

Volume 2: Goals, Policies & Actions

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ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES



The planning process includes a review of existing relationships with surrounding units of government (See Volume 1) and many forms of input from stakeholders throughout the community. The following issues and opportunities stand out as most relevant to the goals, policies and actions in this chapter.

The Intergovernmental Cooperation element outlines potential opportunities for joint planning and decision-making with other jurisdictions for the maintenance of existing relationships with other governing entities, and the pursuit of new relationships with others.

Volume 1 of this plan element includes a summary of existing relationships that Sun Prairie has with adjacent units of government. Although existing intergovernmental agreements may serve current needs, the City must continue to evaluate opportunities to work with other jurisdictions as opportunities arise.

The goals, policies and actions in this chapter are based on past and existing relationships with governmental units, along with input from community members and stakeholders, and are meant to foster intergovernmental cooperation between the City and surrounding units of government.

Sun Prairie Area School District



The Sun Prairie Area School District is a separate governmental entity with its own boundaries and taxing authority. It serves residents in 11 different jurisdictions, including all of the City of Sun Prairie, parts of the City of Madison, and portions of the adjacent villages and towns. As the City and region continue to grow, the school district is also growing to meet the needs of families in these communities, including the April 2019 decision by the community to construct a second high school. The success of the City as a desirable place to live is tied to the

success and reputation of the school district, and there are many ways that the City and the School District depend on each other and collaborate with each other to meet community needs.

Coordination and Efficiency



As the growth of the Madison metropolitan area continues, the distance between Sun Prairie and urban development in neighboring jurisdictions is disappearing. The proximity of urbanized areas in other communities raises the importance of, and opportunity for, cooperative planning and resource sharing. Investments in parks and recreation amenities and emergency services are especially ripe for finding solutions that improve lives and neighborhoods in multiple communities.

Inadequate communication can result in missed opportunities to leverage projects for the benefit of residents across the region.

Town of Burke



The Town of Burke will disappear in 2036, by agreement with the City of Sun Prairie, City of Madison, and Village of DeForest. When Sun Prairie absorbs existing Burke neighborhoods on October 27, 2036, it will inherit responsibility for many streets and properties built to rural standards. Those streets without curbs, storm sewers, or sidewalks will gradually be improved to include those features, over decades. Likewise, homes built without public sewer or water service will gradually

be converted to include public services. The timing of that transition is not currently known and will depend on a variety of factors. In some cases it may make sense to pursue street reconstruction to urban standards, or sewer and water extensions, before 2036. With 17 years until the handoff, now is the time to begin thinking and talking about these transitions.

Town of Sun Prairie



The Town of Sun Prairie is the one neighboring jurisdiction with which the City has no existing agreement about development or annexation. It is also the primary area into which the City is likely to grow over the next 50 years. Annexations and road maintenance issues have been a source of tension over the years, and these are issues that will continue to affect both jurisdictions. The Town is also concerned about growth impacts from the Village of Cottage Grove and the City of Madison.

Each of these jurisdictions will need to decide if it is in its interests to pursue a boundary agreement that provides more predictability for everyone regarding urban growth in what is now the Town of Sun Prairie.

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

Growth and the School District

The 2018 Community Survey asked people whether they feel the pace of development over the last 5 years in Sun Prairie has been too fast, just right or too slow for specific land use categories. For respondents concerned about a fast pace of growth, recurring comments were related to a concern with the capacity of the Sun Prairie Area School District.



Token Springs Elementary School

GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS



Burke Town Hall Park

GOAL #1

Work closely with neighboring communities and other governmental entities to achieve sustainable development patterns in the Sun Prairie area.

Policies

1. Enforce and maintain existing intergovernmental agreements with neighboring jurisdictions to provide predictability for property owners and to avoid municipal boundary disputes. These agreements include:

- Agreement with the Village of Windsor (and Village of DeForest) as adopted August 2012, effective until 2037.
- Agreement with the Town of Burke, City of Madison and Village of DeForest, as

adopted January 2007, effective until 2036 when the Town of Burke is dissolved.

- Agreement with the Town of Bristol as adopted July 2005, effective until 2025.

2. Work closely with the Sun Prairie Area School District (SPASD) to foster communication, relationships, and knowledge about planning and growth activities.

3. Protect natural systems and the City's ability to grow by exercising plat approval authority within the City's three-mile jurisdiction using the following criteria. The following criteria are suggested, and may be modified or waived through an adopted intergovernmental agreement:

- The City shall not approve land divisions that would

result in the development of land that is unsuitable for development due to flooding, poor drainage, soil or rock formations, highly erosive soils, unfavorable topography, or any other feature likely to be harmful to health, safety or welfare of future residents or land-owners.

- The City shall not approve land divisions that would have an adverse impact on existing or planned city improvements or services.
4. When exercising plat review and official mapping authority in the Town of Sun Prairie, CTH T will be the boundary between City of Sun Prairie and Village of Cottage Grove extraterritorial authority, to the extent that the Village's 1.5-mile jurisdiction reaches.

Policies and actions in **bold text** indicate high priority

5. When working with other governmental entities on issues that affect the City of Sun Prairie, cite this Comprehensive Plan and other City planning documents to identify preferred outcomes.

GOAL #2

Enhance the efficiency and quality of public services by collaborating with other governmental entities in the region.

Policies

6. Seek and maintain intergovernmental agreements for the provision of public facilities and services, including public safety services. The City is specifically interested in regionalizing public safety facilities in collaboration with Windsor, DeForest, Marshall, and Cottage Grove as appropriate.
7. Maintain communication with the Sun Prairie Fire Department to monitor the effectiveness of service provision within the context of intergovernmental agreements.
3. **Work with the Town of Bristol to extend or replace the current boundary agreement before it expires in 2025.**
4. Work with the Village of Cottage Grove to develop an intergovernmental agreement defining a long-term boundary between the two municipalities. Use this to further coordinate extraterritorial plat review and official mapping decisions. Consider including the City of Madison and Town of Sun Prairie in this agreement if feasible.
5. Meet with the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission as necessary to expand the urban service area consistent with this Comprehensive Plan and when considering major land use planning updates to this plan.
6. City staff will meet with staff from each adjacent jurisdiction during the annual process to update the City's Capital Improvement Plan, to coordinate projects as appropriate.
7. Work with the Town of Burke to coordinate capital planning and construction projects in areas of the town that will become City of Sun Prairie in 2036. This should include a meeting early in the calendar year between City and Town staff no less than annually to discuss current year construction projects and future year design projects.
8. Coordinate with all adjoining jurisdictions during outdoor recreation planning to seek complementary recreation investments where service areas overlap. Work to avoid duplication of unique amenities. Coordinate with all adjoining jurisdictions on transportation projects during the annual CIP process.

Actions

1. **Schedule a working session with SPASD involving elected officials and key staff for both the City and the School District no less than semi-annually to discuss issues of concern and opportunities for collaboration.**
2. Work with the Town of Sun Prairie to develop an intergovernmental agreement that protects future growth areas and utility extension routes



Sun Prairie Fire Department