
APPENDIX 7-1

*KENOSHA COUNTY
Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan*

Kenosha County Café

May 12, 2007



Q 1. What makes Kenosha a great community?

- Diversity – cultural, recreational, geography
- Location – accessibility/proximity to other locations and amenities, including lakefront, Chicago, and Milwaukee.
- Good size compared to Chicago and Milwaukee – small community atmosphere w/Big City – arts, transportation, airports, entertainment.
- City of Kenosha redevelopment – lakefront and Harbor Park
- Education
- Schools on local level
- Pro-family
- Civic/volunteerism, active people
- Neighborhoods
- Diverse activities
- Control growth
- Less traffic
- Aesthetic and care of community
- Green space – even in subdivisions, yards are planted
- Natural resources
- Fair society and legal system
- Peaceful and calm
- Good Communication
- Bike trails
- Ever-changing
- Good lay-out (grid-wise)
- Services
- Variety of development (urban ↔ rural)

Why is it important to you, personally, that Kenosha County is a great place to live, work, learn, and play?

- Proper planning to preserve and promote variety of development
- Future for youth



Q 2. What benefits have you experienced from the growth that has occurred in Kenosha County over the past several years?

- Good Momentum ➡ increased variety in education, commercial & recreational opportunities.
- Countywide library system
- Positive economic benefit from new residents
- Sewer capacity
- Neighborhood level planning in several areas
- Expanded retail – less outflow of local dollars
- Expanded health and public safety resources
- New & renewed interest in Green Preservation
- Schools are good
- Job opportunities – diversity in jobs and business growth
- Cost born to those that want or need by development
- Lakefront revitalization
- Diversity
- Family atmosphere

What negative impacts have you observed?

- Taxes up due to fast growth.
- Uncontrolled growth: impact on taxes and infrastructure.
- Infrastructure ➡ sewer/water issues, including sewer capacity.
- Zoning ➡ existing zoning plans vs. developers
- School taxes and growth concerns
- Jobs ➡ mixed bag (types of industry?)
- New residents searching for employment.
- Concerns about impact on environment ➡ water and air quality concerns.
- Over-consumption of natural resources (e.g., water)
- Growth requires economic balance and problems with bedroom communities; balanced development.
- Housing concerns ➡ less density; waiting lists (i.e., affordable housing concerns)
- Diminishing agricultural base – specifically dairy
- Loss of farmland ➡ change of life; also change in farming methods impacted farmland, even more so than sprawl.
- Disappearance of small farmers
- Need for economic balance ➡ residential growth puts too much load of tax base; diversify land use for economic diversity.
- Transportation: disconnect of City of Kenosha to freeway ➡ bypass

- Concern with roads and access; Highway 50 the only east-west hwy. in County; better East West system to get into City of Kenosha and Lakefront.
- Increase in traffic
- Inconvenient bus system
- Bars
- Litter

HARVEST

- Communication helps things happen.
- Redevelopment of brownfields and of downtown Kenosha – attracting business and diversity of people with job skills.
- Housing – more affordable and higher quality than Illinois
- More apartment houses
- Cost of services
- Variety in options – shopping, services, libraries, recreational, fitness
- Festivals in downtown Kenosha bring people downtown.
- Colleges draw teaching staff with broader skills and more students.



Q 3. What conditions and structures will help or hinder our working together to strengthen our Kenosha County?

HELP:

- Want local input for planning – home grown planning.
- Developing trust between developers, government agencies and citizens.
- Tax issues ➡ taxing entities working together ➡ provision of high quality services.
- Water divide issues – Great Lakes Annex

- What we are doing now is a step in the right direction. What is *best* for the whole group. Keep it going ➡ Momentum.
- “Think futuristically.”

HINDER:

- Too many layers of government ➡ takes too long to get approval.
- Time of putting together multi-jurisdictional agreements.
- Extra Territorial Zoning creates a war.
- Lack of inter-governmental cooperation – political egos (e.g., agencies)
- Self-interest

- Ordinances that discourage development.
- Not following through on plans.
- People not keeping their work.
- Outsiders coming in and “taking over” communities.
- Urban vs. rural issues → prejudice and disconnect.
- Lack of trust between rural and urban – someone has to win or it's not a good deal.
- Focus not on benefit, but on what's missing.
- Lack of education and interest.
- Large city takes blame and that cascades and trickles down.
- Growth is a strain on public services – limited dollars.
- Density of housing impact on schools → developers don't worry about it.
- Pressure from property taxes: relationship to Lake County, IL.

As we move forward with comprehensive planning, what can we do to create the best possible future for Kenosha County?

- Focus on the end result – keep eye on the prize
- Consult expertise
- Need strong leadership
- Build and grow communication
- More interest by community leaders
- More participation



Q 4. Imagine it is the year 2040 and we've done all that we can do to create the best possible future for Kenosha County?

What is Kenosha County like?

- 2040 – won't be relying on gas-powered cars
- “Healthy” communities/people
- Stay as is now, but with improvements like bike trails
- Traffic movement is independent
- United services: police and fire utilities
- Schools of higher education are greater part of Kenosha, Pleasant Prairie and Somers
- Energy, lively people
- Healthy options: run/walks

What is the one thing we should do together, now, to make this happen?

- Economic development – energy – incentives for solar and wind power and energy-related products – tax

- Generate local businesses – provide incentives – must be done on a countywide basis
- Attract businesses = more jobs
- Creation of jobs/careers
- Bio-fuels – tap into market through growing corn
- KRM
- East-West Transit corridor
- Increase in public transit, trail systems.
- Better planning/retro-fitting to reduce dependence on driving – walk and bike to places.
- Ecologically balanced development; green space requirements with development.
- Keep environmental protection local.
- Water issues: we have low H₂O rates compared to others; concerns over infrastructure costs.
- Cluster zoning/green development/infill development/mixed use development.
- Have investment grow in Kenosha.
- Have individuals do more to help their children, becoming involved.
- Community involvement

What is the one thing that you will do to make this happen?

- Help youth plan for future.
- Walk around, find out about things.
- Involvement, fairs
- Be a role model/creative.
- Be a part of having government cooperate.
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LEAVING HARVEST

What is your 2040 vision for Kenosha County?

- Communities must work together to make Smart Growth happen.
- Diversity, Economic Energy Producer 1% in County of Kenosha
- A diverse community with economic diversity, mass transit and strong zoning.
- A Green community with sustainability policies to protect the environment.
- Unified services.
- Healthy people
- Start providing incentives and training to build industries related to the wind and solar energy.
- Diversified economy while protecting the environment.
- Keep growth under control. Let's not have another Chicago in 50 years.
- Natural areas/Quality of life
- I see Kenosha County as part of urban sprawl of Milwaukee and Chicago Metro. Public transportation will be more available.
- Together we should create a comprehensive plan for forest preserve and open spaces.
- Keno Cty is a community where people love to live, work, play, etc. and a leader in bio-fuel alternatives.
- Countywide transportation
- Employment opportunities
- Great schools
- Maintain/preserve natural resource bases, esp. environmental corridors.

- Healthy
- Mass transit

What is the one (1) thing we should do to make this vision a reality?

- Keep working together.
- Participation is the key.
- Governmental leaders and boards need to communicate with each other. Leadership starts at the top.
- More diversified with proper infrastructure.
- Stick to the plan.
- Keep the lines of communication open - “don't drop the ball.”
- Stricter ordinances in planning depts.: more qualified employees.
- Change East/West mentality.
- Manage growth.
- How do we make the desirable Kenosha County vision happen? Key is a strong partnership of all cities/villages/towns being knit together by strong, focused leadership anchored at the County level
- Make the community more attractive to commercial and the industrial business w/o forgetting to hold them accountable and remind them we like our community nice and clean. So that the youth have employment options.
- Proper planning of roads and main arteries.
- Mass transit to get cars and pollution off roads.

What is one (1) thing you will do to make that vision a reality?

- Get involved.
- Participate.
- Work well with others!
- We should get involved in community planning and speak out on the issues that are important to our community.
- Be a role model.
- Continue to attend events like today's to spread the word.
- Be a part of intergovernmental cooperation.
- Stay active in community government and planning.
- I will continue to donate my time to the MJAC and will continue this “conversation” with other citizens.

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