized as acceptable activities in the Conservancy category. Development should not encroach on these areas other than for recreational purposes as allowed under applicable regulations. Uses permitted within the Shoreland-Wetland District under the Shoreland Protection Ordinance are considered to be consistent with the Conservancy land use category.

Niagara Escarpment Corridor Overlay (Dark Purple Dashed Line and Hatch)

The Niagara Escarpment is a significant, and ecologically sensitive, geologic feature within the eastern part of Dodge County. Cliff faces, steep slopes, threatened and endangered species, and highly fractured dolomite exist within its corridor. Most of the time, the corridor contains lands not very suitable for development purposes. However, while the county does not have any regulations specifically pertaining to the Niagara Escarpment, it was felt that during this plan update, it would be beneficial to at least acknowledge the feature on the 2045 Future Land Use Map as an overlay district.

This new overlay district only serves to identify the feature so that if and when future development proposals arise within the corridor's boundary, both the county and the local unit of government can make better determinations regarding the impacts of that development on this environment. For mapping purposes, the Niagara Escarpment Corridor Overlay is based on existing geology data which depicts the portion of the corridor having cliff faces present. A standard 300-foot (600-foot total width) buffer is applied to this data set, resulting in the corridor shown on the map.

Agriculture (Light Green)

This category represents those areas where agricultural-type uses such as dairy and crop farming are the anticipated predominant land use in the area. The Agriculture category could include a limited amount of residential development, but the predominant land use would be agricultural in nature. Housing for the farm operator and a limited amount of non-farm residences would be acceptable. A minimal amount of other non-farm land uses, e.g., wind energy systems, wireless communication facilities, dog kennels, veterinary clinics, mineral extraction, farmers markets, and wildlife ponds, etc., may also occur in areas planned for agriculture. Uses identified as either an allowed use or a conditional use within the A-1 Prime Agricultural or A-2 General Agricultural Zoning Districts of the Dodge County Land Use Code are considered to be consistent within the Agriculture land use category.

Preservation of the county's agricultural areas, natural resources, surface waters, and open spaces was identified by the residents of the county to be a priority issue. Several strategies for achieving this goal have been identified and outlined in this plan. These strategies primarily include strengthening agricultural zoning and directing future development into surrounding areas that are served by sanitary sewer systems. Major subdivisions (those proposing to create five or more lots) and other similar large scale developments are discouraged in these areas.

Uses identified as either an allowed use or a conditional use (usually ag related) within the A-1 Prime Agricultural or A-2 General Agricultural Zoning Districts of the Dodge County Land Use Code are considered to be consistent with the Agriculture land use category.

Recreation (Dark Blue)

This category includes existing and future park and recreation land. Local, county, state, and federal recreation areas as well as privately owned recreation areas (golf courses, gun clubs, etc.) are included in this category. Wetlands that are located within a public or private recreation area will be placed in the Recreation category.

Public and private parks, golf courses, gun clubs, wildlife ponds, fairgrounds and their accessory uses are considered to be consistent with the Recreation land use category. Uses allowed within the Shoreland-Wetland District under the Dodge County Shoreland Protection Ordinance are considered to be consistent with the Recreation land use category.

Single-Family Residential (Yellow)

This category represents those areas where single-family residential land uses already exist, or, where such uses are planned to be the predominant land use. The density of residential development may vary depending on applicable zoning, but only single-family housing is included in this category. Mobile home parks, attached condominiums, and other multi-family residential uses would not be categorized as single-family residential but as General Residential (see description below). Where agricultural uses occur in these mapped areas, it is anticipated that these areas will become predominantly single-family residential over time. Uses identified as either an allowed use or a conditional use within the R-1 Single Family Residential Zoning District of the Dodge County Land Use Code are considered to be consistent with the Single Family Residential land use category.

General Residential (Orange)

These areas include all types of residential uses. Multi-family structures including duplexes, attached condominiums, mobile home parks, and group living facilities are included in this category. Uses identified as either an allowed use or a conditional use within the R-2 Two-Family or R-3 Multi-Family Residential Zoning Districts of the Dodge County Land Use Code are considered to be consistent with the General Residential land use category.

Commercial (Red)

These mapped areas represent where commercial-type land uses are anticipated in the future. Examples of uses found in this category include retail sales and services, eating and drinking establishments, financial institutions, professional offices, service and repair businesses, visitor accommodations, entertainment businesses, parking lots and day care facilities. Uses identified as either an allowed use or a conditional use within the C-1 General Commercial or C-2 Extensive Commercial Zoning Districts of the Dodge County Land Use Code are considered to be consistent with the Commercial land use category.

Industrial (Purple)

These mapped areas represent where industrial-type land uses are anticipated. Manufacturing and production facilities, resource extraction and processing, warehousing, transportation terminals, feed mills, and wholesale establishments are some of the examples of uses included in this category. Uses identified as either an allowed use or a conditional use within the C-2 Extensive Commercial, I-1 Light Industrial or I-2 Industrial Zoning Districts of the Dodge County Land Use Code are considered to be consistent with the Industrial land use category.

Utilities and Community Services (Brown)

This category includes all public and private utility facilities as well as those uses providing a service to the community except parks. Land uses such as churches, cemeteries, post offices, libraries, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, prisons, airports, hospitals, town halls, police and fire stations, museums, and schools are some examples of community services. Utilities would include uses such as electrical substations, water wells, water towers, natural gas regulator stations, and waste water treatment facilities. Those Utility and Community Service uses and their accessory uses allowed under the Dodge County Land Use Code are considered to be consistent with the Utilities and Community Services land use category.

8.8 Land Use Trends and Key Facts

The following land use trends are anticipated during the planning period in Dodge County.

- It is assumed that a majority (~70%) of population growth and related development will occur within the incorporated villages and cities, with about 30% occurring within the unincorporated towns.
- Agricultural land uses are expected to decline slightly as lands are taken out of production to accommodate new development over time.
- Advances in technology have created new uses which may seek to locate within the county at some point. These include utility-scale solar energy systems, battery energy storage systems, and large data centers.
- Non-metallic mining uses will continue to be accommodated to provide local stone resources for building construction, road improvements, and other development projects.

8.9 Land Use Goals, Objectives, Policies & Recommendations

Each element of the comprehensive plan includes a specific set of goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations that the county will use as a guide to future land use, development and preservation decisions over the next 20 years. Goals, objectives, policies and recommendations are defined as follows:

- **Goals** are broad, value-based statements that express general public priorities and preferences about how the county should address issues over the next 20 years and beyond. Goals address key issues, opportunities and problems that affect the county.

- **Objectives** are more specific than goals and are measurable statements usually attainable through direct action and implementation of plan recommendations. The accomplishment of objectives contributes to the fulfillment of the goal.

- **Policies** are general rules, principles, strategies or courses of action used to guide decision making and actions as necessary to accomplish goals and objectives. Policies are intended to be used by decision makers on a regular basis.

- **Recommendations** are specific actions, projects or activities that are intended to achieve a particular plan goal, objective, or policy.

Land Use Goals and Objectives

Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001 requires a statement of overall goals and objectives to guide the future development and redevelopment of the county over a 20-year planning period. The following goals and objectives were developed by Dodge County with regard to the Land Use element:

Goals

Goal 1: Provide for a well-balanced mix of land uses within the county that minimizes potential conflicts between residential, commercial, industrial, utility, and agricultural land uses.

Goal 2: Provide for urban and rural growth in an orderly manner that does not unnecessarily consume farmland or create conflicts with farm operations.

Objectives

1. Encourage a variety of land uses within the county in order to discourage land use disparities between communities.

2. Balance land use across the county (natural resources and agriculture along with residential and commercial development).

3. Define urban growth areas around existing municipalities sufficient to allow reasonable municipal growth.

4. Limit residential development around the Dodge County Airport, especially in future expansion areas.

5. Encourage development that promotes open space through site design and which fits within the character of the county as well as the specific location in which the development is proposed.

6. Utilize tools for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the zoning and development review process.

Land Use Policies and Recommendations

Policies and recommendations build on goals and objectives by providing more focused responses and actions to the goals and objectives. Policies and recommendations become the tools that the county should use to aid in making decisions. Policies that direct action using the words "will" or "shall" are advised to be mandatory and regulatory aspects of the implementation of the comprehensive plan. In contrast, those policies that direct action using the word "should" are advisory and intended to serve as a guide.

Recommendations are specific actions or projects that the county should be prepared to complete within the 20-year planning period. The completion of these actions and projects are consistent with the policies, and therefore will help fulfill the comprehensive plan goals and objectives. The following policies and recommendations have been developed by Dodge County with regard to the Land Use element and serve to support the goals and objectives:

Policies

General

1. All development proposals shall meet the intent of the Future Land Use Plan Map classifications as described within the Land Use element.

2. Requests for amendments to the county Land Use Code should not be approved if such request is not consistent with the county Comprehensive Plan. Amendments to town zoning ordinances are not subject to being consistent with the county Comprehensive Plan.

3. Promote the expansion of county zoning to improve consistency of zoning/building requirements across the county.

4. Monitor trends associated with the siting of new "data centers" and consider the creation of new zoning controls as required to better mitigate impacts such as noise, aesthetics, and groundwater usage.

Agriculture

1. The county should not be opposed to large agricultural operations that operate in accordance with the applicable state and county regulations.

2. For all proposed rezoning petitions that will remove land from the A-1 Prime Agricultural Zoning District, the following findings should be made:
   a. The land is better suited for a use not allowed in the A-1 Prime Agricultural Zoning District;
   b. The rezoning is substantially consistent with the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan and Farmland Preservation Plan;
   c. The rezoning will not substantially impair or limit current or future agricultural use of surrounding parcels of land that are zoned for or legally restricted to agricultural use.

3. New non-farm residential structures and lots should not be allowed within 500 feet of operating agricultural facilities.

4. Restrict animal confinement facilities outside of the A-1 Prime Agricultural Zoning District or rezone such sites to A-1 District if appropriate.

5. A residential subdivision with more than four newly created lots shall not be considered consistent within the Agriculture future land use category within towns under county zoning jurisdiction.

Conservancy

1. Agricultural activities such as crop harvesting, pasturing, and tree cutting are recognized as acceptable activities in the Conservancy Overlay category.

2. Use of wetland areas for the purpose of passive, non-motorized outdoor recreation opportunities (e.g., walking/hiking trails, wildlife movement, and overall character enhancement are allowed).

3. Development should not occur within nor encroach on these areas other than for open space preservation, conservation or passive recreational purposes as may be allowed under applicable regulations.

4. Require natural buffer area between incompatible land uses where such uses adjoin each other.

5. Prohibit most structural development in areas identified as wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas.

6. Prohibit building, road construction or other land disturbances on slopes in excess of 20 percent, and apply construction site erosion control standards and a stormwater management program to non-agricultural development on slopes of 12 to 20 percent to control erosion.

7. Restrict all forms of structural development or concentrated animal numbers in floodplains based on Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) maps, but encourage other forms of agriculture.

Recreation

1. Existing park and recreation areas should be maintained and enhanced as necessary to contribute to overall community identity and outdoor recreation opportunities.

2. Existing and planned recreational facilities shall be coordinated through Dodge County's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

3. Proposals to develop land identified for future park and recreation land should be evaluated by Land Resources and Parks Department staff. If it is determined that the land is not desired for park and recreation land at that time, the proposed development shall be allowed to proceed.

4. Provide buffer areas and screening to protect parks and recreation areas from adjacent development.

Residential

1. New single-family residential development should occur exclusively in the planned single-family areas as shown on the Future Land Use Plan Map.

2. Single-family residential neighborhoods should contain some form of buffering (e.g., landscaping, berming, screening, and/or additional building setbacks) between the residences and potentially incompatible land uses such as agricultural, commercial or industrial.

3. Residential densities will be regulated by the county's Land Use Code under the current R-1, R-2 and R- 3 Zoning District provisions.

4. The county should ensure the following regulatory components are effectively applied in its residential development standards for rural areas:
   a. There should be a minimum lot size requirement.
   b. Visual impacts should be an important consideration.

5. New residential lots and building sites shall be located and designed to protect wetlands, floodplains and productive farmland.

6. Require driveway access permits from the appropriate jurisdiction prior to considering any subdivision letter of intent, or the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit or Land Use Permit.

7. New residential development should be consistent with town land use plans and city or village land use plans, if applicable.

8. The county may consider higher residential density development in areas designated as residential on the Future Land Use Plan Map.

Commercial

1. New commercial development should occur exclusively in the planned commercial and agricultural areas (if agriculture-related) as shown on the Future Land Use Plan map. Densities will be regulated by the county's Land Use Code under the current C-1 and C-2 Zoning District provisions.

2. Intensive commercial activity in close proximity to residential development should be avoided. However, neighborhood convenience stores or services should be allowed in residential areas where precautions such as vegetative buffering are used to ensure that the quality and character of the neighborhood are upheld.

3. The proliferation of large billboards and off-premises signs associated with commercial development should be discouraged in favor of smaller, less obtrusive signage.

Industrial

1. New industrial development should occur exclusively in the planned industrial and agricultural areas (if agriculture-related) as shown on the Future Land Use Plan map. Densities will be regulated by the county's Land Use Code under the current C-2, I-1 and I-2 Zoning District provisions.

2. New developments should be subject to minimum building and site design, landscaping, signage, and outdoor storage provisions to encourage community character and sustainable developments.

3. Proper access by industries to and from major traffic routes should be provided. Industrial development should also maintain adequate off-road employee parking, loading and unloading facilities, and should be buffered from intensive residential areas to reduce potential land use related conflict.

4. Reuse of existing vacant industrial property should be a priority when assessing new potential industrial uses.

5. Commercial uses may be allowed in the Light Industrial category dependent on the location (lot configuration will not impede future lot layout or development of adjacent lands) and type of proposed use.

Recommendations

1. Amend the county Land Use Code as needed to implement the Comprehensive Plan.

2. Amend county regulations to allow for creativity in small to medium scale solar energy system siting to encourage placement in/on parking lots, building rooftops, closed landfills, and existing brownfield sites.

3. Develop minimum standards for the submission of town zoning amendments to the County Board and provide a system of review by the Land Resources and Parks Committee prior to inclusion of such amendments on the County Board agenda.

4. The county should develop minimum design standards for commercial development to promote quality and aesthetics and do not detract from the community.

5. Further study linkages between park facilities and population centers for non-vehicular circulation by means of open space environmental corridors, trails or similar means. Encourage public acquisition of inactive railroad corridors, review of proposed highway projects for opportunities to provide extra right-of-way, and consider creating trails within active railroad rights-of-way.

6. Monitor the increasing interest in Wisconsin as a location for data centers and develop new zoning regulation as needed to better address impacts of these facilities.

8.10 Land Use Programs

See Appendix G for a complete listing of programs pertaining to this element of the Comprehensive Plan.

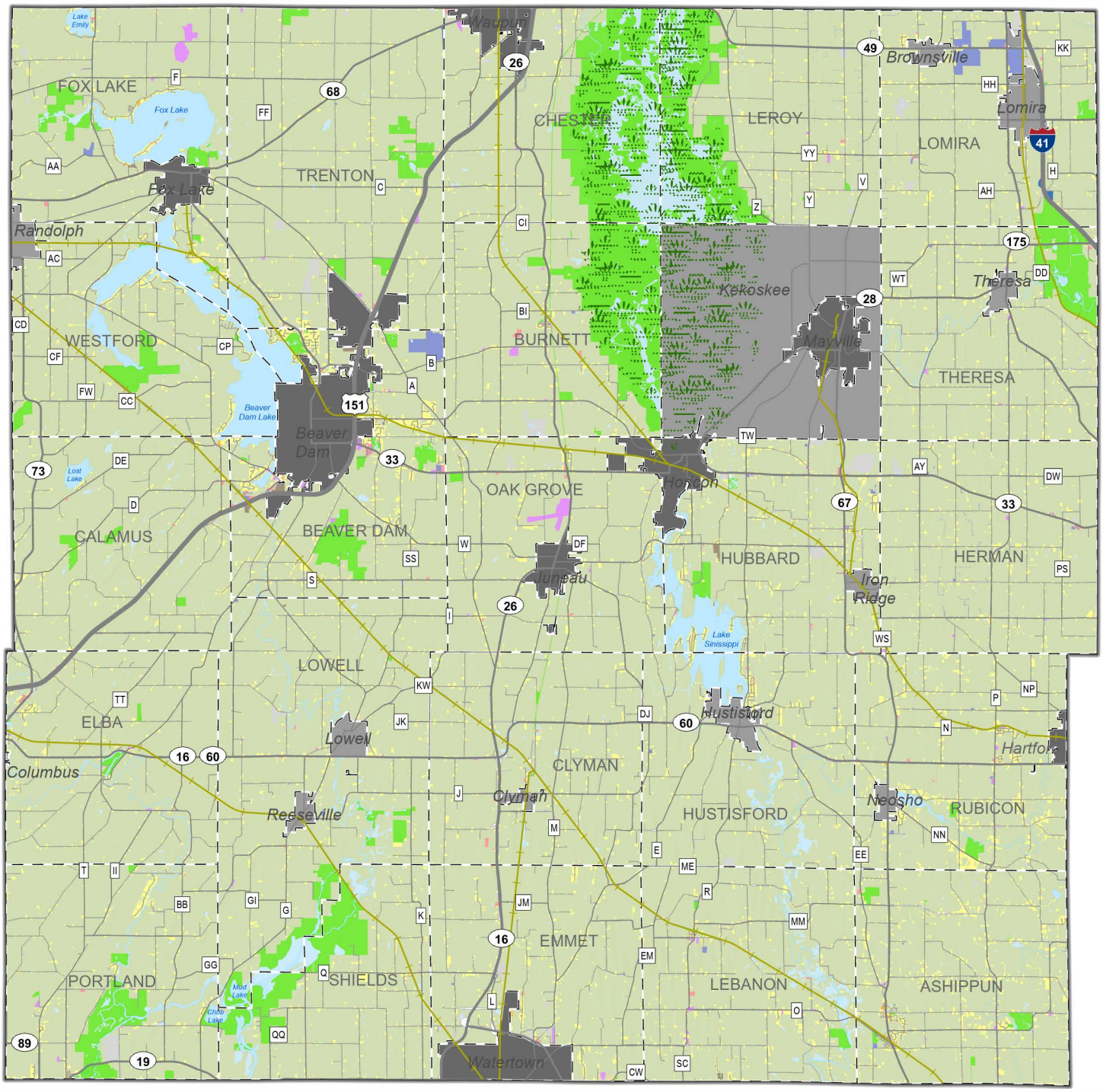
8.11 Maps

Map 8-1: 2024 Existing Land Use
Map 8-2: 2045 Future Land Use

Map 8-1

Existing Land Use

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Existing Land Use*

- Single Family Residential
- Two Family Residential
- Multi Family Residential
- Mobile Home
- Commercial
- Communication & Utilities
- Industrial
- Public & Quasi-Public
- Parks & Recreation
- Agriculture / Other Resources
- Transportation
- ROW
- Water
- Village
- City

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Municipal Boundary
- Horicon Marsh

*Cedar Corporation, 2024.

NORTH

W E

S

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



Cedar CORPORATION

DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

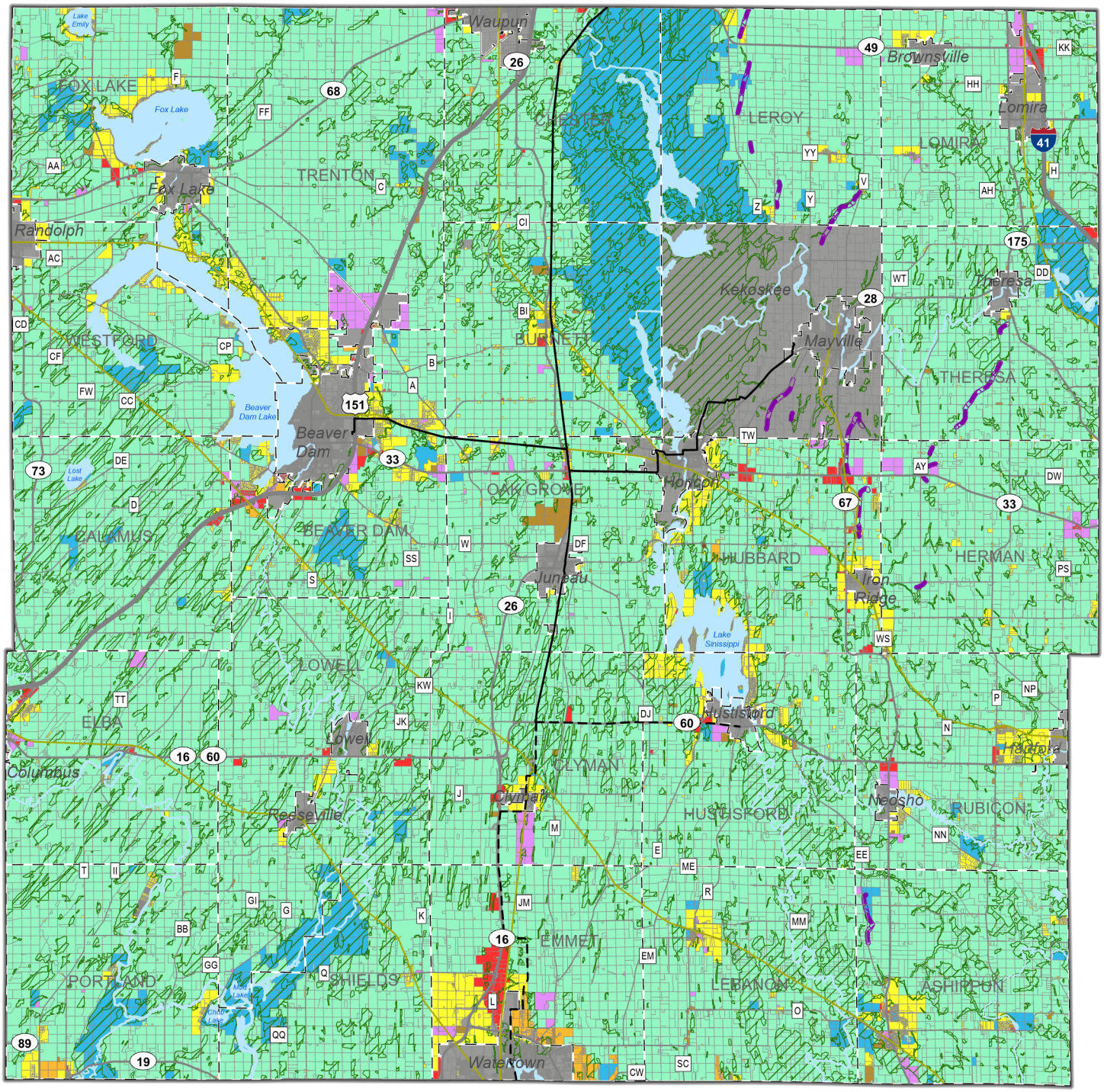
This map was created with data from Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department who assumes no liability for the accuracy of this data and any use or misuse of its content is the responsibility of the user. Changes were made by Cedar Corporation under the direction of Dodge County.

Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: February 14, 2025

Map 8-2

Future Land Use

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Legend

Future Land Use*

- Single Family Residential
- General Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Cities & Villages
- Transportation
- Utilities & Community Services
- Recreation
- Agriculture
- Water
- Conservancy Overlay
- Niagara Escarpment Outcrop with a 300' Buffer

Recreational Trails

- Existing
- Proposed

Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Municipal Boundary

*Cedar Corporation and Dodge County, 2025.

NORTH W E S

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



Cedar CORPORATION

DODGE COUNTY WISCONSIN

This map was created with data from Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department who assumes no liability for the accuracy of this data and any use or misuse of its content is the responsibility of the user. Changes were made by Cedar Corporation under the direction of Dodge County.

Source: Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Department / Map Date: February 11, 2026.

9 Implementation

Just as the comprehensive plan does not work independently of other community documents, the implementation element does not work independently of the other elements in the plan. In fact, the implementation element is one of the best ways to demonstrate the integration of all the elements. Through implementation, the connectivity among issues and opportunities, housing, transportation, utilities and community facilities, agricultural, natural, and cultural resources, economic development, intergovernmental cooperation, and land use is realized. Decisions should be made based on the knowledge that one decision can affect all the elements involved, and there are direct and indirect effects of all actions.

The Implementation element includes a compilation of programs and specific actions to be completed in a stated sequence. These programs and specific actions will be used to implement the goals, objectives and policies contained within the earlier elements of this plan. The Implementation element also includes a section on mechanisms to measure progress that will allow the county to determine if it is successfully implementing its comprehensive plan. In addition, this element also describes how all of the plan elements will be integrated and made consistent, as well as discusses the comprehensive plan amendment and update procedures.

9.1 Implementation Action Plan & Priority Recommendations

In order for plans to be meaningful, they must be implemented, so the *2045 Dodge County Comprehensive Plan* was developed with implementation in mind. The Implementation Action Plan is intended to jump start the implementation process by addressing the county's most critical needs, which can help provide focus and progress on meeting its long-term goals. The updated plan contains just over 100 individual recommendations and tasks, and it is unlikely that each and every one of them will be accomplished based on the capacity of county staff. Therefore, a process was used to narrow down the relative importance and implementation timing of these recommendations.

A substantial effort was put forth to obtain input on which recommendations should be considered a priority by the county. Input was received from the Comprehensive Plan Update Ad Hoc Work Group, County Department Heads, and the Land Resources & Parks Committee, whereby individuals reviewed and categorized all of the recommendation statements into three categories – Short Term (1-2 years), Medium-Term (3-10 years), or Long-Term (11-20 years). The purpose of this exercise was ultimately identify those recommendations which would "move the needle" the most. "Move the needle" is an idiom that means to make a noticeable and significant impact or to achieve measurable progress toward a goal.

Based on this evaluation, a total of 23 "priority recommendations" were identified for implementation over the next two years and are shown in Table 9-1. A secondary set of 14 priority recommendations (Table 9-2) were established for implementation in the 3 to 10 year timeframe following the first two-year period. It is important to note that items within each table are NOT listed in priority order, but rather in the order they appear within the plan elements. This will provide the county flexibility in addressing factors such as timing, budgets, and capacity.

9.2 Integration and Consistency of Comprehensive Plan Elements

Planning Element Integration

While this comprehensive plan is divided into nine elements, in reality, county and community planning issues are not confined to these divisions. Planning issues will cross these element boundaries. Because this is the case, the strategies and recommendations of this plan were considered by Dodge County in the light of their relationship and impact on other applicable elements. Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning law requires that the Implementation element describe how each of the nine elements of the comprehensive plan will be integrated with the other elements of the plan. Planning element integration is achieved by grouping associated strategies and recommendations from multiple elements into Implementation Action Plan as discussed earlier.

Table 9-1: Implementation Action Plan – Priority Recommendations (1-2 Years)

Plan Element	Recommendation Statement
Issues & Opps	Continue to use the existing development review system which encourages towns, villages and cities to comment on plan amendments, code revisions, and development proposals before the proposals are acted upon, and encourage municipalities to offer the same opportunity to the county.
Housing	Develop educational materials that talk about the benefits of all housing types.
Housing	Continue Dodge County's participation in the Southern Housing Region and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which provides no interest loans for home improvements for low and moderate income persons.
Housing	Continue the funding and utilization of the Dodge County Community Development Fund to support the construction of local level workforce housing projects.
Economic Dev	Develop a county program to attract childcare providers. For example, consider the provision of facilities, become a licensor for child-care, "bridge" pay gaps and/or provide benefits (e.g., healthcare).
Economic Dev	Develop the "Education Story" for Dodge County and determine market audience for sharing and distributing. a. Leverage the county's proximity/access to higher education (MPTC, UW-Madison, etc.). b. Incorporate comparison with state-level scores for education system.
Economic Dev	Develop and distribute tourism information promoting the county.
Economic Dev	Continue participation and cooperation with the Madison Region Economic Partnership (MadREP) and its successor organization.
Transportation	Leverage local transportation dollars by applying regularly for state road funding opportunities (LRIP, ARIP, etc.)
Transportation	Promote and support the expansion of the Gold Star Memorial Trail.
Transportation	Continue to produce a county Five Year Capital Improvement Plan on an annual basis.
Utilities & CF	Study the re-use of the Henry Dodge Building property for a renewable energy project if the structure is removed.
Utilities & CF	Enhance the county-wide dispatch system with features such as text to 911, sheriff apps, and more focus on citizen interaction.
Utilities & CF	Support eligible cities, villages and sanitary districts who attempt to obtain grants for needed infrastructure expansion and improvements.
Utilities & CF	Utilize the Friends of Dodge County Parks to develop a fundraising strategy to help offset the cost of park improvements.
Utilities & CF	Work with the Friends of Dodge County Parks in communicating parks information to the County Board, the local news media, and to the general public through the Land Resources and Parks Department.
Ag/Nat/Cul	Develop incentives for farmers to leave unplowed and unfertilized buffers along waterways ways and wetlands. Regularly apply for DNR grants for the following uses: a. Shoreland restoration projects. b. Park improvement projects. c. Development of new or existing trails (such as the Gold Star Memorial Trail). d. Other projects that enhance the county's natural resources base.
Ag/Nat/Cul	Assist and support the county's Lake Districts in the implementation of locally created plans, programs, and implementation recommendations regarding water quality improvements
Land Use	Amend the County Land Use Code as needed to implement the Comprehensive Plan.
Land Use	Amend county regulations to allow for creativity in small to medium scale solar energy system siting which encourages placement in/on parking lots, building rooftops, closed landfills, and existing brownfield sites.
Intergov. Cooperation	Host a bi-annual forum in which cities, village, towns, and the county can constructively discuss land use and zoning issues, especially the current issues facing those communities, as well as to improve communication and coordination (i.e., Wis. Stats. 66.023 regarding cooperative boundary agreements, and Wis Stats. 66.30, regarding cooperative inter-governmental agreements).
Implementation	Provide IT advancements to make county government more secure, yet citizen-centric with respect to planning and zoning processes and activities.

Table 9-2: Implementation Action Plan – Priority Recommendations (3-10 Years)

Plan Element	Recommendation Statement
Housing	Initiate a pilot project to examine opportunities for new housing through the adaptive re-use of older buildings, perhaps acquiring structures through the foreclosure process.
Economic Dev	Create a county database of existing and potential new economic development programs and policies in order to formulate strategies for sustaining and improving the economic stability of the county.
Economic Dev	Continue to administer and promote the Dodge County Community Development Fund to area municipalities for economic development-related projects, including infrastructure to foster new housing.
Economic Dev	Increase county capacity for tourism promotion (most successful at attracting higher earners). Having a dedicated county staff person for tourism will foster more consistency and sustainability.
Economic Dev	Allocate sales tax revenues for priority economic development projects, including business retention and attraction.
Economic Dev	Develop a program to target youth/residents who had left the county to return.
Transportation	Develop a long-term transportation plan which prioritizes roadway improvement projects, preserves a high aesthetic quality, and minimizes disruption of natural, historical and cultural resources.
Transportation	Address critical safety concerns at key intersections by considering the following studies and/or projects: a. CTH A & CTH W (potential roundabout) b. CTH G & CTH S c. CTH TT & WIS 60 (coordinate with bridge replacement project and potentially remove segment of TT) d. CTH T & WIS 60 e. WIS 60 near Dollar General in Hustisford.
Transportation	Seek opportunities for off-road trail connections to replace current road routes where feasible which connect the Glacial River Trail to the Village of Clyman, Wild Goose State Trail, and City of Watertown.
Transportation	Prepare an updated Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan to identify priority trails and connections, as well as to provide better guidance to the Highway Department for accommodating such uses.
Utilities & CF	Produce an annual Capital Improvement Program Plan to assess its needs in regard to county facilities.
Utilities & CF	Work toward the expansion of fiber and broadband for not only county use, but also for businesses and residents.
Ag/Nat/Cul	Develop a historic preservation type document that reflects on the county's past in a nontraditional manner. Create a website map and database of historical sites within the county's geographical information system.
Implementation	Update the Comprehensive Plan on a 10-year cycle, consistent with State Statutes. Coordinate with update to the Farmland Preservation Plan and the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Planning Element Consistency

Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning law requires that the Implementation Element describe how each of the nine elements of the comprehensive plan will be made consistent with the other elements of the plan. While there are no known major inconsistencies amongst the elements, there may be ones which arise occasionally, as this is the nature of goals and strategies. Because these are statements of community values, they may very well compete with one another in certain situations. The mechanism for resolving any such inconsistency is to evaluate the selected goal and/or strategy in the context of potentially competing values. The county should look to all related strategies to provide decision-making guidance.

Over time, the threat of inconsistency between the plan and existing conditions will increase, requiring amendments or updates to be made. Over time, additional plans regarding specific features within the county may also be developed (e.g., outdoor recreation plan, bicycle/pedestrian plan, emergency management, etc.). The process used to develop any further detailed plans should be consistent with this *Dodge County 2045 Comprehensive Plan*.

9.3 Measurement of Plan Success

Successful implementation of the *2045 Comprehensive Plan* can be measured in several ways. The primary means for measuring success is through regular review and updating of the plan. Through this process, errors, inconsistencies, and aspects of the plan that have not worked out can be evaluated and changes can be made. Comparing future population growth and the number of new housing units in the county to the figures and projections presented in this plan can also aid in determining the success of the projections in this plan.

Success of the plan can also be measured by tracking the number of changes (amendments) made to the plan that are granted by the County Board each year. A large number of plan amendments could indicate a problem with the plan that may need to be revisited.

Lastly, monitoring the Implementation Action Plan can help to establish progress towards plan success. An annual review of the Implementation Action Plan is recommended as a method to set budgets, gauge progress, and to identify barriers to completion.

9.4 Updating, Monitoring, and Amending the Plan

Plan Updates

Comprehensive planning statutes require that a comprehensive plan be updated at least once every 10 years. Unlike an amendment, an update is often a substantial re-write of the text, updating of the inventory and tables, and changes to maps, if necessary. The plan update process should be planned for in a similar manner as was allowed for this plan including similar time and funding allotments. State statutes should also be monitored for any modified language. Factoring in plan preparation lead time, Dodge County should consider initiating the next Comprehensive Plan Update in or around 2034.

Plan Monitoring

It is also recommended that five years following adoption of the plan (2029), the county should review and evaluate the overall success of implementing the plan. This evaluation would include not only tracking what actions have been initiated, but also assessing whether these actions have been effective in furthering the goals and objectives of the plan. It is expected that this evaluation will result in some actions and/or policies being dropped, or others added, as necessary. This five-year review does not necessarily need to include an extensive public participation process, but it should be conducted at the Committee level in a transparent manner.

On an annual basis (December of each year moving forward), the Land Resources & Parks Committee should take the time to review the implementation status of the *2045 Comprehensive Plan* and should report its findings to the County Board. This could include identification of Implementation Action Plan items that have been initiated and the results of those actions. The report should also include a discussion of any barriers to implementation that have been encountered.

Plan Amendments

As a growing county facing development pressure and growth issues, there will be occasional requests for plan amendments. The Land Resources & Parks Committee has an established process for accepting and processing amendments to the County's Comprehensive Plan. Currently, applications for text and map amendments are accepted twice per year (by March 15 or August 15). A formal application along with a $50.00 fee must be submitted by the applicant along with appropriate documentation to support the amendment request. These amendments are reviewed collectively, along with a detailed assessment of how the proposed changes align with, or might affect, the overall vision, goals, and objectives plan.

While no formal criteria exist to gauge the appropriateness of approving amendments, much of the review focus is placed on potential impacts to active farmlands and natural resources, the availability of adequate infrastructure, and the potential for land use related conflicts.

The formal approval process for plan amendments requires the Land Resources & Parks Committee to hold a public hearing upon publication of a Class I notice at least 30 days before the hearing date. When deemed appropriate, written notification of the public hearing is sent to user groups, organizations, municipalities, or individuals believed to be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed change. After the public hearing and consideration of the comments of the public and the Committee, the County Board votes on the proposed change or amendment. The change is effective upon passage.

9.5 Implementation Goals and Objectives

Each element of the comprehensive plan includes a specific set of goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations that the county will use as a guide to future land use, development and preservation decisions over the next 20 years. Goals, objectives, policies and recommendations are defined as follows:

- **Goals** are broad, value-based statements that express general public priorities and preferences about how the county should address issues over the next 20 years and beyond. Goals address key issues, opportunities and problems that affect the county.

- **Objectives** are more specific than goals and are measurable statements usually attainable through direct action and implementation of plan recommendations. The accomplishment of objectives contributes to the fulfillment of the goal.

- **Policies** are general rules, principles, strategies or courses of action used to guide decision making and actions as necessary to accomplish goals and objectives. Policies are intended to be used by decision makers on a regular basis.

- **Recommendations** are specific actions, projects or activities that are intended to achieve a particular plan goal, objective, or policy.

Implementation Goals and Objectives

Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001 requires a statement of overall goals and objectives to guide the future development and redevelopment of the county over a 20-year planning period. The following goals and objectives were developed by Dodge County with regard to the Implementation element:

Goals

Goal 1: Implement the 2045 Comprehensive Plan in a consistent and timely manner, while ensuring adequate communication with other Departments and Towns regarding responsibilities and expected outcomes.

Objectives

1. Maintain a current Comprehensive Plan document by conducting regular reviews and updates as needed.

2. Improve connections between the Comprehensive Plan and the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

3. Improve connections between the Comprehensive Plan and the county's Strategic Plan.

4. Continued improvements should be sought on relationships with Towns regarding planning and zoning. A good history of this needs to continue.

Implementation Policies and Recommendations

Policies and recommendations build on goals and objectives by providing more focused responses and actions to the goals and objectives. Policies and recommendations become the tools that the county should use to aid in making decisions. Policies that direct action using the words "will" or "shall" are advised to be mandatory and regulatory aspects of the implementation of the comprehensive plan. In contrast, those policies that direct action using the word "should" are advisory and intended to serve as a guide.

Recommendations are specific actions or projects that the county should be prepared to complete. The completion of these actions and projects are consistent with the policies, and therefore will help fulfill the comprehensive plan goals and objectives. The following policies and recommendations have been developed by Dodge County with regard to the Implementation element and serve to support the goals and objectives:

Policies

1. The county Comprehensive Plan document shall be maintained by conducting regular reviews and updates as needed.

Recommendations

1. Review the Comprehensive Plan on an annual basis with the Land Resources and Parks Committee to determine if changes in policies or direction are required.

2. Update the Comprehensive Plan on a 10-year cycle, consistent with State Statutes. Coordinate with update to the Farmland Preservation Plan and the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

3. Develop an improved system for comprehensive plan implementation and coordination in term of use as policy documents (consistent application to reviews, annual/regular comp plan reviews, identification of top 10 recommendations, etc.).

4. Review and provide clarifications and changes in county and local land-use related ordinances based on 'aging out' and other state law changes.

5. Provide IT advancements to make county government more secure, yet citizen-centric with respect to planning and zoning processes and activities.
   a. Promote new website, which is being completed in 2025.
   b. Monitor new on-line permitting applications and process for needed and potential improvements.
   c. Monitor and continually improve the county's cybersecurity and artificial intelligence (AI) appropriate usage policies and equipment.
   d. Improve project communication and coordination with IT staff as more up-front knowledge could improve project implementation.

9.6 Maps

No maps included in this section.

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List of Appendices

The following appendices are referenced in this comprehensive plan and are included in this section, as follow:

A. Public Participation Plan & Plan Adoption Materials

B. LRPC & Working Group Kickoff Meeting Materials

C. Project Hub Comments & Lake District Comments

D. Public Involvement Meeting #1 & #2 Summaries

E. Citizen Survey Summary

F. Town Survey Summary

G. Plan Element Programs

H. Supplemental Plan Element Data

Appendix A – Public Participation Plan & Plan Adoption Materials

	County Board Agenda Item
Meeting Date:	October 15, 2024
Agenda Item:	**Resolution to Adopt Public Participation Plan for Update to County Comprehensive Plan**
Department / Division:	Land Resources & Parks : Community Development Division
Staff Contact:	Nate Olson, Community Development Administrator: nolson@co.dodge.wi.us Bill Ehlenbeck, Director: behlenbeck@co.dodge.wi.us

BACKGROUND

The resolution is to approve a Public Participation Plan for the update of the County Comprehensive Plan.

Dodge County has contracted with Cedar Corporation to carryout the required update to the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan by December, 2025. As part of the plan update, a Public Participation Plan that meets WI Statutues is required to be adopted. Cedar Corporation in coordination with Land Resources and Parks staff have developed a Public Participation Plan that meets the requirements of State Statutes. The plan gives our communities, residents and local officials an opportunity to provide input on the future growth, character and condition of the County for the next 20-30 years.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

9/23/24 – Land Resources & Parks Committee – Review, consideration and approval
10/7/24 – Finance Committee – Fiscal Note – Review, consideration and approval

FINANCIAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact as this is a policy change.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS/STAFF COMMENTS

Staff recommends approval. Staff and consultant will use this plan as minimum requirements but will seek additional opportunities as they become available to further increase public awareness and promote public input.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

None

RESOLUTION NO. 24-47

Adoption of a Public Participation Plan for the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan Update

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF DODGE COUNTY, WISCONSIN,

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature has established a "Comprehensive Planning Law" which requires a local governmental unit to update its comprehensive plan in accordance with Section 66.1001 of the Wisconsin Statutes; and,

WHEREAS, the Dodge County Board of Supervisors adopted the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan on May 15, 2015 and has undertaken the process to update its plan in accordance with the law; and,

WHEREAS, the Dodge County Board of Supervisors has approved a contract with Cedar Corporation to execute the update to the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan with oversight by the Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee; and,

WHEREAS, as a part of the plan update, the governing body of a local governmental unit is required to adopt written procedures designed to foster public participation in every stage of a comprehensive plan update; and,

WHEREAS, the Dodge County Board of Supervisors has delegated the responsibility to update the existing comprehensive plan in accordance with the requirements specified by law to the Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee has developed a Public Participation Plan designed to encourage public participation in the comprehensive plan update, attached hereto as Exhibit A, which plan includes the following requirements:

1. Conduct public informational meetings during which plan updates are presented, displayed and distributed;
2. Issue press releases regarding the process by which the plan will be updated and a summary of the proposed updates;
3. Conduct committee meetings during which the plan updates are presented and discussed;
4. Conduct public hearing(s) as required by law;
5. Provide/publish advanced notice, including legal notices when required, of all meetings by posting at public places and the County's website so that the public can attend such meetings and offer input;
6. Make available for public access and review at the Dodge County Administration Building in Juneau, Wisconsin, all informational items used and produced by the Committee and staff;
7. Solicit and respond to written comments from the public on all subjects pertaining to an update of the plan;
8. Notify, in writing, owners of nonmetallic mining sites or persons with leasehold interest in the operation of any proposed, alternative, or amended comprehensive plan elements in which the allowable use or intensity of use of the property is changed by the comprehensive plan;

WHEREAS, the Land Resources and Parks Committee recommends adoption of the Public Participation Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A by the Dodge County Board of Supervisors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Public Participation Plan – Exhibit A for an update to the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan is hereby adopted by the Dodge County Board of Supervisors.

All of which is respectfully submitted this 15th day of October, 2024.

Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee:

Mary Bobholz

Larry Bischoff

Kevin Burnett

Dale Macheel

Daniel Siegmann

FISCAL NOTE: *No fiscal impact as this is a policy change.* **Finance Committee review date:** October 7, 2024. Finance Committee Chair initials: EMB.

Vote Required: Majority of Members Present

Resolution Summary: Adoption of a Public Participation Plan for the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan Update.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
Comprehensive Plan Update
Dodge County, Wisconsin
September, 2024

Purpose

In order for the Comprehensive Plan to operate effectively and according to the law and to address the needs of citizens of Dodge County, the residents must be kept informed and provided an opportunity to participate in the planning process. In addition, pursuant to s.66.1001 (4)(a) of the Wisconsin Statutes, written notice shall specifically be provided to owners of property, or to persons who have a leasehold interest in property pursuant to which the persons may extract nonmetallic mineral resources in or on property, in which the allowable use or intensity of use of the property is changed by the comprehensive plan. Further, public participation will be used to collect data and opinions for the plan update process. The information received will be used to determine the needs of the County and develop direction.

Public Participation Efforts

1. Conduct interviews with County Officials, Committee Members, Work Group, Staff, and interested citizens
2. Present planning process information and provide a "Comment Box" on the Dodge County web site
3. Meeting notices posted in accordance with the law
4. Public hearing on "Recommended Plan". Class 1 Public Notice requirements
5. Receive and respond to written, e-mail, or web site Comment Box requests
6. Thirty days prior to the public hearing, provide written notice to interested individuals via first class mail in compliance with s.66.1001 (4)(a) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Methodology

- Conduct interviews and meetings with County Officials, Committee Members, Work Group, Staff, and interested citizens.

- Post notices of meetings where the Comprehensive Plan Update will be discussed in a manner consistent with the usual County meeting notices.

- Hold at least one public hearing. The meeting notice shall also include the notification of parties specified in s.66.1001 (4)(a) of the Wisconsin Statutes including: (a) an operator who has applied for or obtained a nonmetallic reclamation permit; (b) a person who has registered a marketable nonmetallic mineral deposit; and (c) any other property owner or leaseholder who has an interest in property allowing extraction of nonmetallic mineral resources if the property owner requests in writing to be notified of the hearing.

- The official notice for the public hearing(s) will be by public notice in the official newspaper with a class one notice at least 30 days preceding the hearing. In addition, the public notice shall be posted at the Dodge County Administration Building located at 127 East Oak St, Juneau, Wisconsin and the county web site. These notices will include the following information: time, place and date of hearing; summary of the proposed Comprehensive Plan Update; name of a county contact who may provide additional information regarding the proposed Comprehensive Plan, adoption ordinance, and information relating to where and when the proposed Comprehensive Plan Update will be passed; how a copy of the Comprehensive Plan Update may be inspected before the hearing; and how a copy of the Comprehensive Plan Update may be obtained.

- The public may submit comments or questions on the Comprehensive Plan Update to Nate Olson, 127 E. Oak Street, Juneau, WI 53039 or via e-mail at nolson@co.dodge.wi.usor through the Web Site Comment Box at: www.co.dodge.wi.gov. The County will respond in writing to those comments or questions if requested.

Approved by the Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Adoption of a Public Participation Plan for the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan Update

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF DODGE COUNTY, WISCONSIN,

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature has established a "Comprehensive Planning Law" which requires a local governmental unit to update its comprehensive plan in accordance with Section 66.1001 of the Wisconsin Statutes; and,

WHEREAS, the Dodge County Board of Supervisors adopted the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan on May 15, 2015 and has undertaken the process to update its plan in accordance with the law; and,

WHEREAS, the Dodge County Board of Supervisors has approved a contract with Cedar Corporation to execute the update to the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan with oversight by the Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee; and,

WHEREAS, as a part of the plan update, the governing body of a local governmental unit is required to adopt written procedures designed to foster public participation in every stage of a comprehensive plan update; and,

WHEREAS, the Dodge County Board of Supervisors has delegated the responsibility to update the existing comprehensive plan in accordance with the requirements specified by law to the Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee has developed a Public Participation Plan designed to encourage public participation in the comprehensive plan update, attached hereto as Exhibit A, which plan includes the following requirements:

1. Conduct public informational meetings during which plan updates are presented, displayed and distributed;
2. Issue press releases regarding the process by which the plan will be updated and a summary of the proposed updates;
3. Conduct committee meetings during which the plan updates are presented and discussed;
4. Conduct public hearing(s) as required by law;
5. Provide/publish advanced notice, including legal notices when required, of all meetings by posting at public places and the County's website so that the public can attend such meetings and offer input;
6. Make available for public access and review at the Dodge County Administration Building in Juneau, Wisconsin, all informational items used and produced by the Committee and staff;
7. Solicit and respond to written comments from the public on all subjects pertaining to an update of the plan;
8. Notify, in writing, owners of nonmetallic mining sites or persons with leasehold interest in the operation of any proposed, alternative, or amended comprehensive plan elements in which the allowable use or intensity of use of the property is changed by the comprehensive plan;

WHEREAS, the Land Resources and Parks Committee recommends adoption of the Public Participation Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A by the Dodge County Board of Supervisors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Public Participation Plan – Exhibit A for an update to the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan is hereby adopted by the Dodge County Board of Supervisors.

All of which is respectfully submitted this 15th day of October, 2024.

Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee:

Mary Bobholz	Larry Bischoff
Kevin Burnett	Dale Macheel
Daniel Siegmann	

FISCAL NOTE: *No fiscal impact as this is a policy change.* **Finance Committee review date:** October 7, 2024. Finance Committee Chair initials: _____.

Vote Required: Majority of Members Present

Resolution Summary: Adoption of a Public Participation Plan for the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan Update.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Recommendation of the Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee to Adopt the *Dodge County, WI 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update*

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF DODGE COUNTY, WISCONSIN,

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature has established Comprehensive Planning Legislation which requires a local governmental unit to update a comprehensive plan no less than once every 10 years in accordance with Wisconsin Statute Section 66.1001, and,

WHEREAS, the Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee has been delegated the responsibility by the Dodge County Board of Supervisors to update the existing *Dodge County Comprehensive Plan* consistent with the requirements specified by law, and,

WHEREAS, the Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee and Department have been working diligently to update the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan over the last several months and has conducted various public information meetings, solicited public input and held public open houses, consistent with the requirements of Wisconsin Statute Section 66.1001; and,

WHEREAS, a draft copy of the *Dodge County, WI 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update* dated November 21, 2025 is on file in the Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Department and can be viewed during normal department business hours; and,

WHEREAS, a draft copy of the *Executive Summary* of the *Dodge County, WI 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update* is attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and,

WHEREAS, the Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee has recommended approval of an updated comprehensive plan for Dodge County that includes the nine elements required in Wisconsin Statute Section 66.1001 along with the required maps and descriptive materials, and,

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statute Section 66.1001(4)(b) requires that the Plan Commission or other body of a local governmental unit recommend to the County Board, by a majority vote, the adoption of the prepared comprehensive plan or an amendment to such a plan;

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statute Section 66.1001(4)(c) requires, upon recommendation of the Committee, the County Board of Supervisors to conduct a public hearing and enact an ordinance for such plan to become effective;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee hereby recommends adoption of the *Dodge County Comprehensive Plan* to the Dodge County Board of Supervisors.

All of which is respectfully submitted this 16th day of December, 2025.

Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee:

Daniel Siegmann

Larry Bischoff

Mary Bobholz

Dale Macheel

Kevin Burnett

Vote Required: Majority of Members present.
Resolution Summary: A Resolution of the Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee Recommendation to Adopt the *2045 Dodge County Comprehensive Plan Update*.

ORDINANCE NO. 1188 AS AMENDED

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE DODGE COUNTY 2045 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The people of the County of Dodge, represented by the Dodge County Board of Supervisors, do hereby ordain as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to Section 59.69(3), Wisconsin Statutes, Dodge County has adopted a comprehensive plan as defined in Sections 66.1001(1)(a) and 66.1001(2), Wisconsin Statutes.

Section 2. The Dodge County Board of Supervisors has adopted written procedures designed to foster public participation in every stage of an update to a comprehensive plan as required by section 66.1001(4)(a), Wisconsin Statutes.

Section 3. The Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee, by a majority vote of the entire Committee recorded in its official minutes dated December 8, 2025, has adopted a resolution recommending to the County Board the adoption of the document entitled *"Dodge County 2045 Comprehensive Plan"*, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A", containing all of the elements specified in section 66.1001(2), Wisconsin Statutes.

Section 4. Dodge County has provided opportunities for public involvement in accordance with the public participation strategy adopted by the County Board including a public hearing February 11, 2026, in compliance with the requirements of Section 66.1001(4), Wisconsin Statutes.

Section 5. The Dodge County Board of Supervisors, by the enactment of this ordinance, formally adopts the attached document entitled, "*Dodge County 2045 Comprehensive Plan*" pursuant to Section 66.1001(4)(c), Wisconsin Statutes.

Section 6. **Vote Required.** Majority of Members-elect.

Section 7. **Effective Date.** This ordinance shall take effect upon enactment by the Dodge County Board of Supervisors and publication/posting as required by law.

Respectfully submitted this 11th day of February, 2026.

Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee:

Daniel Siegmann

Larry Bischoff

Mary Bobholz

Dale Macheel

Kevin Burnett

ADOPTED
BY DODGE COUNTY BOARD

FEB 11 2026

AYES 28 NOES 0
ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 5

Enacted and approved this 11th day of February, 2026.

David Frohling, Chairman
Dodge County Board of Supervisors

Danielle J. Van Egtern, Dodge County Clerk

	County Board Agenda Item
Meeting Date:	February 11, 2026
Agenda Item:	**Ordinance to Adopt Updated Dodge County Comprehensive Plan**
Department / Division:	Land Resources & Parks Department
Staff Contact:	Bill Ehlenbeck, Director: behlenbeck@co.dodge.wi.us Nate Olson, Community Development Administrator: nolson@co.dodge.wi.us

BACKGROUND

The Ordinance is to approve the updated Dodge County Comprehensive Plan.

A Comprehensive Plan is a local government's guide to physical, social and economic development. A County Comprehensive Plan is not meant to serve as a regulatory document. Rather it describes the future vision of the County and recommends how the County should work towards that vision, through goals, objectives and policies. Per Wis Stat. 66.1001, zoning, land division and official mapping ordinance amendments must be consistent with an adopted comprehensive plan.

The planning project has been ongoing for the past 15 months and has involved several public input opportunities and included an Ad Hoc Workgroup representing many public / private sectors of Dodge County. Through the different public and Town input avenues and the efforts of the work group, we were able to get great ideas and gained different perspectives on a wide range of issues and opportunities.

The Land Resources and Parks Committee reviewed the draft Comprehensive Plan at their December 8th meeting and subsequently passed a resolution that formally recommends the draft Comprehensive Plan to the County Board. Wis Stat. 66.1001 requires Comprehensive Plan adoption by County Board Ordinance after the holding of a public hearing to be valid.

The draft Dodge County Comprehensive Plan 2045 is available for your review at the Dodge County Clerk's Office and on the Dodge County's website www.co.dodge.wi.gov.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

July 2024: Land Resources & Parks Committee and County Board authorized resolution to contract with Cedar Corporation to develop the Comprehensive Plan update.
10/15/24 - County Board approved Public Participation Plan for Update to County Comprehensive Plan.
12/8/25 – Land Resources & Parks Committee reviewed the draft County Comprehensive Plan and made various changes that are now reflected in the Recommended County Comprehensive Plan. Committee passed a resolution recommending the County Comprehensive Plan to the County Board for public hearing and approval.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

N/A

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS/STAFF COMMENTS

The process of updating the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan has gone very well. The project has allowed for numerous public input opportunities and utilized a public / private workgroup to further gain input on various issues and opportunities. The Recommended Dodge County Comprehensive Plan 2045 meets statute requirements and further supports Dodge County land use activities. Staff recommends the County Board of Supervisors adopt the Recommended Dodge County Comprehensive Plan 2045.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

Recommended Dodge County Comprehensive Plan Executive Summary

VOTE RESULTS | 28 YES | 0 NO | 0 ABSTAIN | 5 ABSENT

Ordinance No. 1188 as amended

An Ordinance to Adopt the Dodge County 2045 Comprehensive Plan – Land Resources and Parks Committee

Majority of Full Membership

Passed

Shannon Verbos		YES	Jody Steger		YES	David Frohling		YES
Mary Bobholz		YES	Karen Kuehl		YES	David D. Beal	M	YES
Dale Macheel		YES	Robert Boelk, Jr.		YES	Evan Meinel		YES
John H. Kraus, Jr.		YES	Todd Ringle		YES	Randy VandeZande		YES
Nancy Kavazanjian		YES	Benjamin Priesgen		ABSENT	Marilyn Klobuchar		YES
Jeff A. Breselow		YES	Larry Bischoff		YES	Donna Maly		ABSENT
Rodger Frievalt		YES	Jeffrey Caine		YES	Jayme Klockow		YES
Donald Miller		YES	Paul J. Conway		YES	Haley Justmann		YES
Andrew Johnson		YES	Steve Kauffeld		ABSENT	Kevin Burnett	S	YES
Daniel Siegmann		YES	Cathy Houchin		YES	Lisa Derr		ABSENT
David Guckenberger		YES	Jenifer Hedrick		YES	VACANT		ABSENT

February 11 2026

February 11 2026 08:13:40 PM

OpenMeeting TECHNOLOGIES

VOTE RESULTS | 28 YES | 0 NO | 0 ABSTAIN | 5 ABSENT

Motion to Amend - Ordinance No. 1188

Motion to amend On the Future Land Use Map (Map 8-2), change the future land use designation for parcel #036-0913-1242-000 in the Town of Portland from the Single Family Residential designation to the Agriculture designation.

Majority of Full Membership

Passed

Shannon Verbos		YES	Jody Steger		YES	David Frohling		YES
Mary Bobholz		YES	Karen Kuehl		YES	David D. Beal		YES
Dale Macheel		YES	Robert Boelk, Jr.		YES	Evan Meinel		YES
John H. Kraus, Jr.		YES	Todd Ringle		YES	Randy VandeZande	S	YES
Nancy Kavazanjian		YES	Benjamin Priesgen		ABSENT	Marilyn Klobuchar		YES
Jeff A. Breselow		YES	Larry Bischoff		YES	Donna Maly		ABSENT
Rodger Frievalt		YES	Jeffrey Caine		YES	Jayme Klockow		YES
Donald Miller		YES	Paul J. Conway		YES	Haley Justmann		YES
Andrew Johnson		YES	Steve Kauffeld		ABSENT	Kevin Burnett		YES
Daniel Siegmann	M	YES	Cathy Houchin		YES	Lisa Derr		ABSENT
David Guckenberger		YES	Jenifer Hedrick		YES	VACANT		ABSENT

Appendix B – LRPC & Working Group Kickoff Meeting Materials

Dodge County, WI
2045 Comprehensive Plan Update

Land Resources & Parks Committee
Issues & Opportunities Exercise Summary

October 28, 2024

DODGE COUNTY

OUR PLAN, OUR FUTURE

Cedar Corporation

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Overview

Dodge County is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan, a long-range planning document which addresses a variety of subjects including land use, farmland preservation, transportation, community facilities, economic development, housing, and more. As part of this public process, Cedar Corporation met with the County's Land Resources & Parks Committee (LRPC) to kick off the process by sharing information about the Comprehensive Planning process, as well as gather up front input regarding issues and opportunities associated with Dodge County land-use related topics. The LRPC meeting was held on Monday, October 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

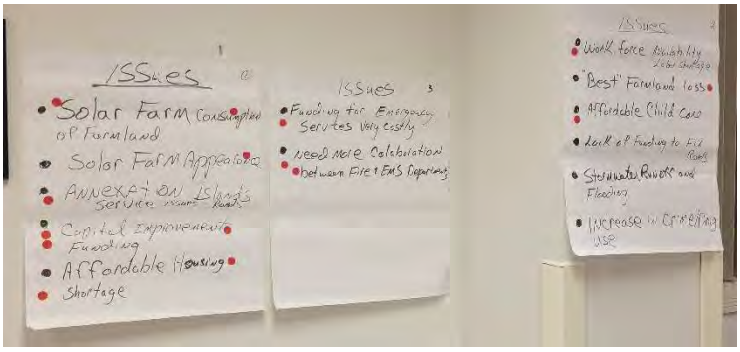
Summary of Results

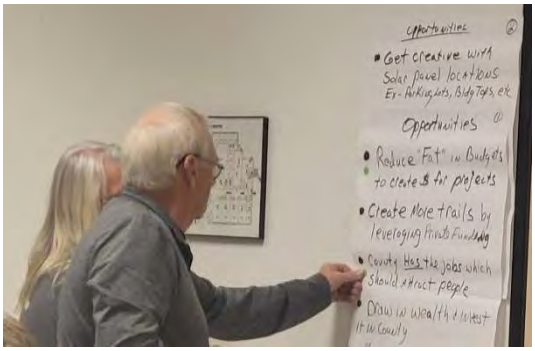
After a brief presentation regarding the Comprehensive Plan project and process, Cedar staff facilitated an Issues & Opportunities exercise. This exercise focused on two questions designed to spur thoughts about current or future issues and opportunities within the County related to land use.

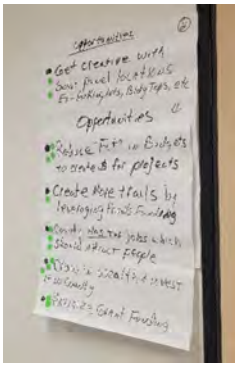
> *Question #1 – What do you consider the biggest issues facing the County over the next ten (10) years?*
> *Question #2 – What do you consider the greatest opportunities for the County over the next ten (10) years?*

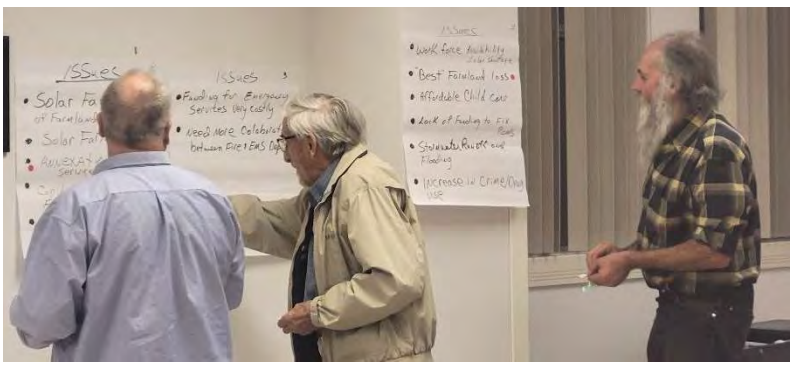
The five Committee members were each provided a Post-it note pad and a pen to write down their individual ideas and responses to the two questions. A round-robin process was then used to list and clarify all identified issues and opportunities on large Post-it note sheets. Once the two lists were generated, the sheets were affixed to the wall in two groups (issues/opportunities) for review and further consideration.

Each Committee member was then provided with six "dots" with instructions to 'vote' by placing their dots next to their top three priorities within both categories. Participants were asked to vote for six items in total and to not place multiple dots next to a single statement.









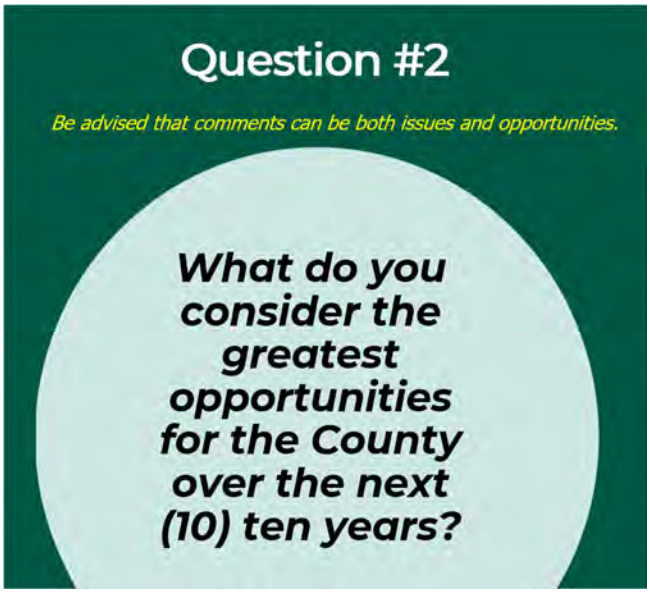
Identified Issues (15 total votes)

- **Affordable housing shortage (3)**
- **Capital Improvement funding (2)**
- **Solar farms consumption of farmland (2)**
- **Need more collaboration between Fire and EMS departments (2)**
- Solar farm appearance (1)
- Annexations creating town islands – service issues, roads, etc. (1)
- Funding for emergency services. Very costly (1)
- Workforce availability/labor shortage (1)
- "Best" farmland loss (1)
- Affordable child care (1)
- Lack of funding to fix roads
- Stormwater runoff and flooding
- Increases in crime/drug use



Identified Opportunities (14 total votes)

- **Reduce "Fat" in budgets to create $ for projects (3)**
- **County has the jobs which should attract people (3)**
- **Draw in wealth and invest it in County (3).**
- Maximize grant funding (2)
- Get creative with solar panel locations (e.g., parking lots, building rooftops, etc.) (2)
- Create more trails by leveraging private funding (1)



"A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

– Margaret Mead

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W61N497 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012
262-204-2360

2820 Walton Commons West
Suite 142
Madison, WI 53718
608-249-5046

1695 Bellevue Street
Green Bay, WI 54311
920-491-9081

604 Wilson Avenue
Menomonie, WI 54751
715-235-9081

www.cedarcorp.com

Dodge County, WI
2045 Comprehensive Plan Update

Dodge Co. Comprehensive Plan Working Group Issues & Opportunities Exercise Summary

November 20, 2024

DODGE COUNTY

OUR PLAN, OUR FUTURE

Cedar CORPORATION

Overview

Dodge County is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan, a long-range planning document which addresses a variety of subjects including land use, farmland preservation, transportation, community facilities, economic development, housing, and more. As part of this public process, Cedar Corporation met with the appointed Dodge County Comprehensive Plan Ad Hoc Working Group to kick off the process. The group was presented information about the Comprehensive Planning process and asked for their input regarding issues and opportunities associated with Dodge County land-use , services, and other related topics. The Working Group meeting was held on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

Summary of Results

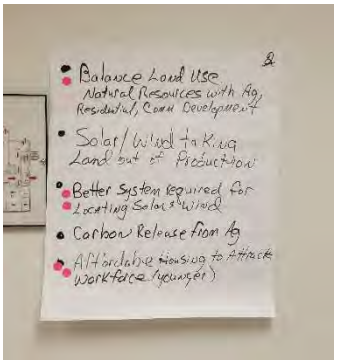
After a brief presentation regarding the Comprehensive Plan project and process, Cedar staff facilitated an Issues & Opportunities exercise. This exercise focused on two questions designed to spur thoughts about current or future issues and opportunities within the County.

> *Question #1 – What do you consider the biggest issues facing the County over the next ten (10) years?*
> *Question #2 – What do you consider the greatest opportunities for the County over the next ten (10) years?*

The eleven Working Group members in attendance were each provided a Post-it note pad and a pen to write down their individual ideas and responses to the two questions. A round-robin process was then used to list and clarify all identified issues and opportunities on large Post-it note sheets. Once the two lists were generated, the sheets were affixed to the wall in two groups (issues/opportunities) for review and further consideration.









Each Working Group member was then provided with six "dots" with instructions to 'vote' by placing their dots next to their top three priorities within both categories. Participants were asked to vote for six items in total and to not place multiple dots next to a single statement. The voting process produced the following results:



Identified Issues (33 total votes)

- **Mental health support for children and families. (9 votes)**
- **Childcare is lacking due to staffing and facilities (affordability and accessibility). (6 votes)**
- **Workforce development (existing training, attracting due to shortage issue). (5 votes)**

} Top three responses

- **EMS/Fire services (equip. costs, dropping # of volunteers, tough training requirements). (2 votes)**
- **Better system required for locating solar and wind. (2 votes)**
- **Affordable housing to attract younger workforce. (2 votes).**
- **Barriers exist for adult workers to be part of workforce (mental health, transportation, child-care, and housing). (2 votes)**
- **Access to medical care and affordable health care. (2 votes)**
- **Academic preparedness has decreased. (1 vote)**
- **Immigration acceptance challenges. (1 vote)**
- **Balance land use (natural resources/ag with residential and commercial development). (1 vote)**
- **Aging infrastructure (primarily roads). (1 vote)**
- Solar/wind taking ag land out of production.
- Carbon release from agricultural lands.
- Non-profit service volunteer participation dropping (aging impacts).



Identified Opportunities (33 total votes)

- **Education system attract to outside population (high quality). (8 votes)**
- **Tourism (Horicon Marsh, County Parks, and other natural features / Trails & County collaboration between communities). (6 votes)**
- **Targeted campaign needed to attract and retain younger population (Positive way of life, quality of life in Dodge County). (5 votes)**

Top three responses

- **Small town sensibilities (Unique, friendly, giving). (4 votes)**
- **Regenerative agriculture (healthy soils, clean water, etc.) (3 votes)**
- **Education diversification opportunities. (2 votes)**
- **Farm succession planning. (2 votes)**
- **Agricultural producers and manufacturing (diversity of products and access to capital). (2 votes)**
- **Volunteer training standards need to be lowered to increase #'s. (1 vote)**
- Require volunteering (by businesses, schools, orgs.)
- Dynamic employees.
- Opportunity for home ownership (not as expensive as neighboring counties).
- Volunteer opportunities exist to get involved.
- Manufacturing opportunities lead to growth and development.
- Collaborative ideas from leadership.

"A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

– Margaret Mead

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Appendix C – Project Hub Comments & Lake District Comments

Dodge County 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update
Project Portal Input / Public Comments

Submitted by: Anonymous user

Submitted time: Nov 24, 2024, 9:40:46 PM

Name (Optional): Jim Klink

Email (Optional): jimklink5@gmail.com

Comments

As a member of the Town of Rubicon Plan Commission a large issue we have been dealing with is expansion of the City of Hartford into the Town for the last 20 years. Would be interested to see what can be included in the County's Comprehensive Plan to help even the playing field between Rubicon and the City of Hartford. We are looking at updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan in the coming year and would like to do it ourselves to minimize the budget impact. There is concern from some Town Board members that doing so might "miss something" that would leave the Town vulnerable to a legal challenge from a developer whose plans were rejected based on the Comprehensive Plan sometime in the future. And would like to include in the Town's Comprehensive Plan (as well as in the County's) to strengthen our position when dealing with Hartford.

Submitted by: Anonymous user

Submitted time: Oct 30, 2025, 8:45:13 AM

Comments

The community and utilities subsection is the worst of a very poor document overall. No real data exists that couldn't be produced using ChatGPT. The project managers are out of touch with reality as an example; one suggestion is exploring contracted county EMS model similar to "Goldstar" which they mean Gold Cross in the Fox Valley. Two totally different populations and patient demographics. The problem with these companies that do these surveys/studies is that they don't have working knowledge of many of the topics and simply compile poor information. Too much money spent on this plan for a mediocre product at best. I would recommend sending it back for further revision before presenting a final document. It needs hours of work.

Submitted by: Anonymous user

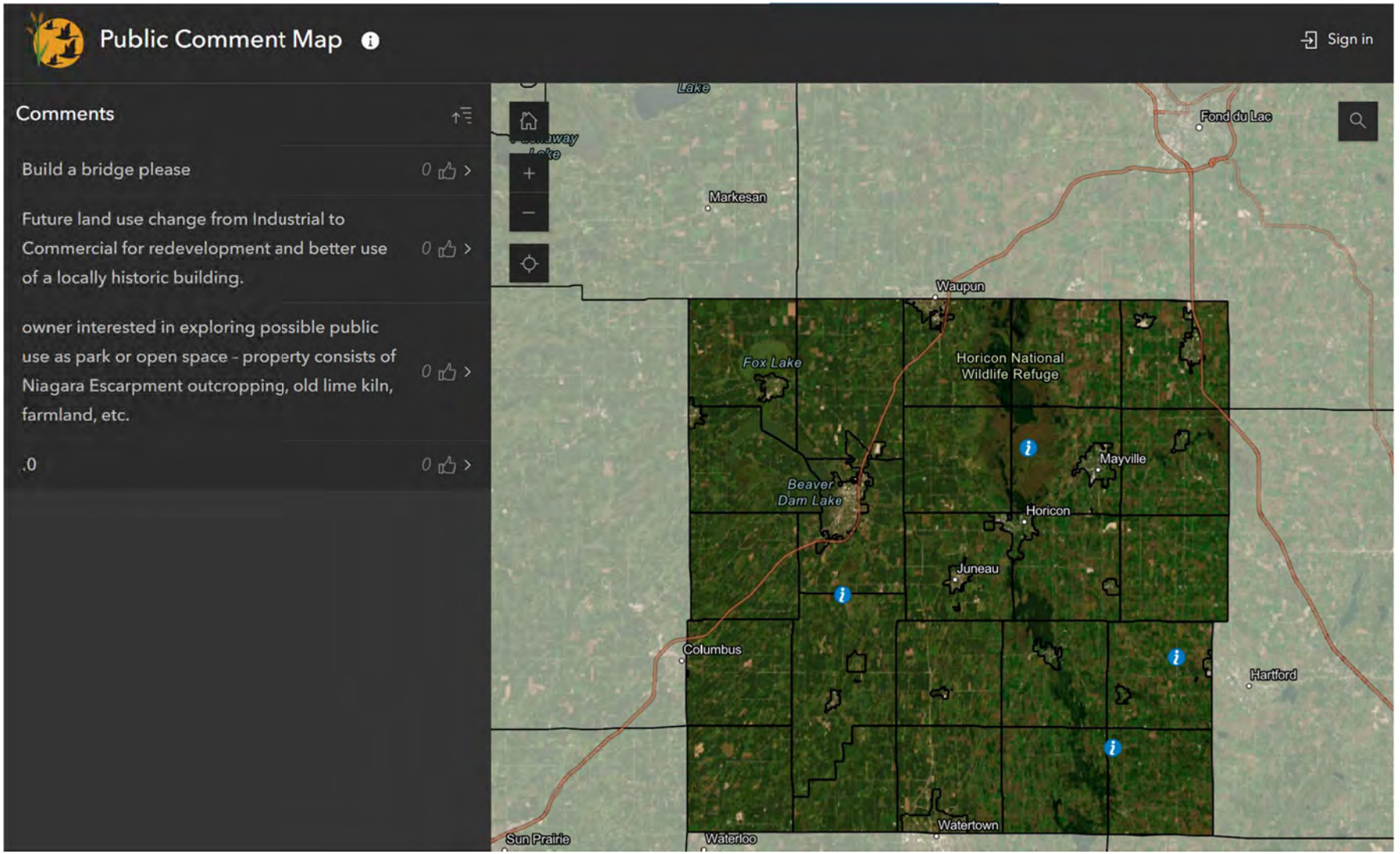
Submitted time: Nov 2, 2025, 7:57:08 PM

Name (Optional) Lori

Comments

Chapter 6: In Dodge County, we have multiple opportunities to be involved in, learn about, and enjoy cultural and arts activities. The Beaver Dam Area Community Theatre provides multiple opportunities for involvement in the performing arts. Beaver Dam has a Community Choir and The Beaver Dam Area Orchestra. The Dodge County Center for the Arts provides classes and regular exhibits of local artists. Waupun Area Community has a Community Theatre group. Our communities may be small but rank very impressive in providing the opportunities for all ages as a performer/support staff and as an audience member. The cultural significance should be recognized in the document. This is an attractive feature of Dodge County. We have a wonderful YMCA of Dodge County. Beaver Dam and Waupun have outstanding Recreation Departments (which encompass the traditional Senior Center activities along with activities for all ages). Didn't see the above mentioned in the Document (but may have missed it).

Combined comments received on Project Hub Interaction Map from November 19, 2024 through October 31, 2025



From: Bill Foley <blfoley13@charter.net>

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 11:47 AM

To: Olson, Nathan <nolson@co.dodge.wi.us>

Cc: Tim Meekma <tim.meekma@yahoo.com>; Christina Lieke <clilek1@yahoo.com>; Ehlenbeck, Bill <behlenbeck@co.dodge.wi.us>; Eric Fowle <eric.fowle@cedarcorp.com>; Ken Jaworski <ken.jaworski@cedarcorp.com>; Bohonek, John <JBohonek@co.dodge.wi.us>

Subject: RE: RE: 2045 Plan

Good morning Nate,

The Lake Districts in Dodge County have collaborated to develop a number of positive recommendations for future land and water enhancements. These are attached here for your consideration. If additional questions surface please contact Tim, Chris or myself for additional information.

We are looking forward to a progressive 2045 plan.

Bill Foley

Submitted via email on May 15, 2025

Dodge Co 2045

Dodge County Lake District Recommendations

The Lakes of Dodge County provide the Community with a unique set of assets which add to the overall quality of life. The availability of open water for recreational activities presents an opportunity for access within a very short travel time. These Lakes when in combination with the Dodge County Parks System offer exceptional opportunities for the Community.

Sec 5.9 of 2015 plan:

Beaver Dam Lake

a. The bio mass for rough fish in BDL exceed the US FW recommendation of less than 89 lbs./Acre, this infestation of an invasive species will severely damage the lake habitat and water quality.
b. Add to fish species; Bluegill and perch

Sections 5-17 and 5-18:

Dodge County Lakes:

Objectives:

1. Water Quality is essential for the use of our open waters. If nutrient and algal levels are allowed to increase the capacity for boating, fishing and shoreline engagement are diminished. Collaborative efforts by Districts, Municipalities and the County must be proactive to confront conditions that are resulting from changes in weather patterns.

2. Where organizational capabilities intersect, as they do at Derge Park and Beaver Dam Lake, the combined efforts of District, Land & Parks and LCD need to focus on the land and water science based parameters to maintain these resources. Park amenities and conservation practices can and should be implemented a joint effort.

3. Terrestrial and aquatic habitat is critical to the protection and development of a robust water fowl, upland birds, fishery, pollinators and all other wildlife. Habitat loss due to development and natural forces must be counteracted with enhanced planning that will offset these losses. Public lands should be utilized to their greatest potential for wetland habitat or open water conservation buffers.

   Establish a partnerships with federal, state, farmer and lake groups to create new wetlands and divert flood waters to these newly created wetlands. Encourage Producers to take advantage of various state and federal funding for wetland restoration. Document the process so other partners can create additional wetland areas.

4. Storm water runoff has changed in the frequency and volume over the past decade. A proactive approach to manage these events has become more critical. Detaining runoff as close to the headwater will reduce the negative impact of events and allow

5. Infiltration to the groundwater. At the same time we must be mindful that the higher volume and velocity of storm water impacts the sediment and nutrient runoff when these major events occur. Proactive measures should be initiated to create multiple detention areas to better manage weather events and minimize downstream flooding.

6. How can we best detain and allow infiltration of storm water and then release in a controlled manner.

   - Implementation of external load reduction practices designed to control legacy phosphorus loading from tributaries and near-channel wetlands
   - Employ best management practices which will improve soil health and capture phosphorus at edge of agricultural fields through provided funding and engineering assistance.
   - Legislative and/or incentivation funding motivating producers to employ diversionary retrofitting of culverts draining directly to water bodies. Could include cover cropping to hold soil in place and better absorption, wascobs, holding ponds, redirection of flow, bioreactors, etc.

7. Community education regarding the amenities available to the Community and programs how they could be safely used. Boater, fishing, camping safety initiatives.

8. Dodge County maintains an extensive number of acres as right-of-way and adjacent to public buildings. With pollinators under severe stress restoration efforts are necessary to improve habitat for pollinators and song birds.

   a. Recent studies have found that number of Monarch Butterflies has decreased by 50 % over the past few years.
   b. The 2025 North American Wildlife Conference reported that three billion birds have been lost with 229 species in distress.
   c. NW Dodge Co. is within an area designated for SAFE NRCS Funding. As parks, roads and facility sites are restored the use of natural vegetation should be used to the fullest possible extent.
   d. ROW maintenance is expensive with cutting at $150/ mile with herbicide spraying at $75/mile. Planting native plants would eliminate this recurring maintenance with a controlled burn the only requirement in year 10.
   e. Dodge County would esthetically benefit from roadside displays of native plants from spring to fall.
   f. Develop a County-wide resources and equipment plan for Townships to manage invasive within road right of way ditches. Include information on how to plant and maintain native plant species and other low maintenance options.

9. Extend either Land Conservation Department (LCD) or Land and Zoning (LZ) capabilities to assist in the management of the Lakes in Dodge County. The DNR now offers technical support but does not proactively managing surface waters. This individual would join LCD and LZ in County wide surface water management and work with Lake Districts to improve surface water quality. The establishment of a County wide surface water expert would provide focused implementation for these valuable resources.

Appendix D – Public Involvement Meeting #1 & #2 Summaries

Dodge County, WI
2045 Comprehensive Plan Update

Public Involvement Meeting/Open House #1 Summary Report

February 19, 2025

DODGE COUNTY

OUR PLAN, OUR FUTURE

Cedar Corporation

Overview

Dodge County is in the process of updating its 2015 Comprehensive Plan which will look outward for 20 years to the year 2045. The Comprehensive Plan is a long-range planning document which addresses a variety of land use, natural resource, transportation and public service issues, among other things. Up-front citizen input and perspective is helpful as the County gauges how changing demographics and an ever-changing economy may impact the use of land within the County in the future. Citizen engagement is a priority for the County while updating the Comprehensive Plan and the opinions of attendees are strongly considered throughout the process.

Event Details

The Public Involvement Meeting / Open House was held in the Dodge County Administration Building on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, beginning at 4:30 p.m. and ending at 6:30 p.m. In addition to Cedar Corporation and County staff being present, a total of seventeen (17) attendees signed in (See Appendix A), including several County Board Supervisors and several Ad Hoc Comprehensive Plan Update Committee members.



The event consisted of an open-house style display of thirteen different boards containing a variety of information about the County that were positioned around the room. After signing in, participants were asked to take a stack of Post-It notes and a pen, and were encouraged to write down short comments, thoughts, and ideas regarding the information presented. Specific directional questions on the boards helped to prompt readers into leaving a response. Several of the display boards also used colored sticky dots to indicate reader's preferences and opinions on specific subjects.



Summary of Documented Comments

A summary of the comments and opinions left by participants on each display board station is provided below. A complete set of the display boards are included in Appendix B:

Board #1 – What is a Comprehensive Plan?

No comments

Board #2 – The Planning Process & Public Participation

No comments

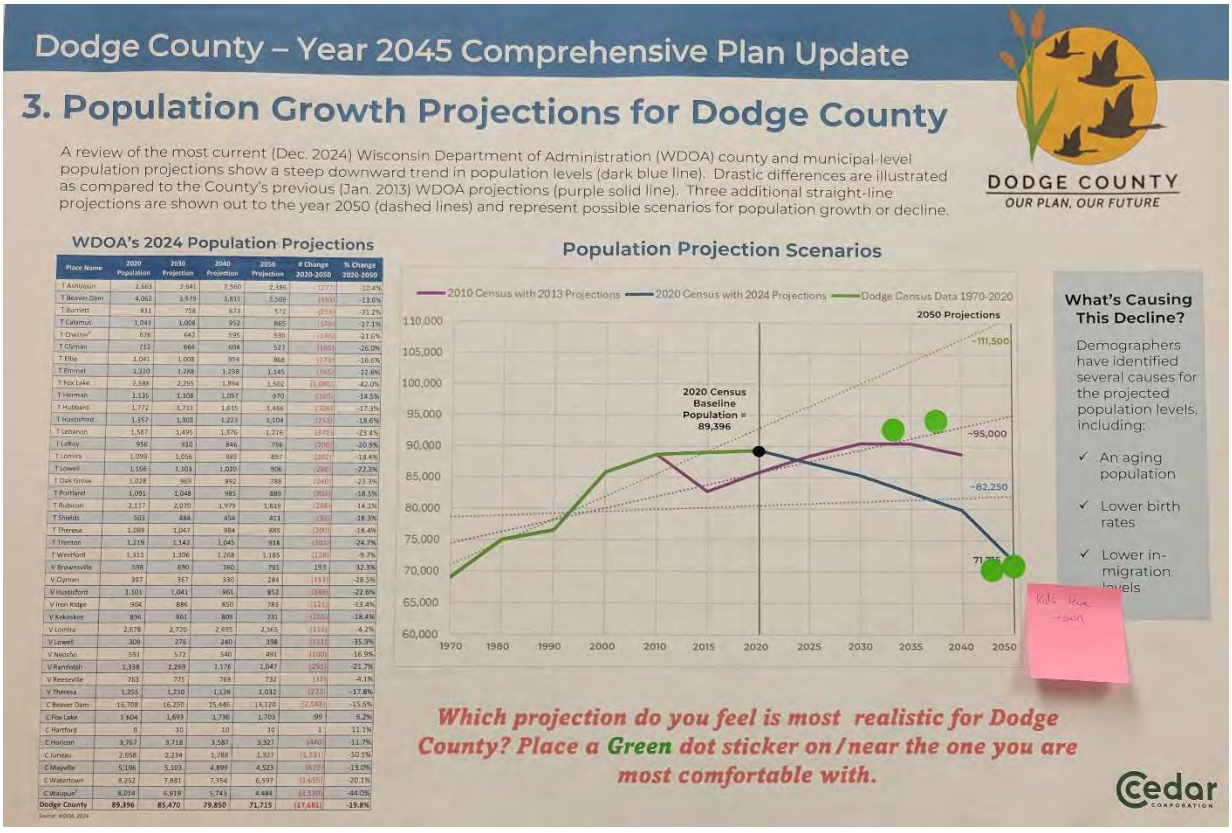
Board #3 – Population Growth Projections for Dodge County

Comments

1. Kids leave town [as an additional reason population is declining].

Sticky Dot Opinions

Four (4) responses were given on the question of which 2050 population projection is most realistic. Two of the respondents felt the continuation of increased growth will occur, from 89,396 up to perhaps 95,000 persons (+5,604). The other two respondents indicated their preference with the most recent WDOA population projections which show a significant decrease in population, from 89,396 down to 71,715 persons (-17,681). These opinions represent a total swing of over 23,000 people, or about 25% of the county's current population.



Board #4 – Dodge County's Households Are Changing

No comments

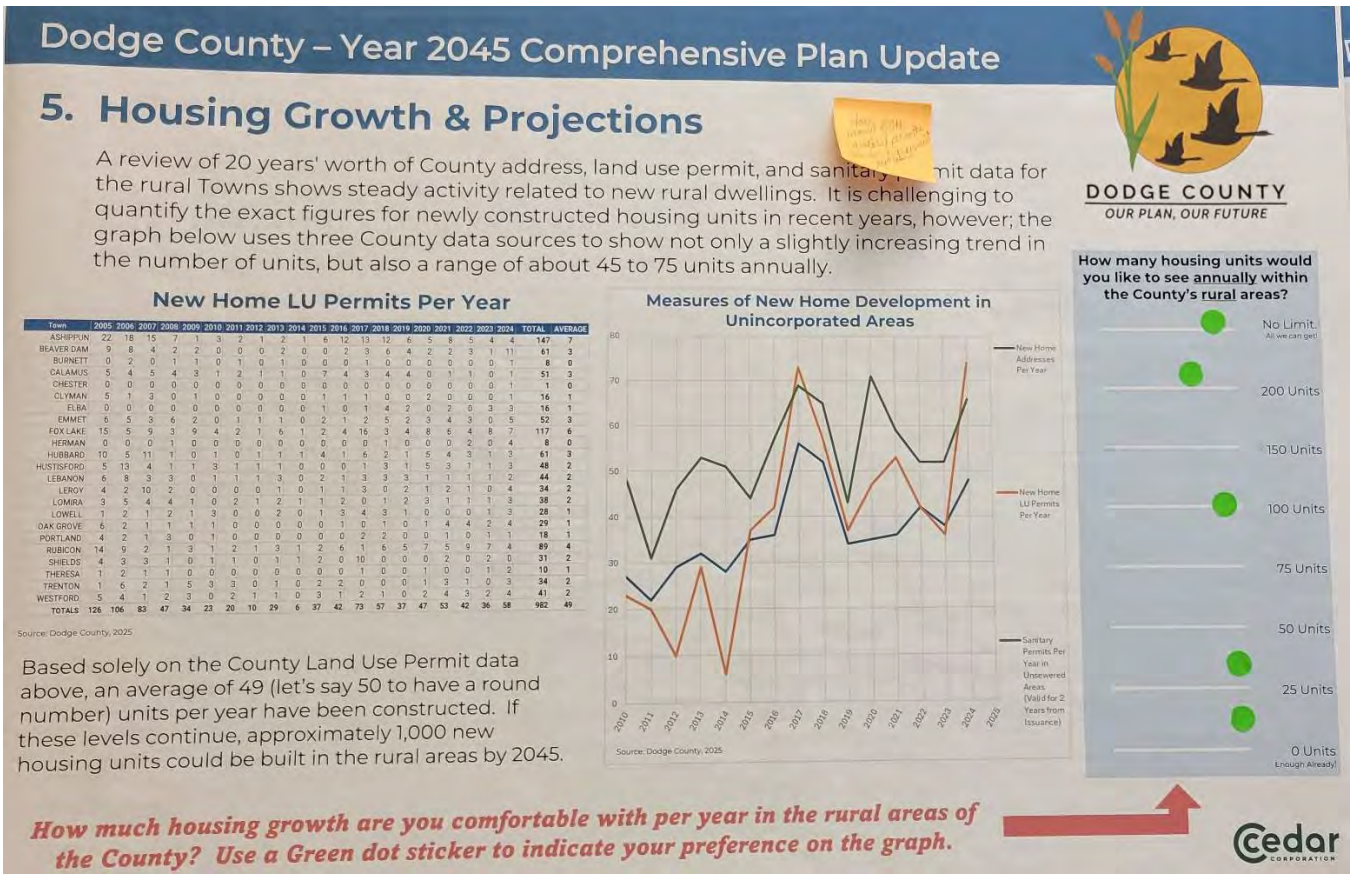
Board #5 – Housing Growth Projections

Comments

1. Too many of the sanitary permits are for replacement systems.

Sticky Dot Opinions

Five (5) responses were given on the question of how many housing units should be permitted within the County's rural areas annually. No clear pattern was established as one response each was received for numbers approximating: No Limit, 200 units, 100 units, 30 units, and 15 units.



Board #6 – Housing Options for the Future

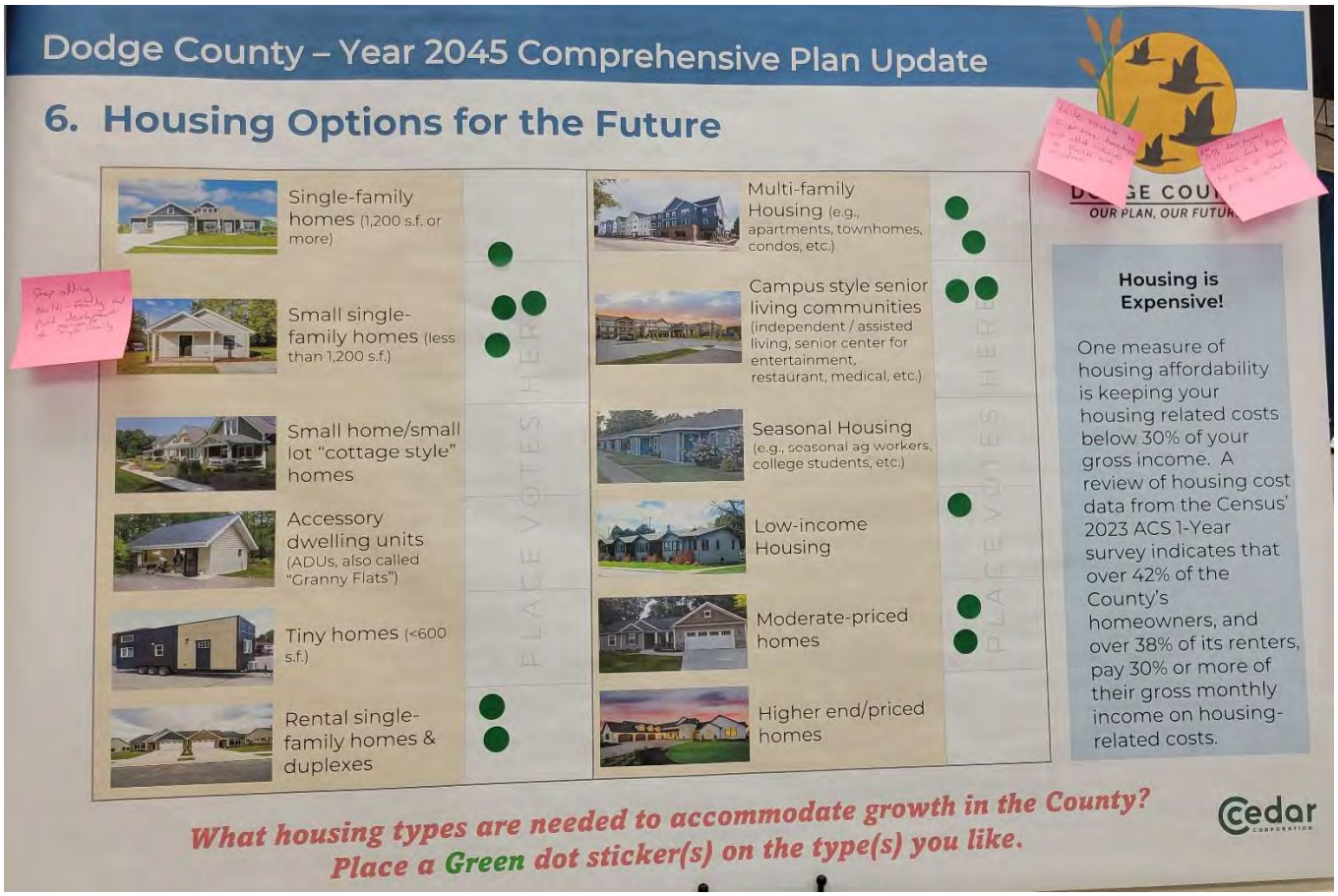
Comments

1. Stop adding multi-family and push single-family residential (900-1,200 sq. ft.).
2. Provide assistance to first-time homebuyers with added incentives to families with children.
3. 10% downpayment assistance fund, repaid on sale of home. All new residents.

Sticky Dot Opinions

A total of twelve (12) responses were received on this display and indicate a wide range of preferences for future housing styles. The number of votes for each preferred type is listed below:

1 Single-Family Homes (1,200 sq. ft. or more)
2 Small Single-Family Homes (less than 1,200 sq. ft.)
2 Rental Single-Family Homes & Duplexes
2 Multi-Family Housing (apartments, townhomes, condos, etc.)
2 Campus-style Senior Living Communities
1 Low-Income Housing
2 Moderate Priced Homes



Board #7 – Economics of Dodge County

No comments

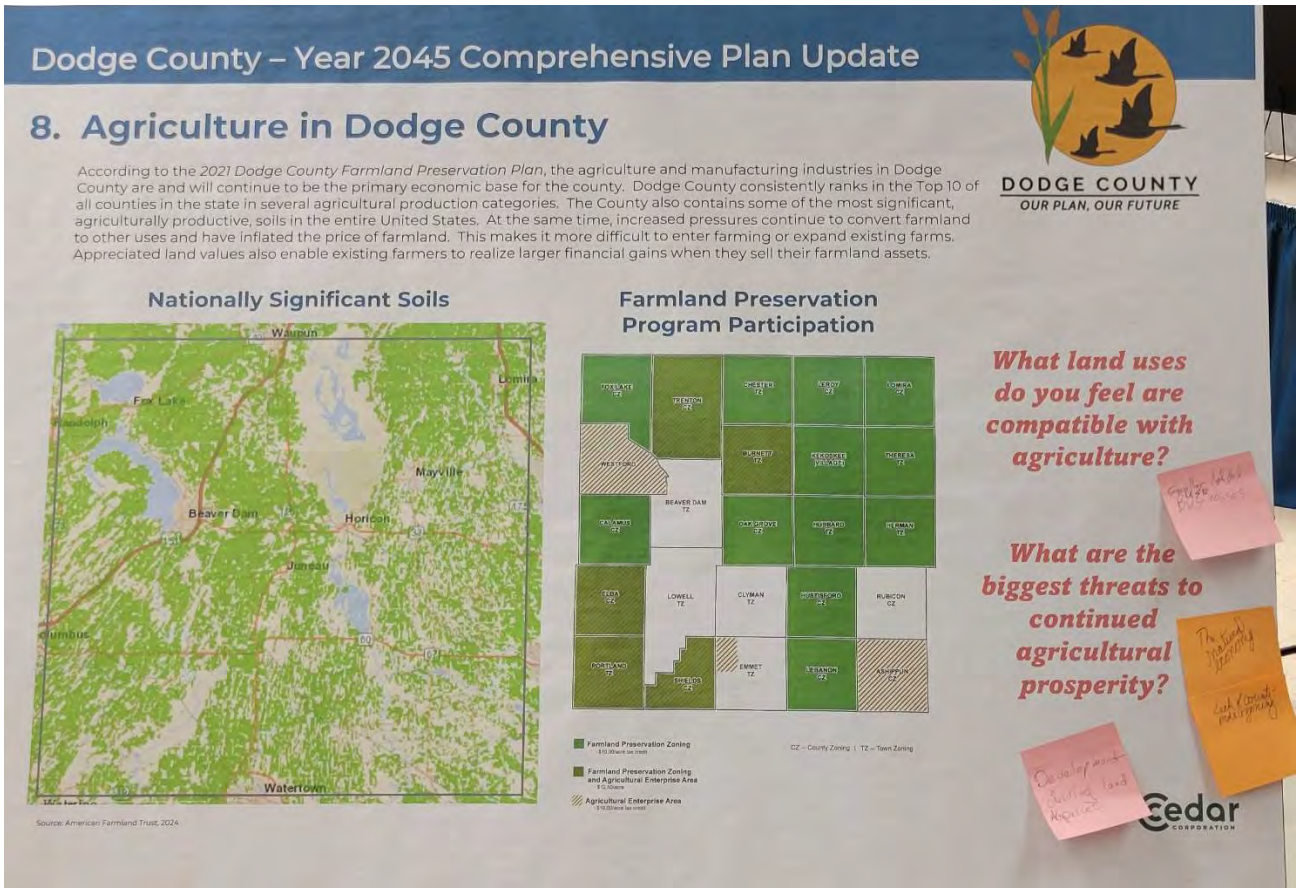
Board #8 – Agriculture In Dodge County

<u>Comments – What land uses do you feel are compatible with agriculture?</u>

1. Smaller added businesses.

<u>Comments – What are the biggest threats to continued agricultural prosperity?</u>

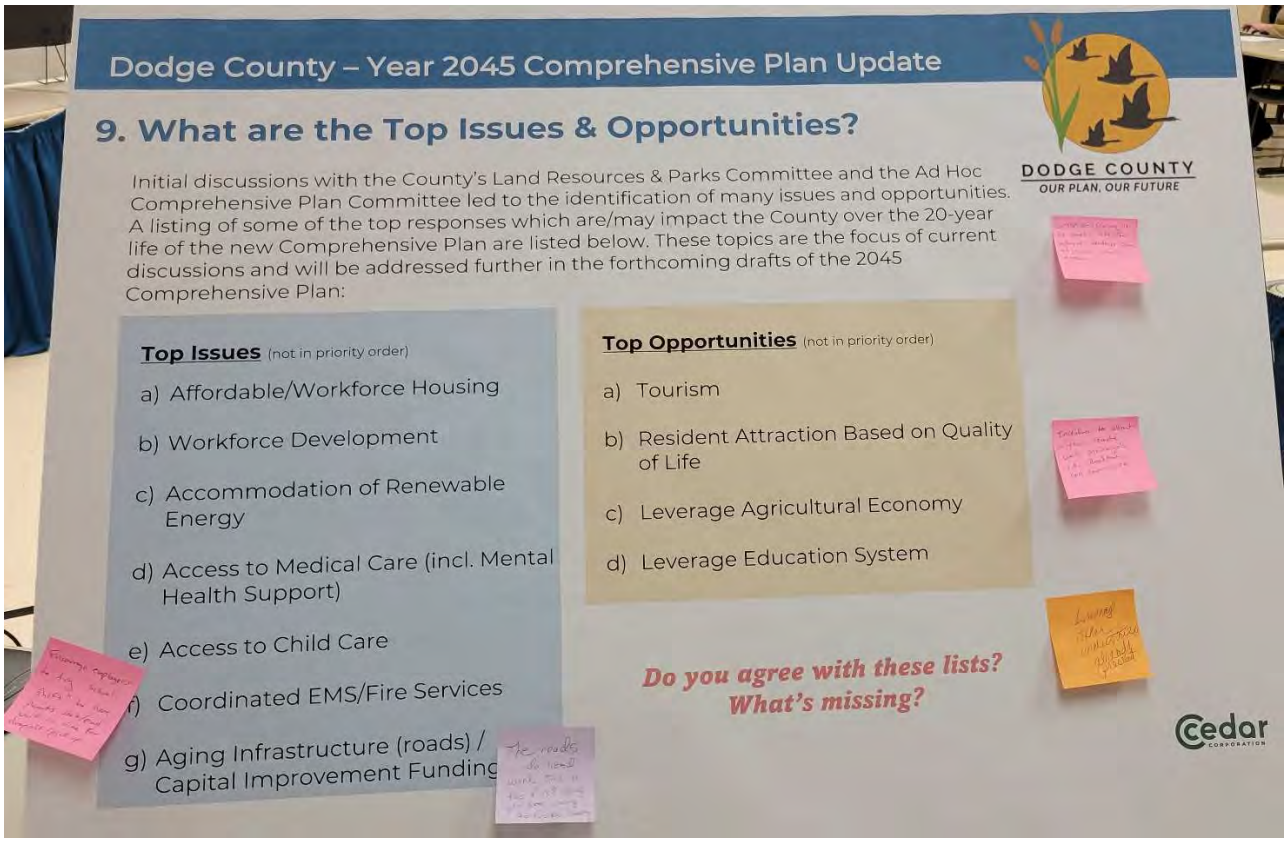
1. The national economy.
2. Lack of county-wide zoning.
3. Development driving ag land prices.



Board #9 – What are the Top Issues & Opportunities?

Comments

1. Encourage employers to try “school shift” to have parents start/end work in time for drop off/pick up.
2. The roads do need work. This is the first thing you see coming into Dodge County.
3. Leverage other industries already present.
4. Incentives to attract and retain remote work professionals (i.e., broadband, cell coverage, etc.).
5. Cost of living is an asset. Use to attract residents from adjacent urban areas.

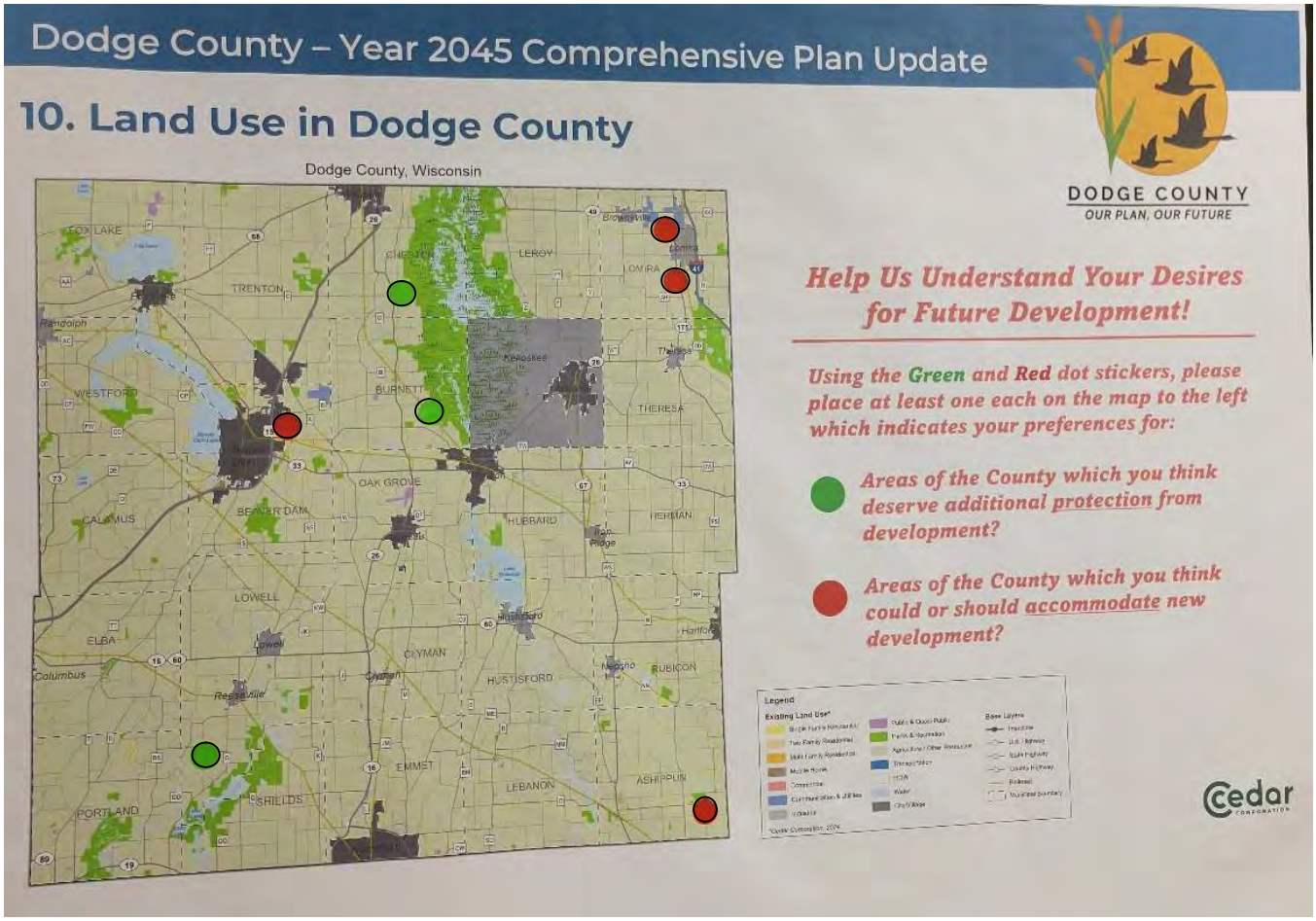


Board #10 – Land Use in Dodge County?

No comments

<u>Sticky Dot Opinions</u>
A total of seven (7) colored sticky dots were placed on the map by attendees to indicate their broad preferences for where future development could be accommodated, as well as to identify general areas which deserve additional protection from development.

Areas identified to accommodate new growth included lands near the City of Beaver Dam, Village of Lomira, and the Town of Ashippun. Areas identified for additional protection from future development included lands to the west of the Horicon Marsh within the Towns of Burnett and Chester, as well as an area to the southwest of the Village of Reeseville, along the Craw Fish River corridor.



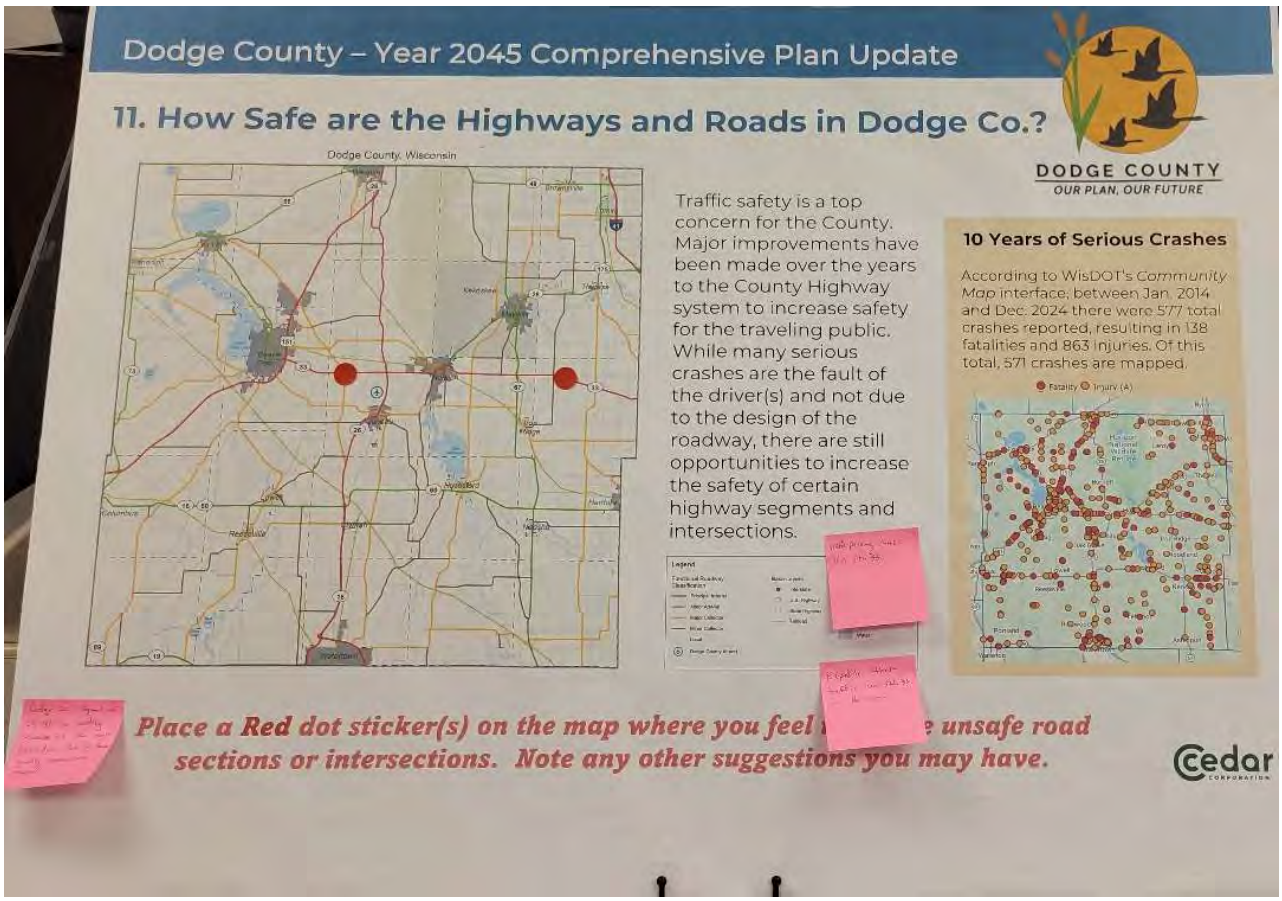
Board #11 – How Safe are the Highways and Roads in Dodge County?

Comments

1. Dodge County segment of I-41 is widely known as the most hazardous due to lower quality snow/ice removal.
2. Need passing lanes on State Highway 33.
3. Expedite thru traffic on State Highway 33 in Horicon.

Sticky Dot Opinions

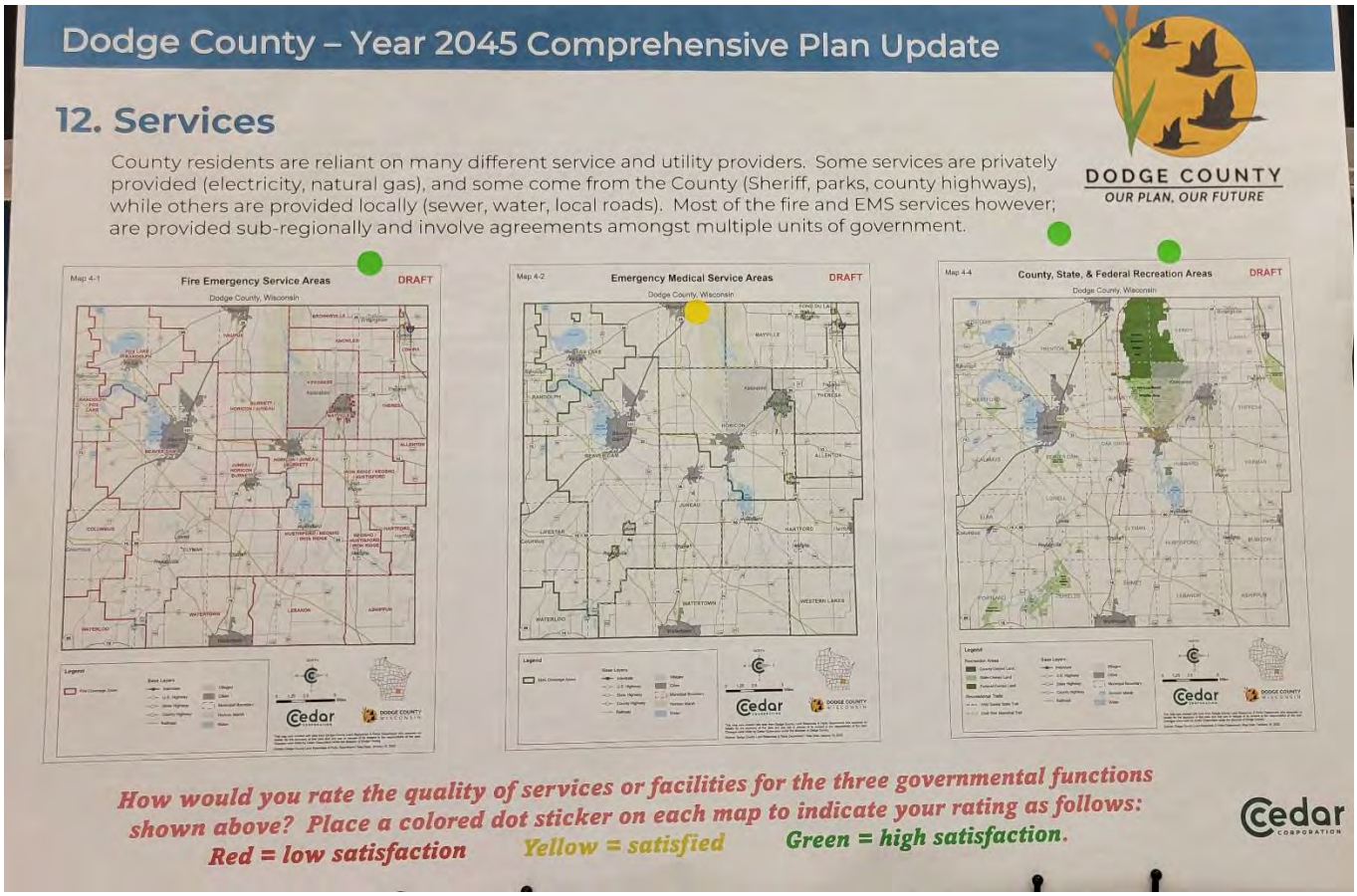
A total of two (2) red sticky dots were placed on the map by participants to indicate highway segments or intersections which they felt were unsafe. Both dots were placed on the State Highway 33 corridor with one being just east of its intersection with County Road P (possibly tied to the comment of needing passing lanes?), and the other at its intersection with County Road A near the City of Beaver Dam.



Board #12 – Services

No comments

<u>Sticky Dot Opinions</u>
A total of four (4) green and yellow sticky dots were placed on maps by participants to indicate their level of satisfaction with several existing services within the County. Two (2) green sticky dots were placed on the County, State, and Federal Recreation Areas map, and one green sticky dot was placed on the Fire Emergency Services map indicating high levels of satisfaction for these services. The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) map contained one yellow sticky dot, indicating a 'satisfied' response. No 'low satisfaction' ratings were received.



Board #13 – How Can You Continue to Participate in the Plan?

No comments

Event Takeaways

Even though there were less than twenty members of the public in attendance at this initial meeting, the comments and preferences received are important to the process as they provide broad indications as to what concerns and ideas apply to various issue and opportunity topics.

The event also showed there are at least a handful of residents (and probably many more) who have great passion for outdoor recreation activities, and a good understanding of the value of agriculture within the County. Attendees see the huge potential for the Dodge County to embrace and leverage its geography and agricultural/natural resources to help attract new employers, new residents, and new housing.

The feedback obtained through this public meeting will be compared to the results from the Citizen Opinion Survey, once completed, to see if there is any correlation amongst the responses. The collective results from these public input opportunities will then be assessed and integrated where appropriate into a new set of Plan Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations.

"A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

– Margaret Mead

APPENDIX A

Event Sign In Sheets

Please Sign In!

Public Involvement Meeting / Open House
Wednesday, February 19, 2025

DODGE COUNTY
OUR PLAN, OUR FUTURE

Name	Representing (Resident, visitor, agency, organization, etc.)
Daryl + Sue Wuenne	Resident
Andrew Johnson	Supervisor Dist #9
Dale Mackeel	Supervisor Dist #3
Linda Schraufnagel	Town of LeRoy
Gary Koch	Lomira
Rich Styer	Town of THERESA
Joe Paquet	Town of Elba - Plan Commis
Rob Malone	Extension
Dennis Fleischer	Theresa
Andy Nelson	Horicon Bank
Dave Frohling	City Bd

Cedar Corporation

Please Sign In!

Public Involvement Meeting / Open House
Wednesday, February 19, 2025

DODGE COUNTY
OUR PLAN, OUR FUTURE

Name	Representing (Resident, visitor, agency, organization, etc.)
Jim Meyer	Town of Ashippun
Tracy Nadolski	Town of LeRoy
Rob Boelk	City Mayville
Mary Bokholz	City Board #2 Town of BD
Jennifer Hedrick	City of Watertown Dist. 22

Cedar Corporation

APPENDIX B

Event Display Boards

Dodge County – Year 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update

Welcome!











Thank you for attending the Public Involvement Meeting / Open House. A few directions on how to participate:

1. Please sign in.
2. Take a Post-It pad and a pen.
3. View the various displays and questions at your own pace.
4. Write your thoughts/comments on Post-It notes and then place them directly on the displays.
5. Where asked, place colored dot stickers on the displays.
6. You may also draw or write notes directly on the maps.
5. Interact with County staff and Cedar Corporation representatives – ask questions and share your thoughts!

THANK YOU in advance for your participation!

DODGE COUNTY
OUR PLAN, OUR FUTURE

If you don't have time to stay, please see our Project Hub for the displayed materials and to provide input. Just scan the QR Code or go to the homepage of the County's website: www.co.dodge.wi.gov/

Cedar Corporation

Dodge County – Year 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update

DODGE COUNTY
OUR PLAN, OUR FUTURE

1. What is a Comprehensive Plan?

The Comprehensive Planning Law was enacted in 1999 (see section 66.1001, Wis. Stats.). Sometimes referred to as the "smart growth law," the Comprehensive Planning Law does not mandate how a community should grow, rather it leaves such decisions up to local communities.

Comprehensive Planning Law defines a comprehensive plan as containing at least nine elements as shown in the sidebar.

Consistency Requirement
Beginning on January 1, 2010, if the County enacts or amends an official mapping, land division, or zoning ordinance, the enactment or amendment ordinance must be ***consistent*** with that County's comprehensive plan.

Plan Update
Comprehensive plans must be updated no less than once every 10 years. Dodge County will be conducting a thorough update of background information and a public participatory process to evaluate plan vision, goals, objectives, policies, and programs.

Nine Elements of a Comprehensive Plan

1. Issues and Opportunities
2. Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources
3. Economic Development
4. Housing
5. Intergovernmental Cooperation
6. Transportation
7. Land Use
8. Utilities and Community Facilities
9. Implementation

Benefits of Comprehensive Planning

- ❑ Understands the past and present
- ❑ Lays out a roadmap to the future
- ❑ Guides land use regulations
- ❑ Is proactive rather than reactive
- ❑ Coordinates County activity
- ❑ Improves efficiencies of service
- ❑ Preserves local control.
- ❑ Preserves local autonomy
- ❑ Promotes property rights
- ❑ Promotes economic development
- ❑ Promotes intergovernmental cooperation
- ❑ Protects resources

Have you looked at the county's comprehensive plan?

Have you looked at your own community's comprehensive plan?

Cedar Corporation

2. The Planning Process & Public Participation

DODGE COUNTY
OUR PLAN, OUR FUTURE

Aug. 2024 → Jan. 2025 → Aug. 2025 → Dec. 2025

Citizen Engagement
(Project Hub, Citizen Survey, WTA Mtgs., Public Information Meetings (x2), Public Hearing)

Committee Guidance
(Land Resource & Parks Committee, Ad Hoc Comprehensive Plan Update Working Group)

Update Inventory & Assess

Information and guidance also taken from a series of interviews conducted with County Department Heads

1. Issues & Opportunities
2. Population & Housing
3. Transportation
4. Economic Development
5. Community Facilities & Utilities
6. Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources
7. Land Use
8. Intergovernmental Cooperation
9. Implementation

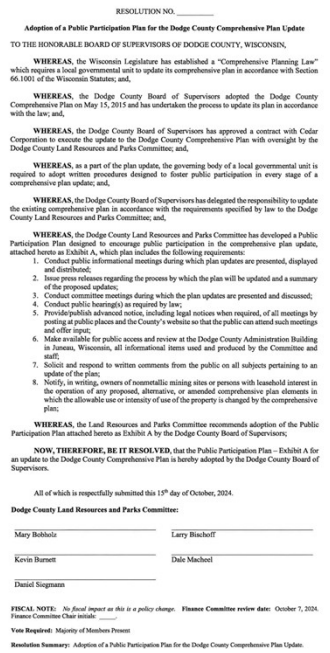
Discuss Solutions, Strategies & Recommendations

Plan Creation

Formal Public Hearing
Adoption by Land Resources & Parks Committee
Adoption by County Board

Plan Adoption

Citizen participation in the planning process is required. A separate Citizen Participation Plan was adopted by the County Board to ensure public input and engagement opportunities exist.



RESOLUTION NO. _____

Adoption of a Public Participation Plan for the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan Update

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF DODGE COUNTY, WISCONSIN,

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature has established a "Comprehensive Planning Law" which requires a local governmental unit to update its comprehensive plan in accordance with Section 66.1001 of the Wisconsin Statutes; and,

WHEREAS, the Dodge County Board of Supervisors adopted the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan on May 15, 2015 and has undertaken the process to update its plan in accordance with the law; and,

WHEREAS, the Dodge County Board of Supervisors has approved a contract with Cedar Corporation to execute the update to the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan with oversight by the Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee; and,

WHEREAS, as a part of the plan update, the governing body of a local governmental unit is required to adopt written procedures designed to foster public participation in every stage of a comprehensive plan update; and,

WHEREAS, the Dodge County Board of Supervisors has delegated the responsibility to update the existing comprehensive plan in accordance with the requirements specified by law to the Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee has developed a Public Participation Plan designed to encourage public participation in the comprehensive plan update, attached hereto as Exhibit A, which plan includes the following requirements:

1. Conduct public informational meetings during which plan updates are presented, displayed and distributed;
2. Issue press releases regarding the process by which the plan will be updated and a summary of the proposed updates;
3. Conduct committee meetings during which the plan updates are presented and discussed;
4. Conduct public hearing(s) as required by law;
5. Provide/publish advanced notice, including legal notices when required, of all meetings by posting at public places and the County's website so that the public can attend such meetings and offer input;
6. Make available for public access and review at the Dodge County Administration Building in Juneau, Wisconsin, all informational items used and produced by the Committee and staff;
7. Solicit and respond to written comments from the public on all subjects pertaining to an update of the plan;
8. Notify, in writing, owners of nonmetallic mining sites or persons with leasehold interest in the operation of any proposed, alternative, or amended comprehensive plan elements in which the allowable use or intensity of use of the property is changed by the comprehensive plan;

WHEREAS, the Land Resources and Parks Committee recommends adoption of the Public Participation Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A by the Dodge County Board of Supervisors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Public Participation Plan – Exhibit A for an update to the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan is hereby adopted by the Dodge County Board of Supervisors.

All of which is respectfully submitted this 15th day of October, 2024.

Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee:

Mary Bobholz | Larry Bischoff
Kevin Burnett | Dale Macheel
Daniel Siegmann

FISCAL NOTE: *No fiscal impact as this is a policy change.* **Finance Committee review date:** October 7, 2024. Finance Committee Chair initials: _____

Vote Required: Majority of Members Present

Resolution Summary: Adoption of a Public Participation Plan for the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan Update.

Cedar CORPORATION

3. Population Growth Projections for Dodge County

DODGE COUNTY
OUR PLAN, OUR FUTURE

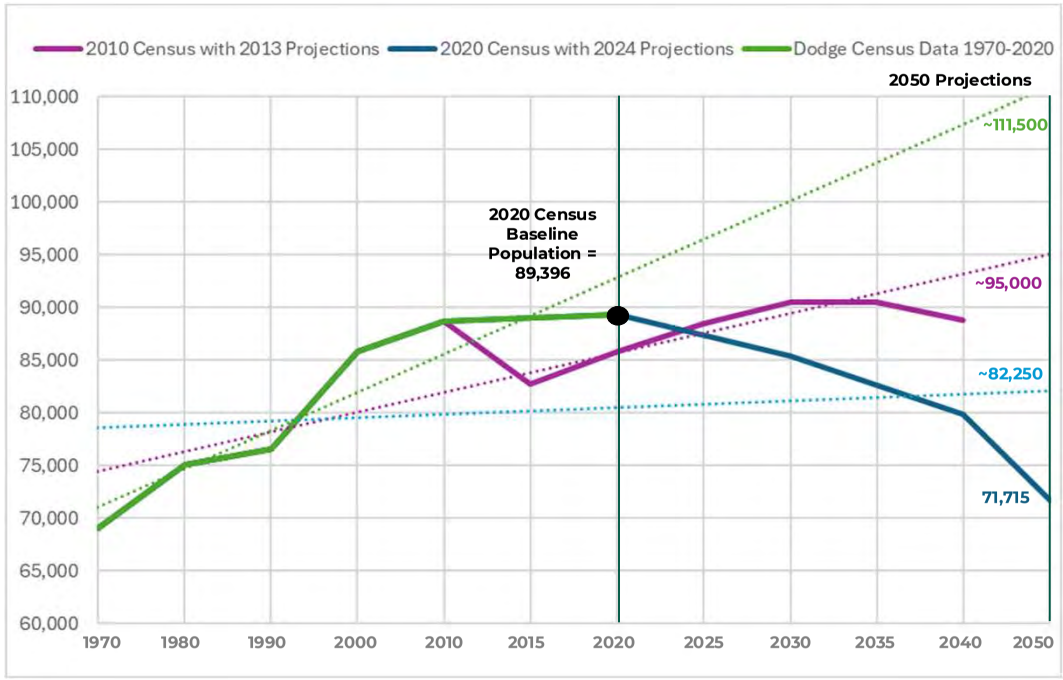
A review of the most current (Dec. 2024) Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA) county and municipal-level population projections show a steep downward trend in population levels (dark blue line). Drastic differences are illustrated as compared to the County's previous (Jan. 2013) WDOA projections (purple solid line). Three additional straight-line projections are shown out to the year 2050 (dashed lines) and represent possible scenarios for population growth or decline.

WDOA's 2024 Population Projections

Place Name	2020 Population	2030 Projection	2040 Projection	2050 Projection	# Change 2020-2050	% Change 2020-2050
T Ashippun	2,663	2,641	2,560	2,386	(277)	-10.4%
T Beaver Dam	4,062	3,979	3,811	3,509	(553)	-13.6%
T Burnett	831	758	673	572	(259)	-31.2%
T Calamus	1,043	1,008	952	865	(178)	-17.1%
T Chester[2]	676	642	595	530	(146)	-21.6%
T Clyman	712	664	604	527	(185)	-26.0%
T Elba	1,041	1,008	954	868	(173)	-16.6%
T Emmet	1,310	1,288	1,238	1,145	(165)	-12.6%
T Fox Lake	2,588	2,255	1,894	1,502	(1,086)	-42.0%
T Herman	1,135	1,108	1,057	970	(165)	-14.5%
T Hubbard	1,772	1,711	1,615	1,466	(306)	-17.3%
T Hustisford	1,357	1,303	1,223	1,104	(253)	-18.6%
T Lebanon	1,587	1,495	1,376	1,216	(371)	-23.4%
T LeRoy	956	910	846	756	(200)	-20.9%
T Lomira	1,099	1,056	993	897	(202)	-18.4%
T Lowell	1,166	1,103	1,020	906	(260)	-22.3%
T Oak Grove	1,028	969	892	788	(240)	-23.3%
T Portland	1,091	1,048	985	889	(202)	-18.5%
T Rubicon	2,117	2,070	1,979	1,819	(298)	-14.1%
T Shields	503	484	454	411	(92)	-18.3%
T Theresa	1,089	1,047	984	889	(200)	-18.4%
T Trenton	1,219	1,142	1,045	918	(301)	-24.7%
T Westford	1,313	1,306	1,268	1,185	(128)	-9.7%
V Brownsville	598	690	760	791	193	32.3%
V Clyman	397	367	330	284	(113)	-28.5%
V Hustisford	1,101	1,041	961	852	(249)	-22.6%
V Iron Ridge	904	886	850	783	(121)	-13.4%
V Kekoskee	896	861	809	731	(165)	-18.4%
V Lomira	2,678	2,720	2,695	2,565	(113)	-4.2%
V Lowell	309	276	240	198	(111)	-35.9%
V Neosho	591	572	540	491	(100)	-16.9%
V Randolph	1,338	1,269	1,176	1,047	(291)	-21.7%
V Reeseville	763	775	769	732	(31)	-4.1%
V Theresa	1,255	1,210	1,139	1,032	(223)	-17.8%
C Beaver Dam	16,708	16,250	15,446	14,120	(2,588)	-15.5%
C Fox Lake	1,604	1,693	1,736	1,703	99	6.2%
C Hartford	9	10	10	10	1	11.1%
C Horicon	3,767	3,718	3,587	3,327	(440)	-11.7%
C Juneau	2,658	2,234	1,788	1,327	(1,331)	-50.1%
C Mayville	5,196	5,103	4,899	4,523	(673)	-13.0%
C Watertown	8,252	7,881	7,354	6,597	(1,655)	-20.1%
C Waupun[2]	8,014	6,919	5,743	4,484	(3,530)	-44.0%
Dodge County	**89,396**	**85,470**	**79,850**	**71,715**	**(17,681)**	**-19.8%**

Source: WDOA, 2024

Population Projection Scenarios



What's Causing This Decline?

Demographers have identified several causes for the projected population levels, including:

- ✓ An aging population
- ✓ Lower birth rates
- ✓ Lower in-migration levels

Which projection do you feel is most realistic for Dodge County? Place a Green dot sticker on/near the one you are most comfortable with.

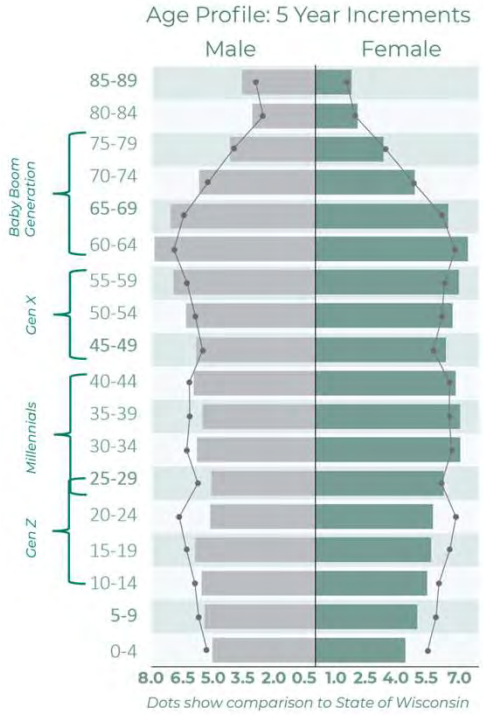
Cedar Corporation

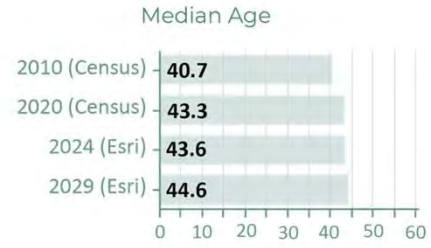
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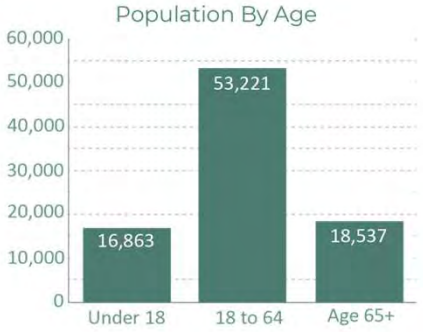
4. Dodge County's Households Are Changing

Recent trends show the County's population is getting older as the baby-boomer generation is aging out, and low birth rates have decreased the percentage of younger age groups. These factors combine to decrease the overall household size. The formation rates of 1 and 2 person households)has never been greater. This will have an influence on the types of housing required for new households and the ability to capture and accommodate younger residents.

Households Are Getting Older







Households Are Getting Smaller

Households by Size	Number	Percent
Total Households	**35,437**	-
1-Person Household	10,191	29%
2-Person Household	13,600	38%
3-Person Household	4,890	14%
4-Person Household	4,008	11%
5-Person Household	1,748	5%
6-Person Household	657	2%
7+ Person Household	343	1%
Average Household Size	**2.35**	-

County Name	Persons Per Household						
	2010 Census	2015 Projection	2020 Projection	2025 Projection	2030 Projection	2035 Projection	2040 Projection
Columbia	2.52	2.46	2.43	2.40	2.38	2.35	2.33
Dane	2.56	2.51	2.48	2.46	2.44	2.24	2.40
Dodge	2.40	2.33	2.30	2.27	2.23	2.20	2.17
Fond du Lac	2.49	2.42	2.38	2.35	2.32	2.29	2.27
Green Lake	2.42	2.38	2.35	2.32	2.28	2.25	2.22
Jefferson	2.47	2.38	2.34	2.31	2.29	2.27	2.25
Washington	2.49	2.43	2.41	2.38	2.35	2.33	2.32
Waukesha	2.52	2.45	2.42	2.39	2.36	2.34	2.33
State of Wisconsin	*2.43*	*2.38*	*2.35*	*2.32*	*2.30*	*2.28*	*2.26*

What impacts and challenges will this cause for existing and new residents of the County?

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5. Housing Growth & Projections

A review of 20 years' worth of County address, land use permit, and sanitary permit data for the rural Towns shows steady activity related to new rural dwellings. It is challenging to quantify the exact figures for newly constructed housing units in recent years, however; the graph below uses three County data sources to show not only a slightly increasing trend in the number of units, but also a range of about 45 to 75 units annually.

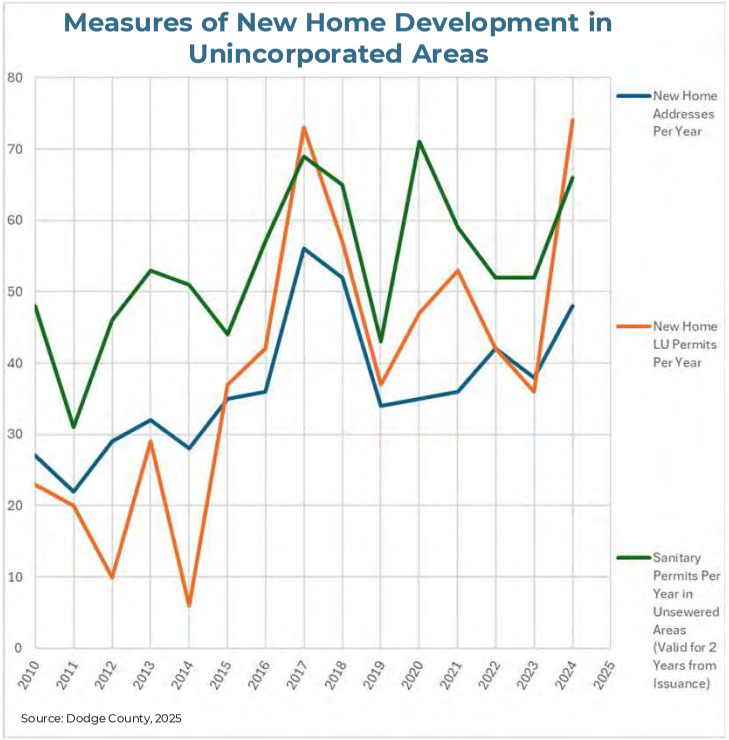
New Home LU Permits Per Year

Town	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL	AVERAGE
ASHIPPUN	22	18	15	7	1	3	2	1	2	1	6	12	13	12	6	5	8	5	4	4	**147**	**7**
BEAVER DAM	9	8	4	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	3	6	4	2	2	3	1	11	**61**	**3**
BURNETT	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	**8**	**0**
CALAMUS	5	4	5	4	3	1	2	1	1	0	7	4	3	4	4	0	1	1	0	1	**51**	**3**
CHESTER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	**1**	**0**
CLYMAN	5	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	**16**	**1**
ELBA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	2	0	2	0	3	3	**16**	**1**
EMMET	6	5	3	6	2	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	2	5	2	3	4	3	0	5	**52**	**3**
FOX LAKE	15	5	9	3	9	4	2	1	6	1	2	4	16	3	4	8	6	4	8	7	**117**	**6**
HERMAN	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	4	**8**	**0**
HUBBARD	10	5	11	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	4	1	6	2	1	5	4	3	1	3	**61**	**3**
HUSTISFORD	5	13	4	1	1	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	1	5	3	1	1	3	**48**	**2**
LEBANON	6	8	3	3	0	1	1	1	3	0	2	1	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	**44**	**2**
LEROY	4	2	10	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	3	0	2	1	2	1	0	4	**34**	**2**
LOMIRA	3	5	4	4	1	0	2	1	2	1	1	2	0	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	**38**	**2**
LOWELL	1	2	1	2	1	3	0	0	2	0	1	3	4	3	1	0	0	0	1	3	**28**	**1**
OAK GROVE	6	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	4	4	2	4	**29**	**1**
PORTLAND	4	2	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	**18**	**1**
RUBICON	14	9	2	1	3	1	2	1	3	1	2	6	1	6	5	7	5	9	7	4	**89**	**4**
SHIELDS	4	3	3	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	10	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	**31**	**2**
THERESA	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	**10**	**1**
TRENTON	1	6	2	1	5	3	3	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	3	**34**	**2**
WESTFORD	5	4	1	2	3	0	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	1	0	2	4	3	2	4	**41**	**2**
TOTALS	**126**	**106**	**83**	**47**	**34**	**23**	**20**	**10**	**29**	**6**	**37**	**42**	**73**	**57**	**37**	**47**	**53**	**42**	**36**	**58**	**982**	**49**

Source: Dodge County, 2025

Based solely on the County Land Use Permit data above, an average of 49 (let's say 50 to have a round number) units per year have been constructed. If these levels continue, approximately 1,000 new housing units could be built in the rural areas by 2045.

Measures of New Home Development in Unincorporated Areas



Source: Dodge County, 2025

How many housing units would you like to see annually within the County's rural areas?

- No Limit. All we can get!
- 200 Units
- 150 Units
- 100 Units
- 75 Units
- 50 Units
- 25 Units
- 0 Units Enough Already!

How much housing growth are you comfortable with per year in the rural areas of the County? Use a Green dot sticker to indicate your preference on the graph.

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6. Housing Options for the Future

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	Single-family homes (1,200 s.f. or more)			Multi-family Housing (e.g., apartments, townhomes, condos, etc.)	
	Small single-family homes (less than 1,200 s.f.)	PLACE VOTES HERE		Campus style senior living communities (independent / assisted living, senior center for entertainment, restaurant, medical, etc.)	PLACE VOTES HERE
	Small home/small lot "cottage style" homes			Seasonal Housing (e.g., seasonal ag workers, college students, etc.)	
	Accessory dwelling units (ADUs, also called "Granny Flats")			Low-income Housing	
	Tiny homes (<600 s.f.)			Moderate-priced homes	
	Rental single-family homes & duplexes			Higher end/priced homes	

Housing is Expensive!

One measure of housing affordability is keeping your housing related costs below 30% of your gross income. A review of housing cost data from the Census' 2023 ACS 1-Year survey indicates that over 42% of the County's homeowners, and over 38% of its renters, pay 30% or more of their gross monthly income on housing-related costs.

What housing types are needed to accommodate growth in the County?
Place a Green dot sticker(s) on the type(s) you like.

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7. Economics of Dodge County

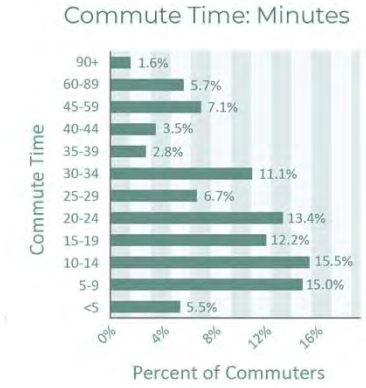
Economic development is the process of improving a community's economic well-being and quality of life.. Tasks typically defined through tasks associated with business development (attraction and expansion), job creation and retention, entrepreneurship and small business creation, workforce development (including attraction and training), downtown revitalization, and tourism.

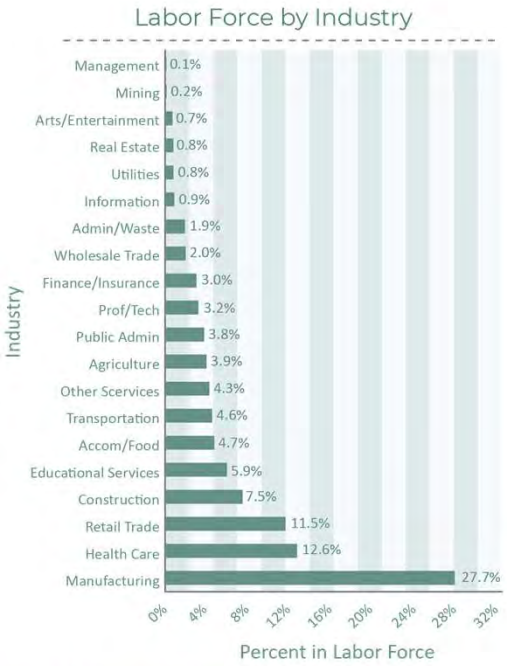
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What could be done locally to improve the economy of Dodge County?

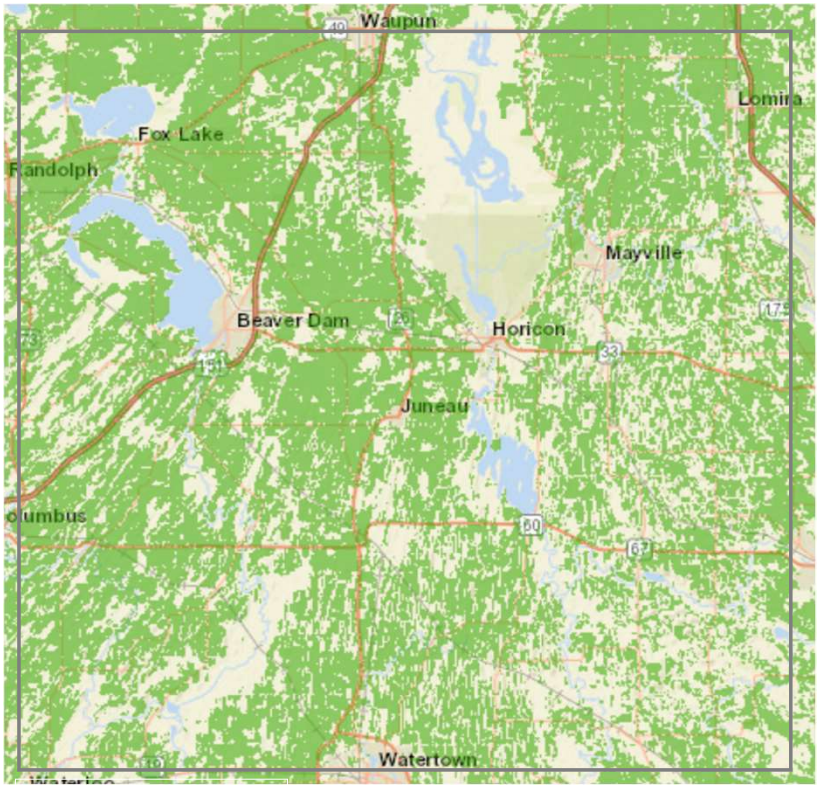
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8. Agriculture in Dodge County

According to the *2021 Dodge County Farmland Preservation Plan*, the agriculture and manufacturing industries in Dodge County are and will continue to be the primary economic base for the county. Dodge County consistently ranks in the Top 10 of all counties in the state in several agricultural production categories. The County also contains some of the most significant, agriculturally productive, soils in the entire United States. At the same time, increased pressures continue to convert farmland to other uses and have inflated the price of farmland. This makes it more difficult to enter farming or expand existing farms. Appreciated land values also enable existing farmers to realize larger financial gains when they sell their farmland assets.

Nationally Significant Soils



Source: American Farmland Trust, 2024

Farmland Preservation Program Participation



What land uses do you feel are compatible with agriculture?

What are the biggest threats to continued agricultural prosperity?

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9. What are the Top Issues & Opportunities?

Initial discussions with the County's Land Resources & Parks Committee and the Ad Hoc Comprehensive Plan Committee led to the identification of many issues and opportunities. A listing of some of the top responses which are/may impact the County over the 20-year life of the new Comprehensive Plan are listed below. These topics are the focus of current discussions and will be addressed further in the forthcoming drafts of the 2045 Comprehensive Plan:

Top Issues (not in priority order)

a) Affordable/Workforce Housing

b) Workforce Development

c) Accommodation of Renewable Energy

d) Access to Medical Care (incl. Mental Health Support)

e) Access to Child Care

f) Coordinated EMS/Fire Services

g) Aging Infrastructure (roads) / Capital Improvement Funding

Top Opportunities (not in priority order)

a) Tourism

b) Resident Attraction Based on Quality of Life

c) Leverage Agricultural Economy

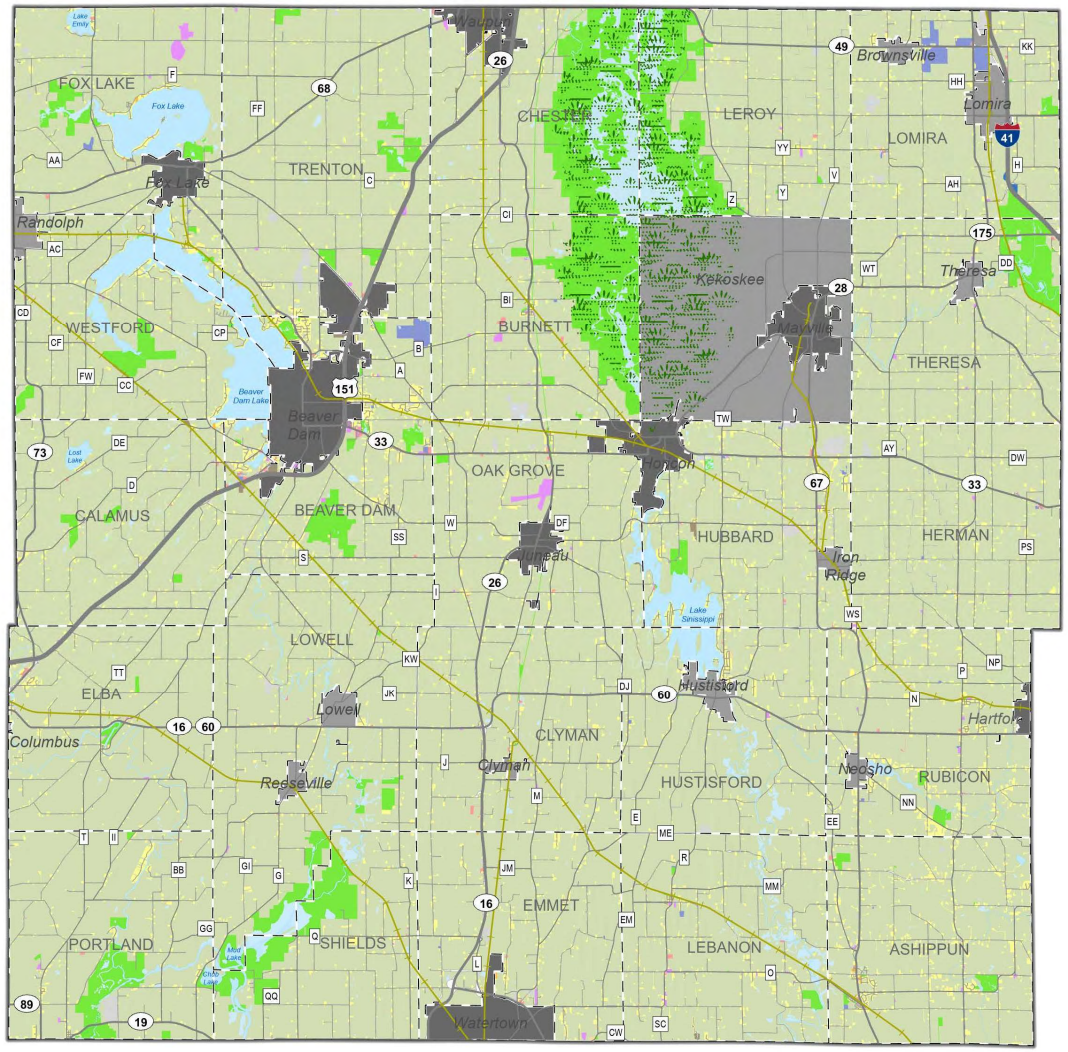
d) Leverage Education System

Do you agree with these lists? What's missing?

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10. Land Use in Dodge County

Dodge County, Wisconsin



Help Us Understand Your Desires for Future Development!

Using the Green and Red dot stickers, please place at least one each on the map to the left which indicates your preferences for:

- ***Areas of the County which you think deserve additional protection from development?***
- ***Areas of the County which you think could or should accommodate new development?***

Legend

Existing Land Use*

- Single Family Residential
- Two Family Residential
- Multi Family Residential
- Mobile Home
- Commercial
- Communication & Utilities
- Industrial
- Public & Quasi-Public
- Parks & Recreation
- Agriculture / Other Resources
- Transportation
- ROW
- Water
- City/Village

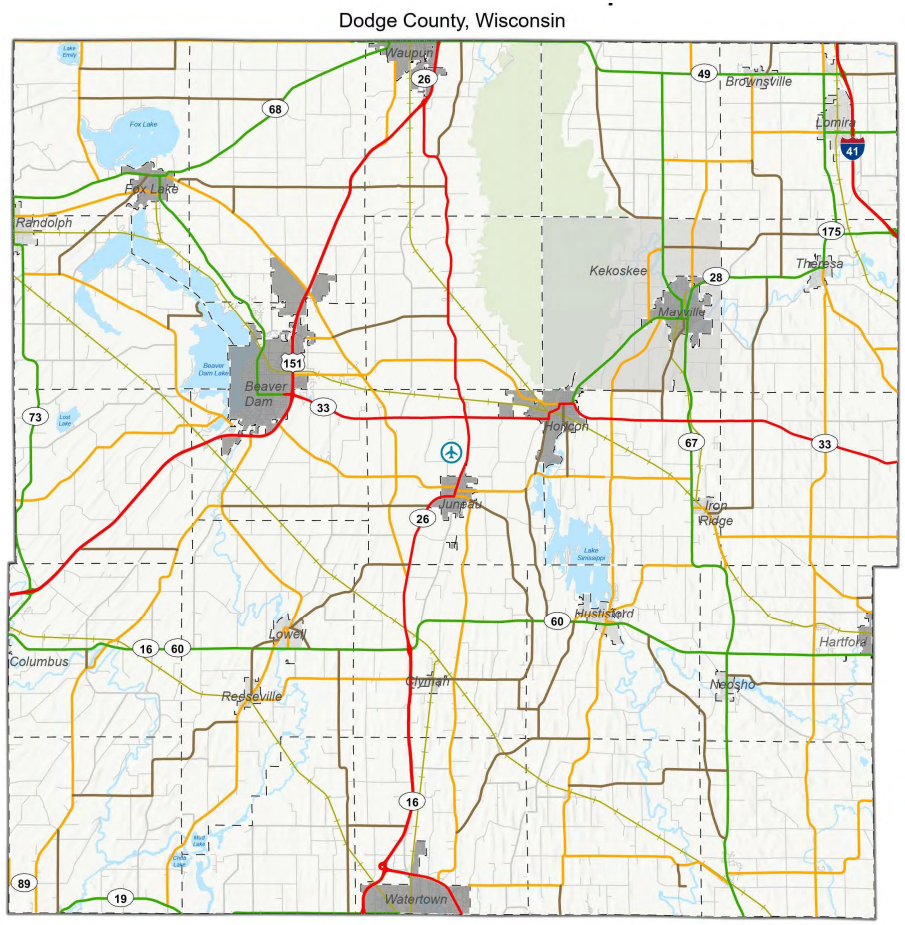
Base Layers

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Railroad
- Municipal Boundary

*Cedar Corporation, 2024.

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11. How Safe are the Highways and Roads in Dodge Co.?



Traffic safety is a top concern for the County. Major improvements have been made over the years to the County Highway system to increase safety for the traveling public. While many serious crashes are the fault of the driver(s) and not due to the design of the roadway, there are still opportunities to increase the safety of certain highway segments and intersections.



10 Years of Serious Crashes

According to WisDOT's *Community Map* interface, between Jan. 2014 and Dec. 2024 there were 577 total crashes reported, resulting in 138 fatalities and 863 injuries. Of this total, 571 crashes are mapped.



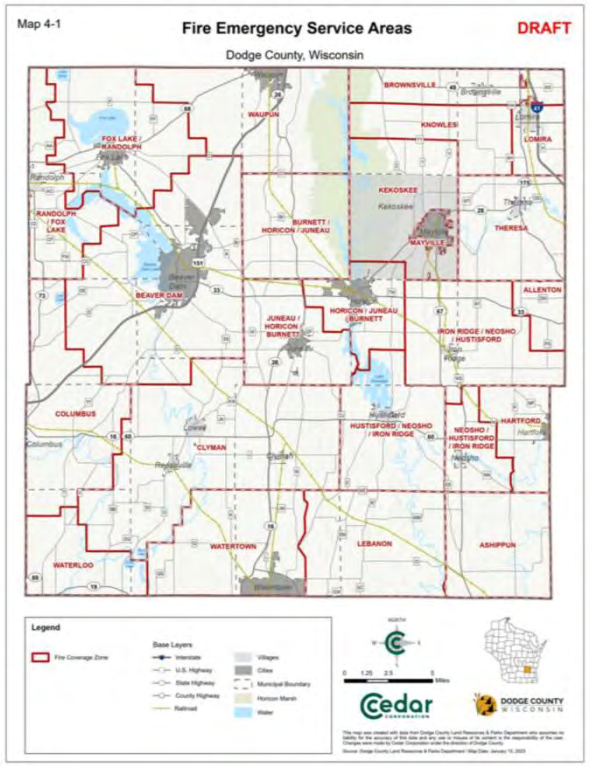
Place a Red dot sticker(s) on the map where you feel there are unsafe road sections or intersections. Note any other suggestions you may have.

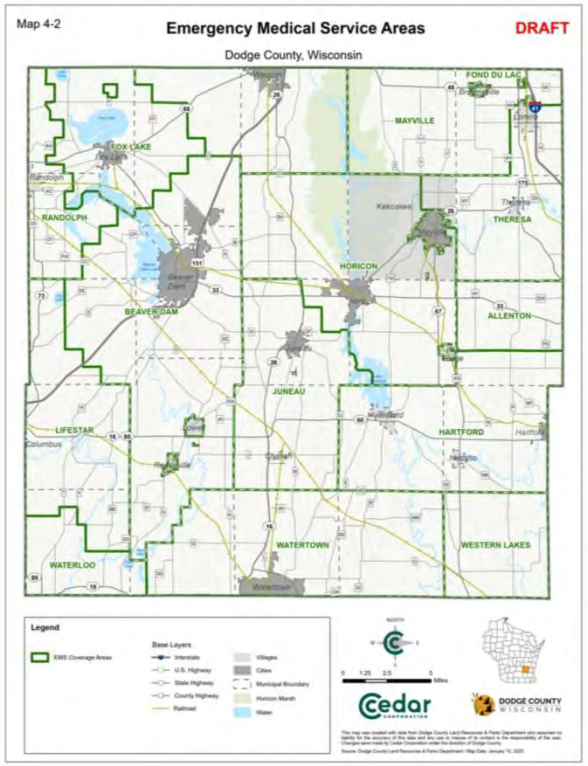
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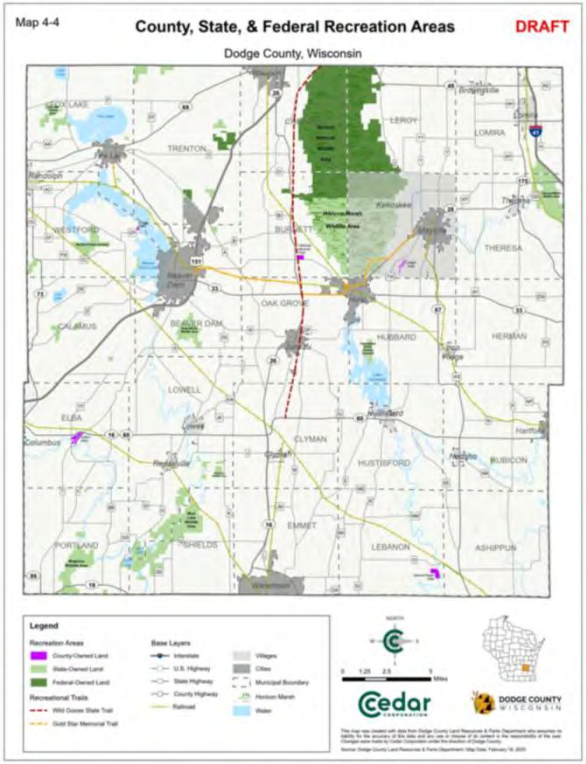
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12. Services

County residents are reliant on many different service and utility providers. Some services are privately provided (electricity, natural gas), and some come from the County (Sheriff, parks, county highways), while others are provided locally (sewer, water, local roads). Most of the fire and EMS services however; are provided sub-regionally and involve agreements amongst multiple units of government.







How would you rate the quality of services or facilities for the three governmental functions shown above? Place a colored dot sticker on each map to indicate your rating as follows:

Red = low satisfaction ***Yellow = satisfied*** ***Green = high satisfaction.***

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13. How Can You Continue to Participate in the Plan?

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Visit the Project Hub!

Scan the QR Code to learn more about Dodge County's efforts to update its Comprehensive Plan.

Current/Future Participation Options:

1. **On-Line Project Hub** – leave comments or map notes

2. **On-Line Citizen Opinion Survey** – survey ends February 28th, 2025!

Access the survey through the Project Hub using the QR Code or by visiting **www.co.dodge.wi.gov/**.

3. **Attend Meetings:**

   a) Ad Hoc Working Group Meetings (check Project Hub for dates)

   b) Land Resources & Parks Committee Meetings (check Project Hub for dates)

   c) Public Involvement Meeting #2 – scheduled for approx. mid-September 2025.

   d) Public Hearing – scheduled for approximately mid-November 2025.

Do you have any other suggestions on how to improve public participation?

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W61N497 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012
262-204-2360

2820 Walton Commons West
Suite 142
Madison, WI 53718
608-249-5046

1695 Bellevue Street
Green Bay, WI 54311
920-491-9081

604 Wilson Avenue
Menomonie, WI 54751
715-235-9081

www.cedarcorp.com

Dodge County, WI
2045 Comprehensive Plan Update

Public Involvement Meeting/Open House #2 Summary Report

October 21, 2025

DODGE COUNTY

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Overview

Dodge County is in the process of updating its 2015 Comprehensive Plan which will look outward for 20 years to the year 2045. The Comprehensive Plan is a long-range planning document which addresses a variety of land use, natural resource, transportation and public service issues, among other things. Citizen engagement has been priority for the County while updating the Comprehensive Plan and the opinions of attendees are strongly considered throughout the process.

Event Details

The second Public Involvement Meeting / Open House was held in Dodge County's Clearview North facility on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, beginning at 5:00 p.m. and ending at 7:00 p.m. In addition to Cedar Corporation and County staff being present, a total of five persons attended, although only four signed in. (See Appendix A).



The event consisted of an open-house style display of ten different boards containing a variety of information about the draft 2045 Comprehensive Plan which were positioned around the room. After signing in, participants were asked to take a stack of Post-It notes and a pen, and were encouraged to write down short comments, thoughts, and ideas regarding the information presented. Specific directional questions on the boards helped to prompt readers into leaving a response.



Summary of Documented Comments

A summary of the comments and opinions left by participants on each display board station is provided below. Additional summary statements are provided based on verbal discussions with participants. A complete set of the display boards are included in Appendix B:

Board #1 – What is a Comprehensive Plan?

No comments

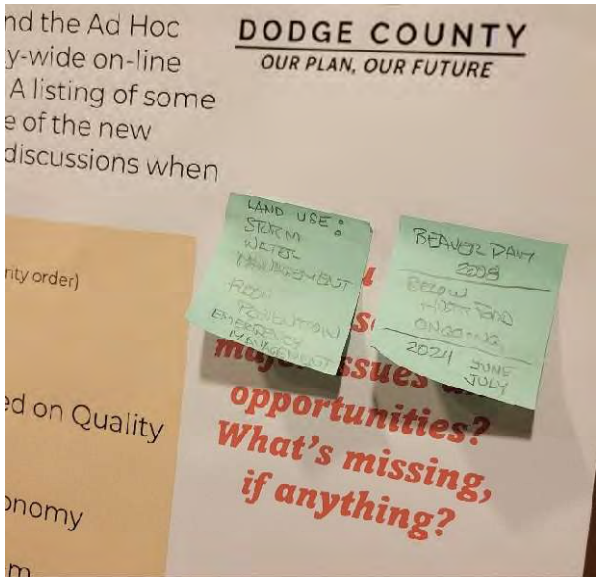
Board #2 – The Planning Process & Public Participation

No comments

Board #3 – Population Growth Projections for Dodge County

No comments

Board #4 – What are the Top Issues & Opportunities?



Comments

1. Land Use: Stormwater management, Flood prevention, and Emergency management
2. [reference to recent flooding events] Beaver Dam, 2008 / Below Hustisford, Ongoing / June/July, 2024

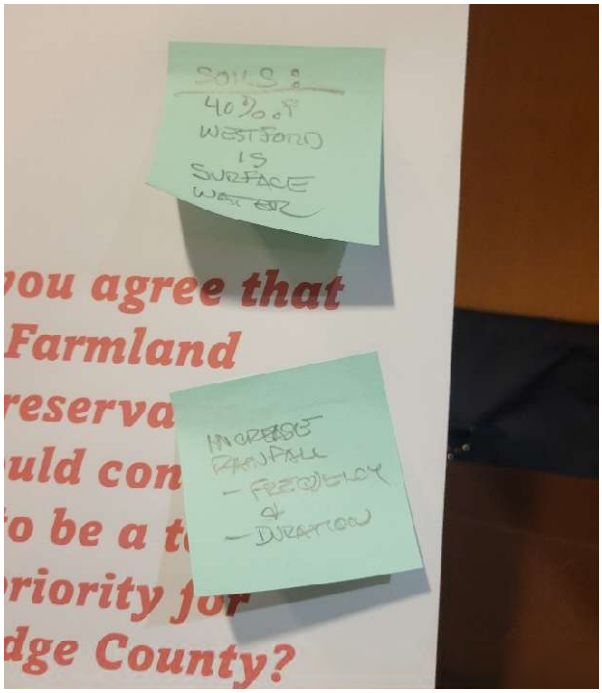
Board #5 – Draft 2045 Future Land Use Map

No Comments

Board #6 – Draft 2045 Future Land Use Map (classification changes)

No comments

Board #7 – Farmland Preservation Planning



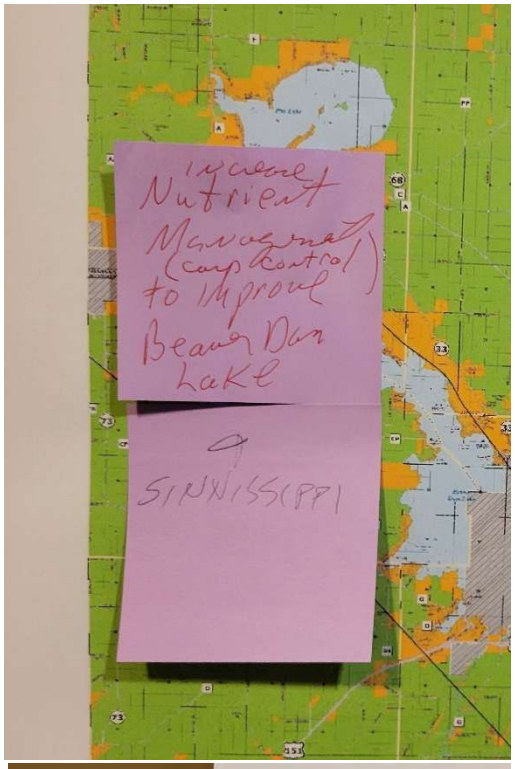
Comments

1. Soils
2. 40% of Westford is surface water
3. Increased rainfall frequency and duration

Board #8 – Draft Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP) Map

Comments

1. Increase nutrient management (carp control) to improve Beaver Dam and Sinissippi Lakes



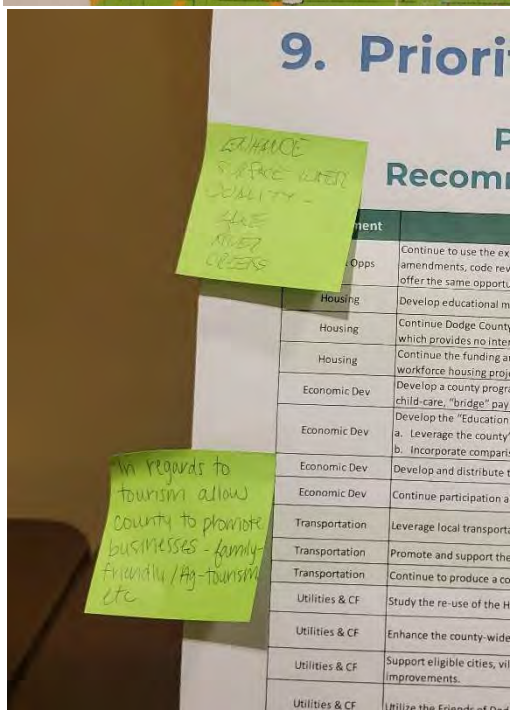
Board #9 – Priority Plan Recommendations

Comments

1. Enhance surface water quality of lakes, rivers, and creeks.
2. In regard to tourism, allow county to promoted businesses – family friendly / ag-tourism, etc.

Board #10 – How Can You Continue to Participate in the Plan?

No comments



Event Takeaways

While the attendance was minimal at this event, those who did come to participate provided quality input. Three themes were revealed by the comments left on the boards, but also by the questions and discussions with participants during the workshop:

1) Improvements to water quality should be elevated in terms of its importance in the plan. Most discussion comments were focused on Beaver Dam Lake and Lake Sinissippi.
   a. Water quality is tied to both rural agricultural land management as well as stormwater runoff from urban areas.
   b. Water quality is tied to the ability to utilize lakes and rivers for recreational purposes.
   c. Improved water quality increases property values.
   d. Some marsh areas have silted in over time, thereby reducing the capacity of these areas to hold water from rain events, resulting in flooding.
   e. Carp control and resuspension of phosphorus in sediments

2) The need to address localized and regional flooding exists as increasing storm intensities are impacting the landscape.

3) There may be a need to incorporate policies and develop regulations regarding the siting of data centers. While most data center facilities will likely occur within the county's incorporated communities, the impacts of these facilities may also affect nearby rural landowners.

The feedback obtained through this public meeting will be considered by the county for potential modifications to the plan's goals, objectives, policies, and recommendation statements.

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APPENDIX A

Event Sign In Sheet

Please Sign In!

Public Involvement Meeting #2 / Open House
Tuesday, October 21, 2025

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Name	Representing (Resident, visitor, agency, organization, etc.)
Dale Maas	BD LAKE DIST.
Linda Schlaufmagel	
Ball Foley	BD LAKE DIST
Richard WALTER	Emmet Supervisor
Jane Parpart	Plan Commission Chair Town of Iba

Cedar

APPENDIX B

Event Display Boards

Dodge County – Year 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update

Welcome!







Thank you for attending the Public Involvement Meeting / Open House. A few directions on how to participate:

1. Please sign in.
2. Take a Post-It pad and a pen.
3. View the various displays and questions at your own pace.
4. Write your thoughts/comments on Post-It notes and then place them directly on the displays.
5. You may also draw or write notes directly on the maps.
6. Interact with County staff and Cedar Corporation representatives – ask questions and share your thoughts!

THANK YOU in advance for your participation!

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If you don't have time to stay, please see our Project Hub for the displayed materials and to provide input. Just scan the QR Code or go to the homepage of the County's website: www.co.dodge.wi.gov/

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Dodge County – Year 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update

1. What is a Comprehensive Plan?

The Comprehensive Planning Law was enacted in 1999 (see section 66.1001, Wis. Stats.). Sometimes referred to as the "smart growth law," the Comprehensive Planning Law does not mandate how a community should grow, rather it leaves such decisions up to local communities.

Comprehensive Planning Law defines a comprehensive plan as containing at least nine elements as shown in the sidebar.

Consistency Requirement
Beginning on January 1, 2010, if the County enacts or amends an official mapping, land division, or zoning ordinance, the enactment or amendment ordinance must be ***consistent*** with that County's comprehensive plan.

Plan Update
Comprehensive plans must be updated no less than once every 10 years. Dodge County will be conducting a thorough update of background information and a public participatory process to evaluate plan vision, goals, objectives, policies, and programs.

Nine Elements of a Comprehensive Plan
1. Issues and Opportunities
2. Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources
3. Economic Development
4. Housing
5. Intergovernmental Cooperation
6. Transportation
7. Land Use
8. Utilities and Community Facilities
9. Implementation

Benefits of Comprehensive Planning
- ❑ Understands the past and present
- ❑ Lays out a roadmap to the future
- ❑ Guides land use regulations
- ❑ Is proactive rather than reactive
- ❑ Coordinates County activity
- ❑ Improves efficiencies of service
- ❑ Preserves local control.
- ❑ Preserves local autonomy
- ❑ Promotes property rights
- ❑ Promotes economic development
- ❑ Promotes intergovernmental cooperation
- ❑ Protects resources

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All draft plan elements for the 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update are available for review on the Project Hub. Scan the QR Code below to access:

Scan the QR Code to learn more about Dodge County's efforts to update its Comprehensive Plan.

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2. The Planning Process & Public Participation

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We Are Here

Aug. 2024 → **Jan. 2025** → **Aug. 2025** → **Dec. 2025**

Citizen Engagement
(Project Hub, Citizen Survey, WTA Mtgs., Public Information Meetings (x2), Public Hearing)

Committee Guidance
(Land Resource & Parks Committee, Ad Hoc Comprehensive Plan Update Working Group)

Update Inventory & Assess

Information and guidance also taken from a series of interviews conducted with County Department Heads

1. Issues & Opportunities
2. Population & Housing
3. Transportation
4. Economic Development
5. Community Facilities & Utilities
6. Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources
7. Land Use
8. Intergovernmental Cooperation
9. Implementation

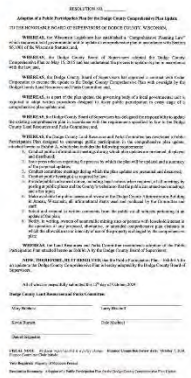
Discuss Solutions, Strategies & Recommendations

Plan Creation

Formal Public Hearing
Adoption by Land Resources & Parks Committee
Adoption by County Board

Plan Adoption

Citizen participation in the planning process is required. A separate Citizen Participation Plan was adopted by the County Board to ensure public input and engagement opportunities exist.



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Dodge County – Year 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update

3. Population Growth Projections for Dodge County

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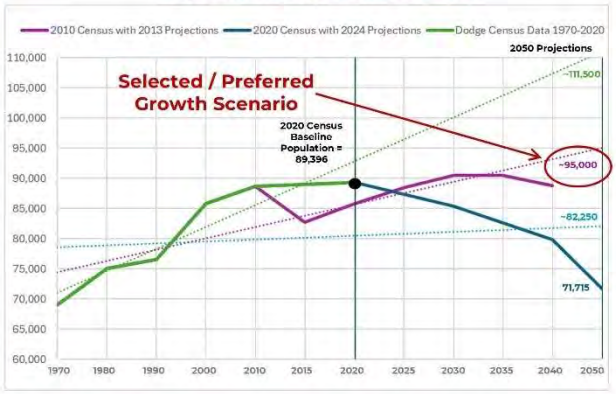
A review of the most current (Dec. 2024) Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA) county and municipal-level population projections show a steep downward trend in population levels (dark blue line). Drastic differences are illustrated as compared to the County's previous (Jan. 2013) WDOA projections (purple solid line). Three additional straight-line projections are shown out to the year 2050 (dashed lines) and represent possible scenarios for population growth or decline.

WDOA's 2024 Population Projections

Place Name	2020 Population	2030 Projection	2040 Projection	2050 Projection	# Change 2020-2050	% Change 2020-2050
T Ashippun	2,663	2,641	2,560	2,386	(277)	-10.4%
T Beaver Dam	4,863	5,375	5,811	5,909	(954)	-13.6%
T Burnett	831	758	673	572	(259)	-31.2%
T Calamus	1,043	1,008	983	865	(178)	-17.1%
T Chester*	676	643	555	530	(146)	-21.6%
T Clyman	713	664	604	527	(186)	-26.0%
T Elba	1,041	1,008	954	868	(173)	-16.6%
T Emmet	1,332	1,288	1,238	1,146	(186)	-12.6%
T Fox Lake	2,588	2,255	1,854	1,502	(1,086)	-42.0%
T Hermon	1,135	1,108	1,057	970	(165)	-14.5%
T Hubbard	1,772	1,711	1,615	1,466	(306)	-17.3%
T Hustisford	1,357	1,303	1,221	1,104	(253)	-18.6%
T Lebanon	1,537	1,498	1,376	1,216	(321)	-23.4%
T Leroy	906	910	840	726	(180)	-20.9%
T Lomira	1,099	1,056	993	897	(202)	-18.4%
T Lowell	1,166	1,103	1,020	906	(260)	-22.3%
T Oak Grove	1,028	988	892	788	(240)	-23.4%
T Portland	1,091	1,048	985	889	(202)	-18.5%
T Rubicon	2,117	2,070	1,929	1,819	(298)	-14.1%
T Shields	503	484	457	413	(90)	-18.3%
T Theresa	1,089	1,047	984	889	(200)	-18.4%
T Trenton	1,719	1,147	1,046	918	(801)	-24.7%
T Westford	1,313	1,306	1,268	1,185	(128)	-9.7%
V Brownsville	598	680	760	791	193	32.3%
V Clyman	397	367	330	284	(113)	-28.5%
V Hartford	1,101	1,061	961	857	(249)	-22.6%
V Iron Ridge	901	886	850	780	(121)	-13.4%
V Kekoskee	906	881	809	741	(165)	-18.4%
V Lomira	2,678	2,730	2,655	2,565	(113)	-4.2%
V Lowell	309	276	240	198	(111)	-35.9%
V Neosho	591	577	540	491	(100)	-16.9%
V Randolph	1,338	1,269	1,179	1,047	(291)	-21.7%
V Reeseville	763	775	769	713	(51)	-6.7%
V Theresa	1,255	1,210	1,139	1,032	(223)	-17.8%
C Beaver Dam	16,708	16,740	15,466	14,170	(2,538)	-15.5%
C Fox Lake	1,501	1,653	1,736	1,703	99	6.2%
C Hartford	9	10	10	10	1	11.1%
C Horicon	3,767	3,718	3,587	3,327	(440)	-11.7%
C Juneau	2,608	2,234	1,785	1,257	(1,351)	-50.1%
C Mayville	5,196	5,103	4,899	4,523	(673)	-13.0%
C Watertown	8,252	7,881	7,354	6,597	(1,655)	-20.1%
C Waupun*	8,011	6,919	5,745	4,484	(3,536)	-44.0%
Dodge County	**89,396**	**85,470**	**79,850**	**71,715**	**(17,681)**	**-19.8%**

Source: WDOA, 2024

Population Projection Scenarios



What's Causing This Decline?

Demographers have identified several causes for the projected population levels, including:

- ✓ An aging population
- ✓ Lower birth rates
- ✓ Lower in-migration levels

Do you feel the selected/preferred growth scenario of having a total county population of 95,000 in 2045 is accurate?

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4. What are the Top Issues & Opportunities?

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Initial discussions with the County's Land Resources & Parks Committee and the Ad Hoc Comprehensive Plan Committee, as well as input received from the County-wide on-line Resident Surve, led to the identification of many issues and opportunities. A listing of some of the top responses which are/may impact the County over the 20-year life of the new Comprehensive Plan are listed below. These topics have been the focus of discussions when updating the Comprehensive Plan:

Top Issues (not in priority order)

a) Affordable/Workforce Housing, including Senior Housing

b) Workforce Development / Employee Attraction

c) Accommodation of Renewable Energy

d) Access to Medical Care (incl. Mental Health Support)

e) Access to Child Care

f) Coordinated EMS/Fire Services

g) Aging Infrastructure (roads) / Capital Improvement Funding

a) Access to High-Speed Internet

Top Opportunities (not in priority order)

a) Tourism

b) Resident Attraction Based on Quality of Life

c) Leverage Agricultural Economy

d) Leverage Education System

a) Improve Work-Related Transportation

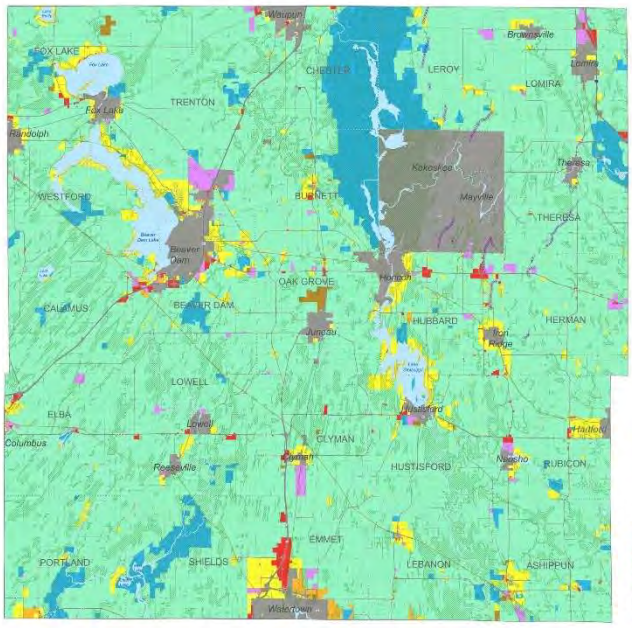
Do you agree with these lists of major issues and opportunities? What's missing, if anything?

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Dodge County – Year 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update

5. Draft 2045 Future Land Use Map

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The future land use map is the primary component of the comprehensive plan that will be used as a guide for officials when considering future development within the county.

The Future Land Use categories are designated areas of consistent character, use, and density that share similar goals and objectives for future use, preservation and/or development.

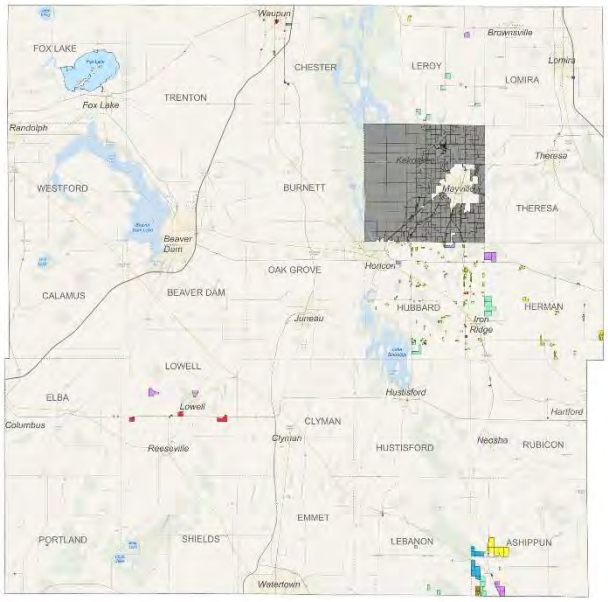
The map is long-range and will need to be reevaluated periodically to ensure that it remains consistent with changing trends and conditions. The 2045 Future Land Use Map applies specifically to the unincorporated areas of Dodge County, and not to the incorporated villages and cities.

Do you agree with the 2045 Future Land Use Map? Why or why not?



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6. Draft 2045 Future Land Use Map



This map illustrates only the areas which have had changes made to the future land use classification based on individual Town feedback.

A total of 1,174 parcels were changed on the Future Land use Map, however 886 of these were tied to updating all the former T. Williamstown's parcels to V. of Kekoskee parcels. This leaves 288 parcels which had a change in its future land use classification as part of this map update.

For Towns who reviewed the Future Land Use Map for updates, do these changes appear to be accurate?



Dodge County – Year 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update

7. Farmland Preservation Planning

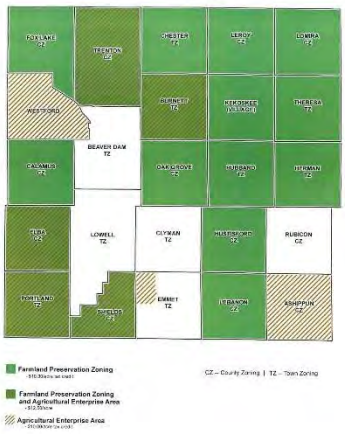
For decades, Dodge County has been heavily involved in the preparation, administration, and oversight for the Dodge County Farmland Preservation Plan and utilization of Farmland Preservation Zoning. The county's Farmland Preservation Zoning Ordinance creates opportunities for farmers to make an economic living and protecting their right to farm by keeping them eligible for state tax credits. Hence, sustaining the farming culture. As shown here, Dodge County contains an abundance of National Significant agricultural soils based on an analysis by the American Farmland Trust.

Nationally Significant Soils



Source: American Farmland Trust, 2024

Farmland Preservation Program Participation

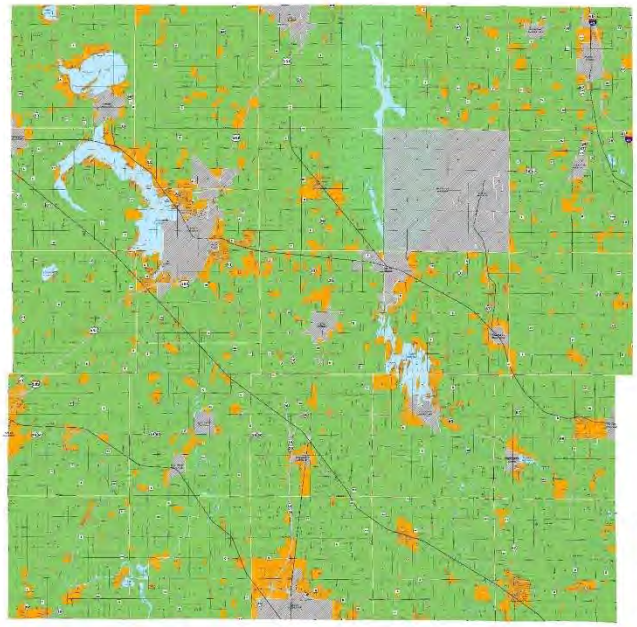


Do you agree that Farmland Preservation should continue to be a top priority for Dodge County?

Dodge County – Year 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update

8. Draft Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP) Map

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Based on the review and input obtain from the towns in Dodge County during the planning process, several minor changes are proposed to the updated Farmland Preservation Plan Map.

These map changes will help to support the overall implementation of the Farmland Preservation Plan and will also ensure that the map is consistent with the County's updated 2045 Future Land Use Map.

Summary of Map Changes

- Only one parcel in T. Herman modified.
- Also removed the Village of Kekoskee and other annexations that have happened since 2021.
- The total FPP acreage after excluding all cities/villages/ROW/major water is 449,544 acres.

Do you agree with the updated Farmland Preservation Plan Map? Why or why not?



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Dodge County – Year 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update

9. Priority Plan Recommendations

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Priority Short-Term Recommendations (1 to 2 Years)

Plan Element	Recommendation Statement
Issues & Opps	Continue to use the existing development review system which encourages towns, villages and cities to comment on plan amendments, code revisions, and development proposals before the proposals are acted upon, and encourage municipalities to offer the same opportunity to the county.
Housing	Develop educational materials that talk about the benefits of all housing types.
Housing	Continue Dodge County's participation in the Southern Housing Region and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which provides no interest loans for home improvements for low and moderate income persons.
Housing Economic Dev	Continue the funding contribution of the Dodge County Community Development Fund to support the construction of local level workforce housing projects.
Economic Dev	Develop a county program to attract childcare providers. For example, consider the provision of facilities, become a licensor for child care, "bridge" start-ups and/or provide benefits (e.g., healthcare).
Economic Dev	Develop the "Education Story" for Dodge County and determine market audience for sharing and distributing. a. Leverage the county's proximity/access to higher education (MPTC, UW-Madison, etc.). b. Incorporate comparison with state level scores for education system.
Economic Dev	Develop and distribute tourism information promoting the county.
Economic Dev	Continue participation and cooperation with the Madison Region Economic Partnership (Made in).
Transportation	Leverage local transportation dollars by applying regularly for state road funding opportunities (LRIP, ARIP, etc.)
Transportation	Promote and support the expansion of the Gold Star Memorial Trail.
Transportation	Continue to produce a county five-Year Capital Improvement Plan on an annual basis.
Utilities & CF	Study the re-use of the Henry Dodge Building property for a renewable energy project if the structure is removed.
Utilities & CF	Enhance the county-wide dispatch system with features such as text to 911, sheriff apps, and more focus on citizen interaction.
Utilities & CF	Support eligible cities, villages and sanitary districts who attempt to obtain grants for needed infrastructure expansion and improvements.
Utilities & CF	Utilize the Friends of Dodge County Parks to develop a fundraising strategy to help offset the cost of park improvements.
Utilities & CF	Work with the Friends of Dodge County Parks in communicating parks information to the County Board, the local news media, and to the general public through the Land Resources and Parks Department.
Ag/Nat/Cul	Develop incentives for farmers to leave unplowed and unfertilized buffers along waterways and wetlands. Regularly apply for DNR grants for the following uses: a. Wetland restoration projects. b. Park improvement projects. c. Development of new or existing trails (such as the Gold Star Memorial Trail). e. Other projects that enhance the county's natural resources base.
Land Use	Amend the County Land Use Code as needed to implement the Comprehensive Plan.
Land Use	Amend county regulations to allow for or enhance in small to medium scale solar energy systems siting which encourages placement in/on parking lots, building rooftops, closed landfills, and existing brownfield sites.
Intergov. Cooperation	Host a bi-annual forum in which cities, village, towns, and the county can constructively discuss land use and zoning issues, especially the current issues facing those communities, as well as to improve communication and coordination (i.e., Wis. Stats. 66.023 regarding cooperative boundary agreements, and Wis Stats. 66.30, regarding cooperative inter-governmental agreements).
Implementation	Provide 11 advancements to make county government more secure, yet citizen-centric with respect to planning and zoning processes and activities.

Priority Medium-Term Recommendations (3 to 10 Years)

Plan Element	Recommendation Statement
Housing	Initiate a pilot project to examine opportunities for new housing through the adaptive re-use of older buildings, perhaps acquiring structures through the tax foreclosure process.
Economic Dev	Create a county database of existing and potential new economic development programs and policies in order to formulate strategies for sustaining and improving the economic stability of the county.
Economic Dev	Continue to administer and promote the Dodge County Community Development Fund to area municipalities for economic development related projects, including infrastructure to foster new housing.
Economic Dev	Increase county capacity for tourism promotion (most successful at attracting higher earners). Having a dedicated county staff person for tourism will foster more consistency and sustainability.
Economic Dev	Allocate sales tax revenues for priority economic development projects, including business retention and attraction.
Economic Dev	Develop a program to target youth/residents who had left the county to return.
Transportation	Develop a long-term transportation plan which prioritizes roadway improvement projects, preserves a high aesthetic quality, and minimizes disruption of natural, historical and cultural resources.
Transportation	Study the creation of a Debt Service Tax (exception to levy limit) on tax bills to pay down existing and future transportation debt.
Transportation	Address critical safety concerns at key intersections by considering the following studies and/or projects: a. CTH A & CTH W (potential roundabout) b. CTH G & CTH S c. CTH TT & WS 60 (coordinate with bridge replacement project and potentially remove segment of TT) d. CTH I & WS 60 e. WS 60 near Dodge County Airport/Juneau.
Transportation	Prepare an updated Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan to identify priority trails and connections, as well as to provide better guidance to the Highway Department for accommodating such uses.
Utilities & CF	Produce an annual Capital Improvement Program Plan to assess its needs in regard to county facilities.
Utilities & CF	Work toward the expansion of fiber and broadband for not only county use, but also for businesses and residents.
Ag/Nat/Cul	Develop a historic preservation base document that reflects on the county's past in a methodical manner. Create a website map and database of historical sites within the county's geographical information system.
Implementation	Update the Comprehensive Plan on a 10 year cycle, consistent with State Statutes. Coordinate with update to the Farmland Preservation Plan and the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Over 100 separate recommendations are contained within the draft 2045 Comprehensive Plan. The entire set of updated recommendations were reviewed by multiple stakeholders (County Staff, Ad Hoc Comprehensive Plan Update Working Group, and the Land Resources & Parks Committee).

This exercise was to identify those recommendations which would "move the needle" the most., meaning to make a noticeable and significant impact or to achieve measurable progress toward a goal.

Based on this evaluation, a total of 22 "priority recommendations" were identified for implementation over the next two years. A secondary set of 14 priority recommendations were established for implementation in the 3 to 10-year timeframe following the first two-year period. It is important to note that items within each table are NOT listed in priority order.

Do you agree with the listing of priority plan recommendations?

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10. How Can You Continue to Participate in the Plan?

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Current/Future Participation Options:

1. **On-Line Project Hub** – leave comments or map notes

2. **Attend Meetings:**

   a) Ad Hoc Working Group Meetings (Only one left, scheduled for Nov. 6, 2025)

   b) Land Resources & Parks Committee Meetings (Nov. 10 and Dec. 8, 2025)

   c) LRPC Mtg. / Public Hearing (Tentatively scheduled for January 12, 2026)

   a) County Board Adoption (Tentatively scheduled for January 20, 2026)

Visit the Project Hub!

Scan the QR Code to learn more about Dodge County's efforts to update its Comprehensive Plan.

Ask us for more details on how you can actively participate in the plan update process!

Cedar Corporation

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BUILDING TRUST

YOUR PROJECT • OUR PASSION

W61N497 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012
262-204-2360

2820 Walton Commons West
Suite 142
Madison, WI 53718
608-249-5046

1695 Bellevue Street
Green Bay, WI 54311
920-491-9081

604 Wilson Avenue
Menomonie, WI 54751
715-235-9081

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Appendix E – Citizen Survey Summary

Dodge County, WI

Year 2045 Comprehensive Plan

Citizen Survey Results

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March 2025



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Survey Overview

Dodge County, in cooperation with Cedar Corporation consultants, is in the process of preparing its Year 2045 Comprehensive Plan, which updates the current plan prepared and adopted in 2015. This long-range planning document addresses a variety of subjects including land use, transportation, community facilities, economic development, housing, recreation, and more.

As part of this public process, a Citizen Survey was created to gather up-front information and perspective from the county's residents and landowners. Opinions were sought on how the county should grow, develop, and accommodate service demands and quality of life needs over the next 20 years based on current and foreseeable trends. The survey results will be important for crafting a long-range plan, and appropriate development policies, to better retain and attract residents and employers to the County, as well as to protect key resources from development impacts.

Survey Methods & Overall Response

The survey was developed with input from the Land Resources & Parks Department staff and contained a total of 23 questions. The survey was made available for an approximate six week period between January 13, 2025 and February 28, 2025. The survey was put into an on-line format using Survey Monkey, linked directly from the homepage of the County's website. Access to the survey could also be obtained through the on-line Project Hub. If needed, residents could pick up and fill out a paper copy at the County Administration Building. Several hand-submitted copies were in fact received, and were entered into Survey Monkey for inclusion in the results. The survey was promoted strongly throughout the County using paper and digital promotional fliers (Fig. 1) which contained a QR Code. Regular postings to the County's social media pages were also made to encourage participation. A press release was also sent out to all media outlets in the County resulting in some newspaper articles. Towns also posted survey notices at Town Hall locations.

Figure 1 – Survey Promotion Flyer



Overall, the survey had a total of 367 responses which represents a 0.4% response rate when compared to the County's Jan. 1, 2024 estimated population of 89,003 persons. Although the response rate appears to be very low, statistically speaking, the results have a fairly high confidence, with the theoretical margin of error being +/- 5.1%, 95% of the time, on questions where an opinion is evenly split.

Based on this, the survey responses would likely come close to representing the overall opinions of those across the entire County. It should be noted though that this survey is but one of several methods being used to gather public input. Reliance solely on the survey results to dictate the future of Dodge County's Comprehensive Plan Update is not recommended as many other factors come into play.

Summary of Responses

A broad summary of the survey results, grouped by general topics, are discussed below. These statements tie back to the responses for individual survey questions whose data can be found in Appendix A.

Demographics

- 97.8% of survey respondents were either residents or landowners within Dodge County. Of this amount, only 4.0% indicated they were just landowners who did not reside in the County. For those who did reside in the County, the highest levels of response came from five communities as follows:

    1. City of Beaver Dam (18.5%)
    2. Town of Beaver Dam (17.5%)
    3. City of Mayville (6.8%)
    4. City of Horicon (6.5%)
    5. City of Juneau (5.2%)

- Further examination of the data showed that 51.4% of respondents came from rural Towns across Dodge County, while 5.8% came from Villages, and 42.8% came from Cities. Overall, this means a good balance of urban and rural opinions were obtained through the survey. In addition, of the County's 44 local units of government, only 6 of them had zero responses submitted.

- A majority (64.8%) of respondents have lived in Dodge County for 21 or more years. While nearly equal grouping of respondents have lived in the County for less than 5 years (10.3%), 5 to 10 years (11.9%), or 11 to 20 years (10.3%). Only 2.77% stated they did not live in Dodge County.

- A large majority (87.2%) of respondents owned their homes, while 9.2% indicated they rented. Just over 3.6% stated 'other', and whose most common responses were either "I live with family who owns" or "I live with parents".

- 23% of survey respondents stated that they do own a business in Dodge County. Business owners in 28 of the 44 local governments across the County had submitted responses. And, of the 83 responses to the question, nearly one-half (47%) came from five communities across the County as follows:

    1. City of Beaver Dam (11 businesses, or 13.3%)
    2. Town of Lebanon (10 businesses, or 12.1%)
    3. Town of Beaver Dam (8 businesses, or 9.6%)
    4. Town of Oak Grove (5 businesses, or 6.0%)
    5. City of Mayville (5 businesses, or 6.0%)

- The bulk of survey respondents (60.7%) fell between the ages of 35 and 64 years. Of this, the 35-54 year age category had the most responses (35.8%), with the 55-64 year age category coming in second with 25.9%. There was also a good showing of responses across the 65-84 year age group (21.7%) and the 20-34 year age group (16.0%). Lastly, there were very few respondents who were 19 years or under (0.6%) and zero responses from anyone 85 or older.

Quality of Life

- 74.3% of respondents rated the quality of life in Dodge County as Good or Excellent. 20.1% rated it as only being Fair, while 4.6% thought the quality of life was Poor. Less than 1.0% stated they had no opinion. When asked to elaborate on why the respondent answered this question the way they did, 176 written comments were provided (see Appendix A, Question 9). A review of the comments showed that 42.0% of them were positive in nature (safe, rural, good schools and businesses, good people, parks, etc.), 41.5% negative (attitudes, road repair, high taxes, lack of businesses, etc.) and 16.5% neutral (meaning there were both positive and negative components to the statement).

- When asked if the expectation for quality of life will improve, stay the same, or decline over the next five years, a majority (54.8%) felt that it would stay the same. 20.4% felt it would improve, and 22.6% thought it would decline. A total of 161 written comments were received when prompted to give a reason for the answer provided (see Appendix A, Question 10). A review of these comments showed that 46.0% of them were positive in nature, 36.0% negative, and 18.0% neutral (meaning there were both positive and negative components to the statement).

- When it came to the three most important reasons that the respondent/respondent's family chose to live/stay in Dodge County, the top responses representing 20 percent of more of the votes included:

    1. Near friends and family (38.2%)
    2. Born here or nearby (34.6%)
    3. Rural feel (33.6%)
    4. Small town charm (22.3%)
    5. Feel safe (21.4%)
    6. Good place to raise a family (21.1%)
    7. Reasonable cost of living (20.2%).

    The lowest ranking reasons for living/staying in Dodge County included:

    13. Quality schools (4.3%)
    14. I do not live in Dodge County (2.1%)
    15. Good Government/Government Services (2.1%)
    16. Existing shopping opportunities (1.5%)

Twenty written comments were provided if the "other" reason was selected. These comments noted such items as centrally located to larger urban areas, and having quality agricultural lands, among other things.

- Respondents were asked to rank 16 different qualities associated with quality of life in Dodge County, ranging from "Great availability" on the high end to "Poor" on the low end. Based on the weighted average ranking across all responses, the top five ranked qualities included:

    1. Recreational opportunities (1.84 weighted ranking)
    2. Natural resources (1.86)
    3. Fire protection services (2.06)
    4. Police services (2.17)
    5. Emergency medical services (2.18)

    The lowest weighted average rankings for qualities associated with Dodge County's quality of life included:

    12. Broadband internet service (2.61)
    13. Job opportunities (2.7)
    14. Affordable/attainable homes/rental properties (2.85)
    15. Elderly care/assisted living facilities (3.34)
    16. Childcare facilities (3.65)

Housing

- Respondents were asked to rate the needs for additional housing types in Dodge County. Twelve different housing options were provided and ranked across a spectrum of "Strongly Agree" to "Strongly Disagree". A "No opinion" option was also available. After removing any "No opinion" responses, the strongest weighted rankings (1 = strongly agree / 4 = strongly disagree) included the following housing types:

    1. Moderate priced homes (1.77 weighted avg. rank)
    2. Small single-family homes, less than 1,200 sq. ft. (1.95)
    3. Campus style senior living communities (1.95 tie)
    4. Single-family homes, 1,200 sq. ft. or more (1.95 tie)

    The least needed/desired housing types based on average weighted score (after removing "No opinion" responses) were as follows:

    9. Accessory dwelling units (2.59 weighted avg. rank).
    10. Tiny homes, less than 600 sq. ft. (2.82)
    11. Seasonal housing (2.89)
    12. Higher end/prices homes (2.94)

Economic Development

- Respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement or disagreement on the idea that Dodge County should continue to work collaboratively on workforce development tasks and opportunities (recruitment, career path education, youth apprenticeships, etc.). An overwhelming majority of responses (94.3%) agreed or strongly agreed with this statement. Only 1.7% disagreed or strongly disagreed and 4.0% stated they had no opinion.

- When asked about the importance of a variety of business and industry types within Dodge County, respondents replied on a scale of 1 being "Essential" to 4 being "Not Important". A "No Opinion" option was also offered. After removing any "No opinion" responses, the weighted rankings in priority order were as follows:

    1. Agriculture related businesses (1.65 weighted avg. ranking)
    2. Commercial service and retail development (2.32)
    3. Industrial (warehousing, processing, transp., and mfg.) development (2.34)
    4. Tourism and recreation businesses (2.40)
    5. Home based businesses (2.57)
    6. Energy related businesses/development (2.57)

Transportation

- Respondents were asked to rate each of the six available modes/facilities related to transportation within the County from 1 being "Excellent" to 5 being "Poor". A "No Opinion" option was also offered. After removing any "No opinion" responses, the weighted rankings in order were as follows:

    1. Non-motorized paths/trails (2.13 weighted avg. rank)
    2. Federal and State highways (2.40)
    3. Private transportation & ridesharing services (e.g., private bus, taxi, Uber, Lyft) (2.80)
    4. Public/Employment transportation services (e.g., vanpools, carpools, shared ride taxi service, & on-demand paratransit) (2.81)
    5. County highways/roads (2.94)
    6. Local roads (i.e., City, Village, and Town roads) (3.35)

- When asked to identify the areas of transportation infrastructure which the County should place focus on over the next five years, the six options provided had the following number of "yes" responses provided in rank order:

    1. Improved local roads (i.e., City, Village, and Town roads) (82.2%)
    2. Improved County highways/roads (72.0%)
    3. New/Improved public/employment transportation services (e.g., vanpools, carpools, shared ride taxi service, & on-demand paratransit)(45.0%)
    4. New/Improved private transportation services (e.g., private bus, taxi, Uber, Lyft) (42.1%)
    5. New/improved non-motorized paths/trails (38.3%)

6. Improved Federal and State highways (32.4%)

When asked why the participant responded in the manner they did, a total of 100 written responses were received (see Appendix A, Question 15). Common responses to this question included: generally poor condition of local roads, needs and desires for more trail facilities, a variety of needs which demand public or private transportation, as well as a number of statements which state there are no public transportation needs or that the County should not be involved in private transportation matters.

Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources

- Respondents were asked to rate each of twelve natural and cultural resources features within Dodge County on a scale of 1 being "Essential" to 4 being "Not Important". A "No Opinion" option was also offered. After removing any "No opinion" responses, the weighted rankings in priority order were as follows:

    1. Groundwater (1.30 weighted avg. rank)
    2. Lakes, rivers, & streams (1.38)
    3. Air quality (1.44)
    4. Productive farmland (1.64)
    5. Horicon Marsh (1.72)
    6. Wildlife habitat (1.73)
    7. Wetlands (1.81)
    8. Forested land (1.83)
    9. Niagara Escarpment corridor (2.02)
    10. Rural landscape aesthetics (2.02)
    11. Historic and cultural resources, sites, & structures (2.13)
    12. Public hunting/fishing grounds (2.18)

    It is important to note that all twelve choices received relatively high rankings, with all features being ranked as being at least better than "Important" (3.0) and much closer to "Very Important" (2.0). When reviewing the responses noted as "Not Important" the highest number of responses was 27 (or 8.7%) for Public Hunting/Fishing Grounds, and 25 (8.09%) for Rural Landscape Aesthetics.

Land Use

- When asked to rate the level of agreement with four different statements regarding land use, respondents generally tended to agree with the need to regulate certain aspects of new development within the County as follows:
    - There should be a minimum lot size on residential development in rural areas (52.8% agree or strongly agree vs. 31.1% disagree or strongly disagree)
    - There should be a maximum lot size on residential development in rural areas (44.2% agree or strongly agree vs. 37.0% disagree or strongly disagree)
    - Visual impacts of development is an important consideration when evaluating proposed development (78% agree or strongly agree vs. 12.6% disagree or strongly disagree).
    - Landowners should be allowed to develop land any way they want, even if it could

be harmful or a nuisance to a neighbor or the environment (13.3% agree or strongly agree vs. 81.9% disagree or strongly disagree).

- Survey participants were asked where commercial and industrial buildings and activities should be located within the County. Of the four choices given, there was a nearly equal split in responses for "Cities and Villages where public sewer/water are available" (43.1%) and "Anywhere in Dodge County with conditions applied" (39.5%). Only 8.7% of respondents desired to see this type of development "Along county and state highways only". Another 8.7% of responses indicated they had no opinion.

Community Facilities, Utilities & Services

- Participants were asked to rate ten different basic services or facilities which are present within Dodge County on a scale of 1 being "Excellent", 2 being "Good", 3 being "Fair" and 4 being "Poor". A "No Opinion" option was also offered. After removing any "No opinion" responses, the weighted average rankings for each service/facility type, in priority order, is as follows:

    1. Fire protection (1.86 weighted avg. ranking)
    2. Emergency medical service(s) (1.97)
    3. Law enforcement (2.10)
    4. Local and County parks (2.12)
    5. Highway and Directional Signage (2.17)
    6. Snowplowing (2.34)
    7. Refuse/recycling program(s) (2.40)
    8. Storm water management (2.43)
    9. Non-motorized walking and biking facilities (2.59)
    10. Road maintenance (2.83)

    Again, it is worth noting that all ten services/facilities had responses which ranked better than "Fair" (3.0) with many of them being closer to "Good" and higher. When reviewing the responses noted as "Not Important" the highest number of responses was 75 (or 24.67%) for Storm Water Management.

- When asked if local Fire and EMS Districts should seek to be more effective and efficient through the consolidation of services, responses leaned toward Agree to Strongly Agree (50.8% of responses) vs. 27.6% who stated they Disagree or Strongly Disagree. Just over 21% stated they have no opinion which may indicate there is not sufficient knowledge or experience in using these services or how they operate.

- Six different types of Recreation and Trail Facilities within the County were also rated by survey respondents for their availability (not condition) based on a scale of 1 being "Excellent", 2 being "Good", 3 being "Fair" and 4 being "Poor". A "No Opinion" option was also offered. After removing any "No opinion" responses, the weighted average rankings for each type, in priority order of availability, was as follows:

    1. Local and County parks (2.12 weighted avg. ranking)
    2. Boating and lake/river/stream facilities access (2.15)
    3. Public hunting/fishing grounds (2.21)
    4. Snowmobile/ATV trails (2.29)
    5. Campgrounds (2.46)
    6. Hiking and biking trails (2.49)

    Similar to other questions, it is again worth noting that all six facility types had weighted average responses which ranked better than "Fair" (3.0), with many of them being closer to "Good" and none falling within the "Excellent" category for availability. When reviewing the responses noted as "Not Important" the highest number of responses was 137 (or 45.07%) for Snowmobile/ATV Trails.

- When asked about the level of support for incorporating renewable energy systems (solar, wind, etc.) into public and private building developments, a majority of respondents (64.9%) agreed or strongly agreed with this approach. 28.4% of respondents stated they would disagree or strongly disagree. Disagreement with the statement may EITHER reflect the opinion that no renewable energy projects whatsoever should be sited within the County, OR there is disagreement with renewables on buildings only and that other land-based opportunities should be considered or sought.

Appendix A - Detailed Survey Results and Comments

The results for each survey question, including written comments for any open-ended question, are contained in this Appendix.

For Question 9, the 176 open-ended written responses have been categorized based on their positive, neutral, or negative content.

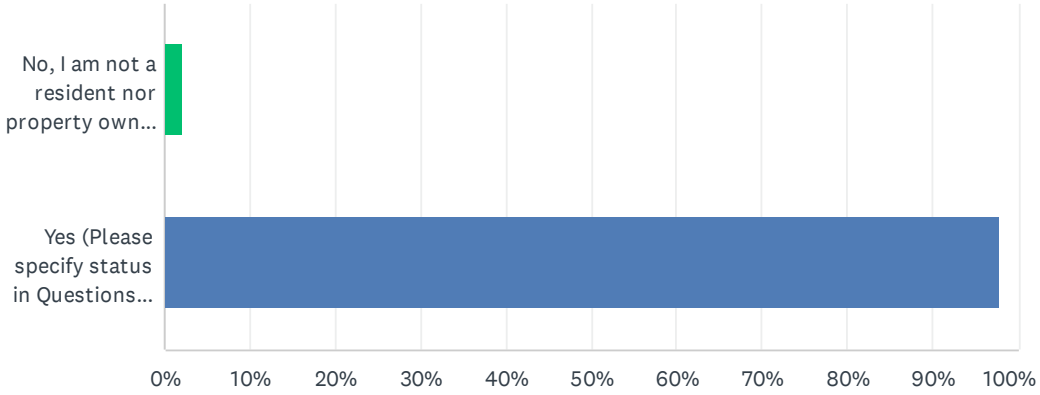
For Question 10, the 161 open ended written responses were also categorized based on their positive, neutral, or negative content.

For Question 25, the general open-ended comment opportunity, the 120 separate responses were reviewed and categorized across the nine element of a Comprehensive Plan. This greatly improves the ability to identify how the results may factor into the data and discussions about each plan element's goals, objectives, and recommendations.

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Q1 Are you a resident or property owner in Dodge County?

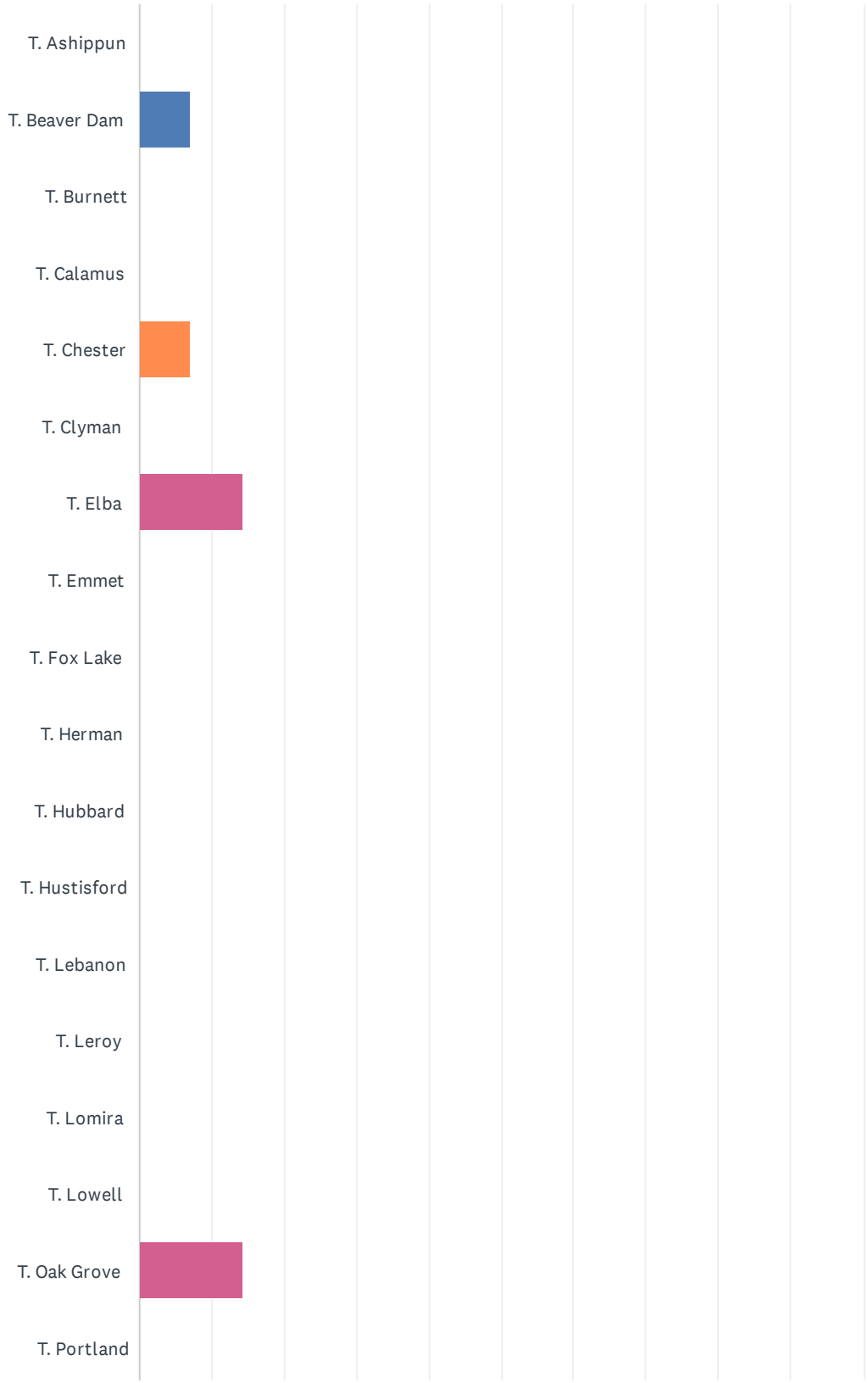
Answered: 360 Skipped: 7

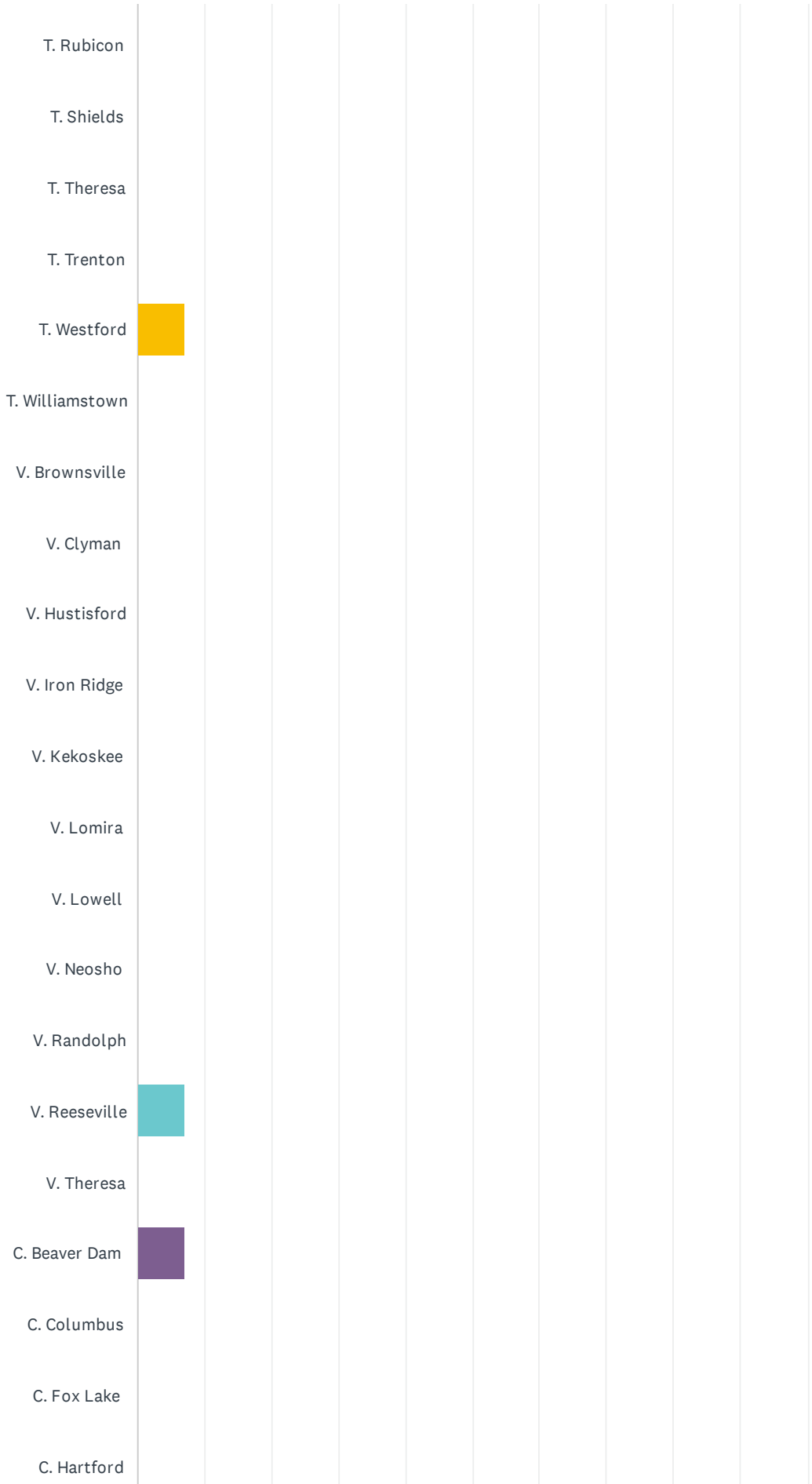


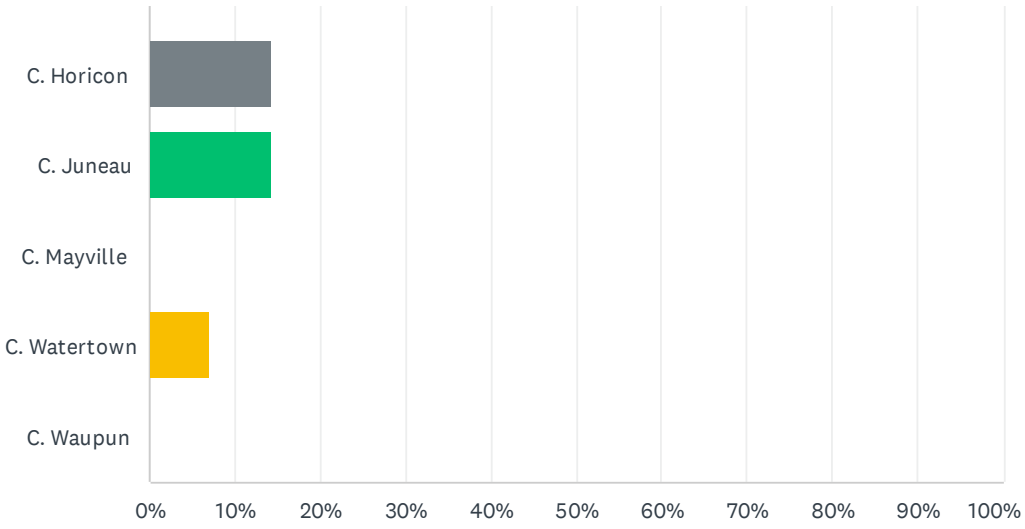
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No, I am not a resident nor property owner in Dodge County (Please answer then skip to Question 4)	2.22%	8
Yes (Please specify status in Questions 2 or 3 below)	97.78%	352
TOTAL		360

Q2 No, I am not a resident of Dodge County, but I do own land in Dodge County, specifically in _____ (Choose one only)

Answered: 14 Skipped: 353




T. Rubicon
T. Shields
T. Theresa
T. Trenton
T. Westford
T. Williamstown
V. Brownsville
V. Clyman
V. Hustisford
V. Iron Ridge
V. Kekoskee
V. Lomira
V. Lowell
V. Neosho
V. Randolph
V. Reeseville
V. Theresa
C. Beaver Dam
C. Columbus
C. Fox Lake
C. Hartford

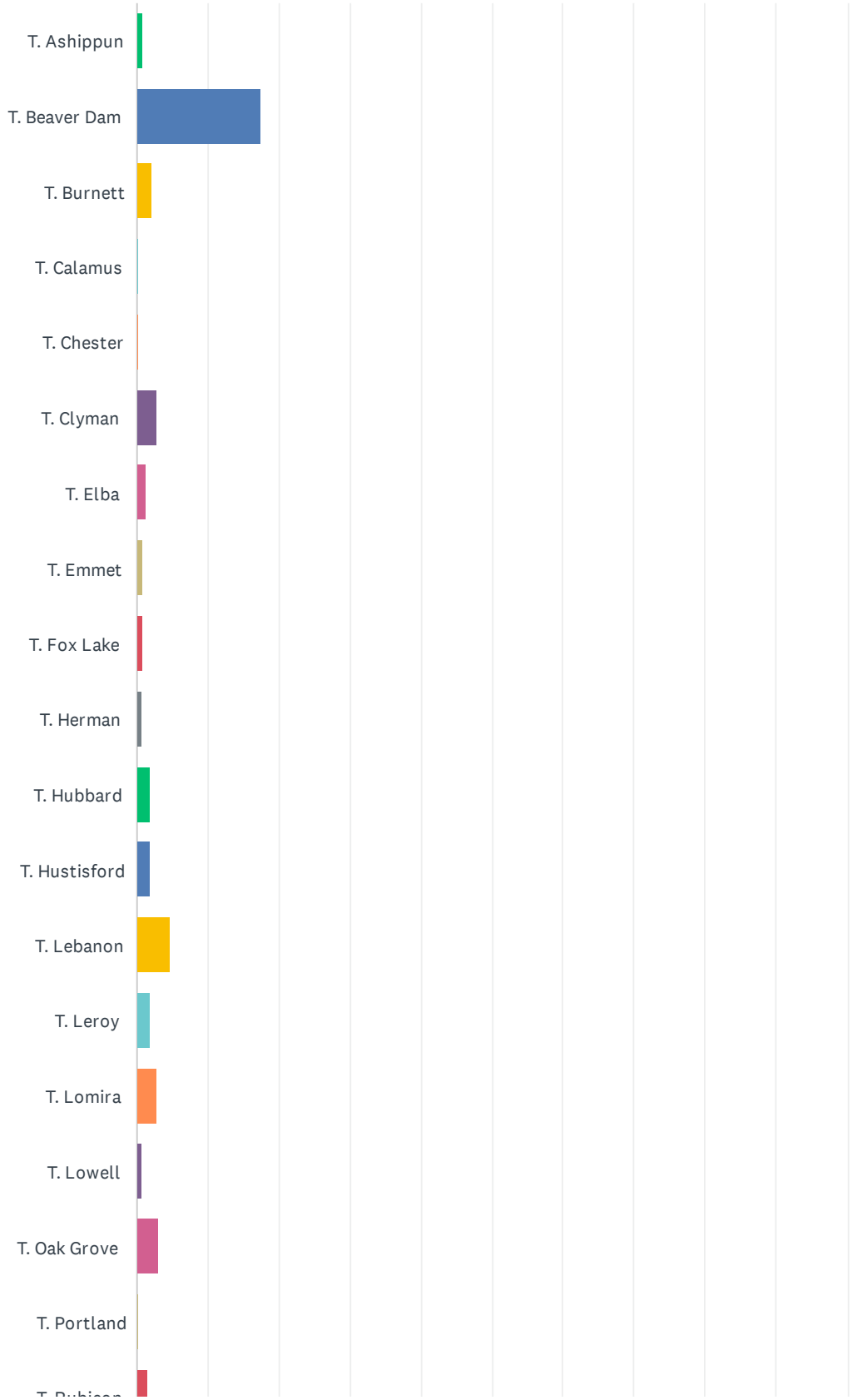

C. Horicon
C. Juneau
C. Mayville
C. Watertown
C. Waupun
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
T. Ashippun	0.00%	0
T. Beaver Dam	7.14%	1
T. Burnett	0.00%	0
T. Calamus	0.00%	0
T. Chester	7.14%	1
T. Clyman	0.00%	0
T. Elba	14.29%	2
T. Emmet	0.00%	0
T. Fox Lake	0.00%	0
T. Herman	0.00%	0
T. Hubbard	0.00%	0
T. Hustisford	0.00%	0
T. Lebanon	0.00%	0
T. Leroy	0.00%	0
T. Lomira	0.00%	0
T. Lowell	0.00%	0
T. Oak Grove	14.29%	2
T. Portland	0.00%	0
T. Rubicon	0.00%	0
T. Shields	0.00%	0
T. Theresa	0.00%	0
T. Trenton	0.00%	0
T. Westford	7.14%	1
T. Williamstown	0.00%	0
V. Brownsville	0.00%	0
V. Clyman	0.00%	0
V. Hustisford	0.00%	0
V. Iron Ridge	0.00%	0
V. Kekoskee	0.00%	0
V. Lomira	0.00%	0
V. Lowell	0.00%	0
V. Neosho	0.00%	0

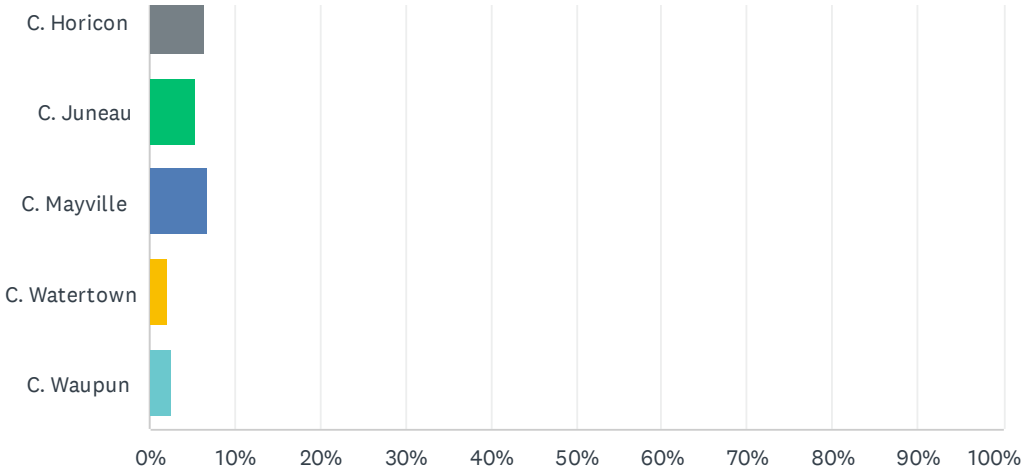
V. Randolph	0.00%	0
V. Reeseville	7.14%	1
V. Theresa	0.00%	0
C. Beaver Dam	7.14%	1
C. Columbus	0.00%	0
C. Fox Lake	0.00%	0
C. Hartford	0.00%	0
C. Horicon	14.29%	2
C. Juneau	14.29%	2
C. Mayville	0.00%	0
C. Watertown	7.14%	1
C. Waupun	0.00%	0
TOTAL		14

Q3 I am a resident and live in the _____ (Choose one only)

Answered: 325 Skipped: 42




T. Rubicon
T. Shields
T. Theresa
T. Trenton
T. Westford
T. Williamstown
V. Brownsville
V. Clyman
V. Hustisford
V. Iron Ridge
V. Kekoskee
V. Lomira
V. Lowell
V. Neosho
V. Randolph
V. Reeseville
V. Theresa
C. Beaver Dam
C. Columbus
C. Fox Lake
C. Hartford

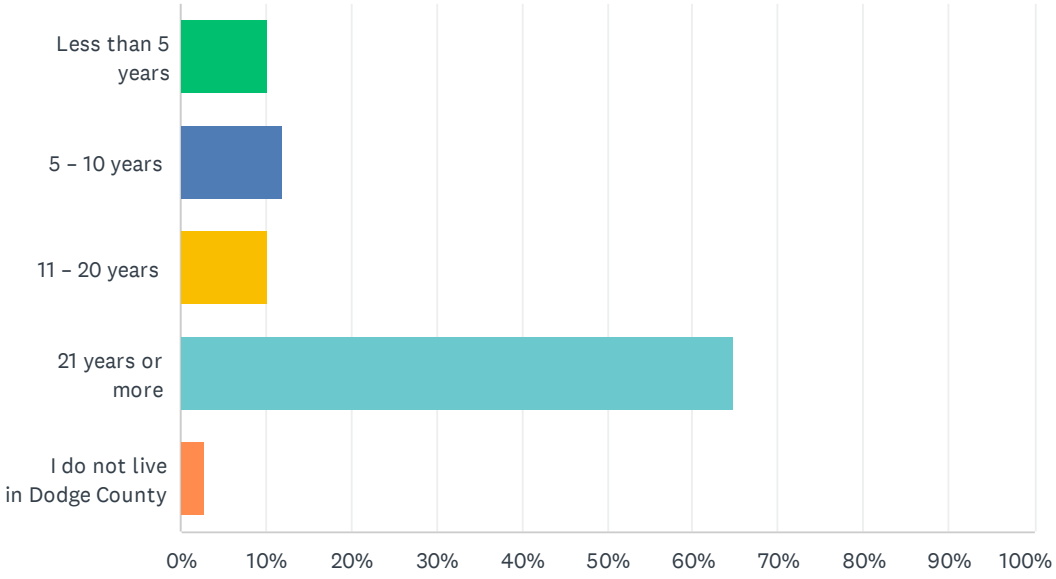

C. Horicon
C. Juneau
C. Mayville
C. Watertown
C. Waupun
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
T. Ashippun	0.92%	3
T. Beaver Dam	17.54%	57
T. Burnett	2.15%	7
T. Calamus	0.31%	1
T. Chester	0.31%	1
T. Clyman	2.77%	9
T. Elba	1.23%	4
T. Emmet	0.92%	3
T. Fox Lake	0.92%	3
T. Herman	0.62%	2
T. Hubbard	1.85%	6
T. Hustisford	1.85%	6
T. Lebanon	4.62%	15
T. Leroy	1.85%	6
T. Lomira	2.77%	9
T. Lowell	0.62%	2
T. Oak Grove	3.08%	10
T. Portland	0.31%	1
T. Rubicon	1.54%	5
T. Shields	0.62%	2
T. Theresa	0.92%	3
T. Trenton	2.46%	8
T. Westford	1.23%	4
T. Williamstown	0.00%	0
V. Brownsville	0.62%	2
V. Clyman	0.00%	0
V. Hustisford	0.00%	0
V. Iron Ridge	1.23%	4
V. Kekoskee	1.23%	4
V. Lomira	0.62%	2
V. Lowell	0.62%	2
V. Neosho	0.31%	1

V. Randolph	0.31%	1
V. Reeseville	0.92%	3
V. Theresa	0.00%	0
C. Beaver Dam	18.46%	60
C. Columbus	0.00%	0
C. Fox Lake	1.23%	4
C. Hartford	0.00%	0
C. Horicon	6.46%	21
C. Juneau	5.23%	17
C. Mayville	6.77%	22
C. Watertown	2.15%	7
C. Waupun	2.46%	8
TOTAL		325

Q4 How long have you lived in Dodge County? (Choose one only)

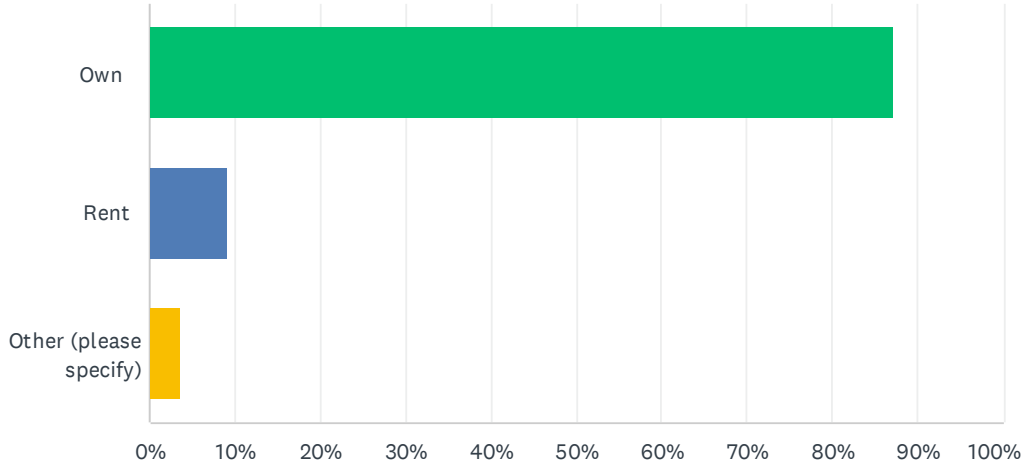
Answered: 361 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 5 years	10.25%	37
5 – 10 years	11.91%	43
11 – 20 years	10.25%	37
21 years or more	64.82%	234
I do not live in Dodge County	2.77%	10
TOTAL		361

Q5 Do you own your home or rent?

Answered: 360 Skipped: 7

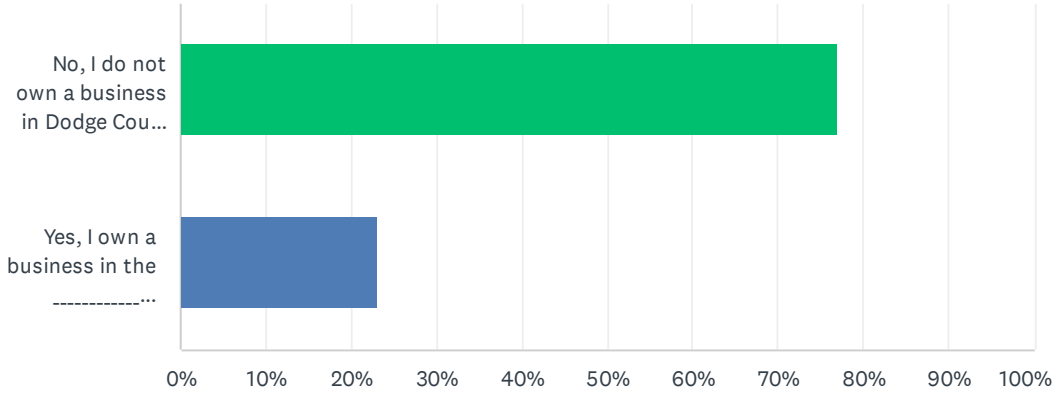


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Own	87.22%	314
Rent	9.17%	33
Other (please specify)	3.61%	13
TOTAL		360

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Managed Property	2/19/2025 5:57 PM
2	Live with family who owns.	1/31/2025 12:34 PM
3	Own; pay lot rent	1/30/2025 7:41 PM
4	I also own a home I rent out	1/30/2025 1:33 PM
5	live with parents	1/30/2025 8:44 AM
6	Married into	1/23/2025 6:20 PM
7	Live with family	1/23/2025 1:01 PM
8	I live with my parents who own their home.	1/23/2025 12:37 PM
9	I live with the owner.	1/16/2025 3:19 PM
10	.	1/16/2025 8:57 AM
11	Live with parents	1/16/2025 8:24 AM
12	.	1/15/2025 7:41 PM
13	TEST ANSWER	1/13/2025 2:22 PM

Q6 Do you own a business in Dodge County? (Choose one only)

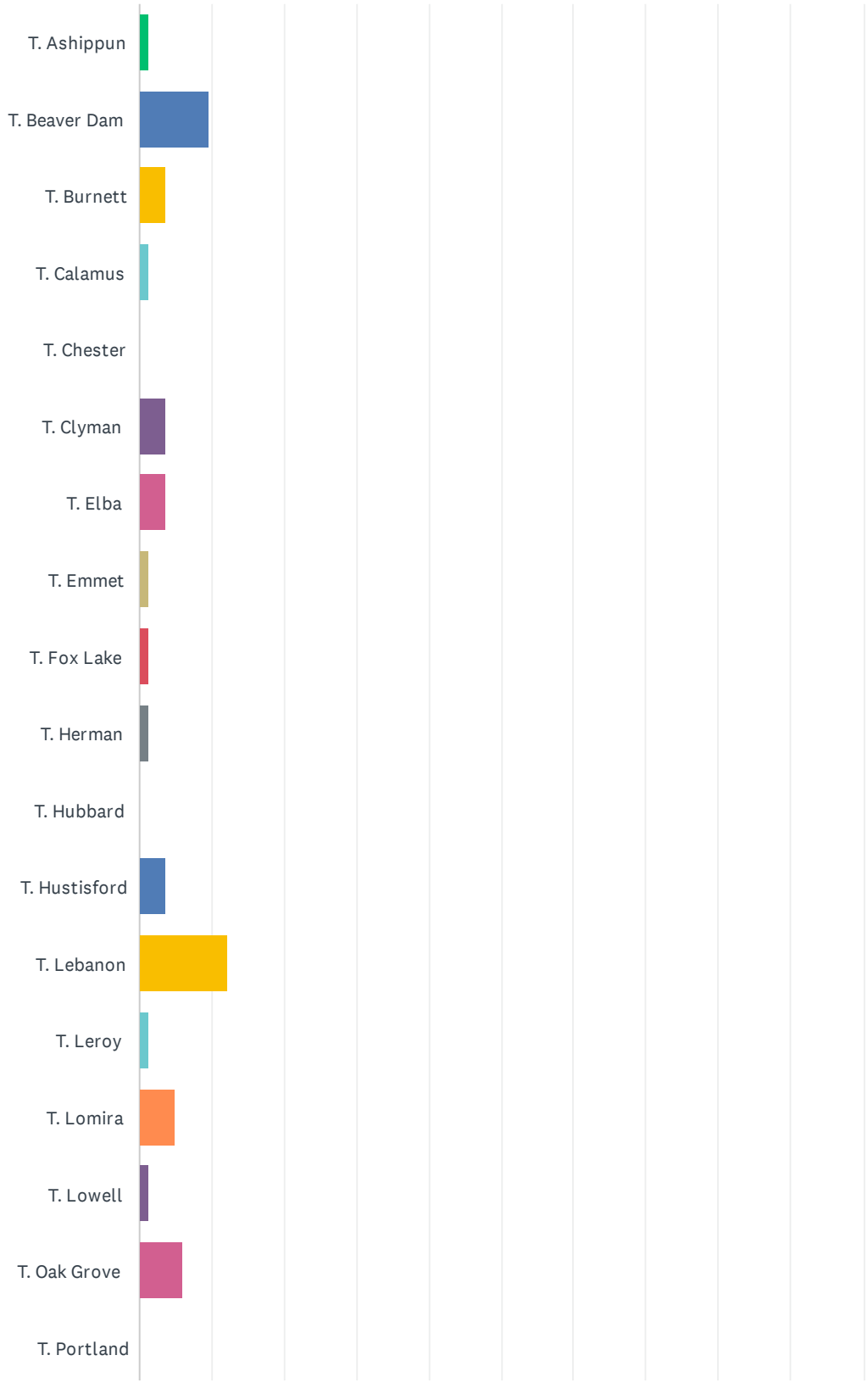
Answered: 352 Skipped: 15

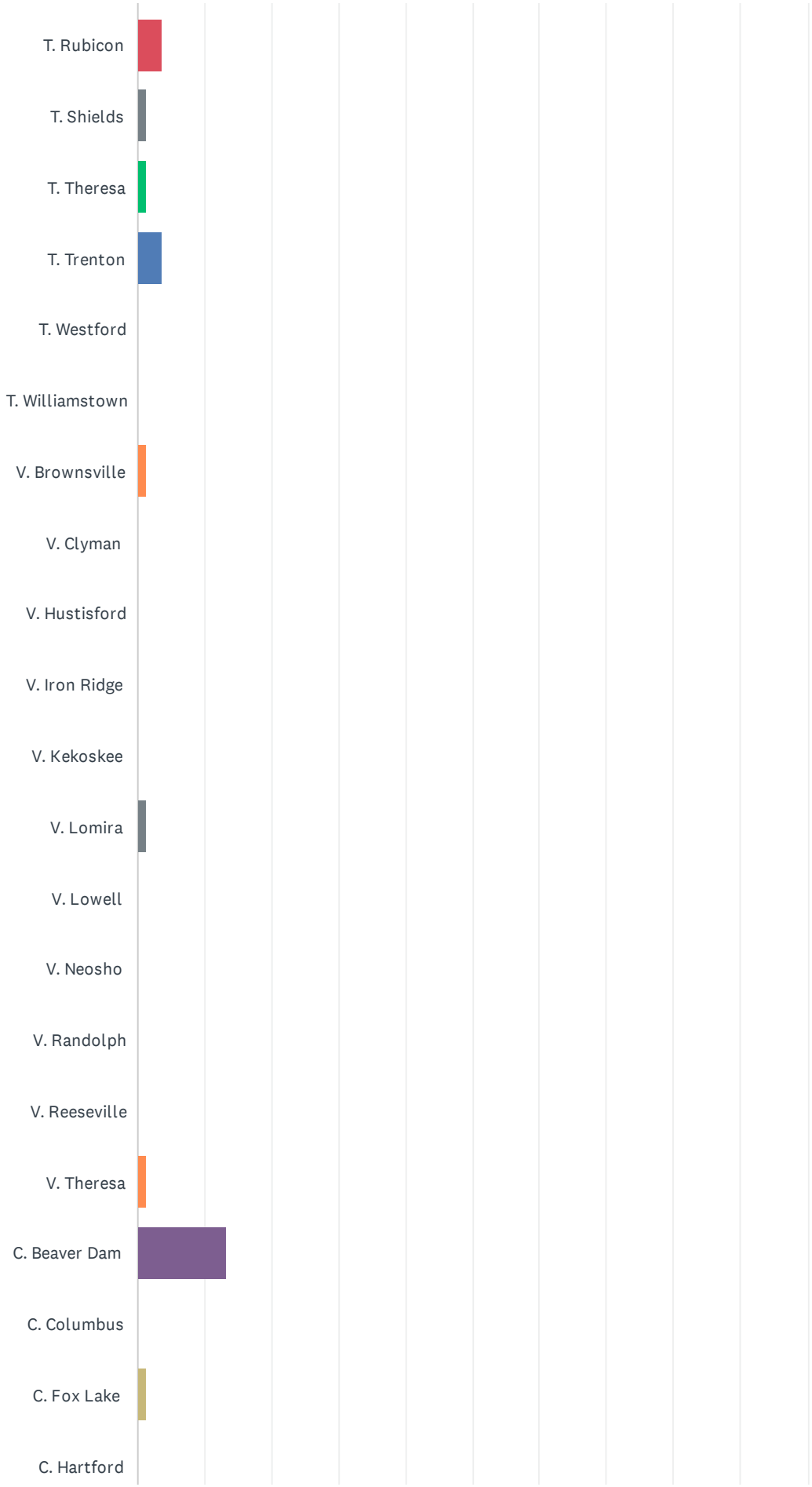


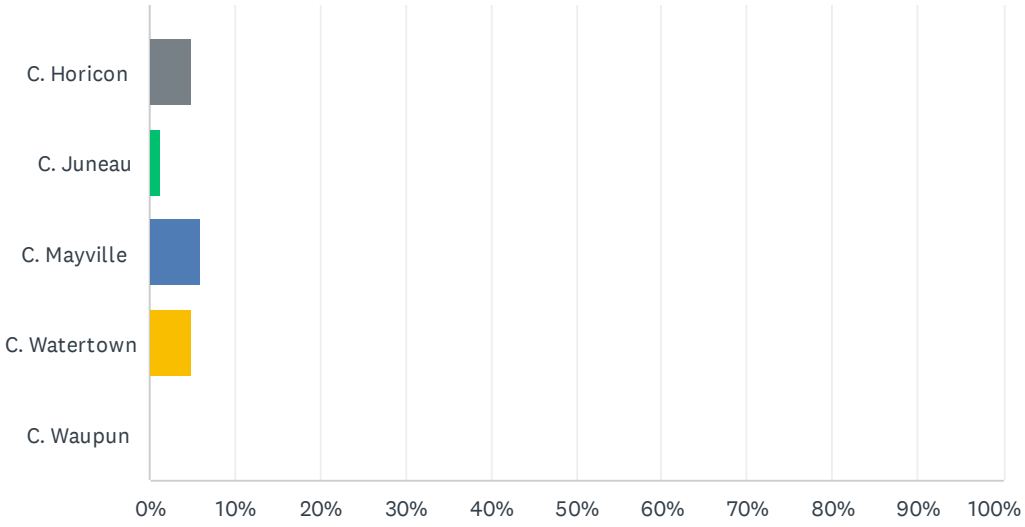
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No, I do not own a business in Dodge County (please note that farming and home occupations are considered businesses). (Please answer then skip to Question 8)	76.99%	271
Yes, I own a business in the _____(Please specify answer in Question 7 below).	23.01%	81
TOTAL		352

Q7 I own a business in the _____ (Choose one only)

Answered: 83 Skipped: 284




T. Rubicon
T. Shields
T. Theresa
T. Trenton
T. Westford
T. Williamstown
V. Brownsville
V. Clyman
V. Hustisford
V. Iron Ridge
V. Kekoskee
V. Lomira
V. Lowell
V. Neosho
V. Randolph
V. Reeseville
V. Theresa
C. Beaver Dam
C. Columbus
C. Fox Lake
C. Hartford

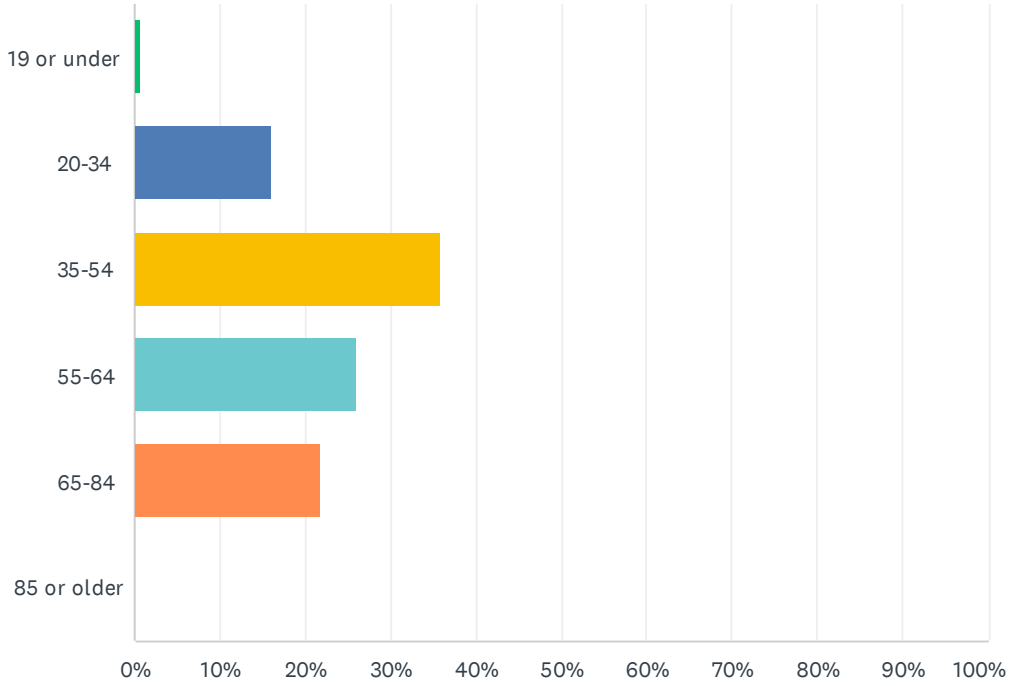

C. Horicon
C. Juneau
C. Mayville
C. Watertown
C. Waupun
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
T. Ashippun	1.20%	1
T. Beaver Dam	9.64%	8
T. Burnett	3.61%	3
T. Calamus	1.20%	1
T. Chester	0.00%	0
T. Clyman	3.61%	3
T. Elba	3.61%	3
T. Emmet	1.20%	1
T. Fox Lake	1.20%	1
T. Herman	1.20%	1
T. Hubbard	0.00%	0
T. Hustisford	3.61%	3
T. Lebanon	12.05%	10
T. Leroy	1.20%	1
T. Lomira	4.82%	4
T. Lowell	1.20%	1
T. Oak Grove	6.02%	5
T. Portland	0.00%	0
T. Rubicon	3.61%	3
T. Shields	1.20%	1
T. Theresa	1.20%	1
T. Trenton	3.61%	3
T. Westford	0.00%	0
T. Williamstown	0.00%	0
V. Brownsville	1.20%	1
V. Clyman	0.00%	0
V. Hustisford	0.00%	0
V. Iron Ridge	0.00%	0
V. Kekoskee	0.00%	0
V. Lomira	1.20%	1
V. Lowell	0.00%	0
V. Neosho	0.00%	0

V. Randolph	0.00%	0
V. Reeseville	0.00%	0
V. Theresa	1.20%	1
C. Beaver Dam	13.25%	11
C. Columbus	0.00%	0
C. Fox Lake	1.20%	1
C. Hartford	0.00%	0
C. Horicon	4.82%	4
C. Juneau	1.20%	1
C. Mayville	6.02%	5
C. Watertown	4.82%	4
C. Waupun	0.00%	0
TOTAL		83

Q8 What is your age range? (Choose one only)

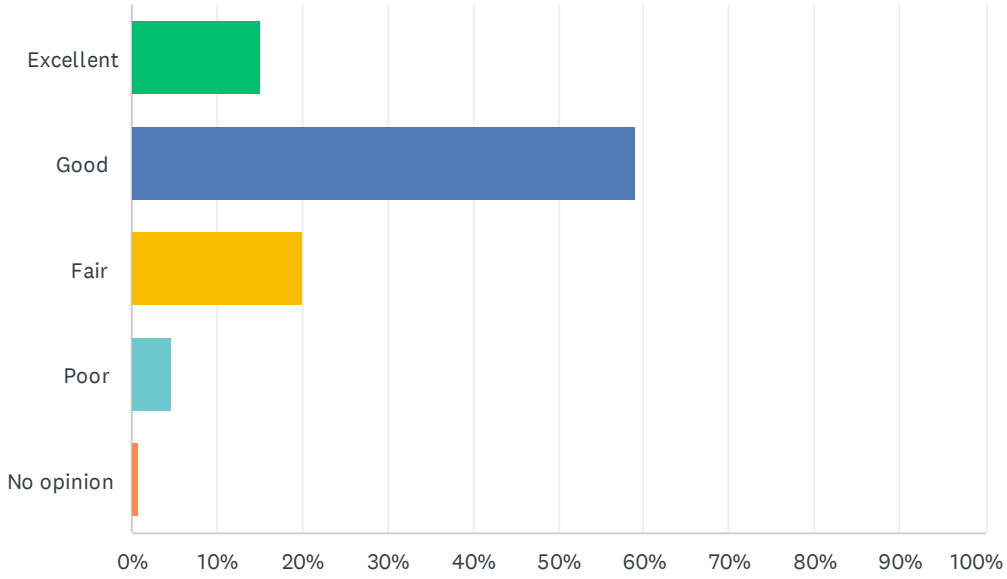
Answered: 355 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
19 or under	0.56%	2
20-34	16.06%	57
35-54	35.77%	127
55-64	25.92%	92
65-84	21.69%	77
85 or older	0.00%	0
TOTAL		355

Q9 How would you rate the quality of life in Dodge County? (Choose one only)

Answered: 323 Skipped: 44



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	15.17%	49
Good	59.13%	191
Fair	20.12%	65
Poor	4.64%	15
No opinion	0.93%	3
TOTAL		323

Sorted Responses to Question #9: How would you rate the quality of life in Dodge County? Please elaborate in few words why you responded in this manner:

TYPE	#	COMMENT
POSITIVE	1	Nice quaint town and needs to continue its effort to revitalize downtown.
	2	Area is clean, low crime, has services and events of interest.
	3	Basic needs are meet.
	4	Beautiful nature areas, outstanding Sheriff Department and local law enforcement
	5	Beautiful outdoors/public areas, good businesses bring brought in, small businesses thriving. Opportunities with Beaver Dam Lake and the quality of roads
	6	Beaver Dam has a lot to offer for a small town.
	7	Better than bayou country in south Louisiana for sure. Roads are clean and we'll maintained.
	8	Clean, great police, firefighters. Good small town businesses.
	9	Close to everything, but yet not much traffic or crime.
	10	Communities and quality of life are very good.
	11	Cost of living is decent
	12	Crime Rate is low relatively speaking from surrounding counties. We have lots of beautiful public lands and parks to visit and enjoy.
	13	Decent services and good proximity to businesses
	14	Dodge county has everything I need…everything is very accessible, close communities, and excellent services from all departments.
	15	Dodge County has many things to offer with great school districts. From Dodge County you can drive to Milwaukee or Madison very easily to go to other activities (such as Wisconsin Badger games or Milwaukee Brewers or Bucks games)
	16	Dodge County is still rural and we have great parks, scenery and I feel safe living here.
	17	Fairly good and safe place to live
	18	Family friendly, Rural values
	19	Good cost of living and small town feel.
	20	good roads, good schools, healthy retail community, vibrant churches
	21	good schools and access to medical resources
	22	Great leadership and police support!
	23	Great neighborhood, low crime, great services.
	24	Great parks and playgrounds
	25	Great schools, parks, small town life with sporting and cultural opportunities- large cities just an hour away if desired
	26	Has every thing you need.
	27	I feel crime is not out of control. I feel there are good schools and a variety of shops, restaurants and businesses so you don't need to travel to a "big city".
	28	I feel safe and we have great neighbors that will aways help each other out.
	29	I grew up in Beaver Dam, left for college and now have returned as an adult. There is so much to do compared to when I was child, so many events and local business are open and people are out and about more. It feels like a growing community now. There is still a lot of growth that needs to happen, but amazing progress so far.
	30	I have everything I really need here and do not have to go far if I have needs not met in Dodge County. I like the rural areas.
	31	I have lived in dodge County my whole life. It's not bad.
	32	I live in the country and find that Dodge County provides many outdoor activities such as the parks.
	33	I love rural culture.
	34	I move here from a big city, traffic, beggars, etc. A better, slower lifestyle.
	35	I would say it's good now. It has definitely gotten better. More businesses moving in has helped. Improvements to downtown has also helped. Community activities are fun (fall fest, wine walk, etc.)
	36	In general people are nice and care for fellow citizens, crime appears to be low and Infrastructure is being improved and we feel safe
	37	It doesn't have all the amenities of the suburbs closer to Madison. As in variety of businesses, industry, and restaurants but what is available is good.
	38	It is a comfortable environment, and is always open to new commerce and expansion of innovative ideas
	39	It is good because there is a wide variety of job types, as well as many programs, trails, as well as parks throughout the county
	40	It's quiet, beautiful, and mostly easy to get around.
	41	It's a very safe place to live.
	42	Its OK
	43	Lakes parks restaurants stores all good. Outdoor activities year round.
	44	Less stress more laid back
	45	Life is good relative to other places.
	46	Live here all my life!
	47	Live on 100 acres and cannot see another building
	48	Love the parks, the land and the people.
	49	low crime, competitive cost of living, community pride, good schools, local services
	50	Low crime, good job opportunities, moderate property and sales tax prices
	51	Low crime, good location to larger cities.

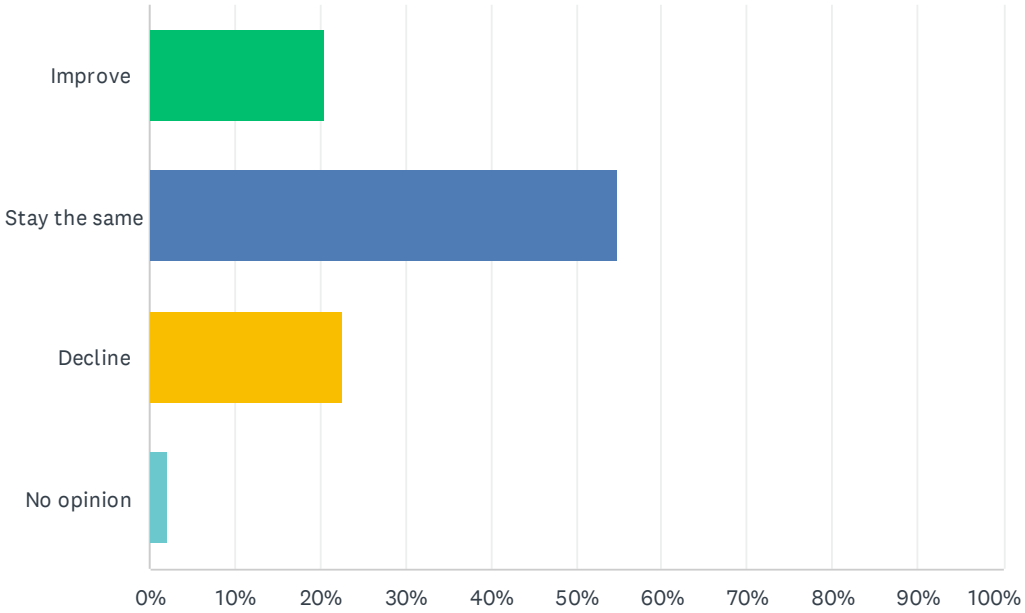
	52	Multiple schools, many restaurant options, good community, lots of community and assistant programs available, current and upcoming shopping and grocery businesses.
	53	My neighborhood still maintains many of the small town features that brought me here.
	54	Natural beauty. Friendly neighbors.
	55	nice parks, bike trail, farmer market
	56	Nice place to work and live. Love the rural atmosphere.
	57	No place is perfect, but Dodge County is pretty good.
	58	Our county is safe.
	59	Plenty of space to do what you want, but also close to cities & towns. Perfect location, nice views, not filled with a bunch of garbage properties
	60	quite county low crime. good parks.
	61	Relaxed atmosphere, low traffic congestion, adequate services. Nice rural setting.
	62	Safe and affordable
	63	Safe and people are family oriented.
	64	safe communities, modern services, reasonable cost of living, Growing industrial economy
	65	Safe place to live, clean environment, friendly people, good schools.
	66	Safe, not over crowded, plenty of outdoor areas to hike/walk, farmers markets
	67	Small town feel, safe, outdoor recreation, good access to groceries and supplies, open space
	68	The relaxation of life
	69	The water is clean, the air isn't polluted by any kind of manufacturing plants.
	70	There is a little bit of everything here.
	71	We feel safe, EMS and fire coverage. Health care is good. Need to protect this into the future. Service need to be protected.
	72	We still have rural areas and there are many options that keep you in the area.
	73	A wonderful variety of services, activities, and resources. A wonderful location, near many urban areas but not encroached on by them.
NEUTRAL	74	Although the environment, cost of living, and easy access to cultural events is GREAT, the lack of cultural diversity (and, in fact outright bigotry) is disheartening.
	75	Always room to improve but continued dedication to supporting processes and to encourage citizens participating is key to a successful community.
	76	Beaver Dam is a great community to raise kids but would be nice if it were more bike/walking friendly by the Kwik trip/Walmart/ymca area
	77	Clean, safe, affordable, and the downtown area has gotten better looking instead of ugly and run down. I'm very worried about public education here and the increase of racist ignorance.
	78	Dodge county has always been a rural community and I see that changing.
	79	Dodge County has an excellent number of resources and is a safe place to live. It lacks cultural diversity and the promotion of such.
	80	Enjoy the peace and quiet. Good access to healthcare. Area towns have the services we need. The back roads could be in better shape.
	81	Generally good quality of life and amenities, however, significant room for improvements.
	82	I believe there are many positives to living in Dodge County, however, I would love to see more community, more healthy living initiatives, more career advancement opportunities, and more families utilizing community resources (parks, businesses, etc.).
	83	I feel is a safe place to raise a family, is affordable and there are decent jobs available. Fortunately we are centrally located in the triangle of Madison, Milwaukee and the Fox Valley … as there is a severe lack of fine dining, diversity … and "progressive" thinking.
	84	I feel safe. Roads could be improved to transport services better.
	85	I have basic necessities near me, but would enjoy more dining options.
	86	I really like dodge county, just wish there was more than just a Piggly wiggly, a dollar general, one diner, and a few bars near me to go to for food and necessities. But beaver dam is very close so it's not that big of a deal.
	87	It's fine but I have to drive 40+ minutes to larger stores or decent clothing stores, like Target or Torrid.
	88	It's okay, but there is room for improvement.
	89	Lots of access to nature, fresh air, friendly ppl, safety, but lacks job opportunities
	90	Low crime, good job opportunities, quiet family community but poor village facilities
	91	Need more housing in general to support the businesses in need of workers. Housing needs to be affordable. Need to avoid putting new industrial parks near homes. Provide road improvements where industrial traffic puts heavy pressure on public infrastructure and traffic safety. Adequately support police, EMS, fire, city and county departments, public schools with money and human resources as the community is growing. Continue to support public places to enjoy with family & friends, like parks, etc. So many non-profits, volunteers, and businesses are generous in providing services and activities for individuals and families to help with our quality of life.
	92	Nice area but we are short on community support and amenities in Horicon. It's getting g better but slowly. Beaver Dam is making nice strides in the right direction.
	93	Nice cities and townships, good neighbors, low crime rate. Taxes are a concern.
	94	Overall enjoyable, but definitely room for improvement
	95	Overall, Dodge County is affordable, has natural beauty, and a strong sense of community. That said, job opportunities are limited to manufacturing, healthcare, and agriculture.
	96	The County lacks multi-use trail systems. Collaboration between or even the elimination of townships would help so that service could be uniform across the county. Support for addressing homelessness, mental health, and other social services could always increase. We do have a lot of positive non-profit support in many of these areas. Improving Beaver Dam Lake is critical, and an important natural feature.
	97	There are a lot of good things in Dodge County but the crimes bother me.
	98	Things are improving. Still a ways to go.
	99	We have access to medical care and a number of amenities in a short distance. However, affordable housing and education are a concern.
	100	We have good opportunities for families through public and private schools, local festivals, Horicon Marsh, Seniors have aging and disability resources. Could use some road repairs, generally adequate water supplies
	101	We like the wide open spaces. The parks are great. The drinking water is tasty. Pollution is in check. The schools are good. The small towns could use more small businesses.
	102	Just how I feel.

NEGATIVE	103	Air quality is sometimes questionable.
	104	all in all, dodge county is pretty nice. BUT..... The county roads are something to be desired. Should have been ZERO debate where ARPA funds should've went, 100%!! Cty rd. W, between Juneau and beaver dam. Cty rd. FW, between CC and G. cty rd. CC. that's just a handful to get started.
	105	Always room for improvement.
	106	I'm concerned about drug and human trafficking in the area.
	107	Amenities are few, grocery prices high unless you drive 25min to big box stores. Fire and EMT services are contracted not always with closest community to residence. Winter road conditions are fair at best.
	108	Behind needs of county on social services, transportation and other community supports
	109	Concerns about public health, and public safety. The covid pandemic and the bullying of our health dept. really scared me. It is only a matter of time until we get another pandemic/epidemic episode. Will our health be made into a political tool again? Also political positions expressed publicly by certain law enforcement members. I did not think that was ethical. And, if you are not on their side, could be scary for some of us.
	110	Concerns surrounding law enforcement, a lack of space for non-conservatives to gather safely, & community spaces that are not bars or for youth / children only
	111	County has little to none efforts to handle difficult issues like Fire/Ems staffing and sector departments. Also, unequal treatment of ARPA funds to municipalities. County board needs to get on board on these issues or get off the board.
	112	Crimes being overlooked.
	113	Economic growth is less then it was 10 years ago. Tax increases with little to no improvement to roads school or jobs
	114	Fairly good but not enough sober events in town or low cost activities available.
	115	Few places to build community as a progressive. Concerns about law enforcement actually providing safety for ALL citizens.
	116	For a person that has lived in different cities, I see little to no growth and opportunity in Dodge County. Nor do I see the want.
	117	Good commuting to Madison and lower taxes than Dane County. However, there's no broadband available for us. Only ATT up to 5mbs. Over the past 5 years, we frequently received notices claiming broadband is available in our area, but whenever we call, we are told it's not available in our area yet .Columbus needs a better grocery store! The Pick 'n Save is only a few minutes from home but we drive all the way to Beaver Dam for groceries because both Food Pride and Piggly Wiggly are far better. Pick 'n Save doesn't have a lot of selection for anything and the meat department smells like something is rotten.
	118	Growing up in a larger city, it was difficult moving to a rural area because there was an abundance of places within close distance. It was a definite adjustment since you have to drive a little further to go to specific stores, theaters, or social events.
	119	Health would improve with affordable healthy gym options. Local pool.
	120	High drug and alcohol use
	121	High property taxes
	122	High taxes
	123	High taxes, poor sheriff's dept organization
	124	home and rent prices are too high
	125	Housing and land prices are high, drug crimes are up, lacking resources for families and elderly who are poor but not poor enough, rising prices putting a strain on families
	126	I don't think our hospital is as good as it used to be to be and certain businesses that use to be here you have to travel out of town for, which is okay when you're younger, but is harder as you age.
	127	I have an abusive noise and air pollution neighbor who's welcome to run his noise makers w/o limitation. He blew snow off his lawn today.
	128	I wish my Rent didn't go from $450 to $960 within a short time frame. Northern Management, my apartment building's owner, needs to stop gouging and reduce the cost. The place is in shambles and they just sit in Brookfield, WI, increasing prices everywhere they can.
	129	I wish there was better access to grocery stores and other larger businesses without having to drive 15-30 minutes.
	130	I would like to see more recreational opportunities
	131	It would be excellent if there were not so many self serving individuals
	132	I've found it difficult to progress in life living in this rural area.
	133	Kinda boring
	134	Lack of good, affordable places to eat. Diners, sit down eating.
	135	Lack of shopping. Lack of healthy food options.
	136	Lack of things to do for kids/teens/young adults.
	137	Living in Hustisford I compare it to a run down, abandoned and blighted area of Milwaukee. That's nothing to be proud of. There's no business to speak of, a lazy, insignificant part time police force that has no function. There is a severe drug problem with known drug houses that bring in persons from other communities to make purchases, race around in low rise, altered exhaust cars making the streets unsafe. Hustisford will not even exist in dodge county 20 years from now.
	138	Lots of speeding on hwy 33 on the east side of town. Little to no police monitoring.
	139	Low wages, high property tax's and high water bills
	140	My pay is low, my opportunities for work and fun are spare, and the people there can be cruel and judgmental.
	141	Need more healthy activities for multigenerational groups.
	142	Need more opportunities for kids and seniors
	143	Need more senior housing and affordable
	144	Neighborhoods/ streets/ lights could be better
	145	No public transportation, if I can't drive I will lose access to health care. Or, get to work if I work out of town
	146	Not a lot of resources and housing for people with kids and have felonies. Need homeless shelters
	147	Not much for children to do when it's cold outside. Or anything for teens to do.
	148	Poor roads in the northeastern part of the county. Seldom see law enforcement monitoring what is going on over here.

149	Property taxes are high. Grocery prices are high. Police are too aggressive and don't respect citizen rights. Education system is to biased and unfair curriculum.
150	Roads still need a lot of work.
151	some areas need help, roads
152	Taxes are too high
153	Taxes have been going up extensively every year. We moved here because of the lower taxes.
154	The communities are slow to offer forward thinking plans. Hartford, Watertown, Oconomowoc, etc. have downtown upgrades that appear to have paid off for them
155	The Dodge County Sheriff makes it hard for folks of color to enjoy life without feeling like they are constantly being watched.
156	The public assistant programs are far behind the surrounding counties. The staff I have dealt with are inexperienced, uneducated, & preoccupied with their personal lives while they are serving you. The hand out programs out weigh the hand up programs. We have too many large rental complexes, oversized homes, and few starter homes, let alone lifetime affordability (taxing individuals out of their homes).
157	The sheriff is making our county political.
158	There are a lot of small towns with not many businesses. For example, you have to travel either north to Oshkosh or south to Madison/Milwaukee just to find a Lowes or Home Depot
159	There aren't many affordable indoor activities for young children.
160	There aren't many good shopping options in town. Entertainment as well. The strip club can go though.
161	There doesn't seem to be anything significantly harmful to one's health and wellbeing in the community however there is a level of apathy seen in the general care of the roads and buildings.
162	There is always room for improvement.
163	There is room for improvement government catering to special interests
164	There isn't a lot to do that doesn't involve alcohol or cheese.
165	There’s not much to do here for young families, the restaurants and grocery stores in Juneau specifically aren’t amazing, and it’s been hard at times for family to get jobs within the city
166	Too expensive. Schools are not retaining good teachers. Police are focused on tickets and $ vs community relations, safety, and protection, taxes too high/return on investment low, etc.
167	Too many backwards thinking people
168	Too many new subdivisions
169	Unethical and prejudicial misuses of municipal and county zoning exist for the sole purpose of generating money from permits and taxation.
170	Waupun area people hold on to land and there’s no development. Town of Fox Lake board members have no idea how to make decisions based on the residents
171	We do not have access to major lines of transportation. And our sheriff is a moron. We are sort of just a 'pass through' county with no money going towards beautification.
172	We own our property and find there have been some unreasonable city ordinances that are restricting for regular things. Like have a strict landlord.
173	Winter plowing has suffered and new buildings have.become more.elaborate than functional
174	Wish there was more to do.
175	Wish there was stores and restaurants
176	Would have chosen Excellent but the crime and youth troubles are increasing.

Q10 During the next five years, do you expect the quality of life in Dodge County to improve, stay the same, or decline? (Choose one only)

Answered: 323 Skipped: 44



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Improve	20.43%	66
Stay the same	54.80%	177
Decline	22.60%	73
No opinion	2.17%	7
TOTAL		323

Responses to Question 10: During the next five years, do you expect the quality of life in Dodge County to improve, stay the same, or decline? Please elaborate in few words why you responded in this manner:

#	Please elaborate in few words why you responded in this manner:
1	Need to understand if there are any improvements plannned.
2	Constant updates
3	Good municipal and educational entities in Horicon, Beaver Dam, and elsewhere Positive citizen participation
4	The crime is more, society is changing.
5	With Trump and Musk in charge I believe everyone in the United States will see a decline in their way of life.
6	Not aware of planned improvements to the areas I mentioned.
7	Government seems to want the status quo
8	My work with NUMEROUS community entities shows a resistance to change by many. Although, there is a lot of "nice talk" about moving forward, most "actions" are to sustain the status quo.
9	Dodge CO seems to be investing in the communities with continued coordinated effort to bring events and groups together. I think it will improve as citizens are motivated to form groups and gather for the benefit of community.
10	No one to. Lead for the better?
11	Lack of county supervisors dedication to ALL the residents of the county.
12	Needs some new businesses and some progressive ideas by our city government.
13	The county is growing and continually improving.
14	There's no development around small towns
15	Afraid of current political climate affecting finances, health, public services
16	With the sheriff in charge, I imagine he will try to make our county more in line with MAGA
17	This is where we would want to be.
18	More people will move in to leave the higher tax base in Dane and other counties near Madison.
19	I think growth is based on part by population. I don't see population increasing
20	Change needed at county board level
21	State of the world and people's general distrust of goverment
22	Road repair does NOT keep up with the destruction from semi's pounding the pavement, or the over salting/brining, or plow damage.
23	I'm hopeful
24	Nothing would lead me to believe that things will get worse
25	The roads continue to fall in disarray. The high schools, I don't know if they do much teaching anymore. It feels like they are not teaching skills at all. Crime is a hit and miss.
26	as more business moves into the area and housing expands additional resources will become available
27	Without a certain factory this town would be nothing. Yet they destroy the roads and do not help improving the roads they use multiple times daily.
28	To get a project planned and funded takes a little longer than 5 years.
29	Right now, obviously, there are many changes in our country that may affect all us us here and how can I guess?
30	Many citizens in Dodge County are comfortable in their ways. Communities have to support new initiatives for them to be successful.
31	I feel that more land will be bought up and more homes will be built for lower income families. The homeowners don't seem to take care of their property as well in this area like wealthier counties.
32	Hard to find leadership that will take on change
33	I haven't seen the state legislature do anything for the human citizens of Dodge county for over 20 years. We smell the food, but we haven't eaten In a long time.
34	I expect things to stay the same.
35	Don't see much change.
36	Not a lot is done to promote well being.
37	Not much ever really seems to change
38	People outside of the County get to price gouge us within the County and I would like for that to stop and also get reduced.
39	I see property taxes going up and not stabilizing
40	Need more senior housing and affordable
41	I do not anticipate a huge change in the next 5 years.
42	Law enforcement bias.
43	Residents and leaders are generally content with status quo and lack coherent vision for the future.
44	Not sure how it would change greatly
45	With our great new president. Prices should come down. Illegal aliens being shipped out so there will be less drain on our economy!
46	I look forward to completion of next phase of Gold Star Memorial Trail
47	I've worked in Madison. I loved it. I think the area around here is gorgeous and we could focus more on the environment and the Marsh to attract people.
48	continuation of less farm land and more housing.

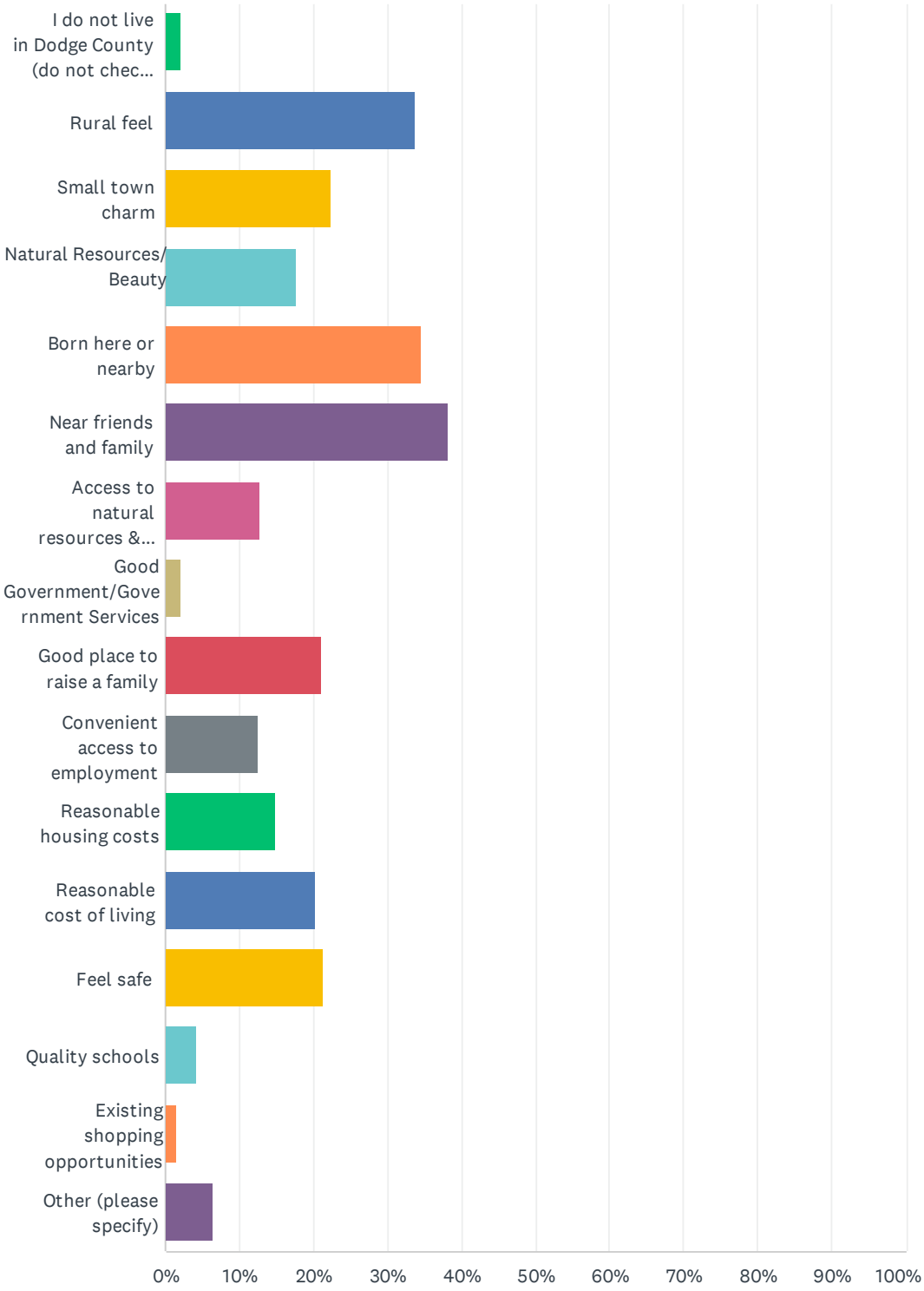
49	I feel like negative people are more empowered than ever to speak their minds and act on their impulses.
50	What would change?
51	I dont see it improving- I think stay the same or decline are our most likely options, and that depends on whether/how quickly solar panels/other big developments buy up and develop land
52	Unless people are willing to accept real change I worry it won't happen it seems like this town is stuck in their ways
53	Dodge county is an older community and don't see the value in potentially higher taxes or spending a little more money to support small businesses. Additionally, we don't have jobs that have decent upward mobility. I don't work for a company in dodge county—I travel to Madison for work
54	Hard to say.
55	Updating the comprehensive plan is proactive and suggests a commitment to maintaining, if not enhancing, the quality of life. Economic stability seems strong. Lastly, when a community is engaged it often leads to better outcomes.
56	Hopefull.
57	Hoping optimistically that it improves but could stay flat. We have a lot of people that don't want to spend money to make things better. Taxes can't always decline. I would rather we all pay a little more and we all benefit a lot more.
58	Lack of community with less knowing your neighbors removes understanding for essential services
59	Have not seen commitment to improve significantly since 1998 to serve all our community, and with improvements that have been made serving the affluent/privileged and not those in need, unfortunately don't expect it to change.
60	The Dodge County Sheriff will likely overstep in his work with ICE and create nothing but fear in our communities.
61	I don't see community members getting involved to generally help the county thrive.
62	Larger demands for government services and projects will continue to make taxes more difficult to pay.
63	drugs and people tresspassing
64	Lots of houses are being built, more businesses are opening.
65	Because dodge county is for themselves and not for the people
66	I don't see any future changes in my life that would alter my view of living in Dodge County.
67	If people in the county don't grow out of their "small town" mindset of not spending any money on improvements, younger professionals like myself will continue to leave the area to pursue better job opportunities and quality of life in bigger cities because there is not much here for young families to do.
68	Subdivisions
69	Not sure what can be changed in only 5 years.
70	Do not expect significant growth/change.
71	Unsure of opportunities coming to Dodge County.
72	It hasn't changed much in the 21+ years I've been living here.
73	I'm an optimist
74	I like the rural areas. Don't like houses taking farmland
75	Improvements take money.
76	Dodge County's services for older citizens needs improvement and expansion.
77	New middle school
78	I am not anticipating in major changes to the county. I hope that the county board and departments continue to value the rural feel of the county.
79	I've noticed over the past few years we have been getting more restaurants and businesses
80	Hoping it improves or at least stays the same- I fear with the upcoming federal administration it may decline
81	Don't foresee anything changing
82	Crime is increasing
83	I would like to see more restaurants and shopping in the area
84	There is no "check" with authority and how it impacts quality of life. Cedar Corporation's board consists of the CEO's of Sun Wolf energy. Solar farming production is a HEAVY concern and will impact the ability to sell or purchase a home. Especially when there is no setbacks restricting placement of solar arrays and substantions. This is also expressed with question 12 as it relates to current homes in the area and housing developments Cedar Corporation has displayed at municipal meetings.
85	Adding more taxes with the new school is a lot. And hard to build a family when our mortgage keeps going up.
86	manufacturing seems to be growing
87	I don't know. It depends on how racism is handled here and if the public schools and teachers are taken care of.
88	I guess I don't have much faith in changes happening. I think it will get worse if any of those things we depend on, get federal funds of any kind. I am afraid those funds will be cut with the new Fed.admin. and our communities will suffer. So many use SNAP, and other programs like meals for the Elderly etc. What will they do?
89	There is not enough opportunity to create an influx of new people … and the people who are born and raised tend to stay … so will likely stay status quo
90	County Board members as a whole need to get off the fence and be more proactive instead thinking someone else will step forward. I have lived in Dodge County for 63 years and a retired 911 Dispatcher and have items described first hand.
91	Need high income jobs in town. Balance out the factory jobs in town.
92	Dodge county is stuck in 1980.

93	Funding is a problem Tax rate water rates
94	Some things in this town don’t change much and it seems when they do it’s based on big mouthed neighbors opinions.
95	There may be some improvement but I think it's mostly going to stay the same.
96	The powers that be don't believe someone could be so sinister as to harass this way.
97	More bigger companies are coming to dodge county which will help with more jobs but will drive farmers out. that will also come with in an influx of "outsiders" that might not have the same ideas as these rural communities have
98	We will continue to lose our family farms which has also killed our small towns. Our little towns are dieing and so with that our family communities with little opportunity for good paying jobs and young people to stay and raise a family.
99	Don’t see any major changes coming
100	Expanding in several areas
101	Beaver Dam is planning some new bike paths etc
102	allowing in and out of state waste affecting our air and water.
103	Haven’t heard of any plans for major improvements.
104	Losing too much land to development, especially solar. Should be requirements on all new businesses built to have solar on the roof.
105	due to current republican leadership, federal and other local government is being cut and people with disabilities and people who are poor will be negatively impacted.
106	The water bills in my area are increasing and we are selling out to a major corporation (Kwik Trip) despite it not being best for the community.
107	Will not remain rural
108	New business has come to life in our downtown and flourishing in some of our former vacant buildings
109	I fear that due to an increase in the promotion of violence (country-wide), especially towards minoritized communities, over the next 4-5 years quality of life will decline. However, even further out than that I believe it could get better.
110	With the current political climate I imagine conservative voices will become more entrenched and less safety for women, minorities and other marginalized people.
111	I believe with the building of a new middle school in the Beaver Dam school district, there is going to be a lot of opportunity for our young children and new families to come to our area and start there life's.
112	I just don’t know what would change in the next 5 years.
113	Things can always improve
114	Not much will change in 5 years. Urban development is a concern for me
115	More homes being built. Open spaces slowly shrinking
116	Beaver Dam seems to be making positive changes and actively trying to address problems
117	Tax’s keep going up
118	Have not heard of short term changes
119	Inflation will have a negative impact coupled with rising taxes probably and changing population
120	The economy sucks and ppl dont care
121	I hope village facilities will improve
122	New shops in downtown Beaver Dam,
123	Right leaning political positions
124	Always looking to improve and grow.
125	The economy will be the deciding factor.
126	don't see housing prices/rents coming back down ever, can't make people take resources that are available for them, don't see more resources coming available for those families that are poor but not poor enough, don't see an end to the drug epidemic
127	Lack of support for the abive
128	There is always room for improvement.
129	No push from county officials or public to make change.
130	I hope it improves.
131	It’s a low income community that doesn’t get the funds to build and improve.
132	As long we keep keep big city problems out
133	I see many instances of improvements, but there are areas that bring down the whole.
134	No need to change.
135	Same shit
136	Section 8 housing bring alot more bad than good, and right across from the school.
137	Things change slowly in Dodge COUNTY
138	Poor growth strategy with too little citizen input on projects. Projects are treated like they are approved before anyone knows about them. Appears to be limited holistic thought of the long term consequences.
139	Increase control on corruption keep parks and public bathrooms under surveillance cameras out side do make a difference cops on bikes give a powerful message !
140	I feel like the quality of life will decline everywhere, not just Dodge County.
141	the county has not changed much in the time i have lived here.
142	Poor and lacking county governance and follow through from county board and administrator.

143	Illegal immigrants
144	not enough housing
145	Worried about crime getting worse
146	Current economics will make it a big challenge for any real change in just 5 years
147	Undesirable leadership in local government as well as nationally
148	I don’t see how much can change at the county level in 5 years
149	If nothing new is added for children/teens nothing will improve.
150	I think the amount of money collected as property tax is obscene, I also feel that it is being wasted on feel good projects for politicians and people who don't have any skin in the game. I would like to stay in my house as I age but taxes are a big expense for people on fixed incomes. The services received do not justify the expense.
151	There are continuing new businesses and industries, as well as community efforts toward improving the area.
152	I am excited about the hire of the new County Administrator. I think the economic development efforts and programs are good. I wish the City of Beaver Dam and the county had greater collaboration on economic development. It feel siloed right now.
153	None
154	With the Republican incoming admin and right leaning county, services, schools will suffer and costs will go up.
155	No additional comment.
156	I need to first see how Dodge County cities, the County, the state and federal government respond financially to the needs in the communities. Pushing industrial parks and new businesses and getting more housing options requires so many public financial inputs. Plus the strain on other public resources. Entities will need to increase revenues and taxes, which I don't see as bad, to provide for growth and a quality of public services that make a quality community. Will the different levels of government ignore the true costs or cut departments short or will they raise the revenue need for growth and quality in our community.
157	Land is being built on that was farm land and will deplete family farms. Homes have too large of lots where 2 homes used to be
158	Dodge County is positioned to grow and offer more to residents. Attract and keep business. Expand housing and education and child care.
159	I'm believe were going to start seeing an influx of people and with that comes more crime.
160	Urban sprawl is taking the rural areas from the townships.
161	Possibly decline if proper planning and governing of lands is not handled effectively.

Q11 What are the three most important reasons you/your family choose to live/stay in Dodge County? (Choose up to 3 items)

Answered: 327 Skipped: 40



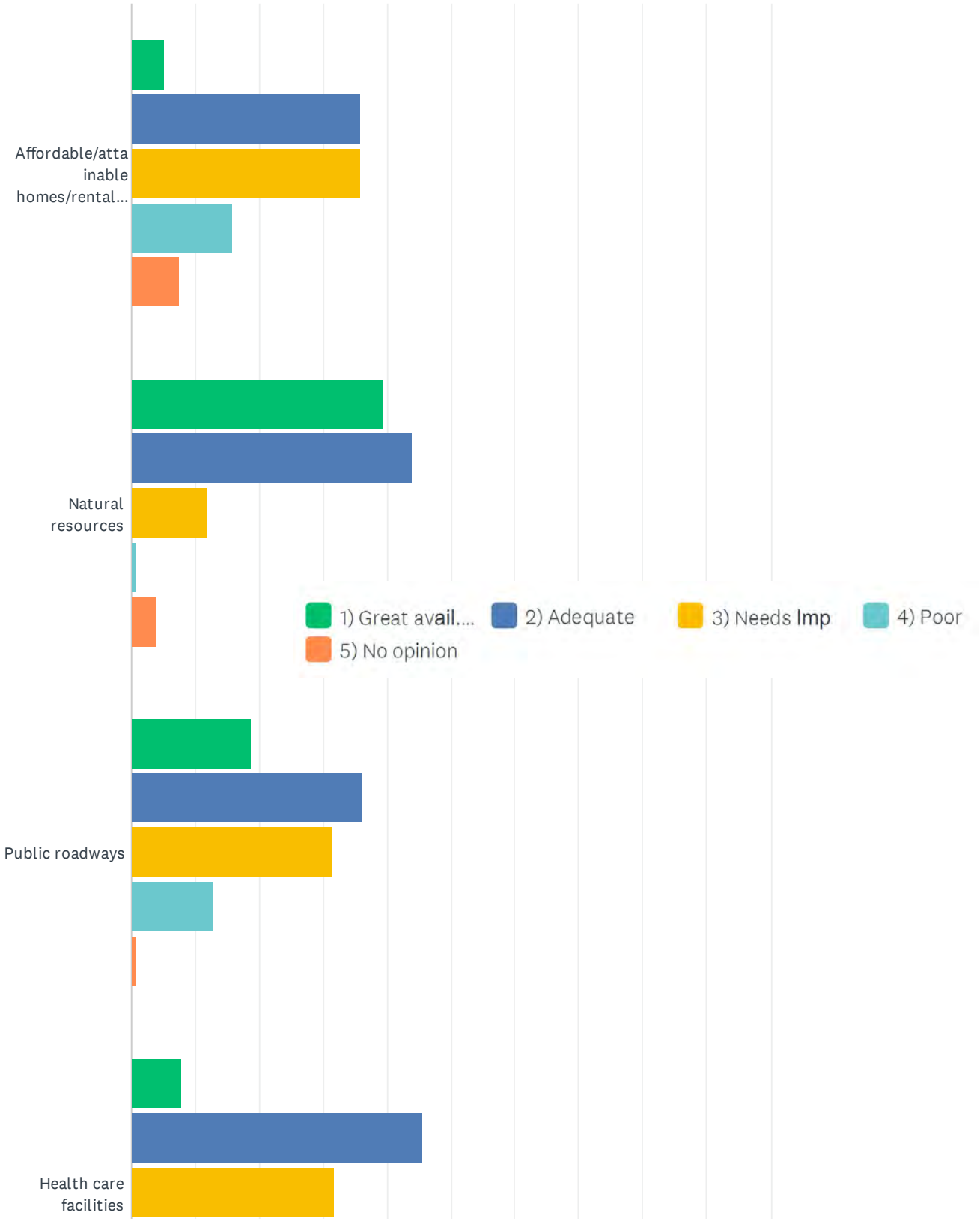
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I do not live in Dodge County (do not check any more boxes)	2.14%	7
Rural feel	33.64%	110
Small town charm	22.32%	73
Natural Resources/Beauty	17.74%	58
Born here or nearby	34.56%	113
Near friends and family	38.23%	125
Access to natural resources & recreational opportunities	12.84%	42
Good Government/Government Services	2.14%	7
Good place to raise a family	21.10%	69
Convenient access to employment	12.54%	41
Reasonable housing costs	14.98%	49
Reasonable cost of living	20.18%	66
Feel safe	21.41%	70
Quality schools	4.28%	14
Existing shopping opportunities	1.53%	5
Other (please specify)	6.42%	21
Total Respondents: 327		

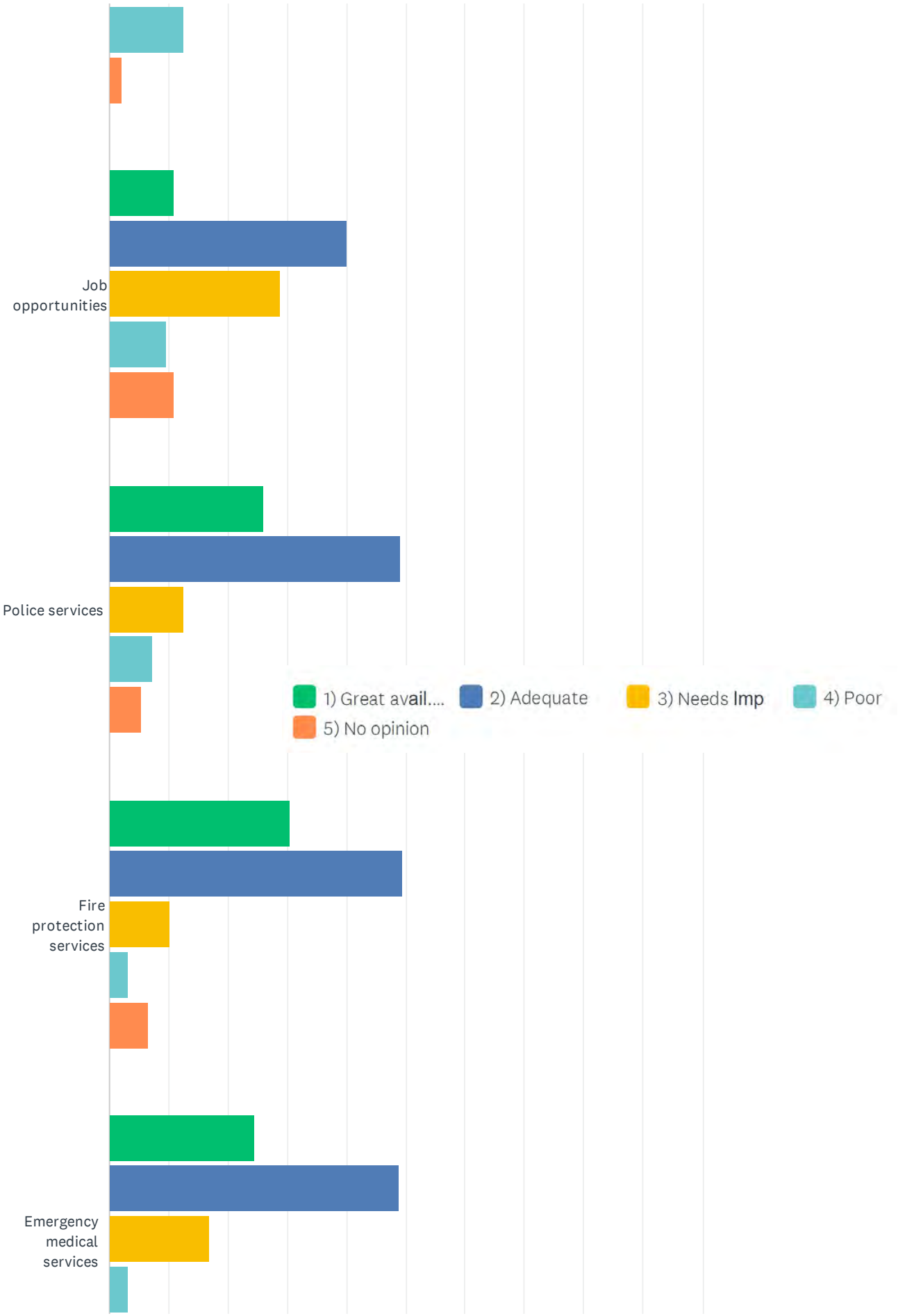
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Was an area where we could find a home that was somewhat affordable that also had land, like we looked for.	2/27/2025 3:57 PM
2	Centrally located to many larger urban areas.	2/20/2025 10:21 AM
3	I own here and can’t afford to move	2/19/2025 6:28 PM
4	Part time lake resident	2/19/2025 12:03 PM
5	Own a house	2/12/2025 9:14 PM
6	Great library in Beaver Dam.	2/4/2025 9:37 PM
7	Lesser of two evils, financially. Bigger city costs slightly more but yields much more opportunity.	1/31/2025 12:38 PM
8	Can’t wait to move out of this county. MAGA people here are nuts. Bullies, downright dangerous.	1/25/2025 9:34 AM
9	We inherited a family business.	1/25/2025 9:19 AM
10	I married into a family that owns a farm in dodge county so I have to stay	1/23/2025 6:31 PM
11	We farm and there is prime land here.	1/20/2025 9:04 AM
12	Reasons checked are the reason why we purchased our home six years ago.	1/17/2025 12:19 PM
13	Just work	1/16/2025 6:06 PM
14	I would love to see Dodge County utilize public land to CREATE a UTV/ATV trail system. This would have a great impact on small businesses in the area.	1/16/2025 11:11 AM

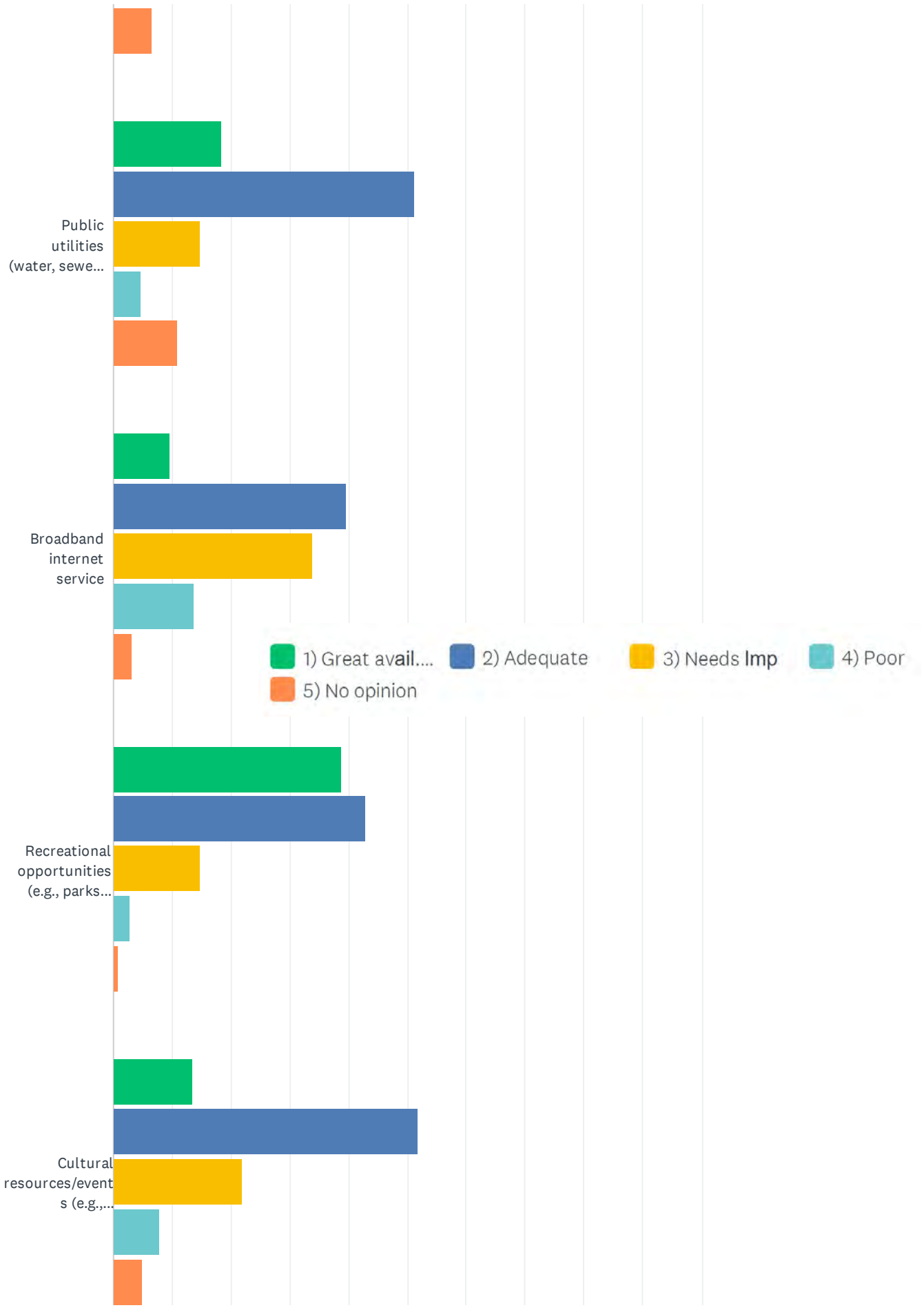
15	I personally have an intrinsic need to make the place I grew up better. I want to plant my roots here and fight for it to become safer & more diverse. I do want to note that I feel safer in Dodge County than one might expect, but I also have a tight support system. I know that there are people without that support system who feel far less safe than I do.	1/16/2025 8:41 AM
16	I only have 1.	1/15/2025 7:37 PM
17	Strong agriculture infrastructure	1/15/2025 3:28 PM
18	Not too far or too long to get to Madison area.	1/15/2025 1:55 PM
19	We have owned land and farmed here since 1971	1/15/2025 10:22 AM
20	purchased a dairy farm in 1987	1/15/2025 9:56 AM
21	TEST ANSWER	1/13/2025 2:23 PM

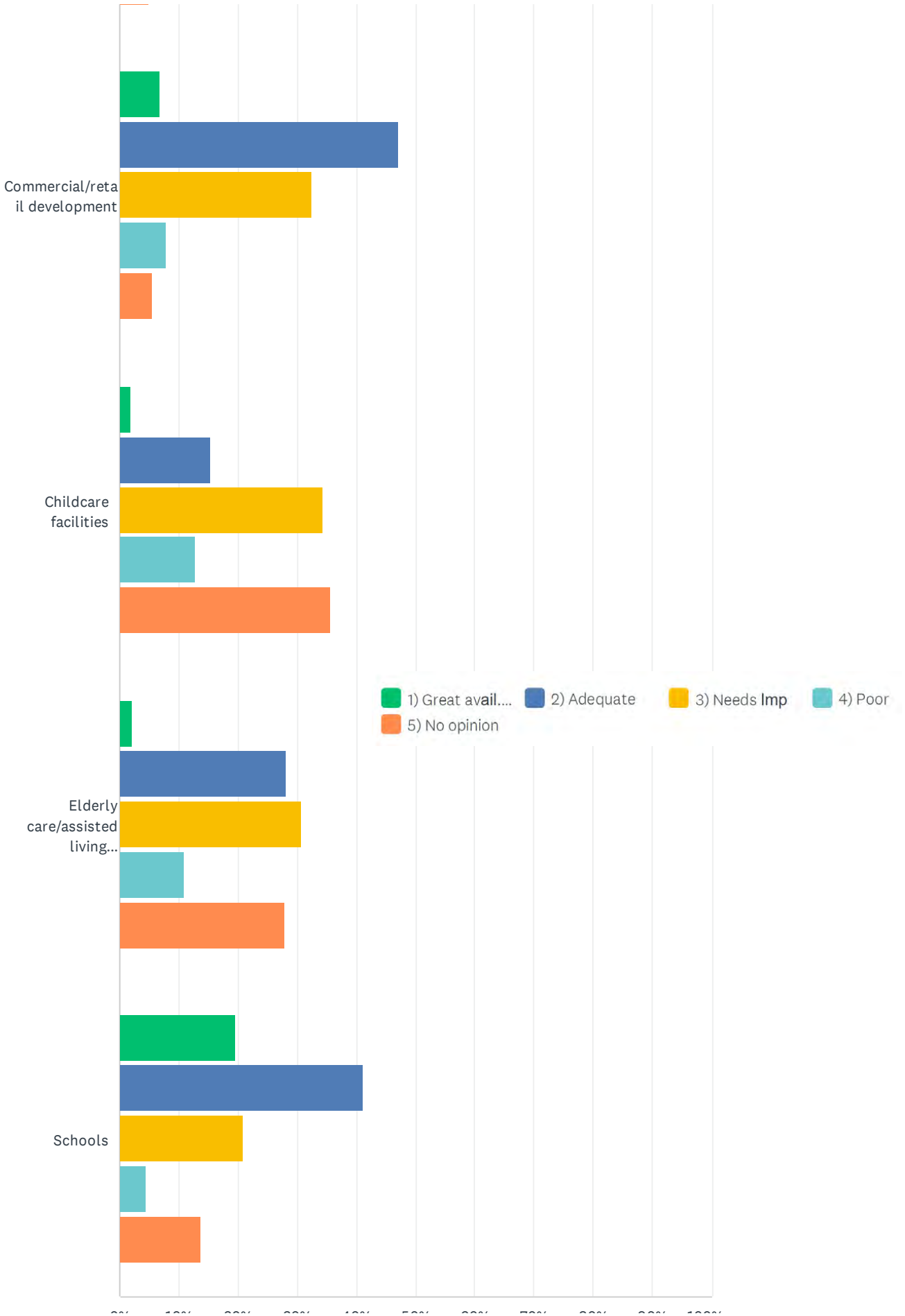
Q12 Please rate each of the following as they contribute to the quality of life in Dodge County:

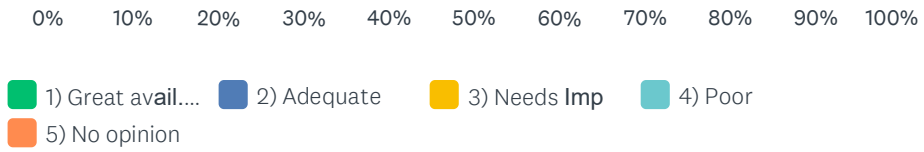
Answered: 321 Skipped: 46




Job opportunities
Police services
Fire protection services
Emergency medical services
1) Great avail....
2) Adequate
3) Needs Imp
4) Poor
5) No opinion


Public utilities (water, sewe...
Broadband internet service
Recreational opportunities (e.g., parks...
Cultural resources/events (e.g.,...
1) Great avail....
2) Adequate
3) Needs Imp
4) Poor
5) No opinion

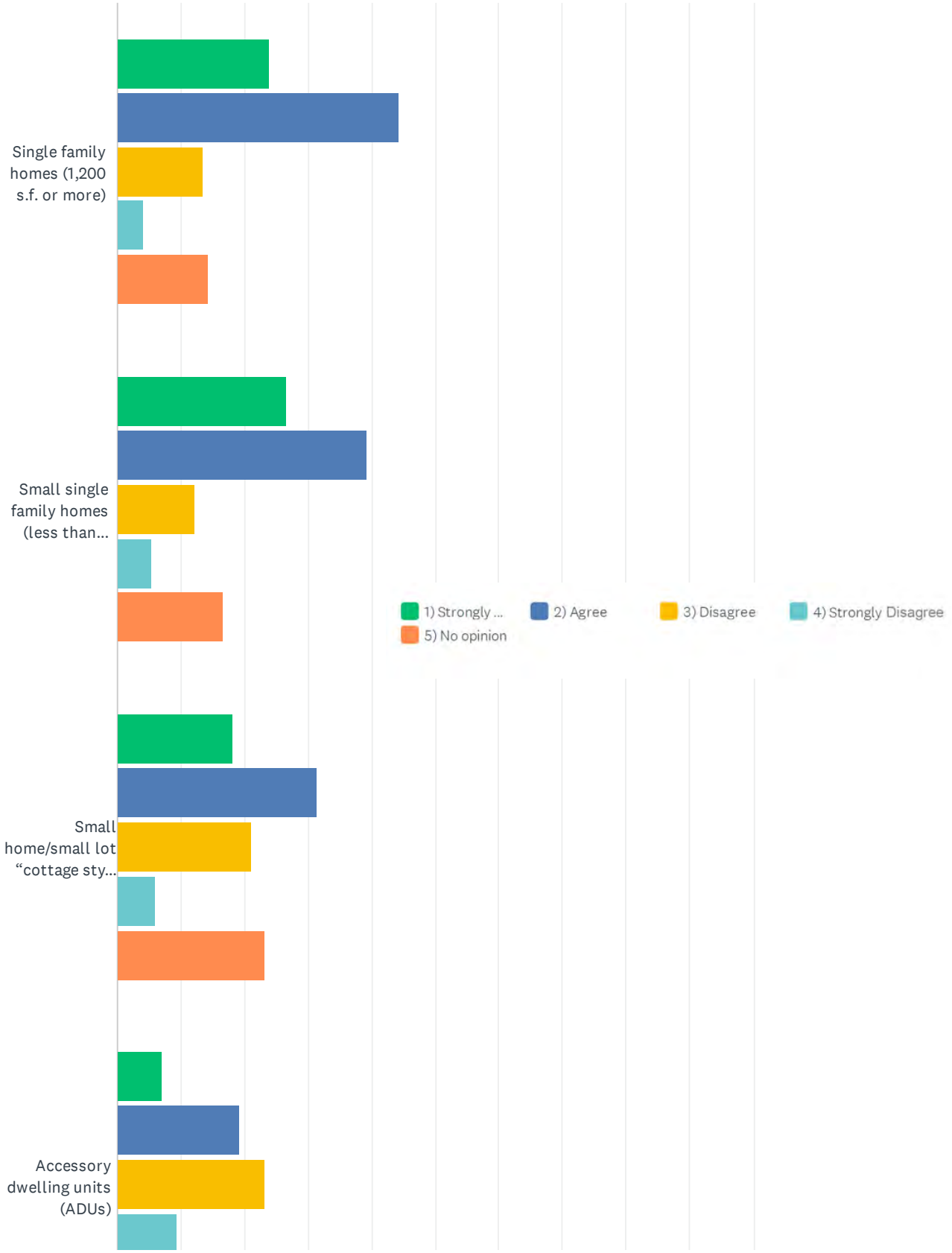

Commercial/retail development
Childcare facilities
Elderly care/assisted living...
Schools
1) Great avail....
2) Adequate
3) Needs Imp
4) Poor
5) No opinion

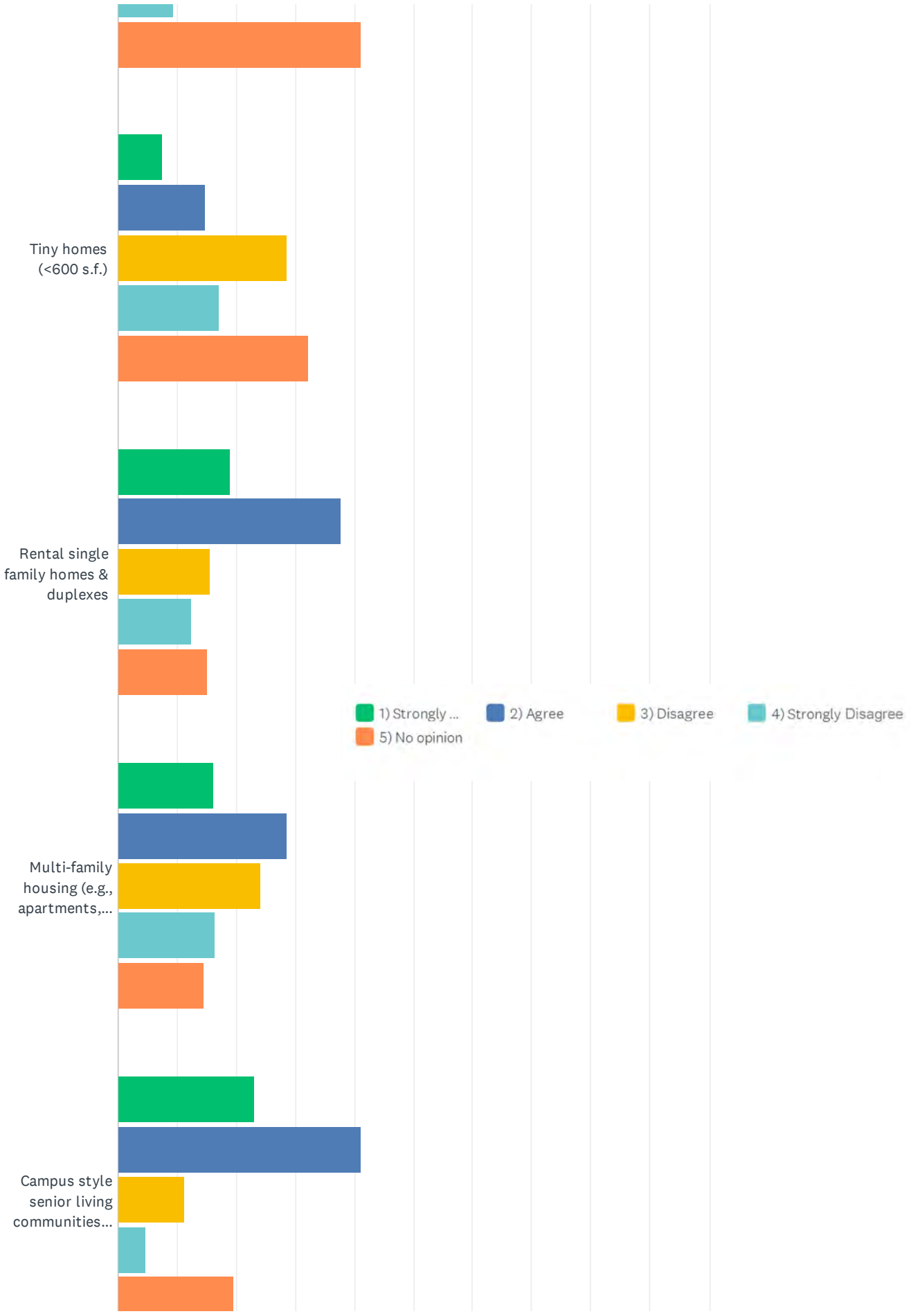


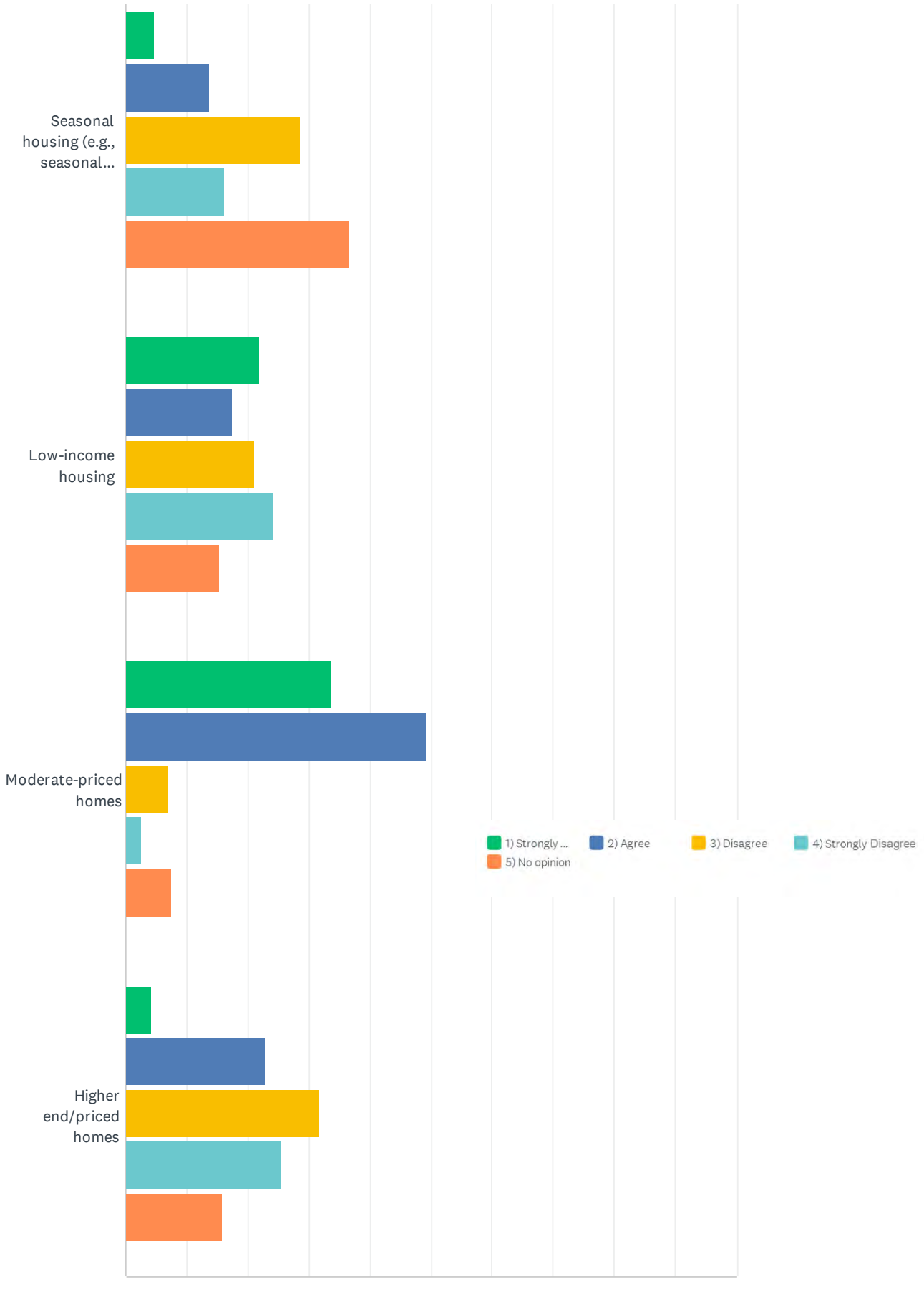
	1) GREAT AVAILABILITY	2) ADEQUATE	3) NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	4) POOR	5) NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Affordable/attainable homes/rental properties	5.03% 16	35.85% 114	35.85% 114	15.72% 50	7.55% 24	318	2.85
Natural resources	39.50% 126	43.89% 140	11.91% 38	0.94% 3	3.76% 12	319	1.86
Public roadways	18.81% 60	36.05% 115	31.66% 101	12.85% 41	0.63% 2	319	2.40
Health care facilities	7.86% 25	45.60% 145	31.76% 101	12.58% 40	2.20% 7	318	2.56
Job opportunities	10.79% 34	40.00% 126	28.89% 91	9.52% 30	10.79% 34	315	2.70
Police services	25.94% 83	49.06% 157	12.50% 40	7.19% 23	5.31% 17	320	2.17
Fire protection services	30.53% 98	49.53% 159	10.28% 33	3.12% 10	6.54% 21	321	2.06
Emergency medical services	24.45% 78	48.90% 156	16.93% 54	3.13% 10	6.58% 21	319	2.18
Public utilities (water, sewer, electric, waste/refuse)	18.44% 59	51.25% 164	14.69% 47	4.69% 15	10.94% 35	320	2.38
Broadband internet service	9.66% 31	39.56% 127	33.96% 109	13.71% 44	3.12% 10	321	2.61
Recreational opportunities (e.g., parks, trails, public hunting/fishing grounds, etc.)	38.75% 124	42.81% 137	14.69% 47	2.81% 9	0.94% 3	320	1.84
Cultural resources/events (e.g., historical & cultural structures/sites, festivals, etc.)	13.44% 43	51.88% 166	21.88% 70	7.81% 25	5.00% 16	320	2.39
Commercial/retail development	6.88% 22	47.19% 151	32.50% 104	7.81% 25	5.63% 18	320	2.58
Childcare facilities	1.89% 6	15.41% 49	34.28% 109	12.89% 41	35.53% 113	318	3.65
Elderly care/assisted living facilities	2.19% 7	28.21% 90	30.72% 98	10.97% 35	27.90% 89	319	3.34
Schools	19.69% 63	41.25% 132	20.94% 67	4.38% 14	13.75% 44	320	2.51

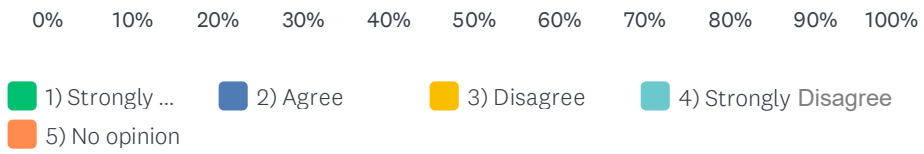
Q13 Please rate the need for additional housing types in Dodge County:

Answered: 317 Skipped: 50




Tiny homes (<600 s.f.)
Rental single family homes & duplexes
Multi-family housing (e.g., apartments,...
Campus style senior living communities...
1) Strongly ...
2) Agree
3) Disagree
4) Strongly Disagree
5) No opinion

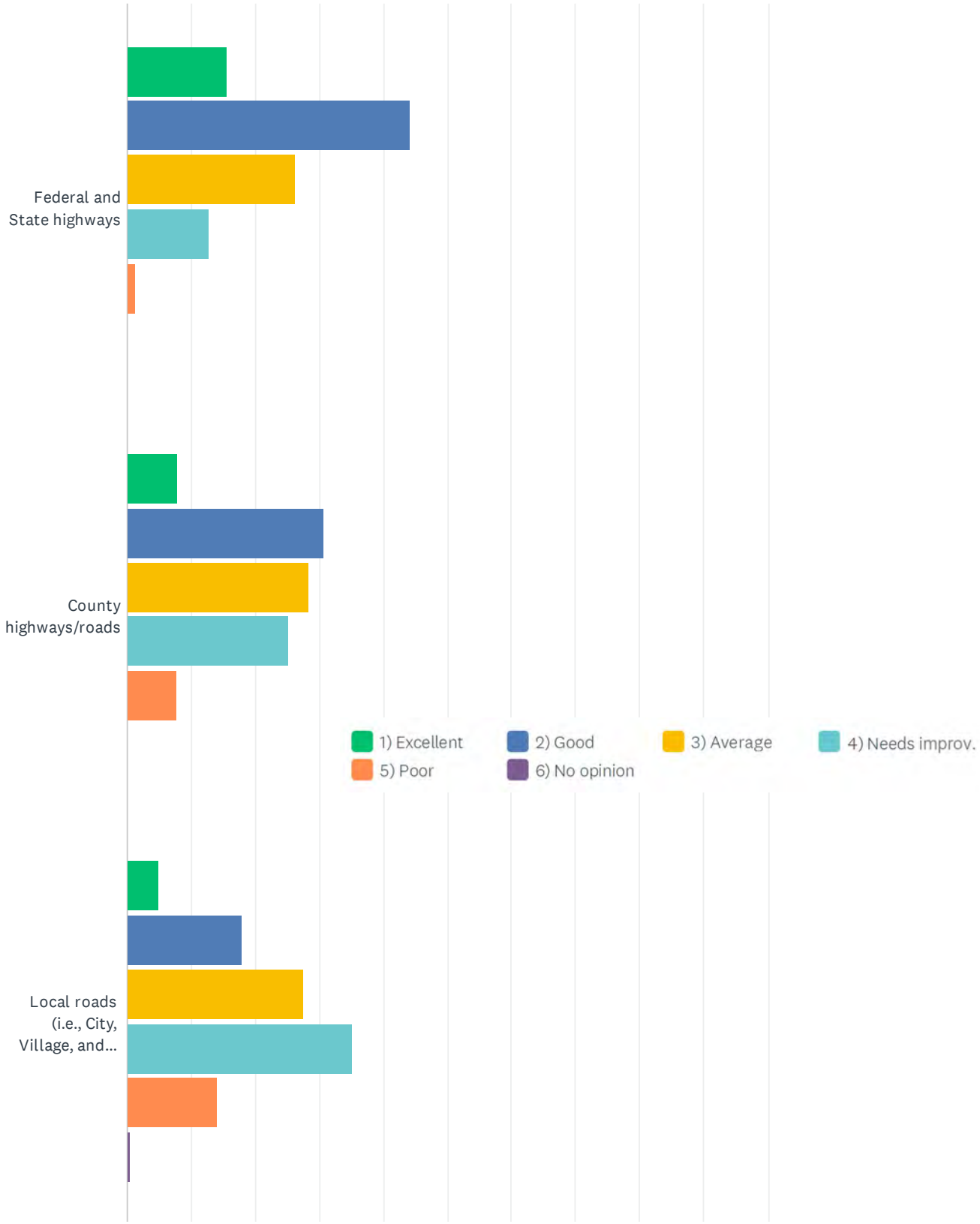

Seasonal housing (e.g., seasonal...
Low-income housing
Moderate-priced homes
Higher end/priced homes
1) Strongly ...
2) Agree
3) Disagree
4) Strongly Disagree
5) No opinion

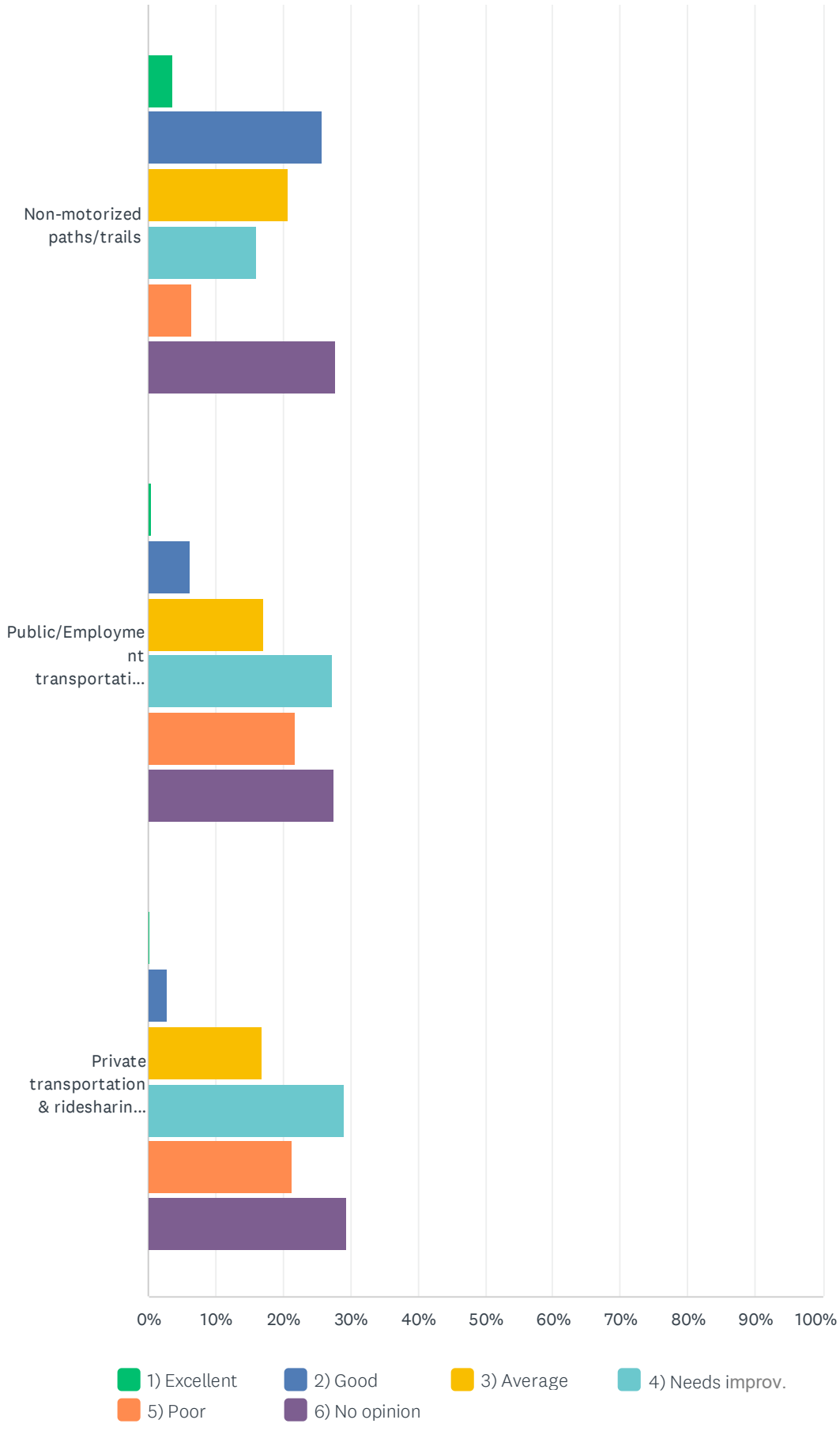


	1) STRONGLY AGREE	2) AGREE	3) DISAGREE	4) STRONGLY DISAGREE	5) NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Single family homes (1,200 s.f. or more)	23.81% 75	44.44% 140	13.33% 42	4.13% 13	14.29% 45	315	2.41
Small single family homes (less than 1,200 s.f.)	26.75% 84	39.17% 123	12.10% 38	5.41% 17	16.56% 52	314	2.46
Small home/small lot “cottage style” homes	18.21% 57	31.31% 98	21.09% 66	6.07% 19	23.32% 73	313	2.85
Accessory dwelling units (ADUs)	7.07% 22	19.29% 60	23.15% 72	9.32% 29	41.16% 128	311	3.58
Tiny homes (<600 s.f.)	7.40% 23	14.79% 46	28.62% 89	17.04% 53	32.15% 100	311	3.52
Rental single family homes & duplexes	19.05% 60	37.78% 119	15.56% 49	12.38% 39	15.24% 48	315	2.67
Multi-family housing (e.g., apartments, townhomes, condominiums, etc.)	16.19% 51	28.57% 90	24.13% 76	16.51% 52	14.60% 46	315	2.85
Campus style senior living communities (independent / assisted living, senior center for entertainment, restaurant, medical, etc.)	23.10% 73	41.14% 130	11.39% 36	4.75% 15	19.62% 62	316	2.57
Seasonal housing (e.g., seasonal agricultural workers, college students, etc.)	4.78% 15	13.69% 43	28.66% 90	16.24% 51	36.62% 115	314	3.66
Low-income housing	21.97% 69	17.52% 55	21.02% 66	24.20% 76	15.29% 48	314	2.93
Moderate-priced homes	33.65% 105	49.36% 154	7.05% 22	2.56% 8	7.37% 23	312	2.01
Higher end/priced homes	4.17% 13	22.76% 71	31.73% 99	25.64% 80	15.71% 49	312	3.26

Q14 Please rate each of the following modes of transportation provided in Dodge County:

Answered: 313 Skipped: 54

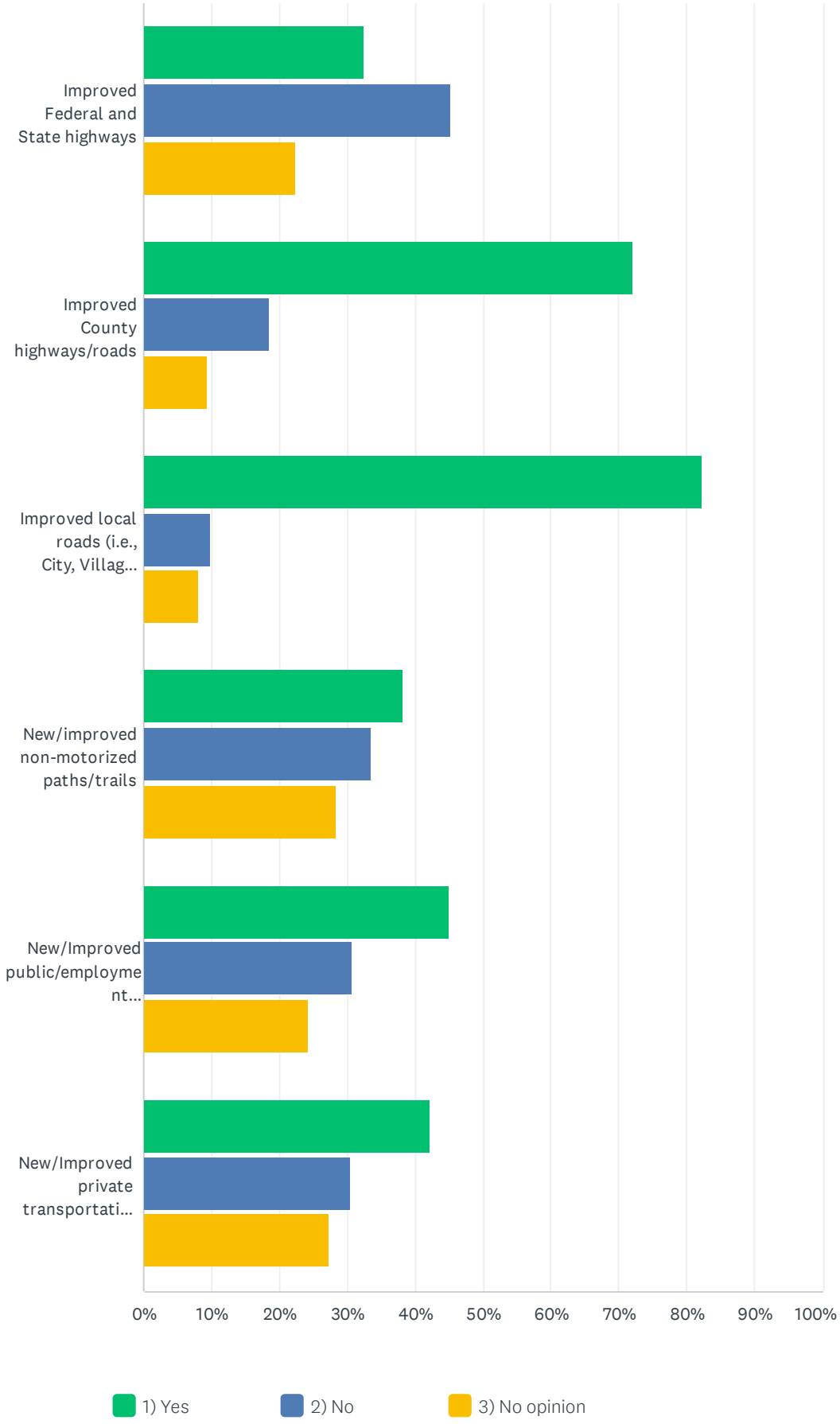



Non-motorized paths/trails
Public/Employment transportati...
Private transportation & ridesharin...
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
1) Excellent
2) Good
3) Average
4) Needs improv.
5) Poor
6) No opinion

	1) EXCELLENT	2) GOOD	3) AVERAGE	4) NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	5) POOR	6) NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Federal and State highways	15.65% 49	44.09% 138	26.20% 82	12.78% 40	1.28% 4	0.00% 0	313	2.40
County highways/roads	7.99% 25	30.67% 96	28.43% 89	25.24% 79	7.67% 24	0.00% 0	313	2.94
Local roads (i.e., City, Village, and Town roads)	4.81% 15	17.95% 56	27.56% 86	35.26% 110	14.10% 44	0.32% 1	312	3.37
Non-motorized paths/trails	3.54% 11	25.72% 80	20.58% 64	16.08% 50	6.43% 20	27.65% 86	311	3.51
Public/Employment transportation services (e.g., vanpools, carpools, shared ride taxi service, & on-demand paratransit)	0.32% 1	6.09% 19	16.99% 53	27.24% 85	21.79% 68	27.56% 86	312	4.19
Private transportation & ridesharing services (e.g., private bus, taxi, Uber, Lyft)	0.32% 1	2.88% 9	16.93% 53	29.07% 91	21.41% 67	29.39% 92	313	4.27

Q15 During the next five years, should Dodge County focus their resources in the following areas?

Answered: 313 Skipped: 54


Improved Federal and State highways
Improved County highways/roads
Improved local roads (i.e., City, Villag...
New/improved non-motorized paths/trails
New/Improved public/employment...
New/Improved private transportati...
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
1) Yes
2) No
3) No opinion

	1) YES	2) NO	3) NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Improved Federal and State highways	32.36% 100	45.31% 140	22.33% 69	309	2.35
Improved County highways/roads	72.03% 224	18.65% 58	9.32% 29	311	1.56
Improved local roads (i.e., City, Village, and Town roads)	82.20% 254	9.71% 30	8.09% 25	309	1.42
New/improved non-motorized paths/trails	38.26% 119	33.44% 104	28.30% 88	311	2.47
New/Improved public/employment transportation services (e.g., vanpools, carpools, shared ride taxi service, & on-demand paratransit)	44.98% 139	30.74% 95	24.27% 75	309	2.28
New/Improved private transportation services (e.g., private bus, taxi, Uber, Lyft)	42.12% 131	30.55% 95	27.33% 85	311	2.40

#	PLEASE ELABORATE IN FEW WORDS WHY YOU RESPONDED IN THIS MANNER:	DATE
1	Public transportation is not economically feasible in our rural areas	2/28/2025 2:51 PM
2	I haven't noticed major concerns with the roadways. My husband & I don't utilize much private transport so I don't have much opinion there.	2/27/2025 4:00 PM
3	Roads are good. Need to maintain quality. Improve quality on busy Highway 33.	2/26/2025 4:36 PM
4	It is. not the county's job to provide private transportation,.	2/26/2025 8:19 AM
5	There is no way to get between the towns for people who can’t drive	2/24/2025 12:56 AM
6	Need to have more and reliable public transportation options.	2/23/2025 3:19 PM
7	We have every good road imaginable to drive places. The way we get from “life here is good” to “life here is great” is with PEOPLE infrastructure - non-motorized bike/walk paths, cross country skiing, etc. We’re really good in the city with sidewalks, etc - I think if we build on it, we have the real chance to be amazing!	2/23/2025 10:56 AM
8	Dodge CO needs to maintain the roads that help us function now. I use the wild goose trail 3 times a week, it is beautifully maintained and I hope this continues. I’d love to see a bike path created between Beaver Dam and the dodge co court house in Juneau as I know many people leaving jail, have court dates, etc only have access to bikes and this could aid the community.	2/23/2025 9:58 AM
9	More improvements for sienors	2/22/2025 7:03 AM
10	Our county and town roads have been in poor shape for a long time.	2/21/2025 3:08 PM
11	not sure what the counties input on state and fed highways is and not sure who decides thew projects and the impact they have. the improvement of cty C seems to have created a problem at the intersection of 151 with increased cross traffic	2/21/2025 11:44 AM
12	Township roads are lacking maintenance.	2/21/2025 9:53 AM
13	Bringing the private services into rural areas is a strong need.	2/21/2025 9:36 AM
14	We need to expand this.	2/20/2025 6:31 AM
15	Some of our roads need work…as far as public transportation…. I am unaware of the needs.	2/20/2025 4:46 AM
16	Take interest in public trails that you do have. Take the safety of the public seriously	2/19/2025 9:03 PM
17	As we get older, we will have to move to a country with either public transportation or services for folks who don’t drive	2/19/2025 8:47 PM
18	Seems like 151 and the village roads are cared for. But often weather makes the driving the county roads dicey. Not sure what all can be done to improve that. I don’t rely on public or private transportation. As long as a trail is marked it can be followed. It’d be nice if folks didn’t treat a trail as a place for garbage.	2/19/2025 6:07 PM

19	The roads are bad	2/19/2025 6:02 PM
20	By maintaining these things will allow people to stay in the area.	2/16/2025 1:36 PM
21	Cars (owned by citizens) will continue to be the main mode of transportation in Dodge County. No need for public trans here.	2/14/2025 4:59 PM
22	Some county roads should be improved before they are completely falling apart. The quick patch job to fix a road for only a year or 2 is a waste of tax money. The roads that are fixed seem to be falling apart faster then ever. Please also take in to effect the amount of traffic and load that is being utilized on these roads. The more semi traffic... the road needs a bigger budget on it then.	2/14/2025 11:03 AM
23	appropriate resources for an expanding population	2/13/2025 10:19 PM
24	It's a small young with no way to go q0 miles to the next small town	2/12/2025 9:18 PM
25	The government can't make someone be a ride share driver. The market will drive people to get into the business or not.	2/12/2025 7:39 AM
26	Some local roads need some major improvements. It would also be nice to have clean, safe transportation options for citizens of all ages.	2/10/2025 2:42 PM
27	The roads in Dodge County are awful! They need improvement throughout the county. When traveling in other counties they are so much better. They have limited private transportation services as well.	2/10/2025 1:59 PM
28	I live off St Helene and its dangerous if you drift off the pavement and would like to see the trail system link up and expanded for better usage	2/10/2025 10:19 AM
29	Town and County roads need improvement.	2/7/2025 10:19 AM
30	more public transit options especially in the smaller towns, this could also help ease the drinking and driving problem.	2/7/2025 8:12 AM
31	Hard for the disadvantage to get around. The county needs more public transportation.	2/6/2025 7:15 PM
32	There are very little transportation options	2/5/2025 9:48 PM
33	There are no services besides the non-emergency transportation, that come to my part of the Dodge County, in Lomira.	2/5/2025 6:04 PM
34	Many of the streets and road have seen recent improvement, however we are still behind with streets like East Third Street in Beaver Dam and also County W between Beaver Dam and Juneau.	2/5/2025 11:28 AM
35	People need safe transportation for all aspects of well being.	2/5/2025 10:53 AM
36	It is important to focus on wellness options for recreation and local travel. For general transit, consider what happens if roads becomes less important in the future?	2/5/2025 8:36 AM
37	Everything needs improvement and I understand it comes from the state budget. I would prioritize county roads and intown roads. Federal and state highways tend to be better than those two.	2/1/2025 11:58 AM
38	I work for a rideshare service called Carepool. I work roughly 60 hours per week. After taxes and deductions, I make below the poverty line for a single person. I qualify for Medicaid and food share. There has been no increase in pay since I started almost three years ago. Carepool is the highest paying rideshare service that I'm aware of. I've been informed by activist passengers that they try to lobby for budget increases to rideshare services with the state but rarely succeed. It's a very necessary service that is under-budgeted. I enjoy helping people but without the pay increases necessary to keep up with the economy, rideshare service employees/contractors are likely going to run from the industry eventually.	1/31/2025 12:44 PM
39	City roads are a mess. No easy to access walking trails or bike trails.	1/31/2025 10:43 AM
40	probably less dui’s if ubers were more available	1/30/2025 8:52 AM
41	Public transportation options are so limited—especially wheelchair accessible options	1/29/2025 7:53 AM
42	The side streets in Waupun and Beaver Dam are horrible to drive through in the Winter after a	1/29/2025 12:25 AM

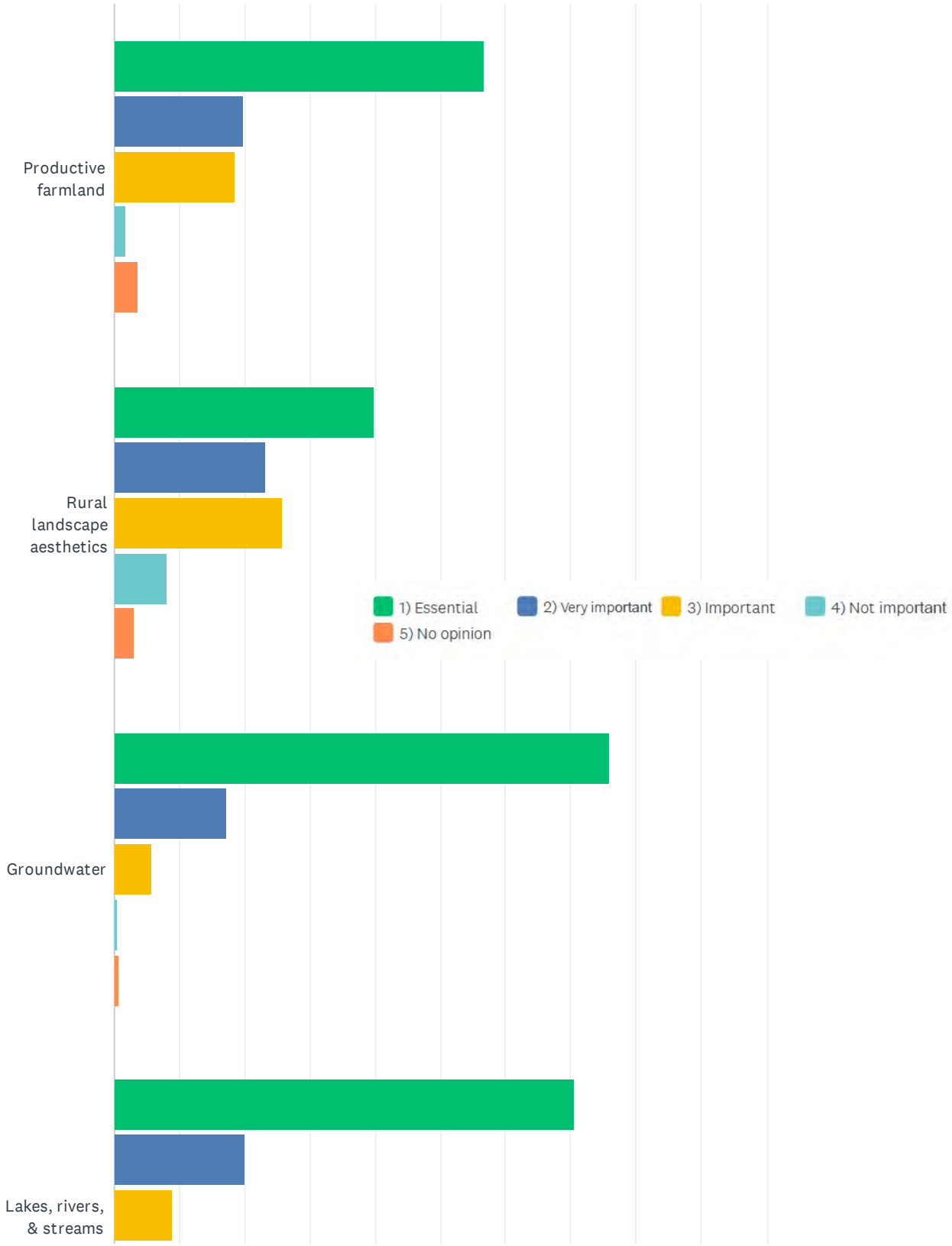
	significant snowstorm. As a result of plows coming through, there are also large potholes that can cause damage to vehicles. Public transit can connect people to job opportunities, helping to reduce unemployment and underemployment in rural areas and reduce OWIs.	
43	No taxi and barely any uber type services. Those would be really beneficial. We need a lot more housing options all around.	1/28/2025 5:26 PM
44	Most services require full public financing due to lack of use	1/28/2025 10:21 AM
45	While much of our recent years of taxpayer dollars have been used for street repair/replacement, not much focus has been on transportation for people who don't have the means to use these streets themselves. Ride sharing for elderly, medical appointments, etc, needs improvement - more availability. Electric vehicle charging station availability is something that is also lacking. It would be nice to have more options for later evening taxi/Lyft/Uber services.	1/25/2025 9:39 AM
46	I'm not aware of any public or private transportation services near me. It would be helpful for medical appointments and an alternative to drunk driving.	1/25/2025 9:23 AM
47	All of our Federal and State highways are in good condition. Our county roads need work, the lesser used ones are typically in bad shape.	1/24/2025 9:45 AM
48	Local roads and local transport definitely need more improvement.	1/23/2025 1:17 PM
49	County/local roads need work.	1/23/2025 12:46 PM
50	The private sector should not be influenced by government interaction.	1/22/2025 4:11 PM
51	Services are available	1/22/2025 12:08 PM
52	Communities within the county are difficult to reach without personal transportation.	1/22/2025 3:49 AM
53	Health insurance would have paid for trip to doctor's appt. in Madison, but couldn't find anyone to take the job.	1/21/2025 12:15 PM
54	State and federal roads are dictated by those resources. Our local roads were not built to withstand the size and number of passenger vehicles, ag implements and other truck traffic. The funds we currently receive are only sufficient to maintain a portion of the roads and not enough to widen or strengthen the roads. As Beaver Dam continues to grow perhaps having private transportation services would provide income for persons who provide those services and options for transportation outside normal operating hours and would not require the infrastructure that a bus or taxi service would need to get up and sustained.	1/20/2025 9:13 AM
55	The highways seem to be in decent shape but alot of the town and county roads have seen better days and the winter maintenance of them has gotten worse the past couple of years	1/19/2025 9:38 PM
56	While some improvements are being done - many of our state highways were neglected during the Walker years and taking awhile to catch up. Could use more public transportation, and private ride share opportunities	1/18/2025 10:46 PM
57	Our county highways are horrible and townships need monetary assistance to keep their roads maintained	1/18/2025 9:54 PM
58	Improvements that utilize state and federal funding should be determined if current condition is deemed below inspection standards.	1/17/2025 12:27 PM
59	They want a bus system and I think that is a complete waste of money for beaver dam.	1/17/2025 11:45 AM
60	road repair expense hard to cover town roads	1/17/2025 9:37 AM
61	Need more public transportation options & workers- limited choice & long wait times. Roads need repaving. Taxi drivers could also drive better.	1/16/2025 11:27 PM
62	Public transport would be very valuable to people as cars are expensive to maintain. Also, getting a drivers license is expensive as well.	1/16/2025 10:46 PM
63	I think we already have good roads … just need to maintain. Public transportation makes little sense in most of the county … and if it did exist I feel few would use it.	1/16/2025 7:39 PM
64	The Highway Department does not spend the money they get from the State of WI. We have a 2 million dollar not spent on the roads which they should be doing. Look at Hwy 151, whether	1/16/2025 7:21 PM

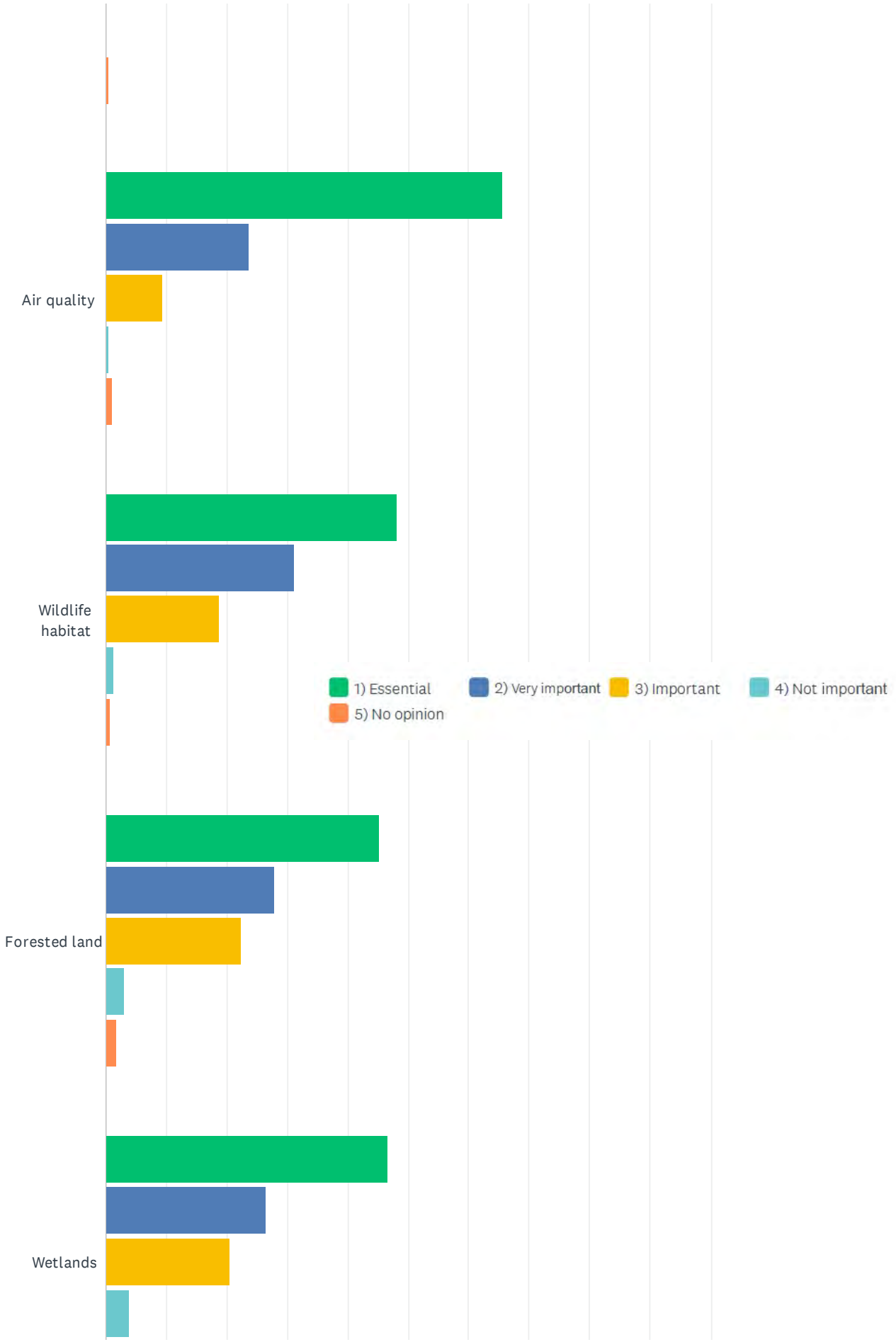
	its Dane or Fond du lac Counties repair 151 with concrete, not "Tar" like our county does.	
65	Expensive to own a vehicle. Public transportation would be a great welcome	1/16/2025 6:09 PM
66	This is a small town, VERY old houses. This doesn't need to be a tourist town or city feel. It's already too populated and seems like city regulations are enforced to higher degrees than a bigger town. I don't disagree with providing more options to current residents but we don't need to change to attract every type of person out there. We're on a major travel road, there's already great profit from that	1/16/2025 6:04 PM
67	Feel the roads are in need of repair the most	1/16/2025 1:33 PM
68	Highway A from 151 to Fox Lake horrible and almost to the point of dangerous and auto damaging. Most people want to drive themselves and be flexible.	1/16/2025 9:56 AM
69	Huge need for taxi or uber type services. In high demand but we don't have much to offer. More bike and walking paths. Really need a bike path on county highway E that goes into Beaver Dam. Would benefit Prairie View students.	1/16/2025 9:47 AM
70	We do not need access to ride share, but to public transportation. Lomira is debating adding low income housing, but no one is considering that 1. our nearest grocery store (the Pig) is expensive and the owners over price everything/nothing is really fresh and 2. a lot of the job draws (like Quad) are inaccesible on the roads that currently exist if you have car issues or no car at all.	1/16/2025 9:14 AM
71	Expanded taxi or transit bus would be beneficial for those retirees, and physically challenged to access necessary business and medical needs	1/16/2025 9:05 AM
72	We are in desperate need of public transit, especially in a more accessible manner, even in smaller towns & cities	1/16/2025 8:46 AM
73	We need cross county public transit and just more public transit options and vehicles in general	1/16/2025 8:31 AM
74	I feel like the roads are good here, but there's not much available in terms of public transit or ride sharing. If your car isn't available for whatever reason, it's hard to figure out an emergency solution.	1/16/2025 6:38 AM
75	Roads are generally good, but many local roads need repairs. Great natural resources but would love more multi-use non-motorized trails through scenic areas.	1/16/2025 6:27 AM
76	We need more bike/walking friendly by the kwik trip/ walmart/ymca area	1/16/2025 3:12 AM
77	We need more transportation resources for seniors and people that can not drive	1/15/2025 11:22 PM
78	Put money into stores/restaurants	1/15/2025 10:56 PM
79	The majority of my travel is on county and town roads. the state should focus on state roads	1/15/2025 10:54 PM
80	Do not use public transportation	1/15/2025 9:59 PM
81	Highway 151 is functional, but the number of at grade crossings is concerning. The potential costs to fix this would be quite large and require long planning times. Immediate need is improvements to local roadways.	1/15/2025 9:32 PM
82	You drive these roads, so I believe you know which ones need repair.	1/15/2025 9:15 PM
83	Roads are important. Ride share or public transportation is important to those who do not drive and can't rely on friends and family always to get them around. Will help people be independent.	1/15/2025 9:02 PM
84	Travel on highway and county roads frequently. They seem to be in good shape.	1/15/2025 7:43 PM
85	I don't know if we need public transportation or taxis.	1/15/2025 7:30 PM
86	County road's need attention and relay on private transportation handle the cost of transportation not tax payers	1/15/2025 7:06 PM
87	Local town roads need updating. Not enough money in towns to upgrade the roads. Roads are not built to handle large trucks.	1/15/2025 4:14 PM
88	The bike trail down State 33 should be scraped.	1/15/2025 3:06 PM

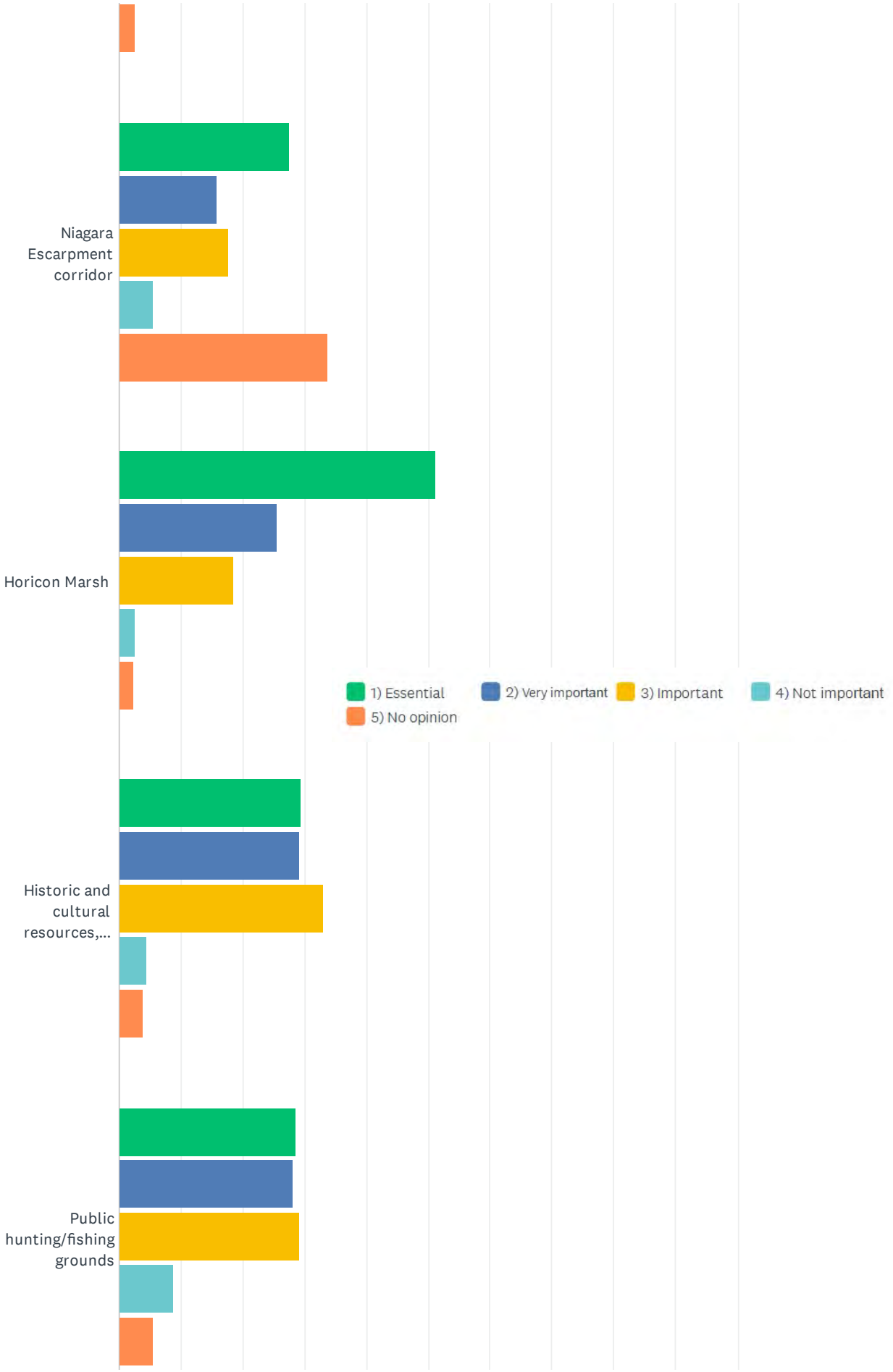
89	if you dont have transportation you are stuck. or rely on your friends generosity.	1/15/2025 2:24 PM
90	Not an area for government to focus	1/15/2025 2:03 PM
91	The wild goose trail and the limited Gold Star area the only real trails	1/15/2025 1:38 PM
92	city of Beaver Dam roads are terrible, I spend too much money on maintaining the suspension systems on all my cars	1/15/2025 1:02 PM
93	Increased public transportation across Dodge County communities and regional hubs (Airports, Amtrak), fix bad roads, increase pedestrian-friendly transportation in cities	1/15/2025 11:09 AM
94	Very limited private transportation	1/15/2025 11:06 AM
95	Increased public transportation options would be a plus.	1/15/2025 10:08 AM
96	We need more multi use trails. I would like to see HWY 26 connect to HWY 151. HWY 151 around beaver dam should be upgraded and on and off ramps reviewed. The CTY G interchange WAS A MISTAKE. Should be a CTY W. HWY 33 should be re-routed out of the Beaver Dam downtown using HWY 151 and CTY B. Ganske/Gateway Interchange needs to be reconfigured. Use more round-abouts at 4 way CTY stops and at CTY G and Madison St.	1/15/2025 9:36 AM
97	Local rural roads need to be a priority.	1/15/2025 7:39 AM
98	Roads need repair Beaver Dam is the worst in the county. You can not enter without hitting pot holes. Need to repair properly not just throw tar in and let cars roll over it to pack it down	1/15/2025 6:52 AM
99	Transportation is a barrier in a rural community. Lack of options impacts employment.	1/15/2025 6:31 AM
100	Nice roads are great to get around on and many need improvement.	1/15/2025 5:15 AM
101	TEST ANSWER	1/13/2025 2:24 PM

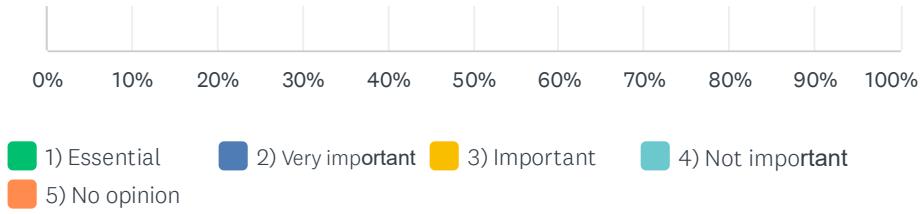
Q16 Please rate the importance for Dodge County to protect and preserve the following agricultural, natural, and cultural resources:

Answered: 309 Skipped: 58




Air quality
Wildlife habitat
Forested land
Wetlands
1) Essential
2) Very important
3) Important
4) Not important
5) No opinion

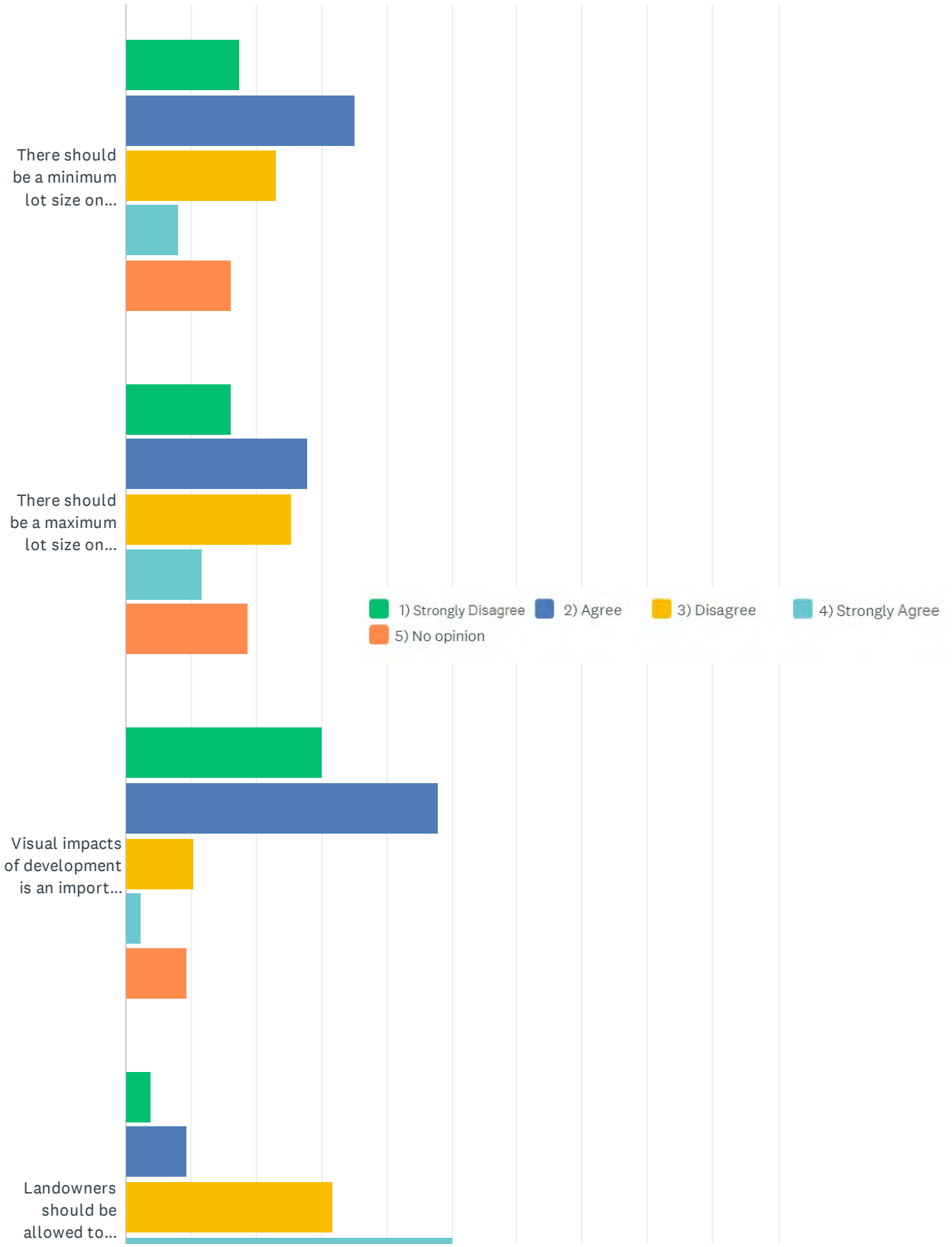

Niagara Escarpment corridor
Horicon Marsh
Historic and cultural resources,...
Public hunting/fishing grounds
1) Essential
2) Very important
3) Important
4) Not important
5) No opinion

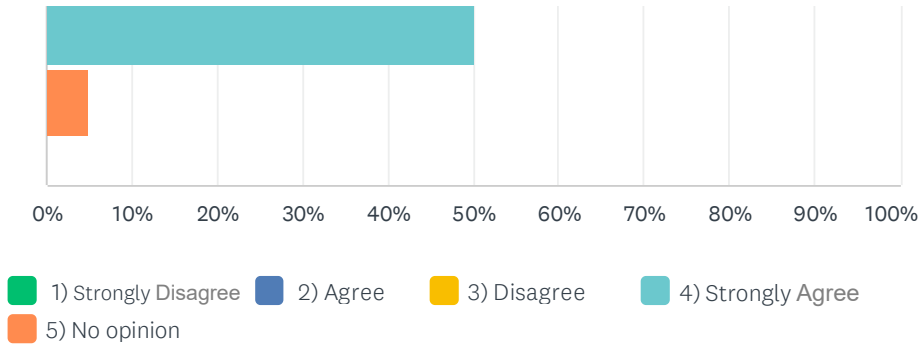


	1) ESSENTIAL	2) VERY IMPORTANT	3) IMPORTANT	4) NOT IMPORTANT	5) NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Productive farmland	56.63% 175	19.74% 61	18.45% 57	1.62% 5	3.56% 11	309	1.76
Rural landscape aesthetics	39.81% 123	23.30% 72	25.89% 80	8.09% 25	2.91% 9	309	2.11
Groundwater	75.97% 234	17.21% 53	5.84% 18	0.32% 1	0.65% 2	308	1.32
Lakes, rivers, & streams	70.55% 218	20.06% 62	9.06% 28	0.00% 0	0.32% 1	309	1.39
Air quality	65.58% 202	23.70% 73	9.42% 29	0.32% 1	0.97% 3	308	1.47
Wildlife habitat	48.22% 149	31.07% 96	18.77% 58	1.29% 4	0.65% 2	309	1.75
Forested land	45.31% 140	27.83% 86	22.33% 69	2.91% 9	1.62% 5	309	1.88
Wetlands	46.60% 144	26.54% 82	20.39% 63	3.88% 12	2.59% 8	309	1.89
Niagara Escarpment corridor	27.45% 84	15.69% 48	17.65% 54	5.56% 17	33.66% 103	306	3.02
Horicon Marsh	51.13% 158	25.57% 79	18.45% 57	2.59% 8	2.27% 7	309	1.79
Historic and cultural resources, sites, & structures	29.45% 91	29.13% 90	33.01% 102	4.53% 14	3.88% 12	309	2.24
Public hunting/fishing grounds	28.48% 88	28.16% 87	29.13% 90	8.74% 27	5.50% 17	309	2.35

Q17 Please rate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding land use:

Answered: 309 Skipped: 58

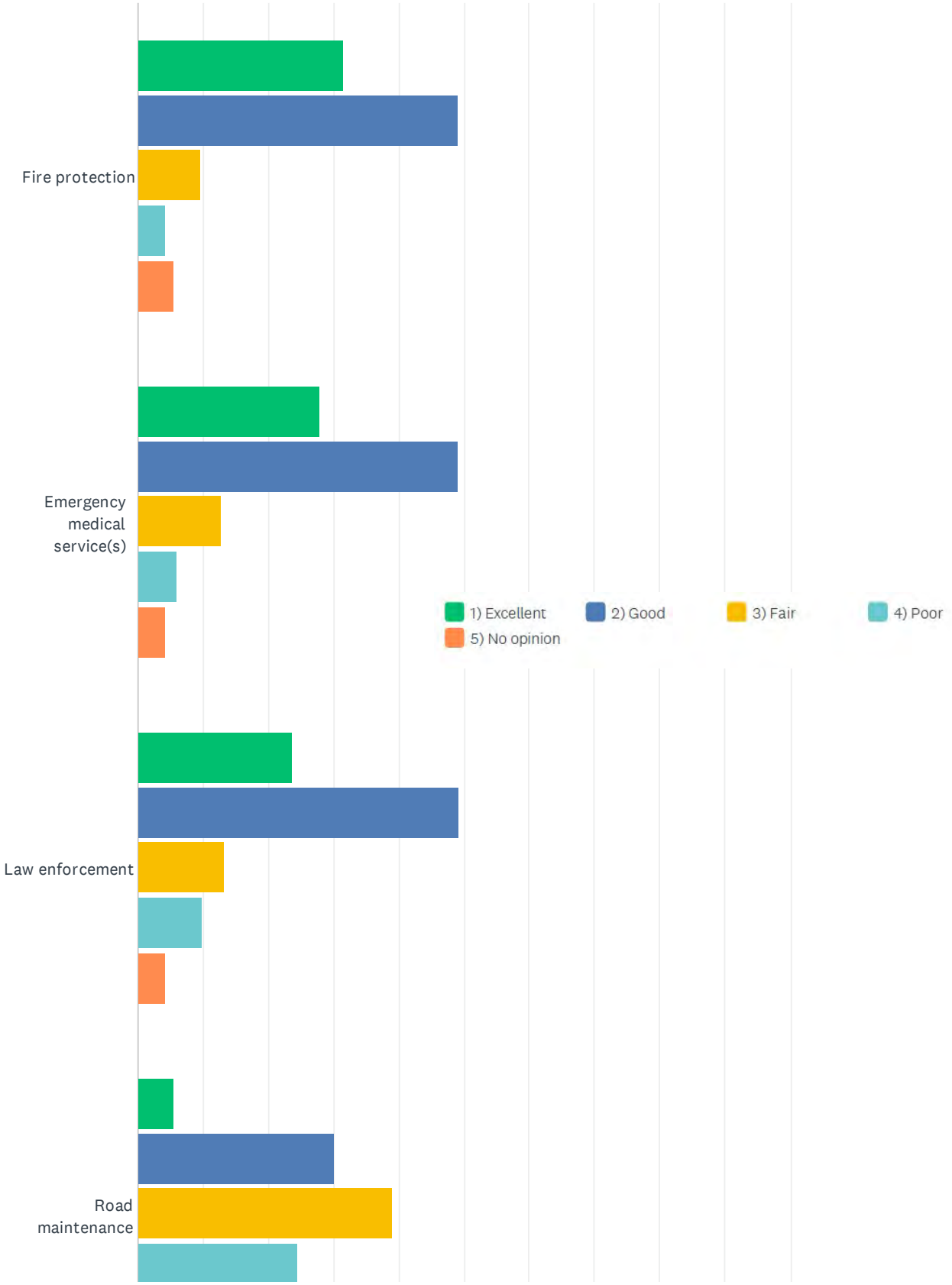


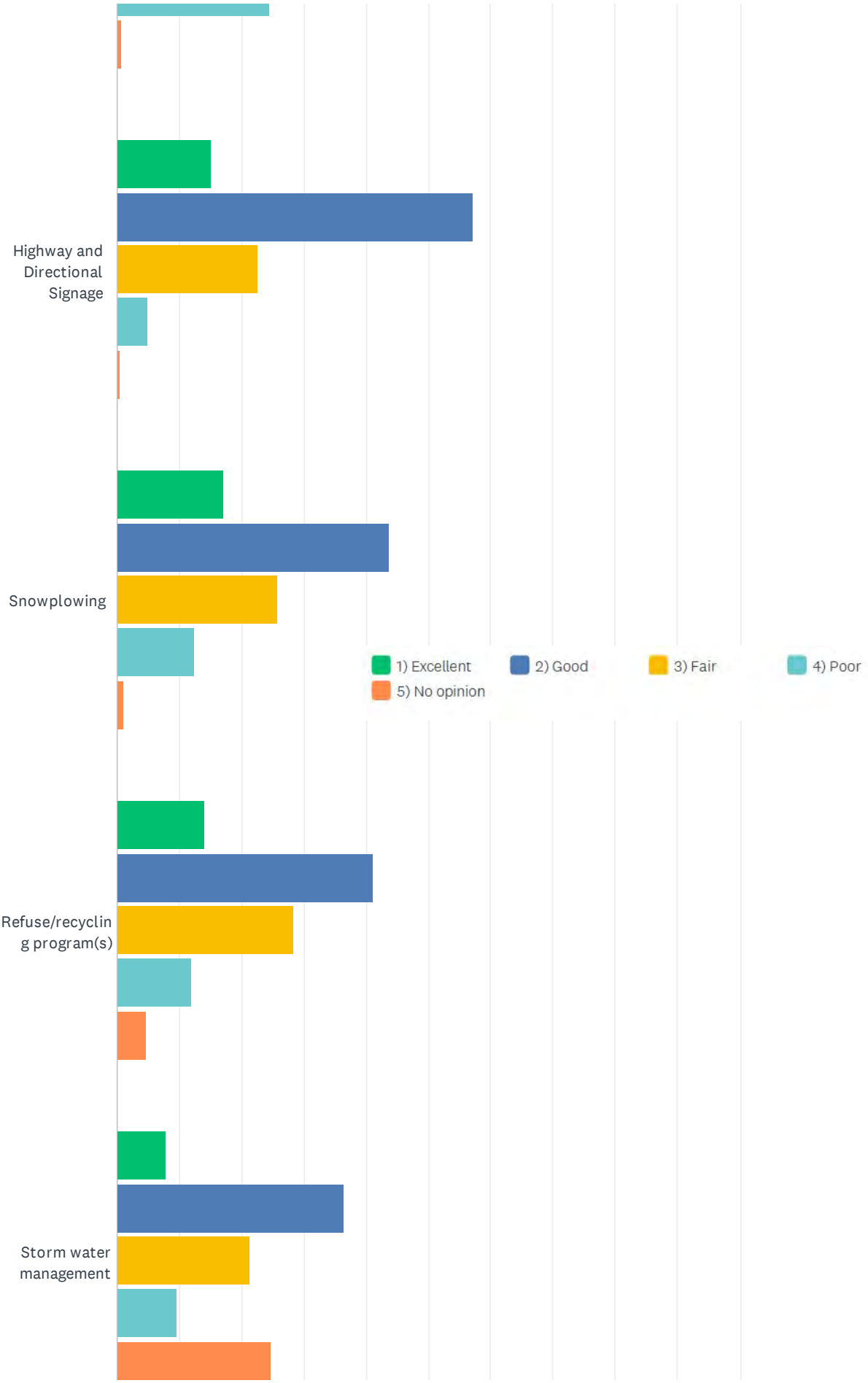


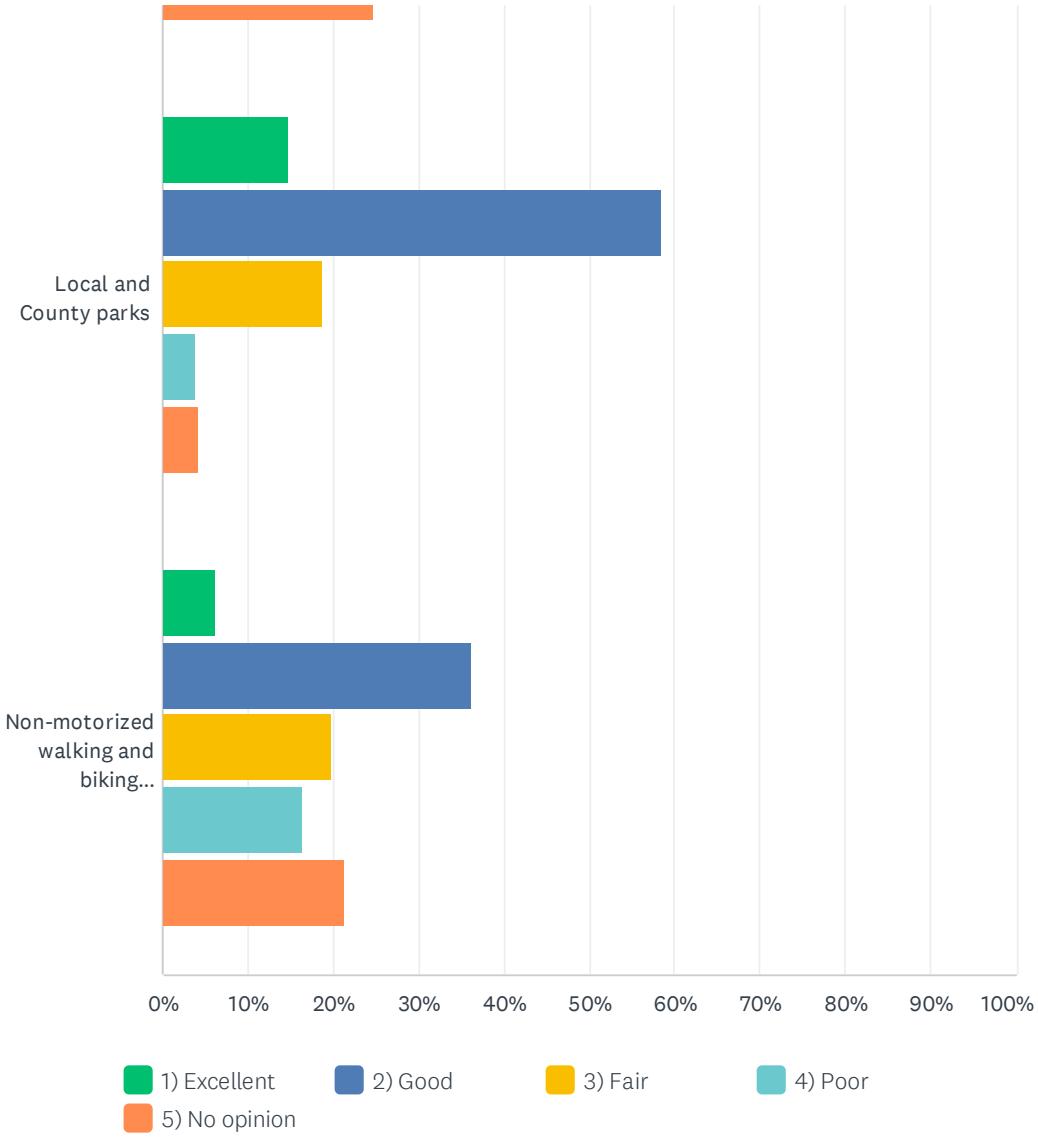
	1) STRONGLY AGREE	2) AGREE	3) DISAGREE	4) STRONGLY DISAGREE	5) NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
There should be a minimum lot size on residential development in rural areas.	17.48% 54	35.28% 109	22.98% 71	8.09% 25	16.18% 50	309	2.70
There should be a maximum lot size on residential development in rural areas.	16.23% 50	27.92% 86	25.32% 78	11.69% 36	18.83% 58	308	2.89
Visual impacts of development is an important consideration when evaluating proposed development.	30.10% 93	47.90% 148	10.36% 32	2.27% 7	9.39% 29	309	2.13
Landowners should be allowed to develop land any way they want, even if it could be harmful or a nuisance to a neighbor or the environment.	3.88% 12	9.39% 29	31.72% 98	50.16% 155	4.85% 15	309	3.43

Q18 Please rate the following services in your portion of Dodge County:

Answered: 305 Skipped: 62



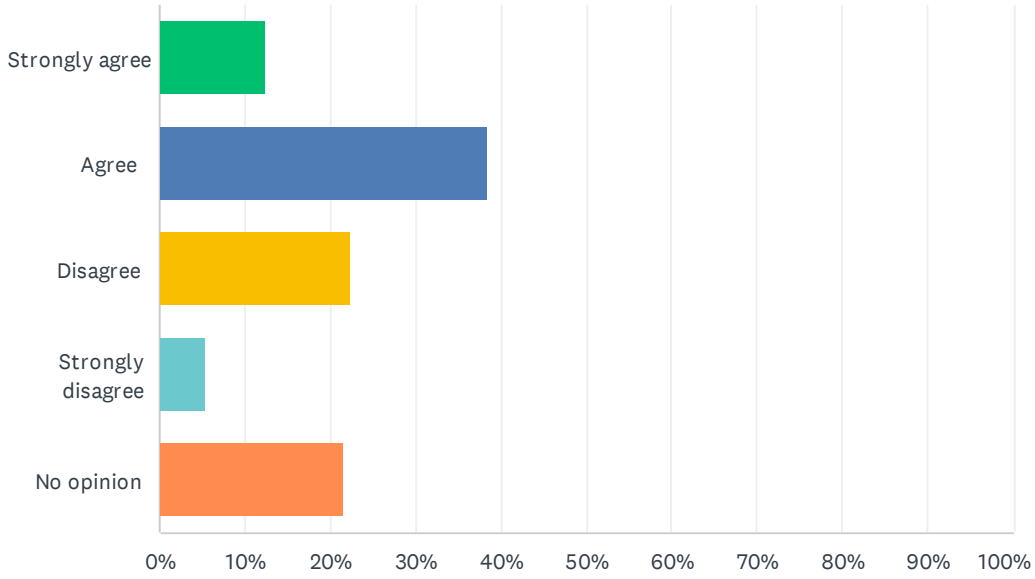

Highway and Directional Signage
Snowplowing
Refuse/recycling program(s)
Storm water management
1) Excellent
2) Good
3) Fair
4) Poor
5) No opinion


Local and County parks
Non-motorized walking and biking...
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
1) Excellent
2) Good
3) Fair
4) Poor
5) No opinion

	1) EXCELLENT	2) GOOD	3) FAIR	4) POOR	5) NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Fire protection	31.58% 96	49.01% 149	9.54% 29	4.28% 13	5.59% 17	304	2.03
Emergency medical service(s)	27.96% 85	49.01% 149	12.83% 39	5.92% 18	4.28% 13	304	2.10
Law enforcement	23.61% 72	49.18% 150	13.11% 40	9.84% 30	4.26% 13	305	2.22
Road maintenance	5.57% 17	30.16% 92	39.02% 119	24.59% 75	0.66% 2	305	2.85
Highway and Directional Signage	15.08% 46	57.05% 174	22.62% 69	4.92% 15	0.33% 1	305	2.18
Snowplowing	17.05% 52	43.61% 133	25.90% 79	12.46% 38	0.98% 3	305	2.37
Refuse/recycling program(s)	14.14% 43	41.12% 125	28.29% 86	11.84% 36	4.61% 14	304	2.52
Storm water management	7.89% 24	36.51% 111	21.38% 65	9.54% 29	24.67% 75	304	3.07
Local and County parks	14.75% 45	58.36% 178	18.69% 57	3.93% 12	4.26% 13	305	2.25
Non-motorized walking and biking facilities	6.25% 19	36.18% 110	19.74% 60	16.45% 50	21.38% 65	304	3.11

Q19 Local Fire and Emergency Medical Service Districts should seek to be more effective and efficient through the consolidation of services. (Choose one only)

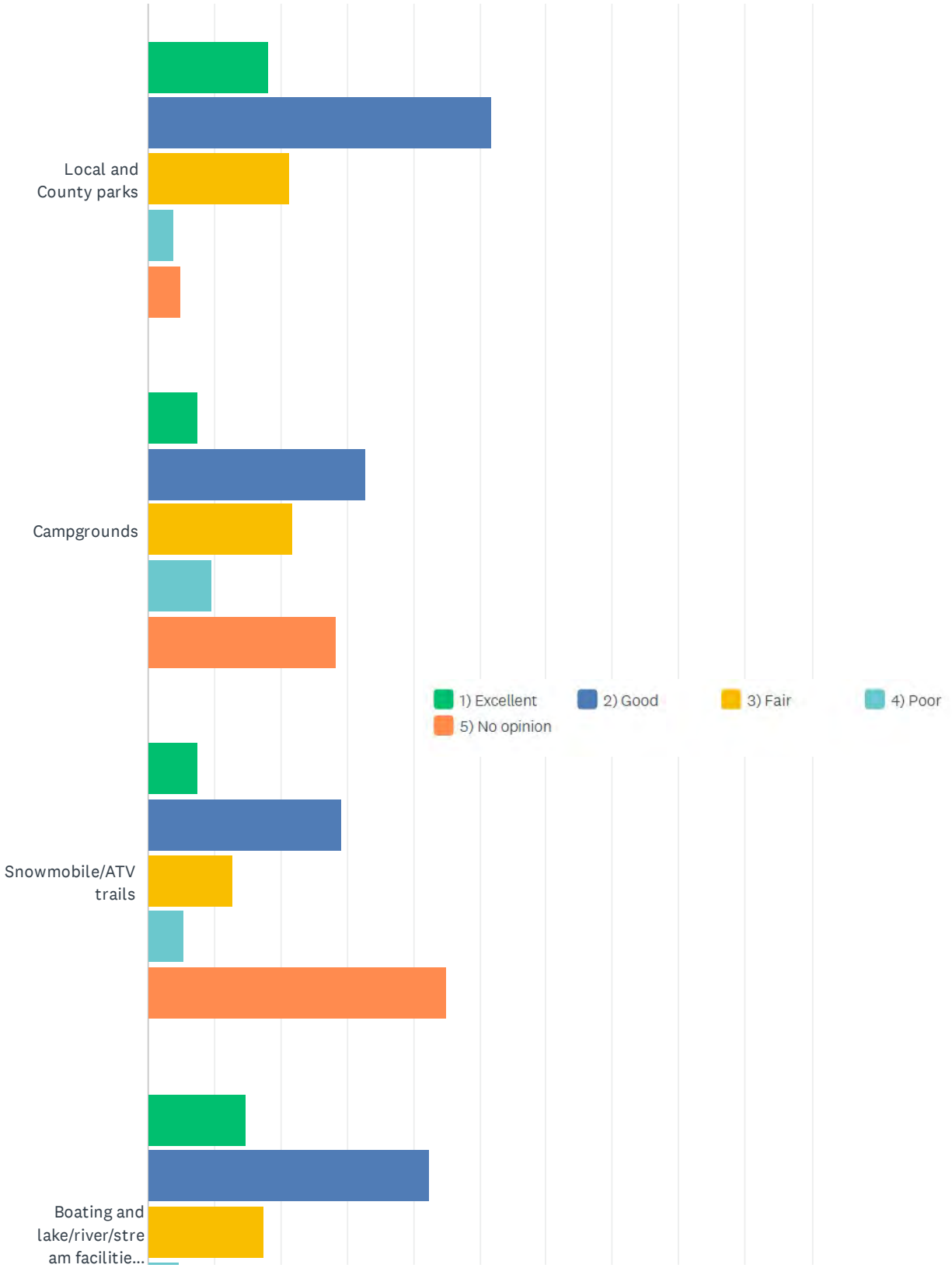
Answered: 305 Skipped: 62

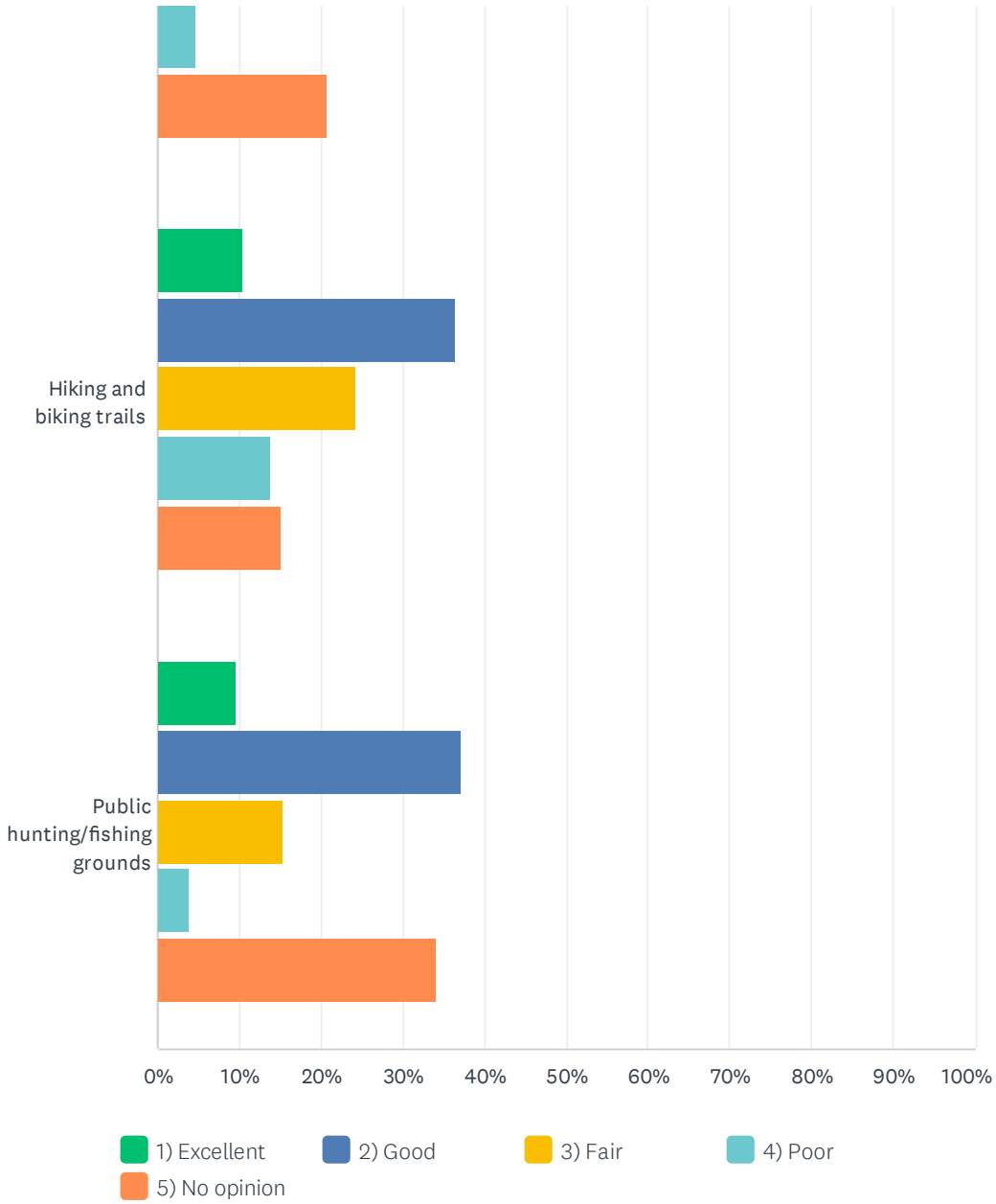


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	12.46%	38
Agree	38.36%	117
Disagree	22.30%	68
Strongly disagree	5.25%	16
No opinion	21.64%	66
TOTAL		305

Q20 Please rate the availability of recreation facilities and trails in Dodge County:

Answered: 305 Skipped: 62

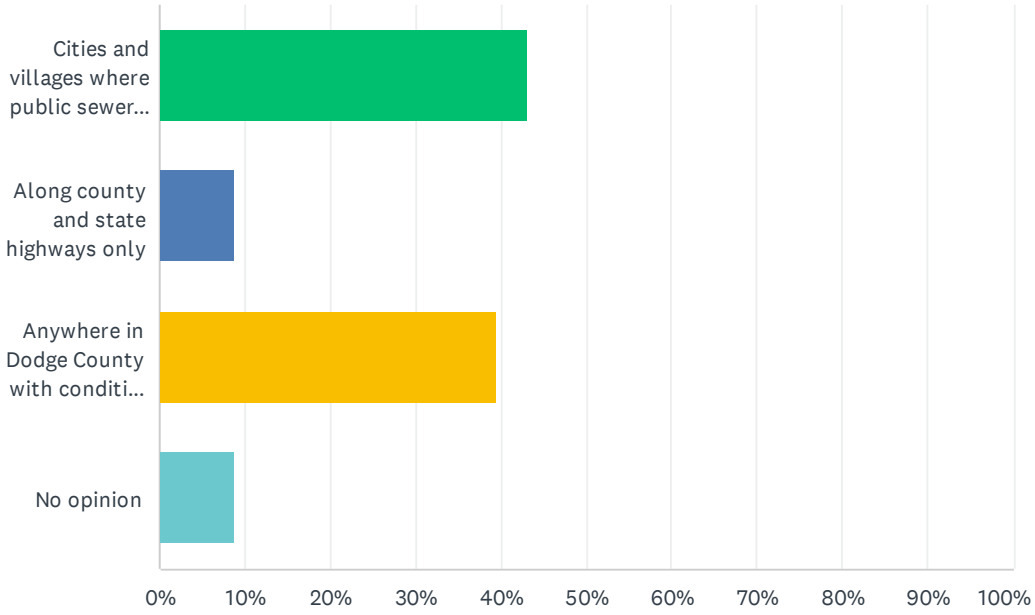




	1) EXCELLENT	2) GOOD	3) FAIR	4) POOR	5) NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Local and County parks	18.03% 55	51.80% 158	21.31% 65	3.93% 12	4.92% 15	305	2.26
Campgrounds	7.57% 23	32.89% 100	21.71% 66	9.54% 29	28.29% 86	304	3.18
Snowmobile/ATV trails	7.57% 23	29.28% 89	12.83% 39	5.26% 16	45.07% 137	304	3.51
Boating and lake/river/stream facilities access	14.80% 45	42.43% 129	17.43% 53	4.61% 14	20.72% 63	304	2.74
Hiking and biking trails	10.49% 32	36.39% 111	24.26% 74	13.77% 42	15.08% 46	305	2.87
Public hunting/fishing grounds	9.51% 29	37.05% 113	15.41% 47	3.93% 12	34.10% 104	305	3.16

Q21 Commercial or industrial buildings and activities should be located in…(Choose one only)

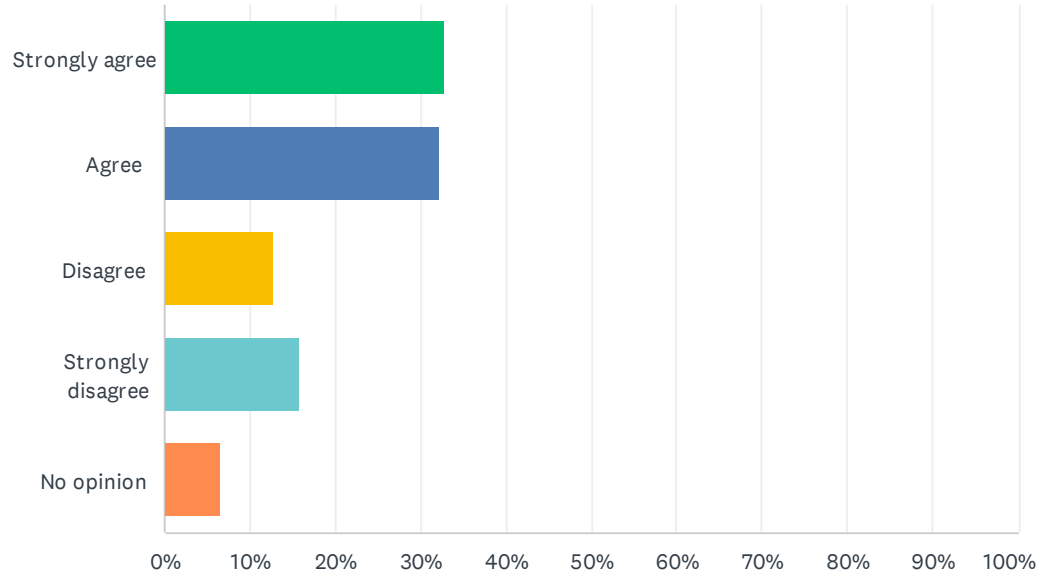
Answered: 299 Skipped: 68



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Cities and villages where public sewer and water are available	43.14%	129
Along county and state highways only	8.70%	26
Anywhere in Dodge County with conditions applied	39.46%	118
No opinion	8.70%	26
TOTAL		299

Q22 Do you support the incorporation of renewable energy systems (solar, wind, etc.) into public and private building developments? (Choose one only)

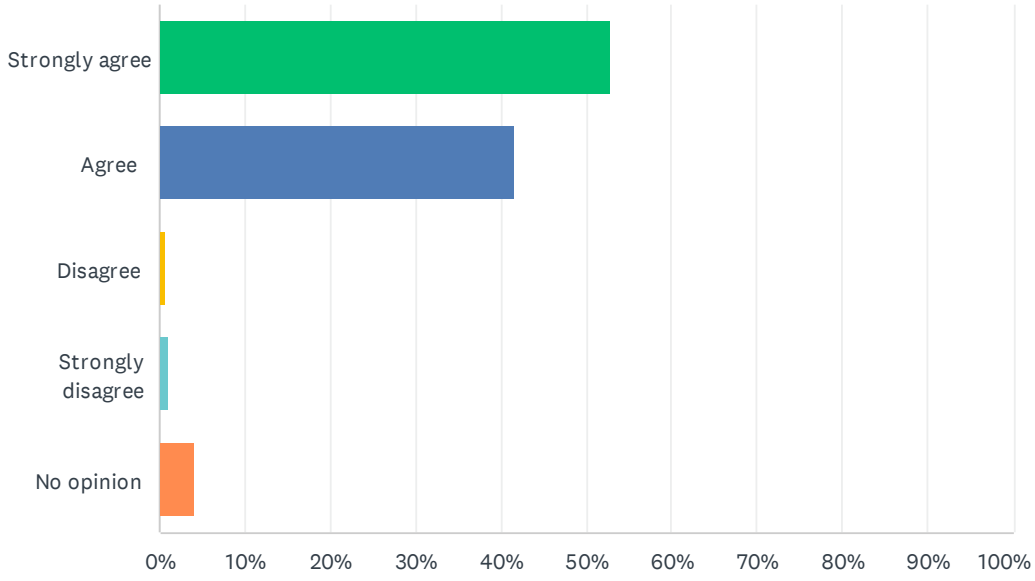
Answered: 299 Skipped: 68



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	32.78%	98
Agree	32.11%	96
Disagree	12.71%	38
Strongly disagree	15.72%	47
No opinion	6.69%	20
TOTAL		299

Q23 Please rate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement. Dodge County should continue to work collaboratively on workforce development (recruitment, career path education, youth apprenticeships, etc.). (Choose one only)

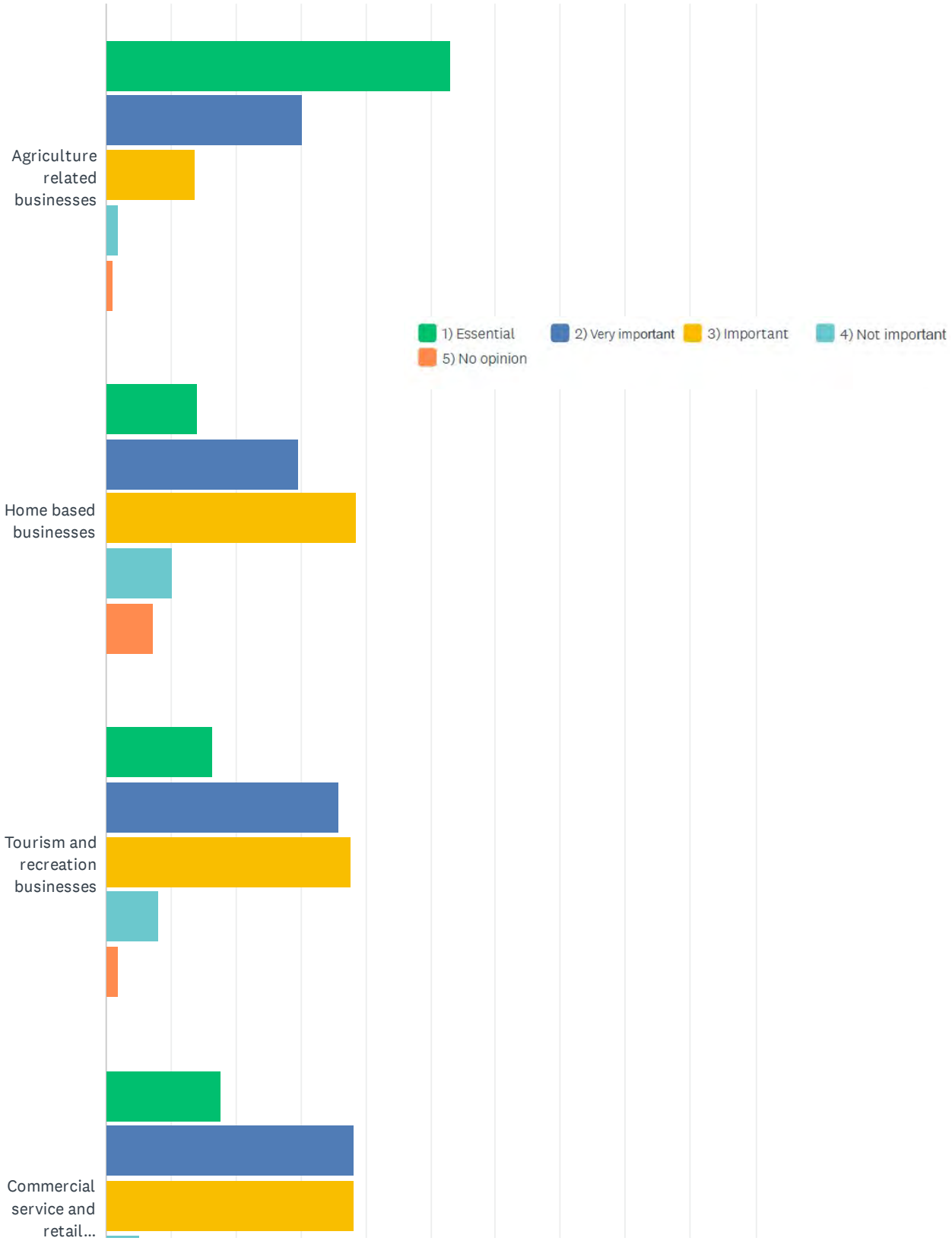
Answered: 299 Skipped: 68

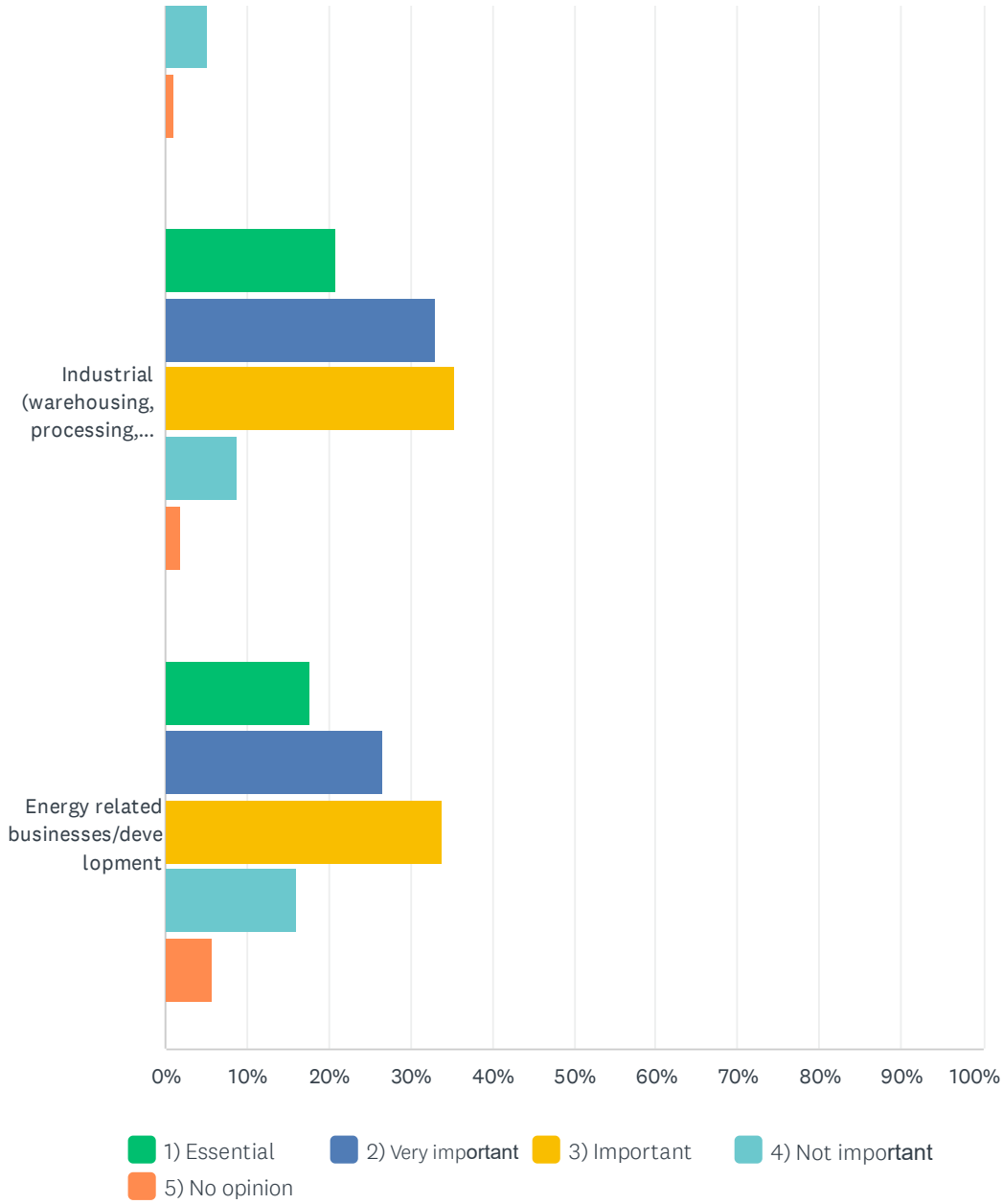


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	52.84%	158
Agree	41.47%	124
Disagree	0.67%	2
Strongly disagree	1.00%	3
No opinion	4.01%	12
TOTAL		299

Q24 Please rate the importance of the following types of businesses or industries in Dodge County:

Answered: 300 Skipped: 67





	1) ESSENTIAL	2) VERY IMPORTANT	3) IMPORTANT	4) NOT IMPORTANT	5) NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Agriculture related businesses	53.00% 159	30.33% 91	13.67% 41	2.00% 6	1.00% 3	300	1.68
Home based businesses	14.00% 42	29.67% 89	38.67% 116	10.33% 31	7.33% 22	300	2.67
Tourism and recreation businesses	16.39% 49	35.79% 107	37.79% 113	8.03% 24	2.01% 6	299	2.43
Commercial service and retail development	17.73% 53	38.13% 114	38.13% 114	5.02% 15	1.00% 3	299	2.33
Industrial (warehousing, processing, transportation, and manufacturing) development	21.00% 63	33.00% 99	35.33% 106	8.67% 26	2.00% 6	300	2.38
Energy related businesses/development	17.67% 53	26.67% 80	34.00% 102	16.00% 48	5.67% 17	300	2.65

Sorted Responses to Question #25: Please provide any additional comments regarding planning in Dodge County for land use, housing, economic development transportation, public services/facilities, agriculture, natural resources, cultural resources, and intergovernmental cooperation:

	Comprehensive Plan 9 Element Mentions		
Responses	1	2	3
Maximum lot size for residential, non-agricultural, parcels should be 1 acre. Residential dwelling units on agricultural parcels should remain an accessory use.	HOUSING	AG/NAT/CUL	
Thanks for putting out a survey. Good start. I would like to see more housing, more reasons to visit. We should do more with tourism. Would like more trails and better items in parks like playgrounds and such. I think we are moving in the right direction but it's slow going.	HOUSING	EC. DEV.	
Housing should be more affordable for first time buyers and people who have to rent and who can't afford to buy. More programs to help first time buyers. Job training and recourses for people to get back in the work force.	HOUSING	EC. DEV.	
Communities need assistance with their sewer plants. residents cannot afford 100%-300% increase to their water/sewer bills. Child care and housing of all levels need to be a priority. current "affordable" single family homes being built in a few communities are 3x what I paid for my current house 6 years ago. I don't know how a normal middle class family can afford them. Emergency housing services are needed, homelessness is a problem in our county. More businesses to bring more decent paying jobs and not necessarily jobs that require schooling or specialized training.	HOUSING	EC. DEV.	
-There seems to be a shortage of $200k homes. - I prefer the County to continue to have a rural feel. We do need industry and shopping, but we should constrain the locations to be more or less bundled to avoid too much sprawl.	HOUSING	LAND USE	
Increase housing and transportation across Dodge County and improve and increase public services, natural resources, and cultural diversity	HOUSING	TRANSP	AG/NAT/CUL
I would like to see Rent pricing go down, roads to not just have their pot holes filled a little, water utility and lastly, energy pricing to go down; as we have windmills and solar panels-why can't we benefit from them? Why does Rent have to be so expensive when nothing is being changed? Can you please help?	HOUSING	TRANSP	COMM FACIL
Affordable housing/rental properties for senior citizens is a BIG need. From what I have seen and checked into….a big majority of our senior citizens cannot afford what is out there. I know that a lot of them use income for the cost of the rent…which is good…BUT….that does not leave them enough to cover other expenses to live a comfortable life.	HOUSING		
There are so many people that bought land many years ago. They do nothing with it. It's simply an investment which is wonderful but because of this, there's nowhere for any new housing. We are being forced out of our current home because our neighbors are allowed to block fire trucks accessing our home. We would love to build near Waupun but cannot find any land. We're now looking at completely moving school districts closer to Hartford area because we've been failed by every aspect of Dodge county. Town officials, county officials, law enforcement, fire department… all because they allow someone to threaten them with money. He's allowed to put an entire families life at risk. I've never been so disappointed and embarrassed to call Dodge county home.	HOUSING		
As single family housing has been a issue for quite sometime. It will be essential that the county work collaboratively with municipalities through the comprehensive plan to establish a road map for single family housing developments.	HOUSING		
Affordable housing is essential!!!!	HOUSING		
It would be nice to see rural subdivisions with smaller, more affordable single family homes, cottage style homes or tiny homes. I think there are a lot of renters that want to own but have limited choice and limited funds to afford what is available on the market. Lifting restrictions on minimum land size, minimum house size, etc, will provide the opportunity for these people to be able to take pride in home ownership and remain longer in our communities.	HOUSING		
We need more new single family homes in various price ranges (mid to high end). The current newer single family homes, while affordable, are also cookie cutter and don't offer enough variety for people looking to build in the $500-800k range.	HOUSING		
I strongly believe something needs to be put into place that requires homes for sale to be available to ONLY primary residence families for X amount of days (example: 30 days) before rental property owners have the option to buy. Beaver Dam has TOO MANY rental properties that are single family homes, and there are so many families wanting to buy but cannot afford the more average of homes for sale because rental owners come in with cash offers and get them immediately. Our community needs less rental properties and more homes for families wanting to move into our area. My last home in BD was sold to a Sun Prairie family wanting to be here in town. I can't imagine they're the only out of town/county families wanting to be here. It's nearly impossible for a low/medium income family to purchase a home here, and that is so unfortunate, especially for those who grew up living here their whole lives but can't afford a $250k home to stay here. Very sad.	HOUSING		
Affordable housing is important. Single family dwellings will attract families that will be a boost to our community and schools. I am against increasing large multifamily units and/or low income housing because over time I feel it will only lead to more social ills.	HOUSING		

Dodge county has lots of apartments theyhave skyrocketed in price and they are not being maintained. mold. bugs heat issues. The county could benefit from an inspector	HOUSING		
New subdivisions with less restrictive minimum square footage requirements would increase the number of affordable homes built in Dodge county.	HOUSING		
I am not in support of solar farms. I support the use of renewable energy but using productive farmland to put up acres of solar panels will be detrimental to the health of our county. Solar panels placed on businesses and homes on roofs is a much better use of the land and resources. Fire and EMS is the major challenge in my opinion. The cost of equipment and staffing challenges present a major impact on the ability for townships to provide adequate care for residents and those visiting our county. I also am not in support of large business endeavors if we do not also have adequate housing.	AG/NAT/CUL	COMM FACIL	
We need to protect farmland and make it easier to purchase food directly from farmers. We need to support families and values to drastically reduce crime and illegal activity and protect children from drugs and trafficking.	AG/NAT/CUL	GENER	
conserving farmland is a must, affprdable housing, under 200,000.00 houses, skip solar and wind farms altogether. with the subsidies removed they loose money. and in the end where are they disposed?	AG/NAT/CUL	HOUSING	
Would like to see renewable energy used, more protection of the groundwater from Ag runoff and pollution. More affordable housing and more social services support for those that need it.	AG/NAT/CUL	HOUSING	
We need to lean into and protect our abundance of natural resources, while addressing the need for more affordable housing and protecting all the people that live and work in our area.	AG/NAT/CUL	HOUSING	
Let's move towards utilizing the the beautiful natural resources we have in Dodge for recreation and tourism. Let's be like Minnesota and emphasize parks and green spaces for the good of the citizens. Fix the darn roads in rural areas. I can't even get high speed internet where I live. Hopefully someone is using some of Biden's infrastructure funds for that and more. NO POLITICAL AGENDA SHOULD INTERFERE WITH THIS. IF THE MONEY IS THERE-USE IT. Honestly if the housing crisis didn't exist, we would be gone already. We had planned on moving to Minnesota or Stevens Point because those are areas motivated to develop resources for the good of the citizens, not just doing nothing to keep taxes down. Sick of that conservative attitude that spending any money at all is some sort of sin. Get more young people in government, kick the old codgers (like me!) out and get some youthful energy (Like ex-mayor Becky) in here. Get rid of the naysayers on the board and get some 'doer's in there.	AG/NAT/CUL	TRANSP	HOUSING
The county needs to be careful of the too many solar farms ruining our farm land. They also need to fund more trails etc with private funds.	AG/NAT/CUL	TRANSP	
Solar and wind farms are an eye sore. They are not very productive. The turbines are not turning most of the time near Iron Ridge, so why we need them. The rail bridges in Dodge Cty need to be improved so the roads lanes are wider and have more clearances. The county needs to encourage the rail companies to make these improvements ASAP.	AG/NAT/CUL	TRANSP	
It's very irritating the developers and city's seem to do what they want and farmers have so much regulation regarding drain tile and drainage ditch up keep. The county is failing on keeping roads in good condition and don't mow road sides very well which in turn is a safety hazard for drivers and creates brush and nuisance weeds and brushin road right of ways.	AG/NAT/CUL	TRANSP	
There needs to be more research and rulings on the process of the spreading of manure!!!	AG/NAT/CUL		
Solar farms should not be using good farmland. Protect farmland	AG/NAT/CUL		
Please ensure no more wind mills, solar panels and all other environmentally destructive so-called renewable energy projects are allowed. They are destructive to our landscape, wild life, property values and quality of our lives. They cause irreparable harm to our environment not to mention provide nearly no economic benefit but rather drive up energy costs. Please be a leader and stand up to the out of county special interests that seek to rape and pillage the land we have lived on for over a century.	AG/NAT/CUL		
Hold farmers accountable for spreading liquid manure near creeks, streams, etc. Also for fires started during dry seasons. Too many wildfires started due to plain stupidity on their part.	AG/NAT/CUL		
Proper stewardship of the land and resources should be taken into account to avoid overbuilding and maintain a balance such that the county thrives.	AG/NAT/CUL		
Work needs to be done to lessen the damage being done along the Rock River south of Hustisford.	AG/NAT/CUL		
stop building permits in prime agriculture areas	AG/NAT/CUL		
Please no more solar panels and wind mills. They are taking up the land and reducing property values	AG/NAT/CUL		
Please keep our water, air, and ground clean and safe!	AG/NAT/CUL		
Bring back the family farm. Its almost impossible for them to make a living. People should be allowed to be self sufficient!;	AG/NAT/CUL		
Solar should NOT be allowed to take over farmlands!	AG/NAT/CUL		
Prioritize retaining and support of agricultural land and related businesses. Once we have utilized the ag land for housing growth there will be no second crop to feed the public. We also need a continued support of community .	AG/NAT/CUL		

I think working on all of the things in this survey will benefit the people of Dodge County. Though a focus on natural resources and agriculture will provide a sense of pride for the land that we live on.	AG/NAT/CUL		
All of the planning must take into consideration sustainability, maintaining safe, clean water, air and fair employment practices	AG/NAT/CUL		
Could lead-alternatives for hunting and fishing become more of a priority? I feel the public needs to know the risks to human and wildlife, and an endorsement from the County could go a long way. Thank you.	AG/NAT/CUL		
need to look at not doing solar. taking away valuable farm land	AG/NAT/CUL		
Farmers should be allowed to expand there operations	AG/NAT/CUL		
I would like to see Dodge County put a ban all solar and wind energy projects from agricultural lands. It's a shame to see food production land destroyed for these unsustainable and energy inefficient projects. There are lots of building roofs and parking lots in Dodge County. Let's use that and not destroy our environment.	AG/NAT/CUL		
I feel wasting good farmland for solar farms is a bad route.when these die off who is going to pay for reconstitution of the land,clean up all the toxic mess left	AG/NAT/CUL		
We need to quit building on farm land. We have some of the best in the state for growing food and we keep reducing it. We need for food not building.	AG/NAT/CUL		
I'd like to see more public boat launches that are free.	AG/NAT/CUL		
Please support and utilize local vendors for Dodge County services.	EC DEV		
Dodge County is going to continue having former Dane CO residents moving here, especially as Sun Prairie continues to grow. I think ensuring there are still jobs in Dodge CO is essential so this increase is sustainable. I would love to see more group efforts towards promoting locally grown food and maintaining the environment.	EC DEV		
I get the impression larger businesses have not been encouraged to come to dodge county. You only need to go into a grocery store or walmart to see hard they have been shopped or see restaurant parking lots in the evening or weekends to that the population is being under served under the excuse of supporting small business.	EC DEV		
Economic Community growth relies on New Business. This offers new ideas, employment, capital and opportunity! As a community we must protect our natural resourses and be mindful of the impact any new business would present! We are the stewards of our land, water, and air! Any new developement should never contaminate our future!	EC DEV		
Horicon needs restaurants and stores.	EC DEV		
Childcare all shifts because jobs are all shifts! Housing for low income! Manufacturing jobs!	EC DEV		
East-west travel in the county is challenging. the HWY 33 corridor is not safe or efficient. At minimum, passing lanes should be added to STH 33 to avoid risky passing behavior. Ideally a bypass of Horicon and the train mess would be very beneficial.New housing should be designed to match local wages. Reduced red tape will help diminish building costs for young people to afford homes.	TRANSP	HOUSING	
Hughway 33 should be rerouted out of downtown Beaver Dam. The Gold Star trail and other trails should be a priority.	TRANSP		
Roads are a welcome mat to our visitors. Roads are also a gauge to how well our tax dollars are being used.	TRANSP		
It's beyond time that the county/township entities, as well as property owners start utilizing natural or traditional snow fencing in areas prone to drifting. With more & more tree lines being cut down, there are less barriers to break up the wind. Today (2/16) I've been watching the county plow on Hwy C riding around for the last 6 hours either scraping the lane markings off or pushing snow off of the shoulders just to justify scraping a few spots that have drifted. Where is the actual supervision of this operation? Riding around on DOUBLE TIME for a Sunday is a bad look, and a horrible way to waste taxpayer money. It's not a snow emergency to keep pushing snow off of the shoulders. Township roads don't get anything close to this level of treatment. And another thing, the last I looked it was illegal to for property owners to plow their snow across a roadway, but it happens EVERYWHERE. Time to start enforcing that law.	TRANSP		
County Road G should be rerouted as it comes into the City of Beaver Dam. Currently Cty G enters BD from Lowell and continues north on Spring St, turns west on MIll St and then left (back south) on Madison St and then west onto Cty D & G headed toward Randolph. It is more sensible for Cty G from Lowell to turn west onto Hwy 151 and then north onto Cty D and then west at Kwik Trip. This streamlined route would get Cty G out of the City on Spring St making it easier for clarification as to who maintains and plows that south end of Spring St, which has more and more City owned land abutting that road. Also, GPS already shows my recommended route at the best way to travel.	TRANSP		
For safe neighborhoods there should be curb & gutter as well as sidewalks.	TRANSP		
Make big dairys pay fix some roads like w going out Juneau all destroy from tankers all year on it	TRANSP		
Reducing the number of towns that allow ATV traffic within city or village limits.	TRANSP		
Would like more bike/ walking friendly by kwik trip/ walmart/ymca area	TRANSP		
The Gold Star trail expansion is a waste of energy and a over-estimation of what is needed or desired by the community.	TRANSP		

County roads are not maintained properly! State and county roads are not mowed enough in the summer months either. Big budget and not doing a good job in this department. New blacktop observed where no shoulder grading is being done to preserve new and older roads!	TRANSP		
Too many drunk drivers on the road daily.	TRANSP		
I live in apartments in Lomira and we are always the last to receive the plows. The town isn't that big, but with the population being so dense in apartment areas (and kids walking to school), the county should step in where the village can't. We also should just provide more jobs that aren't back-breaking. I've lived in the area for the majority of my life (and when I moved it was only to the Fondy area) and people get stuck here because there is no real way to move out.	COMM FACIL	EC. DEV.	
Sherriffs dept needs to not be racist. As a community it is awful to see	COMM FACIL		
Law enforcement in parks. People ignoring ordinances will only continue to blatantly do so because there isn't enforcement of those ordinances. Government officials put time & consideration into enacting ordinances that then go unenforced. And yes, I have contacted local law enforcement about this issue where I live. The situation has not improved.	COMM FACIL		
The sheriff's office is far too politicized and there is an emphasis on turning it into a profit center for the county. Incarceration should not be a profitable enterprise as it creates incentive for misuse of authority, such as that exercised by the current sheriff. In addition, the position of sheriff should be a nonpartisan office.	COMM FACIL		
Having scattered and mostly volunteer Fire and EMS in our county in my opinion is what needs the most improvement.	COMM FACIL		
I personally don't believe there should be a county wide EMS or fire service but more municipalities sharing resources, why reinvent the wheel when there are some good fire and EMS services, but some difficult ones that just need help or step aside and/or merge services under one entity.	COMM FACIL		
Thanks for the opportunity to respond. Transparency and communication is very important and appreciated. Not after all the decisions have been decided. Long term plans for recycling safely all the solar and wind turbines currently in place.	COMM FACIL		
We can't ignore growing division in this community. The public schools are reflective of the ignorance families continue to demonstrate towards Latinos and Blacks. Our police chief is amazing but there are racist officers and our sheriff is more interested in growing on Trump's team than he is in helping people feel safe. The community deserves for everyone to feel safe and not just Trump loyalists.	COMM FACIL		
Would be great to see more opportunities for social exercise for all ages such as more opportunities to play sports such as indoor pickleball.	COMM FACIL		
All new commercial properties built in the county should be REQUIRED to have solar installed on the roof top. Not on the lawn next to the building. We can not lose any more land to solar!	COMM FACIL		
Why can't Hustisford fire department Ambulance transport minor non life threatening medical patients. Although volunteers, they are trained and licensed EMT's and should be able to transport minor cases. Paramedics coming all the way from Hartford with a response time of 20 or more minutes to arrival at a cost of near $2,000.00 for a cut finger or twisted ankle is ridiculous.	COMM FACIL		
No more windmills and no solar.	COMM FACIL		
The mountain of garbage outside of Mayville is huge and stinky. And, not all local. Hope it was worth the dollars taken in to probably contaminate the water and air. Blue flames at sunset are ugly.	COMM FACIL		
Please ensure that developers proposals include them paying their fair share of infrastructure costs, public services expansion costs, etc. Please ensure public and business taxes and other public revenues keep up with the costs of growth and community maintenance and improvement.	COMM FACIL		
There are too many vacant spaces within the cities in Dodge County. We need to use this space before we take from the townships. Housing needs to be more affordable or we will lose our younger population and our seniors.	LAND USE	HOUSING	
In section 17 you ask if a landowner can do whatever he wants with his land even if neighbors and other people disagree, I would hope they could work it out.	LAND USE		
Dodge County has a unique opportunity to set a forward-thinking example by prioritizing renewable energy, environmental safeguards, and a strong sense of community. Focusing on sustainable practices not only preserves our natural resources but also supports local businesses and creates a healthier environment for future generations. By investing in walkable cities, we can foster a vibrant, close-knit community where residents can interact, shop locally, and reduce their carbon footprints. Additionally, limiting investment-owned property will help ensure that homes and businesses remain accessible to those who truly want to live and contribute to the county. Let's build a more sustainable, resilient, and connected Dodge County for all!	LAND USE		
Land use needs to be monitored and should be kept in farmland if possible. Renovate old manufacturing sites that are sitting empty into new business districts instead of buying our fertile farmland. Is that solar field going to be a hazardous waste site in 20 years??	LAND USE		
Re-zone - use space more efficiently, make the city more walkable	LAND USE		

Let home/property owners have more permission to do what they want with what they own. Stipulations - sure, as long as it's not harmful or disturbing others then it should be allowed. This is a small town with amenities to necessities and many residents love that. We do not need to turn into a big city or tourist town. Horicon sits on a major travel road to get across the state, there's plenty of opportunity of profit for travelers, such as another small gas station, or food mart. Smaller motel. Restaurants. Things that benefit the travelers and a community without over crowding or dismantling a small town. Additionally, there are SO many residents that enjoy recreational outdoor activities, we need to keep and/or maximize space for that regardless of the season. There's always people around doing so many outdoor activities.	LAND USE		
Residential, commercial, manufacturing, and energy development continues to affect the small town and rural feel of the county. This needs to be managed more carefully. Prioritize maintenance of existing facilities and repair of natural resources over further development.	LAND USE		
If i own 40 or more acres I should be able to to take a small chunk of it to build a home without a township trying to make all kinds of funny rules or trying to preserve a piece of land with a oil pipeline threw it or not give a hassle trying to remove invasive buck thorn for natural tree's to grow. Quit letting people build on less than 40 acres if you want to keep the county rural.	LAND USE		
I think we should encourage use [of] closed up buildings before land is bought and built on	LAND USE		
We need to be incredibly skeptical of nonlocal hypecycle projects coming into the area	LAND USE		
Get rid of the strip club. Need more to do for families	LAND USE		
The County should co-operate with other jurisdictions within the County on projects for instance: towns and cities.	INTERGOV		
I strongly believe that within a 3 mile buffer of an incorporated area residential development should be prohibited unless annexed into the municipality. It is not equitable or fair for individuals to live on the fringe of a City and not pay taxes.	INTERGOV		
who and how to fund is always the question. what will the fed and state funding look like in the timeframe of this survey?	IMPL		
Thank you for asking for public opinion, but ultimately we need to utilize the opinions of experts in the related fields to maintain clean, healthy, safe environments for everyone- not just considering the financial benefits of the already rich.	IMPL		
Tax money not going to help city. See less and less city workers doing required work. Empty lots and turnover every few months on buildings of business to rent. No positive impact on community whatsoever ever.	IMPL		
doesnt pay to do wage studies when the county board and administrator does nothing with it. Then you all cant wonder why you cant get qualified and decent help to fill jobs. Keep up with other counties around you. Waste of money to do a wage study 4 years ago and do nothing with it. And, i'm NOT a county employee. To me, seams like you have to many Chiefs and not enough indians. County board could be cut in half and you'd still have to many.	IMPL		
Landowner shouldn't have to go through hoops and wade through numerous "laws" to build a house on land not used in their agricultural operation.	IMPL		
Light the "fire" under the County Board and do something with this survey results, otherwise why do it?	IMPL		
I believe the more information that can be shared with an affected area about project in an open meeting and not by Facebook and social . media with open transparency the better.	IMPL		
Make decisions based on common sense and reasonable economic impacts. Politics and economic gain of special interest groups should not control the decision making process. It's called "Smart Growth", not "NO Growth"!	IMPL		
Cities and Towns should apply for grants or, be funded, to allow downtown districts to either offer funds for facade or building improvements Or all cities to purchase derelict homes, main street-type buildings for renovation and repurposing /sale. In addition, Zoning and ordinances should be actively enforced regarding the storage of junk, vehicles parked in front yards, garbage, side walk and step maintenance, and up keep. This needs to be done sooner than later to avoid neighborhoods from looking blighted.	IMPL		
Just wish regulations were imposed on leafblower usage. They're not necessary for more than a half hour (unless some created a mess) from May 15 to Oct 15. And mowing twice a week max, and only once a week after July 15th. My neighbor mows his lawn over and over in the same spots, cutting nothing. I watched him mow the front for hours doing it at least 10 times. It's intentional harassment and everyone knows it. A precedent has to be legislated. PLEASE	IMPL		
Keep up the good work!	GENERAL		
Thanks - keep up the good work	GENERAL		
In general, our household would like to see our communities thrive, the environment protected, opportunities for career/housing, and a safe place to live. We fully support our police force and are grateful for their service, however, it would be nice to see more presence locally in our neighborhoods.	GENERAL		
I'd like a better understanding how improvements in "city" Will affect property taxes. I've had a 65% increase over 4 years and will consider leaving Dodge County if this continues.	GENERAL		
Dodge County is a good, rural community. Let's keep it that way.	GENERAL		

Please remember to inform and not influence. Listen to all of the people, not just the ones that talk the loudest.	GENERAL		
Dodge County Websites could be more user friendly. Simple interface.	GENERAL		
Thank you for this survey. You will get more people on board with your plans when you ask and consider their opinions.	GENERAL		
I am proud to live in a RURAL community. The Dodge County departments have been very helpful, friendly, and knowledgeable.	GENERAL		
I have seen how low income has ruined communities. I have seen how bus systems bring in trashy people. I think beaver dam and dodge county need to not be like sun prairie, where they keep adding commercial buildings and big corporations. I want beaver dam & dodge county focus on small business and take care of our parks and natural resources. Don't put trashy wind terbines or huge toxic solar farms in our county. Let's be focused on farming and get people into more agriculture. Fix the city roads that are horrible and focus on making our property taxes lower again so life can be affordable again. If we keep taxing a lot on property we are taxing people out of their homes. And bigger city folks are buying up our property. We need to focus on affordable living. Make our parks unique so people will travel to visit beaver dam. Get the small businesses going down town so people come to beaver dam to visit. We don't need more bigger business or corporations. We need to focus on the people, parks, environment, roads, and lower the cost. Also. Need to work on removing kids in schools who are bullies. The schools are too lenient on that. And it's effecting kids who want to learn.	GENERAL		
Dodge county is a great coin to live in	GENERAL		
I think Dodge is great!	GENERAL		
Keep dodge co rural	GENERAL		
Let us NOT join the likings of such small towns as Eagle or Mukwonago nor the once small cities of Sun Prairie or Fond Du Lac. Let us remain the county where people enjoy to visit and live simple. Bigger is not always better. More theft, means more money for police; more manufacturing means more pollution. We can aways drive or carpool if need be to get what our county may not have.	GENERAL		
There is always room for improvement	GENERAL		
Nothing additional	GENERAL		
Thank you for ALL your efforts to develop a great Comprehensive Plan for Dodge County.	GENERAL		
Question with three levels of "important" out of four alternatives? Overall, a terrible survey.	GENERAL		

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Appendix F – Town Survey Summary

Dodge County Comprehensive Plan Update
Towns Survey

As part of the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan update process, we are reaching out to Town government officials for feedback on land use planning and zoning administration items. We request this survey be placed on your Town Board and or your Town Planning Commission agenda for discussion and completion.

Please complete and return the survey to the following by February 28, 2025.

Dodge County Land Resources and Park Dept
127 E Oak Street
Juneau, WI 53039
Attention: Morgan Muche
Or Scan and email to: mmuche@co.dodge.wi.us

General Questions (All towns answer these questions)

1. When was the last update to the Town's Comprehensive Plan?
   - ☐ 1-5 years
   - ☐ 6-10 years
   - ☐ More than 10 years

2. Does your town actively use the town's Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use Map to guide rezoning decisions?
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No

3. Does your Town utilize the on-line Dodge County Geographic Information System (GIS) resources? (GIS web mapping tool, land information search tool for parcel mapping & data, map creation/analysis for planning-related issues, etc.)
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No
   - ☐ Not sure

4. Would your town use the Dodge County Geographic Information System (GIS) resources more if more training was provided?
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No
   - ☐ Not sure

5. In the past, Dodge County hosted Town & County meetings to collaborate on issues and opportunities. Would your Town be interested in reestablishing those joint meetings?
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No
   - ☐ Not Sure

   State why:

   _____

   _____

6. If yes, how frequently should they be held?
    - □ Once a year
    - □ Twice a year
    - □ Quarterly
    - □ Once every other year
    - □ Other: _____

Dodge County has hosted educational workshops with the Center for Land Use Education (CLUE - UW-Stevens Point), those workshops focused on a variety of land use regulatory activities.

7. Did someone from your current Town Board or Town Planning commission or Board of Appeals attend one or both of those workshops?
    - □ Yes
    - □ No
    - □ Not Sure

8. Would any of your current Town official attend future educational workshops from the Center for Land Use Education or other entities?
    - □ Yes
    - □ No
    - □ Not Sure

    Any certain topics of interest?

    _____

    _____

9. How would you rate your experience with the staff of the Land Resources and Parks Department?
    - □ Very supportive and helpful
    - □ Somewhat supportive and helpful
    - □ Neutral/NA
    - □ Somewhat unsupportive/not helpful
    - □ Very unsupportive/not helpful

    State why or what could be improved:

    _____

    _____

    _____

10. What areas do you think your Town needs more assistance/help with?
    - □ Comprehensive planning assistance
    - □ Zoning code or ordinance updates
    - □ GIS (mapping) assistance
    - □ Parks & trails planning
    - □ Grant writing
    - □ Educational workshops
    - □ Other.

    List:

    _____

    _____

11. What are your Town's most pressing land use issues at this time? (Check all that apply)
    - □ Loss of farmland to residential development
    - □ Loss of farmland to renewable energy systems (ex. solar. wind.)
    - □ Nuisance complaints about farming activities
    - □ Loss of natural resources & habitat
    - □ Concern over types of home occupational businesses
    - □ Housing costs for new home buyers
    - □ Need for more public trails
    - □ Impacts of non-metallic mining
    - □ Need to generate more development to create local jobs and grow tax base
    - □ Road maintenance costs to accommodate existing and new development.
    - □ Others.

      List:

      _____

      _____

12. If your Town has not adopted County Zoning, are you interested in meeting with County staff to discuss the potential for adopting County Zoning?
    - □ Yes
    - □ No
    - □ Not sure

If your Town has adopted and administers its own Town Zoning ordinance, please answer the following questions. Otherwise skip to County Zoned Town questions.

13. When was the last update to your Zoning Ordinance?
    - □ 1-5 years
    - □ 6-10 years
    - □ More than 10 years

14. What resources (funds and personnel) do you annually allocate for zoning ordinance administration? (pick one)
    - □ Local part-time Zoning Administrator (ZA).

      Est. annual cost:_____

    - □ Contracted (consultant) ZA services.

      Est. annual cost: _____

    - □ Combination local part time ZA and consultant when needed.

      Est. annual cost:_____

    - □ Others fulfill ZA role (i.e. T. clerk, building inspector, chairman, etc.)

15. Generally, what is your town's annual revenue (total of all application fees) for zoning ordinance administration (includes rezones, land divisions, conditional use permits, variances, other?)
    - □ Less than $1000
    - □ $1000 to $2999
    - □ $3000 to $5000
    - □ More than $5000

      List amount: _____

16. Does your zoning ordinance allow for the town to hire outside expertise such as attorneys, engineers, environmental specialists, planners, etc. to review applications and charge those costs back to the applicant?
    - □ Yes
    - □ No
    - □ Not sure

    Why not?

    _____

17. Does your Town inspector review your building permit applications for compliance with the plumbing code? (i.e. SPS 383.25 Wis. Adm. A municipality may not issue a building permit unless there is a septic system (POWTS) of adequate capability and capacity to accommodate the wastewater flow and contaminant load already exists to serve the structure being modified?)
    - □ Yes
    - □ No
    - □ Not sure

18. Does your Town inspector review your building permit applications for compliance with the required setbacks to the septic system components through the Dodge County Land Resources and Park's Department?
    - □ Yes
    - □ No
    - □ Not sure

19. Does your Town submit all Town rezoning petitions and Zoning Ordinance amendments to the County for review and approval (through Land Resources & Parks Department)?
    - □ Yes
    - □ No
    - □ Not sure

<u>For County Zoned Towns Only:</u>

20. How satisfied are you with the administration/enforcement of the County Zoning Ordinance in your Town?
    - □ Extremely Satisfied
    - □ Satisfied
    - □ Neither Satisfied nor Unsatisfied
    - □ Unsatisfied

      Why:

      _____

    - □ Extremely Unsatisfied

      Why:

      _____

21. How satisfied are you with the County / Staff in terms of communication and notification of land use activities in your town?
    - ☐ Extremely Satisfied
    - ☐ Satisfied
    - ☐ Neither Satisfied Nor Unsatisfied
    - ☐ Unsatisfied

      Why:

      _____

    - ☐ Extremely Unsatisfied

      Why:

      _____

22. With the recent passage of Act 264, is your town considering withdrawing from County Zoning?
    - ☐ Yes

      Reasons:

      _____

    - ☐ No
    - ☐ Not sure

      Reasons:

      _____

Thank you for participating in this survey.

Please complete and return the survey by February 28, 2025 to:

Dodge County Land Resources and Park Dept
127 E Oak Street
Juneau, WI 53039
Attention: Morgan Muche
Or Scan and email to: mmuche@co.dodge.wi.us

Town Planning Survey Summary– 2045 Comprehensive Plan

Survey Summary

- Most towns (13 of 18) have plans older than 10 years; some are updating or moving away from individual plans. 1 town does not have a comprehensive plan.
- 11 of 16 towns actively use the Future Land Use Map to guide zoning decisions
- 76% of town utilize Dodge County's GIS tools.
- Most towns open to increasing GIS use if support is provided.
- High interest in collaboration and joint meetings with Town and County, especially for new planning commission members and zoning issues
    - Most towns prefer annual meetings, with a few suggesting more frequent engagement.
- 76% rate department staff as very supportive and responsive, showing strong service quality. A few towns report only moderate or neutral experiences with staff, indicating occasional communication gaps.
- Highest demand for assistance is in comprehensive planning, zoning code or ordinance updates, and grant writing.
    - Additional needs include GIS mapping, educational workshops, and parks/trails planning.
- The most common pressing land use issue across towns is loss of farmland, primarily to residential development and renewable energy projects like solar and wind.
- Road maintenance costs related to accommodating both existing and new development are a widespread concern.
- Many towns are worried about the types of home occupational businesses and their impact on communities.
- Several towns highlight the need to generate more development to create local jobs and expand the tax base.
- Additional concerns include housing affordability for new home buyers, loss of natural resources and habitat, nuisance complaints about farming, and impacts from non-metallic mining.

Land Use Education & CLUE Workshops

Dodge County has previously partnered with the Center for Land Use Education (CLUE) to offer land use workshops. Survey results indicate strong interest in continued education opportunities:

- 13 towns reported that someone from their current Town Board, Planning Commission, or Board of Appeals has attended a past CLUE workshop.
- 15 towns indicated interest in attending future workshops, with topics of interest including zoning, variances, conditional use permits, land use planning, and grants.
- A few towns were unsure or not interested in future participation.

Town-Zoned Towns

- Of the towns without County Zoning, 1 expressed interest in discussing adoption of County Zoning regulations, 2 were unsure, and the remaining 5 declined or found the question not applicable.
- Among towns that administer their own zoning ordinances, 3 updated their ordinances within the last 1–5 years, while 3 have not updated theirs for more than 10 years.
- For zoning ordinance administration, towns use a mix of local part-time zoning administrators, consultants, and other town officials fulfilling the role.
    - Annual costs vary significantly, from as low as $4,000 up to $35,000, reflecting differences in staffing approaches and zoning activity levels.
- Annual revenue from zoning application fees varies among towns, with 2 towns receiving more than $5,000, 3 towns collecting between $1,000 and $2,999, and 1 town reporting less than $1,000.
- 50% of towns allow hiring outside experts (attorneys, engineers, planners, etc.) to review applications and pass costs to applicants, though a couple of towns are unsure, and one town does not permit it.
- Nearly all towns have their inspectors review building permit applications for plumbing code compliance, with only one town uncertain.
- Most towns also review building permits for compliance with septic system setback requirements, though a few towns are unsure.
- All responding towns submit rezoning petitions and zoning ordinance amendments to the County Land Resources & Parks Department for review and approval.

County-Zoned Towns

- 79% of towns are satisfied or extremely satisfied with the administration and enforcement of the County Zoning Ordinance, though a few are neutral, and one town expressed dissatisfaction. Some feedback suggests a desire for more proactive review processes before formal complaints are required.
- Most towns (9) are satisfied or extremely satisfied with County staff communication and notification about land use activities, 4 towns are neutral, and 1 town noted a need for communication improvement from the building inspector’s perspective.
- Most towns (11) are not considering withdrawing from County Zoning, citing concerns about the burden, costs, and staffing needs. Two towns are unsure, and two towns are not applicable due to either no zoning or other reasons.

Appendix G – Plan Element Programs

Appendix G-1: Issues & Opportunities Programs

Agency / Entity	Program Name	Program Description
Federal Programs		
U.S. Census Bureau	Decennial Census / American Community Survey	The Census Bureau is dedicated to providing current facts and figures about America's people and economy. This is done through conducting the Decennial Census (every 10 years) as well as through the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates.
State Programs		
Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA)	**Demographic Services Center**	Demographic Services Center (DSC) staff develop annual estimates and future projections of the population for all Wisconsin towns, villages, and cities. The DSC is also a US Census Bureau State Data Center (SDC) Lead Agency, helping people acquire and use Census Bureau data.
University of Wisconsin Extension	**Center for Land Use Education**	The Center for Land Use Education (CLUE) is a joint venture of the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, College of Natural Resources and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension. It was established in July 2000 in response to the advice of College advisors and the effects of increasing population and patterns of development that are at odds with sound land management principles. The Center for Land Use Education provides administrative focus and programming coordination for land use education.
Wisconsin Policy Forum	Research	The Wisconsin Policy Forum (WPF) is a statewide nonpartisan, independent policy research organization with offices in Milwaukee and Madison. They provide informed analysis of critical policy issues affecting local governments, school districts, and the state of Wisconsin. The WPF's research and facilitation activities encourage elected officials and community leaders to find effective, data-driven solutions to pressing policy challenges, and promote productive discussion among the public and private sectors.

Source: Cedar Corporation, 2025.

Appendix G-2: Housing Programs

Agency / Entity	Program Name	Program Description
Local Programs		
Dodge County	**Housing Authority**	The Dodge County Housing Authority was established in 1972 by the Dodge County Board of Supervisors. As a public, nonprofit agency, the Dodge County Housing Authority pursues programs to maintain and increase affordable housing opportunities.
Local Governments	**Tax Increment Financing (TIF)**	TIF is a financing option that allows a municipality (town, village or city) to fund infrastructure and other improvements, through property tax revenue on newly developed property. A municipality identifies an area, the Tax Incremental District (TID), as appropriate for a certain type of development. The municipality identifies projects to encourage and facilitate the desired development. Then as property values rise, the municipality uses the property tax paid on that development to pay for the projects. After the project costs are paid, the municipality closes the TID. The municipality, schools, county, and technical college are able to levy taxes on the value of the new development.
Local Governments	**TIF Affordable Housing Extension**	This program allow for an extension, up to one year from the resolution date, for existing TIDs which allows the municipality to use one additional year of increment to benefit affordable housing accress the community. Many specific rules apply, but this program can be of great benefit to municipalities to improve the amount of affordable housing which is available.
State Programs		
DATCP	**Homeowner Resources**	Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) publishes several resources for renters, landlords and homeowners.
WDHS	**Wisconsin Affordable Assisted Living**	This website is a resource guide for consumers seeking Assisted Living assistance.
WDOA	**Housing Cost Reduction Initiative**	The HCRI program provides housing assistance to low- and moderate-income (LMI) households seeking to own or rent decent, safe, affordable housing. Funds are awarded to communities and local housing organizations to fund a range of activities that build, buy, and/or rehabilitate affordable housing for low income homeowners, homebuyers, and renters.
WDOA	**HOME-Homebuyer and Rehabilitation Program**	The HOME-Homebuyer and Rehabilitation Program (HHR) provides funding for homebuyer assistance; owner-occupied rehabilitation; and rental rehabilitation. Funds are awarded through a biennial funding cycle with partnership agencies throughout Wisconsin.
WDOA	**Neighborhood Stabilization Program**	The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) helps acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties that might otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight within a community.
WDOA	**Rental Housing Development**	The Rental Housing Development (RHD) Program assists eligible housing organizations, including Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs), with funds to develop affordable rental housing. Funds may be used for acquisition, rehabilitation, and new construction activities.
WDVA	**Veteran Housing and Recovery Program**	The program (VHRP) helps homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness. This program is designed to help homeless veterans receive job training, education, counseling, and rehabilitative services needed to obtain steady employment, affordable housing, and the skills to sustain a productive lifestyle.
WDHS	**Lead-Safe Wisconsin Grants**	Funds are available for individuals and organizations working toward reducing lead-based paint hazards through home renovation and repair.
WHEDA	**Housing Tax Credit Program**	The HTC program helps finance a project by granting a proposed development future tax credits. These tax credits are typically sold at a discount to investors who provide the capital to finance the construction.

WHEDA	**Housing Developer Loan Programs**	Three new loan programs were authorized by the State Legislature in 2023 to assist in filling funding gaps for affordable workforce housing construction by private sector developers. These programs have an annual competitive application cycle and includes the: 1) Infrastructure Access Program; 2) Restore Main Street Program, and; 3) Vacany to Vitality Program.
WHEDA	**More Like Home Repair & Renew Loan Program**	Created by the 2023-25 Biennial Budget with $50 million to help owners of older homes make critical repairs and improvements that increase energy efficiency, safety, and security. Since its launch in September 2024, 500 homeowners have received a total of $21.2 million in low-interest loans to finance repairs.
WHEDA	**WHEDA Foundation – Housing Grants**	The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) Foundation awards grants to local municipalities and nonprofit organizations through the Persons-in-Crisis Program Fund to support the development or improvement of housing facilities for low-income persons with special needs.
WHEDA	**Multi-family Products**	WHEDA offers several multi-family home products, including tax credits, tax exempt bond funding, construction, rehabilitation and accessibility loans, asset management and tax credit monitoring services.
WHEDA	**Single Family Products**	WHEDA offers several single-family home products, including home improvement or rehabilitation loans, homebuyer assistance and homebuyer education.
WHEDA	**WIHousingSearch.org**	The www.WIHousingSearch.org is a searchable statewide data base designed to help connect those looking for affordable housing with those providing housing and housing services. The website is searchable by location, unit size, availability, accessibility, and cost of rent. Landlords and property managers can list their properties; they are also responsible for updating information about their properties. Renters can search for housing and services to fit their needs.
UWEX	**Homeowner Resources (UWEX)**	UW-Extension provides a website which includes a range of educational information on homeownership, from budgeting to maintenance and repair.
Federal Programs		
FFIEC	**Community Reinvestment Act**	The Federal Financial Institutions Examinations Council (FFIEC) implements the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) which allows banks/financial institutions to help meet the credit/investment needs of their markets with the primary purpose of community development. This is in part accomplished through direct grants/investments or loans to nonprofits or agencies to develop affordable housing.
FISC	**Financial Information and Services Center**	Financial Information and Services Center (FISC) provides financial, housing and bankruptcy information and counseling for primarily low and moderate income clients.
HUD	**Multi-Family Housing Programs**	HUD offers several multi-family programs to fund facility purchases, construction, rehabilitation, lead based paint abatement, energy conservation and accessibility improvements.
HUD	**Public Housing Programs**	HUD offers several public housing programs for the development/redevelopment or management of public housing authorities, rental assistance through the Section 8 program and some limited homeownership opportunities.
HUD	**Single Family Housing Programs**	HUD offers several single-family home programs, including homebuyer education and counseling, down payment assistance, rehabilitation, weatherization, mortgage insurance and reverse mortgages. Some of these products, such as FHA loans, are available through approved lending institutions.
NLIHC	**National Low-Income Housing Coalition**	NLIHC is a national advocacy group which conducts research on low income housing issues, provides information and data on a variety of housing or housing related issues affecting low income families and publishes reports and data regarding low income housing issues and legislation.

USDA	**Housing Preservation Grants**	The program provides grants to sponsoring organizations for the repair or rehabilitation of housing owned or occupied by low- and very-low-income rural citizens. Eligible applicants include: most State and local governmental entities, nonprofit organizations and federally Recognized Tribes. Eligible expenses include: Repairing or replacing electrical wiring, foundations, roofs, insulation, heating systems and water/waste disposal systems, handicap accessibility features, labor and materials and administrative expenses.
USDVA	**Home Loan Guaranty Service**	The Veterans Administration provides a variety of benefits for eligible veterans and their dependents. Housing products include low cost loans for purchase, construction, or repair of owner-occupied housing.

Source: Cedar Corporation, 2025

Appendix G-3: Economic Development Programs

Agency / Entity	Program Name	Program Description
Local, County, & Regional Programs		
Local	**Chambers of Commerce**	Local Chambers of Commerce are integral to having economic development success as they serve as a business organization to promotee and protect the interests of its business members. They offer networking opportunities, advocate for pro-business stances, and provide resources to help businesses grow. Dodge County has ten such Chambers of Commerce within its boundaries: Beaver Dam, Columbus, Fox Lake, Hartford, Marsh Area, Juneau, Lomira,Randolph, Watertown, and Waupun.
Local Governments	**Tax Increment Financing (TIF)**	TIF is a financing option that allows a municipality (town, village or city) to fund infrastructure and other improvements, through property tax revenue on newly developed property. A municipality identifies an area, the Tax Incremental District (TID), as appropriate for a certain type of development. The municipality identifies projects to encourage and facilitate the desired development. Then as property values rise, the municipality uses the property tax paid on that development to pay for the projects. After the project costs are paid, the municipality closes the TID. The municipality, schools, county, and technical college are able to levy taxes on the value of the new development.
Dodge County	**UW-Extension**	The purpose of the Community Resource Development Program (CRD), within the Dodge County UW-Extension, is to strengthen the ability of citizens, community and business leaders, and local government officials to identify and resolve crucial community needs and issues in three broad, interrelated areas--communities, natural resources, and economic development. For more information about Extension services visit www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/dodge.
Dodge County	**Community Development Fund**	Dodge County has developed and administers the Dodge County Community Development Fund. This fund is a grant program that reinvests local sales tax dollars into the County's communities to help drive projects that enhance infrastructure, economic growth, and overall community development. Full program guidelines and application requirements are contained on the Dodge County Community Development Fund page.
Dodge County	**Dodge County Manufacturing Business Alliance (MBA):**	Partnering with the MBA allows businesses to tap into a talent pool equipped with the skills needed for success in the modern manufacturing sector. Additionally, MBA school tours showcase the exciting realities of modern manufacturing, sparking student interest in these rewarding career paths.
MadREP	**Madison Region Economic Partnership**	Madison Region Economic Partnership (MadREP) is the economic development agency for the eight-county Madison Region of south-central Wisconsin which includes Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Rock, and Sauk Counties. MadREP's mission is "Through a comprehensive regional approach to economic development, the strategic pursuit of job creation and business growth in target clusters, and a coordinated talent development pipeline, MadREP leads the expansion and innovation of a dynamic economy where people and businesses thrive."
State Programs		
DATCP	**Farmland Preservation Program**	The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) administers the Farmland Preservation Programs for the state. The Working Lands Initiative provides eligible landowners in Dodge County the opportunity to claim farmland preservation tax credits through participation in the program. Eligible landowners may collect up to $10.00 an acre in an area zoned for farmland preservation and in an agricultural enterprise area with a signed farmland preservation agreement. DATCP also has numerous agricultural related business development programs available.

CESA 6	**Inspire Wisconsin**	Inspire Wisconsin: The county collaborates with this statewide initiative to connect students with diverse career paths in high-demand fields. Through career fairs, job shadowing programs, and guest speaker opportunities, this program exposes students to exciting possibilities right here in Dodge County.
WDOA	**Division of Energy, Housing & Community Resources (DEHCR)**	State agency provding variety of CDBG block grants and other programs related to infrastructure and housing. This includes grant programs such as the CDBG-ED, CDBG PF-ED, and CDBG PF
WDOA	**Office of Business Development**	The WDOA's Office of Business Development helps business overcome obstacles sometimes encountered when interacting with government agencies. Each business situation is unique, and the Office seeks individualized solutions or directs business owners and leaders to appropriate state resources.
WDOR	**State of Wisconsin Department of Revenue**	State of Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) acts as a central hub for businesses in the state. They manage business taxes (filing & payment), offer online compliance tools, and provide resources for starting a business, licensing, and tax regulations. Additionally, the DOR administers annual reports and tax incentives, and has a strong role in management and oversite of locally created Tax Increment Financing across the state.
WDOT	**Wisconsin Department of Tourism**	Four grant programs exist to bolster tourism within Wisconsin and are available to Dodge County: 1) The Joint Effort Marketing (JEM) grant program funds promotions or events. The grant reimburses Wisconsin nonprofit organizations for eligible promotional expenses. The JEM grant has different categories to fit an organization's needs. 2) The Tourist Information Center (TIC) grant program provides financial assistance to nonprofit tourism organizations, municipalities or Native American tribes operating a regional tourist information center. 3) The Ready, Set, Go! (RSG) grant program assists destinations in securing competitive sporting events that are not regularly held in Wisconsin and require an upfront financial commitment. 4) The Meetings Mean Business (MMB) grant program assists destinations in securing regional and national meetings or conventions not regularly scheduled in Wisconsin. The MMB grant provides financial assistance for facility costs or host destination expenses.
WDWD	**Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development**	The DWD is a state government agency responsible for a variety of initiatives related to employment and the workforce. They connect job seekers with employers through resources, job search assistance, and the Job Center of Wisconsin network. They also support businesses by facilitating qualified worker recruitment and skills development programs. Additionally, the DWD manages unemployment insurance and enforces labor laws.
WDWD	**Youth Apprenticeship Program**	The Youth Apprenticeship program allows students to gain valuable real-world experience while earning academic credit. This innovative program bridges the gap between classroom learning and the professional world, creating a win-win situation for businesses and students alike. The Wisconsin Youth Apprenticeship (YA) program, available in Dodge County, is a 1- or 2-year program for high school juniors and seniors that combines classroom learning with on-the-job training. Students earn while they learn, gaining valuable skills and experience in their chosen career field under the guidance of a local business mentor.
WEDC	**Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation**	State agency with funding programs for communities and businesses. Promotes and markets the state for business expansions and relocations. This includes programs such as Wisconsin's Main Street Program, Connect Communities Program, as well as other technical and funding programs which can assist downtowns and small communities.

WEDC	**Office of Rural Prosperity**	As part of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), the Office of Rural Prosperity seeks to foster vibrant, prosperous and resilient rural communities across Wisconsin. The Office of Rural Prosperity aims to be a one-stop shop to help rural stakeholders navigate programs and resources serving rural communities and businesses. The Office of Rural Prosperity was formed in January 2020 along with Governor Tony Evers' Blue Ribbon Commission on Rural Prosperity. The Rural Innovation Initiative was developed as part of this program and now offeres support from the Center on Rural Innovation, which helps rural communities across the country to become more strategic about digital economic development.
WEDC	**Main Street Program**	Wisconsin Main Street Program participants receive intensive technical assistance from WEDC's downtown development staff and consultants to help communities identify initiatives, stakeholders, and resources to ensure they find success. Tailored support for businesses and property owners, design assistance, and topical solutions for local challenges are commonly addressed. Currently, two communities in Dodge County are members of this program: City of Mayville (2018) and City of Watertown (2000).
WEDC	**Connect Communities Program**	This program is a great option for communities of any size—from rural towns to urban metro areas - undertaking new revitalization efforts or looking to provide additional resources to support local commercial district businesses and property owners. Commonly referred to as "Main Street Light", this program is also great for individuals interested in networking with other professionals and gaining useful information on strategies and techniques to address common revitalization challenges. Currently, three communities in Dodge County are members of this program: City of Beaver Dam (2016), City of Waupun (2016), and City of Juneau (2020).
WHEDA	**Low Income Housing Tax Credits**	State level entity providing affordable housing and business financing products including Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) plus three new developer-oriented housing loan programs: Infrastructure Access, Restore Main Street, and Vacancy-to-Vitality
WISDOT	**Wisconsin Employment Transportation Assistance Program (WETAP)**	This statewide program aims to expand access to employment-related transportation opportunities and promote Wisconsinites' ability to enter and remain successful in the workforce. Funded by the Federal Transit Administration and state funds from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and WisDOT, WETAP is designed to help local communities address unique transportation needs to ensure transportation access is not a significant barrier to Wisconsinites seeking and retaining employment. Dodge County is part of the Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program (SWCAP) along with 21 other counties which administers this program. In 2025, SWCAP received grants under this program for $695,000 in capital funds and $105,000 in operating funds to support its Work N Wheels program.
Federal Programs		
IRS	**Opportunity Zones**	Opportunity Zones are an economic development tool that allows people to invest in distressed areas in the United States. Their purpose is to spur economic growth and job creation in low-income communities while providing tax benefits to investors. Opportunity Zones were created under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (Public Law No. 115-97). Thousands of low-income communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories are designated as Qualified Opportunity Zones. Taxpayers can invest in these zones through Qualified Opportunity Funds. There is only one designated opportunity zone within Dodge County located in the City of Beaver Dam.

USDA	**Rural Development**	The Wisconsin Rural Development Program has many services that are available to rural communities and their residents. Some programs and services available include: community development programs, business and community programs, rural housing and utilities services, and community facility programs. For more information visit the Wisconsin Rural Development web site at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wi/index.html.
USDOC	**Economic Development Administration**	Part of the U.S. Department of Commerce (USDOC), EDA's mission is "To lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy." The EDA provides grants and funding investments to help establish a foundation for long-term job growth and build durable regional economies throughout the United States. This foundation builds upon two key economic drivers - innovation and regional collaboration.
Non-Profit / Other Programs		
Non-Profit	**GPS ED**	The GPS Education Program offers hands-on learning experiences that bridge the gap between education and employment. Students gain valuable technical skills and real-world experience, preparing them for successful careers in manufacturing and other high-demand fields.
Non-Profit	**GPS ED**	The GPS Education Program offers hands-on learning experiences that bridge the gap between education and employment. Students gain valuable technical skills and real-world experience, preparing them for successful careers in manufacturing and other high-demand fields.

Source: Cedar Corporation, 2025

Appendix G-4: Transportation Programs

Program Agency / Entity	Program Name	Program Description
Local Programs		
County / Local	**Capital Improvement Program**	A Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a budgetary process which prioritizes transportation projects and necessary expenditures on an annual basis, for a five to ten year future period. The CIP will typically serve as the primary transportation planning document for the community.
County / Local	**Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER)**	PASER is a simple method of rating asphalt and concrete roads on a scale of 1 to 10 and gravel roads on a scale of 1 to 5, based on visual inspection. PASER manuals and a video explain how and why roads deteriorate and describe proper repair and replacement techniques. PASER rating can be put into PASERWARE, an easy to use pavement management software package. PASERWARE helps to inventory roads and keep track of their PASER ratings and maintenance histories. PASERWARE can also be used to help prioritize road maintenance and improvement needs, calculate project costs, evaluate the consequences of alternative budgets and project selection strategies, and communicate those consequences to the public and local officials. Both PASER and PASERWARE are available from the University of Wisconsin's Transportation Information Center at no charge and also offers free training courses.
County / Local	**Safety Evaluation for Roadways (SAFER)**	SAFER is a practical, systematic approach to reviewing safety issues on and along roads. Potential hazards are grouped into categories such as roadsides, intersections, railroad crossings, warning signs, pavement markings, road maintenance, and special conditions. The SAFER manual recommends a rating system and using this system the city can choose which conditions need to be addressed immediately and which to include in future plans or improvements.
County / Local	**General Tax Levy / Bonding**	Infrastructure and community facilities can be paid for directly using the city's property tax levy as determined by the Town Board. This can be done with direct fund allocations or through general obligation bonding whereby monies are borrowed and paid back over time. To aid in the planning, the city utilizes their Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) which is updated regularly.
County / Local	**Special Assessments**	Special assessments are charges for a portion of the cost of street, alley, drive approach, and sidewalk improvements that are assessed, per State Statute, to abutting properties by action of a governing body. Assessments are used as a method of financing major construction to offset the principal and interest of loans used for construction and major maintenance. Assessments per property typically only occur once every 20–25 years. Assessments help keep the property taxes lower for the city.The process apportions the cost to those properties which are most benefited by the improvements. The costs associated with the project are divided up between the total numbers of lots in the project area. Therefore, the size of lots or lot frontage does not impact the cost per lot. The entire special assessment process is governed by State Statutes and municipal ordinances. While the City of Manawa does have special assessment provisions in its Code of Ordinances (Chapter 11), it has not traditionally utilized this method for recouping infrastructure project costs.

County / Local	**Wheel Tax**	Wisconsin law allows a town, village, city, or county to collect an annual municipal or county vehicle registration fee (wheel tax) in addition to the regular annual registration fee paid for a vehicle. The fee applies to vehicles kept in the municipality or county and applies to motorcycle, automobile and truck (8,000 lbs. or less, except dual purpose farm) registrations. This includes most special license plates. State law does not specify the amount of the wheel tax. However, the municipality or county must use all revenue from the wheel tax for transportation related purposes. In 2023, just over 50 communities in Wisconsin do have wheel tax provisions in place according to WisDOT.
State Programs		
WDOA	**Community Development Block Grants–Public Facilities and Public Facilities for Economic Development (PF-ED)**	HUD's CDBG-PF program will fund up to $1M in infrastructure improvements (including streets) for areas which meet HUDs Low to Moderate Income (LMI) limits. The PFED program funds public facilities that help retain and increase employment and increase economic development. Eligible PFED projects include the installation, repair, or replacement of public water systems (including wells, water towers, and distribution systems) and sanitary sewer systems (including collection systems and treatment plants); storm drainage systems; streets; sidewalks; curb and gutter; parking; streetlights; and streetscape.
WDNR	**Stewardship Program**	The Wisconsin's Stewardship Program provides funding for the construction of a community's bicycle and pedestrian system. Applications are accepted yearly on May 1st. The city would be responsible for up to 50% of project costs.
WisDOT	**Adopt-A-Highway Program**	The Wisconsin Department of Transportation initiated the Adopt-A-Highway program to allow groups to volunteer and support the state's anti-litter program in a more direct way. Each qualified group takes responsibility for litter control on a segment of state highway. The group picks up litter on this segment at least three times per year between April 1 and November 1. Groups do not work in dangerous areas like medians, bridges, or steep slopes. The main goals of the program are to reduce litter along Wisconsin's highways, build statewide support for the anti-litter and highway beautification programs, educate the traveling public to properly dispose of litter, and to enhance the environment and beautify Wisconsin's roadsides.
WisDOT	**Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA) Program**	The Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA) Program is a rapid response grant program designed to create new employment, to retain existing employment, and to encourage private investment in Wisconsin. Communities can apply for TEA funds to encourage new businesses or business expansions in their regions by building such transportation improvements as access roads, highway improvements, or rail spurs. The program covers up to 50% of the total cost of eligible projects.
WisDOT	**Local Roads Improvement Program**	Established in 1991, the Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP) assists local governments in improving seriously deteriorating city highways, town roads, and city and village streets. A reimbursement program, LRIP pays up to 50% of total eligible costs with local governments providing the balance. While details have not yet been released the prior Agricultural Road Improvement Program (ARIP) was to be integrated into the LRIP program for 2025.
WisDOT	**Statewide Multi-modal Improvement Program (SMIP)**	As part of the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991 as reauthorized in 2021 under the Further Surface Transportation Extension Act (H.R. 5763) the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) receives federal funds to provide a variety of improvement programs, including the Local Transportation Enhancements (TE) program. The program is designed to fund projects that increase multi-modal transportation alternatives and enhance communities and the environment.

WisDOT	**Local Bridge Improvement Assistance Program**	The Local Bridge Improvement Assistance program helps rehabilitate and replace, on a cost- shared basis, the most seriously deficient existing local bridges on Wisconsin's local highway systems. Counties, cities, villages, and towns are eligible for rehabilitation funding on bridges with sufficiency ratings of less than 80, and replacement funding on bridges with sufficiency ratings less than 50.
WisDOT	**Adopt-A-Highway Program**	The Adopt-A-Highway Program is administered by the WDOT. The program was initiated to allow groups to volunteer and support the state's anti-litter program in a more direct way. Each qualified group takes responsibility for litter control on a segment of state highway. The group picks up litter on a segment at least three times per year between April 1 and November 1. Groups do not work in dangerous areas like medians, bridges, or steep slopes. In addition, a sign announcing a group's litter control sponsorship can be installed. The state Adopt-A-Highway coordinator should be contacted for further information. Applications and forms are available through the WDOT website.
WisDOT	**Safe Routes to School Program**	The 2005 revised federal transportation act (SAFETEA-LU) provided funding to state departments of transportation to create and administer Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs. SRTS programs encourage children ages K-8 to walk and bike to school by creating safer walking and biking routes. SRTS programs improve walking and biking travel options, promote healthier lifestyles in children at an early age, and decrease auto-related emissions near schools. Funds will be awarded through a competitive state-wide grant process. Projects eligible for SRTS funding must be within two miles of an elementary or middle school (kindergarten through eighth grade) and may include sidewalks, trails, bike paths, and land use planning. Currently, a regional SRTS program is available and administered by the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission through which a Safe Routes to School Plan was prepared in 2021. This plan lists out a number of recommended bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements within close proximity to existing school sites.
WisDOT	**Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)**	The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is the State of Wisconsin's program for what is now the federal Transportation Alternatives (TA) set-aside Program. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), enacted in November 2021, replaced the FAST Act-era TA Set-Aside guidelines with enhanced funding availability and programing guidelines. With certain exceptions, projects that met eligibility criteria for the Safe Routes to School Program, Transportation Enhancements, and/or the Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Program are eligible TAP projects. All TAP projects require project sponsors to pay 100% of project costs up front and are then reimbursed up to 80% of approved project costs after conducting project activity. All TAP projects require sponsors to pay a minimum of 20% of the approved project costs.
WisDOT	**Statewide Enhancement Program**	The Wisconsin DOT offers enhancement funds for transportation-related projects that are within the right-of-way of highways controlled by the state.
WisDOT	**Highway Safety Improvement Program (HISP)**	The city should consider applying for grants from the HISP Program administered by WisDOT to correct existing or potential transportation safety problems. Other grant programs through WisDOT's Bureau of Transportation Safety should also be investigated by the city to address safety issues.

WisDOT	**Local Transportation Enhancement (TE), Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program (BPFP) and STP-Discretionary (STP-D) programs**	These programs have been collectively funded under the Statewide Multi-modal Improvement Program (SMIP). The TE program promotes projects that "enhance" the surface transportation system. There are 12 federally eligible categories, with bicycle and pedestrian categories typically making up almost two-thirds of Wisconsin projects awarded. The STP-D program funded projects such as bicycle and pedestrian facilities that foster alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle travel. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program (BPFP) was primarily used to fund bicycle planning related activities.
Federal Programs		
FHWA	**Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Program**	Signed on November 15, 2021, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) updates federal law and potential federal funding levels across federally funded Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Local Programs. It is expected that new federal funds will be distributed over the next five fiscal years, beginning in Federal Fiscal Year 2022 (FFY 2022).

Source: Cedar Corporation, 2025

Appendix G-5: Utilities & Community Facilities Programs

Agency / Entity	Program Name	Program Description
Local Programs		
Local/County	**General Tax Levy / Bonding**	Infrastructure and community facilities can be paid for directly using the city's property tax levy as determined by the City Council. This can be done with direct fund allocations or through general obligation bonding whereby monies are borrowed and paid back over time. To aid in the planning, the city should utilize a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) which is typically updated annually.
Local/County	**Special Assessments**	Special assessments are charges for a portion of the cost of street, alley, driveway approach, and sidewalk improvements that are assessed, per State Statute, to abutting properties by action community. Assessments are used as a method of financing major construction to offset the principal and interest of loans used for construction and major maintenance. Assessments per property typically only occur once every 20–25 years. Assessments help keep the property taxes lower for the city. The special assessment process apportions the cost (based on property size or frontage feet, or both) to those properties which are most benefited by the improvements. The entire special assessment process is governed by State Statutes and Chapter 11 of the Manawa Municipal Code of Ordinances.
Local/County	**Impact Fees**	Impact fees are created by ordinance to assist with covering the costs of a variety of new community facilities and infrastructure. An impact fee ordinance's purpose is to "promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of the community and to facilitate the adequate provision of parks, playgrounds and land for athletic fields, water supply storage facilities, fire protection and law enforcement facilities by imposing impact fees upon developers to pay for the capital costs of public facilities that are necessary to accommodate land development." An ordinance typically breaks out the impact fees for both residential and non-residential development and are typically based on the number and type of housing units (or building square footage for non-residential uses) for the purposes of calculating fees.
Local	**Tax Increment Financing**	Tax Increment Financing is a commonly used tool for villages and cities when new or improved infrastructure is critically tied to new development or redevelopment opportunities. Using a variety of methods, a community can create a Tax Increment District (TID) to generate funds for infrastructure improvements. When a TID is created, the municipality and other taxing jurisdictions agree to support their normal operations from the existing tax base within the district. Property taxes for the school, county, technical college, and municipality are based on the taxable value of the TID at the time it is created. The municipality funds development through the increases to the property values in the TID. The taxes on the TID value increment (the difference between the TID's current value and the TID's base value), results in additional revenues collected for the district's fund. The municipality must use the funds to pay eligible TID costs. When costs are paid and the municipality closes the TID, the increased tax base is shared with all taxing jurisdictions.
State Programs		
WDOA	**Community Development Block Grant for Public Facilities (CDBG-PF)**	The Wisconsin CDBG Public Facilities Program is designed to assist economically distressed smaller communities with public facility improvements. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, publicly owned utility system improvements, streets, sidewalks, community centers. Federal grant funds are available annually. The maximum grant for any single applicant is $1M. Grants are only available up to the amount that is adequately justified and documented with engineering or vendor estimates.

WDOA	**Community Development Block Grant Public Facilities for Economic Dev. (CDBG-PFED)**	The CDBG Public Facilities for Economic Development Program helps underwrite the cost of municipal infrastructure necessary for business development that retains or creates employment opportunities. Eligible activities are improvements to public facilities such as water systems, sewerage systems, and roads that are owned by a general or special purpose unit of government, and which will principally benefit businesses, and which as a result will induce businesses to create jobs and invest in the community.
WisDOT	**State Infrastructure Bank Program**	The State Infrastructure Bank Program is a revolving loan program that helps communities provide transportation infrastructure improvements to preserve, promote, and encourage economic development and/or to promote transportation efficiency, safety, and mobility. Loans obtained through SIB funding can be used in conjunction with other programs.
Office of The Secretary of State	**State Trust Fund Loan Program**	The State Trust Fund Loan Program provides municipalities and school districts affordable financing for public purpose projects including economic development, local infrastructure, capital equipment and vehicles, building repairs and improvements, and refinancing existing liabilities to reduce future borrowing costs. The application process works closely with local communities.
WDNR	**Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks**	Funds are available to assist local communities in acquiring and developing public outdoor recreation areas as per s. 23.09 (20), Wis. Stats. Counties, towns, cities, villages, and Indian Tribes with an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan are eligible to apply. The program is offered from the WDNR, Bureau of Community Financial Assistance. There is a 50% local match required. Awards are granted on a competitive basis. Acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas are eligible projects. Priority is given to the acquisition of land where a scarcity of outdoor recreation land exists.
WDNR	**Clean Water Fund Program**	Funds are available through the WDNR to protect water quality by correcting existing wastewater treatment and urban storm water problems and preventing future problems as per s. 281.58 and 281.59, Wis. Stats. Cities, towns, villages, counties, town sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, metropolitan sewerage districts, and federally recognized tribal governments are eligible to apply. Eligible projects include construction of treatment works, sewer systems, interceptors, and urban stormwater runoff treatment systems. Projects that are necessary to prevent violation of discharge permits, meet new or changed discharge limits, or correct water quality or human health problems in unsewered areas may receive priority for funding. Low interest loans are available for planning, design, and construction of wastewater treatment projects and urban storm water runoff projects approved by the Department.
WDNR	**Safe Drinking Water Loan Program**	Funds are available through the WDNR to plan, design, construct, or modify public water systems. Counties, towns, cities, and villages are eligible to apply. Low interest loans are provided at 55% of the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) market interest rate. Under certain circumstances, a municipality may be eligible for a loan at 33% of the SDWLP's market interest rate. A municipality must send the department a notice of its intent to apply for assistance by December 31 of the fiscal year preceding its application. Applications must be submitted on or before April 30. Applications are approved following a project priority ranking, eligibility determination, and a determination by the Department of Administration that the applicant meets financial conditions.

WDNR	**Recreational Boating Facilities**	Funds are available for the construction of capital improvements to provide safe recreational boating facilities and for feasibility studies related to the development of safe recreational facilities. Counties, towns, cities, villages, sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, and qualified lake associations are eligible to apply. Cost sharing is provided up to 50% for feasibility studies, construction costs, and certain types of acquisition costs. An additional 10% may be available if a municipality conducts a boating safety enforcement and education program approved by the WDNR.
WDNR	**Household Hazardous Waste Collection Grant (Clean Sweep)**	Funds are available to municipalities to create and operate local “clean sweep” programs for the collection and disposal of household hazardous waste. Any type of program for the collection and disposal of household hazardous wastes, including permanent collection programs, are eligible. The program is offered from the WDNR, Bureau of Community Financial Assistance.
WDNR	**Municipal Flood Control Grant Program**	This program provides 70% cost-sharing grants to cities, villages, towns, and metropolitan sewerage districts to acquire lands, floodproof structures, purchase easements, restore riparian areas, or construct flood control structures. Applications would be ranked based on avoided flood damages, restoration, or protection of natural and beneficial functions of water bodies, use of natural flood storage techniques or environmentally sensitive detention ponds and enhanced recreational opportunities.
WDNR	**Recycling Grants to Responsible Units**	Funds are available to provide financial assistance to local units of government to establish and operate effective recycling programs. "Responsible units" (the local unit of government responsible for implementing the recycling program) are eligible to apply. A responsible unit with an effective recycling program is eligible for grant assistance to cover the cost of the program, minus the revenues derived from the sale of recovered materials, which are reasonable and necessary for planning or operating a recycling and yard waste management program. The program is offered from the WDNR, Bureau of Community Financial Assistance.
WDNR	**Urban Non-point Source and Stormwater Grants (UNPS and SW)**	Governmental units are eligible for grants to improve urban water quality by limiting or ending sources of urban non-point source (run-off) pollution. Funded projects are site-specific and targeted to address high-priority problems in urban project areas. Two types of programs are available for UNPS and SW projects, planning grants and construction grants. All projects are selected for funding based on a competitive process. For further information on these grants contact the WDNR Bureau of Watershed Management or Bureau of Community Financial Assistance. Stormwater planning projects must currently be in an urban area, or an area projected to be urban within 20 years to be eligible for funding. An "urban project area" must meet one of four criteria. Governmental units can be reimbursed up to 70% for eligible planning activities (awards not to exceed $85,000). Eligible activities include, but are not limited to, stormwater planning, preparation of local ordinances, and evaluating financing options for stormwater programs including utilities. Construction projects designed to control storm water runoff rates, volumes, and discharge quality from non-point sources within existing development are eligible for UNPS and SW construction grant funding. Governmental units can be reimbursed up to 50% to construct Best Management Practices (BMP). The maximum possible grant is $200,000. A project must be located in an urban area to be eligible for BMP cost sharing. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to, construction of BMPs, engineering design, land acquisition, and shoreland stabilization.
PSC	**Energy Innovation Grant Program (PSC)**	The Energy Innovation Grant Program established by the Public Service Commission covers a wide variety of energy related projects that reduce energy consumption and support renewable energy and energy storage, energy efficiency and demand response, electric and renewable natural gas (RNG) vehicles and infrastructure, or comprehensive energy planning.

Federal Programs		
DOE	**Energy Efficiency and Conservation Grant Program**	The Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Program offers formula and competitive grants designed to assist state, local, and tribal governments in implementing strategies to reduce energy use, reduce fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency.
FEMA	**Assistance to Firefighting Grant Program**	The program is administered by the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The program assists rural, urban, and suburban fire departments to increase the effectiveness of firefighting operations, expand firefighting health and safety programs, purchase new equipment, and invest in EMS programs. For information regarding the grant contact FEMA Grant Program staff at 1-866-274-0960. For the most current information regarding grant awards and any other USFA projects, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.
USDA	**Community Facility Guaranteed Loans**	These loans provide funding for essential community facilities, i.e., village/town halls, libraries, hospitals, clinics, adult/childcare centers, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, homeless shelters, police stations, fire halls, fire, police and emergency vehicles, private schools and colleges, museums, and airports. This program also may be used to fund recreational facilities. Applicants must be public bodies, federally recognized Indian Tribes, or non-profit organizations. Cities and villages must have a population of 50,000 or fewer.
USDA	**Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants**	This program helps eligible communities prepare, or recover from, an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. Eligible applicants include: most state and local governmental entities (w/population of 10,000 or less) that meet income guidelines, nonprofit organizations, and federally recognized tribes. Disaster events that qualify include: Drought or flood, earthquake, tornado or hurricane, disease outbreak, chemical spill, leak or seepage, or other disaster. Note that a federal disaster declaration is not required.
USDA	**Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program**	These loans and grants provide funding for essential community facilities including village/town halls, libraries, hospitals, clinics, adult/childcare centers, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, homeless shelters, police stations, fire halls, fire, police and emergency vehicles, private schools and colleges, museums, and airports. Applicants must be public bodies, federally recognized Indian Tribes, or non-profit organizations. Cities and villages must have a population of 20,000 or fewer.
USDA	**Solid Waste Management Grants**	This program funds technical assistance or training to improve the planning and management of solid waste sites. Eligible applicants include public bodies, nonprofits, federally recognized tribes, and academic institutions. Eligible areas include rural areas and towns with a population of 10,000 or less. Funds may be used to evaluate current landfill conditions to identify threats to water resources, provide technical assistance or training to enhance the operation and maintenance of active landfills, provide technical assistance or training to help communities reduce the amount of solid waste coming into a landfill, and provide technical assistance or training to prepare for closure and future use of a landfill site.

Source: Cedar Corporation, 2025

Appendix G-6: Agricultural, Natural & Cultural Resources Programs

Agency / Entity	Program Name	Program Description
Local Programs		
Dodge County	**Land Conservation Department**	The mission of the department is to promote and assist in wise land use decisions that preserve, protect and enhance the natural resources of Dodge County. The department is responsible for providing technical, planning, and financial assistance to landowners of Dodge County in regards to soil and water conservation practices. The department implements state and local conservation programs such as the Farmland Preservation Program, the DNR Priority Watershed Program, the Land and Water Resource Management Program, the Animal Damage and Claims Program, and the Animal Waste Management Ordinance. The department also assists in the implementation of the Shoreland/Wetland/Floodplain Ordinance. It is the responsibility of the Land Conservation Department and Committee to ensure that the county's natural resources are conserved.
Dodge County (DATCP)	**Land and Water Resource Management Plans**	Dodge County has a Department of Agriculture Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) approved *Land and Water Resource Management Plan* that was prepared in 2022. This plan represent the next generation of resource management strategies and provides the County with the opportunity to address local resource concerns with a financial base in a sustained manner. The Land and Water Conservation Department has the opportunity to provide seamless integration of a number of resource management programs. State runoff rules (ATCP 50 & NR 120) are utilized as a base for the plan. Monetary assistance will be provided by DATCP to achieve the objectives of the plan.
Dodge County (DATCP)	**Farmland Preservation Plan**	The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) administers the Farmland Preservation Programs for the state. The Working Lands Initiative provides eligible landowners in Dodge County the opportunity to claim farmland preservation tax credits through participation in the program. Eligible landowners may collect up to $10.00 an acre in an area zoned for farmland preservation and in an agricultural enterprise area with a signed farmland preservation agreement. DATCP also has numerous agricultural related business development programs available.
Dodge County (WDNR)	**Outdoor Recreation Plans**	The *Dodge County Parks, Outdoor Recreation, and Open Space Plan* was last updated in 2023. The purpose of these plans is to identify changing recreational needs, assess potential opportunities, evaluate the status of the counties' natural and cultural resources, and to present appropriate recommendations that will provide a planned system of parks and recreation areas that contain a diversity of recreational activities while preserving scenic and valuable resources important to the ecological, sociological, and economic life of residents.
State Programs		
Wisconsin Statutes	**Lake Organizations**	The development of a lake organization is one way to help coordinate and fund protection, education, and improvement efforts for Wisconsin's local lakes. Wisconsin currently has the largest number of lake organizations in the nation. There are currently over 600 organizations in Wisconsin that include both lake associations and lake districts. The number of organizations has increased by 38 percent in the past ten years and continues to grow.

Wisconsin Statutes	**Notification to Nonmetallic Resource Owners**	This Act amends portions of the Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Law to increase communication and notification of local planning with owners of nonmetallic mineral sites. Public participation procedures must now include written procedures describing the methods the local government will use to distribute proposed, alternative, or amended elements of a plan to owners of property, or to persons who have a leasehold interest in property, which may extract nonmetallic mineral resources on the property. This is only required if the comprehensive plan changes the allowable use or intensity of use of the given property. Wisconsin Act 307 also added provisions to the Comprehensive Planning Law detailing that prior to a public hearing written notice shall be provided to property owners or operators with an interest in nonmetallic mineral resources.
WDNR	**County Conservation Aids**	Funds are available to carry out program of fish or wildlife management projects as per s.23.09 (12), Wis. Stats. and NR 50, Wis. Adm. Code. Projects related to providing improved fish or wildlife habitat or projects related to hunter/angler facilities are eligible. Projects which enhance fish and wildlife habitat or fishing and hunting facilities have priority. Contact the WDNR for further information.
WDNR	**Non-Point Pollution Abatement Program**	Funds are available to improve water quality by limiting or ending sources of nonpoint source (run-off) water pollution by providing financial and technical assistance to landowners, land operators, municipalities, and other governmental units.
DATCP	**Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**	Purpose is to reduce erosion, increase wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and increase forest land. Landowner sets aside cropland with annual rental payments based on amount bid. Practices include tree planting, grass cover, small wetland restoration, prairie and oak savannah restoration, and others. Eligibility varies by soil type and crop history.
WDNR	**Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)**	The purpose of WRP is to restore wetlands previously altered for agricultural use. The main goal is wetland restoration and wildlife habitat establishment. Land which has been owned for one year and can be restored to wetland conditions is eligible. Landowners may restore wetlands with permanent or 30-year easements or 10-year contracts. Permanent easements pay 100 percent of the agricultural value of the land and 100 percent cost-sharing; 30-year easements pay 75 percent of the agricultural value and 75 percent cost sharing; 10-year contracts pay 75 percent cost share only. Permanent or 30-year easements are recorded with a property deed. A 10 year contract is not recorded with deed. Public access is not required. Contact: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.
WDNR	**Stewardship Grants for Non-profit Conservation Organizations**	Funds are available for the acquisition of land or easements for conservation purposes, and restoration of wildlife habitat. Non-profit conservation organizations are eligible to apply. Priorities include acquisition of wildlife habitat, acquisition of lands with special scientific or ecological value, rare and endangered habitats and species, acquisition of stream corridors, acquisition of land for state trails including the Ice Age Trail and North Country Trail, and restoration of wetlands and grasslands. Eligible types of projects include fee simple and easement acquisitions and habitat restoration projects. Contact the WDNR for further information.
WDNR	**Stewardship Grant Program**	Funds are available for the acquisition of land or easements for conservation purposes and restoration of wildlife habitat. Both municipal and non-profit conservation organizations are eligible to apply. Priorities include acquisition of wildlife habitat, lands with special scientific or ecological value, land with rare and endangered habitats and species, stream corridors, land for state trails (including the Ice Age Trail and North Country Trail), and lands for restoration of wetlands and grasslands. Eligible types of projects include fee simple and easement acquisitions and habitat restoration projects.

WEDC	**Wisconsin's Main Street / Connect Communities Program**	The Main Street Program and Connect Communities Program are comprehensive revitalization programs run by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) and are designed to promote the historical and economic redevelopment of traditional business districts in Wisconsin. The program was established in 1987 to encourage and support the revitalization of downtowns. Each year, the WEDC selects communities to join the program. These communities receive technical support and training needed to restore their Main Streets to centers of community activity and commerce.
WSHS	**Wisconsin Historical Preservation Tax Credits**	One of the benefits of owning a historic property in Wisconsin is the ability to participate in federal and state income tax incentives programs for rehabilitation of historic properties. There are currently three programs available to owners of properties that are either listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the state or national registers of historic places. The three programs are:
WSHS	**Certified Local Government Program**	Local units of government that have enacted historic preservation ordinances may consider being certified to participate in the state and federal Certified Local Government (CLG) program. The CLG program provides special grants to fund planning and educational activities. The Division of Historic Preservation at the Wisconsin Historical Society administers the CLG program.
Federal / National Programs		
USDA	**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**	The purpose of EQIP is to provide technical and financial help to landowners for conservation practices that protect soil and water quality. Nutrient management and prescribed grazing are eligible for cost-sharing statewide. Assistance for other practices is available in selected priority areas. Approved projects are based on environmental value. Five to 10 year contracts are used. Agricultural producers may be eligible for up to 75 percent cost share on agricultural land. Public access is not required. Contact: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service or Farm Service Agency, or County Land and Water Conservation Department.
Arbor Day Foundation	**Tree City USA**	The Tree City USA award program was initiated by the National Arbor Day Foundation to recognize the effort put forth by communities that properly manage their urban forests. To receive the Tree City USA award, a community must meet four standards. It must have: 1) a tree board, commission, or municipal department that has legal responsibility for the care of public trees; 2) a public tree management ordinance; 3) an annual budget of at least $2.00 per capita for administering, managing, and implementing the community forestry program; and 4) an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

Source: Cedar Corporation, 2025

Appendix G-7: Intergovernmental Cooperation Programs

Agency / Entity	Program Name	Program Description
Local Programs		
WDOA	**Division of Intergovernmental Relations**	The Division of Intergovernmental Relations (DIR) within the Department of Administration provides a broad array of services to the public and state, local, and tribal governments. It supports counties, municipalities, citizens, and businesses by providing support services in land use planning, land information and records modernization, municipal boundary review, plat review, demography, and coastal management programs. They also work to strengthen the relationship between the State of Wisconsin and the governments of the state's 11 federally recognized Native American tribes.
WDWD	**Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin**	DWD works with 11 regional Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) to deliver services, support customized training, build community partnerships, and establish relationships with local employers, leaders, and job seekers.
WDOA	**VendorNet**	VendorNet is Wisconsin's electronic purchasing system. It provides a purchasing forum for state agencies, municipalities, and other governmental units who want to purchase goods and services, and the businesses that seek to provide them. Municipalities can use VendorNet to find and use contracts already negotiated by the state, or they can post their own municipal bids and proposals on VendorNet to gain a far broader base of prospective businesses from which to choose
UW-Extension	**Community Development Program**	Extension's Community Development Institute provides educational programming to assist leaders, communities, and organizations realize their fullest potential. UW-Extension works with communities to build the vitality that enhances their quality of life and enriches the lives of their residents.

Source: Cedar Corporation, 2025

Appendix G-8: Land Use Programs

Agency / Entity	Program Name	Program Description
Local Programs		
Dodge County	**Land Division Ordinance**	Regulate the division of private land parcels and required infrastructure for new development including roads and stormwater management.
Dodge County	**Zoning Ordinance**	Regulates the use of land through the creation of specific districts and land use criteria and standards.
Dodge County (WDNR)	**Shoreland/Wetland Zoning Ordinance (Ch. 59.97 Wis. Stats. and Wisconsin Admin. Codes NR115, 116, and 117)**	Protect water quality and wildlife, prevent flooding. Development in shoreland areas is generally permitted, with specific design techniques. Development in floodplain areas is strictly regulated and in some instances, not permitted. Applies to all unincorporated areas.
Dodge County (DATCP)	**Farmland Preservation Program (Farmland Preservation Plan / Farmland Preservation Zoning)**	Provides monetary incentives to eligible landowners to keep their land in a productive state. The program offers tax credits to partidipcaton landowners whose eligible land must be identified in the Dodge County Farmland Preservation Plan and be zoned as Certified Farmland Preservation District.
Dodge County (WDNR)	**Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Program (Admin. Code NR-135)**	Requires the development and approval of reclamation plans for active mine sites. Permit issuance is dependent on meeting critieria and standards to acheive a specifed 'end land use' as outlined in the ordinance. Annual reporting and financial assurances are required to ensure reclamation occurs.
Local/Regional	**Purchase of Development Rights (PDR)**	A program created and implemented by a community or, more commonly, a Land Trust, for farmland and/or environmental land protection. Landowners receive payment equal to the difference between the fair market value of the land a developer would pay if it could be developed and the price the land would command for agricultural use. In return a conservation easement is recorded on the deed to the property which stays with the land.
State Programs		
DATCP	**Right to Farm Law (Wis. Stats. 823.08, passed in 1982 and revised in 1995)**	Protects farmers from nuisance lawsuits related to typical farm noise and odors. Provides criteria that define whether or not an agricultural activity is considered a nuisance by meeting two conditions: (1) the activity is being done on land that was used for agricultural purposes "without substantial interruption" prior to the plaintiff coming to the property being affected by the activity; and (2) the activity does not present a substantial safety or health threat.
DATCP	**Livestock Siting Rules (Wis. Stat. § 93.90 &ATCP 51)**	Establishes standards for the siting of confined animal feeding operations (CAFO's) of 1,000+ animal units. Either through a conditional use permit or a liscensing arrangement, applicants must address standards for: Property line and road setbacks; Management and training plans; Odor management, Nutrient management; Manure storage facilities; Runoff management. The State's Livestock Siting Review Board hears appeals of local decisions from applicants or neighboring landowners.
UW-Extension	**UW-Extension Center for Land Use Education**	The Center for Land Use Education uses a team-based approach to accomplish its dual missions in campus based undergraduate and graduate education and Extension outreach teaching related to: land use planning, plan and ordinance administration, project impact and regional trends analysis, and public involvement in local land use policy development. For more information on the Center for Land Use Education visit its web-site at www.uwsp.edu/cnr/landcenter/.
WDNR	**Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES)**	Protection of water quality from municipal and industrial discharges. Individual (i.e., site-specific) WPDES permits are issued to municipal and industrial facilities, including CAFOs, discharging to surface water and/or groundwater.
WDNR	**Managed Forest Law Program (MFL)**	Protection of woodland areas 10 or more acres in size. Landowners agree to manage the property for hunting, fishing, wildlife, and recreation purposes and not permit development in exchange for tax credits.

WDOA	**Wisconsin Land Information Program**	This program is a voluntary, statewide program that provides financial support to local governments for land records modernization efforts. All 72 Wisconsin counties voluntarily participate in the program. The Wisconsin Department of Administration oversees the Program's policies. The Board's statutory authority includes preparing guidelines to coordinate the modernization of land records and land information systems; implementing a grant programs; approval of countywide plans for land records modernization; serving as the clearinghouse for access to land information; and providing technical assistance and advice to entities with land information responsibilities.
WDOA	**Division of Intergovernmental Relations, Wisconsin Department of Administration**	This Division provides staff support to for administration of the Wisconsin Land Information Program. It also houses Plat Review and Municipal Boundary Review, both of which have statutory authority for approval of specific land use related requests, and the GIS Services, dedicated to the efficient use of geographic information systems. For further information about the division visit its web-site via the WDOA web-site at: www.doa.state.wi.us.
Federal Programs		
USDA	**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**	Voluntary program that encourages farmers and landowners to convert highly erodible and other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as native grasses, trees, and riparian buffers. By enrolling in CRP, participants receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving covers.

Source: Cedar Corporation, 2025

Appendix H – Supplemental Plan Element Data

2024 Dodge County Child Care Needs Assessment Survey

In the fall of 2024, Dodge County Community Development distributed a Child Care Needs Assessment Survey to all group child care facilities within Dodge County, including traditional child care centers and before- and after-school care programs. In-home providers were not included. Of the 24 facilities that received the survey, 12 responded. The goal was to gather insights into enrollment trends, staffing challenges, waitlists, and future plans in order to better understand the needs and capacity of Dodge County's child care system. This summary highlights key findings and identifies opportunities for growth, along with areas where additional support could have a meaningful impact.

Survey Summary

Capacity & Enrollment

- Facilities report capacities ranging from 20 to 131 children.
- Enrollment is generally below maximum capacity, especially for infants and preschoolers.
- Most centers are operating under capacity due to staffing limitations or funding issues, not lack of demand.

Waitlist

- 9 out of 12 centers report having waitlists, often with long lists for infants and toddlers.
    - Notable examples:
        - One center reported 25 infants and 35 toddlers on the waitlist.
        - Another had a paid waitlist for unborn children.

Key Challenges

- Staffing is the most frequently cited issue, including:
    - Difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified teachers.
    - Inability to offer competitive wages or benefits.
- Funding and affordability are significant concerns:
    - Centers struggle with high overhead costs and limited ability to increase fees.
- Some mention space limitations and facility constraints.
- Impact of 4K school programs reducing preschool enrollment

Opportunities for Growth

- Many centers see potential if:
    - Grant funding or state investment increases.
    - Public understanding and support of early childhood education improves.
    - More educational pathways and support are created for early childhood education professionals.

Support Requested from Dodge County

- Financial support: grants, increased state assistance, budget inclusion.
- Policy changes: adjust assistance based on actual fee schedules.
- Public education: inform the community about childcare needs and challenges, and evaluate child care as essential for economic stability

Future Plans

- Centers actively expanding or planning improvements:
    - St. John's Child Care: New facility targeted for Aug 2025
    - Community Care: Partnering with school district to double capacity
    - Wee Care: Remodeling to add 25 more children
    - Gingerbread: Recently completed an expansion
    - St. Mary's: Attempted to expand but fell short in fundraising
- Most others not expanding due to lack of staff or funding

Key Quotes

"*We require education but can't pay them or offer good livable wages/benefits. Our state doesn't value ECE—licensed centers and in-homes are closing*."
– Future All Star's Academy, Juneau

"*Until child care is seen as a common good accessible to all families, we will keep struggling*."
– Community Care, Beaver Dam

"*We are struggling immensely since the school district started full-day 4K. This change was detrimental to childcare facilities already struggling to keep rates affordable and pay staff fairly*."
– St. Stephens Child Care, Horicon

WisDOT Traffic Counts for County Road Sites

Dodge County Count Site ID	Year 2000 AADT	Year 2010 AADT	Year 2015 AADT	Last Year Available AADT (2020-2024)	Percent Change 2000 to Last YearAvailable	Percent Change 2010 to Last Year Available	Percent Change 2015 to Last Year Available
140001	15,000	18,300	19,100	20,200	25.74%	9.41%	5.45%
140102	6,900	7,300	9,100	10,800	36.11%	32.41%	15.74%
140103	900	900	960	720	-25.00%	-25.00%	-33.33%
140107	2,200	2,400	2,800	2,700	18.52%	11.11%	-3.70%
140108	3,200	3,600	3,700	3,200	0.00%	-12.50%	-15.63%
140109	1,600	2,400	2,400	1,700	5.88%	-41.18%	-41.18%
140110	1,900	2,700	2,300	2,400	20.83%	-12.50%	4.17%
140111	8,400	7,600	6,800	5,500	-52.73%	-38.18%	-23.64%
140112	4,000	3,600	3,900	3,100	-29.03%	-16.13%	-25.81%
140114	4,500	6,000	6,800	4,700	4.26%	-27.66%	-44.68%
140119	6,600	6,500	5,200	4,800	-37.50%	-35.42%	-8.33%
140120	4,100	3,400	4,700	4,700	12.77%	27.66%	0.00%
140121	13,800	17,600	17,300	22,300	38.12%	21.08%	22.42%
140125	28,700	29,600	37,200	34,400	16.57%	13.95%	-8.14%
140158	N/A	220	220	210		-4.76%	-4.76%
140159	2,000	2,700	2,100	2,700	25.93%	0.00%	22.22%
140161	12,000	12,600	13,900	18,600	35.48%	32.26%	25.27%
140164	3,300	3,600	3,400	2,800	-17.86%	-28.57%	-21.43%
140165	11,800	12,600	13,700	17,100	30.99%	26.32%	19.88%
140171	700	1,000	740	740	5.41%	-35.14%	0.00%
140178	1,100	1,100	910	780	-41.03%	-41.03%	-16.67%
140180	1,200	1,600	1,500	1,400	14.29%	-14.29%	-7.14%
140186	820	960	1,200	1,200	31.67%	20.00%	0.00%
140188	1,000	1,200	1,200	890	-12.36%	-34.83%	-34.83%
140189	1,100	1,400	1,100	1,000	-10.00%	-40.00%	-10.00%
140197	27,100	32,500	35,300	37,100	26.95%	12.40%	4.85%
140206	1,100	1,600	1,300	1,300	15.38%	-23.08%	0.00%
140207	490	870	770	650	24.62%	-33.85%	-18.46%
140222	2,500	2,700	2,100	2,500	0.00%	-8.00%	16.00%
140230	1,400	1,600	1,300	1,600	12.50%	0.00%	18.75%
140250	3,500	4,500	5,100	7,600	53.95%	40.79%	32.89%
140252	2,100	2,200	2,000	1,300	-61.54%	-69.23%	-53.85%
140255	7,600	8,600	8,300	8,700	12.64%	1.15%	4.60%
140262	3,500	3,100	3,800	2,900	-20.69%	-6.90%	-31.03%
140263	4,100	3,900	4,400	3,200	-28.13%	-21.88%	-37.50%
140264	4,900	5,100	5,700	4,000	-22.50%	-27.50%	-42.50%
140287	1,000	1,200	1,100	1,000	0.00%	-20.00%	-10.00%
140290	760	930	730	870	12.64%	-6.90%	16.09%
140295	1,600	1,700	1,300	2,700	40.74%	37.04%	51.85%
140305	1,400	1,400	1,500	1,100	-27.27%	-27.27%	-36.36%
140306	2,400	2,600	2,300	2,900	17.24%	10.34%	20.69%
140310	720	590	730	780	7.69%	24.36%	6.41%
140318	970	750	1,300	1,300	25.38%	42.31%	0.00%
140319	1,600	1,800	1,700	1,500	-6.67%	-20.00%	-13.33%
140321	1,500	1,100	1,400	1,200	-25.00%	8.33%	-16.67%
140325	500	470	640	690	27.54%	31.88%	7.25%
140329	2,500	2,600	3,100	3,000	16.67%	13.33%	-3.33%
140330	2,700	2,400	2,900	2,400	-12.50%	0.00%	-20.83%
140331	4,000	3,800	4,400	3,800	-5.26%	0.00%	-15.79%
140340	710	550	540	480	-47.92%	-14.58%	-12.50%
140349	570	540	430	490	-16.33%	-10.20%	12.24%
140352	3,700	3,000	3,900	4,600	19.57%	34.78%	15.22%
140360	670	650	1,400	1,600	58.13%	59.38%	12.50%
140362	870	920	780	740	-17.57%	-24.32%	-5.41%
140364	1,300	940	920	1,100	-18.18%	14.55%	16.36%
140365	6,600	6,700	5,600	7,100	7.04%	5.63%	21.13%
140368	5,200	4,300	4,100	5,100	-1.96%	15.69%	19.61%
140369	8,000	6,500	6,700	6,900	-15.94%	5.80%	2.90%
140372	2,600	2,500	2,700	3,100	16.13%	19.35%	12.90%
140380	320	520	260	310	-3.23%	-67.74%	16.13%

Dodge County Count Site ID	Year 2000 AADT	Year 2010 AADT	Year 2015 AADT	Last Year Available AADT (2020-2024)	Percent Change 2000 to Last YearAvailable	Percent Change 2010 to Last Year Available	Percent Change 2015 to Last Year Available
140383	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
140384	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
140385	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
140386	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
140392	480	580	450	480	0.00%	-20.83%	6.25%
140393	920	1,100	1,100	830	-10.84%	-32.53%	-32.53%
140395	710	780	670	810	12.35%	3.70%	17.28%
140398	750	870	740	780	3.85%	-11.54%	5.13%
140404	N/A	2,900	4,000	2,600		-11.54%	-53.85%
140405	N/A	80	80	50		-60.00%	-60.00%
140408	1,100	1,100	860	1,000	-10.00%	-10.00%	14.00%
140409	320	360	350	410	21.95%	12.20%	14.63%
140410	1,100	1,000	730	940	-17.02%	-6.38%	22.34%
140413	1,100	1,200	790	900	-22.22%	-33.33%	12.22%
140414	2,900	2,500	2,000	1,700	-70.59%	-47.06%	-17.65%
140417	3,600	3,100	2,800	3,400	-5.88%	8.82%	17.65%
140418	790	840	730	880	10.23%	4.55%	17.05%
140426	7,300	8,400	1,400	1,400	-421.43%	-500.00%	0.00%
140427	9,000	9,100	2,800	3,200	-181.25%	-184.38%	12.50%
140437	1,500	1,400	1,800	1,400	-7.14%	0.00%	-28.57%
140440	920	1,000	1,100	1,200	23.33%	16.67%	8.33%
140443	660	790	930	770	14.29%	-2.60%	-20.78%
140444	720	950	910	880	18.18%	-7.95%	-3.41%
140450	3,300	2,500	3,800	4,100	19.51%	39.02%	7.32%
140452	6,100	5,500	7,600	10,000	39.00%	45.00%	24.00%
140455	14,900	18,500	18,300	21,400	30.37%	13.55%	14.49%
140456	9,800	8,700	8,100	9,900	1.01%	12.12%	18.18%
140517	2,000	2,200	2,000	1,800	-11.11%	-22.22%	-11.11%
140519	5,900	6,300	7,200	5,200	-13.46%	-21.15%	-38.46%
140521	N/A	970	970	1,900		48.95%	48.95%
140522	N/A	1,500	1,500	2,100		28.57%	28.57%
140523	N/A	320	320	400		20.00%	20.00%
140524	N/A	980	980	1,500		34.67%	34.67%
140525	N/A	4,200	4,200	3,500		-20.00%	-20.00%
140526	N/A	720	720	530		-35.85%	-35.85%
140527	N/A	680	680	680		0.00%	0.00%
140530	N/A	1,600	1,500	1,500		-6.67%	0.00%
140532	N/A	2,500	2,500	2,700		7.41%	7.41%
140533	N/A	6,300	6,200	5,600		-12.50%	-10.71%
140534	N/A	350	350	380		7.89%	7.89%
140538	N/A	7,200	3,400	3,900		-84.62%	12.82%
140543	N/A	770	770	770		0.00%	0.00%
140544	N/A	5,300	4,500	4,800		-10.42%	6.25%
140547	N/A	4,500	4,400	4,500		0.00%	2.22%
140549	N/A	4,100	4,100	5,700		28.07%	28.07%
140550	N/A	850	850	610		-39.34%	-39.34%
140551	6,400	6,200	6,400	5,900	-8.47%	-5.08%	-8.47%
140612	4,700	4,300	3,600	3,800	-23.68%	-13.16%	5.26%
140613	4,800	2,800	4,200	5,000	4.00%	44.00%	16.00%
140805	660	920	740	550	-20.00%	-67.27%	-34.55%
140808	650	760	540	620	-4.84%	-22.58%	12.90%
140809	3,800	4,700	4,600	6,300	39.68%	25.40%	26.98%
140811	2,900	3,100	2,300	2,500	-16.00%	-24.00%	8.00%
140812	2,600	2,600	2,800	2,700	3.70%	3.70%	-3.70%
140816	540	640	810	2,300	76.52%	72.17%	64.78%
140822	280	440	280	350	20.00%	-25.71%	20.00%
140828	750	760	1,100	900	16.67%	15.56%	-22.22%
140829	340	370	370	290	-17.24%	-27.59%	-27.59%
140835	750	820	950	1,100	31.82%	25.45%	13.64%
140838	15,600	17,700	18,000	21,500	27.44%	17.67%	16.28%
140839	160	160	170	140	-14.29%	-14.29%	-21.43%
140840	N/A	1,200	1,200	1,000		-20.00%	-20.00%
140841	440	470	450	350	-25.71%	-34.29%	-28.57%

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140847	N/A	N/A	1,300	2,400			45.83%
140858	7,400	5,800	7,600	7,400	0.00%	21.62%	-2.70%
140891	2,100	2,900	2,200	1,100	-90.91%	-163.64%	-100.00%
140895	N/A	450	450	510		11.76%	11.76%
140909	N/A	4,500	3,700	3,600		-25.00%	-2.78%
140924	1,900	2,100	1,500	1,100	-72.73%	-90.91%	-36.36%
140931	2,300	2,300	1,900	2,200	-4.55%	-4.55%	13.64%
140947	N/A	N/A	290	300			3.33%
140948	N/A	690	830	1,700		59.41%	51.18%
140949	N/A	860	1,300	280		-207.14%	-364.29%
140950	1,200	750	910	1,700	29.41%	55.88%	46.47%
140953	2,500	3,100	3,000	2,800	10.71%	-10.71%	-7.14%
140954	980	1,300	1,100	1,100	10.91%	-18.18%	0.00%
140955	720	700	560	410	-75.61%	-70.73%	-36.59%
140956	1,700	1,500	1,400	1,300	-30.77%	-15.38%	-7.69%
140958	3,700	3,200	4,100	3,400	-8.82%	5.88%	-20.59%
140959	460	470	310	250	-84.00%	-88.00%	-24.00%
140960	930	700	560	560	-66.07%	-25.00%	0.00%
140961	3,800	4,000	3,300	4,700	19.15%	14.89%	29.79%
140964	5,100	6,300	5,800	5,900	13.56%	-6.78%	1.69%
140969	370	430	350	260	-42.31%	-65.38%	-34.62%
140971	2,800	2,300	2,500	2,200	-27.27%	-4.55%	-13.64%
140973	3,100	3,700	3,400	3,400	8.82%	-8.82%	0.00%
140977	590	540	400	420	-40.48%	-28.57%	4.76%
140978	4,300	3,700	2,800	5,900	27.12%	37.29%	52.54%
140980	480	510	410	440	-9.09%	-15.91%	6.82%
140981	5,400	5,400	6,500	6,700	19.40%	19.40%	2.99%
140982	760	660	500	500	-52.00%	-32.00%	0.00%
140998	3,300	2,900	3,000	2,800	-17.86%	-3.57%	-7.14%
141000	14,600	15,700	18,600	20,800	29.81%	24.52%	10.58%
141011	N/A	1,300	1,300	1,100		-18.18%	-18.18%
141012	N/A	5,900	2,100	2,200		-168.18%	4.55%
141013	N/A	870	870	840		-3.57%	-3.57%
141040	N/A	5,500	5,100	6,300		12.70%	19.05%
141041	N/A	5,500	5,400	6,300		12.70%	14.29%
141211	3,800	3,900	3,900	3,200	-18.75%	-21.88%	-21.88%
141212	3,600	3,900	4,300	3,000	-20.00%	-30.00%	-43.33%
141213	3,900	2,800	2,900	2,600	-50.00%	-7.69%	-11.54%
141214	2,600	2,600	2,700	2,400	-8.33%	-8.33%	-12.50%
141216	780	640	920	1,100	29.09%	41.82%	16.36%
141217	880	870	1,300	1,200	26.67%	27.50%	-8.33%
141218	660	750	670	950	30.53%	21.05%	29.47%
141220	2,600	2,400	2,400	2,400	-8.33%	0.00%	0.00%
141222	1,500	1,100	2,100	1,400	-7.14%	21.43%	-50.00%
141223	1,400	1,200	1,600	1,700	17.65%	29.41%	5.88%
141250	2,100	1,800	2,300	1,900	-10.53%	5.26%	-21.05%
141254	12,100	19,800	15,700	18,500	34.59%	-7.03%	15.14%
141270	1,100	1,400	1,700	1,300	15.38%	-7.69%	-30.77%
141271	1,100	890	1,000	790	-39.24%	-12.66%	-26.58%
141272	960	800	1,100	760	-26.32%	-5.26%	-44.74%
141273	1,100	1,300	1,500	1,200	8.33%	-8.33%	-25.00%
141279	3,100	1,700	1,500	1,200	-158.33%	-41.67%	-25.00%
141280	2,100	1,700	1,600	1,500	-40.00%	-13.33%	-6.67%
141281	2,000	1,800	1,700	1,500	-33.33%	-20.00%	-13.33%
141282	N/A	2,100	1,600	1,300		-61.54%	-23.08%
141300	830	1,300	1,300	1,200	30.83%	-8.33%	-8.33%
141301	690	1,200	1,300	1,100	37.27%	-9.09%	-18.18%
141302	860	780	2,000	1,500	42.67%	48.00%	-33.33%
141303	780	690	2,100	1,200	35.00%	42.50%	-75.00%
141304	760	750	1,100	1,100	30.91%	31.82%	0.00%
141307	1,900	1,500	2,000	1,600	-18.75%	6.25%	-25.00%
141308	2,000	1,300	1,800	1,700	-17.65%	23.53%	-5.88%
141309	3,100	4,600	5,700	5,200	40.38%	11.54%	-9.62%

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141311	2,900	2,800	3,000	2,900	0.00%	3.45%	-3.45%
141312	2,400	2,700	3,100	2,700	11.11%	0.00%	-14.81%
141315	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,200			
141316	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,100			
141317	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,100			
141320	700	810	990	830	15.66%	2.41%	-19.28%
141321	890	1,100	1,300	1,300	31.54%	15.38%	0.00%
141322	860	1,100	1,400	1,200	28.33%	8.33%	-16.67%
141323	970	830	940	810	-19.75%	-2.47%	-16.05%
141324	2,400	2,900	3,000	2,800	14.29%	-3.57%	-7.14%
141325	4,500	4,900	4,600	5,500	18.18%	10.91%	16.36%
141327	N/A	1,900	2,000	2,000		5.00%	0.00%
141328	N/A	N/A	1,200	1,500			20.00%
141330	N/A	N/A	1,300	1,500			13.33%
141331	N/A	N/A	1,400	1,400			0.00%
141332	N/A	N/A	1,100	1,300			15.38%
141333	N/A	N/A	1,300	1,500			13.33%
141335	N/A	N/A	6,600	5,300			-24.53%
144052	2,000	2,100	1,800	2,000	0.00%	-5.00%	10.00%
144054	540	570	580	520	-3.85%	-9.62%	-11.54%
144062	1,300	1,600	1,000	1,800	27.78%	11.11%	44.44%
144066	740	740	600	840	11.90%	11.90%	28.57%
144072	920	900	670	620	-48.39%	-45.16%	-8.06%
144079	830	920	N/A	620	-33.87%	-48.39%	
144082	820	750	740	540	-51.85%	-38.89%	-37.04%
148563	680	710	850	560	-21.43%	-26.79%	-51.79%
148564	510	650	760	520	1.92%	-25.00%	-46.15%

e: WisDOT for years listed.

Dodge County Water Utility Summaries

The information contained within this section was obtained from Annual Reports from the listed utility to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission in 2005 as well as from public water system investigations completed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

This information was taken from the 2040 Comprehensive Plan document which was adopted in 2015. It serves to provide some additional information about each water utility within the County; however it should be noted that some facilities and descriptions may be out of date.

Beaver Dam Water Utility

The Beaver Dam Water Utility was organized in 1889. Sewer service is not rendered via the utility. There are approximately 5,300 residential metered customers served by the system, 580 commercial customers, and 60 industrial customers. Groundwater is the only water source utilized for water distribution. The Utility utilized four wells, ranging from 365 feet in depth to 585 feet. Storage facilities include: 1) steel elevated tank, built in 1973, with a 500,000 gallon capacity; 2) steel elevated tank, built in 1949, with a 400,000 gallon capacity; and 3) concrete reservoir, built in 1957, 1,000,000 gallon capacity. The utility has approximately 360,000 feet of water main, the majority of which is 6" in diameter. There are also 625 hydrants maintained by the utility, all of which are located within the municipality.

Village of Brownsville Water Utility

The Village of Brownsville Water Utility was organized in 1947. Sewer service is not rendered by the Utility. There are approximately 200 residential metered customers served by the system, 25 commercial customers, and no industrial customers. Groundwater is the only water source utilized for water distribution. There are two wells that provide water to the system, ranging in depth from 975 feet to 1,250 feet. The Utility has two storage facilities, an elevated tank that was constructed in 1948 with a 50,000 gallon capacity, and a 70,000 gallon reservoir. There are approximately 24,000 feet of water main within the system and 46 fire hydrants.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources completed an investigation of the public water system at the Village of Brownsville in 2001. Detailed inspections are completed every five years as part of an inspection program mandated by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The investigated concluded that the Brownsville waterworks system is in good overall condition, but is in need of some improvements. The DNR recommendations included the following:

- Start planning and budgeting for water treatment to remove the excess radionuclides from the drinking water.
- Consideration should be given to the addition of fluoride to the water supply.
- Improvements to each well house to reduce corrosion, maintain conditions, and improve overall appearance.
- Review and possibly improve security.
- Establish an equipment replacement fund.
- Begin planning and budgeting for additional elevated storage.

Clyman Utility Commission

The Clyman Utility Commission provides water and sewer service. The Commission was organized in 1920. There are approximately 150 residential metered customers served by the water system, 12 commercial customers, and 1 industrial customer. Groundwater is the only water source utilized for water distribution. The Commission uses three wells, ranging in depth from 233 feet to 653 feet. There is one storage facility, an elevated tank, built in 1994, with a 250,000 gallon storage capacity. The Commission has approximately 22,000 feet of water main and 42 hydrants.

Columbus Water & Light Department

The Columbus Water & Light Department was formed in 1899. Sewer service is not provided by the Department. There are approximately 1,500 residential metered customers served by the water system, 211 commercial customers, and 13 industrial customers. Groundwater is the only water source utilized for water distribution. Water is supplied through the use of three wells, ranging in depth from 575 feet to 677 feet. Storage facilities include: 1) elevated tank, built in 1971, with a capacity of 250,000 gallons; 2) concrete reservoir, built in 1994, 300,000 gallon capacity; and 3) concrete reservoir, built in 1941, 240,000 gallon capacity. The Department also has approximately 154,000 feet of water main and 248 hydrants. The Light Department (electric) has approximately 2,000 residential customers and 385 commercial and industrial customers. The Department also has three substations.

City of Fox Lake Water Utility

The Utility was organized in 1913. Sewer service is not provided via the utility. There are approximately 565 residential metered customers served by the water system, 65 commercial customers, and 10 industrial customers. Groundwater is the only water source utilized for water distribution. The Utility operates two wells, which range in depth from 444 to 540 feet. The Utility also has one elevated storage tank that was built in 1993 with a capacity of 225,000 gallons. There are approximately 68,000 feet of water mains within the water distribution system as well as 140 hydrants.

City of Hartford Utilities

This Utility was organized in 1895. Sewer service is not provided; however water and electricity are. There are approximately 3,300 residential metered customers served by the water system, 360 commercial customers, and 51 industrial customers. There are also approximately 30 unmetered commercial customers. Groundwater is the only water source utilized for water distribution. There are six wells operated by the Utility, ranging in depth from 40 feet to 704 feet. Storage facilities include: 1) steel reservoir, built in 1933, capacity of 150,000 gallons; 2) steel reservoir, built in 1999, with a capacity of 300,000 gallons; 3) steel reservoir, built in 1997, capacity of 500,000 gallons; 4) concrete reservoir, built in 1961, 150,000 gallon capacity; and 5) concrete reservoir, built in 1923, 150,000 gallon capacity. The Utility also has approximately 370,000 feet of water main and 501 hydrants. There are approximately 4,400 electricity customers served by the utility, and also 680 commercial and 60 industrial customers. The Utility operates seven substations.

City of Horicon – Water Utility

The City of Horicon Water Utility was organized in 1912. Sewer service is not operated via the utility. There are approximately 1,300 residential metered customers served by the water system, 130 commercial customers, and 27 industrial customers. Groundwater is the only water source utilized for water distribution. The Utility operates four wells, ranging in depth from 582 to 786 feet. Storage facilities include: 1) elevated tank, built in 1975, with a 200,000 gallon capacity; 2) reservoir, built in 1912, with a 103,700 gallon capacity; and 3) elevated tank, built in 1912, 106,000 gallon capacity. The Utility has approximately 126,000 feet of water main and 250 hydrants.

Hustisford Utilities

Hustisford Utilities was formed in 1937. Sewer and water service is provided by the utility. There are approximately 380 residential metered customers served by the water system, 60 commercial customers, and 9 industrial customers. Groundwater is the only water source utilized for water distribution. The Utility operates two wells, ranging in depth from 225 to 252 feet. There are two elevated storage tanks used for storage. One was built in 1971 and has a capacity of 200,000 gallons and the other tank was built in 1991 and has a capacity of 200,000 gallons. There are approximately 46,000 feet of water main owned by the utility as well as 85 fire hydrants. Electricity service is utilized by approximately 500 residential, 700 rural residential, and 180 commercial and industrial customers. The Utility operates one substation.

Iron Ridge Water Utility

The Iron Ridge Water Utility was organized in 1922. Sewer service is provided by the utility. There are approximately 260 residential metered customers served by the water system, 21 commercial customers, and 10 industrial customers. Groundwater is the only water source utilized for water distribution. The utility operates two wells, ranging in depth from 500 to 525 feet. The utility also has one standpipe that was built in 1981 with a total capacity of 275,000 gallons. There are approximately 28,000 feet of water main in the system as well as 56 fire hydrants.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources completed an investigation of the public water system at the Village of Iron Ridge in 2000. Detailed inspections are completed every five years as part of an inspection program mandated by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The investigation concluded that the Iron Ridge waterworks system is in good overall condition, but is in need of some improvements. The DNR recommendations included the following:

- Consideration should be given to the addition of fluoride to the water supply.
- Installation of a dehumidifier is recommended for each pump house to prevent corrosion.
- Recommended to establish an equipment replacement fund.

Juneau Utility Commission

The Juneau Utility Commission was organized in 1895. There are approximately 700 residential metered customers served by the water system, 80 commercial customers, and 13 industrial customers. Groundwater is the only water source utilized for water distribution. The Utility operates three wells, ranging in depth from 625 to 680 feet. Storage facilities include one elevated water tower with a storage capacity of 500,000 gallons and one water tower site. The highest daily water usage experienced for one day was 339,000 gallons. The Utility also owns approximately 81,000 feet of water main and 154 fire hydrants.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources completed an investigation of the public water system at the City of Juneau in 2001. Detailed inspections are completed every five years as part of an inspection program mandated by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The investigation concluded that the Juneau waterworks system is in good overall condition, but is in need of some improvements. The DNR recommendations included the following:

- Installation of larger dehumidifiers is recommended for each pump house to prevent corrosion.
- Auxiliary power should be added to the system.

Lomira Water Utility

The Lomira Water Utility was organized in 1940. Sewer service is not rendered via the utility. There are approximately 675 residential metered customers served by the water system, 90 commercial customers, and 11 industrial customers. Groundwater is the only water source utilized for water distribution. The Utility has two wells, ranging in depth from 1,195 to 1,207 feet. Storage facilities include: 1) elevated tank, built in 1939, 50,000 gallon capacity; 2) concrete reservoir, built in 1939, 40,000 gallon capacity; 3) elevated tank, built in 1990, 300,000 gallon capacity. The Utility also has approximately 64,000 feet of water main and 121 fire hydrants.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources completed an investigation of the public water system at the Village of Lomira in 2002. Detailed inspections are completed every five years as part of an inspection program mandated by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The investigated concluded that the Lomira waterworks system is in good overall condition, but is in need of some improvements. The DNR recommendations included the following:

- The village should consider the addition of another well.
- Consideration should be given to the addition of fluoride to the water supply.
- The pump at well #2 may need to be lowered to prevent cavitation.
- Additional auxiliary power is recommended at well #2.
- Review and implementation of additional security measures.
- Installation of a dehumidifier is recommended for each pump house to prevent corrosion.
- Establishment of an equipment replacement fund.
- The village has determined that another well may be needed in the future.

Lowell Municipal Water and Sewer Utility

The utility was organized in 1969. Sewer and water service is rendered via the utility. There are approximately 106 residential metered customers served by the water system, 12 commercial customers, and one industrial customer. Groundwater is the only water source utilized for water distribution. The utility has one well with a depth of 212 feet and an elevated tank that was built in 1970 with a 50,000 gallon capacity. The utility also has approximately 14,000 feet of water main and 18 fire hydrants. The sewage operation serves approximately 106 residential customers, 12 commercial, and one industrial customer. The utility owns approximately 21,000 feet of sewer main.

Mayville Water Utility

The utility was organized in 1907. There are approximately 1,600 residential metered customers served by the water system, 181 commercial customers, and 33 industrial customers. Industrial users represent nearly 50% of water sales. Water system facilities include four wells, ranging in depth from 760 to 818 feet. Groundwater is the only source of water utilized by the utility. Water storage facilities include: 1) elevated tank, built in 1976 with a 500,000 gallon capacity; 2) standpipe, built in 1962 with a 200,000 gallon capacity. There are approximately 32 miles of water distribution and transmission mains ranging in size up to 16 inches in diameter. A number of plans and studies have been completed for the city with regard to the water system as follows.

- Preliminary water distribution plan, 1974
- Water system plan, 1975
- Water system plan, 1977
- Water system plan, 1990
- WDNR Water System Investigation, 1999
- Water system study, 2000

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources completed an investigation of the public water system at the City of Mayville in 1999. Detailed inspections are completed every five years as part of an inspection program mandated by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The investigated concluded that the Mayville waterworks system is in good overall condition, but is in need of some improvements.

A water system study was completed for the city by Earth Tech, Inc. in 2000. The study evaluated the city's water system needs to the 2020. Changes, improvements, and general policy issues were discussed and recommended.

Town of Portland Sanitary District #1

The District was organized in 1970. Sewer service is not provided by the District. The Town of Portland Sanitary District has a contract until 2009 with the Waterloo Water & Light Commission for the purchase of water. There are approximately 60 residential metered customers served by the water system, seven commercial customers, and no industrial customers. The District has approximately 9,100 feet of water main and four fire hydrants.

Randolph Water Utility

The Randolph Water Utility was organized in 1907. Sewer service is not rendered via the utility. There are approximately 570 residential metered customers served by the water system, 95 commercial customers, and 22 industrial customers. Groundwater is the only water source utilized for water distribution. The utility has three wells, ranging in depth from 385 to 552 feet. Storage facilities include: 1) elevated tank, built in 1906 with a 75,000 gallon capacity; 2) reservoir, built in 1930 with a 75,000 gallon capacity. The utility has approximately 45,000 feet of water main and 96 hydrants.

Reeseville Water Utility

The Reeseville Water Utility was organized in 1924. Sewer service is not rendered by the utility. There are approximately 210 residential metered customers served by the water system, 30 commercial customers, and five industrial customers. Groundwater is the only water source utilized

for water distribution. The utility has two wells, ranging in depth from 219 to 350 feet. The utility also has one elevated storage tank that was built in 2001, with a capacity of 200,000 gallons. The utility has approximately 24,000 feet of water main and 48 fire hydrants.

Watertown Water Commission

The Watertown Water Commission was organized in 1895. Sewer service is not rendered by the utility. There are approximately 6,600 residential metered customers served by the water system, 750 commercial customers, and 65 industrial customers. Groundwater is the only water source utilized for water distribution. The utility operates nine wells, ranging in depth from 703 to 1,145 feet. Storage facilities include: 1) elevated tank, built in 1966 with a capacity of 300,000 gallons; 2) elevated tank, built in 1995 with a 300,000 gallon capacity; 3) elevated tank, built in 1996 with a 300,000 gallon capacity; 4) elevated tank, built in 1951 with a 300,000 gallon capacity; 5) reservoir, built in 1966 with a 360,000 gallon capacity; 6) reservoir, built in 1952 with a 324,000 gallon capacity; 7) elevated tank, built in 1985 with a 500,000 gallon capacity; 8) elevated tank, built in 1966 with a 300,000 gallon capacity. The utility has approximately 577,000 feet of water main and 1,060 fire hydrants.

Waupun Utilities

Waupun Utilities was organized in 1894. Sewer service is rendered by the utility. There are approximately 2,800 residential metered customers served by the water system, 330 commercial customers, and 16 industrial customers. Groundwater is the only water source utilized for water distribution. The utility operates five wells, ranging in depth from 611 to 965 feet. Water storage facilities include: 1) elevated tank, built in 1966 with a 250,000 gallon capacity; 2) reservoir, built in 1941 with a 500,000 gallon capacity; 3) reservoir, built in 1972 with a 32,000 gallon capacity; and 4) elevated tank, built in 1992 with a 400,000 gallon capacity. The utility also has approximately 264,000 feet of water main and 378 fire hydrants. Electric operations serve approximately 3,600 residential and 500 industrial and commercial customers. The utility has six substations.

Village of Theresa Municipal Water and Sewer Utility

The utility was organized in 1954. Both sewer and water service are rendered by the utility. There are approximately 480 residential metered customers served by the water system, 25 commercial customers, and 3 industrial customers. Groundwater is the only water source utilized for water distribution. The utility has two wells, ranging in depth from 102 to 875 feet. The source for Well No. 1, which is the main source for drinking water, is a sand and gravel aquifer. A sandstone aquifer is the source for Well No. 2, which serves as a backup system and provides water for fire-fighting. Water storage facilities include one elevated storage tank that was built in 1997 with a 200,000 gallon capacity. The utility also has approximately 43,000 feet of water main and 75 fire hydrants. Sewage operations serve approximately 475 residential, 25 commercial, and 3 industrial customers. The utility has approximately 40,000 feet of sewer main.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources completed an investigation of the public water system at the Village of Theresa in 1998. Detailed inspections are completed every five years as part of an inspection program mandated by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The investigated concluded that the Theresa waterworks system is in good overall condition, but is in need of some improvements. The DNR recommendations included the following:

- Measures should be taken to reduce the amount of water loss occurring in the system. A water

loss study may be needed.

- Installation of a dehumidifier at each pump house is recommended.
- Fluoride addition was discontinued in May of 1993. This should be reviewed.
- The Department recommends that zeolite softeners be installed at well #2.

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