

CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE
Comprehensive Plan 2019-2039

Volume 2: Goals, Policies & Actions

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Major Issues & Opportunities

Issues & Opportunities



ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES



Bristol & Main Redevelopment Site

This Chapter is a compilation of the most prominent issues and opportunities facing Sun Prairie during the drafting of the plan update in 2018 and 2019.

Major Issues & Opportunities

The description of Issues and Opportunities in a comprehensive planning process establishes the basis for many of the policies and actions that follow. Chapters 3-9 each begin with a description of the most prominent issues related to the topic of the chapter. This Chapter is a collection of those issues and opportunities that came up the most in comments, discussion and debate. The issues summarized in this chapter are the current issues for the City in 2019.

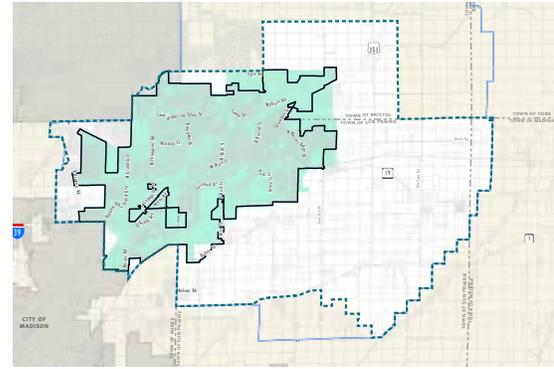
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Community Growth & Identity

Sun Prairie has approximately 34,000 residents today, headed to 40,000 in the next 10 years due to regional growth. Most residents favor growth, but there are concerns about loss of character and the neighborhood impacts of larger, multi-unit housing projects.

The Plan's response: seek balanced growth coordinated with investments in public services (e.g. schools), and a mix of infill development and incremental outward expansion. Continued investments in cultural traditions and the celebration of local history will orient the Sun Prairie identity as growth continues.

See the Housing and Land Use Chapters (Chapters 7 and 9).



City of Sun Prairie Planning Area

Balanced Neighborhoods

Sun Prairie's newest and oldest neighborhoods feature a mix of housing types and some small-scale commercial uses too. Neighborhoods from 1950-2000 often lack that balance, having high concentrations of certain housing types, resulting in school equity problems.

The Plan's response: encourage balanced neighborhoods in growth areas and allow for neighborhood infill in certain circumstances that will improve neighborhood balance over time. Neighborhood associations and neighborhood plans are encouraged with support from the City's Planning Department.

See the Housing and Land Use Chapters (Chapters 7 and 9).



Redevelopment on W. Main Street

Urban Design Quality

Commercial uses and larger, multi-unit residential buildings can conflict with lower-density neighborhood areas unless buildings and sites are designed with care to avoid negative impacts.

The Plan's response: offer specific design strategies for various building types and locations, especially when close to single-family homes. An update of the zoning ordinance is recommended, with a focus on physical design guidance.

See the Housing and Land Use Chapters (Chapters 7 and 9).



Design Compatible with Residential Areas

Bike & Pedestrian Facilities

Community feedback included strong support for investments in infrastructure for safe walking and biking. There are currently few on-street bike lanes and routes, and many gaps in the pedestrian sidewalk/path network.

The Plan's response: describe the need for various on-street and off-street improvements and call for an Active Transportation Plan. The Sidewalk Policy is reaffirmed with minor changes to support more predictable decisions about when they will be added along existing streets.

See the Transportation Chapter (Chapter 8).



Bike Facilities at Sun Prairie Library



Madison Metro

Public Transportation

The City has been actively seeking more effective public transportation resources for several years, and desire for transit was reinforced in feedback during the current planning process. An initial Metro Transit commuter route connecting to downtown Madison is already scheduled to begin service in 2019.

The Plan's response: encourage efforts to ensure the success of the commuter transit service, and then build on that success over time to meet the needs of more people in more places. The land use plan encourages higher-density development in places that can be most readily served by transit.

See the Transportation Chapter (Chapter 8).



Single-Family Home

Home Affordability

Housing prices have been rising quickly in recent years and they continue to rise faster than incomes. There is a particular shortage of units affordable to households earning 30% of the county median income. Employers are concerned that housing costs are limiting local workforce availability.

The Plan's response: prioritize the creation of a detailed housing action plan, and an Affordable Housing Fund to support a variety of possible programs and incentives that can support affordability for rental and ownership housing. The Plan also encourages the development of housing types that limit cost such as smaller lots, smaller units, and attached units.

See the Housing Chapter (Chapter 7).



Workforce Development Event

Workforce Limitations

The City would like to attract employers in growing industries that offer family-supporting jobs, such as information technology, biotechnology, health services and insurance. Employment in the City has been growing, but hiring in all industries is currently a challenge due to the strong regional and national economy.

The Plan's response: focus on workforce attraction and development and take a holistic approach, including investments in transit, housing, parks and recreation, schools, and workforce training. Strong communications practices by economic development staff and readiness to use targeted financial incentives will help the City grow employment in desirable industries.

See the Economic Development Chapter (Chapter 6).

School District Partnership

The Sun Prairie Area School District serves a large area, including parts of Madison and the surrounding towns. Continued growth has resulted in community approval for new schools, including a second high school. Though they are separate governmental entities, the health of the school system is closely tied to the health of the City.

The Plan's response: emphasize the importance of good communication, including semi-annual meetings between City and School District leaders and staff. The Plan's focus on balanced, walkable neighborhoods is also important to student and school success.

See the Intergovernmental Cooperation Chapter (Chapter 5).



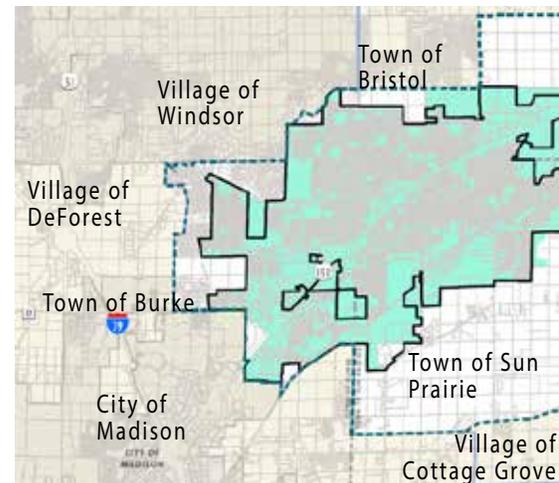
Sun Prairie Schools

Coordination With Neighbors

As the metropolitan area grows, so does the need for coordination between adjacent jurisdictions. Sun Prairie neighborhoods abut neighborhoods in Madison, Windsor, Bristol, Burke and the Town of Sun Prairie, presenting challenges and opportunities to maintain infrastructure and meet resident needs efficiently.

The Plan's response: direct the maintenance and update of intergovernmental agreements to help guide these relationships. Strong collaboration is specially identified with the Town of Burke in preparation for when the City absorbs parts of the Town in 2037. Cooperation among northeast metro area communities on public safety services is encouraged.

See the Intergovernmental Cooperation Chapter (Chapter 5).



Communities Adjacent to Sun Prairie

Sustainability Challenges

Sun Prairie exists within global economic and environmental systems, and the City and its residents make decisions every day that have impacts on the environment. Some residents continue to express concerns about how local conditions affect and are affected by changes in the global climate, including more frequent large rainfall events.

The Plan's response: include a Sustainability Commitment to consistently consider the short-term and long-term impacts of local decisions on the economy, on the natural environment, and on the social vibrancy of the City. Policies and actions that address things like efficient resource use and reduced environmental impacts are highlighted.

See all chapters.



2018 Flooding in Dane County